

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

May 2021

Volume 80 No 5

Price 60p



**Shanti's eco message  
page 10**

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

## Our reputation is growing

For over 20 years we have been a leading Cambridge agent, but did you know we also offer expert advice and our professional service in Stapleford?

Every home we sell or let, we will plant a tree locally

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

carbon footprint

Get in touch and discover the Bush difference.

bush sales

01223 246262  
bushsales.co.uk



01223 508085  
bushlettings.co.uk

bush lettings

Established. Independent. Passionate.



## Bespoke Curtains & Blinds

sucrowcurtains.com



01223 836498

Great Shelford Solicitors

# DAVIES

solicitors advocates & mediators

- Family
- Divorce & Separation
- Children
- Civil Disputes
- Wills & Probate
- Estate & Tax Planning
- Powers of Attorney
- Court of Protection

For a quality and attentive service

Please Call **01223 842211**

[www.daviessolicitors.co.uk](http://www.daviessolicitors.co.uk)  
[law@daviessolicitors.co.uk](mailto:law@daviessolicitors.co.uk)  
30 Woollards Lane, Great Shelford,  
Cambridge CB22 5LZ

Free and easy parking



## Tyres & Autocentre

**WE ARE NOW IN A NEW LOCATION.  
CALL US FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY!**

- New tyres
- Part-worn tyres
- Wheel balancing
- 4-wheel alignment
- Locking wheel nut removal

**ALL WHILE YOU WAIT**

- Servicing
- Brakes fitted
- Shock absorbers
- Exhaust repairs
- Diagnostics
- Batteries
- Engine carbon cleaning
- Air conditioning
- And more...

**Opening hours:**  
Mon-Fri: 09:00-18:00  
Saturday: 10:00-16:00  
Sunday: CLOSED

**01223 845155**

Unit 2, Hillstead Farm, Hinton Way, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5AN



# WATERLILIES

SKIN • VPL LASER • BEAUTY

Now available Micro Needling & Skin Peels

01223 844700 [waterlilies.org.uk](http://waterlilies.org.uk)

2d Dolphin Way, Off London Road, Stapleford, CB22 5DW

## THE CAMBRIDGE WILL WRITING Company

OFFERING A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF SERVICES

- Wills
- Lasting Power of Attorneys
- Inheritance Tax Planning
- Trusts

and specialising in home visits, both in the evening and at weekends



For a no obligation discussion, please contact us on

T: 01223 503688 or 07817 206659  
E: [info@cambridgewillwriting.co.uk](mailto:info@cambridgewillwriting.co.uk)  
Full price list available on request.

# 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 Administrator**

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

**Youthworker**

Zoe Clayton 894656

**Children's Ministry**

Sue Brown 01954 264246

**Director of Music**

John Bryden 07803 706847

**PCC secretary**

Nicky West 07927 531719

**Treasurer**

Chris Bow 841982

**Verger**

Clare Kerr 842984

**Sacristan**

Peter Green 500404

**Captain of bellringers**

Tony Smith 843379

**Church flowers**

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Liz Hodgkins 01638 570060

**Stapleford-Nachingwea Link**

Trish Maude 242263

**Mothers' Union**

Hilary Street 840548

**Johnson Memorial Hall**

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

**Friends of St Andrew's**

Tony Hore 843796

**SERVICES at St ANDREW'S**

Sunday 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 BCP or CW Communion

10.30am Communions, 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**

**Editor**

Contact [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

**Advertising**

Contact [stapleford.ads@gmail.com](mailto:stapleford.ads@gmail.com)

The subscription for the Stapleford MESSENGER delivered to your home is £6 per annum (£16 by post): single copies 60p. For more information, contact Valerie Powell, Distribution Officer, on 843415.

# From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

I VERY occasionally run from Stapleford to Little Shelford – I can just about make it to the church there before quietly expiring – and on that route there is a long and very pleasing brick wall. Nothing all that special, just a boundary wall, but made with great care, maintained over many years and now looking at ease in its place in the world.



Other walls may have particular functions. There was, for example, the Berlin Wall, keeping the East German population prisoners in their own country. Or, well worth seeing, there is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC – dominated by a shiny black wall carved with the 60,000 or so names of those US service men and women who died in the conflict. A very moving wall, if you see what I mean.

So I wonder what image comes to mind with the words ‘peace wall’? A tranquil spot, a place to meditate and be at peace, a commemoration of the end of a war? All of the above?

Probably none of the above if you are thinking of the peace walls in Belfast and across Northern Ireland. They were built to keep warring communities apart. The most famous, at the Shankill Road, was often the scene of disorder around twenty years ago.

Then peace reigned. Walls had played their part in enforcement, but the starring role belonged to the Good Friday Agreement, a peace treaty really, approved in referenda both sides of the border and guaranteed by both governments.

Its fruits have been obvious. But the peace walls, including that on the Shankill Road, have seen a return to action. There has been rioting over many nights; petrol bombs have been tossed both ways over the wall; fires have burned; squads of black-clothed youngsters in balaclavas have been seen in concerted action; hundreds have been marching; police and the press have been attacked.

What on earth has gone wrong? And what has the gospel got to say about this renewed violence? It is, if I may go all Christian on you for a moment, all to do with fundamental wickedness in the human make-up. Yes, you might say, I sort of agree. Those young are out of control. Violent people with ulterior motives egg them on. All rightly condemned, and Christians would stand with others in repudiating the wickedness we see and those behind it. The community divisions have their roots at least partly in denominational differences, but none of what is happening is consistent with the teachings of Christ.

But there is more to it. If you ask how we got here you might point, as many secular commentators have, to the Loyalist community having been led to believe that there would be no adverse consequences of Brexit for Northern Ireland. It is now apparent to them that that was not true. As re-unification looms ever closer, pushed by economic necessity, violence seems to provide at least one possible way out.

A Christian root cause analysis would likewise lead back to the complacency, carelessness and lies of politicians which have so rapidly undone a peace that took thirty years to achieve. The lies on the bus - £350 million per week for the NHS my foot - have been transformed into a hijacked bus driver and his burning bus on the Shankill Road.

When the apostle James wrote about the effect of lies he used precisely that analogy. 'Consider' he said 'what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire ...'.

Lies lead to fire, sometimes literally. The resurgence in violence that we are seeing was not just entirely predictable, but actually predicted. Those who chose to lie - remember Boris Johnson saying that there would be no border in the Irish Sea? - have kindled the flames and may yet find blood on their hands.

So the situation is dire. But what can we do? I imagine that, like me, you feel rather powerless, an observer of a slow-motion car crash. The increasingly serious economic consequences of Brexit - hot-tip: do not invest in a British bivalve mollusc farm any time soon - is as nothing compared to what may happen in Northern Ireland. About 3,500 people died in the Troubles, and Ulster University research suggests there were a further 45,000 injuries, 37,000 shooting incidents, 22,500 armed robberies, 16,000 bombings and 2,000 arson attacks.

I suspect there is one thing and one thing only that we over here can do, and that is to pray, both for truth and for peace. With Jesus, the Prince of Peace, all things are possible, including reconciliation and peace in Northern Ireland. So, if you are, ever have been, or ever might be a praying person, here is a prayer for truth and peace for you to say. It was written by a Victorian bishop, rather of its time in tone, but I like it anyway.

*Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle, we pray, in every heart, the true love of peace; and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward, till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

**Every blessing to you all, Simon**

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

SUNDAY services will also be on our St Andrew's Stapleford YouTube channel.

2 MAY	10.30 am	CW COMMUNION Mark 10.32-45 <i>To give his life</i>
	10.30 am	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
9 MAY	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SERVICE OF THE WORD Mark 10.46-52 <i>Have mercy on me</i>
16 MAY	9 am	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SERVICE OF THE WORD Mark 11.1-25 <i>A den of robbers</i>
	10.30 am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
23 MAY	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	PENTECOST: SERVICE OF THE WORD Mark 11.27-12.12
30 MAY	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	TRINITY SUNDAY: CW COMMUNION

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 the [standrewstapleford.org](http://standrewstapleford.org) website.

## FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

**Interment of Ashes**  
8 April: Audrey Webb



## Looking for a local venue?

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

For details please contact **Gillian Sanders:**

**Tel:** 07752 373 176 **Email:** [admin@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:admin@standrewstapleford.org)

## Regular groups at St Andrew's

### Sunday

5.30pm Explore (for ages 11 to 16) Zoe Clayton 894656

### Tuesday

8pm Bible study group Francess Richardson 841788

8pm Exploring group (first & third Tuesdays) Romie Ridley 842922

8pm Women's house group Sue Duraikan 210472 & Sarah Hackett 841356

### Wednesday

9.45am Cox's Close communion (first Wednesday of the month) Simon Taylor

7pm Tower bells practice Tony Smith 843379

7.30pm House group Mary & Chris Cooper 842127

8pm Handbells Jill Butler 844133

### Thursday

2.15pm Mothers' Union (fourth Thursday of the month) Hilary Street 840548

7.30pm Mothers' Union (third Thursday of the month) Hilary Street 840548

### Friday

10am Prayer group Mary Antcliff 842227

7pm Choir practice John Bryden 07803 706847

## Deadline for the JUNE Messenger

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

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

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

Advertising queries to [stapleford.ads@gmail.com](mailto:stapleford.ads@gmail.com)

Subscription queries to Valerie Powell on 843415

The views expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Messenger*.

Advertisements are accepted in good faith but customers should satisfy themselves that advertisers are able to supply the services they offer.

Thinking of  
selling or letting  
your property?



**Our Great Shelford  
team can help!**

Whether it's advice about  
getting your property ready  
to sell, discussing the rental  
market or simply to find out  
what your property is worth,  
give us a call.

We are always happy to  
chat about the local market.

**01223 800860**  
**shelford@rah.co.uk**  
**rah.co.uk**



**PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS**

All aspects of tree work  
Fully qualified and insured  
Hedge maintenance  
Woodland management

Please call Jonathan for a free  
no obligation quote:

**07743 406569 / 01763 208361**

**shelfordtreeservice@outlook.com**

**www.shelfordtreeservice.co.uk**



**GATWARD & SONS LTD**

**BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE**  
CARPENTRY, JOINERY & BUILDING CONTRACTORS

 **01223 839490**

 **07557 735247**

 **contact@gatwardandsons.co.uk**

**BASED IN STAPLEFORD**

**EXTENSIONS  
CONVERSIONS  
RENOVATIONS  
ALTERATIONS**



## Nurturing nature

EACH season presents something fresh. Springtime is joyous with so much new life. Trees dress up. Green of many hues is a bright delight clothing empty branches in buds. Blossom adds delicately worked embroidery. After dark difficult days light is welcome. Sudden yellows trumpet triumph. Gently easing into a different normal is helped by the generous sprinkling of hope.

Walking, wandering and wondering is good for health. Connecting with nature greatly benefits our well-being. Minds and bodies can be soothed. The smallest wild delight creates smiles of appreciation, calming anxious minds. Birds chorus, fluttering excitedly, frogs croak and deer dart across paths. David Hockney painted daffodils (right) saying, 'Do remember they can't cancel the Spring.'



Carpets of aconites and snowdrops under a woodland canopy are wonderful. Similarly intriguing, snake's head fritillaries, hellebores, cyclamen and pale natural primroses make for enchantment. Bluebells' purply haze set among trees awakens the senses.

Wildflower meadows are a pleasure, yet up to 97% have gone. Parker's Piece has been lush in a designated corner. The Botanic Garden has featured wildflowers where we spotted three pastel shades of cornflower. Blossom Watch welcomes photographs and comments on our environment. The National Trust is raising awareness of soils in poor condition, land usage needing a rethink, and say most ash trees will be lost in 20 to 30 years. They aim to plant 20 million trees over the next decade and encourage our involvement.

On our Magog Down ox-eye daisies studding slopes are spectacular. Cowslips dishevelled and ruffled, larks trilling high overhead, are rewarding sights. Walking by Memorial Wood where we have an oak to remember my father, and into the beeches is a special local treat.

Views over to Ely from Wandlebury on a clear day are worth the effort. To avoid stumbling or falling en route, a well-chosen branch will support like a staff. A stick makes a user confident; able to go ahead even on rutted tracks. Many walking sticks are elaborately carved and become heirlooms. A shepherd carries a wooden crook for steadying and tending sheep. In the church a bishop has a crook symbolising leading and nurturing the 'flock'.

Pathways form avenues in our lives. Maybe they will have potholes, cracks, trip hazards ... we have to negotiate. However, discovering is worthwhile. **Judith Lee**

## FOOT PROBLEMS?

Call **07939 227195**

Foot treatment in the comfort of your home

### Treatments cover:

- Nail Cutting and other nail conditions
- Corn and callus removal/reduction
- Fungal infections and athletes foot

**Celia Kenney**

*HCPC Registered Podiatrist*

The Beechwood Practice | 41 Hills Road  
Cambridge CB2 1NT  
Call **01223 315541**



## PIANO LESSONS

Jacqueline  
Cairnduff  
CT ABRSM ALCM

All ages welcome.  
Also aural training & theory.

2 Sternes Way,  
Stapleford CB22 5DA

**01223 842912**

[jcairnduff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jcairnduff@hotmail.co.uk)

### THE GAS SPECIALIST LTD (D Hatter)

Service, installation, and repair of all domestic gas appliances: cookers, fires; specialist in boiler repairs and servicing.

Power-flushing of central-heating systems.

*Gas Safe Reg 131405. Est 1994.*

**01223 844866**

## “The Most Thorough Cleaning Ever Seen or It’s Free!”

WE SPECIALISE IN CLEANING:

- Carpets,
- Upholstery
- Leather
- Fine Rugs
- Tiles/Stone & Grout
- Wood Sanding and Finishing

**-10%**  
*Discount to all new customers*



Laurence & Pierre de Wet

**01223 863 632**

[www.artofclean.co.uk](http://www.artofclean.co.uk)



# STEVE the PLUMBER

Steve the Plumber is a friendly, reliable, locally based plumber who would love to help you out! All those jobs you thought weren't worth getting someone out for I would love to do for you.

No job too small and individually priced at great rates.

**07803 922517 or [www.stevetheplumbersawston.co.uk](http://www.stevetheplumbersawston.co.uk).**

## CHIMNEY SWEEP

**J. L. WIGHT**

Guild of Master  
Chimney Sweeps



Certificates issued.  
Advice given /  
problems solved.

**01954 253315**

[www.camsweep.co.uk](http://www.camsweep.co.uk)

9 Cow Lane, Rampton

# Mothers' Union News



STILL no arranged meetings yet, but the Committee are considering when we can meet up again, when restrictions ease – so there will be an email with information in due course.

Members will have received by now their copy of the new MU magazine, 'Connected', which is being sent to every enrolled member. There are some good articles in it, including a piece on the Mothers' Union at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (of which we have been a member for the past ten years). The concerns of the UNCSW fit closely with the aims of the Mothers' Union's strategic plan to transform lives via such initiatives as raising awareness of gender-based violence – well worth reading.

Some members attended the interment of Audrey Webb's ashes at St Andrew's on 8 April – it was a good occasion, as we had a chance to reminisce about Audrey, and to remember her with great affection.

We have invitations to join Sawston MU in their Zoom meetings. On 6 May, Yasmin Emerson will be speaking about 'Family Cycle Touring', and an advance notice that Hazel Williams (our Diocesan President) will be giving a talk on 3 June. Both meetings start at 7.30pm – if you are interested, please let me know and I will send you the Zoom link.

Hoping to meet up all together before too long. **Hilary Street**

## Stapleford – Nachingwea Link



THE Link Committee has sent condolences to everyone in Nachingwea on the death in March of their President, Dr John Pombe Magufuli. Magufuli was the son of a peasant farmer and went on to become

Tanzania's president in 2015.

To mark the occasion the Tanzanian flag was flown at half-mast over St Andrew's Church.

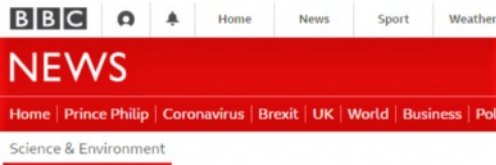
On a happier note we'd like to thank all who recently purchased Traidcraft goods through Romie Ridley, which enabled her to pass on the very generous amount of £300 from her Fairtrader discount towards the 'Second Generation' Library for Nambambo Secondary School in Nachingwea. **Trish Maude**



# Shanti's an eco influencer

## And so is the Archbishop of Canterbury

STAPLEFORD student Shanti Duraikan tells the Messenger of how she came to appear on the BBC alongside Justin Welby.



Could churches do more to fight climate change?

HELLO! I'm Shanti, I've just turned 20 (scary!) and I'm currently at Falmouth University, down in Cornwall, studying Marine and Natural History Photography.

I've always loved and cared about the world and its people, and have been a Christian since I was 13, but never thought about how these two parts of my life might be connected.

Over the past few years, as the climate emergency has continued to worsen and become more present in the media, I've also been growing in my

relationship with God. I've been asking bigger questions and trying to learn more and more about God, which lead to me putting together these two parts of my life!

During this time, and lockdown, Tearfund, a Christian charity, has been hosting a six-week course called 'Emerging Influencers' for 17 to 23-year-olds, to encourage them to "develop a theological understanding of justice" and take action! This popped up on my social media in September, and (quite impulsively!) I signed up. I'm so grateful I took part, and would recommend it to anyone interested - it significantly shifted my perspective of the Bible, helped me see how much God cares about injustice and how we need to act as a result. And, despite lockdown, I was able to meet so many inspiring people who share my faith in God and ache for justice.

I also took part in Tearfund's research into young people, the church and the climate crisis. The full study can be found on the website below, but some of the key findings were that nine out of ten young people surveyed were concerned about the climate crisis, but only one in ten felt that their church was doing enough in response to the climate crisis, which is devastating!

I was asked to speak at a few events on the release of the research, and one of these was a short video for the BBC!

I filmed my part of the video, but was told it wouldn't necessarily be released so I was trying not to get my hopes up! But, a few days later, I was doing some work, when my dad came into my room and said "have you seen the news?!" I thought maybe some big event had happened and was quite confused, but when he showed me his phone, it was the video! It was a surprise to see the Archbishop of Canterbury in the same video as me, as well as the thumbnail of the video - a close up, and not so attractive, shot of my face!



Overall though, I've been blown away by the attention to the research, and have seen some definite positive responses (albeit among a few not-so-positive ones). I hope this is a wake up call to the church, to step up and take action, to show love to our planet and the people being affected by the climate crisis.

Some useful resources for how churches can respond to the climate crisis, as well as the full report, can be found on the website [weare.tearfund.org/burningdownthehouse](http://weare.tearfund.org/burningdownthehouse).

The climate emergency toolkit ([climateemergencytoolkit.com](http://climateemergencytoolkit.com)) is another resource made by a group of Christian organisations, specifically for churches responding to the climate crisis.

*St Andrew's has its own eco policy and is participating in A Rocha's Eco Church project, an award-based system that supports churches in "caring for God's world".*

*This focuses on five key areas of church life: worship and teaching, management of church buildings, management of church land, community and global engagement, and lifestyle.*

*The points scored contribute towards a bronze, silver or gold award.*

*The project was launched in 2019 and by the 2020 Harvest festival St Andrew's had almost achieved the Bronze award despite the prolonged lockdown.*

*It is hoped that by this year's festival Bronze or even Silver will have been achieved.*

*The project is being co-ordinated by Sophi Berridge, who can be contacted on [ecochurch@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:ecochurch@standrewstapleford.org) or 07967 220498.*

## 2G3S



OUR next talk and discussion is about bus services and is on Monday 10 May at 8pm on Zoom. Edward Leigh, who is a transport economist and works with Smarter Cambridge Transport, will talk on ‘How to pay for better bus services?’ He says: “Few people disagree that we need better rural bus services. Franchising (re-regulation) is now an option in

Cambridgeshire, which would make it easier to provide an integrated, consistent service. But to expand service provision significantly will require additional money. So, the key question is, where do we get the money from?” Smarter Cambridge Transport is an apolitical, voluntary organisation, advancing integrated, sustainable and equitable transport for the Cambridge region. Email the address at the bottom of this article for a Zoom link for the meeting.

The online University of Cambridge Festival held at the end of March contained some excellent talks. Several of them had an environmental theme and are available on YouTube.

The next Environmental Forum with our MP Anthony Browne is online on 17 June at 4pm. Email him at [anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk) if you would like to ask a question or just listen in.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate has produced its first report. The Commission was established by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to provide independent advice to local government, the broader public sector and business in the area, on both setting and meeting carbon reduction targets for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and preparing for the effects of climate change on this region. Look at [cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk) for the report. There are plenty of challenges as you can imagine, particularly in transport, housing and growth.

At a national level, you may have heard about the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. Drafted by scientists, legal experts, ecological economists and environmentalists, the CEE bill is designed to reverse the climate and ecological breakdown we face. The bill asks the UK to take responsibility for its fair share of greenhouse gas emissions (including flying and shipping), to actively restore biodiverse habitats in the UK and to stop





damage to the environment through the production, transportation and disposal of the goods we consume.

With the coming of the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November, which the UK is hosting, the timing of the bill is apt. More details at [ceebill.uk](http://ceebill.uk). If you support this bill you can write to Anthony Browne to ask him to support it.

Something to do this month – vote in the local elections on 6 May for County Councillors, the Mayor, and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Here's your chance to vote for people who most represent your wishes for the future of our area, and there are certainly lots of big projects in the air at present that have an environmental impact.

Something NOT to do this month is mow your lawn. The No Mow May campaign run by the charity Plantlife aims to allow verges to flower in May which is a prime month for pollinators such as bees. At the end of the month do the Every Flower Counts survey on Plantlife's website.

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**



## Annual Parish Meetings

THE Annual Parish Meeting will be held virtually on 5 May at 7.30pm.

If you are a leader of an organisation in the village but have not heard from the Clerk requesting a report please could you make contact with her about submitting an annual report which will then be placed on the Parish Council website prior to the meeting. This an opportunity for the villagers to come together and ask any relevant questions they may have.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by a shortened Annual Parish Council Meeting where officers will be elected for the forthcoming year. **Howard Kettel**

## WI news



WE have now got in the swing of having speakers each month by Zoom, with attendees from Stapleford and other local WIs. I reported on the talk by Quizmistress Faith Powell in a previous article, but since then we have hosted an explorer, Misba Khan, and a cartographer, Seppe Cassettari. We also hope to host a talk about the Tower of London soon.

Misba is a middle-aged woman from a British Pakistani background, and was selected to join the Women's Euro-Arabian North Pole Expedition in



2018 . This was set up to foster greater dialogue and understanding between women from Western and Arab cultures. Ten participants were picked from a thousand applicants to fit together and support each other in a team, and were diverse in age, experience, background, culture, and family situation. Misba was the oldest of the women

selected and her accounts of the challenging training she had to undertake were quite daunting. For example, she could not ski or swim, so she taught herself to swim by following videos. She dragged a heavy tyre behind her day after day in her local park to strengthen her muscles ready to pull a sledge with her equipment on. The training they all undertook in Iceland was even more challenging, at -38 degrees. The expedition inspired the women to reach beyond their expectations and was a life-changing event for Misba.

Dr Seppe Cassettari talked to us about the story of London through maps created at various times in its history. He has recently retired from a 40-year career in mapping and is currently President of the British Cartographic Society. A vast amount of information can be conveyed on a map, and examples he showed us included the damage after the Great Fire of London, the growth of the city in stages throughout Victorian times, and profiles of constituencies to show poverty-stricken streets. Victorian maps showed the area covered by the infamous Soho water pump which was found to correlate with the area hit by cholera, which led to the conclusion (and subsequent proof) that cholera is a water-borne disease.



Post War, planners mapped out the developments they wanted to see, using photomaps as well as traditional drawn ones.

The Soviets had maps of London during the Cold War, with numbered targets of buildings they wanted to capture e.g. the Royal Mint and the Tower of London. Gas pipes and sewers are mapped, and planners of high-rise buildings have to take into account the routes of these and also the geology underneath the city. A sobering thought is that buildings today are only up for around 50 years, and the only old buildings in London are the churches and the pubs. An absolutely fantastic talk.

We have continued to hold book club meetings and celebrate members' birthdays, and at Easter we treated all members to a chocolate egg. Hopefully we'll be able to meet in reality before too long.



All best wishes, and please contact Sallie Dixon if you'd like any more information about the WI, on 843847. Also see the [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com) website. **Helen Hale**

## Great Shelford Bowls Club

BY the time you read this we will have had our open days, but we are still looking for new members.

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. Please contact Alan Edwards or Graham White to arrange to come along for a trial or a practice. The venue is next to the Tennis Courts on the G S Recreation Ground.

You may find after that, that you would like to join the club and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. If you haven't played before or are a little rusty, coaching can be made available.

We play in four leagues. The Business House, Cambridge and District Div. 3, Meldreth and District, and the Foxton League, together with a few friendly games

We abide by the COVID-19 rules as laid down by Bowls England so we can ensure everyone interested that it will be a safe environment.

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

## OvenPad Cleaning Services

I will professionally and efficiently clean ovens, ranges, Agas, ceramic hobs, extractors, microwaves, and BBQs.

*It's a dirty job, why not give me a call?*

Please contact **Paddy Kelly** on

Tel: 01638 742703

Mobile: 0775 263 1343

Email: info@ovenpad.com  
www.ovenpad.com

Great  
Value

# KASH STORES

Local  
Service

**A great deal more from your local store!**

General groceries • Fresh produce • Confectionery

• In-store bakery • Off-licence • Photocopying

• Newspapers, magazines & stationery • **Lottery**

• Dry Cleaning • Shoe repairs

**Full Post Office counter facilities**

33-35 Hinton Way, Great Shelford

Tel: 01223 843307

**Shop opening times:**

Mon-Sat:

7:00am - 7:30pm

Sunday:

7:00am - 2:00pm

**POST  
OFFICE**

**Post Office opening:**

Mon-Fri:

8:30am - 6:00pm

Sat-Sun:

8:30am - noon



## JACKSON COX

YOUR LOCAL VILLAGE OPTICIANS

A.Saxena MCOptom  
OPTOMETRIST

**PROFESSIONAL HIGH QUALITY EYE CARE**

- NHS & Private eye checks
- Cataract, Glaucoma & Macular degeneration checks
- Contact lenses • Safety Specs

*Free on road parking with Disabled access*

Open Mon- Fri 9.00am - 5.30pm (Wed until 6.30pm)

Saturday 8.30am - 4.30pm

30a Woollards Lane | Great Shelford | CB22 5LZ

☎01223 840 441 🌐www.jackson-cox-optician.com



## PANTHER

01223

# 715 715

WIDE RANGE OF VEHICLES AVAILABLE 24/7  
INCLUDING 5-8 SEATERS

METERED RATES TO SURROUNDING AREAS

**DOWNLOAD OUR BOOKING APP**



## RUSSELL COOPER GARDENING

(QUALIFIED HORTICULTURIST EST 1987)

**ALL ASPECTS OF GARDENING  
WORK CARRIED OUT BY A  
PROFESSIONAL LOCAL  
BUSINESS**

**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT  
OF YOUR GARDEN  
UNDERTAKEN**

**Tel: 01223 830575**

**Mobile: 07702 456797**

## Neil's Gent's Hair Stylist of Stapleford

Is offering professional gents  
hairstyling at competitive  
prices

30 years' experience

4a Bar Lane, Stapleford

Call 01223 844411 for an appointment

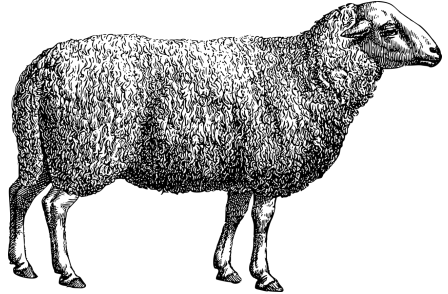


# Yesteryear

*SYLVIA Morris looks at events in the village in the month of May over the years. Note: punctuation and capital letters are exactly as printed at the time.*

## 1836

**SHEEP KILLING:** On Thursday night the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., an ewe sheep, the property of Mr. Balls, of Stapleford, was destroyed in his field in that parish, it is supposed by strangulation; and on Saturday night another ewe was killed in a similar manner. On Monday night a third ewe was killed in the same way; and on Wednesday night two hoggets were taken from another fold on Mr. Balls' farm, and forced into a ditch where they were drowned. A reward of £50 has been offered for the discovery of the offenders.



## 1895

**STUPID CONDUCT:** Great alarm was experienced in the village and neighbourhood shortly before ten on Tuesday night when the district was suddenly lit up with lurid flames, which seemed to come from a block of cottages on Sawston Road, just beyond the parish boundary. The village was quickly astir and the villagers hastened to the scene of the conflagration, only to find some ill-advised persons had chosen that unreasonable hour for destroying a stack of mustard "straw". Hundreds of people from every direction, on cycles, in traps of every kind, and on foot, hurried to the scene fearing that a serious fire was in progress, and quickly retired expressing unlimited disgust at the conduct of those responsible for the indiscreet action.

## 1904

**POOR RATE:** A rate of 1s 6d in the £ on buildings, etc, and 9d on agricultural land, was allowed by the county justices on Saturday. This is a reduction on the last poor rate levied.

## 1931

**BRITISH LEGION SUCCESS:** The women's section of the British Legion are to be congratulated on their splendid achievement on winning the certificate of merit for Cambs in the area cup competition 1930.

**Reach  
more people**



**Make more  
sales**

To advertise in the  
**Stapleford Messenger**  
email us at:  
[stapleford.ads@gmail.com](mailto:stapleford.ads@gmail.com)

**Beach holidays, City breaks, Honeymoons, Weddings abroad,  
Adventure holidays, Ski, Cruise, Tailormade trips, Flight only,  
Car hire, Airport hotels and parking, and much more . . .**

**CHERYL HARRADINE**

Travel Counsellor  
01223 842670  
[cheryl.harradine@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:cheryl.harradine@travelcounsellors.com)  
[www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/cheryl.harradine](http://www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/cheryl.harradine)



**travel counsellors**



*More than just a service*



Heating



Plumbing



Renewables



Electrical

All Domestic and Commercial works undertaken  
[www.shelfordheating.co.uk](http://www.shelfordheating.co.uk)

Telephone 01223833426 E-Sales@shelfordheating.co.uk

**M D COOPER**

specialising in  
**INTERIOR DECORATING  
AND GLAZED TILING**

***Design services available***

4 Falkner Road, Sawston  
Telephone 01223 832422  
Mobile 07860 803938

**L A Kerridge**

**Painting and decorating**

*15 years-plus  
experienced tradesmen  
Quality interior and  
exterior decoration  
Artex ceilings smoothed  
Free estimates and quotes.*

**Tel 01223 832745  
Mobile 07843 850484**

The presentation will be made by Lady Edward Spencer Churchill at the British Legion Area Rally, which is to be held at Newmarket on 5<sup>th</sup> July. It is also interesting to note that the men's branch has also been awarded a certificate of merit for Cams.

**1958**

### SHELFORD & STAPLEFORD SCOUTS

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION:** On Friday last a scout parents meeting was held in the scout and guide HQ at Shelford. The purpose was to present to the scouts camp equipment purchased from the proceeds of activities held during the year. The equipment consisted of two much-needed ridge tents, spades, and cooking equipment. Mr Pugh, the scoutmaster, remarked that he was happy to have been able to buy "the best."



## Great Shelford Library

### Good news – browsing is back at the library

YOU can now browse the library shelves and use the self-service machines to check out your books. A friendly face will be at the door of the library to explain how managed browsing works and to answer your questions.



To ensure that everyone can use the library safely:

- a one-way system is in place
- customers are being asked to wear masks (unless exempt)
- you'll be asked to sanitise your hands when you enter the library
- social distancing will be in place
- returned books will be quarantined

Other services, such as Select&Collect, reservations and pre-booked use of the public computers (essential use only) are continuing as before.

For further information about library re-opening, please visit:

[cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library) or call the Library Contact Centre on 0345 045 5225. **Rosemary Humby**

# A Covid anniversary

*By Brian Watkins, a long-time resident of Stapleford and well-known to many in the village.*

WHEN the *Messenger* team asked me to write about my Covid experience I did not realise how difficult that would be. My first efforts were mainly cathartic but here I have decided to focus on what it was like initially, what occurred afterwards, and what might happen now.



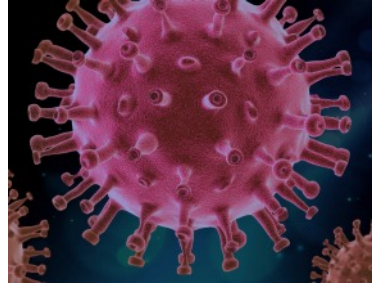
You will doubtless have seen from the news that patients can deteriorate very rapidly with a bad bout of Covid. I was almost certainly saved by a single phone call made by my wife and the insistence of two paramedics (seemingly dressed for some sort of nuclear mishap) that I be taken to Addenbrooke's. With images still fresh in my mind of northern Italy's struggling ICUs it was very sobering to find myself edging towards that same oblivion and being asked to make what could be my last call home. What do you say when you have so little strength or time remaining before being

put into a coma and on a ventilator? 'Not a lot' is the honest answer.

Somehow, though, your mind still has to make sense of this unfamiliar territory. For me it became a long and rough journey to exotic places that eventually ended with a colourfully imagined helter-skelter ride back to reality. If you want a sense of what it is like to slip in and out of a coma (without actually being in one) then listen to the murderous composer Gesualdo's piece 'O vos omnes'. I first heard it shortly after I came round and it captured the feeling perfectly. By that point I was still surrounded by seemingly anonymous medical staff and had no sense of orientation or time - though it helped when my glasses and phone were finally returned to me! It was very strange not to see a single familiar face in such circumstances - only other very sick patients and the highly-skilled staff who had to cover every conceivable role whilst fighting the little-understood virus. It took me several more days to re-orientate myself more, sit up, and be able to eat and drink. Then came the real challenge: 'Walking on the spot'!

One day I became aware of some Easter hymns from King's wafting quietly across the ward. A glorious moment but, more importantly, the patient with the headphones had been in the Territorial Army and knew all about escape plans.

So it was that, just a few hours later and under cover of darkness, a newly co-opted getaway driver (known locally only as 'Jacqui') pulled discreetly alongside the hospital's closely guarded exit. Inside hospital collaborators had procured the necessary late-night discharge papers to enable me to make a break for it, so I waved my walking frame in the air, and soon we were heading at speed towards the Gog Magog Hills. We arrived in CB22 with just minutes to spare before Easter Day.



I had made it out alive, and can now also be thankful that I went on to make a total recovery. Every new day seems like a bonus. I have to make a proper go of things even if just as a tribute to the amazing care that I had received from the staff at Addenbrooke's, and also, somehow, on behalf of those who sadly did not survive or who had their lives changed for good by Covid. My wife kept a diary of what had actually happened to me each day and I found that invaluable to refer to whilst recovering. I also learned of all the support we had from our friends and neighbours in Stapleford, those who prayed for us from so many churches, those whose friendship we enjoy through our activities in education and music, and those we meet on a Friday night at the Three Horseshoes. "THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!"

Our hopes now are that the vaccination programme will prevent future serious outbreaks, that lessons really have been learned about how to contain such viruses, that there will be a successful unravelling of all the changes that became necessary (or were sneaked in!), and that the inequalities the virus has exposed will be addressed. Finally, we hope that all those thoughtful individual acts of kindness that we have seen so often over this past year will continue everywhere as we all recover together, hopefully soon, from the effects of this pandemic.

## Little Shelford Pantomime auditions

AUDITIONS will be held for *Babes in the Wood*, Little Shelford Pantomime 2022 on Sunday 13 June at Little Shelford Memorial Hall between 12 noon and 4pm.

Due to Covid restrictions, to both book a time slot to audition and to complete an audition form, please register online at: [tinyurl.com/panto-form](https://tinyurl.com/panto-form)

Please ring Sarah on 842498 or e-mail [coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com) if you have any queries.



*Don't dilly:  
phone Lilley  
of Sawston*

**Tel: 01223 832097**  
**Mobile: 07768 718223**

ROTAVATING | TURFING | SEEDING |  
TREE WORK and PADDOCK, ETC. |  
PAVING | LARGE OR SMALL AREAS  
**FENCING A SPECIALITY**  
**31 NEW ROAD, SAWSTON**

# HJ Paintin Ltd

INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
MONUMENTAL MASONS

Private Chapels of Rest  
Floral Tributes and Printed Orders of Service  
Golden Charter Pre-payment plans  
Personal Attention Assured at All Times  
24-hour Caring Personal Service




43 High Street, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4HS  
**Tel: 01223 891226**

8 Morley's Place, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3TG  
**Tel: 01223 830065**

## TIM PHILLIPS & Co.

### Accountants

*Established 1991*

Independent, specialist service for:  
**Small Business • Self Assessment  
Personal Taxation**

Free initial consultation - no obligation  
**EASY, FREE PARKING**

Copley Hill Business Park, Cambridge Rd, Babraham  
*Off A1307 between Wandlebury and Babraham*  
**Tel: 01223 830044** [www.tpaccounts.co.uk](http://www.tpaccounts.co.uk)



**Mrs Rosemary Rigge**  
Grad Dip Phys MCSP Reg. HPC  
CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPIST

**T:** 01223 844091  
**M:** 07958 708728  
**E:** [physio.rigge@ntlworld.com](mailto:physio.rigge@ntlworld.com)

**TREATMENT ROOMS:**  
26 Mingle Lane, Stapleford  
*or home visits*

**ALL HUNG UP**



Specialist | Blinds  
Tracks | Poles | Curtains  
**Supply and Installation**

E: [paul@allhungup.uk](mailto:paul@allhungup.uk)  
T: 07920 772 969  
[www.allhungup.uk](http://www.allhungup.uk)



**Tell  
the world  
what you do -  
and win valuable customers!**

Book this space **NOW!**  
For details email: [stapleford.ads@gmail.com](mailto:stapleford.ads@gmail.com)



## From the ex-Editor

LIFE has been quiet in the few months since I retired this column and the collection of only slightly exaggerated characters who resided within it.

Until older son decided to return from the university as far away as possible without being in another country for the Easter holidays, that is.

Having set his alarm to catch the earliest train southwards he was nonetheless preceded at the family front door by four burly policemen\* announcing their unexpected arrival via some fairly enthusiastic hammering.

I was at Stamford Bridge at the time, witnessing Chelsea comprehensively humiliating themselves at the hands of West Bromwich Albion, so missed all the fun but I am reliably informed that Mrs ex-Editor, not unreasonably perhaps, required quite some calming down until it was established that the officers were there to arrest older son rather than bear tidings of his unfortunate demise.

His provisional driving licence, lost in inevitably hazy circumstances in a pub many moons ago, had mysteriously turned up at a crime scene, it turned out.

Mrs ex-Editor explained that their chief suspect had been away at uni but the officers, possibly having misheard Durham for Dereham, only became more animated.

Eventually, older son rocked up at the ancestral abode and was able to establish that he was not the hardened criminal they were looking for.

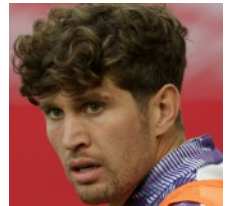
Oddly, that wasn't his only case of mistaken identity this term, although the other was firmly of his own making. His current haircut has turned him into the spitting image of a certain England defender but unfortunately he got mixed up over exactly which one it was.

Cue bemused looks at his claim of 'people say I look like Harry Maguire' as the Manchester United captain, though dashing in his own way, is famous for possessing a cranium so massive his team-mates refer to him as Slabhead.

John Stones, of Manchester City (pictured above), was what he meant to say. And if Mr Stones suddenly gets an early morning call from four boys in blue up from East Anglia you'll know what has happened...

**Anyway, enjoy the May edition.**

\* Policemen always seem to be described as 'burly' but Mrs ex-Editor insists this was indeed the case. Apparently there was another in the garden, stationed in case of any back-door bolting.



# How to change the world: an inventor's perspective

AS an inventor I want to change the world. But how on earth to do that? Perhaps I can inspire you by sharing my experience of the last 30 years. There is no shortage of problems to solve!

Here are three quotations that have inspired me:

- Albert Szent-Györgyi, who won a Nobel prize in 1937 for isolating vitamin C, wrote that:

“Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought.” So it's important to be curious and to look carefully at what is going on around us every day.

- Author William Gibson observed that: “The future is already here – it's just not evenly distributed.” There are clues everywhere about what could be different in the future. They can inspire us to think fresh thoughts and dream new dreams.

- Marie Curie, one of only three people ever to win Nobel prizes in different fields, wrote that: “I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy.” Solving problems takes gritty determination.

I am trained as a physicist, which provides a great perspective on how the world works. But I can only do my job as an inventor well if I work with people from diverse backgrounds and disciplines: behavioural scientists, designers, business strategists, economists, geneticists and so on. Also, I need to work with people who come from different countries, with different outlooks and experiences.

Enough of the theory. Here are some examples of the work my colleagues and I have done at Innovia Technology, a company we set up in 1999:

- Working with Heineken on its campaign “When you drive, never drink” we found ways to reduce drink driving by up to a third by using a behavioural science perspective to help people make good choices.

- Working with Shell, we found ways to substantially reduce carbon emissions from cars and aeroplanes, helping move towards net zero emissions goals.

- Working with Arena we helped to develop a swimsuit that set many world records, including London 2012, by bringing a fresh perspective to elite sport.



Two closing thoughts:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused such heartache for us all. Thank goodness that vaccines have been made available many times faster than ever before. Eddie Cantor, a comedian, commented that “it takes 20 years to become an overnight success”. And so it has been with vaccines. They could only be developed so fast because of decades of diligent research by thousands of women and men.

The world faces immense challenges to manage disease and climate change. Economist James R. Schlesinger wrote that “Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts.”

Let’s find out what works and keep improving our plan. We can’t afford to go down blind alleys; the stakes are too high. **Dr Alastair MacGregor**

## Granta Medical Practices

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

WE continue to deliver second vaccinations, working in date order, vaccinating patients 11 to 12 weeks following their first dose.

Current guidelines state that patients have to return to the venue where they had their first vaccination, as the second dose will be allocated and sent to that venue. Should these guidelines change we will, of course, let everyone know.

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. Please bear with us as our team continue to work incredibly hard to deliver the vaccine into our community.

### COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

THE UK vaccination programme has been very successful. At the time of writing, more than 30 million people have been vaccinated and it is estimated that 6,000 lives have already been saved.

There have been reports of a very rare condition involving blood clots and unusual bleeding after vaccination. This is being carefully monitored and reviewed.

Information is changing rapidly and we will keep our website as up to date as possible. If you do not have internet access, please feel free to ring us with any questions you may have. **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services, [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net), 627743.**



## SPB Property Maintenance

Professional local business

Fully insured and qualified Plumber, based locally to South Cambridge and surrounding villages. Offering a friendly, reliable and efficient service with references and examples of work available on request.

Free quotes and advice on all jobs, whether big or small!

- Full bathroom and kitchen refurbishments
- General plumbing
- Tiling and plastering
- Gardening needs and monthly grass cutting
- Patio and decking, installation and jet washing
- General DIY and property maintenance
- If your requirement is not listed, please ring and ask!

Contact Simon on:



07581088722



SPBpropertymaintenance66@gmail.com



- Painting & Decoration
- Brickwork
- General Building Work
- Carpentry
- Fencing
- Hard Landscaping

# Matt Goldsmith

Renovation & Decoration

Matt Goldsmith

07392 292130

info.mattgoldsmith@gmail.com



@mattgoldsmithRandD



mattgoldsmithrandd



PLUMBING, HEATING  
AND MECHANICAL



ELECTRICAL, FIRE  
AND SECURITY



REFRIGERATION AND  
AIR CONDITIONING



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Domestic & Commercial  
e: info@huttie.com t: 01223 292295  
www.huttie.com

# Passing the time in lockdown

MY older brother Jonathan and I have worked on our Hornby model railway over several years.



Over the months of lockdown we developed the layout and introduced some local landmarks. We laid some grass, built a hill using papier-mache, and altered existing models to reflect parts of Stapleford and Shelford.

Some models, such as the butcher's shop, have been 'kit-bashed' by taking pieces from readily available kits. Others, such as St Andrew's church, were built from

scratch, with card, acetate sheet, and a significant quantity of duct tape.

We hope to add more features in due course, such as the Spar, a station building and a pub. Have a look at the pictures, and see what you can recognise. **George Mack (Y11)**



# She goes from her room to the kitchen to the garden to her...

*STAPLEFORD student Catriona West, who is midway through a creative writing degree at the University of East Anglia, has written about her lockdown experiences in a piece originally published on the City Life Stories website.*

SHE goes from her room to the kitchen to the garden to her room to the living room to the kitchen to her room to the garden to her room. Every day is the same. Every day is the same. Every day is the same.

Wash your hands. Social distance. Stay two metres apart. Use hand sanitiser. Wear a mask.

The weather outside is taunting everyone: clear blue skies, the smell of hot grass coming in through the windows, and it's warm – why is it so warm? Has it always been this warm in March? – yet everyone is stuck inside with nowhere to go. But the house backs on to fields and there are lots of open spaces where she lives, and the neighbour's dog to borrow to take on a walk, and it's peaceful and green and there's blossom showering the branches of the trees. She goes out on her bike, along the long windy country roads, to the nearby villages surrounded by fields, where everything is old and quaint and pretty: churches and cottages with thatched roofs. And everything is quiet, so quiet, just the birds and the rustle of the trees and the warmth of the sun on her face. She sits in the garden and reads, all of her old favourite stories, Tolkien and Tolstoy and Austen, revisiting the past; there's something comforting in reading a book you've read countless times before, like coming home to a warm house after a long day and taking off your shoes.

Wash your hands. Don't go to work. Stay inside. Essential travel only.

Everyone is sitting inside like they're tiny figures in a child's dolls house, one in each room, everyone doing their own little activity, attempting to stay busy. In her house everyone is in a separate room on their laptops, working from home or doing online school (except her brother, who's on his Playstation 24/7). And her mother is telling everyone to be quiet because she's on a work call, and can everyone come off the internet for an hour because her connection is slow and she's convinced it's because everyone in this house is online (except where else can they be; being anywhere but online isn't allowed right now).



Wash your hands. Stay inside. Except all children can now go back to school. But stay inside. And wash your hands.

She *thinks* she's still a student, but with no lectures or seminars at university she doesn't feel like she is. She hasn't got a job, and she's stuck, frozen in time, in a strange limbo where she doesn't have any purpose but also isn't supposed to have any purpose right now. And before when people did nothing and stayed at home all day they were called lazy and were encouraged to get out and do something with their lives, yet now everyone is required by law to stay in and do nothing with their lives. And people are furloughed or working from home yet the world is still turning, so perhaps we're not supposed to work until we die after all, because look at us, we all just exist, no one is spending all day at the office and everyone can work on their own time and take their own breaks and it's fine.

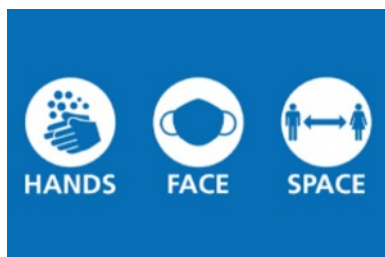
Wash your hands. Stay inside. Don't go outside but you can go back to work if you want and we haven't closed the borders either but remember to help our key workers and don't forget to wash your hands.

It's alienating and isolating, how people have to stay away from each other, recoiling at the sight of another person, crossing the street to get away. It's unnatural to see someone outside and your first thought be to create more space, more distance, between yourself and them, to widen the gap; even though they're right in front of you, you must stay apart, you must not come into contact. Humans are hardwired to be communicable, social, dependent on other people, forming our lives out of connections, interactions, conversations. And even though she and her friends live so close to each other, they can only see each other's faces on the screen, on Zoom, not in person, as though they were a million miles away, on the other side of the world, or maybe another planet. They do quizzes, because everyone is doing quizzes, except theirs are the best because they are tailored to their group and have rounds on memes and High School Musical and "who wrote this caption to their private Instagram post five years ago".

Wash your hands. Stay inside. Help your local economy. Don't go outside but also Eat Out to Help Out because restaurants and cafes are open again otherwise all businesses will go bankrupt but also stay inside because cases are rising again and have you washed your hands?

She's spending too much time on TikTok, endlessly watching, and everyone is talking about Joe Exotic and Carole Baskin and everyone's doing Chloe Ting ab workouts and everyone is baking banana bread. Why is everyone baking banana bread? And everyone on Instagram is waking up at five in the morning and going for runs and doing ten-hour work days and meditating and journaling and using this time as a "spiritual reset", whatever

that means (do *they* even know?), and she feels like there's a lot of competition right now to be productive and get things done and not waste your time. But she also knows that a lot of the things you see on social media are performative; it's only for show and only makes it seem as though they're leading a perfect life, but even their life isn't like that, not really. And it's okay not to be doing all of those things, it's okay if the only thing you did today was get up and go outside for a bit. You're not wasting your time, you're not competing against anyone else, it's okay to go at your own pace. You're doing just fine.



Wash your hands. Stay inside. Let's clap for our key workers. No, you can't have sufficient PPE, or a pay rise, don't be stupid now.

She makes a scrapbook of her travelling pictures and tickets and mementos from her gap year and misses it and reminisces about the freedom we all took for granted: look

how we used to be able to travel across the world with nothing stopping us, look how we got on and off planes without a second thought and visited new places and each day was a new picture, a new setting, and I-am-so-sick-of-staring-at-these-same-four-walls. Look at how lucky we were to experience all of that, none of us thought for even a second that we wouldn't be able to travel anywhere in a year's time. And just like we didn't know then, we don't know now. We don't know when this will be over, if our 'normal' is now a thing of the past, something to remember fondly but never return to, something to reminisce over with your friends about how you used to be able to do so much, so many things, with such carelessness and indifference, and she can't believe all those times she said no to a night out, what an idiot.

Wash your hands. Stay inside. Let's help the NHS but also let's just open up all the shops again even though we haven't made wearing a mask inside mandatory yet but here's some hand sanitiser and also good luck everyone.

And she should be grateful, because she has good health and so do her family and they have a roof over their heads and are financially stable and that is definitely something to be grateful for, but it's not enough. It's not enough to just sit inside and be grateful, she wants to be out, she wants to be moving on with her life. People aren't supposed to lie stagnant, people are supposed to be On the Move and Having Big Plans and Always Thinking About the Next Step and life is a continuous train track that's supposed to keep going forward, not round and round in circles. Except the whole world



has come to a big fat standstill, like the universe has picked up the remote and pressed pause, like we are just little pieces on an Earth-sized playing board.

Wash your hands. Stay inside. You can now meet in groups of six but you can't go to your relative's funeral. Herd immunity will protect us all, but don't tell that to everyone who's already died.

And when everything started to open up again, after the first wave, after the initial swell and rise, there came the pause. The breath of fresh air, let your shoulders down, meet up in groups of six, sit inside restaurants, visit each other's houses. Soon followed by the peak, white tipped, foaming at the mouth. The roar, the crash. Lockdown number three, stay inside, shut the schools, work from home, essential travel only. Three months; indefinitely; for the rest of your lives. Spray and grit and the harsh slap of water on rock.

Wash your hands. Stay inside. Social distance. Wear a mask. Use hand sanitiser.

And when we all said we needed some-time-off-work and some-Me-Time and when-did-my-life-get-so-busy, I'd-do-anything-for-a-break, This. Is. Not. What. We. Meant.

# D.L.M. AUTOS

63a Orchard Road, Great Shelford CB22 5AA

## MOT - SERVICE - REPAIR

01223 844828

[www.dlmautos.co.uk](http://www.dlmautos.co.uk)



## Butchery

High-quality meat with an award-winning friendly service.

## Deli

A mouth-watering array of cheese, olives, charcuterie and so much more!



# THE GOG

The Gog Farm Shop is an award-winning farm shop that sources delicious local ingredients, making for the perfect foodie destination.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!



## Grocery

Surprising you with foodie gems from local producers.



## Café

Serving our Great Taste Award winners everyday.



Open 7 days a week

[www.thegog.com](http://www.thegog.com)



# Puzzle Corner

## Anagrams

Unscramble the following anagrams  
 In each group, all the answers end with different letters  
 The answers are all common words.  
 Answers on page 49.

### 4-letter words

PLUG	KAPE	ACHE	WHAT	FADE
MOAT	DYNE	AUNT	IDEA	EXPA
BERK	RUPO	PICE	TOPE	PORC
NEAR	ARLO	MISE	NEUM	MOUS
	SOUP		RAID	

### 7-letter words

UNTOBAY	SOMERAT	SOWDART	EASIDEN
THERICE	IMPLOAD	MOREISH	RIPEONE
QUAINTE	RIBDUST	EATPAUL	WIPEREV
TIDYING	FISHREF	GEECRIB	COLDKEW
MALECAR	AXLEPIN	ROADPAX	MAINTIP
PROVEAL	WIZBOSH	THEBARD	

By Hermes

## 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.

# Stapleford Strollers: Walk 94

## Crossing the Meridian: a short walk from Great Eversden

CURRENT restrictions mean that The Strollers have been unable to undertake full group walks since early March 2020 and it is not certain when these will be resumed. In the interim, local routes such as this one might help to fill the gap.

### To get to start of walk

Come off the M11 at Junction 12. Turn left onto the A603 as though going to Wimpole, but turn off right at La Pergola Italian Restaurant (aka The Wheatsheaf) and drive through Little Eversden. Soon after passing Little Eversden, look out for Great Eversden church on the left-hand side of the road. Park in the small car park immediately beyond the church.

### Distance and OS Map

3.4 miles. It should take about an hour and a half. The Eversdens are on OS Explorer map 209.

### Extra Information

The name Eversden means 'vale of a man named Eofory'. These two small villages are separated by the Greenwich meridian: Great Eversden to the west and Little Eversden to the east of it.

The Mare Way, part of which is incorporated in this walk, formed part of an ancient track running along the ridge between the River Cam or Rhee to the south and the Bourn Brook to the north. Its elevated position gives far reaching views to Cambridge in the north east and Royston in the south. Parts of the walk can be muddy after wet weather.

### Route of walk

Walk away from the road along a broad grass track for about a quarter of a mile until a cross path is reached. Turn right onto a narrower path running between houses and gardens. After a short distance a minor road is reached. Turn left. After a couple of hundred yards go past a farm, where the road gives way to a broad track climbing gently uphill. At the top of the climb you will pass a couple of large cylindrical water tanks on the right. Immediately after passing them, at a crossing of two paths, turn left onto the Mare Way.

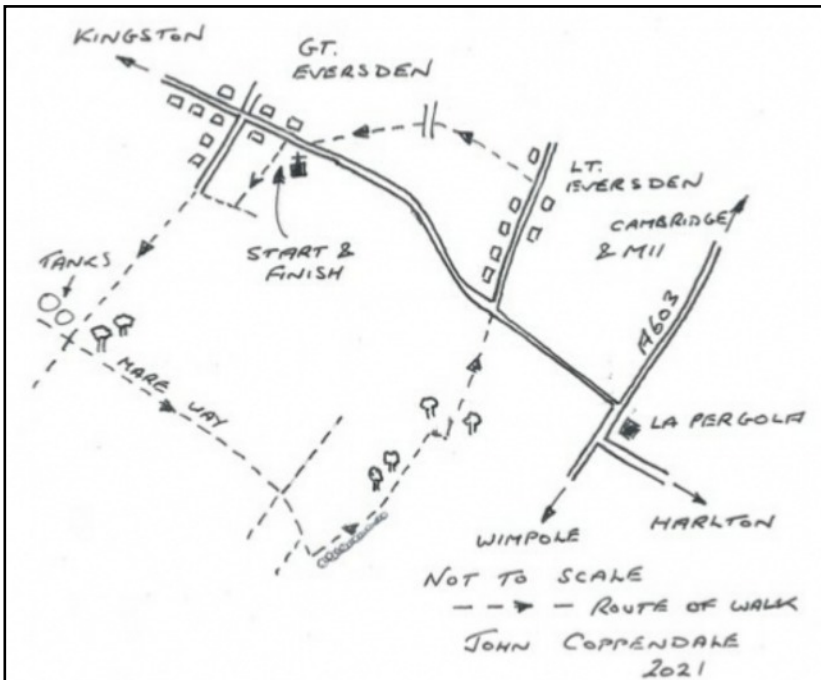
This track runs along the ridge for about three quarters of a mile until a bridleway goes off on the left-hand side towards Little Eversden. Ignore this and walk for another 300 yards until a hedge is reached on the left-hand side. Turn left with the hedge on your right and walk downhill past a small

copse on the left. Continue downhill until the path turns right at another wooded area. Follow the path to the right and almost immediately turn left, where the path becomes a broader track. Keep walking along this track until the road is reached on the outskirts of Little Eversden.

Cross the road and follow the minor road (Little Eversden High Street) opposite, passing houses and some residential roads on your left for just over a quarter of a mile. Look out for a signposted footpath on your left, opposite the drive to Oakwood House. Follow this footpath for about 300 yards until it comes out on a small lane. Cross the lane to continue following the footpath opposite. After a short distance it emerges into a field. Cross the field to the opposite corner, aiming for Great Eversden church (pictured above by Michael Trolove). Cross the road and go around either side of the church to find the car park from where you started. **John Coppendale**



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





FREE no obligation quotes and advice provided

# My Village Handyman Services



- DIY repairs and odd jobs
- Painting & Decorating
- Tiling & Flooring
- Gardening, Landscaping,
- Patios & Decking
- Fencing and sheds
- Kitchen & Bathroom installation
- Brickwork, Dry Walling and Small Builds
- Carpentry and Plumbing
- Window and Gutter cleaning
- Jet wash and Patio cleaning
- Rubbish clearance and Tip runs
- Carpet cleaning and Wood Floor staining
- New doors or locks
- Security and Garden lighting
- **No job is too Small or too Big!**

**Your very local handyman!**

Contact Steve to arrange a visit or quote

**07500 876376 or 01223 881700**

Email: [steve@myvillagehandyman.com](mailto:steve@myvillagehandyman.com) | Web: [www.myvillagehandyman.com](http://www.myvillagehandyman.com)



## Have you heard? We've moved!

Find us at our new address:  
Audiology House (Cambridge)  
15 Woollards Lane, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5LZ

Independent audiology experts you can trust

- Hearing Assessments
- Ear Wax Removal
- Hearing Aids
- Tinnitus Solutions



BOOK ONLINE [www.angliearhearing.co.uk](http://www.angliearhearing.co.uk)

**01223 661399**

[info@angliearhearing.co.uk](mailto:info@angliearhearing.co.uk)

# Quiz time

*THIS month's quiz is centred around famous people who appeared in the Midsomer Murders TV show. Some met grisly ends, others lived to tell the tale... Answers on page 49.*



1. Hollywood heart-throb and ex-elf, now aged 44. Killed by a farming implement rarely used these days. Point for actor, point for weapon.
2. EastEnders actress and singer, also now aged 44. Killed in a rather unsavoury way. Actually, it was extremely savoury as she was bopped on the head by a giant...a giant what exactly? Point for actor, point for weapon.
3. Tom Ellis played builder Lee Smeeton, who didn't die. He is better known for playing Gary Preston in which other TV series?

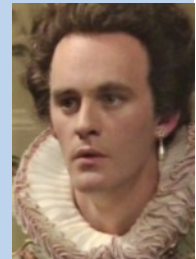
4. Dead Man's Eleven featured Robert Hardy and Imelda Staunton (right). What item of sporting equipment was used as a murder weapon?



5. Bond girl who was also in Coronation Street. Played an ex-racing driver clubbed to death with a large wooden stake. Died in real life aged 94.
6. Actor aged 57 and best known for playing the Earl of Grantham. Doesn't die but four others do in a plot centred around bell ringing.
7. Sophie in Peep Show, later became royalty and a quiz staple. Her victim is found in a model village mimicking which fictional character? Point each.

8. Later became a political advisor and then a doctor, and also appears in a lot of quiz questions. Played an uptight choirmaster in his episode.

9. Lord Percy in Blackadder (right) gets decapitated on a seaside ghost train. What is the actor's name, for a point. What was his character's name in the fourth Blackadder series?



10. English actor, aged 37, who almost became James Bond and Batman but was eventually hired as an alien journalist. Gets bitten by a fox in his episode.



## DAVID FOX CARPENTRY

*PURPOSE-MADE  
JOINERY AND  
FITTED FURNITURE*

Unit 4, Granta Terrace,  
Stapleford  
Cambridge  
Tel: (01223) 845143

## SCP Electrical

Quality  
Electrical



Work



36 Haverhill Road, Stapleford,  
Cambridge. CB22 5BX  
Telephone (01223) 515089  
E-mail: enquiries@scpelectrical.co.uk

All types of  
carpentry work  
undertaken

Phone  
01223 842440  
for free prompt estimate

### STEVE BOND

3 Cherrytree Avenue  
Stapleford  
Cambridge

## Rothwell's

Carpet & Stone Floor Cleaning

01223 832 928

www.Rothwells.biz

### Carpet, Stone, Upholstery and Rug Cleaning

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck-mounted machines mean more  
cleaning and drying power.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture for a thorough clean.  
100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help  
today.

# DAY

CHARTERED  
CERTIFIED  
ACCOUNTANTS

## Do you want more control over your business accounts, or want to organise your personal tax situation more effectively?

We are a friendly team of qualified accountants who can help you reach the potential of your business and give you expert professional accounting and tax advice using the latest technology to work for you in achieving your goals.

We can deal with all matters relating to business tax and accounting including online bookkeeping, VAT

and PAYE matters. Bespoke all inclusive packages are available from £145 plus VAT pcm.

Private clients can be confident that we will deal efficiently with tax return preparation and all aspects of tax planning.

To arrange an informal chat or a meeting please contact us at:

Quern House, Mill Court, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5LD

T: 01223 506533 F: 01223 363810 E: hello@day-accountants.com W: www.day-accountants.com



## Brock no opposition

WRITER Fraser Grace has been monitoring events in a certain field near his home.

TO be precise, it was not so much the archaeologists themselves as the heavy plant required to execute their excavations. A digger quickly scooped out over a dozen trenches. Two or three metres wide, and twenty metres long, each trench surrendered its treasure at bucket point - soil that has nurtured harvests here for countless hundreds of years. Top soil and sub soil were piled in neat and distinguishable heaps along the trenches' edges.



A few days later the digger and its pals were at it again, this time filling in those same trenches. Before long, all the soil was folded back into to its nether world and the narrow strips of topsoil flattened back into place, as though these gouges in the earth never were.

The weird thing is that between those two events, none of the many hi-vis-clad, trowel-wielding archaeologists we anticipated, materialised. The trenches were dug, presumably inspected, and filled in. 'Cursory' doesn't begin to cover it. Or is it some bureaucratic error that's to blame? Or plain stupidity?

It reminded me of a Polish joke I was once told – a joke at the expense of Soviet era Russians. A truck full of Russian labourers turns up outside the Polish village one morning, and the labourers set to. They dig ten, good-sized holes and stop for a smoke. Then they fill the holes in and disappear. The next day, the same thing. By the time the labourers start digging on the third day, the villagers' curiosity gets the better of them, and they demand to know what's going on.

Our Comrade Ivan is off sick this week, say the labourers, *It's Ivan's job to plant the trees.*

Nothing as benevolent as trees are afoot in this case, sadly.

An urgent WhatsApp message to Eldest Son, our erstwhile family archaeologist reveals the insultingly brief exploration of Field 59 that fuels my outrage is not, in fact, remarkable at all. Or even unreasonable. If there are no formations of interest, and given that arable land is ploughed most years, and given also that the soil around here is a mere couple of feet of lush stuff sitting on solid chalk, then the 'preconstruction' will not merit so much as the scrape of a trowel.



*Award winning free house & restaurant  
in the heart of the village.*

📞 01223 503 402

@ hello@threehorseshoes-pub.com

🌐 www.threehorseshoes-pub.com

## Billson Opticians

TRADITIONAL FAMILY EYECARE SINCE 1930

**BILLSONS OPTICIANS, your local opticians**

We pride ourselves on years of Optical Care

**Complete Glasses    Cataract Assessment**  
**Contact Lenses    Expert advice guarantee**  
**Dry Eye Clinic    Free Parking Nearby**

Book an appointment and see one  
of our expert optometrists



Designer frames from £99.00

Complete glasses from £39.00

📍 @Billsons1930    🌐 @BillsonOptician

66 High Street, Sawston CB22 3BG

✉ billsonopticians.sawreception@gmail.com

01223 836656

If anything is going to stop the misguided busway, clearly it is not going to be my much-dreamed of discovery of a Saxon hoard.

Which is a bother for the badgers. Their setts are no more than twelve yards from the short edge of one of the trenches. Not that in the twenty five years of living here I have ever seen a badger hereabouts – not even a dead one at the nearby roadside. So how, I hear you ask, do I know they are there?

Latrines. Dotted along the hedgerow are several clearly delineated scrapes filled to the brim with slimy-looking poo. At the merest whiff of fox scat my dog will roll himself in it, but doesn't bother with this stuff, so we can count out *vulpes vulpes*, even though I have seen foxes up here often enough. Hard to see muntjac deer producing such copious amounts of poo, either. Which leaves the possibility of Brock.

A quick google reveals that a Creative Writing colleague of mine Derek, who contributes regularly to The Guardian's Country Diary column, addressed this issue a few years ago.

An email to him with photos attached draws the expert's confirmation. Badgers are the only one of our native species that share our penchant for purposefully constructing toilets. Derek and his article also confirm that these latrines play an important part in marking out the badger's territory. Anything with a sensitive enough nose, will know whose turf this is, and give it a wide berth. Though shy, a badger can be fierce if roused.

Not fierce enough, I fear.

If the busway does carve its way through here, the badgers' setts, plummeting into the earth just below the hedgerow, will be transformed from rural bolthole to the equivalent of a layby on the M25. And no snack van in sight. The badgers – shy, nocturnal, human-shunning - will be transformed from invisible fellow country dwellers, to displaced outcasts.

And the purpose? To make way for the scheme's 'preferred route'.

Preferred by whom? (you might ask with admirable grammatical accuracy). Not preferred by the neighbours of Field 59, and not by the badgers, I suspect, were they to be aware of the calamity heading their way.

Which of course, they are not.

This morning's walk reveals a new, freshly glistening pit of poo; fruit of yet another regulation, *meles meles* squat in the dark.

In the battle of crap between developers and fauna, we are fast approaching the point of no return (literally) for these quiet, unassuming neighbours.

Should someone let them know?



**AA**

Call me to book lessons  
**Alistair Gibson**  
 Tel: 07713 156 737

## RAYMENTS GARAGE LIMITED

ESTABLISHED IN 1970

23 ASHEN GREEN, GREAT SHELFORD

**MOT, SERVICE AND REPAIRS**

EXHAUSTS • TYRES • BATTERIES  
 BRAKES • CLUTCHES • SHOCK ABSORBERS  
 AIR CONDITIONING SERVICES

**TELEPHONE: 01223 843048**

**EMAIL: john@raymentsgarage.com**

## WHITMORE & SON



- CARPENTERS
- BUILDING CONTRACTORS
- DECORATORS

84 HAVERHILL ROAD, STAPLEFORD,  
CAMBRIDGE CB22 5BX

Tel: (01223) 847144

Email: whitmoreandson7@virginmedia.com  
www.whitmoreandson.co.uk

Wellbeing and relaxation



Reiki With  
Sue Pitman  
HELP IS AT HAND

Tel. 01223 843164

WWW.reikiwithsuepitman.co.uk

## MAGPIE GARAGE

(formerly Murketts of Stapleford)  
The new name for vehicle sales,  
service & MoT in Stapleford

- Servicing
- MoTs
- Tyres
- Fully trained technicians
- The latest diagnostic equipment
- Free vehicle health check

**ALL MAKES AND MODELS**

# Magpie Garage

Magpie Garage

01223 716600

www.magpiegarage.com

magpiegarage@murketts.com

49 London Road  
Stapleford, CB22 5DG

# Help fund a new playground

WE'RE raising money to improve the under-12s playground in Stapleford.

Various play equipment providers have been approached and we now know that the cost is about £70,000. Stapleford Parish Council has agreed to contribute £20k from existing community funds, as they know the residents want an improved play area for under-12s - this was highlighted in a recent survey.

But that still leaves a shortfall of £50k. We have applied for grants to help fill that gap, but we'd love it if the community would consider donating too. Whether you can afford £5 or £5,000 - we'd really appreciate your donation, via the [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/staplefordplayground2021](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/staplefordplayground2021) link.

Please share the link with your friends and family! We'll be putting it on social media too and running a competition to attract further interest.

The past year has been incredibly difficult for everyone, but as Covid restrictions lift we want to celebrate being able to play again. We're running a community fundraising campaign throughout May to encourage playing and to increase donations for the playground.

We're asking people to 'Play in May' and share photos with us in a competition that will run throughout the month. The best photos will win a prize - we've got vouchers, hampers and other great gifts to win.

There are four categories to enter:

- **Best outdoor play** - in a park, a paddling pool, in the woods, your garden - wherever you like!
- **Best messy play** - slime, paints, baking, in the mud, you name it - if it's messy, you're in with a chance.
- **Best sporty play** - football, tennis, frisbee, darts - whatever sport you like, show us your best moves.
- **Best animal play** - let's see your playing with your furry friends! Dogs, cats, guinea pigs - all welcome.

You can enter more than one category.

We want to see photos of people (and animals!) enjoying themselves whilst playing.

To enter the competition, simply post a picture on social media with the hashtag **#StaplefordPlayInMay** - you can find us on Twitter and Instagram **@StaplefordPlay1**. Follow us to get regular updates throughout May.

For full competition rules, see the Parish Council's page on their website and on Facebook.



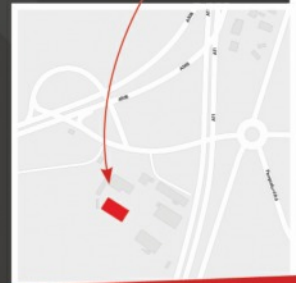
**quattro-tech**  
AUDI VOLKSWAGEN SEAT SKODA

Independent specialist for all things  
**Audi, VW, Seat, Skoda & VW Commercial**

- ❖ VWG Servicing
- ❖ VWG Repairs
- ❖ VWG Diagnostics
- ❖ VWG Performance Upgrades
- ❖ VWG Genuine Parts



[quattro-tech.co.uk](http://quattro-tech.co.uk)



**SALES** ❖ **AIR CON SERVICING** ❖ **4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT** ❖ **MOTs**

Unit 11A, Solopark Trading Estate, Station Road,  
Pampisford, Cambridge CB22 3HB  
[Info.cambridge@quattro-tech.co.uk](mailto:Info.cambridge@quattro-tech.co.uk) 01223 800850

**revo** Authorised Dealer

[@QuattroTechLtd](https://www.facebook.com/QuattroTechLtd) [@QuattroTechLtd](https://www.instagram.com/QuattroTechLtd) [@quattrotechLtd](https://www.instagram.com/quattrotechLtd)



Winners will be notified after the competition closes on 31 May. Anyone can enter but you MUST have permission from anyone in the photos, and the prizes will be delivered anywhere in the CB22 postcode area. Good luck and thanks for your support! **Stapleford Playground Committee**

## Rewilding for gardens?



RECENTLY I've heard several people talking about "rewilding their garden" - as a wildlife lover this is music to my ears, but do they really know what they are talking about? If a garden is truly wild, how can it also be a garden? Apart from anything else, the ideas around rewilding aren't really fully agreed upon yet.

So what actually is Rewilding?

The safe definition is something like: "letting nature take care of itself, enabling natural processes to shape land and sea, repair damaged ecosystems and restore degraded landscapes" (from [rewildingeurope.com](http://rewildingeurope.com)).

Animals are usually part of the rewilding picture, and this is where it gets tricky. We are trying to recreate patterns of disturbance and dispersal of seeds that were present in the ecosystem before humans hunted down all those animals. And this *bringing back animals that used to be here* is where the main disagreements crop up - notably around the beaver, a recent reintroduction to Britain. Maybe the actions of beavers can restore the land and reduce flooding - but perhaps bringing them back is just more human meddling, and will result in more problems?

I am going to bypass the debate for now, by returning to the smaller scale I work on... When it comes to 'rewilding' your garden, most experts would say: how can a piece of land the size of a garden, even a large one, accommodate the complex interactions and processes that will restore wild systems? This is a very good point, but I would say: "with the help of a gardener!"

Perhaps an informed gardener can act as a missing link. A gardener can browse like a deer with secateurs, graze like a horse with a lawnmower, root like a boar with a fork (with the robin joining in) or turn over the turf like a herd of cattle.

I was trained by the Royal Horticultural Society how to cultivate pretty gardens, but I am finding it increasingly interesting considering this different role I could play, informed by the actions of animals. **Sarah Ashworth, garden designer and wildlife specialist, [sarahashworth.co.uk](http://sarahashworth.co.uk)**

# Stapleford Bird Club

STARTING at the car park as usual, for a few moments I thought that the morning's walk would turn out to be a damp squib with few birds as the feeders were curiously devoid of the usual birds.

Two of our summer visiting warblers from Africa – Blackcap and Chiffchaff – were singing from deep within the bushes and the only other birds present were a single Robin, Woodpigeon, Greenfinch and Blackbird, all singing from more open branches.

Activity picked up however, with three Skylarks (one pictured right) trilling over distinct parts of the North Down. A Song Thrush has firmly established itself in the wood at the start of the new dog walk, often singing until late evening when its song becomes more prominent and obvious as other birds prepare to roost for the night.

Two singing Wrens were heard during the walk. Despite the Wren being our commonest nesting bird, it would not appear so from sightings, as it is often heard more than seen. The song is loud for such a small bird, with rapid notes and nearly always includes at least one trill. During the walk, many of the smaller birds were now first revealing their presence by singing. In the first part, through Magog Down to Little Trees Hill and the clunch pit, Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs, Robins, Chaffinches and a Blackbird created most sound.



One Chaffinch was also uttering its 'rain call' which is difficult to describe but is short, harsh and grating, and becomes monotonous when it carries on for hours. Despite the name it seems nothing to do with prediction of rain though it did start to rain ten minutes later! When making a list of the singing birds later on, it turned out that there were more Blackcaps (9) singing than Chiffchaffs (6) and, unusually, more than Robins (4). Blackcap song is fast but melodic and flutey. The Feoffees Fields hedge had a singing Yellowhammer, and two Long-tailed Tits and a Goldfinch were seen in Villedomer Wood. Then the next concentration of birds was along Vestey Wood at the bottom end of the Trust, where tits and warblers made up most of the numbers there.

No more species being added to the list on the return part, though at the car park at least 15 assorted tits and finches were flitting around the feeders. Altogether a total of 20 species was noted. **Mike Foley**



# History Society

## Hobson's Conduit: A brief account of an excellent talk for the History Society by Max Field



'THE filthiest town in Europe' said Erasmus, the Dutch scholar while living in Queens' College in 1511.

The main cause of the pollution was the King's Ditch which formed a semi-circle round the town and was filled with sewage and dead animals. There was no flow of water to flush the sewage into the river and on towards Ely.

In the late 1500s, Cambridge was affected by the plague and other fatal infections. These were thought to be caused by 'bad air' resulting from the sewage-contaminated water in the river and local ditches.

Andrew Perne, Master of Peterhouse in 1545, sent a letter to the University and the Town Council, complaining that not enough fresh water was available for the College. The Nine Wells springs were a source of clean water and it was suggested that water could be directed from there to Cambridge. The authorities from the town and University collaborated with the Lord of the Manor in Trumpington to create a 'new river' to divert some of this fresh water into Cambridge. The water first flowed in 1614, with the control of the required pressure at the Conduit Head on the corner of what is now Lensfield Road.

In 1631, Thomas Hobson, whose income came from transporting goods to and from London, bequeathed land to fund and maintain this public water supply – hence the association with his name. Hobson's Conduit Trust is now a registered charity that was established to have right over the stream and to maintain it in good order for the town and the University.

From Nine Wells, the water flows above ground and can best be seen in Trumpington Street alongside the Botanic Gardens. At the corner of Lensfield Road it goes underground in culverts and is distributed to flow in four gunnels: one along Trumpington Street, one directly to the Market Square, and another diagonally across Lensfield Road and then along Hills Road and St. Andrew's Street. A fourth channel has been closed. There were diversions into the colleges, and the ponds in Emmanuel College and an outdoor pool in Christ's, which are still fed by water from the conduit, are just two examples of how the water supplied the town and the University.



**O N CHALLIS**  
Painter and Decorator

**Tel:** 01223 841646  
**Mob:** 07939 607653

*All types of interior and exterior work undertaken.*

*High-class quality workmanship guaranteed.*



**The Copley Hill Coffee Barn and Meeting Rooms**

Homemade cakes, soups and savouries and a selection of hot midday meals. Eat in or take-away.  
Meeting rooms for 2 to 40 people.  
Ample parking. Superfast broadband.

**COPLEY HILL BUSINESS PARK CB22 3GN**  
Tel. 01223 792325 Web. [www.copleyhill.co.uk](http://www.copleyhill.co.uk)



**QUALITY FLOORING SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & AFTERCARE**

**Specialists in Wood Flooring, Carpets & Vinyl Flooring Solutions**

*"What a fantastic company. Knowledgeable, friendly staff & quality services. My company has used Art of Flooring on a number of occasions already and have been delighted with the whole experience. Thoroughly recommended & future projects will be coming your way."* Mr Andy Ward, Cambridge

141 Milton Road Cambridge CB4 1XE  
01223 755 802 [www.ArtofFlooring.co.uk](http://www.ArtofFlooring.co.uk)

**The Country Store**

Animal feeds, bedding and accessories, shooting requirements and country clothing



[www.thecountrystore.co.uk](http://www.thecountrystore.co.uk)

Unit 12a, Sawston Trade Park, Pampisford, Cambridge CB22 3EE.  
01223 837977

**Barker Bros**

EST 1843



**FAMILY BUTCHERS**

43, High Street, Great Shelford  
01223 843292  
[www.barkerbrosbutchers.co.uk](http://www.barkerbrosbutchers.co.uk)



The original fountain in the picture was in the Market Square and provided water for the townsfolk. In Victorian times it was replaced by a Gothic structure and the original was moved to the corner of Lensfield Road. The Victorian fountain has since been demolished.

The men who were the main benefactors of the scheme were: Thomas Chaplin, Lord of the Manor of Trumpington; Andrew Perne, the Master of Peterhouse; Stephen Perse, a fellow of Gonville and Caius and Doctor of Medicine; and Thomas Hobson. Their names are commemorated on an obelisk at Nine Wells. **Keith Dixon**



## Puzzle and Quiz Answers

### ANAGRAMS

GLUM, PEAK, EACH, THAW, DEAF, ATOM, DENY, TUNA, AIDE, APEX, BERK, POUR, EPIC, POET, CROP, EARN, ORAL, SEMI, MENU, SUMO, OPUS, ARID

BUOYANT, MAESTRO, TOWARDS, ANISEED, HERETIC, DIPLOMA, HEROISM, PIONEER, ANTIQUE, DISTURB, PLATEAU, PREVIEW, DIGNITY, SHERIFF, ICEBERG, WEDLOCK, CAMEL, EXPLAIN, PARADOX, TIMPANI, OVERLAP, SHOWBIZ, BREADTH.

### QUIZ ANSWERS



1. Orlando Bloom (pictured left as Peter Drinkwater, who gets murdered by...) a pitchfork.
2. Martine McCutcheon, by a giant cheese.
3. Miranda.
4. A cricket bat.

5. Honor Blackman.
6. Hugh Bonneville.
7. Olivia Colman, Gulliver.
8. Peter Capaldi.
9. Tim McInnerny, Captain (Kevin) Darling.
10. Henry Cavill (who plays the current Superman).

## Parish Councillor diary: Jez Raphael

*JEZ Raphael (the youngest councillor!) is this month's diarist in our series highlighting the aims and activities of our Parish Council. We hope it gives readers greater insight into – and may promote further engagement with – Stapleford Parish Council activities.*

IT'S been just over a year since I last wrote for the *Messenger* and it's time for me to again put some words together and introduce the updated version of the Parish Council's website, which I think is cleaner and easier to navigate. I wrote last time about moving to the village (in 2016, upon leaving the RAF), joining the Parish Council (in 2018) and trying to encourage others to also join as we had two vacancies at the time. Some



of the more observant of you may have noticed that I was away for a few months last summer, missing a few meetings and local developments, as I was in the Middle East with work, delivering on one of our projects for a customer there. However, what have I been doing or got involved in recently?

When I first joined the Parish Council, I had very little idea of its function or purpose (I maybe should have done some research!) but did volunteer at my first meeting to be one of its two nominative trustees of Stapleford Feoffees. For those unaware of the Feoffees charity, it was established in 1885 as a merger of a number of local charities into one, and exists to support St Andrew's Church and to help those resident in the village or with close association to it (e.g. attendance at the local primary school). For those requesting assistance, it provides a grant, either to individuals or organizations. I am the Treasurer, but it is really Rev Dr Simon Taylor who we should thank for doing all the hard work of running and maintaining the charity. When we have helped parishioners, it is me organising the transfer of funds and we have recently modernised such that we can now do instantaneous BACS transfer; we are slowly moving into the 21st century rather than relying on cheques!

If you are struggling, or know of someone who is, please point them in the direction of the Feoffees, who may be able to help. Details of the scheme and how to apply can be found on the St Andrew's website or you can contact Rev Taylor directly.

There are also (or should be, if not removed by the recent weather) notices on the village notice boards advertising the scheme and how to make contact.

My other principal Parish Council responsibility is maintaining and updating our website, [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk).

We started the website in Spring 2020 as a means of direct, regular communication with the Parish, but it is only recently that we have started to add significantly more content, mostly thanks to the efforts of Councillor Flynn, our 'comms' champion, and to link it to regular posts on local Facebook pages. The website has – as I write – just been updated to the latest version of the host software, which makes it much easier to read and navigate around. We are still adjusting to the new layout, but I will be making changes over the next few weeks such that it more prominently displays the information we want to feature. If you have any comment on the content or layout, or suggestions about what you would like us to post, please do get in touch via email or in the pub (once it's fully open).

I hope that these recent councillor articles help to show that the Parish Council is working hard to continue to make Stapleford a great place to live and to communicate more with you. A lot of work and co-ordination is required, sometimes for even only small gains or improvements, and whilst that can be the nature of local council work, the effort is still worthwhile. I must express my gratitude to the hard work of my fellow councillors, who all volunteer their time and energy to make things happen, and our invaluable and knowledgeable Clerk, Belinda Irons. There is still one vacancy on the Parish Council, so please get in touch if you are interested in finding out more.

## **Parish Council Meeting - 14 April**

FOLLOWING the Death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, there is an official period of mourning set out in Government guidance. These days must be excluded for the purposes of calculating the three days' period of public notice required for convening meetings of Parish & Town Councils, in accordance with section 243 of the Local Government Act 1972. The meeting on 14 April was therefore postponed. At the time of going to press, a revised date was not known.

# Parish Pit opinions sought

Two simple yes/no answers required to a proposal to transfer ownership of Stapleford Parish Pit to The Magog Trust



STAPLEFORD Parish Pit, located next to Magog Down just off Haverhill Road, is an old chalk quarry which was last used more than 100 years ago. It lay abandoned for many years and fell into a state of disrepair. In recent years, a group of volunteers, The Friends of Stapleford Pit, restored it as a nature reserve under the oversight of Stapleford Parish Council to a management plan drawn up by The Wildlife Trust.

The Pit is the only asset of a charity, called The Public Stone, Chalk, Gravel and Clay Pit, whose sole trustee is Stapleford Parish Council. The beneficiaries of the charity are the residents of Stapleford.

The Parish Council and The Friends acknowledge that the present arrangement is insufficient to ensure the continuation and enhancement of the site over the longer term. In particular, the charity has neither money of its own nor any means of generating income to support future management.

In March 2020, the Parish Council resolved to transfer ownership of the Parish Pit to Magog Trust for £1. This was seen to be in the best interests of the charity and its beneficiaries. The Magog Trust has more than 30 years' experience of managing chalk downland for the purposes of recreation and conservation, can call upon appropriate expertise and has sufficient resources to fund the maintenance and improvement of the site.

To bring about this transfer, Stapleford Parish Council must apply to the Charities Commission to request a change to the present purposes of the charity. The Parish Council is required to consult with the beneficiaries of the charity (i.e. Stapleford residents) before the Commission will accept any such request. Residents are asked to consider the following points and invited to raise comments or questions as they consider appropriate.

## **Why is a change to the purposes of the charity required?**

The main purpose of the existing rules of The Public Stone, Chalk, Gravel and Clay Pit charity is to provide road materials. This is clearly now redundant and indeed has been for over a century. The subsidiary purpose of the charity is to provide a benefit to the residents of Stapleford. This is not defined by the rules, but an obvious benefit is recreation. However, it is difficult to see how the charity can maintain any useful benefit in the longer

term because it has no cash resources or any means of generating income from the Pit.

The present rules do not allow the Pit to be transferred out of the charity's ownership. The proposed transfer to Magog Trust cannot take place until this restriction is lifted.

**Changes proposed by the Parish Council will provide new purposes of a similar nature.**

As trustee, Stapleford Parish Council proposes to:

1. Lift the restriction on land transfer.
2. Transfer the site to a charitable organisation with aims as close as possible to the existing aim of benefitting the residents of Stapleford. Such aims to explicitly include open public access to the site and maintenance of good environmental standards.

The direct benefits of these changes to Stapleford residents will be:

- Improved recreation facilities (which have taken on a greater significance as a consequence of the pandemic).
- Good husbandry of the environment (which has widely acknowledged health benefits).

To comply with requirements, the Parish Council needs to see clear support for this proposal from Stapleford residents before we can transfer the Pit to Magog Trust. We would be very grateful for your input – the more responses in favour, the more straightforward this is.

Make your opinion count – email or write to the Clerk or respond via Facebook by 31 May.

*Question 1: Do you agree to Stapleford Parish Council's proposal to lift the restriction on land transfer of the Pit? Answer: yes/no.*

*Question 2: Do you agree to Stapleford Parish Council's proposal to transfer the Pit to a charitable organisation (Magog Trust) with aims as close as possible to the existing aim of benefitting the residents of Stapleford? Answer: yes/no.*

Any additional comments you may wish to make will be noted. Please contact Stapleford Parish Council Clerk, Belinda Irons, with your responses: Email: [clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk) or post to: 14 Crawley End, Chrishall, nr Royston, Herts, SG8 8QL

Alternatively, this article will also be posted on Great Shelford & Stapleford Community and on Stapleford Cambridge Facebook pages, and you may respond in the comments sections thereof.

The consultation will close on 31 May. Responses will be summarised and anonymised before the outcome of the consultation is published on [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk), in the *Messenger*, on local Facebook pages and on Parish Council noticeboards. Thank you in advance for participating!

# From the chair of the Parish Council

## Misguided busway update from Cllr Howard Kettel

THE i-Transport independent report, now published, demonstrates that instead of damaging the greenbelt the South East Cambridge Busway could be routed along the railway and the old Haverhill line. In light of the report, the parish councils of Stapleford and Great Shelford and community groups such as Cambridge Past, Present & Future, are formally calling on the Greater Cambridge Partnership to review their decision.

The GCP is planning to build a bus-only road through our greenbelt, next to the Gog Magog Hills linking Cambridge to a new 2,000-space Park & Ride near the A11. The proposed route skirts around the edges of Stapleford and Great Shelford rather than serving our villages.



The chosen route cuts straight through greenbelt, irreparably damaging valuable farmland, landscapes, habitats and views. We are passionate to preserve our green belt and green spaces and retain the character of our village. There is an inevitability that this 14m wide busway if built will release land for speculative housing development and in generations to come the village will be absorbed into Cambridge.

A less environmentally damaging alternative route is available along the former rail line between Haverhill and Cambridge, yet the GCP ruled this option out of contention at the initial planning stage following a flawed option appraisal process. In fact, consultation even failed to demonstrate conclusive public support for the GCP's chosen route.

The report finds that:

- The Shelford Railway Alignment can meet the specifications required by the GCP. It can be fully segregated, compliant with a future Cambridge Autonomous Metro (CAM), and does not require the large-scale demolition that was given as a reason for excluding this route.
- Using the old railway line would take the alignment through the villages, which would increase passenger numbers compared to a route on the edge of the villages.



- The economic case for the Cambridge South East Transport Study (CSETS) scheme relies on the community using the new busway. The costs of the CSETS scheme relative to the benefits offers poor value for money, with a benefit-to-cost ratio of less than half that sought by the GCP Board.

- Re-using the former railway would avoid damaging the greenbelt. The exceptional circumstances required to gain planning permission for building in the greenbelt can only be granted if there is not a reasonable alternative.

- There are serious weaknesses in the process used to arrive at the conclusion reached by the GCP, including a lack of assessment transparency, unsubstantiated key decisions and public consultation feedback not properly taken into account.

CAM will cost around £4billion to realise and is still at an early stage of development, with question marks as to whether it will ever be affordable and no certainty as to the type of guidance system or operating system whether a bus or more sustainable light rail.

We expect to discuss the detailed findings of the report with the GCP with the help of our consultants. We are incredibly grateful for £12,000 donated locally towards this effort and we now want to see the political will (particularly with the local elections on the 6 May) to look at this option properly, including giving people a chance to have their say. The GCP will make a final decision on this scheme in June and we need to do everything possible to see them pausing and reappraising the railway route as a genuine alternative.

For more information go to [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk). We believe we have a strong case now so contact me if you can lend your support.



# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



## COUNCILLORS

Howard Kettel (Chair)	hkettel@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Jenny Flynn	jenny.flynn@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Michael Gatward	mgatward@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Colin Greenhalgh	cgreenhalgh@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Barbara Ann Kettel	bkettel@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Paul McPhater	pmcphater@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Charles Nightingale	cnightingale@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
David Pepperell	dpepperell@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Gillian Pett	gpett@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Jez Raphael	jraphael@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

## CLERK

Belinda Irons	07840 668 048
	clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

## ASSISTANT CLERK

Kerry Byrne	07545 847 976
	assistant.clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

## SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Peter Fane , 27 London Road, Great Shelford CB22 5DB	
peterfane1@live.co.uk	843861 / 07802 256 861
Nick Sample, 2 Bar Close, Stapleford, CB22 5BY	
nick.sample@gmail.com	07706 990 833



# Ken Benson

## Heating & Plumbing

### Reliable local tradesman

Plumbing • Bathrooms • Wet Rooms • Central Heating

**Tel:** 01223 565975

**Mob:** 07766 544888

**Email:** kennybenny50@virginmedia.com

## PEASGOOD & SKEATES

### THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

Purpose built funeral homes with private chapels of rest  
Home arrangements available  
Funeral pre-planning - A wide range of memorials

Shire Hill & High St  
**SAFFRON WALDEN**  
(01799) 523314

617 Newmarket Rd  
**CAMBRIDGE**  
(01223) 415255

45 Moorfield Rd  
**DUXFORD**  
(01223) 833463

12-14 Queen St  
**HAVERHILL**  
(01440) 840140

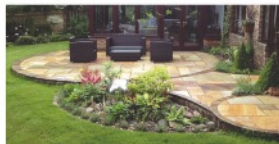
[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)



Summit Landscapes

## LANDSCAPES

PAVING • DRIVEWAYS  
BRICKWORK • CARPENTRY  
GROUNDWORKS



[www.landscapingpaving.co.uk](http://www.landscapingpaving.co.uk)

PHONE

**01223 929 394**

## JASON KIRBY

Professional Painting  
& Decorating Ltd

*A Professional Service  
from Start to Finish*

Tel: 01954 211775  
[www.jasonkirbyltd.co.uk](http://www.jasonkirbyltd.co.uk)



The newly refurbished  
Zara Indian Cuisine is  
open for dine-in and  
takeaways.

Zara Indian Cuisine  
offers a sophisticated yet  
relaxed dining experience

RESERVATION & ORDER ONLINE AT  
[www.zarashelford.com](http://www.zarashelford.com)

1 Hinton Way, Great Shelford, CB22 5AX  
01223 846 668 / 01223 844 244



# KITCHENSMITHS

4 STATION ROAD, HISTON, CAMBRIDGE, CB24 9LQ

01223 236 456

[info@kitchensmiths.co.uk](mailto:info@kitchensmiths.co.uk)

[www.kitchensmiths.co.uk](http://www.kitchensmiths.co.uk)

