

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

December 2022

Volume 81 No 12

Price 60p

Happy Christmas!



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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

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 Communions, 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

Advertising

Contact stapleford.ads@gmail.com

Subscriptions/Distribution

Contact;

Valerie Powell 843415 or vaz@fairshares.co.uk

The subscription for the Stapleford MESSENGER delivered to your home is £6 per annum (£16 by post): single copies 60p.

From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

IF I ever write my biography – I won't – but if I ever did it would be called 'And the girls turned right.'

As a barrister doing clinical negligence cases I have lots of clients who may have been injured at birth as a result of poor management of labour. There are actually remarkably few of them compared to the number of births, so if you are pregnant, don't panic. When damage is caused, usually manifesting as some form of cerebral palsy, it is often because of delay in acting on signs of hypoxia.



What brings those families to lawyers are their unmet practical needs. When babies are diagnosed with cerebral palsy loads of promises are always made. You will get the help you need with care. You will get help with transport costs. You will get equipment. Your child be able to access appropriate education. And so on.

My experience is that every promise gets broken, every single one. No aspect of social care ever works properly without a major fight by the parents. A cracker is the promise of wheelchairs. I routinely hear of children who are measured up for a wheelchair which is then only provided a year or more later – yes, really – so it no longer fits.

A good fit is critical for avoiding postural problems and maximising functional potential. A bad fit makes things worse. And the big one is the promise of help with suitable accommodation. Never really happens. Parents will carry their children up and down stairs to go to bed or the loo as long as they can, but once the child is six or seven it gets to be too much. That or some other need sends parents to lawyers.

One such family had a lad who I will call Danny. He was fairly mobile, fast even, but unsteady and had learning difficulties and all sorts of challenging behaviours. The problem was that by age 14 he was already 6 feet tall – dad was 6 foot 4 if I remember – and Danny was burly too. Most of the time he was amiable and fun, but there were times when he would kick off badly. And when he did those who did not know how to calm him down could get hurt. It was all part of his brain injury. So he needed a trained carer in attendance all the time, two really. And accommodation was needed for them with the family accommodation for mum, dad and two younger sisters.

When we got some money for Danny the first thing his parents did was buy a suitable house. It was long and thin, with a front door and entrance hall in the middle, and accommodation either side. By the time I went to visit it had been adapted. The accommodation for Danny and his carers was one side, and the rest of the family accommodation was the other. They could all come and go, but if Danny needed time out – or was having his therapy sessions or whatever - his side could be shut off. It was brilliant and simple and kept the family together. In the longer term, as they got older, his parents could carry on being on site and loving and available without being made to be in with Danny when they were no longer physically up to it. They achieved something remarkable. They were not going to be separated from their boy, who they loved just as he was, and they made sure he had everything he needed.

And the girls? Well they adored their big brother. They weren't going to be separated either, because they loved him too. When I visited they came home from their primary school, bounded into the house, chucked down coats and bags and sports kit on the hall floor, as kids do, and immediately turned right to go and see Danny and play with him. Hence the title of my hypothetical biography. I think that simple moment could be the best one of my career. We had kept Danny with his family, and kept them safe.

I will never forget this, but it came to mind freshly at our annual memorial service at St Andrew's, when we remember those we have loved and lost. One of the readings was from St Paul's letter to the church in Rome. Paul is writing about God's love and forgiveness, expressed to us most supremely by Christ's death on the cross in our place.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ... I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

That is wonderful stuff, isn't it? I wonder if you think it is true? I do. And here's the thing: it is that love which almost all of us are going to be celebrating in just a few weeks' time at Christmas. I know Christmas is about family, and presents, and fun and all of that. I get that. But most of all, the arrival of that baby is God saying of us: "I love them. And I will not be separated from them. I will send Jesus my Son, and he will bring them home."

May you and those you love enjoy every blessing that Christ brings this Christmas! Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

4 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION TOY SERVICE Isaiah 11.1-10; Matthew 3.1-12 <i>Prepare the way of the Lord</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH TOY SERVICE <i>Please donate a new toy, game or book</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG 1 Kings 18-17-39; John 1.19-28
11 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Isaiah 35.1-10; Matthew 11.2-11 <i>What did you go to see?</i>
18 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SAID SUNDAY WORSHIP Isaiah 7.10-16; Matthew 1.18-25 <i>Emmanuel</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
	3.30 & 6.30 PM	TRADITIONAL LESSONS & CAROLS (two services)
24 DEC	3.30 PM	CAROLS & CHRISTINGLE
	9.30 PM	MIDNIGHT IN BETHLEHEM COMMUNION Isaiah 52.7-10; John 1.1-14
25 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 PM	ALL AGE COMMUNION Isaiah 9.2-7; Luke 2.1-14
1 JAN	9 am	NO SERVICE
	10.30 AM	SAID SUNDAY WORSHIP Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21 <i>Children of God</i>

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

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.

St Andrew's Christmas Diary

Special events in our Christmas celebrations. All welcome.

Sunday 4 December

10.30 am: CW Communion Toy Service, and
Messy Forest Church Toy Service

Please donate a new toy, game or book for the Red Hen Project

6 pm Choral Evensong for Advent

Wonderful seasonal music in a traditional service of Evensong

Sunday 18 December

3.30 pm and 6.30 pm: Traditional Lessons & Carols

Hear again of the birth of Jesus in words and music

Saturday 24 December

3.30 pm: Carols & Christingle

A special service for children and the young at heart

Great service for families

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9.30 pm: Midnight in Bethlehem Communion

Last service before Christmas Day in the beauty of your ancient church

Christmas Day

9 am: Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer

A quiet traditional service before the busyness of the day takes over

10.30 am: All Age Communion

Come along and celebrate the birth of Jesus at this indoor service

Deadline for the JANUARY Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER**

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

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Timeless article



TODAY I got up in good time to fit in necessary tasks. If one job went on too long, I'd not have been prompt for an appointment. Often we clock watch, rushing. Going to St Andrew's on Sundays I have heard the bells peal, "Hurry up, you're late," a good reminder. If I forget my watch I feel lost, although

mobile phones help. I used to find the Speaking Clock fascinating, thinking the message was unique to each individual rather than recorded! Childhood innocence.

Every day time needs managing. Certain parts of the year are busier than others; situations press us into believing that 'time is of the essence,' trying not to waste a moment. Seasonal change, 'Spring forward, Fall back' is difficult. I am sitting in the dark at not quite 5 o'clock.

Seasonal Affective Disorder sufferers find this hard, trying to adjust with the help of light boxes. It can be distressing. 'Time and tide wait for no man.' I feel guilty if I squander minutes; 'lost time is never found again.'

There are opportunities to relive and share experiences. I remember a wonderful museum displaying clocks: grandfather, grandmother, long case, mantle piece, bracket, so many. Chimes rang - sweet, tinkly to deep bass. Fascinating. It was part of the Horology Society, where studies and measurement of time were made.

As a family we had a trusted repairer of clocks and watches. It was great to see him work with infinite patience rather like Steve from the BBC Repair Shop. That makes me think of the hundred year anniversary of the television channel. The Dr Who Time Lord and Blue Peter were rather different then and no colour. It was education and entertainment.

I read Alice in Wonderland where the White Rabbit holds a large watch declaring, "You're late!" 'Tom's Midnight Garden', by Philippa Pearce has adventures starting with a clock striking thirteen; 'The Dean's Watch' by Elizabeth Goudge features a Dean and clever watchmaker Isaac Peabody. An old fashioned yet timeless classic name commanding respect.

Five weeks before Christmas is Stir up Sunday when tradition suggests plum puddings are made, wishes offered whilst mixing.

Advent begins on 27 November. Quiet, reflective prayerful waiting for Christmas Day. In a time of financial hardship I wonder if restraint, sensitivity and simplicity should apply.

Love is what it is about not vast expense. Originally it was a humble affair...Happy hopeful Christmas. **Judith Lee**

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Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



KEVIN Bushiri, Chair of the Nachingwea Link, sends greetings and the following two news items.

Kevin is currently running an English course for students who have recently graduated from Primary School and are eligible for the start of secondary education in January 2023.

The photograph below shows them on the day of the first Parents' Meeting. He invited two students, Salma and Maimuna, from the 2019 cohort, who



now attend Nachingwea Secondary School, to address the group. They explained the value of the English course which had enabled them to achieve the highest grade in their most recent national examination in English.

As followers of Link activities will be aware, the Link in Stapleford has supported the Nachingwea Link in the provision of school uniforms for pupils with special needs.

Kevin has helped to present these school uniforms (shorts, skirts, shirts,

shoes and socks) to pupils with special needs at Nachingwea primary school (photo, left). Also present were Siamini Faraja, Joyce Liundi (Link member), Godfrey Stuart (Head of Special Needs Education Department), and Mtalika Ali (teacher).

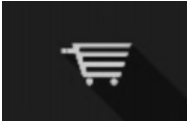


The children were excited to receive their new uniforms, which were made by the VETA course ladies, and took great

delight in wearing them. Godfrey Stuart thanked the Stapleford Link for the long-term support to these children. He said most of their pupils are from poor families so being provided with the uniforms is a great support for them.

We'd like to thank *Messenger* readers for their interest and support through 2022 and send you our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. **Trish Maude**

Messenger Marketplace



WE accept small ads from villagers who want to sell, lend (Free of charge - FOC), or give away items that they don't need any more. Items up to the value of £50 can be advertised. We will accept ads offering free help, and also requests for items. Send ads with reference *Messenger Marketplace* to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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Terms and Conditions - *please see St Andrew's Church website standrewstapleford.org.*

Stapleford WI



Coffee! Cake! Chat! Company!

You are warmly invited by Stapleford WI to sample the four Cs on Saturday 3 December between 10am and 12 noon at Cox's Close. Bring a friend if you wish!



The Porch Project

THE Porch Project this year in the season of Advent (starting Sunday 27 November) at St Andrew's Church, is to raise funds for the Warden Scheme in the village. You are welcome to visit the Church porch to make a contribution to this worthwhile and very local cause. Although the Warden Scheme in the village is run by Age UK, you can be assured that any contributions will be used for the benefit of the Stapleford service users only.

Stuck for a Christmas present? Cards are available in the porch to send to friends and family saying you have made a contribution to the Warden Scheme in their name. Clear instructions are given. Cash or cheques only please. Thank you. **Jackie Nettleton**

Mothers' Union News



THIS last month of the year we have firstly the Granta Deanery Advent Service on 6 December at Balsham church at 10.30am, to

be followed by coffee and biscuits. On 8 December the Branch has its AGM and Social Evening – please note this starts at 6pm. Bring a plate of food to share and join in some carol singing! The Ely Wave of Prayer is 10 December – the time and venue of our prayer meeting is yet to be arranged, but we will be joining in the continuation of the wave of prayer as it goes round the world 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

A reminder too about our stall at the Nachingwea Fair on 3 December when we shall need cakes and preserves to sell – please bring them to the Memorial Hall by 9.30am. One or two volunteers to sell the goods would be welcome too.

The subscription is going up to £21 next year – Mary will be happy to receive your subscription at the January meeting. The committee has also decided to keep the meeting time at 2.30pm (except when otherwise indicated, as with the December Social) – it seems to be a popular time with members.

The Committee would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas and a happy 2023, with all the joys of the season. **Hilary Street**

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Magog Singers



REMEMBER our concert on Tuesday 6 December, when we will be performing 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**

Christmas Antique Fair

THE lovely ladies of Whittlesford have scoured their Bottom Drawers to find superb articles for inclusion in the Christmas Antique Bric-a-Brac sale in the Whittlesford United Reformed Church (URC) Hall on Saturday 3 December. Glassware, pottery, brass and some special jewellery will be on display. All at amazing prices. Find that unique Christmas present. The amazing tombola provided will never cease to delight and surprise. The bookstall is unique in its extensive range, plus the great display of creative arts and crafts. And you can always win something you never knew you wanted in the ubiquitous raffle. There is no admission fee and you can recharge your batteries with the refreshments available 10am to 3pm. Come early to avoid disappointment.

URC Church Hall, 36 Duxford Road, Whittlesford, CB22 4ND Opposite the bus stop and the recreation lawns. **Frances Dumbleton**

Messenger subscriptions for 2023

LIKE everyone else, our printer has been hit by price increases, so unfortunately we 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 our fund to help groups in the village that need help with a project (see item in last month's issue).

Postal subscriptions will also need to rise, to £25 pa, to go towards covering large increases in postage costs that have come in over the last year or two. People can pay their subscription online, by cash or by cheque. More details will be given to subscribers, or if you would like to subscribe and don't at present, please contact vaz@fairshares.co.uk. **Helen Hale**



STAPLEFORD
COMMUNITY WARDEN
SCHEME



CHRISTMAS

BUFFET!

Thursday 15th December
Cox's Close Community Centre
12pm - 4pm

Raffle & Carols

Tickets £4 from Juliet: 07436102733

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& Cafés**



'Stapleford Community Warden Scheme invites you all to a Christmas Buffet! Great raffle prizes available thanks to kind donations from local cafes, shops and businesses. We would love to see you there'

Roly Bower 1930-2022



MY father Roly was born on 26 October 1930 in Haycroft Gardens, Kensal Rise, London, moving to Hastings in 1944 following repeated bomb damage to their house. He began an apprenticeship as a toolmaker, becoming foundry manager. In 1952, he began his two years national service with the RAF. In 1954 he married Audrey, whom he had met through the church choir at St Clements in Hastings. The family grew with the birth of children Jane in

1955 and myself in 1958.

In 1959 he joined Wall's Meat Company as van salesman. Over time he was promoted to be a supervisor and then an areas sales manager. After being made redundant from Wall's in 1985, Roly found a number of sales jobs before spending the last five years of his working life as a maintenance engineer for Sealmaster.



Having moved to Great Shelford in 1976, Roly and Audrey soon became active members of the community and Stapleford church. Roly was a church bell ringer before taking over as captain, and he also set up a highly successful handbell team. They performed many concerts and the annual Wassail evening became a popular village event.

The handbell team would also tour the village over the Christmas period and raise a significant amount of money for charity.

They undertook a tour of Denmark which again proved to be highly successful.

Outside of this he volunteered as a meet-and-greeter at the Duxford air museum, where, because of other commitments, he once turned down the opportunity to meet President Bush as he visited the museum!

They left the village in 2016 after many happy years, relocating to Caister-on-Sea as their health sadly declined. **Stephen Bower**

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Austin Lask 1928-2022

MUM and dad moved to Stapleford in 1975. Dad always talked about how Harold Holt and the Vicar had made them feel very welcome in the community. There was an incredible community spirit that seemed to centre around the Umbrella Club, one that has lasted over the years with 'The Village People' still looking out for each other.

Austin built a thriving optical practice and always wanted to help people. He was so kind. He volunteered every Wednesday at Addenbrooke's Hospital, where he worked in the eye clinic. It was here he started to encounter several babies who were born with Down's syndrome and one of the problems they faced was they were often born with cataracts. A new procedure was introduced to remove these childhood cataracts within one or two months of birth, but back in the 60s and early 70s lens implants were not available, so very thick spectacle lenses were needed in order for the babies' visual system to develop. The babies were so small that conventional spectacle frames were totally unsuitable, so dad decided to take the matter into his own hands and, modelling on his daughter Alison's Tiny Tears doll, he handmade tiny spectacle frames for these children which were then filled with tiny handmade spectacle lenses. The frames were also unique in that he handcrafted the sides so they could be held in place by ribbons tied behind the baby's head. It made all the difference to these tiny babies and as they grew he made larger frames to accommodate them, spending many an evening working on them. To this day Alison still sees a few of these patients who are now in their 50s and with fully developed visual systems thanks to dad.

The exquisite love for his family defined him along with his love for children, for animals and for people. Austin was kindness personified from the inside out and will always be remembered. **Jeanette**, his daughter

A tribute to a father, grandfather and great-grandfather

A wonderful husband, father, brother;

And friend so loving and kind,

What beautiful memories you leave behind.

Sharing and caring and always content,

Loved and respected wherever you went.

A happy smile, a heart of gold:

You were the best this world could hold.

A special husband, father, brother

Grandfather, Great Grandfather so kind and true:

What beautiful memories we all have of you. Author unknown

Yesteryear

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

1796

SALE. By auction at the Angel Inn, Cambridge. A copyhold estate, consisting of a dwelling-house with a large Warehouse, Out-houses, Vats, and all other conveniences for carrying on the trade of a tanner and fellmonger, in Stapleford in the county of Cambridge, late in the use and occupation of Richard Redman; together with a handsome Garden, Close, and Oxier-holt adjoining, containing, by estimation, 4a (more or less). Also a neat cottage, near adjoining, which may be sold separately. The above premises are pleasantly situated about 5 miles from Cambridge, near the turnpike road to London, and are fit either for carrying on the aforesaid trades, or the reception of a genteel family.

1879

FIRE. About 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, a fire broke out of the Bury Farm, in the occupation of Mr. William Baker, which proved of a most destructive character. It was discovered by one of the men going to his dinner. The flames spread very rapidly and in about 11/2 hours half the buildings with their contents on two sides of the yard were completely destroyed.

1904

CHILDREN'S TREAT. Through the kindness of Dr Tuckett and Mrs Tuckett, assisted by friends in the village, the children attending the Council School were entertained to a delightful evening's entertainment at the council schoolroom on Tuesday. A magnificent Christmas tree, beautifully decorated, presented a lovely picture. After partaking of a substantial tea, the county medals were kindly distributed by Mrs Tuckett to the five scholars who had won them by their regular attendance. Then followed an instructive lantern display by Dr Tuckett, the slides embracing scenes in foreign lands, camp life, humorous pictures, etc. Each child had a "dip" in a bran tub, and all were rewarded with a toy. Sweets were scrambled for, and after hearty cheers had been given for the kind friends who had provided the treat, the happy youngsters returned to their homes.

1960

STAPLEFORD CHANGED IN THE LAST 10 YEARS. "A bed-and-breakfast village"; that was how one inhabitant of Stapleford described his home

recently ... for, in the past few years, this erstwhile small community has developed beyond all recognition. The village which grew up around a few large farms has devoured them into itself and has gone on growing until it has become as much a retreat from Cambridge and town life as has its near neighbour, Great Shelford ... The actual population figures indicate that Stapleford has grown from about 235 at the beginning of the 19 century to approximately 1500 at present, it having nearly doubled in the last 10 years. In addition to this, the number of houses occupied in 1921 is now almost the number on one new estate alone ... Cambridge attracts the majority as far as employment is concerned, although a few can work on the farms, for the Shelford Building Supplies, for Lee's (Shelford) Ltd Builders, while for married women there are nearly always part-time jobs available at Ridgeon's Seeds. About 100 years ago employment was provided by agriculture almost entirely, or with the trades connected with it such as that of blacksmith, carpenter or maltster. This continued until the outbreak of the last war when it died away, and is now only a minute source of work.

Jackie and the Beanstalk

Little Shelford Pantomime

WHEN Cow Pat is sold by Idle Jackie for a handful of beans and Gladys, the goose that lays the golden eggs is stolen by Gremlins, what will become of Dame Dolly and her friends?

Be prepared for talking animals, villains to boo and hiss at, scenery to marvel at, heroic deeds and some songs you know and love.

Will there really be a happy ending (as there always is at Little Shelford Pantomime)?

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

Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 January at 7pm, Friday 13 and Saturday 14 January at 7.30pm in Little Shelford Memorial Hall.

Tickets available (£5 children; £8 adults) from 1 December from:

Susie Manning - 07793 115654 (Little Shelford); Holly Barr - 07825 395605 (Great Shelford); Maggie Pratt - 873314 (Hauxton); Susan Hunter - 07796 295167 (Sawston) or Sarah Coppendale - 842498 (Stapleford).

Any queries, e-mail coppendales@btinternet.com. **Sarah Coppendale**





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Stapleford WI

'How Criminal Law Sometimes Works'



THE speaker for our October meeting was Peter Levins whose talk had the title 'How Criminal Law Sometimes Works'. Giving a brief resumé of his training, first to be a solicitor, followed six years later by training to be a curate, Peter eventually returned to law working as an immigration magistrate and sitting on a mental health tribunal.



Peter explained that the law is all about how we relate to each other. He referred to Sir Thomas More who had said that the law is like a tree - if all the trees are felled then who will shelter you from the wind? He also reminded us that the basic principle in law is that someone is innocent until proven guilty. Peter presented many interesting facts about how cases proceed and the possible sentences. Finally members were given three real case scenarios to discuss

and were asked to suggest an appropriate sentence for the crimes committed. This resulted in some animated discussion and, according to Peter, some fairly harsh sentences being handed down! He pointed out that sentencing has got much harsher in the last 20 years because of the political climate.

Members have continued to donate food items each month to a local food bank and were thanked by one of our Vice Presidents, Celia Weir, for these. Celia also spoke about fuel poverty and gave tips for keeping our houses warm.

We are hosting a coffee and cake morning at Cox's Close on Saturday 3 December between 10am and 12 noon for anyone who would like to join us for a chat and some company. Do come and see us, and bring a friend too!

By the time you read this edition of the *Messenger* members will have enjoyed their final meeting of the year at the end of November where the focus will have been on both celebrating the Autumn Harvest and looking ahead to the festivities of Christmas. Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to offer all readers, on behalf of Stapleford WI, every good wish for Christmas and 2023.

For further details about the WI please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 or look at staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson**

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2G3S



AT our planning meeting in November we began to plan for 2023. We hope to continue the repair cafes, nature walks and conversation evenings, and to try and work with other local organisations towards improving our local environment and raising awareness of how people can help minimise their impact on nature and the climate.

Dr Bike comes to Stapleford

A small group of volunteers is using the Old Slaughterhouse, next to the Three Horseshoes pub in Church Street, as a community bike repair shed. We will do, for free, 'Dr Bike' type safety checks, together with adjustments and minor repairs for a donation. This is an initiative by members of 2G3S, with support from local Cycling UK members and the local Repair Café organisation. Stapleford Parish Council have kindly allowed the use of their



Grade 2 listed building for this purpose. In the first instance sessions will run **every Thursday between 3pm and 6pm until 15 December**. We expect to continue in the New Year, but it will depend on demand and volunteers. Drag that bike out of your shed or garage, bring it to us,

and hopefully we can show you how we make it easier and safer to ride. Whether you ride regularly or irregularly, we will try to improve your bike with our simple checks and service. We cannot do major work, but normally it is only a series of simple things that are needed to make a bike serviceable and easier to ride. For those with a little skill we can easily show you how to do those important basic 'Dr Bike' checks, with help from those with decades of fiddling with cycles. Please do bring your bike along, and at the least we can pump up your tyres, adjust your brakes, and do a little lubrication, making your bike easier and more pleasant to ride (we don't have the skills to deal with hydraulic brake or electric bike issues). You will also get an opportunity to see inside this historic little local building. To contact us, email drbikestapleford@gmail.com or fill in the form at tinyurl.com/2yx7kyzw or just come and pay us a visit when we are open. With a little more volunteer help, even just once each month, we hope to extend our service in the New Year.

Re-imagining Our Future... Together

We have been liaising with Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group and Eco Whittlesford to organise a family-friendly event at 3pm to 6pm on Sunday

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15 January, aimed at bringing together people from neighbouring villages. The purpose of the event is to bring our communities together to help inspire each other, learn from what we are all doing and explore opportunities for synergy. We are aiming it to be a fun afternoon with films; an 'imaginarium' arts/craft exercise based on the work of Rob Hopkins; games for kids; and a Veganuary-inspired Feast.

At Whittlesford Memorial Hall, free tickets via Eventbrite on our Facebook page soon.

Other news

Don't forget that Cambridge Carbon Footprint are lending out thermal imaging cameras, so (after a little online training) you can see where you are losing heat out of your home, and take steps to correct it. It may be just a small matter of draught strips or a draught-excluder (remember 'sausage dogs'? – I still use one at the door between our kitchen and the conservatory). Book a training session on their website.



Some 2G3S members are shortly to do the training so they can see what's happening in their own homes, and may be able to help other people in the future.

Even though the summer has gone and we now have rain, the water level in our chalk aquifer is still low, and it will take a whole wet winter to top it up to where it should be. So it's still important to save water in and around your home.

The news from the UN about the inability of nations to make radical enough plans to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C makes very uncomfortable reading, and it is easy to want to just give up, but every little thing we can all do to save carbon, water, food waste, and unnecessary consumerism will all help if enough of us do it. At this time of year, don't buy more than you need at Christmas, it's a waste of resources and money. As I write this we don't know what COP27 will have achieved, but it's important to keep climate change in people's minds. Governments at all levels, businesses, and individuals all have to play their part to create a future that we want for our grandchildren, all over the world.

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 quarterly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live more sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website (type 2G3S into Google and you will find us). **Helen Hale**

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Sew Positive: Free Charity workshop



ESCAPE the bustle and rush with a free festive mindful embroidery workshop at Great Shelford Library on Wednesday 7 December 2pm to 4pm.

Volunteers from local mental health charity, Sew Positive, will teach you to make a small craft item for yourself or as a gift, using embroidery and slow stitching - which is also excellent for calming the mind.

Haslingfield resident Melissa Santiago-Val launched the charity in December 2020 after she set up a community project making fabric masks, garnering over 50 volunteers, which raised £40,000 for NHS Charities Together. The charity aims to bring people together who face social isolation, using sewing, mending, up-cycling and sharing skills in a safe social setting. This event is open to all and you don't need any sewing skills, but if you know how to embroider, come along and share your skills!

We will provide materials, but do bring any embroidery supplies if you have them. Limited places, booking essential online (linktr.ee/SewPositive).

This is a free community event, with thanks to support from South Cambs District Council, the Cole Trust and Cambridgeshire Libraries. Children of any age are welcome with an adult also doing the workshop.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating to our work, please

email melissa@sewpositive.org and further information on our services is available on the link above. **Melissa Santiago-Val**



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Stapleford Strollers: Walk 109

A Walk to Wimbish: a circular walk from Swards End

To get to start of walk

DRIVE to Saffron Walden. Turn left at the traffic lights on to the B1053, heading for Radwinter. This takes you past Tesco. Swards End is the first village out of Saffron Walden on this road and the starting point, the Village Hall, is on the right near the end of Swards End. There is a car park.

Extra Information

Sadly, Seward's End no longer has a pub or a shop. The Fox, as was, can be seen across the road from the Village Hall. For more details about the village, see earlier this year when another Swards End walk was described. This walk passes Wimbish Hall. The name Wimbish is derived from an Old English word meaning 'bushy copse of a man named Wine'. A likely story ...

OS Map

OS Explorer map 195. For a free map extract that you can print off, use www.maps.the-hug.net. You can use the route map provided, of course.

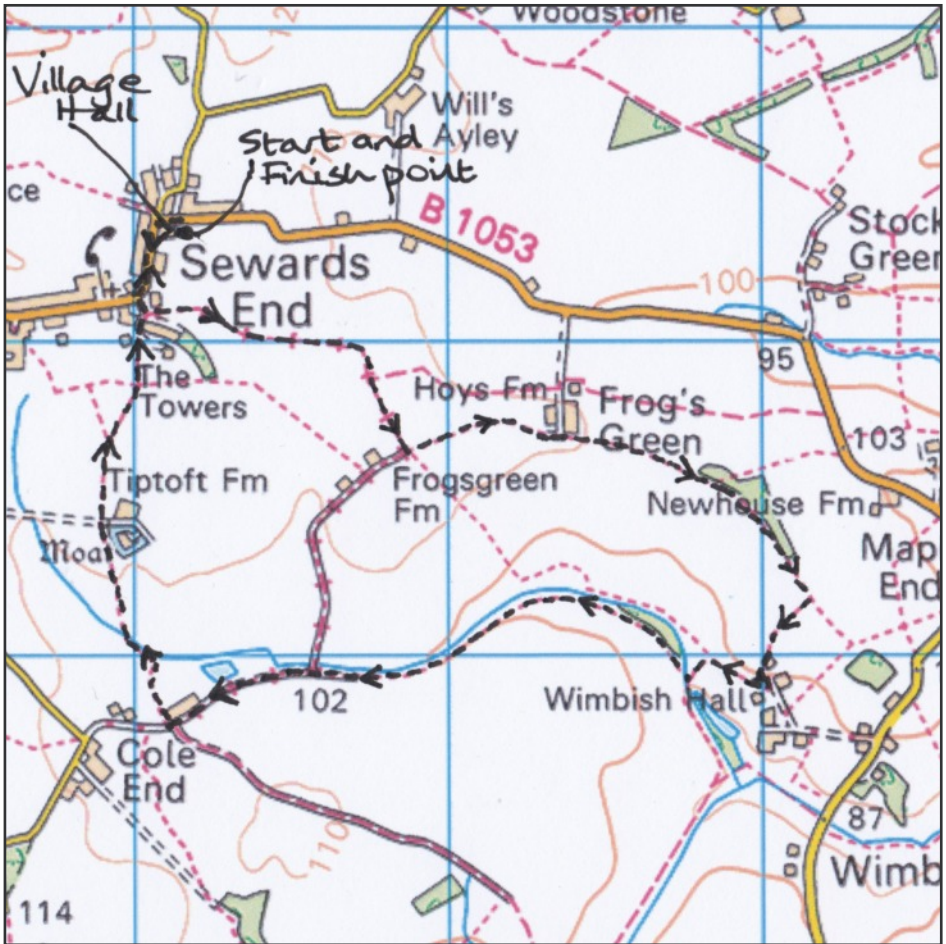
Distance of walk

Just over 4½ miles; a nice, flat and usually solid-surfaced walk for the most part. There are two fields to cross and these could be a little tricky in winter.

Route of walk

From the Village Hall car park go left in front of the building then cross the main road and go left on the pavement. When the road curves to the right, carefully cross over and walk up the track to the right of the water tower. Keep on this solid-surfaced route for nearly a mile. Turn left when a farm access road is reached and walk along this road. It soon curves to the right and passes the front of Hoys Farm. The route goes to the right of the farm pond and, from this point, is grass-surfaced. It is well signed with waymark posts and arrows.

After emerging from trees, walk along the grass strip on the left hand side of cropped fields. Keep ahead when reaching a multi-arrow waymark, still following the left hand side of the cropped land until the next waymark, where there is a right-pointing arrow. This path crosses a field and is very clear for most of the year. It could be tricky after ploughing. When the field is crossed, the path goes through a gap in the hedge line and across a grassy area. Go through a gate into the cemetery and turn left after the second line of graves. Exit the cemetery and walk in front of Wimbish Hall to the left



and then Wimbish Church to the right. Swing right round the front of the church and exit the churchyard via a metal gate.

Cross a small pasture and exit through a gap to the right of the large metal farm gate. Carry on ahead and then turn left at the next waymark. This goes along a grass strip on the left hand side of a cropped field, crosses a ditch (often dry) via a footbridge and turns right immediately afterwards on a path which follows the grass strip between a huge cropped field to the left and the tree-line to the right.

After two fields the grass strip and tree-line peters out. Take the grass track ahead, between two fields. This can get sticky in winter but is only about 100m long. It meets a solid-surfaced farm track; turn left and keep walking until a farm is reached.

Immediately after the farm buildings, go right through a wooden gate into a pasture. The footpath sign is well hidden. There is much evidence of animals even if they are not there. Watch your step! Exit the pasture through another gate in the far right hand corner, turn right for about 30m, then left on a grassy strip between fields for about 100m.

Go right on to another grassy strip, heading for the left hand side of some trees. The grassy path runs along the right hand side of a cropped field after the trees are reached, crosses a farm access road (farm buildings passed on the right) and carries on ahead to the right of the following field.

Beyond this things change. For most go the year the route ahead is clear but does get ploughed up. Head about 30m to the right of the telegraph pole immediately ahead, aiming for a very tall oak tree. When nearing the tree a waymark arrow will be seen. Follow the path between trees, which meets an access road to a large house, and keep ahead until the main road is reached. Cross over carefully and walk to the right on the pavement. Cross back over the road when reaching the Village Hall and return to your vehicle. **David Barnes**

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

Stapleford History Society

'The Life of the Victorian Poor in Shelford'

7.45pm on Tuesday 13 December in Stapleford Pavilion

Our local, very popular historian, Helen Harwood, will be painting for us a graphic account of the life of the poor around this area.

All very welcome. **Chris Cooper**

Dog bins on Magog Down

TO keep the paths free of dog waste at Magog Down, there are 10 green bins lined with black plastic sacks into which dog walkers put their dog's waste in small plastic bags. These are collected in a wheelbarrow twice a week and removed from the Haverhill Road entrance weekly by the Council.

Steve of Whoopsy Daisy who has emptied the bins for many years, has retired and we are looking for a replacement as reliable as him. If you are interested in helping the Trust by taking on this paid task please email Surge, the Magog Trust Administrator, at admin@magogtrust.org.uk.

Thank you **Bryan Davies**, Trustee of the Magog Trust

Alan Barnes Octet - Copperfield Jazz Suite

Thursday 1 December | 7:45pm

A new jazz suite created & narrated by the inimitable Alan Barnes inspired by Dickens' much-loved story



The Granary's Christmas Market

Saturday 10 December | 11:00am - 4:00pm

Supporting local makers & creators, craftspeople & collectors, our festive Christmas Market is back with pop-up food, mulled wine & music



**Rapunzel & the Tower of Doom
Theatre of Widdershins**

Sunday 11 December | 12:00pm Age 4+

A traditional tale, teased, de-tangled & re-styled into an enchanting show, combining exquisite puppetry & storytelling



Music for Awhile - candlelit concert

Monday 12 December | 7:45pm

A collection of Europe's finest early music performers play Purcell, Bach & Handel in a glorious Christmas programme

Onyx Brass - candlelit concert

Tuesday 13 December | 7:45pm

Festive favourites & classy arrangements of well-loved tunes from this world-renowned brass quintet, presented in their charismatic, good humoured style

GreenMatthews' Gaudete - candlelit concert

Wednesday 14 December | 7:45pm

Popular festive fayre from the Middle Ages featuring carols & winter folksongs sung & performed on an abundance of weird & wonderful instruments

Centre of Hope

God's Love in Action (GLIA), Dorohoi, Romania - A connection to Ukrainian Refugees

Let's go back to the pre-Covid-19 times of 2019 ...



THE Centre of Hope – GLIA is a much-used community centre in the town of Dorohoi, situated in the far north of Romania. It is run by a local charity, Asociația Centre of Hope (Romanian spelling), and is funded by a UK-based charity, Centre of Hope – GLIA, that was set up over 25 years ago. The Centre provides around 60 hot meals daily to the impoverished residents of the town and surrounding villages, hosts a mid-week Praise Service and allows homeless, ex-orphanage people to have hot showers. In the grounds there is a children's playground, and several after-school clubs are run at the Centre. The charity employs a permanent social worker to support the local community and organizes several community groups throughout the week. In addition, the charity also distributes food packets, logs for domestic stoves, plus clothes, toiletries and other items to those who need them. An educational programme provides much-needed resources and financial help to young people who want to take further education opportunities.

It is shocking that so many people live in such relative poverty in a developed European country, but it wasn't always like this. As part of the Soviet Union, Romania enjoyed investment from Russia and Dorohoi was a prosperous place with almost full employment thanks to the town's glass and ceramics factories. However, after the fall of the Soviet Union and the flow of Russian money ceased, no replacement investment was forthcoming

and the town became a shadow of its former self, with unemployment steadily rising to the current 80% or more.

During the next two years, the Covid-19 pandemic arrived, and all of the aid temporarily stopped. Eventually restrictions were relaxed, and people started collecting a daily hot food packet from the driveway of the Centre. However, the Centre could not be used for meetings and the playground remained closed.



On 24 of February, Russia invaded Ukraine for its 'special military operation'. Soon after, Ukrainian refugees appeared in Dorohoi as they crossed the Ukrainian and Moldavian borders. The Centre has an Annex in which the second floor contains four bedrooms, with six single beds and four bunk beds, two bathrooms with showers and a small kitchenette area.



Therefore the Centre made this accommodation available to the refugees, to give them somewhere warm and dry to 'catch their breath' for a few days before travelling on to their intended destinations throughout Europe. In total, the Centre helped more than 200 refugees over a 12-week period. During the summer, a small number of returning refugees have stopped over at the Centre, on their way back to Ukraine.

It is now October and I find myself on a plane to Suceva airport to visit the Centre of Hope, in my voluntary role as Chair of Trustees for Centre of Hope - GLIA. There are currently no refugees staying at the Centre, but the staff are bracing themselves for a potential second wave of refugees, given the recent escalation of bombing and shelling by the Russians across Ukraine. I am met by Peter and Lesley Butcher, the charity founders, who travelled out at the end of September for a month-long stay. The Wednesday evening Praise Services and a few other meetings have restarted, but not to the level of 2019 and before, and the playground is again being used by the local children. Peter and Lesley are concerned by the loss of the social lunches and are thinking of ways to increase the level of pastoral care provided. When they lived in the Centre, which they did from 2002 to 2009, they spent a lot of time visiting the locals in their homes in Dorohoi and the surrounding countryside. The amount of time they can do this is limited by the fact that they now live in Lossiemouth, Scotland, and are in their mid-seventies. However, they still travel out four to five times a year, spending three to six weeks at the Centre on each visit. They

would like to employ a local person, or couple, to do the pastoral visits, but finding the right people is proving difficult.

I spent three days at the Centre discussing operational matters with Peter, Lesley and Ovidiu, the Centre Manager, and meeting the other three members of staff: Ana and Ami the cooks and Costel the gardener, handyman, driver and general workhorse. I liken Costel to the oil that keeps the Centre functioning smoothly and no matter what he is doing he almost always does it with a huge smile. One afternoon I went with Costel to deliver food packets to some of the outlying areas. How families with lots of children manage to live in small two or three room (not bedroom!) houses still amazes me, even though I have been visiting the area for more than 15 years.

As I was about to leave for my flight home, Peter received a message to say that another six refugees were expected to arrive in the next day or so.

So the work goes on ...!

If you would like to know more about the work and assistance provided by the charity, please visit centrefofhopeglia.com or if you have any questions just email me at gbriscoe61@virginmedia.com.

Graham Briscoe Chair of Trustees Centre of Hope - GLIA. Resident of Sawston and who kindly supplied the photos.



Stapleford – Nachingwea Link Christmas Fair

**Great Shelford Memorial Hall
Saturday 3 December,
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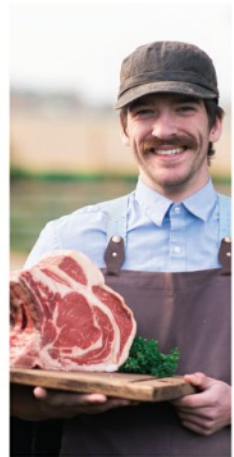
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‘Making Connections’ consultation

Greater Cambridge Partnership: *prioritising people over cars*

MANY of you will have heard about a proposal from the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to introduce a congestion charge of £5 for driving in Cambridge on weekdays between 7am and 7pm. Perhaps you are wondering how this will affect you, and like many others you may have even signed and shared one of various petitions against this, or calling for it to be subject to a referendum? The proposed charge (not due to come in for another five years, in 2027 or 2028) is part of a whole package of measures, and will be preceded by greatly improved bus services that will essentially be pump-primed by GCP funding, and then eventually subsidised by congestion charging receipts. Sign petitions if you like, but don't miss out on responding to the full consultation, which closes on 23 December: find it by typing 'Greater Cambridge mc-2022' into your favourite search engine. And here are some thoughts on it from me that I'd like to share:

“*We need to talk about road pricing*” – those were the words of the Chair of the House of Commons Transport Committee in February this year: the committee published a report examining how tax revenue from fuel duty and vehicle excise duty could be replaced, as the transition to electric vehicles ramps up, leaving a potential £35 billion hole in the public finances. To quote from that report's summary introduction:

“The greatest barriers to introducing road pricing are political. Introducing new taxes is often unpopular so the political risk has always been seen as too high”.

However, fuel duty and vehicle excise duty are increasingly unfit for purpose. The consequences for both public finances and congestion management are too severe for inaction. To deliver a fair system of motoring taxation, politicians must find a way to take the politics out of road pricing.

So, the government has already been told very firmly to consider road pricing and start an honest conversation with the public about funding for roads ... but they've failed to respond to the February report (they were given two months) and meanwhile we see our own MP, Anthony Browne, doing the very opposite of what is recommended: he has been leveraging discussion about the GCP's proposed road pricing scheme for Cambridge as a party political campaigning point, by drumming up votes for his party in a District Council by-election based on opposition to the congestion charge. He has been dedicated in stirring up feeling against the GCP's congestion



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charge and promoting a petition against it, but he does not seem to have set out what his alternative proposal is for how to fund our roads and an improved public transport system.

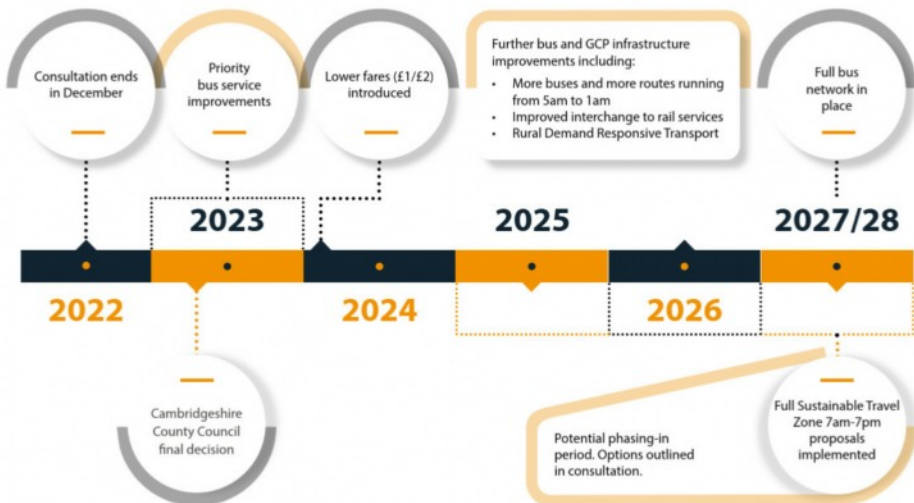
“The road to zero carbon will carry fewer cars” – *Messenger* readers cannot fail to have noticed the accelerating climate crisis, and have hopefully taken on board the importance of reducing carbon emissions, drastically and soon, if the world is to have any hope of avoiding dangerous tipping points that will make this planet no longer habitable. Transport/travel is such a big contributor to carbon emissions that changing our habits such that we all do much less of it, or do it in a much less carbon-intensive way, is essential. A lot of the complaints I’ve seen about the GCP’s proposed congestion charge basically amount to folks wanting to continue Business As Usual. These people are in good company: the annual “global north greenwash festival” otherwise known as COP27 is in progress as I write, where world leaders gather to give beautiful speeches and announce fancy commitments while behind the scenes a huge contingent from the fossil fuel lobby ensure that loopholes are in place and frameworks are shaped such that they can continue profiting from this destructive system. While it’s important that these world leaders do meet to agree on measures to tackle the climate crisis, sadly we will indeed all be doomed – to quote UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres – unless people like you, me, and all our neighbours in rich nations such as ours take personal responsibility to reduce our carbon footprints. Switching our transport choices away from private cars (not just from petrol or diesel to electric, but away from private cars altogether – maybe a topic for another month!) as much as possible can be a huge part of your personal contribution to making the world potentially habitable in the future.

So, while I’m by no means a fan of everything the GCP is doing in all their various projects, I welcome this ‘Sustainable Travel Zone’ proposal with open arms. The way they have phased it, we will have five or more years of gradually improving bus services in which to change our habits and get used to non-car ways of getting around, before the full 7am to 7pm weekday charge is introduced and will need to be paid by those who still continue to use their cars. Many cynics point to the recent shenanigans with Stagecoach cancelling bus routes, and scaremonger that the bus services will not be improved as is being promised – that attitude fails to recognise that the GCP proposes a franchising model, which would then remove the power from private bus operators such as Stagecoach, and instead give us a truly ‘public’ public transport system.

And as for the repeated, enraged cries of “it’s immoral to include Addenbrooke’s in the charging zone” I say: don’t be silly! *Of course* a huge campus to which so many people travel for so many different reasons MUST be part of the Sustainable Travel Zone, in order to minimise those trips being made by car; anyone with a genuine reason to go by car rather than other means (e.g. those accessing emergency services, patients having regular treatment, patients who are immuno-compromised, etc., etc.) has already been thought about and will be included in a reimbursement scheme so that they will not need to pay. All these details are clearly set out in the ‘Making Connections 2022’ consultation brochure, for those who bother to take time to read it rather than just jumping on the petition-signing bandwagon.

I do have some criticisms of the scheme, specifically that I think the Cambridge-centric model of £1 / £2 bus fares is unhelpful, and in fact short journeys between villages, such as Shelford or Stapleford to Sawston, should also only cost £1, not £5? Plus, I think the improved on-road bus services will further negate the need for expensive and destructive new busways that are still being proposed. So those are things that I will be feeding back to the GCP in their consultation.

Whatever you think, make sure you make your views known directly to the GCP by seeking out and completing their official survey by midday on 23 December . **Miranda Fyfe**



Library update

Welcome to our new librarian



MELANIE Abbiss (Mel) has joined Great Shelford Library, working the same library opening hours as Rosemary did. She is training alongside another librarian as she is new to library work. Please make her welcome as you use or work in the library.

Winter Mini Reading Challenge:

The Winter Mini Challenge is coming soon and will run from 1 December until 20 February. It encourages children to keep up their reading habits over the winter holidays, through a free-to-access website featuring rewards for reading and reviewing books. Families will also be able to download exciting Science Museum Group resources on the website and, as ever, there will be book reviews, reading activities, competitions, and games for children to enjoy online.

Free charity workshop:

Sew Positive is running a free community event 'Festive Mindful Embroidery' at Great Shelford Library on Wednesday 7 December, 2pm to 4pm. There are limited places so booking is essential (linktr.ee/SewPositive).

Christmas/New Year closure:

Great Shelford Library will be closed from 1pm on 24 December to 10am on 4 January. We would like to wish all our customers best wishes for the festive period.

Daphne Sulston

Contact us:

Email: Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
 Phone 0345 045 5225.
 Web cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Looking for a local venue?

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Back and Forth 3

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you get the answer to the other clue
e.g. beat/sport (4) gives FLOG and GOLF (4 letters)

Group 1

bark/cover cost (3)

mouth/marsh (3)

clothing/boast (4)

pour/fitting (4)

small line/sacks (5)

modify diagram?/guard (6)

Group 2

this moment/Korean currency (3)

my/name (French) (3)

North African/capacity (4)

guides/synthetic meat (4)

slender tube/... and all (5)

plate/creature (6)

Group 3

Monty?/Land? (3)

part of dress/expressing indifference (3)

e.g. onion/cry (4)

frost/leader (4)

nine voices/wooden projection (5)

wears/tantrums (6)

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 55



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Remembering your Faithful Friend



CHRISTMAS may be a time to remember family and friends - but Dogs Trust Snetterton is also asking local dog owners to remember their four-legged friends this festive time, with a *Canine Care Card*.

The *Canine Care Card* is a free service, which helps to ensure your dog's future, in the event of you either passing away, receiving a life-changing diagnosis or moving into a care home. This can often be a great concern to some people, who perhaps do not have a family member or friend in a position to look after their dog, should the worst happen.

Therefore, by signing up to the service, Dogs Trust can offer peace of mind, reassuring you

that your faithful friend will be well cared for by the charity.

It is easy to sign up to the service, which simply asks for some information on your dog, including their likes and dislikes, as well as your dog's medical history and your vet details. It also asks for you to confirm who you would like as your Dog Guardian. This should be someone you trust, like a friend, family member, solicitor, neighbour or vet, who can sign over ownership of your dog to Dogs Trust on your behalf, should you become seriously ill or pass away.

You can register online by going to dogstrust.org.uk and searching for 'Canine Care Card' - or if you do not have access to the internet, you can request a paper version of the application form. Once the form is submitted, Dogs Trust will then write to you, to confirm when your application has been processed.

Once signed up, should your card ever need to be activated, Dogs Trust will then arrange with your Dog Guardian for your dog to come into the rehoming centre or into foster care. With a team of vets, trainers and behaviourists on hand if needed, your dog will then be welcomed, loved and well cared for by the charity, who will work tirelessly to find a loving new home for your much-loved canine companion.

If you would like further information about the *Canine Care Card*, or to request a paper application form, please contact Dogs Trust Snetterton's Supporter Relations Officer, **Paige Pope**, at paige.pope@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01953 497912.



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PLEASE find below details of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break.

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Friday 23 December Open as usual. Place order today, pick up Friday 30 December

Saturday 24 December (Christmas Eve) Open for pre-booked appointments only. Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January

Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day) Closed. Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January

Monday 26 December (Boxing Day) Closed. Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January

Tuesday 27 December (Bank Holiday) Closed. Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January

Wednesday 28 December Open as usual. Place order today, pick up Tuesday 3 January

Thursday 29 December Open as usual. Place order today, pick up Wednesday 4 January

Friday 30 December Open as usual. Place order today, pick up Thursday 5 January

Saturday 31 December (New Year's Eve) Open for pre-booked appointments only. Place order today, pick up Friday 6 January

Sunday 1 January (New Year's Day) Closed. Place order today, pick up Friday 6 January

Monday 2 January (Bank Holiday) Closed. Place order today, pick up Friday 6 January

Tuesday 3 January Open as usual. Place order today, pick up Friday 6 January

Prescription Collection Points at Sawston, Linton and Shelford

Sign up today to pick up your medication at your convenience, over the Christmas holidays. Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs by having a



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For further information on available healthcare services, please go to nhs.uk or our website grantamedicalpractices.co.uk.

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services. Email: sandra.east@nhs.net

Festive quiz time

THIS month's quiz has been supplied by Simon Hardwick.

1. The festive treat Marzipan comes from where, exactly?
2. To which commonwealth country does Christmas Island belong? In which ocean does it lie?
3. What bodily system is affected by Christmas Disease?
4. Washington's historic crossing of the Delaware, on 25 December 1776, was the first move in a surprise attack and victory at a battle at which place and in which state?
5. Norse mythology. How did the god Baldur die?
6. The Romans celebrated two holidays in December. One was a two-week festival honouring the god of agriculture. Name the festival. The second was to celebrate the Sun god. What was his name?
7. Advocaat contains egg and which spirit?
8. Tinsel was devised to avoid having to put candles directly onto trees. In which century and where was this originated?
9. In which decade was Isaac Newton born?
10. On Christmas Day 1977, which famous comedian and tramp died?

Answers page 55



Cambridge Flower Club

Flower Arranging with the Shelford Girl Guides



WHEN Katherine Kear, our National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) Chair, wrote in a newsletter that we needed to reach out to young girls to experience and learn flower arranging, she referred to how doing a 'badge' in flower arranging as a Girl Guide herself led to a lifelong interest.

We invited the Shelford Guides to a workshop and had an enthusiastic response. Using a seasonal theme with pumpkins, an initial demonstration set fifteen of them off on an hour of feverish choosing, cutting, and arranging of foliage and many flowers to quite spectacular effects.

The uniformly positive feedback included:

"This activity was a blast, it was so fun and all the flowers were so pretty. I loved the way that they used the pumpkins especially in this spooky season. I think it's great to learn where to put each thing to make it work and look nice. Lovely experience. I loved the squishy oasis. Thank you".

"It was great fun because I got to learn lots of flower names and experiment with colour."

"I loved it and the pumpkins look amazing."

An invitation for the participants to join one of our future meetings will hopefully stimulate a future NAFAS demonstrator! **Sian Davies**

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Stapleford Parish Council

Changes in Council members

FRANCIS Bostrom was welcomed to the Parish Council. Ben Shelton has resigned.

Haverhill Road and Bury Road

Parishioners present expressed deep concern at the increase in vehicle numbers, speed, poor parking practices, and dangerous actions of drivers using these roads as cut-throughs from the A1307, farm vehicles, and those accessing The Granary café.

Councillors advised that the Parish Council has tried unsuccessfully to achieve a reduction in the speed limits for many years. The police will not support speed reduction as they cannot or will not enforce speed limits. The Parish Council is not a Highway Authority. It has the potential to apply for a Local Highway Initiative (LHI) project but this work may require up to a 25% financial contribution from the Parish Council to the County Council, depending on the level of complexity of the scheme. The Parish Council agreed to ask for speed and vehicle monitoring to provide data to inform a LHI application for traffic calming measures.

The Rangeford development

Outline plan was discussed. This is the largest development to take place in the village for many years, and the Parish Council has a duty to ensure that it integrates into the built environment and that residents become part of the community. To that end, the Parish Council does not believe that the plans as represented provide the facilities which will enhance the lives of the residents, or integrate into the built environment. It will therefore object to this application.

Congestion charge

Stapleford Parish Council agreed to object to this as it was considered to be ill-conceived, did not achieve its stated purpose, failed to bring benefit to local people, and failed to address the issues of damage to the historic Cambridge City centre. It does not address issues around pollution, active travel, bus timetabling, and would significantly adversely affect health care workers, patients attending clinics at Addenbrooke's, public sector workforce, and residents. It is solely designed to pay for public transport, which, as has already been seen, is currently understaffed and subject to the cost-cutting exercises of the transport operators with no notice of change to timetabling. The Parish Council will write a detailed objection. There is a public consultation about this plan and parishioners are urged to take part.



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Slaughterhouse garden re purpose

Outcomes of residents' poll on use of land behind Slaughterhouse:

- 299 responses via Facebook and 15 by email to Clerk; some additional and valuable comments gratefully received
- significant majority support change of land use
- orchard very slightly preferred to wildlife meadow or mixed use - suggest mixed use as the best of both
- more people support a wildlife pond than object, but there are concerns about safety risks particularly if the children's play equipment is retained
- many thanks to those who have offered assistance, but overall not very many people are prepared to volunteer their time to create and maintain it
- people are concerned about how well maintained any change of use would be - if SPC is not prepared to pay for seasonal maintenance, then the project should not go ahead
- a volunteer who has worked on the garden there warns of extensive green alkanet growth that is very difficult to control
- suggest we speak to people who have maintained the Villedômer Garden for many years for advice on soil quality, dryness, etc. before we proceed

If this is taken forward, it will be rolled out in stages over several years.

Sawston Greenway

A consultation has recently closed and we await the results.

Thanks are due to Vinod and others who dealt with a recent fallen tree across the cycle path to Sawston. If you see something that needs doing, that you could safely do, e.g. litter picking, cutting back overhanging hedges to make the footpath more easily accessible, please don't hesitate. Potholes and problems with footpaths, manhole covers etc can be reported directly to: cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults **Gillian Pett**, Chair of Stapleford Parish Council

Financial difficulties?



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

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

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Francis Bostrom

Your newest Parish Councillor



I HAVE lived in Stapleford for almost five years. My background is in nursing and my last appointment was as Nursing Officer onboard the World Cruise. I spent over 10 years as a Tour Manager for ACE Cultural Tours. This involved me in ensuring the smooth running of music tours throughout Europe, visiting places connected with the great composers. These included Bach, Handel, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Mozart and Brahms. ACE Cultural Tours has been established for over 60 years and is based in Stapleford along with the Granary.

I am a church musician and was a member of the Edinburgh cathedral choir. I enjoy playing the church organ and providing organist duty cover in a wide number of churches.

I very much hope to contribute to the work of the Parish Council by drawing on my previous experience in both the public and private sector.

Quiz answers

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Luebeck, Germany. | 6. Saturnalia; Mithras. |
| 2. Australia; Indian Ocean. | 7. Brandy. |
| 3. Blood clotting. | 8. 17 century; Nuremberg, Germany. |
| 4. Trenton; New Jersey. | 9. 1640s. |
| 5. He succumbed to an arrow of mistletoe. | 10. Charlie Chaplin. |

Puzzle Corner answers

Group 1

YAP/PAY
 GOB/BOG
 GARB/BRAG
 TEEM/MEET
 SERIF/FIRES
 REDRAW/WARDER

Group 2

NOW/WON
 MON/NOM
 MOOR/ROOM
 MAPS/SPAM
 STRAW/WARTS
 LAMINA/ANIMAL

Group 3

DON/NOD
 HEM/MEH
 BULB/BLUB
 RIME/EMIR
 NONET/TENON
 SPORTS/STROPS

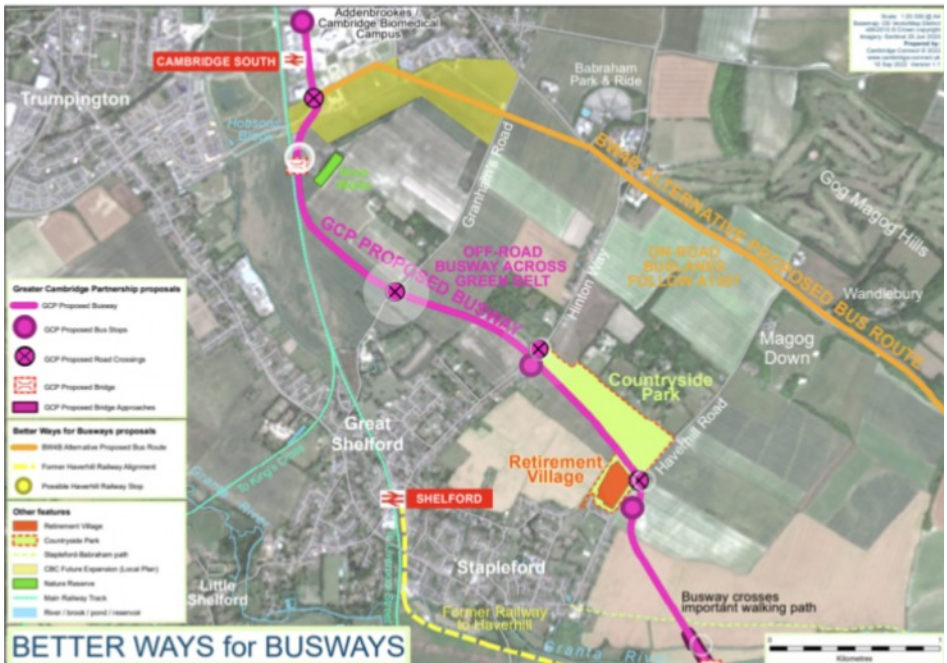
Better Ways 4 Busways

The GCP are pressing on with their CSET busway following their recent consultation over the Rangeford retirement village re-route and we are expecting them to finally approve it at their December Executive Board Meeting. This will kick-start the process of them applying for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO), with all the compulsory purchase rights that this would bring, plus irreversible damage to our greenbelt and development frenzy around busway stop locations.



The Better ways for 4 Busways! website now provides a brilliant description of the better way of providing bus links without the damage to our countryside of the GCP's road. Here is the QR code which takes you directly to the BW4B website, or alternatively visit bw4b.org. It has proved popular, with well over 1000 'hits' in the last few days.

One of the most helpful aspects of our website is its interactive maps, enabling residents in Stapleford and surrounding villages to view the impact of the busway on their immediate environment. Here's a screenshot from the Stapleford image:



You will no doubt have seen the banners we erected in the village, some of which were vandalised almost immediately. Look out for more posters and flyers delivered to every home. We are also organising a petition to be presented to the GCP, so will again be looking for significant public support. We would really value some limited admin support and help with delivering flyers. Do get in touch if you can assist.

Fundraising has already started in anticipation of the GCP's TWAO application early next year and will be used to support our case at the public inquiry. The Secretary of State has the power to pass (potentially with amendments) or reject TWAO applications, considering them carefully and without bias, and assessing all comments. We are confident that we have a strong case to put forward.

Please visit the website or email hello@bw4b.org. **Howard Kettel**

Neighbourhood plan

Initial public opinion survey results (part 2)



IN September, the neighbourhood plan steering group published a report on the outcomes of its initial public opinion survey. Conducted between April and June 2022, 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. Last month's copy of the *Messenger* focused on the first three of these, so here I will relay our findings across the remaining two categories.

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.

Travel and transport

Perhaps it's just me, but conversations with residents frequently touch upon the challenges of local parking, roadworks, or congestion. Maybe this is no great surprise, given neighbourhood plan survey results suggest that almost half of us make our most common weekly journeys (eg work

commute, shopping, school run) by private car or motorbike. We justify this because of the distances involved and the convenience it offers over public transport, cycling or walking. However, such convenience comes at a price, with noted congestion flashpoints outside Great and Little Shelford C of E Primary School and shops on Woollards Lane, comments about compromised pedestrian and cyclist safety, and complaints about speeding and traffic noise. With such issues already causing headaches, we are understandably concerned about the impact that additional traffic from future residential expansion will have on our roads. There is a sense that the current public transport network needs significant improvements (to routes and reliability) if it is to persuade people out of their cars.



According to Cambridge City Council, as a compact and flat city, Cambridge has the highest level of cycling in the country, with one in three residents cycling to work. The proportion of our survey's respondents who make their most common weekly journey by bike is a little lower than this (although we don't know the specific purpose of this journey) at around one-quarter, with health and environmental benefits being cited as the main reasons for adopting this travel mode. In Stapleford and Great Shelford, walking is nearly as popular as cycling.

Amenities – shops

Survey results convey a sense that Great Shelford's commercial amenities are fading. Residents could be encouraged to use our local shops more if there was a wider range of outlets, less traffic congestion (presumably on Woollards Lane, since that is the main location of shops and the target of other comments about congestion) and improved local banking/cashpoint facilities. Free-text comments raised demand for more and better eating experiences – both cafes and restaurants – in Great Shelford. If our villages offered more commercial, accessible and attractive shopping provision, would this reduce the need for travel to other commercial destinations? Might Great Shelford become a destination in itself, rather than just for local convenience shopping?

Amenities – countryside access

Given our rural setting, access to this land for leisure purposes may be considered an amenity in its own right. Some survey respondents were critical of the relative lack of paths and interconnected off-road routes. It should be noted that much of our greenbelt and green fields are private land

and, where paths do exist, they are often permissive and not public rights of way, so the public do not have a legal right to use them. That said, the National Planning Policy Framework (2012; Section 13, para. 145) notes that: “Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance their beneficial use, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land”. Although largely outside the scope of neighbourhood planning, there is an opportunity here for change.

What this might mean for what we do next

Survey results are being used to inform the steering group’s and Parish Councils’ deliberations. There is certainly a trade-off to be made between what our neighbourhood plan covers and how quickly it can be produced, such that it has utility in the near-term. There is little point in having an all-singing, all-dancing neighbourhood plan if it takes several years to produce and is unavailable until the current period of high growth is over. This would truly be a missed opportunity to influence planning decisions affecting Stapleford and Great Shelford. However, neighbourhood plans can be expanded over time (and in any case need updating), so just because some issues are de-prioritised now does not mean that they cannot be addressed in the future.

Some policies in our neighbourhood plan may, therefore, focus on:

- an appropriate mix of housing types, based on local housing needs (absolute numbers are set by the Local Plan).
- parameters for new development design, providing a set of simple requirements for the physical development of a site or area. This would give us greater certainty about the quality and design of a development and its environmental responsiveness.
- identifying landscapes and views which make our area unique, then protecting and enhancing their special qualities and distinctive characteristics.

By the time you read this, the steering group will have started debating our neighbourhood plan’s policies and the objectives they are intended to meet, with the support of planning expertise from Cambridgeshire ACRE. We will continue to share our work with you as it proceeds and there will be further engagement opportunities for residents.

Jenny Flynn Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; Vice-Chair Stapleford Parish Council

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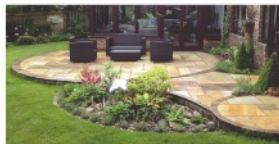
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