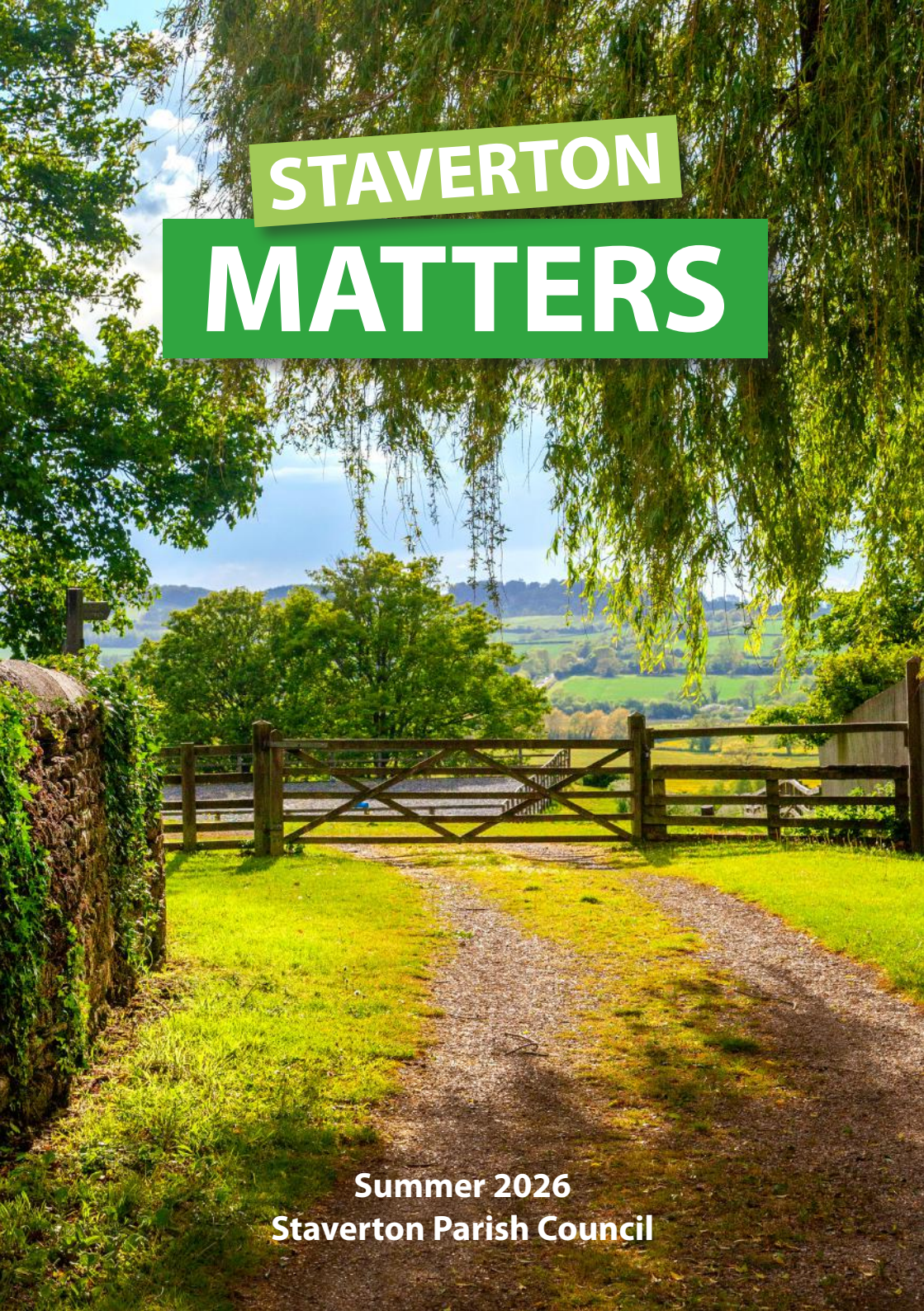




STAVERTON MATTERS

Summer 2026
Staverton Parish Council

RUN BY YANA ANDREWS & VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

BINGO NIGHT

SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST

STAVERTON VILLAGE HALL

DOORS OPEN 7PM

BINGO STARTS 7.30PM

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18th July
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Farm Shop Opening times

Wednesday 9.30am – 4pm
Thursday 9.30am – 4pm
Friday 9.30am – 4pm
Saturday 9.30am – 12 midday

Menu changes weekly. All details on our website

Rural Enterprise Centre | Green Acres Farm | Catesby Road | Staverton | Daventry | Northants | NN11 6JP



Telephone: 01327 703313 | Email: info@greenacresfarm.org.uk

www.greenacresfarm.org.uk

Welcome to Staverton Matters

What's inside

Welcome to Staverton Matters - Staverton's new quarterly magazine where we bring you updates from some of the key groups within our community, supported by Staverton Parish Council.

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How to advertise

To help support the cost of printing and distribution, we are inviting local businesses to advertise in the magazine in return for a donation. This offers a great opportunity to reach the local community while supporting a village initiative. Our suggested donations for advertising are:

Quarter page (62mm w x 92mm h) £10 per magazine or £30 for the year

Half page (128mm w x 92mm h) £20 per magazine or £60 for the year

Full page (148mm w x 210mm h + 3mm bleed) £40 per magazine or
£120 for the year

Contact us at **magazine@stavertonparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Annual Report

Chairman of Staverton Parish Council

In May 2025 we held an election in which eight councillors were elected to serve as Parish Councillors. Following the resignation of Cllr Dalke last year I was co-opted onto the council.

We were all lucky to have Cllr Blackmore as our Chairman throughout 2025 and I have now been passed the baton, serving at my first meeting as Chair in April 2026.

We have also lost our Clerk, Sue Porter and in recent weeks have recruited Vanessa to the role. Both Vanessa and I are new to our respective roles and I look forward to working with her in the weeks and months ahead.

I want to recognise in this report the significant time and effort each Councillor puts into this role for the benefit of the village. It is, I think important to stop for a moment and remind ourselves of the hard work that goes into these roles and all too often there is criticism, when perhaps praise and thanks are more appropriate for the hard work that is invested in the village.

We may not agree, but I am confident that each seek to better the village from their individual perspectives and collectively, when we come together and make decisions, we do so in the best interests of the Parish.

We have in the last year seen;

- A Grant Funding for Traffic the Calming Project – Community Speed Watch.
- The agreement to implement a 20-mph speed limit in village (soon!).
- Moved 30 mph limit to village gates plus dragon's teeth have now been imposed.
- Various road repairs (Badby Lane, outside Staverton Park).
- Our liaison with the community payback team has led to the edging out of footpaths within the village.
- Cllr Thomas has single-handedly pursued and created Staverton Matters, our village and Parish Magazine for which she deserves much praise.



- Not to outdo us all, Cllr Thomas also applied for and secured a Grant for the Funding for Community Orchard – (Biodiversity Grant). We are soon to see fruit trees planted near the playing field.
- Our Facebook page is up and running again.
- We have agreed a policy to ensure that all Parishioners are treated fairly when reports of breaches of planning reach us.
- We have bought the projector for meetings to make documents and issues more transparent.
- We have welcomed the public into meetings and sought to engage them in discussion.
- We have agreed to match the funding for substantial repairs to the Church Clock up to 50% of the total cost. I know that the clock is very soon to return to the village.
- All Parish Records are now archived with WNC.
- We have agreed new entrance signs for the village and those will soon be rolled out.
- WNC have agreed to apply to WNC to consider the Countryman as an Asset of Community Value.
- There are new dog waste bins available in the village and new signs on Manor Road.
- There is work underway on our Local Plan, Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- There is a real drive to achieve a bus service for Staverton.
- We have replaced the defibrillator.

It seems to me that the resolve continues to be there both to protect and promote the village.

I will readily recognise that at times over the last year things have not always been plain sailing. However, I am confident that with sensible approaches and supportive attitudes the Parish Council can continue to do more for the village.

I would like to see in the year ahead an even greater degree of enthusiasm for community spirit. If you want to get involved let us know. If you want to be part of something or have an idea, let us know. If something concerns you, let us know.

I hope 2026 brings new ideas, clear goals and some fantastic results.

AJ Duncan
Chairman Parish Council



The Countryman



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Recipe

Mediterranean Chicken - serves 4

Ingredients

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 chicken supremes, skin on, wing on | |
| 100ml White Wine | 1 Courgette, chopped |
| 1 Red Onion, chopped | 1 can of chopped Tomatoes |
| 4 Cloves Garlic, sliced | 100g chopped Chorizo |
| 1 Green Pepper, chopped | Salt & Pepper to Season |
| 1 Yellow Pepper, chopped | Chopped Parsley to finish |

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees C.

- In an oven-proof casserole pot fry off the chicken in a little olive oil skin side down to brown.
- Remove and set aside, in the left-over pot, fry the onion and garlic.
- Once softened add the chorizo for 2 – 3 minutes then add the peppers and courgette for a further 5 minutes.
- Season the vegetables, then add wine and the tin of tomatoes.
- Return the chicken to the pot, add a lid and pop in the oven for 30 minutes to cook the chicken.
- Finish with some chopped parsley and serve.

Recipe is from Darren at The Countryman.



From the Vicarage

Staverton church clock renovation

A lot of people in the village have said that they have missed the church clock while it has been away for renovation. And I, for one when walking down Daventry Road, still look over to the church tower to check the time only to realise the clock face is still missing.

To coin the phrase 'winding back the clock', it was noticeable that the appearance of the clock face had deteriorated a few years ago. Due to the effect of the weather over many years, the black paintwork had faded and blistered in places. But as a timepiece, it was working well and often could be left several months with only the occasional correction of a few minutes. So, in the time-honoured fashion 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it' and with other work such as the disabled WC and then the nave floor repairs taking priority, time stood still when it came to renovation of the clock face.

Then, over the 2024-25 winter, the clock stopped not once but several times which was unusual. Dust in the mechanism was suspected so a dust cover was constructed and the clock chamber hoovered. It continued to stop periodically but then it ran without a problem from February through to August last year, which initially coincided with a very dry spell of weather.



To cut a long story short, it was found that the minute hand was actually touching the clock face and the friction was enough to literally 'stop the clock'. This was happening as one of the four bolts which secured the face to the backing timbers had become loose so the clock face was able to move outwards enough for it to touch the minute hand.

Quotations were requested from clock specialists as far afield as Mansfield, Norwich and deepest Lincolnshire – in years gone by there would be a specialist in every large town but this is no longer the case. Eventually, the PCC recommended to proceed with the Norwich-based firm Michlmayr, with the work to include repainting of the clock face, renovation of the hour and minute hand drive spindles, a service of the clock mechanism and renovation of the shaft which activates the hammer for the hourly chimes.



In early December last year, the clock face was removed using abseiling techniques from the top of the church tower. The face and the associated moving parts were taken to Michlmayr's workshops in Norwich for renovation, cleaning and painting over the winter.

Preparatory works to treat the backing timbers was carried out using a 'cherry picker' on 1st May and it is hoped that the clock face will be returned to the church tower by the time you read this.

Interestingly, on the back of the clock face there was evidence of the previous renovation by F. Beasely of Daventry in 1966 – the year England won the football World Cup 60 years ago - so we hope the current work will last just as long. Many of you will have seen some archive Staverton photos in the village hall, including one of the church with a white clock face, so this must have been when it was repainted with a black face.

And if any of you are curious as to why the clock face is not central on the tower, there is what appears to be an 'arrow slit' through which the drive shaft for the hands passes through. So it is likely that the tower wall was built as such in the 14th century and when the clock was installed in the late 1890s (the clock mechanism was new), the arrow slit was chosen to place the drive shaft. The alternative would have been to cut through the stone wall which is 4 feet thick; hence the clock face is off centre.

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A friendly group of ladies offering mutual support to each other and in fact anyone that requests it. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the village hall at 7.30pm, we invite a variety of speakers on different topics. We arrange outings, and when possible open the visits to non-members. We have games afternoons, book exchanges, and always welcome new ideas, as well as our regular lunches at The Countryman.

We welcome visitors and guests to listen to our speaker, meet with others, over a cup of tea and biscuits.

Check out our speaker schedule for the forthcoming year.

Staverton Village Hall

What's happening

Coffee, Cake and Crafts - Last Friday of the month - 10am to 12pm
(confirmed on the Bugle)

Summer Party - Saturday 4th July NEW date (Ticketed event)

Village Hall AGM - Thursday 30th July, 6.45pm, everyone welcome

Bingo - Saturday 1st August - cash-only event

Make Bake and Grow Show - Saturday 5th September

Quiz and Curry - November 14th (Ticketed event)

Seated Fitness - In collaboration with Everyone Active Daventry Leisure Centre the Village Hall is facilitating these classes. Tuesday from 10.00 - 10.45. Just £5 per session. Why not give it a try.

Events are advertised on the Website, WhatsApp Staverton Village Bugle and the notice boards

The Hall is also hired regularly for

Fitsteps and Dance - Contact: Emma Pettitt on 07734 910343

Email academyno1@hotmail.co.uk

Yoga - Contact: Rebecca Gartshore on 07963 038873

Email yogasenses1@gmail.com

Hiring the Hall

Please visit the Village Hall website stavertonvillagehall.co.uk for information about hiring the hall. Email stavertonvh@gmail.com

What's been happening

Easter Egg rolling - A chilly wind on Easter Sunday did not deter the 85 or so spectators and competitors. Staverton does not really have slopes for rolling but Church Lane towards the Green works very well for this annual event. Some very creatively decorated eggs and many age categories of rollers with accomplished techniques were cheered along.

Bingo was re-established as a popular Village Hall event. Thank you to Yana and Paul for organising and others for helping. Our next Bingo will be on Saturday 1st August.



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Parish Puzzler

Cryptic corner

Can you identify these London Underground stations?

- (1) The fate of the unfortunate hedgehog
- (2) One side of my head
- (3) A bit like Canterbury perhaps
- (4) What a shandy is largely

No phone challenge

These people changed their names and became famous. Who did they become?

- (5) Diana Fluck
- (6) Maurice Mickelwhite
- (7) Harry Webb
- (8) Marion Morrison
- (9) Reg Dwight

Well-known initials

- (10) M&S
- (11) J, P, G and R
- (12) F & M
- (13) L, S and B

Can you identify these expressions?

- (14) 7Ws of the W
- (15) 12Ss of the Z
- (16) 90Ds in a RA
- (17) 32D is the FP of W in DF

Final teaser.

- (18) Thirteen diamonds on a ship.
What is it?



Answers are on page 19

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Staverton CE Primary School

What's been happening

Bird feeders

At our school when needed, our eco council fills up our school bird feeders with bird seed to keep our environment happy and healthy.

Larder of love

At our picturesque school we have our own larder of love which is like our own mini food bar where pupils of our school community can take and donate their share.

Written by Rose (Year 6) and Isla (Year 5).



Kids Art Competition

Calling all young artists! We'd love to see your drawings of 'Staverton in the summer.' Whether it's sunny gardens, village walks, picnics, wildlife, or your favourite local spot, grab your pencils, paints, or crayons and get creative. Send in a photo of your drawing for the chance to be featured in the next parish magazine to magazine@stavertonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Please include your name and age when you enter. We can't wait to see your masterpieces!

Entries close 1st August 2026

Anne's Potting Shed

Gardening

Wow, Summer is almost here and even more things to do in the garden. A quick update on our hibernating Hiram K Hedgehog. He/she obviously made it through from October and has safely moved out.

If you haven't already planted up your hanging baskets there's still time in early June. Always so welcoming but they do need daily watering and regular fertiliser to keep them smiling. Do inspect your lilies for scarlet beetles as they can strip foliage in a day. Holes in leaves will be a warning. They are crafty and quickly drop to the ground, lying on their backs, just showing you a black underbody!

Deadhead roses and other flowers to encourage new blooms

Mid-June is a good time to sow autumn/winter vegetables carrots, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, beetroot and swedes. Earth up potatoes.

The 21st June is the Summer Solstice and Father's Day. Enjoy picking early strawberries.

In July check your fruit trees and thin out the weaker fruit buds to allow for good fruit growth. Pinch out all side shoots on tomato plants to ensure goodness goes into the tomatoes. Keep watering and adding a high potash fertiliser for the best results. Check for pests and mildew, spray or remove. Early potatoes will be ready to dig up, earth up later varieties. Summer fruiting raspberries can be pruned when fruiting is finished. Cut at ground level and tie in new canes. Take cuttings from woody herbs e.g. rosemary, sage and thyme.

August is a consolidating month in the garden. Lots more deadheading, as always weeding and checking everything is coming along nicely.

Enjoy harvesting the fruits and vegetables which are in abundance.

When a tomato plant has given you 5 - 6 trusses of tomatoes nip out the top, to redirect energy into ripening the fruit. Cherry types maybe, allow 6 - 7. Pot on strawberry runners for more plants next year.

Don't forget to share your overspill plants and produce. We all love



free plants etc.

announced on the
Village WhatsApp group.

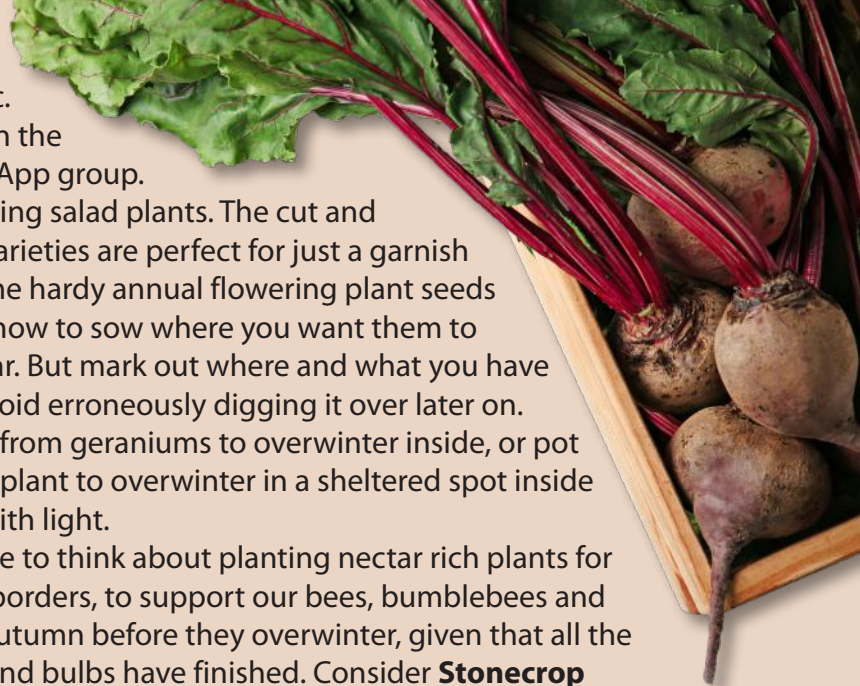
Continue sowing salad plants. The cut and come again varieties are perfect for just a garnish of leaves. Some hardy annual flowering plant seeds are available now to sow where you want them to grow next year. But mark out where and what you have planted, to avoid erroneously digging it over later on. Take cuttings from geraniums to overwinter inside, or pot up the whole plant to overwinter in a sheltered spot inside or shed but with light.

Now's the time to think about planting nectar rich plants for 2027 in your borders, to support our bees, bumblebees and insects into Autumn before they overwinter, given that all the wild flowers and bulbs have finished. Consider **Stonecrop**

hylothelephium (Sedum) '*spectabile*' as their flat heads of multiple tiny pink flowers provide a perch for insects to sit on and drink their nectar.

Michaelmas Daisy aster '*amellus*' is a favourite and dependable, with multiple small heads in a range of purple and pinks bringing in essential pollen. **Purple Cornflower** echinacea '*purpurea*' has purple petals with an orange centre comprising numerous tiny flowers each offering a well of nectar. **Japanese Anemone** '*hupehensis*' or '*x hybrida*' (pink) or a white '*honorine jobert*'. This can be a thug, spreading over time (but more to share).

If you are a romantic and like to garden by the moon we have: New moons on 15th June, 14th July and 12th August. Full moons on 30th June, 29th July and 28th August. Also, on 28th from 02.23 a partial lunar eclipse, reaching the maximum eclipse at 05.12 as the Earth's shadow covers 96% of the moon's surface making it glow red before it sets at 6.15.





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Standing with Giants Normandy 2026 Project



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Quiz answers

- (1) Preston Road (2) Temple
- (3) Kentish Town (4) Maida Vale
- (5) Diana Dors (6) Michael Caine
- (7) Cliff Richard (8) John Wayne
- (9) Elton John (10) Marks and Spencer
- (11) John, Paul, George and Ringo
- (12) Fortnum and Mason
- (13) Lock Stock and Barrel
- (14) 7 Wonders of the World
- (15) 12 Signs of the Zodiac
- (16) 90 Degrees in a Right Angle
- (17) 32 Degrees is the freezing point of water in degrees Fahrenheit
- (18) Quarter Deck

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