

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

May 2026

Volume 85 No 5

Price 90p



**Some of the litter pick volunteers from the March litter pick
read more on page 17**

Image credit Sophi Berridge

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



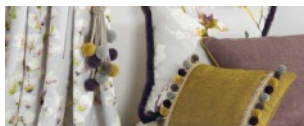
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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Vicar: Simon Taylor

email: simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com

phone: 840256 or 07970 716163

Churchwarden: Alastair MacGregor

email: armacgregor@ntlworld.com

phone: 843021 or 07855 269844

Curate: Matt Lewis

email: curate@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 07707 166834

Parish Administrator/Johnson Hall enquiries:

email: admin@standrewstapleford.org

Safeguarding Officer: Rob Needle

email: safeguarding@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 844227 or 07877 055934

Director of Music: Tim Kwan

email: music@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 07745 803972

For more Church contacts please see standrewstapleford.org.

SERVICES AT ST ANDREW'S

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

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

6pm Evensong

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

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

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

From the Rev Dr Simon Taylor

WHAT happened over Easter 2026 that last happened properly in 2021?

Give up? Then I will tell you.

The Sandhof Lilies bloomed. On a quiet farm near Maltahöhe in Namibia there is a valley that floods in heavy rain. And if it floods at the right time of year, and if there is about 20 cm or so of standing water for long enough, hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of *Crinum paludosum* lilies spread over 700 hectares send up long spikes with pinkish white blooms about a foot above the water. The blooms last for a week or so. That is about 1,000 football pitches of dazzling colour for those that still think in old money. A full bloom happens about every three to five years though recently there seems to have been some blooming in most years. You can go and see them if you happen to be in the area. The owners of the farm announce that conditions are right and predict when the flowering will occur and open up to campers for a modest fee. Or just search online for the dazzling pics.



Ok, here's another one. What happened over Easter 2026 that last happened in December 1972?

That's going to be easy if you have been following the news this week. The answer is that astronauts went to the moon. In December 1972 it was the Apollo 17 mission. Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmidt landed on the moon and Ronald Evans orbited above. This year four astronauts, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, Jeremy Hansen and Reid Wiseman went on a ten day lunar flyby, as a prelude to further missions to establish a lunar colony by the end of the decade and then go on to Mars.

Seeing the earth from the moon has a profound effect on astronauts, known as the 'overview effect'. A philosopher of space called Frank White coined the term a while back. He talked about it on the 107th edition of *Houston We Have A Podcast*. Well worth a listen. The International Space Station astronauts experience it too, but at only a couple of hundred miles above the earth their view is dominated by the earth, so the sensation is rather different. From the moon, 240,000 miles away, the earth is still identifiably the earth, but is visible against a vast backdrop of space. The astronauts comment how beautiful it is, of course, but describe seeing it 'pole to pole' as a life-altering experience. They know, intellectually, that there are political, religious and national boundaries down there, but from the moon they are unmarked; common humanity becomes more important

than differences. One said “we will always choose earth, always choose each other.” There is a re-appreciation of earth as home. It seems almost to call out, a joyful oneness in black emptiness declaring that this is home.

The oneness of humanity in a common home is a thread that runs through the Bible and through Christian understanding of the nature of the world and of humanity. In that understanding all of creation is somehow brought about by one God. This is not, incidentally, me advocating for creationism, just recognising that Christianity has its part to play in understanding our origins and purpose. The ‘oneness’ starts with one God, and his one creation is portrayed as a harmonious whole wordlessly declaring the glory of the creator. ‘The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech, night after night they reveal knowledge.’ Within that one creation there is then a single humanity, and the divine mandate for humanity is to look after the earth, populate it, and to be as one under him.

It’s a lovely vision, and striking that the ancients, observing the beauty of the earth close-up – seeing the lilies of the Sandhof, as it were - had much the same sentiments as the lucky few who have seen the earth as a whole from space. Us current surface dwellers articulate much the same too. In the week of ‘which 10 point peace plan are we talking about today’ and ‘when is an agreement for a ceasefire not an agreement for a ceasefire’, amidst all the analysis of war aims and oil prices, our hearts mostly go out to people, to the Iranian and Lebanese people and others under bombs, suffering dreadfully at the hands of the trigger-happy few. For what? For what benefit to humanity? Do our leaders even believe in the oneness of humanity anymore?

For Christians that oneness is expressed in Jesus Christ. He is referred to metaphorically as the ‘second Adam’, portraying the bringing back together in him of a divided humanity. His death and resurrection is what Christians celebrate especially at Easter, but actually we celebrate them all year round and our celebrations at all times are inclusive, for all comers, not excluding in any way. So too are all the visible expressions of our faith in the community – this magazine, our toddler group Little Fishes, JOY, our group for the elderly, our pastoral care, weddings, christenings, funerals and more, all open to all. As St Paul wrote, reflecting on the boundaries humans erect, in God’s plan “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

May God bless each one of us. Simon

St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

REHEARSALS
THURSDAY 7PM -8PM @
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Contact - Timothy Kwan
07745 803972
music@standrewstapleford.org



St Andrew
STAPLEFORD

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contact Fiona Holliday
layminister@standrewstapleford.org



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Stapleford Community Warden Service

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Stapleford Messenger

Deadline for the June Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 15 MAY**

By email (Word or similar attachment) to 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*.

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Editor staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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St Andrew's Noticeboard

3 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Psalm 71.1-14; John 20.19-31 <i>The locked room</i>
5 MAY	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
10 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Psalm 71.15-24; John 21.1-14 <i>Gone fishing!</i>
	10.30 am	MESSY FOREST CHURCH in the churchyard
14 MAY	7 PM	DEANERY COMMON WORSHIP COMMUNION Feast of the Ascension Acts 1.1-11; Ephesians 1.15-23; Luke 24.44-53
17 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Job 19.21-27; John 21.15-25 <i>Do you love me?</i>
	3 PM	PET SERVICE
21 MAY	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION followed by refreshments in church
24 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	PENTECOST ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Numbers 11.24-30; Acts 2.1-21
31 MAY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	TRINITY SUNDAY CW COMMUNION Isaiah 40.12-17, 27-31; Matthew 28.16-20 Includes a celebration of 150 years of the Mothers' Union

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



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

Nachingwea



Stapleford



No booking necessary.

Free to attend but your donations welcomed!

For more information please email:

nachingwealink@standrewstapleford.org

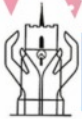
May Lunch

Bank Holiday Monday

May 4th 12-2pm

Jubilee Pavilion, Stapleford Rec

Get together with friends, family and neighbours and enjoy a fabulous homemade lunch in the Jubilee Pavilion, to support education and health projects in the village of Nachingwea, Tanzania.



St Andrew
STAPLEFORD

Save the date!

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

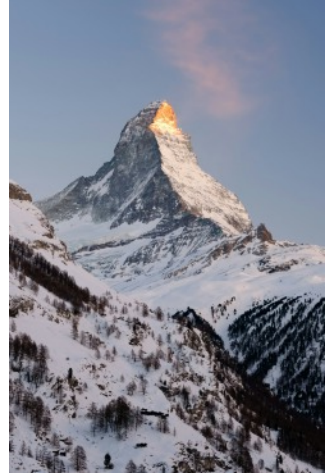
The Children's Society



**The
Children's
Society**

Beauty to behold

DESKTOP scenes often delight. I gaze in wonder at photographs imagining being there. An absence of people means I'd be the first to make tracks. Visions include remote islands, coves and caves, empty beaches and boats. Like holiday brochures. A green lagoon edged by black sand is washed by the foaming waves of the Atlantic. The rugged scenery is breathtaking. Wonderful colours and textures of the Matterhorn are reflected in a still, calm lake. In Greece a massive monastery perches precariously on a mountainside. What an achievement, but how would it be reached? Poland has a 14th century restored chateau known as a castle. It appears to have been dropped snugly into woodland. The



Matterhorn, Zermatt

greens dazzle. Shimmering slender bamboo canes in Japan reach high until the tips touch, forming a tunnel of gold and emerald. A carefully crafted walkway welcomes strollers. No pedestrians or transport appear in the stylised cityscapes. Crisp, sharp, well lit. It feels possible to reach and open doors. A giant, silent gleaming rollercoaster waits. An engineering marvel of twisting, coiling loops eager for excited thrill seekers. Different shapes occur in Amber Fort, India. A multidirectional staircase admired for symmetrical crisscross patterns. Seeing is believing. Next paragliders of the Isle of Wight and Switzerland. Swooping under azure skies, gracefully curved amber wings, imitate birds in flight. Peaceful. On screen world tours continue. Flora and fauna bringing blessings. Images could be closer to home but that may not surprise.

I do have favourites. One is a glacier in Greenland. Thick ice arches are spectacular. Scarlet sails of a yacht, with a perfect reflection, seems deliberately placed centrally. Which heightens the stunning cool, blue silver columns of beauty. Today I found an Icelandic sheep staring at me. Wild, woolly, jaw slightly open perhaps encouraging the flock. I notice the enviable brightness of the long wool. Double coats help them thrive in cold, windswept landscapes.

It is said that a camera never lies. Technology has progressed far beyond the faithful box brownie I once used. I'd like to believe that what I see is untouched and pure. If not it has awoken curiosity. With more to anticipate I am grateful for such variety and skills delivering such gems. **Judith Lee**

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Stapleford WI



AT our March meeting we welcomed Freya Hatter, who gave a fascinating illustrated talk about her two visits to Antarctica.

Freya described her first stay at Rothera Research Station where she worked as Logistics Assistant in a team of four, helping to support life and work at the station in the challenging Antarctic environment. Her second trip was to Bird Island where she worked as a Zoological Assistant, counting penguins and helping with wildlife research. Members greatly enjoyed hearing about the animals, scenery and daily life in such a remote part of the world. It was a most interesting and enjoyable evening and Freya's wonderful photographs and enthusiasm made her talk a memorable one.

Following this members enjoyed a glass of wine with cheese and biscuits before the Annual Meeting began. During this meeting members had the opportunity to reflect on another busy and successful year for the group. Our secretary, Christine Wylde, presented her report. An impressive list of activities over the past twelve months showed just how much has been enjoyed together including social occasions, a barbecue, a shared meal, outings, inspiring speakers as well as the popular book group and craft group. It was also noted with pleasure that we have welcomed new members during the year. Christine was thanked for her sterling and invaluable work not only as secretary but also as our treasurer. Committee members were thanked by the President for all their different skills which come together to maintain the group and all its activities, helping to ensure the continued success of Stapleford WI.

Members re-elected Susan Clark as President for the coming year and we look forward to another enjoyable and varied programme under her leadership. If you are considering joining our group you are very welcome to visit us at one of our meetings. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month (apart from December) in the Pavilion. You can contact Sallie Dixon on 843847 for more information or our website staplefordwi.weebly.com shows some of our activities. **Joyce Dobson**

We're waiting for your story!

HAVE you a story to tell or an event to publicise? If so, drop us a line on staplefordmessenger@gmail.com - after all, it's your magazine and we would love to hear from you.



St Andrew
STAPLEFORD

Pet Service

3 pm Sunday 17 May

all pets and their humans welcome
refreshments afterwards



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Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Thank you!



THANK you to all who have been and will be knitting teddies to be sent to the children in Nachingwea. When our friends, Robert and Liz, visited last year, they were saddened to see how few toys the children had and moved by the joy of the children when they received as presents just small items like tennis balls.

Thank you also to all those who took part in the Nachingwea Quiz and thanks to Jon and Nicky West for organising it and to Duncan and Justine for hosting us at the Three Horseshoes. We are delighted to say that £340 was donated for our Link projects.

Last month we thanked the *Messenger* Fund for their generous grant of £1,000. This month we would like to share with you how this money will be spent.

Training schoolgirls to make reusable sanitary pads

THE first project came as a result of the amazing success of the initial project training women from the Nachingwea community on how to make reusable sanitary pads. That project took place in 2024 and now these women are offering to train pupils from Nachingwea girls' secondary school who, considering their ages, could be their daughters.

The first cohort of 100 pupils will be trained to make sanitary pads, then, later this year, they will teach their fellow pupils from other classes. This project will benefit more than 600 pupils by the end of the project.



Celebrating the completion of the Sanitary Pad Making project

These pupils will then train others when they are back at home.

Objectives

The project proposal that we received states the following objectives:

- To give the new generation the skills for making sanitary pads.
- To overcome obstacle of sending girls to school.
- To prepare these girls to be trainers to their fellow girls in the same school.
- To give them this skill as a source of income.
- To make girls feel safe and comfortable when they face their menstrual cycles.

Measures of success

This project will take one month to prepare after receiving funds and training will take two days. Leaders from the Link DARE* Women's group will cooperate with Nachingwea Link committee and Nachingwea girls secondary school in preparing everything for the successful training.



The Sanitary Pad Making project in action.

Vocational Training for Boys

THIS second project was also requested by the Nachingwea committee in Tanzania. For many years we have focused on educating girls and young women, but Kevin has pointed out that boys too need help to learn skills which can lead to jobs. So the Nachingwea Committee has asked us to sponsor boys who do not continue with their education to advanced secondary schools. Instead, they can do vocational training using the VETA** scheme which we used a few years ago to train girls and women to cook and sew.

Objectives

The project proposal that we received states the following objectives

- To equip boys with vocational training.
- Showing gender equality in action.
- Helping boys to get direct employment after training.
- Helping future fathers for income of their families with daughters and sons.

Measures of success

The training college has its own way of measuring trainees in theory and practical work. The Nachingwea Link will follow this up so they know the performance of the supported trainees.

The Stapleford Link Committee has agreed to support five boys in their first year, followed by a further five boys for their first year along with the first five boys for their second year. In this way the success of the project can be monitored year on year, by the Nachingwea committee.

These two projects will run alongside our usual commitments: sponsoring 25 girls and 10 boys for the English Course, school uniforms both for children with special needs, and girls from needy families and provision for two girls studying for science A Levels. We are also planning a project in conjunction with Nachingwea Hospital to provide a stretcher and a wheelchair.

Lent lunch

FINALLY, do come to our Lent lunch, on Monday 4 May, between 12pm and 2pm in the Jubilee Pavilion

The lunch is free but donations are welcome to help fulfil new and ongoing projects. All welcome. **Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committee**

* *DARE is an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) that focuses on empowering women to help alleviate poverty.*

** VETA is the Vocational Education and Training Authority in Tanzania, an autonomous government agency established to oversee, coordinate, promote, and provide vocational education and training.

Mothers' Union



ON 7 May, Valerie is hosting the Branch Spring Coffee Morning at her house from 10.30am to 12noon. There will be a Bring & Buy and a raffle, to raise funds for Mothers' Union projects.

On 9 May the concert we have organised to celebrate the Mothers' Union 150th anniversary is taking place at St Andrew's church from 3pm to 5pm (see separate notice).

The regular Branch meeting is on 28 May (usual time and place, 2.30pm, Johnson Hall) when we shall enjoy a 'Summer Miscellany' of poems and readings to celebrate the summer season. There will be a raffle to raise funds for the Village Show as we are not having a stall there this year.

Hilary Street

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



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Free admission

Donations accepted for Mothers' Union projects supporting families and family life worldwide



Followed by refreshments

150th Anniversary celebration of the Mothers' Union



TO celebrate 150 years since the founding of the Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner, Stapleford MU Branch has organised a concert of easy listening music in St Andrew's church on 9 May, from 3pm to 5pm. The concert is free and all are welcome. Do come along and enjoy the music as well as refreshments after the band has played.

Any donation you might offer will help towards funding the many MU projects, both in the UK and around the world.

Details are on the poster – so hope to see you there to support the Mothers' Union in this special year. **Hilary Street**

2G3S



LITTER Pick – we held a litter pick in March with the allotment group, kindly organised by Juliet Hawksworth, and collected a variety of unwanted items and several black bags of litter. Thank you to Juliet for arranging the pick and the social on the

allotments afterwards, (see photo) but what a shame these picks are necessary.



Neighbourhood Plan Conversation Evening – Jenny Flynn, the leader of the group that drew up the Plan and steered it through the referendum, gave us a very clear explanation of what is in it and how it can work. She urged us to get involved, e.g. checking local councils are taking note of the NP when looking at planning applications. There are also practical things we can do to look after local green spaces, and to ensure that maps and information used in planning applications are accurate. Maybe with the state of the world it's best to concentrate on our corner of it and try and improve the environment and build a strong and caring community.



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Dr Bike continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. For more information and to book a slot, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com.

Greater Cambridge Development Corporation – move over GCP... You have probably heard about the proposal to form a DC, to drive the development the government wants in this area. There was a consultation which closed in early April, and we commented on it. We were concerned about the pressure on water supply and disposal, the pressure on green spaces, and the lack of local democracy. They would be able to acquire land, plan infrastructure, housing, and so on, overriding housing targets in councils' Local Plans. There will be some local democratic involvement but also a lot of expert members on the Board. If there is further consultation I urge you to take part. We want some control over what happens in our area.

Citizens Assemblies – these are a good way to engage the public in issues such as climate change and what can be done about it. A group of people are selected to represent different ages and regions of the country, and they will have greatly differing views on the issues. Over a period of time they see presentations and talks from experts in the field, and take part in discussions to choose what policies they would favour. The discussions force people to choose, to realise that there are trade-offs and compromises to be made in the real world. Government needs to take the outcomes of these assemblies seriously, as their conclusions are only reached as a result of being well-informed and taking part in in-depth discussions. Democracy in action.

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

An Easter birth

THE birth of a child touches everyone connected to the event. Were you born in Holy Week or do you have a child born at this special time? If so, Easter will have additional personal significance as evidence of God's love. Rob and I spent much of March in excited anticipation of the birth of our second granddaughter (a first child to our younger son and wife). In the



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info@angliearhearing.co.uk

evenings I would work on a small piece of cross stitch which I planned to set into a birth congratulation card. I worked the numbers for the month and year and then left a space for the day and the baby's name. I began to fear that I would have to unpick the word 'March' and replace it with 'April'.

By Palm Sunday (29 March) baby was already 11 days late and we had both gone down with a nasty cold virus. At night I would prop myself up with cushions so that I could breathe. At last, the decision was made to induce labour, so my son and daughter-in-law drove to the Whittington Hospital. The process was started as we were going to bed.

I found it almost impossible to sleep from a mixture of anxiety and excitement. We had a brief message from our son, who finally called at 11.30am the next morning to say that all was well after the birth, but then was called away to move from the labour ward to the delivery room. The next two days passed very slowly and it was late on Maundy Thursday before the new family was able to go home.

During a week of near sleeplessness my mind lost all sense of time; I convinced myself that it was perfectly okay to get up at half past one in the morning to fill the dishwasher because human beings don't really need to sleep. My way of attempting to wind down was to listen over and over again to a wonderful BBC Sounds podcast. This comprised five separate interviews with Benedictine Monks articulating their thoughts on Silence, Prayer, Work, Focus and Love interspersed with the sound of birdsong and plainchant.

We were invited to see baby Gaia Rose on Easter Monday, but had to defer a first cuddle with her until we were free of the cold. Of course, she is gorgeous!

Reflecting over this momentous week I have concluded that sleep deprivation does have a compensation in that my conscious mind had extra time to mull over life, the universe and everything. My subconscious worked hard too and unlocked forgotten memories of my childhood.

A final thought: if the human race is to survive in these uncertain times, we must do all we can to nurture our young people. They need to develop the spiritual resilience to face the particular challenges we face in the 21st century.

Thank you to everyone at St Andrew's first for joining in our anticipation and then sharing our joy in becoming grandparents again!

Here is the link to the Slow Radio episode entitled 'Silence'.
bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b099tkx5. I hope you enjoy the podcasts as much as I did. **Glenda Ferneyhough**



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Puzzle Corner

Road, Close and Street anagrams

Rearrange the letters to give a new word, for example:

SETROAD → roasted

RAYCLOSE → coarsely

DUNSTREET → entrusted

In some cases there is an extra clue

BENROAD (expand)	TOMROAD (wuss)	TAMROAD (fighter)	MELROAD (title)
LEGCLOSE	ACECLOSE (merge)	BATCLOSE (hindrance)	SITCLOSE
PODSTREET	MIXSTREET (fanatic)	JAMSTREET (current)	DINSTREET

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 47

Little Shelford pantomime – auditions




AUDITIONS will be held for *Robin Hood*, Little Shelford Pantomime 2027 on Saturday 16 May at Little Shelford Memorial Hall between 11am and 3pm. Any child between the ages of 9 to 16 is welcome to audition.

To both book a time slot to audition and to complete an audition form, please register online at tinyurl.com/Panto2027.

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

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Stapleford Tree Project



WE have reached our initial target of planting 200 trees over two years. This calls for celebration and we are meeting soon to honour this success.

By the time you read this the saplings will be sprouting new leaves. They will be getting thirsty so they will need watering if we have a dry spring and early summer, especially if they were planted this last winter. If you have a new tree on a verge near you, please give it a can of water a couple of times a week in dry weather.

Our wonderful team of 'adopters' will step in and look after their trees, thank you to all of them. We still need people to adopt the trees planted near the Rose pub and the *Cornus* shrubs planted at the junction of Bar Lane and Gog Magog Way. If anyone can take on the watering of these this year and next, it would keep the trees alive if the summer is hot and dry like last year. Contact Sophi at sophiberridge@gmail.com if you think you can help. Our adopters kept almost all the trees alive last year despite the extreme drought and heat. Thanks, **Helen Hale**

Stapleford Horticultural Society

AT our April meeting – the first talk of this year's programme – we welcomed back Barry Gayton who covered the topic of 'Hardy Perennials'. He certainly was an expert on the topic, growing thousands of perennial plants on his 1 1/2 acre garden in the middle of Thetford Forest. He shared many of his favourites illustrated by slides, and brought along a number for sale at the end of the evening.



We now embark on our Spring and Summer visits, including a day trip to Ashridge and Knebworth House, and evening visits to two local gardens. Our talks resume on 10 September when we welcome Ann Luder to talk about 'Gardening in the Third Age', covering the challenges and rewards facing the more mature gardener, with lots of practical advice. As usual it will be held in the Johnson Hall starting at 7.30pm, and guests paying the meeting fee of £3 are welcome. **John Sherwell**

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Henry VIII's Grandmother

The Life of Margaret Beaufort

The remarkable story of the matriarch of the Tudor dynasty and her local connections



A talk by Stuart Orme
Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion,
Tuesday 12 May at 7.45pm
Free to members – non-members pay
£3 on the door



The remarkable story of the matriarch of the Tudor dynasty and her local connections: her fascinating life included four marriages, the Wars of the Roses, two Cambridge colleges, a 'lost' Tudor palace as well as being Henry VIII's mother and a key influence upon Henry VIII.

British Cactus and Succulent Society

Cambridge & District Branch



BRITISH
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SOCIETY
Let's Grow Together

ON Wednesday 13 May we welcome guest speaker Mike Partridge from the Bromley Branch to our monthly meeting at Gt Shelford Memorial Hall, 7pm to 10pm. Mike has travelled widely over the years seeking

cacti in their natural habitats, especially in Patagonia, where they survive extreme winters and many are known for their spectacular, bright flowers during the blooming season.

Everyone is welcome to our meetings. As well as a judged table show of cacti and succulents, cacti grown from seed by members are for sale. If you are interested, why not simply come in and have a look, or bring any cactus or succulent to us that you are concerned about and good advice will be freely available.

Our Society's mission is to educate the public about cacti and succulents through their study, culture and propagation, and to promote plant conservation. Details of our Society are available on our website bcss.org.uk - it's well worth a look! **Jacqui Arbon**

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 146

Clunch and Lunch: a circular walk from Harston

To Get to Start of Walk

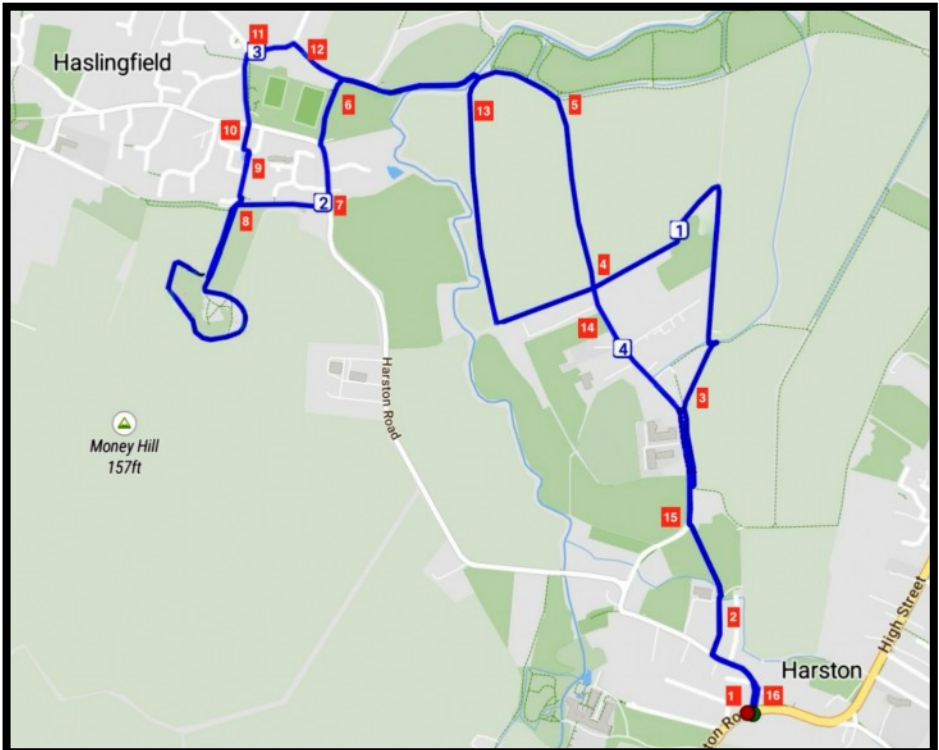
Take the A10 at Junction 11 on the M11 and drive through Harston. The Queen's Head, from which this walk starts, is on the right at the end of the village (CB22 7NH).

Distance of walk

Just over 4.6 miles. Mainly flat, but one short, steep section leading to and from the clunch pit in Haslingfield.

OS Map

Explorer map 209 or use your smart phone. You can run off a free map extract using the-hug.net The route map provided should help, too; to assist you, the white numbers with red background are referred to in the Route of Walk section below, because this is not a standard circular walk. The blue numbers in white squares indicate miles walked.



Extra Information

Haslingfield (pronounced Hayslingfield) is mentioned in Domesday Book. Its name derives from a local tribe in Anglo Saxon times called the Haeslingas, hence the present-day pronunciation. Its economic history has largely been built on agriculture until recently, although there was some coprolite mining in the 19th century at Rectory Farm north east of the road called Button End.

Route of Walk

From the The Queen's Head car park (1), turn left down Church Street and walk along the left hand pavement past the Surgery. Shortly after, look for The Footpath on the other side of the road. Cross over and walk along it (2). It is quite narrow, runs behind gardens to begin with, then leads across a field to a lane called Button End.

Turn right along the road, passing some houses to the right. A short distance after the last house turn to the right, off the road, at a gap in the hedge and swing immediate left to parallel the road. Continue along the field edge, in much the same direction (3). Do not go left or right but carry on straight ahead at the partial field boundary and walk straight ahead to the immediate right of a wooded area. At the end of this, turn sharp left and keep the trees to the left until reaching the end of Button End to the left (metal gate).

At this point, go right on a path (4) with a large field to the left. This path reaches the River Rhee and here swing left on a cross path with the river to the right (5). Cross over at a bridge and carry on ahead with the river now to the left. The river goes left but the path continues ahead. When the Sewage Works is passed on the left (!), go left into Porkers Lane (6). Walk along it, crossing the road when High Street is reached. Go left along the pavement, passing The Elms and then turn right into Back Lane (7).

Follow this track until a path to the left appears (opposite Chestnut Close). Take this (8) and walk uphill to the old clunch (chalk) pit. This is now classified as a wildlife reserve where orchids of various types can be seen, among other things. Swing left round the edge of the old pit, with decent views of Cambridge. You can follow the path all the way round until it comes back to the entrance to the clunch pit, or cut down through it. Whichever you do, walk back down the track to meet Back Lane again, but this time go straight ahead along Chestnut Close (9), following it until High Street is reached.

Cross over, turn left along the pavement and then right into New Road (10). Walk very carefully along this until Cantalupe Road is reached on the

right. Turn right here (11) and use the left hand side pavement until River Lane is reached to the right (12). Walk down River Lane and the walk crosses over the Rhee by the same bridge used earlier.

This time, go right immediately after the bridge (13) and walk ahead on a path that crosses a large field. Swing left at the field end and, after a couple of minutes, go right on to a road (Button End). The road end is very visible behind a metal gate. Walk along Button End (14), passing houses mainly to the right until, after passing several houses on the left, the footpath used earlier in the walk is reached (15).

Take the path, which leads to Church Street in Harston. Cross over, go left on the pavement and turn right before the A10, to return to The Queen's Head car park (16). **David Barnes**

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

Summer holidays with (or without) your pet!



Church Street Vets

IT'S the time of year when lots of us start planning our summer holidays, and our pets are an important part of any plans. Whether you prefer to travel with your pet, or make alternative arrangements for their care, there are costs and practicalities to consider.

We get lots of calls to the practice, at this time of year, from people who are hoping to travel to Europe with their pet and are wondering what is involved. Prior to Brexit, a *pet passport* allowed you to travel to Europe with your pet. Post Brexit, things are a little more costly and complicated.

The first requirement is a rabies vaccination. This must be given at least 21 days before travel. You then need to book an appointment within 10 days of your departure date. This needs to be with an Official Veterinarian (OV) so make sure your vet can issue the necessary paperwork. During this appointment the vet will check your pet's microchip and then prepare the Animal Health Certificate (AHC) that you'll need to cross the border into Europe. The AHC is valid for re-entry to the UK for four months. If you are travelling with a dog, they will need to visit an EU vet to be wormed one to five days before returning to the UK. Unlike the pet passport, which could be used for multiple trips, you will need a new AHC each time you travel with your pet.

We have two OV's at our **Church Street Surgery** and are very happy to answer any questions you might have about travelling with your pet. Travel requirements for non-EU countries vary, but we can point you in the right direction with this too.



Not all pets are happy with upheaval, heat and travel. If you feel your pet would struggle with more ambitious travels, happily there are many pet friendly hotels, campsites and cottages available in the UK. So many pubs, cafes and shops are now dog friendly that it makes days out with dogs easy. It's worth checking any beach restrictions though. Lots of beaches only allow dogs in the winter months.

Some people may be lucky enough to have friends or family to look after pets while they are away, but there are also lots of good options when it comes to pet sitters, boarding kennels and catteries. Websites such as 'Housesitters' or 'Rover' list pet sitters/pet lovers who will either look after your pet in their own home or stay in your house with your pet(s). Local kennels, such as Waggy's in Abington, offer 'socialisation not isolation', so dogs that enjoy interacting with other dogs will have chance to enjoy their own holiday while you take yours.

If you have any questions about travelling with your pet, finding pet care while you are away or any pet health questions, please give the surgery a call on **776773**. We are always happy to hear from you!

The Team at Church Street Vets

Cambridge Cake Creators

We are a group of friendly enthusiastic cake decorators who for many years have been meeting up to share ideas, to learn from guest demonstrators & each other on how to improve our cake icing skills and to learn new techniques. All visitors with an interest in baking and cake decorating and all levels including beginners are welcome to join us!

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except August and December) at 7.30pm

The Johnson Hall, 1 Magog Way (Near St Andrew's Church)

Cost: £10 pp which includes Tea/Coffee & Cake.

For more information contact:

Vanda 01223 561053 or vanda.butler@googlemail.com



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Village History - The Beavis family

IN the March *Messenger* I asked for information on the Beavis family researching inscriptions on bricks from our garage dating back to 1812.

I didn't need to look too far as it turned out; I found the November 2006 edition of the *Messenger* that pictured Basil and cousin Maurice on the front cover following Basil's death. **Rob Ransom**

From the Stapleford Messenger November 2006

Basil Beavis

BASIL Eversden Beavis was buried in Stapleford Cemetery on Friday 13 October 2006 following a very moving service in a packed St Andrew's Church which was led by Revd Chris Barber, whose fondest memory was Basil's smile.

Basil was a very special countryman, a much-respected friend, and a wonderful neighbour: he was a very special Stapleford village character, and his passing will leave a void which will be almost impossible to fill. His contribution to our village has been immense in so many ways: the parish council (he was a councillor for 15 years), the annual flower show, and the village-hall trust. He was a good committee man; he didn't say a lot (he left most of the talking to others), but then he would sum the job up and propose a solution: without fail, it was always adopted.

Basil was unique in our community; he was born here, went to school here, lived almost his whole life here, worked here, and retired here; he became the elder statesman with a vast knowledge of the history of Stapleford at his fingertips: a record very few can rival.

When he was a young man the Young Farmers' Club at Sawston was very much part of his life; it was an important social activity for young people in the 1950s and 60s, and he not only served on many of its committees, but became chairman as well.

Stapleford MESSENGER

November 2006

Price 50p



BASIL BEAVIS (1927-2006) on the right with his cousin Maurice on the day the farm machinery and equipment was auctioned following their retirement in 2001.

Can you lend a hand at the Stapleford Weekend?



**Our well-loved community event is happening
Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th June
on Stapleford Recreation Ground.**

We are looking for:

Bar staff • Marshals • Litter pickers • Café helpers •
Washer-uppers • Glass collectors • and more!

Enthusiastic teens welcome too!

When can you help?

Shifts available on: Thursday evening • Friday evening • Saturday (all day
until late) • Sunday afternoon

Even an hour or two makes a big difference!

**StaplefordWeekend@gmail.com
www.staplefordweekend.com**

Thanks to all our wonderful regular volunteers who make the weekend

Another interest was a truly magnificent steam traction engine that he and his brother Gerald restored to full working condition to the highest standard, which was a testament to his engineering skills (a photograph of the engine was published on the cover of the May magazine).



Eversden Beavis outside the old Tree, from Stapleford History Society archives from 1950

When the running of Greenhedge Farm was handed over to the younger members of the family, Basil, Gerald, and Maurice took over the happiest of farms (prisoners of war who had worked on the farm during and after the war didn't want to go home, and indeed they are still in contact with members of the family).

Greenhedge Farm was a traditional family farm we rarely see today; Gerald looked after the livestock (cattle, bullocks, and sheep) and the arable (potatoes, sugar beet, wheat, and malting barley of the very best quality) was the responsibility of Maurice and Basil. The barley grown in Stapleford won grain competitions many times.

Basil met Margaret in 1958 at the Dorothy Ballroom in Cambridge, and were happily married since 1962 up until his death. They had many wonderful holidays in Jersey, and until his last five years in farming, he always said that every day was a holiday. They bought a bungalow in Priams Way, which is named 'Corbiere' after the lighthouse in Jersey. He will be missed dreadfully.

May he rest in peace. **Travers Chalk**

Stapleford Village Show

THE Show will be on **Saturday 27 June** on the recreation ground in Stapleford. The schedule will be delivered to all houses in Stapleford in early May, and, another first, this year will be part of the booklet for the Village Weekend.

A sneak peak of some of the handicraft classes – 'a piece of homemade jewellery', 'soft toy/toys' and 'an example of calligraphy of the text 'The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog''.

Don't forget to email us (staplefordvillageshow@gmail.com) with your front garden entries.

See you all in June. **Jools Rayment**

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Girlguiding



22 FEBRUARY is World Thinking Day, a day when Girl Guides (known in some countries as Girl Scouts) across the world celebrate being part of an international movement dedicated to empowering girls and young women. This year marked the 100th anniversary of the first World Thinking Day and to celebrate the occasion Rainbows,

Brownies and Guides from Shelford District gathered for an afternoon of fun activities about friendship and wellbeing. At the end of the afternoon, everyone sang campfire songs around a giant artwork we had created together representing Rainbows, Brownies and Guides and their equivalents from around the world.

Shelford Brownies have been having fun exploring magical mixtures, knotting, making no-bake brownies (!) and designing and holding a birthday party for everyone, including decorating cupcakes, singing “happy birthday to us” and – best of all for many - eating pizza. Just before the February half term, on a misty evening, the Brownies walked to the bottom of the rec with lanterns they’d made from plastic milk bottles. They discovered it can be very dark down there! Returning to the HQ for hot chocolate was much enjoyed by all. A particular highpoint of the term was two Brownies completing their Brownie Gold Awards.



In March, Shelford Guides entered a team for Forward 2026. This is a local challenge hike for Guides and Scouts. Teams had seven hours to navigate a 10-mile route and to earn points by completing challenges on the way. The Shelford Guide team had a very successful day exploring the countryside around West Wickham and completing the hike within the time limit.

The Guides have also enjoyed making savoury pancakes, a tabletop winter Olympic games, playing wide games outside in the dark and organising a small fete to raise money for the World Thinking Day fund (a charity that offers girls and girlguiding organisations around the world opportunities to transform their communities). The Guides worked hard on

concerts

Helen Farish, poet & reader**Sunday 10 May | 3:00pm**

An afternoon of luminous, emotionally resonant poetry with flashes of wit, from one of the most compelling contemporary voices in British poetry.

**Exaudi****Saturday 16 May | 7:45pm**

A celebration of the music of John Dowland, plus songs by Thomas Morley and present-day composers, from one of the UK's leading vocal ensembles.

**Paul McKenna****Friday 22 May | 7:45pm**

A rare solo show from one of Scotland's most compelling contemporary folk voices, delivered with Paul's trademark honesty, energy and charm.

**Patrick Hemmerlé****Sunday 24 May | 3:00pm**

The French virtuoso guides us through a kaleidoscope of glittering gems for piano, culminating in Schumann's monumental Symphonic Studies.

**Gabriel Latchin Trio****Wednesday 27 May | 7:45pm**

Classic acoustic jazz with a fresh, modern feel from 'the best straight-ahead jazz pianist to appear in the past few years.' - The Guardian

their stalls for the fete and a lovely mix of fair games, cakes, drinks and small gifts was available.

We're always glad of new volunteers. We have several units who need qualified leaders or people prepared to do Girlguiding's leadership training. 14-18 year olds wanting to be young leaders and/or do their DofE volunteering locally are also welcome. Please contact shelforddistrict@gmail.com. Thank you. **Lisa MacGregor**

Sawston Cinema

The Choral (15)

1916: AS war rages on the Western Front, the Choral Society in Ramsden, Yorkshire has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's committee decides to recruit local young males and a new chorus master: Dr Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) – driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from a career in Germany. The whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together.

Thursday 7 May, 7pm (doors open 6.30).
£5. Runtime: 113 mins.



Frida Kahlo (12A)

Frida Kahlo is a phenomenon. She is arguably the world's favourite female artist – beloved by young and old. 'Exhibition on Screen's award-winning film is back by popular demand with an exciting new addition from the blockbuster transatlantic exhibition 'Frida Kahlo: the Making of an Icon'. In cinemas in May 2026, one month before the new Tate exhibition opens, allowing audiences to watch both the film and see the show.



Thursday 21 May, 7pm, (doors open 6.30), £10. Running time tbc.
Marven Centre, Sawston Village College, New Road, Sawston,
CB22 3BP Tel: 712825. Email: cinema@sawstonvc.org.

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Great Shelford Library

DID you know that 2026 is the National Year of Reading? Friends of Great Shelford Library are supporting this by hosting a talk by Kate Armstrong about her mother’s book ‘An Unexpected Journey: Life in the Colonies at Empire's End: A Woman's Role’. This will be a fascinating talk. Tuesday 26 May, 7.30pm in the library. Spaces are limited. Please book via the library.

May is Local and Community History Month. We have lots of books in our local studies section about the history of Great Shelford and surrounding areas. Why not pop into the library to learn more about where you live.

Activities for Adults

Craft & Chat– Every Friday morning 10.30am to 12pm.

Tea & Games – Every Friday afternoon 2pm to 3.30pm.

Engage Talk – POhWER – A charity providing advocacy to people who are vulnerable or have a disability. Wednesday 20 May 2pm to 3.30pm.

Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Activities for Children

May Half Term Event – To Be Confirmed Thursday 28 May 2pm to 3.30pm - Parents and carers must stay with their children who remain their responsibility. £2.00 per child. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.Library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

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

For children aged 0-4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

LEGO Club – Mondays 4pm to 5.30pm. Suitable for ages 2-10.

Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

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		



Memories of Stapleford School

WENDY Reynolds concludes her memories of her time at Stapleford school 1943-1948 .

THERE was a strange inverted snobbery within the village which considered that, if you passed you were getting above yourself, thinking you were better than anybody else. Some were so worried about this they said they would make sure they didn't pass. It didn't worry me as I lived too far out of the village to play with the others at weekends except for two sisters who lived a quarter of a mile from me. My mother, who had missed the chance of a free secondary school education by one year and had longed for it, was very hopeful for us but was careful never to put pressure on us, "Just do your best" she would say. She was anxious that that we would be forced into the low-paid work that was the fate of most of her generation; domestic service for the girls, being a farm-hand for the boys unless their parents could afford the premium for an apprenticeship. She didn't realise at the time what huge changes were taking place in society, largely as a result of the war, that domestic service would soon be almost non-existent, replaced by various labour-saving devices such as Hoovers. I tried my hardest to pass 'The Scholarship' not because I had any academic ambitions but because I had been told that needlework and athletics formed a big part of the curriculum at Sawston and I was hopeless at both.

So I was very relieved when the headmistress told me that I had passed. She gave me the afternoon off so I could go and tell my mother as soon as possible. The next day another girl, Jill, was told she had also passed. We didn't realise how unusual it was for a little village school to have a pupil pass 'The Scholarship'. My mother was delighted but was then faced with the huge problem of the uniform. The list was very long especially for PE which horrified me too; suggesting awful possibilities. The family income didn't allow for any extras and my parents had used up almost all their meagre savings on baby equipment. The main uniform, blazer and cap with the school badge incorporated was only supplied by the most expensive shop in Cambridge, Joshua Taylor's. Sawston College had no uniform so Mum got no help when she tried to get a loan from the Council. She was absolutely determined that I would go to the County High School and cast about for anything she could sell. She sold the embroidered tablecloths and pillow cases from her wedding presents to Eaden Lilley's which was still, in spite of the war being over, very short of stock to put in their windows. Lady Gray gave her £5 which solved the problem if most of the list of sports equipment was ignored.

On the first day at the County, Jill and I clung to each other, sure we would never even learn to find our way about the vast building. Rumours flew about; we would be learning about things called decimals the main problem of which was 'a point' and where it should go in a number. Also we heard that many of the girls had already learned some French which gave them a huge advantage. The present national curriculum was, I suppose, originally introduced to iron out the differences in what was taught in primary schools but has become over the years a limitation in itself.

Improvements in the main village; water supply, electricity etc. happened quite quickly during the 1950s but was much slower in outlying areas. When I cycled to work in 1954 there was a row of houses near Babraham which had a well in front which was still their water supply. I realised that we were lucky to have a tap in our house. Council houses had been built in Babraham High Street which had bathrooms but they couldn't be used because of low water pressure.

Lighting in our houses and others on the Gogs was still by oil or Tilley lamps. We had paraffin lamps which had to be filled and the wicks trimmed every day. The living-room lamp had a very delicate part (mantle) surrounding the flame which had to be treated with great care or it would burn or shatter. When my brother and I did our homework the lamp was put in the centre of the table and we did our work on either side of it. My hair would occasionally singe a bit when I pressed too close. In the early 1950s government grants became available for house improvement. Sir Harold and Lady Gray took advantage of this to modernise some of the servants' houses. First of all came electricity. This meant a refrigerator became possible, even ice-cream! It solved the problem of how to keep the weekend meat, delivered on Friday, good until the Sunday roast. In the summer Mum would wrap it in a cloth soaked in vinegar and put it in a meat-safe which had perforated sides. Bathroom and lavatory didn't arrive until after I had started work. One thing which made life easier for housewives was the routine calling of baker, milkman, butcher and paraffin man. Freezers were not thought of so it was still difficult in hot summers to keep food good. We often had bilious attacks as children which were regarded as a normal fact of life but which were probably due to contaminated food.

I appreciated my time at Stapleford School and realised that, with the work we did for the war effort we played a part in the community. I was the first person in our family to go to grammar school, followed by my brother and sister. University for people in our walk of life was still for geniuses who might win scholarships.

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Royal British Legion



THE Branch meets every month (except December), on the final Wednesday evening at the Chapelfield Way Community Centre just off Link Road, Sawston. There is ample parking so anyone, whether you are a current member or not, is welcome to attend and learn about what we get up to, and – of course – learn about what the Royal British Legion does, in addition to meeting friends, listen to fascinating talks and enjoying refreshments. It would be wonderful to see more of our members attending the Branch meetings – particularly those who live in and around Sawston.

Our next Branch meeting is on **Wednesday, 27 May** at 7.00pm and our speaker for the evening will be the Revd Kathryn Waite who will be telling us about a whole new way to look at potholes- so come and find out what that might be about!

Upcoming events over the next few months:

Sawston Fun Run, **Sunday, 10 May**. We have a stall here so please come and support us – and if you happen to be a veteran (someone who has served in the Army, Navy or Air Force) please come and introduce yourselves and let us know where you are and how you are doing.

A day trip to the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, **Saturday, 20 June**. There are seats available at £20 per person on the coach for leaving the Sawston pickup point at 8am. It is a wonderful place to visit with some lovely walks, a super restaurant, a train that can take you around the site with commentary, and many talks at various points and times that are free of charge. The memorial gardens range from those beautifully designed and looked after, to those that have been deliberately left to allow nature to develop them. The cost will not cover lunch so it gives you the choice of bringing a picnic with you or visiting the on-site restaurant. You can also hire mobility scooters that have been donated to the centre, but I would advise you to ring and book them as soon as you can by ringing 01283 245100 or logging onto the website and completing a booking form. If you are interested in coming, please let me know as soon as you can by telephone (07898 732307) or email: ann.barton@hotmail.com. Payment will need to be made by the end of April.

We are also planning an event in the Challis Gardens sometime during August but as yet, we have yet to discuss what form that might take. More information in a future *Messenger*. **Ann Barton - Branch Secretary**

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

The Friends of Great Shelford Library

An Unexpected Journey: Life in the Colonies at Empire's End: A Woman's Role



IN support of The National Year of Reading Kate Armstrong talks about her mother's book detailing the life of a colonial officer's wife in the dying days of the Empire, illustrated with photographs.

Great Shelford Library, Tuesday 26

May at 7.30pm. Tickets - £5 (Friends - £3) available in advance from the library or on the door if space is available.

Refreshments provided afterwards. **Sarah Coppendale**



Cambridge Flower Club

Janet Dye - 'Reuse and Recycle'
Thursday 21 May



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 or Alison Drake -
840117, drakealisonn@gmail.com

Puzzle Corner Answers

Road, Close and Street anagrams (page 23)

BROADEN, DOORMAT, MATADOR, EARLDM
COLLEGES, COALESCE, OBSTACLE, SOLSTICE
PROTESTED, EXTREMIST, JETSTREAM, TRENDIEST

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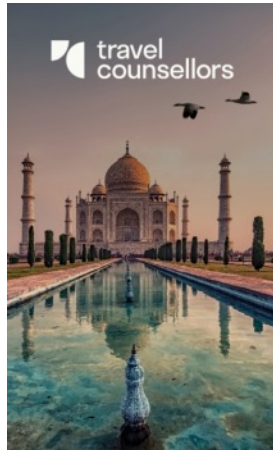
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THE CSET public inquiry has been delayed yet again.

Many of you will have received a letter from the Department for Transport stating the GCP have requested the delay due to the scheme’s proximity to a gas pipeline which has been highlighted by National Gas Transmission PLC. (NGT). The period of abeyance will be until the 30 June to allow time for a redesign.

The letter stresses that the inquiry is not cancelled, and new timings will be proposed in due course possibly sooner than 30 June.

Significantly, the Mayor of the Combined Authority who has responsibility for strategic transport policy has also made a formal objection to the GCP scheme and we note his resolute opposition to it.

Better Busways is well organised for the inquiry with excellent consultants lined up, with our Highways Engineer evidencing the material failures with the proposed GCP scheme with regard to transport and connectivity.

However we still have a funding gap which has to be bridged if we are to secure the best representation at the public inquiry and we are appealing for public donations. We are very grateful to those people who have already made donations and for the generous financial support of Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish councils, Magog Trust, Hobson’s Conduit Trust and Cambridge Past, Present & Future.

You can make a first or further donation by clicking on Cambridge Past Present and Future at cambridgeppf.org/appeals and clicking on South East Cambridge Busway. Thank you! **Better Busways Team**

Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
5 May	✓	✓	
12 May			✓
19 May	✓	✓	
26 May			✓
2 June	✓	✓	

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Don't let a garden spring clean lead to fire
STAYING safe outside is just as important as keeping your family safe from fire in your home.

As the Spring time weather (hopefully) begins to arrive, many will take the opportunity to get out in the garden and give it a tidy.

There are a few simple things to do which will help reduce the risk of having a fire:

- Dispose of garden waste using either a local waste pick up service or take it to a local recycling centre. Do not light a bonfire!
- Ensure cigarettes are completely out.
- Do not leave glass bottles lying on the ground – the glass can act as a lens to magnify the effect of the sun and can start a fire.
- If you are planning to have a BBQ: use barbeques on a hard, flat surface away from grass, shrubs or fencing, and put disposable barbeques on bricks, do not place directly on grass

Help keep your home and family fire safe – complete our online home safety check

You can carry out your own home fire safety check online by visiting the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service website.

The online home safety check helps you carry out your own fire risk assessment and is a simple way to help reduce risks and keep your home safe from fire. It takes you through some simple questions about you and your home, then provides an action plan that you can download and print. You can fill it in for yourself or a member of your family that might need help.

Visit bit.ly/Home_Safety_Check to find out more and start your online home safety check.



Parish Council Chair's report

THIS month we say farewell to Lesley Watts, our assistant clerk and thank her for her sterling work looking after the cemetery and assisting the clerk with other matters. The Parish Council will shortly be announcing the appointment of her successor.

Work should begin on the Pavilion renovations soon, possibly between 11 and 30 May, and it is hoped that some improvements, such as the refurbishment of the toilets, will be completed by the Village Weekend. Regular hirers will be informed if they will be affected by the work. There are various items of lost property in the pavilion which should be collected or they will be donated to charity.

District councillor Will Jackson-Wood outlined the new food waste disposal arrangements. Each household will be issued with a waste food caddy and an outside secure food waste bin, to be collected weekly.

A further planning application for development of up to 110 houses on land between Hinton Way and Mingle Lane was discussed and the Parish Council expressed objections. A letter has been sent to the Planning Officer detailing specific objections to this development.

An application has been submitted for a 20mph limit in the village, and it is hoped that it will be successful on this occasion. Damage to the bollards at the junction of Priam's Way and Church Street by heavy lorries reversing into Priam's Way has been reported.

Fencing work will be done in April around the children's playground to improve safety for children from ball sports and dogs. The sandpit will be topped up with sand ready for the better weather and children playing. Rubbish bins have been reinstated in the David Pepperell/Villedômer garden and it is hoped this will encourage people to dispose of litter responsibly.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 14 May at 7pm, instead of the normal date of 7 May, election day, as Parish Councillors are not in post at this point. The venue for this meeting may change depending on work being done in the pavilion, and this will be announced on the agenda when published. **Gillian Pett**

Financial difficulties?



Are you in need, hardship or distress? Do you live in Stapleford? Then the Feoffees Charity may be able to help you. For more information contact Rev. Simon Taylor at simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com.

Stapleford Parish Council

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

SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

peter.fane@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

843861 / 07802 256 861

Will Jackson-Wood

cllr.jackson-wood@scambs.gov.uk

07873 731597

CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

peter.fane@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

843861 / 07802 256 861

Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

Laurence.Damary-Homan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

07971 886 113

Note: the information above is correct up to 7 May.

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



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