

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

October 2021

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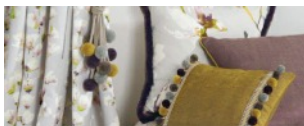
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# Who's who at St Andrew's

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

**Parish priest**  
 Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

**Curate**  
 Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

**Churchwardens**  
 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](http://standrewstapleford.org) for full details. The services include:

9am	BCP or CW Communion
10.30am	Communions, Services of the Word, Messy Church and Forest Church
2pm	Sunday Praise
4.30pm	Connect

## SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

### Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

### Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

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

## Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish priest.

## Stapleford MESSENGER

### Editor

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

### Advertising

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# From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

IN the film *In Time* the universal currency is time itself. The premise is that no-one ages after turning 25. They can continue to live, however, without aging any further, provided they have time left in the electronic counter implanted in their arm. So, when a factory worker finishes their day, their time is topped up – that is their wages. The poorest receive just about enough to buy a meal, using units of time deducted from their counter, and to exist to the next day. If someone's time runs out they die instantly; in the language of the film they 'time out'. One person can give another some of their time by holding the electronics in their arms together. In one harrowing scene a woman does not have quite enough time on her counter to pay for the bus home, where she knows her son will top her up, so she has to go on foot. The twist is that she does not have enough time left to get there. She calls her son. They both go as fast as they can, with her watching her own life count down. Her time runs out with him just steps away, and she collapses dead into his arms.



In the film that sort of moment-to-moment existence is contrasted with the lives of the super-rich. Some of them have counters showing millions of years of life, with more held electronically in their bank vaults. The most lucrative business is running time banks, which loan time at extortionate rates. The time-rich live in different 'time zones', areas of incredible luxury. These are separated from the ghettos by security barriers which can be crossed only by, you've guessed it, payments of time.

The point of the film is that there is plenty of time to go around for everyone to live hundreds of years, but it has been stockpiled and protected from those that need it most. The scene is set for revolution. Spoiler alert: the aim of the revolution is the equitable distribution of time.

I remembered this film – really worth seeing by the way – when I read that the founder of Amazon, Jeff Bezos, who has essentially infinite wealth, has invested heavily in a company whose aim is to reverse aging and achieve eternal life. A 'currently mortal millionaire', as one article put it, 'is too rich for one lifetime so he's trying to live forever.'

I wonder if Jeff spends much time contemplating the type of world he might inhabit, whether it is here on earth or somewhere his rocket takes him?

I am not at all sure that I would want eternal life if it just means being in this world as it is. It can be lovely, of course – we have just got back from another few blissful days on Iona – but it can be grim.

In his novel *The Great Divorce* C S Lewis reflects on the nature of heaven and hell. His vision of hell is not the traditional fire and brimstone but a rainy, drab grey town in which he introduces us to ghostly passengers waiting for a bus to arrive whilst bickering endlessly among themselves. The town itself is a joyless, friendless and uncomfortable place, with everyone despising the others and jockeying for position. It is so vast that it takes centuries to travel from one end to the other. Those in the queue who eventually choose to take the bus – driven by a Jesus-figure – are taken to the foothills of heaven. There is a warm welcome, with no qualification for entry, but in order to go forwards into heaven and not return to the town the passengers do have to be willing to leave their previous lives behind. That is the choice they face. Some do and some don't. Some want to hang on to their wealth. Others argue that the beautiful foothills are an illusion and heaven a con trick. Still others want to maintain their position or status, and leave when they realize others who they look down on are already in heaven.

For those who stay, the journey onwards to heaven becomes easier and easier as they become less ghostly and more real, and the beauty of heaven seems miraculously to work backwards in their lives so that their experience on earth becomes an experience of heaven; but for those who choose the town, even remembered joys are gradually erased as the drudgery, corruption and fears of the town come to dominate.

All of this is contingent on individual choice. The book is peppered with moments and conversations in which individuals make their decision. The question each faces is whether to return to the town with all its known downsides, and stay there forever in a ghost-like existence, or to leave those knowns behind and travel on to promised better, but unknown, things?

For Lewis, a man of deep Christian faith, this is the Bible's question too, and it is an important one for us. Like Bezos we can get rather hung up on how long we live, but for Lewis the more important issue is the nature of that existence. Time is not the limiting factor in our happiness. Bezos is squandering his money on something he already has. The issue is what his eternity is going to be like. Horrible, or wonderful?

To get a good answer to that question he – and each of us – need to turn to Jesus Christ.

**Every blessing to you all, Simon**

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

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

3 OCT	9am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30am	HARVEST FESTIVAL SUNG CW COMMUNION <i>Joel 2.21-27; Matthew 6.25-33</i>
	10.30am 6pm	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION BCP CHORAL EVENSONG
10 OCT	9am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30am	SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD <i>James 2.14-26; Matthew 12.1-14</i> <i>Faith &amp; deeds</i>
17 OCT	9am	SUNG CW COMMUNION
	10.30am	SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD <i>James 3.1-12; Matthew 12.22-37</i> <i>Praise &amp; curses</i>
	10.30am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
24 OCT	9am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30am	SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD <i>James 3.13-18; Matthew 12.38-42</i> <i>Wisdom from heaven</i>
31 OCT	9am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30am	CW COMMUNION FOR ALL SAINTS' <i>Revelation 21.1-6a; John 11.32-44</i>
	6pm	BCP CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SOULS' <i>Isaiah 65.17-25; Hebrews 11.32-12.2</i>
7 NOV	9am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30am	SUNG CW COMMUNION <i>James 4.1-12; Matthew 12.46-50</i> <i>Come near</i>
	10.30 am	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
	6 pm	BCP CHORAL EVENSONG

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

## FROM THE REGISTERS

12 September: Baptism of Benji Elbourne

22 September: Interment of ashes of Philip Johnson

## St Andrew's Choir Now recruiting

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# All creatures great and small

THE cheery Cows about Cambridge project is over; imposters gone. Now live cattle relax whilst we consider creatures great and small. The late lamented Peterborough Show gave us insight into breeds and size. Parades were spectacular, handlers often tested by wilful beasts. Watching careful preparation was enlightening; grooming precise and meticulous.

Each cow must look its best. Hosing down, back combing tails, brushing coats to emphasize shape and texture, adding glitter to enhance colour...we were educated. Best in Show was a highly sought award. Rosettes proudly displayed proved understanding and expertise, signs of quality. Livestock of all ages appeared unconcerned. Weighty, muscular bulls looked on magnificently haughty and proud. We liked the docile brown and white English Longhorn. Lengthy slender curved horns looked dramatic and dangerous. However, the tousled Belted Galloways sporting wide white bands round their ample girth were endearing. Shaggy-coated Aberdeen Angus, a leading breed we remember fondly. Wandlebury had some. Shire horses, usually black, bay or grey, won our hearts. Heavy, gentle giants, distinctive feathers whitened for effect when moving and displaying elaborately braided manes, charmed us. No need to show off.

Size, structure and power impressed. Seeing them at Wimpole Shows taking part in obstacle and relay races was memorable, dressage likewise. We remember Queenie, now over 20 and foal Lady aged 8. The youngster had problems now overcome. Large horses are quite different to the thoroughbreds in the show jumping arena. Coats richly gleaming, tails swishing, eyes and nostrils wide with enthusiasm, they proved speedy and agile. Man and beast understood one another and looked splendid. Also to admire was carriage driving and turn-outs; wagons, carts and drays; beautifully maintained. Softly bleating sheep reminds me of contentedly cuddling a lamb. Washed and smartened, they smelt of sweet hay, The unusual piebald Jacob and hardy Herdwick drew attention. 'Wearing' grey coarse woollen jackets the attractive pale faces and dark eyes were distinctive. My mother knitted us jumpers of Herdwick fleece. Sadly, to wear, the brillo like texture was waterproof but itchy.

Playful piglets to paunchy 'porkers' - happiness - although feeding frenzies made us wonder. Squealing and grunting amused. Gloucester Old Spots delighted because of where we lived. Watching entertained. From infancy interest in animals grows. Curiosity and language develops. Themed rhymes, songs and stories are enjoyed. We learn to care for and respect pets; lives are enhanced by creatures great and small. **Judith Lee**

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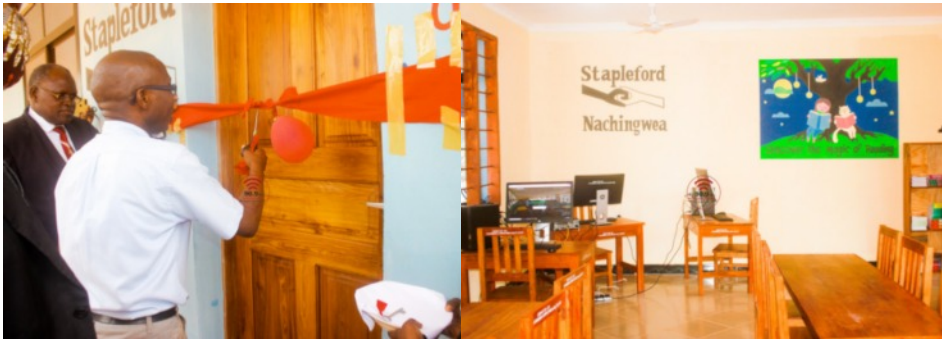


## New library opening

IN the September issue we announced the handing over of the renovated library at the Nambambo Secondary School, to Nachingwea District Council ready for use by the Nambambo Secondary School Community. Thanks to all who helped us raise the £10,000 for the library, We have now received some photographs of the opening.

Left: The Director of Education (for Nachingwea District) poised to cut the ribbon to open the library with Obed Pwirira (Link Chair) looking on

Right: Inside the library - with the tables and chairs all engraved with Donated by Stapleford - Nachingwea Link.



## Anniversary Lunch

This was held on Bank Holiday Monday, 30 August in the Pavilion. We are very pleased to report that, due to the magnificent help from all involved and the wonderful generosity of all who came along, £1,400 was raised, from donations, sales and the tombola.

We are very grateful to all those who contributed. The proceeds bring us near to the amount needed to support five places on the VETA\* Catering course and five places on the VETA\* Tailoring course, both to be held in Nachingwea.

\*Vocational and Education Authority of Tanzania

## Forthcoming events

- the organ recital to be given by John Bryden on Saturday 27 November at 7pm in St Andrew's Church.
- the Christmas Fair on Saturday 4 December from 10am in Great Shelford Memorial Hall.

We look forward to seeing you. **Trish Maude**

# HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUPPORT US THIS HARVEST

St Andrew's 10.30 am on 3 October  
DONATIONS OF FOOD WELCOME



# JIMMY'S HARVEST APPEAL

# Harvest Festival

ST Andrew's Harvest Festival services this year are on Sunday 3 October at 10.30 am.

We have two services this year: Forest Church Communion with activities in the churchyard, and Sung Communion indoors. You are all very welcome to either service.

We will be celebrating the next phase of our Eco Church project, and collecting food and other donations for the Jimmy's Harvest Appeal. Just in case you don't know about it, Jimmy's is a wonderful charity supporting homeless people and those in supported housing in Cambridge. Our donations will help provide for those in their assessment centre, housing and modular homes.

A list of suitable donations is on our website at [standrewstapleford.org](http://standrewstapleford.org) – please bring them along on the day, or leave them in the church porch beforehand. Thank you! **Simon Taylor**

## Mothers' Union News



ON 28 October, we will have the pre-World Day of Prayer meeting, to look at the slides and prepare for the service (now re-arranged for 5

November, postponed from March due to lockdown – *see separate notice in this issue*). The service has been arranged by the women of Vanuatu on the theme 'Building a strong foundation'. There will be a raffle at this meeting for MU funds.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our dear friend and fellow member, Audrey Bower, who moved with Roly to Caister-on-Sea several years ago – she was a devoted MU member and contributed greatly to our Branch.

The photo is of Nachingwea MU members singing at the start of the



celebration of 100 years of Masasi diocese – there will be a full report of this event in the November *Messenger* from the Link Committee. They are part of the worldwide fellowship of the Mothers' Union, which particularly in Africa underpins the social connections of communities. **Hilary Street**



## Choral singing for wellbeing

APPROXIMATELY one in 35 people across the UK sing with choirs, more than two million people in total. We know that singing together is good for us both physically and psychologically: singers report improved happiness and satisfaction from learning a new skill, while the process of singing reduces levels of the stress hormone cortisol, exercises the brain, and improves breathing and posture. Choirs also have an important social element, bringing diverse people together as a community. Singing with a choir is a really positive activity we can undertake to improve our health and wellbeing.

### So what happens when two million people have to stop singing?

Recent research has shown that both amateur and professional singers around the world felt a profound social loss during the coronavirus pandemic. Virtual meetings brought a sense of continuity but failed to live up to in-person rehearsals, especially as choirs lost the experience of creating something together in the moment. An elderly care centre in Taiwan even trialled a robot singing therapist for their residents to help reduce the risk of infection - but their participants preferred the human touch!

Stapleford Choral Society is delighted to be back from hiatus and warmly welcomes everybody interested in choral music, whether you are an experienced singer or a newcomer. We do not hold auditions. The autumn season of rehearsals has just started at Stapleford Granary: join us on Monday evenings, 7.45 to 9.15pm! For more information please email [staplefordchoral@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordchoral@gmail.com) or visit [staplefordchoral.org.uk](http://staplefordchoral.org.uk).

**Susannah Salter, member of Stapleford Choral Society**

## World Day of Prayer Service



A World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday 5 November from 2pm to 4pm in Cox's Close Community Room.

The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Vanuatu on the theme '**Build A Strong Foundation**'.

All are welcome. Please wear a face mask. It is an ecumenical service so all welcome.

For more information on World Day of Prayer go to [www.wwdp.org.uk/](http://www.wwdp.org.uk/). **Joy Barnes**

## 2G3S



AT the end of August we held a nature walk along Jenny's path, from Great Shelford. John O'Boyle writes: "At the start of the walk we heard the joyful sound of bells ringing for a wedding at nearby St. Mary's church. A well-informed local historian was a member of our party and told us that the path was named in honour of Jenny Morris who campaigned for many years to obtain a right of way for this path to Hauxton and led to its

Permissive footpath status. She also pointed out the archaeological site near the end of the walk where Saxon grain storage pits had been excavated. There were several impressive large oak and ash trees seen during our excursion and enormous walnut trees with immature nuts covered in green cases. Also hedgerow plants such as wild hops, both male and female plants. The latter were garlanded with aromatic bunches of flowers known as cones. Early Autumn fruits were developing such as sloes. A day-flying moth stimulated discussion on the difference between moths and butterflies, the conclusion being there is no clear distinction. Several species of slug were active in the grass verges and we discussed the 'baddies' which attack garden plants and also the 'goodies', which are carnivorous and consume the 'baddies', in addition to snails. The damp weather was not as bad as forecast and an enjoyable time was had by all."

Hopefully some of you attended Pippa Heylings' talk on Tackling Climate Change and Biodiversity at a Local Level. She was an excellent speaker. As Chair of SCDC's Planning Committee and of their Climate and Environment Advisory Committee she is a powerful voice locally. As Deputy Chair of the National Policy Board on Environment, Housing and Transport for Local Government and as a member of the Cross-Party Climate Change Task Force of Local Government she has been meeting with Government ministers, especially in the run-up to the COP26 climate conference in Glasgow in November, which the UK is leading. After eloquently explaining why the recent IPCC report (all conclusions of which are agreed by scientists and by all 197 countries of the COP) reports that we have to reduce our carbon emissions PDQ to prevent occurrence of some of the irreversible tipping points that will lock us into large temperature rises, she



pointed out the public health effects of a rise in temperatures. COP26 is the last chance the world's governments have to agree to work together to reach net zero and to support poorer countries become carbon neutral. The previous COP in Paris 2015 created some pledges but these have been nowhere near being met so far. The cross-party task force has been lobbying UK ministers such as Alok Sharma to try and underline the importance of getting results from this conference. The task force is also asking government to give local authorities the powers and resources to reduce carbon in their areas – every level of government, and individuals, need to work together to effect changes.

Countries of the world have similarly not kept to their promises made at the last relevant UN conference in China, to preserve and/or increase biodiversity. SCDC and other local authorities have gathered evidence that in the county we have lost orchards and grasslands in the last 80 or so years, but that villages still have pockets of grass and trees that can be expanded and connected up with each other to give wildlife corridors – the same thinking as underpins the CPPF strategy I described a few months ago. A diverse range of healthy ecosystems across the world is crucial to help climate change – such as the Amazon, and the peatland in the north of our county.

Pippa then went on to talk about what SCDC is doing to reduce carbon and boost biodiversity. Much of their work has been in gathering evidence and data to inform decision-making on housing, transport, etc. They have a Doubling Nature strategy for developers to keep to, a Zero Carbon Strategy (which includes giving grants to villages to undertake green projects that involve communities), and the forthcoming Local Plan stresses the importance of placing developments where the least travelling is involved, to reduce transport carbon and to help with establishing communities. The shortage of water and threat to our chalk streams is also part of their planning. The Government has told local authorities how many houses to build in their areas, and if those numbers are not planned for in the Local Plan the Government can take it over and we lose local control – so the councils' hands are tied to some extent. SCDC also has details of trusted companies and fitters for renewable energy changes to your house, very useful.

What can you do? Don't bury your head under the duvet and think it's all too big to think about. Apart from reducing your own carbon footprint, take part in consultations by SCDC and other local authorities; hold them to account if carbon emissions will increase as a result of their plans; write to our MP to challenge national decisions and proposals that affect climate

change eg new road plans, or the pressure to build a lot of houses when the water infrastructure has not been sorted out, or the new planning bill that takes away local control, or the Environment Bill that wants 10% biodiversity gain in new developments when at least 20% is needed.

There was also a national Big Green Week from 18-26 September – perhaps you will have seen or taken part in our fruit and veg swap or a litter pick?

**Coming events:**

Workshop on climate change and ensuring a fair transition to net zero for all, not just the rich Western nations – if you don't know much about the issues, come and find out more, all welcome. Details on page 17. This will probably be a hybrid meeting.

Planning meeting on the 11 October, possibly a hybrid meeting.

A film evening - The Sequel: What will follow our troubled civilisation? On Thursday 4 November, 7.30 pm. **Venue details to follow (see our website)**. This optimistic film imagines a thriving, resilient civilization after the collapse of our current growth economies, drawing on the inspirational work of David Fleming, grandfather of the global Transition Towns movement. Opening with a powerful 'deep time' perspective, from the beginning of the Earth to our present moment, the film recognises the fundamental unsustainability of today's society and dares to ask the big question: What will follow? Can we develop diverse, convivial and satisfying lives without economic growth? We encounter extraordinary projects and people from four continents, with contributions from Kate Raworth (who writes about Doughnut Economics), Roger Scruton, Stephan Harding, Helena Norberg-Hodge, Rob Hopkins, the well-known Jonathon Porritt, and Peter Buffett.

The Friends of Great Shelford Library are funding the purchase of a range of books on climate change and the natural world. Over the next year, they will be buying an eclectic mix including books by Mike Berners Lee, David Fleming (see film details above), and biologist E. O. Wilson; books on green growing and "greenwash"; titles from the Penguin "Green Ideas" series; "spotter's guides" for people who want to explore local wildlife; and a range of children's books for younger readers. It will take a while to source and put the books on the shelves, but by autumn they hope to be ready to roll out the first books in a new display.

Further afield – power stations using biomass are often burning trees. This fuels climate change and threatens wildlife. Yet the UK spends more money on the practice than any other European country. It has been calculated that an area of forest larger than 50,000 Wembley Stadium

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pitches was logged in 2020 so the UK could burn the trees for energy! Trees came from some of our planet's rarest and most special forests, like Canada's Boreal, Estonia's nature reserves, and the wetland forests of the Southern US, which are at the heart of a Global Biodiversity Hotspot. At the same time, the UK Government claims it wants to lead the world in tackling the climate crisis, protecting nature, and cleaning up the air. There is a petition to sign, search Cut Carbon Not Forests Petition to find it.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.com to sign up for our newsletter, or to get a Zoom link to join in our meetings. Also see our Facebook page. **Helen Hale**

## Action for climate justice workshop



IF you're bamboozled by all the talk of carbon emissions and COP26 and wonder what it's all about, come along to this friendly workshop organised by 2G3S and the UK Youth Climate Coalition. Find out a bit more about climate change, how it affects people locally and around the world, and what you can do

about it.

The workshop is on Wednesday 20 October, 7.30pm in the community room at Cox's Close or by Zoom. Email 2G3S for details and to reserve a place. **Helen Hale**

## A new trustee for the Magog Trust

THE Magog Trust is on the lookout for a new Trustee to join its Board

Most readers of the *Messenger* will be familiar with the Magog Down, the opportunity it offers for quiet recreation and the Trust's work of nature conservation.

Changes in key roles on the Board to take effect at our forthcoming AGM (by Zoom on 16 October) will result in a vacancy for Treasurer. If you are an accountant with some experience of the requirements of the Charities Commission and Companies House, or even just someone who is comfortable with numbers and willing to learn, then we would love to hear from you.

Are you interested in helping to maintain this wonderful asset which is sited in our Parish of Stapleford? If so, then please contact **Chris Bow** on 07711 417900 or email admin@magogtrust.org.uk

# Quiz Time

## Anagram Madness

ANAGRAM Madness was a round that featured in a previous quiz at the Three Horseshoes, which is held every Monday at 8.30pm and is steadily becoming increasingly popular as we move away from lockdown and into the winter months.

There is still plenty of room for 2019 levels of participation however, with £30 in drinks vouchers available every week for the winning team, who also get a crack at a rollover bonus. The team in second gets a box of chocolates.

Entry is £2 per player, half of which goes into a charity fund, we look forward to welcoming more quizzers back to the Horseshoes, as soon as they feel comfortable. **Simon Hardwick**

The answers can be found on page 53.

1. The name of the actress who starred in *Sleepless in Seattle* is an anagram of which European country? A point for each.
2. Can I hang Mr Smith? Is an anagram of a song by *The Smiths*. Which? A punctured bicycle is mentioned.
3. Which children's TV series includes the characters Cap'n Turbot and Mayor Humdinger and is an anagram of Raw Laptop?
4. Which useful piece of outdoor clothing is an anagram of the word Croatian?
5. Which TV show was set in New York, had a star born in Liverpool and is an anagram of Excited Shanty?
6. The name of a Hollywood superstar is an anagram of Old West Action, which is rather appropriate. Name him.
7. Woman Hitler and Near Halfwit are anagrams of words denoting family members. Point each.
8. The name of which singer, equally likely to be in court as in the charts now is an anagram of Presbyterians?
9. 'Ford, the real star, is OK' is a plausible review of a 1981 movie, as well as being an anagram of its title. Name it.
10. The name and former job title of which former Prime Minister is the anagram of I'm Tory Plan B.

# “Let there be light!” (and tennis)



ANY Staplefordians who have been to the Rec. this summer cannot have failed to notice the smartly refurbished tennis courts, and now as the Autumn evenings draw in you will also increasingly see that these courts are occasionally lit up. Some have commented to me on how bright the lights are – they really are, aren't they? Especially in contrast to the woefully inadequate

street lighting that we have all become used to in the last few years, since the County Council “upgraded” them, ahem.

It had long been on the Club's wish-list to have our tennis courts floodlit so that evening play could be facilitated throughout the darker months. I still have to pinch myself to realise it has finally become a reality. Of course, we cannot arrange for the weather to continue warm and dry for the next six months to suit our tennis activities, but at least we can now rely on there being sufficient light by which to play tennis, up until 9.30pm every day of the year. I keep meaning to work out how many extra hours of playable tennis time that will have given us, compared to the unlit courts – maybe that can be an exercise for the reader? “Answers on a postcard”, if you like.

As I write this we are eagerly anticipating a Saturday evening watching the amazing 19-year old Emma Raducanu competing in the US Open Final. (We now know she won, of course). Her unexpected success seems to have inspired many to think about taking up, or returning to tennis. We can't all aspire to win a Grand Slam final, but at any level and any age, tennis is a fun and healthy exercise that you can enjoy right here in our village, needing very little financial outlay to get started.

We keep getting asked: “How can I play on the tennis courts now?”

Answer: “You just need to book a slot.”

How? It's easy once you know how!

The 'online booking sheet' referred to in Figure 1, page 21 can be found by typing this URL into your browser: [staplefordtennisclub.org.uk/booking](http://staplefordtennisclub.org.uk/booking) or by pointing your phone at the QR code shown.

## More detailed guide to the online booking

For anyone who finds the online booking system a bit daunting or opaque, here is a little extra guidance on what to expect and how to navigate it.

On a full-screen device you will see four columns (Figure 2) two of which are the available courts for that day.

On a mobile device it defaults to the first column only (Figure 3, page 22), so you'll need to click on the right-hand arrow (circled in red) to see the other court/s.

The first time you book you will need to register by giving your details. On subsequent visits you can of course then use the same login details to speed things up. If you've signed up as a member, your login and password enable you to access the bookings for free and not pay the P2P price.

Alternatively, the ClubSpark "Booker" app by Sportslab Technology Ltd accesses the same availability details, and you use exactly the same login details as you would on your browser. I prefer using my phone's browser rather than the Booker app, since the latter refuses to remember my login and password so I have to keep typing them in again (whereas my browser kindly remembers who I am). Your mileage may vary of course - try both and see which you prefer? Join the Club!


If you find you and your family are enjoying your tennis a lot, you may want to sign up as club members. It's currently just £25 per Adult for 12 months membership, and £10 for Juniors (under 18). As a member, you can book all your tennis slots for free (and further ahead than with Pay to Play) - you just need to login each time to do this.

We've abandoned the old 'Club year' of Memberships which used to be valid only from April to March, hence you can now join any time of year and that'll be valid for a full 12 months from the date you pay. So, a small investment now will ensure you can play tennis for free right through all of next summer - something to look forward to! And you can even opt-in now to be included in next year's Wimbledon ballot for tickets to the Championships in the summer.

Members can also join our growing number of club sessions - we now have two "Friday Ladies" sessions, both morning and afternoon, and a Monday evening mixed session - and when we get around to organising some coaching, there will be priority access to that for members.


Regarding organised coaching: we would still love to hear from anyone who fancies getting involved as a volunteer to help run the club. We have access to an LTA-employed Participation Development Manager who will be only too pleased to give all the right guidance and point you at resources and other support. All we are lacking is some enthusiastic volunteers willing to give some of their time to help others get more use and enjoyment out of this great facility that the Parish Council have provided. Do get in touch if you are willing to help: you can email us at [committee@staplefordtennisclub.org.uk](mailto:committee@staplefordtennisclub.org.uk), or call for a chat if you prefer, 504378. **Miranda Fyfe, Stapleford Tennis Club**

### Book in 3 quick steps...




**1. Check availability**

View the [online booking sheet](#) to find your preferred time and court.



**2. Choose a session**

Select your preferred available time and book. You can pay online with most major credit cards. Register online the first time you book.



**3. Confirmation**

We'll send you confirmation of your booking. You'll receive a pin number to access the venue. It's easy!

Figure 1



The QR code

<a href="#">HOME</a> <a href="#">MEMBERSHIP</a> <b><a href="#">BOOKING</a></b> <a href="#">MULTI SPORTS</a> <a href="#">COACHING</a> <a href="#">CONTACT</a>					
To and Go					
<h2>Court Bookings</h2> <p>Please select a court and a time when you would like to play.</p>				<a href="#">View my bookings &gt;</a>	
<b>Saturday 11th September</b>				Day view <a href="#">&lt;</a> <b>TODAY</b> <a href="#">&gt;</a>	
	<b>MUGA 1: tennis/basketball</b> <small>Ful, Outdoor, Floorix, Carpet</small>	<b>MUGA 1: football/basketball</b> <small>Ful, Outdoor, Floorix, Carpet</small>	<b>MUGA 2: tennis</b> <small>Ful, Outdoor, Floorix, Carpet</small>	<b>MUGA 2: netball</b> <small>Ful, Outdoor, Floorix, Carpet</small>	
08:00	£1.25	Closed	£1.25	Closed	08:00
08:30	08:30 - 09:30 Booked		08:30 - 09:30 Booked		08:30
09:00					09:00
09:30	£1.25		£1.25		09:30
10:00	£1.25		£1.25		10:00
10:30	£1.25		£1.25		10:30

Figure 2



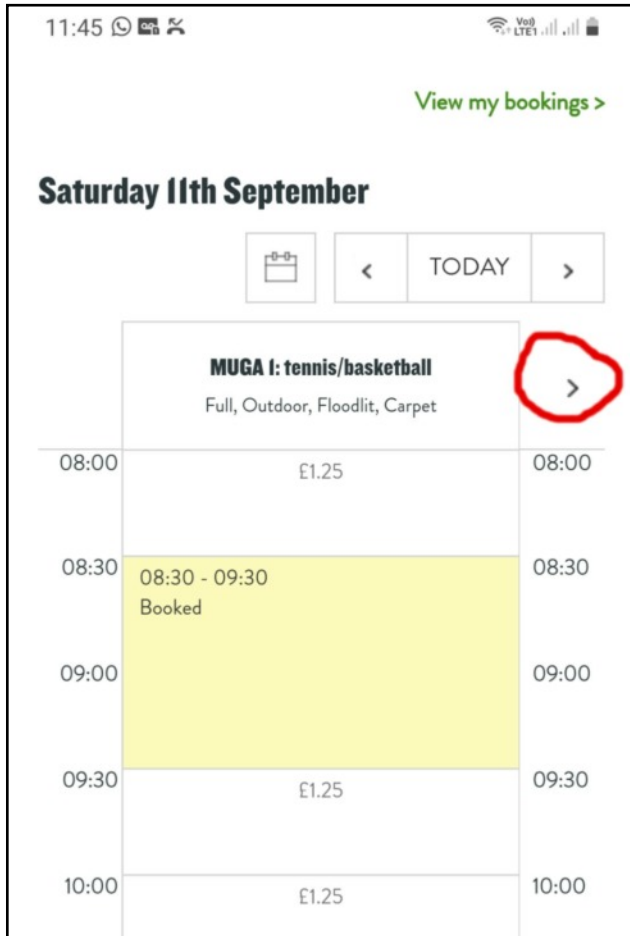


Figure 3



## Looking for a local venue?

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

For details please contact **Gillian Sanders**:

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## Cambridge Flower Club

CAMBRIDGE Flower Club is starting again after the long pandemic break with a flower demonstration in October. However we attended the Challis Garden Horticultural Show in Sawston on 4 September and did mini-demonstrations during the afternoon. The arrangements were auctioned in aid of the Challis garden at the end of the afternoon. See photo of Sarah Denham demonstrating and Siân Jones commentating.



We meet at Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford CB22 4NE at 7.15pm.

Our programme (Covid permitting) to the end of the year is:

Thursday 21 October Pat Barton will demonstrate. Her title is 'Plan B'.

Thursday 18 November Lee Berill will demonstrate. His title is 'Made for Christmas'.

Visitors (£6) are very welcome.

For more information about these meetings or to enquire about joining Cambridge Flower Club please phone on 891464 or email [fredaorgee@gmail.com](mailto:fredaorgee@gmail.com). **Freda Orgee**

## Stapleford Horticultural Society

OUR members have been deprived of talks since February 2020 due to Covid, so we had a sizeable and enthusiastic audience to hear Nina Lewis kick off our resumed programme with a fascinating account of the folklore of plants. Nina explained it was an immense subject so she limited it to the British Isles. She looked at folklore and superstitions surrounding plants (such as the *mandrake*, pictured) basing her talk on the various seasons and festivals in which plants played a part. An excellent start to the talks season.



We have a high-quality and varied programme to come, and our next talk is on Thursday 14 October when we welcome back Peter Walker to talk on "The Kingdom of Fungi". As always the talk will be in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.45pm, and all are welcome. **John Sherwell** (841012)

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# Yesteryear

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

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

## 1788

**SALE.** By auction. On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October, at three o'clock in the afternoon at the sign of the Rose and Crown, at Stapleford. All that freehold Bricked Messuage and Tenement, consisting of a kitchen, hall and parlour, chambers, etc. with a barn, stable, dovehouse, hogsties, yard, garden, and pightle to the same belonging, containing about half an acre, situate in Stapleford, aforesaid, and also 62a 2r and a half (more or less) of Arable Land and Pasture, lying and being in the fields and bounds of Stapleford, aforesaid, in the occupation of Owen Cambridge, his undertenants or assigns. Also, two cottages adjoining to the above messuage, in the occupation of John Cornwell and another.

## 1818

**CONVICTED.** John Perkins, for wandering and begging in the parish of Stapleford, to be imprisoned one week, and publicly whipped.

## 1898

**THE** Rev Daw had died. "Resolution - That the Chairman be asked to wait upon Mrs Daw and request her to return the Inclosure Award to the custody of the Parish Council." (Extract from the *Parish Council Minutes*)



## 1904

**MEASLES EPIDEMIC.** This village, which has recently been visited with an outbreak of scarlet fever, happily now ended, has within the past few days been stricken with an outbreak of measles. Many families are infected. The school has been closed by order of the Medical Officer for Health for three weeks, when it is hoped the scholars will have recovered their health and the epidemic terminated.

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1937

“Tenders were received for a monthly collection of unburnable household refuse in the parish and on the proposition of Mr Cooke sec. by Mr Hardy it was agreed to accept Messrs T and F Jackson’s tender of £1.5.0 monthly subject to the approval of the RDC. The rubbish to be carted to the collector’s own pit and the collections to be the last Thursday each month.” *(Extract from the Parish Council Minutes)*

1955

**CAMBRIDGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY AGM.** The master of Magdalene College (Mr H Willink) presided over the first part of the meeting which discussed the future of the 110 acres of Gog Magog (photo above) which had recently been acquired. It had reluctantly been decided that owing to its sad state of repair it had not been found possible to maintain the mansion house as an historic monument. Attention would now be centralised on the stable block and a donation of £3000 had been received from the Pilgrim Trust to further the society’s plans for Gog Magog.

## Great Shelford Bowls Club



WE have now come to the end of our playing year. We hope that 2022 will be somewhat easier for all the members with Covid 19 a distant memory, which will bring back some normality in our lives.

Funding has not been too easy for us this year but on Saturday October 16 we are holding a Tabletop Sale in the Great Shelford Memorial Hall, doors will open at 9.30 am.

Everyone is welcome to come along. On the day there will be tables with a Tombola, Bric-a-Brac and a Cake Stall. A Raffle will run all morning.

To keep you well-nourished there will be Bacon Butties and tea and coffee.

If you would like to have a stall on the day the cost will be £10 per table.

Please contact Sheila Fettes on 30073 if you would like to participate and have a table.

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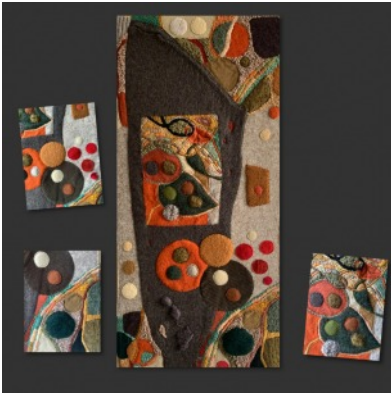
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# The extraordinary tactile world of artist Sabine Kaner

**'hand-Stitched Stories' are coming to Stapleford Granary**

FOUR years ago, I was a freelance producer and working with my good friend, the composer Matthew Kaner. We stayed at Matt's parents' house whilst we were filming in Bristol. Wandering around the house, I was immediately drawn to the vibrant, visceral textiles on the walls; hands, gloves, leaves, buttons, string... scraps & fragments of old fabric, lovingly and unexpectedly given centre stage, bound into a new colourful context by intricate hand-stitch. *'Who made these?'* I asked Matt. *'My mum'* he said.

Matt's parents were away and so I didn't get to talk to Sabine Kaner about her work, but over the years, I met her a few times at concerts. Sabine is warm, astute, deeply honest, thoughtful and modest and I liked her immediately. Four years ago, her textiles were not so well known. *'My mum isn't good at promoting her work'* Matt had confided in me (with a gentle sense of frustration) as we both admired the pieces on the walls, which were clearly very special indeed.



Sabine grew up in London during the 1960s. Both her parents were immigrants. Her mother was from Germany and her Jamaican father was one of thousands of Windrush migrants arriving in the UK. Mixed marriages were frowned upon at the time and there was racism and bullying. The family lived in poor housing, sharing just one room with inadequate facilities.

Whilst struggling to integrate on a personal and social level, she excelled at art at school and with the support of a good art teacher, she was accepted to study an art foundation course at Saint Martins in London. She was the first person in her family to go on to higher education.

A visit to an exhibition at the Haywood Gallery in 1979 changed everything. *Outsiders - an art without precedent or tradition* was curated by pioneering poet and art dealer Victor Musgrave, the first gallerist to show Bridget Riley in Britain. There were over 400 works by 42 artists from France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, England and the USA. There were drawings, paintings, sculpted wood, stuffed sculpture, mobiles and large-

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scale architectural structures. Musgrave described the work as 'lyrical, powerful, delicate' and 'violent'.

In an interview for textileartist.org, Sabine spoke of the immediate impact of the exhibition on her: 'It suggested to me the power that art could have in documenting an artist's life. It was also a way to explore identity, emotions and experiences whilst avoiding traditional art materials, either by choice or necessity'

But it would be a few more years until Sabine rejected traditional art materials to find her own unique voice in non-traditional ones - charity-shop finds, locally sourced felt, strands of her mother's embroidery thread. She studied fine art print-making at Manchester but to her delight, realised that there was an option to specialise in embroidery. She fell in love with textiles and rekindled a childhood passion for sewing.

Like her parents, Sabine Kaner worked hard, quietly. The immigrant experience has left a deep fingerprint on all she creates, as have the experiences of her life. Looking at Sabine's growing body of work now, I recall that strong feeling of 'sensing a story' in the art on the walls of her home four years ago. You can't take in Sabine's work quickly. It's easy to be initially beguiled by the warm, soft colourful felt and wool. But her work consists of layers - visual, emotional, political, social, cultural - and there is meaning in everything. A grey glove ('*emotional distance*' says Kaner)... a deep red cut ('*blood & urgency*' she says). Sleeves are another recurring icon ('*wearing your heart on your sleeve*').



Intermingling scattered swirls are flanked by two pieces of an old purple hand-knitted jumper... '*My daughter and I both wore it until it fell apart*' says Sabine.

At Stapleford Granary, we'll be exhibiting 15 artworks by Sabine Kaner plus two pieces of bespoke furniture made by her husband Professor Jake Kaner. Through film, conversation and selected items we'll be exploring her fascinating creative process - from sketch-books and the reusing of fabric oddments to experimental stitches, print experiments and mark making, all intuitively bound together by a love of colour. We'll also be learning about the music she listens to as she works - mostly jazz and the music of her composer son, Matthew.

Four years after I first saw it, its wonderful to see Sabine's work starting to attract more and more attention. I'm so proud that we are able to bring



*hand-Stitched Stories* to the Granary and hope you'll join us to launch this very special exhibition.

'We are all made up of many parts and experiences.

Collage is a way of putting those connections together in one piece

**Kate Romano, CEO Stapleford Granary**

Sabine Kaner: *hand-Stitched Stories* Launch events Friday 22 October (evening) and Saturday 23 October (mid-morning)

Free to attend but please book a ticket online

[staplefordgranary.org.uk/whats-on/events/sabine-kaner-exhibition-opening](http://staplefordgranary.org.uk/whats-on/events/sabine-kaner-exhibition-opening)

Exhibition runs until 21 January 2022

## Library news



TOTE bags, in a gorgeous shade of blue, are available to buy to raise money for the Friends of Great Shelford Library. There is a minimum donation of £4.

October 4-10 is **Libraries Week** – the perfect time to visit Great Shelford Library, borrow a book and discover all the other services we offer. If you're not already a member, it's easy and free to join. Please use Libraries Week to tell a friend or neighbour why it's great to have a library card!

Also, **Get Online Week** is 18-24 October.

Libraries offer a quiet working space with free wi-fi as well as printing, scanning and photocopying facilities. You can access free Learn My Way courses, which are a great way for beginners to teach themselves digital skills.

**From 27 September** we have reintroduced late return charges, but only for adult loans – there are no late fees for children's books. Reservations remain at 50p and it now costs only £1 to borrow a DVD or audiobook for 3 weeks.

**Reminder: Great Shelford Library has returned to its normal opening hours:** Monday 3-7pm; Tuesday 10am-1pm and 2-5pm, Wednesday 10am-1pm; Friday 10am-1pm and 2-6pm; Saturday 10am-1pm. **Rosemary Humby**



# Granta Medical Practices

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Please note that face coverings must be worn when entering any Granta building, unless you are exempt. This is to protect our vulnerable patients and also to protect our staff and our community.

## Covid symptoms

If you are experiencing any Covid symptoms, please do not come into any of our surgeries. Instead, stay at home and ring 119 / go online to nhs.uk to arrange for a PCR test.

If you have any questions you can call us on 0300 234 5555 or visit [grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://grantamedicalpractices.co.uk) . **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**

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The Stapleford Community Primary School PTA

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\*Suggested donation for pre-event registration. Fixed price for registration on the day - £12.50 per adult / £7.50 per child

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Raising funds for Stapleford Community Primary School PTA. Charity No. 1151770

# 2021 Stapleford Community Primary School PTA Fun Run

THIS year it's happening for real!

After a virtual event in 2020, at 10am on Sunday 10 October, the Stapleford Fun Run is taking place once again on Magog Down. There are three distances: 1 km, 4 km and 8 km.

If you register before the day the suggested donation is £10 for adults and £5 for children. Prices increase on the day of the event. To avoid queues on the day, it would be very helpful if you could register beforehand.

There are prizes available for the fastest individual runners, fastest team (8 km) and for the person wearing the most imaginative fancy dress. For full details and pre-event registration please go to [staplefordrun.com](http://staplefordrun.com)

Donations are welcome at [justgiving.com/staplefordschpta](http://justgiving.com/staplefordschpta)

This year proceeds from the Fun Run will go towards repairing and making improvements to the school swimming pool.

We would like to thank each of the local firms sponsoring the Fun Run and raising funds for our school: **Wedd Joinery, Redmayne Arnold & Harris, The Pizza & Kitchen Co, Shelford and Stapleford Strikers FC, Scotsdales, House of Colour, Gymbo's Strength Fitness & Wellbeing and Stapleford Granary.**

We are extremely grateful for their support. **Tim Harrison**

## Stapleford Strollers: come and join us

DURING the various lockdowns the Strollers did not meet up together but we are now, thankfully, back to walking once a month and would love to see some new members. Perhaps, during your lockdown exercise, you realised what a splendid area we live in and would like to carry on exploring.

The Strollers started over 12 years ago and we meet on the second Wednesday morning of every month. Membership is restricted to people who live in Stapleford parish.

The walks are normally up to 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 how to do so by looking at our website. Just put 'Stapleford Strollers' into a search engine. This month's walk is on page 49. **Keith Dixon**

# A hundred new houses?

ONE hundred new homes off Hinton Way and Mingle Lane have been included on a list of potential development sites on a new draft of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This document lays out the general plan for the future of our area and the new one is being developed at present. It has to cater for the new housing specified by Government.

The 10-hectare site has long been coveted by developers (who have no doubt been encouraged by the decision to plough a bus way through the green belt land between Stapleford and Great Shelford).

Out of more than 690 suggested sites put forward by developers and landowners, plus another 200 considered by planners, only 19 new sites are proposed to be taken forward into the new Plan.

The sites are published as part of the draft First Proposals for the new Plan, made public ahead of decision-making by Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councillors. Once Councillors have reviewed and commented on the proposed sites, a list will be finalised for public consultation due to start at the beginning of November.

The report states that the Hinton Way-Mingle Lane site has a “maximum capacity limited to 100 homes, relating to Cambridgeshire Fire Service requirements for no more than 100 homes to be served via a single vehicular access. There may be potential for a higher capacity if an additional access could be provided.

“(It is) very well located in relation to the existing railway station, with resulting excellent access to Cambridge, and to Cambridge Biomedical Campus once the new Cambridge South station is open, providing the exceptional circumstances required for Green Belt release.”

The report also says development should accommodate the following constraints:

Design of development should preserve key views from Stapleford Conservation Area including from Mingle Lane past St Andrew’s Church and the adjacent vicarage.

Open space to be provided to the east of the built development to help provide compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt.

District Councillor Peter Fane also gives his take on page 38 so what do readers think? Send your comments to [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com) stating your name and address (which need not be published). And do take part in the consultation when it starts. **Jon West**

# Puzzle Corner

## Telescopes

A telescope consists of two words with their letters in the correct order 'telescoped' together

e.g. BORATEST is a telescope of BOAT and REST

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

TEAWOR

TARCHE

WEANED

REWAME

SWEARY

FALRUT

KARINEED

TOGMANAY

VICETOON

LIARESTA

FALUNEAT

PINATION

SLAWEPASTE

TREADINOSE

VAGIDEENOT

SAGOABINER

SATIGRENGE

DISTORTORY

COBLESTUMOWN

SHERMIETIECK

CHARTONESTEL

INDECITOCARY

STUROLERMENT

CARANDENOTED

*Set by Hermes – Answers on page 47*

## Financial difficulties?



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

# Draft Local Plan for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

PETER Fane is a Liberal Democrat District Councillor for South Cambridgeshire. He has lived on the boundary of Stapleford and Great Shelford since 2014 and is a regular presence at both Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Council meetings. Here he provides an update on new Greater Cambridge Local Plan proposals and their potential implications for our area.

## What is a local plan?

A Local Plan is a legal document that councils are required to prepare following a process set out in national legislation and guidance. It establishes future land use and planning policies for an area over a defined time period, specifically:

- the number of new homes and jobs that should be planned for
- the services and infrastructure that are needed to support this change
- where new development should happen, and where should be protected from development.

For the first time, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are working together as 'Greater Cambridge' to create a joint Local Plan. The aim of the Plan is to ensure that there is a consistent approach to planning and building across both areas over the next 20 years.

## What are the proposals for Greater Cambridge?

The new Local Plan needs to allocate sites for an additional 550 homes a year if housing is to keep pace with the predicted increase in jobs in the area. Kicking off the process, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning held an initial 'Call for Sites', the results of which were published in September 2020. In January 2021, Parish Councils and Residents Associations were invited to contribute their local knowledge about the sites put forward for development and this was fed into an assessment of their suitability. All sites submitted were tested against flood risk, transport, biodiversity, heritage impacts and other important factors.

Out of nearly 700 sites put forward by developers and landowners, and another 200 considered by planners, only 19 new sites are proposed to be taken forward into the new Plan. Details of them were published by Greater Cambridge Shared Planning on 31 August.

The 19 preferred sites are intended to minimise carbon emissions and maximise biodiversity and green space improvements, helping to "create great places to live and work". As such, they are close to public transport



and within walking and cycling distance of services, to minimise future car use. They also include plans for the amount of affordable housing that developers should provide in the future.

Most of the 19 preferred sites are in and around Cambridge itself because of the smaller carbon footprint they would be expected to generate. They include the major brownfield sites at North East Cambridge and Cambridge Airport, which are envisioned as new low-carbon neighbourhoods. Only around 4% of homes are proposed for rural village locations – under 400 homes in total over the next 20 years.

An extension to the biomedical campus around Addenbrooke's hospital is one of only four sites which are proposed to be released from the Green Belt (all the land being within Cambridge City boundary).

Cllr Dr Tumi Hawkins, cabinet member for planning at South Cambs District Council, has stressed that "government requires us to meet the number of new homes that the evidence is showing us are needed. If we do not, the Plan may not be signed off by the government's planning inspectors, and we may end up having to accept developers' proposals for homes in locations that could harm the environment."

However, leaders of the two Councils have given a clear warning to central government that delivery will depend on increasing the area's future water supply. The Plan makes clear that without urgent action by the water industry and central government to bring forward new sources of water supply, including potential new reservoirs, meeting the Plan's ambitions may not be possible. On current estimates, these won't be built quickly enough and development levels may have to be capped to avoid unacceptable harm to the environment, including the region's important chalk streams. This could lead to housing in the area becoming even more unaffordable, so that those who work in Greater Cambridge may have to commute from further afield, increasing carbon emissions.

### **Implications for Stapleford and Great Shelford**

One of the preferred sites straddles the boundary between Stapleford and Great Shelford parishes and is for between 6 and 10 hectares between Hinton Way and Stapleford cemetery to the North of Mingle Lane. Land here has been put forward by Hill Residential and Cheffins on behalf of clients.

The site is seen as sustainable because it is close to the railway station and the Post Office. The possible location of the CSET busway, should it go ahead, is not taken into account at this stage. (See map on next page.)

Because only one vehicular access is provided (off Mingle Lane) at this point in the process, the number of houses would be limited to 100,



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together with public open space. It is proposed that 40% of the homes built (as on all sites which provide 10 homes or more), should be for social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership or discounted market sales, all of which are now the various government definitions of 'affordable housing'.

### What happens next?

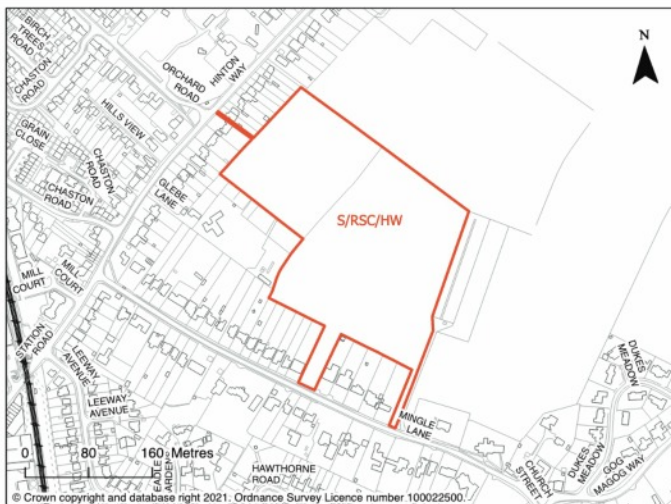
The proposals will now be scrutinised by councillors at Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council and the list of preferred sites will be finalised for full public consultation due to start in November. At this stage, councillors are charged with considering the *appropriateness* of the site, not the kind of housing that might be suitable. This will be the focus of future decisions and involve feedback from residents, parish councils and other stakeholders; to this end, Stapleford Parish Council is now beginning the process of engaging the village in discussion.

Once the new Local Plan has been through all the stages of preparation and consultation, it must be independently tested at a public examination to check that it is sound before it can be formally adopted. The examination will test whether the Plan is realistic, deliverable and based on good evidence.

### Where can I find out more?

A full document library, including details of the process, progress to date and site maps, is available via the Greater Cambridge Planning website: [greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/](http://greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/).

**Peter Fane, Tel. 843861 / 07802 256861**





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# Picnic at the Vicarage Gardens

THE sun shone for us on Sunday 15 August for our picnic lunch in the Vicarage Gardens, but many of us took the opportunity of eating in the marquee erected the previous Friday for the wedding reception of the daughter of John Bryden (St Andrew's music director). Some brought blankets and ate their picnic on the lawn.

Members of the Warden Scheme were specially invited, and we took the opportunity to raise funds for both The Children's Society and the Warden Scheme, two charities that St. Andrew's supports.

Thanks go to the musicians who along with a comedy sketch provided excellent entertainment. Children were well provided for in the variety of games set up for them. There was even a bookstall set up for people to browse and to buy books.

We are also very grateful to the businesses and individuals who provided raffle prizes.

Businesses included:

The Co-op, French of Stapleford, Gog Farm Shop, Pickles and Beans, Redmayne Arnold and Harris, Scotsdales Garden Centre, SophieGeorgia, The Rose PH, Three Horseshoes PH, Travis Perkins.

It was lovely to hear chatter and laughter again and to see people chilling out after so long.

Let's hope we will be able to enjoy each other's company even more in the future. **Jackie Nettleton**

## Stapleford Community Warden Service

Assisting older people to live independently at home. Providing daily phone calls (Monday to Friday) and help with things such as:

- making drinks and light meals
- making appointments
- collecting prescriptions
- watering plants
- getting small items of shopping
- wellbeing contact

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# Stapleford Messenger Fund

SOME of you may not be aware that the *Messenger* makes a small profit each year. That profit is passed into a fund, which can then be given to deserving local organisations. This year the fund has donated to the Stapleford Community Warden Scheme which aids the elderly and to the Stapleford Community Primary School playground scheme, and there are other bids in the pipeline.

We do however still have some modest funds available. If your local group needs some help, please apply via [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)  
Here are the details on the two schemes we have aided so far:

## **Stapleford Community Warden Scheme.**

AGE UK have written and said “Your donation will help towards supporting older people who are experiencing loneliness and feelings of worthlessness by not being able to carry out the simplest everyday task...Having regular contact with their warden is priceless and offers a sense of security knowing someone is going to make contact with them. Thank you so much.”

See article on page 47 for more details of the scheme.

## **Stapleford Primary School – New Playscape in front Infant playground**

The current playscape, pictured below, was installed in the mid-2000s,



and has had remedial work when required to keep it functioning. The decision has been made that it needs replacement because it is failing health and safety standards, and children at the school have written to ask for a new one after they

got splinters from it. The safety surface underneath the playscape has perished and has been damaged by tree roots. The safety surface will be relaid ready for the new climbing frame.

Our donation, together with funds from the Anglian Learning Trust will enable the new playscape to be completed. The school PTA are very grateful and looking forward to the children playing on it later in the year.

**Martin Ginger**



**AA**

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# Community Warden Scheme

STAPLEFORD Community Warden Scheme finally came to fruition in March 2019 after a huge amount of planning, mainly by Joan King and others. The Scheme is run by Age UK, and St. Andrew's Church. Mary Cooper has now taken over from Joan as the main leader from St Andrew's Church. The Parish Council has an interest in the Scheme also.

The Scheme is for any Stapleford resident over the age of 60 who may need some support to enable them to live independently for as long as possible in their own home. Donna Allsopp is the Warden who has contact with the service users and she does anything from making phone calls to them and for them, doing small bits of shopping, picking up prescriptions, to just being a friendly face to call and have a cup of coffee. Donna also has a wealth of knowledge about whom to contact to get various jobs done, and can direct the service users accordingly, or indeed she herself can arrange for these jobs to be done. The service users find this contact invaluable (as do their families), and pay a nominal sum each week. We rely very much on donations also. Fund raising opportunities feature in our minds continually! Obviously there were few opportunities to fund raise last year and we are very grateful to the Messenger Charity Fund for helping us out with their latest donation. Rest assured, although Age UK run the Scheme, any donations or fundraising done locally are channelled into Stapleford Community Warden Scheme.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from joining the Scheme, or indeed would like a chat to discuss the possibility of joining the Scheme yourself, please contact Donna directly on 07436 102733 or email her at [Donna.Allsopp@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:Donna.Allsopp@ageukcap.org.uk) **Jackie Nettleton**

## Puzzle Corner answers

### Telescopes

TWO/EAR; THE/ARC; WEE/AND; RAM/EWE; SEA/WRY; FLU/ART

KNEE/ARID; TOGA/MANY; VETO/ICON; LIST/AREA; FLEA/AUNT; PAIN/INTO

SWEAT/LAPSE; TENSE/RADIO; VIDEO/AGENT; SOBER/AGAIN; STING/AGREE;  
DITTO/SORRY

COLUMN/BESTOW; SHRIEK/EMETIC; CARTEL/HONEST; IDIOCY/NECTAR;  
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# Stapleford Strollers Walk No. 98

## A Walk Through Trumpington Meadows

**To get to the start.**

THE Strollers started from Grantchester

### **Length of walk**

Up to 4 ½ miles. OS map 209 or [footpathmaps.com](http://footpathmaps.com) for a free download.

The Strollers had lunch at The Red Lion in Grantchester so we used their car park. This walk can be shortened by turning left off the road between Trumpington and Grantchester and following the sign marked 'Byron's Pool' and parking there.

### **Route of Walk from Grantchester**

Turn right out of the car park of the Red Lion and walk over the cattle grid onto the tarmac path. Turn right and follow the path until it reaches the road and continue along the road. Ignore the first footpath sign which only leads to the cricket ground but follow the second one which goes round the back of the Old Vicarage of Rupert Brooke fame and leads to the river. There is a small island with a large sculpture of a horse: one of Geoffrey Archer's collection. Follow the river a short distance back to the road. Turn left along the road and after a hundred metres or so cross over but take great care as it is a blind bend. Go through a gate and down the bank and follow the path beside the river for a short distance which then bears away from the river to the small car park mentioned earlier. The path becomes a hard track through a wood and follows the river. This makes it a good winter walk. You will soon come to Byron's Pool which is formed by the junction of the river Granta and the Bourne Brook.

Eventually, it's necessary to turn away from the river which goes under the M11 as there is no footpath. Turn left on the track into Trumpington Meadows which becomes a hard footpath and runs parallel with the M11. Continue until you turn right to a footbridge over the motorway. This part of the walk is more interesting in the summer as it is less frequented and leads between meadows which are full of wild flowers. After a short distance turn right at a fence and walk between two meadows. This leads back towards the river which is hidden by tall vegetation and trees. This path has a fence on the left side and bushes and trees on the right so you walk round three sides of the meadow. You then reach a concrete farm track but after just a few metres turn left to follow the grassy path. On the left is a long narrow stretch of water and at the end is a board describing



this as the remains of extensive coprolite diggings. Continue ahead and re-cross the motorway.

You are now back in the country park with a choice of routes to get back to the Byron's Pool car park. The Strollers turned left and then right to reach a small lake and then walked parallel with the trees on the left. Take one of the paths into the wood to retrace your steps to the small carpark and then back to the Red Lion via the road and footpaths. **Keith Dixon**

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





# The kind of Tweets that matter.

TWEETS? Matter? Seriously?

A few weeks ago I was walking past the shops when a young mum and her kids straggled by. I'll invent the names, but the scene began something like this:

Sandra: Come on Josh, hurry up.

Long Pause.

“Joshua, NOW!!”

Another pause.

“Joshua I'm waiting...! One...two...”

Scurry of small footsteps, from afar. Joshua appears, and is promptly grabbed by the hand - and given a fair-to-moderate shaking.

“When I say come, you come!! D'you hear?”

Joshua nods, submissively and then - quite bravely in my view - points behind him and attempts to make his explanation:

“I was just talking to that bird...”

I should explain that Joshua was no more than eight or nine, and the bird was definitely of the feathered variety - a fat pigeon in fact, that I later walked past myself and saw scavenging at the roadside.

I should also be clear that I have been where Sandra was that day; worn out by caring for kids, desperate not to be late for some important appointment, formal or informal; frustrated by my own inability to make the day work properly, and by the seeming determination of small lives to poke sticks in the smooth machine I am attempting to fashion out of the ragged doghouse of my childcare. Sandra was at the end of her tether, and was clearly desperate for a bit of simple, uncomplicated obedience - so her next sentence struck me as all too understandable - and no less tragic.

“O yeah, right Josh, talking to a bird? There's always something with you”.

Now reassembled, the straggle straggled on.

The possibility that Josh really was engaged in conversation with a pigeon - or even the triumph of the imagination represented by Josh's idea that a bird might be interested to hear what he had to say, and might have interesting things to say in reply - was crushed, dismissed, discounted, made null-and-void by its apparent disconnection with the urgent matter in hand - practical life.

Like I say, I'm loath to judge Sandra for her simple act of mindless suppression, but it seems to me the incident illustrates a process that happens to all of us, to a degree. Life, from a fairly early age, beats out of us



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our imaginative connection to the natural world. We are taught to prioritise immediate practicalities, and both our imagination, and our appreciation of nature and empathy for it, gets its silly little head bitten off if we start to dawdle.

Only if we're lucky, will we, at some point in our life, get the chance to grow a new, even sillier head, and reconnect imaginatively. It's not just David Attenborough that can help here - children's literature helps too. Whether read as a child, or as an adult, all those anthropomorphic books about rabbits or badgers or birds (the kind that in my more literary moments I might sniff at) have a role in this. Seeing the world from another viewpoint, other than the human, is a useful exercise, even if the viewpoint is - necessarily, you might say - fancifully constructed. From listening to birds or trees that talk to each other, it's a small step to imagine they might talk to us (a la Dr Doolittle) - and from there, just one small step to us listening to them.

As I look out of my writing hut, there is a field standing waist-high with wheat, looking for all the world like the illustration on a packet of Weetabix. To my untrained eye, the crop looks ripe for harvest. It is also, as I write, just beginning to rain. I'm pretty sure I can guess what the farmer will think about this bit of timing (I'm assuming, I know, that the farmer is an individual, rather than an agricultural company that sees not wheat spreading across this particular corner of Cambridgeshire, but a balance sheet). But as a writer, I can't help but wonder whether the wheat, dry as it is, feels rain as a welcome draught to slake its thirst; as a stay of execution from the combine's dread approach, or - a fearful thought this - the harbinger of a much much slower end: death, by rotting.

It seems to me these 'tweets' from the natural world, are the sort we really should try to pay attention to, for the sake of our health and for our planet's. **Fraser Grace**

## Quiz Answers

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Meg Ryan; Germany | 6. Clint Eastwood               |
| 2. This Charming Man | 7. Mother in law; Father in law |
| 3. Paw Patrol        | 8. Britney Spears               |
| 4. Raincoat          | 9. Raiders of the Lost Ark      |
| 5. Sex and the City  | 10. Tony Blair PM.              |

## Job vacancies

STAPLEFORD Parish Council seeks two caretakers/handypersons/grounds maintenance persons.

Stapleford Parish Council is seeking two enthusiastic individuals to take care of its pavilion, playgrounds, sports field and other green spaces, MUGA, cemetery and the Slaughterhouse.

The contract will be for 10 hours per week per employee, although hours may increase as the village grows and current draft projects develop. The salary will be pro rata £22,021-£23,836 (LC1 13-17), according to qualifications and experience. Employees will be based at the pavilion at Stapleford Rec and, between themselves, will provide some cover across all seven days of the week.

Ideal candidates will have a keen interest in the local community and good communication skills; be able to manage and prioritise their workload to meet deadlines; be computer literate (in particular, confident using email to communicate with the Parish Council's clerks); be willing to undertake professional training as necessary.

The roles encompass a broad range of tasks and responsibilities, including:

- Maintaining the pavilion as a clean, safe, secure environment and preparing it for events
- Managing the Multi-Use Games Area, e.g. ensuring the right equipment is available at the right times and keeping the surface clear of debris
- Conducting risk assessments, and weekly inspections of play areas and play equipment
- Weeding, planting and maintaining the Parish Council's various green spaces.

More information about the vacancies is available at [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk) or from the Clerk, Belinda Irons ([clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk) / 01763 838732). The closing date for applications is midnight on Friday 29 October.

## Cambridgeshire County Councillors

SINCE the elections in May, our County Councillors for the Sawston & Shelfords Division are Maria King and Brian Milnes:

Cllr Maria King - [Maria.King@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Maria.King@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). 07764 609 061

Cllr Brian Milnes - [brian.milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:brian.milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). 07971 886 113

## 'Goodbye and thank you' to Colin

OUR thanks go to Colin Greenhalgh CBE who has resigned as a Parish Councillor. Colin provided wise and measured advice and worked hard with the sports clubs to improve facilities in the village. This leaves us now with three vacancies – so – if you feel you can serve in this way please get in touch with one of us. We need you!

Colin was born in Sunderland and educated in Leicester before reading History at St John's College, Cambridge. Teacher training at Nottingham University preceded a 38-year career in the profession, including 18 years as Principal of Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge. Under Colin's leadership, Hills Road became one of the largest and most successful sixth form colleges in the country. He was also a governor at our village primary school in the 1990s.

After retiring, Colin became Vice-Chairman and Senior Independent Director of Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, a governor of Comberton Village College and of Long Road Sixth Form College, and worked as an educational consultant for the Government and University of Cambridge. Importantly for us, he has also been a wise, measured and valued member of Stapleford Parish Council.

Colin has been a passionate advocate of Stapleford, most recently communicating regularly with councillors on all local authorities and the Greater Cambridge Partnership about the potential impact of CSET on the village. He has done a lot with local sports clubs, combining his love of cricket and football and relevant experience to smooth the way forward on a number of practical areas relating to the use and management of the recreation field.

We wish Colin, his wife Vivienne, their three children and eight grandchildren all the very best and thank him for his positive contribution to local life.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk, Belinda Irons ([clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk) / 07840 668048), who can arrange for you to chat with any of our current councillors. The Parish Council tries to match councillors' interests with those being actively pursued by the Council, giving councillors the opportunity to apply their knowledge and experience in the most appropriate ways. 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**

# Chair Stapleford Parish Council September Report

## **New meeting time**

THE new season brings a new timing for the Parish Council meetings. From now on we meet the first Thursday of the month at the earlier time of 7pm. At our next meeting on 7 October we look forward to welcoming the Leader of South Cambs District Council, Bridget Smith and we will hear from her those issues that are most affecting our South Cambs villages. The issues include protection of our greenbelt, sustainability, the environment and the whole question of water extraction and the impact on our chalk streams.

This is a great opportunity to hear first-hand what is happening in South Cambs and we would like to invite as many members of the general public as possible to attend.

## **Local Plan implications**

At the September meeting Cllrs Nick Sample and Peter Fane presented an update of the Local Plan process. Following the “Call For Sites” a site on Mingle Lane has been identified for development (please see the article in this issue of the *Messenger*). The Parish Council will discuss this at the next meeting before the public consultation starts in November and we will very much value your comments.

## **Proposed retirement village**

The proposed retirement village on Haverhill Road, despite a unanimous rejection by SCDC planners, is going to appeal. The Parish Council will continue to oppose this as it is so inappropriate, and it is not an exception site that could justify development in the greenbelt given its remoteness to public transport and is an unaffordable concept for most.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

Considering the retirement village, illustrates just how important the Neighbourhood Plan is to the “feel “of our village. We are all agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan should go forward but it needs new volunteers to make this happen. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

## **Bus Road**

The focus is increasingly on the climate emergency; COP 26 (the global climate change conference the UK is hosting in November) is almost upon us. Its zero carbon targets surely have to rule out a tarmac road stretching through the countryside, with two extensive concrete bridge structures, and



a 1250 space car park that will undermine our bus services with diesel buses running on the bus road.

We want to commission the evidence to put to the public enquiry next year that there are alternative sustainable options. Your support is vital to this as we collaborate across Cambridgeshire with like-minded groups who are similarly impacted with the GCP's outdated proposals. A target of raising £100k is ahead of us – you can give now to the fundraiser by going to the Cambridge Past, Present and Future website ([cambridgeppf.org](http://cambridgeppf.org)) and then to the section entitled 'No need to destroy greenbelt with South East Busway'.

**Howard Kettel**

## Report of meeting on 8 September

Minutes of the Parish Council previous meetings can be viewed at: [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/).

### Planning

21/03414/HFUL 3 St Andrews Close, Stapleford

Demolition of existing extensions. two storey side rear, single storey front rear extensions: no objection

20/02929/OUT

Appeal Land between Haverhill Road and Hinton Way, Stapleford

Outline planning for the development of land for a retirement care village in Use Class C2 comprising housing with care, communal health, well being and leisure facilities, public open space, landscaping, car parking, access and associated development and public access countryside park with all matters reserved except for access:

SPC TO DECIDE IF IT WISHES TO APPLY FOR RULE 6 STATUS: Cllr B Kettel explained that a Rule 6 application meant that the Parish Council can make representation at the Appeal Hearing. Councillors present agreed the application should be made.:

21/03652/HFUL 2 Bar Lane, Stapleford

Single storey front extension to existing annexe and integration of annexe into main dwelling and single storey front porch extension to main dwelling: no objection

### Busway

The Parish Council needs to consider how it moves forward with this.

### Russell Smith Farms: proposals for Dernford Lakes, Sawston:

Russell Smith Farms will be making a presentation to Sawston Parish Council.



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### **Parish Pit**

The Clerk will send a letter of compliance with legislation to the Charity Commission to progress the transfer to the Magog Trust.

### **Covid-19**

The pavilion is open and will adhere to Central Government legislation on Covid as it changes or is amended.

### **MUGA**

The MUGA is open and sports groups are invited to start booking the courts direct.

### **Refurbishment of the Shed and Pavilion**

The process is completed to final fixings.

### **Highways**

Cllr Flynn continues her work on Highways issues.

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

Volunteers are needed to assist with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. If you are interested in helping the Parish Council finish this important document, please contact the Clerk and volunteer your services. The Neighbourhood Plan Group aim to get a finalised document as soon as possible but needs Community support and more residents to come forward to get it finished.

### **Communications**

The Parish Council uses the *Stapleford Messenger*, Facebook and its website to communicate with residents. However, the Clerk is available by telephone and email to answer your specific queries, and the Parish Council meetings are open to all with a section for questions to be raised. Please do attend.

### **Items raised by parishioners**

MUGA: individuals and groups have been seen behaving inappropriately.

A vote of thanks was extended to Cllr Gatward for installing the perimeter posts at the recreation ground

The Slaughterhouse: The Parish Council was strongly urged to consider a use appropriate for parishioners and to bring this iconic building into good use.

Items for the next meeting: Cllr Gatward will present a paper recommending that Stapleford Parish Council declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency. If this is an area which is of concern, please contact the Clerk and express your views.

# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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