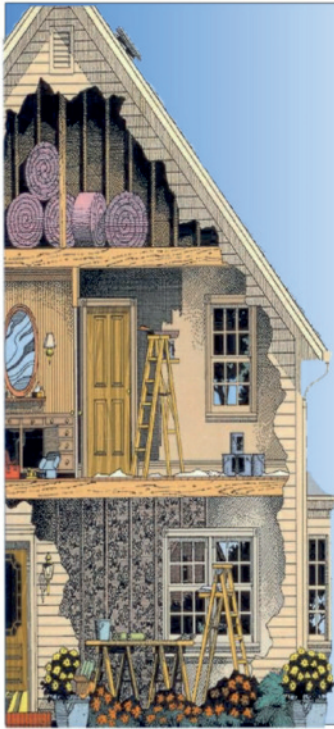




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February 2015 Magazine Cut-off Date

The cut-off date for the February Stukeleys Parish Magazine is
9am Monday 19th January 2015

FUTURE EVENTS

Mon 5th Jan	Parish Council Meeting	7.30 pm	GSVH
Sat 10 th Jan	Mens Breakfast	9.00 am	Grace Fellowship
Sun 11 th Jan	Chrsingle Service	9.30 am	St Bartholomews
Wed 14 th Jan	WI General Meeting	7.00 pm	GSVH
Sat 31 st Jan	Curry Night	7.30 pm	LSVH
Fr 13 th Feb	Beetle Drive	6.45 pm	GSVH
Sat 14 th Feb	Valentine's Disco	7.00 pm	GSVH
Wed 18 th Feb	Heritage Group Meeting	7.30 pm	GSVH
Fri 6 th Mar	Fashion Show	7.00 pm	GSVH
Sat 7 th Mar	Quiz Night	7.00 pm	LSVH
Sat 16 th May	Horse Racing Night	TBA	LSVH

Take a look at the Magazine website at www.stukeleymag.co.uk

Email to: Martyn at martyn@stukeleymag.co.uk

Post/drop in to: 7 Hill Close, Great Stukeley PE28 4AZ

Tel: 01480 432633 Mob: 07710 171924

Please include your phone number in case of queries.

Space in the magazine is limited, so articles should be about 300 words. This is to allow as many people as possible the opportunity to contribute to the magazine. It would be helpful if you could submit articles sized to an A5 page in Word or PDF.

We reserve the right to refuse an article, cut its length or hold it over to a later issue without notice.

Please Note: Any articles or letters appearing in this Magazine are accepted in good faith and are purely the opinion of the Writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor or Parish Council.

A charge is made to advertise in this magazine. All enquiries should be directed to Martyn

This Month

Pages 4-6:	Stukeleys Parish Council News
Page 7-9:	Letters to the Editor
Page 11:	Little Stukeley Village Hall
Page 12:	Parish Broadband Survey
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Page 17:	Little Stukeley Christmas Dinner
Page 17:	Valentine's Disco Cancelled
Page 22:	WI Community Coffee Morning

THE STUKELEYS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

From the meeting held on the 1st December 2014

At a rather lengthy but interesting Parish Council Meeting held at Little Stukeley Village Hall on the 1st December 2014, 8 Parish Councillors, 1 County Councillor, 1 District Councillor, 5 guest speakers, 6 residents and the Parish Clerk were in attendance.

One resident asked what progress had been made with regard to providing a central storage building for the Stukeley Allotments. It was explained that a number of options were being considered but unfortunately the Parish Council lead on this project was not available to update the meeting. Another resident, asked whether clause 9 in the allotment tenant's license could be relaxed, until a central storage unit was erected. Councillor Sally Smith said the Parish Council was continuing to work on the project of providing a central storage unit.

County Councillor Peter Ashcroft advised that due to financial pressures, some planned Cambridgeshire County Council development and projects would be delayed or referred back to local District Council and Parishes.

Rebecca Briton gave an update on the Alconbury Weald development. She reported that Urban & Civic had received a few complaints about noise levels from the demolition on the site but they have fully complied with the requirements imposed by HDC. She asked for any feedback from the Stukeleys, a resident said he could hear the demolition work in his garden at Great Stukeley but this may have been the site drilling for the wind turbines and not Alconbury Weald. A Parish Councillor from Little Stukeley heard some banging but it was not overbearing and she had not received any other complaints from any other residents. The next Community Newsletter will be published before Christmas. Cllr Michael Monk asked whether the environment enhancement on Ermine Street is to be in place when the 200th or 250th house is built, Rebecca Briton will check and confirm. She also advised that future job vacancies will eventually be advertised on the Urban & Civic website

Alex Russell, architect from Allford Hall Monaghan Morris gave a presentation to the meeting on the proposed Alconbury Weald Primary School - Key Phase 1. They have been working closely with Urban & Civic. The Key Phase 1 Primary School is to be built to the south of the Alconbury Weald site and will be a three form entry primary school. The design allows the school to be built in two phases; in the 1st phase there will be 2 classrooms per school year raising to 3 classroom per school year in the 2nd phase. Parking and the green transport plan was discussed. Cllr Stef van den Haak was concerned about the lack of drop off facilities for parents near the school although there will be a park and stride facility slighter further away. Alison Revell (CCC) agreed there is an issue with parking with schools in the County but there would need to be a supermarket sized car park to accommodate all parents' cars. There will be a green landscaped area at the front of the building for parents and children to congregate. Councillors felt that there was a need for a safe route for children from Little Stukeley across Ermine Street to the school, to encourage less traffic. Cllr Michael Monk stated that there was frustration within the villages that village children are not in the catchment for local schools and have to be bussed pass their local schools to other schools further afield. Clare Buckingham (CCC) is in dialogue with Huntingdon Primary School and Alconbury Primary School with regard to catchment criteria and areas. Admission criteria must be considered by parents but they can apply to any school. Clare Buckingham advised the meeting that there is to be an annual consultation exercise on the proposed changes to catchment areas for schools (from 2016/7), which will include proposed changes of catchment area for the Stukeleys. See

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20059/schools_and_learning/363/apply_for_a_school_place/10 for further information.

The Parish Council next heard from Keeley Russell, the Head of Client Liaison at Balfour Beatty, who gave a presentation on the CCC Street Lighting Replacement Project. CCC have obtained PFI funding to replace County Council owned street lighting in the county, 10% of street lights across the County are to be removed to save maintenance and energy costs. Balfour Beatty are the appointed contractors for the project. Balfour Beatty have had to send primary drawings, information packs to local councils and complete a leaflet drop to all residents affected by the proposed works. All CCC streetlights will be 6 metre columns with 36w PL white lights in residential areas. The contract for the work was negotiated 5 years ago and LED light replacement was not considered at that time. Balfour Beatty have to comply with contract but want to liaise and work with

Parishes. Some street lights will be removed completely. Balfour Beatty are willing to attend a residents meeting. Lights will be dimmed by 40% from 10:00pm until 6:00am, and on traffic routes lights will be dimmed in two stages 20% between 8:00pm to midnight and a further 20% until 6:00am. Balfour Beatty is prepared to consult with residents over specific streetlights (please contact: Keeley Russell on 0800 783 8247). Cllr Michael Monk stated that it is a requirement that Urban & Civic transform Ermine Street to take away the main street appearance e.g. narrow the street etc. This must be completed when the 200th house has been built on the Alconbury Weald development. Therefore, it would be a waste of resources and money if Balfour Beatty replaced street lights in Ermine Street now, only to be removed, resited and replaced by Urban & Civic at a later date. Keeley Russell agreed to investigate and contact CCC/HDC and Urban & Civic. Cllr Stuart Bell thanked Keeley Russell for her informative presentation.

Harriette Wood and architect Julie Willington from TS Partnership, next gave a presentation on the proposed extension at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The Church wishes to extend the meeting hall, as the congregation has outgrown their chapel space, there is not enough room for the congregation all to be in one room together. All comments will be considered up to, when the application, is submitted before Christmas. Cllr Michael Monk expressed concern about timing of the submission and the lack of time to respond to suggestions before the plan was submitted. The existing building was built 25 years ago and the congregation has increased considerably. The architects are not planning for further future growth on the scale of over the last 25 years. The congregation can only grow to 230 (currently 225) before the Church consider the congregation too big and would look at splitting the congregation, one half meeting in morning and one half meeting in the afternoon or finding another location/site. The building is being doubled in size and is only 5 metres from the boundary. It was suggested changing the orientation of the building and extending in a different direction. Cllr Michael Monk was concerned about the impact on the street scene. It was felt that the Church's ward is quite extensive and this facility is not for the village but for a much wider area, therefore the Stukeleys was not the ideal location for this church. Traffic on Ermine street was the chief concern, Sunday is generally quieter but this may not be the case if the Church is expanded. Julie Willington stated that there should be no parking in the Stukeleys as there is adequate parking for the congregation on site. Some trees with TPOs would need to be removed, TS Partnership are consulting with HDC on this issue. Julie Willington stated the Church was prepared to consider slightly moving the spire but the blank gable wall is required by the Church as they do not like light to distract the congregation. Cllr Stuart Bell felt that if Church had wanted to really engage with Parish Council they would attend a Parish Council meeting before the plans had got to this stage

The electoral review of Cambridgeshire was discussed and the Parish Council felt the Parish would be best served if the ward remained as it is currently.

The condition of the village bus shelters were also discussed and it was agreed that they should be cleaned. The Parish Clerk is to investigate the cost of replacing the village noticeboards.

The Parish Council discussed its stewardship/editorial control of the village Parish Magazine. The Parish Magazine was originally run by the Parish Church and distributed to residents for a fee. The Parish Council underwrites the net cost of the magazine ensuring it is distributed free of charge to residents. The Parish Council does not have any editorial control. The Parish Council will continue to support the Parish Magazine, there is no other trust or other village organization available to take on the financial responsibility or risk. Adverts for products or services provided not for profit are published free of charge. The impact of the Equality Act 2010 was discussed. Although the Parish Council does not have any editorial control, it will advise the Editor if any complaints over the content of the magazine are received from residents. The author of letters published should be identifiable, but could be published stating the name and address has been withheld. The Editor is invited to attend any Parish Council Meeting to discuss any issues or queries.

With reference to broadband availability in the village, Cllr Barrie James reported that Ofcom was not interested in individual requests, avenues had to be exhausted with British Telecom first, before a complaint could be referred to the ombudsman. Therefore Cllr Barrie James has sent a submission to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.

The 2014/15 budget forecast was reviewed and the 2015/16 precept set.

The following planning application was considered by the Parish Council:

Land at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley - 1401707FUL– Detached dwelling.

Following a recommendation from the planning committee it was agreed to recommend approval as the plan was for a modest building that did not detract from the historic setting of the lodge nor the street scene but with a condition that a mixed native species hedgerow along the boundary with Great Stukeley Hall parkland should be required.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Monday 5th January 2015 at 7:30pm – Great Stukeley Village Hall, Great Stukeley
Monday 2nd February 2015 at 7:30pm – Little Stukeley Village Hall, Little Stukeley
Monday 2nd March 2015 at 7:30pm – Great Stukeley Village Hall, Great Stukeley

Please check the website & notice board for notification of any Extra-ordinary Parish Council Meetings to be held.

Parish Councillors will be present at Open Surgeries at 7:15pm prior to Parish Council Meetings and parishioners are invited to attend to express their support, views or concerns on issues affecting the Parish.

A full set of Minutes and other Parish Council information are available at www.thestukeleys-pc.gov.uk/

Carole Pollock, Parish Clerk/RFO to The Stukeleys Parish Council, 5 Gore Tree Road, Hemingford Grey, Cambs PE28 9BP.
Tel: 01480 464817 email: clerk@thestukeleys-pc.gov.uk

Contact Details

Parish Councillors

Stuart Bell	533142
Karl Gasson	413925
Philip Hobson	455629
Barrie James	434611
Michael Monk	456634
Sue Parkin (Chairman)	454085
Sally Smith	450356
Paul Vincent	411871
Stef van den Haak	07714 660865

Parish Clerk

Carole Pollock	464817
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email: clerk@thestukeleys-pc.gov.uk

County Councillors:

Sir Peter Brown	453062/41 1245
Peter Ashcroft	436669

District Councillor:

Keith Baker	890782
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Other Useful Numbers for reporting problems:

Abandoned cars

01480 388297

Fly tipping

01480 388640

Pot holes in roads

0845 0455212

Illegal signs/graffitti

0800 7832220

Refuse & recycling helpline

0800 3896613

Letters to the Editor

The Parish Magazine

The Parish Council is responding to the Letter to the Editor which appeared in the December 2014 issue of the Stukeleys Parish Magazine, concerning both the Editor and the Parish Council.

Martyn Fox has done an outstanding *voluntary* job as Editor of the Stukeleys' Parish Magazine and we hope he will continue to do so. Martyn has made significant improvements in the size, style, quality and content of the Parish Magazine since becoming Editor.

The Editor's job is to *edit* the content of a Parish Magazine which is *supplied by the residents*. The Editor does not have a staff of investigative reporters and journalists on hand foraging for stories. It is simply *not true* that the Magazine favours some over others and that residents are not able to put in their "two penneth". No contributions from residents have ever been excluded from the magazine to favour others.

On numerous occasions the Editor has solicited contributions in the form of articles, stories, information on events, photos, crosswords etc. from residents of the Parish. It is unfair to blame the Editor if these do not come forward. If we want more diversity in content it is up to all of us to contribute.

The Parish Council funds the Parish Magazine so that a valuable information service can be supplied *free* to all households. Unlike many other Parish magazines which are published quarterly our Magazine is produced *monthly* which puts significant time pressure on the Editor - particularly as the magazine has grown in size.

The Parish Council has limited discretionary funds and much as we would like we cannot fund an 'all colour' magazine. From the comments received when we increased the Parish Council's Precept in 2014 an increase in the Precept would be required to cover the significant extra costs of an all-colour magazine and would not be acceptable to residents.

We do not believe that charging for the magazine is a good idea. The very reason that the Parish Council took over funding was that so few residents elected to pay an annual *voluntary subscription of £1.00*, that the magazine was in financial trouble and that the publication was almost at an end. With increased advertising revenues Martyn has been able to skillfully reduce the net cost of the Parish Magazine.

We also want to clarify our position on the issue of Dog Fouling. The Parish Council *have not swept* Dog Fouling under the carpet. We can understand that the editor took the decision to show the image shown on the front page as an attempt to shock people - this is a matter which we should all take seriously. There are *no* dedicated dog bins in either Parish and the bins that we have are dual use. Dedicated dog bins would cost around £450 each plus a special collection fee from the District Council to collect the waste. Dedicated bins are costly and it does not matter how many bins we place some people will only use them if they are shamed into doing so. The simplest thing to do where there are no dual use bins, is to take the waste either to the nearest bin or dispose of the waste at home. We have a Dog Warden in both villages and we need more help from the residents to supplement our efforts. Would the person who complained be willing to *volunteer* to assist our Dog Warden in Little Stukeley in identifying the miscreants?

The Stukeleys Parish Council

Letters to the Editor

Traffic through the Stukeleys

I should not wish anyone to misunderstand the position regarding dealing with traffic through our villages along Ermine Street given the comments in the letter from Stacey Middleton in the December issue. This is a matter which has very definitely **NOT** been "put on the back burner".

Two years ago the Parish Council set up the Stukeleys Traffic Group to bring together all the main parties who should deal with this - County Council, District Council, Parish Council, Highways Agency, police and emergency services, Urban&Civic and the USAF. I chair this Group. We meet regularly, and the matter is a standing item on the Parish Council's agenda every month. The Group last met on 14th October. All meetings of the Group are reported back to the Parish Council and the notes of the meeting are attached to Parish Council minutes.

As a direct result of the Parish Council's pressure, there is a requirement attached to the outline planning permission for Alconbury Weald which means that Urban&Civic have to design, develop and implement environmental improvements along Ermine Street to address the traffic issues. Urban&Civic are required to provide in the order of £1 Million for this scheme which must be implemented in full by the time 200 houses have been built and occupied on their site. The Parish Council has also secured a further £80,000 from St John's College to deal with traffic in Ermine Street in The Stukeleys should they develop the extension to the Ermine Business Park.

There will be public consultation on the draft scheme which is currently being designed by consultants on behalf of Urban&Civic and I hope this will take place in the first half of 2015. I am sure there will be considerable interest from our residents!

The matter has been my No.1 priority on the Parish Council ever since I first was elected over 20 years ago. Up until now we have been ham-strung by minimal budgets, so that the limited measures we have in place have only marginally addressed speeding along a wide straight former trunk road. This opportunity makes all the difference.

Maybe a future meeting of the Group could be an open forum to discuss progress and key issues. If anybody would like to take part in such an event, do please contact me.

Michael Monk

Parish Councillor

Chairman, Stukeleys Traffic Group

33 Church Road, Great Stukeley

01480 456634

michaelgmonk@hotmail.com

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Little Stukeley for several years now, I'm not aware of a bonfire problem in the village. I know that Little Stukeley villagers, just like many all over the country, use bonfires to dispose of garden waste and do so safely and within the law. As the organiser for the last 2 public bonfires as part of our national celebration of Guy Fawkes, I've ensured we have informed all of the relevant authorities, obtained additional insurance and sought agreement of the use of land by the appropriate landowner. I'm sure Mrs Wilson is aware of this procedure as her husband used to regularly run that same event in years gone by. However, if Mrs Wilson believes or witnesses any activity which is illegal, dangerous or puts at risk lives or property, I would urge her to report it to the police without delay. For any guidance Mrs Wilson could refer to the UK Gov website, <https://www.gov.uk/garden-bonfires-rules>, however to assist I've produced their guidance below.

Yours Sincerely,

David Robinson

Garden bonfires: the rules

There are no laws against having a bonfire, but there are laws for the nuisance they can cause.

Burning domestic waste

You **can't** get rid of household waste if it will cause pollution or harm people's health. This includes burning it.

You can get rid of household or garden waste by composting or recycling it.

Contact your local council to find out how to [dispose of garden waste](#) and about [recycling in your area](#).

Danger to traffic by smoke

You could be fined if you light a fire and you allow the smoke to drift across the road and become a danger to traffic.

Complain about a neighbour's bonfire

Your council can issue an 'abatement notice' if a neighbour's bonfire is causing a nuisance. A bonfire must happen frequently to be considered a nuisance.

Your neighbour can be fined up to £5,000 if they don't stick to the notice.



REMEMBER THE ROUND ORANGE?



If you want to know more about the 'Round Orange' and how it explains the love of Jesus for everyone in the world do join us in our Special Family Service St Bartholomew's Church at 9:30am on Sunday 11th January and enjoy the **Christingle** Service which began in Germany in 1747 and was introduced to The Church of England by the Children's Society over 40 years ago.

FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES

For kidz from 8- to 80+ {i.e. the young at heart}

"BEETLE" DRIVE with a FISH & CHIP SUPPER

In aid of St Bartholomew's Church Funds

A Beetle Drive with Fish & Chip Supper is planned for

Friday 13th February 2015 at 6.45pm

The fun will start promptly at 7.00pm so please don't be late
there will also, as usual, be a raffle



Come along and join us in the Great Stukeley Village Hall for a really great evening of fun and food.

Tickets at: Adults £10.00 & Children (under 16) £ 6.00

can be obtained from Mrs Nancie Raby Tel No 453269, Mrs Doris Turpin Tel No 456476 or any member of St Bartholomew's Parochial Church Council. (Latest date for tickets Wednesday 11th February)

You really shouldn't miss this fun evening! If in doubt ask anyone who's been to one of our previous 'Drives'; everyone who joined in said what a great event it was and certainly not one to be missed.

Little Stukeley Village Hall

CURRY NIGHT

Saturday 31st January 2015 at 19:30

Tickets £12.00

from **Mrs Sally Smith Tel: 01480-450356**



LITTLE STUKELEY VILLAGE HALL

I hope everyone had a good Christmas, and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Village Hall Functions 2015

The list of the functions planned for 2015 is below. The committee have attempted to provide an even spread of events over the year and to avoid clashes with functions organised by the church committee.

Sat 31 st	January	Curry Night.
Sat 16 th	May	Horse Racing Night (TBC).
Sun 12 th	July	BBQ and games afternoon.
Sat 5 th	September	Flower Show.
Sat 7 th	November	Bonfire & Fireworks
Sat 12 th	December	Christmas Dinner

The Curry Night is intended to be an informal evening and, if it is well supported, it is hoped that it (or something similar) will be repeated at regular intervals during the year. More information will be published once we see the response to the December 2014 and January 2015 events.

Do make a note in your diaries; we need your support for all of these events if they are to be a success.

Social Club

Don't forget the Social Club meets regularly on Sundays from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Lifetime membership is open to all residents of Little Stukeley and costs £5 per person; family membership for children under 18 is only £1 each. Each full member can sign-in guests. A limited number of associate memberships can be offered to those living nearby who would like to join in.

Keith Winter

(Tel: 450656 email: keithwinter2@sky.com)

PARISH BROADBAND SURVEY

The Parish Council and CC (Connecting Cambridge), the regional body overseeing the Superfast Broadband project, have contacted BT several times to attend an open Parish Meeting to discuss the fibre performance problems within our Parish.

Late in the day BT asked for the telephone numbers of village subscribers receiving poor reception. We refused this request under the Data Protection Act (1998) and we offered Postcodes which do not identify individual subscribers. BT failed to respond to this offer and we were forced to cancel our planned Meeting on 17th December 2014.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee are convening an inquiry of cross-party MP's to examine current broadband coverage in rural areas. We have supplied written evidence of our experience, including the Parish Council's survey, to this House of Commons Select Committee which is scheduled to meet early in 2015.

We are also planning to contact the Department for Culture, Media and Sport who are spending £1.7 billion of (our) taxpayers money through Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) on this project. There is little point in contacting OFCOM-the regulator-who do not respond to individual requests. There is an elaborate complaints procedure in place where you have to contact your ISP (Internet Service Provider-like BT Infinity, AOL, TalkTalk etc). *Only if they agree* you are able to proceed to arbitration! We are interested in BT Openreach who are responsible for the infrastructure. However, BT Openreach does not deal directly with customers as you have to deal with your ISP!

We will keep you posted.

Barrie G James
Councillor
Stukeleys' Parish Councillor
BGJSPC@AOL.COM

The Stukeleys Heritage Group

Report of the last meeting

We met on 19th November, with around 25 people present. We reviewed the activities of the Group over the three years it has been running; I have to say I am somewhat surprised that two small villages such as ours have managed to keep the group going, as I had expected that it might have faded away by now. So my grateful thanks to all who have attended and supported it. We were entertained by sound recordings made by Donald Cook of the last change ringing of the church bells of St. Martin's, Little Stukeley which took place in the late 1980's before it was decided they were no longer safe to ring, and of the "dawn chorus" at Little Stukeley. Thank you, Donald, for those memories.

To some extent our original mission of collecting memories, photos and other information to be securely stored on a website is largely complete, but we are still finding new material and we looked at some of this at the meeting.

We decided:

- to keep the Group going along the lines already established of meeting every other month and with an annual outing
- that we would keep subscriptions modest at £5 per year in order to cover hall hire, web costs, expenses etc for speakers
- that meetings should continue to be open to all residents and friends
- that our annual outing should take place in September and that we should visit the Imperial War Museum in London - the provisional date is Wednesday 16th September
- that we should develop further our website, potentially using some of our funds to buy in some professional help.

Future meetings

Please note the details for our next two meetings:

Wednesday 18th February - Jason Peters will talk on "The Lost Forests of Huntingdonshire". This is a fascinating subject; I have heard Jason speak on this and it really is fascinating how he has uncovered details of our past landscapes.

Wednesday 15th April - Alan Butler will talk on "The Streets of Huntingdon".

Both our speakers are "local lads" and have a good insight into our local history. I hope you will join us.

Looking further ahead, I hope to organise a talk from a representative of the association which commemorates the Hunts Cyclists Battalion of the Great War.

Our meetings are in Great Stukeley Village Hall and start at 7.30 pm and remember are OPEN TO ALL.

Michael Monk

Convenor, Stukeleys Heritage Group.

33 Church Road, Great Stukeley

456634

michaelgmonk@hotmail.com



Bumbling Bob January 2015

Well my dear readers I hope that you all had a great Christmas and if this reaches you in time a Happy New Year. Naturally I wish this to all my readers be they Non Aligned Christian, Jewish, Moslem, Hindi, Jehovah Witness, Mormon, Catholic, Pagan, followers of Wicca, Agnostic or, dare I say it, Atheist ! I raise a small tincture of my favourite malt to you all. I say a small glass as I am certain some of the above mentioned faiths adherents are (gulp) non imbibers of one of the miracles granted to us by the Great Architect in the Sky, namely the way humans were able to divine the method of changing water to a subtle, gorgeous, fiery liquid. So who says that our various Gods do not help us out!? I think I have mentioned all creeds in the vicinity; if not I have no doubt someone will write in to the big man with the red pencil and let him know, I must not upset anyone. This is my New Year's resolution for 2015. Oh well you know about promises eh?! !

Mind you of course the memsahib was not over joyed with my December roster of tasting visits to the various hostelries of Cambridgeshire, London and Twickenham; yes the last one was a tad of a trial but the wonderful British Rail system did not let me down; there and back in less time than it takes to get through a bottle. Marvellous and not a camel in sight! (Think on it!).

I have to say though that I have seen some massive over indulgence during `Tasting December`. "Really" you state, "where was that old boy"? I will give you a few clues. Large shed like building, frequented by Mr Mondeo driver, usually accompanied by a Lycra clad bulwark with two or more snotty nosed brats running alongside. No, no, not Weatherspoons fine establishment in Cambridge, (and soon to come to Huntingdon, from where you can hear the current batch of licensee's knees knocking) but one of our wonderful establishments known as Tesco's.

There I was watching some ancient folks from the tribe of Rotary doing their charity bit running children's lives by pretending to be Father Christmas a good few weeks too early (oops, there goes the resolution!) when I was taken aghast to see these collections of humans coming through its portals with not one, not two, but three trolley loads of food and drink. How much can one family eat for goodness sake; it's just pure unadulterated gluttony and gluttony sponsored by the boards of the various large supermarkets.

`Bogof `offers, "bog off yourself" I say. The food waste in this fine country of ours must be immense over the yuletide period. And why do they do it? Well a direct quote as overheard "they're shut Christmas day, aint they, so you have to stock up, don't yah", arghhhhhhhhhhh!! The grammar is just excruciating. At my alma mater I would have been struck over the knuckles with a ruler with a steel edge, or made to take off my own shoe yes my own shoe and then be told to hand to over to the Senior Nun (sadist) who would then promptly beat you with it; God those Catholic schools sure knew how to keep discipline, but I digress. My point is that I feel anyone who drives a family ford and has a post code with a certain selection should be given the equivalent of a ration book and forced to buy just enough and no more over the yuletide period. Oh and what did they give to the fine sturdy Rotarians, an average of 20p per person. That's about one zillionth of the money they had just spent in the shed. "No money" they cry when asked to spread a little charity, I wonder why? God it makes my blood boil. (Sorry, sorry, profaning and insulting someone again).

In the interest of local investigation I went along to a meeting of the local fossils, sorry Parish Council, in December (hee, hee, another group upset) as this fine magazine was on the agenda. It was very interesting to hear the Councillors views on what they interpreted as editorial control. They ranged from `most things to go past the Council members to check for inflammatory statements` (and the articles complied with their `wonky views on Women's Lib and being PC correct` -my comments not theirs) to the sage like advice from two of the members of "letting the editor do his job" and "if he wishes to take advice then we are here to give it". I was very pleased to say the sage advice came out on top and is now enshrined in the minutes of the Council. I have to congratulate one person on the Council who I felt used good old fashioned common sense during the debate (probably because she is old – hee hee) and that's the Chairwoman Sue Parkin. What a fine example of Victorian upbringing and breeding she is. A superb credit to the Council and the Village. I wish her and her Rotarian husband Ken a very special New Year. By the way I too was one of the fossils for fifteen years before they all get upset! It just shows my fine readers that you should be careful as to whom you vote for.

And so I close this year of 2014 and look forward to annoying all and sundry in 2015 although the memsahib states that I have been doing so since 1994 when she dragged me kicking and screaming to the altar rail. In true Dave Allan style, I wish that your God, Goddess, Mouhammed, Allah, and Uncle Tom Cobley and all, looks after you and yours in the year to come. Me, well the suns over the yard arm so off to the Pink Pub for a quick snort!

**The Great Stukeley Village Hall Committee's
VALENTINE'S DISCO - Saturday 14th February 2015
RAFFLE DONATIONS**

ANOTHER FIRST for this very busy Great Stukeley Village Hall Committee will be our most exciting VALENTINE'S DISCO which will be held on, what other evening than, Saturday 14th February 2015 at 7 for 7.30pm until midnight.

I am urgently requesting RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS for this event.

Maybe you have received a Festive Gift which is not quite you?

Please think of your Village Hall as we would be just delighted if you would consider donating these items to us for this wonderful upcoming evening.

If you can make a DONATION please make contact with me as soon as possible. Either call first to drop them off at my home, or, I would be delighted to collect them from your home.

I am very much looking forward to hearing from you. Tickets can be bought for this event from either Sarah Toyn on (079)6135 8067 or Carol Buttercase on 01480 458.089.

Mary Alleyne-James
RAFFLE DONATIONS - Tel 01480 433 954

**Under the Bearskin and the Royal Mews
Tuesday 12th May 2015**

THE ROYAL MEWS was built in the gardens of Buckingham Palace in 1825 and houses the carriages, coaches and cars used by the Royal Family. It is also a working stable and the homes of those employed in the Royal Mews Department.

The Royal Mews evolved from the King's Mews, an institution going back to the reign of Richard II (1377-1399). From Richard II's time until the reign of Henry VII (1457-1509) the mews was at Charing Cross.

The transfer of the *Royal Mews* to Buckingham Palace resulted from George III's (1760-1820) purchase of Buckingham House in 1764. He redesigned the existing house as Buckingham Palace and used the stables as the basis of the *Royal Mews*. Sir Richard Chambers, George III's architect built the present Riding School between 1765 and 1766. A pediment was added to the street frontage by William Theed the young in 1859. The present *Royal Mews* and stables were commissioned by George IV (1820-1830) from the architect John Nash in 1822 and completed at a cost of over £65,000 in 1825.

On the day of our *Royal Mews* visit, Tuesday 12th May 2015, we will be departing from the Great Stukeley Village Hall PROMPTLY at 8.15am. We will meet up with our *Blue Badge Holder Guide*, Martin Harvey, at *The Westminster Central Hall* for morning refreshments.

FULL PAYMENT, in CASH ONLY, for this truly exciting day's trip back into our history, MUST BE RECEIVED BY MYSELF no later than 5pm on *Thursday 15th January 2015*. Please be thoughtful and call me first to arrange a mutually convenient time to drop-off your payment at my home.

Our lunch menu, which I WORKED VERY HARD to include in the price of £47.50 per person, will be a Roast Chicken lunch or a Vegetarian option. PLEASE NOTE that if you would prefer to have the Vegetarian meal YOU MUST LET ME KNOW AT LEAST TEN (10) DAYS BEFORE OUR TRIP. Coffee/Dessert/Drinks are NOT INCLUDED and must be paid for on the day of our visit to the *Mad Hatter Hotel and Pub* situated on Stamford Street in London.

Mary Alleyne-James
Tour Organizer - Tel 01480 433 954

Little Stukeley Village Hall Christmas Dinner.

Oh what a night, late December 2014! Over 70 Villagers and guests had festive fun, food and entertainment; a great time was had by all. We were honoured with very special guests, Mr and Mrs Major; everyone made them welcome and enjoyed chatting to them. As usual, Jill Hossack did a sterling job cooking for us all and was ably assisted by Tom and Jenny Smith, although Bryan and I did the cutlery so we'll be asking Keith for our pocket money when we see him next. Entertainment was provided by a favourite trio of Jennifer who sang, Pat with some very funny poems, anecdotes and sketches and music was provided by Jackie on the piano. Jill and Peter Soinne were fantastic bar staff and kept every one's glasses full. We have a very special village and so many people remarked how friendly and welcoming everyone is, you should all be very proud of yourselves, you are all fantastic neighbours and it's a pleasure to socialise with you. On that note, we have many events planned over the year so come along and join in the fun, we'd be delighted to see you there. Keith Winter has another article with dates for your diary, we'll be trying a few new events this next year including a Curry night and by the time you read this we'll of had our first run at that event, watch out for more news.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas
and will have a peaceful New Year.

David Robinson

**GREAT STUKELEY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE
REGRETS TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE**

Valentine's Disco

**Previously advertised for
14th February 2015
has now been cancelled.**

THE STUKELEYS WI

Christmas Party held on Wednesday 10th December 2014

The President, Nicki Sly welcomed 32 members and 10 guests to the Christmas Party in the village hall which had been beautifully decorated by the Village Hall Committee. We sang Jerusalem. Nicki reminded members of forthcoming events – the Carol Service on 14th December at St Martin's Little Stukeley, the Nativity Carol Service on 24th December at St Bartholomew's Great Stukeley, the Village Hall Dinner Dance on 20th December and the Valentine's Dance on 14th February. Nicki then confirmed that a cheque for £316 being half the money raised for the coffee mornings would be delivered to the Woodlands Centre. She also thanked outgoing committee members Sheila Stephenson, Doris Sadler and Kathy Simpson for all their help throughout their time on the committee.

Nicki then said grace before we sat down to a delicious meal prepared by Jan Tilden followed by sherry, and mince pies. Henry thanked Nicki on behalf of the visitors and wished all the ladies a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Everyone was then entertained by the Caverners who sang a variety of 50s and 60s music. Doris Sadler gave the vote of thanks.

The Juggins cup for the most competition points collected throughout the year was won by Sheila Stephenson. 2nd prize was won by Gwen Clements and 3rd prize by Nita Charter and Jan Sly. The Berrill Cup competition, a table decoration, was won by Shirley Berrill.

The next meeting will be **14th January 2015 at 7.30pm** in the village hall. Speaker: Ms Sallie Crawley – Hypnotherapy and NLP with relaxation exercise Curtis Bowl: Freda Butter and Draw Prize: Jennifer Liddell. Competition: a relaxing photo. Roll call: your favourite way to relax.

THE STUKELEYS WI WISH ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THURSFORD GROUP DONATION 2014

I am just delighted to advise you that I have sent a donation on behalf of the 2014 Thursford Group and the other trips that I ran last year to MENCAP-our Charity for 2014.

MENCAP-The voice of learning disability. MENCAP works with people with learning disability to change laws and services, challenge prejudice and directly support thousands of people to live their lives as they chose.

The amount of £122.42 was generously donated by my 2014 THURSFORD GROUP and the remainder, from my other Trips in 2014, gave a total of £200.00 which was sent to MENCAP.

I would like very much to extend my most sincere thanks to my 2014 THURSFORD GROUP for their New Year's contribution to a very deserving cause.

Mary Alleyne-James

Organizer

Tel: 01480 433 954

REFLECTIONS: Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2014

Sunday 16th November 2014

10TH ANNIVERSARY TRIP

ANOTHER wonderful visit to the *2014 Thursford Christmas Spectacular* was experienced by my 50 strong group on Sunday 16th November 2014.

We departed from the Great Stukeley Village Hall promptly at 10am on a rather rainy but unseasonably warm day. The roads were clear so Chris Lever, our Kittles coach driver, made excellent time dropping us off just before noon.

This gave my very excited group lots of time for lunch or a snack, Christmas shopping at the three heavily stocked shops, a visit to the bar or a wander around soaking up the terrific Festive atmosphere.

SANTA'S MAGICAL JOURNEY INTO CHRISTMAS was a real hit with everyone who walked through this truly magical display of Christmas scenes, moving snow-white Polar Bears, Brown Bears, Rudolph with his reindeers and every conceivable Festive animal. I'm not saying who, but a really cute 8 year old girl on our trip enjoyed everything so much that she made her mummy endure two visits to this incredible journey into Christmas!

At 2pm Europe's largest Christmas Show burst into life with a cast of 125 performing a mix of dance, song, readings and humour. For the first time we saw Laura Tikka, a circus performer with her Bravehart and her Cat Duet. Comedian Paul Adams was great fun as was Norfolk farmer Keith Loads whose corny jokes appealed to the audience and my group.

When the show finished on the day before Christmas Eve over 104,000 people from all over the Country will have attended last year's Spectacular in a small Norfolk Village that rivals anything in the West End.

We were slightly delayed on our return. However, we reached the Stukeley's just before 8pm having experienced a truly wonderful day.

It has become increasingly difficult to obtain tickets for Thursford. They have imposed a non-refundable levy of a £1 per ticket for each seat booked (£50 to me!) and an early January application and a lot of luck is required to get seats for their 2015 show.

I will try to obtain tickets for this year's *Thursford Christmas Spectacular* so PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE. If you are interested in joining my group for the *2015 Spectacular* please let me know as soon as possible as I have already collected many names for the 2015 Event.

I greatly appreciated all your phone calls, letters and Thank You notes letting me know how much this annual show means to you as it is a wonderful beginning to the Festive Season.

Our charity donation for 2014 was MENCAP and I sincerely thank everyone on this trip for their kindness and generosity. I collected £122.42 which was sent off to MENCAP.

Mary Alleyne-James

Tour Organizer

Tel 01480 433 954

The Great Stukeley FASHION SHOW

Friday 6th March 2015

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

TIME is closing in fast on our Great Stukeley Village Hall Committee's *FASHION SHOW* which is to be held on Friday 6th March 2015 at 7 for 7.30pm.

We hope that you are planning to join in the fun by attending this special event. Our three MODELS from The Stukeleys "are getting very excited!"

Other fashion houses whose outfits, dresses and separates are featured in our *FASHION SHOW* include:

- *British Home Stores (BHS)* is a British Department store chain founded in South London in 1928. *BHS* has 179 branches mainly on our high streets selling clothing and household items throughout the United Kingdom. *BHS* was acquired by the Arcadia Group in 2009.
- *White Stuff* was founded in 1985 by George Treves and Sean Thomas, two ski buffs, selling their *Boys from the White Stuff* T-shirts to pay for their skiing habit. Twenty-five years on they now sell beautiful women and men's clothes, accessories and home items.
- *Marks and Spencer (M&S)* a major British multinational retailer specializing in clothing, home and luxury food products. *M&S* was founded in Leeds in 1884 by Michael Marks and Thomas Spencer. In 1998 *M&S* became the first British retailer to make a pre-tax profit of over £1 billion.

TICKETS for our *FASHION SHOW* are NOW ON SALE at a cost of £6.00 each which includes a COMPLIMENTARY GLASS OF WINE for all who support us by attending. Please drop-off your CASH or a cheque made out to THE GREAT STUKELEY VILLAGE HALL as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

PLEASE NOTE that ALL NON-RESIDENTS of GREAT STUKELEY are required to enclose a STAMPED SELF- ADDRESSED ENVELOPE with their order (53p for 2nd Class or 62p for 1st Class mail). Your help and understanding with this request is very much appreciated.

Mary Alleyne-James

Event Organizer

11 Owl End, GREAT STUKELEY PE28 4AQ

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**Wednesday 28 January
10.30 – 12.00**

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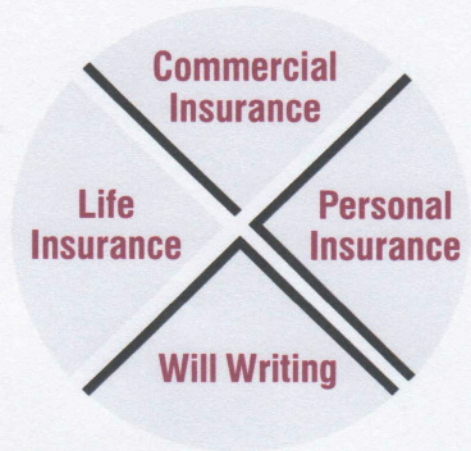
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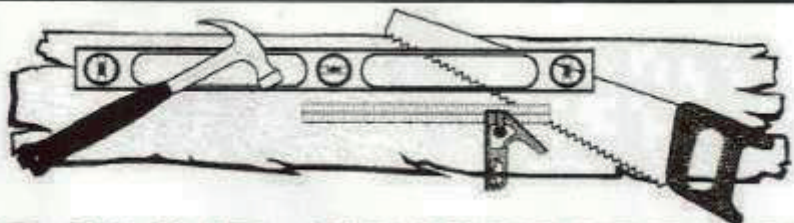
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11.15am to 12 noon Sunday School Classes for 12 years old and over.

11.15am to 1pm Primary For under 12 year olds, and Nursery for 18 month old to 3 years old.

12 Noon to 1pm Relief Society Meeting for Sisters 18 years and over(Women)

12 Noon to 1pm Priesthood Meeting for Brothers 18 years and over(Men)

12 Noon to 1pm Young Men and Young Women Classes for 12 to 18 year olds.

All are welcome to come and join us.

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Every Sunday	9.45 am	All Age Bible Study
	11.00 am	Worship Service
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Worship at Great Gidding Baptist Church
Every Wednesday	7.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 10 th January	9.00 am	Men's Breakfast Fellowship All Men Welcome. Bring a friend or two!!

If there is any way in which we can help or any questions you need to ask please call Pete and Penny Bourne on 01480 432207 or 07887707940 / 07908093224 or email us at bourneagain38jer333di@gmail.com or pennyanne.bourne@gmail.com or phone David Stokes on 01480 891023 and we will do our very best to help. If you need help with transport to any of the meetings just call Pete or Penny as above.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and all the plans and dreams met your desires.

Just as the song said what a difference a day makes in fact we could say what a difference a minute can make. Many people will sit up until midnight on the 31st of December 2014 and on the stroke of Big Ben at Midnight it will be the start of 2015. Yes the New Year what will that bring us? I hope it will bring peace and happiness to you all. May it be a great year for all of us. I would like to say thanks to all that have helped Penny and I through 2014, good neighbours, Family, and Friends are what we all need. Have a good year may it meet your plans for this time On behalf of Grace Fellowship Penny and I wish you many blessings and joy in 2015.

Pastor Pete

CHURCH SERVICES



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ST MARTIN'S LITTLE STUKELEY

January

4th Second Sunday of Christmas Epiphany	9.30 am Celebrant	Holy Communion CW Rev'd Bryan Hyder-Smith	No Service
11th Baptism of Christ	8.00 am Celebrant 9.30 am Leader	Holy Communion CW Rev'd Andrew Milton Christingle Service Janet Talbot	No Service
18th Second Sunday Milton of Epiphany	9.30 am Celebrant	Holy Communion CW Rev'd Derek Billings	8.00 am Celebrant Holy Communion Rev'd Andrew
25th Third Sunday Milton of Epiphany	9.30 am Leader	Morning Prayer Alan McGoff	9.00 am Leader Holy Communion Rev'd Andrew

February

4th 1st Presentation of Christ in the Temple	9.30 am Celebrant	Holy Communion CW Rev'd Bill Girard	No Service
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	Harry Raby Brookfield Farm Great Stukeley	Camilla Payne Old Rectory, Church Way Little Stukeley
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