

Stapleford MESSENGER

Ne Nuntium Necare!

November 2025

Volume 84 No 11

Price 90p

From farm to fork



Local vegetable growers hard at work lifting potatoes. Photo: Matthew French

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Who's who at St Andrew's

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For more Church contacts please see standrewstapleford.org.

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

See the St Andrew's Noticeboard in this magazine for this month, and the church website, standrewstapleford.org, for full details. The services include:

9am BCP or CW Communion

10.30am Various, including Communion, Sunday Worship, All Age, Messy Church or Messy Forest Church

6pm Evensong

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Monday to Saturday: 9.30am. Sundays: 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

SUSIE Dent – Queen of all things dictionary – sometimes puts out a ‘word of the day’ on social media. It can be an oblique comment on some political event, but today it was a non-political word, ‘tandsmør’, a Danish word describing bread buttered so thickly you can see tooth marks in it, literal translation ‘tooth butter’. She is good fun if you like new words.



Another new word to me last week: ‘Orrery’. An orrery is a working model of the sun and planets which can demonstrate day and night, the seasons, phases of the moon and eclipses. They have some in the Whipple Museum of the History of Science, which is where I learnt the word. Well worth a visit. They also have Darwin’s microscope – he spent around £3,000 on it in today’s money. The star among the orreries is the ‘Grand Orrery’ made by George Adams. It uses the Julian calendar, not the Gregorian, so must date from before 1752. It is large enough for several people to gather round, and would likely have been used at parties for entertainment and instruction. Orreries were popular at that time, apparently, as was the study of astronomy in general. It was thought both to encourage rational thinking and to inspire contemplation of the divinely-created universe.

That unashamed embrace of both secular/scientific and religious thinking was, for a long time, common and respectable. The introductory pages of Darwin’s ‘On the Origin of Species’ has a quotation from Francis Bacon’s ‘Advancement of Learning’ of 1605 which goes like this.

“To conclude, therefore, let no man out of a weak conceit of sobriety, or an ill-applied moderation, think or maintain, that a man can search too far or be too well studied in the book of God’s word, or in the book of God’s works; divinity or philosophy; but rather let men endeavour an endless progress or proficience [sic] in both.”

It is interesting that Darwin included this quote. It suggests that both science, characterised then as the study of God’s works, and theology were important and repaid study. And Bacon is saying more than that, as were the admirers of orreries: the point is that religious and non-religious subjects can and should be studied together, because they contribute the one to the other and have similarities and areas in common as well as obvious differences.

This is not a universally popular view today. The simplistic view of the National Secular Society is that religion is a purely private matter which

should not intrude into education, with the underlying idea that religion and science (and other approved 'secular' subjects) have nothing in common and should be kept determinedly separate. The only 'belief' allowed in that system is theirs, strongly held, namely that everything can be determined by rational inquiry alone, which is plainly false. The politer end of the scientific camp, such as Stephen Jay Gould, say religion and science are separate, non-overlapping magisteria as it is put, different methods of inquiry for studying entirely separate questions. In broad terms, so this line of thought goes, science is about the how things are with a touch of why, and religion is about the different why, of human purpose, meaning and moral values, and these two domains do not and should not meet.

That separation has a lot to commend it, because it allows both camps to remain cordial and to do their own thing. But I do not think it is all that can be said. I have written before about the purpose of a zebra's stripes, a scientific inquiry that goes well beyond mechanistic questions of how things are and why they came about in developmental terms, exploring interactions between different species and numerous what ifs. And from the other direction religion explores much more than just human purposes and mores. I would say that the why of the zebra's stripes and how their function is affected by and matters to humanity, is in part a Christian inquiry, touching on our stewardship of the world, ecology, the effects of climate change on different habitats and societies and so on.

There is something here about not allowing ourselves to be boxed in by the expectations of others. Darwin bought his microscope to study and classify various sub-species of cirrepedia, barnacles to you and me. He did that because back then one way to gain a reputation as a naturalist was to show that you could do the grunt work of classifying a species. He had already essentially formulated his theory of evolution, in the 1820s and 1830s (the voyage of the Beagle started in 1831) but did not publish it until 1859.

You could say that Darwin first went with the flow of societal expectations, then branched out and took his own intellectual course. In freeing himself from those expectations he was doing what St Paul urges, in a way at least: 'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.'

Paul was a great advocate of our ability to think. He said that we have not been given a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power and love. Elsewhere he urges 'whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.'

Those orreries are admirable, beautifully made, clever and useful. The study of astronomy is noble, for sure. Christians should think about such things. But so too should those who are not Christians think about ultimate things, about purpose, reconciliation, unity and renewal. If you ever wish to contemplate such things without fear of dogmatic or simplistic responses, then St Andrew's is here for you.

Every blessing to you all, Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

2 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY Ephesians 1.11-23; Luke 6.20-31 <i>Father, Son & Holy Spirit</i>
	6 PM	MEMORIAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SOULS' DAY
3 NOV	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
9 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.45 AM	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH IN THE JOHNSON HALL
16 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Malachi 4.1-2a; Luke 21.5-19 <i>Endurance</i>
20 NOV	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION
23 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE FOR CHRIST THE KING Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-42 <i>The image of the invisible God</i>
30 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Isaiah 2.1-5; Matthew 24.36-44 <i>Watch!</i>
1 DEC	7 PM	EVENING PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S DAY
7 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY CW COMMUNION & TOY SERVICE
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT

FROM THE REGISTERS

5 OCTOBER THANKSGIVING FOR THE MARRIAGE OF JANE & ROGER ATKIN



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contact Fiona Holliday
layminister@standrewstapleford.org


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Stapleford Messenger

Deadline for the December Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER**

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

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A harvest gathering of words



Harvested fields under the setting sun at Bury Farm. Photo Sophie Berridge

HARVEST is a word with strength and confidence. A powerful robust **H**. For farmers it is days of hard work, planning and toil. Weather and seasons setting challenges and moving goal posts. Both erratic through climate change. Experience has taught farmers to become good detectives, as mistakes due to error of judgement prove expensive with profit lost, produce missing from shelves. When successful the job satisfaction must be really gratifying.

Playing with the letters of harvest grows ideas like scattered seeds. Start with **earth** and **heart**. In agriculture the land is worked diligently. The passion of the heart firmly behind endeavour. **Heat** is appreciated. Feeling cold discourages flourishing. Crops dislike it. We **eat** more. Soup is a popular choice, often vegetable, followed by fruit crumble. Filling, nutritious and satisfying. Yet there **are** people who don't **have** enough and **starve**, with children suffering through lack of food.

St Francis loved all flora and fauna and the nurturing of nature. He would probably **stare** in wonder at the twinkling east **star** and the harvest moon in awe. Eating frugally, bread was a likely staple. Often made representing a sheaf of wheat at this festive time. In John Betjeman's poem, *Diary of a Church Mouse*, temptation proves too much. Harvest displays of produce are munched. "With **ears** of wheat around the font." and being able "To burrow through a loaf of bread.". Courage might fail once joyful singing of 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter' begins. Later, 'For the Beauty of the Earth' gently reminds us of our own environment. These are riches money cannot buy. We must care for what we have and for each other. **Judith Lee**



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Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 9 November 10.45 am
We shall remember them

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Thank you Nicholas!



FRIENDS of the Nachingwea Link were saddened to hear of the death of Nicholas Galahenga, a long-time member of the Nachingwea Link committee. We remember him with great gratitude. Trish well remembers his kindness and wisdom during the visit led by Rev Frank Fisher.

Liz Megson was lucky enough to meet him when she visited Nachingwea in 2013. She writes: "He was wise, thoughtful and knowledgeable about mining and building projects. He had an innate understanding of practical matters. I particularly remember when we visited a nearby town (about 30 miles away from a main road) and we went to a brickworks (see photo). He was really angry to see children working there, and he had a heated discussion with the owner, telling him child labour was illegal. He stressed that the children needed to be in school to have a better future."

Bill French writes: "When Steve and I visited in 2016 Nicholas and Obed (Chair of the committee at the time) made a wonderful double act! Nicholas kept his hand on the tiller and ensured that things went as well as possible. He was clearly very well respected by the people we met. I know he will be sorely missed by his friends and his community."



Nicholas dancing with Siamini, the Special Needs teacher, 2016



Nicholas at the Brickworks in 2013

You will be pleased to hear that Rob and Liz had a very busy, useful and enjoyable visit to Nachingwea, meeting Obed, Father Phares, Kevin, the present chair, and his family and many others. They attended the church

St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

REHEARSALS
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Refreshments after the service



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service which lasted three and a half hours but 'went in a flash'. Their final message reads: "Busy, busy, busy! Had fantastic time and learnt a lot in Nachingwea with Kevin et al. Too much to say in a message. Internet intermittent." We look forward to sharing their news in future editions.

Do join us for our Christmas Tea on Sunday 30 November from 2pm to 4pm in the Pavilion. There will be marmalade, jam and chutney for sale, plus jewellery and Christmas trinkets as well as a delicious tea and a chance to catch up with friends. We look forward to seeing you there.

St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee.

Stapleford Horticultural Society

WE were transported to the Far East at our October meeting when Neil Dickinson told us about Japanese gardens, which he explained reflected Japanese philosophy and culture. Often appearing simple they are very symbolic and require continual maintenance. They are intended to reflect the wider nature, using natural materials such as stone, wood, water and trees.



Our next talk will be on Thursday 13 November when Fiona Rose's subject will be 'In the Garden with William Morris' which promises to be a fascinating topic. It will be held in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, and guests paying the meeting fee of £3 are welcome. **John Sherwell**

Neighbourhood Plan

We are now part of the local development framework



SOUTH Cambridgeshire District Council unanimously agreed to adopt the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan at its full council meeting on

2 October. Our 20 planning policies now have equal weight in our two parishes to those in SCDC's Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework. Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council, said at the meeting, "This is a tremendous piece of work and well done for getting such a very high response from your community and for the 95% endorsement, which is one of the highest I've seen..."

Thank you everyone who contributed to the plan. A job well done!

Jenny Flynn NP Steering Group Chair



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Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Frank Baker, Mingle Lane

Re: October issue

IN the October issue, the Vicar recounts how the righteous Angela, having, quite innocently of course, failed to pay £40,000 in Stamp Duty, has fallen on her sword, as he puts it, and resigned her position as Deputy Prime Minister. She is thereby repentant.

In contrast, he cites the sinful Boris and the equally sinful Nigel who are fiddling the books to their financial advantage and they are not repentant, like Angela. However, thank the Lord, salvation is available to everyone, especially to sinners, regardless of their politics. Let's face it, we're all sinners so, as He taught us: "Let he who is free from sin, cast the first stone."

Simon Taylor replies

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Frank Baker. I had thought my take on political dishonesty was balanced, with fair criticism of Rayner ('she failed to read published guidance, which is pretty clear, or to take proper tax advice though told to do so' and thereby made a £40,000 profit), as well as fair criticism of Farage and Johnson. All of it had appeared in the mainstream press the week I was writing. But the criticism itself was not the main point, of course. My article was about the importance of us all seeking truth and supporting those who bring it to us, and avoiding the 'facile abnegation of our civic duty' when we minimise the importance of truth and fail to hold our politicians to account, with our obligation to the truth set in the context of Christian teaching.

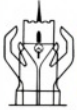
What Jesus said to the crowd who were about to stone a woman to death for adultery (but not, incidentally, the man she was caught with) is beside the point. It can only be generalised with caution. It does not mean that wrongdoing should never be pointed out. That would be a peculiar state of affairs.

God bless, Simon

From: Wendy Clark

Re: Yesteryear 1961

ALTHOUGH all profits from both first and second editions of 'Once Around Wandlebury' belong to the CPS (now CPP&F) the date of publication was many years after they had bought the estate. Thank you for the mention.



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Nachingwea

Stapleford

Join friends and families for a fundraising Christmas tea at the Pavilion on Stapleford Rec, in support of education and health projects in the village of Nachingwea, Tanzania.

Choose from a delicious selection of sandwiches, scones and cakes.

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Stapleford WI



THIRTY-FOUR members enjoyed a social evening at our recent meeting in September. The tables were covered with tablecloths and decorated with Autumn foliage and flowers ready for our Harvest Supper. On this occasion our hardworking committee members were able to sit back and relax as this year the main course of fish and chips was provided by a local business, with an alternative for those requiring gluten free food.

The dessert was bread and butter pudding which was baked by those members who wished to enter the competition for the Produce Cup. Who knew that there could be such interesting recipes for this pudding? The task of judging the dishes was given to our guests, Tony Smith and Tony Hore, who had hosted and cooked for us all at our barbecue in the summer. The cup was awarded to Diana Sage and presented by our President, Susan Clark. The evening was a great success with much chatter and laughter to be heard.

We do aim to vary our meetings through the year with guest speakers, craft activities and social occasions. There's always something new to try, plenty of friendly faces, and a welcoming atmosphere for everyone - whether you have lived in Stapleford for years or are new to the area. New members and visitors are always welcome! Come along and see what we are all about. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month (excluding December) in the Pavilion at 7.30pm. Our meeting on 27 November will be a social evening.

More information and photos can be seen on our website staplefordwi.weebly.com or please speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847.
Joyce Dobson



Susan Clark (left) presents the Produce Cup to Diana Sage (right).

Mothers' Union



ON 27 November I will be giving a talk to the Branch on 'The Saints of Anglesey Abbey', 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall. We we look forward to welcoming Helen Banyard and Maureen Haigh, visiting from the Board of Diocesan Trustees. **Hilary Street**



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Pets and fireworks



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BONFIRE Night is just around the corner, and whilst most of us enjoy a firework display, our pets are often not so keen. We receive lots of enquiries from anxious owners about how best they can help their pets during firework season, so thought it might be useful to share our 'top tips.'

Providing your pet with constant access to a secure refuge can be helpful. If your dog is crate trained, cover the crate and provide plenty of soft bedding. Consider adding an item of clothing that carries your scent, especially if your dog is home alone. Mildly anxious dogs might appreciate a Kong filled with treats or liver paste, as licking can be a soothing activity.

Some cats will seek confined dark places under beds and behind sofas. If they retreat when fireworks start, try not to coax them out to comfort them. Allow them to stay put until they choose to come out when the display is over.

Disguise the sights and sounds of fireworks by shutting the curtains and leaving the radio or TV on with the sound turned up. Classic FM usually put together a soothing playlist for pets on Bonfire Night, and there are plenty of other pet friendly soundtracks available online.

Your pet will pick up on your behaviour too, so try and remain calm and cheerful, and avoid reinforcing anxious behaviour. If your pet is comforted sitting on or near you, this is fine but try not to make too much fuss of them when they are scared, instead waiting until they are relaxed and happy and then giving them plenty of praise.



There are a variety of calming supplements and pheromones available which may also benefit your pet, and for pets that are severely anxious, medication can be used with good effect for the short periods around Bonfire Night and New Year's Eve.

If you would like further advice about helping your pet cope with fireworks, or any other aspect of pet care, please feel free to contact the Church Street team on 776773 and we will be very happy to help.

Harriet, Patrick and all the Church Street Vets team



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Yesteryear

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

1851

FIRE. On Saturday night, at about eight o'clock, a fire broke out in a cottage occupied by Noah Rollings, caused by the son going into the pantry to draw some beer for supper, where there was some gleaming corn, and it is supposed a spark dropped from the candle on the corn. The fire consumed three cottages, and the greater part of the tenants' furniture: one end cottage was occupied by Dean; the centre one, in which the fire broke out, by the said Rollings, and the other end cottage by another person. The cottages were the property of Mr. Collyer, but whether landlord or tenants were insured, we do not know. Mr Topham, who drives the bus from Shepreth to Cambridge, in connection with the Great Northern Railway, on his arrival at Cambridge about half past nine, informed the agents of the Norwich Union and the Royal Farmers that he saw a large fire burning on his way home, which he thought was the first farm at the entrance to Shelford; and both the Norwich Union and the Royal Farmers got their engines in readiness, and their horses ordered, but there are so many fires now in his district that they wait for an express from the place of fire, unless they know the exact place. It would be very advisable for parties, whether insured or not, being contiguous to where a fire breaks out, to send off at once a messenger to the nearest engine station, as the offices generally that have an engine are always ready to render assistance.

1899

PATRIOTIC FUNDS. A well attended meeting was held on Tuesday evening in the old schoolroom, Stapleford, to consider the best means of helping the wives and families of those soldiers now on active service.

1907

CRICKET CLUB. The annual meeting and supper of the Stapleford Cricket Club was held on Wednesday evening in Mr Hagger's barn. Members turned out in good numbers and a very pleasant evening was spent under the presidency of Mr Councillor Finch. Mr Hagger, secretary, treasurer and captain made a statement as to the healthy condition of the club, financially and otherwise. Eleven matches were played during the season, five were won, five lost and one drawn. Mr T Finch headed the batting averages with 13.5 runs, and Mr W Hoppett the bowling averages with 6.22. Mr Finch was re-elected president, Mr Hagger secretary,

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treasurer and captain, and Mr Hawkins vice-captain. During the evening Mr E W Rogers of Little Shelford provided several humorous songs. Messrs Skipper and Rogers sang the duet 'Harboard Watch' and songs were also sung by some of the members.

1922

PRESENTATION TO THE VICAR. A pleasing ceremony took place at the Stapleford Sunday School on Monday evening when the vicar, the Rev Hawes, who is retiring after 18 years incumbancy, was presented with a cheque for £111 8s and an illuminated address, bearing the names of 129 subscribers. The presentation was made by Mr H Gray. The testimonial gratefully acknowledged the deep interest the vicar had always taken in the life of the village and all that concerned its general welfare. At the same meeting Mrs Pitman, on behalf of the local branch of the Mothers' Union, presented Mrs Hawes with a handsome gold mounted fountain pen in recognition of the ungrudging work she had done for the cause. Special mention was made of the fact that a "bed" which had been established at Hunstanton Convalescent Home by the Mothers' Union was suggested by Mrs Hawes and obtained almost entirely by her energy and perseverance. The gift was accompanied with the best wishes of the Mother' Union for her future. The gifts were suitably acknowledged by the vicar and Mrs Hawes.

1961

SEWERAGE SCHEME AT STAPLEFORD CAUSES PROTESTS. Fifty householders who live in privately owned houses in Priam's Way, St Andrew's Close and part of Church Street, Stapleford, met to protest against a decision by a sub-committee of the Chesterton Rural District Council to alter the plans of a sewerage scheme involving their properties. In the original scheme the houses would be linked with the main sewer by drains through their back gardens at an individual cost of about £30. But now, it was alleged last night, the council intend to take the sewer underneath the road so that the connecting drains run through the front gardens of the houses. And this, it was claimed, would cost each householder about £140.

Used stamps collection

Funding the Bible Reading Fellowship



PLEASE could you place used stamps in the box in the St Andrew's Church porch. I will forward your stamps to the fund-raising project of the Bible Reading Fellowship.

Thank you, **Trish Maude**

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Puzzle Corner

Anagrams 5-7-9

Rearrange the letters of the clues in each group to make new words
Then rearrange the initial letters of those answers to make another word

5-letter words (easy-ish)

THOSE ROMAN CANOE PAGER RUNES

7-letter words (middling)

SMOKIER DUMPIER MEGASAD TAVERNS

OUTSIDE ANYTIME SHEAIMS

9-letter words (hard)

MINNESOTA EVILGIANT ROSEWHITE ORGANISED EDTHEERAN

EUROSHEET GLUTAMINE REDUCTION WARRANTIE

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 47

Have you left something in the Pavilion?

A NUMBER of items have been left in the Pavilion, some of which have been there for a few months.

In the kitchen: Several water bottles

On the coat racks in the corridor:

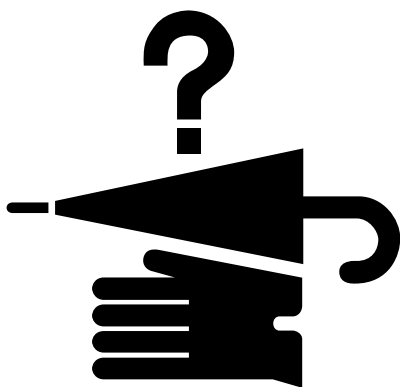
4 umbrellas.

1 cycle helmet and 1 knee pad.

1 Pair of black gloves, 2 caps and 1 hat.

1 Pair of black trousers and black polo shirt with logo.

Are any of these yours? If they are not claimed by 5 December they will be removed and donated to charity. **Gillian Pett**



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Stapleford Strollers: Walk 141

Fore! a circular walk from Sturmer

To get to start of walk

Take the A1307 from Stapleford to Haverhill. Go round the by-pass (A1017) to the far end, then turn right, still on the A1017. The Sturmer village sign will soon be seen and The Red Lion, from which this walk starts, is on the left (CB9 7XF). Despite its name it is painted olive green - well it was in October 2025.

Distance of walk

4.7 miles. It is an undulating walk and takes in part of north Essex and south Suffolk.

OS Explorer map 210. Use your smart phone, print off a free map extract from the-hug.net or use the route map provided.

Extra Information

The name Sturmer comes from 'Stour Mere', mentioned in Domesday Book and is allegedly still visible today to the east of the village. However, the description 'infilled and overgrown' might be more apt. The Red Lion pub dates to the 14C. Haverhill Golf club is interesting, right on the Suffolk/Essex border.; it celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2026 and began life as a municipal pay and play course of nine holes. It became members-only in the early 1980s and was extended to eighteen holes in 1998.

Route of Walk

Begin at The Red Lion, Sturmer (CB9 7XF). Walk up the right hand side of the pub car park (concrete footpath sign) and along a path that leads from the back of the parking area. Shortly afterwards, a wide cross track is met which is the route of an old railway line. Turn right on the track and keep going for about 250 metres until a road is reached. Sturmer station, as was, is opposite.

Turn left along the road for about 100m. Then go right at a footpath sign, where the road swings sharp left. Follow the path along the right hand side of a field. At the end of the tree line to the right, bear slightly left on the same path. At the end of the field carry on ahead over a footbridge and walk ahead on a narrow path with a wire fence to the left. Walk on for about 1½ miles (30 minutes), on the same path, ignoring any side paths left or right keeping the tree line to the right. Eventually, a path heading right will be seen, passing through the tree line via a wooden footbridge. Carry

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on ahead for about 100m, then take a path that goes uphill, sharp left, across a large field.

At the end of the field, keep ahead with the hedge line to the left and a fence to the right. Pass some houses (part of the hamlet called Calford Green), cross over a road and carry on straight ahead, to the left of a small green area. Pass some more houses (one is The Old Chapel). Cross a footbridge at the end of the first field, then turn sharp left immediately afterwards and head downhill, with the field to the right and a hedge line to the left.

At the bottom of the slope swing right before the trees and walk with the field on the right until a wide grass pathway is seen through the trees on the left hand side. Take this route through the trees (not signed) and walk for a short distance until the wood ends. Then turn immediate left on another path and keep ahead heading towards a gap in the trees on the near horizon.

After entering the gap and walking through the trees for a short time a cross track is met. Turn left on to it and walk for just over ½ mile until a

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road is reached. Haverhill Golf Club entrance is opposite. Cross over and walk to the immediate left of the entrance road, going ahead across the course on a clear path between golf holes. This path goes downhill until swinging right just before a white gate. The path then curves gently round to the left and turns sharp left just before a stream.

Shortly afterwards go right over a footbridge and carry on ahead for 250 metres. Walk very slightly to the left but still ahead, then go down some steps to the left of an old railway bridge. Turn left along the former rail line and walk for half a kilometre. At a point where a path to the left is met, turn right on to another path. This is the one walked at the start and it emerges into The Red Lion car park. **David Barnes**

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



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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 have also been trialling running Saturday afternoon sessions (3pm to 5.30pm), on the last Saturday of the month, so there will be one at the end of

November. 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 or book at drbikestapleford@gmail.com.

Repair Cafés – our next one will be on Saturday 22 November from 2pm to 5pm, at St Mary's Community Hall in Sawston. 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 book if you can at cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events. This helps us plan our schedule so we can avoid people having to wait, and 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. But we will collect portable non-working (unfixable) electrical items and ensure these are properly disposed of.

Book Group – our next meeting is on Tuesday 18 November at 8pm in the Three Horseshoes, Stapleford. The book is 'Land Smart' by Countryfile's Tom Heap, and is an easy and interesting read. It is full of examples of using land really cleverly to gain the maximum biodiversity, food production, and/or energy. Pertinent to our area is stopping the drying out of peat in the Fens while still producing food.

Good News Discussion Evening - we are having an informal Good News evening on Thursday 27 November at 8pm at Cox's Close Community Room, Stapleford. Let's try and find positive news and environmental stories in the face of all the dramatic and devastating climate events, and backtracking of politicians on net zero.

Open Eco Homes – once again Cambridge Carbon Footprint are running throughout November a number of talks about saving energy, heat pumps, and retrofitting your home, with several visits to homes that have been adapted or built to save energy (and therefore reduce the bills). More details and booking at cambridgecarbonfootprint.org. Talks and visits are free of charge, but you will need to book.

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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**

Little Shelford Memorial Hall Film Show

There will be a Memorial Hall Film Showing of ***A Complete Unknown*** on Saturday 22 November. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.15 pm start. We will not be serving supper with this film but there will be a licensed bar.

A Complete Unknown is a 2024 American biographical film about the early career of American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan. It examines the period of 1961-1965, beginning with Dylan's start as an American folk singer and ending with his controversial use of electric instruments at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival. Dylan is portrayed by Timothée Chalamet, who also produced the film.

The film earned eight nominations at the 97th Academy Awards, three nominations at the 82nd Golden Globe Awards, four at the 31st Screen Actors Guild Awards (winning Best Actor for Chalamet) and six at the British Academy Film Awards (including Best Film).

Tickets (£7 per person) are available from:
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RANGEFORD VILLAGES

Sawston Cinema listing

Caravaggio (12A)

Thursday 13 November 7pm (doors open 6.30) £10. Running time 90 minutes.

Mystery, intrigue, beauty, passion, murder – shine a new light on Caravaggio in this dramatic biography....

The Penguin Lessons (12)

Thursday 20 November 7 pm (doors open 6.30) £5. Running time 111 minutes. Starring Steve Coogan, this poignant dramedy from director Peter Cattaneo follows an Englishman's personal and political awakening after he adopts a penguin during a cataclysmic period in Argentine history.

The Fifth Step (15, tbc)

A National Theatre Live production. Thursday 27 November 7pm (doors open 6.30) £10. Running time 115 minutes tbc.

A critically acclaimed and subversively funny new play by David Ireland, starring Jack Lowden and Martin Freeman. After years in the 12-step programme of Alcoholics Anonymous, James becomes a sponsor to newcomer Luka. The pair build a fragile friendship out of their shared experiences. But as Luka approaches step five – the moment of confession – dangerous truths emerge, threatening the trust on which both of their recoveries depend.

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Royal British Legion

Sawston and District branch



FOLLOWING a very busy summer period, we now turn our thoughts to the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday, when we remember in prayer all those who lost their lives in fighting to keep the freedoms of this country and to defend the freedom of others around the world – not just those wars in recent memory but those who remain nameless in wars long forgotten.

At the front of all of our Remembrance Parades, at the beginning of the Festival of Remembrance when the Parade of Standards take place or when the RBL is visible at any event, the standard is there. The standard, originally designed by Colonel E C Heath in 1923, the first General Secretary of the British Legion as it was then, is looked upon as the rallying point of the Branch. It is also a constant reminder to our members of our motto 'Service not Self'. Our Standard will be on display at the service and at the War Memorial in Sawston on Remembrance Sunday – as it will at all services across the UK.

If you see us over the next few weeks accepting donations to the Poppy Appeal, please do stop and have a word or two – and of course make a donation, either big or small. All will be accepted with gratitude. The Royal British Legion is proud to do what they can to support all of the armed service families in times of difficulty and injury – and of course, their families.

If you support Cambridge City Football Club (CCFC), you will see us collecting outside the ground and also laying a wreath before commencement of the match on 8 November. Please do come and support us.

Kohima Epitaph: - When you go home, tell them of us and say, 'for your tomorrow, we gave our today'. **Ann Barton**, Branch Secretary

Music Moments Concert

DON'T miss the concert in St Andrew's on Saturday 1 November from 6 to 7pm. 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 music at St Andrew's, as well as to help fund a junior organ scholarship at the church.

James and Lizzie Buchanan-Worster, Sarah Kwan

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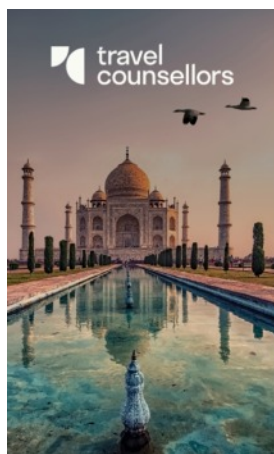
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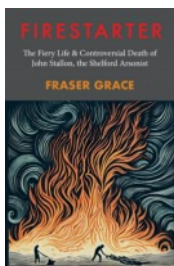
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Firestarter on tour



LOCAL author Fraser Grace is giving a series of talks and readings drawing on his book *Firestarter: The Fiery Life & Controversial Death of John Stallon, the Shelford Arsonist*, which was published earlier this year. Details are:

Tuesday 4 November, 8 to 9.30pm. *Lucifer's Firestarter: Fraser Grace in conversation with novelist Edward Parnell for The Last Tuesday Society at the Viktor Wynd Museum.*

Online talk, tickets from

thelasttuesdaysociety.org/event/lucifers-firestarter_zoom-talk-fraser-grace.

Thursday 6 November at 2.30pm. Cherry Hinton Local History Society at St. Andrew's Church Centre, Cherry Hinton, CB1 3JS, Donations in aid of the Fire Fighters Charity.

Tuesday 18 November at 10.30am at Brackendale, Debden road, Saffron Walden, CB11 4AB. £5 entry, in aid of Anglia Parents, email helenvdwood@icloud.com for details.

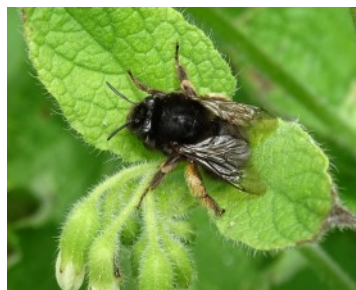
Thursday 11 December 11, 1 to 2pm. *From Shelford Hero to the Gallows on Castle Hill* at the Museum of Cambridge, donations in aid of the museum. See museumofcambridge.org.uk/event/firestarter.

Firestarter can be ordered at galileopublishing.co.uk/firestarter or from bookshops. It is also on sale at Shelford Deli, Great Shelford Post Office and to borrow at Shelford Library. **Fraser Grace**

The wonderful world of bees

A TALK by Helen Harwood about the bees and other pollinators in your garden, hosted by South Cambs Organic Gardeners.

You've probably noticed a few honeybees, and maybe some bumblebees in your garden. But there are far more bees around than we ever notice. Come and hear about the lives of these beautiful and eminently useful creatures, and how you can help them to thrive in your garden.



On Monday 10 November at 7pm, in Cox's Close Community Room. All welcome, admission £2. For more details contact Helen Harwood, 840393, helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk. **Rosemary Humby**



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Summer Reading Challenge

Great Shelford Library



THE Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep reading during the summer holidays. Children are set a reading goal of six books of their choosing and they collect rewards for reading anything they enjoy.

This year's challenge was entitled, 'Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors' and for every book read, the children told a local volunteer about the book and received a sticker for their chart.

Two hundred and fifty six children signed up for the challenge and an impressive hundred and sixty nine children completed it, creating a new record for Great Shelford library. The volunteers were mainly teenagers, keen to help with this initiative and thanks are due to Kamran, Razi, Aashna, Thomas and John supplemented by adults, Sarah and Polly. Their help was much appreciated by the staff, parents and children.

John Stanton, Vice Chairman of Great Shelford Parish Council kindly awarded the certificates and medals to those children who could attend on Monday 15 September in the library, assisted by Polly Stanton and Mel Abbiss, the Great Shelford Librarian. Some of the children are pictured here proudly displaying their certificates and medals.

Those children who were unable to attend the recent awards ceremony are welcome to call in at the library during opening hours to collect their medals and certificates.

Congratulations to all those who completed the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge! **Sarah Coppendale**



Women's Refuge toiletries collection

THE Mothers' Union is having its annual toiletries collection for the Cambridge Women's Refuge from 16 to 30 November. There will be a box in the church porch where you can leave simple toiletries such as toothpaste, soap and tissues. If you cannot take them to the church porch then bring them to 13 Collier Way. Thank you all for your generosity in previous years. **Hilary Street**

Devised and directed by
Madeleine Forrester



A THEATRICAL CHRISTMAS



Sat 29th Nov 2025
HISTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Evening 7.30pm



Fri 5th, Sat 6th Dec 2025
ST MARK'S CHURCH, NEWNHAM
BOTH Evenings 7.30pm
Sat 6th 2025 Matinee 3pm

TICKETS: £12 | under 16: £10
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TICKETING

Little Shelford Local History Society

A Century of Little Shelford History

AN EXHIBITION in Little Shelford Memorial Hall on Sunday 2 November 2 to 5pm

- Photographs, paintings
- The village sign
- All Saints church records
- Great and Little Shelford school
- Legal documents showing the history of some Little Shelford houses
- Archaeological finds from construction of the M11
- Pantomime, Twining Association and Cricket Club
- Memorial Hall and Sports Pavilion
- A new edition of 'Shelford Parva' by Fanny Wale



NHS Vaccinations

Make sure you are protected this winter

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they have had them this winter. Each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria:

RSV vaccine – for anyone who is pregnant, aged 75-79 or who turned 80 years old from 1 September 2024.

Pneumococcal vaccine – for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).

Flu vaccine – for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025), have certain long-term health conditions, are pregnant, live in a care home, are the main carer for an older or disabled person, receive a carer's allowance or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.

COVID-19 vaccine – for anyone aged 75+, those aged between six months and 74 years with a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment, people who live in a care home for older adults.

To find out more about these vaccines and how to book them or to find a walk-in clinic, please visit the Vaccinators website www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators. **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System**

STAPLEFORD
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NOVEMBER

Lukas DeRungs Quintet

Friday 7 November | 7:45pm

New generation quintet fast making a name on the international jazz scene for their extraordinary sound world, from dreamy ballads to explosive virtuosity.



Andy Cutting & Gudrun Walther

Saturday 8 November | 7:45pm

Two of the UK's foremost folk musicians perform a rich collection of traditional and modern tunes for fiddle, melodeon and voice.



Danny Driver

Friday 14 November | 7:45pm

Recognised internationally for his sophistication, insight and musical depth, Danny Driver performs J S Bach's towering and beloved keyboard masterpiece, Goldberg Variations.



RANT

Saturday 22 November | 7:45pm

One of Scotland's finest folk groups, RANT return to the Granary with music for four fiddles, drawing on old reels, jigs and strathspeys alongside their own compositions.



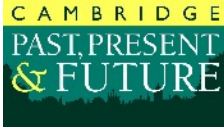
Matt Ford Trio

Friday 28 November | 7:45pm

Granary favourite Matt Ford makes a welcome return with a programme of Broadway and Hollywood classics that define the golden age of stage and silver screen.

www.staplefordgranary.org.uk
01223 849004

Wandlebury events



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

Volunteer Work Party

Tuesday 11 November, 10.30am to 1.30pm.

Get outdoors, get active, and make a difference! Join us for a rewarding morning helping to care for Wandlebury's beautiful green spaces and the wildlife that calls them home. Under the guidance of our knowledgeable wardens, you'll spend three hours learning new skills, meeting like-minded people, and giving something back to nature.

What to expect:

- All tools, equipment and instruction provided.
- A friendly, supportive atmosphere – everyone welcome (under-18s must be accompanied).
- A chance to enjoy the fresh air while helping to maintain our much-loved park.

Please bring:

- Packed lunch and a mug for refreshments.
- Tough clothes and sturdy footwear.
- Enthusiasm and a love for the outdoors!

We will meet at the noticeboard.

Please book at cambridgeppf.org/etn/volunteer-work-party-7 to reserve your free ticket and provide contact details, so we can let you know of any last-minute changes.



Outdoor Mini Retreat

Friday 14 November, 10am to 12 noon.

Join us at Wandlebury for a time of meditation, mindfulness, and self-reflection, surrounded by nature's calming energy. It's the perfect opportunity to breathe, reflect, and explore new possibilities for your life.

Led by Beckie, a trained Life Coach and Hypnotherapist, these mini outdoor retreats are designed to help you step away from life's pressures, reconnect with yourself, and recharge in the peaceful outdoors. Held within the school day, it gives you the perfect window for some me-time—without the kids even noticing!

Please dress appropriately for the weather, and bring something to sit on, along with a notebook and pen.

Meet in the car park by the noticeboard.

Cost £24 per session, book at: cambridgeppf.org/events-list.

Fleur Harker



STAPLEFORD
PARISH COUNCIL

Public Consultation

Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion

RENOVATION



22nd November 2025



Drop in between
16:00 – 20:00



Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion



We are inviting residents to take part in a public consultation to help shape the design and future use of the Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion.

This is your chance to share ideas on how the building could look and what it could be used for.

Your views will play a key role in shaping a space that serves the community – **so please get involved!**

We look forward to welcoming you on 22nd November!

Contact: clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Girlguiding



THE Brownies have started the Know Myself theme from the Girlguiding programme this term. As well as lots of games, we had a wonderful noisy, messy session all about asking questions. The Brownies

explored things like bubbles, mirrors and ooblek (cornflour and

water) and asked all the questions they could think of - there were lots! The Brownies are looking forward to having a go at the 18 new Brownie interest badges recently released by Girlguiding and some have already completed the new Folklore and Guiding Glow badges.

We have a campfire to look forward to after half term and of course Christmas is coming.



In September, the Guides kicked off the autumn term with some games and we voted on some activities to do together in the coming weeks. We also spent a fun weekend camping at Grafham Water Activity Centre with other Guides and Rangers from across the county, where we did lots of adventurous activities (including sailing, kayaking, climbing and archery) and enjoyed singing together around a campfire. **Lisa MacGregor**

No 17 bus timetable update

SINCE 1st September weekday no, 17 buses run at these times:

Mingle Lane (St Andrews Church) 10.20; Gog Magog Way 10.21; Haverhill Road 10.23; Bury Road 10.24 and London Road (opp Spar Shop) 10.25. The return time from Royston Bus Station remains at 12.37.

Puzzle Corner answers

Anagrams 5-7-9

5-letter: ETHOS, MANOR, OCEAN, GRAPE, NURSE (GNOME)

7-letter: IRKSOME, UMPIRED, DAMAGES, SERVANT, TEDIOUS, AMENITY, MESSIAH (STADIUM)

9-letter: NOMINATES, VIGILANTE, OTHERWISE, GRANDIOSE, HEARTENED, TREEHOUSE, EMULATING, INTRODUCE, RAINWATER (OVERNIGHT)

AUTUMN FAYRE

Saturday 8th November

11:00am—2:00pm

£2 on the door

Stalls include:

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- ▣ **Food and drink**
- ▣ **Games, Tombola**
- ▣ **Face painting**

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Great Shelford Library

During these dark evenings pop into the library to find a good book, learn a new craft, or just take some time for yourself before the rush of Christmas starts. We have two interesting events on for adults during November and our usual groups to keep the children entertained.

Author Talk – Clueless at Christmas. Authors Nicola Upson and Mandy Morton introduce their new books. Wednesday 19 November 2 to 3.30pm £5 per person. Please pre-book in the library or via email.

Engage Talk – Water and Dust. Local wildlife photographer Mark Farrington talks about African Wildlife. Wednesday 26 November 2 to 3.30pm. A donation of £2 is appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via email.

Craft & Chat – every Friday morning 10.30am to 12pm.

Story, Rhyme & DUPLO Time – every Tuesday at 10.30am.

For children aged 0-4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event, No need to book. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

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

LEGO Club – fortnightly, Mondays 3 and 17 November, 4 to 5.30pm. Come along and have some fun making LEGO models. All materials provided. Suitable for ages 2 to 10.

Art Club - every Saturday morning 10.30am to 12noon. Suitable for ages 4-8. Drop in event. £1 donation. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

We look forward to welcoming you to the library.

Contact us on Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
phone 0345 045 5225, cambridgeshire.gov.uk **Mel Abbiss**

Library opening hours

Monday	3pm-7pm	Friday	10am-1pm and 2-6pm
Tuesday	10am-1pm and 2-5pm	Saturday	10am-1pm
Wednesday	10am-1pm	Sunday	Closed
Thursday	Closed		

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

Parish Council Chair's report

AT the October Parish Council meeting we were delighted to welcome three new Parish Councillors, Rosie Brown, Juliet Hawksworth and Rebecca Trigg. With one more application pending we will be up to complement for the first time in many years, which is such good news for future work planned in the village. The councillors are all volunteers with other commitments in their lives so a larger number to share the work is very welcome and encouraging.

Thanks were given to Jenny Flynn and the team for their excellent work on the recently adopted Neighbourhood Plan. Implications of this on future planning in the village was discussed.

Because of the cost of work on the pavilion refurbishment, further work is being done on what the urgent concerns are. The toilets are the most obvious pressing concern. There will be a public consultation drop-in session on 22 November from 4 to 8pm in the Pavilion to discuss plans, scale and timing of works and the costs involved.

The tennis club arrangement and multi-use games area (MUGA) use was discussed and it was agreed to explore a new agreement. The MUGA is available for use by groups and individuals other than the members of the tennis club. Please see Stapleford Parish Council website for details on hiring the facility.

Work continues in the cemetery. A wildflower area has been planted in the new part of the cemetery, the gates have been painted and the noticeboard fixed at the entrance. Residents and others are reminded to put rubbish in the correct bins. If the green bin contains any plastic waste it will not be collected.

Tree work is planned in the village, including the cemetery. The Parish Council has an obligation to ensure that trees in the public areas are safe.

Communication was discussed, particularly about advertising village events and avoiding clashes. Strawberry Fields and the Granary will be encouraged to collaborate with this.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 6 November at 7pm in the Jubilee Pavilion. Members of the public are invited to attend and air their views. **Gillian Pett**

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)

Rosie Brown

Anna Disley-Stevens

Michael Gatward

Barbara Ann Kettel

Rebecca Trigg

Howard Kettel (Vice Chair)

Mick Davies

Matthew French

Juliet Hawksworth

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

Peter Fane, 27 London Road, Great Shelford CB22 5DB

peterfane1@live.co.uk

843861 / 07802 256 861

Will Jackson-Wood

cllr.jackson-wood@scambs.gov.uk

07873 731597

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Peter Fane, 27 London Road, Great Shelford CB22 5DB

peterfane1@live.co.uk

843861 / 07802 256 861

Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

Laurence.Damary-Homan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

07971 886 113

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



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