

Stapleford

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MESSENGER

February 2021

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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

Verge

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 services vary from week to week and our pattern is changing as we come out of lockdown. See the St Andrew's Noticeboard for this month, and the church website at standrewstapleford.org for full details. The services include:

- 9am Book of Common Prayer Communion
- 10.30am Communion, Services of the Word, Messy Church and Forest Church
- 2pm Sunday Praise
- 4.30pm Connect

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Roman Catholic

Sundays 10am and 5pm

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

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

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish priest.

Stapleford MESSENGER

Editor

Contact staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

Advertising

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

I HAVE a very limited list of ambitions left, but a new one was added this week.

Let me start with one of my old ones: I would like to arrest a ship. Sounds odd? Let me explain.

I am going to get details wrong because I am not a maritime lawyer. Suppose you have sent a cargo by sea, and it has been damaged in transit by the ship owners. You are entitled under your contract with them to compensation for the loss, but the ship owners are based in one country, and their company is based in another, and the ship is registered in a third and the crew are from all over the world. Even if you can prove the loss, getting your money is going to be tricky. So you get a court order to arrest the ship – to stop it leaving port until the claim is dealt with. The crew have to be told that the order has been made. Originally a lawyer had to get on board the ship and post a notice. The practical joke was to send the first-time lawyer with a hammer and nail and tell them to nail the notice to the mast – not much use on modern ships. I have no idea why I would have liked to have done this, but it is never going to happen. I chose the wrong bit of law. No matter. I have let it go, as Elsa – or was it the other one? – in *Frozen* advises.

But now a new legal ambition has dawned. I would really like to draft a rental contract for a pair of giant pandas. Until recently I had no idea there was such a thing, but it turns out that Edinburgh Zoo's giant pandas are not theirs, nor on loan as the public might have thought, but are rented from China, at an annual cost of about £1million. The zoo can't afford them any more, and are thinking of sending them back. News reports do not include lots of fun details that a contract drafter should have thought about that might be relevant now: who retains image rights, whether sub-letting is permitted, whether a fee is payable if the period of hire is ended prematurely, whether those contracts for unneeded bamboo shoots now have to be honoured, and more. Sadly panda contracts don't come up that often in my clinical negligence practice, so I may have to let this go too.

Letting things go is rather the theme of the moment. I am sure you have had to let lots go in the last few weeks and months. At St Andrew's, a week before Christmas, with the Covid rates in South Cambridgeshire rising steeply and the government asleep at the wheel, we took the decision to suspend services in church.

I am really sorry if you were looking forward to our outdoor Christingle, or Christmas Eve communion, or Forest Church on Christmas Day.



So were we, with the church nicely dressed up for Christmas with its wonderful new star (see photo on page 5), but I am pleased we took the decision. Since then rates have more than doubled, so it was the right call. We anticipate that we will stay online only at least until the end of February, and quite probably longer. Check out our YouTube channel for our services.

We have had to let stuff go, but we have not been let go. There is a lovely ancient psalm, split into psalms 42 & 43 in our bibles, that the writer James Boice calls 'An Upward Look by a Downcast Soul'. You can read it in full on biblegateway.com. It is stuff for our times. The chorus starts:

Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

As you read the verses, the answer is pretty clear: everything is going wrong. The psalmist is trapped, deceived, oppressed by circumstances, weeping, full of doubts, and taunted by his foes with the brutal question:

Where now is your God?

But as the psalmist lies in his bed in misery he gradually remembers.

By day the Lord directs his love,

at night his song is with me -

a prayer to the God of my life.

He remembers worshipping the Lord, and looks forward with certainty to doing so again:

Send me your light and your faithful care,

let them lead me;

let them bring me to your holy mountain,

to the place where you dwell.

Then I will go to the altar of God,

to God, my joy and my delight.

I will praise you with the lyre,

O God, my God.

It is lovely, uplifting stuff, a psalm for our pandemic of letting go while clinging on. There is someone steadfast still, our God of light and faithful care in view. And so that depressing opening couplet of the chorus morphs, rightly, from despair to hope:

Why, my soul, are you downcast?

Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God,

for I will yet praise him,

my Saviour and my God.

Every blessing to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

IN February our services will be online only, though we will keep the matter under review and re-start in-person once it is safe to do so. Services will be on our St Andrew's Stapleford YouTube channel.

2 FEB	6.30pm	CANDLEMAS COMMUNION Malachi 3.1-5; Luke 2.22-40 <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</i>
7 FEB	10.30am	SERVICE OF THE WORD Mark 9.14-29 <i>Everything is possible</i>
14 FEB	10.30am	SERVICE OF THE WORD Mark 9.30-50 <i>Welcome the one who sent me</i>
17 FEB	6.30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION Joel 2.1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21
21 FEB	10.30am	MESSY CHURCH FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Mark 1.9-15
28 FEB	10.30 am	SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; John 8.51-59 <i>Before Abraham was, I am</i>

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

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

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Funeral: 6 January: Alan Kellman

Isolation Support Group

Don't forget that there are volunteers willing to help out with small amounts of shopping, prescription collection, dog walking and lawn cutting should you be unlucky enough to have to self isolate.

Just call either Carol on 843424 or Gillian on 843278.



Leo Shapiro kindly sent this atmospheric picture of St Andrews's at night showing the new star

Deadline for the MARCH Messenger

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

By email to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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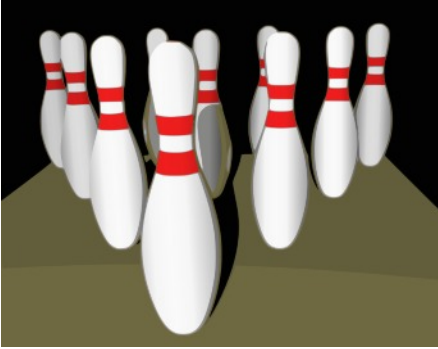
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ANOTHER month, a fresh article. What this time? Mood and motivation are low. We are in difficult circumstances feeling doubtful, anxious and concerned in a troubled world. That is true of all of us. Life is really complicated and a brighter future seems a dim reality. Pressing on is hard. We share worries of restrictions and adversity.

I thought I could be creative with words. Acrostics fascinate. It is good to grasp a challenge. For this occasion I've considered the word **POSITIVE**.

It came about because of a 'phone call when a friend said she was feeling totally UPSKITTLED. I'd not heard that before but it appealed, making me chuckle. We need laughter.

In my teaching days there have been a few wonderful expressions from disillusioned frames of mind, including "confussed" instead of "confused". Being upbeat needs encouragement and stimulation. Adding Alzheimer's into the mix makes it important to find ways to help build self-esteem and morale. Certain qualities with a sprinkling of sensitivity and peppering of love fit well alongside my chosen acrostic word.

- P** patience, perception, perseverance
- O** optimism, observation, outdoors
- S** sun, stars, smiles, spring
- I** intuition, imagination, intrigue
- T** trust, talk, touch, tales, trees
- I** invention, interest, investigation
- V** vision, vocals, 'Virtual,' verse
- E** enthusiasm, engaging, endeavour

I notice omissions such as poetry and prose. P also stands for prayer. People who don't normally pray turn to it in times of distress or dilemma. What is more there are no wrongs. A saying reads, 'Pray as you can, not as you can't.' Encouraging and hopeful....

We like to find three things a day that please, surprise or make us stop and stare. Even in tough times we achieve the target. Being aware, looking with care, is joyful. It needs little effort. **Judith Lee**

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Nachingwea news



THE Link Committee sends warm thanks to all who donated to the several fund-raising activities that replaced the annual Christmas Fair, and to all who made other direct donations. The Just Giving page achieved £700 and the Advent Church Porch project and Christmas card sales raised £283. These along with direct donations of a further approximately £700, much of which was gift-aided, have ensured that the Library project is now well on the way to being successfully funded.

The English Course, which ran from 12 October to 30 December to help prepare students for the start of secondary school education, proved to be very successful. The course was organised, managed and taught by Kevin Bushiri with assistance from Neema Mshamu. Weekday sessions ran from 8am to 12pm and from 3pm to 6pm, and 7am to 10am on Saturdays, with written English in the mornings and spoken English in the afternoons.



Kevin concludes his report: "All in all, we have succeeded as the great aim was to help them understand the English language in both writing and speaking. We have shown them the way to do better in their future academic lives. The higher they go academically the more experience they will have in English language and practice must be non-stop."

The full report is available on the Nachingwea link on the St Andrew's Church website. **Trish Maude**

Thanks to all our deliverers

WE must give thanks to all who have and continue to deliver post, food, medication, online orders etc. to our homes during this pandemic.

I want to thank in particular, all those who have and continue to deliver the *Messenger* magazine in and around Stapleford. Not only have you delivered the magazine but during the last two months or so you have also collected subscriptions for the 2021 magazines. This was particularly tricky this time because we added the option to pay online as well as by cash or cheque. It has proved to be not only necessary to do this but also popular and easy now that cash and cheques may be more difficult.

Many thanks to you all and let us give thanks to our real Deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ. **Valerie Powell**

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Stapleford Community Primary School

SCHOOL is running at approximately 40% during this latest lockdown. The teachers are running a dual system of class teaching plus remote learning for those not able to attend - a tall order, but from the images and work submitted, the children, their parents and the teachers are doing a magnificent job.

For those without the technology we are providing paper packs. We have loaned out about a third of our stock of Chromebooks, but there are still families who are in need of computer equipment. The considerable national campaign has helped, and we have had two appliances provided from the local village community, but if anyone in Stapleford could help us we would be most grateful.



The poor weather delayed the start of two projects here at school - the kitchen roof remedial works are now underway. The running track has been put off until March - but fingers crossed we shall be using this in the summer term.

We are delighted that our defibrillator is up and running both for the benefit of those at the school, but also the wider community should it be needed. This project was a joint one, with the PTA providing the box, the school the fitting and electrical work and the Parish Council provided the unit and case. Let's hope we do not

need it!

Take care everyone, **Christine Spain**

Mothers' Union News



WE are still not able to have meetings, due to the current health crisis. However, members have been taking part in Zoom services, such as the monthly Thursday Prayer service from Ely Cathedral.

May I remind members that subscriptions (£20) are now due and should be sent to Mary Cooper. **Hilary Street**

Hope and anticipation

I pray 2021 will be worth recall,
A year to be fondly recounted by one and all,
As the previous year had been an emotional hell,
With only a few positive aspects that I can tell,
Like a social bond that grew stronger than ever before,
As communities pulled together so very much more,
To help one another and do what they could,
It restored your faith in humanity and all that is good,
Now thankfully that time has passed,
COVID will be defeated and consigned to the past,
Things can only get better from here on in,
So let's embrace this New Year and jump right on in,
Our local businesses will need our full help and support,
So more people can find the new jobs that they sought.
Our economy can flourish and we will all thrive,
Maintaining a positive outlook will be the key,
So let's start with gusto and we will then see,
The European nations may think that we're bound to fail,
But we're all proud to be British,
And we will always prevail.

By Michael Gatward



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Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Emma Vine, Stapleford

Re: Dog fouling on the Recreation Ground

I GREW up around Stapleford and have lived in the area for the last 50 years, and my father was a cricketer with the village for a long time. I have now lived in the village for the past seven years. I had always classed Stapleford as a wealthy area and thought villagers were proud of their village.

I was walking, as I try to most days, round the village and a few times watched the youngsters playing football on the Rec in their teams. My grandson has also played there from an away side. You can imagine my disgust when walking over the Rec the other morning to see that it appears some people now class the area as a dogs' toilet. It is disgusting that people from such a good village leave their dog mess on a Rec that is used very regularly by young children. I would think that if these people also have young children or grandchildren who play over there and maybe in a team, that they would be the first to moan if their children go home covered with dog mess or with it on their football boots or trainers. Why should the managers or trainers clear this mess up before a game?

Come on the few Stapleford dog owners that let this happen, clear up after your dogs!



Shelford and Stapleford Strikers in footy action on the Rec in happier days

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.

FROM: Michael Dawes, Leeway Avenue, Great Shelford

RE: The proposed guided busway

JIM: "Hi Ann and Nat, hope you are both well."

ANN: "Yes, thanks, I'm sticking to all the rules and playing it safe."

NAT: "Yes, me too."

JIM: "So what have you guys been up to?"

ANN: "I've been puzzling on what to do about the card from Shelford and Stapleford Parish Councils – the one that was popped through my letter box just before Christmas asking me for money!"

JIM: "That the one about the **Greater Cambridge Partnership's** plan to build a new pollution-free busway and a walk/jogging/cycling lane between Cambridge and Babraham?"

ANN: "Yes, the GCP have chosen the route just outside and to the east of our villages, but some of us, including the PCs, wanted to save some greenbelt land, better share the busway, and thought a better route might be alongside the railway line through the centre of our villages."

NAT: "Yes, **Mott MacDonald** assessed that route. Their report in May last year estimated it would cost an extra £29m and require the demolition of 13 homes and three commercial buildings."

JIM: "Yes, but the PCs disputed that, and committed at least £30k to get **i-Transport** to assess the MM report and suggest improvements."

ANN: "Yes, they did, on 24 November, but their solution requires the demolition of almost all the Shelford rail station building, including Zara, and four homes. With the increasing demand for homes, we reluctantly give up greenbelt land (like near More's Meadow), but I'm totally against destroying people's homes and lives to protect the greenbelt."

NAT: "I agree, and I am also very worried about the increasing dangers and congestion at the Hinton Way and Granham's Road rail crossings. People and vehicles negotiating these would have to avoid crossing trains, buses, walkers, joggers, cyclists, and any other non-motorised users – plus, close to the rail station crossing, residents trying to exit and enter Leeway Avenue! Delays at the crossings for trains alone are roughly 22 minutes of every hour, so add to that 16 buses an hour, and we are approaching gridlock! And, it would also mean more vehicles using Mingle Lane, Stapleford and the A1301 to avoid the blockage!"



The intention of the new busways and NMUs is to decrease, not increase congestion, pollution and danger in our villages.”

JIM: “So, Ann, a big ‘no’ to the PC’s cards and the ‘blue route’ they show? Perhaps we could go for the ‘red route’ if the busway and NMU lanes were in a cutting, and under-passed Haverhill Road, Hinton Way and Granham’s Road?”

ANN: “I am going to use my money to save for an electric car. What are you going to do Nat?”

NAT: “I’m going to think some more about having the busway and MNU beside the A1307, but meanwhile I am going to make a pot of tea. Bye you two.” *Click!*

JIM and Ann: “Bye, Bye.” *Click! Click!*

From: Vanda Galer, Great Shelford EWR Action Group.

Re: East West Rail project

THE East West Rail project poses a serious risk to homes in Shelford and time is running out.

It is time to join forces and get involved, before it is too late. We are in serious danger of having a major new railway line built right through the village.



The Secretary of State for Transport announced in January Preferred Route Option E for a new railway line connecting Bedford and Cambridge. East West Railway Co is currently identifying specific routes *within* the Preferred Route Option (pictured, left - the lighter green area)- what the company calls ‘Route Alignment Options’.

One option will be selected and there will then be a statutory public

consultation before planning consents are sought. Construction is planned to start in 2025.

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Any chosen Route Alignment is likely to have a significant adverse impact as the railway seems destined to merge with existing rail lines in or near the Shelfords.

What's the alternative? A Northern Route.

The CamBedRailRoad group has developed an alternative route that approaches Cambridge from the

north, rather than the south. A northern Cambridge approach would serve the needs of the region and local communities better than Option E.

EWR have only consulted on southern routes. They have never consulted on the relative merits of northern and southern approaches. This is unacceptable.

It is vital that we lobby immediately, urgently and widely for the postponement of EWR's impending non-statutory consultation on route alignments within the route option E area, in order to allow for a proper consideration of CBRR's proposal for a northern approach, and for a public consultation on the relative merits of northern and southern approaches. The non-statutory consultation on the current route option E should **not** take place, unless and until it has been demonstrated by EWR that there are compelling reasons against CBRR's proposals and in favour of EWR's current plans. Those reasons have not yet been provided.

What can you do?

To obtain the best solution for our local community, there are things that we can each do.

1. Join Great Shelford EWR Action Group. We are a group of residents working together to create awareness in our community of the EWR proposals, the alternatives and lobbying for consultation on the merits of northern and southern approaches. Email gt-shelford-ewr-action@googlegroups.com stating your name and address.

2. Sign CamBedRailRoad's petition for a fair evaluation of a northern approach to Cambridge.

3. Write to your MP, District and County Councillors and the Cambridge Mayor.

EWR is a public body so every email and letter to a politician will count. An original letter has more impact than a template letter.

4. Write to East West Railway to express your opinion. E-mail contact@eastwestrail.co.uk or send a letter to FREEPOST East West Rail.

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Yesteryear

SYLVIA Morris looks at Stapleford in the month of February from years gone by. Please note that the punctuation and capital letters are exactly as printed in sources at the time.

1804

WANTED immediately: A journeyman Millwright. A good Workman, and well conversant in making French Stones, shall meet with good encouragement, by applying to Robert Willis, Stapleford.

1900

THE WAR: Three special services of intercession on behalf of our forces in South Africa were held in Stapleford Church on Sunday last.

At each of them an appropriate address was given by the vicar upon some aspects of the war and our duties as Christians with regard to it. In spite of inclement weather and prevalent sickness, the services were well attended

and all present seemed to fully enter into the spirit of the solemn occasion.

In addition to the contribution already sent from this parish to the War Fund, collections were again made on behalf of the Soldiers and Sailors Wives and Families Association and the amount realised was £4 8s 10d.



1936

PROPOSITION: "That the Clerk be instructed to write to Messrs Cass and Gatherwood, Cott Farm Babraham pointing out the fact that their removal of clunch from the parish pit is illegal and that should this recur proceedings will be taken against them by the Council. (Carried)"

From Stapleford Parish Council minutes.

1942

SUMMONED: Emily Hudson of 10 Council Houses, London Road, Stapleford was summoned for failing to obscure a light at that address during the blackout on 23 rd January. She wrote pleading guilty.

Special Sergeant Percy White stated that the light was visible from some 200 yards. The window was screened only with a flimsy curtain. Mrs Hudson told witnesses the switch was faulty. War Reserve Wolsey gave evidence of interviewing the defendant, who said that the light must have been on all day, and also that the switch was faulty.

1991

STAPLEFORD WI: This month is an open meeting when anyone who might be interested is invited to come and hear a talk by Sqn. Ldr. Colin Patterson who flew a Lancaster in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The competition is a model aeroplane.



2G3S



FOR your diaries, our proposed dates for 2021 are as follows, with a mixture of planning meetings and events or activities. It's likely that all will be virtual for a while, of course. Check our Facebook page for information nearer the time.

Monday 8 February - Thursday 11 March - Thursday 8 April - Monday 10 May - Monday 7 June - Thursday 8 July - Thursday 12 August - Monday 6 September - Monday 11 October - Thursday 4 November - Thursday 2 December

Events we hope to arrange this year include finding out about local water supply, the Local Plan, holding a litter pick and running a fruit and veg swap on weekend dates, and arranging something around the COP26 in November (the international environmental conference that the UK is hosting in Glasgow). Various other ideas were discussed in our planning, so watch this space. We may also add in repair cafés or outdoor events when it is safe to do so.

The supply of water will be a limiting factor in the development of this area. It is discussed in the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Our aquifers suffer from over-extraction for agriculture and to supply all the houses in the area, and it is important that we protect the quality of our chalk streams.

There is a newly-formed group, Friends of the River Cam, and they have a very good video on YouTube called Saving the River Cam, by Feargal Sharkey.

We hope to arrange a date for the collection of old computer equipment for re-use or recycling, through a local contact. So don't throw out your old laptops and cables, they can be useful to others - not least the children who are having to stay at home during the pandemic but haven't the means to study online.

A few things to do while you're locked in again:

Try and shop locally rather than swelling the supermarket coffers if you can. You'll save petrol, packaging, and keep local shops going.

At some date in February our MP's next Environmental Forum is to be held, so if you are interested in attending do keep an eye on his website (anthonybrowne.org) or his Facebook page so you can register. If you have a question you can ask it at the Forum or submit it in advance.



You may have seen that Chris Packham (pictured, left) has launched a petition to stop HS2 (HS2 petition will find it on Google). The case for it is weakened as more people will continue to work from home longer-term, at least some days a week (same as for the busway closer to home...). If you want more information about the damage to

nature before you sign, see the Woodland Trust's website.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment, send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.com to sign up for our newsletter, ask a question, or to join in any of our meetings. Also see our Facebook page.

Helen Hale

Exercise with a purpose

AS so many local people only have walks for exercise, perhaps they would like to help the community at the same time by using the litter picking equipment that the Parish Council has?



If you are interested, you can collect the equipment from myself or Gillian Pett.

Our contact details can be found in the back of the magazine. Thank you.

Michael Gatward, Stapleford Parish Council



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Wembley blues

SOME top professionals go their whole career without ever getting to play on the hallowed turf of Wembley but John Little managed it no fewer than five times in six years.

The former senior lecturer at Cambridge University regularly took on Oxford at the national stadium when he was an undergraduate and never lost his love for the game. Now a Football Association Vice-President, he rolled back the years to give Messenger readers a taste of football glory in the era of Bobby Robson and a certain young Scot called Graeme Souness.

I STARTED my football career at Portway Primary School and was captain of the West Ham schools team which won the cup against our big rivals, East Ham. I then left to go to Stratford Grammar School and obviously played football. Half way through the season, the well-known West Ham scout Wally St. Pier asked me to go training with the youth squad at the West Ham training ground. I played a few games with them before the season ended.



I then went up to Cambridge in 1972. I scored a hat-trick in my first trial and was immediately asked to join the Blues squad. I played for the Blues against various professional junior teams - Arsenal, Spurs, West Ham and Ipswich. My favourite moment was marking Graeme Souness of Spurs, who was taken off early! My favourite

time was meeting Bobby Robson. After the game (at Fenners) he came to the table amongst we students and we had an excellent chat with him.

The Varsity Football Match was always played after the Varsity Rugby Match and I was picked to start in 1972. I was made captain in 1974 and also played in 1973, 1975 and 1977.

Naturally, Wembley Stadium was the setting which all of the players wanted to play in. Firstly we took a coach down to London and stayed in a hotel overnight in Edgware - yes, we thought that we were professionals! The next morning we boarded the coach and set off for Wembley. The stadium and the twin towers could be viewed from some way away and the excitement began.

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As we arrived at the ground the coach turned into the tunnel – the same tunnel which would soon be seen when the teams came out on to the hallowed turf. The changing rooms were large and there was a big bath. There was much excitement as we all realised where we were and what would be happening next - yes, this really was Wembley Stadium. We



walked out on to the turf. After we took in the size of the stadium we all walked back to our dressing room and changed into our Wembley kit.

We were told there would be a crowd of about 10,000 fans, mostly schoolchildren and who would be sitting along the halfway line. Given that the stadium could hold

80,000 or so the noise was amazingly high. Previous players had told us new boys that you had to be very careful when trying to hear a call on the pitch - and they were right!

We lined up in front of the Royal Box singing ‘God Save The Queen’, the referee blew his whistle and the game began. I am happy to report that Cambridge won 2-1 and I (pictured above, centre) hit the Oxford crossbar!

Great fun followed that evening as we had dinner in the famous Cricketers Pub in London, the watering hole of Test match cricketers after a Lord’s match.

As years passed by I played for Corinthian Casuals but the journey to their ground became somewhat difficult between Cambridge and South London and I returned to local football. I spent most of that time at Histon and enjoyed some good football with them.

Now that I no longer play I have been very lucky to represent Cambridge University as a FA Council Member. Cambridge and Oxford were very important in the formation of football in 1856 and this has continued. I have been on the FA Council since 1999, sitting on committees including the FA Vase, the England C team (for fifth-tier players and below), representative football, adult participation and one or two others.

There are eight Vice-Presidents at the FA with seniority. If a vacancy occurs in the group then the next position goes to the next in line. In 2019 a vacancy occurred and, as the next senior member, I became a Vice-President of the FA. A great honour.

The sap is rising

I HEAR a lot of people holding out for spring at the moment. All these lockdown restrictions, post-Christmas blues and fears of what the future holds, I totally get it - we need something good to look forward to. But let's not miss out on life in the meantime, because I'm going to let you into a hidden secret that is happening right now: **The sap is rising!** (Well, if not now, very soon)

This February, whatever you do, however restricted you may be, I urge you to get out for your allowance of exercise as much as possible. February isn't quite spring, but it isn't just about daffodils either - it's a mover and a shaker of a month! With the warming earth it is the time of life quickening, energy is rising, and the trick is to be outside to tap into it. This works especially if you do something physical for a while, do *anything*: walk; run; rake leaves; sweep the patio; pull some weeds; pick up that litter that's been annoying you in your village all winter....and of course this principle of "just get out there and do it" breeds positivity at any time of year.



February is the time when it all stirs, the songbirds start singing, courting and making nests - it's no accident Valentine's Day is in February, in fact February 14 was known in Sussex as Bird Wedding Day! Rumour has it the first bird seen by a maid on this day indicates the character of her future spouse - well well ...

... If that's true, Great Crested Grebes (pictured above) are a good bird to see if you're looking for a slick mover - they put on such a romantic show you might think you are watching an episode of Strictly! The Dernford Reservoir near Stapleford is a good little lockdown walk for bird lovers, you may well see a Grebe and certainly many other birds - many sporting their finest feathers around now.

Winter aconite, primroses, wood anemones and snowdrops are flowering. Frogs and toads may be seen spawning already, if you have ever witnessed this event, you'll know it is not a sight for the prudish! Butter-yellow Brimstones may flash past at this time, apparently these are the reason butterflies are called as such. Queen buff-tailed and early bumblebees may be seen flying slowly about, seemingly defying the laws of aerodynamics as they dozily crash about.

Hazel catkins, rich with pollen hang like little yellow lambs tails - look really closely and you'll see bright red flowers – the male parts - looking like miniature sea anemones!

After the hardship of winter, a bit of February sunshine is meltingly delicious, relished by all. This is the time you might find an unusual animal basking in a south facing spot, occasionally a deer or a snake may be seen, more likely a dog or a cat, perhaps even granny! Whichever it is you can still enjoy the bliss on their faces!

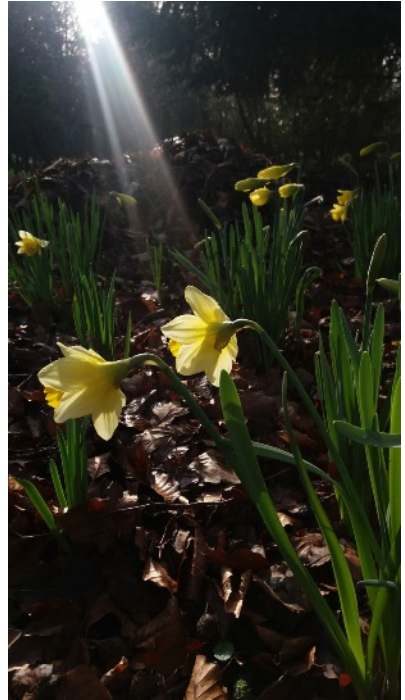
In lockdown, luckily for us, walking and gardening count as exercise and more, we are allowed to do it alongside another. The two-metre distance is close enough to hear another's voice; we can help, encourage and support each other. During this time, if you find yourself inspired, research your local gardening or wildlife groups in preparation for when restrictions lift a bit – see list below, please also let me know about other local groups that work outside, including gardening groups with outdoor activities.

If 'The News' makes you despair, move your focus instead to something local, something you can actually affect, even if that is just your garden! And look for opportunities to meet outside, be active and interact with people in your community in a socially distanced way. We've got some healing to do and that has to start locally.

Some (not all) local outdoor nature-based volunteer groups for when restrictions lift:

- Magog Trust (magogtrust.org.uk/volunteering/).
- Cambridge Past, Present and Future (cambridgeppf.org).
- Little Shelford wildlife group.
- Green Grantchester group.
- Or contact me or Friends of Duxford Green Spaces (friendsofduxfordgreenspaces.org) about helping with the ongoing development of Brewery Field Green Space.

Sarah Ashworth, Designs For Life, garden designer and wildlife specialist, sarahashworth.co.uk



Granta Medical Practices

AT the time of writing, we are about to vaccinate our 44,000 patients with the COVID-19 vaccinations. Please be assured that everyone will be vaccinated. However, please remember that we have to work in accordance with Public Health England's priority list, details of which can be found on our website or at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine. *(Editor's note - in the first two clinics over 90% of the over 80s were vaccinated.)*

Due to the extreme demand for the vaccine around the country we may get deliveries at short notice, which means we may have to contact you at short notice.

Please note that you will NEVER be asked for payment for a COVID-19 vaccination and any texts, phone calls, or letters requesting payment or bank details should be ignored.

Please continue to keep yourself and our community safe by adhering to national restrictions, social distancing, wearing of face masks and hand hygiene.

We would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding whilst you wait for your vaccine during this unprecedented time. **Sandra East, Granta Communications & Patient Liaison**



Stapleford Bird Club

COVID-19 and lockdown still prevent club members walking out together.

Dense freezing fog nearly caused the cancellation of the walk on 9 January, which was done on my own. Amazingly it had cleared over the North Down as I arrived at 9am, leaving behind a bright blue sky and a zillion tiny water droplets that sparkled and danced in the sunlight. Part of a rainbow appeared within the car park near the ground, which is most unusual. As many as 11 Greenfinches were active around the feeders, in company with a couple of Chaffinches and some Goldfinches. Great Tits and Blue Tits were flitting around the feeders, but were being warned off by a female Great Spotted Woodpecker, which was eating nuts while perching on the outside of the anti-Sparrowhawk defence mesh of one of the feeders. A single Robin was present, which belies the numbers actually present as the Rangers counted seven a few days ago. A Carrion Crow and Song Thrush completes the list for this area, where we always linger first as it is a special place for birds.



Then conditions changed again and the remainder of the walk was done in a blanket of fog. In the internal field of stubble from last year's wheat crop, a covey of six Grey Partridges used after-burners to launch themselves away from me, low across the field. It

always amazes me that after a few strong wing flaps they are able to fly so far across a field on stiff wings without losing height. They allowed me to walk up close to them which is unusual as they prefer to fly away when they first sense danger. A single Skylark, several Magpies and a few Woodpigeons added to the range of birds seen, 14 species in total. This was marginally less than the 16 noted on 4 January last year, which itself is less than the 23 noted a week later, again last year. Undoubtedly the fog did reduce the flying ability of some birds but overall the results show there is considerable variability from day to day. And where have some of our birds gone this winter? A small flock of Fieldfares seen a week ago is for me still the only sign of their presence and I have seen no Redwings (pictured above) here since October. Have you done better? **Mike Foley**



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O for a pair of red, red shoes

THIS month's offering from local playwright and writer Fraser Grace sees him rescued by a pair of wellies.

I'VE been avoiding taking afternoon walks of late – not just because the evenings are dark and uninviting, but for a reason even more damaging to my sense of wellbeing. My wellies have sprung a leak.



I can't honestly remember the last time I sprang for a pair of gumboots. Twenty years? Thirty? Not that these boots are even very old; strays, I think, left behind in the house by my niece a few years ago. I'd stopped wearing my own, much older pair, after they became mould-infested while standing unloved through the whole of one, very inactive winter.

The walking boots and sometimes gaiters I don for our morning walk – the longer of my dog's twice-daily constitutionals – are good and fine. But often at four in the afternoon, I haven't got the patience for all that lacing and zipping. I've often left it late anyway, and have to get out in a hurry while

there's light. For a quick 20 minute jaunt along the hedgerow and back down the other side, wellies are perfect. Slip on, trudge out, trudge back, slip off - bingo.

Sadly, my niece's rather natty blue Hunter knock-offs have proved to have a rather short half-life, and now my left foot is habitually sodden while I stand making tea.

So, to Sawston, that place of seven thousand souls – and to their unaccountably persisting hardware shop.

Apart from turning out their gumboots in a very nice apple green colour, wellington manufacturers don't seem to have learned much from their fellow designers at the other Apple. No beautiful packaging here. No seductive to the touch surfaces, and crucially, no continual revolution (Apple would say innovation) that means your kit must be replaced every three years or risk error messages warning that your equipment is now 'unsupported'.

At least, I'm hoping that's true. In terms of price point (as I believe they say in the trade) Apple and the welly people seem to have more in common. £15 for my size 8s. Is that expensive for wellies? Seems steep to me, but then, as I say, I haven't bought any for twenty-five years. In fact, come to think of it, I think that old pair that went mouldy were originally my Dad's - and he bought everything off the market - including our pet tortoises, when I was about six, for which he haggled relentlessly with the market trader - and paid five shillings for a pair. Not to wear, you understand. My tortoise, Twiggy, ran away in the end, and my brother's emerged from hibernation having been eaten by worms. I guess, in the end, you get what you pay for.

And so back to the boots.

I didn't want to go into town, and in times of Covid, I have started to see my local shops - and the embattled, visor-wearing saints still working there - as even more worthy of my custom. So, I coughed up - sorry, I waved my card at the machine - and left the shop, pleased to have ensured myself and my dog an endless future of late afternoon, dry-footed mooching.

And already, that £15 has started to look a super-wise investment. In the past week, dog and I have startled a hare, spooked a Green Woodpecker, and put a sizeable bird of prey that I have still to satisfactorily identify high, high into the trees above the field.

We return moon-booted with mud in each afternoon's gathering gloom, feeling healthier and more alive.

If only we - you and I - could dance as easily away from the pandemic that continues to dog us all. We can't, and will just have to try to live through it. For what it's worth, I recommend donning a good pair of wellies, and getting outside if you can. If your boots are any good, they'll know where to go, and may even keep your feet dry into the bargain. **Fraser Grace**

Joining a health committee



WOULD you like to understand more about patient and public involvement (PPI) on research steering and oversight committees?

Join this information session on Thursday 11 February from 10am to 11am to find out about the role these committees play in research, and how lay representatives can provide an invaluable voice for the public.

To register visit: <https://bit.ly/PUBInfoSess>

Over the wall (or possibly fence)

SUSI Foster, who lives in Great Shelford and whose daughter attended Stapleford School, has shared some memories of living next to future rock royalty in the shape of Pink Floyd guitarist David Gilmour.

The article previously appeared on the Shelford Online website, which has a separate section on the Floyd and their local links, including an article telling of the time when an early incarnation played a gig in Great Shelford with none other than Paul Simon, who had just penned Homeward Bound on the platform of Widnes station.



I GREW up in Newnham in the 1960s and our garden backed on to where David Gilmour (pictured left in the late 1960s) and family lived in Grantchester Meadows. I was a friend of younger brother Mark, often spending time in their house. David answered the door and would be in other rooms while Mark and I were downstairs or in the garden. The house (pictured below) was large, bright and airy with French windows opening on to a garden with a weeping willow and a small chapel.

We would play board games such as Ludo and Fuzzy Felt on a sofa. Mark and I attended the local primary school Newnham Croft and would walk along Eltisle Avenue together.

During the Autumn half term local children would borrow a large cart from a painter in Merton Street and knock on Newnham doors collecting any wooden rubbish for a bonfire held every year near the first field approaching the meadows. On 5 November people would let off fireworks and watch the guy and bonfire burn. At least once it was attended by David Gilmour, Syd Barrett and friends.

Sometimes during summer evenings my family could hear jamming sessions coming from a shed in the Gilmours' garden. By the early 1970s the Gilmours had moved and I had become a Pink Floyd fan.





My friend Stephy and I spent a lot of time on the Meadows where one day we saw Syd Barrett on the river bank. We dared each other to approach him and he was nice enough to exchange a few words. Another later date we saw him in a rowing boat alone on the Cam and called to him; he waved back with an oar.

My father was Syd's form master for one year while he attended the Cambridgeshire High School on Hills

Road. He gave my father one of his sketches which unfortunately got lost over the years.

In 1972 my family moved to Hinton Way in Great Shelford. I spotted Syd a couple of times in Cambridge over the years but he was by then suffering with his mental health. My brother, who has worked for Formula 1, spoke to David briefly at a Goodwood revival meeting as well as chatting more than once to Nick Mason, who gave me an autograph.

Library update

Love reading and not a computer user?



THE Library Service's online access and wide range of digital resources have been a real boon for many during the pandemic. However, if you're not comfortable using a computer, you can still join the library and access the wide range of library stock. At the moment, most routine library enquiries are being dealt with by the Customer

Service team, who can be contacted by calling 0345 045 5225 (8am-6pm Mon-Fri; 9am-1pm Sat)

The team can help you with library membership; account queries; reservations and requesting the free Select&Collect service (where staff select books for you according to your tastes and you collect them later

from the library). You will initially be offered various recorded options, but simply hold the line and you will then be connected to a member of the team. Please note that owing to current restrictions it may take longer than usual to get through.

At the time of writing, Great Shelford Library is still open from 10am to 2pm on Tuesdays and 2pm to 6pm on Fridays, although browsing is not yet possible.

If you have difficulty getting to a library due to your health or full-time caring responsibilities, the Library@Home service can arrange a monthly delivery/collection of books or audiobooks for you (in a Covid-safe manner) at your door. The service is currently also offered to people who are shielding. Please call 07342 700308 (email address: volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). **Rosemary Humby**

Puzzle Corner

Lost Letters

EACH of the words below has had a different letter removed. Find the original words. You may not add the letter S to the end of a word. All the answers are everyday words.

e.g. RAISIN becomes RAISING
 CARTON becomes CARTOON
 RESENT becomes PRESENT

In some cases, there is more than one available answer, but looking at the letters added elsewhere should enable you to select the correct one. The answers use every letter of the alphabet apart from Q.

APE	ASCENT	BASIN	CAME	CANE
DEER	DUET	FIR	GENE	HER
HONEY	LAY	LAYER	MAN	MONEY
MOUSE	NICE	OUST	PARTY	POWER
SAG	SECRET	SITE	TABLE	WINE

Anagrams

IN each case there are two or three answers

ONECA (2) TWOSL (3) THREECA (3*) FOURFICE (2)

*none beginning with R

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 91

A stroll in The Flatlands: a circular walk on Quy Fen

WHEN you get to read this piece we will no doubt still be in lockdown, so keep this walk for future reference. Stay Safe.

To get to start of walk

Drive to Horningsea and go through the village. Just beyond is a large parking area to the right of the road. Start the Quy Fen walk from here.

Length of walk

About four miles. If the ground is muddy, the alternative route is about 4¼ miles.

OS Map

Explorer map 226 for Ely and Newmarket. For a free map extract, either print off from footpathmaps.com or maps-thehug.net.

Extra Information

Quy Fen is, as the name suggests, flat. Quy comes from an Old English word meaning 'cow island', referring to an area where cattle could be grazed. The ponds on the Fen are old coprolite pits, dug in the 19th Century to extract the ancient phosphate deposits sold as a fertiliser. Essentially coprolite is dinosaur poo, in this case emanating from marine creatures, the present landscape having been under the sea for millions of years.

Route of walk

***From the starting point next to the main road walk for a few yards back towards Horningsea swinging left on a path along the field-end, which then crosses a footbridge. After the bridge, turn left along a grass track and follow it. After some time, pass through a hedge gap and cross a cropped field. The path route over the field is usually solidly packed earth but can get very muddy after ploughing in late autumn. After this field is another section of grass track.

A path junction is reached, with a multi-fingered post. Carry on ahead, along a lane between high hedges.*** Pass Allicky Farm on the right, then bear left on a wide track. Ignore a left turn where the track swings right, and keep on along another hedged section. When a cross path is reached - a dumping ground for various things - turn left and walk along the route of an old railway line.

Go past a metal barrier and carry on until reaching a grass track on the left. Walk up this track to the end. It can get muddy. Go left at the end and the new path soon enters a field, crossing it diagonally and passing an old

coprolite pit. This section can definitely get muddy but, if it is, walk round the left hand edge of the field to avoid it. Go through a metal kissing gate into a pasture.

Take the path heading diagonally right and exit the pasture through another metal kissing gate at the far right hand end. Walk ahead, going along the left hand side of another old coprolite pit. At the end, go through yet another metal gate and follow the grass path ahead, ignoring any side paths, until a more solid surface is reached.

Then it's merely a case of walking on ahead, returning to the starting point of the walk.

ROUTE B ***

If wet underfoot, start from the end of the car park farthest from Horningsea, walking along the wide cinder track. Soon after a tractor parking area to the left, go right when a footpath sign is seen. After a multi-fingered post, cross the field ditch and take the lane between high hedges. ***

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





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Record your memories



“2020 IS a year none of us is likely to forget.” This is the first sentence in an article by Rev. Clare Coates in last month’s *Messenger*. But memories fade and eventually die unless they are recorded. That’s why we know nothing about the effect of the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-20 in Stapleford even though it is estimated to have infected 500 million people worldwide.

A later article by Jill Nicholas tells us about her experiences of lockdown combined with memories of life in the 1930s and 40s. Many of the events of the last century in Stapleford are poorly recorded. Just one example: we know the names of the men who were killed in the two World Wars but not the names of all the other men and women who joined up. It took many hours of research last year to find that 72 men from this small village fought in WW1 and it’s not a complete list because our only source was a Missing Voters’ List which didn’t name the men under 21.

The present epidemic has changed our lives and the way we live. The History Society would like to have a record of these changes on both individuals and the village clubs and societies. Of course, it’s not over but start jotting down how life has changed. What did you or your organisations do during the wonderful weather from Easter and on through into the summer but we couldn’t go anywhere? Other things like online shopping, Zoom talks, isolation, missed family gatherings, funerals, weddings and even deaths.

Tell us about how your village organisation has kept in contact with your members and any innovative activities you have used.

Please send your memories to: history@staplefordvillage.org.uk. **Keith Dixon**

Financial difficulties?



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The Silence

TALKING of Lockdown memories, the Jepps family of Haverhill Road entertained themselves during the first lockdown by writing about their experiences in different ways. Here is dad Gary's offering in the style of a thriller novel.

THE serenity of silence is broken only by birdsong as the evening draws to a close.

The long summer evening still hums with the warmth of the sun. One by one we step through the front door. "Is it now? Is it now?" It's 8 o'clock. We move cautiously. Our searching eyes move left to right, up and down the street looking for others, others who too are thankful.

Suddenly the silence is broken with the roar of a Rolls Royce Merlin engine. Almost ducking as the noise builds from behind, then following the loops and spins as an unmistakable Spitfire dances through the violet sky. A heart drawn above Addenbrooke's, fitting and emotional. Then we see the others and hear the others as if we are all making the rhythm of the Merlin pistons, now broken with whistles and cries of "Thank you NHS."

Slowly the silence begins to fall again leaving space for the natter of rarely-seen neighbours, sharing stories, passing information and, more importantly, feeding the social void the silence has brought.

But the silence did not bring the social void. It did not stalk the shadows faceless. It did not plunge fear into the hearts of mankind, tearing the fabric of humanity, picking it apart thread by thread, one by one. The silence gave hope, allowed nature to breathe, allowed us to breathe, allowed us to hear every tuneful bird that wished to join such a delightful choir. With nature's breath deep in our lungs we could run a mile, walk the dog and even enjoy a perilous cycle ride down the winding farm track. Our farm track, our space of beauty normally forgotten by others. But the others had come.

Heads turned to breathe the clean air, never gazing at you. The eyes of others never met yours for fear of initiating dangerous conversation. Some, like Frankenstein scarecrows, wandered the fields never looking, eyes fixed. While we, like fearless swallows, fly down the track, our lungs filled, our bodies alive and free from the shadowy beast.

Suddenly a bark, a dart and the shrill voice of my love pierced my heart. Everything stopped. Silence. A dog had crossed her path and sent her flying over the handlebars. Shirtless I fell clasping her to my chest, the crimson warmth flowing through my fingers as I held her safe. We were safe.



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Late summer and the grapes are almost bursting, filled with the summer's warmth, the last hum of the honey bee. Like red and green candy pinned in the cyan sky the apple tree's fruit will fill our tummies and our freezer for months to come. We sit now with friends, talking of what was and what will be, the hum is now conversation and giggling children. The silence still falls for the darkness has not gone, it merely sleeps, waiting for winter.

Quiz time

THIS month's quiz is a Mixed Bag that has been mixed up and bagged by Simon Hardwick. Answers on page 47.

1. Name the two sovereign states which exist as enclaves within the state of Italy. A point for each.
2. The Occipital and Parietal lobes are part of which organ?
3. In December 2020 a frescoed thermopolium, or snack bar, was fully excavated in 'Regio V' of which city?
4. Which double Oscar-winner had US number one singles with 'The Way We Were' and 'Evergreen' in the 1970s?
5. Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech of 1963 makes reference to which other American?
6. Since 1623, the closest conjunction of Jupiter with a particular planet occurred in December 2020. Which planet?
7. Which novel by Walter Scott features the outlaw Locksley and the Clerk of Copmanhurst?
8. The 5th Century BC painter Zeuxis died of laughter as he attempted to portray an aged widow as a goddess from Greek mythology. Which goddess?
9. In which South American country would you find the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá (right), which is located 600ft below ground?
10. What is the meaning of the term 'fieldstrip'? Is it: A. To run naked B. To dismantle (a gun) C. One-12th of an acre.





AA

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Exciting cricket news



STAPLEFORD Cricket Club is back in existence!

A new club for adult and junior players has been formed for the 2021 season.

And that means that unless lockdown rules prevent it the Rec will be hosting adult league cricket on Saturdays as well as plenty of youth matches in midweek - plus the adult T20 matches of sister club Stapleford Phoenix.

The new club has already entered an adult side into the lowest division of the CCA League. Stapleford replaces Great Shelford

Thirds, which no longer exists.

The new club will also be entering around 10 junior sides into leagues across a wide range of age groups.

A ladies' side is being set up for some friendlies, and there will be all-girl youth teams competing at U11, U13 and U15 levels.

League teams for boys and girls will be entered at U9, U11, U13 and U15 level, with training also offered for players aged five upwards to learn the basics of the glorious summer game.

So all that remains now is for players young and old, and of all abilities, to sign up!

Stapleford was once a famous name on the local cricket circuit, as the array of shields on the Jubilee Pavilion's walls attests.

Sawston and Great Shelford both used the Rec for occasional games after the original club was disbanded but happily it is now home to two clubs who both proudly bear the village's name.

Stapleford Phoenix will continue to play midweek T20 matches, coronavirus permitting, in the Business House League plus a whole host of friendlies.

Membership levels for both clubs have been set at an affordable level, with bursaries available for some youth players to help with equipment costs.

For more information on Stapleford CC (adults, ladies, youth teams) contact George Rolls on georgerolls@btinternet.com.

For more information on Stapleford Phoenix (adult T20 midweek) email staplefordphoenix@gmail.com.

Here's hoping for a glorious summer. **Jon West**

Parish Councillor diary

BARBARA Kettel is our diarist for February in the second instalment of our new series that highlights the aims and activity of our parish councillors.

A LOT has changed over this last 12 months! My hairstyle has changed, my social life is zero, I have gone back to teaching (this time it's with my grandsons over Zoom), even more importantly I have learnt how to use Zoom, and I have my food delivered. Not a lot different from everyone else but it has not been easy. I am so thankful for technology (when it works) and wonder how we would have coped without it. I think the worst has been the lack of family time as my family is not local, but we have quizzed, played board games, talked, laughed (and cried) over the months and have hope that in the future things can be returned to normal.

My role on the Parish Council has not really changed but has certainly become busier. I take overall responsibility for the Planning Applications that come in for our Parish. In the past I would have visited the houses and asked applicants to explain their needs but, as I have been isolated for most of the year, I have had to rely on South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Portal to give me an understanding of what people are doing with their homes. As most of you will know, SCDC make the decisions but the Parish Council inputs its views. These are mostly listened to, but some surprising decisions come back from the Planners.

The Planning Portal has changed over the year to combine with the City Council and this has not been the easiest time to make comments to them. There is also a backlog of applications so, if you are waiting for yours to be decided, it is SCDC you have to be patient with.

The other major project I have been involved with, along with a team and the Assistant Clerk, is the new cemetery. There are so many regulations to a cemetery and four of us went on a course, prior to lockdown 1, to understand these. The main thing is that the graves do not belong to the Parish Council but to the families who have burials in them. Over the years many of the headstones have become insecure and dangerous and are likely to topple. Also, some of the graves have sunk due to animal invasion and have become trip hazards to the public. The only way we can get any of these repaired is by contacting the owner families and asking them to maintain their grave. This is obviously a difficult task as in many cases we do not know who the owners are and we cannot get a family to do a repair until we are sure of this.

To avoid accidents, we have taped off any seriously dangerous graves and put a notice up on the board to explain.

If you know who owns a zoned-off plot, please contact us so that we can get repairs started and restore the site to the beautiful and peaceful place it should be. We now have the first burial in the new site and will, as funds allow, begin landscaping.

As I am writing this we have floods in the village, especially along the cycle path to Sawston, and are very frustrated that the County Council seem unable to warn motorists of pedestrians on the bridge. I trust that no one has had flood damage in their homes but thank the District Council, through Peter Fane, for the support he has given to our Parish Council members who have been active for you in this matter.

Fire news



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ARE you happy to pay an additional £1.44 a year for your fire and rescue service (based on a Band D property)?

With no increase to its government grant this year and additional costs managing the Covid pandemic, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service is proposing a small increase to its share of the council tax to help meet these costs and fund enhanced first aid training for firefighters who are often first at the scene of an incident.

A spokesman said: "Despite 2020 bringing unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to deliver vital services to the residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough."

Puzzle Corner answers

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SAGA, SECRETE, SUITE, TABLET, WINCE

ANAGRAMS: canoe, ocean; lowest, owlets, towels; cheater, hectare, teacher; coiffeur, coiffure

Quiz answers

1. Vatican City, San Marino
2. Brain
3. Pompeii
4. Barbra Streisand
5. Abraham Lincoln
6. Saturn
7. Ivanhoe
8. Aphrodite
9. Colombia
10. B.



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From the Chair of the Parish Council

THIS covers many of the issues raised at the meeting on 13 January. For full details, see the minutes at staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk which also gives details of the next meeting as well as minutes of previous meetings.

Misguided Busway

Firstly an update on the Misguided Busway: Stapleford Parish Council approved the go-ahead for the final independent transport report at a cost of £15,000 to be shared with Great Shelford Parish Council, and match funded from the public fund raiser (which incidentally has raised more than £10,000 now). Thanks to all who have contributed, the fundraising page can be found at www.cambridgeppf.org/appeal/sss-green-belt.

The report will combine the viability of the alternative railway aligned route with a review of travel numbers and travel times, evidencing the



advantages of connecting our villages into the Metro when it comes, and all within the context of the various infrastructure initiatives including Cambridge South Station and East West Rail. Once completed it will be published but to counter misinformation, it was confirmed that four properties would potentially be affected (see the letter on page 14 on the subject, which suggests a different figure). The proximity of these premises to the route means it is prudent at this concept design stage to highlight them as ‘affected properties’ to allow the option to be appraised on a robust ‘worst case’ basis. The residential properties have been identified as ‘affected properties’ principally having regard to construction

operations when the boundaries may be impacted. Future design development would necessarily seek to reduce the possibility of any impact on even the boundaries of these residential properties.

East West Rail

The impact of East West Rail on this area was discussed and the likelihood of the Option E corridor, with potential impact on Harston, Hauxton, Little and Great Shelford but likely not Stapleford.

Assets

The Pavilion and tennis courts stay closed due to compliance with Covid regulations but the children's play area remains open.

Local architect Brian Scally of Blue Ink has developed plans for refurbishing the shed to be fit for use by the sports clubs. We will now go out to tender for completion of work in the spring.

Once all our initiatives come to fruition – MUGA, public art, shed, children's play area and public toilet, we will be well on our way to investing the section 106 monies.

Communications

We are keen to widen the numbers of people accessing our information so we are reviewing the way we communicate and how social media can be used positively, as well as traditional means of communication, such as the Messenger. There should be a new look to our website later this year.

Highways

The condition of our streets remains a worry despite our attempts to contact the County Council for some action. From crumbling footpaths and potholes (survey of Bar Lane just undertaken by Councillor Flynn) we are concerned that no warning signage was placed on the A1301 Cambridge Road over the weekend of 15 January despite our pleas to the County Council.



The river Granta burst its banks flooding the cycleway and footpath to Sawston to a depth exceeding one foot and was completely impossible to walk or cycle along (see photographs). There was the obvious danger of

cyclists and pedestrians braving the highway itself which as we all know at this point is a blind humpback bridge on a double bend with a 50mph speed restriction.

South Cambs District Council

By contrast thanks to Peter Fane South Cambs District Councillor who circulated advice on the availability of sandbags in reaction to potential flooding of homes. In giving his South Cambs report, Cllr Nick Sample highlighted an improved pre-application service – SCDC planners are willing to give some free advice on planning applications. A peer review of the planning processes has been completed and grants are available for green projects; see the Parish Council minutes for his report.

2021-2022 Precept

The 2021-2022 precept was set at £75,000, which is a 3% rise on last year based on the necessity of retaining healthy reserves given the expenditures incurred over recent years.

Planning

20/05003/HFUL: 1 Bar Lane, Stapleford

Two-storey rear extension: *no objection*.

20/05202/PRI01A: 9 Greenfield Close, Stapleford

Alteration to the roof of an existing single-storey rear extension (built in 1980 via planning permission) (no new footprint added) and internal reconfiguration of the kitchen. Replacement of existing roof with new pitched roof including rooflights: *no objection*.

20/05169/HFUL: 42 Church Street, Stapleford

Minor amendments to some window and doors. New rooflights added. Glass wall and roof to the existing utility, to be replaced with a brick wall and solid roof to facilitate WC. Existing timber weatherboard cladding replaced with timber effect fibre cement weatherboard cladding. *No objection*.

20/03568/FUL: Inspectorate Ref: APP/W0530/W/20/3262482

Appeal Start Date: 5 January 2021 80 London Road, Stapleford

Demolition of existing bungalow and the erection of one detached dwelling house and garage together with alterations to the highways access and new driveway and boundary wall to front.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 10 February. You are encouraged to attend – details of Zoom access will be given on the Parish Council website.

Howard Kettel, Chair of Parish Council

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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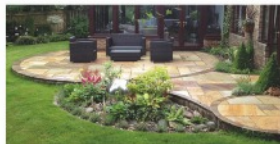
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