

Stapleford MESSENGER

July 2025

Volume 84 No 7

Price 90p

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The Stapleford Community Primary School PTA

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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**

Contact staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

A VICARIOUSLY medical week. One event was waiting for a granddaughter to arrive. The second a visit to the Cambridge University Library to see *Curious Cures: medicine in the medieval world*. Excellent stuff, lots of wonderful manuscripts downstairs, with very striking enlarged reproductions along the upstairs corridors, showing anatomical diagrams from the 12th to 16th centuries.



One struck me in particular: an image known as *Disease Woman* from the mid 15th century. It is a rare medieval manuscript illustrating the entire female body – there are loads of men. Her body is splayed open showing a fetus in utero, and her limbs and organs are crammed with labels identifying possible diseases, many more than are on the equivalent male images. Why so? Did women go to the GP more often, as it were? Probably not. It seems to be because the female body was considered inherently inferior to the male and therefore much more prone to diseases. And here, in case anyone was in any doubt about that, is a diagram to ‘prove’ it.

It was part of an interesting theme of the exhibition. Medieval anatomical diagrams summarised and simplified in order to explain long-established understanding about how the body worked. That is how we use diagrams too, I guess. They were not about realistic representation. But, and here there is, or should be, a disconnect with good modern practice, the images of a body were regarded as a template on which an author’s ideas could be projected and organised for the purpose of persuasion. Not just a way of imparting information with clarity, but rather more: an assertion that this representation is truth. The author’s perception of what they believed to be true or desired to be true, or what society or its power-voices deemed or wanted to be true, broadcast as truth. Women are inferior! Just look at all these diseases they suffer unlike us strong men!

We might laugh about this now, or perhaps reflect that many of the same attitudes about women persist. More broadly, though, there is something here about the stickiness of perceptions about what is true, even in the face of reality. Those physicians poring over their copy of *Disease Woman* must surely have known that the underlying premises about women’s bodies and the incidences of disease were not really true, or at least not a complete picture. Or maybe they, and those who held patronage power, had a stake in insisting that women were inferior, and that masked

the bias, drove it into their unconscious. There may have been too much to lose to seek the truth, let alone declare it.

The point is that our perceptions are what they are and they can complicate our relationship to the truth. It is not that truth is relative, but what counts as truth and what may be heard and accepted as truth are certainly contextually influenced. In base 10, $2 + 2 = 4$. In base 3, $2 + 2 = 11$. If we ever meet a species with two digits on one hand and one on the other we might need to have that conversation, or they are going to find our published statistics very confusing. "What is this 'four' you are talking about? Two plus two is clearly 11. 1, 2, 10, 11." Or something.

Jesus knew all about the perceptions that others held. He knew that he was perceived as a troublemaker. His was a ministry of claims: that we are all sinners in need of repentance and the grace of God; that he alone is the way, the truth and the life; that he alone is the way to the Father; that he would be persecuted and die, yet would rise again. He made all these claims and many more, but knew that what he said and did would be seen through the lenses others used, and that for some no amount of evidence would make any difference.

Curing people? Troublesome show-off.

Ethical clarity? Deliberate undermining of established authority.

Acts of compassion? Serious breaches of social order.

Pointing out wrongdoing? Insulting upstart.

Teaching about the overwhelming love and forgiveness of God?

Dangerous revolutionary.

Jesus told a parable in which he commented on an inability to perceive truth. *The Rich Man and Lazarus* as it happens, Luke chapter 16, but he could have said it in lots of other contexts. "Send someone back from the dead to visit the living, and explain the truth to them, then they will believe" says the rich man. Jesus replies – I am paraphrasing – "If they do not believe the evidence they already have, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."

The difficulty truth has in penetrating our perceptions of reality has always existed and continues today. Paul recorded that the once-dead now-alive Christ appeared to Peter, to the rest of the twelve, to more than 500 men and women at once, to the rest of the apostles and then last to himself. Evidence enough from credible witnesses that Christ rose from the dead, and there is other evidence besides, but even so not everyone, then or now, believes it. Billions do, and billions don't.

We bring, I guess, our own contexts and personalities to the issue; and we may each be influenced more or less strongly by what we have to lose if

St Andrew's Noticeboard

6 JULY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Acts 13.13-52; Luke 10.1-11 <i>To Pisidian Antioch</i>
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Genesis 29.1-20; Mark 6.7-29
7 JULY	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
13 JULY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 14.1-20; Luke 10.25-37 <i>In Iconium, Lystra and Derbe</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH In the churchyard
20 JULY	9 AM	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 14.21-28; Luke 10.38-42 <i>Home again</i>
24 JULY	10.30 AM	FOURTH THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION followed by refreshments in church
27 JULY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Moses 1: <i>The Secret Baby</i>
3 AUG	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY CW COMMUNION In the churchyard Moses 2: <i>Escape</i>

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

21 JUNE – FUNERAL OF CATHERINE SPENCER
29 JUNE – ORDINATION OF MATT LEWIS IN ELY CATHEDRAL

we accept as true something we have previously ignored or outright rejected.

So a summer challenge. What do you make of the claim that Christ rose from the dead? What preconceptions do you bring to bear on the issue? What do you make of the evidence that he did?

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



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Deadline for the August Messenger

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

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

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Daily threads

AT breakfast how often has the marmalade lid stuck fast? Twisted, worn or cross-threaded; frustrating. Your bike seat might need adjusting, screws tightening as threads have loosened or become bare. Similar for gym equipment, problems from regular use or abuse. A thread has pulled on your jumper meaning needle threading. Joy! Making coffee and the phone rings.



Conversation flags as concentration wavers. The thread of thought is lost. Outside a shoe lace needs tying or re-threading. Now safe, journeying begins, threading a way through bustling busy Cambridge crowds. It feels like 'hanging on by a thread'.

Spiders prove ingenious at threadwork webs. Caterpillars twist and turn on threads like acrobats. Silk

thread is highly prized. Nature surprises. Colour threads through distant fields attracting attention, scarlet poppies or neon yellow oil seed rape.

Bright ribbons tied in bows thread through plaits and enhance pony tails. Children enjoy threading wool or strips of paper weaving mats. Button or bead threading appeals too. Stories need a central theme from which threads develop. Homemade books with thread bound pages reward. Book binding skills intrigue. Clever. Hearing stories is special throughout life. Hand held books by Beatrix Potter still inspire. 'The Tailor of Gloucester' is a delight. An elderly, poor tailor wearing threadbare clothes cannot complete a task. Spoiler alert; there is talk of 'snippets of scissors and snappings thread.' Much of that happened to create 'Threads through the Bible,' an exhibition in Ely Cathedral ending on 30 June. 44 giant textile art works of 25 million stitches. Incredible imaginative work. Certainly not threadbare. Highly recommended. Seeing is believing.

Threads can appear to have symbolism. Shared special times are bright. Duller, muted tones stress difficult paths. Splashes of bold, vibrant colour are of encouragement and motivation offered by those who love and care. Benjamin Malachi Franklin ends a poem *The Weaver* with:

*'The dark threads are as needful
In the Weavers skillful hand
As the thread of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.'*

Judith Lee



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Letters to the Editor

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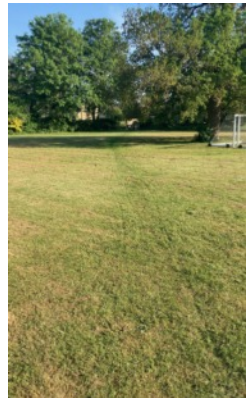
From: Name and address withheld

Re: Cycling on the school field

I WAS concerned to read John Lamble's complaint about cyclists cutting across the school field in the May issue of *Messenger*. However well-intentioned, it is extremely disheartening to encounter any efforts that effectively dissuade people for choosing sustainable forms of transport. I admit to being one of those people who conscientiously use this as a shortcut when I cycle to work and back every day. Maybe Mr Lamble is unaware that the portion of Church Street between A1301 and Mingle Lane is utterly treacherous both from the appalling road surface (worst in the village) and the danger of traffic overtaking round blind bends. We should be making it easier for people to choose a bike rather than their car for local journeys. In my view, the infinitely reduced risk to life and limb of separating cycle and car traffic far outweighs the negligible temporary impact to a tiny stretch of turf, and the disregard for a long-forgotten bylaw. It's worth mentioning, for clarity, that the signs do not 'forbid cycling' as Mr Lamble claims, they say "No cycles", however that may be interpreted or enforced legally.

Another source of ire for Mr Lamble was the gate being left open. It isn't clear to me what purpose that gate serves at all. What is it meant to be keeping either in or out? Maybe Mr Lamble hadn't noticed that one entire side of the field is completely open, unfenced. As for the proposal to install an automatic gate shutting mechanism or bicycle-proof fence (presumably at the Parish's expense rather than Mr Lamble's), there are far better things to spend our limited community resources on; reducing dangers from traffic, for one.

For reference for those who do not pass that way, here is a photo of the "noticeable damage" and "deep, muddy runnel" caused by these countless cyclists.



From: Rosie Brown, Vine Close, Stapleford

Re: Cycling on the school field

AS a Stapleford Community Primary School (SCPS) and Shelford and Stapleford Strikers (SASS) football team parent, I have noticed the bike tracks on the field and thought to myself that it is of no practical

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consequence - either to the quality of the football pitches which it passes in between, or to the sporting prowess of the wonderful SCPS students.

As a cyclist, I travel via the road and not the school field, but my right turns - out of Vine Close into Bury Road, into London Road and then Church Street - are hectic and there are many hazards. In particular, turning right into Church Street one has to navigate fast moving traffic, the bus stops, a pedestrian crossing, cars parking for the Spar and Travis Perkins vehicles coming and going, not to mention the potholes that can literally unseat you. Most recently a huge lorry leaving Church Street pulled around a double decker bus in the London Road / Spar bus stop, driving me off the road. That was frightening. So, on balance, I prefer that my family and neighbours cycle across the school field to get to Mingle Lane - unless we can think of a way to calm / reroute the traffic.

Newcomers tea

HAVE you moved into the village in the last three or four years? Then you are warmly invited to our next newcomers tea in the Vicarage garden (indoors if wet) at 43 Mingle Lane CB22 5SY on **Sunday 13 July** from **3.30pm to 5pm**. Come and meet others who have moved in and some village old hands too. Definitely not restricted to Christians or churchgoers. And if you have been here longer, but missed the one last year, please come! Even if you have been before, but are new-ish in the village - it takes a while to settle in - please come! All welcome.

Or do you know any newcomers? Not everyone gets the *Messenger*, so please let them know about this invitation and bring them along - you are welcome too!

Please let Lizzie and Simon know you are coming on 840256 or simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com. **Simon Taylor**

Does your organisation need some financial help?

This year, once again the *Messenger* has some surplus revenue to donate to good causes. If you are a charity, or an organisation with good ideals, such as a sports club or a school, we may be able to make a donation to you.

Please email ivanmartinginger@gmail.com for an application form.

We need your initial application by 30 July. **Martin Ginger**

Yesteryear

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

1827

DIED. Mr. John Tregonwell Collier, an opulent and respectable farmer, of Stapleford.

1888

FLOWER SHOW. On Monday afternoon a show of vegetables and flowers was held in the grounds of the Vine Farm, Stapleford. The weather was beautifully fine, and enticed a large number of persons to visit the show. Mr. H. Evans's band played a good selection of music during the afternoon, and enlivened the proceedings in a considerable degree. Amongst other attractions on the ground were Messrs. Thurston's steam circus and shooting gallery, and refreshments were also provided. The exhibits were staged in a large marquee. Considering the size of the village – it being the first time that Stapleford has held a flower show of its own – there was a large number of different kinds. In the classes for vegetables, the chief exhibits were the potatoes, of which there was a good show. There were, also, some good cabbages and some of the pears were very large. Some fairly good specimens of roses were staged, and the cut flowers, as well as the plants in pots, formed attractive features of the show. The centre of the tent was adorned with ferns and other plants.

1916

STAPLEFORD. Lance Corp Bert Willis is reported wounded and is now in hospital in Glasgow. Private Frank Willis, his brother, who was wounded some months ago, has now been returned to his regiment.

1926

DROWNING. Gladys Elizabeth Brown drowned in well in Church Street.

1941

THE DEATH OF MR WILLIAM JAMES HOWLAND, landlord of *The Rose Inn*, who passed away very suddenly on 25th June aged 68 years, is announced. He was a wheelwright by trade and came from Barking to *The Rose* 39 years ago.

After William Howard the Ruse family held the licence certainly until 1949 when the population survey was carried out. In 1969 it was Norman Robinson.

1944

Proposition. "... that if an application was received for permission to graze the Recreation Ground with sheep it be granted, but the Council reaffirmed its decision that grazing by cows etc. was not suitable for the public using the ground. This arose from correspondence received from the Cambs War Agricultural Committee asking for the herbage to be used and not allowed to run to waste". (*From the Parish Council Minutes*)

1973

FIRST WOMAN SUPERINTENDENT. Mid-Anglia police will get its first woman police superintendent on 1st August when the head of the women's section, Chief Inspector Christine Willis, is promoted. She joined the service in 1953 serving with the old Cambridgeshire Constabulary and on promotion in 1960 transferred to the Isle of Ely. She was made up to inspector when the local forces amalgamated into the present Mid-Anglia Constabulary ... She will remain as Commander of the Women's Section in her new rank.

Mothers' Union



ON 24 July, the Branch is hosting a tea party for our friends from Milton – 2.30pm, Johnson Hall. It will be nice to see them again. We hope to have a Bring and Buy stall as well, to raise funds for MU projects. **Hilary Street**

Music Moments concerts

WE are delighted to say we will be back for another concert on **Saturday 19 July** from **6 to 7pm**.

The aim of the Music Moments concert series is to celebrate our local musicians and share the joy of music making with the community. 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. **James and Lizzie Buchanan-Worster, and Sarah Kwan**



St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

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Stapleford – Nachingwea Link

Wheelchairs and hearing aids for children - a luxury or essential?



WE have recently been asked by Kevin Bushiri, Chair of the Nachingwea Link Committee, whether we might be able to help with providing three child- sized wheelchairs and hearing aids for three children. At present, children who need a wheelchair might, at best, have the use of an adult chair and those with hearing difficulties may be unable to attend school frequently.

Kevin states the following as the objectives for this project :

- Giving wheelchairs and hearing aids shows the children love which gives them comfort and feeling that they are cared.
- Hearing aids will help pupils to understand lessons.
- These wheelchairs and hearing aids will help them to attend school all school days of the week.
- Showing parents and other children around them that children with special needs deserve good things.
- Motivating parents to bring these children to school and not hiding them indoors as is currently done.
- Giving children good learning environment.
- Showing the children that they are equal and deserve education.



The Stapleford Link Committee would love to support this project. If you would like to contribute either towards a wheelchair (£125 each) or towards a set of hearing aids (£65 for one set, plus the hearing test and transport to the hospital for the test) please email the Committee at nachingwealink@standrewstapleford.org.



We are always so grateful for your support. Thank you.

The St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee.

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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Thoughts from the courts



THERE was another excellent turnout for this speaker's talk. Rev Dr Simon Taylor KC is the incumbent priest for the parish of Stapleford and a part-time criminal barrister and judge. He was educated at Cambridge University where he studied Medicine to start with, then Law, eventually qualifying in both.

The speaker began by describing the Court system, from the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, and making clear the various courts that deal with civil and criminal matters. The High Court, the County Courts and a range of tribunals and councils cover the civil issues while the Crown Courts, including the Old Bailey, and Magistrate Courts deal with criminal charges.

Simon Taylor then discussed the reasons why people sue. He made it clear that people need financial help in adapting their homes when they have to care for someone who needs a wheelchair, for example, and/or cannot be carried upstairs. Bathrooms need to be altered; transport needs must be satisfied and additional care provision is expensive.

We were then shown a picture of Gracie and Rosie, conjoined twins, whose parents did not want them to be separated even though their doctors said it would be better if one survived rather than both died. The High Court has a protective jurisdiction when the best interests of the clients need to be prioritised and decided that the twins should be separated. Rosie died within a day while Gracie has flourished and wants to study Medicine.

The issue of the Chagos Islands/British Indian Ocean territory and the duplicity of the claim that there was no population to be expelled when the US wanted a base in the Indian Ocean was then explored. The speaker talked about the institutional cruelty against the citizens of those islands.

Lastly, we were shown a video of a Crown Court trial and asked to decide the verdict. The accused had been riding pillion on a friend's motorbike. He dragged a woman's handbag off her while threatening her with a knife. When she fell she hurt her shoulder. We learnt that this was the accused's fourth offence and even the Defence Counsel's plea that his girlfriend was pregnant carried no weight with the Society members. The fact that the accused had admitted his guilt meant that he finally got a nine year term reduced to six, though some in the audience would have preferred nine. **Jane Steadman**



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Stapleford Community Primary School PTA Fun Run

THE Stapleford Fun Run is back again for 2025, taking place on Sunday 6 July at 10am. Set at the beautiful Magog Down, by kind permission of the Trustees of the Magog Trust, the event is a great way to spend a morning and ideal for both families and individuals of all ages and abilities.

You can choose from one of three distances (1km, 4km or 8km), and there will be medals for the top three male and female runners as well as a participant medal for everyone who completes the race. (Age limit applies to the top three 1km and 4km winners). We will also have a prize for the best fancy-dress. To find out more about the event as well as register, go to staplefordrun.com. All funds go towards raising much-needed funds for Stapleford Community Primary School.

With thanks to our sponsors for their continued support of this event: Wedd Joinery; Strawberry Fields; Redmayne Arnold & Harris; Gymbo's; Scotsdales; Shelford & Stapleford Strikers FC; Church Street Vets; TFM Renewables; Hien's Salon; Angelica Fachechi Tennis Coaching; Club Cycle and The Three Horseshoes. **Sarah O'Driscoll**

Spirituals, Bonhoeffer and resistance to the Nazis

ON Friday 13 June at St Andrew's, Chandi Plummer, a coloratura soprano, treated us to an illustrated lecture about the history of spirituals. Chandi is professor of music at Boyce College, Kentucky, and has made a special study of 'How Spirituals Influenced Both Resistance to Nazis and Civil Rights Protests'. She talked about the early development of spirituals from 1690 and how in the nineteenth century they often contained hidden messages about the Underground Railroad, a secret network for fugitive slaves. Later, university groups such as the Fisk Singers in Nashville brought spirituals to a wider audience. In the early twentieth century a German theologian, musician and dissident anti-Nazi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, promoted spirituals among his students both in Germany and the US. He was hanged by the Nazis at the very end of the war.



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Luckily for the audience, Chandi didn't just tell us about spirituals. She also sang about half a dozen, sensitively accompanied at the piano by Tim Kwan, Director of Music at St Andrew's. Many, such as 'Deep River' and 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' were very familiar; others less well-known. We are perhaps more used to hearing spirituals sung by choruses, and Chandi's solo interpretation was a new experience for many of us. Her rich, warm voice brought out the passion behind the words of the songs - and how did she get such pure high notes so effortlessly! Altogether an interesting and enjoyable evening. Thanks to Simon and St Andrew's for the welcome and the refreshments. **Linda Whitebread**



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Tuesday 8 July at 7.45pm - the Pavilion.

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Magog Singers end of term concert



DON'T forget to join us at the Pavilion Tuesday 8 July 3pm, for what will be a delightful afternoon of a variety of choral music including arrangements by our director, John Clenaghan. The choir will be accompanied by Brian Watkins. Light refreshments will be served and a 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

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2G3S



I HOPE some of you came along to Stapleford Village Weekend to watch the beautiful film 'Wilding'. An inspiring use of unproductive farmland. Coming up:

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. You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential. The group are considering providing one or two sessions at other times, and maybe a Back To School session at the end of the Summer holidays.

Meet our MP – EcoShepreth have arranged a meeting with Pippa Heylings to ask questions about her views and actions on housing, energy, environment, biodiversity, and so on. A number of local green groups including ourselves have been involved, and if you'd like to come you can get tickets on Eventbrite (search for 'Mass Lobby (Local) Event: Meeting with Pippa Heylings MP'). The meeting is at Foxton Village Hall, 1pm-4pm on Saturday 5 July. Also listed below that event on Eventbrite is the Mass Lobby of MPs in London arranged by the Climate Coalition, on 9 July, which anyone can attend.

If you're interested in meeting some of us, we have regular **planning meetings**. The next two are 16 July and 27 August. Email us at the address below for more details. We will be planning conversation evenings for the autumn and winter months as well as arranging our other regular activities.

Our next **Book Group** meeting is Tuesday 19 August 8pm, featuring a pair of books, 'Life after Capitalism' and 'Prosperity without Growth' by Tim Jackson. We meet in the Three Horseshoes in Stapleford, do come along if you are curious about how people can thrive without relentless growth.

Repair Cafés – if you have items that have broken, don't throw them away but wait till a repair café. We have two planned, one in Great Shelford Free Church on 20 September, and one in Sawston in November.

Housing developments and nature – you may have read about the Government's proposal to allow smaller developers (less than 10 houses) to be exempted from the requirement that they provide for biodiversity to replace that lost by the building, which they are now consulting on. It is a cumbersome process, but rather than abolishing it perhaps the scheme

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needs amending for small developers? CPPF have appealed for people to fill in the consultation form, deadline 24 July. From their newsletter:

'In 2024 the government introduced the concept of Biodiversity Net Gain to the planning system. This means that all developments should result in a 10% increase in biodiversity. This is achieved by creating new habitats to replace those that are lost through development. The new habitats can be on the development site or located elsewhere. The intention is that development is made more sustainable and contributes positively – rather than negatively as it has in the past.

Unfortunately, the BNG process that was devised is very complicated and therefore costly to developers, especially small developers because the cost is disproportionate to the size of the development. It is clear the process should be reformed for small developments so that it is much simpler and proportionate.

The government has launched a consultation on this – search for “gov.uk consultations biodiversity net gain small developments” for details and to have your say. Ministers have already indicated that they would like to scrap the BNG scheme altogether for small developments that are less than 10 houses. If they do, then it will be a step backwards for nature friendly development – and we will be back to a situation where development is harming nature.

Given that we have a lot of development in Cambridge, that would not be a good thing for our city. Instead of scrapping it, we would like to see the current BNG system suspended for small developments whilst a new scheme is put in place'.

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

Cambridge Flower Club

Thursday 17 July, 7.15pm, Refreshments 6.45pm

Kate Bass, NAFAS Demonstrator: 'Summer Flower Festival'

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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French visitors welcomed by Stapleford Twinning Association

OVER the second May bank holiday, Stapleford Twinning Association had the pleasure of welcoming 13 visitors from our twin village in France: Villedômer. Our guests stayed with local host families, who generously opened their homes and helped create a warm and memorable weekend.

A variety of activities was enjoyed together, including a relaxing guided punting trip in Cambridge and a fascinating day out in London. The visit to the capital featured a scenic journey on the Uber Boat from Tower Hill to Westminster, offering a unique view of the city's sights from the Thames. The group also visited the Royal Mews Museum at Buckingham Palace, which proved to be a highlight.

The weekend concluded with a farewell dinner held at the Cambridge Masonic Hall, where stories were shared, friendships were celebrated, and plans for future visits were already being discussed.

We are always delighted to welcome new members! If you're interested in cultural exchange, making new friends, and being part of a friendly international community, please visit our website to find out more and get in touch: staplefordtwinning.org.uk.

Our next group visit to Villedômer will be in May 2026 and all twinning association individuals, couples and families will be eligible to join this weekend trip. **Jillian Gardner**



Group visit to Cambridge.



Farewell Dinner

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Puzzle Corner

Two-letter sequences 6

Solve the clues to find words containing two-letter sequences

Examples

Russian drink (DK) = voDKa

seal-like mammal (LR) = waLRus

digitalis (flower) (XG) = foXGlove

Group 1

sow (DC)

nose wipe (DK)

disparage (DM)

megaphone (DH)

puns or spoonerisms (DP)

unexpected good fortune (DF)

Group 2

decree (KT)

tetanus (KJ)

scenery (KG)

May bug (KC)

junior MP (KB)

small corvid (KD)

Group 3

unearth

wheel shaft

delightfully beautiful

Robert or Ghislaine?

Inland Revenue agent

city, type of shoe, fabric

using XM XF XW

XC XL XQ

Group 4

reverie

fast dog

perhaps

spun sugar

punctuation mark

indication of disease

using YH YF YP

YM YD YB

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 39

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Do you know about David Parr House?



BEHIND the ordinary front door of 186 Gwydir Street lies an extraordinary hand-painted interior. From 1886, this was the home of Victorian working-class decorative artist David Parr and his family. The house is a remarkable example of Arts and Crafts workmanship, layered with 20th century social history.

After being taken on as an apprentice, David Parr worked for F. R. Leach & Sons, a firm of artworkmen based on City Road in Cambridge. The firm was renowned across the country, working with many notable designers of the day, including George Frederick Bodley, William Morris, and Charles Eamer Kempe. F. R. Leach & Sons specialised in all aspects of church decoration, from wall painting to altar hangings, stained glass to candlesticks. Their work can be found across the UK, from Scotland to the Isle of Wight, and locally in Cambridge at Jesus College, St Botolph's Church, Queens' College, and All Saints' Church.

In 1886, Parr bought 186 Gwydir Street and, over the next 40 years, decorated his terraced home by lamp and candlelight with his own designs,



Piano, Drawing Room View.

Credit: Lucinda Douglas Menzies

echoing the style of the grand interiors he worked on by day. Following his death in 1927, his granddaughter, Elsie Palmer, came to live in the house and preserved it for over 85 years. In 2014, the David Parr House charity was established, opening the house to the public.

Today, the house welcomes visitors and hosts events, exhibitions, and creative workshops. The charity continues to research Parr's life and the work of F. R. Leach & Sons,

uncovering stories from Cambridge's rich artistic heritage.

Get involved by visiting, donating, volunteering, attending events, or spreading the word. Visit davidparrhouse.org to find out more or contact: info@davidparrhouse.org. **Holly O'Brien, Digital and Events Producer**

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 137

Deer and a Tin Tabernacle: a circular walk from Strethall

To get to start of Walk

TRAVEL to Ickleton via Duxford. When the village is reached from Duxford do not turn left up the main street, but go straight ahead on Coploe Road (signed Strethall). It subsequently crosses a road coming from Elmdon and the turning for Strethall Church (signed) is shortly after the Elmdon road is crossed. Park at the rear of the church, next to the barn (CB11 4XJ).

Distance of Walk

Just short of 5 miles. There are some excellent views along the walk and the route is quite undulating.

OS Map

Explorer map 195 (Strethall is in the very top left hand corner of the map). If you prefer not to use/don't have a phone app try maps.the-hug.net for a free map extract or use the route map provided.

Extra Information

St Mary the Virgin Church in Strethall dates to the 11C, pre-dating Domesday Book. It is Grade I listed and is still used, but services are somewhat irregular and the parish population is one of the lowest in the country. St Peter's Church in Littlebury Green is a 'tin tabernacle'. Made of corrugated iron in 1885 it is currently painted green (on the outside).

Route of Walk

From the car parking area, head downhill to the right of the church and take the path heading to the right at the bottom of the slope. Keep a look-out for roe deer; there is a large herd in this area. Follow the new path uphill under cover of trees until it meets a larger cross path. Turn left and then almost immediate right on to yet another path.

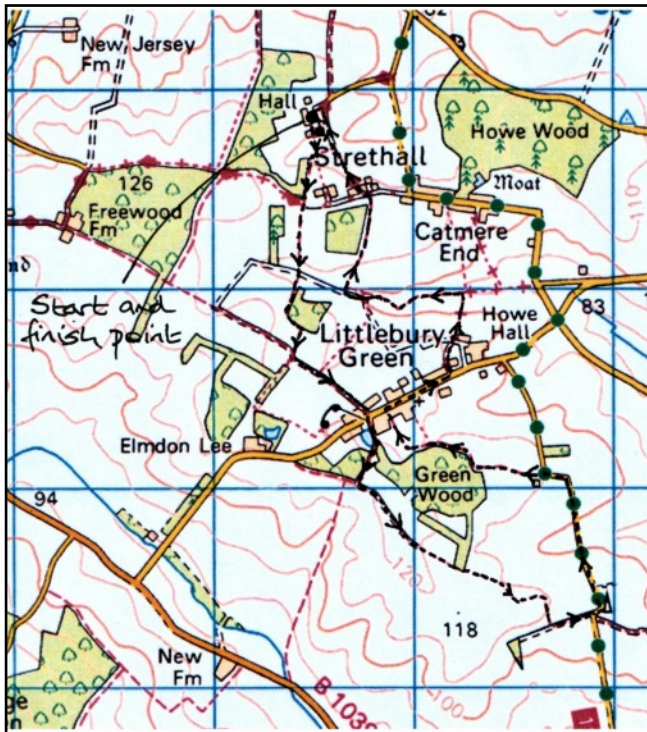
This path goes downhill, crosses a farm track and continues beyond, passing along the right hand side of a small wood. It curls round the wood and then cuts away to meet a substantial cross path. Turn left on to the cross path and follow it to the road passing through Littlebury Green.

Cross over and head up the track opposite, between houses initially and then between trees. The track meets another cross track at the end of the trees and the view ahead is an expansive one of a wide valley. Turn left on the cross track and follow it for just under ½ mile as it winds along the valley top until it finally meets a very minor road.

Walk left along the road for just over ½ mile. There is very little traffic but do take care. The road drops down and then rises up again.

Where it turns left and then swings back right look for a footpath sign to the left and follow the path along the tree line and then round the right hand side of a large wood, with fields to the right. There is a herd of fallow deer living in the wood and they are often in plain view. Ignore the side path to the right which crosses the field on the far side of the wood but keep walking and the path you are on eventually swings right and, soon after, meets the road through Littlebury Green.

Turn right and walk along the roadside past the famous corrugated iron church on the right. Turn left when a footpath sign is seen on the left hand side. The path goes downhill and, just after it meets a path coming in from the right, turn left on another side path that heads out through the tree line. It emerges from the trees shortly before joining a wide farm track.



Walk along the track for a very short distance then turn right on a side path that goes up a steep rise. It may not be signed but it is quite clear. It passes to the right of a wood and then meets a minor access road. Turn left and, just beyond the end of the pond opposite, go right on a path that very soon gives a great view of Strethall Church. Go down into a dip then up the other side and you are back at the car parking area where the walk started. **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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July at Great Shelford Library

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THIS year's theme is Story Garden – adventures in nature and the great outdoors.

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- read six library books of their choice during the holidays
- collect a sticker for each book read

On finishing they'll receive a certificate and medal (under-3s receive a special sticker medal).

Sign up from Saturday 5 July. Once the holidays start, collect stickers any time the library is open.

We have two children's events during July to support the Summer Reading Challenge

Fairy Garden – Thursday 24 July 2-3.30pm. Come and make a fairy garden. Suitable for ages 5-10. £2 per family. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Song of Trees – Wednesday 30 July 2-3pm. A musical event for children. Suitable for ages 5-10. £2 per family. . Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Adults, we hope you'll keep reading all summer too! Choose from our shelves, or travel light on holiday by downloading free eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers onto your device. For more details, visit our website or ask library staff.

Engage Talk – Author Christina Koning discusses writing the Blind Detective series. Wednesday 23 July, 2pm-4pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Mel Abbiss – Community Librarian

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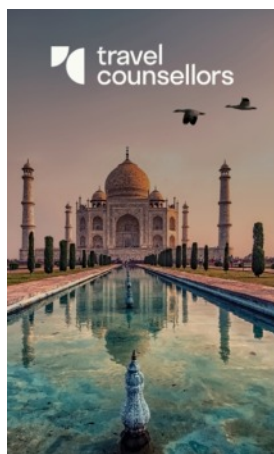
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Stapleford WI



'BYSTANDERS can be life savers'. This is the key phrase which sums up the recently adopted resolution at the 2025 WI Annual Meeting. This year's resolution was one of a short list of four which is presented to all WI members so that everyone has the opportunity to vote.

The most popular resolution is then presented at the Annual Meeting and, if successful, becomes one of our campaigns. The idea behind this campaign centres on the importance of educating as many people as possible on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the location of defibrillators. It is said that one WI member can influence five other people and thereby increase the chances of someone surviving a heart attack. One surprising fact is that women are less likely to receive CPR from bystanders than men so it is vital that more women know how to provide assistance. One of our committee members, Gillian Pett, organised an evening for all Stapleford villagers recently to instruct attendees how to carry out CPR.

The National Annual Meeting was held online this year as it is only possible to meet physically every third year. The organisation always attracts interesting, well-known speakers and this year was no exception. Emma Bridgewater, the founder of the ceramics company, explained that all her designs are a homage to her mother. The WI was founded 110 years ago and Emma has designed a special mug to celebrate this. She was followed by the lively Angel Strawbridge who is best known for appearing in 'Escape to the Chateau', and who spoke to us from France. I'm sure members were in agreement with Angel's comment when she talked about working with many incredible women through her entrepreneurship who were fearless, hardworking, strong and proud, and said they were just like the WI!

Here in our own WI we have continued to enjoy the friendship, reading and craft groups and other activities our group offers. A highlight in June was a 'Cambridge Supper' which was held on a Saturday evening in the Pavilion. Yvonne Allison, one of our committee members, organised a wonderful tasting menu of dishes connected to Cambridge in one way or another, and prepared and cooked much of the meal herself, with assistance from other members. As I type this members are preparing for a trip to Southend and





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- **Weekend 1 JULY 5-6**
- **Weekend 2 JULY 12-13**
- **Weekend 3 JULY 19-20**
- **Weekend 4 JULY 26-27**

OPEN 10AM TO 5PM

Leigh-on-Sea and this looks as though it will be another successful and memorable WI day thanks to the good weather forecast

At our monthly meeting in June, Sue Wiles (on the right in the photo) was presented with the Liz Hodgkins tea light trophy for her entry of shortbread by the President, Sue Clark. We regularly hold competitions at our meetings which can range from crafts to baking or flower posies. In July we will be hearing about the Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital and we would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in finding out more about our WI group and all we offer. Information can also be seen on our website staplefordwi.weebly.com or speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847. **Joyce Dobson**



2G3S Cycle Ride and Picnic

Wednesday 20 August



PUMP up your tyres, pack your flask and your favourite sandwiches and join 2G3S for a trundle to a picnic at Haslingfield Meadow, near the Methodist Church. We'll meet at the Pavilion at 10am and ride together, pausing at Mohak cafe in Haslingfield for emergency provisions. Then it'll be back to Stapleford - total distance about 15 miles.

The route contains a mix of quiet roads and traffic-free trails, bumpy and smooth. Families welcome, so long as children are accompanied by a responsible adult. Email Yasmin to book in advance: greener@sawston.org. **Jane Chisholm**

Puzzle Corner Answers

Two-letter sequences 6

Group 1: broaDCast, hanDKerchief, baDMouth, louDHailer, worDPlay, winDFall

Group 2: diKTat, lockJaw, backGrounD, cocKChafer, backBencher, jackDaw

Group 3: eXCavate, aXLe, eXQquisite, MaXWell, taXMan, OXFord

Group 4: daYDream, greYHound, maYBe, candYFloss, hYPhen, sYMPtom



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Parish Council Chair's report for June

FIRST of all, apologies to the Tree Project Group. Thanks to them for their work planting trees in the village was inadvertently missed from the report last month. Sophi Berridge gave an excellent presentation about the project at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Parish Council is awaiting tenders for work on the Pavilion, and it is hoped that a start date will be available soon. We have to fit in with builders' schedules, so the start date is not necessarily of the Parish Council's choosing. It is regrettable that we have not been able as yet to give a firm start date for the work.

Cllr Peter Fane attended the Parish Council meeting as both the County Councillor and the District Councillor. The new Councillor, Lawrence Damary-Homan sent his apologies as he was attending another meeting.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be proceeding to Public Consultation later this year and all residents are encouraged to vote in the referendum. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to protect what residents regard as special in our village and maintain our village identity while not obstructing plans for development. Thanks were given to the Neighbourhood Plan group, led by Jenny Flynn.

The Annual Governance Statements and Accounting Statements were approved. Residents have the right to inspect the Parish Council accounts on the Parish Council website from 16 June to 25 July.

The tennis club agreement was discussed. The current agreement ends at the end of June and a rolling monthly agreement was approved until a contract is finalised. It has been recommended that an open discussion meeting is held with all sports groups in the village, with a representative from each sport invited to attend, and this will be arranged by the clerk and assistant clerk.

Work continues in the cemetery. The groundwork contractors have been commended by residents for the work they are doing. The gates at the road entrance to the cemetery will be receiving attention. The Parish Council approved the rearrangement of grave and ashes plots in the new cemetery.

Plans for the Stapleford weekend are well under way and it will all be over until next year by the time you receive this copy of the *Messenger*!

Please address any matters needing attention from the Parish Council to the clerk and not to individual councillors.

Finally, it is not the Parish Council's responsibility to return no longer needed walking aids or to dispose of unwanted items. Recently two walking

STAPLEFORD
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JUNE & JULY

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.

James Taylor Quartet

Friday 6 June | 7:30pm

Returning to the Granary following their knockout concert in 2024, the iconic JTQ set the standard for the coolest sounds in funky acid jazz.

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.

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aids were left in the Pavilion. These have been taken to the designated recycling point at Babraham Park and Ride. Please do not leave any items you no longer need at the Pavilion.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 3 July at 7pm in the Pavilion. Residents are invited to attend. **Gillian Pett**

Neighbourhood Plan update

I spy a community referendum on the horizon...



LAST month, I broke the good news that the independent examiner of the Stapleford and Great Shelford NP had recommended that it could proceed to community referendum.

The Local Planning Authority (SCDC) subsequently agreed the same and, in early

June, so did Stapleford Parish Council. Great Shelford Parish Council will cast its vote at its full council meeting in mid-June. Whilst not wanting to pre-empt the outcome of the latter, the steering group must crack on with preparing the 'referendum version' of the Plan to be sure that we are able to hit the deadline for submitting it.

The examiner's report on our Plan is available to read on the scamb's website (scamb's.gov.uk/planning), by selecting 'Local Plan and neighbourhood planning', then 'Neighbourhood Plans' and then scrolling down to select 'Stapleford and Great Shelford'. I particularly like his comments that "The Plan is very well-organised and presented. It has been prepared with much attention to detail and local pride," and that "...the ways in which the parish councils engaged the community and statutory bodies was extremely thorough and detailed."

It is par for the course for the examiner to recommend modifications to ensure that a NP meets the legal conditions required of it. In our case, most modifications are relatively minor and reflect the examiner's preference for policies to be worded in a particular way. In some instances, the examiner moved certain policy wording into the supporting text because he felt it was inessential to the application of the policy or that it was overly prescriptive. The most significant modification was the deletion of the views policy because the examiner considered that our general countryside views overlap with broader protection afforded by the greenbelt. You may recall that I have over the past few months repeatedly raised this as a risk because



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the examiner has form in this respect (e.g. he did the same thing to Fulbourn's NP).

We shot for the moon and fell just a teensy bit short. Whilst I regret the loss of this one policy, I want to be very clear that it should not in any way overshadow everything else that we have achieved in an ambitious and expansive NP. Ultimately, we still have 20 new planning policies which will work together to influence and protect future development of our neighbourhood area. All NPs need updating over time and it is perfectly possible that we will revisit our views policy in a future iteration.

A community referendum is likely to take place in the first week of September, thereby avoiding the long summer holiday. All registered voters in our parishes can take part and I strongly urge you to do so. It will require only one tick in a box, either in person or by post. This is your chance to say 'yes': yes to the future development of Stapleford and Great Shelford being done *with us* and *for us*, not to us. A Neighbourhood Plan is the single strongest way for communities to influence planning decisions. Don't let this opportunity pass us by. **Jenny Flynn Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan steering group**

CSET Scheme Busway

Public Inquiry announced

THE Department for Transport (DfT) has announced there will be a public inquiry for the busway. Although the date has not been announced it is likely to be held in the winter.

Following the letter of objection that our solicitors submitted to the Secretary of State, we have appointed a landscape expert and a transport consultant and we are now preparing the detailed Statement of Case for the deadline of 15 July. This sets out in detail the basis of our case and will include all the documents upon which our evidence is based.

Those who have objected will have received a letter from the DfT and if you do not want to appear at the inquiry we would like you to respond (if you haven't already) requesting that Better Ways for Busways represents you at the public inquiry. This adds strength to our position. The exception to this is if you have made objections that are different from those shared by BW4B, and in that case you need to let the DfT know, and submit a Statement of Case by 15 July.

We are actively fundraising for this stage and are grateful for the £38k already donated with a target of £50k. To support the appeal please visit



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

app.sheepcrm.com/cambridgeppf/appeals and go down to 'Save South East Cambridge Countryside'.

Just to mention that the inquiry into the Cambridge to Cambourne Busway whose proposed routes bisects the 100 year old Coton Orchard, starts 15 September, at the Belfry Hotel at Cambourne and will last about three weeks. For more information visit bw4b.org **Howard Kettel**

Cambridge & District Cactus Society



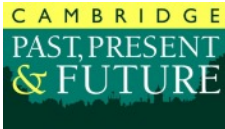
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Let's Grow Together

At our next meeting on Wednesday 9 July at 7.30pm in Shelford Memorial Hall we welcome Gerry Blacoe, Chairman of Spalding Branch who will give a talk and presentation on the Flora and

Fauna he discovered in New Zealand on a recent visit.

Refreshments will be available, as well as cactus/succulents for sale and a raffle. To learn more about the B.C.S.S. visit our website bcss.org.uk or just drop in to our meetings where you will be made most welcome. Let's grow together. **Jacqui Arbon, Branch Secretary**

Wandlebury events



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

Learn to Scythe Day - Saturday 19 July, 10am-4pm. £75 per person, booking essential. You will learn how to select and set up a scythe to suit your stature and the basics of mowing and sharpening. The course will be taught by Richard Brown a professional scythe tutor (wildscythe.co.uk).



Wandlebury Scything Festival - Sunday 20 July, 10am-4pm. Back for a third year and expanded to include the revived Eastern Counties Scything Championships, the Wandlebury Scything Festival is becoming a premier scythe event. Have a go at scything and watch experts in action. Scything is a traditional rural skill that was used to cut hay. The skill is kept alive by enthusiasts and scything is still used to cut hay in small or difficult locations where using a tractor isn't possible.

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Mick Davies

Matthew French

Barbara Ann Kettel

Howard Kettel (V Chair)

Anna Disley-Stevens

Michael Gatward

James Northmore

Please address any matters needing attention from the Parish Council to the clerk

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Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

Laurence.Damary-Homan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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Stapleford Parish Council normally meets publicly on the first Thursday of every month. Please check our website for the latest details



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