

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

June 2024

Volume 83 No 6

Price 90p

Northern Delights!

Aurora Borealis light show from Stapleford
More photos page 28

Photograph Ariette Brown

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Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

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Rev Lucinda Howard 07763 477821

Churchwarden

Alastair MacGregor
07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Youthworker

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Director of Music

Tim Kwan 07745 803972

PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Vergor

Clare Kerr 842984

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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 for full details. The services include:

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

Christenings and Weddings

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the parish vicar.

Stapleford MESSENGER

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

DID you see the news items recently about a prayer space for Muslims in a London school?

The school is the Michaela Community School in Brent. The headline was that the headteacher Katharine Birbalsingh and the governing body were within their rights to refuse to provide a dedicated prayer space. Incidentally, their successful defence of the action was firmly based in the Human Rights Act. It worked really well, as usual, in balancing competing rights, but that topic is for another day.



The more interesting stuff is what the court judgment reveals about the school. Well worth reading the judgment to get the full flavour.

The school's academic results are extraordinary. In a very deprived area 40% of GCSE results are at the highest level, and 75% of A level results were A* or A. 82% of leavers went on to Russell Group universities.

Its ethos is also admirable. The aim is for inner city children to become responsible members of society, confident in their own abilities, respectful of others, and able to integrate into society as kind and responsible young adults.

So what's not to like?

Once the judgment moves from the fab results and admirable ethos, this card-carrying libertarian begins to feel a bit of unease! There is a graded system of demerits and unacceptable behaviour. One instance of unacceptable behaviour results in a detention. Ok so far, but unacceptable behaviour includes talking in a corridor, not having a required piece of equipment (such as a pencil), or being even a minute late to school. Lessons are timed to the minute, with staggered times so that only one class is using one corridor at one time. As one class moves the next is already lined up waiting to go. There are linked digital clocks in every room timed to the second. Corridors are divided down the middle with children walking in one direction on one side only. Any child walking past a teacher is required to make eye contact and say 'Good morning/afternoon Sir/Miss'. At assemblies twice a week the national anthem is sung. All school bags are identical. Equipment for lessons is carried in identical transparent cases with prescribed contents with nothing else ('contraband items') allowed. In lessons every child is required to pay constant attention to the teacher; that means actively looking at the teacher and nowhere else. When the teacher asks a question every child is required to put up their hand 'rapidly and

enthusiastically' and one is picked to answer. When asked a question or given an instruction it must be acknowledged with the 'Michaela full stop', that is, by saying 'Yes Sir/Miss.' Otherwise pupils must sit up straight, in silence, with their arms folded on the desk in front of them. At morning break they must assemble in their year groups only. At no time are groups of more than four permitted. At lunch an adult sits at each table. Lunch starts with pupils chanting a poem they have memorised in tutor time. A teacher calls out the first word and everyone then joins in. Poems memorised include 'If' and 'Invictus'. Then mandatory topics of conversation are set, and only these are permitted. After lunch teachers join in with the groups of four pupils taking part in 'guided socialising' in which they strike up conversations. When the whistle blows to go back in, absolute silence is again required. And so on. Much more. Everyone should read it. This is now the ruling party's most favoured educational style.

My take is that there is a real issue as to whether this method of education is a Good Thing or not. It is right to say that it is reaching for things for its pupils – opportunities to learn and social confidence, for example - that were handed to many of us, me certainly, on a plate. And I try not to be biased by the fact that Suella Braverman was the first chair of governors, though it is unsurprising that the school's methods have vaguely fascist overtones. The excellent exam results have a price in freedom. And, as the school has only been going since 2014, no-one really knows whether the children turn into the adults the school hopes for.

I read the judgment because I was interested in the legal arguments over prayer spaces. But actually a rather wider Christian issue comes to mind, and that is the issue of freedom under God. Christians believe that everyone is in fact under the rule of God whether they accept it or not. But he permits us freedom to accept or reject that rule. The bible shows how all attempts to step away from God's rule result in societal oppression and injustice caused by individual wrongdoing. We see all that in action today. Ask why the children in so much of the UK live in impoverished communities and that is part of the deep answer. But a choice consciously to live under God's rule produces different consequences. It is not an immediate panacea for all the world's ills, but the resulting fruit of the Spirit seen in so many Christian lives is an undeniable force for good in the world. What is not to like about love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control?

So here's a prescribed lunch time topic of conversation: which is the greater force for good, the fruit of the Holy Spirit or the Michaela school rules?

Every blessing to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

- 2 JUNE 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM CW COMMUNION
 2 Corinthians 8.1-12; Matthew 9.35-38
 Give with joy!
- 6 PM CHORAL EVENSONG
 Jeremiah 5.1-19; Luke 7.1-10
- 9 JUNE 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP
 Ephesians 1.1-14; Mark 3.20-27
 Set free
- 10.30 AM MESSY FOREST CHURCH
- 16 JUNE 9 AM CW COMMUNION
 10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP
 Ephesians 1.15-23; Mark 4.26-32
 Rich & glorious
- 23 JUNE 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE
- 30 JUNE 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 11.30 AM CHURCH-IN-THE-MARQUEE
 David & Goliath
- 7 JULY 9 AM BCP COMMUNION
 10.30 AM CW COMMUNION
 Ephesians 2.1-10; Mark 6.1-6
 No boasting!
- 6 PM CHORAL EVENSONG
 Jeremiah 20.7-11; Romans 14.1-17

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

9 MAY – Funeral of Richard Beresford-Knox
 Banns of Anna Wardell & Stephen Kenny
 Banns of Katharine Budd & Jonah Taylor

St Andrew's Little Fishes

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Books, bluebells and buttercups

BOLD brilliance, bluebells and buttercups have drawn attention. A sight for sore eyes, delightfully spread over a glorious green carpet. I invite you to relish the wonder.

Blue and yellow, colour drench stretching to a backdrop of trees and shrubs, truly glorious. Sadly I see flags from troubled countries. Blend the primary colours and the green stage set is ready. Yolk yellow, five petals per flower pretty buttons with a coronet centre. Ground cover gleaming gold as scattered coins. A poet wrote, 'Crown of gold, cloak of green, radiant beauty. She stands a queen.' Simple yet effective.

Contrasting rich bluish purple swayed gently like rippling water. Shining sun enhanced the view. It was early. I appeared to be alone to treasure what lay before me. Rather like softly reflecting stained glass, the landscape made the cathedral, pillars being trees. They built atmosphere, through tone, shadow and sheer majesty. Gorgeous. My husband would say, 'Splendid.' I'd whole heartedly agree.

The pure British bluebells gently bowed in prayerful attitude, like a church congregation. Appropriate as they are known as Ascension bells. Each dainty flower carefully created works of art. Poetic. Slim, tiny tubes widening and slightly scalloped at the opening about six on each slender stem. Perfection. Nature nurturing. Days out should be on prescription. John Masefield said, 'How paint it; how describe? It only has the power upon the soul.'

Facts from newly acquired books have helped on the 'back story'. Often near water the buttercup has the name, 'Little Frog.' Marsh marigolds or king cups are close relations. Appealing to the child in all of us the 'bells represent cheerfulness, innocence and generosity.

Remember the "do you like butter" trick, or bracelet/ garland making? The bluebell stands for kindness, humility and a sense of wonder. Just right. Stories are told of the flower. A favourite childhood book was Flower Fairies. My own invention was not a success. Mole from 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse', said if you did not succeed eat cake. Would you like to share? **Judith Lee**



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The Great Tanganyikan Adventure



EARLIER this year, the Stapleford Link received an unexpected and pleasant surprise; an email from Robert and Liz Claiborne-Dixon explaining that Liz's parents were married by Rev Cox in 1952 at St. Andrew's Nachingwea. They plan to travel to Tanzania in 2025, following in the footsteps of Liz's parents who had spent 10 years in

Tanganyika as it then was.

Robert wrote:

"I launched into some research, googled 'St. Andrew's, Nachingwea' which I thought was as good a starting point as any – and to my surprise and a certain amount of confusion 'St Andrew's Church, Stapleford' was at the top of the list. I tried again with the same result, but this time clicked

onto the link. Of course, I soon discovered that the two churches had a long association. I read with interest and impulsively, sent an email to admin@stapleford.org."

Since then, there have been email exchanges and a visit to Stapleford in March, about which Robert reports:

"We had a tour of your lovely church, the chapel dedicated to St Andrew's in Nachingwea and the Notice Board which clearly demonstrated an active partnership."

Early in April, Kevin, Chair of the St Andrew's Nachingwea Link Committee wrote:

"We are so happy for the coming of Liz and Robert hope they will give us more information about their parents and the church they have. Next Saturday we will have short meeting about the coming of Liz and Robert. I will write to you soon after the meeting. Thanks so much."



Keith and Joselyn on their wedding day, 24 October 1952, outside St Andrew's Church, with Rev Ronald Cox

St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

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Following their meeting, Kevin wrote again: "The Link committee has accepted to host their visit. They have our all cooperation. We have also given introduction to priest in charge and the church in general. We are all preparing for them. Let's continue to be in touch about it."

So, a wonderful 'in person' opportunity for the strengthening of our Link Partnership is already taking shape.

Robert Claiborne-Dixon, Kevin Bushiri and Trish Maude

In other news

Thank you to all who attended the quiz at the Three Horseshoes. It was a very enjoyable evening which raised over £750 for our projects. Congratulations to the winning team 'Thick Edge' and special thanks to Jon and Nicky West for organising the quiz and to Duncan and Justine for making us feel so welcome at the pub.

The Link May lunch was a huge success, with many thanks to all who came and created a wonderful community celebration, to all who provided the sumptuous spread, all who worked behind the scenes in so many ways and contributed to and ran the stalls. Special thanks to Committee members Mary Cooper, Julie Moy and Liz Ulas for organising the event.



*Some of our visitors enjoying the lunch
(photo: Freya West)*

We are delighted to tell you that the lunch raised over £1,300 for our projects in Nachingwea and was a wonderful social event much appreciated as a way to spend a lovely afternoon on a dull, rainy day.

Thank you all so much. **The St Andrew's Stapleford-Nachingwea Link committee.**

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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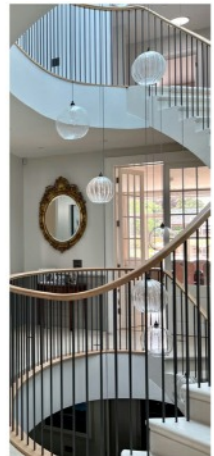


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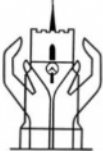
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Church-in-the-Marquee

Village Weekend special on Sunday 30 June at 11.30am

Seen any giants recently?



EVERYONE is very welcome to come and join in the service in the Marquee on the Sunday morning of the Village Weekend - grab a coffee and socialise beforehand, sing some cracking hymns, enjoy re-hearing the old narrative of David & Goliath. Informal and fun, open to those of any faith and none. If you

don't usually come to church but want to give it a little go, this service is for you.

The service starts at 11.30am and will last about 45 minutes to an hour. We look forward to seeing you there! **Simon Taylor**

Mothers' Union



IN June we have our Summer Social on the 27 June, from 6pm to 8pm, to which all members are cordially invited. We are also having a stall at the

Village Show on 29 June, with hamper raffles (including one for children), so contributions for those to me please earlier in June – thank you.

In August, the Ely Diocesan MU is having a Banner exhibition in Ely cathedral – including our own Stapleford Banner. It's from 1 to 14 June in the Lady Chapel and is open to all to visit. There will also be a Mary Sumner Day service in the cathedral on 9 August at 11.30am in the Cathedral Presbytery. See the poster! **Hilary Street**

'Brownies and Beans'

STAPLEFORD Brownies sowed French climbing beans in April. They have been tending them at home until finally the soil has warmed up enough to plant on the allotments.

The Brownies had a great time digging and planting, exploring the plot and toasting marshmallows around the fire pit. If the slugs, pigeons and deer stay clear we should all be able to watch the Brownie beans curl up the bamboo and willow structures on the Community 'Blue Chair' plot.

Come, have a seat, watch their progress!

Juliet Hawksworth



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Mothers' UNION
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Photo Michael Gatward

Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
4 June	✓	✓	
11 June			✓
18 June	✓	✓	
25 June			✓
2 July	✓	✓	



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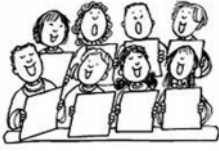
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Magog Singers



ON Tuesday 9 July we have the final concert in our 10th Anniversary series. Our programme is again across a wide spectrum of music covering Handel's Hallelujah Chorus, Ave Verum by Mozart, Linden Lea by VaughanWilliams, A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square, a medley from Oliver, and Rogers & Hammerstein - Oh What a Beautiful Morning.

As always we will be directed by our enthusiastic conductor John Clenaghan and accompanied by Brian Watkins.

The concert will start at 3pm in the Pavilion. Light refreshments will be served with a retiring cash donation in aid of CamSAR, Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue.

Please contact kathleenforeman047@gmail.com for information about the choir. **Kathleen Foreman**

Shelford Feast

Saturday 6 to Saturday 13 July



SHELFORD Feast is coming SOON! It opens with the Beer Festival on Saturday 6 July followed by the ever popular Trevor Nelson in the evening. Feast Day is on Sunday 7 July when local organisations and charities provide stalls alongside arena events, music, hog roast, full bar and entertainment. Bands, Sawston Youth Drama, the BIG Quiz and Comedy follow in the week culminating on the final Saturday with a performance by Anthems Ibiza

Orchestra. For all the details, go to shelfordfeast.co.uk. Tickets for the events are available at local outlets in Great Shelford, Stapleford and Sawston or via Ticket Taylor online.

Once you have bought your tickets, the week is cashless. On Feast Sunday, token cards to use at the stalls will be on sale inside the marquee. Teas, the bar and the food outlets will all have card readers.

A plea for volunteers. Volunteers are needed to help during the week in all areas. Even if you can only give up an hour on Feast Sunday to help serve food, we would like to hear from you. Please contact coppendales@btinternet.com and offer to help. The Bunch organises the whole week of entertainment, can YOU spare some time during the week to give a hand? **Sarah Coppendale**



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From the ex-Editor

Thought I had better contribute something

IT'S been a while, I know, since I last addressed the *Messenger* nation and for that I apologise. It's been a busy time with this and that and I'm sure you understand. Anyway, how are you? I trust you are all well.

That is certainly the case here at ex-Editor Towers. Mrs ex-Editor, forever in a subset of one, continues to thrive as do the ex-Editorlings, those cheeky little scamps whose exploits were occasionally chronicled on these pages. They are not so little now, of course. Indeed, some of them are *really* not so little now. But they are all doing just fine and thank you for asking.

At least I assume they are. Two of them no longer live here but I'm sure they would have mentioned it at some point if they weren't. Come to think of it, I rarely see the ones who do still live here but they occasionally emerge at meal times so I will endeavour to enquire should I remember.

Alas, the same can not be said up at ex-Editor Lodge, the ancestral home. The ancestors in question, soon to clock up some 174 years between them, are finding modern living something of a strain in their twilight years and major change is afoot.

Having grown up with Spitfires in the skies, they possess that 'make and mend' mentality that made their generation so darned useful. If something breaks their first thought is to fix it in the knowledge that they probably can. Skills that have sadly been fading from today's Landfill Landscape. My uncle once built himself a sports car, just because he could (although his wife then made him sell it, just because she could).

The downside of all this, though, is that such a mindset means that practically everything is regarded as being potentially useful at some unspecified point in the future. Which means nothing gets thrown away. Ex-Editor Lodge is full to the brim with what can only be described as 'stuff', like Angel Delight packets from the 1960s.

To his credit, Papa ex has at least realised that a little light decluttering might be an idea and over the last few weeks much of it has begun to disappear. Some of it - books mainly - has been transferred here, either to fill further our own shelves or go to charity. But not just books.

"Are these the records you were looking for?" Papa ex asks proffering two thin boxes.

My childhood collection of singles had indeed gone AWOL but these are not those. The boxes are too wide. These are for 12-inches. LPs.

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EXTENSIONS CONVERSIONS RENOVATIONS ALTERATIONS

Of heavy metal, from the 1980s.

It is true that I spent a hefty portion of my income on records during that decade (I was a Saturday boy at Dixons, selling cameras) but few were remotely metal. These are undisputedly not mine; indeed, I have never seen them before.

The name on the boxes backs this up too. It is my mother's and so the questions come tumbling out. My Mum, the secret head-banger? It simply doesn't compute. I've seen her record collection and it came to a full stop at 'Bridge Over Troubled Water'. Also, she showed zero interest in the music that blared out of my bedroom daily or, come to think of it, any music whatsoever.

Inevitably she has no recollection and so it remains a mystery.

Also unknown to me were the 'artists' and their work. One - 'To Hell With The Devil' by Stryper (check it out on YouTube at your peril) - has a sticker saying it cost £6.49 at Our Price and a quick google search revealed a current worth of not even that.

The eBay potential of others was more promising however as an EP by Danish rockers Mercyful Fate has been known to go for £800 provided it is the ultra-rare version with a white border to the sleeve.

Hmmm. The thought of all the postage and packaging involved in getting rid of this little lot thrills me not but 800 quid? So, if any of you fancy adding to your vinyl collection feel free to hit me up. Not just yet, though. I'm still waiting for the Tipp-Ex to dry... **Jon West**

Sawston Open Gardens

FIVE of Sawston's finest gardens open their gates to the public on Sunday 7 July, to help raise funds for the National Garden Scheme (ngs) and the important nursing and caring charities they support. There are four very different private gardens plus the well-known Mary Challis Garden. The gardens are open from 1pm to 5pm. Collect a map at the first garden you visit. Entrance £6 covers all gardens; children free. Enjoy homemade tea and cakes at the Mary Challis Garden 1.30pm to 4.30pm, plus plants for sale.



The Co-op car park in the centre of the village is conveniently located but restricted to 3 hours. Enquiries: Mike Redshaw 834511 or mjredshaw@hotmail.co.uk. **Mike Redshaw**

Stapleford Twinning Association



FIONA and Alan Holliday have just returned from our Stapleford Twinning Exchange visit to Villedômer. Fiona and Alan shared their experience with Frank Jacot, Messenger Production Editor.

Before we discuss the recent visit, please can you tell me why you joined Stapleford Twinning?

(Alan) We had our arms twisted, both in the same week. We'd not been living in Stapleford very long, but we'd joined the Stapleford Strollers. A couple of the guys who I'd got to know suggested I join.



(Fiona) That same week, I think it was someone at Pilates who encouraged me to join. As we'd only been here for a short time, it was another way for us to get to know the village and to know more people. We like to be a part of village life.

Fabulous. Ahead of the exchange, did you have any expectations in terms of accommodation or experiences you might go on?

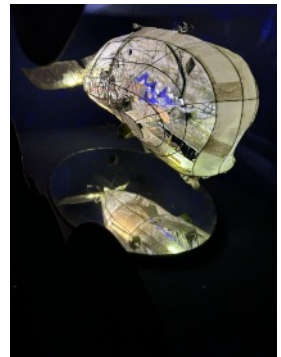
(Alan) No, we didn't really know what to expect. It was quite difficult knowing what to take and prepare for. I know I faced a slight trepidation about how my schoolboy French would work with this visit.



(Fiona) The last time I stayed in a French home was on a school exchange when I was a youngster. I did two or three school exchanges which were very French and quite challenging and I think we were both a little anxious about going.

Can you outline the programme for our readers?

(Alan) When we arrived, we had a delicious lunch with our hosts. We seemed to eat and drink quite a lot for most of the weekend. It was a lovely get together, particularly the visit to the water mill, which we really enjoyed.



(Fiona) We were invited to help prepare our dinner, cooking Tarte Tatin and the main course in a very old fashioned bread oven. We helped roll out the dough and peel the apples. We had a visit to some very interesting animations in the top of this working watermill. The watermill turned the

cogs and wheels so that the animations, including a swan and dragon, moved around. A story accompanied each animation and was beautifully translated for us by Jackie Bow. It was great fun and very creative. We were serenaded by the local brass oompah band which, again, was a lot of fun. They were very amusing and afterwards we ate the delicious dinner we had helped prepare.

The next day it was raining, so the original planned trip was changed. We went to the aquarium which again, was much more interesting than we expected. It was all about the Loire Valley and where we were in the Touraine. After we'd had a very interesting tour of the aquarium, we had yet another delicious lunch!

In the afternoon we visited a local wine cave seeing the storage barrels and bottles before enjoying wine tasting (all white wines). We were all feeling very happy by the end of that! We then returned to our hosts for dinner. It was a very amusing evening. Wonderful.



(Alan) On the Sunday our host took us on a very quick visit to her home village so we could see the church and little chateau there first. Then we were taken to a lovely chateau run by an English couple who have a Christian retreat and a fabulous campground, meant to be one of the top ten in France.



Reflecting now on the Twinning exchange, did you feel more of the french lifestyle and culture than when you had been to France on other holidays?

(Fiona) I think it felt very different. We were really blessed by having such a wonderful host and hostess who were just so funny. We were laughing for most of the weekend. We were teasing each other and it was just a great weekend. We felt that we were truly welcomed into their home. I think we got to know them and understand their circumstances and their family life. I know that although this was our first visit, for other members of the group who have been going for several years, they have built up real friendships and are really able to share life with them. I think it's a great way of getting to know the culture and a little bit about French life.

I take it you recommend Stapleford Twinning to your friends?

(Both) We would do, yes. Yes, very much. Despite our initial misgivings we really had a wonderful time.

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2G3S



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.

Big Green Week – 8 to 16 June. Great Shelford Library will have a display showcasing some of the books covering green issues that we have discussed at our 2G3S book club meetings since these started in 2022.

South Cambs Organic Gardeners meet out on location in the summer. More details from helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk.

Stapleford Tree Project – if you live in Stapleford, see the article elsewhere in this magazine. 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.

Stapleford Village Weekend, 27-30 June – we will have a stall at the Show on the Saturday afternoon.

Film evening - on the Thursday evening of the Weekend, at 7pm, we will be showing the film **'Pure Clean Water'**, which we showed in Sawston to a sell-out audience in February. Here is your chance to see the film if you missed it before, or want to see it again – you don't need to be a Stapleford resident! It is beautifully shot in Cambridge and along the chalk streams locally, examines the water supply and usage in the area and its effects on the environment, and features interviews with the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water, and other people involved in managing our water. With all the talk about building up to 150,000 new houses in the area by 2040, managing the water supply to all the new developments is crucial, and even with the wet winter we've had the pressure on the underground source of our water is intense. The Environment Agency objected to the proposed new Cancer Hospital on the Biomedical Campus, due to lack of water. See staplefordweekend.com for details and to get tickets, and find out more about the film at PureCleanWater.film.

Now the weather is warming up, and your plants are growing and need water, think about minimising the amount you take from the tap. Have you a water butt to collect rainwater? Can you use washing up water to water your pots? Choose plants that don't need too much water (lavender,

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pelargoniums, mediterranean plants), and group pots together to reduce evaporation. Collect up water in the kitchen from rinsing vegetables, fruit, and your hands, and put that on your plants. Don't flush the loo after every use, and use bathwater to flush the loo, or to water plants. Have short showers, and only wash clothes if they're dirty.

Some of you may have read about how the soundscape of birdsong has changed (ie reduced) over the years – a man in the US had been recording at dawn on the same day every year for 30 years at the same spot in Yellowstone Park, and has evidence of the gradual reduction in recent years, till this year his tape was silent. Closer to home, Tony Juniper (who used to run Friends of the Earth) has done a similar thing in Cambridge, with similar results. He reckons the heatwave in 2022 was a significant reason for the recent sudden greater decline in birdsong. Songbirds have declined for a number of reasons, including a loss of habitat (intensive farming, woodlands cut down), and less food - invertebrate numbers down due to climate change and pesticides, and not always being available when the birds need them. Thus our gardens are so important in supporting wildlife – not using pesticides, keeping corners where creatures can shelter, planting a tree if possible, making a pond (even a small one), planting nectar-rich plants.



If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. Also see our Facebook page and our website 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/. **Helen Hale**



Looking for a local venue?

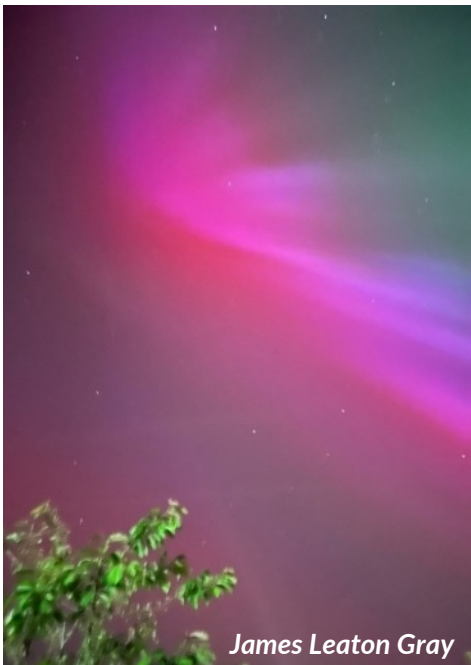
The Johnson Hall, next to St Andrew's Church, is an ideal venue for small groups and children's parties. The Hall is **available for hire** for one-off events and regular bookings.

For details please contact **Gillian Sanders:**

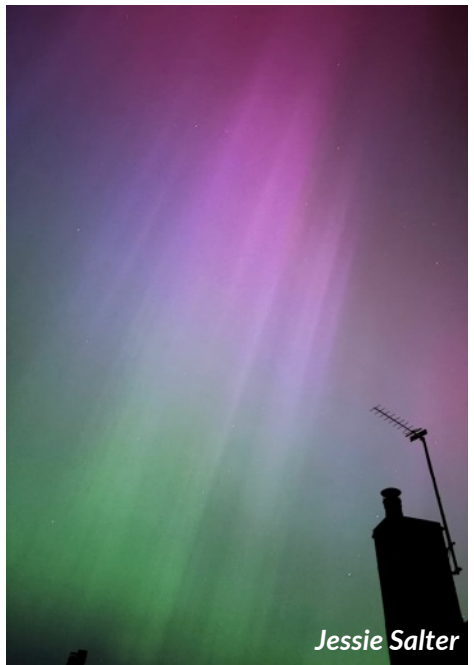
Tel: 07752 373 176 **Email:** admin@standrewstapleford.org



Jacqui Watkins



James Leaton Gray



Jessie Salter

Women's Institute



RECENTLY a member of our book group selected a novel, 'She Lies in Wait' by Gytha Lodge as her choice for the next book to be read. When we met to discuss the book it was obvious we had all enjoyed it, and the content provoked a good discussion about the characters and plot.

Following this success, Gytha, who is a local author living in Shelford, was invited to be our speaker at our meeting in April. Gytha gave an entertaining, informative, relaxed and humorous talk, without reference to any notes, about her long journey to becoming an author. She was only 14 when her first novel was written but it was in 2019, twenty-one years later, that Gytha's first novel was published. In her series of books the same police team is in operation in each one, and Gytha is grateful to a friend who is a criminal psychologist who helps with her research in this area.

Gytha does not base her books on people she knows however, as she loves inventing new characters. Referring to social media Gytha described the importance of this in promoting her work and explained how she deals with the unfortunate and upsetting downside of this - online trolling. Her inspirational talk was concluded with a question-and-answer session. During our coffee break members had the opportunity to buy a signed copy of one of Gytha's books, and several members returned home with something new to read!

Our business section of the evening then followed, and members were reminded about the stall we will be running at the village show on Saturday 29 June. Previous attendees might be pleased to learn we are organizing a hoopla stall again, which has proved very popular in recent years. Information was also provided about the many and varied activities being offered by the Cambridge Federation of WI groups in the next few weeks, ranging from craft sessions to themed lunches, a walk around Cambridge to see 'Quirky Public Art' and a trip to the Tate Art Gallery in London.

If you are interested in finding out more about all that is available to WI members, both in our own group here in Stapleford, and within the Federation, then please consider coming along to one of our meetings as a visitor. You are assured of a warm welcome. In June our speaker is Maggie James and the title of her talk is 'Living in Saudi as an English Family'. Further information can be found on the website staplefordwi.weebly.com or by phoning Sallie Dixon on 843847. **Joyce Dobson**

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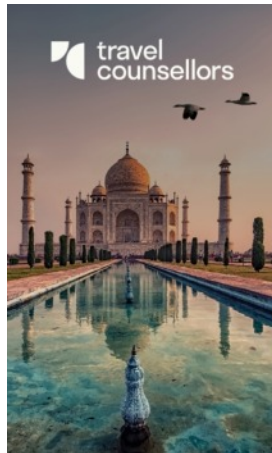


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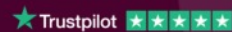
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Yesteryear

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

1831

FINED. On Saturday Mr Collier, a respectable farmer at Stapleford, appeared before the magistrates at the Town Hall, for the purpose of laying an information against a publican of the same village, for allowing the game of bowls to be played, and he was fined £5. It being market-day an immense number of country people were assembled, and Mr Collier, on leaving the hall, was hooted and otherwise attacked in a most violent manner. He was severely beaten, had his clothes torn from his back, and was compelled to seek refuge in the first shop he could get to which was immediately surrounded by several hundreds; thus besieged, Mr Collier remained a considerable time, and had no chance of reaching his inn, although but a short distance, until the Rev. Dr. Webb exerted his authority by calling in the assistance of constables; but for his judicious interference Mr. Collier's life would have been endangered.

1885

STEALING EGGS. Noah Rawlinson and Henry Rawlinson, both of Stapleford, were charged by Robert Brixey with stealing partridges' eggs from nests on land in the occupation of Mr. C. J Symonds. Noah Rawlinson was fined 5s. and costs or, in default, one month's imprisonment. Henry Rawlinson was acquitted.

1902

END OF THE BOER WAR. The glorious news of the first of June 1902 was received in Stapleford on Monday morning last. An early display of bunting ensued. The arrangement of flags, streamers and fairy lights in the evening around the residence of Dr Armistead presented a most pretty sight. The villagers joined in a quiet, orderly and genuine celebration of the proclamation of peace.

1904

SINGULAR ACCIDENT. On Thursday in last week, the juvenile members attending Great Shelford Baptist Chapel Sunday School held their annual treat at Vine Farm, Stapleford. Mr S Hagger kindly placing his meadows, barns, etc, at their disposal. Swings were put up for their enjoyment, and unfortunately, as it proved, were left out on the conclusion of the treat. On Sunday evening a valuable horse belonging to Mr Hagger got entangled in one of the swings and early on Monday morning was found strangled. Great sympathy is felt for Mr Hagger and his serious loss.

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1917

STAPLEFORD SOLDIER DECORATED. Gunner C E Speed, son of Mr W Speed of Stapleford, has been awarded the DCM and Medal Militaire for bravery in the field. Gunner Speed made 20 journeys across heavily shelled ground and succeeded in bringing in a wounded man each time. Since then Gunner Speed has been wounded and was in hospital in Alnwick. After his recovery he proceeded to Newcastle where he was decorated by the King last Sunday. Before the war Gunner Speed and his father were employed on Borough Farm at Stapleford where his father is still employed. He enlisted in the Machine Gun Corps in August 1914. He is at present on a visit to Cambridge.

1940

PARISH COUNCIL. A meeting of the parish council was held in the council school on Thursday week to discuss the best means for collecting waste metals. Messrs John Rickett, H E Cooke, H Beavis and T P Layng agreed to collect the material in the village, a dump to be formed at the Bury Farm to which any householders may take their metals. The collection of waste paper was left in the hands of Mr Wilfred Johnson and his band of Boy Scouts who have done excellent work in this connection since the outbreak of war.]



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28TH**

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Bike ride 10am (**PRE ENTER ONLINE**), Church in the marquee 11am, Cricket 2pm. Bar serving all day.

**SUN
30TH**

**MORE INFO &
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WWW.STAPLEFORDWEEKEND.COM

Tour de Stapleford Family Bike Ride

THE family bike ride will be held on Sunday 30 June at 10am, leaving from the Pavilion.

First held in 2014, the year that the Tour de France came to Stapleford, the route uses all the cycleways between Stapleford, Sawston, and Babraham. The ride is suitable for riders of all ages, and all types and sizes of bicycle. The full distance of the course is 7 miles, however shorter routes from as little as 1 mile, 3 miles, and 5 miles are there for those more suited to a shorter distance.

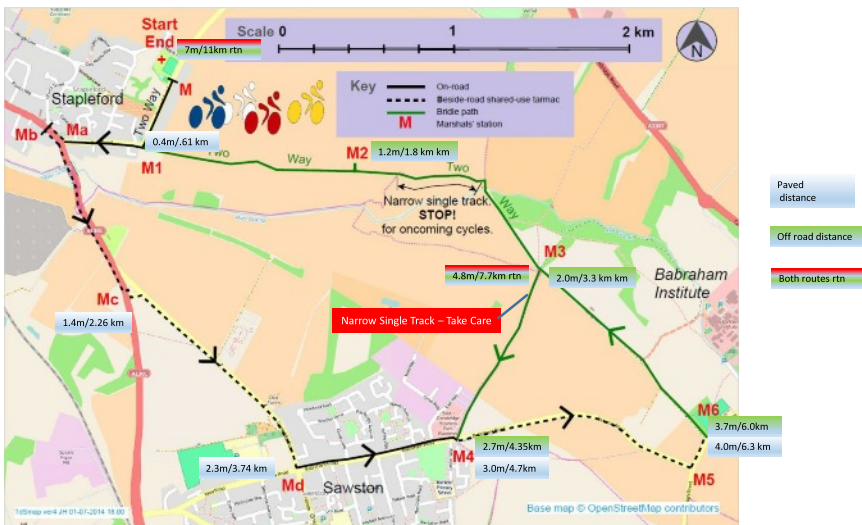


The course is marshalled at junctions, so riders can't get lost. A mechanic will be on hand in case of punctures or other breakdown.



Unless in possession of a Bikeability Level 2 Qualification, participants should be accompanied by parent or guardian if under 16.

Entry is free, but please register for the event on the Village Show website, so the organisers know the likely number of participants. See staplefordweekend.com.



Dr Bike will be present in front of the Pavilion to carry out a free safety check on all bicycles that wish to be checked.

Refreshments are available at the end.

Timetable

9.45am Dr Bike opens

9.50am Signing on opens

10.15am Grand Depart

11.15am Barbecue

12 noon Close

Tom Robinson



The Village Show – 29 June

THE Schedules have been delivered to all Stapleford households we hope. If we have missed you, please accept our apologies and give us a shout and we'll get one to you. Schedules are also available at various places around the Village – Spar, 3 Horseshoes, Church porch, Scotsdales, The Gog Farm Shop to mention a few.

We will be judging the Front Gardens and Allotments during the week before the Show, and entry forms for the classes will be accepted until midday on Friday 28 June. There are classes for all age groups and interests.

The Samba Band from Sawston Village College will be playing, and a Brass Band too – not at the same time!! Other attractions include The Raptor Foundation, Bouncies, ice-cream, various food options, a bar and stalls.

There are several events over the weekend all making up the Village Weekend. Our theme for this year is 'Nurturing Nature in our Community' and we are proud to support the Stapleford Tree Project.

Please follow us on Facebook and see our page on the Weekend website – staplefordweekend.com. **Julie Rayment** - 07870 215776

Messenger Marketplace

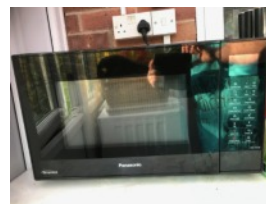
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Stapleford Strollers: Walk 125

Jam and a Giant: a circular walk from Histon

To get to start of walk

GO up the M11, turn right on to the A14 and come off at the first junction (B1049), marked Cambridge and Histon. Turn left for Histon at the roundabout and then turn left again after about 1¼ miles, at a set of traffic lights (signed Histon, Girton, Oakington). Follow the road past the shops and The Red Lion will soon be seen on the left. There is roadside parking.

Distance of walk

About 4½ miles. The route is flat and surprisingly rural given the proximity to Cambridge.

OS Map

OS Explorer map 225. Use maps.the-hug.net for a free map extract, your phone app or the route map provided.

Extra Information

The name Histon is thought to mean 'farmstead of the young warriors'. The Histon Giant appears on the village sign - a man in a stovepipe hat named Moses Carter, who was a local strongman in the 19C, reputedly over seven feet tall. The village is probably best known as being the site of the former Chivers fruit-growing operation, with a jam producing/fruit canning factory. The business diversified to include marmalade, jelly and lemonade production. Over 3000 people were employed here by 1939 but sales declined after the war and, although preserves are still produced in Histon, it is under the Hartley brand name. The Guided Busway, seen on this walk, follows the route of the old railway line.

Route of walk

Start by The Red Lion in High Street, Histon (CB24 9JD). Turn left on the pavement and walk along Park Lane for a short time, then turn right into Bell Hill.

Turn left at the footpath sign halfway up the hill, which goes through St Andrew's churchyard and emerges at the far side. Turn right and, when the main road is reached, cross over and walk to the left. The road swings left and then right. Look out for a footpath sign on the left-hand side and follow this track, which used to be the main causeway route from Cambridge to Ely and The Fens.

Soon, a wood is passed on the left. Do not enter, but carry on until the end of the wood and then turn immediate left with the wood to the left and



a large field to the right. The path swings right at the end of the field and goes straight ahead, with a ditch to the immediate left. Later, it bends left and right, still with a ditch to the left. Eventually, a metal gate is reached. Go through and follow the path as it crosses the left-hand side of the grassy field beyond. There may be sheep in the field. Go through another gate to exit the field on to a roadside pavement.

Cross over the road and walk to the left until the Guided Busway is reached. Go back over the road, cross the busway and walk left along the busway-side cycle/pedestrian track.

Soon, a wood will be seen to the right. Just before the end of the wood, go right on an unmarked path. When in the wood, two waymark arrows point diagonally left and right. Take the left-hand path and follow it round until, at the far end of the wood and, next to a stream, a footbridge is seen. Cross it. Go left on the far side. This track soon veers away from the stream

2G3S and Stapleford Weekend
present a film screening



PURE CLEAN WATER

The chalk streams crisis on our doorstep



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be derailed by a shortage of water?

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Stapleford Recreation Ground

**Register now at staplefordweekend.com. Pay on
the door. Pizza and bar available beforehand.**

<https://PureCleanWater.film>

mail2G3S@gmail.com

Cross it. Go left on the far side. This track soon veers away from the stream, but does swing back towards it after a time. Keep on the grass track, passing to the left of a wood, with the stream still to the left. Keep ahead and the path exits on to a roadside pavement.

Turn left and follow the pavement for about half a mile. Then, carefully cross over and turn right along the Guided busway cycle/pedestrian track again. When a wood is reached, with a sign saying Girton 1, ignore this but cross over the busway at this point and turn immediate right down a path that initially follows the busway but very soon veers away. Keep going, at first under trees but later on the edge of more open land. Turn at the first tarmacked path to the left. This brings you out opposite Shirley Road. Go along this road and follow it as it swings right. At the end, go left and keep on the left-hand pavement. The Red Lion, where the walk started, will soon be reached. **David Barnes**

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

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

ARTHUR'S Shed is a purpose-built studio set in the beautiful grounds of the Arthur Rank Hospice where our talented volunteers run sessions on topics ranging from laughter yoga to astronomy. Sessions are open to everyone, you do not need to have a connection with the Charity or the Hospice to attend. Sessions are free of charge, although a suggested donation of £5 is welcomed to cover the cost of materials. Sessions can be booked by emailing Arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk or calling 675777. Sessions must be booked in advance. To see the timetable, look on arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed/. Activities include paper crafts, astronomy, meditation and flower arranging.

Cambridge Charity Walk - Have you signed up?

STAR Shine Night Walk is a 5 or 10 mile walk around the streets of Cambridge at night and returns on Saturday 22 June, bringing together hundreds of people from the local community.

You can walk in memory of a loved one, or enjoy a fun challenging walk whilst raising funds for people supported by Arthur Rank Hospice Charity. As the sun sets over Cambridge on one of the longest days, you will set off, from 7pm, from Shelford Rugby Club. Support people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition by signing up at arhc.org.uk/ssnw now. Please share with your family and friends. **Sarah Dixon**

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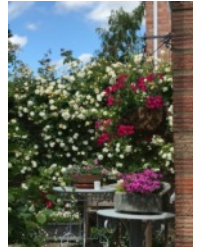
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Open Garden

In aid of Brain Tumour Charity

WE are inviting you to our Open Garden at 7 Dolphin Way on Sunday 9 June, from 2pm until 5pm. Ours is an established, treasured garden, with perennial plantings and trees set around a lawned area, a small pond, greenhouse and vegetable patch. There is plenty of seating around the garden and if the weather is kind to us on that day, you can sit under the shade of our beautiful Indian Bean Tree enjoying a cup of tea and homemade cakes and scones which will be for sale in the garden. There will also be plenty of plants for sale too. The entrance fee will be £3 per person, children's entrance is free, and all the proceeds from the day will be donated to the Brain Tumour Charity, a charity very close to our hearts. Put the date in your diary folks, and we look forward to seeing you. **Lyn & George Wylie-Hill**



Community Warden coffee morning

A VISIT from Stapleford nursery pupils was a lovely surprise at the recent coffee morning held in Cox's Close in aid of our Community Warden Scheme.

The children entertained us with songs and handed out flower posies. There was a fantastic atmosphere and a great chance for some of the youngest and oldest members of our community to get together.

Many thanks to the nursery staff and children for their hard work, to local people for donating raffle prizes, baking delicious cakes, arranging flowers and volunteering their time. **Juliet Hawksworth**



Sawston Cinema June

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 13th June at 7pm; £5

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry; Running time, 108 mins ; Jim Broadbent, Penelope Wilton. When Harold learns his friend Queenie is dying, he is moved to act. He leaves home, walking to the post box to send her a letter, until he realises a letter is not enough. In that moment Harold decides to keep walking, all the way to her hospice. **Linda Whitebread**

Stapleford Tree Project

Background to the project



IN recent years the village of Stapleford has lost an increasing number of trees, both from private properties and from public land. This has been due to age, disease, weather, development and other factors. Often trees have not been replaced. We need to ascertain why this is and how we can support the planting of new trees and the preservation of existing ones.

Why do we need trees?

Cambridgeshire County Council recognise the importance of this and have developed an 'Interim Tree and Woodland Strategy' which was approved in October 2022. In it, they detail the importance of increasing the number of trees across South Cambridgeshire:

"The benefits of well-planned, well-managed trees, woodland and hedges are many. From removing carbon from the atmosphere, contributing to our net zero ambitions for tackling climate change. They encourage and support biodiversity, provide opportunities for people to connect with nature and as a result improve the health and well-being of our residents."

Trees improve air quality by trapping dust and pollutants, boosting oxygen in the air – in one year an acre of mature trees can provide enough oxygen for 18 people - and there is evidence that being in woods and green space improves mental health.

Trees also reduce wind speeds, and cool the air as they lose moisture and reflect heat upwards from their leaves. If you have a tree in your garden, these factors can keep your house and garden more comfortable to be in.

Trees help reduce water pollution by reducing runoff because they break rainfall, thus allowing the water to flow down the trunk and into the earth below the tree. This prevents storm water from overflowing drains and carrying pollutants to streams and rivers.



Trees also help prevent soil erosion, absorbing thousands of litres of stormwater.

Trees benefit wildlife by offering habitation and food to communities of birds, insects, lichen and fungi. One mature oak can be home to as many as 500 different species.

Trees strengthen the distinctive character of a place and encourage local pride. They can mask ugly views, shade paths and seats, and muffle sound.

Forest Schools, such as the one at Stapleford School, provide a hands-on learning experience in a woodland environment, helping children develop their social and communication skills, increase their self-esteem and improve their academic achievements.

Fruit in our community orchard will in time benefit villagers who don't have fruit trees in their gardens.

South Cambs District Council (SCDC) also has a 'doubling nature strategy' whose vision is to "double nature in South Cambridgeshire by 2050 and, in so doing, enable wildlife and people to thrive and businesses to prosper. This means: More wildlife-rich habitats. An increase in tree canopy cover. Better accessibility to green space." South Cambridgeshire has "fewer trees than most other areas in the UK". SCDC claim that they are "supporting and encouraging residents and communities to do more for nature."

Aims of the Tree Project

To identify, protect and preserve existing trees of particular value to the community.

To care for, and improve the condition and resilience of all of our trees in the village.

To work with the Parish, County and District Councils to identify areas of council land where new trees could be planted and work with them to ensure the planting and care of these trees.

To encourage village landowners/residents to increase the planting of trees on their land (particularly with regards to native species) and to support them in doing so.

Registering an interest in the project



You can find out more about how you can support the project at our stall at the Village Show, or on our web page, and there will be flyers delivered to households. Children will hear about the project at school. Stapleford Granary's new Discovery Room (opening July) will be supporting the project, with information about tree planting and the local environment forming part of this hands-on exhibition.

People can register their interest in the project online, at the Show, or on a paper form (drop off at Sophi's, 43 Bar Lane). Our web page is at staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project/.

Ways of supporting the project will include planting a tree in your own garden, helping plant trees on public land, offering to water new trees for the first summer or two, and giving financial help.

Identifying, protecting and preserving existing trees of particular value to the community.

We also would want to work with residents/owners to place tree preservation orders (TPOs) on a number of trees of community value around the village. You will be able to tell the Project which trees in the village are important to you and which you would be sorry to lose. The photos here show some of our larger mature trees that I for one would be very sorry to lose. **Helen Hale**

British Cactus and Succulent Society

Annual Summer Cactus Show

Wednesday 12 June, 7.30pm to 10pm.
Great Shelford Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane

MANY and varied cactus plants will be on display and will be judged by Graham Charles, President of The British Cactus and Succulent Society.

Graham Charles has been collecting cacti for 60 years, from the age of 12; he has written books about the species and travelled to Peru many times where, with others, has been responsible for the discovery of new plants.



Admission charge of £2. Plant sales and light refreshments will be available. **Jacqui Arbon**

Cambridge Nature Festival is now on!

AFTER a very successful first two years, the Cambridge Nature Festival is back, and aims to get us all more in touch with the nature on our doorsteps! This year the festival has a river / water theme, but there will be activities concerning all aspects of the natural world. Events will run all through June.



The third annual Cambridge Nature Festival will include over 90 events and activities with something for all ages, abilities and interests. There will be hands-on creative activities, nature walks, live music, bat punt safaris, BioBlitzes and much more. Most of the events will be free or affordable and will take place in Cambridge and the surrounding countryside.

The Cambridge Nature Festival is being organised by the River Cam CAN (Climate Action through Nature) project, which is hosted by Cambridge Past, Present and Future, and part of Cambridge Nature Network, a partnership of organisations working hard to increase the amount of nature in our area. The festival is being supported by the National Lottery Community Fund. Events will also be run by The Wildlife Trust BCN, The National Trust, RSPB, Cambridge City Council, Cambridge Sports Lake Trust, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Magog Trust and Cambridge University Botanic Garden and many, many more!

Festival Organiser Penelope Chaney says "We're excited to bring you another great programme of nature-based events and activities, from bat hunting and guided walks with wildlife experts to creative sessions and the screening of wildlife films. This is a great opportunity to connect with and explore nature and your local environment! There will be events for all ages and interests - we're looking forward to seeing you!"

Visit cambridgenaturenetwork.org/cambridge-nature-festival for a full list of events. **Penelope Chaney**, Festival organiser.

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.



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Great Shelford Library



THERE is plenty to discover and enjoy at your library in June. 8 to 16 June is the Great Big Green Week, a national celebration of simple planet-friendly actions. At Great Shelford we'll be hosting a display from 2G3S Book Club, reviewing books on sustainability and climate action. We will also be hosting nature-themed craft events on Saturday 8 and 15 June for children.

It's also Pride Month, celebrating LGBTQ+ diversity. Come and read the rainbow at the library!

June is National Crime Readers Month, too. The library has a huge selection of crime fiction, and we're always ready to help you solve the mystery of what to read next.



Engage Talk: - Local Studies -

Join Mary Burgess our Local Studies librarian as she discusses Cambridgeshire's local collection. Wednesday 26 June, 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 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 and Play – Fortnightly, Thursday 13 and 27 June. 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/Story Time and Duplo – Every Tuesday in June at 10.30am.

For children aged 0 to 4 years. Come and enjoy rhymes and stories, led by our wonderful volunteers. Duplo will be available after stories and rhymes finish. This is a free drop-in event. **Mel Abbiss**

Tel: 0345 034 5225

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Web: cambridgeshire.gov.uk



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Parish Council Chair's report

AT the Annual Parish Council Meeting, Gillian Pett was re-elected as Chairman and Howard Kettel as Vice-Chairman. Mick Davies was co-opted as a councillor. There are still vacancies on the Council and applications should be made to the Clerk. Training for new councillors is being arranged.

As yet, there have been no applicants for a caretaker role.

Consultation has now closed on the Neighbourhood Plan, and the review and revision of the Plan in light of consultation comments is underway before submission for examination. Training for councillors on the Neighbourhood Plan and planning issues will be arranged. The County and District Councillors commented on the excellent document produced so far.

Work commences next week on updating CCTV at the Pavilion and Recreation Ground. It is hoped this will increase public safety, deter vandalism and antisocial behaviour, as well as prevent the fly tipping which has been happening at the Pavilion.

Fencing is to be placed around the wild flower areas which are now flourishing. The Stapleford Tree Project working party will be asked to map all trees on public land in the village, especially those of special significance, with a view to applying for tree preservation orders.

A 'without prejudice' conclusion was reached with the Tennis Club for 2023/24, with the rent being reduced by 50% for that year. Discussion continues as to the way forward for a long-term solution for the use, management and maintenance of the MUGA.

The fee for the cricket season was agreed.

Liaison meetings with Rangeford and UKPN continue, with the Parish Council taking forward residents' issues, such as the dangerous state of Haverhill Road and working outside of permitted hours. Cambs County Council did not notify the Parish Council about the recent closure of Haverhill Road to fill the deep ruts, which was not work by Rangeford or UKPN. It was commented that road closures need to be coordinated, for example the closure of Granham's Road for resurfacing in the near future.

Finally, the Parish Council pays tribute to Richard Beresford-Knox who was a valued and hardworking Parish Councillor for many years. His special interests were sport in the village and village amenities, and he is sadly missed.

The next Parish Council meeting is **Thursday 13 June** (a change from the usual first Thursday of the month).

Gillian Pett, Chair, Stapleford Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan update

Consultation closes, next steps begin



THANK you to everyone – residents, statutory consultees and other local stakeholders – who contributed comments to the Regulation 14 Consultation on the draft Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (S&GS NP), which ran for seven weeks to 30 April. Thanks also to all who let us use their hedge or fence to display one of our big banners and raise awareness, including Scotsdale’s, The Gog Farm Shop and Magog Trust.



So what happens next? In outline, the steps remaining before we have an adopted NP for our parishes are:

1. Collate and review all consultation feedback (this work is well under way) and amend the draft report as appropriate.
2. Publish all comments (anonymously, other than where responses are on behalf of an organisation).
3. Submit a revised version (the ‘submission version’) of the S&GS NP to the local planning authority.

4. Publicise our NP (for a min. period of six weeks) and arrange for its independent examination.

5. The examiner will check whether our NP meets certain mandatory 'basic conditions' and may recommend some modifications to meet them.

6. If successful at examination, the local authority will organise a NP referendum for everyone on the electoral role in our parishes.

7. A majority 'yes' vote makes the S&GS NP part of the statutory development plan for the area.

8. All planning decisions from that point on must be made in accordance with the policies in the S&GS NP.

This short-ish list belies the work that needs to be done. Every point raised needs to be addressed, if only to say that it has been noted or to explain why it is not relevant to neighbourhood planning in general or to the S&GS NP in particular. Many, however, will need more robust responses and the Steering Group will need to decide, with the agreement of the Parish Councils, which comments should be acted upon in the 'submission version' of the S&GS NP. We will not be able to please everyone.

This is why, once we've submitted this next version of our NP, the local planning authority will make it available for a further six weeks of consultation (step 4 above). This is known as 'Regulation 16 Consultation' and is effectively a chance for everyone who gave feedback in the Regulation 14 Consultation to see how/whether we dealt with their comments and to appeal against this if they wish. These representations will be given to the independent examiner when they review our NP.

As an aside, all consultation feedback will be incorporated into a Consultation Statement which we need to produce to sit alongside our submitted NP. Ours won't look quite the same, but if you're curious then you can view an example of one of these at scams.gov.uk/media/14579/consultation-statement-final-120120.pdf.

I keep reminding myself that we have already done an awful lot more than is left to do. One of the frustrations of producing a NP is that some component parts have immutable timeframes attached to them (e.g. there are two min. six-week statutory consultations) so we must do what we can to work hard and fast during those parts over which we have more control. With The Right Hon. Michael Gove MP and his friends breathing down our collective necks, this has never felt truer.

We are, however, already in a stronger position to respond to planning applications submitted in our parishes. Paragraph 48 of the revised National Planning Policy Framework states that material consideration in decision-making may be given to relevant policies in *emerging* NPs. Since we have

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now completed our Reg. 14 Consultation, that's us. Consequently, Stapleford Parish Council was able to cite draft policies S&GS 6 and S&GS 12 when objecting to Rangeford's recent application (ref. 24/O1190/S73) to locate multiple air source heat pumps on the roof of the retirement village's central pavilion in line of sight of two local landmark views and adding visible urbanising and industrialising clutter to a rural setting.

Jenny Flynn, Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Find out more at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan or write to neighbourhood.plan@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk.

St Nicholas Hospice

Fundraising by Cycling and Quizzing

DURING the last two weeks of June, Duncan Woodhead, often of Bar Lane, will cycle Land's End to John O' Groats in aid of St Nicholas Hospice in Bury St Edmunds.

Duncan's partner Sophi's mum, Sue Berridge, spent her last days in St Nic's last summer.

Duncan, a keen cyclist, will raise much needed funds for the hospice which cared so well for Sue. The hospice must raise £17,000 per day over and above the small sum provided by government to remain open.

Also, on 3 June at 8.30pm, Duncan will host a fundraising quiz at the Three Horseshoes. £2 per person, max 5 people per team. There'll be a raffle as well. All proceeds to St Nics. Come along if you can.

To find out more about Duncan's efforts, catch him in the Three Horseshoes, at St Andrew's some Sundays, or around the village. Alternatively, scan this QR code to read about the event and to donate online. Or see rb.gy/uvfmba. **Sophi Berridge**



A History of ARM Ltd



HOW ARM grew from a Cambridge originated, tech company to become a global giant. A talk by John Biggs, one of the co-founders of Arm Ltd.

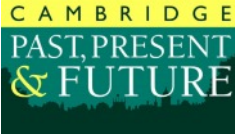
Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion, Tuesday 9 July at

7.45pm. Free to members; non-members pay £3 on the door. **Chris Cooper**



Wandlebury

Cambridge's first country park is celebrating 70 years



LOCAL charity Cambridge Past, Present & Future is celebrating 70 years of Wandlebury Country Park. On 26 April 1954 it announced that it was buying the Wandlebury Estate to make it a public open space. It became Cambridge's first Country Park and has provided generations of people with a beautiful green space to enjoy. With the help of the charity's supporters, they have also been able to protect the nationally important Iron-Age archaeology, maintain historic buildings and provide a home for nature.

James Littlewood, the charity's Chief Executive, is helping to lead the celebrations, "we know how much pleasure Wandlebury has given to generations of people, and we are proud of our work to increase nature and preserve history. One of the ways we are marking this special birthday is by launching an appeal to raise £70,000 so that Wandlebury continues to be an amazing place for the next 70 years. Details of the appeal have just been made available at cambridgeppf.org. We are also asking people to help us reflect on Wandlebury's 70th by sharing their special memories with us on social media using the #Wandlebury70."



Bill Clark was the Warden at Wandlebury from 1973-1997 and still lives on the estate, and one of his special memories is how he created the first meadow and gave it a name:

"Getting the charity to agree to turning the wheat field into a flower meadow was not as easy as I expected. The majority believed keeping financially solvent was very important - and rightly



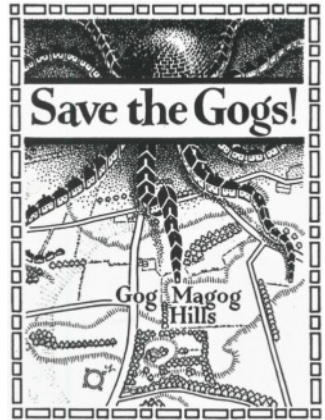
Pruning the new beech avenue 1984

so, for the charity was living hand-to-mouth, and did not want to forego the cash the crops brought in. I persevered, gaining some sympathy by announcing that 85% of England's chalk grassland had disappeared - years later, satellite technology proved it was more like 95%! Permission was finally given when the Countryside Commission agreed to grant-aid the

meadow, although only on condition that we named it for a specific public use, so I named it the 'Picnic Field'."

Save the Gogs

The rolling chalk hills on the southern edge of Cambridge have held a special attraction to people for over 2,300 years. On top of the Gog Magog Hills, or 'the Gogs', lies the remains of a large and important circular Iron-Age fort, where the Iceni tribe lived. The Romans arrived and built a road over the Gogs that connected Cambridge to Colchester.



From 1685 the racehorses of King Charles II and King James II were trained there. In the 1730s a country estate and stables were built by the Duke of Leeds, where the famous Godolphin Arabian sired a generation of thoroughbred race horses. Although Wandlebury was a private estate it was a popular place when opportunity allowed: in 1933 18,000 people attended a fete at Wandlebury that was addressed by the Prime Minister.

As housing started to sprawl out of Cambridge in the 1920s the wonderful views from the Gogs made it an ideal place to build a house. By the early 1930s Cambridge Past, Present & Future became seriously concerned that without intervention the hills would be built over, destroying them forever. They launched a major 'Save the Gogs' appeal with the aim of raising a large sum of money to pay landowners to give up their development rights.

Although they raised the equivalent of £1.1m in today's money, it was not enough. As fate would have it, World War 2 intervened and afterwards more effective planning legislation was introduced which, with their campaigning, protected the Gogs from development.

Following the deaths of Sir Harold and Lady Gray, in 1953 their son Terance began seeking a purchaser for the Wandlebury Estate, which was in a seriously neglected condition. Frantic negotiations and discussions took place to secure Wandlebury for public benefit and the charity resolved to use the 'Save the Gogs' money for this purpose. Even with the offer of these funds, the County Council could not be persuaded to buy the estate and so it fell to Cambridge Past, Present & Future to step up. There is no doubt that without the generosity of Terance Gray this would not have been possible; he effectively gifted half of the estate.

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70 years of hard work

1950s The estate was neglected and unsafe and had to be a suitable condition so that it could be opened to the public as a park.

1960s The first Wandlebury Warden was employed and teas were served from what is now the charity's office.

1970s Storms and droughts resulted in a devastating loss of large trees. This was followed by mass tree planting activity, including The Avenue of beech trees. The first meadow was created.

1980s Dutch Elm Disease and the 'Great Storm' of 1987 resulted in another bout of tree loss and tree planting. A large meadow was created. The 15th century Tadlow Granary was rebuilt to its former glory.

1990s The historic orchard was restored.

2000s 10 acres of farmland was purchased to extend the park and it was planted with trees and sown as a meadow. A dilapidated stable was transformed into a new Outdoor Education Centre, since visited by over over 20,000 school children.

2010s A wildlife viewing hide was built, a pond was restored in the middle of the park and Highland Cattle arrived. Pop-up cafés started serving visitors.

2020s 25 acres of land was purchased to extend the park and is being turned into high quality habitats. A dog exercise area has been opened.

For more information visit cambridgeppf.org. **Louise Palmer**

Royal British Legion news



ON Sunday 9 June we are taking part in a D Day Celebration in Challis Gardens, Sawston, where there will be a number of stalls. We are also holding a Drumhead Service during the afternoon with music from the Hadstock Silver Band and they will be playing some sounds of the 40s. We shall also be entertained by a troupe of dancers showing off their skills.

Our annual Band Concert will take place in Challis Gardens on Sunday 4 August when the Newmarket Town Band will be entertaining us once again.

We are currently raising funds for our new Standard, so we will be running a Bric-a-Brac stall at the D Day event, we hope that you will find something you want from an assortment of goods. There will also be a similar stall at other events that we are involved in – and we very much look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events during the summer months. **Kevin Swann**

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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