

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

September 2024

Volume 83 No 9

Price 90p

## Summer is a buzzin'



**Stapleford's Wildflowers. See page 21**

*Photograph Stephanie Foote*

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

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# Who's who at St Andrew's

[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://www.standrewstapleford.org)

## Vicar

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

## Curate

Rev Lucinda Howard 07763 477821

## Churchwarden

Alastair MacGregor  
07855 269844

## Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

## Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

## Youthworker

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

## Verger

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 Dr Simon Taylor

THERE'S a joke that goes like this:

Jesus and his friends walk into a restaurant. "Do you have a table for twenty-six, please?" says Jesus. "But there are only thirteen of you" replies the waiter. "Ah, but we are all going to sit on one side," Jesus replies.

I bet you all get it. It's a reference to Leonardo's painting of the Last Supper, of course, an image that is part of our cultural heritage.

Which brings me to the Olympics. The Leonardo connection was in the opening ceremony, directed by Thomas Jolly. There was a scene of actors in highly sexualised clothing staged as the Last Supper. It is true that the tableau turned into another image, apparently of a Dutch Old Master, as Dionysus was revealed from under a big silver salver, but since the organising committee apologised for causing offence to Christians we can take it that the 'not the Last Supper' defence was spurious. My take is that it was intended to offend Christians and to mock Christianity.

Many Christians were indeed offended, including some senior clergy who should have known better than to take the bait. Blasphemy and idolatry were the main gripes, but I don't think either of them is really the issue.

To my mind this was definitely not idolatry. An idol is someone or something worshipped in place of God. No-one, but no-one, was suggesting we worship any part of the opening ceremony. Some people are very keen to hyper-sexualise everything, a sort of quasi-worship of liberalisation I suppose, and there can be a quasi-worship of sport and sports stars too. Sport is great, and our sports stars are often amazing, but God alone is God. Deep down we all know that. The risk of real idolatry over anything in the Olympics is slim.

Not idolatry then, but it probably was blasphemous, that is, speaking sacrilegiously about God. The woman posing scantily clad as a highly sexualised image of Jesus, with a sort of hat-halo, might, I guess, be taken as an adverse comment about God the Son. But it is not the sort of blasphemy we should be too exercised about. There has been worse in recent days as racists have posed as Christians, putting forward their vile beliefs as being part of the will of God. That's blasphemy right there.

So, not idolatry, and pretty inconsequential as blasphemy. But the mocking thing needs a bit more consideration. The artistic point, I think, was to try and make Christianity look old, ludicrous and out of date. The image



was of everyone posing and dressed as if ready for an orgy. This was supposed to be a vision of something to replace Christianity, displacing that familiar Last Supper image with something freer, more diverse, more inclusive, which mocked the profundity and simplicity of the Last Supper. Out goes “this is my body, broken for you; this is my blood, poured out for many”, and in comes a no-limits orgiastic feast.

Did it successfully mock Christianity? Did anyone think the tableau such great satire that they will never consider the claims of Christ again? I doubt it. The failures of Christianity, which are many, are not the failures of Christ. It is not really possible to poke fun at someone who died on the cross. Actually, his opponents tried at the time. Pilate put a notice over the man he was crucifying saying ‘The King of the Jews’. The high-ups watching him die laughed and shouted “He saved others, but he can’t save himself”. All those who had him unjustly killed wanted others to laugh at him, but they failed. So did the Olympics opening ceremony. A selfless one who dies for others is beyond human mockery.

That is not so say that Monsieur Jolly’s underlying artistic complaint lacks validity. Christianity has not been as welcoming and inclusive as it should have been. At St Andrew’s we have tried to put that right, and we are a church where everyone is truly welcome. We share Jolly’s desire for basic human equality, but not the idea that everything humans like to do is good and wholesome. Endless sexualisation, the sexualisation of children, sexual exploitation – these are bad things. Where boundaries lie is worth debating, of course, but that tableau was just not appropriate for family viewing. Jolly’s vision of society is in that sense simply destructive, and we should turn away from it to more profitable things.

Last month I wrote of salvation by grace through faith. Faith in Christ, the one mocked but triumphant, is the only true and lasting hope for each of us. Period. But where that leads, where boundaries lie in what is and is not acceptable to God, is something we have to grapple with, without falling prey to the deliberately irritating Jolly and his friends. As St Paul tells us, once we have received the saving grace of God we have to continue to work out – think about, test, put into action - our own salvation in fear and trembling, for God is at work in us to fulfil his good purposes. Mocking Christ is pointless, doomed to fail. But failing to consider the purposes of God in our lives, now that is a laughable error.

**Every blessing to you all, Simon**

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

1 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Genesis 33.1-20; Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23 <i>Jacob meets Esau again</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Exodus 12.21-27; Matthew 4.23-5.20
8 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATION SERVICE James 2.1-10, 14-17; Mark 7.24-37
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
15 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-38
22 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION James 3.14-4.3, 7-8a; Mark 9.30-37
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Mark 9.30-37
29 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Revelation 12.7-12; John 1.47-51 <i>Heresy! Arianism</i>
4 OCT	5 PM	EVENSONG WITH CLARE COLLEGE CHOIR Obadiah; Luke 6.20-49
6 OCT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE HARVEST FESTIVAL COMMUNION

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

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

## St Andrew's Little Fishes

Birth to Pre-School

Mondays in term time

9.15 to 11am

In the Johnson Hall, Gog Magog Way

Free Play, Crafts, Games, Songs & Stories

Meet new friends over a cup of coffee.

Volunteers welcomed to play, chat and make coffee.

For more information contact Fiona Holliday at

layminister@standrewstapleford.org or 478923



## Deadline for the October Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER**

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

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# Stepping Stones

LIFE can be seen as a series of stepping stones. They may be slippery, rocky, wobbly or uneven. Some prove to be positive, others negative. A leap of faith could be required. Like the over used word 'journey' they are part of life indicating routes to take or try. There are two definitions. The most common relates to raised stones singly or in a row to step on when crossing a stream or muddy area. Another meaning is an action or event helping to make progress towards a designated goal. Either way I enjoyed placing pebbles across miniature garden scenes, later showing pupils ways to make playful paths. Fun deciding who might travel across them; apart from creating a pretty garden or allotment scene around the focal point. The stones appeared as a thread of life; a pulse of direction, trust and hope.

There are stepping stones in the Botanic Gardens. More like rocky slabs that can feel insecure. Footing needs wise judgement, rushing not advisable. Stepping stones mark hurdles and endeavour, ultimately aiming for a better position or career. There is an air of mystery about them. A sense of adventure not without apprehension.

Picturesque Peak District, Dovedale has inviting steps over the River Dove. Now closed due to severe storm damage. The National Trust hope this will change. Once donkeys took people to the tourist attraction. Tarr Steps in Exmoor dates back to the Bronze Age. It looks like a very low sturdy bridge. Impressive.

Reaching targets is important. Crawling, standing, walking, talking, school, teenage to adulthood. Markers to future confidence, steps of maturity, responsibility and ambition. Not forgetting anniversaries and birthdays.

The past is said to be a stepping stone, not a heavy debilitating millstone. Failure or disappointment at times inevitable. Yet over-confidence may impede improvement. Obstacles block paths needing avoidance or negotiating. Determination or resilience requiring special steps of courage. However, dwelling on mistakes is detrimental. Build instead. Calm, considered, efficient small steps achieve. Life means growing through learning.

September. Children begin or continue education. Students start new terms. Fresh work opportunities beckon signifying more stepping stones.. Small beginnings leading optimistically in to the distance. Routes vary as we are encouraged to reach our unique potential. Stepping aside, remember the word by William Henry Davies, 'What is this life if full of care we have no time to stand and stare.' **Judith Lee**

# Explore Faith

## *St Andrew's Youth*

*Ages 11 to 14*

*First Friday in the month, in term time*

*3.30-5.30pm*

*Stapleford Vicarage, CB22 5SY*

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# Stapleford - Nachingwea Link

## Celebrating 43 years partnership with Nachingwea



THE weekend of 19/20 October will see the Link celebrating a 43-year-long partnership with our friends in Nachingwea, Tanzania.

We have lined up two events to mark the occasion.

On Saturday 19 October at 5pm do come and enjoy a concert of light music for all the family in the beauty of St Andrew's Church, when we will be entertained by the Homerton College Music Society and local musicians, followed by refreshments. The concert is free but donations will be welcomed for our latest projects.

On Sunday 20 October at 10.30am in the church, a service of Celebration will be held when it is hoped that local children will join in the singing and details of current and future projects will be announced.

### Judy the Dog – the story continues

MANY of you will remember the story of Judy the Dog, - the first dog to be given prisoner of war status and recipient of the Dickin Medal. She served in the Second World War, ended her life in Nachingwea and is buried there. Her gravestone is shown right.

Money is now being raised by the National Military Working Dogs Memorial UK Charity for a memorial to commemorate the Military Working Dogs, who bravely served their country in both World Wars and subsequent conflicts as in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. The memorial will be situated at the Pet Cemetery near Chester off the A55 in North Wales.

We have just received this photo and news from John Ward, the Chairman of the Trustees, about all the dogs who will be commemorated.

Judy's statue has been completed as you can see from this photo and is at the moment awaiting delivery from the foundry and will appear along with statues of Lucky, Theo and Buster. **The St Andrew's Stapleford-Nachingwea Committee**



# St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

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# Mothers' Union News

IN September, the Rev Jackie Metcalfe (now of Waterbeach) will be coming to conduct our Opening Service on 26 September (2.30pm, Johnson Hall). It will be good to see Jackie again and hear how her new appointment at Waterbeach is going.

The Banner exhibition in the Lady Chapel at Ely Cathedral was very good, and some members attended the Mary Sumner Day service there on Mary Sumner Day, 9 August. The Stapleford banner is shown here, together with the Deanery banner and that of the Ely Diocesan MU.

Stapleford's banner was designed and stitched in 1976 to celebrate the Mothers' Union centenary by Ethel Smith, a longstanding MU member in Stapleford. Ethel was inspired by a TOCH-H design; her husband, Howard, was a prominent member of the TOCH-H. Not only was Ethel a superb seamstress but also an excellent cook – her Yorkshire lardy cakes were famous in the village.

The Great Shelford banner was designed and stitched by Kay Coe and her daughter, Lynda, and shows the MU branches in the Great Shelford Deanery (before it became Granta Deanery). The Branches at that time were the Shelfords, Stapleford, Sawston, Newton, Grantchester and Fowlmere. It depicts 'The Tree of Life'.

The Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union banner was designed by Margo Bulman and embroidered in 1959 at St Margaret's convent, East Grinstead, who were well known for ecclesiastical embroidery. The banner shows the Three Crowns and the arms of the Mothers Union, the escutcheon of the City of Westminster, and uniquely for a lay organisation a medallion of the Mother and Child. **Hilary Street**





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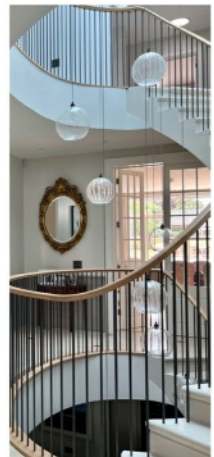
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# Women's Institute



AT our meeting in July which was held on the fourth Thursday of the month in The Pavilion as usual, members were treated to an inspirational talk from our speaker, Miles Nicholas, a well-known local butcher. Miles spoke to us about his stroke which happened six years ago, and his subsequent rehabilitation. Whoever said to Miles that the point you reach in your recovery after 6 weeks is your likely long-term outcome did not account for the courage, determination and effort shown by him as he battled to improve his situation. As a result, Miles has not only learned to speak again but has also, with the help of his daughter, re-entered the butchery business, and his shop at Baythorne End received the Founders Award in the Essex Small Business Awards 2024.

In addition, Miles makes his shop as accessible and comfortable as he can for everyone, and this includes a price list in Braille. Talking to his customers is important to Miles, as he urged our members to encourage everyone, particularly men, to talk about any problems or stress they may be feeling.

During the business section of our meeting Celia Weir thanked members for the many items which we donate each month to the Cambridge food bank where she volunteers each week. Members were also reminded about the dates and details for the forthcoming book and craft groups which many of us attend and enjoy. We were also reminded about the barbecue which was due to take place on the last Sunday of July. What a wonderful day that was! A beautiful garden, delicious food, good company and perfect weather all combined to make the event a great success. Our thanks go to Tony Smith who hosted the barbecue in his lovely garden, and also to Tony Hore, as the men together cheerfully cooked the sausages and beefburgers for us all. Members provided a super array of different salads and desserts.



Our next meeting in September will be our Harvest Supper, when entries for the competition will be a fruit crumble and the winning member will be awarded the Produce Cup. If you would like to find out more about our meetings and everything we do then please look at our website [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com) or phone Sallie Dixon on 843847. We welcome enquiries and you are assured of a warm reception if you visit one of our meetings. **Joyce Dobson**



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[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://www.standrewstapleford.org)  
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# Evensong

The Choir of Clare College  
Cambridge

Friday 4 October 5 pm  
*free - all welcome*



## Children's Society Celebration

The  
Children's  
Society

A VERY special service at St Andrew's is coming up on Sunday 8 September at 10.30am as we celebrate our partnership with The Children's Society (TCS).

TCS is a national charity which works with and for our country's most vulnerable children and young people. In 2016 we became the first church in the UK to enter into a partnership with it. We hold fund raising events to support its work, publicise its campaigns, invite guest speakers and pray for its work. And once a year we hold this celebration service. All invited and all welcome! I look forward to seeing you there! **Simon**

## Manor Mill Northwest Clog Dancers

THE Three Horseshoes were happy to host the dancers for their 40th Anniversary Dance last Monday, having also hosted their 40th anniversary dinner earlier in the year.

Everyone enjoyed a few pints as the sun went down as the ladies entertained the crowd.

Details of the northwest version of Morris Dancing can be found on the English Folk Dance Society's website, efdss.org and search for 'northwest morris'.

**Duncan Kerr**



## Lucky frog in Joscelynes

THE grass snake opened his mouth when photographed and the frog hopped away intact.

**Peter Wenham (18 July)**



*Photo courtesy of David Strutt*



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# The power of the Internet



DURING the early months of 2020 Sallie Dixon gave a series of talks to the WI about its early history including its formation in 1918. These talks were published in shortened form in the *Messenger* which in due course was uploaded to the internet. Scrolling through the internet, a couple of years later, looking for information about his

family home was Rodney Luddington and he came across one of Sallie's articles which mentioned that Baroness de Morpurgo hosted a garden party at Galewood Towers, at which up to 80 ladies attended and we can imagine them walking up the hill dressed in their best frocks, hats and gloves. Galewood was once the home of Rodney's grandfather, and he was immediately curious because he had never heard of this lady and what was she doing in his grandfather's house?

Rodney wrote to Sallie via the *Messenger* asking where her information came from and this started months of correspondence. We haven't pieced together the whole story yet but it seems that the baroness and her husband only lived at Galewood Towers for a short time and Rodney's grandfather then bought the house from the de Morpurgos. There are several branches of the wealthy Morpurgo family who are of Austrian and Italian descent. Rodney's grandfather was Major Adam Rivers Steele who was a career soldier in the 4<sup>th</sup> Hussars, retiring in 1923. Rodney knows that his grandfather lived in Middlefield, the Lutyens house, before buying Galewood Towers from Baron de Morpurgo in 1926.

Major Rivers Steele had a son, Adam John Rivers Steele who, after Sandhurst, was commissioned into the Oxford and Bucks. Lt. Infantry. The family legend is that he was part of the British Expeditionary Force sent to France in 1940 and he was one of 4,000 who volunteered to stay behind and guard the perimeter at Dunkirk, where he was killed on 28 May 1940. His name is on the lychgate of St. Andrews church.

When Major Rivers Steele died in 1932 his grandmother married Col. Peel Yates and she continued to live at Galewood with her new husband until she sold the house in 1949 and bought a house in Girton from Sir Michael Marshall, the owner of the airfield and garage business.

Colonel Peel Yates had two sons. The eldest, David, joined the Army before WW2 and eventually rose to the rank of Lt. General, being the garrison commander in Berlin during the Cold War. His other son, Colin, was a Captain in the Royal Navy and we are still investigating his war record.

**Keith Dixon**

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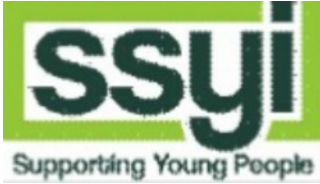
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A variety of breakfast food will be available from cereals, toasts and waffles to traditional and locally sourced 'Full English'.

We will be raising funds for SSYI, a community-based charity formed by local Christians over 25 years ago. Serving the South Cambridgeshire villages of Great and Little Shelford, Stapleford, Sawston, Harston and Duxford, and providing youth activities and clubs open to all local 11-18-year-olds, we are based in the Youth Centre at Great Shelford Memorial Hall, but work with over 250 teenagers each week across the villages. A minimum donation of £10 for your breakfast would be appreciated. Contactless and cash payments accepted.

A great way to start the day!

More details and offers of help:

Jane Greaves (jegreaves2003@yahoo.co.uk) or

David Jones (davidjhjones@btinternet.com)

Keep up to date with details of our events and SSYI activities at: [ssyi.club](http://ssyi.club). **David Jones**

## Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
3 September			✓
10 September	✓	✓	
17 September			✓
24 September	✓	✓	
1 October			✓

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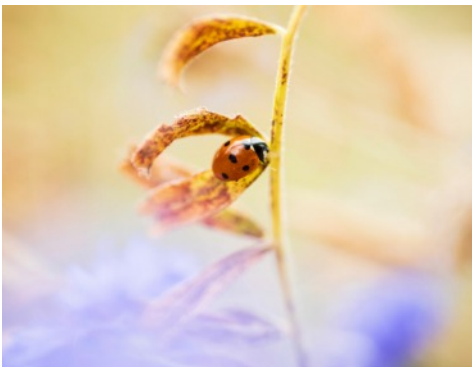
# Stapleford's wildflowers

HELLO! You may have seen the wildflowers in Stapleford this spring and summer - they looked stunning, painting the village with vibrant colours and packed with wildlife! It has been excellent to see so many photos of these areas being posted on Facebook, entered at the Stapleford Weekend, and emailed in – thank you!

Though these areas are now beginning to lose some of their bright hues, they remain a vital haven for wildlife and insects, playing a crucial role in supporting local biodiversity. Their appearance may be changing, but their ecological importance is as strong as ever.

Once the seeds have dropped and wildlife starts to disperse from the areas in the autumn, the areas will be cut and collected so they look tidy, are safe and encourage growth for next year's plants.

**Matthew French:** [mfrench@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mfrench@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk)



*Photographs kindly taken by Stephanie Foote*

# Pauline Davison

1938-2024

MY uncle, Giles Davison, has asked if I could send you the obituary I wrote for my grandmother Pauline which appeared in the Guardian. Here is the text of the final draft which appeared in print:

‘My grandmother Pauline Davison, who has died aged 86 of lung cancer, trained as a social worker after her youngest child started school and worked with children and families, first in Lewisham, south-east London, then in rural Cambridgeshire.

Following a period in the social work training department of Cambridgeshire County Council, in the 1990s she worked for three years in a hospice and then as a social worker at Papworth Hospital. She was one of the first volunteers to be trained for the Cambridge Mediation Service, which helps warring neighbours resolve their disputes.

After retiring from social work in 2000, she committed herself to volunteering in her community in Cambridge: at a charity at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, at her local food bank, and as a trustee at Michaelhouse, a community centre and cafe established by Great St Mary’s Church, where she was a highly valued member of the community, serving as a church warden and leading the pastoral visitors group.

Pauline contributed much to the celebration of literature in Cambridge as co-founder of Something Understood, a modern poetry group, and was active in the TS Eliot Society, playing a key role in maintaining the annual TS Eliot festival at Little Gidding.

She was born in Twickenham, south-west London, to Gladys (nee Mayhew), a seamstress, and Harry Le Brun, a printer and trade unionist. She showed early academic promise and won a scholarship to Westonbirt school in Gloucestershire, from where she then won a second scholarship, to the University of Oxford; she read English Literature and Language at St Anne’s College, as the first member of her family to go to university.

After graduating, she taught English in a secondary school in London before moving to Transvaal, South Africa, in 1963 with her husband, Colin Davison, an Anglican priest, whom she had married in 1960.

Living in the city of Rustenburg, she taught English at a Lutheran seminary and was involved in various community projects, such as a feeding scheme during a drought and setting up a family planning clinic in the local township, all while looking after her growing family.

In 1971, Pauline, Colin and their children were deported and forced to



return to Britain, due to the couple's active opposition to apartheid. The family lived in Lewisham, where Pauline began her career in social work in 1978, moving in 1980 to the village of Stapleford, south of Cambridge, when Colin was appointed vicar to the parish. He died suddenly of a heart attack in 1989.

In her later years, Pauline completed a pilgrimage to the shrine of the apostle James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia.

She is survived by her four children, Matthew, Bridget, Simon and Giles, and seven grandchildren.' **Bella Davison**

## Puzzle Corner

### September Words

All the answers can be made from the letters of SEPTEMBER WORDS

The letters R and S can be used twice

The letter E can be used three times

#### 4-letter words

uterus  
painful  
prophet  
sepulchre

#### 5-letter words

gang  
concise  
light motorcycle  
flowers (or chocolates)

#### 6-letter words

distant  
frozen dessert  
tin and lead alloy  
e.g. Atacama or Gobi

#### 7-letter words

sorrow  
male ruler  
lone defender  
odometers (or trunks)

#### 8-letter words

annoyed  
carved in relief  
Taunton county  
half an academic year

#### 9-letter words

held back  
authorised  
step counter  
expelled people

*Set by Hermes - Answers on page 31*

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# Stapleford Tree Project



WE have now had a number of people sign up to support the project, by undertaking to plant a tree in their garden, help plant trees in the village, or to water newly planted trees on public land. Thank you everyone!

It's prime planting time in October, so if you are thinking about it but wondering if you've got room for a new tree in your garden, we can suggest some smaller ones for you. Ideally you should plant a native tree as it tends to be better for wildlife, but any tree is better than no tree! You can always coppice a tree to keep it low (it will look more like a shrub then – dogwood responds well to this treatment), or even grow one in a pot! If planting in the soil, don't plant too close to your house or to your fences. You can either source your tree yourself, or we can give you a small whip (which will grow faster than a larger specimen and will grow stronger), we should have a variety of species to choose from.

Smaller native trees could include varieties of hawthorn, spindle, cherry, apples and other fruits, yew, varieties of birch, holly, dogwood, blackthorn (sloe), crab apple, and buddleia. Medium ones include field maple, hazel, rowan. Planting an oak, ash or beech is probably beyond the scale of most gardens!

Look at the RHS site for ideas, and see these pictures.

We have also identified some sites around the village where trees could be planted, and are talking to the councils, school, and other landowners.

For more information about the project, see [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project/](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project/). To register your interest fill in this brief form: [forms.gle/zQvJJZC9zanutgCy7](https://forms.gle/zQvJJZC9zanutgCy7). All 'adopt a tree' means is that you keep an eye on one near you in the village and give it a good watering for the first 2 years! **Helen Hale**



*First tree planted in project - Hornbeam*



*Crab Apple*



*Hawthorn berries*

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## If you love music



WOULD you like to learn to play an instrument, play alongside others, or sing in a choir? If so, please come and join in the delights of **Duxford Saturday Workshop** at Duxford village school on Saturday mornings during school term-time. So if you love music, do come along to see what 'Workshop' can offer you.

Workshop holds group tuition sessions, where adults and children from Year Five onwards, can learn to play an instrument.

There is also a 'junior music group' for children from Year One upwards, as well as classes for adult beginners and groups both for 'improvers' and for competent players.

Our members include adults who have always wanted to learn an instrument but haven't had the opportunity, alongside those - so many of us - who "haven't played for donkeys' years..." but would like to get back to playing music again. As well as tuition classes, Workshop also has ensembles ranging from recorders, strings, jazz and wind bands, to folk fiddlers, ukulele players, guitarists, an adults' community choir and a full orchestra - offering loads of opportunities for you to join in.

A registered charity which has now been going for over 50 years, Workshop is all about having fun by learning and performing together in an enjoyable and supportive environment. Indeed, some of our members find it so enjoyable that they have been coming along since the last century! Would you believe that? Honestly, it's true...I'm one of them! So do come and find out why we enjoy Workshop so much - and see what you can achieve!

Incidentally, if you're keen to learn but don't have an instrument of your own, don't panic - we have instruments for rental on very reasonable terms so we'll be happy to help you out if we can.

**Registration for the 2024/25 Workshop year is on Saturday 7 September, from 10-11.30am** at Duxford School, St. John's Street, Duxford, and term begins two weeks later, at 9.30am on Saturday, 21 September.

For more information, please see the Workshop website at: [duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk](http://duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk) **Peter Howarth**

## We're waiting for your story!

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

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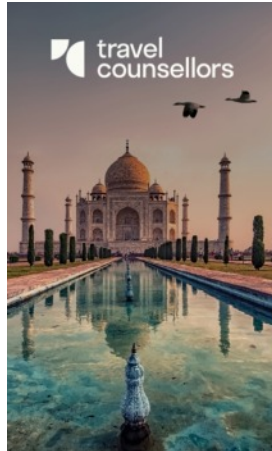


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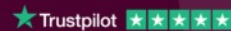
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## 2G3S



**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 come and learn how to look after their bikes and do simple maintenance and repairs, 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). You can also book a time slot at that address.

**South Cambs Organic Gardeners** – for information of upcoming meetings, please contact Helen Harwood, tel 840393, email [helen\\_harwood\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk).

**Repair Café** - the next one is on Saturday 21 September from 2pm to 5pm at Great Shelford Free Church. Don't bin it, repair it! To book in a repair please see the Cambridge Carbon Footprint website. We can accept drop-ins, but you may have to wait a while – you can always indulge in tea and cake! Repairs are free though donations are welcome. We can repair electrical items, but not items with touch screens or e-bikes.

**'Wilding' film** – some of you may have seen this at the Arts Cinema in Cambridge or at Saffron Screen. It is based on the book of that title by Isabella Tree, and has the most beautiful photography of animals, birds and landscapes. She and her husband were farming land in Sussex which was marginal, and it was only vast amounts of fertilisers and pesticides, and the subsidies that kept them going. After being inspired by rewilding projects in the Netherlands, they decided to stop farming and create conditions to allow their land to go back to nature. They have tried to make conditions as near to ancient times as possible, with Exmoor ponies, old cattle breeds, Tamworth pigs, and deer. You may have seen the Konik ponies at Wicken Fen, they are a wild breed too. The herds are managed but roam free. These large herbivores create conditions that increase insect life, butterflies, and birds, and rare species have found their way to their land, such as turtle doves nesting. The couple have 're-wiggled' the river, which has reduced the risk of flooding downstream, even introducing beavers, and over the years have built a successful eco-business there, with visitors, tours, workshops, and so on. For marginal land which cannot be farmed economically or sustainably, this is a wonderful success story for nature.

To get more information about our meetings and living sustainably, see our Facebook page and our website [2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/](http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/).

**Helen Hale**

# Yesteryear

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

1870

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING.** Those services were held on Sunday last. The collections, amounting to £8 2s. 6d., have been remitted to the National Society for the relief of the sick and wounded in the war.

1898

**SAD DEATH.** Of a Child. On Wednesday afternoon, the five-year-old daughter of Mr. Jennings of Cornwall cottage was playing in her father's garden, when by some means her dress became ignited by contact with the flames of a burning heap of garden refuse. Being alone at the time, the unfortunate child commenced to run towards the house – a considerable distance. In spite of every effort to extinguish the flames the little sufferer was terribly burned, and died within four or five hours of the sad occurrence.

1904

**THE NEW VICAR OF STAPLEFORD INSTITUTION AND INDUCTION.** The Rev F W Hawes, late headmaster of Ely Grammar School, was duly instituted and inducted to the living of Stapleford on Wednesday afternoon. In the absence of the bishop of the diocese, Archdeacon Emery conducted the ceremony, and the Rev E C Baldwin (Vicar of Harston) performed the offices of induction. The sermon was preached by the venerable archdeacon. In the course of his remarks he explained the meaning of the ceremony. Although the weather was very inclement, a large congregation attended.

By invitation of the vicar, a tea and reception were afterwards held in the old schoolroom, a large number attending. Archdeacon Emery addressed a few words to the company, and with a short speech from the vicar the proceedings terminated.

1923

**WEDDING.** A pretty and interesting wedding took place at St Andrew's Church on Thursday between Mr Bertie Willis, third son of Mr Walter Willis, and Miss Mabel Barnes, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Barnes of Rampton. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of ivory crepe-de-chine with a veil of orange blossoms and carried a bouquet of white carnations and heather, the gift of the bridegroom. She was attended by three bridesmaids (Miss Clara Barnes's sister and the Mrs Maude and Ena Moore, friends) the former wearing pale blue crepe-de-chine,



and the latter kingfisher blue crepe-de-chine. All wore black crinoline hats and carried bouquets of purple heather and tamaris whilst they also wore gold brooches, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr Fred Willis, elder brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. Mr Dickerson (organist) played the "Wedding March", and the hymns sung were "The Voice that Breathed O'er Eden" and "Love Divine". The happy couple were the recipients of many handsome and useful presents.

1938

**DEATH OF MR EVERS DEN BEAVIS.** Mr Beavis's death occurred on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September at Stapleford. This has resulted in the village losing a highly respected inhabitant. Mr Beavis was landlord of "The Tree" inn for 42 years. The funeral took place at the parish cemetery on Saturday with the vicar, Rev O H Thompson, officiating. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Goat and Son. As well as the family many villagers attended.

## Stapleford Horticultural Society

AFTER our Summer visits, we resume our talks programme in September. We welcome a new speaker, Chris Bamforth Damp, who will tell us about the National Garden Scheme and share his experience of opening his own garden to the public.



The talk will be in the Johnson Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 September, and all are welcome. **John Sherwell**

## Puzzle Corner Answers

### September Words

4-letter: WOMB, SORE, SEER, TOMB

5-letter: POSSE, TERSE, MOPED, ROSES

6-letter: REMOTE, SORBET, PEWTER, DESERT

7-letter: REMORSE, EMPEROR, SWEEPER, SPEEDOS

8-letter: PESTERED, EMBOSSED, SOMERSET, SEMESTER

9-letter: REPRESSED, EMPOWERED, PEDOMETER, DEPORTEES

# The Hiker

The Hiker has a grimaced moan  
When her boots contain a stone.  
Or rubbing on her ankle skin  
Gives pain, but she will not give in.

The Hiker walks a hundred miles,  
For a summer break, she's all smiles.  
The joy of clear mountain tops,  
Views to savour, for now she stops.

She lingers, taking in the scene  
As blue angel valleys are now seen.  
A bolting deer chases on  
Green heather under baking sun.

Ridges, tarns and mountain streams  
Crystal falls, it really seems  
To be as if this natural path  
Has never seen Man's foot on earth.

The hiker takes in the mountain air  
Her lungs are filled, she's just aware  
As a rabbit buck passes by,  
Joy without its white disguise.

What more fulfillment could she feel?  
Just then a majestic osprey reels.  
A super 'Wow!' out on parade,  
The hiker's week has been made. **Peter Dean**

## Sawston Cinema

### Prima Facie (National Theatre Live production)

A ONE-WOMAN play by Suzie Miller and starring Jodie Comer. Tessa is a young, brilliant barrister. She has worked her way up from working class origins to be at the top of her game; defending; cross examining and winning. An unexpected event forces her to confront the lines where the patriarchal power of the law, burden of proof and morals diverge.

Marven Centre, Sawston Village College, New Road, Sawston CB22 3BP  
Tel: 712825. Email: cinema@sawstonvc.org  
Thursday 12 September, 7pm, 131 minutes, £10. **Linda Whitebread**

# Wildlife in the clunch pit

EDWARD Pollard, a naturalist who works with the Trust, has a camera trap set up in the clunch pit on the south side of Magog Down. He recently passed on a selection of images taken during May, and we felt readers might wish to see some of them. **Geoff Hale, Trustee**



*Muntjac, 2 May*



*Badger with cubs outside their sett, 7 May*



*Early morning fox, 9 May*



*Badger out foraging in the early evening, 19 May*

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# Great Shelford Library update



CONGRATULATIONS to all the children who completed this year's Summer Reading Challenge! We hope you enjoyed reading and coming along to events. The awards ceremony is at Great Shelford library on Monday 9

September at 4.30pm. Please come along if you can. We will keep the certificates and medals safe for children who cannot attend the ceremony.

With children heading back to school this month, don't forget that the library is a great place to find books to help with projects. In addition to books, with a library card you can access Britannica Online, on our computers or from home. This amazing online encyclopaedia has information on a vast range of topics, suitable for different age groups and available in different languages. Check our website (see below) or ask in the library for details.

Heading into autumn our regular activities resume, including:

## For Children

**Story and Rhyme Time and Duplo** – Every Tuesday morning at 10.30am. For children aged 0 to 4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

**Lego Club** – Monday 4pm to 5.30pm, fortnightly. No need to book.

**Games Club** – Monday 4pm to 5pm, fortnightly. No need to book.

## For Adults

**Craft & Chat** – Every Friday morning 10.30am to midday. No need to book.

**Tea & Games** – Every Friday afternoon 2pm to 3.30pm. No need to book.

**Engage Talk - The Spinning House** – Caroline Briggs. How Cambridge University locked up its women in private prisons. Wednesday 25 September 2pm to 3.30pm.

A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk.

Pre-book in the library or via our website.

Contact details:

Telephone: 0345 045 5225.

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

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

**Mel Abbiss**, Community Library Assistant, Great Shelford Library

# Flu Vaccinations 2024

THIS year NHS England have informed us **GRANTA** Medical Practices that the routine annual adult flu programme for adults aged 18 years old upwards will start on the 3 October. To ensure you have maximum protection for the flu season you should be vaccinated in October preferably, but certainly by the end of November. Flu numbers start to rise in November and peak in December & January.

However there are 3 groups of people who should be vaccinated early and we encourage you to be vaccinated in one of our September clinics.

## **Those who are pregnant (especially if near due date), because:**

Pregnant women are at higher risk from complications from flu. To protect the baby during pregnancy (for example flu infection increases the risks of the baby being premature or stillborn). To protect the baby in the first few months of life (babies aged under 6 months are at high risk of complications from flu)

## **Children, because:**

The protection from the flu vaccine lasts longer in children. Children tend to be 'super spreaders.' Getting your child vaccinated not only protects your child but also their grandparents, vulnerable parents and will reduce the spread of flu to the wider population.

## **People due to have treatment such as chemotherapy, because:**

If you are due to have treatment that will weaken your immune system, such as chemotherapy, the vaccine given before treatment starts will work better as your immune system is stronger.

## **Flu Clinic dates**

Saturday 28 September – Granta Sawston (see September eligibility above)

Sunday 29 September – Granta Royston Health Centre (see September eligibility above)

Saturday 5 October – Granta Sawston

Saturday 5 October – Granta Linton

Sunday 6 October – Granta Royston Health Centre

Saturday 12 October – Granta Barley

Saturday 12 October – Granta Shelford

Saturday 19 October – Granta Sawston

Saturday 19 October – Granta Linton

Sunday 20 October – Granta Royston Health Centre

Saturday 26 October – Granta Shelford

To book your flu vaccination please call 0300 234 5555 and choose the Granta site of your choice or wait to receive your SMS link via your mobile phone to book your appointment. For further information about the flu vaccination go to [nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine](https://nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine).

**Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**

[cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.grantapatientsservices@nhs.net)

## Royal British Legion



THE Royal British Legion, Sawston & District Branch meets on the last Wednesday evening of each month, with the exception of December. This month we meet on

Wednesday, 25 September at 7pm in the Community Centre, Chapelfield Way, Sawston.

We also hold a Breakfast Club at The Plough, Duxford every month. Our next visit to this excellent hostelry is Saturday, 21 September at 9.30am. A really good breakfast is served for a very reasonable price. We welcome non-members to the Breakfast Club also, so come along and have a natter!

Our Branch became the focal point for RBL matters quite recently. Our intention is to ensure that the vacuum caused by a recent re-organisation in Cambridgeshire, does not impede help to our veterans as a result of this. Therefore, we ask that any veterans in this village and those surrounding Sawston, please make contact with either myself or our Branch Secretary. We ask to be contacted as we are not given final details when personnel leave the services. We open our doors to anyone who may wish to join the RBL and be part of the work we do to assist our veterans, young, old and those in between. It would be lovely to see some of you at our Branch meetings (if you can get to Sawston) or at the Breakfast Club in Duxford.

**John McCarthy**, Branch Chairman

**Ann Barton**, Acting Branch Secretary, Mob: 07898 732307

## 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).

# Stapleford Strollers: Short Walk 26

## The Street: a circular walk from Saxon Street

### To get to start of walk

A COUPLE of months ago, a walk was included in *The Messenger* which started at Woodditton near Newmarket. If you travel to Woodditton and keep on straight ahead, you will come to the next village: Saxon Street. Turn right at the T junction and look for Cheveley Road on the left. Park by the roadside, either on The Street (the main road) or at the start of Cheveley Road itself: CB8 9RW.

### Distance of walk

2.6 miles. This is a largely flat but very pleasant walk, taking in a number of stud farm paddocks. Note: you walk on public footpaths and not across the paddocks, and horses are not guaranteed. Your correspondent has done this walk on a number of occasions and sometimes not seen a single one!

### OS Map

OS Explorer map 210. Use your smart phone app if you have one, the-hug.net if you prefer to run off a free map extract, or use the route map provided.

### Extra Information

Saxon Street, which is very much in 'horse country,' sounds ironically like it might be the name of a horse. However, it is believed to have been named because it originated as an Anglo-Saxon settlement alongside the old Roman Icknield Way. It is within the present-day parish of Woodditton. There is a pub, The Reindeer, but it has very limited opening hours. There is a pub mid-route, The Red Lion in Cheveley; the same village also has a shop. Some of the locals consider themselves to be Suffolk residents but, in fact, the whole of the walk is in Cambridgeshire.

### Route of walk

Start at the point where Cheveley Road meets The Street (as many locals actually call the village). Walk on the right-hand roadside pavement and follow the road until it bends left and then right.

Just before the end of the 30mph zone, go right at a footpath sign and walk along a grassy track, initially between garden fences. This continues, after the fences, with a large paddock to the left and a hedge-line to the right. At the end of the paddock, the grass track swings sharp left. Continue along it, with the paddock on the left and go left at the far end of the



paddock, still keeping it to the left. Keep on until the track comes to a gate just before the road.

Carefully cross the road and carry on ahead (Oak Lane). This is not a busy road, but make use of the roadside verge when necessary. Follow the road into the village of Cheveley. The verge becomes a proper pavement after the first houses.

Keep walking, past The Red Lion and then the village shop. Turn left at a footpath sign next to the British Legion Club and walk along the straight grass track until some outbuildings are reached. Go through the gate on the left at this point and walk ahead on a stud farm access road.

You will see paddocks to the right. Keep on the road and follow it as it swings slightly left through a wide gap in the hedge-line. There are now paddocks to the left. Turn right, keeping on the road and follow it, going through a gate to reach the public road beyond. Cross over, go right and walk along the pavement, to return to your vehicle. **David Barnes**

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



# Open Eco Homes 2024

Start Your Journey to a Greener Home  
Cambridge – 21 September to 20 October



OPEN Eco Homes 2024, now in its 15th year, is set to showcase the future of sustainable living with a focus on all-electric homes. This autumn, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in free expert-led talks and tours of eco-homes across Cambridgeshire, including Histon, Willingham, Stapleford and Great Paxton, and more locations, featuring cutting-edge technologies such as heat pumps, solar PV, batteries, EV charging, and more.

The Open Eco Homes event, organised by Cambridge Carbon Footprint, offers a unique opportunity for individuals to gain insights into making their homes more environmentally friendly, while also considering the economic costs and advantages of such improvements, with early-adopter hosts eager to show you around their eco homes and share the fascinating stories behind them, including their triumphs and setbacks.

“Our hosts this year started their home improvement journeys for a variety of reasons, from improving accessibility, investing to lower bills, wanting greater resilience to future energy shocks, and just wanting to create a greener, healthier home for their family. The majority have reached the same conclusion: it is possible to create your dream home whilst cutting bills and carbon. I’ve been blown away by their enthusiasm to share their stories and what they have learned, to help others feel more confident in taking the step towards a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly home,” says Fran Sutton, Open Eco Homes spokesperson.

This year’s programme will feature a diverse array of technologies aimed at improving home energy efficiency and sustainability in-situ in hosts’



homes. For example, there are several homes with air source heat pumps, which are used for heating and cooling homes more efficiently than traditional systems. Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage systems are also common, allowing homeowners to generate and store their own electricity. Other features in this year's homes include mechanical heat ventilation and recovery systems, advanced insulation, natural materials, draught-proofing, high-performance windows and doors, and rainwater harvesting.

"One of the best things about Open Eco Homes is the diversity of homes and technologies on display. We have hosts offering tours of both new builds and retrofitted homes, demonstrating a range of approaches to achieving lower carbon emissions and energy costs", says Fran.

With nine trailblazing homes opening their doors, there is an opportunity for everyone to find something that interests them. The event will also feature a series of talks, including:

- Low-cost Home Energy Improvements
- Heat Pump Myths - Bean Beanland, founder of the Heat Pump Federation
- How to Use a Heat Pump - A panel of experts and users
- Climate Friendly Gardening - With expert speakers
- Retrofitting Older Homes - A panel of experts

Expert speakers from across the UK will offer fresh insights on topics for anyone interested in sustainable living, whether merely eco-curious or considering a full home retrofit in one of Cambridgeshire's ancient villages and towns.

Eco-home tours and talks are available both in-person and online. All events are free. but advance booking is required. Come along and be inspired to start your journey to a greener home.

### **Feedback from Previous Participants:**

When asked what they liked about the eco-home tour they attended one participant wrote "I liked the detailed information about what materials had been used, and some of the compromises that had to be made."

Another participant noted that they felt more confident about approaching their own project after "being reassured by other people having the same thoughts and challenges but surviving and benefiting from it all."

For more information and to book your place, visit the Cambridge Carbon Footprint website and search for Open Eco Homes.

**Fran Sutton**, Cambridge Carbon Footprint Home Energy Officer  
Fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org, 07713 841391

# Arthur Rank Hospice

## Calling all furry friends and their owners!



ARTHUR Rank Hospice Charity are inviting you to grab your lead and walk 90km in September for Hospice Care. Lead On - The Ultimate Dog Walking Challenge - is back! You have from 1 to 30 September, to see how far you can walk and how much you can raise to support patients and their loved ones in Cambridgeshire. It is free to register, and once you raise £30, your dog will receive their Arthur Rank Hospice Charity bandana, which they can proudly wear on their sponsored walks.

Sign up now at [arhc.org.uk/leadon](http://arhc.org.uk/leadon) or telephone 675888.

## Your VIP invite to Cambridge Colleges!

The Bridge of Sighs and Darwin Garden are just a couple of sights to be seen on this year's Bridge the Gap Charity Walk, raising funds for people supported by Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Romsey Mill. Taking place on Sunday 15 September this family friendly walk is one not to be missed, with six Cambridge Colleges on route. Visit [arhc.org.uk/btg](http://arhc.org.uk/btg) or telephone 675888 to sign up now.



## Want to run in the 2025 TTP Cambridge Half Marathon for Charity?

This year over 50 #TeamArthur runners joined 13,000 runners in the TTP Cambridge Half Marathon, and Arthur Rank Hospice Charity are aiming for more for on Sunday 9 March 2025! They have 60 places which are expected to fill quickly, so please do get in touch to secure yours today. They ask you to commit to raise £350 and there's a registration fee of £24 to pay. Alternatively, if you already have your own place in the event and would like to support the Charity, please do get in touch at [arhc.org.uk/cambridgehalf](http://arhc.org.uk/cambridgehalf). **Virginia Goode, Communications Officer**

## Arthurs Shed

This is a community space offering workshops on a range of activities free of charge to the public, you do not need a connection to us. Our sessions are run by wonderful volunteers and are largely small groups of around 6. Guests are welcome to make a donation but there is no obligation. All bookings can be made at 675777, please ensure those that wish to attend book on! More information and up to date calendars can be found here: [arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed/](http://arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed/).

**Hannah Touhey - Voluntary Services Manager**

# Parish Council Chair's report

## July/August

THIS is a report from the July Parish Council meeting. There was no meeting in August.

\*The overnight working by Rangeford was discussed, and many complaints had been received about noise and light disturbance via Facebook, but few direct to the Parish Council. Further roadworks are planned by UKPN, and the Parish Council will continue to publicise these via Facebook. The Parish Council can only act on comments/complaints sent to the Clerk, so do contact her if you have a comment to make.

\*Some work has been done with the damaged and dangerous hoarding at the Tree Public House, and a temporary refix has been made and Heras fencing erected.

\*A discussion about Cambridge 2050 and the Cambridge Delivery Group is planned to ensure that a full exploration of all the pressures on this area be undertaken to ensure that infrastructure and the most appropriate areas for development are carefully assessed.

\*Councillors agreed to send a letter of support to Ron Bailey MP. He is requesting independent safety testing of lithium batteries for e-bikes and e-scooters, regulation for safe disposal of these batteries, and assessment of the fire risk around their disposal.

\*The renovation of the CCTV for the Pavilion and recreation ground is almost complete. It will be finalised when the Pavilion renovations are completed. Notices have been erected to inform the public that CCTV is in operation. Work continues on the Pavilion renovation project.

\*The wildflower areas have received praise from residents and others. The Orchard and new hedging will be mulched. Work on hedging continues. Ragwort is being removed from the verges.

\*The agreement with Stapleford Tennis Club is almost ready for completion. Lighting issues at the MUGA have been resolved.

\*Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that sponsorship would be sought for Christmas lighting in the village.

\*Thanks were given to the Stapleford Tree Project Group for reinstating, staking and surrounding with gravel the fallen tree by Cox's Close.

\*The next meeting of the Parish Council is 12 September at 7pm in the Pavilion. Members of the public are invited to attend.

The Parish Council has received notice of a consultation which has been launched by the Highways & Transport service at Cambridgeshire County



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Council. This follows proposals for a consultation which were presented to the Council's Highways & Transport Committee in January 2024.

The Active Travel Hierarchy looks to introduce a way of prioritising maintenance activities to better reflect the use of the highway network by walkers, cyclists and other non-motorised traffic. This will support the Council's Active Travel Strategy and its ambition to make walking or cycling the natural choice for shorter journeys, in turn helping to reduce road traffic congestion, improve journey times, and contributing to carbon reduction in the County.

The consultation is open for responses until **Monday 16 September**. The consultation website can be accessed at [consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/active-travel-hierarchy](https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/active-travel-hierarchy). There is a PDF questionnaire available there too. **Gillian Pett**

## Better Ways for Busways



THE Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) appears determined to build CSETS, a 5-mile bus road between Babraham and the Biomedical Campus, and is planning to get approval for the next stage when the GCP Joint Assembly and GCP Board meet on 12 September and 2 October, respectively. If approved, the next stage is to submit plans to government for approval. This will trigger an expensive public inquiry at which Better Ways for Busways (BW4B!) will make the case for an alternative scheme running alongside the A1307, which delivers similar transport and economic benefits but is less environmentally damaging and £100m cheaper. You can support this option by:

- writing to our GCP Councillors (see below), asking them not to approve CSETS but to get on with the alternative, especially as it looks like government doesn't have £160m lying around to pay for CSETS.
- signing the petition.
- donating to the fighting fund.

To do all this and get further information, please go to [cambridgeppf.org/south-east-cambridge-busway](https://cambridgeppf.org/south-east-cambridge-busway) or Better Ways for Busways at [bw4b.org](https://bw4b.org).

The Councillors to write to are:

- [cllr.milnes@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.milnes@scambs.gov.uk) (Cllr Brian Milnes, South Cambs District Council)
- [elisa.meschini@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:elisa.meschini@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) (Cllr Elisa Meschini, Cambs County Council)



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- [nik.johnson@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:nik.johnson@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk) (Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough)
- [Cllr.BridgetSmith@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.BridgetSmith@scamb.gov.uk) (Cllr Bridget Smith, Leader South Cambs District Council.)

Here are some ideas on what to write:

- the alternative provides similar transport and economic benefits, better serves the Biomedical Campus and is £100 million cheaper. It can also be built in stages with benefit at each stage, meaning quicker benefits for public transport and the science campuses.
- the bus road through the countryside will build three bridges over chalk streams and harm habitats of species like water voles. The alternative requires no bridges or harm to chalk streams and their wildlife.
- the bus road through the countryside goes along the slopes of the Gog Magog Hills, harming views and creating parcels of green belt land which will inevitably be subject to future development. The alternative does not.
- the bus road stops are too far from the built-up areas of both Stapleford and Great Shelford so won't be used by a majority of villagers.

**Howard Kettel**, On behalf of BW4B!

## Mick Davies

### New(-ish!) parish councillor profile

I MOVED to Stapleford almost three years ago from the centre of Cambridge.

After a short career as the Silentnight Hippo back in the mid-1980s - my only paid acting job – and various other bits and pieces, I have worked in university and higher education most of my working life, both in the UK and around the world.

As I recently bounced into my sixth decade on the planet, I felt that now was the right time and place to give something back to the community I live in. I also know that one of the secrets for a happy life is a sense of belonging, so I want to support my hard working Parish Council colleagues and fellow residents in making this the case for everybody who lives in Stapleford.

My ambitions as a councillor? I want Stapleford to be a welcoming, stimulating, comfortable, well-resourced and safe community; a well maintained place where everyone feels included and valued, and everybody looks out for each other. I'm proud to serve Stapleford.



**The Gesualdo Six****Saturday 7 September | 7:45pm**

Renaissance music celebrating nature and love; lyrical melodies by Ferrabosco and Gibbons interspersed with new compositions and skilful arrangements of traditional British folk songs from this highly acclaimed vocal group.

**Ivo Neame Quartet****Sunday 8 September | 3:00pm**

Energetic, contemporary jazz from some of the finest UK-based jazz instrumentalists led by pianist Ivo Neame, described as '*one of the most interesting and prominent jazz pianists of his generation*'.

**Larkin Weekend****13 - 15 September**

A weekend of poetry, photography and music dedicated to Philip Larkin, one of Britain's best-loved poets. Our series of events explores his wit and abiding sadness, his world-weary cynicism, his crustiness and his warmth, and his way of making the ordinary seem like something to aspire to.

**Sean Shibe, guitar****Friday 20 September | 7:45pm**

One of the most versatile and innovative guitarists performing today, Sean Shibe makes a welcome return to the Granary with a programme of music from the early 18th century to the present day.

**Sara Dowling Quartet****Saturday 28 September | 7:45pm**

Winner of the 'best vocalist' in the 2019 British Jazz Awards, Sara is consistently praised for her beautifully resonant tone; her music is a vibrant fusion of nostalgic harmonies and American post-bop rhythms of the late 1960s.

# Neighbourhood Plan update

## Nearby parishes take a big step towards adopting their own plans



WORK continues on responding to comments received during our Regulation 14 Consultation earlier this year, and amending our Neighbourhood Plan in the light of them. We are on track to produce the next version of our Plan (known as the Regulation 15 or submission version) in early October for review by Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils. All being well, it will then be submitted to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, which will put it out for Regulation 16 Consultation and arrange its independent examination.

Confused by all these regulations and requirements? Welcome to my world...!

In other neighbourhood planning news, in early August the submission versions of two nearby parishes' Neighbourhood Plans – Pampisford, and Thriplow and Heathfield (combined) – were made available for Regulation 16 Consultation. This is a final opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the Plans, and feedback received during this Consultation will be sent to the independent examiners alongside the Plans themselves. Pampisford and Thriplow & Heathfield are one step ahead of Stapleford & Great Shelford, so you may be interested to see what they have submitted. To do this, go to [scams.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/](https://scams.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/) and look for Pampisford, and Thriplow and Heathfield.

As you would expect, some of the planning policies within each of these Neighbourhood Plans reflect specific circumstances in each of the parishes, but more generally there are clear overlaps in the concerns and aspirations of residents living in the necklace villages of South Cambridgeshire. These include a desire to: ensure that new residential development addresses local housing needs; protect valued sites of biodiversity; and enhance local landscape character.

If successful at examination stage, Pampisford and Thriplow & Heathfield Neighbourhood Plans will proceed to referendum. This is a simple yes/no vote by people on the respective parishes' electoral registers. A 'yes' outcome means that a Neighbourhood Plan can be adopted and sit as an equal alongside the National Planning Policy Framework and Local Plan when decisions on local planning applications are taken. This is the outcome which Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils are looking to achieve for our combined Neighbourhood Plan early in 2025.

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

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# Cambridge Flower Club

2024 is our 70th Anniversary!

VISITORS welcome 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.

General Information: Freda Orgee 891464;  
fredaorgee@gmail.com.

19 September NAFAS Demonstration: Naomi  
Wells – 'Stories'

17 October Workshop by Alison Purnell –  
'Ikebana'

Sian Jones



# Cambridge Cake Creators

AFTER our August break, Cambridge Cake  
Creators will be meeting again on Thursday  
19 September, when our very own Jules will  
be demonstrating how to apply a stencil to a  
cake. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the  
Pavilion, cost: £10pp which includes  
tea/cake.

For more information contact **Vanda  
Butler** on 561053 or email:  
vanda.butler@googlemail.com



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

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# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



## COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)	gillian.pett@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Barbara Ann Kettel	bkettel@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
James Northmore	jnorthmore@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

## CLERK

Belinda Irons 07472 398823 clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk  
Address for correspondence: 14 Crawley End, Chrishall, Nr Royston,  
Herts, SG8 8QL

## SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Peter Fane, 27 London Road, Great Shelford CB22 5DB  
peterfane1@live.co.uk 843861 / 07802 256 861

Will Jackson-Wood  
cllr.jackson-wood@scambs.gov.uk 07873 731597

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Brian Milnes  
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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