

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

December 2020

Volume 79 No 12

Price 60p



**And it's goodbye from us:
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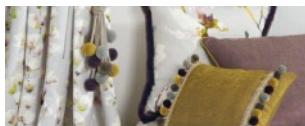
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Who's who at St Andrew's

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

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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Jon West 521009 or staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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stapleford.ads@gmail.com

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

A WELSH man, David Lewis, who is aged 81, was in the news this week with his daughter Debbie and daughter-in-law Claire. In the space of a week David's wife Gladys and his two sons Darren and Dean died from COVID-19. The family's grief was clear to be seen and heard as they were interviewed. As in the rest of the UK, Covid deaths have been increasing in Wales, each one a sad loss to their loved ones. But David's loss, his grief, was something else. The pain of the loss of his wife of decades and of the two sons who had remained close and lived in the same block of flats as him and his wife is simply unimaginable. The randomness and cruelty of Covid are all too apparent in his life.



Theirs is an extreme example, of course. But the scandalously high UK death rate speaks of tens of thousands of families touched by losses which maybe need not have occurred and which they will never forget. Alongside the economic impact, with which the younger generation will be grappling for years to come, families all across the land will be coping with gaping voids at the table this Christmas and beyond.

By contrast with many areas Stapleford has seen mercifully few cases. I am fed up with Covid, like many of you, tired of the constant low-level disruption and niggling difficulties it causes, but in truth I am a victim of prolonged inconvenience and extra workload rather than anything worse. But in our community we have still suffered loss. As is so often the case we can and do point away from ourselves and to those who are worse off. It's a good instinct in some ways, stoical and thinking of others first, but there is a danger to it. Psychologists have something to say about the long term deleterious effects on our mental health of suppressing our feelings, and doing so can have effects on physical health too. It is fine, healthy and right in fact, both to stand with David and his family and others bereaved in their losses, and to recognise our own. Our losses, of company, of family visits, of groups we liked to be with, of spontaneous outings, of fear-free shopping and socialising, of music and drama and sport and more, are real and we may legitimately mourn our loss whilst feeling compassion for those harder hit.

At the same time we should remember what we have – it is healthy and right to do that too. Most of us have secure accommodation and gardens – what a blessing those have been. We have a close community with help on hand. We have access to phones and the internet, excellent local medical

services, and plenty of shops and delivery services. All these things are good and have eased our losses or made them easier to bear.

And on top of all that we have hope. When I say that I am in part acknowledging that the news about vaccines – albeit preliminary – is good. My bet is still on Oxford rather than Pfizer, unless they can solve the need to store it at -70 degrees, but either way they are undeniably on the way.

But that is not the main sources our hope, as a looming Christmas reminds us. Usually at this time of year we at St Andrew's would be putting in place plans for a whole range of celebrations, a traditional Nine Lessons & Carols, the mayhem and fire safety precautions of 200+ crammed into church for the Christingle service, the glorious brass on Christmas Day. We have made some plans this year – take a look at the Noticeboard a couple of pages on for detail. Whether they will come to fruition or whether something else will have to take their place is anyone's guess. But whatever we do – in person, indoors, outdoors or online – we do have cause for celebration and hope.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ we remember him as the light who shines in the darkness, the eternal one who gave up everything to become flesh and dwell among us. Hope is there in him because this was no ordinary child but God the Son, sent for us and to be with us. Christians know his presence even today, for he died but lived again. We know for certain sure that Easter resurrection will come. He gives us that assurance that all will be well.

So whatever you have lost in this awful year, and whatever you are missing this Christmas, cling on to this: that you are loved and safe. God so loves you that he sent his Son into the world to dwell among us, to live, die and live again, so that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Every blessing to you and yours this Christmas, 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

SOME resources and church services are moving online until 2 December. We hope that on 6 December we will be allowed to start services in church again. We will post updates on the church website, standrewstapleford.org.

The chancel is open every day as a place to come and pray or enjoy a moment of quiet reflection.

6 DEC	10.30am	COMMUNION TOY SERVICE <i>Isaiah 40.1-11; Mark 1.1-8</i> <i>The Prophets</i>
	10.30am	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION TOY SERVICE
7 DEC	7.00pm	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
13 DEC	9.00am 10.30am	BCP COMMUNION SERVICE OF THE WORD <i>Isaiah 61.1-4; John 1.6-8, 19-28</i> <i>John the Baptist</i>
20 DEC	10.30am	SAID SERVICE OF THE WORD <i>Samuel 7.1-11; Luke 1.26-38</i> <i>The Virgin Mary</i>
	10.30am 3.30pm and 6.30pm	All Age MESSY FOREST CHURCH LESSONS & CAROLS
24 DEC	3.30pm 9.30pm	OPEN AIR CAROLS & CHRISTINGLE MIDNIGHT IN BETHLEHEM COMMUNION SERVICE
25 DEC	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	BCP COMMUNION CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION CHRISTMAS DAY FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
27 DEC	10.30 m	SAID SERVICE OF THE WORD <i>John 21.19b-25</i> <i>Follow me!</i>

Forest Church and Carols & Christingle will take place in the churchyard. All other services are in the church itself.

Every Thursday we have a Zoom Compline at 8pm – if you would like to join, please contact Simon Taylor on simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com for the link.

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 recordings of services every Sunday – check out our St Andrew’s Stapleford YouTube channel.

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Funeral

20 October: Revd David Winch

Supporting the Red Hen Project



MANY of you will know about the Red Hen Project, a wonderful small local charity working with schools in North Cambridge, helping disadvantaged children with all sorts of projects and support services. Lesley Ford, who lives in Stapleford, is chair of the Trustees. This year St Andrew’s is supporting the project at our ‘Toy Services’ on Sunday 6 December. At both our indoor and outdoor 10.30 am services we will be taking donations of new toys, books and games for the charity to distribute as Christmas presents to youngsters who might otherwise go without. I have to stress the ‘new’ please, as these are for individual presents, not for use in a community centre.

Please come along and donate! I know that it is much appreciated.

Simon Taylor

Mothers’ Union



THE Branch Committee wishes all our members as joyful a Christmas as possible, and all good wishes for 2021 – during which we hope the

health crisis will become a thing of the past. And we also hope that ‘we’ll meet again’ next year and be able to resume our branch meetings.

This is a prayer from the Church of England website:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love. Amen

Love to you all. **Hilary Street**

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TO ensure you continue to receive your Messenger, please be sure to pay your 2021 subscription by the end of this year. We are pleased to say that the cost remains at £6 for the 12 issues of the Messenger delivered to your address. Deliverers are already collecting money for these and may leave a note if they miss you. Postal subscriptions remain at £16 for the year. These can be paid by cheque (made payable to Stapleford PCC) to Valerie Powell as stated in the letter you should already have received.

If you have just bought a single copy of the Messenger and want to receive it every month, please contact Valerie Powell on 843415 or email: vaz@fairshares.co.uk to ensure you receive the next issue promptly.

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Deadline for the JANUARY Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER**

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Puzzle pieces



I HAVE enjoyed jigsaw puzzles. Generally I choose scenes where I can picture myself, otherwise difficult illusions attract me. Getting the edges sorted out and slotted together is essential, often involving trial and error. The frame has to be right, sometimes proving frustrating. One piece next to another sitting comfortably, seeming self-assured is satisfying. The puzzle excites, requiring great attention. Opening to

others provides friendly competition, laughter at mistakes which inevitably happen. How much of this could be true of our unusual life today?

Seeing a picture come to life, working out colours, shapes and building images doesn't suit everyone. My husband never liked such pastimes. We are all different. I remember a gentleman in a nursing home sitting in front of a jigsaw, the picture propped up prominently. He hardly ever put a piece in and disliked intervention. I found a way to help progress by edging bits into position without fixing them in place. Eric did that with a happy smile. Sensitivity opened conversation, memories shared.

Some puzzles feature baked beans or marbles. I lack the courage to tackle such complications, yet completion would be a triumph. Likewise, crowds of shadowy marbles with different coloured centres entice; but not time and opportunity. This relates to life. Taking on awkward jobs, making decisions, looking for support all show our dependency on one another. Missing pieces are dreaded. Daily we put puzzle pieces together. In this case though, it is not a game. We have no choice to 'play' but know we must adapt. Hard, tough going. We ponder why, trying to make sense. It is as if our lives are on hold. Feeling at a loss, at sea, confused, in a fog - all part and parcel of every day. Another lockdown sees mood and morale plummet. What next? Will we ever get back to the 'normal' we knew? These are topics for conversation and debate even if distanced or virtual. As human beings we are sociable, needing each other.

Much of 2020 seems to have escaped; Lent, Easter, birthdays, anniversaries. Gatherings restricted or stopped, testing patience. However, we have each other particularly as a caring community.

Kindness, understanding and wisdom can be shared although often remotely.

Looking out for each other with smiles, concern and laughter; cheers. Appreciating beauty around us is a gift to love and cherish. Light on the horizon as Christmas awaits. **Judith Lee**

St Andrew's Christmas Diary

Special events in our Christmas celebrations. All welcome.

Sunday 6 December

10.30am: Communion Toy Service

10.30am: Forest Church Communion Toy Service

Presents for those who would not otherwise get them

Bring a new toy, book or game to donate to the Red Hen Project

Sunday 20 December

3.30pm and 6.30pm: Lessons & Carols

Hear again of the birth of Jesus in words and music

Thursday 24 December

3.30pm: Open Air Carols & Christingle

A special service for children and the young at heart

Collection in aid of The Children's Society

9.30pm: Midnight in Bethlehem Communion Service

Last service before Christmas Day in the beauty of your ancient church

Christmas Day

9am: Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer

A quiet traditional service before the busyness of the day takes over

Christmas Day

10.30am: Christmas Communion

10.30am: Christmas Forest Church Communion

Celebrate the birth of Jesus indoors or out!

C of E Children's Society box collectors



The
Children's
Society

SO far we have collected a total of £347.58. It has been counted and banked by Sue Brown who has been helping me this year, many thanks to you all and to Sue.

I will be able to return your boxes as soon as the Church Services restart. Meanwhile anyone still holding a box or willing to make a donation, my phone number is 847606. I can collect or help. **Janet Johnson**

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The Chestnut Club

Hi to all my friends from the Chestnut Club. I am so sorry that as I write this we are not able to have our usual Christmas party and meal out at a local restaurant owing to Covid restrictions. But I realised today you have all lived through similar albeit different difficult times and you came through it and will do so again. However the news of a vaccine is bringing light to the end of the tunnel.

I hope you are able to enjoy some aspects of the festive season whether virtually or in person with loved ones.

With every blessing. **Suzanne Watt**

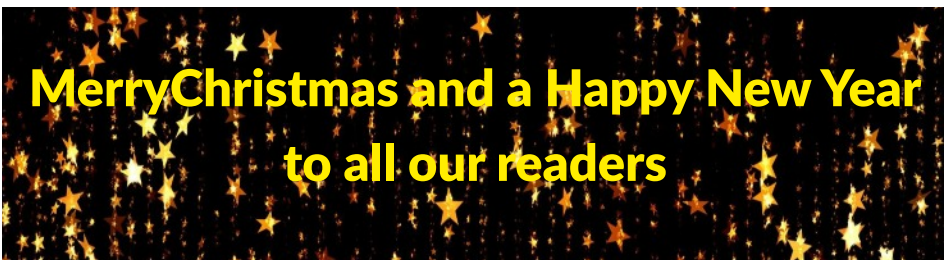
A poster for Forest Church events. The background is a photograph of tall pine trees against a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top right, 'Forest Church' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a subtitle below it: '- bible story - craft - prayers - fire pit -'. On the left side, the following text is listed: 'St Andrew's Churchyard', 'Mingle Lane', 'Stapleford from 10.30 am', '6 December: Forest Church Communion', '20 December: Messy Forest Church', and '25 December: Christmas Forest Church Communion'. In the bottom right corner, contact information is provided: 'Book your place:', 'admin@standrewstapleford.org', and '07752 373176'. At the very bottom right, 'St Andrew STAPLEFORD' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Forest Church
- bible story - craft - prayers - fire pit -

St Andrew's Churchyard
Mingle Lane
Stapleford from 10.30 am
6 December: Forest Church Communion
20 December: Messy Forest Church
25 December: Christmas Forest Church Communion

Book your place:
admin@standrewstapleford.org
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St Andrew
STAPLEFORD

A banner with a black background filled with numerous small, glowing yellow and orange stars of varying sizes. The text 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers' is centered in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our readers**

Women's Institute



ALTHOUGH we cannot have a meeting indoors, we keep in touch with members with birthday cards, a raffle each month, and Book Group by Zoom. We have just read 'When the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens, a beautifully written book set in the marshes in North Carolina and featuring a girl growing up alone and finding her way through life. We are planning to have a speaker by Zoom sometime soon, as some of the WI speakers have moved onto this platform. And while we probably can't meet for Christmas (quick hot toddy on the Rec?) we will distribute little gifts to our members.

We have also continued to collect items for the Admission Bags for Fulbourn Hospital. These are bags of toiletries and other useful items that are given to women who are admitted at short notice and often don't have such items with them, and the bags are very much appreciated. I have put together 77 now from donations, we have a target of 100 as we are 100 years old.



Further afield, our National Office continues to campaign on important issues such as spotting and stopping modern slavery, and encouraging people to register as stem cell donors (on the Anthony Nolan website, or DKMS, or the NHS Blood transfusion service). Every year members adopt one or two causes to campaign on – over the years the WI has promoted the setting up of the Keep Britain tidy group, HIV/AIDS education, getting

the NHS to set up STD clinics, cervical cancer screening for women, equal pay for women, food waste and food poverty, and more recently reducing plastic waste and tackling climate change by pushing for the 2050 UK target for net-zero carbon emissions. And who can forget the famous calendar that raised money for a hospital and was immortalised in film?

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

From the Editor

JUST a few more days to go and we can finally say goodbye and good riddance to 2020...

I'm writing this in early November on the first day of the second lockdown imposed by our dysfunctional government, which just happened to coincide with Donald Trump crying 'unfair!' over his US election ejection.

I won't go over all the other dismal events of the past few months because, quite frankly, who needs reminding of that? Hopefully, dear reader, you will also have some positive memories so 2020 does not need to be written off completely.

One thing that has certainly gladdened my heart is confirmation that the *Messenger* has not only survived these tough times but is also set to thrive in 2021.

As outlined in more detail elsewhere in this edition, the time has come for me to step down as editor, and Ed Rose to relinquish the deputy editor role he has performed so magnificently for the past few years.

The clarion call for readers to come forward and volunteer their services was finally answered and a new committee has been formed to take over. How wonderful that people valued the magazine so much that they were prepared to donate their spare time to save it.

I will be staying on to oversee the transition and write the odd article or two but this will be my final missive as editor. I've enjoyed writing them immensely but realise that some of those featured may not be lamenting its passing quite so much.

The lives of the not particularly Wild Wests have been occasionally chronicled over the years on these pages, often to their individual chagrins, but I have always reserved the right to exaggerate their various activities in print in return for food and shelter. Being accused by an indignant eight-year-old of misquoting her is quite something though, I'll admit that.

No eight-year-olds remain in this household however; as of last month there is actually only one child. Older son has re-enrolled at the university farthest away without actually being in another country, returning occasionally to drunkenly run himself over with his own bicycle, and older daughter has emerged from her bedroom to shift her extensive collection of mugs and bowls to an educational establishment closer to home.

Younger son, whose teenage crimes and misdemeanours were often too egregious to be pushed through any prism marked humour, appears to have calmed down on reaching adulthood; younger daughter mainly sits in her

favourite corner quietly honing the artistic skills that might one day earn her a living.

It is time to bring the story to a gentle conclusion therefore so all that remains is for me to say is thank you for reading and, of course...

Enjoy the December edition.

And it's also goodbye from me...



Deputy Editor can only dream of doing more of this



... but is more likely to do more of this!

AS the editor writes above, after nearly five years I have decided to take a well-earned retirement and allow someone else to instil fresh ideas and directions into the *Messenger*.

The past five years have seen the *Messenger* develop into what I think is now a highly professional publication - all the more inspiring since it is run by volunteers in their own time with no reward other than satisfaction with the result of their labours.

It is a team effort and I'd like to thank my colleagues for all their support. and readers for their kind comments.

My main role has been in putting all the contributions into the final page jigsaw that you read but I have also managed the advertising and even the distribution during the first months of the pandemic. So you undoubtedly appreciate that while it has been challenging and exciting it has also been, as my wife would agree, very time consuming!

It has certainly been a very educational time and I have learnt so much more about what goes on in Stapleford as well as getting to know many of those who live here.

So now I will concentrate on keeping fit on the bike, poodle walking and trying to produce more notes than squeaks from my clarinet.

I echo the editor's final words - thank you for reading, enjoy this edition and support the new team in, unlike across the water, a smooth transition.

Ed Rose

... but hello from us

AS you will know, Ed and Jon have been very ably looking after the *Messenger* for several years now and it has become a superb village magazine under their stewardship. Not surprisingly, they want to take a back seat now. Jon will continue to be involved in news gathering and writing stories, but Ed wishes to step down from what has been an almost full-time job. I'm sure the whole readership will wish to thank him for his wonderful work.

You will also remember that they called for successors to come forward to take over the production, and around 10 of us have volunteered to do so. We have worked out how to share the roles out in this new *Messenger* team, and in time may rotate roles around.

We will be on the lookout for stories about people, buildings, events in the village, past and present, and please also let us know any features you would like to see in the magazine that don't appear at present. Have a go at writing something, we can always tidy up the grammar or spelling if that worries you. Continue to send to the usual email address: staplefordmessenger@gmail.com. **Helen Hale**

Mothers' Union toiletries collection



STAPLEFORD Mothers' Union is having the usual toiletries collection to support the Mothers' Union Campaign Against Gender-based Violence.

There is a box in the church porch for donations of simple toiletries, such as soap, tissues, toothpaste, deodorant etc., or you can leave donations on my porch at 13 Collier Way. The collection is from 22 November to 6 December, after which all donations will be given to the Cambridge Women's Refuge.

Please support this appeal, as you have done so generously in the past. Thank you. **Hilary Street**

We're waiting for your story!

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

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Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Rosie Brown, Vine Close, Stapleford

Re: Busway

THE Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) Phase 2 scheme design Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation (cset.consultationonline.co.uk/), gives us a chance to 'have our say' on the EIA scope - before 14 December.

We are asked to consider the CSET scheme as stand-alone, not taking into account the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) proposals in central Cambridge, or future extension to Haverhill. This is the scenario in which the CSET scheme was rated as providing poor value for money by Mott McDonald, working for the GCP and using Department for Transport guidance.



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Do we want to say farewell to this?

Of course, presenting this as a standalone project, CSET consultation documents do not mention that the proposed Stapleford Busway stop is adjacent to a 47 hectare potential development site for 987 houses, with over 800 further home developments proposed in proximity to the busway stops between Hinton and Haverhill roads. Whilst not all of these property schemes will be built, for this CSET route to make sense it seems inevitable that adjacent housing development is a relevant factor. It is unclear whether the cumulative environmental impacts of CSET plans and nearby housing developments will ever be assessed.

My personal experience of GCP consultation on the CSET project has been negative so far. Whilst claiming to listen, it feels like the concerns of Stapleford residents regarding the chosen route have not been taken on board by the GCP. So I have made the most of Q.17 in the online questionnaire, sharing my view that the EIA needs to evaluate impacts to protected species, queuing times and associated traffic and air quality levels on Hinton and Haverhill Roads, visual amenity in the vicinity of the Magog Down, and emergency vehicle response times to homes situated between the busway and railway line. I've asked why we are being saddled with infrastructure that's poor value for money (and that's before COVID-19) and whether the CSET scheme is inextricably linked to residential property development that will change the nature of this area.

Whatever you want to say, including if you want to sing the scheme's praises, now is your chance!

From: Jim Chisholm, Heffer Close, Stapleford

Re: Busway

WHEN my work moved me to Cambridge some 35 years ago, I used some of my acquired knowledge, from traffic and transport research, to choose a location to live such that we could manage with one car... and that our children, as they grew up, could learn independence. We could not, even in those days, afford a suitable house within Cambridge. That meant finding somewhere in a 'necklace village' with schools, and shops, as well as a bus service that ran frequently, and late into the evening. We think we made a good choice.

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With the expansion of places such as the Genome Campus and the Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC), I think that minor, and inexpensive changes to routing of the No7 bus could significantly improve the reliability and performance of this bus service, and hence increasing patronage, so reducing car use, congestion and pollution. The long proposed bus 'turning point' at the CBC, and use of the Guided Bus route to Cambridge station, could give those improvements within months!

Yet huge amounts of consultant money have already been spent on proposing some new-fangled untried and untested battery powered self-guided bus on a route which ploughs a tarmac scar across our precious Green Belt, yet would fail to deliver a satisfactory service for the majority of residents in Shelford, Stapleford or Sawston. I'm just waiting for the Combined Authority Mayor to propose a different scheme to that proposed by the GCP through this area, as has happened for both the routes to Cambourne, and Waterbeach! Are we promised a guided bus, an autonomous battery bus, or the full CAM metro with 100mph mini modules, and will any give a direct uncongested route to the City centre?

It is a mile from Woollards Lane, Gt Shelford to the proposed stop on this new scheme! Who in our villages would be within even half a mile of a stop for this new service? I'd expect very few, unless of course, many hundreds of new dwellings fill the Green Belt between the existing agreed village envelopes and this new 'facility'. The designs show a few parking spaces at such local stops. How soon until they have a few hundred?

DO NOT be deceived. If that 'Innovative' system, were to happen, the existing bus services would then be decimated and cut back to the scale of the '31'. In 'normal' times the No7 is even profitable. The majority in our villages live within 400 yards of an existing stop, so the young, the old, and all those without 'car access', so can use a bus for work, education, shopping, access to health, or leisure. There are currently some half a dozen stops within Shelford and Stapleford and a similar number in Sawston and Pampisford.

With current plans there is no surety that any chosen innovative vehicles can proceed beyond the CBC until there is a tunnel through Cambridge - if then! Will there be a conflict between the GCP's ambitions, and those of the Mayor's very extensive CAM metro? Crucially, the current proposal only covers a route of some five miles from the proposed new P&R to the CBC. Without approval of the (as yet untried and untested passenger vehicles) and a continued route to the city centre what will happen?

Should we not have better buses on existing routes rather than jam now and more jam tomorrow?

Stapleford - Nachingwea Link

Library project



WE are raising funds for an exciting venture – to provide a library for Nambambo Secondary School in Nachingwea.

After the success of providing a library in 2017 at Nachingwea Day Secondary School, we are again working closely with Read International, using their expertise, with the funds that we provide, to set up a '2nd Generation' Library, not only supplying the range of books for the curriculum but also with the added provision of computers. We are working towards a total of £9,000.

Please would you help by making a contribution in one of the following ways?

1. Visit our JustGiving page where we are raising £1,500 to replace funds normally raised at the Stapleford - Nachingwea Link Christmas Fayre. Please go to:

justgiving.com/crowdfunding/staplefordnachingwealink.

2. Purchase Christmas gifts for family and friends! The St Andrew's Church Porch Project in Advent is offering token books and computers for you to choose and hang on the tree, whilst collecting a card and envelope for each of your recipients which explains details of the project. Payment details are provided in the Church Porch.

3. You may instead wish to donate through St Andrew's Church website online options. Please email 'admin@standrewstapleford.org' noting the amount donated and that your gift is for the Library Fund.

Thank you for your help to widen educational opportunities and increased learning for many young people in Nachingwea. **The Link Committee**



Mary in the Nachingwea Day Secondary School Library

MUGA gets planning permission



DESPITE initial indications that the MUGA application might be rejected owing to Highways England objections, the Parish Council has been able to convince the Local Authority of the robustness and safety of proposal and has committed to a

couple of small changes to ensure that the Tweener Lighting has minimal impact on passing traffic.

We will be installing a green mesh cover along the sides of the courts that face the road. This is standard in many such facilities and you can see examples of this at the Shelford Tennis Club already. This mesh will dissipate/minimise most light pollution. Post construction, we have also committed to planting a screen of evergreen hedging midway between the MUGA and the road (probably laurels) which will further act as a block to light impacting any drivers. The installation firm were able to show that light levels from the MUGA to the road (which is 15m from the road) will diminish rapidly without these aids but it is best to be sure when it comes to road safety. We have also been required to show how we will protect the existing trees in the vicinity during the work and ETC Sports have committed to producing those plans, which is a pretty standard thing for them to need to do.

More details will follow in the coming months on how you and your family can access the facility, what the schedule will be and how much it will cost. Tennis can be played by either joining the Stapleford Tennis Club or on a 'pay-to-play' basis. Netball, basketball and football will all be pay-to-play initially. The Parish Council will endeavour to keep costs low and competitive (compared to other venues) so that we maximise usage and uptake of this significant investment in our community. Please see the tennis club website for their plans with regards to this facility. Tennis club members will be able to use the tennis courts whenever tennis is playable in the schedule. We will have an online booking system so people can book the time slots that best suit them.

The MUGA work will start in late February/early March dependent on the weather. The new surface requires a sustained minimum temperature to be laid safely (so it lasts!) and as such we expect the work to be completed in April allowing us to open the venue in May 2021, all going well. **Paul McPhater**



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Stapleford Strollers: Walk 89

The Garden Route Mark 2: a circular walk from Castle Camps church

To get to start of walk

NEAR the end of the Linton by-pass, turn right for The Camps. Carry on through Bartlow and, when reaching Castle Camps, take the first turn right. The church is signed, to the left, after about half a mile. The car park is next to the church (CB21 4TH) or use the roadside.

Length of walk and OS Map

Just under four miles. Bits can get muddy in winter, but it is usually not too bad. OS Explorer map 210. For a free extract, go to footpathmaps.com or maps.the-hug.net

Extra Information

Castle Camps church is some way from the present-day village but was at the heart of an old medieval settlement. Why this was abandoned is not fully understood. The first part of the walk takes in the site of the World War II fighter aerodrome, to the south of the village.

Route of Walk

Start the walk from Castle Camps church car park. Turn right out of the car park and walk along the entrance road to a large house. After the house and its high wall, the road disappears through a gate. At this point, walk straight ahead on a narrow path.



After a gate, enter a field and the path that forks to the right. A farm track is reached, next to a very large manure store! Ignore the footpath sign and walk to the right, on the concrete track. All the land to the left is part of the old airfield site. Follow the track until an unsigned grass path goes right, to the left of a

clump of trees. It winds left and right and meets a minor road.

Turn right on the road, then go left on a path immediately before a phone mast. Follow this path until a road is reached, next to a farmhouse. Walk along the road until another farm is reached (Browning's Farm) then take the signed path on the left, along a solid surfaced track.

Keep on this track as it swings left, right and left again, heading for a large house. Well before the house, look for a hedge to the right and walk downhill, on a grass track. At the bottom of the hill swing right and, follow the path straight ahead up a slope, all the way to a minor road.

Turn right on the road. Look for a way mark on a footbridge on the left. Cross it, go through a gate and into a garden. Go down the left hand side of the garden and exit via a stile. Cross a pasture and, after a metal gate, swing right along the field edge. Go over a high stile and through a coppice, carrying on along the top edge of a field.

When the trees to the left are reached, take an (unsigned) footpath through them and emerge on to a road. Turn left and then go right at a footpath sign. The path is surfaced for some time. Keep ahead after a gate, ignore a side path, and access the graveyard via another gate. Exit on to a road, turn right and return to the car park.

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



Refreshed play park for Stapleford?

A GROUP of Stapleford residents working with the Parish Council have been investigating options to refresh the under-12s playground. The Jubilee Playground, next to the Recreation Ground and the tennis courts, was created in 2000 and whilst still popular with local families, the equipment needs a refresh.

Local parents Rosie Brown, Beckie Whitehouse and Rebecca Trigg have been working with Gillian Pett from the Stapleford Parish Council. The group has surveyed local families via Facebook and the primary school to find out what residents and their children think about the existing playground, and what they'd like to see in the future.

Results showed that families love the setting and the natural play opportunities, like the hill and the trees, but overwhelmingly felt that the site would benefit from some new and improved equipment. Favourite suggestions included a slide on the hill, a sunken trampoline and a new climbing frame.

In October, Gillian presented some initial research to the Parish Council indicating that it would cost between £50-80k to overhaul the play park, depending on the equipment purchased. The Parish Council have committed £20k from the Section 106 funds to start the ball rolling, and Gillian's team is now in the process of investigating fundraising options for the remainder. There may be contributions from local firms or donations from individuals, but grants look to be the most likely way to source additional funding.

Gillian's group is keen to make the most of the site's natural assets, for example adding fencing at the top of the hill to create a 'play fort' effect and adding a double-width slide built into the hill – something that existed in the playground many years ago, we're told!

In terms of deciding on and purchasing the range of equipment, it will depend on how much money can be secured. There are many options, and the group feels that it would be better to get a few new pieces for a lower budget, rather than waiting to fundraise for the largest amount. The final costs would need to include not just the new equipment and installation, but also removing or refurbishing existing equipment and resurfacing the playground too.

The next step for the group is establishing how much extra funding can be sourced and then getting final quotes from a range of play equipment suppliers like Komplan, Wicksteed and Playdale. At that stage, the community will be asked to feedback on the various options.

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Gillian's group hope that they can move quickly to secure grant funding or donations and commission the new playground build in 2021. Given the challenges of 2020, having a place for families to gather to play, watch sport and enjoy community events seems more important than ever.

If you would like to get involved in the project, either by making a donation or by helping fundraise, please contact Gillian Pett at gillian.pett29@gmail.com. **Rebecca Trigg**



Stapleford playground 2020



Artist's impression of concept

Stapleford Community Primary School PTA Virtual Fun Run



HOPEFULLY this year's **Stapleford Community Primary School PTA Fun Run** will prove to be the only one ever requiring to be virtual; nevertheless it turned out to be a great success. Almost £5,000 was raised via donations from local firms and sponsorship gained via school pupils running a dizzying number of laps around the back field in their school year bubbles and also by parents, carers, friends

and relatives running five kilometres in and around the village during a specified week in September. Boris' clarity of advice to run, not to run, stay at home, go outside, resulted in the highest number of people ever to take part in the socially distanced Fun Run.

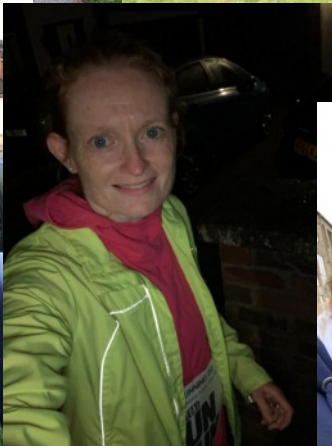
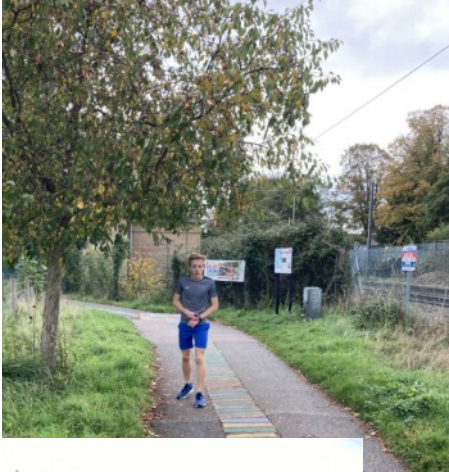
Well done and thank you to everyone who took part and raised funds for the school, the proceeds of which will be put towards improvements in the front playground and, aptly, a running track for pupils. Particular congratulations to the fastest female and fastest male in the 5km race. Helen Zenner Branco was the fastest woman, running her 5km in 22 minutes despite choosing to run a tough route around Wandlebury. Sullivan Smith regained his title in a time of just over 16 minutes, however his era of dominance may soon be over, Matthew Smith is catching up fast. At only 14 years of age he ran his 5km in well under 18 minutes!

We all hope the 2021 Fun Run will be able to return to the glorious surroundings of Magog Down, with no need for social distancing, a vaccine or treatment in place to prevent COVID-19 being such a threat to us all, but with the continued inimitable support that is so prevalent in our community.


Thanks to our sponsors

We thank each of the local firms sponsoring the virtual Fun Run: 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 during these difficult times. **Tim Harrison**





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Ex-Strikers run Posh close in cup cracker

FOUR former Shelford and Stapleford Strikers stars enjoyed an amazing run in the FA Youth Cup.

The quartet - Stapleford's own Cameron Rayment and Ben Landshoff



Ben Landshoff in SASS colours

plus Ethan Karpuk, and Jack Brandon - helped Newmarket Town Under-18s come within a whisker of knocking Peterborough United out in the first round proper.

The Jockeys were leading 2-1 with just seconds to go in front of a lockdown-eve sell-out crowd when Posh were awarded a penalty, and went on to win 7-2 in extra time.

That was a cruel ending but a huge achievement nonetheless to give a professional club - Posh were coached by ex-Premier League star Matthew Etherington - such a scare.

Newmarket had already beaten four teams to get that far - Brantham Athletic, Ely City, Wroxham and Billericay.

Cameron and Ethan were SASS players for many seasons, from when they were in primary school.

Ethan was a big part of a multiple trophy-winning SASS Whites side that

his dad Nick ran with Dave Caughtry, while Cameron was the keeper for SASS Reds under his dad John, and for Stapleford School. Both represented Sawston Village College.



Cameron Rayment in action

Midfielder Jack had a short but highly successful spell at SASS with the Whites while striker Ben joined later on when there was just a single team, with his goals helping the club to more success. Cameron captained that team to two league titles and a cup success

“I’m massively proud of all the boys for going toe to toe with a professional side who have ex-pro’s with over 1000 Premier League

appearances managing and coaching them, nutritionists, physios etc, who train every day and get paid for it, whereas we train one hour a week and have to pay to play,” said Nick, who is one of the Newmarket coaches.

“How good could we be if we were an academy? It just shows if you work hard and believe you can achieve anything.

“If some of these boys don’t get picked up by all the scouts there then there is something wrong with the football world. I can’t put into words how proud I am of every one of them.” **Jon West**

Here is Cameron’s account of the Peterborough game, written specially for the Messenger. He played in the qualifiers against Brantham and Ely and was on the bench for the other games.

IT was a really great effort from everyone involved.

We had two extra training sessions on the Friday and Sunday before the game as well as our usual one on Monday.

Injuries weren’t kind to us. We lost two players in the first half and a third just after half time so after about 50 minutes all our substitutes were used.

The crowd helped the boys a lot. The maximum capacity was 300 and tickets were sold out within a day or two. Those who did manage to get a ticket made themselves heard and that gave us a big boost.

We took the lead after about 20 minutes and that was a great moment. We were the first Newmarket Town side to reach the first round proper for 12 years and our thought that we could actually be the first in the club’s 143-year history to make the second round became real at that point.

Going into half time with the one-goal lead was a huge achievement in itself. Both teams scored early in the second half - first Peterborough, then us.

Peterborough saw a lot of the ball but we were able to keep them in areas where they couldn’t cause us any trouble. I don’t think they had any clear-cut chances, which is credit to those who were out there working their socks off.



Ethan Karpuk celebrates victory over Wroxham



Ethan Karpuk (far right) in action for SASS in an U14 game at Newmarket in 2016. SASS won 14-1!



A team huddle

When the clock hit 90 minutes the board went up saying four minutes of stoppage time - at 2-1 up four minutes feels like a very long time!

Halfway through, an attacker was running towards our goal line and it looked for all the world like his touch was heavy and our defender just had to get his body in the way and see it out for a goal-kick but he went to ground and when you do that and the attacker falls over under contact you give the referee a decision to make so

we can have no complaints about the penalty.

There was still hope because in the previous round when it went to penalties Sam, the other goalkeeper, saved the first one, so I still thought there was a chance but he went the wrong way and all of a sudden we had a mountain to climb with extra time looming and tired players all over the place.

Inevitably we couldn't match our work rate from the 90 minutes and their fitness really showed as they scored five times in half an hour.

Looking back it was unrealistic to think we were going to beat them but coming so close just shows what a great group of players and managers we have, giving a professional club a really good run for their money.

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Christmas Wordsearch

FIND words running backwards and forwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

The words are all from the Bible accounts of the first Christmas (Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 1:18-2:12, New International Version 1984).

When you have found all the answers, rearrange the remaining letters to make another example.



Anagram farewell to 2020

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THOUSAND

ANDSETICY

TWENTYEICE

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 51

Stapleford Bird Club

OWING to the second prolonged period of COVID-19 lockdown, the timing of the walk at 8.30am on Saturday 14 November wasn't ideal to look for birds as so many people were already out and about enjoying the Down in their own ways, November is a fairly quiet month for numbers of small birds at the Down (as at many other sites with the same mix of habitat) and a procession of walkers tends to drive birds out of sight. Again, I was on my own. For some time, during my daily dog walking, I have been seeking out people with binoculars to ask what birds they have been finding. These chance meetings and some friendly chat would be useful to find out what we have missed, and people like to know we see on our monthly walks (the reporting on the Down's notice boards will resume shortly). However, for weeks now I haven't seen a single soul with binoculars!

Most of the usual birds were noted, no birds of prey in the air though, perhaps waiting for the fine drizzle to stop. Twenty-two species were seen or heard. On a list made each month, we note how the bird is first found - by sight, call or song. Unusually, only four birds were first found by their call - a single Robin, Magpie, Bullfinch and Yellowhammer. Only Robins were singing, which is normal for this time of year. Most Robins would have been missed if they had not been singing. All other species were found by sight, which requires looking in all directions at the same time if you are on your own!

The winter thrushes were absent, because it is still mild in Europe and they have no need to visit us *en masse* yet. The parties of Redwings from Scandinavia that passed over during the October walk were a part of a wide movement that day, but I haven't seen any more Redwings since then, and not a single Fieldfare. These birds make up an attractive part of the landscape, particularly the larger Fieldfares that alight on the Sheep Paddocks to feed on invertebrates, and form small, noisy parties as they swoop down on the berry-laden hedgerows.

My personal highlights on this walk were Bullfinch, Green Woodpecker, Grey Partridge, Meadow Pipit, Stonechat (a colourful, attractive male, photo right), and Yellowhammer.



Owing to COVID-19 restrictions and the need to stay safe, there is no general invitation to join the walk in December. **Mike Foley**



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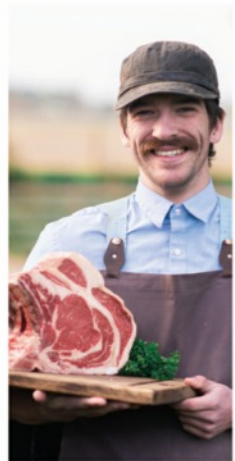
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Magog Down



MAGOG Down has been a haven for exercising the body and restoring the mind over these months of the strangest of years. The Down was open to the public all during lockdown, though the car park itself closed for a few weeks in line with Government restrictions. Those who were able to access Magog Down by other means saw it flourish with glorious birdsong, wild flowers and a tranquillity not usually encountered. We have to thank our volunteer force carrying out their duties since then, continuing to open and close the gates, morning and night, and also those who take part in the work parties under the supervision of our contracted Rangers, clearing bramble, pulling ragwort planting hedges. Changes in autumn colour have been glorious; sheep have been quietly grazing.

Since lockdown, the number of visitors coming to enjoy the open spaces of Magog Down, has increased enormously with many becoming Friends of the Down, so contributing to the considerable costs of its upkeep. The car park now has both a contactless and cash machines making payment easy for those visitors who are not Friends of Magog Down.

Sadly, a couple of events which should have taken place, have had to be cancelled due to restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Stapleford Fun Run and the Inter-Varsity Hare and Hounds running event.

The Magog Trust is not a campaigning body, but the proposal of the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership to run a bus route across arable fields within the landscape viewed from the Down within the Green Belt, affects Magog Down so directly that the Trust will continue to work with other bodies to oppose the plans. Please lobby your local representatives and have your say at consultcamb.s.uk.engagementhq.com/cset-eia.

We look forward to a New Year, whatever it brings, but the guarantee is that spring will again burst forth. A new nature trail will take us through the woods in which paths have been created. Scrapes on the thin chalk soil will become re-populated, the plant species which grow surveyed to determine their progress. We hope that the chalk grassland, rich with site species flora, will spread into the cleared base of the chalk pit on Little Trees Hill. The clunch from the pit was used in building works, some say in the Cambridge Colleges. The skylarks, nesting in the long grass on North Down, left uncut over alternate years, will rise and delight us with their song.

A visit to Magog Down gives us exercise, delight, enjoyment, solace and hope for the New Year. Cherish it when you visit and respect others who are there. **The Magog Trust**



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What's new at Stapleford Granary?



HOW nice to have the opportunity to say hello to you all via the *Stapleford Messenger*. I'm the new CEO of Stapleford Granary and I'd like to tell you a little bit about what we are planning and how we're learning to navigate our way through the pandemic.

I took up my role at the Granary in August this year. "*Hell of a time to head*

up an Arts Centre" said one of my close friends, with what I think was a mixture of admiration, pity and incredulity. And it was... this is an unprecedented period for the Arts. We are living in a chapter of a future history book that will describe the ways in which a global pandemic changed the Arts forever. And for that reason, there has never been such a good time to take on a challenge and embrace change.

I'm not a newcomer to the Granary or Stapleford. I live in Ashwell in North Hertfordshire and I've been a regular visitor and performer at the Granary since it opened its doors in 2010. My chamber music ensemble (Goldfield Ensemble) held the first Artist Residency here from 2011-12 and - like many - I fell in love with the warm ambience of the building and the idyllic rural location. I like to arrive at the Granary very early in the morning and stand in the orchard whilst the mists are hanging mysteriously low over the fields and the dark silhouettes of the trees frame a timeless, monochrome landscape. It's like looking at an old photograph. I wrote about the powerful pull of this very special place in my recent blog '*What is an Arts Centre for?*' which you can read on the new Stapleford Granary website.

Dreaming aside, we've knuckled down and made some practical, forward-thinking changes at the Granary. If you've wandered past, you might have heard the sound of wonderful music coming from the Concert Hall. With new lights, new cameras and a wealth of creative ideas, we have been recording and filming at the Granary since September, working with some of the finest artists of the younger generation and enabling live streamed music to reach audiences in the UK and all around the world. Look out for our own new Stapleford Granary YouTube channel full of 'cultural curiosities' launching in January 2021...

But an Arts Centre should be full of people. The loss of community, the loss of shared experiences and well-being that creativity brings has been the



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hardest part for our sector to come to terms with. At the Granary, we started up our art workshops as soon as we were able to do so safely and they have been running happily for two months. We re-thought the format of our events and seating so that we could host socially distanced concerts; they sold out in a matter of hours and both musicians and audiences described the ‘overwhelming’ feeling of being able to experience live music again together. Next summer, we hope to open up the outdoor spaces at the Granary so that more of us can come together for music, art and family events.



For me, bringing the Arts, audiences and participants together is a passion, a driving force and the reason I wanted to be CEO of the Granary. In my ‘other life’, I’m a clarinetist, a producer, a writer and presenter for BBC Radio 3 and many other things, but I feel as if I could summarize all these connected activities simply as ‘story-maker’.

We are always telling powerful stories in the Arts – stories of extraordinary lives, stories that move us and compel us to take action, stories that help us see the world differently and understand one another better. My production company (Goldfield Productions) has been creating and touring such stories – made by composers, poets, artists, puppeteers – for over a decade. We also work deep in the heart of communities and we make inspirational pop-up shows that have been enjoyed by more than 10,000 primary school children in Cambridgeshire. It is this spirit of story-making and sharing that I want to develop at the Granary; my vision is of an inspirational, vibrant place for artists to connect with audiences and a home-from-home where people can come together, talk and learn from one another.

As I write, the world is starting to look a little brighter and we hold out more hope to increase our activity in 2021. I believe that an Arts Centre is a place that people should think of as ‘theirs’ and we very much want you to be part of our story. Please do take a look at our new website where we will reveal more events and ways of working together. You can sign up to our e-news letter via the website and follow us on social media. I hope to meet many of you in person over the next 12 months as we move forwards into a happy, creative new chapter for the Granary, for artists and for all of us. **Kate Romano**



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DURING the past year The Three Horseshoes has received many first class reviews, both from locals and from far and wide. Evidence, if it were ever needed, to show that one of landlord Chris Diogenes' missions - to provide a hostelry to meet differing needs with a good honest, wonderful village pub with a

delightful ambience - has been well and truly met.

The pub has also been awarded two certificates from CAMRA.

The first was The Most Improved Pub of the Year (rural).

The second was a Certificate for 'Community Champion, for services to the community during lockdown'.

And finally the Horseshoes is now listed in the Good Beer Guide 2021.

The village should be very proud to have such a well-recognised hostelry at its centre.

Our congratulations and thanks go to Chris, Ella, the manager, and the whole team at the Horseshoes. **Gerald Dodd**



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Quiz time!

THIS month's quiz is entitled Animal Magic. Answers on page 51.

1. The basenji is a dog that, unlike other dogs, cannot what exactly?
2. Name the song, along with 'Somebody to Love', that Grace Slick brought with her when she left The Great Society to join Jefferson Airplane.
3. What was the name of the villainous toad in 'Dangermouse', for a point? For another, name his henchman crow.
4. Which singer, now aged 27, played Cat Valentine in the TV series 'Victorious' and again in 'Sam and Cat'?
5. What was the English title of the Japanese TV show Journey to the West? The title character was described as being "born from an egg on a mountain top" if that helps.
6. Talking of Japan, what plant do the Japanese refer to as "Western wasabi"?
7. What phrase does Bart Simpson use when he wants someone to calm down or stop over-reacting?
8. Gigi Gazelle is a guitar-playing teacher (who may also be a vampire) in which TV series?
9. The 2009 movie 'The Men Who Stare at Goats' starred which actor, for a point, and was based on whose book for another? The author is an Arsenal-supporting Welshman if that helps.
10. 'My Beloved Monster', which featured in the first Shrek movie, was a track on the 1996 album 'Beautiful Freak' by which band?

Isolation Support Group

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2G3S News



WE held a very successful Conversation Evening on 26 October, at which two members of the Cambridge group of Extinction Rebellion talked about the values of the organisation, its ways of operating, relationship to the media, and how to discuss climate issues with doubters.

Actions are non-violent in actions and words, respectful to the public, Police and Government, and participants are responsible for themselves and the legal consequences of their actions. Their wish is a world that is fit for future generations – fair, equitable, with a climate that isn't threatening near-extinction of the human race – and they are in it for the long-haul. Not everyone demonstrates, people make banners, write press releases, plan actions behind the scenes, and at any action there is always a legal observer recording what happens, conversations with the Police and so on.

By the time you read this we will also have had our next Conversation Evening on the 23 November, at which Duncan Catchpole spoke and answered questions. He talked about Sustainable Dietary Choices, and also the progress he and his company (Cambridge Organic Food) have made towards setting up a Sustainable Food Hub in the area, to address food poverty, food waste, and to put growers in touch with consumers. Perhaps this is the year to sign up for Veganuary?

We have our AGM and planning meeting on 7 December at 8pm. Please email our address below if you would like to attend, and we can send you the Zoom link.

Some of us attended our MP Anthony Browne's second environmental forum. Many different topics were discussed, and if you would like more information please email us at the address below. Anthony intends to hold the Forums quarterly, so if you want to find out the date of the next one when it is announced, you can look on our website or Facebook page in a few weeks' time, or alternatively you can sign up through the Parliament website to receive his regular newsletter.

Various members have contributed to petitions/consultations on several topics e.g. encouraging biodiversity in grass verges, proposed changes in planning laws, and of course the Environmental Impact Study for the busway.

Don't forget the Government's Green Homes Grant scheme to help with costs of insulating your home, installing solar panels, changing your boiler, and so on. If you are interested, South Cambridgeshire District Council has

heat cameras available to borrow which you can use to see where your home is losing heat from. There is a new film called 2040, which shows that we can greatly reduce climate change and improve the environment for our children with the technology we have already, if people work together and bring it to mainstream quickly. The link is a trailer and invitation to watch the film for a small fee on various platforms, togetherfilms.org/2040-home.

And if you are interested in green matters and the environment, consider signing up for our newsletter. Our email is greengroupsssss@gmail.com. **Helen Hale**

Hand of Rod: surgeon's super skills showcased



MESSENGER viewers may have spotted a familiar face (or perhaps a few) in series three of the BBC's Surgeons: At the Edge of Life.

Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth opened their doors to the cameras from the end of last year for a set of programmes that began broadcasting on BBC2 in October.

Episode three - 'No Room for Error' - featured the highly-specialised skills of neurosurgeon Rod Laing (left), who for many years was resident in Stapleford before he and

his family relocated to Great Shelford.

Rod, still a regular sight on the tennis courts in our village, tells viewers at the start of each episode that there is a very fragile line between life and death. "I know this because I've seen it," he says.

And he was filmed tackling the not at all straightforward task of removing a cavernoma from a remarkably cheery lorry driver called Kevin.

If you are familiar with this series you won't need me reminding you that much of the footage is not for the faint-hearted (no pun intended). Scalpels glisten, blood and guts fill the screen and one episode even involves a woman having her entire blood supply drained from her body. Surgeons, world experts in their field, battle against the clock to perform operations that were science fiction just a few years ago.

Rod's task is less gory than others performed by his peers - a double lung transplant is performed in the same episode - but the stakes are high nonetheless as a single slip will spell disaster for the patient.

The cavernoma - a tumour-like bundle of abnormal blood vessels the size of a raspberry - sits near the top of Kevin's spinal cord and could rupture at any moment, killing him. Removing it, however, is a danger in itself. "There is always a concern that any false move could result in permanent paralysis," Rod reveals.

Kevin adds that he has told his wife he wants to be "carted off to Switzerland" if the worst does indeed happen and we are not talking minibreaks here. Rod describes it as a "challenging case" that he has performed only seven times before in 25 years. The risk of doing nothing is higher though so out the scalpel comes.

Sensors are also attached to Kevin's body so Rod and his team can keep tabs on his spinal cord throughout the operation: if his feet aren't twitched by an electrical signal then he's in trouble.

Plot spoiler: this does in fact happen at one rather tense point. "One of the sad things about being a surgeon is that you don't remember the successes," Rod says. "Unfortunately what you remember are the patients who you have let down in some way. Those people stick in your mind."

Increased stimulation does provide the response they were searching for but clearly some damage has been done, to the right side of his body. But how much? Rod won't know until the operation, which has lasted almost four hours and has left him emotionally drained.

Happily, it becomes clear that the damage is not permanent and, after three months of physiotherapy, we see Kevin strolling with his wife. Phew.

Jon West

*Rod's episode can be viewed on the BBC iPlayer.

Quiz answers

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Bark. | 6. Horseradish. |
| 2. White Rabbit. | 7. Don't have a cow, man. |
| 3. Baron Silas Greenback and Stiletto. | 8. Peppa Pig. |
| 4. Ariana Grande. | 9. George Clooney and Jon Ronson. |
| 5. Monkey. | 10. Eels. |

Puzzle Corner answers

Wordsearch: Bethlehem

Anagrams: slowest, handouts, syndicate, winceyette

Shelford Library News



WE'RE delighted to report that the Reading Agency is running its Winter Mini Challenge again this year. 'Everyone is a Hero' encourages children to keep reading through the winter and become a reading hero!

The challenge is a partnership between the Reading Agency and Kings Of, the children's publishers. It starts on Tuesday 1 December and finishes on Friday 15 January. Children choose a reading goal (three books are recommended), complete the challenge and earn a special certificate. Resources can be downloaded via the Reading Agency's children's website at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/.

Despite the second lockdown, libraries have been able to stay open with the same service as during the summer, with Great Shelford Library open for returns, collection of pre-ordered books and pre-booked essential computer use, on Tuesdays (10am to 2pm) and Fridays (2 to 6pm). Any changes from December will be advertised on our website and social media.

For library information, including opening hours over the festive season, please visit: cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries or call us on 0345 045 5225. **Rosemary Humby**

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Good news from Sawston Library



GOOD news! The library is, at last, in its new home within Sawston Community Hub on New Road, next to the Marven Centre. Bad news! The only view you can get for the time being is from the outside looking in.

The new space is surprisingly spacious. The floor area isn't very much different from in the temporary library, but with the high ceilings it feels much larger. The shelving is

much more accessible - no shelves so low down that you have to get down on your hands and knees. And it's all on wheels, so that shelves can be moved around more easily when events can be run again.

The computer area is more private than in the original building - much more appropriate if you have to enter sensitive information.

The children's area will be a real highlight - there's a lovely little cubby-hole, with fairy lights all around - perfect for burrowing into with a book. Lots of children's picture books are arranged with covers facing out, so it won't be such back-breaking work looking for the next haul.

The light in the library is just lovely for reading - lots of natural light, but not so much that you end up squinting. Further back in the library there are little multi-purpose meeting rooms, which will be used for by various County Council employees. There's a decent kitchen and several toilets. Outside, a path round the side of the building leads to the children's centre. For those visitors who come by bike, here is a thoroughly respectable bike shed.

After a brief spell of being open, we're back to lockdown library rules and all books have to be ordered in advance. Go to cambridgeshire.gov.uk and click on Libraries. If not already a member, you can join here (it's free) and once you have logged in you can either browse the catalogue or choose 'Select & Collect'. Just follow the on-screen instructions. And, of course, you can order books over the phone - call 0345 045 5225 and have your library number ready.

The library is be open on Mondays 2pm to 6pm and Wednesdays 10am to 2pm. Books can be collected and dropped off in the foyer at the front of the new Community Hub. You'll need to wear a mask unless you're exempt.

Yasmin Emerson, Chair of Friends of Sawston Library

Granta Medical Practices

Holiday Season Opening times and repeat prescription schedule

PLEASE make sure that you order your repeat prescriptions in a timely manner to ensure you are not without medication over the holiday.

You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs easily at home. Make sure you keep stocked up with health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn/indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time, and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

Your local pharmacist can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets with many open evenings and weekends.

If you need urgent medical assistance when we are closed please use the NHS 111 service.

For an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, ring 999.

For further information on alternative services, please go to our website grantamedicalpractices.co.uk.

Date(s)	Open/closed	Repeat prescription schedule
23 December	Open as usual	Place order today, collect 30 December
24 December	Open as usual	Place order today, collect 31 December
25, 26, 27, 28 December	Closed	Place order today, collect 4 January
29 December	Open as usual	Place order today, collect 4 January
30 December	Open as usual	Place order today, collect 5 January
31 December	Open as usual	Place order today, collect 6 January
1, 2, 3 January	Closed	Place order today, collect 6 January
4 January	Open as usual	Place order today, collect 7 January

Coronavirus

We continue to work hard to keep our patients as safe as possible, along with our staff and our community.

Patient access continues to be by invitation only, following a prior telephone assessment. If the assessing clinician feels it is clinically necessary to see you, they will arrange for you to come in and see them.

Essential care, such as NHS immunisations, blood tests, smear tests, and mother and baby checks, continues to go ahead at selected sites. We carry out temperature checks on both staff and patients to minimise risk. Patients must wear a mask if entering any of our buildings.

Coronavirus information changes rapidly. For the very latest news and guidance, please go to nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/ and gov.uk/coronavirus. **Sandra East**

From the Chair of the Parish Council



The busway crossing the River Granta at Stapleford - visualisation of design

CRUNCH time is coming - are we going to accept this - or fundraise?

Greater Cambridge Partnership intends to carve a tarmac busway 14 m wide skirting Mingle Lane and Gog Magog Way and across the fields adjacent to the Magog Down, one of the most sensitive landscapes in

Cambridgeshire. £10,000 is what we are seeking from fundraising to commission the full report. We have just received our independent transport consultant's first report confirming as we expected that the alternative route following the railway alignment is feasible and further reports need to establish the business case.

To donate either:

- scan the QR code to make a donation quickly, easily and safely.
- or go to www.cambridgeppf.org/south-east-cambridge-busway.
- or send a cheque payable to: Cambridge Past, Present & Future, Wandlebury Country Park, Gog Magog Hills, Cambridge, CB22 3AE marked "Save Shelford and Stapleford Green Belt Appeal".

There has been a tremendous response so far with more than 30 donations totalling in excess of £4,000. Whether giving £10 or £100, every contribution is valued and without the extra funding for these reports we will not be able to protect our greenbelt.

At the Stapleford Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 11 November (unfortunately due to technical difficulties some who tried to make it in late were held in the waiting room when the GCP took over hosting), the GCP panel gave their presentation on the busway. My takeaway is we should all participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment consultation at greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambridgesoutheast which is open until 14 December and we are invited to share a preference for tree lines, hedges or picnic sites, but I will be lodging an objection to the chosen route because it destroys an irreplaceable environment.

And a further thought, if the GCP introduced their 16 bus movements per hour onto our existing roads, would that not serve our communities better at a fraction of the cost of this misguided busway?

Our December meeting promises to be equally significant with detailed discussion needed on our 2021/2022 budget (the initial draft suggests a 4% rise in the precept) and consideration as to how we can improve the effectiveness of our communication, whether via the website, leafletting, newsletter or social media. **Howard Kettel**



From your Parish Council

Report from meeting on 11 November

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

The next meeting is on Wednesday 9 December. Access details are on the website.

Busway: GCP Environmental Impact Assessment: public consultation open to 14 December

Representatives of the Greater Cambridge Partnership gave a presentation to the Parish Council and all those attending the virtual meeting, showing a bird's eye view of the route, which included two major bridges across the River Granta, three bus stops, which have vehicle drop-off points and disabled car parking, and the extensive land take across green fields. Plus a 2,000 space car park off the A1307/A11 intersection. Parishioners posed many comments and questions, which were answered, but of particular importance was one question; 'the buses are road-ready, so why aren't they operational now on the existing roads?' The answer was that operators refuse to run buses on congested roads. The parishioner then commented that congestion would be reduced as car drivers would be using the buses. The GCP did not adequately offer an alternative response, as they commented that 'projections' show the level of car traffic will increase, thus making road travel by bus operators economically unviable.

Stapleford Parish Council continues to believe that the busway is environmentally destructive to our local environment and brings no real benefit to our community. If the public want the Parish Council to oppose, it will need funds to do so, and Cambridge Past, Present and Future Crowdfunding page is the route to do so. www.cambridgeppf.org/south-east-cambridge-busway or email hkettel@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Or send a cheque payable to: Cambridge Past, Present & Future, Wandlebury Country Park, Gog Magog Hills, Cambridge, CB22 3AE marked "Save Shelford and Stapleford Green Belt Appeal".

Stapleford PC urgently needs you to make comment and state whether you want the Parish Council to fight on as we would be using public money to protect our historic landscape and villages.

It was noted that the Environmental Impact Assessment consultation is open until 14 December and people should submit their views at greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambridgesoutheast.

Vacancies

The Parish Council has one vacancy. 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.

Audit update: External Audit report

The audit documents are on the PC website but the extract of the PKF Littlejohn report is shown:

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: None

Communication

There was a discussion as to how the effectiveness of our communication could be improved, whether via the website, leafletting, newsletter or social media. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Parish Council Budget

The budget is in process of development, the first draft indicates a 4% rise in the precept but still leaving a deficit, so significant discussion is needed at the December meeting with the precept to be fixed at the January meeting.

COVID-19

The pavilion is again closed, the adult gym fenced off, and the playground subject to Central Government directive on social distancing. Please do adhere to the regulations.

Community support

South Cambs Communities Team is supporting the local volunteer groups that operated during the first lockdown. The South Cambs Coronavirus page www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/ will be updated as we get more information.

Covid Community Grant

South Cambs have released details of a new grant of between £100 and £400 available for community groups supporting people with Covid-related issues. The Council has written to Parish Councils, community groups and lead volunteers inviting them to apply for the grants.

Self-isolation payments

All the information you need to apply for a government grant should you officially be required to self-isolate and consequently experience a loss of income is on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website. There are a number of eligibility checks such as what benefits you are in receipt of, but once you have made your application the process should be quick and you should receive your payment within three days. More than one person per household may apply and you can apply again if you are required to self-isolate again. www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/self-isolation-payment.

Section 106

The planning application to change the tennis courts into the MUGA has been granted. Unfortunately the MUGA surface requires better weather conditions to be laid, so work will not commence until Spring 2021.

Green Homes Grant Scheme

Government funding is now available to make homes more energy efficient, helping homeowners do their bit to move to net zero carbon by 2050 while saving money on household bills.

The grant could help the cost from to two thirds to full cost of improvements, from £5,000 to £10,000 depending on your circumstances. Find out more if you are eligible at www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-change/sustainable-living/funding-for-household-energy-saving-measures/ The scheme closes on 31 March 2021.

Zero Carbon Community Grant

Stapleford Parish Council is awaiting the result of its application.

Items of concern raised by parishioners

Busway: Those who attended the meeting raised questions which indicated a desire for the Parish Council to continue to fight against the GCP and the proposed route

Planning

- 20/04318/HFUL 11 Dolphin Way: *no objection*
- 20/04373/HFUL 11 Church Street: *no objection*
- 20/04384/HFUL 8 Collier Way: *no objection*
- 20/04170/FUL Chalk Hill, Haverhill Road: Single storey replacement dwelling: *recommendation for tree protection.*



Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

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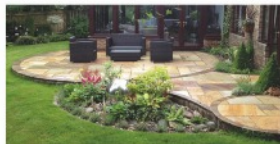
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