

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

January 2024

Volume 83 No 1

Price 90p

## Winter Sunrise



**A view from a Haverhill Road back garden.  
Photograph Jon West**

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

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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

**Vergor**

Clare Kerr 842984

**Captain of bellringers**

Tony Smith 843379

**Church flowers**

Jackie Nettleton 721366

**Stapleford-Nachingwea Link**

Trish Maude 242263

**Mothers' Union**

Hilary Street 840548

**Johnson Memorial Hall**

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

**Friends of St Andrew's**

Tony Hore 843796

**Gift Aid secretary**

Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

**SERVICES at St ANDREW'S**

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

9am BCP or CW Communion

10.30am Communions, 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.

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# From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

ONE of the lesser-known heroes celebrated by this column is Kevin Beresford. A couple of years ago I wrote about his line in calendars. He had just had great success with his 'Benches of Redditch' calendar, adding to his portfolio of calendars including roundabouts, post boxes and car parks – and one of footballer and heartthrob Jack Grealish's calves.



Since then Kevin's career has been taking off. As well as publishing 'Benches of Redditch Part II', he has been in demand as a figurehead for all sorts of organisations. He is President of the UK Roundabouts Appreciation Society – a post officially described as Lord of the Rings – and also of organisations appreciating village noticeboards, car parks, prisons, bench spotting, rubbish dumps, red telephone booths and pillar post boxes. And he uses a new nickname and title: Dull Kev, Ambassador for the Mundane.

I really like the fact that Dull Kev celebrates things we take for granted. Ordinary things can be so important. I spent a happy few minutes on my knees in St Andrew's recently, not praying as it happens, but gently polishing our ancient brass monument on the floor in the middle of the church so it looks nice for our Christmas Tree Festival. The mundane satisfaction of achieving a dull gleam on something that has been polished now for centuries! Not important, not really anyway, but a good little job which in a low-key way will give others pleasure when they visit the church.

Sometimes of course people do relatively ordinary tasks in a quite extraordinary way. At St Andrew's we recently held the funeral of Ken Dean, a very unassuming man who was organist here for over 50 years. There has probably been a choir at St Andrew's on and off since very late Victorian times. Ken, in his low-key way, led it for well over a third of that time, which is extraordinary in itself, but he also took the parish choir of our little village to great heights, singing Evensong at Ely Cathedral and winning local competitions. Do come and enjoy the latest iteration of the choir – check out our website for the services on 7 January for example.

And we also recently held the funeral of Mary Spriggs, another unassuming, hardworking member of the community, whose great joy was providing endless natural beauty for many to enjoy in her garden and in flower-arranging in the church and elsewhere.

Ken and Mary were recognised for their contributions in their own lifetimes too, of course (at a village level anyway), but often no recognition

of any sort comes to those who give our community so much. There are lots of people whose valuable work goes almost unrecognised.

I think of St Andrew's dedicated team of pastoral carers being there through thick and thin for those in need both in the church family and the wider community, those who look after our church building and grounds, and all who serve the church in so many ways; and I think too of those who serve on the Parish Council for years on end making endless improvements, sometimes small, sometimes large, to our village and its facilities; those who run village societies; all sorts of indefatigable fund raisers keeping our eyes on good causes and our wallets open; and of many more. None of it is very celebrated, and the tasks are often mundane and the work is pretty thankless, or it probably seems that way anyway. There really are lots among us working for the common good. A big New Year Thank You!

We should celebrate this sort of stuff more. Which brings me, somewhat sideways, to St Etheldreda. She was not ordinary, far from it, but bear with me. Etheldreda, also known as Æthethryth, was an East Anglian princess. Her first marriage in 652 was to Tondberct, Prince of the South Gyrwe, an East Anglian tribe. Her second was to Ecgrith, who became King of Northumbria in 660. Her desire throughout had been to become a nun, so a condition of her marriages was that she remained a virgin. I guess her husbands were initially more interested in her dowries and the power of a dynastic marriage than in intimacy with her, but when King Ecgrith changed his mind about that she fled back to her estate in Ely and founded the monastery that was later to become Ely Cathedral. That was 1350 years ago, and was the reason for mighty celebrations in the cathedral last year.

What does this have to do with celebrating the ordinary?



Every couple of years the Diocese of Ely awards the Etheldreda Medal to a number of recipients, whose 'generous and outstanding service ... would not otherwise be recognised.' This is the award for those who do the ordinary in an extraordinary way, and make a real difference to the lives of those around them. It can be years of quiet work or a single big effort. Take a look at the church website [standrewstapleford.org](http://standrewstapleford.org) for more details. I have linked to the criteria and nomination form from the news and events section.

Have a think, and maybe nominate someone. Who among us – it may very well be more than one – deserves public recognition but really does not get it?

**Every New Year blessing to you all, Simon**

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

7 JAN	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR EPIPHANY Isaiah 60.1-6; Matthew 2.1-12 <i>Gold, frankincense and myrrh</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Isaiah 60.1-9; John 2.1-11
14 JAN	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW Communion Revelation 5.1-10; Matthew 8.5-13 <i>George Herbert: Redemption</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH
21 JAN	9 AM	CW SUNG COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Revelation 19.6-10; Matthew 4.12-17 <i>George Herbert: Jesu</i>
28 JAN	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE
2 FEB	6.30 PM	CANDLEMAS EVENSONG WITH HOMERTON CHARTER CHOIR Malachi 3.1-5; Luke 2.22-40
4 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Colossians 1.15-20; Luke 8.26-35 <i>George Herbert: Judgement</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Genesis 2.4b-25; Luke 8.22-25

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

## FROM THE REGISTERS

- 19 November – Baptisms of Oliver Johnson and Ondrej Gorol
- 27 November – Funeral of Ken Dean
- 5 December – Funeral of Mary Spriggs
- 10 December – Baptism of Luna Hyde (correction)

## St Andrew's Little Fishes

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## Correction to December issue

IN the Parish Council Report on page 43 it read 'A vote of thanks was extended to Mr W French and Councillor Gatwood for working...' (to complete the wildflower project in the village). It should have been Mr M(atthew) French. Apologies. **Messenger Team**

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# January Jottings

LONGFELLOW wrote: 'Janus am I; oldest of potentates. Forward I look, and backward and below. I count, as god of avenues and gates, the years that through my portals come and go.' January, first month of 2024 named after Roman God Janus, symbolizes beginnings and ends. Opportunity to assess the past and look to the future. I imagine opening gates highlighting pavements, roads or tracks reaching far. Routes will be pot-holed, travel difficult at times. With strength we can make a mark. I remember being told that, 'All you can do is your best' and 'If a job is worth doing, do it well.' Words I recall with affection.

Colourful Christmas 'curtains' close. Epiphany, Twelfth Night. A Christian tradition on 6th commemorating the visit of the Magi, baptism of Jesus and the wedding at Cana. Decorations down, dust, debris; deflated spirits. The spending spree is over. Finances have been stretched. Yet temptations of fresh sale bargains make resistance hard. Debt may result. New Year worries are not desirable. I wish we could live simply, not wanting the latest fashion trend or technology. The warmth of the human spirit is undervalued, long lasting and can be topped up. Hugs, smiles, encouragement are priceless aiding confidence to fill blank pages of diaries.



It is the month of soups, stews and chowders. Warm nourishing food. The birthstone is pomegranate-red garnet known for healing properties and safe travelling. The birth flower is a carnation or snowdrop - the latter a favourite of mine. Weather can be forecast through the first twelve days. 'Fog in January brings a wet spring' and 'A summery January brings a wintry spring.' 8 January is Plough

Monday, the fresh agricultural season when fields are prepared for spring crops. Martin Luther King who worked tirelessly for nonviolence is remembered on 15th. I wonder what he might say now? The 18th is Winnie the Pooh day and Burns Night is on 25th. Quite a mixture.

Maybe you have experienced an 'Epiphany' moment. Like a light bulb flash suddenly thoughts are clear. What has been a struggle to understand makes complete sense. You know what to do. One patient thoughtful step at a time.

Jottings over, I wish you hope, happiness and peace. **Judith Lee**

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# Nachingwea - Stapleford Link

Help needed on the Agricultural and Technical Sub-Committee



SINCE 1981, St Andrew's Church has maintained a continuous and active link with the Anglican parish of St Andrew in Nachingwea. The aim of this link and co-operation is to raise funds to support a wide range of projects there. The Link has built friendships, trust and a common understanding of the many challenges faced by

the Nachingwea community.

The Link is managed by two committees: a Stapleford Link Committee and a Nachingwea Link Committee. The Stapleford Link Committee has sub-committees responsible for Agriculture and Technical, Church, Education, Health and Medical, and Fund-Raising.

The Agriculture and Technical Sub-Committee has been involved in a number of projects including:

- Rainwater tank construction
- Corn grinding equipment supply
- Cashew crop fungicide sprayers
- Motorbike and bicycles supplied for parish visiting
- Solar oven supply
- Sewing machines for clergy wives
- Seed supply to cope with crop failure
- Supply of pigs and enclosures to establish an ongoing source of income
- Strategic study of sustainable agricultural improvements

We are very keen to attract new members to this sub-committee. If you are interested, please contact Bill French on 841782 to find out more (no church affiliation necessary).

To find out more about the Link please visit [standrewstapleford.org](http://standrewstapleford.org) and look for Nachingwea Link under the Community tab. **The Link Committee**



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# Nachingwea Christmas Fair



THANK you to all who came along and who contributed to the Fair. We are delighted that the Fair raised £1623 plus Gift Aid, which will all be used to support our projects in Nachingwea.

A big thank you too to all the businesses who gave us raffle prizes:

Angli-EAR, Antonio's Barber Shop, Barker Bros Butchers, Co-op Food, Cooke Curtis & Co, Lucy Warner Hair, Rayments Garage Limited, Redmayne Arnold and Harris, Sofie Georgia, Square & Compasses, The Three Horseshoes, Tucker Gardner, Waitrose & Partners, Waterlilies.

A special thank you to Julie Moy, Chair of the Link fund-raising, and all her wonderful family for organising such an enjoyable and sociable event.



We are so grateful to all our contributors and will report on our activities in 2024 in future *Messengers*. **Mary Cooper**

## Mothers' Union



JANUARY sees the start of another year, with our first meeting on 25 January (2.30pm, Johnson Hall) when we shall be looking at slides in preparation for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 8 March. The service this year has been compiled by the women of Palestine, at least eighteen months before the current conflict. All are welcome.

Subscriptions are now due (£23 for the year) and the programme is ready for you to pick up once you have paid your subscription.

All good wishes from the Committee and me for 2024. **Hilary Street**

# A Lee family member in Canada

WHO would have thought a two-century gap in a family's history could suddenly be revealed by following one's nose online on an idle afternoon in a Canadian winter?

Yet the engraving on an inherited set of cufflinks has indeed linked my family with the man whose mortal remains rest beneath your feet in St Andrew's Church: your Reverend William Lee, Vicar of Stapleford from 1577 to 1617.

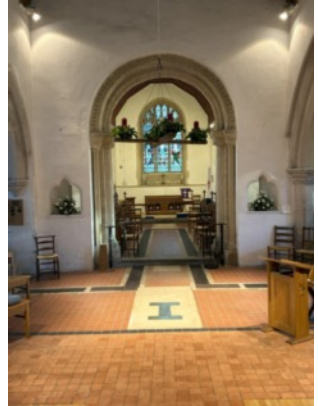
Our surname, Lee, is one of the most common worldwide: consider, before the Internet Age, trying to pin down births, marriages and deaths through stacks of dusty documents - our line had heretofore only been traced to a century before the family immigrated to Canada in 1832.

Now, thanks to those inherited cufflinks, we may have unlocked our origins.

So who was William Lee, the man whose brass adorns your lovely church? From his parents' wills dated 1557 we learn he was the son of Thomas and Anne Lee, tenants of a small farm at Staincliffe, near Leeds. William was born before the earliest extant parish registers, but near 1550, presuming ordination at the usual age. William was orphaned around age 8 along with his younger brother John: the boys were raised by uncles, one of whom guided William's schooling to enrolment at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, whose Master, the Dean of Ely, appointed him Vicar of Stapleford.

As Reverend Lee approached the end of his life, it would appear he was one of many who lamented the earlier dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s, along with the loss of their libraries and schooling, and resolved to do something about it.

In 1612 he executed a deed, by which 'out of love he bore and had always borne to his country from whence he had his beginning, and to the education of youth in virtue and learninge, and as some frute of his Labours, and of the Labours of John Greenwood, Clarke, his Uncle, who with great care brought up the said William Lee, and his Brother in their minoritie,



being orphans, did out of the small estate wherewith it had pleased God to bless him, Convey.... a certain messuage and lands at Gomersal, containing 30 acres' as an endowment to support 'a school house ... nowe alreadie built or intend to be built, and fynished wth in the said p'ish of Batley near the church'.

Reverend Lee directed that income from this estate be used to support the school and its schoolmaster, to instruct pupils in reading, writing, Latin, and Greek, *'and to make such as be capable fit for the University'* - a classical education offered free of charge to boys of the parish of Batley.

Was the 1610s a decade of rampant inflation, as today? Perhaps it was, as in the final year of his life, Reverend Lee increased the school's endowment: *'Whereas I have been erecting a free school at Batley, in the County of York, and have brought the value thereof toward the schoolmaster's stipend and maintenance to twelve pounds ten shillings per annum, and being desirous to increase the same to fifteen pounds per ann., have sent at several times the sum of fifty pounds and twenty eight pounds ... to buy a purchase which should yield four pounds per ann., which in the whole does amount to sixteen pounds ten shillings per ann., whereof the £12 10s. being made £15 per ann. for the schoolmaster.'*

Finally, on what may have been the last day of his life, Reverend Lee made a final gift of 30 shillings a year to fund what can only be interpreted as an annual community Winterfest! He wrote: *'First, I being Minister of the word of God and a Clergyman, have thought it my duty not to be unmindful of it, and therefore by the Mercy of God, and your patience, that are Trustees, I do ordain that there shall be a sermon yearly to be preached in Batley church, by M Joseph Howorth, or by the Minister of the said church for the time being, and I have made choice of the day whereon the said Sermon shall be preached yearly to be the Sabbath day next following the 26th day of February, and if it fall out the said 26th day of February to be the Sabbath day then the said Sermon shall be preached the same day'* - and went on to direct that 6s 8d be paid to the minister preaching the sermon, 3s 4d to the school's trustees *'to drink it in wine on that day'*, 10s to the schoolmaster for his trouble on that day, and 10s to be distributed amongst the poor.

How long Reverend Lee's endowments endured is not yet known, but Batley Grammar School is still going strong, and for all but a few recent decades students have attended at no charge. *'The School (in 1818) is open to the boys of the whole Parish, indefinitely, free of expense, and the average number is about Fifty... Boys are admitted, on application to the Master, as soon as they are capable of reading the New Testament in English, and may remain as*



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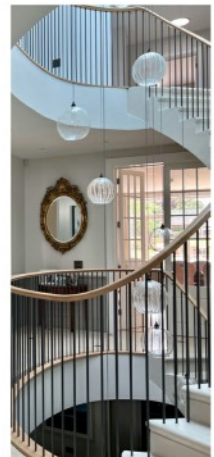
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*long as their Parents choose.'* The school moved to a new building and masters house in 1878, and in this century is once again a Free school.

Back to those cufflinks: 'inks' indeed. The school's motto is 'Forte Non Ignave', the same words as are engraved on the inherited cufflinks handed down to me through my father.

Reverend William Lee had no known children, but as for his younger brother John, there are eleven 'John Lee'(!) references in the Batley parish records of the time. Perhaps one day we'll learn which John Lee is the forebear of our Canadian line. Warmest regards from Canada!

*References:*

Parish registers of Batley, West Riding, Yorkshire

Carlisle, Nicholas, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries: Concise Description of the Endowed Grammar Schools of England and Wales, London, 1818

Sheard, Michael: Records of the Parish of Batley, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, 1894

A festive poster for Epiphany. The background is a gradient from red at the top to purple at the bottom, with a bright yellow sunburst effect behind a silhouette of a stable. Inside the stable, the silhouettes of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus are visible. To the right, three camels with riders are silhouetted against the sky, which is filled with stars. Text is overlaid on the right side, and a logo is in the bottom right corner.

10.30 am Sunday 7 January 2024  
Beautiful sung Communion in church  
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at the Feast of Epiphany*

**Happy New Year**

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# Christmas Tree Festival

ALL in aid of the Community Warden Service - St Andrew's is the sponsoring organisation for this Age UK scheme.

An inspiring collection of Christmas trees from our local village organisations accompanied by festive music.

Bottom left photo trees were a collaboration between Stapleford Community Primary School and The Granary.





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# Thank you!

ONCE again, Stapleford Mothers' Union would like to thank all the kind people who have given to our appeal for Toiletries for the Cambridge Women's Refuge – another wonderful collection of very useful items (which are unfortunately even more required at this time of year). The photo shows all the bags and boxes awaiting collection by the MU Outreach Officer, to be passed on to the Refuge.



So, thank you again dear friends, neighbours, villagers and St Andrew's congregation for your enormous generosity. **Hilary Street**

## Puzzle Corner

4 x 4

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

LORD	CALF	JEAN	MAID
SILVER	HOLIDAY	SAXONDALE	FEATHER
FERRINO	DRUMMER	PIPER	GOOSE
FOLKE	RING	EILISH	PARTRIDGE

### Nachingwea words

All the answers can be made from the letters of NACHINGWEA

The letters N and A can be used twice

#### 3-letter words

victory  
 diamonds (slang)  
 fruit of crataegus monogyna  
 wife or girlfriend of sportsman

#### 5-letter words

moan  
 once more  
 animal backbone  
 Greater Manchester town

#### 4-letter words

part of jaw  
 once more  
 small part of a foot  
 e.g. Melbourne or Palmerston

#### 6-letter words

sore  
 moan  
 rooflike structure  
 pain in the chest

#### 7-letter words

chat  
 ablactation

*Set by Hermes - Answers on page 27*

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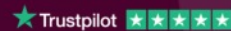
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## EXPRESSIVE ACRYLICS

Local artist Karen Jinks has a range of fun, creative workshops for both beginners & artists who want to try something new.



Abstract landscapes, flower painting & still life, contemporary drawing & more,  
Studio 3, Stapleford Granary, Bury Road, Stapleford, CB22 5BP

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

# Women's Institute



ALL the ingredients for a highly enjoyable and fun evening were present for the final meeting of 2023. Delicious food and drink provided by members and the committee, beautifully decorated tables and good company all combined to ensure everyone had a really good social time. Thrown into the mix was a gigantic 'pass the parcel' which led to much hilarity as forfeits were awarded each time the parcel was unwrapped.



Several members had baked gingerbread for the Produce Cup competition which was judged by Roy Clark, the husband of our President, Susan. The trophy was awarded to Alice Oliver, one of our newest members.

Our next meeting on Thursday 25 January at 7.30pm in The Pavillion will be a New Year fun evening. If you would like to find out more about the Stapleford WI group then please look at our website. [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com) or contact **Sallie Dixon** on 843847.

## Quiz Corner

### Connection Round by Rosey Farmer

1. What is the full name of Ronnie Barker's character in Porridge?
2. What is the name in English for the smallest bone in the human body?
3. The Magus Melchior gave which gift to the Baby Jesus?
4. Who was the lead singer of the band The Happy Mondays ?
5. In cookery, what is combined with flour to make a *roux* ?
6. What is the name of the dim, but friendly, accident-prone, sloth in the Ice-Age movies?
7. Which actor has starred in both the Star Wars franchise and the Harry Potter franchise, before presenting the quiz show Tenable?
8. What city was the capital of India under the British Raj? How was it then known?
9. The Romanov family received valuable gifts with names, including Rose Trellis, Memory of Azov, Pelican and Renaissance. What were these items?
10. What links #1-9? *Answers on page 25.* **Simon Hardwick**

# Yesteryear

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

**1817**

**SALE.** By auction, at the Rose Public House at Stapleford. Lot 1. All that well-built and substantial Cottage (divided into tenements) with the gardens and appurtenances thereto belonging, in the several occupation of Wm. Carter and George Barns, at the yearly rents of £8 10s. Also a yard, barn, close, and excellent orchard, well planted with fruit trees, containing the whole one acre (more or less) in the occupation of Mr. James Banks. Lot 2. All that Allotment of Arable Land (enclosed and tythe free) lying near the church in Stapleford aforesaid, containing by admeasurement 1a 1r 25p, also in the occupation of the said James Banks.

**1859**

**FATAL ACCIDENT.** A melancholy and fatal accident took place at this Village on Wednesday last. A cottager named John Cambridge was engaged near his own door on a ladder, when a team drawn by three horses ran against the ladder, causing it to fall, and the man consequently fell also. Whilst on the ground, one of the horses trod on the poor man's temple, entirely crushing the skull, and thus producing instant death.

**1877**

**GOGMAGOG.** The annual servants ball at Gogmagog took place on Thursday evening. A first-rate supper was provided, as well as refreshment during the progress of the ball, and all present seemed to enjoy themselves right heartily.

1899

**STAPLEFORD.** The best and cheapest boots for country wear can be obtained at the People's Benefit Boot Stores. Splendid boots for hard wear, 4s 11d. in men's and women's. Boy's nailed boots from 1s 11d. Our only address, 28 Petty Curry, Cambridge.

**1900**

**TECHNICAL CLASSES.** On Thursday evening the pupils of these flourishing classes together with their wives and husbands, to the number of 60, enjoyed the annual Christmas gathering in the gaily decorated Board School. A high class tea was served and the succeeding hours fled all too quickly with the aid of music, games and dancing. Refreshments in great variety were liberally dispensed during the evening. A gramophone



exhibition by Mr J F Symonds was greatly enjoyed as were a number of songs by members and friends. During the evening Messrs W S Heffer, J P Bull and S Hagger, members of the committee, were cordially welcomed, and before the company separated hearty thanks were expressed to Earl Buchan, Dr Collier, Mr W Raymond Greene MP, Dr Armistead, Mr W S Heffer and others who had contributed to so enjoyable an evening.

### 1905

**FEOFFEES MEETING.** The Feoffees of Stapleford charity met on Monday night at the Council School and amongst other business resolved to distribute two hundredweight of coals to every householder. This will be an acceptable gift and gratefully received.

### 1969

Police problems. "The Chairman summed up the discussion by stating that our major complaints were the lack of communication with the Police, lack of local information as to how best they can disseminate local information and lack of local work by patrolling policemen when in the village." (*From the Parish Council Minutes*)

### 1971

**CHESTNUT CAROLS ...** After dinner the older schoolchildren, conducted by the Headmaster, Mr Holt, sang Christmas songs and carols. Mrs Tyrer thanked all who had helped to make the Christmas dinner possible, particularly Mr Rudgeley who had given all the food, Mr Willers for cigarettes and sweets, the school canteen staff who cooked the meal, Mr Holt, the children, and Mrs Barnes.

## Messenger Marketplace

JUST to remind readers that we accept small ads from villagers who want to sell, lend (FOC), or give away items that they don't need any more. Items up to the value of £50 can be advertised. We will accept ads offering free help, and also requests for items. Please send your ads into the magazine at [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com), with the words 'Messenger Marketplace' in the subject heading. The format should be as in this example:

**For Sale.** Table, pine, 120cm by 90cm. £40. Name, phone number or email address.

Terms and Conditions can be found on the St Andrew's Church website [standrewstapleford.org/Groups/339086/Stapleford\\_Messenger.aspx](http://standrewstapleford.org/Groups/339086/Stapleford_Messenger.aspx).

**Messenger Team**

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## Country Life



In 2011 the Telegraph listed Shelford as Britain's twenty-second richest village, but it wasn't always that way...

### **The reality of life in local villages from 1800 onwards**

A talk by Helen Harwood

Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion

Tuesday 9 January at 7.45pm

Free to members – non-members pay £3 on the door

## Quiz Answers

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Norman Stanley Fletcher | 6 Syd            |
| 2 Stirrup (in the ear)    | 7 Warwick Davies |
| 3 Gold                    | 8 Calcutta       |
| 4 Shaun Ryder             | 9 Faberge Eggs   |
| 5 Butter                  | 10 Types of Cup  |

## 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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# Stapleford Horticultural Society

WE have had to rearrange our final two talks in our 2023-2024 season. On Thursday 11 January we will be welcoming Rosemary Buisseret, who will be talking on 'The Night-scented Garden'. Margaret Nimmo-Smith's talk on 'Fashions in Plants and Gardening' will now be on 8 February. Both talks will be in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, so if you would like a welcome change from the winter weather you know where to come!

John Sherwell, 841012.

# Stapleford History Society



EARLIER this year I looked in the History Society's archive to see what happened in Stapleford in 1953 to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth and was disappointed to find nothing. Since then Mary Northfield has given us a copy of a photo of a school play.

To ensure that future generations would know how Stapleford village celebrated the coronation of King Charles III, Chris and Mary Cooper arranged a meeting in Cox's Close community room where anyone in the village could bring photos and written accounts of how families and groups of residents celebrated the the long weekend. We also have the very good account of the picnic on the recreation ground in the *Messenger*. We now have records and photographs of how residents celebrated the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla, which will be stored in our archives. If anyone else would like to contribute to our collection we would be very grateful. Keith Dixon .

## Puzzle Corner Answers

4 x 4

LORD, DRUMMER, GOOSE, RING – from 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'  
 CALF, SAXONDALE, FERRINO, PARTRIDGE – Steve Coogan characters  
 JEAN, HOLIDAY, PIPER, EILISH – famous Billies  
 MAID, SILVER, FEATHER, FOLKE – add STONE to make a place name

### Nachingwea words

3-letter: WIN, ICE, HAW, WAG  
 4-letter: CHIN, ANEW, INCH, WHIG  
 5-letter: WHINE, AGAIN, CHINE, WIGAN  
 6-letter: ACHING, WHINGE, AWNING, ANGINA  
 7-letter: CHINWAG, WEANING

# 2G3S

WE have a new email address [mail2G3S@gmail.com](mailto:mail2G3S@gmail.com). Please update your address book.

## Events coming up:

**Dr Bike** is having a break on 26 December and 2 January, but then will be back running its volunteer-run weekly Bike Repair Sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 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](mailto:drbikestapleford@gmail.com).

**South Cambs Organic Gardeners** meet at Cox's Close in Stapleford. More details on the January meeting from [helen\\_harwood\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk).

**Sustainable Food** - our next conversation evening is on Monday 29 January at 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, perhaps by signing up to Veganuary or other changes (see below).

Into February, we have a conversation evening about transport, a Repair Café on 24 February at Shelford Free Church, and our next book group meeting on 20 February.

**New Year** – make your resolutions green this year, especially around food. Many of these actions will also save you money:

- Sign up for Veganuary at [veganuary.com](http://veganuary.com), even if you only manage it for a week it's worth experimenting. They send out lots of helpful tips and recipes. You can save money by eating more plant protein rather than meat.
- If veganism is too much, even for a few weeks, try Meat-Free Mondays and try oat milk. Cutting down meat and dairy are the most effective ways to reduce the impact your diet makes on the planet. And you could save money.
- Next resolution is reducing food waste – again, saves money.
- Look to buy food from small producers not the corporates like Coca-Cola, Nestle, Danone, and Unilever.
- Buy organic if you can afford it.



- Avoid large numbers of food miles (don't buy anything that's been flown in – bananas are fine, but grapes from Brazil aren't).
- Eat seasonally.
- Buy sustainable fish (MSC certified).
- Avoid large amounts of packaging. Try Green Weigh and Mary's in Sawston, or order a veg box from one of the companies that deliver e.g. Cambridge Organic Food.
- Look at the website [takethejump.org](http://takethejump.org) for six things you can do to help reduce carbon emissions – dietary changes as above; reduce/reuse/recycle the 'stuff' you buy, including electronic goods and fashion; drive less; fly less; install energy-saving measures in your house; invest in a green/ethical pension provider and savings; write to your MP about issues that you feel the government should be tackling.

### COP28

As I write this, and reading the environmental pages in the Guardian, COP28 is just getting underway in Dubai. In a year that is going to be the hottest since records began, when we already have an atmosphere 1.1-1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, it really is imperative that governments do better at reducing carbon emissions.

It's no good crawling to net zero in 2050, emissions need to be greatly reduced before 2030 if we are to have a chance of keeping the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, which will avoid some of the worst disruption to our climate and our way of life – heat, drought, famine, leading to mass displacement from affected countries.

So apart from reducing our use of fossil fuels, the richer nations need to commit funds to help affected countries (which are usually poorer countries that do not produce a lot of carbon but suffer the consequences of our historic carbon emissions). There have been moves towards these targets, but can we hope the UAE, one of the oil-rich countries in the Middle East, will be able to direct enough action this time?

The leader of the summit claims he has the ear of the fossil fuel giants, but when they can't even stop illegal flaring of 'waste' gas, a process that pollutes the air across the region, I do wonder. Air pollution from fossil fuels is estimated to cause the death of 5 million people across the world each year.

On a positive note, although China and the US presidents are not attending, they have agreed to triple renewable energy capacity globally by 2030, to enable a large shift to renewables to occur.

**Greenwashing** - You have probably heard this term. It's used to describe companies' claims that they are selling planet-friendly products, when in fact they aren't really, they are misleading you into thinking they are helping the environment more than they are, and they are probably charging you a premium for it!



Here are some common examples of vague woolly terms to help you spot greenwashing, adapted from the Everyday Plastic website [everydayplastic.org](http://everydayplastic.org).

**Eco-friendly** - there are no rules that require companies to prove something is beneficial to the environment so this term is often exploited.

**Natural** - this term isn't regulated and does not guarantee that it's better for the environment or healthier. What does it actually mean?!

**Chemical-free** - everything is a chemical, but not all are bad, so check out the ingredient list. If you can't pronounce it, it's probably best to avoid it.

**Biodegradable** - this claim can be misleading if the product only biodegrades under specific conditions that usually don't exist in a landfill. Biodegradable packaging is also unlikely to be home compostable and can cause issues if put into recycling.

**100% recyclable** - soft, flexible plastic is very hard to recycle, as there is little infrastructure to do so in the UK. If a bread bag says so, exercise your sceptical side (but put in the bin in the Shelford Co-op just in case).

**Carbon neutral** - this doesn't mean that the brand doesn't produce any emissions. Instead, it means that the company has 'offset' its emissions by investing in projects which supposedly absorb an equal amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Some of these have been in the news for manipulating their figures to look better than they are. Currently it is very hard to prove a product is carbon neutral.

**Green** - this phrase is vague and misleading, as it lacks any specific details about the product's sustainability.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to [mail2G3S@gmail.com](mailto:mail2G3S@gmail.com) (*please note new email address*) to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings.

We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live more sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website (type 2G3S into Google and you will find us). **Helen Hale**



# Stapleford Twinning Association

Just desserts!



WELL that's this year's Annual General Meeting done and dusted. What's not to like about an AGM when there's lovely Vouvray wine and home-made puddings to be enjoyed! You can find out more about the AGM and our association at: [twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk](http://twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk). **Tim Jessop**



## A Warm Message for the New Year

HERE is a seasonal message from Michael Antcliff in Hinton Way. Read it line by line.

N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	G	R	E	E	T	I	N	G
E	H	A	P	P	I	N	E	S	S	T	O		O	
I	Y	O	U	N	G	A	N	D	O	L	D		O	
G	C	A	R	E	R	S	N	U	R	S	E	S	D	
H	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	I	E	S		C	
B	S	C	H	O	O	L	S	P	U	B	S		E	
O	C	H	U	R	C	H	E	S	S	H	O	P	S	L
U	C	O	U	N	C	I	L	L	O	R	S		E	
R	P	A	R	I	S	H	E	V	E	N	T	S	B	
L	D	O	G	W	A	L	K	E	R	S			R	
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N	B	E	S	T	W	I	S	H	E	S	T	O	T	
E	A	L	L	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	S	I	
S	S	T	A	P	L	E	F	O	R	D	A	N	D	O
S	H	E	L	F	O	R	D	S	S	A	W	S	T	O
N														

# Stapleford Strollers: Short Walk 24

## Round the Village: a short stroll at Elmdon

### To get to the start of the walk

DRIVE on the A1301 to the roundabout at the far end of the Sawston bypass. Turn right in the direction of the M11, but turn left when the mini roundabout is reached, signed Duxford. Do not go into the main part of Duxford village. When a road junction is reached, head straight on for Ickleton. When Ickleton village is reached, turn left for Elmdon and park with Elmdon parish church (St Nicholas) to your right.

### Distance of walk

A nice, short winter walk of 2 miles. The surface underfoot is solid throughout.

### OS Map

OS Explorer map 194. Use [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net) to get a free map extract, or try the route map provided with these notes.

### Extra Information

The name Elmdon means 'hill of elms'. There may not be too many elms left but the hill remains... Although Essex is not a county noted for its uplands, Elmdon is in the hilliest part. It is an attractive village although, sadly, the last village pub closed a number of years ago and there are no longer any shops.

### Route of Walk

Start the walk by turning left into High Street and cross over to follow the right hand pavement. The former pub, The Carrier, still has a sign outside it. Elmdon is not flat and you will soon be walking up a hill. When you reach the top, the pavement disappears but the path continues ahead on the grass verge.

After passing the last house, there is a brick-pillared entrance drive to the right - leading to a Stud Farm. At this point you will need to cross over the road and walk CAREFULLY for a short time on the left hand side until coming to Freewood Lane on the left. Turn down it and walk along until you reach a farmyard (Freewood Farm). Turn left immediately (there is a waymark arrow) and walk out of the farmyard along another farm-approach road: Hollow Road. This has a wood to the right with excellent bluebells in spring.

The road turns sharp left at the end of the wood; follow it, heading downhill. The downslope is quite steep and it is much easier to walk down it

than up! The edge of Elmdon is reached and, soon afterwards, Hollow Road meets the main road from Ickleton.

Turn left along the pavement, passing one of the old pubs: The Hoops, now converted into a smart house. Keep going along this pavement and you will return to the starting point. **David Barnes**



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

# The Arts Society Cambridge



THE Arts Society Cambridge is part of a national network of local societies founded in 1968 as the National Association for Decorative and Fine Arts. The Arts Society Cambridge was formed in 1971. Our purpose is that of deepening members' knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the creative arts. We bring people together

through a shared interest in the arts by providing monthly lectures on a wide variety of arts-related topics by internationally renowned lecturers. These take place at the lecture theatre in Churchill College in Cambridge on Thursday mornings. We also arrange regular guided visits to local exhibitions and places of artistic or historic interest, including an annual overseas art tour.

We have an active and enthusiastic committee who arrange interesting events for our members. The committee includes heritage and arts volunteer representatives, who arrange events to support local charities, such as All Saints Church in Jesus Lane and The David Parr House in Cambridge.

The Society's programme runs from October to the following June each year and membership is a modest £45 per year, or £90 for joint membership. It includes:-

- Nine lectures with complimentary tea/coffee beforehand
- A quarterly Arts Society magazine
- The opportunity to attend Special Interest Days and Visits

For more information, or to join, please visit [tascambridge.org.uk](http://tascambridge.org.uk) or email us at [cambridge@theartsociety.org](mailto:cambridge@theartsociety.org) **Mary Painter**



*Four-Square (Walk Through) sculpture by Barbara Hepworth, Churchill College*

## 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).

# Magog Singers



AN appreciative audience filled the Pavilion and were entertained with music provided by The Magog Singers at their end of term session. Under the enthusiastic direction of conductor John Clenaghan and accompanied by Brian Watkins, the choir sang their favourites from their repertoire of the last 10 years.

A medley from West Side Story opened the afternoon, followed by a sensitive unaccompanied performance of Ubi Caritas by the Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. Don Besig composed two pieces, As Long As I Have Music and Gonna Rise Up Singin'.

In slightly different mode, the choir sang Irish Blessing and another tempo change to Philip Stopford's arrangement of We Three Kings. And finally the choir favourite, Love Divine arranged by John Rutter, brought the term to a close.

Mince pies and a cup of tea were enjoyed by audience and choir alike before dispersing into a cold, grey December afternoon. The magnificent sum of £220 was raised from the retiring collection for Crisis at Christmas.



**Kathleen Foreman, [kathleenforeman047@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenforeman047@gmail.com).**

## Would you like to start Tai chi?

### Tai chi class in Little Shelford Pavilion, Wale Recreation Ground

Starting Tuesdays 9am to 10am

Cost: First lesson free, after that £10 per class

Tai chi is good for your health and well-being, balance, mobility, concentration and memory. It's also a fun activity.

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Contact Terry Neil on 07455 375799 or [daoistfightingarts@gmail.com](mailto:daoistfightingarts@gmail.com) to book.

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## Dr Bike - STOP PRESS!

DR Bike is taking a well-deserved holiday on 2 January. The team will be back on 9 January and the following Tuesdays, 3pm to 5.30pm. **Jim Chisholm.**



[staplefordonline.co.uk](http://staplefordonline.co.uk)

Your community website  
for up to the minute news and views  
from around the village

# Wandlebury Events



HERE'S a selection of what's on at Wandlebury in January. 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. Check website before arriving.

Longer Walk: 10am to 11am. Shorter Walk: 10.30am to 11am.

## 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.

## Once Around Wandlebury

Friday 12 January | 10am to 12pm | Free

Gentle guided walk with our warden to explore the park in winter. Meet in the car park.

## Winter Tree Walk

Wednesday 17 January | 10am to 12pm | Free

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

## Woodland Experience Day

Wednesday 24 January | 10.30am to 2.30pm | £99pp

A unique woodland experience day to connect with and learn about nature and the outdoors. Booking essential.





FREE no obligation quotes and advice provided

# My Village Handyman Services



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**BOOK ONLINE** [www.angliarhearing.co.uk](http://www.angliarhearing.co.uk)



# Great Shelford Library update



BEAT the January Blues by visiting the library this month. We have lots of books to help kick start those New Year resolutions. Or just find a good book to curl up with during these dark winter nights.

## For adults this January we will be hosting:

**Engage Talk** - Helen Harwood. 'The Shelford Shopper: A history of shopping and shops in the village. Why does Cambridge look like it does?' - Wednesday 24 January 2pm to 3.30pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk, and please pre-book in the library or via [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

**Craft & Chat** - Every Friday morning 10.30am to 12pm. Pop in on a Friday morning to craft and chat with others. £2 to include tea or coffee. No need to book.

**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. No need to book.

## For children we will be hosting:

**Story and Rhyme Time** - Tuesday 2 and Tuesday 16 January 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.

**Lego and Duplo Club** - Fortnightly starting Monday 15 January 4pm to 5.30pm. Come along and have some fun making Lego models. All materials provided. Suggested donation £1. Suitable for ages 2 to 10.



**Stay and Play** - Every Thursday afternoon. For children aged 0 to 4 years. 2pm to 3.30pm. A relaxed drop-in session for families with young children, £2 per family. Toys provided.

**Children's Games Club** - Fortnightly, starting Monday 8 January 4pm to 5.30pm. Come along and have fun. Board and card games provided. £1 per child, no need to book. **Mel Abbiss**

*Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.*

Contact details:

Telephone: 0345 045 5225.

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

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



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# Parish Council Chair's report

AT the last Parish Council meeting of 2023 the main topics of discussion were the Rangeford development and UKPN works. Members of the public were concerned about the destruction of the hedge and natural habitat at the entrance to the Rangeford site, noise from work being done by both contractors and the state of the roads.

Haverhill Road is scheduled to reopen to all traffic by 22 December. UKPN has now opened the road from the entrance to the Rangeford site to the A1307 so this should alleviate traffic through the village and mud on the road. Comment was made that addressing potholes will not be done – unless there is a serious concern – until heavy traffic through the village has ceased (note that repairing potholes is a County Council Highways responsibility). The Parish Council is having fortnightly meetings with both contractors to discuss concerns and timetabling of work.

Comment was also made about the damage done to the green triangle by the Johnson Hall and measures are being taken to identify the vehicle which caused the damage so that it can be rectified.

A new caretaker has been appointed by Great Shelford Parish Council and will be subcontracted to Stapleford Parish Council. He will be responsible for the good order of the Pavilion and general duties in the village.

The Tennis Club's licence was discussed at length and an agreement about the future is likely soon. The MUGA has had routine maintenance done and moss killer treatment around the perimeter. Further work is planned for the spring.

Unfortunately, grant applications for a defibrillator were unsuccessful because of the overwhelming number received, but further avenues are being sought for funding. A grant application will be submitted towards insulation for the Pavilion as part of the renovation project.

The next Parish Council meeting is 7pm on 4 January 2024 in the Pavilion. Members of the public are welcome to attend and express their views. More Councillors are still needed and applications to the Clerk are welcomed. All comments and concerns should be addressed directly to the Clerk. Details are available on the Parish Council website [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk).

The Parish Council would like to wish all residents a very happy (and belated, by the time you read this!) Christmas and healthy New Year.

**Gillian Pett, Chair, Stapleford Parish Council**

**Nicholas Mulroy & Ryan Corbett**  
**Sunday 14 January | 3:00pm**

Songs by Astor Piazzolla, Lennon & McCartney & Franz Schubert, showcasing the unique sonority of tenor & accordion, & the expressive range of an outstanding musical partnership known for their compelling storytelling



*'The sheer expressivity of Mulroy's singing was a thing of wonder'*  
- The Times



**Georgia Mancio Quartet**  
**Friday 26 January | 7:45pm**

Jazz with classical & latin influences stamped with an unflinching emotional integrity from multi award-winning vocalist Georgia Mancio, featuring pianist Robin Aspland, drummer Dave Ohm & bassist Andrew Cleynardt

*'impossible not to fall in love with her voice.. a magnificent example of strength & talent'*  
- Jazz in Europe



**Emily Baines & Amyas:**  
**The Ghost in the Machine**  
**Saturday 27 January | 7:45pm**

This acclaimed baroque ensemble, renowned for their exuberant performances, play repertoire by Handel & his contemporaries found hidden in 18th century mechanical barrel organs & musical clocks



# Neighbourhood Plan update

## New planning policies to meet our villages' current and future housing needs



I AM starting the new year as I mean to continue, with a deep(ish) dive into one of the objectives of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and the planning policies we have created to achieve it. This month it's housing. If you've ever worried that you or your children can't get onto the local housing ladder, or that developers build too many expensive executive homes, or that, as an older person, you'd really like to downsize but can't find anything suitable nearby, then the housing policies in the NP seek to redress this imbalance.

Our NP's housing objective, generated with residents' input, is:

New residential development proposals will contribute to addressing existing and future housing needs in Stapleford and Great Shelford in terms of affordability, accessibility, tenure and its suitability for all stages of life.

The new planning policies we have drafted in the NP to meet this objective cover:



**1. Housing mix** – new housing should be of an appropriate type, size, affordability and design, reflecting the existing and future needs of the plan area's population. So, for example, our housing needs assessment shows that at least 50% of new homes should have 3 bedrooms, with the rest a mix of 1, 2 and 4 bedrooms.

**2. Prioritising local needs in the allocation of affordable housing** – due to the evidenced high level of unmet affordable housing need in the plan area, all new affordable housing should first be prioritised for people with a local connection (e.g. the applicant has worked in the plan area for the last 12 months or lived in the plan area for >5 years out of the last 8 years).

**3. Rural exceptions housing** – the NP supports affordable housing located outside a settlement boundary as an exception to normal planning policy where there is proof of local unmet affordable housing need (More's Meadow, a new development of 21 affordable homes for residents of Great Shelford, is a recent local example of this).

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The Norwich Corporation, August 1891  
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**4. Meeting the needs of the older population** – in 2021, 13.3% of the population of Stapleford and Great Shelford was aged 75+ and this is forecast to increase to 20.7% of the population in 2043. Therefore, we have a policy to ensure that all new housing is adaptable and accessible so it can meet the needs of people as they age, and another requiring specialist housing schemes to be located close to shops, services and community facilities so residents can, if they wish, integrate into the wider community.

**5. Residential annexes** – homes suitable for multi-generational living play a part in meeting a specific housing need, e.g. allowing older people to downsize and stay close to their existing community whilst being close to family members for support as their needs change.

I hope that the above gives a flavour of five of the 20 planning policies in our NP. The policies themselves are too meaty to replicate here, but all residents will have a chance to read them in full and respond to them as we move into the next phase of the NP process in Spring 2024.

Every single policy is underpinned by a robust body of evidence. When it comes to housing, we commissioned a detailed study of current and forecast housing requirements in our area (by government contractor, AECOM) and sought residents' input during community consultation in 2022 and 2023. You can read the full AECOM report and the outputs of community consultation on our dedicated NP webpages: [greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan\\_evidence-base/](https://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan_evidence-base/).

Finally, do please remember that NPs can't prevent development and neither can they reinvent the wheel. SCDC's Local Plan 2018 and the National Planning Policy Framework obviously have plenty to say about residential development but, by definition, they take a regional or national perspective. The aim of our NP is to think *local*: to find gaps in existing policy which might leave Stapleford and Great Shelford vulnerable to inappropriate development and plug them with new policies tailored to the specific needs of our villages. Therefore, if you think something is missing from our NP's housing-related planning policies, it's probably because it's covered by existing planning policy.

For more information about neighbourhood planning in general, and Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan in particular, visit [greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan](https://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan). Do please make it a New Year resolution to support our NP – we very much hope that 2024 is going to be a big year for People Power in our villages! **Jenny Flynn**

Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group.



*Cambridge Botanic Garden lights. Photographs Helen Hale*





# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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brian.milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 07971 886 113

*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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