

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

April 2025

Volume 84 No 4

Price 90p



A lovely load of rubbish! Volunteer litter pickers from Stapleford, 2G3S and the Tree project collected 16 bags of rubbish and a stray cone from around Stapleford.

See page 19

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Who's who at St Andrew's

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07763 477821

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PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Verger

Clare Kerr 842984

Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

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Jackie Nettleton 721366

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall

Parish Administrator
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 Communions, 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 Vicar.

Stapleford MESSENGER

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Contact staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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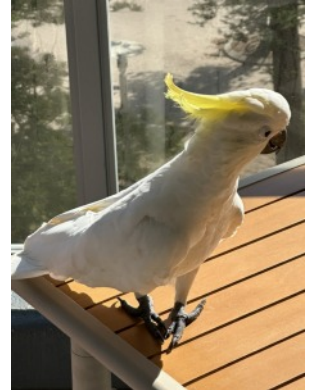
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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

LIZZIE and I have been away for the last three months, and it was bliss. Extended ministerial leave, so called. We spent two months in Australia, where we have family, and then three weeks in Cornwall.

Here's a random list of some things I learnt:

1. The whipbird makes a sound like the cracking of a whip.
2. Cicadas can be incredibly noisy, deafeningly so. Driving along a motorway, windows shut, lots of car noise, and suddenly there is this huge clamour as you drive through a colony of cicadas 30 yards away in the trees. Then it goes quiet as you drive away, and a little further on another noisy gang bursts out. It is really startling.
3. Kookaburras are very ordinary to look at, though they have a fun name, and they do have a great call. It really can sound like someone laughing.
4. Sulphur-crested white cockatoos are lovely to look at, but very destructive. Trees beware.
5. Rosellas are pretty but gaudy, the Moulin Rouge of birds.
6. Probably the nearest you will ever come to a wombat is seeing its burrow or poo. They are the definition of shy.
7. If you are tired of seeing kangaroos you are tired of life.
8. Walking in the Australian bush feels scary, to me anyway. I think it is the unfamiliarity more than the small threat of snakes and spiders. It just looks and feels and sounds so different.
9. I am not sure I believe that koalas exist. I suspect they were invented by the Australian Tourist Board. The idea of them is a con. I am going to start a conspiracy theory about them.
10. Seals can bask in open water every bit as easily as basking on a rock. Mostly they float on their side with one flipper coming upwards out of the water curled backwards towards the tail, which also points above the surface and towards the flipper, like synchronised swimmers doing their thing. The odd one – just one in a large group we saw – floats on its back with both flippers in the air, head



backwards under the water, occasionally coming up for air. "Try it this way everyone, it's much better." "Ignore him, he's just showing off."

11. Blue gropers, a fish, can be really, really blue. The males anyway. The females are greenish-yellow. Snorkelling over brownish-grey seaweed, with lots of greyish fish, and suddenly there is this burst of bright colour, swimming within touching distance, quite unconcerned by our presence. They can be large too, a couple of feet inshore, and bigger offshore.
12. Sting rays can be huge, and are frightening, but generally do their own thing if left alone. Best to pass on swiftly by.
13. Australian lizards – we saw some about two feet long – are covered in intricate patterns of dots and rings. You know those Australian Aboriginal paintings? Just like those.
14. Pelicans are funny. They waddle, and perch with their heads sunk right into their backs.
15. Captain Cook's old family home from Yorkshire is now erected in a park in Melbourne. It has to be patrolled by security guards.
16. Sydney ferries are fun and brilliant. A niece commutes from Manly to central Sydney with a two minute walk and a twenty minute ferry ride past the harbour entrance and towards the opera house and harbour bridge. Bliss.
17. And to the UK. The Fowey estuary and the surrounding area is lovely. An absolute gem of an area. More ferries, including a delightful foot passenger ferry from Polruan to Fowey. I. Love. Ferries. I want to be the captain of a ferry when I grow up.
18. The coastal footpaths are great, but, my goodness, what a lot of ups and downs. Really steep.
19. South West Water is a total disgrace and should be shut down. When did it become ok to flood these beautiful rivers and beaches day after day with sewage just because there has been a normal and modest amount of rain?



I learnt other things too. Quite a lot of New Testament Greek in fact, which was part of the point of going away.

But there was one other thing too. Everywhere you go there are wonderful groups of Christians gathered in local churches large and small, doing their thing worshipping God, trying their best to follow Jesus, reaching out to their communities with love and practical care, and welcoming strangers like us. This Jesus-movement is not a human invention.



It cannot be, not on what we have seen. It is a quiet but astounding global phenomenon powered by the one whose creative energies resulted in the hills of Cornwall and the inlets of Sydney, the laugh of the kookaburra and the individualism of that seal, and in the loving, forgiving, reconciling Son, Jesus Christ. And, maybe, koalas.

Come to your local church this Easter. A welcome, divine and human, awaits.

Church Electoral Roll

MOST of you will be on the civil electoral roll, so can vote in local and national government elections. Did you know that there is another electoral roll that all residents of Stapleford are entitled to be on? It is the church electoral roll, and those on it can attend our annual meeting, make their views about the church known, and help elect our church officers. The church officers include the churchwardens, assistant wardens, and lay members of the Parochial Church Council.

Mostly the electoral roll just goes on from year to year, adding and subtracting members gradually. But every six years – this being the sixth year – we are required to completely renew it. So, here is the invitation: if you are a resident of Stapleford (strictly of the ecclesiastical parish of Stapleford, which is marginally different from the civil parish, but we can sort out that technicality if it applies) then please consider signing up. It is free to do so, and gives you a voice in the church.

Hard copy forms for signing up are in church, or can be downloaded from the article linked to the front page of our website at standrewstapleford.org. Let me have the completed form at the vicarage on Mingle Lane, or leave it at the church office in the Verger's Cottage, or hand it to me or to Felicity Cooke in church on a Sunday. **Simon Taylor**

St Andrew's Noticeboard

6 APR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP & BAPTISM Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8 <i>A beautiful thing</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG 2 Chronicles 35.1-6, 10-16; Luke 22.1-13
7 APR	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
13 APR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	PALM SUNDAY SERVICE Isaiah 50.4-9a; Luke 19.28-40 <i>The return of the King</i>
	10.30 AM	FOREST CHURCH IN THE CHURCHYARD
17 APR	7 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION Exodus 12.1-14; 1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17, 31b-35
18 APR	10 AM	CHILDREN'S EASTER ACTIVITIES
	12 NOON	AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
19 APR	8 PM	EASTER VIGIL SERVICE
20 APR	6.30 AM	MAGOG DOWN SERVICE Luke 24.1-12
	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	EASTER DAY ALL AGE & FAMILY COMMUNION 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; Luke 24.1-12 <i>He is not here!</i>
27 APR	9 AM	NO SERVICE
	10.30 AM	SAID SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 5.27-32; John 20.19-30

Plus COMPLINE at 8.30 PM on Zoom on 4 & 11 APRIL and in church on 14, 15 & 16 APRIL

The church is open every day as a place to come and pray or enjoy a moment of quiet reflection. Messy Church takes place in the Johnson Hall. Everything else is in the church.

FROM THE REGISTERS

6 APRIL – Baptism of Annabelle & Matilda Anderson

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 May Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 11 April**

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

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Appreciation

SPRING. New growth, life, renewal. Brighter days, hope, happiness. The dawn chorus signifying seasonal change. My late husband Stephen loved it. The weeks ahead are tinged with sadness as we no longer share it. Memories console and soothe. Spring colour appealed, particularly greens, golds, purples and palest pastels. Patchwork perfection. Love, empathy, nostalgia and trust are words I feel appropriate in recent adjustment to loss.

Stephen was an accomplished engineer and leader in aviation. An intelligent man; humble, gentle and kind. Even in illness his smile lit his face, laughter was joyful. He was patient, having the ability to explain simply and clearly, aiding popularity as a tutor. We were a great partnership. Married in 1975 we shared occasions I will treasure.

I found comfort in the many cards, messages and letters of condolence. It was gratifying to see all who were able at the service celebrating Stephen's life. My hopes for good attendance were fulfilled. Reading and hearing your words has encouraged and uplifted. The path I now take is untrodden by me. Fresh experiences lie ahead. Whilst life ends, love endures. I feel truly blessed in having Stephen in my life. Time won't fill the hollow space but with help I will overcome the obstacles.

Thank you. **Judith Lee**



EASTER @ St ANDREW'S

Palm Sunday 13 April

Celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem & anticipate the week ahead

9 am Traditional Communion

10.30 am Palm Sunday Communion with dramatised
Passion narrative

10.30 am Messy Forest Church - it's back!

Holy Week

Travel through Holy Week as we approach the cross

14, 15 & 16 April 8.30 pm Compline

17 April 7 pm Maundy Thursday Communion

18 April 10 am Children's Easter Activities

12 noon Good Friday Service

'At the Foot of the Cross'

19 April 8 pm Holy Saturday Vigil Service

Easter Day

He is risen! Come and celebrate

6.30 am Magog Down Service

9 am Traditional Communion

10.30 am All Age Communion



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STAPLEFORD

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The Messenger needs...

...a Distribution and Subscription Manager

AFTER several years of valued service, Valerie Powell has announced she will retire at the end of this year from the position of Distribution and Subscription Manager. Val has done a sterling job in ensuring that the *Messenger* is delivered on time to all our readers. She is backed up by a team of wonderful deliverers who tread the streets of Stapleford whatever the weather to deliver the magazine.

Without Val and her team there would be no *Messenger*.

But time moves on and we need to recruit a replacement as soon as possible so that he/she can be trained to take over later this year.

The Distribution and Subscription Manager maintains a record of subscribers and organises delivery of the *Messenger* to them through a team of deliverers and by post. The work entails maybe a couple of days a month including one morning to collate the magazine into bundles for distribution. There is a bit more work in December and January to set up any new deliveries required but overall, the workload is by no means onerous but it is essential.

You do not need any specific experience or qualifications but you will need to use email and be a good organiser and communicator.

Interested in helping to keep the *Messenger* going? Then please email staplefordmessenger@gmail.com for further information and an informal discussion. **Messenger Team**

The Messenger Fund helps the Warden scheme

THE Stapleford Community Warden Service has received a grant from the *Messenger* Fund in the latest round of awards.

Mary Cooper and Jackie Nettleton write:

Thank you so much for the recent money that has been given to the Warden Scheme. We are truly grateful. The money will be used to help fund the ongoing costs of running the scheme. Although the service users pay to belong to the scheme, the monthly amount does not cover all the expenditure needed to run it. You are making a huge difference by allowing the Warden Scheme to operate as it does, thereby keeping our elderly folk independent and living in their own homes. Only today, a service user was heard to say, "The Warden Scheme is a Godsend".

Children's EASTER @ St ANDREW'S follow the better road

Palm Sunday 13 April

10.30 am Messy Forest Church

Good Friday

10 am Easter Activities
in the church & churchyard

Easter Day

6.30 am Magog Down Service

10.30 am All Age Communion



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MOTHERS' UNION NEWS



STAPLEFORD Mothers' Union branch is holding its Spring Coffee Morning on 3 April from 10.30 am to 12am at Mary Cooper's house (15 Duke's Meadow). All are very welcome to attend.

The next Branch meeting is on 24 April at 2.30pm when Kate Romano (Chief Executive of Stapleford Granary) is giving a talk on 'The Small Grains' project, which hosts primary school classes on a weekly basis to take part in singing and craft projects, in association with Stapleford School. This is an MU Granta Deanery meeting when we look forward to seeing other members from around the Deanery, and of course anyone else from the village who would like to hear more about this successful project.

On 25 April, the Ely Diocesan MU is holding the Annual General Meeting at St Peter's church in March from 10 am, followed by a general council meeting, where Mr Nick Keen will be the keynote speaker on the Mission Aviation Fellowship. **Hilary Street**

Nachingwea



Stapleford

Join friends and neighbours for the May Lunch and Jazz Concert on Monday 5th and Friday 9th May, to support education and health projects in the village of Nachingwea, Tanzania.

No booking necessary. Both events free to attend but your donations welcomed!

For more information please email: nachingwealink@standrewstapleford.org





May Lunch

Bank Holiday Monday May 5th 12-2pm
Jubilee Pavilion, Stapleford Rec

Get together with friends, family and neighbours and enjoy a fabulous homemade lunch in the Jubilee Pavilion



Jazz Concert

Friday May 9th 7.30pm
St Andrew's Church, Stapleford

A varied programme of light music from the Duxford Workshop Jazz Band, followed by refreshments



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Stapleford – Nachingwea Link



THIS month we report on the 2024 English Course run by Kevin Bushiri, chair of the Nachingwea Link.

45 pupils, 35 girls and 10 boys from several primary schools in the Nachingwea district took part in the three month course held during the school holiday before moving to secondary schools where the teaching is in English. The head teachers helped to find pupils whose families wouldn't have been able to afford the course, so were supported by Stapleford Link.

Kevin reports the following successes:

- The parents were involved, coming to a meeting at the beginning at which they were given advice about how to best support both their children and the teachers, not only during the English course but also as they progress to secondary school. The parents also cooked food at the graduation ceremony.



From top left clockwise: Kevin with teaching assistant Neema and the group of students; the three prizewinners; one of the students speaking English to Kevin; Obed, the past chairman, Kevin Bushiri and the new priest, Rev. Father Lihewe, presenting the certificates to the children.

- Two assistants, Neema and Pricilla, were employed which enabled one to one sessions, where the children's confidence grew as they spoke in English about their backgrounds and ambitions.
 - The pupils were given tests in written and spoken English at the end of each month.
 - Those who did particularly well were rewarded. This increased competition and had a positive impact on their learning.
 - A graduation day was held when the pupils performed songs in English and acted out a scene as if they were in the Tanzanian Parliament.
- Kevin and the Nachingwea committee send their grateful thanks to all who support the Link.

We thank Kevin for his enthusiasm and excellent organisation, which has enabled these youngsters to start their secondary school education with the great advantage of a good grasp of English.

St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee

Stapleford WI



ON the website of the National Federation of Women's Institutes (which is full of useful, interesting information), there is a section titled Our Mission. This includes the vision of the WI which is 'to create a world where women come together to learn, share skills and work together to become active citizens, influencing change to improve lives in their local, national and global communities'. In our group here in Stapleford we do our best to follow this in various ways. We support the Cambridge foodbank each month, meet together one afternoon each month to knit twiddlemuffs for people suffering from dementia, share our different skills within our monthly craft group, exchange views on the chosen book in our book group, support local events such as the village show, and promote the resolution chosen by all UK WI members annually. Of course, at our monthly meeting in the village hall on the fourth Thursday of the month, a range of speakers and activities is provided throughout the year. The programme informs members or shows us a new skill and gives us an opportunity to socialise and enjoy each other's company and friendship. By so doing we try to fulfill the the three offshoots of the WI mission which are 'we connect women, we support women, and we empower women'. In addition, the Cambridgeshire Federation of WIs arranges all sorts of different events covering as wide a range of interests as possible. These include outings to

places of interest, walks, speakers, demonstrations, social events (lunches and coffee mornings) and challenges such as the jigsaw challenge where teams of four complete a 500 piece jigsaw as quickly as possible! There really is something for everyone, and also new members often bring their own interests and skills to share.

At our meeting in February, we had an informative and entertaining demonstration by the Chair of the Granta Flower Club, Alison Purnell. She showed us how to arrange flowers in the Japanese art form, Ikebana. This follows strict rules and is designed to encourage appreciation of the individual blooms. Members were able to follow Alison's instructions if they wished and produce their own arrangements. This was an evening enjoyed by a large number of attendees including two new members who have already joined our craft group.

During the evening entries for the craft cup were displayed. The cup is awarded annually and the criterion for the competition this year was 'something made from paper'. Myra Yick was presented with the cup for her winning entry of a colourful paper Easter egg.

Our next meeting will be held on 24 April and the speaker is Barry Carter who will talk about 'Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue'.

If you would like to attend a meeting as a visitor then please do come along where you are assured of a warm welcome. You can also talk to Sallie Dixon on 843847 or look at our website staplefordwi.weebly.com.
Joyce Dobson



Christine Wylde and Celia Weir concentrating on their flower arrangements



President Sue Clark presenting Myra Yick with the craft 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.



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
STAPLEFORD

Stapleford Village Weekend



WE hope you're all as excited as we are for the upcoming Stapleford Village Weekend, running from 26 to 29 June! Please make sure to mark these dates in your diaries, as we have a fantastic theme this year: 'VOLUNTEERING IN MY VILLAGE.' The focus will be on the wonderful ways we can all contribute to helping one another within our village.

We are on the lookout for enthusiastic stall holders, talented crafters, green-thumbed gardeners, and creative artists to join us and make this event truly special. If you're interested, please don't hesitate to get involved. One of the highlights will be our silent auction, and we would greatly appreciate any offers of prizes. If you have something to contribute, please email Gill at northorpeart@outlook.com. Additionally, if you have any questions or need more information, feel free to reach out to Jools at joolsrayment@gmail.com.

This year's show will feature the showing and judging of plants and vegetables, flower displays, baked goods, arts and crafts, as well as food stalls, a bar, a dog show, craft and market stalls, and both daytime and evening entertainment. It promises to be a fun-filled event that brings our village together, so please consider entering something, volunteering, or simply coming along to enjoy the day.

To give all you snappy snappers time to prepare for the photography classes, here is a sneak peak of the categories - 'Volunteering in action', 'Windmills', 'Your favourite place to sit in Stapleford', Flowers, plants and trees', 'Showing support', 'A black and white photo' (any subject) and 'A group of two photographs - 'The Messenger' and 'The Message'. Have fun and we look forward to lots of entries.

We look forward to seeing you there and making this a memorable Stapleford Village Weekend! **Julie Rayment**



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 the **Parish Administrator:**

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

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2G3S



WE are planning various activities for 2025, watch this space! Films, discussions and speakers on water use and energy efficiency, repair cafes, book club, a meeting with our MP.

Dr Bike continues to hold 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. For more information, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com. You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential.

We held two litter picks in March, one in Stapleford and one in Sawston. In Stapleford we collected 16 bags of rubbish and a stray cone. Much of this rubbish was collected up Haverhill Road near the Rangeford retirement village site. Thanks to everyone who took part:



2G3S members, people from the Tree Project, and villagers. In Sawston a band of 22 volunteers, many of whom were children, collected 11 sacks of rubbish from the streets around Babraham Road. Well done all!

In February we ran a Repair Café at the Great Shelford Memorial Hall, our first time at that venue. We took advantage of the size of the hall to run a SWISH clothes swap at the same time. We took in 43.5 kilos of clothes and shoes, and were left with 24 kilos at the end, thus rehoming almost 20 kilos of clothing which may otherwise have ended up in landfill or dumped on a beach in a developing country miles from the UK.



We support the South Cambs Organic Gardening Group (SCOG), and their co-ordinator, Helen Harwood, came to our last planning meeting to talk about their initiative to increase the local population of swifts and house martins. This can be helped by putting up a nesting box, such as those on the RSPB website (we have one, but have yet to attract any swifts, but sparrows like it!), or including a 'swift brick' in a new building or an extension which they can nest in. They only visit for the summer and are then gone, so are not long-term inhabitants of your property.

SCOG is also very concerned that gardeners dispose of unwanted/out-of-date garden chemicals safely – take them to the tip and ask where to put them, don't ever put in the ordinary bins or down the drain. Better still is to try and not use chemicals in the garden at all. And if you have a dog, it's better to use a long-term tablet rather than a spray to keep fleas at bay, as it gets washed off into the environment when dogs go in water.

Last time I talked about choices of food that we can make, including to eat local, but that needs qualifying – eating UK tomatoes that have been grown in heated greenhouses has a much larger carbon footprint (i.e. uses more energy to produce) than eating Spanish ones that don't need artificial heat. Try to avoid fruit and vegs that have been flown here (e.g. blueberries from Peru, or green beans from Kenya) rather than shipped/driven (e.g. European goods, also bananas, citrus fruits, melons, pineapples, and apples), again to keep the carbon footprint down.

One of our members attended the South Cambs Sustainable Food Network Summit held on 22 February, at which she heard about a National Trust farm that now has a complete farm-to-plate chain. I have been reading a book called 'Land Smart' by Tom Heap, of BBC Countryfile and Rare Earth fame. He says that we need our land to work hard for us as the population increases, whereas the amount of land that can be cultivated is finite. His book is full of clever farmers and other landowners in the UK who use their land for food, nature, and energy, often all at the same time. Nothing is wasted on the farms, in order to minimise the amount of fertiliser needed. Solar farms are criticised in the news, but he gives examples of solar farms that graze sheep, grow food around the edges, or nurture biodiversity on the land around the panels. He gives biofuels the thumbs down (unless they are very small-scale for use on the farm itself), as they yield very little energy in return for the area of land used and the inputs given to them. He is a believer in regenerative farming or nature-friendly farming, but cautions that rewilding should only be done on poorer-quality farmland. Good agricultural land needs to yield food, or the food will come from abroad, where there may be little concern for the environment. Our food needs to

be grown with minimum artificial inputs, by nurturing soil health in a variety of ways. Our book group will discuss this book at their meeting in August, and if you're interested do come along. The book is easy to read.

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 monthly 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 sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/. **Helen Hale**

Stapleford Wind Sinfonia Concert

OUR February concert at St Mary's was a lovely social occasion, with an enthusiastic audience responding to spirited performances of both familiar and less well-known pieces of music. Audience members commented on the quality of the ensemble's sound in the church, as well as the attractive setting. In May we return to give our final concert of the season on Saturday May 17 at 3pm in St. Mary's Church, Sawston, and we hope that all will come along again to enjoy another entertaining afternoon of music, introduced as usual by our Musical Director, Anne Templer. **Margaret Burleigh**



Stapleford Horticultural Society

OUR 2024-2025 programme came to an end in March with our AGM. Our first talk of the new season will be on Thursday 10 April, when we will welcome Paula Dyason to tell us about 'The Day of the Day Lily'. Paula owns the 'Strictly Daylilies' Nursery at Histon, which as the name implies sells only *Hemerocallis* or Day Lilies. It stocks around 2,000 varieties! Paula is an acknowledged international expert so we can expect an authoritative and enjoyable talk.



The talk will be held as usual in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, and all are welcome. **John Sherwell**

No dogs on school field please!



WE kindly remind dog owners that dogs are not permitted on the school field. This is to ensure the safety and cleanliness of the area for our pupils and the wider community. Please respect this rule and help us to maintain a safe space for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. **Anna Everton** - Parent Governor

STAPLEFORD WEEKEND 2025

JUNE

EVENTS

THURS
26
JUNE

- PTA CHILDRENS MAGIC SHOW
- FILM NIGHT BY 2G35

FRI
27
JUNE

FAMOUS QUIZ NIGHT WITH FISH & CHIPS

SAT
28
JUNE

- VILLAGE SHOW
- STALLS
- LIVE MUSIC
- DOG SHOW
- GLASTONBURY LIVE

SUN
29
JUNE

- BIKE RIDE
- CRICKET
- FAMILY FILM NIGHT

MORE INFO: WWW.STAPLEFORDWEEKEND.COM



STAPLEFORD
WEEKEND

Girlguiding



THE fun this term for Shelford & Stapleford Rainbows has included activities from the Express Myself Theme of the Girlguiding programme with lots of games, songs and craft activities.

Shelford Brownies have so far this term enjoyed a Burns Night (shortbread, designing a haggis and dancing the Gay Gordons), making sock puppets and devising puppet plays, and dot paintings of Australian animals. They enjoyed celebrating World Thinking Day with a Pyjama Party and are looking forward to a trip to Clip'nClimb.

Shelford Guides started the term learning first aid skills, decorating bags with a message about an issue they care about (issues chosen included saving the planet, bullying and period poverty), and a climbing session at Clip'nClimb. One evening they tried stargazing, but it was cloudy so they made models of constellations using marshmallows and spaghetti instead. They have also reflected on what it means to be part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts which has over 10 million members worldwide.



We would love more leaders and adult volunteers to be able to reopen Stapleford Brownies and also for our other local Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units. Please visit bit.ly/volGuiding to find out more and get in touch at: shelforddistrict@gmail.com. Thank you. **Lisa MacGregor**

Stapleford Tennis Club



AS we move into spring, it's the perfect time to shake off the winter blues and step onto the tennis court! With longer days and warmer weather, there's no better season to pick up a racket, whether you're dusting off old skills or trying the sport for the first time. Tennis is a great way to stay active, enjoy the fresh air, and challenge yourself. So, grab a friend, or come and make some new ones. Go to clubspark.lta.org.uk/StaplefordTennisClub for more information. For our upcoming coaching programmes including our Easter Camps for children, see clubspark.lta.org.uk/AngelicaFachechiCoaching.
Rosie Brown

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 134

Views from North Essex: a walk from Ashdon

To get to the start

DRIVE to Linton on the A1307, travel along the by-pass and turn right for Bartlow at the new roundabout. When Bartlow is reached, turn right for Ashdon. Park in Ashdon near The Rose and Crown on the main street (CB10 2HA). The walk starts from here.

Distance of walk

4.2 miles. It is quite a hilly walk, so may seem slightly longer than this!

OS Map

OS Explorer map 209. If you don't use your smart phone and want a map extract, go to maps.the-hug.net or use the route map provided.

Extra Information

Ashdon is in North Essex and the local scenery makes a change from the flatness of most of Cambridgeshire. This walk passes the restored wood-built post mill, Bragg's Mill. There is a free car park (CB10 2JA) and you can start the walk from that should you prefer. Marpa House is a Buddhist Meditation Centre and has been established for over 50 years.

Route of Walk

From The Rose and Crown in Ashdon, walk in the Bartlow direction. A footpath sign will be seen on the right immediately after the allotments. Cross over the road and follow the path across a stream, then go left and walk along the edge of a large field. At the end of the next field, turn left at the yellow waymark sign. A minor road is met almost immediately; turn right and walk along it, past Bragg's Mill and a row of houses.

When the road swings left, walk downhill on a grassy path between hedges. Keep on this path, along the right-hand edge of a large field, until a road is reached. Turn right along it until a footpath sign is seen on the left, just before a farmhouse. Take this path, which soon swings right. Cross a footbridge then go left, uphill, along the side of a field. Cross another footbridge and walk on until the path goes through a gap in a hedge and meets a hilltop track.

Turn right on the track; when it swings right, keep ahead on the grass heading for a gap ahead, to the left of a farm cottage. A main road is reached. Cross over and go left, turning right very soon afterwards along a minor road (signed Water End). Walk downhill and, where it swings left at the bottom of the hill, turn right on an access road and pass White Cottage.

Ignore a path to the right, and go straight ahead at a double footpath sign where the road bends left. This is a track and, after a concrete footbridge, a metal gate will be seen on the right. Go through it and walk uphill, with the fence line to the left. Pass into the next field and then go through another metal gate. Walk ahead along the right-hand side of a field, looking for a gap in the hedge on the right about halfway along the field. Go through the gap and turn left, following a grassy strip down the middle of another field.

Keep ahead, ignoring a path to the right, and meet a fenced paddock. Walk right, along the fence line and then turn right on a grass path when a horse paddock with an electric fence is reached. Keep walking until the end of the paddock and then turn right when a cross path is met. Walk downhill





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along the right hand edge of a large field, keeping the field to the left until it ends. Then go left past an old telephone box (part of Ashdon Museum).

A main road is reached. Cross over and follow the direction of a concrete footpath sign, uphill to the right of a field. At the top of the slope, turn right on a cross track and follow this to a metal gate, opening on to a minor road. Turn right on the road and walk until a house on the right is reached (Marpa House: a Tibetan Buddhist retreat). At this point there is a footpath sign on the left.

Follow this path along the left-hand edge of a cropped field. Ignore a path to the left but keep on until the field ends and then follow the narrow track downhill between paddocks. This ends with steps in a copse and a metal gate.

Go through the gate, turn immediate right (not signed) and walk along the edge of a field. This path goes though a gap near the end of the field, into a garden, then carries on down a road until emerging into the village of Ashdon. Turn right 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

Thoughts from the Courts

A talk by Simon Taylor K.C.



Personal reflections on 35 years at the Bar and on the bench in both civil and criminal law. A life lived vicariously with the injured, the incompetent, the falsely accused and some right villains.

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at 7.45pm

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Yesteryear

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

1815

EDUCATION. The Rev. J. D. Wigglesworth, A.B., receives into his house, situated in the rural and healthy village of Stapleford, 5 miles distant from Cambridge, Four Young Gentlemen, as Boarders and private Pupils. There is a vacancy for One. Terms and other particulars may be known by applying to Mr. Wigglesworth.

1899

THE PARISH CHURCH. A prominent feature of the late improvements is the new silk Genoa velvet Lectern fall, a beautiful specimen of art worked in silk and gold thread by Mrs. Morley, The Hall, Stapleford, and presented by her to the Church. A very handsomely carved oak Communion table has also been privately given by the new vicar, the Rev. Charles Butler.

1900

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION. For the last week or two a very considerable interest has been taken locally in a struggle between Mr W S Heffer, JP and Mr George Bull for the representation of the parish on the Chesterton Rural District Council. The polling took place in the Board School on Monday when an unusually large number of voters exercised the franchise. Much activity was displayed on behalf of the respective candidates, conveyances being freely used on both sides. Soon after 8pm the result was officially declared as follows: Bull 45, Heffer 38, majority 7. Mr Bull briefly returned thanks to the electors who had assembled to hear the announcement of the poll.

1918

LOCAL CASUALTIES, STAPLEFORD. ABLE SEAMAN REGINALD PAYNE. Mr and Mrs H Payne of Bridge Cottage, Stapleford, have been notified that their son, Reginald Payne, Able Seaman on one of H M destroyers, has been posted as missing, believed killed on April 23rd, the date of the naval raid on Zeebrugge. A B Payne, who was 21 years of age, had been in the Navy about two years prior to which he was employed by the county council on the roads.

1944

CAMBRIDGESHIRE VILLAGES DRAMA FESTIVAL. Perhaps the highest praise of all was given by Mr Browne to Stapleford's Women's Institute with

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EXTENSIONS CONVERSIONS RENOVATIONS ALTERATIONS

their production of "Read Quality" by Frances Jane. "It is unexpected results like this that make my work so immensely exciting. Here we were getting what I would call the best of village acting", he said, and described the performance of Nellie Stallan as Mrs Conway as "magnificent", and a model for the kind of thing you want to do at these festivals.

1971

CHESTNUT CLUB. On Wednesday an afternoon of fashion and beauty was held at Mrs Cannell's house for the women members. This took the form of a short talk on hygiene by Miss Weatherburn, the health visitor for Duxford, a question-and-answer session on care of the hair by Mrs Stubbings of Chez Claudine, Stapleford, and a fashion parade organised by Jack and Jill Boutique of Shelford.

1987

WASTE PAPER FUND. Mr King in his final report (on waste paper collection) asked the meeting to endorse the thanks due to Youthful Enterprise for coping with the waste paper collection since 1974. Regrettably the collection had to cease as the firm stated that it was not profitable to collect any more. The effort since January until the 4th April had produced 5 tons of newspaper for which only £7 per ton was due to be received. Since 1974 £2315 had been distributed whilst £801 had been passed back to YE for the monthly effort. *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*

Magog Singers End of Term Concert



FRIENDS and family are warmly invited to join the Magog Singers on their last day of term, 8 April at 3pm in the Pavilion, as they perform music rehearsed during the term. They will be singing an arrangement of 'Hail Holy Queen' from 'Sister Act', 'Annie's Song' with words and music by John Denver arranged by

Frank Metis, and a spiritual 'Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho' arranged by Mark Hayes. In complete contrast will be the partsong 'How calmly the evening once more is descending' words by TT Lynch and music by Sir Edward Elgar, as well as a number of choruses from Vivaldi's 'Gloria'. The choir will be, as usual, led by John Clenaghan and accompanied on this occasion by the previous director, Jacquie McBride.

Light refreshments will be served and a cash donation collected in aid of EACH (East Anglian Childrens' Hospice) in memory of Peter Dean, a long standing member of the choir who sang with us, aged 92 years, until he died early this year following a short illness. **Kathleen Foreman**

Puzzle Corner

Resurrection words

All the answers can be made from the letters of RESURRECTION
The letter E can be used twice, and the letter R two or three times

3-letter words

decay
element number 50

5-letter words

28.35 grams
salt container

7-letter words

oppose
water tank

9-letter words

occurring repeatedly
homes for clergymen

4-letter words

group of three
responsibility

6-letter words

intense fear
dark red

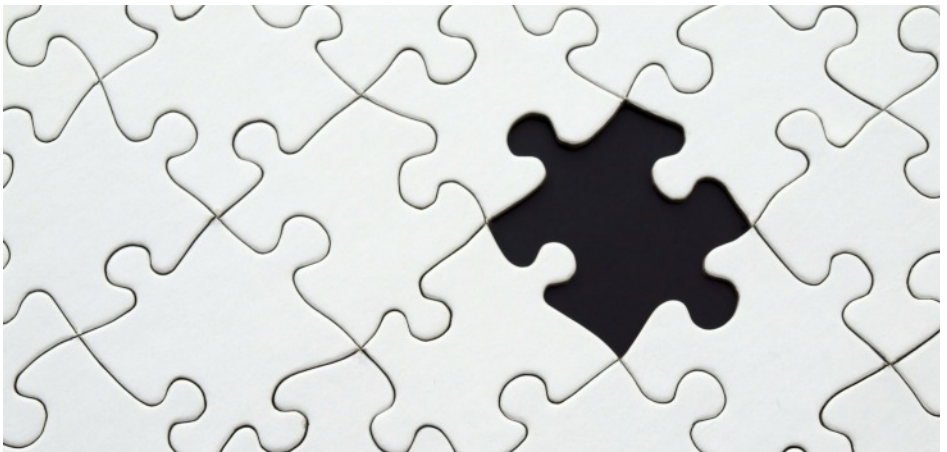
8-letter words

interpret
e.g. Down, Cork

10-letter word

headhunters

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 53



Finding peace among the trees



SINCE I was a teenager, I have been captivated by trees. I used to imagine the stories they could tell, who had sought shade beneath them, who had climbed them in adventure, and what history they had silently witnessed. My love for trees has never faded; in fact, it has deepened as I have come to understand the impact they have on our well-being.

Science confirms what many of us intuitively feel - spending time in nature, especially around trees, can significantly reduce stress and improve our mood. Being among trees lowers cortisol levels (our primary stress hormone), promotes relaxation, and can even boost the immune system through natural compounds they release. In a world that often feels overwhelming, nature offers a place to slow down, breathe deeply, and reconnect with ourselves.

Like many, I have experienced periods of stress, exhaustion, and disconnection. As a coach and hypnotherapist, I have witnessed firsthand the toll that our fast-paced, modern lives can take. Despite guiding others through their challenges, I realised that I, too, needed a place to recharge.

I found this in the woods. The gentle rustling of leaves, the quiet, and the beauty of the natural world have provided me with peace and restoration time and time again. Wandlebury, some of our nearest woodland, has been a place of solace for me for many years. Whenever life felt overwhelming, stepping into its serene embrace allowed me to reset, breathe, and regain my sense of balance. The beauty of nature - the whispering trees, the open skies, and the quiet stillness - became an essential part of my well-being and personal growth.



Over time, I realised I wanted to share this experience with others. If nature had helped me find balance and clarity, it could do the same for others seeking space to reflect and recharge. This led me to create Outdoor Mini Retreats at Wandlebury.

For more details and to book your place, visit cambridgeppf.org. Simply scroll down under the Events tab to find Outdoor Mini Retreat.

Beckie Whitehouse

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Stapleford History Society

11 March, David Jones: South Cambs in the early 17th century - a time of Royal transition.



THIS was the most well-attended talk I have seen and, according to the speaker, was Part 2 of the talk he gave to the Society on 9 December 2021. As a chartered accountant by training and the possessor of O-Level History only, he became an enthusiastic and very well-read researcher after moving to Little Shelford, where he lives in a 16th century timber-framed thatched cottage.

After more than a century of turmoil, both political and religious, the Tudor dynasty (1485 -1603) came to an end with the death of the childless Queen Elizabeth I. People were well aware of the problems this lack of an heir could pose and there was a sense of relief when James VI of Scotland also became King James I of England. He was also the only claimant with a direct link back to Henry VII, the founder of the Tudor dynasty.

James had become King of Scotland when he was nine months old, after the abdication and beheading of his mother, Mary Stuart, a devout Catholic. He himself was a Protestant and, at the age of twenty-two, made his Royal Progress from Scotland to England. He was showered with gifts and declared, "I was swapping a stony couch for a deep feathered bed." He particularly liked South Cambridgeshire, and it is said that he spent more time in Royston than in London and returned to Scotland on only one occasion.

South Cambridgeshire was clearly prosperous. Cambridge was nearby to provide intellectual stimulation and enjoyed the favour of the book-writing King. The university was growing and in 1604 was given the right to send two Members to Parliament followed by a new Charter in 1605. Newmarket was a horse-racing centre even then. However, neither place was as satisfactory as Royston for satisfying the King's real passions for hare coursing and playing golf.

Royston was also a good place within reach of many of his friends and supporters. The richest man in England, Sir Horatio Palavacino, lived at Babraham Hall and later at Little Shelford Manor House. Henry Wriothesley, the Earl of Southampton and patron of William Shakespeare, lived at the Manor House, Great Shelford. Sir Oliver Cromwell lived at Hinchingbrooke House where he held a 14-day party for James. Attendees included the heads of all the Cambridge colleges and the Earl of

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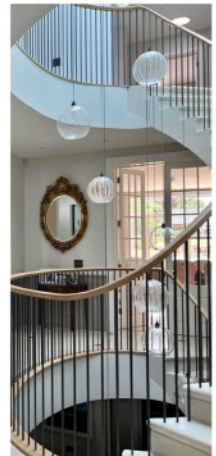
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Southampton. He also had friends like Robert Cecil who lived at Theobalds, near Cheshunt, so not very far from South Cambridgeshire.

Unfortunately, the King's take-over of Royston was not as successful for the local inhabitants as for him. Although South Cambridgeshire in general became the centre of Royal life and government, the local people had their houses requisitioned by the entourage of about forty courtiers and ambassadors, plus all the men necessary to look after the horses. A 14-mile exclusion zone was imposed where both hunting and ploughing were forbidden to the locals thus reducing their ability to provide food for themselves. **Jane Steadman**

Granta Medical Practices

Spring Covid-19 Booster



THE Covid-19 vaccine helps protect against Covid-19, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness. It is offered on the NHS to people at increased risk of getting seriously ill from Covid-19.

This year's spring booster will be available from 1 April to 17 June, and is

recommended for people at risk from Covid-19.

You may be offered the booster if you:

- Are aged 75 or over,
- Are aged 6 months to 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment,
- Live in a care home for older adults.

NHS UK will contact you directly if you are eligible for the spring booster.

Granta Medical Practices will be delivering Covid-19 vaccines to our own patients and the general public via the National Booking System on NHS UK. Please may we respectfully ask that you do not try to book directly via our reception as they do not have access to the National Booking System.

We will also be vaccinating older care home residents. Housebound patients will be vaccinated by one of the community services.

If you have any queries about the spring booster or Covid-19 in general, please go to [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) **Sandra East - Head of Patient Services**
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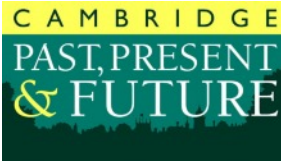


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We welcome high quality jumble which will help the scouts to raise lots of money.



Wandlebury events



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

Green Woodworking Weekend

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 April, 10.30am to 4pm. A celebration of traditional woodland crafts. Cambridge Bodgers will be working in the woods building a traditional work shelter and making items using wood that is a by-product from our Woodland Restoration Project. Have-a-go activities for both adults and children.



Woodland flora walk

Saturday 12 April, 2.30pm. The location will be signposted from the car park. Free, donations welcome. Please book on CPPF website or feel free to just turn up! Please pay for your car parking on arrival or why not become a member and get free parking all year!



Wandlebury Wildflowers in Spring

Wednesday 23 April, 10am to 12pm. Gentle guided walk to learn about spring wild flowers. Led by a knowledgeable guide who will help you to identify wild flowers using features such as colour, form and habitat. Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors. Meet at the large noticeboard in the car park. Free event, suggested donation £3. You can book on the CPPF website or feel free to just turn up.

May Day Morris Dance

Thursday 1 May, 5.15am to 6.30am. As the summer sun rises above the Wandlebury woodlands, the Devil's Dyke Morris Men dance to greet it. Meet on the picnic field at Wandlebury Country Park (signposted from entrance), dancing starts at approx. 5.29am. Free event - donations welcome. Hot drinks and snacks available.



Anna Massie, guitar & voice**Sunday 6 April | 3:00pm**

Bitter-sweet, witty and uplifting solo songs from one of folk's foremost guitarists, renowned for her work with Blazin' Fiddles and RANT, and her engaging commentary as a presenter on BBC Radio Scotland's *Travelling Folk*.

**Ivo Neame Quartet****Saturday 12 April | 7:45pm**

Classy, modern 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'.

**Shropshire & Other Lads: A. E. Housman in words & music****Sunday 13 April | 5:00pm**

A programme from pianist Ian Buckle interweaving songs by Ireland, Butterworth and Gurney with piano music and readings of Housman's melancholic, wistful poetry. Ian is joined by vocalists Jonathan Gunthorpe and Alex Pratley.

**Eliza Carthy, fiddle & voice****Saturday 26 April | 7:45pm**

One of the most recognisable faces in English folk, Eliza Carthy's music effortlessly crosses boundaries of genre and style, influencing a whole generation of young musicians.

Georgia Mancio, voice & Alan Broadbent, piano**Sunday 27 April | 3:00pm**

In a globally acclaimed collaboration spanning 12 years, Georgia and Alan have been described by Jazz Views as one of the most formidable songwriting partnerships of the 21st century; they present songs from their new album, *A Story Left Untold*.



Booking: www.staplefordgranary.org.uk | 01223 849004

British Cactus & Succulent Society - Cambridge & District Branch



AT our next meeting on Wednesday 9 April, at 7.30pm in Shelford Village Hall, we welcome Derek Tribble who has a great passion for growing and studying South African succulent plants. Amongst these are lithops - the fascinating South African succulents also known as 'living stones' which mimic their surroundings as a protection from predators. His talk covers

his visit to The Huntington Plant Symposium in Los Angeles where the oldest collection of cacti thrive and whilst in L.A. he spent time with Steven Hammer, a leading world expert on lithops; all this the basis for a wonderful talk.

Refreshments will be available, as well as cactus/succulents for sale, and a raffle.

To see what we are about, and to join the BCSS, just visit our main website at bcss.org.uk. Or just drop in to one of our monthly meetings; you will be most welcome.

Let's grow together. **Jacqui Arbon - Branch Secretary**

Shelford Support Group



THE Shelfords and Stapleford community transport service has a new phone number: 07514 542282.

From 31 March, local people without their own cars who need to organise journeys to the Health Centre, the hospital or the hairdresser, should call this new number.

07514 542282 connects straight to the duty co-ordinator who will organise a volunteer driver to help them! **Gillian Northmore**

Financial difficulties?



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

For more information contact Rev. Simon Taylor at simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com.

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The Travelling Companions, Augustus Leopold Egg, 1862. Birmingham Museums Trust via Unsplash.

Great Shelford Library April News

HAVE you visited the library lately? If it's been a few years, you may be surprised by how libraries have changed. Of course, we still have hundreds of books, fact and fiction, for all ages to choose from. We also have free WiFi and computers you can use to research family history, look up homework topics or even watch a National Theatre play. And we have lots of events in the library - Rhymetimes, Craft and Chat, Children's Lego, Art and Games clubs and a Digital Buddy. Whether you want to read, use a computer or meet new people, you might find just what you are looking for in the library. They are relaxed, friendly places and staff will be happy to help you.

Author Talk: Alison Stockham

Wednesday 23 April, 2pm to 3.30pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Stay and Play: Thursday 3rd April, 2 pm to 3.30pm. Ages 0 to 3. A relaxed drop-in session for families with young children. Toys provided, £2 per family

Carnival Games: Roll up roll up, come and play some carnival games.

Wednesday 9 April 2 to 3.30pm. Ages 4 to 10, £2 per child. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Spring Crafts: Thursday 17 April 2pm to 3.30pm. Animal, flowers and crafts galore. Ages 4 to 10. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Story, Rhyme and Duplo Time: Every Tuesday 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 and carers please stay with your children.

Art Club: Every Saturday morning 10.30am to 12noon. Suitable for ages 4 to 10. Drop-in event. Suggested £1 donation. Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times. **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		

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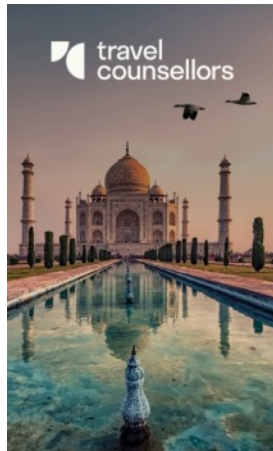
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Neighbourhood Plan update

Examination of our Plan continues



THE examination process is a key stage in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Our examination started in February 2025 and, by early March, the examiner had visited our Plan area and sent the steering group an

initial set of queries to respond to before he could move onto a more detailed review of the NP.

Examiners of NPs must check that they comply with national and local planning policies; are consistent with legal requirements; have been subject to appropriate consultation; and that their policies are clear, feasible and enforceable. This latter feature often results in NP policies being slightly amended. I cannot yet say with certainty, but we may, for example, have to remove from the Stapleford and Great Shelford NP some of the 29 views we wish to protect because they are general countryside views and not sufficiently well defined as to be enforceable. Along similar lines, Fulbourn NP was required to remove *all* of its proposed 16 views. Much as we may not like it, there is almost always some form of give and take required.

Occasionally, an examiner may hold a public hearing, perhaps to get to the bottom of an impasse between the NP and a stakeholder representation at Regulation 16 consultation. This doesn't happen very often, but it can be a useful way to head off legal action by a dissatisfied stakeholder who feels that their development prospects are thwarted (as opposed to inconvenienced) by a NP. After all, NPs cannot prevent sustainable development.

After the examination, the examiner will produce a report. This will recommend:

- approval of the Plan as it is, or
- approval with modifications to address issues or improve clarity (this is probably the most common outcome) – where this happens, the examiner suggests how the Plan should be amended, or
- rejection, if the Plan is found to be fundamentally flawed or does not meet the necessary criteria.

The local planning authority (in our case South Cambs District Council) then reviews the examiner's report and decides whether to accept the examiner's recommendations. If it disagrees with the examiner's recommendation, it may request further clarification or modifications. But if/when the LPA agrees, the Plan can proceed to the final stage: local

referendum. This is when residents of the NP area vote on whether they approve the Plan. It will be adopted if it gains the support of more than 50% of those who vote. 'Adoption' means that the Plan formally becomes part of the local development framework and used to guide future planning decisions in the area. And this is how we – the residents of Stapleford and Great Shelford – can shape the future of our area. Watch this space!

Jenny Flynn, Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group, Email: neighbourhood.plan@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Guided Busway: Cambridge South East Transport (CSET)



WE have seen many letters to the Secretary of State for Transport objecting to CSET. Thank you to everyone who took the time to formally object. We appreciate your support!

Better ways for Busways has submitted our own robust letter of objection to the Secretary of State for Transport which you can read at: bw4b.org/s/CSET2-Busway-Objection-070325.pdf

This is a technical and well substantiated legal objection. We believe that the case it makes is compelling. We thank everyone who made a donation as you made this possible!

We hope many more residents will now be inclined to financially support BW4B and the professional team of legal, transport, landscape and environmental experts that BW4B has assembled to make our case at the Public Inquiry. Please donate!

These letters of objection are now all matters of public record, including BW4B's own letter of objection, and will soon appear on a government website. We appreciate that many of these letters are the result of a great deal of time, effort and expertise.

If you have sent an objection letter you will receive a letter back from the Dept of Transport which asks you to advise, within two weeks of the date of the letter, if you want to speak at the Public Inquiry.

If you do not want to argue your position to the inspector, would you be willing to delegate responsibility at the public inquiry to BW4B? The Inspector will appreciate as few individuals as possible taking the stand. So, if you are willing, please write back to the Department of Transport advising that BW4B will represent you and copy BW4B please.

Thank you for objecting and for your continued support!

Howard Kettel - Better Ways for Busways

Parish Council Chair's report for March

THE observant among you will have noticed the sheep sculpture on Basil's Piece, Church Street. This has been placed there in memory of the farming community of Stapleford. From the late 19th Century Stapleford had four substantial farms. Gerald Beavis, Basil Beavis' brother, farmed at Greenhedge Farm and his sheep used to lamb in the barn which stood at the entrance to what is now Cox's Close.



Sawston Greenway was discussed at the Parish Council meeting. Consultation has now closed and work will start soon, starting at the London Road/Church Street junction. Concern was expressed by parishioners that Priam's Way and Dolphin Way would become a 'rat run' for those wishing to avoid this junction. Concern was also expressed at the relocation of the bus stop on London Road. Concerns have been discussed with the project manager.

Stapleford Weekend Terms of Reference, funding and Governance were approved, with the Parish Council giving a commitment to support the weekend with £10,000 for community engagement.

Speed limits along Haverhill Road were discussed and a 30mph limit will be sought for the road between the current 30mph limit at the edge of the village to past the entrances to Strawberry Fields, with a shorter 40mph limit following that. Unfortunately, the 20mph limit along the village length of Haverhill Road had been rejected at an earlier application.

Social media and safeguarding policies were approved and will be on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council website will be reviewed and updated.

Consultation on the controversial council four-day week will have closed by time this is published but District Councillor Will Jackson-Wood attended the meeting and answered questions about this.

Work is progressing on the Pavilion renovation but as yet no start date is confirmed, but likely to be at the end of the summer. This will impact regular hirers and occasional hirers as the building and car park will be closed for about three months while the work is carried out. Those affected will be informed as soon as a start date is confirmed.



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The contract for grounds maintenance has been awarded to Bradgate Grounds Maintenance Ltd and they have now started work looking after the verges, and areas of public land such as the recreation ground, Clerk's Piece, Basil's Piece etc.

2G3S are to be thanked for organising a village litter pick at the end of February. A surprising amount of rubbish was collected.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is Thursday 3 April at 7pm in Stapleford Pavilion and members of the public are invited to attend.

Gillian Pett

Little Shelford Lawn Bowls Club

New members wanted!



WE are looking for new members to join our bowls club this season. If you are interested, we are holding two open taster sessions on Saturday 26 April 2.30pm to 5pm, and Thursday 1 May 6.30pm to 8pm. Our first year introductory membership is only £20.

If you are a new starter, tuition and equipment can be provided. So please get in touch or just turn up. We meet at The Wale Recreation Ground, Whittlesford Rd, Little Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5EW.

For further information please contact: Vic Franklin Tel. 842276 (victorfranklin123@btinternet.com). **John Sherwell**

Sawston Cinema

Small Things Like These (12 rating; running time 98 minutes)

WHILE working as a coal merchant to support his family, a man discovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent - and uncovers truths of his own - forcing him to confront his past and the complicit silence of a small Irish town controlled by the Catholic Church.

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Shelford Twinning

Why not come to Verneuil in 2025?



THE dates for the visits have now been set, so put them in your diaries!

Shelford to Verneuil: 24 to 27 May

Verneuil to Shelford: 5 to 8 July

- Everyone is welcome, (singles, couples, family groups).
- It is an opportunity to get to know our twinned village, situated just north of Paris, and its lovely people.
- An enriching experience for the whole family.
- It is not necessary to speak French, but fun to try!
- It is not a requirement to host if you have been on the visit; neither do you need to have gone to Verneuil in order to have guests to stay.
- Adults £130; Teens (13-18) £100; Children (up to 12) £50.*

*We are able to offer this competitive price for the children thanks to the very generous support of Great Shelford Parish Council.

If you are interested in the trip, please contact Sarah Haddow (sarah.haddow@talk21.com) or Colin Jefferson (colin@frenchfrogs.net).

Use the QR code to access our website:



Please note : Participation in the visit involves becoming a member of the Association in accordance with our charter.

This costs £10 single membership/£15 family and is easy to organise.

Cambridge Flower Club

Thursday 17 April, 7.15pm, Refreshments 6.45pm

Christine Long NAFAS Demonstrator: 'Loosely round the solar system'

Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE

Annual subscription £45. Visitors £10 each meeting

Further information from co-chairs: Freda Orgee - 891464, fredaorgee@gmail.com or Alison Drake - 840117, drakealisonn@gmail.com



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Little Shelford Local History Society

The English Civil War – Oliver Cromwell and a world turned upside down

ALL welcome to the next meeting in the Little Shelford Memorial Hall on Monday 28 April. AGM at 7.30pm followed by a talk by Stuart Orme, Curator of the Oliver Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon.

Cambridge Cake Creators are moving

WE are pleased to announce from April future meetings will be held in the Johnson Hall, Stapleford. Our next meeting will be the AGM starting at 7.30pm on Thursday 17 April.

There will also be a chance to have those baking questions answered or to bring any items that you don't know what they are used for.

For more information contact 561053 or vanda.butler@googlemail.com

Vanda Butler

Great Shelford Bowls Club



APRIL sees the start of the bowls season with our Open Day and Coffee Morning on Saturday 19 April, starting at 10.30am.

If you want to consider taking up a new hobby, please come along, when you will be welcome to have a go at bowling. If you cannot make the Saturday please come along on Sunday 20 April at the same time when we will be having a practice day.

You may find that you would like to join the club and also enjoy the friendly atmosphere on many of our club nights.

Go to greatshelfordbowlsclub.co.uk or contact:

Gill Taylor/Secretary on 07581 079420 or Graham White/Chairman on 07740 031713 for more information. **Gill Taylor**

Puzzle Corner answers

Resurrection words

3-letter: ROT, TIN

4-letter: TRIO, ONUS

5-letter: OUNCE, CRUET

6-letter: TERROR, CERISE

7-letter: COUNTER, CISTERN

8-letter: CONSTRUE, COUNTIES

9-letter: RECURRENT, RECTORIES

10-letter: RECRUITERS

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Whether it's in your living room, local café, or village hall, putting the kettle on is the perfect way to connect with your community and raise much-needed funds for patients. Are you ready for a cuppa and some company? Visit arhc.org.uk/timefortea or email cf@arhc.org.uk or call 675888.



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
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07436 102733 or juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk

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Royal British Legion



THE Royal British Legion Sawston and District Branch, hold their monthly meeting in the Community Centre, Chapelfield Way, Sawston on the last Wednesday of each month commencing at 7pm. We welcome new members and you need not have been a member of the

Armed Forces.

The Royal British Legion is the safety net for those veterans who may have fallen on hard times. We can give you or guide you to the help you may need. In all cases our support is unwavering. To continue that support we ask for the help of everyone in the community during the Poppy Appeal in October/November as well as throughout the year. The funds collected go directly to those in need and their families within the Veteran Community.

We are often asked if we can provide the Branch Standard at the funeral of veterans together with a bugler to play the Last Post. The answer is that we can and we would be honoured to do so. Although we cannot provide a bugler, we can assist in the provision of one. Please do not be wary of contacting the Royal British Legion at such a distressing time, we have no involvement with any of the details. The funeral director has our contact information and will pass on to us the request. The veteran does not have to have been a member of the Royal British Legion. That he/she has served, is all we need to know - and as I have said, we would be honoured to attend with the Branch Standard.

Events coming up this year to which anyone is welcome to attend:

26 April – RBL Breakfast Club at The Plough, Duxford at 9am for 9.30am service.

30 April – RBL Branch Meeting

4 May - 80th anniversary of VE Day in the Challis Gardens beginning at 1pm.

24 August - 80th anniversary of VJ Day in the Challis Gardens. The Newmarket Town Band will be playing at both of these anniversary events, ably supported by the Sawston Youth Band. There will be the usual Raffle to raise funding to pay for expenses that the two events will cost. Donations to the Poppy Appeal can also be made at the Poppy Stall, where you can purchase RBL items. **John McCarthy, Branch Chair**

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)	gillian.pett@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Howard Kettel (V Chair)	howard.kettel@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
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James Northmore	jnorthmore@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

CLERK

Max Barrett 07472 398823 clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

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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