

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

December 2025

Volume 84 No 12

Price 90p

*Season's Greetings and
Best Wishes to all our Readers*



Frosty morning at Magog Down by Grace Harrison Ronge

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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

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phone: 840256 or 07970 716163

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Curate: Matt Lewis

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Safeguarding Officer: Rob Needle

email: safeguarding@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 844227 or 07877 055934

Director of Music: Tim Kwan

email: music@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 07745 803972

For more Church contacts please see standrewstapleford.org.

SERVICES at St ANDREW'S

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

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

6pm Evensong

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

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

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

AN interesting little illustration of modern life this week. I was chatting with someone who needed a way for customers to pay for her art at an exhibition. We use a SumUp card reader for receiving payments in church. You see them all over the place now. Neat little thing that links to an app on your mobile, and you can take payments, donations etc., for a fee of about 1% of the payment. Very convenient and works well, so I recommended it to her and sent her a link on WhatsApp.



Fast forward a couple of days and she is getting adverts on her Instagram feed for SumUp card readers. WhatsApp are clearly harvesting information from messages, analysing key words, and flogging the data to advertisers.

It seems to happen when you just talk about things too. A possible new car purchase was one example in our house. Adverts for that type of new car start popping up in our social media feeds. This could be coincidence, but at times it does seem that what you say can be harvested for advertising purposes. Do WhatsApp and similar listen in?

I don't care about this very much, though maybe I should. Most of the online and phone services I use are more or less free, or certainly low cost, and one knowledgeable techy person said that if something seems to be free then you yourself are the product. The analogy does not quite work, but what they meant was that if you use a free online service the provider has to make money out of you somehow, and that is usually through selling information for use by advertisers. I like the 'free' services, but it is still a shock when you see direct results of the information harvest.

If we use these apps we just have to accept that an awful lot is known about us. Do you have a street WhatsApp group? Very useful for keeping in touch with the neighbours, and of course you don't mind them knowing the things you post. But for an advertiser these groups, collated and analysed, are a little gold mine - who has pets, an alarm system, buys fresh fish, is interested in local planning issues, is looking for accommodation to put up guests for a family wedding and so on. All marketable information, and, we should assume, all probably up for sale. In our digital world we are known by others through all sorts of clever coding, probably more so than we guess; sometimes it is comfortable and useful, and at other times a bit disturbing.

Being known – comfortably or uncomfortably – is something Christians are used to thinking about. Psalm 139 starts

‘You have searched me, Lord
and you know me.’

This is not a WhatsApp data scrape, but something rather more fundamental.

‘You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.’

It is wonderful stuff and well worth a read. Try the biblegateway.com website or ask me for a bible.

It is not just about being known though. It is about the enduring presence of God. The psalmist asks “Where can I flee from your Spirit?” And the answer is, you can’t, for he is everywhere.

I wonder what you think of this? Creepy supernatural WhatsApp harvesting? Or something rather comforting? The comforting point is that in all tribulations, in every circumstance, whatever we have done, God is there for us. God, the psalmist says, is both the source of his life and its continuing support. He

‘lays his hand upon me ...
your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast ...
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day
for darkness is as light to you.
For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.’

Being truly known by someone who loves us is a gift. If someone ‘gets’ who you are, understands your character, your way of life, your uncertainties, your flaws, your joys and sufferings, and if they love you because of or despite all these things, then your relationship with them can flourish. It can be the greatest source of comfort.

That is one of the reasons why Christmas is so important to Christians. The moment when God put into action his plan to live as a human being, as Jesus, the son of Mary – not just to observe humans and know humanity that way, but to actually be one of us in every way – is maybe the most important moment in human history, vying for that title with only the

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

5 to 7 December

- refreshments & music throughout -

Fri 5 & Sat 6 Dec:

10.30 am to 6 pm

Sun 7 Dec:

12 noon to 4 pm



St Andrew's
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crucifixion, resurrection and bodily ascension of Christ. Now we can be sure not only that we are known by God as the psalmist understood it, but that God has walked in our shoes. God the code writer not only knows his code, he has been and still is – remind me to write about the bodily ascension of Christ one of these days – one of us. That changes everything.

A very happy, if rather premature, Christmas to you all, Simon

Time to renew or take out a subscription to the *Messenger*

MANY thanks to those who have already paid. Much appreciated. The annual cost remains at £9 or £25 for postal subscriptions.

We would ask you to pay by online bank transfer to help us to manage the process more efficiently and ensure prompt delivery of your magazine. We would really appreciate it if you can pay this way. Our details are:

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Please give the first line of your address as the reference. If you don't use this reference we won't know you want to continue your subscription.

However we do appreciate that some readers are unable to pay online.

If this is the case the next best option is a cheque. Cheques should be made payable to Stapleford PCC. Please put cheques in an envelope and send or deliver to:

The Messenger, Verger's Cottage, 1 Gog Magog Way, Stapleford, CB22 5BQ.

First line of your address as a reference on the envelope or cheque please.

We would really rather that our deliverers do not have to deal with cash, so if you have to pay by cash please put it in an envelope marked Messenger, and deliver it to the Verger's Cottage. Again, use that first line of your address as a reference!

We look forward to delivering village news and information to you through 2026!

PS: Three people have paid but not linked the payment to an address: P Barker; S L Clark; P Rayment. Please let us know your addresses on simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com or 07970 716163.

The Stapleford Messenger Team

St Andrew's Noticeboard

1 DEC	7 PM	EVENING PRAYER FOR ST ANDREW'S DAY
7 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY CW COMMUNION & TOY SERVICE <i>Collecting gifts for the Red Hen Project</i> Isaiah 11.1-10; Matthew 3.1-12
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ADVENT I Kings 18.17-39; John 1.19-28
13 DEC	6.30 PM	ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS CAROL SERVICE John 1.1-14
14 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP & BAPTISM Isaiah 35.1-10; Matthew 11.2-11 <i>What did you go to see?</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH IN THE JOHNSON HALL
18 DEC	10.30 AM	MIDWEEK COMMUNION and refreshments
21 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION Isaiah 7.1-10; Matthew 1.18-25
	4 PM	CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS
24 DEC	3.30 PM	CAROLS & CHRISTINGLE
	9.30 PM	MIDNIGHT IN BETHLEHEM COMMUNION Isaiah 52.7-10; John 1.1-14
25 DEC	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 PM	ALL AGE & FAMILY COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS DAY Isaiah 9.2-7; Luke 2.1-14
28 DEC	9 AM	NO SERVICE
	10.30 AM	SAID SUNDAY WORSHIP Jeremiah 31.15-17; Matthew 2.13-23

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

30 OCT – FUNERAL OF LISA FOSTER



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- crafts, songs, stories

contact Fiona Holliday
layminister@standrewstapleford.org


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Stapleford Messenger

Deadline for the January Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER**

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

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The views expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Messenger*.

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Golden windows

TOBY was nine, enthusiastic and energetic. What he lacked in stature was made up by stamina and perseverance. Tousled ginger hair, rosy cheeks and a beaming smile identified him. Brown eyes shone behind personally chosen burgundy-framed glasses, adding to his personality. He wore scruffiness well despite his parents' efforts encouraging otherwise. Natural curiosity led him outdoors to investigate and discover. Constant questioning opened paths of adventure he couldn't resist. Judged older than his years because of his zest for learning, he won willing followers wanting fun experiences.

One day Toby stepped outside his comfort zone. A stunning bright glow had stopped him in his tracks a few times. Something special he had to find. An immediate journey beckoned. His parents would say no. Yet surely common sense and instinct was enough. Secretly packing his special camouflage rucksack, remembering advice on safety, excitement grew. What a story to tell. He tied his shoe laces with a double knot and fastened his hooded coat. Before he could change his mind he took a deep breath and closed the door behind him. A mystery needed solving.

Much later he reached his destination, the opposite side of the river. Feeling surprisingly nervous, Toby knocked on the red door in front of him. A smart, tall lady answered. Removing her apron she bent down, "Hello, I'm Elsa," she said, worried that the boy was alone. Staying for tea Toby was in the spotlight as questions began. Suddenly tired through explaining, he stayed the night with his new friends. "Tomorrow we'll show you our treasure," he was promised.

Next morning the children pointed happy to share. "Look, see our gold." Fingers pointed at Toby's house. His conscience pricked him. He'd have a lot of making up to do. He gazed mesmerised by the sight. The golden rising sun was reflected from his very own bedroom window. A shimmering golden glimpse of glory. "We will find it one day." the family chorused. Toby smiled.

Behind this story is a pertinent message or two. Happy Christmas.

A tale inspired by Pether paintings at Anglesey Abbey catching my late husband Stephen's imagination and mine. **Judith Lee**



Moonlit Lake, with a Ruined Abbey and a Cottage with an illuminated Window - William Pether. Anglesey Abbey © National Trust

Sylvia Morris

WE were very saddened to hear that Sylvia Morris had died. Despite being very busy as chair of the Karen Morris Memorial Trust, the charity set up in memory of her daughter, Sylvia volunteered to be on the Messenger committee in 2020 when the magazine was in imminent danger of folding.

She contributed to the magazine in a number of ways. Each month she sourced interesting entries for the 'Yesteryear' article from the History Society's archives. She regularly took the minutes at our committee meetings and helped to collate the magazine each month in the church, preparing the bundles of magazines for the deliverers of which she was one.

Recently she had offered to take on the role of Distribution Manager when Valerie Powell retires.

We valued her liveliness, opinions and ideas and she will be much missed by the team. We send our sincere condolences to her family.

The Stapleford Messenger Team

Jim Mundell

8 December 1943 – 12 October 2025

JIM sadly passed away at Arthur Rank Hospice aged 81. Jim moved to the village in 1974 with his first wife Roberta, who sadly died in 1997. They brought up their family, Kirsten and Alastair, in the village and he continued to live here with his second wife, Hilary, until 2008 when they moved up the road to Great Shelford. They were planning to move back to Strawberry Fields in the near future.



His funeral was held at Cam Valley on Friday 7 November and was a wonderful celebration of his life. Kirsten read a poem that she had written for his 60th birthday and which she extended to cover his latter years as a tribute to his life. **Kirsten Mundell**

Supporting the Red Hen project

A LOVELY event at St Andrew's each year is our Toy Service, this year on Sunday 7 December at 10.30am. Many of you will know about the Red Hen project, a wonderful small local charity working with schools in North Cambridge, helping disadvantaged children with all sorts of projects and support services. Lesley Ford, who lives in Stapleford, is chair of the Trustees. At our Toy Service we will be receiving donations of new toys, books and games for the charity to distribute as Christmas presents to youngsters who might otherwise go without. I have to stress the 'new' please, as these are for individual presents, not for use in a community centre.

Please come along and donate! I know that it is much appreciated.

Simon Taylor

THE RED HEN PROJECT



Christmas Tree Festival St Andrew's Church, Stapleford

In aid of the
Stapleford Community Warden Scheme
Friday 5 - Sunday 7 Dec



*Friday and Saturday 10.30am - 6pm,
Sunday 12 noon-4pm*



If any individual, family or group would like to submit a tree and be part of the festival please contact me (jackie.nettleton52@gmail.com 721366) so that I can send you more details.



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music@standrewstapleford.org



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Stapleford WI



AS I write this the committee members are finalising the arrangements for our last meeting of the year at the end of November. This will be a craft and social evening centred around Christmas as we look forward to the festive season. Indeed, the year seems to have passed very quickly. However our WI group has had access to a plethora of activities including interesting speakers, craft and book groups, culinary events, participation in the many outings and events organised by the Cambridgeshire Federation and preparing an entry for the Christmas Tree Festival, to list just a few. Above all members have enjoyed the friendship, fun and support which comes from being a WI member.

As we look ahead to 2026 please consider joining our enthusiastic WI group here in the village. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Pavilion at 7.30pm. Our next meeting is on 22 January when our speaker, Marion Lepper, will talk about Winnie Cobb, the first lady taxi driver in Cambridgeshire. You can also look at our website staplefordwi.weebly.com or phone Sallie Dixon on 843847 for more information. **Joyce Dobson**

CamSight Peer Support Groups



CAMSIGHT runs monthly groups across Cambridgeshire for adults living with low vision and blindness, their carers, and family members. The Stapleford group covering Stapleford, Great and Little Shelford meets on the first Thursday of each month from 2pm to 4pm at Cox's Close Community Room, Stapleford CB22 5SP.

Upcoming meeting dates are: 4 Dec, 5 Feb, 5 March and 2 April 2026.

Members enjoy a range of different activities from guest speakers, entertainment, quizzes, and light refreshment. Members are kept updated on the newest equipment and support available from CamSight and other local and national organisations. The group provides a reassuring space for people to discuss their daily challenges and share ideas on how to manage them. By sharing tips on how to do things differently and helping one another, great friendships are formed.

For more details phone: 420033 or email info@camsight.org.uk.

Julie Moncur

Stapleford Community Warden Service

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- watering plants
- making appointments
- getting small items of shopping
- collecting prescriptions
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07436 102733 or juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk

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Stapleford Nachingwea Link

A heartfelt thank you from Nachingwea



OUR friends, Robert and Liz have returned from their visit to Nachingwea full of enthusiasm for our Link and with very useful information as we move into our 45th year.

They have also brought with them a copy of a wonderful speech given by Dr Evelyne Mrumapili on behalf of Father Phares Lihewe, the priest in charge of St Andrew's, Nachingwea and Kevin Bushiri, the chair of the Link. Dr Evelyne heads the Women's Union and is a Link committee member at St Andrew's, Nachingwea.

Liz read the speech to the St Andrew's Stapleford congregation at a service to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the Link and Trish Maude, chair of our Link, thanked Rob and Liz for travelling to Nachingwea on our behalf.

"Good afternoon beloved friends and our very special friends from our sister community, the Stapleford Link. We are gathered here with one simple, yet profound purpose, to say thank you.

"Thank you to every single person in Stapleford, who has thought of us, prayed for us, fundraised for us and supported us. Your friendship has crossed oceans and continents to touch our lives in the most meaningful ways.

"The support from Stapleford has not been a single drop of water but a steady, nourishing rain that has fallen on every corner of our community. You saw our needs not as separate problems, but as interconnected parts of whole life. And you responded with a whole heart.

"In our schools, we see your handiwork every day. You have helped to build libraries, supplied books, pens, insurance and uniforms, removing the barriers that often keep our brightest young minds from achieving their potential. For our pupils this is more than just material help; it is a message which says, 'Your education matters. Your future is important to us even from thousands of miles away.' Most touchingly, you have remembered our pupils with special needs sending a message to them that every child is



The Stapleford Link committee with Liz and Robert Claiborne-Dixon



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valued, that every life has potential and that no one in Nachingwea is forgotten. Your compassion has been a light.

"In our fields, through projects that provide better seeds, training and resources, you have empowered farmers, building food security and economic independence for generations to come.

"In our health clinic, for a mother holding a healthy child, for an elder receiving treatment, your support is a lifeline.

"And through our church, you have strengthened our faith and fellowship through books and altar utensils. You have brought joy to our Sunday School children through financial support and books giving them the sense that they are part of a global family that cares for them.

"To our women you have provided skills: training such as making sanitary pads, tailoring and pig keeping, empowering them to become pillars of strength for their families and engines of growth for our community.

"So, to our friends in Stapleford, how do we say thank you for all of this?

"We say thank you not just with words but with the success of our students, the bounty of our harvests, the health of our people and the strengthened spirit of our community. You have not just given us resources, you have given us hope, dignity and the knowledge that we walk this path of development together.

"Thank you, Asanta sane. May the bond between Nachingwea and Stapleford continue to grow stronger with each passing year. Thank you."

Dr Evelyne Mrumapili

St Andrew's Stapleford Link Committee



Liz and Robert with Trish Maude, Chair of the Stapleford Link Committee and Simon Taylor



The service in progress

CHRISTMAS @ ST ANDREW'S

Toy Service

10.30 pm 7 December

Traditional Lessons & Carols

4 pm 21 December

Christingle Service

3.30 pm Christmas Eve

Communion

at Midnight in Bethlehem

9.30 pm Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

9 am Traditional Communion

10.30 am All Age Communion



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Mothers' Union

Report on the Autumn Diocesan Council



THE second very well attended Mothers' Union Diocesan Council of the year was held in Waterbeach in late October, where the speaker was Julia Jamieson, a Zonal Trustee on the Global MU Board – she represents the Province of Canterbury. There are 14 Board members on a three-year rotation from all parts of the world where the Mothers' Union has a presence. The MU global work encompasses literacy, establishing savings groups, working to prevent gender-based violence and parenting groups.

Julia described several instances of where the Mothers' Union is having an impact. For example, in the Windward Islands, they provide lunch for schoolchildren who may otherwise not have much to eat. In Burundi, the literacy and finance programme has had much success (it has been running for 20 years), with 165,000 participants (77% of whom are women), helping 144,000 to become literate. In addition, 7,500 people attended the parenting groups in Burundi. These programmes help women, in particular, to set up micro businesses and thus contribute to the country's economic development.

Julia also spoke about the big plans for the 150th anniversary year of the Mothers' Union foundation by Mary Sumner. In the UK, there will be a service in St Paul's Cathedral in June (and look out for our local efforts to celebrate this big anniversary). We have a new Patron, Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, continuing the royal patronage tradition, dating back to the foundation of the Mothers' Union in 1876.

Mary Sumner House, our headquarters, has rationalized its staff, thus saving money to put towards further programmes (the UK and Ireland contribute the most financial support for the MU action programmes). The emphasis of the Global Board is on returning to the grass roots ethos of the Mothers' Union with the following aims:

- Celebrate where we have come from!
- Celebrate what we have accomplished!
- And celebrate our faith and our love for the Lord! **Hilary Street**



HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh becomes the royal patron of Mothers' Union.



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Music Moments concerts

FOLLOWING the success of our November concert, we are excited to share that the next Music Moments concert will be on **Saturday 18 April** from **6 to 7pm**.

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

As always, the concert will have an informal, living-room vibe, with wine and nibbles to enjoy alongside the music. Entry is free, with a retiring collection to raise money for music at St Andrew's, as well as to help fund a junior organ scholarship at the church.



So come and join us for another uplifting hour of music performed by local musicians! We look forward to seeing you there. **Lizzie and James Buchanan-Worster and Sarah Kwan**

Mothers' Union

Local news



WE have several Branch events in December. We are hosting the MU Granta Deanery Advent Service on 4 December when we shall welcome members of Branches from around the Deanery: 2pm in the Johnson Hall. On 10 December in the afternoon, we'll be participating in the Wave of Prayer, as then is Ely's time slot to continue this prayer circle by Mothers' Union members, going round the world 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Venue to be confirmed.

The AGM and Social is on 11 December when the Committee will present the Annual Report and the financial situation of the Branch, to be followed by a social get-together. Usual time and place: 2.30pm, Johnson Hall.

The Autumn Coffee Morning in October was very successful in raising funds for MU projects, both at home and overseas.

I'd like to thank the Committee and members for their support during 2025 and to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hilary Street

Stapleford Strollers Walk 142

To Hadstock and Back : another walk at Linton

To get to start of walk

DRIVE along the A1307 to Linton. Turn left into the High Street. The Crown is a short distance on the left and has a small car park through an archway. There is also limited parking in the High Street.

Length of Walk

About 4.75 miles. It will take about two and a quarter hours and is reasonably flat, with a few gentle inclines.

Extra Information

The first written reference to Linton is reported to have been in AD 725. The name originally meant 'flax farm' or 'flax enclosure'. It was a flourishing market town in the Middle Ages, but the market finally closed in 1864; however, Market Lane is still a turning off the High Street. The Crown dates to at least 1600 and was originally a coaching inn.

OS Map

Explorer map 209. Use your smart phone, or to get free map extracts use footpathmaps.com. The route map provided is easy-to-use, too.

Route of the Walk

Turn right outside the pub and, at the top of the High Street, go over the A1307 at the pedestrian crossing. Turn right and after about 100 metres, turn left onto a footpath signposted to Great Chesterford.

This path initially runs to the right of a high fence and through some trees. After crossing a stile, keep going in the same direction across a field to an identical stile on the far side. Soon after crossing the second stile, the path emerges into open farmland. Follow the path straight ahead between two large fields on a gentle rise. At the far end, go through a gap in the hedge and turn left. After 100 metres, turn left again through another gap in the hedge. Go straight ahead until a cross path is joined.

Turn left and then immediately right to cross a footbridge. Follow this path until it passes some workshops on the right on the outskirts of Hadstock. Just before the road is reached, follow a path ahead separated from the road by wooden railings. Walk the length of the village street. At the end, where the main road turns right, cross over carefully onto the village green. Go up the minor road with the green on your right. Immediately after Moules Lane joins on the left, turn right by a footpath sign (partially concealed), with a house called 'Plovers' on your left. Bear slightly

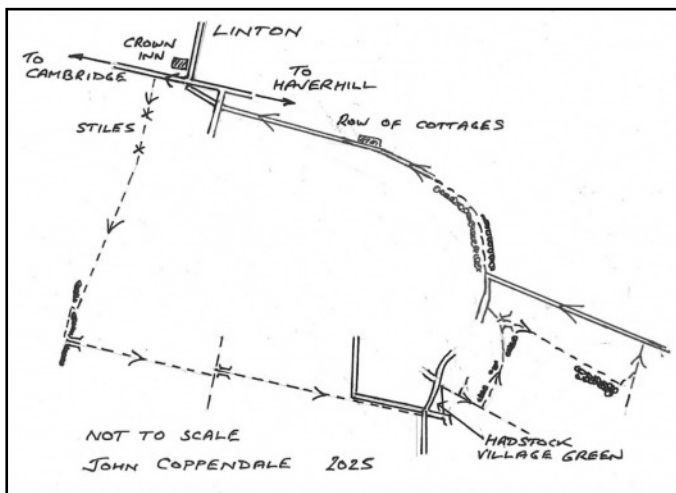
left and join a broad footpath. After about 250 metres a footpath goes off to the left. Ignore this and take a second footpath on the left after another 200 metres at a post marked '18'.

Follow the field boundary with the hedge on your left as you gently descend. Look out for where the path leaves the field and goes into the trees on the left, about half way to the bottom of the field. This becomes a broad path through trees. Just before you reach a road, turn right over a footbridge. Bear right and follow the path between fields. Soon after reaching a small wood on the right, the path turns left and then comes out on a farm track. Turn left and continue until you reach a road.

Follow the road for about 500 metres until you reach a corner where the road turns left. At this corner turn right onto a green lane. At the far end of the green lane a view of Linton opens up. Bear left following the field boundary and keeping the hedge on your left.

You will soon see an old windmill converted into a house. Keep following the field boundary to the far end of the field and continue on the path between hedges. After a short distance the path turns right and then left as it crosses an old brick railway bridge. After the bridge bear left onto a lane, passing a row of cottages ("Malting Cottages") on the right. Keep going straight ahead, ignoring a lane off to the right. You pass a couple of attractive cottages on your left and come out onto a main road. Cross carefully and walk along The Grip, which brings you back to the top end of Linton High Street. **John Coppendale**

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



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Stapleford History Society

Roots and Resilience - Charles and Colin Bradford



ON 14 October we were treated to a charming and informative father and son double act by Colin (81) and Charles (53) Bradford, currently famous for their splendid farm shop known as The Gog. Their aim was to talk about the family connection to Heath Farm and to explain how local farming has had to change in order to survive.

The Bradfords arrived at the farm in 1919 as proud tenants of Gonville and Caius, one of the many Cambridge University Colleges who own many, many acres of land. Colin's father was one of nine sons and they all lived in the area. Colin was born at Heath Farm, which was much larger than now, with the current Golf Club being based on what was their 99 acre field.

In the years between the two world wars there were several small farms in Stapleford managed by Frank Hardy, Bob Arley, Norman Challis, the Beavis brothers and Pat Lincoln, to name but a few. Farming was mixed with horses doing a lot of the work before the post war advent of machinery. Fields were smaller and many people had pigs and chickens in their gardens. Even The Rose had a smallholding at the back of the pub.



During WW2 there was a great need to produce as much of our own food as possible. There were financial incentives to enlarge the fields, use some chemicals, and even bring in foreign prisoners of war to work on a daily basis, with the Italians and Germans returning to their camp in the evening. Stricter controls came in later.

After Colin's father died, the Bradfords started to diversify by bringing calves from Wales, keeping them indoors, fattening them up on milk substitute initially then feeding them on barley. Eventually they were taken to Saffron Walden Cattle Market and sold as 'barley beef'. This was very successful but joining the EU brought in changes to livestock production, so they began to raise turkeys, which led to the development of the farm shop.

Between 1980 and 2000 many small farms became subsumed into larger concerns, as people retired or moved on. The Bradford family is quite rare in still being actively involved in farming lasting more than a century.

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Charles and his brother Marcus have enjoyed an upbringing at Heath Farm and been able to leave to go to university, enjoy totally different careers, then return to continue the evolution from Heath Farm to The Gog.

The need to adapt and evolve has resulted in the development of a café and a shop and the supply chain is very niche now for top quality products. Corporate events are held there and, most interestingly, there is the aim to revive the smallholding element of farming.

There are now six sheep, and the hope is that the remaining fields will be used soon. **Jane Steadman**



Puzzle Corner

Christmas small changes



Identify the words from the Christmas story as told in Luke 1:5-2:20 (NIV UK Bible, 2011)

Changing a single letter is all that is required

e.g. RELIEVE becomes BELIEVE, or POSER becomes POWER

ANGER	APPEASED	APRON	BEARD	CARRIED
CLOCKS	CURRIED	DEGREE	DOING	FATTER
FOUNT	GUILE	HEARS	HOLD	JOAN
MANNER	MERRY	MOUTH	PATENTS	PLACE
PLAYER	POKER	PREMISES	QUEST	READS
RETAINED	SHAPED	SHATTERED	SPEAR	STORE
TENNER	TRAPPED	TRIPPED	TURNING	TYRONE
UNTIE	WAITING	WIDE	WORN	YEARN

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 53

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2G3S



DR Bike continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. Children are welcome to come and learn how to look after their bikes and do simple maintenance and repairs, but please attend with them (for safeguarding reasons). Contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com

for more information. You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential. There will be a special session on Saturday 20 December, 3pm to 5.30pm, but you must book a slot in advance. It would be very useful if you buy a bike online for someone for Christmas and you need help to assemble it! There may be some further Saturday sessions in the spring.

Water – we are planning a conversation evening about water. We hope to have speakers from Cam Valley Forum and Cambridge Water, and our councillor Peter Fane will talk about planning issues. It will probably be on Thursday 22 January at Cox's Close Community Room in Stapleford, but more details next time.

Repair Café – if you missed our last one, the next one will be on Saturday 7 February at Great Shelford Free Church. Do try and book your repair in advance, see our website for more details.

Christmas – as you plan for the festive season, try and think about the environment whilst you are surrounded by overpackaged gifts and plastic stuff. Lots of gift wrapping is recyclable (beware of metallic products), and try and find items that have less packaging. Use local shops or craft fairs to buy food and gifts, and if you are buying a Christmas tree, one with roots in a pot that you can put out in the garden each January is the most environmentally friendly one, though it won't grow very tall and doesn't like being too long in a warm room. We have an artificial one, but as it is 15 years old or so it's not a bad environmental decision to have made – better than a real cut one each year.



Neighbourhood Plan – now that the Plan for Great Shelford and Stapleford has been passed, we and our Parish Councils need to ensure that the planning authority takes it on board when looking at planning applications e.g. size of houses, exterior lighting to minimise the effect on wildlife, surface drainage not going into the drains and rivers, energy saving

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measures in new houses. The Plan can be found on scams.gov.uk, click through Planning to Neighbourhood Planning, and Appendix 2 gives a useful checklist of things to look at when examining a proposed planning application.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan - Cambridge City Council and SCDC have released a draft of the new local plan for 'Greater Cambridge' for the next 20 years. This includes, in our part of South Cambs, a new settlement of 6,000 houses near Little Abington, expansion of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus into the Cambridge Green Belt and plans for large logistics warehouses adjacent to the A14 and A11. There is obviously a risk that these further conversions of countryside and farmland into built environment will increase pressure on water resources and cause a loss of habitat for wildlife. More information can be found at Greater Cambridge Shared Planning. A public consultation on the draft plan is due to begin on 1 December and will run until 30 January next year.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), email mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly newsletter, or to get more information about our meetings. We are a friendly group and welcome anyone who wants to come along to one of our events or to find out more about how we can live sustainably. Also see our Facebook page and our website 2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk. **Helen Hale**

Magog Singers

9 December



A DATE to put in your diary when we will be putting on our end of term concert with music we have been rehearsing over the autumn term. You will enjoy the diverse moods and styles with some music arranged by John Clenaghan, our Musical Director.

Family and friends are invited at 3pm in the Pavilion. Our performance will be followed by mince pies and a cup of tea. We look forward to seeing you there. A cash collection will be taken in aid of Arthur Rank Hospice.

If you are interested in joining the choir please contact kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com. **Kathleen Foreman**

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Tree Project



WE have planted around 130 trees since the project began. We are now starting to plant more trees again, and you are welcome to come along and help at one of our friendly planting sessions every Sunday afternoon from 2pm; meet on the allotments at the Community Plot. Bring your own spade and gloves if you can.

We are planning a community planting session up Haverhill Road (past the drift road, where there are no trees or hedge), more details next time.

We lost a few trees over the driest Spring/Summer we've had in a long time. But our low level of loss is due to the kind people who have 'adopted' one (or more) of the trees planted and have watered it regularly. We really need some more 'adopters' to take on the watering of the new trees we plant this season. Please contact Sophi on the email address below for details. The small whips don't have much of a root system, so do need watering for the first couple of growing seasons.

You will see that trees we have planted on public land are numbered, and we have compiled an inventory of the trees we have and their species, and where they have gone to. This list is now on the Parish Council website so you can see what's planted where. We have been monitoring the trees' growth and keeping a record of their progress. The ones that have died have been replaced.

Thank you to people who have donated to the project. We have had to buy more trees, guards, and stakes for this year's planting, so donations are always welcome.

The quiz night at the Three Horseshoes was very successful, a fun evening, a packed pub, and we made some funds as well.

So, ways you can help are by joining a planting session, adopting a tree, or making a donation. Or consider planting a tree in your own garden.

For more information about the project, see staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project/, or contact sophiberridge@gmail.com if you have any questions. To register your interest or to donate to the project, fill in the form at the above address, scrolling down to 'register here'.

Helen Hale



Yesteryear

THIS article was received before the sad news of Sylvia's untimely passing. We think that it is fitting that it remains included.

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

1831

SALE. The justly noted and admired flock of Leicester sheep on Bury Farm, Stapleford, which was sold last week brought high prices. The ewes fetched 40s. to 45s. and the lambs from 32s. to 33s. 6d.

1888

CHOIR DINNER. On Friday evening the Church Choir was entertained at dinner in the National School Room, and a pleasant evening was afterwards spent, dancing being engaged in. Too much praise cannot be accorded to Miss Finch, Miss Shreeve and Mr. Finch for the time and trouble they devoted to the organisation of the entertainment; and the liberality of the friends was such that much of the provisions was not consumed during the evening, the remainder was, on the following morning, thoughtfully distributed among the widows and poor of the parish.

1920

BELL RINGING. A number of ladies formed a troop of bell ringers and went from door to door ringing and playing carols. They collected £18 for St Dunstan's.

1922

VICTORY DINNER. The great "Victory Dinner" organised by the Cambs Conservative and Unionist Association to commemorate Mr Harold Gray's success in the General Election took place at the Lion Hotel on Saturday evening and was a very happy function. The large room was filled with a mixed gathering, whilst there was a substantial overflow into the ante-room, the number present being only a few short of 300. Major C Wentworth Stanley presided, being supported by Mr Harold Gray (the county member), Mrs Gray, Sir Douglas Newton (the borough member), Major General Sir Layton Blenkinsop and many other distinguished guests.

1937

TENNIS CLUB. A whist drive held in the Institute on Tuesday was a great success. It was for funds for the tennis club. After all expenses were paid a profit of £4 7s 0d was realised.

1943

REPATRIATED. We are glad to welcome home, among the list of repatriated POWs Mr Fred Farnham of Stapleford.

1973

STAPLEFORD VILLAGERS HIT AT "HIDEOUS" SCHOOL. The £70,000 school in Bar Lane will accommodate some 50 handicapped children when it is finished in January. Parish council chairman and head of Stapleford Primary School, Mr Harold Holt, said the controversy over the building began 18 months ago when the first brick was laid. Since then the parish council have constantly complained to the county education department but without success. Mr Holt's comment on the building was that it looked angry. A spokesman for the county architect's department, Mr Kenneth Bass, said the parish council were told about the school plans and building materials to be used. "It is designed to fit in with the local environment, which includes a red-roofed barn nearby" he said.

The school opened for pupils on 22nd January 1974 with David Eden as headmaster and a staff of eight. Three years later when Dawn Robinson took over there were 34 children on the school roll and the school had its own swimming pool. She felt that the school was consistently understaffed and underfunded but widened the children's activities considerably with the help of the friends' group and parents. It gradually became an educational establishment rather than an institute of care. Changes in educational policy led to the eventual closure of the school in January 2006.

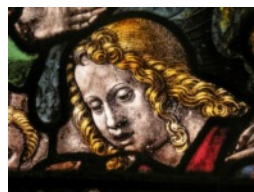


The stained-glass windows of King's College Chapel

A talk by Paul Shakeshaft

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Top tips for safe and happy pets this Christmas



FOR most of us, Christmas is an exciting time, but while some of our pets might enjoy the fun, timid, ill or elderly pets may struggle. Even those that enjoy the festivities can get themselves into trouble with Christmas treats. So, what can you do to keep your pets as happy and safe as possible?

If you have a pet who is likely to rip open presents, it's a good idea *not* to store them under the Christmas tree! And even if your pet is an angel, it's worth checking if presents are edible. Avoid hanging chocolate baubles or similar on the tree, and if your dog or cat is prone to climbing and destruction, consider putting the tree in a less accessible area of the house.

There is an ever-growing list of foods that are harmful to pets. Of note around Christmas time are holly and mistletoe berries, dried fruits (think Christmas pudding, Christmas cake and mince pies) grapes, onions, leeks and garlic, chocolate, alcohol, macadamia nuts and the sweetener, xylitol. Whilst not limited to Christmas time, antifreeze is highly toxic to cats, so any spills should be cleaned up immediately. Cooked bones are problematic for dogs as they can easily splinter and cause injuries and blockages, and raw bones can damage teeth and contain harmful bacteria. There are plenty of safe and tasty treats available if you want to spoil your pet, or a small serving of plain cooked meat will suit most pets.

If you are worried about something your pet has eaten, call your veterinary practice straight away. If your practice is closed, you can call Animal PoisonLine on 01202 509000. (There is a charge for this service, see animalpoisonline.co.uk for more information.)

Vets Now also have a very helpful chocolate toxicity calculator that you can access free of charge online at dog-chocolate-calculator.vets-now.com.

It's also worth bearing in mind that the extra noise and visitors, and disruption to routine can be quite stressful for pets, so try and make sure they get their usual walks, plenty of chance to sleep, and have a quiet, safe place to which they can retreat if it all gets a bit much. And as fun as it might be to dress your pet up as Santa's little helper, remember that this might not be their idea of fun!

Wishing you a safe and Happy Christmas!

Patrick and Harriet and all the Church Street Vets team.

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Tea & Games – Every Friday afternoon 2-3.30pm. For adults, no need to book.

Story, Rhyme & Duplo Time – Every Tuesday at 10.30am. For children aged 0-4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers.

Stay and Play – Thursdays 4, 11 and 18 December. For children aged 0-3 years. 2-3.30pm. A relaxed drop in session for families with young children, £2 per family.

LEGO Club – Fortnightly, Mondays 1 and 15 December 4-5.30pm. Come along and have some fun making Lego models.

Children's Games Club - Fortnightly, Mondays 8 and 22 December 4-5.30pm. Come along and have fun. Board and card games provided. Suggested donation £1, no need to book. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

Art Club - Every Saturday morning 10.30am-12pm. Suitable for ages 4-10. Drop in event. £1 donation. Parents and carers must supervise their children at all times.

Christmas Treasure Hunt - We will be running a free fun children's Christmas Treasure Hunt from Monday 15 December.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours: Great Shelford Library will close for Christmas at 1pm on Wednesday 24 December and reopen at 10am on Friday 2 January at 10am.

Mel Abbiss and Caroline Mulley-Richards – Great Shelford Librarians

Library opening hours

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

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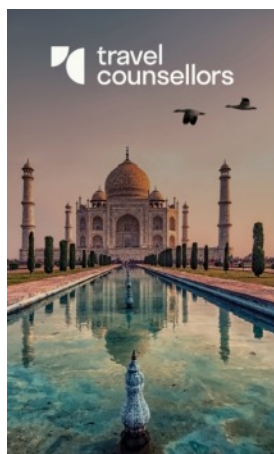
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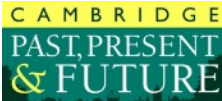
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Events at Wandlebury



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

Create your own natural Christmas wreath

Multiple dates: 5, 6 and 7 December and 12 and 13 December

Join us for a **Wreath-Making Workshop** and craft your own stunning Christmas wreath from **100% natural materials**. Using fresh foliage, berries, cones, and other seasonal touches, you'll create a one-of-a-kind decoration to proudly hang on your door.

Each relaxed two-hour session is led by the team from **Wild Thyme & Embers**, who will guide you step-by-step through the creative process. Whether you're a complete beginner or a confident crafter, you'll leave with something beautiful, sustainable, and made with your own hands.

Dates & Times:

- **Friday 5 December:** 1pm–3pm & 4pm–6pm
- **Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December:** 10am–12pm, 1pm–3pm, 4pm–6pm
- **Friday 12 and Saturday 13 December:** 10am–12pm, 1pm–3pm, 4pm–6pm

Location: The Stable Rooms

Cost: £40 per wreath (up to four people can work together on one wreath). Cost includes all materials and refreshments.

Book at cambridgeppf.org/etn/winter-wreath-making-for-families.

Discover the secrets of winter trees – free guided walk

Wednesday 10 December: 10am–12pm

Our friendly guide will help you recognise trees by their bark, buds, shape, and form, and where possible, by any remaining leaves or seeds. It's a gentle and engaging walk suitable for all ages and experience levels.

Meeting point: Noticeboard in the car park

Please wear suitable outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear for the weather and terrain.

The event is **free**, though we suggest a **£3 donation** to support our conservation work. You can **book your place online at** cambridgeppf.org, or simply turn up on the day.

Parking: Please pay for parking on arrival – or why not **become a member** and enjoy free parking all year round, plus other great benefits?

Granta Medical Practices

DETAILS of when our surgeries will be open over the Christmas and New Year break are given in the table below.

Please remember to order your repeat prescriptions in plenty of time so that you do not run out of your medication over the holidays. The table shows you when you will be able to collect your prescriptions, depending on the date you place your order.

Date	Opening hours	Repeat prescription schedule; order on the day - collect as stated
Saturday 20 December	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	24 December
Sunday 21 December	Closed	24 December
Monday 22 December	Open as usual	29 December
Tuesday 23 December	Open as usual	30 December
Wednesday 24 December	Open as usual	31 December
Thursday 25 December	Closed	2 January
Friday 26 December	Closed	2 January
Saturday 27 December	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	2 January
Sunday 28 December	Closed	02 January
Monday 29 December	Open as usual	02 January
Tuesday 30 December	Open as usual	5 January
Wednesday 31 December	Open as usual	6 January
Thursday 1 January	Closed	7 January
Friday 2 January	Open as usual	7 January
Saturday 3 January	Open for pre-booked appointments only (Sawston)	8 January

Don't forget, there are Prescription Collection Points at Sawston, Linton and Shelford. Sign up today via cpicb.grantadispensing@nhs.net to pick up your medication at your convenience over the holidays, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Whilst we are closed, if you need urgent medical assistance please use the NHS 111 service. If you have an emergency that poses an immediate threat to life, please ring 999.

Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked medicine cabinet at home. Your local pharmacist can offer you advice and guidance on the best treatment for you. Pharmacists can now also prescribe some medications under the Pharmacy First service. Please go to england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services for further information and eligibility criteria.

We wish you all a healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Vicki Collier Head of Business Development

Royal British Legion



IT has been a memorable year for the RBL with two milestone anniversaries, in particular, the 80th Anniversaries of the ending of World War Two in Europe and the Far East. As those of you know who attended, we celebrated these events with Band Concerts in the wonderful Challis Gardens.

We also sadly lost some of our members and our thoughts go to their families especially at this time of year.

We look forward to 2026 which marks the 105th anniversary of the foundation of the British Legion (with the title 'Royal', as it is now). We do not yet know how we will celebrate this event, if you have any ideas, please let me know. We will also begin to make plans for our annual Band Concert, of which you will hear more in the future.

Our next Branch meeting will be Wednesday, 28 January and it would be wonderful to see some new faces there when we shall be hearing from our Speaker, Alan Osborne, about 'Rosalind Franklin – the Dark Lady of DNA!' You don't have to be a member to attend one of our Branch meetings! We meet in the Chapelfield Way Community Centre, Link Road, Sawston at 7pm. We'd love to see you!

As another year draws to a close, we would all like to wish you, your families and friends a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ann Barton, Branch Secretary



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Neighbourhood Plan update

Implementing our plan and a website refresh



THE adopted Stapleford & Gt Shelford Neighbourhood Plan now has a life of its own. It is routinely used by our parish councillors, and by local authority planners, when reviewing planning applications coming forward in our area.

Implementing the NP

For those who don't know, parish councillors are statutory consultees in the planning process. They are notified of and can comment on planning applications in their area, although they do not have the power to approve or reject them. However, their local knowledge adds value to the process and the planning authority must take their comments into account. Since NP policies carry the same weight as a Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework in planning decisions, our NP is a highly significant addition to the local knowledge bank.

But the NP is far more than a yard stick against which planning applications are assessed. It has an active role to play in shaping new development long before the planning application stage is reached. Residents who are following Nightingale Land's and The Hill Group's emerging plans for 120 new homes on farmland behind Hinton Way/Mingle Lane may recognise this. The developers' proposed affordable housing numbers, property sizes, on-site biodiversity, drainage plan, play spaces, etc, reflect policies in our NP.

From my perspective, our NP may now be adopted but that doesn't mean that I can cross it off my 'to do' list. At the time of writing, I'm preparing a training presentation to give in person to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Services' development management officers to support their implementation of our NP policies in planning decisions.

Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan

The latest draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan has just been released (27 Oct). You can find the myriad of documents associated with it at: consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/draft-greater-cambridge-local-plan-scrutiny-committee-pack/greater-cambridge-local-plan-scrutiny, apologies for the mega-URL.

I'm keeping an eye on it for two reasons: first, for its implications for our parishes; and, second, because when it is eventually adopted, the NP will have to be compatible with it and hence may need some updates.



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The draft Local Plan outlines potential locations for new homes and workplaces over the next 20 years, and the community facilities and public services needed to prop up this growth. It highlights the need for more than 50,000 new homes from 2024 to 2045 to support the projected rise in employment. Of these, around 37,000 homes are already covered by existing planning permissions and sites designated in local plans adopted in 2018.

One prospective site which has been *removed* from the latest draft is that on greenbelt arable land behind Hinton Way/Mingle Lane, on the basis that this land does not need to be released from the greenbelt for the draft Local Plan to hit its housing target. However, the developers are still proceeding with preparations to submit an outline planning application for this location and held a public exhibition of their plans at Stapleford Pavilion on 15 Nov.

A new-look NP webpage

Finally, residents who want to know more about the NP – whether for general interest or specific planning purposes – can now benefit from an updated NP webpage. We have replaced the webpages we used while developing the plan with a new, one-stop-shop URL for information and links. Do please have a look at greatshelfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/sgsnplan. For anyone who prefers to flick rather than click through pages, a soft copy of the full NP is now held at Great Shelford Library.

Jenny Flynn Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Blue sky, and icy mornings along Stapleford farm track

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Christmas Elf Workshop | Children's Crafts

6, 7, 13, 14 December (Age 3+)

Pop on an elf hat and create fabulous festive presents for your friends & family! (book a place online)

Theatre of Widdershins: Snow White Rose Red

Bear Brown | Children's Theatre

7 December | 11am, 2pm | Age 4+

VRi Candlelit Concert | Folk

8 December | 7.45pm

Seasonal tunes & traditional songs from deepest, darkest chapel-going Wales.

Mark Crooks Quartet Candlelit Concert | Jazz

9 December | 7.45pm

Classic repertoire from the Great American Songbook & a sprinkling of festive favourites.

Jonathan Aasgaard Candlelit Concert | Classical

10 December | 7.45pm

One of the UK's most sought-after cellists performs three of J S Bach's solo cello suites.

Magician Jamie Segrave | Table Top Magic

11 December | 7pm

An evening of wine, wonder & disbelief as Jamie delivers sleight-of-hand & mind-reading tricks.

Pop Up Bar | Tables can be booked in advance

12 December | 5pm - 10pm

Small bites, Tapas Fusion & Thorne Wines in the Granary's beautiful bar.



Find out more and book online at:

www.staplefordgranary.org.uk/whats-on/events Phone: 01223 849004

Meet your new Parish Councillors

FOUR new Parish Councillors have joined the Parish Council. Here Rebecca Trigg, Rosie Brown and Duncan Kerr introduce themselves; we hope to introduce Juliet Hawsworth in a later issue.

Rebecca Trigg

I'm Rebecca – I live in Stapleford with my husband Dan, and our two teenage daughters. We've lived here since 2012 and love the village. You might know me from being involved in various community activities – I'm currently the Chair of the Stapleford Weekend committee, so I've probably served you a pint or a Pimms in the marquee.

Over the years I've also been involved in other community projects e.g. the playground renovations, volunteering with Girlguiding, plus various other school-related committees. I've met lots of local people through those activities; I'm lucky to know a range of folk, from all backgrounds and of all ages. I always think Stapleford comes to life over the Village Weekend – I love that so many people get involved in baking, making and helping! We're a sociable village and I'm proud of what we can do when we get together. That's why I've joined the Parish Council. I think great things can happen when you bring people together.

My interests are mainly around communication and engagement. I work for a learning and communications agency based in Cambridge. We create a lot of learning materials - so I'm hoping to use some of my professional skills to help people understand what the Parish Council does and how residents can get involved in helping shape the village we all live in. Look forward to chatting with you.



Rosie Brown

I moved from London to Stapleford with my family in 2011 and enjoy village life. My children have attended the local primary and secondary schools, and I work part time in the Earth Sciences department of a Cambridge school. Before the pandemic I worked as a sustainability consultant in London for over 20 years.

My family and I are sports fans, playing football with the Shelford and Stapleford Strikers, hockey



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with Cambridge South Hockey Club, cricket with Great Shelford Cricket Club (Juniors) and the Stapleford Phoenix, and tennis with Stapleford Tennis Club.

I first got to know some of the Stapleford Parish Councillors through helping with the Jubilee Playground refurbishment, the fabulous Stapleford Weekend, and as a member of the Steering Group for our Neighbourhood Plan (NP). I am delighted that the NP has been adopted, and I have decided to stand as a Parish Councillor in order to further support sustainability, sports and well-being in our community.

Duncan Kerr

I've lived in Stapleford since July 2023, when my wife Justine and I took over the Three Horseshoes pub on Church Street. We've got three kids, Calum and Eloise who are at school in Sawston, and big brother Felix who works and lives in London.

Before the pub I was a software engineer for 30 years, mostly working in finance.

I'm hoping to contribute with skills I've picked up running the pub business and working in IT. I'm especially keen to help keep the village a fun and safe place for all our kids to grow up in.



Puzzle Corner Answers



Christmas small changes

ANGEL	APPEARED	AARON	HEARD	MARRIED
FLOCKS	HURRIED	DECREE	GOING	FATHER
FOUND	GUIDE	HEART	HOLY	JOHN
MANGER	MERCY	MONTH	PARENTS	PEACE
PRAYER	POWER	PROMISES	GUEST	READY
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The Travelling Companions, Augustus Leopold Egg, 1862. Birmingham Museums Trust via Unsplash.

Parish Council Chair's report

AT the November meeting Duncan Kerr was appointed as a new Parish Councillor. Cllr Michael Gatward has resigned, and thanks were given to him for all his work for the Parish and Parish Council. A notice of vacancy will be posted for the remaining vacancy on the Parish Council.

District Cllr Will Jackson-Wood attended the meeting and reported that the Local Government Reorganisation will be discussed by the District Council on 24 November. SCDC is likely to be asked to support option B (splitting Cambridgeshire into two unitary authorities: North comprising Fenland, East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon, and South comprising South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge. This option is considered to be the most financially and strategically viable). Local elections will be held in May 2026.

Now that the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted, councillors were able to use this when considering the planning applications. Planning applications submitted now must comply with the Neighbourhood Plan.

A regional representative from Age UK attended the meeting to give a short presentation in support of a Parish Council grant for 2026-2027. This grant and other financial matters, such as the installation of further adult gym equipment on the recreation ground, will be discussed at the budget planning meeting.

The Parish Council discussed obtaining a debit card (to make the audit trail and VAT claims easier) and the clerk will produce a policy document for its use. This will be considered at the next meeting.

Agreement was given for the installation of a noticeboard for the David Pepperell community orchard.

Floodlights will be installed in the Pavilion car park to increase safety and ease of access. Tree work in the cemetery was agreed. A grant was approved for CamSwift (a locally based conservation group installing nest boxes on local houses).

The next meeting is on Thursday 4 December at 7pm in the Pavilion. Residents are invited to attend. **Gillian Pett**

Shelford Support Group

Christmas Break

The community transport service for the Shelfords and Stapleford will close for two weeks over the winter holiday.



We will not be taking any bookings between
Saturday 20 December and Sunday 4 January



Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)

Rosie Brown

Anna Disley-Stevens

Juliet Hawksworth

Barbara Ann Kettel

Howard Kettel (V Chair)

Mick Davies

Matthew French

Duncan Kerr

Rebecca Trigg

Please address any matters needing attention from the Parish Council to the clerk.

CLERK

Max Barrett 07472 398823

clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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Will Jackson-Wood

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843861 / 07802 256 861

Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

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



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