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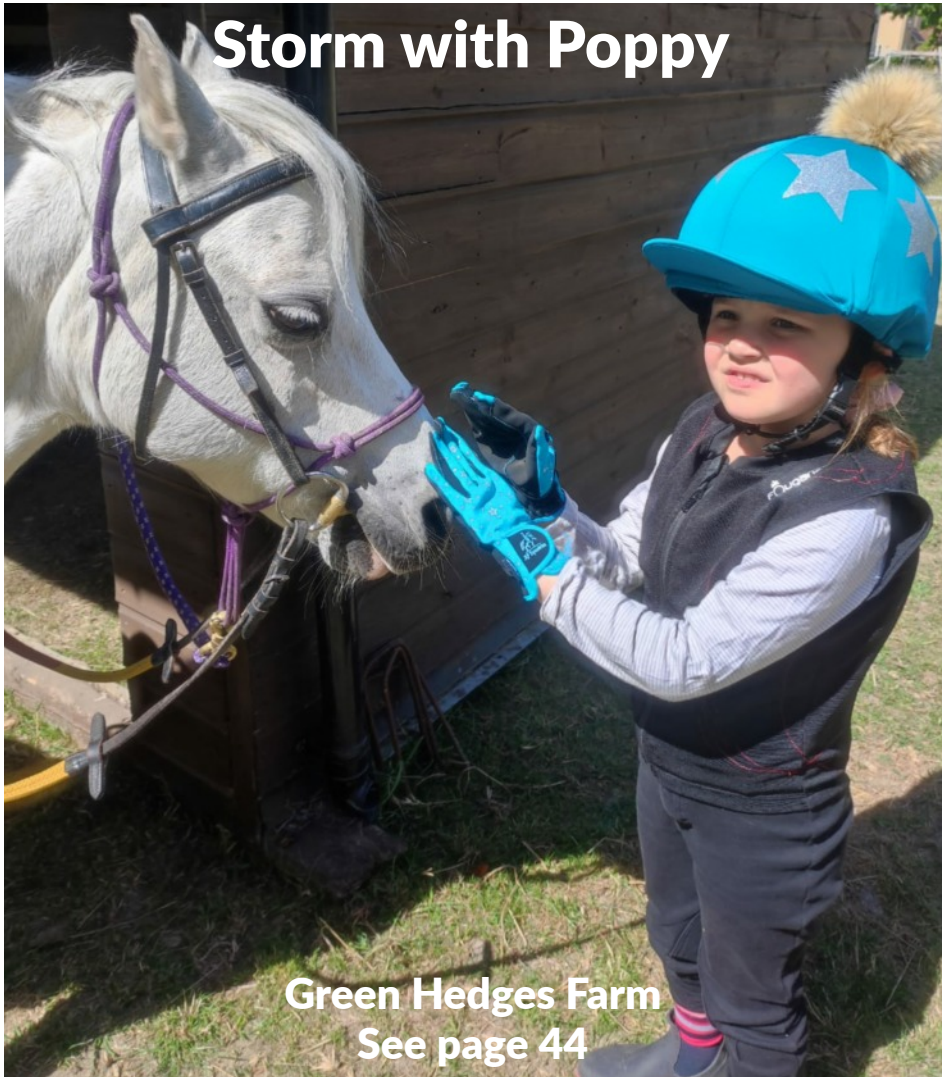
MESSENGER

November 2022

Volume 81 No 11

Price 60p

Storm with Poppy



Green Hedges Farm
See page 44

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Who's who at St Andrew's

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Parish priest

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate

Rev Lucinda Howard 07763 477821

Churchwarden

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

Verge

Clare Kerr 842984

Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

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

Gift Aid secretary

Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

See the St Andrew's Noticeboard for this month, and the church website at standrewstapleford.org for full details. The services include:

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

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

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From the Rev Lucinda Howard



THE *Messenger*, whilst a very different beast to national magazines, must also conform to submission deadlines, so our



vicar Simon had already filed his piece for October's edition before the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was announced in September. Since her passing, many thousands if not millions of words have been written about her remarkable life and the legacy of her 70-year reign, such that I doubt I will have anything fresh or original to add. Yet to not mention this momentous event at all in my first contribution seems amiss, not least because of Her Late Majesty's role as Supreme Governor of the Church of England and of course her great personal faith and public witness.

A newly-minted curate as of July, I remember feeling quite nervous as my ordination in Ely cathedral approached. But it wasn't the grandeur of the occasion or my worry that I might trip over my robes in front of the bishop - apparently it has happened before! Yes, the public commitment to serve the Church and the responsibility of the role were impressed upon me, but above all I remember being slightly unsettled by the requirement to swear an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors (there is the option to take a solemn affirmation instead, for those with theological objections to oaths). For many, the idea of taking an oath of any sort will seem strangely old-fashioned and out of step; neither allegiance or obedience are popular terms in our modern culture. Even so, the oath of allegiance is also taken by many people outside the Church such as serving MP's, members of the legal profession and the armed forces, to name a few.

Fortunately, the Principal of Ridley Hall, well-versed in managing ordinands' last-minute nerves, helped me understand it better. The oaths of course are steeped in history, part of establishing the Anglican church at a time when another Queen Elizabeth was on the throne and constantly threatened by plots to overthrow her and dismantle the Protestant Reformation in England. The oaths therefore tie us to our heritage and help us realise we do not stand alone but are part of something bigger. Most importantly, the oaths are ring-fenced so to speak, they don't exist in isolation demanding unquestioning blind obedience, but instead they offer mutual loyalty and an opportunity for mission.

What do I mean by this? Well firstly the oaths involve relationship because a partnership is established between the two sides - the Crown and

those taking the oath - and in doing so, *both* sides commit to play their part and stick to the rules. This means that being asked to do something outside the law of the land, or indeed the Church's own canonical law, would be understood as breaking that agreement, for the sovereign also takes an oath at their coronation that limits such abuses of power. Secondly, the oaths help to remind us of our job as a church. Personal beliefs and opinions are obviously important but serving clergy must combine their little ministry with that of the global and eternal Church, whose ultimate head is not a human king, but Jesus Christ! When the Archbishop of Canterbury and I have taken the same oath, we should be able to look beyond position and tradition to focus on the originator of the faith of the Church of England – the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now all this is lovely in theory but under the pressures and challenges of real life, cracks and doubts begin to show, failures mount up. I wonder if much of the problem is having to swear loyalty to a system or institution, rather than to an individual such as when marriage vows are taken. Interestingly, many of my fellow ordinands wanted to take their oaths whilst the Queen was still alive rather than under Charles III. Yet who we take our oaths under shouldn't make a difference because the vow is to the Crown and its heirs not one person. Human set-ups can work for the common good or be instruments of corruption and ineptitude, since they are shaped by the motivation and abilities of the people inside them. There are limits to the change that can be achieved by even well-motivated organisations, and many get crushed on the wheel of corporate good intentions, as the end is used to justify the means. To reference the monarchy again, it was said of Princess Diana's sad experience within that family that this is what happens when a modern person meets an ancient institution one of them is going to break and we all know which one eventually did.

This leads me full circle to where I began and my declarations and oaths to serve the Church. Do I think that the Church is an exemplary body, perfectly reflecting the work and will of God on earth? I hope you'd guess the answer to that question, but just to reassure you, no I don't! Do I sometimes inwardly cringe when another clunking, insensitive or downright offensive comment is made in the media by a prominent Christian? Of course. But here's the thing I cling to: whilst many may see us as just another institution, and a damaged, divided and decrepit one at that, I don't give up on the Church because Jesus promises He never will. It is often so easy to leave but I believe we are called to stay. As imperfect but divinely loved people, we work to be part of a Church that is reclaiming and remaking our world for the kingdom of God.

St Andrew's Noticeboard

- 6 NOV 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM CW COMMUNION
 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5, 13-17; Luke 20.27-38
He is the God of the living
- 10.30 AM FOREST CHURCH
 6 PM CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SOULS'
 1 Kings 3.1-14; Romans 8.31-39
- 13 NOV 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE
 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19
- 20 NOV 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM CW COMMUNION ON CHRIST THE KING
 CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
 PARTNERSHIP
 Jeremiah 23.1-6; Luke 23.33-43
- 10.30 AM FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
- 27 NOV 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM ALL AGE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY
 OF ADVENT
 Isaiah 2.1-5; Matthew 24.36-44
Be ready!
- 4 DEC 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM CW COMMUNION
 Isaiah 11.1-10; Matthew 3.1-12
Prepare the way of the Lord
- 10.30 AM FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
 6 PM CHORAL EVENSONG
 1 Kings 18-17-39; John 1.19-28

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

16 September – Paul Witt Interment of Ashes

Messenger subscriptions for 2023

LIKE everyone else, our printer has been hit by price increases, so we will unfortunately need to put up the cost of a year's subscription to the Messenger to £9. This remains excellent value for money at 75p a copy, and enables us to still gather a little surplus into the fund to help groups in the village that need help with a project (see elsewhere in this issue).

Postal subscriptions will also need to rise, to £25 pa, to help cover large increases in postage costs that have come in over the last year or two.

This is the first time for many years that the *Messenger* subscriptions have been increased.

People can pay their subscription online, by cash or by cheque. More details to follow. **Helen Hale**

Messenger Charitable Fund



THE *Messenger* makes a small profit each year and some of this is reserved to be donated to good causes.

We now have funds available for local organisations to apply for assistance. These are not huge sums: usually up to £1,000.

If you have an organisation or project that would benefit from some money, please email ivanmartinginger@gmail.com giving an outline of what you would use the money for and how much you need.

The committee looking after the fund cannot guarantee to meet all requests in full or in part, and we have to operate on a first come basis, but we will do our best. **Martin Ginger**

Deadline for the DECEMBER Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER**

By email (Word or similar attachment) to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

The Messenger reserves the right to edit material. Please include contact postal address with all letters to the Editor.

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Autumn miscellany...



AUTUMN, the season after summer and before winter. A time of change often overlooked as dreary, even miserable. We experience lower light levels, less sun and rain. Leaves fade and fall, scrunch under foot and need clearing. Look without blinkers, though, and see the tapestry spreading over the ground. Coral, copper, russet,

red and ochre. I am reminded of rag rugs made of old 'pre-loved' strips of fabric. My grandfather was a master of this art. I was honoured to participate in some creations liking the rich diversity of autumnal colour.

Conkers have fallen. Secretly they grow inside spiky shells forming nuggets for polishing. Mahogany-toned 'charms' have popped out from the cushioned cocoon casings. Each one a poem. Hazelnuts, cobnuts and acorns are delights. Uniquely different.

Birds begin to migrate, warmer climes call. Hibernation starts. We must be cautious when lighting bonfires, alert to small creatures bedding in leafy corners. When it comes to Bonfire Night I wonder at the wisdom in times of massive climate change, pollution and monetary problems. Moderation perhaps? Glorious glades, delightful dells, hide little gems. Toadstools poke heads above fallen foliage, logs, ferns and clumps of nestling cyclamen. I was told that Tinkerbell lived under a pretty red domed roof. Imagination is wonderful.

The year slows down. Skies can be beautiful, still, calm, serene. Sunsets stun. The orange, yellow harvest moon hangs radiantly glowing. Strewn on the ground are pumpkins of many types, often grown for showing or carving into a smiling face for Halloween. Allotments boast marrows; orchards of apples have been prolific. Time for chutney, seasonal crumbles and pies. Our village Country Market does well with this.

Tractors, combine harvesters and other farm machinery have aided gathering and sowing crops. Harvest has been celebrated. Spacing out the letters words hide within the title. Two opposites are 'starve' and 'eat', whilst 'earth' and 'heart' sit closely. We yearn to reduce the damage made to our precious world. Those poorer and less fortunate than us need to be heard. We don't always hear let alone listen, but may have gifts to offer. As light dapples between tree boughs, shafting in diagonal lines to meet the ground everyone of us is under the enormous canopy of the heavens. Dilemmas abound, joys too. Let's share. **Judith Lee**

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Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



Wedding dress appeal attracts donors

OUR appeal in the August Messenger for lightweight used wedding dresses and lightweight flimsy material was very successful - thanks to all who contributed. Here are the parcels ready for posting to Nachingwea.



Judy the Dog featured on local radio

REGULAR readers of the Messenger will be familiar with the story of Judy, a pure-bred English pointer who was awarded the Dickin Medal - the animal's VC - and who lies buried in Nachingwea. Her grave, which was restored with the help of the Link, has been featured on the Instagram page of the local radio station.



The District Tourism Officer, Mr Fred Komba, invited people to visit tourist attractions in Nachingwea in world tourism week at the end of September. The photo shows him alongside Judy's grave.

You can read Judy's full story on the News page of the Link on the St Andrew's website.

Don't forget the Christmas Fair



THE Christmas Fair is being held on Saturday 3 December from 9.30am to 1pm in Great Shelford Memorial Hall.

There will be lots of stalls with attractive Christmas presents including crafts, jewellery, sweets, toys and many others.

If you'd like to donate something to the raffle or tombola, we'd be very grateful. Donations can be left in St Andrew's porch where you will find a box for them. **Trish Maude**

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Rev Clare Coates



St Andrew
STAPLEFORD

IT seems like only yesterday that we welcomed Revd Clare Coates to St Andrew's and to Stapleford as the first curate in the church in living memory. We don't get to choose whether we have a curate, or who it should be. Ely Diocese are in charge. But how blessed we are to have had Clare for three and a bit years! And now she is leaving, fully trained and signed off by the bishop, to become a vicar in the Lordsbridge team and responsible for Hardwick, Dry Drayton, and Caldecote with Childerley.



Clare has had a huge impact on our church and community. If you looked at any of our online services for young or old during the lockdowns the chances are that you would have seen Clare filming and offering prayers for our community from somewhere in East Anglia, often ferociously blown about on the Norfolk coast with her dogs happily whizzing around. And if you have come to any service in St Andrew's in the last three plus years you will very likely have seen Clare in action in person. One thing she was instrumental in starting was the fantastic Forest Church, twice a month on Sunday mornings in our churchyard, which has been hugely popular with young and old alike. Or you may have met Clare out and about in the community or at one or more of the events she has led. Some of you will have come to JOY – Just Older Youth – the church's monthly tea party for seniors in the Johnson Hall. Getting that up and running was very much Clare's work. Others will have been to the new St Andrew's Toddlers, now renamed Little Fishes, re-started after the last lockdown with Clare taking a lead. Or perhaps you will have followed us on social media and enjoyed the encouraging posts. Again, very largely Clare's work.

How we will miss her! Clare has given us so much, and we are very grateful. We could not have been more fortunate than to have her as curate. So we say goodbye with heavy hearts, but full of joy for Lordsbridge, which will now benefit from all that Clare has learned and from her gracious and enthusiastic leadership. Farewell, Clare. Go with our grateful thanks and with every blessing in this next stage of your ministry and beyond.

Simon Taylor

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Mothers' Union



OUR meeting on 24 November will be 'Slides of a Foreign Trip' by David Barnes, who has entertained us greatly in the past with tales of his travels round the world. It's at the usual time of 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall.

At that meeting, could members bring contributions for the MU raffle hamper, part of our stall at the Nachingwea Fair on 3 December. On a Christmas theme, please. We shall also need cakes for the stall.

Cambridge Women's Refuge

Our usual Toiletries collection for the Cambridge Women's Refuge this year takes place from 6 to 20 November. There will be a box in the church porch for donations. The collection supports the MU initiative of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

This initiative has been very well supported by the village in the past and the donations are gratefully received by the Refuge, whose work is still sadly needed. Last year Stapleford Mothers' Union passed on four large cartons of toiletries to the organizer of the Collection.

Anything you can spare such as soap or shampoo will be very gratefully received, and put to good use. **Hilary Street**

Cambridge Flower Club



WE meet at the Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford CB22 4NE at 7.15pm for a demonstration with refreshments and raffle from 6.45pm. New members welcome! Visitors pay £6.

'Festive Flowers and Fun'

17 November - Gill McGregor, NAFAS demonstrator.

For more information about these meetings or to enquire about joining Cambridge Flower Club please phone Freda on 891464 or email fredaorgee@gmail.com. **Sian Davies**

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St Andrew's Little Fishes

Birth to Pre-School

Mondays in term time

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Stapleford Community Warden Service

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

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

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Stapleford Community Primary School

Forest School



“THIS is the best kind of classroom,
 It’s a journey through time and space,
 From the smallest seed to the largest tree,
 This is a forest and a learning place.
 This is the best kind of classroom,
 Where the seasons don’t happen in books.
 Where the learning is watching and thinking and talking
 And everyone notices, everyone looks.”
 From ‘The Best Kind of Classroom’ by Ian MacMillan

NOW, more than ever it is so key to be engaging our children in the natural world and interacting positively with the environment around them. That is why Mrs. Bonham has undertaken her Level 3 Forest School training and has been delivering Forest School sessions to the children of Stapleford Community Primary School.



Forest School has developed from the Scandinavian education system and is about children and young people building resilience, self-esteem, independence and a love of science and nature through exploring and experiencing the natural world. It is a long-term programme delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment and each Forest School programme is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group. The ethos of Forest Schools allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests

and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. Something which has proven to increase mental well-being in children and adults of all ages.

Here at Stapleford Primary School, we are very lucky to have our own wild area at the Moat, which is where our sessions take place. Previous sessions have included using tools to make our own stick creations, making bird feeders, using clay and other natural materials for art, tree climbing, using ropes for swings and bridges, den building and lots



of imaginative play! The children have whole-heartedly engaged with these sessions, embracing being outdoors and using their natural environment in a creative and sustainable way. "I have never done this before, it's exciting!", "I like being like a koala up a tree!" "I want to make a home to protect the insects," are just a few of the enthusiastic reports from our children.

Christine Spain, Head-teacher

Glowing Ofsted report



STAPLEFORD Community Primary School is celebrating another 'Good' Ofsted rating, following the school's most recent inspection in June.

The school was commended for the opportunities available to pupils and for its 'broad and balanced curriculum'.

The report, which was published this week, stated: "Pupils enjoy talking about what they have learned. They are proud of their work, and they are proud of what they know. They concentrate and listen well in class because their teachers have high expectations of them."

"Pupils have plenty of opportunities to develop their interests and

talents. They can sing, play instruments in assemblies, act in plays and learn to swim in the school's swimming pool. They can also take part in competitions that teachers organise for them."



Inspectors stated that the school continues to be 'Good' – a judgement that it has now consistently held since 2013. This is the school's first Ofsted inspection since joining the multi-

academy trust, Anglian Learning, and converting to Academy status in 2018.

Other positive aspects in the report focused on the high standard of education and support the pupils receive at the school. The report stated: "Leaders and teachers have worked together to create a broad and balanced curriculum, considering the views of pupils and their parents."

The report added: "Staff ensure that pupils listen and concentrate. They have high expectations of pupils' behaviour. As a result, lessons are calm, pupils work without disruption and pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) receive plenty of extra support from the adults in the classroom."

Headteacher at Stapleford Community Primary School, Christine Spain, said: “We are delighted by this achievement and the glowing report which reflects our happy and vibrant community and the enthusiasm and passion of our children, staff, families and governors.

“I am exceptionally proud of each and every member of our school community and would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication. We have high expectations and ambitions for our children as learners, musicians, sportspeople and future citizens at Stapleford Community Primary School and I am thrilled to see this reflected in Ofsted’s report.”

Inspectors, who visited the school on 14 and 15 June, stated that: “Pupils say that school is a happy and safe place to be. They can talk to their teachers if they have a worry. Their teachers help them to make friends and to care for one another.”

The extra-curricular trips and activities were also highlighted as a strength in the report. The report stated: “Leaders are keen for pupils to have a wide variety of trips, visitors and experiences. There are plenty of opportunities to develop pupils’ talents and interests.

“Leaders provide opportunities for pupils to develop their awareness of different peoples, cultures and religions through, for example, inviting members of the local community to talk to pupils about their religious festivals, and to read familiar stories to them in different languages.”

Jonathan Culpin, CEO of Anglian Learning, said: “Christine, supported by her colleagues and the school’s community, has done a brilliant job in ensuring that Stapleford Community Primary School is a vibrant and exciting place, where pupils demonstrate a thirst for learning inside and outside of the classroom. I would like to congratulate all our colleagues at Stapleford for their hard work and another excellent Ofsted report.”

Inspectors suggested a few areas for improvement in the report which included reviewing current assessment systems and providing more opportunities for pupils to rehearse and use new vocabulary.

For more information on the school please visit staplefordprimary.org.

Christine Spain

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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2G3S



ON Wednesday 2 November we are having a Strategic Planning Meeting where we will discuss themes such as what issues we feel we should be working on as a group, and how we are achieving our mission statement (see our website).

From there we will brainstorm some ideas of what we would like to do next year. It is an open meeting and all are welcome, even if you have never met us before! So, if you fancy getting involved in a Repair Cafe, discussing ideas on how to reduce single use plastic, rewilding a garden, planning a campaign or just listening in to the discussion - come along and join us and input your thoughts and ideas. We're meeting at 8pm in Cox's Close Community Room. Please email 2G3S (greengroupssss@gmail.com) to let us know if you are planning to come along or even if you would just like to send us some ideas!

Sawston Repair Café

Saturday 19 November, 2pm to 4.30pm, at Sawston Free Church. Book your item in from Friday 28 October. Book through the Cambridge Carbon Footprint web page (cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events/sawston-repair-cafe/). Bookings will remain open until Tuesday 15 November, or earlier if we become fully booked. If you have any questions, please email southcampsrepaircafe@gmail.com.

Social cycle ride

Monday 21 November, starting from Stapleford Pavilion at 10am. Join us for a leisurely ride on quiet roads and traffic-free paths of around 20 miles, to include a coffee stop. Returning to Stapleford by about 1pm. This will be the last until Spring 2023. To book in email greener@sawston.org.

For cycle rides and walks, it is important that you are aware that you attend at your own risk. We do not accept responsibility for any accidents or mishaps that might arise during the activity.

Our **Book Club** meets on Thursday 24 November at 8pm to discuss 'Silent Spring' by Rachel Carson and 'Silent Spring Revisited' by Conor Mark Jameson. This latter title was published in 2012, and focuses on what happened to particular birds in the 50 years after the original classic 'Silent Spring' was published. All welcome - do come along having read both, either or neither. For venue check our website.

Apologies

The nature walk with John O'Boyle that was advertised to be on 15 October had to be rescheduled to 29 October, many apologies if you turned



The Moody Oasis - Michael Gatward

up to find no-one there. There will be no more nature walks until 2023 now.

Bart Hommels “Retrofitting your home”

On 3 October we hosted Bart Hommels, talking about retrofitting his own house. He became interested when he started doing an extension, and realised what an opportunity it was to save cash, save carbon, and increase the comfort of his home. After researching and carrying out a full retrofit of his 1940s council house, he has a lovely warm house that is cool in summer and doesn't emit tonnes of carbon or have high energy bills. The ideal time to do retrofitting is if you are extending, or remodelling a house, when the disruption can all happen at once.

Some actions we can take will save cash and carbon but won't increase comfort e.g. solar photovoltaic (PV) panels . Heat pumps will save carbon but not save cash or increase comfort. A woodburner increases comfort and saves cash, but does not decrease carbon. Two things that do all three are making your home airtight (but with adequate ventilation), and insulation.

Cheap simple things you can do:

1. Find where your energy goes – space heating, water, cooking, greedy appliances. Look at your smart meter and your bills to get this information.
2. Borrow a thermal imaging camera from Cambridge Carbon Footprint to see where you lose heat from your house.
3. On a windy day see where the draughts are, using a camera as in 2, an incense stick, or a wet hand. Fill gaps with tape, beads, strips etc that are available. Don't cover your air vents though!
4. If you have a combi boiler (i.e. no hot water cylinder), adjust the flow temperature to 65C or less to get a better condensing effect.
5. Make sure you have modern sensitive controls for your boiler.
6. Insulate your hot water cylinder as thick as you can.
7. Lag your pipes, hot and cold ones (to avoid condensation).
8. Insulate your loft with e.g. 270 mm of rockwool.
9. Cavity wall insulation.

Bart then went on to discuss bigger changes. He stressed the importance of getting a professional whole-house-plan, costed and staged. It is important to work towards a uniform standard around the house – e.g. don't insulate one area to a high level and leave another area nearby uninsulated, or there will be condensation and mould in the latter area. He discussed energy standards from the current rather weak EPC regulations, right up to Passivhaus standards (where you don't need central heating, only an electric heater for very cold days).



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Ways to make a house airtight but adequately ventilated were talked about. Ventilation can be passive (trickle vents etc) but tend to be too much in winter and not enough in summer, so there are ways of actively controlling it such as mechanical ventilation with heat recovery (MVHR).

He advocated exterior wall insulation, as it is very effective but doesn't reduce the size of your rooms, and is not as disruptive as underfloor insulation. If you'd like to see the slides for his talk, see the link [youtube/GtffrRf97Cl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtffrRf97Cl).

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 more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along. Also see our Facebook page and our website (type 2G3S into Google and you will find us). **Helen Hale**

Little Shelford Local History Society

The Court of King James I in
South Cambridgeshire

A talk by David Jones

Little Shelford Memorial Hall on
Wednesday 9 November, 7.30pm
All welcome.

Stapleford Horticultural Society

'THE Forward-looking Gardener' was the intriguing title of our October talk, given by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Sharka Baxter to a large audience. She outlined the many ways mankind adversely affects the planet, particularly the insect population, and explained how we as gardeners could have a positive effect on the natural world. Sharka highlighted numerous positive contributions, including no-dig gardening, composting, planting nectar-rich flowers, leaving havens for wildlife, even learning to love slugs. A fascinating and informative talk.

Our next talk is 'A Tapestry of Foliage' by Geoff Hodge, which is on Thursday 10 November at 7.45pm in the Johnson Hall. As always, all are welcome. **John Sherwell** 841012

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Film Evening

Where the Crawdads Sing

THERE will be a film evening with a showing of 'Where the Crawdads Sing' on Saturday 12 November, Memorial Hall, Little Shelford. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start with a break for supper of pizza and salad.

Where the Crawdads Sing is a 2022 American mystery thriller drama film based on the 2018 novel of the same name by Delia Owen. The story follows an abandoned yet defiant girl, Kya, who raises herself to adulthood in a North Carolina marshland, becoming a naturalist in the process. When the town's hotshot is found dead, she is the prime suspect and tried for murder. The film became a box office success, grossing over \$116 million worldwide on a \$24 million budget.

Tickets (£12.50 per person) will be available from Sarah Coppendale: (842498) coppendales@btinternet.com and Diana Haines: (841415) dianahaines42@icloud.com.

Please book by Wednesday 9 November so that sufficient food can be ordered. **Sarah Coppendale**

Village Librarian retires



ON Saturday 10 September, Rosemary Humby, Great Shelford Village Librarian, retired after 13 years of exemplary service to the community.

She is shown in the photograph with Frances Richardson, renowned village artist, with a painting of the library, commissioned by the Friends Group as a farewell present for Rosemary. A small group of well-wishers gathered in Great Shelford Library for Rosemary's last session. Helen Harwood, Chairman of the Friends group, said farewell to Rosemary on behalf of all library users, volunteers and Friends and presented her with cards, gifts and the painting.

Rosemary has seen the local library through funding crises and Covid closures, remaining always patient, ever helpful and committed to the library and those who use and enjoy it. She will be much missed. **Sarah Coppendale**

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Joan Barnes - the final chapter



ON a lovely early September morning on the Magog Down, 11 people made their way to the recently installed bench dedicated to the memory of Joan Barnes and that of her husband, Ray, founder members of the Magog Trust. The bench was duly 'christened' with sparkling wine, and into the wind were thrown words describing Joan as we looked over the South Down sheep pastures, and marvelled that

this wonderful little piece of paradise should be in our midst thanks to Joan and Ray as well as to many others.

Here are some of the words which came to mind in summing up Joan's character:

'Indefatigable', 'Kind', 'Resolute', 'Practical', 'Empathetic', 'Direct', 'Determined', 'Community minded', 'Faithful'.

She certainly was a force of nature! May the bench be appreciated by many weary walkers and lovers of the Down in the years to come. Thank you to all who contributed. **Jeannie Green**

Arthur's Shed



ARTHUR'S Shed is a beautiful, purpose-built studio set in the landscaped gardens of the Arthur

Rank Hospice at Shelford Bottom, Cambridge. The Shed hosts a range of sessions which are free of charge and open to the public; these include card making, sugar craft, astronomy, still life drawing and much more. You do not need a connection to the Hospice to attend, everyone is welcome! The Shed is accessible and we encourage you to let us know of any adaptations we can



make to support you in advance of attending.

To find out more go to arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed/ or contact us at arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk, or 675871.

Hannah Touley, Voluntary Services



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Chalk Hill Blue Butterflies

ANDREW Knights, one of the butterfly recorders at Magog Down, spotted a male Chalk Hill Blue butterfly (*Polyommatus coridon*) in Colin's Paddock while carrying out a regular transect (survey) of the Down on Sunday 28 August.



Male Chalk Hill Blue

A week later (4 September), Andrew came across a very worn female Chalk Hill Blue in the same area, feeding on a Creeping Thistle flower in the old shelterbelt area next to North Down. Females are more sedentary than males (which can fly for more than a kilometre) and this can limit colonisation, especially as chalk grassland areas tend to be fragmented and isolated. It is

likely that these Chalk Hill Blues have come across from the Roman Road beyond Wandlebury.

There have been no previous sightings of Chalk Hill Blues at Magog Down. Work has been ongoing for many years to create an environment so that the Chalk Hill Blue could become established there. It has unique associations with its habitat. The Rangers, Claire and Nick Beale, have been

working to increase the extent of Horseshoe Vetch which is the caterpillar food plant for the Chalk Hill Blue. The large group of local butterfly enthusiasts (who post regularly on the Magog Down Twitter account) are delighted at this outcome. If you are interested, go to @Magog Down - twitter.com/magogdown - to learn what has been seen recently.



A female Chalk Hill Blue and a Meadow Brown (behind) to show relative sizes

Geoff Hale (Photos by Andrew Knights)

Yesteryear

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

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

1805

TO BE LET. And entered upon at Christmas next. A handsome, Sashed and Tiled Cottage, in complete repair, situated at Stapleford, five miles from Cambridge, and adjoining to the Ely Road from thence to London. Enquire of the Rev. W. Atkinson, Stapleford.

1855

ROBBERY. On the night of the 2nd, or morning of the 3rd inst., three bushels of seed wheat were stolen from a cart-lodge belonging to Messrs. W. Baker & Son. The Cambridge and Cambridgeshire Association for the prosecution of Felons have offered a reward of £2, to which Messrs. Baker have added £2 more, for such information as will lead to the apprehension of the offender or offenders.

1897

A CAREER OF ROGUERY. At Old Bailey, Theophilus Turner, described as a surgeon, who in the spring resided at Stapleford Gove as Dr. Harris, and did business with several Cambridge tradesmen; and Ella Macdonald, 56, stated to be well-connected, was indicted for conspiracy. The male prisoner had been convicted as far back as 1884. He had set himself up as "Dr. Harris" and defrauded the public. He was entitled to no degrees of any kind. The female prisoner had lived with the prisoner as resident patient. She believed he was a doctor and he obtained all the money he could from her.

1926

WEDDING. A pretty wedding took place on Monday at Stapleford Church, the Rev M W Rogers, vicar, officiating, the contracting parties being Hilda Lillian Twitchett, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Geo Twitchett, of Bury Farm, Stapleford, and Arthur Ernest Webb, eldest son of Mr Arthur Webb, of Bassett's Farm, Acton, Suffolk. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a dress of charmeuse, with overdress of georgette and trimmed with silver lace and diamante, and she wore orange blossom and a veil of Brussels net, lent by her aunt. Five bridesmaids were in attendance, Misses Irene and Flossie Twitchett (sisters of the bride), who were attired in beige crepe-de-chine dresses and golden brown silk and velvet hats, and carried bouquets of bronze chrysanthemums; Miss Joyce Twitchett (a younger sister) wore white crepe-de-chine and lace cap, and

carried a basket of white chrysanthemums, and Miss Edna and Violet Webb (sisters of the bridegroom) who wore wine coloured marocain dresses and hats to match, and carried white chrysanthemums. The reception was held at Bury Farm, where upwards of 50 guests sat down to the wedding breakfast. The happy couple later left for London, where the honeymoon is being spent. The bride's travelling dress was a wine coloured two piece suit, with hat to match, and squirrel fur, the gift of the bridegroom. The wedding presents were numerous and useful, the bride's gift to the bridegroom being a watch.

1984

ALL SOULS DAY. Take no notice of the announcement in last month's magazine that All Souls Day had mysteriously moved to the wrong side of All Saints Day!! You are right: it is still the day after! There will be a service at 6pm at which the names of the departed loved ones will be read.

Quiz Time

Battles

1. Which king lost at the battle of Naseby? What date did it occur?
2. In which body of water did HMS Hood sink after its deadly exchange with the Bismarck. In what year?
3. Who led the winning army at the battle of Austerlitz in 1805?
4. The Charge of the Light Brigade was a vainglorious, failed military action involving the British light cavalry under Lord Cardigan against Russian forces in the battle of Balaclava in 1854 in the Crimean war. Who wrote a poem about it?
5. Name any two of the three major battles that took place in England in 1066.
6. Who led the Dambusters raid, and what was the Operation's code name?
7. Which Greek poet wrote about the Trojan war?
8. Who commanded Lord Nelson's flagship at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and what was its name?
9. In what year did the battle of Iwo Jima take place?
10. What was the first battle fought only in the sky?

Quiz set by Charlie Wolfe

Answers page 49

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Stapleford Strollers: Walk 108

The Icknield Way: Another walk from Linton

To get to start of walk

DRIVE along the A1307 to Linton. Turn left into the High Street. The Crown is a short distance on the left and has a small car park through an archway. There is also limited parking in the High Street.

Length of Walk

About 5 miles. It will take about two and a quarter hours and is reasonably flat, with a few gentle inclines. It can be muddy in places in winter.

Extra Information

Linton is listed as Lintone in the Domesday Book, probably meaning "flax enclosure". It lies just in Cambridgeshire on the Icknield Way Trail, 170 miles in length, from Buckinghamshire to Suffolk. Linton has several shops and pubs.

OS Map

Explorer map 209. For free map extracts use www.footpathmaps.com, or the route map provided.

Route of the Walk

Turn right outside the pub and, at the top of the High Street, go over the A1307 at the crossing. Turn right and after 100 yards, turn left onto a footpath signposted 'Great Chesterfield'.

This path initially runs to the right of a high fence. After crossing a stile, keep going in the same direction across a field to an identical stile on the far side. Soon after crossing the second stile, the path emerges into open farmland. Follow the path straight ahead between two large fields on a gentle rise. At the far end, go through a gap in the hedge and turn left. After 100 yards, turn left again through another gap in the hedge. Go straight ahead until a cross path is joined. Turn right through a gap between two hedges. You are now following a section of the Icknield Way Trail. Keep following this, climbing gently until you emerge from the trees into a field with a hedge on your right. Continue in the same direction until you pass under some overhead power lines and reach the top end of the field. Immediately after passing into the next field, turn left down a gentle slope with a hedge on your left. Near the bottom of a small valley, turn left through a gap in the hedge by a marker post with '13' on it. Follow the path for a short distance through the undergrowth and bear right until it emerges

into a field. Keeping the hedge on your left, head towards a field gate and bear left, still with the hedge on your left. Head for the farm ahead of you. The preferred footpath goes around to the right of the barn. After passing the barn, turn left and then right onto a farm track. After about 100 yards and opposite a 10 mph speed limit sign, turn half right onto a path rising across a field, heading towards the right hand end of the tree belt on the far side. The path may or may not be very visible, depending on the state of the crop.

On the far side, go through a gap in the trees and turn immediately half left. Head across the top corner of the field towards the right hand end of the trees ahead of you, after which follow the edge of the field, keeping the hedge on your left, until you reach the bottom corner of the field. Turn left through a gap and immediately turn right across a small bridge. Go through the gate on the far side of the bridge and bear left following a path through some thick grass to a second gate. Go through this and keep going ahead keeping a fence and hedge on your right. Pass a couple of houses on your right and go through a third gate onto a gravelled driveway. Bear right and emerge onto a road.

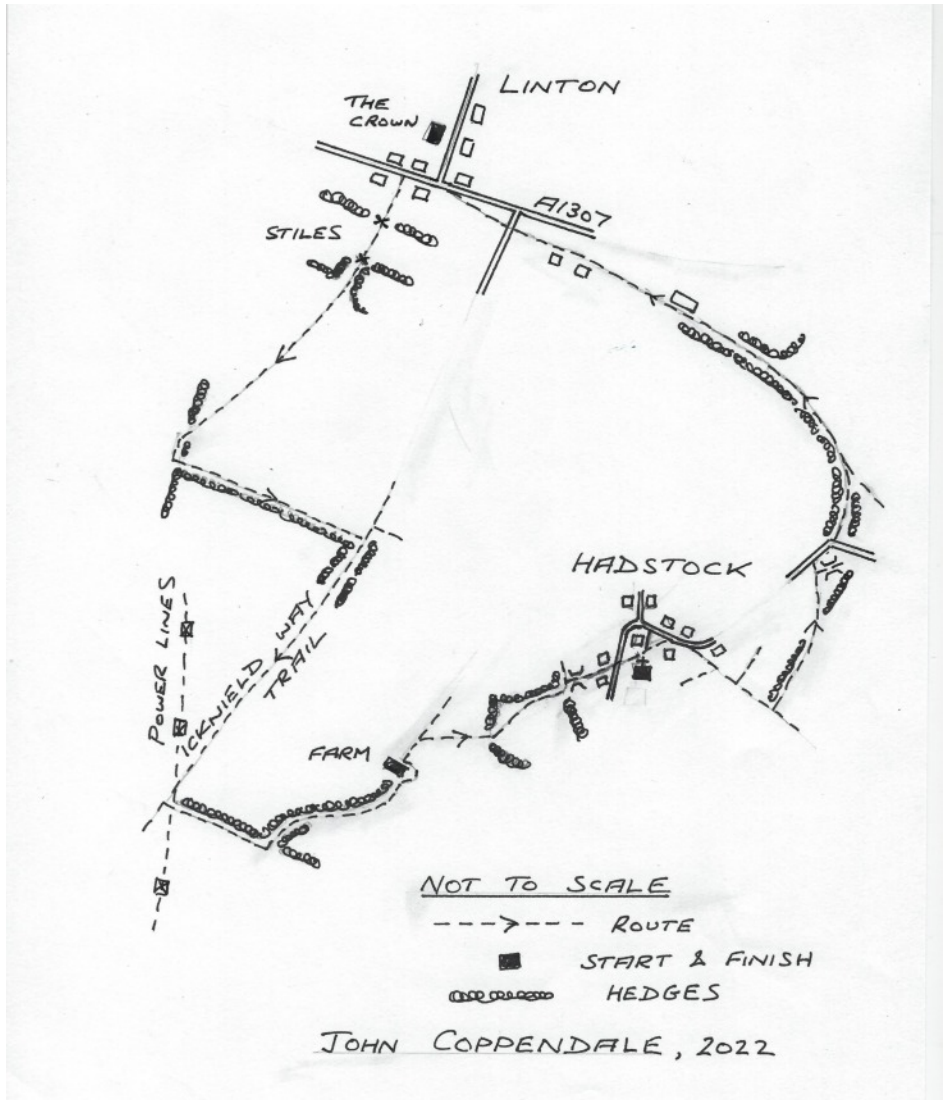
Cross the road carefully and enter Hadstock churchyard. Head towards the church porch and turn left on a path downhill towards a thatched cottage. Keep following this path until it emerges onto Hadstock village green. Go straight ahead with the green on your left and join the lane leaving the green. Immediately after Moules Lane joins on the left, turn right by a footpath sign, with a house called 'Plovers' on your left. Bear slightly left and join a broad footpath. After about 300 yards, a footpath goes off to the left. Ignore this and take a second footpath on the left (at a post marked '18') after another 200 yards.

Follow the field boundary with the hedge on your left as you gently descend. Look out for where the path leaves the field and goes into the trees on the left, about halfway to the bottom of the field. This becomes a broad path through trees, which at the end bears left and comes out onto a minor road. Ignore a path going over a bridge to the right just before the road. Turn right onto the road until the road turns sharp right. Go straight ahead at this corner onto a green lane. At the far end of the green lane a view of Linton opens up. Bear left following the field boundary, keeping the hedge on your left.

You will soon see an old windmill converted into a house. Keep following the field boundary to the far end of the field and continue on the path between hedges. After a short while the path turns right and then left to cross an old brick railway bridge. After the bridge bear left onto a lane,

passing a row of cottages ('Malting Cottages') on the right. Keep going straight ahead, ignoring a lane off to the right. You pass a couple of attractive cottages on your left and come out onto a main road. Cross carefully and walk along The Grip, which brings you back to the top end of Linton High Street. **David Barnes**

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





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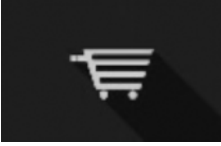


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FOR SALE

- Child's garden table, chair and parasol. £5. Chad Valley cook and play Kitchen £5. Sylvia, 845201
- Men's Degre Ski Jacket. Size 52, Red/black, excellent condition £50. Men's Degre Gore-tex ski trousers Size 46. As new £45. Joy, 841852
- 20" square bathroom mirror - bevel edged. Shower grab handle. Two towel rails. £10 for all. Pat, 666965

GIVE AWAY

- Making jam or marmalade? 32 clean, empty jam jars, mostly 454g and 340g. John, 841012.

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8. No living creatures may be offered or asked for.
9. Adverts should be 50 words maximum, with no pictures and should give a first name and phone number or email address.
10. Adverts should give a first name and phone number or email address.

Stapleford History Society

The History of the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company 1881-1968.



THE society met on Tuesday 11 October to hear Alan Osborne talk about the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company, which was fondly referred to by its hundreds of employees in the second half of the 20th century as 'The Scientific'. Before that it was called 'Horace's Shop'. Its founder was Horace Darwin, the ninth son of Charles Darwin, whose interest in science had led his father to convert what had been the family's schoolroom into a customised workshop. After studying at Trinity College, Cambridge, and becoming friends with the relatively wealthy Albert Dew-Smith, Horace joined forces with Albert and established a proper, independent workshop on a firm financial footing.

The first instruments to be developed were a temperature recorder and a microtome, a device for creating extremely thin slides which were to be examined under a microscope. In 1885, one such microtome was known as Darwin's Rocker and cost the princely sum of £5 10 shillings. Working with the understanding that, as Horace maintained, "Good design would go a long way to save bad workmanship but good workmanship could not save bad design", Horace's Shop became pre-eminent in the field of scientific instrumentation, finding elegant solutions to solve industrial problems.

A number of scientists worked with Horace throughout the years, some more famous than others. Robert Fulcher, although not conventionally educated, was a trained mechanic; William Pye was employed in 1881 for a salary of £150 plus a rent-free house; Robert Stewart Whipple joined in 1898 becoming Managing Director from 1905 until 1938 when he became Company Chairman until 1950. In 1919 the logo/trademark was adopted, reflecting the mechanical and electrical expertise of the company.

Some of their wonderful inventions included the electrocardiogram/graph, the electrometer, anti-submarine equipment, defibrillators, kidney dialysis machines, X-ray machines, the electron microscope, and a variety of instruments used by the BBC.

Horace's life was not totally dominated by work. In 1880 he married Emma Wedgewood whose pet name was Ida. He and his wife were very interested in religion and morality and succeeded in having eight of the many brothels in the city closed down. Years later, their daughter would be instrumental in the foundation of the Ida Darwin Hospital. Horace was also

interested in local politics, becoming Mayor of Cambridge in 1896. He was knighted in 1918 after having supplied anti-submarine equipment and aircraft instrumentation during the war effort. In 1914 his workforce numbered 177 including only five women but by 1918 there were 488 men and 200 women.

Please consult the book entitled 'Horace Darwin's Shop' by M J G Cattermole and A F Wolfe for much more technical information about the CSI's inventions. **Jane Steadman**

Magog Singers



A DATE to put in your diary now, for Tuesday 6 December, when we will be putting on our end of term concert with music we have been practising over the autumn term, which doesn't include Christmas music!

You will enjoy the diverse moods and styles which John Clenaghan will be conducting, back with the Magog Singers as our Musical Director following an absence of several years.

Family and friends are invited at 3pm in the Jubilee Pavilion. Our performance will be followed by light refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you'd like more information about the choir please email me on kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com. **Kathleen Foreman**

Stapleford Twinning Association

Annual General Meeting



TIME flies and it's AGM time again! We urge all members to attend in order to be fully updated on what's happened this year and on what is planned for next. Also, more importantly, we'll be looking for your ideas and suggestions!

Details: Thursday 17 November, 7.30pm, at the Community Rooms, Cox's Close. After the meeting there

will be some cheese and wine to enjoy!

The event is open to members and non-members but only members can vote in the AGM.

And, for more information about our association, here's a reminder of our website address: twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk. **Tim Jessop**

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gnill Alice

Through the Looking Glass

by Lewis Carroll adapted for the stage and directed by Barry Brown



TUE 6 – SAT 10 DECEMBER 2022

7.45PM SAT 10 DECEMBER AT 2.30PM

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Take Five

I AM delighted to report my attendance at an excellent concert of live music, which took place at St Andrew's Church on Tuesday 27 September. Billed as 'An Eclectic Programme of music from Dowland to Joplin', the band was the Take Five Quintet, consisting of Fiona Harrison and Frank Jacot on clarinets, Vic Morris on bass clarinet and Robert Frayling -Cork on the alto saxophone complemented by Mike Cole on the accordion. The music was arranged and directed by Michael Copley and Mike Cole.



As we waited for the concert to start I clutched my programme,

scanning it in an attempt to identify anything familiar on it. Though the composers were familiar, the individual pieces were less so. I needn't have

worried. So many of these pieces were familiar in a "so that is what they call this tune" sort of way. A fine example of this was Take Five by Paul Desmond. The musical journey took our audience from early Renaissance dances through traditional East European flavours to the rhythmic jazz of Joplin.



The actual delivery was simply superb; no discernable glitches in a seamless performance from a group who relish performing with each other as much as for an audience. The Ukrainian March had an added piquancy, given the current international situation.

Take Five were knowingly upstaged by Michael Copley's finale, with his homage to the ocarina, in which he played three, each of smaller size and higher pitch than the last. This was greeted enthusiastically by the audience. What a brilliant evening!



The success of the concert was reflected by the amount of money raised for a local charity, Red Balloon, in the form of voluntary donations (£450). Red Balloon is an educational charity which has been established in Cambridge for more than 20 years (redballoonlearner.org). **Simon Hardwick**



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Puzzle Corner

Stapleford Scramble 3

*Scramble the letters of each word below to make a new word
In each group the initial letters of the answers are one each of;*

S, T, A, P, L, E, F, O, R, D

All the answers are fairly common words

3-letter words: awl den doe for ins
mad pea sup tow war

4: cafe each idol laid lyre
oche outs pyre vase what

5: canoe clean equip fount girth
lease loans mined otter taped

6: baleen bistro brides clouts feints
hornet insult statue temple unwary

7: cocaine discern feeding mutagen plainer
predial queries sandier seaside trooped

8: agonised altitude coasting coteries nitrogen
pretrain relation testable transept trifling

9: auctioned freemason grandiose hurricane modernise
noiseless racist repulsive senioritas statement

Set by Hermes - Answers on page 49

Storm's metamorphosis



Storm enjoying his surroundings

STORM'S field mate died leaving him sad and lonely. With all the grass to himself and nobody to play with, Storm quickly became ill with the equine version of diabetes, which can be fatal. Then he came to Green Hedges Farm. With a strict diet and fitness regime, he has lost approximately 60 kg, is full of energy and living life to the full.

Poppy is one of the local little girls who have been so important to Storm's health and happiness. He is much loved by us all - and clearly feels the same about us!

Lynda Warth

Below: Bride the latest addition to the herd at Green Hedges farm.





Summer Reading Challenge 2022



Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

Great Shelford Library

ALTHOUGH fewer local children completed the Summer Reading Challenge this year, it was enthusiastically received and out of the 168 who signed up, 88 completed the challenge by reading six books of their choice over the summer holidays. Every time a book was completed they were awarded a sticker for their Gadgeteers chart and those who completed the challenge received a medal and certificate.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the Challenge. It was much appreciated by all the staff, parents and children. Helen Harwood, Chairman of the Library Friends Group, awarded the certificates and medals to those children who could attend at a small ceremony on Friday 23 September. Some of them are pictured here proudly displaying their medals and certificates.

Those children who weren't able to attend the ceremony can call in to the library during opening hours to collect their medal and certificate, as many have already done.

Congratulations to you all! **Daphne Sulston**





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Stapleford WI



WHAT can Stapleford WI offer you if you are interested in becoming a member? You would be assured of a warm welcome, friendship and a wide range of activities arranged both by the village group, and the Cambridgeshire Federation of WIs. Social evenings, walks, outings, a book group, a craft group, and quizzes are among the activities we organise in our own group here in Stapleford. This is in addition to the regular meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month held in the Pavilion. At this meeting there is often a speaker who talks to us once the business part of the meeting is concluded. We also sometimes arrange social events in addition to the regular meeting night. Early in September a highly successful curry evening was held one Saturday night for which committee members had prepared the food. This proved to be a very enjoyable social occasion and was much appreciated by all who were there. We are already planning our Harvest Supper menu for our November meeting. We do enjoy eating together and giving members plenty of opportunities to chat and enjoy each other's company.



At our meeting towards the end of September we heard an excellent talk given by Carole Pook, about the fascinating and intriguing life of Coco Chanel (left). Our speakers have to be booked well in advance and we do try to plan a varied programme which will appeal in different ways to members.

We also involve ourselves in helping local charities or supporting appeals for various knitted items. In recent years we have provided trauma teddies to the Emergency Services for distribution to children who may need comfort in a particular situation, as well as twiddlemuffs for dementia patients at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Currently we contribute items to a local food bank.

We have a strong membership of 46 and our members live in Stapleford, Shelford and Sawston. It is highly likely that if you are interested in finding out more about our group you will discover that you already know a member, or discover a connection. On Saturday 3 December we are hosting a coffee morning at Cox's Close between 10am and noon where you can enjoy good company, cake and a chat with us.

Please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 for further information or check out our website at staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson**



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Shelford Guides



SHELFORD Guides had a wonderful session recently thanks to the Cambridge Flower Club. After an expert demonstration, five of the club's members skilfully piloted the Guides (aged 10 to 13 years) in making fabulous autumnal flower arrangements in pumpkins. The Guides were thoroughly engrossed in the process and the final products were very impressive!

This term we've also been doing activities from the Girl-guiding programme's Express Myself Theme, including learning sign language and doing collaborative junk modelling to build a giant mythical beast. We'll also be making energy snacks, visiting Clip 'n Climb and celebrating Christmas with crafts and food.

We'd love some new leaders, so if you'd like to find out how to join in the fun, please contact **Lisa MacGregor** at: shelfordgirlguides@gmail.com

Puzzle Corner Answers

3: law, end, ode, fro, sin, dam, ape, pus, two, raw

4: face, ache, lido, dial, rely, echo, oust, prey, save, thaw

5: ocean, lance, pique, futon, right, easel, salon, denim, torte, adept

6: enable, orbits, debris, locust, finest, throne, sunlit, astute, pelmet, runway

7: oceanic, rescind, feigned, augment, praline, lipread, esquire, sardine, disease, torpedo

8: diagnose, latitude, agnostic, esoteric, ringtone, terrapin, oriental, seatbelt, patterns, flirting

9: education, forenames, organised, raunchier, domineers, lionesses, satirical, pulverise, assertion, testament

Quiz Answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Charles I ; 1645 | 6. Wing Commander Guy Gibson;
Chastise |
| 2. Denmark Strait; 1941 | 7. Homer |
| 3. Napoleon Bonaparte | 8. HMS Victory; Captain Hardy |
| 4. Alfred Lord Tennyson | 9. 1945 |
| 5. Gate Fulford, Stamford Bridge
and Hastings | 10. Battle of Britain |



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Stapleford Parish Council

THE meeting on 6 October opened with a tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II, followed by a one-minute silence and then by good wishes for King Charles III on his accession to the throne. A memorial tree is planned for the recreation ground, replacing the dead silver birch.

A vote of thanks was given to Michael Gatward following his resignation as a Parish Councillor. His presence on the Council will be greatly missed as he has made a great practical contribution to the Council's work in the Parish and has been instrumental in driving forward environmental issues.

There was a long discussion with County Councillor Brian Milnes and District Councillor Peter Fane about highways and housing issues. The opinion was expressed that the government appears to be more concerned with building and imposing targets than caring for our fragile environment, water supply, chalk streams, etc. The wisdom of not planning for the long-term was questioned.

The situation with bus service cuts was discussed, with bus service provision appearing to be in crisis and funding being discussed at Mayoral level. The impact on jobs and school transport is very concerning. It was commented that the planned busway is not a solution. There will be further consultation on the Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP's) 'Public Transport and City Access Strategy', which includes improving the bus service, expanding the cycle network and a possible congestion charge. At present, Addenbrooke's Hospital is included within the congestion charge zone and a reimbursement scheme is envisaged for those assessed as needing to access the hospital by car.

Rangeford retirement village was discussed. The Council had not seen the plans before the application was submitted to see if its comments on design had been incorporated.

The Council is pleased to note that the Slaughterhouse is soon to be used as a cycle repair workshop, and planning for this is well under way. Community consultation has been started to help shape plans for land behind the Slaughterhouse.

Planning applications

An appeal against planning refusal for building on land to the rear of 11 Bury Road was discussed. A representation against this development was made by a member of the public and the Council again raised strong objections to this development. Objection to appeal: lack of parking, highway access, emergency services access, density, backland development,

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sustainability, overbearing to host dwelling, out of keeping, impact on Sternes Way, infrastructure.

An objection was also made against an extension at 41 Priams Way.

Objection: out of keeping, impact on street scene, impact of ambience, maintenance, loss of light.

No objections were raised to other planning applications.

Gillian Pett, Chair of Stapleford Parish Council

Anna Disley-Stevens

Your new Parish Councillor



I HAVE lived in Stapleford with my family for over 18 years. We all love the village and enjoy its proximity to Cambridge, whilst being surrounded by beautiful countryside.

Work-wise, my most recent role was working with the only 'meals on wheels' service available to Cambridge and the surrounding villages. I put procedures in place that ensured it would survive and grow as a 21st century business, supporting a registered charity. This has allowed a much-needed community service to continue and expand for the benefit of the growing number of people who need it.

Previous roles have given me experience in strategic planning, marketing and corporate change, and I hope that these skills will benefit our Parish Council.

On a personal level, I love sport, particularly tennis. That said, when I was younger I represented GB in Ultimate Frisbee... I would love to see UF played on our local pitches. I also thoroughly enjoy amateur dramatics and theatre and take part in local productions.

I hope that my experience will benefit Stapleford Parish Council. Having attended my first Council meeting recently, I can see the volume of work and dedication required from our Parish Councillors, and I am looking forward to offering my services with equal dedication.



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Neighbourhood plan update

Results of our initial public opinion survey (part 1)



IN September, the neighbourhood plan steering group published a report on the outcomes of its initial public opinion survey. Conducted between April and June, the survey sought to understand what matters to local people about issues over which a neighbourhood plan may have some influence. The detail of our findings can be read online at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/sgsnplan and a hard copy of the report is available to view at Great Shelford Library.

The report paints a generalised picture of residents' views across five broad categories: (1) village identity (2) housing needs and design (3) environment (4) travel and transport (5) amenities. Here, I will relay our findings across the first three of these, while subsequent updates in the *Messenger* will cover the others.

Putting a story around our data can help to make it more digestible and, in some instances, it is worth going beyond the bounds of the survey to interpret why people might hold certain opinions. I have tried to make it clear, even if only implicitly, where I have done this.

Village identity

Regardless of our proximity to the City of Cambridge, most survey participants consider themselves to be *village* residents, either of Stapleford or Great Shelford, or of part of a group of South Cambridgeshire villages. We place high value on our village character and community feel, our rural setting and views. It is perhaps not a step too far to suggest that our surrounding greenbelt and green fields help to reinforce our sense of independence from Greater Cambridge – they serve as both a cultural and physical barrier.

That said, the feature that respondents prize most about living in Stapleford and Great Shelford is the villages' proximity to Cambridge and its amenities, be they work or leisure. We are very fortunate to enjoy the 'best of both worlds': city and countryside.

The perceived erosion of the boundary between Greater Cambridge and our villages is a cause for great concern as we think about what Stapleford and Great Shelford could be like over the next 15-20 years. We are very worried about the loss of our greenbelt and village character to development, and the increase in congestion and environmental damage

Bill Laurance, piano

Friday 4 November | 7:45pm

Multi-GRAMMY award-winning pianist with a blend of soulful & mesmerising jazz



Trish Clowes, saxophone & Ross Stanley, piano

Sunday 6 November | 12:00pm

Prolific & versatile improvising saxophonist performs with one of the UK's leading jazz pianists



Lady Maisery

Friday 11 November | 7:45pm

Exquisite vocal harmony from these three multi-instrumentalists at the forefront of the English folk scene

Pixels Ensemble

Sunday 13 November | 7:45pm

A special Remembrance Day programme including Elgar's majestic Piano Quintet from this acclaimed ensemble



Apartment House

Saturday 19 November | 7:45pm

Music for strings & piano by Julius Eastman, Cassandra Miller & Germaine Tailleferre from this cutting-edge group of musical explorers



Tim Garland, saxophone & Jason Rebello, piano

Friday 25 November | 7:45pm

Two of the UK's most admired jazz musicians celebrate three decades of friendship, touring & recording

that such development could bring. There is a sense of powerlessness amongst residents over planning strategy and decisions which will have a significant impact on us, something which may partly reflect the engagement of some residents in objecting to large-scale infrastructure projects affecting our area, notably East West Rail and Greater Cambridge Partnership's busway.

Because of all these changes, most of us think that we will describe ourselves as living in Greater Cambridge by 2040. Although our survey did not explore whether this was due to passive tolerance or desire, a feeling of regret attached to this outcome was evident in some free-text comments. In general, people wish to retain the individual and historic character of our semi-rural villages, with a strong community identity and an interdependence with both the natural and built environment.

Housing needs and design

When our survey went live in April, the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan had proposed roughly 100 new homes for our area. However, respondents generally feel that more than this will be required to meet housing needs within our villages over the next 15-20 years. These needs arise from rapid economic growth in and around Greater Cambridge, and a lack of affordable housing for local people. With respect to the latter, there is often a mismatch between what is built and what is needed. This leads to overall growth of the villages and exhausts suitable development sites but leaves younger people and those on lower incomes having to look elsewhere for cheaper housing.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the greatest perceived local housing needs are for small and medium sized homes, starter homes and affordable/low-cost accommodation to buy or rent. Unless these needs are satisfied, our villages could become unsustainable, inhabited by increasingly ageing populations and ever more dormant.

Perhaps developers have recognised this trend because recent larger scale building in our area has focused on what are known in planning terms as 'C2' properties, notably residential care homes. It is interesting to observe that only one-quarter of survey respondents feel that retirement or sheltered accommodation is required in our villages. Whether that is because they perceive that the need for this will soon be met or because they don't see it as a particular need locally, is not possible to say.

Although we did not ask any specific questions about the aesthetics of new developments, we received several unprompted concerns that new builds should be sympathetic to the rural vernacular. Might residential

development be more welcome in our area if it blended in better with existing housing stock? This is only speculation, but perhaps the aesthetics of large nearby developments which have embraced contemporary architecture (e.g. Ninewells, Trumpington and around Cambridge Biomedical Campus) are making Stapleford and Great Shelford residents concerned about what could be built here. This isn't necessarily a protectionist stance. After all, our survey shows that we are very keen to incorporate progressive clean and green technologies into new developments. We just remain conservative about the design of the buildings which utilise them.

Environment

Summing up responses to questions and free-text comments pertaining to the environment, it is apparent that living surrounded by green spaces makes us feel better. We want to see them; we want better access to them; we would like more of them; and we very definitely want to protect the ones we already have, whether greenbelt agricultural land, meadows, recreation grounds, pockets of woodland, conservation areas or waterways. At a time of rapid economic growth in Greater Cambridge, this inevitably creates tension between residents, who place significant value on our rural setting, and planners and developers.

Stapleford and Great Shelford are surrounded by greenbelt: we lack brownfield sites and infill development can only make a small dent in local unmet housing needs. Where, then, should development be permitted? Roughly two-thirds of respondents want greenbelt land protected from development, while most of the remainder would support development under very special circumstances, such as meeting specific unmet housing, commercial or transport needs in our villages (e.g. affordable housing). Should any of our surrounding land be removed from greenbelt for development purposes, we would wish to ensure that important visual links between the villages and the landscape are maintained and that planning conditions to protect and enhance wildlife are imposed on developers.

The impact of economic growth worries residents beyond just where development might happen. We are particularly concerned by a loss of biodiversity, carbon emissions, and water and air pollution. One additional feature was not included in our survey but popped up several times in free-text comments: noise pollution concerns associated with increasing traffic and congestion. Many of us take pleasure in living in a relatively quiet corner of South Cambridgeshire but perceive this tranquillity to be under threat. **Jenny Flynn**

Better Ways 4 Busways (BW4B!)



THE latest news from Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is that its timetable for the Cambridge South East Transport Scheme (CSET) busway through Stapleford and Great Shelford greenbelt has been pushed back significantly by route changes required to accommodate the new retirement care village on Haverhill Road. This is

just one more obstacle to the GCP's plans.

The BW4B! website has now launched and provides maps and information which are accessible to all villages impacted by the busway.



Here is the QR code which takes you directly to the BW4B! website, or alternatively visit bw4b.org.

Significantly, we have commissioned many banners and posters, not dissimilar in style to the East West Rail banners that have been in the villages for quite some time, and these are now in position. Do keep an eye out for our

distinctive logo.

We are keen to continue to enlist your active support. This may be via practical support for the campaign (eg helping to deliver flyers), assisting with research or writing the reports which will form the brief for our legal team at the public enquiry. If you can help in any way, please contact [BW4B!](mailto:hello@bw4b.org) See hello@bw4b.org. **Howard Kettel**

31 Bus Service Cambridge

THE 31 service serving Stapleford, Shelfords, Hauxton, Newton, Thriplow, Fowlmere and Barley is continuing to be run by A2B Travel.

However, the 18.00 journey from Cambridge Drummer Street has been cut, and the 16.00 service delayed until 16.30.



The new timetable can be found and downloaded from a2bbusandcoach.com/bus-timetables. **John Wakefield**

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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