

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

November 2023

Volume 82 No 11

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Can we save these raptors?

Stephanie Foote explains on page 30



A Honey Buzzard in the skies above Georgia

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Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate

Rev Lucinda Howard 07763 477821

Churchwarden

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07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer

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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

HERE is a story I came across this week.

In 1935 a German journalist and pacifist called Carl von Ozzietzky received the Nobel Peace Prize for exposing secret German rearmament. The German government, by then under Nazi control, responded by prohibiting all Germans from accepting or keeping any Nobel Prize. For two German physicists, Max von Laue and James Franck this was a problem. They had each received the Nobel prize for physics and still had the medals. So they sent



their medals to Niels Bohr's Institute of Theoretical Physics in Denmark for safe keeping. A good plan until Germany invaded Denmark in 1940. How to keep the medals safe? Bury them? Send them somewhere else?

Niels Bohr and a chemist, George de Hevesy came up with a plan. De Hevesy dissolved the pure gold medals in nitro-hydrochloric acid (a mixture known as aqua regia), producing an orange liquid which he put in a flask and left on a shelf in plain sight. De Hevesy himself had to flee from Denmark, but when he returned to the Institute after the war the solution was still there. He precipitated the gold and sent it to the Nobel Society, which had the medals recast. They were presented again to von Laue and Franck in 1952. It is well worth reading around this story. All the actors were remarkable people, all involved in different ways in resisting oppression and helping Jews and others to escape the terror of Nazism.

In this week of unspeakable terrorism against Jews in Israel, and when legitimate questions are being asked about the Israeli response, this was a small reminder that the history of persecution against Jews is a very long one. The Hamas terrorism was appalling. The unfolding response does leave us, at best, uneasy. I am not for my part sure that the response is a clear breach of international law as some have said, but it is causing much suffering among innocents. What should be our response to all this?

The persecution of Jews, as the Nobel story reminds us, includes the Shoah, but it goes back much further. As I thought of the massacres in Israel I remembered a visit years ago to Clifford's Tower in York. In 1189 Richard I announced his intention to join a crusade, and anti-Jewish feeling in England was inflamed. The Jewish community in York took refuge from the mob in the castle. The local sheriff attacked and a siege followed. What happened is obscure, but one way or another the tower caught fire and 150 Jews were

killed. England has played its own small part in the centuries of terror against Jewish people.

That terror certainly goes back to the second century CE under the Emperor Hadrian, and arguably back to Seleucid and Babylonian times hundreds of years earlier. Many times over 2,000 years or more the object of enemies of Jews has been to annihilate them, nothing less.

It is that history that I have in mind when trying to understand this week's massacre and the response. The people of Israel have a unique and long history of being terrorised, and a particular recent experience of it. I cannot stand in their shoes or imagine doing so. However much we should also weep for many innocent Palestinian victims this week – and we should – the killing of hundreds of Jews, and the rapes and taking of hostages, all done by those who stand in the centuries old lineage of wanting to exterminate all Jews, is beyond words. Facing parallel existential threats from Hezbollah, Syria and Iran, Israel is doing what it feels it has to. Who can judge them at this point? The whole thing is too terrible for us to comprehend.

So if you, like me, are struggling to make sense of it all, what can we do?

There is a lovely Psalm, probably written by King David around 1,000 BCE, which speaks of praying for the peace of Jerusalem. It goes like this:

'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May those who love you be secure.
May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.
For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, "Peace be within you."'

There is precious little we can do about the situation in Israel and Palestine. For my part, even understanding what is happening beyond the barest facts is impossible.

It is good to have somewhere to turn when we feel inadequate. And that somewhere is prayer. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and that peace may extend to every corner of the Middle East. Pray for both Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Muslims, and all caught up in the terror and the response. Pray for wisdom for all in authority who might influence events. Pray for peacemakers to be raised up. Pray for our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters here in Stapleford too, that they too might know peace. And pray for yourself, that peace might be within us and that all our words and actions might say 'Peace be with you.'

Every blessing to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

- | | | |
|--------|----------|---|
| 5 NOV | 9 AM | BCP COMMUNION |
| | 10.30 AM | CW COMMUNION ON ALL SAINTS' DAY Revelation 7.9-17; Matthew 5.1-12 <i>Blessings</i> |
| | 10.30 AM | MESSY CHURCH COMMUNION |
| | 6 PM | CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SOULS' Lamentations 3.17-26; Romans 5.5-11 |
| 6 NOV | 7 PM | MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING |
| 12 NOV | 9 AM | BCP COMMUNION |
| | 10.45 AM | REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18; Matthew 25.1-13 <i>Come and meet him!</i> |
| 19 NOV | 9 AM | CW COMMUNION |
| | 10.30 AM | SUNDAY WORSHIP & BAPTISM Leviticus 19.1-2, 15-18; Matthew 13.24-52 <i>The Kingdom of God</i> |
| | 10.30 AM | MESSY CHURCH IN THE JOHNSON HALL |
| 26 NOV | 9 AM | BCP COMMUNION |
| | 10.30 AM | ALL TOGETHER SERVICE Ephesians 1.15-23; Matthew 25.31-46 <i>Come, blessed ones</i> |
| 30 NOV | 5.30 PM | EVENING PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S DAY Isaiah 52.7-10; Romans 10.12-18; Matthew 4.18-22 |
| 3 DEC | 9 AM | BCP COMMUNION |
| | 10.30 AM | CW COMMUNION ALL AGE TOY SERVICE Isaiah 64.1-9; Mark 13.24-37 <i>Watch!</i> |
| | 6 PM | CHORAL EVENSONG Isaiah 1.1-20; Matthew 21.1-13 |

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

Messenger subscription renewal

IT is now time to pay for subscriptions to the *Messenger* for 2024. Thank you to those who have subscribed this year and welcome to any new subscribers for next year.

The annual charge remains at £9 for local deliveries and £25 for postal subscriptions.

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The Stapleford Messenger Team

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

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Notable November



NOVEMBER is the penultimate month of the year, Poet John Keats states in the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.' There is beauty as the year slows down. Deciduous trees lose leaves, looking cold, bare yet majestic. Texture of bark speaks, inviting touch, maybe hugs. Berries gleam, red, yellow, orange. Seed heads, pods, fungus,

pumpkins and squashes intrigue. Pathways tease us onwards. R. S. Thomas wrote 'A Day in Autumn', talking of:

'Leaves adding their decoration
To the trees shoulders, braiding the cuffs,
Of the boughs with gold; a bird preening
In the lawns mirror.'

Cherish the scene, he advises. to treasure on emptier days.

Primary yellow is colour of the month. Sunshine, sand, corn, lemon and honey. Seasonally it applies to amber, bronze, copper., chestnut, russet and golds. Warming spices too; ginger, nutmeg, cinnamon and turmeric. November's birthstone is topaz, a hard glassy yellow, pink or colourless mineral. In 1912 the citrine, a brownish yellow quartz became the false topaz. American jewellers found it was cheaper.

Notable November days are 1st, All Saints Day; 2nd All Souls Day, 'commemoration for the faithful departed,' those loved and fondly remembered. Guy Fawkes Night is on the 5th, controversial when considering Saving the Planet. 11th is Remembrance Day. This year's theme, 'Legacy; Finding Hope and Building a Peaceful Future.' Poignant in our troubled world. If only our heart felt sorrow could be channelled for good.

On our hallowed turf bright colours and patterns cheer. Delicious food is savoured. Plum, rhubarb, apple, blackberry crumbles possibly with creamy custard. Punch treats taste buds. Treacle toffee tests teeth. Poppy seed, marmalade, ginger, courgette and beetroot homemade cakes entice. Garden or allotment produce shared with friends. Part of thought-provoking November.

Thomas Hood is negative in his poem putting NO before each word.

'No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds.'

November sounds bleak. Let us see beyond such dismal thinking. If stars, nova, were visible they'd be tiny beacons of hope. **Judith Lee**

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Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

A transformational project empowering women and girls



THIS is what Kevin Bushiri, Chair of the Nachingwea Link, has called the project we have been supporting, run by the DARE Foundation non-governmental organisation (NGO) (Development Assistance for Rural Education, darefoundation.com).

A working group of women from different religions and tribes has come together in Nachingwea. They are committed to collaborating together to bring education to all their communities. The aim is to provide access to menstrual products, training on making cheap, reusable products, education on safety and hygiene and the right to manage menstruation without shame or stigma.

As in many countries women can face serious challenges when it comes to managing their periods. A lack of materials, restrictions on girls' movements during their period and taboos and myths surrounding menstruation can lead to exclusion from daily activities, including work and school.

By working to improve menstrual health and tackling period shame it should be possible to improve girls' attendance and performance at school, break down taboos and misconceptions and raise self-esteem.

However, this has to be done sensitively and the DARE Foundation will work not only with women and girls but also community leaders, and men and boys.



The DARE Foundation has spent a week in Nachingwea to gain an overview of the local culture and to meet the group, discussing the project with villagers and the village government. They took a doctor and

a registered occupational therapist and held discussions, training and workshops to teach the ladies how to make the sanitary pads. The 40+ women have enjoyed getting together so much that they have set up their

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own group, meeting monthly, paying a small subscription and they have renamed the project 'The Women's Health Project'.



Soon there will be a further visit by DARE, supported by the Stapleford Link, to consolidate the education training, source supplies of material for making sustainable products, set

up ways of making and selling the products and to ensure that all good practices are in place and being followed. Finally, they will train women as trainers, empowering them so the project can continue and flourish.

Kevin wrote after the first week of training, that the project "has been transformational for the community, bringing women together from different religions and tribes, empowering them and giving them the tools to self-fund."

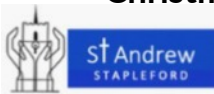
He says that this is unique in his experience. We learn that previously, it was taboo for women to speak even amongst themselves about women's issues but now they want to learn about contraception, childbirth etc.

Do join us at our Christmas Fair to support this and our many other projects. **The Stapleford Link Committee**

Keep the Date

Christmas Tree Festival at St. Andrew's Church,

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Chime away

St Andrew's Handbell Ringers seek recruits

THE team meets on Wednesday evenings at 8pm in St Andrew's Church to practise a variety of musical pieces and we occasionally give performances for groups such as the WI and local care homes.

Anyone is welcome to come and try; you don't need a musical background, (though it may help), or the ability to read music, simply the ability to count! For further information please contact me. **Jill Butler, 844133.**



November @ St Andrew's

NOVEMBER is a time of remembering in the life of the church.

On Sunday 5 November at 10.30am at our All Saints' celebration we remember the whole church through all ages.

Later that day at 6pm we have a wonderful Choral Evensong at which, amidst wonderful music and readings we will read out the names of those we have loved and lost and wish to remember. It is always a hugely moving occasion. If you would like your loved one remembered, please email Gillian, our St Andrew's administrator, on admin@standrewstapleford.org. She will add names to the list. No need to do that again if you have already been in touch.



On Sunday 12 November at 10.45am we have our annual Remembrance Sunday service, honouring those who have died for us in war, giving thanks for the peace they have won us and praying for peace for all.

And one more: at a short service of Evening Prayer on Thursday 30 November we remember our patron saint, St Andrew. This is the nearest we come to celebrating the church's birthday. A low-key event this year because 1,053 years is not one of those birthdays anyone makes a big fuss about, but all are welcome nonetheless!

Please join us for these – and any of our other services – in November.
Simon Taylor

Independent Examiner for St Andrew's



WE are truly grateful for all the things people do to help out St Andrew's whether they are regulars at the church or not – it really is wonderful that so many people are willing to put in time and effort to keep St Andrew's, your village church, going strong.

But here is a very specific thing we need help with: a new independent examiner.

The independent examiner is someone with the ability and practical experience that makes them able to carry out a competent examination of the accounts. We have an excellent bookkeeper and treasurer, so everything is kept in apple pie order, but it is a legal requirement that the accounts are also independently examined each year. The next examination will be in early 2024. We will by then have prepared the accounts for 2023, which we have to present to the church annual meeting probably early in March, so the examiner's check and certification needs to be done before that.

We have been very blessed by an independent examiner doing the job faithfully over the last few years, and are very grateful for him, but now we need a new one. Could it be you or someone you know? Get in touch on simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com or 840256. Many thanks in advance.

Simon Taylor

Stapleford Twinning Association

AGM



YOU are more than welcome to join us at our Annual General Meeting which will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 23 November at Cox's Close. At the meeting we'll be reporting on our present and future events, and you'll have the opportunity to give us your thoughts on any aspect of our activities.

After the formal part of the meeting there will be a selection of lovely, homemade puddings, accompanied by a glass of wine, to be enjoyed free of charge. The wine is a Vouvray which is local to our twinned village of Villedômer near the Loire Valley in France. It came as a gift from our twinning friends when they visited Stapleford earlier this year.

Tim Jessop

More about our association at: twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk

Email: staplefordtwinningassociation@gmail.com

Mother's Union



THIS November, we are looking forward to a talk from one of our members, Felicity Cooke, on 'The work of a Lay Canon' – on 23

November, 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall. Felicity was ordained as a Lay Canon in Ely Cathedral.

Also in November, we are having our Toiletries Appeal (linking with the MU campaign against gender- based violence) when we ask for toiletries that can be sent to the Cambridge Womens' Refuge. The collection boxes will be in the church porch from 13 to 27 November, so once again we hope for the usual generous response from the parish.

The Nachingwea Fair is on 2 December, and we will be having our usual Christmas Hamper raffle, so please could members bring contributions for it at the November meeting – thank you. **Hilary Street**





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Women's Institute



WHAT a pleasure it is to be able to tell you that at a recent quiz evening, where 35 teams of four members each from various Cambridgeshire WIs were competing, our team was crowned the winners. Congratulations to Eddie Ridgeon, Christine Wylde, Susan Clark and Frances Clifford who successfully answered eight question rounds and a picture quiz. However, no WI group will ever be able to claim two successive victories, as the onus to produce the next year's quiz falls on the shoulders of the current champions. Our President, Susan Clark, told members at our September meeting that this is already in hand as it is a considerable task.

Celia Weir thanked members for their continued support for the Cambridge Foodbank and reported that the number of people who visit the Fairbite shop is increasing monthly.

Following the business section of our meeting, we then had an illustrated talk about the birds and wildlife in Costa Rica. Ray Munden and his wife had visited this small country and taken some wonderful photos of the exquisitely coloured birds, of which there are more than 840 species.

At our meeting in November we will have a 'bring and share' supper when we will celebrate Harvest and look forward to Christmas. Members will be competing for the Produce Cup and baking gingerbread for this.

In addition to our monthly meeting held in the Pavilion on the fourth Thursday of each month, we also offer craft and book groups. The Cambridgeshire Federation organises a number of social activities including outings, lunches and craft sessions which are available for all WI county members. If you are interested in finding out more about all we do, then please consider coming to a meeting as a visitor, or speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847. You can also find us on staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson**



Our winning quiz team (L to R): Eddie Ridgeon, Christine Wylde, Susan Clark and Frances Clifford

2G3S

EVENTS coming up for your diary.

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- state-of-the-art infrared camera imaging to see where you lose heat from your home
- cost-effective retrofitting strategies
- sustainable living solutions
- discussion session

Join us for an enlightening evening featuring our speaker from Cambridge Carbon Footprint, a renowned expert body in sustainable living and energy efficiency.

South Cambs Organic Gardeners

Meet at Cox's Close in Stapleford on Monday 13 November at 7pm.

Repair Café

Saturday 18 November from 2pm to 5pm at Sawston Free Church. Bring along your broken item and a skilled volunteer will help you fix it! We can tackle a wide variety of repairs including clothes and fabrics, electrical items, jewellery and other items. We may be able to accept some repairs on the day, but please note that for electrical repairs in particular it is better to book in advance. (Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets). We are grateful to the Sawston Free Church for providing the venue for this event. If you have any questions, please email 2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com. It's a free event but donations are very welcome. The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees. Tea and cake will be available of course! (*see below for more information about the repair movement in other countries*).

Book Group

Meets on Tuesday 21 November at 8pm at the Three Horseshoes pub in Stapleford. They will be discussing 'Islands of Abandonment' by Cal Flynn.



Dr Bike

Continues to hold volunteer-run weekly Bike Repair Sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford from 3 pm to 5.30 pm every Tuesday. We offer a free 23-point check, and we can do minor repairs for a donation (just to help us maintain a stock of commonly-used spares). Children are welcome but must bring a responsible adult with them as well as their bike. We can't work on hydraulics or e-Bike electrics. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, or have any questions on Dr Bike, get in touch using drbikestapleford@gmail.com.

Please note there will be no more nature walks or cycle rides till next Spring.

SCDC magazine

You will have received the latest copy of this, which had several 'green' items in. It reminded us that electrical waste can be recycled e.g. at Tesco in Fulbourn. Look out for the bright pink bins. It also highlighted food waste, giving tips and advice (and a free draw!) at recap.co.uk/pledge-to-fight-food-waste. Other topics featured included caring for nature in your gardens over winter (lots of advice on the RSPB website), and grants for retrofitting and upgrading your heating boiler.

Repairing across the World

From Peter Woods, our Repair Café organiser:

"I recently attended the second ever European Repair Café Conference, an on-line event with speakers and attendees from the UK, Europe, and the USA. We know that our own Repair Cafés are very popular, but we suspect that there are a lot of people out there who have not even heard of them, and we are always trying to think of ways to expand awareness of Repair Cafés and the whole 'Reduce-Repair-Reuse-Recycle' mentality. It seems we are not alone, with similar thoughts being expressed by several of the speakers at the conference.

"But while we try to find ways to appeal to a wider audience, in particular to be inclusive of younger people, there is a trend in continental Europe toward making the idea of repairing, rather than throwing away and replacing, mainstream. Since January 2021, shoppers in electronics and appliance shops around France have seen new colour-coded labels on some products, showing a score of how easy it should be to have the product repaired. The scores are part of the world's first repair index, which campaigners believe could have a global impact.

"More recently, France is initiating a clothing repair program, intended to reduce waste. Each year in France, around 772,000 tons of clothes are



AA

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discarded, with two-thirds of them – many items likely perfectly wearable – adding to the heaps of usable ‘trash’ in landfills. The new scheme involves the government offering a ‘repair bonus’ for people to have their clothes mended. Starting in October 2023, those joining the programme will be able to receive a credit of €6 - €25 for bringing their shoes and clothes to a cobbler or workshop to be mended.

“I still think a cup of tea and a chat, as available at our Repair Cafés, is even better value, but this is an interesting concept that I hope we might see considered on this side of la Manche.”

“The EU is drafting legislation that would apply throughout the EU, to require manufacturers to provide a reparability rating for their products, similar in concept to the A+, A, B, C, D etc ‘energy rating’ we are familiar with, and also an obligation to make information (and spare parts) available to consumers and repairers. This reminds me of what we already are used to for motor vehicles – of course it's not affordable to scrap a car because, say, the radiator is leaking, but replacement radiators are available and there are plenty of competent workshops who can carry out the repair (for a fee of course). This contrasts with what we find at our Repair Cafés even for quite expensive electrical and electronic items, where it may not even be possible to access the interior of a device without damaging it; and when a fault can be traced to a defective component, no spare is available. Repair Cafés are explicitly considered in the draft EU legislation, which is an indicator of how influential the Repair Café movement has become.”

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.com to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live more sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website (type 2G3S into Google and you will find us). **Helen Hale**



Barn Art Society



Art exhibition by local artists

Johnson Hall, Mingle Lane, Stapleford

Saturday 25 November, 12pm to 5pm (preview 12pm to 1pm)

Sunday 26 November, 10am to 4pm

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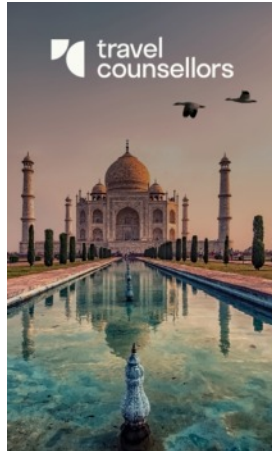


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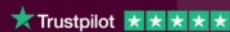
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The transformational effect of Mothers' Union programmes overseas



THE Mothers' Union has been running Literacy and Financial Education programmes in some African countries (Burundi, the DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and South Sudan) for the past twenty years, which have had a transformational effect on the lives of women and families in those countries.

In Burundi in East Africa, the programme has resulted in more than 144,000 people (89% women) accredited as literate, increasing the literacy rate there by nearly 3% - the rate of literacy in 2021 was nearly 75% of the adult population. This has enabled people, particularly women, not to be cheated due to lack of numeracy, and to have agency to set up businesses and improve their lives. 90% of the female participants started their own micro-businesses. It also helped with girls' education; 62% were sent to school in 2022, compared to 52% in 2006. Men have also benefited from the programme through learning the importance of allowing women more freedom in their lives, resulting in a decline in domestic violence. And as health care is inaccessible to about 90% of the population, the programme has meant 96% of participants can now afford health insurance, due to learning about how to manage their finances better; savings and credit unions have been set up to help with this achieve this. **Hilary Street**

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Stapleford History Society



How Cambridge made England

A talk by Chip Colquhoun

Author, actor, publisher and professional story-teller Chip Colquhoun explains just how our very own Cambridge is entirely responsible for creating a whole country!

Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion
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OASISS

Welcoming Ukrainians into our communities



EVERYONE will remember the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. People in this country were anxious to help, and local residents were no exception. A support group, Open ArmS In Shelfords and Stapleford (OASISS) was set up in our group of villages to welcome refugees into our community.

“It focused on helping those seeking refuge through the Government’s Homes for Ukraine (HfU) Scheme. There was enthusiastic support from the three local Parish Councils, as well as SCDC/CCC, local churches / organisations / societies and a host of individuals.” (from OASISS Report, September 23)

Altogether over a hundred Ukrainian guests found homes in the three villages.

It hasn’t just been about providing accommodation, and helping guests to find schools and jobs. OASISS has organised language classes; provided bicycles, toys and clothes; and when the time has come for guests to move on, found furniture and other essentials for their new homes.

But a big part of the scheme’s undoubted success has been the social support. Right from the get-go there have been coffee mornings, lunches and parties; fundraising activities; yoga, tennis – even a trip to the seaside! All this has helped to strengthen the bonds between the Ukrainians and their host communities and ensure that the individual friendships we have made will continue well into the future, whatever happens.



In Stapleford, nine families have hosted Ukrainian families or individuals. I have found hosting to be most enjoyable and, as well as having fun with my guest, I have been fascinated to learn something of Ukrainian culture and history. A truly enriching and rewarding experience.

Now, over eighteen months into the scheme, people are starting to move on. Many of the Stapleford guests have moved into their own accommodation, some to Sawston. Twin boys who arrived last year aged 17 are both now at different universities in the UK (see separate article)! But

the scheme continues. Some of us still have our guests, and new arrivals continue to create a demand for new hosts. If you join the scheme you will be well supported, both financially by the government scheme and South Cambridgeshire, and in many other ways by OASISS itself and the broader village communities.

So if you have a spare room, do get in touch with OASISS to find out more (email granta.oasiss@gmail.com or contact oasiss.uk/offer-to-host).

They will be delighted to hear from you! **Linda Whitebread** (with many thanks to OASISS for their help in preparing this article).



The OASISS runners at Sawston Fun Run – 33 Ukrainian entries!

Hosting Ukrainian boys – a happy tale



ONCE the request for hosts came from the government we signed up for the scheme but heard nothing more until a neighbour alerted us to the wonderful

OASISS group, who asked if we could offer a home to a mother and 17-year-old twin boys. We agreed to take the boys and their mother went to hosts in Shelford on the understanding that she could visit her sons whenever she wished. When they arrived we learned that all three had been living in one room with friends in Lithuania for three months and were overjoyed to have a room each.

The boys had been at university in Ukraine before the invasion and were desperate to join the army but first of all were too young and, more importantly, their parents wanted them to leave for safety. Once the flurry of activity died down and residence permits, NHS registration, bikes and laptops all obtained, the boys settled into continuing their studies online which meant being up at 6am to ‘attend’ lectures from their Ukrainian universities.



Marko and Dima with Mike by the river

Luckily we had had our own teenagers and were accustomed to the constant trek to the fridge and breadbin. I'm not sure how good their diet was but they consumed mountains of bread and cheese! They were unfailingly polite and, as their English improved, challenged us with ever more complicated conversation, ranging from Ukrainian Orthodoxy, through the merits or otherwise of life in various parts of Britain, to British politics and any other subject under the sun, including Boris Johnson whom they regarded as a hero for his stance on the war. A typical opening gambit would be "Excuse me Mike and Christine, what is your opinion of?", until we began to question ourselves as to whether we had any opinions at all. Above all they showed a touching loyalty to Ukraine as the foundation for all the good things in the world.

Both boys found jobs and cycled miles to work, gaining an intimate knowledge of potholes and on one occasion a very thorny rose bush, but were undaunted and continued to cycle as fast as possible. Regular punctures were mended by Mike and the Stapleford Bike Doctor.

Other memorable moments were Marko losing his passport whilst on a visit to Poland and being stranded there for a couple of months, then finding a job in a pub and being very disappointed to find that the chef wasn't interested in discussing philosophy!

After months of hard work both boys eventually passed the dreaded IELTS exam and gained university places - thanks are due to a family friend who steered them through LNAT, UCAT and UCAS. They set off in the middle of September in opposite directions and have both written to tell us they are happy. The morning they left for university Marko announced that he had lost his wallet and needed to go to the bank! They did still catch their train and rail-replacement bus and gave us both the most affectionate hugs.

Our house is now rather quiet but their legacy is the friendship which we have with them and their family and the bonus for us which is friendships with people in OASISS whom we would not otherwise have met.

We look forward to the next chapter! **Christine Moore**

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.

A visit to Uganda

BILL Powell and his wife, Valerie, have developed close links with Uganda over many years. Here they describe a recent trip to visit their friends and projects.



THE 'Pearl of Africa' is a great tourist destination with its mountain gorillas, elephants, hippos, exotic birds and scenery such as crater lakes, bubbling mud pots, the Murchison Falls as the Nile flows into Lake Albert, and the fabled Mountains of the Moon, which remain snow capped until global warming melts it.

Ugandans are very friendly. They are taught English from primary school and use it as their common language. So why not book your next adventure there?

But we did not go as tourists. We went to see friends we had not seen since before Covid19 locked down education there for two years. First was Julius who is now an importer of organic fertiliser. He used to be the bamboo instructor at the Uganda Industrial Research Institute. Bamboo grows much faster than trees, so could help save the forests, gorillas and

'The Planet'.

Phelix and Isaiah were caddies on the golf course where my brother plays. Lockdown treated them badly. It separated Phelix and his girlfriend leaving her unable to pay their rent. She shared her grief online, but with a bit of help she took up making incredibly beautiful cakes to pay her way.



A cook cooking school dinners on three stone fires

When Isaiah saw the children locked out of school he started an 'Urban Farm' and set up the Afriyeya

Golf Academy to teach youngsters. It now has links with several UK and US golf clubs. He is also teaching them to grow trees along the Mpanga river and he leads a litter picking party every month.

I visited him when he was studying at the Nyabyeya Forestry College and there met Benedictor the instructor for clean cook stoves. These use

70% less wood for cooking and produce almost no smoke. Smoke from cooking leads to more early deaths than malaria and AIDS combined.

In lockdown his salary was stopped but he sent me a picture of a Lorena mud stove he had built for his landlord. I was impressed. Construction uses only local materials. My family paid him to build ten more for poor families.

Now Ben has a shop / office in Fort Portal where portable stoves and fuel are sold, and orders taken to build stoves into kitchens. It is still struggling, but gaining attention of NGOs. He had just trained a team of forty-five to build 300 Lorena stoves around Gulu in Northern Uganda

sponsored by a Japanese NGO.

It was through Isaiah that I met Claire, Hellen and Abu Hussein who founded 'The Change Society Needs' (CSN). Claire and Hellen were students at Mountains of the Moon University (MMU). Abu was a self-trained photographer that accompanied parties of tourists. His father did not want to stop at one wife so became a Muslim, but ran away and supported none of them. Abu works closely with church leaders.



Valerie and Ugandan girl making sanitary pads

CSN visits poor villages teaching them about clean cooking, tree planting and better diet. But it is Sexual & Reproductive

Health (SRH) information that they most want. Many girls miss school during their periods, fall behind and drop out. Hellen started classes to teach them to make sanitary pads and Abu made videos. When we visited schools we found classes where boys as well as girls were making pads. This is their way to overcome the stigma attached to periods. Condoms are free in Uganda in order to reduce the spread of AIDS. The CSN team distributes these to the villages and gives instruction about birth control.

Climate change is only one cause of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. Another is population which is increasing by 50% every thirteen years, half the population is under eighteen. But the young women of today are no longer content to spend half the day cooking maize and beans on a three stone fire for their twelve children. They want to live as women do here with education and jobs and smaller families. They are starting to realise women need the means to control their fertility as women do here. But Britain has cut its help for that by 85% and is recruiting doctors to our NHS.

Join us in the Johnson Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 14 November as we will relive our Uganda tour. For a preview see: tiny.cc/BP-VP2UG23.

The other Georgia - slightly warmer

Raptor conservation

I RECENTLY returned home to Stapleford from a 17 day trip to Georgia with my work at Fauna & Flora (fauna-flora.org/) and wanted to share some photos with you all showing the beautiful landscapes and wildlife conservation work.

Fauna & Flora is a 120 year old international nature conservation charity that is headquartered in Cambridge. Its work spans a range of areas affecting nature and influencing our planet's future. These issues range from habitat destruction to illegal wildlife trade. Climate change to plastic pollution. Corporate sustainability to global policy. The charity works in Georgia to conserve sturgeon and raptors.



Geopolitically, Georgia is part of the Caucasus region, which also incorporates Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as parts of north-east Turkey, north-western Iran and southern Russia. It is one of the most welcoming countries I have ever had the opportunity to visit, in rural areas everyone we met invited us into their homes for a meal, sometimes we would be offered so many lunches we had to turn some down because we had a very busy schedule to follow but even then families would gift us homemade khachapuri (a type of cheese bread) as a packed lunch! We photographed and filmed the conservation work but also threats to the environment. The most impactful moment for me was visiting a landfill site and seeing first-hand the impact unsustainable consumerism has on our planet. It really made me think twice about anything I throw in the black wheelie bin in future and I hope we can move towards using less non-recyclable packaging and a circular economy in the future.

There are many species of migrating raptors in Georgia. The Honey Buzzard on the front cover was photographed at the Batumi bottleneck, where over 1 million migrating raptors pass each autumn. It is likened to the great migration of Wilderbeest in the Serengeti as one of the world's spectacles.

I was inspired seeing the incredible dedication young people had for nature conservation. One young falconer, Giorgi Kharbedia is using bird



ringing to support conservation research. He visits local schools with our colleagues to teach the children about the importance of nature. In the photo above he is releasing a bird back into the wild after data collection for conservation research.

For more information about the raptor conservation work go to: fauna-flora.org/projects/conserving-migrating-raptors-western-georgia/.
Stephanie Foote

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Two-letter sequences

Solve the clues to find words containing two-letter sequences

Examples

Russian drink (DK) = voDKa

seal-like mammal (LR) = waLRus

digitalis (flower) (XG) = foXGlove

Group 1

19th hole? (BH)

Greek letter (BD)

part of body (BC)

German wine (BF)

small digital picture (BN)

underground passage (BW)

Group 2

fruit (MQ)

cinest (MG)

commonplace (MD)

group of three (MV)

trading website (MT)

place of 1834 manifesto (MW)

Group 3

fruit

vegetable

former German coin

newborn baby score

men's fashion retailer

chewy biscuit containing oats

using PG PM PF

PK PJ PB

Group 4

sate

listen secretly

gracefully slim

overstep the mark

Norwegian cheese

carrefour (in France)

using SB SG SR

SD SV SF

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 41

Yesteryear

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

1810

BURGLARY. Whereas a shop belonging to William Shipp of Stapleford was broke open on Friday night, and robbed of sundry goods; and Richard Beavis was seen at Melbourn on Sunday morning selling shawls, stockings, etc., who is supposed to be the person; he is five feet ten inches high, dark hair and complexion, full faced with a good deal of colour, had on a smock frock, drab-coloured great coat, and a pair of new high shoes. Whoever will bring him before any of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, on conviction, shall receive Five Pounds reward.

1895

SCHOOL TREAT. A most enjoyable gathering took place in the Board school on Friday last, when Mr. W. S. Heffer, J.P., Chairman of the School Board, entertained the school children and a select party of friends to a sumptuous tea in celebration of the recent marriage of Miss Beatrice Heffer. After tea, the children gave a highly creditable display of musical drill, and a short selection of music, recitations, etc. Various games and amusements filled up the hours. After generous distribution of buns, etc., the party separated with hearty cheering for their liberal entertainer.

1919

RETURNED SOLDIERS WELCOME. HAPPY DINNER PARTY AT STAPLEFORD. The dinner party by the village of Stapleford as a welcome to its returned soldiers was held in the County Council School on Friday last. It had been fixed for October 10th but was postponed owing to the railway strike. The room had been made to look thoroughly in keeping with the occasion. Flags, gracefully arranged, hung from the roof, flowers adorned the room and flowers and fruit on the tables, which had been prepared for about 70 guests. The decorating and all the arrangements for the dinner were carried out by the entertainment committee, who deserve the heartiest congratulations and the warmest thanks of the village for which they were acting. It was no small undertaking to provide the ware



and carry out the cooking for so large a number, but this was done, and done admirably. The dinner commenced soon after 6.30 pm. Mr Hawes, the vicar, was in the chair, and the entertainment committee continued their long day's work (and many previous days' work too) by acting as carvers and waiters. Ample provision was made for the best appetites, and the plum pudding excellently cooked, like everything else, seemed the very thing for a homecoming dinner.

After dinner the chairman said grace, and asked for a short silence in which to remember those who had gone from Stapleford not to return. No more impressive or more feeling form of tribute could have been paid, no words could have expressed so well the thoughts in every mind. Then came the dessert and the lighting of cigars, kindly given by Mr and Mrs Gray, who were unable to be present. At the same time the entertainment committee had a hurried meal and the speeches followed. The chairman proposed "The King" reminding the hearers of all that the country owes to King George V. Mr Sills proposed "H M Forces". Lieutenant E L Hawes was to have responded. He was unfortunately indisposed and Mr Martin kindly took his place. Mr H H Linton proposed, and Mr W E Finch seconded, the toast of the guests, and Quartermaster W Miller replied. Finally Mr Foster proposed the health of the entertainment committee. These last speeches were effective, but brief

1939

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND DEDICATION. There was a full church for the Service of Remembrance on Sunday, the men's and women's sections of the British Legion being well represented. The service was taken by the vicar, Rev O H Thompson, who also preached the sermon. The collection was given to the Poppy Fund. On Armistice Day, 11th November, the helpers were out early and had an encouraging response to the appeal. The street collection being £14 12s 8d. This, together with poppies for the wreath prepared by Mr G Dean, and £4 5s 0d collected at the church service, brought in a total of £19 12s 8d.

1978

"Letters concerning the state of the Coronation (1911) Chestnut Tree were noted and Mr Chalk suggested that the Council ask the Gas Board if they will consider making a contribution to the bracing which the Cambs CC Trees Woodland Office proposed in his letter.

"The Council were asked to note that all the street lights in the County should be re-connected by 31st March 1980". (This followed the end of the miners' strike) *From the Parish Council Minutes*

Stapleford Strollers: Short walk 23

North Essex views: a short stroll at Littlebury Green

To get to the start of the walk

TAKE the A1303 towards Saffron Walden and turn right on the B1383 soon after passing under the A11 at Stump Cross. Drive as far as Littlebury, then turn right at the church and follow the signs to Littlebury Green. Park at the far end of the village (CB11 4XE), on the left, near the old phone box.

Distance of walk

2.4 miles. This is an easy walk with some excellent views. It can easily be extended as there are many footpaths in the area. See route map.

Extra Information

Littlebury Green was originally called Streetly Green because it was on the old Ermine Street route towards Chesterford. By the middle of the 19 Century it had 32 houses, of which 2 were pubs. In the 1880s, a Chapel of Ease named St Peter's, was built. This means it was in the parish of but subordinate to Littlebury church and was erected for those who could not get to Littlebury village easily. St Peter's is still used. It is very small and is made of tin; it's usually open and is worth a visit.

OS Map

OS Explorer map 195. Visit maps.the-hug.net to print a free map extract or use the route map provided.

Route of Walk

Littlebury Green is a one-street village. From the small unofficial parking area (just next to the old phone box at the far left-hand end of the village) walk back a few yards and turn right at a footpath sign. The route initially passes between houses but then follows a wide track that meets a cross track along a ridgeway. There are some excellent views at this point. Turn left along the ridge-top track and follow it for some distance, keeping the hedge line to the left. The path goes in the same general direction until a sharp right turn, still with the hedge line to the left. A cross track is soon met; turn left on this and walk straight ahead until reaching a minor road. Walk left, along the road, swinging left round a corner soon afterwards. There is usually very little traffic but take care. The route goes down and up but the road is more or less straight for some time. Then it turns sharp left and, shortly afterwards, sharp right. At the point where it swings right, go straight ahead following a footpath sign. The path passes a house and forks slightly right, keeping in the tree line. This tree-lined route

soon links up with a large wood to the left and the path skirts its right hand side. Keep following the path until it emerges from trees and carry on until the far end of the field to the right. There is often a herd of fallow deer to be seen in the field; they live in the wood.

Ignore a path crossing the centre of the field but keep the wood to the left, and swing right just before the hedge line is met at the end of the field. The path soon goes between back gardens and emerges on to the road through Littlebury Green. Turn left and return to your start. **David Barnes**

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



Found

A small brooch, in the shape of a J, was found in the Pavilion on the evening of 10 October.. Please email kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com if it belongs to you.



Granta Medical Practices

Flu vaccines

If you are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccine but have not yet had it please call us today on 0300 234 5555 to book your appointment –it's not too late! If you are eligible for shingles and pneumo vaccines you can get these as the same time.

Covid vaccines

We are vaccinating our housebound patients and care home residents. For anyone else eligible, vaccines are available at various walk-in centres and vaccination sites. For further information please go to nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/.

Accurx Patient Triage

Our online consultation tool is now live. Accurx replaces our email service, is easy to use and is a secure way of liaising with us. Accurx is PC-based – you do not need to download an app and you don't need to create an account. Accurx can also be used for administrative queries, such as insurance forms, etc. Simply go to our website and click on the link to start. If you don't use online services you can still ring or pop in to see us.

Repeat prescriptions

Now is the time to start thinking about your repeat medication stocks over the Christmas period. When is your repeat due? Does it work around your Christmas plans? Avoid the last minute rush and plan ahead now!

Sandra East, Granta Patient Services

Advertisement

Nordic Walking

Weekly beginner and improver classes in November and December

NORDIC walking is a sociable, outdoor walking exercise with poles that improves strength, endurance, core stability, posture, co-ordination and balance. Nordic walking allows you to travel further and faster and, if returning to exercise after a break, you have a reduced chance of injury as your body eases gradually towards 'whole-body' fitness.

Gait Nordic Walking offers the internationally recognised '10-step' method at Shelford Recreation Ground. Booking essential:
gaitnordiwalki@gmail.com Mobile: 07879 369553

Stapleford History Society

Coffee Morning - Coronation Memories

TUESDAY morning 7 November 10am to 12pm Cox's Close Community Room.



As part of our programme to create a 'Modern History Archive' you are invited to gather and collect our memories of the Coronation of HM King Charles III. How was this historic event celebrated in Stapleford?

To help our compilation, please bring a written summary of your memories if you can. Everyone welcome, coffee and biscuits provided.

John Sherwell

Stapleford Horticultural Society

AT our October meeting, we welcomed Barry Gayton whose talk was entitled 'Shade tolerant plants'. Barry explained the different types of shade (dry, damp, wet, chalky, dappled, deep) and his slides illustrated the plants that would thrive in each. Barry is an experienced plantsman with his own nurseries and decades of raising thousands of varieties from seeds and cuttings, so we certainly got an expert view of the topic.



Not for nothing is Joe Sharman known as "Mr Snowdrop", and he will be telling us all about these attractive little harbingers of Spring on Thursday 9 November. As usual, the talk will be in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, all members and guests (who we hope will become future members) are welcome. **John Sherwell**

Little Shelford Local History Society

'The history of Mackays'

A talk by Duncan Mackay

Little Shelford Memorial Hall

Wednesday 8 November at 7.30pm

All welcome

Counter's Creek**Saturday 4 November | 7:45pm**

Rooted in Celtic traditions, Counter's Creek's acclaimed acoustic folk music features traditional songs, original instrumental numbers & foot-stomping jigs & reels

**Jonathan Kreisberg Quartet****Sunday 5 November | 7:45pm**

One of the most compelling performers in jazz, New York based Jonathan Kreisberg has built a strong following with his unique combination of timeless melodies & innovative guitar playing

**Rachel Godsill, soprano & Marie-Noëlle Kendall, piano****Sunday 12 November | 3:00pm**

Two beautifully crafted 19th century French song-cycles based on themes of love, by Hector Berlioz & Ernest Chausson, performed by this renowned Cambridge voice & piano duo

**William Bracken, piano****Saturday 18 November | 7:45pm**

We are delighted to welcome this rising star back to the Granary with a colourful, virtuosic & heartfelt programme of music by Mozart, Haydn, Liszt, Debussy & Messiaen

Dante Quartet**Friday 24 November | 7:45pm**

Britten's ephemeral & fantastical 3rd quartet alongside Beethoven's masterful F major 'Razumovsky' quartet performed by one of the UK's finest chamber music ensembles

**Luke Annesley, saxophone & Dan Moore, organ****Sunday 26 November | 3:00pm**

A veteran of the London and south-coast jazz scenes, Luke Annesley joins forces with keyboard virtuoso Dan Moore for an eclectic concert of composed & improvised jazz

Shelford Support Group

What is Shelford Support Group?

THE scheme offers door-to-door car journeys for people who need them in the Shelfords and Stapleford. Transport is provided by local volunteers using their own cars.

Where can I go?

The scheme can provide transport to the doctors, dentists, opticians, chiropodists, hospital, etc.

What does it cost?

Fares for return journeys to local destinations start at £3.50.

How do i arrange a lift?

By phone, through our co-ordinators who work on a weekly rota basis and take calls Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm.

Telephone any of these numbers to find out who's on duty for the week.

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Rosie Cranmer | 513572 |
| John Dibnah | 842054 |
| Marjorie Smith | 564922 |
| Jan Walker | 847315 |

Please note:

You may be asked to leave a message, if so please give your name and number so that we can respond.

If possible, please ring two to seven days in advance of the need to travel. **Marjorie Smith**

Puzzle Corner Answers

Two-letter sequences

Group 1: cluBHouse, lamBDa, riBCage, LieBFraumilch, thumbNail, suBWay

Group 2: kuMQuat, filMGoer, huMDrum, triuMVirate, GuMTree, TaMWorth,

Group 3: rasPBerry, pumPKin, PFennig, APGar, ToPMan, flaPJack

Group 4: satiSFy, eaveSDrop, SVelte, tranSGress, JarlSBerg, crosSRoads



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Café

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Shelford Guides

Great news - but we still need adult volunteers!

RATHER wonderfully, two experienced Guide leaders moved into the local area over the summer and are now running Shelford Guides! Huge thanks to them both. However, we still need more volunteers locally. Our greatest need at the moment is for an adult volunteer to help every week at



Trumpington Rainbows. Rainbows is for 4 to 7 year old girls, and meetings are lots of fun! Please find out more about volunteering with Girlguiding and register at bit.ly/volGuiding or get in touch with any questions at all at shelforddistrict@gmail.com. Thank you! **Lisa MacGregor**

Shelford & Stapleford Scout Group



Sunday, 26 November 2pm to 4pm

Great Shelford Memorial Hall

Jumble can be taken to the hall between 10am and noon on 26 November.

Please note, we cannot accept furniture / furnishings which do not meet fire safety regulations nor mains electrical goods.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

December at Stapleford Granary

FRIDAY 1

Melrose Quartet
folk music for the
festive season
Booking required
7:45pm

SATURDAY 2

Theatre of
Widdershins
The Gingerbread Man
Children's theatre
Booking required
11am & 2pm

THURSDAY 7

Courtyard Carol Singing
with mulled wine
outdoor bar
Free admission
no need to book
(weather dependent)
5.30pm - 6.30pm

FRIDAY 8

Pop-up textiles
& craft stalls
in the foyer
from local
artists & makers
Free admission
cafe opening times

SATURDAY 9

Pop-up food
& drink stalls
in the foyer from
local suppliers
Free admission
cafe opening times

SUNDAY 10

Pop-up floristry,
baskets &
candle stalls
in the foyer from
local businesses
Free admission
cafe opening times

MONDAY 11

Advent
Candlelit Concert
Pixels Ensemble
Booking required
7:45pm

TUESDAY 12

Advent
Candlelit Concert
with poet
Michael Symmons
Roberts
Booking required
7:45pm

WEDNESDAY 13

Advent
Candlelit Concert
Elna Duni
& Rob Luft
Booking required
7:45pm

SUNDAY 17

Live Christmas Jazz
in the foyer
with young artists
Joe English Trio
Free admission
No need to book
11am - 2pm

THURSDAY 21

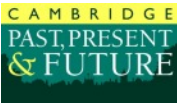
Children's
Fairy Tale Trail
£4 per child with a
gift at the end
No need to book
cafe opening times

FRIDAY 22

Children's
Fairy Tale Trail
£4 per child with a
gift at the end
No need to book
cafe opening times



Wandlebury Events



HERE'S a selection of what's on at Wandlebury in November. For more information about these and events at other locations email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 243830 extension 307 or visit cambridgeppf.org/whats-on.

Every Thursday | Free

Enjoy a friendly social walk. On first visit, arrive 10 minutes early to register. Meet at the Stable Rooms.

Longer Walk: 10am to 11.00am, shorter Walk: 10.30am to 11.00am

Some Tuesdays | 10.30am - 1.30pm | Free

Volunteer Work Parties

Help care for green spaces and their wildlife. Wear tough clothes and footwear, instructions and tools provided. Meet in car park. Check website for dates.

Tue 7 Nov | 11am to 12.30pm | Free

Walk & Support CPPF

Join chief executive James Littlewood on an autumn stroll at Wandlebury and find out how you can become a patron to help us protect the beauty of Cambridge. Meet in car park.

Wed 15 Nov | 10am to midday | Free

Woodland & Wildlife Walk at Wandlebury

Join our wardens for a gentle guided walk. Meet in car park.

Sat 25 Nov | 10.30am to 3pm | Free

Fantastical Forest Exhibition

Outdoor exhibition of artwork at Wandlebury.

Winter Wreath Making | £35 per wreath

Fri 24 Nov | 1pm & 4pm | Sat 25 Nov | 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4.30pm

Sun 26 Nov | 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4.30pm

Make a beautiful wreath for your door from 100% natural materials.

Earlier sessions are open to all, and the last session on all dates is for adults. Each session is two hours long. Book online at wildthymeandembers.co.uk.





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Better Ways for Busways update

So where do things go from here?

ON 9 October, a packed hall at the Pavilion listened intently to an update by James Littlewood (CEO of Cambridge Past, Present & Future) on the 8km Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) busway which the Greater Cambridge Partnership wants to run across countryside from Babraham through Stapleford to the Biomedical Campus.



The audience learned that, despite all the arguments presented by BW4B at various GCP meetings, the GCP Board voted in September to continue spending money on getting busway plans ready for submission to government.

However, the busway would be 'paused' until the GCP had found the money for it, something which could take some time.

James explained that the GCP's plans continue to defy any logic:

- the same benefits could be achieved for £100m less with an on-road A1307 scheme, could be achieved more quickly and could be built in phases such that benefits could start to accrue early in the construction process.
- the GCP has failed to explain how the buses could be fitted with the two self-guided steering systems required to make them work both on- and off-road (one of which does not currently exist).
 - buses running into Cambridge will leave the busway and continue their journey to the bus station on existing roads.
 - the alternative advocated by BW4B can be built on land already owned by the County Council.
 - the main driver for the off-road route was former Mayor Palmer who wanted a Cambridge Metro, which has since been completely abandoned.
 - the only argument for the off-road route is 'future-proofing', yet the busway has limited capacity. Instead, re-opening the Haverhill railway line should be revisited to provide the capacity for expansion predicted at the Biomedical Campus. This was previously considered by the County Council and rejected, despite providing an equivalent performance to that of current busway proposals.



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- the GCP continues to refuse to disclose its Environmental Impact Assessment and origin-destination flow data. We think its position on this is becoming untenable.

Our position is that a scheme is needed now and that the alternative on-road route should be taken forward without delay. Kicking the can down the road is not an option.

Of course, there is one reason which would account for the GCP's pursuit of its illogical busway and councillors' support for it: carving up the South Cambs greenbelt into neat parcels for development. And if this is the rationale, then it's perfectly possible that developers could be quickly lured by the promise of virgin land in exchange for a financial contribution to a busway passing through it.

Whilst we are not actively fundraising at this time, we are ever mindful that if/when the GCP finds the money to continue with CSET, triggering a public inquiry next year, our objection to the scheme requires us to raise in the order of £150,000-£250,000 for professional representation of our case, comprising independent analysis by a transport consultant, plus solicitor and barrister support.

We are encouraged by the significant support and engagement evident at the meeting to oppose the GCP's plans and to advocate for the logical alternative A1307 scheme, and we will continue to attempt to engage with the GCP and our local councillors, who are the final decision makers. In the meantime, do sign up to receive regular BW4B updates via our website, bw4b.org/contact, and email us at hello@bw4b.org. **Howard Kettel**

Cambridge Flower Club

WE meet at the Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford CB22 4NE. Third Thursday evenings of the month. Refreshments from 6.45pm, demonstration at 7.15pm, followed by raffle.

New members welcome! Visitors pay £8.

16 November. Christmas Open Meeting: 'The Magic of Christmas', with National Demonstrator Lorena Dyer. 6.15pm. Seasonal refreshments, stalls & raffle. 7.15pm Flower Demonstration. Tickets: £12.

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



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Stapleford Community Warden Service

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- watering plants
- getting small items of shopping
- wellbeing contact

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Meet your new Parish Councillors

James Northmore



I HAVE lived in Stapleford for 21 years. I previously lived on Nightingale Avenue, just before the Addenbrooke’s roundabout. I attended Stapleford Community Primary School, then Sawston Village College and Long Road Sixth Form College.

I have fond memories of playing football on Stapleford Rec with my friends, as well as being a team member for NST Strikers for a couple of years, which is now known as Shelford and Stapleford Strikers. My friends and I also spent many an hour in the playpark, and it has been nice to see it being upgraded over the years.

In July 2023, I completed my BSc degree in Business Management at University of Brighton. I am currently working at the Gog Magog Golf Club as an intermediate job whilst I find something longer-term and aligned with what I wish I do professionally, ideally revolving around the environment, sustainability and net zero practices.

Michelle (Meesh) Green



I HAVE lived in Great Shelford and Stapleford my whole life and have been settled in my current home for 16 years. I attended Stapleford Community Primary School, Brownies, Guides and the local youth club now known as SSYI. I know the village and the local surroundings well and love to hear the stories my grandmother tells of growing up in Stapleford!

I work as a Senior Talent Partner specialising in marketing within the tech sector. It’s a wonderful role that allows me to meet people from all over the world and to visit some of Europe’s most vibrant cities.

Outside of work most of my hobbies and time involve some form of sport. I am an England Athletics qualified running coach and volunteer as the host of a running group in Sawston, supporting people with their physical and mental health. I play football for Cambridge Ranger Women’s FC. When not playing, I am watching! I am also a qualified referee: some residents may remember me refereeing matches for SASS in the 2000s. I am also a committee member for an official Tottenham Hotspur Supporters Group which gives a voice to underrepresented communities. The sociology

of sport is something that I have a real interest in, and I can often be found with my head in a book.

I am a member of the Stapleford Weekend organising committee and believe it to be a wonderful event for our local community: an opportunity for friends and families to come together and celebrate Stapleford. I have joined the Parish Council to encourage community spirit and get people involved, especially children and young adults. We already have some fantastic youth initiatives in place and I look forward to meeting some of the incredible volunteers that make this happen.

What's on in Great Shelford Library

As the nights draw in and the weather cools, find a warm welcome at your library! Come to browse the shelves, join in with activities or just have a chat throughout the winter months.

Great Shelford will be hosting the following events and regular activities during November:

Story and Rhyme Time - Tuesday 7 November and Tuesday 21 November at 10.30am.

For children aged 0-4 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 and DUPLO Club - Monday 20 November 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Come along and have some fun making Lego models. All materials provided. Suggested donation £1.

Suitable for ages 2-10. Children must be accompanied by an adult during events.

Engage Talk - 'Scams Awareness' with Nigel Sutton from Cambridgeshire Police - Wednesday 29 November 2pm to 3.30pm. 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

Did you know that you can download thousands of books, audiobooks, newspapers and magazines in digital form from the library, for free? You just need a library card (also free) - you can even sign up online. To find out more, ask in the library or find details online. Search for Libraries- Cambridgeshire County Council

Great Shelford Library

Summer reading challenge

READY SET READ!

Presented by The Reading Agency
Delivered in partnership with libraries

A FANTASTIC 164 children signed up for this year's annual Summer Reading Challenge and 81 completed the challenge. The children had to read six books of their choice during the summer holidays. They collected sports-themed stickers to put in their Ready Set Read folders.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the challenge. It was much appreciated by the library staff, parents and children. A ceremony was held at the library on Monday 25 September. John Stanton, Vice Chairman of Great Shelford Parish Council, kindly presented the children with their certificates and medals assisted by Polly Stanton and Avril Pedley.



Those children who were not able to attend the ceremony can call into the library during opening hours to collect their medals and certificate.

Congratulations to you all !

Cambridge Cancer Help Centre

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 25 November | 1pm to 5pm

Free entrance for kids | Adults £3 | Santa grotto £5

Pay at the door

Stalls include

**Arts and crafts | Food and drink | Children's games | Santa Grotto
| Tombola | Lucky dip | Face painting**

Cambridge Cancer Help Centre, 120 Cambridge Road, Great Shelford



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Conductor Adam Pounds



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7.30pm Saturday
11th November 2023



St Andrew's Church
Stapleford CB22 5SY



£10 adults, children free



staplefordchoral@gmail.com www.staplefordchoral.org.uk

Parish Council Chair's Report

CLLR Barbara Kettel chaired the October Parish Council as Cllr Gillian Pett was unavailable following a severe fall whilst on holiday. We wish Gillian a speedy recovery.

Haverhill Road: The Stapleford Parish Council meeting was attended by twenty members of the public, plus attendees who were able to view the meeting by live streaming with a link provided through the community Facebook group.

UK Power Networks presented, and commenced with an apology for lack of liaison and communication. They were pressed hard by residents and Cllr Milnes for reasons the scheme had not been advertised, why the community was not included in any liaison, and inaccurate and misleading road signage installed. Letters advising of the works were delivered today, weeks after the commencement of the work starting. Mr Waters eventually said it was human error. They have investigated where the initial error occurred and, on questioning by Cllr Milnes, admitted that project plans were missing.

When pressed on the location of the compound, Mr Waters advised that it shouldn't have been positioned where it was, but it couldn't now be moved. The access to the compound would be positioned at the end furthest from the end house.

UK Power Networks was not aware of the Rangeford development as Rangeford had not submitted a road permit application.

Mr Waters from UK Power Networks promised a full investigation, and that lessons would be learned from this issue. The project so far had fallen far short of UK Power Networks and Kier Utilities high standards. There was a further commitment to provide increased information with a monthly meeting to be held in the Pavilion, or attendance at the monthly Parish Council meeting for residents to speak with them.

Please see the Stapleford Parish Council for updates which will include a link to UK Power Networks website specifically set up for the Haverhill Road project.

Ecology: The Parish Council agreed to install perennial wild flowers to sections of land surrounding the Recreation Ground. These areas will require ongoing maintenance but if successful, may be expanded around the village.

The Parish Council also agreed to purchase fruit trees for planting in the Slaughterhouse Garden. Local volunteers have agreed to maintain them, including watering.



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Parish Council vacancies: The Parish Council was delighted to welcome James Northmore and Michelle (Meesh) Green as new Councillors. See article about new parish Councillors on page 51. We hope James and Michelle enjoy their time with us working on behalf of the community. The Parish Council still has three vacancies for co-option. It is vitally important we fill the vacancies to ensure the Parish Council is supported in its endeavours. Please do speak with a Councillor or the Clerk for more information.

Neighbourhood Plan



SEPTEMBER was a busy month, culminating in the first draft of our Neighbourhood Plan report being circulated amongst the steering group for review. Thank you and congratulations to all involved in getting this far; it really is a significant milestone. At the end of October we will submit a second draft to South Cambs District Council planners for informal review. This is an optional but, we think, important step in the process, enabling us to iron out potential issues sooner rather than later.

There are still many more things to do before the report is ready to present to residents and workers in Stapleford and Great Shelford in the form of a yes/no referendum. These include statutory consultation with numerous landowners, organisations and bodies (including the Environment Agency, and Natural England) and independent examination to check that our Neighbourhood Plan meets the required 'basic conditions'. i.e. Does it contribute towards achieving sustainable development? Is it in general conformity with the strategic policies in our adopted Local Plan?

The mandatory duration of statutory consultation and examination means that we have our sights set on a community referendum towards the end of 2024. Although this feels like a long way off, the steering group and Parish Councils will be using the intervening time to broaden awareness of the Neighbourhood Plan because everyone on the register of electors will be entitled to have a say. Expect to see and hear a little bit more from us as time rolls on.

What you can expect to see in the Neighbourhood Plan?

I can't promise that the Neighbourhood Plan will be the most exciting document you'll ever read, but I can promise that it will be really important to our area! Why? Because our planning policies will *set out the rules for making all planning-related decisions in our area* – whether that's a household



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extension, a new care home, a large residential development, or life sciences laboratories and offices.

These rules *reflect our local priorities*, ensuring that they are not overlooked in the rapid economic growth which our wider region has been targeted to deliver. Therefore, once our Neighbourhood Plan is in place, the planning authorities' review of any planning application submitted for our area must take into consideration all relevant policies in our Neighbourhood Plan when deciding whether to approve or reject the application. In this way, we can have as much influence over local planning decisions as the National Planning Policy Framework and the Local Plan.

Reflecting priorities identified by community consultation in 2022 and 2023, there are 21 policies in our draft Neighbourhood Plan report, covering housing and the built environment; climate change and biodiversity; our rural setting and landscape; community amenities and infrastructure; active travel; managing the impacts of traffic movement; countryside access; countryside enhancements.

Every policy is underpinned by evidence, combining bespoke data generated specifically for our Neighbourhood Plan, community feedback and existing relevant planning policy. You can view our data at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan_evidence-base/.

What it should help to achieve?

Remember, our Neighbourhood Plan cannot stop development, but it can help us to protect what's good about our area, fix what needs improving and fill gaps in what's missing. Look at what's happening already in our villages – large-scale developments over which the local community had little or no influence – and think for a moment how outcomes might be different if we'd had a say. Would they be there at all? Might something more appropriate for local housing needs have been built? Would the design be more sympathetic to a rural setting? Would the site layout have been amended to ensure that local cherished views are maintained for future generations? Might local sites of biodiversity value have been better protected and even enhanced? All this and so much more...

Please support your emerging Neighbourhood Plan. It needs you, but I'd also argue that we – the people who know and love this area most – very much need it.

You can find out more at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan and follow our monthly bulletins in the *Stapleford Messenger* and *Great Shelford Village News*.

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

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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