

Stapleford MESSENGER

September 2025

Volume 84 No 9

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Ne Nuntium Necare!

Stapleford & Great Shelford
Neighbourhood Plan



REFERENDUM

4 September 2025



Neighbourhood plans give communities direct power to shape growth in their local area in line with local priorities. They are based on community consultation and written by residents.

It is now up to everyone living in our parishes to decide whether you want our Neighbourhood Plan to come into force.

If you choose to vote in the referendum, you will be asked:

Do you want South Cambridgeshire District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Stapleford & Great Shelford to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

If a majority vote 'yes', our Plan will be adopted and have the same legal status as the Local Plan in all planning decisions.

A majority 'no' vote means that it will be disregarded.

Please come along and use your vote!
In person (with ID) - by post in advance - by proxy

See your polling card for more details, and visit
<https://bit.ly/4lyPrkE> or scan the QR code to
view our Neighbourhood Plan.



This document is a joint publication by Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils

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

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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Vicar

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Associate Minister

Rev Lucinda Howard
07763 477821

Curate

Rev Matt Lewis 07707 166834

Churchwarden

Alastair MacGregor
07855 269844

**Parish Safeguarding
Officer**

Rob Needle 844227

Parish Administrator

Sue Duncan 07579 091507

Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 602248

Director of Music

Tim Kwan 07745 803972

PCC secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Verger

Clare Kerr 842984

Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 826347

Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall

Parish Administrator
07579 091507

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 Lucinda Howard

THIS will be my last *Messenger* article as I have finished my time as curate and will be moving on to pastures new (and at the time of writing, yet to be decided). I have had three happy, full and meaningful years as curate and before that I was also at St Andrew's as a Ridley Hall ordinand (one year a bit disrupted by Covid). So really five years in total serving in Stapleford and therefore I feel it's appropriate, in my final piece, to reflect on my time here.



To begin with, and I suppose it binds everything else together, is the importance of geographical place. It's often implied in these days of easy international travel and global social network connections, that where you choose to live doesn't really matter anymore. We are supposedly people of everywhere and nowhere simultaneously, however my experience in Stapleford doesn't really bear this out. The Covid restrictions revealed not only our innate need for real in-person relationships, but also the importance of a physical space for gathering and growing community, the strength gained through coming together rather than living apart.

Stapleford is a great place. It retains its own sense of identity despite being close to and sometimes interwoven with, other lovely villages. It defines what I said about being somewhere people come together, adapting to include and welcome those from around the world as well as retaining a sense of continuity for many who have lived here for generations. This is no 'little England' in the restrictive sense but rather a diverse, outward facing community, one concerned with social justice and current issues yet not forgetting that how we treat each other starts with our neighbours.

And you won't be surprised to know that for me as a priest it's also a great example of how a parish should work. For those aware (or interested) in the inner workings of the Church of England, there has long been a concern about the perceived 'decline of the parish' and whether different models of church will eventually take its place. The church I came from was a large, gathered church in the centre of Cambridge and very few people lived in the parish. Ironically, although my family and I continued to live in Cambridge and not in Stapleford, my time at St Andrew's has only strengthened my passion for the parish model - the church embedded in communities big and small, poor and wealthy across the nation and served

by clergy dwelling amongst those they minister to – it just needs to be done well and resourced properly. I hope I don't embarrass him when I say that in Simon, you have a vicar who tries his best to honour this description. To quote the journalist John Hillaby, "Few things are more pleasant than a village graced with a good church, a good priest and a good pub!"

Serving everyone in Stapleford therefore, whether they come to church or not, is key to our ministry. It has been my great privilege over the past years to preside at many of those significant occasions in people's lives, when they're hatched, matched and dispatched or as the church would put it, baptisms, weddings and funerals. This is a part of my job that I love, even the hard service of funerals, because for me it embodies the incarnate message of the Christian faith: that we walk beside people throughout their lives, celebrating with them but also mourning with them too. In the same way I believe Christ shared our full human experience when he was born a man. Jesus understands our hopes and fears, our joy and pain and even our doubts. As The Message translation of the Bible puts it, 'God became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood.'

Two church activities that I have been involved with since the beginning also demonstrate the importance of valuing everyone at every stage of their life, especially the very beginning and the end. Little Fishes toddler group and JOY (for those at the other end of the age spectrum) are groups I have gained as much from as I have ever given out. I have loved being with parents and carers and their pre-school children, to be a support and listening ear, affirming the value of those little ones just as they are, loved and accepted by God before they can do very much at all. And to spend time with those great in years, to learn from their experience and collective wisdom, is also to realise that every one of us will eventually change and grow old, but that God is faithful and doesn't change, he will never grow tired and weary and will prove faithful to the end.

Lastly, whilst I will be immensely sad to leave St Andrew's, I am also grateful to God for all I have learnt during my time here. I've been blessed with colleagues who became friends and know that my ministry as a priest has been strengthened and moulded for the next challenge. I leave encouraged that the church in general is doing OK. In the words of an ex-atheist writer,

"All churches should be open 24/7. Like hospitals we should consider them a public utility, becoming, for anyone who chances to enter them, a site of refuge, a container for grief, even just a warm place to sit out of the cold." Amen.

St Andrew's Noticeboard

7 SEPT	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	CW COMMUNION Ephesians 3.14-21; Luke 14.25-33 <i>Surpassing Love</i>
14 SEPT	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNDAY WORSHIP & BAPTISM Ephesians 4.1-16; Luke 15.1-10 <i>Unity in Love</i>
	10.30 am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH
	6 pm	COME & SING CHORAL EVENSONG
21 SEPT	9 am	CW COMMUNION
	10.30 am	SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP
28 SEPT	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE 1 Timothy 6.6-19
5 OCT	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	HARVEST FESTIVAL ALL AGE & FAMILY CW COMMUNION Philippians 4.4-9; John 6.25-35

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

25 JULY INTERMENT OF ASHES OF DI BARLOW

29 JULY FUNERAL OF JOHN DEAN

Harvest Festival Scratch Orchestra

DO you or a young one in your household play an instrument?

All instrumentalists - of any standard, so please encourage those starting out too - are welcome to come and play in the scratch orchestra for the hymns and songs at our All Age & Family Harvest Festival service on Sunday 5 October at 10.30am in St Andrew's.

There will be a quick rehearsal at 10am in church. Music will be provided, and refreshments after the service.

If you would like to play, please let our Director of Music Tim Kwan know on music@standrewstapleford.org or 07745 803972.



LITTLE FISHES

birth to pre-school
9.15 to 11 am Mondays in term-time

Johnson Hall
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CB22 5BQ

- all welcome
- refreshments
- crafts, songs, stories

contact Fiona Holliday
layminister@standrewstapleford.org

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www.standrewstapleford.org
church for the whole community

Deadline for the October Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER**

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

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Unpacking pockets



POCKETS are useful. More clothes need them. It is an old word for a small bag or pouch in a garment for carrying articles like money. We know of the pocket knife, notebook and puzzles. Neat and handy. Pocket money helps purchasing. Children pocket collections of treasures; conkers, pebbles, sweets, a jig-saw piece, small toys, buttons. Generously sized pockets are special. I remember swishy, swirly skirts with deep lined pockets. Great for hands

when feeling awkward but not practical. Hems can drop unevenly due to weight. My sister had a dress with a gathered pocket attached by ribbon. Unusual and enviable. Once a crisp cotton handkerchief was put in a pocket. Now the paper tissue is favoured. Patch pockets on denim pinafore dresses accept very little, but I like the look. Imaginative pockets forming Advent calendars challenge creativity.

The word can be used differently. In or out of pocket refers to making money sometimes dishonestly when in a position of trust. Pick pocketing is stealing, bringing to mind *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. Entertaining yet serious. Such crime is often reported by security staff in shops and malls. Mobile 'phones in tight jeans back pockets sadly offer themselves. An attraction to be avoided. Our earth has pockets of minerals. Mist, fog and rain develops in pockets. A television programme on trees told of ancient pockets of woodland. Trees enhance lives, needing a pocket of respect.



A nursery rhyme, "Ring o' ring of roses, a pocket full of posies," reflects on the sadness of the Plague in 1665. "Sing a song of sixpence, a pocket full of rye" may have been a coded message from legendary Captain Blackbeard. He recruited pirates with whisky made of rye. Agatha Christie wrote a story featuring poison from a yew tree, another 'Pocket Full of Rye.' We need pockets of peace. Stress free moments or spaces. The metaphor of a pocket represents an area of peace within an unhappy environment. Hope leads to peace stemming from the senses. Sight, sound, sensations. Calm gently whispering, revitalising, encouraging. Interest inspires. Music massages minds. Nature nurtures. Pockets of simplicity awaiting discovery. **Judith Lee**

Come & Sing!

Sunday 14 September 2025

It's back!

Rehearsal 3.45 pm
Evensong 6 pm

- everyone welcome
- refreshments afterwards

Open to all!

- great music -
- great venue -



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Stapleford – Nachingwea Link

Thanks and Bon Voyage



WE have received these important photos, which share with readers the news of the arrival of the funds to support the latest round of project proposals, submitted by the Nachingwea Link Committee, which were discussed and agreed at the last Stapleford Link Committee meeting.

The group photo includes:

- Neema, assistant teacher, on behalf of the forthcoming three-month English Course for 40 students, who will be preparing to start Secondary School. The course runs from September to December.
- Siamini on behalf of the provision of wheelchairs for three students, hearing tests and hearing aids for three students and school uniforms for twenty students with Special Needs and uniforms for ten girls, so that they can attend secondary school.
- The parents of two girls taking A-Level courses in Science subjects.

The other two photos show the Priest in Charge, Rev Phares Lihewe and the Link Chair, Kevin Bushiri signing the forms to confirm the receipt of funds. Further forms are also sent to the Stapleford Link Committee when the funds are spent, to demonstrate accountability to our generous supporters.

We wish Bon Voyage to our new friends and wonderful Link supporters,



From left to right: Neema Mshamu, Assistant teacher on the English course, Rev Phares Lihewe, Priest, St Andrew's, Siamini Faraja, Link Committee, Fatuma Makotha and Naima Hamisi Muhibu, mothers of the two girl scholars taking A level courses in Science

Robert and Liz, who are setting off on their journey to Tanzania to visit places Liz's family knew in the 1950s, including Nachingwea, where Liz's parents were married in 1952. Readers will no doubt remember their account of the preparations for their journey in August's Messenger.

Kevin has prepared a detailed programme for Robert and Liz,

St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

REHEARSALS
THURSDAY 7PM -8PM @
ST ANDREWS CHURCH

Contact - Timothy Kwan
07745 803972
music@standrewstapleford.org



St Andrew
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Third Thursday Midweek Communion
10.30 am Thurs 18 Sept, 16 Oct, 20 Nov
All welcome
Refreshments after the service



St Andrew
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Chair of the Nachingwea Link, Kevin Bushiri, signing for the receipt of funds

Rev Phares Lihewe adding his signature for the receipt of funds

which will provide an excellent opportunity to develop our Link through personal contact, face to face. We wish them a wonderful trip.

Finally a date for your diaries: the Service of Celebration of the 44 years of the Link between Stapleford and Nachingwea will be held on Sunday, 19 October at 10.30am in St Andrew's Church. Do join us.

The St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee

Stapleford Community Warden Service

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

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

(a small weekly fee applies)

For further information call the Warden on



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

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with registered charity no. 1165856

Neighbourhood Plan referendum: the most important update on our Plan that I'm ever going to write



IN the nearly four years that I have been updating you on progress with the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan, this will be my lowest key entry. It is also the most important. By the time you read this, both parish councils will have entered a pre-referendum period of heightened sensitivity, in which they must exercise caution in making announcements that could influence the outcome of a democratic vote. I am not a councillor but my role as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – a group formed to produce a plan on behalf of our parish councils – puts me in a difficult position. I will, therefore, stick solely to the facts.

What is a neighbourhood plan?

Neighbourhood planning is a way for communities to take a proactive approach to deciding the future of the places where they live and work. Communities can use a neighbourhood plan to help shape the future development and use of land in their neighbourhood. This includes the development of homes, green spaces, amenities and infrastructure.

Nearly 1,500 neighbourhood plans have so far been adopted in England. Nine of these are in South Cambridgeshire, where a further 17 are at various stages of production.

Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan is at its final stage

The Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan has passed independent examination. South Cambridgeshire District Council has agreed that it meets the 'basic conditions' legally required of it and that it can proceed to community referendum. This is the final stage of the neighbourhood plan process, and it is now up to residents to vote in a community referendum on whether you would like the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan to come into force.

Arrangements for our community referendum

The referendum is scheduled to take place on **4 September 2025**. Everyone aged 18 and over who is registered and entitled to vote in local elections and lives in either the parish of Stapleford or Great Shelford can vote. Voting may be done in person (with ID), by post or by proxy.

In-person voting will take place between 7am and 10pm at:

- Stapleford residents: Sheltered Housing Communal Building, Cox's Close (off Church St), Stapleford, CB22 5SP
- Great Shelford residents: Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane, Great Shelford, CB22 5LZ.

Look out for your polling card for more details.

A simple yes/no vote

Do you want South Cambridgeshire District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Stapleford and Great Shelford to help decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

If you choose to vote, you will be asked the following question:

You will be able to vote 'yes' or 'no'. If more people vote 'yes' than 'no', then SCDC will adopt the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan and it will become part of the development plan for South Cambridgeshire, giving it the same legal status as the Local Plan. Our Neighbourhood Plan will be used when making decisions on all planning applications within our area. If more people vote 'no' than 'yes' in the referendum, then planning applications will be decided without regard to our Neighbourhood Plan.

How can I find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan?

You can view the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan and its supporting documents on SCDC's website at <https://bit.ly/4lyPrkE>.

Please come along on 4 September and use your vote!

Jenny Flynn, Chair of the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Art Exhibition

On Saturday 27 September at the Johnson Hall from 5.30pm to 8.30pm.

Drinks and snacks included. Raising funds for

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Evensong

The Choir of Clare College
Cambridge

Friday 3 October 5 pm
free - all welcome

Stapleford WI



ONE Sunday at the end of June members and guests gathered to enjoy our annual summer barbecue. We were fortunate with the weather and were able to fully appreciate the beautiful garden of our welcoming host, Tony Smith. Members provided all kinds of tasty salad dishes to accompany the beefburgers and sausages cooked by our host and his assistants, Tony Hore and Christine Wylde. This was then followed by delicious desserts, also prepared by members. The barbecue was a great success, and we are very grateful to all those who helped to make this such an enjoyable event.

At our meeting in the Pavilion in July we welcomed our speaker, Judith Large, who told us about Shepreth Hedgehog Hospital. The hospital, which is a charity, plays an important role in trying to maintain the number of hedgehogs in the UK as there are now only about one million compared to 50 years ago when the hedgehog population was around 30 million! Judith gave a highly informative, interesting talk which was accompanied by slides. She concluded by telling us all the ways we can help these creatures in our gardens and assist their survival.

During the business section of our meeting, when members were informed about all the latest outings, events and activities offered by both the Cambridgeshire Federation and our own group, the list was impressive. It was a valuable reminder of how the WI really does try to cater for as many different interests as possible. If you are thinking about becoming a member please look at our own website staplefordwi.weebly.com where you will see photos of many recent events we have enjoyed. On the website cambridge.thewi.org.uk there is a wealth of information about all that is offered by the Federation and I would urge you to look at the section marked Events and see what appeals to you. You can always speak to Sallie Dixon on Cambridge 843847 for further information too.

Within Stapleford WI we have regular book group meetings, and since their inception we have read, and then discussed, about 120 books! We have covered a huge variety of literature and attendees of this group often comment that they have been introduced to authors and books which they otherwise might have not considered. We take it in turns to choose a book and the ensuing discussions are both wide ranging and interesting. Our craft group meets monthly and it is lovely to see the various pieces members are working on. We also do all we can to help and support not only each other but also the local community. Our Vice President, Celia

Weir, and member Jane Hall support the Cambridge Food Bank as volunteers and every month members generously donate items to this worthwhile cause. Blankets and twiddlemuffs are also made by members and given to Addenbrooke's for patients' use and these are greatly appreciated.

We have recently had new members join us but we always have room for more! You are assured of a warm welcome — we meet in the the Pavillion at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. Our next meeting in September is our Harvest Supper where all members are going to relax and enjoy a fish and chip supper from a local outlet. **Joyce Dobson**

Mothers' Union



WE start our new 2025/26 session in September, with an Opening Service, to be led by our new curate, Matt Lewis, on our theme of 'Join Us and Join In!' We look forward to getting to know him. Usual time and place: 2.30pm on 25 September in the Johnson Hall.

Members enjoyed a celebration of Mary Sumner Day, the Mothers' Union founder, on 8 August when we met for coffee and fellowship at Stapleford Granary. 2026 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner, so next year will see some exciting events including a service at St Paul's Cathedral in June. **Hilary Street**

Community coffee mornings



The Stapleford Warden Scheme is pleased to announce regular coffee mornings to be held at Cox's Close Community Centre.

With huge thanks to the Village Show Committee for their kind donation, we are now able to hold monthly coffee mornings on the second Monday of each month!

Pop in for coffee, tea and cakes. Meet friends, bring friends,

All welcome!

First coffee morning will be on Monday, 13 October from 10 to 12, then Monday, 10 November and Monday 8 December.

If you would like to volunteer or make enquiries speak to Juliet: 07436 102733. Look forward to seeing you there! **Juliet Hawksworth**

Little Fishes



COME join us at Little Fishes for a morning of play, songs and stories! Little Fishes is a warm and welcoming stay-and-play group run by St Andrew's Church, Stapleford, on Mondays from 9.15am to 11am.

We love going to Little Fishes as a way to start the week. It's great to have a space to go (especially when it's raining) to see other parents, grandparents and carers, have a cup of tea made for you and see your little ones grow and explore the toys and play with their friends. It works really well for us as all children pre-school age are welcome, meaning I can take both my baby and toddler along, and there are lots of other families there with multiple children. There are extra hands to hold a baby if you need, and there are always lots of friendly faces to have a chat. Whether you've had a great week or are suffering sleepless nights, it's a wonderful community of which to be a part.

The sessions are very relaxed (we very rarely make it for a 9.15 start) with free play until 10.30. The toddlers love playing at the playdough station, craft table, play kitchen and workbench, and with train tracks and dolls in prams. They also have a soft mat for little babies and some tummy-time toys. At 10.30 we have a couple of stories and then songs, with lots of favourites including 'bouncing up and down on a big red tractor', 'come on everybody and shake your bells' (they make lots of noise with bells and shakers) and, of course, jumping around to 'sleepy bunnies'.

If you have a child or children under 5 and want to join us, we'd love to see you there in the Johnson Hall, Stapleford, during term times.

Lizzie Buchanan-Worster (Mummy of two)



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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The Friends of St Andrew's Church



THE Friends of St Andrew's Church Stapleford, a Registered Charity, has just celebrated its 30th anniversary having been formed on 30 June 1995.

It was established to support the church in maintaining its fabric and chattels for the benefit of the community who consider the church to be a focal point of the Village.

The church dates back to the early 12th Century and has been added to and altered several times since then. The church's website gives more detail of this, too comprehensive to list here, but you can appreciate a lot of time and money is needed to preserve it.

As well as helping towards the cost of the day to day maintenance of the building through the Quinquennial Reports, it has also contributed to specific projects such as repairs to the church roof and the clock, the installation of a flagpole and an upgrade to the sound system

Becoming a member for at least £5 a year, together with various fund raising events, helps the organisation achieve its purpose.

The organisation could not function without a Committee. New members are also welcome so if you would like to become a member or serve on the Committee please let the Chairman Tony Hore know. His contact details are in the front of the *Messenger* and also on the church website. **Tony Hore**

Magog Singers



WE are an established community choir of mixed voices, with regular attendances of around 40 members. There are no auditions for the choir. Our aim is to enjoy singing, extend our capabilities and share the music we make with others at our end of term Friends and Family

afternoons.

We meet regularly on Tuesday afternoons, in the Pavilion from 2pm finishing by 4pm after a cup of tea. Our terms are usually around 12 weeks with a termly subscription of £30. The autumn term starts on 16 September. If you are interested in joining us, please contact kathleenforeman047@gmail.com **Kathleen Foreman**



AA

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Discover the wonderful world of watercolour



DO you enjoy watercolour painting? Perhaps you've experimented with sketching landscapes or scenes from your holidays? This is often the starting point for many people. The next step is to learn *more* about this beautiful and versatile art medium by finding a tutor or art class. The Stapleford Watercolour Arts Group offers techniques and skills plus friendship.

Excitingly, after several years of regular practice, they are holding their first exhibition of paintings, prints, and cards at the Johnson Hall, Stapleford on Sunday 28 September 11am to 3pm.

A tulip painting class

Entry is free and refreshments available by suggested donation raising money for Arthur

Rank Hospice Charity. (Laura Rowstrom, Shelford, volunteers her cake-making to ARHC and is happy to help us - thank you Laura!).

The Johnson Hall is the new venue for a group of artists taking watercolour and creative courses with artist tutor Sarah-Cate Blake: "We are delighted with our new venue and have been made to feel very welcome. We moved from the studios at Stapleford Granary where we'd been for several years. The Johnson Hall has great natural light and is a warm inviting space for us to practice art, particularly watercolours. I am excited to show you the wonderful artworks created by the group in our upcoming exhibition".

These taught art courses run in five week blocks and are open to all levels of arts enthusiasts from beginner to more experienced.

Stapleford resident Jill reflects on her experience of being part of the art group. "Every Monday afternoon feels like a little escape, just me, my watercolours, and the gentle rhythm



'Pumpkins' by Jill Gardner

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of the class. Our teacher, Sarah, introduces new techniques, encourages us and skilfully develops our skills. There is a quiet companionship in the room, brushes swishing, soft laughter, and shared moments of surprise. I always leave feeling lighter, more present, and somehow more myself.”

Local recently (early!) retired primary teacher Gwen is enjoying her painting, particularly in acrylic as well as watercolour, Gwen comments: “Watercolour class on a Monday afternoon is a perfect way to start the week. I can forget about everything else and just paint in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. I’ve learnt lots of new techniques too!”

Artist and tutor Sarah-Cate Blake has over 30 years’ experience from The Fitzwilliam and British Museum to Hills Road Adult Education and Anglia Ruskin University. As a member of the Society of East Anglian Watercolourists (SEAW) Sarah-Cate has encouraged the artists in Stapleford Arts to also join either as friends or now as full members.

Find out more about the SEAW at eastanglianwatercolourists.co.uk.

Local resident Richard is now an experienced watercolourist and SEAW member exhibiting several times over the past 12 months.

“Since retiring and relocating to Great Shelford I have moved on from being only a very occasional watercolour painter to more regular painting. I love to try to capture light effects in landscapes often with buildings or water. I enjoy painting in the company of others with whom I can share ideas for developing techniques and trying new materials.”

Creativity is part of wellbeing; from meeting new friends, finding a rewarding arts activity and creating something original and often beautiful. We always welcome new members either for five weeks or for longer.

If you would like to join us do email: sarah.ping1@gmail.com.

Sarah-Cate Blake, sarah-cate-blake.com/art-courses-and-workshops



‘Windmill’ by Gwen Vallely



Japanese brush ‘Fuji in snow’ by Richard Bryan



Free Entry to all events:

Friday night party @ The Side Quest

A traditional Saturday Village Fete

A Sunday Harvest celebration

A Village History walk

Everyone welcome

Friday 12th September 6pm onwards

The Side Quest Party – FREE Entry

Join us for live music at The Side Quest, High Street, Little Shelford.

Music from “**Not My Circus**” Food available to purchase: **Barbecue, Hog and Lamb Roast** and a **Vegetarian Option** with catering by the Purple Pepper team. **Real Ales** as well as the usual drinks, wines and liquid refreshments available to purchase from the Side Quest Bar.

Saturday 13th from 1pm on the Wale

Traditional Family Fun Village Fete & Show

Join us with **free entry** from **1pm to 5pm** for family fun, including traditional stalls of local clubs and societies, free bouncy castle assault course for small kids, dog show, maypole dancing, “Animal Experience” petting zoo, face painting and tug-of-war. BBQ, veggie option, Ice Cream cart, Churro Boyz van and licensed bar.

Sunday 14th September all on the Wale

All Saints Harvest Celebration 11am

Village History Walk 12.30

Picnic on the Wale from 12.30

Produced by Little Shelford Entertainments Committee.. More information: Christa Jostock
christajostock@hotmail.com or call 07770 680654

Did you know, pets can have allergies too?



OUR pets can react to food and environmental allergens just like us, and anyone who owns an allergic pet will know that diagnosis and treatment can be difficult, ongoing, and expensive.

Common allergens include foods, flea saliva, house dust mites, and pollen, and some breeds are more susceptible than others. Reactions to indoor allergens such as house dust mites and flea saliva can be year-round, whilst reactions to outdoor allergens may be seasonal.

Environmental allergens are often responsible for sore, itchy skin, and in some cases, respiratory symptoms. Reactions to food allergens often cause digestive issues such as soft stools and persistent diarrhoea.

A little bit of detective work is used to help find the cause of the allergy, and this will usually happen over several visits to your vet. They will gather a full history of when the allergy occurs, what part of the body it affects, and any changes to the home environment or routine.

The first step is usually to make sure a pet is up to date with effective flea treatment.

Sometimes a short course of oral medication is enough to get symptoms under control. If the problem is ongoing, your vet may suggest diagnostic tests, such as skins scrapes, cultures, and blood tests, to look for physical evidence of allergens, secondary infections and raised antibodies to different allergens.

Treatment for allergies can include management of your pet's diet and environment, shampoos and topical treatments, probiotics, antibiotics, antihistamines, 'anti-itch' pills and immunotherapy. Many of these treatments will be ongoing, and allergies are often managed rather than cured.

If you have any questions about pets and allergies, Church Street Vets in Stapleford are hosting a FREE client evening on 'Understanding and Managing Allergy in Pets', on Wednesday 24 September at 7pm. Please call the surgery on 776773 to book a place, or visit churchstreetvets.co.uk/news-articles. **The Team at Church Street Vets**



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e.g. 4- and 6-letter words

room in hospital/prize

Answer: WARD/REWARD

3- and 5-letter words

except/disprove

set down/pass on

mongrel/happen again

six games/restore to zero

4- and 6-letter words

gesture/quit

speck/far off

friend/in actual fact

fortified wine/account

electrical unit/uprising

girl's name/part of eye

Gospel writer/comment

electric cord/response

5- and 7-letter words

lid/get better

shop/put back

search/demand

steeple/breathe

detective/sorrow

stanza/turn around

pamphlet/take back

demonstrate/criticise

6- and 8-letter words

hunt/study

sight/alteration

bodyguard/prompt

pull tight/hold back

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 51



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Stapleford Strollers: Walk 139

Rural Essex: a circular walk from Steeple Bumpstead

To get to the start of the walk

TAKE the A1307 to Haverhill. On the by-pass turn right at the fourth roundabout, on to the B1057, signed Steeple Bumpstead. The Fox and Hounds, from which this walk starts, is in Chapel Street (CB9 7DQ)

Distance of walk

4.8 miles and can easily be extended. The walk is better in drier months because it does cross a couple of cropped fields. The scenery en-route is excellent.

OS Map

Explorer map 210, with a minuscule section on map 195. Use your smartphone, or run off a free map extract from maps.the-hug.net. The route map provided should help, too.

Extra Information

Bumpstead means 'the place where reeds grow' but the church doesn't have a steeple. The reference in the place name was to a church a couple of miles to the north east. The Moot Hall, next to the pub, is 16C and was built as a market hall but has, in recent times, been used both as the village library and as the venue for Parish Council meetings.

Route of Walk

From the back of The Fox and Hounds walk down Church Street and turn right on to a path (The Crescent) which meets up with a road. Walk up the steps opposite.

Carry on ahead, walking uphill between fields, until the path turns sharp right to swing round a field. Walk for 100m and turn left to walk along the tree-line. At the end of the field go right, following the tree-line. Turn left on a path next to a large pile of stones. After about 100m turn right and follow the new track until reaching a road.

Cross over and walk along an access road behind a metal gate (waymark arrow) until reaching Garlands Farm. Fork left through the farmyard. At a field, turn right and then swing left next to the tree-line. Just before the field end cross a footbridge, turn right in the next field and, after 100m, go into the field beyond passing a tall waymark. Walk along the field edge to meet a very minor road.

Cross over and pass a waymark sign. Ignore a footbridge but carry on ahead with a ditch to the immediate left. Near the end of the field, turn left

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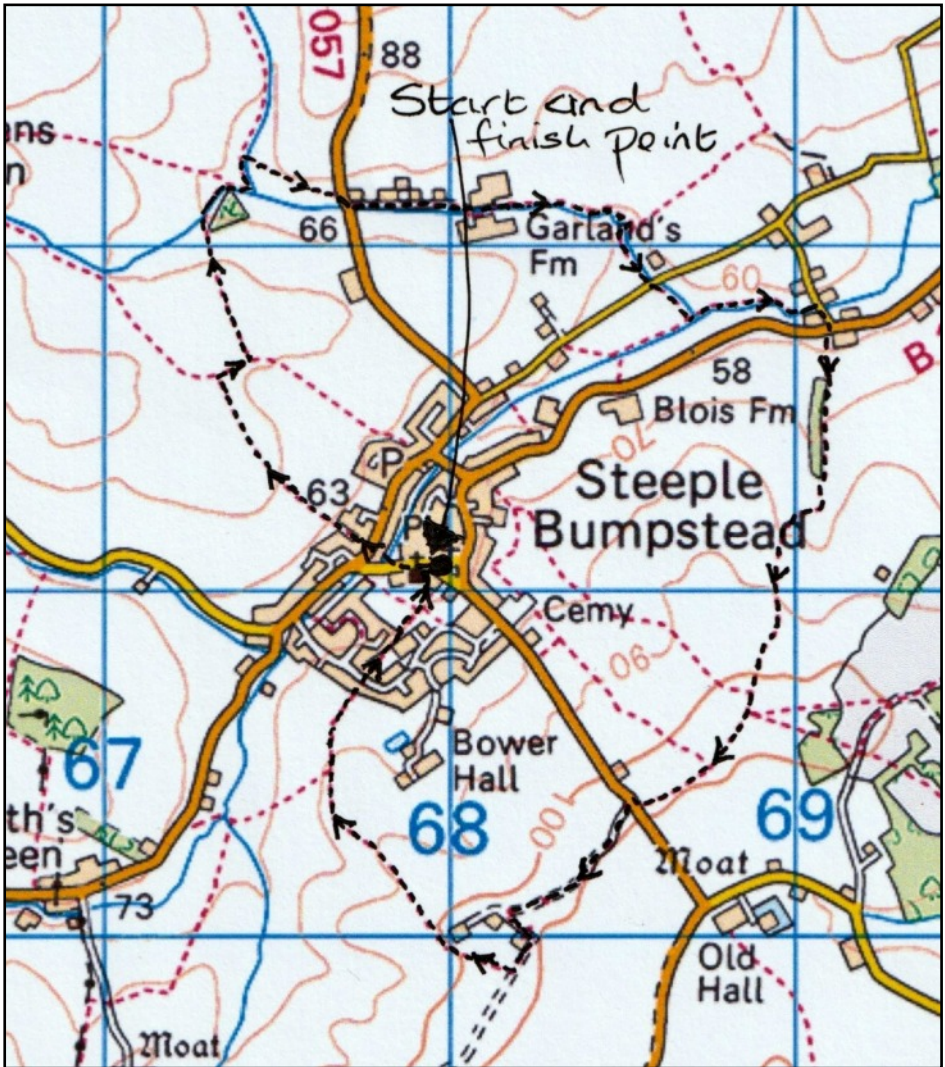
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over a metal footbridge and walk ahead with the ditch to the right. After a few minutes enter a wood, at the end of which a road is reached. Turn right, passing a ford, and reach another road.

Cross over and take an uphill path to the right of some houses (footpath sign). Pass a wood to the right. After a footbridge keep ahead and look for another footbridge, on the right. Go over and turn left along the side of a field. The path climbs gently, then swings left and heads toward some trees. Walk to the right of these and carry on past a waymark.

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The path now passes to the left of the hedge behind a seat. At the end of the field to the left cross a footbridge, and swing left (ignore the second footbridge). Turn immediate right to walk along the right hand edge of another field. A gap in the hedge at the end of the field leads to a road.

Mill Chase is across and to the right. It is an access road. Immediately before a house is reached, go left following the sign for Wildings Farm. Soon swing right and pass another house. Look for a path across the field on the right beyond the house, just before a gate across the road. The path leads past the left hand side of a house across the field. Walk along it and exit the field via a wooden gate in the right-hand corner.

The path now goes downhill along the edge of a pasture. Exit when the tree-line is reached, going through another wooden gate. The path continues downhill across the middle of a field, then bends right at a copse (waymark post) and enters Steeple Bumpstead. Beyond the field carry on between fences until reaching a road.

Cross over and walk ahead, passing a footpath sign. There is wooden fencing along the left hand side and green chain-link fencing to the right. Immediately after the path swings left turn right, and cross a large grassy area aiming slightly left, for the far left hand corner. Pass the churchyard entrance and exit the grassy area via a path.

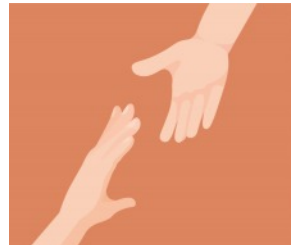
This meets a road (Church Street); cross over and turn right to return to The Fox and Hounds. **David Barnes**

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

Great Shelford Friendship Club

OUR club for older men and women is re-starting on 25 September and our autumn term runs until Thursday, 18 December. We meet weekly at 2.15 to 3.45pm on Thursdays in St Mary's Community Room, Church Street, Great Shelford.

The varied programme includes talks and discussions, speakers, activities, cakes and simple local outings. It's inclusive of different abilities, interests and tempos! The group is not religious but we celebrate Christmas and other seasonal things by agreement amongst ourselves. We have some new folk joining in September - would you like to be one of them? Contact us at roseyleaf@talktalk.net. **Rosey Feuell**



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Sawston Cinema listing

Mr Burton 12A

The early life of Richard Burton (born Jenkins) in Port Talbot, and how his acting talent is spotted and nurtured by his schoolteacher (Toby Jones). Also starring Harry Lawley and Lesley Manville.

Thursday 18 September at 7pm (doors open 6.30) £5. Running time 124 minutes.

Inter Alia 15 (tbc). National Theatre Live

The much-anticipated play from the team behind Prima Facie (Suzie Miller and Justin Martin).

Jessica Parks (Rosamund Pike) is a smart Crown Court Judge at the top of her career. She is also a karaoke fiend, a loving wife and a supportive parent. When an event threatens to throw her life completely off balance, can she hold her family upright?

Thursday 25 September 7 pm (doors open 6.30) £10. Running time 120 minutes.

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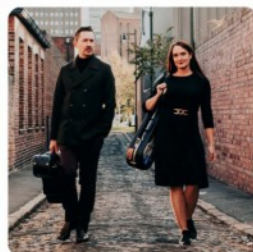
SEPTEMBER

Leon McCawley**Sunday 7 September | 3:00pm**

Praised for his unfailingly communicative playing, Leon returns to the Granary to play Beethoven's powerful and much-loved Waldstein sonata, masterpieces of poetic expression by Chopin, and César Franck's mighty Prelude, Chorale and Fugue.

**Nancy Kerr & James Fagan****Wednesday 10 September | 7:45pm**

The ever-popular Nancy and James are one of folk's most enduring and experienced acts, admired for their outstanding musicianship, acclaimed original songs and a lifelong grounding in traditional music.

**Little Black Book****Saturday 13 September, 7:45pm**

A new jazz power trio, featuring three firebrand virtuosos and long-term collaborators. Led by Robert Mitchell, one of Britain's finest and most versatile pianist-composer-improvisors, their music is influenced by rock, jazz, classical, and cinematic soundscapes.

**Apollo Saxophone Quartet****Friday 26 September | 7:45pm**

Celebrating 40 years of innovative musicianship, the Apollo Saxophone Quartet presents a programme of new commissions alongside their brand new Vintage Cartoon project; four early cartoons from the Silly Symphonies, Merry Melodies and Looney Tunes era, with the original scores painstakingly restored and rescored for saxophone quartet by the members of the quartet, played live to the cartoons.



www.staplefordgranary.org.uk
01223 849004

2G3S



DR BIKE continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. We are also running Saturday afternoon sessions (3pm to 5.30pm), on the last Saturday of the month – so 27 September is the next one. 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. Come and get your bike sorted for the new term!

Repair Cafés – if you have items that have broken, don't throw them away but bring to our next repair café in Great Shelford Free Church on Saturday 20 September from 2pm to 5pm. Bookings at cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events ASAP.

Bring along your broken item and a skilled volunteer will help fix it. We can tackle a wide variety of repairs including jewellery, electrical and electronic devices, as well as clothes and fabrics. Please do book in your item for repair – this helps us plan our schedule so we can avoid people having to wait, and also means we can do our homework in advance to assess the repair. The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees.

Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets. We will collect portable non-working (unfixable) electrical items and ensure these are properly disposed of. We will also have a stall, run by SCDC, to accept unwanted working electricals, so they can be checked for safety before being offered a new home.

Little Shelford Village Fete – we will have a stall at this on 13 September, do come and say hello. And we will have a treasure hunt!

Conversation Evening on low energy houses, featuring at least two local examples where the owners will talk about the process of achieving this. Come and find out more before the winter bills begin to bite. The date is 23 September at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford. More details on our website.

Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project – as you probably know, our chalk streams are under threat because of over-abstraction to give water to houses and businesses, and by pollution. Here is a chance to do something to help. This project has been launched by Cambridge City Council and ARU, and aims to: restore and preserve the region's chalk streams, increase

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biodiversity, introduce sustainable water management practices, and support communities to enhance and sustain their local environment. See cambridge.gov.uk/greater-cambridge-chalk-stream-project for more information, where you will see there is the opportunity to do something practical and hands-on. Local people can get involved:

- join a volunteer day to help with restoration work
- take part in 'citizen science' projects, such as monitoring water quality or surveying wildlife
- donate to the project
- advocate for the project to help spread awareness

Earth Overshoot Day is the point in the year when human demand for materials obtained from nature exceeds what the Earth can naturally regenerate in one year. For 2025, Earth Overshoot Day fell on 24 July, the earliest it has been since the event was first calculated in 2006. Read more about how this is calculated and how it is changing year by year at ecowatch.com/earth-overshoot-day-2025.html.

To end on a more positive note, Cambridge Biodiversity & Regenerative Food Festival is on Parker's Piece on Saturday 27 September, 10.30am to 4pm. Free entry. See regenerativefoods.co.uk/events/Cambridge. The festival brings together and celebrates the growers, producers and organisations that contribute to a regenerative local food system and a wilder, more biodiverse region. You'll find a collection of regenerative and organic growers, bakers, makers, street food vendors, crafters, charities, community groups, demos, workshops and more.

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**

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RANGEFORD VILLAGES

Stapleford wildflower project

SINCE the Wildflower Project began in 2023, we've learned a great deal about how to support biodiversity here in Stapleford. We've learned more about which wildflower species grow better in different spots around the village and how we can lessen the effects of extreme weather on planting. The project has three main goals: to



encourage local biodiversity by providing food and shelter for pollinators and other wildlife; to support climate resilience, as wildflowers naturally help absorb CO₂; and to bring more colour and beauty to the village.

The 2024 season was a real success, with a wonderful display of colour and all the sites buzzing with biodiversity. The 2025 season brought a few challenges. Unfortunately, two areas were accidentally damaged by different building contractors working in the village, and although they were restored in spring, the dry weather quickly set in and prevented seeds from germinating. Thankfully, a group of Stapleford volunteers stepped in to water these sites, which made a big difference and allowed some wildflowers to establish.

Meanwhile, the Haverhill Road and Recreation Ground sites are thriving, with many wildflowers continuing to flourish (see photos).

Just to note that the wildflower project hasn't cost the village a penny. The displays for 2024 and 2025 were fully funded under a UK Power Networks donation, specifically to support biodiversity in Stapleford.



Looking ahead, the future of the project was discussed at the August Stapleford Parish Council meeting. After considering several options, the decision was made to proceed with an annual seed mix across all areas of the village. This approach will help us keep invasive species like ragwort under control, provide colourful displays, improve resilience against extreme weather, and further boost biodiversity in the village.

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Over the coming weeks (September and October), you may notice some changes in the planting areas – so do keep an eye out. A full update will follow in November.

Thank you! **Matthew French**

Thank you to Stephanie Foote for capturing these lovely photos of the wildflower areas in Stapleford.

Granta Medical Practices

Vaccines Update

AS we approach the colder months, there are a number of vaccines that can help protect you against serious illness, including:

FLU - this vaccine helps protect against flu, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness. It's offered on the NHS every year in autumn or early winter to people at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu.



COVID-19 - the Covid-19 vaccine helps protect against Covid-19, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness for some people. It's usually offered on the NHS in early winter to people who need extra protection from Covid-19.

RSV - the RSV vaccine helps protect against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) that can make babies and older adults seriously ill. This is offered all year round.

SHINGLES - this vaccine helps protect against shingles and is offered all year round. Shingles is a common condition that causes a painful rash. It can sometimes lead to serious problems such as long-lasting pain, hearing loss or blindness. You're more likely to get shingles, and it is more likely to cause serious problems, as you get older or if you have a severely weakened immune system.

PNEUMOCOCCAL (pneumonia) - this vaccine is offered all year round. It helps protect against serious illnesses like pneumonia and meningitis.

Book your flu vaccine with us and when you come in we can check what other vaccines you are eligible for. To book your flu vaccination please call 0300 234 5555 and choose the Granta site of your choice or wait to receive your SMS link via your mobile phone to book your appointment.

For further information about all of the vaccines available please go to www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/. **Sandra East, Head of Patient Services**
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Yesteryear

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

1848

FOWL STEALING. On the night of Monday, the 15th, or early next morning, the hen-house of Mr. John Skinner was broken open and 12 turkeys, 23 ducks, 1 drake, and a large quantity of fowls stolen therefrom.

1888

WEDDING FESTIVITIES. On Tuesday last, the national school of this parish was gaily decorated with flags and flowers by the ladies resident in the village on the occasion of the wedding day of Dr. Collier, who most liberally entertained the children and women to a substantial tea.

1889

HARVEST THANKSGIVING. Harvest thanksgiving services were held here on Sunday last. The church was prettily decorated – indeed the taste displayed would put to blush many larger congregations of greater pretensions. Collections were made for the funds of Addenbrooke's Hospital. Many parishioners regret the discontinuence of the evening service in the village.

1942

AN ENTERPRISING LITTLE BOY. David Holland, six-year-old son of Mrs Holland of Bury Farm Stapleford, collected £2 4s 0d for the Warship Week effort by running a guessing competition. He took his model yacht round the village for people to guess its name, HMS Effort. No-one guessed it.

Many people recall the night of 3rd September 1941 when a Wellington bomber of 57 Squadron based at Feltwell, returning from a raid on Frankfurt, crashed in the parish killing all the crew and demolishing the old vicarage. There is now a commemorative tapestry plaque in Stapleford Church listing their names. "In particular I remember the Wellington bomber that crashed into the old vicarage, and how Mr Cook's two boys were placed on temporary guard in the garden during the day to discourage souvenir hunters." *Patrick Doggett*

1971

"It was reported that the Library in the Johnson Memorial Hall organised by the County Council had been closed as the building was unsuitable to house the books and it was not possible to find an individual to staff it. It



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was hoped to add Stapleford to a Mobile Library route. Mr Holt reported that in plans for new schools, managers will try to include facilities for such needs as libraries.” (From the Parish Council Minutes)

1991

“Clerk’s Resignation. Members noted with regret the wish of the Clerk to tender his resignation with effect from 31st December 1991.

“Drift Road Travellers. Members received a report that the travellers had departed leaving their rubbish behind. Mr Beavis had kindly organised its removal at the instigation of Carter Jonas. Mr Bush had responded with comments on the problem.” (From the Parish Council Minutes)

Heat pumps in Cambridgeshire



HEAT pumps will take centre stage this year for **Cambridge Carbon Footprint’s Open Eco Homes: Winter Special**. From 26 October to 23 November, people from across the region are invited to discover for themselves what it’s like to get off gas and retrofit their homes to increase comfort, reduce carbon emissions and enjoy cost savings.

A fantastic opportunity to experience what it feels like to be in a Cambridgeshire eco home in winter: visit homes in Cambridge City and South Cambs equipped with heat pumps and other low carbon technologies and hear directly from homeowners about their journey towards increased comfort, savings, and sustainability.

Gain practical advice from experts on working with professionals, cutting energy use, saving water, installing solar PV, and making affordable DIY improvements. Whether you’re planning your next retrofit or just curious, these events will help you to take the next step towards a greener, more efficient home.

Tours and talks are available in-person and online: all are FREE; advance booking required. For full event details and booking go to cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-we-do/open-eco-homes/. **Fran Sutton**





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Royal British Legion



SEPTEMBER brings two important dates with regard to the Second World War. The first is 3 September, when in 1939 Neville Chamberlain announced on the radio that this country was at war with Germany. This declaration came after the invasion of Poland and Germany's refusal to withdraw her forces. The second event is the anniversary of The Battle of Britain, this year being the 85th. Although the battle was fought between July and October 1940, 15 September was selected due to the number of aircraft that the Luftwaffe sent across the Channel on that date - which were effectively beaten back by the Royal Air Force. We will be marking the anniversary with an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Sawston on Monday 15 September at 10.45am and we welcome anyone who wishes to attend. However, as there are no road closures in place, you are requested to remain on the pavement.

We held our VJ (Victory over Japan) Band Concert at Challis Garden last month. I am sure all those that came to listen to the music really enjoyed themselves.

We now turn our attention to the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday. Planning for the parade held in Sawston is well in advance and if you would like to take part in the march to the War Memorial, please do let us know. We are also finalising Poppy-selling points for anyone who wishes to purchase a poppy for whatever they wish to donate.

Sawston and District Branch, Royal British Legion meets on the last Wednesday of each month, with the exception of December. We begin at 7.00pm and everyone is welcome to come along and see what we do. We also need Poppy Collection volunteers to help out at various stalls around our Branch area. If you can only spare a few hours, we will be grateful. Please let the Branch Secretary know, ann.barton@hotmail.com or phone 07898 732307. **John McCarthy** Chairman, Sawston and District Branch

Financial difficulties?



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

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

Great Shelford Library News

THANK you to all the children who joined and took part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. We so enjoyed hearing about all the wonderful books that you read during the summer. The awards ceremony will be in the library on Monday 15 September at 4pm. Please come along if you can. We will keep certificates and medals safe for children who cannot attend the ceremony.

As we head into autumn our regular activities will resume.

Engage Talk: – Autism and ADHD today a talk by Dr Kevin Bryant. Wednesday 24 September, 2pm to 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

Stay and Play – Restarts on Thursday 11 September. For children aged up to 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 12pm. 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 up to 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 12pm. Suitable for ages 4 to 10. Drop-in event. Suggested £1 donation. Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.

We look forward to seeing you in the library this autumn. **Mel Abbiss**

Contact us on Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
phone 0345 045 5225, www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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		

Parish Council Chair's report

PLANS for the Pavilion were discussed at this month's Parish Council meeting and Brian Scally from Blue Ink Architects was present to advise the council. All three tenders which are being considered are very close and the Parish Council is reviewing the project with regard to funding. The project will be managed by the clerk and assistant clerk.

A review of the Parish Council's finances has shown that money needs to be moved to gain an improved rate of interest and this will be actioned by the clerk.

Christmas tree lighting by the Spar shop was agreed for this year in view of the positive response from residents last year.

The invasive ailanthus, also known as 'tree of heaven', in the cemetery will be sprayed with glyphosate as this is the best option for its removal.

Wildflower areas in the village were discussed. The flowers had been disappointing this year because of the prolonged periods with no rain. It is intended to sow annual wildflowers next season, and a contractor has been agreed.

James Northmore has resigned from the Parish Council and thanks were recorded for his work while on the Parish Council.

There will be no meeting of the Parish Council in September. The next meeting will be Thursday 2 October, 7pm in the Pavilion. Residents are invited to attend to express their views. **Gillian Pett**

Puzzle Corner Answers

Re-words

3- and 5-letter: BUT/REBUT; LAY/RELAY; CUR/RECUR; SET/RESET

4- and 6-letter: SIGN/RESIGN; MOTE/REMOTE; ALLY/REALLY;
PORT/REPORT; VOLT/REVOLT; TINA/RETINA; MARK/REMARK;
FLEX/REFLEX

5- and 7-letter: COVER/RECOVER; STORE/RESTORE; QUEST/REQUEST;
SPIRE/RESPIRE; MORSE/REMORSE; VERSE/REVERSE; TRACT/RETRACT;
PROVE/REPROVE

6- and 8-letter: SEARCH/RESEARCH; VISION/REVISION;
MINDER/REMINDER; STRAIN/RESTRAIN

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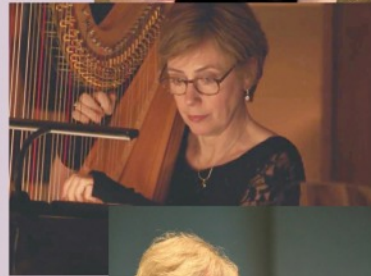
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Great Shelford Seniors' tea party



SAVE the date! 2.30 to 4.30pm on Friday, 28 November in Great Shelford Memorial Hall .

With food, a quiz and seasonal music. The event is free, but ticketed - first-come, first-served. We will be recruiting helpers from other groups in our villages. **Rosey Feuell**

Cambridge Flower Club

Stephanie Laing NAFAS Demonstrator: 'Inspired by'

Thursday 18 September, 7.15pm, Refreshments 6.45pm

Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE

Annual subscription £45. Visitors £10 each meeting

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

British Cactus and Succulent Society

Cambridge & District Branch



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WE will meet on Wednesday 10 September at 7.30pm in Great Shelford Village Hall. Julian Cooke from the Berkhamstead Branch of BCSS will be talking about his adventures in Chile and

the many and varied species of cacti he saw there in their habitat, with a slide presentation. A cactus grower of many decades, he knows a great deal about these unique and fascinating plants.

Refreshments will be available; cacti/succulents for sale, together with a raffle. To discover what we are about, and to join the BCSS, why not visit our main website at bcss.org.uk or just drop into one of our monthly meetings: you will be made most welcome. **Jacqui Arbon**

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



Wanted – Additional Directors for Village Charity

GREAT Shelford Village Charity Ltd, the corporate trustee of The Great Shelford Village Charity, seeks expressions of interest from local people wishing to assist with the work we do in the village.

What does The Great Shelford Village Charity do?

The charity exists to help people in need in the village and surrounding area:

- We own and manage 53 almshouse homes at More's Meadow where we provide affordable accommodation for families, couples and individuals.
- We also own six acres of land comprising allotments, a community garden and meadow.
- Additionally, the Charity provides grants and makes donations in support of local organisations, good causes, and villagers in need.

Further details can be found on our website – gsvc.org.uk

What do our directors do?

Our eight directors are unpaid volunteers, who oversee everything the charity does, from setting strategy through to service delivery and financial management. While some directors provide professional expertise in areas such as finance or law, others bring managerial, pastoral and other life experiences.

We meet monthly to discuss our properties and hold a bi-monthly board meeting. Some directors take a lead role in specific projects. Typically, the commitment amounts to one or two days per month.

We have legal and regulatory responsibilities similar to those of charity trustees and we are all required to undergo a basic DBS check.

What sort of people are we looking for?

We welcome applications from local people who are committed to village life, who have an interest in the well being of our community, its people and its green space.

How do I find out more - or express interest?

For further details or to submit an expression of interest please contact our Clerk at clerk@gsvc.org.uk, phone 07979 184273 or via gsvc.org.uk. Expressions of interest should be tendered by 15 October.

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)

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.

CLERK

Max Barrett 07472 398823

clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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peterfane1@live.co.uk

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Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

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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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