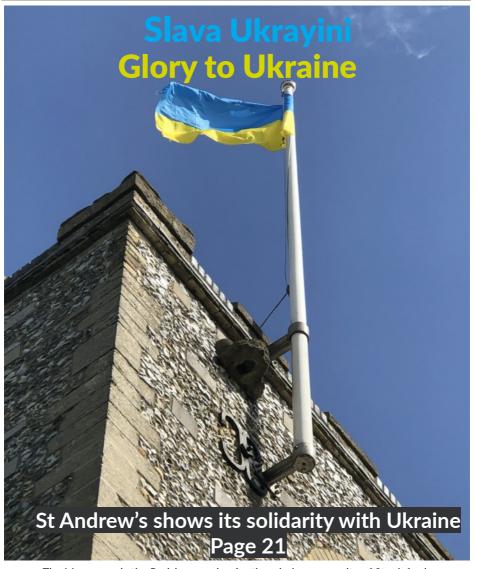
# Stapleford Ne Nuntium Necare! MESSENGER

May 2022 Volume 81 No 5 Price 60p



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# Who's who at St Andrew's

#### www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish priest

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Curate

Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

Churchwardens

Alastair MacGregor

07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Youthworker

Zoe Clayton 894656

Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 264246

**Director of Music** 

John Bryden 07803 706847

**PCC** secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Verger

Clare Kerr 842984

Sacristan

Peter Green 500404

Captain of bellringers

Tony Smith 843379

Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366 Liz Hodgkins 01638 570060

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union

Hilary Street 840548

Johnson Memorial Hall

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Friends of St Andrew's

Tony Hore 843796

#### SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

See the St Andrew's Noticeboard for this month, and the church website at standrewstapleford.org for full

details. The services include:

9am BCP or CW Communion

10.30am Communions, Services of the Word, Messy

Church and Forest Church

#### SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

Sundays 8.45am and 11.15am

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

#### **Christenings and Weddings**

Christenings take place during Sunday worship.

For both Christenings and Weddings, contact the

parish priest.

#### Stapleford MESSENGER

Editor

Contact staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

Advertising

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The subscription for the Stapleford MESSENGER delivered to your home is £6 per annum (£16 by post): single copies 60p. More information: Valerie Powell, Distribution Officer on 843415 or vaz@fairshares.co.uk.

# From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

WHEN you were at school did you sing the song *Shadrach*, *Meshach and Abednego*? We did. My junior school's choir was drilled by a music teacher who had served in the Guards, I think. I remember his fury if we did not stand up straight and stock still while performing, and him telling us the Guards' tip for not fainting – just lift your heels in your shoes, one side then the other without moving your body. I



have no idea if it works, but we all did it and none of us fainted. The songs we sang included Shadrach et al, *Old Abram Brown is Dead and Gone*, *Early One Morning*, and lots of other old favourites.

I was reminded of the Shadrach song when I came across a YouTube video of Louis Armstrong singing it in the 1950s. Fantastic stuff. And there is an earlier version on there from 1939, by Larry Clinton and his orchestra which is a gem.

The account of S, M & A is found in the book of Daniel in the bible. They were three young men exiled with the Jewish people in Babylon after the invasion of Judah, pressed into service in the Babylonian court. Nebuchadnezzar was king. These young men had, so we are told, great aptitude for learning, were well-informed and quick to understand. In time they were appointed administrators over the province of Babylon itself. Their problems started when the king set up a huge golden statue, an idol, and commanded everyone to worship it. S, M & A refused. They worshipped Jehovah, the God of Israel. So – this is the bit you might remember even if you don't remember the rest of it – Nebuchadnezzar decided to have them thrown in a furnace unless they gave in. "Then" he said "what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"

Their response is one of my favourite passages in the whole bible: "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it. But even if He does not, we want you to know, your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

They were thrown in and God did rescue them. Nebuchadnezzar saw them walking around inside the fire with a fourth man, and when the three of them were brought out 'not a hair of their heads was singed.'

Their faith was amazing and humbling. As Louis sang: "The children of Israel would not bow down! You couldn't fool 'em with a golden idol."

The news this month continues to be of a people who will not bow down to tyranny. Kyiv and the northern parts of Ukraine have seen the

retreat of Russian forces, expected to reappear soon in the east of the country. The liberation of the towns to the north, west and east of Kyiv that had been occupied has revealed Russian atrocities. There has been lots of news before about bombing of civilians, including what looks like targeting of hospitals and other manifestly non-military targets. That was awful enough. But the horror of those long-range atrocities has been exceeded now by the evidence of the torture, rape and murder of civilians, both one by one and en masse. And now, after the widespread condemnation of those killings, there are reports that the Russian mobile crematoriums, previously thought to have been used to disguise their own battlefield casualties, are being moved to Mariupol in the south to burn the bodies of thousands of slaughtered civilians.

The response of NATO and western countries is to scrabble around for any remaining bits of the Russian economy that can be sanctioned. I dare say some will be found and big announcements made, but I wonder whether the occupants of Odesa, nervously waiting for the Russian onslaught, will think this adequate protection? Or those in the dozens of towns and villages in Luhansk and Donetsk, the territories the Russians have promised to 'liberate'? As I wrote last month, the time is coming – has come now I think – when nations concerned with freedom and justice should be thinking about just wars and maybe deciding to help more directly. Sanctions are right, and equipment is no doubt useful. But can we continue to stand by in the face of widespread torture, rape and murder?

In the meantime, what can we ourselves do? Help with the refugee crisis, of course, directly or financially. And – something I have not done before – I offer you a prayer list. Now may be the time to pray even if you do not usually do so.

- Pray for all concerned to have the courage and faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that they would not give way to evil.
- Pray for wicked minds to be changed, and for those who remain unrepentant to be struck down.
- Pray for Russian service personnel to have the courage to disobey evil orders.
- Pray for protection for Ukrainian forces, and that they would not succumb to the temptation to commit atrocities themselves.
- Pray for wisdom and courage for western leaders that they would oppose evil wholeheartedly.
  - And, above all, pray for peace.

May the peace of God be with you all, Simon

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

1 MAY 9 AM BCP COMMUNION 10 30 AM CW COMMUNION Genesis 2.4-25: John 21.1-19 The heavens & the earth FOREST CHURCH BAPTISM 10.30 AM 6 PM **CHORAL EVENSONG** Isaiah 38.9-20: John 11.27-44 8 MAY 9 AM **BCP COMMUNION** 10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP Genesis 3.1-24; John 8.31-36 I was afraid 15 MAY 9 AM SUNG CW COMMUNION 10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP Genesis 4.1-25: John 3.9-18 Am I my brother's keeper 10.30 AM MESSY FOREST CHURCH 9 AM **BCP COMMUNION 22 MAY** 10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP Genesis 5.1-4, 6.5-14, 17-22; 1 John 4.1-6 The Lord regretted 29 MAY **BCP COMMUNION** 9 AM 10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP Genesis 11.1-11. 27b-31: Romans 8.12-17 Let's build

5 June 9 AM BCP COMMUNION

10.30 AM ALL AGE OUTDOOR COMMUNION

5 PM MARQUEE SERVICE AT VILLAGE WEEKEND

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

# **Correction to April Messenger**

UNFORTUNATELY the email address given for Walks and Whiskers in the article last month was wrong, it should read WalksWhiskers@outlook.com.

Apologies for the error. Messenger Team

# THE STAPLEFORD-NACHINGWEA LINK invites you to a BANK HOLIDAY LUNCH In STAPLEFORD PAVILION On MONDAY 2 May - 12 noon to 2pm Plus tombola, sale of produce, book stall

Donations welcome for uniforms and shoes for Special Needs children and ongoing projects in Nachingwea.

Stapleford



# **Deadline for the JUNE Messenger**

Please submit copy NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 13 MAY

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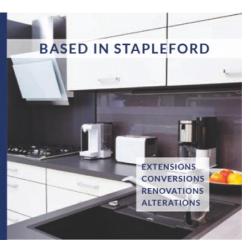
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# From above

LAST month I stood on a step ladder to take a photograph of the St Andrew's daffodil cross. Best from above, I considered. As a youngster I explored our family roof space. Legs swung over the opening, worrying my mother. I was growing up, being trusted and having responsibility. The stair treads were mountains. I was an adventurer.

For a special birthday I had a gift of a hot air balloon flight. Burners made gentle breaths over rolling landscape; fields a patchwork quilt. We came to an unscheduled halt amongst surprised cows. Higher up aeroplane travel excited. Flying through lightning strikes is a rare spectacle of extraordinary beauty. Peeping between storms to mountains has a dreamlike quality. Flying over banks of foamy, wispy white clouds is tranquil. We have seen seaplanes land in soft swirls of water. Once a helicopter left from a landing pad resembling a child's trampoline. Wow.

On ferry crossings the sea has new depths, great power and might. Spray, froth, 'white horses', billowing, rolling. Intensity magnified. Rope bridges crossing 'boiling wild water' shows raw nature and danger.

Space is viewed differently from above. In cities, roads twist and turn, ribbon-like, under bridges, circling roundabouts, reaching far into the distance. Signs: straight ahead, cul-de-sac, one way, diversion, road closed, beware. Life is full of potholes needing negotiation. Tracks seem less significant but need exploring avoiding boulders, roots and ruts. Perhaps no path exists, a new trail needed. Motorways are meant for quick travel or patient queuing. We viewed such scenes from high rise buildings. Scary on balconies where wind buffeted making insecurity. Light illuminated and polluted. The neons seemed like a stage set for a West End show. The Thames and London iconic landmarks are wonderful from the Eye. People are dots, no personality or character. What would we discover if we got close?

Raised bird hides got us stunning sights. Once distinctive pale coloured Konik horses plus foal grazed near by. A kingfisher hungrily ate and preened plumage of shimmering cobalts, coral and aqua.

To end must be Ely Cathedral. Peering from the Octagon's decorated doors was awe inspiring. Exuberant golds of the High Altar one way, heavy wooden West door of welcome the other. A testament of expert skilled builders and stone masons. Humbling achievement and history. On the roof proportions exceed expectations. From there and the tower the 'Ship of the Fens' seems to offer Ely and the diocese one big hug. **Judith Lee** 

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# **Mothers' Union**



STAPLEFORD Branch has a meeting on 26 May, called 'Treasured Possessions'. Members are invited to bring along something that means

a lot to them and tell the Branch about it and why it is a treasure. Usual time: 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall.

Please could members also bring to that meeting items for the Raffle basket for the MU stall at the Village Show on 4 June. The basket will celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, so we'd like items that are 'By Royal Appointment' – any foodstuffs or other goods that are supplied to the Queen would be suitable. **Hilary Street** 

# Stapleford-Nachingwea Link



PLEASE come along to visit the Stapleford- Nachingwea Link stall at the Village Weekend on 4 June.

We'll be pleased to tell you about our work with our friends and colleagues in Nachingwea and show you where and how your generous donations are used.

We look forward to seeing you.

Readers with long memories will recall that in November 2016 we published the story of Judy – a pure bred English Pointer, born in 1936 in Shanghai, China.

She had an extraordinary life, marked by disaster, extreme courage and faithfulness. She was the only animal officially recognised as a prisoner of war, was awarded the Dickin Medal - the 'animal VC'- and now lies in a grave in Nachingwea, Tanzania.

By publishing the original article it was hoped to raise funds to restore

Judy's grave, which had fallen into a state of disrepair.

Following the appearance of this article and a subsequent appeal the grave was restored by our friends in Nachingwea.

The full article, now updated, can be found on the St Andrew's website on the Nachingwea Link news page (look under the Community tab). **Trish Maude** 





# **Stapleford WI**



ON the official website of the National Federation of the WI the following guidance and rules can be found: "WIs must hold at least 11 meetings a year, each with a different topic or theme. These are listed in the WI's programme of events. After discussing official business, including updates

from the regional and national level of the organisation, members will often take part in an activity or hear from one or more speakers. Activities can range from arts and crafts, cookery and fitness tasters, to games, quizzes and campaigning efforts. Speakers may include inspirational members, figures from the local community, authors, activists and even celebrities. WIs also often organise for a refreshment break that give you time to catch up with your friends and get to know new members. Many WIs even hold fun competitions or raffles to raise funds in this time."

Here at Stapleford WI we take pleasure in aiming to provide as wide and varied a programme as possible. Naturally these rules were relaxed during the pandemic but at our last meeting, when we held our AGM, it was gratifying to hear in the Annual Report from the committee how much we had still achieved. The President, Liz Hodgkins, and her committee had considered it important to maintain lots of contact with our members and offer support where needed during the lockdowns and postponement of face-to-face meetings. During those months members had received a monthly newsletter from our President, were sent regular quizzes, and speaker evenings still took place using Zoom. We enjoyed socially distanced outdoor coffee mornings until September when we celebrated our centenary with a wonderful indoor, face-to-face dinner. Since then we have continued following our programme on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Pavilion.

In her annual address to members the President thanked the committee for their work and members for their help, encouragement and support. Following the adoption of the reports an election for President was held and Liz Hodgkins was returned for another year. The evening concluded with refreshments and a social time, which were very much enjoyed by all.

A full programme of events is planned for the coming year and these include speakers, social events, walks and our regular book group and craft group meetings. We certainly do our best to follow the guidance outlined above! For more information please contact Sallie Dixon on 843847. You may attend a meeting as a visitor where you can be assured of a warm, friendly welcome. See also staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson** 

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# STAPLEFORD GRANARY

# MAY



#### Tori Freestone & Alcyona Mick

Sunday 1 May | 12pm Eclectic, engaging jazz for saxophone & piano

#### Siobhan Miller Band

Friday 6 May | 7:45pm Celebrated Scottish folk singer & songwriter

#### Annemarie Federle & **Dafydd Chapman**

Sunday 8 May | 12pm Beethoven & Strauss for French horn & piano

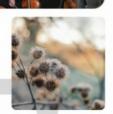
#### Adrian Bradbury & Andrew West

Sunday 15th May | 12pm Piatti's operatic fantasies for cello & piano



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Friday 20 May | 7:45pm Beethoven & Robert Simpson

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Friday 27 May | 7:45pm Old Gaelic songs & fiddle tunes for harp

#### Zoe Francis Blue Town Trio

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# **Cambridgeshire Customs**

#### A talk by Dr. Maureen James



DR Maureen James explained that the year was marked by a series of festivals although some celebrations could be held at any time of the year. Plough Monday marked the beginning of the agricultural year in early January and in the days when families leased small areas of land they shared equipment. The village plough

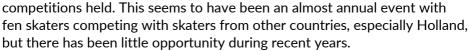
would be taken into the church to be blessed and would then be taken round the streets with men and boys collecting money for its upkeep. This tradition has been revived in some villages such as Ramsey where the men dress up in traditional farm labourers clothes.

Customs which involved boys collecting money tended to die out after the 1908 Children's Act which was intended to stop begging and became known as 'The Cadging Act'.

Dancing often followed the customs and a particular variation in Mepal was the Molly Dancing where the Molly was in fact a man dressed

the Molly was in fact a man dressed in women's clothes. This custom has recently been revived.

As the year progressed rain flooded the fen fields, the water froze and ice skates were donned with



Valentine's Day had many customs and variations and if the sun shone, folklore said it was time to set the eel traps. Sometimes the young men would place a vase of mayflowers on the window sill of their sweetheart unless they had fallen out with one another and then they would leave thorny blackthorn .

Mothering Sunday was the day everyone visited their mother taking flowers sometimes made into garlands and is still upheld.

May Day is internationally famous when people went into the fields to gather flowers to make garlands or, in this area balls of cowslips were made. Reach Fair, first held in 1201, was one of the most famous in England with the sale of produce, entertainment and dancing lasting three days. In over



800 years it has been cancelled only four times: twice during the Civil War and twice during the Covid pandemic.

As spring turned to summer many feasts, village shows and street parties were held followed by harvest festivals. Before the introduction of the NHS in 1947, many villages held Hospital Sundays when money was collected to pay for the hospitals and treatment. With the coming of the railways days at the seaside became popular with Cambridgeshire people travelling to Hunstanton, in particular.

Stourbridge Fair first held in 1199, two years older than Reach Fair, became one of the biggest in Europe with traders reaching Cambridge by travelling down the Cam and the lodes. The arrival of canals and then the railways caused its decline and the final fair was held in 1933.

Hobby Lanterns were made from mangold wurzels which were carved into gruesome faces to be placed in windows to ward off evil spirits. Today pumpkins carry on this tradition.

The celebrations during December and the New Year were universally popular as they are today and they completed the year which would begin again with Plough Sunday. These are just a few of the many customs that Dr James described and illustrated with pictures and the traditional rhymes. **Keith and Sally Dixon** 

# Cambridge Cake Creators

NEXT meeting on Thursday 19 May, at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Pavilion. Carol from 'Carol's Cakes' who demonstrated at the last NEC Cake International will be showing us how to get those cake straight edges, using sharp edge smoothers.

All abilities welcome, you just need to have an interest in cake making. For more details contact vanda.butler@googlemail.com or phone 561053. Vanda Butler



# **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.

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# **Community Warden Scheme**



HELLO, my name is Juliet. I am the new Community Warden for Stapleford. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as you may see me around Stapleford at various events, on the allotments if you are passing through or even when

I'm volunteering at Cara Coffee.

Originally from Yorkshire, I lived in Cambridgeshire in my early teens and 20s. I then travelled, went to college, and worked in a number of different parts of the country as a teaching assistant, residential social worker and then qualified as a speech and language therapist. I have worked in schools and in the community for many years, supporting people who have visual impairment, hearing impairment, dementia, learning disabilities, and neurodiversity.

I have been the Community Warden for a few weeks now and I'm thoroughly enjoying meeting and supporting several people in the village. The role of the Community Warden is to assist people over the age of 60 to remain living at home as independently and as safely as possible. I can contact you daily, Monday to Friday, either by phone call or a visit and liaise with your family or other agencies.

I can help with support that may be needed, for example: make phone calls on your behalf, pick up prescriptions, shop for small items, make drinks or light lunches, help to find local groups of interest, arrange transport, or sit and chat over a cup of tea. I can also help you to access other services that might be appropriate, or offered by Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and other organisations, These include

home safety checks, handy person service, advice on benefits/form filling and IT support.



For all new referrals, you receive a two-week FREE trial and then there is a small weekly fee to pay thereafter.

If you would like to learn more about the Community Warden scheme in Stapleford, or to refer a family member, friend or neighbour please do give me a call on 07436102733 or email juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk

Further information can be found on the Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and St. Andrew's Church websites. **Juliet Hawksworth** 

# Yesteryear

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

#### 1821

**CONVICTED**. Thomas Steam was indicted for an assault on Jane Easter, of Stapleford, by throwing her down on a dunghill, for which he received a slap on the face, this exasperated the defendant, and he kicked her legs and pushed her into a ditch. The defence was intoxication. Guilty – one week's imprisonment.

#### 1847

**SCHOOL**. We understand that a very superior school room and master's dwelling-house have been built at Stapleford, and that great pains have been bestowed, as well as much expense incurred. As there is still a considerable deficiency in the funds, a collection is to be made at the opening of the school on the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. when we hope that the appeals, likely to be so ably made, may meet with corresponding contributions on the part of the public, to forward so important an object as the education of the poor.

#### 1901

THE FAIR. This week end brings with it the annual fair with its accompaniments of bustle and noise. The annual fair is the remnant of an institution as old as our national history. However, many villagers will say with John Milton "Farthest from it is best".

#### 1913

CRICKET MATCH REPORT. (Stapleford singles vs Stapleford marrieds). On Whit Monday a cricket match was played between married and single. The former went in first, and made a good stand. Bowling for the single side Mr H Gumbley was most conspicuous taking four wickets for three runs. The married men were all out for 48. The single men then went in to the wily bowling of Mr E Beavis. The prospect for the first three wickets were rather favouring the married, but the single gradually got the upper hand and won comfortably by 38 runs with four wickets in hand. In the evening a supper was held in the Institute.

#### 1955

"A letter was received asking for suggested names for the housing estate now being developed by Messrs Peploe. Proposed by Mr Dunn, seconded by Mr Willis that the entrance from Church Street be named

Priams Way and the entrance from London Road be named Dolphin Way each to end at the circular road." (From the Parish Council Minutes)

#### 1975

"There were possibilities for a new station at Sawston in the vicinity of Spicer's Crossing since if electrification takes place Whittlesford Station will have to be demolished. A good car park at Sawston Station could serve the Shelfords as well as Sawston since there were no facilities planned for Shelford." (From the Parish Council Minutes)

# Swaffham Bulbeck Summer Theatre

#### 'The Mikado' by Gilbert & Sullivan

As in previous years the productions will be staged in the wonderful 'Theatre in a Barn', Downing Farm, Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge CB25 ONW; dates as follows:

Wednesday 15 June 7.30pm - £9 Thursday 16 June 7.30pm - £10 Friday 17 June 7.30pm - £12

Saturday 18 June 2.30pm - £8 and 7.30pm - £12.

On-site parking; facilities for wheelchair users; licensed bar For ticket information visit sbsummertheatre.com, email sbst.tickets@gmail.com, or phone 07708 577570. For further information

please contact Ruth Dennis on 01638 730659.

After two postponed years, we are delighted to be performing Gilbert and Sullivan's ever-popular operetta 'The Mikado', which featured in the 1999 film about their lives, 'Topsy-Turvy'. Colourful and witty, this show includes many well-known songs, such as "I've got a little list" (brought up to

the  $21^{st}$  century!), "Tit-willow", "The flowers that bloom in the spring" and, of course, "Three little maids from school are we".

# We look forward to seeing you! Ruth Dennis

# 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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# Walking netball

WALKING Netball is a slower version of the game we all love. It is netball, but at a walking pace – designed so anyone can play it, regardless of age or fitness level. From those who have dropped out of sport due to injury to

those who believed they had hung up their netball trainers many years ago, Walking Netball really is for everyone.

Groups play every Thursday from 10.30 to 11.30am at Stapleford MUGA and every Tuesday from 5.40 to 6.40pm at Sawston Sports Centre.

Our sessions are designed to be fun and flexible, and largely follow the same format as any other netball session, including a



gentle warm-up, mini-games and drills, followed by a friendly game. You do not need any special kit to take part, just clothes that you feel comfortable exercising in and suitable footwear, and make sure you bring some water.

Here are some of the friendly faces taking part in Stapleford. If you'd like to know more, please contact Carolyn Pallon: cpallon@gmail.com. **Jenny Flynn** 

# A towering achievement



THE photograph on this month's cover is of the flag of Ukraine flying proudly at the top of the tower of St Andrew's Church.

To show solidarity with the eastern European country in its battle to repel the Russian invaders, the *Messenger's* own Frank Jacot accompanied Ollie Challis to the summit.

"I clambered up to the bell-ringing floor, climbed further up to the clock-winding floor then even higher to the actual bells – on which I had to climb and traverse to a final set of stairs to reach the hatch to get on the roof,"

Frank said.

"Upon opening the hatch I was greeted by a sloping roof and an alarmingly low protective wall. While Ollie fixed the flag I cowered by the hatch and took the photographs." **Jon West** 

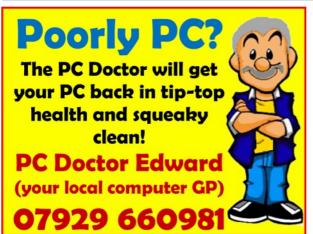
# St Andrew's Toddlers

Mondays in term time 9.15am to 11am

In the Johnson Hall, Gog Magog Way

Free Play, Crafts, Games, Songs & Stories Meet new friends over a cup of coffee.

Volunteers wanted to play, chat and make coffee. For more information contact **Fiona Holliday** at layminister@standrewstapleford.org or 478923.



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cheryl.harradine@travelcounsellors.com www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/cheryl.harradine





# **Nature Festival at Wandlebury**



A NEW festival is coming to the Cambridge area from 27 May to 30 June, which aims to get us all more in touch with the nature on our doorsteps. The festival is being organised by the Cambridge Nature Network, a partnership of organisations working hard to increase the amount of nature in our area.

The first Cambridge Nature Festival will include over 60 events and activities with something for all ages, abilities and interests. There will be hands-on creative activities, nature walks, live music, art exhibitions, glowing worms and much more. Most of the events will be free or affordable and will take place in Cambridge and the surrounding countryside.

Cambridge Past, Present & Future is playing a leading role in organising the festival and there will be a number of events at Wandlebury Country Park. The Festival will kick-off with a Wildlife Day at Wandlebury on Saturday 28 May with free events and activities for all the family. During May half-term there will be bushcraft for 5 to 12 years, on 7 and 29 June a



tree walk, and on 21 June a wild flower walk. Schools can also take part in a science and nature outdoor education programme.

See What's On page at cambridgeppf org for details. James Littlewood

# The schedule has gone to print!

THE Village Show is back on 4 June and we'd like to see you all there.

Sneak peak of Handicraft classes – expecting lots of entries after so long to be busy!

- A piece of homemade upcycled jewellery
- A soft toy 'a Womble'
- A piece of graphic art 'our future'

We really hope everyone in the village will join in with the Village Show and the whole Village Weekend. Any offers of help will be gratefully received. **Julie Rayment** 

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# **Puzzle Corner**

#### **Stapleford Scramble**

Scramble the letters of each word below to make a new word In each group the initials letters of the answers are:

S, T, A, P, L, E, F, O, R, D

All the answers are fairly common words

(The numbers refer to the number of letters in the words)

3: ape end fro has owl

orb pit was wee woe

4: aunt avid furs golf idea mope near sour trio weld

5: alloy fleas girth hated mango pique route super tutor waste

6: debase elides entrap gifted hoarse meteor myrtle rioted storey volley

7: disease mankier married menoras outside ruffian tactile tampons tidying toenail

8: crumpets finished generate haulings heptagon misshape roasting sidereal tarragon woodland

9: canonises carthorse catechism deputiser forenames meditates milestone pulverise smartened telephony Set by Hermes - Answers on page 37





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# **2G3S**

THE following future events have been arranged.

#### **Planning Meeting**

Monday 9 May. Cox's Close at 7.45 for 8pm, or by Zoom.

#### **2G3S Social Cycle Rides**

Our next one is on Monday 16 May starting from Stapleford Pavilion at 10am. Join us for a leisurely ride

on quiet roads and traffic-free paths of around 20 miles, to include a coffee stop. Returning to Stapleford by about 1pm. Contact Yasmin to book on greener@sawston.org.

#### 2G3S Book Club

Thursday 19 May. Our first meeting will be discussing 'Donut Economics' by Kate Raworth. Please join us in The Rose in Stapleford, from 7.30pm for drinks and chat, with the book discussion to start at 8pm.

#### Nature walk

Saturday 21 May, led by John O'Boyle. This one will be at the Magog Down, meet in the car park at 2pm.

#### Recycling

Last time I discussed recycling and our blue bins. This time I look at recycling of materials not accepted by SCDC in their bins. Julia Trocme-Latter of Sawston writes:

"Do you brush your teeth? Eat crisps, cheese or biscuits? Do you use dishwasher tablets or take paracetamol or wear rubber gloves? So many of the things we use every day come in packaging which is difficult to reuse or recycle, even in South Cambs, which takes quite a lot of waste that many other councils in the country refuse.

Thankfully, many of the producers of hard-to-recycle packaging have joined initiatives that allow their waste to be broken down and made into new objects. A lot of this is via the company Terracycle – you may have seen their logo on some of the packaging in your own home. The way Terracycle works is by getting people to bring their waste to collection points, which might be a person's home or a collection bin in a public location. The person in charge of that location then periodically boxes up the waste and sends it to Terracycle for free. Terracycle also sometimes awards points for shipments at or above a certain weight, and those points can be converted into cash and donated to a charity of your choice. It's



important to note that the person sending the waste to Terracycle doesn't spend or receive any money themselves. To find a collection site, you need to go to Terracycle.com, enter the kind of waste you have and your location, then find a drop-off location on the Terracycle map. Although the collection of these materials is sponsored by specific manufacturers, many will accept similar materials made by other brands; for example, the Terracycle biscuit recycling program is sponsored by McVities, but they will accept packaging from any biscuit, cake or cracker producer. I myself am a Terracycle waste collector, collecting Kinder egg packaging, biscuit and cake wrappers, cheese packaging, and Marigold gloves (you can tell I have young children, can't you?). I have two discreet collection bins outside my house and am happy to have things posted to my home address as long as the name of the particular waste stream appears on the label, though I can't speak for other collectors.

Supermarkets are also becoming more active in accepting waste for recycling, especially the thin, single use plastics used to package so much of our food. [Our blue bins can accept some of this, but not the complex materials as described last time.] Although the Co-op in Sawston isn't yet a recycling point, the Co-ops in Linton and Great Shelford are, and they accept: baby food, pet food, detergent and cleaning pouches; biscuits and chocolate wrapping; bread bags; bubble wrap and cling film; cereal liners; cheese, fish and meat wrapping; crisp and sweet bags; delivery bags; frozen food bags; multi-pack wrapping; plastic carrier bags; plastic film lids; salad, pasta, and rice bags; and toilet roll wrapping. Waitrose in Trumpington is also accepting bread bags and plastic carrier bags. If you have your groceries delivered, some companies are willing to receive carrier bags from any and all supermarkets and will even take the bag charge off your total. Boots Opticians will also accept any brand of single-use contact lenses and lens packaging. Many of the shops in Sawston also accept batteries for recycling, and the household waste depot at Thriplow will take unwanted and leftover paint and distribute it to individuals and charities who need it through the Community RePaint scheme.

If you have old glasses you don't need anymore, you can donate them to charity via Peep Eyewear. Peep will then either restore them so that they can be sold again or recycle the parts into new glasses. They'll also plant a tree for good measure. Mobile phones contain rare earth minerals and other elements that absolutely must be recycled in order to cut down on our e-waste. If you have an old mobile phone, you could try using the website CompareAndRecycle.co.uk, which will give you quotes from a variety of mobile phone recyclers so that you can recycle and get paid for

doing so. Textiles, even worn-out ones, can be given to textile banks - good quality clothing can be re-sold, and poor quality items can be turned into insulation."

Tesco in Fulbourn also now accept crisp packets and other soft plastic items. In Hauxton there is a shop called Organic Health that accepts toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes. Superdrug in town accepts packaging from blister packs of pills. The situation is changing quite fast.

Apart from recycling, what can you do? If you're keen to change your lifestyle to help with climate change but aren't quite sure what actions will be most effective, go to theguardian.com and search for 'six lifestyle changes' in the search box at the top of the page. There you will find an informative and relevant article.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to greengroupssss@gmail.com to sign up for our newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. Also see our Facebook page or website. **Helen Hale** 

# Green Groups in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston **2G3S social cycle rides**

Led by Yasmin Emerson

Join us for a leisurely ride on quiet roads and traffic-free paths of around 20 miles, to include a coffee stop.

Monday 16 May Monday 20 June Monday 18 July

All start at 10am at Stapleford Pavilion, Gog Magog Way, Stapleford. returning to Stapleford by about 1pm.

Contact Yasmin to book: greener@sawston.org All welcome!







# **Jubilee street parties**



THE cost of the road closure planned by the village weekend committee would be in excess of £800 for road signage, insurance etc. It has therefore been decided not to hold a whole-village street party but to suggest that people arrange street parties in their local area, on a day and at a time to suit them. A cul-de-sac is an ideal place for a party, or any area of

grass alongside the road, where through-traffic will not be impeded.

Safety of participants, especially that of children is a priority, so please think of this when planning a street party.

We hope you have an enjoyable time celebrating the Queen's Jubilee! Gillian Pett

# **Little Shelford Pantomime**



AUDITIONS will be held for *Jack(ie)* and the *Beanstalk*, Little Shelford Pantomime 2023 on Saturday 21 May at Little Shelford Memorial Hall between 10am and 2pm.

To both book a time slot to audition and to complete an audition form, please register online at: tinyurl.com/panto-form

Please ring **Sarah Coppendale** on 842498 or email coppendales@btinternet.com if you have any queries.

# **Cambridge Flower Club**



THE next meeting of Cambridge Flower Club will be on Thursday 19 May at Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Mill Lane Whittlesford CB22 4NE at 7.15pm when we will hold a handson flower workshop entitled 'Platinum Jubilee'. All welcome. Visitors pay £6.

On 16 June Madeleine Bradley will demonstrate and her title is 'Summer Blooms

Aplenty.' Refreshments will available from 6.45pm.

For more information about these meetings or to enquire about joining Cambridge Flower Club please phone Freda on 891464 or email fredaorgee@gmail.com Freda Orgee

# **Quiz Time**

#### **Connections**

THIS Connection Round was devised by **Charlie Wolfe** and was aired as part of the Quiz at the Three Horseshoes, which takes place every Monday night at 8.30pm. There is a £2 per person entry fee (£1 of which goes to assist local charities). The quiz winners receive £30 worth of bar tokens along with the privilege of hosting the quiz the following week. There is always a substantial chocolate prize for the Runners-Up.

Answers on page 45.

- 1. What household essential was invented by William Addis around the 1780s in prison?
- 2. Niagara falls has three waterfalls. Name the largest.
- 3. What brand of ice cream shares its name with a gun?
- 4. What household object can you find a museum devoted to in Keswick?
- 5. Films. Which 2018 comedy drama starred Johnny Depp, as a college lecturer who, after learning he has six months to live, transforms into a rebellious party animal?
- 6. In which city was John F Kennedy assassinated?
- 7. Which fictional character was a Chinese criminal genius who was the hero/villain of novels and short stories by Sax Rohmer in the first half of the 20 century?
- 8. What shape is the entrance to the Louvre?
- 9. What word means a V-shaped line or stripe especially on the sleeve of a uniform indicating rank or length of service?
- 10. What is the connection between the answers 1 to 9?

# **Financial difficulties?**



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

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

# **Stapleford Strollers: Short Walk 25**

#### The Red Lion: a circular walk at Hinxton

#### Getting to the start

Drive down the A1301 to the roundabout with the A505 and continue onwards. Take the third turn on the right, signed Hinxton and Ickleton; then turn first right into Hinxton High Street. The Red Lion, from which this walk starts, is on the right (CB10 1QY).

#### Distance of Walk

About 2½ miles. Parts of the walk can get muddy after rain.

#### OS Map

OS Explorer Map 209. Use maps.the-hug.net for a free map extract, or use the route map provided.

#### **Extra Information**

In the Domesday Book the village is called Hengeston, 'the town of Hengest'. The village has some attractive old houses and, with a population just over 300, it has avoided the expansion of most other South Cambs villages. In recent years it has become famous as the home of the Wellcome Genome Campus at Hinxton Hall where over 1500 people work in various institutes involved with the human genome.

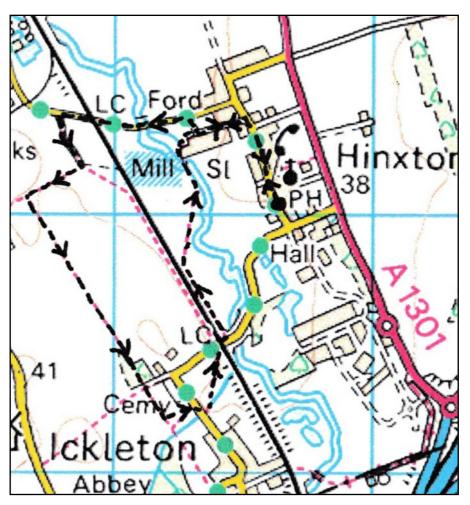
#### Route of walk

Turn right out of the pub car park and walk along the road until you reach Mill Lane where you turn left. Follow the road to the junction with Duxford Road where you turn left again. Cross the ford and then the level crossing over the railway. About 150 yards further on, turn left down a wide track with a hedge on the right and then a bank. Continue along this track until you reach a field with a hedge on the left. Turn right onto a long straight path with a hedge now on your left.

In the distance there is a road but about halfway along there is a gap in the hedge. Turn left here and follow another straight track between two fields for half a mile. At the end of the fields the path goes downhill between two hedges and then enters a small wood. At the end of the wood, turn right and left to a metal kissing gate. Continue in the same direction through another gate and then veer left on a grass path going diagonally across a pasture. Take this left-hand path until it reaches a road via a kissing gate. Cross the road, turn right for a few yards and go through another kissing gate into a field. The path goes diagonally across this field to a road with a level crossing. Turn right across the railway and then cross the road.

Turn left onto a signed path with the railway to the immediate left. Walk between tall hedges until the path turns right into a field. Go diagonally across it to the far side and then turn left through a walkers' gate, following a fenced path until you come to a wooden bridge. Cross the bridge and shortly turn left, crossing two more footbridges, with the old mill to your right. This is still a working mill, run by Cambridge Past Present and Future. Pass Miller's Cottage and turn right into Mill Lane. Walk straight up the lane to the High Street, turn right and return to The Red Lion. **Keith Dixon** 

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



# **Scrape Project on Magog Down**



VISITORS to the Magog Down will be familiar with the habitat creation project at the top of the hill on North Down.

This is one of two scrapes that were completed in January 2020. The landscaping work was proposed during discussions with an

advisor from Natural England and supported by a grant through the Countryside Stewardship scheme. Magog Down is situated on chalk and the meadows are classified as lowland calcareous grassland. Chalk

grassland habitats are rich with herbs, grasses and meadow flowers which are adapted to shallow, well-drained alkaline soil with low fertility. Over the past thirty years since the meadows were created on previously farmed fields, many chalk grassland flowers in addition to those sown have been recolonising naturally, including herbs such as Wild Marjoram (Origanum vulgare) and Wild Basil (Clinopodium vulgare), and orchids such as the Pyramidal Orchid (Anacamptis pyramidalis) and Bee Orchid (Ophrys apifera).



The new scrape on North Down in January 2020. The digger completes the shaping of the banks.

Scrape projects are an exciting way to restore areas and expose seeds buried from past times, both annual and perennial, including rarer species which have been lost from the area through intensive farming.

The aim of the project is to create areas with slopes and banks with a variety of aspects which will provide a varied structure in the vegetation, and a range of breeding habitats and shelter for wildlife.

The topsoil on the floor of the scrape was removed to reduce the soil fertility, and with it vigorous grasses and plants which require fertile soil, enabling species typical of chalk downland to establish and flourish. The plot on North Down is a small area of 20 metres by 20 metres, created by a digger brought in to undertake the job. As the soil was removed it was shaped into banks.



The beautiful Rough Poppy flowered last year on the North Down scrape.

Surveys have been undertaken during the last couple of years to identify the first plants to colonise the scrape floor and the banks. Many small plants have emerged in the bare rock on the scrape floor and on the banks, from seeds which have lain dormant in this former farmed area. Annual plants include Scarlet Pimpernel (Anagallis arvensis), Field Pansy (Viola arvensis), Annual Wall Rocket (Diplotaxis muralis) and Fool's Parsley (Aethusa cynapium).

Two annuals of particular interest include rarer and declining species of threatened arable plants. These are the Rough Poppy (*Papaver hybridum*) and Dwarf Spurge (*Euphorbia exigua*),

both of which have appeared on the banks. Rough Poppy is the scarcest and most localised of red poppies and it is usually found on light chalky soils. It has four carmine-red petals with a black blotch at the base, and the seed pods are egg shaped and covered in bristles.

The scrapes will continue to be monitored and it is hoped that other scarce and historic species will reappear.



Areas of bare soil are important for solitary bees such as Andrena cineraria (shown in the photo) often known as a mining bee, which dig burrows and nest in bare ground.

Creating the banks enables habitat variation and a greater diversity of plants. The banks of removed soil have guickly become lush with taller vegetation, including relocated grasses and perennials scooped up by the digger, while the scrape floor remains sparse. Variation in aspect provides a range of breeding habitats for butterflies, moths, bees and other insects. South-facing slopes are warm and in full sun, while the shade of cooler north-facing slopes offer wildlife greater protection and shelter from higher temperatures as our climate changes. Claire Beale

## **The Collier Family**

## Village benefactors



FOLLOWING the enclosure of the common fields in 1812, the Collier family gradually purchased several smaller holdings and created two farms: Greenhedge Farm and Vine Farm.

During the 1880s it was realised that there were few burial plots left in the churchyard and additional

space was needed. The Burial Act of 1853 permitted the creation of civil cemeteries and the Collier family gave half an acre of land for the present cemetery which was enlarged just a few years ago.

The first village school was opened in 1847 and run by the Church of England and became known as the National School. It started in the vicarage and moved into a new building, now the Johnson Hall, paid for largely by the Duke of Leeds who lived in Gog Magog House and the vicar, the Rev. Daw. The 1870 Education Act made non-denominational education compulsory for all children aged 5 to 13 and this indicates the strong influence of the Methodists and other nonconformists who had been campaigning for education for all children which would be free from religious control.

A school management board was established and it was their hope that they could avoid the expense of building another school by sharing the use of the National School building. However, the vicar imposed so many restrictions on the hours of use and the cost of the rent that nothing happened for several months. Eventually, the Board decided the only solution was to build a new school. The Collier family again gave the land for the new school in Bar Lane with a small playground.

In 1908 Dr. Collier gave land in front of the school for building a village institute. He contributed some of the money and the rest was raised by village people through regular whist drives and other fund-raising events. The Institute became the centre of village life for over 80 years until the building was eventually demolished and is now the site of a garden in memory of Harold Holt, a former headteacher, Parish and District Councillor.

In 1930 the Colliers gave more land, again half an acre for a playing field just behind the original Victorian school. This was moved further back when the school was extended in the 1950s and to its present site alongside the school field when another extension was opened in 1973.

When Dr. Collier died in 1936 his large estate consisting of Greenhedge and Vine Farms, fields, 21 cottages and other assets were sold at auction by Bidwells. However, his widow sold the land for the recreation ground to the Parish Council through funding provided by Chesterton RDC.

The Collier name lives on in the village in Collier Way. Keith Dixon

## **Stapleford Community Warden Service**

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## **Puzzle Corner Answers**

## **Stapleford Scramble**

- 3: pea, den, for, ash, low, rob, tip, saw, ewe, owe
- 4: tuna, diva, surf, flog, aide, poem, earn, ours, riot, lewd
- 5: loyal, false, right, death, among, equip, outer, purse, trout, sweat
- 6: seabed, diesel, parent, fidget, ashore, remote, termly, editor, oyster, lovely
- 7: seaside, ramekin, admirer, oarsmen, tedious, funfair, lattice, postman, dignity, elation
- 8: spectrum, fiendish, teenager, languish, pathogen, emphasis, organist, realised, arrogant, download
- 9: ascension, orchestra, schematic, disrepute, freemason, estimated, limestone, repulsive, tradesmen, polythene







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## **POP IN AND CHAT**



Wednesday 11th May 8th June 2.00pm-3.30pm

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Children will be able to play together.

A Child and Family Centre Worker will attend for parents to ask any questions and for signposting.

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#### What is CPCS?

When you call us, our receptionists will ask about your symptoms. If your symptoms indicate that you can be helped by a pharmacist, you will be offered a same-day private consultation with a community pharmacist.

Pharmacists are qualified healthcare professionals and experts in medicines. They can offer clinical advice and over-the-counter medicines for all sorts of minor illnesses, and a same day consultation can be arranged quickly and at a time to suit you. This in turns frees up GP appointments for those people with more complex symptoms who really need to see a GP.

#### How does it work?

We will forward your details to the pharmacist, along with details of your minor illness. The pharmacist will contact you to arrange your consultation on the same day, or at a time that suits you. You may be seen in person in a private consulting room if the pharmacist thinks it appropriate, or your consultation may be carried out over the phone or via video. You will be asked about your medical history and symptoms and current medication, in the same way the GP would ask you about them. Usually, the pharmacist will provide you with advice and can recommend an over the counter product if needed. Details of your consultation with them will be sent to us for our records.

If the pharmacist feels you need to be seen by a GP urgently, they will call us to ensure you are seen, or they will advise you to contact the hospital Emergency Department if deemed necessary. You may also be referred back to us to arrange a non-urgent appointment or follow up.

## Why is this a good thing for patients?

Community pharmacies are local, can be open longer hours than us and can offer you the same consultation outcome at a time that is convenient for you. If the pharmacist thinks you need to see a GP, they can help arrange an urgent appointment for you. Patients who have already used this service liked the convenience of having a consultation on the same day, or a day that suited them, at a pharmacy of their choice.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 627743 or email me sandra.east@nhs.net Sandra East, Head of Patient Services



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## The Pick-up and the Lincoln

THE snow melt was late this year. The ferryman silently thanked his God and the Sierra Madre for delaying the transition of the rio to a ford. Pesos from heaven?

The ranchero and his foreman emerged from the barranca, satisfied that the fencing had held despite the snows.

"This is your last day, Miguel?" "Si, Señor, es mi último día."

"Before we call the ferryman, I want to give you a gift, not a gift you can wrap, more a vision of what you may not see you have."

"Muy bien Señor."

"Look across the river - what do you see?"

"A Toyota pick-up and a Lincoln Continental, Señor" replied the foreman.

"And who do you see, Miguel?" "My wife and your driver."

"Your wife will tell you about her day, and my driver will pass on a file from my accountant."

"Maybe your wife is very busy, Señor." "Yes, she is probably very busy in some shopping mall buying another dress."

"Tell me, Miguel. How many people came to your wedding?"

"About forty, Señor." "Just over four hundred came to my last wedding."

"Miguel, how many people at your wedding did you know from your school days?"

"About thirty, Señor." "At my last wedding, there were seven."

"Miguel, you married a girl for a lifetime. I married a girl in a million - three times."

"When do you hear from your children, Miguel?"

"Most weekends they visit or 'phone."

"My children 'phone - usually when they want something", said the ranchero in a wistful tone.

"Maybe these words of mine have shown you, Miguel, in the only measure that matters, you are richer than me."

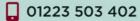
"Richer than you, Señor? How can you believe that when you are the one who owns the fincas, the condo in Honolulu, the cabin in Aspen?"

"Miguel, you are richer than me because one can buy what I have, no one can buy what you have".

The foreman gave the ranchero a quizzical look. "Miguel, as I chased the deals that finally gave me the largest agri-business in this part of the state,



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every now and then my dear old granny, instead of being impressed, would quote a saying to me -

"Carlos, lo más valioso de la vida no es lo que tenemos, sino a quienes tenemos\*."

"You may have never heard the saying Miguel, but you have lived the life."

"I thought after all these years I knew you, Señor, but your words have surprised me." "They have surprised me too, Miguel, but the truth sometime does. Now I am back to the me you know – call the ferryman".

\*I have read a gringo version of this saying – but it loses something in translation: The most valuable thing in life is not what you have, but who you have. **Adrian Barnard** 

## **Stapleford Twinning Association**



THE Association's committee has been busy! We now have a completely new website: twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk. We think you'll find it much easier to navigate than before and we'll be keeping it up-to-date with news of our activities. Do have a look through the pages and let us know if you have

any comments via staplefordtwinningassociation@gmail.com.

Although Covid levels remain high, and there remains some nervousness about meeting together, our first two events have been arranged for the outdoors, for the most part. Some of our events are for members only but non-members are more than welcome to join us for either of the ones below:

- Village Weekend 4 June, 2pm to 4pm Bottle Stall please stop by and have a chat!
- Sunday 12 June, 3pm Walking Quiz around Stapleford. Meet by the Villedômer Garden at the Slaughterhouse Land and finish in the Three Horseshoes.

We hope to see you at one of those. **Tim Jessop** 

## **Quiz Answers**

- 1. Toothbrush
- 2. Horseshoe Falls
- 3. Magnum
- 4. Pencil
- 5. The Professor

- 6. Dallas
- 7. Fu Manchu
- 8. Pvramid
- 9. Chevron
- 10. Moustaches



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## **Forza Phoenix**



AN exciting summer of cricket is fast approaching for Stapleford Phoenix, the T20 midweek team.

An array of friendly fixtures have been arranged as well as participation in the Business House League, which this season sees us move up to Division Two.

4 May	Swaffhams (home)
11 May	Histon BHL (away)
16 May	St Barnabas (venue tbc)
18 May	Sharks (home)
25 May	TTP (home)
30 May	IPH (away)
5 June	Village Match
7 June	NCI BHL (home)
16 June	Sharks (away)
23 June	Jaguars BHL (away)
27 June	Cambourne BHL (away)
6 July	IPH (home)
13 July	Waterbeach BHL (away)
20 July	Bluntisham BHL (tbc)
28 July	TTP (away)
1 August	Stapleford Outlaws BHL (home)
	11 May 16 May 18 May 25 May 30 May 5 June 7 June 16 June 23 June 27 June 6 July 13 July 20 July 28 July

Stapleford CC, which plays Saturday league cricket, has home fixtures on the following dates:

7 May
14 May
28 May
11 June
25 June
16 July
30 July

Anyone wishing to join our friendly and inclusive club can email staplefordphoenix@gmail.com for more information. **Jon West** 

# Parish Council Chair's annual report

WE have lost four councillors this year, Charlie Nightingale, Colin Greenhalgh, Paul McPhater and Jez Raphael and we thank them all for their valuable contribution. Thank you to all the present councillors for their continuing commitment to the village. We should have 11 councillors and now have only six, increasing to seven after 5 May, which is barely sufficient to function adequately. We are all volunteers.

In spite of being such a small number, we have worked hard. Notable achievements have been the completion of the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), which is now well used for tennis and netball. It is available for hire for other sports such as football and basketball. The shed has been refurbished with improved storage for sports teams. The play equipment in the children's playground has been replaced making it a more adventurous area for children to play in safely. Work has been carried out in the cemetery to make the area safe. The council has also been very active in its objection to GCP (Greater Cambridge Partnership) plan for a busway through greenbelt in the village and has joined a coordinated response with surrounding villages to object to the destruction of valuable greenbelt without benefit for the environment and the village. The Neighbourhood Plan is being revitalised to be a driver for local identity, with a shared vision and recognition of the needs of the villages. The ownership of the Parish Pit (an old chalk quarry and now a nature reserve for the benefit of the village) has been transferred to the Magog Trust. A well-attended Eco evening has focused the Parish Council's attention on care of the environment with bird and bat boxes being one of the projects resulting from it. It is intended to take forward some of the suggestions made at that evening.

The Parish Council has representatives on the Feoffees and the Village Hall Estate Fund, both organisations which can fund individuals or groups needing financial support. We also have a representative on the recently formed OASISS (Open Arms in Shelfords/Stapleford) welcoming Ukrainian refugees to the villages.

The pavilion continues to be used for village functions, with restrictions on use now lifted. Advertisement for a caretaker/village handyman did not receive the response required so your councillors have voluntarily assumed responsibility for small maintenance tasks, restocking the pavilion, putting out rubbish bins, checking the bus shelter and defibrillator, litter picking,

occasional weeding etc. The list of these tasks goes on. We would welcome help from anyone able to give it. Your Parish Councillors cannot do everything. If you notice something that needs doing you are more than welcome to volunteer help.

Plans for next year are to continue to oppose the busway through legal representation, and we are grateful for public support. We aim to reconfigure and improve the pavilion so that is more suitable for current use, plant trees for the Queen's Jubilee and work on the vision of a community orchard in the Slaughter House garden and/or the far end of the new cemetery with a wild flower meadow. More councillors are needed so that we can move these improvements to the village forward as well as managing routine matters. However we cannot do all these things at once because of funding and time constraints as well our small number of councillors. Please consider putting yourself forward to join us. We are just like you, villagers helping to do the best for the village and make it a pleasant place to live. No special expertise is needed, although there are training sessions to help new councillors understand how local government works. A diverse range of skills and abilities makes for a well-functioning Parish Council.

A representative of SSYI gave a presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting about the work being done with young people aged 11 to 18 in the local villages. The Covid lock downs have proved detrimental to the health and well-being of our young people, and there are well-attended groups in the refurbished youth centre in Shelford every day, as well as opportunities for 1:1 emotional and mental health support, and rebuilding of social skills.

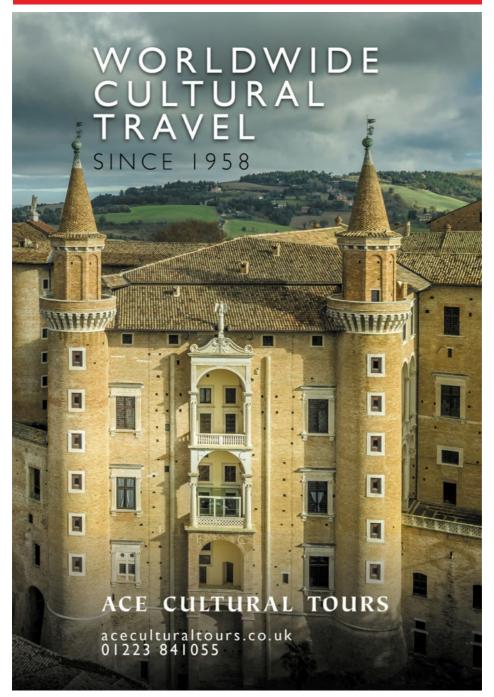
Annual reports from most village clubs and societies are available on the Parish Council website: staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/documents/. **Gillian Pett** 

## **Hedge Maintenance**



NOW it is spring time and the gardening season, please remember to cut back hedges and vegetation which overhang footpaths so that those less able are able to walk safely.

Thank you. Gillian Pett, Parish Councillor



## **CSET** busway update

I WAS phoned last week by someone in the village and the conversation went along the lines of:

"Howard, I am most confused. The biggest thing to impact our village is about to happen and the current major political party has made no mention of it in all their leaflets. Yet the other major political party leaflet sets out its opposition and is campaigning for a better route. So who do I vote for on May 5?"

To which I had to respond: "I can't advise you which way to vote!"
It seems to me that the only way we are going to see any change now is through the ballot box. Our letter sent to the Greater Cambridge
Partnership (GCP) in February setting out what has changed in the wider environment has never been so much as acknowledged, nor indeed has Great Shelford Parish Council's excellent letter which they sent a few weeks ago. The latter lamented the political divide over Cambridge South East Transport scheme (CSET) and urged a rethink, taking things out of the political arena, as reported in the recent Cambridge Independent article: cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/so-much-has-changed-but-cset-

(Thank you to all who turned up with a few hours' notice on a cold morning

a few weeks ago for the accompanying photo shoot...)

busway-plans-haven-t-9247517/.

It seems inexplicable to me why the councillors who run our County and District Councils are so determined to press on regardless in the face of so much significant change, including:

• The recently approved retirement village in Haverhill Road blocking the busway's



route and pushing it higher into the chalk hills and right through the newly designated country park.

- The opportunity to connect with the Cambridge Biomedical Campus expansion earmarked in the draft Local Plan.
- The chance to route along the A1307 with its existing capacity for a bus lane, linking up the Babraham Institute and Granta Park Campuses (see map).
  - Reduced travel patterns arising from the pandemic.



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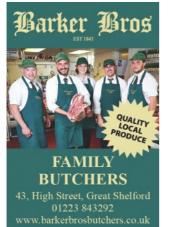
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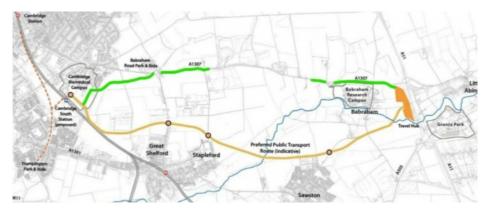
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- The scheme's inherent delays from a public enquiry and priority being given to Cambridge South Station construction (the alternative A1307 can be quickly achieved without these delays).
- Anthony Browne MP's survey results, which generated a bigger response than any of the GCP's CSET consultations 81% of respondents said that they would 'definitely not' or 'probably not' support the present route and 69% supported the idea of reopening the Haverhill to Cambridge railway line as a longer-term alternative to the GCP's busway.

All this – notwithstanding the environmental disaster of the proposed countryside route and even though the same benefits can be achieved via an A1307 route at a fraction of the cost.



KEY: yellow = GCP busway scheme; green = alternative route; orange = new park & ride

One has to ask what else is needed to get a review of the decision to build this environmental disaster? Do our councillors want to spend millions on a public inquiry next year, and force parishes and environmental groups to raise the money to present our arguments before we get all this changed? Apparently, yes! The local leadership of the parties in power (LibDems and Labour) are both quietly supporting the route.

We are not a political lobbying group or affiliated with any political party. We are not against busways, we are in favour of improved public transport and there is a better way! Our continued united efforts can create change. I can't advise you which way to vote, but if you don't agree with the route of the busway then consider whether your vote could make a difference. You can now keep up to date with our campaign by following us on Twitter, @BetterWays.

Howard Kettel, on behalf of BWTB (Better Ways Than Busway group)

## **Neighbourhood Plan update**

## Online survey and face-to-face events go live!



BY the time you read this, the Neighbourhood Plan steering group will have held its first face-to-face events – one at Stapleford Pavilion to coincide with the official opening of the new playground and

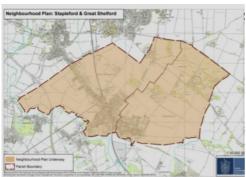
the other at Great Shelford's Wednesday Farmers' Market.

You might also see us on a pop-up stall outside the Deli on Woollards Lane. Please look out for our logo on posters around the villages and messages on local Facebook pages and get involved in the conversation.

Even easier, you can pick up your phone or iPad or jump on a computer and complete the online version of the survey. It will only take a few minutes to do. Visit

greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/staplefordandgreatshelfordneighbourho od-plan/ and click on the survey link.

Our survey and events kick-start the process of identifying in broad terms what our community's planning priorities are, so we can focus the Neighbourhood Plan on the things which matter most to you.



Survey questions cover topics such as what you like and dislike about living here, what kind of new homes you think we need and where they should be located, your views on our greenbelt and environmental challenges, plus how you travel around our wider area.

This is our unique opportunity to create a shared vision of what is important to us and how we want

to develop and use our land over the next 15-20 years.

We are just at the beginning of the process; please do be a part of it. Once completed, our neighbourhood plan will provide a set of legal policies – tailored specifically to our area – and sit alongside the Greater Cambridge local plan and the National Planning Policy Framework when assessing planning applications in our area.

Hence our logo's strapline: we *can* shape the place where we live. **Cllr Jenny Flynn, Chair of the neighbourhood plan steering group** 

## **Stapleford Pavilion**

## Can you support the Parish Council's environmental work?

AS somebody who has lived and worked in Stapleford for most of my life, and as a parish councillor, I really do believe that we have a Parish Council that is committed to trying to solve many issues we face as a community.

I am proud to be involved in the decision-making process with likeminded individuals who volunteer their time for the benefit of others and to improve our village. The only downside is the struggle we have in encouraging others to join us on the Parish Council!

It worries me what reservations or misconceptions residents have which make them reluctant to stand as parish councillors. I promise, we are just like everyone else: we have busy lives and families, but we try to find a bit of time to spend on things that are important and benefit us all.

Could you contribute some expertise to the Parish Council, whether it be financial know-how, supporting green projects, community infrastructure, or the day-to-day upkeep of parish buildings and green spaces?

High on our agenda for the foreseeable future is reducing our environmental impact by introducing measures to reverse the decline of our fauna and flora, and improving the green credentials of our public buildings and spaces.

One such project is reconfiguring the Jubilee Pavilion to make it more accessible to a wider range of users and more cost-efficient to run. We recently had a 'green report' done to highlight areas we could improve upon and we are now sourcing initial input from architects on how to make better use of the existing footprint of the building.

The general ideas we have asked them to explore are: reconfiguring the existing layout to provide us with unisex and disabled toilets, plus a toilet facility accessible from outside; the potential for installing air source heating; carving out another smaller meeting hall; extending the kitchen area with the addition of a bar through to the main hall; and erecting an outdoor shaded area on the west side of the Pavilion. We'd like to cover the latter with solar panels to power the building if orientation and security issues can be overcome.

We would welcome any input and are open to suggestions from residents. If you would like to join the Parish Council to assist us or just volunteer your time as a resident in support of Parish Council projects, we would love to hear from you. Cllr Michael Gatward

## **Stapleford Parish Council**

## staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



#### **COUNCILLORS**

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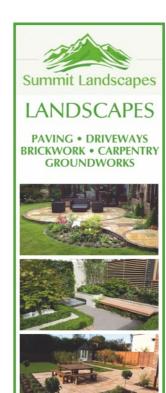
Brian Milnes brian.milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 07971 886 113

NOTE: All information correct at time of going to press.

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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