

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

June 2020

Volume 79 No 6

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VE Day under lockdown

pages 29 to 31

Photo: Louise Guron

OUT! Tennis Club served notice by Parish Council p36

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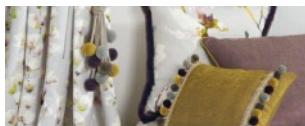
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Who's who at St Andrew's

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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
Zoe Clayton 894656

Children's Ministry
Sue Brown 01954 264246

Director of Music
John Bryden 07803 706847

PCC secretary
Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer
Chris Bow 841982

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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
Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Friends of St Andrew's
Tony Hore 843796

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

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8am BCP Holy Communion
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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

*All house, prayer and Bible study groups are cancelled
until further notice.*

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the
parish priest.

Stapleford MESSENGER

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

I AM angry and I am wondering whether that is OK. Christians are meant to be loving and forgiving aren't they? And isn't anger sinful?

Let me tell you what I am angry about.

I am angry that as a nation we are likely to have the second highest number of deaths in the world from COVID-19 – that is despite our resources, scientists, NHS, and well-organised civil and social services. And it is despite all the warning we had about the potentially devastating effect of the disease from our near neighbours in similarly well-equipped countries like Italy and Spain. The Government had time and information and squandered both.



I am angry that more than 150 healthcare staff and large numbers of carers have died. This is a catastrophic failure. The risk to them was obvious, and so was the need for PPE. We should expect them to be the committed professionals they are. We should not expect them to be so-called 'heroes' with the risk-taking that implies.

The Government's early refusals to take part in European protective equipment and ventilator procurement schemes looks startling. Have they put British exceptionalism before the safety of our people?

I am angry when I see Government ministers who rejected pay rises for NHS staff now applauding them for their work and on the quiet increasing the NHS migrant surcharge to £625 per person from later this year.

I am angry that warnings from 2017 onwards about the unpreparedness of the NHS and the care sector for a pandemic were ignored.

I am angry that staff and residents in care homes have been treated so badly. In February and March patients with either known or suspected COVID were discharged from hospitals to care homes, whilst staff had inadequate protective equipment to maintain safety.

I am angry too that once again the poor, the vulnerable and the minority groups in our society have come off worst. A decade of austerity has taken its toll and ensures that in any disaster they suffer the most.

I am angry that the Government suddenly found the magic money tree which had been said not to exist. Money to house the homeless and provide more funding to local authorities was always available.

And I am angry about the way the exit from lockdown is being managed. Chaotic instructions, disregard of the poor, and lumping blame on anyone other than those with power – all of this is emerging as the likely pattern for the next few months.

And there is more, much more. But most of all I am angry about the lies and half-truths. The death rate is much higher than the official daily figures, and now stands at more than 60,000. It may be more than 70,000 excess deaths from COVID-19 by the time you read this. The Government know this. There were not 100,000 tests a day by the end of April – the number was manifestly lower than that. There was not ‘a protective ring’ around residential care homes in February. And so on. Lies and half-truths from the highest levels of Government.

So, is it OK to be angry about these things?

Christian theologians like to discuss the nature and duties of Governments. Human Government is an expression of God’s common grace, his goodness towards humanity as a whole. That is not to say that all Government is good, since it plainly isn’t. But the institution of Government, when it works properly, is one of the primary means by which God chooses to restrain evil and do good in the world. To take an obvious example, human laws, police forces and judicial systems provide a stay on wrongdoing.

One of the things the Bible leads us to expect Governments to do is to defend those entrusted to their care from harm; not from every conceivable harm, for life is full of unforeseeable danger, but from those harms within its power to defend against. So it is right for Governments to maintain such armed forces as are necessary for defence. And they should put in place enforceable regulations for dangerous industries and activities and for the prevention of harm. It is a Christian duty of Governments to do things as diverse as protecting children and regulating to make factories safe. And the Government should, in our modern era, have taken steps to prepare for and defend against a pandemic.

Moreover, in all areas of its work a Government’s particular concern should be for those who are most at risk – those with little economic muscle, health workers and care staff, the poor, those with disabilities, those in other vulnerable groups and so on.

In this pandemic the present evidence suggests that the Government has failed in its most basic duties. Not only is it OK to be angry, but Christians everywhere should be angry and should call for the most rigorous inquiry.

Every blessing to you all, and may you and yours remain safe, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

IT looks as though we will be allowed to open the church for services in July – we are waiting for government guidance.

In the meantime please check out our YouTube online services. Search for our channel named St Andrew's Church Stapleford. Most weeks we have:

Sunday	10am	Morning worship
Monday	7pm	Concert
Wednesday	4pm	St Andrew's Juniors
Friday	6pm	Songs of Praise or similar

... and more being planned!

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Funeral

14 May: Joyce Potter

Cremation

26 May: Nicholas Smith

BRASS CLEANING ROTA and CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

As the church is currently closed there is no cleaning rota. When the church re-opens a grand cleaning party will be arranged.

Deadline for the JULY Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 15 JUNE**

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or by post to 2 Haverhill Road CB22 5BX

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Tunnels



BEING creative in our new world of lockdown has been a happy release. Tunnels relating to steam engines became an interest. Billowing steam and smoke can be depicted in smudgy grey pastels. Jewel colours make beautiful roaring fires. Poems have helped. Robert Louis

Stevenson's 'From a Railway Carriage' stresses speed and energy. 'Adlestrop' by Edward Thomas looks at an empty station where no one came or left and the platform was bare. Weirdly familiar lately but not usual.

My husband, as a child, rode on the footplate of his Grandfather Sam's steam engine. He saw the fire skilfully, energetically stoked, felt the intense heat and wore the smuts with pride. What would Health and Safety say? The fire box was like viewing the entrance to a tunnel only the end was closed and black. No exit visible. Travelling through tunnels can excite or frighten. Negotiating engine speed and power all important. Signs, lights and signals have to be diligently observed. Caution before speed. Buffers only absorb so much strain. Being stuck in the middle of an enclosed dark space with no way out is anxiety ridden. It seems there are similarities to our present COVID-19 difficulties.

Tunnels can be short; light glimpsed at the end, recognition of a conclusion. Long tunnels particularly twisting need trust and hope. We have to believe in a finish. Steam engines whistled reassuringly from time to time. We hear other sounds, mostly voices offering advice and instruction. Concern needs reassurance. The tunnel ahead is not one we would choose. Directions are hard to follow ... a daunting challenge. Learning strategies are important, adapting through necessity. Life has changed ... normal, familiar has gone.

In sadness and sorrow, remembering the faithful NHS and all who help and guide us, we recognise how much we need one another. How we miss hugs. Smiles and waves have cheered us not least by friendly comforting teddy bears. Our church streamlined services and concerts showing ever increasing technological skills continue to give spiritual sustenance. Virtual garden tours remind us of times past. It will be so good to get back. The rainbow features highly speaking of respect and love. We cling to happiness, optimism, patience and enthusiasm. I quote, 'Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.' A rainbow may arch over a tunnel. In this time of endurance there has been genuine outreach of concern and appreciation for individual needs .. pulling together. Let's hang on to that and look forward confidently.

Judith and Stephen Lee.

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‘Drop the debt. It can’t be met’



IN 1998 as the G8 leaders gathered in Birmingham we joined hands around Birmingham Cathedral and chanted ‘Drop the debt. It can’t be met’. It was the slogan of the Jubilee 2000 campaign to wipe clean the debt of impoverished nations. It was initially led by the

churches and eventually gained huge support from pop stars to prime ministers.

Today it is not just Third World countries that have debt that can’t be met. COVID-19 is creating far greater government debt in our own country. Millions of individuals have ‘maxed’ out their credit cards with new debt just to survive. Those debts can’t be met either. Yet the government is handing out new loans to businesses which will send many bankrupt when the time comes to repay. Somehow the world will need to find and press a ‘Reset Button’.

Jesus gave us a clue in the Lord’s Prayer: ‘Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors’. It was perhaps this that most alarmed both the Jewish and Roman authorities. Mary and Jesus both knew their Bible. According to the Muslim teaching Mary, like David, was brought up in the temple. She knew the law of Moses and her call for justice to the poor in ‘the Magnificat’ is surely a call to obey it. The privileged feared not so much that Jesus would lead an armed uprising, but that his teaching would provoke an unstoppable demand for authorities to declare a Jubilee.

The law of Moses (Leviticus 25:10) commands: “And ye shall declare the fiftieth year holy, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: and it shall be a Jubilee unto you: and you shall return every man to his possession, and ye shall return every man to his family.” No one would have to work to clear their debts to someone else. All debt would be wiped out. And God’s creation would be shared out afresh just as the Holy Land was shared out by Moses. No more ‘National Debt’: no more credit card card, student or mortgage debt. That’s what Jubilee would mean today, a complete reset to our whole financial system!

Politicians are searching for a reset button to take us back to where we were before COVID-19 when some were so poor that they slept on the streets. The biblical reset button suggests something different, something more like proposals from organisations like the New Economics Foundation, Positive Money and Diem25 and St Paul’s Institute. **Bill Powell**

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Women's Institute



THE WI obviously can't meet in reality at present, but the committee has met by Zoom and we send out regular emails to members with news, quiz questions, suggestions for things to do during lockdown, recipes, and so on. We are also running an online raffle and marking members' birthdays. People are busy knitting twiddlemuffs for sufferers of Alzheimer's, trauma teddies, bonding squares for premature babies and their mothers, cannula covers for children, and sewing quilts for premature babies. The book group continues to meet, either by email or Zoom.

We were sad to learn of the death of one of our very long standing members, Mavis Carr, who lived in Priam's Way. Mavis was such a kind person and fully participated in our WI events and in those run by Cambridge Federation. Her cookery and baking skills were unsurpassed and she often entered competitions in the village and at the East of England Show at Peterborough, gaining many compliments and prizes for her craft and cookery skills. Mavis had also been the Secretary of our WI committee at one time. An obituary written by David Carr is on page 11.

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

Johnson Hall – a thank you!

FOR more than a decade Sheila Tilbury-Davis has managed the St Andrew's Johnson Hall helping to keep it in good order and organise bookings. At the end of April Sheila handed over the reins to Gillian Sanders, St Andrew's church administrator (admin@standrewstapleford.org), who will be responsible for bookings once it is possible to open the Hall again. We are very grateful to Sheila for all her hard work. She has kept the Hall as a real community centre, her careful management enabling St Andrew's to offer it as a low cost but well-appointed venue for village events and classes of all sorts. Thank you! **Simon Taylor**

We're waiting for your story!

HAVE you a story to tell or an event to publicise? Or perhaps you have an opinion to share on an issue that is important to you. If so, drop us a line on staplefordmessenger@gmail.com - after all, it's your magazine and we would love to hear from you.

Mothers' Union



THE June meetings have been cancelled, including the Afternoon Tea with Trumpington Branch.

Mary Sumner House is appealing for donations to replace its lost income from hiring out rooms in the House for meetings, events and conventions (a shortfall of £1m). If you'd like to make a donation, you can do so online at: mothersunion.org/urgent-appeal or send an old fashioned cheque to: Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB.

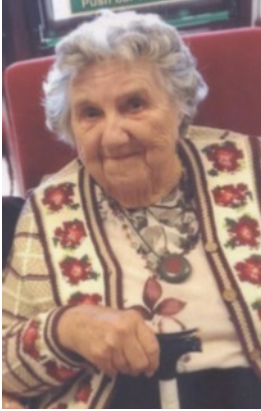
Here are some highlights from the 2019 Annual Report from the Diocesan Mothers' Union, which may be of interest:

- The theme for the year was Listen, Observe, Act – in step with God.
- Four Diocesan Days were held during the year, at one of which the New Bishop of Huntingdon, the Rev Dagmar Winter spoke about her life. We also heard wonderful African singing from the Kigali choir.
- Thursday Prayer once a month continues at Ely Cathedral, Little St Mary's (Cambridge) and All Saints, St Ives, as well as Lady Day services around the Diocese, the annual Wave of Prayer and Mary Sumner Day events in August.
- The campaign of Activism against Gender and Domestic Violence continues to be supported around the Diocese.
- Prison Support also continues with two Relationship Courses held at Littlehey Prison.
- The Away From It All holiday scheme continues with families and children given a holiday in Hunstanton, and the Baby Tents at various country shows around the Diocese. The innovative Wisbech Project continues successfully with a support worker (part of the Changing Market Towns initiative in the Diocese).
- Knitting continues to support hospitals and care homes: 850 hats and 116 blankets were made for newborns as well as twiddle muffs for dementia patients.

There are of course many other MU activities around the Diocese – to find out more, look up: elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union.

Hilary Street

Mavis Carr 1931-2020



MOVING to Stapleford in 1955 with her husband Dennis, Mavis was one of the original residents of Priam's Way (known then as the St Andrew's Estate). Mavis, who was from Yorkshire, quickly entered village life, joining the Women's Institute like many young mums at that time, later becoming Committee Secretary. She also helped run the Chestnut Club (she was Treasurer for a long period) before becoming a member when she reached 60 herself.

Mavis was accomplished at baking and crafts, regularly winning classes at the village fete, and often competing at the East of England Show on behalf of the WI.

An active member of Great Shelford Free Church, she helped run the junior section of the Boys Brigade there for many years. Dennis died in 2013, but her spirit continues through her two sons and grandchildren.

David Carr

Kenneth Hart



Ken in the garden at Poplar Way

IT is with sadness that we report the passing of long time Stapleford resident Kenneth Hart on 13 April at the age of 94.

Ken and Marjorie lived in the village from 1964 until 2006; Ken may be remembered as a regular on the village allotments and a keen member of both the Great Shelford bowls club and the Stapleford Chestnut club.

A celebration of his life will be held at a future date. **Simon Hart**

Nicholas Smith 1972-2020

NICHOLAS Owen Donald Smith, son of Tony Smith and the late Janet Smith of Priam's Way, brother to Charles, brother-in-law to Emma and uncle to Sophie, passed away on the 29 April at home after a long illness. Now at peace and in God's hands, he will be greatly missed by his family, neighbours and friends .

Carol Thomson 1942-2020



CAROL Thomson, who died in February shortly after her 78th birthday, was known to many in the village as the receptionist at the Great Shelford Health Centre, as a performer in Stapleford Umbrella Drama Society productions and as a founder member of the Twinning Association.

She had been a Stapleford resident since 1962 and left husband Paul and daughters Lucy and Sophie. Here we publish extracts from the eulogy read at her funeral by Peter Green.

Carol had a tough start to her life. Her mother died before the end of the Second World War and she (aged four) and brother John (three) were placed in the care of Dr Barnardo's Homes in east London.

Eventually they were placed with foster families in the Cambridge area. Carol's first home was at the Waterbeach railway station, where her foster father was station master. She had a vivid memory of him wearing his top hat, standing to attention and saluting as the Royal Train passed through on its way to Sandringham. As she put it: "straight out of 'Thomas The Tank Engine'".

A year after meeting when they were both 17 Carol and Paul became engaged, and they married in 1962 at the tender age of 20. Later that year they moved to Stapleford, just in time for the worst winter in many years.

Carol went to work for the School Dental Service as a nurse assisting the Orthodontist in remedial treatment for children. The experience of unwilling - and in some cases belligerent - patients served her well in both family and professional life subsequently!

The arrival of Lucy and then Sophie meant her life became more focused on village activities, initially as a member of the PTA at our wonderful primary school. She was immensely proud of their progression from Stapleford to Sawston Village College, Long Road Sixth Form College and on to university.

Expanding horizons included the start of Stapleford's twinning with Villedomer, hosting the first visit of our French friends and every subsequent visit for nearly 30 years, and taking part in the required fund-raising activities, especially running the bank at on casino nights.

She also discovered SUDS, Stapleford's own drama group, and took part in productions from Shakespeare to Sondheim, Pinter to pantomime.

Perhaps her proudest moment was when, with Carol as director, SUDS won the premier award at the 1995 Cambridge Drama Festival after 26 years of trying. The play? Pinter of course.

During her SUDS activities, a fellow thespian who knew of her medical experience asked if she was interested in working at Great Shelford Health Centre. As young Sophie had reached a 'sensible' age she accepted, little knowing she would spend the next 22 years at Ashen Green, retiring in 2010.

Carol did not drive but was often seen, in all weathers, riding her traditional shopping bike (purchased by Paul's mother in 1952) and customised with flashing lights and a personalised number plate.

Her last years were spent restfully at home, tending her garden, reading and pursuing her great love of quizzes and cryptic crosswords.

Ted (George Edward) Boynton 1926 - 2020



Ted on his 93rd birthday

MY Dad was born 29 November 1926 in Scarborough. He met my Mum, Joyce, in 1946 when they both worked for British Oxygen in South London. They married in Kent on 10 September 1949 and my brother Derek was born 15 February 1954.

Dad joined Ciba-Geigy in Duxford on 1 January 1955. My Mum and Derek followed on later that year and they all moved into 25 Priam's Way. I was born on 25 June 1957 and our family was complete.

Dad's next career move was to Spillers in Cambridge in January 1960. Dad loved aviation and had a couple of spells volunteering at Duxford and helped to restore the Vickers Viscount.

My Mum was sadly diagnosed with MS in 1970 and when her condition worsened Dad took early retirement in January 1988 to lovingly care for her. She sadly passed away 19 September 1995.

Dad kept himself busy and took up carpet bowls and line dancing. It was in 2003 whilst line dancing that he met Sue. Sue moved into his home in

2005. They had some fabulous holidays together in New Zealand, Canada and Norway. Their mutual love for aviation led to them both volunteering at Duxford.

My brother Derek sadly passed away aged just 53 in September 2007.

Dad's health gradually deteriorated over the years with dementia but he still had a wonderfully dry sense of humour. He spent many spells in hospital including a five-week stay at the beginning of this year.

He sadly passed away at home on 16 April aged 93.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of Dad's neighbours who came out to show their respects on Wednesday 6 May as he left his home of 65 years for the final time.

It was extremely moving and meant so much to my family and Sue. Thank you. **Jane Morris**

Messenger Fund update

THE *Messenger* Fund, the charity that gives some of the surplus money generated by the magazine each year to good causes in or related to the village, has been dormant for a while because of the coronavirus pandemic.

We have one application in at the moment but would welcome more with a view to things getting back to 'normal' eventually.



Cambridgeshire's Freya West tests out the new net

Previously, the Fund donated £430 towards a batting cage that would help cricketers of all ages but especially the younger ones. That, in conjunction from a £250 award from the Village Hall Estates Fund represented just under 50% of the total cost.

Unfortunately the country-wide restrictions have so far prevented any matches from being played but the batting

cage has been used by families for practice on the Rec, subject to social distancing guidelines of course. For more information on the *Messenger* Fund email staplefordmessenger@gmail.com; for the batting cage it's staplefordphoenix@gmail.com. **Jon West**

From the Editor

AM I the only one who reckons it's time for the birds round here to shut their bloomin' beaks?

Yes, I know our poor feathered friends have spent decades straining to make themselves heard over traffic but it's like they haven't noticed it has stopped. Either that or it's revenge, pure and simple, and I am beginning to suspect the latter.

Every time I go into the garden there's some beady-eyed noise generator there already. The Great Screaming Tit, Red-Backed Shriek, the Yellinghammer: I'm not too sure of the exact names to be honest but they've all decided to give their larynxes a thorough testing.

And don't get me started on the one that simply sits there and goes 'tweet!', loudly and repetitively all day long. Some parrots have mastered our language as well as their own so the least this monosyllabic pest could do is vary the intonation sometimes, surely?

Now I'm no expert on all things avian but I'm pretty sure birds have only two things to say for themselves anyway. Well, the male ones at least.

The first, if females are around, is along the lines of: "Look at me, I'm the best bird around here, I know all there is to know about being a bird and a lot of other birds will tell you that."

(These tend to be orange with ludicrous plumage). The second, to fellow males, I understand is along the lines of: "This is my branch, I saw it first, wanna make something of it? Come on then!" only not as politely...

I was planning to write about how all this time in lockdown was turning me doolally but I couldn't think of any examples so I wrote the above instead.

This is the third edition of the *Messenger* affected by the coronavirus crisis. Or should I say not *that* affected by it. We have managed to go to print on each occasion and last month I combined daily exercise allowances with delivering a few down Mingle Lane and into Great Shelford.

One subscriber, busy with his garden, seemed surprised to see a middle-aged bloke and a teenage girl advancing down his driveway with a bag of



A bird yelling yesterday (and probably today and tomorrow)

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mags but I explained I was filling in for regulars in self-isolation and had roped in younger daughter to help.

“Older daughter,” came the correction, for indeed it was. It took me a few seconds to realise she had addressed herself by her correct *Messenger* editorial title; if I can just get Mrs Editor to start calling herself that then my work here will truly be done.

Enjoy the June edition.

Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Frank Baker, Stapleford

Re: Pharmacies

WE are being encouraged through TV advertising by Pharmacy2U and some local adverts by Pillsorted to have our prescriptions dispensed by them, thereby eliminating the local community pharmacies. I have in mind Boots in Great Shelford, Gregorys in Trumpington and Kays in Wulfstan Way. For those people unable to access a community pharmacy, the dispensing services of these online operations are undoubtedly valuable.

However, in the near future, there may well be a cost in the shape of closure of community pharmacies. Since I retired from managing the Shelford pharmacy, I understand that the NHS dispensing has grown to represent approximately 70% of the turnover of an average community pharmacy. With online operations creaming off a large proportion of that dispensing, many pharmacies will face closure. You may think ‘so what?’ until you need to purchase a ‘pharmacy only’ medicine or some other product which you are unlikely to find in the supermarket. Our online friends will not be of much use to you then.

One other consideration is the relationship between the pharmacist and the patient. It is in my experience a very important one which was made abundantly clear when, after 30 years managing the pharmacy in Woollards Lane, I retired. If the pharmacist on duty is either constantly changing or is only a voice over a phone, such a relationship cannot be established.

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Stapleford School in lockdown.



ON your lockdown walks around the village you may have heard the joyful sound of children in the playground at Stapleford Community Primary School and wondered what was happening there when schools are closed. In a short answer, the school has never fully closed so let me explain.

The Government directed that schools must close at the end of the school day on Friday 20 March. In response, the staff worked very quickly to ensure that every single child received a physical home learning pack to take home that day. Since then during term time, the teachers have continued to upload individual learning packs each Monday, with both the packs and resources being available on Google Classroom and on the school's website.

Meanwhile, the school team have continued to make provision for the children of key workers to enable our communities to function effectively and to provide the support that is necessary for some of our vulnerable children. The school has been open for these children every weekday since 23 March from 8.30am to 6pm including a Bank Holiday.

All pupils who would normally be in school having a free school meal have been allocated vouchers to purchase food. The DfE has created a website for schools to order these vouchers but the system has been fraught with difficulties, the site invariably overloaded so it can only be accessed after waiting many hours sometimes in the middle of the night! However, Mrs Spain has ensured all eligible parents have received some, if not all of the vouchers and has been able to use the school's credit card.

The staff are coping well but missing the children and the routines. I was fortunate to attend a virtual staff meeting and was struck by the dedication and commitment of Mrs Spain and all those working at the school. They have been doing a terrific job in both preparing and commenting on work, encouraging the children with online learning, undertaking online training and of course, helping those attending throughout the lockdown. They clearly miss being with the children and cannot wait to see them again. Whilst across the country there has been terrific support for the NHS and other key workers we should not forget the dedication and tireless work of the teaching profession as exemplified by

Mrs Spain and her staff at SCPS over the past two months. Preparations are now being made for the possibility of a phased return of Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 in June.

The school team have been very grateful and appreciative of the support they have received from Anglian Learning and the Local Authority who have been available daily to assist in whatever way they can.

It has been good to see the school reaching out with a brilliant collage of art work (page 21), which is on display in the entrance to The Royal Papworth Hospital, and a performance by the Stapleford School Rainbow Virtual Orchestra involving children from the Nursery to Year 6. Do take a look: [youtube.com/watch?v=4HWCz260CZY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HWCz260CZY)

The Governors' priority throughout this crisis is to support Mrs Spain and all her staff whilst maintaining their strategic role. Monitoring Head Teacher and staff wellbeing is a key responsibility as well as monitoring continuing education, safeguarding and health and safety. We have had two virtual governors' meetings in this period to share our findings, consider the implications for our budget and plan for the future.

I look forward to the time when everyone can return to school but in the meantime keep healthy and safe. **Paul Izzett, Chair of Governors**

Isolation Support Group

THE cheerful and very willing volunteers of The Support Group continue to meet requests for prescription collection and for small amounts of shopping.

They would also be happy to help out with dog walking and now that the growing season has arrived, with lawn cutting.

Chris from the Three Horseshoes continues to produce more than 20 meals on Thursdays. These are eagerly awaited by the diners who find them tasty and delicious.

We have been in lockdown now since the end of March which is a long time, so don't forget that if you feel like a chat do contact Gillian or Carol who will be happy to talk or to put you in touch with a volunteer. **Carol Davies 843424, Gillian Pett 843278**

Chestnut Club

WE were very sorry we couldn't celebrate our 50th Birthday in April. But look forward to celebrating it in the future when we are able.

Sadly Mavis Carr a staunch member of our club died suddenly on 9 April. A committee member and great baker. We shall miss her.

Stay safe and keep smiling. **Suzanne Watt**

Children help to brighten Papworth

STAFF at Stapleford Community Primary School noticed that South

Cambridgeshire Constabulary were asking for pictures of hearts and rainbows from local children. Teachers worked with the children who were in school to create a variety of pictures and then all walked to the postbox together to post the pictures.



We then received a lovely letter from Superintendent James Sutherland who wrote; "All of your artwork is now part of a large collage which is displayed in the Royal Papworth Hospital and is brightening up those visiting the hospital. I enjoyed putting them all together to make a huge picture and hope you are as pleased as I am. Thank you for keeping safe and cheering up so many people."



We are really proud that our school was able to be part of this project. **Jayne Hore**

Stapleford - Nachingwea Link



THE weekend of 16/17 May was to have been the St Andrew's Stapleford-Nachingwea Link celebration weekend, with the village lunch in the Jubilee Pavilion, preceded by the morning service in Church. Although neither of these could be held as planned, the Service went out via YouTube at

10am on Sunday 17 May. You can find the celebration service on the church YouTube channel - search for St Andrew's Church Stapleford, and look for Morning Worship on 17 May. We will advertise the new date for the Link Lunch.

There is more information about the Link on standrewstapleford.org. Look under the Community tab for the Nachingwea Link. **Trish Maude**



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My journey with the CoVent Ventilator Challenge

WHEN the Government put out the call for the rapid development and manufacture of ventilators to help the NHS cope with the coronavirus pandemic Stapleford's Gary Jepps was one of the first who responded.

Product designer Gary was part of a team from Melbourn-based company TTP that designed and built one from scratch within a matter of days.

In the end it did not go into production but, as Gary explains in this exclusive article for the Messenger, that turned out to be no bad thing.

MY journey started with a text message from a colleague on a Saturday afternoon.

"Have a look at your emails," it read. "Free at 5pm to meet at mine?"

"What's going on?"

"Design challenge from the Government. Mechanical lung ventilator. 4-6 weeks."

"I'll be at yours for 5."

This is exactly what TTP does. Fast technically and scientifically challenging product development. Exactly what I love to do. But to do it in four to six weeks was a massive challenge, especially at a time when the UK has lost most of its manufacturing capabilities and the world was starting to shut down.

Four teams were set up in TTP, each running with a different concept; we needed to cover all options fast.

Luckily, my team had contacts with one of the country's last large-scale manufacturers.

My role was mechanical designer. I have a degree is in Product Design and a background in high-volume consumable products and instruments within the Life Sciences.

The project moved at an outstanding pace. By Monday we had a functioning lab prototype. On Tuesday it was in a box the size of a small suitcase. On Wednesday it was ventilating pigs' lungs.



The TTP team in the rectory running a very late night design review (Gary is on the left)

As all this was unfolding so was the specification. Design challenges kept on emerging first by the hour then literally by the minute.

The TTP concepts were whittled down from four to two then one: my team's.

Pete (who sent the text and was the lead for my team) pulled me to one side. "It's going to need to move even faster and the project is so big it needs a bigger team. You are Design Lead: pick your team."

I was excited, proud and, to be honest, a little scared. It was massive undertaking to source every single component in a few weeks for the units.

We were now all working 15-plus hours a day. TTP brought in breakfast, lunch and dinner and we worked through weekends. Our sole aim was to have a design ready before the UK saw its peak in cases.

The challenges kept coming. I likened it to 'The Sickener' on the 'SAS: Who Dares Wins' show on TV. There was no stop point. And when you thought there was another issue arrived.

At the end of the fourth week we had transferred the design to our chosen manufacturer and I was supporting from Cambridge. Pete called again. "I need you at our partner's premises," he said.

Saturday morning and I packed my bag for Hullavington in Wiltshire. COVID cases were on the up, the country in lockdown yet I had to leave the safety of my home. I threw my bag in the car and turned to Debby, my wife. There were tears in her eyes but she was holding it in for the kids and me.

It was a slightly eerie journey down. Roads were empty, the skies were filled with Red Kites.

Our partner's HQ is an old World War II RAF base. Quite apt really.

My home was a hotel that used to be an old rectory. No staff, just keys on the table as you entered. Pick a room, any room. The WW2 theme came back as we sat each night chatting (now 2m apart); it seemed we were in an Officers' Mess waiting for our call. I stayed there for five nights.

I left when the first unit came off the manufacturing line ready to be sent for formal testing. My job was done, I could support the project from home.

The project still had to get ready for manufacturing the units. Medical regulations needed to be met - and still the number of COVID cases was rising.

The unit passed its first round of testing but then additional features were requested. The TTP team acted fast and updates were resubmitted. Again it passed.

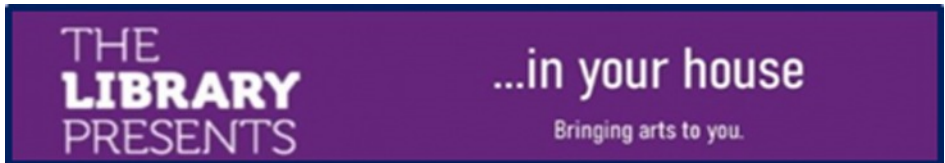
By now production was ready to start. A massive converted hanger was ready and waiting.

Although the number of deaths was horrendous the peak that the units were designed for never came and TTP and their partner company were stood down by the Government.

“You must be gutted, all that effort for nothing,” I’ve often been asked but I’m not. This was the best outcome. I did everything I could, the units were ready. The fact that they were not needed was because of the outstanding work of our NHS staff.

TTP’s partner company remains able to manufacture and the design is there if ever it is needed.

Thankfully, the UK demand for ventilators is not as initially envisaged, and CoVent is not required for the UK market, but the CoVent story does not end here. As the crisis continues, TTP is exploring how to address worldwide interest in CoVent.



GOOD news - Cambridgeshire County Council has recently launched **The Library Presents...in your house**, giving you access to high quality arts performances and workshops free of charge from your home. There’s something for everyone (children and adults) including music, storytelling, poetry, theatre and animation, radio drama, visual arts, magic extravaganzas and arts and craft workshops. Listings are updated weekly and can be found at cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts. The programme is funded by Arts Council England and run in partnership with Babylon ARTS.

June events include:

- The Quarantine Quilt (online and by post)
- Interactive Story Workshops for Families (book free tickets)
- Discover Florence Nightingale through songwriting
- Stories from the Schvitz (three part series)
- Crabby: A Snappy Little Tale of Grumpy Feelings*
- What To Do About Them and Be Not Afeard: A Sensory Telling of Shakespeare’s ‘The Tempest’ *

*for children and those with complex needs



Testing times: the Stapleford brothers trying to contain coronavirus



Ralph and Harry Lamble

TWO brothers from Stapleford are at the forefront of worldwide efforts to contain COVID-19.

Harry and Ralph Lamble have been working all hours in recent weeks on plans to mass produce simple coronavirus tests that would provide diagnoses within 10 minutes and be used at home.

The brothers, who both attended Stapleford Primary School and Sawston Village College, are the founders of the Sense Biodetection company.

Six years ago they created a test for influenza and are now busy adapting it for the coronavirus.

Ralph said: "Everyone's really engaged and people have been doing incredibly long hours to try and push forward this programme."

Many *Messenger* readers saw the pair's efforts featured on both BBC and ITV news bulletins, and in national and local newspapers.



Sense Biodetection's Veros SARS-CoV-2 disposable test

Dad John Lamble told the *Messenger*: "After university they followed separate careers for a while, with Harry gaining experience in the biotech industry and Ralph working on designing medical devices.

"They pooled their expertise and founded Sense Biodetection to create a rapid test for the influenza virus using a simple nasal swab.

"Uniquely, their device is compact, reliable, simple to use and affordable and requires no additional

equipment or laboratory facilities.

"Giving a diagnosis within 10 minutes, it can be used at the point of care in the community and it has reached the stage where scale-up of manufacture has just commenced in collaboration with a specialist American medical device producer.

“It has been relatively straightforward to transfer their technology to detection of coronavirus infection and this offers the possibility of mass testing for COVID-19 within a year.

“In principle, the device could be made as easily available to the public as the well-known pregnancy test which, in appearance, it somewhat resembles.”

The company has two centres: a laboratory at Culham, near Oxford, and a product development unit in St Ives where filming for television was carried out.

At the moment, testing systems in hospitals are equipment-based, with Addenbrooke’s using portable machines called Samba II. These diagnose COVID-19 in around 90 minutes.

Harry Lambie said: “Our test product can allow infected patients to be isolated sooner whilst providing reassurance to uninfected individuals, including healthcare workers, that they can return to work without infecting others.

“Due to its flexibility, speed and accuracy, the test can be deployed for rapid patient triage within hospitals as well as primary care practices, pharmacies and community centres and even distributed for use by individuals in isolation who suspect they may have COVID-19.” **Jon West**



We’re excited to announce that the SUMMER READING CHALLENGE for readers aged 4-11 will still take place this year and this time they can get **SILLY** and have huge fun reading lots of different funny books! The Challenge will be online, running from June to September, with the official launch expected to be on Friday 5 June. Plenty of **FREE** resources, book suggestions and encouragement will be available and we hope that lots of children will join in and keep reading even while schools and libraries are closed.

For details visit The Reading Agency at ow.ly/skcU50zDzWW



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Stapleford remembers VE Day under lockdown



IT had been hoped that the village would mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day with a grand street party but the coronavirus crisis put paid to that, along with so many other events.

But that did not stop many residents from marking the date by putting up bunting and raising a toast or two, while making sure the social distancing regulations imposed by lockdown were observed of course.



The photographs overleaf captured the scenes in a number of our streets and were taken by our roving photographer Louise Miller Guron.

The events in Mingle Lane (left) were covered by Nicki Punshon, who writes: "Mingle Lane residents marked VE Day by sharing the two minute silence and standing on the pavement that connects Stapleford and Shelford.



"In the afternoon many took their afternoon tea and cake while sitting in their front gardens underneath the bunting. Finally at 6pm they raised a glass together (but apart)."

No mingling in Mingle Lane yet then but hopefully that will change sooner rather than later.

Stapleford remembers V




VE Day under lockdown



Photos: Louise Guron

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Memories of VE Day

WE are fortunate that some Messenger readers vividly remember where they were and how they celebrated VE Day 75 years ago and have taken the time to share their memories with us.

First Michael Wood from Mingle Lane treats us to his recollection of the day war ended in Europe, when he was very much a young man in the right place at the right time (apart, perhaps, from the very end).

Then Canon Pam Reed takes us right into the heart of London's East End, where there was both joy and sadness to be shared among her neighbours and family members.



I WAS at boarding school at Felsted, near Dunmow, during the summer of 1945. On the evening of 7 May I was doing 'prep' in my study at the very top of one of the school buildings when a friend charged in shouting "the war's over!" and threw all my books out of the window!

We had a celebration bonfire and were told we could go home for

a break on 8 May. I decided to cycle home to south-west London, which was about 55 miles away so well within range for war-time cycling. A straight-line journey brought me to Trafalgar Square at 3pm so I was there when we heard Winston Churchill's speech over loudspeakers. I then went on my way down Whitehall and saw the great man himself sitting in the



back of an open-topped car and waving his cigar. He must have been on his way from Downing Street to Buckingham Palace to join the Royal Family on the balcony.

I cycled on to home, which was damaged but still standing after a Flying Bomb had struck about 60 yards away, with a great bang, the

previous summer.

My father was a very calm man who served throughout the First World War in the Royal Artillery - he had seen it all before. He welcomed me home, and pointed out that the grass needed cutting. Truly a day to remember! **Michael Wood**

I HAD had my seventh birthday in April 1945 and had just returned from being evacuated to my grandma's in Scotland where we had been living during the war, having been bombed out in early 1940 when I was 18 months old. We returned to London to live with my mother's brother George and sister Daisy. My father, who was in the Navy was killed just before the end of the war when HMS Penelope was sunk in the Mediterranean.



Pam's celebration: her sister, Ina, is on the right hand side of the table by the first table flower arrangement. Pam is obscured by the flowers

The day started quietly, the only noise being from the chinking of milk bottles in the dairy at the end of Tudor Road where we lived in Upton Park, just up the Road from West Ham Football Ground. Families had all gathered round their radios expectantly hoping for better news, and the news turned out to be very good. We soon moved out into the street where we were greeting

everyone with joy and speaking to neighbours of our relief that the war in Europe was over, as announced by Winston Churchill.

As my Dad had recently been killed it was not such an easy time for my Mum with two girls to bring up. Three men called to encourage her to join in the celebrations. Neighbours were preparing a street party for that night and wanted to be sure that Mum and the mother of twins, who had also lost her husband, would be there. True East End style - caring, protecting, and remembering those in not such a good place - being mates.

Everything started to happen. The window opposite came out and so did the piano onto the street, then the stool. The 'joanna' was soon put to use. Flags and bunting appeared and VE signs were painted in dots and dashes and put by the front doors. Everyone dressed up as best they could on war time rationing and recycled curtains. They would sing 'Daisy, Daisy' and dance the Lambeth Walk up and down the street.

A beer barrel appeared on the wall and two large Pearly Queens sat down on the wall in their large hats with ostrich feathers, jackets with pearl

buttons sewn on them. It was a sight to behold. I was invited to sit and chat with them and they offered me a 'slurrup' of their beer. I have never drunk beer since. It put me off for life! Exhausted, we went to sleep in the early hours of the morning. The excitement and drink had kept us going.

Our men were still where they had been serving and those lucky enough would be returning home. In the following days we went to Buckingham Palace to see the King and Queen and the Princesses on the balcony. The lights went on again and Trafalgar Square was lit up with the fountains playing.

But East End folk would have to have a street party for their kids which took time to arrange. It was fancy dress and entertainment for us all. Kids would do their party pieces. There were sausages, sandwiches, jelly and blancmange, and a cake with icing like a Union Jack. We had our pictures taken.

So much fun after all the deprivation and destruction of wartime bombing. It would lift us and carry us through the rebuilding of property and lives. We went to see processions through London streets of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and the women who served and brought our nation through it all; air-raid wardens, firemen, ambulance men and women; the barrage 'b'loons' and gun emplacements that protected us. St Paul's Cathedral had stood out in the middle of London's bomb sites as a sign of indestructible hope for the future returning. **Canon Pam Reed**



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Multi-sport tasking



SPORTS users have formed a working party to liaise with the Parish Council over its plans to regenerate facilities in the village.

The move followed confirmation that the council had decided not to renew the Tennis Club’s lease, effectively making it homeless.

The tennis club had been seeking a 21-year lease from the council, who own the Recreation Ground, so they would be able to seek additional external grant funding for refurbishing a badly-worn playing surface and fixing surrounding netting.

Members had already set up a sink fund to pay around half of the estimated £30,000 cost but that will now not be happening.

The club announced on its Facebook account that it was “feeling drained” and declared: “It’s official: after four years of negotiation, the Club’s Lease will NOT be renewed by the Parish Council. We have no Place to Play.”

The council told the club the reason for the non-renewal was because it intended to “create a multi-use playing area suitable for the playing of various games and made available to the general public and actively managed by the Council”.



Council chairman Howard Kettel said: “We believe the Council now has a vision for the use of the space and is in a position to take this forward.

“Furthermore in a time of active change it is now not realistic to be granting a 20-year lease that crystallises the use of the land for a generation and the Council wishes to actively manage and invest in this facility for the needs of the whole village.”

Members of Shelford and Stapleford Strikers FC, Stapleford Phoenix cricket club and the Tennis Club have joined the working party, and there is room for representatives from other sports.

A multi-use playing area could open the door for the creation of netball or basketball teams, and be used by Stapleford Primary School.

The parish council has around £230,000 in S106 money from the Welch development waiting to be used and a significant chunk of that has been earmarked for sport.

The tennis club committee is to consult members over how best to use the money in its sink fund. **Jon West**

The 2.6 challenge for KMMT



AS many Stapleford residents know, the Karen Morris Memorial Trust funds Karen's Homes from Home for leukaemia patients and their families. During these unprecedented times Karen's home at Addenbrooke's continues to be used by leukaemia patients and by the

Teenage Cancer Trust.

Zac (15), Leo (13) and Ayela (8) sadly never got to meet their Auntie Karen who passed away from leukaemia aged 23. Auntie Karen's memory has lived on in them through the family retelling stories and the amazing work of the Karen Morris Memorial Trust. However the charity is facing a really difficult time right now. The lockdown has had a big impact on small charities and the kids decided it was a good time for them to step up and make a difference.

Each kid decided upon their



own challenge:

On Sunday 26 April, Zac put on 26 layers of clothes and ran 2.6km in the sunshine.

From Sunday 26 April, Leo ran a mile every day for 26 days.

On Sunday 26 April, Ayela managed to hit a table tennis ball 26 times without dropping it (it took 62 attempts to get there).

And Grandma Sylvia Morris started her first sponsored event at 73 by doing a daily circular walk of Haverhill Road and the fields for 26 days.

These challenges were a lot of fun but there is a really serious aspect to this. Quite simply the Karen Morris Memorial Trust needs to receive more funding if they are to continue providing the Home from Homes for leukaemia patients and their families. If you are able to help in any small way the kids will be chuffed to bits and will help the charity to continue its valuable work.

There is still time to sponsor so if you would like to then please visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JeppsKids. **Debby Jepps**

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Must watch: the Parish Council does Zoom!



I'M generally not a fan of live entertainment translated to the flat screen: those "Watch the National Theatre LIVE at your local cinema" events which others seem to love (notably my late mother) leave me feeling at best cold, at worst cheated. If I want to see a live theatre production I want to experience the thrill of breathing the same air as the actors, that sense of tension and excitement in the room – anything could happen!

However, since breathing the same air as others is now a serious public health threat, for the time being we must make do with transmitted, flat screen entertainment only.

And so it is that our Parish Council has embraced the zeitgeist and taken its monthly meetings online using Zoom: anyone can dial in and join the meeting from their own computer.

As a family who have often made the journey to the Pavilion of a Wednesday evening to see the live version of 'Parish Council Meeting', we were intrigued to watch this pilot episode of the new interactive, online format. So eager were we in fact that we dialled in early, and got to enjoy a warm-up act of first-time Zoomers being coached by others already on the call: "Look for the three dots in the corner – that's right – and switch to Gallery View...", "I can't see that option...", "Oh, you're on an iPad, that's different then...", etc etc. Gradually the cast of characters assembled on our screen, many familiar, a few new ones, some with scary amounts of facial hair after seven weeks of lockdown, and all revealing a little of their personalities in the spaces from which they chose to dial in.

Then at 7.15pm the meeting began. It was somewhat confusing to long-time fans that the Annual Parish Meeting – usually an all-evening affair accompanied by a thick wodge of club and society reports and then some presentations – was demoted to a mere half-hour slot at the beginning with only one verbal report from the Chair.

Were all those clubs and societies even invited to contribute this year? Were the Parishioners all notified that it was taking place as usual? Seems to be a missed opportunity so we're hoping the producers will revisit this and schedule a full-length version for a future date.

The abbreviated APM then segued at 7.45pm almost seamlessly into the Parish Council's Meeting for May.

Compared to the live version, we could see the new online format has many advantages. For starters, it is clear who is who, because each name is displayed on their Zoom window. David Pepperell rather charmingly demonstrated the correct protocol for live public meetings by saying his name before he spoke; nobody else did, but with Zoom it's not necessary.

Another advantage is that Zoom forces a discipline around only one person speaking at a time, otherwise it's impossible to hear anyone. Of course, this is also true in the live setting, but it's not always adhered to. Zoom facilitates orderly conduct and effective chairing by necessity.

Another massive advantage to this new online format is accessibility.

It has always been the case that members of the public are entitled to attend all Parish Council meetings, but to do so had entailed being present in the same room, sitting on an uncomfortable chair, and not speaking during their discussions. I've learned to take a cushion to mitigate the chair issue, but that does not resolve the fact that I'm sacrificing my dinner time! Whereas, with the wonders of Zoom as we soon realised, we can now dial in from the comfort of our own home and turn off our video (public are all muted anyway), then follow all the proceedings while cooking, serving up and eating our dinner at the normal time. There may even have been an element of 'shouting at the telly' when we disagreed with what someone said, I couldn't possibly comment on that. Dinner was lovely, accompanied by a glass of wine, and the full council discussion was so much more revealing than any published minutes will ever be.

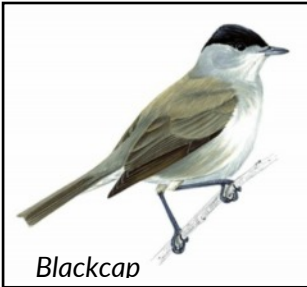
The only disadvantage for us is that it clashed with 'The Repair Shop' on BBC One, but of course that is on iPlayer, so that's OK. Talking of which, it is perfectly possible to record a meeting on Zoom, so these could and should be recorded and posted on the council's new website. Other local councils (e.g. Sawston) have been videoing and publishing theirs for years anyway; a recording of a Zoom meeting where all speakers are clearly labelled and easy to see would be a step change to improving accountability and transparency.

So, all in all, we as a family loved the new format, and very much hope that the success of this pilot episode means the series will get picked up. I'm sure viewing figures will rise rapidly. One day, after the pandemic is over, we do hope to return to an actual theatre – but now we've experienced a Zoom Parish Council meeting, we hope never to have to sit obediently silent in the Pavilion on a Wednesday night ever again.

Miranda, Nick and George: 'Family Robinson-Fyfe'

Stapleford Bird Club

ALTHOUGH club members were still not allowed to meet for our monthly bird walk, in the interests of producing a bird list I used my exercise time to cover the usual route over Magog Down. 2 May was sunny with a light breeze, and a reasonable total of 29 bird species was seen or heard. Some species are thought not to be breeding on site this year – two Mistle Thrushes feeding in the arable fields were probably from ‘over the road’ at Wandlebury, from which the strident song of two males has carried across



Blackcap

clearly for several weeks. Also, although Rooks are usually seen feeding on invertebrates in various fields there is no rookery present (yet). Likewise a Swallow and an early Swift seen hunting for insects over Sheeps Paddocks do not breed here. Altogether, 24 species were encountered which are probably breeding this year. Singing at this time of year denotes breeding territories and Blackcaps topped the bill

with twelve songsters, the fluty song coming from males difficult to see within the foliage of deciduous trees or larger bushes. Robin songsters came second in number, and Wren third. Of all the farmland birds, I am best pleased when I hear the uplifting song of Skylarks over several parts of the Down, but the Corn Bunting's song – like a set of jangling keys – is also



Corn Bunting

special as this species is becoming rarer. It is most often heard on the perimeter path on the Stapleford side, where Linnets and a few Yellowhammers also breed.

On my frequent walks, I rarely see people carrying binoculars, which is a pity in my view as so much can be gained by having a pair at hand – you don't have to be a serious birdwatcher to appreciate birds brought closer into view such as

Red Kites, a regular sight nowadays and with interesting plumage. Jays have a bright plumage best seen with binoculars and even the ‘humble’ Dunnock becomes a much more interesting looking bird to look at. I have a middle-of-the-road pair of 8 by 42 which serves me well; it is good for watching the hares, and can focus down to 2m which allows butterflies and dragonflies to be viewed in all their glory. More on binoculars next time... **Mike Foley**

There will be no Club walk in June.



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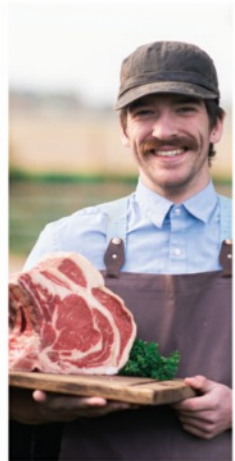
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Find a three-letter word which completes two new words
e.g. add TEN to OF [] SE, forming OFTEN and TENSE

AB [] DO	RA [] ET	SC [] AL	AD [] NT
MI [] LE	AR [] IC	WO [] GO	LU [] GE
LE [] IL	OG [] GE	IN [] TY	FI [] OW

Then pair up the three-letter words to make six-letter words,
using each three-letter word once, e.g. BAR + ROW = BARROW

Insert the Signs

Insert + - x ÷ () signs in between the numbers to make the sums correct

e.g. 6 6 3 = 8 gives $6 + 6 \div 3 = 8$
or 1 2 5 2 = 36 gives $12 \times (5 - 2) = 36$

4 4 5 = 3	5 3 6 7 = 1
4 2 7 = 6	8 7 5 5 = 4
5 6 2 = 9	6 4 2 2 = 9
8 2 8 = 12	3 9 1 7 = 16
6 4 9 = 15	9 3 9 4 = 25
8 4 6 = 18	2 7 4 3 = 36
5 1 6 = 21	4 9 4 2 = 49
9 6 4 = 24	6 4 5 8 = 64
7 4 9 = 27	1 8 5 2 = 81
2 4 7 = 30	6 8 5 2 = 100



Set by Hermes – Answers on page 55

Quiz time

THE coronavirus may have put the every other Thursday quiz at the Three Horseshoes into storage but quizzing has never been so important in the locked down lives of many of us. Indeed, it seems that the only people not involved in online quizzes through Zoom these days are the people who have spent all day on Zoom in the first place and simply can't face any more screen time.



Tom Huddlestone *Tom Hiddleston*

But for those of you who prefer a more leisurely testing here is a round entitled 'Huddlestone or Hiddleston?' and is designed for teams who like their TV and films as much as their sport. Answers on page 59.

1. In 2016 Tom Hiddleston dated which American singer? She is one of three American singers that my team automatically thinks it might be in pub quizzes, and we almost always pick the wrong one.
2. Tom Huddlestone played all 120 minutes of the 2014 FA Cup final. Which team was he playing for, for a point, and which team ended up lifting the trophy, for another point?
3. Tom Hiddleston joined the Marvel Cinematic Universe in 2011 as Loki. But which character did he audition for initially?
4. In 2013 Tom Huddlestone raised £57,000 for Cancer Research by refusing to have what done to him until he had himself done what? Point each. It took more than two years for all this to happen if that helps.
5. Tom Hiddleston played Jonathan Pine in the television adaptation of The Night Manager. But who wrote the book upon which it was based?
6. How many times has Tom Huddlestone played for the England senior team - is it 1, 4, or 14?
7. Tom Hiddleston once played the front leg of an elephant in a school adaptation of E.M Forster's classic novel A Passage to India. But which future Oscar winner was riding the elephant?
8. Tom Huddlestone once bought a £1million luxury home from a former England Test spinner. The cricketer in question took 255 Test wickets and was an Ashes winner too - so who is he?

9. In 2014 Tom Hiddleston played Great Escapo in the eighth movie in a certain film franchise that started in 1979 and was an extension of a TV phenomenon. So, who, collectively, was he acting with?
10. Tom Huddlestone has played for clubs in three Midlands cities - Derby, Nottingham and Wolverhampton. But in which of those cities was the writer Caitlin Moran brought up?

2G3S News



AS we can't meet in reality at present we have had a planning meeting by (you've guessed it) Zoom.

We have managed to screen a full-length film called *The Story of Plastic*, from *The Story of Stuff* stable. The *Story of Stuff* project was set up in 2007 to protest about our consumption culture, with a slogan of 'Better, not More'. '*The Story of Plastic*' is the latest in their

series of award-winning films which often use animation to get their points across in a challenging but accessible way. People applied for free tickets to view the film, and could also then join a Zoom discussion on 18 May.

Sorry this couldn't be advertised in the *Messenger*, but it was in our newsletter and on our Facebook page. If you are very interested in seeing the film yourself, let me know and we may be able to arrange a second screening.

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, send me your email address and I will arrange for you to go on the circulation list.

We continue to put links to various articles on our Facebook page (search for Green Groups in the Shelfords) and our website (2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/) so do have a look if you're looking for some interesting reading.

These include an article in *The Guardian* about planned obsolescence and repair cafes; the Petersberg Climate Dialogue, at which Alok Sharma and Dominic Raab were present; and an article on *The Conversation* website looking at what the world will be like after Coronavirus and Bill Gates' TED talk on pandemics, made in 2015 but very apt now. **Helen Hale**



Plastic waste

Stapleford School 1901



? C. L. LOWSON
MISTRESS

BOARD SCHOOL, BIR LANE
GROUP 2, 1901



CHARLES LOWSON
MASTER

BOARD SCHOOL, BIR LANE
GROUP 1, 1901

? MRS LOWSON
MISTRESS

Stapleford School 1901

THE old photographs opposite were found in the late Alan Bullwinkle's collection of local history material.

We do not have any further information so if any reader can shed any light or provide any details, we'd be pleased to hear and will pass the information on to Stapleford History Society.

Stapleford and the Hearth Money



AFTER the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 Charles II was (as always) short of money. It was proposed that a levy should be made on each hearth or fireplace in all houses worth more than 20 shillings. This was considered easier than charging people as hearths don't move around. The charge was one shilling per hearth to be paid twice a year. Sir Courtney Pole (below) was the MP who pushed this through parliament and he soon became known as Sir Chimney Poll. It was very much disliked especially by the great landlords: Burghley House had 70 hearths. The tax was abolished by William III in 1689 when it was replaced by a window tax and this led to the blocking up of windows which can still be seen in some buildings today.



Antony © National Trust

The Hearth Money was managed by county authorities and in 1662 there were 63 hearths in Stapleford on which the tax was levied. The owners are named but we don't know the position of the houses. William Bailey had the biggest house with five hearths but Edmund Bitton paid the most tax as he occupied two houses with a total of seven hearths. James Banks junior had four hearths while James, his father, had only three hearths. Twenty men and two widows paid tax on a total of 63 hearths.

By 1674, the number of hearths had increased to 79, mostly by the addition of cottages with just one hearth. The 79 hearths were spread over 32 houses and only ten of the people named in 1662 still lived in the village. After 1674 the counties ceased to be responsible for collecting the tax and it became the responsibility of a central government office until 1689. **Keith Dixon**



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Stapleford Strollers

Ashwell: a photo walk

ASHWELL is in Hertfordshire, not too far beyond Royston. In normal times, when we are not locked- down, it is well worth a visit. Often described as the prettiest village in its county, it lives up to its reputation.



The source of the River Rhee

The source of the River Rhee, which runs into the Granta just west of Grantchester, is in Ashwell, at a series of springs. Permeable chalk rock is above the spring line and marl, an impermeable, muddier, clay-like material below it; so the water comes to the surface here. The land was formerly owned by Fordham's brewery in the village, which closed in the 1960s but had made use of the clean, fresh water in the making of the

beer. The land was given to the village when the brewery, latterly owned by Whitbread, closed.



Working water wheel

The old Fordham's Brewery building still exists and is now a rather large residence. It is a characterful if slightly idiosyncratic place to live with a price tag to match because, when it was up for sale not too long ago, no-one was prepared to take it on from the current owners.

Across the road from Fordham's is a house with its own working water wheel.

A little farther along is an inscription on a wall, referring to the widening of the road which had been paid for by The Merchant Tailors (*sic*). To the right is the old Head Teacher's School House: Grade II listed and the former Merchant Taylors' School building behind. It closed in 1947 but had been open since the 17C. Local land was owned by a London merchant who, in

his will left it to the Merchant Taylors for setting up a school if his only son and heir died before he reached the age of 21. The son died one month before his majority, so the school was built instead.



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The lych gate



The village gaol



Ashwell village museum

St Mary's Ashwell is Grade I listed. It mainly dates to the 14C, is made of clunch - a rather soft chalky stone, but it was the best local building material to hand at the time. Current signs warning of the dangers of falling masonry are testament to the nature of clunch.

The lych gate (lych is an Old English word meaning corpse) at the main entrance to the churchyard is a rare example of a double lych gate. It is Grade II listed. Before there were Funeral Directors, shrouded bodies would be left in the shelter of the lych gate overnight prior to burial.

Just across from the church is the Village Museum, opened in 1930. Another Grade II listing, the building dates to the early 16C and was originally a shop. It is open to visitors on Sunday afternoons. Ashwell Cottage Garden is next door.

The thatched wall in Gardiner's Lane is a cob wall. Probably dating to the 18C, but extensively renovated since then, it is built from a mix of clunch, straw, mud, hair, manure and crockery; also Grade II listed.



Thatched wall

Along the street called Hodwell and now in someone's garden, is the old village gaol. Built in 1800 from stone originally used for a chapel at St Mary's church, it was abandoned at the start of the 20C when one Amos Pammenter, who had been locked up for being drunk, simply dug his way out by removing wet earth from under the bars and went home to sleep it off. It housed the village fire engine (a two-wheeled, hand-drawn cart) until 1939. **David Barnes**



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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

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	Lunchtime	Evening
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Wednesday	12:00 ~ 14:30	18:00 ~ 2130
Thursday	12:00 ~ 14:30	18:00 ~ 2130
Friday	12:00 ~ 14:30	18:00 ~ 2130
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Little Shelford Pantomime

USUALLY, at this time of year we would be advertising auditions for Little Shelford Pantomime. Obviously, we cannot hold auditions but hope, by the autumn we may have reached a position where rehearsals can start. To this end, we have collectively decided to take everyone who was in the cast or chorus of *'The Little Mermaid'* last year unless they don't wish to take part or are moving on to sixth form college. We know last year's cast, know their talents and know what they are capable of so this seems a good compromise. We usually take new children (usually from years 5 to 7) into the chorus and would hope to audition these younger ones later in the year and will advertise an audition date when the situation is clearer.

The good news is that our script writer Libby Ahluwalia is keen to start on the script while 'confined to barracks'. She has chosen *'Babes in the wood'* as the pantomime theme although this may include anything! We are in touch with last year's cast but if any younger children know they would like to audition, let me know (coppendales@btinternet.com; 842498) and I, in turn, will let them know the audition date when it is chosen. **Sarah Coppendale**

COVID-19 and visiting Magog Down



AFTER reviewing the Risk Assessment, taking into consideration the Government Guidance of 11 May and making necessary arrangements, the Trustees are pleased to announce that the car park has re-opened.

A cashless payment system via a text message of £3 is in operation for car park payment to those who are not Friends or Members.

Visitors are reminded to maintain social distancing with people not in your household, at 2m (about 6ft) apart throughout a visit to Magog Down.

Please keep dogs under control at all times, especially near other visitors, and on leads where requested. Necessary precautions to prevent viral contamination should be taken when opening and closing gates, and using benches.

Enjoy your visit to Magog Down and do wash your hands on returning home. **The Magog Trust**





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Dove in flight by the dovecote at Dove Cottage taken by Jackie Bow

Puzzle Corner Answers

Centres of Attraction

MAN-AGE, OFF-END, OUT-BID, PER-SON, PUT-RID, STY-LED

Insert the Signs

$4 + 4 - 5 = 3$	$5 - 3 + 6 - 7 = 1$
$42 \div 7 = 6$	$(8 + 7 + 5) \div 5 = 4$
$5 + 6 - 2 = 9$	$6 + 4 - 2 \div 2 = 9$
$8 \div 2 + 8 = 12$	$3 + 91 \div 7 = 16$
$6 \times 4 - 9 = 15$	$9 + 3 + 9 + 4 = 25$
$8 + 4 + 6 = 18$	$27 \times 4 \div 3 = 36$
$5 + 16 = 21$	$(4 + 94) \div 2 = 49$
$96 \div 4 = 24$	$6 \times 4 + 5 \times 8 = 64$
$(7 - 4) \times 9 = 27$	$1 + 8 \times 5 \times 2 = 81$
$2 + 4 \times 7 = 30$	$6 \times 8 + 52 = 100$

From the Chair of the Parish Council

I AM reflecting on our first virtual meeting held on 13 May. Firstly a big thank you to the nine members of the general public who joined us online. A brief Annual Parish Meeting was held (required by law) followed by the Parish Council meeting (COVID-19 legislation having removed the requirement for an Annual Parish Council Meeting). Once lockdown is lifted and we are so permitted, we have the option of holding a normal Annual Parish Meeting. For my report reviewing the events of the last year please go to our website: staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/document-category/reports/.

The Stapleford Parish Council website has just been launched and with



staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

it new email addresses for all Parish Councillors. (Editor's note – these can be found on the last page of the *Messenger*). Thanks go to the Councillors who invested their time in developing this and for support from Staplefordonline. The new website becomes

the first port-of-call for Parish news and events and in hosting supporting documentation.

Reflecting the results of the Public Consultation carried out late last year, at the meeting Councillors decided on two initiatives for S106 capital projects. The first was to initiate preparatory plans to improve and enlarge the Pavilion including a larger kitchen, more toilets, adding a small meeting room, better social space, a storage area, and green initiatives, in order to increase usage and sustainability.

Secondly is the proposal for a multi-use court. The decision, finally, was made not to renew the Tennis Club lease that expired in July 2019 but instead to invest in a multi-use playing area suitable for the playing of various games including tennis, basketball and five-a-side football. This can be made available to the general public and actively managed by the Council. Outside table tennis is also being considered and it is hoped to bring forward proposals quickly with input from others in the village who have offered their assistance. **Howard Kettel**

From your Parish Council

Report from meeting on 13 May

MINUTES and details of Parish Council meetings can be viewed at the Parish Council website: staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 10 June.

COVID-19

The Parish Council was unable to hold a meeting in April as legislation was not in place to hold remote meetings in time to cover the statutory period for publication.

Volunteers

The Parish Council would like to formally extend a vote of thanks to Cllr Gillian Pett and Carol Davies for organising volunteers in the community to help those who are self isolating and vulnerable as this difficult time. Stapleford has been well served by these selfless people. Thank you!

Annual Parish Meeting

The COVID-19 regulations did not provide the opportunity for this meeting to be postponed or cancelled. The Parish Council took the decision to be lawfully compliant and held a short meeting for the Chairman's Report and Public Discussion. The Parish Council has the opportunity to hold a Village Meeting once meetings can be held in public, should there be sufficient interest.

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.

Cemetery

Headstone safety: The Parish Council will lay down headstones where it is unable to identify the family or the stonemason. The Parish Council has instructed a new path to be installed into the new cemetery area so that it is ready for interments.



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Section 106

The Parish Council has decided its priorities will be the installation of a multi-games area to be sited on the existing tennis courts, and upgrading the Jubilee Pavilion – please see the Chairman’s report on page 56.

New web site

Please do visit the new website: staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.
The email addresses are listed on the last page of the magazine.

The Pit

The Magog Trust has made application to the Parish Council for ownership of The Pit, which is already well managed by The Friends of Stapleford Parish Pit. The Charity Commission advice is that the two charities would need to merge. Further information is being obtained by the Magog Trust.

Wildlife habitat

The Parish Council has agreed that the verge along Haverhill Road will only receive safety cuts and will consider how to increase biodiversity along this verge.

Cambridge Great Park

The Parish Council agreed to support this initiative as a counter to creeping and pervasive urbanisation in the Rural Area in and beyond the Greenbelt.

Accounts

The Parish Council audit date has been extended to the 31 July. Public inspection will take place from the 1 September – the dates will be confirmed. The Parish Council will review its financial position across the year.

Planning

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

80 London Road: Permission refused.

Quiz answers

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Taylor Swift (as opposed to Katy Perry or Pink...) | 5. John Le Carré |
| 2. Hull City, Arsenal | 6. 4 |
| 3. Thor | 7. Eddie Redmayne. |
| 4. Having his hair cut, until he had scored a goal | 8. Graeme Swann |
| | 9. The Muppets |
| | 10. Wolverhampton |

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

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