

Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

April 2022

Volume 81 No 4

Price 60p

**'Who? me?'**



**By local artist Steph Swain See Page 32**

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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 Communion, Services of the Word, Messy Church and Forest Church  
 2pm Sunday Praise  
 4.30pm Connect

## SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

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

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

### Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

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

## Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish priest.

## Stapleford MESSENGER

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

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# From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

WHAT does the word 'realism' mean to you?

I had thought it was to do either with something being a realistic image – a portrait, say – or to do with an attitude you might hold, being realistic about what is going to happen, for example.

But it turns out that it has another meaning, a technical meaning used in the discussion of how states behave. 'Realism' with a capital 'R', is, I read, a word used to convey the idea that moral concepts such as justice cannot be applied to international affairs. Its advocates say that a state's actions can and should be based on self-interest, not on concepts of morality.



I suspect that is very widely applied as a state doctrine. Governments talk a good game on, for example, admitting refugees, or dealing with climate change, or any of the other myriad issues that go to make up inter-state actions, but too often actions betray a lack of compassion and moral compass. We see it with our own government and with governments around the world.

One area in which the term realism is used in this sense is in the discussion of the morality of war. Putin claims publicly that his war is justified by moral choices. His characterisation of Ukraine as a Nazi state whose people cry out for liberation is his public justification. But in truth his motivation is within the doctrine of realism. The Russian Federation's self-interest, in his misguided assessment, is to have a border zone of compliant client states, and that, to his mind, is sufficient justification for an aggressive war. What is at issue here is not a conflict of moralities, but a conscious decision on his part that conventional morality is irrelevant.

The theory of just war, to which most nations, including Putin's Russia, play at least lip service, goes back a long way and has its modern origins in Christian thinking. The term 'just war' was first coined by St Augustine of Hippo in the fourth century. The theory was expanded in the early Middle Ages by St Thomas Aquinas and others, and has been taken up and refined further by others. Discussions as to the ambit of a just war now cover all three phases - its initiation, conduct and aftermath.

In order for a war to be initiated justly it has to meet certain criteria. The first of these is that it must be declared publicly by a proper authority. This criterion helps to distinguish war from terrorism, for example, and soldiers

from murderers. Next, there must be a just cause, the right intention. The intention should be to establish a just peace. Narrow state self-interest or annexation of property or regime change are not justification enough. Then there must be some probability of success, in that the just aims are achievable. And this is linked to the idea that there must be proportionality. The violence required to achieve the just aims must be proportionate to the outcome sought. Is the evil that will or may flow from the action likely to be proportionate to the desired aim, or is the war or its consequences likely to be worse than doing nothing? Finally the war must be the last resort, all other means of achieving the same end having been exhausted or validly ruled out.

The interesting - and frightening - discussion that is now needed is not whether Putin's invasion meets these criteria or any of their variants, as it very plainly does not. The question governments should be grappling with is whether UN or NATO military action in or over Ukraine would be just, judged against these criteria. I don't think it is enough to say that Putin is scarily unpredictable, and that therefore the UN or NATO should not act, because that will remain the case even if he is allowed to succeed in Ukraine. Thinking he will stop there ignores recent history. If not stopped now, which states are we also deciding are expendable at his whim? Moldova? Latvia? Finland? How many millions will then suffer?

The question is whether opposing him militarily is or will become morally permissible, whether a war against Russia would be a just war. Those questions of what the right aims should be, what harm will be caused and, critically, whether the harm will be proportionate to the aims will come to the fore. What is the real risk of it going nuclear?

It might surprise some that a Christian minister writes in these terms, not advocating war as such, not yet at any rate, but contemplating the possibility as a just necessity. But the Christian take on peace and war is actually less cuddly than many think. Yes, Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and his followers do, much of the time, experience an inner peace that comes from trusting in him. That type of peace, though, is not the same as an absence of strife, but an inner contentment that comes from knowing that even amidst human travails all will in time be well. But the sort of wider peace that includes the absence of war will only come when Jesus returns, as he will. That is really what is meant by Jesus' title The Prince of Peace. When he comes again, all will turn out well.

That is actually a rather Advent-y thought. The return of Christ occupies our thoughts more in the run up to Christmas than Easter. But the promise of that return is understood through the cross and resurrection.

Seeing Jesus entering into human darkness and pain and suffering and loss and death, and yet emerging triumphant in the resurrection brings with it the promise of fulfilment when he returns, when all Putins will be judged and held to account, and when peace will finally come.

**A very happy – and peaceful - Easter to you all, Simon**



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Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 8 APRIL**

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# St Andrew's Noticeboard

- |        |          |  |
|--------|----------|--|
| 3 APR  | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION  |
|        | 10.30 AM | CW COMMUNION<br>Isaiah 43.16-21; John 12.1-8<br><i>Anointing</i>   |
|        | 10.30 AM | FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION  |
|        | 6 PM     | CHORAL EVENSONG<br>Isaiah 35; Romans 7.21-8.4  |
| 7 APR  | 8.30 PM  | COMPLINE: a series with Julian of Norwich  |
| 10 APR | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION<br>Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 19.28-40   |
|        | 10.30 AM | PALM SUNDAY COMMUNION<br>Luke 19.28-40, 21.37-23.56  |
| 11 APR | 8 PM     | COMPLINE   |
| 12 APR | 8 PM     | COMPLINE   |
| 13 APR | 8 PM     | COMPLINE   |
| 14 APR | 7 PM     | MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION  |
| 15 APR | 12 PM    | AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS<br>with Julian of Norwich & the female disciples<br>John 19.25b-27, 30                          |
| 16 APR | 8 PM     | EASTER VIGIL SERVICE   |
| 17 APR | 6.30 AM  | MAGOG DOWN SERVICE   |
|        | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION  |
|        | 10.30 AM | EASTER DAY ALL AGE COMMUNION<br>in the churchyard<br>Isaiah 65.17-25; Luke 24.1-12<br><i>Be glad and rejoice forever</i> |
| 24 APR | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION  |
|        | 10.30 AM | SUNDAY WORSHIP<br>Genesis 1.1-2.3; Colossians 1.15-20<br><i>In the beginning</i>   |

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## FROM THE REGISTERS

8 MARCH: Funeral of Wendy Skarsten

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## Lent to Easter

WE are part way through Lent; an opportunity to reflect and consider in prayerful thought. I indulged: Shrove Tuesday - pancakes. Frying, flipping, batter, bubbling, browning; soon consumed. A time to clear fat, milk and eggs before fasting. Shriving before starting the penitential season goes back to the year 1000. Many delicious toppings can be mixed but I like lemon or orange best. Simple is often best. Next day, Ash Wednesday; the sign of the cross, repentance. Solemn, serious. Awareness of our beginnings and end.

17 March is St Patrick's Day and when I was accepted for teacher training. The day finished with a ceilidh. Great fun. Ten days later is Mothering Sunday, when children show appreciation for mothers. In the past girls sometimes went into service. Many left home to work as maids in houses of the wealthy. Boys too went away to be apprenticed to a craftsman. In mid Lent they had leave to visit mothers. Girls took a special cake, boys gathered wild flowers (not now though). I loved seeing gorgeous mini bunches of violets. Some say simnel cake with eleven marzipan balls representing the faithful apostles was made for this. I doubt it, believing it meant for Easter. I know my sister and I struggled to find cards saying Mothering Sunday. Making one or adding words seemed cheating. One year we picked identical cards.

Palm Sunday is a week before Easter Day. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem by Jesus is remembered. Parading to church trying to keep up with the singing doesn't really matter. Being there does. My Gran sang heartily at her own speedy pace. Our Gloucestershire church procession was memorable. Clergy and choir robed; shining cross borne high gleaming in sunshine. Bystanders watched, rather as it would have been except for cheering and exultation. Imagine scattering palms; difficult.

Next, Good Friday. We had pink boiled eggs for breakfast. An ancient pan was designated for this becoming a richer red over time. Hot cross buns were allowed now, never earlier. Piled high in supermarkets I have seen some unusual flavours; cheese with an option of marmite. Really? Surely dried fruit and spices are necessary. We were told that the cross should be cut into the dough not piped on.

Maundy Thursday was when Jesus shared the Last Supper with His twelve disciples. He washed the feet to show respect and love. It's an ongoing tradition. Elderly ladies and gentlemen receive money from the Queen.

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So to Easter Day, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, three days after the crucifixion. The first service early morning on the Gogs leaves many images, followed by breakfast; lots to tell. Making the Easter Garden, flowering cross, pretty bonnets, recognising new life in flora and fauna, hearing wonderful music, hymn singing, children on chocolate eggs hunts; fun. Joy and hope. Before me I see daffodils boldly radiating glory, (like sunflowers). Pale blue iris heads speckled with lemon and rich violet blue hyacinths implying sun, sky and sea. Peace, calm. We reach out to you Ukraine. **Judith Lee**

## Mothers' Union



THIS month we are leading Compline in Holy Week on 13 April at 8pm in St Andrew's, one of the many Church organisations taking part

in these Lent services.

On 27 April there is a Diocesan Day (the first one face-to-face for two-and-a-half years) and Annual AGM in St Peter's church in March, starting at 10am. Details can be found in the February Diocesan Newsletter from Hazel.

On 28 April, we are hosting our Spring Coffee Morning in the Johnson Hall, from 10.30am – all are welcome! There'll be a Raffle and a Bring & Buy stall, as well as MU cards for sale.

Easter Blessings to you all. **Hilary Street**

## Joan Barnes 1926 – 2021

IN her lifetime Joan was a force to be reckoned with! She made a huge contribution to the life of the local community and beyond, including as a founder member of the Magog Trust and its one-time Vice-President.

As a lasting tribute it is proposed that a bench dedicated to her and her husband Ray, who was also a founder member, be placed on the Magog Down, which so many people far and wide come to enjoy.

We are writing to all the organisations with which Joan was involved, to see if they or their individual members or friends would like to make a donation towards this bench.

Donations by cheque please, made payable to the Magog Trust, and sent to Wendy Elsbury, 7 Anvil Close, Stapleford, CB22 5SS. Phone: 844559.

The closing date for the appeal is Monday 18 April. **Joan King**



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# Stapleford WI



FEBRUARY is the month in our Stapleford WI calendar when the craft cup is awarded. The evening proved to be a lovely celebration of all the different crafts in which our members engage. Members were invited to bring along any items they had made and as a result there was a wonderful display covering two long tables. The various crafts included knitting, crochet, patchwork, embroidery, painting, basketry, rope work, rag work, flag making and sugar cake decorations.

Members enjoyed looking at the display and there was also an opportunity for everyone to either watch a craft demonstration or try one for themselves. There was much chatter about all the activities and items and during this social time members placed a coin on their favourite entry in the competition. The cup was awarded to the item with most coins by it.



Before the presentation of the craft cup to Sallie Dixon for her beautiful drawing of a blue tit using Faber-Castell oil-based pencils, our Vice-President, Celia Weir, held up each item and invited the maker to explain the background to it. This led to some interesting and inspiring stories.

The evening was extremely enjoyable as we were able to interact, socialise, learn more about each other's skills, and some may even have been inspired to try a new craft as a result.

We do try to vary the meetings each month so that we accommodate as many people's different interests as possible. Sometimes we have a social event and on other occasions we arrange for a speaker to visit us. On 28 April there will be a speaker, Shirley Scorcher, giving an interactive talk about the charity Deafblind UK. Our meetings take place in Stapleford Pavilion at 7.30pm.

If you are interested in learning more about all the activities open to Stapleford WI members then please do get in touch. Our WI has a thriving book group and a craft group and now that the better weather is here we will be organising walks around local places of interest and in the countryside. In addition outings, craft days and social events are organised by Cambridge Federation of Women's Institutes (CFWI) for members throughout the county.

For more information please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 or see [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com). **Joyce Dobson**

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# Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



LAST September we held the Link 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Service at St Andrew's, mainly outdoors. During the Service we planted daffodil bulbs in the shape of a cross to mark the occasion.

Below is a photo of the freshly planted cross (centre) and a series of photos, taken on 13, 20, 27 February and 6 March (reading clockwise from top left) marking their progress.

Have you spotted them as you pass the Church? **Trish Maude**



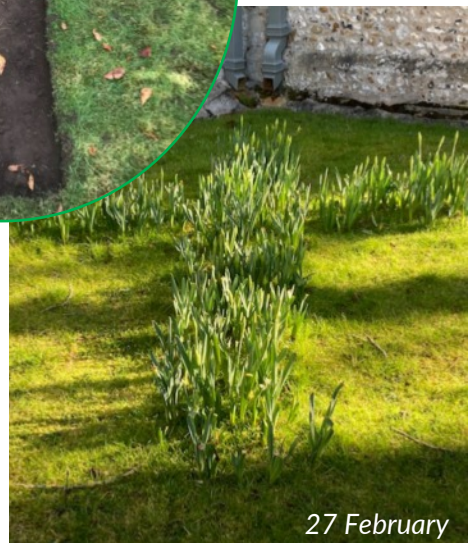
13 February



20 February



6 March



27 February

## Ken Dean

A FURTHER tribute to Ken Dean.

The family of St. Andrew's likes to celebrate big birthdays! Ken's special day was on 24 February, and because he is now unable to get to church, the church (represented by four of its 'regulars') went to him.

They delivered flowers, a balloon and a card signed by many of the congregation as well as the love and good wishes of the whole church family. As you can see, he was in grand form as he enjoyed his day of celebrations, family, and happy reminiscences. **Jeannie Green**



## Welcome to Stapleford nursery

ARE you looking for a Nursery to nurture and support your child's development?

We offer a newly refurbished stimulating environment for children aged 3-4 years old. We are now taking part-time and full-time applications for September (term time only). **Lauren Davies** 508720, email [nursery@staplefordprimaryschool.org](mailto:nursery@staplefordprimaryschool.org).



# Aspiring to swim the Channel

THE idea of swimming the English Channel to France has always been beyond my imagination, something to admire others doing from afar or on television from the safety of my sitting room.

But months of coronavirus pandemic and lock-downs prompted me, when offered a place on a six-member relay team in June, to jump at the chance. My mantra has become 'seize the opportunity' and just do it. Logistics will follow.

This summer we will be leaping into the Channel, more than likely in the dark with water temperatures of about 15°C, to rotate for an hour each from Dover towards the French coast. The closest points are about 21 miles.

This swim is one of the Oceans Seven, the seven toughest in the world. We anticipate seasickness and jellyfish and risk hypothermia but it promises to be the ride of our lives. Just thinking about it gives me a frisson of excitement.

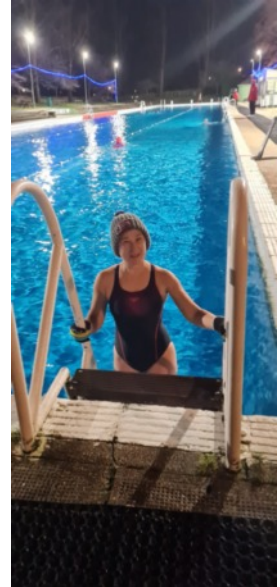
We have the charity Aspire to thank for making this possible, so please help us to help them support those with spinal cord injuries. Every penny will be well used.

To give you an idea, for £25 Aspire can buy special grip cups and glasses for someone with limited hand dexterity, while £500 will provide a thermostatic temperature-controlled shower in an Aspire house. Those



with spinal cord injuries cannot feel how hot the water is against their skin and this will prevent them from getting burnt. For £3,000 Aspire can laminate the floors for easier movement around one of its properties.

Every four hours somebody is paralysed by a spinal cord injury, the national charity says, and it can happen at any time. In the blink of an eye your life could change forever. Aspire was set up in 1983 around the kitchen table of Shannie Ross's home in Hampstead, north London, when she discovered how inadequate





rehabilitation facilities are for the injured. The charity exists because there is no cure.

Our swim in June comes nearly 150 years since Matthew Webb first made it across, swimming breaststroke and keeping up his energy levels with brandy and beer as he struggled with jellyfish stings. Thanks to the rules he laid down in August 1875 we can wear nothing but our swimsuits, a cap and goggles.



My training has taken me to local pools, including to Jesus Green lido during the winter months with temperatures barely above 5°C, rivers and East Anglian beaches. I aim to get my speed up to two miles an hour, a good clip to try and beat the tide.

Our boat and pilot are poised to push off on 30 June on a spring tide. If the tide turns before we get to a certain point we face an extra six hours in the water. Once we touch land, we will have little more than 10 minutes on a French beach before we must return to England.

I have been busy making marmalade to help raise funds for the charity so if you would like to donate to Aspire and pick up one of my jars, please email me direct on: [sarah.provan@btopenworld.com](mailto:sarah.provan@btopenworld.com)



Any donation from you will encourage me to keep going and will spur me to France. To find out more about my journey and donate, please read:

[justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-provan1](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-provan1).

I lived in Stapleford for six years and now live in Whittlesford, and read the Messenger regularly. **Sarah Provan**

## 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.

# Yesteryear

*SYLVIA Morris looks at events in the village in the month of April over the years. Punctuation and capital letters are exactly as printed at the time.*

**1792**

**MARRIAGE.** “And every art in love the God’s allow.” So sings the poet Ovid, who was a very great master in this art; but surely the poet himself could scarce equal a gamekeeper to a nobleman in this county, who was married the other day at Stapleford to an obstinate widow, after a courtship of only two hours and twenty-five minutes.

**1827**

**SALE.** Stapleford Lodge. Most Beautiful Cottage Ornee. The House is recently substantially erected and contains good Dining and Drawing-rooms, kitchen Cellar and several Bed-rooms. One of the Sitting-rooms is connected with the Conservatory, which is abundantly stocked with superior vines. The out-buildings are well arranged and consist of Chaise-house, Stable, Granary, etc. Excellent Garden, the wall clothed with choice trees, separated from the Plantation in the front of the house. The whole stands on nearly 1 ½ acre, the situation is most delightfully picturesque, the roads and the neighbourhood excellent.

**1893**

**SERIOUS CHARGE.** Against Stapleford farmer. Stephen Hagger, farmer, was summoned that he did have 50 sheep afflicted with a disease and did neglect to give notice to the police of the district.

**1901**

**CHURCH ORGAN.** It has been decided to erect a new organ in Stapleford Church as a memorial to our late beloved Queen Victoria. The present instrument has done very good service for about 100 years but is a very poor little one and is now worn out. The vicar would be very glad if any friends having present or past interest in this parish or church would help in this work. About £30 is already in hand and promised.

**1936**

“The matter on the agenda was to discuss the advisability of acquiring by purchase the Cricket Field for a public recreation ground. This was fully discussed from all points after which Mr King moved the following resolution. That this meeting of Local Gov. Electors for the Parish of Stapleford hereby instruct the Parish Council to take steps to purchase the 5.25 acres of meadow land offered by Mrs H Collier for the sum of £780

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(pounds) plus all costs for the purpose of a public Recreation Ground for the Parish. This was seconded by Mr Badcock and carried 9 voting for and none against.

Mr Cook then proposed and Mr Hardy seconded that this meeting of Local Gov. Electors for the Parish of Stapleford authorise and hereby give consent to the incurring by the Parish Council of expenses which will involve the raising of a loan of £850 to be spread (if possible) over a period of 30 years (Carried)". All this was decided in 30 minutes. (*From the Parish Council Minutes*)

### 1989

During half-term I went to the church to help clean tiles. The Vicar asked me if I would like to be in charge of the time-capsule which was going to be buried under the Lady Chapel. I said "YES". I found a large jar at home and I put in it the following things:

- a note with my name and age and the name of the Vicar;
- coins;
- a stamp;
- a Dandy comic;
- a Stapleford Parish Magazine;
- M.U. Programme;
- a phone card;
- an Underground railway ticket; and
- a ball-point pen.

This was buried under the floor of the Lady Chapel on the weekend of February 18<sup>th</sup> 1989 while the floor was being re-laid. I wonder if anyone will find the time capsule in centuries to come! MARION STREET. Aged nine.

## Lent lunches

A simple meal of homemade soups, bread and cheese or fruit

Johnson Hall,

Friday 1 April 12.45 - 2.30pm

Free Church Great Shelford

Mon 4 April 12.30 - 2pm

Donations to Charity.

**AA**



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## 2G3S



FUTURE events - more information available by emailing the address below.

Wednesday 6 April, 7.45 for 8pm, talk on Zoom or in person at the Johnson Hall. The talk will be called 'Improving Rivers for Wild Brown Trout'. It will look at what can be done to increase the habitat potential of Cambridge's local rivers and beyond, focusing on the Granta, the Shep and Mimram, and more. There will be a 45-minute presentation from Rob Mungovan,

Conservation Officer East Anglia and Central at The Wild Trout Trust, followed by a discussion. Book a place by emailing us.

Saturday 16 April, 2-4pm, Nature Walk along Bury Farm track.

Monday 25 April, 10am, meet at Stapleford Pavilion for a Social Cycle Ride.

Wednesday 9 May, 8pm, planning meeting.

We will be having a number of cycle rides and nature walks through the spring and summer, so look out for the dates.

### Recycling:

Our waste collection service run by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has one of the highest recycling rates in the country, but I know people get confused as to exactly what to recycle, and how. We've probably all been guilty of putting items in the blue bin, hoping they will get picked up by the recycling fairies – so-called "wishful recycling". This can unfortunately contaminate other waste such that a whole batch cannot be recycled. Here's a round-up of what SCDC can accept, and how to bin it for maximum recycling potential. Next month we'll have information about the local specialist recycling services e.g for crisp packets, toothpaste tubes, pens, duvets and pillows, and water filters.

### What goes in my blue bin?

Paper; newspapers; magazines and envelopes; cardboard; cartons (eg Tetra Pak fruit juice cartons); plastic bags and film wrapping; plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays (excluding any black plastic which cannot currently be recycled); food and drinks cans; empty aerosols; greetings cards; wrapping paper (no metallic plastic); tinfoil and foil trays; biscuit and sweet tins; glass jars and bottles; shredded paper (must be bagged in a paper or clear plastic bag); metal tubes eg tomato puree.

Containers should be rinsed clean and dry. Squash plastic bottles and cans. Put tops/lids/spray triggers back on to jars and bottles so they don't get lost during the recycling process, they will get found by hand sorting. Separate plastic wrappers from paper catalogues and so on, likewise for plastic windows that form part of a cardboard box. Batteries must not be put inside the blue bin but are collected for recycling: put batteries including AA and AAA cells, button batteries, size C and D and any laptop or mobile battery in a clear plastic bag and tie to your blue bin lid.

**DO NOT PUT IN:** black plastic food trays; metallic plastic wrapping paper or food wrapping like crisp packets; food; liquids; nappies; clothes, textiles or shoes (take to charity shops or clothing banks); expanded polystyrene or Styrofoam; foam/sponge; non-packaging hard plastic, eg toys and bowls; flat glass or mirrors; Pyrex; kitchen paper and tissues; dirty packaging; paint tins; baby food pouches; blister packs for pills; 'compostable' cups or corn starch 'plastic' wrapping (put into black bin or compost them yourself); plastic corks; paper with a plastic liner eg instant porridge sachets; trigger pumps with a metal spring in; fruit/veg nets; receipts; plastic toothpaste tubes.

More information at [scams.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/](http://scams.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/).

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 more information about our meetings. Also see our Facebook page or website.

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## Great Shelford Bowls Club



BY the time you read this notification we will have had our first activity for the year. A tabletop sale on 12 March in the Great Shelford Memorial Hall.

Our next event on 9 April at 10am will be a coffee morning at the Bowls Club Pavilion just down past the children's 'PlayScape' area on the recreation ground at Great Shelford, where everyone, existing members and those who may wish to join us, will be welcome to attend and discuss what we have to offer.

Subscriptions will be collected on the day.

Friday 22 April at 2pm the greens will be open and available for practice and for potential members to have a go and see how they get on.

Saturday 23 April at 2pm is an open day for everyone to enjoy. There may even be some refreshments available.

Sunday 24 April at 2pm the greens will be open to all signed up members for formalized practice.

The formal bowls fixtures begin on 26 April and continue to September.

We look forward to welcoming you to our club. **Alan Edwards**,  
Secretary 666965.

## St Andrew's Toddlers

Mondays in term time

9.15am to 11am

In the Johnson Hall, Gog Magog Way

Free Play, Crafts, Games, Songs & Stories

Meet new friends over a cup of coffee.

Volunteers wanted to play, chat and make coffee.

For more information contact **Fiona Holliday** at  
layminister@standrewstapleford.org or 478923.

# Stapleford Twinning Association



HAVING celebrated 40 years of twinning (*le jumelage*, in French) in 2020, not surprisingly since then our activities have been somewhat curtailed. However we are now, once again, moving forward with a range of new initiatives, details of which we will be announcing in the months ahead.

Our twin, the village of Villedômer near the city of Tours in the beautiful Loire valley, is also stepping up its activities and, with them, we are looking

forward to a brighter future.

New Stapleford Twinning Association committee members were recently appointed as was a new chair, Tony Hore (pictured), who has served for many years as a committee member and recently as the STA's treasurer. Tony will continue in that role. Some Stapleford residents may know him from the Twinning Casino nights run by the Association as their Casino Manager. Jackie Bow, the outgoing chair, was warmly thanked by members for her many years of able stewardship of the Association.



As well as re-starting exchange visits with our twin, the upcoming initiatives include:

- A complete overhaul of our website.
- Raising our profile in the village.

If you are interested in membership of the Association, or if you are an existing member and you have any suggestions about the future of the Association, we'd love to hear from you via [staplefordtwinningassociation@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordtwinningassociation@gmail.com) **Tim Jessop**



## 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](mailto:admin@standrewstapleford.org)



# Puzzle Corner

## Centres of Attraction

Find a 3-letter word which completes two new words

e.g. add TEN to OF [ ] SE, forming OFTEN and TENSE

TH [ ] OT	SH [ ] OW	SI [ ] NT	LE [ ] EN
HA [ ] CH	OP [ ] SE	CA [ ] GO	BA [ ] US
AF [ ] ED	AC [ ] SO	KN [ ] ER	RI [ ] CE
EN [ ] DE	FO [ ] MY	UR [ ] AL	TA [ ] ST
SE [ ] GE	AM [ ] ET	SH [ ] IN	EL [ ] EL
BA [ ] ME	EN [ ] ST	RE [ ] EE	CO [ ] CE

In this final set, pair up the 3-letter words to make 6-letter words, using each 3-letter word once, e.g. BAR + ROW = BARROW

SK [ ] EL	AW [ ] NA	TR [ ] OR	LE [ ] IC
WI [ ] SE	RE [ ] VE	NO [ ] AM	OT [ ] ON

*Set by Hermes - Answers on page 55*

## Vista of Babraham

DID you know that Magog Down has its own Twitter account @MagogDown? If you have some photographs that you would like to see featured on the Twitter account then tweet us and we will do our best to share! **Sara Sayer, Trustee. Photo by Keith Taylor**



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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 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](mailto:egunn@staplefordprimaryschool.org)) and Martin Brown ([mbrown@staplefordprimaryschool.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://anglianlearning.org). **Surabhi Khanna**

## Saving our Planet!

THIS is theme for our Village Show and Village Weekend this year.

The Show is on 4 June in a Marquee on the Rec and everyone is welcome. Here's a sneak peak of the photography classes - 'Climate Emergency', 'Wind Power', 'Rare Species', 'Sustainable Travel', 'A View from the Gogs' and a group of two photos 'Green and Brown'.

Hopefully this gives you all some inspiration to get snapping!

We need lots of helpers for all the events. Please do contact me if you can help in any way. **Julie Rayment. 07870 215776**

# Little Shelford Bowls Club



BOWLS is a sport that can be played by anyone, whatever their age, sex or level of fitness. Many of the villages in South Cambridgeshire have their own bowls clubs, including Little Shelford. We are a small and friendly club and are always on the look-out for new players. Whether you are an experienced player or a beginner, you are

assured of a warm welcome.

Our green is at the far end of the Wale Recreation Ground on Whittlesford Road. We play most of our matches on weekday evenings from the end of April to the beginning of September, also weekly on a Wednesday afternoon.

We have our Club Open Day on Saturday 23 April, starting at 2.30pm, with a follow-up on Saturday 30. If you want to find out more or try it for yourself, all you need to do is bring a pair of flat soled shoes or trainers. Further details from our Secretary **Ray Saich**, 842737. **John Sherwell**



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# Stapleford Strollers: Walk 102

## A Taste of North Essex: a circular walk at Swards End

### To get to start of walk

Drive to Saffron Walden. Turn on to the B1053 (Radwinter Road) and pass the Tesco superstore. Keep on and, after a short time, Swards End village is reached. Drive along the main road which, eventually, swings sharp left and then sharp right. Where it swings right is the Village Hall. Turn off the road on to the car park for the Hall (CB10 2LG). Start the walk from here.

### Distance of walk

About 4¾ miles. It is not entirely flat, but it is only the first part of the route that has the ups and downs. Parts can be muddy so this is a walk for drier times of the year.

### OS Map

Explorer map 195. You can run off a free extract by going to [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net) or use the route map provided with these notes.

### Extra Information

Swards End came into existence in the 12 century. It was built on land granted to a previous Lord of Saffron Walden's food taster, called Sigeward! You couldn't make this stuff up ... The village was named in Sigeward's honour by his grandson. Later name changes took place and it was known as Sewers End until 1911; the name today is somewhat more fragrant. Sadly, there are no longer any pubs in the village. Saffron Walden is the place to go for an after-walk drink.

### Route of Walk

From the Village Hall car park, cross the road and turn up Redgates Lane. The old Fox pub can be seen with a huge emblem on its frontage. Look for a footpath sign on the left (entrance to The Orchards and Bamber's Lodge). Pass to the right of a large gate and walk ahead. Carry on into a field and exit via a wooden footbridge. Enter the next field, go straight ahead and exit via a gap in the hedge. Carry on ahead in the field beyond, with good views of Saffron Walden, and exit via a footbridge and gate. Go straight ahead in the large field beyond and then swing left downhill when the far hedge line is reached. Exit through a gate at the hill bottom. Swing right before a pond and go through another gate into a field. Exit via a stile in the right hand corner, and turn left. Come to another field and turn right. Keep



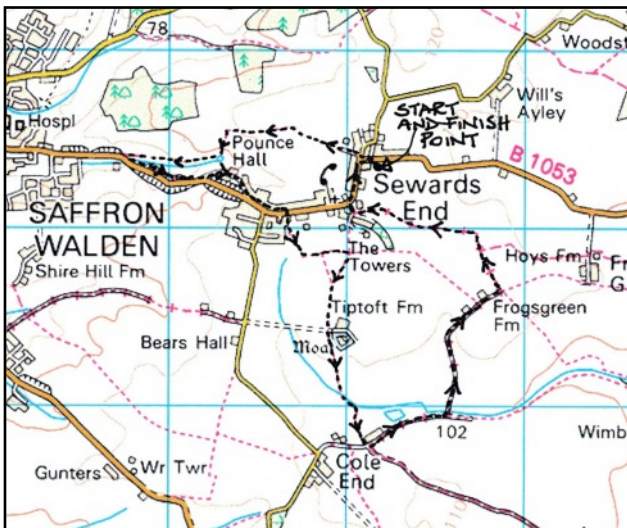
to the right of this field and exit, after a short stretch of undergrowth, on to a track. Turn left and come down to the B1053.

A tarmac path parallels this road, but is separate from it. Turn left onto it and walk uphill for a few minutes. When the path ends, go ahead on a section of old road, passing 17 century Pounce Hall to the left. The old road carries on and meets up with the B1053. Walk along the roadside pavement until, after passing Dragon Gardens on the right (named after an old pub), cross over and go up a footpath behind a metal pedestrian guard.

Follow this path for a time. It swings sharp left when a cropped field is reached. Walk along the left hand field edge and, shortly, go right on a cross-field path. Pass along the left hand side of the next field, cross a farm track (Tiptoft Farm, to the left) and carry on ahead. The hedge to the left soon disappears and the route is now across open land between fields. Near the far hedge line swing right and then go left over a stile into the next field, often containing cattle. At the end of the field, exit onto a solid farm track and turn left past Cole End Farm. Carry on ahead for some time on the track, swinging left, and then passing Frogs Green Farm. Shortly afterwards, turn sharp left at a crossing of paths.

Follow the solid track back to Swards End. It swings right and passes an old water tower, just before meeting the B1053. Cross over - carefully - and go right, along the pavement. The Village Hall will soon be seen on the right. Cross back over 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*





## Quiz Time

THIS Quiz was prepared by Anna Jeffs Everson and was aired at the Three Horseshoes at the weekly quiz. Participants compete for bar tokens and a £10 prize for a random guess question, with half the entry fee of £2 going to local charities.

1. At which London station do trains from Reading terminate?
2. In which classic of 19 century literature is the heroine killed by a train?
3. With which train is Oliver Postgate associated?
4. At which London station did Sir Gilbert Scott build his Grand Midland Hotel?
5. Which rail station has a record 67 platforms?
6. On what is Mr. Ratchett, or Casseti, murdered?
7. The following opening lyrics are from which song and artist "Down around the corner half a mile from here, See them long trains run, and you watch them disappear"?
8. Which train officially became the first steam locomotive to reach 100 miles per hour in 1934?
9. There are two trains Postman Pat could take if he fancied a day out. Can you name both of them ?
10. Which country has the shortest rail network?

Answers on page 33.

## Stapleford Horticultural Society

WE have the first talk of our 2022/2023 programme on Thursday 14 April, when we will be welcoming back one of our oldest friends, Peter Jackson, who will be telling us all about bee-friendly plants.

Bees are facing a number of problems at the moment, and we can all do something to help by growing nectar-rich flowers in our gardens.

As usual, the talk will begin at 7.45pm in the Johnson Hall, and all are welcome. **John Sherwell**



# Walks and Whiskers

*This is the first of an occasional series about villagers who have done or are doing interesting things that readers might be interested in knowing about. If you think you have a story to tell, please get in touch.*



MANY of us have a beloved pet who no doubt appears in a photo or two. But how about capturing their likeness in a painting or sculpture?

Steph Swain specialises in doing just that. The Stapleford mum-of-three has set up 'Walks and Whiskers' to showcase her artwork and accept commissions. Send her a photograph and she will turn it into a painting or sculpture.

"The 'walks' is because I paint nature scenes and the 'whiskers' is the pets," she explains. "I'm aware it sounds like a dog walking company but it isn't!"

'Walks and Whiskers' is an offshoot of her own attempt to find a sculpture that resembled her own pets Gracie and George.

The pair are Ragdoll cats, an American breed that doesn't mind being picked up and will follow you around like a dog.

"I wanted to get a sculpture of a Ragdoll cat but couldn't find one anywhere so I decided to make one," she said. "I then discovered it was quite fun, although it was difficult to capture the likeness as they are quite fluffy."

"Then I did my mum's Romanian rescue dog, which has unusual markings, and have gone on to make a few others, around twenty now."

"Craft shop No.3 in Royston is now displaying them and Pickles and Beans are displaying my artwork."



"I'm doing a rabbit for someone at the moment so it doesn't have to be a cat or a dog."

When it comes to sculptures, Steph has also attempted one human - middle child Frankie, who is eight.



This time she didn't work from a photograph.

"I made her sit - that was quite an ordeal as it meant I had to listen to hours of annoying YouTube videos. She loved it though, she felt very special in being chosen to do it.

"With the paintings I mainly do landscapes, especially local scenes. Again, if people send me photographs I can paint from them. The Cambridge Diary photographer did a shout out, which was lovely because I love his work. He also

supports local artists."

'Walks and Whiskers' is a side venture for Steph, who has been painting as a hobby practically all her life. Her day job is in research strategy at the University.

"I work on the impact of research beyond academia, demonstrating all the wonderful things that happen as a result of University of Cambridge research, from clinical impacts through to cultural impacts," she said.

Steph can be contacted on email at [walksandwhiskers@outlook.com](mailto:walksandwhiskers@outlook.com) or through the 'Walks and Whiskers' Facebook page. **Jon West**



## Quiz answers

1. Paddington
2. Anna Karenina
3. Ivor the Engine
4. St Pancras
5. Grand Central, New York
6. The Orient Express
7. Long Train Running & The Doobie Brothers
8. The Flying Scotsman
9. Pencaster Flyer and Greendale Rocket
10. Vatican City.

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**Adrian Bradbury & Andrew West**

Sunday 15th May | 12pm  
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RECENTLY Granta has only been able to offer urgent appointments. This has been due to sickness and staff shortages in both the clinical and administrative teams. We have had a few team members retire and move on to new jobs and we have recruited new staff who will be starting in the coming months. Unfortunately, we also have staff absent with Long Covid.

Not only is this frustrating for our patients, it is also frustrating for us. We want to offer the best possible service and we know we are not currently doing this. Sadly, our staff are experiencing a high level of verbal abuse and this is not acceptable. Please may I ask that everyone be courteous and kind to our staff.

If you have a minor illness or injury you may be able to address this without going to see a GP. Here are some simple self-care steps everyone can follow:-

Keep your medicine cabinet stocked up with self-care essentials, such as pain relief (eg Paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment, heartburn / indigestion treatments and a first aid kit.

Use your local pharmacy

Your local pharmacist can offer you advice and guidance on your symptoms and on the best treatment for you – no appointment needed.

Ask us about the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS)

This service enables patients to have a same day appointment with their community pharmacist for minor illness or an urgent supply of a regular medicine. Should you need to be escalated or referred to an alternative service, the pharmacist can arrange this. Please speak to our reception team to be referred into this service.

Utilise the NHS UK Symptom Checker [nhs.uk](https://nhs.uk): This helpful tool can guide you through your symptoms and direct you to the most appropriate health service for your needs.

If you are experiencing a mental health crisis call **NHS 111**, and select **option 2**. 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.

Help us - help yourself - help the NHS

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 627743 or [sandra.east@nhs.net](mailto:sandra.east@nhs.net). **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**



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## Phoenix ready to fly again

THE cricket season is just weeks away which means Stapleford Phoenix's fine band of fellows will soon be picking up willow and trying to remember which end it is that they are supposed to hold.

The village's midweek T20 side plays friendlies that suit adults of all ages and abilities - teens who have been coached to a decent level are also welcome but note that we have no youth section ourselves.

The club, which brought regular cricket back to the village in 2015, also takes part in the Business House League, which offers more competitive T20 cricket for those of a higher standard.

The Phoenix would love to hear from potential new players from in and around the village therefore. Our current ages range is 17 to 'rather not say' so anyone young - at heart or based on actual statistics - should fire off an email to [staplefordphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordphoenix@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Below are the Phoenix fixtures so far - all friendlies (apart from the Jaguars) as BHL dates had not been set before going to print.

This summer also marks the return of the Village Match, which is part of the Village Weekend. Anyone who fancies playing in this fun knockabout on the Rec on the Sunday should also drop us a line.

**Weds 4 May Swaffhams (home)**

**Mon 16 May St Barnabas (venue tbc)**

**Weds 18 May Sharks (home)**

**Weds 25 May TTP (home)**

**Mon 30 May IPH (away)**

**Sunday 5 June Village Match**

**Thurs 16 June Sharks (away)**

**Thurs 23 June Jaguars (away)**

**Weds 6 July IPH (home)**

**Thurs 28 July TTP (away)**



## And that's not all - calling all females

Stapleford is also hosting an all-female team this summer - and invites women of all ages and abilities to come and have a go.

Stapleford CC, which plays adult (mostly men's league cricket) has set up an adult team to play a pan-East Anglian women's league. The new team complements and dovetails with the club's talented U15 girls side. It's a fun and sociable game for all ages. Anyone interested should email [georgerolls@btinternet.com](mailto:georgerolls@btinternet.com) for more details. **Jon West**



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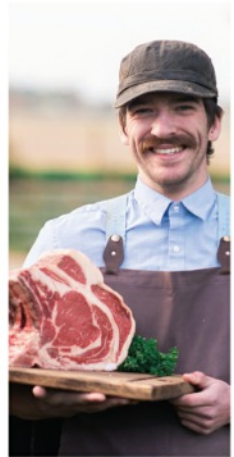
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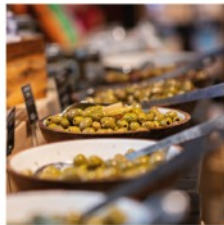
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# Stapleford Community Primary School



EACH week at school we have a focus on a 'value', starting each term with those in the school vision - ambitious, caring and excellence. In recent weeks we have reflected on the values of love, love of beauty, compassion and gratitude.

Over the past two years in the COVID-19 climate we have certainly been grateful that we managed to remain largely untouched until 21 November, when the more virulent Omicron virus caught hold and we had cases sweep across the school amongst both children, families and staff. We appear to be over that now, though cases do persist.

However we move on and have resumed some whole-school activities. At the end of February a bike enthusiast Martin Zelle showed off his bike collection to Elm class as part of their topic on 'Off on a Journey'. The children were delighted to see him ride his penny farthing round the playground, marvelling at the sheer size of it. They were intrigued as to how he actually got to sit on the seat, though those watching spotted what was in effect some ladder-like rungs on the frame. The children held their breath as he mounted it on the move- making it look easy!

Another cycle was a 150-year-old police bike, complete with the bell to alert those around that the policeman was fast approaching.

On 3 March we enjoyed our first whole-school assembly sharing the love of books on World Book Day. Reading is very much at the heart of the school, and we are determined to share books and reading to help all the children in school develop a lifelong love of learning. The children selected some amazing books and book characters to dress up as. The English captains visited each class throughout the day to develop a shortlist of new release or classic books the children in each class

would like in the library. If you would like to support us with this initiative, please do contact the school, and a donation can be made to buy a book for the library.







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We are recruiting for new midday staff and teaching assistants to support pupils in class. Please do see the school or Anglian Learning websites or the recruitment site 'EPM' for more details. **Christine Spain**

## Library update



WE are looking forward to holding three April events at Great Shelford Library! Pre-booking is needed so please call in to the library, ring the contact centre or send us an email (see contact

details below):

Spring Craft Event for Children: Wed 6 April 2-3.30pm. £1 per child. Ages 3+

Lego/Duplo Event for Children: Wed 13 April 3.45-5.15pm. £1 per child. Ages 2+

Engage talk for adults: Wed 27 April 2-3.30pm a free talk by Helen Harwood about 'Great Shelford in Times Past'. £1 suggested contribution for refreshments after the talk.

Are you interested in knowing more about wildlife and gardening? Come and see our new Year of the Planet display, including a wide range of inspiring books and useful spotter's guides, some generously funded and donated by the Friends of Great Shelford Library.

Jigsaws: we have lots of jigsaws available in the library for you to borrow or swap. We'd also love to build up our collection of children's jigsaws, especially those suitable for pre-school and primary children - if you'd like to donate any of these to the library that would be much appreciated.

Saturday 23 April is World Book Night, a national event to celebrate the joys and benefits of reading. There are lots of suggestions for how to participate on the Reading Agency website. Cambridgeshire Libraries are hosting a series of special Read a Little Aloud online events for World Book Night, starting from Tuesday 19 April, 7-8pm. Library staff and volunteers will be reading aloud from favourite books and poems, and everyone is welcome. Feel free to join in or just sit back and listen. To find out more and receive a link to join the events, please email [RALA.Online@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:RALA.Online@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

**Opening hours:** Mondays 3-7pm, Tuesdays 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, Wednesdays 10am-1pm, Fridays 10am-1pm and 2-6pm, Saturdays 10am-1pm. 0345 045 5225. [your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) **Rosemary Humby**



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# Neighbourhood plan update

## Shaping where we live



A steering group of Stapleford and Great Shelford parish councillors and residents has been making good progress on the early stages of the villages' combined neighbourhood plan. There's a lot going on

behind the scenes – notably finalising a questionnaire for initial community engagement and planning the logistics of rolling this out – but not so much to report on this month. That said, I would like to introduce our new logo for the project, designed to make our communications about the neighbourhood plan more readily identifiable and unite the various strands of work under a common theme: 'we can shape the place where we live.'

I thought this would also be a good time to briefly review some other neighbourhood plans which have recently been completed and incorporated into the statutory planning process, giving a sense of what we might be able to achieve with our own. Foremost amongst these are Foxton, Fulbourn and Gamlingay. In none of these instances is development not being permitted (since this is not the purpose of neighbourhood planning), but it is being defined by locally important parameters.

Readers will probably be familiar with Greater Cambridge Partnership's plans for hundreds of car parking spaces and a pedestrian footbridge linking Foxton rail station platforms, intended to allow people to use public transport to complete their journey into Cambridge rather than drive all the way. Foxton's neighbourhood plan was keen to ensure that the village itself would benefit if a travel hub was created nearby, rather than its own needs being sacrificed for the 'greater good'. To this end, a new statutory planning policy now exists: 'Any proposal for a travel hub must clearly demonstrate its benefits to the community of Foxton, including integrated transport services and employment opportunities, whilst minimising negative impacts on traffic and congestion, residential amenity, and the local environment.'

A key objective of Fulbourn's neighbourhood plan is to retain its identity as a village separate from Cambridge and protected by greenbelt, a feature which 97% of respondents supported in its community questionnaire. Such is the importance of its rural, village identity that the neighbourhood plan has six policies dedicated to it. One of these seeks to protect 16 specified, locally important views over the surrounding landscape both into and out of the village. Another demarcates an 'Important Visual Gap' between



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Fulbourn and the boundary of the urban area of Cambridge and neighbouring villages, the dominant green aspect of which development is not permitted to encroach upon or reduce.

One of Gamlingay's six neighbourhood plan objectives seeks to '...meet the needs of the local community by supporting new housing that is of appropriate size, affordable and adaptable. All new buildings will be built to high environmental standards.' Gamlingay recognises that it already has enough large, expensive houses and that what it needs are small, affordable (to buy and heat) homes that can adapt to their owners' changing requirements over time. It created a policy to support this, ensuring that new housing developments provide a mix of flexible homes, in particular one- and two-bedroom dwellings and bungalows, and that all are insulated to Energy Performance Certificate rating A and fitted with electric vehicle charging points. Furthermore, all new buildings must incorporate renewable energy generation and water saving measures.

I hope this has given you a flavour of what we could achieve with a broad range of policies in our own neighbourhood plan. But that is the end point of the neighbourhood planning process. The first thing for the steering group to do is to establish what your planning-related priorities are, so we look forward to engaging with you over the coming months. **Clr Jenny Flynn, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

## Cambridge Flower Club

CAMBRIDGE Flower Club will meet again on Thursday 21 April at Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Mill Lane Whittlesford CB22 4NE at 7.15pm when our demonstrator will be David Wright with 'All things bright and beautiful'. Refreshments will be available from 6.45pm



The meeting on Thursday 19 May will be a hands-on flower workshop entitled 'Platinum Jubilee'. All welcome. Visitors pay £6.

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





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# No Respect

Humanity reveals its darker side  
 As the people of Ukraine are forced to hide.  
 Children so terrified to even sleep  
 As mothers lay by their side and constantly weep.  
 From missile attacks and the artillery shell,  
 The misery caused must seem like hell.  
 With no coats on their backs or shoes on their feet,  
 As they cower from the cold with nothing to eat.  
 The press reports the destruction blow by blow  
 While the people are trapped with nowhere to go.  
 The genocide continues with no sign of abating,  
 Putin's a madman who won't consider debating,  
 Killing women and children without concern,  
 As the historic cities are left to crumble and burn.  
 Under siege from land and bombed from the air,  
 It cannot be right, it's just not fair.  
 We agree it's a war crime, but who will pay?  
 No prosecution will ever see the light of day.  
 Governments talk of human rights,  
 The Geneva Convention and the people's plight.  
 With vested interests in money and trade,  
 No meaningful progress will ever be made.  
 How long can this continue? Not long I fear  
 Before the people of Ukraine have lost all that's dear.  
 Putin shows no sign of remorse or regret,  
 His actions so heinous, the world won't forget.  
 The world thought we would never see this again,  
 Such pointless misery, suffering and pain.  
 New agreements are continually made,  
 But, just as quickly, they will be disobeyed.  
 We need politicians who will step up to the mark,  
 To consider all options when times get dark.  
 All work together and not let him win,  
 It's not just a crime on humanity -  
 It's also a sin.

*Michael Gatward*

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# Parish Council Chair's report

## District Councillors' report

At the recent Parish Council meeting, the District Councillors reported on various issues including working towards reducing illegal parking, with responsibility moving from Cambridgeshire Police to Cambridgeshire County Council with funding from the GCP. The recent reports on possible water contamination at Duxford were discussed and letters have been sent to householders by Cambridge Water reassuring them that the water is safe. South Cambs District Council is committed to a Zero Carbon Strategy and Action Plan with funding allocated to reduce carbon emissions. Following the recent annual Climate and Environment fortnight, webinars are available on the South Cambs website. The budget for next year has been set by South Cambs and council tax raised by £5 a year for band D properties.

At the February District Council meeting, Cllr Fane spoke in the debate on a motion opposing the current CSET route, pointing out that a revision to the GCP's proposed CSET route will now be needed to take account of the Inspector's decision on the recent appeal granting planning consent to a retirement village. A new Order under the Transport and Works Act will have to be considered in the summer, and the route would inevitably now go through the sensitive Gog Magog Chalk Hills landscape area, driving a tarmac road for buses through some of the finest countryside in the Cambridge green belt. In addition, Cllr Fane said the GCP board should take account of any changes to the Mayor's local transport strategy (LTCP), which by then would be out to public consultation. It was important that the GCP do not prejudge the outcome of that consultation. Cllr Fane stressed that wherever the CSET busway ends up being built, whether on the current route or the less damaging route beside the existing A1307 road, it would need to be accompanied by tree planting and screening, but such environmental measures could only offset the damage caused by any new road or road widening.

Central Government has abandoned the Oxford/Cambridge Arc development proposals, so the East/West rail project is now unlikely to proceed. The Babraham Park and Ride improvement has been delayed. Parish Councillors commented on transportation and requests for a robust bus service with electric buses to all villages. Comments were also made on potholes in local roads and Cllr Milne reported on his efforts to improve the repairs.

**CSET**

A letter has been sent to the GCP by BWTB (Better Ways Than Busways) where Stapleford and Gt Shelford Parish Councils are members, setting out the changes in conditions and circumstances that have occurred since the scheme was first proposed six years ago. Of particular significance is the Planning Inspector's decision to allow the appeal for the Axis retirement village, the effect of which will require the busway to be relocated deeper into the chalk hills and even further away from the village. These are all sound reasons for reviewing the route. There has been no acknowledgement from the GCP to this letter.

The group worked with Anthony Browne MP to refine the questions in the survey sent to 6,500 residents in the villages affected by CSET. The survey showed that 71.96% of respondents would definitely not support the route and a further 8.99% would probably not support it. The question was put to SCDC at the recent meeting asking them to reconsider the route given the changes in circumstances. A motion to reject the GCP route was defeated 17-6 by the ruling LibDem Group.

BWTB has been in contact with the business parks to understand their needs and there has also been liaison with prominent local charities and environmental groups to sustain support. BWTB has also connected with the Cambridge to Cambourne group who are also opposing a busroad through their green belt.

**Planning:** the appeal on Hill Trees change of use has been dismissed.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** a draft early-stage engagement questionnaire is being reviewed and the next step is for this to be agreed, the website to be developed and first public engagement events to be organised.

**Pavilion:** it is intended to improve and reconfigure the interior of the Pavilion and provide toilets accessible for public use, particularly those using the sports facilities. It is hoped to present some ideas to the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

Sports agreements are being finalised with increases in line with inflation + 1%.

Work on the graves in the cemetery has been completed;

Plans for the village weekend are in hand;

**Annual Parish Meeting**

All parishioners are invited to the Annual Meeting, to be held in the Pavilion on Thursday 7 April at 7pm. Reports from village organisations should be sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting and/or presented at the meeting. **Gillian Pett**



# Crunch time for the Parish Council

## Please join for the benefit of our village

ON 5 May elections will be held for all seats on almost all Parish and Town Councils in South Cambridgeshire, including Stapleford. There are two main ways in which you can join a parish council: (1) via elections which happen every four years, and (2) via co-option, by expressing an interest outside of elections. If existing councillors wish to stay in post, they must stand for re-election during the former.

At full capacity, Stapleford Parish Council would have 11 councillors. Currently, only six of these seats are filled and *this will further reduce* come election time. To be 'quorate' and continue to function, we are legally required to have four councillors. If we are 'inquorate' then we are no longer permitted to make decisions or, therefore, to function as a parish council.

We are struggling. Without more councillors, we will not be able to do more than the bare minimum required to function. And because it takes longer for a handful of people to do things, decision-making will be delayed. This is such a sad position to be in because the Parish Council has really achieved rather a lot over the past few years and there are so many more things that we want to be able to do to benefit our community. But we need to be able to share our workload more evenly between more people. Ultimately, we can only deliver what the community wants if we have enough people to do it.

Parish councils are the first tier of local government. It is our role to:

- run, fund and improve local services, such as our Rec sports and play facilities, the Pavilion and the cemetery.
- represent residents' views to higher levels of local government, e.g. CSET and EWR.
- decide how much to raise through council tax to deliver our services, including financially supporting local youth initiatives and some elderly care.
- influence and shape the long-term development of the parish (e.g. through involvement in the Local Plan) and, as part of the planning process, comment on all planning applications in the parish.
- seek to improve the quality of life and the environment in our local area.
- work to bring about improvements through local projects, e.g. verge rewilding, creating a meadow and community orchard.

- lobby other service providers and work in partnership with other parishes and agencies.

That's a pretty big agenda for a group of volunteers but it is completely manageable with enough councillors giving a few hours of their time each week and the support of a knowledgeable Clerk.

What would happen if Stapleford no longer had a Parish Council? Well, parishes with small populations can join with neighbouring parishes to form a combined parish council. For Stapleford, this would mean a loss of autonomy and being the smaller partner in an uneven relationship, so not a very desirable outcome. Or the district council can provide additional members on a *temporary* basis so we could continue to operate until councillor vacancies were filled. These temporary members would most likely be the district councillors responsible for our ward or adjacent wards. Realistically though, these people are already extremely busy with their existing workloads and councillors from outside of the ward would not be familiar with Stapleford's needs and priorities.

So please do consider joining us. The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. We're actually quite nice, normal people! Our contact details are on the back page of the *Messenger* – please do get in touch. **Jenny Flynn**

## **A ray of hope in dark times**

WE are currently living in extremely uncertain times with war raging in Ukraine that is driving global inflation and highlighting the world's reliance on fossil fuels. We urgently need to switch to alternative green energy supplies. All of us can do a little more to make this world a better place, to protect our ecosystems and environment to the extent that it so desperately deserves.

Stapleford Parish Council is trying to do its bit on your behalf with support from members of our community. I'm working together with local green groups to encourage a greater diversity of flora and fauna, and to expand wildlife within our community. We continue to work on several projects to achieve this aim.

### **Creature boxes and tree planting**

I reached out for help from Shelford and Stapleford Scouts and the Design & Technology department of Sawston College, who have been instrumental in helping us make creature boxes, with half of them





going home with the children to put up in their own gardens and the remainder being erected on Stapleford Parish Council land around the village by me and Nigel Pierce of Priam's Way. I am very grateful to Travis Perkins of Stapleford who, not for the first time, generously donated materials for us to use.

Thank you also to everyone who recently met up at Dernford Lakes 'Oasis' to help plant thousands of trees. It was heart-warming to see how many people are willing to give up a little of their time now for the benefit of those to come.

### **Wildflowers**

This spring we have identified several areas in the village which can be left for nature to take back some of what it has lost and where native wildlife flowers can eventually bloom. You'll see that selected verges will be unmown from April to September to support this. Soil nutrient levels have to reduce before wildflowers can seed but this is the first step in the process. The cemetery will also play its part. The Parish Council has worked hard to resolve health and safety issues, making safe loose or unstable grave surrounds and filling sunken graves with soil where wildflowers will now be sown to make an attractive and safe area to contemplate the loss of loved ones.

### **Buildings 'green report'**

Stapleford Parish Council has had a green report written on the Jubilee Pavilion and other public buildings and is currently looking at ways to reconfigure them to make them more user-friendly, sustainable and less reliant on outside energy supplies. It would be over-ambitious to make them carbon neutral given the age and nature of the buildings we have, but we are trying to make them the best they can possibly be.

### **Village weekend**

The village committee, supported by the Parish Council, has an ambitious plan to make our summer event lead the way by promoting environmental issues and products that can reduce our carbon footprint. Climate change will be the main theme for the weekend. There will be opportunities to learn more about solar panels, air- and ground-source heating, biofuels, and eco-friendly products. We will also have craft stalls where the whole family can create items for their gardens. If anyone



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works at or has a business that tackles climate change in any way and would like to have a stall to promote what they do to the public, do get in touch ASAP.

Another theme for the weekend will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with local groups showcasing their activities and encouraging us to join in. There will be a dog show with professional judges to present awards, traditional games and activities, great food and drink, and music to enjoy over the whole weekend. The event will end with a street party on Gog Magog Way, to which all are welcome. **Cllr Michael Gatward**

## Tennis club charity day



GREAT Shelford Tennis Club is excited to announce a charity day on Saturday 14 May. The event will be run in association with Bright Ideas for Tennis, a charity dedicated to increasing participation in tennis for everyone regardless of age, ability or socio-economic status.

The day will comprise tennis coaching provided by Bright Ideas for Tennis pros, a food and drink sale, a fastest serve competition and a number of exhibition matches throughout the course of the day. There will also be

games off court and a raffle, in which you could win a space in one of the exhibition matches. For full details, and to book tickets, please scan this QR code or visit [gstc.clubbuzz.co.uk/clublife/events](http://gstc.clubbuzz.co.uk/clublife/events).

Funds raised at the event will be used to improve access to tennis for people in our area, or to improve facilities. Tickets for coaching sessions are limited, so don't delay, but you don't need a session ticket to join in with the rest of the activities. **Angharad Harris**

## Puzzle Corner Answers

### Centres of Attraction

ROB, ALL, EVE, ASH; BIT, ERA, BIN, SIN; FIX, TOR, OWN, PEN; SUE, RUM, BAN, BOO; WED, ASS, ELF, BOW; THE, TRY, PAY, BRA



# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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*Stapleford Parish Council normally meets publicly on the first Thursday of every month. Please check our website for the latest details*



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