

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

May 2025

Volume 84 No 5

Price 90p

## Signs of Spring at last!



*Photograph: Judith Lee*

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

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# Who's who at St Andrew's

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

## Vicar

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

## Curate

Rev Lucinda Howard  
07763 477821

## Churchwarden

Alastair MacGregor  
07855 269844

## Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

## Parish Administrator

Sue Duncan 07752 373176

## Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 602248

## Director of Music

Tim Kwan 07745 80397

## PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

## Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

## Verger

Clare Kerr 842984

## Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

## Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

## Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

## Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

## Johnson Memorial Hall

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](http://standrewstapleford.org) for full details. The services include:

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

## SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

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

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

### Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

## CHRISTENINGS and Weddings

CHRISTENINGS take place during Sunday worship.

FOR both Christenings and Weddings, contact the Vicar.

## Stapleford MESSENGER

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# From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

TWO possible career choices for young people crossed my path this week.

The first came into view when I was spending a spare hour in the Fitzwilliam Museum. I went to the *Men Looking at Women* exhibition, a really insightful look at how male artists chose over the centuries to portray women. Then I had time to pop into the Ancient Near East gallery, and took a look at the cuneiform display. That is a form of



writing on clay using wedge-shaped characters. I hadn't realised that it was used for a really long time, from before 3000 BC until 200 AD or so, over a wide area, for lots of language. Here is the career opportunity: there are, apparently, *millions* of undeciphered tablets, cones and inscriptions in collections around the world. Which is pretty mind-blowing. Who knows what tiny but exciting gem might be uncovered by a lifetime of poorly remunerated, unrecognised work in dusty museum basements? Must be attractive to someone. And, for balance, other ancient languages are available.

The other one is maybe more mainstream, a bit. It is the study of zebras' stripes. The BBC reported studies on the subject – which seem to have first been reported in 2019, but it's hot news to me. The claim is that the purpose of the stripes is to deter biting flies. Digging deeper, though, the truth seems to be that no-one yet knows what they are for. I think teaching in my childhood was that they are for camouflage, but studies have shown that zebras spend most of their time in the open plains, not among trees or tall vegetation. In the open stripes make them more visible, not less. But, then again, it is possible that lions, the main predator, see the stripes differently to us, so camouflage remains a possible explanation.

Then there is the biting flies explanation. It does seem to be the case that stripes attract fewer biting flies than plain colours. Actually, stripes make it harder for flies to land properly. They get confused and bounce off. It has been tested by putting striped coats on horses (seriously), and, maybe, by painting cows (but that might be apocryphal). But the fewer flies thing could be a by-product of stripes rather than the driving evolutionary purpose.

And then there is a thermoregulation explanation. The simple end of that is that black stripes absorb more heat in the morning, and white stripes radiate it more as the day heats up. That can be shown to be physically true by sneaking up on zebras and attaching thermometers. Again, seriously. You

can test it at home by painting stripes on a water butt. More subtly, the temperature difference drives micro-turbulence of the air in contact with the skin, so there is more evaporation, and the black hairs erect more fully than white and ... ok, enough. You can see how there might a career in studying zebras. This particular issue has been under the scientific microscope for over a century, and there is more mileage in it yet. And, for balance, other animals are available.

All this got me thinking about how we choose to spend our working lives. Careers advice is way better than when I was young. At my school the options presented were pretty much law, medicine, teaching, the armed forces or business. It was that sort of school. Nowadays, when careers advice breaks through Michael Gove's appalling decimation of the provision in schools, it is much more wide-ranging, and focusses on aspirations and abilities more than the directive 'choose this or that' of yesteryear.

Thinking it through from a Christian perspective I would say that it is important to choose a career that calls for integrity, that allows us to strive for excellence in whatever field it is, that uses the abilities and interests we have, that helps us to develop and grow in what we can do and in our outlook on the world, and that benefits others. Or something. And there would be plenty of other things to add to this rather generic list. What would you add and why?

Actually applying any of this sort of high-level thinking and making a choice is not straightforward. In our broken world we need spooks, for example, and how a spook maintains integrity consistent with the needs of the role clearly takes some grappling with. And we need armies and defence equipment, people and things that can do harm to others. For my part, I don't believe Christians should always be pacifists, though we should be slow to fight, and fighting should serve greater goods and be done in particular ways. And we need politicians, but we know that speaking with integrity when messages have to be simple to be heard is really difficult.

Living well, in career choices as in other things, is not easy. Perhaps it comes down to this. I believe that we are each given abilities and opportunities by God and called to use them consistently with God's loving purposes to serve him and to serve others. That is the model given to us by Jesus Christ and his apostles. If we strive to follow that model in what we do with our lives, we won't go far wrong. And yes, that might include a life time of slightly arcane study of marks on clay or zebras, or research of more obvious utility, or something mainstream like teaching or law, or even

# Come & Sing Evensong!

Sunday 8 June 2025

Rehearsal 3.45 pm  
Evensong 6 pm

- everyone welcome  
- refreshments afterwards



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something where there is a danger – to be carefully navigated with integrity of purpose – of moral compromise.

Every blessing to you, and may you bless others, in all your work and in play, whatever it is, **Simon Taylor**

## **Fourth Thursday Midweek Communion... and refreshments.**

A NEW venture in St Andrew's. A short communion service, followed by time to have a chat over a cup of something nice and a bit of cake. The first one is at 10.30am on Thursday 22 May, the fourth Thursday of the month. All welcome – and if you are in need of a little bit of quiet time in the middle of a busy week, or a bit of company in our beautiful church, this is for you!

**Simon Taylor**

## **Bell ringers needed!**

ST Andrew's has a lovely set of bells, and has had terrific bell ringers for a long time, but our team would welcome some new members. Are you an old hand at bell ringing and would like to dust the cobwebs off your skills? Or is it something you have always fancied having a go at?

Now is your chance. We will be organising suitable practice sessions for anyone interested, so please do let me know! Contact details are [simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com) or 840256 **Simon Taylor**

## **Profreader wanted**

THE *Messenger* could do with another another volunteer proof reader to join our happy team? We have 2 but three would be better. Each addition of the *Messenger* is read by two. people; it typically takes a couple of hours. experience is not necessary, just an ability to spot errors and inconsistencies, and a reasonable expertise in the English language. Training in the Acrobat Reader programme will be given. If you would be willing to help a few months a year, or should like more information, please contact [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you.

(How many corrections would you have made to the above? 16 deliberate mistakes were made – any others were unintentional!)

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

4 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Acts 9.1-6; John 21.1-19 <i>Beach BBQ</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Isaiah 38.9-20; John 11.27-44
6 MAY	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
11 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 9.36-43 John 10.22-30 <i>My sheep hear my voice</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH <i>in the churchyard</i>
18 MAY	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP AND BAPTISM Matthew 3.13-17 <i>My son, whom I love</i>
22 MAY	10.30 AM	FOURTH THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION followed by refreshments in church
25 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Acts 16.9-15; John 14.23-29 <i>My peace I give to you</i>
1 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Acts 16.16-34; John 17.20-26 <i>I made your name known</i>

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

## FROM THE REGISTERS

- 25 MARCH – Funeral of John Allison
- 6 APRIL – Baptisms of Annabelle & Matilda Anderson
- 16 APRIL – Funeral of Cyril Chamberlain
- 23 APRIL – Funeral of Terence Moore



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[layminister@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:layminister@standrewstapleford.org) or 478923

## **Deadline for the June Messenger**

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 9 MAY**

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

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Fourth Thursday Midweek Communion  
10.30 am Thursday 22 May  
All welcome  
Refreshments after the service



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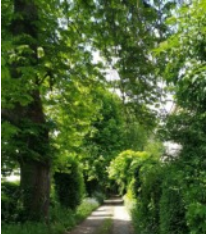


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## Green Scene



COLOUR mixing is fun. Children often produce muddy tones. Discovery delights. Blue and yellow really does make green. Enjoyment continues in picture making. Tall, bright, leaf green lollipop trees feature. No branches. Blades of grass and foliage blur into solid patches of bold flat green. Change develops as observation and curiosity grows. Many greens: sap, lime, holly, olive, mint, apple, aqua. Tones vary: light, dark, dusky, gentle. A verdant

pastoral symphony. Learning opportunities. Mustard and cress seeds grow on cotton wool or broad beans on blotting paper showing roots and shoots. Fun.

Seasons differ. Bare, barren brown to glowing greens. A quote by Pedro Calderon de la Barca states, 'Green is the prime colour of the world and that from which its loveliness arises.' Rooms painted delicate shades like sage, calm. Heavy bottle green would be a statement feature wall. Shades of green have various meanings, evoking reactions. The herb rosemary is for remembrance. Peridot is the August birthstone. The Emerald Isles are represented by the shamrock. Green is dominant in nature symbolising growth, abundance and renewal of life.

We can Go Green. That means implementing life-style changes designed to help us live in a more eco-friendly way. Environmental awareness will reduce pollution and waste. A united endeavour. Green brand logos aim to promote harmony, health, and consciousness of needs. Big responsibilities.

Home grown produce on allotments, gardens, in greenhouses or poly tunnels reward. Cabbages, sprouts, courgettes, runner beans, and more. Podding peas please plus taste testing. Sustainably sourced and fresh. Beware! Being green fingered can create green envy. Distress over Green Belt land, never to be built on. Not now. The National Trust with an oak leaf logo keeps history and the environment alive. The new slogan says, 'For everyone, for ever.'

Songs and poems can feature green. Lyrical, creating images. At Easter we sing, 'There is a green hill far away,' and less familiar, 'Now the green blade riseth,' beautiful and meaningful. We remember palms strewn before Jesus as he rode through Jerusalem. A poignant scene. Green is special, to be valued. The visually challenged miss our delight. Awareness stimulated through other senses and us. Enthusiasm radiates joy of our community and world. Optimism, life and growth is encouraged by green. **Judith Lee, remembering my late husband, Stephen**

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# Mothers' Union News



ON 29 May, Julie Moy, one of our members, will be talking to us about 'Mothers' Union projects' (usual time and venue, 2.30pm, Johnson Hall). As Julie has been to Tanzania and met the MU there, it should be very interesting.

Our coffee morning was successful in April raising over £60 for Branch and Project funds - thank you Mary, for hosting us. **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](mailto: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 and 440 Jazz, followed by refreshments*



## Financial difficulties?



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

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

# Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

**From: John W. Lamble**

**Re: Cycling damage on the school field**

AN occasional disobedience has now become a constant and damaging problem. The school field has notices at the main access points forbidding cycling. However, it has now become a cycling highway and the turf has been noticeably damaged already. As soon as wet weather resumes a deep muddy runnel will be produced.

This route has become a standard method of cutting off a corner between the official cycling path from Sawston to the Genome Cycling Path to Addenbrooke's. After crossing the A 1301 the legitimate route is to cycle the full length of Church Street on the way to Mingle Lane. Now countless cyclists go instead up Bury Road and turn into Vine Close to reach the school field which is crossed to reach Church Street closer to Mingle Lane. As a result the gate to the school field is constantly left open for long periods and, as mentioned, the field is being damaged. I recommend that as a minimum an automatic gate shutting mechanism is installed at the Vine Close entrance to the school field or, preferably, a bicycle-proof fence and gate are installed there.



## 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.

In the Pavilion on Tuesday 13 May at 7.45pm

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

## Stapleford WI



AT our well-attended annual meeting in March members heard a detailed report from our Secretary and Treasurer, Christine Wylde, which revealed just how active Stapleford WI has been as a group during the past twelve months. The number, and wide ranging appeal of events, speakers, outings, supper evenings, a barbeque, groups such as the craft and book groups, which members have been able to enjoy, is impressive. We have also supported local events such as the Village Weekend, and each month donated a large number of items to the Cambridge City food bank. Committee members were thanked by the President, Susan Clark for their hard work and, in particular, their individual contributions in providing such a full and varied programme. Members were thanked for their assistance with serving refreshments at our monthly meetings and for their support, help and encouragement. Susan Clark was re-elected as our President and she promised that the coming year will be another one of fun, friendship and plenty to do!

At our monthly meeting, which preceded our annual meeting, members were reminded of the latest events and outings provided by the Federation for all Cambridgeshire WI members. These activities include various craft sessions, outings, talks, demonstrations and lunches. Readers might be interested to know that WI members also have access to the WI Learning Hub which is a platform dedicated to 'empowering women by providing free high-quality educational courses tailored to diverse needs and aspirations'.

If you are not a member and would like to find out more about the WI then please do come to a meeting at the Pavilion where we convene on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Our next meeting is on 22 May. In June, Nigel Sutton, a former police officer, who works for Cambridgeshire Constabulary within the Specialist Crime Team, will be speaking to us about Cyber Crime. You can also find information and photos of our activities at [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com) or speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847. **Joyce Dobson**

## We're waiting for your story!

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

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

REHEARSALS  
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music@standrewstapleford.org



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# Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

## An exciting visit coming soon!



The Link committee is delighted to share with our readers some exciting news about an upcoming visit to Nachingwea. A year or so ago the Link committee was contacted by Robert and Liz Claiborne-Dixon, who Googled 'St Andrew's, Nachingwea' and were intrigued to discover that Stapleford was linked to Nachingwea.

Robert and Liz wish to visit Tanzania as Liz's parents were married in St Andrew's Church Nachingwea in 1952 by the Reverend Cox who instigated our Link. Liz's parents worked in various places in Southern Tanzania and Liz and Robert thought they would like to visit the locations in the area where they worked.



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

Having made contact with the Stapleford committee they have now very kindly offered to stay several days in Nachingwea on our behalf, hosted by Kevin and the Link Committee, to visit the Church, meet the new Priest, Rev Phares Lihewe and to see for themselves some of the projects that we have sponsored.

You are most welcome to come to St Andrew's on Sunday 4 May when Robert and Liz will introduce themselves to the congregation at the 10.30am service and talk about their plans for their visit in September.  
**St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee**



## 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.

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# Cricket season has arrived



THE village's two cricket clubs have been busy working in tandem to prepare for another summer of action - and this time there are more games than ever before.

For the first time in its 10-year existence, Stapleford Phoenix is running two midweek T20 teams: a first team and a more casual second side for friendlies and lower division club games.

That means it now mirrors Stapleford Cricket Club, which fields two teams every Saturday afternoon in the lower reaches of the Cambridge leagues.

There has never been a better time, therefore, for the occasional player or an emerging youngster (aged 13 or over) to come and join us for the odd game or two. Or, even better, the entire season.

Signing up for a Saturday game could hardly be easier. There will be at least one fixture every Saturday (apart from the Village Weekend at the end of June) and anyone registered with the league in time can play so contact Gareth Everson on [gareth.everson@lseg.com](mailto:gareth.everson@lseg.com) or Sajog Gangadharan on [sajog.gangadharan@gmail.com](mailto:sajog.gangadharan@gmail.com) to get your name down.

Having a go with the Phoenix is even easier - no registration is required. Just drop us a line on the [staplefordphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordphoenix@gmail.com) club email.

The Phoenix plays in Divisions Two and Three of the Cambridge Business House as well as friendlies. Some of which are occasionally on rather swish college grounds.

Talking of grounds, the square on the Rec is also looking better than ever, thanks to the hard work put in over the winter months by our dedicated band of volunteers, with Tim Harrison now combining spin bowling duties with the role of Head Groundsman.

Both clubs have been generously sponsored by the Three Horseshoes, our post-match debrief venue, and pitch improvements have been significantly aided thanks to a donation from the *Messenger* Fund. Another generous sponsor is waiting in the wings - more on that when we have details.

And finally, for the fourth season running, Stapleford Phoenix is also flying the flag abroad. This summer we take on some of Andalusia's finest in Granada. Having previously played the Greek national team by mistake, what possibly could go wrong? **Jon West**

**AA**



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## Stapleford Warden Scheme

THE Stapleford Warden Scheme drop-in cafe was a great success! There was a lovely gathering of people enjoying coffee, delicious cakes, spring flowers and catching up.

Thank you to all for coming along and for your kind donations to the Warden Scheme. Huge thanks too to a fantastic group of volunteers for flowers, cakes, and support.

We are working on holding the coffee mornings on a more regular basis.

If you would like to volunteer for the Warden Scheme please contact Juliet for further information: [juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk), 07436 102733 **Juliet Hawksworth**



## Stapleford resident Sylvia Morris is on the road (and farm tracks!) again

AS many Stapleford residents who have generously supported the Karen Morris Memorial Trust over the years know, the Karen Morris Memorial Trust supports Karen's Homes from Home for leukaemia patients and their families. The one at Addenbrooke's opened in July 2011. The others are at Hammersmith Hospital, the Churchill in Oxford and the Queen Elizabeth in Birmingham with the fifth under discussion for another leading haematology department.



*The living room of Karen's home from home at Addenbrooke's*

My Karen would have been 50 on 29 May. I cannot celebrate as a mother would want, but to mark this significant birthday I am walking 50 miles in May finishing on her birthday. Please visit [justgiving.com/page/sylvia-morris-walks50](http://justgiving.com/page/sylvia-morris-walks50) to sponsor me. Your support will spur on this 78-year-old who never even made the fourth team of her class's netball team (there were 32 girls in the class!). **Sylvia Morris**

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# Tree Project



THE tree planting season has finished now, and we have calculated that the project has planted 130 trees or hedging plants, including ones that people have sourced and planted in their own gardens, and ones donated to us by villagers.

If you have been kind enough to 'adopt' a tree, could you please keep an eye on it, especially by watering it in dry weather. Its root system is very small at present so it will need lots of watering for a year or two, till the roots are established.



We will resume planting trees and hedging in the Autumn. If you think there is an area of public land that would benefit from having a tree, please contact Sophi. We have many ideas but welcome more suggestions.

If you have a favourite tree in the village and haven't yet told us, please do so. We will endeavour to protect these important trees against developers.



You will see that trees we have planted on public land are numbered, and we are compiling a list of the trees we have and their species, and where they are sited. This list will go on the Parish Council website so you can see what's planted where. We will monitor the trees' growth and keep a record of their progress.

We are seeking donations to purchase some larger saplings, also more stakes and guards, for the Autumn. For more information about the project, see [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project/](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project/), or contact [sophiberridge@gmail.com](mailto:sophiberridge@gmail.com) if you have any questions. We will be at the Village Weekend, please come and talk to us.

To register your interest or to donate to the project, fill in the form at the above address, scrolling down to 'register here'. **Helen Hale**

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# Villedômer Twinning Association

Visiting 22 to 25 May



STAPLEFORD Twinning Association is very much looking forward to receiving 14 members of the Villedômer Twinning Association, who will be flying to Stansted airport from Poitiers and Tours.

The programme for the weekend will be as follows. If anyone in the village would like to join us for the Thursday evening drinks reception at Cox's Close Community Room (and you don't need to be able to speak French!) you will be given a warm welcome.

Thursday 22 May - a drinks reception in Cox's Close Community Room at 6.30pm open to the Village.

Friday 23 May - a day in Cambridge with a chauffeured punt trip on the Cam and a BBQ in the evening for hosts and their guests.

Saturday 24 May - a trip to London by train and river boat and a walking tour from Westminster to Buckingham Palace with a self-guided tour around the Royal Mews. A farewell dinner at Freemasons Hall, Cambridge in the evening.

Sunday 25 May - our guests depart in the morning for their flights home.

To find out more about the Stapleford Twinning Association, please have a look at: [twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk](http://twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk) **Jillian Gardner**



May 2024: Twinning visitors and their hosts went to Bressingham gardens

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# Puzzle Corner

## More words from Bank Holidays

ALL the answers can be made from the letters of BANK HOLIDAYS. The letter A can be used twice.

### 3-letter words

fuss  
request  
wild ox  
Jamaican pop music

### 4-letter words

goose noise  
2.2 pounds  
oleaginous  
2014 Russell Crowe film

### 5-letter words

useful  
polished  
attractive  
bellis perennis

### 6-letter words

dwarf tree  
Bertie Wooster's aunt  
handsome young man  
Britain or England (poetic)

### 7-letter word

Indian lentil dish

### 8-letter word

flatter

*Set by Hermes – Answers on page 43*

## Cambridge Flower Club

**Gill McGregor NAFAS Demonstrator: 'May Floral Mayhem'**

Thursday 15 May, 7.15pm, Refreshments 6.45pm

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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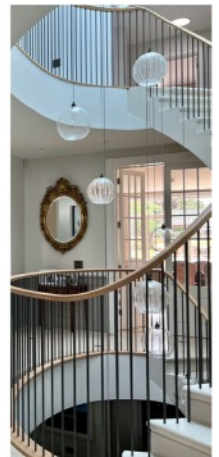
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# Yesteryear

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

**1887**

**WILFUL DAMAGE.** Henry Rawlinson was summoned for wilfully damaging a board, the property of Wm. Samuel Heffer. Evidence was given to the effect that the defendant was seen throwing stones at the board, which broke a piece off it. The bench fined him 2s. 6d. and costs.

**1900**

**PRESENTATION TO MR F R HARRIS OF STAPLEFORD.** At the annual Good Templar May meeting, held in St Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross, on Saturday last when a large number of representative temperance workers from all parts of England as well as Scotland, India and other lands were present, Mr F B Harris of Stapleford received a valuable testimonial consisting of a silver tea and coffee service and an illuminated address.

**1918**

**THE LATE RIFLEMAN C H CHALK.** The death took place on Tuesday of last week, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern General Hospital, of Rifleman Arthur Cyril Heffer Chalk of the Kings Royal Rifles, the son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Chalk, of "Brooklands", Stapleford. Rifleman Chalk, who was 23 years of age, was educated at Framlingham College. After completing four years apprenticeship with Messrs Robert Sayle and Co, Cambridge, he joined up in November 1915, and went through a full course of training at Andover, Banbury and Wimbledon. He left for France in August 1916 and was at the front during three engagements. On Easter Monday 1917, near Vimy Ridge, he was shot severely through the right knee. He quickly recovered, however, but 10 days later, when crossing the Channel the French hospital ship, Laufranc, was torpedoed. Rifleman Chalk was rescued but his leg had to be amputated later owing to septic poisoning. He was later transferred to Swanage and Bournemouth hospitals and returned home in October 1917. Shortly afterwards he contracted a chill, which brought on pleurisy, and had to undergo an operation for emphysema. After being attended to at home for five months, he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Eastern Hospital. His system, however, never cleared of the poisoning and on Tuesday of last week it was thought advisable to operate again. Unfortunately his heart gave way under the strain, and he passed away peacefully on the same evening.

The funeral took place on Saturday when he was laid to rest in the family vault.

**The Magpies****Saturday 3 May | 7:45pm**

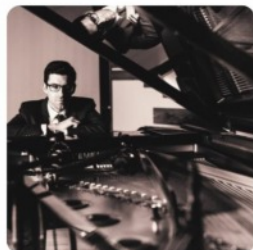
Transatlantic folk band fast making a name as an exciting and innovative act on the contemporary roots scene, drawing inspiration from traditional Celtic folk, bluegrass and Appalachian trails.

**Daniel Lehardt, piano****Friday 9 May | 7:45pm**

A programme of music by Franz Liszt, Robert Schumann and Clara Schumann from this award-winning pianist, admired for his 'poetry, panache and formidable technique'.

**Gabriel Latchin Trio: a tribute to George Gershwin****Saturday 17 May | 7:45pm**

Now a major highlight on the UK jazz scene, The Gabriel Latchin Trio perform new arrangements of Gershwin favourites, including *Summertime*, *Someone to Watch Over Me* and *I Got Rhythm*.

**Piatti Quartet****Friday 23 May | 7:45pm**

Borodin, Puccini and Tchaikovsky from Kings Place resident string quartet and laureates of the 2015 Wigmore Hall International Quartet competition.

**Wendy Cope, poetry reading****Sunday 25 May | 3:00pm**

Following her sold-out reading in 2024, Wendy Cope returns to the Granary with more of the pitch-perfect parodies and pithy lyrics that have made her a household name.

Booking: [www.staplefordgranary.org.uk](http://www.staplefordgranary.org.uk) | 01223 849004

1935

**JUBILEE FESTIVITIES.** The Jubilee festivities were considered the best ever held in the village. A grass enclosure behind the Institute was laid out with decorated tables. Some 450 residents (comprising 95 per cent of the village) sat down to a substantial tea. Mrs Johnson of The Grove and about 30 helpers were in charge of the tables. Mrs Salmon's band played throughout the proceedings. Sports were arranged for the children during the afternoon. Prizes and mugs were given to the children by Mrs Harold Gray. The chairman for the afternoon was the vicar, Rev Mr Rogers, in the absence of Mr H Gray, supported by Colonel Peel-Yates who proposed a vote of thanks to all for making the event such a success. The King's speech was relayed at 8 o'clock and a mammoth whist drive started at 8.30 pm. It is understood that the parish council are endeavouring to obtain a recreation ground for the village as a permanent memorial. There will be a jubilee thanksgiving service in St Andrew's Church on Sunday next at which Bishop Price will be the special preacher.

1981

**CLERK'S PIECE.** The Clerk stated that following the query over the size of the area required for the hut and weir, it transpired that the 60 square meters included the area of the river bed which the Council owned as riparian owners. The actual land required was as reported on by Mr Holt and the Clerk. Mr Holt then proposed that the Council sell the area to the AWA for £25 (Agreed) ... It was agreed that a clause be included to the effect that the land is sold back to the council for £25 should the AWA cease to require it". *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*

## Local elections on 1 May

THERE are local elections all over Britain on 1 May. In Stapleford we are voting for a new County councillor for the Sawston and Shelford division, and for the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined authority area. Stapleford's polling station will be in the Cox's Close communal room like previous elections.

Please remember that you need to show an identification document with a photograph to vote. Many documents are accepted, including passports and driving licences, There is a full list of acceptable documents on the Electoral Commission's website: [electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id). **Gwilym Luff**

# Stapleford Strollers: Turpin's Walk

## A walk from Great Sampford

### To get to start of walk

Take the A1307 to Linton, turn right on the roundabout at the end of the by-pass and head for Bartlow. Turn right in Bartlow, for Ashdon. In Ashdon, turn left for Radwinter next to the The Rose and Crown pub. Keep on the road until reaching the crossroads by The Plough Bar and Grill, Radwinter. Carry on ahead on the B1053 to Great Sampford. Turn left at the church for The Red Lion, where this walk starts (**CB10 2RL**).

### Length of walk

For those who are pining for a longer walk, here's a 6 miler. It's usually called Turpin's Walk (reason given below). It can get muddy in places but is ideal in late spring and summer.

### OS Map

OS Explorer map 195. Get on your phone app, use [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net) for a free map extract, or use the route map provided. There are lots of footpaths in the area

### Extra Information

Dick Turpin's father ran The Bluebell Inn in Hempstead, passed on this route, back in the early 18C. People in Hempstead (London) try to claim the infamous highwayman was one of their local celebs, but they clearly can't spell or simply wilfully mishear! **Hempstead** is the place.

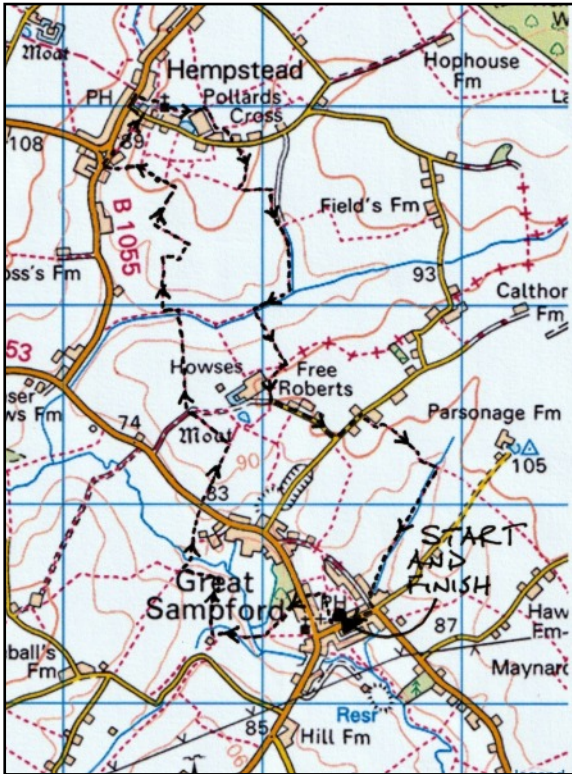
### Route of walk

Start from outside The Red Lion, Great Sampford CB10 2RL. With your back to the pub, take the path to the immediate right, which leads to playing fields. Go left past the tennis courts and then cross over the road. Take the path opposite, between houses, and head right when entering the field behind the houses. Cross a bridge over the River Pant, then cross two more footbridges and follow these by bearing right through a field. When a cross path is met, go right and cross over the river again at another bridge.

Head right and walk through three paddocks, separated by gates, and then cross another field to meet a road. Cross over and go up some steps, turning left through a gate after 400 metres.

Go through two more gates and come to a track at a cattle grid. There is a moated farmstead to the right (Howses). Look for a stile to the left, cross it and carry on with the hedge to the right. Hempstead can be seen ahead. Cross a stream via a bridge and go up some steps, turning left at the top and





then, soon after, right up a field keeping the hedge line to the left. At the top of the field take a left turn through a hedge gap and cross the next field to the corner by a hedge and follow the path round to the right, via the edge of the field.

Then enter a paddock with a hedge to the left. Cross over two stiles and keep on down the field to a road. Turn right along the roadside for about 50 metres then bear right on a byway parallel to the road. On reaching another, more minor, road, go left and then turn right on the pavement when the former Bluebell pub is seen (now closed for business). Turn right by the

Village Hall and pass through the churchyard to a gap.

Turn right at the second gate after the churchyard, go past a pond and reach a road. Turn left on the road for about 100 metres, then go right at a path on the right. Go left after about 200 metres and walk alongside the hedge to the bottom of a field. Continue round to the right for about 600 metres, going downslope. Turn right at the River Pant and walk alongside it until crossing over at a footbridge. Walk upslope, turn right on to a green lane and keep on until meeting a road.

Turn left, walk past Free Roberts (a farmhouse), and go left at the T junction. Follow the road to Bean Pod Farm and then turn right past farm buildings. Carry on, passing paddocks to the left and continue to a ditch on the right. Turn right here and continue for 800 metres heading for Great Sampford. A bridge is crossed half way there, after which the ditch is on the left. When reaching the village, the main road will be seen to the left. Go right alongside it and return to the pub. **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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## 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, and meeting with our MP. For May we have:

**Dr Bike** continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3 pm to 5:30 pm 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](mailto:drbikestapleford@gmail.com). You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential.

**Planning Meeting** is on Monday 12 May at 8pm, Cox's Close Community Centre, Stapleford. We meet every couple of months to plan out what initiatives we are supporting and the arrangements for our future events. Newcomers are most welcome!

**'Six Inches of Soil'** film screening, with a discussion afterwards with local farmers and others. This is on Thursday 15 May at 7pm, at the Marven Centre, Sawston Village College. It is a film made in the UK by a production team based in Cambridge, and first released in 2024. It features the inspiring story of British farmers working for an alternative to the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food – to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities. (You may remember I discussed nature-friendly farming and regenerative farming last time, in connection with Tom Heap's book 'Land Smart'). Running time is 96 minutes. In order to cover the costs of showing the film we will be charging £5 per ticket. You can book tickets online through [kinema.com](http://kinema.com), but unless we are sold out, you will also be able to pay on the door. You can find out more about the film on [sixinchesofsoil.org](http://sixinchesofsoil.org).

**Book Club** is on Tuesday 20 May at 8 pm, meeting at the Three Horseshoes in Stapleford. The 2G3S Book Club meets every 3 months to discuss a book that has some relationship to green living and the natural world. This time we will be discussing 'Riddley Walker' by Russell Hoban. If you want to join us at the meeting, please send an email to 2G3S with 'Book Club' in the title (so we can let you know of any changes and future events).

**Repair Cafe** is on Saturday 10 May from 2pm-5pm, at the URC Church in Whittlesford. Bring along your broken item and a skilled volunteer will help you fix it! We can tackle a wide variety of repairs including jewellery, electrical and electronic devices, as well as clothes and fabrics.



2G3S present a film screening at the  
Marven Centre with a discussion to follow



# Six Inches of Soil

a documentary feature film



The inspiring story of British farmers transforming  
the way they produce our food

15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 7pm

Marven Centre, Sawston Village College

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<https://kinema.com/events/Six-Inches-of-Soil-mvocni>

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We will send out confirmations in the week before the event. Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets. The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees. We will also collect portable non-working (unfixable) electrical items and ensure these are properly disposed of.

Looking ahead to June, we will be showing the film 'Wilding' at Stapleford Village Weekend, on Thursday 26 June. More details next time.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to [mail2G3S@gmail.com](mailto: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/](http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/). **Helen Hale**

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## Stapleford Wind Sinfonia

THE concert for 17 May advertised in the April *Messenger* has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. The programme will be given in the autumn, with exciting works such as Kenneth Hesketh's *Masque*, *Catskills* from *East Coast Pictures* by Nigel Hess, plus well-loved music by Percy Grainger and others. We hope to see you then.



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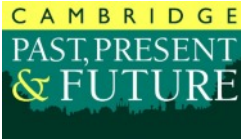
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# Wandlebury events



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

## May Day Morris Dance

Thursday 1 May, 5.15am to 6.30am, Free.

Meet on the picnic field (signposted from entrance), dancing starts at about 5.30am. Hot drinks & snacks available.

## Archaeology Open Day

Saturday 3 May, 10am to 4pm, Free

Family-friendly event: watch the digs, dress up, get hands on with prehistoric pottery techniques.

Wandlebury Country Park was once an important iron-age fort with a roundhouse village. There's still a lot we don't know about this period of our history and Cambridge University Department of Archaeology and the Cambridge Archaeological Unit are carrying out some digs to find out more. They are very keen to share their work with you and this is a fantastic opportunity to learn about the iron-age past.



Fun for all the family including:

- Excavation site tours
- Talk to archaeologists from the Department of Archaeology and the Cambridge Archaeological Unit
- Try out dressing like an Iron Age person
- Get hands on with prehistoric pottery techniques

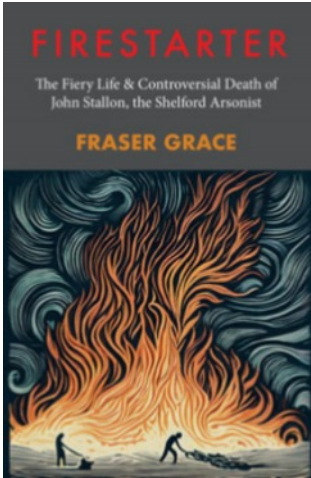
The event takes place at the Education Centre/Stables and directions to the dig sites will be provided from there.

## The House, the Horse & the Holes in the Ground

Wednesday 7 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Free

Join the Wardens for a stroll around Wandlebury Country Park and discover some of the Iron Age and 18<sup>th</sup> century history of this Ancient Monument, country estate and stables.

# Twisted Firestarter



ALMOST 200 years ago The Shelfords and Stapleford were at the centre of a mystery that captivated thousands of newspaper readers - and confounded the nation's top detectives. The story of the deliberate setting on fire of farm buildings in and around the village - and the eventual execution of the Shelford man convicted of starting them - is told in 'Firestarter', the latest work from Shelford-based writer Fraser Grace.

Fraser, a playwright best known for 'Breakfast With Mugabe', has used evidence gleaned from the public records to bring to life the story of farm worker John Stallon, and his diminutive wife Elizabeth. The crimes eventually saw Stallon hanged in front of a huge crowd on Castle Hill in Cambridge in the early 1830s.

"It is a true story best described as narrative non-fiction," he said. "It tells the story of the fires, the attempts to work out who was doing it, Stallon's arrest and trial and what became of him and his family afterwards. It is also the story of how you get that information from the archives. When the Earl of Hardwick, who lived at Wimpole Hall and was the Lord Lieutenant of the county, gets involved, he writes a letter to the Home Office. That letter can be found in the National Archives, so you can piece together who was making moves. It is not a novel but history where you join the dots. All the events in the story take place in a few streets and the fields around Great Shelford, Stapleford and Little Shelford."

A local tale then - but also one that captured the nation's imagination at a time of great social unrest, especially in areas where agriculture was the main source of employment. "It was a boom time for newspapers. They had acres of columns to fill so stories were syndicated," said Fraser. This story appeared not only in the local newspapers but was syndicated to papers across East Anglia and further afield. The furthest-flung one I found was in the Sligo Times in Ireland. Wherever there were awkward relations between farmers and their workers, there the story ran."

"And relationships between farmer and farm worker were rarely more strained than in 1830. This was the year of the Swing Riots - a protest against agricultural mechanisation and harsh working conditions that took



place in the south and east of England. It was put down harshly with transportation to Australia or even execution for those found guilty. It's almost impossible to believe now but then this was the poor south. All the wealth was in the north with its mills and factories," said Fraser. "Shelford was part of a backward, rural society of very poor wages, racked by unrest. When these fires erupted around the village the farmers thought 'here we go again'. But the reason Stallon gave for his actions was much more - and in other ways also much less - than that."

So who was John Stallon? An ordinary farm worker in many ways but unusual in that he could also read and write. "He was seen as a trusted labourer, a reliable bloke, who volunteered to fight these fires, which proved the perfect cover," Fraser said. "His wife Elizabeth, who was someone we would now describe as 'of restricted growth', is also an important character in the story. Weirdly, her height becomes relevant in the trial." It took four years for the case to be solved after London's top detectives, attracted to the case by a reward put up by the Crown, succeeded only in arresting the wrong people.

"It seems the village then worked out it would have to solve the problem itself," Fraser said. "Was Stallon fitted up for the final crime? Or did the evidence rightly confirm the farmers' suspicions?"

The Stallons lived in a cottage in Great Shelford that was behind a house called Woodlands, which still stands. "Some interesting people have lived in these villages, but Shelford doesn't register on a national scale. It did then. Great Shelford was referred to as 'this ill-fated village' in the newspapers,"

'Firestarter: The Fiery Life and Controversial Death of John Stallon, the Shelford Arsonist' will be available in bookshops and e-book from 1 May. Fraser is a senior teaching associate at the Institute of Continuing Education, part of the University of Cambridge. He has lived in Stapleford for almost 30 years. He is making personal appearances to read from the book, sign copies, and talk about the story:

Shelford Library on Saturday 3 May, 2pm. Booking at the Library, or [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). Tickets are free (£2 donation suggested in support of library service).

Hart's Books in Saffron Walden on 14 May, 6.30pm.

A 'virtual launch/discussion' with Fraser is hosted by author and academic Midge Gillies on Thursday 8 May 7pm to 8pm. Go to [ice.cam.ac.uk/event/conversation-midge-gillies-and-fraser\\_grace](http://ice.cam.ac.uk/event/conversation-midge-gillies-and-fraser_grace).

"I first read about the story in Shelford Library," Fraser said. "I've always been interested in local history, and that led me to other sources. It's fitting the book should be launched right here in the village." **Jon West**

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# Granta Medical Practices

AS you will be aware, GP surgeries and hospitals continue to experience increased patient demand. Between us all, we can help alleviate some of that demand by using alternative health services where appropriate.

Your local pharmacy can also offer treatments and prescribe medication for some conditions without you needing to see your GP. This service is called **Pharmacy First** and 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 UTI's (women aged 16 to 64 years)

Don't forget, your local pharmacy can also help you with generalised pain and swelling, sore throats, bites and stings, headaches, constipation and diarrhoea, colds and flu, mouth ulcers, tiredness, and vomiting.

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.

Finally, you can treat many minor illnesses such as colds and coughs, sore throats, and upset stomachs easily at home. Make sure you keep stocked up with health care essentials such as pain relief (paracetamol), cough and sore throat remedies, a first aid kit, upset stomach treatment, rehydration treatment and heartburn / indigestion treatment. Having these essentials at home will not only save you time, and help you feel better quicker, but will also help save the NHS much needed resources.

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.contact.gmp@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.contact.gmp@nhs.net) **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**

# Soil is not a dirty word

SOIL is often misunderstood. Many people casually refer to it as 'dirt' but the two are not interchangeable.

Soil is home to a quarter of earth's life forms! It is much more than just something that plants grow in. It is a complex ecosystem of microorganisms, nutrients and organisms that support life.

Soil is a dynamic, living system that plays a critical role in gardening, environmental sustainability and food production. It is formed through the weathering of rocks and the decomposition of organic material over a very prolonged period of time. It is home to a vast array of organisms, bacteria, fungi etc all of which contribute to its health and fertility.



Dirt is associated with something that is unclean or unwanted. It is not a live ecosystem. Unlike dirt, soil is rich in biological and chemical processes that nurture plants and help them thrive.

**One cannot overstate the importance of healthy soil in gardening.** Soil is the foundation of any garden. It serves as the medium in which plants anchor their roots, access nutrients and absorb water. A well balanced soil facilitates water retention and drainage, ensuring that plants don't become waterlogged or dehydrated. It is the soil's ability to hold onto essential nutrients and make them available to plants which determines a garden's overall success!

This is why it is useful to focus on soil health and to understand how the soil quality directly impacts plant health and yields.

## Soil and Sustainability

Sustainable gardening focuses on building soil health and growing healthy plants which minimizes the need for fertilizers and pesticides. The health of the soil affects the ecosystem, biodiversity, and the environment as a whole. When soil is treated as dirt - when it is neglected, compacted or mismanaged - it loses its ability to function properly. Overworking the soil or using chemical fertilizers and pesticides can degrade soil structure, kill beneficial organisms, and lead to nutrient imbalances.

A healthy soil ecosystem, on the other hand, is essential for long-term sustainability. It supports biodiversity by creating a habitat for beneficial

organisms that help decompose organic matter, improve soil structure and recycle nutrients.

Adding organic matter contributes to nutrient cycling, water retention and the overall fertility of the soil. Practices like mulching, conditioning soil, composting, and reducing tilling can help keep the soil ecosystem healthy.

With changing climate, it is important to help soil, and in turn plants, become more resilient to future changes.

**What can we do?**

There is lots that we can do and contribute towards improved soil health.

**No-Dig Gardening:** This method involves minimal soil disturbance and relies upon existing plant roots to aerate the soil naturally. By avoiding tilling, the soil ecosystem remains intact, promoting better water retention and encouraging beneficial organisms like earthworms.

**Green Manure:** These are fast-growing crops grown specifically to improve soil fertility. These plants are typically dug back into the soil while still green, enriching the soil with organic matter and essential nutrients. This practice helps maintain soil health and prevents erosion

**Nettle Comfrey Tea:** This is a nutrient-rich natural fertilizer packed with essential minerals and nutrients, including nitrogen, potassium, calcium and trace elements, which are vital for plant growth. It is easily made by steeping the plants in water, releasing their nutrients into the solution. Both are easily grown in the garden, making this tea an eco-friendly, sustainable solution for feeding plants without relying on chemical fertilizers.

Soil is more than just dirt. It is a living, breathing system that sustains life on Earth. Healthy soil is the foundation for sustainable gardening and thriving ecosystems. And just by making small changes, we too can contribute to a more sustainable future - both for ourselves and the planet.

**Garima Chandra**, garden designer.

## Puzzle Corner answers

### More words from Bank Holidays

3-letter: ADO, ASK, YAK, SKA

4-letter: HONK, KILO, OILY, NOAH

5-letter: HANDY, SHINY, DISHY, DAISY

6-letter: BONSAI, DAHLIA, ADONIS, ALBION

7-letter: DHANSAK

8-letter: BLANDISH

# Neighbourhood Plan update

## Responding to our examiner's initial queries



AT the end of March, Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils submitted their response to our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) examiner's initial 'clarification note'. This set of queries sought to help the examiner understand our position on various matters and gave us an opportunity to respond proactively to some of the more challenging representations to the Regulation 16 consultation which ran from Dec 2024 to Feb 2025. We provided a robust defence of several policies and, on others, agreed that minor amendments to some text would be advisable for the purposes of clarity.

Of particular note, the NP steering group decided that it would be wise to pre-emptively reduce the number of views across the Plan area which we are seeking to protect in the NP, from 29 to 19. We did this in the knowledge that Fulbourn NP was required by its examiner to remove every single one of its protected views before it could be adopted.

To justify why we should retain 19 of the original 29 views in our Plan, we supplied a comparative assessment of all views against a series of landscape and visual value criteria. This demonstrated why our higher value views are precisely that and identified a set of 10 lower value views for removal from the Plan.

You can read our response to the examiner and our views assessment at [scams.gov.uk/planning/](https://scams.gov.uk/planning/) where you can click on Local Plans and Neighbourhood Planning, then on Neighbourhood Plans to find our plan.

The examiner will now painstakingly review the NP and its supporting materials and produce a report, recommending either:

- approval of our Plan as it is, or
- approval with modifications to address issues or improve clarity (this is the most common outcome), or
- rejection, if the Plan is found to be fundamentally flawed or does not meet the necessary criteria.

It is then up to our local planning authority – South Cambs District Council – to decide whether it accepts the examiner's recommendation or requires more changes to be made before a yes/no referendum amongst residents can go ahead.

Next month, I hope to have news about the outcome of our examination and, if it's favourable, to outline the final steps in the process of being able

to influence our villages' future through the planning system. We're nearly three and a half years into this whole shebang; although the grey hairs, wrinkles and worry lines I've accumulated along the way may suggest otherwise, in neighbourhood planning terms that is actually a very respectable timeline. Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group neighbourhood.plan@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk. **Jenny Flynn,**

## Shelford Twinning Association



### Quiz Night

Friday 16 May 2025

Great Shelford Free Church Hall,  
Ashen Green, Great Shelford, CB22 5EY

7.30pm - 10pm

**TEAMS:** maximum of six people in a team

**Individuals/couples** also welcome and will be allocated to a team on the night.

This is a general knowledge quiz, open to everyone.

**COST: £15 per head including supper:**

**fish/chicken/sausage & chips or vegetarian option**

*Please book by Friday 9 May*

**DRINKS:** fruit juice/wine available - donations towards the cost of drinks welcome

*(please don't bring your own drinks as this will break our agreement with Shelford Free Church)*

**A RAFFLE will be held on the night**

**To reserve places either:**

**Email (preferred) :** richard.patterson@mottmac.com giving team name, names and food choices

**Text/telephone: Richard Patterson :** 07903 359 699 giving team name, names and food choices

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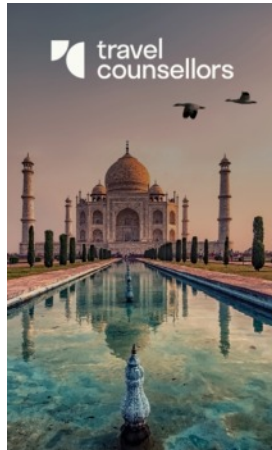
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# Shelford Festival and Feast, 5 – 12 July



ALTHOUGH still only spring, the Bunch are in full planning mode for this July's Festival and Feast. Here's a quick run down of events to remind you:

**Saturday 5 July:** Beer Festival followed by Scott Mills (Radio 2 DJ) in the evening.

**Sunday 6 July:** Feast day with hog roast, barbecue and vegetarian food, full bar, arena events, stalls and music from 12noon.

**Monday 7 July:** The Big Quiz, teams of up to 8 people with food included.

**Tuesday 8 July:** Young people from Sawston Youth Drama (SYD) perform.

**Wednesday 9 July:** Country night with Rattlesnake Johnny and the Yeehaw Crew.

**Thursday 10 July:** Comedy evening with some great comedians. Adults only.

**Friday 11 July:** Jason Donovan from 8 pm followed by Back to the '80s.

**Friday 11 July** in St Mary's Church: The Cambridge University Gospel Choir.

**Saturday 12 July:** Anthems Ibiza Orchestra, back by popular demand.

All events, unless otherwise stated, are in the grand marquee on Shelford Recreation Ground. Tickets are available online or from local outlets (even a few Jason Donovan tickets left for local residents, although sold out online!). All events are cashless. Tokens will be on sale on Feast Day to use on the stalls.

Quiz teams must enter in advance, to book a team, contact Sarah on 842498; [coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com)

We need **volunteers** for all aspects: set up and take down, on rotas for food and bar in the week, and teas and food serving on Sunday, so if you can spare even an hour for the latter, please contact Sarah (as above).

We also need **books** in good condition for the book stall, **homemade cakes and biscuits** for teas so even if you can't give a hand or come to the Festival, you can still help by donating these and bringing them to the marquee on Sunday morning. If you need them collected in advance, contact [sarahjd1959@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjd1959@gmail.com) (books) or Rosemary 07788 630387 or [roselivings@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:roselivings@hotmail.co.uk) (cakes).

All profits go to local good causes and a list of these is on our website at [shelfordfestival.org](http://shelfordfestival.org). Thank you. **Sarah Coppendale**



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# Great Shelford Library May News

MAY is Local and Community History Month. Want to know more about the beautiful area you live in? We have lots of books about the local history of the villages and also the wider area of Cambridge. Drop in to find out more.

**Firestarter** – Book Launch – Local Author, Fraser Grace, introduces his new non-fiction book about John Stallon the 19<sup>th</sup> century arsonist. Saturday 3 May, 2pm to 3.30 pm. Please pre-book in the library or via [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Engage Talk** - Fugolburna - A nature film about Fulbourn’s beautiful chalk stream and the efforts to restore and preserve it. Wednesday 21 May, 2pm to 4pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please pre-book in the library or via [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Stay and Play** – Thursdays 1 and 14 May, 2pm to 3.30pm. For children aged 0 to 3 years. A relaxed drop-in session for families with young children, £2 per family. Toys provided.

**Craft and Chat** – Every Friday morning, 10.30am to 12 noon. Pop in to craft and chat with others. £2 donation for tea or coffee. No need to book.

**Children’s Crafts** – Thursday 29 May, 2pm to 3.30pm. Ages 4 to 10. Please pre-book via [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or in the library.

**Story, Rhyme and Duplo Time** – Every Tuesday at 10.30am. For children aged 0 to 4. 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.

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

Due to Bank Holidays we will be closed Monday 5 May and Monday 26 May. Contact: Telephone: 0345 045 5225. Web: [cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk), Email: [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) **Mel Abbiss**

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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# Greenways or Greenwash?



The countryside charity  
Cambridgeshire  
and Peterborough

CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is concerned about the Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP) Greenways. We believe that they are not the best use of resources,

particularly when they may have a detrimental impact on the countryside that outweighs any potential benefits – for example the Greenway at Mere Way, an ancient trackway, which was part of the Roman road known as Akeman Street. We've also flagged up concerns that Greenways will also have an effect on rural crime. Further details on these can be found on our website: [cprecambs.org.uk](http://cprecambs.org.uk).

Last year polling carried out by CPRE and YouGov showed that the vast majority of people in Great Britain believe it's important to have access to the countryside close to where they live. 85% of those asked responded that access to the countryside was either 'very important' (53%) or 'fairly important' (32%).

We think the GCP and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) should be focusing on the registration, maintenance and upkeep of our many public rights of way, including footpaths and bridleways, to ensure that they are well-kept and accessible now and in the future.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 initially required all historic rights of way to be recorded by 2031. Any rights of way not registered by the deadline – in particular those created before 1949 – risked being lost. However, on Boxing Day 2024, the government announced that it would repeal the deadline to record historic paths, ending the threat to thousands of miles of unrecorded rights of way. Although this is good news, there are still 49,000 paths that aren't on the official maps. Until they are on the official maps, they won't be safe from development, obstruction and neglect.

Added to this is the lack of access to and maintenance of existing public rights of way; in some cases local groups and residents are having to do the work themselves – for example the Great Ouse Valley Trust has been trying to address the difficulties faced by CCC in fulfilling their obligations to maintain the Ouse Valley footpath through Cambridgeshire.

What can you do?

If you are concerned about access or maintenance issues on a public right of way, report it to your local Council – the Ramblers has a useful guide for dealing with problems on their website [ramblers.org.uk](http://ramblers.org.uk)

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

Log any lost rights of way – again the Ramblers has guidance on how to do this [dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/](http://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/)

Remember to enjoy our beautiful countryside responsibly and follow the Countryside Code. **CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

## Sawston Cinema Listing

**Thursday 1 May 7 pm** (doors open 6.30pm) £5

**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.

**Thursday 15 May 7 pm** (doors open 6.30pm) £5

**Six Inches of Soil** - the 2G3S article on page 33 has a full description of this film.

Advance tickets can be purchased online at [kinema.com/events](http://kinema.com/events), or via this QR code.

**Thursday 22 May 7 pm** (doors open 6.30pm) £5

**The Room Next Door** (12 rating; running time 107 minutes)

Ingrid (Julianne Moore), a best-selling writer, rekindles her relationship with her friend Martha (Tilda Swinton), a war journalist with whom she has lost touch for a number of years. Director Pedro Almodóvar has exquisitely reframed his career-long fascination with the lives of women for an American vernacular, capturing Manhattan and upstate New York with enraptured affection.

Marven Centre, Sawston Village College, New Road, Sawston CB22 3BP  
Tel: 712825. Email: [cinema@sawstonvc.org](mailto:cinema@sawstonvc.org)



## Cambridge Cake Creators

OUR May meeting will be held on Thursday 15 May at 7.30pm in the Johnson Hall.

Julie, our member, will be demonstrating 'Wood' effect (Shed) using icing. All visitors with an interest in baking and cake decorating are welcome to join us!

Cost: £10 pp which includes tea/coffee & cake. For more information contact: Vanda 561053 or [vanda.butler@gmail.com](mailto:vanda.butler@gmail.com) **Vanda Butler**

# Parish Council Chair's report for April

THE proposed relocation of the bus stop on London Road during the Sawston Greenway construction was discussed. Taking into account residents' comments and objections at this meeting and the previous Parish Council meeting, a letter will be sent asking for reconsideration of the bus stop location. Relocating the bus stop further along London Road significantly affects bus service users living in the Bury Road/Vine Farm area. There is no confirmed start date for the construction through the village, but there will inevitably be disruption along London Road, Church Street and Mingle Lane. There will be a public engagement survey about speed limits in Stapleford.

Planning applications were discussed and reference made to parking construction vehicles on site, managing deliveries and contractors' vehicles to ensure public safety especially on village roads such as Church Street.

Plans for the Pavilion refurbishment have gone out to tender. No starting date for the work is available yet. Residents are reminded that while the work is being carried out that there will be no access to the Pavilion or car park. When using the recreation ground during this period please be reminded of the needs of local residents when parking cars on adjacent roads.

The Strawberry Fields Public Art plans were discussed and the Parish Council decided not to be included in the proposed steering group but will need to be consulted about plans.

Regarding the busway, a decision has been made to extend the deadline for consideration and objections to it by two months to 6 June. By this date a decision will be made regarding a public enquiry.

An update on the cemetery was discussed. Unstable graves have been laid flat where it has not been possible to contact the families to stabilise them. Some footplates remain upstanding, and advice has been sought as to the possibility of them being a trip hazard. Expert advice is that as the footplates are within the grave sites this is considered safe.

The date for the Annual Parish Meeting was set for at 7pm on 29 April in the Pavilion.

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7pm on 1 May in the Pavilion. Residents are invited to attend. Anyone wishing to become a Parish Councillor is advised to contact the clerk. **Gillian Pett**



## Royal British Legion



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 at 7pm. We welcome new members and non-members, so come and find out what we are about. You will be more than welcome. Our next Branch Meeting is on Wednesday, 28 May and we would love to see you.

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

**Sunday, 4 May – 80<sup>th</sup> celebration of VE Day** in the Challis Gardens beginning at 1pm.

**Thursday, 8 May – Act of Remembrance** at the War Memorial in Sawston at 11 am.

**24 August – 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day** (Victory over Japan) in the Challis Gardens. There will be the usual Raffle to raise funding for expenses and donations to the Poppy Appeal can be made at the Poppy Stall, where you can also purchase a selection of RBL items.

We are busy planning the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the VE Day celebrations. Do come and listen to the Newmarket Town Band who will be playing 40's band music as well as popular tunes of the time. They will be ably supported by the Sawston Youth Band. There will be a Drumhead service, that was very well supported last year, on the Anniversary of the D-Day landings. There will also be a Grand Raffle and tea/coffee and cakes. Please bring your own seating, if you can. Come and celebrate it with us!

**Ann Barton, Branch Secretary, Sawston and District RBL**

## British Cactus & Succulent Society

AT our next meeting on Wednesday 14 May at 7.30 pm in Great Shelford Memorial Hall we welcome Trevor Wray, who has travelled widely in the USA, South America, South Africa and Namibia in his search for cacti in habitat and his presentation will include many interesting examples of successful 'finds' over the years.

All are welcome at our meetings, you don't have to be a member of the BCSS, just drop in. Refreshments will be available, as well as cacti/succulents for sale, and a raffle. You will be most welcome. Alternatively, if you can't make it, simply view the BCSS website at [bcss.org.uk](http://bcss.org.uk) or contact the Cambridge & District Branch 07867653748 Let's grow together. **Jacqui Arbon, Branch Secretary**

# Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



## COUNCILLORS

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Will Jackson-Wood  
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## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Brian Milnes is not standing for re-election on May 1

*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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