

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

April 2023

Volume 82 No 4

Price 90p

The Holy Land



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Francis Bostrom's pilgrimage. See page 34**

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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

Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 264246

Director of Music

John Bryden 07803 706847

PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Vergor

Clare Kerr 842984

Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Friends of St Andrew's

Tony Hore 843796

Gift Aid secretary

Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

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

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish vicar.

Stapleford MESSENGER

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

LET'S start with something probably very bad for us but utterly delicious: Ben & Jerry's ice cream. My girth speaks to a degree of expertise here. Thoroughly recommended. For chocolate ice cream, Häagen Dazs is better, but B & J's is an excellent company, and not just, as it happens, because of their ice cream. What was spot on was what B & J's had to say about the Government's latest immigration bill (which the Parliamentary draftsmen, who write legislation, have – surely with tongue in cheek – named the 'Illegal Migration Bill').

You might well ask why B & J's has anything to say on the matter and why we should be remotely interested. I suppose that if we are meant to be interested in what a football presenter has to say – and we obviously are, as the BBC news broadcasts led for a whole day on Lineker's views, not on the substance of the legislation – then we might as well also be interested in what a 40-year-old international corporation with a seriously good track record on its social responsibilities and brand integrity has to say.

So here is what B & J's said: "The UK Government is trying to rip up the human rights of some of the most vulnerable people in society, it has made it almost impossible for asylum seekers to reach the UK via any safe method of travel, the Syrian resettlement scheme is closed, the lone refugee children scheme is closed, there is no refugee visa, just 22 Afghans have been brought to the UK under the government's much touted flagship scheme, and it certainly is possible, as other countries have amply demonstrated, to have a fair system that admits applicants, assesses their claims quickly and fairly, and welcomes those genuinely in need". Ben & Jerry's ice cream hits the target. And so do their views on this miserable legislation. And it really is miserable. Two points struck me.

Firstly, did you know that the Human Rights Act 1998 requires all proposed legislation to be scrutinised for compliance with its provisions? Then the minister proposing the legislation has to certify whether or not the legislation is human rights compliant. So, for example, does the proposed legislation comply with the requirement for all civil rights and obligations, or any criminal charge, to be determined at 'a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law'? That is a pretty basic right isn't it?

Now the Home Secretary has certified that the Illegal Migration Bill does not comply with our basic human rights, but the Government wants Parliament to enact it anyway. That is pretty startling in itself, but why does it not comply? One reason is that there will be no way for those who arrive

by boat to apply for asylum in the UK, and no hearings to determine the rights of those asylum seekers. The Government's own figures show that at present upwards of 80% of those arriving by boat are granted refugee status, in other words that there are found to be genuine reasons in law for the UK to give them protection. Not any more. Take the case of someone arriving who has a legitimate claim to asylum, real reasons, say, to fear persecution, torture or death in their own country. Under this legislation, those arriving by boat are to be deprived of any means of having their rights determined.

Secondly, if you arrive in a small boat, remember that the Government's basic premise is that you have been exploited, trafficked by smuggling gangs to one degree or another. That being so, these people need our protection from exploitation, right? Not according to this Bill. The protections that the rest of us enjoy against being made slaves – the Modern Slavery Act 2015 – will not apply to those arriving in this way. “When was slavery made lawful again in the United Kingdom, grandpa?” “In 2023, my child.” That is the effect of the proposed legislation. Those who get in and evade Braverman's clutches can be enslaved without any legal protection. When our grandchildren ask “Did you support the return of slavery?” what will we say?

And it won't only be our grandchildren asking. In my job as vicar I speak to many people who tell me that they are not Christians but do admire the teaching of Jesus. Well so do I. So here is something Jesus taught.

When Jesus returns he will be like a king on a throne, and he will separate people just as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will say to those on his right “You are blessed. Receive your inheritance. Come into my kingdom. For I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Those on his right ask him “When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in?” And Jesus, the king, replies “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me.”

Then Jesus turns to those on his left. He says “I was a stranger and you did not invite me in.” They protest: “When did we see you, a stranger, and not invite you in?” “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answers “whatever you did not do for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did not do for me. Depart from me, you who are cursed, into eternal fire.”

It is Easter. If I was a good little vicar I would be writing about daffodils and the cherry plum blossom in the churchyard hedge, and light after darkness, resurrection, love and all that stuff. Take all that as read. All I have to say is this: you are loved, immeasurably, by Jesus who is ruler over all, who loves each and every person arriving destitute on our shores. How we treat them matters. And it matters to him. **Every blessing to you all, Simon**

St Andrew's Noticeboard

- 2 APR 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM CW & FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION FOR
 PALM SUNDAY
- 3, 4, 5 APR 8.30 PM COMPLINE
- 6 APR 7 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION
- 7 APR 12 NOON AN HOUR AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
- 8 APR 8 PM EASTER VIGIL SERVICE
- 9 APR 6.30 AM MAGOG DOWN SERVICE
 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM EASTER DAY ALL AGE COMMUNION IN THE
 CHURCHYARD
 Matthew 28.1-10
 He is risen
- 16 APR 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP
 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.11-18
 I have seen the Lord
 10.30 AM MESSY FOREST CHURCH
- 23 APR 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM ALL TOGETHER @ ST ANDREW'S WITH
 BAPTISM
 Luke 24.13-35
 The road to Emmaus
- 30 APR 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP
 1 Peter 2.2-10; John 20.19-27
 My Lord and my God!

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

12 FEBRUARY: Baptism of Jesse Atkin
 22 FEBRUARY: Burial of Ashes of Josephine Scofield

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Rummaging

IT has taken hours of determination and patience to complete a jigsaw. The busy London street scene includes three red double-decker buses, a black cab, telephone box and Big Ben proving personally nostalgic. Strangely people are absent, providing more work for the imagination. Rummaging through the box finding pieces to lock together correctly was like being a detective. If placed in error then certain sections would not fit, imitating life. Planning, plotting, predicting; meeting goals. Get it wrong and it is necessary to try again. Perseverance required, forgiveness when a piece is lost.

When did you last say, "Where is it?" Hunting high and low, returning again and again to the expected site declaring, "How ridiculous. It cannot be lost!" Lo and behold, the item appears as if taunting us or a considerable time later peeping out from an unlikely spot. Delving and foraging is inevitable. "Where can you be? I know where I left you." Frustration. Drawers, cupboards, shelves searched. Scrabbling surprises. Ransack and consequent mess rewarded. Although sometimes the item remains elusive, like odd socks and teaspoons, we play the blame game. "I really should know where I put it." Hope leads to doubt. Unearthing past treasure gives some consolation. A childhood book, toy, a partner to a single earring, cards with messages from friends and family, photographs, receipts from special locations, ribbon, a plywood mini aeroplane awaiting construction, a once useful screwdriver, shells and sea-smoothed stones. Happily retrieved; memories triggered from somewhat simple humble finds. How much do we need?

Moving made us examine our 'heaps'. An opportunity to sift and shift. On arriving in Cambridge we lived in a caravan with few belongings, however our two guinea pigs had luxury accommodation. The many boxes delivered later to our house felt embarrassing although I am convinced some were lost en route! 'Less was certainly more.'

When memories are few or almost impossible, communication is challenging. Time, energy, kindness, comfort, the warmth of a smile work wonders. Light and colour, contentment in shadows. No rummaging necessary. Pre-loved delights highlight past pleasures stimulating response, song and music. Being together caring and sharing costs nothing and is readily accessible. In this reflective time of Lent cleaning, clearing, cleansing is considered helpful. Observing will free us to Listen, Encourage, Nourish and Talk. **Judith Lee**

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Palm Sunday 2 April

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10.30 am Palm Sunday Communion with Passion readings
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Holy Week

Travel through Holy Week as we approach the cross

3, 4 & 5 April 8.30 pm Compline

6 April 7 pm Maundy Thursday Communion

7 April 12 noon Good Friday Service 'at the foot of the cross'

8 pm 8 April Holy Saturday Vigil Service

Easter Day

He is risen! Come and celebrate

6.30 am Magog Down Service

9 am Traditional Communion

10.30 am All Age Communion



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Mothers' Union News



THE Branch has two events in April: the first one is the Branch Spring Coffee Morning on 20 April at Mary Cooper's house, 15 Duke's Meadow, 10.30 to noon – open to all. The usual coffee, cake and good fellowship!

On 27 April the Branch is hosting other Branches from Granta Deanery at 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall. There will be a speaker from the Aviation Fellowship, a raffle and a Bring & Buy stall so it should be a good time to renew our contacts across the Deanery – opportunities have been few over the past three years. Easter Blessings. **Hilary Street**

Traidcraft and Transform Trade

VERY sadly, after 40 years pioneering and championing the cause of trade justice, and being key in setting up the **Fairtrade Foundation**, Traidcraft PLC went into administration in January and is no longer trading. They wrote: *"We would like to thank all of our customers and Fairtraders for your support and for partnering with us in our mission to combat trade poverty. We are working hard to rescue at least some parts of the business so please do check our website for news."*

Immense thanks to all at St Andrew's and in the village for around 30 years of generous support e.g. £5,000 of goods were bought from 2020 to 2022 in lockdown years.

In the meantime, do support our wonderful suppliers; their websites are below:

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Come and Sing Messiah

WHAT a fantastic experience to park outside the Stapleford church and hear the resounding chorus coming from within. Creeping inside, as we were latecomers and really only there as a taxi, but oh so glad to have been asked! The soloists were so professional and we thoroughly enjoyed everything we saw and heard. So sad more weren't there to share in it! Not forgetting the tasty cake and wine in the interval. Thank you to all involved. Can't wait till the next one! **Sue Pepper**, Helen Wardell's carer.



Yesteryear

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

1827

SALE. Stapleford Lodge. Most Beautiful Cottage Ornee. The House is recently substantially erected and contains good Dining and Drawing-rooms, kitchen Cellar and several Bed-rooms. One of the Sitting-rooms is connected with the Conservatory, which is abundantly stocked with superior vines. The out-buildings are well arranged and consist of Chaise-house, Stable, Granary, etc. Excellent Garden, the wall clothed with choice trees, separated from the Plantation in the front of the house. The whole stands on nearly 1½ acre, the situation is most delightfully picturesque, the roads and the neighbourhood excellent.

1859

SOCIETY. For the propagation of the Gospel. On Sunday last, two sermons on behalf of this Society were preached in the parish church by the Rev. W. Emery, B.D., Senior Fellow and Tutor of Corpus Christ College, Cambridge, and the sum of £5 5s was contributed.

1899

THE PARISH CHURCH. The Rev. Carter Browne, D.D., who accepted the duties of minister of the parish, pending the appointment of a fresh incumbent, preached his farewell sermon on Sunday to a crowded congregation. Whilst rendering a very explanatory and pathetic address, the Rev. Doctor was frequently visibly affected and many were moved to tears. During his short stay, by his earnest preaching and attention in the parish, Dr. Browne had made himself deservedly popular.

1904

THE CHURCH. The festival of Easter was well observed in this parish. On Easter Day the church presented a very pretty appearance, the ladies of the parish having spent much time and trouble decorating this beautiful edifice. Splendid plants, lent by Mr Linton, Stapleford House, adorned the chancel. The services were all well attended and the singing, which included the anthem "They have taken away My Lord" was capitally rendered by the choir. Mr Lander ably presided at the organ.

1908

"The Clerk reported that much inconvenience had been caused owing to the fact that Mr Coote, being unable to dig graves, had asked the Council if

they would appoint a grave-digger. Mr JHH Linton proposed and Mr Giddings seconded, that Mr Wm Cox be asked to act as grave-digger, if he accepts the office he to be forthwith appointed." (From the Parish Council Minutes)

1935

THE VICARS OF STAPLEFORD. Through the kindness of Mr C Kerridge an oak tablet has been placed on the north wall of the nave of the parish Church, with the names of the vicars of Stapleford from the year 1230. This kindly act of Mr Kerridge (a well-known Cambridge builder and an esteemed resident of Stapleford) is very much appreciated in the village as also is the public seat on Church Green, presented by him for the parishioners some time ago.

1941

"... that the Clerk write to the Sec. War Agricultural Committee calling that bodies attention to the uncultivated condition of Priam's Close later John Whites garden and part of Stapleford House garden owned by Mr Boyton. This arose from the receipt of a letter from Sir Wm. Spens re the necessity for cultivating all waste ground. (Carried)" (From the Parish Council Minutes)

1942

AN ENTRPRISING LITTLE BOY. David Holland, six-year-old son of Mrs Holland of Bury Farm Stapleford collected £2 4s.0d for the Warship Week effort by running a guessing competition He took his model yacht round the village for people to guess its name, HMS Effort. No-one guessed it.

Cambridge Flower Club

WE meet at the Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford, on the third Thursday evening of each month. Refreshments from 6.45pm, demonstration at 7.15pm. New members welcome! Visitors pay £8.

20 April - Coronation-themed flower arrangement workshop - 'The Orb'

18 May - NAFAS Demonstrator Daphne Grant - 'Forgotten Treasures'

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





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Stapleford WI



DURING the year members are invited to enter competitions at our regular meetings held on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Pavilion. At our last meeting the Craft Cup was due to be awarded, and the criterion this time was that any submitted item should be made from reused/recycled materials. There were several excellent entries which revealed the extent to which recycling or reuse can take place together with the creative skill of our members. I had not realised that even knitting yarn can be manufactured using recycled plastic and acrylic.

Our guest speaker, Debbie Burton, had the task of selecting a winner, and the item chosen was a handsome teddy bear made by Gillian Pett, using a fleece jacket which had been worn by her late husband, Nick (see photo right).



Following the business section of our meeting, in keeping with our craft theme Debbie Burton then spoke to us about fused glass. Her initial interest had started when on holiday in Cornwall, when she saw examples of fused glass products. First a book was bought, followed by a small kiln and before long Debbie was producing and experimenting with fused glass items herself. Debbie's enthusiasm, skill and knowledge grew and she now runs workshops in Pampisford. She has also had to invest in yet another larger kiln. As this requires heating to 800 degrees centigrade it is only switched on when full, due to the current energy costs. There were lots of pieces of beautifully coloured glass ornaments, jewellery and stones to view and a very enjoyable talk and demonstration concluded our February meeting.

If you would like any further information please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847. Also see staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson**



Looking for a local venue?

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

For details please contact **Gillian Sanders:**

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

2G3S

HOW lovely that Spring is here, the daffodils are flowering and the birds are nesting!

Events coming up

Dr Bike volunteers continue to mend cycles at the Slaughterhouse in Stapleford every Thursday afternoon, 3pm to 5.30pm.



Social cycle ride

Monday 17 April. Join us for a leisurely ride on quiet roads and traffic-free paths of around 20 miles, to include a coffee stop. Start at 10am at Stapleford Pavilion, returning by about 1pm. Next date 15 May. Booking essential, at greener@sawston.org.

Nature Walk

Saturday 22 April. Join John O'Boyle for an informal nature walk along Jenny's path towards Hauxton, meeting at 2pm by the signposted entrance gate on Church Street, Great Shelford, opposite the junction with King's Mill Lane. We hope you can get to the walk by foot or by cycle as nearby car parking is restricted. Wear suitable footwear and clothing, and walks are at attendees' own risk. Next walk date is 20 May, at Little Shelford Community Orchard and Woodland. Come and see the nature on your doorstep!

Repair Café

Also on Saturday 22 April, 2pm to 4.30pm. Whittlesford is holding a repair café at the United Reformed Church, Duxford Road. Whittlesford. Bring along your broken item and a skilled volunteer will help you fix it. They can tackle a wide variety of repairs, typically including clothes and fabrics, electrical items, jewellery and other items. They may be able to accept some items on the day, but please note that for electrical repairs in particular you need to book in advance. (Please note that they will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets). Details of the event and how to book an item for repair will be issued on the Cambridge Carbon Footprint website, and on the 2G3S website. Not only will you save the cost of a new item, you will be reducing the mountains of landfill we create every year.

Book Club

Our next book club meeting is in the Rose at 8pm, on Thursday 25 May, discussing 'Forget Me Not' by Sophie Pavelle. Come along if you are interested, or read the book independently if you prefer. It is an amusing

account of her journey round the UK, travelling by an assortment of low-carbon transport options, to search out animals threatened by climate change.

How to reach a nature-friendly future with Philip Lymbery

If you are interested in the future of farming and food that is sustainable, the subject of the book by George Monbiot's book 'Regenesi's' which the 2G3S book club discussed in February, you may be interested in this event. It will be on Wednesday 26 April from 7.30pm to 8.45pm at Jesus College. It will be a hybrid event, and you can find out more and book on eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-reach-a-nature-friendly-future-with-philip-lymbery-tickets-525770572937. Philip Lymbery is the Global CEO of farm animal welfare charity, Compassion in World Farming International, also Visiting Professor at the University of Winchester's Centre for Animal Welfare, President of Eurogroup for Animals, Brussels, and founding Board member of the World Federation for Animals.

The Big One

When asked about Extinction Rebellion (XR), many people have said they support the cause but did not agree with disrupting "ordinary people's lives". You may have heard that XR has now decided to change tactics away from disruptive protests and towards a peaceful and community-building approach. XR is inviting individuals and organisations of all kinds throughout the UK to join them in a peaceful mass protest in Westminster in London between 21 and 24 April, to put pressure on the government to do more to address the climate emergency. We can't solve the climate crisis by just individual action, the Government needs to step up and make green changes happen in all walks of life. If you feel you should do your bit, find out more at extinctionrebellion.uk/the-big-one/. 2G3S members will be going so do get in touch if you are interested.

No Mow May and Bloomin' June

If you have a lawn and wish to help our wildlife this summer, consider giving the lawn mower a rest to allow wildflowers to develop during May, then let it 'bloom in June'. You may be surprised at the number of nectar-producing plants that appear, such as orchids, to the benefit of bees which are important pollinators for our food plants.



The Plantlife charity initiated the 'No Mow May' scheme and their website gives more details, including the improvements to biodiversity. Note it's

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important to remove the cuttings after the flowering season so a thatch does not build up to suppress more delicate plants. Also to make the area look tidy, keep a neat edge around the site by conventional mowing, or maybe mow a path through? Look up No Mow May on the internet, or to find more about biodiversity gains in detail look at plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/no-mow-may-how-to-get-ten-times-more-bees-on-your-lockdown-lawn. Send in to our email address any photos of the wildflowers and butterflies you see, and we can put them on our website.

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

Stapleford Twinning Association

Join us on our London walk - learn about some hidden gems!



OUR Social Sub-Committee has arranged a guided walk in London on Saturday 22 April for both members and villagers. It will start near the Tower of London and meander through the narrow lanes and alleyways to Fleet Street, stopping for lunch, at your own expense, around St Paul's, discovering some interesting hidden facts along the way. You will make your own way there by train to Liverpool Street and then on to Tower Hill by Tube.

If you wish to have a comfort break and/or refreshments before setting off, these can be found in the Liberty Bounds pub where the walk will commence. The maximum number that we can sensibly manage is approximately 25.

The cost of a one-day travel card to include the underground is £28.50. If you travel as a group of three or more, then the cost comes down to £19. When purchasing your ticket make sure that you choose Cambridge as your starting point as bizarrely it is more expensive to go from Shelford.

If you need more information, then please contact either Tony Hore (843796 or 07774 136027) or Tony Smith (843379). To book a place, please contact Tony Hore by phone or by e-mail on smokytone@aol.com.

For details about our association, visit twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk.

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Messenger Marketplace

JUST to remind readers that we accept small ads from villagers who want to sell, lend (free of charge), 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. Please send your ads into the magazine at staplefordmessenger@gmail.com, with the words 'Messenger Marketplace' in the subject heading. The format should be as in this example:

FOR SALE. Table, pine, 120cm by 90cm. £40. Name, phone number or email address.

Terms and Conditions can be found on the St Andrew's Church website standrewstapleford.org/Groups/339086/Stapleford_Messenger.aspx

Messenger Team

Village Spring Clean

VOLUNTEERS needed on **Monday 8 May** for a village spring clean!

Please contact me if you are able to offer help with:

- Litter picking
- Sweeping out the bus shelter
- Painting the phone box (we have the paint)
- Cutting back the hedge in Vicarage Lane near the school (being careful we don't upset any nesting birds)
- And anything else!

Thank you in advance for helping our village to look more beautiful!

Gillian Pett, gpett@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Little Shelford Local History Society

Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Monday 24 April

AGM at 7.30pm

followed by Edward Keene

'The history of the Coronation Service'

All welcome

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Puzzle Corner

Y not and Y (2)

Find the answers to each pair of clues

Putting a letter Y at the end of the first answer gives the second answer

e.g. circle/mad (4/5)

LOOP/LOOPY

Group 1

lettuce/comfortable (3,4)

...Kimber (first Bake Off winner)/current (3,4)

island/lots (3,4)

apply pressure to/40th anniversary (3,4)

undergarment/heehaw (3,4)

Group 2

centre of dartboard/intimidate (4,5)

e.g. guacamole and salsa/Teletubby (4,5)

criticism/eccentric (4,5)

satellite/Lupin's nickname (4,5)

southern hemisphere currency/amorous (4,5)

Group 3

a number/a number ten times its size (5,6)

Jack?/the Snowman? (5,6)

Vauxhall car/into error (5,6)

Gordon Sumner (musician)/mean (5,6)

preceding/monastery (5,6)

Set by Hermes - Answers on page 37

Spring at Wandlebury

Meet the Cows

WEDNESDAY 12 April, 10.30am to 11.30am.

Gentle guided walk to meet the Highland and Belted Galloway cows and learn how they improve our meadows for nature. Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors.



Meet at the large noticeboard in the car park. Free event, suggested donation £3. No need to book.

Spring Wildflowers of Wandlebury

Tuesday 18 April, 10.00am to 12.00noon.

Gentle guided walk to learn about spring wildflowers at Wandlebury Country Park. Led by a knowledgeable guide, who will help you to identify wildflowers using features such as colour, form and habitat. Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors.



Meet at the large noticeboard in the car park. Free event, suggested donation £3. No need to book.

May Day Morris Dance

Monday 1 May, 5am to 6am.

As the summer sun rises above the Wandlebury woodlands, the Devil's Dyke Morris Men dance to greet it. This traditional English dancing event takes place in the same beautiful spot on May Day each year. If you have never been before, we highly recommend it.



Meet on the Picnic Field at Wandlebury Country Park (signposted from entrance), dancing starts at approx. 5.29am. Free event - donations welcome. Hot drinks & snacks available.

Dawn Chorus Walk

Tuesday 9 May, 4.30am to 6am.

Enjoy a gentle guided walk with our Wardens to listen to the wonderful spring dawn chorus, learn some of the bird songs and look for wildlife.

Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors.

Meet at the large noticeboard in the car park. Free event, suggested donation £3. No need to book.

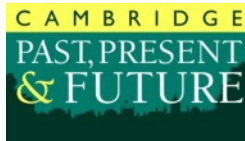
The House, the Horse & the Holes in the Ground

Wednesday 24 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Join the Wardens for a stroll around Wandlebury Country Park and discover some of the Iron Age and 18th century history of this Ancient Monument, country estate and stables. Finish at the 600-year-old Tadlow Granary for a look at some archaeological finds.

Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors.

Meet at the large noticeboard near the car park. Free event, suggested donation £3. No need to book. **Lena Payne**; accounts@cambridgeppf.org.
Tel - 243830



Quiz Time

Legalese

THIS month's quiz has been supplied by **Anna Everson**, and was aired at the now resurgent Three Horseshoes Monday weekly quiz.

1. Which term offers a promise on the part of the seller of goods or services?
2. What is a judgement in a legal case that establishes a principle or rule?
3. What two-word term means something that on the face of it is true?
4. In a trial, what is an agreed pause until a subsequent time?
5. Talks in order to settle without the need for a trial?
6. Personal belongings that can be moved from one place to another?
7. An award, typically of money, paid to a person/organisation for loss or injury?
8. A sworn personal statement given by one of the parties for use as evidence in a case?
9. The name of a barrister in Scotland?
10. Under British Law what is the age of Criminal Responsibility?

Answers on page 37

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 113

The Land Settlement Area: a circular walk from Gt Abington

To get to the Start of the Walk

DRIVE east along the A1307. Cross over the A11 and, just past the Acorn Garage, turn right into Abington. Cross the river and the Three Tuns, from which the Strollers started the walk, is on the left opposite the cricket ground. Roadside parking is available.

Extra Information

The Abingtons date back to the Bronze Age but the names are Anglo-Saxon meaning 'an estate belonging to a man named Abba'. There are two separate parishes with two churches: Great and Little Abington. The parishes are separated from Babraham by the old Roman Road, now the A11.

In 1934 the government, with the aid of charities, set up 20 Land Settlement areas, giving five acres with a house to unemployed miners and shipbuilders from Tyneside and South Wales. One of these was in Great Abington. The plots were sold off in 1983 and, while some have flourished as market gardens, others have become paddocks with big new houses replacing the small old dwellings.

OS Map

OS Explorer Map No.195. For a free map extract that you can print, use maps.the-hug.net or use the map provided.

Distance of Walk

About 4½ miles, mostly on hard track except for the recreation ground and a short field section, both of which may get a little muddy in winter.

Route of Walk

Starting from The Three Tuns pub, cross the road and turn right to walk over the River Granta. Continue along the roadside pavement and follow this into Little Abington, keeping ahead on Church Lane, until you reach a footpath sign with a path on each side of a large hedge. Take the path on the right-hand side of the hedge. Cross the river on a footbridge and walk straight ahead up the side of the recreation ground.

Exit via a large gate, carry on ahead and come out onto High Street. Turn right, walk along the pavement and, after you pass the last house on the right, turn right at a footpath sign, passing through a gate. Follow the footpath through an area of bushes and trees and then, after another gate,

walk alongside a grassy field with a fence on your left. Exit via a gate onto Pampisford Road.

Turn right and walk carefully along the road as there is no footpath. Turn left into Cutting Road and walk past stables on the right. At the end of Cutting Road, turn right on a narrow road; this is the beginning of the Land Settlement area. The road is North Road. Walk carefully for nearly half a mile until you reach a footpath sign on the left. Follow the track, with high hedges on both sides, until you reach South Road.

Turn left and walk for over a mile until Chalky Road is reached. Turn left. The road ends after about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile but continue ahead, downhill, on a path that crosses the old Cambridge to Haverhill railway. After a short distance you will be back to Pampisford Road. Cross the road and walk down High Street until you get back to The Three Tuns. **Keith Dixon**

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



Stapleford Community Primary School



I AM delighted to be able to write an entry in the *Messenger* as the new Headteacher of the school. I feel privileged to have been chosen to continue to build upon the success the school has already achieved under the leadership of Mrs Spain and I have been made to feel very welcome by the Stapleford community.

To offer a brief insight into my background, I have worked in education for 20 years and half of my career has been working as a Headteacher. I took on my first Headship in 2012 and subsequently have worked as an Executive Headteacher across two schools and Deputy Headteacher of an 'All-Through School' (i.e. primary and secondary phases). Throughout my career I have been fortunate to work with a number of schools (for example, through a five-year secondment to The University of Cambridge as a Tutor on the Primary Teaching Training programmes), and I recognise the positive influence education can have on a young person. Being a mother of two school-aged children, I am very aware of the responsibility that my team and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is achieved. I already recognise that we have a hugely committed team and wonderful children which, of course, is a great place for any Headteacher to start!

It is challenging to narrow down the highlights of my first term to date but memorable moments would have to include:

- Our Nursery visit to Stapleford Granary to the 'Natural Eye' exhibition and for Babyccinos.
- Childrens' Mental Health Week, with the theme of 'Let's Connect', which culminated in an assembly where we shared work from each class and connected the entire school with a ball of wool!
- World Book Day events which included eating a locust as part of the inspiring assembly led by local author Isabel Thomas, dressing as Mary Poppins for the day and observing some wonderful creativity from our pupils who had created the 'World of a Book' in a box!



Laura Rawlings, Headteacher

It is clear that the Stapleford community is ambitious for the school and it is exciting to see the uplifting and enabling environment and facilities that our school offers. With these resources and a talented staff team it is obvious that there is a strong foundation to inspire a passion for learning. Working in partnership with committed school staff, Governors and the local community, and with the support and expertise of Anglian Learning Trust, it is exciting to drive the next chapter in our caring and ambitious vision for our children. **Laura Rawlings**

Library news



NOW the days are longer and the clocks have gone forward, why not come into the library to find resources to help plan your spring/summer projects?

We have lots of books on travel, gardening, crafts and books for your holiday reading.

We're looking forward to holding three children's events in April at Great Shelford Library, during the Easter holidays. Pre-booking and payment are required. Please call in to the library to book a place.

Spring Craft Event for Children: Thursday 6 April, 2pm to 3.30pm. £2 per child. Ages 3+.

Lego/Duplo Event for Children, Wednesday 5 April, 2pm to 3.30pm. £2 per child. Ages 2+

Lego/Duplo Event for Children, Wednesday 12 April, 2pm to 3.30pm. £2 per child. Ages 2+

We will also be hosting our Engage talk and Reading Group for adults:

Reading Group – Wednesday 12 April 10.30am to 11.30am. Please come into library to book your place. Alternatively get in contact via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Engage Talk: Wednesday 26 April 2pm to 3.30pm. An inspiring talk by Cambridgeshire Air Ambulance. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. We are also hoping to start a “**Knit and Natter**” group in the library. Please come in to let us know if you would be interested.

Also keep an eye on our notice boards and Facebook pages – Cambridgeshire Libraries or Cambridgeshire Libraries Families, for other exciting events. **Mel Abbiss**

Contact details: Telephone: 0345 045 5225.

Email: Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Reflections on the Holy Land

FRESH from his return from a pilgrimage to Israel and the Palestinian territories, **Francis Bostrom** shares his thoughts with our Production Editor, Frank Jacot, on the sacred places he visited along with his take on the unique culture.

Francis, you have been back home now for a few days. Perhaps you could start with your overall feeling about the Holy Land and her historic sights.

“This was my first visit to the Holy Land, but I had done a lot of research into the history. I thought that having a deeper understanding of the culture and global impact of this region would enhance my time in the Holy Land.”

How did you choose this particular travel group?

“I have always wanted to go the Holy Land and searched on the Internet for appropriate groups and found a very respected travel group called McCabe Pilgrimages. This was a joint Ecumenical pilgrimage led by the Bishop of Southwark (Church of England) and Auxiliary Bishop from the Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark who were ably supported by the two Deans from both cathedrals”.

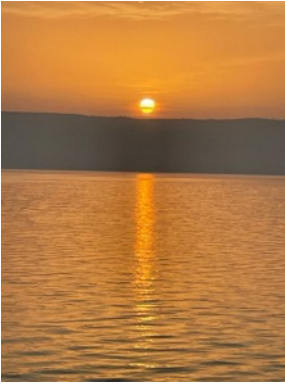
Shall we talk about your most memorable experiences? Where would you like to start?

“In Bethlehem if I may. I visited the Church of the Nativity. The present church was built by St Helena, mother of the First Christian Emperor Constantine in AD 339. One of the most striking features is the small square doorway which is the church’s entrance from Manger Square. It is the oldest Christian church in the Holy Land. Central to a pilgrimage to this church is the beautiful Silver Star (right) on the floor of the Grotto which marks the birthplace of Christ. We also went to visit St Martha’s, a day centre which is a charity supported by both Southwark cathedrals providing a meeting place for Palestinian widows.”



Church of Nativity, Bethlehem showing entrance to the Grotto





I understand Francis, you then went on to the region of Galilee.

“Yes, we embarked on a sailing boat trip on the Sea of Galilee where Jesus conducted a major part of his ministry. We saw the Mount of the Beatitudes and visited the church which commemorates the sermon on the mount. The Sea of Galilee (left) was a moving experience, especially when the engines were cut and we could all enjoy stillness and tranquillity.



“I journeyed on to Nazareth where we attended a Sunday Service in the large Church of St Gabriel (left). Around 800 congregation attended with full choir, organ and incense, it was beautiful. This Basilica was completed in 1969 but stands on the foundation of a 12th century Crusader church. There is also evidence of an earlier Byzantine church as well as an even earlier Synagogue.

“Our final destination was Jerusalem. The Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount was spectacular (below left). Its Dome is composed of gold, electroplated on copper and has a warm natural glow at dawn and dusk. It was first erected in

AD691.

“Nearby is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (below right) dedicated in AD335. For Christians, this is one of the most significant places in the Christian world. A location for every Christian visit to the Holy Land where Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave.

“A moving and memorable end to my time in the Holy Land.”





Hoar Frost on Ivy leaves in Magog woods - Claire Beale

Granta Medical Practices

FROM 1 April, Royston Health Centre (RHC) will be part of Granta Medical Practices (GMP). The practices are coming together to build on the existing practice strengths, pooling clinical and administrative teams to offer greater resilience and a wider choice of services for our patients. The aim of this is to provide a more stable model for delivering care within Royston and the surrounding villages. Both GMP and RHC have been sharing their values and commitment to high quality clinical care over the past year and a full merger helps provide improved access and choice for our patients.

The same doctors, practice nurses and staff will still be at RHC and you will still be able to see your chosen doctor as usual. For GMP patients, you will now have another surgery to choose from, should you wish to.

For the most part, patients of GMP and RHC should not notice any difference. There will be a slight delay in merging the computer systems (currently estimated around the end of April) but after that any GMP patient may be seen at a GMP surgery of their choice. If there are any specific changes or additions to services we will of course let you know.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us via the GMP website grantamedicalpractices.co.uk or feel free to call into one of our surgeries. **Sandra East**, Head of Patient Services, Sandra.east@nhs.net

Puzzle Corner Answers

Y not and Y

Group 1: COS/COSY; EDD/EDDY; MAN/MANY; RUB/RUBY;
BRA/BRAY

Group 2: BULL/BULLY; DIPS/DIPSY; FLAK/FLAKY; MOON/MOONY;
RAND/RANDY

Group 3: EIGHT/EIGHTY; FROST/FROSTY; ASTRA/ASTRAY;
STING/STINGY; PRIOR/PRIORY

Quiz answers

Legalese

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Warranty | 6. Chattels |
| 2. Precedent | 7. Damages |
| 3. Prima facie | 8. Affidavit |
| 4. Adjournment | 9. Advocate |
| 5. Arbitration (or mediation) | 10. Ten years old. |

Champion!

STAPLEFORD has its own squash champion in **Vinod Duraikan** - and he wonders whether any *Messenger* readers have what it takes to follow in his swift-moving footsteps. Or at least learn to love the sport as much as he does.

Earlier in the season Vinod, 56, became Cambridgeshire champion in the Over-55s category, adding to a substantial trophy-haul that began as a youngster in Zambia.

Vinod, who plays top-division club squash at Melbourn, is also a qualified coach, and is looking to pass on his expertise to a new generation.

The sport is only really suitable for those who already possess a high level of fitness. But for those who have exactly that, Vinod is ready to give them some top-level guile.

“Squash is the number one sport where the physicality and the brain power required are both at a very high level,” he said. “I would probably say that martial arts come closest to this.

“You have got to constantly think about what you are going to do before you play a shot, where you will probably have five or six options. Then you have to factor in your opponent’s abilities at the same time.

“I also love the psychology before a game as well as during it - when you are knocking up your posture and the way you hit the ball can put your opponent’s mind in doubt.

“What I love to do is impart this to others - introduce them to the mindset of squash, as a lot of people think it is just about physicality. There is also a lot of mental toughness required - and strategy.”

Vinod’s squash journey began as a youngster in Zambia, where his family relocated from India when he was a baby.

“I started when I was eight having already played badminton and tennis,” he said. “In Zambia the rainy season went on for three months so you couldn’t play tennis. I got frustrated with that and turned to squash.



Winning the Cambs County Closed Over-55's tournament. Photo of all the winners and runners-up

“On Saturday mornings there was a bunch of us who would have a lesson and then spend the rest of the morning playing squash,” he said. “The highlight was having a bottle of Coca-Cola.

“I won the Zambia Under-19s Open and after that was runner-up in Zimbabwe, where I went to school.

“I came to Britain in 1990 when I was in my twenties. The first thing I did was find a church and then a squash club.”

That was in Bromley in Kent before relocating to Cambridgeshire, where he became men’s county champion three times.

The third and final success, in 2000, was the most memorable as it coincided with Sue giving birth to their elder daughter.

“The finals were played on a Saturday, and on the Friday night at 3.15am, Shanti was born,” he said. “Sue was still in hospital and the final wasn’t until the afternoon so it worked out perfectly. I was just buzzing at the time.”

A string of county Over-45 titles followed and Vinod has now seen a couple of Over-55 medals added. Vinod was also a mainstay of county teams, many of which reached their respective finals.

He might have turned pro back in his early twenties, estimating he was in the top 200 in the world. “It was a disagreement I had with my dad, he said I needed a qualification and couldn’t just play squash. In hindsight he was right.”

Funding was a problem though, especially as he was based outside Europe at the time.

Money has however been made available to promote women’s squash in Cambridgeshire, with Vinod having already coached a group of female players of differing levels, at Sawston Village College’s sports centre.

Vinod plays at Melbourn because that is the nearest club: Sawston, with just one court, is not big enough for club squash.

“In this country we are demolishing squash courts and converting them into gyms,” he said. “We have one squash court in the south of Cambridge. We have a massive catchment area and plenty of good players, so it is a shame.” **Jon West**



This was the team that made it to the Masters Over-45’s National Inter-county Finals in 2017.

Ben & Dom

Sunday 2 April | 12:00pm

From gentle lullabies to heartwarming stories, singing duo Ben & Dom perform unaccompanied folk songs with their trademark spellbinding harmony



Peter Knight, fiddle & John Spiers, melodeon

Saturday 15 April | 7:45pm

Two of the most distinguished British folk musicians join forces for an evening of old & new instrumentals, toe-tapping rhythms & improvisations



Andy Sheppard, saxophone; Rita Marcotulli, piano & Anders Jormin, double bass

Wednesday 19 April | 7:45pm

Three long-established & distinctive voices on the European jazz scene perform new music created by Andy Sheppard



Piatti Quartet

Saturday 22 April | 7:45pm

We welcome the acclaimed Piatti Quartet back to the Granary with music by Vaughan Williams, Rachmaninov, Smetana & Charlotte Harding



William Bracken, piano

Sunday 30 April | 12:00pm

A bold, vivid & heartfelt programme of music by Fanny Mendelssohn, Unsuk Chin & Franz Liszt from this rising star



Royal British Legion

Sawston & Pampisford Branch



THE Eastern Region Standard Bearers Competition was held at Cottenham, where May Fowler, our branch Standard Bearer, competed and became outright winner, and was awarded the commemorative Rose Bowl for the highest standard.



RBL Quiz Night Saturday 22 April. This highly popular quiz has been arranged to be held at St Marys Church Hall, Sawston, starting at 7pm. Teams of up to six can book in advance, £5 per person. Please contact Kevin, branch secretary, 07496 517859 after 6pm.

King Charles Coronation. Plans are well advanced for the branch to celebrate this special occasion, many of these will be in conjunction with other groups in our village. Many other villages will be planning their own unique ways to commemorate this occasion. Keep a look-out in your local area for all plans. **Kevin Swann**

The Stapleford Village Show

Part of the Village Weekend

Saturday 24 June

New opening time of 1pm

The theme this year is "Open Arms" – more information to follow. Lots of fabulous classes to enter, lots of lovely trophies to win, lots of stalls and activities ... looking forward to seeing you there.

Jane Baker - (see also page 45)

Financial difficulties?



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Small Boats

I'm staying at the Prince of Wales,
 With many others who have tales
 Of brutal things and many lies,
 Human hearts who are denied.

Bitter cold out on the boats,
 Picked up at sea, wrapped in foil coats.
 Others drowned, but for what?
 My humanity is all I've got.

Waiting for a better time
 Where shells don't patter in a rhyme.
 Waiting for a rubber stamp
 To get me out of this camp.

But who knows when this will be?
 Three days, three months, three years, we'll see.
 Outside there were some angry scenes,
 The Union Jack it looked so mean.

I'm scared of the tribal mob,
 And would prefer to get a job.
 Integrate in this society,
 Pay my way, and be me.

I know my God will give me grace
 And bring me strength to what I face.
 But I am labeled by my keeper
 As a desperate asylum seeker.

What I am is human flesh
 That's traveled far and witnessed death.
 I want no more than a new home
 For myself, I am alone.

Seeking asylum cost me a lot,
 My nerves and mental state are shot.
 But I have trust in what can be,
 Great Britain, my chosen new country.

Peter Dean



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Coronation of Charles III



Celebration on Sunday 7 May

Picnic on the recreation ground
Adult/children royal fancy dress and music competition
More information to follow in next month's *Messenger*

Save the Date!

Stapleford Village Weekend, 23 – 25 June

FOLLOWING on from last year's successful weekend, the committee are working hard on your behalf to make this year's weekend equally, if not more, successful.

Events being planned are:

- Quiz evening on Friday
- Village Show and stalls, sports events, and more on Saturday
- Bicycle Tour de Stapleford, cricket and Church-in-the-Marquee on Sunday
- Bar and refreshments available

Offers of help and sponsorship with any of the events will be gratefully received. Jobs include preparation, manning the event and clearing up.

Please contact: **Bill French**, billwm.french@tiscali.co.uk or **Gillian Pett**, gillian.pett29@gmail.com. (See also page 41)

Annual Parish Meeting

STAPLEFORD Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 4 May, commencing at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. Items for discussion will include the Pavilion refurbishment, the future of the Slaughterhouse, and speeding issues on Haverhill Road, Bury Road and Mingle Lane.

Please visit the Stapleford Parish Council website for the full agenda: staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk. **Jenny Flynn**



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Little Shelford Bowls Club Open Days



BOWLS is a sport that can be played by anyone, whatever their age, gender, or level of fitness. Stapleford doesn't have its own bowls club, but several people from our village play at Little Shelford Bowls Club, which is only a short drive away. We're a small but friendly club, and are always on the look-out for new players - whether you are

an experienced player or a beginner, you are assured of a warm welcome.

Our green is at the far end of the Wale Recreation Ground on Whittlesford Road, Little Shelford. We play most of our matches on weekday evenings from the end of April to the beginning of September, and also take part in a Wednesday afternoon league which is more social than competitive and a good place to start for new players.

We have our Club Open Days on Saturday 22 and 29 April, starting at 2pm. If you want to find out more and try your hand at bowling, all you need to do is bring a pair of flat-soled shoes or trainers, as we'll provide the bowls. Further details from our Secretary, **John Sherwell** on 841012.

Great Shelford Friendship Group

WE have happily re-started this group for older men and women in the Parish Community Room at St Mary's Church, Great Shelford, on Thursdays from 2.30pm to 4pm weekly, term-time, from 20 April until 6 July.



Open to former members and new ones. We still have spaces!

For more information, please contact (or just come along):

Rosey Feuell, Lay Minister at Great Shelford St Mary's 213305/
roseyleaf@talktalk.net

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.

Parish Council Chair's report

Highways

ISSUES discussed at the Parish Council meeting in March included that of speeding in Haverhill Road, a serious matter raised by several members of the public with safety of children and others in mind. Application for a 20 mph restriction has been considered but this does not necessarily mean that drivers will reduce their speed. It has been agreed that the Parish Council will make an application for speed monitoring to inform the Parish Council's subsequent action. The Parish Council does not have the funds to install physical speed restrictions, such as speed humps and chicanes. The Local Highways Initiative (LHI) will only allow one application per year in one location. The public needs to be consulted as funds will need to be accrued to pay for a scheme, with the possibility of an application for a Public Works Loan, as funding has to be established before a LHI is submitted for evaluation by the County Council.

The issue of potholes was discussed and some of the most dangerous ones in the village have been repaired. It was commented that whilst some are repaired, others which are just as dangerous, particularly to cyclists, and in close proximity to ones filled, are left untouched. The County Councillor in attendance responded that CCC is changing its policies to ensure a more robust approach to dealing with such issues.

Council tax

Cambridgeshire County Council and SCDC taxes will be rising this year (£5 for the latter), reflecting increased costs. The Combined Authority has also increased its charge by £12, to cover the support it gave to keep bus services. Here is the link to SCDC's Council Tax webpage: scams.gov.uk/council-tax/financial-information/.

It was commented that Parish Councils are expected to step in and cover deficits but do not have the purchasing power, manpower or authority to do works which are in the power of Principal Authorities.

Planning

Objections were again raised to a planning application for 8 Gog Magog Way, and a comment made that a traffic management plan for contractors' vehicles was needed for an application at 6 Collier Way.

Rangeford Retirement Village: Reserved Matters Application: granted.

The Parish Council believes that SCDC failed to give credibility to the well-researched objections raised by it, or to take into account the independent Design Review Panel's comments. District councillors deciding

this application did not have the local knowledge which the Parish Council has. SPC further believes that the decision to alter the Section 106 agreement covering the countryside park was incorrectly delegated and potentially ultra vires. The Parish Council has submitted robust questions to SCDC, which have received a response which does not deal with the questions but effectively states that 'SCDC knows best'. The Parish Council will continue to pursue this issue.

Jubilee Pavilion

Blue Ink Architects have provided a number of plans for Pavilion renovations for the Parish Council to review. The changing rooms with toilets would be entered separately from the main building, ensuring that Pavilion hirers are able to have sole use of the main hall and kitchen. A smaller meeting room would be provided so small meetings or classes could be accommodated at the same time that the large hall is in use. The Parish Council will now consider budget and funding, which may include a Public Works Loan, and instruct Blue Ink Architects as appropriate.

Hire charges and terms and conditions for the Pavilion have been amended, with charges increasing because of rising energy costs.

The Pavilion chairs have been cleaned by a small working party.

Plans are in progress for a solar-powered sign at the entrance to the Pavilion drive.

Other matters

Sports licences have been reviewed.

Advice is being sought about the future of the Slaughterhouse.

The Parish Council is hoping to engage a caretaker/village warden, subcontracting from Great Shelford Parish Council. **Gillian Pett**

Neighbourhood plan

A big step forward but what do you think?

I FEEL like I've been heralding the imminent arrival of Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan's draft vision and objectives for quite some time, so I am very pleased to present them here, together with details of how you can let us know what you think.

Why do we need a vision and objectives?

Combining feedback from our 2022 opinion survey of residents with other available evidence and data that we have commissioned especially for our Neighbourhood Plan (NP), the steering group has drafted a vision and 10 objectives to clarify what our NP should focus on achieving. Whilst our



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vision says where we want to be and what we want to be like in 2040, our objectives show the actions required to get there. They work together to create change.

Our draft vision

“In 2040, Stapleford and Great Shelford will be thriving, rural villages distinct from Cambridge, where people want to live, work, shop and play. We value and want to protect our landscape setting, improve its biodiversity and reduce our contribution to climate change. Reflecting this, modest new development, which is sensitively and sustainably designed, will focus on addressing identified housing needs within our community. Where appropriate, it will also support the creation of new amenities and infrastructure to meet the needs of our population. Part of this infrastructure will be a safe and sustainable travel network supporting everyday journeys and healthy recreation.”

Our draft objectives

Separating the complex planning environment and our community's aspirations into individual objectives is a little artificial because in real life many issues are interdependent. However, 'the whole of our NP is greater than the sum of the parts' and I encourage you to view the draft objectives in this context. Please also bear in mind that our NP *fills the gaps* in existing planning policy; it cannot reinvent the wheel. If you think that something important is missing, it could well be that it is dealt with by current planning policy.

Objectives

1. Housing needs - New residential development proposals will contribute to addressing existing and future housing needs in Stapleford and Great Shelford in terms of affordability, size, accessibility and tenure.
2. The built environment - New development will be designed to a high standard and in its built form will reinforce the distinctive rural look, feel and quality of the two villages.
3. Climate change - New development will be designed to be (a) compatible with, and belong in, a net zero emissions future, and (b) resilient to the effects of climate change.
4. Biodiversity - We will protect and enhance specific features and sites of ecological value identified in the Landscape Character Assessment for our Plan area. More broadly, we will deliver biodiversity enhancements at all development sites within the Plan area.
5. Our rural setting and landscape - New development will actively minimise its impact on the landscape character of the Plan area, recognising



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the value of long views and vistas into and out of the rural setting of the villages, the open spaces within it and, critically, the separation of the villages from the urbanised Greater Cambridge area.

6. Community amenities and infrastructure - We will ensure that development addresses its associated demands on, and existing shortfalls in, our community's amenity and infrastructure needs, specifically in healthcare, primary school education, transport, open spaces and play spaces.

7. Active travel - Residents travelling in and out of the Plan area, and people travelling through the Plan area, will find it increasingly easier to choose active travel modes to reach their destinations, whether for work or leisure purposes. The safety of non-motorised users will be prioritised over the needs of motorised users throughout the Plan area.

8. Managing the impacts of traffic movement - The adverse effects of increased road traffic movements from new development on our community's quality of life (and apparent in, for example, air pollution, noise, vibration, road safety, accessibility and street scene environment) will be identified and appropriately mitigated.

9. Countryside access - Existing routes for non-motorised users into the much-valued countryside in our Plan area will be protected and maintained. New routes for non-motorised users from our villages into our countryside will be opened up.

10. Countryside enhancement - The Countryside Enhancement Strategy set out in the Landscape Character Assessment for the Plan area will be implemented. These landscape, biodiversity and public access improvements will complement the existing landscape character of the area and protect and enhance the setting of Cambridge.

There is no room to explain each objective here, but this is precisely what we do in our upcoming consultation paper as context to the questions it poses.

A second phase of community consultation

A considerable amount of consultation with residents and a review of a broad evidence base have gone into creating our draft vision and objectives. But have we got them right? To answer this, we have set out several questions in a 'Mid-term community consultation' paper that we are inviting responses to. We need to know:

- if the draft vision outlines, in broad terms, what you want our villages to be like in 2040 at the end of the NP period



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- if the draft objectives adequately set out what needs to be done to achieve this vision.

We have also included some other questions where it would be helpful to know how strongly you agree or disagree with a particular idea.

At the time of writing (early March), the consultation paper and supporting materials are still in production, but we will use social media and other means to let you know when you can access them, hopefully from the beginning of April. As with all other materials relating to our NP, the survey will be hosted at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan. We will also be holding several in-person events and exhibitions in Stapleford and Great Shelford throughout April where you can view consultation materials, discuss the NP with members of the steering group, contribute your views and pick up a hard copy of the survey. Dates will be advertised locally and via the Parish Councils.

We hope to see as many people at our events as possible, although you do not need to attend to complete the survey. We will be very grateful for your participation in whatever form you choose.

Next steps

Once we are clear about our NP's vision and objectives, we can start to develop the planning policies that will contribute towards achieving each objective and will be used by South Cambridgeshire District Council to determine planning applications in our area. **Jenny Flynn**, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group.

Better Ways 4 Busways!

THERE'S been plenty of activity this month but it can be reported quite briefly. The completion of delivering our BW4B! leaflets has been an impressive achievement: thanks to everybody who has helped. As a result of this, we have had many more subscribers to our website (bw4b.org) and active support coming through as a result.

We believe that the CSET busway will have to be approved by the full County Council meeting in June and we will be making final representations to the Members at that meeting. Following that and with legal assistance, we will need to formally object. A formal instruction to solicitors and finance to cover this first stage will need to be in place at that point.

We hope that readers will be able to attend Stapleford's Annual Parish Meeting on 4 May (advertised elsewhere in this edition of the *Messenger*) which we hope will include a presentation about the GCP's plans and what we are doing to actively oppose them. **Howard Kettel** On behalf of BW4B!

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

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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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