

Stapleford MESSENGER

Ne Nuntium Necare!

June 2025

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Village Weekend Preview



See pages 20 to 24

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Who's who at St Andrew's

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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 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**Editor**

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

SEX and the Supreme Court. Everyone's two favourite topics? Both were in the news, when the Supreme Court decided that the word 'woman' in the Equality Act 2010 refers to biological women, and does not include trans women with a gender recognition certificate.



The dispute arose like this. The Scottish Government decided a while back that representation on its various public boards should have a 50:50 male:female split. Fair enough. Women have been underrepresented in public posts. All was well until it said that trans women with a gender recognition certificate had to be considered as women for this purpose. "Not so fast" said campaigners, notably from the organisation *For Women Scotland* (FWS). "That means that a trans woman, someone who we say is a man, could take a place designated for a woman."

The government stuck to its guns: it pointed out, correctly, that the Gender Recognition Act 2004 says that if someone has a gender recognition certificate – getting one is quite a complicated and medicalised process by the way – then their sex is to be treated 'for all purposes' as the acquired sex not their natal/biological sex.

FWS stuck to its guns too. It pointed out that although the Equality Act 2010 post-dates the Gender Recognition Act 2004, the former was a consolidating Act that did not really change the law, so the Equality Act should be understood in the light of the (much earlier) Acts from which it was derived, notably the Equal Pay Act 1970 and Sex Discrimination Act 1975, in which 'woman' meant 'biological woman'. And moreover, that interpreting 'women' in the Equality Act to include trans women made no sense in relation to lots of its provisions, notably those concerned with maternity leave and provision of maternity services.

So that was the dispute. The Supreme Court went with the simplicity of the FWS argument. Not for policy reasons, nor to strike a blow against trans activism, nor to be anti-woke, nor as enemies of the people trying to cosy up to gender-critical feminists, nor anything else save dry-as-dust statutory interpretation. That is its job and it has now declared the law. Legitimate legal debates go on – and plenty of misinformed baloney – but only Parliament can change the law now. Trans women and men still have other protections under the Equality Act relating to gender reassignment and sexual orientation, and to the protection of the Gender Recognition Act itself, but not (in their acquired sex) to the protections offered against discrimination on grounds of sex, nor to the benefit of those circumstances

in which discrimination on grounds of sex is either mandatory or permitted for the benefit of single sex groups.

The implications have been outlined by an interim update (pending definitive guidance) issued by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. It says that workplaces and schools have to provide sufficient single sex toilets; service providers do not, but must be careful not to indirectly discriminate against biological women if they decide not to. And there is more coming on sports, employment rights, prisons, hospitals, lesbian organisations etc.

Now you may be nodding your head, thinking all this sounds about right and pretty reasonable. For my part, whilst I think it is good to have clarity about the existing law, Parliament does need to consider the issues. There is a difficult intersection of competing rights and interests here, which needs calm public discussion and carefully constructed policies and laws, not court intervention alone.

But all that begs the question, to my mind at any rate, of what a Christian's response should be.

The first thing I would say is that any Christian take on the underlying issues should be slow and careful; these are exceptionally complex issues about real human beings, fearfully and wonderfully made, deeply loved by God, who are taking wounds in ideological crossfire.

Second, simplistic answers are not ok and should not be in a Christian's armoury. The Genesis account of creation, for example, has lots of binary terms in it, including 'male and female he created them' but that is no more a diktat about reality than the creation of night and day excludes dusk and dawn, or the separation into sea and dry land excludes the existence of marsh and swamp. Genesis is meant to be poetic, not a full account of geography, biology, culture and philosophy.

Third, listen. There is a biblical proverb that says 'to answer before listening – that is folly and shame.' It is indeed. Listen especially to the quiet voices.

Fourth, any 'answer' that does not hold love at its centre is unlikely to be a godly answer.

Now for sure that love has to include loving the confused teenager so they do not make major decisions amidst hormonal turmoil. And love has to uphold biological women in their continuing fight for equality with men. And biological women in sport, prisons, workplaces and elsewhere need society to love them practically, and therefore to be concerned for their rights and safety. All of that and more. But love must also extend unequivocally to our trans friends, family and neighbours, some of whom, after years of quiet

St Andrew's Noticeboard

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>
8 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR PENTECOST Acts 2.1-21; John 14.8-17 <i>The Spirit of Truth</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH <i>in the churchyard</i>
	6 PM	COME AND SING CHORAL EVENSONG FOR PENTECOST Exodus 33.7-20; 2 Corinthians 3. 4-18
13 JUNE	7 PM	RECITAL & LECTURE by Chandi Plummer <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer & African American Spirituals</i>
15 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR TRINITY SUNDAY Romans 5.1-5; John 16. 12-15 <i>The Spirit will glorify me</i>
22 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Luke 8.26-39 <i>Tell how much God has done for you</i>
26 JUNE	10.30 AM	FOURTH THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION followed by refreshments in church
29 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	11 AM	CHURCH-IN-THE-MARQUEE Village Weekend Service

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

16 MAY – WEDDING OF LUCY FRENCH & MICHAEL DEAN
18 MAY – BAPTISM OF GEORGE GREGORY

suffering, may finally have found a way of living that gives inner peace and enables them to flourish, and whose way of life adversely impacts nobody.

No one said following Christ would be easy in practice, but the principles are pretty simple. Loving your neighbour is one of them. So, if you are a card-carrying Christian, or just someone who thinks Jesus' teaching is good, or an interested observer wondering how to get to grips with these issues, ask yourself this: what would Jesus do? My answer – I know it lacks detail but it is the right starting point – is that he would love. It is what we do at St Andrew's. It's a come as you are party. All are welcome here.

Every blessing to you all, **Simon Taylor**



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 July Messenger

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

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Sun, sea, sand and surprise

THE sea has always been a tonic, lifting spirits and offering solace. It's June, we may need refreshing. At least look forward. Please join me.

I feel trips to the sea should be on prescription, aiding mood and well being. The sound is almost hypnotic, the rhythm gently calming. I have only seen it as green, grey or silvery, although it is often shown as tropical blue. Glinting highlights add wonder. White foam swirls and splashes, sparkling with jewel-like drops. Spring tide is exciting. Power surges. Extraordinary like clashing personalities. Waves appear to turn inside out, racing, chasing, churning. Impressive. Film special effects would be challenged to achieve such magnificence. Raw emotion.

Dark, dull greens are startling under heavy leaden skies, different from a bright sunny day. The sea then ripples, serene and cool silver. Magical. One day the scene was truly tranquil. Little movement but as if silk had been stretched over the scene and softly ruffled. No sound not even gulls. Unusual. Stormy seas are dramatic. I remember black clouds alarmingly growing in density. Recognising bad weather was imminent we scuttled away. A helicopter flew over silhouetted against the rich backcloth, blades flashing. Shortly afterwards the banks of clouds met, light almost obliterated but two shimmering rainbows.



Fog limits views and sense of direction. Mournful ships' sirens echo somewhere in the distant murk. Outlines of vessels vanish. An immense whiteout happened one year. The sea continued lapping the shore sorting and sifting pebbles. A struggling chugging engine created awareness. A fishing boat lost too. Quite a day.

When tired of jumping waves, sandy shores invite children to make castles. The bigger the better. Turrets decorated with stones, shells and flags. The ambitious dig moats, scurrying back and forth with buckets of water. Happiness through simple timeless activity. Beaches hold unique qualities, differing in character. We preferred those least visited. Quiet havens for sitting, dreaming and reflecting.

Sad to think there was war on land, sea and in the skies. May we forever appreciate the choice and peace of today. Writing on the 80th anniversary of VE Day I offer a humble thank you. **Judith Lee**

Come & Sing!

Even song!

Sunday 8 June 2025

Rehearsal 3.45 pm
Evensong 6 pm

- everyone welcome
- refreshments afterwards



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Stapleford – Nachingwea Link

Lunch then Jazz - What a treat for Stapleford!



THANK you for all your support of our recent fundraising activities.

The May lunch on Monday 5 May at the Pavilion proved to be a very enjoyable and congenial Get Together for friends, family and neighbours who enjoyed a delicious meal and the opportunity to discuss events in the village. We are so pleased that around £1,230 was donated in aid of Health, Education and Food Security projects.

On Friday 9 May in St Andrew's Church we were treated to a wonderful jazz concert by the accomplished 440 Jazz group followed by the vibrant Duxford Music Workshop Jazz Band. The enthusiastic audience enjoyed the varied and dynamic music from the two bands of energetic musicians. A real toe-tapping evening!

We are also very grateful to Mary Antcliff, a retired chiropodist, who donated her chiropody

equipment to the Link. These photographs show some of the medical staff receiving the parcel. Kevin, the chair of the Nachingwea committee, has sent the following message of thanks: "Dr Rahia Sultan gave her great gratitude to St Andrew's Stapleford and Stapleford Link Committee for their frequent support to Nachingwea district hospital. She said there were now some of received equipment in the hospital's shelves so receiving these will not only reduce deficit but also is the great support to Nachingwea people who will be treated here by using this equipment." **The St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee**



St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

REHEARSALS
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African American Spirituals



A REALLY exciting and interesting event Friday 13 June at 7pm in St Andrew's Church.

What do you know about Dietrich Bonhoeffer? He was a German pastor and theologian who was executed for his resistance to the Nazis. What is not so well known is that he studied for a time in the USA, and developed a love of African American Spirituals. When he returned to Germany he even took some phonographs and scores with him.

Chandi Plummer is an American professor of music in Louisville, Kentucky. She is visiting the UK in June and is coming to Stapleford to perform a lecture recital in St Andrew's. Her special interest is in just this area, and she will perform a selection of Spirituals and tell us about Bonhoeffer's interest in them, his resistance to the Nazis, and the place of Spirituals in the wider civil rights movement. Should be fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable. The event is free, everyone is welcome, and refreshments will be provided. **Simon Taylor**

Mothers' Union



OUR June meeting takes place on 26 June

(Johnson Hall, 2.30pm) when Mary Cooper will be presenting a 'Summer Miscellany'. There will

be a raffle (so please bring cash for tickets), the proceeds of which are going to the Village Show as we are not having a stall there this year. **Hilary Street**

New Parish Administrator



Hi, I am Sue Duncan, the new St Andrew's Parish Administrator. I am really excited to join St Andrew's and Stapleford, and look forward to getting to know everyone. I am sure Gillian Sanders will be a hard act to follow but I will do my best!

I live a few miles south of Saffron Walden in a village with my husband, Tom, and two cats. We have two daughters, Trinny 23 who is currently at home job hunting and Isobel, 19, who is at Durham University. We have lived in the area for 25 years.

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I have had a varied career encompassing publishing, marketing and PR, and administration jobs. I also trained as an Historic Building Consultant and worked freelance in that field for a while. I particularly love the timber framed buildings of North West Essex.

My main hobby is carriage driving. I have a modern carriage and a driving pony kept at a yard a few miles away and love driving on the tracks and lanes near us with friends. My younger daughter also has a horse and I am designated horse trailer driver when she wants to go out and about.

I also love travelling by train around Europe (I am terrified of flying). I have been to Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands by train, and last summer made it to Corfu, including a ferry from Italy. A long journey! I am also a big fan of detective fiction, particularly that of the Golden Age of the 1930s and 40s.

Please do get in touch if I can help out and I look forward to meeting you all soon. **Sue Duncan**

Stapleford WI



WHEN I checked the internet for the meaning and description of the word 'volunteer' for the purposes of this article, two almost identical descriptions appeared. I was informed that 'volunteers are individuals who dedicate their time and effort to a cause or organisation without receiving payment, often to support community service or help others'. In our WI group we certainly try to help others whenever we can. Our vice-president, Celia Weir, began volunteering with the Cambridge Foodbank during lockdown and has continued ever since. In addition, another member, Jane Hall, has also become a weekly volunteer at the Foodbank with Celia and, sadly, both members report on an ever increasing need for this service.

Our President, Susan Clark, began hosting a knitting afternoon where members meet to both chat and make items such as twiddlemuffs and knee blankets for patients based at Addenbrooke's, particularly those suffering from dementia. In our group we have several members who volunteer in local charity shops and schools, and of course we always try to look after each other in our WI and offer support when necessary. Volunteering is certainly part of WI life.

Continuing the theme of volunteering our speaker in April was Barry Carter from Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue. Barry has been with the



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team consisting of 53 volunteers for 8 years. They work under the umbrella organisation Lowland Rescue and provide emergency specialist search assistance to the police to recover vulnerable and high risk missing people. Barry described the thorough training volunteers undergo and also explained how searches are conducted. Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue is a registered charity which is funded entirely by donations, another example of the way volunteers can contribute so much to society.

Outings and future events were outlined to members and these included a trip to Southend and Leigh on Sea, a Saturday evening meal at the Pavilion based on Cambridge menus and dishes, a list of wide-ranging events arranged by the Cambridgeshire Federation of WIs, and our own regular book, craft and knitting group dates.

If you would like to find out more about our WI and all you can be involved in, then please check out our website staplefordwi.weebly.com, speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847, or come to a meeting in the Pavilion at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. In June we will hear from Nigel Sutton about Cyber Crime. **Joyce Dobson**

Yesteryear

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

1846

ACCIDENT. On Wednesday afternoon last, an accident occurred which might have been attended with dangerous consequences. Mr. Patterson, surgeon, of Duxford, left his horse and gig standing in the road whilst attending a patient. Shortly after, his horse, owing to the extreme heat, cleared his bridle from his head against the shaft, and started off up the Babraham road at a furious rate, and ran to the farm of Mrs. Balls, came in contact with the gate, and snapped off the shafts, and otherwise injured the gig. Fortunately no children were in the road, although so near the national school.

1852

HIGHWAY ROBBERY. A daring robbery took place near Gogmagog Hills when a gold bracelet was stolen from the Hon. Miss E. O. Godolphin-Osborne whilst she was walking near the old Roman Road with her sister. The ladies returned home and their coachman then set off on horse-back and caught the thief as he lay resting by the road-side, and with the help of a shepherd handed him over to the custody of the police.

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1892

THE CHURCH. It is always refreshing to announce good news. The parishioners of the village of Stapleford have much cause of congratulations for the pleasing transformation created by the erection by the newly elected Church-warden, entirely at his own expense, of a respectable church fence with ornamental gates in the centre, which now occupies the space where for many years dilapidation was only too visible. But we cannot imagine the parishioners will calmly view this great improvement and allow one individual to bear the cost with the knowledge that the duty legally devolves upon the whole of the ratepayers. The interior of the church has not been forgot, it has been thoroughly cleaned.

1901

NEW ORGAN. The order for the new Victoria memorial organ for this church has been placed in the hands of Messrs Miller and Son, organ builders, Cambridge.

1910

CAMBS DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS. Ernest Saurey Cookson (trainer of race horses) of Gog Magog Hills, Stapleford. Summoned for keeping three dogs without licence. Similarly Frederick Wells (jockey) of Gog Magog Hills, Stapleford, for having two dogs without licence. Each fined 15s per dog.

1941

"... that the Clerk write to the War Agric Committee referring to his letter of last April re uncultivated land and of which he is still awaiting an acknowledgement, state that the Council consider this a breach of etiquette and bad business taste and inform them that the Parish Council have now taken the matter in hand and have arranged for the land to be cultivated. (Carried)" *(From the Parish Council Minutes)*

u3a



WOULD you like to learn new skills, meet new friends, entertain, and be entertained? The u3a could be for you.

Originally formed over 40 years ago by retired people who wanted to stay active both physically and mentally, Sawston Area u3a has a current membership of over 500 and is open to all who are not in full time employment.

There is a wide range of daytime activities on offer, including educational classes, various sports, games, pastimes and craft activities,

SPIRITUALS, BONHOEFFER & RESISTANCE TO NAZIS

A recital & talk by Chandi Plummer
7 pm Friday 13 June 2025

St Andrew's Church
Mingle Lane
Stapleford
- *everyone welcome*
- *refreshments*



St Andrew
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- church for the whole community -

walks, theatre shows and outings. Transport to and from Sawston is provided (for outings).

Want to find out more? Come along to our Summer Meeting on Tuesday 22 July at Ickleton Village Hall at 2pm or visit our group website sawston-area.u3asite.uk. **Joy Dring**

Puzzle Corner

Village Show words

All the answers can be made from the letters of VILLAGE SHOW

The letter L can be used twice

3-letter words

hairpiece
familiar saying

eggs
may fruit

4-letter words

desire
wise person

calf meat
succulent plant

5-letter words

expand
Clive Staples ...

musical instrument
protection or patronage

6-letter words

IOU (for example)
plant in parsley family

sun god
skateboard manoeuvres

7-letter words

A Star is Born song

Seaman and Banks (for example)

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 47

Looking forward to Stapleford Weekend – 26 to 29 June



IT'S all happening in June on the Rec – there's a marquee, large LED screens, deckchairs to watch music, films and sport, plus food vans and a purpose-built bar serving real ale. Run by a team of community volunteers (including several Parish Councillors), the event attracts a wide range of people of all ages and backgrounds. Please come along! More details below.

Traditional village show...with a twist

At the heart of Stapleford Weekend 2025 is still the traditional Village Show, showcasing local residents' skills in baking, home-grown vegetables, flower arranging, handicrafts, photography, art and more. The Stapleford Village Show has been going strong for over 100 years and the 2025 Stapleford Weekend aims to balance tradition with more modern 'festival' attributes like street food, a variety of stalls, outdoor film screenings, pop choirs and live music from Glastonbury.



Family friendly fun

The event kicks off on Thursday 26 June, with a kids' magic show organised by the local school PTA. Open to all primary-aged children, you can buy tickets on the event website. Plus the bar will be open for drinks, and we'll have a pizza van on site to help feed those hungry mouths.



On Saturday 28 June, there's a variety of stalls and activities for children, including go-karts and a range of inflatables. With plenty of treats like crepes, ice creams and a sweet stall too!

On Sunday 29 June, there's a guided family bike tour, cricket on the rec and then a free family film evening! We're hoping the weather



is good enough for an outdoor screening in deckchairs. The film choice is down to the public vote but we're expecting 'Paddington', 'The Greatest Showman' or 'Despicable Me' will be chosen by our Facebook poll.

Community focused

The Stapleford Weekend aims to provide something for everyone. We've got local community eco group 2G3S running an environmental themed film evening on Thursday 26 June. On Friday 27 June, there's a 'Stapleford Ritz' 1920s themed afternoon tea, organised by our local warden scheme volunteers. And on Sunday morning, the Church takes over the marquee for a service at 11.30am – everyone is welcome.

On Show Day, we have a wide range of stalls from community groups and charities, including local sellers of handmade products and crafts.

Live music – from brass bands to Glastonbury coverage!

Music features heavily during the weekend, especially on the Saturday Show Day. On Saturday 28 June, we'll have an outdoor stage with a range of performances for all ages – a local pop choir 'Vocal Remix', a brass band, a local band 'Blame the Dog' plus live coverage of Glastonbury festival into the evening. With food vans, deckchairs and an open bar, you can watch streamed performances from Neil Young and Charli XCX!

Furry friends welcome too

This year, we've got a dog show happening on Saturday 28 June at 5.30pm. It's being run and judged by the new local vet practice in Stapleford. So, if you think your pooch has the 'Waggiest Tail' or is the best 'Golden Oldie' then you can find more details about entering





the competition on our website. You'll need to pre-book to take part but it's only £2 per entry.

Fantastic range of food and drink

Throughout the Stapleford Weekend plenty of food and drink options are available. We've increased the number of food providers, as they sold out last year. We've got food vendors providing pizza, fish and chips, Korean street food, all day BBQ options, burgers, ice creams and crepes. On Saturday, the Pavilion Café will be open providing a range of coffee and cakes, then on Sunday we'll have delicious cream teas available with locally baked scones – the perfect accompaniment to watching the cricket in a deckchair! And of course, our marquee bar will be open serving a range of real ales, lager, wines, ciders and soft drinks.

Book your tickets now

You'll need to buy tickets for some of the events inside the Marquee and Pavilion. Ticketed events include our Friday quiz night (which usually sells out), the eco film, the magician and the afternoon tea. All the details are on our website.

However, lots of the fun can be enjoyed without pre-booking. You can come to visit the Saturday and Sunday activities completely free of charge – listen to live music, enjoy a picnic, watch the cricket and family film on the Sunday, thanks to our generous local sponsors and funding from Stapleford Parish Council.

Can you help?

The theme for this year's show is 'Volunteering in our village', celebrating the vast number of activities that are undertaken by volunteers in Stapleford. We are always on the lookout for people to help man the bar, run the café, move deckchairs, litter pick or marshal the traffic during the village weekend. Please do get in touch if you're able to help for an hour or two.

Reminder - limited parking so walk or cycle if you can! You can find out more and buy event tickets here: staplefordweekend.com/whats-on. Any questions, please email staplefordweekend@gmail.com
Stapleford Weekend Committee



Tour de Stapleford family bike ride

THE family bike ride will be held on Sunday 29 June at 10am leaving from the Pavilion.

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



The course is marshalled at junctions, so riders can't get lost. A mechanic will be on hand in case of punctures, or other breakdown. Unless in possession of a Bikeability level 2 qualification, participants under 16 should be accompanied by parent or guardian.

Timetable

- 09.45: Dr Bike opens
- 09.50: Signing on opens
- 10.15: Grand Depart
- 11.15: Barbecue
- 12.00: Close

Entry is free, but please enter the event through the Village show website, so the organisers know the likely number of participants.

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

Refreshments are available at the end. **Tom Robinson**



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Music Moments Concerts

FRESH off the back of a wonderful second Music Moments concert in March, we are delighted to say we will be back for another concert on **Saturday 19 July from 6 to 7pm.**

If you haven't been to one before, the aim of the Music Moments concert series is to celebrate our local musicians and share the joy of music making with the community. There is clearly a lot of musical talent in Stapleford and beyond, and we are calling on people to take part! If you would like to perform in the above concert, or any future concerts, please sign up using the QR code or this link: forms.gle/zL28nQen4UdoC2GD8.

As always, the concert will have an informal, living-room vibe, with wine and nibbles to enjoy alongside the music. Entry is free, with a retiring collection to raise money for the music at St Andrew's, as well as to help fund a junior organ scholarship at the church.

So come and join us for another hour of music performed by local musicians! We look forward to seeing you there. **James and Lizzie Buchanan-Worster, and Sarah Kwan**



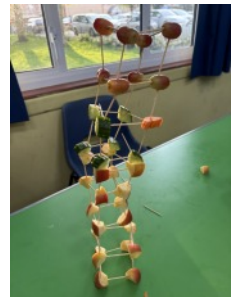
Girlguiding



SHELFORD Brownies are having lots of fun this term finishing off their Express Myself Theme Award, with lots of team-building games and craft activities. Building tall structures with pieces of fruit or vegetables and cocktail sticks was particularly popular. All but a few pieces of carrot were

gobbled up by the Brownies as they dismantled their towers! The unit will also be completing a challenge badge about the Azores and will finish for the summer term with an ice cream hike.

Shelford Guides have had fun cooking pancakes on camping stoves, playing board games, and being active with various parachute games. They also did a 'Penny Hike' around Stapleford (a walk where you use a coin toss to choose which way you go at each junction).



We'd love more 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 with the local team at: shelforddistrict@gmail.com. Thank you. **Lisa MacGregor**

2G3S



WE continue to plan various activities for 2025 - films, discussions and speakers on water use and energy efficiency, repair cafes, book club, and a meeting with our MP. For June we have:

Dr Bike continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford,

3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. Come and get your bike ready for cycling over the summer. 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.

'Wilding' film - at the Stapleford Village Weekend. It will be shown in the marquee on the Recreation Ground on Thursday 26 June at 7pm. The film is based on the book of that name by Isabella Tree, and describes the transformation of poor farmland in Sussex that was bankrupting the family, into an environment as close to its original state as possible. They have been rewarded by the appearance of rare butterflies and other creatures, and the whole site is a wildlife haven. This is a beautifully shot film to inspire you, and there will be an online interview to follow featuring Isabella Tree and her husband. With the opportunity to buy a drink at the bar and order pizza from the nearby van, what better way to spend a summer evening! Tickets are £5 and can be bought online at staplefordweekend.com, or on the door.

Cambridge Nature Festival, 24 May - 30 June. The Cambridge Nature Festival comprises a series of events during late May and June. More details can be found online: cambridgenaturenetwork.org/naturefestival.

Some of you may have read of a survey that indicated that 89% of people across the world want strong government action on climate. But these people didn't think so many other people thought that way, they thought they were in the minority. The 89% Project has been set up by journalists to spread the word, investigate what kind of action people want, and lobby governments to take action, citing this groundswell of public opinion. See 89percent.org. The study also found that in most countries surveyed, almost 50% people would be prepared to give 1% of their income to fight climate change. So let's be the vocal majority, not the silent majority! Talk to your friends and colleagues about what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint and boost nature and biodiversity. Your actions (and where you spend your money) affect everyone else.

Ways to try and get change on climate policy were discussed at an event at the Cambridge Literary Festival at the end of April, at which veteran environmental campaigners/writers Tony Juniper and Mike Berners-Lee talked about their new books. They stressed the need to change the way economics works, rather than assuming neoliberalism and its endless call for growth in consumption is the only way to do things. Instead of measuring a country's growth by GDP, look at growth in health, education, happiness, employment, nature, biodiversity – these measures exist, and all help to measure how we thrive. We need to challenge our politicians and businesses to be honest, to not hoodwink us about their green credentials, and to not keep putting off difficult decisions. As David Attenborough said, “infinite growth on a finite planet is madness”. Let's call out the madness.

You've probably heard the phrase '**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**'. But have you heard an extension of this, to include Repair, Re-home, Refill, Regenerate? Reduce by buying less, only what you need, and avoid single-use plastic if possible. Reuse e.g. nappies, make-up wipes, cups in coffee shops, and shopping bags. Repair e.g. at one of our Repair Cafes: see the Cambridge Carbon Footprint website to find all the cafes in the area. Re-home via Cambridge Re-Use, British Heart Foundation, Emmaus, charity shops, or online at Gumtree, Vinted etc. Refill at low waste shops such as Green Weigh in Sawston, and buy loose vegs and fruit. Regenerate by composting your veg and fruit waste, and garden trimmings.

Water - one thing we all need to be careful with in this area. Cambridge Water say that the average consumption is 140 litres per person a day. You can work out your consumption by looking at your bill, if you have a water meter. If you can reduce your usage the water companies can extract less water from the aquifer and have less waste to deal with. Water the garden with water from a water butt or from washing up, don't water the lawn, and plant drought-tolerant plants. Group pots to reduce evaporation. Collect water that you run while waiting for it to run hot (or cold) and use that to water the garden. Don't flush every time you use the loo. See if you can get your consumption to under 100 litres a day!

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), sign up for our monthly newsletter by sending an email to mail2G3S@gmail.com, 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**



AA

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Magog Singers end of term concert



FRIENDS and Family are warmly invited to join the Magog Singers on their last day of term, Tuesday 8 July, 3pm in the Pavilion. We will have another wide-ranging programme of music to perform: Feelings of Love (Un Homme et une Femme, Feelings, Goodbye to Love, So Nice) and a Carpenters' Medley, both

arranged by our very own director of music John Clenaghan. In complete contrast The Lord's Prayer from 'African Sanctus' by David Fanshawe and A Clare Benediction by John Rutter. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, Let it Be and Drunken Sailor arranged by Jonathan Willcocks will also be on the programme. Light refreshments will be served and cash donations collected in aid of Ocular Melanoma UK, whose support line offers confidential support to people living with Ocular Melanoma and their loved ones.

We would love to welcome new singers, especially those singing the lower parts! Please get in touch kathleenforeman047@gmail.com.

Kathleen Foreman

Stapleford birdlife

WE live at the bottom of Aylesford Way, next to a stream and a water meadow. A lot of wildlife has visited our garden over the last 38 years, and I thought some readers might be interested to see some local birdlife that has been visiting us.

There is a pair of Tawny Owls living (and we hope, breeding) in the very tall poplar trees at the edge of the meadow, just beyond our garden. We hear them often and see them every evening at dusk as they leave the trees to hunt, a few minutes apart. One night, in April, the smaller of the pair, which we assume is the male, decided to try his luck sitting on top of our bird table for a few minutes, before heading off into the dark. Since the beginning of May, a Kestrel has taken a break from hovering to look for food and has also taken to sitting on top of the bird table looking for small rodents, and it has been surprisingly successful! We've seen it catch a field mouse and at least one vole. We've also seen it sit there off and on for a whole afternoon and catch nothing. It is a beautiful bird to see up close instead of hovering up high alongside the roadway. **Shelagh Woolley**



Stapleford Strollers: Walk 136

Fenland Ramble: a circular walk from Lode

To get to start of walk

THE easiest way to get to Lode is to assume you are travelling to Anglesey Abbey (CB25 9EJ). The turning for Lode village is just beyond the Abbey entrance, and the starting point of this walk is next to the old Post Office (CB25 9EW).

Distance of walk

4¾ miles. There is an extension to this walk, marked on the route map, which is 6.8 miles.

OS Map

Explorer map 226. If you don't have a phone app, try Hug The Net for a free map extract, or use the route map provided.

Extra Information

Lode takes its name from its location at the southern end of Bottisham Lode, an artificial watercourse used for drainage, and believed to have been created by the Romans. Long Meadow, which is passed on this walk, is a separate hamlet but is part of Lode parish. Until the 1890s, Lode was merely part of Bottisham but gained its 'independence' as a parish in 1894. The village pub/restaurant has re-opened, specialising in Thai food (Pattaya Kitchen).

Route of walk

Park on Lode High Street, near the old Post Office (CB25 9EW). Walk along Passage Close, to the left of the parish church, and continue ahead on the footpath when the road bends left. When the cricket pitch is reached, walk round the edge of the outfield aiming for a gap in the far hedge with a footpath sign.

Beyond the gap, the path is paved all the way to Long Meadow. When the road at Long Meadow is reached, turn left and walk along it, carrying on ahead when the road ends (ignore a path to the right). This is a green lane known as Cranny Drove and is about half a mile long.

At the end, go right and follow the track around the field edge. Keep going all the way and ignore any waymarks pointing to the right. At the far end of the field the path swings left, with the hedge line to the right. Shortly after the hedge line ends, cross a wooden footbridge and then take the grass lane on the left at a point where a solid-surface track comes in from

the right. The grassy lane swings sharp right after about a quarter of a mile and meets a tarmacked farm road.

Turn left on this (White Fen Drove) and keep walking until a junction with another road. Turn left and then go almost immediately right, over a concrete bridge and follow the wide track ahead which runs between trees.

When the trees end, go left across a field, which was used in the past for the Lode Star Music Festival, and cross a footbridge to follow a path which runs between more fields. After a few minutes, this path meets a grass track (Longmoor Drove).

Go right and walk along the drove until it meets another grass track (Harvey's Drove). Turn left and walk along until, just before a metal gate, turn half right along a track that crosses a stream (Bottisham Lode) via a bridge and goes through a farmyard, emerging onto Station Road in Lode. Cross over, turn to the right on the pavement and 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



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FUNDING for SSYI is a continuous challenge and currently costs over £140,000 per year to run. We get funding from our Parish Councils, local churches, the Village Feast and put a lot of effort into obtaining other grant funds. One of our most reliable sources is regular private giving. We have only 22 supporters who give regularly from £10 per month, but there are over 15,000 adult residents in the villages we serve so it's a tiny proportion who support us in this way. We need your help and want to encourage you to become a regular donor. In doing so you will get regular updates on our work and opportunities to meet our youth workers.

To become a regular donor, contact our Treasurer: John Greaves, jragreaves@yahoo.co.uk, 15 Cabbage Moor, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5NB.

Can you help by becoming an occasional volunteer?

We are also looking for more volunteers, especially for the regular weekly sessions. If you can come along, even occasionally, to help at our sessions or to help behind the café counter serving snacks in the Youth Centre that would really help, and enable us to maintain and grow the number of sessions and reach more of those who value our provision.

Interested? Please contact Zac Britton, our Lead Youth Worker

zac.britton@ssyi.club. Note: All volunteers will be given appropriate training and support and are subject to DBS checks.

Spring update

What is SSYI? We are a community-based charity founded by local Christians serving young people in the villages of Great and Little Shelford, Stapleford, Sawston and Duxford and beyond.

What do we do? We provide youth activities and clubs open to all local 11–18-year-olds. We particularly focus on those who are marginalised, isolated, at-risk, or not accessing other youth provision.

We do this by building positive relationships with young people and providing access to activities, to enable them to overcome their challenges, learn, succeed and make a positive contribution to their communities. We have our dedicated Youth Centre above the Memorial Hall in Woollards Lane, Great Shelford where we run six youth clubs a week, as well as three sessions in Sawston, and a weekly club in the Community Centre in

Duxford. Employing four youth workers and working with six volunteers, we reach over 150 young people each week.

Over the winter months activities have included our regular sessions in Great Shelford, Sawston and Duxford, attracting well over 100 young people each week. We also ran 1-2-1 sessions for young people at Sawston Village College and in the local Community, supporting up to 21 young people a week. In the run up to Christmas we ran multiple Christmas meals and parties and took 18 young people to the Winter Wonderland on Parkers Piece. We were also involved in the Shelford light switch on and set up the football cage which despite the cold was a great success.

Spring and summer plans

With warm weather fast approaching, alongside our regular sessions, we are hoping to run a two night residential, plus various other trips and activities including during the Summer holidays. For our regular programme schedule visit: ssyi.club. **David Jones, Chair of Trustees, SSYI**

Sawston Cinema

A Streetcar Named Desire (12)

DIRECTED by Benedict Andrews. Gillian Anderson, Vanessa Kirby and Ben Foster lead the cast in Tennessee Williams' timeless masterpiece. As Blanche's fragile world crumbles, she turns to her sister Stella for solace – but her downward spiral brings her face to face with the brutal, unforgiving Stanley Kowalski.

Thursday 8 June 7pm (doors open 6.30pm) £10.
Running time 203 minutes. National Theatre filmed live at the Young Vic Theatre in 2014.



Harriet (12A)

Based on a true story, 'Harriet' tells the extraordinary tale of Harriet Tubman's escape from slavery and transformation into one of America's greatest heroes.

Thursday 19 June 7pm (doors open 6.30) £5. Running time 125 minutes

Marven Centre, Sawston Village College, New Road, Sawston CB22 3BP Tel: 712825.

Email: cinema@sawstonvc.org.



June at Great Shelford Library



IN May the library hosted the launch of *Firestarter*, by Fraser Grace, the true story of the 19th Century Shelford arsonist. The event was very well attended and Fraser gave a great talk about his book. Why not pop into the library to borrow a copy?

Engage Talk – Lemurs and crocodiles of Madagascar, Jane Wilson Howarth. Wednesday 25 June, 2pm to 4pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Pre-book in the library or via

Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Stay and Play – Every Thursday (term time only). For children aged 0-3 years. 2pm to 3.30pm. A relaxed drop-in session for families with young children, £2 per family. Toys provided.

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

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

Art Club - Every Saturday morning 10.30am to 12.30pm. Suitable for ages 4-10. Drop-in event. Suggested £1 donation. Parents/carers please stay with your children. **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		



We're waiting for your story!

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

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Shelford Rugby Club



FREE-ENTRY event will feature 40+ men's and women's teams, 28 elite-level 7s sides, food trucks, music, and all-day entertainment

Shelford Rugby Club is proud to announce that it will host the third leg of the prestigious LIT Super Sevens Series on Saturday 7 June - and entry is completely FREE

for all spectators.

The LIT Super Sevens Series is the largest rugby sevens competition in the UK and Europe, and Shelford's 7s Festival promises to be a spectacular celebration of the sport and its community spirit. The event will welcome over 40 men's and women's teams, including 28 elite-level sides packed with international talent, rising stars, and Premiership pedigree.

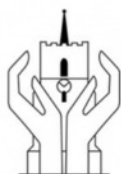
"We're absolutely thrilled to bring this level of rugby to Cambridgeshire," said our Club President, Rory Finlayson. "This is a chance for the local community to witness world-class sevens up close - and all for free. Whether you're a lifelong fan or completely new to rugby, this will be a brilliant day out."

The Shelford leg is the midpoint of a six-stop national series that combines the high-performance pedigree of the Super Sevens Series with the fun, inclusive festival spirit of LIT7s. As part of the 2025 schedule, Shelford joins other leading clubs such as Oxford Quins, Harpenden RFC, and Wasps FC in hosting a leg of this groundbreaking competition.

Fans can expect fast-paced matches, international flair, food trucks, music, and all-day entertainment for all ages. The men's and women's Elite divisions will feature sides from the UK, Europe, Asia, and the Pacific Islands - including household names, military teams, and Olympians. From powerhouse teams like Shogun Rugby and the British Army to top-flight women's sides such as Trailfinders Women and Hammerheads, the standard of rugby will be exceptional.

Shelford Rugby Club invites everyone from rugby diehards to families and first-timers to come and enjoy a free, action-packed day of top-tier sport, food, music, and entertainment. Gates open from 9.30am, with matches and festivities running all day. Parking will be available to book online soon, along with overnight camping.

Stay tuned to shelfordrugby.co.uk and our social media channels for full event schedules and team announcements. **Mike Nettleton, Honorary Secretary, Shelford Rugby Club**



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A beginner's guide to hedgerows



IN the summer many of us enjoy walks in our local countryside and we may notice that our hedgerows are coming to life. But what, exactly, defines a

hedgerow, and why are hedgerows so important?

Put simply, a hedgerow is a closely-grown mass of woody vegetation that grows in a line – and it's this being in one long line that makes it different from simply a bush or tree.

We often assume that most hedgerows are recent additions to the countryside following the Enclosure Acts between 1750 and 1850 but at least half of our hedgerows are older - and many are centuries old. The oldest known surviving hedgerow in England is in Cambridgeshire - Judith's Hedge, near Monks Wood, which is over 900 years old.

So, what exactly do hedgerows do for us?

The Climate Change Committee has recommended that the extent of hedgerows be increased by 40% as part of measures against the climate emergency. We hear a lot about planting trees to help store carbon, but hedgerows do this and more; they're easier to slot into the landscape than whole woods, they are important for the management of water, pollutants and soil, and for their potential to reduce flooding. Hedgerows can be very effective at promoting healthy soils, and they prevent loss of soil from fields, either through reducing wind erosion or by acting as a barrier to water-borne run-off. In rural areas hedgerows protect crops and animals from extreme weather.

Hedgerows are vitally important for nature – in many cases they're essential for keeping plants and animals alive. Hedgerows contain a mixture of habitats and support a wealth of different species. Over 2,100 plant, insect, bird and mammal species use UK hedgerows – for food, shelter and to move between areas. 130 species that have been identified as being a priority for conservation are closely associated with hedgerows.

A loss of hedgerows, or a decline in their quality and care, would be likely to have a disastrous effect on all these species' populations. As we've changed the land to be used for more intensive farming, they're more important than ever, often acting as the last safe place many declining species can live.

The networks of hedgerows that cover so much of our countryside pick out changes in topography, soils and underlying geology, and define current, and often past, patterns of agriculture and other land use. They connect us

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to our landscape's past, giving a sense of continuity and connection to our heritage. They keep our local areas looking distinctive and give us a sense of place.

Threats to hedgerows

Many countryside hedgerows are protected by law - The Hedgerows Regulations (1997) were the first official rules protecting 'important' hedgerows. The government has announced new hedgerow regulations to be brought into law to protect wildlife.

However, local authorities can only say no to a hedgerow being removed if it falls into this 'important' category, which means that we're still losing too many of them. Roads and development, especially on the edges of towns and villages, have meant that hedges are lost; even protections for 'important' hedgerows can be overruled by permission for new developments.

And although many farmers look after their hedgerows well, moves towards more intensive farming mean they can be removed.

Hedgerows and nesting birds

In the spring, many people are concerned about the legalities of hedge-cutting and the impact on nesting birds. Protect the Wild has a very useful article about this on their website protectthewild.org.uk

Hedgerows and CPRE

CPRE has campaigned for the protection of hedgerows for many years. We're calling on the government to make changes that will mean many, many more hedgerows are restored or planted. We want to see them commit to working with the landowners who own them to create thousands of miles of new or improved hedgerows – as well as better protecting the ones we have already. CPRE is actively planting and restoring hedgerows across the country, as part of our Hedgerow Heroes project.

To find out more, go to cprecambs.org.uk. **Tracey Hipson**

Cambridge Flower Club

Thursday 19 June, 7.15pm, Refreshments 6.45pm

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

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Grass seeds and your dog.

How to avoid, spot and treat them!



THIS is the first in a series of occasional article on pet care by the Stapleford-based Church Street Vets.

Walking dogs in the late spring sunshine is a welcome change after the long, wet months of winter. However, the warmer weather does present a few pet care challenges, one of which is grass

seeds. Grass seeds are perfectly designed to make their way into the ear canal, but the sharp barbs then prevent them coming out. They can cause a lot of discomfort and in some cases infection. Grass seeds can also get lodged in eyes, up noses and between the pads of the paws, from where they can work their way under the skin and in some cases then migrate round the body. Signs of a problem grass seed can include sneezing, head shaking, redness, soreness, excessive licking and limping.

Some dogs are more prone to issues with grass seeds than others. Dogs that spend a lot of time romping through long grass, shorter dogs whose ears are level with the long grass and dog breeds with particularly hairy ears and paws are most affected. The best way to prevent grass seed problems is to avoid long grass where possible, and to check ears, paws and coat for seeds after walks where long grass is unavoidable. Keeping the hair on paws and ears well-trimmed during the summer months can also be helpful.



Treatment for grass seeds depends a little on the area affected and how long the grass-seed has been in place. In some lucky cases where the seed is close to the surface and the dog is cooperative, the offending seed may simply be able to be fished out without sedation, but in most cases, sedation is required to find and remove the seed. If the seed has worked its way under the skin, surgery may be required. In cases where the grass seed has been in place for a while and caused an infection, antibiotics and pain relief may also be necessary.

If your dog has been out and about and displays any of the above symptoms, please do call your vet for further advice. **Patrick, Harriet and all the Church Street Vets team, churchstreetvets.co.uk, phone: 776773**

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AT the VE Day Commemoration in the Challis Garden on Sunday 4 May we remembered all those brave soldiers, sailors and airmen who didn't return home but gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms that they fought for. There was a fantastic performance by the Sawston Youth Group Band and the wonderful Newmarket Town Band playing selected music from the 'Forties' era, followed by the Drumhead Service led by the Revd Kathryn Waite who is also our Branch Padre.

The next branch meeting, Wednesday 25 June 7pm, will be held at the Chapelfield Community Centre, Chapelfield Way (opposite Bellbird School), where we will be learning about the Home Front. ALL ARE WELCOME to come and find out what else we do, enjoy refreshments and hear really interesting talks.

Our next Commemoration will be on Sunday 24 August, 1pm when we remember the Victory over Japan, which truly ended the War. It will be at Challis Gardens again, so come and discover why it is often referred to as the 'forgotten war'. Entry is FREE! **Ann Barton Secretary - Sawston and District Branch.**



Image by Tim Wreggitt

Annual Summer Cactus Show



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WEDNESDAY 11 June, 7.30-10pm, Great Shelford Memorial Hall - free parking.

Many and varied cactus plants will be on display, and will be judged by Julian Cooke, of the Berkhamsted Branch, an approved judge and collector of cacti for many years.

As well as the impressive display of cacti exhibited, some from other Branches in the area, there will be sales of cacti grown by Branch members and available to all who attend.

Refreshments also available, as well as a raffle and we look forward to meeting you there; you will be made most welcome.

Let's Grow Together.

Jacqui Arbon - Cambridge & District Branch Secretary



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The History of Chivers and Sons 1873 - 1959

A talk by Eleanor Whitehead



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Tuesday 8 July at 7.45pm - the Pavilion. Free to members - non-members pay £3 on the door

Great Shelford friendship club

For older men and women, new members and returners

WE meet in St. Mary's Church Community Room from 2.15 for 2.30pm until about 4pm on Thursdays in term time. Regulars pay £3 subscription for refreshments, room hire etc. at meetings. Guests and new members are always welcome.

Our programme is guided by members' interests. It includes talks by local speakers, quizzes, experiences and the occasional gentle outings to places of interest.

The group is independent of St Mary's and other village churches, but some of their folk attend/speak sometimes. We aim to offer friendship and varied activities, with some seasonal events, rather than to supplement what is happening elsewhere.

Dates for 2025: 24 April to 26 June; 25 September to 18 December. Some additional activities may happen in summer and at other times. Enquiries always invited: Rosey Feuell (Anna Chaplaincy trained) 213305 or roseyleaf@talktalk.net. **Rosey Feuell**

Puzzle Corner Answers

Village Show words

3-letter: WIG, OVA, SAW, HAW

4-letter: WISH, VEAL, SAGE, ALOE

5-letter: SWELL, VIOLA, LEWIS, AEGIS

6-letter: VOWELS, HELIOS, LOVAGE, OLLIES

7-letter: SHALLOW, GOALIES



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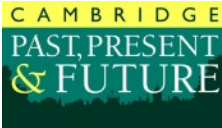
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Wandlebury Events



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

Wildflowers in Summer - Tuesday 10 June, 10am-12pm.

Gentle guided walk to learn about summer wildflowers. Led by a knowledgeable guide who will help you to identify wildflowers 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 cambridgeppf.org or feel free to just turn up.



Meet the Cows - Saturday 14 June, 10.30am-12pm.

Gentle guided walk to meet the Belted Galloway cows and learn how they



improve our meadows for nature. 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 online or just turn up.

Calm under the Canopy - Friday 13 June, 3-4.30pm.

Mindful Meditation - Every month on a Friday afternoon, a friendly group of the mindfully curious meets up with our resident Mindful Green Coach, David Lynch, to learn and practise the art of mindful meditation in nature. David is a trained and experienced meditation teacher. He specialises in leading groups outdoors combining mindfulness-based stress reduction with ecotherapy and gentle exercise. These events are suitable for beginners and seasoned meditators. They are offered in clusters of 3 walks at £40 per person or 6 walks at £60 per person (concessions £30/£50). To book naturallymindfulnow@gmail.com or text 07375 064336.

Cambridge Nature Festival

NOW in its fourth year, the Cambridge Nature Festival is back! The festival aims to get us all more in touch with the nature on our doorsteps.

More than **160 events and activities** are planned with something for all ages, abilities and interests. There will be guided walks, wild(ish) camping, BioBlitzes, bat punt safaris, tall tree climbing, nature boat trips, guided

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James Taylor Quartet

Friday 6 June | 7:30pm

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Breabach

Saturday 21 June | 7:30pm

Performing for over two decades, Breabach remain securely ranked amongst Scotland's most skilled and imaginative contemporary folk acts.

Claire Martin celebrates the Divas

Friday 11 July | 7:30pm

Multi-award winning jazz vocalist and BBC Radio presenter Claire Martin OBE, is joined by pianist Rob Barron and bassist Jeremy Brown, for a celebration of some of the greatest jazz vocalists of the 20th century.

The Jeremiahs

Saturday 14 June | 7:30pm

One of the freshest bands in Irish traditional music, The Jeremiahs are applauded for their musicianship & vocal work that is '*nothing short of astounding*' (Live Ireland).

Misha Mullov-Abbado Group

Friday 4 July | 7:30pm

A stellar sextet made up of some of the finest multi-award winning musicians on the London jazz scene, led by BBC New Generation bassist Misha Mullov-Abbado.

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nature walks, star gazing, wildlife ID workshops, hands-on creative activities such as making seed bombs, and much more. Most of the events are free or low cost and will take place in Cambridge and the surrounding countryside.

The festival is being organised by local charity Cambridge Past, Present and Future, in collaboration with The Wildlife Trust BCN, The National Trust, RSPB, Cambridge City Council, Cambridge Sports Lake Trust, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Magog Trust and Cambridge University Botanic Garden, as part of the Cambridge Nature Network.

For a full list of events see cambridgenaturenetwork.org/naturefestival.

The festival is being run by Cambridge Past, Present and Future as part of the Cambridge Nature Network and funded by the National Lottery Communities Fund. **Louise Palmer, Communications Manager, Cambridge Past, Present and Future**

Political Changes!



**BETTER WAYS
FOR BUSWAYS!**

WHATEVER your political preference, it's noteworthy that the new Mayor of the Combined Authority, just elected, has promised to scrap the busways. You can read his manifesto here: paulbristow.org.uk/my-manifesto. He will have our active support.

Some may argue that he has no powers to do this (he has also promised to scrap the non-elected Greater Cambridge Partnership which is promoting the busways), but he has some significant levers of power that he can pull, not least his responsibility for bus franchising (the Mayor now has the powers to organise all bus routes in the county to provide a better and more regulated service).

Better Ways for Busways has submitted a robust objection to the busway and you can read it here: bw4b.org/whats-next-march-2025 - and is preparing its Statement of Case for an impending public inquiry. More funding to support the Better Busways campaign will be needed - but is it possible that the Lib Dems controlling the County Council could be persuaded to work with the new Mayor and abandon the illogical busway?

There are glimmers of hope in our newly elected Lib Dem County Councillors Peter Fane and Laurence Damary-Homan. Let's give them (and the Conservative and Green Councillors) all the encouragement they need to continue to oppose the destruction of our beautiful countryside and to build the better alternative.

For more information visit bw4b.org. **Howard Kettel**

Neighbourhood Plan update: the examiner recommends that we can proceed to community referendum!!



I HAVE some excellent news to report: after a thorough review of the submitted Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents, our independent examiner has recommended that it meets all necessary legal requirements and should proceed to referendum.

This is truly something to celebrate.

As is par for the course, some modifications to the Plan have been recommended, but I believe we have achieved most of what we set out to do. At the time of writing, the examiner's 'fact-check report' is not a matter of public record so I can't provide any further details in this respect. However, you will soon be able to read it on the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan page at scams.gov.uk.

It is now 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. This is far from being a mere formality, but we have worked closely with, and sought advice from, SCDC officers throughout the production of our Neighbourhood Plan, doing our best to ensure that there are no last minute surprises for either party.

I'm going to be optimistic and look towards a referendum and here's what I think you can expect.

SCDC will organise a referendum in our neighbourhood area in which all registered voters in the parishes of Stapleford and Great Shelford area can vote, either in person or by post. You will be asked something along the lines of "Do you want SCDC to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Stapleford and Great Shelford to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" It does not matter how many people vote, but if more than 50% of those voting say "Yes", then our plan will be approved. This means that it will become part of the Local Development Plan and must be used in all planning decisions relating to our neighbourhood area.

Please, please, **PLEASE** vote when the opportunity arises. Don't assume that enough others will do it so you don't need to. The bigger the turnout, the stronger the message we send that the residents of Stapleford and Great Shelford want to be heavily involved in shaping the future of the place where we live for the better.

Our neighbours in Pampisford went through this process last month and achieved a 99% 'Yes' vote, so their Neighbourhood Plan has been duly adopted. Thriplow and Heathfield have their own referendum coming up on 12 June. Harston is slightly behind us in the process.

Do keep an eye on local community Facebook pages and our villages' magazines for further news. But we're in a good place. **Jenny Flynn Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group**

Ickleton village Open Gardens

JUST 6 miles south of Stapleford is a village with many high flint walls that might leave you wondering what lies on the other side. Ickleton Open Gardens on Sunday 15 June from 11–5pm offers the rare opportunity to look behind some of those walls to take in the floral delights of 15+ varied private gardens.

As well as beautiful gardens there will be lunch, teas & home-made cakes, sale of plants and local produce and beekeeping. Gardens open include cottage gardens, newly planted, drought tolerant, family friendly, nature loving, a magical 'fairy land' garden and 20 acres of formal gardens surrounding a manor house.

Tickets are £7 for adults, accompanied children are free. Entry tickets and parking are available on the day from: The Village Hall, Frogge Street, Ickleton, CB10 1SH. Assistance dogs only please.

Proceeds from the event to Ickleton Village Hall and Tom's Trust. The event is kindly sponsored by: Arkwrights, Hexcel, HSA & Co., NFU Mutual and Team Consulting.

For more information: facebook.com/IckletonOpenGardens. **Fiona Rose**

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

Parish Council Chair's report for May

THE Annual Parish Meeting on 29 April was well attended and the variety of interesting speakers was well received. James Littlewood spoke about the busway campaign, SSYI gave a presentation about their work with young people in the area, Jenny Flynn gave an update on the Neighbourhood Plan which will hopefully be going to referendum soon, and Michael Gatward gave a progress report on the Pavilion renovation plans. Residents will be informed as soon as a start date is known, but it is likely to start at the end of the summer. The Pavilion and car park will be closed for 3-4 months. Reports from village organisations and the County and District Councillors are available on the Parish Council website.



The retiring clerk and assistant clerk were presented with vouchers and wine as thanks for their service to the Parish Council. Thanks

were given to the County and District Councillors, and the Parish Councillors for the work done to make Stapleford a thriving village. Thank you to Chris Cooper who arranged and managed the communications system during the evening (with assistance from Cllr French). The new clerk Max Barrett was welcomed.

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting the chair and vice chair were re-elected for another year. Councillor Michelle Green has resigned leaving a complement of 8 councillors; we should have 11.

At that meeting committees, working groups, policies and procedures were reviewed and approved, as is necessary annually. A discussion was held about the agreement with Stapleford Tennis Club and is continuing. It was emphasised that the MUGA is available for other sports groups.

Approval was given for work on benches around the village and cemetery, and for work on trees in the slaughterhouse garden. A silver birch will be removed because of honey fungus, as well as a dead cherry tree.

The Strawberry Fields development will be considering installing artworks, which will need Parish Council approval. Cllr Disley-Stevens will represent the Parish Council on the project steering group. Meetings with the developer continue regularly.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 5 June at 7pm in the Pavilion. Members of the public are invited to attend and air their views.

Gillian Pett

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)	gillian.pett@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Howard Kettel (V Chair)	howard.kettel@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mick Davies	mdavies@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Anna Disley-Stevens	annadstevens@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Matthew French	mfrench@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
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Barbara Ann Kettel	bkettel@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk
James Northmore	jnorthmore@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

CLERK

Max Barrett 07472 398823 clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Will Jackson-Wood
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CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

Laurence Peter Damary-Homan
Laurence.Damary-Homan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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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