



# *The Escallop*



*St James the Great,  
Staple*



*December 2021*

[theEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:theEscallop@gmail.com)

50p



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### Disclaimer

The Editor reserves the right to cut, edit or refuse to publish any contributions and does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in published articles.

All advertisements in the magazine are inserted in good faith, but the magazine committee accepts no responsibility for any statement made by the advertisers; nor endorses the products or services offered.

### Editors

January/February - TBC

If you are interested in joining the Escallop editorial team, we would love to hear from you. Please email [theEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:theEscallop@gmail.com) or contact one of the existing editors.



*The Escallop is printed by  
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Please note that the monthly editions of Escallop are also posted electronically on the staple-online website at [www.staple-online.com/escallop.html](http://www.staple-online.com/escallop.html).

## Welcome to our new Interim Priest



**As you know, the Benefice is currently in interregnum. We are delighted therefore to give** a warm welcome to the Revd. Kirrilee Reid who has joined the Eastry-Woodnesborough Benefice as Interim Priest, on a part-time basis. We look forward to her ministry and support during our interregnum.

Kirrilee has just moved down from Scotland, where she was Spiritual Director of a Christian Retreat Centre. Before that she was Chaplain and Refugee Project Officer in Northern France, licensed through Canterbury.

Originally from Canberra, Australia, Kirrilee now lives in Dover with her husband, Ewan (also from Canberra), and their daughter Milly. Ewan is a teacher in a school in Dover. They also have two grown-up sons living in Glasgow. Kirrilee is passionate about social justice issues, and in her spare time (what little there is of it) her hobbies are music, creative writing, art and travel.

The post of Interim Priest, or Vicar, is three days a week, so we have Kirrilee's time on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays plus Sunday services including baptisms, and occasional weddings and funerals on other days. We would ask everybody to respect her working hours, and not expect responses to emails, etc. on other days. We will publish her telephone number soon - she is currently waiting on installation - but for now Kirrilee can be contacted by email on [kirrilee.reid@gmail.com](mailto:kirrilee.reid@gmail.com) or through the benefice office.

Welcome Kirrilee!

**Trisha Wells  
Benefice Administrator**

*And Kirrilee writes:*

### **Advent greetings,**

Thank you to everyone for the wonderfully warm welcome I have received in the short few weeks since I was licensed as your Interim priest. I look forward to meeting and sharing with you all in the days and weeks to come.

... And so, we begin a new year. The Church's new year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. A birth is due and, like all births, is full of promise, expectation, and imagination. This is as it should be, because birth is a sign of hope.

Because we know the story so well, there is a danger that the story can grow old. We know the end, so we put up our decorations, sing Christmas carols and start buying our presents, but actually the gift of this season is waiting in expectation. Advent encourages and challenges us to be still, to wait on God, to prepare our hearts.

How do we let go of what we think the story is and to wait without rushing to the final act?

How do we hear the story again, as if for the first time?

In the very midst of busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth, I encourage you to take time to slow down, look, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary, yet is wondrously present.

*Kirrilee Reid*

**Kirrilee will be taking our communion service at 9 a.m. on Sunday 5 December and will also be at the Christmas Fayre that day. She will also be taking our Christingle Service at 4 p.m. on Sunday 12 December. Do come along and meet her. ED**

*"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope."*

*Kirrilee Reid*

### ***LOVE IS BORN***

**Do not be afraid**

**Love is born**

**With a dark and  
troubled face**

**When hope is dead**

**And in the most unlikely place**

**Love is born:**

**Love is always born**

Leunig



## STAPLE EVENTS CALENDAR

Wednesday 1 December 2021	
Thursday 2 December 2021	
Friday 3 December 2021	
Saturday 4 December 2021	Lea Wood Working party – 10-12 a.m.
Sunday 5 December 2021	Said Communion – 9.00 a.m. - Staple Church Christmas Fayre – 11 – 4.00 p.m.- Staple Church
Monday 6 December 2021	Arts Society, Sandwich – 7 p.m. Sandwich Guildhall
Tuesday 7 December 2021	Pilates Classes – Village Hall – 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 8 December 2021	Coffee Morning 10 -11.30 a.m. – Little Fleming Farm Staple Parish Council meeting 7.30pm Village Hall.
Thursday 9 December 2021	
Friday 10 December 2021	
Saturday 11 December 2021	Quiz – 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall
Sunday 12 December 2021	Christingle Service – 4.00 p.m. – Staple Church
Monday 13 December 2021	
Tuesday 14 December 2021	Pilates Class – Village Hall – 6.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 15 December 2021	
Thursday 16 December 2021	
Friday 17 December 2021	
Saturday 18 December 2021	Lea Wood Working party – 10-12 a.m.
Sunday 19 December 2021	Holy Communion - 10.00 a.m. - Staple Church Carols by Candlelight – 6.30 p.m. - Staple Church
Monday 20 December 2021	
Tuesday 21 December 2021	
Wednesday 22 December 2021	
Thursday 23 December 2021	
Friday 24 December 2021	Crib Service – 4.00 p.m. – Staple Church Christmas Communion – 10.00 p.m. – Staple Church
Saturday 25 December 2021	CHRISTMAS DAY
Sunday 26 December 2021	BOXING DAY – no Church service in Staple
Monday 27 December 2021	
Tuesday 28 December 2021	
Wednesday 29 December 2021	
Thursday 30 December 2021	
Friday 31 December 2021	NEW YEAR'S EVE
Saturday 1 January 2022	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Sunday 2 January 2022	Said Communion – 10 a.m. Staple Church
Monday 3 January 2022	
Tuesday 4 January 2022	
Wednesday 5 January 2022	Church Fundraising Committee – 3 p.m.
Thursday 6 January 2022	
Friday 7 January 2022	
Saturday 8 January 2022	
Sunday 9 January 2022	No church service in Staple
Monday 10 January 2022	Copy Date for the Escallop
Tuesday 11 January 2022	
Wednesday 12 January 2022	Parent and Toddlers – 1.15 – 2.45 – Village Hall
Thursday 13 January 2022	RBL Post Christmas Dinner Platinum Jubilee Meeting – 7.30 at the Black Pig Woodnesborough Gardeners' Club – 7.30 pm W Village Hall

### Waste and recycling collections

These are now back to normal. To check your collection day or to report a missed collection, please see <https://collections.dover.gov.uk/property>.





## St James the Great, Staple: Services for December 2021



Everyone is very welcome at all services – please do come along and join us.  
If you need further information please contact Vanessa (812515) or Trevor (813492).  
Details of services in other benefice churches can be found at [www.ewbchurches.org.uk](http://www.ewbchurches.org.uk)

**Sunday 5 December**  
**STAPLE**  
Eastry

**Advent 2**  
9.00 a.m. Said Holy Communion  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**Sunday 12 December**  
**STAPLE**  
Woodnesborough

**Advent 3**  
4.00 p.m. Christingle Service  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**Sunday 19 December**  
**STAPLE**

**Advent 4**  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
6.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight

**Friday 24 December**  
**STAPLE**

**Christmas Eve**  
4.00 p.m. Crib Service  
10.00 p.m. Christmas Communion

**Saturday 25 December**  
**STAPLE**  
Woodnesborough

**Christmas Day**  
**NO SERVICE**  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**Sunday 26 December**  
**STAPLE**  
Northbourne

**St Stephen's Day**  
**NO SERVICE**  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**Sunday 2 January**  
**STAPLE**

**Epiphany**  
10.00 a.m. Said Holy Communion

**Sunday 9 January**  
**STAPLE**  
Woodnesborough

**Baptism of Christ/Epiphany 1**  
**NO SERVICE**  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**Sunday 16 January**  
**STAPLE**

**Ephiphany 2**  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**Sunday 23 January**  
**STAPLE**  
Woodnesborough

**Ephiphany 3**  
10.00 a.m. Family Service  
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

### Church Rota

Date	Sidesman	Readers	Prayers	Bells	Coffee	Verger
5 Dec	Keith	Vanessa	Priest	n/a	n/a	Vanessa
12 Dec	Russ	tbc	Children	Kate	Kate and Phil	Sue
19 Dec (am)	Pat	Shelley, Pat	Andy	tbc	Mick and Mags	Andy
19 Dec (pm)	Dave	Various	Priest	n/a	Andy and Pat	Vanessa & Trevor
24 Dec (pm)	Vanessa	Various	n/a	n/a	Sophie & Katie	Trevor
24 Dec (eve)	Trevor	Kate, Trevor	Pat	Kate	n/a	Vanessa
2 January	Keith	Dave	Priest	Vanessa	n/a	Vanessa
16 January	All to be confirmed					
23 January						

### Flower Rota



Dec 4 – Dec 19 Christmas (From 22 Dec) Dec 26 – Jan 2 Jan 16 onwards	Greenery only All Arrangers Vanessa Nedderman Please check with Pat Heathfield
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### Private Prayer in the Church

The Church building is open every day for private prayer from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Face masks are no longer compulsory in Church but please show consideration for others, use the sanitizer provided and maintain social distancing. Thank you!

One service a month is accessible via zoom on this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7360055669?pwd=UEVwSzJQSlYvTHNtVnBLK2VNTzliZz09>



## CHURCH NOTICES and FUNDRAISING EVENTS

We all had a very pleasant morning back in November when Dave and Doris Newman very kindly hosted the church COFFEE MORNING. We did not have quite so many people due to illness and clashes of engagement however it was very much enjoyed by those who did attend and we made £103.00 so very many thanks to all who made that possible and to the lovely hosts.



The COFFEE MORNING in December will be held on Wednesday 8th December by kind permission of Annette and Andy at Little Fleming Farm, Fleming Road, Woodnesborough and you are very welcome to attend the event. This is a lovely opportunity to meet with old friends and neighbours or if you are new to the village do come along and meet new people. There is always plenty of tea and coffee and some biscuits and homemade cakes.



As it's the Christmas coffee morning we will not only be having the traditional bring and buy sale but also a Christmas Raffle - prizes would be much appreciated.

If you would like any further information or need a help with or transport to get to Annette and Andy's then please call Annette on 07957 493111 or Trevor 07980 300084. We look forward to seeing you there!



We will once again be holding the very popular QUIZ in Staple Village Hall, Mill Road on Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm. Our quiz master will be Mark Towlson and teams will be up to 8 people or we can join less numbers together to make up a team.

Entrance is £5 and it's a bring your own food and drinks event. There will of course be the traditional Raffle run by Dave and Doris and prizes would be very welcome. To book your team please ring/text Trevor 07980 300084 or Dave on 812870.

The next Fundraising meeting will be on Wednesday 5th January at 3.00pm when we will be starting to plan and book events for 2022. Any thoughts or suggestions would be very welcome, please let us know.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and thank you for your continuing support - we definitely could not manage without you to which we are very grateful.



## STAPLE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**Sunday 5 December**

**11.00 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**In the Church**

**Refreshments, craft stalls,  
games and activities  
for the whole family**



## STAPLE CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE - SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER

**IT'S BACK!** Yes the Christmas Fayre will be held in the church this year. Unfortunately due to covid 19 the event did not take place in 2020 but we are holding the Faye from 11.00am until 4.00pm and we have lots of traditional stalls and sideshows and a lovely selection of craft and gift stalls. There will actually be 15 craft stalls in total and 10 of them are new and have not been to Staple before so we are very much looking forward to seeing them with all their goodies.

The Craft stalls will include:

Hand made lights and night light jars, Christmas gifts and paintings, Wax melts, Homemade sweet treats, Resin items, Christmas prints, Christmas decorations and hampers, Personalised frames, baubles and glasses, Wooden Christmas ornaments, Christmas Dried flowers and wreaths. Plus a stall from The Wyvern School, Ashford - 'My Forest' who will be selling handmade gifts, tree decorations, reindeer food, hot chocolate cones etc.



The event starts at 11.00 so please come along and join us for lunch as well. There will be a selection of homemade rolls with various fillings. Afternoon Tea and Cake will be on sale throughout the day and we will also be offering a glass of festive mulled wine.

You will be able to buy a cake to take home or enjoy eating them on the day.

The Refreshments team of Andy, Annette, Sarah, Peter and Michelle would be extremely grateful for offers of cakes, biscuits, etc that you would be willing to bake for them. Please bring them along on the day or let Michelle have them at Dell View, The Street.

Kate & Phil Newcombe will be running a Tombola and a Children's Teddy Tombola also Children's pocket money stalls. Any donations would be very welcome to 2 Church Cottages, The Street.

For the main tombola - bottles (alcoholic or soft drinks) Sweets/chocolates, Biscuits, Pickles, Tinned meat, fish fruit etc Christmas crackers in fact anything Christmassy.

For the children's stalls - teddy bears, Chocolate coins, Chocolate tree decorations, selection packs, Tubes of sweets.

Clare Beggs will be organising a Treasure Hunt in and outside of the church for the children.

And we are very pleased to announce that FATHER CHRISTMAS will be joining us and you will find him in the vestry in Santa's Grotto with a gift for each child.

Val Bartlett and Mary Harrison will be running a stall of new items, gifts, toiletries, Christmas decorations gifts etc and would be very much welcome any donations for their stall. Please let Val have them at The Rookery, Durlock Road.



Dave and Doris will be running the traditional 'What time did the Christmas Cake come out of the oven?' and a chance to win a bottle of Prosecco. Trevor will be running 'Spin the Wheel' with a chance to win a tub of Christmas sweets.

Helen Harlow and Jo Shrimpton will be selling lots of local grown fresh fruit and vegetables so a good opportunity to stock up on your weekly produce.

Tickets are all ready on sale for the Grand Draw being run by Vanessa and Pat.

1st Prize is a Luxury Hamper and there will be 29 other prizes as well. Tickets cost £1 a book of 4 tickets all church members have them and of course they will be for sale on the day.

We are extremely grateful to WINGHAM ANIMAL PARK for sponsoring the Grand Draw this year.

As you can see we have lots of interesting and exciting stalls and sideshows and plenty of things for the children, so please come along to support the event any time from 11.00 until 4.00. We look forward to seeing you all. You will receive a very warm welcome from Roger and Paul and entrance is by donations.

# ST JAMES THE GREAT

Please do come and enjoy one of these special Christmas events in our ancient parish Church



## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 12 December 2021 All welcome

To be followed by tea and cakes  
*The Children's Society first introduced Christingle to the Church of England in 1968. Churches celebrate Christingle in different ways but the spirit remains the same. We learn what each element of the Christingle represents for Christians and celebrate Jesus coming into the world to be our light and saviour.*



## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT 6.30 p.m. on Sunday 19 December 2021 Readings and carols to celebrate Christmas All welcome

To be followed by festive refreshments



## CRIB SERVICE 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve

This is an informal family service which retells the Christmas story with words and songs. Children are invited to dress up as nativity characters and to help put our beautiful old nativity figures in the stable ready for Christmas Day. Bring your friends and families.  
To be followed by tea and cakes



## CHRISTMAS COMMUNION 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve

An opportunity to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and to start the celebrations in peace and joy.



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### Churchyard Nativity Scene

As you know, last year was the first year that we had a floodlight nativity outside the Church over Christmas – it seemed important to have a visual reminder of God's love and promises in the bleakness of the pandemic last winter.

We are delighted that the nativity scene will be back this year – bigger and better – with the addition of more figures – so please do stop and have a look when you drive past.

A huge thank you goes to Mick Burr who has made the scene and organised the floodlighting.

We are delighted to announce that we have received an award from Dover Community Grants toward the cost of putting a defibrillator in the Church porch. We hope to get this bought and installed soon after Christmas.

As you will know from previous reports, we are taking down some trees at the east end of the Church because there is some concern over a number of cracks around the large window behind the altar. A condition of the permission to do this is that we plant back twice as many trees as we remove so we will be planting 8, either in the Churchyard or elsewhere in the village. We have located a number of spaces in the Churchyard and will be planting native species which will not get too large and which will be good for wildlife. The PCC and the Wildlife Friendly Village Group will be working on this together. If you are interested in sponsoring a tree, please contact either of the Churchwardens – Vanessa or Trevor.

## Staple Wildlife Friendly Village



WFV Proudly Presents the first in a series of  
Wildlife Talks...

### The story of Turtle Dove Summer Field, Staple

David Burridge and David Tingey



**Where?**  
Staple Village Hall

**When?**  
20<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm



Entrance £5, includes refreshments

### **Lea Wood** Staple's own woodland amenity

Lea Wood is a village amenity run by the Staple Woodland Trust, a registered charity. The Wood is situated at the west end of Staple, opposite the old Three Tuns PH (now Staple House) and its entrance is to be found just inside Bates Close. It is planted on a piece of land donated to the village by Mr Frank Bates and provides a quiet place to walk, picnic and enjoy the specimen memorial trees planted there.

The Wood is maintained by a small group of volunteers, made up of Trustees of the Wood and anyone else they can persuade to come and help! We hold working parties on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month during the winter/spring, from 10 am to 12



midday. It's a chance to have a chat whilst chopping, clearing and burning – great for the latent cavemen/women amongst us! Our planned working parties for 2021/22 are as follows – put them on your calendar and come and join us, we would love to welcome some new volunteers:

4 December 2021	19 February 2022
18 December 2021	5 March 2022
15 January 2022	19 March 2022
5 February 2022	2 April 2022



The Wood is funded solely from the subscriptions of its committee members and trustees, usually assisted by a generous grant from the Staple Country Fayre Committee. This helps towards the cost of our public liability insurance and the purchase of new trees for replanting. Due to the cancellation of the Country Fayre for the past two years, caused by the pandemic, our reserves are very low at present. If anyone would like to make a donation to assist with the costs of running the Wood, it would be most gratefully received.



If you would like any information regarding the Wood, working parties, making a donation, seeing the AGM Minutes or the accounts, please contact Annette Tomlin ([aetomlin1@gmail.com](mailto:aetomlin1@gmail.com)).

## Around and about in Staple and Shatterling

*Do you have a story to share? We would love to hear from you - new neighbours, new arrivals, get well wishes - please send details to [theEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:theEscallop@gmail.com)*

We would like to wish Audrey Baker our love and best wishes as she has moved from Lower Road to a bungalow in Preston to be near her daughter and family. Audrey and her late husband Tony were very familiar faces in the village and we will miss them being about. We hope Audrey has soon started to settle in her new home.

At the end of October Jenny Marsh moved a few doors down The Street to set up her new home at Fourwinds, she then also went into hospital for a knee operation. We hope that you have found time to unpack all the boxes and also that the operation has been successful and that you are starting to get about again.

We would like to wish Peter and Jane Graves a very warm welcome to the village although moving from Sturry, Peter is no stranger to the village as he has moved into his late mum's Jean home at West View, Barnsole Road. They have started to settle in but still have a lot of work that they are planning on doing to their home.

Many Congratulations 🎉 to Tristram Newcombe and Emma Chivers who got engaged on 6th November, Tristram got down on one knee at The Black Pig and proposed to Emma. We wish them both much happiness for the future.

Christmas Fayre on Saturday 11th December 12.00 till 4.00 at Bechange Community Hub, Ackholt Road Aylesham CT3 3AJ. Come and meet Santa, craft and gift stall, lucky dip and much more.



## **A Christmas Thank You to our Distributors**



The Editorial Team and the Parochial Church Council would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who deliver the Escallop every month. We are really grateful to them for giving up their time to keep the village connected.

Thanks go to Andy Raggett, Trevor Bartlett, Anne-Marie Sidaway, Justin Harlow, Sue Coulson, Debby and Chris Chapman, Shelley Morris, Tamsyn Young, Keith Brammer and Frances Hillier

## The Children's Society

On Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>, with the help of my trusty volunteers, we held a fabulous, fun afternoon for children of all ages, to raise funds for The Children's Society. There was great musical entertainment, courtesy of; St Lawrence College Choir, Rufus, Harrison Saxby and children of Northbourne Park School, all budding singers and musicians with tremendous talent. Rufus's Dad, also performed as did Andy Wyatt and members of his band.



The children all enjoyed the various stalls; Hook a Duck, Treasure Island, Bowling for the Pig, Lucky Dip and Photo Booth and of course the Bouncy Castle. My Thanks to Sonia & Nick, Trevor, Monica, Helen & Amy for running those stalls and to David for donating the Bouncy Castle for the event.



There was no shortage of great food on offer; BBQ'd burgers, Chicken and Lamb curries and of course, being Staple, copious amounts of cake! My thanks to Karen,

Tracy, Judith, Claire, Stephanie, Maxine & Mark for running the catering and to Michelle, ... for all the delicious cakes.

As ever we had a fantastic raffle run by David and Doris, ably assisted by Sarah, and Kate and Phil ran a brilliant Tombola, which proved so popular with the Children that every single prize was won! My thanks also to John for all his help setting up for the day and to Sue for generously allowing us the use of the Village Hall free of charge.



Thanks also to all the local businesses that kindly donated some fantastic prizes; The Black Pig, The Anchor Wingham, The Dog Wingham, Layham Garden Centre, Archer's Low Garden Centre, Luigi's Sandwich, Hutching's Timber Deal.

Thanks to everyone's hard work in getting the event together and generosity on the day we raised a staggering £1139.42. It was a great day and if you missed it don't worry I'll be communicating details of

future events very soon.



The Children's Society is a fantastic charity that provides support and empowers disadvantaged young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope. They work alongside young people, their families and community to create a society built for ALL children. If you would like to know more about The Children's Society, help out with fundraising or simply make a donation please contact me at [hsegolam@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hsegolam@yahoo.co.uk).

**Hema Shaw**

*The collection at the Christingle Service on 12 December will also be donated to the Children's Society (Ed)*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE ESCALLOP 2022

The Escallop is Staple Village Magazine which is produced by the Parochial Church Council on behalf of the village community. It currently has a circulation of 170 and in December the magazine is distributed to all homes in the Village. The magazine is aimed at a wide village audience and provides a means of sharing information for all residents and all community organisations.

If you would like to receive the magazine each month, please speak to your distributor, or email [theEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:theEscallop@gmail.com). If you would like to advertise in the Escallop please use the same email. Payments for advertisements for 2022 are due in January.

Subscriptions for the Escallop will be due in early January. The cost of the magazine will remain at £5.00 for the year. Your distributor will call to collect your money during January – but if you know who they are, please do drop the money through their door to save them coming to you. If you do not receive the Escallop at the moment and would like to, please email [TheEscallop@gmail.com](mailto:TheEscallop@gmail.com) and we will arrange for someone to deliver to you.

If you want to pay online or to find out who your distributor is, please feel free to email us. Thank you



## The Staple Bus Chronicles

**Once upon a time** in the dim and distant past and the far mists of time (well, actually, until September 2017 to be precise) Staple had a “proper” bus service. A big red double-decker bus operated by Stagecoach would trundle through the village every hour, six days a week. But then suddenly - poof! - Stagecoach waved its magic wand and decided Staple was no longer worthy of having a bus because apparently there were insufficient passenger numbers and a bus through Staple was not cost-effective. Despite the pleas and exhortations of villagers (and 100 plus of us turned out at a meeting held in the church with our MP and the Managing Director of Stagecoach South East), Stagecoach were unmoved and implacable. The big red bus would not return to Staple! This meant that anyone wanting to get to the nearest bus service had to walk quite some distance on roads with neither pavements nor lighting.

**And so** a small but very determined group of villagers got together and formed the “Bring Back Our Bus” (BBOB) action group. Posters and banners were made and vocal demonstrations were held. Articles appeared in the press, letters were written to Cabinet Ministers and a petition delivered to 10 Downing Street. One way or another Staple was not to be ignored and would get a bus!



**And then** in May 2018 KCC launched its “Big Conversation” initiative to look at innovative ways of providing transport to rural communities not served by commercial operators, and in the course of this programme BBOB was able to persuade KCC’s Head of Public Transport to visit Staple and see for himself the challenges and dangers created by the withdrawal of the Stagecoach bus. Fortunately the impression he received was sufficient to include Staple (plus Great Mongeham and Northbourne parishes, which had also lost their bus) to be included as one of six pilot projects. The basis of the project was to make greater use of school transport providers in between the morning and afternoon school runs. And so the Sandwich Connect bus was born in June 2019 and was supposed to operate for a year when its viability would be assessed by KCC.

**But then** Covid-19 struck. The Big Conversation project was put in abeyance as personnel at KCC were deployed to other projects. But fortunately KCC was able to obtain additional resources for its rural transport initiatives and funding for Sandwich Connect was secured until 2022. In the meantime the route has been extended to include Ash, Marshborough and Woodnesborough, which will hopefully increase passenger numbers.

**And now** we are now only just over three months away from the final assessment by KCC as to whether the Sandwich Connect initiative has been a success and what the longer term holds for Staple and the service. Although by no means a perfect solution to the absence of a regular service including peak times, it does provide a limited connection to a wider range of transport services. With additional housing being built in the village it may be possible to persuade the powers-that-be that Staple needs a better permanent transport link, but that can only be achieved if the service is used. So please, Santa, ask people in Staple to support the bus service as much as possible in the coming months. *The End*



## The Platinum Jubilee - 2022

**Next year, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service.**



### BRING OUT THE BUNTING!

Almost everyone decorated their home for Christmas. Full on and fun! You may also do the same for a family birthday, sporting events or wedding... and why not!

So I am politely inviting as many of the residents of Staple as possibly can (and I know you can) to bring out the bunting.

Next June an historic long Bank Holiday is our village's chance to go bunting crazy and have some fun. Let's join nearly every city, town, village and hamlet in celebrating or marking our Queens Platinum Jubilee. Let's bring out our bunting and flags (UK national and/or Commonwealth flags) and dress our homes. We could even give our Christmas lights an early outing.

Let's decorate our houses, fences, hedges and even plant pots. One flag, a bit of bunting, (red, white and blue or anything you like) the more the better.

There may even be a small prize for the best dressed house – you never know. It will be fun and isn't hard to do (if you can do Christmas this will be easy!). We are a community of many souls not just a few so let's do it.

Be sure our neighbouring villages will (confidentially I've been "ear wiggling" in the Anchor pub in Wingham). So let's beat them all. Come on Staple, let's celebrate and be social.

Phil Newcombe

### LET'S BRING OUT THE BUNTING



**A small group of residents met in the Black Pig in November to discuss potential ideas for celebrating the Jubilee in Staple. The Bank Holiday weekend is Thursday 2 June until Sunday 5 June 2022.**

A rainstorm of ideas resulted in the following outline plan:

- Best-dressed house competition – leading up to the Jubilee weekend
- 1950's Street Party at the recreation ground – Saturday afternoon including sideshows and games with children's fancy dress competition
- School children to receive a mug
- Oak tree to be planted by Wildlife Friendly Village and plaque unveiled during the event
- Hog roast at the Black Pig – Saturday evening
- The Great Exhibition - Saturday/Sunday
- Flower, art and craft festival to be held in the Church with a display of old photos of the village
- Craft making/flower arranging/bunting making workshops on Friday
- A best decorated cake competition
- Jubilee Church Service - Sunday
- Would also like a permanent memorial in the village – looking for suggestions

Next meeting will be on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30pm in the Black Pig. If you would like to get involved, please come along.

# Staple Country & Craft Fayre Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022



## *It's back!* 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊

Covid-19 robbed us of the opportunity of staging our 30<sup>th</sup> consecutive Country Fayre. June 2022 we will be staging **Staple's 30<sup>th</sup> Country Fayre.**

There's been plenty of speculation as to why the Fayre wasn't announced earlier. An is simple: It's pointless to start planning a Fayre or even to announce a Fayre before that there is sufficient parking available. And until very recently, there hasn't been. Committee would like to thank **Matthew Cullen** for saving the day by allowing us to means that we now have two parking areas. (Main parking: kindly provided by **Rex Martin**; and overspill parking, kindly provided by **Matthew Cullen.**) We still need to disabled parking. But we're working on it. 😊



Although it's been three years since the last Fayre remember the excellent value-for-money that they. They'll still remember that the Staple Country Fayre variety of things to do, to see and to enjoy; in events, competitions, fairground-style attractions, live music, classic cars and motorbikes, rural or stationary engines, face-painting, and masses of c will everyone remember just how great these even expect the 2022 Country Fayre to be every bit as

won't be disappointed! (We're also hoping to include a Produce Show; but haven't as someone to organise it.)

The Fayre now has its own gas barbecue. – And this, together with the existing barbecues (plus perhaps the odd, scrounged barbecue 😊) will massively increase the cooking power – and thus speed up serving (and shorten the queues!). The Black Pig has always had a close connection with the Fayre; having previously been its main sponsor; and more recently having taken on the role of managing the barbecue.

And once again, **Billy Morgan** and his **Black Pig** crew will be organising the Barbecue.

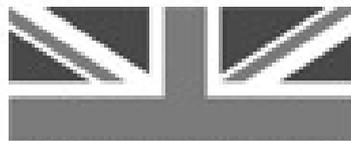
As I'm sure you've already noticed – the logo at the top of this page has been updated icon and a new name – **The ACS group.** **Charlie Austin** has kindly taken on the role of **Europe** via his company **Austin Contract Services**



Attractions come and go: Some are highly successful; while others quickly lose their appeal. But every now and then we come across attractions which are so right for the event / so popular, that they become integral parts of every Fayre. **Thanet Classics and Juggle-it-All** are just such attractions!



The **East Kent Classic Motorcycle Club** will be there with a great selection of their lovely machines. - And this will provide an ideal partner attraction for the brilliant **Thanet Classics**.



**ARMED FORCES DAY  
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**

For the last few Fayres we've lined the entrance drive with military vehicles (arranged by **Georgie Martin**) have joined the list of attractions. Having military vehicles present is appropriate, as the day before the Fayre is **National Armed Forces Day**.

While a lot of the work organising / running the Fayres is carried out by the **Committee**; a great deal of the work is also carried out by a 'non-committee team'. This team include **Jason Smith, Nick Coulson, Tony Panayides, Dave Kirk, Mia Brooman, Michell Bonnie & Richard Barber** and **Trevor Bartlett** and his excellent **Refreshment Hall** team.

Other 'non-committee team' members include **Val and Martin Bartlett**. **Martin** has manned the **Coconut Shy** for the last umpteen years. And **Val**, in addition to running the **Nearly New Stall**, also organised the **Craft Stalls** for literally decades! – Sadly, both **Martin and Val** have now called it a day. They'll be greatly missed; and the committee would like to thank them for their years of hard work and commitment.



The committee would also like to thank **Nick Coulson**; the **Fayre's Beer Tent** for many a year. **Nick** is taking over the reins to **Russ Timpson** for the 2022 Fayre. After many years on the committee, the mega-reliable and dedicated **Mick & Mags Burr** are also calling it a day.

We would like to thank them for the huge contribution they've made to the fayres. (They'll be missed!)

Once again, stilt-walking and juggling clowns, colourfully decorated stalls and the gleaming work of classic cars will all add to the visual appeal of the Fayre. Sadly, after many years of providing the perfect audio backdrop to our fayres, the brilliant **Victory Wartime Band** have called it their well. We're currently looking for someone to fill this spot.



**Rex, Georgie and their team** will once again ensure the whole event runs smoothly, a hitch, by providing manpower, equipment, signage and a lot of support.

Perhaps THE most important contribution will once again come from **McCullum and her Thanet Explorers**. (We literally couldn't do it without them!)

Every year, members of **Staple Church, Staple Pre-School, Staple Toddlers, Staple Youth Club** and friends of the Fayre work extremely hard to make the Fayre a success.



**STAPLE VILLAGE HALL  
& RECREATION GROUND**



# **THERE'S STILL TIME TO BOOK STAPLE VILLAGE HALL FOR YOUR XMAS PARTY!**

(Or for anything else...)



**Call: 01304 – 812340**

Staple Village Hall is a great place for Xmas parties, birthday parties, works parties, dances, wedding receptions, band practices ..... and more.

And it's an ideal venue for long-term hire; such as keep-fit groups, dance sessions, recorder groups, youth clubs, Pilates etc.

There's generous parking, a clean spacious kitchen with a large double-oven & 7 burner hob, masses of crockery & cutlery, ample seating, a PA system, a stage (and side room). - There's even a large recreation ground on the doorstep.

Please visit our web site / view and share our Facebook posts. And let your friends (including 'non-staple friends') know about this great venue.



<https://www.facebook.com/villagehallstaple>



<https://www.staplevillagehall.com>







## STAPLE BRANCH THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Meeting at the **Black Pig**, Barnsole Road, Staple on the second Thursday of each month. We welcome new members.

You do not have to have served in the Armed Forces to become a member, only have the aims and objects of The Legion at heart: Comradeship, Welfare, Representation and Remembrance. Please contact the Secretary, for more details by email at: [TRBLStaplesec@btinternet.com](mailto:TRBLStaplesec@btinternet.com) or just turn up for a meeting – watch *The Escallop* for special events. Do have a look at our website on: <https://rblstaple.wix.com/rblstaple> where there is much of interest, including Lost Sons of Staple profiles and the story and pictures of the construction of the Remembrance Garden.

The weeks leading up to Remembrance Sunday are always a busy time for British Legion branches and this year we were happy to be back to 'normality' and able to plan services and events as usual rather than under the severe restraints of last year.

A goodly crowd gathered at the Garden of Remembrance on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of Armistice Day to observe the 2 minutes silence in a short service led by Padre Michael Morris. A wreath was laid and the delightful children from Pre-School planted crosses, named for our 'Lost Sons' at each of their trees while the Secretary read 'On Flanders Field'. Our new Staple British Legion flag, so kindly donated by a branch member, was proudly flown for the first time from the flagpole.



Remembrance Sunday, with the flagpole flying the Union Flag, saw us at the Church with the congregation filling the pews. Padre Michael again officiated in his inimitable manner and we know how fortunate we are to have him as our Padre. The Standard was carried by Tim Eastwood, flanked by his two sons as Escorts to the Standard, smart and proud in their Scout uniforms and so conscientiously carrying out their role— who could fail to have a lump in their throat at such a sight? Busy lads, they also read two of the lessons, along with Harvey Perry, our Youth Member, who read the third and bravely gave the Kohima Epitaph. Wonderful to see our young people so involved and conscious of the importance and solemnity of the occasion. President Ron Sear read the Roll of Honour as he has done for as many years as most of us can remember and the Secretary Chris Sterba read the profiles of the Beerling Brothers to try to give life to the remembrance of their names carved in the stone of the War Memorial.

The Act of Remembrance began on the stroke of 11 as the haunting notes of the Last Post echoed through the Church. At the end of the Service, all went to the War Memorial for the laying of the Wreaths in the bright November air. Inside again for a welcome cup of tea and chat with friends in the relief that all had gone well.

Members and Friends of the Legion met for lunch in the Black Pig. An excellent lunch provided by Reece and staff and a story from the Chairman of Tom Lister, inspiration and instigator of the British Legion, celebrating its Centenary this year. Also celebrating her Centenary, our oldest 'Friend of the Legion', Val Holman who was presented with a Branch Certificate of Appreciation to honour her long association with Staple Branch.

The Poppy Appeal: The total sum submitted to the Poppy Appeal from Staple amounted to £733.15. This was made up from the contents of the five collection boxes around the village, the Retiring Collection at the Church on Remembrance Sunday and £310 from the Branch, raised throughout the year. This is a good sum from a small village in a difficult year when other fund-raising activities have been curtailed and we are extremely grateful for the generosity of the residents of Staple. As last year, the availability of collection boxes in public spaces was too much of a temptation for some and, despite being firmly secured to the bench to prevent its removal, someone had managed to prise the security tag and the lid off the box in the Church porch and taken the contents. We can only hope that it was desperation and not greed that prompted this despicable act.

We now look forward to Christmas and the New Year, with hopes of a more convivial time than last year with no restrictions on our movements and contacts.

As ever, there will be *no Branch Meeting in December* and we will celebrate our usual 'Post Christmas Dinner' on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January in lieu of our January meeting when we hope to see many members, Friends and Supporters. Look out for details in your mailbox nearer the date. (If you would like to be included in the mailing list as a 'Friend' rather than a Member, please just contact the Secretary at the address above and she will add you to the list). Should you wish to become a Member, it couldn't be easier – simple phone 0800 307 7773. Staple's Branch number is 2021 and it costs only £18 plus £2 Branch fee. – and we don't expect members to attend every meeting!!

Wishing all our Members and Friends a  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

### **Woodnesborough Gardeners Club**

We are pleased to say that the Club are now meeting up again. Annual subs remain at £5 and we have also introduced an additional £5 joining fee. We do not charge an entrance fee at meetings but always have a raffle, the proceeds of which go towards the cost of speakers and refreshments. Our Christmas party will be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Woodnesborough Village Hall. Instead of a sharing buffet, this year we are asking members to bring their own food and drink. We also hope to have some entertainment arranged for the evening

We now have next year's programme arranged and looking ahead to January, our meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month, on 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm (meetings usually take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday). Our speaker is Stephen Harmer and the subject is La Chaire, the story of Jersey's lost garden. New members and guests welcome.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February we will be holding our quiz evening. The cost is £3.00 per person and bring along your own food and drink. Tables of a maximum of 8 people must be pre booked, or you can put your name down to join a table. Please ring us on 01304 812373 to book. Initially, members will be given priority for bookings as this is always a popular event

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

**Ken and Linda Butcher**

Email: [woodnesboroughgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:woodnesboroughgardeners@gmail.com)



### **Pipe-Dreamers**

We're pleased to tell you that The Pipe-Dreamers are meeting again on Tuesday afternoons. At present we have 6 members but are happy to welcome new players any time. We use a range of different sizes of recorder and play a mixed repertoire of simple to intermediate ensemble music.



We began 8 years ago and have often played in Staple Church and at the Black Pig, but our main aim is to have fun and make informal music together.

If you are interested in learning to play the recorder or brushing up forgotten skills, do get in touch, we can accommodate all abilities!

[bridget.burridge@gmail.com](mailto:bridget.burridge@gmail.com) 01304 611888



## STAPLE PRE-SCHOOL

Throughout 2021 Staple Preschool achieved their Bronze, Silver and Gold Eco Awards to achieve Green Flag Eco School status. This is an internationally recognised award from UNESCO which enables us to fly the Eco-Schools Green Flag (made from recycled plastic bottles) that is the same green flag that schools all around the world fly once they achieve this award!

To achieve green flag status we completed 3 projects on healthy eating, bio diversity and litter. These projects involved all areas of our early years curriculum and led to a huge sense of achievement for the children.



For healthy eating we planted our own orchard to grow food for snack time, the children loved planting and caring for their trees

We built a bug hotel and put up bird boxes and bird feeders to increase biodiversity in our garden and litter-picked the recreation ground and local footpaths on our walks.

We have our own eco code at Staple Preschool and hope to encourage a love of the natural world and caring for the planet at an early age.

Safe for bugs

and bees



Turn off the lights



Apples are growing in our orchard



Put food out for the birds



Litter goes in the bin



Eco school!



At Staple Pre-School we provide a caring atmosphere for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years. We offer 30 hours a week of Free Early Education for children over the age of 3 years for working parents (depending on eligibility) Please check HMRC website for details. There is also funding for eligible 2 year olds.

We are proud of our experienced, well-qualified staff who look carefully at each individual child and consider their needs, interests and stages of development. We use our observations to plan a challenging and exciting environment, to ensure they make progress during their time with us.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum which covers seven areas of learning.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development,  
Physical Development,  
Communication and Language,  
Literacy,  
Mathematics,  
Understanding of the World  
Expressive Arts and Design

We have our own secure garden and provide a rich outdoor experience with acres of outside space. Some staff are undertaking 'Forest School' training and we have been awarded 'Eco-School' status by KCC.

**For more information, please contact Lauren Gupta-Miles on 07764 757265 or email [info@staplepreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@staplepreschool.co.uk)**

## STAPLE PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

### Staple Parent and Toddler Group will be restarting on Wednesday 12 January 2022

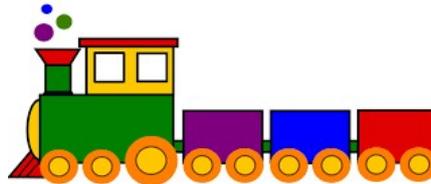
Sessions are held on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.15pm till 2.45pm. in the Village Hall

A warm welcome awaits Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Childminders and above all babies and children. We have a wonderful range of toys

Come and relax over tea and coffee while the children enjoy a drink and a biscuit and sometime cake too! Why not come along and make new friends?

We look forward to meeting you

Heidi (01304 812050)



## THE ARTS SOCIETY SANDWICH

The next Arts Society Sandwich lecture will be held in The Guildhall, Sandwich, at 7pm. Those attending the lecture must wear a face mask.

**Monday 6 December 2021**

**Sandy Burnett**

**From Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley – uplifting music for Christmas**

Sandy Burnett is a wide-ranging musician who has worked as music director for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre. He will share a selection of festive favourites ranging from the classical music of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* to traditional carols and songs by Eartha Kitt

**If you are not yet a member but find this interesting ....** We welcome non-members but would appreciate a £5 contribution per event for attending our lectures. **Please visit [www.sandwichdfas.org.uk](http://www.sandwichdfas.org.uk)** for membership and programme information. You can follow us on Facebook@theartssocietysandwich

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMPANY.

*Circumstances outside the Committee's control may require the lecture programme to be altered. Copyright©2021 The Arts Society Sandwich. All rights reserved. The Arts Society Sandwich is a branch of The Arts Society which is the operating name of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts (NADFAS), a company limited by guarantee (04307984) with charitable status.*



## Sandwich Local History Society

Thursdays at 19.30, usually in the Jury Room, Sandwich Guildhall.

Covid precautions, such as masks, may apply. Please keep checking for updates on our website:

[www.sandwichlocalhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.sandwichlocalhistorysociety.org.uk)





## Speedwatch Report



We were very active during the National Safety Week which was from 15th – 21st November. We had 4 sessions over two days and noted that generally speeds are dropping through Staple ~ with the exception of one or two cars and most motor bikes. We have noticed that committed motor cyclists who ride in groups are much more considerate.

During October/November we completed 7 sessions and recorded 17 vehicles (with 89% accuracy) . The maximum speed recorded was 42 mph. 13 vehicles were observed for the first time and 4 letters sent to owners for second time offences in our county (or Essex and Sussex).

Please remember over the festive season to drink responsibly. Since the Covid pandemic started less cars were on the road but now they are almost back to normal and many drivers have let their driving standards drop and drivers have reported seeing many stupid and dangerous situations ~ I have especially noted undertaking which in the UK is illegal.

The Police are always advising pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to adhere to the Highway Code and pedestrians should walk facing the traffic and wear bright clothing (preferably HiViz – less than £3). Now we are in winter and it is dark earlier it is important to be visible and carry a torch.

### **KEEP SAFE!!**

#### **SID report**

##### **Durlock Road – South**

85th Percentile Speed = 34.7 MPH  
85th Percentile Vehicles = 16,592 counts  
Max Speed = 75.0 MPH on 17/10/2021 19:50  
Total Vehicles = 19,520 counts  
Average Speed = 27.2 MPH

##### **Lower Road - West**

85th Percentile Speed = 34.5 MPH 2 months ago 34.6 MPH  
85th Percentile Vehicles = 9,540 counts 2 months ago 11,863 counts  
Max Speed = 60.0 MPH on 13/10/2021 05:20 2 months ago 70.0 MPH  
Total Vehicles = 11,223 counts 2 months ago 13,957 counts  
Average Speed = 24.8 MPH 2 months ago 28.1 MPH

If you have any questions or would like to help with Speedwatch please contact me

### **Staple Parish Council**

Minutes of Staple Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021, at 7.30 pm  
in Staple Village Hall

#### **Councillors present:**

Cllr T Bartlett (Chair), Cllr S Coulson, Cllr D Kirk, Cllr J Kirk, Cllr R Loukes, Cllr G McCollum, Mr J Mount (Parish Clerk).

#### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr. N McCollum

#### **2. Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting:**

#### **3.1 Approval of previous minutes:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. (Proposed: Cllr. R Loukes, Seconded: Cllr. D Kirk.

#### **3.2 Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Public session:**

Mr. M Holden mentioned problems with surface water and flooding. Cllr G McCollum said that although rainwater had recently been flowing away quite well; there was still a problem. It was noted that rainwater/flooding problems should be reported to Ian Day, the highways engineer. Cllr J Kirk said that in the past, the ditches around fields led the water away; but a lot of them have now been filled in. Cllr Chandler said that underground water courses have been altered by new developments. In response to a question from councillors, Cllr Chandler said that farmers can be required to do certain types of work to mitigate the problem.

It was agreed that the dyke next to Durlock Road needs clearing out as this would really help with drainage. Cllr Chandler said that KCC had changed the protocol around drain clearance. The Clerk was asked to draw together these various points and email Sue Chandler, who will then deal with it. Mrs Shelley Morris mentioned that hedges etc. can mitigate the situation.

### **5. Councillors' and PCSO Reports:**

#### **5.1 Cllr. M. Connolly (DDC): Report has been circulated to Councillors.**

**Waste Collections:** With special measures these have been back to normal for the last couple of weeks and garden waste collections resumed on October 11<sup>th</sup>. However underlying issues remain, these special measures are not sustainable in the long term and Veolia will be implementing some alterations to some communal collections and to hard-to-reach locations later this month. We are pressing Veolia to improve on their communications to residents after their failures earlier this year. While we know that residents will not welcome the following news, we have to report that a major review of rounds will be needed in the spring of next year.

**Small Business Saturday December 4th:** DDC will be supporting this event by offering free parking in council owned car parks. In addition, parking will be free between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of December and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of January.

**Levelling Up fund:** We have been very disappointed to learn that our bid for funds from this round of the Government's Levelling Up fund has not been successful. This means that our aspiration to create a Dame Vera Lynn Bowl on the Western Heights will almost certainly not go ahead. Before the next round we acknowledge that we have to learn the lessons of this and study why Thanet and particularly Ashford were successful in their bids.

**White Cliffs Country:** We were delighted to learn that Lonely Planet has placed the Kent Heritage Coast 4<sup>th</sup> in its list of the world's best regions to visit in 2022. It is the only UK destination to feature in this year's list. This is a major boost to DDC's Tourist and Visitor strategy.

**Border issues:** Although at the time of writing some of the heat seems to have gone out of the Anglo-French fishing dispute, we are working with KCC, Highways England and the police to prepare for any disruption to cross-Channel traffic. The objective will be to prevent the gridlock in Dover town that we saw when the French closed the border in December last year. We are still awaiting confirmation of where DEFRA will site their Inland Border Facility in Dover. The location is an open secret but cannot be publicly revealed until contracts have been signed, which we expect to see in the coming days.

**Head of Planning:** We were sorry to learn that our Head of Planning and Regeneration, Lois Jarett, has decided to retire for largely personal reasons and will be leaving in January. Plans for recruiting a successor are underway.

**WISE:** Starting last month we are now working with a company called Waste, Investigation, Support and Enforcement to carry out low-level enforcement activity work across the district, concentrating on littering and dog fouling. This will allow our own Environmental Enforcement team to concentrate on major breaches such as flytipping.

**Town Centre Events Grants:** With funds from the Government's Additional Restrictions Grant, we are announcing a new scheme to support town centre businesses in our three towns and encourage free community events. Closing date for applications, which will cover events for the remainder of this year and all of 2022, is November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

From our own Community Grant Scheme's winter round, we have allocated £119K to 101 applicants. Combined with the summer round this means we have allocated nearly £199K to 184 applicants this year. Staple PCC received £824.

### 5.1 Cllr S Chandler (KCC): Report has been circulated to Councillors.

The entire Kent County Council family were devastated recently by the sudden death of our Chairman Ann Allen, not only was Ann the Council Chairman she had for many years chaired the Corporate Parenting Panel and been a Champion for both the children we care for and young people in general. As someone said to me last week 'she didn't just talk the talk she walked the walk'. We will miss her common sense, integrity, and her absolute commitment to our children.

Food vouchers were provided for Kent families whose children are entitled to benefits-related Free School Meals this October half-term, a £15 food voucher for each eligible child was provided through schools, which could be used in supermarkets and local shops.

KCC will fund the vouchers using part of its allocation from the Government's Household Support Fund, which was launched in September to help local authorities support some of their most vulnerable households during the winter. The vouchers are the first scheme KCC has announced it will be funding from its £11.06m allocation and details of further proposed spending will be announced in due course. Cabinet considered a paper which included details of the Helping Hands scheme last week, this scheme, in partnership with Districts, will continue.

The results of the Kent Test were sent out on 21st October. Secondary school applications for Kent residents closed on Monday, November 1. Receiving a selective assessment in the Kent Test does not guarantee a child a place at a Kent grammar school, it means they can be considered for any Kent grammar school their parent names on the Secondary Common Application Form (SCAF) on National Offer Day (Tuesday, March 1, 2022). Places will be offered in line with each school's admissions criteria, which can be found

at [www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions](http://www.kent.gov.uk/secondaryadmissions). Families were advised to make use of all four options on their SCAF as selecting fewer schools does not increase their chances of gaining a place at a preferred school. The Cabinet Member for Education pointed out last week that those parents whose children were not assessed as being suitable for selective schools should not worry as Kent has good all ability schools, as in our area we are fortunate to have Sandwich Technology School which is an all-ability Academy rated good by Ofsted as well as Sir Roger Manwood's as well as access from some of the Division to schools in Dover and Canterbury.

The council's commissioned digital care programme project 'Kara' has won national recognition at the HTN HealthTech Awards (7 October), winning the Major Project Go Live category.

Healthcare transformation consultancy Rethink Partners and pioneers of virtual care Alcove delivered the £1.5million project on behalf of the council last year. By the end of July 2020, they had successfully equipped over 1,700 vulnerable and digitally disadvantaged adults in Kent with video 'carephones', so that they could talk to friends, family, carers, and other professionals, via video, when they were unable to meet due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The technology, in the form of a "one touch" secure tablet-type device, provided video-calling to an individual's support network, which allowed KCC support staff to monitor care needs, ensure that residents were safe, and enabled residents to conduct online activities such as ordering essential supplies and stay video connected with their loved ones.

The team also trained health and care professionals, including those working in care homes and in the community, so they were able to support vulnerable people to use the technology.

Living in our area close to Sandwich and Canterbury we are very aware of the history around us, including the large number of historic buildings that we are fortunate to have, in our towns and villages, including the most complete medieval street in the country! Now an eight-week consultation on KCC's latest plans for protecting the county's heritage is under way with residents and businesses encouraged to make their views known.

The draft Strategy outlines how KCC intends to protect its heritage assets, while tackling a number of challenges, including climate change, coastal erosion, rural activities, housing developments, and infrastructure requirements such as sewers, water supplies and roads.

Another challenge is finding a solution to the issue of archiving artefacts discovered during excavations. KCC is already the owner of more than 2,500 boxes of archive material deriving primarily from the Channel Tunnel Rail Link project and has a direct responsibility to find a home for them.

KCC is also responsible for the long-term storage of archives from road schemes and other county council developments and is keen to continue working with partners to develop a solution for all Kent's archives, as the retention and deposition of archaeological archives is regarded as national good practice. As the main archaeological curator for Kent, KCC has a responsibility to help find a solution to the archives problem and improve access to information.

The tourism industry is an important sector providing 67,000 jobs and contributing more than £1.4 billion to the Kent economy. It is estimated that nearly a third of the annual spend from domestic and international tourism in

the UK is attributable to activities broadly defined as heritage related. Locally we are also aware of the benefits that tourism can bring to our economy, but also of the difficulties of preserving and maintaining that heritage. Do please contribute to this consultation.

The draft Heritage Conservation Strategy can be found here: [www.kent.gov.uk/heritageconservationstrategy](http://www.kent.gov.uk/heritageconservationstrategy). Feedback can be provided via the online questionnaire before 13 December 2021.

Since its COVID Business Helpline was set up at the start of the pandemic, the Kent and Medway Growth Hub (KMGH) has helped thousands of companies adjust to changing times.

A one-stop-shop for business advice, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP)-funded Hub helps new and existing firms find the most suitable support available in their area – from accessing funding to connecting with other like-minded enterprises.

Since March 2020 the KMGH COVID line, backed by Kent County Council (KCC) and a number of districts, has received over 18,000 calls for advice – including guidance on grant applications, furlough arrangements and home working. More than 5,300 businesses have also been assisted by webchats, with a further 8,785 receiving individual one-to-one advice sessions.

Now the Kent & Medway Growth Hub is focused on supporting businesses as the UK economy continues its COVID recovery and adaption to Brexit, I would like to remind local companies that support, including 36 hours of one-to-one free mentoring through the Hub's KCC-funded enhanced Business Support Programme, is just a phone call away – on 03333 602 300.

We are very fortunate in having access to some fantastic parks and open spaces in and around Sandwich, and in the past 18 months we have seen the value of them to our health and well-being more than ever. Now Pegwell Bay Country Park is one of the eight of KCC's Country parks – one more than previously – to have been recognised with the prestigious Green Flag Award.

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management across the United Kingdom and around the world, definitely something to celebrate and be proud of.

Cllr. D Kirk asked who should be contacted to take down road closure signs once the work has finished. Email Cllr. S Chandler, and she will then put in a request.

5.2 PCSO (Eva Winter): No report presented

## **6 Finance:**

6.1 Approval of bank reconciliation for October 2021:

The bank reconciliation was approved. (Proposed: Cllr. G. McCollum Seconded: Cllr. R. Loukes)

6.2 Cheques to be approved:

Cheque Nos. 200390 and 200391      HM Revenue    £79.60

Cheque No. 200392                      Clerk's Salary    £200

These cheques were approved. (Proposed: Cllr. G. McCollum, Seconded Cllr. R. Loukes)

Donation of £50 to Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day wreath. (Proposed Cllr. J Kirk, Seconded by Cllr. S Coulson. Cllr S Coulson to lay the wreath on the day. Clerk will give a cheque to Cllr S Coulson.

6.3: Other financial items:

There were none.

## **7 Correspondence received:**

7.1 Terry Martin ref. beacons for HM Queen's Jubilee. Discussion about having a beacon built. Cllr. R Loukes said that we could have a bonfire constructed to Council specification. To be further discussed at a later date.

7.2 Nicola Snow ref. speed on Fleming Road. Clerk to respond to Mrs Snow and say how concerned the Parish Council are about speeding along the road, but it is outside the boundary of the parish.

7.3 Toby Butler ref. SID at Piglet Place. The Parish Clerk sent a letter to Toby Butler, unfortunately a letter had already been sent by Cllr R Loukes, owing to a misunderstanding.

7.4 English rural ref. Bartlett Close. This item was discussed under Agenda item no 11

7.5 A Parishioner wrote to the Parish Council with ref. to obstructions to vehicles. Clerk to write to the parishioner giving him the outcome to the discussion. Clerk to write to L Jarvis at DCC and report the problem of a wall. Forward a copy of the letter to Cllr. S Chandler. If the wall is close to the highway, it would require planning permission.

7.6 Mr Collingwood ref. minor accident at the corner of The Street. Councillors discussed the problem about parking. Cllr. R. Loukes said that we have a highways improvement plan and this problem is first on the list. Clerk to reply to Mr Collingwood stating the action that the Parish Council is taking. Clerk to write to the residents concerned, stating the Parish Council's concerns. Address is 1, Dell View.

7.7 Mr Mervyn Laker ref. quotation for servicing garden machinery.

Quotation was accepted unanimously. (Proposed by J Kirk, Seconded by R. Loukes)

7.8 Mr J Aldington ref. fibre optic internet in Goodnestone

Parish Clerk to ask him to come to the next Parish Council meeting.

## **8 Reports:**

### **8.1 Planning applications determined**

Site at Three Tuns, The Street, Staple, Condition approved
--

### **8.2 Planning applications submitted**

Frog and Orange, Shatterling. Erection of 6 no. detached dwellings. Councillors agreed in principal. Proposed by Cllr. J Kirk, seconded by Cllr G McCollum. Councillors supported the application, but with reservations concerning sight lines and access onto the A257.
---

Summerfield Nurseries, Barnsole Road. Variation of condition 2 of previous planning application. Councillors supported the application.
---

#### **8.2.1 Village Hall and recreation ground:**

Bookings are very poor at the moment.

Maintenance has continued to take place.

CCTV is now in place and the associated cables are shielded to prevent vandalism.

#### **8.4 SID/Speedwatch:**

Cllr R Loukes reported on Speedwatch and SIDs. (Report appended to minutes)

#### **8.5: Footpaths:**

Cllr Sue Coulson gave a report. She has been in touch with the local farmer reminding him about what he is obliged to do with reference to reinstating the paths. No reply has yet been received. She listed all the paths that need to be reinstated.

## **9 Items for discussion:**

### **10 Any other business:**

Additional correspondence, as permitted by the chair.

#### **10.1 Slimming down of the Parish Council minutes on the notice boards (Parish Clerk)**

The Parish Clerk mentioned that the SID/Speedwatch/KCC/DDC/PCSO took up a great deal of space on the Parish notice boards. There are several items that should be displayed on the boards, but we are unable to display them owing to a shortage of space. It was pointed out that although the various reports are usually embedded within the minutes and are published in the Escallop; they are not in fact 'minute items'. It was agreed that although the reports would be appended to the minutes published in the Escallop, they would no longer be displayed on the notice boards. They would however still be available for viewing on the Parish Council web site.

10.2 The Parish Clerk asked if there were any plans yet to announce the go-ahead of the 2022 Staple Country Fayre. Cllr J Kirk said that the decision as to whether to hold the Fayre was still being considered; as several of the requirements essential for its go-ahead were still not confirmed. (These include the availability of suitable parking areas and finding someone to take on the task of procuring programme advertising.) When (or if) these problems are resolved; then the Fayre would indeed go ahead. It was hoped that this could be achieved in time for an article to be included in the Christmas edition of the Escallop.

### **11 Any confidential items to be discussed:**

Discussion concerning one item.

**12 Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

## Sandwich Connect Bus Service – UPDATE

A revised route and timetable for the Sandwich Connect bus providing a link between Staple and Ash has now been agreed. Staple Parish Council proposed that the bus should enter Ash then turn at Chequer Lane and proceed to Sandwich via the Ash By-Pass but following consultation KCC has decided that the bus will instead proceed further into Ash before turning down New Street and Marshborough Road and entering Sandwich via Woodnesborough Road. This revised route will reinstate a bus service for an area of Ash which, like Staple, lost a regular Stagecoach Service when the Number 14 was withdrawn in 2019. A revised timetable has been agreed with Britannia but as the Traffic Commissioner requires 70 days' notice of the intention to register a change to a bus service, the new timetable and route will not come into operation until **Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.

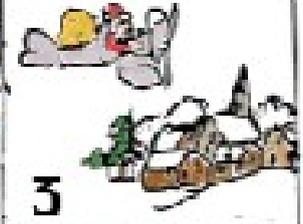
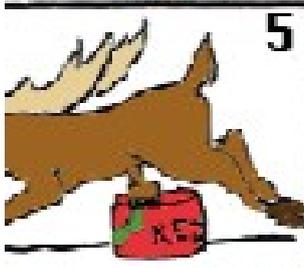
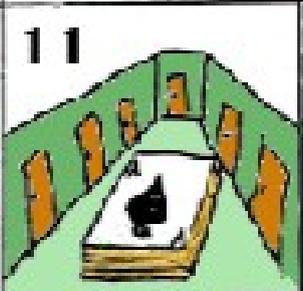
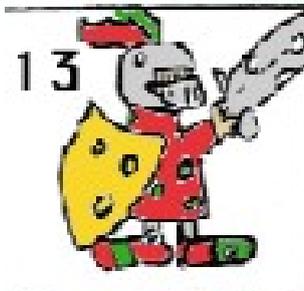
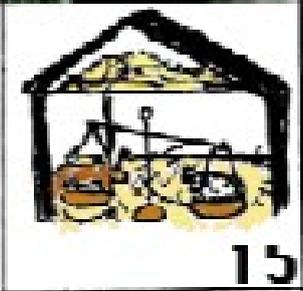
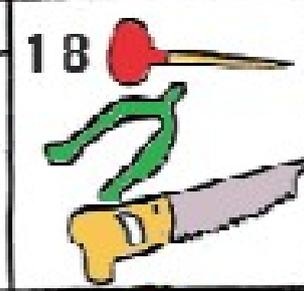
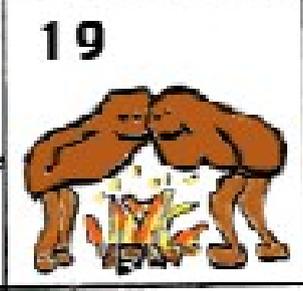
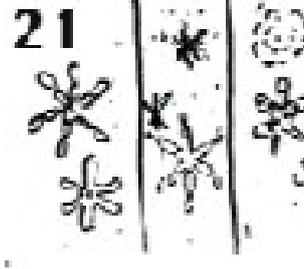
### Revised timetable effective 25 October 2021

<b>Staple- Sandwich - Northbourne - Mongeham</b>		<b>Sandwich Connect</b>			
<b>Mondays to Fridays</b>					
Staple, Three Tuns		0939	1109	1309	1439
Staple, The Street		0940	1110	1310	1440
Staple, Durlock Nursery		0943	1113	1313	1443
Guilton Corner		0945	1115	1315	1445
Ash, The Chequer Inn		0946	1116	1316	1445
Ash, Mill Field		0949	1119	1319	1448
Woodnesborough, Oak Hill		0953	1123	1323	1451
Sandwich, The Guildhall	Arr:	0959	1129	1329	1457
	Dep:	1002	1132	1332	1500
Northbourne, Updown Lane		1009	1139	1339	1507
Northbourne, Crossroads		1012	1142	1342	1510
Mongeham, Church Close		1016	1146	1346	1514
Mongeham, Church		1017	1147	1347	1515
Mongeham, Village Hall		1018	1148	1348	1516
St Nicholas Close Bus Shelter	Arr:	1020	1150	1350	1518
	Dep:	1022	1152	1352	1522
<b>Mongeham - Northbourne - Sandwich - Staple</b>		<b>Sandwich Connect</b>			
<b>Mondays to Fridays</b>					
Mongeham, Village Hall		1024	1154	1354	1524
Mongeham, Church		1025	1155	1355	1525
Mongeham, Church Close		1026	1156	1356	1526
Northbourne, Crossroads		1030	1200	1400	1530
Northbourne, Updown Lane		1033	1203	1403	1533
Sandwich, The Guildhall	Arr:	1040	1210	1410	1540
	Dep:	1043	1243	1413	1543
Woodnesborough, Oak Hill		1049	1249	1419	1549
Ash, Mill Field		1053	1252	1423	1553
Ash, The Chequer Inn		1056	1256	1426	1556
Guilton Corner		1057	1257	1427	1557
Staple, Durlock Nursery		1059	1259	1429	1559
Staple, The Street		1102	1302	1432	1602
Staple, Three Tuns		1103	1303	1433	1603

# CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGES

## PICTURE A SONG

Each picture represents a different Christmas song or carol. How many can you identify that has been done for you.

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## Staple Village Hall

(<http://www.staplevillageHall.com>)

The Village Hall and the Recreation Ground are owned by Staple Parish Council and are managed on behalf of the parishioners by a committee of elected members, plus appointed representatives of village organisations. Through regular, preventative maintenance and the timely rectification of day-to-day problems, the committee ensures that the Hall and the grounds are always kept in tip top condition. This is particularly true of the Recreation Ground's play equipment, which recently received a much-needed major refurbishment. Subsequent regular maintenance, plus annual safety inspections by the manufacturers (Wicksteed) ensure that every element of the play equipment is kept in a safe condition.

Regular central heating maintenance, an excellent cleaner, and the use of a local multi-skilled tradesman mean that the Hall is always warm, clean and in perfect working order. This provides excellent value for money for the Hall's long-term hirers and also attracts short-term hirers / maintains levels of income. The committee secretary's vigilance ensures that the Hall is always warm and that the heating is only on during hire periods; thus, keeping costs to a minimum. The committee's Treasurer and Booking Officer make sure that the Hall is always cost-effective. (With booking income matching/exceeding expenditure). The largest regular expense is the Hall's annual insurance. The Hall's regular long-term hirers include Staple Pre-School, Staple Youth Club, Staple Parent & Toddler Group, Staple Short Mat Bowls Club and the Staple Country Fayre Committee.

For Hall booking enquiries please contact

The Village Hall Bookings Officer:

**Sue Coulson Tel. 01304-812340 ([enquiries@staplevillageHall.com](mailto:enquiries@staplevillageHall.com))**

For general (or website related) enquiries, please contact The Village Hall Chairman:

**John Kirk Tel. 01304-813178 ([info@staplevillageHall.com](mailto:info@staplevillageHall.com))**

The Village Hall Comprises:

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