

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

April 2026

Volume 85 No 4

Price 90p

He is risen!



Come celebrate Easter@St Andrew's

Service details on page 5

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



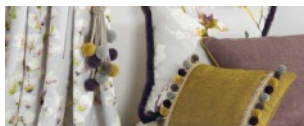
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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Vicar: Simon Taylor

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phone: 844227 or 07877 055934

Director of Music: Tim Kwan

email: music@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 07745 803972

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

THE good news is that the 17 year legal battle between Katie Perry and Katy Perry is over. You didn't know there was one? Me neither, until yesterday. Katie, who is a fashion designer based in Sydney, trademarked her name for the sale of clothes in 2007. Katy, the well-known singer whose debut single was in 2008, filed a formal notice of opposition to the registration in 2009, and subsequently used her own name to promote both music and clothing. Recently the High Court in Australia ruled in favour of Katie not Katy, so the real clothing label is safe. Apart from there being money in this for lawyers, which is a Good Thing in my view, it all raises the question 'what's in a name?'



The answer is quite a lot, often quite a lot of money, and the K-team are not the only ones who think so. Iceland, the supermarket chain, has only recently abandoned its very expensive 10 year campaign to prevent Iceland, the country, using its own name to promote Icelandic goods. Seems bonkers, but I suppose it must have kept lawyers from destitution. The supermarket registered its trademark yonks ago, but the country protested and recently succeeded in getting the trademark de-registered. Doesn't mean the supermarket chain can't use it, but it does mean they can't stop the country also using it. And by way of apology from the supermarket, Icelanders are going to get a discount in Iceland Icelands, if you see what I mean.

Names matter, and not just for commercial reasons. When, for example, is a war not a war? It turns out that 'war' is a pretty slippery term. In the US, only Congress can formally declare that the country is at war. That is in the Constitution. So there is no war with Iran. I bet it does not feel that way, though, to the grieving families of schoolgirls killed by a misplaced bomb. "Ah, but it is not war, you see, it is emergency defensive action." And both the President and his Secretary of Defence, sorry, Secretary of War, playing unashamedly to their Christian Nationalist supporters, are quite happy to use the term 'war' for public consumption when describing supposedly defensive and proportionate actions.

There is a 'crying wolf' problem here. When anyone persistently lies they are not believed even when they might be telling the truth. Iran might have been on the brink of developing dangerous ballistic and nuclear capabilities for all I know. It is the task of those in power to make such judgments. But for democracy to survive we need to be able to trust the

decision making and judgments of those in power because what they do and say affects us all. For my part I do not think we can any longer trust a single word the US administration says. That is a terrible thing.

“When I use a word’ said Humpty Dumpty, it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less.” Humpty is wrong, of course. The greatest of the ancient Israelites would have put him right. King David – think around 1,000 BC and you are not a million miles out – is reputed to have written most of the Psalms. Psalm 25 is a plea to God for his favour. “In you, Lord my God, I put my trust ... do not let me be put to shame.” And then this: “Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me. ... May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, Lord, is in you.”

Truth matters. David would not, I think, have agreed with Humpty that words can mean whatever you choose. And nor would David’s successor King Solomon. In the book of Proverbs he is recorded as having written “An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies. The words of the reckless pierce like swords” – interesting and pertinent language – “but the tongue of the wise brings healing. ... Deceit is in the hearts of those who plot evil, but those who promote peace have joy.”

Again, truth matters, and truth and lies have consequences. It’s a theme carried on into the New Testament. One example among many: when the apostle Paul wrote to a church he founded in Corinth, really telling them to pull their socks up, he drew on Jesus’ own extensive teaching about truth. Paul said ‘We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God.’ Paul could almost have been commenting on our current affairs. Hey, Trump/Hegseth/Christian Nationalists, stop deceiving, stop distorting the word of God, renounce secret and shameful ways; instead, tell the truth and commend yourselves to others in the sight of God.

The language we are hearing from the warmongers is terribly distressing, a glorification of suffering and a cheapening of life. The President joking about sinking a warship with huge loss of life as ‘fun’ is beyond evil. But even worse in a long term sense, I think, is the dulling of our sensitivities, our antennae for truth and lies, our desire for careful, nuanced leadership.

I have no solutions. None of us does. That is, I think, why current events make us fearful. And Trump is only a year and a bit into a four year term. All I can do personally is cling to Jesus. He did not just teach about telling the truth. He made a bigger claim. “I am the way, the truth and the life,” he said.

Ultimate truth, everything that matters about human life, is in him, his life and his teaching, his death and his resurrection.

With prayers for peace, a happy Easter to you all. Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

1 APR	8.30 PM	COMPLINE
2 APR	7 PM	MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION Exodus 12.1-14; John 13.1-7, 31b-35
3 APR	10 AM 12 NOON	CHILDREN'S EASTER ACTIVITIES AN HOUR AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
4 APR	8 PM	EASTER VIGIL SERVICE
5 APR	6.30 AM 9 AM 10.30 AM	MAGOG DOWN SERVICE BCP COMMUNION EASTER DAY ALL AGE & FAMILY COMMUNION Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 28.1-10
12 APR	9 AM 10.30 AM	NO SERVICE MESSY FOREST CHURCH 2 Corinthians 3.7-18; Matthew 17.1-5 <i>A new creation</i>
13 APR	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
16 APR	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION Acts 5.27-33; John 3.31-36
19 APR	9 AM 10.30 AM	BCP COMMUNION CW COMMUNION Psalm 16.1-11; John 20.1-18 <i>The empty tomb</i>
26 APR	9 AM 10.30 AM	BCP COMMUNION ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE <i>On the road to Emmaus</i>

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

- 24 FEB – Funeral of Kathleen Wigg
- 16 MAR – Interments of Ashes of Margaret & Timothy Fox
- 17 MAR – Memorial Service for Anthony McGurk
- 24 MAR – Funeral of Ruth Allcott
- 27 MAR - Interments of Ashes of Dennis & Mavis Carr

EASTER @ ST ANDREW'S

Palm Sunday 29 March

Celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem & anticipate the week ahead

9 am Traditional Communion

10.30 am Palm Sunday Communion with dramatised reading of the Passion narrative

Holy Week

Travel through Holy Week as we approach the cross

30 & 31 March, 1 April 8.30 pm Compline

2 April 7 pm Maundy Thursday Communion

3 April 10 am Children's Easter Activities

12 noon Good Friday Service

'At the Foot of the Cross'

4 April 8 pm Holy Saturday Vigil Service

Easter Day

He is risen! Come and celebrate

6.30 am Magog Down Service

9 am Traditional Communion

10.30 am All Age Communion



st Andrew
STAPLEFORD

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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
STAPLEFORD

LITTLE FISHES



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

Johnson Hall
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- all welcome
- refreshments
- crafts, songs, stories

contact Fiona Holliday
layminister@standrewstapleford.org



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Focus

A HOARDING reads, "Pause, breathe, focus, remember you are in charge." It is not quite so straightforward. Too much to observe, not least potholes, speed bumps, signs, lights and crowds. The mind wanders or is diverted. A voice calling, a worrying bang. Colour catching the eye. Lime green, tangerine, lilac, turquoise. Trendy hair shades. Brave, bold.



Clothes also intrigue. I admire bright, cheerful hand knits. reflecting personality. Favourite characters such as Paddington Bear or Winnie the Pooh and friends cause smiles of nostalgia. Comment on appearance is a delicate matter. Honesty may not be the best policy. Words can hurt despite tact and diplomacy. Tread carefully. Knit and Natter groups focus on creativity within a social gathering. Meetings can assess the pulse of ambition, concern and future planning uniting a community. Hubs of welcome focus hearts and minds, stimulating and strengthening. Not the best word to hear at home, in education or work. However, it is a daily requirement. Dressing, washing, cooking, cleaning, eating, reading need diligent focussing. Yet it becomes automatic.

The title directs me to opticians. Clever at seeing how sight might be improved, advising when vision fails. Large framed glasses are currently fashionable. There are times when we want to hide from view. Oversized frames don't fix that. It's rather like wearing a mask. Seeing facial expressions, particularly eyes, helps inform. Taking that point, 'the camera never lies.' True? We are blessed by lovely scenes. Over the spectacle of Wandlebury, a faint grey shape shimmered on the horizon. It was Ely Cathedral, 'Ship of the Fens.' My camera brought up the image. The human eye needed more magnification.

Rain poured down as I stood at the railway crossing in Great Shelford recently. Vision was impaired, blurred by streaky glasses' lenses. A double decker T3 was waiting. Across the barrier was another bus taking the opposite route. The train came and went. Pedestrians, cyclists and motorists departed. No one spoke aiming to get home quickly. Overhead a helicopter flew to Addenbrooke's. People had stopped for a time concentrating on intended destinations. We were linked for a few minutes.

"What is this life if full of care we have no time to stand and stare." A pertinent conclusion as we move from the quiet concentration of Lent. Happy Easter. **Judith Lee**

Nachingwea



Stapleford



No booking necessary.

Free to attend but your donations welcomed!

For more information please email:

**nachingwealink@
standrewstapleford.org**

May Lunch

Bank Holiday Monday

May 4th 12-2pm

Jubilee Pavilion, Stapleford Rec

Get together with friends, family and neighbours and enjoy a fabulous homemade lunch in the Jubilee Pavilion, to support education and health projects in the village of Nachingwea, Tanzania.



St Andrew
STAPLEFORD

Third Thursday Midweek Communion
10.30 am Thurs 16 Apr, 21 May, 18 June
All welcome
Refreshments after the service



St Andrew
STAPLEFORD

Mothers' Union



THE Spring Diocesan Day and Annual General Meeting is on 15 April at St John's church, Waterbeach from 10am, when we shall hear

about the activities within the Diocese in 2025.

Our Branch meeting is on 23 April when our new member, Sarah Donaldson, is going to talk to us about her time teaching in St Thomas' School in Delhi, India – usual time and place, 2.30pm, Johnson Hall.

Looking ahead, we are holding a Spring Coffee morning at Mary's on 7 May.

Easter blessings to all members, **Hilary Street**

World Day of Prayer



FOURTEEN of us celebrated the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6 March. The service was prepared by Christian women from Nigeria on the theme 'I will give you rest; come'.

It was a truly inspiring service with some wonderfully rousing hymns. It was particularly special to have Kay Coe's carer, Victoria, with us as she is Nigerian by birth.

The collection amounted to £160 when gift-aid is added. This is a record for the last 10 years. Thanks to all who attended and donated. I have left surplus service booklets in the church porch for anyone who wants to read the service. Please help yourself. **Joy Barnes**

Used stamps collection



PLEASE would you place used stamps in the box in the St Andrew's Church porch? I will forward your stamps to the Bible Reading Fellowship. Thank you, **Trish Maude**



Looking for a local venue?

The Johnson Hall, next to St Andrew's Church, is an ideal venue for small groups and children's parties. The Hall is **available for hire** for one-off events and regular bookings.

For details please contact the **Parish Administrator**:

Email: admin@standrewstapleford.org

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

Stapleford Messenger

Deadline for the May Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 10 APRIL**

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

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The subscription for the *Stapleford Messenger* delivered to your home is £9 per annum (£25 by post): single copies 90p.

Stapleford – Nachingwea Link



A BIG thank you to the *Messenger Fund* for their generous grant of £1,000 which will be used for three possible projects, each of which are in the development stage. We look forward to updating readers in future.

The 2025 English Course

PRIMARY education in Tanzania is taught in Swahili but secondary education is in English.

In 2018 the Nachingwea Link sought sponsorship for 25 girls and 10 boys to undertake a three month English course for students who had graduated from primary school, before the start of secondary school. A prime aim was for students to become confident and competent in communicating in English and ready to undertake the secondary school curriculum. The project has been supported each year with contributions towards additional items including the cost of room hire, chair hire and teaching resources.

The article below is paraphrased from a report from Kevin Bushiri, Chair of the Nachingwea Link.

The 2025 English course began on 15 September and ended in December. It was taught by Kevin Bushiri with two assistants, Neema Mshamu and Janet Philipo, who was in Kevin’s first English course in 2018.



Greena Ambros and her teacher Kevin in the spoken English test



Pupils and their beloved teacher Kevin with joyous faces after their English course graduation on 15 December 2025

There were 45 students. As a result of inviting the parents to a talk at the beginning of the course, when Kevin gave them some advice, the parents were very supportive. They could drop in during lessons or phone Kevin for updates and this had the result that there were no truants or drop-outs.

The pupils did three tests in written and spoken English, aimed at checking every pupil’s pronunciation, memory and

richness of vocabulary. Gifts of pens, books, mathematical instruments and fabric for making school uniforms were given to those who performed well in all three tests. Knowing that there would be gifts at the end of the course motivated the students to attend daily and to show determination. A certificate of appreciation was given to each pupil on completion of the course. It read:



Hamisi Rashidi(third winner) received his Certificate of Appreciation from guest of honour Dr Everlyne Mrumapili

“The Nachingwea-Stapleford Link Committee congratulates you for your completion of three months of the English Course Preliminary Level from September to December 2025 here at St Andrew’s Anglican Church, Nachingwea.”

The Nachingwea Link Committee with the cooperation of St Andrew’s Church, Nachingwea prepared a Graduation Ceremony after the parents decided that this would motivate the pupils, who could choose whether they wished to participate. 28 pupils did.

Finance

In order to justify a sponsored place on the course, the Nachingwea Link committee under St Andrew’s Church, Nachingwea, prepares special forms to be filled by Head Teachers when they spot pupils who are in families with difficult circumstances. Those forms are brought back to Nachingwea Link committee and members visit those families to certify the economic reality and readiness of the family to support a pupil in learning English language for the whole period of three months. These all are done to make sure that dropouts are reduced and funds are used as planned.

Challenges are in every growing process and the following were faced.

1. Shortage of chairs. There were only 30 chairs in the room for 45 pupils. So Kevin rented 15 chairs from the Mothers’ Union at a cost of 30,000Tzs (about £9) per month.
2. Some pupils arrived late at first as they lived a long way away. The solution: pupils who were neighbours and had bicycles were asked to share!

Performance Statistics

If a pupil achieved full marks in written and spoken tests they would get 250 marks = 100%.

36 pupils achieved a pass of 125 marks or above, equal to 80% of the group. All pupils completed the whole course.

The students are very grateful to all who have contributed to this very successful project. Thank you so much.

The Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committee

Community Warden Scheme

THE STAPLEFORD Community Warden Scheme is very grateful to the *Messenger* Fund for the generous grant that has been donated to the scheme, which supports elderly residents within Stapleford to live independently and safely in their own homes. The scheme is run by Age UK Cambridge and Peterborough (CAP) and supported by St Andrew's Church.

The work of the warden, Juliet Hawksworth, reduces isolation and loneliness and supports the clients' families to ensure the best care for their loved ones.

She can:

- help service users with tasks such as making drinks, small amounts of shopping, collecting prescriptions, offering advice where appropriate, feeding pets, watering plants.
- liaise with other organisations such as Age UK services, Social Services, community groups, nurses, GPs, hospital discharge services etc
- monitor changes in service users' needs and make immediate recommendations if a change or decline in well-being is identified.
- work directly with the Age UK CAP Information and Advice team to help service users with benefit checks and applications, hospital discharge services, Sharing Time volunteers and with the Age UK Handy person's service to install grab-rails, keysafes etc to make a home safer.
- organise coffee mornings.

The grant from the *Messenger* Fund will be used towards setting up monthly coffee mornings in the community so that village residents can spend time together, swap news and share information. We have had pupils from the village primary school attending to give out cakes and provide much appreciated multigenerational contact.

The next coffee morning is on 13 April from 10 to 12pm in Cox's Close Community Room, CB22 5SP. All are welcome.

For more information contact me on 07436 102733

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Do you fancy a trip to France in May?



STAPLEFORD Twinning Association will be visiting Stapleford's twin village, Villedômer, from 20 to 24 May. We will stay with French families, and their Twinning Association will organise visits to the surrounding area during the day and entertainment in the evening. The cost of travel by air with Ryanair from Stansted will be about £150. You will also need to join Stapleford Twinning Association (£15) and buy your own travel insurance.

You don't have to be able to speak French, but it is more fun if you can.

Stapleford has been twinned with Villedômer, a small village near Tours in the Loire Valley, since 1979, making it one of the most long lasting twinning associations in the country. We hold exchange visits annually, going to France one year and welcoming the French to Stapleford in the following year.

If you would like to join the visit or for more information about Twinning, contact Tony Hore on smokytone@aol.com or tel. 07774 136027 by 7 April. **Tony Hore**

Stapleford WI



AT OUR meeting in February members were given an illustrated talk by Neil Callan on the subject of the history of the English silver spoon. Many interesting facts were heard including the origin of the description 'sterling silver', the reason milled edges and standardised weights were introduced, and the fact that five spoons each about 12 inches long were found in the Sutton Hoo treasures. Members had the opportunity to ask questions, and also obtain information about spoons they had brought with them.

The competition for an item made from recycled materials was won by Gillian Pett, who was awarded the Craft Cup.

Membership of the WI opens the door to a wide range of activities offered by both our own village group and the Cambridgeshire Federation. There are also online classes, tutorials and demonstrations on a NFWI (National Federation of Women's Institutes) website exclusively for members. If you look at our own website staplefordwi.weebly.com you will find photos and information which may interest you. You are also very welcome to attend a meeting as a visitor where you are assured of a warm welcome. We meet on the fourth Thursday of every month, apart from December, at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. **Joyce Dobson**

Could you help the Messenger?

THE *Messenger* Team is looking to recruit a volunteer email Inbox administrator. The person must be familiar with email and ideally have some basic knowledge of Word and Excel – although the latter is not essential.

The Inbox Administrator must be used to administration and be well organised and disciplined. To lighten the load and cover for holidays etc., the job is currently split between two people e.g. each person does the job alternate months. The workload varies through the month in a predictable manner, from hardly anything for about two weeks, up to about an hour a day for the day or two around copy date.

If you feel you could take on this role and contribute to your community magazine, please email us at staplefordmessenger@gmail.com. We would be pleased to give you more details and discuss further. Thank you!



Bring and Buy Plant Sale

St. Andrew's Church on Sunday 17 May
between 11.30am and 12.30pm

Is your garden looking overgrown? Pot up your unwanted plants and bring them to the churchyard from 9.30am or call Glenda on 07792 973942 to request collection before the day.

Choose some plants to brighten the garden for Summer.
Card or cash donations welcome. All proceeds will go to

The Children's Society



**The
Children's
Society**

Stapleford Strollers walk 145

The Lake District: a circular walk at Northstowe

To Get to Start of Walk

This walk can be reached using the Guided Busway from Trumpington Park and Ride to Longstanton Park and Ride or you can drive to Northstowe if you prefer. The postcode of the park and ride stop is CB24 3DS.

Length of Walk

4.4 miles. All the walk is on solid surfaces, so can be done whatever the weather without fear of mud.

OS Map

Explorer map 209. The best maps of Northstowe can be found online and, being a new town, major provision has been made for both cyclists and pedestrians. Most paths are not shown on OS maps.

Extra Information

Northstowe is designed to be the UK's largest new town since Milton Keynes and the aim is to deliver 10,000 homes and facilities for about 25,000 residents. The site was formerly RAF Oakington. The plan is for a 'sustainable eco-community' with a strong green focus but the place currently lacks shops and cafes. It also lacks completion of many of the road surfaces within the new town which given the first residents moved in during 2017 is not ideal. There is now a pub though, which opened in 2024.

Route of Walk

Starting from the Longstanton Guided Busway Park and Ride site, (serving Northstowe) exit the parking area to the right of the main bus stop as you face it, **with the busway to the left**, and start to walk along a tarmac path.

Go left almost immediately at a sign saying 'Welcome to Bug Hunter Waters' and walk ahead on a solid surfaced path. This rejoins the main tarmac path after a few minutes. At this point, go left again almost immediately, and walk on another solid-surfaced track that passes to the left of a lake. A bridge crosses this lake and good views can be obtained from it, but the walk route keeps to the left of the water. At the end of the lake the path swings right and meets a service road.

Cross over and walk ahead on another solid surfaced track towards another lake, just ahead. Turn left on a cross track before the lake is reached and walk round the left hand of the water. The busway is still to the immediate left. Keep going until a bridge is reached, cross over and turn left

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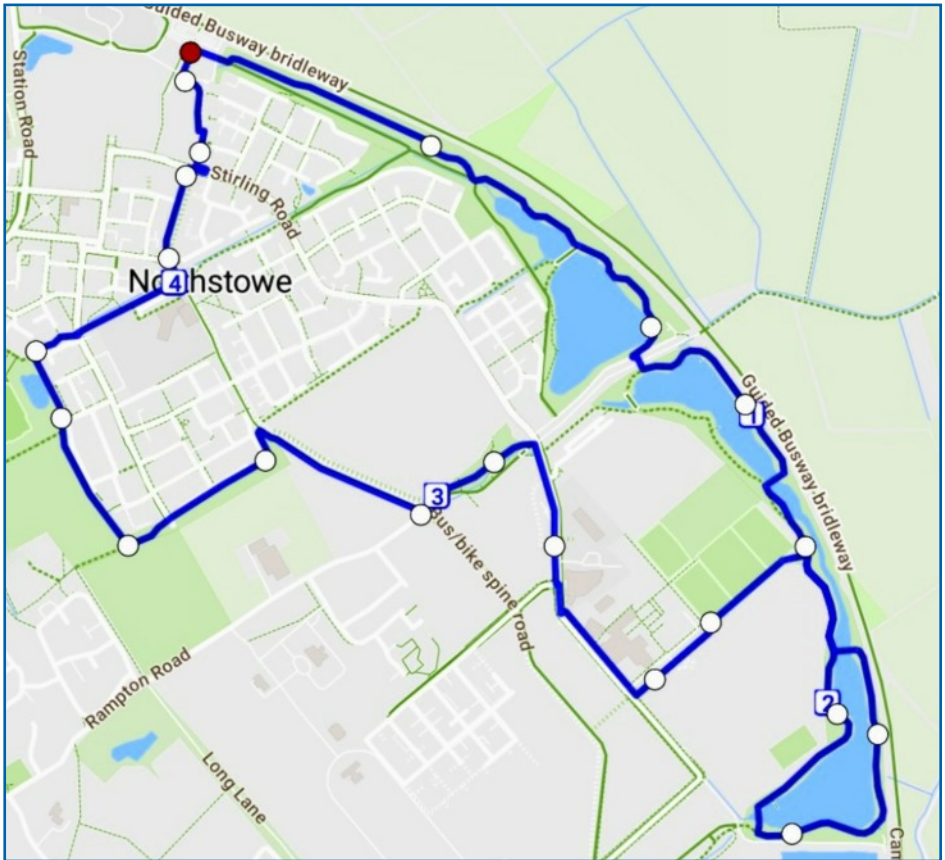
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on the path with the end of the lake now to the left. After a short time, a bridge will be seen on the left, crossing the start of a third lake. Go over it and swing right to walk along the left hand side. Pass two bird hides then swing right at the end of the lake and walk along with the water to the right.

Where it ends, go right at a sign saying Halcyon Mere, cross a wooden bridge and walk ahead with the lake now to the right. Pass the bridge over the lake crossed earlier and keep ahead for a short distance, turning left along a path that has school playing fields to the right of it (the large school building can be seen beyond). Go left before the school car park and then immediate right on a solid surfaced path, until reaching a main road.

Cross over at the traffic lights, then turn right and walk along the pavement passing the Community College, Academy and Sports Centre. Ignore a road to the left after a short time and carry on ahead. Pass a Primary School on the right. Turn left at a Public Bridleway sign and keep to the right hand path, walking on through a grassy area with random boulders!



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At the end of the grassy area cross over a road and turn right along the pavement to the left of the cycleway.

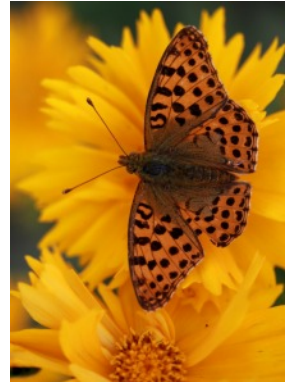
After a few minutes, immediately before houses are reached, take the path to the left. This soon swings right and keeps to the left of the housing area. When the end of a road is met, cross over and keep ahead for a short time, then take the path to the right that runs behind the houses. This skirts Western Park, a large grassy area on the left. Pass a pond to the left after a few minutes then, shortly after, go right on a cross path. Western Park Pavilion can be seen to the left at this point.

The path meets a road; cross over and carry on straight ahead with a school to the right until a service road is reached just after a car park on the left. Turn left and walk along the pavement, crossing a side road, then carrying on along a road with tall houses. When Stirling Road is reached, cross over and take Claudius Walk opposite. Follow this and then swing left to a crossing point of the road behind the Park and Ride. Go over and return to your vehicle or catch your bus. **David Barnes**

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

Stapleford Horticultural Society

FOR our February talk, we welcomed back entomologist Dr Ian Bedford whose topic was 'Britain's Butterflies and a Changing Environment'. We heard how butterflies are struggling with numbers of most species well down, the reasons being habitat destruction, pesticides and climate change. Establishment of nature reserves and management of farmland can provide the conditions for recovery of populations. We all have a role to play by making our gardens butterfly-friendly, which can help to link up favourable habitats in the surrounding countryside.



There is no talk in March as we will be holding our AGM. Our next talk is on the evening of Thursday 9 April when Barry Gayton will be telling us all about 'Hardy Perennials'. It will be held in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, and guests paying the meeting fee of £3 are welcome. **John Sherwell**



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Stapleford History Society

The history of the Kite, its streets and characters



THIS was the fourth talk that Mike Levy has given to the History Society and it generated lots of questions and comments from members of the large audience. Many of them had witnessed the demolition of the Kite in order to build The Grafton Centre which is itself soon to be demolished. Though I was living in York at the time, I well

remember the outcry and reading the numerous articles and letters about the issue in the national press, many of which were written by customers of the Waffles cafe. The Kite was the name given to the area bounded by Newmarket Road and Maids Causeway, Christ's Pieces, Parkside and East Road in the 1960s. This area, previously known as Barnwell, was clearly the shape of a kite when looked at on a street map of the town.

To begin, we were shown several pictures of the first area to be bulldozed. This housed the working class who were cleaning and cooking for the 'Gentlemen' and Dons of the various Colleges. The earliest map of this area (1830) also shows the Garden of Eden, a large market garden area in which people laboured to supply provisions for the Colleges. By 1886 the Garden of Eden had been built on, as Cambridge adjusted to the demands of increasing industrialisation. Brickworks were needed and the railways could bring provisions into the town. The outdoor recreational needs of the increasing population were also catered for as fields were changed into Parker's Piece and land was drained to create Midsummer Common.

Many interesting people developed the area. Charles Humfrey (1772-1848) was an architect/designer who bought up land after the passing of the Enclosure Act in 1811. James Burleigh and the Duke of Grafton did the same and their names live on even now. William Wilkins built the Theatre Royal in Sun Street (now the Buddhist Centre on Newmarket Road) with what is possibly the oldest house in Cambridge next door.

We learnt about local people who were significant not only because of their association with the Kite area but also for their wider contribution. Elice Hopkins, born 1836, founded one of the first Working Men's Clubs on East Road. She was driven by Evangelical Christianity and wanted to improve the lives of working men living in extreme poverty - and by implication to improve the lives of their wives and daughters! Lelle Secor Florence founded the first Birth Control Centre in the town. Most well known, however, is Daisy Hopkins. She was accused of 'talking to an undergraduate in the street' and sentenced to serve fourteen days in the

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Spinning House, the University's private jail for women who were deemed to be prostitutes. Algernon Lyons JP took her part and took out a writ of Habeas Corpus. The University Chancellor had to appear in the High Court in London and then the Civil Court in Ipswich. It was revealed that Daisy had been propositioned by the undergraduate and had refused his advances. The artist/decorators, F.R. Leach, had workshops in City Road employed by the likes of William Morris. David Parr of Gwydir Street fame was one of their talented painters. Councillor Henry Hall represented West Barnwell in the 1870s and 80s. He was suspended for commenting that the Prince of Wales had recovered from illness not due to the Grace of God but due to the grace of medicine. He established the first free public library in Cambridge. William Heffer, born in poverty in Ely in 1858, became the founder of the well-known bookshop after selling books door-to-door. He was one of the first newsagents, buying from the railways.

The next talk will be 'Henry VIII's Grandmother - The life of Margaret Beaufort' on 12 May at 7.45pm. **Jane Steadman**

The Messenger Fund

THE *Messenger* Fund Committee made another round of donations funded by your subscriptions. Thank you!

It awarded £1,245 to the Stapleford PTA to support a new spelling scheme at the Primary School, £1,000 to the Nachingwea Link to support various projects including the DARE project, and £1,000 to the Stapleford Community Warden Scheme.


The Fund has been going since 2019. In that time it has donated a total of £18,641 to good causes, in the following categories:

- School/PTA £4,845
- Elderly £4,170
- Overseas £2,900
- Children & Young People £4,296
- Sport £2,430

Pretty good, and a nice spread. We are especially glad to support any worthy causes in the village or nearby, or with some link to the village. Repeat applications or new ones are both welcome.

Applications (by or on behalf of organisations only) can be made by email to simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com. Just let us know the organisation applying, contact details, how much you need and what it is for – we do not need huge detail, but need to see where the money is going and what it will do. **Simon Taylor**

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Memories of Stapleford School

WENDY Reynolds remembers her time at Stapleford school 1943-1948 - Part 2 of an occasional series.

WE weren't told much about the war except that everything was in short supply and nothing must be wasted or lost. We felt quite involved though as we collected books for the troops and picked rose-hips to make syrup for babies. We were paid for the rose-hips 3d a lb. It was a great thrill for me to earn real money and, as my mother didn't have a penny over at the end of the week it was a real help at home. We did simple formation-marching in the playground at PE classes. We often had an audience of old people from the village.

All the pupils were involved in helping at home too. Everyone with a garden kept chickens and weren't allowed much corn for them so we collected dandelions and other plants from the road verges for their food and usually had the job of cleaning out the hutches at weekends. Some parents had rabbits and ducks as well. There were plenty of rabbits and pigeons (and maybe a pheasant or a hare or two) so, although most of the families were poor I don't think any went hungry.

As it was an agricultural area and farm-work was a 'reserved occupation' many fathers didn't go to the war at first but later, as the situation worsened many were called up and their places filled with land-girls. Our local farmer, was very much against them and refused to have any.

There was a fraught period when the pupils and a teacher from a school in London were evacuated in to the area and had to share the big schoolroom with the seniors, taught by their own teacher, which was very difficult because of the noise-level. These children were like a different species. I suppose we would call them streetwise now but we didn't know what they were on about half the time and they seemed to overwhelm the place. Fortunately they were soon moved on.

Our school was quite formal compared to today. We called the infant and middle teachers by their names but the headmistress who taught the seniors was called 'Madam'. One of the governors was the local 'Lady of the Manor' - Lady Gray. She liked to visit occasionally and take the register. When she called your name you had to stand, say "present, milady", bow if you were a boy, bob if a girl. From her scowl as she stood behind the desk I don't think 'Madam' approved of this.

At morning playtime we had a bottle of milk. Sometimes during cold winters the headmistress would pour the milk into a big saucepan and put cocoa in it. The big tortoise stove in the middle of the room was the only

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heating so seats nearest it were the most prized. A heap of coke was in the playground and some of the biggest boys would fill the hods and make up the fire inside it. We brought sandwiches etc. for lunch and all ate them in the main room except for children who lived near enough to the school to be able to go home. This was until we had hot dinners delivered in big metal containers from Sawston College. These were mostly loathed as, what with war shortages, they consisted of grey heavy puddings and watery veg. The teachers continued to bring sandwiches.

Most households had a radio. We had one powered by a large glass accumulator. The accumulator man called each week with a fresh one and took the used one away. 'Children's Hour' was the highlight of the day for most of us. I think the quality of the programmes was a good deal higher then. The dramas introduced us to quite a bit of classical literature. I particularly remember 'Wind in the Willows' with its haunting introductory music.

One of the greatest differences between then and now was that, in our village at least, we didn't set eyes on anyone of a different nationality until Italian POWs were set to work on the farms.

To go back to the school playground; I can only remember two of the various counting rhymes: 'Your shoes want cleaning' and 'One potato, two potato, three potato, four.' Although there was a certain amount of rivalry between girls and boys, the girls sometimes formed a moving line and chanted "All join on no silly, sappy boys". Several boys were willing to join the singing games, several of which were heavily romantic. At the end of one which consisted of a girl chasing her chosen mate we all gathered round and chanted:

"Now you're married you must be good
and help your husband chop the wood
chop it thin and bring it in
and kiss him over and over again."

As we got older we began to use our imaginations a bit more especially when the grass cuttings in the school field were left lying. They would be swept into walls to form castles, one at each end of the field. The boys were princes, galloping over to the opposite castle either to kidnap some of the princesses or to rescue them. The princesses' main function was to keep the castles swept clean and prepare the feasts (a few biscuit crumbs if lucky).

When we reached the age of ten the 'Scholarship' loomed. If you passed you went to one of the grammar schools; if you didn't you went to Sawston Village College.

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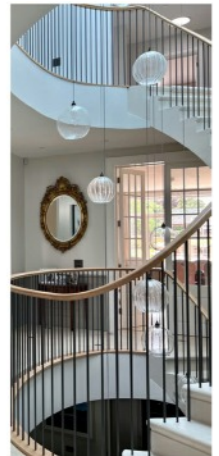
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Stapleford butcher joins UK's butchery elite

MILES Nicholas of Morgan's Butchery at Baythorne Hall has been welcomed into the prestigious ranks of the UK's butchery elite after being awarded *Institute of Meat Master Butcher* status at a national prizegiving ceremony held at Butchers' Hall in London.

The accolade, awarded by the Institute of Meat, recognises the highest level of professional skill, technical knowledge and dedication within the meat industry. Only a small number of butchers achieve Master Butcher status each year following an intensive four-stage assessment process.

Miles' journey into butchery began in Cambridge, entering the trade at just 14 years old. However, it was during his time working at the Spar shop in Stapleford where his career truly began to flourish. Working within the busy community store, Miles developed not only his technical butchery skills but also his understanding of customer service, product quality and the importance of building trust within a local community.

The Stapleford Spar became a formative chapter in his career, allowing him to refine traditional techniques while gaining invaluable hands-on experience managing demand, developing products and serving generations of local customers. It was here that Miles built the confidence, reputation and craftsmanship that would ultimately shape his future as an independent butcher.



Miles (left) with the Stapleford Spar shop staff in 1989



Miles (centre) receiving his Master Butcher's certificate at Butcher's Hall

After decades spent honing his skills and working across the trade, Miles went on to establish Morgan's

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butchery, now based at Baythorne Hall, where he works alongside his wife Julie and daughter Amy. The family-run business has become known for championing traditional butchery, supporting British farming and mentoring the next generation entering the industry.

Receiving Master Butcher status marks the culmination of more than 40 years dedicated to the craft.

Speaking after the ceremony, Miles said: “Starting out as a young lad learning the trade, I never imagined one day I’d be standing in Butchers’ Hall receiving this recognition. My time in Stapleford played a huge part in shaping who I became as a butcher. This award isn’t just for me – it reflects the people, communities and family who’ve supported me throughout my career.” **Amy Nicholas**

Puzzle Corner

Resurrection words 2

All the answers can be made from the letters of RESURRECTION
The letter E can be used twice, and the letter R two or three times

3-letter words

make an error
place of study (informal)

5-letter words

male voice
doughnut shape

7-letter words

small, active dog
trash

9-letter words

discharge
many years

4-letter words

black (French)
photoreceptor

6-letter words

part or subdivision
dogwood

8-letter words

magician
obscure

11-letter word

communication

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 46



Royal British Legion



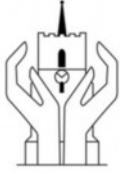
THE BRANCH meets every month (except December), on the final Wednesday evening of the month at the Chapelfield Way Community Centre just off Link Road, Sawston. There is ample parking so anyone, whether you are a current member or not is welcome to attend and learn about what we get up to. You can learn about what the Royal British Legion does in addition to meeting friends, listening to fascinating talks and enjoying refreshments. It would be wonderful to see more of our members attending the Branch meetings – particularly those who live in and around Sawston. Our next Branch meeting is on Wednesday, 29 April at 7pm and our speaker for the evening will be Paul Hunt who will be telling us about The Great Train Robbery.

We have a few planned events coming up over the next few months:

- a) We have a stall at the Sawston Fun Run on Sunday, 10 May, so please come and support us. If you happen to be a veteran (someone who has served in the Army, Navy or Air Force) please come and introduce yourselves and let us know where you are and how you are doing.
- b) Day trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, on Saturday, 20 June leaving the Sawston pickup point by the War Memorial at 8am. There are seats available on the coach for £20 per person. It is a wonderful place to visit with some lovely walks, a super restaurant, a train that can take you around the site with commentary, and many talks at various points and times that are free of charge. The memorial gardens range from ones beautifully designed and looked after, to those that have been deliberately left to allow nature to develop them. The cost will not cover lunch so it gives you the choice of bringing a picnic with you or visiting the on-site restaurant. You can also hire mobility scooters that have been donated to the centre, but I would advise you to ring and book them as soon as you can by ringing 01283 245100 or logging onto the website and completing a booking form. If you are interested in coming, please let me know as soon

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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c) Our Branch has been invited to take part in the Rangeford Village's Family Day at Strawberry Fields, Stapleford from 1pm onwards on Saturday, 11 July. We will have a stall and have organised a band concert with the Newmarket Town Band and the Sawston Youth Group Band. Owing to popular demand, there will also be a Drumhead service later in the afternoon. Further details to follow in the next edition but put it in your diary!

We shall also have a stall at each of the following Duxford Air Shows this year:

4 and 5 July

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12 and 13 September

Battle of Britain Air Show - Step back in time to 1940, in the air and on the ground, and even in the clothes you wear!

Saturday, 3 October

Duxford Flying Finale - Hear engines roar for the last time as their flying season closes.

You will find us at Duxford School car park, so come and say hello. We really need to find new members in order to lower the average age of the Branch membership, so if you are on the slightly younger side, we will welcome you with open arms if you felt that you could become a member and support the Royal British Legion. If you have a son/daughter who belongs to the Cadets, then Youth membership is free of charge and it would be wonderful if they might like to train as a youth standard bearer.

We are also planning an event in the Challis Gardens sometime during the summer. More info in a future *Messenger*.

Whatever event you choose to attend, we'll be happy to see you!

Ann Barton, Branch Secretary. 07898 732307, ann.barton@hotmail.com

More knitters needed please



WOULD you be able to help by knitting teddies for Nursery children in Nachingwea?

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Many thanks, **Trish Maude**, Link committee chair.

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Great Shelford Bowls Club



IF you are looking for a Club to join, or would like to take up a new hobby, please come along to our Coffee Mornings and Open Days on Saturdays 11 and 18 April at 10.30am when you will be welcome to have a go at bowling. If you cannot make the Saturday then please come along on Sunday 19 April at the same time when we will be having an Open Practice Day.

We are a friendly club that welcomes players of all standards who want to play bowls and who, maybe, have never tried previously.

For those who have never played before, once confidence has been built in your ability to play, we would like new members to sign up to play in some of the many league matches we have throughout the season, which lasts from April to September, together with our inter-club matches.

You may find that you would like to join the club and also enjoy the friendly atmosphere on many of our club nights.

If you are interested in coming along you can contact either:

Gill Taylor/Secretary on 07581079420 or Graham White/Chairman on 07740031713.

More information about our club at greatshelfordbowlsclub.co.uk.

Gill Taylor

Film evening

THERE will be a Little Shelford Memorial Hall film evening with a showing of *The Ballad of Wallis Island* on Saturday 18 April. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start with a break for supper of pizza and salad.

The Ballad of Wallis Island is a 2025 British comedy-drama film written by Tim Key and Tom Basden. Basden and Carey Mulligan star as a folk duo who reunite to perform for a wealthy fan (Tim Key) on a remote British island. *The Ballad of Wallis Island* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2025 and has won British Independent Film Awards for Best Joint Lead Performance, Best screenplay and Best Original Music.

Tickets (£15 per person) will be available from Sarah Coppendale (842498) coppendales@btinternet.com and Diana Haines (841415) dianahaines42@icloud.com

Please book by Wednesday 15 April so that sufficient food can be ordered. **Sarah Coppendale**



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**Ivo Neame Quartet****Saturday 18 April | 7:45pm**

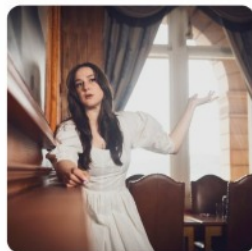
Ivo Neame, multi-award winning pianist and one of the most innovative and dynamic figures in the contemporary jazz scene, returns to the Granary with some of the finest UK-based jazz instrumentalists.

**Music for Awhile****Friday 24 April | 7:45pm**

J S Bach and Maddalena Lombardini from this much-loved period collective of Europe's most established early music performers, renowned for their adventurous programming and led by violinist Maggie Faultless.

**Josienne Clarke sings the songs of Sandy Denny****Sunday 26 April | 3:00pm**

Radio 2 Folk award-winning singer, songwriter and guitarist Josienne Clarke draws on traditional British folk inspirations, but is a thoroughly modern, multifaceted musician.



Booking: www.staplefordgranary.org.uk | 01223 849004

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Cambridge & District Branch



BRITISH
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SOCIETY
Let's Grow Together

OUR April meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 April at Great Shelford Memorial Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm. Our guest speaker is John Hughes, a keen collector of succulents for

60 years. His subject will be his visits to Brazil and the Jardim Botânico Plantarium there owned and maintained by Harri Lorenzo, a world-renowned botanist. All are welcome to come along to our meetings. There will be a table show of judged cacti, as well as refreshments and a raffle.

If you are interested in cacti and succulents, then the Society's website - www.bcsc.org.uk is full of information, articles and incredible photographs of many species of these plants; in habitat as well as grown by collectors in the UK. It's well worth a look. **Jacqui Arbon**, Branch Secretary

Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
7 April	✓	✓	
14 April			✓
21 April	✓	✓	
28 April			✓
5 May	✓	✓	

DID you know there is a bin collection app? Search for SCAMBS Bin Collections on your app store.

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2G3S



DR BIKE continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3-5.30pm every Tuesday. For more information and to book a slot, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com.

Cambridgeshire County Council hold other 'Dr Bike' sessions nearby, information and bookings at tinyurl.com/drbike2026.

Repair Café: the next one we are helping to run is at Whittlesford URC on Saturday 25 April from 2pm-5pm. Booking is through the Cambridge Carbon Footprint website. Do book a slot in advance – at our last café all slots were booked up before the day, and 'walk-ins' only got a repair done because there were a few 'no-shows'.

Local news

Stapleford Parish Council is forming a Sustainability Working Group to look at ways to support biodiversity and reduce carbon emissions in the village. It will include an emergency response plan for flooding and wildfires.

Swift boxes – a local group was set up to promote and enable these nesting boxes to be fitted in local villages. Shelford and Stapleford's turn has come, so contact Helen on 840393, or helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk if you're interested in having one, or nesting cups for house martins. Thanks are due to the Parish Councils for funding.

Our MP, Pippa Heylings, had the opportunity to present a 10 Minute Bill to Parliament on 25 February calling for UK chalk streams to be nominated as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site. 85% of the world's chalk streams are found in the UK, many in East Anglia. If they were to get UNESCO designation they would be protected from over-abstraction and sewage pollution by the water companies.

There is now a film of the National Emergency Briefings on Climate and Nature. There will be a showing and discussion in Cambridge on Saturday 18 April at 6pm at ARU. Tickets from bit.ly/pebcambs. Other local showings may be arranged and will appear on the same website.

Future of Water

We held a conversation evening in January on this topic. Despite the wet winter we have a chronic shortage in this area. The proposed Cambridge Development Corporation, with its ambitious agenda for growth and development of housing and business opportunities in Cambridge and the surrounding area between now and 2050 will increase pressure on water resources.



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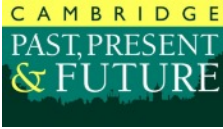
An example of how the water issue is being treated in planning policy at present is Darwin Green, a proposed development for which planning permission was originally denied due to objections by the Environment Agency because of a lack of water. To overcome this objection, the government advised that water credits (unproven) and future developments in water availability should be taken into account, along with the expected date of occupancy of the new homes, resulting in the development being given the go ahead, despite the concerns of local councillors.

Our first speaker was Vicky Thatcher, head of Water Strategy and Environment at Cambridge Water, which provides our drinking water. They are granted a licence ('derogation') to abstract a certain quantity of water from the underground chalk aquifer per year. This amount is reviewed every 5 years, and the company would be liable to a fine if this limit were exceeded. The plan for the next 25 years sees a growing gap between available supply and demand, due to growing demand and also an expected reduction in the quantity of water that Cambridge Water is licensed to abstract in future to limit further environmental damage. The gap is to be addressed by reduced demand per customer and the two new sources: the Fenland Reservoir (scheduled for completion in 2037) and a pipeline bringing water from Grafham Water, currently planned to go onstream in 2032.

The second speaker was Yair Perry of Water Sensitive Cambridge, who design and install rain gardens and other ways of rainwater harvesting, to reduce risk of flooding and pollution of waterways from excessive run-off from hard surfaces. Their slogan is 'Let's keep more rain out of the drain'. WSC have mitigated road flooding in Chesterton by installing a roadside rain garden, and they have a programme of installations in schools, notably the Icknield Primary School in Sawston, where pupils can learn about the issues and participate in the planting of the rain gardens. Their 'Slow Flow' planters, possibly combined with a water butt, capture water from downpipes in residential and other buildings. They absorb rain that would otherwise run off during heavy showers. A water butt alone would not prevent this once full. (*Thanks to Peter Woods for much of this article*).

If you are interested in green matters and the environment, send an email to mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We 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**

Wandlebury events



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

Woodland and Craft Weekend

Sat 11 and Sun 12 Apr, 10.30am to 4pm. A celebration of traditional crafts.

Cambridge Bodgers and friends will be demonstrating in the Stable Rooms and making items using some of the wood that is a by-product from our Woodland Restoration Project.

Guided Woodland walks. The location will be signposted from the car park. Free, donations welcome. No need to book.



Pole Lathe tuition

Sat 11 Apr, 10am to 2pm . Learn the historic art of wood turning using a traditional pole lathe with tuition from an expert Green Woodworker. Cost £45 per person, book online at <https://cambridgeppf.org/etn/pole-lathe-tuition/>

Guided Walks

- Spring Tree ID of Wandlebury. Tuesday 7 April, 10am – 12pm.
- Woodlands and Wildlife. Wednesday 8 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm.
- Spring Wildflowers of Wandlebury Tuesday 28 April, 10am – 12pm.

Please wear footwear and clothing for being outdoors. We meet at the large noticeboard near the car park. Book online, or feel free to just turn up.

These are free events, donations welcome. Please pay for your car parking on arrival or why not become a member and get free parking all year!

Puzzle Corner Answers

Resurrection words 2

3-letter: ERR, UNI

5-letter: TENOR, TORUS

7-letter: TERRIER, TROUNCE

9-letter: SECRETION, CENTURIES

4-letter: NOIR, CONE

6-letter: SECTOR, CORNUS

8-letter: SORCERER, ESOTERIC

11-letter: INTERCOURSE

Arthur Rank Hospice



THANKS to our amazing community the nine beds at Arthur Rank Hospice's Inpatient Unit, which were under-threat from closure on 31 March 2026, can remain open for another 12 months for patients. The Charity, would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported their 'Protect Our Care' campaign.

Fill a bag

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is holding their first 'Fill a bag' shopping event in April. Shoppers will have the opportunity to fill a pre-provided recyclable bag with pre-loved women's, men's and children's clothes for just £5.

The shopping event, taking place at the Hospice in Shelford Bottom, CB22 3FB will be open on the following dates and times: Friday 24 April 3pm to 6pm, Saturday 25 and Sunday 26, 10am to 2pm, and will remain open while stocks last. Shoppers are advised to keep an eye on our social media channels for updates on stock levels. For more information see arhc.org.uk/retail-sale.



Mission Mud Fundraiser

Mission Mud, in Waterbeach on Saturday 9 May, is all about taking on messy obstacles together, cheering each other on and heading home with big smiles and stories to tell. Whether you're a seasoned mud runner or giving it a go for the first time, Mission Mud is open to everyone aged 7 years and over. Support patients and families at Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, sign up at arhc.org.uk/missionmud.



The Arthur Rank Hospice Charity supports people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting conditions and those who need end-of-life care. Our 'Outstanding' services support over 3,800 patients and their families annually helping people to make every moment count. **Virginia Goode**

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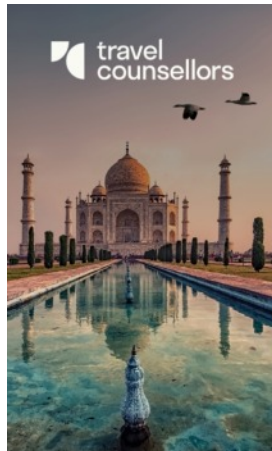
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Flowering bulbs in Headley Gardens, photograph by Christine Hall

All about the Royal Ballet

BALLET and opera specialist, Sarah Lenton, will explain everything you need to know about the Royal Ballet in a 75 minute illustrated talk with audio clips. Sarah has spent most of her working life in the theatre and the last thirty years being at The Royal Opera House. She has written and directed over twenty shows, writes programme articles and websites and can also be heard regularly on Radio 3 and 4. The talk will be in Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham on Monday 27 April at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12, including refreshments. Buy tickets from eventbrite (eventbrite.co.uk and browse events in Hildersham) or at the door. In support of the Friends of Holy Trinity, Hildersham. To find out more email huntcam2015@gmail.com. Athene Hunt



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Village Show – save the date

THE committee looks forward to welcoming everyone back to the marquee on Saturday 27 June for the Village Show celebrating 'Sporty Stapleford'

Photography classes will be titled 'Sport in motion', 'Pets in a pickle', 'Your favourite sport', 'Stapleford structures', 'Showing support' and the group of two photographs 'Start and finish'.

We'd like to try something slightly different this year for the best front garden category. We would like to invite households to apply to have their front garden judged, hoping that this will make judging a bit easier. Please spread the word. Let us know what you think of this idea or that you'd like to be entered by emailing us at staplefordvillageshow@gmail.com or phone me on 07870 215776. **Jools Rayment**

Water in your garden

South Cambs Organic Gardeners

ROBERT Smit of Hortiservices in Duxford will present ideas for sustainable and cost-effective ways to collect rainwater as well as setting up simple systems for distributing it in the garden. If there's time, he may also talk about wildlife ponds.

On Monday 13 April at 7pm in Cox's Close Community Room. Admission charge £3.

Contact Helen Harwood, tel. 840393, helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk



Cambridge Flower Club

Julie Richardson, NAFAS demonstrator:
'Thursday Night at the Movies'



Thursday 16 April, 7.15pm, Refreshments at 6.45pm
Arrangements will be raffled at the end of the demonstration

Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE

Annual subscription £45. Visitors £10 each meeting

Further information from co-chairs:

Freda Orgee - 891464, fredaorgee@gmail.com or

Alison Drake - 840117, drakealisonn@gmail.com

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Order on Thursday 2 April → Collect on Wednesday 8 April

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[Thank you and we wish you a lovely spring weekend](#)



Great Shelford Library news

HAPPY Easter to all our customers. How lovely to have lighter evenings and warmer weather. We have lots of books to help plan your spring and summer activities. Why not pop in and look through our travel section to give inspiration for day trips and holidays. Does your garden need some TLC after the long-wet winter? We have loads of books on gardening to give ideas and help to get your garden summer ready. Or come in to stock up on your spring and summer reads.

Activities for Adults

Tea & Games – Every Friday afternoon 2 to 3.30pm. No need to book.

Engage Talk – Scams awareness escape room, PC Nigel Sutton.

Wednesday 22 April. 2 to 3.30pm. Please stay for a drink after the talk.

Pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Activities for Children

Easter Craft Event – Thursday 2 April 2 to 3.30pm - Parents and carers must stay with their children who remain their responsibility. £2 per child.

Pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.Library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

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. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

LEGO Club – Mondays 4 to 5.30pm. Suitable for ages 2 to 10 years. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

Children’s Games and Chess Club – Tuesdays 3.30 to 4.30pm. No need to book, just drop in to try your hand at chess or other games. Suitable for school-aged children.

Please note the library will be closed Good Friday 3 April and Easter Monday 6 April. Contact us on 0345 045 5225,

Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Mel Abbiss and Vikki Keppey, Community Librarian Assistants

Library opening hours

Monday	3pm-7pm	Friday	10am-1pm and 2-6pm
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The Travelling Companions, Augustus Leopold Egg, 1862. Birmingham Museums Trust via Unsplash.

Little Shelford Local History Society

OUR Annual General meeting will be at Little Shelford Memorial Hall on Monday 20 April at 7.30pm. Followed by a talk by Ian Beaton 'Camping Close – the mob and the mausoleum'. All welcome. **Ray Saich**

Parish Council Chair's report

THE Parish Council discussed the renewed proposal for 110 houses between Hinton Way and Mingle Lane. We will pursue a joint strategy with Great Shelford to engage a planning consultant. There are concerns about this development being on green belt land which has now been re-defined as grey belt.

Road safety issues were discussed. A recent site meeting with councillors from Shelford, Sawston and Stapleford and SCDC representatives was held at Bridge End cottage. Various suggestions for improvement were suggested and will be pursued. There is a possibility of a joint working group with Sawston Parish Council regarding cyclist and pedestrian safety on the road between Sawston and Stapleford.

The Pavilion working group is moving ahead with refurbishment of the pavilion and it is hoped that some improvements will be in place by the Stapleford Weekend in June.

The Parish Council approved a response to the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework.

The village sign is undergoing urgent repairs and it is hoped it will be back in place in early April.

The Tiger on-demand bus service was discussed. Residents are being asked for their preferences for on-demand stops in the village. This service will be a valuable addition to transport services in Stapleford. It offers journeys on demand between 'virtual stops' Monday to Saturday, 6.30am to 7pm. Cost £2 for adults, £1 for children, free with bus pass. Bookings can be made via the Tiger bus app, website or on 01480 595440. More details at transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand.

A sports and recreation advisory group has been established with a view to improving facilities in the village.

The date for the Annual Parish Meeting is 29 April at 7pm in the Jubilee Pavilion. Village groups and societies are invited to send an annual report to the clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Thursday 2 April at the Pavilion and residents are invited to attend. **Gillian Pett**

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)

Rosie Brown

Mick Davies

Matthew French

Duncan Kerr

Rebecca Trigg

Howard Kettel (V Chair)

Nel Clark

Anna Disley-Stevens

Juliet Hawksworth

Barbara Ann Kettel

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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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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