

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

August 2026

Volume 85 No 8

Price 90p

A new attraction on Magog Down



Chris Bow, Chair of the Magog Trust, (second from right) with grandchildren and great grandchildren of Joan Barnes, one of the founder members of the Trust, after the unveiling of the Direction Finder. See page 10 for full story.

Revisit the Village Weekend and Show

Pages 18 to 30



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



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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

I VISITED a clinic at 10 Argyll Street near Oxford Circus for mole mapping, and it turns out that the house is famous for another sort of mapping. It was once lived in by Major-General William Roy (1726-1790), founder of the Ordnance Survey. I love blue plaques, the ones on buildings not skin ones.



I don't think that the OS plays as big a part in the life of school children as it did back in the day. From about age 9 we had to memorise the symbols on OS one inch to a mile maps. All part of our geography lessons, in which we also learnt lots of names of cities, rivers, countries and so on. Oh, and glaciers, valleys, and volcanoes. Every time we drive across Rannoch Moor and then out through Glen Coe towards Onich I think 'U shaped valley. Glacier. Nice.' That, I think, is the extent of the usefulness of my Common Entrance geography, apart, that is, from learning the symbols on maps.

I did and do like maps. We learnt how to use a ruler and graph paper to turn the contour lines along a proposed walking route into a cross-section. It seemed almost magical at the time though the app Outdooractive now does it for me in a trice.

Back to 10 Argyll Street and Roy. He was born in Lanarkshire in Scotland, the son of an estate factor. He worked with the British army, and by 1747 was engaged in surveying and map making in the Highlands, part of the measures to control northern Scotland after the 1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie Jacobite uprising. From 1752 he began work in southern Scotland. His maps were published as the Roy Military Survey of Scotland. It helped convince the military authorities of the need for up-to-date mapping elsewhere. In 1755 he joined up himself, and took a lead in mapping southern England in preparation for an anticipated French invasion. In 1765 he was appointed Surveyor-General of the coasts and continued his military work, with his final promotion to Major-General in 1781. In 1783, with the

Royal Society and the Paris Observatory, he undertook a project to triangulate South-East England in order to standardise the longitudes calculated by the Greenwich and Paris observatories.

Inside the common parts of 10 Argyll Street is a large poster devoted to *The Argyll Street Observatory and The Great Instrument*. When Roy



lived there it was his base for the triangulation project, hence the title 'observatory'. It was never the astronomical type of observatory. The Great Instrument was a massive theodolite commissioned by him and made by Jesse Ramsden. It does not survive, but was probably about 200 pounds in weight and 6 feet high. It had to be hauled up to high points, and set perfectly level and with a perfectly vertical axis. Then the telescope was pointed to the next survey point and the precise angles measured in three dimensions. Calculate away and the exact direction between the two points could be established.



With these techniques Roy established a very precise baseline in Hounslow (really!) as the base for all subsequent triangulation, advanced instrumentation and calculation techniques, and laid the foundation for the OS and for endless streams of youngsters laboriously learning to navigate with actual maps. Vive le Roy, pointing the way, King among mappers! He joins my list of heroes.

That idea of 'the way' is a common biblical metaphor. The earliest Christians called themselves 'followers of the Way'. In St Andrew's we have read that again in our series on the early church, following St Paul's progress on his second missionary journey. The church in Antioch in Syria used that name for themselves. It probably came from Jesus' own words, later reported by St John. You likely know them if you have been to a church funeral, as they are very commonly read. Jesus is talking to his disciples in the days before his death. He tells them he is going away to his Father's house, but they are not to worry, because his Father's house has many rooms and he is going to prepare a place for them.

"But", they say, "how do we find you? We don't know where you are going."

"Yes, you do" says Jesus. "I am the way, the truth and the life."

In other words, all you need to know, the only true baseline and only true map you need, is me. That is what Jesus is saying.

Now, I have to say that if I am finding my way from, say, Melrose to Lindisfarne – how I would love to give St Cuthbert's Way another go, maybe in Winter – a map, especially the wonderful 1:25,000 series, is more immediately useful than John's gospel, wonderful though it is. Jesus is not claiming otherwise. But you and I both know that long hikes are not the only time we need the right starting point and the right direction. Nothing wrong with a bit of summer meandering in the wonderful Stapleford wildflowers,

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for sure, but if you are wondering where your life is going, come along to St Andrew's and hear what Jesus has to say about the right direction. Whatever your current starting point, you will be welcome here.

Every blessing as you choose direction this summer and beyond, **Simon**

St Andrew's Noticeboard

2 AUG	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY COMMUNION in the churchyard 1 Kings 17.7-16 <i>A Jar & A Jug</i>
3 AUG	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
9 AUG	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH in the churchyard 1 Kings 18.17-40 <i>God Sends Fire</i>
16 AUG	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION 1 Kings 18.41-46 <i>Rain</i>
20 AUG	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION
23 AUG	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE in the churchyard 1 Kings 19.1-16 <i>God Whispers</i>
30 AUG	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP & BAPTISM
6 SEPT	9 am	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 am	CW COMMUNION 1 Peter 4.7b-11; John 15.1-8 <i>Use your gifts</i>
7 SEPT	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
13 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH in the churchyard
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG

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

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

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Stapleford Messenger

Deadline for the September Messenger

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

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.

Forest fantasy

IT was a breezy day with a hint of sunshine. Cool but comfortable. Two donkeys grazed contentedly in a fenced field. The smallest came over pushing his fringed face over a hedge. Hello. Why are you here, was the implied question. Impossible to resist we teased the tangled fringe from beguiling chestnut, copper flecked eyes. What long lashes. Tufty ears inspired his name. A curious creature with a mottled beige and gingery coat. Retreating, fuss over, Tufty watched attentively. The reason became clear.



Our eyes widened and jaws dropped. Wow. Wondrous enchantment. No splendid gates, entrance, or uniformed guard. Was permission required to step into the scene? Had we stumbled on a secret shared by the donkeys? Cautiously we trod on to a lush pathway. A mossy muddle of long curls sprinkled daintily with fronds of ferns winding into the distance, gently merging with ancient trees. Fallen branches were strewn forming patterns, greening beautifully. Overhead a web of contorted shapes enhanced the canopy. Magically mysterious.

Uneven steps had been created between tree stumps, gulleys and roots. A tough, tricky track almost invisibly furrowed, yet soft, spongy and springy. We felt like trespassers on fresh pages of a novel. An adventure of woodland discovery. Could we write it? Ideas flowed. Eager explorers we strode ahead grateful for sensible, sturdy shoes. Intrigued, senses on high alert, mixed aromas wafted wonderfully. Bergamot, wild garlic, rosemary and thyme. A unique intoxicating scent. Fresh, cleansing. Bees busily buzzed rarely stopping. No flowers were evident. Surrounding us were glowing, shimmering greens. Sage, sap, spinach, holly, emerald, dragon and apple. A simple colour palette, sparkling, sun-kissed and dappled. A 3D rustic woven tapestry. Adding further fascination weighty boulders from Roman times stood tall, fused into the landscape, rocking enviable green limited edition duvets. Branches protectively arched overhead as loving arms. Tree trunks, thick, twisted and gnarled showed character and grace in age. Moss, lichen and fungi grew mini gardens of lime, peridot, crocodile and veridian in crevices. Etched bark faces happily beamed. Boundaries of truth and fiction can blur. Yet facts remain. Nature nurtures and green calms. Joyfully journeying on birds tweeted “welcome”. **Judith Lee**

Image: inland temperate rain forest © geograph.org.uk CC BY-SA 2.0 license

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Stapleford – Nachingwea Link

Thank you to Waterlilies!



CONGRATULATIONS to Helen and Alison, owners of Waterlilies, the Beauty Salon in Dolphin Way, Stapleford, as they celebrate their 20th anniversary.

To celebrate this event, they have very kindly chosen to ask their customers to donate to our Link project which has been supporting women in Nachingwea to make reusable sanitary pads both for themselves and to sell to raise money to improve their lives. These women have now offered to go into local secondary schools to train the students to make the pads. Gradually we hope that the whole community will erase period poverty and girls will be able to attend school regularly.

The Link committee is very grateful to Helen and Alison and to all who have contributed.

It has been an aim of the Link for many years to improve the education of girls and we will continue to support this but the Nachingwea Link committee has now highlighted the need for help for boys to have opportunities to develop technical skills, as, just as in England, many boys are losing interest in academic education. A new project has been suggested with the following aims:

- To equip boys with vocational training.
- Showing gender equality in action.
- Helping boys to get direct employment after training.
- Helping future fathers provide income for their families.

The Stapleford committee is now investigating how we can support this new project.

Finally, the committee is re-establishing its connection with the Britain Tanzania Society, whose aims are very similar to those of our Link. They are also a volunteer run group, which aims to increase mutual knowledge, understanding and respect between the peoples of Britain and Tanzania through the development of education, health, water and sanitation and other self-help community development activities and the promotion of gender equality. See britaintanzaniasociety.co.uk. **Link Committee**



Some of the ladies from the sanitary pad project

Direction Finder installed on Little Trees Hill



AN event to celebrate the installation of the Direction Finder was held on Saturday 20 June at Magog Down, attended by about 40 members and guests. The Magog Trust Chair, Chris Bow, welcomed everybody before unveiling the Finder, assisted by family members of Joan Barnes, one of the Trust's Founders.

The disc also commemorates the three Founders of the Trust in 1989. They were Colin Davison (Vicar of St Andrew's Church in Stapleford at the time), Christopher South

(journalist on Cambridge Evening News) and Joan Barnes (then Chair of Stapleford Parish Council).

The Direction Finder is located on Little Trees Hill, which, at 74m, is the highest point of Magog Down, part of an undulating chalk ridge to the south of Cambridge, the Gog Magog Hills.

The Direction Finder is a one metre diameter disc of Welsh black slate engraved with the locations of features normally visible from the top of the



Chris Bow, Chair of the Magog Trust, speaking at the unveiling event

hill, looking north and west. The stonework, supporting the disc, is carved from Yorkshire sandstone. The Direction Finder shows the direction of the places selected and their distance in miles is marked at the centre of the disc. The neighbouring counties are marked on the rim of the Finder. An article on the Magog Trust

website entitled '**Magog Down Vista**' describes in some detail the landmarks and features that are shown on the Direction Finder (magogtrust.org.uk/visitor-information/views-from-the-down/). We hope to reproduce this article in a future *Messenger*.

Background

The suggestion of erecting a Direction Finder with a dedication to the Founders was first suggested to a former Trust Chair, Kathleen Foreman. The current Chair, Chris Bow followed up the idea.

The Magog Trustees decided to erect a Direction Finder which would



provide a permanent record of the names of the founding members and indicate the direction and distance of villages, Cambridge buildings, and notable landmarks.

The Trust agreed to a proposal for a design and agreed that we should engage a Letter Carver and a Stonemason to help us take the project forward.

Bill French acted as project manager on behalf of the Trustees.

Pippa Westoby agreed to assist in the design and execution of the engraving.

Rob Humphreys of Atlas Stone agreed to assist with the design and the execution of the stonework.

The view from the Direction Finder (photo Keith Taylor)

The project was funded using a bequest to the Trust from the estate of Michael Bond, a long-term Trustee and former Treasurer. **Geoff Hale**

Music Moments concerts

FOLLOWING the success of our July concert, we are excited to share that the next Music Moments concert will be on Saturday 14 November from 6 to 7pm.

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

As always, the concert will have an informal, living-room vibe, with wine and nibbles to enjoy alongside the music. Entry is free, with a retiring collection to raise money for music at St Andrew's. So come and join us for another uplifting hour of music performed by local musicians! **James Buchanan-Worster**



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Mothers' Union 150th anniversary



ON 10 June, an anniversary service to celebrate 150 years since the foundation of the Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner was held in the magnificent surroundings of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Two Stapleford members attended (and fortunately we managed to find each other). There were 1600 MU members in the congregation from all around the world.

The service started with wonderful organ music (including Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E flat major) which filled the cathedral with glorious sound. The procession was preceded by MU banners from England, Scotland, Wales, the Provinces of Canterbury and York, the All-Ireland banner and those from the diocese of London and Mary Sumner house. Many clergy were in the procession, including the Primate of All Ireland, the Archbishop of Wales and the newly installed Archbishop of Canterbury, the Right Revd and Right Hon Dame Sarah Mullally. The processional hymn was 'Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided' followed by Confession and Absolution. After the choir's rendition of Mozart's 'Gloria in excelsis Deo' and the Collect, the Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow from Canada gave a personal testimony about how she approached her role. Following readings from the New Testament and the Gospel reading, the Archbishop preached a sermon on the Mothers' Union and how she admired all it has achieved in the past and its important place in the Church of England. After prayers, there was a celebration of the Eucharist for the congregation, and the service ended with the Mothers' Union hymn 'Tell Out my soul'. It was a wonderful occasion.

On Saturday 13 June, Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union held its own celebratory Garden Party in the Bishop's Garden in Ely with a special cake (see photo) and fund-raising raffles, card stall and quizzes – a very enjoyable sociable occasion with members from round the Diocese (which stretches from near Peterborough to St Neots).

More celebrations to come!

On Friday 7 August, the Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union is holding a service to celebrate the 150 years since the founding of the Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner in





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1876. It is in Ely Cathedral at 2pm and banners from around the Diocese will be paraded. The date is close to Mary Sumner Day on 9 August, the anniversary of Mary Sumner's death in 1921. It should be a good opportunity to meet up with our sister members from all over the Diocese.
Hilary Street

Stapleford WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

FOR the first time in our WI's history of which we are aware, we had to cancel our June meeting because of the extreme heat. Although we were disappointed not to meet, everyone's wellbeing had to come first, and we look forward to getting together again soon.

Even so, it has been a busy and successful time for Stapleford WI. At the Village weekend, we ran our ever-popular hoopla stall, which was a great attraction. Our colourful prizes included jam jars filled with sweets, toys and other treats, and there was plenty of fun for both children and adults. We would like to thank everyone who came along to support us and helped make the stall such a success, as well as the members, led by Christine Wylde, who coped with the intense heat and ran the stall. Regular visitors even returned their empty jars in anticipation of us running the same activity next year!



The WI Hoopla stall



All the jam jar prizes

We are now looking forward to our upcoming meetings and activities, where friendship, laughter and a warm welcome are always guaranteed. New members and visitors are always welcome to come along and see what we have to offer. At our forthcoming meeting on August 27 we have a speaker, Steve Richards, whose talk is entitled 'The BBC'. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Pavilion. We also have a website at www.staplefordwi.weebly.com or you can speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847 who will be happy to provide more information. **Joyce Dobson**

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OUR increasingly hot summers can be challenging not just for us, but also for our pets.

True heat stroke is not common, but when it does occur it can prove fatal, so it's important to keep your pets as cool as possible on hot days. Some cats and dogs are pretty good at moving out of the sun when they are overheating, others require more monitoring and prompts. Unlike us, dogs and cats do not cool down by sweating (they sweat only a little via the pads on their paws.) Cats keep cool mainly by grooming and lying on cool, shady surfaces which absorb some of the heat from their bodies. Cats only pant if they are significantly overheating. In contrast, dogs routinely pant in warmer weather, and this is their main way of cooling down. In extreme weather, we strongly advise pet owners to walk dogs' early morning and late evening only, or skip walks altogether, and encourage them to stay indoors in a cooler area of the house during the hottest part of the day. Cool fresh water should always be available, and NEVER leave any pets unattended in your car. The RSPCA have some useful information on keeping pets cool on their website rspca.org.uk.

Small furry pets also need extra care in the hot weather. Housing, both indoors and outdoors, needs to be located somewhere shady and cool. Extra water should be provided, and soiled bedding should be changed frequently to keep the flies at bay. Check the rear ends of rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens daily for signs of fly strike which can develop fast and be fatal.

Grass seeds seem to be particularly problematic this year, and we have been removing a phenomenal number from ears, eyes, noses and paws in the last few weeks. It is impossible to completely avoid them, but there are a few things you can do to reduce the risk of harm. If possible, stay clear of areas of long, dry grass. When long grass is unavoidable, check your dog's coat and ears and paws (especially between the toes) after a walk, and remove any loose seeds before they work their way in. Regular brushing also helps dislodge loose seeds, and, if your dog will allow it, keeping the fur between the toes trimmed will make seeds easier to spot. You can also buy dog snoods that cover the ears making it harder for grass seeds to enter.

As ever, if you have heat related pet concerns or questions about any other aspect of your pet's care, contact the surgery on 776773 and we will be happy to advise. **Patrick, Harriet, and all at Church Street Vets**



A village comes together



FROM magic and music to cricket, cream teas and a packed (and hot!) recreation ground, this year's Stapleford Weekend proved once again what can be achieved when a community comes together. Over four days, hundreds of residents and visitors enjoyed a programme packed with entertainment, food, family activities and the ever-popular Village Show, all made possible by an incredible team of volunteers, sponsors and local organisations.

The weekend began on Thursday afternoon with the Stapleford PTA's Magic Show, which drew families together to kick off the festivities. Children were thoroughly entertained while parents caught up over refreshments, creating a lively start to the weekend. As the evening drew in, the marquee took on a different atmosphere for a screening of *Six Inches of Soil*, bringing people together to enjoy a thought-provoking film and demonstrating that the village weekend has something to offer all ages and interests.

Friday offered a gentler pace with the ever-popular 'Putting on the Ritz' afternoon tea in the Pavilion before attention turned to one of the highlights of the social calendar – the Village Quiz. Twenty teams packed into the marquee for an evening of friendly rivalry, laughter and fish and chips, with plenty of good-natured debate over some fiendishly difficult questions. It was another fantastic evening that showcased Stapleford's competitive spirit in the best possible way. Congratulations to this year's winners 'Turtlerama' – we shall see you back next year, no doubt.

Saturday was the centrepiece of the weekend. From early morning, exhibitors, volunteers, stallholders and judges transformed the recreation ground into a bustling village festival. By lunchtime the site was alive with activity. The Village Show once again sat proudly at the heart of the day. Families enjoyed inflatables, go-karts, football games, fairground attractions and an impressive selection of local stalls, while food vendors kept everyone well fed throughout the day. The Pavilion café, bar and marquee provided a welcome place to meet friends old and new. Congrats go to the Papworth Brewery, whose beer 'Hop on a Punt' was crowned the Beer of the Weekend!

The entertainment programme kept visitors entertained throughout the afternoon and evening. Performances from the Stapleford School Choir, Royston Brass Band, samba performers from SVC, Slack MaGirdle folk dancers and live music from Ziggy Reggae and Poke ensured there was always something happening. The group singing of 'Sweet Caroline' got us in



the mood for what was to come! As darkness fell, many people stayed to enjoy coverage of the football together, rounding off another memorable Saturday.

No large community event is ever completely without hiccups, and Saturday afternoon brought one unexpected challenge when the Stapleford Weekend bar's electronic payment system failed at one of the busiest times of the day. Thanks to the quick thinking and generosity of local electrical company AcuCert, disruption was kept to an absolute minimum. Their team stepped in immediately and temporarily processed card payments on our behalf, allowing the bar to continue serving customers with barely a pause. It was a wonderful example of local businesses supporting their community, and we are enormously grateful for their help.

Sunday brought a relaxed conclusion to the weekend. The Tour de Stapleford cyclists set off in the morning before the community gathered for church in the marquee. Throughout the afternoon, families enjoyed cricket on the recreation ground alongside cream teas in the Pavilion, creating the perfect village summer atmosphere. As the sun began to set, everyone came together one final time for a free family screening of *Mamma Mia!*, bringing the weekend to a joyful close with plenty of singing along and smiles all round.

Events on this scale only happen because so many people give their time, energy and expertise. Our thanks go to every volunteer, committee member, sponsor, performer, food vendor, stallholder, judge, steward and helper who played a part in making the weekend such a success. Whether you spent months planning, baked a cake, judged a competition, poured a pint, moved tables, marshaled traffic or simply came along to enjoy yourselves, you helped create another unforgettable Stapleford Weekend.

We look forward to doing it all again next year. In the meantime, if you have any feedback about this year's Stapleford Weekend and Village Show, please do share your thoughts on this survey here: tinyurl.com/39b22hw9.
Stapleford Weekend Committee staplefordweekend@gmail.com

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Village Show



THE Village Show once again sat proudly at the heart of the weekend. Although entries were slightly lower than last year's exceptional centenary show, participation remained significantly higher than in previous years, with

89 exhibitors entering an impressive 383 exhibits. The decision to combine the Stapleford Weekend programme and the Village Show schedule into a single booklet, together with free entry to the show marquee, helped encourage visitors to explore the displays and celebrate the remarkable talents within our community.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who entered exhibits, sponsored classes, judged competitions, stewarded the marquee or helped behind the scenes. The Village Show simply could not happen without the dedication of so many volunteers.

Congratulations also go to the Paley sisters, who enjoyed outstanding success in the children's classes. Sophie won the Nick Pett Cup, while Amie won the Jessie Salter Cup, the Joan Riley Messenger Cup and the Stapleford Children's Challenge Cup. The overall Challenge Cup for the most points across all classes was awarded to Sue Rose.

We would also like to offer our sincere apologies for an error during the prize giving. The allotment plot numbers were mistakenly mixed up, resulting in the Joan Sudbury Allotment Cup being presented to the wrong recipient. The correct winner is David Shorten for plot 23. We apologise to everyone concerned for the confusion. **Stapleford Weekend Committee**



Village Show Winners

Tucker Gardner Challenge Cup	Pat Hughes
Challenge Cup (<i>Flowers</i>).....	Margaret Gilmore
Roy Burman Shield (<i>Sweet peas</i>).....	Martyn Northfield
Rosalie Bowl (<i>Roses</i>).....	Sarah Strange
Flower Show Centenary Cup.....	Margaret French
St Andrew's Millennium Trophy (<i>Flower arranging</i>).....	Clare Whitlock
Home Produce Cup.....	Julie French
Cambridge Building Society Cup (<i>Crafts</i>).....	Kay Coe
Mary Ward Cup (<i>Children - Baking</i>).....	Amelie Mack
Jessie Salter Cup (<i>Children - Art</i>).....	Amie Paley
Joan Riley Messenger Cup (<i>Children - Photography</i>).....	Amie Paley
Marion's Cup (<i>Children - Flowers</i>).....	Emily Warth
The Nick Pett Cup.....	Sophie Paley
The Stapleford Children's Challenge Cup (<i>Most points overall</i>).....	Amie Paley
Rickett Cup (<i>Front Gardens</i>).....	Martin Fabb
Joan Sudbury Allotment Cup.....	David Shorten
Stapleford Show Photography Award (<i>Best photo in Show</i>)	Patrick McCabe
The Stapleford Cup (<i>Personal Choice</i>).....	Kathleen Foreman
Challenge Cup (<i>Most points in all classes</i>).....	Sue Rose



Puzzle Corner

Road, Close and Street anagrams 2

Rearrange the letters to give a new word, for example:

SETROAD → roasted

RAYCLOSE → coarsely

DUNSTREET → entrusted

In some cases there is an extra clue

GINROAD

(loving)

TAPROAD

(connector)

NOTROAD

(twister)

CONROAD

(thistle)

AIRCLOSE

PALCLOSE

(fold)

FARCLOSE

(outside)

BAPCLOSE

TIPSTREET

SINSTREET

(hobbies)

VIESTREET

(cloth)

JAWSTREET

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 43

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Stapleford Strollers walk 149

Round The Sampfords: a walk from Great Sampford

To get to start of walk

DRIVE to Saffron Walden, turn left at the traffic lights and keep ahead past Tesco on the B1053. Drive on through Swards End and Radwinter. Turn right just after Radwinter village, still on the B1053 to reach Great Sampford. Bear left just after the church for Finchingfield and Great Bardfield) and park on the roadside near to The Red Lion (CB10 2RL).

Distance of walk

Just under 3½ miles; a nice, shortish stroll in scenic countryside and is worth the drive to get there and back. It can easily be extended (see route map). This is a well-known route, but can and does get muddy underfoot in places in winter.

OS map

OS Explorer map 195. You can make use of one of several map apps on your smart phone if you have one, print off a free map extract from the-hug.net or use the route map provided.

Extra information

The name Sampford is derived from 'sandy ford' in Old English. The River Pant, more of a stream when it passes the Sampfords, still offers a ford of sorts. The Red Lion at Great Sampford does excellent food.

Great and Little Sampford are part of one parish although there are still two churches. The church in Great Sampford, St Michael The Archangel, is said to have been built by the Roman Catholic military order, the Knights Hospitallers. There is also a Baptist Chapel in Great Sampford. Both churches should be open to visitors from about 9am-4pm but this is not always the case.

Route of walk

Start from The Red Lion in Great Sampford and, with your back to the pub, go left along the pavement. After passing the Primary School and the old Village Hall, follow the road as it swings sharp right, heading for Finchingfield. Keep to the right hand verge and shortly after the turn, cross over and go left through a metal gate on a path (signed) with a hedge to the left, which leads to a cropped field. The hedge remains to the left and the path carries on into a second field. The path goes slightly uphill and swings right in the second field, eventually meeting a lane.



Directly across the lane is another path. Take this, crossing another cropped field. Walk beneath overhead wires and, when a path junction is reached, turn right. This follows a field ditch which is then crossed to the left by a footbridge. After going over the bridge keep on the path, still walking through cropped fields until, on the left, the path meets a lane. Ignore another path heading right at this point and walk along the lane, to the right. Keep on the lane until it reaches Finchingfield Road. At this point go left and then, shortly afterwards, cross over and go right, into another lane (Hall Lane).

The road goes uphill and at the top on the left is Little Sampford Parish Church. Immediately after the church is a road junction. Go right and then, very soon after, go right again at the first tarmaced entrance to the right. An unsigned footpath that takes you through Little Sampford Hall farmyard.

When this is passed and, after a metal gate, go right crossing a stile and head across a cropped field. At the end of this field is another stile, which leads into a meadow. Carry on ahead, aiming for a stile and gate next to a stream (actually the River Pant).

Cross over via a footbridge and go ahead through yet another cropped field. Head to left of the trees ahead (known as Millfield Plantation) and follow the path into one more pasture. Cross this, heading for a stile. The River Pant is now directly to the left and the path more or less follows it although the river does meander but the path doesn't! The path does swing slightly right and follows the edge of a field. You need to look out for a gap in the hedge on the left because that's the way the route goes. Ignore the path going right at this point.

After this, a footbridge over the river will soon be seen on the left. Ignore it and continue ahead. Soon, however, the path you are on crosses its own footbridge and then a stile, taking you into the next pasture. Keep following the path along the field edge, pass under overhead wires and then go left through the hedge. Now walk away from the river on the path that follows the line of telegraph wires across the field ahead, to a narrow footway between houses. This exits into a cul-de-sac and The Red Lion is directly ahead. **David Barnes**

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

Thank you from Stapleford Tennis Club



THE Stapleford Tennis Club is very grateful to the Messenger Fund for the recent donation of £300. This will be used to purchase LTA-approved pressurised tennis balls enabling us to compete on a level playing field with surrounding clubs and to host higher standard home

fixtures. After many years without a competitive presence, STC is working hard to re-establish league teams. The club is currently entering women's, men's and mixed doubles teams in the local LTA league, and also in BHL (Business House League) which is a small, competitive doubles tennis league for local companies and villages in and around Cambridgeshire. We have also improved the the screening of the LED lights and the windbreak.

If you are interested in playing tennis and would like to join our friendly club please take a look at clubspark.lta.org.uk/StaplefordTennisClub for details of how to sign up - all are very welcome. **Elizabeth Halliday**



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The T3 bus runs from Grantchester to Fulbourn and is one of several routes subsidised by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. The Tiger buses fill gaps in the normal commercial networks to provide connections between towns, villages and employment hubs.

Funding is assured until March 2027, but it is at risk if the routes are not sufficiently used. A local bus user recently spoke to a driver who said that if the passenger trend is not upward then it is likely that the service will be categorised as “tried and underused”, then discontinued.

Although the T3 route doesn't go directly into town, it connects to the Trumpington Park and Ride bus for a direct route into central Cambridge.

Destinations:

Addenbrooke's bus station.

Babraham Road Park and Ride, and the Arthur Rank Hospice.

Shelford Railway Station.

Great Shelford Library, and Deli, a short walk away.

Great Shelford Post Office.

Scotsdales Garden Centre and cafe (the bus takes 50 minutes to return).

In order to keep this service going, we need to show it is needed and used. Outside of morning and afternoon rush hours, often it is empty. It would be a great shame if we lost this service through lack of use.

Remember that people under 25 can travel for £1 on buses anywhere in the county with a Tiger pass.

You can find the timetable online at bustimes.org/services/t3-grantchester-fulbourn **Debs Wiley**

Cambridge Cake Creators

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For more information contact:

Vanda 561053 or vanda.butler@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Plan

SCDC Planning Committee rejects outline planning application for land behind Mingle Lane



I WRITE this fresh from speaking at SCDC's Planning Committee meeting at Cambourne against Nightingale Land and Hill Group's outline planning application. An outline planning application tests the principle of developing at a particular site; a number of 'reserved matters' are excluded from the outline planning application but must be approved before work begins.

For those not in the know, the proposal was for up to 110 homes on greenbelt arable land north of Mingle Lane and east of Hinton Way. The site spans the boundary between the parishes of Stapleford and Great Shelford, with around 70% of the homes on the Stapleford side of that boundary. Vehicular access would be from Mingle Lane, with an additional pedestrian route from Hinton Way. Half of the proposed homes would be affordable, and a small play area would be built. The development would result in a net loss in biodiversity and the plan was to mitigate that with off-site biodiversity credits. This is usually done by planting trees at the District Council's farm at Fulbourn.

Large planning applications are reviewed like this: the District Council's Planning Officer collates submitted comments from all interested parties, including the applicant, and reviews all relevant points against national and local planning policies. These are the National Planning Policy Framework, the adopted Local Plan, and in our case the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan. The phrase 'relevant points' is important here because it is very common – and totally understandable – for people unfamiliar with the planning system to comment on matters which are of the utmost importance to them but of no bearing in planning decisions. The Planning Officer then balances the pros and cons of the proposal before justifying their decision to either approve or reject it; all this is made transparent in a report. At the Planning Committee meeting, parties supporting or objecting to the application who wish to speak are given a few minutes each to verbalise their arguments, summarising their detailed written comments. These arguments and the Planning Officer's report are debated by the Planning Committee before individual councillors vote on the proposal.

Local resident Nick Campbell spoke against the proposal, as did I (as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group) and Councillor Barbara

Kettel (on behalf of both Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils). Our two Liberal Democrat district councillors submitted a written statement objecting to the proposal. An agent from Carter Jonas spoke in support of the application.

Having listened to and reviewed all the evidence, the Planning Committee unanimously rejected the application on three main counts:

1. Inappropriate development within the greenbelt.
2. Development outside of the villages' development framework would permanently erode the openness of the countryside.

3. Irreversible loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.

There was initially a fourth reason for rejection relating to the archaeological survey, but a last-minute submission of new data by the applicant removed this concern.

For those following this case in more detail – or perhaps wondering whether this outcome might help them to respond to an outline planning application to develop arable land by Shelford Rugby Club – a few more details might be of value:

- The site was considered to be grey belt land, but greenbelt policy tests still apply. Exceptional circumstances to justify its release from the greenbelt did not exist, notably that the local authority has more than a 5 year housing land supply plus buffer. Look up paragraph 155b of the NPPF if you're interested!

- The Planning Committee did not consider the 50% affordable homes to be a sweetener, commenting that this was only 10% more than is mandatory. Note here that although our Neighbourhood Plan is vocal on the need for more affordable housing in our parishes, this need does not override the figures for the wider Local Plan area.

- Although site accessibility is good including its proximity to Shelford Station, this is not enough to override other considerations.

- Central East Integrated Care Board requested £120k of S106 funds from the development due to insufficient primary care capacity in the local area.

- The applicant succeeded in reducing the land's agricultural classification from grade 2 to 3a following tests, although grade 3a soil still falls within the 'best and most versatile' category .

So, what happens next? I expect the applicants and their agent to appeal the Planning Committee's decision. The arguments against development won't change, but other factors will. In the applicant's favour will be their prior expertise in taking this course of action, their deep, deep pockets to fund it (relative to the District Council's shallow, shallow ones), and



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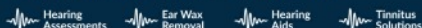
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imminent changes to the NPPF so that housebuilding near well-connected train stations will receive a default 'yes' if they meet certain rules.

Planning is a moving target – policies change, development pressures shift, and today's decisions help to shape tomorrow's community. We are in this for the long run. **Jenny Flynn** Chair, Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

2G3S



COOLING our homes – we held a very timely event in July to Beat the Heat. If you missed it you would have got tips on the best ways to use shading (blinds, curtains with reflective linings, an awning, or more high-tech solutions), ventilation, fans, insulation, and had the opportunity to see various products. It's worth looking at ways to avoid being tempted into buying air conditioning

– which just adds to your electricity bill and to the climate crisis. If you are tempted, put in solar panels to generate the energy to run it without taking electricity from the grid – you'll even be able to put energy into the grid and recoup your installation costs.

Regenerative farming – at Stapleford Village Weekend we showed the film 'Six Inches of Soil', featuring three farmers/producers. The film was made in 2022 but there are recent updates of their progress on Youtube. One producer was a local vegetable and salads grower, one kept beef cows in Cornwall, and one was an arable farmer. They all wanted to improve their soil and amend their farming methods, to become more sustainable. The first has worked hard to cultivate the soil, adding lots of compost, and she sells locally (including to Cambridge Organic who deliver veg and fruit boxes), so she has built up a loyal following. The second allows his cows, the traditional breed Belted Galloways, to graze outside all year round, and then rests the field before using it again. This way the number of different flowers and grasses has really built up, and the cows bring in insects, so he is seeing red-listed birds on his farm. Again, he sells locally, and chefs and the public speak very highly of the quality of his beef. He has introduced pigs in a small way, and has chickens. He obviously loves his animals and farming, and involves his family in it so they all share his efforts to farm sustainably. The arable farmer is slowly taking on board regenerative practices, such as leaving wider field edges, which means more insects, which will eat the pests that would feed on the crop. She puts sheep onto the fields after

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harvest to clean up and to fertilise the soil, and is beginning to produce beautiful lamb. She has reduced the amount of fertiliser and pesticides used without losing yield. All three are making a living, producing plenty of good food, and are proud because they know they are improving their land.

Book group – the next meeting is on 18 August at the Three Horseshoes in Stapleford at 8pm. The book is local author Robert Macfarlane's 'The Wild Places'. No need to have read the book, come and enjoy the discussion and meet some interesting people.

Repair café – the next one of these will be on Saturday 19 September at Great Shelford Free Church from 2pm to 5pm. To book a slot go on the CCF (Cambridge Carbon Footprint) website from 3 August. Our repairers can mend all sorts of things, or at least will be able to tell you if an item can be repaired or not. And there's always tea and cake! And all for a small donation. If you can't make this one, there will be one in Sawston on 21 November.

Don't forget **Dr Bike** continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. It is also now running sessions on the last Saturday of every month, same time as on Tuesdays. For more information and to book a slot, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com. You can donate by card as well as by cash.

Enjoy these long summer evenings on your bike, and enjoy school holiday cycle rides! Bring your children with their bikes to get prepared for the commute to SVC in September, or if they've recently done their Bikeability course. Children can learn simple necessary maintenance jobs from the volunteers.

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**

Puzzle Corner Answers

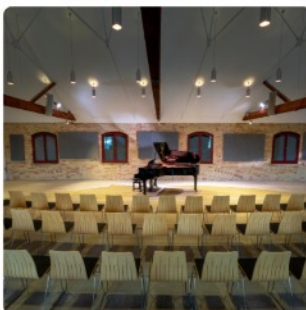
Road, Close and Street anagrams 2

ADORING, ADAPTOR, TORNADO, CARDOON
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PRETTIEST, INTERESTS, SERVIETTE, WATERJETS



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Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

Summer Super Draw for hospice care

MAKE this summer even brighter by taking part in the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Summer Super Draw. With fantastic cash prizes up for grabs, it's a fun and easy way to support the compassionate care they provide every day at the Charity. Each ticket costs just £2 and every one you buy helps them support patients and their families with comfort, dignity and specialist care when it matters most. Join in (before Friday 28 August). You can play online by visiting arhc.org.uk/raffle or call 01223 675888 for paper tickets.



Grief Kind Space bereavement support

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity hosts a 'Grief Kind Space' bereavement support group every Friday from 10am to midday in their Bistro. This is for for anyone who would like to talk to someone about grief and meet others in similar situations. More at arhc.org.uk/griefkind or phone 01223 675777.
Virginia Goode

Magog Down Vacancy

Part-time Ranger's assistant



MANY readers will already know that The Magog Trust operates the Magog Down countryside park and, next year, expects to open a new one on Chalk Hill Down, adjacent to the Strawberry Fields retirement village in Stapleford.

The Trustees are looking to recruit an individual who is interested in environmental issues, is keen to help the Trust's work of conservation and enjoys working in the open air.

This will be a part-time role – initially 8 hours per week – which will entail maintenance work on both Chalk Hill and Magog Downs, including scrub and weed control, pruning, emptying dog bins and other ad hoc duties. There will be ample opportunity to develop a greater understanding of nature conservation under the expert guidance of our experienced rangers.

If you are interested in applying for and/or learning more about the role, please contact Claire Beale on 07917 097041 or email admin@magogtrust.org.uk. Closing date 14 August. **Claire Beale**

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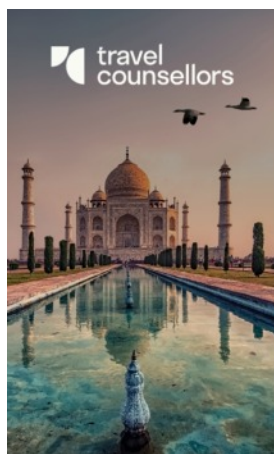
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Rainbow Playgroup at Shelford School

THE planning permission for the Rainbow building expires in 2029.

The local authority intends to apply for funding for permanent accommodation. It is seeking the views of the community via this survey: yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk search for survey 260608.

Please could you complete the survey to enable the valuable work of Rainbow to continue. Thank you. **Polly Stanton**

Magog Singers



IT WAS a hot afternoon when our faithful audience assembled in the Pavilion to hear the Magog Singers' end of term concert under the direction of John Clenaghan, with Brian Watkins accompanying. The programme was varied, covering a medley from South Pacific, Steal Away,

I Believe I Can Fly, Blessed Be the God and Father and ending with Goodnight Sweetheart. Some of the pieces were arranged by John.

A retiring collection was taken in aid of Reach Community Project. Helena Burley, Fund Raiser for the project wrote "Thank you and your wonderful assembly for your generosity, kindness and support. You raised a huge £207.27 towards our work with the food bank, debt & benefit support, financial education and cookery classes. This was an unexpected donation and very gratefully received, thank you."

Magog Singers new term starts on 15 September at 2pm in the Pavilion. If you are interested in joining, please contact kathleenforeman047@gmail.com **Kathleen Foreman**

Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
4 August			✓
11 August	✓	✓	
18 August			✓
25 August	✓	✓	
1 September			✓



Cambridge Flower Club Open Meeting



Demonstration by
NAFAS National Demonstrator
David Thomson

*'Nature's
Palette'*

Thursday 20th August 2026

Doors open at **6.15pm** for a finger buffet and drink,
plus stalls & raffle • Demonstration starts at **7.15pm**

Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Mill Lane, Whittlesford, CB22 4NE

Tickets cost £25 (£18 for Members)
available from Alison Drake – phone 01223 840117

Great Shelford Library

THE summer reading challenge for children continues: it is not too late to sign up. Just pop into the library to get started on collecting your 6 stickers. Read just six books during the holidays to collect a certificate and medal. We have four lovely events on during August to support the summer reading challenge.

Musical lego – Thursday 6 August, 2 to 3pm, £2 per child

Come and make musical instruments out of LEGO, Suitable for ages 4 to 10, £2 per child.

Karaoke and microphone craft - Wednesday 12 August, 2 to 3pm, £2 per child

Sing or rap to the beat with your very own microphone. Suitable for ages 4-10.

Musical gardens – Thursday 20 August 2 to 3pm, £2 per child.

Come and create a musical garden. Suitable for ages 4 to 10.

Magic show – Thursday 27 August 2 to 3.30pm, £5 per child.

Come and join Magician Steve for magic, mayhem and laughs galore. Suitable for ages 4 to 10.

Parents and carers, please stay with your children during events.

For all children's events please, pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Regular Activities during August

Art club - Every Saturday morning 10.30am to 12noon. Suitable for ages 4-10. Drop in event. £2 donation. Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.

Craft and chat – For Adults - Every Friday morning 10.30am to 12pm. No need to book.

Tea and games – For Adults - Every Friday afternoon 2 to 3.30pm. No need to book.

Mel Abbiss and Vikki Keppey, Community Librarian Assistants

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

THE Council has strongly objected to a proposal to fell two mature beech trees on Gog Magog Way that are protected by a Tree Preservation Order. Councillors felt the reasons given for their removal were not sufficient and will continue to support the protection of valuable trees that contribute to Stapleford's character and environment.

Efforts to improve road safety remain a priority. Stapleford and Sawston Parish Councils will attend a site meeting to identify a suitable location for a gateway on the A1301. Village gateways reinforce speed awareness and create a sense of arrival into the village.

The Pavilion Advisory Group is continuing to look at future improvements to the Jubilee Pavilion. Meanwhile broken and misted windows have been repaired and a new mirror installed. A fire risk assessment will ensure that the Pavilion remains safe.

Readers may soon see additional football goals available on the recreation ground. The Council has agreed to fund for new football goals for informal play and community sport. This is part of our work to ensure local sports facilities remain accessible and attractive for people of all ages.

Councillors praised the success of this year's Stapleford Weekend and thanked the many volunteers, sponsors and organisers who helped make the event happen. They were grateful for local support that helped the event run smoothly. The lessons learned will be reviewed as planning begins for the 2027 weekend.

The Council has approved a £3,000 grant for SSYI which provides activities and support for local young people.

More positive comments were received on wildflower areas in Stapleford Cemetery. These have beautified the cemetery and improved biodiversity. Residents have also provided encouraging feedback about the wider environmental improvements taking place around the village.

The Sustainability Advisory Group reported that it is exploring a range of future projects to support environmental sustainability and biodiversity within the parish.

While protecting significant trees the Council takes tree safety seriously. A beech tree near the multi-use games area on Haverhill Road will be temporarily roped off to prevent people from walking underneath it while its condition is monitored.

The next meeting of Stapleford Parish Council will take place on 6 August. Future meetings are also scheduled for 10 September and 8 October. More at www.staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk. **Howard Kettel**

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Howard Kettel (Chair)

Rosie Brown

Mick Davies

Matthew French

Duncan Kerr

Gillian Pett

Rebecca Trigg (Vice 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

Farhan Hussain

cllr.hussain@scambs.gov.uk

Mark Lunn

cllr.lunn@scambs.gov.uk

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

peter.fane@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

843861 / 07802 256 861

Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

Laurence.Damary-Homan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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



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