

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

April 2021

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**Daffodils near St Andrew's**

**by Frank Jacot**

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# Who's who at St Andrew's

[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://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](http://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

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)**  
Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

**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

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## From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

I SUSPECT 8 March 2021 will be remembered, if it is remembered at all, as the day the schools went back. Hooray for that, and congratulations to those who have made it possible and to all parents who home schooled for so long. May our youngsters and teachers and support staff have a joyful and fulfilling time for the remainder of this academic year.



It was also International Women's Day (IWD). Amidst the usual fun events and social media output our news feed were also full of Meghan Markle. The backstory, just in case you missed it, is that she and Harry had left the country because of harassment by the tabloid press. Any fair-minded observer would have noticed how differently she and Kate Middleton had been treated over the previous couple of years. So whereas the *Daily Mail* noted that Kate 'tenderly cradles her baby bump' it asked 'Why can't Meghan Markle keep her hands off her bump? ... Is it pride, vanity, acting ...?'. And – we ought to call this Avocadogate – the *Express* noted 'Kate's morning sickness cure? Prince William gifted with an avocado for pregnant Duchess,' but 'Meghan Markle's beloved avocado linked to human rights abuse and drought, millennial shame.' And there are more examples, lots of them. Google 'compare headlines Kate and Meghan' if you haven't clocked this already.

These are trivial topics in themselves, but the difference in treatment is hard to miss and the sheer volume of abuse Markle suffered is startling. No-one has suggested any convincing reason for that other than race, a visceral antipathy based on her colour and citizenship. So it should be called out, right? That, of course, is what she did, both through legal action when the *Daily Mail* published entirely private correspondence and in an interview with Oprah to set the record straight.

That interview had just come out the day before IWD. Among Markle's complaints was the racism she had experienced in the UK, both from the press and in the royal household. One example was that some unnamed person in the household speculated as to what colour her baby would be. She also said that she had felt suicidal, unsurprising given her appalling hounding by the press.

She asked in the household if she could go somewhere for help, and was told that she could not, because it would not be good for the institution of the monarchy. In the interview, in measured tones and language, she did

what needed to be done, and called out the racism and other bad treatment she endured that led to her mental ill health and to their decision to leave. A woman spoke.

The social media hashtag for IWD this year was #ChooseToChallenge, and the blurb that went with it said:

*'A challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change.  
So let's all choose to challenge.*

*How will you help forge a gender equal world?*

*Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness against bias. Take action for equality.'*

Which brings me to the response to Markle's decision to speak out. It was instructive. Journalists and many others emerged to claim that the press is not racist – utterly blind to the clear evidence – and Piers Morgan, among others, intimated that he did not even believe she had felt suicidal. A woman described her experience and was told that either it did not happen as she said or that she misunderstood. Choosing to challenge, even from a position as privileged as Markle's, is clearly difficult.



IWD was also marked by increasing concern about Sarah Everard, who had been missing for the best part of a week. We now know the very sad news that she died and that a man has been arrested on suspicion of abducting and killing her, so the specifics of the case are off limits. But it is safe to say that the circumstances surrounding her disappearance caused an outpouring of recognition, as huge numbers of women said they did not feel safe on the streets. Their plea is that society should, this time, listen, take note and act. The underlying and justified complaint is that women have been speaking out but have not been not heard.

The unthinking response – there is even a hashtag for it – is #NotAllMen. True, but of no help to women who feel unsafe because they do not know which men are safe. And it illustrates the point that society is quick to shut down or dismiss the voices of women. There are examples wherever you look, in the press, in Parliament, in churches and elsewhere.

Now, it being Easter and all that, Christian brains will be ticking. Women. Saying something important. Not being listened to. Where have I heard that before?

The women who prepared Jesus' body for burial on the Friday had to do a rush job because the start of the Sabbath was fast approaching. So early on the Sunday morning, when the Sabbath was over, they returned to Jesus' tomb with ointments and spices to complete the process. There they found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, the body gone and the grave clothes neatly folded. As they wondered what had happened they met the risen Christ. They rushed back to Jerusalem and found the apostles – all men - and told them everything.



What an exciting moment! Something miraculous had happened, an incredible history-making event. This small group of women were the first to know and the first to joyfully report it. Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

'But' records Luke 'they did not believe the women.'

Even when bringing good news, the very best news of all time for each one of us – for that is what it was – the voices of women were not heard.

**Every blessing to you all, Simon**

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# St Andrew's Noticeboard

WE hope to resume in-person services starting on 4 April, Easter Sunday. Sunday services will also be on our St Andrew's Stapleford YouTube channel.

28 MAR	10.30 am	YOUTUBE SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR PALM SUNDAY Mark 11.1-11; 14.1-15.47 <i>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord</i>
4 APR	10.30 am	EASTER SUNDAY OUTDOOR COMMUNION SERVICE
11 APR	9 am 10.30 am	BCP SAID COMMUNION SERVICE OF THE WORD John 20.19-31 <i>So that you may believe</i>
18 APR	9 am 10.30 am	BCP SAID COMMUNION SERVICE OF THE WORD Mark 10.1-12 <i>Jesus on divorce</i>
	10.30 am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
25 APR	9 am 10.30 am	BCP SAID COMMUNION SERVICE OF THE WORD Mark 10.13-31 <i>All things are possible with God</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 will be on our website at [standrewstapleford.org](http://standrewstapleford.org).

## Financial difficulties?



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

For more information contact: Rev. Simon Taylor at [simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com).

# Easter @ St Andrew's

*A warm welcome to any of our Holy Week & Easter events*



**Palm Sunday YouTube service 28 March 10.30 am**

*Hear a dramatic re-telling of the last days of Jesus' life*

**Zoom Compline 8 pm Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 29, 30 & 31 March**

*End the day with quiet prayer – reflective service lasting about 15 minutes*

**Maundy Thursday Zoom Evening Prayer 5.30 pm 1 April**

*A time of quiet prayer*

**Good Friday YouTube Service 10 am 2 April**

*Readings, talks, prayers and music as we reflect on Jesus' final hours*

**Easter Sunday 10.30 am 4 April**

*All Age communion in the churchyard. Come and celebrate. Bring a flower for the cross*

Find us at St Andrew's Church, Stapleford on YouTube, or contact [simontaylor@standrews.com](mailto:simontaylor@standrews.com) for any of the Zoom links.



## Tales of wood and tree



MY father had a sturdy bench of thick wood on which broken toys were trustingly laid for mending. The hammer, saw and chisel were etched with age and toil, oiled and honoured with respect. Aromas of sawdust, creosote and polish made from beeswax and turpentine escaped. Here our rocking wooden duck was made, fitting its description perfectly. A besom broom created from

twigs, cane and stout string swept up leaves beautifully. I grew to love wood and trees as did Stephen.

We like to feel wood, see colour, texture and character. At craft and agricultural shows I'd select offcuts of wood; sycamore, beech, ash, oak, watching them become a toadstool or acorn. Burr wood was best. It showed imperfection. No-one and nothing is perfect except perhaps to the beholder.

Sherwood Forest gave great pleasure. I remember standing inside the hollow trunk of the Major Oak; only small people fitted. We thought of Robin Hood and his gang. Now a fence protects it and heavy branches are supported by posts and chains. The elderly gracious statesman looks in need of a hug. 'He' leans, bark gnarled, knotted and twisted, deep lines like worn weathered skin. Moss, lichen and fungus relish the expansive girth. Stephen's mother enjoyed visiting the forest, amusingly showing us how a giant might stride between the trees. Often we walked rarely used tracks, avoiding crowds to stop and be still, challenging our senses. Roots criss-crossed the forest floor. Logs and fallen branches looked up at the leafy canopy.

We once lived near the original Bramley apple tree in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. Sadly it is suffering. On 1 April one year, the local pub sign of that name and image was removed. The large bright green symbol was replaced by an apple core. Fun. Close by was a nursery of soft fruits, apples and pears where we learned the many varieties of English apple: hence Russets for our house name.

We appreciate the words of Joyce Kilmer: 'I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.' It concludes, '...but only God can make a tree.' Having reflected on the stark wooden cross of Lent, Housman's words lead us on: *'Loveliest of trees, the cherry now/ Is hung with bloom along the bough/And stands about the woodland ride/Wearing white for Eastertide.'*

Help us rejoice in the wonders of our environment. **Judith and Stephen Lee.**

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# Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



IS this the *Messenger's* most distant reader? We guess so!

Nicholas is one of our many friends in Nachingwea and every month he or Obed Pwirira, (Link Chair), collects the *Messenger* from the local post office. It can take about two months for the *Messenger* to travel from Stapleford to Nachingwea, just under 7,500 miles. Once he has read it,



Nicholas passes it round so everyone can keep up with the news from Stapleford, even if it is a bit late!

According to Obed, Simon Taylor's contributions are always read with greatest interest and they enjoy finding out about all the local clubs and societies. "All in all the whole of *Stapleford Messenger* is good to have and read", he says.

Recently the Link sent a gift of £100 to Rev Fr John Buriani to help him in his ministry as Priest in Charge at St Andrew's, Nachingwea. The photograph below right shows the official signing for the gift ahead of a presentation to Rev Fr John Buriani by Mrs Siamini Faraja (Link Treasurer) (photo below left).

## 40 Years Celebration

The Service and Lunch planned to celebrate 40 Years of the Link has been postponed from May to August. The Celebration Service will now be held on Sunday 29 August at 10.30am and the Celebration Lunch on Bank Holiday Monday 30 August in the Pavilion from 12pm to 2pm.

Please note the dates in your diary. More details will be available in the *Messenger* nearer the time. **Trish Maude**



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# Mothers' Union News



OUR Mothers' Union group has still had no formal meetings, although we have joined in Zoom services for Thursday Prayers and also Lady Day services; one organised by Sawston Mothers' Union and one by the Diocesan MU. We hope soon to be able to resume some kind of meetings, once the restrictions are eased further.

Many Easter Blessings to all members and their families from the committee, despite these difficult times. And let us hope that we can all meet up again soon, fulfilling the Easter message of hope for the future.  
**Hilary Street**

## Playground refurbishment

THE playground group are working hard to obtain grants towards refurbishing the younger children's playground on Stapleford Recreation Ground, but we need your help. Any donation, large or small will be welcome, perhaps in memory of someone, or of happy times spent playing on the swings, slide and roundabout. A Just Giving page is being set up and details will be in next month's Messenger or on the Parish Council website. We are also planning a 'Play in May' fund raising event in half term, details to be announced.

Please contact [gpett@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:gpett@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk) for further information. **Gillian Pett**

## Deadline for the MAY Messenger

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

By email to [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

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# Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

**From Sue and Peter Ray, Great Shelford**

**Re: Community support**

It was good to see the letter from Valerie Powell in the February edition of the *Stapleford Messenger*. We would like to endorse the thanks to all of our deliverers and shop and hospitality staff, particularly from local village sources, including Barkers, Kash, Boots, The Forum and the local volunteers who collected prescriptions and gave other assistance.



Patience and help when giving a telephone order, and a smile with a few words at the door from people, including our postmen and postwomen, all of whom have their own situations, energy levels and health to manage, have been bonus tonics for us during the last year:

thank you. Difficulties have been exacerbated for us and many others by health issues; in our case by emergency surgery for Sue just as the first lockdown started, her discharge from Addenbrooke's a few days later (on our wedding anniversary!), and an extended period of post-surgery treatment and clinical vulnerability.

Thus, we have become very dependent on friends, family and the neighbourhood community. We have many people to thank, including the medics and their colleagues at the hospital and those in the Granta Medical Practice. As well as the availability of help, including Sue's continued treatment during lockdown when some people were not so fortunate, we also appreciated the consideration and patience that was shown to us, not only from the Shelford surgery, but also Sawston, from where Sue was referred to Addenbrooke's. Apologies if we have missed anyone. Thank you.

If things have been bad for us there must be others, whose situations have been and remain worse than ours; our thoughts are with them, including children and the younger generation who have had to deal with a situation that we have not had to face in our lifetimes.

To all of those, not only in the "front line", who have helped us and others, your help and selflessness will always be appreciated. We hope that the existence of community support continues and if additional help is needed to sustain such support, we would be pleased to contribute.

## Are you a super sleuth?

ACCORDING to Natural England, in November 2020 64% of the adult population accessed green space. That's a statistic to be celebrated but how many of those people enjoying the great outdoors did so on paths which could disappear within five years? To explain ...

On 1 January 2026, historic routes in England that aren't properly recorded will be lost to the public forever. We are looking for people to volunteer their time to help us identify and register these routes before it is too late.



To help meet this challenge, the British Horse Society has received funding from Sport England through the British Equestrian Federation to safeguard as many bridleways and byways as possible before the deadline. It will do this by offering training, advice, support and financial assistance to volunteers across England who are researching and making applications for their local authority to record these historic routes.

You don't need to be a member of the BHS – or even an equestrian – to take part. We have walkers, cyclists, canoeists and even people who prefer the great indoors helping with Project 2026.

The  
British  
Horse  
Society

**Training:** There is an extensive range of online training and support for 2026 volunteers covering the basics of rights of way, through the interpretation of historical evidence and using our dedicated 2026 mapping and research website. Experienced staff and volunteers can also offer advice and one-to-one support to help address specific issues and questions.

**Expenses:** Through support from Sport England, we are able to offer financial assistance to volunteers to help cover their expenses incurred in the submission of eligible Definitive Map Modification Order applications.

### For more information:

- contact Volunteer Support Team on [volunteer@bhs.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@bhs.org.uk)
- or register for a short, informal Q&A Zoom session on Thursday 8 April at 7.30pm via [lyndawarth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lyndawarth@hotmail.co.uk). **Lynda Warth**

# News from Stapleford Granary

CEO Kate Romano writes about feeling optimistic and the Granary's new digital channel.

THE cherry plum tree at Stapleford Granary has burst into an uncontrollable froth of beautiful white blossom and it seems to go hand-in-hand with a positive feeling in the air. Things are coming back to life and we are excited at the prospect of opening up again for art and music classes, concerts and exhibitions, of engaging musicians and sharing their work with our community. Like all arts centres, we are of course tied to the Government's roadmap for relaxing Covid restrictions - please do keep an eye on our website for updates.

Whilst Stapleford Granary may look quiet from the outside, there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes. We launched our own YouTube channel in January, releasing an exclusive film (made by us) every fortnight. In an over-saturated digital market, did the world really *need* another arts-based YouTube channel, I wondered?

Well, it turns out that it's a fantastic way to keep in touch with our audiences and a growing subscriber base of 'culturally curious' music and art lovers. We wanted to

bring you the musicians and music you miss, but also introduce you to new voices who we plan to bring to the Granary in the future. Importantly, we wanted to 'keep a light on' for musicians and artists. The urge to create never goes away and offering a digital platform instead of a concert stage or gallery space has been a way to keep working together.

So what can you find on our YouTube channel? We launched on 28 January with two exhilarating Tangos by Piazzolla played at the Granary by super-star pianist Joanna MacGregor. Piazzolla was the maestro of Tango – he took it out of the smoke-filled clubs and cabaret of Argentina and into the concert hall. Joanna's concert was the first public event at the Granary between the lockdowns and I think that everyone who was there that night felt uplifted by the energy and passion she brought with her.

Two weeks later, we released our second video; a short film about the little-known French composer and pianist Hélène de Montgeroult, whose





finest works were recently discovered hidden deep inside an 18<sup>th</sup> century teaching book.

Our third release was a profile of real-time artist Gina Southgate who we filmed painting to the music of acclaimed jazz vocalist Ian Shaw. You may have seen Gina's wonderfully vibrant pictures hanging on the Granary walls and our film includes a conversation with Gina and the Granary's Artistic Director (and fellow jazz lover) Trevor Barlow.



What is the effect of lockdown on creativity, we wondered? So we filmed a snapshot of a personal, intimate 'song-story' (SCENE UNSEEN) created during the strangeness of the past twelve months by singer-writer Jessica Walker and composer-pianist Joe Atkins. By this point, we felt ready to take our film-making skills on location and we visited acclaimed British sculptor John Mills at his beautiful north Hertfordshire 'secret garden' studio. This film - *FACES OF CLAY* - will be released on 23 March.

Moving our creative ideas into film has been a huge learning curve. Before Covid, the classical music sector was slow to embrace digital potential. When the pandemic hit, there was a frantic rush to 'go digital' and we were all floundering. It's not surprising; we have a 400-year-old tradition of live music making which we have been trying to reinvent virtually overnight. Technical expertise is only part of the challenge – we are having to learn to 'think digitally' in order to realise the potential of the medium.

I don't believe anything can replicate the very special intimacy and shared experience of being in a room with someone who makes music right in front of your ears and eyes. But the possibilities of digital do excite me. I am proud of the films where I think we have managed to create something that brings art, music or the lives of creative people closer to audiences, in a way that is *different* to a concert or an exhibition. Art online offers more ways to tell and share stories, more invitations to step into another world... to imagine, to escape, to dream. We have a full programme of 'cultural curiosities' scheduled on the Stapleford Granary YouTube channel as far as Autumn 2021. Whilst we very much look forward to seeing you again in person, please do join us online so that we can all keep connected with one another and with the art and artists whose work we love.

You can find our YouTube channel via [staplefordgranary.carrd.co](https://www.staplefordgranary.carrd.co) or via our website [www.staplefordgranary.org.uk](http://www.staplefordgranary.org.uk), Twitter @SGArtsCulture, Instagram @StaplefordGranary **Kate Romano**

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# Yesteryear

*THIS month Sylvia Morris looks at extracts of village life in April of years gone by. Please note that punctuation and capital letters are exactly as printed at the time.*

**1812**

**SALE.** By auction. All the valuable Live Stock, carts, ploughs, barrows, implements, cart and plough harness, sacks, that well-known three-horse portable threshing machine [pictured below], a drill roll, brewing and dairy utensils, some seasoned beech plank, a few lots of household furniture and effects, the property of Mr. William Brand, at Stapleford, who is leaving his farm.



**1919**

**PROPOSITION.** "That the Clerk write to Mr Nunn the RDC surveyor stating that complaints had been made to the Parish Council of the holding up of the water in the parish ditch by Mrs Upjohn of 'The Chestnuts' Stapleford and stating that by the letting down of her sluice all the parish ditches are flooded, so that the surface water is unable to get away. (Carried)" *From Stapleford Parish Council minutes.*

**1932**

**DEDICATION OF WOMEN'S SECTION OF BRITISH LEGION STANDARD.** The dedication of the standard of the women's section of the British Legion Stapleford Branch took place on Sunday evening. The ceremony being performed by Dr Watson of Cambridge, assisted by the Rev M Rogers, the

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vicar. After assembling at the parish rooms the parade, under the command of Mr Frank Hardy, moved off to the church.

A wreath was laid on the memorial by Mrs H Gray (president of the branch). Representatives of the following branches attended with their standards: Harston and Shelford, also the men's section of Stapleford branch.

### 1942

APPROXIMATELY 60 young men and women from Stapleford joined the forces during the war: 12 of their names appear on the roll of honour in St Andrew's Church. Probably the first notification to appear in the press was that of Sapper F E Farnham, Royal Engineers medical orderly taken prisoner at Dunkirk. Many were to follow, particularly after the fall of Singapore to Japanese forces in February 1942 (pictured above), the Cambridgeshire Regiment having formed part of the island defence.



### 1989

#### STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

ON Sunday March 19 in the evening, the Choir sang Stainer's Crucifixion in Church. With Ken Dean directing and David Adams at the organ, this inspiring oratorio led us through the triumph of Jesus, the agony of His crucifixion and the subsequent joy of His Resurrection. The strength and ability of our Choir was ably demonstrated, with the Vicar and Anthony Tootal taking the solo parts. The sequence of Palm Sunday, the week of Good Friday and then the triumph of Easter Day were dramatically portrayed in music and words leaving the choir and congregation with a true appreciation of the solemnity and deep meaning of the Easter story.



## 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**:

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## Last Chance



*What are we thinking,  
When we treat Mother Earth this way?  
She has given us so much life and beauty,  
In so many diverse, different ways,  
With wonderful aromas from flowers in the fields,  
A diversity of creatures that we've been charged to shield.  
Yet we abuse this gift we've been given  
With every passing day,  
Through our greed and ambition,  
We lose so much more in every way.  
Ignoring the effects of our behaviour,  
It will be our children who will pay,  
Creatures are disappearing and so many flowers will no more bloom.  
We pollute our land and oceans,  
Even foul the air we breathe,  
Who do we think we're kidding?  
It's only ourselves we deceive.  
We can't wait any longer,  
We need to right this wrong,  
We need to protect our environment,  
In this world to which we all belong,  
As it just can't keep on giving,  
We've exhausted its reserve,  
If we don't soon change our ways,  
We'll get what we deserve.*

By Michael Gatward

I hope the poem on the preceding page brought my feeling on our environment home to all of you and hope most of you feel the same way that I do.

I have been thinking a lot about what we could do as a community and would like to hear your suggestions.

One thought I had, although I haven't investigated whether it would be possible, would be to make the oasis into a wooded area with footpaths and seated areas - if we can get permission from whoever owns it.

People from Stapleford could have a tree planted/sow wild meadow flowers; supply a bench in remembrance of loved ones or just to try to achieve something that in some small way benefits this part of the world where we live.

The more people that try the greater the accumulative effect we can have. As the saying goes:

*From little acorns great oaks grow  
Who will help me plant the first seed ?*

If you have any ideas please contact me through the parish council website or the email at the back of the *Messenger*. **Cllr Michael Gatward**

## Great Shelford Library

SPRING is here at last! We're hoping that our libraries will be able to introduce managed browsing again from 12 April but please check our website or telephone the Customer Services number for up-to-date information: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries). Customer Services: 0345 045 5225 (8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday).

In the meantime, the library is open for collecting reservations (including Select&Collect), returning items and pre-booked use of public computers (public services only) from 10am to 2pm on Tuesdays and 2pm to 6pm on Fridays.

We also offer an extensive range of online resources and information, including free access to Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Oxford English Dictionary and Ancestry.com - please visit the above website. **Rosemary Humby**





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# Jabberwocky

*HERE is this month's musing from author and playwright Fraser Grace.*



WHEN it was discovered that a surprise side-effect of the coronavirus vaccine was that it afforded the recipient eternal life, the residents of a small Cambridgeshire village were pitched into turmoil. Some were overjoyed, obviously, particularly those with underlying health conditions. Others were not so sure. Many of the elderly had been looking forward to a rest, and besides, who could afford eternal life? To die of Covid was a horrible prospect, but some wealthier seniors worried that surviving unceasingly had not been factored in to their pension plan. The young, who rarely think of death and are much less seriously affected by the virus, now had to consider queuing for a vaccine they had been considering they might not take up. Who can resist a two-for-one?

For other sections of the village, it was entirely the other way around: some of the teenagers had seen so much in their short lives that was disappointing and vexing, they had no intention of living to be adults, let alone forever, while the elderly remembered how good life could be, how rich, how precious. The chance of seeing not only their grandchildren again, but their great-great-grandchildren, not to mention their great-great-grandchildren's grandchildren, was too good to pass up. They could not get in the queue quickly enough and began pestering the medical centre to see how soon they could get jabbed.

Luckily, at about this time an expert on the vaccine who lived in the village but had for several months been unaccountably trapped in her holiday cottage on the Suffolk coast, was able to zoom into a parish council meeting to point out that since the vaccine was known to only last a year before needing a booster, the sensible option was to take the vaccine, and live eternally – but for one year at a time. People could then decide not to take a further jab at any time in the future, once the virus had abated, in which case eternal life would dissipate and nature would take its course.

There was a lot of relief around the village the day the parish council's advice was issued; everyone now knew their eternal future was entirely in their own hands – give or take the availability of the vaccine. And many were heard to say how good it was to be safe from the virus; to get eternal life on top of that was unbelievable good luck. But, given their slender means, and the declining threat of the virus, the next jab would probably – sensibly - be their last. Or maybe the one after that.

# Time to say farewell to The Tree

THE Tree shut its doors for the last time in August 2013 and they have remained closed ever since.

The Bar Lane pub was a going concern right up until its sale by Greene King and many villagers felt at the time it should and could be reopened.



There was a strong feeling in the village that an asset that had provided a hub for socialising and local club and society meetings should be retained.

The Tree Action Group was formed and the building was listed as an Asset of Community Value in December the same year.

At the time, Stapleford had two other pubs, The Rose and The Three Horseshoes, but only The Rose was generating significant custom. Over the next few years extensive efforts were made by the community to raise awareness and seek funding through a combination of public pledges and grants with a view to purchasing the Tree from the new owner and re-

opening as a Community Pub. This would have been run by a manager appointed by the Action Group.

Despite the efforts of the Action Group and the wider community, significant hurdles could not be overcome. The key obstacle was the amended plan from South Cambs District Council which made the Tree Action Group's plan non-viable. Other challenges included a lack of funds, a changing economic landscape, trends towards larger food-led outlets, increased home entertainment and, of course, COVID-19. Furthermore, The Three Horseshoes has since rapidly expanded as a food-led pub in Stapleford under new ownership.

In 2019 the Tree Action Group stepped back leaving the way clear for redevelopment of the site.

The Tree site would be ideal for affordable housing, such as a terrace block of four cottages. The style and manner would need to be mindful of the listed cottages Nos 3 and 5 Bar Lane. ie roof line, pitch and height.

However no progress has been made.

I understand that the Community Asset Order remains and both the developer and South Cambs District Council have been unable to move the process forward.

I have contacted both the developer and South Cambs District Council as an independent resident of Stapleford and have received lengthy documentation as both sides attempt to justify why this development is subject to unacceptable delays.

Why does this matter you may ask? Well, it is more than seven years since The Tree closed. The building is now derelict, with internal weakening of the structure representing a risk to the public. Furthermore vermin have been sighted on the premises.



However on a wider social scale, the developer and SCDC have let down local residents by the delay in providing much-needed local housing. In conclusion, I feel that the delays are evidence of systemic flaws in our local planning system. Along Bar Lane there are two empty council cottages awaiting repair (for more than three years) - ideal first-time buyer housing. Sawston has experienced more than 10 years of delays developing a former bank branch in the High Street.



I accept COVID-19 has presented unexpected challenges, however with The Tree it has been more than seven years of nothing happening and the world keeps spinning. **Frank Jacot**

## 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](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com) - after all, it's your magazine and we would love to hear from you.

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# A Rooter and a Robin

IF you ask a gardener which is their favourite bird, I'll bet you nine times out of 10 they'll say the robin. And the reason for this might be because of its pretty russet breast, its cute rounded body set on the finest little legs – in short, its general irresistible charm.

But the main reason may be more about its behaviour when you are gardening. It comes so close sometimes you catch your breath to see it there, and how honoured you feel that something so delicate and lovely might want to be near you, might



even trust you! It comes still closer and you see the exquisite feathers.... that beady little eye... and such bold eye contact, cocking its head to one side, the skipping and hopping about and finally perching on your garden fork as if posing for a photo, then saying, “good morning how are you today?” with wistful but perky chirps. You can actually have a little conversation with a robin, I've seen many a burly gardener do it, I swear it's not just me.

This human interaction is almost non-existent in other wild birds and I have often wondered why they should be so different. Turns out there are a few reasons for this, one being that we Brits don't have a tradition of trapping and eating small birds which kind of helps (apart from maybe Roald Dahl's Mr and Mrs Twit). But the main and most interesting reason I think is connected to the evolution of these little birds.

Many thousands of years ago, when much of the land was far more wooded, and wild boar and deer roamed about in great numbers, the inquisitive nature of the robin would have been evolving. They were following these large animals, especially the boars, as they rooted in the earth, watching for those delicious worms. Robins aren't great at pulling out worms like the blackbird, are useless at cracking a snail like a thrush, and they are only just learning how to hang onto a bird feeder like a tit - I feel sorry for them when they try! But they do like to use their charm or, rather, inquisitive adaptability and succeed in letting someone else do the work. I expect they were very close friends with the boar. And here we are, many years later, and lo and behold they are with us too – a taller, more upright 'swine'. It's not much of a leap and we are of course equipped with that very useful garden fork! **Sarah Ashworth**, *Designs For Life*, Garden designer and wildlife specialist, Little Shelford, sarahashworth.co.uk

## 2G3S



ON 11 March we were pleased to welcome James Littlewood, the CEO of Cambridge Past, Present and Future to talk about the proposed Cambridge Nature Network.

Cambridgeshire is one of the most nature-deprived counties in England, in terms of habitats and also in the amount of public access to nature. To increase biodiversity our nature sites need to be better, bigger and more connected.

One way to achieve this is through a local nature recovery network. The Cambridge Nature Network is based on five priority areas for recovery, including the Gog Magog Hills and River Cam Valley. Within each of these areas the plan is to set up “bridges” between existing sites and add extra small areas as stepping stones for nature.

To be successful it will need the support of local communities, local councils, government agencies, business, landowners and farmers, university colleges and charities. Individuals can help by making their gardens wildlife-friendly and by writing to local politicians to urge them to support the network. Initial work is being progressed by local charities CPPF and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire. There will be a report and summary issued soon if you would like to find out more, or look at our website [2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/](http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/) to read notes on this meeting.

James Littlewood is leading this work for CPPF, with whom 2G3S has a strong relationship. CPPF looks after Wandlebury within the Stapleford parish, and 2G3S and CPPF jointly hosted an Apple Day there in Autumn 2019.

Some of us have attended online talks in the excellent series of webinars held by SCDC in their Climate & Environment Fortnight. These were very informative, covering

areas such as sustainable farming in the area, energy conservation in older homes, and food waste. As part of the farming webinar, an excellent film was shown in which five local commercial farmers talk about their efforts to reverse some of the effects of big-scale



agriculture, resulting in better soil health, fewer carbon emissions, and more biodiversity on their farms.

To see the film free of charge go to [carbonneutralcambridge.org/from-the-ground-up/](https://carbonneutralcambridge.org/from-the-ground-up/).

South Cambridgeshire Zero Carbon Communities produces a wide-ranging and interesting newsletter. The latest edition, available from SCDC, has information about the recently awarded Zero Carbon grants, the Doubling Nature strategy, the new Net Zero Now scheme, latest developments on plastic



and food waste, and green grants. There are also details of StreetFocus, a cycle route planner website which helps you find out where planning applications are and see if new developments could pay for improvements to streets that would get more people cycling and walking.

Our next talk and discussion is about transport and is on Monday 10 May at 8pm by Zoom.

Edward Leigh, who has led the volunteer pressure group Smarter Cambridge Transport for over five years and who recently qualified as a transport economist, will talk on “a hot transport topic of the day” – to be determined! This could be, for example, East-West Rail, Cambridge South station, the South-East busway scheme, CAM, bus franchising - or will a judicial review have halted the £27 billion Road Investment Strategy?

In the interim there will be a planning meeting on Thursday 8 April at 8pm.

Something practical you can do to help wildlife – plant some seeds for nectar-rich flowers. Or reduce your carbon footprint and grow some vegs, even just a courgette plant or some herbs. And books about increasing biodiversity to read when the weather’s bad - “Wilding” by Isabella Tree and “English Pastoral” by James Rebanks.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment, send an email to [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) to sign up for our newsletter, ask a question, or to get a Zoom link to join in our meetings. Also see our Facebook page. **Helen Hale**

# Learning in lockdown and beyond

ONE of the many consequences of lockdown has been more attention paid to education, and particularly the work of teachers. Some of the most memorable examples that have accompanied television media items about education during lockdown have included parents, somewhat harassed, saying things like, 'I just don't know how teachers do it' or 'I just can't teach my own child'. The feelings of relief, and some trepidation, for many parents were strongly felt in March when schools reopened after many weeks.

The experiences of parents have raised the question, 'what is the best way to educate children at home?' You may not be surprised to hear that there is no simple answer to this, partly because any question about 'the best way' in relation to social aspects of human life is very difficult to address. As an education researcher at University College London's Institute of Education (IOE) I am naturally interested in what research evidence says about education. And given that we have heard on 3 March, that the IOE was ranked world number one for education for the eighth year in a row (ahead of Harvard, Stanford, Cambridge, Oxford etc.) I couldn't resist a quick mention!

My interpretation of many kinds of education research, including experimental work such as Randomised Controlled Trials; in-depth qualitative inquiry such as ethnography; philosophical argument; and systematic reviews of multiple research studies, is that 'interaction', for example between parent(s) and child, is one of the most important things to focus on if you want to improve education. We know from research that if interaction is dominated by teachers' questions that too frequently require only short factual answers this is not the most effective way to stimulate learning. These questions are known as *closed* questions where the educator often has their preferred answer in mind. Instead teachers have to use a *range* of discussion techniques, all aiming to encourage children to offer full explanations; well-argued opinions; respect for and reflection on what others say; thinking about thinking (metacognition); creative thinking; informed answers to questions; and much more.

Another way to understand interaction is through the concept of 'pedagogy', which for now I define as the act and interaction of teaching. Effective pedagogy is at the heart of the work of my research centre, The Helen Hamlyn Centre for Pedagogy (HHCP). Of direct relevance to the



The author:  
Stapleford's  
Dominic Wyse



theme of this article is some work we have done thinking about education in homes during lockdown. For example we have established '12 principles of good pedagogy'. One of these has been covered already: 'Learning happens mainly as a result of particular ways of interacting and talking with your children'. Another example is 'learning new things requires people to know about, and build on, what children already know'. Parents usually know their children better than anyone else, but the principle of building on what children already know requires genuine attempts to ask open questions, to be interested in what children's views are and the knowledge they have acquired. It requires the parent to acknowledge, at least in their own minds, that they are fallible and not always correct! This open-mindedness needs to be accompanied by genuine excitement for supporting children in their learning journey, building on the knowledge they have, and enticing them with knowledge they do not have.

Another example of the work we have been doing in the HHCP is more focused on children themselves. The 'get children thinking' campaign linked the importance of interaction with the possibilities of philosophical thinking, yes even for relatively young children. For example 'what is it like to be a bat?' or 'what is fairness?'. You can find the set of questions here:

[www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/departments-and-centres/centres/helen-hamlyn-centre-pedagogy-0-11-years/big-questions-little-audiences](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/departments-and-centres/centres/helen-hamlyn-centre-pedagogy-0-11-years/big-questions-little-audiences)

Why not try some with children you know, or pass on the link?

In some pilot project research, my colleague, Dr Yana Manyukhina, spoke directly to children about their experiences of the pandemic. In addition to some understandable anxiety about the context she also found examples of children and parents for whom the arts had grown in importance as new ways of enjoyably and productively spending time.

We are all looking forward to the time when education, and life generally, will be back to normal. Perhaps one of the things we have re-learned is how important education is for societies, world-wide. And once parents' interaction with schools becomes less on-screen and more in-person again it is worth remembering that the best way to help your child is to constructively engage with your child's teachers. Enjoy talking to them about interaction and pedagogy and learn from their experience and expertise which is born out of extensive training, development, and the experience of managing the learning of successive generations of children – 30 children at a time. **Professor Dominic Wyse, University College London, Institute of Education; Founding Director of the Helen Hamlyn Centre for Pedagogy (0 to 11 Years); President of the British Educational Research Association.**

# Puzzle Corner

## Telescopes

A telescope consists of two words with their letters in the correct order 'telescoped' together e.g. BORATEST is a telescope of BOAT and REST

Unscramble the following telescopes  
In each case both words are of equal length

RICATE

CATENA

ATSHOE

TOMATO

TRAIGE

TEMOUR

DERANGED

FLONEELY

THIASIDE

MOPUTENT

RAINMEND

SANELOWT

SLAWEPASTE

SOAKINSIST

DENISRCOOL

BRIDESIENT

SNOBARELSE

CHADOEBUST

PINEVARIODED

CELARICESIST

TALLENEAGENT

TRENOWEARGED

FRELOGRIMIED

SUDRENDAMATE

*Set by Hermes - Answers on page 45*

## 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.

## Quiz time

THIS month's quiz is all about football. It is designed to be testing but isn't actually that tough. So pour yourselves a hot Bovril each and see if your team can finish top of the league. Answers on page 45.

1. Which is the only team to be Champions League holders and Europa League holders at the same time?
2. Which former Manchester United player is the only Premier League winner with a surname made up solely of Roman numerals?
3. David Moyes and David Beckham (pictured below) used to play together at which club?
4. Who sold her husband to Stoke for £400,000 for a point? For another, name the husband.
5. Talking of Stoke, they were the last Premier League team to have a Ballon D'Or winner play for them. Who?
6. Only two of the 92 English league clubs give no clue to their geographical location in their name. Point each.
7. Mario Balotelli only managed one assist when he was at Manchester City but it was a vital one. Who did he set up for the goal, for a point? Who was it against, for another?
8. Which team is the only one to have been champions of Europe more times than champions of its own country?
9. Name the three England captains who have played for Scunthorpe United.
10. Edin Dzeko scored the first 50 Premier League goals by Bosnians. Who scored the 51<sup>st</sup>, in 2013, and broke a record while doing so?





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# From Wembley to the World Cup

OUR local football club, Shelford & Stapleford Strikers, had a 100-mile Road to Wembley Challenge that soon became a 4200-mile virtual trip to the World Cup Final in Doha!

The impact of COVID-19 on everyday life over the past 12 months has been staggering and it has also led to serious financial challenges for many charities, including SASS. The annual fundraiser, summer fête and celebration of the football season has sadly had to be cancelled for two years in a row, resulting in a deficit of more than £10,000. We desperately needed creative fundraising ideas to support the club financially as well as ways to ensure the 250 players across more than 20 teams (age 5-18) are fit for when the season finally resumes in April!



The original idea was for each team to chalk-up a total of 100 miles in March under their own steam and travel virtually from Stapleford, through Royston Town, Stevenage, Luton Town, Watford, Tottenham and Arsenal before finishing at Wembley Stadium; while raising £100 per team for the club. After an extremely successful first week, where two teams managed more than 200 miles and we raised £2,000, we upped the ante - each team now targeting a 450 mile trip to the Principality Stadium in Cardiff via Wembley, Wycombe Wanderers, Swindon Town, Cheltenham Town, West Brom, Aston Villa, Wolves, Kidderminster Harriers and Merthyr Town!

We were so impressed with the first week's achievements that we've now challenged the club overall to travel virtually to Doha, the location of the next World Cup Final (a staggering 4,200 miles from Stapleford) while raising £4,200 in the process!

Hopefully you have enjoyed seeing our players running, doing relays, walking their dogs, cycling and scooting past you in the village. The players, like the rest of us, have been restricted in their exercise and socialising so this challenge has really helped to release some of their pent-up energy and frustration of no football.

We are proud of the efforts of all our players so far and hope to achieve the goal of reaching Doha by the end of March. If you would like to support our efforts and help motivate the players, you can sponsor the team at: [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sass-wembley/](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sass-wembley/). All pennies and pounds are very gratefully received. **Jonathan Frampton**

# Stapleford Strollers: Walk 93

## Spring Flower Stroll: a short walk in Waresley and Gransden Woods

SAMPLING the delights this short walk has to offer is dependent on the proposed loosening of lockdown regulations for walks from 29 March.

### To get to start of walk

Take the A428 past Cambourne, and go straight on beyond the roundabout. Turn left on the B1040 signed The Gransdens. Keep on this road, before turning left on the B1046 for Great Gransden. As the village is reached, turn right (signed Waresley). After a few minutes, a car park will be seen on the left; turn in here and park.

### Length of walk

This is a very short walk (1½ miles) and is certainly one to do in spring in particular, as Waresley Wood has some of the best bluebells in the area. It can get muddy underfoot, especially after prolonged rain.

### OS Map

Explorer map 208 (Bedford and St Neots). For free map extracts go to [footpathmaps.com](http://footpathmaps.com) or [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net).

### Extra Information

Waresley and Gransden woods are adjoining oak-ash woods. Dean Brook is the boundary between the two woods. They are designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to the diverse flora found here, including bluebells, primroses, anemones, violets and oxlips.

### Route of walk

From the car park walk for a short distance and then go through a tall gate into Browne's Piece. Walk beyond the gate on the grass path, then go left on the left-hand path up the slope towards the wood. A gate will be seen, which is one of the entrances to the wood.

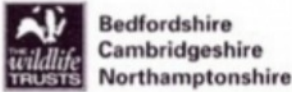
Pass through the entrance and then go left, at the first path junction. This path winds through the trees, heading downhill and, just before a stream (Dean Brook) is reached, turn right on to another path. Ignore the first path to the left but carry on for several minutes, turning left at the next side path.

Follow this new path as it winds through the trees. Ignore any side paths to the right and eventually a cross track is reached.

Turn right and carry on for a short time, turning left on to yet another path when a wire fence is reached on the left.

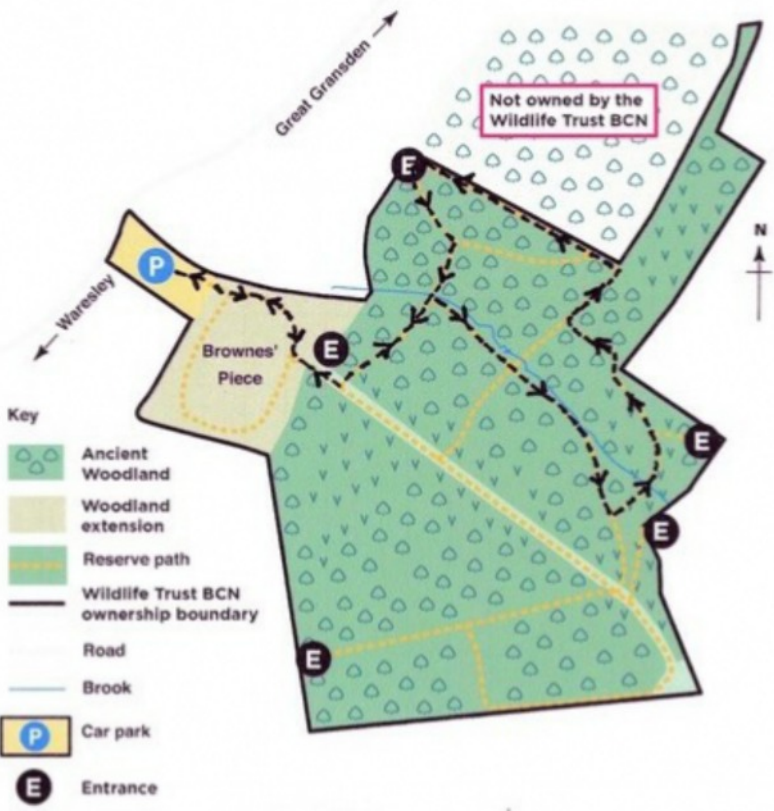
Walk along this new straight path until, close to an exit gate, yet another path will be seen on the left. Follow this, ignoring a path on the left just by a wooden seat, and carry on ahead downhill. Cross over Dean Brook. Go ahead, up the slope. And go right at the next path junction. Exit via the gate, and walk downslope. Go back through the tall gate used near the start of the walk, and return to the car park. **David Barnes**

*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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# Stapleford Community Primary School



THERE have been a number of projects underway at Stapleford Community Primary School, and whilst boilers and roofs might not be exciting, our latest project certainly has been.

We were delighted to welcome former Stapleford resident and alumnus Neil Jones and his father Steve Jones to the school in Spring

2020 to discuss having a sculpture erected on the hall wall. Neil was a pupil at Stapleford in the 70s and 80s and enjoyed a tour seeing what had changed since his time here. The aim was to have a sculpture that was clearly visible from the road and Neil was able to create just that.

The windmill has been the school emblem for many years, as many of you will know there used to be one in Stapleford which fell into disrepair before the Second World War. Neil was able to see the current emblem and the black and white photographs online to help as he got started on the creation.

The sculpture is made of steel and was galvanised in Haverhill, so it should be protected from the weather.



Steve was able to attend school during half term to oversee the installation, and although Neil has only seen photographs of it so far, he hopes to visit it in the near future.

The sculpture inspired some creative work by the children, many of whom have designed their own. One is shown left.

Our thanks go to Neil and Steve, and to the PTA, Acrow Galvanising Haverhill and RJ Roofers who helped with the installation.

**Christine Spain**





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# Granta Medical Practices



AFTER the first week in March we had vaccinated 17,805 patients. All patients in **cohorts 1 to 4** should have been contacted and vaccinated by us. If you haven't, or if you have previously declined the vaccine but have now changed your mind, please call us on 0300 234 5555 (option 2) and you will be prioritised for our next clinic. If you know of anyone that falls into one of these cohorts but has not yet been vaccinated please let us know as soon as possible.

We are currently vaccinating patients in **cohorts 5 and 6**. Some of you may receive a letter inviting you to a vaccination centre, and others may receive a text or telephone call inviting you to an appointment at Granta Sawston.

NHS England are starting to contact patients that fall into **cohort 7** (over 60 years old) and **cohort 8** (over 55 years old). You will receive a letter direct from NHS England giving you further instructions about how to book your vaccination.

May we take this opportunity to remind everyone that, if you have booked a vaccine appointment but are not going to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can offer your vaccine to someone else.

We appreciate that everyone wants to know when their appointment will be, and we are working as fast as possible to get through our patient lists. Contacting us before being invited, however, will not make this process move any faster. Please bear with us as our team continues to work incredibly hard to deliver the vaccine into our community.

Please remember – you will NEVER be asked for payment for the COVID-19 vaccination. Any text message, letter or telephone call requesting your bank details and/or payment should be ignored. Please pass this message on to anyone you feel may be more susceptible to this type of scam.

Information about the virus and the vaccine changes rapidly. To keep completely up to date with the latest guidance please go to the Government website [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and the NHS UK website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) If you know of someone who does not have access to a computer and you do, please help them access the latest information.

As always, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me direct on 627743 or [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net). **Sandra East, Granta Patient Liaison**



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## Bird club

THE walk started with the temperature barely above freezing and in cloudy but bright conditions.

Spring was fast approaching, as shown by the large increase in singing birds since the last walk. My first singing Chaffinch of the year was near the bird feeders in the car park. It was gratifying to see the brightly coloured male as numbers have been plummeting in recent years, but still considered common (though rare in my garden).

Also singing there were a Woodpigeon, Dunnock, Goldfinch, and several Robins. Blue Tits, Great Tits, Goldfinches and 14 Greenfinches were clustered around the feeders. An unusual thrush-like sub-song made up of a rapid, squeaky twitter turned out to be that of a Redwing, soon to leave us to return to Scandinavia or even further east.



Walking up the side of the North Down to Magog Wood, there were occasional Jackdaws, Carrion Crows, and species already encountered, then there was a hot spot of bird activity on Little Trees Hill, which included a Great Spotted Woodpecker flying around, and Magpies. A Skylark rose from the south sheep field and two more were singing in the winter wheat crop.

Walking down the outer path to the bottom of the arable area, three Linnets were perched on the fence, A Corn Bunting was singing from a high point on the hedge, and at the start of Vestey Wood a Yellowhammer was singing. A Stock Dove singing rather monotonously with 'ooo-wer' notes flew out of the wood followed by another, probably its mate. They nest in cavities such as tree holes. A Song Thrush was singing nearby.

On a stroll two days before this walk, I was startled by a Woodcock (pictured above) emerging from Little Trees Hill, flying off low over Feoffee's Fields. Probably on passage, the impression gained of this 'woodland' wader was that it was a brown, stumpy bird with a long, stout bill. This is the first I have seen there. At one time it was believed (erroneously) that tiny Goldcrests on migration from the continent would hitch a ride on Woodcocks across the North Sea. How else might the smallest UK bird weighing in at just a 20p coin fly all that way under its own power? **Mike Foley**



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# Great Shelford Bowls Club

THE prospects for a full bowling year look promising.

The Government has confirmed that bowls clubs will be able to open on 29 March. The details of any playing restrictions will be announced before then. On the assumption that everything will go to plan, April will see the start of the 2021 bowls season with an open morning for everyone to attend on 24 April starting at 10am.

We would like to welcome all those who would like to have a go at bowling, both new players and those who have not played for a while. If you cannot make the Saturday come on Sunday 25 April at the same time when we will be having a practice day.

Please come along and try your hand. You may find you would like to join the club and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

For further information and if you are interested in joining us please contact either secretary Alan Edwards on 07779 834311, or chairman Graham White on 07740 031713.

## Quiz answers

1. Chelsea. They won the Champions League in 2012 and then the Europa League the following season, before the 2013 Champions League final had been played. 2. Nemanja Vidic. 3. Preston North End. Beckham went on loan there as a Manchester United youngster. 4. Karren Brady, Paul Peschisolido. 5. Michael Owen. 6. Arsenal, Port Vale. 7. Sergio Aguero, QPR. It won City the Premier League on the last day of the season in 2012. 8. Nottingham Forest. 9. Kevin Keegan, Ray Clemence and (cricket's) Ian Botham. Sorry. Not sorry. 10. Goalkeeper Asmir Begovic. At 97.5 yards, it was the furthest distance from which a player had scored. Newport's Tom King extended the record this season.

## Puzzle answers

RAT/ICE; CAN/TEA; ASH/TOE; TOO/MAT, TIE/RAG, TOR/EMU

DEED/RANG; FLEE/ONLY; THIS/AIDE; MUTT/OPEN; RIND/AMEN;  
SLOT/ANEW

SWEAT/LAPSE; SKINT/OASIS; DISCO/ENROL; BIDET/RESIN; SNARL/OBESE;  
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PERIOD/INVADE; CARESS/ELICIT; TENANT/ALLEGE; TOWARD/RENEGE;  
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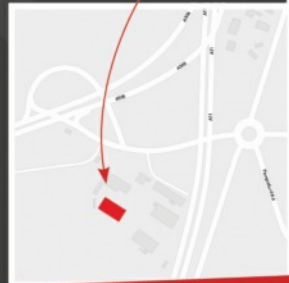


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# Cricket news



THE cricket season begins later this month - hopefully - with more than a hundred players both young and old set to enjoy a full summer of sporting action in our village.

The new Stapleford adult and youth club is up and running and Stapleford Phoenix, the adult midweek T20 side, has a busy fixture card too.

The Phoenix will be making its debut in the Business House League as well as playing a series of friendly games.

Stapleford CC has taken the place of Great Shelford Thirds in the bottom division of the 40-over CCA Saturday league.

The new club is also offering young players a whole summer of sport having set up two Under-11 teams, two at Under-13 level plus one each at Under-9, Under-10 and Under-15.

There are also all-girls teams in the Under-11, Under-13 and Under-15 age groups, plus a Ladies team that will play friendlies.

So if you have a child that fancies playing, or are an adult looking to combine exercise with expanding your social circle (again, hopefully!) then get in touch.

Email [georgerolls@btinternet.com](mailto:georgerolls@btinternet.com) for Stapleford CC (adult Saturday, Ladies, youth) or [staplefordphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordphoenix@gmail.com) for the Phoenix (midweek adult T20). **Jon West**

## Phoenix fixtures (so far)

Monday April 26	St Barnabas (h) Friendly
Wednesday May 5	Swaffhams (h) Friendly
Monday May 10	Sharks (h) Friendly
Wednesday May 19	TTP (h) TBC Friendly
Wednesday June 2	Bluntisham (a) Business House League
Wednesday June 9	RSC venue TBC Business House League
Wednesday June 16	Waterbeach (a) Business House League
Wednesday June 30	TTP (a) TBC Friendly
Monday July 5	Sharks (a) Friendly
Tuesday July 13	Histon (a) Business House League
Monday July 19	St Barnabas (a) Friendly



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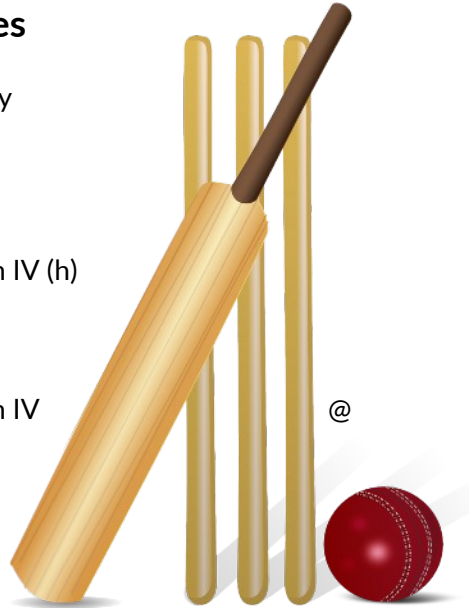
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## Stapleford CC adult fixtures

Sat April 24	Hockerill II (a) friendly
Sat May 1	Cambourne IV (h)
Sat May 8	Bar Hill II (h)
Sat May 22	Cam Kerala III (h)
Sat May 29	NCI IV (a)
Sat June 5	Sawston & Babraham IV (h)
Sat June 12	Cam Kerala III (a)
Sat June 19	Bar Hill II (a)
Sat June 26	Elsworth (h)
Sat July 17	Sawston & Babraham IV
Sat July 24	Cambourne IV (a)
Sat July 31	NCI (h)
Sat August 7	Elsworth



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## Parish Councillor Diary

*DAVID Pepperell is this month's diarist in our series highlighting the aims and activities of our Parish Council. David was 'interviewed' by fellow Councillor, Jenny Flynn – a meeting of the newest and longest-serving members.*

**JF: When did you first join the Parish Council?**

**What did you feel you could bring to the role?**

DP: I moved to the village in 1965 and joined the Parish Council in 1973. Why? By then I had lived in the village for eight years and liked its inclusive community spirit. Our children attended the local Community School. My wife, Lyn, worked there too (ultimately, for more than 25 years), and I worked in Duxford at the Swiss Chemical Company, CIBA-GEIGY (in total, for more than 39 years).

The village was half the size it is today and there was a lot going on, and I wanted to make an active contribution with my skills. I joined the Parish Council in the knowledge that work is entirely voluntary and without political association.

**JF: What was Parish Council life like in the early years of your involvement?**

DP: We used to meet in several rooms on the Community School premises. There were nine Councillors: a farmer, builder, trades people, sports representatives, and me from industry. All of us and the Parish Council Clerk were involved in everything going on in the village and were well known to residents and readily approachable. These days, communication with the Council normally goes via the Clerk but until quite recently our phone numbers and addresses were available for people to contact us directly.

The computer age had not yet reached us and the Clerk, in my early days, was George Dunn, who recorded beautifully scripted entries of the agendas and minutes in bound ledger books. Our agendas worked well, with no sub-committees considered necessary, and were largely contained to matters happening within the village, with hardly any outside issues arising. The elected District and County Council Officers were our local links to the 'outside world', with little or no pressure from the large property developments which were to emerge in later years. It was fun!



We used to enjoy the 'Beating of the Bounds'. This was an old parish tradition of Councillors and villagers walking the parish boundaries, with prior permission from landowners.

In 2000, the millennium bonfire and lighting of the beacon was held on the Drift Road land. This was a great all-village occasion. A candlelit procession started from the recreation ground, with the evening culminating in a grand firework display.

**JF: What roles and responsibilities have you taken on over the years? When you look around the village, what things do you see which reflect decisions of which you have been a part?**

DP: Through the Parish Council, I have been involved with the Twinning Association since its inception in 1979. I arranged with British Telecom for a traditional phone box, and with Royal Mail for a post box, to be donated to our twinned village, Villedômer, in the Loire Valley of France. They are still there after 40 years and the bond of friendship remains today. In fact, Villedômer Wood, part of the extensive tree planting programme at Magog Down supported by the Parish Council, was named by me during one of my three periods as Chair.

As a Councillor, I have attended many police liaison meetings, supported the Magog Down project, and for several years was the Parish Council's representative on the Stapleford Chalk Pit charity and involved in working parties at the Parish Pit.

I was also Chairman of the Village Flower Show Committee, a Parish Council-nominated trustee of Feoffees, and the Parish Council representative on the school's board of governors.

More recently, I helped to get extra land for the new cemetery extension when development on land adjacent to the old cemetery became a real threat. Outside of the Parish Council, I was Chairman of the Friends of St Andrew's on two occasions.

I have seen a lot of changes at the recreation ground during my time. The present pavilion building is now 10 years old and replaced a small, rudimentary toilet and changing room block. Building the pavilion cost around £250,000 and was only affordable because of a public works loan grant of around £120,000 that I helped to secure. It was a major undertaking for the Parish Council and for five or six years before building started we put aside half of our entire annual budget to cushion any impact on the parish precept. The pavilion still looks good and is serviceable today, although modifications are now necessary to meet present day usage and the requirements of new legislation.

One of the proudest moments of my parish service was to be nominated for my contribution in 2018 for an invitation with Lyn to the annual May Buckingham Palace Garden Party. It was one of those occasions I shall never forget.

**JF: What do you think are the main challenges facing the village over the next five years in which the Parish Council will have a role to play?**

DP: Early days on the Parish Council were far more relaxed and not nearly so intensive; probably we did not have so much to contend with. Things are quite different today!

In my view, the biggest challenge for the Parish Council now is to contend with outside pressures from large developments encroaching upon our fringes. I can bring knowledge and background to Council debates on these matters, taking an active role in s106\* expenditure, planning and other financial matters.

My regular walks around the village keep me abreast of many other issues that may arise, from potholes to individual householder planning applications. Litter waste is a particular problem in the village (as elsewhere) and I continue to undertake ad hoc clearance along the cycleway and on the Slaughterhouse land.

*[\* s106 is a legal agreement between an applicant seeking planning permission and the local planning authority, which is used to mitigate the impact of new development on the local community and infrastructure.]*

**Jenny Flynn and David Pepperell**

## Sawston Library

IN accordance with government guidelines we are hoping to re-open from 12 April for managed browsing. Check our website for updated information: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library).

In addition, the following services will also be available: Select and Collect, Reservations, Public Access to Computers on an appointment basis and Digital Services.

Sawston Library is open on Mondays from 2pm to 6pm and Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm.

You can return books and collect items, which will have been issued already to your library card. Specific titles can be reserved online from home in the normal way. Whilst we continue to offer a limited service, there are no overdue charges. Reservations cost 50p per item for adults and are free for children using a child's card. **Lisa Dimaline**

# From your Parish Council

## Report from meeting on 10 March

MINUTES of Parish Council meetings can be viewed at the Parish Council website: [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk) which also gives details of the next meeting.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Zoom on the 5 May at 7pm This meeting is your opportunity to raise any issues you wish, so please contact the Clerk. Clubs, organisations and groups are invited to provide an annual report direct to the Clerk which will be loaded to the PC website in advance of the meeting. Please make contact if you do not hear from the Clerk on this.

### **Greater Cambridge Planning: Local Plan**

Site at Hinton Way: the entrance to a site put forward under the Call for Sites has undergone clearance. The Clerk contacted South Cambs District Council Planning Enforcement and was advised that as a planning application is not currently under consideration, Enforcement to stop works cannot be taken as a landowner is entitled to clear their own land.

### **Busway**

We expect that the i-Transport independent report that was commissioned by Stapleford and Gt Shelford Parish Councils will be on the website by the time you read this and we will be urging the GCP to incorporate its findings into their overall evaluation of the route choice.

### **MUGA**

Contractors will be on site from the 6 April to allow the playground to remain open through the Easter holiday, with completion due in May, all subject to weather conditions. A new hedge will be planted to ensure light spill is minimised. There is already a lot of interest and sports groups are invited to start booking the courts directly with Cllr Paul McPhater.

### **Great Shelford & Stapleford Neighbourhood Plan**

Volunteers are needed to resurrect the Neighbourhood Plan. If you are interested in helping the Parish Council finish this important document, which is designed to help preserve and enhance our village within the context of the Local Plan and the Strategic Transport plan, please contact the Clerk and volunteer your services. In particular this is an opportunity to influence the look of new developments.

### **Reopening the Pavilion**

Advance Bookings are now being received and children's indoor activities will resume subject to any government review from 12 April and adults from 17 May with all Covid regulations in place.

The playground is open and remains subject to government directives on social distancing and hygiene. Please do adhere to the regulations.

### **Litter**

Many Councillors routinely pick up litter around the village. This really is an unsung benefit to the village that Councillors devote time to. Provided Covid safety rules are followed, anyone can do this and put it into the nearest bin or take it home for disposal. If you want to do your bit for the community, the Parish Council has the correct litter picking equipment available. Please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

### **Communications**

The Parish Council is trying harder to share what is important to our village as it affects us: reference the Gt Shelford and Stapleford Facebook posts being made. The *Stapleford Messenger* in particular is highly valued because of its excellent quality, interest and extensive readership and we hope to see that continue to grow, and equally to see the number of 'hits' on our website grow.

However, the Clerk is available by telephone and email to answer your specific queries, and the Parish Council meetings are open to all with a section for questions to be raised. Please do attend.

### **The Parish Pit: Chalk & Gravel Pit**

Stapleford Parish Council are trustees of the Parish Pit which lies south of the Haverhill Road close to the Magog Down. Back in the 1800s it was used for chalk and gravel and clay extraction principally for repairing local roads but latterly it has been managed voluntarily by the Magog Trust for recreation and conservation and enhancement of biodiversity given the special environmental conditions.

At its March 2020 meeting, Council resolved to transfer ownership of the Parish Pit to the Magog Trust given its focus on conservation and its experience and resource available. It was noted that the Magog Trust already manage similar pits locally. Accordingly the Clerk was instructed to investigate the process of transfer with the Charities Commission.

In response to the Clerk's enquiries, the Charity Commission has advised that a new charitable scheme is required. This is because the current purposes of the Stapleford Parish Trust is technically for a chalk, gravel and clay pit and for charitable purposes benefiting the Parish of Stapleford.



The new scheme must align with the Magog Trust purposes which are for recreation and conservation.

The Charity Commission will draft the new scheme subject to the Trustees (i.e. Stapleford Parish Councillors) undertaking certain actions, namely: to formally decide to apply for a new scheme, to decide on the new purposes of the scheme, and to consult with stakeholders on the proposed scheme and demonstrate clear support

Once approved by the Charity Commission, SPC is free to dispose of the interest to Magog Trust which we believe will secure its long term future.

Stapleford Parish Council at its meeting approved this and proposed that the publicity for the consultation will take place through Facebook, Stapleford Messenger, Parish Council notice boards and any other medium deemed appropriate and in line with Charity Commission advice. All responses are to go to the Clerk.

### **Vacancies**

The Parish Council has one vacancy. If you have not previously considered being a Councillor, please speak with a Councillor or the Clerk for more information on the role, and how you can help your community.

### **Planning**

21/0034/S106A 8 Granta Terrace, Stapleford and 10-20 Even, Welchs Crescent, Stapleford.

Modification of planning obligations to amend clause 7.10 to a conditional Mortgagee Exclusion Clause and delete clause 7.11, of the Section 106 Agreement dated 16 August 2013 made between South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Welch's Group Holdings Limited and Wrenbridge (Stapleford) Limited (relating to development of land at Granta Terrace, Stapleford).

Cllrs expressed concern that such change could lead to a reduction in affordable housing in the Parish. Clarification from SCDC requested.  
Objection.

21/00828/PRI01A The House on the Hill, Hinton Way, Gt Shelford.  
Single storey front & side and 2 storey rear extensions: *No objection but need to ensure trees are protected.*

21/00636/CL2PD Chalk Hill, Haverhill Road, Stapleford.  
Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for a side extension and new outbuilding at rear of the site: *Objection: scale may be greater than allowed under permitted development; concern re proposed tree removal - SPC would seek SCDC Tree Officer comments and need to ensure trees are protected.*

# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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