

# Stapleford

*Ne Nuntium Necare!*

# MESSENGER

March 2026

Volume 85 No 3

Price 90p



Stapleford's Maddie Young leads as Snow White in the Little Shelford panto  
Full review on page 33

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



**Don't Dilly: call Lilley of Sawston**

**Mobile: 07768 718223**

ROTA VATING | TURFING | SEEDING | TREE WORK and PADDOCK, ETC.  
PAVING | LARGE OR SMALL AREAS

**FENCING A SPECIALITY**

**128 Duxford Rd, Whittlesford, Cambridge, CB22 4NH**



*Bespoke Curtains  
& Blinds*

[suecrowcurtains.com](http://suecrowcurtains.com)



**01223 836498**



**O N CHALLIS**

*Painter and Decorator*

**Tel: 01223 841646**

**Mob: 07939 607653**

*All types of interior and  
exterior work undertaken.*

*High-class quality  
workmanship guaranteed.*



**Tyres & Autocentre**

**WE ARE NOW IN A NEW LOCATION.  
CALL US FOR A FREE QUOTE TODAY!**

- New tyres
- Part-worn tyres
- Wheel balancing
- 4-wheel alignment
- Locking wheel nut removal

**ALL WHILE  
YOU WAIT**

- Servicing
- Brakes fitted
- Shock absorbers
- Exhaust repairs
- Diagnostics
- Batteries
- Engine carbon cleaning
- Air conditioning
- And more...

**Opening hours:**

**Mon-Fri: 09:00-18:00**

**Saturday: 10:00-16:00**

**Sunday: CLOSED**

**01223  
845155**

**Unit 2, Hillstead Farm, Hinton Way, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5AN**



**WATERLILIES**

SKIN CLINIC • BEAUTY

Call **01223 844700**

Book online at

[www.waterlilies.org.uk](http://www.waterlilies.org.uk)

2d Dolphin Way, Off London Road, Stapleford, CB22 5DW

**RUSSELL COOPER  
GARDENING**

*(QUALIFIED HORTICULTURIST EST 1987)*

**ALL ASPECTS OF GARDENING  
WORK CARRIED OUT BY A  
PROFESSIONAL LOCAL  
BUSINESS**

**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT  
OF YOUR GARDEN  
UNDERTAKEN**

**Tel: 01223 830575**

**Mobile: 07702 456797**

# Who's who at St Andrew's

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

**Vicar: Simon Taylor**

email: [simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com)

phone: 840256 or 07970 716163

**Churchwarden: Alastair MacGregor**

email: [armacgregor@ntlworld.com](mailto:armacgregor@ntlworld.com)

phone: 843021 or 07855 269844

**Curate: Matt Lewis**

email: [curate@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:curate@standrewstapleford.org)

phone: 07707 166834

**Parish Administrator/Johnson Hall enquiries:**

email: [admin@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:admin@standrewstapleford.org)

**Safeguarding Officer: Rob Needle**

email: [safeguarding@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:safeguarding@standrewstapleford.org)

phone: 844227 or 07877 055934

**Director of Music: Tim Kwan**

email: [music@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:music@standrewstapleford.org)

phone: 07745 803972

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 Matt Lewis

PANCAKE day might seem like a distant memory. The excited sounds of children reaching for their favourite toppings. Lashings of Nutella, Biscoff spread, or golden syrup can ensue. Adults are not immune from this phenomenon either. Even with this, the more traditional lemon and sugar remains a simple, yet staple topping. The flamboyance and simplicity of pancake toppings never cease to amaze me.



It's a tradition likely developed from the medieval period where households used the last of their more luxurious ingredients before Lent. Milk and eggs needed to be used up. Add some flour and you have a pancake batter. While staples today, at one point these items were a luxury. The purpose of doing this was to prudently consume these ingredients before they spoiled. Over Lent, people abstained from eating more luxurious foods, including milk and eggs, in order to avoid decadence.

By abstaining from certain foods, people spent the season restraining themselves to give space and time for reflection. Restraint from luxuries also enabled people to give away more to those in need. Lent creates a financial space as well. Spend less on yourself and give more to those in need. Through a discipline of denial, people refocus on self-discipline and priorities. Lent provides this, year on year, to those willing to partake.

We have other, similar trends today. Not just Lent. Dry-January and veganuary focus on diet trends to see if longer term diet and lifestyle changes develop. Digital detoxes provide an opportunity to 'reset' online consumption habits and improve anxiety. Caffeine breaks are touted to improve sleep. The list could go on, but all amount to the same precedent: give something up in order to better your life.

But these modern trends and our modern approach to Lent seem to be at odds with their roots. The focus is on self-betterment. Diet changes improve health and life expectancy; abstaining from social media and 'doomscrolling' benefit mental health; reducing caffeine improves sleep. None of these are bad things, and it is prudent to consider how to take care of ourselves well. But what about immaterial needs? We might conceptualise these as the needs of the soul. Each of the examples above attends to a physical need (if we include mental health and neurological needs as physical). But what about the needs we can't measure through modern medicine and psychology?

Part of preparing to abstain from food also involves preparing the soul to do something differently. Or to put this another way: to give space for other longings to inspire. Sometimes we don't know what these might be. We step forward in hope for change, especially when we experience dissatisfaction. Effectively, Lent invites people to leave behind comfort in order to explore whether something has been missed.

In the Bible, there is a story of a man called Abram. In the book of Genesis, Abram is invited by God to leave his homeland, his family, and all he knows. By doing this, Abram abstains from what he has known in the hope of a better unknown. In this, he trusts God to lead him through an unknown path to an unknown place. Abram's journey is not straightforward at all times, but he benefits from leaving his comforts to follow God's way. He even gets renamed: Abraham.

To some extent this is what Lent invites us to do. Leave behind a comfort or two, and make space for something different. For something potentially unknown. And the beauty of Abraham's story is that this was not a lenten discipline, nor a 40 day experiment. This lasted for the remainder of his life.

If a total change like Abraham's seems too great, then start small. A week of abstaining from something enticing can do wonders for our soul before it does our minds and bodies. Our society seems to have this the wrong way around, focusing instead on physical change. But all change requires a person to admit that something could be better. This is an act we do in church each week: we admit that things could be better, and that we have done wrong before God and to others.

So how does this all fit together? Eating pancakes to use up the last ingredients was accompanied by confession. The aim was to use up the larder provisions as well as admit where things had gone wrong. Pancake day, or Shrove Tuesday, came about as people were 'shriven' by confessing wrongdoings, committing to change, and being free from past mistakes. This movement of confession, repentance and absolution marked the beginning of Lent.

As I mentioned above, this movement provides space in life. Space for physical changes and emotional reflection. Space for the soul to engage with unknowns. But it also provides financial space to consider how those with less might be supported. Of all the modern reiterations that look a little like Lent, this is the area that is consistently lacking. Our modern culture of 'be better' and self-improvement lacks a view that considers our actions' impact on others. Imagine for a moment what changes could be made that aid

# Stapleford Community Warden Service

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

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

(a small weekly fee applies)

For further information call the Warden on



**07436 102733 or [juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk](mailto:juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk)**

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with registered charity no. 1165856

**LITTLE FISHES**

birth to pre-school  
9.15 to 11 am Mondays in term-time

Johnson Hall  
1 Gog Magog Way  
Stapleford  
CB22 5BQ

- all welcome
- refreshments
- crafts, songs, stories

contact Fiona Holliday  
[layminister@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:layminister@standrewstapleford.org)

St Andrew  
STAPLEFORD

[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://www.standrewstapleford.org)  
— church for the whole community —

The advertisement is set against a background photograph of a man in a blue sweater and jeans pushing a black stroller, and a young child in a white dress and a colorful helmet riding a red tricycle on a paved path. The path is lined with fallen autumn leaves. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

another person. This is good for us as well: body, mind and soul! The changes we might not be able to see yet might surprise us.

Whether you've given something up or not this Lent, how are you making space for others in your life? How are you making space for unexpected changes and longings to develop? We'd love to hear what Lent has been like for you, whether you've given something up or not.

Hope to see you soon, Matt

# St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us

REHEARSALS  
THURSDAY 7PM -8PM @  
ST ANDREWS CHURCH

Contact - Timothy Kwan  
07745 803972  
music@standrewstapleford.org



St Andrew  
STAPLEFORD

## Stapleford Messenger

### Deadline for the April Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 13 MARCH**

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

The *Messenger* reserves the right to edit material. Please include contact postal address with all letters to the Editor.

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

Advertisements are accepted in good faith but customers should satisfy themselves that advertisers are able to supply the services they offer.

### Messenger contacts

**Editor** [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

**Advertising** [stapleford.ads@gmail.com](mailto:stapleford.ads@gmail.com)

**Subscriptions/Distribution** [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com)

The subscription for the *Stapleford Messenger* delivered to your home is £9 per annum (£25 by post): single copies 90p.

# St Andrew's Noticeboard

|        |          |  |
|--------|----------|--|
| 1 MAR  | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION  |
|        | 10.30 AM | CW COMMUNION<br>Colossians 2.9-15; John 12.27-33<br><i>God with us: the victory</i>                                |
| 2 MAR  | 7 PM     | MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING   |
| 8 MAR  | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION  |
|        | 10.30 AM | SUNDAY WORSHIP<br>Acts 2.15, 22b-24; John 14.1-6<br><i>God with us: Christ's resurrection then</i>                 |
|        | 10.30 AM | MESSY CHURCH   |
|        | 6 PM     | CHORAL EVENSONG<br>Joshua 1.1-9; Ephesians 6.10-20   |
| 15 MAR | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION  |
|        | 10.30 AM | ALL AGE & FAMILY CW COMMUNION ON<br>MOTHERING SUNDAY<br>Isaiah 66.5-13; Matthew 23.1-12                            |
| 19 MAR | 10.30 AM | THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION<br>2 Samuel 7.14-16; Matthew 13.54-58   |
| 22 MAR | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION  |
|        | 10.30 AM | ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE<br>1 Corinthians 15.17-26; John 12.20-26<br><i>God with us: Christ's resurrection now</i> |
| 29 MAR | 9 AM     | BCP COMMUNION<br>Isaiah 50.4-9a; Matthew 21.1-11   |
|        | 10.30 AM | COMMUNION FOR PALM SUNDAY<br>Matthew 21.1-11; Matthew 26.26-27.54  |
| 30 MAR |          |  |
| 31 MAR | 8.30 PM  | COMPLINE IN PERSON   |
| 1 APR  |          |  |

The church is open every day as a place to come and pray or enjoy a moment of quiet reflection. Messy Church takes place in the Johnson Hall. Everything else is in the church.

## A peppering of pattern

JOYFUL aconites, neat yellow polka dots nestling in green collars. Tight buds waiting to open and shine. Stately bowing snowdrops provide contrast. Daffodils for St David's Day and Mothering Sunday. Much to anticipate. New beginnings; fresh pattern. Nature delights. Look around. Surprises inside and out. Swirls, zig zags, dots, dashes, chevron and lattice work. Marbling is popular, the curves of waves, sea and treescapes. From early years we doodle. This develops into stylising names and addresses. They become personalised. Illustrated script around poems and stories gives pleasure. Scribble and splatter creations, finger, feather, leaf and bark printing, butterfly paint splodges feature on fridges. Triumphant efforts reaping reward.



*Snowdrops at Wandlebury*

Remember 'Op art?' Strong geometric shapes, colour blocked. Playing with shape and form in original ways makes a welcome challenge. As adults we can lose the spontaneity. Yet pattern is almost like a backcloth, always there, but not focused upon.

Furniture, cushion covers, blinds or curtains are often patterned. Pastels or strong primary colours. Even plain subtle styles may have natural inflections or gentle shading. Contrasts add definition. Traits dictated by those adhering to fashion influence us. Botanicals, tropical, flora and fauna against camouflage and animal prints. The latter practical for children.

Creating can satisfy. Mindful efforts relax. Cross stitched bookmarks were popular as gifts but kindles don't require them. Stripes, squares, stars; design for yourself. Embroidery, tapestry, and lacework I consider more specialist needing extra concentration. Mobile phone covers can be made, pencil cases still exist. All suited. Rooms can be styled, one wall colour drenched, pattern elsewhere. Radiators need not be dull, but shapely and attractive. Through the window we see wind-scudded clouds, the sun sinking or rising, the new moon a silver sliver in time becoming full. Grey, mauve, peach, red, gold patch the sky. Colours blend, smudge, tones alter. An artist's dream.

I think back to early married life. DIY. Our tiny kitchen was wild orange, brown and yellow. Trendy, cheery, dazzling; sun glasses advised. That fashion has not been revived. There is always a chance. **Judith Lee**

Wellbeing and relaxation



Tel. 01223 843164

WWW.reikiwithsuepitman.co.uk

**Reach  
more people**



**Make more  
sales**

To advertise in the  
**Stapleford Messenger**  
email us at:  
[stapleford.ads@gmail.com](mailto:stapleford.ads@gmail.com)



**Tree Service Ltd**

**Professional Tree Surgeons  
covering Cambridgeshire  
and Hertfordshire**

**Fully Qualified & Insured**

**01763 208361**

**07743406569**

**shelfordtreeservice.co.uk**

**COULSON**

**Plumbing ♦ Heating ♦ Electrical**

01223 423750 [services@coulson.co.uk](mailto:services@coulson.co.uk)

**All aspects of plumbing, heating & electrical works  
undertaken. From small maintenance tasks to large scale  
replacement & upgrade works.**

Bathroom Refurbishments; Boiler Servicing, Breakdowns &  
Upgrades; Central Heating Installations; EV Charging Points;  
Consumer Unit Upgrades; Electrical Installation Condition Reports.

*Delivering excellence since 1884*



# Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

**From: Bryan Davies, James Foreman, Paul Izzett, Tim Jessop, Peter Woolley**

**Re: Poor Condition of Local Roads**

*(Editor's note: This is the text of a letter sent to the Highways Dept of Cambs County Council but which may be of interest to readers.)*

SEVERAL of us who meet regularly in Stapleford are very concerned by the extremely poor condition of many of the roads in Cambridgeshire. Both cyclists and car drivers are put at more risk of accidents by the widespread potholes. You may not be aware that your attempts to fill the potholes are undone by the ease with which they reappear a few weeks later.

Friends from neighbouring counties and our own excursions indicate that road conditions in Cambridgeshire are peculiarly poor compared with several adjoining counties; although this evidence is only anecdotal it suggests that the system you use to maintain roads could be improved.

A few years ago the gas mains along roads in Stapleford were modified and the many excavation holes made good with a top layer of tarmac; all of these repairs have remained intact with no sign of potholes several years later, this suggests that the method you use to repair potholes should be changed to one that is more permanent. and likely to be cheaper in the long term.

It seems to us that the heavily used routes through the villages of Stapleford and Shelford have become so extensively damaged that patch repairs are no longer sufficient and resurfacing is necessary. Most significantly, this includes the London Road (A1301), Church Street in Stapleford and Woollards Lane in Shelford all of which are in a dire state.

**From: Name and address withheld**

**Re: A little story of great kindness in our village**

SOCIAL media often gets a bad name, but instant messaging sometimes shows its very best side.

Last weekend our daughter and her young family came to stay with us. After a walk around the village, she realised her precious bracelet was missing. Even though it was already dark, we headed out with torches to retrace our steps and searched the paths, the allotments, and the rec where we had walked – but nothing found. At first light we tried again, but still no luck – it really did feel like looking for a needle in a haystack.

We decided to ask our allotment friends for help and sent a message to the group. Within hours, one of the allotmenters contacted us saying another of the group had seen a post from a wonderfully thoughtful person on the Nextdoor app reporting she had found a bracelet and was seeking the owner. Contact was made and before long the bracelet was safely back on our daughter's wrist – she was so happy!

We feel immensely grateful to live in a village where people genuinely look out for one another.

Thank you so much to all involved and especially to the wonderful and honest person who found the bracelet and sought to return it.

**From: John Wakefield**

**Re: Stapleford Strollers - Grantchester walk**

I NOTE in the Stapleford Strollers - Grantchester walk (*Messenger* February 2026) that it is suggested that participants drive to Grantchester. I would like to point out that there is now a bus service to Grantchester, the T3 run by Stagecoach under contract to C&PCA. The buses run hourly along Hinton Way, Great Shelford, Monday to Saturday. The nearest stop to Stapleford would be in Hinton Way opposite Mill Court; buses leave at 22 mins past the hour from 6.22am through to 9.22pm. The bus stops in Coton Road, Grantchester so a short walk to the start at the Blue Ball. Return buses to Shelford leave on the hour from ) 6am until 9pm. A full timetable can be downloaded from [bustimes.org/services/t3-grantchester-fulbourn](http://bustimes.org/services/t3-grantchester-fulbourn).

**From: Robert Ransom**

**Re: Village History - The Beavis family**

WE have recently demolished our garage and unearthed a little bit of village history.

The garage was built in the '50s or '60s from recycled bricks and we found three with inscriptions relating to the Beavis family who are well known by older residents of the village, both Basil and brother Gerald having been brought up and farmed here.

The inscriptions are W. Beavis then what looks like 1812 (?); G+M and TB.

I have given the bricks to Margaret Beavis, Basil's widow and had a chat about who may have made the inscriptions and she will be contacting Gerald, now in his



90s and living in Harrogate, to see if he can shed any light. Meanwhile if any long-term Staplefordians have any ideas please let me know through the *Messenger*.

Another interesting feature exposed by the demolition was an old beautifully constructed brick well.

Vine Farm dates from 1667 and the adjacent Stockman's Cottage from 1859. The above photo shows Vine Farm in 1895. A cottage was formerly on the site of the garage that has been demolished and is seen in the centre of the picture through the gates. This photo is courtesy of the Cambridge Collection.



## Messenger Subscription-last chance

If you wish to continue receiving the *Messenger* this year please pay your subscription by the deadline of Sunday 8 March. The annual cost remains £9 or £25 for postal subscribers.

If you received a reminder letter with your *Messenger* last month we apologise for an error in the account number.

For **online payments** the correct account details are:

Sort Code: 30-91-74

Account no: 01263363

Account Name: Stapleford PCC

Do remember to give the first line of your address as the reference.

To **pay by cheque**, make it payable to:

Stapleford PCC

Give the first line of your address on the back of the cheque and post or deliver in an envelope to:

The Messenger

Verger's Cottage

1 Gog Magog Way

Stapleford

CB22 5BQ

To **pay in cash**, enclose it, with the first line of your address, in an envelope and deliver to the Verger's Cottage.

We hope you will choose to continue to receive the *Messenger*.

## Could you help the Messenger?

THE Messenger Team is looking to recruit a volunteer email Inbox administrator. The person must be familiar with email and ideally have some basic knowledge of Word and Excel – although the latter is not essential.

The Inbox Administrator must be used to administration and be well organised and disciplined. To lighten the load and cover for holidays etc., the job is currently split between two people e.g. each person does the job alternate months. The workload varies through the month in a predictable manner, from hardly anything for about two weeks, up to about an hour a day for the day or two around copy date.

If you feel you could take on this role and contribute to your community magazine, please email us at [staplefordmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:staplefordmessenger@gmail.com). We would be pleased to give you more details and discuss further. Thank you!



Nachingwea



Stapleford



St Andrew  
STAPLEFORD

## Knit some joy for the children of Nachingwea

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? Do you have some spare wool that could be used to make a small teddy bear for young children in Nachingwea, Tanzania?

Children in Nachingwea have very few - if any - toys, and your gift would bring lots of joy and excitement. If you think you could help, please email:

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

*Thank you!*

## Stapleford WI



DESPITE a cold and wet evening, Stapleford WI enjoyed an excellent turnout for our January meeting - proof, if ever it were needed, that a good speaker is worth braving the weather for. Our committee member, Yvonne Allison, who sources our speakers does find a variety of

interesting talks and provides a wide programme to appeal to all.

Members were rewarded with a fascinating and engaging talk about the first lady taxi driver in Cambridge. Marion Leper brought her story vividly to life describing how Winnie Cobb, who had been born in 1891 'with a spanner in her hand', applied to King and Harper's garage to drive taxis during the First World War. Following a month in the workshop Winnie was allowed to drive a taxi and became a familiar sight in Cambridge.

Members also had the opportunity during the business meeting to vote for one of the five resolutions put forward for consideration this year. Members throughout the country are eligible to vote and the resolution which receives the highest number will be discussed in detail at the Annual Meeting in June. Key topics include improving public toilet access, addressing women's homelessness, supporting children in care, promoting vulval cancer awareness, and increasing 'green' social prescribing.

Our next meeting in March is our Annual Meeting where the past year is reviewed and the election of the Committee and President takes place. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, apart from December, in the Pavilion. More information and photos about our activities can be found on our webpage [staplefordwi.weebly.com](http://staplefordwi.weebly.com) or you can speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847. Any visitors to our meetings are assured of a warm welcome!

**Joyce Dobson**

## Mothers' Union



ON 26 March, Philip Baker, the Branch Leader of Burwell Mothers' Union (and widower of Susan Baker, Diocesan President

for six years) is coming to share a Lent Meditation – usual time and place, 2.30pm, Johnson Hall. Philip writes the 'Reflections' in the MU Diocesan monthly newsletter, which are always thoughtful and stimulating, so we shall enjoy participating in his Lent Meditation.

A reminder to members that the subscription of £25 is now due for 2026. **Hilary Street**

# FLOOR COVERINGS

Cambridgeshire's largest flooring showroom est. 1996

FREE no obligation quotes.

**01223 233233**

[www.floor-coverings.net](http://www.floor-coverings.net)



Unit 31-32 Dry Drayton Industries, Scotland Road,  
Dry Drayton, Cambridge CB23 8AT  
Open: Mon - Sat 9-5

# Christopher THE LOCKSMITH

## ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

We Value Old Fashioned Customer Service  
A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

 Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors

 No Call Out Charge

 No Fix No Fee

 All Work Fully Guaranteed

 10% Senior Citizen Discount



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher:

**07772 111 222**

[www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk](http://www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk)



**ENTIRE**  
GROUP



300007



The Complete Gas Heating and Plumbing Company

**Plumbing • Heating • Gas  
Bathrooms • Water Softeners  
Property Maintenance**

**Tel: 01954 204044 • Web: [www.entiregroup.co.uk](http://www.entiregroup.co.uk)**

**Email: [service@entiregroup.co.uk](mailto:service@entiregroup.co.uk)**

Founded in 2007, we have extensive knowledge and experience in all things plumbing and heating, making us a great company for all your household and business plumbing & heating needs.

We pride ourselves on customer service and ensuring we offer an extensive range of services so can meet all our client's needs. However, don't just take our word for it – check out our 5-star reviews ★★★★★

# 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 online [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk). **Joy Barnes**

# Girlguiding



SHELFORD & Stapleford Rainbows have been having fun working on the Skills for My Future theme from the Girlguiding programme, with lots of games and activities.

Shelford Brownies are also working on the same theme this term. Excitingly, two Brownies will complete their Brownie Gold Awards (the highest award available to Brownies) in March. The Brownies have had great fun completing a challenge badge that involved making and racing hobby horses. They're looking forward to a night walk with lanterns made from milk bottles, followed by hot chocolate. And the excitement's building for a panda-themed sleepover next term!

Shelford Guides started the Spring term learning about things they can do to help garden birds and made bird seed cakes to hang up outdoors. Some Guides have chosen to work on the Artist badge this term, while others are doing the Confectionery badge. In January, the Guides had a fun day out with the Sawston Guides at the Jarman Centre in Newmarket where they built dens in the woods followed by a needle felting craft.



A big thank you to everyone who visited the coffee morning at Shelford & Stapleford Scout and Guide HQ in January. The event raised around £400 for local Girlguiding members aged 14-18 years to visit Kenya this summer.

We're always glad of new volunteers: adults (we'd love to be able to reopen Stapleford Brownies) and 14-18 year olds wanting to be young leaders and/or do their DofE volunteering locally. Please contact [shelforddistrict@gmail.com](mailto:shelforddistrict@gmail.com). Thank you. **Lisa MacGregor**



*Award winning  
free house & restaurant  
in the heart of the village*

📞 01223 503 402

@hello@threehorseshoes-pub.com

🌐 www.threehorseshoes-pub.com

FULLY TRAINED, INSURED  
AND DBS CHECKED  
CAT SITTERS



In-home cat sitting based  
on your cat's individual needs, giving  
your feline companion safety, comfort and  
familiarity in their own surroundings.

[www.cambridgecatsitting.com](http://www.cambridgecatsitting.com)

📷 📧 @cambridgecatsitting

info@cambridgecatsitting.com



PLUMBING, HEATING  
AND MECHANICAL



ELECTRICAL, FIRE  
AND SECURITY



REFRIGERATION AND  
AIR CONDITIONING



RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Domestic & Commercial**  
e: [info@huttie.com](mailto:info@huttie.com) t: 01223 292295  
[www.huttie.com](http://www.huttie.com)

## 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). For more information, 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, after the clocks go back.

### **Neighbourhood Plan for Stapleford and Great Shelford Discussion**

**Evening** - you will recall this was passed by residents with a resounding YES at the referendum in 2025, and we are arranging a discussion evening on 2 March at 8pm, where the Chair of the steering committee, Jenny Flynn, our District Councillor Peter Fane, and the two relevant Parish Councils will come and discuss with us how the Plan will be implemented and what we can do to help. As I write we plan for it to be at Cox's Close in Stapleford, but check the website, posters, or Facebook page for details.

**Food Waste Caddies** - you may have read in the South Cambs magazine that they are going to introduce free weekly collections of food waste from April. The Government has passed legislation to reduce emissions from food waste by tasking councils to collect it regularly. Food waste squanders energy and effort used in its production, and produces methane as it rots if it's in landfill. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. Whilst we have always been able to put our food waste in the green bins in South Cambs, this is composted, which is less effective than sending the food waste to a biodigester. The new bins will be able to take all food scraps, meat bones, egg shells, teabags, etc. and research suggests that separating out food waste results in a much better compliance rate. You will get a small caddie for the kitchen (no need to use a liner bag; save plastic. A paper bag will be OK if you prefer a liner), and a bigger one to put out for the refuse collectors. Here is something you can do to help the planet. Of course, it's even better if you can compost your veg scraps. And even better to create less waste to start with, by using leftovers in soups, curries etc. See [lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com) for recipe ideas.

**National Emergency Briefing** - you will recall I mentioned this in my last article. A group of the UK's leading experts briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 influential figures - MPs, senior civil servants, business leaders, media figures, and representatives from culture, faith and civic groups.

## FOOT PROBLEMS?

Call **07939 227195**

Foot treatment in the comfort of your home

### Treatments cover:

- Nail Cutting and other nail conditions
- Corn and callus removal/reduction
- Fungal infections and athletes foot

**Celia Kenney**

*HCPC Registered Podiatrist*

The Beechwood Practice | 41 Hills Road  
Cambridge CB2 1NT  
Call **01223 315541**



## PIANO LESSONS

Jacqueline  
Cairnduff  
CT ABRSM ALCM

All ages welcome.  
Also aural training & theory.

2 Sternes Way,  
Stapleford CB22 5DA

**01223 842912**

[jcairnduff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jcairnduff@hotmail.co.uk)

## THE GAS SPECIALIST LTD (D Hatter)

Service, installation, and repair of all domestic gas appliances: cookers, fires; specialist in boiler repairs and servicing.

Gas Safe Reg 131405. Est 1994.

**01223 844866**



Check-in time?  
Whenever you need us.

24/7 support no matter where you are, or what time you need us. At travelcounsellors we're all about you. Your needs wants and aspirations for far-flung celebrations - coupled with personal service beyond compare - you can always rely on me.

*Cheryl Harradine*

TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

01223 842670 / 07742272131  
[cherylh@travelcounsellors.com](mailto:cherylh@travelcounsellors.com)  
[www.travelcounsellors.com/cheryl.harradine](http://www.travelcounsellors.com/cheryl.harradine)

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

# STEVE the PLUMBER

Steve the Plumber is a friendly, reliable, locally based plumber who would love to help you out! All those jobs you thought weren't worth getting someone out for I would love to do for you.

No job too small and individually priced at great rates.

**07803 922517 or [www.stevetheplumbersawston.co.uk](http://www.stevetheplumbersawston.co.uk).**

## CHIMNEY SWEEP

**J. L. WIGHT**

Guild of Master  
Chimney Sweeps



Certificates issued.  
Advice given /  
problems solved.

**01954 253315**

[www.camsweep.co.uk](http://www.camsweep.co.uk)  
9 Cow Lane, Rampton

They updated the audience with the latest news on the implications of the climate and nature crises for UK - health, food security, national security and the economy, all with the message that action needs to be taken now not sometime in the future, if we are to avoid very unstable and violent changes to our way of life. To quote: "There is clear evidence that emergency action will strengthen our national and economic resilience and improve lives". Our politicians need to see strong support from the public, and the National Emergency Briefing is designed to help create a societal tipping point towards the genuine emergency action now needed. There is evidence that many more people support climate action (89% in surveys) than the Government thinks.

The briefing concerning the economy was powerful. It debunked the commonly-quoted "we can't afford to go net zero" – arguing that we can't afford NOT to. To quote:

- "Today's markets are broken. They assume a stable climate, clean air, fresh water and functioning ecosystems - while rewarding businesses that damage them and penalising those investing in resilience.
- This is a textbook market failure, and it is government's job to fix it. New rules must consistently reward lower carbon, restored soils, standing forests, circular resource use and reduced waste.
- Vested interests are slowing the transition. Profitable fossil fuel and extractive sectors lobby to protect the old system, just as the tobacco industry once did - even though they could diversify.
- The economics are clear: action is cheaper than inaction. The cost of inaction massively outweighs the cost of action, even on cautious estimates. Net zero is affordable, and it pays back. The UK investment needed is around 0.2% of GDP per year, and would be largely funded by the private sector, with clear long-term returns.
- Faster transition is cheaper. Research shows a rapid energy transition saves \$12 trillion globally compared to sticking with fossil fuels: more than twice the savings of a slow transition.
- Climate action cuts the cost of living. Inflation would have been significantly lower if we had decarbonised power, heat and food systems earlier; delay has already made households poorer.
- The best way to get other countries to act is for the UK to lead by example. Acting early accelerates innovation, lowers costs worldwide and increases the UK's chance of being a high-value producer in future industries.
- The test of success is simple. Policies can and must make households better off, reduce risk and build resilient businesses. The jobs then follow."

The briefing was introduced by Chris Packham and chaired by Professor Mike Berners Lee. You can watch all of the expert talks on the National Emergency Briefing website, and in due course there will be other opportunities to watch them. Those in public office and others with power have a real responsibility to tackle this. Doing our bit of recycling, walking to work, flying less, consuming less all help but they aren't enough on their own, without governments and businesses taking serious action. The briefings are not all doom and gloom – speakers stressed the progress made e.g. the costs of renewable energy have plummeted as more wind farms are built and solar panels are fitted; the ozone hole over Antarctica will repair itself in due course due to the phasing out of CFCs some years ago.

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**



## The History of 'The Kite' area of Cambridge

### The men and women who made The Kite, 1815 - 1980



A talk by Mike Levy

Stapleford Pavilion Tuesday 10 March at 7.45pm  
Free to members – non-members pay £3 on the door

# P. G. Wodehouse: Jeeves and the British Empire

## A Talk by Dr Sean Lang



DR LANG, a Visiting Fellow at Anglia Ruskin University, gave his fifth talk to the History Society and we were treated to a preview of his ideas about P.G. Wodehouse (PGW) in his latest book which will be published in the Autumn.

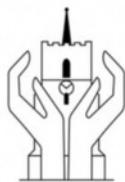
PGW was a prolific comic writer with more than ninety books to his credit, including biographical sketches of famous Edwardians. He also wrote the lyrics for several Broadway shows, including those of Jerome Kerne which were very popular. The series of books featuring Bertie Wooster and his valet, Jeeves, are probably the most famous nowadays as they were the basis of a very popular television series starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie. Bertie Wooster was the epitome of upper class silliness while Jeeves was the man who thought seriously and kept his employer out of any unexpected



difficulties. Jeeves, therefore, represents the man in the street and his opinions and attitudes are what Dr Lang is interested in.

PGW's parents were married in Hong Kong in 1877 where his father was a Judge. Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, affectionately known as 'Plum', was born in Guildford in 1881. He was most definitely a child of Empire and attended Dulwich College which gave him a sense of security and stability while his parents were abroad. He was looked after by twenty actual aunts who were to provide the basis for the fictional aunts he later created.

When he left school he went to work for The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation but did not want to go to Asia as a banker. Quoting Kipling he started "on my wild own as a freelance". He carefully avoided any setting like Asia or India and began to concern himself with the reality of the situation at home. His poem 'The Parrot' was concerned with the rise of food prices, and the Scouting movement founded by Baden Powell was treated comically in 'The Swoop! or, 'How Clarence Saved England & The Military Invasion of America'. Two characters, Mike Jackson and Psmith, were created in order to comment on the boarding school system. The Psmith books were later set in the worlds of journalism and the City.



st Andrew  
STAPLEFORD

[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://www.standrewstapleford.org)  
- church for the whole community -

St Andrew's Church  
Mingle Lane  
Stapleford  
CB22 5SY

# MUSIC MOMENTS

SATURDAY 18 APRIL, 6-7PM

FREE (with retiring collection)



Join us for...  
**an evening  
of enchanting  
music**  
with wine and nibbles

*Music by members of the community for the community  
Raising funds for a junior organ scholarship and music at St Andrew's*

Psmith was also created to poke fun at the 'Breed of intrepid Englishmen' as represented by Bulldog Drummond created by H.C.McNeile in 1920. Dr Lang remarked that Bulldog Drummond was the imperial James Bond of the time. PGW later even poked fun at the Nazi-inspired followers of Oswald Mosley by referring to them as the Black Shorts.

In 1934 PGW moved to France for tax reasons. In 1940 he was taken prisoner by the Germans and interned for nearly a year. After his release he made five broadcasts from German radio in Berlin to the USA, which had not then joined the war. These broadcasts over the enemy radio were very controversial in Great Britain and, under threat of prosecution, PGW never returned to England but spent the rest of his life in the USA with dual nationality. He died in 1975 aged 93, a month after being awarded a knighthood (KBE) to honour his contribution to comic writing.

Jane Steadman

## Tree Project



AT the end of January a great group of villagers, pictured below, helped us plant a row of eight trees up Haverhill Road where there is no hedge. They are a mixture of oaks, hornbeams, and maples. And Rangeford gave everyone a hot drink at the end!

We have been planting most Sunday afternoons, and there will probably be sessions into March, before the end of the season. If you'd like to join us come to the community allotment (the one with the chairs and table) at 2pm.



If you'd like to help but can't plant, we still need people to take on watering newly planted trees around the village. You can 'adopt' one near where you live, and just water it in dry weather for a year or two, until the roots are established.

Thanks to our existing

adopters we lost very few trees last year, despite the dry summer.

More details at [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/stapleford-tree-project).

Helen Hale

# D.L.M. AUTOS

63a Orchard Road, Great Shelford CB22 5AA

## MOT - SERVICE - REPAIR

01223 844828

[www.dlmautos.co.uk](http://www.dlmautos.co.uk)

# GATWARD **SONS** & SONS

**BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE**

CARPENTRY, JOINERY & BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Ashley

 07525 494 478

Chris

 07557 735 247

 [contact@gatwardandsons.co.uk](mailto:contact@gatwardandsons.co.uk)

EXTENSIONS   CONVERSIONS   RENOVATIONS   ALTERATIONS

## Magog Singers



TUESDAY 24 March. 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 chosen by John Clenaghan, our Musical Director, some music

having been arranged by him.

Family and Friends are invited at 3pm in the Pavilion. Our performance will be followed by light refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

A cash collection will be taken in aid of charity.

If you are interested in joining the choir please contact [kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com](mailto:kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com). **Kathleen Foreman**

## Bring and Buy Plant Sale

St. Andrew's Church on Sunday 17 May  
between 11.30am and 12.30pm

Is your garden looking overgrown? Pot up your unwanted plants and bring them to the churchyard from 9.30am or call Glenda on 07792 973942 to request collection before the day.

Choose some plants to brighten the garden for Summer.

Card or cash donations welcome. All proceeds will go to  
The Children's Society



**The  
Children's  
Society**

## Financial difficulties?



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

For more information contact Rev. Simon Taylor at [simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com](mailto:simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com).

# 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

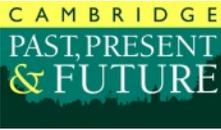
& Home groups are reading  
Rowan Williams' book  
*God with Us* during Lent  
- all welcome to join



st Andrew  
STAPLEFORD

[www.standrewstapleford.org](http://www.standrewstapleford.org)  
- church for the whole community -

# 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).

**Wednesday 11 March | 10.30am to 12.30pm**

## Discover Wandlebury's Wild Side!

Join us for **Woodlands and Wildlife**, a free guided walk. Explore the rich habitats and fascinating wildlife of the Country Park with one of our knowledgeable Wardens.

This is a perfect chance to:

- Spot birds, plants, and other wildlife in their natural home.
- Learn about the work of our charity protecting the park for nature, heritage, and the community.
- Enjoy a gentle outdoor adventure with friends and family.

### Practical information:

- Wear sturdy footwear and outdoor clothing.
- Meet at the large noticeboard near the car park.
- Free event, donations welcome.
- Pay for parking on arrival, or become a member and enjoy free parking all year!

**Every Thursday throughout March**

## Step Into Spring with our FREE Healthy Walking Group!

Whether you want to **boost your fitness, enjoy the outdoors, or meet new friends**, our walks are a fun, welcoming way to get moving.

Two walk options:

- **10am:** 1-hour walk for experienced walkers (newcomers and regulars welcome)
- **10.30am:** 30-minute slower walk for less experienced walkers

**Meet:** At the entrance to **The Stables** (next to the pop-up coffee station). No need to register – just turn up!

After the walk, join the group for a **coffee and social catch-up** at the pop-up café. Plus, our walkers enjoy regular socials throughout the year, from BBQs to festive parties.



**Barker Bros**  
EST 1843



**FAMILY BUTCHERS**

43, High Street, Great Shelford  
01223 843292  
[www.barkerbrosbutchers.co.uk](http://www.barkerbrosbutchers.co.uk)

**HJ Paintin Ltd**  
INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS  
MONUMENTAL MASONS

Private Chapels of Rest  
Floral Tributes and Printed Orders of Service  
Golden Charter Pre-payment plans  
Personal Attention Assured at All Times  
24-hour Caring Personal Service




43 High Street, Linton, Cambridge CB21 4HS  
**Tel: 01223 891226**

8 Morley's Place, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3TG  
**Tel: 01223 830065**

**TIM PHILLIPS & Co.**  
**Accountants**  
*Established 1991*

Independent, specialist service for:  
**Small Business • Self Assessment  
Personal Taxation**

Free initial consultation - no obligation  
**EASY, FREE PARKING**

Copley Hill Business Park, Cambridge Rd, Babraham  
*Off A1307 between Wandlebury and Babraham*  
**Tel: 01223 830044** [www.tpaccounts.co.uk](http://www.tpaccounts.co.uk)

All types of  
carpentry work  
undertaken

*Phone  
01223 842440  
for free prompt estimate*

**STEVE BOND**  
3 Cherrytree Avenue  
Stapleford  
Cambridge

**ALL HUNG UP**



Specialist | Blinds  
Tracks | Poles | Curtains  
**Supply and Installation**

E: [paul@allhungup.uk](mailto:paul@allhungup.uk)  
T: 07920 772 969  
[www.allhungup.uk](http://www.allhungup.uk)

**M D COOPER**  
specialising in  
INTERIOR DECORATING  
AND GLAZED TILING

***Design services available***

4 Falkner Road, Sawston  
Telephone 01223 832422  
Mobile 07860 803938

# Great Shelford Library

MARCH is Women’s History Month. The 2026 theme is ‘Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future’, celebrating the contributions of women who are leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational and social justice movements. We will be displaying a selection of books celebrating women’s achievements.

## Library Events in March

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

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

**Engage Talk** – Green Energy Switch – Wednesday 25 March, 2pm to 3.30pm.

A donation of £2 is appreciated.

Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via [Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Story, Rhyme & Duplo Time** – Every Tuesday at 10.30am

For children aged 0 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 Club** – Mondays from 4pm to 5.30pm. Suitable for ages 2 to 10. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

**Children’s Games and Chess Club** – Tuesdays from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. No need to book, just drop in to try your hand at chess or other games. Suitable for primary school aged children.

**Art Club** – Every Saturday morning from 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.

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

### Library opening hours

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

staplefordonline.co.uk



Your community website  
for up to the minute news and  
views from around the village

## Looking for a local venue?



The Johnson Hall  
next to St  
Andrew's Church,  
is an ideal venue  
for small groups  
and children's  
parties. The hall is  
**available for hire** for

one-off events and regular  
bookings.

For details please contact the  
Parish Administrator

Email:

[admin@standrewstapleford.org](mailto:admin@standrewstapleford.org)

CHURCH STREET VETS

# Independent vets now open!



Church  
Street  
Vets

For more information  
or to register visit  
[churchstreetvets.co.uk](http://churchstreetvets.co.uk)



Church Street,  
Stapleford,  
CB22 5DG  
01223 776773



# Stapleford Strollers walk 144

## A circular walk in Wandlebury Country Park

### To get to the start

DRIVE NE along the Haverhill Road from Stapleford up to the A1307, Babraham Road. Turn right at the junction onto the dual carriageway (take care here) and go over the brow of the hill. After about 150m, turn left into Wandlebury carpark. For non-members, there is a daily parking charge of £3.50.

### Length of walk

3.25 miles (5.2 km)

### OS map

OS Explorer sheet 209, or Landranger sheet 154. See also the attached Open Street Map extract.

### Wandlebury Country Park

Comprising 150 acres of parkland, woods and meadows it was once a country estate. It contains the eponymous Iron Age hill fort, which was probably constructed circa 1000-500 BC and is the most important hill fort in the area.

In 1685, a large house, garden and racing stable was built for King James II within the area of the fort, and the inner rampart and ditch were levelled in the process. The mansion was later owned by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Godolphin, a significant national figure educated at Kings College. His famous racing stallion, The Godolphin Arabian, one of only three foundational sires of the modern thoroughbreds, was kept and is buried there. The main house was demolished in 1956 and all that remains is the stable block, converted to residences.

The land and buildings were given in 1954 to Cambridge Preservation Society (now controlled by the charity Cambridge Past, Present and Future) by the Gray family, who themselves had a strong interest in the racing industry.

### Details of the walk

There are many different paths through the parkland and the present walk takes a route through some of the diverse and less frequented parts of the estate. Except when crossing the open grassland, the paths are well-defined.

Begin by walking SE from the carpark through woodland along a path parallel with the main road. After 0.25 mi, take a small dog-leg left and right



(point A on the map) and continue walking in the same direction along a wide grass pathway, by the side of a fenced meadow. At the bottom of the hill, turn left up the sloping ground, keeping to the left of a belt of trees. At the top of the slope (pt B), pass into a wooded area and continue northeastwards, gently downhill, parallel to a farm track a few metres to the right. About 0.2 mi after entering the woodland, you will encounter an access drive leading to a nearby cottage. Turn right at this access drive (pt C) onto the farm track and then turn left and continue down the slope, with woods to your left and open farmland on your right. Carry on along the field edge for 0.5 mi. to the bottom of the slope.

At the bottom is a wide, well-used route (pt D), which is the Roman Road (aka the Via Devana). This ran from Colchester through Cambridge to Chester (Deva) in the north-west. In Cambridge, the route runs along the main road from the station to Magdalene Bridge and up Castle Hill. The Roman Road was probably constructed for military purposes and it fell into disrepair once the last remaining Roman legion left Britain in 407.

Returning to the walk, turn left at the Roman Road and immediately left again, through a gate, and take the path gently uphill, through the wood. After 0.5 mi, you will encounter the cottage mentioned before (pt E); take a right here and follow the well-worn path past the cottage garden and between open meadows for another 0.5 mi. At this point the path takes on

a brown hue and there is a picnic area to the left. If you wish to curtail the walk, you can carry straight on from here and return to the carpark. If you wish to continue, turn right (**pt F**) and head off into the woods again, past a BBQ enclosure. After 0.25 mi, a path joins from the right (**pt G**). Bear left up the slope and continue past a meadow for another 0.5 mi. On the right is a grand expanse of open country across the Gog Magog Golf Club, northwards. There are one or two viewpoints (**pt H**) from which, on a clear day, it is possible to see Ely Cathedral.

Shortly after passing the meadow, walk through a wooded area containing a bird hide (**pt J**). At the end of this stretch is a fence with an access road on the other side. Turn left here through the wood and look for signposts to Wandlebury Ring (**pt K**). Turn left, take the path down into the Ring earthworks and follow the circle clockwise round until a masonry bridge is encountered (**pt L**). Scramble up the bank at this point and take the access road into the Ring itself. Walk under the arch, past a café and some toilets; on the ground to the right is the memorial to the Godolphin Arabian. Quietly continue left across a cobbled yard and past the residences, and out onto the access road taking you back to the car park. **Peter Woolley**

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

# QUIZ NIGHT!!!

**at The Three Horseshoes**  
**Monday 23 March, 8-10pm**  
**Raising funds for Nachingwea**

**Get your fingers on the buzzers! Join us for a fun-packed evening at the Three Horseshoes, with a quiz for all tastes from Jon West. Entry £5 per person.**

**Raising funds for women's health & education projects in Nachingwea, Tanzania. Booking recommended!**

**Email: [nicolawest14@gmail.com](mailto:nicolawest14@gmail.com)**

**Text: 07763 461074**



*Raffle • Free nibbles • Donations welcome*



**We provide the following services:**

- Domiciliary /Care
- Live-in Care
- Dementia Care
- At-Home Respite Care
- Urgent Home Care
- Post-Knee or Hip Joint Surgery support and care
- Physical disabilities support and care
- Sensory impairments support and care needs



**ELITENURSE**  
HOME SUPPORT SERVICES  
*Personalised and Responsive Care*

**Your #1 Choice  
for Home Care**

**We are committed to offering a personalised and responsive service.**

With our leadership team's extensive **30+ years of experience** on the frontiers of healthcare delivery, we offer attentive care that adapts to your evolving support needs.

Our collaborative approach enables us to design care packages tailored to your specific support requirements, be it **Home Care, Live-in Care, Respite Care, or Urgent Care**. We prioritise your safety and peace of mind in your home.

All our care workers undergo thorough background checks, including DBS screening. We maintain a programme of ongoing training to ensure they deliver the highest quality care. Our unwavering dedication centres on your well-being, and we are here to ensure that you receive the high-quality care with the respect and dignity that we all deserve.

**For more information, contact us today!**



📞 07845 527505 🌐 [www.elitenurse-hss.co.uk](http://www.elitenurse-hss.co.uk) ✉ [info@elitenurse-hss.co.uk](mailto:info@elitenurse-hss.co.uk)

## Snow White: the 2026 version

THIS year's pantomime was truly splifficating and had audiences laughing, clapping and even waving their phone torches in appreciation. Huzzah! Libby Ahluwalia's version of *Snow White* offered a glorious fusion of the old and the new. There was true love, an evil Queen, and – thankfully – the requisite happy ending; but this year's pantomime also included feminism, artificial intelligence ('go ahead, I'm listening') a lobster and some strange, hooded creatures. Nobody could have predicted that *The Traitors* would be hiding in this classic fairy tale!

Audiences cheered as Seraphina the pantomime fairy (wonderfully played by Abi Barr) told Snow White that she did not, in 2026, need to cook and clean for seven grown 'men', laughed as the AI mirror interrupted conversations at inappropriate moments and sympathised with Freya Pulford, who had wanted to be cast as a 'mobster' but had been misheard by the casting team. And when the traitors' identities were finally revealed, the audience's gasps echoed around the village.



*Suella and the fairy*

Dick Wallin and Heidi Meikle did a spiffing job of directing this year's performance. The casting was excellent, allowing the youngsters to shine in their roles (quite literally in the case of a very glittery Madge the magic mirror!).

Francess Richardson's scenery was once again delightful and the make-up and wardrobe teams excelled themselves, creating everything from hedgehogs to Claudia Winkleman herself. Daniel Sandford provided a wonderful array of sound effects. We certainly could hear footsteps coming!

Lucy Barlow and Miles Cragg's talents as musical directors were evident throughout as the audience were treated to over twenty musical numbers. As the house lights went down and the performance began, Miles Cragg's piano medley captured the essence of this year's songs and gave the audience a taste of the excitement to come. And what excitement there was.

The lighting (by Nic Marchant) was spectacularly atmospheric, with the stage turning a glorious shade of green every time the evil Queen Suella

(Anna Wood) entered. Anna's performance was marvellous as she drew 'boos' and 'hisses' from the captivated audience.

She was accompanied onstage by her ladies-in-waiting, who exuded nonchalance as they flicked their hair, applied make-up and checked their phones – much to the audience's amusement.

Maddie Young's Snow White was both innocent and cheeky. Resplendent in her blue and yellow dress, she emanated confidence and charm. Her solo performance of 'The Greatest Love of All' moved many audience members to tears. Snow White's happy ever after came in the form of Woody (played by Alexander Hunter), the handsome carpenter who remained a faithful, despite Queen Suella's orders for him to kill Snow White.



*Panto prince and sidekicks*

Horatio, the handsome prince, was played by a wonderfully charismatic Tommy Haworth. Every time he galloped onto the stage with Lords Monty and Rupert (Wilf Wilkinson and Reuben Dewey-Cerda), the audience were delighted by the exuberant interactions between the three characters.

Dougie Carrothers sparkled as Madge, the magic mirror. He entertained the audience as he offered advice, answered questions and even instructed Woodie how to save Snow White's life. All while docking his hat and smiling sweetly. You're welcome.



*Dougie Carrothers as Madge, the magic mirror*

Laurie McCrone was splendid as Prunella Parsnip. He really could get the audience to say anything (even 'hippopotamus') and his falsetto at the end of 'I Can't Say No' received rapturous applause.

Snow White's companions brought much joy and laughter to the stage. Their performance of '5, 6, 7, 8' had the audience clapping along with glee and their comic chair building scene was accompanied by some fabulous singing. From Griffin Corney getting the door (pun definitely intended) to Elliot Gregory dancing with Madge, the seven companions added much humour to the show.

There were so many splendid performances this year: the enchanting woodland creatures who sang 'Follow the Heron' to some beautifully choreographed moves; the two wonderful Chorus groups (under the tutelage of Eleanor McCrone and her team); Jimbo the jester's never-ending supply of jokes; the downtrodden kitchen maids; and poor Mrs Bun (Evie Sparrow) whose attempt at making a cake was destined to fail.

With Prince Horatio's voice still ringing in my ears, I can honestly say this was the best performance yet.

Oh yes it was.

Review by Clare Mellor. Photographs by Rob Hill.



*The panto Dame*

## Royal British Legion



WE are finding that our membership is slowly getting older and less able to engage with the activities that the coming year will bring, It was estimated that there may have been more than two thousand people which shows that it still

holds a hugely important role in the life of the village. However, unless we can recruit a few more members, it is unlikely that we shall be able to honour those who lost their lives, in a similar way for many more years. We badly need two volunteers to be our first aiders for public events such as Remembrance Sunday; they have to be able to get down on their knees and - even more crucially - be able to get up again, and there are not many of us that can manage to do that! If you think that you can help, please do contact me (07898 73230, ann.barton@hotmail.com)! We will pay for your training and certification and all we ask is a commitment to attend the few events per year where there are members of the public present in large numbers. You do not have to be fully committed members although that would be great if you do join!

The next Branch meeting is on 25 February, the speaker will be Mark Lodziak, telling us about 'My grandmother - another 20th Century story?'. If you are intrigued by the title - then come and listen! The March meeting is on 25 March and the speaker, Hugh Frosdick, will tell us about 'Churchill's Secret Army - the Auxiliary Units'. Each talk is followed by tea/coffee and cake! Hoorah! Anyone can attend without being a member. **Ann Barton - Branch Secretary**

## OvenPad Cleaning Services

I will professionally and efficiently clean ovens, ranges, Agas, ceramic hobs, extractors, microwaves, and BBQs.

*It's a dirty job, why not give me a call?*

Please contact **Paddy Kelly** on

Tel: 01638 742703

Mobile: 0775 263 1343

Email: info@ovenpad.com  
www.ovenpad.com

*Great Value*

## GREAT SHELFORD LOCAL STORE

*Local Service*

**A great deal more from your local store!**

General groceries • Fresh produce • Confectionery

• In-store bakery • Off-licence • Photocopying

• Newspapers, magazines & stationery • Lottery

• Dry Cleaning • Passport photos

**Full Post Office counter facilities**

33-35 Hinton Way, Great Shelford

Tel: 01223 843307

**Shop opening times:**

Mon-Sat:

7:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday:

8:00am - 6:00pm

**POST OFFICE**

**Post Office opening:**

Mon-Sat:

7:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday:

8:00am - 6:00pm

## ART OF Flooring

**QUALITY FLOORING SUPPLY,  
INSTALLATION & AFTERCARE**

Specialists in Wood Flooring, Carpets and  
Luxury Vinyl Flooring Solutions

*"No matter how big or small the project is, Art of Flooring makes sure they take their time to understand our needs and budget for the specific project and offer us their expert advice on the most suitable product solution.*

*We would highly recommend Art of Flooring."*

Bernard S, Cambridge

**141 Milton Road Cambridge CB4 1XE  
01223 755 802 www.artofflooring.co.uk**

## The Country Store

Animal feeds, bedding and accessories,  
shooting requirements and country clothing

Visit our  
online  
store!



[www.thecountrystore.co.uk](http://www.thecountrystore.co.uk)

Unit 12a, Sawston Trade Park, Pampisford,  
Cambridge CB22 3EE.  
01223 837977



## LYNNE HORTON INTERIOR DESIGN

CURTAINS & BLINDS  
FURNITURE & JOINERY DESIGN  
UPHOLSTERY & SOFT FURNISHINGS  
COLOUR & FABRIC SCHEMES  
BATHROOM DESIGN  
FURNITURE & LIGHTING SOURCING



[www.lynnehortondesign.com](http://www.lynnehortondesign.com)

lynne@hortondesign.org

07703816370



# Cambridge students help unearth possible Viking-era 'execution pit' on training dig

*A PIT containing both complete and dismembered bodies may date to when Cambridgeshire was a borderland between Saxon and Viking kingdoms – and includes an exceptionally tall individual with a hole trepanned in his skull.*

THE aftermath of a battle or execution from around the 9th century AD has been discovered by Cambridge University archaeologists and students conducting a training dig as part of the University's undergraduate degree in archaeology.

The burial pit, found on the outskirts of Cambridge, may date from a time when the area was a 'frontier zone' in the conflict between the Saxon-run kingdom of Mercia and the kingdom of East Anglia, which was conquered by the Vikings in around 870 AD (CE).

Unearthed during spring and summer last year, the pit contained the remains of ten individuals based on the number of skulls, including at least one decapitation and a man well over six foot in stature – extremely tall for the time – with a trepanned head.

Unusually, the mass grave held a mix of complete and dismembered remains, including a cluster of skulls without clear accompanying bodies and a 'stack of legs', as well as four complete skeletons, some in positions suggesting they were tied up.

All appear to have been relatively young men flung into the pit without care, leading archaeologists to believe they had found the wake of a skirmish or battle, or perhaps a mass execution – or a combination of both. The discovery is showcased in a 'Digging for Britain' episode broadcast on BBC Two on 4 February.

The training excavation, led by Dr Oscar Aldred from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU), took place at Wandlebury Country Park,



*Recording some of the human remains in situ*

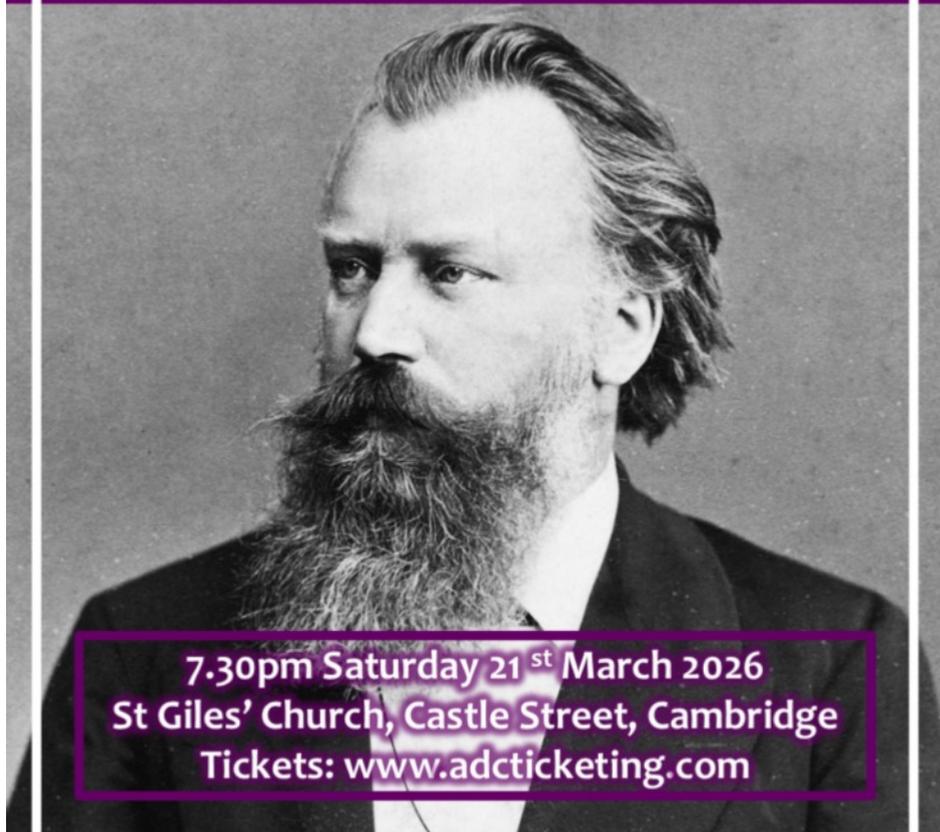


*Students work on uncovering the remains*

# STAPLEFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

ACADEMY OF GREAT ST MARY'S ORCHESTRA

**Conductor: Adam Pounds**



7.30pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026  
St Giles' Church, Castle Street, Cambridge  
Tickets: [www.adcticketing.com](http://www.adcticketing.com)

# BRAHMS

## EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM

famous for its 'ringwork': a series of banks and ditches that mark an Iron Age hillfort constructed a millennium before the Viking era.

Archaeologists say the Iron Age features at Wandlebury would have made it a renowned meeting place in the early medieval period. The University's Department of Archaeology and CAU have worked with local charity Cambridge Past, Present and Future to conduct student training digs on the site for several years, but this is their most significant and grisly find on the site to date.

These are the first human remains found at Wandlebury since 1976, when a storm uprooted a tree close to the recent dig site, and a cache of five skeletons also dating to the same time were uncovered.

Among the most intriguing aspects of the latest find are the complete remains of a man aged between 17 and 24, flung face down into the pit, who would have stood at around 6 foot 5 inches tall. Initial radiocarbon work dates this skeleton to between 772 – 891 AD with 85% probability, and further work will be undertaken to help narrow this date.

His height may be down to a growth condition, according to archaeologists, who say he would have towered over others at a time when the average male height was around 5 foot 6 inches.

The man has a large oval hole in his skull, 3cm in diameter, suggesting he underwent trepanation: an ancient surgical procedure in which a hole is bored through a living human's skull. The hole in the back left side of his skull has signs of healing. Trepanned skulls have been found the world over, including in ancient Greek and Roman remains. Trepanning was thought to relieve symptoms of conditions such as migraines and seizures, along with disorders we now know to be psychological.



*Individual with trepanned skull*

The inclusion of dismembered remains alongside fully articulated bodies is highly unusual even for a mass grave, and has puzzled archaeologists.

While one man was clearly beheaded – evident from chop marks on the jaw – and a few others have traces of trauma consistent with combat, there isn't enough to suggest those buried at Wandlebury were victims of a battle, say archaeologists.

However, to have severed heads, limbs and other remains – from ribs to pelvises – tossed in a pit, with body parts of the same type stacked together in some cases, piled on top of four dead men, at least one apparently bound,

EXPERIENCE  
*effortless dining* AT

*Wild* **THYME**  
AT STRAWBERRY FIELDS

Enjoy an exclusive **10% OFF**  
your meal when you dine with us on  
Friday or Saturday evenings.

*Book today...*

01223 826490

[www.wildthymeatstrawberryfields.co.uk](http://www.wildthymeatstrawberryfields.co.uk)



Enjoy 10% off your evening meal

STRAWBERRY FIELDS, STAPLEFORD,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5BX

\*T&Cs apply. Please show this voucher to your server to enjoy 10% off your food bill. Valid on evening meals only, Fridays and Saturdays between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. Offer is valid until 30th April 2026. Dine in only. Not valid in conjunction with any other offers or discounts. Not valid for events or special event evenings.

suggests terrible violence and perhaps an execution, according to CAU's Dr Oscar Aldred.

"Those buried could have been recipients of corporal punishment, and that may be connected to Wandlebury as a sacred or well-known meeting place."

"It may be that some of the disarticulated body parts had previously been displayed as trophies, and were then gathered up and interred with the executed or otherwise slaughtered individuals," Aldred said.

"We don't see much evidence for the deliberate chopping up of some of these body parts, so they may have been in a state of decomposition and literally falling apart when they went into the pit."

Cambridge in the late 8th century was under the control of Offa, ruler of the kingdom of Mercia, but in the late 9th century (around 874-5 AD), half of the Viking Great Army set up camp close to Cambridge, and sacked the town.

Cambridgeshire was then incorporated into the Viking kingdom of East Anglia, and stayed under Viking control up to the early 10th century as part of the Danelaw agreement.

Initial radiocarbon work dates some bones to around this time, but with no associated grave materials more research is required to establish if these are Saxons or Vikings.

"Cambridgeshire was a frontier zone between Mercia and East Anglia, and the continual wars between Saxons and Vikings as they clashed over territory across many decades," said Aldred. "We suspect the pit may relate to these conflicts."

Historic England, who are supporting the excavation and monitor and manage archaeology on protected Scheduled Monuments such as Wandlebury, have commissioned a new geophysical survey of the area that archaeologists hope will reveal more about the site surrounding the burial pit.

Future work from the Cambridge team will include bone analysis including ancient DNA and isotopic work to investigate health, kinship and ancestral links, which will help to establish if these are Viking remains.

Find out more on the Cambridge Past Present Future website [cambridgeppf.org/a-remarkable-discovery-at-wandlebury](http://cambridgeppf.org/a-remarkable-discovery-at-wandlebury).

**Louise Palmer - Cambridge Past, Present and Future**

**Photographs Cambridge Archaeological Unit/David Matzliach.**



*Students and CAU staff excavating*



FREE no obligation quotes and advice provided

# My Village Handyman Services



- DIY repairs and odd jobs
- Painting & Decorating
- Tiling & Flooring
- Gardening, Landscaping,
- Patios & Decking
- Fencing and sheds
- Kitchen & Bathroom installation
- Brickwork, Dry Walling and Small Builds
- Carpentry and Plumbing
- Window and Gutter cleaning
- Jet wash and Patio cleaning
- Rubbish clearance and Tip runs
- Carpet cleaning and Wood Floor staining
- New doors or locks
- Security and Garden lighting
- **No job is too Small or too Big!**

**Your very local handyman!**

Contact Steve to arrange a visit or quote

**07500 876376 or 01223 881700**

Email: [steve@myvillagehandyman.com](mailto:steve@myvillagehandyman.com) | Web: [www.myvillagehandyman.com](http://www.myvillagehandyman.com)



## Reconnect to your life

Whatever your hearing difficulty, angli-EAR Hearing uses the most up-to-date tests and equipment to find the best solution for you.

Independent audiology experts you can trust

- Hearing Assessments
- Ear Wax Removal
- Hearing Aids
- Tinnitus Solutions



Book your **FREE** ear health check today

**Where to find us:**  
Audiology House (Cambridge)  
15 Woollards Lane, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5LZ

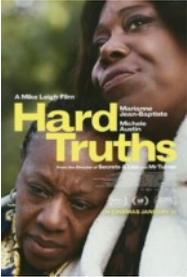
**BOOK ONLINE** [www.angliearhearing.co.uk](http://www.angliearhearing.co.uk)



**01223 661399**  
[info@angliearhearing.co.uk](mailto:info@angliearhearing.co.uk)

# Sawston Cinema

## Hard Truths (12)

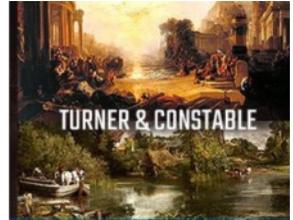


LEGENDARY filmmaker Mike Leigh returns to the contemporary world with a fierce, compassionate, and often darkly humorous study of family and the thorny ties that bind us. We are taken into the intensities of kinship, duty, and the most enduring of human mysteries: that even through lifetimes of hurt and hardship, we still find ways to love those we call family.

Thursday 5 March 7pm (doors open 6.30) £5. Running time 97 minutes.

## Turner and Constable (12A)

TATE Britain is bringing these two greats together for a groundbreaking exhibition in London, and Exhibition on Screen has exclusive and privileged access to bring their extraordinary art and remarkable stories to the big screen so that you can enjoy both film and exhibition together.



Thursday 12 March 7pm (doors open 6.30) £10. Running time 91 minutes.

## I Swear (15)



THE true life story of John Davidson. Diagnosed with Tourette's at 15, targeted as 'insane' by his peers, he struggled with a condition few had witnessed. Campaigning for better understanding and acceptance of the condition as an adult, he finds his life's purpose and accepted his MBE from the Queen in 2019.

Thursday 19 March 7pm (doors open 6.30) £5. Running time 100 minutes.

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

## 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 and we would love to hear from you.

# Memories of Stapleford School

*WENDY Reynolds remembers her time at Stapleford school 1943-1948 - Part 1 of an occasional series.*

THE school at that time consisted of the main building, the Institute (now demolished), a lavatory block, an asphalt playground and a small field at the back for children to play in containing a large Anderson Shelter and several mature trees.

The school day began with an assembly in the main classroom. All the children gathered here, infants in front, seniors at the back. We sang a hymn the words of which were written by hand on large sheets of paper hung over a blackboard. The infants who couldn't yet read had to try to learn the words by listening to the others. We often had the doxology 'Lord be in my head ...' which ended with 'and at my departing...' I misheard this and always sang 'and at my tea-party' but no-one noticed.

At lessons the infants wrote on small blackboards with sticks of chalk and all had rubbers to wipe the boards clean. When we all did this together the air would be full of chalk dust. I was impressed when the teacher said 'no wonder my hair has turned white'. The middle and senior classes had dipping pens and inkwells set into the desks. Needless to say most of the inkwells had mysterious bits and pieces lurking in them.

We children knew there was a war going on but didn't feel any particular danger except from the air. The boys claimed to be able to tell which planes were 'ours' and which were 'theirs' on the several occasions when groups of them flew over. We had a precise drill for when the air-raid sirens went off during our playtimes when there was no teacher about (playtimes were not supervised then). As soon as we heard the siren we lined up in rows on the playground in front of the school: infant girls, infant boys, middle class girls, middle class boys, senior girls and senior boys. We marked time, then senior boy leading we marched in single file row following row into the field to the air-raid shelter while another senior went to the teachers' room to fetch the key. We stood round the shelter looking up at the sky. We never did go into the shelter or saw it open. I suspect it might have been often flooded. As soon as the 'all-clear' sounded we went back to the classrooms.

There were two classrooms in the main school, for infants and seniors; the middle class went into a separate, rather ramshackle building, 'The Institute'. It had a stage at one end. I don't remember ever seeing a play there, just a carol concert and nativity play for parents at Christmas. There was a piano on the stage and Miss Pauley, the middle-class teacher, taught

singing and country-dancing to the middles and seniors together. Although few of us had any musical talent Miss Pauley did quite well teaching us part-songs such as 'Summer is icumen in' and 'Now welcome Summer with thy sunny soft'. I heard a recording one of the governors made and it sounded quite impressive. If we had done well Miss Pauley rewarded us by playing her concert piece 'The Harmonious Blacksmith'.

One hot summer day we were having a singing lesson and I sat near the door which was wide open. A man dressed in black walked past carrying a white box held in front of him. The girl next to me said matter-of-factly 'my baby sister is in that box.' I think I just said 'Oh.'

Miss Pauley also taught us some singing games which I loved: 'I've been to Harlem', 'Here come Kings', 'In and out the dusky bluebells', 'The beggars are coming to Town', 'Have you any bread and wine'. I can still remember the words to some. Looking back on the 'Kings' I realise how horrified today's parents would be at its unmistakable suggestiveness. "Surely Miss Pauley can't have been that naïve," I thought later.

We also had our own singing games we sometimes performed at playtimes: 'Three dukes went a riding', 'The big ship sails', 'The farmer's in his den'. The girls liked a very morbid one called 'Green Gravel'.

We had seasons for playtime; skipping season followed by whip and top (the playground was good and smooth for this) followed by balls. There were some blank walls that balls could be safely thrown against; marbles and of course, conkers, which as well as being used for 'tournaments' were threaded on long strings, or rubbed smooth on one side against a wall with matchsticks added to make dolls' house furniture. We had rhymes for skipping and balls. I remember one for the long rope; It began with one person in the rope. "There's somebody under the bed, I don't know who it is, I feel so dreadfully frightened I call (somebody's name) in". The person called then runs into the rope. "(Friend) lights the candle (friend) lights the gas, run out run out there's somebody under the bed". At which point the original skipper leaves and the one called in takes over as the rhyme is repeated.

There was gas in the village but few had electric light or flush lavatories and quite a number of the houses had no water laid on. There was a pump at the end of the road where the school was and wells for several of the outlying houses.

The school had electric light and water laid on but rows of bucket lavatories in a building behind the school. It was the unspeakable job of the caretaker to empty these at the end of the week. Lavatory paper was in short supply and if a pupil needed some they had to ask a teacher for a piece.



## DAVID FOX CARPENTRY

### Workshop closing

Several items of stock and tools that may interest woodworkers for sale.

Please email for details:  
davidgeorgefox@btinternet.com



Specializing In Electrical  
Work Within Domestic  
Installations

36 Haverhill Road, Stapleford,  
Cambridge CB22 5BX

07704493920

enquiries@scelectrical.co.uk

## Shakey Breaks The Ice

EVENTS & PARTIES



07526754554  
trevorgbarlow@icloud.com

## Rothwell's

Carpet & Stone Floor Cleaning

01223 832 928  
www.Rothwells.biz

### Carpet, Stone, Upholstery and Rug Cleaning

Rothwell's has been in business since 1993.

We're an honest local family firm.

Our large truck-mounted machines mean more  
cleaning and drying power.

Members of both the NCCA and TACCA.

We will move the furniture for a thorough clean.  
100% satisfaction or it's FREE.

*Call Oliver and Max Campbell for expert help  
today.*

## L A Kerridge

Painting and decorating

15 years-plus  
experienced tradesmen

Quality interior and  
exterior decoration

Artex ceilings smoothed

Free estimates and quotes.

Tel 01223 832745  
Mobile 07843 850484



More than just a service



Heating



Plumbing



Renewables



Electrical



All Domestic and Commercial works undertaken

www.shelfordheating.co.uk

Telephone 01223833426 E-Sales@shelfordheating.co.uk

## Film evening

THERE will be a Little Shelford Memorial Hall film evening with a showing of *The Ballad of Wallis Island* on Saturday 18 April 2026. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start with a break for supper of pizza and salad.

*The Ballad of Wallis Island* is a 2025 British comedy-drama film written by Tim Key and Tom Basden. Basden and Carey Mulligan star as a folk duo who reunite to perform for a wealthy fan (Tim Key) on a remote British island. *The Ballad of Wallis Island* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2025 and has won British Independent Film Awards for Best Joint Lead Performance, Best screenplay and Best Original Music.



Tickets (£15 per person) will be available from Sarah Coppendale (842498) [coppendales@btinternet.com](mailto:coppendales@btinternet.com) and Diana Haines (841415) [dianahaines42@icloud.com](mailto:dianahaines42@icloud.com)

Please book by Wednesday 15 April so that sufficient food can be ordered. **Sarah Coppendale**

## Cambridge Flower Club

*(nafas affiliated est. 1954)*

Thursday 19 March - NAFAS demonstrator, Rachel Barenkova 'Let's go to the Flower Shop'  
Raffle of Arrangements after demonstrations

Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE on third Thursday at 7.15pm, Refreshments 6.45pm  
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)

## concerts

**Alice Zawadzki Trio****Saturday 7 March | 7:45pm**

Loosely connected to the jazz world but very much inhabiting her own realm, acclaimed vocalist, violinist and songwriter Alice Zawadzki performs with her stellar long-term collaborators bassist Misha Mullov-Abbado and pianist Fred Thomas.

**Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne****Sunday 8 March | 3:00pm**

Described as '*captivating, bold and striking*', Cohen Braithwaite-Kilcoyne is at the forefront of his generation of English folk musicians as a commanding singer and player of the Anglo concertina and melodeon.

**Pixels Ensemble****Saturday 14 March | 7:45pm**

A programme embracing a century of musical character and change, from the youthful brilliance of Beethoven's Horn Sonata and Elgar's introspective Violin Sonata to Lennox Berkeley's masterful Trio for Horn, Violin and Piano.

**Eleanor Grant & Gus McQuade****Sunday 22 March | 3:00pm**

Eleanor and Gus present a winning and unique combination of voice, guitar and double bass, with repertoire that ranges from 16th-century lute songs to their own arrangements of modern folk and jazz.

**Leveret****Friday 27 March | 7:45pm**

Three of England's finest folk musicians, praised for their blending of rediscovered traditional tunes and original compositions, perform music rooted in the English tradition.

Booking: [www.staplefordgranary.org.uk](http://www.staplefordgranary.org.uk) | 01223 849004



# Puzzle corner

## Re-words 2

Solve the two clues; the second answer is the same as the first but with the letters RE in front

e.g. 4- and 6-letter words

gesture/quit

Answer: SIGN/RESIGN

### 3- and 5-letter words

negligent/rest

headgear/summary

passenger vehicle/puzzle

transgress/plant exudation

### 4- and 6-letter words

join/deny

couple/mend

principal/stay

deceased/tell

hospital room/prize

fail to reach/careless

doing word/sound effect

hypocritical talk/renounce

### 5- and 7-letter words

rent/let go of

bitterness/relief

tennis action/book

reservation/fortification

thespian/nuclear facility

25 sheets of paper/need

newspapers/subdue by force

throbbing of arteries/drive back

### 6- and 8-letter words

responsible/solid

ditch/reduce costs

open to all/e.g. South Korea

decoration/industrial installation

*Set by Hermes – Answers on page 59*



1st Shelfords and Stapleford Scouts

# JUMBLE SALE & AUCTION

Sunday 22 March 2026

**Great Shelford Memorial Hall**

Doors open **2pm** – come and bag a bargain!

Refreshments

Tombola

Cash Preferred



Please drop-off jumble at the hall 10am to 12pm  
on the day.

We welcome high quality jumble that will help to raise funds. We cannot accept mains electrical goods, or furniture and furnishings that fail to meet fire safety regulations.

# Pavilion survey outcomes

COMMUNITY consultation highlights clear priorities for Pavilion improvements.

Residents and user groups took part in a community consultation to share how the Pavilion is used and what improvements matter most. Feedback was received through an online survey, a drop-in session and direct comments from regular users, with strong consistency across all sources.

## A valued community space – but ready for change

The consultation confirmed that the Pavilion is widely used for meetings, classes, sports, social events and celebrations. However, **around two-thirds of respondents** described the facilities as *functional but outdated*, saying the building no longer reflects modern expectations for comfort, accessibility and flexibility.



Image from the November Drop-in Pavilion consultation

## Kitchen and toilet upgrades were the most common requests

The most frequently mentioned improvement was the kitchen. **Over 60% of respondents** referred to the need for better kitchen facilities, citing outdated equipment, limited functionality and difficulty catering for events. Many felt that a kitchen upgrade would have an immediate impact on private hire, community events and income potential. The toilets were also seen to need an upgrade.

## Strong demand for better AV and acoustics

Technology and sound quality were also key themes. **Around half of respondents** raised issues with acoustics, noise transfer or the lack of integrated audiovisual equipment. These were seen as barriers to running meetings, talks, classes and events, particularly where presentations or music are involved.

## Comfort, décor and atmosphere matter to users

**Approximately 45–50% of respondents** commented on the look and feel of the Pavilion, describing the décor, lighting and overall atmosphere as tired. There was a strong desire for a brighter, warmer and more welcoming space that feels modern and inviting, especially for evening and winter use. We note the community desire for sustainable and energy efficient solutions to create that warm and welcoming space.

**A clear and consistent message from the community**

Taken together, the feedback paints a clear picture. Residents want a Pavilion that is practical, sustainable, welcoming and fit for today’s needs. Improvements to the **kitchen, AV, acoustics and décor** emerged as the most impactful priorities – changes that people believe would significantly increase use and enjoyment of the building.

The Parish Council will use the consultation findings as an evidence base to guide next steps and consider how improvements can be taken forward in a planned, affordable and phased way. **Rebecca Trigg**

# Greater Cambridge Local Plan



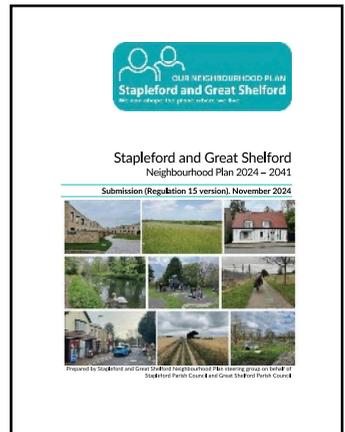
MANY residents will be aware of the consultation on the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which ran from December 2025 to the end of January 2026. This is the first joint Local Plan for

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and sets out a vision, strategy and policies for the development of our area to 2045 and beyond. It is structured around how and where homes, jobs and infrastructure are planned, and the key themes that will influence their delivery: climate change; biodiversity and green spaces; wellbeing and social inclusion; great places.

Although the consultation has now closed, the draft Plan is at the time of writing still available online ([consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org](https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org)). If you don’t want to delve too deeply but are curious about the general direction of travel, I recommend skim-reading the Summary (pages 15-27).

**Community consultation**

Any Local Plan has to be made in consultation with the community it will affect. The draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan is hundreds of pages long (or thousands, if you include all of the supporting documents) and, at first glance, pretty impenetrable. However, hopefully some residents will have identified parts of the draft Plan which they feel most strongly about and submitted comments on them via the online system. No one need worry about not being a planning expert: if you



have something to say about somewhere you care about, then your views are important.

### **Stapleford Parish Council's comments on the draft Local Plan**

As a statutory consultee on the draft Local Plan, Stapleford Parish Council submitted comments on multiple policies, focusing on those which will directly impact our parish and its surrounding area, and on matters where we felt that local knowledge could make a material difference to improving the next version of the Local Plan. Some of this local knowledge is derived from, and given greater legitimacy by, the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan, so it is great that we have this in place.

In outline, notable comments by the Parish Council included:

- support for the proposal not to release land behind Mingle Lane from the greenbelt for development
- challenging the settlement hierarchy classification of 'Great Shelford and Stapleford' as a single 'rural centre' and the development implications of this
- pushing for greater access to, and links within, the greenbelt for recreational purposes
- concerns about the breadth, density and height of buildings at the expanding southern fringe of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus
- concerns about the impact of a new access road from Granhams Rd into the Biomedical Campus on congestion along the A1301 and at the level crossing
- concerns about significant residential development (e.g. at Grange Farm, Wellcome Genome Campus and Babraham Research Campus) putting more pressure on existing open and biodiverse sites, like Magog Down and Wandlebury Country Park
- the lack of water and waste water management to support substantial new development
- incorrect mapping of the extent of the protected Gog Magog Hills and the implications of this for inappropriate development and the route of the CSET busway
- no consideration for growing demand for end-of-life care services in an expanding population
- support for protecting the best agricultural land
- support for more affordable housing and for developments to make a greater contribution towards affordable housing
- the need to upgrade informal tracks and permissive paths into the formal public rights of way network.

ACE CULTURAL TOURS

Travel for the  
culturally  
curious

Join us to discover cultural  
connections across a wide  
range of subject areas  
and destinations

[aceculturaltours.co.uk](http://aceculturaltours.co.uk) | 01223 841055

Stapleford Granary, Bury Road, Stapleford, CB22 5BP

ACE Cultural Tours Ltd is wholly-owned by The Association for Cultural Exchange  
(registered charity number 279567), founded 1958. ATOL 10204 | ABTOT 5237

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

You can read the full detail of Stapleford Parish Council's lengthy response at [staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/news](http://staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk/news).

### **The link between our Neighbourhood Plan and the Local Plan**

Neighbourhood plans sit alongside local plans and have the same legal weight in planning decisions. A neighbourhood plan must be in 'general conformity' with the strategic policies of the local plan for the area. So, when a new local plan is adopted, a corresponding neighbourhood plan must be updated within a reasonable time period thereafter to ensure that it remains in general conformity with the local plan. This doesn't present an immediate challenge to the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan, but some elements of it may need updating in 2027/28 (small changes do not require further community consultations or a referendum – thank goodness!).

### **What happens next?**

Once Cambridge City and S. Cambs. District Councils have considered all the responses to the consultation, they will prepare a version of the Local Plan that they would like to submit to the government so they can adopt it. This stage allows for a final period of public consultation where representations can be made on the Plan's soundness and legal compliance before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for review. This stage should be completed before the end of 2026, reflecting the target for local plan-making set by the government. The Inspector's report will then determine if our new Local Plan can be adopted.

However, there are a few not insignificant unknowns which must be overcome in the interim, not least:

- lots of new homes and businesses need lots of water and waste water treatment, but where will all the water come from and how will all the poo be managed?
- local government reorganisation is incomplete and, if the City and S. Cambs. end up merging with, say, E. Cambs. District Council to create a new unitary authority, then the Greater Cambridge Local Plan will have to expand to incorporate that area too
- what impact will the Cambridge Growth Company have on the Local Plan? My understanding is that it exists to co-ordinate and deliver the large-scale infrastructure required to support the Local Plan, but a clear role for the CGC has yet to be confirmed.

We live in interesting, changeable but opaque times!

**Jenny Flynn (Chair of the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group), writing on behalf of Stapleford Parish Council**

## Parish Council Chair's report

FOLLOWING the consultation about the refurbishment of the Pavilion, a working group will take the project forward. More about this is on pages 53-54.

Two public government consultations have been launched:

The first is to consider proposals for reorganisation of local government: 'We are seeking views on the proposals submitted by councils for the reorganisation of local government in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.' Responses to this consultation will inform the decision on which of the three proposals, if any, to implement. This consultation closes on 26 March and residents are asked to give their views on the proposals.

The second is concerning the development of an Urban Development Corporation.

'The government believes the creation of a new Urban Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge would enable a transformational long-term approach to delivering high-quality sustainable growth. Working in partnership with local councils and communities, it would enable an infrastructure-first approach to delivering large strategic sites, for the benefit of both existing and new communities alike.

It is important that local people and businesses have an opportunity to express their opinions on the proposal to create the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation. This will have implications for future development in our area.

The consultation invites views on the government's approach, including its proposed objectives, boundary, powers and approach to integrating local democratic representation.'

This consultation closes on 1 April and residents are asked to respond with their views.

Both of these consultations can be accessed through the government website (gov.uk) and searching for 'local government reorganisation Cambridgeshire', selecting the first link and scrolling down to consultations.

Potholes were discussed as usual! Some have been filled in the village. It was agreed to submit a new application for a 20mph limit on Haverhill Road and it is hoped that this time it will be successful. Safety measures on the cycle path are being considered, particularly at the pinch point by Bridge End Cottage.

Tree work in the cemetery was agreed, as was the formation of a sustainability working group. Swift boxes will be put up at the Pavilion.

The first meeting of the Sports and Recreation Advisory Group will have taken place before this publication. It will help the Parish Council to maintain and improve sports facilities in the village.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 5 March at 7pm in the Pavilion. Residents are invited to attend and air their concerns.

Gillian Pett



## Puzzle corner answers



### Re-words 2 (page 51)

3- and 5-letter: LAX/RELAX; CAP/RECAP; BUS/REBUS; SIN/RESIN

4- and 6-letter: FUSE/REFUSE; PAIR/REPAIR; MAIN/REMAIN;  
LATE/RELATE; WARD/REWARD; MISS/REMISS; VERB/REVERB;  
CANT/REcant

5- and 7-letter: LEASE/RELEASE; SPITE/RESPITE; SERVE/RESERVE;  
DOUBT/REDOUBT; ACTOR/REACTOR; QUIRE/REQUIRE;  
PRESS/REPRESS; PULSE/REPULSE

6- and 8-letter: LIABLE/RELIABLE; TRENCH/RETRENCH;  
PUBLIC/REPUBLIC; FINERY/REFINERY

## Bin collection dates this month

|          | GREEN | BLUE | BLACK |
|----------|-------|------|-------|
| 3 March  |       |      | ✓     |
| 10 March | ✓     | ✓    |       |
| 17 March |       |      | ✓     |
| 24 March | ✓     | ✓    |       |
| 31 March |       |      | ✓     |

# Stapleford Parish Council

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



## COUNCILLORS

Gillian Pett (Chair)

Rosie Brown

Mick Davies

Matthew French

Duncan Kerr

Rebecca Trigg

Howard Kettel (V Chair)

Nel Clark

Anna Disley-Stevens

Juliet Hawksworth

Barbara Ann Kettel

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

## CLERK

Max Barrett 07472 398823

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

## SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

[peterfane1@live.co.uk](mailto:peterfane1@live.co.uk)

843861 / 07802 256 861

Will Jackson-Wood

[cllr.jackson-wood@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jackson-wood@scambs.gov.uk)

07873 731597

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

[peterfane1@live.co.uk](mailto:peterfane1@live.co.uk)

843861 / 07802 256 861

Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

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

07971 886 113

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



**PANTHER**  
01223  
**715 715**

WIDE RANGE OF VEHICLES AVAILABLE 24/7  
INCLUDING 5-8 SEATERS

METERED RATES TO SURROUNDING AREAS

DOWNLOAD OUR BOOKING APP



# Poorly PC?

The PC Doctor will get  
your PC back in tip-top  
health and squeaky  
clean!

**PC Doctor Edward**  
(your local computer GP)

**07929 660981**



## PEASGOOD & SKEATES

THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE

*All types of funeral  
carried out with the highest standard  
of service and care*

45 Moorfield Rd  
**DUXFORD**  
01223 833463

48a High Street  
**SAWSTON**  
01223 791065

*also in Cambridge, Haverhill  
and Saffron Walden*

[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)

## green | weigh

minimal waste shop

60 High Street, Sawston, CB22 3BG

Minimal waste shop aiming to support  
people in reducing single use plastic &  
food waste.

Refill liquids & dried foods,  
storecupboard essentials, gifts & toiletries

Vegan, cruelty free with a wide range of  
organic & gluten free products.

Contact us via email  
hello@greenweighshop.co.uk  
Follow us on Facebook/Instagram:  
@greenweighshop  
Website: [www.greenweighshop.co.uk](http://www.greenweighshop.co.uk)

## JASON KIRBY LTD

EXPERT DECORATORS

All Aspects of Internal & External Decorating  
Period, Residential & Commercial Properties  
Wallpaper & Mural Install  
Kitchen Cabinet & Furniture Re-Sprays  
Floor Sanding & Restoration  
Plastering, Coving & Artex  
City & Guilds, NVQ Qualified  
For Service, Quality & Reliability



01954 211775

[jasonkirbyltd.co.uk](http://jasonkirbyltd.co.uk)

The award winning Zara Indian  
Cuisine is the favourite choice  
for delicious Indian food,  
offering dine-in and takeaways.

Zara Indian Cuisine offers a sophisticated  
yet relaxed dining experience.



RESERVATION & ORDER ONLINE

[www.zarashelford.com](http://www.zarashelford.com)

1 Hintze Way,  
Great Shelford,  
CB22 5AX

01223 846 668 / 01223 844 244





# KITCHENSMITHS

4 STATION ROAD, HISTON, CAMBRIDGE, CB24 9LQ

01223 236 456

[info@kitchensmiths.co.uk](mailto:info@kitchensmiths.co.uk)

[www.kitchensmiths.co.uk](http://www.kitchensmiths.co.uk)

