

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

May 2024

Volume 83 No 5

Price 90p



## 45ème Anniversaire

**Vive le Jumelage de Stapleford et de Villedômer**  
**Tony Hore, Chair of Stapleford Twinning Association pictured by**  
**our street sign in Villedômer gardens. See page 16**

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

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## Curate

Rev Lucinda Howard 07763 477821

## Churchwarden

Alastair MacGregor  
07855 269844

## Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

## Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

## Youthworker

TBA

## Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 602248

## Director of Music

Tim Kwan 07745 803972

## PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

## Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

## Vergor

Clare Kerr 842984

## Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

## Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

## Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

## Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

## Johnson Memorial Hall

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

## Friends of St Andrew's

Tony Hore 843796

## Gift Aid secretary

Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

## SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

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

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

## SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

### Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

### Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

## Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish vicar.

## Stapleford MESSENGER

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

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## From the Rev Lucinda Howard

I AM not sure how you relax when you have time or space in your evenings? I'm sure we're not the only family who like to have a TV series on the go or enjoy a film together. In this age of streaming (because who watches scheduled programmes anymore?) the Howards are duly signed up to Netflix amongst many other platforms.



Now, some have argued we're living in a golden age of television, where the ambition, budget and production values of many shows rival the film industry. But of course, for every groundbreaking and critically acclaimed success, there are hours or more precisely years - roughly four years is the estimate for how long it would take to watch all of Netflix's current content - of average, banal and sometimes downright unpleasant and offensive material available at the touch of a button.

Debating the merit or otherwise of what we watch is a different article, maybe one for another time. Instead, what I wanted to reflect on is a Netflix series that my husband and I have become a little obsessed with and it may not be what you'd expect.

It's called 'Physical 100' and it's a South Korean reality TV competition. The show takes 100 men and woman in peak condition from all kinds of backgrounds to see who has what they call, the 'perfect physique', I'm sure any nuance is lost in translation. The contestants are



put through gruelling physical tasks that test their speed, endurance, fitness and strength, all to find the last person standing. Sometimes this means competing or even fighting directly against each other, other times everyone takes part in a trial and the slowest or weakest are sent home. The competitors include sports stars, special forces soldiers, fitness influencers and other highly trained individuals, so not Jo or Joe Public.

Why do we enjoy it?

Well firstly, its fantastic entertainment; the budget is huge, the sets vast and the challenges varied and exciting. Secondly, we like observing something of South Korean society through the way the contestants

interact with each other. Of course, it's a tiny sample of people who know they're on camera, but it struck us how courteous and humble Koreans generally are and respectful of those older or more experienced than themselves. Introductions are accompanied by a traditional bow, and they speak of the honour of competition, wanting to do their best. Lastly, whilst 100 people at the start is too many to root for, as the numbers dwindle, personalities and back-stories emerge and of course we're all suckers for a tale of overcoming the odds, of personal struggle and redemption.

One of the most striking elements though, is what the contestants must do when they are finally out of the competition. All starting 100 have plaster casts made of their torsos, and these are displayed on plinths like classical marble statues, until their owner is eliminated. Then they must take a hammer and symbolically smash their own torso, dramatically signalling that they've reached the end of their journey, the limits of their physical ability.

As a Christian and a priest, several things occur to me about this dramatic gesture and it's not simply just a wry observance about the futility of idolising our bodies. Today, just as in the past, physical beauty, strength and prowess are admired and sought after. Standards may change, but the desire to remake our bodies to be the best they can be remains. Whether we are professional athletes or not, anyone can work to be fitter, thinner, or more muscular. We can achieve that personal best, smash that triathlon, finally beat our tennis partner. And there's a whole fitness/wellness industry to support us, alongside developments in equipment and understanding of diet, e.g. highly processed food = bad, intermittent fasting = good.

Now of course there's nothing wrong with most of this, in fact it's commendable *and* Christian to take care of bodies, to value our health and that of others, to enjoy working out and staying fit and active into older age. But there comes a point when all of us, no matter how hard we work to preserve our youth and strength, will see those plaster cast torsos crumble to the ground. We cannot know when ill health or frailty will affect us or what accidents might befall us. Despite the best efforts of doctors and scientists or the bizarre regimes of tech billionaires, no human has discovered the secret to eternal life.

It was the Scottish folk hero William Wallace who was first credited with saying 'Everyone dies. But not everyone *really* lives!' The first part makes sense, it's a fact, we'll all die one day. But what does the second part mean?

The Christian gospel has a strange answer to this, it teaches that *truly living* is the opposite of what we think it is. It means dying to self – self-importance, self-centredness, self-first – to really live. It means picking up that metaphysical hammer and smashing our own torsos to live for something better, for *someone better, Jesus Christ*.

Although I'm writing for the *May Messenger*, Easter is still fresh in my mind. I believe it was because Jesus' body was literally broken for us on the cross that we can experience life in all its fullness now and eternal life with him when we die. Now THAT is a prize truly worth competing for!

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## St Andrew's Noticeboard

5 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Acts 10.44-48; John 15.9-17 <i>Abide in my love</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Revelation 3.14-22; Luke 22.24-30
12 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 1.15-17, 21-26; John 17.6-9
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
19 MAY	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 2.1-21; John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15
26 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Isaiah 6.1-8; John 3.1-17
2 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION 2 Corinthians 8.1-12; Matthew 9.35-38
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Jeremiah 5.1-19; Luke 7.1-10

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

### Deadline for the June Messenger

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

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

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# Bookshelf

CAN anyone have too many books? Probably, but it is hard to be parted from familiar friends. Many tell stories of times they came in to our lives. Nostalgia, memories.

As children, I-Spy books kept us busy on car journeys, testing observation. We enjoyed the challenges. For holidays we had small hard backed stories to read. Whilst away Observer books kept us interested, alert and wide-eyed. I liked to delve in to topics on the countryside and seasons. Brooke Bond tea cards were collected filling gaps on flora and fauna. Childhood fun. Something we created, like scrap books. A pleasure to receive and put together. I made them on many topics, such as Coventry Cathedral and the sea. My mother had a personalised one. Each page showed something she liked, including the colour blue and arts and crafts. It took ages to find relevant material, rewarding though. Mother made one for me when she had little sight. Touching.

Next inviting attention are art and poetry books. Adrian Hill drew trees beautifully. Imitation is the greatest form of flattery. Mindfulness colouring calms. Robert Macfarlane's *The Lost Words*, big, bold, bright, beautiful; a treasured present is artistic and poetic. Ladybird books on wide ranging subjects, spines displaying distinctive titles look inviting next to Beatrix Potter and Winnie the Pooh. Delightfully illustrated stories. Pop-up books intrigued. Clever.

Near bibles, thesaurus and dictionaries was a Schonell spelling list. I remember learning at the ironing board. Reading was encouraged from an early age. Library visits too. Books were respected and looked after. Pages not creased or corners turned. Dust jackets were kept. When old and wise enough to select for father we felt grown up and responsible. Nothing for him matched the appeal of Whitakers Almanac, facts, figures and statistics. National Trust books and guides, reflected learning and nurturing. Life membership on our marriage gave Stephen and I opportunities of discovery. A wonderfully original gift. Near these are specialist volumes on ornithology, astronomy, aviation, the Antarctic, clocks and watches. Next a unique book. Burgundy cloth bound with gold lettering, tall, thick and impressive. My husband's Doctoral thesis dedicated to me. I remember seeing the words with a surge of pride.

On Desert Island Discs two books can be taken, the Bible and 'the' Complete works of Shakespeare. What would you take as the third choice?

**Judith Lee**

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# Stapleford - Nachingwea Link

## English course report 2023



*THIS English course ran from October to December 2023 and took place in the old St Andrew's nursery school near St Andrew's Anglican church, Nachingwea, Tanzania. Two teachers taught in this class, Kevin John Bushiri and Augustine Olaf. Kevin has sent the following report which we reproduce in his own words:*

The English course included 45 pupils where by 31 were girls and 14 were boys. The Stapleford Link sponsored 40 pupils in the following division. 30 were girls and 10 were boys. Five pupils in the following division were sponsored by the Nachingwea Link, three were boys and two were girls.

The following were success that has come from this English course that took place at Old St Andrews nursery school.

### 1. Meeting with parents

We had meeting with parents as we always used to call meeting. The meeting helps us (teachers) to establish relationship with parents and telling them what it takes so as the pupils can succeed in this three months English course. We identified academic and social challenges and the ways to solve them for the present and future academic and social lives of the pupils.

### 2. There were no truants

This class was quite different with the other previous classes pupils attended the all two sessions per day. This showed us how well parents understood us and gave us great cooperation in making sure that their children attend in all two sessions in all days.

### 3. All pupils completed English course successfully

The good cooperation we got from parents made uniqueness of this English course. In this course all 45 pupils who started English course completed it successfully. That means no one dropped out from the course. Also there is no pupil has got under pass marks. There are no class had ever done like this before.



*Judith Mwambagi (who took first position) answers question in one of our teaching sessions.*

### 4. Answering three tests.

We prepared three tests within three months. This means one test

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every month. English tests were divided into two types which were written English tests and spoken English tests. Ninety percent of our pupils answered well in their tests as we will show in next pages. We always make sure that we build the strong base in writing and speaking English language that will help them to grow well in their secondary education level.

**5. The great competition among pupils**

This English course has great academic competition among pupils. We teachers used some strategies to create competition among pupils like giving sweets after every successfully completion of the task including attending class in the whole days of the week. The passing marks difference between one pupil and another is very few. No one has failed in general marks. That means there is no pupils got below 150 marks. This is good sign for their future.



*Pupils show their happiness after receiving their last tests' results in their third and last month of December 2023*

**6. Giving rewards**

Giving rewards is our culture in order to motivate our pupils. This year we also practiced our culture. We gave rewards to those top three pupils who performed well in this 2023 English course who were Judith Mwambagi, Rose Oliver, Safina Abdala and Sharifu Nasoro who took the same number three.



*The competitive class gives joy to teachers*

**7. Sponsoring ten boys**

This English course included ten boys who also sponsored by the Stapleford Link. The change was done after receiving instruction from the Stapleford Link. This was positive change as girls also got academic challenges from boys and they all stretched themselves to show their mind ability and they passed their tests with high marks that we teachers used as example that girls have the same mind ability as boys.

Boys follow the teachings and answer questions in one of our class sessions



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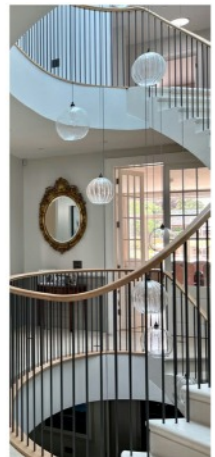
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### 8. Sponsorship from the Nachingwea Link

The Nachingwea Link decided in the meeting to give fund for sponsoring five pupils to learn English language as our contribution in this project. Those pupils were Rita Juma and Fikira Mohamed are girls while Ramadhan Abdul, Nseyo Boniface and Ezekiel Apollo are boys.

#### Conclusion

We all together worked hard to make dreams of these pupils being true. They also worked hard and put great effort to understand the language which it will be the great help in passing their secondary school examinations and in their normal lives after school. We are always happy when pupils accomplish their English course because we know that we have increased people who understand this international language. That will be easy to follow the God's command comes from Proverb 4:13 'Take fast hold of instruction, let her not go, keep her, for she is thy life'

Thanks a bunch

**Kevin John Bushiri**, teacher and report writer

## THE STAPLEFORD-NACHINGWEA LINK

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# Mothers' Union



OUR Branch meeting in May will be hosting other MU Branches in the Granta Deanery, when Hazel Williams, the Diocesan President is coming to speak on 'The Clewer Initiative', a religious organisation that is trying to tackle modern slavery. The Mothers' Union supports and works with the Initiative. The meeting is open to all who are interested in this subject – the Johnson Hall, 23 May, 2.30 pm. Hilary Street

## Village Show

### Part of the Village Weekend

THE Schedule has gone to print and will be available in early May!!!

The Village Show is back on Saturday 29 June and we'd love to see you all there.



#### Sneak peak of Handicraft classes:

'A decorative item using natural materials'

A soft toy – 'woodland creatures'

A piece of graphic art – 'rewilding'

We really hope that everyone will join in with the Village Show and the whole Village Weekend. There is lots on offer over the weekend – quiz, music, films, ice cream, bar, craft stalls, raptors, bouncies, food, cricket, cycling, and much more.

For more information please see us on Facebook or visit the website [staplefordweekend.com](http://staplefordweekend.com) Julie Rayment

## Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
7 May	✓	✓	
14 May			✓
21 May	✓	✓	
28 May			✓
4 June	✓	✓	

# Stapleford Twinning Association

## Wine tasting evening

Friday 14 June, 7.30pm, Cox's Close Community Room



COME and blind taste French white wines from four different regions and of distinct grape varieties, sample accompanying French cheeses, comment on the wines and cheeses and guess the price of each wine. If you wish you can also try to identify the grapes used and estimate the alcohol levels. At the end of the tasting, find out which wines were liked most and compare the prices.



Cost: £12 to cover the cost of the food and the venue. Cash raffle.

Book your place early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited. Send a cheque made payable to 'Stapleford Twinning Association' to **Tony Hore**, 8 Sterne's Way, Stapleford, CB22 5DA, or email Tony on [smokytone@aol.com](mailto:smokytone@aol.com) if you wish to pay electronically.

## Exchange visit to Villedômer

AS you are reading this, 18 twinning members are travelling to Villedômer, celebrating the 45th Anniversary of our Twinning Partnership. This is the first visit to France since 2019 so long overdue! Our French hosts always make us feel welcome and include an engaging programme of activities and delicious food and wine. Please visit [twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk](http://twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk) for more information on joining our twinning association. **Tony Hore**

## What was and is no more!



*The Tree in 2014 and today. Photos: Margaret Gilmore*

# Puzzle Corner

## Words from Bank Holidays

All the answers can be made from the letters of BANK HOLIDAYS

The letter A can be used twice

### 3-letter words

sheep noise

throw

reticent

quercus

### 5-letter words

loud

king of herbs?

Australian marsupial

village 15 miles west

### 7-letter word

do away with

### 4-letter words

too

prejudice

Sugar, e.g.

Verdi opera

### 6-letter words

stropy

lacking pigment

Christmas or Easter?

Kierkegaard's nationality

### 8-letter word

fairly fair

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 25

## Financial difficulties?



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

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

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We get the horses ready, prepare the tack, get hats on the kids, get them mounted, lead the ponies or walk at the side, talk to the children (if they are verbal), help them dismount, take them back to the bus. We just divvy up the jobs. For every disabled child we take riding needs three helpers (one leading the pony and two side walkers), so we need plenty of volunteers.

Please contact **Thalia Myers** (Group Chairman) on 312252/07850 477550 ([thalia@t-myers.org](mailto:thalia@t-myers.org)) if you are interested.

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## Stapleford Swamp

THE past, they say, is a foreign country and who knows what the future may bring? Currently though I am marvelling at the emergence of a swamp at the bottom of my garden.

Previously popular with seabirds, only ducks were enjoying its amenities when I took these photographs. How long it will remain with us is anyone's guess. Hopefully not long enough for alligators to move in. **Jon West**



## Sawston Cinema

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

**7 pm Thursday 2 May ONE LIFE £5**

ONE LIFE tells the true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, who rescued 669 children from the Nazis in the months leading up to World War II. With Anthony Hopkins, Johnny Flynn, Romola Garai.

**7 pm Thursday 9 May NYE £10 (National Theatre Live)**

Michael Sheen plays Nye Bevan in a surreal and spectacular journey through the life and legacy of the man who transformed Britain's welfare state and created the NHS. **Linda Whitebread**

# Yesteryear

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

**1808**

**SALE.** By auction. The Live Stock, Farming Implements, Brewing Utensils, Beer Casks, and effects of Mr. John Pamplin, late of Stapleford.



**1834**

**C.M.S.** On Wednesday evening a very numerous and respectable meeting was held at Stapleford on behalf of the Church Missionary Society, the Rev. F. R. Hall, rector of Fulborn, in the chair. After many eloquent and interesting speeches, the sum of £24 7s. Od. was collected.

**1848**

**SHEEP STEALING.** On Saturday night, the 6<sup>th</sup> inst., or early the following morning, a Leicester ewe, the property of Mrs. Balls, was feloniously stolen from the fold in a field adjoining the river on the Bury Farm and slaughtered in the same field, the carcass carried away, and the skin thrown into the river. The sum of £10 is offered to any parties who will give such information as will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the parties guilty of the above felony, to be paid on conviction.

**1895**

**STUPID CONDUCT.** Great alarm was experienced in the village and neighbourhood shortly before ten on Tuesday night when the district was suddenly lit up with lurid flames, which seemed to come from a block of cottages on Sawston Road, just beyond the parish boundary. The village was quickly astir and the villagers hastened to the scene of the conflagration, only to find that some ill-advised person had chosen that unreasonable hour for destroying a stack of mustard "straw". Hundreds of people from every direction, on cycles, in traps of every kind, and on foot, hurried to the scene, fearing that a serious fire was in progress, and quickly retired expressing unlimited disgust at the conduct of those responsible for the indiscreet action.

**1905**

**THE CLOSING OF THE SCHOOL.** In consequence of the decision of the County Council Education Committee to close the school,



Mr A B Norman has accepted a good appointment in a neighbouring county. Great regret is freely expressed at Mr Norman's departure. He will be much missed for his kindly, sympathetic nature, his ever readiness to help others, and his excellence as a schoolmaster. Mr Norman takes with him to his new sphere of labour the heartiest and best wishes of managers, parents and scholars. Mr George Manley, of Burwell, will act as "supply" master here until the decision of the board of education as to the closing of the school, is made known.

**1916**

24 May: Empire Day A V Clements, a manager, gave a talk giving specific prominence to the wonderful way in which our colonies have rallied to the help of the motherland during the Great War. A roll of honour designed and painted by S J Foster has been placed in the school containing the names of all the old scholars who volunteered to serve their kind and country.

The head was granted the day off to be with her husband before he went to France.

**1935**

"The Clerk submitted an estimate from the Cambs Gas Co for the erection and maintenance of 15 street lamps viz 15 Lamp Standards with copper lanterns, twin inverted burners and mantles, clock controllers, service pipe and labour complete £8.19.5 each, £134.11.3. Two No 2 burners Candle Power 130. Cost of lighting from Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> lighting up ½ hour after sunset and extinguishing at 11pm including gas, cleaning and maintenance and setting of clock controllers £1.17.7 per lamp total of 15 lamps £28.3.9.

It was proposed by Mr Badcock sec by Mr Cook that we recommend the Rural District Council to accept this estimate, enter any necessary agreement with the Gas Co on our behalf and ask them to get the work proceeded with. (Carried)" *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*

**1957**

PARISH COUNCIL ... It was agreed to approach the member of parliament and the Minister of Health stating that the council is not satisfied with the delay in bringing the sewerage scheme into being.

In the summer of 1961 the pipes were laid, the pumping station built on Chalk farmland, but there were problems with the mains piping so there was a further delay whilst that mistake was rectified, though not to everybody's satisfaction. Nor was the provision adequate as it turned out.

# Stapleford Tree Project

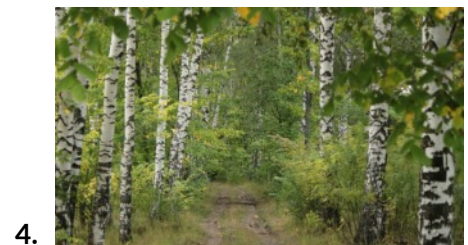


YOU might have heard of this exciting new project. A group of volunteers and Parish Councillors have come together to work towards preserving the trees we have, planting new trees on public land, and supporting villagers to plant trees on their own land. Village trees have been lost by disease, cutting down for development, and other reasons, and we want to reverse this trend and increase the number of trees in the village.

Why do we want more trees in the village?

- Shade
- They cool the air as they lose moisture
- Soak up carbon dioxide – an acre of mature trees can absorb an amount of carbon dioxide equivalent to driving your car 26,000 miles
- Soak up air pollution e.g. by the sides of roads – one tree can take up 1.7 kilos per year
- Provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Absorb noise
- Break up water run-off after rain, so slowing down the water running into storm drains

There will be opportunities to support this project in all sorts of ways. More details in the June issue of the *Messenger*. Can you identify these trees? Examples of them all grow in this village. **Answers on page 45.**





Think if you could plant a tree in your garden? And think if you have a favourite tree in the village that you would be upset to see lost – send a photo of it to the *Messenger*. **Helen Hale**

## South Cambs Organic Gardeners

### Upcoming outdoor garden meetings:

Monday 13 May at 7pm, venue to be confirmed.

Monday 24 June, venue to be confirmed

Entry £2

Contact Helen Harwood, tel. 840393

Email: [helen\\_harwood\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk)

## Puzzle Corner Answers

### Words from Bank Holidays

3-letter: BAA, LOB, SHY, OAK

4-letter: ALSO, BIAS, ALAN, AIDA

5-letter: NOISY, BASIL, KOALA, SANDY

6-letter: BOLSHY, ALBINO, ISLAND, DANISH

7-letter: ABOLISH

8-letter: BLONDISH

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# Maple Academy of Performing Arts

## Celebrating 20 Years of Dance in Stapleford

THE Maple Academy of Performing Arts formed in 2004. Their students from local villages, from ages 4 to 18, have achieved great things in London's West End, some even becoming Doctors of Dance in top universities around the world. You may have seen them performing at Shelford Feast in 2023.

Principal Karen Revill has a relaxed, friendly and inclusive approach to the modern world of ballet, tap and modern dance, helping students from all walks of life grow and achieve in their dance journey. Karen started her own journey in Canada in 1983, ending up in the Northern Ballet School in 1995. Her passion for dance and how it could build confidence, health and well-being inspired her to start her own dance school, The Maple Academy of Performing Arts.

In 2006, after being a student of The Maple Academy, Amy Nicholas from Little Shelford joined The Maple Team to teach alongside Karen Revill every week in Great Shelford Memorial Hall, and then expanding into Stapleford Primary School.

With the steady flow of students from the surrounding villages, The Maple Academy of Performing Arts has continued to inspire a new generation of dancers, and watching them grow, achieve, laugh and smile is a pleasure for Miss Karen and Miss Amy.

You are welcome to join The Maple Academy of Performing Arts in celebrating this milestone, with their performance of 'Once Upon a Time' on 30 June at The Junction in Cambridge, as the students dance their way through their favourite fairytale stories with a Maple Academy twist.

Karen and Amy would like to thank all of the students and their families for the support throughout the years for their hard work, commitment, support and smiles. **Amy Nicholas**



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# The Stapleford Strollers

*Erratum: Unfortunately, we published this piece last month with an incomplete email address. Here is the correct information.*

THE Stapleford Strollers is a walking group of friendly people who all live in the village of Stapleford. We walk once a month, on the 2nd Wednesday, in the morning.

We do walks of about 4½ miles in length. Our walks are all within a half hour drive of Stapleford, and we end with a light lunch at the pub we parked and started from. On most occasions, we have a shorter walk available at the same time for anyone who wants to join us but isn't able to manage longer distances.

We meet on the Recreation Ground, car-share as much as possible and have been in existence as a group since 2009. We have a large portfolio of walks collected over the years, and these can be viewed on our website. Just google Stapleford Strollers.

If you would like to come along or just want any more information, please contact: shelagh.woolley@ntlworld.com. **David Barnes**

## Granta Medical Practice

IF you are waiting for surgery, treatment, or a clinical opinion from your local hospital, there is a useful website called 'My Planned Care'.

This website gives you advice and support while you wait and helps you to prepare for your hospital consultation, treatment or surgery. This includes giving you information about waiting times at your hospital and other supporting and local services while you wait, e.g. exercises to do while waiting for a hip replacement.

myplannedcare.nhs.uk/ is updated weekly and can be viewed by anyone, which means you, your family or carer as well as your NHS team can all see the latest information. Your hospital team will be in touch with you as soon as they can. If you are looking for an update in the meantime though, please check My Planned Care before contacting your hospital or GP. **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**

## We're waiting for your story!

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

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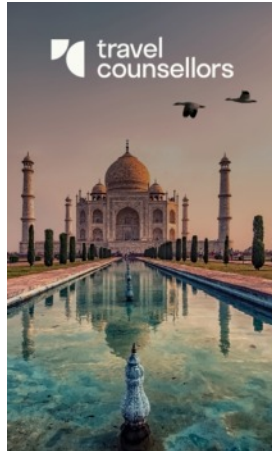


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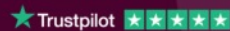
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## 2G3S

ALTHOUGH several events and activities listed are taking place in Stapleford, they are open to residents in Sawston and the Shelfords – 2G3S stands for Going Green in the Shelfords, Stapleford, and Sawston. Indeed, people from other villages nearby are very welcome to attend conversation evenings, book group meetings, and the organic gardening group. Previous conversation evenings over the winter have been held in Sawston, Little Shelford, and Great Shelford. Repair Cafes are also held in Great Shelford and Sawston.



**Conversation Evening** will be held on Monday 20 May, at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford. Perspectives on the Future of Personal Transport. If your next car is likely to be an electric car this event could be for you. We aim to discuss a number of perspectives, from the practical, the local, how green the electrical vehicle revolution might be, relevant government policy, and, if time, some of the geopolitical implications. The meeting starts at 8pm.

**Dr Bike** continues to run its volunteer-run weekly Bike Repair Sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. Children are welcome to bring their bikes for repair but please attend with them (for safeguarding reasons). If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers or have any questions on Dr Bike, get in touch using [drbikestapleford@gmail.com](mailto:drbikestapleford@gmail.com). **Special May Day Bank Holiday** session to have your bike checked over ready for cycling as the weather improves.

**Book Club** – will be on 15 May, and the book they are discussing is 'Breaking Together' by Jem Bendell. Do come along even if you haven't read the book. 8pm at The Three Horseshoes in Stapleford.

**South Cambs Organic Gardeners** meet at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford, or out on location. The next meeting is on 13 May, more details from [helen\\_harwood\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk).

**Stapleford Tree Project** – if you live in Stapleford, you may have heard about this, and 2G3S is proud to support this fantastic plan to protect the trees we have and to plant more around the village. Trees soak up carbon dioxide and pollution from the air, provide shade, and are good for wildlife. Can you plant a new tree in your garden, or even a shrub that's good for wildlife, such as a buddleia?

**No Mow May** – can you find a part of your lawn that you can leave unmown for at least the month of May? Then wildflowers can grow up and flower, which gives food for bees and butterflies, and the longer grass gives

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shelter as well. If you can leave the grass uncut for June and beyond, later flowering plants can flourish too. Find out more at [plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/](http://plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/). If you don't want to go this far, then cutting 'less short and less often' - once a month, to a height of 2.5 to 5 cm - will allow small wildflowers to flower, giving food to insects, whilst keeping your lawn reasonably tidy.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), please email [mail2G3S@gmail.com](mailto:mail2G3S@gmail.com) to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live more sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website (type 2G3S into Google and you will find us). **Helen Hale**

## Sawston & District Branch

### Sawston D-Day 80



A REMINDER that in Sawston and District, we are holding an Anniversary Event by kind permission of Challis House & Gardens Trust on Sunday 9 June starting at 1pm. This will commemorate 80 years since D-Day, which turned the tide of the Second World War. During the afternoon, there will be stalls, food and drink, and a Drumhead Service conducted by our Padre, Reverend Kathryn Waite. These plans include various displays together with a local band playing tunes from the 1940s, 50s & 60s.

The Royal British Legion is here to help our veterans and their families. To make contact with us please phone our welfare number **0808 802 8080**. Take a note of the number and put it somewhere ready if needed. Membership of the Royal British Legion is open to anyone, you do not need to have served in His Majesty's Services. Our Branch meets in Chaplefield Way, Sawston on the last Wednesday of each month. Come along you will be made welcome. We are also encouraging youngsters to join the Junior Branch. Membership is free and is for anyone from the age of 11 to 18, plus you get all the benefits that the adult members receive.

**Kevin Swann**, Sawston & District Secretary  
SawstonDistrict. Secretary @RBL.Community

# Stapleford Strollers: walk 124

## The Great Lakes: a circular walk from Fen Drayton

### To get to start of walk

GO up the M11, join the A14 and come off at Junction 24, immediately after Cambridge Services. Cross over the A14 by the bridge and carry on ahead after the roundabout, heading for Swavesey. When Swavesey is reached, look for the sign pointing left for Fen Drayton. In Fen Drayton, The Three Tuns, where this walk starts, is on the right with a mini roundabout in front of it (CB24 4SJ). There is usually plenty of parking on the roadside, either along the road that goes left at the roundabout, or to the right.

### Length of Walk

4½ miles. The route is flat, but it can get muddy underfoot after prolonged rain. It is an excellent walk in late spring and summer.

### OS Map

OS Explorer map 225 or just access your smart phone app. Use [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net) for a free map extract if you are 'old school' (like me). The route map provided should be sufficient for most people, too.

### Extra Information

The village of Fen Drayton is well-named, given it is low lying and traditionally prone to flooding. Dry Drayton, near Bar Hill, may not always be dry, but is on slightly higher ground and floods more rarely. The name Drayton means a place where goods had to be dragged (usually on sledges) to avoid wet ground. Just north of the village is the RSPB reserve known as Fen Drayton Lakes, formerly gravel workings but now a major wildlife habitat.

### Route of walk

Start from outside The Three Tuns in Fen Drayton and walk up High Street, with the stream to the right of the road. Carry on past Cootes Lane and walk on along the road after the last of the houses.

When the road bends sharp right, carry on ahead on a wide track. Look for a footpath sign pointing left, go through a gate and take the grass track which runs along the south side of Elney Lake. There are a couple of viewing points along the way, but the lake can be quite hidden by tree and bush growth. Ignore a path coming in from the left until, when reaching the far end of the lake, the track turns sharp right. The route ahead now has Elney Lake to the right and Moore Lake to the left, with a good bird hide looking out over the latter.

The Guided Busway is reached. Cross over (take great care) and carry on straight ahead along the path that runs down the western side of Drayton Lagoon. There are several points along the way from which the full extent of the water can be seen.

When the River Great Ouse is reached, go right along the bank-side path. The village of Holywell is on the opposite side of the river and, directly opposite The Old Ferry Boat Inn, the path turns sharp right, away from the river. Keep straight ahead, ignoring the path going left after a short time, and walk along a wide track, with Ferry Lagoon to the left and Holywell Lake to the right (behind the car park), all the way back to the Guided Busway.

Cross over the Busway, again taking great care, and turn right along the cycle/walking track on the far side. Oxholme Lake is to the left. Turn left down the first path, at the end of Oxholme, and walk along the track until the road is reached, carry on straight ahead and return to the Three Tuns, where the walk started. **David Barnes**

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



## Cambridge Flower Club

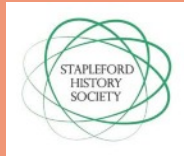
### Our 70th Anniversary

Visitors are welcome to this NAFAS-affiliated group, 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 £9 per meeting.

May 16 **Barbara Collins: Demonstration: 'Spring into Summer'**

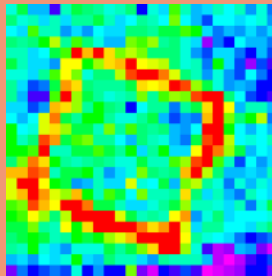
June 19 **Members 70th Anniversary Afternoon Tea at Girton College**

Information: **Freda Orgee** 891464 or fredaorgee@gmail.com and **Alison Drake** 840117 or drakealisonn@gmail.com. **Sian Jones**



## Geophysics

### A New Approach to Archaeology



What recent geophysical technologies can reveal about archaeological sites and a review of some of the local findings

A talk by Ian Sanderson

Geophysics Practitioner

Jubilee Pavilion

Tuesday 14th May 2024

at 7.45 pm

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

# The Arts Society Cambridge

## Forthcoming lecture

### Great lengths – On the art and architecture of historic swimming pools and lidos

Thursday 9 May, 10.45am

Speaker: Simon Inglis

Venue: Churchill College, Cambridge

SWIMMING is Britain's second favourite form of physical recreation (after walking). Almost everyone has memories of visiting their local baths. But whilst not all these memories might be positive – drooping knitted cozzies anyone? - for many swimmers the baths themselves are cherished. Some, particularly those from the Victorian and Edwardian years, are rich with decorative tilework, stained glass, polished wood and terracotta detailing. This sense of municipal pride continued into the 1920s and 30s, when Art Deco and Modernist lidos became the urban beaches of their day. In this lecture, Simon highlights the treasures of aquatic art that survive, and considers how the pools of today compare.



Writer and historian Simon Inglis specialises in the architecture and heritage of sport and recreation. Since 2004 he has edited the 'Played in Britain' series for English Heritage. Although sport and recreation might seem an unlikely subject for The Arts Society, non-sporty types need have no fear. Simon's themes are architecture, design, heritage and popular culture. After a history degree at University College London, he freelanced for various publications, including the Guardian, Observer and Radio Times. He has curated exhibitions for the Building Centre and the British Council, been a regular contributor to radio and television, has travelled and lectured extensively, and written a number of books. Two were shortlisted for the William Hill Sports Book of the Year, while another, on British football grounds, was chosen by journalist Frank Keating as the best sports book of the 20th century. A recent high point in his work for English Heritage was the listing of a 1970s skatepark in Essex, a world first that made the national news.

Guests are welcome to attend occasional lectures. Please book with our Membership Secretary on [membership.tascambridge@gmail.com](mailto:membership.tascambridge@gmail.com). **Mary Painter**

**Roy Howat, piano****Friday 3 May, 7:45pm**

The renowned pianist & scholar of French music performs Chopin, Ravel, Chabrier & Fauré

**The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc****Friday 10 May, 7:45pm**

Uplifting acoustic folk music, combining sounds of Scandinavia with the fiddle-rich traditions of the Shetlands

**Mithras Trio****Friday 17 May, 7:45pm**

BBC Young Generation artists perform Beethoven's monumental Archduke Trio, alongside pieces by Tailleferre & Boulanger

**Ten in the Bed: Half Moon Theatre****Saturday 18 May, 11:00am & 2:00pm (Age 3-8)**

Is it a bed? Or a boat? Or a giant slice of toast? Playful tales of pirates, sharks & fishing in this humorous & inventive piece of children's theatre

**Wendy Cope, poetry reading****Sunday 19 May, 3:00pm**

Pitch-perfect parodies & witty lyrics from one of Britain's favourite & most highly regarded poets

**Jacqui Dankworth in concert****Saturday 25 May, 7:45pm**

One of the UK's leading jazz vocalists showcases her unique versatility & mastery of jazz, soul, funk & blues

**I, Clara****Lucy Parham, piano & Harriet Walter, narrator****Sunday 26 May, 7:45pm**

The extraordinary story of Clara Schumann's life in words and music, performed by this stellar pianist/actor duo





## Women's Institute



THERE is a constitutional requirement for each WI group to hold an Annual Meeting every year. This meeting is an opportunity for each WI to look back at the previous year and look forward to the coming year.

At our very well-attended meeting in March detailed reports from our Secretary and Treasurer, Christine Wylde, and our President, Susan Clark, revealed just how active we have been as a group during the past twelve months.

Committee members were thanked for their hard work, and members for their help, support and encouragement, in providing a full and varied programme which included speakers, meetings with refreshments, supper evenings, a barbeque, a litter pick event, and a craft group and book group. We have also supported the Stapleford Show and the Cambridge City food bank.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member might be interested to know that on the official website of the National Federation of the WI, there is a page which describes the mission of the organisation. The WI vision is 'to create a world where women come together to learn, share skills and work together to become active citizens, influencing change to improve lives in their local, national and global communities'.

It goes on to show how this vision connects women by offering them a unique chance to come together and share experiences, tackling social isolation and building community cohesion. In addition, the WI supports women to learn, develop new skills, building confidence and improving physical and mental well-being. Finally, the WI vision empowers women to use their voices individually and collectively to achieve real changes on the issues that matter to them.

The reports from our Annual Meeting, which were unanimously adopted, showed how we, as a group, try to embody this vision in everything we do, and also put fun and friendship at the heart of Stapleford WI. Who could forget the giant Pass the Parcel game at our supper evening in November! Following the reports, an election was then held - Susan Clark was re-elected as our President for the coming year, and she promised members another exciting, interesting year under her guidance. If you would like to find out more about our activities and all that is on offer as a WI member, then please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 or look at our website: [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com). **Joyce Dobson**

# Three Horseshoes wins CAMRA award

FRANK Jacot, our Messenger Production Editor, interviewed Justine and Duncan Kerr, landlords of the Three Horseshoes.

Thank you Justine and Duncan for inviting me here to the Three Horseshoes today. Firstly, may I congratulate you on your recent CAMRA award?

Well, the Three Horseshoes is first and foremost a real ale pub, and we have a handful of dedicated CAMRA members who have encouraged us with feedback and advice. The pub had previously won a real ales award, but we weren't expecting to be considered by the judges so soon after arriving in Stapleford. So winning the Cambridgeshire Rural Pub award 2024 was a lovely surprise.

*Fabulous. Please could you share more of your career journeys.*

Well, I, Duncan, read biochemistry at university, and by the end of my time at university I knew I didn't want to be a biochemist. I found my way into the financial software business in my 20s. I worked for a succession of banks, hedge funds and software houses, writing financial trading systems. So not really any experience at all of the hospitality business

except from being on the other side of the bar! Although one of my friends said 10 years ago that I should get a job being front of house. I don't know whether that planted a seed but he may have seen something there.

*And yourself, Justine?*

I am originally from New Zealand and trained to be a chef there. I have also worked in Sydney, Australia. I lived there for six years and then moved



to London. Around 20 years ago, I started working at the Mansion House in London as Head Chef. So, you know, I have always run kitchens. I then met Duncan and we moved to Cambridge starting a family. I started private catering but COVID put an end to that. I was doing some corporate catering and wondering what would be the next step? Should I start the catering company back up? We knew Chris and Nicola (the previous landlords) and when the opportunity arose to take over, that felt right.

We loved the place. It was obviously successful. Chris did a good job in turning it around from the Longbow days. He always said that the kitchen side of things was the hardest part of it for him. So, as I had experience doing that, I thought at least we've got that side of it covered. It's the core.

*How long you have been here at the Three Horseshoes?*

Eight months now. I think we've been pretty lucky in that everyone has been so supportive right from the start and being really welcoming and easy to get to know. We also have a core group of regulars, young and old, drinkers and eaters, who keep things ticking over. Its been fun to get to know them, and make some new friends.

*Have you introduced any special events?*

We had a successful beer festival, with a great range of ales and live music. We felt our customers really enjoyed themselves. We are really looking forward to the summer, a busy beer garden, and serving some tasty food.

*Thank you Justine and Duncan, for sharing your experiences. Good luck for the future.*



# National Walking Month

WITH flowers blooming, birds singing and insects buzzing it's a great time to enjoy the outdoors. Cambridge Past, Present & Future provides some of the best walking in the Cambridge area. Whether it's a gentle stroll or strenuous hike you can enjoy beautiful countryside, nature and history at the places we care for.

## Walking at Wandlebury & the Gog Magog Hills

Wandlebury has eight miles of footpaths to explore wildflower meadows, woodlands, orchards and Iron Age ditches.

If that's not enough, you can join the public rights of way network to explore the surrounding Gog Magog Hills. To the north you can walk along the historic Roman Road and to the south you can cross the A1307 to explore the paths at Magog Down.



Pick up a map at the Park entrance. We have an off-road mobility scooter if your walking companion needs a bit of help.

If you would like to walk with other people, then why not join our healthy walking group at 10am on Thursday mornings. Each walk lasts around 30 minutes and covers about 1.5 miles. Alternatively, take part in one of the many guided walks led by our knowledgeable wardens and volunteers.



## Walking at Hinxton Watermill

From the mill there is a lovely riverside walk along the River Cam. You can walk as far as you want and then come back, or make a circular walk by using the public right of way, or walk back via the village (and Red Lion pub).



## May Day Morris Dance

Wednesday 1 May, 5am to 6am at Wandlebury Country Park. Greet the sun as it rises above the Wandlebury Woodlands with a traditional May Day Morris Dance.

### Archaeological Dig at Wandlebury

Saturday 4 May. 10am to 4pm. Archaeological Dig at Wandlebury Country Park. Excavation at Wandlebury to find out more about the site's fascinating history.

### Dawn Chorus Walk

Wednesday 8 May, 4.30am to 6am at Wandlebury Country Park. Gentle guided walk with our Wardens to listen to the wonderful spring dawn chorus.

### Holiday Bushcraft

Wednesday 29 May to Friday 31 May. 8.30am to 4pm. Wandlebury Country Park. Outdoor activities for 5 to 12 year olds.

### Meet the Cows

Wednesday 29 May, 10am to midday. Wandlebury Country Park - Gentle guided walk to meet the Highland and Belted Galloway cows and learn how they improve our meadows for nature.

For more information about these and events at other locations email [bookings@cambridgeppf.org](mailto:bookings@cambridgeppf.org), call 243830 extension 307 or visit [cambridgeppf.org/whats-on](http://cambridgeppf.org/whats-on). **Louise Palmer**



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# Great Shelford Library



MAY is always one of my favourite months. The lovely long evenings and warmer weather encourage us all to get outside more. Why not come into the library to find books on new hobbies, gardening, travel or sporting activities? The library service is committed to helping us all to live a more sustainable life. We have lots of books in stock that can help us all achieve this goal. May is also Local and Community History Month. Are you curious about the history of your community? Great Shelford library has an extensive local history section for you to explore.

We will be closed on the two Bank Holiday Mondays in May.

**Engage Talk - Healthy You:** Join Ben Truett as he discusses the benefits of activity. Wednesday 22 May, 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](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

**Craft & Chat** - Every Friday morning 10.30am to midday. Pop in 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.

**Lego/Duplo Event** - Thursday 30 May 2pm to 3.30pm. Parents and carers must stay with their children who remain their responsibility. £2 per child. Pre-book in the library or [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Stay and Play** - Fortnightly, Thursday 2 and 16 May. 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.

**Rhyme Time** - Tuesday 7 and Tuesday 21 May 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. **Mel Abbiss**

Tel: 0345 045 5225.

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

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

## 2G3S Tree Quiz Answers

- |            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. Oak     | 4. Silver Birch |
| 2. Maple   | 5. Beech        |
| 3. Robinia | 6. Cherry       |



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# Annual Parish Meeting

## Chair's report - meeting held 11 April

THE Annual Parish Meeting is held every year, at which councillors tell the public about their work in the previous year, and there is opportunity for residents to discuss issues of importance to the village.

This year has been a challenging one for the village and the Parish Council, with road closures, major construction works, road damage from heavy goods vehicles through the village, and potholes in abundance. Rest assured that your Parish Council is working diligently on your behalf to make this village a safe and welcoming place to live.

The UKPN works were not notified to the Parish Council and commenced at the same time as the retirement village works. This created numerous problems, with the closure of Haverhill Road for a time, an increase of heavy goods vehicle traffic in the village, distress to neighbours of the works, and damage to the road. The Parish Council now has bi-weekly liaison meetings with both contractors to discuss issues, and all are working to co-ordinate works to cause as little village disruption as possible. The UKPN works are due to be completed in September 2024 and the land will be reinstated. Retirement village construction will not end until next year.

We have lost three councillors but gained four. At the APM we held a minute's silence to remember David Pepperell and Richard Beresford-Knox, both of whom were long-standing and valued members of the Parish Council. There are still vacancies for anyone wishing to join us and application can be made to the Clerk. We would particularly encourage more members of the younger generation to think about joining the Parish Council.

We have had discussions about a merger with Great Shelford Parish Council but have decided against this. However, we are working together on issues concerning both parishes.

### **Major achievements this year have been:**

- the planting of a community orchard in the Villedômer garden behind the Slaughterhouse, to be named the David Pepperell Community Orchard in memory of our long standing and well-respected Parish Councillor. Disappointingly, one of the trees has been damaged by vandalism

- perennial wildflowers have been planted in areas around the village by volunteers, and these areas are cordoned off to allow the flowers to grow
  - we finally have wi-fi at the Pavilion and this has engaged much of the Clerk's time to arrange
  - the speed indicator signs have been repaired and put up thanks to Michael Gatward, with noticeable success
  - new bollards have been installed at the field entrance to the Recreation Ground
  - the Neighbourhood Plan is proceeding well and everyone is encouraged to complete the survey necessary before the next stage. The closing date is 30 April. Thanks are due to the Neighbourhood Plan steering group led by Jenny Flynn for the extensive work it has done
  - a successful Village Weekend in 2023, which we hope will be even better this year. Offers of help are welcome
  - we have a new solar powered illuminated sign at the entrance to the Pavilion drive
  - speed restriction in Haverhill Road has been applied for, but it is disappointing to note that an application takes 12 weeks to be approved.
- More challenges are to come, with the building of a drive-through phlebotomy unit at the bottom of Hinton Way and the Sawston Greenway. The latter will run through Stapleford along Mingle Lane and Church Street. When completed, it will have an impact on parking along Mingle Lane and outside the Johnson Hall. The work will involve road closures. The planning of the junction of the Greenway and London Road and Church Street has yet to be decided.

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

## Cambridge Cake Creators

AT May's meeting on 16th we have a demonstration of Flowers Inside Jelly Cake.

We meet at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start in the Pavilion.

£10pp which includes coffee/cake.

All abilities welcome, you just need an interest in baking.

For more details contact: Vanda on 561053 or [vanda.butler@googlemail.com](mailto:vanda.butler@googlemail.com).



# Draft Neighbourhood Plan

## Last chance to have your say: Regulation 14 Consultation



IF you receive your copy of the Messenger on the last Friday of each month, there will just be time for you to participate in the consultation on the draft Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan. This closes at

4pm on Tuesday 30 April.

You can view the draft Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents at [greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan](http://greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan). Paper copies are available at Great Shelford Library.

Let us know what you think by completing the feedback form (available online or on paper at Great Shelford Library) or just write to us at:

- Executive Officer, PO Box 1492, Cambridge, CB1 0YQ
- [executiveofficer@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:executiveofficer@greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk).

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

# British Cactus & Succulent Society

**Cambridge Branch meeting, Wednesday 8 May at 7.30pm  
Great Shelford Memorial Hall.**

THE Society have about 3,000 cactus and succulent aficionados in the UK, spread across a network of over 60 branches. Our objective is to promote the conservation, propagation and cultivation of cacti and other succulents. The Society regularly publish books and hold other events across the country. Cacti and succulents have never been more popular than they are now.

If you are interested in this fascinating hobby and the cultivation of these unique plants, then please do come to our meeting. There will be a judged tabletop competition, plant sales, a raffle and refreshments. Visitors for the first time will benefit from free entry, free refreshments and potentially some free plants.

You will be most welcome. Many thanks. **Jacqui Arbon**



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# Graffiti on The Magog Down

FOR more than 30 years, the Magog Down has provided a peaceful and picturesque setting for the quiet recreation of its many visitors. Successive groups of Trustees have endeavoured to maintain its unspoilt rural setting but, in recent months, the graffiti spray-can has intruded on our site. Visitors cannot have failed to notice the daubing on noticeboards, ticket machines, the road, the boardwalk and on North Down.

When it first appeared, we went to some lengths to clean the paint immediately but this seemed to spur on the culprits. So, sadly, the Trustees have decided to leave the graffiti for the time being. However, that does not seem to have satisfied the vandals. All told, their actions have caused several thousand pounds' worth of damage.

The police are investigating but without hard evidence as to the identities of the perpetrators, who act at night, their options are limited. We have been advised to install CCTV cameras and the Trustees have decided on a temporary system (as used to protect building sites) until a permanent solution can be found. One which, we hope, will be as visually harmonious as possible.

The Trustees are sure that readers will be outraged at these events. If anyone has any pertinent information, we would ask you to contact the police (crime ref no 35/20011/24). Under no circumstances should the perpetrators be confronted directly. Thank you.

**The Trustees**



# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



## COUNCILLORS

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Address for correspondence: 14 Crawley End, Chrishall, Nr Royston,  
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Will Jackson-Wood  
[cllr.jackson-wood@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jackson-wood@scambs.gov.uk) 07873 731597

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Brian Milnes  
[brian.milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:brian.milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) 07971 886 113

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



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