# Stapleford Ne Nuntium Necare! MESSENGER

September 2022

Volume 81 No 9

Price 60p

# **Stapleford Spitfire crash**



The remarkable full story, pages 28-29

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# Who's who at St Andrew's

#### www.standrewstapleford.org

Parish priest

Rev Dr Simon Taylor 840256

Assistant priest

Rev Clare Coates 07818 618795

Curate

Rev Lucinda Howard 07763 477821

Churchwarden

Alastair MacGregor

07855 269844

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Rob Needle 844227

Parish Administrator

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Youthworker

Zoe Clavton 894656

Children's Ministry

Sue Brown 01954 264246

**Director of Music** 

07803 706847 John Bryden

**PCC** secretary

Nicky West 07927 531719

Treasurer

Chris Bow 841982

Verger

Clare Kerr 842984

Captain of bellringers

**Tony Smith** 843379

Church flowers

Jackie Nettleton 721366

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Trish Maude 242263

Mothers' Union

840548 Hilary Street

Johnson Memorial Hall

Gillian Sanders 07752 373176

Friends of St Andrew's

Tony Hore 843796

Gift Aid secretary

Lisa MacGregor 07523 668731

#### SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

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

details. The services include:

9am **BCP** or CW Communion

10.30am 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

Contact stapleford.ads@gmail.com

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# From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

SOME good advice on a memorial stone from the 1800s above the porch of St Andrew's Church in Colney: 'Reader, if thou drivest a team [of horses] be careful & endanger not the Life of another or thine own.' Makes my lawyer's heart sing. Perhaps we should install something similar in St Andrew's, Stapleford. What warning would still be useful in 200 years?



This, and other gems aplenty on our Norfolk summer holiday. Have you made it away this summer? No lona trip for us this year, more's the pity. It is the one place in the world guaranteed to lift my spirits and fill my soul. I really miss it. Next year perhaps.

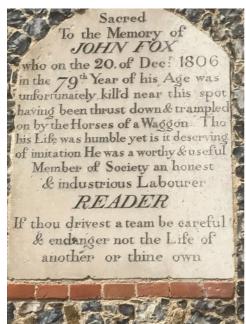
But Norfolk is always a good option, and not just because it's close by. After a week in a rented cottage we dipped a toe in the Broads. Not literally. The idea was not to dip a toe in, or certainly not more than a toe. We rented a boat for a few days. A big up to Barnes Brinkcraft Ltd btw, who were excellent. We pottered up from Wroxham on the River Bure to Irstead, Barton Broad and Dilham on the River Ant. A lovely trip, and highly recommended.

Steering the boat is not all that easy. We did not find it so anyway, not at first. Our thirty-footer responded only slowly to the wheel, so we tended to oversteer, then to over-compensate and so it went on, tacking up the river in unintended solidarity with our sailing friends.

On our first night we moored (or is it 'moored up?' I am not sure what true boaties would say) at the ruins of St Benet's Abbey. It has an amazing history. It was founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, already being rebuilt in the 10<sup>th</sup>, and was generously endowed by King Cnut of tide fame. With the Norman invasion anticipated, King Harold put the abbot in charge of defending the East Anglian coast against invasion. Priests had to be versatile in those days. Unsurprisingly, there was a period out of royal favour after the conquest, with some predations on the abbey's estate, but still it persisted. After the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII the abbey was, uniquely, allowed to continue in existence. It is not clear why it alone made the cut. Ownership was passed to the diocese of Norwich, and although the monastic community eventually closed, to this day the local vicar is the Abbot and the Bishop of Norwich the Prior, and they hold a service among the ruins of the abbey church each year.

The church is on raised ground – a very slight rise, but enough to see for miles around. In the north Norfolk landscape you don't need the Magog

mountain for an all-round view. A couple of metres will do. Up there on the heights you get that odd Broads' sight of distant yachts seeming to sail through solid ground. And as you stand in what was the nave and look east you see the huge wooden cross erected where the communion table would have been. Close up you can read the sign on it – the single word 'Peace'. As I was standing there a young girl came up with, I suppose, her grandmother. The girl read the word out loud. Her grandma said "It'll take more than a cross to bring peace in this world." That felt very depressing.



Back to the memorial stone at Colney, with its useful advice. The memorial is to John Fox who died on 20 December 1806 at age 79. It says 'He was unfortunately kill'd near this spot having been thrust down & trampled on by the Horses of a Waggon.' Hence the heartfelt warning with which the inscription ends. But before that comes this beautiful epitaph: 'Tho his Life was humble yet it is deserving of imitation. He was a worthy & useful Member of Society, an honest & industrious Labourer.'

I should have thought of John Fox and his epitaph when I was at the abbey and grandma was having her say about the prospects for

peace. I guess it was not my place to interfere, but I expect you too have been in a situation where you want to respond, but can't think what to say. I don't believe the outlook is as dismal as grandma painted it. "Have you heard about John Fox?" I could have asked. "We just all need to be more like John – steer a steady course, be worthy, useful, honest, industrious."

And that would have been true enough. It sounds as though his life really was 'deserving of imitation'. But we were at a cross in a church. So when she said "it'll take more than a cross to bring peace to this world" what I needed to say – and, having missed the chance then, what I say to you now – is that actually the one cross is all that is needed, the one cross on which the Prince of Peace died. If we follow him, as I think John Fox of blessed memory did, then we shall have peace.

Every blessing to you all, Simon

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

4 SEPT 9 AM BCP COMMUNION

10.30 AM CW COMMUNION

Philippians 1.1-11; Luke 14.25-33

I thank my God

10.30 AM FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION

11 SEPT 9 AM BCP COMMUNION

10.30 AM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Philippians 1.12-30; Luke 15.1-10

To live is Christ, to die is gain

18 SEPT 9 AM BCP COMMUNION

10.30 AM HARVEST FESTIVAL, ALL AGE SUNDAY

WORSHIP IN THE CHURCHYARD Deuteronomy 26.1-11; John 6.25-35

25 SEPT 9 AM BCP COMMUNION

10.30 AM ALL AGE SUNDAY WORSHIP

2 OCT 9 AM BCP COMMUNION

10.30 AM CW COMMUNION

Philippians 2.1-11; Luke 17.5-10

Every knee shall bow

10.30 AM FOREST CHURCH COMMUNION

6 PM CHORAL EVENSONG

Nehemiah 8.9-18; John 16.1-11

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

#### FROM THE REGISTERS

4 August – Funeral of Julia Weaver

# Looking for a local venue?

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

For details please contact Gillian Sanders:

Tel: 07752 373 176 Email: admin@standrewstapleford.org

### St Andrew's Choir Now recruiting

Thursday evenings
Main practice 7pm to 8.15pm
Main Sunday service 10.30am
St Andrew's Church, Mingle Lane Stapleford CB22 5SY

#### Choir experience helpful

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Children from 7 to 12 please come to SingPlus on (Termtime) Wednesdays 3.45pm to 5.15pm

Contact: John Bryden 07803 706847 or music@standrewstapleford.org.



# **Deadline for the OCTOBER Messenger**

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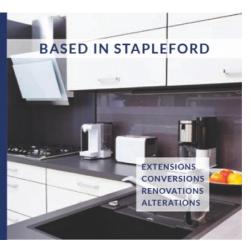
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# 'Green, green grass of home.'

SPONTANEOUSLY visiting Wimpole was a happy, celebratory occasion with friends. Fields bleached almost white struck us. Haystacks stood earlier than usual. Garden grass seemed like coarse worn rush matting. The ability to grow plants may need changing from 'green fingers.' Hopefully wine from green bottles isn't needed through frustration.

When the County Council gardeners surprisingly 'mowed' last week it was in a haze of honey-coloured dust. Global warming is a major concern. Green is disappearing, as water supplies dwindle. Environmental awareness and action should be high on the next PM's agenda - strengthening united resolve to save Planet Earth.

Green is said to calm and relax. Children learn to mix the colour with blue and yellow. Pictures of lollipop trees around home take pride of place on fridges. Like nature's nurturing nest green cocoons us. Emerald, aqua, apple lime, khaki, holly, mint, sea and Farrow and Balls 'churlish' and 'arsenic.'

Creative juices make stories of Robin Hood wearing Lincoln green, whilst crocodiles and dragons fascinate. Fun can be found in the green of inexperience and naivety. Life forms character and personality. Green of envy surfaces sometimes.

Stone or wooden carvings of leaves adorn pillars and columns. Those in Southwell Minster, Nottinghamshire are beautifully realistic. Vine, maple, beech, ivy, hawthorn, oak - National Trust logo. The Green Man occasionally peeps out through leafy garlands. William Morris of the Arts and Crafts years created wonderful wallpaper and fabric designs of dramatic acanthus and willow leaves. Adjectives of pastoral, verdant and rural are relevant.

Nature inspires. The abalone shell and the labradorite stone flash blues and greens. A marvel at times resembling stained glass. The latter is said to protect against world negativity. If only it was so simple. I like moss agate and green amber. They gently seem to reflect hope. My August birthstone is peridot; clean, clear, fresh and twinkly. Optimistic.

Roads boast greens. GO on traffic lights and signs showing a driver has recently passed the test. There are cars of British racing green and the dusky practical Land Rover is a farmers' favourite. Strong, but I imagine a fuel guzzler. By the roadside on collection days are green recycling bins - part of life and living.

Green represents growth and renewal. Another link is, 'getting the green light,' meaning to go ahead, taking action. I see this as a message to be positive, realistic, caring people. **Judith Lee.** (*Title accredited to Tom Jones*)

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# Stapleford WI



SINCE I last wrote about our activities, members have enjoyed a wonderful barbecue lunch hosted by Tony Smith (assisted by Tony Hore) in his beautiful garden, a walk from Hinxton to Ickleton followed by a pub lunch **INSPIRING WOMEN** at The Red Lion, and an after-hours visit to the Hotter shoe shop where following a short talk and refreshments

discounted purchases could be made. In addition our successful book and craft groups continue apace as well as our monthly meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month in Stapleford Pavilion at 7.30pm.

Our meeting in July began with members being asked to reflect on some of the happier times we had all enjoyed with our late President, Liz Hodgkins. The contribution made by Liz to our own Institute and the Cambridge Federation was immense and she will be missed by us all.

The speaker at this meeting was Joan Munden who told members about her distant cousin, Lilian Vera Rolfe. Lilian's story is one of the extreme courage which she displayed during the Second World War, having been recruited as a radio operator into the Special Operations Executive (SOE). These agents worked undercover and while her code name was Nadine. Lilian's French identity was Claudie Irene Rodier. Moving house every two days to stay ahead of the Gestapo, Lilian was eventually caught when operating her wireless. First she was imprisoned in Paris and then shipped to Ravensbrück concentration camp, where finally alongside three other female members of the SOE, Lilian's life was ended in February 1945. Lilian was posthumously awarded the MBE, the Croix de Guerre (avec Palme) and was mentioned in dispatches.

Joan Munden described Lilian's life and actions in such a clear, detailed and moving way that, as Sallie Dixon remarked in her vote of thanks, you could have heard a pin drop during the talk, so engrossed were our members. If you think you would like to learn more about our activities, and hear interesting talks like this one, then please do contact Sallie on 843847. Also see staplefordwi.weebly.com. Joyce Dobson

# 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.





Discover and support Cambridgeshire's historic churches.



#### **HELP US HELP YOU!**

Ride and Stride is the original mass fund raising event linked to the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust (CHCT) and has a history dating back some 40 years. Money raised from the Ride & Stride event funds a substantial part of the annual grants budget of the CHCT helping churches of all denominations across the county with essential repairs and improvements.

Please ensure your church supports this year's Ride and Stride.

For further details go to <a href="https://camhct.uk/ride-and-stride/">https://camhct.uk/ride-and-stride/</a> or contact the Ride and Stride Treasurer: Tim Thompson: r-s-treasurer@camhct.uk RIDGESHIP TO THE TOTAL T

For details of ride from Stapleford church please see page 15

# **Stapleford - Nachingwea Link**

Stapleford Nachingwea AT his organ recital in August in aid of the Link, John Bryden again entertained us wonderfully with, in his words, 'a light-hearted programme' for the summer including Scottish folk

songs, the theme from Saint-Saën's Organ Symphony, 'Gabriel's Oboe' from 'The Mission', Handel's Water Music and Elgar's 'Nimrod'. All the pieces were delivered with the expertise and highest order of musicianship, which we have come to expect. Thank you so much John, we thoroughly enjoyed your playing.





Thank you too to the audience who kindly donated around £650 towards the cost of £870 for this year's uniforms and shoes for Special Needs' children in Nachingwea, which are being made by the ladies who received tailoring training with our support last year.

Those of you who have been following the Nachingwea Link for some time may remember that we

used to contribute to girls' secondary education. We were delighted when the Tanzanian government made education free. Now however, thanks partly to Kevin's English classes which we also support as all secondary education is given in English, girls are wishing to study for A Levels.

Sadly there are no schools in Nachingwea who offer these so the girls

have to travel to other areas, where they must pay for health insurance and uniforms but some parents cannot afford this. If anyone would like to sponsor a girl for two years at £75 per annum, please contact us on the email address nachingwealink@standrewstapleford. org The girls will be very grateful. Mary Cooper



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### **Mothers' Union**



OUR linked branch, Milton Mothers' Union, has invited us to their Opening Eucharist Service at 2.30pm on Tuesday 6 September at All Saints

church, Milton, followed by refreshments – let me know if you would like to go.

We have our Autumn Coffee Morning on 15 September at 15 Duke's Meadow with a Bring & Buy stall and a raffle, from 10.30am to Midday. Proceeds from the stalls are for the MU Jubilee Summer of Hope Appeal – everyone is invited to come and support us, not only MU members, so please do bring a friend.

Our own Opening Service takes place on 22 September at 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall, led by the Rev Michael Banyard, Chaplain to the Diocesan Mothers' Union. The theme will be 'Transformation Now!', the theme for 2022. The service will be followed by tea and cake.

So September looks quite busy, with several events to support. **Hilary Street** 

### St Andrew's Little Fishes

**Birth to Pre-School** 

Mondays in term time 9.15 to 11 am In the Johnson Hall, Gog Magog Way

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

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



# **Churchyard wildlife award**



THE nature value of our churchyard has been recognised with a Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation award. The award was given by the county Wildlife Trust following a detailed site inspection and review of our churchyard management plan. The latter is based on joint Diocesan/Wildlife Trust guidelines, 'Churchyards and their Management for Wildlife', with

further advice following the inspection. It recognises the significant biodiversity of the church grounds with over 50 species of wildflowers, 10 types of tree and seven butterflies.

A small band of volunteers carry out gardening tasks such as meadow cutting, removal of cuttings, bramble control and shrub pruning. These jobs are done with wildlife in mind, for example we have a south-facing bramble patch which is trimmed sensitively and is particularly beneficial for butterflies. Our meadow cutting uses some traditional scything. Less intensive mowing



of the meadow patches produces wildflower displays such as flushes of yellow cowslips in spring. Churchyards are an important refuge for wildlife following the loss of unimproved grassland and intensive agriculture. As guardians of the natural environment we like to think our efforts go some way to caring for 'God's acre'. **John O'Boyle, Chris Cooper** 





# **Magog Singers**



OUR summer term ended with some enthusiastic singing to say our farewells to Jacquie McBride, our musical director over the last seven years. This year, long-term members of the choir will say hello again to John Clenaghan who is rejoining us to lead the choir with more interesting and probably at times, challenging pieces.

Term starts on 6 September and we hope that a cup of tea may end the sessions at 4pm. We look forward to welcoming current members back, and new members are always welcome, especially those singing the lower parts.

Do join us in Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion on that day and contact kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com if you would like to join. **Kathleen Foreman** 

## **Ride and Stride for Churches**

DO join us at St Andrew's on Saturday 10 September to raise money for the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust, which helps churches with grants towards essential repairs and improvements. There are three ways you can take part and donations will be welcome.



- 1. Meet at St Andrew's at 2.30pm and complete a quiz as you walk to St Mary's, Great Shelford
- and optionally on to All Saints, Little Shelford. Tea and cakes on your return.
- 2. Meet at 2.30pm on the same day at St Andrew's and cycle (mainly off road) to Babraham church. Families very welcome. Tea and cakes on your return.
- 3. Get sponsorship for cycling or walking to as many churches as possible.

For more details and sponsorship forms, contact Mary at iis.cooper@ntlworld.com **Mary Cooper** 

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# **Autumn Jazz at Stapleford Granary**

STAPLEFORD GRANARY KATE Romano, Granary CEO says "There's something very special about returning to the Granary's concert hall as the nights draw in. Perhaps it's the warmth of the soft yellow brick walls and the woody smell of Douglas fir

combined with the thrill of live music-making - an unbeatable blend of familiarity and exploration. From delicate instrumentals and swinging classics to a brass-fuelled party band, we present a season of world class jazz to while away the longer autumn evenings and bring an upbeat twist to your Sunday lunchtimes."



September opens with the brilliant clarinettist /saxophonist Mark Crooks and his quartet: four virtuoso and award-winning players performing arrangements of jazz standards, swing and bossa nova classics. Mark has released three highly-acclaimed albums and is a member of the superb Back To Basie Orchestra and the celebrated John Wilson Orchestra with whom he regularly performs at the BBC Proms. Hear Mark Crooks Quartet at the Granary on Sunday 18

September.

Laura Jurd brings her new brass-fuelled Big Friendly party band to the Granary on Friday 30 September. This acclaimed trumpet player and composer breathes new life into Celtic folk traditions with a sprinkling of the blues and altrock played by her band of superb brilliant instrumentalists. Expect big friendly tunes and grooves-a-plenty as Laura celebrates the release



a lead musician.



Liam Noble has earned a reputation as one of Britain's most versatile and inventive pianists, as a soloist, leader and sideman. The Guardian described his recent album - The Long Game - as 'a terrific, rhythmically wily, electronics-steeped adventure'. Discover a compelling mix of acoustic piano and electronics from Liam Noble Trio on Sunday 9 October at 12pm. Kirsty Laifa

# Yesteryear

SYLVIA Morris looks at events in the village in the month of September over the years.

Punctuation, spelling and capital letters are exactly as printed at the time.

#### 1812

INCLOSURE. The proprietors of Estates in the parish of Stapleford are hereby informed that on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, at The Red Lion Inn in Cambridge at ten o'clock in the morning, they may inspect the plan of the said parish whereon the situations of their respective allotments are delineated. And the proprietors are also informed that attendance will be given at the same place on the following day, for the purpose of receiving a statement in writing of the complaint or objection of any proprietor who may happen to be dissatisfied with allotment.

#### 1836

ATROCIOUS ATTACK. On the night of Saturday, the 13<sup>th</sup> ult., between ten and eleven o'clock, as Mr. William Balls was returning home to Stapleford on horseback, along the Gogmagog Hills Road, he was stopped by three men, one of whom cut his horse's reins, and another struck him a violent blow on the shoulder with a bludgeon, but after some struggling he fortunately effected his escape. A reward of £50 has been offered for the conviction of the offenders.

#### 1868

HARVEST FESTIVAL. Sunday last was set apart in this parish as a day of special Thanksgiving for the year's abundant harvest. The church was beautifully and profusely decorated with corn and flowers, and the services, which were hearty and animated, were well attended by the parishioners. Addenbrooke's Hospital will be the worthy recipient of the offertory alms and the afternoon collection, which amounted together to £8 5s.

#### 1902

STAPLEFORD MAN'S SAD DEATH. Suffocated in a ditch. An inquest was held by Mr A J Lyon on Tuesday at the Hammer and Anvil, in Bar Lane, touching the death of John Smith, an army pensioner, and the landlord of the Hammer and Anvil, who was found dead in a ditch on Monday. Mr George Bull was foreman of the jury. Superintendent Webb watched the case on behalf of the police.

Emma Smith said the deceased was her husband and was a licensed victualler, being the landlord of the Hammer and Anvil. He was an army

pensioner and was formerly in the Royal Irish Rifles. She saw him alive about 11 o'clock on the previous morning. He had bought her some potatoes and told her to not use them, as he was going in the garden again. He had not complained of ill-health but he was subject to epileptic fits. She missed him, and on going to look for him found him lying face downwards in the mud. He was quite dead.

A juror said the ditch was six feet deep. There was only enough mud to cover his face. Dr Magoris of Shelford said he saw the deceased about 11.30 am. He was quite dead lying by the side of the ditch. He was covered with mud on the face, hands and front of the body. The face was covered as far back as the ears and under the chin. The cause of death was asphyxia.

The jury returned a verdict consonant with the doctor's evidence.

#### 1940

PAPER COLLECTION PROCEEDS. The Shelford and Stapleford Boy Scouts and the Stapleford Girl Guides out of the monies received for the collection of paper, have made donations of 10 guineas to the Red Cross, five guineas each to the Women's and Men's Branches of the British Legion, and three guineas to Toc H. They propose to make other donations and to invest the remainder of the money in National Savings Certificates.

#### 1944

"... the Clerk to write to the RDC and inform them that under the abnormal circumstances now prevailing, the Council did not consider the present arrangements were adequate for dealing with any fires that might occur and considered it desirable that the Parish should be supplied with a manual engine, two lengths of hose, standpipe and any other necessities for firefighting. (Carried)". (From the Parish Council Minutes).

# **Hopeful Bridge Club**

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4.30pm? We are a group of mixed abilities and would welcome some new members (not beginners) starting on 5 September.

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19



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# **Stapleford Warden**



HI, I would like to introduce myself to you all.

My name is Juliet Hawksworth, and I am the
Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
community warden for Stapleford.

I work two to three hours a day to make up a 12-hour week so a typical day would be quite a short article. Instead, I would like to tell you about a typical week.

A typical week would involve a mixture of phone calls and visits, supporting people with small jobs in and around their home or community and networking within the village or with other support groups.

It all starts with a phone call. Some of the people on the scheme receive a daily phone call, some have just one or two calls per week.

The calls can serve a number of purposes. For example, it may be that someone enjoys a chat everyday as they may be living alone and not able to access as much of the community as they once did. My call may be the only conversation someone has all day. For others, the call represents a 'check-in'. It's a way to ensure that all is well, and the individual is up and about. This is often a huge reassurance for the families of those on the scheme. Family



members may live far from their loved ones and so can feel confident that there is someone close at hand to offer support if needed.

My day will then start to take shape as I plan any visits, shopping requests, prescriptions, activities etc.

As I live in the village, I try to make my visits on bike or on foot as much as possible. This goes some way to balance out the number of biscuits I may be offered and have no willpower to refuse! Visits can involve a cup of tea and chat, preparing a light lunch, or support with small jobs around the home. I have helped to sew on buttons and find misplaced items for a lady with visual impairment, water house plants and read out articles from the newspaper. These are just little jobs which I am more than happy to do as I appreciate how frustrating those 'little things' can be.

My visits also enable me to observe the person and their home, to be an active listener and offer support if needed. I may notice that the person seems unwell or upset for example or that they are starting to need some practical support in their house. They might need our Age UK Handyman

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service as they are starting to have difficulty on the steps into the garden and need a grab rail, or I may offer a referral to our Homes Team to organise a shopper or cleaner or IT support.

There may also be information and advice about benefits or health care to pass on or support to fill in forms or make phone calls. The visits are also an excellent opportunity to pass on details of up-and-coming local events and activities.

Networking and promoting the scheme is also factored into my week. I make sure I distribute

leaflets into shops and cafes and pin them up on the notice boards. Wardens are always looking for ways to let people know that we are here and what we can do. I have dropped leaflets into GP surgeries so that the Social Prescribers are made aware of the scheme and can make recommendations to their patients.

Recently, I have been part of the Community Warden Steering Group at Community events, helping on the bric-a-brac stall at Stapleford Village Fete and Shelford Feast. This has been a fun way to meet people and talk about the scheme and promote myself!

I really enjoy my job. I have been Warden in Stapleford for four months now. I have very supportive co-workers and I know that answers to questions are just a call away.

There are some great people on the Stapleford scheme with whom it is a joy to spend time with. We are starting to attract more enquiries now that people in the village know me and my role.

One of my favourite parts of the week is the coffee morning in Stapleford. It is a wonderful example of people coming together and supporting each other emotionally and practically. It is an opportunity for me to listen in and to encourage discussion to find out what sort of support older people in the community need to live dignified,



healthy, independent lives. It would be great to think I was able to remove all barriers and enable everyone to participate in community life but it's just not possible, even for someone regularly fortified with tea and biscuits. By working for Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, however, I do feel like I'm part of a larger organisation and community working towards this goal. Juliet Hawksworth

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### **Puzzle Corner**

#### Back and Forth 2

Find the answers to each pair of clues
If you write the answer to one clue backwards,
you get the answer to the other clue

e.g. beat/sport (4)

gives FLOG and GOLF (4 letters)

#### Group 1

sleep/criticise (3)

face/part of mouth (3)

promote/swallow (4)

cheerless/Shakespeare (4)

Satan/dwelt (5)

pries/type of cutlery (6)

#### Group 2

spoil/male sheep (3)

dwarf/fish (3)

volcano/stake (4)

edible seaweed/metal (4)

dug/cloth (5)

nappy/reimbursed (6)

#### Group 3

catch/number (3)

friend/sphere (3)

e.g. Jim Morrison/old cross word (4)

beast/therefore (4)

French blackberries/clear liquid (5)

top 80s golfer/king's number?(6)

Set by Hermes - Answers on page 41





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# **Duxford Saturday Workshop**



IF you love music and would like to learn to play an instrument, play alongside others, or sing in a choir, you'll be hugely welcome to come and join in the delights of **Duxford Workshop** at Duxford village school, and held on Saturday mornings during school term-time.

Registration for the 2022-23 Workshop year is on Saturday, 17 September, 10am to 11.30am – so, if you love music, do come along to find out what Workshop can offer you.

Duxford Saturday Music Workshop holds group tuition sessions, where adults and children from Year Five onwards can learn to play an instrument.

There is also a 'junior music group' for children from Year 1 upwards, as well as classes for adult beginners and groups both for 'improvers' and for competent players.

Our members include adults who have always wanted to learn an instrument but haven't had the opportunity, alongside those – so many of us - who "haven't played for donkeys' years..." but would like to get back into playing music again.

In addition to the tuition classes, Workshop also has ensembles ranging from recorders, strings, jazz and wind bands, to folk fiddlers, ukulele players, guitarists, an adults' community choir, and a full orchestra - offering so many opportunities – all for you!

A registered charity, Workshop is all about having fun by learning and performing together in an enjoyable and supportive environment. Indeed, some of our members find it **so** enjoyable that they have been coming along since the last century! Would you believe that? Honestly, it's true, I'm one of them. So do come and find out why we love Workshop so much – and see what you can achieve!

Even if you don't have an instrument of your own, don't panic – we have instruments for rental on very reasonable terms so will be happy to help you out if we can.

Registration for the new 2022/23 Workshop year is on Saturday 17 September, from 10am to 11.30am at Duxford School, St. John's Street, Duxford, and term begins the following week, at 9.30am on Saturday, 24 September.

For more information, please see the Workshop website at: duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk **Peter Howarth** 

# **Spitfire Crash rediscovered**



ON 8 July 1942 Flt. Lt. AJP Fane was killed when his photo reconnaissance Spitfire crashed beside the Trumpington to Haverhill railway line in Stapleford. Fane had set off from RAF Benson in Oxfordshire and flew to the Baltic to photograph U-Boat yards. On the return journey the weather

was very bad and Fane was forced to land at RAF Coltishall in Norfolk. A couple of hours later he decided to fly back to Benson, but the weather became even worse. At about 15.55 Fane was following the railway line

south of Cambridge and with the cloud virtually down to the ground he appeared to try to locate Duxford which he would have known was close by. He lowered the landing gear ready to land in a field if Duxford didn't appear. In making a slight turn his wing clipped a hedge next to the railway line, cartwheeling the plane into the ground. Fane was thrown clear but was killed.



To enable photo reconnaissance (PR) Spitfires to fly very long distances they carried no guns or armour and also had extra fuel tanks to fly long distances. The pilots chosen to fly PR Spitfires not only had to be brilliant pilots but also had to be excellent navigators with the stamina to fly for hours on long missions. Many aircraft on these solitary missions were shot down by enemy fighters.

Over 20 years ago I wrote a history of Stapleford in the 2nd World War and had conversations with Pat Rickett, who with his father, farmed the land on Bury Farm where the plane crashed, and also Basil Beavis, Tony Prior and other men who were teenagers at the time. None ever mentioned a crashed Spitfire. They knew all about the Wellington bomber that crashed on the Old Vicarage and the bomber that crashed into the trees at Wandlebury, but nothing about a Spitfire.

When Anthony Hoskins wrote to the Parish Council last November asking if anyone had information about the Spitfire crash, the message was passed to me as Chairman of the History Society and I replied that I thought he was misinformed. However, he was able to email a map of the crash site supplied by the RAF and an aerial view which pinpointed the spot. Who could argue with that?

Tony and I have been in regular correspondence during the last eight months and we finally met at the Granary on the Village Day in July. Tony displayed parts of a restored aircraft, a Merlin engine and details of his plans to erect a memorial in honour of the pilot. Fane was a famous racing driver before the war and one of his cars, a Frazer Nash, was also on display beside parts of the Spitfire. Tony is very well known in the world of aviation history so it was no surprise when a Hazard made two circuits of the Granary at very low level during the afternoon.

Tony Hoskins had hoped to be able to unveil the memorial on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Flt. Lt. Fane's death but there were delays in getting permission from the land agents, so it is now hoped to have it in place for Fane's birthday on 11 November. Tony is planning a big celebration which will be well publicised.

Anthony Hoskins has created a webpage with more information about Flt. Lt Fane, PR Spitfires and the proposals for the memorial which are well underway. This can be found at spitfireaa810.co.uk/fane **Keith Dixon** 

# **Stapleford History Society**

#### Michelle Bullivant - A Tale of Discovery: The War Ditches



MANY of us, no doubt, have explored the quarry and nature reserve at the Cherry Hinton end of Lime Kiln Hill without giving the area much thought. Michelle Bullivant, our talented local landscape archaeologist, gave us a very interesting talk at our July meeting to reveal the centuries of history relating to the site.

It is well known that quarrying for clunch took place at the site and persisted until the 1980s. Peterhouse, the first Cambridge College, and Ely Cathedral were both built in part from it. However, our story begins in 1854 with the discovery of human remains while the reservoirs at the top of the hill were being dug. The eight skeletons were reputedly of eight giants, rather like Gog and Magog. However, there is no record of what happened to all the bones.

In 1893, when the owner of the site wanted to build a road there, another skeleton was discovered along with some Romano-British pottery. He belonged to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society so, when the ownership changed hands to another member of the CAS, a Mr Tebbit, more excavations took place. More skeletons, identified as male and female, were found together with animal bones and more fragments of pottery. The

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conclusion was that the site was probably Late Roman or Anglo Saxon. The skeletons were deposited in the School of Anatomy.

The University Digging Group took an interest in 1902 discovering more bones and pottery and also evidence of fires and ovens. A Romano-British brooch was also found. The theory began to emerge that the area had been part of a circular ditch like at Wandlebury and that such a circular fosse could possibly be Iron Age. In 1907 three more skeletons were discovered and said to be pre-Roman.

Over the next forty years or so there was much disagreement between archaeologists regarding what to call the site and to what period it belonged. It was generally agreed that the site was 'a bit of a mess'. In 2008, two young boys who were playing at the site unexpectedly found two leg bones and Michelle was contacted by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. English Heritage and the Wildlife Trust funded a dig which established that the site was the remains of an Iron Age Hill Fort. The theory proposed in 1902 was confirmed as fact.

There are still questions to be answered, such as the link with Wandlebury, for example. No doubt Michelle is working on it.

For more local history see michellebullivant.com, and to read accounts of earlier talks at Stapleford History Society see historysociety.staplefordvillage.org.uk Jane Steadman

# **Cambridge Flower Club**

WE meet at the Memorial Hall, Mill Lane. Whittlesford, CB22 4NE at 7.15pm for a demonstration, with refreshments from 6.45pm. New members welcome! Visitors pay £6.

15 Sept Visit to Easton Lodge Gardens, Gt Easton, Dunmow 20 October Alan Smith demonstration 'Autumn Glory'

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





# **Stapleford Strollers: Walk 106**

#### Coton to Madingley and back: a circular walk from Coton

#### To get to start of walk

GO north up the M11 and come off at Junction 13 (Cambridge,Bedford). Turn left on to the A1303 and take the first left for Coton. Take the first right in Coton village, parking opposite the Village Hall (CB23 7PL)

#### Distance of walk

It is just over 4% miles long. The route is not completely flat but any slopes are fairly gentle. The steepest climb is in the grounds of the American Cemetery.

#### OS Map

OS Explorer map 209 (Cambridge). If you want to run off a free map extract use maps.the-hug.net; the route map provided is taken from this site.

#### Route of walk

Facing the Village Hall, turn left and pass St Peter's Church on your left. Next to the Primary School, take the footpath (signed: Madingley 1¼ miles). Follow this path past the play area. When it emerges on to an open field go straight ahead, heading uphill. At the corner of the field continue ahead on a path between trees until reaching the main road (A1303) directly opposite the American Cemetery.

Turn left and, when a signpost is seen on the opposite side of the road, cross over CAREFULLY and follow the path through the trees.

This comes out on to a minor road. Turn left and, after a few yards, turn left up some steps and through a gate into the University 800 Wood. It will be 15 years old next year and celebrates 800 years of the University. Cross the grass meadows, going ahead until swinging right and following the mown path downhill. The path goes right just before a metal gate and passes a dried-up pond on the left. Carry on downhill, exit the wood when the fence is reached (plus bike racks), cross the road and turn left across the bridge over the A428.

Keep on until a mini roundabout is reached. Go straight on, through the gates of Madingley Hall. There is a church to the left and the Tudor hall building ahead. At the hall, walk through the arch. On the left look for a white gate leading to the Walled Garden. Follow the path left, go round the inner edge of the garden and exit through wooden gates into the car park. Turn right and then right again going downhill, passing various

buildings. Keep to the path, passing a wooden summer house. The fence line is to the left; walk on until a large farm gate is reached.

Go through the gate (there is a stile here, too) into a wood and keep ahead, ignoring any turns to the right, until the path veers sharply right by a pile of logs. The path next runs alongside the left of a lake, then follows the grassy area to the road. Cross over by the mini roundabout and reverse the route walked earlier back across the A428 bridge, reaching the gate to the Cambridge 800 wood. Go through the gate and turn immediate left paralleling the hedge and road. At the wooden display board, exit on to the road.

Turn right and go into the American Cemetery. Climb the steps and walk through the Cemetery to the main entrance on the A1303. Cross over CAREFULLY, turn left and then follow the footpath sign to Coton. This was walked earlier in the route. Go downhill past the play area by the school, turn left when the road is reached and return to your vehicle.

**David Barnes** (with thanks to Joy Dring)

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



# Village Day at Stapleford Granary



I LOVE a fair, a fête, a carnival, a Village Day; it's the melting pot of spectacle, entertainment and reality, played out in an open-air setting, which is both fantastical and ephemeral. They have their origins in religion, in mythical-allegorical pageants and processions. In England, they have roots in the Victorian mechanical steam fairs, before that, in

menageries, circuses and exhibitions, and before that, in Charter Fairs (the right to have a fair and collect rent from it) and Mop Fairs, whose primary purpose was the hiring of labourers (the 'mop' being a little symbol of your trade worn on your jacket). "Wondrous, improbable, unsavoury", Samuel Pepys wrote about the pitiful sights of dancing mares at Bartholomew Fair and his approval for acrobat Jacob Hall's Dancing Of The Ropes ("a thing worth seeing"). Thomas Hardy's description of wife-selling in the opening chapter of 'The Mayor of Casterbridge' was inspired by a similar real-life incident at a Dorset trading fair in the early nineteenth century.

Our Village Day at the Granary (now in its second year) doesn't have steam-powered roundabouts, acrobats or dancing animals, nor are we selling wives! But the principle remains the same. Public outdoor events are the story of the people who come to them and those who create them; a living, dynamic tradition which reflects the popular culture in which it operates.



This year, on Sunday 17 July, we welcomed around 800 visitors to the Granary, 19 artists and stall holders, 40 musicians, 10 cooks and food sellers, 24 young bakers and one celebrity judge. 27 staff and volunteers ensured that everything ran smoothly and safely. A blisteringly hot day, the shade of the courtyard tent kept everyone around 10 degrees cooler than they might have been and a plentiful supply of iced coffees, Pimm's, cold drinks and water stations ensured that everyone was happily hydrated.



That's our bit. So where does the magic happen? In the colours and textures of the stalls created by artists and craft-makers; earthy pottery, antiques, rugs and woven baskets jostling with bunches of flowers and stained glass, tiny paper books, printed paper, chutneys and cheeses. In the spontaneous singing, drumming, clapping and dancing to

live music and the surprise fly past from a WW2 Harvard (just for us!). In the hundreds of variants on the 'bee headbands' made and modelled by our youngest visitors and in the places where people chose to sit and eat, talk, drink, meet friends, all creating the buzzing, vibrant atmosphere that suits the Granary well.

And the impact of a Village Day doesn't stop when the day ends. You take a bit of it away with you; something you bought or created, a song stuck in your head, a prize you won or a new acquaintance you made. I hope that all our brilliant entrants for the Junior Bake Off will keep on baking, encouraged by the words of adjudicator Ian Cumming. The winner of the 8-12 category was 9-year-old Kimberley for her inspired Alice in Wonderland tea cup cakes. Wilf (age 5) who was the winner of the youngest age category couldn't stay for the adjudication, but he came back later in the day with



his mum after everyone had gone. We cheered his winning cake and he proudly put on his winner's apron for a photograph. "I just can't believe that lan liked my cake" he kept saying - a marvellously layered colourful bake topped with an artist's mixing palette and brushes.



"It's got to be a bit different to everyday life" said Graham Downie, historian and chairman of the Fairground Association of Great Britain, reflecting on the everevolving tradition of the fair. "The important thing about fairs is that they always innovate, they must always present something new because the







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people who come expect to see something new."

Innovation is crucial to all that we do here at the Granary as a charity and an arts centre. Beyond the spectacle and entertainment, our Village Day has its roots in our cultural values, beliefs and our desire



to be a welcoming, inspirational place for everyone. Last year's Village Day grew out of the pandemic, addressing the isolation and disconnection we all felt during and after lockdown when community spirit and social lives were superseded by the need for safety. You could feel the palpable relief and emotion at being able to do normal things again - like eating together and listening to music.

This year's Village Day seemed to signify a readjustment back to familiar patterns of life. We celebrated this by introducing new ideas; a headline folk band (Mishra), the opening of our new cafe, more hands-on activities, forgotten local history stories and Liz McGowan's environmental art exhibition. I'm excited to see how our Village Day will continue to innovate and grow over the years as a reflection of our own community and I hope you'll all be part of that evolution with us. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us and made the day so special.

Kate Romano, CEO Stapleford Granary

# **Stapleford Community Warden Service**

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

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

Direct line: 07436 102733 or juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk



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# **2G3S**



AT the first Repair Café in Whittlesford, which was lively and very popular, we had an information stall and met up with their green group, Eco Whittlesford. We look forward to working with them in the future.

We held another Fruit and Veg Swap at the end of August. Looking at the apple crops round here this year, we should have been holding an Apple Fair!

The Book Club met in August, discussing 'A Bigger Picture' by Vanessa Nakate, bringing an African viewpoint to the climate crisis. Last time people read 'Doughnut Economics' by Kate Raworth – a thought-provoking book, advocating a new kind of economics that doesn't just think of growth and GDP. It needs to value human wellbeing and fairness and we need to live within the planet's means.

#### **Future events**

Monday 5 September 'Heat Pumps Explained' by Warren Pope, from Peterborough Environment City Trust. Johnson Hall, Stapleford, at 8pm, or by Zoom.

Repair Café at Gt Shelford Free Church's Eco Festival, Saturday 10 September, 10am to 2pm. To book items in for repair and find out more see our website.

Our next Nature Walk, led by the very knowledgeable John O'Boyle, will be on Saturday 17 September at the Wale Field in Little Shelford from 2pm to 4pm. See our website for more details. For all our walks, sturdy footwear and appropriate outdoor wear are advised. These walks are intended to raise awareness of our local wildlife sites and are open to all. For the walks, it is important that you are aware that you attend at your own risk. We do not accept responsibility for any accidents or mishaps that might arise during the activity.

There will be a Social Cycle Ride on Monday 19 September, starting from Stapleford Pavilion at 10 am. 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. To book email greener@sawston.org.

On Monday 3 October our conversation evening will be 'Low-Cost Energy Saving Measures' by Bart Hommels, who has retrofitted his own home and featured in Cambridge's Open Eco Homes.

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# Gemma Rosefield, cello & Nicola Eimer, piano

Sunday 25 September | 12:00pm Brilliant & contrasting pieces for cello & piano by Chopin, Mendelssohn & Janáček

## Laura Jurd - The Big Friendly Album

Friday 30 September | 7:45pm Big friendly tunes & grooves-a-plenty from Laura Jurd & her brass-fuelled party band





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#### Other news

Cambridge Carbon Footprint have published a Climate Change Charter with Cambridge City Council. As part of this they have distributed a map of recycling/reusing/repair facilities in the area. You may be able to pick up a paper copy in the library, or look online at cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/charter.

There was an interesting article in the Guardian on 6 August about ways to prevent drought, apart from 2-minute showers, water butts, reusing

washing-up water to water your flowerpots, etc. For instance, beavers can be helpful in keeping a river's water on the land rather than it rushing down a river towards the sea. With all the projected housing development in the SE the Government has to take action now to preserve our rivers and



wildlife, keep our households supplied, and keep our food growing.

If you are interested in reading further on environmental matters, two books were recommended in the Cambridge Independent's Summer Reads list: 'Sacred Nature: How We Can Recover Our Bond with the Natural World', by Karen Armstrong; and 'Net Zero, Food and Farming' by an East Anglian academic, Neil Ward.

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. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along. Also see our Facebook page and our website (type 2G3S into Google and you will find us). Helen Hale

# **Puzzle Corner Answers**

Group 1: NAP/PAN; MUG/GUM; PLUG/GULP; DRAB/BARD; DEVIL/LIVED; SNOOPS/SPOONS

Group 2: MAR/RAM; DOC/COD; ETNA/ANTE; NORI/IRON; MINED/DENIM; DIAPER/REPAID

Group 3: NET/TEN; BRO/ORB; DOOR/ROOD; OGRE/ERGO; MURES/SERUM; LANGER/REGNAL



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# **Granta Medical Practices**

### Flu Clinics

NOW that we are all socialising again and there are questions about lower levels of immunity since lockdown, it is really important to get your flu vaccine. We now have the dates of our clinics:

- Saturday 24 September Sawston Medical Practice, CB22 3HU
- Saturday 1 October Linton Health Centre, CB21 4JS
- Sunday 2 October Market Hill Surgery, SG8 9JN
- Saturday 8 October Shelford Health Centre, CB22 5FY
- Sunday 16 October Linton Health Centre, CB21 4JS
- Sunday 16 October Barley Surgery, SG8 8HY
- Friday 21 October Sawston Medical Practice, CB22 3HU
- Saturday 22 October Shelford Health Centre, CB22 5FY

All clinics will run from 8.30am to 4pm.

We will be vaccinating:

- all children aged 2 to 3 years on 31 August 2022
- people aged 65 years and over (including those becoming 65 by 31 March 2023
- those patients aged from 6 months to less than 65 years of age in a clinical risk group such as asthma, COPD, chronic heart problems, and diabetes. If you are unsure if you fit into an "at risk" group don't hesitate to ask
- pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the influenza season)
- household contacts of immunocompromised individuals, especially those for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable
- those in long stay residential care homes
- those who are carers
- those with a learning disability

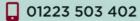
The government is also extending the cohort to include those patients 50 years old and over with no underlying health conditions. However, these patients will be vaccinated later in the programme, most likely around November.

The vaccines we are using this year are:

**For the 2 to 3 year olds** – *Fluenz nasal spray*. This should arrive in time for us to vaccinate in our planned clinics.



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For 18 to 64 year olds – Flucelvax and Supemtek. These are both egg-free and provide a better immune response than the traditional egg-based vaccines used in previous years.

**For 65 years old and over** – *Fluad* (adjuvanted quadrivalent). This vaccine contains an immunity boost.

We are hopeful that we will be able to give the Covid autumn boosters at the same time as the flu vaccines. We will keep you updated with any developments.

There is going to be a mixture of SMS, phone calls and patients calling in. Everyone eligible will be contacted in one way or another.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries. Patients will be called in for their vaccination, or they can ring up and book a time.

Sandra East, sandra.east@nhs.net, T. 0300 234 5555

# **Quiz Time**

### The Four Horsemen

- 1. Who was the only survivor of Custer's force at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876?
- 2. Name the horse which won the Grand National in 2018 and 2019.
- 3. Who are the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse?
- 4. The Four Horsemen appear three times in the Bible: twice in the Old Testament and once in the New Testament. Name any two of the three books of the Bible where they appear..
- 5. For what is Yersinia pestis responsible?
- 6. What vainglorious and ultimately catastrophic event took place on 25 October 1854?
- 7. Suffragette Emily Davidson died after she threw herself under the King's horse in the 1913, Epsom Derby. For a point each, which King and which horse?
- 8. In a post-Apocalyptic world an ailing father must protect his son from cannibals and other dangers in a film of 2009 starred Viggo Mortensen and Charlize Theron. It was based on a 2006 novel. Give its title and author.
- 9. Copenhagen, the Duke of Wellington's favourite horse, was what colour?
- 10. Where is Red Rum buried?

This month's quiz supplied by Simon Hardwick

Answers on page 55



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# SHELFORD SUPPORT GROUP APPEAL



Have you ever thought about volunteering for your community?

Have you ever thought about how you would get to hospital appointments, the health centre, dentist, hairdressers or social outings if you had no transport or had been told to stop driving no matter what your age?

This is where the Shelford Support Group can help out, just as it has been doing for the last 19 years.

This is an appeal to you to help us, by asking you to think seriously about volunteering to help keep the group running for the good of the community.

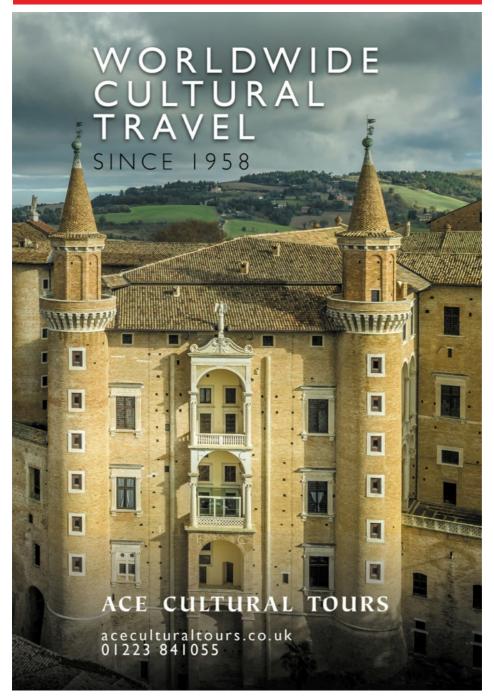
#### We need both coordinators and drivers!

**Coordinators** manage the process of matching drivers to passengers requesting transport. You would work on a rota basis (two people each week) using your own phone and answerphone. As a coordinator you would record each request received on our shared calendar then contact drivers from the list supplied.

**Drivers** We always need drivers! You can be as flexible as you like; we respect any commitments you already have and we understand that you may not always be available when asked. Once you have agreed a journey you just need to be sure to take your passenger to their appointment and return them at the end.

So please give volunteering some thought. It is very rewarding and a service much appreciated by residents in our community who use it. Expenses on phone calls and fuel, can be reimbursed at a fixed level.

For further details, contact Gillian Northmore at *shelfordsupport@ googlemail.com* or phone her on 504542. So go on, give us a call and we will answer any queries you have.



# **Library Update**



**SUMMER READING CHALLENGE:** thank you to everyone who has taken part in the Summer Reading Challenge this summer – we hope you had fun! The official finishing date is 3 September, but you can keep going until Saturday 10 September. Please make

sure staff know that you have finished. The awards ceremony is at 4pm on Friday 23 September.

#### STORYTIME IS BACK!

Great Shelford Library's Storytime for ages 0-4 years will be back from September onwards and there's no need to pre-book. Sessions will run from 10.30am to 11am on the first and third Tuesday each month (term-time only).



### **BIG BOOK SALE:** the

Friends of Great Shelford Library would be pleased to receive donations of books in excellent condition for their sale in the library during Libraries Week in October.

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS? Please speak to staff at the library, as we can arrange for you to have a short one-to-one session with our Digital Buddy volunteer. We can also help with bus pass applications and renewals. Sessions are on Tuesdays and by appointment only.

**POP IN AND CHAT**: there will be another supportive get-together for parents and carers of children with additional needs on Wednesday 14 September from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Children are very welcome too. Please pre-book a place: phone 01954 284 672 or email: childandfamilysouth@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

**ENGAGE TALK:** Wednesday September 21 from 2 to 3.30pm. A talk by Kate Armstrong: An Unexpected Journey. The Life of an Officer's Wife in the Dying Days of the Empire.

Please pre-book in the library or via cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. Donation of £2 appreciated.Tel: 0345 045 5225. **Rosemary Humby** 



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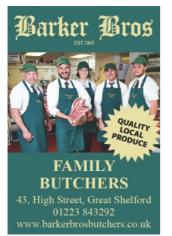
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# **Natural wonders**

What beauty abounds for us to behold? From the heat of the desert to the highest mountain so cold. With the profusion of colours nature gives us each day. The sunrise each morning, that lights its display. How lucky are we to be able to touch, smell and see? Experience what nature willingly shares for free. What more could we desire or possibly need? Its only downfall could be Man's selfish greed. Let's hope we can alter our ways before it's too late. Protect our planet to insure it, a more desirable fate. With the profusion of life on land, sea, and air. The only one in our universe with no more that compare. Perched on an oasis. In the vastness of space. A miracle? How our existence was conceived in the first place. From microbial life far too small to see That inhabit a part of our world. That's a mystery to me.

Beautiful mammals like whales traverse our oceans.

And like us have feelings to express love and emotions.

Amazing corals and the diversity of life now in rapid decline.

Future generations may not witness this wonder of nature

That is so truly divine.

There's always been a natural balance to which we should adhere. Or all we have today will rapidly disappear.

But change is coming as the attitudes of peoples all around our globe Strive to protect all fauna and flora, down to the last microbe.

We cannot let it all gradually fade away.

It's our duty to give a voice to the creatures that have never had a say.

Let's not pass judgement on others or try to impart blame.

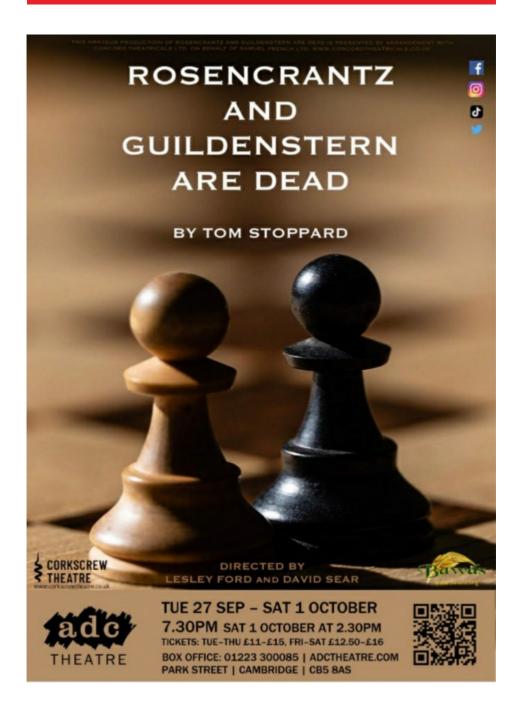
Let's just work together as it's our duty to strive to maintain

Millennia of evolution, now under serious threat.

No time left for indecision that seeds later regret.

Michael Gatward





# **Busway proposed route change**

# **Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) consultation**

THE points below are part of Stapleford Parish Council's draft response to the GCP Consultation, which closes midday on Aug 30 (it is being extended for an additional eight days due to incorrect information first being issued by the GCP; see last month's *Messenger*).

The reason for the further consultation is that the Planning Consent for the Retirement Village has necessitated the rerouting of the busway so that it goes deeper into the chalk hills, so avoiding the new development and also requiring re-siting of the busway stop further away from Stapleford.

Should there be time, you (if you haven't done so already) are welcome to make your opinions known to the GCP by going online at consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com and search for CSET Stapleford. The PC's points might help you compose your response.

### Alternative route as proposed in the GCP's 2018 Consultation

- Stapleford Parish Council actively supports infrastructure and public transport initiatives that are sustainable: the A1307 scheme provides a far better business case providing similar benefit for a fraction of the cost.
- Stapleford Parish Council strongly opposes the proposed CSET route, when the A1307 scheme offers the better opportunity to link the business and research campuses with central Cambridge and freeing up the traffic (the original vision and objective for CSET).
- This scheme would involve bus lanes along the A1307, with a dedicated busway running from the Hinton Way roundabout and through the Biomedical Campus expansion area, and avoiding confliction during construction with Cambridge South railway station.
- This scheme would also have the advantage of avoiding damaging the backdrop views of special landscape value of the Magog hills and avoids damaging the special setting of Stapleford at the base of the chalkland Magog Down.

## **Objections to CSET**

- It causes irreparable damage to the chalk hills and the dissecting of the recently designated countryside park, a high value conservation and amenity area.
- The cutting into the chalk hills is now a deeper incursion than previously proposed. The Inspector granting planning consent for the retirement village stressed the importance of not breaching the 25m contour to preserve landscape and views.

- The countryside park will be important for future conservation and added biodiversity, and placing the busway here is a significant confliction to this ideal when factors including light pollution at the various crossings are taken into account.
- As a minimum a new Environmental Impact Assessment of the busway and associated works on the designated countryside park should be undertaken.
- With the bus stops located up to a mile out of the village the scheme offers little if any public transport improvement.
- Diverting existing buses onto the proposed busway and away from the village will weaken public transport in our village, with fewer buses serving existing stops, and will undermine their commercial viability.
- Traffic on Granham's Road and Hinton Way is already delayed by the level crossing and will be further delayed by the busway crossings and the proposed Haverhill Road crossing. The busway introduces more congestion, inconvenience and less connectivity.
- This scheme is unnecessarily carbon intensive to build, consisting of a tarmacadam road and three concrete bridges. The initial carbon cost becomes critical as progressively most transport becomes electric. It is noted that all of the councils that vote on the GCP Executive Board have pledged to reduce emissions.

### Changes to route due to Retirement Village

- Stapleford Parish Council's preference is for Option 1 because Option 2 creates an infill site that is ripe for development, which option 1 does not create.
- Under Option 2 the busway carves a larger area of uneconomic farmland on Haverhill Road and then behind the houses on Haverhill Road, all the way from the busway stop through to the Granary and then on towards Sawston.
- Obviously under Option 1 the busway still carves a large area of uneconomic farmland behind the houses on Haverhill Road, all the way from the busway stop through to the Granary and then on towards Sawston.
- As set out above the Council reaffirms its opposition to both options because the current busway proposals are ill-founded.
- Whilst the consultation document highlights the extra 10m walk to the bus stop under option 1, this is insignificant in the context of a milelong walk to the bus stop from the centre of the village.
  - The retirement village planning approval required the countryside

park to be integrated with the retirement village and therefore all necessary at-grade crossings are required for facilitating the necessary footpaths.

• We would like to see a statement from the GCP regarding the safe operation of the busway at this point, particularly regarding speed limits, given that the people crossing at this point will be mainly the elderly and mobility-restricted, and the possibility of sight and hearing impairment needs to be taken into account. **Councillor Howard Kettel** 

# **Drought hits Dernford Lake**



**Dernford Lake** showing the effects of the drought. The island can be seen in the background on the left with birds on the dried mud on the left. **John O'Boyle** 

# **Quiz answers**

1. Custer's horse, Commanche 2. Tiger Roll 3. Death, Disease, Famine, War 4. Revelations, Ezekiel, Zachariah 5. Bubonic Plague 6. Charge of the Light Brigade 7. George V; Anmer 8. The Road; Cormac McCarthy 9. Chestnut

10. Under the winning post at Aintree.

# **Stapleford Parish Council**

# staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Will Jackson-Wood cllr.jackson-wood@scambs.gov.uk

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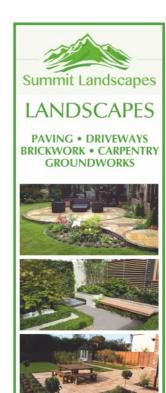
## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Maria King maria.king@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 07764 609 061
Brian Milnes brian.milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 07971 886 113

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