

Stapleford

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MESSENGER

March 2023

Volume 82 No 3

Price 90p

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**Simon installed as Vicar by the
Archdeacon of Cambridge and Dean of Ely
See Page 5**

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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish Vicar
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

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Sue Brown 01954 264246

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John Bryden 07803 706847

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Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer
Chris Bow 841982

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Clare Kerr 842984

Captain of bellringers
Tony Smith 843379

Church flowers
Jackie Nettleton 721366

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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 Dr Simon Taylor

A QUESTION: how many paintings are there in the National Gallery by female artists?

Don't know? Let's start with how many paintings there are in the collection. The answer is that there are more than 2,300. And, by female artists, the answer is 21. Fewer than 1%.

I first read this startling statistic when St Andrew's celebrated the first 100 years of women in this country having the vote and I did some background research on sex discrimination.

Oh, I hear some of you say, the absence of female artists in our national collection is because in times past women were not allowed to be artists, and so it is obvious that there wouldn't be paintings by women in one of the great international collections.

That sounds plausible, but is incorrect. In 'The Story of Art without Men' Katy Hessel chronicles great women artists from the 1500s onwards. Her interest in the topic was sparked when she attended an art fair in 2015 in which there were thousands of artworks but not one by a woman. She asked herself whether she could name ten women artists pre-1950? Or any pre-1850? Her research showed her that women certainly have always painted, though sometimes under restrictions. And there was nothing inherently different about art by the different sexes. Art by women was just not allowed to be seen by those who controlled the narrative about who were capable of being great painters. As one reviewer says, the book is really about who writes history, in this case the history of art.

A similar phenomenon was noticed just a few years back in relation to the narrower field of church music. Two women were trying to find suitable music by female composers for a cathedral service to celebrate International Women's Day. They found that there was a paltry choice. It was that problem that led Louise Stewart to found the organisation 'Multitude of Voyces' which has published three anthologies so far of church music by women composers. St Andrew's was one of the original sponsors of the work – sandwiched in the short list of sponsors between HM Chapel Royal, St James's Palace and The Cathedral Church of St John the Divine, New York, but not at all feeling out of place in that august company! Many of the works were published for the first time, and, as with painting it is quite obvious that women have been composing at the highest level for centuries.



I think the earliest works are by Hildegard of Bingen in the 1100s, and there are several from the 1500s and 1600s and many from the 19th and 20th centuries. These are beautiful works, steadily finding their way into our repertoire at St Andrew's. Great works by great artists, but somehow their publication and performance has been blocked.

These scattered bits of knowledge came to mind as I heard of yet another post in a church institution I know being filled by a man without the post being advertised. I am not going to name it because I am a wimp at heart. And with no advertising goes no published criteria, no interviews, none of those things that can help to ensure that the best candidate comes through. It is the same phenomenon that has suppressed women's art and music and their endeavours in so many other fields too. Those in power know best, and hold the keys to admission to the club, whatever that club may happen to be. Talking of which, what were the qualifications and experience that made Richard Sharp, lifelong banker and investment manager, very substantial Tory Party donor and personal financial fixer to the Prime Minister, the right person to head up the BBC?

All of which brings me on to my home territory, the things of God. A rather silly Daily Fail article this week criticised continuing work in the Church of England about gendered language used to speak of God. It is silly for two reasons. The first is that this work has been going on for centuries. Julian of Norwich (1342-1416), for example, in her 'Revelations of Divine Love' wrote of God as our mother. She wasn't trying to say God is a woman, just to open our eyes. She wrote that 'Jesus Christ ... is our true Mother. We received our being from him, and this is where his maternity starts. ... Just as God is our Father, so God is also our Mother.' It is good stuff, and there is plenty more to read online, or I can lend you a hard copy if you prefer.

And the second reason it was silly - maybe I should have put this first - is that accepting that God is not gendered in human terms is thoroughly biblical. Go back to the first chapter of the bible, Genesis chapter 1, and God creates humanity in the image of God, and that results in both male and female. And although it is true that God is traditionally addressed as male, the attributes and character of God are clearly not consistently gendered. Only profound ignorance allows God to be thought of exclusively in male human terms. God just is, and his/her image is in us all, male and female. And the application of that, the reason why any of this matters, is that in any field where only men are allowed to flourish, or allowed to flourish preferentially, we are getting something important very wrong.

Every blessing to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

2 MAR	8.30 PM	COMPLINE
5 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Romans 4.1-5, 13-17; John 3.1-17 <i>Born of water and the spirit</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH COMMUNION
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Jeremiah 22.1-9; Matthew 8.1-13
9 MAR	8.30 PM	COMPLINE
12 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Romans 5.1-5; John 4.5-42 <i>Saviour of the World</i>
16 MAR	8.30 PM	COMPLINE
19 MAR	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE WORSHIP ON MOTHERING SUNDAY Colossians 3.12-17; John 19.25b-27 <i>Here is your mother</i>
23 MAR	8.30 PM	COMPLINE
26 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Romans 8.6-11; John 11.17-45 <i>I am the resurrection and the life</i>
30 MAR	8.30 PM	COMPLINE

The church is open every day as a place to come and pray or enjoy a moment of quiet reflection. Messy Church takes place in the Johnson Hall during the winter. Everything else is in the church.

FROM THE REGISTERS

12 February – Baptism of Jesse Atkin

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.

Candlemas Cover Story

A wonderful traditional Candlemas service was held on the 29 January with the whole church full of candlelight. Simon Taylor was officially made vicar of Stapleford in the presence of the Archdeacon of Cambridge, Alex Hughes and the Dean of Ely, the Very Revd Mark Bonney. **Frank Jacot**

Mothers' Union



FIRST of all, a reminder about the World Day of Prayer service in the Cox's Close Community Room on 3 March at 2.30pm – it has been arranged by the women of Taiwan, and there will be tea and cakes after the service. All are very welcome.

On 19 March it is Mothering Sunday, so there will be a service in St Andrew's at 10.30am. And our March meeting will be a Lent Meditation from Rosemary Fuell on 23 March at 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall. Rosemary gave us a very thoughtful Lent Reflection last year and we are looking forward to her return.

The Mothers' Union shop has some beautiful Mothering Sunday and Easter cards for sale at very reasonable prices: go to mueshop.org for details.

Looking ahead, our Spring coffee morning is on 20 April at Mary Cooper's house, 15 Duke's Meadow – all are welcome! **Hilary Street**

Deadline for the APRIL Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 10 MARCH**

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

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Kaleidoscopic wonder

A CHILDHOOD kaleidoscope was special. Patterns 'magically' created by twisting a tube. My imagination went into overdrive. Images made scenes developing creativity through art, verbal observation or writing. A kaleidoscope works through mirrors or lenses set at angles. These reflect bits of coloured glass inside forming symmetrical, geometric patterns, revealed through a viewing tube. Turn it and the loose glass moves making delightful designs. Seeing is believing. Once more I experience the childhood joy.

From the early 19th century. Kalos is Greek meaning 'beautiful,' eidos is 'form' and scopos 'watcher' so 'Beautiful shapes to look at.' Simple to use. No need for SIM cards or batteries. Invented by a Scottish scientist in 1816, they have been in and out of popularity since. Victorians adored them but the electronic ages made change inevitable. Seventies craftsmanship and technology brought them back. A happy thought, my pleasure being shared. Families can make versions from beads, paper or pebbles.

With older eyes and greater life experience I view differently. In the reflective time of Lent, pathways become clearer but not where they lead. How might metaphorical cul-de-sacs, pot holes or cracks be avoided? Shapes shift. Liturgical powerful purple and the violet sit strongly side by side. Traditionally bunches of violets were offered as gifts on Mothering Sunday. The lantern lily is evident, the red rose of England, signifying love on St Valentines Day, golden daffodils and more. Twist and all change. Mottles, smudges, disordered confusion. Difficulties needing solving. Broken pieces settle, reform. Calm, quiet bringing unity, hope. I see our precious planet being spoiled. The sparkling jewel tones before me seem to tease, stressing harmony and purity. I consider seasons, flora, fauna and the need to work together, improving, cleansing, renewing, reacting appropriately. The warmth and concern of humanity, encourages, invigorates and lifts. Reassuring. Shape and colour change; multiple reflections indicating complications; sinister dark patches perhaps boulders barring ways ahead. World troubles or relationship problems. Twist and they disperse. Given time and wisdom we move on successfully removing obstacles tactfully, diplomatically. Maybe fantastic, even far-fetched but I found imagining using the kaleidoscope an interesting way to review events and look positively to the future. Helped on our prayerful journey by imagery, insight and trust will strengthen steps towards the Cross of Easter. If only it was as easy in reality, but hope remains like a candle flame, confident, sure and steady. **Judith Lee**

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Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



KEVIN Bushiri, Chair of the Link in Nachingwea organised and led an English course from October to December 2022 for graduates from primary school in preparation for secondary school. The Stapleford Link supported the course with financial contributions. Kevin has sent us a report on the course, part of which we reproduce below. **Trish Maude**

(Editor's note: the text of the report is as written by Kevin.)

THIS English course started on 10 October and ended on 27 December. Old St Andrew's nursery school was used as a classroom. The total of 57 pupils started it. Among them were 45 girls and 12 boys. Forty girls were sponsored by Stapleford Link and the others paid for themselves. The course had two sessions morning and evening. Teachers were Kevin John Bushiri, Neema Jerome Mshamu and Augustine Olaf.



Mrs Rev Yusuph Masimosya giving a prize of some fabric to one of the successful students

50 pupils did all three tests so these are registered as ones who accomplished the course. These are ready to face secondary academic challenges fearlessly. They are in good level not only in writing English language but also speaking it because there were two sessions every day for written and spoken English. Our proudness is on them because they will go to present us there in secondary school.



Mrs Rev Yusuph Masimosya delivering her speech to parents and pupils

Message from the St Andrew's Nachingwea Link Committee and the Parents.

As chairperson of Nachingwea link committee we all thank St Andrew's church in Stapleford under leadership of Rev Dr Simon Taylor and all

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believers also Stapleford Link committee under the leadership of Patricia Maude for continuation of supporting Nachingwea community in not only English course but also other projects and others which are in pipeline. We promise to give you our full support in whatever we can so as to touch people's lives and be blessings to them.

I have been receiving different thanks from parents through the phone or face to face wherever I meet them. They always say that they have seen changes to their children not only in speaking and writing English language but also in behaviours. They thank you Stapleford Link for supporting their daughters without this support they could not afford payments themselves.

This is another history we all share. Making bright future of these pupils is our role which we cannot see its impact today or in this physical world.

Happy New Year 2023 and Our Almighty God bless you all. Thanks a bunch.

Thanks to our wonderful deliverers



WE owe a huge debt of gratitude particularly to a couple of our deliverers who have had to let me know that they really cannot do it any more. Amazingly, Andrea Lamble has been delivering the *Messenger* for 40 years – she deserves a medal! Gay Dean, who took over delivering from my mother-in-law, is also

giving up after 16 years and regrets that her health is no longer up to the job.

I would like to give special thanks to all those who continue to deliver the magazines and especially for the more difficult job of collecting the subscriptions which is now more complicated due to there being three ways of paying. One of the benefits of doing the job is that you may get to know your neighbours a bit more or see residents who don't quite live in your patch.

So, we are always on the look-out for new deliverers. Invariably people move away or for one reason or another have to give up. If you feel you could do this job for the village, I would be very pleased to put you on our list. It can usually be arranged that you would deliver more-or-less in the area in which you live, as it is possible to juggle one or two of the rounds in a deliverer's area. Please let me have your name, email and street address if you decide you could help. **Valerie Powell**; 843415 or vaz@fairshares.co.uk.



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Magog Singers Concert



YOU are invited to come to our last session this term, on Tuesday 28 March at the Pavilion. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Stapleford Warden Scheme, which provides help from a Warden (Juliet Hawksworth) to enable older members of the community to stay in their own homes and lead a more independent life

through daily phone calls, regular visits, prescriptions collected, or sometimes just a friendly chat. To find out more contact Juliet on 07436 102733 or juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk.

We hope the wide range of music we have been singing this term, under the direction of John Clenaghan, will appeal not only to members of the scheme, but family and friends too. The choice includes a selection from The Beach Boys, A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square, Fields of Gold, Blue Moon and When I Grow Too Old to Dream (we hope that is a long way off!)

We look forward to seeing you there; light refreshments will be served.
kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com. **Kathleen Foreman**

Stapleford History Society Industry in Sawston Early 19th and 20th centuries

Paper, printing and leather and much more. How industry has led to the growth of Sawston and how it all began.

A talk by Mary Dicken

Stapleford Pavilion
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Yesteryear

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

1808

SALE. By auction. A Copyhold Estate, situate and being at Stapleford, consisting of a good dwelling-house, barn, stable, cow-house, and other out-buildings, yard, garden and orchard with a grove of thriving young elm trees, about two acres; and 39a 2r 0p of arable land lying dispersedly in the common fields of Stapleford, late the property and residence of Mr John Pamplin, deceased.

1845

RAILWAY. A temporary bridge has been made over the road, where the Railroad crosses the same between Gt. Shelford and Stapleford, until a more substantial one can be erected, for the convenience of passengers along the road, while the trains will cross beneath. An immense quantity of earth forming an inclined plane, as an approach on each side to the above, has been thrown up some months, and for the last few weeks has been used with safety for all the purposes of an old established road. On Wednesday morning last, Cleminson's waggon, from St. Ives to London, was detained a few hours, owing to the wheels sinking in and the horses being unable to move it. Not the slightest blame attaches to any persons the detention arose from the heavy and continued rain of Tuesday night. It is but justice to the company to state, they keep a man with a powerful team of horses to help teams up the slopes during the day – but this happening about four in the morning, the waggoner very wisely baited his six horses until about eight o'clock when getting assistance he started – the waggon being drawn to Stapleford by 10 horses. Two watchmen with lamps are constantly engaged during the night.

1909

CRUELTY TO A HEIFER. At the Cambridge Division Petty Sessions on Saturday, Walter Pearce, drover of Stapleford, was summoned for cruelty to a heifer by beating it at Trumpington on March 8th. Pc Pallant said he saw defendant driving a heifer towards Hauxton. The animal turned round and defendant thrashed it with a stick. It got between defendant and the wall and he ran along for 100 yards, hitting the beast across the eyes. Defendant was out of breath through the exertion, and had to stand against the wall to recover his breath. Inspector Laird, of the RSPCA, said he saw

the heifer the next day and it was blind in one eye. Defendant said he hit the animal in self defence because it went to toss him. It knocked him down twice on the Hills Road and it also knocked a little boy down. Defendant, against whom there was a previous conviction, was fined 10s plus costs.

1939

“Pro. By Mr Cooke sec. by Mr Beavis that this Council asks the School Managers to again consider the question of installing Electric Light as in the event of a crisis the School would be required for emergencies and the present lighting would be extremely dangerous and inadequate.” (From the Parish Council Minutes)

1945

RESCUED. News has been received by Mrs B C H Saxby that her husband, Private Saxby, was rescued last September when the transport that was conveying him from No 6 Thailand Camp to Tokyo was sunk He was captured at Singapore.

1968

STAPLEFORD SHOW SAVED BY NINE PEOPLE. Stapleford's annual flower show, planned for 20th July is to go on – saved by nine people out of 500 who were asked to help organise it. The show, held in the village for more than 20 years, was in danger of folding. Thee 500 village residents were asked by leaflets pushed through their letterboxes to attend the committee's annual meeting last Wednesday and only nine turned up But, after they had all volunteered to help organise the show, the chairman, Mr G L N Dunn, decided that the show would still be held.

Cambridge Flower Club

WE meet at the Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford, 6.45pm for refreshments, 7.15pm for the demonstrations. New members welcome! Visitors pay £6.

16 March NAFAS Demonstrator Wendy Goodliffe - 'It's all a game'

20 April 'Foam free flower arrangements' - demonstration and workshop

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 Jones**



St Etheldreda

Foundation of the monastery at Ely

THIS year marks the 1350th anniversary of the foundation of the monastery at Ely by St Etheldreda. Etheldreda was a Queen, an Abbess and a Saint. She was born 636 AD, the daughter of Anna, the Christian King of the East Angles (often at war with the Mercians); we first hear of her in the Venerable Bede's 'Ecclesiastical History of the English Peoples' in the eighth century. Her first husband gave her the Isle of Ely as part of a marriage settlement; after his death she made another political marriage to the Christian king of Northumbria. He eventually released her from her marriage vows and she travelled to Ely where she founded a double monastery for men and women (common in Anglo Saxon times). She died in 679 and was succeeded as Abbess by her sister. Some years after her death she was exhumed and her body found to be uncorrupted; many miracles had already been granted through prayers to Etheldreda. Her feast day is 23 June (the date of her death). She is known as the 'perpetual virgin', not having permitted consummation of either of her marriages.



Ely Cathedral has arranged an extensive programme to celebrate this important anniversary, including special services (one to be led by the Archbishop of York, and another by the Dean of Westminster Abbey, and also a Choral Evensong to be broadcast by the BBC). There will be a Flower Festival, as well as a Saxon Fair on the Green, and a special play in the Cathedral on the life of St Etheldreda. There is an ongoing mini- exhibition in her chapel in Ely Cathedral and a new guided tour, bookable through the Cathedral website. Visit elycathedral.org.uk and see St Etheldreda 1350 for more information. **Hilary Street**

Cambridge Cake Creators

CAMBRIDGE Cake Creators will be meeting again on Thursday 16 March and introducing Sally Brown who will be demonstrating how to make flowers using rice paper. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and for this month only we are offering any new visitor a half price entry which is only £5 which includes tea/cake.

For more information contact **Vanda Butler** on 561053 or email: vanda.butler@googlemail.com.

Stapleford WI



AT this time of year WI groups up and down the country will all have the opportunity to discuss and vote on which of the four proposed resolutions their members would like to be the focus for the annual WI campaign. Members submit the resolutions, and from an original list of 43 proposals the number was whittled down to four. So at our February meeting we heard from our Vice-President, Celia Weir about these four interesting and worthwhile proposals, which were: Save our Water - Every Drop Matters; Women to Women - Turning Over a New Leaf In the Lives of Women Tea Workers; Online Gambling Harm - Time For Action; and Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife. In the national magazine for WI members the heading of the article outlining these important and worthwhile topics was 'Make Your Voice Heard'. It is good that every WI member is given the opportunity to vote locally, and then nationally through their delegate at the Annual Conference.

When the votes at our meeting were counted our preferred proposal was about saving our water and how every drop matters. As the risk of drought in the UK becomes more frequent, the National Federation of Women's Institutes would call on the government and water companies to develop robust plans to ensure the UK's long-term water security, including addressing water leakage from pipes. In addition, members would be encouraged to take immediate personal actions to value and conserve water. Of course, each proposal has its merits and is worthy of being finally selected. The final vote takes place at the Annual Meeting this year when attendees will hear further information and speeches on these subjects.

Following the business part of our meeting and refreshments, we settled down to listen to our speaker, Alan Osborne, who gave a detailed, informative and illustrated talk about the role of Rosalind Franklin in the discovery of the structure of DNA. What an interesting life she had, being such a talented, enthusiastic scientist in what was then essentially a very different working environment to what it is today. For example, when Rosalind was at King's College, London undertaking research, the dining room was men only! James Watson and Francis Crick made no mention of Rosalind's immense and valuable contribution to their joint discovery when accepting the Nobel Prize. Rosalind's death at a relatively young age from ovarian cancer was possibly caused by repeated exposure to radiation during her research.



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At our meeting, Celia welcomed some visitors who are considering joining our thriving WI group. In fact, since then one lady has already attended our monthly craft group meeting and is learning a new skill as a result! If you are interested in being a WI member, enjoying monthly group meetings and all the other activities on offer, including discussing and campaigning for topical issues as outlined above, then please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 or look at our website on staplefordwi.weebly.com.

Joyce Dobson

Quiz time

Cocktail Hour

THIS month's quiz round was devised by Graham Briscoe with cryptic(ish) hints devised by Jon West. The round was aired at the regular and resurgent Monday night Quiz at the Three Horseshoes.

Can you identify the cocktail from the ingredients plus a cryptic(ish) clue?

1. Vodka, light rum, tequila, gin, triple sec, lemon juice and cola. This sounds like a cool place.
2. Gin, Campari, sweet vermouth and optional soda. A few of these might get you talking Italian.
3. Whisky, lemon juice, sugar syrup and dash of egg white. Too many will leave a certain taste in your mouth.
4. White rum, pineapple juice and coconut cream. Might get you singing a certain song.
5. Brandy, pineapple juice and sparkling white wine. A few of these and you might perform a certain dance.
6. Champagne and Cassis. Sounds a bit posh.
7. Tequila, orange juice and grenadine. One for early in the morning. Or very late at night.
8. Vodka, peach schnapps, cranberry juice and orange juice. Warning - drink this and you might end up with shingles.
9. Sambuca, Baileys and sometimes grenadine. Your GP won't be impressed if you book an appointment for this.
10. Vodka, Amaretto, Baileys, coffee liqueur and milk. A loud one to end on.

Answers page 39

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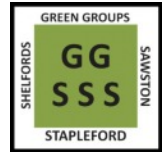
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Dr Bike

CONTINUES to mend and check local cycles at the Slaughterhouse in Church Street, Stapleford. Sessions are on Thursdays from 3pm to 5.30pm. Bring along your bike, and if you feel you can help the team with some of the simple checking of bikes, please contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com.



Future dates

At our planning meeting in February we will have planned plenty of nature walks, cycle rides, and talks or films. Please check our Facebook page or website for more info. Our book group also continues to meet regularly. Dates so far:

Nature walk

18 March, 2pm to 4pm. Join John O'Boyle, a naturalist, for an informal local nature walk around Dernford Reservoir. The reservoir area has public access following amelioration of the former gravel quarry. There is a meadow flora around the reservoir and some interesting bird life. Meet at the car park next to the reservoir off Cambridge Road just south of the village. Sturdy footwear is advised and appropriate attire for the weather conditions. Binoculars would be useful. Our nature walks are intended to raise awareness of our local wildlife sites and share knowledge of the local fauna and flora. Participants are welcome to share their knowledge. All walks are at attendees' own risk.

Social cycle ride

20 March, 10am to 1pm. Start from Stapleford Pavilion. Join us for a leisurely ride on quiet roads and traffic-free paths of around 20 miles, to include a coffee stop. Booking essential: greener@sawston.org

Energy saving

With the cost of energy these days and the need to use less fossil fuels, we finally got round to borrowing a thermal imaging camera from Cambridge Carbon Footprint (the group that also co-ordinate the local Repair Cafes). It was very easy to use, after a short online training session, and has confirmed some of our suspicions:

- the hatch to the loft needs insulation board putting on the back of it
- the back door, which is a UPC double-glazed unit but is 30 years old, leaks heat to the outside, particularly round the edges where it joins the walls

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- the front of the house, which is solid not cavity, leaks heat, so we will be investigating exterior wall insulation
- our comfort will be increased if we carry out some cheap quick tasks, such as reflective foil behind the radiators and using draught excluder strips round doors

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), email greengroupsssss@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**

Puzzle Corner

4 x 4

Identify the four groups of four clues and the connections between the clues in each group

BLUE	BUFFALO	CANNON	COW
DOLLAR	JOHN	KILL	LIBERTY
NET	PIN	PIT	PORTLAND
RED	SITTING	TINKER	ZOE

Anagrams

PLUM	OWLO
MANGO	DOVEI
PEARCT	ROBINB
ORANGE0	PIGEONN
LEMONBED	GANNETOP
QUINCETHE	BUSTARDYI
NECTARINEI	SPARROWSET

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 39

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Great Shelford Bowls Club



APRIL will see the start of the Bowls Season, with an Open Day and coffee morning on Saturday 22 April starting at 10.30am, when everyone can come along. We should like to welcome all those who would like to have a go at bowls, both new players and those who have not played for a while. If you cannot make the Saturday, come on Sunday 23 April at the same time when we will be

having a practice day.

Do come along and try your hand. You may find that you would like to join the club and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. For further information and if you are interested in joining us please contact either Gill Taylor, Secretary, 07581 279420 or Graham White, Chairman, 07400 31713. **Gill Taylor**

Stapleford Horticultural Society



OUR 2022/2023 programme of talks finished in February when Gwenda Kyd shared her choice of 'Twelve Tremendous Trees', all of which make significant contributions to our society. To take a few examples: birch trees reduce urban pollution; oak trees are used in building and the tanning of leather; yew trees are a source of the potent anticancer drug Taxol; and beech trees were used in the production of the fibre Modal. Gwenda gave many more examples, showing how much we are in debt to our trees.

There is no talk in March as it's our AGM, so talks resume on Thursday 13 April, when Robert Brett will talk to us about the

gardens at RHS Hyde Hall. Please note from this date onwards talks will start at the earlier time of 7.30pm. As usual, all are welcome. **John Sherwell** 841012

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 112

Past Present and Future: from Coton Countryside Reserve

To get to start of walk

TAKE the M11 towards Bar Hill and come off at Junction 12 (A603). Turn right, cross back over the M11 and then turn left for Coton, signposted off the very large roundabout just after the motorway bridge. Drive for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile along this road and the car park for Coton Countryside Reserve (Martin car park) will be seen on the right (CB23 7PZ).

Length of walk

About 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. It can get muddy in one section in winter but there is quite a lot of solid-surface walking. The Plough at Coton, or Coton Orchard Garden Centre Restaurant are good places to eat.

OS Map

OS Explorer map 209. Print off a free map extract by using maps.the-hug.net or use the route map provided with these notes.

Extra Information

Cambridge Past Present and Future is a charity, caring for heritage and green spaces locally. It purchased some farmland near Coton back in the 1930s as the result of a monetary bequest, but it was well over 50 years later that planning permission was obtained to turn this into a countryside reserve. For the past 25 years, much work has been done by Cambridge PPF volunteers, creating a variety of wildlife habitats. There are lots of short walk routes here, too.

Route of walk

Exit the right rear of the car park and pass the information board. Turn left along the concrete track. Pass the orchard to the left, cross the bridge over Bin Brook and take the first track on the right. This track crosses over the M11. Keep on beyond the motorway, ignoring any side turns. Warning: it can get muddy in winter along this path.

The track ends when it meets Barton Road (A603). Turn left on the wide roadside foot and cycleway and walk for about half a mile. After passing 114 Barton Road, turn left on a footpath that leads to Gough Way.

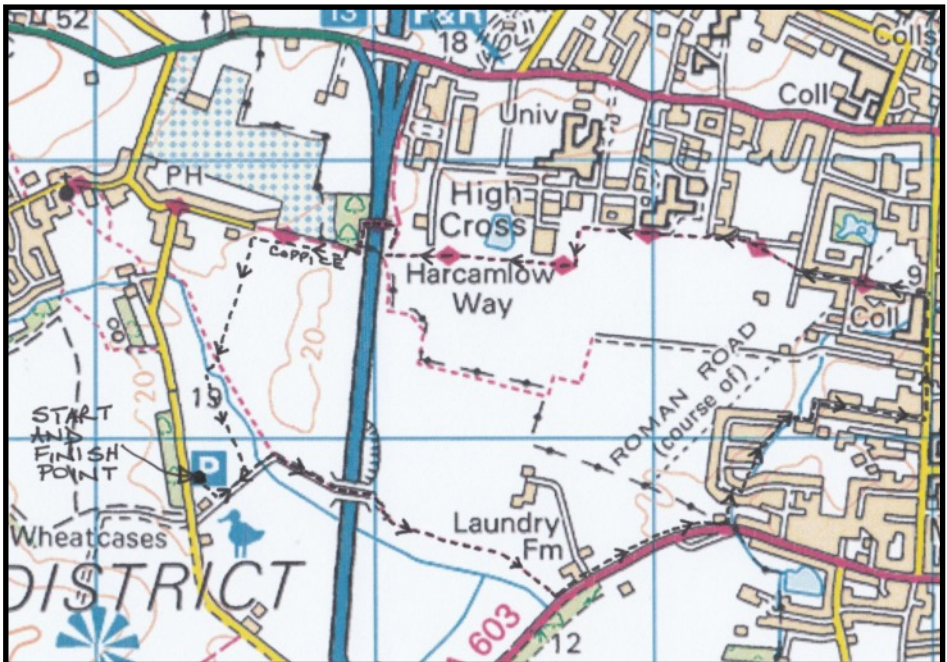
Turn right on Gough Way and look for another footpath on the left, between house numbers 54 and 52. This path leads to the end of Cranmer Road. Walk down Cranmer Road, turning left at the end when Grange Road is reached. Selwyn College Halls are on the left.

Walk along Grange Road, passing the rugby ground, Clare Hall and Robinson College, until Adams Road is reached. Turn left here and walk along Adams Road until it turns sharp right. At this point do not go right but carry on straight ahead on a footpath to the right of Cambridge Sport. The path is signed Coton 1½. Keep following this path until it crosses back over the M11.

After the motorway bridge, the path swings left and then sharp right. Look for the gate on the left just after the right turn (Coton Reserve sign). Go through the gate and turn right after about 20m, to walk through a coppice of trees. Beyond the end of the coppice, turn left after the information board, on a concrete path.

When the path turns sharp left, another path goes straight ahead via a gate (Medieval ridge and furrow sign on the gate). Follow the direction arrow through the wide hedge gap into the next field, and turn left (another direction arrow), with the hedge line to the left-hand side. Keep straight ahead, with hedge to the left, into the next field and after this, the path meets the concrete track that was walked near the start. Turn right on it and return to the car park. **David Barnes**

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



King's Coronation weekend 6-8 May



ONCE again we have a Royal celebration! If anyone is thinking of arranging a street party and needs some guidance, the editor of Sawston Scene wrote a very helpful piece for the Jubilee street parties last year. The article she wrote can be found at sawstonscene.org/how-to-organise-a-street-party/.

The deadline for street party road closure applications for the King's coronation weekend is Friday 10 March. **Helen Hale**

Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Film Evening – Saturday 11 March



THERE will be a Memorial Hall film evening with a showing of 'Elvis' on Saturday 11 March. Doors open at 7.30pm for an 8pm start with a break for supper of fish and chips.

Elvis is a 2022 biographical drama film directed by

Baz Luhrmann and follows the life of the American rock and roll singer and actor, Elvis Presley (Austin Butler), told from the perspective of his manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks). The film was a commercial success, grossing \$287.3 million worldwide on an \$85 million budget, as well as being the second highest grossing music biopic of all time behind *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018). Butler has already won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of Elvis as well as being nominated for an Oscar.



Tickets (£15 per person) will be available from Sarah Coppendale on 842498, coppendales@btinternet.com and Diana Haines on 841415 dianahaines42@icloud.com.

Please book by Wednesday 8 March so that sufficient food can be ordered. **Sarah Coppendale**

Little Shelford Pantomime

Jack(ie) and the Beanstalk review



THE directorial dream team of Dick Wallin and Heidi Meikle straightened the tabs, finessed the flats and cleared the apron ready for another week of panto mischief in Little Shelford.

The curtain rose on 2023 to see our eponymous hero(ine), played with thigh-slapping dynamism by Lucy Christelow, engaged in a chat show of her own devising – Jack and the Beans Talk. Libby Ahluwalia’s marvellous script deposited us right at the pun-ishing level the audience needed, and deserved.

Jackie, her brother Arthur (played by an excellent Alex Cousins, who was also a dab hand at guitar) and Jackie’s friend Reginald (a barnstorming performance of lovelorn winsomeness and understated comic timing by the delightful Rehan Fernando), conspired to keep the existence of a kleptomaniac giant living in the clouds from the local royalty, for fear of driving them to America. Reginald had his eyes firmly set on Princess Caroline (Alexa Bendelack with a ‘diamond’ performance in more ways than one), and the anticipation of Neil’s ‘Sweet Caroline’ hung in the air (like many of the sweets tossed to the audience) until the final scenes.

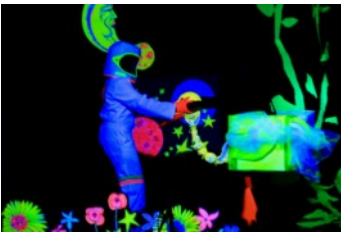


The giant, aptly named Hugh Mungus, partially in order to deliver Disney’s crowd pleaser *We Don’t Talk About Hugh No*, and partially because, in Charlie Fulton, it was a towering performance, had a rather more mercenary approach to his covetousness. His gremlins gleefully redistributed the wealth of the kingdom back into his pockets. Social satire bit early as the King and Queen (regally portrayed by Zosia Zmija and Rafa Wilkinson) bemoaned the rising cost of living and used their henchmen (a terrifying tattooed triumvirate of Bea White, Emi Munoz and Bella Seymour) to extract extra taxes from our motley collection of villagers, despite themselves having a goose who laid golden eggs (Imsy Butler-Burd doing her own version of quantitative easing every time one dropped). Special



mention to the farmers, the butcher with his disappearing sausages, the greengrocer, ice cream seller, town crier, postman, brewer, florist, and, in a surprising character twist for Jack and the Beanstalk, Worzel Gummidge and Aunt Sally (a straw-stuffed Anni Sainson and Scarlett Wilkinson).

It was up to our heroes to save the day, both romantically and anti-austerity-ly, and luckily they had help in the shape of Dame Dolly, Fairy Godmother and Cow Pat. Archie Meikle was a triumph, bestriding the stage in wig and heels and, once he'd made room in his palm by disposing of the magic beans, he soon refilled the gap by having the audience eating out of it - there truly was nothing like this Dame. Fairy Godmother Ellen Arthur moved the story along wand-erfully, and Phoebe Riordan was very a-moo-sing, channelling her inner Nessa from Gavin & Stacey, as the all-dancing, audience-milking cow from the



Valleys. Hugh Mungus and his wife (an excellent Sally Hudson) didn't stand a chance.

Once the magic beans had done what magic beans do, the audience marvelled at the bling in evidence festooned around the giant's kitchen, kept spick and span by his poor maids, Nellie and Ellie. An imperious Aga (built by Phil Chatwin over several weeks, the ultimate slow cooker) dominated the set and was used to great comic effect.

The fluorescent scene was out of this world, with a dayglow astronaut striding amongst the Millennium Falcon, butterflies, birds and galaxies, all assembled by Nikki Wilkinson and her luminaries.

Needless to say, mischief was overcome, scores were settled amicably, moral compasses reset, and all to the backdrop of tinkling ivories (a flurry of Greg Morris' fingers), raised singing voices (choruses A and B beautifully complementing the principals) and choreography ably en pointe under the watchful eyes of Cheryl Smythe and Emma Christelow. Frances Richardson's finessed flats were anything but, creating a vivid eye-popping backdrop, full of charm and chiaroscuro in equal effect. Charlotte Chatwin and her team sowed harmony in the wardrobe department, the make-up

was lavishly lacquered by Beckie Whitehouse and helpers to tiny faces, and props and scenery, marshalled by Steve Henry and his stagehands, were a constant source of delight. Sarah Coppendale brought a steady hand once more to organising the chaos.

Congratulations to all involved and roll on next year! **Pete Wilkinson**

A full list of Stapleford children (including some on the parish boundary up Hinton Way) who took part in the panto:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Lucy Christelow | - Jackie |
| Catrin and Ellen Arthurs | - Flora the florist and the Fairy Godmother |
| Alexa Bendelack | - Princess Caroline |
| Isobel Bispham | - chorus |
| Samantha Brown | - chorus |
| Juliette Hamid-Vigouroux | - the Town Crier |
| Ava Henry | - Harry Hawk |
| Sally Hudson | - Mrs Mungus |
| Ayela Jepps | - chorus |
| Emma Quinnell | - Jan Stewer |
| Francesca Walls | - Carrie the confectioner (did not take part in the performances due to illness) |
| Atticus Whitehouse | - Peter Davey |
| Anna Wood | - Grump, the Gremlin |
| George, Maddie and Izzy Young | - chorus, Grumble the Gremlin and Fiona the Fishmonger |
| Zosia Zmija | - King Caspar |



Photos by Louise Guron and Cheryl Smythe

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Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

Sparkle at this year's Star Shine Night Walk!



ARTHUR Rank Hospice Charity's flagship event Star Shine Night Walk is

back again! Join in and make the streets of Cambridge glow green on Saturday 13 May. The 10km fundraising walk has long held a special place in the local community's heart, with many returning year after year to walk in memory of loved ones. Starting and finishing at the Cambridge Rugby Union Football Club, in Grantchester Road, walkers can look forward to a celebratory and uplifting atmosphere during this accessible route around Cambridge. Registration opens in March at arhc.org.uk/ssnw - where you can also sign up to volunteer to make the iconic event a sparkling success.



Please donate unwanted toiletries for patients

It's the little homely touches that can mean so much for patients and their families cared for by Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. Each year supporters gift unwanted toiletries for people staying on the Inpatient Unit to use. If you have any unopened (unisex) toiletries such as deodorant, shower gel, soap, dental products etc they can be dropped off at the Hospice in Shelford Bottom between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Thank you in advance.

New drop off point for ink cartridges

Looking for somewhere to drop off your used printer ink cartridges? Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is now collecting these. Not only is it the green thing to do, each cartridge recycled raises funds for the Charity! Please drop them off at the main reception of the Hospice at Shelford Bottom anytime between 9am and 4pm, seven days a week. You could combine it with a morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea and homemade cake in the light and airy Bistro, which is open to all arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/the-bistro/

Award for nurse's 'exceptional care'



"Many thanks for your kind support and all you have done to make my life easier and more positive."

This is just one of many compliments from patients and their families for nurse Faith Macrow at Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. Faith received a Cavell Trust Star Award, which recognises nursing and healthcare staff nationally who show exceptional care to their colleagues, patients or patients' families. Faith has had several nursing roles at Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and is currently Life Celebration and Creative Activities Coordinator, encouraging patients to talk about their lives and leave something which celebrates life moments, for family or loved ones.

Clinical Nurse Specialist, Katie Williams, explains more about why Faith was nominated: "Faith has a breadth of experience. With wisdom and her quirky sense of humour, she builds rapport with patients, puts them at ease and helps them consider their care choices. She champions inclusivity, often working with patients who have multiple health issues, mental health difficulties or challenging personal circumstances. She is always very supportive of her colleagues."

Faith received the award during a team meeting and was keen to show it to the patients at the Living Well Service. She said: "I was so touched. I have learned so much from patients and families in every area of my work".

To sponsor a nurse please visit arhc.org.uk/sponsor-a-nurse or call 675888.

Become a shop volunteer

If you are looking to give back whilst learning new skills in the company of amazing people, then your local Arthur Rank Charity Shop or Retail Hub in Sawston would love to hear from you. Please see arhc.org.uk/volunteer.

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's chaplain retires



After ten years with Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, chaplain Revd. Keith Morrison has retired. Keith was ordained an Anglican priest in 2002 and previously worked as a chaplain in bereavement follow-up at Addenbrooke's Hospital before joining the Charity in February 2013.

He said: "It has been my privilege, along with my colleagues, to provide holistic care for our patients and their families, meeting their spiritual, psychological or social needs if they have them. We have a number of

volunteers whose support in this work has been invaluable. I have had many transformative conversations over the years with patients who have found the reassurance they needed and died a peaceful death as a consequence. For me that has brought the greatest fulfilment in my work. I have also been able to support some of their families at that time and also following the patient's death, perhaps conducting the funeral or offering bereavement support. I have visited patients in their homes, on their 'turf', which I find often helps a deeper conversation, and facilitated many discussion sessions (called 'Blether') in the Living Well Service, and even more times of reflection for those that want it."

Keith was instrumental in organising and leading the Charity's annual Light up a Life events every December. He added: "I have loved this work, but decided after ten years it was time to stop and for someone else to carry on. I hope and pray they find it as fulfilling as I have and that even more patients, families and staff find the comfort and support they need as a result. "

Help us reach our 300-team target for Chariots of Fire

One of Cambridgeshire's largest charity events, Chariots of Fire, takes place on Sunday 19 March. More than 260 teams have already signed up and there is still time to get involved and help us reach our 300-team target.

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is the event organiser, as HCR Hewitsons Charitable Trust's chosen partner. The event is set to raise £71,000 to help fund the expansion of their Charity shops. Donna Talbot, the Charity's Communications and Income Generation Director, said: "Each team is doing so much more than helping us to reach our ambitious fundraising target. They are ensuring we can generate money at the till of a new shop whilst doing something great for our environment by recycling pre-loved items, providing volunteering opportunities and creating new jobs. We're incredibly grateful to all those joining us on 19 March."

To enter a team, visit chariots-of-fire.co.uk before 5pm on 15 March. If you don't wish to enter, but would like to get involved, please come and watch the race and visit our pop-up shop, or visit the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's JustGiving page justgiving.com/campaign/chariotsoffire2023.

Reaching our destination

Do you travel by taxi? If you booked with Panther Taxis' app and paid by card last year there's a good chance you helped raise more than £26,000 for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity! Thank you to passengers and the Panther Taxis team who supported this Charity of the Year scheme. **Sarah Cawley** Mobile: 07787 835140; Direct line: 675898

Fretwork

Friday 10 March | 7:45pm

Music by William Byrd & Thomas Weelkes,
two of England's greatest composers performed
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Storytelling Sunday:

Curious about Peter & the Wolf?

Sunday 12 March | 10:30am & 12:00pm Age 6+

Kate Romano (Goldfield Productions)
narrates Prokofiev's much-loved musical tale with
shadow images to set the scene



Storytelling Sunday:

The Princess & the Pea

Sunday 19 March | 10:30am & 12:00pm Age 6+

A romantic tale of Princes, Princesses
& mushy peas told by Andy
Lawrence (Theatre of Widdershins)



Fara

Friday 24 March | 7:45pm

Music for 3 fiddles, vocals & piano
inspired by the wild Orkney
landscape from this award-winning folk band

Jonathan Aasgaard, cello & Ian Buckle, piano

Sunday 26 March | 12:00pm

Rachmaninov's blazing, dark & triumphant cello sonata
framed by an Epilogue and a Postlude by
Valentin Silvestrov



Library News



SPRING into some new reading at Great Shelford Library! Drop in to see what's new in our displays, ask staff for recommendations - or suggest your own favourite titles for us to share

with other readers.

March is Women's History Month, which includes International Women's Day, so we'll be highlighting some of our best titles by and about women around the world.

Looking for some good company or things to do? The library is a great place to meet up with people and try something new. Here's what's happening in the library this month:

Reading Group: Wednesday 8 March, 10.30am to 11.30am – please come into library to book your place. Alternatively get in contact via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Lego Club: Monday 20 March, 4.30pm to 5.30pm – free event, donations of £1 appreciated. No need to book, just come along. Parents and carers must stay with their children who remain their responsibility.

Engage Talk: Wednesday 22 March, 2pm to 3.30pm. Dip into Great Shelford's history with a talk by Helen Harwood. A donation of £2 is appreciated, and please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Festival of Stories: Bee Storytime: Thursday 2 March, 10am to 11am. For families of children aged 0 to 5. Please book via the Festival's Eventbrite page. For details please visit bit.ly/FestivalOfStories.

Are you a new arrival to the UK and Cambridgeshire, or do you know someone who is? Cambridgeshire Libraries website has a page with lots of useful information and support. Search for 'Libraries of Sanctuary – Cambridgeshire County Council' to find out about housing, internet access, learning English and more.

We now have the Cambridgeshire Guide to Independent Living 2023 in the library, so come and pick up a copy if this sounds useful for you. The library is a great place for anyone looking for information on all kinds of local services, events and activities – we'll be pleased to help you.

Mel Abbiss

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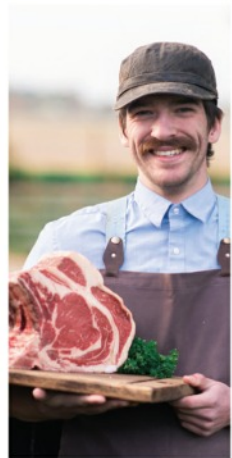
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Granta Medical Practices

Patient Survey

OUR Patient Participation Group (PPG) survey will go live 1 March, and will remain open until 31 March. Here is the web link and QR code to take part.

surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KP86J9B. For those of you that do not have access to a computer or mobile telephone, please call into any Granta surgery and pick up a paper copy.



We would like to thank all of you in advance for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, and thank you to our PPG committee who have worked tirelessly putting this survey together. Whilst we cannot guarantee to fix the NHS, we do really want to try and accommodate patient feedback where appropriate and possible. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact **Sandra East** on sandra.east@nhs.net.

Quiz answers

Cocktail hour

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Long Island Iced Tea | 6. Kir Royale |
| 2. Negroni | 7. Tequila Sunrise |
| 3. Whisky Sour | 8. Sex on the Beach |
| 4. Pina Colada | 9. Slippery Nipple |
| 5. Moulin Rouge | 10. Screaming Orgasm |

Puzzle Corner Answers

4 x 4

CANNON, NET, PIN, ZOE – can be followed by BALL
 BLUE, COW, LIBERTY, TINKER – can be followed by BELL
 BUFFALO, DOLLAR, KILL, PORTLAND – can be followed by BILL
 JOHN, PIT, RED, SITTING – can be followed by BULL

Anagrams

lump, among, carpet, oregano, embolden, technique, incinerate
 wool, video, ribbon, opening, pentagon, absurdity, sportswear



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Royal British Legion

Branch takes on huge area for veterans support



WE at the Sawston and Pampisford Branch of the Royal British Legion are about to embark on the largest task in its history. As well as covering Sawston, Pampisford, Stapleford and the Shelfords, we have been made responsible for Duxford and Whittlesford. This effectively doubles our current area both

for welfare work and collecting for the Poppy Appeal, which of course is our primary source of funds to carry out this work.

As you will realise, the responsibility falls on the shoulders of the Branch Committee and members; therefore we are in need of volunteers who can spare an hour or two from all areas, especially at Poppy Appeal time in October, to help make sure that our ex-servicemen and women have a standard of life that fits someone who has signed up to defend our country.

We also need to recruit new branch members from across the whole area, to be as representative as possible. Whilst being an ex-service organisation, born in 1921 from the need to support returned servicemen from the First World War, we have evolved into a more inclusive and diverse organisation. Membership is open to all, especially ex-servicemen and women of all ages who have served in all wars and conflicts since.

Currently we meet at Chaplefield Way Community Hall, off Link Road, Sawston on the last Wednesday of the month. Should anyone need to contact the Branch for further information, they can email me, Steve George on sprblsteve@gmail.com or 07738 936166.

Calls for welfare assistance should contact the Branch Community Support number, 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week, 0808 802808.

Steve George, Branch Chairman, Sawston & Pampisford Branch
The Royal British Legion. **Kevin Swann**

Lent Lunches

COME along between 12.15pm and 1.30pm on the following dates at these venues. Donations to charity.

Monday 27 February, Shelford Free Church, Ashen Green.

Friday 10 March, Johnson Hall, 1 Gog Magog Way, Stapleford.

Monday 27 March, Shelford Free Church, Ashen Green. **Mary Cooper**





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Cambridge Past Present and Future

Hopes that new cows will be a belting success

WANDLEBURY Country Park has just welcomed some new residents – a herd of eight Belted Galloway cattle. They have a distinctive black and white striped coat, a bit like a humbug sweet.

Ed Wombwell is the Estate Manager of Cambridge Past, Present & Future, the local charity which owns Wandlebury Country Park, and he is delighted with the new arrivals: “We have some beautiful wildflower meadows in the park and the cows help to keep the grasses down, which benefits the flowers. So grazing these cows will help to increase the amount of nature in the park. We don’t have any barns, so our animals are outside all year, which is why we have chosen this hardy Scottish breed. They are also really attractive animals, and we hope that visitors to the park will enjoy seeing them.”

For more information about Cambridge Past, Present & Future: cambridgeppf.org. Contact Rachel French to arrange a visit: email development@cambridgeppf.org. For more information about Wandlebury Country Park: cambridgeppf.org/Pages/Category/wandlebury-country-park. **Lena Payne 243830, accounts@cambridgeppf.org**.





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Three painters, one sculptor

Kate Romano, CEO of Stapleford Granary, writes about the Granary's new exhibition



THERE'S a moment when art starts arriving at the Granary for an exhibition, where I tentatively peel back the bubble wrap and take a peek - sometimes for the first time - at the real version of the small digital images I've been viewing, and I think... *oh, this is going to be nice.*

That was the case when 48 new artworks by four artists arrived at the Granary last week, carefully selected by our friend and colleague Alan Kluckow (who also curated *Five Contemporary British Artists* for us last year). Our small team of exhibition-hangers, led by Alan, lay them out along the floor in different spaces in the Granary, testing out various combinations until patterns, rhythms and phrases start to emerge. As a musician, this is the language I think in; it's the same vocabulary for a different medium. And whilst I love looking at the individual pictures, it's the unique relationship between them and between the art and the viewer that interests me most.

Our current exhibition showcases the work of three painters and one sculptor. At first glance, their work couldn't be more different from one another, but as the exhibition took shape, common themes of light, landscape and nature began to surface.

Ian Turnock's sculptures are inspired by patterns formed by trees against the sky and the empty spaces left between leaves and branches. His silhouettes are cut digitally into large circular discs of steel, aluminium and copper, compressing the subject matter into a flat two-dimensional form. Whilst suggestive of looking upwards into trees, they also make me think of looking down through a microscope at a cross section of something cellular and botanical, blown up into life-size proportions.



Susan Laughton's landscapes, in contrast, reveal the world as if seen through a half-glimpsed mist or from the windows of a train. Barely-there outlines of farm buildings, trees, rooftops and power lines are subsumed in cool early-morning tones, lending an ethereal quality and a delicacy to their

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everyday functionality and solidity. I like to walk past them, experiencing the same fleeting encounter that was the starting point for her art.

Philip Maltman describes his area of artistic interest as '*the aftermath of human intervention in nature*'. His vivid flowers suggest the wild and untouched. The addition of his spidery and graffiti-like handwriting on the paintings makes me think of urban wastelands where nature finds a way to co-exist - poignantly, assertively, stoically - alongside man-made structures.

Tom Benjamin's landscapes are painted swiftly outdoors as the light changes, capturing a moment of sun on water, dappled shade on trees or dusk over the city. Perhaps it's this familiar sense of light slippage which makes it easy to place myself in the landscapes, smelling the sea, feeling the wind, tasting the salt, before the moment has gone.

And all this is set against the soft yellowing brick walls of the Granary, the vernacular forms of this historical building and the continually shifting light, shadows and reflections. Alan has grouped the paintings and sculptures in small ensembles, subtly making connections between colours, textures and materials. They flow through the building like a set of variations on a theme, calmly and quietly offering an invitation to see the world around us in different ways.



Thee Painters, One Sculptor 3 February - 16 April

Find out more (including opening times): staplefordgranary.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions-overview.

Free admission. With thanks to Alan Kluckow: kluckow.com.



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Parish Council Chair's report

VARIOUS Parish Council matters are discussed elsewhere in this edition of the *Messenger* so the Chair's report on the Parish Council meeting in February will be brief.

The Parish Council is seeking permission from South Cambs District Council (SCDC) to reduce its number of councillors from 11 to 9, reflecting problems with filling vacancies and being quorate. Councillors' allocation of duties was discussed. Support for environmental projects and initiatives is needed and we encourage residents to contact the Clerk if they are interested in finding out more about becoming a councillor or supporting its work.

Plans to apply for a 20mph speed limit along Haverhill Road and Bury Road were discussed now that we are approaching the application period for this. A proposal will be presented to the Stapleford Parish Council (SPC) meeting in March. SPC has also met with a Cambridge County Council Highways Officer and understands that the more serious of our potholes should be filled by roughly mid-February, with a focus on Church Street and Gog Magog Way. Car parking and obstruction concerns were raised. Vehicles are routinely parking near the entrance to the Granary and at the junction of Bar Lane and Bury Road. SPC has no jurisdiction in this area. Residents are urged to report issues directly to the Police.

Planning applications

These were considered and objections raised re:

23/00258/HFUL, 41 Priam's Way Stapleford

Part single storey, part two storey side/rear extensions (Resubmission of 22/03909/HFUL). Objection: overdevelopment; impact on the street scene; coalescence; multiple roof lines incompatible with street scene; detrimental impact on character of development; inappropriate design.

Other planning applications were approved, albeit with conditions.

Meeting minutes are available at

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/document-category/documents/council-meetings/minutes/. **Jenny Flynn** Vice-Chair, Stapleford Parish Council

Neighbourhood plan

Building the evidence base

BACK in January, I wrote about one of the main sources of evidence upon which any Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is based: the Landscape Character



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features – such as hedgerows, field shapes, woodland, land use, patterns of settlements and dwellings – that make each type of landscape distinctive and often special to those who live and work in it. These qualities and characteristics can be protected and potentially also enhanced by planning policies created as part of the NP process.

I'm pleased to say that draft versions of two other major contributors to our evidence base also now exist: a Housing Needs Assessment and a Design Guide.

Housing Needs Assessment

The number of homes needed for our area is set at a strategic level by the Local Plan Authority. It is perfectly permissible for NPs to recommend that more housing is needed than that identified by the LPA and even to allocate specific sites for housing. However, *this is not something which our NP can do*: (a) we do not have any brownfield sites within the existing village envelope to accommodate development, and (b) the villages are surrounded by greenbelt and NPs are not permitted to allocate land in the greenbelt because this is contrary to existing strategic planning policy.

That said, 'housing need' encompasses far more than just the number of houses. NPs must also understand the specific housing requirements of their area, including the type, size and tenure of housing, and demand for affordable and specialist housing. To do this, NP housing policies are normally underpinned by a detailed Housing Needs Assessment, which draws upon extensive secondary data from a wide range of sources. Stapleford and Great Shelford's NP steering group has just received the first draft of its Housing Needs Assessment, completed for us by government contractor AECOM and grant funded. It's a very interesting read for data nerds!

Design Guide

In addition to specifying what kind of housing our area needs, our NP can also influence what that housing will look like. We know from our initial public survey in 2022 that this is something which is important to residents. Many people told us, for example, that new builds should be sympathetic to the rural vernacular and that they should incorporate progressive clean and green technologies.

To ensure that new housing is appropriately designed, many NPs commission a Design Guide and we have done the same. Our Design Guide looks at how buildings, streets, spaces, landscape and materials combine to create specific areas within our villages with distinctive identities and characteristics, and sets out how new developments should enhance rather

than detract from them. It achieves a pretty granular level of detail. Here, for example, is a graphic relating to traditional boundary treatments:

A Design Guide was commissioned in 2019 by an earlier iteration of the NP steering group and is accessible via staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning/. Please note that



independent of the NP this document has no statutory role in planning decisions and is in the process of being updated, with an expected delivery date any day now.

Next steps

By the time I write my next update, the steering group will have firmed up the vision and objectives for Stapleford and Great Shelford's NP. We will also have been busy planning a second period of community engagement during which we will be inviting comments on our plans and sharing some of our evidence base. Materials and feedback channels will be available online and pop-up events in Great Shelford and Stapleford are being scheduled. **Jenny Flynn**, Vice-Chair Stapleford Parish Council; Chair of Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group

Rangeford's development plans

The District Council issues its verdict

ON 8 February, South Cambridgeshire District Council's (SCDC) Planning Committee met to debate Rangeford's 'reserved matters application' for a retirement care village and countryside park on land between Haverhill Road and Hinton Way. Readers will likely be familiar with this large-scale planning application on greenbelt in Stapleford, the principle of which was, against the wishes of SCDC and the Parish Council, approved on appeal by the Planning Inspector in January 2022.

SCDC unanimously approved the reserved matters, and development will now shortly commence. Whilst we gain a new countryside park (with no dedicated parking provision), we also gain 147 residential units, 139 parking spaces (for retirement village residents, staff and visitors only) and a massive central pavilion visible from Magog Down. But according to the Planning Inspector and now also SCDC, the benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

Note that the countryside park will now be brought forward in two stages, with the part (approximately 25% of it) which could end up being

taken out by the CSET busway (pending a successful TWAO application) being deferred until 2026 to avoid abortive work.

And just in case anyone was thinking that the community might at least gain access to a new swimming pool, this opportunity – if it materialises at all – will, like Rangeford’s other wellness facilities, only be open to over 55s.

The wheel of democracy turns slowly...

The planning process for such a large development proposal invariably takes an awfully long time. Over the past two years, the Parish Council has responded in full to the outline planning application and reserved matters application; provided information for parishioners wishing to submit their own comments to the planning process; met with Rangeford’s operators and architect on multiple occasions; and sought advice from and shared opinions with our District Councillors. The final step in the process was a three-minute speech (this is all that is permitted) by myself to the Planning Committee before it made its decision. This speech is reproduced below. You can view all relevant documentation at staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/planning/.

As your Parish Council, we have a statutory role to respond to planning applications for our area and to represent residents’ views, and like many Stapleford residents we love and value our greenbelt location. This doesn’t mean that we are anti-development but our rural setting, separate from Greater Cambridge, is essential to our village identity and character. So, it is pretty galling when this kind of application is approved against the wishes of much of the community. But we regroup and we carry on.

We always need more councillors to help with our work and (honestly!) most of our time is actually spent doing positive things for and around the village, not objecting to planning applications. If you’d like to know more and can give a few hours a month to your community, please contact our clerk, Belinda, at clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk and we can arrange a coffee and a chat.

Speech made to the Planning Committee

“You know that the Parish Council objects to *many* aspects of the reserved matters application. Today, I’ll focus on just three issues:

1. the pavilion
2. parking
3. conditions of approval.

Pavilion

“We’ve described Rangeford’s pavilion as akin to a retail supermarket, with its full height glazing, box-like design and extensive flat roof. It has *no*

design references to *any* building in Stapleford. It'll be highly visible from Magog Down. It'll be a contemporary and exposed eyesore in a rural setting. At the very least, removing the first floor to make way for a more traditional pitched roof is essential.

"We're not alone in finding the pavilion incongruous. The Design Review Panel described it as 'a huge building that requires reconsideration', as 'not of sufficiently high-quality design', and recommends that an open courtyard or farmstead style would be more appropriate and resolve other problems with sustainability, character and community.

"We're disappointed that Rangeford hasn't listened to us or to the Design Review Panel. I'm asking you to look very carefully at *all* of the Design Review Panel's recommendations and act upon them.

Parking

"Because the Council's development plan has no directly applicable parking standards, there is a real danger that on-site parking for care village staff, residents and visitors will be wholly inadequate.

"The number of available spaces is at odds with Rangeford's own Travel Plan, does not reflect our poor rural travel network or the unsuitability of our surfaces for mobility scooters, or indeed the role of car ownership in supporting older people's independence. The dispersal of cars to Stapleford's narrow, residential streets is an unacceptable solution to a lack of on-site car parking.

"Looking at the enormous popularity of Magog Down and Wandlebury, we are also bewildered that the new countryside park doesn't merit any dedicated parking. You *cannot* assume that it will mainly attract non-motorised users. Magog Down has around 60,000 visitors annually, many of whom will be very keen to make use of the new space. Where will they park? The Down carpark is often full and too far for some people to walk from there to the new countryside park and back again, with the upshot that on-street parking will jeopardise safety and ruin the tranquillity of Stapleford's roads.

Conditions

"If the Planning Committee is minded to approve the application, we ask that:

1. the pavilion is completely redesigned as a series of related buildings, all with pitched roofs
2. a safeguarding condition is applied to ensure that no overspill parking is permitted in residential streets in Stapleford or Haverhill Road

3. active travel routes are adopted as public rights of way to ensure permanent public access
4. HGV and other construction traffic should only access the site via the A1307 to Haverhill Road.

Summary

“So, to summarise: if you’re going to build something big on greenbelt land, create a new gateway to an established village, foreshorten significant views to and from Magog Down, and create somewhere people can live and be cared for in their last years, then what you build needs to be *really special*. And this plan is *not* good enough.”

Addendum

Anyone wishing to view the 277 documents pertaining to Rangeford’s reserved matters application can do so by typing 22/04303/REM into the search box at applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/.

The Design Review Panel’s comments can be accessed via the Planning Committee’s meeting agenda, which is currently available at scams.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=9585&x=1.

Cllr Jenny Flynn

Stapleford Twinning Association

French Reconnection!



AFTER three years with no exchange visits due to the pandemic, we are pleased to announce that these important activities, which have been sorely missed, will resume this year! During the weekend of 26 to 29 May we will be entertaining a group of families from Villedômer. The programme for the visit is currently being developed but will likely include a visit to London and a progressive meal around Stapleford. If you are interested in hosting one of the visiting families and providing them with accommodation during their stay, please contact us via our website, see below.

We’re also planning an exciting range of other events for 2023 including a London walk on 22 April. To keep up-to-date on these and the forthcoming exchange visit please visit: twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk. For specific information on the London walk please contact either Tony Hore (843796) or Tony Smith (843379). **Tim Jessop**

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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