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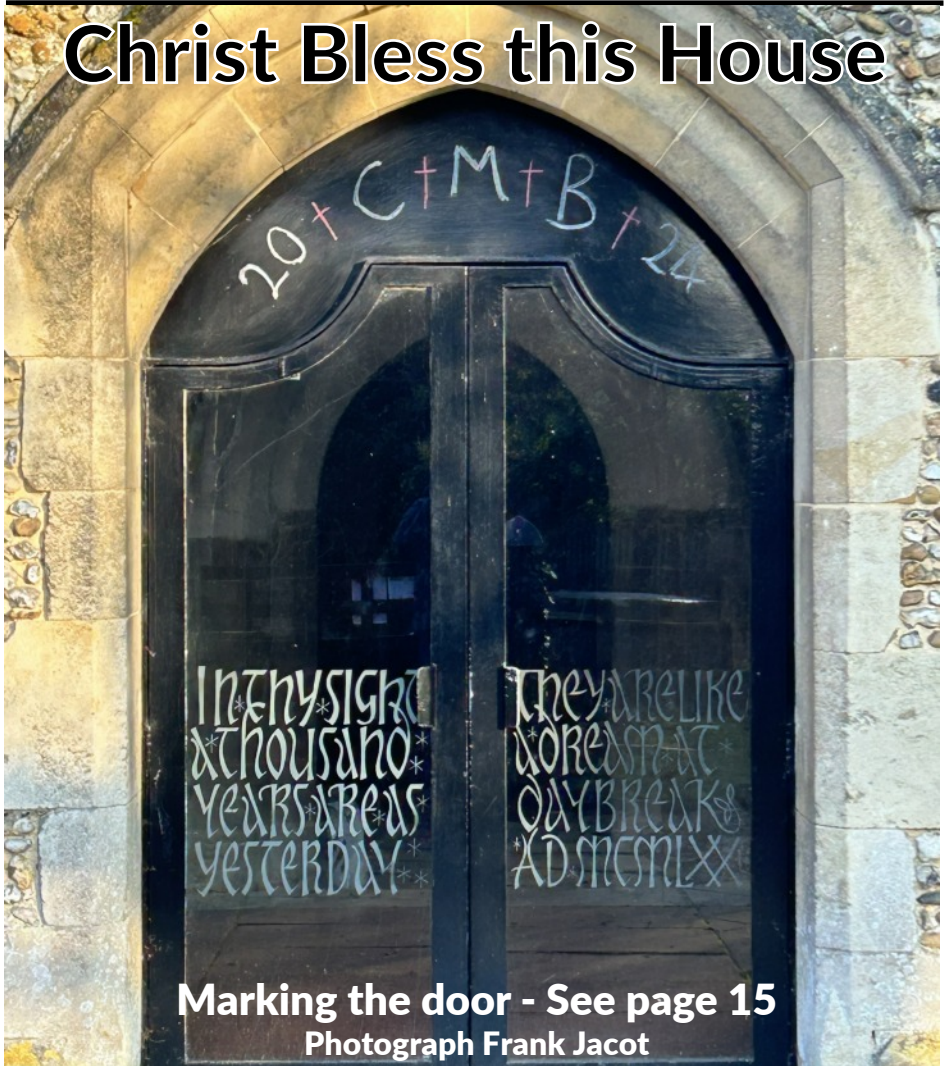
MESSENGER

February 2024

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Christ Bless this House



Marking the door - See page 15

Photograph Frank Jacot

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Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Friends of St Andrew's

Tony Hore 843796

Gift Aid secretary

Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

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

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish vicar.

Stapleford MESSENGER

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

QUIZ question for February: what does the statue of Charles I in Charing Cross have in common with Newlyn in Cornwall and the base of the tower of St Andrew's Church?

Clue: we have five of them in Stapleford.

No idea?

Another clue: there are 190 'fundamental' ones of these in the UK, and about 500,000 others, so-called 'lower order' ones.

Still no idea?

The answer is an Ordnance Survey Benchmark. You can see one carved in the base of our tower, and Charles I's plinth has one too. These are the stone marks designed as a place to hold an angle iron on which a levelling rod (a large spirit level, I think) could be placed, enabling accurate surveys of the surrounding area. None of the ones in Stapleford are in the super-accurate 'Fundamental Bench Mark' or FBM category, which are still maintained and cross referenced to our national Ordnance Datum at Newlyn in Cornwall, and used as a cross check for GPS systems, but I think it is a very nice thing to have on the church anyway. I even quite like the fact that it is called 'lower order'. A touch of solidified humility for our rather splendid building. It is the guide. It knows, as it were, where we stand – in relation to sea level anyway – which we could not possibly do left to our own devices.

If you want to see where the others are you can Google the OS interactive map, which shows all their locations and heights. Another reason to love the internet! The one on the church is given, rather precisely, as 20.717 m above sea level, accompanied by dire warnings that the heights may not be accurate.

This week I have been thinking about another category of benchmarks as I have been working as a part-time judge in Norwich – one of the things I get up to in order to earn a living. I have been given loads of sentences to pass to help clear the backlog a bit. Judges are not left to do their own thing, nor to apply the principles of tabloid outrage, but have to use benchmarks, in the form of guides published by the Sentencing Council. If you are interested in how sentences are passed, what is taken into account, how punishment, rehabilitation, deterrence and reparation are all factored in, take a look online. All the material for pretty well every conceivable offence is there, publicly available. The point is that we have published guides and



we have to have a bit of humility and follow them. It is up to the Sentencing Council, and ultimately Parliament, to re-set the benchmarks if they wish to do so. As judges we just have to do our bit, approach each case diligently and with humility, and apply the guides justly to the facts of the case, its seriousness, the impact on the victims, the offender's previous record and personal circumstances and so on. That way offences in Newcastle and Newlyn and everywhere between should get more or less the same treatment, or at least differences should be for objectively justifiable reasons.

A benchmark to set ourselves by and the humility to do so. Spookily enough this column is beginning to sound rather Christian again.

One passage from the bible that I get to hear rather a lot – because it is so often chosen for funerals – is the passage from John Chapter 14. Jesus and his disciples are having supper just before he is arrested and crucified. In an act of service and humility – and as an ongoing example – Jesus washes his disciples' feet. Then he tells them that he is going to be betrayed, arrested and killed. None of that gets chosen for funeral services! But then there is this. Jesus says "Do not let your hearts be troubled. ... I am going to prepare a place for you ... You know the way to the place where I am going." Sounds good, only they do not seem to know where he is going. "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

And then the punch line: "I am the way, the truth and the life."

It's a startling claim. Benchmark, guide and much more besides. Jesus makes the claim to be all-encompassing, all embracing – the cosmos-wide Newlyn Datum for all aspects of our lives.

We have no problem at all in accepting as correct all sorts of authoritative claims to truth, because, I think, we have a sort of background truth-check going on. OS datum levels work in the real world. So do sentencing guidelines. So too do, say, truth claims by our garage. They tell us what needs doing, we trust them and they do the work, we pay £££, and that alarming rattle whenever the car turned sharply has gone.

And that testing of truth is there with Jesus as well. He stressed, more than once, that when he was killed he would be back. And it was so. Check out the evidence. And he said that those who trust him would find peace that only he can give. And that is so. All it takes from us – everything he gives being free to us – is a certain humility, a willingness to accept that he ultimately is the only benchmark, the only guide. As he goes on to say in that same passage read at so many funerals: 'No-one comes to the Father except through me.'

Every blessing to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

2 FEB	6.30 PM	CANDLEMAS EVENSONG WITH THE CHARTER CHOIR OF HOMERTON COLLEGE 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 series: Judgement</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Genesis 2.4b-25; Luke 8.22-25
11 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-8 <i>George Herbert series: Love (3)</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH
14 FEB	7 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION Joel 2.1-2, 12-17; John 8.1-11
18 FEB	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Romans 6.1-7; Mark 1.9-15 <i>Being Christian 1: Baptism</i>
23 FEB	7 PM	COMPLINE <i>Journeying with St Cuthbert</i>
25 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE 2 Timothy 3.14-17; John 8.51-59 <i>Being Christian 2: Bible</i>
1 MAR	7 PM	COMPLINE: <i>Journeying with St Cuthbert</i>
3 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Revelation 3.14-22; John 2.13-22 <i>Being Christian 3: Eucharist</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG

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.

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Stuck

SOMETIMES ideas don't come easily. That is true of this month. I should have followed my thoughts weeks ago. However, I pushed them to one side, on the shelf for later. Time ticking, I was stuck, at a loss, with copy date looming large.

There are occasions in life when defeat seems inevitable. Insecurity, anxiety, frustration set in. Seeing ahead seems impossible. Stuck at a loss, standing still, apparently hopeless. Whilst problems might still exist acceptance can be achieved. Coping mechanisms take hold. Sharing really helps.

Thinking creatively there are times when being stuck has taken Stephen and I to pastures new. A leap of faith rewarded. In America the freedom and peace of the Sequoia Groves beckoned, accommodation was 'Rustic Housekeeping.' Excitedly we said, yes please. A log cabin, kerosene lamp and logs to chop for fire. Why not? Magnificent trees, dense dark velvet skies, twinkly sparkling stars. Uniquely beautiful. Our American campers thought us inept and took us in, as friends in difficulty. Yet we were impressed at our inventiveness. Coat hangers became handles for empty tins to create 'cook cans.' On cleaning our hire car a gun was found hidden in the 'trunk.' Poor valeting. An upgrade later wrong keys. We had gone over Death Valley to Las Vegas. The one day became two. Stuck, curious but not gamblers we discovered. Just off the Strip was a fascinating church. It was 'built to accommodate religious needs of hotel workers and city dwellers.' The roof dipped dramatically, tent like. Modern stained glass shone wonderfully. Attractive, vibrant, welcoming. Worth being stuck.

On another occasion, travelling from an undesired destination to glorious places was better than being stuck. Impulsively we stepped on a ferry to experience Skye, Arran and Isla. Good call.

We recall unsecured metal ladders falling ironically from a travelling security van on the A14 into our car and another. Fortunately we were ok and comforted the other shocked drivers. We were stuck looking on a peculiar scene, waiting. It exercised the mind. Be careful. Take time to check.

Synonyms include jammed, glued, embedded, and wedged. Being stuck on a treadmill stresses being in a rut or stuck in your ways. Being spontaneous, breaking free from everyday drudge to grasp life is happily rewarding. **Judith and Stephen Lee.**

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Stapleford - Nachingwea Link

A message from the Chair of the Nachingwea Link

Kevin Bushiri, Chair of the Nachingwea Link Committee has sent us this New Year's message and report.



2023 was a special year for us as leaders and for the Nachingwea community. Both sides, we and you, all played our parts well and accomplished our social projects successfully.

These projects all needed financial help, advice and physical support. You, Stapleford Link, did well in the first two, Women's Health Project and the English course and we did well in the Special Needs project. So we are all together the best winning team ever.

All in all these accomplishments give us the green light for the coming year 2024. We here at Nachingwea are ready to participate in next year's projects as you are. Together we bring joyful smiles on the Nachingwea community.

Thanks for your support in accomplishing our special day, we mean our wedding day. It has been the best year for us. We have our own rings on our own fingers. It was not easy but with you the ways were clear. *(The Stapleford Link Committee is delighted to see that Safinia is wearing a dress made from donated silk sent by the Link and sewn by some of the ladies trained on the VETA course sponsored by the Stapleford Link).*



Masasi Diocese Youths' Conference

The biggest assembly of youths from Anglican churches in Masasi diocese has taken place here at St Andrew's Church on 14 and 15 December 2023. This conference happens every year. However it will take many years to happen again here in Nachingwea because it goes to other churches in our Masasi diocese.

More than 700 youths came together happily to do different activities like donating blood, singing gospel songs, getting financial knowledge from

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The guest of honour was our beloved bishop James Almasi who gave his important message on working hard not only for national or personal development but also in spreading the word of God. The Bishop saw choirs and led all of us in donating blood. The singing and gospel messages continued the whole night until Saturday morning, when the young people started their journey to their home churches.

Link committee members participated fully, both financially and physically.

We wish you all a happy new year 2024. We greatly appreciate your love to our family and all Nachingwea community.

Our Almighty God bless you all.
Amen.

Kevin John Bushiri



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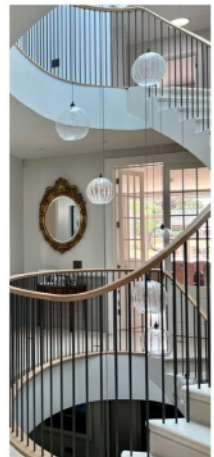
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Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: a Concerned Stapleford Resident (Name and address withheld).

Re: Dernford Reservoir

RECENTLY, anyone who walks around the lake had better keep their eyes firmly on the ground around them because the amount of dog mess on or close to the paths has reached a disgusting level. Whether it is a few antisocial dog owners or many who fail to clean up is hard to tell, and whether they come from Sawston, Stapleford or further afield is also hard to determine. The problem wasn't as bad in the summer when presumably more people were around to voice disapproval. The saddest aspect of this problem is that no parents can allow their young children to roam freely in what ought to be a great place for them to get healthy exercise.

World Day of Prayer Service



THIS year's World Day of Prayer service will be on Friday 1 March in Cox's Close Community Room.

We will start at 2.30pm with tea and cakes and hope to be finished while it is still light. Everyone is most welcome - women and men.

The service has been prepared by the Women of Palestine on the theme of 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'. It was compiled before the current conflict in the region, but the message is now more relevant than ever.

At the Mothers' Union meeting on 25 January at 2pm in the Johnson Hall, a Powerpoint presentation will give more information about life in Palestine in preparation for the World Day of Prayer service. All are very welcome to come to this.

For more about the World Day of Prayer, go to wwdp.org.uk.

Joy Barnes



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Lent @ St Andrew's



WE are just drawing breath from amazing Christmas celebrations and Lent is almost on us – with lots to enjoy, provoke, comfort and more.

We start with a visit from the wonderful Charter Choir of Homerton College, for a traditional Evensong at 6.30pm on Friday 2 February, to celebrate the ancient Christian Feast of Candlemas – to us, the end of Christmas, because if there is a party we like to stretch it out.

Then Lent starts on Wednesday 14 February with our Ash Wednesday communion at 7pm. If you have never been, come and give it a try. It is a lovely, restful, traditional, thoughtful service. This year, in this service and in our weekly Complines we are going to be following some of the life and work of St Cuthbert, who I have written about before. An amazing early British saint whose outstanding character has great lessons for us all.

Those Complines start on Friday 23 February at 7pm. Compline is the church's late evening service – we have put it to a slightly more accessible time than was traditionally the case. Short and peaceful, that time and space for reflection that our busyness so needs!

We look forward to welcoming you. **Simon**

Epiphany tradition of Marking the door

20 - C - M - B - 24



THE initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi - Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar whose arrival at the manger we celebrate at Epiphany. The initials also stand for the Latin motto ; Christus Mansionem Benedicat - 'May Christ bless this house'. **Frank Jacot**



Above Frank & Monica's door

Left - Mike & Victoria's door



st Andrew
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Evensong

for Candlemas

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Christmas Tree Festival



THANKS to all who supported the Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's Church in December.

£1258 + Gift Aid was raised for the Stapleford Community Warden Scheme as a result.

As well as being a great financial success, the event also generated a good community spirit - some groups even planned their trees and worked together, such as Stapleford Granary and the Primary School. The Festival involved the Community such as the Beavers, Stapleford Tennis Club, and The Magog Trust, as well as the Church-based groups Little Fishes (St Andrew's Baby and Toddler Group) and JOY (Just Older Youth).



Many people came to view the variously decorated trees. Thank you again. The Festival was further enhanced by the addition of live musicians who played throughout the weekend, ranging from an organist to two clarinettists and several pianists and a singer - to all of whom I give my thanks. **Jackie Nettleton**

Carol Singing



IN December of 2023, fifteen intrepid carol singers set out from St Andrew's Church to bring Christmas cheer to the village of Stapleford. The previous year the setting had been much more picturesque, scuffing our feet through powdery snow, our breath forming wreaths of mist about our heads as we huddled together under street lamps singing sweetly (we hoped) of our Saviour's birth.

This year wasn't nearly so Dickensian but we still received a warm welcome from many people, including the folk in the cosy warmth of The Three Horseshoes where we ended our evening. Thank you to all who donated and a particular thanks to the management and staff of the Three Horseshoes who allowed us to invade their pub and sing lustily at their patrons on both occasions.

Last year our funds were divided between the Arthur Rank Hospice and Romsey Mill. This year we raised £165.10 which was split equally between Cambridge Winter Comfort Charity and the Red Cross Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory Appeal. Come and join us next year. We can promise it's not an experience you'll forget in a hurry! **Sophi Berridge**



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Mothers' Union



ROSEY Fuell is coming to speak to the Branch on 22 February (2.30pm, Johnson Hall) on her trip to Antarctica – we have welcomed Rosey before and always enjoyed her talks.

Joy Barnes has put a notice in this Messenger (page 13) concerning the World Day of Prayer service on 1 March, with details of the venue and the time. This is an ecumenical service to which all are welcome. **Hilary Street**

Women's Institute



AT the time of writing this piece early in the New Year we have not yet had our first meeting of 2024. However our WI group has been far from inactive and members have enjoyed two book group sessions in December and January, and also a craft group meeting.

You may also have been one of the visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival in December at St Andrew's church where a tree, imaginatively designed and skilfully created by two of our talented members, was displayed. Amanda Boote and Wendy Gibson made the tree from sheet music on which were printed carols, and the angel was from 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. The tree received many compliments and remained in the church during the festive period.

Our meeting in February includes a speaker, Barry Carter, whose talk is entitled 'Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue'. If you are not yet a member and would like to attend as a visitor to see how we function, then please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 or visit our website staplefordwi.weebly.com. You are assured of a warm welcome at any of our meetings which take place on the fourth Thursday of each month (apart from December) in the Pavilion.

Joyce Dobson



Sue Clark, President of the WI alongside our tree

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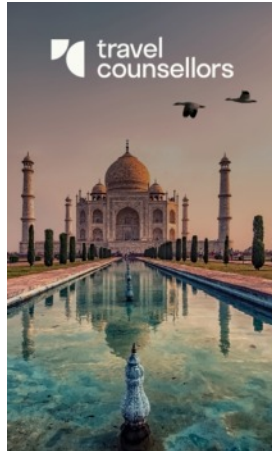


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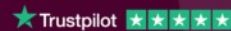
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www.karenjinksdesign.co.uk/workshops

Unusual Christmas jumper at JOY

ST Andrew's JOY group (Just Older Youth) were treated to a sighting of a most unusual Christmas Jumper worn by two of the team helpers, Glenda and Rob Ferneyhough on 3 January, A member had donated a chocolate caterpillar cake wearing a Christmas jumper – seen here being handed round after our new year quiz.



The group meets every first Wednesday afternoon in the Johnson Hall to enjoy cuppas and homemade cakes, supportive friendship, a Christian reflection, talks, quizzes, the sharing of a treasure trove of memories e.g. school life, holidays, evacuation, coronations,...one of our 95-year-old members was in the crowd for the coronation of George VI in 1936. A time of joy for members and helpers alike. **Romie Ridley and Revd Lucinda Howard**

Quiz round

Connections (you are looking for an author)

1. Which snooker player is known as the magician?
2. What is the largest city in Canada?
3. In CS Lewis' 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', who was the second person to enter Narnia?
4. Who played Professor Quirrell in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone?
5. In which fictional town would you find Cafe Rene?
6. Which French district produces Graves & Medoc wines?
7. What is the only mammal that cannot jump?
8. In what city was the Blues Brothers set in?
9. Which band had members called Robert Fripp, Adrian Belew, Greg Lake, Tony Levin, Jakko Jacszyk, Bill Bruford and John Weston?
10. What is the connection?

Charlie Wolfe - Answers on page 43

Stapleford History Society

How Cambridge Made England by Chip Calquhoun



CHIP didn't need a screen to show pictures as he is a storyteller, he held us fascinated by the story he had to tell. Chip started with brief descriptions of the parts that Alan Turing played in solving the workings of the German enigma code machine and Professor Hawkins made to our understanding of the Universe.

In the 19th Century, Thomas Clarkson from Wisbech deserved more credit for his part in the abolition of slavery. In the 17th Century, James I progressed from Edinburgh to London collecting money and gifts all the way. At this time the Cromwell family in Huntingdon were great Royalists and showed their loyalty by persuading hundreds of local men to beg or borrow horses to ride to Huntingdon, to welcome the King. This loyalty may have contributed to James building a hunting lodge in Royston which, at that time, was in Cambridgeshire and he spent more time here than he did in London. Half a century later, Oliver Cromwell played a major part in the Civil War and the defeat of James' son, Charles. Parliament made Cromwell Lord Protector and he produced the first written constitution of any country in the world.

The main talk was about the period after the departure of the Romans and the arrival of the Angles and Saxons who settled in the country and the names England and English evolved from these names. There were seven separate kingdoms each with different laws and traditions. The warlike Norsemen from Scandinavia, later called Vikings, succeeded in defeating the separate kingdoms. King Alfred of Wessex united several of the kingdoms and drove the Norsemen back to the north. Peace and various treaties never lasted more than a few years. In 1002 Ethelred ordered the slaughter of all Danes but this led to the arrival of a huge Viking force with Canute (Cnut) at its head. He defeated all seven of the kingdoms and was the first to call himself King of East England.

As a writer of children's books, Chip Calquhoun was asked to write a children's version of Cambridgeshire Folklore. There were stories that Cnut travelled in the Fens to discover more about the people of his kingdom in addition to the well-known story of ordering the tide to retreat which was to prove to his lords that there were some things that even a king couldn't control. Chip did much research into one particular legend about King Cnut

meeting and befriending Saxons in the Fens whose women were being abducted by monks. This legend had a grain of truth as both Ely and Ramsey Abbeys have documents showing that the monks had not always dedicated their lives to abstinence and as a consequence King Cnut suggested that the Saxons lived in groups rather than in isolated farms. Littleport is considered to be the first village in England following King Cnut's wise suggestion. King Cnut was the first king to decree that whether you were Saxon or Viking everyone would have to obey the same law and have equal rights across his kingdom of England. **Keith Dixon**

Stapleford Twinning Association

NEW YEAR and a new programme!

HERE'S what we'll be doing in Stapleford during the first half of the year:



Quiz Evening: Saturday 10 February, Cox's Close, open to all. £7.50 per head, maximum of six per team, to include light refreshments in the interval. **Please enrol using the entry form on page 25.**

Film Evening for members: French film with English subtitles. Saturday 20 April, Cox's Close.

Wine Tasting Evening: Friday 14 June, Cox's Close, open to all.

But the cherry on the cake for members this year is a weekend visit to our twin village in France – Villedômer in the Loire Valley – from 3 to 5 May. These visits are extremely enjoyable occasions with our generous French hosts laying on some delightful local cultural and culinary treats. All this, and local accommodation for two nights, is provided free of charge. Already some 13 members have signed up to go.

It's easy and inexpensive to become a member – only £15 per adult per year. You don't have to live in Stapleford and you don't need to speak French! Full details of our association can be found here: twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk **Tim Jessop**

Little Shelford Local History Society

Little Shelford Memorial Hall
Wednesday 21 February 2024
at 7.30pm
a talk by David Martin
'Whatever happened to Little Shelford hall(s)?'

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Stapleford Twinning Association

Twinned with Villedômer, France

French/English Quiz

Saturday 10 February

7.30pm in the Community Room

Cox's Close, Stapleford

£7.50 per head, maximum of six per team, to include light refreshments in the interval.

Please complete the entry form below and return it together with your fee by Saturday 3 February to Tony Hore:

8 Sternes Way, Stapleford, Cambridge, CB22 5DA

Tel. 843796 or 07774 136027

We look forward to seeing you!

✂.....

French/English Quiz Entry Form - Saturday 10 February

Name of team.....

Team Captain.....

Address.....

Telephone Number

E-mail

Please make cheques payable to 'Stapleford Twinning Association'

Yesteryear

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

1801

GIFT. Lord F. Osborn has given £50 to be distributed in beef and rice amongst the poor of Stapleford in this county.

1852

FIRE. A fire was raging in the homestead of Mr Smith last night. We understand the particulars are as follows:- Mr. Smith's horsekeeper having the care of an entire horse, which was turned loose in a hovel, hung his lantern by the side of the wall whilst he went to a hay stack about fifty yards off for some hay, and on his return found the hovel in flames, the animal having knocked the lantern down: prompt assistance was rendered by the villagers and there being a good supply of water the fire was speedily got under before the Royal Farmers' engine arrived. We are informed that about £40 worth of damage is done, the wind being calm, or the probability is, that at least £1,000 worth of property must have been destroyed, had the wind been unfavourable.

1917

LOCAL CASUALTIES. STAPLEFORD. Mr and Mrs A Maddison have been notified by the Admiralty that their second son, Sub Lt B A Maddison RNR was killed in the naval action in the North Sea on January 23rd. Sub Lt Maddison was born in Cherry Hinton parish in 1896 and served nearly four years apprenticeship in the Merchant Service before joining the Navy. Mr and Mrs Maddison desire to acknowledge with deep gratitude the many letters of sympathy. They have now lost two sons in the war.

1950

"The Clerk reported that the conveyance of the Cemetery extension had now been executed and a cheque for the purchase price viz. £22 plus £1.11.6 agent's expenses had been paid but that he was still awaiting the solicitor's bill of costs. This was agreed to and confirmed." (*From the Parish Council Minutes*)

1957

STAPLEFORD SHOPS BROKEN INTO. Two shops in Stapleford were broken into between 11.45 pm Thursday and 8.00 am Friday, according to reports by the Cambridgeshire CID. A fancy goods store in London Road

was entered by breaking glass in the rear door and releasing a lock inside. A tie clip is missing. A general store also in London Road was entered by similar means. It is believed a quantity of cigarettes and a small amount of cash were stolen.

1967

“Mr Hall reported that the contamination from kitchen waste in Bar Lane had increased and it was agreed to write to the Chesterton RDC Chief PH Inspector”. *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*

Puzzle Corner

Valentine words

All the answers can be made from the letters of VALENTINE

The letters E and N can be used twice

3-letter words

fib

animal doctor

famous McPartlin

Bulgarian currency

4-letter words

level

calf meat

flair

tenth-longest river in UK

5-letter words

living

foreign

brand of water

Russian leader

6-letter words

inborn

small finch

forgivable

essential amino acid

7-letter words

merciful

animate

Set by Hermes - Answers on page 43

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 121

Near-at-hand: a circular walk to Dernford and The Shelfords

Start of the Walk

Stapleford: London Road bus shelter, opposite Church Street and the Spar shop.

Length of Walk

3.5 miles, approximately 1hr 20min.

Extra Information

This is a short, circular walk, through farmland and local villages and crossing two rivers. There is one short stretch that, after an extended spell of wet weather, can become waterlogged and impassable without wellies. Even in relatively dry weather, this stretch can be muddy in a couple of places, making suitable footwear and some care worthwhile. Nevertheless, it can normally be negotiated without too much difficulty.

OS Map

Explorer sheet 209, or attached OpenStreetMap extract.

Route of the walk

From the bus shelter, head south on the cycle/footpath towards Sawston; pass over the River Granta and continue until the cycle path meets the main road (Point A on map). Turn right at Bridge End Cottage along the minor road past the reservoir towards Dernford Farm. Continue to the end of this road where it meets the railway level crossing. Pass over the railway, over a bridge across the River Cam, past the private house (on the site of an old watermill), along an avenue of poplars and cross a wooden footbridge.

The next part of the path has a thick, unkempt bramble hedge on the left and a fenced meadow on the right. This is the section that can be muddy, or even waterlogged, in a couple of places. Walk the length of this path to a second footbridge, go over this and continue in the same direction along a field-edge path up to the Whittlesford Road, adjacent to Rectory Farm (Point B on map).

At the Whittlesford Road, turn right and walk along the wide grass verge for a little over 0.5 miles towards Little Shelford. There is an identifiable track here, although it is a bit rough in places. Continue into the village, taking the right-hand fork at the road junction (signposted Great Shelford). The width of the grass verge narrows from this point, so beware of occasional passing vehicles.

Once in the built-up area, there is a tarmac footpath on one side of the road. Continue straight until you reach a sharp, right turn in the road with a junction leading to Church Street (Point C on map). Take the right turn along Bridge Lane towards Great Shelford and follow the footpath along the lane for 0.5 mile, into the centre of the village. Follow the right fork into Woollards Lane, go past the shops to the traffic lights (Point D on map), then turn right at the lights along London Road (towards Stapleford and Sawston, but not signposted), go up the gentle slope over the railway bridge and continue along the London Road for 0.3 miles. Keep going, past the petrol station, until you reach the bus stop from which you started.

Peter Woolley



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

2G3S

Events coming up and regular sessions:



STOP PRESS - Film evening on Thursday 1 February at 7pm at the Marven Centre at Sawston Village College. The film is called *'Pure Clean Water: the chalk streams crisis on our doorstep'*, about the well-documented lack of water in our region and its effect on our chalk streams, which are a unique environment. It is not all doom and gloom. Peter Woods has

seen the film, and says:

'Pure Clean Water' was premiered in Cambridge [Film Festival] last October. The film's director, Tony Eva, introduced the film. It is a documentary that succeeds in intertwining an analysis of the impact of extracting drinking water from the chalk aquifer here with the fascinating history of Hobson's conduit and the ecology of the Nine Wells springs. Many of the filmed locations will be familiar to residents of Sawston, Stapleford and the Shelfords, but there was much detail that was new to me from this excellently researched documentary. As the credits rolled, the whole audience spontaneously applauded! I am sure that I was not alone in having been entertained and

2G3S and Sawston Cinema present a film screening with a discussion to follow

PURE CLEAN WATER
The chalk streams crisis on our doorstep

Is the Cambridge growth phenomenon about to be derailed by a shortage of water?

1st February 2024 7pm
Marven Centre, Sawston Village College

Tickets on sale now through Sawston Cinema
<https://sawstoncinema.org>
<https://PureCleanWater.film> mail2G3S@gmail.com

informed, but also more engaged with the issues around our 'thirst' for water and the damage resulting from satisfying that demand. I do recommend anyone living locally to see this film. There will be a screening at the Marven Centre in Sawston, organised jointly by 2G3S and Sawston Cinema, and Tony Eva will be attending to answer questions and participate in a post-screening discussion.

Tickets for this screening are £5, and are available at ticketsource.co.uk/sawstoncinema/pure-clean-water/e-gdkmlm.

Repair Café on Saturday 24 February 2pm to 5pm, at Shelford Free Church. Bring along your broken item and a skilled volunteer will help you fix it! We can tackle a wide variety of repairs including clothes and fabrics, electrical items, jewellery and other items. We may be able to accept some repairs on the day, but please note that for electrical repairs in particular it is better to **book in advance**, through the Cambridge Carbon Footprint

website. (Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets). If you have any questions, please email 2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com. It's a free event but donations are very welcome. The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees. Tea and cake will be available of course!

Book Group on Tuesday 20 February at 8pm at the Three Horseshoes in Stapleford, to discuss 'Factfulness' by Hans Rosling. This is an upbeat book, challenging the often negative assumptions we can make about the state of the world, some of which relate to our perceptions about population.

Dr Bike is running its volunteer-run weekly Bike Repair Sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers or have any questions on Dr Bike, get in touch using drbikestapleford@gmail.com.

South Cambs Organic Gardeners meet at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford. More details on the February meeting from helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk.

Transport - coming up, we have a conversation evening about transport, at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford. Date and further details to follow – see our website.

The Great Climate Fight – you may have seen this two-part series on Channel 4, in which three hard hitters who do not mince their words, Mary Portas, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Kevin McCloud, looked at the government's own Climate Change Committee's 'Sixth Carbon Budget'. In this report, it lays out how the UK can 'sort climate change' i.e. get to net zero before 2050, and cut down carbon emissions sufficiently before 2030 to make it possible to keep to a 1.5°C rise in global temperature. The government is not following its own advice: a big increase in onshore wind energy; improved housing standards (we lag behind most European states); cutting subsidies to oil and gas companies (which are £42m a week!); and making oil and gas companies pay for carbon capture technology, to clear up the mess they've profited from. Nothing very outlandish or difficult technically.... As I write this the programmes are still available on catch-up.

Climate anxiety – if you feel depressed and upset that politicians and companies aren't taking on board quickly enough the importance of tackling climate change, it can help to talk to others and turn your anxiety into action eg if you live in an area liable to flooding, work with your community to increase resilience and help each other. Keep yourself informed and write to MPs, councillors, CEOs of supermarkets, whoever is relevant, to probe them into what they're doing about the problems. See more in a Guardian article on 16 November 2023 (just type climate anxiety in the search box on the

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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
- watering plants
- making appointments
- getting small items of shopping
- collecting prescriptions
- wellbeing contact

(a small weekly fee applies)

For further information call the Warden on
07436 102733 or juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk



Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with registered charity no. 1165856
Registered Office; 3 Victoria Street, Chatteris, PE16 6AP

Guardian website, and the article comes up). And don't assume that because you read lots of disaster stories, that reflects an increase in disasters in the real world – progress has been made and people can rise to the occasion when needed! Or read Hans Rosling's book (see above).

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to 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 History Society

An Archiving Coffee Morning

COMMUNITY Room, Cox's Close, Tuesday 13 February, 10am.

David Pepperell, who died last year, did many things for the village including creating an extensive photographic record of the area, people and places.

The History Society would like to add these to the archive, but to follow good archiving practice, we need to put names to the people featured and, as far as possible, locations and dates.

The morning will be an opportunity to pass the photos around, reminisce, and enjoy coffee and biscuits. All welcome. **Chris Cooper**



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.

Royal British Legion



ON behalf of all members of Sawston & District Branch we wish readers and contributors a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

2024 promises to be a busy year for the Branch with highlights being the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day

Landings on 6th June 1944, the Remembrance Parade and Poppy Appeal at the latter end of the year, and the Band Concert at Challis Gardens during the summer. We are hoping that SCDC will give authority for another 'Poppy On Lamp Posts' event for Sawston and the surrounding villages. As with last year, we will seek this authority early so that we can plan appropriately. Red Graphics gave the Legion tremendous and invaluable support for this event in 2023 and we look forward to their assistance again this year.



As well as these three main events, we intend to hold a 'Meet & Greet' day at each of the Village Hubs that make up Sawston & District. We will also be having our gazebo at the Annual Fun Run, Duxfest and at Fowlmere Daffodil weekend. We plan to continue our Breakfast Club each month at The Plough in Duxford. Plus, we will be having trips out to various places of interest during the warmer months.

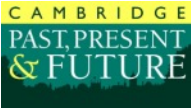
We hold our meetings on the last Wednesday of each month at Chapelfield Way Community Centre in Link Road, Sawston, starting at 7pm. Anyone wishing to join us will be made welcome, even if it is just to see what goes on. Then you may wish to make it permanent, in which case you will be more than welcome.

Finally, an appeal to veterans who live in our area. We, as you are aware, are not informed by your previous MROs of your location. Therefore, it would be of great help if you could make yourselves known to us. The Royal British Legion are here to help you if you need us. We can do so when requested through the Legion's own Branch Community Support network, by phoning 0808 802 8080.

To join the Royal British Legion, call 0800 307 7773. If you have any queries, please contact Branch Secretary, Kevin Swann at sawstonpampisford.secretary@RBL.Community.

John McCarthy, Branch Chairman

Wandlebury Events



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

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.

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.

Iron Age & Archaeology Walk

Wednesday 7 February | 10.30am to 12.30pm | Free
 A gentle guided walk around the park to see and learn about Wandlebury's Iron-Age history. Meet in the car park.

Holiday Bushcraft

Fun, outdoor activities for children aged 5 to 12 years with Wild Thyme & Embers. £42 per child per day. Full info and booking at: wildthymeandembers.co.uk.
 Monday 19 to Friday 23 February | 8.30am to 4pm

Cambridge Cake Creators



AT our next meeting on Thursday 15 February, we have Ribana Cristescu, who will be demonstrating 'Glazed Mirror' work, i.e. cakes that have a shine.

We meet at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start in the Pavilion. £10 per person which includes coffee/cake. All abilities welcome, you just need an interest in

baking.

Contact **Vanda Butler** on 561053 if you need more details.

Film Evening



A FILM evening will take place on Saturday 2 March in Little Shelford Memorial Hall. There will be a showing of the 2021 version of West Side Story, the American musical romantic drama film directed and co-produced by Steven Spielberg. The musical is based on Romeo and Juliet but set in the Upper West Side neighbourhood of New York City in the 1950s.

It was named one of the top ten films of 2021 by the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute. Among its multiple awards and nominations, it received seven nominations at the 94th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, with Ariana DeBose who plays Anita winning Best Supporting Actress. Since its release, it has been cited as one of the best musical films of all time.

Tickets (£15 per person) are available from Sarah Coppendale: (842498) coppendales@btinternet.com and Diana Haines (841415) dianahaines42@icloud.com. The price includes a supper of pizza and salad and there will be a licensed bar. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm showing.

Please book tickets by Wednesday 28 February so that sufficient food can be ordered. **Sarah Coppendale.**



Messenger Marketplace

FOR SALE - Coffee machine, Nescafe Dulce Gusto. Hardly used, excellent condition. Black. £15. Contact maevemcdonnell@hotmail.com.

If you have an item to sell (up to £50), lend (FOC), or give away, send a note to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com, with the words 'Messenger Marketplace' in the subject heading. Use the format as above. We will accept ads offering free help, and also requests for items.

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

Messenger Team

Great Shelford Library



FEBRUARY is LGBT+ History Month. Discover a rainbow of reading in our display of books by LGBT+ authors. 6 to 12 February is Children's Mental Health Week. Reading all sorts of books for pleasure

can give children a great sense of wellbeing, and we have lots they can choose from.

Don't forget that 14 February is Valentine's Day! Don't have a date?!! Why not go on a blind date with a new author. Who knows you may just fall in love!!

We have various events on this month to suit all ages.

Engage Talk: Railways in Cambridge - Wednesday 28 February 2pm to 3.30pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Craft & Chat: Every Friday 10.30am to noon. 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 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.

Stay and Play: Every Thursday. 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.

During Half term we have two children's events:

Lego/Duplo Event: Wednesday 21 February 2pm to 3.30pm - Parents and carers must stay with their children who remain their responsibility. Free event, donations of £2 appreciated. Limited places, please pre-book in library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Festival of Stories: Reconnecting, Reusing and Recycling: Thursday 22 February 10am to 11am. Stories and crafts with a Recycling theme. For families of children aged 2 to 5. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk **Mel Abbiss**

Contact details:

Telephone: 0345 045 5225.

Email: Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Web: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

STAPLEFORD
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FEBRUARY

Bryony Griffith & Alice Jones**Friday 2 February | 7:45pm**

A unique blend of harmony, heritage & Northern banter from this acclaimed multi-instrumentalist folk duo

**Leon McCawley, piano****Saturday 3 February | 7:45pm**

Described as 'one of today's most impeccably musical pianists', Leon McCawley returns to the Granary with a programme of Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Chopin & Schubert

Music for Awhile**Friday 9 February | 7:45pm**

Music for violins, flute, cello & harpsichord, led by Maggie Faultless, including pieces by Handel, Telemann, Couperin & Vivaldi

**Peter Knight & John Spiers****Wednesday 14 February | 7:45pm**

Two of the country's most distinguished musicians join forces in an evening of songs and instrumentals celebrating the British folk tradition

**David Preston Trio****Friday 23 February | 7:45pm**

Award-winning guitarist & composer David Preston returns to the Granary with renowned jazz & rock drummer Jeremy Stacey & bassist Conor Chaplin

**Kate Romano, clarinet & Ian Buckle, piano****Sunday 25 February | 3:00pm**

19th century German repertoire for clarinet & piano, including music by Brahms, Burgmüller and Schumann's masterful Fantasy Pieces

www.staplefordgranary.org.uk
01223 849004

The Arts Society Cambridge

Forthcoming Lecture - Caravaggio

SPEAKER: Rosalind Whyte

Date and time: Thursday 8 February at 10.45am

Venue: Churchill College, Cambridge

About the lecture: 450 years ago, an artist was born who would bring about one of the most radical changes in pictorial styles, particularly through his pronounced use of contrasting light and shadow, or *chiaroscuro*. He was the most famous painter of his time in Italy, as well as a source of inspiration for hundreds of other artists. Known as Caravaggio, his given name was Michelangelo Merisi, but though he had the name of an angel, he was anything but, being a notorious brawler and spending his last years on the run from a murder charge. This lecture will introduce you to the drama of the life and the art of Caravaggio.

About our speaker: With a BA and MA from Goldsmith's College, and an MA (distinction) from Birkbeck College, Rosalind Whyte is an experienced guide at Tate Britain, Tate Modern, the Royal Academy and Greenwich. Rosalind lectures at the Tate, to independent art societies and on cruises and regularly leads art appreciation holidays.

Guests are welcome to attend occasional lectures. Please book with our Membership Secretary on membership.tascambridge@gmail.com.

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Granta Medical Practices

Appointments update

GRANTA Medical Practices HERE at Granta, we continue to offer a mixture of face to face, telephone and online appointments. I would like to take this opportunity to explain how our appointments system works and what is available to Granta patients.

Firstly, please be assured that no-one apart from clinicians make clinical decisions about your care when you first contact us. Our reception teams have clear criteria, set by GPs, as to what can be put straight onto a clinician's urgent list. However, if they or you are unsure, they will take your details and discuss your concerns with the clinical team and then get back to you.

When ringing for an appointment you will be asked if there is a particular clinician you would like to see, either for continuity of your presenting problem or continuity of overall care. It may be that you don't mind who you see – you just need to speak to someone about your current medical problem.

Please do help our reception team by providing as much information as possible. All information is treated as confidential and will only be used for triage purposes. They are simply trying to make sure you are seen by the right person, in the right place, at the right time.

If you do feel that your problem is not urgent, you will be asked if a routine appointment may be more suitable, or perhaps a long term medical conditions appointment, a palliative care appointment, or whether we can help you in any other way.

If your appointment starts with a telephone call then, together with the clinician, it can be decided whether a face to face appointment will be the appropriate next step.

Routine appointments are available a few weeks in advance, all pre-bookable via our reception teams and online. New routine appointments are released daily at 8am and at 2pm to allow for regular availability. If you ring and there is nothing available, our reception team can send you a link that is valid for seven days (that you can check daily) to pre-book a face to face or telephone appointment, so that you do not need to ring back.

Alternatively, if you would prefer, you could use Accurx Patient Triage via our website to have an online consultation with a clinician. We do ask however that you only send routine queries as it can take up to 72 hours to respond.



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There will always be sickness, annual leave and the perception that clinicians are not seeing patients. However, on average, Granta's doctors and nurses see around 4,000 patients face to face per week, and consult with another 3,500 via the telephone and online. We continue to try and accommodate all of our patients in a way that suits and please be assured that we are continuously reviewing and revising patient access.

Sandra East, Head of Patient Services

Stapleford Horticultural Society

AT our January meeting we welcomed Rosemary Buisseret who explored the fascinating topic of the Night-Scented Garden. She started by showing the variety of moths that might visit, and recommended the plants – many with pale flowers and strong scent – that would attract them. She finished by giving some guidance on designing a garden to be enjoyed at dusk.



Our next talk is on Thursday 8 February when Margaret Nimmo-Smith will be telling us about Fashions in Plants and Gardening. The talk is at 7.30pm in the Johnson Hall, and all are welcome.

John Sherwell, 841012

Quiz answers

1. Shaun Murphy
2. Toronto
3. Edmund Pevensie
4. Ian Hart
5. Nouvion
6. Bordeaux
7. Elephant
8. Chicago
9. King Crimson
10. (John) Steinbeck

Puzzle Corner answers

- 3-letter: LIE, VET, ANT, LEV
4-letter: EVEN, VEAL, ELAN, NENE
5-letter: ALIVE, ALIEN, EVIAN, LENIN
6-letter: INNATE, LINNET, VENIAL, VALINE
7-letter: LENIENT, ENLIVEN

Parish Council Chair's report

THE good news is that with Haverhill Road reopening just before Christmas, all construction traffic should approach the two sites from the A1307 instead of coming through the village. The bad news is that this has not always happened. The Parish Council has regular meetings with the contractors of both the Rangeford and UKPN projects and is working to ensure that this and other things such as excessive noise do not happen. The problem with removal of hedging by Rangeford is also under discussion following residents' concerns. Rangeford is producing a regular newsletter about the construction of the retirement village for the Parish Council. This is available to read at staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/rangeford-newsletter-dec-2023.

Traffic on Haverhill Road will be disrupted by temporary traffic lights while the road is being widened for the retirement village entrance. The Parish Council will be applying for the temporary 30mph speed limit on Haverhill Road to be made permanent. A speed indicator is to be installed on Haverhill Road.

The UKPN compound will close on 24 September and the land will be reinstated to farm land. Prior to that, within the next six months a further closure of Haverhill Road for about three weeks will be necessary for UKPN to complete cabling work, but three weeks' notice of this closure will be given. It is hoped that this road closure does not coincide with the proposed closure of Hinton Way from February to May/June due to work by Cadent near the junction of Orchard Road.

The loss of mature trees in the parish was discussed following residents' concerns. Several large trees have been felled recently with a subsequent negative effect on wildlife and the beauty of the village. Landowners are asked to ensure that appropriate replanting takes place. The Parish Council will investigate applying for Tree Preservation Orders for important trees in the village. Fruit trees will shortly be planted in Villedômer garden off Church St, and the Parish Council will look at other areas in the village which would benefit from increased tree planting, although there is limited public land available for this.

Councillor Peter Fane reported on the emerging Local Plan and other matters. The Local Plan is likely to be delayed until at least March this year and the Government's planning reforms may also have implications for this. A full report from the district and county councillors is available on the Parish Council website.

The budget was approved for the coming financial year, including funding towards the Neighbourhood Plan. The chair of the steering group reported to the Parish Council and the plan is entering the next phase. In Spring 2024, all residents and other stakeholders in Stapleford and Great Shelford will be invited to comment on the draft Neighbourhood Plan report in a statutory consultation, before work begins on the final version of the Plan.

A working group has been set up to concentrate on refurbishing the pavilion, including enlarging the kitchen.

New Parish Councillors are needed! Applications can be made to the clerk (clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk). If you care about the future of our village, please consider applying.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 1 February at 7pm in the Jubilee Pavilion. **Gillian Pett**

Better Ways 4 Busways!

Wow – what a year 2023 was!



THE team at Better Ways for Busways extends its thanks to each and every one of you who has offered support, made donations, and contributed to our ongoing campaign. It is truly appreciated.

Current CSET status and BW4B!'s position

Although the CSET busway plans have officially been 'paused', the GCP is actively trying to find £162m to build it. We argue that similar or better benefits can be achieved for around £100m less with in-road bus lanes along the A1307. This alternative is quicker to build, provides immediate benefits as each stage is completed (CSET has no benefit until the entire scheme is built) and does much less environmental damage. It is also one of the options that the GCP proposed back in 2018.

Longer term, we support reinstating the railway to Haverhill, which would provide much more significant capacity than the busway. However, building CSET would probably prove fatal to the railway. Railfuture has previously obtained over 5,000 signatures in support of reinstating the railway.

2023: a busy year

A lot happened in 2023, with many articles written for the media and meetings in Westminster (both at the Treasury and with individual

ministers), with local government and major local employers. Here is a brief month-by-month overview of developments.

February: Detailed planning permission was granted for a retirement village on the edge of Stapleford and a new countryside park. CSET will now have to run on land between it and the countryside park, requiring a redesign of the route.

We wrote to the six members of the GCP executive board (and copied all 44 members). We didn't receive a single response.

We worked with our MP Anthony Browne to refine questions in his survey, which was sent to 6,500 residents in villages affected by CSET. We also posted over 6,000 BW4B! flyers, one through every household's letterbox in four villages.

March: We invited the Cambourne 2 Cambridge (C2C) campaign to join us and they reciprocated. C2C is fighting a similar busway proposal to the West of Cambridge and is ahead of CSET in the queue for money and to start construction. It has also done well with its fundraising. We can learn a lot from them.

April: We worked with MP Anthony Browne's office to write a series of letters exposing the consultancy SQW for 'marking their own homework' during a government-mandated gateway review of its performance.

May: Stapleford held a very well attended briefing for residents, with presentations by James Littlewood, CEO of Cambridge Past, Present and Future (CPPF), and Stephen Partridge-Hicks, Chair of BW4B!

June: We hosted a BW4B! stand at the Stapleford Village Show, raising awareness and signing up many new supporters.

July: BW4B! and CPPF encouraged people to sign a petition against CSET, gaining 5,424 signatures, and we met with Anthony Odgers, CFO of Cambridge University.

Michael Gove announced plans to build 250,000 homes in Cambridgeshire and the appointment of Peter Freeman to head a new Development Corporation, the Cambridge Delivery Group.

August: BW4B! held an online briefing for all councillors from Cambridge City, South Cambs District and Cambridgeshire County Councils and members of the GCP Assembly. 42 people attended.



September: CPPF presented our petition to the GCP Assembly and GCP board. We asked several questions and requested development of a low cost alternative 'plan B', all of which were largely ignored.

GCP announced that it "didn't have enough money for CSET" and agreed to a pause. We pushed to have the search for money time-limited, but the GCP never minuted what was agreed. We assisted with several media pieces about the pause and possible alternatives.

October: BW4B! met with Roland Sinker, CEO of Cambridge University Health NHS Trust, and Kristen Anne-Rutter and Nick Kirby of Cambridge Biomedical Campus. They need better transport links for their growing staff and feel obliged to support the GCP's CSET as the scheme proposed by the responsible local authority.

We met Peter Fane, Chair of South Cambs District Council, and Brian Milnes, who is deputy leader of South Cambs District Council, sits on the GCP board and is also our local County Councillor.

November:

We met Elliott Page of KMC Transport consultants, who has been hired by Peter Freeman of Cambridge Delivery Group.

December: The GCP wrote to Michael Gove, Secretary of State for levelling up, asking for £162m – the letter is full of mistakes. CPPF, Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils wrote to explain that there is a better option that has local support.

Michael Gove announced plans to build 150,000 homes in Cambridgeshire (down from 250,000 in July). There is also talk of a new 'mass transit' scheme.

Looking ahead

So what comes next? Well:

The threat of public inquiry has not gone away and we need to raise significant funds to defeat the GCP. This will be a big ask.

We will continue to engage with the GCP, Cambridge Delivery Group and large organisations such as CBC, AstraZeneca and Granta Park to help steer transport policy as much as we can.

We also welcome you to join us at BW4B! Whether your expertise is legal, research, social media or simply being available to help, we would be delighted to have you onboard. We meet roughly once every three months via Zoom. Please do get in touch at hello@bw4b.org.

The Better Ways for Busways! team *Better Ways for Busways! is a politically neutral, highly inclusive campaign group that opposes the destruction of the countryside when better alternatives exist. Visit us at bw4b.org.*

Neighbourhood Plan update

1. Introducing new planning policies to protect and improve our rural setting and landscape
2. Preparing for a big neighbourhood planning milestone – Regulation 14 consultation



HAVING last month profiled the housing-related planning policies in the emerging Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (NP), this time I will turn my attention to those intended to protect and improve

our rural setting and landscape. I also want to start laying the ground for our upcoming ‘Regulation 14’ consultation, in which all residents, workers, landowners and other stakeholders in our Plan area will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Plan.

Our rural setting and landscape

The draft NP contains 20 planning policies. Five of these sit under the following objective, generated with residents’ input and rated the most important of all of our objectives by respondents to our community consultation in April-June 2023:

New development will actively minimise its impact on the landscape character of the Plan area, recognising the value of long views and vistas into and out of the rural setting of the villages, the open spaces within it and, critically, the separation of the villages from the expanding urbanised Greater Cambridge area.



A Stapleford view which the NP seeks to protect

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

1. Protecting and enhancing Stapleford's and Great Shelford's landscape and character – all development proposals shall be sensitive to the distinctive landscape and settlement character of the Plan area (e.g. retaining/enhancing existing features of value, such as trees and hedgerows) and retain the existing area of separation between Stapleford and Great Shelford and the City of Cambridge; landscape mitigation measures will ensure that development is sensitively screened and assimilated into its surroundings.



A proposed new PVAA: Great Shelford Village Charity's community garden and allotments

2. Important views and visually important areas of open land in Stapleford and Great Shelford – to be supported, development proposals must maintain or enhance the key features and their setting of 29 listed views into and out of the settlement.

3. 'Important Countryside Frontages' – these tracts of undeveloped land penetrate or sweep into the built-up area, providing a significant connection to the rural area beyond or an important break between two detached settled areas – two already exist in the Plan area and we are proposing three more. Planning permission compromising them will be refused.

4. 'Local Green Spaces' and 'Protected Village Amenity Areas' – these tightly defined terms refer to different types of undeveloped areas deserving of protection from development. Four new LGSs and six new PVAAs are proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. Development proposals on these sites will only be supported in very special circumstances.

5. Preserving our dark landscape – development proposals which include external lighting will only be permitted if the night sky is protected from light pollution.

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The Travelling Companions, Augustus Stapleford Esq., 1861
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The precise wording of the five planning policies is far longer and more detailed than I can replicate here but I hope that the above gives some sense of the direction of travel. All residents will have an opportunity to read the policies in full and respond to them during the impending Regulation 14 consultation.

I make no apologies for repeating myself every month, so please remember that NPs can neither prevent development nor reinvent the wheel. The aim of our NP is to think *local*: to find gaps in existing policy (i.e. SCDC's Local Plan 2018 and the National Planning Policy Framework) which might leave Stapleford and Great Shelford vulnerable to inappropriate development and fill them with new policies tailored to the specific needs of our villages. Therefore, if you think something is missing from our rural setting and landscape-related planning policies, it will almost certainly be because it is covered by existing planning policy.

Regulation 14 consultation

We aim to complete our NP this year. In a significant step towards achieving this goal, the steering group is currently preparing for a formal consultation on the pre-submission draft of the Stapleford and Great Shelford NP. This is a legally required stage in creating any NP and a chance for the community and other bodies to comment on the draft Plan before it is submitted to the local authority (in our case Greater Cambridge Shared Planning) for independent examination.

We will make a lot of noise to publicise the consultation when it is live, which will be for a minimum period of six weeks in Spring 2024. Look out for banners, local social media posts, individual household leaflet drops, and posters on Parish Council noticeboards and other public places, all of which will explain how you can take part. The draft NP will be available online at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan and a hard copy will be accessible at Great Shelford Library.

Participation is not designed to be onerous and is obviously entirely optional. After this, the community's final opportunity to influence the NP will be in a straightforward Yes/No referendum in which you will have the chance to either accept or reject your NP.

I've said it before, and I will say it again and again: we *can* change the place where we live – and *this* is how.

Jenny Flynn

Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group - neighbourhood.plan@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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



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