

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

August 2020

Volume 79 No 8

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Farewell to all this?

pages 22 to 26



Photo inspired by Anna Everson

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



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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

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
Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

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

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

Editor

Jon West 521009 or staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

Advertising manager

stapleford.ads@gmail.com

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

THE *Messenger* is in very real danger of not being able to continue. The appeals we have put out over recent months for help in running the magazine have not had sufficient responses to guarantee its future. We have had a handful of very welcome and generous offers of help, but not enough. As matters stand it is touch and go whether the magazine will survive beyond the end of the year. Because of the cycle in which we sell advertising – mostly sold in October for the whole of the following year – we have to make a decision about its future by the end of September. At the moment its demise is on the cards. I suppose the issue is whether that would matter.



There are lots of great things about living in Stapleford. The physical stuff is pretty good: communal facilities for a range of sports, public meeting places at reasonable cost, nice pubs and a corner shop, and pretty countryside, the bright lights of Cambridge, and London and lots of other places of work in easy reach. But more important than that are the people, and all the groups and happenings that come out of those who live and work here. There is a vast range of activities for young and old and all in between. Stapleford punches above its weight in being, well, village-y. And gluing all of that together are our local institutions – an excellent school, church and parish council and, yes, the *Messenger*.

A little bit of background: the *Messenger* started during the last war. It is and always has been owned and run by the church, but it is very much a community magazine. The magazine's contribution has been as noticeboard for what is coming up, reporting what has happened, insights into local controversies, conducting surveys, mobilizing community action, interviews with interesting local characters, obituaries and more. In recent years it has been printed in full colour and has had a terrific range of articles and views. It is the go to place to find out about local events and local traders. Distribution is to about 500 households, so it reaches a very significant proportion of our community. I think Stapleford would be a much poorer place without it.

It also benefits the local community financially. Over recent years the income from advertising and subscriptions has allowed it to turn a modest profit, which has essentially been given away in charitable donations. Last year the church formalized the position and sought to create more local

benefit by creating the *Messenger* Fund, with donations from the magazine's profit available to local good causes as well as national and international charities. The Fund began to function this year and it would be a terrible shame if this venture came to an early end before its impact is really felt.

So, what are the options?

We would very much like to be able to continue in the present format. But to do that we need more volunteers to help with all the different stages of production. The various tasks to be done include writing, of course, but also gathering in the articles and notices by regular contributors, checking them, finding suitable photos, using a software package to set the magazine, liaising with the printers, managing the advertising and getting in the fees, managing subscriptions and more. Guidance and appropriate training will be available. And then there is the collation of bundles of magazines for delivery, and we could do with more deliverers too! A team is very much required, with contributions of all sorts both big and small. Maybe you could do something to help keep this valuable part of our community going?

If we can't do that – perhaps because we can only get a very small team together – then we will look at other options. It may be that a much slimmed down version will be possible for a smaller team to manage, focusing on notices of events coming up rather than the additional articles, reports and pictures, with perhaps a more limited amount of advertising. I am not sure how interesting that would be, but I guess it would be a useful service. We could even go for an old-fashioned lower quality newsletter format printed in-house, or an online only version of some sort. Neither of those appeal much either.

So, here's the request: can you, or someone you know, give a bit of time each month to helping with the *Messenger* starting in December with the preparation of the January 2021 issue? It would be a great community service and much appreciated. If you are interested, then contact me on simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com or 840256 by 15 August.

Every blessing to you all, Simon

Financial difficulties?



Are you in need, hardship or distress? Do you live in Stapleford? Then the Feoffees Charity may be able to help you.

For more information contact: Rev. Simon Taylor at simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com.

St Andrew's Noticeboard

WE are open for a simple service at 10.30am on Sundays.

Numbers are presently limited to 30, so there will be a booking system. If you wish to come, please email Gillian, the Parish Administrator, on admin@standrewstapleford.org or phone 07752 373176. We will adjust capacity and services as we gain experience. Information about any changes or additional services will be on our website at standrewstapleford.org. We will also continue with online services.

The chancel is also open for private prayer.

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 (including Messy Church on
16 August)

Monday 7pm Concert

St Andrew's Juniors is taking a break in August.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Marriage

4 July: Isobel Taylor and Rory Balfour

Funeral

2 July: Rose Humberstone

Deadline for the SEPTEMBER Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 17 AUGUST**

By email to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

or by post to 2 Haverhill Road CB22 5BX

The Messenger reserves the right to edit material. Please include contact postal address with all letters to the Editor.

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Adrift

FEELING aimless, lacking direction, off course - is that you? Adrift without a paddle. Emotions run deep even though we are being gently released from lockdown. Concern and anxiety can overwhelm. Relief makes for euphoria. Developing a new 'normal' takes courage.

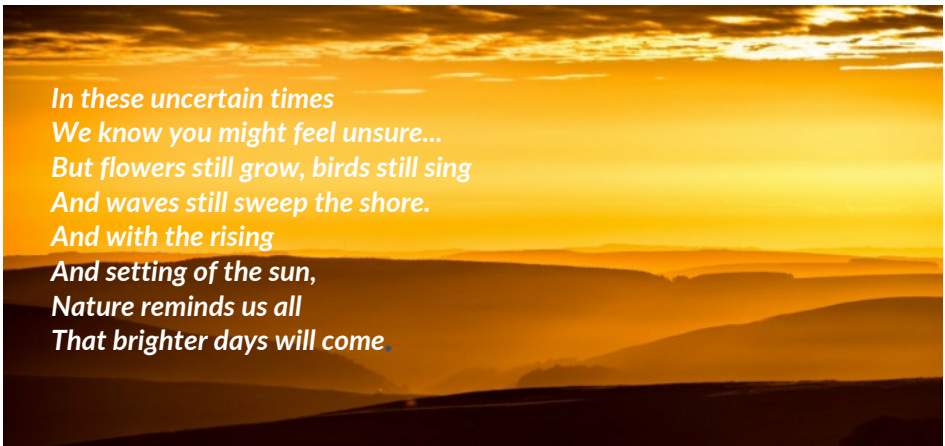
Recently, on the water near the Rec' in Great Shelford, inflatables were being launched. Children wearing life jackets were allocated positions according to size and strength. Oars slid into the dark water; spacing maintained. One group proved highly proficient, another floundered. A small boy in a tiny vessel let enthusiasm win over consideration, instructions being ignored. The boat circled dizzily because the paddles were not positioned properly. A lesson learned.

Years ago, through the Melanesian Mission and the people of the Soloman Islands, we heard this prayer:

*Be the canoe that holds me up on the sea of life;
Be the rudder that keeps me in the straight road;
Be the outrigger that supports me in times of temptation.
Let your Spirit be my sail that carries me through each day.
Keep my body strong so I can paddle steadfastly on in the voyage of life.*

Testing months of endurance have worn patience, motivation and determination thin. Rebuilding together will strengthen confidence helping to achieve buoyancy, 'under sail'.

To conclude, these words from an NT magazine express our sentiments beautifully: hope, trust and belief. Future smiles of delight. **Judith Lee**



*In these uncertain times
We know you might feel unsure...
But flowers still grow, birds still sing
And waves still sweep the shore.
And with the rising
And setting of the sun,
Nature reminds us all
That brighter days will come.*

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Remembering Mary Sumner (1828-1921)



MARY Sumner was the founder of the Mothers' Union and the Church of England celebrates her Feast Day on her birthday, 9 August, when

Branches celebrate her life and work. Her Majesty the Queen continues as our Patron, a role first held by Queen Victoria in 1898.

It all started when Mary, married to George, Rector of the Parish of Old Alresford in Hampshire, was passionate about transforming the home-lives of Parish families, by helping the women to support one another in raising their children. She was so nervous at the first meeting of the parish women,



that she refused to speak, and asked George to take her place. In those days, it was very unusual for a woman to be a public speaker. It went so well that she found the courage to speak at future meetings. Her talks were inspired by her faith – it was practical and down to earth. After groups with women became well established, she was asked to speak to the men of the Parish. She was apprehensive, but agreed, and helped them to be more aware of what their wives did for them, to show respect and love. In 1876, she founded 'the Union of Mothers' – with a

membership card and promise: "to be given up, body and soul, to Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism, and that your duty is to train your children for his service".

In 1885, at a time when it was largely unheard of for women to speak to large audiences, Mary Sumner was invited by the Presiding Bishop to speak to a packed church congress session for women in Portsmouth. He gave her the authority to speak - he felt that he could not speak to a group of women whose prime concern was to get enough food on the table so that the children would not starve. She overcame her nerves again. *"Together, by the Grace of God... we can calm each other when we are afraid; strengthen one another when we are weak; and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength"*. The movement grew further, increasingly with the support of bishops, internationally as well as in England. Some key principles were developed, including:

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- that the prosperity of a nation springs from the family life in its homes;
- that family life is the greatest institution in the world for the formation of children's characters;
- that faith is the foundation of family life;
- that the tone of family life depends on the life of the parents – ultimately example is stronger than precept.

She was a living example of what she preached. From 1900 onwards, she and members started to advocate on issues of key importance to families and children – she campaigned to stop children collecting alcohol from public houses for their families, and for the age of marriage for girls to be raised from 12 to 16. She was not afraid to speak up on difficult issues, despite resistance from members of the establishment. She was also not afraid to act outside the social norms, to do what she believed to be right. At a time when unmarried girls with children were condemned and cast out, she cared for and protected her niece and her illegitimate son.

When she died in August 1921, 4,000 women attended her funeral, which was a service of Thanksgiving. She could not have conceived how the seeds which she planted would grow into a movement four million-strong today, of members in 84 countries putting their faith into action to nurture healthy relationships in families and communities and to fight for social justice. **Hilary Street**

Women's Institute



WE do what we can remotely to keep our members connected. The committee meets via Zoom, and we send out a quiz each week, have a raffle once a month, and some people have circulated their Lockdown Diaries with us – lots of jigsaws, pilates, gardening, and sewing! Our President sends out an email on the day we should be having a meeting. The book club continues to read a book each month, and meets by Zoom.

We do our best, and members do appreciate it, from the feedback we get. It'll keep us going until we can meet in reality. But we are sad that we lost a member recently (obituary - page 17).

All best wishes, and please contact Sallie Dixon if you'd like any more information about the WI, on 843847. Also see staplefordwi.weebly.com.

Helen Hale

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



MANY thanks to all who donated funds in support of gifts to two retired priests, a laptop for Siamini and the provision of baby cots to the Maternity Unit at Nachingwea Hospital. We received these photos to mark the occasion. **Trish Maude**



From left to right; Obed Pwirira (Chair of the Link Committee), Canon Koin (retired), Malawandu (Link Secretary), Siamini (Link Treasurer) and Fr. Buriani



Fr. John Buriani receiving the gift from Link Treasurer Siamini



Dr Mtabho receiving money from Fr. Buriani for the baby cots

From the Editor

LOCKDOWN appears to have brought out the best in Stapleford Parish Council.

Not so long ago, financial worries made it come across as a rather stressed-out collective but those now appear to have eased. Happily so as other issues quickly arose: as councillors battled with their mute buttons as their meetings went online two items began to dominate the agenda: the busway and the MUGA.



This would disappear overnight

Let us deal with the former first. It was back in April 2018 that the *Messenger* first wrote about the Greater Cambridge Partnership's plans to tarmac its way through the fields that surround our village. The proposal sounded so futuristic - the trams are intended to be driverless eventually - that there was an initial sense of 'it'll never happen'.

The parish council didn't exactly snap into action either but that picture changed once Howard Kettel, the chairman, stepped up to co-ordinate resistance. He and his colleagues have been busy representing the village's interests in numerous meetings, some of which are capable of topping the five-hour mark. Potential allies have been lobbied, including our MP, and even an alternative route that would save our green belt land has been

proposed, in meticulous detail.

Yet the views of our village were nonetheless ignored by GCP, a "partnership of councils, business and academia" created as a "local delivery body for a City Deal with central Government".

No doubt a majority of *Messenger* readers received a postcard through their letterboxes urging them to contact three members of the GCP board and duly lodged their objections.

One recipient was Roger Hickford, who explained at the body's own

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online meeting that he wasn't particularly fussed about the fuss as people in favour of projects don't usually write in so they probably existed too.

Let's just digest that one for a moment...

And who exactly is Roger Hickford? I'll do a quick Google search. Ah, he's deputy leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, and GCP's brand new chairman. Hello, what's this? An article with the hashtag #farmgate - looks like the county council fobbed off a real farmer and handed its deputy leader a property it owned in Girton so he could turn it into a doggy day care centre. Apparently the police aren't getting involved but an internal investigation is ongoing. Interesting...

Anyway, the fight is not over. GCP has promised more public consultation and the battle is set to go to a public inquiry anyway so get ready to let Grant Shapps know how you feel if he is still Transport Secretary by the time it comes around. Coun Kettel outlines the state of play so far on pages 22 to 26.

As for the MUGA - the multi-use games area proposed for the Rec - this is already heading towards a happier ending.

The council's decision to take over the courts from Stapleford Tennis Club by denying them the lease they had been seeking for a number of years was an eye-opener but the diligent efforts of Paul McPhater have certainly smoothed any troubled waters.

Under his stewardship, and in conjunction with members of a specially-created Sports Advisory Working Group, the council's plans to revamp the area using the S106 money that has been sitting around for quite some time have moved forwards in double quick time.



How the MUGA would look

£80,000 has been set aside for a surface that will be suitable for tennis, five-a-side football and a new netball club, and one of the three companies who tendered has been selected following a vigorous vetting - and haggling - process that saw Coun McPhater and working group members inspect a similar site in London. The planning

permission process has already started, this time without any outrage. **Jon West**



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Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Ellen Gokkel

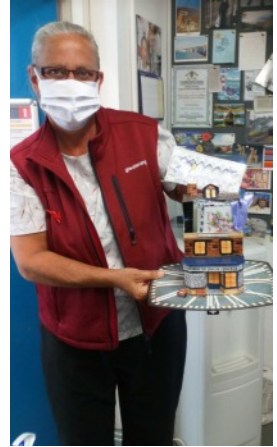
Re: Great Shelford Station Train Manager

OUR fundraising to celebrate 10 years of excellent service by Train Station Manager Angela Milton was a great success!

Not only did we collect £300 but dozens of villagers responded with kind and appreciative messages.

On 22 June at an informal 1:1 lockdown meeting Angela was given the thank you messages and cheque inside a Railway Station tin box (right).

We will organise a thank you party at the station, by summer 2021.



Three Horseshoes open again!



IT'S great to be open again! The past few months have been tough but the support from Stapleford has been brilliant and is much appreciated. We have used the time wisely, not just cooking in the evenings for takeaways.

You will see that our garden has been updated with new tables and outside space for the hot summer days - hopefully. However, we also have a cosy corner with a fire and two comfy leather wingbacks.

It's been tough for everyone but hopefully we can be a light ray of normality for the rest of the year!

Everyone at the Three Horseshoes, looks forward to seeing you all soon. **Chris Diogenous**



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Rosemary Humberstone

1958 - 2020



ANYONE who knew Rose knows that she was one of the warmest and most kind-hearted people you could hope to meet. She was known to many in the village from the WI and from Twinning, from book clubs and art classes and from innumerable social activities. Rose lived in Stapleford since 1983 with her husband Victor and their children Jennifer and Ian.

Rose was (almost) a local girl, being born in Chesterton, Cambridge on 20 May 1958.

She attended first Milton Road Primary School, then Cambridge Grammar School for Girls and Hills Road Sixth Form College before studying Human Biology at the University of Surrey. She met Victor at the youth club at St Andrew's Church, Chesterton whilst she was at Hills Road. They stayed together despite four years separation at different universities and married in 1980, a year after graduating.

Rose subsequently trained as a nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital and was specialising in midwifery when she became pregnant with Jennifer, born in 1984, followed shortly by Ian in 1986. She breathed joy and love into them as they grew up. She loved to make Jenny and Ian smile and laugh – often collapsing with them into fits of uncontrollable giggles.

Rose was always a social animal, helping at the Sunnyside playgroup in Stapleford before and after Jenny and Ian started school. She then returned to work part-time at Addenbrooke's, where she set up and ran the orthopaedics pre-op clinic. As the children grew up Rose became increasingly engaged in Stapleford village life, especially through the W.I. and the Twinning Association, helping at Casino fund-raising nights and hosting families from Villedômer. She loved Village Quiz nights and helping at and competing in the village summer fete.

Rose retired from nursing in 2000 but did not slow down. She had become an expert gardener but as her own garden was a bit limiting she both took up an allotment and trained to become a qualified landscape designer. Latterly, Rose became a visitor receptionist and volunteer gardener at Anglesey Abbey, a ward visitor at Addenbrooke's Hospital and an enthusiastic and skilful painter.

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In recent years Rose also supported her widowed mother, initially in her home in Chesterton and more recently at Orchard House, Sawston. Rose regularly took her mother on outings and short breaks to Blakeney and other spots on the East Anglian coast.

Once granddaughter Evelyn was born in 2018, Rose's love and maternal instincts simply could not be suppressed; so, until the recent lockdown prevented it, she and Victor visited Edinburgh for at least a week every month to see Evie. Rose delighted in little Evie; it is a great sadness that she will not see her grow up.

Above all, Rose was an effervescent force of nature. She had an unflinching ability to see the best in all people at all times, to be kind in her actions, and generous in her deeds. The family miss her deeply. **Victor Humberstone**

Library to re-open



GREAT Shelford Library will re-open for two sessions a week with effect from the week commencing 3 August. Sessions will be from 10am to 2pm on Tuesdays and 2pm to 6pm on Fridays.

However, the initial service will be limited to the return of items (which will then be quarantined), the collection of reservations and one pre-booked 45 minutes

computer session per customer per day. Books can be reserved online or by phone and there will be a new 'Select and Collect' service, where you can suggest the type of books you'd prefer and staff will select available titles for you to collect from the library. Reservation charges are suspended until 31 August. There will be no browsing in the library yet, but we hope to be able to offer a wider service later in the year, subject to health and safety guidelines in place at the time.

For full and up to date details about our re-opening please visit cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call 0345 045 5225. **Rosemary Humby - Librarian**

Stapleford Phoenix return



YOUNG Josh Creed was the breakout star of Stapleford Phoenix's long-awaited return to action.

Our Business House League debut may have been put back a year but we have managed to arrange friendlies with most of the teams we have played against for the last few years.

To prepare, or perhaps check we could remember what to do, we held an in-house friendly for all available Phoenixers, with captain Gareth Everson's XI ending up beating chairman Damon Rainsford's XI by seven wickets on the artificial strip with 10 balls to spare.

Teenager Josh was the reason a close game all of a sudden wasn't, as he smote Nusrat Hamid - arguably the finest bowler to have worn a Phoenix shirt - for two straight sixes before ramping two-time player of the year Jeff Wilson for the winning boundary.

Damon's side batted first and openers Jeff and Dave Garman both crossed the 25-run retirement threshold without much alarm, as did the skipper himself later on.

The fixtures secretary departed for a golden duck but fine strokeplay from Simon Lancaster and Bruce Cairnduff laid the foundations of a total of 137-5, with George Rolls and Venkatesh Reddy both taking two wickets each.



Hopes of defending that were instantly dented by Ralph Minter's imperious knock as the ball suddenly started disappearing over the pavilion and he retired thanks to just five scoring strokes - two sixes, three fours and a single.

That allowed the bowlers to peg back the mere mortals for a while, although Tim Harrison and Val Biswas both posted double-figure scores, and skipper Gareth (above) finished with a six in his retired-not-out knock to set up a tantalising finish.

That began with George nudging, nurdling and downright stealing singles and even more annoying twos before Josh applied the coup de grace with a flourish.

It was a dramatic ending to an enjoyable evening, with the majority repairing to the Three Horseshoes for a socially-distanced pint.

Full scorecard opposite. **Jon West**

Damon's XI

D Garman	retired not out	25
J Wilson	retired not out	25
S Lancaster	c B Swinton b Harrison	18
J West	b Reddy	0
B Cairnduff	c B Swinton b Rolls	16
D Rainsford	retired not out	27
N Robinson	not out	2
F Lee	c & b Rolls	1
N Hamid	c & b Reddy	8
A West	not out	1
Extras		11
Total:	in 20 overs	137-5

S Creed	3-0-13-0
A Swain	3-0-19-0
G Rolls	3-0-11-2
V Reddy	3-0-23-2
J Creed	2-0-12-0
T Harrison	2-0-10-1
R Minter	2-0-15-0
G Everson	2-0-16-0

Gareth's XI

R Minter	retired not out	25
T Harrison	c Garman b A West	14
A Swain	b Wilson	1
V Biswas	b J West	13
G Everson	retired not out	27
G Rolls	retired not out	19
J Creed	not out	25
B Swinton	not out	0
Extras		13
Total	in 18.2 overs	141-3

F Lee	3-0-28-0
N Hamid	3-0-26-0
J Wilson	3.2-0-21-1
A West	3-0-11-1
J West	3-0-17-1
S Lancaster	3-0-29-0



Jeff Wilson



Dave Garman



Ralph Minter

Gareth's XI won by seven wickets

Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) Busway

Report from Chair of Stapleford Parish Council

BY now the GCP's decision to press ahead with their chosen route for the busway will have been widely realised.

The GCP at their board meeting voted in favour of its chosen route for the busway around the edge of the village and across the fields adjacent to the Magog downland and rejected the alternative route proposed by the Parish Council of following the railway alignment through the centre of Great Shelford. The next stage will be an environmental impact assessment, followed by a statutory public enquiry.

Stapleford Parish Council needs to hear from you, whether you want us to fight on by opposing the proposed route and advocating for the alternative. The GCP may be presenting at our next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 12 August – yes, we are meeting in August – and this is the ideal opportunity for all to engage. And if the public supports this, it will need funds to do so, and a crowdfunding page may be started to ensure professional support can be afforded.

Activity over the last month

There has been a great deal of activity over the last month, commencing with the joint publication with Great Shelford Parish Council of a Position Statement on the Stapleford Parish Council website at staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/spc-position-statement-on-cambridge-south-east-transport/.



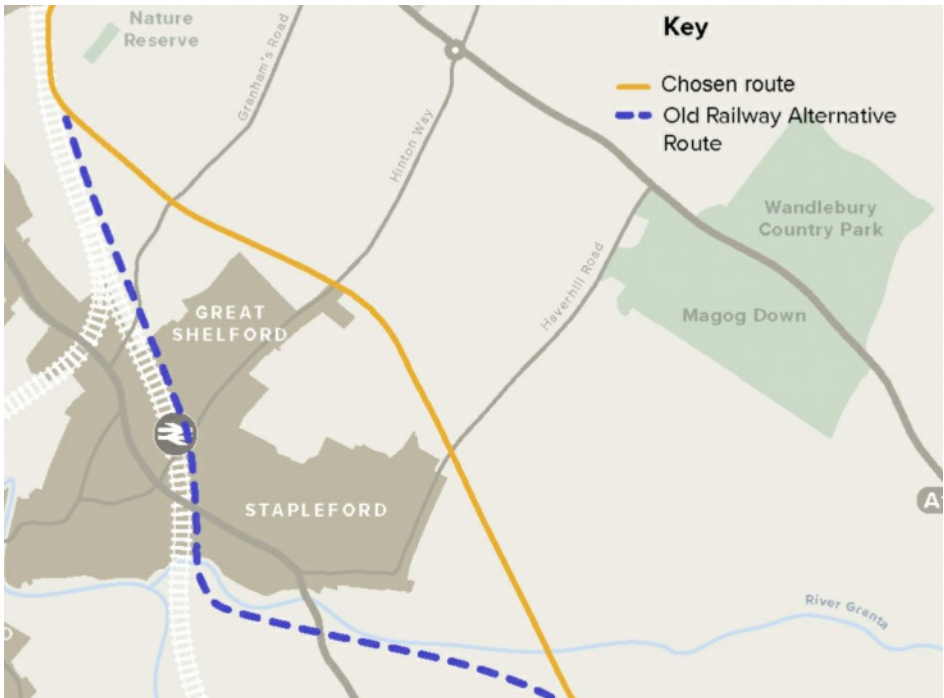
This was circulated widely to all interested parties including Cambridge Past Present and Future who created and hosted an informative web page providing a full description at cambridgeppf.org/south-east-cambridge-busway and also the Magog Trust who mobilised their many supporters.

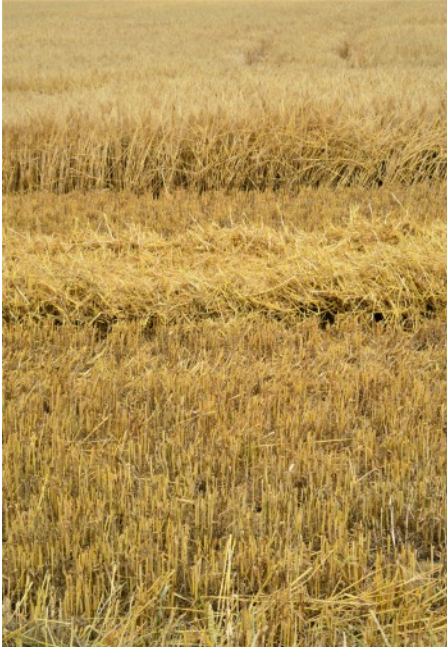
Public Campaign

A public campaign was launched at short notice with the distribution of 3,000 leaflets informing the two villages of the busway proposal and banners were erected where the busway will cross Haverhill Road, Hinton Way and Granham's Road. The campaign (costing Stapleford Parish Council in the order of £100) resulted in, we believe, several hundred emails being dispatched to the three councillors on the GCP Board.

Meeting Councillors

A meeting was held between the two Chairs of Great Shelford and Stapleford Parish Council with Councillor Roger Hickford, Chair of the GCP (and Cambridgeshire County Council's representative on the GCP). A meeting was also held between the Chair of Stapleford Parish Council and District Councillor Peter Fane with Cllr Aidan Van de Weyer (previous Chair of the GCP and representing South Cambridgeshire District Council on the GCP).





Isn't this worth saving?

The major issue is challenging the premise that preserving the countryside, landscape and greenbelt and an environmentally sensitive area was not worth £30 million.

Secondly we outlined the lack of consultation and undemocratic processes that the GCP had conducted, most recently at the GCP Joint Assembly.

That the GCP produced a 60-page report literally days before the Joint Assembly, drew conclusions based on opaque methodology and still failed to engage with our arguments in favour of the railway route, lacked a joined-up strategic transport plan to serve the needs of Cambridgeshire and beyond including Haverhill, and lost an opportunity to add economic benefit to our villages, were some of the

points made in these meetings.

GCP Board Question

At the GCP Executive Board meeting I asked the following question:

“The Mott MacDonald ‘CSET Phase 2 Shelford Railway Alignment: Design Development & Feasibility Assessment’ report (May 2020) confirms that the alternative railway route is technically feasible and, with realistic performance assumptions, performs at least as well as the chosen route.

“The alternative Shelford Railway Alignment would avoid unnecessary damage to the unique, relatively unspoiled and historically important landscape adjacent to the Gog Magog Hills. It would avoid damage to Green Belt lands which are very important to the setting and to nearby communities for recreation and amenity, and are of economic value for farming. The alternative would also bring considerable economic benefits to local communities by connecting them directly into the public transport network.

“Will the GCP pause the scheme and submit the alternative Shelford Railway Alignment to public consultation?”

The answer to this was no.

Public Support

We were overwhelmed by the public support for our campaign with many coming out to help deliver leaflets over the weekend of 20 June, and it is believed that many hundreds of emails were sent to the three



This rural scene would be lost for ever if the busway goes ahead on the chosen route

route with us (as has the Mayor of the Combined Authority). Anthony Browne is on record for highlighting whether the GCP has followed proper and democratic processes and urging that all viable options for CSET be considered.

Further action

Since the GCP meeting there has been an informal consultation with a firm of solicitors who have experience of the GCP and a leading firm of London solicitors specialising in this work has also been approached along with a leading transport and planning consultant.

It is recognised that any progress on this campaign is subject to a robust and independent challenge of the GCP's consultant's conclusions. In addition there is the opportunity to input into the Environmental Assessment for the chosen route; it is ironic that the route that has been chosen is yet to be assessed.

Under the Transport and Works Act there will need to be a public enquiry and again specialist expert witness evidence will be essential to protect our environment.

It is perhaps heartening to note that Councillor Hickford has given his assurance that should further evidence be brought forward, the GCP will be willing to reconsider.

Councillors urging them to reconsider.

There were two pages of articles in the 1 July Cambridge Independent featuring the CSET proposals and the alternative route and also an Opinion column headed 'GCP plan is misguided'.

There has been encouraging support from Anthony Browne MP who has walked the railway

Consideration is being given to a Judicial Review in the High Court challenging the GCP's processes but a decision on this and an application must be lodged within six weeks of the GCP Board meeting. The cost of this is not inconsiderable and thought is being given by various interested



... and this would also vanish from our fields

parties into opportunities for fundraising. It is a generally held view that there is the opportunity to continue to challenge the GCP's technical assessment of the two routes, to input into the environmental impact assessment, and to present evidence at the public enquiry next year.

We are actually hoping that social-media-savvy residents will continue to come forward to press our case and we would really value someone coming forward who can set up a crowdfunding website initiative. Indeed, all offers of support would be very welcome – please contact the Chair in the first instance.

Conclusion

At present there is everything to play for if we are to protect our environment and at the same time add economic value by improving the transport infrastructure in a strategic and logical manner.

Future actions will however require resourcing which will need to be addressed. Without funding there can be no expert witness advice to even mitigate the environmental impact of the GCP's chosen route. **Howard Kettel**

Retirement village draws closer

THE planning application for the retirement village on Haverhill Road (*Messenger*, April 2020) has been submitted and is out for comments.

The deadline date for receipt of comments/objections is **Thursday 6 August**.

To comment go to applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/ and search for planning application 20/02929/OUT.

The Greenway- a sonnet



You pitch your plan for 'Greener Transport';
 is progress not inherent in those words?
 Do snails really need 'improved commutes'?
 Do 'Journey Times' have meaning for a bird?
 And when your floggerel gives way to deeds
 and 'new-wave concrete' scythes through ancient grass,
 will hedgerows, running all-pell-mell to meet
 more hedgerows - 'pause', or die, so trams may pass?
 "Of course!" you say, "We're driving progress – look:
 it's cleaner air, I swear, I see no roads!
 You still think tramline? - it's a 'greenway'! struck
 with tunnels, dug to save endangered toads".
 But 'not endangering' comes first, I say -
 lest weasel words steal all our world away.

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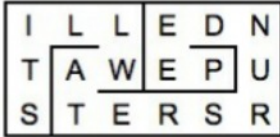


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Puzzle Corner

Bible or Shakespeare?

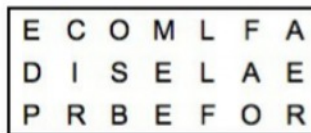
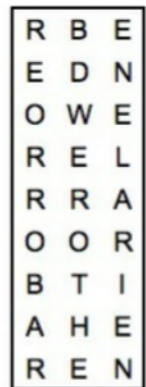
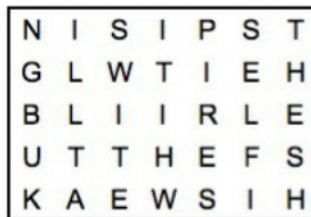
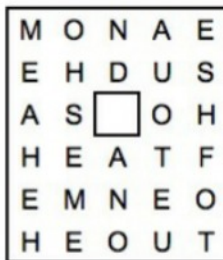
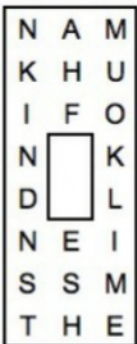
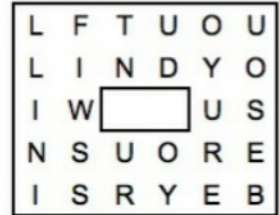
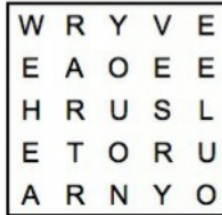
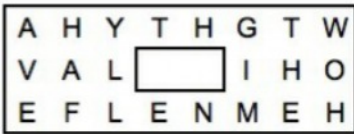
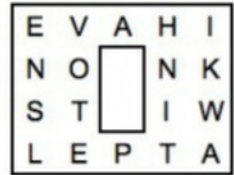
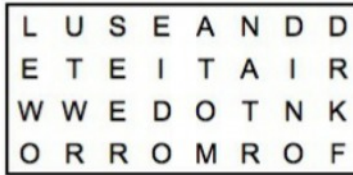
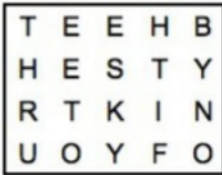
Find well-known phrases in the grids below, by tracking horizontally and vertically around the grid as shown in the example. The phrase starts in one of the four corners. All the letters should be used once.



Answer:

Still waters run deep
(starting bottom left)

Can you say where each phrase comes from – Bible or Shakespeare?



Set by Hermes. Answers on page 41

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Quiz time

THIS month we have a fairly gentle connection round.

Answers on page 47.

1. Which 51-year-old, often seen in Cambridge between 1988 and 1992, became a presenter on Homes Under the Hammer in March 2015?
2. Talking of homes, the useful substance calcium sulfate hemihydrate is better known as what? It can be found in hospitals too.
3. When Shaddup You Face by Joe Dolce was number one in the UK charts in 1981 which song was number two?
4. Which member of the cabbage family has the non-green varieties Ruby Crunch and Red Bull?
5. Who plays Gloria Delgado Pritchett in the US mockumentary sitcom Modern Family?
6. In 1979 which band took a Night Boat to where exactly? Point each.
7. Which English city with a population of 285,000 is almost always referred to by the last word in its name, not the first? The reason dates back to the Civil War, if that helps. Full name please.
8. Terri Nunn, second choice for the role of Princess Leia in Star Wars, is the singer in which band?
9. The members of the band REM met as students at the University of Georgia, which is based in which city?
10. What is the connection?



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Stapleford Strollers: Short Walk 21

Cambridgeshire Views: a short stroll at Kingston

CURRENT restrictions mean the Strollers have been unable to undertake full group walks since early March and it is not certain when these will be resumed. In the interim, routes such as this one, walked by your correspondent over the last few weeks, might help to fill the gap.

To get to start of walk

Come off the M11 at Junction 12. Turn left on the A603 as though going to Wimpole, but turn off right at La Pergola Italian Restaurant (aka The Wheatsheaf) and drive through The Eversdens. Kingston is the next village beyond. Park on the left hand side of the road, where it slopes down, well before the crossroads.

Distance and OS Map

2.4 miles. It should take about an hour. Kingston is on OS Explorer map 209. You can get a free map extract from footpathmaps.com. Note: this OS map extract has a mistake on it! It shows the path leading away from the road, just over half-way round the walk, to be to the right of a small stream. In fact, it's to the left. The route map provided with these notes is correct.

Extra Information

The name Kingston means 'The King's Farm' and, at the time of Domesday Book, it was still in the possession of the crown. The village church dates to the 13C and has some wonderful Medieval wall paintings. The village used to have a regular market and an annual fair. The last pub closed in 1960, as did the village school. The population is just under 250.

Route of walk

Walk back upslope, alongside the road (wide grass strip), and turn right up Cranes Road. A footpath sign shows this is part of the Wimpole Way.

Carry on past the houses and, after passing a metal barrier, a very wide green track stretches ahead to the horizon. However, almost immediately, turn left through a gap in the hedge and walk parallel to the wide green track, on another path, with the hedge-line to the right and a large field to the left. This path offers much better views.

Carry on until the end of the field, turning left after a wide gap through the hedge that marks the field boundary (waymark arrows can be seen at this point if you look right) and walk downslope on a very clear path. At the bottom, go left through a waymarked-signed gap in the hedge and carry on ahead, with a small stream to the right.



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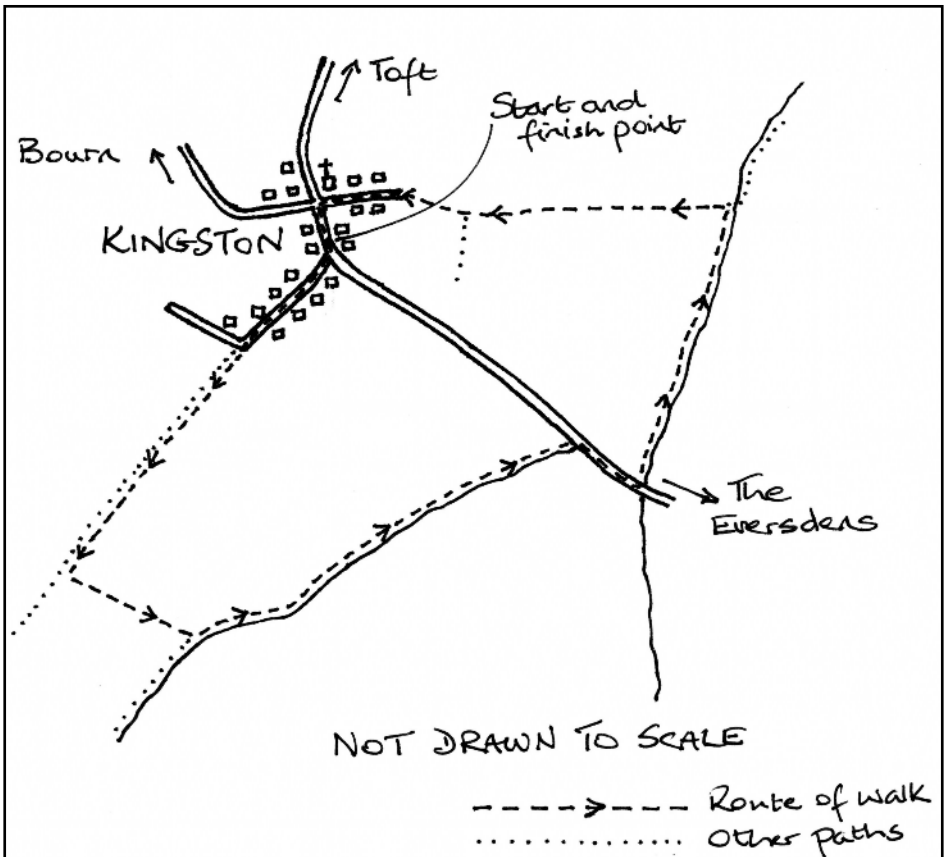


Keep on until, after skirting a metal gate, a road is reached. Turn right and walk for a short distance along the roadside, going left at a footpath sign. Cross a wooden bridge and walk along the right hand side of a field with a stream to the right. Some simple steps take the route into the next field and, at the end of this, go left on a cross path.

This path is wide and grassy for some distance and heads back to Kingston with a very gentle upward slope. Look right, when the first buildings are passed, to get a view of Caldecote church among trees in the distance. Shortly after, the track becomes more solidly surfaced. Pass to the right of a large metal gate across the track and walk on until a crossroads is reached. Turn left here, by the old village pump, and return to your car.

David Barnes

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





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Stapleford and the National Census



THE first national census was in 1801 and the government had several reasons for gaining information about the population. These included knowing how many people could be taxed and how many men were available to join the militia in the event of an invasion by Napoleon. This one and subsequent censuses in 1821 and 1831 were destroyed so the first to survive intact is the census of 1841.

The 1841 census gave Stapleford as a village with a population of 447. Amazingly 132 of these were children aged 10 or under. Married status was not required and place of birth was simply given as a county or large town. Only 59 people were born outside Cambridgeshire and 10 of these were brought into work at Gog Magog House. The village was fairly self-sufficient with blacksmiths, carpenters, wheelwrights, butchers (the Barker family), a baker, tailor, shoemaker and a grocer. Otherwise the male working population was entirely employed in agriculture: nine farmers, 66 farm labourers, four gardeners and three shepherds. Very few under the age of 18 were listed as having any employment. Presumably they were employed in agriculture on a casual basis especially at harvest time which was very labour intensive.

The census of 1851 gives far more information. The population had increased to 506 and considerably more than half the population (312) was born in Stapleford. The vicar, the Rev. Hawes, was born in Jamaica and lived in Stapleford Lodge with his wife and three unmarried daughters. The eldest was 31 and the other two were in their late twenties; it was unusual to leave marriage so late in life. He was wealthy enough to employ four live-in servants. There were 15 married couples where both the husband and wife were born in Stapleford and most married a partner from a village within walking distance. There were 129 children aged 10 or under and many under the age of 12 were classed as scholars but not all. Eleven year old Henry Peaks was a house servant for William Collier, a farmer, and 11 year old William Turner was an agricultural labourer. Seven 10 year-olds were also agricultural labourers.

There were beginning to be more work options and with the coming of the railway four men described themselves as railway workers and another as a signalman. In addition to the tradesmen and shop keepers in the previous census there were two maltster, a drayman, three millers, a victualler and four millwrights. However, most of the men still worked on



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the land and most of the unmarried women worked in various capacities as house servants. Some women had skills: Caroline Parker and Louisa Pitches were both straw bonnet makers, Caroline's sister was a dressmaker and Elizabeth Dicker was a teacher in the National School, now the Johnson Hall.

In 1851 Stapleford was a poor but fairly self-sufficient rural village where most of the population was dependent on farming poor quality land with some more fit for sheep grazing than growing crops. **Keith Dixon**

News from 2G3S



SOME of us visited the Parish Pit for a really interesting guided walk around to find out more about the fauna and flora up there. We saw milkwort growing, and ragwort covered in cinnabar moth caterpillars. Watch out for more Guided Walks next summer.

Some of us also attended the virtual lobby of MPs on 30 June, called 'The Time is Now'. This was organised by the Climate Coalition, which includes groups as diverse as Cafod, RSPB, Christian Aid, the WI, Unicef, the National Trust, Oxfam, and the Woodland Trust. You may remember there was an actual lobby last year in Westminster which a couple of us went to. This year we attended a Zoom meeting with our MP, Anthony Browne, to push points concerning the environment, plastic waste, and particularly at this time – how to recover from COVID-19 in a resilient way to withstand climate change and build a more equal, socially just world – 'building back better'. He answered many questions from the 40+ constituents, and we wait and see if he walks the walk! More information can be found on the Climate Coalition's website. Greenpeace have also worked on recommendations for a green recovery from COVID-19, see their website.

One of our members used Zoom to attend the Cambridge Climate and Sustainability Forum on 13 June, at which several speakers addressed what individuals can do to reduce their carbon footprint and to spread the word; ocean health and plastic waste; sustainability in engineering design; and climate legislation. The talks are available on YouTube, hopefully they still will be when you read this.

The group has also responded to the CAM busway consultation and the experimental/temporary traffic orders in and around the city, and have also signed an open letter to the Government to look at the use of biofuels for electricity generation. These are often unsustainable, e.g. cutting down



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If you haven't visited us yet we are a family run Free House in the heart of Stapleford Village.

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Monday	CLOSED	17:00 ~ 23:00
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
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Sunday	12:00 ~ 16:00	CLOSED

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If you are interested in green matters and the environment, consider signing up for our newsletter. Send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.com.

Helen Hale

Book your trip to the tip

DID you know that you now may have to book a time slot at a recycling centre in Cambridgeshire?

A booking system has been introduced to help reduce traffic queues and waiting times to enter sites. Residents will need to book a time slot if they are visiting:

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- any site in a vehicle that requires an e-permit.

For more information and to book a slot, please visit:

cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres.

If you do not have web access you can call 0345 045 5207.

Puzzle Corner answers

Bible or Shakespeare?

By the skin of your teeth (Bible: Job 19:20)

Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die (Bible: Isaiah 22:13 and 1 Corinthians 15:32)

I have not slept a wink (Shakespeare: Cymbeline, Act 3, Scene 4)

How the mighty have fallen (Bible: 2 Samuel 1:19)

Wear your heart on your sleeve (Shakespeare: Othello, Act 1, Scene 1)

Be sure your sins will find you out (Bible: Numbers 32:23)

The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak (Bible: Matthew 26:41)

Salad days (Shakespeare: Antony and Cleopatra, Act 1, Scene 5)

Neither a borrower or a lender be (Shakespeare: Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 3)

The milk of human kindness (Shakespeare: Macbeth, Act 1, Scene 5)

He has eaten me out of house and home (Shakespeare: Henry IV, Part 2, Act 2, Scene 1)

Pride comes before a fall (Bible: Proverbs 16:18)



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Stapleford Bird Club

ANOTHER month has passed by and as the leader of the club I still have strong reservations about opening up the walk to up to six people (as is allowed under the current COVID-19 rules). Perhaps next month we can start walking together again . I walked along the usual route early morning on 13 July, and I was pleased to find small birds flitting about and unlike last month, perching on open branch tips to give me time to identify them.

The car park bushes and hedges warranted attention and this was rewarded with the first Garden Warbler of the year. Despite its name it is not a bird of suburban gardens, preferring glades or edges of woodland. We do not think it bred here this year. Another warbler seen that also



overwinters in Africa was the Lesser Whitethroat (left), distinctly different in both plumage and song from its cousin, the Common Whitethroat. Juvenile birds were displaying poor hiding skills by perching for long periods in the open. Luckily, Sparrowhawks tend not to hunt around the Down too often.

Some juvenile Robins showed both

spotting and reddening of the breast which made them look odd. Young Goldfinches were here and there – missing the bright black and white head and red face of their parents. Just a few species were singing. A few Wrens were still singing a partial song, Blackcaps sang in Memorial Wood, and Chiffchaffs sang in four woodland strips. Only a few Woodpigeons were singing – a five note song which distinguishes them from the Collared Dove which has a three-note song and is rare on the Down. Whitethroats made half-hearted efforts to sing while fluttering above their nest sites in the south western hedge row, where a Corn Bunting sang from a perching tree,

a bright male Yellowhammer skulked and Linnets flew around their breeding territories. In Feoffee's Field two more Corn Bunting chased each other.



I was amazed at the diversity of flowers on Colin's Bank. Perhaps because I was on my own I paid more attention to them than usual but I was impressed by the attractiveness of the Lady's Bedstraw, the tall yellow flowered Verbascum (left), Spiny Restharrow (with its pink, pea like flowers) and others that have been flowering for some time. **Mike Foley**



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Do not hesitate to contact us if you feel unwell – we are here to help. You can contact us by telephone on 0300 234 5555, or via our non-urgent email address, capccg.covid19.gmp@nhs.net. These services are available 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. When emailing please remember to include your full name and date of birth.

Access to any Granta site continues to be by invitation only, following a prior telephone assessment and only when the clinician feels that it is essential to see you in person. You will be asked to wear, and will be provided with, a mask when entering any of our buildings.

'Flu vaccinations

We are planning our 2020 flu clinics. In the face of coronavirus it is more important than ever to have your flu vaccination if you are eligible.

A flu jab done at your GP surgery is quick and convenient - you are given a time slot so you can arrange your day, and your medical records are available to the nurses/doctors which means no form filling for you.

We will publicise the flu clinic dates as soon as they are confirmed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging times. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sandra East, sandra.east@nhs.net

Natural Cambridgeshire Survey



NATURAL Cambridgeshire is running a survey to find out the role of nature in supporting people through lockdown and how people's attitudes to nature and green open space have been affected by lockdown.

The survey can be found at:
naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk/news/valuing-nature-and-open-space-survey/.

Do take a few minutes to complete this survey - your views will help.
Richard Astle, Chair, Natural Cambridgeshire

From your Parish Council

Report from meeting on 8 July

MINUTES of Parish Council meetings can be viewed at:
staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 12 August. Access details are on the website.

Busway

The GCP voted in favour of its chosen route for the busway over the countryside and did not consider the alternative route proposed by the Parish Council of a Light Rail transport route along the railway alignment through the centre of Great Shelford. The next stage will be an environmental impact assessment, followed by a statutory public enquiry.

Stapleford Parish Council needs you to make comment and state whether you want to the Parish Council to fight on, or stop opposition to the proposed route across the Magog downs. If the public want the Parish Council to oppose, it will need funds to do so, and a crowdfunding page may be started to ensure professional support can be afforded.

See also article by the Chair of the Council on pages 22 to 26.

Vacancies

The Parish Council offered a vote of thanks to Mark Lusby for his hard work and dedication to the Parish Council during his time as a Councillor. Mark undertook many jobs including inspecting the defibrillator, litter picking, meeting contractors and parishioners especially over highways and environmental issues. He will be missed!

The Parish Council has two vacancies. It is important that all sectors of the community are represented. If you have not previously considered being a Councillor, please do speak with a Councillor or the Clerk for more information on the role of a Councillor, and how you can help your community. We particularly want applications from people interested in progressing environmental projects and pursuing highways issues.

Cemetery

Wobbly headstones: the Parish Council would remind families of the deceased that they have responsibility for ensuring the headstones and graves are in a safe condition. Some graves have wobbly headstones which need refixing. The Parish Council would ask that you contact the Assistant Clerk to check if one of your relative's headstones has become loose, or whether there are other faults identified.

Section 106

Cllr McPhater gave another very informative presentation and provided recommendation to use Firm C. The Parish Council agreed that Cllr McPhater will move to the third contractual phase to include a booking system and also liaise with local sporting groups including the Tennis Club over use. Cllr McPhater would like to hear from you if you run or are a member of a group which may benefit from using the new MUGA. The Parish Council gave a vote of thanks to Cllr McPhater for his hard work on this project.

Parish Council accounts open for public inspection from the 13 July to the 21 August

Please contact the Clerk for an opportunity to inspect the accounts.

Zero Carbon Community Grant

South Cambs District Council has a £15,000 grant for cycling, energy efficiency and tree planting projects open to the Parish Council and community groups. If you have a project in mind, please do contact the Parish Council as we may be able to work together on a scheme.

New web site

Please do visit the new website staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Planning

CCC/20/033/FUL: Junction of A1307 Babraham Road with Haverhill Road/and the access to Gog Farm Shop: application withdrawn.

S/3562/19/FL: Appeal APP/W0530/D/20/3250109

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Items of concern raised by the parishioners:

Busway

Those who attended the meeting pressed the Parish Council to continue to fight against the GCP and the proposed route.

Quiz answers

1. Dion Dublin
2. Plaster of Paris
3. Vienna (by Ultravox)
4. Brussel Sprout
5. Sofia Vergara
6. Madness, Cairo.
7. Kingston-upon-Hull
8. Berlin
9. Athens
10. Capital cities

Stapleford Parish Council

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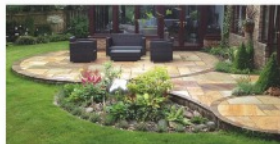
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