

STAPLEHURST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017 – LOCAL GROUP REPORTS

JOHN SAMUEL NEWLYN TRUST

This is a charity registered number 208780 established on 15th March 1934 under the Will of the late John Samuel Newlyn. Its objects are

- (1) the upkeep of the fabric of and maintenance of services of All Saints' Church Staplehurst
- (2) the general benefit of the inhabitants of Staplehurst in such charitable ways as the trustees think fit.

The trustees can distribute income arising for the trust's investments.

Since 2001

The trustees have made £9,920 by way of general maintenance grants to All Saints' Church and £19,900 grants towards providing disabled facilities, reordering St George's Chapel, the church clock casement and lighting in the church.

The trustees have made a total of £20,991 grants for the general benefit of Staplehurst to the following

Youth Club Hut refurbishment
Kathy Lamb Guiding Centre refurbishment (twice)
Good Companions
Surrenden Field play area re-equipping
Weald Club for the Disabled
Parish Room refurbishment
Friends of Staplehurst Health Centre
McCabe Centre luncheon club
Staplehurst Primary School.

At March 2017 the income fund stands at £16,000. Applications for grants should be made to the clerk of the charitable trust

Mary Shaw
1 Vine House
High Street
Staplehurst
Kent TN12 0AR
greenacre@madasafish.com

MCCABE DAY CENTRE

The Lunch Clubs at McCabe Day Centre provide lunch for McCabe Day Centre residents and Staplehurst residents over the age of 60.

The Thursday Lunch Club meets at the McCabe Day Centre every week, except for a short break at Christmas and during August to mid-September.

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We offer a freshly cooked two-course meal with tea and coffee for £3, with a 50p raffle to boost the funds. In addition to enjoying the food it is a good opportunity for the members to meet and chat together.

Transport is available for those less able at a cost of £1.50, which goes towards the hire of the Weald Club for the Disabled minibus.

Once a month we also offer Sunday lunch, usually on the second Sunday of the month. This is always a roast dinner with all the trimmings plus dessert and tea and coffee for £3.50, again with a 50p raffle.

We enjoy an annual coach outing to Eastbourne in the summer, usually on the last Thursday in July. This has become very popular, our members enjoy strolling along the promenade, doing a bit of shopping, often having a fish and chips lunch and even an ice cream! We arrange a trip to the pantomime in the winter, this year we went to the pantomime in Benenden and had a wonderful time. We also have a very enjoyable Christmas Party, with festive food, decorations and entertainment.

Later this year we will be arranging to take members to afternoon tea at the London Beach Hotel.

Our Annual General Meeting is held in September and all people interested in the work of the Day Centre are welcome to attend. About 35 people attended the last one and, after the business meeting, enjoyed a talk by the Kent Library Service and then a buffet lunch. This year our AGM will be held on Wednesday, 20th September, at 12 noon in the Day Centre.

All the cooks and helpers at our lunch clubs are volunteers and we aim to provide a happy, cheerful time for everyone.

We can accommodate up to about 40 members, but numbers at the moment are quite low at about 30. New members would be very welcome to come along, please contact Elaine Martin on 892033.

PADDOCK WOOD AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

The Paddock Wood and District Lions Club serves a wide area from Yalding to Lamberhurst and Five Oak Green to Staplehurst.

Over the last year we have made donations totalling nearly £10,000 across the area, including a number that directly benefit Staplehurst residents.

These include donations to Hi-Kent (for the hard of hearing) and the Kent, Sussex, and Surrey Air Ambulance (clubs in these counties jointly sponsor the night flights); donating dictionaries to all leavers from the primary school; arranging and sponsoring 7 local disabled residents to take a flight in an aeroplane (and actually take the controls); financially supporting a young child needing life changing surgery; and other grants to other local people in need.

To do this we raise money. We organise, along with the Carnival and Fete Committee, the annual Santa sleigh collection which this year is planned for 11th -14th December; an annual duck race; Easter egg raffles in local pubs, and organise the Staplehurst Carnival Draw (which this year is specifically raising money for the Aeromobility project mentioned above). Please support us in our Fundraising.

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Paddock Wood and District Lions, are part of Lions International , the largest service organisation in the world, with clubs in virtually every country. 100 years ago the organisation was founded, and to mark the centennial, we are looking to sponsor 100 projects, nominally of £100, across all of our area.

If you or your organisation know of a needy person, or your organisation is raising money for a specific project, please do get in touch with us via our website <http://paddockwoodlions.co.uk>.

Along with the fundraising, and service, we also have an active social programme, including for example theatre trips, walks, and we have a team that participates (not very successfully) in a Bat and Trap League.

If you'd be interested in finding out more about Lions you can see more on our website, or call 0845 833 9564.

POPPY'S DAY NURSERY & POPPY'S BABY CARE UNIT 2017

Poppy's Day Nursery established in 2008 continues to provide 'full day' care for 50 weeks of the year; open Monday to Friday from 07:30hrs to 18:30hrs. We currently have **75** children 'on role' caring for **34** children a day most of whom are from Staplehurst.

Our Headcorn Road Unit cares for children aged from 2-5yrs and our Baby Care Unit in the High Street cares for children from 3months-2yrs. Both units hold a "**Good**" rating by OFSTED and the findings can be viewed online at www.ofsted.gov.uk.

We have 20 members of staff most live locally including one volunteer. Two new members of staff have been trained under the "Apprentice Scheme in Childcare" supported through "Parenta" they have both qualified and are now employed at Poppy's.

We continue to provide opportunities for students from Angley School, Mid Kent College, West Kent College and also more recently Invicta Grammar and Mascalls Academy who come to us for childcare experience within the nursery setting.

We access KCC courses to develop staff in all areas of nursery care; this has included Leadership and Management courses. All staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid and have recently undertaken a refresher course. We continue to maintain links with the local Primary Schools, Pre-Schools, and the Village Library.

Nursery activities and fund raising

The nursery engaged the services of **Sports Focus** who provided age specific activities for the children including learning basic ball skills. This activity is a new venture for us and was enjoyed so much by the children further sessions have been booked this year.

In June 2016 we raised £184 for Crackerjacks (helping disabled children and families) with a Teddy Bear picnic held at the nursery. Our Children in need fund raiser involved fancy dress and Crazy hair week raising £100 and our Red Nose day event also raised £100.

We held our Annual Nursery Birthday Party in August for families of the children, we had a children's balloon entertainer and £100 was raised for "Eliana's Wish To Run" charity. We celebrate our ninth birthday this year.

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Last July **13** of our children left for Primary School. We held a leavers' party, a very proud day for parents and staff alike. This year **21** children will be leaving for Primary School.

For more information on Nursery care contact Katherine Tunnicliffe

Poppy's Day Nursery Tel: 01580 892600 Poppy's Baby Care Unit Tel: 01580 890480

Email: poppysdaynursery@gmail.com Website: <http://www.poppysdaynursery.com>

STAPLEHURST CALENDAR 2017

I am pleased to report that the sales of the 2017 Calendar were very successful, with sales and donations raising £1,501.35.

A cheque for £1,000.00 was presented to Linda Hewish a resident of Leonard Cheshire Disability at Sobell Lodge, the money is to be used for the installation of new sensory equipment room for residents. A cheque for £500.00 was presented to The Weald Club for Disabled People to help with general running costs of the Mini-bus used to transport to and from the weekly Friday meetings. This bus is also used by members of the Thursday Lunch Club.

The 2017 Calendar is the 13th issue and the total now raised by the production of these Calendars is £19,280. This would not be possible without the support of our loyal Sponsors/Advertisers who cover the costs of printing, many of whom have done this for all the 13th years. The Hop Press at Marden as always deserve our thanks for their help and expertise in printing the Calendars.

Thanks are also due to the local shops and traders who sold copies especially the staff of The Post Office, Chris, Pauline and Amanda who throughout the years have sold an average of 85 copies per year. With the future of this Post Office in doubt we would like to thank them and wish them well for the future. Above all our thanks to the residents of Staplehurst who bought copies to send to relatives in many parts of the world.

Work is already underway for the 2018 Calendar.

Ken Collins

STAPLEHURST FREE CHURCH

A lot has happened at SFC over the last year. Apart from our regular services, activities which serve the local community include:

Toddlers Group

Our weekly toddler group is for parents and carers with toddlers and babies (0-5 years) and has continued to grow further during the year proving very popular with parents and carers. The group meet every Thursday morning during term time and provides positive educational play experiences for children, as well as friendship and support for the parents and carers.

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Sensational Kids Club

Our Sensational Kids Club for primary aged children with special needs, their siblings and accompanied by their parents /carers takes place every Wednesday during term time. There are lots of sensory toys and a great space to let off steam in the main hall, followed by quieter craft activities in our café room then a chance to have their packed tea before heading home.

Sing-a-long Club

We continued to run a monthly sing-a-long for local adults with learning difficulties and their carers on the 1st Thursday of the month. After a time of singing, tea and drinks are served along with homemade cakes. This has been a real benefit to those who come along and provides an opportunity for our local care homes for adults with learning difficulties to bring along their residents to a club.

Services at Care Homes

We hold monthly services at our local nursing homes, Iden Manor and Abbotsleigh where we pray, sing some favourite hymns, share a short message and chat with residents, carers and family members.

We also hold a similar monthly service for the residents of Sobell Lodge. In addition other visits are made offering both practical support (e.g. painting, gardening, driving) as well as spiritual support (e.g. prayer, bible discussion). A regular weekly bible study takes place with some of the residents using story book bibles

Men's Group

Our men's group provides great opportunities for men in the church and community to connect with each other through meetings and social events. We have a weekly walking group which walk every Monday morning (weather permitting) and ending up at a nearby café for coffee.

Badminton Groups

We have 3 weekly badminton clubs all organised and operated by the church in the main hall. There is a junior badminton club on Thursday afternoons open to all children aged between 8 and 14, a badminton club for all abilities in the evening and a ladies only club on the Friday morning.

Café at the Church

The Café at the church is open on Saturdays between 11am and 2pm provides hot and cold drinks, snacks and light lunches at affordable prices with a break during the summer. This provides a relaxed and accessible environment in which people of all ages can have fun, socialise and seek friendship and support.

Like many events that take place in the church the motivation is to benefit those in the community whether they attend church or not.

Do come along on a Sunday Morning at 10:30 or Sunday evening at 6:30 and a warm welcome awaits!

Submitted by Terence Hawgood, Interim Pastoral Elder

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STAPLEHURST HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society had another successful year with a variety of illustrated talks, two outings, three shows, plant sale, quiz night and a stand at The Staplehurst Carnival.

We held our annual spring, autumn and Members Rose Shows. As always the weather affects what shows have available, but as the dates are already booked, everyone has to make the best of it. We were pleased with the number of entries and our high standards were maintained. The Members Rose Show also had a section for Sweet Peas which were a nice addition. Lots of colour and scent, followed by tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Clive Boorer's three year trial of Sunflower Seeds for children has come to an end, with varying success. The money over has been used by the School Gardening Society led by our member Chris Ralph. The success of our shows owes a great deal to our Show Secretary Sue de St.Jorre and her helpers.

Ken Read again organised our Plant Sale in the North Hall at the Village Centre. Nearly everything was sold, the Members' plants doing particularly well. This year it will again be in the Village Centre North Hall on Saturday 6th May between 9.00am and 12.00 noon.

We had outings to Boughton Monchelsea Place with a tour of the house, garden, nearby church, and a cream tea, and in late November to Potash Farm and lunch afterwards. Margaret Donnelly arranged for these outings and also organised our Quiz in The Primary School Hall which was an enjoyable evening.

Sadly three of our long standing and committee serving members died. Bill and Audrey Scoble, and Alan Mugford, gave a great deal of their time, and will be sadly missed.

We are very pleased and grateful that Rumwood Nurseries of Langley kindly continue to support us.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday each month in the Village Centre South Hall at 8.00pm, except for the December meeting which is on the first Friday. This is usually an evening of entertainment, and a buffet provided by the members. All our welcome to try us out.

Michael Salkeld

STAPLEHURST INTEREST GROUP

Our weekly meetings continue to interest members who come along to the Schoolroom of the United Reformed Church on Thursday mornings for tea, coffee, chatter and friendship. During the last twelve months we have had lots of fun and laughter.

Our guest speakers have talked about the role of a Borough Councillor, the History of Maidstone, the British Empire Medal, Sri Lanka, the Catching Lives Charity, the Blue Riband of the Atlantic, In and Out of Fleet Street, International Eisteddfods, Jewish Humour, Up the Garden Path, Early Years of Motoring, Creative Fabrics, Staplehurst in early print, the Antiques Roadshow and Pottery. What an amazing pool of talent has been shared over this year.

Our activities have included regular favourites like poetry and music, Calling All Bluffers, origami, five minute chats, unusual objects, researching characters, play readings and writing challenges,

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hobbies, iris folding, domino derby and board games. New to us has been making a key fob, Countdown, Discussion or debate and My Life History (briefly).

We try to find interesting places to visit and during this year we have journeyed to Maidstone Museum, Downderry Lavender Nursery and the Hadlow College display gardens with Broadview Nursery.

We have been sad to say farewell to some members, but delighted to welcome others. Come along and join in the fun!

Malcolm Buller

STAPLEHURST SCOUT GROUP

The Staplehurst Scout group continues to offer unique opportunities for boys and girls between the ages of 6 of 14. The scout group recently started an Explorer's unit which covers ages 14 to 18 bringing our number of sections up to four including beavers, cubs, and scouts. We have 100 children attending Scouts currently and 12 adult leaders, assistants, and helpers.

The past year has seen another full programme of events with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts working towards a varied collection of badges ranging from the community badge through to activity and challenge badges. There have been too many visits and activities to list here but some of the highlights included night hikes (in all weathers!), climbing, and outdoor cooking and of course map reading.

Serving the community is also a large part of scouting and this year has seen a number of fund raising activities and other community projects. We have also supported local charities including the Air Ambulance through our ever popular annual Christmas Post service. Another night sleeping rough in cardboard boxes also raised significant sum for homeless charities. We have supported the Village 10k fun run and the annual Railway Exhibition. The new village nature park has been kind enough to allocate an area for the use of the scouts, so we have started the process of learning the ancient art of "dead hedging", in order to more clearly define the area. It's both eco-friendly and wildlife friendly and a lot of fun to do. Our thanks to Peter Spearink for his support in doing this.

Staplehurst Scouts continues to be totally dependent upon the subscriptions raised from parents and its own fund raising initiatives. It is self sufficient and not in receipt of any public funding. All adult helpers are volunteers and give up of their time freely to help make scouting a fantastic experience for all the boys and girls who attend.

This year we have been beneficiaries of two generous donations from Kent County Council and from the Staplehurst Carnival and Fete Committee. We would like to thank Eric Hotson for sponsoring us inside KCC and the Carnival Committee for their large donations which allowed us to reach our target needed to improve access for all to and from the scout hut.

This year we say farewell to Paul Brooker who is standing down as our Group Scout Leader after over 30 years continuous and dedicated service to Staplehurst scouts. Words can't really do justice to the impact that Paul has had on scouting in Staplehurst and he will leave us in great shape, in no small part due to Paul's enthusiastic support to the group over such a long period. The local community contains a small number of conscientious voluntary heroes that give the community its pulse and Paul is certainly right up there in the Staplehurst 'hall-of-fame'.

We are always in need of finding new leaders and helpers so if you would like to get involved in any of our sections, even on a part-time basis, please get in touch by calling 893133 anytime. One

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constant theme for us at Staplehurst Scouts is that our waiting list of children wanting to join never gets any smaller - so please come and help and get involved in local scouting. To find out more please feel free to come along to our own AGM on June 14th starting at 8:00pm in the Scout Hut in Nicolson Walk, off Crowther Close.

William Best

Chair, Staplehurst Scout Group. chair@staplehurstscouts.org.uk

THE STAPLEHURST SOCIETY

Since its inception over forty years ago, the Society has developed from an organisation primarily interesting itself in community affairs to the maintenance of a local archive in space provided by the Parish.

We also arrange talks about the history of Staplehurst and neighbouring parishes, as well as occasionally looking further afield. For instance, the next talk will be about art-work produced at Maidstone Girls' Grammar School during WW2.

Work on Staplehurst Archive is on-going. We have a growing collection of documents and photos which we are storing and indexing.

You are invited to donate items of historical interest, or to lend them for copying. In particular we are interested in acquiring more photos of Staplehurst School. You are also invited to visit us on Monday morning to see your community archive or even to join in the work.

Our website - www.staplehurstsociety.org - is proving successful in providing information to current residents of Staplehurst and it has stimulated enquiries from around the UK and abroad.

To contact the Society, please email us on secretary@staplehurstsociety.org or telephone us on 893746.

THE WEALD CLUB FOR DISABLED PEOPLE (CHARITY REG NO: 1164015)

The Club meets every Friday morning 9.30a.m.-1.30p.m. at The McCabe Centre when members enjoy companionship ,shopping trips, visiting places of interest, games (including indoor bowls which is played from a sitting position) plus an excellent home cooked meal.

We have a specially designed mini-bus used to transport members from and to their homes. The MiniBus can carry wheelchairs, with our escorts to help and support members. We urgently need more escorts and would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to give a few hours to help those less able than themselves.

Transport is available to residents of Staplehurst, Marden, Headcorn and Frittenden.

If you know of any person who is physically limited, maybe by movement, sight or hearing difficulties and who would be interested in joining us please contact our membership co-ordinator Maggie Weller on 01580 891870.

Ken Collins (Chairman)