

Stapleford

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MESSENGER

September 2023

Volume 82 No 9

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Freya Hatter - page 24

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Who's who at St Andrew's

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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 602248

Director of Music

TBA

PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Verger

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

I AM just a little bit obsessed with St Cuthbert. His feast day is 20 March. One of these years I shall sneak a Cuthbert celebration into our St Andrew's calendar. Don't tell Thomas Cranmer, the spiritual founder of the Church of England, whose list of approved saints is pretty limited. And I shall also walk the St Cuthbert's Way from Melrose to Lindisfarne, though I have missed the chance again this year.



I think this minor obsession must be to do with my northern roots. I am East End born, North London raised, but my mother was from Chester-le-Street in County Durham. Great was the rejoicing in the Taylor household when Durham Cricket Club became a first class county team in 1992. My late grandfather, who used to sit chain smoking on the boundary, would have approved.

Most of what is said to be known about Cuthbert is not really known at all, just a few probable facts overlain with years of accreted stories, which, incidentally, continue to be written. I am reading an excellent novel called *Cuthbert of Farnes* by Katharine Tiernan which I can thoroughly recommend.

Cuthbert was born in about 634 – probably, anyway, but I am not going to keep on adding that gloss. That was just a few years after Christianity reached the kingdom of Northumbria, with the conversion of King Edwin in 627. There followed a period of violence with episodic pagan and Christian rule, and a period of Christian competition as the local Celtic Christianity brought from Ireland tussled with Roman Catholic forms brought from the south. When you were at school did you have to learn about the Synod of Whitby of 664? That was what it was really about.

Cuthbert was a member of a noble family based in Dunbar, which was part of the Kingdom of Northumbria at various times. He was probably a warrior in his youth, campaigning with King Oswy of Northumbria. He later joined a new monastery at Melrose. Tiernan, in her novel, suggests that was because of disenchantment with military service and the atrocities committed. In due course he was chosen as Prior, and then moved to Lindisfarne in the same role, where there was a well-established monastery. After a period of retirement living as a hermit he was made Bishop of Hexham in 684, despite his extreme reluctance and attempts to stay in the solitary life. King Ecgfrith and a large group had to visit him and persuade him to take up the post.

Cuthbert died in 687, and was initially buried at Lindisfarne, but his remains were moved when the monks were fleeing Danish attacks. After what was meant to be a temporary stay in Durham, the wagon carrying the coffin back to Lindisfarne became stuck in Chester-le-Street. The monks took that as an expression of the will of the saint that his remains should stay in Durham, leading to the foundation of the city and cathedral. His coffin and shrine have changed over the years, but he is still there. When his coffin was opened in 1104 a beautifully preserved book of the Gospel of John was found inside. It dates from around the time of his death, and is the earliest surviving European book in its original binding.

After his death Cuthbert attracted more devotees, and miracles were attributed to his intercession. He became something of a political tool as well. King Alfred, trying to unite the kingdoms of England under the leadership of Wessex, made a point of his devotion to Cuthbert. It was useful for him to be seen to be attached to a northern saint. Slight shades of the red wall and Boris' levelling up agenda a thousand years ago. In a later about turn, Cuthbert became a symbol of the independence of the prince bishopric of Durham, and was seen as a saintly protector of his Northumbrian people against both the Scots and the rest of England.

In 721 Bede wrote a biography of Cuthbert drawing on earlier sources. He wrote of his personal qualities. Telling of those who came to him for help and advice Bede wrote "No one left unconsolated, no one had to carry back the burdens he came with. ... Those beset by worry he brought back to thoughts of the joys of heaven. He showed them that both good fortune and bad were transitory in this world." But he did not just deal in words. "He protected the flock committed to him by constant prayer on their behalf, by wholesome admonition and – which is the real way to teach – by example first and precept later. ... He took care to comfort the sad and faint-hearted and to bring back those that delighted in evil to a godly sorrow. He strictly maintained his old frugality ... He fed the hungry [and] clothed the destitute."

In short, Cuthbert seems to have been a genuinely good guy. A reluctant leader, but frequently chosen by those who knew him well for positions of responsibility, which he then carried out conscientiously for the benefit of those whom his leadership was meant to serve. He was content to live simply himself, but overflowed with love and generosity, both spiritual and physical, to those in need. I know I can learn a lot from him; so too, I think, can many of our leaders both in the church and in the wider world.

Every blessing to you all, **Simon**

St Andrew's Noticeboard

3 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28
	10.30 AM	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Jonah 3.1-9; Revelation 3.14-22
10 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Job 39.1-30; Matthew 18.15-20 <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>
17 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION Job 40.15-24, 41.1-35; Matthew 18.21-35
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE HARVEST FESTIVAL Job 40.15-24, 41.1-35 <i>Monsters and Chaos</i>
24 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Jonah 3.10-4.11
1 OCT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION 1 Samuel 8.1-22a; Matthew 21.23-27 <i>Desiring a King</i>
	10.30 AM	FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Ezekiel 37.15-28; 1 John 2.22-29

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

10 AUGUST - Interment of ashes of Elizabeth Mary Ginger

27 AUGUST – Baptism of Maeve Harrison Ronge

Stapleford - Nachingwea Link

Forthcoming events

Saturday 14 October - Concert

Free concert of light music for all the family by members of the Homerton College Charter Choir and Music Society, from 5pm to 6pm at St Andrew's Church, with refreshments.

Donations welcome to help with food security and education for children with special needs in Nachingwea.

We are looking forward to an informal and fun concert and we hope you can join us.

Sunday 15 October- Thanksgiving Service at St Andrew's

Do join us at St Andrew's at 10.30am for a service of celebration, thanksgiving and news. You will be most welcome. There will be time for coffee and a chat afterwards.

Deadline for the OCTOBER Messenger

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence

From: Keith Craney, Cherry Tree Avenue

Subject: The Tree

WHAT is happening to The Tree in Bar Lane? In October it will have been closed and standing empty for 10 years. A few months ago hoardings were erected and the two chalets (which were the old stables) were carefully demolished and the materials recycled, but nothing has happened since. Is the building to be demolished? Does anybody have any idea regarding its future? I have asked lots of people, and none of them have any idea.

Editor update - I have spoken with South Cambs Planning and have been given the following email address to request information relating to The Tree - planning@greatercambridgeplanning.org.

South Cambs Organic Gardeners

OUR group has now been going for 6 months, and we've had a lovely summer of visiting allotments and gardens. But from September we will be returning to Cox's Close for our monthly meetings. This month we will be having a talk by Robert Smith from Russell Smith Farms, the farming company which farms much of our local land. It's sure to be an interesting talk for anyone interested in the land and growing. Our meetings are open to all, whether organic gardeners or not. Please do come along.

When: Monday 11 September at 7pm,

Where: Cox's Close Community Room, Stapleford.

There will be refreshments after the talk.

You will be asked for a contribution of £2 towards costs.

For further details, please contact **Helen Harwood**, tel. 840393, e-mail helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Financial difficulties?



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Names

WE all have names. Mine is at the bottom of this article. It is an identity, uniquely personal; ours alone. Whilst others share the name Judith, there is only one ME!. A middle name, surname and address and doubt is removed. Parents name us remembering someone special, acknowledging a relative or because a royal or historic person is admired. Stars of stage and screen are known by catchy titles but still have names as you and I. Learning to write them is fun, shorter the better. Capital letters have significance - now often neglected.

Initials are important. My parents had M and F. I firmly believed they stood for Mother and Father because they called each other M and F. The real names coincidentally began with those letters. For a while at school my initials were joined making J C. Confusion. Families and friends use names to show appreciation and regard. They highlight personality and developing character. The opposites are cruel, unkind words which hurt, making heartache. However, loving family taunts are cheery and warm causing endearing laughter and recognition of understanding only those closest would know.

September is the month when the label reminding us of 'Back to School' actually proves correct. New terms, fresh experiences, anxiety and concern but trust, hope and belief in belonging and achieving. More names; teachers, classes, subjects. Later colleges and universities return. Pupils becoming students graduate with much endeavour maybe earning titles. B.Sc, M.Sc, Dr of Medicine or Philosophy, Rev, Teacher, Nurse, Midwife, KC, titles neatly attached to names. We each have ability and qualities. Humility, sincerity, courage, perseverance and compassion deserve titles.

Celebrating major steps is good. Feasting. Super, summer, sumptuous, spreads. Tall, proud Victoria Sandwich from the Queen of that name. Peach Melba a chef at the Savoy Hotel, London for Australian soprano Nellie Melba. Earl Grey tea might be offered from a Cambridge and Eton educated aristocrat, P M from 1830 to 1834. There are Cambridge tea and cake shop sensations. Have you heard of Christ's College, Milton Mulberry jam? How about traditional English dessert Eton Mess, berries usually strawberries, meringue and whipped cream, served at the annual cricket match against Harrow School. Sandwiches began for ease, eating whilst continuing a card game. An invention in 1762. Breaking of Bread features at church, sharing the Lord's Supper. Christenings signify acceptance into the Family of God whilst a worldwide best seller is the Bible. **Judith Lee**

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Stapleford - Nachingwea Link

Message from Kevin Bushiri



KEVIN Bushiri, Chair of the Nachingwea Link writes excitedly about our latest project (see August's *Messenger*) to provide support for the supply of sanitary towels:

“Forty three women can now make their own reusable sanitary pads. I cried happily because I am a part of making it happen with cooperation from Stapleford Link. You have opened the way for me and for us. You know most of the women can't afford buying sanitary pads. Giving them this knowledge will help themselves and their daughters.

“That's why I said I can't sleep before telling you about it.”

Kevin concludes by saying how happy the local Link members are to be working with the Stapleford Link:

“Nachingwea Link committee members are happy to be taking part in this special era for changing our people's lives. We are all promising great support in doing everything together faithfully for prosperity of our community. They all thanked Stapleford Link committee for their financial support.”

School uniforms are here



The Special Needs children and their parents are delighted to receive their uniforms for the new academic year.

READERS may recall that one of the projects supported by the Link was the supply of school uniforms for children with special needs at Nachingwea primary school (July *Messenger*).

You can see that this project is now coming to fruition. **Stapleford Link Committee**

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Mothers' Union News



THE Branch had a delightful outing on Mary Sumner Day (9 August) to the Mary Challis garden in Sawston, where we enjoyed cakes and tea – and the sun shone as well. It was lovely to be together for friendship and fellowship.

We start our new session on Thursday 28 September at 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall with an Opening Service, which Lucinda has kindly agreed to lead. The theme is 'Transformation now!', continuing the 'Transformation' theme of 2021-24. We hope to see as many members as possible there for what will be an inspiring service. **Hilary Street**



Women's Institute



AT our recent meeting in July our speaker was Carol Pook. Using slides to accompany her talk, Carol quickly had us interested in the true-life story of Margaret Bulkley who, in the mid-19th century, trained to be a doctor when females were unable to do so. This was achieved by dressing as a man and using the name James Barry. A highly distinguished medical career in the British army followed and due to rumours circulating at his death about his physical appearance, many people were then left with more questions than answers about who in fact James Barry was. Due to detailed research Carol was able to give us a glimpse into the fascinating life and career of this remarkable person.



During the meeting members were thanked by Celia Weir, our vice-president, for their generous donations to the food bank where she volunteers each week. Recently I spent a very pleasant afternoon with Celia when I was able to find out more about her involvement with this. I began by asking Celia what had first drawn her to the food bank. She replied that when her regular

voluntary commitments stopped suddenly due to Covid and the lock-downs which followed, she not only wanted something to do but, most importantly, wondered where she could be of assistance. Celia then thought of the Cambridge Food bank as this had to continue out of necessity, albeit operating differently due to the strict restrictions regarding proximity and contact which were then in force. Celia applied, was accepted as a volunteer and was directed to the Fairbite shop which she explained is an initiative operated by the Cambridge Food bank under the umbrella of the national organisation, The Trussell Trust. In her first few months of volunteering Celia had to carry an official letter authorising her journey as she drove across the city to Arbury. I enquired as to who is able to use the Fairbite shop and how the food bank system operates. Celia explained that people in financial need can either apply or be referred to the food bank by professionals such as doctors and social workers or the church. Emergency food parcels put together according to individual needs are provided for 5 weeks, by which time it is hoped that the benefits system will be in place. After that people can apply to become a member of the Fairbite Trust. Once accepted a member will then be able to visit this community supermarket and pay £2 and select 10 items. In addition every two weeks the Citizens Advice Bureau sends someone to provide support and beneficial advice. I wondered what it is like to work in this environment and Celia described a wide range of emotions and behaviour including happiness, laughter, tears, hesitation which can be experienced by both staff and those using the shop. I asked if any incident particularly resonated with her. Celia described how some months ago a young man popped his head into the shop to ask what items they needed. A short while later he returned with a trolley absolutely laden with shopping from the local supermarket. He said that the food bank had helped him through dark times and now he wanted to help the food bank.

When our WI group commenced meeting in person following Covid, this coincided with more people requiring assistance due to the current economic situation. The latter has also led to a drop in donations. Celia then decided to invite members to donate just one item each per month under the title Stapleford Cares. The generosity of our members is clear to see at the end of each meeting when Celia requires help to carry the donated goods to her car. Every gift, however small, is valued, as in recent months it has been necessary to buy in food as the demand for the food bank and the Fairbite shop has far exceeded what has been received from local businesses and supermarkets. So this explains why you sometimes have

references to Stapleford Cares in our piece here in *The Messenger* and why our members so readily respond to the request each month.

If you would like to find out more about all the various activities we organise in our WI group here in the village, and also those offered to all the Cambridgeshire groups such as outings and theatre trips, then please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 or visit our next meeting on 28 September when Ray Munden will be giving a talk titled 'Costa Rica'. You can also find us on staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson**

Transform Trade

Now linked on St Andrew's website

TRANSFORM Trade was the campaigning partner of Traidcraft and was called 'Traidcraft Exchange'. Traidcraft very sadly went into administration last January after 40 years working to make trade fairer, above all leading in setting up the Fairtrade Foundation, and selling products for producers. Many thanks to everyone in the village who supported it.

Transform Trade continues to campaign for the rights of workers, promoting fair, eco and sustainable trade. It also sells gift cards, Christmas cards, and is hoping to start selling a few Traidcraft products e.g. tea.

Please see St Andrew's website under Community/Eco church for more details and a list of the Traidcraft suppliers who are still in business, or use this link: standrewstapleford.org/Groups/320045/Transform_Trade.aspx

Romie Ridley

Cambridge Cake Creators



JOIN us on Thursday 21 September with our very own Sheila, who will be demonstrating how to make a Shoe Topper cake.

We meet at 7.15pm in the Pavilion. £10pp which includes coffee/cake. All abilities welcome, you just need an interest in baking.

Contact Vanda Butler on 561053 if you would like more details.



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Royal British Legion

Sawston & District



I MUST start off on a rather sad note. An exceptional colleague and friend to the Royal British Legion, Sawston and District, sadly passed away recently. Maurice Day was not only a stalwart of the Branch, he was a very well-liked and respected member of the

Sawston community. His knowledge of the history of the village, its inhabitants, the who's who of village life was unsurpassed. Maurice was instrumental in getting the Branch back on an even keel when its future looked bleak, and for that we owe him a great deal of thanks. He was a member and, in most cases, the leader of many clubs and societies in the village, and the help and guidance he gave, together with his unsurpassed sense of humour, will be sorely missed.

The Band Concert, held in Challis Garden on 6 August was very well attended by visitors from Sawston and the surrounding villages. The Newmarket Brass Band provided a vast range of music for all ages, indeed there was a lot of hand clapping and foot tapping. The concert ended with them playing Sunset during which standards were paraded, headed by the Royal British Legion Cambridgeshire County Standard, and including The Cambridgeshire Parachute Regiment Standard and The Royal Air Force Cambridgeshire Standard. We cannot thank the Trustees of Challis House enough for allowing the concert to be held in such an iconic location.



The Breakfast Club at The Plough in Duxford is going from strength to strength. There are small meals you can have or a well-cooked larger breakfast, all made to give you the ideal start to a busy weekend. The next Breakfast Club is Saturday 26 August starting at 9.30am.

We are now gearing up for the most important part of the year, the Poppy Appeal. The launch of the appeal is 22 October. Preparations for the launch are nearly completed, however we do need collectors for our area. The PAO, Colin Groves, will be making contact shortly with current collectors for their help.

Membership of the Royal British Legion is open to everyone. You need not have been a member of the Armed Forces. We meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the Community Centre off Link Road in Sawston. For further information, please contact **Kevin Swann**, Branch Secretary. Tel: 07496 517859

Matt Ford & Matt Regan: The Cole Porter Songbook**Friday 8 September | 7:45pm**

Award-winning big band singer Matt Ford returns to the Granary to perform Cole Porter's timeless smash hits including *I've Got You Under My Skin*, *Night & Day* and *Anything Goes*

**Goldfield Ensemble****Friday 15 September | 7:45pm**

British music for clarinet & strings including pieces by Arthur Bliss, Frank Bridge, Richard Rodney Bennett & Adam Carse from this acclaimed ensemble

**Theatre of Widdershins:****Pigs & Bears Don't Come in Pairs****Sunday 17 September | 10am & 12pm**

A double bill of *Furry Tails* from the ever-popular Theatre of Widdershins, renowned for their humorous, imaginative stories retold with puppets & perfectly petite pop-up sets (age 3-7)

Paul McKenna Band**Friday 22 September | 7:45pm**

Fronted by one of Scotland's most expressive vocalists & songwriters, the Paul McKenna Band draws on traditional Scottish & Irish roots, combined with contemporary acoustic pop

**Rob Buckland, saxophone****Sunday 24 September | 3:00pm**

The virtuoso saxophonist performs unaccompanied music of striking variety from his 'Short Stories for Solo Saxophone' album

**Empirical Quartet****Friday 29 September | 7:45pm**

Multi award-winning Empirical Quartet are among the most admired & individual-sounding bands in contemporary jazz, renowned for their unbridled creativity & dazzling improvisation

Your village needs you

JUST skimming the August *Messenger* I can see at least two organisations that are asking for people to help them run their activities:

- The Shelford Support Group, which provides lifts for people from Great Shelford and Stapleford to medical appointments and similar, needs volunteer drivers
- The Shelford Guides (which includes Stapleford) needs a new leader

And there are many other village groups that need help to run:

- The Parish Council desperately needs some more members – they cannot make decisions that affect us all if the meetings aren't quorate, which can happen when there are several vacancies
- The *Messenger* team that produces the magazine needs a newshound and some admin help
- The *Messenger* fund, which distributes any surplus money from the magazine to village organisations that need help, needs one or two committee members before it can distribute the funds it has
- Stapleford History Society needs people to help arrange talks and other tasks
- The Magog Trust needs a Treasurer
- The Village Weekend and Village Show committees need extra hands, planning for 2024
- Dr Bike need people to help with bike checks, only a little bike knowledge needed

And that's just the gaps I know about! Some of these roles are substantial and need expertise, but many more are smaller roles, with jobs you can do in your own time to suit, or one or two meetings a year. If you can offer a little time and enthusiasm you will be welcomed. And the old saying that you get back what you put into something is very true, being involved and useful to the community, meeting new people.

If you want more details of any of these volunteer roles, please email the *Messenger* and I can provide contact details. **Helen Hale**

We're waiting for your story!

HAVE you a story to tell or an event to publicise? Or perhaps you have an opinion to share on an issue that is important to you. If so, drop us a line on staplefordmessenger@gmail.com - after all, it's your magazine and we would love to hear from you.



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Cambridge Flower Club

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

21 September In-house demonstrations on theme 'Wider Cambridge'

19 October NAFAS Demonstrator Vicki Hease 'Vintage Affair'

Enquiries about joining Cambridge Flower Club please phone **Freda Orgee** on 891464 or email fredaorgee@gmail.com

Cambridge Stroke Group

Mini Demonstrations entitled 'Wimbledon' from the Cambridge Flower Club

ON Thursday 13 July, five committee members from the Flower Club were invited to entertain the members of the Cambridge Stroke Group with a series of flower demonstrations at Shelford Rugby Club. Christine Carter depicted 'strawberries and cream', Gillian Halliwell featured the 'net and tennis balls' in her arrangement, Sarah Denham ingeniously used a 'tennis racquet' on its side to attach her arrangement of garden flowers, and Freda Orgee finished the series with an arrangement to represent the 'Ladies singles trophy'. The Wimbledon colour theme of purple, green and white was predominant.

Sian Jones was the commentator filling in with fascinating facts about the Wimbledon tournament to entertain us all. There was a free raffle for the flowers at the end of the afternoon. **Sian Jones**



Storied Places

Naomi Tomkys OBE

Art Exhibition at Stapleford Granary

1 September - 11 November | Free Admission



Artist talk: Saturday 2 September, 11am, all welcome, no need to book
"FOR as long as I can remember, I've played the same people-watching game. I imagine what strangers walking past do, who they love and what's in their pockets. My work is a development of this simple idea. I paint characters not figures. I present their stories." - Naomi Tomkys

Naomi Tomkys grew up in London where she attended Central St. Martins School of Art. She now lives and works in Cambridgeshire and her inspiration comes from the day-to-day moments that make her smile. This body of work features 39 recent paintings including scenes from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge food trucks, punting, tourists, Lammas Land Pool, Cambridge Community Circus and Strawberry Fair.

Tomkys engages with a broad range of subject matters from tourists punting to festival goers. She portrays a world of authenticity, reflecting the joys and idiosyncrasies of daily life. Her influences are eclectic ranging from the humanity of Edward Hopper to the narratives of Paula Rego.

Although her subject matter varies, a merging of past and present plays a significant part in all of Tomkys' work acting as shorthand for our cultural familiarities. It can be seen in a child wearing a Che Guevara T-shirt on a school trip or a group of Cambridge men in their uniform of Panama hats as the sun comes out. Each painting reflects a cinematic approach to her own interests in dynamic composition, nostalgia, and storytelling.

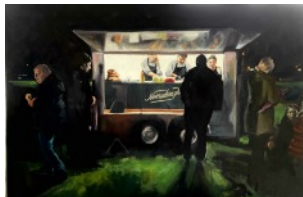
"My aim is to reflect a sense of personality in my paintings by collecting drawn people and inviting you to see what you will. I want my work to muster a familiar happiness, to laugh at the small things and feel a little warmer." - Naomi Tomkys

Tomkys describes her work as straddling realism and impressionism with changing looseness of brushstroke reflecting the tales being told. She uses traditional oil painting techniques including chiaroscuro, imprimatura, mass tone and glazing to explore her subjects. A limited classical palette, primarily focusing on skin tones, results in a controlled, explorative and joyous body of work celebrating colour.

Tomkys has shown in group and one-man shows both nationally and internationally, including The Mall Gallery, Sak and Catto Contemporary, and in exhibitions and collections as far afield as Texas and Dubai. She exhibits regularly with the Cambridge Drawing Society and Open Studios. In 2022, Tomkys received an Arts Council Award to develop her practice.

Kate Romano, CEO said:

'We're delighted to bring this collection of Naomi's paintings to the Granary. I think it's always interesting for residents to see an area they know so well through the eyes of an artist. There's a strong sense of place in Naomi's work, but it's the people who bring these places to life, so what she's giving us here is a snapshot of a particular never-to-be repeated moment capturing all the joy, mundanity, humanity and humour of everyday life. I think visitors to the exhibition will enjoy seeing life reflected back at them - and in some cases, perhaps even literally recognising themselves in the paintings!'



Opening times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am to 4pm

Wednesday - Closed

Saturday 9am to 3pm

Sunday 10am to 3pm

The gallery is also open during evening events for concert ticket holders. Occasionally, we have to close the foyer area of the exhibition due to recordings or events taking place in the concert hall.

Whats on staplefordgranary.org.uk/whats-on/events

Twitter @sgartsculture

Instagram @StaplefordGranary

Louise Bruning, 849004, louise@staplefordgranary.org.uk.

Freya Hatter

Scientist with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS)

FREYA Hatter, former Stapleford Primary school pupil, spoke with Frank Jacot from the Messenger following her recent Antarctic posting.

Freya, how was the experience this time?

Oh it was brilliant. It was my second time travelling south, this time I have just come back from South Georgia, which is a sub Antarctic Island, and it was absolutely beautiful. It's somewhere I have always dreamed of going, so a dream come true!

Which country actually owns that island?

South Georgia is a British Overseas Territory. So four days away by ship from the Falkland Islands, in the South Atlantic Ocean.

What is the route to reach that area?

So this time I flew on a Ministry of Defence flight from Brize Norton in Oxford. It was about a 10 hour flight to Ascension Island and then another 6 to 8 hours to the Falklands. I then went on the MV Pharos SG, which is the South Georgia fisheries patrol vessel which took four days crossing to get to Bird Island in South Georgia.

So it is not your average holiday destination?

No, it definitely takes a while to get there. About 7 to 8 days total to get South. There are tourist cruises that go to South Georgia though!

Was that part of a large team?

No, this time I was going down with another Marine biologist to join a team of four people on Bird Island. The other biologist was heading to a different station in South Georgia. Normally the wintering team would go down in October, then you stay down there for a year or 18 months. I left in May this year for a couple of months.



So that is their winter?

Yes, I was lucky to get a 2 month winter contract.

Does the sea freeze where you were?

Not generally around South Georgia, however bays and inlets sometimes freeze. There is no pack ice in South Georgia, like you get in Antarctica. But there are plenty of icebergs!

Is there a permanent research station in South Georgia?

There are two permanent stations. So South Georgia itself is quite a large island and just off the north-west tip is a smaller island called Bird Island where I was stationed. On Bird Island there has been a small station since 1957. You have four people wintering and 10 to 12 during the summer. It is a tiny island, 5km long and just under 1km wide. There is another station on South Georgia itself called King Edward Point (KEP). This station was established in 1920's for the Discovery Expeditions and was taken over by BAS in 1969 together with the South Georgia government. KEP shares a bay with one of the old abandoned whaling stations. During and after the Falklands war, military came in and took over the base and were there until 2001, when BAS and scientific research returned. I was lucky enough to spend a few weeks at KEP station too.



Tell us a bit about the work you were doing?

I went to Bird Island as a Zoological Field Assistant, helping on a couple of penguin projects. One was monitoring Gentoo penguin foraging trips in relation to winter Krill populations and another was Macaroni penguin diet analysis. The BAS Winter Krill project is looking at the distribution and abundance of Krill and the overlap with Krill-dependent predators around South Georgia. Krill is at the centre for all the food webs in the Southern Ocean. This data inputs into sustainably managing the winter Krill fishery.

A colleague had previously tagged 13 penguins, including some satellite tags so you can follow these on the BAS website. The others were linked to base stations. The penguins must be near so we could follow their movements. I had to move the base stations around different locations on

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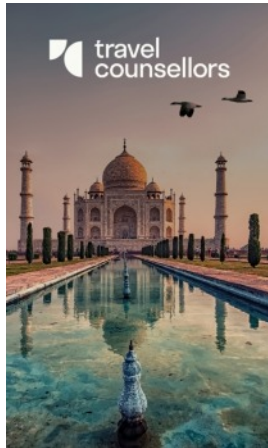


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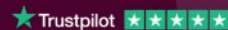
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the island to try and catch the penguins which had been tagged. The data is passed on to our team at Cambridge for assessment.

It was the best job, I got to hike around beautiful scenery every day!

The Macaroni penguin diet analysis was completed in the lab at Bird Island, identifying fish Otoliths found in their diet.

So it's crucial work?



It's really important to monitor how changes in Krill numbers might impact the whole food chain i.e. the Penguins, Leopard Seals and Orcas. The significance of the tiny little Krill!

How relevant do you feel your work is to the ongoing climate debate?

A big question! I'm only a tiny cog in a big machine at BAS. I'm hoping that the work that I do does contribute to the wider picture in assessing the impact that humans are having on fisheries and climate change. The South Georgia government uses the data we collect to assess how much fishing they can allow to happen in the relevant area. This includes the Toothfish fishery in summer months and the Krill in

winter. The work BAS does from atmospheric science, marine science to engineering and others is really critical and the research has influence over environmental policy and awareness of climate change. BAS scientists discovered the hole in the Ozone layer, so you can see how important the work is!

What inspired you to join the British Antarctic Survey?

I had always known about it because I grew up in Cambridge where BAS is based. I studied marine biology at Newcastle University. My dissertation supervisor had done some work for BAS in the past and told me he had a cupboard full Antarctic Sea Cucumbers I could use if I wanted to do a project on that! So my third year project was on seasonal and temporal changes in micro-plastic abundance in the Southern ocean. This led me down the Antarctic route. I find polar environments very interesting and the speed of climate change and human impacts on both Poles shocking and something that needs attention.

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May I ask some quick fire questions?

Sure.

We all know penguins are in Antarctica. What are the main other species?

Seals are very common, Leopard seals, Fur seals and Elephant seals in South Georgia. And on the Antarctic peninsular where I was at Christmas there are also Crabeater and Weddell seals. Bird Island has lots of incredible bird species e.g. Wandering Albatross, Giant Petrels and Gray-Headed Albatross. There are also loads of whale species, like Humpback, Orca and Fin whales.



What did you miss most from being away from home?

Other than family and my boyfriend, really long showers! We could only have short showers, 2 minutes using processed rainwater.

If you could bring one thing home with you from Antarctica, what would that be?

A penguin!

How do you keep warm enough outside?

BAS provide a kit bag and we just put on layers and layers.

What sort of food do you eat?

Initially fresh food but once that's run out, tinned and frozen!



So turning to your local roots, you went to Stapleford Primary School. How much do you remember?

I do remember quite a lot. I am still best friends with my school friendship group. We are really close. I had a really lovely time. I remember the swimming pool and playground where I broke my nose falling off the monkey bars. I have good memories.

I went to Sawston VC . I loved science and hated English. I remember having a really good time there too. I then studied Biology, Geography, Geology and Photography at Hills Road. I had a year out volunteering on various wildlife projects including Borneo and South Africa and Asia. Following that I went to Newcastle University to study Marine Biology.

I knew I wanted to be a Marine biologist since I was at Stapleford Primary school. I drew a dolphin (including me) in the Scribbler, the School Magazine.

Thank you Freya for sharing your experiences and memories.



2G3S



HERE are some forthcoming dates for your diary, hope to see you at some of them.

Dr Bike is running a special 'Back To School' session for children (with their parents, for safeguarding reasons) on Sunday 3 September, from 10am to 4pm. This will be really useful if your child is going to cycle to Sawston Village

College, as they can learn the basic checks needed on their bikes. Regular sessions will continue to run in the Slaughterhouse in Stapleford every Tuesday afternoon from 3pm to 6pm, till the end of September at least. A 23-point check is free of charge, and a repair or adjustment can be done for a small donation that goes towards parts, oil, etc.

South Cambs Organic Gardening Group meets on Monday 11 September at Cox's Close, Stapleford, at 7pm.

Nature walk on Saturday 16 September at 2pm, at Wandlebury, with naturalist John O'Boyle. Meet at the top of the car park. The walk is at your own risk, and do wear suitable clothes and footwear.

Cycle ride is on Monday 18 September. Start at 10am at Stapleford Pavilion. Booking essential, at greener@sawston.org.

Talk/conversation evening – at the time of writing this will be in Sawston at the Free Church, at 7.30pm on Monday 25 September. Two officers from SCDC will talk about small cheap ways we can all save energy, but in particular **tenants**, who cannot install solar panels, insulation, and so on. Check our website or posters then come along and get ready for cooler weather!

Save the dates - we are planning a film showing on Sunday 15 October in Whittlesford; and an energy event in the City Centre on Sunday 22 October, at which Younity, part of Octopus Energy, will talk about community energy generation, and there will be speakers and advice about reducing your home's energy usage.

Conversation/discussion evenings will also be held in November, January and February on a variety of topics, but all helping to address the cost of living as well as the climate crisis. More info on all these to come.

Repair Cafe – if you missed our last one at the Rugby Club in Great Shelford (*see photos*), the next one is on Saturday 18 November in Sawston. At the last one, our great team of repairers dealt with well over 50 items, repairing over 70% of them and helping the owners of the items understand what they were doing, in case future repairs were needed. Many of the remaining items were repairable if parts were obtained. We used the extra

space at the Club for a SWISH clothes swap, which again was very successful, taking in donations of 57lbs of good-quality clothes and only being left with 19lbs to take to the Arthur Rank Hub in Sawston. There is a lovely friendly, social atmosphere at these events, helped by copious amounts of cake! Repairs and clothes were not charged for, though donations were gratefully received, as we have to pay for the premises, the hire of tool kits from Mackays, and support for Cambridge Carbon Footprint who co-ordinate and promote all the repair cafes in the region.



Other green matters

The BBC has shown two interesting programmes recently, one on electric cars, and the other on air source heat pumps. In each one, the technology is explained, and all the various factors that are relevant are considered. In the case of the heat pump programme, they look at alternatives for heating homes (such as hydrogen), electricity generation, whether the national grid can cope, with interviews and case studies. See BBC iplayer.

Some of you will have come across critical comments by Alan Titchmarsh, amongst others, concerning wilding, letting grass grow, and so on. However, ‘wilding’ doesn’t mean ‘never mow’ – if you just leave your lawn or verges and never cut them, over time you get dominant species like certain grasses, nettles, brambles, thistles taking over. There is a need to manage your mowing in some way, and there are various timings detailed on the website plantlife.org.uk, depending on what wildlife you want to attract. If you have not cut an area of grass since the Spring it’s probably a good idea to do it now.

As I write we have all the dreadful wildfires in the Mediterranean, in Asia, In North America, which climate scientists say would be almost impossible if it wasn’t for global warming. Yet we have UK politicians diluting their commitment to net zero. Indeed, measures to cut carbon need to be introduced in a way that doesn’t penalise those people most unable to afford any extra cost. But when Centrica, Shell and other companies in the fossil fuel industries declare record profits there has to be something to address. At a personal level, many things you do to help the environment

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Stapleford Community Primary School

Review of the year



AT the end of a school year, we like to look back at all that has been achieved. From the one just gone, we have much to celebrate as a school. Our pupils embraced learning opportunities and new experiences, highlighting our School Values of Ambition, Care and Excellence.

We were delighted to see so many people at our Sports Event, where pupils rose to the occasion. It was wonderful to see pupils'

ambition and care for each other and the fact that they were striving to achieve their 'personal best' and demonstrate excellence. We also used the event to raise awareness about being partially sighted with Guide Dog puppy visitors to the event as part of our school charity fundraising. A 'Fund Race' in aid of Guide Dogs where pupils were blindfolded and used a guide rope to race was included in our Sports Day events.



Our pupils were also all involved in the Stapleford Show with artwork from across our school displayed in the marquee and it was pleasing to see our pupils' entries in a variety of art categories within the show. Our 25 pupil-strong choir performed, followed by our band. All of these pupils represented our school with confident performances. The Stapleford School Fun Run was also well attended and a great success and community event.

Representatives from our school also had an exciting opportunity with other primary school children from across our Trust. They attended an Anglian Learning Event at Marleigh Primary School which was officially opened by Michael Rosen, famous children's author. Pupils enjoyed a variety of activities in the morning and then joined children from across the nine Anglian



Leaning primary schools to form a choir which performed at the event and concluded with a carnival procession.

Our pupils have also had residential visit opportunities, with Year 6 visiting Grafham Water and Year 5 staying at Burwell House. I had the pleasure of visiting Year 6 and participating in the High Ropes Challenge and mountain biking while there! A great time was had by all and it was impressive to see pupils' approach to challenges and the teamwork demonstrated. During the 'Grafham Challenge' (a blindfolded obstacle course), the instructor for the Centre commented on how impressed she was because she had not seen a group complete it from start to finish as one team before. This demonstrated the strong teamwork and communication that exists amongst our pupils.



On return from Grafham, Year 6 pupils then took on preparations for our school production. Key Stage 2 (pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) put on 'The Wizard of Oz'. Year 6 had visited the West End in London to see 'The Wizard of Oz' and, inspired by the visit, embraced the lead roles with passion and commitment. The production was a great success and testament to the hard work of pupils and staff alike. From costume and prop design, lighting to singing there has been a real team effort to help 'showcase' some impressive talent. Who needs the West End when you have Stapleford Primary School Hall!



Our Year 6 pupils are good role models to the younger year groups and great ambassadors for the school. The end of term saw us bid farewell to them, moving on to their secondary phase of education. We were able to wish them all the very best for their transition and thank them for all they have contributed to our school community.

Our end-of-term Celebration Awards Assembly enabled us to reflect on a highly successful school year. Thank you to the Stapleford community who continue to help and support our school. **Laura Rawlings,**
Headteacher

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 118

More fields and lanes: another circular walk from Thaxted

To get to start of walk

THE same as last month! Drive to Saffron Walden. Turn left on the B184 at the traffic lights (signed Thaxted) and then keep ahead at the mini-roundabout. Turn right at the next set of traffic lights (again, signed Thaxted), still on the B184. In Thaxted, turn left on to Margaret Street, immediately before The Swan Hotel. Look out for the Free Car Park sign, as this turn is easy to miss. Use the free car park or park on the left hand kerbside just beyond The Swan.

Distance of walk

About 3.6 miles. Unlike last month's Thaxted walk, no cropped fields have to be crossed.

OS Map

OS Explorer map 195. Use maps.the-hug.net for a free map extract, or use the route map.

Extra Information

This walk offers good views of the church and windmill. The parish church has a distinctive spire and only Saffron Walden parish church, in Essex, has a higher steeple (tower plus spire). Some sources say the spire section of the steeple is taller at Thaxted. The old town mill is known as John Webb's Mill. It is brick-built and the dome, above the brickwork, rotated through 360 degrees when the sails were being aligned in relation to the wind.

Route of the walk

From The Swan Hotel, very carefully cross the main road and take the narrow path, almost opposite Margaret Street, that winds between high fences. Emerge on to Watling Lane, turn right and then go left after a very short time, when a footpath sign is seen.

This path leads steeply downhill and forks. Take either the left or right fork; they end up in the same place at the bottom of the slope. Swing left and then right and cross the River Chelmer (a stream).

Carry on ahead, going uphill to the left of a large field. The slope is not over-steep and, at the end of the field, the grass path carries on ahead between more cropped fields on either side. Ignore another path heading right just beyond the end of the first field. Looking back are excellent views of Thaxted Church and Mill. Keep going until you come to a main road.

Cross carefully and carry on ahead along the small side road. This is the hamlet of Cutlers Green. When a road junction is reached, turn right for Richmond's in the Wood. Walk along the road, which eventually goes downhill. Just before Richmond's in the Wood (a large house) turn right on a grass track and follow this until coming back to the main road that was crossed at Cutlers Green.

A footpath sign will be seen on the opposite side, just to the right. Cross over, carefully, and follow the grass path until a large building is passed on the left. This is Millhill Farm. Walk along the outside of the garden hedge, avoiding any paths heading left, and walk downhill.

Not long after the farm take the path to the right, that diverges at right angles. Follow this path, going downhill, at one point passing through the feet of a pylon. When another path from the right is encountered, the route ahead becomes more track-like, especially after passing a house to the left.

Keep on ahead, cross a bridge over the River Chelmer, and go uphill to meet up with Watling Lane. Turn right and walk along the lane until the far end. This is directly opposite The Swan Hotel. **David Barnes**

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



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If you have any problems using the NHS App, you can select "help" in the top right-hand corner of the app or visit nhs.uk/helpmeapp.

Flu Clinics

Have you booked your flu jab yet? If not please call us now on 0300 234 5555. Details of dates and eligibility can be found on our website grantamedicalpractices.co.uk/uncategorised/flu-vaccination-programme-2023/

Please note that 50 - 64 year olds with no underlying conditions are no longer eligible for a free NHS flu vaccine. However, private flu vaccinations will be widely available through high street pharmacies, etc.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sandra East, cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net



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Stop 'n Stay...

Saturday 30th September 2023

Brunch in the SCOUT HUT, visit the SSYI Youth Centre and meet the Youth Work Team. All at the Memorial Hall Great Shelford Rec, Woollards Lane

Puzzle Corner

4 x 4

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

FORD	HOOVER	TRUMP	AUSTIN
SEAT	SHOUT	CARTER	STEW
WILSON	SUIT	THORN	LOTUS
RUBBER	BENTLEY	BUSH	DUMMY

Anagrams

BORAT	KAYLE
GOLFAN	CAPRIY
TOUAREG	MONDEOR
TOURANID	CORTINAM
PASSATHEN	MUSTANGER
PHAETONMRS	GRANADAMEM(!)

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 53

Stapleford Horticultural Society



AFTER a Summer of visits and our annual Social evening, we resume our talks programme by welcoming a speaker new to the Society. Ian Bedford will be talking about ‘Garden Bugs: Cohabit, Control or Conserve?’, a topic to which I’m sure we can all relate. The talk will be held in the Johnson Hall on Thursday 14 September – a reminder that our talks

are now starting at 7.30pm. We have welcomed several new members over the past year, but more are always welcome! **John Sherwell, 841012**

Planning application

WE write about a proposal to relocate the Newmarket Road drive-through phlebotomy centre to Hinton Way [planning application 23/02823/FUL]. The plan proposes to 're-purpose' a recently-constructed open 'barn' adjacent to Magog Court, Hinton Way, Shelford Bottom.

Over recent years, Arnold Farm has morphed into Magog Court, which has gradually expanded into the adjoining field, with the construction of three 'barns', which all appear to lie empty.

A massive open structure was added last September (2022), by Hinton Way, in the open field south of Magog Court. It is an intrusion into Green Belt countryside on the Eastern approach to Cambridge, blighting reciprocal views between Cambridge and Magog Down, Wandlebury and Fox Hill. Through Cambridge PPF and Peter Fane, SCDC councillor, we learned that this vast 'barn', which has so affected the character of the area, was erected by 'prior approval' for use as a grain store, outside any democratic planning process.

The 'barn' has remained open and has never been used since its construction, and one of the documents in the planning application for its 're-purposing' (the sequential test) is dated 24 November 2022, while it was still being erected. This indicates that the proposed 'change of use' must have preceded its construction, representing a cynical subversion of planning regulations, with the aim of converting green belt into a brown-field site. The only 'neighbour' needing to be informed about the proposal was the adjacent empty barn in Magog Court.

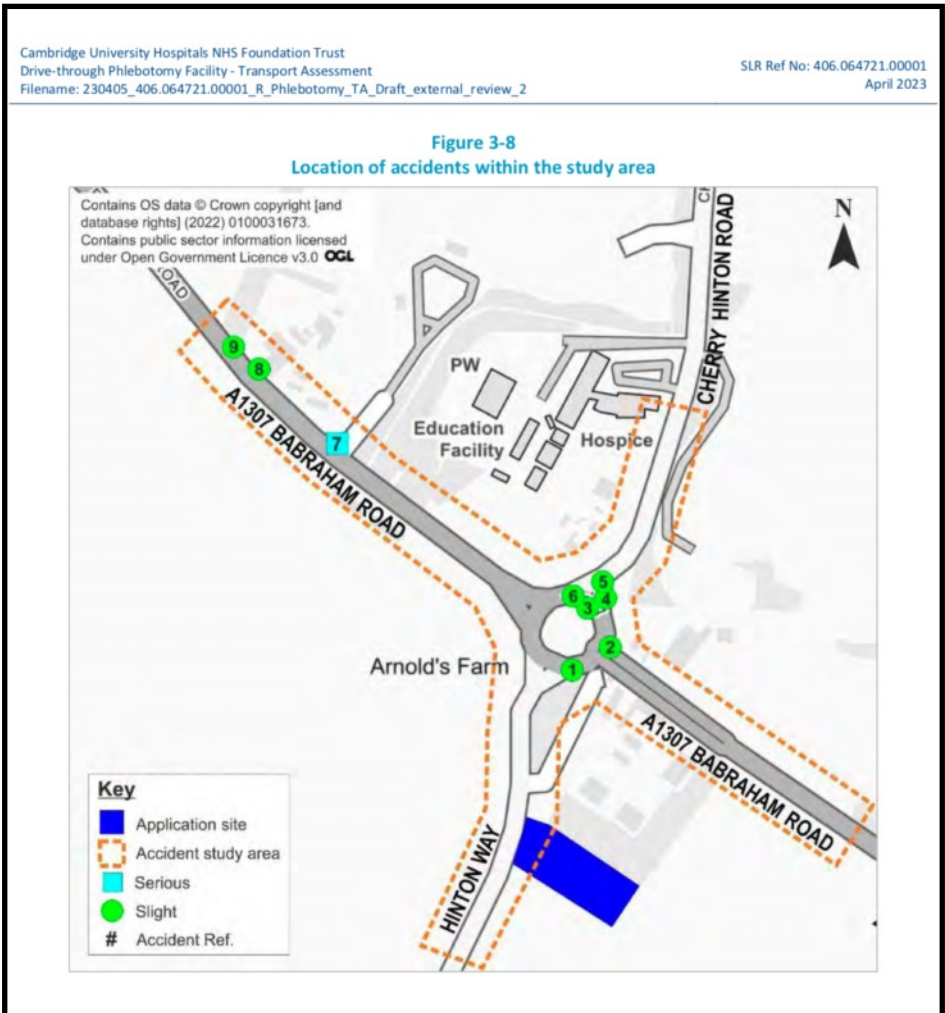
The present Newmarket Road service attracts more than 1200 cars each week (Monday - Friday) and, if located in Hinton Way, the impact on this area would be immense. To reach the site, cars would have to travel, not only along the already-overloaded A1307, but also through Hinton Way and Cherry Hinton Road/Lime Kiln Hill, both of which are narrow and dangerous. Of the nine accidents (one serious) that occurred close to Magog Court between January 2017 and December 2022, six took place on the adjacent roundabout.

The plan anticipates a large area of high-turnover parking (61 waiting cars), with engines repeatedly starting and stopping, attendant noise, pollution and restlessness, all in a sensitive location that is widely visible and designated as Green Belt.

In expressing our local concerns, we should not forget that, at this moment in world history, we have a responsibility to reduce car use and the

delivery of CO2 into the atmosphere. We should not require patients to drive long distances and queue in cars for their blood tests.

The planning documents did consider alternative locations, including continuation of the facility in Newmarket Road P&R and plots on the Addenbrooke’s campus; all accessible and less damaging to their surroundings. The Hinton Way site was ‘selected’, regardless of its impact on Green Belt and making light of its damage to local amenity and infrastructure. **Paul Meyer, Ruth Meyer (Residents of Hinton Way)**





Open Eco Home Tours and Talks 14 Sept - 20 Oct

Cambridge Carbon Footprint is delighted to present a new season of tours and talks designed to inspire, inform and involve Cambridgeshire residents in the processes and practicalities of home energy improvements through retrofit and design.

With 10 planned Eco Home tours, across a wider region of the county than before, and 5 free talks there will be something for everyone to engage with.

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- Marmalade Lane - revisiting a cohousing community of 42 homes 5 years on
- Self-builds in a development of 9 very different new homes in Caxton
- Building Hope - modular eco homes for the homeless

Talks and events:

- Human Library - book out one of our experts and experienced volunteers
- Low Carbon Heating - learn about heat pumps and other low carbon options
- Cambridge Retrofit Guide - Practical advice to retrofitting your home; what measures, how much and with who?
- Low Cost Home Energy Savings for All - low cost and solutions for home owners and renters.
- Open Eco Homes Retrospective - what our hosts have learnt in 10 years



For a full list of OEH events as they become available see <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/open-eco-homes/>



Secrets beneath our feet on Magog Down



AMONGST the richness of the summer meadow flowers on Magog Down, fascinating relationships and networks connect the species. Interesting names reveal original meanings lost in antiquity.

Vetch Stranglers!

During late May, June and July mysterious, curiously beautiful orchid-like spires appear, with no signs of green parts, leaves or fruits. These are Broomrapes (*Orobanche*), members of the *Orobanchaceae* family, a group of plants that are either total or partial parasites.

Some plants in this group parasitize a number of different plants, others only a specific host plant, which they are often named after. Identification of the different broomrapes can be tricky although it can help to look for a nearby likely host plant.

The dramatic heading 'vetch stranglers' is revealed when investigating the original meanings of the plant name. Both scientific and common plant names are rich in meaning, often revealing the history, uses and myths of a species.

The generic name *Orobanche* translates from the Greek into English as 'vetch strangler', as some Broomrapes live on plants in the Pea family *Fabaceae*.

This is a large family which includes vetches, clovers and flowering shrubs including broom and gorse.

In the common name broom refers to the broom plant, with rape stemming from the Latin word '*rapum*' which roughly translates as turnip or tuber, a reference to the swollen cluster of tuber-like roots developed by Broomrape plants.

Our photo shows Knapweed Broomrape *Orobanche elatior*, growing in the Stapleford Parish Pit. It is a perennial and occasionally seen, growing near the Greater Knapweed host plant.

Broomrapes grow underground attached to the roots of other plants through which they obtain their nutrients and water. They do not need green parts so remain hidden until they have enough energy to flower, either as a solitary spike or in clusters. They lack chlorophyll and are unable to photosynthesise and manufacture their own food. Some Broomrapes





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are perennial, although the most widespread on Magog Down, Common Broomrape *Orobanche minor* is an annual. Common Broomrape grows on plants in the pea and daisy family, particularly Red Clover.

The flowering spike produces thousands of minute seeds which are wind dispersed, in the hope that they will land near a suitable host plant. The dried flower spikes remain long after flowering.

Also in the *Orobanchaceae* family are a number of partially parasitic plants, sometimes known as root-hemiparasites. These plants have green leaves and photosynthesise, but rely on the root structures of surrounding plants for initial propagation, continuing to extract nutrients from the roots of plants such as clovers, plantains and grasses throughout their life cycle. Hemiparasites which have been found on Magog Down include Yellow Rattle, Eyebright and Red Bartsia. They are all annuals, fairly small and easily missed. Red Bartsia is the most common, often growing in trampled areas next to the grassy paths.

Red Bartsia often has a reddish tinge to the stems, leaves and flowers. It has long, curved spikes of small pinkish-purple flowers which all face the same way.



Red Bartsia,
Odontites vernus



*Eyebright, probably,
Euphrasia nemorosa*

Eyebright is a traditional medicinal herb, with the name a clue to the ancient philosophy that certain plants, because of their appearance or characteristics, could cure human ailments. It is not surprising that this bright-eyed flower was thought to be good for poor eyesight. In fact the stems, leaves and flowers are still used to make eye lotion for treating eye infections and for a remedy against weakening vision.

Yellow Rattle grows quickly and suppresses grass growth, so it is a valuable plant to have in wildflower meadows where delicate flowers and herbs need space to grow.

It has yellow flowers and an inflated calyx that becomes brown and bladder-like in fruit.

Its seeds rattle around inside the capsule when ripe, hence the plant's common name. **Claire Beale; Photos Claire Beale and Nick Beale**



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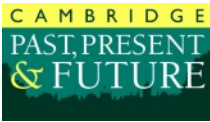
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Pollinator garden makes Wandlebury buzz



LOCAL charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future has created a pollinator garden at Wandlebury Country Park. The garden has been built in a sheltered area of the park to create a peaceful place where visitors can appreciate the flowers and the insects that pollinate them. A beautiful hand-made oak bench has been installed next to the garden. The flower bed is backed by a charismatic 18th-century wall and this is being used to display butterfly plaques designed by celebrated nature artist Eleanor Chaney.



Cambridge Past, Present & Future is encouraging people to get involved with the garden and to help support the charity's work by dedicating a plaque to celebrate a special person or event. Donors can choose a plaque inspired by four native British butterflies by making a suggested donation of £199. For more information about the pollinator garden and how to order, go to cambridgeppf.org/appeal/butterfly-plaques.

Nature notes

THIS pyramidal orchid was spotted in June by John O'Boyle in the wildflower meadow of the new cemetery.

More information from the Wildlife Trusts at wildlifetrusts.org: The pyramidal orchid is a small orchid that lives up to its name - its pink flower spike forms a pyramidal shape. It grows on chalk grassland, coastal habitats, scrub, roadside verges, old quarries and railway embankments. It flowers in June and July, its densely packed flower spike holding up to 100 flowers. It attracts a range of butterflies and moths.



Hats off to Cameo Cabaret

Join us for a variety style evening in Little Shelford Memorial Hall on Saturday 16 September at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). There will be a supper break halfway through for a meal of fish or chicken and chips or a vegetarian option.

The evening will feature a cappella choir 'Cameo', barbershop quartet, 'Loose Chickens' and some sketches, monologues and music. The Cambridge Impronauts will also perform, a quick fire improvisation experience from the oldest improvised comedy troupe in Cambridge.

Tickets (£15 per person) are available from Sarah Coppendale (842498; coppendales@btinternet.com) and Kate Waldock (07940 217763; kjwaldock@yahoo.co.uk). Please buy your tickets by Wednesday 13 September so that sufficient food can be ordered.

An evening of fun and entertainment for everyone

Great Shelford Friendship Group



This group for older men and women meets in St Mary's Community Room on THURSDAYS at 2.30pm in term-time.

A big thank you to all of you for your support so far.

We will be meeting again from Thursday, 28 September.

We have space for more members - maybe some from church congregations would like to join us as we cover all kinds of interests.

Please contact Rosey Feuall, LLM - 213305 / roseyleaf@talktalk.net – or come along one Thursday!

A community allotment

Have a break, take a seat, and watch events unfold

YOU might already have noticed the inviting looking table and chairs on the Stapleford allotments off Haverhill Road, nestled among fragrant herbs and flowers...

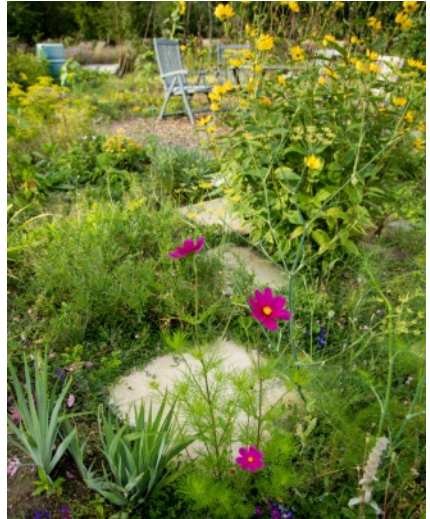
You might even have heeded the advice on the little sign at the entrance to the plot, and taken some time to sit and watch the world go by surrounded by butterflies and bees, or sunbathe, read, catch up with friends, or even enjoy a cocktail or two!

This is the new Stapleford community allotment, a plot for the people of the village. We started to clear it early this year, with the aim of creating a space that everyone passing through could benefit from and enjoy.

With sustainability front of mind, we have aimed to use free or donated items, grow from collected seed and leave plants to self-seed and grow without watering.

Looking forward, we would like to continue to develop the space as a community asset, and our future plans include: clearing the rear space for outdoor meetings and activities (the Brownies recently enjoyed an evening identifying plants and taking sun prints), creating a wildlife pond, hosting yoga and Pilates classes (any interested tutors please get in touch!), putting up a shed for seed and veg swap events (if anyone has an unwanted shed locally we would be very interested!), and creating a 'no dig' bed for next season. Of course, all events on the plot will be strictly non-profit making and for the community.

If people would like to come and get involved with any of these projects, or have ideas for other ways we could use the space, we would love to hear from you. We are on the plot most afternoons during the summer, so just stop by and say hello! **Sophy Bristow**





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Library News



CONGRATULATIONS to all the children who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge! We hope you enjoyed reading and coming along to events. If you haven't finished yet, don't worry there's still time before the awards ceremony at the Great Shelford library on Monday 25 September at 4.30pm. Remember to keep visiting the library during the school term, too. We have lots of brilliant books to support your topics and projects, plus your library card gives you free access to Encyclopaedia Britannica Online.

Heading into autumn our regular activities resume, including:

Story and Rhyme Time - Tuesday 5 September and Tuesday 19 September at 10.30am.

For children aged 0 to 4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

Lego Club - Monday 18 September 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Come along and have some fun making Lego models. All materials provided. Suggested donation £1.00. Parents and carers please stay with your children.

Engage Talk: Visiting the Antarctic - Wednesday 27 September 2.00pm to 3.30pm. "A Dream Fulfilled", a talk by Rosey Feuell. 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

Stop by to find out what's new, browse the shelves for some seasonal reads or use our free Wifi. You are always welcome at the library!

Mel Abbiss Telephone: 0345 045 5225. cambridgeshire.gov.uk

British Cactus and Succulent Society

Let's Grow Together

SUCCULENT plant show 7.30 pm to 10 pm Wednesday 13 September at Great Shelford Memorial Hall.

Traditionally our Succulent Plant Show is always held later in the year when these plants are more likely to be in growth and bloom. There will be many table top exhibits judged by local experts, as well as refreshments available, there will be succulents and cacti plant sales.

We are a small friendly group of cacti and succulent enthusiasts. Please do come in and see these unique and fascinating plants. You will be most welcome. **Jacqui Arbon**



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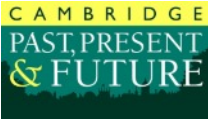
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New dog exercise area at Wandlebury



A new dog exercise area has been opened at Wandlebury Country Park. The dog run is part of an ambitious project to expand the park for the benefit of people and nature.

The 150-acre Country Park is owned and cared for by local charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future.

The dog run is in an attractive area and is securely fenced so that dogs can't run off. There is a dogs-on-lead policy at the park so the new exercise area gives dog owners the chance to give their pets a run out, as well as a walk. The dog exercise area can be found from the footpath that runs between the Games Field and the A1307, there is temporary signposting from the Games Field.



Becca, Shae, Osca with Daisy in the dog run. Photo: CambridgePPF

Arthur's Shed



ARTHUR'S Shed is a purpose-built studio set in the beautiful grounds of the Arthur Rank Hospice where our talented volunteers run sessions on topics ranging from flower

arranging to astronomy.

Sessions are open to the public, you do not need to have a connection with the Charity to attend. Sessions are free of charge, although a suggested donation of £5 is welcomed to cover the cost of materials. Monthly calendars of activities are available at arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed.

Puzzle corner answers

4 x 4

- FORD, AUSTIN, LOTUS, BENTLEY – car makers
- HOOVER, CARTER, WILSON, BUSH – US presidents
- TRUMP, SUIT, RUBBER, DUMMY – bridge terms
- SEAT, SHOUT, STEW, THORN – anagrams of compass points

Anagrams

- abort, flagon, outrage, duration, pheasants, smartphone
- leaky, piracy, doormen, romantic, arguments, anagrammed

The Little Shelford Entertainments Committee present

Hats off to the Village Weekend

All events in the Marquee and on the Wale Recreation Ground unless otherwise stated

Dance to Live Music from 'Loaded' Friday 15 September 7.30pm for 8pm

Join us for food, fun and dancing to music from 'Loaded'. Tickets available for Adults (16+). **Tickets £20 per person.**

Book on EventBright or Liz Carrothers (lizcarrothers@icloud.com) or call on 07808 128037

Saturday 16 September 1pm to 5pm Family Fun and Village Show

Join us for **free** for family fun, mini-farm animal and pets experience, guided nature walks, family games, bouncy castles, village society stalls and many other attractions for young and old. Enter your produce, baking and art into the Village Show, categories for children and adults.

BBQ and licensed bar available all afternoon.

Doors Open 7pm Hats Off Cameo Cabaret

Little Shelford Variety Evening fun for everyone..

Venue: Little Shelford Memorial Hall. **Time:** Doors open 7pm, start at 7.30pm.

Tickets: sold by Kate 07940 217763; kjwaldock@yahoo.co.uk and Sarah Coppendale 842498; coppendales@btinternet.com.

Cost: £15/head including supper. Licensed bar available.

Sunday 17 September All Saints Harvest Celebration 11am

All ages welcome. Non-perishable gifts will be collected for Jimmy's night shelter. Join us after the service for tea, coffee, cake and conversation.

Village History Walk 12.30pm

Led by local residents with a history flair.

Family Picnic 1pm

Bring your picnic, family and friends to a relaxed late Summer afternoon on the Wale in the shade of the Marquee.

Please come along and support us.. We are raising funds to improve our community so if you would like us to consider donating to your group or project please email us. For more information, offers of help or to run a stall on Saturday afternoon contact: Jo Boyle: joboyle780@gmail.com or call 07774 843770 or 843984

Neighbourhood Plan update

Gove sets sights on Cambridge greenbelt

I WON'T be the only one whose underwhelming summer was further dampened by the drip-feed of Michael Gove's as yet detail-free plan for a new urban quarter for Cambridge, comprising cutting edge laboratories (does everyone who lives here work in biotech? I don't) and a quarter of a million new homes.

As Chair of Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan's steering group, this news wasn't a complete shock to me because our Neighbourhood Plan was instigated to help shape our area in light of significant growth expectations. However, the scale of Gove's ambition is staggering; so staggering that it requires a super-squad of leading planners to parachute in, unblock bottlenecks in the current system and bring it into being. It is my understanding that none of these 'leading planners' has yet visited Cambridge.

In light of this news, it is vital that we continue full steam ahead with our Neighbourhood Plan. This cannot prevent development – that is expressly not the purpose of any Neighbourhood Plan – but it can help to ensure that identified local needs and valued places and spaces are not simply bulldozed in any gold rush (or, perhaps more appropriately, 'greenbelt rush').

Importantly, it is our way to have a say in how we want our area to develop and the right to do this is enshrined in planning law – but only once our Neighbourhood Plan is in place. Hence, time is very much of the essence. Without a Neighbourhood Plan, we remain vulnerable to speculative development, and it would be down to individuals and our Parish Councils to raise objections to planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans have the same legal status as Local Plans and the National Planning Policy Framework; individuals and Parish Councils do not.

So, please keep up to date with the work that the steering group is doing with, and on behalf of, our community. The report on our recent second community consultation is available to read at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan, together with a host of additional background information and updates. We are progressing well against our schedule, but a Neighbourhood Plan is an enormous undertaking and there is a lot to do!

Jenny Flynn, Chair of Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group, neighbourhood.plan@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.



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Better Ways for Busways update

Michael Gove's Supercity; illogicality of building bus roads



HOUSING Secretary Michael Gove has announced plans for a new 'urban quarter', including an extra 250,000 homes in addition to the roughly 50,000 already planned in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. To achieve this, Peter Freeman, Chair of Homes England (the government's housing and regeneration agency), has been appointed to lead the soon-to-be Cambridge Development Group. Where this new urban quarter – 'in keeping with the beauty of the historic centre' – will be built has not yet been revealed.

Our MP, Anthony Browne, has vowed "to do everything" to stop the "nonsense plans to improve mass housebuilding in Cambridge." He has also pointed out that the Environment Agency is objecting to "all new major housing developments in South Cambridgeshire, due to concerns about water scarcity."

There is common consensus that Mr Gove's plans will irrevocably destroy the amenity of Cambridgeshire's rural environment as we know it today. The only silver lining seems to be an emphasis on affordable housing and significant investment in a transformative and sustainable transport network.

What this should throw into perspective is the Greater Cambridge Partnership's underwhelming strategy of building busways: unconnected bus roads which terminate at the City edge, just where traffic relief is most needed.

The eye-watering cost of these bus roads, which under the GCP's own modelling will never pay for themselves, is economically illiterate, not to mention the destruction of the irreplaceable biodiversity of a 100-year old orchard at Coton and the opening up of countryside for development which could not otherwise be justified.

The GCP (whose Executive Board is a joint committee of the County Council, City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council) refuses to look at alternative proposals for on-road improvements (including junction improvements and bus lanes), which would deliver similar transportation benefits at a fraction of the cost. Many consider that the GCP's current strategy defies any rational logic save that of saying "we've got this far so we have to continue."



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However, in light of Mr Gove's ambitious future for Cambridge, should not our local leaders recognise that a far more modern and sustainable transport infrastructure is needed? For example, a light rail option (proven to be both feasible and affordable) would render busways obsolete.

With widespread horror in response to Mr Gove's proposals, it remains to be seen how all this will develop, but there is a sense that central government of whichever political background will consider Cambridge to be of national importance to the UK's growth. Surely for anyone with any concern for our natural environment, this is a time for action to preserve our countryside.

We want as many people as possible in our villages to be informed about how damaging and utterly ridiculous the GCP's busway plan is, and to this end watch this space! We will hold a public meeting in the Autumn to give all residents the opportunity to contribute towards BW4B's fundraising target. A public enquiry with our own legal representation and expert witnesses representing the interests of our villages is the price of democracy.

Howard Kettel

Better Ways 4 Busways (bw4b.org; [@BetterBusways](https://twitter.com/BetterBusways); hello@bw4b.org)

Little Shelford Badminton Club

Ready for the new season!

LITTLE Shelford Badminton Club meets every Thursday night at 7.30pm at Little Shelford Memorial Hall for very sociable games of doubles. We have a good group and are always keen to see new faces.

This season will start on Thursday 7 September, with 15 weeks before Christmas and another 15 weeks taking us to 18 April 2024.

New members can come free for the first night to make sure it is for you. Thereafter pay £5/session for up to 6 weeks, when we are keen you join us properly and pay the £100 annual subscription that works out at only £3.33 per night! (Students half price at £50.)

In the past we have run coaching sessions for the juniors and entered teams in the Cambridge league. Not just yet but coming again soon – we hope!

For more information, contact **James Newman** on 07717 394176 (james@jamesnewman.org).

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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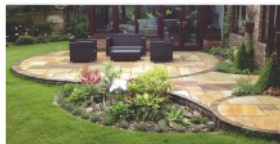
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