

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

June 2021

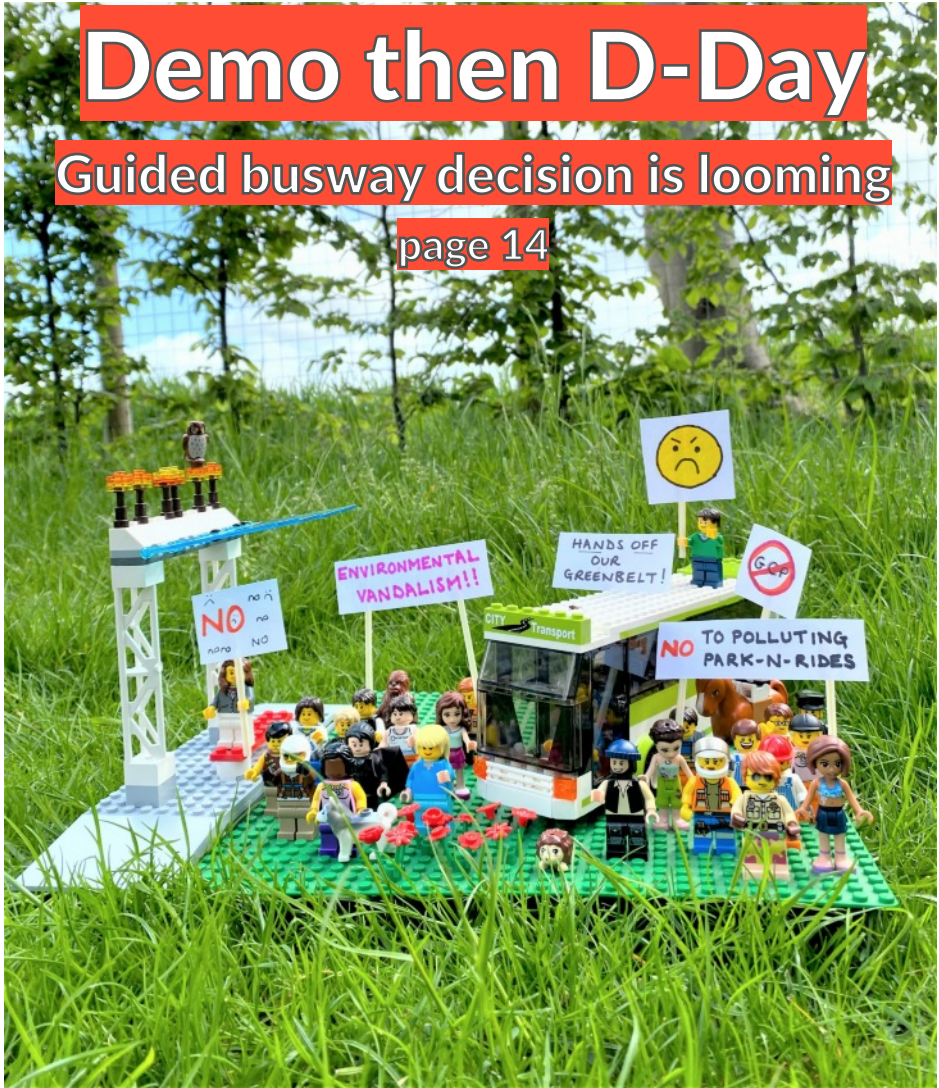
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Demo then D-Day

Guided busway decision is looming

page 14



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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish priest

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate

Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

Churchwardens

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Alastair MacGregor
07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

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 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

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

I GIVE you a new hero: Gareth Wild of Bromley.

Wild, living up to his name, took on the challenge of trying out every car parking space at his local Sainsbury's. But not the disabled spaces, because he is wild, not out of control. The 211 spots took him six years. That is an average of 35 a year, to save you doing the maths.



He is a man after my own heart because he produced an Excel spreadsheet documenting his efforts, and then – joy of joys – a colour coded map labelling the zones and showing his preferred spaces. Completion was in April, slotting his car into the space he designated F20, in his own words and being somewhat spaceist, 'a pig to get in', adding 'I don't want to make out this was too big a deal, but there was a moment of elation.' If you want that high, Wild suggests repeating the challenge on the Bromley Lidl car park.

Wild's purpose was simply to complete the challenge of trying all the spaces. But, inevitably he began to mark and grade them. You would, wouldn't you? Convenience, time saved, and ease of parking all goes into the mix. The best space? "C1 is just gold dust." If we were in Bromley I would publish the map in the mag as a public service, but just be aware, if you ever go to Bromley Sainsbury's, 30 seconds Googling for his map could pay dividends.



And it wasn't just the spaces that got judged. The people Wild (pictured, left) encountered did too. He is not harsh and sounds like a nice guy - "I just like being out and about and seeing people" - but I expect we would all recognise his judgments about his fellow parkers. "A good snapshot of English life ... You get all sorts of people coming in and mingling.

Some of them park like [beep], some of them just obey the rules and follow the signs."

The judgments we all make and are subjected to have been on my mind lately. Some, I suppose, are needed to make life work – you might say that about the GCSE and A level assessments going on right now. Pity the poor youngsters having assessments made without the perceived objectivity of external examiners, and the teachers having to issue grades that will be so contested and have such lasting consequences.

At least we know that the teachers will do all they can to try to base grades on objective criteria regardless of how tricky the student might have been to teach.

But many other judgments we make, rather like Wild on his fellow-parkers, will be based on much more fleeting impressions, or might be more an expression of our own biases than a fair and unprejudiced assessment.

Areas in which many of us have been quick to judge others – I have anyway, and so have many of my age and older – are those of sexuality and gender identity.

Societal attitudes were horrible in my youth, always expressed, so as to shut down argument I think, as the morally correct stance. And those attitudes had consequences – discrimination, mental ill health, violence and more. It is good that all that is changing in our society, though change is, as ever, not enough or too slow for some and too far or too fast for others.

It is not just society changing. The church is too. And the latest national church initiative is one that we will be taking part in at St Andrew's. You might have read in the press about *Living in Love & Faith* (LLF). This is the Church of England's project to reflect deeply on what it means to be human and to understand modern patterns in relationships, families, and sexual attitudes, and, as it says on the tin, to live in love and faith. It is exciting and I am looking forward to it – and all of you are very welcome too, to any or all of what we are putting on.

Our involvement is going to be spread over six weeks from Sunday 6 June. After an introductory sermon at our 10.30am service that day LLF will really kick off with a sermon on 13 June on *Learning Together*.

How can each of us engage respectfully, listen to and really understand the stories of those who are not like us? Frankly, it is a good exercise in any area of life, but particularly important in relation to sexuality and gender identity. And the following day, Monday 14 June, two study groups start – one at 10.30am in the Johnson Hall, and the other at 7.30pm on Zoom. All welcome, with more details on our website at standrewstapleford.org. The following weeks will be on the topics of *Identity, Relationships, Sex, and Life Together*.

Please do come and take part. Whatever else we learn I hope that we will all come away with a sense of the abiding love that Jesus Christ has for us all with our many differences – whether we are, as it were, a small or large space, convenient for shopping or not, and however good or bad our parking.

Every blessing to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

Sunday services are also on our St Andrew's Stapleford YouTube channel.

6 JUNE	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG CW COMMUNION Isaiah 43.1-3a; John 15.5-17 <i>Introduction to Living in Love & Faith</i>
	10.30 am 6 pm	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION BCP EVENSONG
13 JUNE	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD Matthew 7.24-29 <i>Living in Love and Faith 1 - Learning Together</i>
	9 am 10.30 am	AID CW COMMUNION SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD Genesis 1.27; Galatians 3.23-28 <i>Living in Love and Faith 2 - Identity</i>
20 JUNE	10.30 am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD Matthew 19.1-12 <i>Living in Love and Faith 3 - Relationships</i>
27 JUNE	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG CW COMMUNION Corinthians 6.12-20 <i>Living in Love and Faith 4 - Sex</i>
	10.30 am 6 pm	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION BCP EVENSONG

The church is open every day as a place to come and pray or enjoy a moment of quiet reflection. Information about any changes will be on our standrewstapleford.org website.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral and burial

26 April: Dennis Fox

Banns read

Anna Bryden & Bruce Gulland

Mothers' Union News



THE committee is pleased to let you know that we will be starting up meetings in June, as restrictions will be eased by 21 June. So, on 24 June we'll be holding a Social Afternoon (at 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall) with a Bring & Buy stall and a raffle. It will be a good opportunity for members to meet up again after such a long time apart.

For the rest of the year there will be only afternoon meetings. The next one to look forward to is the Pudding Party with Milton MU as guests, on 15 July (again, at 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall). So I hope as many members as possible can come to these two events so we can enjoy each other's fellowship – greatly missed during these long months of lockdown. **Hilary Street**

Chestnut Club

JUST a note to inform past members of the Chestnut Club that the club has now been officially wound down.

There was a closing balance of £569.39 and John Allison, our treasurer, has forwarded a cheque for that sum to Joan King. The monies are going to Age UK for the specific benefit of The Stapleford Community Warden Scheme.

Grateful thanks to John for winding up the club and disposing of the items we kept in the Johnson Hall. **Suzanne Watt**

Deadline for the JULY Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN MONDAY 14 JUNE**

By email to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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Awaken

WORDS can be fun. Used wisely they are expressive, interesting and can inspire. The verb awaken means to remember or arouse feelings and memories... Adjusting cautiously after COVID restrictions inevitably we recollect the past. Life was different. Regret may be sensed. Yet having had opportunities and experiences we consider ourselves fortunate. We relive times. Every so often a memory is triggered in ways we could not have imagined.

Great Shelford suffered a burst water main. The road was closed. Work began to put things right. We came across a scene of devastation. Massive chunks of tarmac formed a bank in the centre of the cordoned off road. I imagined boulders on the shore. Sand was washed by the kerb, water filling drilled holes like rock pools. A lively imagination perhaps but Stephen was on the same wavelength. The mind can play tricks, recognising incidents and relating them to simple shared enjoyment. We were awoken to happy times of discovery.

Nature wakes us. Observing locally, much delights. Robert Frost in *The Road Not Taken*, finishes with:

*'Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.'*

Wherever we find ourselves, nature is top for enriching and awakening. Each season is special. How about 'Cinderella' plants ... celandines and wood anemones flower, seed then sleep until spring calls again. Remarkable. Malcolm Guite in *Prayer/Walk* talks of richness and depth awaiting discovery.

*'A hidden path that starts at a dead end,
Old ways relived by walking with a friend.'*

Heightened senses tell of birds and creatures . Leaves rustle, twigs crack, we see burrows, hollows in roots and trunks, We are not alone. Shadows fall, light flickers through the leafy canopy. The poem concludes;

*'A setting out to find oneself astray,
And coming home at dusk a different way.'*

Revived and invigorated we know our lives have been enriched with expressions of concern and encouragement. Eyes above masks speak loudly, smile with regard. Acts of kindness are invaluable. Gentle awakening of hope making for cherished peace and harmony for which we are thankful.

Judith and Stephen Lee

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Stapleford – Nachingwea Link



WE have received the following news from Nachingwea from Siamini Faraja (Link treasurer and teacher of children with special needs) and from

Neema Mshamu (who recently graduated and was the assistant teacher of the English course run by Kevin Bushiri).

As well as being busy teaching in school, Siamini is growing pumpkins at home in one part of her shamba along with other vegetables.

Neema is growing spinach (top photo) and pumpkins on her family’s shamba. The chickens found part of the spinach (middle photo) and enjoyed the feast! She is also helping with the pigs and chickens (bottom two photos).

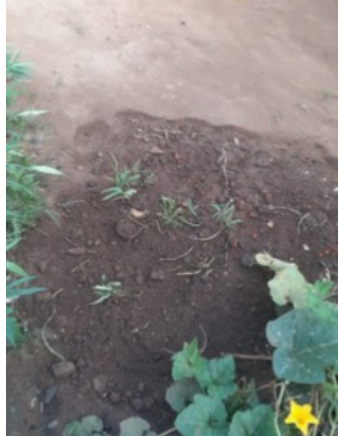
You may be asking: What is a shamba? It is an area of cultivated ground; a plot of land, a small subsistence farm for growing crops and fruit-bearing trees.

The children in the two special needs classes send us their greetings.

Greetings come also from the St Andrew’s Mothers Union.

Plans are progressing for the Link Celebration weekend on 29 and 30 August. Further details will be published in the *Messenger*.

You can also find our news under the Community tab on the St Andrew’s website. **Trish Maude**



From the *Messenger* News Team

A SENSE of community – what does that mean to you? What is a community? Does community matter in 2021?

Community may mean different things to each of us. A sense of belonging, shared values, and goals giving us a network of support. Is this a physical community or an emotional one?

I have lived in Stapleford since 1973, and over that time seen our village grow and evolve. My early feelings of community centred around village institutions – the primary school, the church, pubs, shops and businesses. These centres brought people together, relationships were formed, stories were shared, lifelong friendships were formed. I particularly recall the school run where many of our relationships built with other pupils and parents - whilst waiting for drop-off or collect - are still strong today. These go through two generations, covering my last two years at Stapleford Primary School and then as a parent.

Alongside the pillars above, Stapleford has an array of clubs and societies. One is the exchange twinning programme with Villedômer, a wonderful, traditional, rural French village south-west of Paris in the Loire region. Here we share memorable times both on youth exchanges and adult/family visits. Enriching, authentic and fun are my memories to date.

OK, so this is the village fabric based around collective community activities. However, community is strong and alive in Stapleford on a more personal level. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, friends and neighbours have been quietly helping each other. Offering to assist another resident with shopping, gardening or a lift are some ways residents have come together. This is usually done without any fuss or expectations. I recall breaking my leg skiing in 2015 and many of my friends supported me. Invariably I have been able to reciprocate as the wheel of life's fortunes turns.

So, if you are new to Stapleford or simply wish to reach out and feel how your community can make a difference to your life in the village, I encourage you to take that step and join in. The *Messenger* showcases an array of choices to suit all tastes. I love living in Stapleford and want you all to feel the same way.

Enjoy the June edition, Frank Jacot

We would like feedback on your Messenger under the new team. How are we doing? What suggestions/articles do you feel would improve your magazine? Contact us at staplefordmessenger@gmail.com.

Stapleford's oldest resident?

JOANNA Jasiewicz, who lives on Haverhill Road, tells of the treasure that she (or rather her dog) found in her garden.

RÍO, our two-year old and very energetic spaniel-pointer cross, needs supervision in the garden - he gets eagerly self-employed in unhelpful activities such as birding, chasing bees, sniffing neighbourhood cats and digging.

One afternoon he found it appealing to dig a hole beneath the apple tree. I spotted his mischief too late, and noticed he had something in his mouth. Upon inspection and clearing from the soil, this was revealed to be a rather unusual object - a fossilised clam-like creature. We took it in and sent pictures to the University Earth Sciences department.

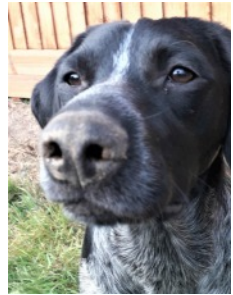


The response we got from the Earth Sciences researcher was somewhat unexpected: the fossil is a well-preserved brachiopod called a Productid, one of those that were only around in the Palaeozoic age - that is c.300 -

480 million years ago. It would have sat buried in a muddy sea floor with the bigger valve downwards.



We were delighted to discover that Productids had a heart and developed internal organs. There is lots more information on the digitalatlasofancientlife.org website.



It feels special to be 'gifted' this little beautiful creature and with it an

insight to the world that is no longer; a world before the dinosaurs let alone any of the human species walked the earth.

We're waiting for your story!

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

Jean's 100th birthday



JEAN Jenner, a Stapleford resident since 1990, celebrated her 100th birthday on 11 May.

She now lives at the Cambridgeshire Care Home but lived in Duke's Meadow for 31 years, moving here from Sevenoaks in Kent.

Jean, often seen walking her pugs around the village, has been a member of

the WI and also helped with meals on wheels for a time.

The photos show her looking at a collage son Jumbo Jenner made of pictures from throughout her life - the centrepiece was her aged 21 - and her raising a glass to neighbours from Duke's Meadow, who gathered in the care home car park on the day.



We send belated birthday greetings to Jean and wish her all the best in her new home. **Messenger team.**

Commuting by Foote

MARC Foote (pictured, right) and daughter Isy from Finch's Close, who regularly commute to London, have decided to celebrate the end of lockdown by walking all the way home from the capital within 24 hours.

As part of this adventure they will be raising money for three charities - Alzheimer's Research UK, Epilepsy Research UK and Fauna and Flora International - and the walkers would appreciate any contributions that you may wish to offer.

Find out how their crazy idea came about, the route they are taking or make a donation on their website commutebyfoote.com.



Leader Lisa rewarded

LISA MacGregor, a leader with Shelford Guides, Stapleford Brownies, Shelford Brownies and Trumpington Rainbows has been awarded the Lily - the county brooch from Girlguiding Cambridgeshire East - in a virtual ceremony.

It was given in recognition of commitment and outstanding over more than 12 years of faithful service to Girlguiding, including volunteering in Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units and, as district commissioner, leading a team of local volunteers in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Trumpington.



Joanne Staines, with whom Lisa shares the district commissioner role, said, "Lisa's experience and knowledge of Girlguiding is invaluable, and even in difficult situations Lisa remains calm and deals with all issues effectively and with empathy. Lisa is great with the Rainbows, coaxing the shy girls to join in with games, offering advice, but allowing the girls to learn for themselves during meetings. Lisa is reliable, confident, and good fun and it is a pleasure to work with her at Rainbows."

Local leader, Clare George, said, "Lisa is very passionate about Girlguiding. She carries many hats around with her in the Guiding world and manages to manage every single one. She is a remarkable lady, and deserves an award to honour and show her how much we appreciate everything she does."

Around 100 members and supporters of Girlguiding Cambridgeshire East were together for a virtual ceremony, celebrating the amazing volunteering that has continued despite the challenges of the last year.



Lisa said, "It was such a lovely surprise to receive the Anglia Brooch. I was so delighted. Guiding has given me many amazing opportunities over the years. Best of all is the privilege of getting to know so many great girls, young women and leaders - and having so much fun along the way."

Kerrie Thackray, Volunteer M&C Coordinator, Girlguiding, Cambridgeshire East

Last call to protect our green belt

WANT to influence the new Mayor's travel plan and its impact on Stapleford? Join the demo on the Rec. on 3 June (and you could even be interviewed by the BBC!)

Our new Mayor, Nik Johnson, has a lot of bedtime reading. But one of the issues he will need to make headway on very quickly is the region's transport plan. His predecessor, James Palmer, was a vocal critic of the Greater Cambridge Partnership and effectively sought to abolish it. Mr Johnson hopes to work more constructively with the GCP but has also indicated that he wants it to "reconsider" its Cambridge southeast busway proposal. His commitment to compassion, cooperation and community is all well and good, but he needs to act fast.

A preferred route has been selected and detailed plans exist for a busway which runs northwest from a tarmac monstrosity of a new park-and-ride near the A11-A1307 interchange straight through Stapleford's greenbelt and on towards the Biomedical Campus. And on the back of this, speculative housing will be released on fields dissected by the busway.

We are calling on Mayor Johnson and Councillors on the GCP's decision-making board to STOP, THINK and CHANGE the trajectory of this major project. The situation is now urgent! The GCP will likely see James Palmer's departure as a green light for them to crack on politically unopposed.

The GCP Joint Assembly, which advises the Executive Board, is meeting on 10 June. Then, on 1 July, the GCP Executive Board will decide whether to apply to the Secretary of State for a Transport and Works Order. If granted, this would give the GCP the powers it needs to: construct a busway through Stapleford's greenbelt; compulsorily purchase land; close roads and paths; build a park-and-ride to support the scheme.

There is no time to be lost in making our feelings known.

Stapleford Parish Council aims to influence decision makers and attract local media coverage via a peaceful demo on Thursday 3 June.

The plan is to meet at Stapleford Rec. at 10am and safely process the short distance to where the busway is due to cross Haverhill Road. The BBC has indicated interest in the event and is likely to be there to conduct a handful of interviews. Work is going on behind the scenes to secure the attendance of various local District and County Councillors.

Whether you want a busway or light rail along the old Haverhill railway line, a bus route along the A1307 or in the future a pod direct to John Lewis, please come along to show your support.

This is not about being anti-change or NIMBYism. This is about supporting the right route for the right transport mode, ensuring that our village is served rather than vandalised by it, and giving taxpayers proper value for money.

Look out for a leaflet coming through your door in due course. We will also publish more information about the event on the homepage of the Parish Council's website (staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk), on local Facebook pages ('Great Shelford and Stapleford Community' and 'Stapleford Cambridge'), and on local noticeboards.

Please let Howard Kettel know if you are planning to come along and/or contact him for further details (hkettelstaplefordpc@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the Rec. at 10am on Thursday 3 June. We will have banners to hand out, marshals to ensure our safety, and will comply with all Covid-safety guidance. **Jenny Flynn**



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Yesteryear

SYLVIA Morris looks at events in the village in the month of June over the years.

Note: punctuation and capital letters are exactly as printed at the time.

1808

SALE. By auction. About fifty lots of neat and valuable Household Furniture and other effects, at the house near Stapleford Turnpike.

1842

FIND. On Monday, the 6th inst., a ploughman named Ransom, in the employ of Mrs. Balls, whilst ploughing in a field near Babraham hedges, turned up a broad piece of Charles II in fine preservation. The weight of this gold coin is about equal to a sovereign-and-a-half.



1889

THE STORM. Rarely does it fall to the lot of the rural scribe to record so violent a thunderstorm as that which broke out over the village and district on Thursday week. The full force of the storm seems to have gathered over the neighbourhood, but the damage done is not great, possibly on account of the deluge of rain which fell during the height of the storm. The principal damage is to the crops, but that does not seem so severe as was at one time feared. A large oak tree, the property of Mr. W. S. Heffer, had its bark stripped off, and one or two smaller trees were similarly affected.

1908

"THE Clerk presented a letter from Mr Symonds Clerk to the RDC in reference to the erection of a pump at the corner of Bar Lane. Mr Finch in a very able manner put before the Council how the matter arose out of a report (some years old) of the MOH (*Minister of Health?*) and he very strongly objected against any steps being taken in the matter. He further proposed that the Clerk be instructed to write Mr Symonds. That the PC would not advise the RDC to take any steps in the matter. Mr Linton seconded. It was carried unanimously. (*from the Parish Council minutes*).

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1941

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. The June meeting of the Women's Institute, usually held as a garden party, took place in the village Institute in celebration of the 21st anniversary of Lady Gray's presidency. A novel demonstration of camp cookery was given by Shelford Girl Guides, and a competition for fancy aprons resulted in Miss Miller being awarded first prize. In place of outdoor sports, Lady Gray had arranged indoor games, and prizes were awarded. About 60 members were present.

1993

An evening to welcome newcomers to the village was held at the Johnson Hall. We think these used to be run by the erstwhile Umbrella Association, but they fell into abeyance.

Simon Taylor picked up the idea and ran one for the village (not just church goers) a couple of years ago. I suspect he would do more, once we are able to meet up in reasonable numbers again. It was held in the vicarage garden and luckily the sun shone on that day.



The Johnson Hall

WE are bringing the Johnson Hall back into use as regulations permit, and various groups are already starting. As a small gift to help get community (non-commercial) groups started we are offering it at just £10 until the end of August.

So if you have a small group looking for a place to meet where you can spread out more than you can in someone's home and be safe, do consider the Johnson Hall – we would welcome you! Good facilities for making a cuppa. **Mary Cooper**



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

Save the date

THE Village Weekend committee would like to invite all residents of Stapleford and their friends to attend a function we will be hosting at Stapleford Pavilion on 26 June.

We thought it would be nice to have a family picnic on the Rec. after the cricket, with a few games for the children.

Then we have a three-piece band playing in the evening, with food and drink kindly organized by Chris Diogenous and his staff from the Three Horseshoes for a very reasonable cost.

The event will be free to all as a thank you from us for the kindness, help and support villagers have shown one another as we went through COVID-19 over the past year.

A return to freedom

Everyone's invited to Stapleford's summer bash.
No need to buy a ticket, you can hang on to your cash,
We have a band that's something special,
That should be a pleasure for all to hear,
Where your children can play safely,
No need for you to fear,
Chris from the Horseshoes,
Will be there to provide us with food and drink.
Finally, a time when we can have some normality,
To join our friends and have a pint or two,
That we have waited so long to sink,
Stapleford's Village Weekend committee,
Just want to give you all an emotional lift,
After so many months of uncertainty,
It's our pleasure to make this day our gift,
So, bring a seat to sit on, relax and have some fun,
As the first signs of normality seem to have begun.
We offer a very warm welcome,
To all that would like to come along,
From a community we're proud to be part of,
So, let's all just let our hair down,
Enjoy the wine and song,
Next year we hope to be back to normal,
Offer a weekend packed full of exciting events,

That we can all take part in,
So, we can enjoy every moment, stimulate every sense,
We would like to see you all have a good time,
Create memories that you can hold dear,
So please support us in the future,
And every coming year.

By Michael Gatward.

The Messenger Fund

THE *Messenger* Fund, which was launched in 2019 so that profits from the magazine could be distributed to deserving causes in and around the village, is now up and running again.

Applications can be made by organisations which benefit the community of Stapleford, or a section of it. These do not have to be registered charities, just something that the *Messenger* Fund feels able to support.

Applications are considered by a committee chaired by a member of the *Messenger* working group and also includes community and St Andrew's PCC members. Accepted applications will require final approval by the PCC. Unsurprisingly we did not distribute any funds in 2020, but available monies have been rolled over for 2021.

If you or a group you belong to could do with a little financial help for a worthwhile local cause then email Martin Ginger care of the *Messenger* email address to obtain an application form.

It is hoped that successful applications can be featured in future editions of the *Messenger*. **Martin Ginger**

New shop to open

A NEW coffee shop is set to open in the village this month.

'Pickles and Beans' replaces the now-defunct carpet shop on Dolphin Way.

Stacey Sparkes, whose mum Helen runs Hairforce One next door, is the man behind the venture.

Stacey, who used to live in Stapleford but is now based in Sawston, is also planning to sell cakes, sandwiches and speciality teas.

He tells the *Messenger* that most dietary requirements can be catered for, and in future there might even be some live entertainment on premises he describes as "stylish, quirky and relaxing". **Frank Jacot**



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Rodents return

SHELAGH Woolley reports on some animal activity over on Aylesford Way.

WHEN we moved to Aylesford Way 34 years ago, there were water voles living in the stream next to our house on the edge of the water meadow.

All the voles vanished over a couple of years - probably due to the local cat population - and none was seen anywhere along the stream for 30 years.

Then, in March this year, we were delighted to spot one busily swimming about the stream and cutting and eating the sedges and young rushes.

It has the occasional run-in with the resident moorhen, who is very territorial, but manages to hold its own, and it's a treat to see it back where it belongs!






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2G3S



ON 10 May Edward Leigh of Smarter Cambridge Transport talked about how we pay for improving local bus services. Funds are needed to kickstart this process and begin to attract car users away from their vehicles. Driving has to reduce drastically to avoid climate catastrophe, even with the advent of electric vehicles. Road transport is very subsidised at present, as drivers do not pay directly for cleaning up the air pollution they

create, the potholes they create, the road building needed to deal with congestion, and the carbon emissions they make – these costs are ‘externalities’. As more vehicles go electric and thus won’t pay fuel tax, Edward advocates replacing this fuel tax with a Road User Charge (RUC), which could be more sensitive than the former, e.g. charging less for rural journeys than urban ones for which alternative public transport is available, and charging more for rush hour journeys. The RUC would in this way disincentivise solo-occupancy driving, incentivise the efficient movement of freight, would replace lost fuel tax revenues as drivers go electric, and could also fund the improvement of bus services in a sustainable way.

New Cambridgeshire Mayor Nik Johnson (pictured) has cast doubt on the CAM Metro project and is looking at transport generally; there could be some changes in bus services quite quickly. He could bring in local policies such as congestion charges, workplace parking charges, road pricing, franchising bus services, and he could set up citizens’ assemblies as in the past to assess the public’s views.



Our next meeting will be a planning meeting, on 7 June at 8pm.

On 8 July we plan to have a talk about water supply in the area and the pressure on our chalk streams, entitled Why All is Not Well with the River Cam. Cambridgeshire has nationally important chalk streams, and the chalk aquifer that supplies 97% of our public water supply is under unsustainable pressure. Stephen Tomkins will explain our ground water crisis and suggest that our own behaviour towards our water resources is a key issue.

Stephen read Natural Sciences at Cambridge and taught Biology in schools in Uganda and Cambridgeshire before moving into teacher training. With a long-standing interest in environmental education, he developed the first International GCSE in sustainable development. He now chairs the Cam Valley Forum, working for optimal benefit for us, as users, and for the river's own long-term wellbeing.



Please email the address below for a link to attend either meeting.

Before the talk on water, you might like to watch this. Transition Cambridge's water project, 'Precious Water' was in this year's Earth Optimism event, which formed part of the Cambridge Festival. The page is still available and includes several videos and lots of information. The videos describe and explore the effects of our consumption on the environment and what we can do about it. You will hear from Cllr Katie Thornburrow, from Cambridge City Council, and Ruth Hawkesley from the Wildlife Trust. You can also experiment with an animated aquifer and use a water calculator to see where the water goes in your home. Look on www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org/ and search for 'precious water'.

You are still in time to book to attend the next Environmental Forum with our MP Anthony Browne, online on 17 June at 4pm. Email him at anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk if you would like to ask a question or just listen in.

Here's a heads-up for an international campaign in July. It is called Plastic Free July, and encourages people to sign a pledge to cut their plastic use during the month (and longer). See plasticfreejuly.org to find out more. The website gives suggestions of how to reduce your plastic use and has other resources on it to help. In the UK it is estimated that five million tonnes of plastic is used every year, nearly half of which is packaging (UK Government). It is said the average time that a plastic bag is used for is 12 minutes but it can take up to a thousand years to decompose. We've all seen heart-wrenching pictures of seals with plastic rings tight round their necks, dead seabirds with lumps of plastic in their stomachs, and turtles ingesting plastic bags.

What can you do?

- Sign the pledge on plasticfreejuly.org and start planning on how you are going to reduce your plastic consumption.

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- Write to your MP to ask for plastics reduction targets to be included in the forthcoming Environment Bill.
- Drink tap water. Our tap water is naturally filtered through chalk rock.
- Buy loose dry goods (e.g. Green Weigh in Sawston).
- Get your washing-up liquid and kitchen cleaner bottles refilled (e.g. Green Weigh in Sawston or the dry cleaners in Great Shelford).
- Buy loose fruit and vegs (eg at Mary's in Sawston or Barkers in Great Shelford).

The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step – every little helps (to pinch a well-known supermarket's catchphrase).

Look out for how members of 2G3S will be marking Plastic Free July around the villages.

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

Sawston Open Gardens

FOUR Sawston gardens are opening their gates to visitors in June & July for the National Garden Scheme (NGS). The NGS was founded in 1927 and has now raised over £60 million for nursing charities, by opening private gardens to the public for a small fee. Its core beneficiaries are Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute. See www.ngs.org.uk for more details.



There are two openings. Sunday 13 June 1pm to 5pm, the Mary Challis Garden (photo, right), 68 High St., £3 and Sunday 4 July 1pm to 5pm, Sawston Village Group (three gardens). Start where convenient and collect a map, £5. Children free. Details of the openings, with garden descriptions, are on the NGS website. Visitors can either book and pre-pay via the website or simply turn up and pay at the gate.

Cream teas, cakes and drinks available on both days from Sweet Tea café 1pm to 5pm in the High Street. Do come and view some of Sawston's finest gardens and support these important charities. Enquiries: **Mike & Ann Redshaw 834511**

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 95

Countryside stroll: a walk from West Wickham

To get to start of walk

West Wickham can be reached by turning left off the A1307 between Linton and Horseheath. Alternatively, go to Balsham, turning right at The Bell pub. The walk starts from High Street in West Wickham; just beyond the Village Hall is a pull-in for vehicles on the right hand side (CB21 4SH).

Distance of walk

4 miles. This is a pleasant countryside walk with some nice views (including the windmill at West Wratting) but is best done in dry weather as a couple of cropped fields need to be crossed. The path is clearly marked across the fields but often gets ploughed up in autumn.

OS Map

Explorer map 210. Use footpathmaps.com or maps.the-hug.net for free printable extracts.

Extra Information

The village was known as just Wickham until the Middle Ages, when “West” was added as a prefix to distinguish it from other Wickhams in East Anglia. The name means ‘a homestead associated with a vicus (a Romano-British settlement)’. The nearest pub, should you need one, is either in Balsham or Horseheath. There is a café in Balsham.

Route of Walk

From the starting point cross over the road and walk on the pavement back past the Village Hall. Shortly after, cross back over at a Footpath sign and follow the route along a field boundary until it meets another path in the next field.

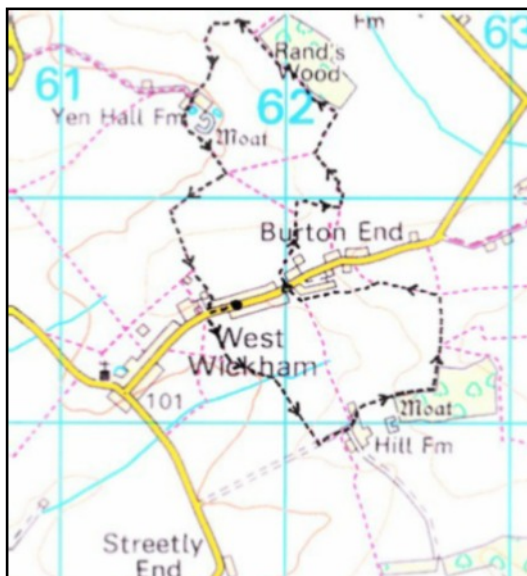
Turn left, go through a gap in the hedge, and cross another field. At the end, go over a small footbridge and carry on ahead across yet another field, until a farm track is reached. Turn left on this and walk ahead, passing between the farmhouse buildings.

Carry on, up the right hand edge of a large field and swing sharp left at the end as the path follows the tree line. There is a (bluebell) wood to the right from the farmhouse buildings onwards.

The path through the tree line carries on beyond the wood. Go left when a small footbridge is reached and cross the field. Carry on along the grassy field edge until a cross path is met. Turn right, go through a gate and cross the road ahead, going up some steps through a hedge gap and walk

through a garden.

The path hugs the far side and exits via a gate. Carry on ahead, crossing a field, and exiting in the left hand corner. Bear right and walk up the right hand field edge. A waymark post will be seen ahead. Go left here and follow the path between hedges, swinging right at the far end. Walk on the strip to the right of a field and go left when a wood is reached. Walk alongside the wood and, shortly after it ends, turn left downhill and follow the grassy path past a horse training area.



When farm buildings are reached carry on ahead, passing the farm pond on the left and swing left on the track. A large pile of manure will be seen ahead! Just before it, turn right on another grass path and follow the field edge, going left at the end. Keep on and, when the road is reached, turn left and return to your vehicle. **David Barnes**

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

WE were fortunate that we were able to walk in March 2020 just a week before the complete lockdown. Since then we have been confined to walking as individuals locally or, during partial lockdown, further afield. We have provisionally arranged our next group walk for June and will be abiding by the recommendations of the National Ramblers Association. In spite of not walking as a group, David Barnes has continued to contribute articles to the *Messenger* describing walks in South Cambridgeshire.

The Strollers started over 12 years ago and has more than 30 walkers, and we meet on the second Wednesday of every month. Membership is restricted to people who live in Stapleford to keep our numbers manageable. The walks are usually about five miles and we meet on the recreation ground to share transport to the starting point. This is usually a pub as parking in villages is sometimes difficult. After the walk we have lunch and a drink before returning to Stapleford. We are a very friendly group and anyone wishing to join us can find out more information on our website. **Keith Dixon**

Fascism shows its face

Writer Fraser Grace recalls the day when Il Duce (almost) stole his glasses..

IF anyone were to ask me in which other country – outside the UK - I feel most relaxed, the answer would always be Italy.

All the usual suspects contribute to this - the climate, the food and wine, the generosity towards children and welcome for strangers, the warm evenings, incomparable food, the music, the restaurants, the art, the seafood (did I mention the food and wine?) - I could go on. Only two things bruise the apple of my love for that country – the roads, and the politics.



On more than one occasion I've wound my way back late at night from some beautiful hill-town and found myself spilling onto a busy road devoid of cats' eyes or simple road markings. Knuckles white on the rented wheel, rearview mirror ablaze with headlights, I've struggled to ignore blaring horns that threaten to wake the dead (or consign me to join them). The only recovery from this on our return, shaking, to whichever modest apartment we've found for a base, is to drink yet more restorative wine, after which, of course, all is forgiven (though evidently, not quite forgotten).

The other grit in the oyster of my passion for *Bel Paese*, is politics. This is a deep prejudice I know, but it seems to me that Italy's years under fascist rule continue to leave their mark – and I'm not just talking about Paolo di Canio's tattoos. I've tried to rationalise my way out of this belief, but events conspire to confirm it.

On one holiday in Italy, we stayed in Venice – our 25th wedding anniversary if I recall. Until this time, I'd thought Venice was a city full of canals. In fact, I discovered it to be a city afloat in the sea. A transfixingly beautiful city at that - by turns enchanting, smelly and eye-wateringly expensive. Given the last, we could afford one week in the city itself. After that, footsore from tramping cobbled backstreets, and running low on funds, we retreated inland to a cheaper apartment, not far from Padua.

This 'apartment' was cheap for a reason – or several. The broken-down coach-house of a once-grand villa, it came replete with dodgy electrics and draughty windows, but was set in grounds that were a child's paradise. A statue-lined avenue led to the Big House, past acres of barely maintained garden, a rusting aviary, a huge pond/lake with a canoe.

For a week, our two boys had the run of the place, alongside their guide, the son of one of the estate workers.

Bliss. Stretch out, drink coffee, settle in for a good read. If the kids fall in the pond, they'll probably save themselves. I had been a good father, ensuring they could swim - time to collect on my virtue. Except this particular afternoon, there was an unwanted tug at my sleeve.

'Dad come quick - there's a secret staircase'.

Not for the first time, I cursed Harry Potter.

'No no, really Dad! There's a secret staircase - and a library!'



I duly followed the over-heated imaginations of my offspring to the back of the coach-house and found, just to the left (or was it to the right?), there was indeed a staircase. There was not much that was hidden about it, but it did end in an oddly impressive doorway.

Up the stone steps to find a serious-looking padlock - which by some accident, or magic spell, was hanging loose. We slipped inside the 'secret library'.

Piled so high there was barely room to thread a path through them were a thousand bygones - cast-offs from the Big House: towers of ledgers and other books, stuffed animals, ancient heavy-set furniture, rugs and packing cases stuffed with who-knew-what. The light was poor, hardly a shaft squeezing through the filthy, high-set windows. Mobile phones were a new thing back then, and amazingly, mine came with a torch. I flicked it on, forgot all about children as I combed the spines of what seemed to be regional records and maps dating back hundreds of years. And then, feeling a pair of eyes on my back, I turned to confront a familiar face. Dressed in a white tuxedo, doing his best to look like a matinee idol, there on the wall was none other than Benito Mussolini. His signature was an inky flourish on the framed photo, with a short greeting to follow, addressed to the parents of the current owners of the villa - and dated 1942.

Soon we returned to our apartment in time for what had become a daily ritual on that holiday - turning on a wonky tv in time to catch the weather forecast - delivered for some unfathomable reason by an Italian Air Force Officer. (His name, which we would all sing out together, was Major Guido Guidi.) Or maybe it wasn't so unfathomable - like I say, the Italians have a lifestyle to die for, but they do love a uniform.

Exhausted by their adventures, the children went early to bed, Madam Wine uncorked her charms, and I opened my book again... only to realise my reading glasses were missing. Leafing through the events of the day in the tatty notebook of my mind, I came upon the only reasonable explanation: I had left them somewhere. The obvious candidate was the room at the top of the secret staircase.

By now it was dark. Thin moonlight lit the warm evening air. A stiffening breeze rocked the heavy padlock as I slipped past the heavy door. Where amongst all this hidden treasure-slash-junk could my spectacles conceivably be?

I should have known. After peering at Il Duce's handwritten note to his erstwhile hosts, I must have taken them off again, the better to survey the room – and dropped them on one of the moth-eaten rugs. Feeling my way in the light of my trusty Nokia, I finally spied my glasses, snatched them back from the despot looming above, and fled.

I thought of this brush with Benito not so long ago as the mob, in Washington, stirred to a frenzy by their beloved, incompetent, narcissistic, violence-inciting leader swarmed all over Capitol Hill. In that moment, it was impossible not to think of the smaller Corpulent One. Like Donald Trump, Mussolini was once the subject of almost religious adulation from a people to whom he promised everything; who believed him their friend, their saviour and – most astonishing of all – a brilliant leader. Like Trump, Mussolini completely skewed his followers' vision – as clearly as, from beyond the grave, Benito tried to rob me of mine.

The mob I really remember in Italy, sadly, is the one in April 1945 – less than three years after Benito signed that photo. In 1942 he was cock of the walk, an unassailable power. By the time the mob turned on him after Italy's disastrous losses in the war, the spell was broken. He was summarily executed, but it didn't end there. Unspeakable things followed, as Mussolini's corpse and that of his mistress Claretta Petacci were subjected to a mock-hanging, and worse.

Eighty odd-years later, Italy is still recovering – economically and spiritually – from that era of rule by a fascist leader. The divisions Mussolini cultivated have never been completely expunged – which brings us back to the former footballer, now manager di Canio, who bears Il Duce's name (DUX) inked on his skin, and claims not to be a fascist, just an admirer of fascism. But at least Italy has some advantages over Trump's America. I am thinking again of all those warm evenings, of that beautiful, beautiful food, and of Italy's incomparable welcome for strangers. Surely even fascism cannot withstand that forever?

What have bees ever done for us?



Photo by Brigit Strawbridge Howard

THERE'S a lot of talk about pollinators nowadays, so what do bees do for us?

Bees and other insects are attracted to flowers, they eat nectar and collect pollen on their bodies, then drop the pollen on another flower and fertilisation occurs... this is the classic sexual reproduction story – not quite “the birds and the bees” but “the bees and the flowers”. Without pollinators and their habits, evolved over millennia, much of plant life as we know it would simply end with that unvisited flower, never to make a seed.

In this country the pollinators are also butterflies, moths, wasps, hoverflies... the list is long. The bees are most important, they are the most diligent and hardworking, and the solitary bees are the best at the job, mostly because they are the messiest! They don't bother with the little 'baskets' on their legs that honeybees like, they just get covered in pollen and scatter it far and wide as they fly off. There are 250 species of solitary bee versus the single honeybee species which we all know so well, simply because humans have a sweet tooth.

From the human perspective, without pollinators loads of our crops would fail, in fact one third of all our food and all the cotton we wear relies on those unpaid insect workers. The reality of failed crops is big money lost – which seems to be the only language we understand these days, hence why we are hearing the word 'pollinator' so much.

Bees are keystone species in big trouble; take the keystone out, and the whole lot tumbles down.

Perhaps policy makers will step in, I hope so, since a sea change in agriculture is desperately needed. But in the meantime:

Ask not what your bees do for you, ask what you can do for your bees!

- Grow flowers – avoiding overbred varieties (doubles) that bees cannot enter. This directly helps pollinators, particularly bees.
- Grow natives – the larval stages of many insects often need specific native plants to eat. Would you leave the kids hungry at your picnic?
- Allow homes - make a bee hotel, or simply leave some areas of your garden wild and untidy.

For more info see www.wildlifetrusts.org/savingbees.

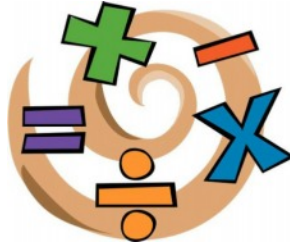
To get involved directly, join us in Duxford at The Nectar Garden on Brewery Field on Fridays: friendsofduxfordgreenspaces.org/. **Sarah Ashworth**, garden designer and wildlife specialist, sarahashworth.co.uk

Catch up maths

Rachel Hudson, an experienced A Level and GCSE maths teacher will be running four COVID-safe group maths sessions for students in Years 7 to 10 who would like some extra support.

Sessions will be from 4pm to 6pm at the Stapleford Pavilion on Thursday 10, 17 and 24 June and July 1.

Please email raj.hudson@gmail.com for more information and to book a half hour slot. Cost is £10 per half hour (discounted rates available when required).



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Quiz time

THIS page is delighted to bring some good news at long last - quiz night will soon be back at the Three Horseshoes!

It will be held on a new night - Monday - and will take place every week, from 8pm.

Entry fee will be £2 per person, with £1 of that going to a local charity and the other pound placed into a prize pot.

At the end of the quiz the winners - who will receive £25 worth of bar tokens - get the opportunity to scoop out the contents of the prize pot by answering a bonus question. If they fail however the cash pot rolls over to the next week.

Initially the quiz is limited to eight teams of no more than six because of Covid restrictions. The kitchen will also be open, for items on a limited menu.

Last month saw the pub resume opening seven days a week and the opening times are now: *Monday: 5-11pm - Tuesday: 12-2.30pm, 5-11pm - Wednesday: 12-2.30pm, 5-11pm - Thursday: 12-2.30pm, 5-11pm - Friday: 12pm-12am - Saturday: 12pm-12am and Sunday: 12pm-10pm*

To warm up your brains, here are some fairly simple but also quite annoying trick questions. Answers on Page 59.

1. What starts with 'e' and ends with another 'e' but usually has only one letter in it?
2. How many months have 28 days?
3. Which word actually becomes shorter despite adding two letters to it?
4. You're running a marathon. As you reach the finish line you pass the competitor in second place. Where did you finish?
5. What weighs more - a kilogram of bricks or a kilogram of feathers?
6. What can travel the world yet at the same time stay stuck in the corner?
7. What is it that occurs once in a year, twice in a week but never in a day?
8. Forwards I am heavy, backwards I am not - what am I?
9. One word has been spelt incorrectly in every single English dictionary published so far. Which?
10. Mary's mum had four daughters. April, May and June were the names of the first three. What was the name of the fourth child?



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Stapleford Community Primary School



OUR Nursery Class celebrated its first anniversary in March and we have been thrilled with how well attended it is, and how brilliantly the children are doing. The bright and airy rooms allow for a range of stimuli to be arranged for the children to explore and play with in a safe and secure setting. Feedback has been tremendous and of the 24 signed up, we are sending nearly half to our reception class in September.

If you are interested in a place for your three-year-old, please contact the school on 508720. There are extended/universal places available for September. Miss Davies will happily talk to you about your requirements and show you around after 3pm

One parent said: "The nursery is a wonderful, happy environment for children. My daughter is thriving in the care and attention of the teachers and enjoying making friends in the class. A fantastic addition to a lovely school."

Following a tremendously well-supported fun run in 2020, we have been able to install a running track besides the lower playground, which is almost complete at time of writing. This is a joint project via PE and sports funding and the PTA, without whom this would not have been possible. The children have been so very excited, it will be a most welcome addition to play and lesson times, helping to keep the children active. Thank you everyone who contributed.



Driving lesson at South Angle Farm

Since 8 March all children have been welcomed back to school. It is difficult to truly assess the impact of lockdowns, but we have focused on relationship building between staff and children and between the children themselves for those who have missed their friends so much. Some

children were anxious about returning, but the familiar routines and exciting curriculum ahead quickly helped them settle, relax and re-engage.

Now we are – hopefully – on the road to recovery we want to ensure the children have many opportunities to enjoy an enriched curriculum,



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which some may have missed in recent months. For example we are providing additional learning outdoors; we have ensured there are plenty of clubs on offer. Each class will have a trip out this term,

Reception enjoyed a day at South Angle Farm last week and Y6 had a day of adventurous activities at Grafham, which saw them paddle boarding amongst other things. Mrs Hore spoke to her class about a trip - at first they thought she meant a virtual trip - however they were thrilled when she said it was an actual trip!

Sadly the swimming pool deteriorated somewhat in the last year and is in need of considerable work to get it in an acceptable state to use safely. Whilst Anglian Learning are paying for the boiler which heats the pool, the PTA are currently helping with additional fundraising to purchase a new cover, and to help repair/replace uneven slabs around the pool, install a shower, and refurbish the changing rooms. We have a sponsored event, a 'mathathon' at the moment, should you wish to make a donation, via [justgiving.com/campaign/mathathonfor maintenance?invite=true](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mathathonfor-maintenance?invite=true). We would be most grateful.

We currently have a vacancy for a midday assistant to help at lunchtimes. Please contact the school office should you like more information. **Christine Spain**

Close inspection at South Angle Farm (top) and water sports at Grafham Water





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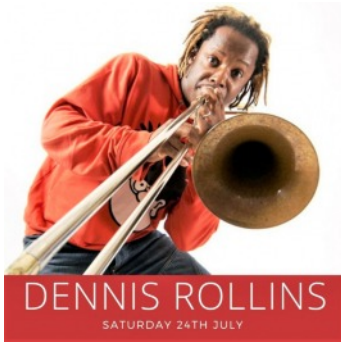
Stapleford Granary

FINALLY, it looks as if things are **really** happening! By the time you read this, our art courses will be up and running and the music classes will gradually be returning to the Granary. We're feeling excited, but also reflective; coming out of this immensely difficult time is a moment to pause and value the ways in which the Arts bring meaning, comfort, well-being and happiness to our lives and communities. And I believe that regional arts centres can play a vital role here, enabling us all to reconnect, reunite and share experiences once again.



With this in mind, we thought it would be fitting to launch our re-opening on **Sunday 4 July** by throwing open the Granary's courtyard, grounds and historical 1930s 'secret orchard' for a **STAPLEFORD VILLAGE DAY** that celebrates art and culture in our local community. There'll be live music, theatre, pop-up food, children's craft activities and stalls showcasing local cottage industries. You'll find a flyer in this copy of the *Messenger* and please do keep an eye on our website for more information (even better, sign up to our e-news so you don't miss anything!) The day is free to enter, we're raising money for good causes, and it's a chance to come together in a safe, friendly outdoor environment and enjoy the things we have missed so much. You're ALL invited - please join us!

Following the Village Day, we are delighted to announce **SIX CONCERTS**, also in July. As ever, our programming is designed with the warm intimacy of the concert hall and its wonderful acoustic at heart. All performances are repeated so that we can operate with smaller audience numbers and social distancing to keep everyone safe and feeling confident. Our website listings have a handy 'Q&A' document which tells all you need to know about our opening plans.



So, what can you hear at the Granary? For jazz fans, we've a real treat. The exceptional **SARA DOWLING** kicks off the

season on 16 July. Sara was the 2019 winner of the best jazz vocalist at the British Jazz Awards, all the more remarkable for someone who came late to



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jazz after training as a classical cellist. There's a return visit from the superb funk trombonist **DENNIS ROLLINS** and his trio on 24 July ('an utterly mind-blowing musician' said one of my friends...) And for a relaxing Sunday morning, you can hear singer-pianist **RUTH APPLIN** & saxophonist **JOSH KEMP** perform music inspired by Ella Fitzgerald & Nat King Cole on 25 July.



For **CLASSICAL MUSIC LOVERS**, we bring you chamber music from France and Russia performed by **PIXELS ENSEMBLE** whose players include Jonathan Aasgaard (principal cellist of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic) and multiple award-winning violinist Sophie Rosa. Pixels Ensemble pianist (and Artistic Director) Ian Buckle is a concerto and recital soloist with an extensive discography (OK... I'm in the ensemble too on clarinet... I can promise you, it's a terrific group with a genuine love of brilliant music and I'm very proud to play with these exceptional musicians). Do join us if you can on 31 July.

We're thrilled to welcome back **GARY RYAN & CRAIG OGDEN** on 17 July; two guitar masters who perform solos and duos spanning centuries and continents, breathing new life into familiar repertoire.



And for something *completely different*, please grab your tickets for a night of witty, wry, poignant and thought-provoking cabaret from **JESSICA WALKER**. I've known Jess for many years. She's a unique artist who never fails to bring something extraordinary to the stage. The New York Times described her as '*utterly bewitching*' and you can find out why when you catch Jess's new touring show **SONGS FOR OUR TIMES** at the Granary on 23 July.

I do hope you find something here that you like. Whether you are a regular visitor to the Granary or fancy trying something new, we warmly welcome all of you. The bumpy ride for the Arts is far from over and we have never been more appreciative of your support. My plan for Stapleford Granary over the next few years is that we can, with your help, create a sustainable arts centre for our community and for the artists who work with us. I love this beautiful place and I want to share it with everybody.

We look forward to seeing you soon! **Kate Romano**



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Cricket clubs



THE weather may have been pretty awful but the Rec. has still been home to plenty of cricketing excitement over the last few weeks.

The new Stapleford club, featuring an array of youth teams plus a Saturday adult side, is off to a flying start at all levels.

And Stapleford Phoenix, the well-established adult

T20 midweek club, has also enjoyed a welcome return to action.

Stapleford CC's first ever adult game, a friendly with Hertfordshire side Hockerill, ended in victory, with teenager Dylan Bose 63 not out when the winning runs were scored.

And the first league game on the Rec. since the original club disbanded more than a decade ago was also a win, at Cambourne's expense, with James Beal rolling back the years with a magnificent 136 that featured 24 fours and four sixes.



The youth sides have also been prospering in both league and cup fixtures, with the all-girls squad progressing from the first round of the nationwide Lady Taverners T20 competition at both U13 (pictured above) and U15 levels, beating sides from Berkshire and Suffolk respectively.



As for the Phoenix, they have played four games at time of going to print, winning two and losing the others.

Aidan Swain (left) and Ralph Minter have been leading the way with the bat, with Stuart Creed and Jon West the most successful bowlers so far.

This month sees the Phoenix play in the Business House League for the first time, so wish us luck.

Here's to a great summer. **Jon West**

Granta Medical Practices

COVID-19 Vaccinations Update

HAVE you had your first Covid vaccination yet? If not, and you are in a cohort between 1 and 6, please contact us as soon as possible to arrange an appointment.

If you fall into one of the cohorts 7 to 12, please ring 119 or go to nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/ where you can directly book your first dose appointment at a central vaccination centre.

If you need to book your second dose, NHS England guidelines state that patients should return to the venue where they had their first vaccination, as the second dose will be allocated and sent to that original venue.

As always, if any of the Covid vaccination guidelines change we will let you know via our website grantamedicalpractices.co.uk and our social media platforms. However, please don't hesitate to contact us direct if you do not have access to the internet.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and kind words, as well as all the biscuits, chocolates and other lovely treats. The goodwill shown to us whilst we deliver the vaccines means so much to all of us. **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**, [sandra.east@nhs.net/627743](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net).

Virtual Covid event



**wellcome
connecting
science**

WOULD you like to hear from the people who are in the front line fighting Covid?

The Wellcome Genome Campus is hosting a series of panel discussions under

its Connecting Science banner and this month's question is 'When does a variant become a villain?'

A spokesman said: "With announcements of new variants of the coronavirus appearing more and more in the headlines, what exactly is changing and when do changes become concerns? We'll discuss how genomics is helping us keep one step ahead of the virus with new treatments and vaccines."

The talk is a virtual event on Zoom from 6pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday 9 June. It is free to attend but booking is required. Go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/covid-connections/ and search by date.

Cambridgeshire Hearing Help



CAMBRIDGESHIRE Hearing Help is pleased to announce the limited re-opening of its hearing aid re-tubing service.

If your hearing aid needs cleaning and maintenance, we have launched a 'drop-off and pick-up 10 minutes later' service at nine HAM Centres. The nearest ones are located in Fulbourn and Great Shelford.

Sessions will be by appointment only - we are only able to offer a 'drop-off and pick-up 10 minutes later' service at present. We ask that your hearing aids are handed to us in a sealed envelope labelled with your name, DOB, postcode and contact phone number.

To book an appointment, phone 416141, email enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk, or book online at cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk.

Our HAM Centres operate between 10:30am and 3:30pm at:

- Fulbourn: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at The Swifts Meeting Room and Library, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn, Cambridge, CB21 5HD.
- Great Shelford: 1st Thursday of the month at Great Shelford Free Church, Ashen Green, Great Shelford, CB22 5EY.

We continue to provide batteries by post. You can also pick up batteries from the Cambridgeshire Mobile Library, which visits 85 villages and communities throughout the county: mobilelibraries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Calling all potential Scout Leaders

SHELFORDS and Stapleford Scout Troop is looking for a new scout leader. As a leader you will learn new skills and gain new experiences. It is fun, highly rewarding, and a great opportunity to give something back to the community. We have a strong, experienced and very friendly team of assistant leaders - the role is heading this team. Training is provided.

I, and another of the leaders will be retiring after Summer Camp 2022. Our aim is to bring on a new leader this year, with a full year of handover, to take the full reins in September 2022 (or earlier if preferred).

The Scout Group has a policy of accelerating access to scouting for children of leaders, so if you are a parent looking to find a place for your child(ren) in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts this is an ideal opportunity. This policy also applies to any other volunteering role in the group.

Please contact 07720 598327 or contact@sandsscouts.org.uk for more details. **Phil Burr, Scout Leader, Shelfords and Stapleford Scouts**



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Stapleford Bird Club

THE monthly walks continue with just myself representing the club. May's birdwatching on 7 May started in calm conditions with bright sunshine and the birds were out in force in the car park area.

A Song Thrush, Blackcap, Robin and Greenfinch were singing and Blue Tits, Chaffinches and Long-tailed Tits were in the bushes. Surprisingly no birds were attending the seed feeders while I was there, having crept up to the vantage point quietly.

A singing Willow Warbler (pictured, right) was unusual – this bird has declined by 45% since 1997 and hasn't bred on the Down for several years. Skylarks seemed to be singing everywhere on the North Down though only up to four were singing at the same time. In order to count their territories properly, patience is needed, and there are probably more. It is best to leave these ground-nesting birds in peace by strictly keeping to the footpaths. Skylarks were showing well too on the Sheeps Paddocks and arable fields.



Two Canada Geese flew low over the Down, honking loudly, no doubt on their way to feed beside some watery place, perhaps the reservoir at Dernford. Blackcaps were singing in nearly all the wooded areas, eleven in total which surpassed the nine singers in April. In contrast only seven Robins were singing; perhaps this was a peak time for feeding young and any other males present were wearily helping out, with no time to mark their territory with song.

Chiffchaffs were singing at two sites, a simple song but if you listen intently between a sequence of chiffs and chaffs you may hear one or two churrs, which seem out of place. Unlike the Willow Warbler, Chiffchaffs are doing very well in England.

The perimeter path and its hedgerow down to the end on the Stapleford site proved to be excellent for birds on the 'farmland bird indicator' list, and those present and in the sub group of red-listed species under most threat were Corn Buntings, a pair of Yellow Wagtails, Linnets, Yellowhammers, not forgetting the Skylarks nesting in the crop next to the path. Whitethroats had returned from Africa to the same hedgerow but there is plenty of space for all of them, as the Corn Bunting and hopefully too the Yellow Wagtails will nest within the crop. Altogether a respectable 28 species were seen or heard over two hours of walking. **Mike Foley**



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Charlie Nightingale steps down



CHARLIE Nightingale has retired from Stapleford Parish Council, having served both Stapleford and Great Shelford for many years as a parish councillor and as our District Councillor from 2002-18 (during which he was also Chair of South Cambridgeshire District Council from 2008-10). Throughout this time, he has worked hard to make the area a better place to live.

After moving to Great Shelford in 1972, Charlie joined Great Shelford Parish Council in 1994. He was a tireless worker and passionate motivator of the Shelford Feast, which has gone from strength to strength as a fundraiser for local groups and organisations, and provided a week-long venue for activities and events to

attract all ages and interests.

Moving to Stapleford and joining Stapleford Parish Council meant that Charlie could share his excellent understanding of the planning system, land ownership, highways and previous building business experience even more widely, providing useful input to many discussions. His historical evidence has been particularly valuable, and we hope to be able to continue to draw upon his immense knowledge in the future.

When diagnosed with Parkinson's, Charlie continued to work relentlessly to fundraise and support others who are similarly afflicted, and until recently was Chair of the Cambridge branch of Parkinson's UK.

We wish Charlie and his wife Susan some well-earned relaxation and enjoyment with family and friends over the years ahead.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk, Belinda Irons (clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk /07840 668048), who can arrange for you to chat with any of our current councillors.

The Parish Council has recently rearranged individual responsibilities along portfolio lines, so we would hope to be able to match your interests with those being actively pursued by the Council.

We appreciate that some people might only be able to contribute a couple of hours of their time per week and others a little more, but this is all part of reflecting a representative cross-section of the parish's population.

Jenny Flynn

Parish Council diary: Paul McPhater

I WAS asked to give a brief history of my being given the MUGA project to run. Next month we will provide details on how to use the pay-to-play feature and gain access to your new facility but first, with some tongue in cheek, is *The Ballad of Stapleford MUGA*.

Welcome aboard, don't go rocking the boat,
It seems we have a wee project pending...
A survey we did, opinions were wrote,
And some tennis courts doth need a'mending!

Large funds we have saved for a rainy day,
To be spent on facilities for all,
A MUGA we need to broaden our play,
With choice of tennis, footy and netball.

But doubts did abound and concerns were raised,
Miscommunications and frustrations,
Meant some trust could be won and research praised,
If we did it by the book with patience.

A small working group would channel the people,
And help us work out what were our options,
A presentation would help us grapple,
The good from the bad and curb some tensions.



Three companies did bid with diff'rent bundles,
Efforts were made to align the proposals,
To be certain we were comparing apples,
And that was aside from even commercials!

Poker-face was employed and rivals compared,
Margins got thinned down across those cohorts
Indeed to be fair, a winner declared:
A great partner selected named ETC Sports.

Now winter and COVID brought on delay,
But our boys did manage an April start,
With tools and diggers, asphalt on display,
Slowly to transform to state of the art.

But now behold a phoenix does arise,
Where once were leaves and weeds by the edges,
Now glistens new posts weeks away from the prize,
We also need to plant some new hedges.

Going to press some details are missing,
You'll be wanting to know how to use,
An update next month will layout listing
Prices and schedules that will let us all choose!



Council casts a green eye on village

STAPLEFORD Parish Council has recently focused its work along 'portfolio' lines, matching Councillors' interests and experience with specific responsibilities for planning and driving forward Parish Council activities. We would value residents' input to many of these portfolios and will be inviting involvement in various working parties. More information will be published over the coming months.

The Environment portfolio will be supported by Councillors Michael Gatward, Paul McPhater and Jenny Flynn. Environmental improvements can come in various guises, large and small. For example, earlier this year, the Sawston cycle route was flooded and volunteers and the Parish Council urged the County Council to rectify problems, achieving an elevated new section of cycleway.

Already, a Zero Carbon Grant has been obtained which will enable a survey of the Pavilion, and Councillor Gatward will be attending a net zero carbon course to enable us to identify specific projects to concentrate our efforts and help to achieve our aim of lowering our carbon footprint in the future.

Some people might also have recently spotted Councillor McPhater amongst the rampant growth of Green Alkanet at Basil's Piece, where he has been busy clearing the paths of weeds and planning how to allow existing plants to thrive better and to introduce more seasonal interest. He will be putting a 'weeding schedule' in place; anyone who would like to be involved once every few months, please email pmcphater@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Over the course of this year, the Parish Council will develop a plan of large and small environmental initiatives and seek to access a slice of the funding that is increasingly available for this kind of work. Sustainability will also be a key watchword for our activities, and we will look to evaluate all new initiatives and policies in that light, ensuring that we have done things to lower our carbon footprint, recycling or re-using wherever possible.

We hope that with hard work, grants and input from people with relevant experience, we can improve the coverage and diversity of trees, wildflowers and wildlife within the village, with a particular focus on Parish Council-maintained areas. Planned projects to facilitate this include creating an area of meadow and a remembrance garden for the new cemetery, leaving some verges uncut, and planting bulbs and sowing pollinator-friendly wildflower seeds. **Jenny Flynn**

From the Chair of the Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

The Chair gave a brief overview of the ten clubs that had provided their reports and Cllr Nick Sample provided the South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) report. All these can be accessed on the website.

The Chair shared his Annual Report and a slightly shortened version follows here.

The first virtual meeting of the Parish Council was held on the 13 May 2020 and since then the Zoom platform has facilitated the meetings and enabled the Parish Council to function and engage.

Finance & Audit

The Council has faced some significant costs over the last year and will, by carefully cultivating revenue generating activities, seek to move to a balanced budget by 2022. It will also aim to ensure future precept increases are in line with inflation. We will look to rebuild our reserve to 100% of the precept value by the end of 2022.

Highways & Footpaths

There has been an encouraging response from the County Council with the resurfacing of the Bury Road / Bar Lane junction to a good standard.

Building on this success by April 2022, we intend to inspect all main roads and pavements in the village and as many subsidiary routes as possible, and to request remedial work where possible.

It has finally been established that the street light opposite Chalk Hill on Gog Magog Way was never connected up when installed by the developers in 2009. The Council will continue to press for this to be rectified.

Planning

At its meetings each month the Parish Council gives careful consideration to a number of submitted planning applications and makes recommendations to SCDC.

In addition the Parish Council has engaged in a Local Plan consultation 'Call for Sites' and commented on proposed changes to the Conservation Area and to the concept of the Cambridge Great Park.

Perhaps the most significant planning matter considered was for the Retirement Village on the eastern boundary of Stapleford, with access off Haverhill Road, vigorously opposed by your Council, and unanimously rejected by SCDC Planning Committee.

This was based on the grounds of insufficient special circumstances to merit removing the land from the greenbelt and that a high-end retirement village would not meet local need for affordable accommodation for elderly people. Also recognised was the local significance of the open views from Stapleford to Magog Down and the surrounding landscape.

A vigorous defence of the greenbelt will be maintained by the Parish Council against any speculative threats to the valuable land that surrounds the Parish in accordance with the previously drafted policy.

The Council will seek to evaluate all planning requests within its boundaries on a monthly basis and help co-ordinate necessary opposition where any proposals are seen as overly detrimental to neighbours, the village-scape or designated conservation areas.

Neighbourhood Planning

Over the coming year the Council will look to have created a 'Neighbourhood Plan' that will be put out for consultation and review across the Parish. The Parish Council accepts that this is a necessary part of our arsenal in fighting unwelcome encroachments and speculative development harmful to village life.

Transport Infrastructure

Whilst the proposed southern approach route for East West Rail is being actively opposed by Cambridge Approaches, this is not going to impact our Parish, unlike the GCP's CSET busway.

Jointly with Great Shelford Parish Council and match funded with contributions from a crowd-funder organised by Cambridge Past Present & Future, an independent report has now been published setting out the GCP's failures to adequately consult and to establish a firm business case. We will continue to make representations to the GCP, and engage with all statutory procedures until a proper review of this poorly-conceived scheme is agreed to.

Asset Management

Amongst a number of initiatives, the grounds maintenance contract has been retendered, as have the electricity contracts for the Pavilion and Slaughterhouse.

The Pavilion has been maintained and redecorated, and a temporary container located on the field for storage.

With Covid protocols applied to the use of the Pavilion at the outbreak of the pandemic, the Council now welcomes the return of people to safely use the facilities of the Pavilion.

We will actively work with other authorities to ensure we stay in strict compliance with all safety protocols whilst also exploring ways to expand usage of the facility to the benefit of all in the village.

The Council is looking to add outdoor toilet facilities along with improvements to its storage capabilities for sports equipment. This will all be completed by the end of 2021. Wi-Fi is also coming to the Pavilion!

Potential enhancements to the Pavilion itself will be proposed by the Council and put to the public for feedback during 2021.

A public consultation on the best use of the Slaughterhouse is also proposed. Various options exist for this site of historical merit but direct feedback from villagers will be essential in ensuring we align as closely as possible with their desires. Redevelopment plans should be sustainable and not place an undue financial burden on the council.

In order to secure the long term management of the Parish Pit for conservation and biodiversity the ownership of the Parish Pit (off the Haverhill Road and close to Magog Down) will be transferred to the Magog Trust subject to the current public consultation.

Play Areas and School Liaison

Over the next year the Parish Council aims to improve the children's play facilities to the best of its abilities. We will continue to encourage others to give to the fund-raising activities and will support initiatives in this regard. We understand the final overhaul may take a little longer than 12 months but we are committed to a safe and pleasant facility for the village children to enjoy.

Cemeteries Management

New cemetery regulations have been introduced and the new cemetery brought into use with the installation of the pathway, gates, and laying out of plots.

By the end of 2021 the intention is to have all the health and safety issues around unsafe grave stones etc resolved. We also intend for the creation of a remembrance area within the new graveyard site along with some suitable meadow-style planting in appropriate areas. The Council will have introduced a memorials policy by then and applicants are welcome to take advantage of this with regards to loved ones interred in the cemetery.

Tech & Technology

The Parish Council website was installed at the start of last year and by the end of 2021 the website will have been adjusted to further improve accessibility.

It will be easier for residents to find the things that interest them most, and provide a record, with links via regular *Messenger*, Facebook and other social media channels so people can be notified of interesting content in a way that best suits them.

Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch

If we can see volunteers coming through to support appropriate initiatives then this will be helpful.

Communications

A new regime has been introduced with regular postings on Facebook and Twitter and updates on the website coupled with regular articles in the *Messenger*.

The Parish Council recognise the importance of regular, multi-channel communication both to explain what it is doing but also to seek feedback and advice. This two-way communication is vital and the village can expect several consultations to align its priorities.

Policy & Scrutiny

A number of administrative policies have been reviewed and policies will be introduced or revised as appropriate in line with government legislation.

Human Resources

A thorough HR review was undertaken resulting in useful savings in cost and good use of our two Clerks' time.

The village is dependent on volunteers for much of its work, whether this is in the organisation of projects or litter picking or maintenance and support to give some examples. This will need to be reviewed as we go forward in order to provide the resource for all we would like to do in the village.

Sports Development & Management

The Multi Space Games Area (MUGA) is now under construction and will provide an excellent facility for a range of sports, and with increased use of the grass-based sporting facilities and the launch of the new MUGA in June 2021, access should be fair to all with opportunities for all relevant sports.

Good facilities management is highly correlated with good financial management. The council will therefore ensure it keeps reserves dedicated to the replacement costs of facilities at their expected end-of life. It is essential that we do not let recent investments degrade over time.

For a small village we have a set of facilities that many might envy and it is important there is partnering and sharing of standards.

Thanks

My thanks go to our Councillors who are making all this happen. There has been some great teamwork.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

This was held on 5 May following the Annual Parish Meeting

The current Chair was re-elected for a further year and Councillor Paul McPhater was elected as Vice Chair. A review of activities and responsibilities embracing various portfolios was agreed.

Following discussion it was decided to hold an in-person meeting with a minimum quorate number of Councillors at the normal date and time next month (June) with matters discussed publicly on Zoom on the preceding Monday evening. A decision regarding future meetings will be agreed at that meeting. Please see the website for further details.

Planning:

21/01328/FUL: White Wings, 2 Gog Magog Way, Stapleford

Demolition of existing dwelling and detached garage and erection of 1 x dwelling house and detached garage together with associated landscape enhancements: *Concerns: in Conservation Area; highways safety audit required; tree and hedge protection; impact on street scene; contractors to park on site*

21/01378/HFUL: 45 Bury Road, Stapleford

Single storey rear extension

21/01435/HFUL: 22b Mingle Lane, Stapleford

Construction of a garden pavilion/ outbuilding

Hospice Bistro back open

THE Arthur Rank Hospice Charity on Shelford Bottom has reopened its bistro to the public.

Quiz Answers

I DID warn you they were annoying.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. An envelope. | 6. A stamp. |
| 2. 12 - they all do. | 7. The letter 'e'. |
| 3. Short. | 8. Ton. |
| 4. Second. | 9. Incorrectly. |
| 5. They weigh the same. | 10. Mary. |

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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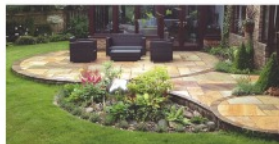
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