

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

November 2024

Volume 83 No 11

Price 90p



**Signs of Autumn on the Magog
Down - Guelder Rose berries**

Photo: Claire Beale

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Rev Lucinda Howard 07763 477821

Churchwarden

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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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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 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

MY goodness the polls are tight. If, like me, you are an avid watcher of election polls, then you will know that the US election is at what the great Sir Alex Ferguson used to call 'squeaky' (Look it up for yourself. This is the vicar's letter in a family magazine.)



Kamala Harris is ahead in national polling, but the Electoral College system means that the result will depend, probably, on seven states. Or maybe just one, Pennsylvania. It is unlikely that either candidate will win overall without winning it. As I write, based on the moving average of the last week of intense polling, Pennsylvania is tied. Not one on which to bet the family fortune, or indeed the future of the world.

As I follow the polls over the last month or so, my impression is that the Harris September surge is fading and Trump is now marginally gaining ground. I hope I am wrong. It was bad enough in 2016 having a misogynist, racist, disablist liar elected to the most powerful post in the world. This time convict Trump shows increasing confusion, overtly fascist leanings and strong support for Putin, which has scary implications for Western Europe and for us. And, for what it is worth, Christians should not be taken in by his opposition to abortion. Christian principles are about freedom under God, repentance and then seeking holiness of life under the ever-forgiving grace of God, not about state-enforced restrictions.

It is all extraordinarily worrying, and so too is the situation in the Middle East, several wars elsewhere and the ongoing effects of climate change. Worry upon worry, and all about things which none of us can alter.

Jesus spoke into our tendency to worry. What he said is part of the Sermon on the Mount. You may know the passage even if you are not a regular churchgoer. It is the one that talks about the lilies of the field and the splendour of Solomon. Picking an example of common worries, Jesus starts talking about clothes. He says:

“Why do you worry about clothes, what you will wear? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?”

Jesus' point is that we all worry about all sorts of things that there is no need to worry about, not just because we have no control over them, but because God does ultimately have control. That is not to say that God directs the armies in Ukraine – he does not – but that whatever mess humanity tries to make and succeeds in making, God will have the final say, whether in the here and now or the hereafter.

Actually, Jesus goes a bit further. He says that the worrying we all suffer from can lead to frenetic activity, trying our best to influence those things we worry about. He tells us to chill a bit, not to go on endlessly chasing. That is, he says, what the pagans do.

“Do not worry, saying ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after these things and your heavenly Father knows you need them.”

Maybe I should stop visiting those websites tracking all the polls! God has got it, and even if the result is not what I would like, so what? You too, with whatever your worries are. Instead of our worries about things we cannot or do not need to affect, Jesus has something else for us to do. Something that became a famous hymn:

“Seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

The Sermon on the Mount is sometimes called a manifesto for living. If you haven’t read it, then really you should. Chapters 5 to 7 of Matthew’s Gospel. If you want a copy, drop me a line. Full of riches. In this bit, Jesus sees us and our worries, big and small. He doesn’t dismiss them, but gently re-prioritises. Mostly there is nothing we can do about them. God knows we have them and he has the world in hand. Our job is today, to see what we can do today for his kingdom, to share the love, the grace and the forgiveness that he has for each of us.

May your worries recede and may you enjoy and share every blessing, Simon

PS: I doubt whether Frank was worry free – none of us are – but he certainly bounced joyfully through life befriending everyone. There will be a time for obituaries, and many years in which we will remember how Frank would welcome everyone to join in the latest bit of fun, but for now, along with a great many of you, we at St Andrew’s mourn the death of our brother in Christ, Frank Jacot, a member of the church for 50 or so years, and extend our most heartfelt condolences to Monica, Sam, Chloë and Frank’s wider family.

St Andrew's Noticeboard

3 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY Deuteronomy 6.1-9; Mark 12.28-34 <i>Not far from the kingdom of God</i>
	6 PM	MEMORIAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SOULS' DAY Revelation 7.9-17; Matthew 5.1-12
4 NOV	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
10 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.45 AM	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE Hebrews 9.24-28; Mark 1.14-20
17 NOV	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Romans 3.9-12, 19-28; Mark 7.14-23 <i>Heresies 4 - Pelagianism</i>
24 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE FOR CHRIST THE KING Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14; John 18.33-37 <i>My kingdom is not of this world</i>
30 NOV	5 PM	EVENING PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S DAY
1 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION & TOY SERVICE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Jeremiah 33.14-16; Luke 21.25-36 <i>Be on guard</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT Joel 3.9-21; John 3.1-17

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

18 OCTOBER – Funeral of Bryan Nunn

25 OCTOBER – Funeral of Frank Jacot

St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

REHEARSALS
THURSDAY 7PM -8PM @
ST ANDREWS CHURCH

Contact - Timothy Kwan
07745 803972
music@standrewstapleford.org



St Andrew
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Deadline for the December Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 8 November**

By email (Word or similar attachment) to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

The *Messenger* reserves the right to edit material. Please include contact postal address with all letters to the Editor.

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The Messenger in extremis



HAVE you seen Tom Hanks in the movie Apollo 13? Slightly bowdlerising what was said on the actual mission, in the film, after the explosion in the orbiter, he says ‘Houston, we have a problem’. And that, essentially, is the plot.

Stapleford, we have a problem. That is the plot, and just as Tom Hanks did in the movie, we need a rescue.

Dear Frank Jacot, who died in September, was the production editor for the *Messenger*. That job entails receiving articles and pictures, dropping them into templates and generally tinkering until there is an acceptable magazine each month, and

then sending it off electronically to the printers. We now need someone who can step into his role. You need to be technologically reasonably adept, not expert, and willing to learn the basics of a new software package. It is not difficult, but there is a learning curve. Ed Rose will provide training. He did the job superbly for a number of years before Frank, and is happy to take up the reins briefly again, and to see someone new safely into post.



But here’s the thing. **Unless we have a committed volunteer by 5 November, willing to receive training on the December edition and supervision in producing January and February, the likelihood is that the *Messenger* will fold.** We are looking into other options, but at this point none of them look viable. The December edition, as matters stand, will be the last. It will not come out in January onwards and we will lose subscribers and advertisers and will not be able to resurrect it. A long and distinguished history will come to an end.

‘Good’, you may say, ‘No more of the vicar’s rants.’

Maybe so, but we will all miss the local journalism, the easy info on what is coming up in the village, the lovely pics of local events, the extremely useful small ads and more.

Anyone willing? Contact me, Simon Taylor, on simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com or 07970 716163.



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Memorial Evensong *for All Souls'*

Sunday 3 November 6 pm
*come to remember those
you have loved & lost*

Sad news

MANY of you will know by now that our Production Editor, Frank Jacot, collapsed and died suddenly on 28 September. Shocking and very sad news for his family and friends. Frank set up the pages for the *Messenger* each month, so will be sorely missed for that role, and for the news stories and enthusiasm he brought to the magazine. **Messenger Team**

Waiting

MUCH of my time is spent waiting for buses or trains. Great when they are on schedule but often they are late, out of service or simply don't appear. Patience is tested. Time wasted. When people are stuck waiting there is a common bond, like being in a club. Gossip, news and information is shared. Rather like therapy, stress and anxiety for a while released. Every day we experience some form of waiting. Not necessarily recognised it creeps up nudging us to react. Will we choose to welcome or push it away?



We have heard cries of "wait a minute." A request to be patient, hang on until response can be made. Jumping to attention is not always possible. Learning begins in childhood. "Are we there yet?" words from youngsters out for the day or going on holiday. It can cause irritation particularly when repeated. Concentration on driving falters. Now technology makes journeys quieter. Shame in a way as observation of outdoors plays little part in the travelling experience.

Schools, colleges and universities have begun new terms. Exam result waiting over. Now taking time to understand tutors, work expected and make friends. Students need to learn new skills. 'Ping' microwave meals are quick. More time and effort will provide greater benefit. Just more waiting.

Recognising birthdays and anniversaries remains important. Emails and texts are speedy. Waiting and collecting post from the doorstep can still thrill, more personal but expensive. Sales can excite. What about queues though? Yet the annual proms are well attended, waiting part of the event.

Appointments need making, planning and preparing. Hospital, dentist, optometrist, audiology. Time consuming, often worrying. There is hope that

cancellations even at the eleventh hour will not happen. Many suffer through delays whilst health declines. Waiting difficult when diagnosis and support is missing. There are occasions of sadness. Waiting unbearable. Hollow emptiness, isolation and loneliness taking hold. Heartache. It is cold, hard, debilitating. Somehow with help we hold on. Life takes another form.

The church has times of waiting. Lent leads to Easter and Advent to Christmas. Significant weeks.

I conclude with a well-known phrase apologising that it is not politically correct. "Time waits for no man." **Judith Lee**

Mothers' Union toiletries collection



STAPLEFORD Mothers' Union is having its annual toiletries collection for the Cambridge Women's Refuge from 17 November to 1 December. There

will be a box in the church porch where you can leave simple toiletries – such as toothpaste, soap, tissues – to be gathered up for the MU Outreach Officer to take to the Refuge. If you can't take to the church porch then I will take in at 13 Collier Way.

This initiative is in aid of the Campaign against Gender-based Violence, which the Mothers' Union supports. Thank you all for your generosity in previous years – all goods are very welcome at the Refuge. **Hilary Street**

Supporting the Red Hen project

THIS is a long-distance heads-up for an event at St Andrew's on Sunday 1 December – long-distance because if we leave it to the December edition of the *Messenger* it may get missed.

Many of you will know about the Red Hen project, a wonderful small local charity working with schools in North Cambridge, helping disadvantaged children with all sorts of projects and support services. Lesley Ford, who lives in Stapleford, is chair of the Trustees. This year St Andrew's is supporting the project at our 'Toy Services' on Sunday 1 December. At our 10.30am service we will be receiving donations of new toys, books and games for the charity to distribute as Christmas presents to youngsters who might otherwise go without. I have to stress the 'new' please, as these are for individual presents, not for use in a community centre.

Please come along and donate! I know that it is much appreciated.

Simon Taylor

Mothers' Union



IN November, our meeting is on 28 November (usual time 2.30pm and venue, Johnson Hall)

where I'll give a talk on 'Saint Etheldreda: Queen, Abbess and Saint'. The 1350th anniversary of her founding the monastery at Ely was celebrated last year.

The new Worldwide President for the new Triennium has been announced – Kathleen Snow of Canada (replacing Sheren Harper of Guyana). Kathleen (photo right) has served for several years on the Zonal Trustee Board for America, and in addition has been a volunteer facilitator for the worldwide parenting and consultation programme (which benefited 200,000 MU members round the world). She's also been Chair of the MU Development Committee, a transformational literacy initiative for women around the world. **Hilary Street**





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Nachingwea
Stapleford

Join friends and families for a fundraising Christmas tea at the Pavilion on Stapleford Rec, in support of education and health projects in the village of Nachingwea, Tanzania.

Choose from a delicious selection of sandwiches, scones and cakes.

With stalls selling gifts, plants, Christmas cards and homemade jams and chutneys.

For more information please email:
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Christmas tea at the Pavilion

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Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10 November
10.45 am

We shall remember them

Stapleford - Nachingwea Link



THE uniforms for the Special Needs pupils have arrived! This year, thanks to your generosity, we have been able to support not only children in the primary school but also youngsters now at secondary school who are reluctant to attend if they don't have the correct uniform. These uniforms are made in Nachingwea and presented at a special ceremony with the parents. **St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee**





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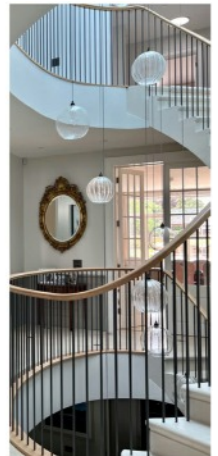
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Women's Institute



AT our meeting in October, everyone appreciated the harvest supper of lasagne, salad and garlic bread prepared by the committee. Fruit crumbles had been submitted by members as entries for the produce cup and these provided our delicious dessert. The tables were beautifully decorated by Amanda Boote and Wendy Gibson. Tony Smith, who hosts our annual summer barbecue in his garden, was invited to judge the crumbles, a task which he thoroughly enjoyed, and Pat Hughes was the recipient of the award. After the meal there was a sale of jewellery, perfume and candles, organised by Celia Weir, in aid of the Cambridge Foodbank. Members continue to support the Foodbank by donating one item each month at our meeting. These donations are very much valued as the demand on such services grows.

Following the meal the business section of the evening took place and again the number and variety of outings, activities and events on offer by our own group and the Cambridgeshire Federation were highlighted. There really does seem to be something for everybody.

If you would like to learn more about the village group then please look at staplefordwi.weebly.com or speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847. We meet at the Pavilion on the fourth Thursday of each month (excluding December) and you are most welcome to attend a meeting as a visitor where you will be warmly welcomed.

Our final meeting of 2024 in November will be a craft and social evening. **Joyce Dobson**



Tony Smith presenting Pat Hughes with the Produce Cup

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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IN MEMORY OF FRANK JACOT

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Stapleford Christmas lighting

MY name is Matthew French and as some of you may know from articles in the *Messenger*, I officially joined Stapleford Parish Council in April this year and set a few goals for the community.

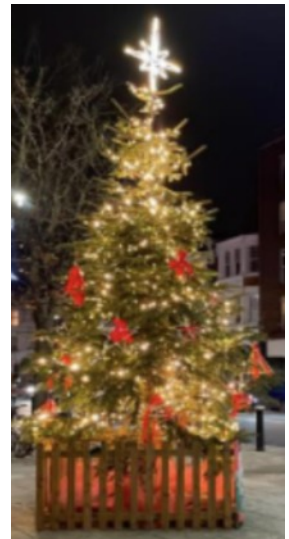
First, a quick update on the wildflowers, which were planted last autumn. These have now been cut and collected in preparation for next year. Some of the cuttings have been left in a corner of the recreation ground to provide a habitat for hedgehogs and other wildlife over the winter. The plants are already starting to germinate for the next season, and the area has been fenced off to protect the new growth.



Photo: Stephanie Foote

A project I've been working on over the last few months is Christmas lighting for Stapleford village, which I presented at the Parish Council meeting in July. After months of planning and discussions with local authorities, nearby households, and receiving feedback from residents, I'm thrilled to announce that the proposal was agreed by majority at the October Parish Council meeting. This means we'll have two beautiful Christmas displays in Stapleford this year! I believe these displays will not only brighten up the village but also bring some festive joy.

The first is a stunning real Christmas tree, locally and sustainably grown supporting British farmers, which will be placed near the Spar shop. It's set to be installed at the end of November, with the lighting on 27 November - so keep your eyes peeled! The second, is the lighting up of the magnificent cherry tree on Bar Lane/Gog Magog Way, which, according to feedback from the Stapleford Tree Project, is one of the village's favourite trees from a recent survey. Given its central location in the village and proximity to Stapleford Community Primary School, this will be an exciting festive addition to look forward to! Both displays will use energy-efficient LED lights to keep running costs minimal and minimise energy usage. **Matthew French**





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Music Moments concerts

COME and join us for an hour of music performed by local musicians at the first of what we hope will be a series of 'Music Moments' Concerts, on **Saturday 16 November** from **6pm to 7pm**.

Looking around the Stapleford community it is clear there is a lot of talent for music. There is something truly wonderful about getting together to share in the joy of music making, and in this concert series we hope to celebrate our local musicians and share this joy with the community. If you would like to perform in any future concerts please sign up at forms.gle/zL28nQen4UdoC2GD8 or scan the QR code below.

For this first concert, we will have a range of music, from a wind quintet to a Beethoven instrumental trio and piano duets. And although the pews may not be quite as comfy as a sofa, we're hoping to bring an informal, living-room concert feel, with wine and nibbles to enjoy alongside the music.

Entry is free, with a retiring collection to raise money for the music at St Andrew's. In particular, we would like to raise funds to help fund a junior organ scholarship to support aspiring organists.



Sadly, we lost a very talented and enthusiastic musician, Frank Jacot, recently. Having been part of St Andrew's choir for 40 years, and regularly playing his clarinet for services and concerts, he was looking forward to performing in this concert. We hope to celebrate his contribution to music at St Andrew's by holding this concert in memory of him. **Elizabeth Worster**



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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 on drbikestapleford@gmail.com. You can also book a time slot at that address.

We have a busy timetable this month. Hope you can attend at least one event!

Transport Evening – this had to be cancelled in June, but has been rescheduled for Monday 11 November, 8pm at Cox’s Close in Stapleford. The topic is ‘Perspectives on the Future of Personal Transport’. If your next car is likely to be an electric car this discussion is for you. We aim to cover a number of perspectives, from the practical, the local, how green the electrical vehicle revolution might be, relevant government policy, and, if time, some of the geopolitical implications.

Film night - we are showing the film ‘Fugolburna’ on Monday 18 November, jointly with South Cambs Organic Gardening group. It will be at Cox’s Close at 7pm. David Cottee and Nigel Kinnings, who belong to Fulbourn Forum and who made this beautiful film, will be present to answer questions. £2 to attend, email Helen Harwood at helensshelfordhistory@gmail.com or ring 840393 to book your place (you can also just turn up on the night).

If you enjoyed ‘Pure Clean Water’ you will be interested in this film: ‘Fugolburna’, the Anglo-Saxon name for Fulbourn, is a documentary film produced by Fulbourn Forum which is a call to protect and restore the area’s iconic chalk streams, currently in crisis. It also celebrates the beautiful Fulbourn Fen Nature Reserve and beyond, and shows the efforts made by the local community and environmental groups to support nature recovery, and to maintain and improve the health of local ecosystems.

If you miss our showing, it is also being shown at Storey’s Field in Eddington on 28 November, more information and booking on the Transition Cambridge website.

Book Club - next date is Tuesday 19 November, the book is ‘Techno Feudalism – What Killed Capitalism’ by Yanis Varoufakis. 8pm at the Three Horseshoes, Stapleford.



Evensong with the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge on 4 October was an uplifting evening for a packed church. Many thanks to all who made the evening possible and especially to the Choir themselves. (Photo: Martin Ginger)



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

Repair Café – the next one is on Saturday 23 November at St Mary’s Community Hall, Church Lane, Sawston CB22 3JR, from 2pm to 5pm. You can book in a repair on the Cambridge Carbon Footprint website.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our quarterly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live more sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/. **Helen Hale**

Puzzle corner

4 x 4

Identify the four groups of four clues and the connections between the clues in each group

COMMON	SECRETS	BIRTH	PRINCE
PHOENIX	GABRIELLE	FIRE	LINCOLN
CHER	HALLOWS	SHAGGY	AUSTIN
AZKABAN	DOVER	STONE	MARKET

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 35

Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
5 November	✓	✓	
12 November			✓
19 November	✓	✓	
26 November			✓
3 December	✓	✓	

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Granta Medical Practices

DURING winter, services such as GP surgeries and hospitals experience increased patient demand, mainly due to cold weather and peaks of common infections and ailments.

Between us all, we can help alleviate some of the demand by using alternative health services for those more minor conditions.

A number of pharmacies offer an extended service called **Community Pharmacy Consultation Service (CPCS)**, where they can review and treat a number of minor illnesses and ailments. You can contact your local pharmacy directly or our reception teams can arrange a referral for you. If you are calling us with a minor illness or ailment, our reception teams may also signpost you to CPCS in the first instance.

There are many conditions covered by CPCS, including (but not limited to) generalised pain and swelling, sore throats, bites and stings, headaches, constipation and diarrhoea, colds and flu, mouth ulcers, tiredness, and vomiting.

Additionally, pharmacists are able to offer treatment and prescribe medication for some conditions without you needing to see your GP. This is called **Pharmacy First**. Conditions that can be treated and prescribed for include:

- Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- Infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- Shingles (aged 18 and over)
- Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- Sore throat (aged 5 years and over)
- Urinary tract infections or UTIs (women aged 16 to 64 years)

If you contact us with an eye problem, our reception teams may signpost you to the **Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS)**. MECS is made up of a team of eye specialists who treat non-emergency eye conditions that do not need hospital attention. Conditions covered include acute red eyes, acute irritated or inflamed eyes, sticky discharge or acute watery eyes, in-growing eyelashes, foreign bodies in the eye and recently occurring flashes or floaters.

If you require any further information about any of the above services please do not hesitate to speak to your local pharmacy, our reception teams or email us on cpicb.grantapatientservices@nhs.net.

We wish you all a healthy and safe November, **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 129

Another walk on Quy Fen

To get the start of the walk

1. Either go up the M11 and then turn right on to the A14 heading towards Newmarket. Turn off left at the Fen Ditton junction (the first junction after the A10). Go left towards Horningsea, drive through the village and then look for the large unpaved parking area on the right, not far after the end of the village. The road bends left at this point. Or,
2. Cut across past Tesco at Fulbourn, turn right alongside the airport and then left at the roundabout, heading into Cambridge via Newmarket Road. Turn right at the fourth set of traffic lights, for Fen Ditton; keep on ahead until the A14 is crossed. Then go through Horningsea and turn into the parking area on the right, not far after the end of the village.

Length of walk

3.62 miles. It can be very easily extended or shortened (see route map) because Quy Fen has many paths, but this is a nice, flat, mid-length walk. It can get dodgy underfoot in places after prolonged rain, but this route makes the most of reasonably solid surfaces.

OS Map

OS Explorer map 226. Alternatively, use your phone app, go to the-hug.net for a free map extract or use the route map provided.

Extra Information

Quy Fen is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Most of it is common land and you will find livestock grazing on it. It is curious because it is not visible from the road, being completely surrounded by arable fields. There are several large ponds in the Fen, which are former coprolite pits, dug in the mid 19C. Coprolite was used to make fertilisers and, strictly speaking, is dinosaur poo but that found on Quy Fen was formed under the sea back in prehistoric times and is the remains of marine molluscs. The simple memorial on the Fen, to William Ison, struck by lightning and killed in 1873 is very evocative. He was haymaking at the time.

Route of walk

Still in the parking area, walk in the Horningsea direction for a few yards/metres parallel with the field edge, then go left at the end of the field and follow a path that, shortly, crosses a footbridge.

Turn left almost immediately afterwards when another path is met and keep walking, straight ahead, for about a mile. At one point, the route

passes through a hedge gap and then crosses a cropped field. When a large field-side ditch is crossed (footpath signs here) keep walking ahead in the direction of Quy.

The track passes Allicky Farm. Turn right on to another track into the farmyard and follow this, which quickly becomes a tarmacked road until, when some buildings are reached on the left, go left along the track next to those buildings. This is an old railway line, and the first building is the former Stow-cum-Quy station. Keep on ahead until some trees are reached. Here, a prominent grass track to the left will be seen. Turn left on to it and follow it until the point where it bends left. Turn right, here, at a footpath sign pointing right and walk on another track. At the end of this is a metal gate, opening on to Quy Fen.

Beyond the gate, do not go right, but aim straight ahead, walking towards a rather tall hedge/tree-line in the middle of the Fen. (William Ison's 'milestone' memorial can be seen if you look slightly right.) The hedge-line guards the left hand side of an extensive former coprolite pit, now a pond.

Walk along the left hand edge of the pond until the far end, then go through the metal gate in front of you. Initially, the path beyond is grassy, but it soon becomes more solid-surfaced. Follow it all the way back to the car parking area, ignoring any paths heading left. **David Barnes**

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



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Memories of 1930s Stapleford



BARBARA Asprey left the village school in 1939, and while driving to Cambridge 50 years later she persuaded her husband to divert into Stapleford for a trip down memory lane. Barbara's parents were Stanley and Dorothy Smith who owned the post office and shop, once the hub of village life. After her visit she wrote six articles which were published in

Cambridgeshire Life in 1991. These anecdotes are taken from one of them.

"As we turned into Bar Lane, I saw that Edgar Baines' dairy on the corner had been replaced by new houses. The school was still there but much bigger than in my days when the school was just one large room with two classes. The headteacher, Miss Elsdon, lived in the schoolhouse and taught the older children at one end of the room while Mrs. Hardy taught the infant class at the other end. Heating in winter was provided by two large tortoise stoves. If you sat too near you choked on coke fumes, and too far away and undernourished you suffered from chilblains. Looking at the well-cared for school, I remembered that we hung our coats in the cold, damp passage which separated Miss Elsdon's house from the school. The lavatories were outside. Wooden seats built over large buckets in smelly brick-built cubicles. We stretched our bladders to breaking point to avoid using them."

There was no mains drainage for the school or in many of the houses in those days.

"Returning back down Bar Lane I remembered Edgar Baines delivering milk from his dairy twice a day in churns, foaming and still warm from the cow's udders. Jugs were filled at the kitchen door and covered with bead edged netting before going into the larder."

In the 1930s several small shops catered for most needs - two general stores, a post office, a haberdashery, three pubs and the blacksmith's, all provided a meeting place for a good gossip.

"Fish was delivered on Fridays and varied with the seasons. When mother was feeling affluent, we had succulent, oily halibut. At other times fat plaice, herrings and sprats straight from the North Sea. The very best for us children was Baldries Aerated Mineral Water with delights such as Tizer the Appetiser and Dandelion and Burdock.

"Donkey White's vanished from Stapleford during my childhood. It was the very best shop in the village. Mr. White with his long white beard and flowing white hair did local haulage work with his donkey and trap. Hence

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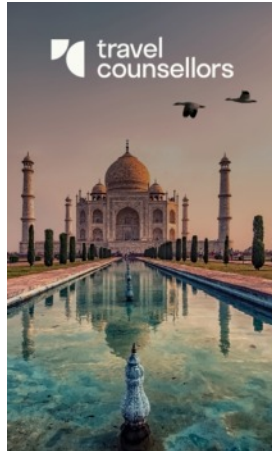


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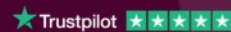
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his name Donkey White. Mrs. White looked after the tiny shop below street level. She was always dressed in deepest black and wore mittens which needed constant laundering as she sold paraffin and luscious sweets in the same shop.

“Saturday morning was the day for spending pocket money. Preferably a penny, certainly no more than two pence as a portion of pocket money had to be set aside for the National Savings Bank. Jaw-stretching gob stoppers which changed colour as determined sucking reduced their size. Acid drops were particularly good when finally bitten through to their sherbert centres. Liquorice sherbets shared the front of the tiny counter with liquorice bootlaces at two bundles for a penny. Decisions made and money spent, we returned home to ruin our teeth.” **Keith Dixon**

Little Shelford Memorial Hall film evening

THERE will be a Memorial Hall film evening with a showing of *Wicked Little Letters* on Saturday 23 November. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start with a break for supper of pizza and salad.

Wicked Little Letters is a 2023 British black comedy mystery film which stars Olivia Colman, Jessie Buckley and Timothy Spall. Based on a true scandal, it follows an investigation into the anonymous author of numerous crudely insulting letters sent to the residents of the seaside town of Littlehampton.

Tickets (£15 per person) are available from Sarah Coppendale (842498) coppendales@btinternet.com and Diana Haines (841415) dianahaines42@icloud.com

Please book by Wednesday 20 November so that sufficient food can be ordered. **Sarah Coppendale**

SAVE the date! Seniors' tea party

ON Friday 20 December, in Great Shelford Memorial Hall, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

Some fun time, with eats and quiz and activities. Organised by Rosey Feuell, LLM Gt Shelford St Mary, and others. Please book by 11 December on 213305 or roseyleaf@talktalk.net if you would like to attend or help.

In November I will be recruiting helpers from any group in our villages!
Rosey Feuell

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EXTENSIONS CONVERSIONS RENOVATIONS ALTERATIONS

Yesteryear

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

1823

CONVICTED. On Friday 1st, Simeon Warters, the collector of tolls at the Stapleford gate, was convicted, on his own confession, with having on Sunday, 5th October last, demanded and taken from Dr. Chafy the sum of one shilling and six pence as the toll for his carriage, the said Dr. Chafy then claiming an exemption from the payment of the said toll, and informing the collector that he had been officiating as curate at Sawston. The collector was fined in the mitigated penalty of £3 and costs, which he instantly paid. Half the penalty will be given to the Hospital, and the other half goes to the treasurer of the road. On the same day, the said collector was also convicted for having on Sunday the 26th October last, demanded and taken toll of the Rev. John Hind, of Sidney College who then also claimed exemption for going to officiate as curate at Sawston; fined the mitigated penalty of £2 and costs, to be disposed of as the above.

1873

PENNY READINGS. The monotony of this place was relieved on Friday, the 31st ult., by an entertainment of readings, recitations and music, which was held in the school-room. Those present were indebted to H. Collier, Esq., for having passed a very pleasant evening. That gentleman not only gave some excellent recitations, but introduced other members of the University, who by the variety of the pieces read embracing the pathetic scene of the "Deathbed of Little Nell", the comic characters of "Mrs Gamp" and "Betsy Prig", must have suited the taste of all present. We should not omit mentioning the recitations of Mr. Collier, which were given in such a manner as to elicit heart applause. The musical part of the programme was presided over by C. H. H. Stewart, Esq., whose singing, as well as that of Mrs. Collier, was thoroughly appreciated. The proceeds were kindly handed over by Mr. Collier and his friends to the fund for the enlargement of the Stapleford school-room. On the same day, by the kindness and liberality of a few members of the congregation, the services of the church choir were recognised by inviting them to partake of a substantial tea in the school-room which, thanks to the ladies, was well served, and by the recipients undoubtedly enjoyed.

1921

WI DANCE. A splendidly organised dance arranged by the president of

Stapleford WI, Mrs Gray, in aid of the fund for the building of an annex to the Institute, took place in the Council Schoolroom on Friday. There was an attendance of over 60. The room was tastefully decorated and excellent refreshments were undertaken by the Institute committee. The dancing which was much enjoyed, consisted of waltzes, lancers, etc. and many novelties including "Rosetta", a one-step, a waltz "sheet dance" and a foxtrot. Splendid music for the dancing was provided by Max Fuller (piano) and George Salmon (violin). Mr Ford acted as MC and credit is due to Mr and Mrs Gray who worked so hard to make it a success.

1930

EARL HAIG'S FUND. The collections in Stapleford for Poppy Day effort for Earl Haig Fund amounted to £15 13s 0d, £3 5s 6d more than last year. This sum includes the church collection of £2 17s 3d. Mrs Jarratt and Mrs L Matlock, Mrs L Miller, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Harper, Mrs A Worland, Miss Elsdon and the school children were the collectors.

1969

Parking outside Church. "Mr Hall reported that this problem would be resolved by the Vicar announcing in Church and publishing in the magazine a request that parishioners refrain from parking along the stretch of Mingle Lane bordered by the wooden railings when attending Church". (*From the Parish Council Minutes*)

St Andrew's Little Fishes

Birth to Pre-School

Mondays in term time

9.15 to 11am

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Meet new friends over a cup of coffee.

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For more information contact Fiona Holliday at

layminister@standrewstapleford.org or 478923





Stapleford Twinning Association

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14 November

Cox's Close Community Centre

7.30pm

Open to all (members and anyone interested in learning more – you don't have to speak French!)

Come along and enjoy a 'welcome' glass of Vouvray sparkling wine and complimentary puddings following the meeting.

Puzzle Corner answers

COMMON, BIRTH, FIRE, MARKET – can all be followed by "PLACE" to make a word

SECRETS, HALLOWS, AZKABAN, STONE – the final words of Harry Potter book titles

PRINCE, GABRIELLE, CHER, SHAGGY – solo artists who had UK #1 singles in the 1990s

PHOENIX, LINCOLN, AUSTIN, DOVER – US state capitals



The poster features a central text area framed by a decorative wreath of holly leaves and berries. At the top center is a circular logo with a windmill. The text reads: 'STAPLEFORD WEEKEND WINTER QUIZ', '29th November', '7:00PM - 10:00PM', 'Catering by The Modern Table', 'tickets available at: www.staplefordweekend.com', and 'Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion'. A golden bell with a red ribbon is at the bottom center.

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29th November

7:00PM - 10:00PM

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Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion

Tickets available now. Quiz and two course meal £18. Quiz teams max 8, tickets available on our website, tickets are limited so buy early!

Tree project



MORE people have now signed up to support the project, by undertaking to plant a tree in their garden, helping plant trees in the village on public land, or watering those newly planted trees. Thank you everyone! We have been meeting with Highways to discuss where we can put trees near roads. If there is an area of public land near you that you think would benefit from a tree being planted there, let us know at sophiberridge@gmail.com. We have also had some feedback from residents about their favourite tree(s) in the village, which is useful to know. They are trees that we really want to protect for future generations.

It's prime planting time, so do consider if you can possibly plant a new tree on your own land. We could give you a small whip, or you can source a

tree yourself. If you hurry you can just avail yourself of the offer at Scotsdales of £10 off any tree over £50, till the end of October. Sounds a bargain to gain shade, sound absorption, wind protection, screening from ugly views, help for wildlife... Let us know if you plant a tree, and even send us a photo of it!

For more information about the project, see staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project/. You have probably received a leaflet through your letterbox.

To register your interest, fill in the form on the leaflet or online at forms.gle/zQvJJZC9zanutgCy7. Don't fear you are overcommitting - all 'adopt a tree' means is that you keep an eye on one near you in the village and give it a good regular watering in dry weather for the first two years!

Helen Hale



King's College Chapel



How this iconic Cambridge landmark came to be

A talk by Paul Shakeshaft

At the Pavilion

Tuesday 10 December at 7.45pm

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Ant Law & Brigitte Beraha
Sunday 10 November | 3:00pm

Much admired for his innovation, award-winning guitarist Ant Law joins forces with Brigitte Beraha, one of the leading vocal talents on the UK jazz scene. They perform their favourite standards plus original songs from their new album, described as warm, intimate & spellbinding.



Jason Rebello Trio
Friday 15 November | 7:45pm

A welcome return to the Granary from the celebrated jazz pianist, whose music is renowned for its invention and melodic touch, blending jazz, Latin & soul. Rebello is joined by Orlando Le Fleming on bass and drummer James Maddren.



Martin Roscoe, piano
Saturday 16 November | 7:45pm

Music by Beethoven, Schubert, Ireland and Debussy from one of the UK's best loved pianists, with an extraordinary performing and recording career spanning over five decades.



Elias Quartet
Friday 29 November | 7:45pm

The acclaimed Elias String Quartet have quickly established themselves as one of the most intense and vibrant quartets of their generation. They bring music by Schumann, Beamish and Mendelssohn to the Granary.



Winter Fuel Payment, the cost of living and rural communities



CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough recognises that our rural communities are facing a disproportionate impact from the wider economic crisis. We have expanded the Cost-of-Living support page on our website to include additional resources which may be of interest to those affected by the loss of the Winter Fuel Payment.

Almost a fifth of England's population live in rural or coastal communities. Although countryside residents report higher feeling of wellbeing than their urban equivalents, in many ways they are disadvantaged. For a long time, rural authorities have received less per head than urban authorities, despite it costing more to deliver the same services in rural areas. In general, rural populations are older, in poorer health, and receive a lower level of support from health and social care services. There are fewer dentists and GPs within reasonable travel distance, worse public transport, lower levels of broadband and network access, and more energy-inefficient detached, pre-1919 and off-the-gas-grid homes.

In July, the Government announced that future Winter Fuel Payments would only be made to those in England and Wales on low incomes who receive Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits [the Scottish government is doing the same]. This means that more than 10 million pensioners will no longer receive the payment designed to help with the cost of adequate heating.

At the same time, effective from 1 October, the energy price cap for a typical household that uses gas and electricity and pays by Direct Debit will go up from £1,568 to £1,717 per year. This increase of around 10% will add about £12 a month to an average bill. The only good news, for some, is that the cost of domestic heating oil has fallen from around 81p per litre in October 2023 to around 60p per litre on 1 October 2024 (boilerjuice.com/heating-oil-prices/), but prices are notoriously volatile.

What has not been taken into consideration at all is that not only do rural consumers have to afford the high cost of oil, bottled gas, coal or smokeless fuel, but that they have to pay in a single advance payment. The pension increases coming into effect in April 2025 will be delivered in small payments in arrears, so they will not help in the slightest this winter.

In 2022 a new Cost-of-Living support page on our website (cprecams.org.uk/cost-of-living-support.html) signposted resources to help

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with the cost of living, including: help and advice from local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; financial and energy-saving advice and support; food; and local warm spaces/hubs. We have updated this content for those affected by the loss of the Winter Fuel Payment:

- AGEUK (ageuk.org.uk, search for 'winter fuel payment') for advice on how to check your eligibility for Winter Fuel Payment and other benefits, and how to apply, plus staying well and warm in winter. Do check if you are eligible for Pension Credit, as this opens up access not only to the Winter Fuel Allowance, but to other benefits such as Housing Benefit.

- The Warm Home Discount (ageuk.org.uk, search for 'warm home discount'), a one-off payment of £150 to help with the cost of energy during the winter (but dependent on eligibility).

- WHICH (which.co.uk, search for 'winter fuel payments scrapped').

CPRE has joined the 'Warm This Winter' coalition of charities calling for urgent action from the Government, otherwise many - particularly in rural areas - will be unable to pay their bills and heat their homes. To add your voice, go to warmthiswinter.org.uk.

For more information about CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough go to cprecambs.org.uk. **Tracey Hipson**

Little Shelford Local History Society

Wednesday 6 November

Little Shelford Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

'Life behind the bar'

a talk by David Short

All welcome

Cambridge Flower Club

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 or fredaorgee@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is on 21 November and is a NAFAS Demonstration by Lee Berrill entitled 'All things Christmas' with stalls and refreshment; 6.30pm for 7.15pm. **Sian Jones**

(Cambridge Flower Club is NAFAS affiliated)



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A green-fingered family

RUBEN Scott, a renowned rose grower from Bury Road, Stapleford, built a legacy of excellence in horticulture that continues to inspire his family. His passion for cultivating award-winning roses earned him numerous accolades, making his garden a local landmark. His dedication to growing the finest blooms was a result of years of meticulous care and expertise, turning his roses into a symbol of beauty in the community.

Today, Ruben's legacy lives on through his family. His son Bernard and Bernard's wife Ruth still reside in the same house on Bury Road where Ruben perfected his craft, and their children Paul and Claire attended Stapleford school. Bernard, having grown up surrounded by his father's celebrated roses, shares that deep connection to nature, though the couple now lives a quieter life in the shadow of Ruben's green-fingered glory.



Meanwhile, Ruben's granddaughter, Danielle, has found her own way to carry forward the family's horticultural legacy. Living for a time in one of the cottages along Bury Road, she grew up immersed in the love of plants. Inspired by this, Danielle recently opened The Plant Pantry in Saffron Walden, a sustainable houseplant shop that reflects her modern take on her grandfather's passion. The shop emphasizes eco-friendly practices, offering a carefully curated selection of houseplants, along with sustainable growing supplies. Her commitment to sustainability reflects the shift in focus from traditional gardening to a more environmentally conscious approach, while still honouring her family's love for plants.

Ruben Scott's green legacy thus continues to blossom, from the famous roses of Bury Road to the flourishing greenery of The Plant Pantry, connecting generations through their shared passion for plants.

Danielle Harding

Erratum in the October Messenger

IN the article about the Village Institute, we stated that Dr William Collier, who gave land and funds for the building here, lived and practised in Stapleford. In fact, he lived and practised in Oxford, but inherited his family's farms and cottages in Stapleford, hence his connection with the village. **Messenger Team**



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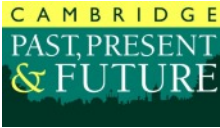
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Wandlebury Events



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

Willow weaving

Saturday 16 November to Sunday 17 November | 10am to 1pm, 2pm to 5pm

Have fun and be creative at this willow weaving workshop, making lanterns and bird feeders. Using this beautiful material you will weave your own pieces to take home for your garden, ready for the dark evenings and winter months.



Starting at either 10am or 2pm (3hr workshops). Please book in advance.

£48 per workshop. We can accommodate two people per booking. In Stable Rooms.

No experience required. Suitable for adults and older children age 12+ (accompanied). To book go to wildthymeandembers.co.uk

Annual meeting for Cambridge Past, Present & Future

Thursday 21 November | 6.30pm (doors 6pm) to 7pm | Free

CAMBRIDGEPPF Annual Meeting at Storey's Field Centre, Eddington Avenue, Cambridge CB3 1AA. CambridgePPF trustees and chief executive will talk about the work of the charity over the past year with the opportunity to ask questions.

The AGM will be followed by the Annual Talk at 7.30pm to 8.30pm. Presenter and author Tom Heap (right) will talk about 'The space race on Earth: can we find land for all our needs?' Tickets are £8, CPFF Members £2. The event is kindly sponsored by Carter Jonas.



No need to book for the AGM but booking for Tom Heap's talk is essential. Book at cambridgeppf.org.

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Winter Raffle tickets need to be with Arthur Rank Hospice Charity by Thursday 23 January for the draw on 30 January.

You can find out more at arhc.org.uk/raffles or arhc.org.uk/your-hospice-lottery.

Want your Christmas Tree collected in January?

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme is back and bigger than ever with new postcodes added for 2025!

In partnership with Just Helping, their teams of volunteers will be collecting used Christmas trees from CB1-CB5, CB21-CB24, CB25, SG8 and SG19 from 9-11 January. To register your tree visit arhc.org.uk/tree-recycling. Registrations open in mid-November and close 5 January.

Stapleford Community Warden Service

Assisting older people to live independently at home. Providing daily phone calls (Monday to Friday) and help with things such as:

- making drinks and light meals
- watering plants
- making appointments
- getting small items of shopping
- collecting prescriptions
- wellbeing contact

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



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Cambridge Cake Creators

21 November at 7.30pm, Stapleford Pavilion

THIS will be our last meeting before Christmas. It will be a time for everyone to have a catchup over tea and cake with a chance to bring any baking questions to the table. Between us we will do our best to answer them!

Still to be arranged, we will also be doing a 'hands on' activity with a 'Christmas' theme.

For more information ring Vanda on 561053 or email vanda.butler@googlemail.com.

Our next meeting after this one will be on Thursday 16 January. **Vanda Butler.**

Stapleford Brownies...

... needs a new unit leader from January 2025. Are you ready to inspire girls aged 7 to 10 years? It's a world of firsts you can explore together. You'll have the chance to develop your leadership skills and help girls to have lots of fun trying out new adventures.



Contact shelfordgirlguiding@gmail.com to find out how you can volunteer. Thank you. **Lisa MacGregor**

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.

November at Great Shelford Library

NOW the nights are long and cold why not pop into the library to find a book to curl up with. We have lots of wonderful books to while away a dank and dark November. Stuck in a book rut? Why not browse our customer and staff recommendations?

Story, Rhyme & Duplo Time – Every Tuesday at 10.30am

For children aged 0-4 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.

Craft & Chat – Every Friday morning 10.30am-12pm. No need to book.

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

Stay and Play – Fortnightly, Thursday 14 and 28 November. For children aged 0-3 years. 2pm-3.30pm. A relaxed drop in session for families with young children, £2 per family. Toys provided.

LEGO and Duplo Club – Fortnightly, Monday 11 and 25 November 4pm-5.30pm. Come along and have some fun making Lego models. All materials provided. Suggested donation £1. Suitable for ages 2-10.

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

Art Club - Every Saturday morning 10.30am-12noon. Suitable for ages 4-8. Drop in event. £1 donation. Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.

Engage Talk – Speaker to be confirmed. Wednesday 27 November 2pm-3.30pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book via cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or in the library.

Also, don’t forget that we have our Digital Buddy in every Tuesday from 2pm to 4pm. **Mel Abbiss – Community Librarian**

Library opening hours			
Monday	3pm-7pm	Friday	10am-1pm and 2-6pm
Tuesday	10am-1pm and 2-5pm	Saturday	10am-1pm
Wednesday	10am-1pm	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	Closed		

Neighbourhood Plan update

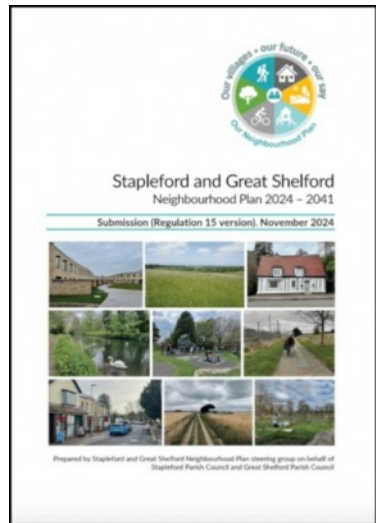
AS submission day approaches, here's a reminder of what we're doing and why.

I write this as the finishing touches are being made to the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Those of you who have been following my monthly missives for the past three years may have an inkling of how this feels. It's been a bit like working towards an exam in a subject about which I and the rest of the steering group had virtually zero prior knowledge. There have been mountains of regulations, data and analysis to digest; reports and updates to produce; we've had expert tuition from planning consultant Rachel Hogger MRTPI; there's been an awful lot of negative feedback from land agents; long days spent bashing away at the computer keyboard; and now finally, the community's needs and aspirations linked to any future development of this area are getting close to examination time.

I'd hesitate to suggest that we've become authorities on neighbourhood planning, but we certainly know more than enough to bore the pants off anyone we sit next to at a dinner party.

At Parish Council meetings from mid-October to early November, I will be reporting on what's called the 'submission version' of the NP (and the myriad other documents which must legally accompany it) to our parish councillors and asking them to approve its submission to the local authority.

If granted, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, acting on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council, will put our submitted NP out to a final round of formal consultation. This is effectively a chance for those who commented on it during formal consultation in Spring 2024 to see whether or how we have amended the NP in light of their feedback, giving them a right to reply if they are unhappy. Any such responses will then be submitted alongside the NP to an independent examiner to decide whether the NP meets the 'basic conditions' legally required of it. If it does, a yes/no referendum will be held amongst those on the electoral register in Stapleford and Great Shelford. A majority 'yes' vote



Submission version of our Neighbourhood Plan'

would see the policies in our NP sit alongside those in the Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework and used in decisions about planning applications coming forward in our area. This is precisely the goal we have been working towards over the past three years. Stapleford and Great Shelford are *our villages* and it's *our futures* at stake, and we want to have a say in that.

Some readers may be new to neighbourhood planning, whilst others may have dozed off through lack of interest. So let me remind you what this is all about.

Neighbourhood planning is a legal right which allows communities to shape their development by creating their own planning policies. It cannot stop development. Instead, it's about communities saying what they want and need from growth in their immediate area, protecting what is good, fixing what needs improving, and filling gaps in what is missing.

The process is entirely optional. We could, for example, let our existing and emerging Local Plans and Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Officers direct our future. But at a time of enormous change across our region – which, in the overall scheme of things, has barely begun – this would be a missed opportunity to really make a difference to planning decisions.

I hope you feel that you have had opportunities to contribute to the process and, if you have capitalised upon them, thank you for your input. Over the past three years, the steering group has undertaken three major consultation exercises, attracting input from hundreds of local residents and other stakeholders – you can't have missed our banners and posters plastered at various times around the villages. We have reported regularly on our progress via our village magazines, dedicated NP webpages (greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/SGSNPlan), local Facebook pages, and Parish Council meetings and minutes. It has truly been a community-wide effort and 21 proposed planning policies have emerged from it. These span housing needs, climate change and biodiversity, landscape protection and improvement, community amenities and infrastructure, active travel, traffic movements, and countryside access. We all have different priorities in life, but I hope there's something there for everyone.

As someone who loathes motivational quotes, I'm going to be hypocritical and end with one. Apparently, it was J F Kennedy who said it, but I'm through with fact checking for the day so it could equally have been a 12-year old Instagrammer: "Things do not happen. Things are made to happen." We really are so very close to making it happen for Stapleford and Great Shelford. **Jenny Flynn, Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group**

Parish Council Chair's report for October

THE Parish Council paused at the start of the meeting to remember Frank Jacot.

SSYI (Shelford and Stapleford Youth initiative) attended the Parish Council's meeting on 3 October to give a presentation about the valuable work they are doing with young people in this parish and others in the area. Sessions are run every day of the week supporting 300+ young people, with 3% (15) coming from Stapleford. Activities include football, holiday clubs and provision of food. For some young people the food provided is the only hot meal they have that day. Although this is considered an affluent area, not all households are in that category. SPC supports SSYI with some funding and was thanked for this. The initiative costs in the region of £140,000 a year to run, has four youth workers and one administrator.

Councillors Peter Fane and Brian Milnes attended the meeting. Cllr Milnes advised that the GCP has been granted £7.2m to take the CSET project forward, but £160m is still needed to complete the proposed busway scheme. Campaign group Better Ways for Busways will continue to oppose the scheme and SPC supports them in this. A considerable sum will be needed to appoint a solicitor and barrister to make the case against the busway at judicial review stage.

Cllr Fane commented that central government is understood to be going ahead with the 2050 growth scheme for the wider region, but details have not been disclosed. Building on the green belt will be allowed. Central government stance is that sufficient water will be available for projected housing development and for expansion around Addenbrooke's Hospital.

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group (Jenny Flynn) attended to give an update on progress. In October and November, reports on the submission version of the Plan will be given to Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils and approval sought from them to submit the Plan to the local authority.

Progress continues with renovating the Pavilion. Some work will be needed to the Pavilion roof. The installation of the AV system, acoustic panels and projector screen is delayed while this is considered.

Christmas lights in the village were discussed again. A tree outside the Spar shop was agreed last month. It was agreed by majority decision that additional lighting would be attached to the tree at the junction of Bar Lane and Gog Magog Way at a cost of £3,090.

The budget for next year will be considered at the November meeting and several projects, including the Pavilion renovation, are due for consideration. The precept will need to be increased to help with these costs.

It is disappointing that the 20mph application on safety grounds for Haverhill Road has been rejected. Only two applications were accepted from a long list of applications.

Sawston Greenway was discussed. It is proposed that sinusoidal ramps be installed on Mingle Lane and Church Street to slow traffic and raised tables at road junctions along the route. The traffic lights at the crossing on London Road will be repositioned and shoppers and pedestrians at the Spar shop will be protected by a barrier. It is not yet known when this work will start.

Parishioners are reminded to ensure that hedging does not encroach on footpaths so children and those with mobility issues can use them safely.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is at 7pm on 7 November in the Pavilion and members of the public are invited to attend. There are still vacancies for councillors and applications should be made to the Clerk (clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk). **Gillian Pett**

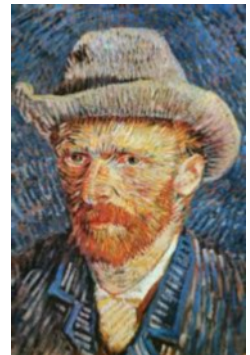
Sawston Cinema

Thursday 7 November 7pm (doors open 6.30), £10

Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers

(Made in close collaboration with the National Gallery)

TIMED to coincide with the current National Gallery Van Gogh exhibition, 'Van Gogh: Poets & Lovers' explores the artist's years in the south of France, where he revolutionised his style. Van Gogh became consumed with a passion for storytelling in his art, turning the world around him into vibrant, idealised spaces and symbolic characters. Explore one of art history's most pivotal periods in this once-in-a-century show, (90 minutes).



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The Travelling Companions, Augustus Stapleford Esq., 1862
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Stapleford Parish Council

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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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A Critical Moment

Your Chance to Save Your Countryside



A PIVOTAL decision is about to be made that affects the future of our community and environment. On 22 October, Cambridgeshire County Council will vote on whether to proceed with plans to build a 5-mile road through the countryside between the A11 and Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Known as the Cambridge South East Transport Scheme (CSET) the road will be used by buses. If the County Council agrees, the project will then face a public inquiry. **This is your chance to save the countryside by supporting a better alternative.**

The bus road plans have faced substantial opposition from local residents, environmental groups, businesses, and Parish Councils. Despite these objections, our politicians are pushing ahead with a plan that threatens our environment, when a better, more cost-effective alternative exists.

The Better Alternative

The alternative solution (in orange in the map below) is to build 1 mile of bus road and 1.2 miles of bus lane alongside the A1307, where congestion is



an issue. This would have much less environmental impact and cost £100 million less than building 5 miles of road. Importantly, this would achieve similar transport and economic benefits and could achieve faster results by opening up each phase of the project as its completed. For more information about the alternative and a comparison, head to bw4b.org/the-better-way

What You Can Do to Help

Now, more than ever, it's vital for the community to come together and take action. Here's how you can help:

1. **Make a donation:** We urgently need to raise funds for legal and professional fees to make the strongest argument possible against the bus road. Without this, we will not be able to fight it. This includes the costs of solicitors, a barrister and expert witnesses who will deliver their evidence to a public inquiry. bw4b.org/donate-now

2. **Sign the petition:** Over 6,500 people have signed so far. Add your name or encourage others to do so. Go to bw4b.org/sign-the-petition.

3. **Volunteer to help:** We need people who can help by going door-to-door to speak to fellow residents or distributing information - please get in touch at hello@bw4b.org.

4. **Contact Your County Councillors:** Ensure your local representatives are aware of your concerns. Write, call, or attend meetings to ensure they understand the strong resistance from the community. Your voice can make a difference. www.bw4b.org/take-action

Time Is Running Out

The fight to save our countryside is in its final stages. If you oppose this project, the time to act is now. This is your chance to prevent 5 miles of bus road from permanently scarring our landscape and losing the greenbelt and the unique character of South Cambridgeshire forever.

Together, we can protect our environment, our community, and our future. The alternative scheme in the A1307 corridor saves £100 million, delivers similar benefits faster, and is much better for the countryside and environment.

Please take a look at our website which shows the impact on your village. www.bw4b.org

We urge you to please email us at hello@bw4b.org as soon as possible to offer your support.

Thank you for your continued support. **Better Ways for Busways**