

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

July 2021

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Hundreds have their say

Busway crunch time looms

Page 27

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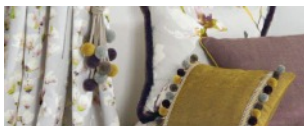
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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish priest

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate

Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

Churchwardens

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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

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PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Vergar

Clare Kerr 842984

Sacristan

Peter Green 500404

Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

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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 Communion, Services of the Word, Messy Church and Forest Church

2pm Sunday Praise

4.30pm Connect

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

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

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish priest.

Stapleford MESSENGER

Editor

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

WE are some way off the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, but now well into that of bangers and barbeques. Which is a Good Thing, the great British sausage being a prince among foods.

Marvellously timed to go with the season, the first rhetorical shots in the Sausage Wars have been fired. Like the War of Captain Jenkins' Ear, this dispute is about access to markets, and has been whipped up years after the critical events.

That dispute started in the 1720s. The Spanish would not allow British ships to access its markets in South America. In 1731 Captain Jenkins' ship was stopped by Spanish coastguards, and, so it was claimed, they cut off his ear. Not much happened until in the late 1730s when public opinion was whipped up against 'European entanglements' in British trade, and Jenkins' ear was held up, metaphorically or actually (unsubstantiated legend being that he produced it before a Parliamentary committee), as an example of Spanish wickedness. The subsequent war ran from 1739 to 1746. Notwithstanding its amusing name it involved seriously violent conflict and resulted in Britain losing trade and territory.

I hope the current trade dispute is less bloody and ends more favourably, but it is noteworthy how public opinion is now being whipped up about events that took place years ago, for the current dispute is a consequence of the UK's decision to leave the single market flagged in Theresa May's 'red lines' speech in January 2017.

The EU position is that it has the sovereign right to control inward trade. No-one disputes that. The tricky issue is where the border between the EU and the UK should be, given that free movement and trade between Northern Ireland and the Republic is so important to peace. That, of course, was the subject of the Northern Ireland Protocol, part of the treaty arrangements between the UK and the EU. As part of that deal NI was to remain in the EU single market when the rest of the UK left.

Now, did you know that the Protocol negotiations specifically covered sausages? Well, meat products. Try googling 'Application of Union Law related to meat products in Northern Ireland after the end of the transition period'. What the UK is meant to be doing until the end of June (a six month period of grace after the transition period) is ensuring that meat products entering NI do so through a designated channel to a known destination supermarket, and that they are labelled to be sold for consumption in NI only. That was the UK's unilateral declaration on 17 December 2020 as to what it would do, accepted as appropriate on the EU side. Pretty simple, and

we have sort of complied.

But from 1 July chilled meats from the UK cannot enter the EU single market, because there is no further agreement in place. The EU, anticipating the divergence of standards that will take place, doesn't want sausages, or, for that matter, cars, medicines, livestock, pets, plants etc, crossing from 'third countries' into the EU without EU-acceptable standards locked into place. In that sense, the sausage dispute is just a proxy for other disputes. There is no longer free UK access to the EU market. British politicians might not like it, but the EU has a point. If, for example, a trade agreement with the US meant that British chilled meat products might contain genetically modified wheat the EU position is, rightly or wrongly, that it does not want them. In any event, that is what the UK agreed.

As I say, all this flows from the red lines of 2017, but Brexiteer politicians have difficulty grasping it. To them the EU actually following through and expecting compliance with the 'oven-ready' agreement is 'legal purism' (that is now, apparently, a Bad Thing in international relations), 'nonsensical', and 'bonkers', and the EU has 'no case whatsoever' and is being 'legalistic and inflexible'. The Prime Minister has said, astonishingly, 'The Protocol was a compromise. We did not expect the EU to take a purist approach when implementing it.' The startling thing is that none of those now decrying the EU's stance admit – they must surely know? – that the EU is simply looking to the UK to implement its agreement on what it would do.

Jesus had something to say about the relationship between the Sausage Wars and the wider dispute for which it is a proxy, and it illustrates neatly why the EU is digging its heels in and not just agreeing that the UK can extend the grace period for chilled meats.

Jesus said 'Whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.' He was right. Political dishonesty about the agreement in relation to chilled meats does not bode well for the implementation of the rest of the NI Protocol or the Withdrawal Agreement. We all know this principle in our own lives. When someone makes you lose trust in them over something small that loss of trust carries over into bigger things. Our character is something we carry with us in matters large and small.

When Jesus said this his critics sneered at him. His response? 'You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts.' We would do well to remember this. In any context, whatever lies, half-truths and distortions we might mouth for others to hear and to justify our own positions, God knows our hearts.

Every blessing to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

THE church ceiling is being repaired and restricting what we can do inside (see page 5), so this is all a bit provisional. Check standrewstapleford.org for updates.

4 JULY	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
11 JULY	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD John 17 <i>Living in Love and Faith 5 - Life Together</i>
18 JULY	9 am	SUNG CW COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SERVICE OF THE WORD Ephesians 2.11-22; Mark 11.27-12.12 <i>By what authority?</i>
	10.30 am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
25 JULY	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD Ephesians 3.14-21; Mark 12.13-17 <i>Giving to Caesar and to God</i>
1 AUG	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG CW COMMUNION Ephesians 4.1-16; Mark 12.18-27 <i>He is the God of the living</i>
	10.30 am 6 pm	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION BCP EVENSONG

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

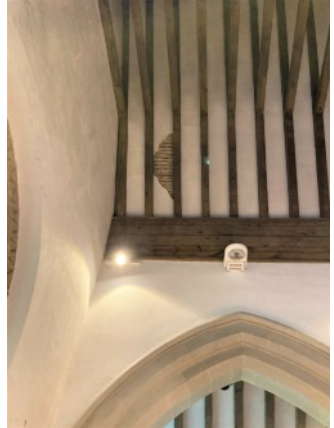
Funeral

9 June: Adrian Halliwell

London Bridge is falling down

WELL, it is not actually.

But the church ceiling in the nave – the main part of the church - is showing signs of its age. Over the last couple of decades there have been occasional falls of plaster needing patch repair, but with a further fall last week we have now had two in the space of a year. It feels as if the ceiling is trying to say it has had enough, which is not surprising as (we think) the last major repair was probably in the 1870s. The construction is lathe and plaster, and the plaster is now very dry and is pulling away from the lathes. When there is movement this can lead to cracks and falls. Last year the fall occurred during organ practice after the church had been shut for a while. I never liked Messiaen anyway. And the recent fall was just after the weather had changed from very cold and wet to very hot.



We are on the case. The plan is to put up temporary safety netting (very unobtrusive, but still not a permanent solution) while we consider the options and fund raise for a long term mend. To replicate the present construction will cost around £100,000. There is a possible cheaper modern solution – still probably around £70,000 – but it is only just now being tested out in another church, so we would like to wait and see a little before plumping for that. It would be good to find a way of doing the work that will last for another century plus. In any event, we will be coming round with the begging bowl in due course if you would like to contribute. Your church needs a safe ceiling!



In the meantime – and this is the bad news – we feel that we have to shut the nave. The chance of a fall hitting someone is low, but if that happened it could cause significant harm. We are taking the steps necessary to get safety netting up as quickly as possible, but in the meantime, we won't be holding services in the nave. Small services can take place in the chancel, and the chancel will remain open for private prayer as it was during the pandemic, but other services will take place outside or at other venues. Updating info will be on our website at standrewstapleford.org. **Simon Taylor**

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Botanic bounty and beyond

THE Botanic Gardens have offered much to us, but COVID stepped in the way and stopped play for a while. Being reacquainted has been an absolute joy. Our recent visit proved special. Ox-eye daisies, corn flowers and poppies were resplendent; the scene picture perfect. Serene idyllic, under bright blue sky studded with fluffy white clouds. Across the flower swathes paths of grass were left inviting wandering and photographic opportunities. Beautiful; magical. The white wonder, clear, clean and pure made a spectacle of pleasure for positive acclamation. Delicate lace work speckled with royal blue tissue papery cornflowers and splendid scarlet poppies looked quietly proud.



Tempted onwards we came across plants that open at different times of day. Zingy tangerine coloured poppies made an impression. Denim blue neat flowers resembling buttons swayed gently in the light breeze. Cream petals of a plain linen shade toned. Close by roses drew our attention. We sniffed heady perfume. Ruby red blooms revealed tightly packed petals like swirled skirts. We were reminded of Wakehurst, Brodsworth, and Sudeley Castle gardens. Two roses impressed: climbing Victorian-like dazzling damson specimens and the soft yellow slightly blushing Peace variety. A favourite appears in Anglesey Abbey, an opulent orange named Lady of Shallott. Yet the wild pink dog rose has a place in my heart from childhood enchantment. Our treasured Magog Down must not be forgotten...

We both recollect herbs and spices. As we run hands through the scented plants, recognising textures, colour and shapes we pick aromas; stimulating senses. Lemon, lavender, even curry.

Buttercups and cowslips now gone, long grasses grow. Trees seem content in a thick pile carpet. We note the flourishing Hungarian oak with large leaves. Sadly the Cambridge oak struggles. Wimpole has a turkey oak near the folly - very different from any other. Cedars and redwoods intrigue. With fond memories of America it is lovely to see them, statuesque and imposing. We have stories to share of sequoia groves.

Lunch eaten by the lake, the scenery was of magnificent strong greens. Dabbling ducks displayed around water lilies. It struck us that no muntjac deer had appeared. Each visit is different. Familiarity does build confidence and trust; reassuring and encouraging for the future. Reflecting, reviewing, remembering, sharing in time and space is a gift to cherish in the great outdoors. **Judith and Stephen Lee**

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Forest Church

FOREST and church. Two words that came together in the darkness of the pandemic and sparked light into our community.

It is said that “necessity is the mother of invention”. Who knows whether we would have tried Forest Church without the pandemic, but many of us are very glad we did and certainly don’t want to stop now, just because social distancing is beginning to ease.

So what’s the big idea? As you’ll see in the picture (right), it’s a church service held in the churchyard. A mix of singing, praying, the teachings of Jesus and topical craft activities. Forest Church is about real life. It’s relaxed and informal. But it’s also warm, uplifting, welcoming and inspiring. It’s a place where we can find forgiveness, connection, encouragement and strength to go on.



We met through the winter when we were allowed to do so. At 2°C, we certainly appreciated the fire. Social distancing was much easier with so many layers of insulation! Now that the weather is warmer, the 1,000-year-old churchyard is a beautiful place to meet. Many people who wouldn’t normally come to church have given it a try and loved it. Sometimes 60 or 70 people, spread out to keep everyone safe.

Forest Church is led by Clare Coates, St Andrew’s Curate, and Sue Brown, our children’s leader. We meet on the first and third Sundays of the month at 10.30am. Next dates are 4 and 18 July. Regular attendees range from newborn babies to people in their 80s and 90s. You would be very welcome to come along. If you would like to try it, please let Gillian our Parish Administrator know (admin@standrewstapleford.org).



St Andrew’s is a church for the whole community. You’ll find a wide range of services and group meetings throughout the month. Indoor services continue, with a familiar mix of singing, praying and teaching, and with careful social distancing. Something for everyone. **Alastair MacGregor (Church Warden)**

From the Messenger News Team

IN these pandemic-ridden times in which preoccupation with one's own health has become the norm even those with underlying health conditions have been looking elsewhere. It is in this context that I would like to recount a series of happenings which I experienced a few weeks ago. These events have definitely brought me closer to God. I hope the readership won't take this tale as any way heretical, just a reflection of my gratitude to all concerned.

As some of you are aware, I was diagnosed with Idiopathic Parkinson's Disease more than 20 years ago. My initial symptoms were typical: a minor tremor of the left hand and a tendency to drag my left foot. Treatment with dopamine agonists and Madopar resulted in amelioration of symptoms but over time produced postural instability and marked dyskinesias i.e. a tendency to fall. This resulted in my consultant neurologist suggesting Deep Brain Stimulation, a complex surgical procedure (not for the faint-hearted to even read about) in which a sensor is implanted in the chest and electrodes in the appropriate parts of the brain. This provides a current which mitigates the dopamine requirement, thereby increasing stability and reducing dyskinesias.

On Monday 17 May I awoke feeling unusually flustered and hot. Also, I had a marked right-sided tremor. The situation was Kafkaesque. There I was, utterly unable to get out of bed; my coordination was very poor. Various unhelpful thoughts raced through my mind. Was I fated to be like Gregor Samsa, who could only act as a helpless bystander in his transformation in *'Metamorphosis'*?

My sense of timing could not have been worse. After not having been to London for months, my Other Half had gone there that very morning. Our daughter, Sarah, had her Maths A-level exam the next day.

After having called her at the top of my voice, Sarah helped me get out of bed. By now I was terrified. Had I had a stroke? Calls to 911 and my GP followed. Paramedics visited and took blood samples.

What I am totally unable to convey is the depth of my anxiety, which I attempted to hide, failing miserably. Having been advised to contact my consultant we did just that, fixing up an appointment at the Functional Neurosurgery Clinic for 1.30pm.

Pulling up outside the clinic, I found walking a real effort. After lurching around for a while I was advised by a couple sitting outside to use a wheelchair.

Two minutes later, we were in my consultant's room, which felt

oppressively sombre. I was gripping the wheelchair convulsively, dreading what was coming next. My face was by now frozen in some grimace - a fear-induced expression and a reflection of my deteriorating condition.

What followed has to be considered almost Biblical in nature, at least by me. It turned out that my sensor had become deactivated - to my infinite relief, a certain cause. This required a patient controller 'wand' in order to reactivate it. I had one but it was faulty as supplied. Fortunately my doctor could use his and the virtually instant and total amelioration elicited such a sense of relief and joy that I simply cannot find the words to adequately describe. A miracle of modern medicine might be one way to put it.



The instant he reactivated my sensor, my face lost that frozen feel and became expressive again. A couple of minutes later after a couple of handshakes (or rather the knuckle bumps that pass for that social convention) I levered myself out of the wheelchair and walked unaided to the clinic exit.

Then I decided to jog back to the car - to the stupefied amazement of the couple who

had suggested using the wheelchair.

Sadly, this miracle did not spill over into my golf game the following morning... Still, I thank God for my being able to participate.

Enjoy the July Edition, Simon Hardwick PhD.

Mothers' Union News



THE Branch has two events to look forward to in July: on 15 July we are hosting Milton MU to a Pudding Party in the afternoon from 2.30 pm to

4 pm in the Johnson Hall, when we shall serve puddings and coffee for our guests. This event was cancelled last year due to Covid restrictions.

Then on 25 July, the Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union is holding a Garden Party in the grounds of the Bishop's Palace in Ely, from 3pm to 5pm - the first Diocesan event of the year. Let me know if you'd like to go so lifts can be arranged. **Hilary Street**

Raising awareness of ovarian cancer



WE have continued to hold Zoom talks once a month instead of our meetings in the Johnson Hall. In May we heard all about the Tower of London from an excellent speaker called Siobhan Clark. Did you know the ravens have one of their wings clipped to ensure they don't fly very far? I can imagine them going

round in circles like my first and only outing in a canoe. In June we heard from Julie Bounford about the history of Heffers bookshops in Cambridge, which thrived for 120 years before being taken over by Blackwell's in 1999. Lots of tales of eccentric customers and social history from an expert in the field. She has published several books, including one about Heffers.

In July we hope to see Paul Couchman, the National Trust's Regency Cook, who cooks desserts and other dishes from 19th century cookbooks.

We have also been meeting socially on the Rec. for coffee and cake, all safe and Covid-secure. By the time you read this we will know what lockdown restrictions there are still, and therefore when we can start holding our regular meetings in person.

You may recall the WI campaigns about all sorts of issues. Recent topics have included threats to bees, plastic waste, modern slavery, mental health, cervical smear testing, and rural bus services.

The current campaign is to raise awareness of ovarian cancer. *Every two hours in the UK someone dies of ovarian cancer. Making sure GPs and the public know what to look for will not only ensure the early detection and treatment of this disease but transform lives today and for generations to come. WI members are called to help increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.* It is one of the most common types of cancer in women, mainly affecting those who have been through the menopause.

- The symptoms of ovarian cancer include: feeling constantly bloated; a swollen tummy; discomfort in your tummy or pelvic area; feeling full quickly when eating; and needing to pee more often than normal.
- The earlier ovarian cancer is diagnosed the easier it is to treat and so public awareness and understanding of the symptoms is really important.
- However, because the early signs of ovarian cancer are similar to conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome, and pre-menstrual syndrome, it is often not diagnosed until it has spread and a cure is not possible.

All best wishes, and please contact Sallie Dixon if you'd like any more information about the WI, on 843847. Also see staplefordwi.weebly.com.

Helen Hale

Yesteryear

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

1807

DIED. Yesterday se 'night died, Mr. Jonathan Freeman of Stapleford, the most prominent features of whose character were, a sincere devotion to the Supreme Being, and universal love to all mankind.

1827

DIED. Mr. John Tregonwell Collier, an opulent and respectable farmer, of Stapleford.

1843

SCHOOL. Rose Cottage, Stapleford. Miss Hardy respectfully informs her friends and the public that the duties of her School will re-commence on Thursday, the 20th July. She has vacancies for two or three Pupils under twelve years of age. References if required.

1895

FIRE. An alarming outbreak of fire occurred here on Friday evening last. About 9.30 p.m. flames were observed rising from premises occupied by Mr. Knights of the "Tree" Inn. Four pigs were burnt to death and also several fowls. In a house adjoining lived a bed-ridden old woman, who was removed with difficulty. By the plucky efforts of the villagers the fire was kept within bounds, the only property destroyed being two old cottages, stables, shed and barns. The incident pointedly illustrates the need for some arrangement for dealing with an outbreak of fire in the village.

1907

BEHAVED LIKE A MADMAN. At the Cambridge Division Petty Sessions on Saturday, Walter Pearce, aged 30, a labourer of Stapleford, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly on the highway at Stapleford on July 16th. Defendant pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a fine of 5s.

1943

"THERE was an ENSA concert in the Institute. Oh dear, without wishing to belittle their efforts it really was an example of Every Night Something Awful, so much so that I have never forgotten it." *Margaret Collins*

1970

GARDEN PARTY. The Chestnut Club had a perfect summer afternoon for their garden party held at Stapleford Hall. As the sun was so hot members were happy to sit in the shade of the trees and admire the beautiful garden, and the games arranged – which necessitated moving about – were abandoned. A pleasant afternoon ended, after tea, with thanks to Mr and Mrs Crook, the host and hostess for the welcome they had given.

Stapleford PTA

A HUGE thank you to everyone who kindly bought plants from our plant stall in Hawthorne Road, and to Eri for donating the proceeds from her own stall. Together, thanks to your generosity, we raised £160.30 for Stapleford PTA. **Debbie Mack**

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.



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

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.

The Cam from Mill Pool to Baits Bite

A Talk by Mike Petty



AT one time there were three mills using the flow of water into the Mill Pool on the River Cam and this was also the end of the river navigable by commercial barges.

As the colleges grew and also the population of the town increased, large amounts of coal and food were brought to Cambridge by travelling up the Cam from King's Lynn.

Mike illustrated a journey down the river from the Mill Pool with a series of photos and drawings of the bridges starting with Silver Street. The original wooden bridge was replaced with a cast iron bridge in the 19th century but the unstable banks caused cracking and in 1957 the present stone bridge was built.

From early times there were two other crossings which still exist today. These are at Garret Hostel Lane and Magdalene Street. The other bridges belong to the colleges.

Travelling down the Cam from Silver Street the first college bridge is known as the mathematical bridge at Queens', followed by King's College bridge and then Clare bridge which is the oldest still used bridge in Cambridge, opened in 1640 and is Grade 1 listed.



Next is Garret Hostel bridge followed by Trinity bridge and Trinity kitchen bridge and St. John's Bridge of Sighs (above) which is enclosed because this was the first college with buildings on both sides of the river.

Continuing down river, Magdalene bridge is next and it was another cast iron bridge. This too was cracking under the movement of the banks and the volume of traffic but as one of the remaining cast iron bridges in the country it was reinforced in the early 1970s and is now Grade 2 listed.

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Barges came as far as this bridge pulled by horses along a towpath but the towpath ended here and barges had to continue upstream with a bargee riding a horse up the middle of the river.

The draining of the Fens led to the formation of the Conservators of the Cam in the 1790s with responsibility of maintaining the river level which was done by creating locks at Jesus Green and Baits Bite (pictured below).

The Victoria Road bridge was a completely new bridge opened in 1890 to link the growing population of Chesterton with Cambridge. The last new bridge opened was in 1970, on Queen Elizabeth Way.

The coming of the railway led to the rail bridge across Ditton Meadows. Footbridge/cycle bridges replaced the ferries at various points and the 20th century commercial boatyards gradually changed over to pleasure craft.

One other interesting bit of information was that in the 18th century a canal linking London and Cambridge was planned in order to avoid the long route round the East Coast and down the Cam. However, the coming of the railway put an end to this idea. **Keith Dixon**



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Reservoir blogs

THE lake at Dernford Quarry is a popular venue for walkers, especially those with dogs, but a desire persists to turn it into something rather different.

Land owners Russell Smith Farms, who are based at Duxford, have joined up with the Caravan and Motorhome Club to suggest creating an entity known as South Cambridge Water Park.

The southcambridgewaterpark.co.uk website promoting the idea describes it as a “community country park with camping and caravanning facilities”.

An introduction reads: “The long-term vision for the site is to provide a new location for outdoor leisure and recreational activities, supported by a holiday accommodation scheme, all of which is to be sensitively landscaped and provide a new and enhanced habitat for local flora and fauna.”



The site to the south of our village towards Sawston, would be expanded to a total of around 120 acres and split into a number of sections.

The largest of these is the one designated Zone F on the map - an “outdoor event space” of almost 30 acres which would be a camp site, including for triathlon events. An outdoor cinema could also be situated here, with food festivals another possibility.



The website adds of Zone F: “There will be scope for a variety of ancillary sport and recreation facilities, which could include a bowling green, gym, sauna, tennis courts, all-weather courts (for football), farm shop and associated parking.”

Zone B is also of significant size - 16 acres - and this is where the main camping and caravanning area would be, complete with toilet block and office space.

Zone A is described as providing “accessible multi-user pathways suitable for wheelchair users” and a boundary round the northern section comprising of “native trees

and shrubs such as hawthorn, blackthorn, crack willow, guelder rose, dog wood, oak and field maple”.

Zone D - which is rather small - has been designated as a wetland



habitat area, while Zone E is billed as a “managed area of reptile habitat landscaped and planted with appropriate scrub and wildflower grassland species”.

Zone G is described as a “County Wildlife Site”.

Robert Giles Russell Smith

and Michael James Russell Smith urged residents to let them know their thoughts via the website.

In a joint letter, they wrote: “As a result of the coronavirus limiting people’s movement far from their homes, and with many more people now working from home, there has been a huge surge in the popularity of the site, often resulting in many hundreds of visitors each day.

“Russell Smith Farms as the landowners embrace this use and want to see the public continuing to enjoy the space, but we are now regularly receiving calls to increase policing, monitoring and cleaning of the site. We have done our best to address these calls, but it has reached a point where it is becoming costly to manage both in terms of time and money, as well as potentially presenting health and safety issues.

“As such, there is a need to formalise the operation of the site. Russell Smith Farms are extremely keen to see the local community continue to enjoy recreational activities at Dernford, and it is our belief that with restrictions on travel likely to remain in place for some time, and the desire for people to holiday in the UK rather than abroad, that popularity will only increase.

“By providing open space combining sporting and recreational activities for all generations, we believe will also hugely benefit both mental and physical health.

“It is therefore our intention to apply for planning permission for a



caravan park in conjunction with the Caravan and Motorhome Club. As part of the caravan park, there would be further amenities that would benefit the local community. This would allow the site to become a safe, secure and well managed, offering the local community even more in the way of activities.



“We have received an overwhelming amount of support from local sporting and recreational bodies, including paddle boarding, tennis, open water swimming, and the Scouts, to name a few.
“Our vision is to create a community where biodiversity lies at the heart, offering the younger generation the opportunity to be better educated about the natural environment surrounding them.”

It is not the first time planners have had to consider Dernford; an application for 50 holiday lodges, an indoor tennis complex, four outdoor tennis courts, a fitness centre, bowling green, brasserie, public open space with footpath and cycleway was rejected in 2015 because the site is within the Green Belt.

What do Messenger readers think of the idea? Let us know via the staplefordmessenger@gmail.com email inbox.

Solar flair



THE sun was partially eclipsed by the moon on June 10 and Rob Ransom cleverly captured this image, via what he modestly calls “a rather primitive viewing telescope” once the cloudy skies over Stapleford had helpfully cleared just long enough.

The eclipse started at 10.07am in this country and saw a fifth of the fiery orb briefly obscured in southern England. The next one in the UK occurs on 25 October next year.



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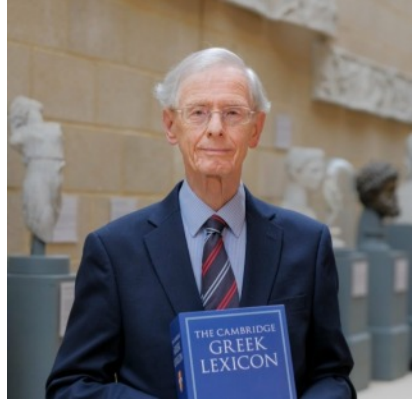
IN a project lasting 23 years (which involved reviewing the whole corpus of Ancient Greek literature), Professor James Diggle of Queens' College has published the 'Cambridge Greek Lexicon'.

This 1,500-page work is intended to replace Liddle and Scott's Intermediate Greek-English Lexicon – a slimmer version of their 116,000 word dictionary, known to thousands of classicists as 'Great Scott'.

Professor Diggle is the son of Alice and Jimmy Diggle, who used to live in Bury Road – both were stalwart members of St Andrew's congregation, Jimmy often acting as verger when necessary, and Alice a longstanding member of Stapleford Mothers' Union.

All the racier and cruder language of the original Greek has been translated (euphemised by the Victorian HG Liddell and Robert Scott to spare blushes) so this is the first fresh look at Ancient Greek for 170 years.

So congratulations to Professor Diggle, a Life Professor at Queens', and also a Fellow of the British Academy. Alice and Jimmy would have been very proud. **Hilary Street**



Local lad on Radio 2



PETER Dean, pictured left and from Great Shelford, writes:

On 8 June I chose the Steve Wright Oldies on his Big Show on BBC Radio 2.

Some of the songs I chose you may remember - Donna Summer- Love's Unkind; Katie Melua - Nine Million Bicycles; Peter Gabriel and Kate Bush - Don't Give Up; The Waterboys - Whole of the Moon; and Lisa Stansfield - Been Around the World.

I mentioned to Steve that I live with my 89-year-old dad, Kenneth. I care for him whilst he gives me a home. I also do grass cutting for Stapleford church and write poetry and prose for pleasure and publication, including in numerous UK and Irish magazines and self-published books. I have also read my poetry on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire in the past.

If you want to hear Peter's oldies go to the BBC Sounds website.

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 96

Cambridgeshire and Suffolk: a circular walk from Horseheath

To get to start of walk

Take the A1307 past Linton and carry on, forking left for Horseheath village. Take the first left in the village and park next to the Post Office.

Length of Walk

A little under 4 miles. It will take about 1½ hours if you stop occasionally to take in the scenery.

OS Map

Explorer map 210. Or, as always, you can use footpathmaps.com or maps.the-hug.net for free map extracts. The route map provided is taken from the former.

Extra Information

Horseheath is close to the county boundary between Cambs and Suffolk. The name of the village goes back to Anglo



Saxon times and means either an uncultivated area used for rearing and grazing horses, or 'horse island' - a drier place above the prevalent marshes, where horses were kept. The modern-day point to point course at Horseheath is on the other side of the A1307. This is a form of jump racing held mainly on farmland rather than on professional courses.

Route of Walk

Walk along the pavement and turn right into Cornish Close. The footpath runs behind the tall plant screen to the left and can be accessed through gaps in a couple of places.

Carry on through a gate, walk ahead on the path and then go through another gate. The field beyond the second gate is huge. Walk on for a short time, looking for a path heading out across the field. Turn right on to it and then turn left on a cross path in the middle of the field. Carry on ahead until the top end of the field and turn sharp left on another cross path.

Keep on this path until a wide farm track is reached. Turn right on this and keep ahead, ignoring any side paths to the left. The track continues ahead and goes down a slope.

When it starts to swing right next to a small wood, an unsigned path will be seen crossing the field on the left, heading for another wood. Cross the field, go through the wood and carry on beyond, across the next field. This is the Cambs/Suffolk county boundary.

At the very far end is a copse of trees and the path meets a side road beyond the copse. Turn left and walk a short distance until, just beyond the trees to the left, a footpath sign can be seen.

Follow this path along the left hand side of the field until it swings right and meets a footbridge. Cross over and carry on down the left hand side of the next field. The path, which can be a bit overgrown, swings right and left then goes right at the far end of the field and enters a wood.

After a short time, it emerges into a large field and carries on across it. Walk ahead after the field, passing a cross path and carry on with a wood to the left. Beyond the far end of the wood, turn left on another cross path and walk to the wide farm track walked earlier. Turn right and, after a few minutes, take the next grass path going left from the track. This is at the end of the field, just before the first trees,

Carry on the grass path and go through the two gates seen earlier in the walk, returning to your vehicle via Cornish Close. **David Barnes**

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



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Stapleford says no - and now we wait

THURSDAY 3 June dawned dry and bright – a relief for organisers of the demonstration against the Greater Cambridge Partnership’s (GCP) plans to carve a concrete busway through greenbelt around Stapleford and Great Shelford.

Many hours of work by Stapleford Parish Council and other volunteers had gone into planning what to do and when, alerting local people to the demo, designing and producing banners and placards (with huge thanks here to Roger French), delivering leaflets, conducting a risk



assessment, and generating media interest. We hoped that 30 or so supporters might turn up but were overwhelmed as scores of people plus TV and local newspaper reporters began to collect at Stapleford Rec., so much so that we were obliged to confirm extra numbers with Sawston police! In the end, somewhere between 200 and 300 residents were present – there was no time for a more accurate count, we had work to do and interviews to record.

We know that some people were doubtful of the value of holding a demo on a working day during the half-term holiday, but we had first consulted with local media for their programme deadlines and others-in-the-know. The timing of the event was also designed to fit with key decision-making dates in the GCP’s diary: the GCP Joint Assembly, which advises the Executive Board, meets on 10 June and, on 1 July, the GCP Executive Board decides 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 and build a massive park-and-ride near Babraham to supply it with passengers.

Ramping up media coverage in the run-up to these dates is in turn intended to put pressure on council leaders to call upon the GCP to STOP, THINK and CHANGE its busway plans.

After gathering at the Rec. for photos, demonstrators proceeded up Haverhill Road past the 40 mph signs where the Cambridge South East Transport scheme’s busway will slice through greenbelt and significant



landscape views at the foothills of the Magog Down. Here, a BBC reporter recorded and filmed interviews with Cllr Jenny Flynn, which were subsequently broadcast on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and BBC Look East; a Cambridge News reporter spoke with Cllr Howard Kettel and Cllr Flynn, and then wrote a lengthy article for its online and hardcopy channels; and a photographer took shots of demonstrators gathered behind our enormous 'Save our Greenbelt' banner. Later on, ITV Anglia News filmed an interview with Cllr Kettel which featured in that evening's programme, and Cambridge Independent wrote a couple of articles which eagle-eyed residents might have

spotted in June.

Throughout, Jon West was on hand with his camera to record the day for the village and we are very grateful that he has made his photos available without restriction for Stapleford Parish Council to use. See if you can spot yourself in the pictures accompanying this article. **So, what happens next?**

Howard and Jenny are continuing to push the GCP to acknowledge and address critical failings in its appraisal, consultation and decision-making processes. Whilst this often feels like nailing jelly to the wall, we will not give up. We are haunting Local Liaison Forums and local council leaders', GCP Board Members' and the Mayor's inboxes; we have posed multiple questions which will be addressed at the GCP's Joint Assembly Meeting; and we are putting out press releases and regularly speaking to local reporters.

In all this we are indebted to Colin Harris of Cambridge Connect, Edward Leigh of Smarter Cambridge and James Littlewood of Cambridge Past Present and Future, and many, many others, for their ongoing support and advice.

There is more that residents can do, too.

Recent local elections have changed the make-up of the county's decision-making bodies,



including the GCP. New Board members have only days to get up to speed with the unsustainable and uneconomical nature of CSET before they must vote on its future.

So, we're asking everyone to please, please, please write before 1 July to the following council leaders and GCP Board members to register your concerns:

- lucynethsingha@icloud.com
- elisa.meschini@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
- lewis.herbert@cambridge.gov.uk
- Dave.Baigent@cambridge.gov.uk
- Cllr.BridgetSmith@scambs.gov.uk
- cllr.gough@scambs.gov.uk
- nik.johnson@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Many thanks in advance for whatever you can do. If you are in need of inspiration for what you might wish to write, please scroll through the News section of the Parish Council's website to the article published on 27 May: staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/news.

A final word...



IN addition to the embarrassment of hearing myself on the radio and seeing myself on television, my lasting memory of 3 June will be the camaraderie of the event.

As people turned up to support their village and protect their local environment, they unexpectedly met up with friends and acquaintances who, because of serial lockdowns, they had not seen for many months.

We were there to make a serious point to local leaders about how they had failed to value our greenbelt but,

in so doing, we rekindled something which cannot be monetised. Listen up, GCP: you can't measure community spirit in passenger numbers and benefit-to-cost ratios.

Councillor Jenny Flynn

Save our green belt

MICHAEL Antcliff from Hinton Way has composed a poem on the subject entitled Save Our Green Belt.

Residents rise up, let's hear your voice,
Protest to the GCP loud and long.
Show them that you have made your choice,
Your protests will continue firm and strong.

Whatever plans may lie concealed
As to the route of the guided bus,
Please, GCP, do not carve up our fields
That are so precious to all of us.

Stop, Think and Change to the old rail line,
So close to the village to fulfil our needs.
Please, GCP, just think of us, that will be fine.
The community matters, so do take heed.



In a sett of their own



FOLLOWING on from Fraser Grace's article about our local badgers in the May edition of the *Messenger* we thought it a good time to highlight the work of the South East Cambridgeshire Badger Group.

The group is run by volunteers and our aim is to protect badgers. We want to find out as much as we can about badgers in the area and record setts to build up a picture of distribution of the local badger population. We monitor setts to see if there has been any disturbance.

Having a record of the sett details, in particular whether it is currently used, is important evidence if there is unlawful interference with a sett. Badgers are a legally protected species, but sadly still very much persecuted. Also their setts are threatened by development, and information from the Badger Trust estimates that over 50,000 badgers a year are killed on the roads. You may well have seen several road casualties on the A1307 road around Wandlebury. On the positive side, we hope the number shows a good size population.

An important part of our group's work is to encourage the community to care and take an interest in badgers. We would love you to help us build the group's knowledge by letting us know about any local setts or road casualties. The latter can help us identify 'hotspots' which may indicate a previously unknown active sett nearby. The information can also be used by the Badger Trust as evidence for campaigning for the installation of preventative measures, such as wildlife tunnels, to try to limit the number of casualties where there is major development.

Our website cambsbadgers.co.uk has links to a form, or you can send us an email at info@cambsbadgers.co.uk. It really helps us if you can include a map grid reference or what3words so we know exactly where to look.

Even better, you may wish to join our group. New members are very welcome so please do contact us on our details above if you would like to join. We have training sessions for sett recording and other activities.

We are able to rescue badgers in some circumstances and we can give training for members from experienced rescuers. Our group does not rehabilitate badgers but we have contacts with local vets and wildlife centres so that an animal in need receives the most appropriate treatment. A cub was found dehydrated and after assessment we decided it was best for the cub for us to intervene. One of our group took her to a wildlife centre for rehabilitation. **South East Cambridgeshire Badger Group**

In praise of bovine belligerence

WRITER Fraser Grace heads north, and then focuses on pressing matters nearer to home.

IT was another fat and bearded man who said it first, but discretion really is the better part of valour. Falstaff's words rang in my ears as once again your correspondent dined with death.

A half-dozen mix of bullocks and freshly-ex-heffers had begun striding towards us. I'm not an experienced reader of bovine faces, but these seemed to project a very un-cow-like intensity. Never mind that we were on a footpath. Never mind that neither we nor the dog meant them harm. As their pace towards us quickened, as if by sympathetic magic my pulse quickened too – adrenalin, and the cows themselves, tipping towards a rush.

But what to do? Looking around there were limited options. The stile for which we were heading – the one I could just glimpse over the now-rolling shoulder of the biggest of the bullocks – was the final stile of our walk. Just beyond – visible but unreachable beyond cows and wall – was the safety of our car.

It had turned into a much more testing walk than anticipated. Late afternoon was already snug in its armchair when we set out – our aim, just a short walk to spoon up what sunshine still clung to the margins of the day – a day otherwise filled with zoomcalls and emails. Bliss was it in that dusk to be alive. The path though, had other ideas.

A rarity in the Dales, maintenance of this particular footpath had clearly not risen high on anyone's list of priorities. The well-marked stitch of dashes that crossed the map was fictitious. Signposts grew few and far between. One section we tried to walk through was so swamped by marsh it forced first one switch of route, then another – and now, late in the day, unpredictable and clearly unimpressed half-ton trampling machines were fixing their headlights on us, like runaway cars with target bias.

My first thought was to push on regardless. Cattle. You just face them down, right?

Most of my fleeting belligerence I now realise sprang from tiredness – and the rest from sheer irritation. It was not the cows who were at fault, but their owners. Not content with letting their duty of care lapse through lapsed signage, the farmer(s) had also loosed these fine creatures in a field through which walkers needed to walk. We, who were entitled to safe passage across 'their' land.

In my experience cows are normally no bother, and a mixed group – even if it contains bullocks – doesn't often prove troublesome. Even the

presence of a very small and inoffensive dog trotting at our feet- though it might cause any creature to snap to alert – would normally provoke nothing more than a wary glance. But, toss in the couple of calves we now noticed bringing up the little herd's rear – something precious to protect – and cows will react as any animal will: see off the intruder, debate the route of a footpath later.

Luckily for us, my second thought was statistical. Somewhere in the back of my mind, a Health and Safety Executive report was busily bleeping. Between 2015-16 and 2019-2020 the HSE investigated 142 incidents of cattle-related injury. *Only* 22 of them resulted in someone dying and the majority of those were people who worked with cattle. Members of the public accounted for *only* four of those deaths (my emphasis again) – as if that was reassuring. In addition, the HSE investigated 65 non-fatal incidents involving cattle and members of the public over the same period. The BBC News article from which I'd originally plucked those stats, reported the worrying example of a man who was out walking with his aged mother when they were attacked by cows – their net injuries being a broken arm for a lady in her 80s, severe bruising and many scratches to her son after he was sat on by a cow, and a dog that was trampled to death.

I quickly calculated that if our cows and their briskening pace were to spill into a gallop, we'd have no choice but to run for the nearest wall, loosing the dog to escape as best he could – and hope for the best.

Like Falstaff we chose discretion – and yet, in a very unFalstaffish manner, since our choice involved extra exercise. We backed off. Showing the cows we were no threat at all, we retraced our steps to a gate we'd passed a good ten minutes before. Then began the long slog up the road parallel to the fields. Finally we reached the sanctuary of the car – which was – happily enough – unmoved by the whole event. The cows meanwhile had stood themselves down, and were quietly chewing their cud, content a point had been made. The safe, sensible and undoubtedly irksome option had been the wisest.

By strange coincidence, a few hours earlier, and a couple of hundred miles south, another assorted bunch of normally docile mammals – human, this time – were likewise assembling in a field.

The peace of our village is being threatened by a barbarous intrusion. If the 'preferred route' of a proposed guided busway gets the go-ahead, a fourteen metre-wide band of tarmac and concrete will soon rip open the rising belly of the green belt land that preserves the village from absorption by the city. The *good* news is the former mayor (a big backer of the busway plan) is now out of office, and the County Council also has a new

administration. After some hasty post-election horse trading, it is led by those who should prove natural opponents of such abject environmental wreckage. An alternative route, along the path of a disused railway *should* now become the adopted route, if the busway project goes ahead at all. This precious bit of green belt will be preserved.

But nothing with planning is certain. And so, a large herd of protestors – approaching three hundred, in fact – turned out to make their objections clear. Many were young, but it's the place they live – literally, the earth beneath their feet – that this time needs protecting. There are badgers here, and countryside that has been farmed for hundreds if not thousands of years. The proposed route also runs adjacent to Magog Down, a place of rest and relaxation for people from all across the city. It must remain unspoiled.

We'll find out very soon if the council – and the quango set up to deliver these projects – has the appetite for a sensible piece of back-tracking – whatever their much pored-over plan tells them. Irksome for sure, but better than an act of reckless valour. Who knows how normally docile locals might react, if riled? **Fraser Grace**

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The moral of the story

ADRIAN Barnard from Vine Close has sent in this short story with a moral, which he originally used for the U3A Spanish class he teaches.

ABOVE the pueblo of Agua Dulce, a million stars surrender the night to the dawn. Fingers of light caress the foothills of the Sierra Madre. Then the tranquility is shattered by the arrival of Paco, who begins to hammer on the door of his apartment. Once the whole neighbourhood is awake, his wife Maria appears on the balcony.

M: What time do you call this? Where have you been?

P: At the match.

M: The match ended at 10.

P: It was a draw -so there had to be extra time.

M: Since when does extra time last twice as long as normal match time?

P: The ref's watch was slow.

M: You are drunk, Paco.

P: Darling, how can you make such terrible accusation?

M: Because Pablo's wife has just called me to say Pablo has been arrested for stealing an ambulance - and you are charged with being dressed as a nurse.

P: I think Pablo's wife is exaggerating a little.

M: How do you exaggerate the theft of an ambulance?

P: OK, whatever, let me in.

M: You have a key.

P: Yes. but there is no key hole in the door - so throw me down the lock.

By now, every balcony was full of neighbours who are following the latest episode of their favourite programme, better than any soap.

M: Tell the truth. After the police, what did you do?

P: I was only thinking of you, my beloved .

M: Of course you were! And how did this love manifest itself?

P: I went into a wood at great personal risk to myself to collect an enormous bouquet of the most beautiful wild flowers you could imagine.

M: Really Paco! And what great risk was this?

P: Don't make fun of me Maria. I could have been eaten by a lion.

M: A lion? A lion? We live in Mexico, Paco- not Africa!!

P: It was very dark - it could have been a tiger.

- M: A tiger! A tiger ! We live in Mexico Paco - not India! Or maybe you went to the zoo to bring me an enormous bouquet of beautiful wild flowers?
- P: Don't make fun of me Maria. I risked my life going into that forest for you.
- M: So it's a FOREST now!
- P: You are the love of my life. No jungle will stop me getting you the flowers you deserve.
- M: So it's a JUNGLE now!
- P: Never mind that . Do you want this magnificent bouquet of wild flowers that underline my deep love for you?
- M: You are both a liar and a thief!
- P: How can you be so cruel when I have taken the trouble to show my love for you?
- M: You are a liar because the nearest wood, forest, jungle is 50 kilometres away.
- P: But the flowers Maria. How do they make me a thief?
- M: Since when can you find a magnificent bouquet of recently plucked wildflowers in a flowerpot?
- M: Paco -the moral of this story is: when you are in hole, stop digging.

Stapleford – Nachingwea Link



THE Link Committee has good news to share! Following discussions with the Nachingwea Link Committee and our last Committee meeting, we have arranged financial support for the following three projects:

1. The first tranche of funding for the preparation of the building, provision of shelving and furniture and the stocking with books and computers for the Second Generation Library for Nambambo Secondary School, Nachingwea.
2. Neo-natal equipment for Nachingwea Maternity Hospital.
3. School uniforms and shoes for needy children in the classes for students with Special Needs.

Plans for the 40th Anniversary Link Celebrations are progressing. More details will be given in the August Messenger and on the Link's pages on the St Andrew's Church website, including booking arrangements for the lunch to be held on Bank Holiday Monday, 30 August.

A note for your diary is the Celebration Service at St Andrew's Church on Sunday 19 September. We look forward to seeing you. **Trish Maude**

Funding secured for new playground

THE team behind the Stapleford playground appeal were delighted to find out that the project has been awarded nearly £50k by the FCC Communities Foundation. This grant means that the playground refurbishment project will be able to go ahead in the next 12 months. Stapleford Parish Council had already pledged £20k from the Section 106 funds, so with the extra grant from the FCC, new playground equipment can be purchased and installed in the coming months, subject to contractor availability.

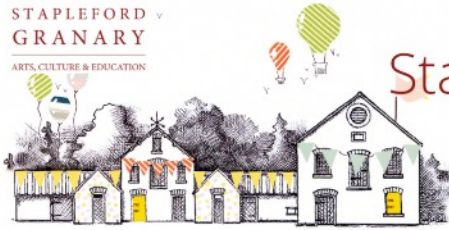
Gillian Pett and her team of local volunteers have also secured generous donations from the Stapleford community - nearly £2k from a JustGiving appeal, £1.5k from a South Cambs Community Chest Covid recovery fund, plus contributions from the Village Hall and Messenger funds. All of which will be used to overhaul the under-10s playground environment, adding benches, tables and other essential pieces of equipment along with the new slides, trampoline & climbing frames.

Gillian said: "It's fantastic news to have reached our fundraising target. We are so grateful to the FCC, the local funds as well as everyone else who has been able to contribute on a personal level. It's a real community effort." The team - Stapleford residents Rosie Brown, Rebecca Trigg and Beckie Whitehouse - will spend the coming weeks working with Gillian, planning and scheduling works with the relevant contractors, and the team will share news of progress at Parish Council meetings. **Rebecca Trigg**



Typical scope of works - final plan to be decided but this gives an overview of the vision for the playground. Style (colour, materials, design) varies between suppliers but spec (functionality, scope) is the same.

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WHAT'S ON IN JULY?

Sunday 4th July : STAPLEFORD VILLAGE DAY AT THE GRANARY [FREE ENTRY]

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SARA
DOWLING

Friday 16th July: SARA DOWLING QUARTET

Winner of the best jazz vocalist in the 2019 British Jazz Awards, Sara's music is intelligent, fearless and 'breathtakingly good'. Often guesting with Ronnie Scott's All Star Band, Sara is inspired by the classic American Songbook, Sarah Vaughan & Betty Carter.



JESSICA
WALKER

Saturday 17th July: GARY RYAN & CRAIG OGDEN

Two of the world's leading guitarists perform sparkling & imaginative arrangements that breathe new life into familiar repertoire. The concert includes Vivaldi's Concerto in D for mandolin, strings & continuo & Ryan's beautiful folk song arrangements.



GARY RYAN
CRAIG OGDEN

Friday 23rd July: JESSICA WALKER & JOSEPH ATKINS

A 'bewitching performer' (New York Times), singer-songwriter Jess Walker gives cabaret a unique contemporary twist. SONGS FOR OUR TIMES is an intimate, highly entertaining & unforgettable evening of musical storytelling including numbers by iconic cabaret stars Barbara & Jacques Brel.

Saturday 24th July: DENNIS ROLLINS & VELOCITY TRIO

Don't miss this infectiously thrilling trio founded by funk trombonist Rollins, featuring Pedro Segundo on drums & Ross Stanley on Hammond Organ.



DENNIS ROLLINS



RUTH APPLIN
QUARTET

Sunday 25th July: RUTH APPLIN QUARTET

Ruth's swinging piano & rich vocals evoke the golden age of jazz - a relaxed Sunday morning concert, inspired by Ella Fitzgerald & Nat King Cole alongside modern classics by Stevie Wonder & Adele.



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Saturday 31st July: PIXELS ENSEMBLE (clarinet, violin, cello, piano)

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Quiz time

THE quiz at the Three Horseshoes has been back in action for almost a month having successfully transplanted itself to every Monday night.

The winning team now receives £30 in drinks vouchers (and gets the opportunity to set the following week's quiz if it so wishes), with the runners-up receiving a box of chocolates.

Entry is £2 per team member, with half of the money raised going to a local charity and the other into a bonus pot, which each week's winner has a go at nabbing at the end of the quiz.

To get you back into the swing of things, here is the very first set of questions - Lockdown Lowdown - that greeted the comeback quizzers.

Answers on page 43.

1. Where was Dominic Cummings to be found on Sunday April 12 2020?
2. Two FA Cup finals were held in lockdown. Name the two clubs that lifted the famous trophy for a point each.
3. Whose staff were left in tears after being bought by Boohoo? 243 years of business ended in May this year although the name lives on online.
4. Joseph Allen Maldonado-Passage, who was born Joseph Schreiber, became a global TV star in 2020 under which name, for a point, and in which TV series, for another point?
5. Joe Biden beat Donald Trump in the most recent US presidential election. But which state did Biden represent for 36 years in the Senate?
6. Name the rock guitarist who died aged 65 in October. He was born in the Netherlands if that helps.
7. US policeman Derek Chauvin was convicted of murdering a man following an incident in May last year. What was his victim's name, for a point? And for another, where did it take place? I will accept either the city or the state.
8. Who defeated Kyren Wilson to win the 2020 World Snooker Championship? He is engaged to Footballers Wives actress Laila Rouass if that helps.
9. On 4 August a massive explosion at a port, sparked by the accidental detonation of 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, killed around 200 people and injured thousands of others. Name the city and the country in which this occurred for a point each.
10. Who served in the Fourteenth Army in Burma before going on to be appointed general manager of Cawoods Concrete Products Ltd in March?



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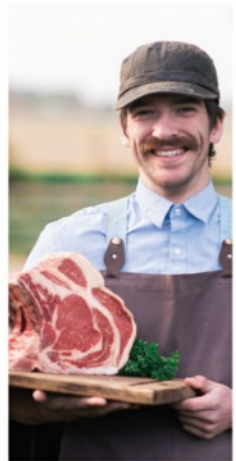
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Cricket clubs

STAPLEFORD'S Under-13 girl stars are continuing to enjoy a cup run in a national competition.

The village is set to host a Lady Taverners T20 regional semi-final clash with Oxford later this month after the girls added Thriplow and Nassington to their list of conquered opponents.

The Under-15s bowed out in their section of the competition, losing to a strong Thriplow side despite an unbeaten 32 from U13s wicketkeeper Freya West.

As for the Stapleford CC adult XI they have continued to impress - mostly - in Saturday afternoon action in the CCA Junior League 5 West.

James Badcock smashed 164 not out in a six-wicket home win against Cam Kerala that also saw James Beal celebrate a century - and James Badcock take four catches behind the stumps.

That was followed up by victory on Parker's Piece against NCI with James Badcock again making runs (71) and teenage talent Dylan Bose weighing in with an unbeaten 61.

Dylan took 3-16 in the next match as Sawston and Babraham were limited to just 102 but the winning run came to an end in the rematch with Cam Kerala that saw a Stapleford side minus Messrs Badcock and Beal demolished by a 199-run margin!

Stapleford Phoenix, the village's midweek T20 side, have finally made their Business House League debut. At time of writing the Phoenix have played two Division Three fixtures, losing one and winning the other.

The first was a low scoring affair at Bluntisham that saw the hosts limited to 124-5 thanks to 2-15 from Tim Harrison but the Phoenix could only muster 98 in reply.

Amends were certainly made the following week when the Royal Society of Chemistry were thrashed by 120 runs.

Dave Garman and Aidan Swain the top performers in an innings that also featured runs from Bruce Cairnduff, Niall Barber, Ralph Minter and captain Gareth Everson.

Home hopes of surpassing our total of 172-5 quickly disappeared when one opener ran the other out off the first ball and Stuart Creed had his replacement caught off the next.

Ralph then weighed in with a hat-trick to skittle the opponents out for just 52, with the run out batsman from earlier on the final victim. He had been allowed back to replace a fielder who had the misfortune to break a finger - trying to catch Ralph! **Jon West**



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Library news

IT has been lovely welcoming our customers into the library again and we do hope many of you are enjoying the opportunity to browse and choose your own books.

We also have some good news for you, from Saturday 26 June the library opening hours have been extended to:

Tuesday: 10am to 2pm

Friday: 2- to 6pm

Saturday: 10am to 1pm (new)

Summer Reading Challenge: this much anticipated challenge for children will be back again this year and will be running in the library throughout the summer holidays. Wild World Heroes, in partnership with The Reading Agency, is a special nature-themed challenge which promises to be another brilliant chance for the children to read some amazing books, collect some awesome stickers and learn more about how they can look after the planet! Children can enrol from Saturday 10 July. Listening sessions aren't possible, but children can collect their stickers during library opening hours. Further information is available in the library and online.

IT facilities: access to the public computers continues to be available by appointment only, with a limit of one 45-minute appointment per day per customer still in place. However, computer access is no longer limited to essential use only, so do make an appointment if you need the use of a computer for any reason. Booking can be made online, directly with library staff or by telephone 0345 045 5225.

The Library Presents - brochures for the latest 'The Library Presents' programme are now available in the library, so do collect a copy when you are next visiting. The full programme is also available online. **Rosemary Humby**

Quiz answers

1. Barnard Castle.
2. Arsenal, Leicester City.
3. Debenhams.
4. Joe Exotic, Tiger King.
5. Delaware.
6. Eddie van Halen.
7. George Floyd, Minneapolis/Minnesota.
8. Ronnie O'Sullivan.
9. Beirut, Lebanon.
10. Captain Tom Moore. He worked in March, Cambs for a while...



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Puzzle corner

Combination pairs

Example

NET [_ _ _ _] MEN
OFF [_ _ _ _] ING

becomes

NET [WORK] MEN
OFF [LOAD] ING

forming NETWORK and WORKMEN, and OFFLOAD and LOADING

And also WORK + LOAD makes WORKLOAD

Now try these

Answers on page 53

OFF [_ _ _ _]	LER	REC [_ _ _ _]	DUE
WIN [_ _ _ _]	ONE	MIS [_ _ _ _]	KEN
PIT [_ _ _ _]	PER	WAR [_ _ _ _]	SET
RAM [_ _ _ _]	ANT	DEC [_ _ _ _]	AGE
COM [_ _ _ _]	AGE	BAS [_ _ _ _]	PIN
RAP [_ _ _ _]	RAY	WOR [_ _ _ _]	PED
DEA [_ _ _ _]	ATE	OUT [_ _ _ _]	MAT
TER [_ _ _ _]	BOW	COM [_ _ _ _]	BOX
HOT [_ _ _ _]	NED	CON [_ _ _ _]	ITE
HER [_ _ _ _]	LET	SIN [_ _ _ _]	ONS

Cambridge Open Studios

CAMBRIDGE Open Studios makes a welcome return.

Three artists using different mediums will be at 33 Newton Road, Trumpington, CB2 8AL every weekend in July from 11am to 6pm.

The artists are John Pocock, George Melonoitis and Lucy Winter. Please come and visit us.

More information at camopenstudios.co.uk.





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2G3S



ON 8 July we 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 suffering 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 has a long history in biology, the environment, and teaching. He developed the first International GCSE in sustainable development, and 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 2G3S address below for a link to attend the meeting. For further related information see www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org/ and search for "precious water".

We also have another event in July, a Social Cycle Ride. If you are fed up cycling around by yourself or with your household, here's a chance to meet some new people and have a ride at the same time. Meet on Monday 12 July outside Stapleford Pavilion. We will take a 20 mile route, using quiet roads and interesting byways, including a cafe stop. We will travel at the pace of the slowest rider. Back at Stapleford Pavilion around 12 noon. Limited places - contact Yasmin to book, at greener@sawston.org

Two practical things you can do for the environment in July:

Last month I told you about an international campaign, Plastic Free July, which 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.

Why don't you sign the pledge and start reducing your single-use plastic consumption? There were some tips in the June issue.

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





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Another campaign you can sign up to is being run by Cambridge Sustainable Food, from Friday 16 July - Sunday 15 August. Have you heard of the Climate Diet?

A Climate Diet could help to transform the global food system. Developed by the International Eat Lancet Commission, it aims to achieve healthy and sustainable diets for nearly 10 billion people by 2050, whilst using considerably less resources than our Western diets.

The diet embraces plants as a source of protein, recommending at least 125 grams of beans, lentils, peas and other nuts or legumes per day, and a reduction in consumption of red meat/poultry/fish to an average of 70 grams per day.

A diet rich in plant-based foods and with fewer animal-source foods offers both improved health and environmental benefits. See cambridgesustainablefood.org/ to sign up, get tips, etc.

Simple things you can do to start the journey - little steps that are achievable:

- Replace the beef mince in a bolognese with soya mince or a couple of tins of lentils, adjusting the seasoning to taste
- Replace some of your cows' milk with oat milk (don't have almond milk, it uses so much water to grow the trees and make the milk, in a part of the US that suffers from severe drought)
- Try Meat Free Mondays

Climate Emergency Bill - you may have heard of this Bill, proposed by a cross-party group of MPs including Caroline Lucas from the Green Party. It goes further than the Environment Bill which will be discussed in this session of Parliament, by linking the reduction of carbon emissions to alleviate climate change with ecological balance/biodiversity loss - the two are interdependent. The Bill will plug various loopholes in current legislation eg carbon emissions from international shipping and aviation are not included in current figures for the consumption of goods by each country, so no-one "owns" the emissions.

Finding solutions to climate and ecological problems would involve Citizens' Assemblies, in which a cross section of the public is brought together, hears all about the science and facts involved from a range of experts, and then discusses and comes up with suggested ways forward. Their views would not be binding on Government but should inform Ministers' decision-making - democracy in action. There is an Open Letter being sent to our MP to ask him to give support to this Bill, as he professes to be environmentally concerned and has spoken about our local chalk



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streams and the strain on water resources by over-development in the area. To sign the letter and find out more, contact 2G3S.

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 in our meetings. Also see our Facebook page. **Helen Hale**

Granta Medical Practices

2021 Flu Clinics

IN the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, having your flu vaccination is more important than ever. It is important because if you are at risk from coronavirus, you are also more at risk of problems from flu. Additionally, if you get flu and coronavirus at the same time, research shows you are more likely to be seriously ill.

This year the flu vaccine will be given to people who:

- Are 50 and over;
- Have certain health conditions;
- Are pregnant;
- Are in long-stay residential care;
- Receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick;
- Live with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus;
- Frontline health or social care workers.

From **1 July** you will be able to book your flu jab and, as a Granta patient, you have the flexibility of choosing when and where you would like to go for your vaccination. Clinic dates are as follows:-

Saturday 11 September: Sawston Medical Centre/Shelford Health Centre/Linton Health Centre

Saturday 9 October: Sawston Medical Centre/Linton Health Centre

Saturday 23 October: Shelford Health Centre

When you ring to book your appointment, please state your preferred date, preferred venue and give your age so that you can be booked in for the most appropriate vaccine. Please note, we do not currently have dates for the child flu clinics as we are waiting on delivery information.

Did you know ... having your flu jab at your doctors' surgery is the quickest and most convenient way as there are no forms to fill out – the doctors and nurses have your medical history at their finger-tips.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. **Sandra East**, Head of Patient Services 0300 234 5555, sandra.east@nhs.net



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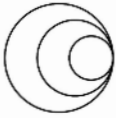
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From mild to mortal:

Unlocking the mystery of Covid 19 symptoms

6pm to 7.30pm, Wednesday 14 July, virtual event on zoom



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ONE of the mysteries of COVID-19 is the vastly different ways it can affect peoples' health. While one person may become seriously ill, another may carry no

symptoms at all. We'll explore how genomics is helping to understand our susceptibility to the virus.

This is a free event but booking is required - to register go to www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/online/covid-connections/ and search by date.

Barton Drama Group



WE are a local drama group that has successfully put on plays in Barton, for 40 years, and we are looking for new people to keep us going.

Like so many groups, we have suffered from a lack of people joining us. Like all groups, we need new people with fresh ideas and attitudes to keep the group alive.

With life starting to return to normal after the last year, we are reaching out to anyone who would like to be part of this friendly group. We try to do two plays a year, and hold numerous social events throughout the year for all members. We need actors, backstage helpers, committee members, directors, stage managers, anything in which you feel you would like to take part.

We have our AGM in July to plan the next year of the group, so if you would like to join us to keep this local group growing, have an interesting hobby and make new friends, please email info@bdg.website.

Puzzle corner - Answers

Combination Pairs

HANDSOME, OVERHEAR

STOPPAGE, HEADLINE

PASSPORT, KINGSHIP

RESTRAIN, DOORPOST

SPURRING, CORDLESS

The new MUGA: booking and use

AS promised last month, we are now able to publish details on how to use the new Stapleford Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

At the time of writing a few small outstanding tasks remain, including supplying some of the sport furniture (nets, etc) and finalising the electrical work so the gate and lights work in tandem. We had the “big dig” to plant hedges along Haverhill Road on 12 June to minimise light being a distraction to passing motorists. All that should be finished so we anticipate having been able to open during the week of 21 June at the earliest.

The first point to note with the new MUGA is that all access will be processed through an online booking system, which also has an app you can download onto your phone.

Our friends at the Tennis Club have allowed everyone to book the MUGA via their ClubSpark system - whether you end up being a member of the Tennis Club or not.

The booking system is key because it will process any payments required, provide you with an access code for the gate and turn on the lights if they are required for the time of your booking. Note that the lights will be seasonally adjusted, coming on late in the summer and earlier in the winter. The courts are open from 8am to 9.30pm every day of the week. People arriving by car should use the Pavilion Car Park. There are bike racks nearer the MUGA itself.

The second key point about the MUGA is in the “M” for multi. We now have the capacity to host tennis, five-a-side football, netball and even groups wanting to “shoot hoops” using the basketball hoop. In conjunction with the Tennis Club we have agreed a weekly schedule that will stay in place for one year but will be subject to review after that, once we determine actual usage, etc.

We have two “courts”. Court 1 can host Tennis, Football or Basketball. Court 2 is capable of hosting Tennis or Netball. There is a dividing net down the middle so balls should not escape into the other court and disrupt their play. The booking system will know what sport is possible when and you will see sports greyed out when it is not their day.

We have made it such that tennis is playable on at least one court every day, apart from Saturday. Saturday will be our “team sport” day and we encourage parents in the village to get their sons and daughters using the netball and football capacity on these days. In addition, football is also possible on Wednesday and netball on Thursday.

There will be no intra-day changing of courts' capabilities as we simply do not have the person-power.

Go to clubspark.lta.org.uk/StaplefordTennisClub/Booking to book a court or download the app "Booker" by Sportslabs Technology Ltd. Just select the date you want to play and then the time. The application will then take you through the simple steps to complete your booking. Pay to Play is available up to seven days in advance.

Note that Tennis Club Members do not have to pay for any Tennis play but will need to pay if booking for netball or football/basketball. Everyone needs to book courts to gain access to the facility. Non-Tennis Club members can simply use a social media account like Google to login and can book via the "Guest" facility.

For Pay to Play Tennis we will charge you £1.25 per half-hour, although there is a minimum booking period of one hour and a maximum of two hours. This will allow people to book the length of time that suits them but not to tie up courts for too long. For the other team sports the charge is £5 per half-hour with the same time limitations.

All these charges will be in place for year 1 but the Parish Council retains the right to adjust as it sees fit. The aim is to cover ongoing costs and ensure we keep aside a sum for the maintenance and renewal of the facility at a later date. Please note that booking regular recurring periods for football, netball or basketball (by clubs or associations) should be emailed to Cllr McPhater and the Clerk so they can be processed separately.

After booking you will get an email with your PIN code. This code is unique to your session and shouldn't be shared. Please only let you and your fellow players in when playing. Do not allow anyone else access to the courts as everyone should have their own code and those codes are recorded and monitored so we know who is on the courts at any given time.

The main gate has a keypad. Simply enter the four-digit code and firmly push open the gate. On leaving, please pause and ensure the gate properly closes behind you to keep the facility safe. If you notice any untoward activity please let our clerk know at clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk or, in extreme cases of vandalism or anti-social behaviour, just call the police as usual.

This has been a significant investment in our community using funds allocated to us via S106 payments from developers. We have taken those funds and created a real asset for the village. We hope it is something you can look to use and enjoy.

Links to the booking website will be available on Facebook and the Parish Council Website. **Paul McPhater**

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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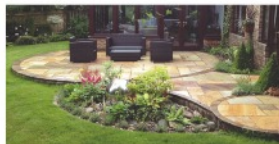
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