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MESSENGER

March 2024

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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.

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

WE were in Singapore recently, visiting family who have lived and worked there for decades.

This was my umpteenth visit to Singapore. I first went in the 1980s during my medical training, and have visited family on and off ever since. That first trip was part of my elective – a period of two or three months during which medical students can go and do some medicine pretty much anywhere that will have them. I decided to go on a pathology world tour, and can tell you, from first-hand experience of post mortems, that we are all the same inside, or at least all those on the stops on my tour were, from the East End of London, to Singapore, Hong Kong, Dallas and Washington.



Singapore now is very different to Singapore then. It is certainly not nearly as repressive. Back then, even in the insulated and educated circles of the hospital pathology department no-one would even talk politics. It was just too unsafe. Nowadays people do, though more at the local council level of issues rather than on issues that bring protests to the streets in the UK. No organised protests are allowed, as a taxi driver told us, but even so the feel is of a society which is growing up politically, gradually realising that dissent is not treason.

That is not the only change. Building works is the obvious one. The modern architecture is simply astonishing, even if looking at modern buildings is not really your thing. There is one hotel which has an enormous boat-shaped structure stretching across the roof of three



tower blocks. And the building frenzy has been with superb attention to town planning, with fantastic public transport and excellent public green spaces everywhere. There was an obvious danger, 40 years ago, that the whole place would soon be concreted over. That has been avoided, and with great aplomb. The willingness to plan long-term is paying dividends. Say it sotto voce, but is that one benefit of having what is effectively a one-party dictatorship? The answer may be yes, if, but only if, that party is not made up of the crooks on the take who have governed us for the last decade or so. We can dream. Other changes seem to be happening too. Singaporeans are now, apparently, increasingly seen in senior roles in

business – leading large corporations is no longer just for expats – the higher education sector is growing and highly regarded, and heritage and the arts are beginning to become visible too, with really nice restorations and use of the remaining historic buildings, a Singapore arts centre, concert hall and exhibitions all evident. It really is a place that has reinvented and renewed itself in a sustained project.

Renewal is a favourite theme for Christians. And like the Singaporean renewal it covers a wide range. That is because of the nature of Jesus Christ himself. Let me wind back.

You know, I should think, that the Christian claim is that Jesus was killed by crucifixion, something we commemorate on Good Friday, and then on the third day – that is the Sunday – he came to life again, rose from the dead as we usually put it. I happen to think all of that is well-evidenced and believe it to be true. And the point is that ordinary folk like thee and me do not rise from the dead, so if it did happen, then we need to look for an explanation.

That explanation is, in part, that Jesus – fully human though he is – is not just human but also God, indeed, he is fully God, ‘the image’ as the scripture says ‘of the invisible God.’ So although this event had a particularity in time and space – first century Palestine – its implications are way bigger. His death and resurrection has personal implications for us, opening up the possibility of forgiveness for anything and everything we have done wrong and reconciliation with God through belief and trust in Jesus Christ. But the renewal Christ offers is not just personal – nor indeed bricks and mortar, arts centres and the rest – but is cosmic in scope. I think that is why Easter is such a big deal in the Christian calendar. As we come to celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and the personal renewal that promises, we are really looking forward to cosmic renewal. No-one knows when that will be, but my experience is that the promises of God are true and trustworthy, and just as he has renewed, is renewing and will continue to renew me day by day, and you too if you will have him, so also in the fullness of time he will renew all things. ‘God’s dwelling-place is now among people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold! I am making all things new.” Isn’t that a wonderful vision? One to ponder on. It sets out what no human, not even a Singaporean, can achieve. Come and hear more – an open invitation – at St Andrew’s.

Every Easter blessing of renewal to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

3 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Revelation 3.14-22; John 2.13-22 <i>Being Christian: Eucharist</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Exodus 5.1-6.1; Philippians 3.4b-14
10 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	MOTHERING SUNDAY ALL AGE SERVICE Exodus 2.1-10; John 19.25b-27
17 MAR	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Jeremiah 31.31-34; Luke 11.1-4 <i>Being Christian: Prayer</i>
24 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	PALM SUNDAY ALL AGE SERVICE
28 MAR	7 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION Exodus 12.1-14; 1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17, 31b-35
29 MAR	12 NOON	AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
30 MAR	8 PM	EASTER VIGIL SERVICE
31 MAR	6.30 AM	MAGOG DOWN SERVICE
	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	EASTER DAY ALL AGE & FAMILY COMMUNION 1 Corinthians 15.1-11; Mark 16.1-8
7 APR	9 AM	NO SERVICE
	10.30 AM	SAID SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 4.32-35; John 20.19-31

Plus COMPLINE at 7 PM on 1, 8, 15, 22, 25, 26 & 27 MARCH

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

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Easter Elixir

IN a time when much of our world is troubled and sad we need a way to feel uplifted and motivated. Often childhood simplicity sings loudly with delightfully uncomplicated observations and remarks. Adults lose that spontaneous reaction.

I wonder, could we work together on unity and clarity of understanding by concocting an Easter Elixir? Why not try to deliver hope and confidence whilst striving for peace? With creativity we could achieve understanding, regard and above all love for one another. Imagination will play a valuable part. No one need feel left out. The aim is to sow seeds of sympathy, support, courage and optimism; awareness of ill chosen words or actions. We learn through communication and experience. This opportunity provides scope for ingenuity. A wonderful chance to release inhibitions.

Easter is the stimulus. A word of ultimate hope, compassion and forgiveness. The initial letters form a thread for consideration. Enjoy the wit and banter of family and friends as words are chosen.

Whilst I quote my suggestions you are entirely free to 'do your own thing.' **Enthusiasm** seems a relevant beginning. Talk, laugh and smile, being free, open and honest as memories are recalled and shared. This binds us together, helping to see beneath the surface. **Anticipation** and acceptance follows as amiable exchanges are made. Confidence grows. **Sensitivity** is all important. **Trust** and truth being significant. The warmth of the human spirit should surface. **Encouragement** rates highly creating well being through sincerity and patience. **Reflections** continue and with them a sense of self worth and belonging.

The Easter garden will flourish and blossom. A triumphant word, erumpent, meaning bursting with life is a good fit. When despair hits hard hopefully repair takes its place. A happy word of joy. Colour seeps happily in to our lives.

On Easter Day our hearts should feel lighter, unburdened. However we have devised the Elixir, the human spirit will shine. As individuals in unison we join in saying: Alleluia, Amen.

Judith Lee



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DO you know your Opossums from your Possums? What links BritPop band Blur and virtual group Gorillaz? Can you name THREE prime ministers from the 19th century?

Don't worry if you struggled with any of the above – as they WON'T be in the fundraising Nachingwea Quiz taking place on Monday 15 April at The Three Horseshoes in Stapleford.

But there WILL be six rounds of questions to stretch the old grey matter, with questions for everyone from 18 to 88.

The money raised will go to support projects funded by the Stapleford-Nachingwea Link and run locally in Nachingwea, Tanzania.

It promises to be a great night out, so we hope to see you there with your fingers on the (metaphorical) buzzers!

Booking recommended! Please email nicolawest14@gmail.com or text 07783 461074 with your team name and number of quizzers. **Nicky West**

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Mothers' Union



WE are looking forward to taking part in the World Day of Prayer service on 1 March, compiled by the Christian women of Palestine. 10 March is Mothering Sunday, an important date in the Mothers' Union calendar. Please see the notice below about Alternative Gifts from the MU, which support women all round the world.

On Thursday 21 March, Lucinda Howard is coming to the Branch to give us a short Lent Meditation (2.30pm, Johnson Hall), which will help concentrate our minds on the meaning of the Lent season.

Alternative gifts for Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is on 10 March. Mothers' Union is offering alternative gifts that you can dedicate to your mother (or in her memory), which help and empower women around the world (this year called 'The Gift of Dignity'). A gift of £11 could empower a woman to reach her full potential, such as joining community organisations to help forward the rights of women. £28 could help a family to support a child through further education, thus enriching their own community and indeed their country. The gifts can be accessed at makeamotherday.org and orders should be received by 1 March. All good wishes and Blessings for Easter. **Hilary Street**

Women's Institute



AT our January meeting we warmed ourselves with home-made soup and had a social evening. Our meeting in February included a speaker, Barry Carter, whose talk was entitled 'Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue'. In March we will have our AGM and elect our new committee.

Members have held a craft group evening, where attendees bring along their sewing, knitting or other craft and enjoy a chat while they work. We have also held book group sessions in the pub, where each member takes a turn to choose a book that they think everyone else will appreciate and that will lead to a good discussion. Recent examples range from a murder story, a translation from a recent French novel, and a sweet story starring a very clever octopus!

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 4th Thursday of each month (apart from December) in the Pavilion. **Joyce Dobson**



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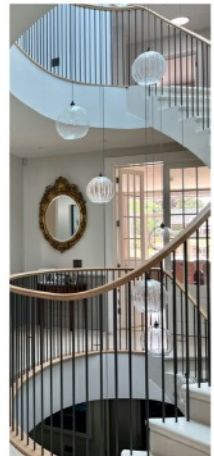


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Treble Time



TREBLE time is a newly created Musical Club for St Andrew's Church. Primarily for the ages between 6 to 12 but we are flexible. Rehearsals will take place in St Andrew's Church on Thursdays between 3.45pm and 4.30pm. Any standard, any experience, all are welcome. Treble Time will not just sing, I plan to develop a broad experience of music which will include hand bells, ocarinas and theory/musicianship skills, to name a few. Hopefully we will be giving performances in the church regularly by the summer months and after that... well you will have to attend to find out.

Parents/carers and older/younger children are welcome to stay during the rehearsal, or drop their children off. If there are any adults who are available to assist or help with the running of this new group, please do get in contact. Light refreshments will be provided for the little ones. If you have any questions or wish to help in some way, please contact me, email address is music@standrewstapleford.org. See you there and don't worry; you can't be the only one as my children will also be in attendance.
Timothy Kwan, Director of Music, St Andrew's Church.

World Day of Prayer



THERE will be a World Day of Prayer service on Friday 1 March at 2.30pm in Cox's Close Community Room on the theme 'I beg you bear with one another in love'.

This service was prepared by the Women of Palestine before the current conflict in the region, and the message is now more relevant than ever. This is an ecumenical service and everyone is welcome to attend, not just women.

For more information about the World Day of Prayer, go to wwdp.org.uk. **Joy Barnes**



Looking for a local venue?

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

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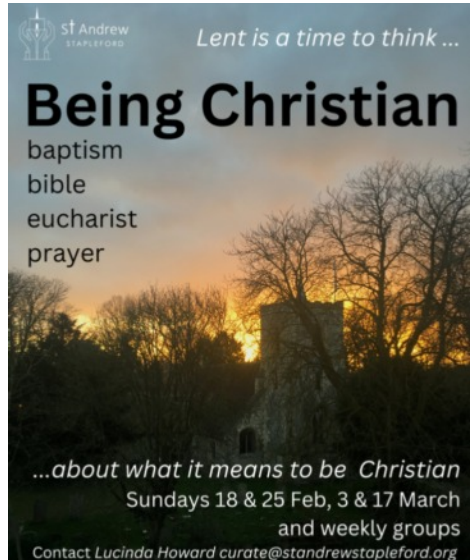


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Congratulations!

TWO former Cambridgeshire educationalists and former Stapleford residents, Mrs Jenny Smith and Mr Jerry Dodd have recently married.

Jenny's career spanned Head of Modern Languages at Linton Village College and Modern Languages teacher and Head of Learning Support at The Perse School in Cambridge. Jerry initially lectured at CCAT before its subsequent amalgamation with Cambridge College of Further Education, then continued there in Catering and Hospitality and Teacher and Trainer Training. Both were residents of St Andrew's Close for more than 45 years. They became close friends some nine years ago following the deaths of each of their spouses.



They sold their family homes and moved together to the lovely village of Barnwell near Oundle, Northampton in June 2021.

"We are very happy with our new life in this friendly, picturesque, stone and thatched village."

They were married in Oundle with close family and friends on 17 January of this year. They wish to thank all their Cambridgeshire friends and neighbours for their congratulations and good wishes. **Gerald Dodd**

Tim Kwan

Musical Director, Stapleford church

Messenger interview with Tim with Frank Jacot, our Messenger Production Editor.

GOOD morning, Tim. Thank you for joining me today. Our readers are keen to find out a little bit more about you. Our congregation at Stapleford church is excited that you have brought your talents to enrich our services. How are you settling into a new role as musical director in Stapleford?



Very well, I think. It's been a wonderful start to a new chapter in our lives. The win for us is that our kids can be involved in the service. When they were very young, I was being pulled away from them. Our children were stuck at home so that didn't really work for our family.

I understand they may join the choir at some point? Particularly as your wife Sarah is now singing with our choir.

I think it's compulsory!

Do you have some early thoughts on goals and aspirations for your choir?

Well, there have been some immediate plans maybe to incorporate some big works at Easter. In addition, I have written a piece which would be good to have the choir do, but it's pretty tricky to sing. So that might be later down the road, and then possibly visiting other churches and touring and things. I know that used to happen in the past.

That sounds really exciting. Now, I know your daytime job is a music teacher. Perhaps you could tell us a little bit more?

I've been teaching in the classroom for ten years. When we moved here, I started teaching just piano, privately. I also had a one year maternity position in the Heritage school, while I was getting set up as a self-employed piano teacher. That has really taken off now, so I'm pretty much fully subscribed. I get people asking me weekly for new lessons.

That's excellent. I guess it's just building that network, and gaining recommendations from your pupils. Looking back, how much were you involved in music when you were a child or at school and college? What was your musical background there?

I learned the violin when I was five. I joined both the church and school choirs at six. I started learning the piano around seven and picked up the viola aged 10. I joined Trinity Junior College in London on Saturdays, as

they had a junior school. When I was 13, I was awarded a music scholarship to a rural hospital school in Ipswich, so I moved up there and I learned the organ with Peter Crompton. Later, I went back to Trinity College and studied my graduate degree in organ performance there. After that, I completed a PGCE in Secondary School Music. I was in the classroom, alongside working in churches.

So you really have equipped yourself with all the music and educational skills to move forward in this changing world that we live in?

Yes, I'd like to think so.

Turning to your family, we've talked briefly about Sarah and your children. I think they're all involved in music, particularly Sarah?

Yes, Sarah and I met at Trinity College of Music. I've known Sarah actually since I was 18. We have encouraged the kids to take up music. It's a big part of our lives, so I'm sure it will be a big part of their lives.

So Sarah plays bassoon. What instruments do your children Amber and Rupert play?

Well, they've done a bit of piano. Surprise, surprise! Amber's talking about, well, she's mentioned the double bass, but she needs to have certain bigger fingers before we can begin! We don't want to make the mistake of starting on the cello, because the intonation is totally different actually.

Great, well obviously Cambridge is a wonderful place to be because there are so many music groups and opportunities to play music.

Away from music, how do you relax? What things do you enjoy?

I'm very into my sports. I've run a few marathons. I'm currently training for a half Ironman. I've done a lot of cycling, swimming, and climbing as well. We often go down to Devon to do some climbing as there are some nice spots. I also play a lot of chess and taught chess previously. I do play a lots of games and puzzles which keeps me busy.



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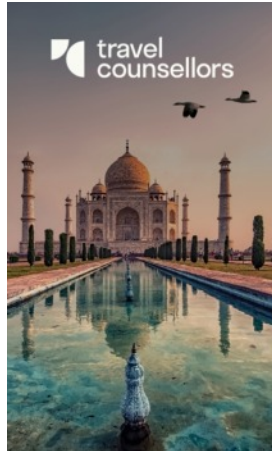


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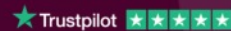
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So thanks for sharing so much Tim. I would like to finish by asking some quick fire questions. Please don't spend much time thinking!

Favourite day of the week? Friday

Texting or talking? Talking.

Place you most want to travel to? Thailand

Scale of one to ten, how good a driver are you? Eight.

Dawn, or dusk? Dusk.

Favourite season? Spring.

Cake or pie? Cake.

Favourite ice cream flavour? Wait, it was one I had the other day. It was sticky toffee pudding.

What's the best age? Ten years ago.

Last one, Can you name one of the seven dwarfs?

Snally. Snoozy. Slumber. I can't remember.

Happy, Doc, Grumpy, Dopey, Bashful, Sleepy and Sneezly!

Tim, thank you again for talking with the Messenger.



The Whipple Museum of the History of Science



One of Charles Darwin's microscopes in the Museum's collection.

A look at the stories behind the Museum's extensive collection of scientific artefacts.

A talk by Alison Giles

Museum's Learning Co-ordinator

Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion

Tuesday 12 March at 7.45pm

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

STAPLEFORD
GRANARY

MUSIC • ART • CULTURE

MARCH

Jason Rebello, piano**Sunday 3 March, 3:00pm**

A solo concert from the celebrated jazz pianist whose award-winning music is renowned for its inventive nature & melodic touch in a blend of jazz, Latin & soul

**Gwilym Bowen Rhys, voice & guitar****Saturday 9 March, 7:45pm**

A compelling & charismatic stage performer, Gwilym Bowen Rhys is a leading and award-winning ambassador for Welsh language folk song

**Samuele Telari, accordion****Sunday 10 March, 3:00pm**

A programme of popular arrangements solo accordion & darker folk-inspired pieces from Russia and Ukraine performed by rising star Samuele Telari

**Clare Wilkinson, soprano, & Jacob Heringman, lute****Sunday 17 March, 3:00pm**

Repertoire from the Elizabethan age to the present day, performed by two of the most admired exponents of early music

Misha Mullov-Abbado Group**Friday 22 March, 7:45pm**

A sextet made up of some of the finest multi-award winning musicians on the London jazz scene, led by BBC New Generation bassist Misha Mullov-Abbado

**The Jeremiahs****Wednesday 27 March, 7:45pm**

Described as one of the freshest bands in Irish traditional music, The Jeremiahs are applauded for their excellent musicianship & vocal work that is '*nothing short of astounding*' (Live Ireland).

www.staplefordgranary.org.uk
01223 849004

Stapleford Village Show 29 June

Part of the Stapleford Village Weekend (28 to 30 June).

LOOKING forward to being part of the Stapleford Village Weekend? Please bookmark the date in your diary.

Our theme this year will be '**Nurturing Nature in our Community**' with an emphasis on growing, planting and nurturing our village and its spaces. We will be looking for stall holders, crafters, gardeners, and artists to be part of this event.



We are introducing an amazing tree planting project, ask Sophi at sophiberridge@gmail.com for more information. We are hoping that you will be part of it.

We will be running a silent auction so any offers of prizes greatly appreciated, please email Gill at northorpeart@outlook.com.

Any other questions please email joolsrayment@gmail.com.

As well as the showing and judging of plants and vegetables, flower displays, baked goods, arts and crafts, there will be food, a bar, craft and market stalls, plus daytime and evening entertainment. It is always a fun event and brings the village together so please enter something, volunteer or come along and enjoy the day.

More information to follow! **Jane Baker**

Save the Date
Stapleford Weekend 28 to 30 June



Find out more at staplefordweekend.com

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Puzzle Corner

Two-letter sequences 2

Solve the clues to find words containing two-letter sequences

Examples

Russian drink (DK) = voDKa

seal-like mammal (LR) = waLRus

digitalis (flower) (XG) = foXGlove

Group 1

fool (FW)

attaché (FC)

cow patty (FB)

lord's property (FD)

without thought (FH)

actress (2004 Strictly winner) (FP)

Group 2

deadlock (GJ)

aubergine (GP)

Thai capital (GK)

marsh marigold (GC)

Cambridge college (GD)

brightly coloured bird (GF)

Group 3

tremor

left-hander

exhaustive

split chicken

freeloading traveller

rank below a bishop

using HG HH HP

HD HQ HC

Group 4

dawdler

tin alloy

horse sport

West Suffolk town

small predatory bird

large Canadian island

using WT WF WH

WC WJ WM

Set by Hermes - Answers on page 31



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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

Community orchard and wildflowers

IN early February, Stapleford finally got an orchard for the use of the whole community.

There can sometimes be many thankless tasks for a parish councillor to do (!), but then one like this and last year's wildflower seeding project come along, bringing people together with not only a love for our environment but for our community as whole. It only took a couple of hours for the orchard work to be completed and it was a very enjoyable experience, not just for me but for everyone involved.

I have to give immense thanks to each of the 25 volunteers who willingly gave up their time to plant all of the fruit trees and hedging. I must also thank the Three Horseshoes, who allowed us to use their hose pipe to water everything in well and give it the best chance of survival.

In recognition of everything he did for our village over 50 years on the Parish Council, we would like to name the new orchard the 'David Pepperell Community Orchard'. David sadly passed away last year; he and his commitment are greatly missed, and we will be making a plaque for the orchard to commemorate his service.

As you may have noticed, the wildflower areas around our village are coming on extremely well. The results that our contractor has achieved in other areas are stunning and I cannot wait to see everything in bloom. I feel this will enhance our village greatly and provide a good habitat for wildlife.

Matthew French has given a considerable amount of his time and effort in helping us get the wildflower areas to where they are now and the Parish Council appreciates all his efforts. We must also thank Travis Perkins for their continuing support to our village, donating 144m of timber stakes and 300m of rope to protect the wildflower areas.

Your Parish Council is committed to working hard on your behalf, promoting your interests and views on many issues, but we would dearly love to have more of you work with us to make sure that we stay relevant to village life. We are a friendly bunch who care passionately about our village and strive to maintain it as a good and happy place to live.

Cllr Michael Gatward



Stapleford History Society

Country Life : How the rural poor lived in the 1800s and tales of village life in Stapleford and Shelford - a talk by Helen Harwood



THE rural poor were extremely poor and living at a time when the Poor Law of 1601, with its use of workhouses, was still in operation, and there was no system for pensions or Welfare State provisions that we take for granted today. People were not paid enough and by 1855, 120 people had set off from Shelford and

Stapleford searching for a better life somewhere in the New World.

Because there had been a significant increase in the labouring classes in the 18th century, there was a general housing shortage in the 19th century. While there were some houses occupied by the 'gently affluent', most village people lived in subdivided cottages. Such overcrowding inevitably resulted in poor sanitation, and diseases like TB, typhus and scarlet fever were common, as were lice, bedbugs and mould from the generally damp conditions.

Even though people were usually under-nourished, both men and women had physically demanding work to do. The women's laundry work, for example, with its use of a copper/ dolly tub with a fire underneath, washboard and mangle demanded strength over a period of hours, while men had to work up to ten hours a day in the fields. Young boys like Josiah Dunn could be employed as bird scarers from the age of seven. The Vicar of Stapleford objected to this and complained about the boys sometimes being given guns. At harvest time, everyone took to the fields to collect what grain was left after the main crop had been gathered in, and this was an important way of supplementing their diet.

Inevitably some people were less accepting of their way of life and, before the coming of the railways (1846 - Shelford Station), had no means of leaving the area. If people became socially disruptive and/or did things that went against the social norms, pots and pans were banged to show general disapproval. This 'rough music' was used in 1855 when Philip Rawlinson jilted the Cambridge girl he had been engaged to. In 1890, Susan Robinson left her husband, then evicted a labourer from one of her cottages so she could move in. Rough music was heard again as her neighbours showed their disapproval.

The most famous miscreant was John Stallan, who became known as 'The Shelford Arsonist'. He supplemented his meagre income by being a member of the paid group who manned the contraption used to pump water onto the flames of any fire in the area. Realising that he would get paid more if there were more fires, he began, in 1829, to set haystacks alight which he would then have to put out. Two and a half years later he set another fire and by 1833 there had been six fires of crops going up. Arson was a capital offence so, when caught, he was sentenced to be hanged. He died on 13 December 1833. **Jane Steadman**

Stapleford Tennis Club



CALLING all Stapleford Tennis Club (STC) members to our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 26 March at The Three Horseshoes.

Whether you're a club night regular, a beginner at Coach Angelica's training sessions, or you like a relaxed knock-about with friends and family, Stapleford Tennis Club (STC) is made by you and for you. Your passion for tennis is what it's all about!

Please also read the club's Spring Newsletter available on the club website clubspark.lta.org.uk/StaplefordTennisClub/newsletter to find out how you can help to 'get more people playing tennis more often'.

Rosie Brown

Magog Singers



SAVE the date - Tuesday 26 March, for the second 10th Anniversary concert of The Magog Singers. To mark the centenary of the death of Fauré, the Introit and Kyrie will be sung together with Libera Me. In complete contrast, other choices made by the singers from their repertoire of the last 10 years include My House from Matilda the Musical, Bridge Over Troubled Water by Paul Simon and a John Rutter arrangement of For The Beauty of The Earth. We will be led by our conductor John Clenaghan and accompanied by Brian Watkins.

The concert will start at 3pm in the Jubilee Pavilion, Light refreshments will be served with a retiring cash donation in aid of The Trussell Trust.

For information about the choir please contact kathleenforeman047@gmail.com. **Kathleen Foreman**

Yesteryear

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

1814

SALE. By auction at Hills Farm, Stapleford. Eleven Score of pure Southdown Ewes with the Lambs, chiefly two and three Shear, selected with the greatest circumspection from the first flocks in Sussex; 50 hoggets of the same highly estimated stock, 2 superior tups, and a singularly fine ram lamb. The couples and hoggets will be sold in half scores and the tups singly.

1852

FATAL ACCIDENT. We regret to have to state that a fatal accident occurred on Saturday evening to Mr. David Heffer. It appeared that Mr. Heffer had been to Cambridge on horseback, on the day of his death, and set off on his return home shortly after nine o'clock. About a quarter before ten, Mr. Barker of Stapleford, butcher, was on his return home in his cart, and when a short distance beyond Trumpington, he found the deceased lying apparently dead by the side of the road. The result of a post mortem examination established the fact that the deceased's skull was fractured at the base and that he died from concussion of the brain, produced by a fall. The late Mr. Heffer was about 25 years of age.

1893

BOARD SCHOOL. The Inspector reports as follows:- *Mixed School.* The master of this school has worked vigorously and well; and, although the lower part of the school is only fairly good, the upper part has been taught with great thoroughness. Singing by note has been successfully taught for the first time. *Infants Class.* The infants have suffered greatly from epidemics during the past year, but, although their elementary subjects are less good than usual, object lessons, etc. have been very well given and the class may continue to rank as good. The "excellent" grant has been awarded this year for drawing.

1900

TECHNICAL CLASSES. Another of the excellent series of winter lectures in connection with the flourishing classes was held on Monday evening, when the Rev C Butler, MA took as his subject "The Cambridge Fens". Mr W S Heffer, JP, Chairman of the School Board, very ably discharged the duties of the chair. The rev gentleman dealt in a most

interesting manner with the history of the fens. The lecture was very heartily enjoyed, especially a graphic description of the method by which the Fens are kept drained. A very cordial vote of thanks was accorded by the new lecturer, on the proposition of Mr Harris.

1916

“NAILED TO THE COUNTER.”

Mr Beavis of Stapleford writes asking us to deny certain rumours that have been in circulation in Stapleford and neighbourhood to the effect that his brother, Pete William J Beavis, Mechanical Transport Army Services Corps, has been court marshalled and shot. Naturally this has caused the relatives much pain and anxiety, but they had recently heard from him and there is no foundation whatever for the stories that have been circulated.

1941

BRITISH LEGION. At the meeting of the women’s section of the Stapleford branch of the British Legion on Thursday week, letters of thanks were read for donations of three guineas to the wardrobe scheme and the mobile canteen fund. The bring-and-buy stall brought in 16/3 for the comforts fund, and it was announced that a profit of £3 had been made on the B L pig.

1959

STAPLEFORD WINS GARDEN QUIZ CUP. At the final of the Horticultural Societies Quiz held at Fawcett School Trumpington on Thursday 26th March Stapleford were the winners by three points over the previous year’s finalists, the Histon team. The team was Mr Sparrow, Mrs White and Mrs Ford. Dr Gilmour, direct of the University Challenge Cup, presented the perpetual challenge cup and books to all who took part. The occasion was instructive and entertaining.

Puzzle Corner Answers

Two-letter sequences 2

Group 1: halfWit, brieFCase, beeFBurger, fieFDom, ofFHand, HalfPenny

Group 2: loGJam, egGPlant, BanGKok, kinGCup, MaGDalene, kinGFisher

Group 3: earthQquake, southPaw, thoroughGoing, spatchCock, hitchHiker, archDeacon

Group 4: sloWCoach, peWTer, shoWJumping, NeWMarket, sparrowHawk, NeWFoundland

2G3S

'Events to come and events past'

CONVERSATION Evening in April on electric transport – cars and bikes. To be held at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford. More details to follow.

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 March meeting: elsewhere in this magazine.

Pure Clean Water - this excellent film was screened to a sell-out audience at Sawston Cinema. It vividly showed Hobson's Conduit in its glory days before the drought of 1976 destroyed its SSSI status. In more recent years, the fall in the water table means, despite augmentation by pumping water from the aquifer to the chalk stream system, watercourses can regularly run very low or dry e.g. in the 2022 drought. Overabstraction is the cause, for householders and farmers, and the Environment Agency has said abstraction needs to reduce by 60% for the streams to recover.



Householders in the Cambridge Water Company region use on average 140 litres per person per day. The Eddington development was built to allow 80 litres, by harvesting rainwater and using grey water to flush toilets and water gardens. If we all conserved this precious water, and the water company fixed leaks faster, we could greatly reduce our consumption. One panel member, a councillor, had reduced their household consumption to 45 litres per day per person! And no, she didn't smell, her hair was clean and her clothes were clean! You can save water by not using a hosepipe, watering plants with washing up water, not flushing the toilet every time you wee, saving water as it warms up in the tap and using it to wash vegetables, water the garden or flush the loo. You can check your water consumption by looking at your bills. Something else you can do is read the Local Nature Recovery Strategy on the Natural Cambridge website, and

respond to their forthcoming questionnaire. And write to your MP about how the regional water shortage can fit with house building to accommodate workers at all the new developments such as on the biomedical campus – new housing developments still rarely include water conservation measures, and write to Cambridge Water Company to ask them to bring in a hosepipe ban and to fix leaks faster.

This film was made before Mr Gove proposed the quadrupling of the number of households in the Cambridge region. As current plans stand, without Mr Gove, the proposed Fens Reservoir will need to be built ASAP, or else our chalk streams ecosystem will be irreversibly lost. Spending the reservoir money on retrofitting grey water usage and rainwater harvesting to existing properties could be a viable option. See purecleanwater.film for more information.

Cambridge Sustainable Food gave us a very interesting talk at the end of January, with lots of discussion and a quiz to test our knowledge. The organisation has been in existence for 10 years and works to build a fairer, more sustainable food system, with less waste, fairer distribution, food security, and healthier food. A lot of their work at present is running eight food hubs, which they supply with excess food from supermarkets. Last year they redistributed 187 tons of food!

We discussed how our choices of food affect our health and the planet. As I have said before in this column, if you choose to do just one thing to really make a difference to the carbon footprint of your diet, eat less meat (especially beef) and dairy. If you're interested in finding some recipes, there are lots on the Veganuary website, and also on the Love Food Hate Waste site.

To read more about the dysfunctional food system in this country, read 'Ravenous' by Henry Dimbleby, who was called the Food Czar, having worked on the National Food Strategy, the School Food Plan, and with DEFRA.

See if you can get the right answers to some of the quiz questions – answers below:

1. Of all the land in the UK used for agriculture, how much is used for crops for humans to eat? 15%, 25%, or 40%?
2. Can you name 4 foods that are most wasted by households?
3. How much food is wasted before the produce leaves the farm gate? 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%?
4. The carbon emissions from one person's average weekly food shop: Vegan 36kg CO₂ equivalent, Vegetarian 46kg CO₂, Average diet including meat ??kg CO₂ equivalent.

Hedgehog Highways – East Cambridgeshire DC surveyed constituents about the animals they most wanted to help, and hedgehogs topped the poll. The Council is now working with developers of new housing estates to incorporate hedgehog-friendly measures as they build eg holes at the bottom of fences, to enable hedgehogs to pass from one garden to another. In your own garden you can do this. You can also put out water and cat or dog food for them, and leave a pile of leaves for them to lie in or make a house. More information on the RSPCA website.

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**

Quiz answers:

1. 40% - the rest is to feed animals. *Eat more plants and less animals.*
2. Bread, milk, salad, bananas. *Only buy what you need; freeze bread or toast it; taste a little of the milk to see if it's OK, even if the use by date has passed; make banana bread or "ice cream" with overripe bananas, or slice into porridge.*
3. 30% - supermarket contracts are too specific on veg size, shape, etc, so much gets ploughed back in. *Buy wonky vegs, vegs from greengrocers and local producers, join a veg box scheme.*
4. 61kg CO₂ equivalent.



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The Arts Society Cambridge

The Bayeux Tapestry:

950 years of intrigue, propaganda and spin

Speaker: Timothy Wilcox

Date and time: Thursday 7 March at 10:45am

Venue: Churchill College, Cambridge

About the lecture

THE Bayeux Tapestry is instantly recognisable and one of the most outstanding cultural objects to survive from the early Middle Ages. Long admired for its vivid narrative, today it is the unanswered questions that most intrigue modern audiences: was it made in England or France? Was it stitched by men or women? This sparkling



lecture looks not only at its creation, but also at its more amazing afterlife. Displayed by Napoleon to bolster French ambitions for a new cross-channel invasion; cherished by Victorian embroiderers as an icon of women's heroic joint efforts; hunted down by Hitler, who was outwitted by bureaucratic obfuscation.

About our speaker: A fluent French speaker, Timothy Wilcox brings a lifetime's interest in Anglo-French relations to bear on a famous object set to become even more celebrated as it enters its next, surprising chapter. Timothy Wilcox is a writer, lecturer and curator with special interests in British art, in landscape and in watercolour painting. He was a museum curator in the British Museum Department of Prints and Drawings following positions at the V&A, in Liverpool and Hove. As a freelance curator and lecturer since 1997, he has organised exhibitions on Laura Knight, Hilda Carline, John Sell Cotman and John Constable, at venues including Tate, The Lowry, the Wordsworth Trust and Dulwich Picture Gallery. He contributes regularly to the educational programmes at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and lectures at museums and galleries in Britain, Europe and the USA.

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

Mary Painter

STAPLEFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor: Adam Pounds



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23rd March 2024



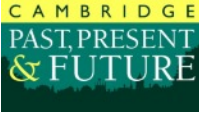
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children free

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

Wandlebury Events



HERE'S a selection of what's on at Wandlebury in March. For more information about these and events at other locations email bookings@cambridgeppf.org, call 243830 extension 307 or visit 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 11.00am. Shorter Walk: 10.30am to 11.00am.

Volunteer Work Parties

Some Tuesdays | 10.30am to 1.30pm | Free

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

Woodland Crafts

Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 March | 10.30am to 4pm | Free

See Cambridge Bodgers at work in the woods with have-a-go activities for adults and children. Follow onsite signage.

Woodland & Wildlife Walk

Wednesday 20 March | 10am to midday | Free

Join our wardens for a gentle guided walk to learn about the woods and their wildlife. Meet in car park.

Cambridge Cake Creators

WE will finally be introducing Carol from 'Cakes by Carol' on Thursday 21 March.

Carol will be demonstrating the making of Frills. We meet at Stapleford Pavilion, at 7.30pm.

£10 pp which includes coffee & cake.

Please ring Vanda on 561053 for more details.



All abilities welcome, you just need to have an interest in baking!

Vanda Butler

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 122

George and two Marys: a circular walk from Babraham

To get to start of walk

TAKE the A1307, heading towards the A11. Turn off for Babraham just before the A11 is reached. The main street is wide and offers plenty of opportunities for parking. The George, if you are using the village pub, has an excellent car park.

Distance of walk

4¾ miles. It is a walk capable of being both lengthened and shortened. It is mostly flat and generally decent underfoot, even in winter. A short section, near the River Granta, can get muddy.

OS Map

Explorer map 209. Use maps.the-hug.net if you have a printer and want to run off a free map extract. The route map provided ought to be helpful, too.

Extra Information

The walk takes in parts of both Abingtons. Believe it or not, the place name, in Old English, means 'the estate named after Abba'. Obviously, a man with Money, Money, Money. Before the Great and Little prefixes came into being, the two settlements were known as Abington Magna and Abington Parva. Both parish churches are dedicated to St Mary and, since 2004, it has been a shared parish.

Route of walk

Walk left out of The George car park, along the roadside pavement. Turn left at a green footpath sign (on the other side of the road) indicating Abington. Follow the path through a farmyard and out beyond, along the left edge of a large field.

When the A11 is reached, cross it by the very impressive footbridge. Beyond, the old main road is soon reached. Cross over and walk along the tarmac pavement. Keep on beyond a turn for Little Abington and go left on a permissive footpath at the far end of The Perse School playing fields to the left.

The path skirts the fields and, when a junction of paths is reached, turn sharp right, walking to the left of a metal farm gate. Follow the new path until it comes to the River Granta. It winds alongside the river in woodland for a few minutes walking time and then goes left, emerging to meet up with the path walked earlier. Keep straight ahead, with houses on the right-hand

side. The path meets a road; turn right along the pavement, and follow the road as it swings right, with St Mary's Church, Little Abington at the point where it swings back left. Cross over and follow the left-hand pavement. Keep going; when the main feeder road for The Abingtons is approached, cross to the right-hand pavement and carry on ahead.

Cross the River Granta bridge and enter Great Abington. Pass the pub, school and shop. When a sign is seen, pointing right to St Mary's Church, Gt Abington, turn and walk down the lane. The path diverges to the right just before the church and passes into a playing field. The line of the path is straight ahead, down the left-hand side of the field. Cross the river via a footbridge and follow the path ahead until it meets up with the road in Little Abington that was recently walked.

Go left and retrace your steps back past the church, swinging right then left, and turn left on the unsigned path immediately after the last house in the village. At a junction of three paths take the first side path to the right, following the line of overhead wires. It runs between fields. Turn right when a cross path is reached and follow the new path until it emerges on to the road, via a metal gate. Cross the road carefully, and go left on the roadside grass path. Where the road meets the former main road, turn right and then cross over and go left at the footpath/cycle path signs for Babraham/Cambridge/Sawston. Retrace your steps over the A11 footbridge and return to The George car park. **David Barnes**



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

Short-eared Owl seen on Magog Down

OUR Rangers, Nick and Claire, were delighted to begin the New Year with a sighting on 1 January of a new bird species at Magog Down. Nick was able to take some photos of a beautiful Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*. They were fortunate to have further sightings during the first two weeks of January of either the same or other short-eared owls. This has given Nick the opportunity to take more photos of an owl in flight and perching on a fence post (see website for all the photos).

Although there are some resident Short-eared owls in the UK, they are more common in winter as there is often an influx of birds migrating from the continent, including from Scandinavia, Russia and Iceland.

The Short-eared owl prefers open grassland, moorland, coastal marshes and wetland habitats. It can be nomadic, hunting across extensive areas in the search for voles and other small mammals. It is one of the few owls that regularly hunt during the day, either hunting in flight or watching from a perch. On both occasions, the Short-eared owl in the photos was seen quartering over the sheep paddocks at Magog



Down. Quartering flight involves a mixture of flapping and gliding low over the habitat, with the bird sometimes hovering briefly before dropping down onto unsuspecting prey. With its large wings and low body weight, it is extremely buoyant and it floats over the ground in long wavering glides with its wings held in a shallow V. It can look very pale but the dark patches near the tips of its wings distinguish it from the even paler barn owl.

The Short-eared owl is medium sized, with a wing span of roughly one metre, with pale underwings and a mottled brown upper body, and a strongly barred tail. The mottled, darker streaking of the feathers resembles dried grasses and aids camouflage. It has yellow eyes rimmed with dark feathers, giving it a fierce expression that is often visible at long range. It has a large round, blunt head with tiny ear tufts which are usually hidden.

The Short-eared owl is classed as a bird of European Conservation Concern and is listed as 'Amber' on the UK List of Conservation Concern because of recent declines in suitable habitat and population numbers. It nests on the ground in thick cover, making a scraped-out hollow, lined with grass and downy feathers. This makes the nest vulnerable to predators.

More information is available on the RSPB website - rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/short-eared-owl. **Claire and Nick Beale**

Great Shelford Library



NOW Spring has arrived, why not pop into the library to get books to help you make the most of your garden this year? Planning your summer holiday, we have a large collection of travel books, and if we don't have what you are looking for, we can order them for you.

March is Women's History Month, and we will be showcasing some of our best titles by and about women around the world.

This month we will be hosting the following events:

Engage Talk - Exploring Cambridgeshire Churches - Wednesday 27 March, 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 morning 10.30am to midday. Pop in on a Friday morning to craft and chat with others. £2 donation for 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.

Stay & 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 and refreshments provided.

Rhyme Time - Tuesday 5 and Tuesday 19 March at 10.30am.

For children aged 0 to 4 years. Come and enjoy rhymes and stories led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event.

Lego & duplo club - Fortnightly, Monday 11 and 25 March 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.

Children's Games Club - Fortnightly, Monday 4 and 18 March 4pm to 5.30pm. Come along and have fun. Board and card games provided. £1 per child, no need to book. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

Art Club - Every Saturday morning 10.30am to midday. Suitable for ages 4 to 8. Drop-in event.

£1 donation appreciated. Parents and Carers must supervise their children at all times. **Mel Abbiss**

Telephone: 0345 045 5225. Email:

Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Little Shelford Pantomime

A review of *Sleeping Beauty*

Once upon a time ...

I HAD the pleasure to be transported back one hundred years, attending the very first performance of this happy romp, on a rainy Wednesday in January. It is always wonderful to be reacquainted with a classic pantomime fairytale, and savvy scriptwriter Ad-Libby Ahluwalia once again made sure it was served afresh, injecting the plot with some delightful local *Shelford*-themed puns. Dick Wallin and Heidi Meikle as directors had crisped up thoroughly the villages' teenage cast for another week of panto fun in Little Shelford.

The younger members in the choruses were enchanting, embracing one of Roald Dahl's hilarious revolting rhymes, 'Snow White' and it was lovely to see new chorus leaders in action.

Miles Cragg provided the brilliant piano playing, aided by Lucy Barlow, and the curtains opened to the village displayed picturesquely in the background, thanks to Francess Richardson's dynamic scenery design and enthusiastic mentoring of budding artists in the village. An excited group of palace staff were looking forward to celebrating Princess Aurora's 18th birthday (a sweet performance by Isobel Whitton). Aurora's two sisters, Alexandra (Abigail Pearce) and Serena (Rafaela Wilkinson) and mother Queen Beatrice (Zosia Zmija), were all very keen to prevent Aurora from being stung by something sharp, so to defeat the spell that the evil witch had put on her whilst still a babe in arms. Deserving mention was the brilliant jester Boris (Joseph Morris), properly funny and playful, whose performance, including solo *Smile*, brought the whole play together.



Lancelot (Atticus Whitehouse) and Aurora (Isobel Whitton)



Queen Beatrice (Zosia Zmija), Alexandra (Abigail Pearce) and Serena (Rafaela Wilkinson)

The bright-eyed unstoppable force of nature Jack McNaught as the Dame and Fairy Wand-a (the charming Emma Quinnell) spurred on the festivities with glee. Dressed to the nines in sunshiny yellow in all her petticoat glory, surrounded by sizzling Spice Girl fairies, Dame Nancy kept up the cheer.

Plot twist however necessitated the party plans be overheard by wickedly portrayed furry friends Snookums (Ella Guron) and Fluffikins (Millie Kennedy), who being Chinese cat spyware personified, quickly informed the wicked villain of our panto. Enter a superbly eyerolling Ava Henry as evil witch, Grizelda, who was once again **not** invited to the festivities, accompanied by her deadpan side kick, Norman (Toby Woodcock). We loved the quick-witted insults that were coming fast and furious from this firecracker clad in black.

The not-so-innocent cats lured the hapless Aurora to the attic where all sharp things were hidden – a pun-cture paradise! Avoiding the fairy tale spinning wheel, the impatient cats caught her with a claw to ensure they put her to sleep in time to get their place in the ice cream queue at the interval. Alas! Evil job done and Beauty put to sleep for a very very long time while the cats performed a celebratory dance.

Hats off to Emma Christelow and Cheryl Smythe for the scintillating choreography; wardrobe coordinator Charlotte Chatwin and her team for the costumes; make-up coordinator Becky Whitehouse and the many others involved.

The gallant Round Table troops in the form of King Arthur (Harry Chatwin), Queen Guinevere (Beatrice White), and the knights led by the dashing Sir Lancelot (Atticus Whitehouse) were on hand for the rescue, but political correctness disallowed the purrfect magical kiss.



Dame Nancy (Jack McNaught) and Wand-a (Emma Quinnell)



Fluffikins (Millie Kennedy), Grizelda (Ava Henry), Norman (Toby Woodcock) and Snookums (Ella Guron)



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The sounds of 'Wake Me Up Before You Go Go' for Aurora, at long last, accompanied a sci-fi excursion into the future, bringing Sleeping Beauty to modern-day Shelford, complete with teenage chorus members playing on their smart phones. Dazed and confused, she was rescued by Wand-a, who guided her back to her palace of a hundred years ago where the story got its happy ending, faith in humanity was restored – and look who finally got his girl, none other than Boris! Always look on the bright side!

The Fluorescent Scene was mesmerising; fairy, swords and spinning clocks, one hundred years of sunsets followed by sunrises – Nikki Wilkinson overseeing yet another annual delight. The pantomime tripped along aided by many others – too many to name them all – except of course panto driving force, Sarah Coppendale.



As with every good Christmas tradition, there's a joy in knowing exactly what you're going to get and yet the show once again exceeded expectations. Rock on 2025 – can it be that we have a 40th anniversary coming up? - we can't wait! **Alice Diamond**

Granta Medical Practice

Our telephone system is being upgraded!

YOU said, we listened! Our new 'phone system now allows you to stay in the queue whilst not staying in the queue! If you are holding on waiting to be spoken to, you will be given the option to request a call back. You can then come off the line and we will ring you back when it's your turn to go through to reception, keeping your place in the 'phone queue.

Don't forget though, you don't have to ring up at 8am to get an appointment. If your health condition is urgent you will be seen on that day, regardless of the time you ring. If you need a routine appointment you can ring any time of the day, you can book online (new appointments are released online at 8am and at 2pm daily), or you can use our online consultation tool, Accurx Patient Triage, a link to which can be found on our website.

Finally, I just wanted to say thank you to all of you that have taken the time to give us positive feedback recently. All of our staff work really hard to provide the best possible service, in the face of increasing pressures in primary care. Every single compliment is shared with the entire team, and really makes a difference. Thank you. **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**



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Sawston Cinema

SAWSTON Cinema, at the Marven Centre by the Village College, screens films on Thursdays. Go to sawstoncinema.org/cinema-screenings/ for details and to book.

Thursday 7 March 7pm - **The Great Escaper** (£5)

Starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson

Thursday 21 March 7pm - **The Motive and the Cue** (£10)

This Evening Standard award-winning best new play was filmed live during a sold-out run at the National Theatre. **Linda Whitebread**



Great Shelford Village Charity

A CHILLY January morning saw a motley crew of scouts, village college students, charity directors and assorted family members planting hundreds of willow cuttings in the charity's community garden.

Given a year or two and some TLC, these will develop to form a shady retreat, ideal for nature classes, games of hide & seek and summer picnics.

This striking new addition to the garden was made possible thanks to a generous donation from The Great Shelford Co-op for the purchase of a willow kit. Our thanks go also to Will Bull for getting everyone organised and directing the morning's work.



A willow classroom on More's Meadow

Villagers are welcome to visit the community garden and enjoy the fine views towards Magog Down. Access is via More's Meadow – or the gate at the bottom of The Hectare – or from the DNA cycleway via the footbridge over the railway. **Brian Connellan, Director**

South Cambs Organic Gardeners

Hedgehogs

A talk by local charity Cambridge Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are now an endangered species. Why are they struggling so much? What can we do to help?

Monday 11 March at 7pm at Cox's Close Community Room, Stapleford Entry £2

For more information contact Helen Harwood, tel 840393, e-mail helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Royal British Legion



THE Royal British Legion, Sawston & District Branch started the year by attending the Cambridgeshire County Conference held this year at Cottenham Village College. Many items were discussed and it was noted with appreciation that we support our veterans in many ways. Help that we can offer is only a phone call away. If anyone knows of veterans in our area who may need help, please contact us. We are there for them as they were there for us.

During the Conference our Standard Bearer, May Fowler-Brown, was appointed Cambridgeshire County Standard Bearer. She took part in a competition against Standard Bearers from within the County area and won the honour to carry the County Standard. Well done May and congratulations from us all in the Branch!

Our planning for this year's Poppy Appeal includes the Poppy on a Lamppost Campaign, but this year, we are including the villages that come within our District. Our Poppy Appeal Organiser, Colin Groves, is in contact with South Cambridgeshire District Council to get the relevant authority, with the incredible help that Red Graphics can give us to begin to look at sponsorship. We have also started planning the 80th Anniversary of D-Day but as this event is still in the planning stages, I cannot reveal details at the moment.

The beginning of the year has also brought sadness to the Branch. In January we learned of the passing of the wife of our Vice-President, Margaret Richardson. Margaret has been a strong supporter of the Branch and to her husband, Colin. A truly lovely lady in every sense. The other member who passed is Matt Reay. A veteran and a strong supporter of the Legion, Matt was often seen in his wheelchair during the Poppy Appeal and other events supporting us. Both members leave us with lovely memories of their time with us.

Diary Dates

Wednesday, 28 February: Branch meeting at Chaplefield Way Community Centre, Sawston, 7pm.

Speaker - Robert Pumfrey 'One Hundred Golden Sovereigns' - the story of one family's ordeals and hardships when starting in business as threshing contractors in the early years of the 20th century.

Saturday, 23 March: Breakfast club at The Plough, Duxford, 9.15am for 9.30am.

Wednesday, 27 March: Branch meeting at Chaplefield Way Community Centre, Sawston, 7pm.

Speaker - Community Crime Prevention Officer

Saturday, 20 April: Breakfast club at The Plough, Duxford, 9.15am for 9.30am.

Wednesday, 24 April: Branch meeting at Chaplefield Way Community Centre, Sawston, 7pm.

Speaker - Pamela Halls 'A Stroll Down the River' - A guided tour along the River Cam. **John McCarthy, Chairman – Sawston & District Branch**

Cambridge Flower Club

70th Anniversary Year

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 15 Feb | AGM: Start of 70th celebrations!
Speaker: Judy Wynn 'My Golden Memories' |
| 21 March | Julie Woods: Workshop 'Spring Zing' |
| 18 April | Jane Knights /Amanda Waples: Dem: 'Take-Two' |
| 16 May | Barbara Collins: Dem: 'Spring into Summer' |
| 20 June | TBC |
| 18 July | Doreen Robinson: Dem. 'Fen Scape'. |
| 15 Aug | OPEN MEETING: Coral Gardiner, National Dem:
'Put your Garden on a Pedestal' |
| 19 Sept | TBC |
| 17 Oct | Alison Purnell: Workshop 'Ikebana' |
| 21 Nov | Lee Berrill: Dem: 'All things Christmas' |

All meetings at the Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford, CB22 4NE on third Thursday evenings. Refreshments from 6.45pm. Demonstration at 7.15pm. Membership £40 p.a. Visitors £8 per meeting.

Further information from **Freda Orgee** 891464, fredaorgee@gmail.com.

Messenger Marketplace

For Sale:

- Instant Pot Duo Plus multi-use pressure cooker. Purchased from John Lewis last year for £90. Excellent condition (used once). For sale £45 ono.
- Cot eco mattress, 120 x 60 x 8 cm. Used a little. Excellent condition. For sale £5.

Contact - June.b@btinternet.com

Parish Council Chair's report

IT was good to see several members of the public at the Parish Council meeting on 1 February. Concerns about The Tree public house were discussed, namely its long period remaining empty with the potential for vandalism and squatters, as well as damage to the wooden hoarding posing a danger to children going to school. Efforts are being made to address these.

Other concerns were expressed about the Rangeford and UKPN works. Work on the Rangeford site had been observed outside agreed working hours, plus speeding lorries and unnecessary HGV traffic through the village. The main worry was that of the state of Haverhill Road from the construction sites to the A1307, with damage to the verges, mud on the road, etc, at times rendering the road and path dangerous to users. The Parish Council has weekly meetings with the contractors to discuss these issues and reduce their impact on the village. It was also noted that road closures on Hinton Way would need to be coordinated with proposed short-term road closures on Haverhill Road for road widening at the entrance to the retirement village.

Parishioners are reminded that complaints should be directed to the Clerk for action and photographic evidence is very helpful. Information provided by the contractors about HGV deliveries will be posted on local social media.

Fruit trees have now been planted by a party of volunteers on land behind the Slaughterhouse for the benefit of the parish in years to come, and it is hoped that they will be cherished and not subject to mindless vandalism or other damage.

Discussions with Stapleford Tennis Club continue and a joint meeting with the Parish Council is to be arranged. As the MUGA is for use by sports other than tennis, it may be helpful to have a joint meeting with all user groups. A contract with ETC has been agreed for maintenance.

An application for speed restriction along Haverhill will be made and double yellow lines at the junction of Haverhill Road and Bury Road by The Granary.

A defibrillator will soon be installed in the phone box by The Rose.

The Slaughterhouse was discussed and a presentation about its future will be made at the Annual Parish Meeting. At present it is used once a week by the volunteer bike repair team. The Parish Council needs to balance the cost and maintenance of the building against its public use and

benefit. Information has been sought regarding its sale and development. Land behind the building, including the new village orchard, will not be sold.

The Parish Council welcomes new applications to join the Council. These should be made to the Clerk. The next Parish Council meeting is at 7pm on 7 March at the Jubilee Pavilion. The Annual Parish Meeting will be on 11 April. **Gillian Pett, Chair, Stapleford Parish Council**

Neighbourhood Plan

Our villages, our future, our say:

Regulation 14 Consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan



FOR any community, producing a Neighbourhood Plan is a lengthy process with multiple milestones. So, we are delighted to announce that **WE HAVE JUST REACHED A VERY BIG ONE!** We now have a draft version of the full Neighbourhood Plan, and we'd like to know what you think about it. To do this, Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils are running what, in formal planning terms, is known as a 'Regulation 14 Consultation'.

What is this all about?

Neighbourhood planning gives communities a role in the development and future of their local area. The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan does precisely this for our villages. Its vision and planning policies have been co-created by residents and parish councillors and shaped by the community – the people who know and love this area best.

Our 20 planning policies will ultimately carry the same weight as those in South Cambridgeshire District Council's 2018 Local Plan and will be used when reviewing all planning applications, big and small, coming forward in our area. They span six broad planning topics:

1. housing and the built environment
2. our rural setting and landscape
3. climate change and biodiversity
4. community amenities and infrastructure
5. active travel and traffic management
6. countryside access and enhancement.

What's happening now?

In previous community consultations, you told us what's important to you. We listened and learnt; where we hadn't got things quite right, we

tweaked them; and we commissioned (with grant funding) a lot of research. The outcome is a full draft of our Neighbourhood Plan and an extensive evidence base.

Regulation 14 Consultation is now an opportunity for the local community to review and comment on this draft and its supporting documents, before it is submitted to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning for independent examination.

Why should I take part?

Our villages and surrounding countryside are under enormous pressure. We cannot stop development but, at a time of great change across our region, a Neighbourhood Plan allows us to say what we want and need from growth. This, then, is your chance to shape where you live and/or work for the better.

How do I take part?

You can view the draft Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan or scan the QR code on the front cover of this magazine. Paper copies are available at Great Shelford Library.

Then let us know what you think by completing the online feedback form (preferred), or by collecting and returning a paper copy at Great Shelford Library, or by writing to:

- Executive Officer, PO Box 1492, Cambridge, CB1 0YQ
- executiveofficer@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

If for any reason you cannot access the materials or need a copy delivered to your home, call 616622 or email the Executive Officer.

You may comment on as much or as little of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents as you wish.

When is this happening?

The consultation runs from **9am on 11 March 2024 until 4pm on 30 April 2024**. You will see plenty of banners, posters and social media reminders to take part, and every household and business in our parishes should receive a leaflet through their letterbox.

Who can take part?

Anyone who lives, works or runs a business in the Plan area can participate, plus landowners and organisations with an interest in our area. However, **we are unable to accept anonymous comments**. This is because, later on, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) will run a final consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan. By participating in the Regulation

14 Consultation, you consent to Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils legally collecting and sharing your contact details with GCSP so it can fulfil its statutory duties. We process personal data in compliance with Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations. Our privacy statement is available to read on our Neighbourhood Plan webpages. [Apologies for all the T&Cs, but it's important that we are transparent.]



What happens next?

All feedback will be read and may result in changes to the next version of the Neighbourhood Plan. Comments will be published as part of its supporting documents. Names will be anonymised, other than where an individual is commenting on behalf of an organisation.

At the very last stage of the Neighbourhood Plan-making journey and once the Plan has passed examination, it will proceed to a community-wide 'yes/no' referendum open to the electorate in both parishes. All being well, we aim to do this in late 2024.

Jenny Flynn (Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group), writing on behalf of Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils

For more information, visit greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan or email neighbourhood.plan@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Better Ways 4 Busways!

A BRIEF update this month to keep you apprised of how things stand...

What we know

- the busway (CSET) is on pause
- Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) wrote to the government last October asking for £162million of funding to build it
- the GCP is continuing to spend significant sums of money on CSET to get it ready to build as soon as it secures funding
- local councillors will determine whether it is built



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The Traveling Companions, Augustus Stapleford Esq., 1912
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- Great Shelford Parish Council, Stapleford Parish Council and Cambridge Past Present and Future have all written to the government pointing out that, while they are in favour of improving transport infrastructure, it can be done for £100million via a scheme that better connects Addenbrooke's and does not go through our countryside
- this scheme (which the GCP originally proposed some years ago) provides a bus lane along the A1307, with a new road from the Hinton Way roundabout directly into Cambridge Biomedical Campus and can be delivered in stages starting now, without delay.

What we don't know

- how long the GCP will wait, keeping much needed transport improvements on hold
- what the government's formal reaction will be after such a long delay.

Action

Please write to our local councillors (see addresses in this magazine) and prospective Parliamentary candidates setting out the rational case.

Howard Kettel

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.

Stapleford Horticultural Society

AT our February meeting we welcomed back Margaret Nimmo Smith, telling us about 'Fashions in Gardens and Plants'. Margaret explained that this could also be described as her gardening journey, and described the people, gardens and plants which had influenced her. Plants and styles of gardening go in and out of fashion, though some (such as roses) are always in fashion.



We have our AGM in March, after which we start our 2024-2025 programme of talks, starting on Thursday 11 April, when we will be welcoming a new speaker for the Society, David Livermore, who will be exploring 'The World of Alpines'. As usual, the talk will be in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, all members and guests (who we hope will become future members) are welcome. **John Sherwell 841012**

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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