

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

October 2020

Volume 79 No 10

Price 60p

Stapleford has its say on the proposed retirement village and it's...

**NO
THANKS**

See page 39

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



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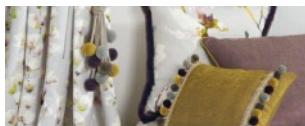
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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish priest
Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate
Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

Churchwardens
Mary Cooper 842127
Alastair MacGregor
07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer
Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

Parish Administrator
Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Youthworker
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

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

THE rule of six is in! Well, nearly. At the time I am writing it is not quite in force (the Sunday before the Monday), nor has the actual law been published, but that is par for the course in this pandemic. Government by press announcement is the new and unsatisfactory way, with very late publication of the relevant law.



Anyway the press reports indicate that the rule will be that we cannot meet in groups of more than six from different households, including children, whether indoors or out. And the guidance on top of the rule is that even permitted meetings should be under Covid-sensible circumstances: sanitize, maintain distance, ventilate, wear masks indoors and so on. Shares in hand sanitizer firms continue to be a safe bet, at least until there is a vaccine.

After what we have all been through this is disheartening to say the least. It looks as though emerging from the pandemic is going to be a long process, certainly much longer than I anticipated when in March we optimistically shut down in-person church activities 'until the end of April', though we did say we might have to extend the period. Now, six months on, the end of restrictions is nowhere in sight.

Dismal, but let me offer you a ray of hope. There *are* things we can still do. Some group activities are still permitted. If you want to use the Johnson Hall or church for a group, get in touch and if it's legal we will do our best to accommodate it. Playgroups and youth groups will be allowed, with restrictions – I don't have the details yet. Jury service might still make a nice outing. Oh, and political protests are permitted, which might come in handy.

Best of all, though, is that you can still come to church. Not only that, but you would be welcome. So, give it a try – the services coming up are on our website at www.standrewstapleford.org. And, if you need any persuading, here are ten good reasons to be in church:

1. Hope rather than worry. Come and hear the good news of God who loves you as you are.
2. Think for yourself rather than follow the crowd. We don't tell people what to think – but we do help you discover Jesus, and the truth, peace and courage he gives.
3. Rest not rushing about. Church is a place of calm in which to discover the presence of God.

4. Come to refuel. Do you sometimes run on empty? Church is the place for you.
5. Valued as you. Bring your quirks and foibles here. You will be loved and accepted as you are.
6. Community not loneliness. A place of unity and friendship in a divided society.
7. Togetherness not egotism. Working, living and learning together.
8. Forgiveness not condemnation. Not a judgey place, but a place in which we who have ourselves failed and been forgiven share the grace and love of God with all.
9. A place from which to serve. The point is not just to belong, but to go out and serve others – from the security of a home base with others who will support you.
10. The best is yet to come. Life is sometimes hard and sometimes great, but whichever it is for you right now there is so much more to look forward to for those who follow Christ.

So what might tickle your fancy? On 4 October we will do our best to celebrate Harvest Festival, with both church indoors and All-Age Forest Church outdoors in the churchyard. On 11 October we celebrate our church partnership with the Children's Society who do so much to alleviate the suffering of deprived children and young people across the country and to bring the issues they face into the political limelight. The Bishop of Ely is coming down for that one. We also have an early traditional Book of Common Prayer service at 9am – all the others are at 10.30am. On 18 October we are back with two services, indoors and out (Messy Forest Church!), and then on 25 October as well as the morning service we have our informal Connect service at 4.30pm.

Hope to see you soon.

Every blessing to you all, Simon



Looking for a local venue?

The Johnson Hall, next to St Andrew's Church, is an ideal venue for small groups and children's parties. The Hall is **available for hire** for one-off events and regular bookings.

For details please contact **Gillian Sanders:**

Tel: 07752 373 176 **Email:** admin@standrewstapleford.org

St Andrew's Noticeboard

4 OCT	10.30am 10.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL All Age FOREST CHURCH <i>Both of these will be communion services</i>
11 OCT	9am 10.30am	HOLY COMMUNION <i>Traditional service from the Book of Common Prayer</i> CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CELEBRATION SERVICE <i>With the Bishop of Ely</i>
18 OCT	10.30am 10.30am	MORNING WORSHIP All Age MESSY FOREST CHURCH
25 OCT	10.30am 4.30pm	MORNING WORSHIP CONNECT

FOREST Church takes place in the churchyard. All other services are in the church itself.

To book your place for any service, please email Gillian, the Parish Administrator, on admin@standrewstapleford.org or phone 07752 373176.

Information about any changes or additional services will be on our website at www.standrewstapleford.org.

We intend to broadcast all the services in church live – check out our St Andrew's Stapleford YouTube channel.

The chancel is open for private prayer.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptism

20 September: Hildie Platter

The Children's Society Box Collection



THANK you for being so patient. Happily I have heard we can collect your boxes again in October.

Please bring them in a bag to the Morning Service on either 4 October or to the special Children's Society Service on 11 October.

Alternatively, phone me on 847606 and I will collect. I do hope we will have a bumper total to support the Society with its valuable work during these difficult times. **Janet Johnson**

Mothers' Union



THE Rev Canon Pam Reed has been presented with a Long Service certificate to mark her 62 years of membership of the Mothers' Union, and we wish her hearty congratulations! (See article on page 13)

Members, please note that we have decided to cancel all Stapleford Branch MU meetings until the New Year. **Hilary Street**

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



THE St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee has benefitted from Zoom meetings during lockdown and has taken advantage of the opportunity to take stock and to review our activities since the beginning of the Link in 1981. We greatly appreciate all the support received which has enabled us to complete the projects reported in the *Messenger*. We are also pleased to share with you the news from our friends in Nachingwea, that they have not been affected by coronavirus.

In our committee we have discussed ways to plan and to strengthen our partnership as we look forward to future developments.

An immediate matter arising locally is that, with the current coronavirus restrictions, we regret that fund raising has again been curtailed and we will not be able to hold the Christmas Fair this year.

However, please watch this space next month for our alternative plans.
Trish Maude

Deadline for the NOVEMBER Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 12 OCTOBER**

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.

Subscription queries to Valerie Powell on 843415

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Nettled



LAST month I looked at the magazine with interest. Turning to my article I read the words, 'grasp the nettle.' They seemed odd as I had believed this to be 'grasp the mettle.' I never questioned the phrase thinking it sensible. Now I see why it is nettle - they sting, hurt and irritate. These are recognisable feelings leading to emotions we all sense. Nettled is the theme of this month's contribution..

Reaching over nettles causes quick reaction. Pain makes us back away rubbing the wound. I remember, as a child, trying to find a dock leaf to rub on the hurt and soothe discomfort. To experience pleasure it is necessary to know the opposite. There is an Arabic saying, 'All sunshine makes a desert.' A poem by Vernon Scannell, used sometimes for GCSE, talks of the poet's three-year-old son falling into a nettle bed - a tall 'regiment of spite'. Bed implies comfort which was not reality. It is an honest, thought-provoking piece.

In our garden are two resolute, determined nettle patches. Butterflies flutter around them. From a distance the deep veined arrow edged leaves provide pleasing contrast; blending. Sights to relish; weeds and all. Our earth is full of mystery. Once we lived next door to neglected grass. We asked if we could collect the nettles. Delicious wine resulted. They can make a spinach-like nutritious vegetable soup and even strong woven cloth.

Beautifully we see trees and foliage of many greens resplendent beneath the sky. A unique paint palette reflecting joy and hope. Green calms and reassures. Different light and seasons add special magic. Nature can produce wonders. We try to make improvements by adding chemicals aiming to promote growth but discourage weeds. Our striving for perfection can mean we miss simple pleasures. Allotments and gardens lead us to be creative and industrious. Learning from one another helps motivate as long as becoming green with envy is avoided. Green space is good for our well-being. Nurturing and observing is essential for mental health. Even a window box has been proved to help bring peace and solace. My father was a great believer in getting hands dirty on the land as a stress buster. Good advice.

Sometimes we are out of our comfort zone; ill at ease - green through inexperience. As we grow older naivety is lost. We grow in wisdom; understanding our planet. Sharing knowledge aids respect helping towards a greener future where our earth will gain the true care and respect it deserves: avoiding being nettled. **Judith Lee**

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From the Editor



IT'S the morning before Boris' 'Rule of Six' legislation comes into force and an odd sight is there to greet me in the kitchen.

Next to a puddle of brackish, red-flecked liquid, some of which is also pooled on the table, is a pair of men's shoes. Smart, black ones approximately size 10.

What would Sherlock Holmes or Hercule Poirot deduce if faced with such evidence? All I can think of

is that it looks like spontaneous combustion, only with a snowman the unfortunate victim. It is certainly a puzzle.

Mrs Editor soon joins the investigation and her sharp nose concludes with a wrinkle of distaste that not so long ago the mystery liquid was resident in someone's stomach. Instantly, this forensic breakthrough narrows the list of suspects down significantly.

Older son is summoned for questioning, which he subjects to politely but, damningly, also fairly incoherently. He can shed no light upon the matter however.

The origins of a spectacular red weal now resident on his neck provide a subplot. A lovebite? Perhaps, if the object of his desire were a medium-sized werewolf. Amity Beach was shut down for less serious wounds.

Older son can shed no light upon this either, it is as mysterious to him as it is to us.

Against all odds, Mrs Editor, having previously promised merciless repercussions, suddenly shifts into maternal mode and announces she is willing to undertake the clear-up operation. Older son returns upstairs only to reappear sans trousers for no apparent reason a couple of minutes later. He is despatched again and all is tranquil once more.

Eyebrows are raised again towards lunchtime however when the contents of the washing machine are examined. Mrs Editor has a bagful of coloureds to process and must therefore remove a white shirt already in situ. One that is not quite as white as it once was however. Now, all along one flank, it jauntily sports a muddy tyre mark.

You may not be altogether surprised to learn that older son, emerging later on for a tentative attempt at some spaghetti bolognese, can shed no light upon this and the afternoon meanders on languidly in the September sunshine apart from a brief regurgitation of the pasta just short of the mint garden.

As evening approaches and fellow revellers across the villages perk up enough to reach tentatively for their mobile devices, more information begins to emerge.

Older son, it seems, had pulled off the rare feat of running himself over with his own bicycle as he attempted an exit. According to witnesses, reliable or otherwise, he remained under the errant vehicle for a spell while a fellow partygoer pelted him with windfall apples, possibly pippins.

Again, older son can shed no light on such revelations but we all agree it must have been some night at the Johnson Hall.

Enjoy the October edition.

Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From; Amelie Baker

Re: Litter in Stapleford

MY mum started running a lot in lockdown and she noticed that there was heaps of litter on the roads especially Haverhill Road leading up to the Gogs so I decided to do a litter pick with her. There was SO much litter on the road. We ended up filling two huge bin bags of it.

The next week we went to Clerk's Piece, a beauty spot near the Spar shop, to pick up rubbish there. At the end of that pick we had three whole bin bags of trash!

There seems to be a lot of outside drinking places in particular. We must have pulled 40-50 beer bottles out of the stream at Clerk's Piece. While we were in the stream, three men came along and I think their intention had been to sit on the bench drinking and then throw the bottles into the stream.

Just three weeks after we cleaned it, that section of Haverhill Road already had more rubbish on it - cans, bottles and face masks.

We're trying to get other locals to help us clean up the rest of our village so if anyone could help out then that would be great. You could 'adopt a road'. By that I mean you could choose a road and keep it litter free.

We really hope that we can get more people involved and that we can make the village litter-free but, more importantly, keep it that way.



From: D. Roberts, Stapleford

Re: Busway

I WOULD like to give my thoughts on Barbara Kettel's Busway 'Blue sky' thinking in the September *Messenger*. I could not disagree more with the suggestion of closing Station Road/Hinton Way to through traffic! In my opinion it's very short sighted. Where will this traffic go? The answer is, it will be diverted along Stapleford's Haverhill/ Bury Road which is already very busy with traffic of which a large percentage of vehicles are speeding, the police being fully aware but offer no active solution. The Huawei development together with the new business park at the end of the Sawston bypass, the large new housing development on the Babraham Road to name a few will all impact on this already busy narrow and dangerous road.

Over the last two years I have written several times to both CCC Highways department and Stapleford Parish Council regarding speeding along Bury Road, their response has been disappointing to say the least, save the reluctant placement of the two new speed signs neither of which are able to record data. Certainly the one by the Rose pub is completely in the wrong location, every other South Cambridge village has physical traffic calming apart from Stapleford? I won't go on but why has Greenfield Close, a quiet cul-de-sac with a sharp bend and no school just off Bury Road been given a 20mph Zone yet Bury Road and Haverhill Road been ignored.

Regarding the Busway, I support its original route across the fields, because a road crossing just before the recreation ground and adjacent houses will be needed which hopefully will deter drivers thinking Haverhill/Bury Road is a race track because it is obvious the relevant authorities have no interest in the continuous speeding through our village.

From: Name and address withheld

Re: Pavement parking



I HAVE seen several instances of cars being parked on the pavement in our streets. This practice is extremely inconsiderate - it is not only dangerous to pedestrians, especially those who have to use walking aids but also hinders wheely bin collection and access to houses.

The other day there were five cars parked on the pavement in our road and it was blue and green dustbin day to add to the problem.

Perhaps those drivers who park on the pavement would have some consideration for others and desist.

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Sixty-two years of Mothers' Union membership

THREE weeks after my son John was born, I walked into St Andrew's Church in Bexhill and spoke with Marion Swift, the MU Enrolling Member, in front of the branch, saying that I wanted to join the Mothers' Union. Marion was shocked and said I should join the Young Wives Club, but I said no, I had a baby and wanted to join the MU! During the second week of November 1957, I joined the Mothers' Union and was given a preparation card. I took my son with me to the meetings and communion services, which were held once a month. I was admitted on 10 July 1958 and spent a year being guided by an elderly branch member, who kept in touch after I moved from Bexhill to Ilford, until John was 15 and was confirmed. I joined the St Albans branch in 1959.

St Albans was a younger branch and was much more hands on. Grace Merry was the Enrolling Member and worked at Mary Sumner House. We were a very forward-looking branch and closely involved with the Korean MU and funded a missionary worker. During the Mothers' Union centenary celebrations in 1976, I had a ticket to the service at Westminster Abbey and



the reception at Lambeth Palace, where I met the Korean representatives (photo left), and was able to send our greetings back with them. By now I had two daughters, Penny and Wendy, and all the children came to church every Sunday, six years down to a babe in the pram. They were quite a handful, but the supportive MU were there helping me through everything, with encouragement

and family life. My Wendy, the youngest, had Alice Hart, an MU friend, as godmother.

In 1967 we moved to Rampton from Ilford and lived in the servants' quarters of the Vicarage, which was great fun and we fostered several children. I joined the local MU branch, who called us as 'the Londoners', but soon we settled to country life and I worked on the land with them. I became Treasurer to the branch and Enrolling Member. Diana Goodhart used to drive through Cottenham and take me to Thursday Prayer at Ely

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Cathedral every month. I also became the Deanery Prayer Representative, encouraging prayer and planning the twice-yearly Quiet Evening and Days.

The MU Quiet Day, which took place at Neil House, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, was a challenge for me when I felt God had called me to respond to His call. This was not an easy calling in the early 1970s for a woman. I took up the challenge and answered the call, supported by dear Mary Sibson, who encouraged me with her support and prayers. During this time, I trained as a Reader and was licensed as Ely's first woman Reader on 30 April 1977, my birthday.



Ely MU Garden Party 2015

In 1978 I was asked to work with Rev Richard Smart in Dry Drayton, Bar Hill and Madingley, a group of parishes north of Cambridge. I joined the Madingley MU Branch. The Branch had members from all three parishes, whose members were quite a cross section in differing church outlooks: Bar Hill – Ecumenical; Dry Drayton – middle-of-the-road Anglican; and Madingley – Prayer Book-oriented. We were led wonderfully by Elizabeth Seale, who was a thoughtful, caring leader for us all. Elizabeth kept in touch with me about MU when I moved to Cambridge to work in the Parish of the

Ascension, which had no MU Branch. I trained as a speaker with Norma Emmerton and on 29 September 1980 I became a speaker, and have been asked to speak in many branches about women's ministry. Some members who listened become Readers and some have gone further, which is inspiring for the MU in widening our outreach in differing ways.

After moving to Cambridge I became a Deacon in 1988 at the Parish of the Ascension in Cambridge, and then moved to Cherry Hinton, a large demanding parish. It was an honour to be ordained with the first women in 1994. I kept in touch with the MU through the Diocese and Quiet Days. Cherry Hinton did not have a branch and so I stayed in contact with Elizabeth, who continued to send me the Home and Family magazine.

Bishop John Flack asked me in the year 2000 to become a Canon of Ely Cathedral; I retired in 2004 after nine years at St George's, Chesterton and moved to Sawston. There I met an MU friend, Joan King, who had been the Representative for Young Wives in the past. She invited me to come to St Andrew's, Stapleford, where I was able to join the MU branch and attend their meetings and Quiet Evenings led by Suzanne Watt. The branch asked me from time to time to give talks. There were branch outings to Milton for



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Sausage Sizzles and meetings and lunches at Mary's and Phillipa's in their lovely garden. I even managed to go to Winchester and Edinburgh with Kay Coe for the Central Council meeting. The picture, left, is of Hilary Street and me running a few yards with Alice Leadbeter, Susan Baker's daughter, welcoming her whilst she

was running around all the branches in Ely Diocese to raise money for MU in 2017, before she ran the London Marathon.

Mary Sumner left us quite a legacy to carry on. I look back on the MU members I have met over 62 years, who have been part of my spiritual journey. They are such dedicated group of people who are in the service of their Lord and family life in so many ways. Thank you, Mothers' Union, for the great work you do, giving so much good.

The scope and fellowship of the Mothers' Union help widen our horizons and is definitely worth joining.

With thankfulness for so many years in the Mothers' Union, **Rev Canon Pam Reed**

Women's Institute



THE WI committee continues to keep in touch with members with regular emails and a raffle each month. Members have also brought their coffee and garden chairs along to the Recreation Ground on two occasions for a catch-up chat, meetings which were very much appreciated.

The walking group has also started walking again, with a trip to Hinxton Wetlands at the end of September.

The book group continues to meet by Zoom about once a month, our most recent book was 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernardine Evaristo – you may remember it won the Booker Prize jointly with Margaret Atwood's 'The Testaments'.

We hope to have a 'real' meeting at some point later in the year but details need sorting out first. The committee plan to keep in touch with members by phone over the winter if we can't meet in person very easily.

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.

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Season's end for Phoenix



DAVE Garman was voted the Phoenix Player of the Season after a stellar campaign as number one wicketkeeper (we have a few) and opening bat.

His 164 runs from eight innings included five knocks that surpassed the retirement threshold of 25, and only once was he dismissed for under double figures.

Jeff Wilson picked up the Batsman of the Year trophy for his 195 runs, many of which were scored as a middle-order 'finisher'.

The Bowler of the Year award went to George Rolls, who was the only Phoenix man to record a double-figure wicket haul.

Our final two matches turned out to be high-scoring encounters as we beat IPH and lost to Great Shelford in the Covid Cup decider.

IPH's total of 175-3 was a proper T20 score and a combination of heavy rain and fading light didn't make chasing that down any easier.

Amazingly we did just that though, and for the loss of just one wicket too as Dave, Ralph Minter, Damon Rainsford and Simon Lancaster all retired not out and Jeff and Venkatesh Reddy took us home with an over to spare.

That evening ended with us posting our highest-ever total and winning by our biggest margin while batting second.

We couldn't quite replicate that feat against the Shells, with only Ralph, Jeff and Aidan Swain making significant scores as we fell short of a 150 target.

Overall, it's been a short but sweet season which saw us win seven friendlies and lose four. **Jon West**

Great Shelford skipper Mark Milne is thrilled to receive the Covid Cup




Dave Garman



Jeff Wilson



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Allotments play key role



DURING the lockdown, the allotment has been crucial to the Stapleford community. It has been valuable in maintaining the physical and mental wellbeing of many families. It has also provided a safe outdoor space for budding young allotmenters to spend time in. Over the past six months, the allotments have been transformed to become a grower's paradise. The brightly coloured flowers throughout have been attracting

various types of bees and butterflies. People who have been passing through have also enjoyed the natural habitat and have been admiring the fresh produce.

On 15 August, the Stapleford Allotment Group celebrated National Allotment Week (10 to 16 August). People gathered to celebrate the hard work that had been put into their allotments, while maintaining social distancing rules. Ideas were exchanged while appreciating the time and effort invested into each person's allotment and marvelling at the results. The conversations involved the issues faced by the allotment, including shortage of water supply during the hot summer months, and the badger attacks on the corn.

The event also provided the opportunity to meet and welcome the new allotment friends who have joined us.

On 30 August with help from 2G3S, Sophi Berridge organized a 'fruit and veg swap' in the Viledömer Gardens. Around 20 people brought and exchanged their produce. Following the event, the excess vegetables and cash donations went to Jimmy's.

We wish to make these events an annual feature, in the hope more people can join. **Shilpa Pangam**

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Stapleford Community Primary School PTA Fun Run



THIS year's Stapleford Community Primary School PTA Fun Run is, like many things during our current Covid-affected lives, a different event to normal. However, the good news is that it is taking place and as always, we invite all Stapleford residents to take part.

A scene from last year's Fun Run

What's happening this year?

Stapleford school children

During the week of 11 October, Stapleford school children will run around the school field, supervised by staff and in their class 'bubbles'. Prizes will be awarded for the children and Houses completing the most laps and you can sponsor your children using our Just Giving page: justgiving.com/campaign/staplefordrun.

Stapleford community

Family and friends are strongly encouraged to join in a *virtual* Fun Run: all you have to do is pick any 5km route, anywhere and run 5km on any day between 10 and 17 October, then email your name, running time and any photos to staplefordrun@gmail.com. Entrants with the fastest times will be announced in the December edition of the *Messenger* and on the Stapleford Fun Run website staplefordrun.com. If you need any help deciding where to run, local routes with a distance of 5km are provided on that website.

There are no entry fees for any Fun Run/virtual participants this year but the PTA would welcome donations via justgiving.com/campaign/staplefordrun.

Thanks to our sponsors

We thank each of the local firms sponsoring the virtual Fun Run and raising funds for our school: Wedd Joinery, Milan Fitness, Redmayne Arnold & Harris, Pizza @ The Plough, Shelford and Stapleford Strikers FC, Scotsdales and House of Colour.

We are extremely grateful for their support for the 2020 Fun Run with a difference. **Tim Harrison**

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Stapleford Bird Club

THERE was no walk in August. I remained perhaps overly cautious concerning COVID-19 but I can report some birding activity during casual walking during the month. As is commonplace at many semi-woodland sites at that time of year, small birds were quiet and you might be forgiven for thinking they had moved away, but most hadn't. Many undergo a feather moult and remain hidden and quieter than usual to avoid the attention of predators. From mid-August, southwards migration of a range of birds was underway, as shown by a continual passage of Chiffchaffs, uttering frequent soft 'huweet' calls which were particularly obvious with so few other birds calling.

Chiffchaffs were still being heard in September, during the official walk by myself on a very bright, calm early morning. I started early at 6.45am (about 30 minutes after sunrise) so that birds would be less disturbed by other walkers, but I wasn't the first to be out even at that time! In the car park, the bird feeders were in heavy demand, as a range of birds took turns to have breakfast.



Female Greenfinch

Greenfinches (20 birds) were most numerous in the car park, followed closely by Goldfinches (18), and Blue Tits, Great Tits, Dunnocks, and a Blackbird were in full view.

Interestingly, none of the Goldfinches were taking seed from the feeders. A flock of 14 Linnets from the overnight roost was still present.

Nine Robins were counted singing weakly and sporadically throughout the walk. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls flew low from the north early on, perhaps moving out from an overnight roost at the Ouse Washes, but it became apparent that there was a general gull movement all to the south. This is the time when large numbers of gulls gather behind the plough to feed on tasty invertebrates but none of the arable fields ploughed to date had any gulls on the ground. Six Grey (English) Partridges were flushed from the footpath on Colin's Bank. A female Sparrowhawk made a spectacularly unsuccessful attempt at catching Magpies in Little Trees Hill. With much whirring of wings and dancing around it, the Magpies totally confused the predator which flew off.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there is no general invitation to join a walk in October, if a meeting does take place. **Mike Foley**



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Quiz time



THIS month's quiz, entitled 'Eee by gum', is brought to you by the letter E. Your answers will have to have plenty of 'e's in them, unless, of course, the 'e' is part of the question.

Answers on page 29.

1. What does the 'E' stand for in 'E numbers' when used on food labels?
2. Which author was accused of nicking ideas from *The House by the Railway* by Ada J. Graves, a book that was first published in 1896?
3. Complete this line from the 1981 hit by a band called Landscape: 'You better watch out, you better beware, Albert said that...' What did Albert say exactly?
4. What word links Eddie Grant's Avenue with Miguel Wattson, a resident of Tennessee Aquarium who regularly posts on Twitter?
5. Who was the most loyal customer of the ACME Corporation, a company based in Fairfield, New Jersey and whose products never seemed to work the way he hoped.
6. Name the two books that introduced a main female character with the surname Everdene/Everdeen? One was published in 1874 and the other, the first of a trilogy, in 2008. Point each.
7. What, on its release on 15 March 1961, did Enzo Ferrari call "the most beautiful car ever made"?
8. Which poet was arrested by the French military during WWI on suspicion of espionage? He was imprisoned rather than executed, perhaps because prosecutors decided it was really just a lower case?
9. Name the 2008 movie that features a 29th century Waste Allocation Load-Lifter: Earth Class who falls for an Extraterrestrial Vegetation Evaluator. The former is a big fan of Hello Dolly! if that helps.
10. Who played Gertie, Elliott's younger sister, in the film *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*?





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School returns!



WE were delighted to welcome the pupils back to Stapleford Community Primary School in September, and with attendance at 98% on the first day, our parents were confident it was the right time to return safely. The nursery is once again a hive of activity, there are places available if you are looking for high quality provision for children aged three years plus.

It has certainly been a very challenging time for us all recently. As the children returned, they were particularly pleased to see their friends and their teachers; the classrooms and corridors quickly reverberated with the sound of chatter and squeals we'd been without since the Spring.

We have of course had to make a number of changes in school in order to keep everyone safe including one-way systems and staggered play and lunchtimes. We have sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes in each room, and each class is operating as a 'bubble' and each bubble keeps away from another!

Children are so adaptable they are taking all this in their stride.

Our PTA had to cancel several fundraising events in the summer, and we are looking forward to the first event this academic year in a few weeks' time with a fun run. The children will complete laps of the back field, gaining sponsorship for the laps they do. Your support in helping to sponsor children would be greatly appreciated at this difficult time. Our PTA has a site for donations should you be able to support us - just go to [justgiving.com/campaign/staplefordrun](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/staplefordrun). (More details can be found on page 23.)

I am pleased to say we have great news to share next month regarding the refurbishment of the moat bridge, enabling us to use this fabulous resource once again. **Christine Spain**

Quiz answers

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Europe. | 6. Far From The Madding Crowd |
| 2. E Nesbit | and The Hunger Games |
| 3. $e = mc^2$ | 7. The E Type Jaguar |
| 4. Electric - Miguel is an eel. | 8. e e cummings |
| 5. Wile E Coyote | 9. WALL-E |
| | 10. Drew Barrymore |



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Puzzle Corner

Hidden Words

IN each of the paragraphs below are hidden five words with a common theme. They are hidden in one of three forms:

- written forwards e.g. France in “Off ran Cecil”
- written backwards e.g. Sweden in “the fine dew sparkles”
- in anagram form e.g. Yemen in “his worst enemy”

The theme is given at the beginning of each paragraph. An anagram will always consist of one or more whole words.

1. Numbers

There were not many people intending to follow the latest news events.

2. Herbs

All ideas to get the players’ message across to those arrogant, wealthy men have failed.

3. Vehicles

Smart people, when advancing through subterranean passages, take care to avoid being struck by falling rocks.

4. Birds

The clan of MacLeod has resumed the feud over keeping livestock. The traditional Scots want to keep two sheep and one pig per field.

5. European capital cities

Last night there was more trouble, this time at a butcher’s shop, arising from the theft of his tools of the trade. A bloodbath ensued.

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 38

Zara has reopened

ZARA Indian Cuisine is reopening as a restaurant following refurbishment during lockdown.

The curry house next to Shelford Station had been busy providing takeaways in the meantime and of course will continue to do so.

Seating is currently limited due to social distancing guidelines however so making a reservation is recommended. **Jon West**





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More conversation evenings!



AFTER Bill Powell's interesting talk on cooking stoves in Africa, we have two more evenings arranged. They will, of course, be by Zoom.

Next is 26 October at 8pm, where two people from Extinction Rebellion will talk about the movement and answer questions. It should lead to a lively discussion!

Next up will be at 8pm on 23 November, on Sustainable Dietary Choices. The speaker will be Duncan Catchpole, owner of the Cambridge Organic Food Company who deliver veg. boxes locally and who is working very hard to create a local Sustainable Food Hub. Duncan is passionate about good local food and distributing it fairly to people who need it.

To take part in either of these meetings, please email the address below and the Zoom link will be sent to you just before the meeting. If you haven't used Zoom before there are some little tutorials on their website or on YouTube.

In other news we are trying to set up another meeting with our MP, Anthony Browne. He is taking an interest in a green recovery from the Covid crisis and has contributed to the recent One Nation report on climate change. We need to make sure he walks the walk now we've had the talk!

And 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**

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Coronavirus

As we are all very aware, the Covid situation is ever evolving. For the very latest information go to: nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ and gov.uk/coronavirus Links to these can also be found on our website.

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If you have any comments please do not hesitate to write to me at Granta Sawston or send me an email sandra.east@nhs.net. **Sandra East, Granta Communications**

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Stapleford Strollers: Walk 87

Doubly Thankful: a circular walk from Strethall

To get to start of walk

THIS walk is in North Essex and starts from Strethall Church (CB11 4XJ), which is pretty much all that remains of Strethall. If you don't have sat-nav, turn off the A1301 for Ickleton, pass The Ickleton Lion pub, then turn sharp left on to Coploe Road when the main road swings right. Keep on for some time, crossing another road, then turn right into a side road signed Strethall Church. Park next to the large barns by the church (there is a 'Parking at own risk' sign).

Length of walk

The walk is just over four miles and is easy underfoot except when wet, with some excellent views in places. You may well see the herd of deer that lives hereabouts. There were about 50 animals in the herd in August, one of which is white.

OS Map

OS Explorer maps 194 and 209. Use either footpathmaps.com or maps.the-hug.net for a free map extract. The route map provided is taken from the former.

Extra information

Strethall from the Old English meaning 'sheltered corner on the street' is one of the smallest parishes in the country. Current population: 26. The impressive church is of Saxon origin, dating to the 11C and, unusually, has no war memorial, making Strethall a 'Doubly Thankful' village: no war deaths. In the two World Wars, all the locals worked on the land - a reserved occupation.

Route of walk

Walk down the path on the far side of the church and, after reaching the bottom of a slope, walk up the rising ground, beyond. A very minor road is reached. Turn left, pass a small pond to the left, and look for a gap in the hedge on the right.

Go through this and follow a grass path over a headland and down a steep slope. Go left on a farm track and then swing right, heading uphill. After a short time, fork right on another grass path and head uphill until a gap in a hedge is reached. After the gap, turn right on another grass path and keep ahead. It is mainly straight (one slight wiggle) but ignore any side paths. Aim for a wood, which will be soon be seen on the horizon.

When the wood is reached, carry on ahead at a waymark sign. Farmland soon appear to the left with the wood to the right. A farmyard is reached; turn right in the yard and leave via a small side road. When this turns sharp left, go right, at a footpath sign. The wood is still to the right.

After a few minutes a waymark sign will be seen on the left, with multiple arrows on it. Go sharp left here, following a narrow path down the right hand side of a field, with a wood to the right.

Keep going beyond the wood, heading downhill. There are some good views at this point. Walk through another farmyard and exit at the far end on to a minor road. Turn right and take care, because you need to walk along the roadside for several minutes. If traffic comes along, just step on to the verge.

Look for a footpath sign on the right hand side and follow the grass track which goes gently up a slope. At the top, the side road to Strethall Church is reached, so turn right and the barns where the walk started will soon come into view. **David Barnes**

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



What is Library Live?

IF you have computer access, why not visit Library.Live and explore a new way of getting information and ideas? Library.Live was launched by Cambridgeshire Libraries in partnership with Civic (a social enterprise).

You can access this new service at library.live and:

- ask a question about anything you choose, big or small. All questions are answered personally by a member of library staff;
- find an introduction to a wide variety of different topics, from gardening to managing anxiety;
- look at lists of exciting events, both local and national.

Great Shelford Library is currently open for the collection of reserved items and pre-booked computer use from 10am-2pm on Tuesdays and 2pm-6pm on Fridays. Reservations are free of charge until further notice and you can place them online at cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by ringing 0345 045 5225. Don't forget the new Select and Collect service, where staff can select books for you based on your reading preferences. **Rosemary Humby**

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LITTLE Shelford Memorial Hall welcomes users to its COVID-19 secure facility

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If you are interested, please contact our Bookings Clerk, Sarah Haigh on 07769 552414 or littleshelfordmemorialhall@aol.co.uk. **Sarah Coppendale**

Puzzle Corner answers

Hidden Words

1. three, one, ten, two, seven.
2. dill, parsley, sage, tarragon, thyme.
3. tram, van, bus, car, truck.
4. falcon, emu, dove, swan, pigeon.
5. Rome, Bucharest, Paris, Oslo, Athens.

From the Chair of the Parish Council

The (Mis) Guided Busway.

WE have been encouraged by the generous response to the crowdfunding appeal at cambridgeppf.org/appeal/sss-green-belt with in excess of £1,000 having been donated and with significantly more expected. We are trusting that the necessary funds will be available so that we can commission an independent report on the alternative railway route, avoiding the greenbelt and Magog Down landscape.

Cambridge Connect have been brilliant in refining the brief and terms of reference for our transportation consultant and we are indebted to them for their skill and application. We have gone out to tender with leading consultants in order to be able to present the most accurate viability assessment of the railway route and to have an expert of weight to give evidence at the forthcoming public enquiry.

Retirement Village

A special Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 26 August to fully consider this application and allow the Parish Council to make its decision with an extended open time for villagers to give their opinions at this well attended meeting.

The application is on land between Haverhill Road and Hinton Way Stapleford for outline planning for the development of a retirement care village in Use Class C2 comprising housing with care, communal health, wellbeing and leisure facilities, public open space, landscaping, car parking, access and associated development and public access Countryside Park with all matters reserved except for access.

An extended public discussion period was allowed to ensure all present had the opportunity to comment.

Mr Grant of Axis Partnership reiterated the Axis position that this application was exceptional and should take place to release the 50 acres for the country park for general use, and that services provided in the retirement village would be open for general use. He further commented that only use within the C2 category would be built.

A member of the Bridleways Group supported the provision of the country park provided access was available for all including horse riders. Release of existing housing stock would be advantageous.

The representative of the Magog Trust commented that whilst the Trust had reservations regarding encroachment into the greenbelt, the expansion of chalk grassland would bring benefit. The Magog Trust disclosed that it



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had been approached to manage the land in perpetuity, should permission be granted, which would ensure the land would be open for public use. Freehold transfer would be reliant on permission being granted for this development.

Reasons for Objection:

Six members of the public registered their objections on the basis that:

1. The proposed development is in the wrong place for connectivity, access to services and facilities, reliance on private cars, lack of parking for visitors to the retirement village and to the park.

2. Affordability: Members of the public had attended the public consultations held by Axis and were advised that NHS care would not be allowed on site for those in need. Further, a survey of other similar properties in nearby settlements had been carried out, and the average cost of a two-bedroomed accommodation unit would likely be £500,000, leasehold, plus service charges plus ground rent. This was not considered affordable for local people and would not encourage downsizing in the village, thus not releasing any of the existing housing stock.

3. Intrusion into the greenbelt: this development would set a precedent for development in the greenbelt and would be the 'thin edge of the wedge' with the potential for further development to take place on the site in the future. Other landowners could use this as precedent to press for further expansion into the greenbelt thus leading to further erosion of this important regulatory feature.

4. Height, bulk and scale of the proposed buildings: the height of the main building is some 12m, close to the existing built area in the village, and will block light and views of existing dwellings.

5. COVID-19: services would not be open to the general public due to the risk to the residents of the spread of the virus.

6. Country park: this was seen as a 'sweetener' to obtain development. Comments were made that if the landowner was being altruistic, the land could be donated to a suitable management body without the strings of development attached.

7. Local need: the need for this development to benefit the local community was not demonstrated by a local assessment. Rather, the development would be open to anyone who could afford it. It was considered to be a private, exclusive development which would not want, for example, local children using the proposed swimming pool.

Councillors made further comments:

1. The proposal is disproportionate in the context of Stapleford both in the height and mass of the buildings and also in the number of accommodation units being constructed. It will provide for better off people from all over South Cambridgeshire and could therefore be built anywhere in South Cambridgeshire without the need to compromise the Green Belt.

2. The development was in the wrong place and would be a carbuncle on the edge of the village.

3. The design was not conducive for older people to move to, as bungalows were in greater demand.

4. The impact on the street scene would be excessive and extensive. There are no similar sized developments as the main block within the village, and the bulk and scale was considered out of keeping with the vernacular.

5. The proposal appears to assume that the Cambridge South East Busway will proceed. In fact, it still faces several significant obstacles, for example, achieving an acceptable environmental survey and concerns expressed by the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, who favours the old railway line option and says that the Busway proposal does not accord with the Local Transport Plan. The local MP also appears to have concerns and has walked the old railway line option.

6. Lack of public transport to the site: residents would be reliant on private transportation to access facilities increasing congestion and on street parking within the village and concentrating around the doctors.

7. There are several similar schemes in nearby villages which are struggling to fill vacancies. This development may become the same due to the costs involved in downsizing to 'exclusive, private developments'.

8. The provision does not match any perceived local need, which has not been established.

9. Of the 50 responses sent to South Cambs District Council, some 10% were in support with comment from people who do not live in the parish. Some 80% were against, with 10% neutral.

10. The proposed development has not demonstrated that it has any special reason which would require it to be built in the greenbelt, outside the development envelope for Stapleford Parish.

11. There are no guarantees that the country park would be managed for the benefit and use of the whole community – there are 'promises' only.

12. In his comments, the Axis representative admitted that there are some negatives associated with the Retirement Village proposal. These negatives will be experienced by all residents of Stapleford but only better off people and those not requiring NHS treatment will be able to benefit from the Retirement Village. This is divisive and does not sit comfortably with the values and community spirit of Stapleford.

13. So far as Axis's reference to the philanthropic nature of the proposal is concerned, the aspirations of the Magog Down Trust and of the Bridleway Group could be met by philanthropic access permissions and gifting of land which is not conditional on receiving planning permission for a Retirement Village.

Following this deliberation there was a unanimous vote by Councillors to object to this planning application. **Howard Kettel**

Parish Council meetings

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

There was no meeting in September.

The next parish council meeting is on Wednesday 14 October.



Margaret Gilmore sent us this picture, which was taken at the start of September. She writes: "It's surprising what you see at the reservoir - an egret and a snipe in one photo. Amazing."

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

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