

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

December 2023

Volume 82 No 12

Price 90p

## Hoar Frost on Magog Down



**Photograph by Claire Beale**

*The Messenger is the Parish magazine for the whole community of Stapleford*

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# Who's who at St Andrew's

[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://www.standrewstapleford.org)

## Parish Vicar

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

## Curate

Rev Lucinda Howard 07763 477821

## Churchwarden

Alastair MacGregor  
07855 269844

## Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

## Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

## Youthworker

Zoe Clayton 894656

## 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](http://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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Contact [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

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# From the Rev Lucinda Howard

IT'S well known that much of the work for Christmas editions of magazines, popular TV shows, seasonal promotions, office parties and, of course, the ubiquitous John Lewis advert, must start well ahead of December. I remember reading a magazine article about how strange it was to be involved in a Christmas photo shoot in mid-July, fake snow swirling down inside whilst the sun beat down outside, or testing mince pie recipes and the best baked hams whilst craving an ice cream!



Similarly, although there are signs of the coming holiday creeping into supermarket aisles, I am writing this article at the beginning of November and Christmas is still a few weeks away. There seem to be a hundred other things to get done first and so many worrying situations filling the news, that thinking about festive fun gets pushed further and further down my priority list.

Amid all the talk of war and rumours of wars, another topic which has been in the news and will surely continue to stimulate debate in the future is that of artificial intelligence (AI). It hit the headlines because Britain hosted an AI summit at Bletchley Park, the base for Second World War code-breakers, which was attended by the global great and good, and Elon Musk! The summit was declared a remarkable success because it finished with the signing of an international declaration that recognised the need to address risks posed by the phenomenal speed of AI development.

If experts disagreed about the likelihood of the most extreme threat, whether AI could potentially wipe out humanity, they did agree that there are real and immediate concerns centring around issues of truth, identity and knowing what is real. Technology can now create fake images and voices that are almost indistinguishable from the real person. Chatbot AI can draft your essay and compose songs and poems (even sermons although I've not been tempted yet!) and, most disturbingly, fake news and disinformation can flood social media platforms. There are fears that this could affect the outcome of democratic elections, with voting in the US, UK and India in 2024 skewed by malicious AI.

Why does AI in particular cause us to fluctuate between amazement and anxiety? All major technological leaps forward have taken a while to adjust to, but the pace of AI and its potential to radically and irreversibly transform the world has raised fundamental questions about truth, reality and what it

means to be human. What are we if our likeness can be replicated by a machine? What gives us our common humanity? What is the substance that makes up our inner selves, which gives us value and makes us unique?

Now you won't be surprised to find that as a priest I think that Christianity and most importantly the person of Jesus Christ, is the answer to the significant questions in our lives. As a priest *and* someone writing for the December issue of the magazine, you also shouldn't be shocked if I think the real message of Christmas has a big something to do with all this as well - so we come full circle to where I started!

Why? I remember being asked at interview for theological college what I thought the most central truth of the Christian faith was. Now there are vast treasures to choose from, but I replied that I thought the most astonishing and distinctive truth of our faith is that Jesus Christ, the very Son of God, was born in an outhouse, in what is now the West Bank of Palestine, over 2000 years ago. That God took on our humanity, lived, worked, ate and slept amongst his people, sharing their lives and experiencing the same pains and temptations, the same joys and happiness. Jesus did all this perfectly, yes because he was divine, but he was also completely a man, not God merely play-acting at being human. This is the wonderful mystery of the incarnation, that God came into his broken world as one of us, and this is why humanity will always have a shared purpose, incalculable value, a unique role and responsibility. Because whilst there may not be ghosts within the machines, there are souls within our bodies. This is what makes us unique, what separates us from the most accomplished deep fake, this is what makes us truly human.

Our great ingenuity, what we can create and overcome with technological brilliance, our medical progress, the beautiful arts and diverse cultures, our love for the natural world and the people we live with, these are reflections not just of neurological programming or evolutionary biology, but of the God who made us in his image. Yet we know this image has been damaged and distorted by human wrongdoing. The gift of free will means we can choose to go down the route of terrible violence, such as we have seen over the past months, or we can choose to be peacemakers, loving and serving others the way no machine ever can. The incarnation we celebrate at Christmas reveals our true humanity and gives us hope. As it is so wonderfully put in John 1.14, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

**Happy Christmas.**

## St Andrew's Noticeboard

3 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION TOY SERVICE Isaiah 64.1-9; Mark 13.24-37 <i>Please donate a new toy, game or book for the Red Hen Project</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Isaiah 1.1-20; Matthew 21.1-13
4 DEC	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
10 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH BAPTISM Isaiah 40.1-11; Mark 1.1-8 <i>Good news</i>
17 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8, 19-28
	4 PM	TRADITIONAL LESSONS & CAROLS
24 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	3.30 PM	CAROLS & CHRISTINGLE
	9.30 PM	COMMUNION at MIDNIGHT IN BETHLEHEM Isaiah 9.2-7; John 1.1-14
25 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 PM	ALL AGE COMMUNION Isaiah 9.2-7; Luke 2.1-14
31 DEC	9 am	NO SERVICE
	10.30 AM	SAID SUNDAY WORSHIP Philippians 2.1-11; Luke 2.41-52 <i>My Father's house</i>

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

### FROM THE REGISTERS

10 DEC – Baptism of Luna Davidson



# Christmas Tree Festival



St Andrew  
STAPLEFORD

St Andrew's Church

In aid of the Stapleford Community Warden Scheme

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 December, 10am to 6pm,

Sunday 10 December, 12 noon to 4.30pm

If any individual, family, or group would like to submit a tree and be part of the festival, please let me know.

jackie.nettleton52@gmail.com 07773423388 or 721366

## Deadline for the JANUARY Messenger

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

By email (Word or similar attachment) to [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

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## Looking for a local venue?

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

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**Tel:** 07752 373 176 **Email:** [admin@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:admin@standrewstapleford.org)



St Andrew  
STAPLEFORD

# Christmas 2023

## Sunday 3 December

10.30 am Toy Service

*Donate a new toy, game or book to the Red Hen Project*

## Sunday 17 December

4 pm Lessons & Carols

*Hear again of the birth of Jesus Christ in words & music*

## Christmas Eve

3.30 pm Carols & Christingle

*A special service for children & the young at heart  
Collection in aid of The Children's Society*

9.30 pm Midnight in Bethlehem Communion

*The night before Christmas in your ancient church*

## Christmas Day

9 am Holy Communion

*Before the busyness of the day takes over*

10.30 am Christmas Day All Age Communion

*Get together with family, friends and neighbours  
Celebrate the birth of Jesus*



## ‘Pick a pocket or two’

A POCKET is defined as a bag or pouch in a garment for carrying articles such as money or anything similar. Now bank cards often represent money rather than coins and information on mobile phones play important roles in payment. Pockets on jeans reveal phones or wallets, sadly open to temptation, pick pocketing. To be avoided.



I have a favourite coat with a drawback: no pockets. It does mean, though, that the line and shape is not spoiled. Another coat's pockets open wide. Items fall out. When I was young I had clothes with lovely deep pockets, perfect for hands. However, that was frowned upon. A clean folded cotton handkerchief, today a tissue, was allowed. Children collect, as some adults too. My sister had a pretty party dress with a loose pouch on a ribbon as a pocket. It was beautifully made and lined but had limited possibilities for use, very special though. Back in the 15 Century a little bag was called a poke. Other words for pocket include, compartment, hollow, receptacle or sack. In South Africa a bag or sack is used for vegetables or fish. There are abridged, compact even pint-sized pocket books. Handy pocket knives can be bought for outdoor pursuits with pocket money. Difficulties might result in pocketing pride before asking for help. We all face troubles where it is hard to share. Yet it is necessary at times.

December gives us the opportunity to be still, quiet and reflective in a hectic sometimes fraught month. Moments are worth finding. It helps us concentrate on our life balance. Patient waiting. Advent calendars are not personal. Sweets will be eaten and forgotten, lacking positive messages. We could make our own with pockets of paper or fabric, perhaps simple envelopes. Family involvement and creativity adding character and personality. Each day could contain something meaningful and age appropriate. Memory triggers; a treasure trove of magic moments. Pictures of special locations, a pebble, shell, theatre programme, cinema, train or flight ticket, menu, family cards and photographs, tiny toys, poems, scraps of material with texture, colour and songs to sing, joy through caring, sharing and understanding. A daily gift of love, truly appropriate as we reach 25 December.

Happy Christmas. **Judith Lee**

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# Stapleford - Nachingwea Link

## Celebrating our 43rd Anniversary



THANK you Stapleford School choir. You made our service of thanksgiving and celebration of our Nachingwea Link very joyful and truly memorable. We were so impressed by your singing and that you can also sing in Swahili.

Thank you to Lucy Barlow who trained the choir and Hettie who conducted and to your families who came to support you. We really enjoyed your visit.



We are also very grateful to the members of the Homerton College Charter Choir and Music Society who entertained us so generously on the previous evening. We are in awe of your talent.



We also thank Kevin Bushiri and Siamini Faraja for sending greetings and news from Nachingwea, which were shared with everyone on the big screen, on both Saturday and Sunday. We hugely appreciated seeing you and hearing from you.

We are delighted to say that nearly £700 was donated during the weekend, which will be used to support children with special needs, food security and the second stage of our very successful Women's Health Project through the Dare Women's Foundation. **The Link Committee**



## HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION?

MANY thanks to all of you who have already renewed your subscription to the *Messenger*. The details of how to renew are in the November issue, but here they are again :

The annual cost remains at £9 for the year or £25 for a postal subscription.

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# Mothers' Union News



THE first event in December is the Nachingwea Fair in Shelford Memorial Hall on 2 December from 10am to 1pm. We are having a stall with preserves and

a Christmas Hamper raffle – we'll need a couple of volunteers to man the stall.

On 5 December, Sawston Branch is hosting the Granta Deanery Advent Service, at 10.30am in St Mary's Church, Sawston – all are welcome to attend. Then on 7 December we have our Annual General Meeting (2.30pm, Johnson Hall, followed by a Social), when you can find out the state of our finances and listen to a report on our activities in 2023. Bring a (small) plate of food to share.

Lastly, the Ely Wave of Prayer is 10 to 12 December – Stapleford Branch's slot to be confirmed.

Thank you all, members, for your support this year and all good wishes for a Merry Christmas to you all. **Hilary Street**

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STAPLEFORD

Nachingwea  
Stapleford

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## Women's Institute



'MY Life Behind Bars' was the intriguing title of our speaker's talk at our monthly meeting held at the end of October. All was revealed to the many members who attended the meeting when David Short described his life as a publican at The Queen's Head, Newton. David is a skilled raconteur who amused, surprised and informed his captive audience with his tales and facts. He started by referring to the earliest discovery of malt beer in 8,000 BC in Turkey and then explained the history of drinking in England, and how, as people began to travel further, this led to the development of inns and taverns. David Short's own family took ownership of the The Queen's Head in 1962 and had to learn very quickly how to actually run a pub which was then sadly lacking in customers. The pub established itself rapidly as a friendly focal point in the area and we were regaled with various humorous stories about village life. David reminded us that as a publican he had to go about his work and maintain his discretion about all he saw or heard on the other side of the bar! Since retiring David has enjoyed experimenting with distilling different flavoured gins and he brought one for us to sample.

By the time you read this our members will have enjoyed their final meeting of 2023, a social evening with a Bring and Share supper. Regular readers may be aware that occasionally our members are invited to enter 'in house' competitions. On this occasion the Produce Cup will have been awarded to one of our own star bakers for Gingerbread.

All that remains is to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and good wishes for 2024. If one of your resolutions is to try something new or different, and you would like to meet new people, then please consider visiting one of our meetings (we meet in The Pavilion on the fourth Thursday of every month except December), or contact Sallie Dixon on 843847. We also have a website [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com). Our first meeting in January will be a social event. It is a good opportunity to get to know us and you will be warmly welcomed. **Joyce Dobson**

## 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](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com) - after all, it's your magazine and we would love to hear from you.



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# Kenneth George Dean 1932-2023

KEN was born at Alma Cottages, Bar Lane, Stapleford, on 24 February 1932. He went to Stapleford School and then Sawston Village College before starting an apprenticeship at Rattee & Kett, historic buildings restorers in Cambridge. Here he rose from a Carpenter and Joiner to Foreman to Builder's Foreman. He worked on some very impressive buildings, including King's College Chapel, Eton College, and Westminster Abbey.

His other career was as the organist and choirmaster at St Andrew's Church, where he spent around 60 years. He hardly ever missed a Sunday service, morning or evening, during this time. He entered the choir in choral



singing competitions and won one at The Guildhall, Cambridge. There were also opportunities for singing with other local choirs in Ely Cathedral and King's College Chapel. And he really pulled out the stops music-wise at Christmas and Easter. They were special times for him.

Ken did National Service and spent his 21st birthday at Aldershot barracks. He was then sent to Hong Kong with the army. He was supposed to go to the Korean War but that had finished, and his ship was diverted to Hong Kong. He was an army cook, and said that he never wanted to see rice again after preparing so much in the camp. He was asked to play Hong Kong Cathedral organ whilst he was there. He also saw Nat King Cole perform at a hotel. When National Service was over, he resumed work at Kett's.

Ken and his friends used to go to the Dorothy ballroom in Cambridge on the weekend. He loved dancing and said the sprung floor was quite a sensation as you danced if the room was full. He met Mary there, who he courted and later married at St Barnabas Church on Mill Road in 1958. Three children came along: David, Peter and Jeffrey. All was good.

When Ken retired from the building trade he spent a lot of time in his garden in Great Shelford. He would go to the Stapleford village show every year and enter fruit, vegetables and flowers he had grown into the show competitions. He always won some prizes. One year he won a cup for overall best entries for vegetables.

After Mary died in 2004, Jeff would take him on holiday to Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent or the West Country. At Brogdale, the fruit research farm, Ken



**AA**

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had to laugh when viewing a row of cherry trees that were heavy with a crop. A sign said 'Do not eat', and underneath it announced that the fruit had been sprayed with urine as a pesticide. But some visitors were eating the cherries. Ken chortled that they'd have belly ache later. He had a good sense of humour and liked a joke.

From the late 2010s, he needed looking after by his son Peter, at home. His still tried to do his gardening, especially in the greenhouse. He grew some stunning Chrysanthemums and Begonias and kept the grass cut and in good order, until he couldn't manage it anymore.

Ken has been described by neighbours as a real gentleman. He loved Mary, his children and two grandchildren. He was a family man and was traditional in his outlook on things.

Others have described him as a gentle, kind man who liked smoking roll-ups. He was very hard working, loyal and friendly. All in all, Ken was a lovely dad, and lovely man to know. And he'd always help you out if he could.

**Peter Dean**

## Stapleford History Society



### Guided Tour of St Andrews Church and Social Evening

Join us to enjoy the St Andrews Christmas Tree Festival and have a guided tour of the interior of this historic church.

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

St Andrews Church

Mingle Lane

Saturday 9 December

at 6.30pm.

FREE TO MEMBERS and NON-MEMBERS

Donations in aid of the Stapleford Community Warden Scheme are welcome

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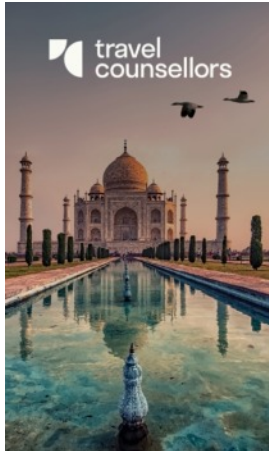


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## Royal British Legion



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

AS I write we as a branch are in full swing with our Poppy Campaign, where most of you will have seen the fantastic array of poppies on lamp posts in Sawston. This being the first year that our branch has ventured into making a standout feature of this year's campaign, all those poppies have been funded by local organisations and companies in the area. It is anticipated that we will extend this to more of the surrounding villages next year that come under our District.

As part of the bigger region of Cambridgeshire, many of our branch members have been asked "What does the Royal British Legion do with monies that are collected throughout the two-week Poppy Campaign and throughout the year?" We use a management system called Cobseo to decide on cases that should be awarded a grant, and share cases securely between a number of other military charities to contribute towards the cost. During the quarter April to June there were 68 grants issued at a total value of £37,822.86, the largest proportion going to help with energy costs, totalling £12,343.36. This highlights the growing number of service families needing help in many ways, as the RBL being non-political can only support those who need help. Those service and ex-service families can contact the 24-hour help line 0808 802 8080 in order to speak with an adviser.

With Christmas looming, the branch is planning a Christmas-style evening meal at The Plough, Duxford. This is planned for Wednesday 13 December; all members and friends are welcome. For those interested please contact Jenny Wells 07944 239654.

Future plans are very much in the minds of our committee, with a possible trip to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, together with a visit to the Union Jack Club, London. With next year being the 80th anniversary of D-Day, plans are being looked at concerning a joint venture with Sawston Parish Council. Many other villages have plans within their own community - look out for more information in your area near you.

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 Chapelfield Way Community Centre off Link Road, Sawston. Visit [britishlegion.org.uk/membership](http://britishlegion.org.uk/membership) or call 0800 307 7773.

Local contacts **Kevin Swann**, Branch Secretary 07496 517859 or **John McCarthy**, Chairman 07496 876264

# 2G3S

STOP PRESS: we have a new email address mail2G3S@gmail.com. Please update your address book.



## Events coming up

**South Cambs Organic Gardeners** meet at Cox's Close in Stapleford on Monday 11 December at 7pm.

**Sustainable Food** - looking ahead, our next conversation evening is on Monday 29 January at Great Shelford Free Church, and will be led by Cambridge Sustainable Food. Perhaps 2024 is the year to tackle your carbon footprint through the food you eat.

**Dr Bike** continues to hold volunteer-run weekly Bike Repair Sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford from 3pm to 5.30pm 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 to come and find out how to maintain their bikes, 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. You will make lots of bike-riders go away very happy!

## Past events

For full reports of these events in November, please see our website.

**Retrofitting for Energy Savings and Financial Relief** - speakers from Cambridge Carbon Footprint talked about retrofitting, grants available, and showed infrared cameras, which can be borrowed, to see where you are losing heat from your home. Discussion and advice sessions followed.

**Repair Café** was held at Sawston Free Church. Future local ones will be in February and May 2024.

**Book Group** at the Three Horseshoes pub in Stapleford, discussing 'Islands of Abandonment' by Cal Flyn. Even though the discussion has been and gone, this book is an interesting read.

**Cambridgeshire Parents for Sustainable Travel** needs your input. The collapse of the Sustainable Travel Zone proposals so suddenly



has left a confusing vacuum with a complete absence of policy. Congestion continues to worsen, leading to dirty air, high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and wasted time for people and businesses trying to travel into and around Cambridge. It is very clear that something needs to be done and whilst a majority of politicians support action, they have lost sight of what they should be aiming for. They need to develop policies to deal with present and future transport needs: inaction is not an option. This organisation wants to build a set of principles for Cambridgeshire's needs for sustainable travel, which will inform policymaking. They have made a start with some simple statements such as: "Reduce air pollution to within WHO safe limits across the County" - but the ideas need to come from all of us. What is most important to you when it comes to sustainable travel in our area? Please tell us what you think should be done to solve congestion and air pollution.

**Christmas and party season** – perhaps this is the year to try and buy less 'stuff', from glitter cards that can't be recycled, to helium balloons that deplete the world's finite stores of the gas, to crackers with useless plastic trinkets in, to over-packaged presents with lots of plastic wrapping, to lights with non-rechargeable batteries. Most wrapping paper is recyclable now, or perhaps you and the children can have fun stamping seasonal designs on plain paper. Printed cards can be recycled, or if you have time you can make your own. And try not to buy too much perishable food. Freeze leftovers, or make soup or a pie or a risotto or stir fry from the vegetables and bits and pieces lurking in the fridge.

**Trees for Cities** – you may have heard of this charity as there was an article in a recent Waitrose magazine. In the 30 years it has been running, it has planted 1,765,366 trees, over 200,000 in 2022-23 alone. They have now planted trees in 10 different countries, including Ethiopia, Peru, Kenya and Nepal. The charity aims to make urban communities more resilient to environmental threats, and they do this by planting a range of tree species. Trees reduce temperatures in hot summers, absorb air pollution by roads, create shade, create wildlife habitats, and there is evidence that being in green spaces improves mental health. If you would like to help, it costs just £6 to plant a tree in one of the charity's urban forests. See [treesforcities.org](http://treesforcities.org). Or plant a tree in your garden (of appropriate size, obviously). It's a good time of year to plant a tree, and the local nurseries and garden centres should have a good choice and can give advice. A good idea for a present?

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), email [mail2G3S@gmail.com](mailto:mail2G3S@gmail.com) to sign up for our quarterly newsletter. **Helen Hale**

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# Puzzle Corner

## Christmas anagrams

Rearrange the letters of each word below to find a word that can be found in the Christmas story as told in Luke 1:5-2:20 (NIV Bible, 2011)

### 4-letter words

AMEN	ARMY	BARE	FARE	FELT
HEAT	LAOS	RUSE	VEER	WONT

### 5-letter words

GLEAN	HARED	HORDE	NIGER	NIGHT
PEAKS	SAYER	SINGS	SWORD	VEERS

### 6-letter words

ASPIRE	BATTLE	GERMAN	HEIGHT	NEBULA
PEALED	PELMET	RIVING	SECURE	STEADY

### ≥7-letter words

ADMIRER	ENTRAPS	RECEDES	SHORTEN	TEDIOUS
VARIOUS	ASPIRING	SEMIPROS	SPRITELY	VERSATILE

*Set by Hermes – Answers on page 33*



## 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, Tuesday 12 December at 7.45pm. Free to members – non-members pay £3 on the door.



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# Stapleford Strollers: Walk 120

## Red Lion Loop: a circular walk at Stretham

### To get to start of walk

STRETHAM is a village which is just off the A10 a few miles south of Ely. The Red Lion pub is on the corner of High Street and Chapel Street; it has a large car park which is accessed from Chapel Street or you can park on the roadside by the church.

### Length of walk

Just under 5 miles. It's in The Fens, so it's flat.

### Extra Information

The village is served by an hourly bus (Mondays to Saturdays) which takes 35 minutes from Cambridge's Drummer Street, or ten minutes from Ely Station – Stagecoach number 9. The bus stop is on High Street, right next to the pub and opposite the church.

### OS Map

OS Explorer map 226. Go on to [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net) for a free map extract or use the route map provided.

### Route instructions

From the stone cross at the triangle in front of the Red Lion, head north (with the front of the pub behind you) past the first house on the left then turn left into a gravel yard/parking area, in which you will find a public footpath in the far-right corner.

Follow this footpath a short way round the corner of a building to where it emerges at a cross path and turn right. This takes you along the backs of the houses on High Street, with fields on your left, then after a few hundred metres it turns back onto High Street again, opposite a small play park. Cross the road, turning left and then right at the corner of the play park to follow another public footpath.

OPTIONAL: before turning down this footpath, you could make a small diversion further along High Street to the north, to look more closely at the windmill (though there is not much to see).

Following the footpath away from High Street with the play park on your right, your OS map will show that this footpath goes straight on, however you'll find yourself diverted left and right to emerge at the end of a close of post-war houses – Berry Close – so walk down this street to the junction, turn right, and then first left into Wood Lane.

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Wood Lane soon becomes a farm track which leads to Berry Green Farm (signed 'Private'). Before that farm sign and just after the last house on the left, turn left where you will find the beginning of a public footpath: follow this path, and enjoy the fine view of Ely Cathedral!

Continue on the footpath as far as a small pumping station (on your left) at which point turn right and follow it winding along beside the ditch; at one point there is a sharp left turn to continue on the path; the ditch remains on your right. Further on you come to a large gate with a stile to its side, beyond which is a wide grassy track that is a public byway: turn right here and continue to follow the byway into Little Thetford.

Where this byway comes into the next village with houses either side, take the wide grassy path that appears to the left just opposite number 11 (and by the road sign for 'Burying Way'), then almost immediately turn right, and walk along this wooded track with the primary school on your right.

You emerge near the main road of Little Thetford: continue straight towards the road and turn right onto the pavement. Pass St George's Church on your right, then to a wide junction with a large thatched pink house on your right – this is the Three Horseshoes, pub as was. Turn right here (the road is called Greenhill) then first left into Popes Lane. Follow this residential road to its end where there is a public footpath cut through, which emerges over a small footbridge onto an expanse of grass.

Walk straight across the wide grass area a hundred metres or so, keeping the hedge line on your right (do NOT stray into the arable field) to where a gravelly track goes off to the right, which is signposted 'Byway to Stretham'. Follow this track, and after about a third of a mile it turns left (where there is a gate ahead of you) and then further on follow it round to the right. Another third of a mile or so after the right turn, turn off this track to your right, onto a wide grassy track that's a public footpath (but not signed as such). After a couple of hundred metres this grassy track meets a more solid track at right angles: turn left and follow the main track.

This track will lead you along towards a farmyard, curving to the right to pass between the farm buildings and out at the far side of the yard through a gate. The track then continues back towards Stretham, which you will now see ahead of you and eventually you come to some new houses (it may still be a building site in part). When you get through back to the older part of the village, turn right between numbers 9 and 7 of Plantation Gate, down a signed public footpath: follow this path through to the cemetery: walk straight across and around a small building in the cemetery and as you emerge out of the gate enjoy once again a final view of Ely Cathedral, then down a short road to turn left up Wood Lane.

Follow Wood Lane round to the left, then turn right into Top Street which leads to High Street. Finally go left on High Street and you are soon back to the pub. **Miranda Fyfe**

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



## Magog Singers



PLEASE join us at 3pm on 5 December in the Pavilion for our final session of the year and listen to what we have been doing on Tuesday afternoons. To celebrate our 10th Anniversary, we have been singing some of the choir members' favourites over the decade. Led by our conductor, John Clenaghan, and accompanied by Brian Watkins, we will sing pieces as diverse as Ubi Caritas by Ola Gjeilo to a Medley from West Side Story, as well as the long-standing and much sung favourite Love Divine by Howard Goodall. There will be a nod to the Christmas season too! Light refreshments will be served with a retiring cash collection for a chosen charity. We'd love to see you.

**Kathleen Foreman**, [kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com](mailto:kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com)

# Wandlebury Events



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

## Enjoy a friendly social walk.

Every Thursday | Free

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.

## Volunteer Work Parties

Some Tuesdays | 10.30am to 1.30pm | Free

Help care for green spaces and their wildlife- get active, meet others and enjoy learning. Wear tough clothes and footwear; instructions and tools provided. Meet in car park. Check website for dates.

## Winter Tree Walk

Wednesday 6 December | 10am to 12pm | Free

Guided walk to learn how to identify various tree species in winter. Meet in car park.

## Winter Wreath Making | £35 per wreath

Friday 8 December | 1pm and 4pm.

Saturday 9 December | 10.30am, 1.30pm and 4.30pm.

Sunday 10 December | 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](http://wildthymeandembers.co.uk)



# Yesteryear

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

**1817**

**LETTER.** Mr. Editor, In your last week's paper I observed an advertisement wherein Richard Bright, shepherd to Mr. Collier, of Stapleford, acknowledges throwing a turnip hook, and also a stone at Collin Campbell, Esq., of Trinity College "as he was riding in a turnip field belonging to the said Mr. Collier." The fact is, Mr. Campbell and three other gentlemen rode over a piece of Mr. Collier's turnips, and leaped their horses into the sheep-fold; the shepherd told them "they should not do so", however the gentlemen persisted in leaping over the hurdles two or three times, broke two and beat down several; the shepherd, irritated at seeing his master's property injured, threw his hook. The said Richard Bright is a civil, well-behaved man in his station, and though I do not vindicate him in this action, yet in justice to the poor man, whose bread for himself and his family is greatly depending upon his character, I request you will publish this in your next paper, and you will oblige, Sir. A Constant Reader.

**1879**

**FIRE.** About 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, a fire broke out of the Bury Farm, in the occupation of Mr. William Baker, which proved of a most destructive character. It was discovered by one of the men going to his dinner. The flames spread very rapidly and in about 1½ hours half the farm buildings with the contents on two sides of the yard were completely destroyed.

**1905**

**THE DIRTY ROADS.** Summoned at the Cambridge Division Petty Sessions on Saturday for riding a bicycle on the footpath on November 16, Arthur Cox, a miller of Stapleford, stated that the road was very "sluddy". The Chairman said that was no excuse; he should have got off and walked. A fine of 1s and costs was ordered.

**1924**

**SCHOOL CHRISTMAS TEA.** There was a very happy gathering in the Council School on Friday occasion of the Christmas Tea. After the tea, the schoolmistress (Mrs Ford) who is leaving was presented with a Chinese work table (made in Lord Roberts works) by Mr Linton, chairman of the



school committee, on behalf of that body. He expressed deep regret that Mrs Ford was leaving. Mrs H Gray endorsed those remarks. Mrs Ford also received a handsomely worked handbag on behalf of the scholars. After some conjuring, Father Christmas gave away gifts from a beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

### 1945

**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION.** A meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> December to consider the formation of a parents' association for Stapleford. A representative gathering of mothers and fathers attended and were addressed by Mr Ross, the warden of Sawston Village College, on the advantages of such a formation. The association would be a link between the parents and the school staff and would promote closer understanding of the problems which surround school life. After a general discussion it was agreed to form a Stapleford Parents' Association and a small committee was elected to set the scheme in motion.

### 1973

**Challis development.** "After considering various suggestions Mr Hall proposed that the development be called plain Jocelyne's. This was seconded by Mr Chalk and agreed to by the Council. The name commemorated a family of that name who lived in the village for several generations one of whom had been Sheriff of the County in 1694." *From the Parish Council Minutes)*

## WINTER WORKSHOPS

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[www.karenjinksdesign.co.uk/workshops](http://www.karenjinksdesign.co.uk/workshops)

**Melrose Quartet****Friday 1 December | 7:45pm**

A joyous, festive programme from this acclaimed folk quartet: seasonal songs, traditional carols, wassails & more. A night to lift the spirits!

**Theatre of Widdershins:****The Gingerbread Man & a Pot Full of Magic****Saturday 2 December | 11am & 2pm**

Two tasty tales served with unexpected spices & quirky flavours, along with Widdershins' trademark ingredients of puppets, petite pop-up sets & original music. Age 3+

**Pixels Ensemble Candlelit Concert****Monday 11 December | 7:45pm**

This much-loved ensemble returns to the Granary for an evening of spiritually-inspired music for violin, cello & piano, spanning the 17th - 21st centuries, offering a refelective, twilight atmosphere for Advent.

**Michael Symmons Roberts Candlelit Poetry Reading****Tuesday 12 December | 7:45pm**

A recital of poetry by the Whitbread Prize winning poet & author whose much-admired lyrical writing has been described by the Guardian as '*informed by a sense of grace, of transcendence... beautifully expressed, subtly luminous*'.

**Elina Duni & Rob Luft Candlelit Concert****Wednesday 13 December | 7:45pm**

Internationally renowned Albanian singer Elina Duni & BBC New Generation guitarist Rob Luft perform music combining jazz, folksong & Broadway ballads with a warm Mediterranean sound.



## In our green and pleasant land.....

A FEW photos of the transformation of corners of our fields into muddy building sites. Some from the UKPN site, others from the Rangeford site. Lorries and vehicles arrive at these sites when it's still dark (before 7am at the time of writing), and wake up nearby residents – this has been reported to the Parish Council and South Cambs.

Talking of Rangeford, there are also some photos of the demolished light and bollard on Haverhill Road. On 19 October in the afternoon my husband witnessed an HGV reversing back into them. The Kier staff were out quickly and took photos as they did not want to be accused of this damage. Someone obviously spoke swiftly to Highways Maintenance as they were out with cones and a sign within 20 minutes. The driver told my husband he was delivering to the Rangeford site but had obviously not been told or had not seen the sign that access for suppliers was off Gog Magog Way at the time. The word 'idiot' comes to mind, amongst others! **Helen Hale**



## Puzzle Corner Answers

### Christmas anagrams

**4-letter words:** NAME, MARY, BEAR, FEAR, LEFT, HATE, ALSO, SURE, EVER, TOWN

**5-letter words:** ANGEL, HEARD, HEROD, REIGN, THING, SPEAK, YEARS, SIGNS, WORDS, SERVE

**6-letter words:** PRAISE, TABLET, MANGER, EIGHTH, UNABLE, LEAPED, TEMPLE, VIRGIN, RESCUE, STAYED

**7-letter words:** MARRIED, PARENTS, DECREES, THRONES, OUTSIDE, SAVIOUR, PRAISING, PROMISES, PRIESTLY, RELATIVES



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# Great Shelford Library update

THE library will be hosting two new drop-in groups during December. No need to book, just turn up.



**Craft & Chat** – Every Friday morning 10.30am to 12 noon. Pop in on a Friday morning to craft and chat with others. £2 to include tea or coffee.

**Tea & Games** – Every Friday afternoon 2pm to 3.30pm. A relaxed games afternoon. We will provide games, but please feel free to bring your own if you would prefer. £2 to include tea or coffee. Great Shelford will also be hosting the following regular activities during December.

**Story and Rhyme Time** - On Tuesdays 5 and 19 December 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 and DUPLO Club** – Monday 18 December 4.30pm to 5.30pm. Come along and have some fun making Lego models. All materials provided. Suggested donation £1.

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

**Christmas and New Year Opening Hours:** Great Shelford Library will close at 1pm Saturday 23 December and reopen at 10am Tuesday 2 January.

Happy Christmas to all our customers from all the staff at Great Shelford Library. **Mel Abbiss**

Contact details: Telephone: 0345 045 5225.

Email: [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Web: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## **Great Shelford Library opening hours:**

Monday	3pm to 7pm
Tuesday	10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm
Wednesday	10am to 1pm
Thursday	Closed
Friday	10am to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm
Saturday	10am to 1pm
Sunday	Closed

# Granta Medical Practices

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

Please remember to order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time so that you do not run out of your medication over the holidays. The table below shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

## Repeat prescription schedule dates

**Friday 22 December.** Open as usual. Place order today, pick up Friday 29 December.

**Saturday 23 December.** Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston). Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2 January.

**Sunday 24 December** (Christmas Eve) Closed. Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2 January.

**Monday 25 December** (Christmas Day) Closed . Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2 January.

**Tuesday 26 December** (Boxing Day) Closed. Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2 January.

**Wednesday 27 December** Open as usual. Place order today, pick up Tuesday 2 January.

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

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

**Saturday 30 December** Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston) Place order today, pick up Friday 5 January.

**Sunday 31 December** (New Years' Eve) Closed. Place order today, pick up Friday 5 January.

**Monday 1 January** (New Years' Day) Closed. Place order today, pick up Friday 5 January.

**Tuesday 2 January** Open as usual. Place order today, pick up Friday 5 January.

Don't forget, there are Prescription Collection Points at Sawston, Linton and Shelford. Sign up today via [cpicb.grantadispensing@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.grantadispensing@nhs.net) to pick up your medication at your convenience over the holidays. Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. You can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore

throats, and upset stomachs by having a supply of health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol/ibuprofen), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn/indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

**Local pharmacists** can also offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. They are available on every high street and in supermarkets, with many open in the evening and at weekends.

**Whilst we are closed**, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

For further information on available healthcare services, please go to [nhs.uk](http://nhs.uk) or our website [grantamedicalpractices.co.uk](http://grantamedicalpractices.co.uk).

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

**Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**

## The Sleeping Beauty

### Little Shelford Pantomime 2024



THE Princess Aurora is looking forward to a party to celebrate her eighteenth birthday but things are conspiring against her.

A duo of talking cats, a fairy who bears a grudge and her dopey sidekick do their best to sabotage the plans, but the knights of the round table ride to the rescue. But do you wake a sleeping princess with a kiss? Is it *de rigueur* in these woke times??

Prepare for the usual mix of pantomime jokes, a tenuous story line, an eclectic mix of characters, scenery to take your breath away, old and new songs with dance moves to marvel at and a bit of time-travelling thrown in. You can't possibly afford to miss it.

Wednesday 10 January to Saturday 13 January at 7pm in Little Shelford Memorial Hall.

Tickets available (£5 children; £10 adults) from 1 December from:

Susie Manning – 07793 115654 (Little Shelford); Claire Taylor – 07379 314430 (Great Shelford); Helen McNaught – 07815 435584 (Hauxton); Susan Hunter – 07796 295167 (Sawston) or Sarah Coppendale – 842498 (Stapleford). Any queries, e-mail [coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com). **Sarah Coppendale**

# 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. Our calendar for December is below. Please share this information with anyone you think might be interested. Thank you! **Sarah Dixon**, sarah.dixon@arhc.org.uk

**Arthur's Shed December 2023** - Open to all, free of charge, suggested donation of £5 – Contact [Arthurs.shed@Arhc.org.uk](mailto:Arthurs.shed@Arhc.org.uk) or 01223 675777

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				<b>1</b> 10-11.15 Astronomy with Peter
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
No sessions	10.30-12 Clay Work with Rosemarie	10.30-11.30 Meditation with Daksha 1.30-3.00 Flower Arranging with Laura	10-12 Sugar Craft with Brenda Christmas cake decorations week 3	10-11.15 Astronomy with Peter
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
No sessions	10.30-12 Clay Work with Rosemarie	10.30-11:30 Card Making with Jill 1.30-3 Still Life Drawing with Helena	10-12 Sugar Craft with Brenda Christmas cake decorations week 4 2-3 Papercrafts with Rosemary	10-11.15 Astronomy with Peter
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
No sessions	No sessions	No sessions	No sessions	No sessions
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
No sessions				

Arthur's Shed, Arthur Rank Hospice, Cherry Hinton Road, Shelford Bottom, CB22 3AB. Please note, the hospice car park is for use by our patients and their visitors, please park at the Babraham Park & Ride.

## Friends of Great Shelford Library

### Annual General Meeting



THE Friends of Great Shelford Library Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 16 January at 7.30 pm in the library.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting when seasonal refreshments will be provided. **Sarah Coppendale**





# Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

Get your Charity Christmas cards, with local scenes, before it's too late!



ORDER your local scene Christmas cards to support Arthur Rank Hospice Charity before they sell out! There are many to choose from, including the River Cam, The Round Church, Parker's Piece,

Ely, Wisbech and lots more! The full collection can be viewed on their website [arhc.org.uk/shop](http://arhc.org.uk/shop). The cards are beautiful in appearance and also in sentiment as every pack of cards sold helps fund patient care!

**Bring the magic of Christmas to a little person this year, with a personalised 'Letter from Santa'!**



Arthur Rank Hospice, and the Charity's mascot, Arthur Bear, have teamed up with the North Pole! The Charity is taking registrations for personalised letters, which will then be sent from Santa directly to the special little people in your life. Parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents,

neighbours, and friends of children who would enjoy the extra excitement of receiving a letter from Santa Claus are invited to register. Registrations will close at 9pm on Friday 8 December to ensure letters are received in time before the big day. A small donation of £5, £10, or £15 is suggested: this will not only help cover letter administration and postage costs (and the cost of mince pies to keep Santa and his elves going!) but it will help raise vital funds for people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition. Please visit [arhc.org.uk/santa](http://arhc.org.uk/santa) to register.

Virginia Goode, [virginia.goode@arhc.org.uk](mailto:virginia.goode@arhc.org.uk).

## Financial difficulties?



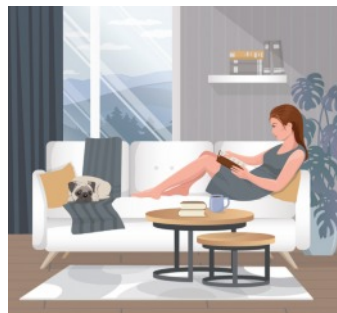
Are you in need, hardship or distress? Do you live in Stapleford? Then the Feoffees Charity may be able to help you.

For more information contact: Rev. Simon Taylor at [simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com).

# ReadEasy: Helping adults learn to read

DID you know 7% of the UK adult population cannot read (4% in Cambridge)? There are local people, including some in Stapleford, working to try and address this dismal statistic.

ReadEasy is a national charity offering free one-to-one coaching to adults who want to learn to read, via trained volunteer Reading Coaches. Working through community-based volunteer groups, ReadEasy offers a free, flexible and friendly approach to learning to read. The goal is for all adults in the UK to have the reading skills they need to fulfil their potential and live life to the full.



There are 2.4 million adults in England alone who can barely read or cannot read at all. They will struggle with basic daily life skills such as:

1. Writing a short note to their family.
2. Filling in a form – for a job, a service or support.
3. Understanding important communications such as letters, emails and household bills.
4. Accessing essential information on topics like food allergens, healthcare and safety.
5. Reading a story to their children.
6. Completing simple tasks like using a cash point, doing the food shopping or reading travel information.

It is no coincidence that 57% of prisoners have trouble with reading, according to the Ministry of Justice. Maybe that's why prison libraries are compulsory (unlike in schools!).

Established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2011, ReadEasy UK now includes more than 80 volunteer-led groups, helping 1000+ adults learn to read in their community.

ReadEasy Cambridge was started in 2016, and Coaches and Readers come from Cambridge city and a wide area around. Since then, about 100 Readers have been helped. There are 24 reading 'couples' at the moment.

A Reader and their Coach meet for half an hour at a time, twice a week, in one of a range of approved local venues which provide space free of charge, such as a library.

Coaching is provided through a highly effective, phonics-based reading programme called *Turning Pages*, written for adults and published by the charity Shannon Trust. An adult reading journey usually takes two years as a

minimum. On completion, learners will have acquired the skills they need to move on to further reading and learning. The programme takes people systematically through the learning process step by step, at their own pace and steadily builds their confidence. Our Coaches will often tailor sessions and tasks to Readers' personal interests, making what they learn both useful and engaging to them.

As people discover that they can read, their self-esteem grows, and they experience a real sense of excitement about the many opportunities that are now open to them for the first time. They can suddenly read to a child, write a letter, or whatever is important to them.

Jay Blades, who is best known as the presenter of 'The Repair Shop', made a BBC documentary in 2021 which followed his journey as he faced up to the challenge of learning to read as an adult. With the support of ReadEasy and his Coach, Jay was able to overcome his challenges with reading and this inspiring documentary has allowed Jay to share his experience with others. He said he hid his illiteracy by asking people to tell him about themselves, and by asking them questions – all helped by his chattiness and apparent confidence. The documentary is still available on BBC iPlayer.

Jay concealed his inability to read until he was in his 30s, after he struggled to learn to read as a child. Jay is not alone – a quarter of all children in England leave primary school, like Jay, unable to read to the expected level. Many poor readers are too ashamed or embarrassed to come forward and ask for help, and they try and hide it like Jay, or by saying they've forgotten their glasses, or similar.

If you'd like to find out more, see their website [readeasy.org.uk](http://readeasy.org.uk). There are several case studies on there from Coaches and Readers.

If you feel you know someone who would benefit from this help, or would like to know more about the charity, you can also contact Jo Robinson at [jofrobinson19@gmail.com](mailto:jofrobinson19@gmail.com). **Jo Robinson**



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# Parish Council Chair's report

PEOPLE will be aware that UK Power Networks and Rangeford Villages are both currently working in the village and that as a result Haverhill Road is closed to through traffic.

The Parish Council is in the process of arranging regular meetings with UKPN and Rangeford to try to achieve a more cohesive delivery plan which alleviates the impact on residents as far as possible. The Clerk has received comments and complaints from local residents about the work being undertaken: that work is commencing at 7.30am and continuing into the evening, work is continuing on Saturdays, noise levels and vibration from heavy plant are not acceptable, HGVs are speeding through the village and in some cases mounting the footway, and contractors are not behaving in accord with the Good Contractor scheme.

The Parish Council has agreed that Great Shelford and Stapleford Parish Councils will work together on an informal basis for the forthcoming year on areas of mutual interest and compatibility, which may include planning, highways and transport, administration, and asset management, or any other area which is pertinent to both parishes. This is to support the betterment of the physical environment and increase community cohesion, whilst retaining the individual identities of both parishes. The Parish Council has decided that grouping with Great Shelford Parish Council and a Governance Review should not be undertaken at this juncture.

Ongoing maintenance of the multi-use games area (MUGA) was discussed. ETC has been instructed to carry out moss and weed removal and carry out surface repairs. Cllr Disley-Stevens is liaising with the Tennis Club to update on the maintenance plans.

Verge maintenance for wildflowers: new wildflower areas have been installed. A Facebook post about the project has received more than 70 likes. A vote of thanks was extended to Bill French and Cllr Gatward for working to achieve completion of the project.

The wildflowers have been sown on verges all around the village. These areas are taped off and signs put up asking that the areas are not walked on. Please keep off these areas, particularly by the recreation ground, so that the wildflowers will flourish, increase biodiversity, and make the village look beautiful.

Trees have been ordered for the slaughterhouse garden.

A defibrillator will be installed in the newly repainted telephone box by the Rose Pub, and it is hoped that a grant will be forthcoming for this.



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A solar-powered illuminated sign has been installed at the entrance to the recreation ground.

Blue Ink Architects have been instructed to proceed with the next phase of the Pavilion renovations plans, to include enlarging the kitchen, relocating an accessible toilet and fitting an external door to the large changing room.

Stapleford Parish Council still has 5 vacancies for councillors, following the resignation of Cllr Miranda Harper. Please contact the clerk if you are interested in applying to join the Council.

The planning application for a drive-through phlebotomy unit was discussed:

**23/02823/FUL:** Magog Court, Hinton Way, Great Shelford: Change of use of Barn 4 to drive-through phlebotomy (blood) testing unit, remodelled access, vehicle circulation space, parking, footpath link, dropped kerbs, landscaping and associated infrastructure at Magog Court. It was agreed that Cllr Barbara Kettel would speak on behalf of Stapleford Parish Council against this planning application, using the Stapleford Parish Council letter of objection as the basis for objection. Since the Parish Council meeting it is learned that this application has been approved by SCDC planning committee. **Gillian Pett, Chair Stapleford Parish Council.**

## Stapleford Warden Scheme Soup Event



THE Stapleford Warden Scheme held a Community Lunch in October. A souper (!) time was had by all, followed by delicious cakes and entertainment from the wonderful 'Variations' singing group. There were some generous

donations to our Raffle from Cara Coffee, The Granary, Sofie Georgia, Barker Bros Butchers, The Deli, Tesco and Co-op. Many thanks to all for attending and supporting the Warden Scheme.

If you would like any information about the Stapleford Community Warden Scheme, please ring **Juliet Hawksworth on 07436 102733.**



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**Stapleford Community Warden Service**

Assisting older people to live independently at home. Providing daily phone calls (Monday to Friday) and help with things such as:

- making drinks and light meals
- making appointments
- collecting prescriptions
- watering plants
- getting small items of shopping
- wellbeing contact

**Direct line: 07436 102733 or [juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk)**



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# Neighbourhood Plan update

## 20 new planning policies proposed to protect our area

### First draft submitted to SCDC for informal review



AFTER a lot of hard work, the first draft of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to South Cambs District Council planners for informal review. I am taking it as a good

omen that this happened – completely coincidentally – on World Town Planning Day! We look forward to receiving productive feedback from SCDC so we can tweak the Plan in advance of two statutory consultations in 2024. The first consultation will be with numerous landowners, organisations and other bodies, like the Environment Agency and Natural England; the second (towards the end of next year) will take the form of a yes/no referendum with you, the residents and workers of Stapleford and Great Shelford.

### Why is the Neighbourhood Plan important?

Our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) reflects residents' planning-related priorities, as expressed through community consultation and engagement in 2022 and earlier in 2023. However, although several hundred residents have taken the opportunity to have a say in shaping it, I appreciate that there is a lot of legwork to do to raise wider awareness. After all, you are being asked to support a pretty extensive set of planning policies which will set out the rules for making all planning-related decisions in our area – whether that's a household extension, a new care home, a large residential development, or life sciences laboratories and offices.

Be in no doubt, such planning decisions will have an *enormous* impact on what our villages look and feel like over the next couple of decades, at a time when the Cambridge region is being tasked with delivering significant economic growth. During this period of change and upheaval, the NP will *give us a say* in what this means for our home patch. We need our NP to be in place before many more changes happen, otherwise change will be imposed upon us.

### Our planning policy areas

Over the coming months, I will be summarising various of the planning policies which you will see in the NP. This might be a tad enervating but it is important! This month, I'll start with an overview and in subsequent editions will pick apart specific policies to discuss in more detail.



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All policies sit under objectives which respond to the relative strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in our area, and were agreed through community consultation. The following table cross-references the main subject matter of each objective with its broad policy content. The policies themselves are very much more detailed and are supported by an extensive evidence base.

Do remember that a NP cannot reinvent the wheel. Multiple planning policies are already in place at a national or Local Plan level; our NP fills the gaps to ensure that planning decisions respond to the needs of Stapleford and Great Shelford, not just to those of government and Greater Cambridge planners.

	Focus of objective	Policy content
1	Housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing mix</li> <li>2. Prioritising local needs in the allocation of affordable housing</li> <li>3. Rural exceptions housing</li> <li>4. Meeting the needs of the older population</li> <li>5. Residential annexes</li> </ol>
2	The built environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Development and design in Stapleford &amp; Great Shelford:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Design-led approach, including following principles set out in Stapleford &amp; Great Shelford Design Guidance &amp; Codes</li> <li>b) Ensuring good amenity standards</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
3	Climate change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change through building design</li> <li>8. Renewable energy infrastructure</li> </ol>
4	Biodiversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Development and biodiversity</li> <li>10. Trees and development</li> </ol>
5	Our rural setting and landscape	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Protecting and enhancing Stapleford's &amp; Great Shelford's landscape character</li> <li>12. Important views and visually important areas of open land in Stapleford &amp; Great Shelford</li> </ol>

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		13. Important countryside frontages 14. Local green spaces and protected village amenity areas 15. Preserving our dark landscape
6	Community amenities and infrastructure	16. Delivering community infrastructure priorities alongside new development
7	Active travel	17. Facilitating active travel in Stapleford & Great Shelford
8	Managing the impacts of travel	18. Managing the impacts of new development in the plan area with respect to the movement of people and vehicles
9	Countryside access	19. Protecting and improving routes into our countryside
10	Countryside enhancements	20. Delivering Stapleford & Great Shelford's Improved Landscape Area

You can find out more at [greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan](http://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan).

**Jenny Flynn, Chair of Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group.** [neighbourhood.plan@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhood.plan@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Better Ways for Busways update



FOLLOWING October's packed meeting we've had the biggest sign-up for our email updates and you can still sign up via our website, [bw4b.org/contact](http://bw4b.org/contact), or email us at [hello@bw4b.org](mailto:hello@bw4b.org).

One correction from last month's article; not all our District/County local councillors support the GCP's proposed route of the busway by any means as was

implied.

One of our councillors in particular has made his opposition to the busway running through the countryside very clear! As an apolitical organisation our recommendation is to checkout with our local councillors where they stand on this issue.

Better Ways for Busways! **Howard Kettel**

# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



## COUNCILLORS

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*Stapleford Parish Council normally meets publicly on the first Thursday of every month. Please check our website for the latest details*



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