

Stapleford MESSENGER

Ne Nuntium Necare!

January 2022

Volume 81 No 1

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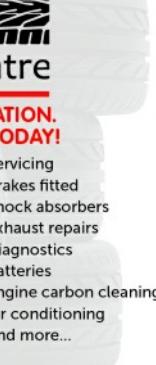
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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish priest

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate

Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

Churchwardens

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Alastair MacGregor

07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Youthworker

Zoe Clayton 894656

Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 264246

Director of Music

John Bryden 07803 706847

PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Verger

Clare Kerr 842984

Sacristan

Peter Green 500404

Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Liz Hodgkins 01638 570060

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Friends of St Andrew's

Tony Hore 843796

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

Sunday services vary from week to week and our pattern is changing as we come out of lockdown. See the St Andrew's Noticeboard for this month, and the church website at standrewstapleford.org for full details. The services include:

9am BCP or CW Communion

10.30am Communions, Services of the Word, Messy Church and Forest Church

2pm Sunday Praise

4.30pm Connect

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

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

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish priest.

Stapleford MESSENGER

Editor

Contact staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

Advertising

Contact stapleford.ads@gmail.com

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

OVER the last few years this column has celebrated a number of unlikely heroes and lamented many fallen idols. It's a good theme to revisit as we start 2022. In the unlikely heroes category I think fondly of Kevin Nicks, whose shed broke its own world speed record – more than 100 kph – on a stretch of Pendine Sands. The youth group I once took surfboarding there would have been amazed!

Now I bring you a new unlikely hero, one Kevin Beresford. There is a book to be written on the achievements of men called Kevin. His achievement, more ordinary than a speedy shed – you might say very ordinary indeed once I tell you about it – is a calendar of the 'Benches of Redditch'. By mid-November he had sold over a thousand, and I expect the media coverage at that time was good for sales. Now Redditch is not exactly picturesque. It is nice enough, with some quite pretty countryside surrounding, but a lot of the benches shown are in distinctly ordinary places. There is one outside a defunct chip shop, another on a council estate and so on. Mr Beresford makes no apology. His aim is to celebrate the ordinary, to get us to notice.

He has form for this sort of thing. His previous calendars are of roundabouts, post boxes and car parks. Next year he is thinking of rubbish tips. I suppose even his calendar of 'The wonderful world of Jack Grealish's calves' – yes, really – falls into the ordinary category in a way. 'I like to take slices of English life that nobody else bothers with,' he said. 'I like to focus on the mundane, artists have always focused on the mundane. You've got Tracy Emin's bed, Andy Warhol did a can of soup.'

My hope for 2022 is that we will all be able to focus on the ordinary. It seems so long since we could. As I write I am waiting for yet another meeting on what to do about Covid, with the Omicron variant threatening our church Christmas plans. And in my legal practice our chambers management committee is working out how to deal with the latest changes in the law and guidance. Nothing has been ordinary since mid-March 2020, and that now seems like an awfully long time ago. Even then much of life was a bit Brexit, and none of that was normal. I am exhausted with it all, and I guess many of you are too.

But now, prompted too by our rather hopeful Christmas preparation of something like our normal services, I am reminded that although there were



parts of Jesus' life that were extraordinary, there were many bits that were distinctly mundane. Sure he had a choir of angels at his birth, but he had a mostly ordinary childhood (apart from once playing hooky in the Temple when his parents had left to return home). He learnt to be a carpenter and carried on that trade for years. Even once he began his ministry he did things like cooking for others, washing dirty feet, looking after children, snoozing after a period of heavy work, and going off for a bit of quiet. He rather challenges any dismissive view of the mundane things of life. We rightly value high levels of achievement and major contributions to society, but perhaps do not value the ordinary as we should. The earthly-lifelong ordinary activities of the one who 'flung stars into space' by whom 'all things were created on heaven and earth' show that the ordinary activities of ordinary human beings matter. The stay-at-home parent looking after children, the one who serves where others do not notice, the one who offers hospitality, who smiles at the stranger and helps their neighbour – we salute you in your Christ-like ordinariness! May this new year be an ordinary time!

But on to fallen idols, another theme of this column. You may remember Tyson Fury, WBC heavyweight title holder again since October, who, last time he won it marred his victory with a string of homophobic and misogynistic comments. I linked him to the bible's King David, an adulterous and murderous man who is nonetheless named as 'a man after God's own heart', an accolade that seems to reflect his response of full admission and true repentance once he was found out.

Would that that was the ordinary response to being found out! We all make mistakes, get into pickles and do things we shouldn't, and so often idiotic mistakes – holding an office party during a lockdown for example – are compounded by a failure to fess up and face the music. Idols sometimes fall because they won't say sorry.

As the video confirming the shenanigans in Downing Street came to light, one of the set bible readings for the day was a passage from the book of the prophet Isaiah. He looked forward to the time when 'a king shall reign in righteousness'. So much of what he envisaged should be downright ordinary: rulers should rule with justice, the hungry should not be left empty, and people should live in peace in secure homes. And something else included all those centuries ago in Isaiah's vision of a just society:

'No longer will the fool be called noble
nor the scoundrel be highly respected.'

Every blessing to you all. May we have an ordinary year. Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

2 JAN	9 AM	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Isaiah 60.1-6; Matthew 2.1-12 <i>Your light has come</i>
	10.30 AM	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
9 JAN	9 AM	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Isaiah 43.1-7; Luke 3.15-23 <i>The good news</i>
16 JAN	9 AM	SUNG CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
23 JAN	9 AM	SAID BCP COMMUNION Isaiah 61.1-6; John 8.12-20
	10.30 AM	SUNG SUNDAY WORSHIP Baptism of Teddy Fleet John 8.12-20 I am the light of the world
	6 PM	COMMUNION for WHOLENESS & HEALING <i>with music and liturgy from Iona</i>
30 JAN	9 AM	SAID BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR CANDLEMAS <i>They were amazed</i> Malachi 3.1-5; Luke 2.22-40

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

23 November: Interment of ashes of Juliet Ranson

Looking for a local venue?

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

For details please contact **Gillian Sanders:**

Tel: 07752 373 176 **Email:** admin@standrewstapleford.org



St Andrew's Choir Now recruiting

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Seasonal wardrobe

SEASONAL wardrobes suit specific times of year. Words fit occasions, times, mood as if hung on a rail for use. Let us share with a little creative dust.

Dusky skies can prove glorious. Gazing between trees, yellow becomes orange and red; like finely stretched silk. Wow. Cold white and grey streaked with mauve or lemon is spectacular. Dazzling. Tonight a rich blue/black inkiness is a perfect backcloth for a slender bright quarter moon. The north star twinkles. Before this the sun goes down with a dramatic dive, skirts billowing like a hot air balloon landing sensationally. Scene shifting clouds make a natural display. Nature works wonders.

Walks engage senses. Gardens are bare yet show promise. Clipped borders appear sad, yet beauty can be found. Rose pink-toned cyclamen hang on and hellebores show resilience. Winter flowering jasmine sprouts dainty butter-coloured flowers reminding us of aconites to come; an eagerly anticipated season of new life. Earlier we see statuesque trees, arms wide and proud, standing in leafy bedding, braving the elements. Treasures.

At rare snowy times I love viewing the crisp clean duvet outside and crumping through it, leaving neat footprints. Stephen recollects sledging. Hills aided speed and he 'flew.' Warming by the blazing crackling log fire is welcoming. As a child I remember our windows etched with patterns from Jack Frost. On thawing water dripped down, puddles needing mopping. Sometimes we'd say we felt 'nesh' meaning cold. My mother would remark on the need for nourishing broth. Mulled wine fragrance wafting and candles adding cosiness and light are joyful. Still right for New Year and Epiphany. Many decorations are down, tinsel gone, carols and anthems sung. Debussy said, 'It is necessary to abandon yourself completely and let the music do as it will with you.' Tingly, ethereal calm to loud exuberance and all between. The faithful robin adds a chorus.

Diaries await, pages to be filled with confidence and hope. Maybe this could be the first entry

Let there be respect for the earth,
Peace for its people,
Love in our lives,
Delight in the good,
Forgiveness of past wrongs,
And from now on a new start.

Judith and Stephen Lee

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A big thank you!



A BIG thank you as Lyn Pepperell (left in photo) steps down from leading the St Andrew's Toddler Group after an incredible 18 years, and Jill Ward (right of photo) steps down from assisting after only a slightly shorter stint. Week after week, come rain or shine, Lyn was at the Johnson Hall early on a Monday morning getting everything ready, and Jill was not far behind bearing craft materials. Generations of the village toddlers and their carers owe them both a huge amount.

If you would like to show your appreciation for a wonderful service to the village, you can make a

donation to the charity that Lyn and Jill have chosen – The Children's Society, which works with and for some of the most disadvantaged children and young people in the country.

Donations can be made through a special JustGiving page we have set up. Go to the home page of the St Andrew's website at standrewstapleford.org for a link. **Simon Taylor**

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Stapleford - Nachingwea Link



WE had two outstanding events in the last five weeks of 2021.

First we heard an inspirational organ recital and demonstration from John Bryden in St Andrew's Church. John not only showed how the organ worked and could be played with differing musical results but also played us some well-known and not so well-known pieces.

Thanks to John and all who attended for helping us raise £270.

At the beginning of December we had the annual St Andrew's Stapleford-Nachingwea Christmas Fair, as we continued to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Link. This was another very successful event with a wide range of stalls, offering a variety of gifts, including Fair Trade items, woodturning and other crafts, Christmas cards, a tombola and raffle as well as refreshments. The morning proved to be a great community event with



John Bryden explains a finer point of the music



A lady on the VETA tailoring course receiving her sewing machine from Canon John Buriani



Ladies on the VETA catering course showing the fruits of their labour

a lively buzz. Thank you to everyone who helped, - a magnificent effort! The total raised was £1945, plus gift aid.

All money raised will go towards the projects that we are supporting through St Andrew's Church Nachingwea, including in the areas of education, agricultural and technical development, health and medical care and in the church.

Two such projects have come to fruition - provision of catering equipment for five ladies on a Vocational and Education Authority (VETA) catering course, to enable them to start up a business once qualified.

The other project provided sewing machines for five ladies on a VETA tailoring course, to enable them to start up a business once qualified. **Trish Maude**

Women's Institute



SINCE I last wrote we held our final meeting of 2021 at the end of November. It was a highly successful and enjoyable evening where members celebrated two events in one!

The committee led by our President, Liz Hodgkins, quickly set up the tables, laid out the food, set places and decorated the tables ready for our Harvest supper. Around the room were placed small Christmas trees and decorations ready for the second part of our evening. The room looked very attractive and welcoming, and it was lovely to see so many members able to attend.

At the start of the meeting, the President announced, with great regret, the death of Joan Barnes. Joan had been a loyal supporter of the WI for many years and will be sadly missed.

Members had been asked to provide home-baked bread to accompany the buffet supper. What a wonderful array of different types of bread there were! The 'star baker' of the evening was judged to be Christine Wylde, who was presented with the Produce Cup.

Following our supper we then looked forward to Christmas by singing some carols and festive songs, accompanied by Lyn Pepperell on a keyboard. The evening concluded with a raffle followed by a tantalising hint of what will be the focus of our next meeting on 28 January. At this first meeting of the new calendar year Celia Weir will be leading a session entitled Stapleford WI New Year Revolutions. This is not a misprint and all will be revealed at the meeting!

This item will follow a discussion on the five WI resolutions which have been put forward for 2022. Members have the opportunity to vote for their preference and then the Stapleford result will be entered at the AGM in June. The resolutions cover a wide range of topics and include: fit for purpose; fit for girls; the appropriate sentencing of non-violent women offenders; equality in law for the menopause; women and girls with ASD and ADHD (under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported); and tackling digital exclusion.

If you are not a member and you are interested in finding out more about our activities, discussions and campaigning, then please do contact Sallie Dixon on 843847. Also see staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson**

Mothers' Union



WE enjoyed hosting the MU Deanery Advent Service on 2 December, which attracted visitors from Milton and Trumpington MU branches, and was

ably led by Clare Coates. And then on 9 December we held our Annual General Meeting, followed by a social afternoon. The next day we shared the Wave of Prayer with members, at Kay's house, to continue the Mothers' Union wave of prayer encircling the world, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In early December also we had our usual successful stall of preserves and cakes, and hamper raffles, at the Nachingwea Fair – and thank you to all members who helped or contributed.

We start again on 27 January with a talk by me, on 'Anglo Saxon churches' at 2pm in the Johnson Hall. We are continuing with afternoon only meetings for the time being.

Let's hope a return to some sort of normal life in 2022, and in the meantime, all good wishes for the New Year! **Hilary Street**

Stapleford Self-Isolation Support Team

IF you need support or assistance, the team is still ready and willing to help if you are affected by Covid – either the new or the old variant!

Please contact Gillian Pett or Carol Davies if you have a need, and we will do our best to organise help.

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Yesteryear

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

Punctuation and capital letters are exactly as printed at the time.

1803

SALE. By auction. On the premises of Wm. Matthews, waggoner, of Stapleford, on Monday, January 31st, 1803, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. All the Live and Dead Stock of the said Wm. Matthews; consisting of several useful Horses and Mares, with their ears; a six-inch wheel Waggon, almost new, with iron arms, and a waggon tilt; four dozen sacks, about 20cwt. of Hay and 30 fans of Chaff.

1871

STEALING. A shirt at Stapleford. Thomas Hymus, labourer, was charged with stealing a flannel shirt, the property of Henry Dean, on the 1st December. Prisoner pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment, having been twice previously convicted.

1918

LOCAL CASUALTIES. STAPLEFORD. PTE HARRY RIDER. Mr William Rider of London Road, Stapleford, recently received news that his brother, Pte Harry Rider of the Suffolk Regiment, died of wounds received in action in France on October 20th 1917. Pte Rider joined up in June 1915 and went out to France in March 1916, and had been through several big engagements. Before the war he was employed as a farm labourer in Stapleford.

1966

"THE effect of the completion of the Sawston By-Pass on the state of traffic through the village was discussed and it was agreed to express the council's concern on the ultimate increased volume and speed through the village.

Likewise it was agreed to enquire the need for the proposed dual carriageway over the crest of the Gogs on the A604 Cambridge/Haverhill Road." *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*

1976

WANDLEBURY "A DISASTER". Wandlebury- one of Cambridge's favourite beauty spots – was closed to the public for the first time in living memory after gale-force winds felled about 50 big trees. The warden, Mr Bill Clarke, who appealed to sightseers to keep away for their own safety, told the "News" "It's an absolute disaster area". The winds ripped up Wandlebury's



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magnificent beech trees by their roots during the night, causing three fires as they crashed down on high voltage power cables.

Almost immediately an appeal was launched to replace the lost trees; £2 would buy a sapling, and families were encouraged to come and plant their contributions. Hopefully the planted beeches are progressing well; our generation will not see them through to maturity, alas, it takes a good 100 years! Gog Magog continues to be popular with walkers, bird watchers and nature lovers.

1995

The Joanna Faye Fleet Memorial Garden

THE Memorial Garden, found in the rear play area of Stapleford Community Primary School, is nearing completion. Many helpful hands have been hard at work to make the transformation from a shingle pit to a beautiful garden. Many plants have already been donated and planted and there are still a few that we would like to purchase to complete the garden. The seats have been designed and will be made and put in place in the spring when further planting will take place. The family and the trustees of the fund would like to thank all those who have helped in any way towards the creation of such a wonderful reminder of a beautiful little girl. The plants have been colour and name matched to many aspects of Joanna's life. We hope that all members of the community will take advantage of the quiet sitting area that has been constructed as a memorial to Joanna Faye Fleet.

Toddler group is back!

WE are delighted to announce that St Andrew's Toddler group is back on Mondays from 10 January.

A warm welcome awaits Parents and Carers with babies or toddlers from 9.15 to 11am every Monday during term time in the Johnson Hall. We aim to be a friendly supportive group offering a variety of activities for your little ones including craft, songs and stories. There will also be plenty of time to meet and chat with other families over a cup of coffee or tea. We hope to see you there.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: We are also looking for anyone who would enjoy playing with the children, chatting with carers and making coffee to join our team. Just once a month or more regularly. Safer recruitment safeguarding procedures will be followed.

For more information contact Rev Simon Taylor at simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com or on 840256. **Fiona Holliday and Rev Clare Coates**



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Two school governor vacancies



STAPLEFORD Community Primary School Local Governing Body, as a member of the Anglia Learning Trust, is looking to appoint two and possibly three people to join our committed team of governors in our happy and vibrant school.

Governors are responsible for ensuring the strategic direction of the school, its performance and the use of resources to support learning. They help to ensure that our school provides the best education it can for all the children in its care.

The Local Governing Body meets as a group two or three times each academic term in the evening. More recently, these meetings have been held remotely and this has proved to be extremely successful. Governors also visit school once or twice per term, during the school day. While governors do not need to be experts to tackle the range of responsibilities expected of them, we pride ourselves on the breadth of help, advice and training are available from various sources that help our governing body excel.

The governing body is looking for members of the local community with some time flexibility, interest and enthusiasm to fulfil the role.

If you are interested in joining our enthusiastic team and have the time to commit to this role, please contact the Joint Chair of Governors Edward Gunn (egunn@staplefordprimaryschool.org) and Martin Brown (mbrown@staplefordprimaryschool.org)

You can find out more information about the Governing Body at Stapleford Community Primary School on the school website at staplefordprimaryschool.org where you will also find an application form.

We are a member of a group of schools in the Anglian Learning Trust at anglianlearning.org. Surabhi Khanna

We're waiting for your story!

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

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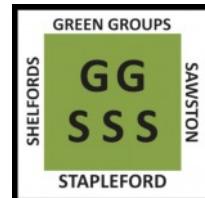
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2G3S

IT'S the new year again, and we have often in these articles given tips for how you can do things to help the environment. How about some green resolutions this year?



1. Start the journey

The journey to sustainable living starts with a simple change. Try calculating your carbon footprint to identify where you can make changes that are easy or will have the biggest impact to start with. Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF) have a calculator.

2. Look after your health and the planet in the kitchen

Global food systems account for 1/3 of total greenhouse emissions and the way food is produced and transported can impact negatively on nature e.g. damaging the soil and biodiversity. Small changes can make a big difference to the environment and our health; consider reducing your meat and dairy intake: 'red meat's a treat', or have a 'meat free Monday'. Where possible consider buying locally produced, seasonal, unprocessed and organic food; use up leftovers. Find lots of good ideas and tasty recipes from Cambridge Sustainable Food. Sign up to Veganuary.

3. Reduce energy use in the home and save money

Simple changes such as remembering to put a lid on saucepans, turning off electrical items (not just using standby) and turning down the thermostat to the WHO recommended 18°C are free and easy habits to make. For lots of great ideas for personalised home energy advice look up CCF.



4. Use active or public transport where you can

Replacing short car journeys with walking or cycling benefits our own health, saves fuel and money, and improves air quality. How about replacing one car journey a week, or 10% a year, with cycling, walking or taking public transport?

5. Reduce, reuse, recycle

In that order! Everything we buy has an energy and resource cost at each stage of its production, transportation and disposal. The more affluent society has become, the more we consume, which means that each year we use up more of the planet's resources than can be replenished. Earth Overshoot Day marks the date each year when our demand for resources



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exceeds what the planet can regenerate in that year. In 1987 the date was 23 October; in 2021 it fell on July 29.

So buy less stuff! Do you really need it? If so, can you get it secondhand or borrow/share? Think when buying something about whether it can be used lots of times and repaired. Even recycling has an energy cost so should be seen as a last resort. Make your own compost, reduce food waste and support the circular economy. Watch 'The Story of Stuff' film online for some inspiration.



6. Help wildlife where you live

One third of all major food crops worldwide are dependent on pollinators. Did you know that in the UK urban gardens total more hectares of land than all the nature reserves added together? If we all gardened for wildlife, just imagine what positive impact we would have, then add in all the land in

verges, roundabouts etc. Native plants are best for native wildlife. Check out the RHS website for lists of pollinator-friendly plants for your garden/window box and other top tips, and The Wildlife Trusts for ideas on how to garden for wildlife. Simple ideas from mowing your lawn less to using rainwater make a big difference to the life in your garden. If you can plant a tree in your garden use the Woodland Trust's guide to choosing one, if not consider sponsoring a tree in your community or with the National Trust.



7. Save water

Only 1% of the water on our planet is fresh, salt-free and available to us in streams and underground reserves. It is essential to life. We only drink around 5% of the water we use, the other 95% goes down the drain from

showers, taps, laundries and toilets or into the garden. To get clean drinking water to our taps costs energy to extract it, pipe it, clean it and then pipe it and clean it again (hopefully!) before it heads back to the rivers. In Cambridgeshire the water is taken from the chalk aquifer, the ever-increasing demand for which is so high that not enough is left to flow down our rare and important chalk streams, causing them to dry up, which harms local biodiversity. Wash your clothes less often, flush your toilet less, have shorter showers, install rainwater butts. Check out Anglian Water's Love Every Drop campaign for more ideas.

8. Consider green finance

How do you know that your money is not being used to fund industries you don't agree with? Consider switching your current account to an 'ethical' bank or join a campaign to green your pension. Two websites with food for thought and ideas: Make my Money Matter and Tiny Eco Home Life.

Greenpeace have produced an attractive 'Guide To Life' that is full of lots of tips and ideas too. Even if you don't think you alone can make a difference, everyone's little steps add up.

From international agreements, to Government policies and investment, to local councils' policies, to us individuals, we all need to do our bit.



Dates for your diary

10 January - Planning meeting

7 February - Talk by Camlets (LETS scheme, runs like a timebank, where people swap services)

12 February afternoon - Repair Café at Great Shelford Free Church

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 or website. **Helen Hale**

Stapleford Horticultural Society



JOSEPH Banks was a remarkable man. He took part in Captain Cook's first great voyage from 1768 to 1771. He was President of the Royal Society for more than 40 years, and helped to make Kew the world's leading botanic garden. He sent plant hunters out for new specimens, having himself brought 30,000 new species home from his expedition, many of which were named after him.

We are pleased to welcome back Andrew Sankey to tell us more about this influential botanist and naturalist.

The talk will be held in the Johnson Hall on Thursday, 13 January, starting at 7.45pm. As always, all members and guests are most welcome.
John Sherwell, 841012

Library Update

Happy New Year from Great Shelford Library!

WE hope you'll support us in 2022. Here are five ways to do this:

- 1. Join:** it's simple and free. Everyone can be a member of the library – even babies.
- 2. Use:** make use of your local library. Borrow books (in person or downloaded to a device); use a computer; attend events and activities; access online resources to help with work or research.
- 3. Donate:** library services are free to use but monetary donations, small or large, help us to provide more books and services.
- 4. Join the Friends of Great Shelford Library:** only £5 for lifetime membership.
- 5. Spread the word:** if you love your library, tell your friends and neighbours and encourage them to join. The more members we have, the stronger we are!

Families: we have a new Facebook page just for you! This is where all our events and activities for children and families are listed, where you can comment, ask questions and share the news with friends and family. Don't miss a thing - have a look today and make sure you click the Follow button!
[facebook.com/CambslibFamilies](https://www.facebook.com/CambslibFamilies)

Half term Lego event: if Covid-19 restrictions at the time allow, we're hoping to hold a Lego event on 16 February from 2pm to 3.30pm. Places must be pre-booked at the library. Age 3+. £1 per child.

Domestic Abuse: please help us to raise awareness that Cambridgeshire libraries are safe spaces for domestic abuse victims. All libraries have contact details for appropriate support agencies. Our computers are free to use and your search history can't be tracked.

Opening hours (correct at time of writing): Mondays 3pm-7pm, Tuesdays 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, Wednesdays 10am-1pm, Fridays 10am-1pm and 2pm-6pm, Saturdays 10am-1pm.

Contact details:

Telephone: 0345 045 5225

email: your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Stapleford Strollers: Short Walk 23

Swaffham Bulbeck Lode: a circular walk in The Fens

To Get To Start of Walk

DRIVE past Tesco at Fulbourn and turn right along the road by the airport. On reaching Newmarket Road, turn right at the large roundabout. Cross over the A14 and take the left hand lane: the B1102 for Burwell. Pass Lode and Long Meadow and take the next turn on the left (unsigned). The road soon swings right. Shortly afterwards, and just before a bridge, there is a parking area on the left bordered by old railway sleepers.

Distance of Walk

About 2½ miles. It is completely flat and usually pretty good underfoot. Wear boots in winter and at very wet times. It can easily be extended to make a 4 or 5 mile round walk.

OS Map

OS Explorer Map 226. For a free map extract use maps.the-hug.net. You will have to convert the image to a PDF to get it to print.

Extra Information

The area on this side of Swaffham Bulbeck village is as flat as a pancake. Nevertheless, if you want to experience one of those legendary Fenland big skies, this is the stroll for you. The lode, (a man-made drainage channel) alongside which this route goes for much of the walk, is often used by kayakers. Interesting, given that its depth is minimal. Deer may also be seen, in the fields to the right of the lode after the last of the houses.

Route of Walk

From the parking area, turn left and cross the bridge over the lode (Cow Bridge). The letters NRDC are carved into the stone of the bridge, as is the date 1927. For those who wonder, it stands for Newmarket Rural District Council. This was abolished in 1974 and replaced by East Cambridgeshire District Council.

Turn left up the wide track to the right of the lode and keep on past the houses. You may see alpaca in one of the fields off to the right. An old railway bridge is soon reached. There is no evidence of the line as the infrastructure has all been ploughed away, but the bridge remains as a foot route. The line went from Cambridge to Fordham Junction and then on to Mildenhall.

Walk on past the bridge, still keeping the lode to the left, and carry on for some time until almost underneath an overhead power line. At this

point, cross a narrow metal bridge over the lode. On the other side, turn left and walk back, with the lode to the left.

After a short time, a path to the right will be seen, following a hedge line at 90 degrees to the lode. Go down the slight slope to access this path and follow it as it swings left, then walk between hedges. This was an old drove road (Hundred Acre Droveway), and was used to take animals to and from the fields.

Keep on the track until a farm is reached. Cross the grassy area and, after passing the front of the farmhouse, walk along the grassed-over left hand side of another drove. The right hand side is used by vehicles going to and from the farm. Look for a path to the left, crossing a small footbridge. It is easy to miss. Go across the bridge and walk along the left hand side of a cropped field. At the end of this field, go up a short slope and turn right along the lode-side path.

Walk along this path until the bridge crossed at the start of the walk is reached. Turn right and return to your vehicle. **David Barnes**

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



STAPLEFORD
GRANARY

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EVENTS

January

Fidelio Trio

15th | Saturday | 7:45pm

Benjamin Baker & Daniel Lebhardt

21st | Friday | 7:45pm

Kate Romano & Ian Buckle

23rd | Sunday | 12:00pm

Alan Barnes & Dave Newton Quartet

29th | Saturday | 7:45pm



February

Fretwork

4th | Friday | 7:45pm

Rant

5th | Saturday | 7:45pm

Rosalind Ventris

6th | Sunday | 12:00pm

John Law Quartet

11th | Friday | 12:00pm

Daisy Chute & Midori Jaeger

18th | Friday | 7:45pm

Eblana String Trio

19th | Saturday | 7:45pm

Paper Jungle - Three Suns

20th | Sunday | 2:00pm

Mithras Trio

25th | Friday | 7:45pm

Patrick Hemmerlé

27th | Sunday | 12:00pm



www.staplefordgranary.org.uk

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Stapleford History Society

The Court Of King James I in South Cambridgeshire

A talk by David J H Jones on 9 December



ROYAL Royston! David Jones, accountant turned local historian since his purchase of a pretty thatched cottage in Little Shelford, revealed the secret history of Royston and its connection with the Scottish King James VI who succeeded to the English throne on the death of Queen

Elizabeth I in 1603.

After taking the throne, King James spent more nights in his palace at Royston than in any other place and returned to his native Scotland only once. Before boundary changes in 1890, Royston was, in fact, part in Cambridgeshire and part in Hertfordshire, with the site of the now largely unrecognisable palace actually in Cambridgeshire.

During his 'Accession Progress' from Edinburgh to London, James was impressed by the relative prosperity of England and was given many valuable gifts. At this point he stayed for only one night in Royston but noticed that the area was good for hunting, particularly hares, and was near Newmarket, Cambridge, and two houses that he would come to know well: Theobald's and Hinchingbrook.

James began the creation of his palace by renting two old inns, 'The Greyhound' and 'The Cock' together with Priory Mansion. The building work continued for many years and the street names in the area around Kneeworth Street reflect this. There are many blue plaques to be seen also.



The king's partiality for his Royston accommodation had a significant effect on the local population. Forty courtiers plus many hangers-on needed to be provided for and a fourteen-mile exclusion zone to preserve the countryside for hunting was implemented. Hedges had to be torn down, ploughing was restricted and the general impact was quite brutal. At one point some locals even kidnapped the king's favourite dog, Jowler, returning him a day later with a message requesting the king's return to London because the locals were stressed regarding food supplies and living spaces.

King James was an educated man and enjoyed the company of others like himself. The third Earl of Southampton; Sir Oliver Cromwell, uncle of



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the Puritan Lord Protector of the same name; Lord Mounteagle all lived nearby and there is the possibility that James's acting company, The King's Men, played for him having already acted in Saffron Walden.

The palace at Royston was the scene of many significant events. In 1605 Lord Mounteagle received the letter warning of the Gunpowder Plot while staying there. In 1612 the king negotiated the marriage of his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to the Elector Palatine. In 1618 he signed the death warrant of Sir Walter Raleigh and in 1623 agreed to the marriage of Prince Charles to Henrietta Maria.

As a Scotsman, James had already played golf and his friend, the Earl of Buckingham, became the first Englishman to play that noble game on Royston Links.

This secret history of Royston was very well-researched, immaculately presented and was a revelation to everyone present in the Pavilion. **Jane Steadman**

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

YEARST

SICKIE

EMAYNE

REMOUD

TABLETEA

DEARLSET

CAYESTON

DAMISOCK

STALORIMEN

RAWDORISIT

FARUEDISOH

SIROPRINGY

PASOTASTENOT

MESOTREBORET

SAPERRIATENT

ARHUNTYITHEM

Anagrams

ONEV

TWOSR

THREEI

FOURLOM

FIVEFUSE

SIXTERMET

SEVENGROAT

EIGHTCHARLS

NINETEAPORTS

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 40



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Granta Medical Practices Update

WE are experiencing a high level of staff absence. This will undoubtedly continue as Covid, flu and norovirus continue to take their toll combined with ever-changing Covid guidelines. We will continue to try and provide the best possible service we can to all of our patients, but please bear with us as day-to-day operations may be disrupted. Below are some hints and tips to help you help yourself and in turn help us and the NHS:-

SELF-CARE: You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats and upset stomachs at home. Make sure you are stocked up with healthcare essentials such as pain relief (e.g. Paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment, heartburn / indigestion treatments and a first aid kit.

USE YOUR LOCAL PHARMACIST: They can offer you advice and guidance on your symptoms and on the best treatment for you – no appointment needed. Pharmacists are available on every high street and in supermarkets, with many being open in the evenings and at weekends.

USE THE NHS UK SYMPTOM CHECKER nhs.uk: This helpful tool can guide you through your symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate health service for your needs.

RING NHS 111, OPTION 2: If you are experiencing a mental health crisis this First Response Service puts your mental health first. It provides 24-hour access, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, to mental health care, advice, support and treatment.

If you have done all you can but feel that your problem remains unresolved, please do ring us and we will be happy to help you.

MEDICATION: If you need to order medication, please do this online via SystmOnline or the Airmid app. Details of how to do this can be found on our website grantamedicalpractices.co.uk If you do not have internet or mobile telephone access, you can send in your repeat medication slip or write in with your repeat request. Unfortunately, we cannot take prescription orders over the telephone. Sandra East





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Babes in the Wood

Little Shelford Pantomime

Will Hansel and Gretel find their way home from Wandlebury Wonderland?

Will the Big Bad Wolf (aided and annoyed by Little Wolf) catch Red Riding Hood?

Will Robin Hood ever make it with Maid Marian?

Will Good triumph over Evil? (As it always does in Little Shelford Pantomime)

You'll find these answers and a lot more besides if you come and see it on:

Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 January at 7pm, Friday 14 and Saturday 15 January at 7.30pm in Little Shelford Memorial Hall.

Tickets available (£5 children; £8 adults) from 1 December from:
Penny Eames – 07949 123023 or Brie Lury – 07799 332807 (Little Shelford); Holly Barr – 07825 395605 (Great Shelford) or Sarah Coppendale – 01223 842498 (Stapleford).

Any queries, e-mail coppendales@btinternet.com

(Please note: The pantomime will be subject to any current Covid restrictions which may be imposed in January.)

The History of Pye in Cambridge

13 January in Stapleford Pavilion at 7.45pm.



Pye, this world famous company, had many factories scattered over the Cambridge area and employed 30,000 people worldwide.
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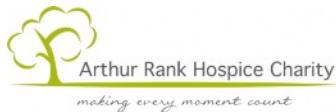
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Award for Palliative Care Hub



THE Palliative Care Hub, which is a free out of hours phone service for anyone who needs specialist palliative care advice or support across Cambridgeshire and

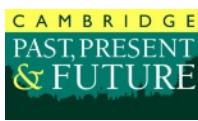
Peterborough, has won 'Primary Care Innovation of the Year' at the annual Health Service Journal Awards for 2021.

Launched in April 2021, the Palliative Care Hub – which can be accessed by calling 111 and selecting option 3 to speak to a Clinical Nurse Specialist - is available to anyone who needs specialist palliative care advice or support across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The remarkable impact of the phone service is illustrated by the fact that in its first seven months (between April and October 2021) 1,489 calls were taken for 705 patients not already known to the service, preventing 109 avoidable hospital admissions.

The service is commissioned by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and is operated by Arthur Rank Hospice Charity in partnership with Herts Urgent Care (HUC) who provide the local NHS 111 service and the East of England Ambulance Service Trust.

To find out more about the Palliative Care Hub visit arhc.org.uk/pall-hub. Current hours of operation: Monday to Thursday 7am to 2pm, then 5pm to 12.30am; 24 hours on Fridays, weekends and bank holidays.

Events at Wandlebury Country Park



HERE'S what's on at Wandlebury in January and February; for more information about these and events at other locations email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 243830 extension 207 or visit cambridgeppf.org/whats-on.

Winter Trees

Tues 18 January, 10am to noon. Free (donations welcome).
Gentle guided walk to learn how to identify tree species in winter.

History and Archaeology Walk

Weds 2 February, 10am to noon. Free (donations welcome).
Gentle guided walk with a Warden.

Children's Holiday Bushcraft

14 to 18 February, 8.30am to 4pm. £38 per day.
Fun and enriching outdoor activities during half-term.

Great Institutions

MARRIAGE, as the old joke goes, is a great institution - but who wants to live in an institution?

Well, on the first of September, Mrs Grace and I celebrate our umpteenth wedding anniversary. What can I say? We are institutionalised. Which is to say, that living outside the institution – as so many well-adjusted people seem to do very happily (and we did ourselves before that oh so significant and slightly Orwellian date in 1984) – now seems, to me at least, all but unimaginable.

When asked for the secret of a long marriage the lady concerned will usually reply, “Apathy, and a complete lack of imagination”. And yet she is content, so far as I’ve been informed, to call me husband for another year.

By way of a belated summer holiday/anniversary escape in what has been a torrid year for everyone, we are heading to visit our eldest son in the tiny Spanish hill town where he has been teaching English. We haven’t seen him for a year, and the journey – hyper-complicated as it is by the pandemic – can’t be over soon enough. Still, all that hanging around in airports and waiting in queues for COVID passport checks will give me a chance to ponder a few things. Chief on my mind at the moment is the way that, through sundry other institutions, poetry has helped sustain me throughout my life, and how it made an unlikely entry into the life of a working-class boy from the dull end of Derbyshire.

It began in chapel, I suppose, with hymns containing strange yet strangely beautiful (and often incomprehensible) words:

Still restless nature dies and grows, From change to change the creatures run:

*Thy being no succession knows,
And all thy vast designs are one.
What??!*

But the place where words, and poetry, really made an impact on me, was Miss Jenkins’ English Room at school. Now there really was an institution. Here we were encouraged to believe that even oiks like us could decode and comprehend or just enjoy what were – again at first glance – almost incomprehensible elements of a comprehensive school curriculum. By the time I got to FE college – where the have-nots who inexplicably hungered for more learning largely wound up – I was ready for the big stuff.

I may have mentioned Gerard Manley Hopkins before in these pages. His amazingly dense, tortured constructions of words were sometimes easy and fancifully light:

*The world is charged with the grandeur of god
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil...*

Or again in *The Windhover* – which springs to mind whenever I glance a kestrel on Magog Down:

*I caught this morning morning's minion, king-dom of daylight's dauphin,
dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon, in his riding Of the rolling level underneath him
steady air, and striding High there, how he rung upon the reign of a wimpling
wing In his ecstasy!*

Pretty wild, eh? Almost as obscure as Hawkwind lyrics, I remember observing to Miss Jenkins.

But the poem I was most drawn to, that I still recite to myself most often, is far stranger and more impenetrable still. It doesn't even have a title to offer the reader a key (Hopkins seems never to have contemplated publication himself; that was left to his great friend Robert Bridges, who championed his work after Hopkins' untimely death).

*No worse, there is none. Pitched past pitch of grief, More pangs will,
schooled at forepangs, wilder wring Mary, mother of us, where is your relief?*

My cries heave, herds-long: huddle in a main, a chief

Woe, world-sorrow; on an age-old anvil wince and sing -

*Then lull, then leave off. Fury had shrieked 'No lingering! Let me be fell: force
I must be brief'.*

O the mind, mind has mountains; cliffs of fall

Frightful, sheer, no-man-fathomed. Hold them cheap

May who ne're hung there. Nor does long our small

Durance deal with that steep, or deep...

...and on it goes, as bleak and beaten a downwards spiral as any melancholic teenager could hope for, till it reaches its final, killer/comforting line:

All life death does end and each day dies with sleep.

Still, to this middle-aged and rather melancholic mind, it is one of the greatest evocations of despair that has ever been written.

I was thinking about that poem last week, mainly because of Ofqual's much-debated attempt to make poetry 'optional' within the GCSE curriculum. I wondered how my life would have been shaped, if that opportunity to meet magical words at school was simply missed. And FE colleges – always the Cinderella of educational institutions – are also struggling it seems.

Yet at my college – threadbare institution though it was - I not only encountered Hopkins; I also saw the Mersey Poets live, right there, in our library! Brian Patten, Roger McGough and Adrian Henri were as far from

Hopkins as it was possible to be – at least in terms of accessibility. More like stand-up than ‘serious’ poetry, in the age of punk rock Henri, McGough and Patten were properly rock n’ roll, and funny, and – crucially – LIVE; perched on bar stools (for as long as they were sober), reading to an audience of maybe thirty...

Without poetry on the syllabus, without that FE college and its tiny, hastily advertised cultural events, I would not be writing today.

A good enough reason to support Ofqual’s initiative, you might conclude. I, naturally, differ. **Fraser Grace**

Puzzle Corner answers

Telescopes

YES/ART; SKI/ICE;
EYE/MAN; ROD/EMU
TALE/BETA; DART/ELSE;
CYST/AEON; DISC/AMOK
STORM/ALIEN; RADII/WORST;
FRESH/AUDIO; SPRIG/IRONY
POTATO/ASSENT; METEOR/SORBET;
SPRINT/AERATE; AUNTIE/RHYTHM

Anagrams

OVEN, WORST, EITHER, ROOMFUL,
EFFUSIVE, EXTREMIST, GRAVESTONE,
SEARCHLIGHT, PRESENTATION

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Hauxton Friday Bridge Club

HAXTON Friday Bridge Club has recently taken up face-to-face meeting again in the new super, 'state of the art' Hauxton Village Hall and is keen to attract new members. The club meets on a Friday afternoon at 1.45pm with a start time of 2pm and a finishing time of 4.45pm. We will continue with our long established pattern of meetings on the 1st, 3rd, and, when there is one, 5th Fridays in the month. The first meeting will be on the 7 January.

The club caters for players of mixed ability and you don't need to be part of an established pair to join. If you have never played the duplicate version of bridge don't be discouraged: the normal rules and systems of bridge apply, the difference being that with duplicate the same hands of cards are played by all players and each pair of players normally will play against every other pair during the course of the afternoon.

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7A Bus timetable changes

THE 7A bus timetable is now as shown below. John Wakefield

SERVICE No	7A							
MONDAY TO FRIDAYS								
Trumpington Park-and-Ride		09:05	10:35	12:05	14:15		16:35	18:05
Great Shelford, opp Granta Terrace		09:13	10:43	12:13	14:23		16:43	18:13
Sawston, nr Babraham Road		09:17	10:47	12:17	14:27		16:47	18:17
Sawston, nr Park Road		09:19	10:49	12:19	14:29		16:49	18:19
Pampisford, opp South Terrace		09:20	10:50	12:20	14:30		16:50	18:20
Hinxton, opp Church Green	08:08	09:25	10:55	12:25	14:35		16:55	V
Whittlesford, opp Station Road West	08:13	09:30	11:00	12:30	14:40		17:00	18:25
Whittlesford, opp Mill Lane	08:15	09:32	11:02	12:32	14:42		17:02	18:27
Whittlesford, opp Hill Farm	08:18	09:35	11:05	12:35	14:45		17:05	18:30
Duxford, Imperial War Museum	08:20	09:37	11:07	12:37	14:47	15:50	17:07	V
Heathfield, opp Garage	08:21	09:38	11:08	12:38	14:48	15:51	17:08	18:32
Whittlesford, nr Hill Farm	08:24	09:41	11:11	12:41	14:51	15:54	17:11	
Whittlesford, nr Mill Lane	08:27	09:44	11:14	12:44	14:54	15:57	17:14	
Whittlesford, nr Station Road West	08:29	09:46	11:16	12:46	14:56	15:59	17:16	
Pampisford, nr South Terrace	08:35	09:52	11:22	12:52	15:02	16:05	17:22	
Sawston, opp Park Road	08:36	09:53	11:23	12:53	15:03	16:06	17:23	
Sawston, opp Babraham Road	08:38	09:55	11:25	12:55		16:08	17:25	
Great Shelford, nr Granta Terrace	08:47	09:59	11:29	12:59		16:12	17:29	
Trumpington Park-and-Ride	08:55	10:09	11:39	13:09		16:22	17:39	

SERVICE No	7A	7A	7A	7A	7A
SATURDAYS					
Trumpington Park-and-Ride		10:35	12:05	14:15	15:35
Great Shelford, opp Granta Terrace		10:43	12:13	14:23	15:43
Sawston, nr Babraham Road		10:47	12:17	14:27	15:47
Sawston, nr Park Road		10:49	12:19	14:29	15:49
Pampisford, opp South Terrace		10:50	12:20	14:30	15:50
Hinxton, opp Church Green	09:25	10:55	12:25	14:35	15:55
Whittlesford, opp Station Road West	09:30	11:00	12:30	14:40	v
Whittlesford, opp Mill Lane	09:32	11:02	12:32	14:42	v
Whittlesford, opp Hill Farm	09:34	11:04	12:34	14:45	v
Duxford, Imperial War Museum	09:35	11:05	12:35	14:47	16:00
Heathfield, opp Garage	09:38	11:08	12:38	14:48	16:01
Whittlesford, nr Hill Farm	09:41	11:11	12:41	14:51	16:04
Whittlesford, nr Mill Lane	09:44	11:14	12:44	14:54	16:07
Whittlesford, nr Station Road West	09:46	11:16	12:46	14:56	16:08
Pampisford, nr South Terrace	09:52	11:22	12:52	15:02	
Sawston, opp Park Road	09:53	11:23	12:53	15:03	
Sawston, opp Babraham Road	09:55	11:25	12:55	15:05	
Great Shelford, nr Granta Terrace	09:59	11:29	12:59	15:09	
Trumpington Park-and-Ride	10:09	11:39	13:09	15:19	

Thinking about our villages' future

Stapleford and Great Shelford neighbourhood plan update

OVER the past few months, a steering group of Stapleford and Great Shelford parish councillors and residents has been meeting to reinvigorate the villages' work on a combined neighbourhood plan. Much of this time has been spent familiarising ourselves with the general issues, process and support available, prior to moving forward in a more focused manner from early 2022.

What is a neighbourhood plan?

Neighbourhood planning is a legal right granted to communities in England, contained in the Localism Act 2011. It sits alongside other planning legislation (e.g. Local Plans and the National Planning Policy Framework) and allows communities to shape their development by creating their own planning policies. A neighbourhood plan can, for example:

- point to where new homes, shops and offices should be built
- influence what they should look like
- identify and protect important local green spaces
- grant planning permission for specific buildings to meet a community's needs.

Note, then, that neighbourhood plans are about saying what you do want, not vocalising what you don't want to happen.

Why make one?

Neighbourhood plans are optional: we could let our existing and emerging Local Plans and Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Officers direct our future. However, whilst still required to align with the strategic priorities of the wider local area, neighbourhood plans allow communities to add another level of granularity and local knowledge that can really make a difference to planning decisions. This is an opportunity for Stapleford and Great Shelford to set out a positive, shared vision for how we want our area to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years, in ways that meet our identified local needs and make sense for local people. *Policies in our neighbourhood plan will ultimately have equal weight in planning decisions to those in the Local Plan.*

The neighbourhood planning process

The process is generally led by parish/town councils and supported by a working group which includes parish councillors, local residents and businesses. It involves a significant amount of community engagement and

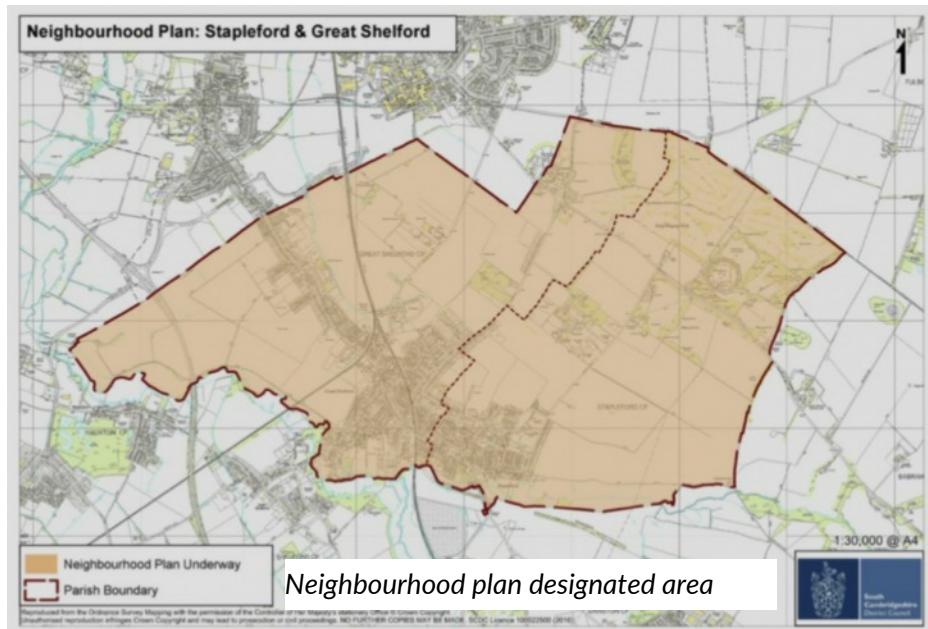
the creation and analysis of a strong evidence base. Together, these ensure that the resulting plan is based on a proper understanding of the area and of the views, aspirations, wants and needs of local people.

There are three main stages in producing a neighbourhood plan and we will provide more information about each as we move through the process:

1. Getting established – designating the neighbourhood area; building an evidence base; publicity and engagement
2. Preparing the plan – drafting the plan; meeting basic conditions; pre-submission consultation
3. Bringing the plan into force – submission; publicity; independent examination; referendum.

Where are we in the process?

Stapleford and Great Shelford were designated a single neighbourhood area in November 2016. The respective parish councils decided on a combined approach for several reasons: creating a neighbourhood plan is a very time- and resource-intensive process, and synergies between the two villages and overlaps in the development challenges we face mean there are considerable benefits in working together. (NB: the final neighbourhood plan must also ensure that what makes each village special and an entity in its own right is preserved; it is absolutely not about creating one, amorphous ‘mega-village’.)



Given the length of time that it takes to produce a neighbourhood plan, the fact that work is done by volunteers, and that parish council priorities and personnel are prone to change, sustaining momentum through to completion is undeniably difficult. Work from 2016-18 on our neighbourhood plan focused on building an evidence base and early-stage consultation to identify the issues that are important to local people, before grinding to a bit of a halt. This work won't be wasted but it now needs updating. Importantly, we also anticipate that people's thoughts on some issues may have changed given climate and ecological changes and Covid-19, plus other pressures on our area such as water table stress, the emerging draft Local Plan, economic growth targets, East-West Rail and Cambridge South East Transport scheme.

What to expect next

The steering group is preparing for early stage consultation in this coming Spring, designing a new neighbourhood plan website, and drafting its project plan and report outline. There will be multiple opportunities for community engagement as we go through the process and we are keen to incorporate the views of as many people as possible; we must ensure that our neighbourhood plan represents the entire community, not just those who are easiest to engage with.

We look forward to providing regular updates on progress and directing you to our new website in due course. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the Clerk for the steering group, Libby White (clerk@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk) or the Chair, Jenny Flynn (jenny.flynn@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Sources for further information

1. neighbourhoodplanning.org
2. greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/neighbourhood-planning/

Cllr Jenny Flynn

Financial difficulties?



Are you in need, hardship or distress? Do you live in Stapleford? Then the Feoffees Charity may be able to help you.

For more information contact: Rev. Simon Taylor at simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com.

CSET Busway update

Green way not busway (GWNB)

WE are a campaigning group which aims to preserve our countryside and greenbelt for our children and grandchildren, and to support the move to greener transport modes. We feel that the busway as currently planned will not only carve up our countryside but also create a new natural boundary for houses to be built up to, so unleashing the biggest concreting over of our greenbelt and impact on our villages.

We have brought together a diverse grouping of organisations under the campaign banner GWNB ('Green Way not Busway'). This includes Cambridge Past Present & Future, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Magog Trust, Cambridge Connect, Smarter Cambridge Transport, the chair of GCP's Local Liaison Forum and local parishes. Most recently we have been encouraged with support from the Great Shelford East-West Rail group who advocate a Northern approach. The Cambridge City Football Club, who are building a new stadium training ground and village sports centre on the NE of Sawston, are also supporters. They would like the route to run next to their stadium and car park, providing an improved service for Sawston residents.

The leadership of the GWNB group is now in the hands of Stephen Partridge-Hicks. Stephen has recently moved to Sawston from Suffolk and has strong leadership qualities to guide us through.

We expect the TWAO (Transport and Works Act Order) to be served in the next few weeks and we will have six weeks to respond with our objections with the actual Public Inquiry taking place in the autumn.

A draft Scope of Works has been prepared and sent to our transport consultants to discuss with them. This would involve appraising one of the GCP's original schemes, that of introducing bus lanes along the A1307 including a link into the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and secondly looking at GCP's response to the original i-Transport report to check for validity, so that we have comprehensive advice upon which we can base our objections to this misguided scheme.

We have had a couple of meetings with a London firm of solicitors who have extensive experience with TWAOs and are providing us with advice. We now need to start fundraising in earnest so that we can document the evidence for the Public Inquiry and be in a position to appoint the solicitors and a barrister to represent us.

We hope to keep you regularly informed and updated. **Cllr Howard Kettel**



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Stapleford Parish Council news

THE December Parish Council meeting was cancelled due to councillor illness. Since Parish Councils are not legally permitted to conduct their public business other than face-to-face, all decisions have been deferred to the next public meeting on 6 January at 7pm in the Jubilee Pavilion. The public are invited, as usual, to attend. We still need more Parish Councillors and attending a Parish Council meeting is a good way to find out how the Council works and what you can do to improve our village.

Clerk position

The Clerk, Belinda Irons, will remain in post and her part-time hours will be slightly reduced. The Parish Council has been discussing setting up a Pavilion Management Committee, which will reduce the workload of the Clerk. This will consist of members of the public and of the Parish Council. No formal decision has been made as there was no public meeting in December, but terms of reference will be discussed at the January Parish Council meeting.

Busway

Discussions are continuing about village objections to the busway, as it is expected the Transport and Works Act Order will be served in January. The Public Inquiry will take place in the autumn. Fund raising will be needed in order to retain legal counsel. A sum, yet to be determined, will be set aside in the Parish Council budget towards this.

Playground renovation

By the time you read this, the children's playground at the Rec will have been completed. With the wet and cold weather, there has been some damage to the ground in the playground and along the side of the MUGA. This was unavoidable and the contractor, Kompan, will have made reparation where necessary. Picnic tables, donated by Scottdales, will be installed once the ground is settled. We are extremely grateful to the generous donors, FCC Communities, Covid Recovery Grant, the Messenger Charity Fund, Village Hall Estate Fund, S106 funds, and those who gave through JustGiving. Without their help, this project would still be on the wish list for Stapleford's children.

Eco Social Evening

The Parish Council held its first Eco Social Evening at the end of November, with residents joining councillors, Anthony Browne MP, and speakers from local interest groups to share ideas and contact details over a festive drink and a mince pie or two.

Anthony Browne kicked off proceedings by emphasising how depleted the natural environment is in Cambridgeshire, particularly with respect to

tree cover. The UK is one of the most nature-impoverished countries in the world and Cambridgeshire one of the most nature-depleted counties within the UK, hence we have a lot of catching up to do. Mr Browne contrasted his childhood experiences of growing up amongst open farmland in Fowlmere with visiting family in forested Norway, which generated



a lifelong interest in the natural environment and later led to jobs as environment editor of the Observer and then environment editor at the Times.

Next up, James Littlewood, CEO of Cambridge, Past, Present and Future, introduced the concept of the Cambridge Nature Network, developed in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust. The vision of the Network is for Cambridge to have significant areas of downland, fens, meadows and woodlands around it, where nature can recover and thrive and where people can experience wilder countryside and nature on their doorstep. The Network consists of individual nature parks, reserves and farm habitats, linked together by nature-friendly farmland and wildlife-rich towns and villages, and is of sufficient scale to allow nature to begin the process of recovery. Opportunities for enlarging and linking these high-value habitats have been identified in discussion with environmental charities, farmers, colleges and other landowners. James Littlewood also explained how the expansion of Wandlebury supports this, with new land adjoining the Country Park having recently been purchased and earmarked for tree planting.

Whittleford-based professional ecologist, Dr Ashley Arbon, was keen to ensure that we appreciate the importance of identifying what already exists before changing land cover, even when done with the best of intentions in mind, and explained the extensive breadth of criteria involved in a thorough ecological survey. He also introduced us to various local flora and fauna identification guides, including the work of Gigi Crompton, a botanist and author of the Cambridgeshire Flora Records since 1538. Ashley outlined the multiple climate changes of the past one million years of

geological time which have resulted in the diversity of bedrock and superficial deposits found throughout our area and hence in the watercourses and variety of plant species they support.

We were delighted that representatives from local green group, 2G3S, were able to contribute to the evening, with Linda Whitebread and Helen Hale explaining some of the discussions and presentations that the group has enjoyed recently. They introduced their plan for a repair café and exciting involvement in an arts programme with Stapleford Granary in 2022, and expressed their desire to take on more environmental action moving forward. Certainly, the Parish Council hopes that we can work together on several projects, including rewilding some verges around Stapleford, with people taking responsibility for reducing soil quality by removing grass cuttings, monitoring biodiversity and removing the more thuggish weeds.

We look forward to building upon many of the ideas shared and contacts made during the Eco Social Event and would like to make it a semi-regular feature of the village calendar. Thank you to all who contributed and came along. **Cllrs Jenny Flynn and Gillian Pett**



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