

STAVERTON VILLAGE

Staverton is a small village on the outskirts of Trowbridge and Hilperton with a population of around 1,100 residents. Over the last 20 years property developers have increased the size of the village by two thirds, completely reshaping the landscape of the marina with its accompanying boatyard.

The Kennet and Avon Canal is the boundary between Hilperton and Staverton and provides a breathtaking scenic walk to either Bradford on Avon or Devizes. At weekends the canal towpath is heavily populated with cyclists and pedestrians. Near the boatyard various canal boats are moored during the winter and this marina leads to a small lagoon which is home to many species of wildlife including swans, ducks, moorhens and Canada geese. Residents around this lagoon are very protective of the swans when they are nesting and regularly set up watch groups. This magnificent setting provides a constant source of photographs for our excellent, much envied, Staverton Newsletter.

Nestle`s, now renamed Cereal Partners, has evolved over the years and is one of the most modern processing plants in Europe, manufacturing most of the "Shredded Wheat and Shreddies" for the UK and European market. It supplies the vast distribution store based near the Melksham bypass. The factory sits well by the river and is a popular landmark providing jobs in the community.

The village boasts an excellent pub called The Old Bear, a riding school, a church, 3 schools, 3 small playgrounds, a private members club, convenience store, dentist, restaurant and a take away. In view of the size of the new development, Persimmon Homes was obliged to fund leisure facilities to the community, which have provided a superb sports ground, a new sports pavilion and multi purpose hard court.

Staverton has become a more diverse community with the influx of young families. Therefore it has become even more important that enough leisure facilities are provided for these members of the community.

The railway line which divides the village was completed on 2nd September 1848, however Staverton Halt was not opened until 1906, later to be permanently closed.

A recent archeological dig off New Terrace prior to laying the footings for the latest building development, uncovered the earliest residents of Staverton, who turned out to be two roman skeletons.

It may be a small village but there is a great deal of interesting historical features within its boundaries.