

# Stapleford MESSENGER

February 2026

Volume 85 No 2

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

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Stapleford in days gone by



Haverhill Road pond being dredged in 1959 (above) and as it is today (below)

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



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# Who's who at St Andrew's

[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://www.standrewstapleford.org)

**Vicar: Simon Taylor**

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**Churchwarden: Alastair MacGregor**

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phone: 843021 or 07855 269844

**Curate: Matt Lewis**

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**Parish Administrator/Johnson Hall enquiries:**

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For more Church contacts please see [standrewstapleford.org](http://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](http://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

A STAY away from home for me this week, while working at a Crown Court. Very good one it is too, though my goodness the system is creaking. Actually, that is an exaggeration. The criminal justice system is bust, barely functioning at times.



A decade and a half of small cuts, underinvestment and underpayment of staff mean that even in a good court we are this week booking in trials for 2027 and 2028. And our delay can be on top of three years of earlier delay on the police and CPS side of things.

An example of a saving that has cost. Back in the Stone Age when I was a young barrister, every court room had a court clerk to do all sorts of vital official admin to keep order and orchestrate court proceedings. Ten or so years ago someone with a spreadsheet but no understanding decided that you only need 1.25 court clerks or something to cover every two court rooms. Looks like a saving. But then when a court needs a clerk – there are certain things the clerk has to do that judges, barristers and ushers can't – then inevitably there is a delay, sometimes of up to a few hours. And that delay means cost, because the judge, the barristers, the witnesses, the police officers, the jury, everyone is kept waiting. Oh, and a small notch is added to the waiting list. A false economy, making things worse.

Or, to give another example, back in the day if you needed to have a meeting with your client before the day of trial you got paid a modest extra fee to do so. Not every case needs it, but most do. That fee was abolished. Saved money for sure, but now virtually every case is delayed because the client arrives and has to have a conference with their barrister. In every new trial I get a request "Can Mr X have hour with his client?" What are judges meant to say? Of course he must. And everyone else is kept waiting. Tiny saving in fees, big cost, waiting list goes up.

There are loads more examples I could give. Overstretched police process cases too slowly. Underfunded CPS takes forever to make decisions. Too few young barristers because the earnings are below minimum wage. Court rooms shut because basic maintenance has not been done and the heating doesn't work or the roof leaks. Tech systems not working properly. The probation service now so stretched that it takes eight weeks to produce a pre-sentence report. Prisoner transport outsourced and prison vans routinely late. Court rooms not in use because not enough judging days are paid for.

It is a shambles. Great people working as hard as they can doing really important work, but in a system that is fundamentally knackered.

Where am I going with this? Just a rant, really. But a rant that says the horrific waiting list delays in the criminal justice system are nothing, zero, nada to do with too many people being entitled to jury trials. They are to do with death by a thousand cuts over the past 15 years.

And rant over, here's an important question for anyone remotely interested in a Christian approach to doing things: why should delays in the criminal justice system be a concern?

My take is this: Christians should be concerned about a badly functioning criminal justice system because that system is about individuals, society and justice, and all three of those are of fundamental importance to God. So messing the system up so badly has to be seen not just as poor management choices but as fundamentally sinful.

Let me explain. Human beings as individuals and human beings as society are at the heart of the criminal justice system. Victims, witnesses, defendants and society all suffer greatly at the hands of a rotten system. It is not just a crime or a false allegation that causes suffering, but also the process of sorting it out through the justice system. That is inevitable – even in a well-run system giving evidence or answering a charge are major burdens – but we have made it worse. To put it theologically, God's beloved children, made in his image but living in our fallen world, commit crimes, make allegations and so on, and then instead of using our communal resources to mimic the kingdom of God and provide the best possible justice, or even the Ford Mondeo of justice, we provide a creaking system that makes it all worse, for victims, for witnesses, for the accused, for those who deal with the truly horrific things that humans inflict on one another, and for society as a whole as the sense grows that we do not take justice seriously enough to fund it properly.

Providing a good justice system is not optional for Christians. As I read the scriptures it is obvious that God loves justice and hates injustice. Even though I know that true and complete justice will only come when Christ returns, the call on Christians, the kingdom-of-God-now call, has to be to provide the best possible justice system that we can in the time in which we live. We have failed, dismally, and it is a matter for lament, repentance, prayer and renewal.

God bless, Simon

## 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
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For further information call the Warden on



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## Stapleford Messenger

### Deadline for the March Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY**

By email (Word or similar attachment) to [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

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### Messenger contacts

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# St Andrew's Noticeboard

1 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR CANDLEMAS Malachi 3.1-5; Luke 2.22-40 <i>Women of the NT: Anna</i>
2 FEB	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
8 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Exodus 23.1-9; John 8.2-11 <i>Women of the NT: a woman caught in adultery</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH IN THE JOHNSON HALL
	6 PM	COME & SING CHORAL EVENSONG Proverbs 8.1, 22-31; Revelation 4
15 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Exodus 20.8-11; Luke 13.10-17 <i>Women of the NT: a woman bent double</i>
18 FEB	7 PM	CW COMMUNION FOR ASH WEDNESDAY 1 Peter 2.20b-24; Mark 10.39b-45 <i>God with Us: the sign</i>
19 FEB	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION Deuteronomy 30.15-20; Luke 9.22-25
22 FEB	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Hebrews 10.1-10; John 5.19-24 <i>God with us: the sacrifice</i>
1 MAR	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Colossians 2.9-15; John 12.27-33 <i>God with us: the victory</i>

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

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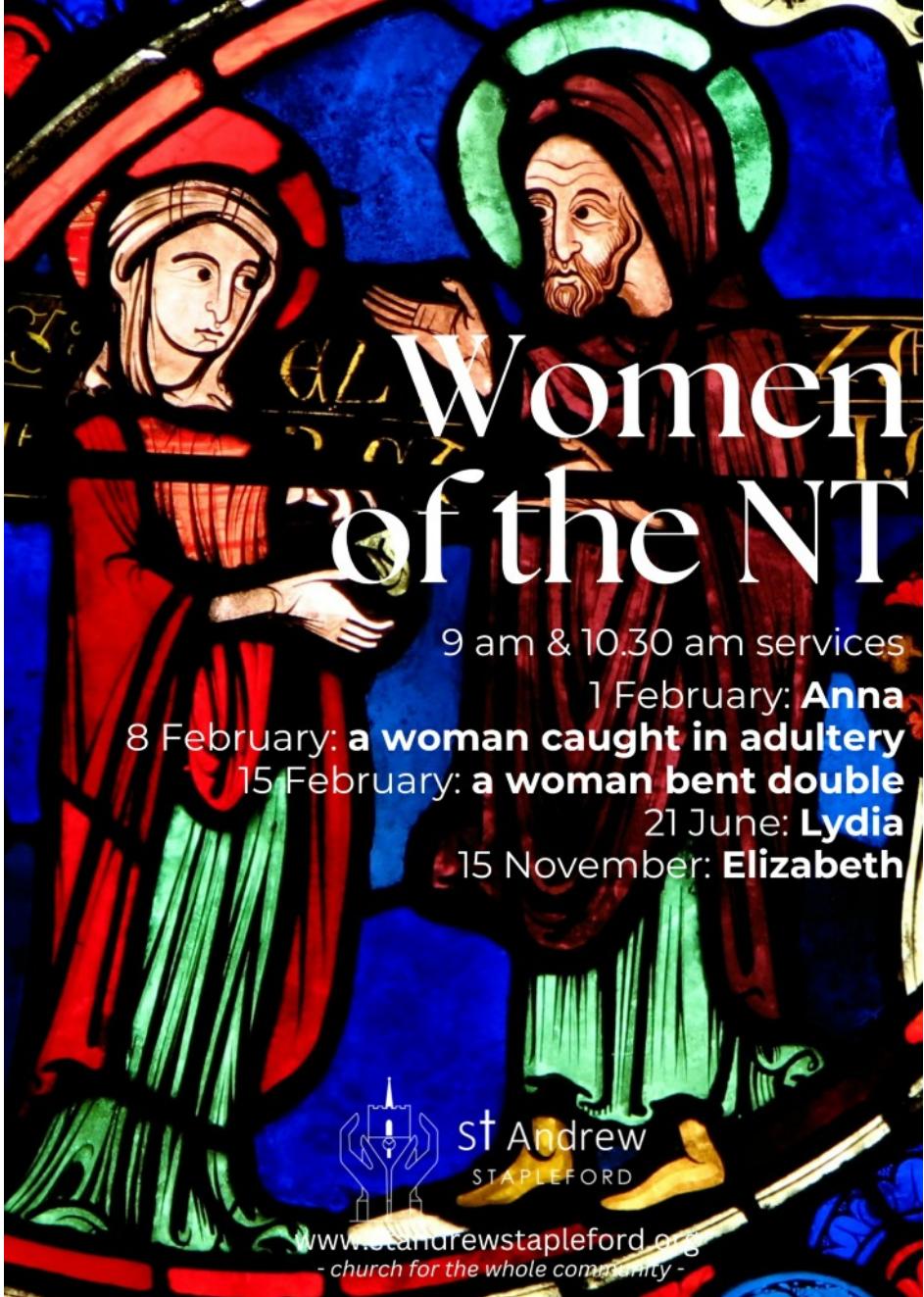
# Winter wonderland

THIS morning I was surprised to see a snow scene through the window. An unruffled bright white duvet covered the ground. Branches etched with glistening white, leaves pillowled with cotton wool. The sun dazzled under a cap of pale blue dappled by grey fluffy clouds. Nature's artistry. Yesterday the sky was a brilliant strong tropical azure blue, yet the chill was intense. I was glad of extra layers. Pristine, pure, perfection seen through glass. Shame to spoil the scene with footprints.



3 January was still, uncannily calm yet bitterly cold. Breath forming misty clouds. Worth a Wandlebury wander with a friend. Despite gloves my hands quickly turned blue. It was achingly cold. Shards of ice lay on the frozen pond. The pale sun shone a path across the centre, one to admire rather than tread. Towards the orchard gnarled, twisted trees stood beautifully bare. Brave, nestling, sheltered by a wall. Snowdrops clustered, the tiny heads bowed as if praying. They are early signs of spring also known as Candlemas bells, and signifying hope. I still hunt for aconites, the golden harbinger of spring. The Botanic Gardens or Anglesey Abbey will delight if not gardens here. I eagerly anticipate.

Belted Galloway cattle won't be there, but a herd happily resides at Wandlebury. Concentrating on munching they eat everything except flowers, even thistles and nettles. This distinctive group are black with a white band like a wide bandage round the girth. I thought of liquorice sweets. There were, I believe, calves looking more like large sheep. The tousled cream coats had flecks and patches of black. Most endearing like cuddly teddy bears. Evidently, they can be 'mismarked'. Nearby a magnificent bull stood, strong, proud, haughty, head held high. His coat a smooth deep black velvet. Shadows were forming. Shapes highlighted. The sinking sun spilled golden honey over the countryside. The sky appeared bruised, displaying dramatic purples, grey and amber. Fallen tree trunks and logs took on a glow of mystery. As 2026 unfolds keep us interested and aware of our wonderful environment and community. **Judith Lee**

A close-up of a stained glass window. It features a man with a beard and a woman with long hair. The man is reaching out towards the woman. The background is filled with vibrant colors like red, blue, and green. The text 'Women of the NT' is overlaid on the right side of the window.

# Women of the NT

9 am & 10.30 am services

1 February: **Anna**

8 February: **a woman caught in adultery**

15 February: **a woman bent double**

21 June: **Lydia**

15 November: **Elizabeth**



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# Mothers' Union



THIS month's meeting is on Thursday 26 February at 2:30pm in the Johnson Hall. We will be looking at the slides for the forthcoming World Day of Prayer service which will be on 6 March in the Community Room in Cox's Close. The theme this year is 'I will give you rest, come'. It is organised by the women of Nigeria. **Hilary Street**

## Knitters needed please

### Teddies for Nursery children in Nachingwea



PLEASE would you be able to help by knitting teddies?

Please email: [nachingwealink@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:nachingwealink@standrewstapleford.org)

Many thanks, **Trish Maude** (Link Chair)

## World Day of Prayer



THERE will be a World Day of Prayer service on Friday 6 March at 2.30pm in Cox's Close Community Room (CB22 5SP) on the theme: 'I will give you rest, come'. This service was prepared by Christian women from Nigeria.

This is an ecumenical service and everyone is welcome to attend: women and men. Refreshments will be available.

For more information about the World Day of Prayer see [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk).  
**Joy Barnes**

## Cambridge Flower Club AGM

Our annual general meeting will be held at 7.15 p.m. on Thursday 19 February

Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE

Annual subscription £45. Visitors £10 each meeting

Further information from co-chairs: Freda Orgee - 891464, [fredaorgee@gmail.com](mailto:fredaorgee@gmail.com) or Alison Drake - 840117, [drakealisonn@gmail.com](mailto:drakealisonn@gmail.com)

# Come & Sing Evensong!

Sunday 8 February 2026

it's back!

Rehearsal 3.45 pm  
Evensong 6 pm

- everyone welcome  
- refreshments afterwards



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## Stapleford WI



IF you are reading this and wondering if the WI is a group you would like to join, or find out more about, then do please consider coming as a visitor to our next monthly meeting on 26 February at 7.30pm in the Pavilion. We have a speaker, Neil Callan, whose talk is 'The history of the English silver spoon'. You can experience for yourself what makes us such a well-attended, friendly group, with plenty of activities taking place in between the monthly meetings. In addition to the varied programme of speakers and social evenings we have a book group, a craft group, meals, and walks to local places of interest.

You will also find information on our website [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com) or you can speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847. Joyce Dobson

## Used stamps collection



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



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# God with Us

*the meaning of the cross &  
resurrection then and now*

Ash Wednesday

18 February 7 pm

Sundays

22 February

1, 8 & 22 March

9 & 10.30 am

12 April

10.30 am

& Home groups are reading

Rowan Williams' book

*God with Us* during Lent

- all welcome to join



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# Stapleford History Society



ON 9 December Paul Shakeshaft gave a talk on the stained glass windows of King's College Chapel. The speaker described the building of King's College Chapel to the Society a year ago and this second talk focused specifically on the windows, their creation and meanings. Although photographing the windows is very difficult, we were treated to a slide show to

help us appreciate the skill of the makers and the intentions of the designers.

Henry VIII was on the throne when the Chapel was finished, apart from the windows. The first contract with the glaziers was signed in 1515 for twenty-six windows: twelve at each side plus two end windows. The King employed Dutch glaziers to work in Southwark. Headed initially by Bernard Flowers, they were deemed to be more skilled than the English workmen. This, inevitably, led to riots during the 1530s as work was being taken from Englishmen by foreigners who could not speak English.

Bernard Flowers and his men were familiar with the glass produced in Alsace, sheets of green, blue, pink, purple, red, yellow and green. The general aim was to create a vision of the Holy City in Paradise by the use of such bright colours. Sand, lime and potash were combined to produce white glass (not transparent) and enamel paint was sometimes used to reproduce the facial features of characters on the windows.

There were several designers, variously influenced by the Renaissance and Reformation, by fashions in the Netherlands and later in Italy. Many of the windows are describing the life of Jesus as described in the New Testament alongside stories from the Old Testament. For example, the picture depicting the Resurrection is paired with the image of Jonah's release from the great fish. These are known as Typological windows. Others describe the life of Mary and the Acts of the Apostles, with an emphasis on Paul rather than Peter who was associated with the Church of Rome which Henry VIII had rejected.

By 1547 the glazing was complete. The windows manufactured in Southwark were most likely transported to Cambridge by ship in a journey



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round the coast of East Anglia to Lynn and then down the river to Cambridge, which was still a viable port at that time.

The survival of the windows is quite amazing. In 1643 Cromwell's troops and their horses were actually quartered in the Chapel and had been commanded by the Puritan Earl of Manchester to get rid of "a thousand godless images", though the troops did nothing to them. In 1940 German bombing of Cambridge was expected. Yale University paid for the windows to be removed and stored in various venues in the area, lofts, basements, basically anywhere that had space for them. They were not put back in place until 1951. **Jane Steadman**

## Stapleford Horticultural Society



IT took more than Storm Goretti to keep our members away from January's talk, 'Kerry's Guide to Rose Care'. Kerry French provided an authoritative treatment on planting, feeding, pruning and pest control, as expected from someone who was Head Gardener of the Royal National Rose Society and now runs international rose trials. So there is no excuse for sub-standard roses in our members' gardens this year.

Our next talk will be on Thursday 12 February, when we welcome back Dr Ian Bedford whose talk is entitled 'Britain's Butterflies in a Changing Environment'. Last time he spoke to us we learned about garden bugs, this time we'll hear about more welcome visitors to our gardens. It will be held in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, and guests paying the meeting fee of £3 are welcome. **John Sherwell**



## 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](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com) - after all, it's your magazine.



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# Stapleford Strollers: walk 143

## Permission Granted: a walk at Grantchester

### TO get to start of walk

Drive to Grantchester village from Stapleford and park on the roadside just beyond The Rupert Brooke pub (CB3 9NQ)

### Distance of walk

4.4 miles. This is mainly a flat walk and not arduous; it is easy to extend, too. However, parts of the walk do get muddy, especially near the River Granta. The accompanying map provided indicates how to avoid potentially sticky conditions: the 'wet weather route' by-passes the worst of the mud.

### OS Map Explorer map 209.

For a free map extract, go to [maps.the-hug.net](http://maps.the-hug.net). See the route map.

### Extra Information

Grantchester has four pubs, a tea-room and a coffee shop so you are spoilt for choice. This walk makes use of several permissive paths that were not part of previous Strollers' walks at Grantchester. These are not legal rights of way but public access is by permission of the landowner. In this case, the landowner is Trumpington Estate and the permissive paths have been designated as bridleways, so walkers, horse riders and cyclists can use them.

### Route of Walk

From the starting point, cross the road and walk along the pavement in the Cambridge direction. When the Blue Ball pub is reached, cross back over and walk towards Cambridge, paralleling the road on the wide grass track beyond the roadside hedge. The path swings left after a few minutes and crosses a footbridge. It then continues along the left hand edge of the next field. At the field end, swing right and keep on the field edge, turning left, then right and going through a metal gate to meet the cycle/pedestrian route between Grantchester and Cambridge. Go left and, soon after and shortly before a metal gate, turn right and head towards the river.

Follow this path, which parallels the river, all the way back to Grantchester. Do not be tempted to take any right forks away from the river, but keep it to the immediate left all the way to the field that is used by Grantchester Cricket Club. The path crosses several footbridges and passes through a number of metal gates on the way.

When the Cricket Club field is reached (large information board just before the field), keep walking ahead alongside the river and go through a

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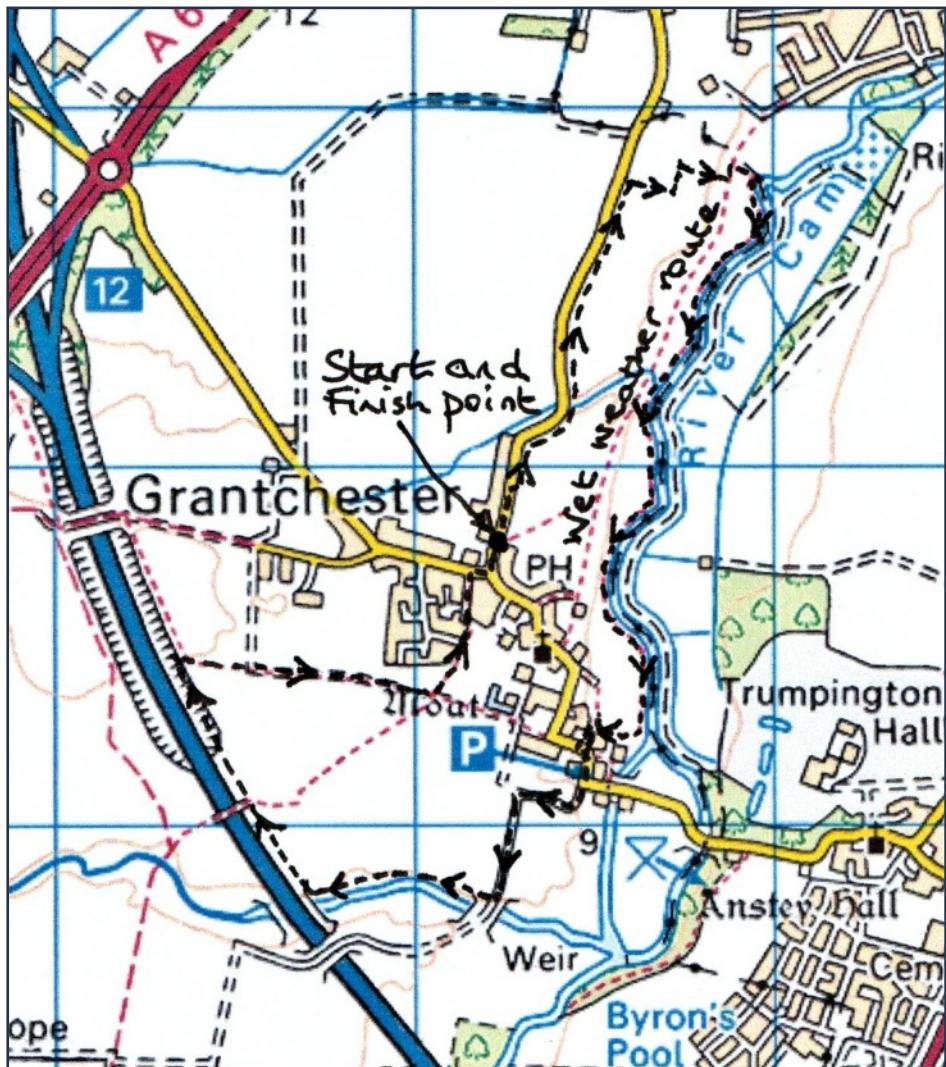
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metal gate to enter a small wood at the end of the field. Follow the path in the wood, which swings right just before a fence (Jeffrey Archer's back garden, with an old red phone box in it). The path curves round and enters the cricket field again. Turn left and walk along the field edge, exiting through a metal gate leading to The Orchard Tea Rooms. Turn left through the car park and, when the road is reached, turn left along the pavement, which is only wide enough for one person in places.

A sign for Cantaloupe Farm will soon be seen opposite. Cross over carefully and walk to the left of a large metal gate, going ahead along a

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concrete farm road. Swing right and then turn left at a farm road junction (sign for Cantalope Farm with a left-pointing arrow). Walk along this road until, just before a metal gate blocking the way, a sign saying Permissive Path with a right-pointing arrow will be seen. There is a metal access gate for walkers to the right, but it is a little tricky to open it fully. Go through the gate and walk along a grass track with a stream to the left and a huge cropped field to the right.

Keep following the stream, as the path turns left, and the noise from the traffic on the M11 ramps up several notches! The path swings right just before the motorway and follows the left hand side of the field. The route goes upslope at this point. Keep ahead, ignoring a cross path (although you can go onto the motorway bridge to the left and gaze at the traffic, if you are so minded). Turn right along the next path, easily identified by two yellow gas pipeline indicators. This crosses the field and joins up with another track, heading back towards Grantchester. Keep ahead, carrying on until a footpath sign with four arms is reached. Turn left here, along a narrow, solid-surfaced path that passes the recreation ground and then connects with a small access road off Coton Road in Grantchester village. Cross over Coton Road and go right on the pavement. The Rupert Brooke can be seen ahead; turn left and return to the start. **David Barnes**

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



## Little Shelford Lawn Bowls Club

### New members wanted

STAPLEFORD doesn't have its own bowls club, but Little Shelford does! We are looking for new members to join our bowls club this season. We are holding

two open taster sessions on Saturday 25 April, 2.30 to 5pm and Thursday 30 April, 6.30 to 8pm. Our first year introductory membership is only £20.

If you are a new starter, tuition and equipment can be provided, all you need to bring is a pair of flat-soled shoes. So please get in touch or just turn up on the day. Our green is at the Wale Recreation Ground, Whittlesford Rd, Little Shelford, CB22 5EW.

For further information please phone 07719 714190 or email [john.r.sherwell@btinternet.com](mailto:john.r.sherwell@btinternet.com) **John Sherwell** (Secretary)

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SAWSTON CB22 3JR**

Free admission (a retiring collection will be taken); refreshments available

[staplefordwindsinfonia@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordwindsinfonia@gmail.com)

# Obituary - Marcia Bond



MUM and Dad moved to Priams Way in 1959 as David had become a research scientist at the Plant Breeding Institute, Trumpington, specialising in beans. With Heather on the way they quickly added to the nickname 'Prams Way'. Heather was the eldest of eight children and prior to marriage she worked as an infant's schoolteacher and welcomed local children to our home and garden to play. Her claim to fame was the happy years she lived in Alnwick Castle, then used for teacher training.

I was born in January 1963 in the big freeze; no housework was done that morning after Dr Sergal summoned the flying squad by seeking the only telephone in the street with Mrs Carr.

After Dad died in 2017 she coped so well despite failing memory and eyesight. I wish to thank City Carers and the Community Wardens as well as neighbours for their support enabling her to stay in her own home until a fall in October. Sadly predeceased by Heather in 2022 she continued to enjoy visits and follow the achievements of her grandchildren David, Helen, Josie and James.

The funeral was held at Cam Vallery Crematorium on Monday 19 January at 2pm. **Sylvia Bond**

## Handel and the Italian connection

### A Concert of Baroque Music

PROFESSOR Ashley Solomon and students from The Royal College of Music historical performance faculty perform Handel, Scarlatti, Corelli, Castello and Vivaldi at Holy Trinity Church, Hildersham, CB21 6BZ on Tuesday 24 February at 7.30pm.

This will be a very special evening where Ashley Solomon performs together with a group of his graduate students in a selection of baroque concertos and sonatas. Ashley is a baroque flautist and is a Fellow of both the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music where he also has a personal chair.

Tickets £15 from eventbrite, search for "Handel and the Italian Connection", or at the door - refreshments included.

Contact Athene Hunt [huntcam2015@gmail.com](mailto:huntcam2015@gmail.com) In support of the Friends of Hildersham Church. **Athene Hunt**

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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](mailto:drbikestapleford@gmail.com).

You can also book a time slot at that address, though this is not essential. The Saturday sessions will resume in Spring, dates to follow.

**Repair Café** – our next one will be on Saturday 7 February at Great Shelford Free Church, 2pm-5pm. Do try and book your repair in advance, bookings can be made at [cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events](http://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events). This helps us plan our schedule so we can avoid people having to wait, and also means we can do our homework in advance to assess the repair.

We can tackle a wide variety of repairs including jewellery, electrical and electronic devices, as well as clothes and fabrics. The repairers are brilliant and can fix a lot of things but there are no guarantees. Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets. But we will collect small portable non-working (unfixable) electrical items and ensure these are properly disposed of.

If anyone would be interested in helping on the admin side of things, please email us on the address below.

**Planning Meeting** – our next planning meeting is on Thursday 19 February at 8pm at the Community Room in Cox's Close, Stapleford. Do come along and meet us, find out what we're up to and suggest activities or meetings you might like us to run.

**Book Club** – our next meeting in the Three Horseshoes in Stapleford at 8 pm on Tuesday 24 February. The book is 'Urban Jungle: The History and Future of Nature in the City' by Ben Wilson. Most people in the UK live in cities. They need access to green space, and cities also must contribute to reducing the climate crisis.

**Neighbourhood Plan for Stapleford and Great Shelford** – you will recall this was passed by residents with a resounding YES at the referendum in 2025. We are arranging a meeting in March where the Chair of the steering committee, Jenny Flynn, our District Councillor Peter Fane, and the two relevant Parish Councillors will come and discuss with us how the Plan will be implemented and what we can do to help.

**Thermal Cameras** – Cambridge Carbon Footprint are offering another opportunity to borrow and learn how to use a thermal imaging camera for

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free, for residents and organizations across Cambridgeshire. Join a free one-hour online training session to learn how to interpret thermal images, identify draughts, gaps in insulation, and heating problems, and to make your home cosier and more energy efficient. Great for homeowners and renters alike! The next date for training is Monday 9 February 7.30pm-8.30pm. To book, go to [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search for Thermal Imaging Training.

CCF can only lend thermal cameras to people who have attended the training. Loan periods are: Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon, or Monday afternoon to Friday afternoon. Cameras can be picked up from one of 18 volunteer camera hosts around the local area. Contact Fran Sutton at [fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](mailto:fran@cambridgecarbonfootprint.org) 07713 841391.

**Organic Gardening Course** at Sawston Village College from 2 February. Ross Lilley will be running a four week fruit and veg evening course looking at how to get our allotments and gardens ready for the new growing season. For further details and to register for the course, see the SVC website under Grow Your Own: Fruit and Vegetable Gardening. It will be on Mondays from 7pm to 9pm. Ross is also running a one-day workshop on seed saving and sowing, on 7 March – see the SVC website.

**National Emergency Briefing** - on 27 November last year, unfortunately on the same day as the budget so you probably didn't notice, a group of the UK's leading experts briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 with the latest implications of the climate and nature crises for health, food, national security and the UK economy. Many MPs were there, including our own Pippa Heylings.

The briefing was chaired by Professor Mike Berners Lee. You can watch his introduction, and also listen to all of the expert briefings, on the National Emergency Briefing website. Once you have taken in their sobering advice, you may well want to sign a petition asking for a televised briefing, to bring it to everyone's notice what the situation is, and how we can be prepared. Those in public office have a responsibility to tackle this.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment at all levels (individual, local, national, international), send an email to [mail2G3S@gmail.com](mailto: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/](http://2g3s.staplefordvillage.org.uk/). **Helen Hale**

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Repair Café is FREE, but donations are welcome.

Tea/coffee and cake will be provided!

## Great Shelford Free Church

7th February 2026 2pm - 5pm

Venue: Ashen Green, Great Shelford, CB22 5EY

For more details & to book in an item for repair  
scan the QR code or visit:

[bit.ly/m/2G3S-RepairCafes](https://bit.ly/m/2G3S-RepairCafes)

Email: [2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com](mailto:2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com)



Great Shelford  
Free Church



Cambridgeshire  
REPAIR CAFE  
Network

# Arthur Rank Hospice

## One chance to get this right



THE annual funding of £829,000 which Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH), who run Addenbrooke's Hospital, has paid to the Charity since 2018 is being cut. This will close nine of our 21 Inpatient Unit beds at our Hospice in Cambridge and have huge implications for local people.

Sharon Allen, CEO of Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, said: "The removal of this funding has truly devastated us all. Essentially, this now means that over 200 people a year will no longer have the option of being cared for in the comfort of our Hospice and instead will sadly be dying in a busy hospital without the level of privacy for lasting memories, nor the expertise and outstanding care provided by our experienced, compassionate palliative care nurses. For us, this is truly heart breaking."

To give the Charity time to explore new funding opportunities, plan for increased fundraising needs, and bridge the immediate gap in funding, Arthur Rank Hospice Charity has launched their 'Protect our Care' campaign. The Charity is asking the Cambridgeshire community to support them in any way they can. This could be a one-off donation, signing up to become a Friend of Arthur Rank Hospice via a regular gift, or considering leaving a gift in their will. Read more at [arhc.org.uk/protectourcare](http://arhc.org.uk/protectourcare).

### Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's range of services

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity cares for over 3,800 people each year. They support people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition and those who need end of life care. As well as their Inpatient Unit at their purpose built Hospice in Shelford Bottom in Cambridge they provide Hospice at Home services in patient's own homes. The Living Well service supports people, who live with a life limiting illness, some for many years. For more information about the range of services the Charity offers please visit [www.arhc.org.uk](http://www.arhc.org.uk). **Virginia Goode**



Local MPs, hospice supporters and patients presented a petition at Downing Street in November

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# Royal British Legion,

## Sawston and District Branch



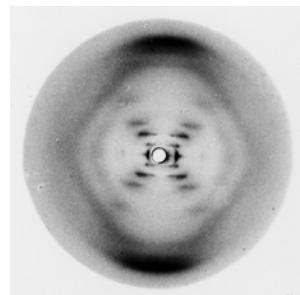
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

THE first Branch Meeting of this new year is on Wednesday, 28 January at 7pm. We meet in the Chapelfield Community Centre, Chapelfield Way, Sawston and you do not have to be a member to attend. We always have a speaker with subjects of interest followed by friendship and refreshments. Alan Osborne is our speaker for this first meeting, and his focus is on Rosalind Franklin – the Dark Lady of DNA! We do of course, discuss branch business and you are welcome to remain and learn about the Royal British Legion and what our aims and objectives are.

Can I take this opportunity to inform people that the Sawston and District Branch members are getting older and less able to take part in planning and organising events in the local community, which covers Stapleford, as the years go by. Eventually, they will not happen at all unless we can attract younger, more active people to help us in this and other tasks throughout the year. There is no commitment to become a member of the Royal British Legion, but it would be wonderful of, course, if we could find a few new members. If you feel that you might be able to help us in the coming months and years and it matters to you that we continue to have a presence – then please get in touch with us!

Another thing that we badly need is a qualified first aider or someone who would be willing to train as one (at no cost to themselves). It is now a requirement that the Branch has one (or preferably two) to cover public events and the cost of hiring someone from an organisation is £400 each time. We clearly cannot afford to do that, hence the search for at least one first aider who could commit their attendance at every gathering where the public is involved throughout the year. If you are a qualified event first responder or would like to train as one, then please get in touch. We would be very relieved to hear from you! Please contact the branch Secretary at [ann.barton@hotmail.com](mailto:ann.barton@hotmail.com) or 07898 732307.

May this new year bring you good health and happiness! **Ann Barton**



*Rosalind Franklin's "Photograph 51", key evidence for the structure of DNA*



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## Puzzle Corner

### Rhyme time

Solve the pairs of clues

In each pair, both answers are the same length  
but begin with different letters

e.g. Root vegetable; mimic speech (6)

CARROT; PARROT

Water barrier; male sheep (3)

Former Foreign Secretary; former Swedish car manufacturer (4)

Marilyn Monroe's name as a child; popular curry dish (5)

Wolf-like; lying on the back (6)

South American capital; percussion instrument (7)

Type of bacteria; ornamental climbing plant (8)

Village between Rampton and Landbeach; district of North London (9)

Dynasty family; village between Haslingfield and Shepreth (10)

*Set by Hermes – Answers on page 43*

## South Cambs organic gardeners

### Creating a No-dig Allotment

TONY Warne will give a talk on lessons learned from 5 years of intensive organic vegetable growing on a new no-dig allotment. At Cox's Close Community Room, on Monday 9 February at 7pm. Admission £2. Contact Helen Harwood, tel. 840393 or [helen\\_harwood\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk) for more details. **Helen Harwood**





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It truly is a team effort; thank you for being by our side. In 2024/25 we responded to 2,787 requests, 1,483 with helicopter flights. That's an average of 8 requests a day, treating 5 people. Our Aftercare team supported 665 patients and their families.

For more information about East Anglian Air Ambulance see [eaaa.org.uk](http://eaaa.org.uk), email [info@eaaa.org.uk](mailto:info@eaaa.org.uk) or phone 03450 669 999. **Rachel Hogg**



## live music

**Iain Ballamy, saxophone & Rob Luft, guitar**

**Friday 6 February | 7:45pm**

Atmospheric blurred lines of genre, composition and improvisation from two long-term jazz collaborators.



**Gwilym Bowen Rhys Trio**

**Sunday 15 February | 3:00pm**

Welsh traditional song, old legends and shanties led by one of folk's most engaging and compelling musicians.

**Ant Law Quartet**

**Saturday 21 February | 7:45pm**

'Ensemble playing of the highest order' featuring an all-star jazz line up.



**Brahms & Schumann: Intimate Musical Portraits**

**Friday 27 February | 7:45pm**

Five members of renowned vocal ensemble *I Fagiolini* present songs and piano pieces by three pillars of German Romantic music.

## children's events

**Storytelling Sunday: The Princess & the Pea**

**Sunday 8 February, 10:30am & 1:00pm**

**Crafty Thursday: Ladybird Land**

**Thursday 19 February (bookable 60 minute sessions)**



## exhibitions &amp; talks

**The Wonderful World of the Ladybird Book Artists**

**22 January - 29 March**

**Author talk, Lawrence Zeegen**

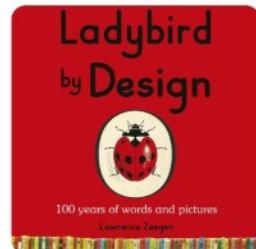
**Saturday 28 February, 11:00am**

The design history of the iconic Ladybird pocket books

**Richard Bayliss (cafe gallery wall)**

**8 January - 17 February**

**pop up bar 28 February, 5:00pm - 10:00pm**



find out more [www.staplefordgranary.org.uk](http://www.staplefordgranary.org.uk) 01223 849004

# Great Shelford Library

February is LGBT+ History Month. The month highlights the incredible things LGBT+ people in all their diversity have achieved throughout history, in all areas of life. The 2026 theme for LGBT+ History Month aims to highlight the contributions of LGBT+ people historically and today, and to raise awareness of the people behind them.

Don't forget Valentine's Day on February 14. We will be making Valentines cards in Saturday Art Club.

## Library Events in February

**Craft & Chat** – Every Friday morning 10.30am to 12pm. No need to book.

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

**Engage Talk** – Helen Harwood – 'A Shelford Education: School Life over the Years'. Wednesday 25 February 2pm to 3.30pm. A donation of £2 will be appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

## Story, Rhyme & DUPLO Time – Every Tuesday at 10.30am

For children aged up to 4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

**LEGO and DUPLO Club/Children Games Club** – Alternate weeks, Mondays 4pm to 5.30pm. Suggested donation £1.00. Suitable for ages 2 to 10. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

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

Contact us on [Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).  
phone 0345 045 5225, [cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

**Mel Abbiss, Vikki Keppey, Community Librarian Assistants**

### Library opening hours

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



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EVENTS & PARTIES



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# Wandlebury events



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

## Healthy Walking Groups | Every Thursday | 10am and 10.30am

Every Thursday, CPPF hosts free Healthy Walking Groups offering a low-pressure way to move more, feel better, and meet others, without lycra, loud music, or long-term commitments.

There's no sign-up and no special kit required. Walkers simply turn up, choose a pace that suits them, and head out into one of Cambridge's most distinctive historic landscapes.

Two groups run each week, one, for experienced walkers, setting off at 10am and another, for less experienced walkers, at 10.30am. The routes are designed so both groups finish together, making space for what many walkers say they value most, time to sit down afterwards for coffee and conversation at the Wandlebury pop-up café. The walks are deliberately inclusive. People come on their own or with friends, some for fitness, others for company. New walkers often comment on how quickly they feel part of the group.



## Half-Term Family Walk: Meet the Meadow Moo-vers!

Monday 16 February | 10.30am to 12pm

The cows have temporarily moved to Coton Countryside Reserve where there is more grass. Bring the family on a relaxed guided walk to meet our friendly (and very handsome!) Belted Galloway cows. Find out how these amazing animals help care for our meadows and create space for wildlife.



- Please wear warm, outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear.
- Free event, with a suggested donation of £3.
- Advance booking welcome, or simply turn up on the day.

The Coton Countryside Reserve is just south of Coton, accessed from the Coton Footpath at Coton recreation ground or the reserve car park off the Grantchester road at CB23 7PZ.

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## Adult Volunteer Work Party: Care for Wandlebury.

**Tuesday 17 February | 10.30am to 1.30pm**

Fancy doing something active and worthwhile this half-term? Join our **adults-only (ages 18 and over) volunteer work party** and help look after the landscapes and wildlife that make this special place so loved.

Spend a rewarding morning outdoors working alongside our experienced wardens, learning practical conservation skills, and enjoying good company while making a real difference to the park.

- All tools, equipment and guidance provided.
- A friendly, welcoming atmosphere — no experience needed.
- Three hours of fresh air, teamwork and hands-on conservation.

Please bring:

- A packed lunch and a mug for refreshments.
- Tough clothing and sturdy footwear suitable for outdoor work.
- Plenty of enthusiasm and a love of the outdoors.

Please **reserve a free place** to confirm your attendance and provide contact details at [cambridgeppf.org/ethn/volunteer-work-party-19](http://cambridgeppf.org/ethn/volunteer-work-party-19).

**Please note parking charges for all these events apply to non CPPF members.**

**Wandlebury events meet at the large noticeboard in the car park.**



All photos: CambridgePPF

## Sawston Cinema Listing

**The Audience by Peter Morgan, NT Live. 12A (tbc)**

Thursday 26 February 7pm (doors open 6.30) £10. Running time 180 minutes. A National Theatre Live production. For 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) met with each of her 12 prime ministers in a private weekly meeting known as The Audience, and advised them on matters both public and personal. Through these private audiences, we see glimpses of the woman behind the crown and witness the moments that shaped a monarch. Peter Morgan's Netflix phenomenon *The Crown* was based on this hit play that became one of the most-watched National Theatre Live productions.

Marven Centre, Sawston Village College, New Road, Sawston CB22 3BP  
Tel: 712825. Email: [cinema@sawstonvc.org](mailto:cinema@sawstonvc.org)

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*The Travelling Companions*, Augustus Leopold Egg, 1862. Birmingham Museums Trust via Unsplash.

# Parish Council Chair's report

MUCH of January's meeting centred on the Parish Council's response to the Local Plan. Jenny Flynn, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan working group is instrumental in framing this response, with contributions from interested members of the public and the District and County Councillors. It is hoped that members of the public will have submitted their individual responses by the deadline of 30 January.

Highways matters were discussed in some detail, with concerns raised on several issues. Cllr Fane noted that funds were not available for complete re-surfacing so patching was the best option. He noted that negotiations with the current contractor were ongoing and no major changes would be made due to future county council restructuring. The Parish Council raised serious concerns regarding safety from a multi-user perspective, especially with regard to potholes and the lack of gritting. The specific area near Bridge End Cottage was also discussed. A meeting would be set up and the parish council could be represented. Cllr Fane asked that any concerns with specific potholes be reported directly to him, as well as the online reporting system.

Cyclists' safety was also discussed with particular reference to negotiating potholes, especially in wet weather, and the lack of gritting of the cycle path to Sawston in the recent bad weather.

A request was made by a member of the public that a dropped kerb should be considered by 88 Haverhill Road to improve access for those with mobility issues wishing to visit Strawberry Fields and its amenities.

Terms of Reference were agreed for a Sports and Recreation Advisory Group, which will advise and inform the Parish Council.

Parishioners are reminded to address any concerns to the Parish Clerk and not to individual councillors. The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 5 February at 7pm in the Jubilee Pavilion. **Gillian Pett**

## Puzzle Corner Answers

### Rhyme time

DAM; RAM,	RAAB; SAAB,	NORMA; KORMA,
LUPINE; SUPINE,	CARACAS; MARACAS,	LISTERIA; WISTERIA,
COTTONHAM; TOTTENHAM,	CARRINGTON; BARRINGTON	

# Stapleford Parish Council

[staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)

Howard Kettel (V Chair)

Rosie Brown

Nel Clark

Mick Davies

Anna Disley-Stevens

Matthew French

Juliet Hawksworth

Duncan Kerr

Barbara Ann Kettel

Rebecca Trigg

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

## CLERK

Max Barrett 07472 398823

[clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

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843861 / 07802 256 861

Will Jackson-Wood

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07873 731597

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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843861 / 07802 256 861

Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

[Laurence.Damary-Homan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Laurence.Damary-Homan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

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



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