

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

November 2021

Volume 80 No 11

Price 60p

## Up and running!

School PTA Fun Run returns to The Gogs  
Page 30



## Homes on the horizon

More news and views on the plans to  
build 100 houses off Mingle Lane  
page 45

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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)

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# From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

I WONDER if any of you have a Ring doorbell or security cameras? Clever little devices we discovered a few years ago which transmit video and audio and send alerts to your mobile. You can speak to visitors at your door from wherever you are, or just save the data. Very good for looking after aged parents with the beginnings of dementia, and very good if you are away from home but want to be able to keep an eye on comings and goings. But they are not without problems – surveillance, privacy, and personal data issues brought right to your home.



All of this came to the fore in a case woefully misreported in the Daily Fail recently (“It’s going to ruin my life”: Plumber Jon Woodward, 45, fears he will lose his home after judge ruled his Ring doorbell camera breached his neighbour’s privacy.)

So, here, in this month’s *Messenger Law Reports* – bringing Stapleford the law it needs to know - is a dismal tale of technology and the failings of the human heart. Step forward Dr Mary Fairhurst and Mr Jon Woodward. They are near neighbours. Mary sued Jon over his use of security cameras around his property. He had lots of them, covering a common parking area and shared drive as well as his front path. At trial Mary was found by the court to a good, careful witness, precise in her use of language, and both credible and reliable. Jon, in contrast, gave contradictory, exaggerated, untruthful and unbelievable evidence. You wouldn’t get any of that from the newspaper reports.

Mary sued on three grounds.

First, she sued on the basis that the cameras were a nuisance in law. This is where something a neighbour is doing lawfully on their property is interfering with your ordinary enjoyment of yours. Mary lost. Neither the loss of privacy nor the lights that were activated with the cameras were an actionable nuisance. Irritating to her, yes. Compensable, no. Hooray for common sense, and reassuring for those of us with these cameras.

Second she sued for GDPR breaches. Did Jon possess her data, and if he did, was it collected and kept lawfully and in accordance with GDPR principles? Here there was also encouragement for Ring-owners. The Ring front doorbell complied with the GDPR. It did collect information, including some from passers-by on the street who were not on his property, but Jon

had a legitimate interest in protecting his home and this was not overridden by Mary's right to avoid incidental collection of her data as she went by. But not so with those cameras which only collected data from outside his property. These breached the data minimisation principle, collecting data beyond what was legitimately needed. Some damages will have to be paid, but my guess is not a lot. It's a pretty small breach.

And finally Mary sued for harassment. The judge found that Jon's course of conduct towards Mary had been utterly foul. When she had raised concerns about his tech, he had deliberately intimidated her, threatened her, behaved in a way that was oppressive and likely to cause alarm and distress, and generally behaved belligerently and dishonestly. It all arose out of his technology and the concerns she had raised about it, but this part of the case was about human behaviour. His became so distressing that she had had to move. He is going to have to pay damages, and the sum won't be negligible.

So there you are. The law is what you would probably want it to be: you may use tech to keep your home safe by all means, but don't use disputes over tech as an excuse to be horrible to your neighbours.

Now what on earth has this got to do with my other hat, that of your parish priest? Well Jesus had something to say about our use of tech, social media, new inventions and the rest. It is true that all these things can be good and useful, but they can also be deeply harmful and cause contention and fights. Jesus knew why this is so.

At the height of Jesus' popularity the Pharisees chose to take offence because his followers did not ceremonially wash before they ate, as was required by tradition derived from the law of Moses. That made them, the Pharisees said, unclean sinners.

No so according to Jesus. Nothing external to a person can defile them, not failure to observe particular ceremonies, nor food, nor, we might add, a mobile phone, Ring camera or social media. Jesus said 'What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come - sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.'

Why has Mr Woodward got himself into trouble? Because he is human and the bad stuff within found its way out. That is so often the real issue when tech goes wrong. Jesus nailed it: folly, deceit, arrogance, and malice in this case, greed, sexual immorality, slander and more in others.

How good it is for all of us to keep these perils in mind, and may your tech be a blessing both to you and your neighbours! **Simon**

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

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

7 NOV	9 am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG CW COMMUNION James 4.1-12; Matthew 12.46-50 <i>Come near</i>
	10.30 am	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
14 NOV	9 am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.45 am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE Daniel 12.1-3 Hebrews 10.11-25
21 NOV	9 am	SUNG CW COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNG SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR CHRIST THE KING Revelation 1.4b-8; John 18.33-37
	10.30 am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
28 NOV	9 am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	CHILDREN'S SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP SERVICE SUNG COMMUNION Luke 21.25-36
30 NOV	5.30 pm	EVENING PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S DAY
5 DEC	9 am	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	TOY SERVICE SUNG COMMUNION Malachi 3.1-4; Luke 3.1-6
	10.30 am	FOREST CHURCH TOY SERVICE
	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

15 October: Funeral of Kathleen Powell

21 October: Funeral of Pauline Barker

## We're waiting for your story!

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

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By email (Word or similar attachment) to [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

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## Word association

LINKING a word with a thought helps the imagination and triggers memories. Fun. Recently an art shop had a list of daily subjects to be used for drawing. The first was **Fan**. Immediately I saw a fan used for cooling down in high temperatures. I remember an exhibition of beautifully pretty delicate fans at Ickworth. In Victorian times, much like gloves or parasols, they were used for relaying secret messages rather like a code. Fascinating; Stephen's thoughts were of engines particularly aircraft. He considered the Rolls Royce RB211 and his work on the turbofan. It was a triumph of engineering, science and mathematics.

Next on the artistic endeavour list was **Watch**. My vision was of smiling, caring eyes looking intently. Above masks we've recognised emotions and encouragement; understanding truth and learning to trust. Eyes are mirrors to the soul. Pupils I taught wondered at my ability to sense misbehaviour or wandering attention, without turning. "Miss, you must have eyes in the back of your head," they would say. Sometimes it is best not to disillusion. Eye contact combined with a hard stare meaning, 'Be careful,' or 'Watch it!' was as good as anything Paddington Bear could achieve. Stephen considered time pieces, wrist watches and clocks. Horology. Time setting was important.

**Pressure** was next. Stephen has fond memories of steam and traction engines. I remember a pressure cooker I had. Sadly the steam vent failed. There was a tremendous hiss. Age meant replacement or mending impossible. Another pressure comes with life - a different story. Making art from the word would be challenging but a great opportunity to release tension. Colourful paints, inks, pastels producing satisfaction.



Illustrating creative writing is rewarding and thought-provoking, sometimes leading to calming mindfulness. Topics can be linked together to form prose or poetry, pictures adding poignancy. We saw ideas for October. November will be a surprise. Maybe it will include bonfire, wood and poppy. A bonfire; coiling smoke, seasonal smell, leaf fall; special, poems painting pictures. Guy Fawkes night when we must take care of us and our precious planet. Wood means wonderful trees, for us solace and sanctuary. We should plant more. Knots, burrs, texture lend character and need touch. Our thoughts go to sights of the stark wooden cross, the poppy and remembrance. Solemn, symbolic times - so much to consider and reflect upon in unity. **Judith Lee**

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# Stapleford - Nachingwea Link



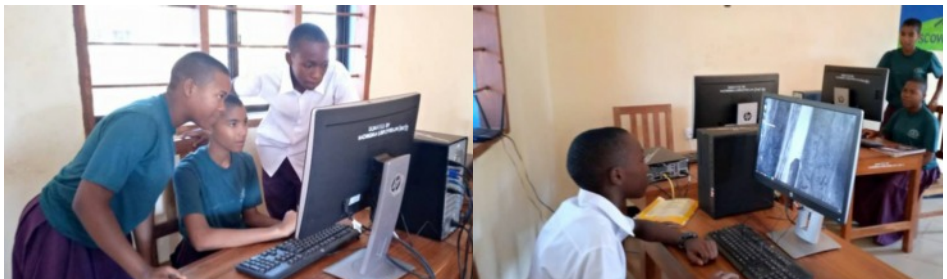
ON a visit to St Andrew's, Nachingwea (above) , Bishop James lit a candle which then started off on a journey around Masasi Diocese, in readiness for the forthcoming Diocesan Centenary.



Nearer home, we were joined by Jennifer Oakley, a Trustee of The Friends of Masasi Diocese (pictured left, seated, with friends and members of the Link Committee), who came to help us celebrate 40 years of the link with St Andrew's Nachingwea.

We've also received more photos (below) showing how the new library at Nambambo Secondary School is being used. It is evidently a popular place for students to learn the use of computers.

The library is a Link project in partnership with READ International.  
**Trish Maude**



## Women's Institute



STAPLEFORD WI has held its first face-to-face meeting since March 2020. We met in our new venue, the Jubilee Pavilion, and on a new night, the fourth Thursday of each month. All members arrived wearing hats as this was our Centenary Celebration dinner.



After welcoming everyone the President thanked the committee for their assistance throughout the 18 months of lockdown. Special thanks were given to Helen Hale who had suggested, and coordinated, the collection of toiletry bags and toiletries, which were then donated by the WI to new patients admitted to Fulbourn hospital. These bags have proved very

welcome in other hospitals for mentally ill patients. We had pledged to collect 100 such bags during our centenary year and this target had been exceeded in spite of lockdown.

The meal was catered by a professional chef and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A great deal of catching-up and happy chatter took place. The evening concluded with a very successful raffle where the prizes were wrapped and therefore a surprise.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 28 October at 7.30pm in the Pavilion when Geoff Lambert will be speaking about Canal Mania.

If anyone would like any more information about the WI then please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847. Also see [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com) **Joyce Dobson**



# Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

**From Peter Dean, Great Shelford**

**Re: Levelling Up**

Many Tories don't understand  
That lots of Britons don't feel grand.  
Everyone will earn more  
Apart from payments to the poor.  
As benefits remaining low,  
And getting cut, this we know.  
Boris says employers will increase wages  
On the ground and in stages.  
But as utilities are costing more  
And NI increases are sure,  
Businesses and the workforce young  
Asked to pay more, for them not fun!

The UK now standing alone,  
Not dancing to a Europe tone.  
What is the picture that lies ahead  
Coming out of our Covid bed?

Tory promises - so very grand  
Their leader lives in a dreamland.  
As usual some grandees will get more  
At the expense of the working poor.

Levelling up - what does this mean?  
In practice it is a nice dream.  
As North and South, East and West  
Should benefit from the same bequest.  
But visions of our future pride  
Won't come cheap, there'll be a ride  
On the rollercoaster fair  
Equality should be equally shared.

Levelling up means much more.  
It means rich people giving to the poor!

# St. Andrews Toddler Group

(Diddly, diddly, dee!)

IT is with deep regret that I have decided to 'retire' from running the Toddler Group which was held on Mondays at the Johnson Hall.

Over the eighteen years I have met a good many babies and toddlers, some of which have probably left school by now! We were a very popular and happy group and I would like to thank all the mums, dads, grandparents, nannies and child minders who helped to make it so. I should also like to thank Jill (Ward) who has been a great help to me over many years.

I have enjoyed meeting you all and especially your children. I shall miss the happy laughter and singing etc. I expect many of you still remember the repetitive songs that you sang in your sleep!! I do!

I hope the future of the group will continue in time and wish it well. **Lyn Pepperell**

## Messenger Team

THE new team has been producing the magazine for nearly a year now, and we hope you like it. Do continue to send in news, letters, and other items of local interest.

We have been finding our feet with the help of Jon and Ed, but looking forward we could do with some more help. We especially need someone to help with the production side, it may be only a few hours a month or it could be more, depending on how the process is shared. The person needs to be familiar with using a laptop and Word.

More generally, if anyone would like to come forward to give more general admin help, particularly when the present admin people are away or ill, we'd love to hear from you. Again, being confident with a computer, emails, etc is needed.

Many thanks.

## Children's Society guest speaker

The Children's Society chief executive Mark Russell will be at St Andrew's on Sunday 28 November to talk about the pressures facing young people today.

Join us to find out more on how you can support the work of The Children's Society, which has two well-stocked shops in Sawston - well worth a visit for good quality pre-loved items!

## Mothers' Union



THE Branch greatly enjoyed its first meeting of the new session, 2021 to 2022, at the Opening Service on 30 September, led by Clare Coates. Members were able to buy MU cards and order Christmas cards from Kay Coe. Our meeting on 25 November is a talk by Mum2Mum, an organisation supporting young mothers – at 2pm in the Johnson Hall.

As funds are rather low, and we send as much as we can to the Diocese for its projects, both local and national, Mary is asking for donations from members if they feel they can give anything. MU funds nationally have been depleted due to the pandemic, as the usual fund-raising events have not been possible.

Please note that our Toiletries Appeal is taking place from 1 to 15 November this year, in aid of the Cambridge Women's Refuge. Boxes will be in the church porch for donations of simple toiletries. There is a separate notice in the *Messenger* about this.

Advance notice: we are having a stall at the Nachingwea Fair on 4 December in the Shelford Memorial Hall, so we will need cakes and preserves to sell. **Hilary Street**

## Stapleford Horticultural Society

AT our October meeting we welcomed back Peter Walker. As a change from plants and gardens, Peter took us through the fascinating world of fungi, with some striking and colourful slides.

We've now resumed a full programme of talks, which have been well supported to date. So you can pencil in the dates in your diaries, here are the remaining talks up until our AGM next March.

Thursday 11 November : 'Daffodils' by John Gibson

Thursday 13 January : 'Joseph Banks' by Andrew Sankey

Thursday 10 February : 'Peter Beales and the Romance of the Rose' by Simon White

Our talks are held in the Johnson Hall at 7.45pm on the second Thursday of most months from September through to April. We also have day and evening outings to gardens during the Summer.

Visitors are welcome to all our talks, though of course we hope you'll become members! **John Sherwell 841012**

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# Memorials in St Andrew's and contested heritage

OUR beautiful church has several memorials and stained glass windows which commemorate deceased people who went to St Andrew's. They have been untouched and unquestioned for many decades.

But following last year's brutal police murder of African-American George Floyd and global Black Lives Matter protests, the Church of England has asked all its churches and cathedrals to review their "contested heritage" – or the memorialisation of people or events connected with racism and slavery which can be seen as "symbols of injustice and a source of great pain for many people" (Historic England).

## **But it all happened so long ago! Why does it matter?**

It matters because many minority ethnic communities still face discrimination and some of the anger felt is directed towards material culture glorifying people who were a part of this in the past. It's important to acknowledge this, start a dialogue and where possible, take steps to redress the hurt caused.

I concentrated on the memorials dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (although the slave trade was abolished in 1807, slavery itself continued in the British Empire until 1833). I did not look at the smaller memorials in the Baptistery, which date from the 20<sup>th</sup> century; nor did I look at the stained glass window (in the south aisle chapel) dedicated to Eivira Bidwell, who died in 1959.

## **The Osborne family**

The largest memorials in St Andrew's are in the Lady Chapel, and are dedicated to Charlotte Elizabeth, Lady Godolphin Osborne, and her son, George Godolphin Osborne, 8<sup>th</sup> Duke of Leeds, and his wife Harriet.

## **Family wealth rooted in land**

The Godolphin Osbornes were wealthy. Four centuries of strategic marriages had seen them acquire landed estates, properties and titles across England, Scotland and Wales.

By 1883, these estates together added up to 24,000 acres – roughly the same as eight Wimpole estates! They brought in the equivalent in today's money of £4.2million.

In addition, the Godolphin Osbornes controlled the leases on a number of Cornish tin mines which were another important revenue source.

Without going through their papers (of which there are many held in county archives across England and in the National Archives), it looks like

their wealth came from farming and tin-mining in Britain. I could not find any evidence that their wealth came from the proceeds of slavery.

### A liberal family with a social conscience



In fact Charlotte Elizabeth's husband and younger son were both ardent reformers. Her husband was Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, Member of Parliament for Cambridgeshire between 1810 and 1831.

A Whig (Liberal) by temperament, he regularly

presented petitions on behalf of constituents before the House of Commons for reduced taxation on "the necessities of life", revision of the criminal code, parliamentary reform, poor relief and anti-slavery petitions. He also attended local meetings to support the abolition of slavery.

Charlotte and Francis's son, Sir George Godolphin Osborne, inherited the Dukedom in 1859 when the 7<sup>th</sup> duke (Sir George's cousin) died without issue. He seems to have led a quiet life at Wandlebury, unlike his younger brother Sidney, who for over 40 years was a passionate correspondent to The Times, writing hundreds of incendiary letters pressing for reforms in healthcare, housing, agricultural labour, education and poor relief, which delighted and enraged readers at the same time. Although I couldn't find any letters on slavery, he stood up for other marginalised groups including Irish tenants and women.

### Memorial to Henry Collier and his daughters



In 1882 a stained east window (left) was erected as a memorial to Henry Collier and his daughters Ellen and Jane, who both married clergymen and settled in Cumbria and Middlesex respectively.

The Colliers were farmers who over 200 years accumulated more and more plots so that by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century they owned a quarter of Stapleford. On his death in 1870 Henry left his land to his son, Henry, a clergyman (d. 1933) and Dr. William Collier (d. 1935). Again, there is no evidence of any connection to slavery.

### Wealth from plantations?

I did not find anything to suggest that any of the people who have memorials in St Andrew's benefited from slavery.

But the immediate forebears of two previous parish priests did – and in next month's issue of the *Messenger* I will take a closer look at the source of family wealth of the Rev Robert Hawthorn (parish priest 1845-71) and Frederick Hawes (parish priest 1904-23).

### End of the line

After Sir George died, there were four more Dukes of Leeds. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century they were forced to sell their lands to pay off gambling debts.

The 12<sup>th</sup> and final duke was Sir Francis D'arcy Godolphin Osborne. A diplomat based in Rome, he helped 4,000 Jews and Allied Soldiers escape the Nazis during World War II.

When he died aged 80 and without issue in 1964, the title the Duke of Leeds became extinct.

### A peculiar endnote



My husband has a compendium of old Punch magazines. He was idly flicking through it when he came across a tiny article from the July 1860 issue, which describes Lord William Godolphin Osborne's appearance before Cambridge Insolvent Court for debts of £1,066.

Lord William was the son of the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke whose memorial is in the Lady Chapel. His creditors included tailors, tobacconists and a livery

stableman. The son in his defence said that he was 25, had a wife (but no marriage settlement) and that his father gave him an allowance of £100 a year which he refused to increase.

The judge was not sympathetic and sentenced him to six months' imprisonment.

"Mr Punch" commented that he "knows nothing of the circumstances of this unpleasant story nor why his Grace of Leeds has come to the conclusion that it is more to the credit of his family that Lord Godolphin Osborne should go through incarceration and the insolvent court for such a sum as £1000 than to pay the young Lord's debts and give him a chance in married life." **Nicola West**

## Reminder: 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, Stapleford. The service has been prepared by the Christian women on Vanuatu on the theme 'Build a Strong Foundation'.

All are welcome. Please wear a face mask. **Joy Barnes**

## Mothers' Union toiletries appeal



STAPLEFORD Mothers' Union is again collecting toiletries for the Cambridge Women's Refuge, to support the MU Campaign Against Gender-based

Violence.

The collection will be a little earlier this year, from 1 to 15 November – there will be boxes in the church porch for donations. Gifts of toothpaste, soap, tissues, shampoo, bath and shower products and combs are especially welcome. Thank you. **Hilary Street**

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## 2G3S



OUR forthcoming programme features the following events:

Thursday 4 November we have a film: 'The Sequel: What will follow our Troubled Civilisation?' 7.30 pm Sawston Free Church, High Street, Sawston CB22 3BG. Free, but donations welcome. This film (around an hour) is about the vision of the late green thinker, David Fleming. He was

convinced that what he termed the 'climacteric', or a perfect storm of events which will disrupt climate, nature and economic systems, is inevitable – what we need to do is create resilience so that we can rebuild society in its wake. Many well-known environmentalists are featured. This is a serious film, but one that offers hope and a way forward. There will be time to discuss it afterwards. Email [greengroupssss@gmail.com](mailto:greengroupssss@gmail.com) to reserve a place.

Saturday 20 November, 10am to noon, Spicer's level crossing. Path clearing between Sawston and Whittlesford church. Bring your own tools (broom, loppers etc.) and gloves. Tea, cake and sanitiser provided. Meet at the level crossing at 10am or on the path later. Will cancel if the weather is rubbish! Contact Yasmin: [greener@sawston.org](mailto:greener@sawston.org).

Saturday 27 November, 10 am to 1 pm. Whittlesford Eco Fair St Mary and St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Whittlesford, CB22 4NX. All welcome!

Thursday 2 December, Annual Open Meeting, The Rose, Stapleford. Put the date in your diary, and email us for more info. This will be social as well as some business.

In the new year we hope to hold another Repair Café – perhaps you saw the recent ITV Tonight programme featuring one in Cambridge?

In other news, you can hardly have missed the fact that COP26 is happening this month – watch and read the news to keep abreast of progress, and do your bit to help climate change or support biodiversity. See our website or newsletter for top tips, and use this calculator to work out your carbon footprint at [cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](http://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org).

2G3S supporter Rosemary Jones has prepared a petition to the UN asking them to co-ordinate global action to reverse the loss of reflectivity. Effective mitigation can be inexpensive and could provide employment for thousands of the world's poor. Please sign the petition and help spread the word. Rosemary says "A global decrease in reflected heat, caused by melting ice and snow and the construction of roads, runways and buildings in heat-absorbing dark colours almost everywhere on the planet, now accounts for half of annual warming. Research indicates that even stopping emissions

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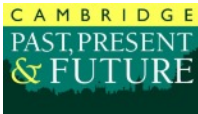
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immediately would not alone stop the warming for about 40 years. We urgently need to introduce measures to re-enable solar reflectivity." Go to: [thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/575/032/204/a-un-climate-action-program](http://thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/575/032/204/a-un-climate-action-program).

And a very useful website if you want your money to be invested more ethically: [www.tinyecohomelife.com/most-ethical-banks-uk](http://www.tinyecohomelife.com/most-ethical-banks-uk).

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

## Events at Wandlebury Country Park



HERE'S what's on at Wandlebury in November and December; for more information about these and events at other locations email [bookings@cambridgeppf.org](mailto:bookings@cambridgeppf.org), call 243830 extension 207 or visit [cambridgeppf.org/whats-on](http://cambridgeppf.org/whats-on).

### **History and Archaeology Walk**

Wed 10 November, 10am to noon. Free (donations welcome).  
Gentle guided walk with a Warden.

### **Forest of Imagination Exhibition**

Sat 27 November, 10.30 to 3pm. Free  
Outdoor exhibition of artwork.

### **Winter Wreath Making**

Sun 5 and 11 December, All day, 90 minute sessions. £18 per family.  
Create your own wreath with the whole family.

### **Winter Trees**

Wed 8 December, 10am to noon. Free (donations welcome).  
Gentle guided walk to learn how to identify tree species in winter.

## Little Shelford Local History Society

A talk by Becky Proctor

'The history of Royal Papworth Hospital'

Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Wednesday 10 November

at 7.30pm

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# What should we do with the trees?

NO sooner had I read Helen Hale's excellent summary of 2G3S 'eco' activities last month than we faced queues at petrol stations. Next I received a warning that my electricity price is temporarily(?) going up by 40% due to lack of gas for power stations. The electricity grid does not store energy. It is like a bicycle chain. It can only average it. Total demand must be balanced by total supply. In windless cloudy weather we use fuel (coal, oil or natural gas) to meet the demand. An alternative fuel is biomass such as from trees or even grass. There are strong lobbies for and against that, and Helen's final section gives only one side of that argument.

The huge Drax power station is being converted from coal to biomass. Drax argues that this is 'carbon neutral' because the CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) released by burning biomass is removed again as trees regrow. Therefore Drax can supply electricity when wind and sun fail. Drax also has plans to remove the CO<sub>2</sub> from their chimneys and either sell it to put in our beer or store it in exhausted oil wells under the North Sea. That would actually remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere reversing global warming.

But tree huggers in organisations like Friends of the Earth claim that cutting down forest habitats to supply Drax releases CO<sub>2</sub>. Drax replies that all its biomass comes from sustainably managed sources. That means that when mature trees are cut down for fuel they are replaced by saplings. It is vigorous 'teenage' trees that remove CO<sub>2</sub> fastest. Mature trees do not. I suspect that there is some truth on both sides. Many countries turn a blind eye to illegal logging.

What of grass which is also carbon neutral when used as bio fuel? It can be harvested and regrown year after year. It can take up to 20 years to regrow and remove the CO<sub>2</sub> released when a tree is burned. We don't have 20 years to 'save the planet'. Grass could give us carbon neutral fuel without that 20-year carbon deficit. Dale Vince of Ecotricity shows that we could keep our North Sea gas boilers if we replaced that gas with biogas from growing grass. He estimates that we have enough land and could save billions of pounds.

There are many varieties of grass, even giant varieties like bamboo and elephant



*Isaiah at the giant bamboo used for construction (see over page)*

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grass. Bamboo is a wonderful substitute for wood for both fuel and construction. In Uganda, where there is no winter, biomass can be grown four times fast as in the UK. That is why I have sponsored Isaiah Mwesige to study forestry and agriculture. Forests there are being cut down for cooking and to create more farm land for its fast growing population. That is why I sponsor Benedictor Waniale to teach Ugandans how to cut their use of wood for cooking by two thirds in fuel efficient mud stoves (photo,



left), and his partner to train as a midwife specialising in sexual health.

We may not even need to grow fuel crops. My daughter-in-law's father, a chemical engineer who campaigned to make hydrogen from biomass, claimed that there is enough forest and farm waste in Europe to provide all the fuel the EU and UK needs. The subject does not end here. Instead of cooking on

charcoal this biochar should be returned to the land to capture carbon and improve soil fertility. Regenerative farming offers great ideas to restore the health of our farmland and more ideas to turn the deserts of the world green. **Bill Powell**

## Organ recital by John Bryden

In aid of the Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

27 November at 7pm in St Andrew's Church

From a centrally-placed console John Bryden will demonstrate how the St Andrew's organ works . Music will include a pedal exercise by Bach, Handel's 'Water Music', Guilman's 'Caprice', Elgar's 'Nimrod' and other popular items.

So it promises to be an informative as well as musical evening.

We look forward to welcoming you.



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# Library's Year of the Planet



TO coincide with the start of The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, on 31 October, the Friends of Great Shelford Library and Cambridgeshire Libraries have teamed up to offer a year-round selection of books to delight, amaze and inform you about the wonders of our planet and the challenges it is facing. The Friends are funding the purchase of a range of new books, on nature and wildlife, gardening for wildlife, ecology, climate change, and on ways to live a greener, more climate-friendly life. These will come on stream over the course of the year.

Our first offering of books – available from the end of October – will include Derek Niemann's '**A Tale of Trees**', an account of Waresley Wood, which is just 20 miles from Shelford, and a history of woodlands since the Second World War; '**Woodlands**' by Oliver Rackham, Cambridge scholar and acknowledged expert on woodlands, who taught us to value England's ancient woodland again; and Isabella Tree's '**Rewilding**', which has inspired a whole new movement within conservation, and is a heartening read about how to recover biodiversity.

Zoologist E O Wilson has been called "one of the 20th century's greatest thinkers" and the New Darwin, yet, for all his eminence, his books are very easy to read. Try '**The Diversity of Life**', '**Half Earth**' or '**Letters to a Young Scientist**'. Mike Berners Lee's '**How Bad are Bananas**' is a fun book, but with the serious goal of informing you about how to reduce your carbon footprint, while Guy Pearse's '**Greenwash Effect**' will give you insight into the ways businesses try to deceive us into thinking they're green.

Authors Tony Juniper, James Lovelock, Jonathan Porritt and Elizabeth Kolbert all in different ways shed light on the climate crisis, and our need to address our carbon emissions and over-consumption of resources.

For younger readers we have many great reads, including '**Fantastically Great Women who Saved the Planet**', '**Greta's Story**' and '**The Book of Brilliant Bugs**'.

Over the coming months we will be adding further titles to the collection, including some 'spotter's guides' to help you explore the natural world when you're out and about. So do come and browse the collection. It will only increase your wonder and your desire to care for the planet.

# Yesteryear

*SYLVIA Morris gives a selection of events in the village from Novembers past. Spelling and punctuation are as printed at the time.*

## 1813

**SALE.** By auction. At the Rose Public-house in Stapleford on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> December at seven o'clock in the evening. All that very desirable House, with a yard, barn, stable and outbuildings; together with an orchard adjoining, well planted with full bearing fruit trees together with an allotment of Pasture Land, nearly opposite, containing about One Acre, well fenced, all situated in the most pleasant part of Stapleford, a short distance from the turnpike road, and now in the occupation of Messrs. Brand and Willis. Also a Reversionary Interest, expectant on the death of a Lady aged between 50 and 60 years, into all that small House, with a yard, etc., adjoining the above.

## 1894

**FIRE.** An alarming fire, which did a great deal of damage, broke out early on Tuesday morning, on the Manor Farm, the property of Mr. W. S. Heffer. A spark from the engine found its way to a corn stack which, with three or four others, was covered by a large iron roof supported on pillars. A sharp northeast wind caused the flames to spread with terrible rapidity, and in a few moments the whole of the stacks were ablaze. The building in which they stood was also enveloped in flames and the threshing machine, stacks and shed were entirely destroyed. The mass continued to blaze throughout Tuesday and Wednesday.

## 1904

**EVENING CLASSES.** The classes for the young men and women of this village are now in full order, and appear to be well appreciated. Vocal music, drawing, mensuration and woodwork (teacher, Mr Braine of Cambridge) are all well attended. At present the needlework class is small, but it is hoped more students will be shortly enrolled. The cookery class, owing to a lack of names being sent in, was dropped.

## 1917

**STAPLEFORD. FROM THE FRONT.** Amongst those who have recently returned from the front and visited Stapleford is Corporal Percy Gledhill. The corporal (who is the youngest son of the late Mr W Gledhill of Aldershot) has been on active service since September 1914 and was with the Sixth Division when stationed in Cambridge. Eighteen months have

elapsed since his previous leave. Corporal Gledhill was married in November 1915 to Miss Adelaide, second daughter of Mr and Mrs F Hoppitt of Stapleford.

**1943**

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING ... It was decided to send a resolution to the county executive "In the opinion of the Stapleford Women's Institute it is a matter of the utmost urgency that a working-class woman's advice should be taken when planning new houses."

**1967**

"ALL members participated in the discussion on the destruction of the 1685



cottage in Church Street in a gale. Whilst everybody regretted the loss of the cottage through human and natural agencies, it was realised that little could be done now and on the proposition of Mr Holt seconded by Mr Chalk it was agreed that the Clerk write and acknowledge the letter from the Planning Dept, requesting

that sympathetic consideration be given to the latest application to rebuild and ask to be kept informed of development". *Extract from the Parish Council Minutes)*

## Open day for prospective parents of those starting reception in 2022



STAPLEFORD Community Primary School looks forward to welcoming parents and children to our open day on Thursday 11 November starting at 9.30am.

Please contact the school on 508720 to make an appointment. Short tours lasting 30 minutes will be spaced across the day in small groups. **Christine Spain** Headteacher

# Stapleford Community Primary School PTA Fun Run

DUE to Covid, the annual Stapleford Fun Run was moved from its usual June slot to October, which resulted in a slightly wetter event than normal. However the weather didn't dampen spirits and 223 hardy souls ventured out to take part. Well done to everyone who took part and completed their races.

A total of 223 runners constitutes our best turnout yet by a country mile. So thank you for bringing the Fun to the Run, dressing up in the most awesome costumes, and putting in some amazing performances.

Through the wonders of modern technology, the Fun Run route has been properly measured and the distances for each race re-categorised as 1km, 4km and 8km, rather than the previous 1mile, 2.5 miles and 5 miles (though Brexit requirements may result in conversion back to Imperial measurements next year!)

The winners of each race category, congratulations you speedsters, were;

## 1km:

Key stage 1 or below **Boys:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Dexter Stokes

Key stage 1 or below **Girls:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Amie Paley

## 4km:

Key stage 3 or below **Boys:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Conor Mc Brien

Key stage 3 or below **Girls:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Amelie Crawford

## 8km:

**Male:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Matthew Smith

**Female:** 1<sup>st</sup> – Sarah Sparrow

Race registrations, donations and sponsorship raised over £3,500, which will go a long way towards renovating the school swimming pool.

Sponsors of the Fun Run this year were Camweavers, Gympo's, House of Colour, The Pizza & Kitchen Company, Redmayne Arnold & Harris, Scotsdales, Shelford & Stapleford Strikers FC, Stapleford Granary, and Wedd Joinery. Thank you for your kind generosity.

The organising committee intends to return the Fun Run to its more traditional June date in future, so June 2022 should be the next one, Covid permitting of course. **Tim Harrison**





*The 1km race gets going!*



*The 4km and 8km races in full swing*



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## November

- 6th** She'Koyokh, award-winning virtuosic 7-piece klezmer band
- 7th** East Anglia Chamber Orchestra play Schubert's Trout Quintet
- 11th** Samuele Telari, Italian rising star accordionist plays Grieg & Bach
- 12th** Brodsky Quartet, internationally renowned string quartet performing Schubert, Tanaka & Webern
- 19th** Callum Smart (violin) & Richard Uttley (piano) play Brahms & Korngold
- 21st** Alex Hitchcock Quartet featuring BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year Deschanel Gordon (piano)
- 25th** Bill Laurance, grammy award-winning pianist, composer & arranger
- 28th** Lucy Cavendish Singers perform folk, jazz & classical songs

## December

- 11th** Goldfield Ensemble, music for clarinet & string quartet including a world premiere by Matthew Kaner
- 12th** Moonlight Mandolin Orchestra
- 12th** The Elves & the Shoemaker - exquisite children's puppetry & storytelling from Theatre of Widdershins
- 16th** Candle-lit Bach I Music for Awhile play Bach, Corelli & Handel
- 17th** Magical Crackers - acclaimed illusionist & actor Peter Clifford with a jaw-dropping family magic show
- 17th** Candle-lit Bach II Jonathan Aasgaard, cello, plays Bach
- 18th** Candle-lit Bach III Elizabeth Kenny, lute, plays Bach & Weiss

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# Puzzle Corner

Anagrams: 3s, 6s and 9s



Unscramble the following anagrams

In each group, all the answers end with different letters

The answers are all common words and are on page 37.

### 3-letter words

HOW	LIO	APE	SYE	TUO	EYK	MUE	ISK
XIS	BRI	WAS	VER	IND	IRS	KIR	PIM
CAR	UGH	DLO	ECU	MYG	FLE	ZEF	HAS

### 6-letter words

INCAME	LIDSAM	AUGATE	STUBOR	BUCHER
PAXDEN	ELFIRE	OWEDAM	YESFAT	SENTIN
LIESUM	CHESTY	ONECAD	MONDAY	DIMSOW
IWAGER	SICPET	THECAD	HIKERS	SCRONE
	AMPISH		LAXMIC	

### 9-letter words

WORMFREAK	GRIEVESON	BORINGHUE	GRAZETHM
NOMOREBAG	CITEGREEN	STAGILOAN	CUTESOFIA
TRUEPRINT	SETINFOAM	COLDRUNES	MYBONECHO
STYLENINE	BRUCEPUTT	WRITEVINE	STIGMAMEN
TISHENEXT	ITSTHEGAP	FOODHEALS	MOPRUMPIT
THISLAYER	LIFEISBED	EXTROBELT	



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## Quiz time

BELOW is a Mixed Bag 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 and every team also has a go at the random guess question at the end for a tenner.

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.

Answers on page 37.

1. In 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind', which actor's character became obsessed with the shape of a mountain, which he modelled using mashed potato?
2. In the original novel of Phantom of the Opera by Gaston Leroux, what is the name of the Phantom?
3. Golf; in a normal PGA event, what is the maximum number of clubs a player may carry?
4. Which of the following is a Noble Gas? A. Fluorine B. Phosphine C. Krypton D. Praseodymium.
5. Who wrote the Hunger Games (and its sequels)?
6. What name is given to the longest day of the year ?
7. The constellation known as the Big Dipper or the Plough is also known as what exactly?
8. In which part of the body would you find a muscle called the brachioradialis?
9. What is the name of the mineral hardness scale which ranges from talc to diamond?
10. Which atmosphere layer lies closest to the earth?



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# Wellcome Genome Campus event

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6pm, 24 November. Online event, Free, Booking required



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years ago that paved the way for the cutting-edge biomedical research on site today, including our contribution to UK's crucial Covid-19 surveillance effort. We explore how DNA sequencing plays a vital role in understanding health and disease, hear from people at the forefront of these discoveries, and celebrate what can be achieved when we make space for science.

Register: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hinxton-hall-dna-and-discovery-tickets-160591785353](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hinxton-hall-dna-and-discovery-tickets-160591785353).

## Puzzle Corner anagram answers

WHO, OIL, PEA, YES, OUT, KEY, EMU, SKI  
SIX, RIB, SAW, REV, DIN, SIR, IRK, IMP  
ARC, HUG, OLD, CUE, GYM, ELF, FEZ, ASH

CINEMA, DISMAL, GATEAU, ROBUST, CHERUB  
EXPAND, RELIEF, MEADOW, SAFETY, TENNIS  
MUESLI, SCYTHE, DEACON, DYNAMO, WISDOM  
EARWIG, SEPTIC, DETACH, SHRIEK, CENSOR  
MISHAP, CLIMAX

FRAMEWORK, SOVEREIGN, NEIGHBOUR, MEGAHERTZ  
BOOMERANG ENERGETIC, NOSTALGIA, FACETIOUS  
INTERRUPT, MANIFESTO, SCOUNDREL, HONEYCOMB  
INTENSELY, BUTTERCUP, INTERVIEW, MAGNETISM  
SIXTEENTH, SPAGHETTI, FALSEHOOD, IMPROMPTU  
HAIRSTYLE, DISBELIEF, LETTERBOX

## Quiz answers

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Richard Dreyfuss | 6. Solstice      |
| 2. Erik             | 7. The Bear      |
| 3. 14               | 8. Arm           |
| 4. C Krypton        | 9. Mohs Scale    |
| 5. Suzanne Collins  | 10. Troposphere. |



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# Stapleford Community Primary School

THE start of the autumn term has been a positive one, with the children demonstrating ambition and excellence in their approach to learning and many, many examples of caring towards each other and the school environment.

With a focus on learning to learn, encouraging curiosity has been a key feature this term.



We were delighted to welcome artists Sally Todd and Caroline Wendling to Stapleford Community Primary School. They worked with Y6 on a project called 'Forest of Imagination', as part of a Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination Project.

The day started with the children learning about mycorrhizal fungi and plant samples invisible to the naked eye. Finley said, "The scientists put dye on it and magnified it 60 times so we could see it."

Once outdoors the artists worked with the children to sketch the trees in the moat and playground. Finley explained, "The tip was to look more at the trees than the canvas."

Once in the moat, they looked at the trees, and selected one that "spoke to them". With oil pastels and graphite, the children made as many colours as they could. The class were engrossed in a range of activities using a

selection of materials from dye, wax, pastels and water.



The afternoon ended with an exhibition of their work, and Sally and Caroline were impressed that so many parents were able to visit to see the work. Our thanks go to CCI, it was a treat to spend the day working with Sally and Caroline.  
**Christine Spain**



**AA**

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# Granta Medical Practices

THE coronavirus boosters are being given by NHS vaccination centres in our area, and you will be contacted direct when it is your turn to book. The booster vaccine dose helps improve the protection you have from your first two doses of the vaccine and also helps gives you longer-term protection against getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

Booster vaccine doses are available to those most at risk from COVID-19 who have had a second dose of vaccine at least six months ago. This includes:

- People aged 50 and over
- People who live and work in care homes
- Frontline health and social care workers
- People aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts them at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19
- Carers aged 16 and over
- People aged 16 and over who live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)

If you are pregnant and in one of the eligible groups listed above you can also get a booster dose.

If you are a frontline health or social care worker you can book a booster dose appointment online – you do not need to wait to be contacted by the NHS.

For further information on coronavirus booster vaccinations please ring NHS 119 or go to [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). **Sandra East**

## Part-time clerical assistant sought



THE Magog Trust has a vacancy for a part-time clerical assistant to help run its membership which has grown six-fold in recent years.

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For further details, please contact Chris Bow on 07711 417900 or email [admin@magogtrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@magogtrust.org.uk).

# Stapleford Strollers: Walk 99

## The Valley of the River Bourn: a circular walk at Ashdon

### To get to start of walk

TURN right at the end of the Linton by-pass, for Bartlow. Go right at Bartlow (signed Ashdon and Saffron Walden). Keep going until The Rose and Crown at Ashdon (CB10 2HA) is reached on the right hand side. Park by the roadside.

### Length of walk

Just under 4½ miles. This a really interesting walk, but there are plenty of ups and downs and parts can get sticky underfoot after prolonged rain, especially alongside the 'river' near the start.

### OS Map

Explorer map 209. If you want a free map extract use [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net)

### Extra Information

The Rose and Crown at Ashdon has been closed since July 2020, but it should be open for business again when you read this. Ashdon is in North Essex. It appears in Domesday Book with the rather grand name Ascenduna, which means 'place of the ash trees'. It has always been a farming community but its level of overall significance can perhaps be gauged by the fact that the Saffron Walden to Bartlow railway line of 1865 skirted the village, but no station was built until 1911!

### Route of walk

From the Rose and Crown, cross over and walk up Radwinter Road on the right hand pavement. When the Baptist Church car park is reached go right at a footpath sign and keep ahead, crossing a field. At a junction of paths bear left, taking the path that is parallel to the stream (River Bourn) and walk up the wooded slope, keeping the stream to the right.

Pass two sets of houses, with woods in between and, shortly after the second set go right, via a metal gate. The path gets indistinct, but keep on in the same direction and turn right, over a footbridge.

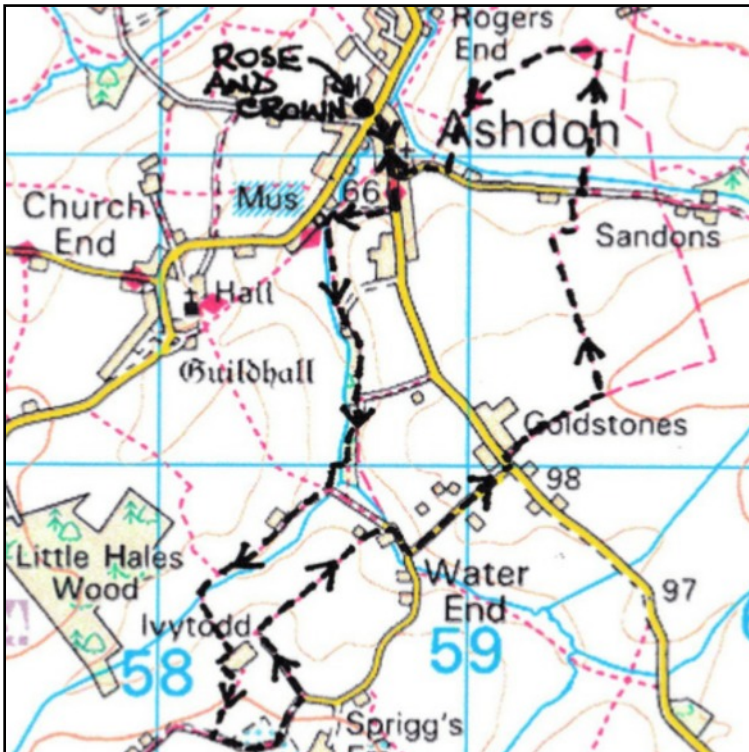
Turn immediate left after the bridge and go through the metal gate at the end of the field. Then keep on ahead; do not go left down the road. The track passes the front of a house. Keep on ahead and then go left through a gate when a footpath sign is seen. Follow the right hand side of a pasture and enter a farmyard.

Go right when a direction arrow is seen on a brick farm building ahead. The path comes out on a track. Turn right and then swing left along the right hand side of a field, before meeting a minor road. Go left and keep on until a footpath sign is seen pointing up a side turning to the left. Go along the side road and then right at another sign, when the road swings left.

Cross a field. The route mainly goes between the cropped areas. At the far side, the path goes downhill, swings right and then left, leading down to another road, by a house. Turn right and then take the first turning on the left, walking up the side road until a main road is reached.

Go left and, almost straight away, cross over at a footpath sign. Walk past a farm and look for a path through a gap in the hedge on the left. Walk downhill for some time until a minor road is reached. Go right for a few paces, then left through an open field entrance. The path is straight ahead, up a slope. At the top go left on a cross path; follow it right round the field edge until the minor road is reached again. Turn right; when the main road is reached, go right and walk downhill to the Rose and Crown. **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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## Meeting musings

*THE prospect of 100 new houses off Mingle Lane is a hot topic in the village and the parish council meeting that discussed it drew a larger than normal audience. Fraser Grace was among them, and shares his thoughts.*

THE meeting at the Pavilion on Thursday 7 October was well attended by local residents. It featured an almost full complement of our own parish councillors and was also supported by officers and councillors from the South Cambridgeshire District Council. Howard Kettel was in the chair.

The meeting began with an address from the Leader of the District Council, Bridget Smith, who in her own words is on something of a tour of local parish councils, some of whom she said were feeling 'overwhelmed' by the sheer number of planning proposals and initiatives currently live in South Cambs. The planning proposal currently under discussion is a 100-house development proposed for land lying between Stapleford's Mingle Lane and Great Shelford's Hinton Way. Councillor Smith's mission in accepting an invitation from Stapleford PC was to help residents see this proposal in the wider context of the targets for housing development set by government. We must also consider our own need to provide extra housing opportunities for those, such as key workers and our own adult children, who currently cannot afford to live in the area. The Council's top two priorities in developing a new local plan - Councillor Smith assured the meeting - are the environment, and affordable housing.

Councillor Smith then took questions both from councillors and from residents. Resistance to the proposal from the floor was clear, and can be summarised in three main lines of argument:

Top of everyone's list was that the development would destroy a precious piece of greenbelt - land that is immensely valuable in maintaining biodiversity in the area. Greenbelt is also designed to act as a buffer between rural village and city sprawl. Allied to this is another environmental concern - that of the impact of any such development on the aquifer, already under great stress in the area. Regulations say planning should only propose building on greenbelt (planners use the much more positive-sounding phrase 'greenbelt release'...) in exceptional circumstances. Those circumstances, it was stressed, do not apply here, and have not changed since the last time proposals to develop prospective developers facing off against the District Council. Discussion about this piece of land were brought forward. If it was rejected then, it should be rejected now.

The second argument was that when the current proposal is viewed alongside the GCP's planned busway, and Axis developments' mooted



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retirement village off Haverhill Road, it is clear that the *whole* of the greenbelt around the village is now being eyed-up for housing development. Councillor Smith argued that GCP is only interested in providing greener transport and is not concerned – as residents fear - with triggering a release of land for housing. Residents might well reply that in our current context, this observation seems either naive or disingenuous. The placing of the station towards the upper reaches of Hinton Way is a clear sign that the footprint of the village is to be expanded. Infilling (including the likes of the proposed Haverhill Road retirement development) will surely follow, with the loss of the entire greenbelt.

The third argument was that the proposed development is unlikely to answer the village's need for affordable housing, let alone the social housing that would be needed for key workers, or retiring villagers wanting to downsize. The cost of affordable housing (80% market value) would also still be way beyond the reach of most young people. What's more, developers have historically found ways to 'game' their way out of providing the 40% quota of affordable housing supposedly required by the regulations. Councillor Smith said she was determined to deliver that 40%, but there were few in the room who believed that would be possible. Greenbelt would be lost, and the only gains would be increased traffic congestion and pressure on an already over-subscribed school roll.

As with the busway proposal, residents were not against housing development per se, but were insistent that less-damaging alternatives to the 'preferred' location should be explored. The top priority, as with the District Council, is to protect our environment. It's clear that members of the public who were present are serious about that priority.

After Councillor Smith was thanked for her attendance and left, attention turned to planning applications pending – including the appeal lodged by Axis homes. The formal inquiry will now proceed with the landowners and their prospective developers facing off against the District Council. Discussion also continued on possible alternative sites for housing development. Parish Councillors were keen to emphasise that the Mingle Road site cannot be rejected without the offer of other potential sites. One councillor made the very good point that empty/derelict properties within the village should also be added to the mix.

Finding alternatives is something anyone can help with; if you have an idea of a site in the village that might be (re)developed for housing, please contact the clerk to the Council, and play a part in help to construct a new Neighbourhood Plan – preferably one that preserves all the things that are good about our village.



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# Your chance to comment

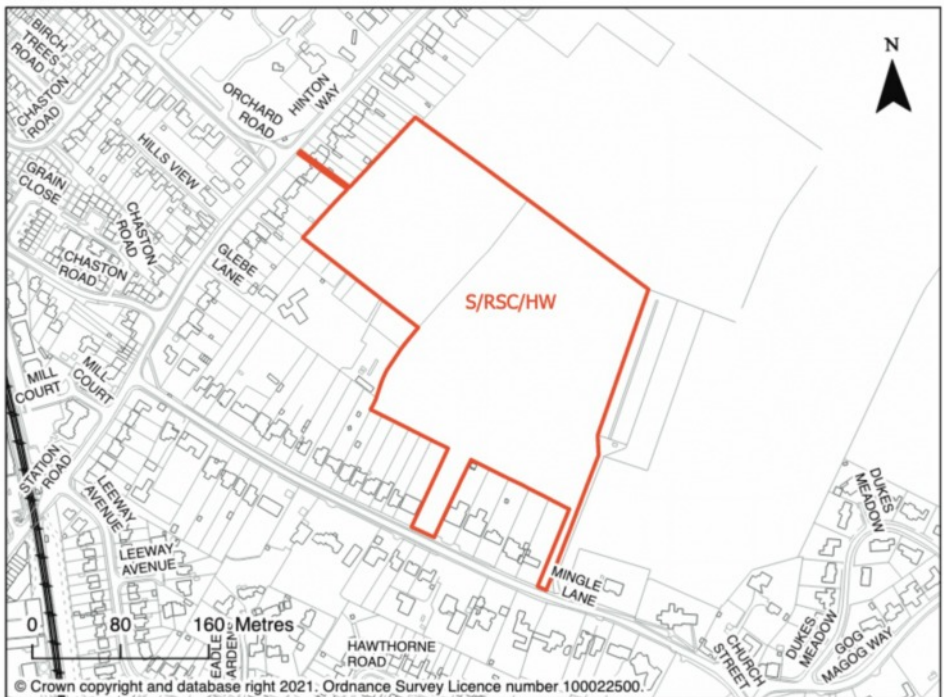
## Help shape Stapleford Parish Council’s response to plans to remove 10ha from local greenbelt for development

IN last month’s edition of the *Messenger*, our SCDC Councillor, Peter Fane (Lib Dem), gave an update on draft Local Plan proposals to remove from greenbelt a 10ha site behind Mingle Lane and Hinton Way and make it available for housing development (available to read at [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning/](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning/)).

Of the hundreds of sites put forward in 2020 for consideration, this is the only one in our immediate area which is proposed to be included in the new Local Plan. It will now be subject to a public consultation running from 1 November to 13 December 2021.

### Your chance to influence Stapleford Parish Council’s consultation response

Stapleford Parish Council’s consultation response should reflect the desires and concerns of parish residents. To understand your views both for and against development at Mingle Lane/Hinton Way, we are inviting



Stapleford parishioners to email comments to Stapleford Parish Council. Great Shelford parishioners should contact Great Shelford Parish Council with their comments. It will also be possible for parishioners to respond in less detail to forthcoming Facebook posts by Stapleford Parish Council about the consultation.

### **What to do focus on**

It is very important to understand that the consultation is only concerned with assessing the **appropriateness** of the site for development. Any comments which do not address this specific criterion cannot be considered in either the Parish Council's response or by Greater Cambridge Shared Planning if you respond directly to them. If the Mingle Lane/Hinton Way site continues to be included in the Local Plan after the consultation, there will then be opportunities to debate what type of housing would best meet local needs and how many houses the site is suitable for.

Note that the appropriateness of all sites is evaluated against set criteria: infrastructure (transport, travel, energy, health, education, etc); impact on climate change; biodiversity and green spaces (including greenbelt); jobs (existing and future); housing needs; wellbeing and social inclusion; 'great places' (sustaining and enhancing the character and quality of places); fit with agreed spatial growth strategy. A webinar about the evidence base behind sites put forward for development is planned for November, but at the time of writing its date has yet to be released.

### **Exceptional circumstances for greenbelt release**

Having been assessed against these factors, the Mingle Lane/Hinton Way site was one of only four greenbelt sites which was considered to display the exceptional circumstances required to justify releasing it from greenbelt. 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..." It is the view of the draft Local Plan that the site fits with the aim that "We want our rural villages to continue to thrive and sustain their local services, but we don't want to encourage lots of new homes in places where car travel is the easiest or only way to get around. We therefore propose some development in and around larger villages that have good transport links and services, and to support important employment clusters." Note that no consideration of proximity to the busway across greenbelt proposed by Greater Cambridge Partnership was made in assessing the Mingle Lane/Hinton Way site because this has not yet received planning permission.

**To find out more...**

The full library of Greater Cambridge Local Plan first proposals documents is available at <https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan-preferred-options/supporting-documents>.

**Get in touch**

We look forward to hearing from Stapleford residents. Please submit comments to [clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk) or post to B. Irons, Stapleford Parish Council, 14 Crawley End, Chrishall, SG8 8QL, by 30 November and include your address.

## **Steering group for neighbourhood plan**

A STEERING group comprising Stapleford and Great Shelford parish councillors and residents has been formed to create and drive forward a neighbourhood plan for the combined area. Such plans give communities more control over the type, location, size and design of development in their area. Once passed by an examiner and ratified by the community through a referendum, planning application decisions in Stapleford and Great Shelford would then have to take into account the policies set out in our neighbourhood plan.

Since a new draft Local Plan for Greater Cambridge is in progress at the moment, this is the ideal time to develop our neighbourhood plan. There will be many opportunities for community involvement, engagement and feedback as the project evolves.

For further information, please contact the Clerk of the steering group, Libby White, at [clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk), or the Chair, Jenny Flynn, at [jenny.flynn@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.flynn@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk). **Jenny Flynn**

## **Cambridge Cake Creators**

WE meet on the third Thursday of every month from 7.15pm to 9.30pm at the Jubilee Pavilion. So if you caught the baking 'bug' during lockdown, why not join us.

The next meeting is on 18 November with a demonstration of Christmas flowers. All levels including beginners welcome!

Contact Vanda on 561053 or email [vanda.butler@googlemail.com](mailto:vanda.butler@googlemail.com) or [bsgcamps@hotmail.com](mailto:bsgcamps@hotmail.com) **Vanda Butler**

# Stapleford Parish Council to host 'Eco Social Evening',

26 November: all welcome

ARE you concerned about our changing climate and fragile ecosystems? Are you worried what sort of future your (grand)children will have? Do you wonder what you could do to make a difference? If so, please come along to Stapleford pavilion on 26 November, 6.30-9.00pm, to a social evening organised by the Parish Council.

In common with scores of other parish and town councils around the country, Stapleford Parish Council has recently declared a climate and ecological emergency. We may be small, but we can be a positive force for change within the community. As such, we have prepared a set of priorities for action which we intend to introduce over the next few months. Expect to see announcements about, for example, managing some of our green verges for nature, tree planting, creating a wildflower meadow at the north end of the new cemetery, litter picking, commissioning a 'green report' on the Jubilee Pavilion, and opportunities for community involvement. Our Eco Social Evening will help to get the ball rolling.



*2G3S litter-pick in Stapleford in October 2021, supported by residents and parish councillors*

We will talk about what the declaration means in general and our verge rewilding plan in particular. However, most time will be given over to Ashley Arbon, a superb local ecologist who will talk about our chalk streams and aquifers, and flora and fauna, and to Cambridge Past Present & Future to discuss its work on preserving and enhancing Wandlebury and wider local greenbelt for future generations.

There will be opportunities to ask questions, to air your views and, if you wish, to volunteer your involvement in future community projects.

If you would like to attend – either as an individual or as a local interest group – please confirm approximate numbers by emailing [jenny.flynn@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.flynn@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk).

“A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit” – Greek proverb. **Cllr Michael Gatward**

# Stapleford Parish Council

## Report from the Chair from the meeting held on 7 October

MINUTES of the meeting held on 7 October and previous meetings can be viewed at: [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk).

### Local Plan

We welcomed Bridget Smith leader of South Cambs District Council to the meeting which was attended by 37 members of the general public.

The focus of her presentation was the preparation of the new Local Plan and how to balance the conflicting demands of housing need with preserving our open countryside. Please see the Parish Council minutes for the questions and discussion and see the articles above in order to inform your views. The public consultation runs from 1 November to 13 December.

### Great Shelford and Stapleford Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr Smith highlighted the Neighbourhood Plan as a key driver of our local identity and recognition of need. We are delighted that we agreed that Cllr Jenny Flynn be appointed the new Chair of the Joint Plan but volunteer support to bring the Plan together is urgently needed, please do contact the Clerk if you feel you can help.

### Busroad

We see the GCP's proposed busroad as a further weakening of our greenbelt and we are currently discussing with various interest groups our strategy and a budget. We need to appoint a leading firm of solicitors in anticipation of the GCP's anticipated Transport and Works Act Order that will set in motion the public enquiry.

### Proposed Retirement Village

As the village is aware, there is an Appeal against the refusal by SCDC to allow the residential care village development on the Haverhill Road. At the application stage the Parish Council put forward a strong case against this development and, when it was called in for Committee decision, spoke strongly against the application. This decision was upheld by our Planners at SCDC and refusal given.

The developers, Axis on behalf of the Chalk family, have now appealed against this decision. The Parish Council had a very short time window to submit our feelings and opted to apply for a rule 6 status which would give us more time to write our/your views. Since this application we have realised that it is not applicable as we are only allowed to submit new information under this status and we have no new information. We also

consulted the SCDC legal team and it was confirmed that the appeal is between Axis and SCDC and not the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has been in communication with the lead planner, Michael Sexton, and has been informed that SCDC have appointed a legal team to take on the appeal and we have assured them of our support and input if required. The procedures for the Appeal have now been sent through and the two parties have until 9 November to submit their documents for consideration. As yet the date of the start of the appeal has not been given.

### **The Chalk and Gravel Pit**

The Clerk has sent a letter to the Charity Commission in compliance with legislation to progress the transfer of ownership to the Magog Trust.

### **MUGA**

The MUGA is open and sports groups are invited to book the courts at: [clubspark.lta.org.uk/StaplefordTennisClub/Booking/BookByDate#?date=2021-09-13&role=guest](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StaplefordTennisClub/Booking/BookByDate#?date=2021-09-13&role=guest)

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

The shed renovation is completed and plans for external public toilets are well advanced.

### **Parish Council audit report from PKF Littlejohn**

This has been completed. The full report can be accessed on the Parish Council website.

### **Environment Group**

Cllr Michael Gatward is leading this group, with an event planned for the 26 November. Please see article on page 52.

Consultation is proceeding with Cambridge County Council on a more environmental mowing regime of grass verges.

### **Resignation**

Stapleford Parish Council is sorry to advise that the Assistant Clerk and the Clerk have resigned from the Parish Council. The roles will be reviewed to ensure the most effective cover is provided and we will be advertising very shortly.

### **Vacancies**

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



We are advertising for a Caretaker/Handyperson/grounds maintenance person (one person or two) part-time, paid positions which are designed to ensure that there is effective cover for caretaking duties focused on the Pavilion and the Slaughterhouse, playgrounds, Recreation Field and the Cemetery. The roles include maintenance and gardening, and applicants are expected to be able to demonstrate skills in these areas.

**Planning**

21/03942/HFUL The House on the Hill, Hinton Way, Stapleford  
Rear and side extension with layout alterations: 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, wellbeing 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 WITHDRAWAL FROM RULE 6 STATUS: Cllr B Kettel explained that a Rule 6 application meant that the Parish Council may be liable for costs if the appeal was upheld. The Parish Council had no new evidence to present. The District Council was best placed to fight the appeal with the Parish Council in a supportive role

21/02851/FUL Chalk Hill, Haverhill Road, Stapleford

Construction of a single storey replacement dwelling (resubmission of 20/04170/FUL) No objection

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IS THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER AT 7.00PM.**

## **BIKE SALE & POP UP CAFE**

**Saturday 6 November, Great Shelford Memorial Hall**



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# Stapleford Parish Council

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