

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

April 2020

Volume 79 No 4

Price 60p

Minor Achievement

page 32



Major Milestone: WI celebrates 100 years page 19

The Messenger is the Parish magazine for the whole community of Stapleford.



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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish priest
Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate
Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

Churchwardens
Mary Cooper 842127
Alastair MacGregor
07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

Parish Administrator
Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Youthworker
Zac Britton 07599 024210

Children's Ministry
Sue Brown 01954 264246

Director of Music
John Bryden 07803 706847

PCC secretary
Wendy Redgewell 835821

Treasurer
Chris Bow 841982

Verger
Clare Kerr 842984

Sacristan
Peter Green 500404

Captain of bellringers
Tony Smith 843379

Church flowers
Jackie Nettleton 721366
Liz Hodgkins 01638 570060

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link
Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union
Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall
Sheila Tilbury-Davis 844384

Friends of St Andrew's
Tony Hore 843796

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion
9.45am First Sunday of the month: All Age
Communion
Third Sunday of the month: Parish
Communion in church and Messy Church in
the Johnson Hall
All other Sundays: Parish Communion in
church with crêche and Junior Church in the
Johnson Hall
6.30pm First Sunday of the month: BCP Evensong
Fourth Sunday of the month during term:
Connect at 5.30pm
Other Sundays: please see Noticeboard p4

Weekdays

9.45am First Wednesday each month: Holy
Communion at Cox's Close Community
Centre

OTHER CHURCHES

Roman Catholic

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am at Sawston

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am and 6.30pm fourth Sunday each
month

*For house, prayer and Bible study groups please see
page 5.*

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the
parish priest.

Stapleford MESSENGER

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The subscription for the Stapleford MESSENGER
delivered to your home is £6 per annum (£16 by post):
single copies 60p. For more information, contact Valerie
Powell, Distribution Officer, on 843415.

From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

THERE does not seem to be much good news at the moment, but there is plenty to be thankful for as we enter the worst period of the coronavirus epidemic. Our NHS staff have geared up to do their best in difficult circumstances. Our supermarkets and other businesses seem to be making sensible plans. Lots of institutions are making careful decisions that protect staff and clients. Overall, the country seems to be preparing well for an onslaught, perhaps despite the government. How bad it will be is yet to become clear.



Our precautions in church were what you might expect: more handwashing less hand shaking, no sharing the communion cup, no after service refreshments (I really miss that – we have truly excellent coffee!), and the public health practices we now all know. We have also been grappling with the issue of what we needed to cancel or postpone (see page 4). We will try to keep our website at standrewstapleford.org up to date, and to use social media to spread the news of any changes, but do phone the organisers of any events or me if you need to check

As well as all that, there are two things we are doing that apply both to those who come to church and those who don't.

The first is to encourage forethought and preparation on how you will cope if you and your family have to self-isolate. Supportive neighbourhood networks are springing up all over the place, and that is great. If that is not happening in your street, now is the time to fill that gap. Are there (at least) two other households you can partner with now before you might need to self-isolate? Then if you do need bits from the shops, or medicines delivered, someone might be in place to help you. And, particularly if you live alone, someone can phone you up every day just to make sure you are OK, and not deteriorating and in need of medical attention.

You might know your neighbours already and have discussed this, but if not, then do download the simple form from our website that you can fill in and post through neighbouring doors – an easy way to overcome British reserve, and the embarrassment we all feel if you have lived somewhere for ages but just not got round to saying hello properly to others in the street (been there, done that).

These helping triads (or more) should mean that no-one is without help – or at least there will be very few in our community who are alone and

without help. But if you do not have anyone to help – and that could happen even if you make these preparations – then our pastoral care team is willing to help. We can be the backstop for those with no other options, and would be glad to take that role.

What other preparations should we all make? One thing I would suggest is getting a bit more food in than usual. Making preparations in this way has got a bad press, because some are clearly going over the top and stockpiling to the detriment of us all. But if you have a couple of extra tins, or a few packets of dried food, or a bit extra in the freezer, then you are going to be in a position to share with that neighbour in need who has had to go suddenly into self-isolation without, for whatever reason, having been able to prepare. So, stockpiling bad, making sure you have enough to share good. There is a line somewhere in there that is easier to recognize than to define.

In all this – being thankful for good things, encouraging the formation of helping triads, being the backstop for self-isolation care, and encouraging a little bit of buying-to-share - what we at St Andrew's are trying to do is live out Jesus' two great commandments. The first is to love the Lord our God with everything we have, and the second is to love our neighbours as ourselves. They go together. Loving God would include thankfulness to him for all the wonderful things in our society, and we then respond to his love for us with love for others. We are seeking, really, to bless others as we ourselves are blessed. Your motivation may be the same or different. Either way, I hope you will join us in making preparations that show your love both for yourself and for others around you.

Every blessing to you and yours, and may you be a blessing to others at this time, Simon

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St Andrew's Noticeboard

ST Andrew's has taken the decision to cancel all church services, groups and activities until the end of April. We are doing so in order to help minimise the spread of Coronavirus. It is likely to become necessary to extend the period of cancellations, but we will make a decision about that in due course.

We have also taken the decision to close the Johnson Hall for the same period for the same reason. No activities will take place there.

We will post updates on the church website at www.standrewstapleford.org. Some resources and services will also be posted online. Please check the website for details.

The church will remain open as a place to come and pray or enjoy a moment of quiet reflection.

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face towards you
and give you his peace.*

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptism: 1 March: Christopher (Kit) Mercer Gibbs

BRASS CLEANING ROTA

Volunteer needed - contact Jeannie Green on 500404

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

W/E			Area	
4 APRIL	Mary Cooper	Liz Hodgkins	4	
11 APRIL	<i>General pre-Easter cleaning</i>		<i>all areas</i>	
18 APRIL	Jacqui Watkins	Francess Richardson	1	
25 APRIL	Diana Sage	Margaret Tait	2	
2 MAY	Felicity Cooke	Romie Ridley	Maggie Luff	3

*Area 1 - Lady Chapel and Vestry; Area 2 - Back Half of Nave and Baptistry;
Area 3 - Front Half of Nave and Choir Stalls; Area 4 - Chancel*

Regular groups at St Andrew's

Sunday

5.30pm Explore (for ages 11 to 16) Zac Britton 07599 024210

Tuesday

8pm Bible study group Francess Richardson 841788

8pm Exploring group (first & third Tuesdays) Romie Ridley 842922

8pm Women's house group Sue Duraikan 210472 & Sarah Hackett 841356

Wednesday

9.45am Cox's Close communion (first Wednesday of the month) Simon Taylor

7pm Tower bells practice Tony Smith 843379

7.30pm House group Mary & Chris Cooper 842127

8pm Handbells Jill Butler 844133

Thursday

2.15pm Mothers' Union (fourth Thursday of the month) Hilary Street 840548

7.30pm Mothers' Union (third Thursday of the month) Hilary Street 840548

Friday

10am Prayer group Mary Antcliff 842227

7pm Choir practice John Bryden 07803 706847

Deadline for the MAY Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 13 APRIL**

By email to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

or by post to 2 Haverhill Road CB22 5BX

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**EXTENSIONS
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ALTERATIONS**

Inspire

TECHNOLOGY has become a life prop. Many screens to touch, tap or scroll. Acceptable in society but often antisocial. The written word and verbal communication no longer seem essential. The Fitzwilliam's education team felt strongly that the museum could connect with teachers and schools building skills through observation. My husband and I were part of a group being encouraged to see and ask questions.



We looked at a picture, Cupid and Psyche, by Jacob del Sellaio. It's a Greek story of a human princess, Psyche who marries the god of

love, Cupid. The picture has many images within it that children and adults alike found of interest and developed creatively. In partnership with AccessArt, Inspire aims to celebrate and challenge ability and curiosity. Sixty-eight teachers and 40 schools took part in training sessions and outreach. The result was an exciting range of ideas put together to form a vision of delight. After three months, sadly it is now a memory.

My contribution was an acrostic of the word **INSPIRE** ... **I**ntrigue, **N**ote, **S**tory development, **P**ainting and puzzling, **I**nvestigation and imagining, **R**espect and response, **E**nthusiasm ... and plenty of it!

Ideas ranged from making a bower to break Psyche's fall from the mountain to using Cupid's shimmering arrow to shoot good in to the world. Temples contained symbolic meaningful artefacts specific to individual children. Love was an obvious theme; between parent and child, the earth and pets. Sensitive, honest, emotional work. A single falcon in the scene led to details of wings. Great and Little Shelford Primary School pupils thought of secret selves. Interesting. They produced a mannequin for the telephone 'display' box.

Drama, writing, poetry and art all from a picture. Initiative was encouraged. Details from clay, tissue paper, wire, painting from natural sources, shading, styling; bold and delicate, all of value. Young people felt strengthened and important. Viewing the work effectively mounted in a museum opened hearts and minds to fresh potential. The museum became an enlightening, inviting place. We need to think together sometimes. Results can truly **INSPIRE**. **Judith Lee**

st Andrew
STAPLEFORD

SINGPLUS

see – sing – draw

School years 3 - 7

3.45 to 5.15 pm

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22, 29 April

3, 10, 24 June

1 July

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Women's Institute



OUR March Meeting was our AGM, which in our 100th year warranted fizz and cake! Sallie Dixon talked about the first 20 years of our branch, and Kay Coe reminisced about her time in the WI during the 1940s onwards, including being President in 1970, our 50th year.



Stapleford WI President, Liz Hodgkins and Kay Coe, the longest serving member cutting the birthday cake at the meeting in March

The April meeting scheduled for 2 April **has been cancelled**. On 7 May (7.30pm, Johnson Hall) we will be discussing the Resolutions for national campaigning in more depth, and will vote for which should be adopted this year. Previous resolutions have included mental health, rural bus services, plastic microfibres, and food poverty. **Please check nearer the time whether this meeting is on.**

We're not all jam and cakes! Our craft, knitting, walking and book groups all continue to flourish.

Admission Bags for the acute admissions ward at Fulbourn Hospital.

WI branches are putting together toilet bags of items for patients who are admitted to their local hospital's acute mental illness wards. Patients are often very distressed and have nothing with them but the clothes they have on. Although the wards will have toiletries etc., a few little items that are patients' own can be a comfort to them. We thought we would focus on donating bags for women admitted to Fulbourn, and as we are 100 years old we aim to donate 100 bags in 2020. Members are donating items, and so far



I have delivered 20 completed bags to the ward, and the staff were really grateful and pleased (*see photo*). I have some more ready to be delivered.

Contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 for more information about the WI, Also see staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Helen Hale**

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From the Editor

MRS Editor was somewhat taken aback by her father's plans to spend a little time abroad this summer.

The old man (though not quite as ancient as I may have suggested in a previous appearance on this page; he's actually 76, not 80) had announced he intends to walk the Camino de Santiago.

All 500 miles of it.

Twelve miles a day, or thereabouts, for 40 days along the trail across northern Spain first trodden by pilgrims in the 9th Century.

Given that the state of his well-worn knees means he struggles to make it down to the shops once a week, it did seem a tad ambitious.

Mrs Editor made it clear that she thought exactly that, and added that her brother would also be sure to have something to say on the matter.

He did, as it turned out. He advised special underwear, to lessen the prospect of chafing in the Asturias region.

Preparations are already underway as a personal trainer has been hired and it is hoped father-in-law will be able to perform a sit-up by mid-May.

Of course, those plans and many, many others already appear to have been scuppered by the coronavirus crisis.

Last month's edition of the *Messenger* featured Fraser Grace's first-hand account of his visit to China, in late January when the scale of the problem was being realised for the first time. Then, it was an Asian-only affair but as we go to press the outbreak has been confirmed as a global pandemic, Spain and Italy are in lockdown and our own Government is embarking on a risky policy designed to prevent the NHS being swamped by sufferers of COVID-19.

By the time you read this then the situation is likely to have changed significantly and it seems rather optimistic to suggest it will be for the better. This edition is filled with details of upcoming events, many with a relaxed, summery flavour like the Village Weekend and the cricket fixtures, but whether they will actually come to pass seems doubtful to say the least.

Simon Taylor has given his take on the crisis and there is also information for those worried about the virus to seek help locally (see pages 14 and 49). Unusually, much of the magazine had been put together well before the coronavirus situation reached crisis point. Hastily, on deadline day, Ed the deputy ed made as many last-minute adjustments as he could so this edition is a snapshot of what life was just before anyone began fighting over toilet rolls in the aisles of Sainsbury's and a hint of how it will be changing for most of us.

Fingers crossed we can eventually get back to normal but in the event that civilisation does in fact collapse, and this is being read as a historical document by our cockroach-based mutant successors - **hello cockroaches and enjoy the April edition**

Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Rob Ransom, Stapleford

Re: Trees in Stapleford

IT was sad to see that we have lost another mature tree in the village (*Messenger*, March).

Over the past ten years we have lost or had removed a dozen or so with no replacements. It was good to see therefore that the PC has planted three trees on the Haverhill Road side of the recreation ground following a South Cambs grant.

Let's have more please so that future generations of Staplefordians can enjoy a mature treescape as we have done.



From: Jenny Flynn, Stapleford

Re: 'Tree fellers walk into Bar Lane?' (*March Messenger*)

IN the *March Messenger*, you pondered upon the story behind the name of the new-build known as Monkey Roost . As the owner of said Monkey

Roost I am happy to shed a little light upon your musings.



First, Monkey Roost is not actually a new-build; rather, it is a significantly extended version of the house which has occupied the plot since the mid-1970s.

This original house was named Wandil's Folly by the architect and owner,

Professor Matthew Aitken Clark, and his

family. Mrs Clark tells me that the name was intended to bring back some local history. As I understand it - and accounts and interpretations differ enormously - in Anglo-Saxon paganism an evil giant attempted to freeze the world by stealing springtime. He was hunted down by the gods, Gog and Magog, who recovered springtime and punished the giant by banishing him forever into the sky, where his eyes peer down on frosty nights as the twin

stars Castor and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini. English folklore gives the name of this giant as Wandil (a version of Orwandel, the giant defeated by Thor and cast skyward), who in turn gave his name to Wandlebury.

Had I known of this story before we moved to Stapleford from outside the area, I may well have retained the name of the original house. As it is, we brought the name Monkey Roost with us from two previous homes. It originated when we lived in the former lodge house to a considerably grander house and its surrounding estate. With no road number, our respective houses shared very similar names. The owners of the estate became increasingly aerated by our post being delivered to their mailbox, and vice versa, so we renamed our house Monkey Roost. It means absolutely nothing but we rather liked the idea of distancing ourselves a little from next door and of hanging a ridiculous sign near to their boundary. I should say that we have very lovely neighbours in Stapleford and our continued use of the Monkey Roost sign says nothing about our relationship with them!

Another appeal

THE future of the *Messenger* remains hanging in the balance.

This is a repeat of a previous appeal for volunteers to come forward and join an editorial team that will keep the magazine going.

Deputy Editor Ed Rose and I had hoped to have been able to hand the running of the magazine over to our successors in the next few weeks.

But although volunteers have come forward - and thank you very much for doing so - we still require more to make the new team viable.

Ed and I will therefore carry on for a while, but not for ever. Not beyond this calendar year, that's for certain.

So, could you spare some time to help create the magazine every month? No previous skills are necessary, just a desire to contribute to an enterprise that has been part of village life for almost 80 years.

Please drop us a line to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com if you think you might be able to help in some capacity. You never know, it might end up being rather fun! **Jon West**

STOP PRESS

All dates of the events advertised were correct at the time of going to press but you are advised to check with the organisers beforehand.

Isolation support team

A NUMBER of us in the village, both men and women, have been thinking about the consequences of self-isolation in the event of coming into contact with coronavirus (Covid-19). Self-isolation involves confinement in the home, not going out to the shops or walking in the countryside and no face to face contact with another human being. We think this will lead to severe loneliness and a sense of being cut off from the outside world.

So we have formed a team of people from the village who would be very happy to ring or email anyone who would like the opportunity for some personal contact from time to time and who might need some shopping put on the doorstep. Alas, no quick chats allowed.

If you would like to have this contact, please get in touch with one of the following who will pass on your details to a member of the team.

Gillian Pett, 843278, gillian.pett29@gmail.com

or

Carol Davies, 843424, carol.galewood@gmail.com

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Stapleford - Nachingwea Link



The new Priest-in-Charge at St Andrew's Nachingwea, The Rev John Buriani



2020 Project with READ will provide a Library at Nambambo Secondary School

Forthcoming events

1. Link Lunch on Sunday 17 May in the Pavilion.
2. Link Celebration Service on Sunday 17 May.
3. Visit of Bishop James and Mrs Veronica Almasi from 6 to 9 July.

Mothers' Union



All Mothers' Union meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

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St Andrew's 'Eco-Church' update

I'M sure you have all been eagerly awaiting the follow up to my article in the September *Messenger* on St Andrew's Eco Church Project so here it is. In a nutshell, some good progress has been made but there's plenty more to do and you can get involved with it!

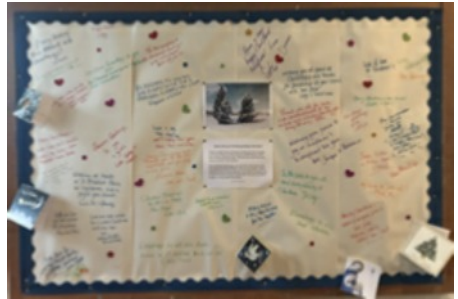
Land: We invite you to bring your buckets, wheelbarrows and other receptacles to carry away some of our lovely old compost from the churchyard between 9.30am and 11am on Easter Saturday, donations welcome.

Community: Come and deposit your old toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and crisp packets in the labeled boxes under the benches in the church porch to be sent away for 'terracycling'.

Lifestyle: Check out our new 'links' page on the St Andrew's website for info and answers you didn't even know you needed on all things local and 'green'! Just select 'Community' then 'St Andrew's Eco Church Project' and you will see the Useful Local Links page.

Worship and Teaching: Our younger children have been hard at work creating birdfeeders and bird boxes ready for our feathered friends this Spring and will be engaged in planting some wild flowers on Good Friday (10-11.30am) to attract bees and butterflies in the coming months.

We are delighted that we already incorporate so many of the Eco Church suggestions into our current practice; regularly praying for environmental issues and preaching about caring for God's Earth, seeking to reduce our energy usage and managing our land for the encouragement of native wildlife. Our communal Christmas Card Scheme was a great success too! (See picture).



We don't propose to rest on our laurels however and know that we can do so much more. We have some interesting schemes in the pipeline including switching to a green energy provider, toilet twinning, a travel survey and even changing to new (or rather recycled) loo roll!

This project really means a lot to those of us who are trying to 'do our bit' and there has been such a positive response from so many people. Please, if you think you can help us with your time or expertise do let us know by contacting me at ecochurch@standrewstapleford.org Thank you.

Sophi Berridge

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100 Years of Stapleford WI

THE first meeting of Stapleford Women's Institute was on 11 March 1920, so last month we celebrated 100 years. Come rain, hail, snow, war or pestilence (measles and diphtheria) we have never missed a meeting.

The idea of a Women's Institute came from Canada and was initially taken up by the Agricultural Organisation of the day as the country was so short of food and labourers during WW1 but very quickly it became its own organisation begun by Lady Denman who was a member of the Agricultural Organisation committee.

The WIs were attended by women from all social class and concerned themselves with all matters around the home, the garden, allotments, small holdings and farms.

On Wednesday, 3 March 1920 a meeting was held in Stapleford School to discuss forming a Women's Institute in conjunction with the Cambridge Federation and the first meeting was held on Thursday, 11 March 1920, The hostess for the afternoon was Mrs H Gray. (who became Lady Gray and lived at Wandlebury). Mrs Burke from Harlow gave a demonstration of glove making. Fifty nine new members enrolled at that meeting and by the second meeting we had 94 members. Mrs Gray was elected as President.

The population in the village of Stapleford in 1920 was approximately 500 and from our recent research we know that nearly all the men had poorly paid jobs e.g. farm workers, grooms and gardeners and the women may have been in service or just stayed at home looking after the family. Life would have been much harder than today with no mains water, sewage or electricity.

It was suggested by the Cambridge Federation that the WI hold talks on the following: citizenship, the League of Nations, the Education Bill, Local government, and any other questions of public importance.

By the end of the year the number of members had risen to 112. Stapleford WI exhibited at the Cambridge Show.

They had no savings but had bought large quantities of materials which were sold co-operatively at cost price to members. This was called a 'Benefit Club'.

Large quantities of jam were made and sold to members at below shop prices.

Stalls were held monthly selling second hand items and home produce.

One penny in a shilling (equivalent of 50p today) on all sales went towards Institute funds.



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When a baby was born to a member every other member contributed one penny and a present was bought for the baby.

Among other events, on 21 May 1920, 12 WI members went to a WI Exhibition in London and then visited the Army and Navy Stores.

At a Garden Party on 14 July 1920 in the grounds of Gog Magog House, Wandlebury, Mrs Jenyns (President of the County Federation) congratulated the members on the attractive stalls one of which exhibited the gloves made by members. The making of gloves was so successful, that the members hoped to make enough to be sold in shops.



A 1930s WI Garden Party at Wandlebury

The 1921 Annual Report states that the membership had risen to 136 and 12 monthly meetings had been held with an average attendance of 90.

Discussions on subjects of public importance included a short address on Ireland (Ireland became a free state in 1921), the coal strike, and the Washington Conference which was the very first Arms Control Conference. Stapleford WI also organised talks and discussions on Bolshevism, the Use of the Vote and home nursing.

Activities during the first year included the following:

- Co-operative buying and selling.
- Raising funds to extend the Village Institute building.
- Starting a Junior Club.
- Making and selling 500 lbs of jam and chutney at a low prices.
- Holding a fete and a Christmas Fair.
- A WI Dance; this was reported as being splendidly organised and arranged by Mrs Gray, the President, in aid of the building fund for the extension to the Village Institute . Sixty people attended the dance.

The WI meetings were held in the Village Institute which was built on what is now school land. The ladies were eventually invited to join the committee for the running of the Institute which was very unusual as women were generally excluded but in future years the WI helped to improve the facilities. **Sallie Dixon**

Further articles about the first years of the WI will appear from time to time.

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By Michael Gatward



Stapleford Village Weekend 18 - 21 June

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For more information contact Gillian at gillian.pett29@gmail.com

First nursery children arrive

HERE at Stapleford Community Primary School we were delighted to open our doors to our very first Nursery children on Monday 24 February. There has been a huge need in the community for this early years' provision and the school's ambition to meet it has now been realised. The nursery currently offers the equivalent of 26 full-time, 3-4 year old places in term time, 7.45am-6pm.



The children have settled very quickly into the new nursery environment under the care and guidance of their teacher Lauren Davies. It is particularly noticeable how they are already gaining independence. Examples observed are organising their own paints and equipment to paint daffodils and choosing and collecting their lunch in the main hall. I can see that this is

going to make a huge difference to how they transition into the Reception class. Parents have been extremely positive about the new nursery, one parent declaring they wish they could stay all day in the calm environment instead of going to work!

The nursery class is based in a newly refurbished classroom funded through LA (Local Authority) Section 106 money. The upgrade includes a new entrance, a small kitchenette, and revamped cloakrooms, with

additional light and space achieved through changes to the external walls and widening of interior doorways. The results see the children have clean, bright quality space to engage in learning through play. Outside there is a brand new and exciting area funded by Anglian Learning, which includes great climbing, staging, and 'softpour' all weather areas with a 'sail' canopy providing shade and protection from the elements. We have equipped the classroom through contributions from different sources, including funding from Anglian Learning, money for furniture from 'The Messenger



Fund' which provided new tables, chairs and shelving, and additional parental donations which included toys. We are grateful to the Rotary Club, Sawston, who have agreed to purchase some more outdoor equipment following the Sawston Fun Run later this year.



Miss Davies is a qualified, experienced nursery teacher who is excited about this new venture. She said "Stapleford Nursery opening has been an exciting opportunity for me. I and other staff within the school have worked really hard to ensure it is a warm and welcoming environment for children in the local community." Mrs Spain added: "It has been very exciting opening our doors to the

nursery children. We have 17 families signed up already and getting calls about it nearly every day. We are so grateful to everyone who has helped us reach our ambition to offer this quality provision to the children of Stapleford."

At Stapleford Community Primary School and Nursery we are proud and passionate about what we do and have high aspirations for every child in our care. If you are interested in a place in the nursery, please contact the school office on 508720 and we can arrange a visit. **Jayne Hore and Christine Spain**



End game for The Tree



ACTIVISTS have ended their fight to bring back The Tree, although the fate of the pub building itself has yet to be decided.

Campaigners who set up The Tree Community Ltd action group have voted to give up on their seven-year battle.

An annual meeting was held in January and just one vote was cast in

favour of continuing to try to buy the building with a view to reopening it as a community hub.

The Bar Lane hostelry served its last pint in 2013 when Greene King sold it to a Histon-based developer.

His plan was to turn the pub into a house and build another on the site of the car park, which was also home to a single-storey B&B bungalow. Both would go on the market and each priced significantly higher than the £305,000 he paid for the entire site.

The campaigners managed to stop that by gaining ACV - asset of community value - status for the now empty building and it has been pretty much stalemate ever since.

In 2017 it was hoped that South Cambridgeshire District Council might grant a compulsory purchase order that would enable the pub to be bought by a band of locals, more than 80 of whom had pledged around £130,000.

The district council's support steadily began to wane however, seemingly because of the prospect of a lengthy, and more significantly, potentially costly legal battle.



Last year, the owner put in a new planning application. This proposed a new house on the car park and The Tree to return as a pub.

This was accepted by district councillors, who inserted one condition:

that the new house could not be built until the pub had been refitted to include accommodation.

That opened the door for the campaigners to make another attempt to buy back The Tree - they have first refusal - but they decided not to for a number of reasons.



The *Messenger* understands that the owner is asking for a figure in excess of £400,000 just to part with the pub in its current derelict state (see pictures). Whether he is prepared to stump up for the refitting costs remains unknown.

The income from the original accommodation building had been an important part of the campaigners' business plan and members reluctantly decided that it would be too much of a financial risk to continue now that had disappeared.

"We concluded that it adversely affected our business plan to such an extent that we would now be looking for double the contributions from pledgers, many of whom were already nervous," explained Bill French, a founder of the action group.

The resurgence of the Three Horseshoes was another factor for pledgers, four of whom have passed away since the campaign was launched.

It is not clear what will happen next; the owner may carry out some basic alteration to the pub building to allow the building of the house to take place. If nobody buys the pub he may then seek



permission from the district council for a change of use to a domestic residence. **Jon West**

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2G3S Events and News



STOP PRESS - The conversation evening on 30 March at 8pm featuring speakers from Extinction Rebellion has been cancelled due to the risk of coronavirus. This may also happen with Bill's talk on 27 April (see below) – check posters nearer the time, or ring me (Helen) on 842403 to check.

The following conversation evening will be Bill Powell's demonstration and talk on 27 April in the Johnson Hall, at 7.30pm. This is entitled 'What hope for cooks and forests dying in Africa?'

Last August, Bill and his wife Valerie visited South Africa where Bill has friends from his student days there. Then they went on to Uganda to meet two young men they have sponsored through University. On his visits Bill was often annoyed it took so long to serve a meal. The reason he learned was that cooking is done on charcoal or on wood between three stones. Smoke from cooking kills over three million women and children worldwide. The black sooty particulates trap sunlight and are a major cause of global warming. Charcoal is cleaner but destroys forest three times as fast.



Three cooking methods

He then learned of the work on 'clean cook stoves'. These are almost as clean as North Sea gas and use only a third as much fuel. See the stacks of wood each cook needs in the picture: charcoal, three stone fire or a clean cook stove. Bill will demonstrate a clean cook stove recently developed in South Africa. We

will then discuss what we could do to help the poor improve health and fight global warming: big projects or grass root help, sponsoring stoves, reforestation, etc. There should also be a display and/or video. Incidentally, some of you may recall that solar cookers have been demonstrated in Stapleford in the past, by the Nachingwea committee. Perhaps some links can be made?

There was a very successful Repair Café held on 29 February in Great Shelford. If you missed out this time, there will be one in Sawston in May, more details to follow.

The Cambridge Literary Festival has a Climate Change theme this year, there are several talks by the likes of Caroline Lucas and Mike Berners-Lee. 16 -19 April at various sites in the city. **Helen Hale**

Stapleford Strollers: Short Walk 19

On the trail of the Shug Monkey: a short stroll in Balsham

Directions to start of walk

A GOOD way is to take the A1307 towards Linton, turning left at Abington. Then take the first left, after about a mile, and follow the road to the edge of Balsham. Turn right on to the main road and carry on until The Black Bull is seen on the right hand side. Street parking is possible.

Distance of Walk

About 2½ miles. About an hour's walk; a good mix of village and countryside.

Extra Information



Balsham, in Old English, means 'the homestead of a man called Baeli'. It is in Domesday Book as Bellesham. It was destroyed in a Viking raid in the 11C and only one person escaped with his life. The countryside between Balsham and West Wrattling is said to be haunted by a malevolent spirit known as The Shug Monkey!

Route of Walk

With your back to The Black Bull, carefully cross the road and walk left, on the pavement. Pass the village sign (showing local man Hugh de Balsham, 13th century Bishop of Ely) and pass the village seat to the right. It is nicknamed The Bandstand. Turn right up Nine Chimneys Lane and walk to the end, passing Nine Chimneys House, a very grand Tudor mansion.

Pass through a gateway into a field and walk left, along the field edge. Keep on until a much wider lane is reached and turn right on this. Turn right at the first footpath sign and walk along the edge of another field. At the far end, pass through a small copse and emerge on to the village cricket field. Walk down the side of this and go through a gate to the right of the pavilion.

Cross a cul-de-sac and enter the churchyard. Keep ahead, passing the back of the church, then keep left on the path exiting the churchyard in the far left hand corner and walk on until a main road is reached.

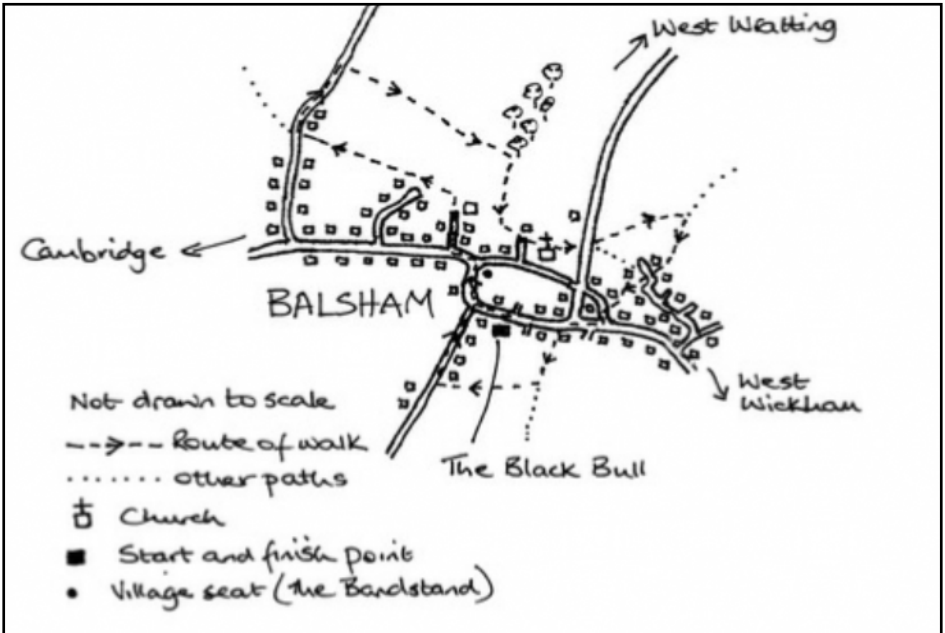
Cross over and follow the path opposite (footpath sign) leading into a scrubby area, after which walk along the right hand side of a cropped field.

Go right when a cross path is reached, pass through a metal gate and keep ahead, crossing a small road and follow the path as it winds between garden fences.

At a more significant road, cross over and go right. Turn left through The Bell car park (footpath sign). Walk ahead past some bungalows and turn sharp right at a footpath sign, going through a small wood and then passing the village allotment area. At the far end exit via a gate on to a lane and turn right.

Walk up the lane and turn right at the top. Return, passing the old Butcher's shop (now a café) to The Black Bull. **David Barnes**

The Stapleford Strollers do not accept responsibility for any accident or mishap that may happen to any person who follows this route.



Stapleford History Society – VE Day

STAPLEFORD History Society, with a grant from the Village Hall Estate Fund, plans to present all Stapleford primary school children (aged between 4 and 11 years) with a book as a memento of this celebration. Please apply to gillian.pett29@gmail.com by Friday 17 April if you have a qualifying child/children, with your child's/children's name and date of birth.

It is also hoped that, weather and coronavirus permitting, Stapleford residents will meet on the recreation ground in the afternoon of 8 May for tea and games. More information will be available in the next issue of the *Messenger*. **Gillian Pett**

One man's Morris - Bill's van clocks up half a century



THE most recognisable vehicle in the village has just celebrated its 50th birthday.

Bill French's Morris Minor van is now trundling along in its sixth decade; the bright yellow bygone was first registered on 17 March 1970.

In those days it was part of a fleet of 200 belonging to the Automobile Association, hence the garish hue. The AA livery disappeared decades ago, and it has changed colour more than once, but is all set to carry on towards 2030.

"It's quite modern - it's got air conditioning thanks to the holes in the floor," Bill explained.

"Nearly everyone who stops you says 'I learned to drive in one of those' or 'We used to go on holiday in one of those'.

"It's a widely-recognised vehicle and very easy to drive. They are also very easy to work on and I can get virtually any part by the weekend if I wanted it."



The van originally belonged to Ted Fishenden, Stapleford's village handyman and plasterer who also made violins in his spare time. It was red in those days and had been fitted with a bigger 1300cc twin carb engine, as well as being full of plaster.

Bill changed it back to the original colour, using photographs of another 1970 AA van as a template (left), as it began a new chapter in its working life. Which also meant being used as

temporary accommodation when Bill worked for the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, which had just opened its new headquarters in Cambridge.



“You may recall there was antagonism towards genetically modified organisms around 15 to 20 years ago,” he said. “These new varieties were regarded as potential Triffids so we had to test them out to see that they weren’t.

“We had to have round the clock guardianship of the trials in case of vandals so one or two nights I slept out in it.”

The yellow van used to be part of a French fleet of three Minors (above) that also included a pick-up version and an iconic wooden Traveller estate variant of a vehicle designed during World War Two by Alec Issigonis, who went on to give the world the Mini.

“We also used to have a white Traveller parked outside and some chap flew round the bend one night and rammed it,” Bill recalled.

“It was virtually a write-off and had to be towed away but I knew someone at work had an identical one he was trying to sell. So I rang him up the next day and got it .



“I looked out of the window later on and a chap who lived across the road who had seen the bust one in the morning was out there wondering how it had been miraculously mended in less than 24 hours. I could see him stop and do a double take!”

Bill has copious piles of spares, including three engines and four gearboxes, ready if needed in a shed.


And he also has some Austin badges. Why? Because his Morris Minor van isn’t actually a Morris, it’s an Austin 6cwt.

The two marques were under the BMC banner in 1970 and it was policy for both to offer van options. The Austin A35 was discontinued in 1968 so after that a number of Morris Minor vans were given Austin badges on the bonnet and the steering wheel and also fitted with a tell-tale ‘crinkly’ grille, which Bill’s has.

Will the original badges eventually be restored? We shall wait and see.

Jon West

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Power Point Presentation



Artistic impression of the Babraham P&R project

THE Babraham Park and Ride site is set to be transformed into a renewable energy generator as part of a cross-Cambridge scheme.

Stapleford parish councillors were given a presentation about the plans by Cambridgeshire County Council officers at the February meeting.

Babraham is one of six existing Park and Ride sites around the city which are to have solar panels installed on canopies above car parking bays.

This will generate electricity to charge up each parked vehicle - provided they are electric cars parked there in the first place of course.

The power harnessed from the sun's rays would also provide LED lighting, and any surplus would be stored and sold to local customers, especially if the migration by drivers from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric or hybrid ones over the next decade turns out to be slower than expected.

It's a similar story at the Park and Ride sites at Newmarket Road, Milton, Madingley Road, Longstanton and St Ives but Babraham would provide by far the biggest output at an estimated 2.5million kilowatt-hours per year, the equivalent of the energy consumption of 800 average-sized homes. An extra 160 car parking spaces are to be created.

In March 2018 it was estimated that it would cost £11.4million to transform Babraham, with the bill for a similar upgrade to the park and ride at Trumpington expected to come in at just under £7million.

Now Trumpington is no longer due for a solar scheme upgrade. Instead, electric power points will be installed at a brand new site - capacity to be



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decided - to be built on the other side of the M11, which will be known as Cambridge South West.

The proposed new Cambridge South East Park and Ride near the A11, whose exact site has yet to be determined, is also also in line to be electric. This would be a terminus for the proposed automated busway that is on course to be trundling past our village later in the decade.

SPC have yet to agree on a formal response to the presentation but have vowed to support all appropriate sustainable initiatives in response to the climate emergency.

You can follow progress at mlei.co.uk. **Jon West**



Axis plans an invasion?



Transport, Connectivity & Context map from February 2020 public consultation. Image copyright Axis Land Partnerships

STAPLEFORDIANS were able to quiz developers over plans to build a retirement village and country park at the top of Haverhill Road.

Representatives from Hertfordshire-based firm Axis Land Partnerships attended a day-long information event at the Jubilee Pavilion at the end of February.

Axis want permission to build on 62 acres of agricultural land to the north of the village and create a countryside park that would be open to the public.

The retirement village would feature a number of self-contained homes plus a larger complex hosting a range of amenities. These would include dining areas and leisure facilities such as a gym, sauna, swimming pool, hairdressers, activity rooms and lounges.

The area in question is green belt land, part of the ring of open space surrounding the city of Cambridge and designed to act as protection against urban sprawl.

Green belt policy is unpopular with some for pushing house prices up through its restriction of available land but it is no exaggeration to say that many Staplefordians greatly fear the door being opened to developers wishing to add a sizeable housing estate to the village.

“It is in the green belt so that means it has to be a very special circumstances application,” said Axis’ senior land manager Andrew Adams. “There would have to be an overwhelming need to override any harm to the green belt.



A future country park?

“It has been seen elsewhere in the country that the need for older people’s housing and the lack of supply is often seen as a very special circumstance to be an acceptable development within the green belt.

“Our proposal would retain its green belt status, which means no-one would be able to come in and change the application to open-

market housing development.”

Of course, most villagers will also have noted that the area in question has already been earmarked by Greater Cambridge Partnership for its proposed Rapid Mass Transport system.

As it stands, the tram line would go through the exact area that Axis plan to turn into a 50-acre country park, which could also be accessed via Hinton Way.

“We aren’t in control over what GCP are doing,” Mr Adams added. “Their party line is that they cannot take our proposals into account, or have any further conversations with us, until we put in a planning application.”

It is by no means certain that the proposed route will become a reality, especially as campaigners are still actively trying to persuade GCP to adopt the old Haverhill rail line instead (see page 59) .

But if trams do end up trundling through the top of the village on their way from Shelford to Sawston then the country park would at least prevent any open-market housing being built on one side of the tracks.

But what of the other side, fields that many developers would love to get their hands on?

“All I can tell you is the information we have,” Mr Adams said. “The only way this land would be released from green belt is through a new Joint Local Plan.”

It is possible an outline planning application will be lodged soon and considered by the end of the year, with work on the site, should permission be granted, not expected to begin within at least 18 months. Construction could then take another 18 months.



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Pathway to paradise?

Axis's Retirement Village proposals have failed to win over Stapleford Parish Council.

Chairman Howard Kettel said: "We are seriously concerned. The parish council policy is to oppose development in the green belt and we will do everything we can to prevent incursions into it.

"I know that one can always justify making an exception but we think that just one exception leads to one more exception and we do need to defend our unique down land.

"Yes, a portion of the site in question will be protected and no doubt there will be legal land transfers to various trusts but that doesn't protect a significant proportion of the land." **Jon West**

Chestnut Club

7 APRIL marks the 50th Anniversary of the Chestnut Club. We intended to celebrate this milestone in style aboard a Pullman style railway carriage with afternoon tea at Carriages of Cambridge. Regrettably this has now been cancelled

Our meeting on 21 April was to have been an opportunity to learn about Soroptimist International, a global volunteer movement which works to transform the lives of women and girls, with a talk from Margaret Hyde. This has also been cancelled. **Suzanne Watt**

Shelford and Stapleford Scout Group

JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 16 May at 2pm **& Auction**

Great Shelford Memorial Hall

Jumble can be taken to the hall between 10am and noon on 16 May. We're sorry, but NO mains electrical goods or furniture/furnishings that do not meet fire safety regulations can be accepted.

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Puzzle Corner

Wordsearch

Find words running backwards and forwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. The answers have something in common.

When you have found them all, rearrange the remaining letters to make another example. Answers on page 57.



Anagrams

ONEMY TWOLUA THREEBS FOURSELY FIVELEARS

Six-letter Words with Unusual Endings

The solutions are commonplace words, although in some cases you may find more obscure alternatives. How many can you find?

... GRY ... ESE ... TEM ... ERA ... IRT ... EMN ... RST
 ... CUR ... SIP ... AMT ... EGM ... EON ... EME ... RNT

Set by Hermes

Stapleford Bird Club

WE met on Saturday 7 March which was overcast and breezy. We saw a wide variety of birds but most were showing in low numbers, and several stretches of woodland seemed to have few species – not too surprising at this time of year as many summer breeders have yet to return. We achieved a reasonable total of 22 species which included some more ‘difficult’ birds. For example a flock of eight Meadow Pipits that we saw on North Down needed not only to have their plumage checked (difficult in flight) but also to see how they flew and behaved. These streaky brown, smallish birds with a jerky flight and with a habit of blending into the background as soon as they land unfortunately never uttered a single call which would have clinched their identity, but we were still confident what they were. Greenfinches are becoming more active with their distinctive wheeze-like calls giving them away. Robins’ singing at various locations is becoming stronger but is not at full force yet.

A male Reed Bunting was feasting on the fat balls at the feeders. With a mottled black head and throat, white collar and a white moustache, this was not quite in full breeding plumage. Some more fawny-brown feather tips need to be worn away on the head before the black colouring is revealed in all its glory. Our first Chaffinch song of the year was also heard in the car park, and a Kestrel was resting in a tree, possibly resting after hunting for prey. On Little Trees Hill we glimpsed a Great Spotted Woodpecker in flight followed soon after by the laughing call of the larger-sized Green Woodpecker.

Two Skylarks were singing well, and more were seen low over the North Down and the winter wheat crop. A bright-yellow male Yellowhammer was perched on a hedge just outside the area. Other highlights were two Song Thrushes singing with their repetitive style near the car park, this setting them apart from Blackbirds and Robins in the way they sing, and two Grey (English) Partridges settled for a while on Colin’s Bank. The grass was short enough to see the orange face and throat which is one way to distinguish them one from Red-legged (French) Partridges. Fieldfares are still in the area and 30 birds descended on Little Trees Hill. We spent some time looking for Stonechats in the Sheep Paddocks – as many as six including four bright males were seen two days before; alas they had moved on. A record count for Magog Down, on passage to the north and west of the Britain. **Mike Foley**

The April walk is regrettably cancelled

Phoenix mean business this summer



STAPLEFORD Phoenix are delighted to confirm that league cricket is returning to the village this summer following an absence of more than a decade.

As well as continuing with the usual friendlies, the village's midweek T20 team based at Stapleford Rec has joined the Cambridge Business House League.

We have played in that competition's knockout competition, the Pye Cup, for the past couple of seasons and enjoyed the experience, ending last summer as beaten finalists.

The logical next step was to have a crack at the league and we will now be debuting in Division 3.

Our playing pool has expanded steadily over the last six years but the door is always open for more new faces.

The fixture list should have games to suit both the competitive club player (who plays Saturday cricket elsewhere) and the happy amateur who just wants a fun game and perhaps a pint or two afterwards.

So, will Jeff Wilson win the player of the year trophy for the third season running? Can anyone top Aidan Swain's run total this summer? There's only one way to find out - and anyone who fancies joining us can drop us a line on staplefordphoenix@gmail.com.

Jon West



Aidan Swain in full flow



Jeff Wilson - player of the year again?

Phoenix 2020 Fixtures

(F = friendly L = league match)

Mon	May 4	St Barnabas (home) F
Mon	May 11	TTP (home) F
Mon	May 18	IPH (away) F
Wed	May 20	Histon (away) L

Wed	May 27	Bluntisham (home) L
Tues	June 2	IPH (home) F
Weds	June 10	Sharks (home) F
Wed	June 17	Waterbeach (away) L
Sun	June 21	Village Weekend
Wed	June 24	RSC (home) L
Wed	July 1	NCI (home) L
Mon	July 6	Sharks (away) F
Wed	July 8	Swaffhams (home) F
Thurs	July 16	BWCC (away) L
Wed	July 22	TTP (away) F
Wed	July 29	Scorchers (home) L

TBA: At least one Pye Cup fixture



A trophy is up for grabs in the inaugural Great Shelford CC Quiz Championship this month.

The fun event is open to anyone who likes a quiz and doubles as a fundraiser for Great Shelford Cricket Club, the sister club of our own Stapleford Phoenix.

It will be held at Great Shelford Memorial Hall on Saturday 18 April and entry is £5pp. There is a bar but if peckish you will need to bring your own food.

Contact Brian Higgins on brian_higgins50@hotmail.com for tickets, or to join the club, which currently has three adult Saturday teams and 14 junior sides for ages from 8-15


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Children star in an opera



MEZZO soprano Ute Lepetit Clare joined up with Stapleford Community Primary School to involve some children in a version of the opera, Hansel and Gretel, which was performed at the Granary.

The children were the gingerbread children and joined in with both singing and dancing. Ute said the children who joined in were 'fantastic', and I know they enjoyed it immensely. It was a privilege once again to have the opportunity for our pupils to work with professional singers. **Christine Spain**

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Engage at Great Shelford Library

Free Talk!

Wednesday 22 April 2015 10.30am - 3.30pm

Spectres of Desire, Tales of the Troubled Dead

Is there a special link between love and death? Writer and academic Catherine Belsey takes a look at ghost stories in fiction

Free talk but tickets required. Available from the library or call 0345 045 5225. Email cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

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Tuesday	12:00 ~ 14:30	17:00 ~ 23:00
Wednesday	12:00 ~ 14:30	17:00 ~ 23:00
Thursday	12:00 ~ 14:30	17:00 ~ 23:00
Friday	12:00 ~ 14:30	17:00 ~ 00:00
Saturday	12:00 ~ 17:00	17:00 ~ 00:00
Sunday	12:00 ~ 17:00	17:00 ~ 22:30

Kitchen Service Times

	Lunchtime	Evening
Monday	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday*	CLOSED	18:00 ~ 2130
Wednesday	12:00 ~ 14:30	18:00 ~ 2130
Thursday	12:00 ~ 14:30	18:00 ~ 2130
Friday	12:00 ~ 14:30	18:00 ~ 2130
Saturday	12:00 ~ 14:30	18:00 ~ 2130
Sunday	12:00 ~ 16:00	CLOSED

Checkout our Facebook page for the latest information including live music & food trucks!

*On Tuesdays we run special events such as Steak Night or food trucks!

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Granta Medical Practices

Coronavirus (Covid-19) update

AT Granta Medical Practices our absolute priority is the safety of our patients and staff. We are reviewing the coronavirus situation daily so we can continue to provide the best possible care for our population.

As a practice we are fortunate in having both multiple sites and a large team of people, including those with experience of managing this sort of situation. This gives us options for delivery of care that are not open to many practices during any epidemic.

The current evidence is that for the vast majority of the population the Covid-19 virus is a relatively mild illness which can be safely managed at home with rest, paracetamol and fluids just like a normal flu-like illness.

However, for those with significant other medical problems and for the elderly it can be more serious. With this in mind we have taken the decision to postpone routine face-to-face GP appointments. Instead we are now offering an enhanced telephone service from a clinician and will only bring into the surgery those where it is essential. Additionally, we are working hard to make sure that those who are housebound will continue to receive their medications.

As a community we can help each other – both by following the advice given and by helping look after those who may need help within our communities. If you are able to volunteer to help out in your immediate area, please email your details to granta.socialnavigator@nhs.net

Up to date information

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england provides up to date information about the national situation and plans. At Granta we will be keeping our website www.grantamedicalpractices.co.uk updated regularly to reflect the local situation and our actions at Granta, along with our social media accounts.

We may also use SMS messaging to mobile phones to communicate any urgent messages. Please let us know if you have changed your mobile number or have one that you haven't yet told us about.

Practical advice

First and foremost is the need to wash your hands on a regular basis – warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. This alone will help slow down the spread of the virus. It will help protect you, your family and our community. Facemasks are of no proven benefit for community use and are currently not recommended.



School Holiday Football Workshops



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School Holiday Tennis Camps

Quiz time

APRIL was to have been a bumper month for the quiz at the Three Horsehoes, which is held every other Thursday from 8.30pm.

This month there will be three quizzes, on 2 April, 16 April and 30 April unless coronavirus forces cancellation. Here's a previous round anyway.

Musical people - supply the person's name from the lyrics from the following songs:

Answers on page 57.

1. Well, my daddy left home when I was three and he didn't leave much to ma and me.
2. She's just a girl who claims that I am the one.
3. I was born in a cross-fire hurricane and I howled at the morning driving rain.
4. I met her in a club down in old Soho where you drink champagne and it tastes just like cherry-cola.
5. It's late September and I really should be back at school. I know I keep you amused, but I feel I'm being used.
6. For here am I sitting in a tin can.
7. Hide it in the hiding place where no one ever goes. Put it in your pantry with your cupcakes.
8. Newspaper taxis appear on the shore waiting to take you away.
9. And Dr. Dre said... Nothing, you idiots! Dr. Dre's dead, he's locked in my basement (ha ha!)
10. Gitchie, gitchie, ya-ya, da-da (hey, hey, hey). Gitchie, gitchie, ya-ya, here (here).



Shelford Support Group



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Down on the farm, part 2

SUSTAINABLE food processes have been at the heart of our farm shop journey as we have naturally endeavoured to support low intensity, small scale producers. However, when it comes to waste, I realise just how much work is still needed to be done and effort made. Every week we recycle over 3,300 cubic litres of cardboard alone, not to mention glass, recyclable plastics and food waste.

We were a relatively early adopter (more than five years ago) of compostable coffee cups in the cafe, but never really told anyone about it. Thankfully the tide has turned and sharing 'green credentials' are an important element of the majority of businesses. The vast majority of our fruit and vegetables are sold without plastic wrapping, but still further improvements must be made. As consumers we have become so used to the benefits of plastic overwrap such as clingfilm, but we're finding that many customers are opting to bring their own containers when purchasing loose products, including meat. Butchery plastic pre-pack trays have been replaced by compostable ones and they've adopted a paper over-wrap, reducing their use of plastic wrapping by over 90%.

A plastic product synonymous with farming is baler twine, used for creating straw bales; something that I warmly remember as a child of the Seventies! A single ball of polypropylene baler twine is typically 10,000ft (approx. 1.9 miles) in length. It is alarming when we've ever disturbed any areas where twine may have become buried, just how little has degraded over 20 or 30 years, often still as bright blue or orange as the day it entered the ground.

On a lighter note, I always remember the tears of laughter rolling down the cheeks of some of dad's Young Farmer friends, as they recalled one of their 'funny' baler twine stories. One summer's day, upon finishing a hard day's work on farm, Hans (one of the ex-prisoner of war farmhands) headed back to Cambridge on his bicycle. Unbeknownst to him, someone had tied one end of the 1.9-mile-long twine to the back of his bike. The other end was firmly tied to one of the farm's telegraph poles. He would have almost made it to the Addenbrooke's Hospital site until the shock of when that twine suddenly pulled tight...

It strikes me just how much waste has itself changed over the decades at the farm. We have often discovered small clusters of porcelain and glass close to the farmhouse, where presumably the small amounts of waste that were created, were simply buried outside.



As recent planning work to improve the junction and entrance to the farm continues, exploratory digging has uncovered some small articles of interest. Over the years we have found numerous buried pieces relating to a bygone age, including parts from the Wellington Bomber that crashed on the farm in WWII, Roman coins, brooches and

even musket shot (presumably for hunting). With the farm being next to the site of a 2,500-year-old Iron Age Fort (next door in Wandlebury) and in close proximity to a Roman Road, I shouldn't be at all surprised with the finds.

Like the majority of us, I hope that we all continue to find a way to exist in a more sustainable way. We cannot let our farming generation be defined by the age of plastic twine. **Charles Bradford (co-owner, The Gog)**

April fun at Wandlebury



HERE'S what's on at Wandlebury in April; for full details including costs and how to book as well as information about events at other locations email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 243830 extension 207

or visit www.cambridgeppf.org/whats-on.

Easter Holiday Bushcraft (5-12 years): Monday 6, Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8, Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 April, 8.30am to 4pm

Outdoor Cinema: Rocket Man: Friday 10 April, 7pm to 11pm

Find Your Wild - Fire and Bracelet Making: Monday 20 April, 5pm to 7pm

Wild Flowers in Spring: Wednesday 22 April, 10am to 12 noon

Pond Dipping for Earth Optimism Day: Saturday 25 April, 2pm to 3.30pm

Find Your Wild - Camp Cooking and Nest Making: Monday 27 April, 5pm to 7pm

May Day Morris Dance: Friday 1 May: 5am to 6am

Little Shelford Bowls Club



BOWLS is a sport that can be played by anyone, whatever their age or level of fitness. Many of the villages around Stapleford have their own bowls clubs; Stapleford doesn't have its own club, but there is one in the neighbouring village of Little Shelford. We are a small and friendly club, and

are always on the look-out for new players. Whether you are an experienced player or a beginner, you are assured of a warm welcome.

We play at the far end of the Wale Recreation Ground on Whittlesford Road, and have matches against other clubs in South Cambridgeshire. We play most of our matches in the evening from the end of April to the beginning of September, also weekly on a Wednesday afternoon.

It is clear that the season may not run as planned, at least for the first couple of months. But if you are interested in playing bowls then do please contact our Secretary Ray Saich on 842737. **John Sherwell**

Little Shelford Local History Society

Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Monday 20 April

AGM at 7.30pm

followed by

a talk by Becky Proctor

'The history of Royal Papworth Hospital'

Cancelled



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CURRENT AVAILABILITY: Monday evenings from 5.50pm to 9.30pm
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Sunday afternoons from 2.00pm to 6.00pm.

For details please contact **Sheila Tilbury-Davis: 01223 844384**

EVENTS & COURSES SELECTION
APRIL - JUNE 2020

CLASSICAL

MIFUNETSUJI TRIO

Sun 26 April | 11.00

ADAM HERON TRIO

Sun 10 May | 11.00

ANNA SZALUCKA

Sun 7 June | 11.00

FOLK & WORLD

TALISK

Thurs 14 May | 19.30

JAZZ

**PHILIP CLOUTS
QUARTET**

Fri 5 April | 19.30

ACOUSTIC TRIANGLE

Fri 12 June | 19.30

OTHER EVENTS

BRANWEN

Fri 29 May | 19.30

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SILVERSMITHING

Wed 22 April - 13 May |
10.30 - 16.30

PIANO CLUB

Wed 22 April | 19.30 -
21.00

DISCOVERING PRINT

Fri 24 April | 9.30 - 12.30

**DH LAWRENCE
STUDY DAY**

Sat 25 April | 14.00 -
17.30

CLARINET CHOIR

Wed 29 April | 18.00 -
19.30

**JEWELLERY TASTER
DAY**

Sat 16 May | 10.30 - 16.30

SILVERSMITHING

Wed 20 May - 10 June |
10.30 - 16.30

**FREEDOM THE
STORYTELLER'S VOICE**

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STAINED GLASS

Wed 3 June | 10.00 -
13.00 or 18.00 - 20.30

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New recruit to the Parish Council

AT the February Parish Council meeting, Paul McPhater was co-opted onto the Council. Here he tells Messenger readers a little about his background.



I WAS born and bred in Glasgow. Having lived in London for many years my partner and I moved from Wandsworth to Stapleford in late 2018. Previously having a career in technology to support financial services , I am now a professional artist focusing primarily on sculpture.

We moved here due to my partner taking up a junior professor role at Cambridge University, working at the bio-medical campus with the aim of seeking cures to childhood brain cancer. Meanwhile I have my own studio

at home and you can look at my work at www.paulmcpmater.com.

The *Messenger* played an important role in stimulating my interest in joining the Council, highlighting both issues and opportunities of interest to the village. I have always felt it important to help if you can and hope that I can perhaps assist in a few areas that might be of benefit to residents of the village. I am keen that the village remains vital for its residents and as such would seek to retain and increase usage of the facilities and commerce that it has. This may reduce the need to travel outside the village as often and increase the opportunities for us to engage socially as fellow villagers. Lastly, I think it important to balance preservation whilst allowing the village to evolve. Careful consideration of this issue is probably one of the biggest responsibilities of the Parish Council.

Puzzle Corner Answers

Wordsearch: roads in Stapleford; Green Hedges.

Anagrams: money, outlaw, sherbet, yourself, lifesaver

Six-letter: hungry, cheese, system, camera, squirt, solemn, thirst, concur, gossip, dreamt, phlegm, pigeon, scheme, learnt

Quiz answers

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Sue. | 6. Major Tom. |
| 2. Billie Jean. | 7. Mrs Robinson. |
| 3. Jumpin' Jack Flash. | 8. Lucy. |
| 4. Lola. | 9. Slim Shady. |
| 5. Maggie May. | 10. Lady Marmalade |

From the Chair of the Parish Council

Co-option

AT our meeting on 12 February we welcomed Paul McPhater as a co-opted Councillor. We now have ten Parish Councillors which still leaves one vacancy. Anyone who cares passionately for our village environment and can commit to active service – please apply!

Babraham Park and Ride Clean Energy Scheme

We had a presentation from Cambridgeshire County Council for the Babraham Park and Ride Clean Energy Scheme involving the installation of solar panels coupled with the construction of an additional 160 new parking spaces. Noting the contribution to sustainable energy and the income generation potential by the selling of the electricity on a commercial basis, the Council would broadly support the principle of this. A planning application is expected soon. (see article on page 35)

S106 capital projects questionnaire

Feedback from the S106 capital projects questionnaire in which 10% of the community participated, was shared. Further analysis based on actual comments clarified the percentages in support of the various initiatives as follows:

- Improvements to the Pavilion: 62.5%.
- All weather sports facility: 74%.
- Slaughterhouse museum archive/ office/storage: 50%.
 - 17% commented that they wanted to sell the building.
 - Comments indicated that 33% sought a museum and 12.5% a Parish Council Office.
- The Tree: 52% - not now an option.
- Sustainable energy systems: 79%.
- Moving the play area: 64%.
- Basil's Piece: 34%.

A small working party will now be formed to develop some initiatives for discussion by the full Council. There would be an opportunity for anyone with a vision for the village with the necessary skills to contribute to this.

The focus will be on sustainability from an environmental perspective, and also financially so that income can be generated so that an extra burden does not fall on the public purse.

Cemetery

A lot of work is being put into the cemetery in preparation for the adjacent land being brought into use. Work is being organised for the

installation of a new access way and the laying out of part of the ground. The cemetery regulations have also been updated along with a revised schedule of fees and are available at staplefordonline.com.

Some safety works will also be undertaken in due course to the existing cemetery by stonemasons Ivett & Reed once relevant families have been contacted.

Recreation Ground

The container to replace the shed has now arrived on the Recreation Field and arrangements are being put in hand to empty the shed which should be safely demolished later in the year.

Litter kits

The Council has taken possession of 20 litter kits from South Cambs District Council which comprise litter pickers, bag hoops, hi viz vests and gloves. A Councillor has already litter picked the village and filled three bags.

Three new trees

Three new trees have been planted on Stapleford recreation ground alongside Haverhill road as part of a sponsored South Cambridgeshire District Council initiative. The three trees are Field Maple, Wild Cherry and Mountain Ash. (See letter on page 12.)

Defibrillator

The Council has updated the defibrillator cabinet at the Pavilion to meet current requirements and has provided a spare defibrillator to Stapleford Primary School where it will be fully accessible to the village.

Commemorative plaque

A commemorative plaque recognising the contribution Robert Heap made to the village, has been placed at the finger signpost near the Johnson Hall.

Cambridge South East Transport Scheme

And finally, jointly with Gt Shelford, we have had meetings with both our MP Anthony Browne and the Mayor of the Combined Authority James Palmer regarding the proposed busway across the Gog Magog downlands. At those meetings we pointed out:

1. The GCP's chosen route cuts through the unique and valuable landscape of the Gog Magog Hills and chalk downlands and impacting biodiversity. The GCP have not provided the evidence for their decision not to consult on the alternative route along the existing Haverhill railway track through the villages.



AA

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2. It compounds congestion in the villages by adding two more level crossings to an already congested road system.

3. It does not serve our villages since the bus stops proposed are remote, a mile walk up the hill into the countryside. The scheme misses the opportunity for significant economic benefit and sustainability to our villages.

4. The scheme lacks ambition as it fails to take into account other planned infrastructure initiatives such as East West Rail and the opportunity to upgrade Shelford Station and make it accessible.

5. The scheme involves loss of greenbelt and creates a new demarcation line for infill development and effectively creates a developer's charter.

Our representations were well received by both our MP and Mayor and we can have some hope that there may be a re-examination of the route criteria by the GCP, with whom we are still seeking a meeting at the time of writing. **Howard Kettel**



From left to right: Cllr Howard Kettel Chair Stapleford Parish Council, Cllr Barbara Kettel Vice Chair Gt Shelford Parish Council, Anthony Browne MP, Malcolm Watson Chair Gt Shelford Parish Council, Cllr Peter Fane South Cambs District Council, Peter Wakefield Vice Chair Railfuture East

Great Shelford Bowls Club



APRIL sees the start of the bowls season with a coffee morning open to everyone on the 18 April starting at 10am in our pavilion to celebrate our Centenary Year. We are hoping that many of our members will be dressed in 1920s attire so that we can have a photo shoot with our sponsor Redmayne Arnold who will unveil their plaque.

Our greens will be open for play from the 24 April. Please arrange to come along and try your hand.

For further information and if you are interested in joining us please contact Alan Edwards, Secretary on 07779 834 311.

From your Parish Council

Report from meeting on 11 March

MINUTES of Parish Council meetings can be viewed at:
staplefordonline.com/stapleford-parish-council.

Parish Council meetings are usually held in the Jubilee Pavilion, Gog Magog Way and start at 7.30pm. Any changes are announced on www.staplefordonline.com/stapleford-parish-council.

The next parish council meeting is on Wednesday 8 April.

Vacancy

The Parish Council has one vacancy. It is keen to receive applications particularly from young people, to ensure there is a mix of diversity, views and opinions. The requirement is to attend the monthly Parish Council meeting which usually take approximately two hours, and get involved in your personal area of expertise which could be the environment, youth, facilities, planning matters, community spirit, or anything else which needs addressing in the parish. The amount of time outside the meeting you invest is up to you. Please do consider being a Councillor and supporting your community.

Section 106

The Parish Council is considering options and schemes – please see the Chairman’s report (page 57).

Cemetery

Headstone safety: The Parish Council has identified some headstones which are unstable. Advice has been received from Ivett & Reed stonemasons that best practice is to lay headstones down and put notices onto headstones, on the entrance gate, and in the public domain, advising families why the headstones have been laid down and advising that headstones and their safety are the responsibility of the family of the deceased.

New web site

The Parish Council is in the process of developing a new web site which will hopefully be online by the end of March. Parish Councillor email addresses should then be available through which parishioners can contact Councillors direct. The email addresses will be published in the next issue of the *Messenger*. Until then please continue to contact the Clerk (staplefordparishclerk@gmail.com) who will forward your email to the appropriate Councillor.

The Pit

The Magog Trust has made application to the Parish Council for ownership of The Pit, which is a site which is already well managed by The Magog Trust. The Parish Council will comply with Charity Commission regulations to enable the transfer to take place.

Planning

The SCDC Planning Portal has been incorporated into the Cambridge City Portal to streamline applications. Unfortunately there has been a problem porting the information across and this is leading to delays on applications. SCDC are working hard to address the problem.

26 Church Street, Stapleford: Single storey rear extension

9A Haverhill Road Stapleford: revised materials to pitched roof areas (from black zinc to natural slate roof covering). Revised cladding to rear box dormer (from black zinc to stained larch cladding). Revised rear box dormer roofing (from black zinc to single-ply membrane). Revised privacy screen to first floor balcony (from obscure glazing to blockwork wall with render finish) and additional rooflight to the front elevation

1 Gog Magog Cottages Haverhill Road Stapleford: Single storey rear extension

As well as planning applications, the Parish Council is considering the South Cambs Local Plan review, the East/West rail proposal, the Babraham Road Park & Ride energy hub, and the proposed busway to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. The Axis Partnership application on Haverhill Road is awaited.

ITEMS OF CONCERN RAISED BY THE PARISHIONERS:

Street cleaning: street cleaning, depending upon severity of the issue, needs to be reported in the first instance to SCDC. If heavy work is required, it needs to be reported to CCC.

Councillors' contact details: this issue is being resolved. The Clerk is the Proper Officer of the Council and all correspondence which requires consideration by the Council must go through the Clerk.

Dog Fouling and dogs off lead: this is a constant problem with a few people failing to pick up. If you see someone, please report them directly to the SCDC Environment Department. Parishioners are pressing the Council to close the recreation areas to dogs so that children can play without getting dog mess on them. Loose dogs have been reported jumping at users of the recreation areas. This is unacceptable. Dogs which are uncontrolled may be reported under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Stapleford Parish Council

COUNCILLORS

Howard Kettel (Chair)
Michael Gatward
Colin Greenhalgh
Barbara Ann Kettel
Mark Lusby
Paul McPhater
Charles Nightingale
David Pepperell
Gillian Pett
Jez Raphael



CLERK

Belinda Irons 07840 668 048
staplefordparishclerk@gmail.com

ASSISTANT CLERK

Kerry Byrne 07545 847 976
staplefordpavilionbookings@gmail.com

CARETAKER

Kevin Diver 842306 or 07419 144 433

All correspondence for Councillors should be directed in the first instance to the Parish Clerk using the contact details given above.

OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The office in Cox's Close Community Rooms is open by prior arrangement only.

SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Peter Fane , 27 London Road, Great Shelford CB22 5DB
peterfane1@live.co.uk 843861 / 07802 256 861

Nick Sample, 7 Vine Close, Stapleford, CB22 5BZ
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