

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

June 2026

Volume 85 No 6

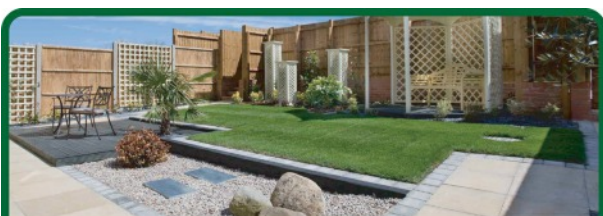
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Cox's Close, top in 1985 and below in 2018

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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

Persistence and patience

MAJOR question for the functioning and future of humanity: when you are at a pedestrian crossing and you press the button to get the traffic to stop, does it make any difference to the sequence and timing of the lights?

For such a profound question, the place to turn for answers that may have a grain of truth (or may not) is AI. I did, so the following is offered with Claude.ai's singularly unhelpful habitual disclaimer 'Claude is AI and can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.'



It turns out that the answer is 'it depends.' A single pair of crossing lights not part of a junction should stop the traffic a few seconds after the button is pressed. Expect an eternal wait if you don't ask/press. But at a busy junction with several sets of lights and pedestrian crossings it's different. If there is no press, the pedestrian phase is missed at some times of day. But in other respects pressing the button doesn't alter the phasing or timing. You still have to wait for the pre-programmed moment when the pedestrian phase is allowed to happen.

It's quite a good analogy for lots of aspects of life. You usually have to act to get a result, but the result you want may be a while coming. Do your bit and wait. So-called active patience. You have mixed the dough, planted the seeds, sat the exam, sent off the application, whatever it may be, and then the hopeful wait begins. Out of your hands.

Or, as a variant on the same theme, there are those stories of someone doing the same thing over and again to get the desired result. Patience plus persistence but still not being able to control the result. J K Rowling sent off her first book to 12 publishers – with no changes, just the same thing – before finding one who thought it was worth publishing. Or me keeping on digging up bits of bindweed in the hope that it will eventually stop appearing. Putting up with apparent futility and just keeping going with the bit you can do that might achieve the outcome.

There are lots of examples of persistence paying off in the bible. Do you remember the account of Jacob, one of the patriarchs of ancient Israel, who wrestled all night with an unknown person, a sort of divine angelic figure? Jacob was not overcome until his hip was wrenched by the 'man' touching it, but even then Jacob clung on, demanding and receiving a blessing before he would let go.

And there is the Canaanite woman whose daughter was ill. She begged for Jesus' healing at a time when he was focussing his ministry on the people of Israel, refusing to take no for an answer. Her persistence paid off, her faith was seen by him, and Jesus healed her daughter.

Another time, Jesus was passing near Jericho and a blind beggar called Bartimaeus was sitting by the side of the road. When he heard that Jesus was going by he cried out 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.' People rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he kept on until Jesus himself heard and recognised his faith, and stopped and healed him.

Those were all back then, as it were. Illustrations of the point that there are circumstances in which active faith gives rise to persistence in seeking the blessing of God. It is something Jesus encourages. He told his disciples a parable that has been handed down to us. It is a difficult one, and like many of his parables requires us to think. His story goes like this.

A lazy judge who did not care what God or people thought kept ignoring a widow's plea for justice in a lawsuit against her adversary. We do not know what wrong she had suffered – maybe something to do with property, as the position of widows was pretty precarious – but it was obviously something really important for her. The judge kept brushing her off, but she kept on asking. And because she kept on bothering him, and because he was afraid she might attack him, he eventually gave in and did the right thing.

As I say, it is a difficult story. It is about persistence in prayer. Jesus is certainly not saying that the God who hears prayer is unjust, nor that we get our way by putting people in fear of attack! Jesus is using a lesser-to-greater type of argument, as he often did. 'If even (the lesser) then even more so (the greater).' The point is that if even the thoroughly unjust judge in the story eventually gives justice to someone who keeps on asking, so also we should remember that the God of truth and mercy is always compassionate and just, and will certainly answer those who cry out to him.

Persistence and patience are human traits that we often value, quite apart from a religious context. They are often admirable, the right human response to difficulty, futility and failure, a route to ultimate success. But it's worth putting them in the context of a Christian faith. Persistent wrestling with the divine, persistent asking of God, persistent prayer, patient waiting - these are signs of an active faith pleasing to the God and Father of Jesus Christ. Prayer works, unlike some pedestrian buttons. So keep on keeping on for that blessing that only he can provide!

May you be persistent and patient in your search for God's blessing.
Simon

St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

REHEARSALS
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music@standrewstapleford.org



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St Andrew's Noticeboard

7 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Acts 15.1-21; Matthew 9.9-17 <i>Purified by faith</i>
8 JUNE	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
11 JUNE	1 PM	LUNCHTIME PRAYER
14 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 15.22-41; Matthew 9.35-10.15 <i>Teaching & preaching</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH in the churchyard
18 JUNE	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION
21 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Acts 16.1-15; Matthew 10.24-39 <i>Lydia</i>
25 JUNE	1 PM	LUNCHTIME PRAYER in person & on YouTube
28 JUNE	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	11 AM	CHURCH-IN-THE-MARQUEE <i>Celebration at the Stapleford Village Weekend</i>
5 JULY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Acts 16.16-40; Matthew 11.16-30 <i>What must I do to be saved?</i>

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

5 MAY Funeral of Bill Lintott

Stapleford Community Warden Service

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

- making drinks and light meals
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- making appointments
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07436 102733 or juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk

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Stapleford Messenger

Deadline for the July Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 12 JUNE**

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

Splash

SPLISH, splosh, SPLASH. Great alliteration and onomatopoeia. Words children love to exaggerate. Delightful pictures are created in workbooks enhanced with colour and splatter patterns. The rolling, furling and curling of waves amazes. Seascapes. From surf breaking on the shore to special effects added by gusty winds, gulls, gleeful shouting and maybe ships' sirens. Cheerful, carefree, moody, mysterious, always mightily magical. Glinting grey, azure blue, beer brown, seaweed green waves tipped by prancing 'white horses.' Tangled manes and trailing tails catching sunlight. A sense sensation, mindful experience. It should be on prescription.



Tides roll in and out. Pebbles sucked up and spluttered back. The surf soothes, having a hypnotic effect. Breakers dramatically crash into rocks or promontories. Water droplets spray, foaming as lace. Ever changing scenes. Spring tides are magnificent. Seething, surging, tossing, twirling waves splash billowing as in a cauldron. Could technology effectively capture such wonder? The sea can be lazily still too, like silvery shimmering silk stretched on a frame. Hardly a ruffle. Quiet, calm, tranquil; simply serene. In a mist, haze lingers. Splashes are muffled, disorientating. Perspective is challenged. A total 'whiteout' is completely weird and utterly confusing. Sandy or shingly shores each having special qualities. Stomping over stones on uneven terrain in salty bracing winds is tough but rewarding. Try resisting stone and shell collecting. Turrets and towers on sandcastles need them. Moats are ambitious extras requiring a strong willing workforce. A rock pool may have to suffice. Seaside trips go together with bucket, spade, bright beach ball and wave jumping. A short distance from splashes I'd site a beach hut, specified on a wish list.

Paddling in the shallows skimming stones is satisfying and competitive. Multiple bounces show skill. Sometimes ripples of concentric circles are visible, each ring a prayer. Hope of positive change leading to peace. Looking at our surroundings with curiosity we read seat dedications of warm memories and emotion. It seems the coast holds universal delight for all ages, refreshing and easing burdens. However, such days come to an end. Splashes sparkle in narrow dancing ribbons. The horizon whispers 'come back soon.' Offering gratitude, we reluctantly turn away. Once unpacked, sand between toes we smile, happily remembering. **Judith Lee**

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Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: Jane Hall

Re: Mysterious white line

WE have lived at Number 1 Dukes Meadow for 44 years and have never felt the need for white lines in front of our 5 bar gate. The said gate is used by the electricity company when they service the substation (which happens perhaps once a year) and when my husband mows the grass and he certainly doesn't need a white line to do this.

We would be extremely pleased for anyone to shed some light on the mystery appearance of this white line. Was this an error by the council?



Stapleford WI




AT our April meeting we were delighted to welcome one of our own talented members, Yvonne Lamb, who gave an enjoyable and informative flower arranging demonstration. With Spring now brightening our gardens and hedgerows, Yvonne's lovely arrangements provided plenty of inspiration for the coming seasons. She demonstrated several different displays, ranging from simple arrangements suitable for beginners to more intricate designs for those with more experience. Yvonne shared helpful hints and creative ideas throughout the evening, and members appreciated her skill, creativity and friendly presentation.

As well as our monthly meetings, Stapleford WI members enjoy a wide range of activities including craft sessions, book group, social events and outings, together with the many workshops and opportunities offered through the Cambridgeshire Federation. New members and visitors are always welcome. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month in The Pavilion at 7.30pm. Our next meeting will be on 25 June just before The Stapleford Village Weekend where we will be running our well-known and well- patronised hoopla stall with filled jam jar prizes.

Further details can be found on our website staplefordwi.weebly.com or please phone Sallie Dixon on 843847 who will be happy to talk to you.

Joyce Dobson



PAUL'S

Second Missionary Journey

Acts 15 - 18

“Let us return and visit the believers in every city
where we proclaimed the word of the Lord.”

Sundays 9 am and 10.30 am

St Andrew's Church

4 June - 21 June

5 July - 19 July

Plus 6 pm 12 July



St Andrew
STAPLEFORD



Mothers' Union



THIS is the celebration year for the Mothers' Union – it's 150 years since its foundation by Mary Sumner in 1876. A couple of our

members are going to the Anniversary Service in St Paul's on Wednesday 10 June, when our Patron, Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, will be present. It should be a splendid and memorable occasion. In our own church of St Andrews, there will be a Mothers' Union theme in the services on 31 May, when members will lead the prayers and readings.

On Saturday 13 June, the Diocesan MU will host a celebration picnic from 3pm to 5pm in the Bishop's Palace garden with music and entertainment, as well as a raffle and MU cards and gifts for sale. Bring your own picnic and wear something blue!

On 25 June, we shall be having our own branch celebration of the anniversary (usual time and venue – 2.30pm, the Johnson Hall), when Mary Cooper is going to give a report of the national meeting held on 11 June in London, always a lovely occasion with MU members attending from the whole of the UK and Ireland. Bring a plate of food to share.

There are plenty of events to look forward to in June!

Thank You

THANK you to all who came to the Stapleford Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary Concert on 9 May. It was quite a big success and we raised a good sum for the Celebration Fund and other MU projects. Your support was greatly appreciated, thank you. Hilary Street



Old copies of the Messenger

WE would like to gather together a complete set of past editions of the *Messenger*, or as near as we can at any rate. Do you or someone you know have a collection they would like to donate?

Let me know by email on simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com. If you can tell me roughly what period they cover, so much the better. We are just trying to collect a single set, not multiple copies. Many thanks in advance.

Simon Taylor

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MAY 28

JUNE 4 11 25

JULY 2 9 23



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New Parish Administrator

ST Andrew's is delighted to introduce our new Parish Administrator to *Messenger* readers!

Elsbeth Bramley, who started in the role in March, works from 9am-3pm every Thursday, and provides administrative support for vicar Simon Taylor and the ministry team at St Andrew's. Elspeth explains: "What that means in practice is preparing and printing the service sheets and readings for the week, copying music for Tim Kwan (Music Director) and Sarah Needle (additional organist), taking minutes for church meetings and billing for use of the Johnson Hall and Verger's Cottage."



"I make sure we report the music (mainly hymns and songs) that is used in St Andrew's, in accordance with our Church Copyright Licence.

"There are also other ad-hoc activities, such as making sure hymns are available in larger print for any partially sighted congregation members, and preparing posters and flyers for church events such as plant sales, music concerts and fundraisers."

For Elspeth, it's a far cry from her first job – as a florist in Cambridge: "I trained initially as a florist but couldn't shake off a desire to learn, and later went on to study law and history, followed by solicitor's training at Nottingham Law School."

Elsbeth said: "I then worked for a while as a solicitor (specialising in wills, tax, trusts & probate), but it's very difficult to find flexible or part-time work in that field which could fit round the demands of family life.

"This role is perfect for me – it's local, it's the right number of hours and variety for me and my family, and the people I meet are lovely!"

But we're glad to report that Elspeth hasn't forgotten her floristry training: she sells home-grown flowers most weeks at the country market in Great Shelford Memorial Hall, which takes place every Wednesday morning.

Elsbeth added: "It's a real community hub where people meet up with friends, enjoy a cup of coffee and cake." And don't forget the flowers, plants, home-baking/produce and crafts! **Nicky West**

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.



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egg-shaped

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non-neuronal brain cells

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complete

divide in two

Comedian Johnny ...

auctioneer's hammer

6-letter words

friends

Australian woman?

Premier League team

waterproof overshoe

7-letter words

execution device

air sacs in lungs

Set by Hermes - Answers on page 45

Cambridge Flower Club

Garden Visit - Isaacson's Burwell

Thursday 18 June

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: Alison Drake - 840117,
drakealisonn@gmail.com



Stapleford- Nachingwea Link

Easter in Nachingwea



WE have received this very enthusiastic letter from Kevin Bushiri, Chair of the Nachingwea Link about how our friends in St Andrew's Church, Nachingwea celebrated Easter. The article appears to have been written with AI's help, but conveys the congregation's love of worship.

(Please note that the text is how Kevin wrote it, it has not been edited.)

Dear Madam Trish,

Let me today write this news like Novelist to give you new test of my emails.

Easter Sunday came wrapped in golden light and gentle whispers of joy. Our little church swelled with many happy souls, all dressed in colours of hope and new beginnings. At the heart of it all stood Priest Phares Lihewe, whose voice rose like a morning bird leading a forest into song. He spoke of life breaking through death, and every face in the congregation shone like a field after rain. The pews were full, the air was warm with shared smiles, and you could feel that something sacred was blooming among us.



Then came the music. Four choirs, each dressed in their own soft harmonies, took turns filling the church with gospel songs of the resurrection. Their voices climbed and fell like waves on a joyful shore — singing of the stone rolled away, of dawn surprising the dark, of Christ alive again. One choir would end, and another would rise, and the melody never truly stopped. It felt like heaven had leaned down to hum along with us, and even the quietest hearts found their own whispered hallelujah.



In the middle of all this singing, something even more beautiful happened. Four children – small as buds on an Easter branch – came forward with trusting eyes, and one lady whose smile carried the weight of a long journey. One by one, they were baptized. Water touched their heads like a gentle blessing from the sky. New names were written in grace. The whole church watched in tender silence, then burst into applause. It was as if the resurrection was not just a story from long ago, but a thing happening right then, in that water, in those hearts.



And oh, Madam Trish, the church itself looked like a bride ready for Easter. The windows, newly repaired like you see in photos. Light poured through them in streams of white and gold, painting the floor with quiet dancing shapes. Fresh flowers stood at the altar, and the white cloths on the table seemed to glow. Every corner whispered, “He is risen.” The old building felt new again, just like the promise we had come to celebrate.

When the service ended, people did not hurry away. They walked out slowly, still humming the songs, still holding the joy close. Children ran in the grass, elders leaned on canes and smiled, families walked home under a soft morning sky. The long weekend stretched ahead like a gift – but the true gift was the resurrection living now in their hearts. They carried Christ home in their laughter, their meals shared, their quiet prayers. And I believe, dear Madam Trish, that Easter did not end at the church door. It simply walked with them into ordinary days, made holy by love.

With warmest Easter blessings,
Kevin

Bank holiday lunch

WE were delighted to see so many guests at our May bank holiday lunch. As usual the catering was to a Five Star Michelin level and many thanks to all who contributed food or drink.

The event proved to be a most enjoyable get together for friends, family and neighbours who appreciated the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal and catch up on local news and gossip - a staple of village life!

We are so pleased that an amazing £1,442 was donated in aid of education and health projects in Nachingwea. **The Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committee**



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Stapleford Tree Project



AS you know we have reached our target of planting 200 trees around the village in two years! Here we are celebrating, and here are pictures of two of the first trees we planted, a silver birch whip and a hornbeam sapling donated to the project.



As I write this, we have been having a dry warm spring, so as the saplings and whips grow they will need watering while their root systems develop such that they can then access water deeper down. So please keep watering the new trees.

Thank you to all the people already doing this, the trees will be grateful! All our trees have been 'adopted', but the Parish Council has planted some larger specimens in the cemetery and would

love a hand in watering them. Incidentally, the Woodland Trust says that newly planted trees need 50 litres of water a week in the first three summers of their life!


This coming autumn we will replant any trees that don't survive, and look to expand our planting in other ways. We also want to raise awareness of the importance of trees, and to look after the older ones we already have in the village. Early in May Sophi took a group of Year 3 school children round the village looking at trees, and in the autumn they planted two lovely apple trees to look after, one variety called 'James' and one called 'Katy'.

For more information about the project and to see what species of trees we planted where, look at the Stapleford Parish Council website, and if you have any queries email Sophi at sophiberridge@gmail.com.

And did you know the Magog Down has a tree trail? Look on magogtrust.org.uk for more details, click on Nature then Woodland. A number of trees, starting up in the wood by the main road, have a post with a QR code on it, and if you scan this you will find out more about that type of tree. **Helen Hale**



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William 'Bill' Lintott Obituary

BILL passed away on 8 April at the age of 89, following a brief illness. He is survived by his wife Joan who remains in the family home where the couple have lived since 1970 and raised their three children: Sarah, Jeremy and Clare. All three children attended Stapleford Primary School and Sawston Village College. Over the years the family grew to include grandchildren and great-grandchildren, of whom Bill was immensely proud.



Bill and Joan were active in the village throughout their time here and have supported endless school and village events over the years. They served on the PTA and played a part in the building of the school swimming pool. Joan was joint founder of Sunnyside Playgroup with Stella Furlong and taught at Green Hedges School. Together they supported the Nachingwea Twinning Society, The Magog Downland and Wandlebury through Cambridge Past, Present and Future, and were long-standing tellers at the village polling station. More recently, they took huge pleasure in the development of Stapleford Granary, enjoying its concerts, exhibitions and café.

In recent years Bill and Joan enjoyed being part of JOY, joining in at the monthly meetings and at the group lunches in the Arthur Rank Hospice bistro.

Born in 1936, Bill grew up in Horsham, Sussex. He studied Mathematics and Theology at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge and went to be ordained in Brighton. There he met Joan, a teacher, and they married in 1962. The newlyweds moved to Chingford where Bill took up work as a curate, and it was there that they started their family. In 1966 the family moved to Fulbourn, where Bill worked as Chaplain and Therapist at Fulbourn Psychiatric Hospital. In 1970 the family settled in Stapleford.

Bill retrained as a psychotherapist at the Institute of Group Analysis in London and later co-founded the Cambridge Psychotherapy Practice in Newnham Cambridge, where he worked as a group analyst. He had huge compassion. He believed in human rights and fairness and was a long-term supporter of many charities including Amnesty International and Refugee Action.

Bill painted throughout his life and had much success as an artist. His art was greatly influenced by his close friendship with Jim Ede of Kettle's Yard,

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Cambridge, and their shared love of the St. Ives artists, particularly for Bill, abstract painter Ben Nicholson. After moving to Cambridgeshire Bill's art became inspired by the Cambridgeshire Fens: "Even though my paintings do not represent the fens directly, I seek in them the same space, stillness and subtle changes" Bill Lintott 1975. More recently, he has exhibited his paintings at The Old Fire Engine House, Ely and at Stapleford Granary, alongside photographs taken by his son Jeremy.

Bill and Joan shared a deep love of learning. Classical music was a shared passion; they loved attending concerts and were longtime Friends of the Academy of Ancient Music at West Road. Their desire to broaden their horizons included travel, indulging their shared interests in nature and archaeology with trips to many places including Jordan, Yellowstone National Park and the Arctic.

Above all Bill was a family man and at his happiest at family gatherings and parties. He is sadly missed by his family and friends

Bill's funeral service took place in St Andrews Church on 5 May and was followed by a private committal in Cam Valley Crematorium.

Sarah Kelk

Henry VIII's grandmother: the life of Margaret Beaufort



THIS was the first talk to the Society by Stuart Orme and, undoubtedly, not the last. The speaker is currently the Curator of the Cromwell Museum at Huntingdon.

The Beauforts, like many who are interested in their family history (e.g. Danny Dyer in 'Who do you think you are?'), were descended from Edward III. Lady Margaret was born in 1443 and was the only child of John Beaufort, who died before she was one year old. Aristocratic mothers did not bring up their children, so William de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, was granted her wardship which gave him financial control of any land and money she had inherited.

Margaret Beaufort was married four times. At seven she was betrothed to her ward's son, a blatant attempt to enrich the de la Pole family. This union was later annulled and never recognised by Margaret. Her second marriage was to Edmund Tudor when she was twelve, the legally recognised age for marriage at that time. She became a widow at thirteen and, scandalously, gave birth to the future Henry VII after a most difficult and frightening labour which was never to be repeated. Sir Henry Stafford, the

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son of the Duke of Buckingham, was her third husband with whom she enjoyed a peaceful and childless marriage. Her fourth marriage was to Thomas, Lord Stanley, who was significant in helping his stepson seize the throne after the Battle of Bosworth in which Richard III was killed.

Elizabeth Woodville was a contemporary of Margaret Beaufort's. She was the commoner wife of Edward IV and mother of the two Princes in the Tower. The only other commoner to (potentially) achieve this status is Kate Middleton. Margaret Beaufort, equally known to be ambitious for her only son, was actually impeached and falsely accused of being somehow involved in the disappearance/death of the young boys. Their survival would, of course, have blocked her own son's accession to the throne as Henry VII.

Margaret Beaufort was a very wealthy and pious woman. We were shown a portrait of her in a nun-like costume. In reality, the portrait emphasises her wealth first and her piety second. Black cloth was very difficult to make until the end of the sixteenth century when dyeing mixtures improved. Her wealth and piety were instrumental in her achievement of great learning, and she was the first Englishwoman to have her writings printed. She was a great supporter of the development of the printing press. She also founded a theological college here in Cambridge and was a patroness of Queens' College, though not a founder like Margaret of Anjou, Queen of Henry VI, and Elizabeth Woodville, Queen of Edward IV.

Although she was never a queen, she was hugely influential locally and nationally, owning many properties including an enormous palace (now disappeared) at Collyweston, which was her longest place of continued residence. She was one of the great survivors of the Wars of the Roses, one of the most tumultuous periods in English history, and was the founder of the Tudor Dynasty. She died on 29 June 1509, five days after the coronation of her grandson, Henry VIII. Contemporary accounts suggest that she died of food poisoning after eating cygnet at the coronation banquet, but others suggest that she died of grief after the death of her son, Henry VII, in April 1509. **Jane Steadman**



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Lady Maisery + Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith Friday 19 June | 7:30pm

The charismatic supergroup presents WAKEFIRE: An Incantation to Summer — a celebration of midsummer days and effervescent nights.

Dallahan

Saturday 11 July | 7:30pm
Step into Dallahan's genre-spanning world, where Celtic tradition meets exhilarating global influences in a vibrant, high-energy performance.

Matt Ford Trio

Saturday 18 July | 7:30pm
A celebration of three of Frank Sinatra's greatest albums — Matt Ford leads his trio through an evening of swing, elegance and pure musical joy.



2G3S

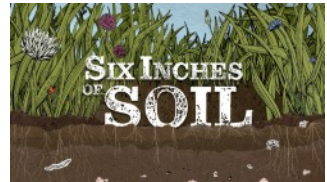


PLANNING meeting – our next one is on Thursday 4 June at 8pm, at Cox’s Close Community Room in Stapleford. Come along and meet us and find out what we’re planning, perhaps suggest something you think we should be looking at.

National Emergency Briefing – I have discussed this event in previous issues, and now a film has been made featuring all the experts talking about an aspect of climate change that is affecting us in the UK right now, and what needs to be done by government and business to help. There have been a number of local showings of the film, and if you want to see it you can do this on Saturday, 6 June, 6pm to 8.30pm, at the NCI Community Centre off Victoria Road in Cambridge (free tickets via EventBrite). Or alternatively on Sunday 5 July, 7pm to 9.30pm, at Haslingfield Village Hall, free tickets available at tickettailor.com/events/haslingfieldandharltonecogroup/2145810.

Dr Bike continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. It is also now running sessions on the last Saturday of every month, same time as on Tuesdays. For more information and to book a slot, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com. It will soon be possible to donate by card as well as by cash.

Stapleford Village Weekend – once again we are showing a film on the Thursday evening, 25 June, at 7pm. ‘Six Inches of Soil’ is a film made in the UK by a production team based in Cambridge and first released in 2024. It features the



inspiring story of British farmers breaking out of the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food – to heal the soil, benefit our health and provide for local communities. We screened this film in Sawston in May last year, and liked it so much we are screening it again. More details of this regenerative kind of farming at sixinchesofsoil.org. There will be an opportunity for discussion after the screening, and we hope to have some local organic food producers/sellers there. A pizza van will be on the Rec from 5pm so you can grab something to eat before the film starts. There will also be a bar, and tickets are on sale via the Stapleford Weekend website.

We plan to have a stall at **Shelford Feast** on Sunday 5 July.

Swift boxes – the group has now installed 20 boxes in Sawston, 16 in Stapleford and 13 in Shelford. Accommodation for martins and swallows has



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been less popular than swifts as they are messier birds. Let's see if swifts visit the new boxes!

Two ways your garden can help wildlife this month:

Hedgehogs – as you probably know, hedgehog numbers have declined sharply in recent years. You can help them by putting out food and by ensuring there are gaps in the fences between you and your neighbours (a 'hedgehog highway'). If you want to find out where hedgehogs have been recorded in your area, go to bighedgehogmap and type in your postcode. The website also gives lots of information about hedgehogs, how to help, and campaigns being run.

Make a Metre Matter – this is a campaign run by 'Gardeners World' magazine encouraging you to dedicate just one square metre of your garden to doing something to help wildlife, a great way to get kids involved. You could for instance plant wildflowers, build a bug hotel, grow vegetables, make a pond, build a compost heap, or plant a tree. Last year 15,532 people registered their metre on the website, and it's hoped they can beat that this year. Register at gardenersworld.com/make-a-metre-matter/pledge-to-win.

VanJarred Refillery – if you want to produce less waste and use less packaging, there is of course the excellent Green Weigh shop in Sawston which has a wide range of dry goods, household cleaners in refillable containers (or take your own), and toiletries to fit the bill. If you struggle to get to Sawston there is now a company running a mobile van service that will come to you. As well as basic food and liquid refills, the van is equipped with herbs and spices, canned goods, soaps, deodorants and other personal care items, plus household products like Ecover Washing Up liquid and natural bleach. You order online at vanjarred.co.uk, and there is no charge for delivery, though the minimum order is £5.

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**

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**: admin@standrewstapleford.org

Stapleford Strollers: Walk 147

Weirs and Woodland: a circular walk from Great Bradley

To get to start of walk

TAKE the A11 to Six Mile Bottom and turn right immediately after the level crossing heading for Brinkley. Just after the pub at Brinkley go right when meeting the B1052, turning left almost immediately afterwards (signed Carlton and Great Bradley). The next road on the left, just out of Brinkley, is signed Great Bradley. Take it and turn right when it meets the B1061. When reaching Great Bradley look out for Hall Road on the left. Park by St Mary's church (CB8 9LT)

Length of walk

A bit longer than usual; this walk is about 5½ miles. It is interesting countryside and, if the Kirtling Brook weir system is in use, that adds value. It is likely to be muddy in winter but it's a good walk to do in summer. (The blue numbers on the map indicate miles walked.)

OS Map

OS Explorer map 210. Use your phone or, if you prefer a free map extract, go on to the hug.net. The route map provided ought to be helpful, too.

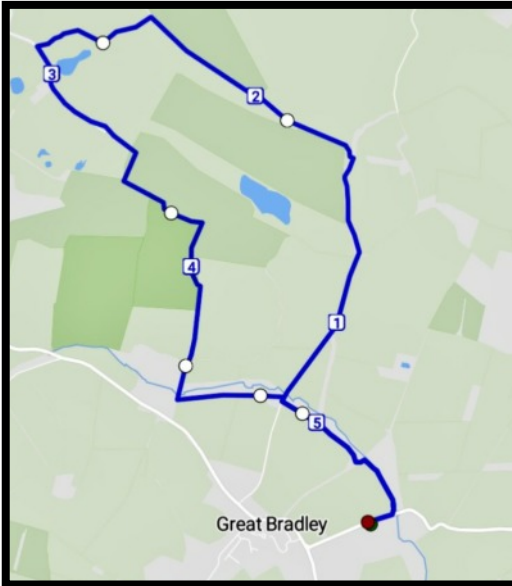
Extra information

Great Bradley is in Suffolk and gets a mention in Domesday Book. There were 14 residents at the time! These days it's just over 400. The name comes from Old English and means 'broad meadow'. Sue Ryder, who is well known for her philanthropy in setting up care homes, originally for survivors of concentration camps, lived in Great Bradley in her childhood - her father owned the local manor. If you need a pub, The Fox, the last one in Great Bradley, closed 40 years ago; however, The Bull at Burrough Green is under 3 miles away.

Route of walk

Park near the church on Hall Road in Great Bradley (CB8 9LT) and, with the church to your back, walk to the right along the road for a short distance. Turn left at a footpath sign just before the bridge across the River Stour and walk along the right hand side of a field. Keep going until a farm access road is reached.

Turn right at this point, ignoring the footpath sign to the left, but cross the river using the bridge and carry on ahead. The access road has ended and the route ahead follows a farm track. Quite soon, to the right, Kirtling



Brook will come into view, with a series of weirs visible. This is part of a system that, periodically, transfers water from the Great Ouse to the River Stour (into which Kirtling Brook flows) and thence to several Essex Reservoirs. The water is not always running, so it may be that Kirtling Brook is a bit of a disappointment, but if it is running it is rather attractive. The weirs on the beck are numbered and at the end of a wood to the left well over a mile from where you joined the track, you will reach weir 12.

At this point turn left over a bridge and follow the path that runs to the right of the wood. The path swings away from the wood after a short time and begins to run along the left hand side of another wood. Just before the end of this wood turn left onto a path, which has a field ditch on the left hand side. Cross a wooden bridge, swing right on the path and, shortly after that, it turns left. This brings you to a minor road.

Turn left and, at the end of the road, carry on ahead through the gateway. Follow the path ahead, which then swings to the right. Shortly after, follow the path as it goes left into the wood. It emerges quite soon, after a couple of gates. Keep the trees to the left, as the path now crosses a pasture, swings to the right and soon passes the end point of the wood.

Now, keeping a hedge to the left, go through a couple of gates and then over a bridge. The path turns sharp right after the bridge with a field ditch to the right. Keep on ahead and cross a stile, walk through a pasture afterwards and then cross another stile, followed by a bridge over the River Stour. Turn sharp left immediately after the bridge and walk through another pasture, with the river to the left, exiting via yet another stile next to Waterfield Barn.

Turn right on the access road and, after about 20m, on the right is the path used at the start of the walk. This leads to the church. Take it and retrace your steps to your vehicle. **David Barnes**

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

Stapleford Weekend & Village Show



25th - 28th June 2026

Stapleford Recreation Ground

What's on:

Thursday 25th June	Magic show, Eco film night, pizza van and bar. 
Friday 26th June	Stapleford Ritz tea, Quiz night with fish & chips. 
Saturday 27th June	Show Day, stalls, live music, dog show and World Cup football.
Sunday 28th June	Bike ride, Church, Cricket and Family film evening. 

Saturday 27th June:

THINGS TO DO:

-  Village Show (Marquee)
-  Community stalls
-  Go karts
-  Inflatables
-  Fairground games
-  Toddler play area
-  Football cage
-  Fire engine
-  Fly past
-  Dog Show 6pm

TO WATCH:

-  1pm Stapleford School Choir
-  2pm Brass Band
-  3pm Sawston Samba Band
-  4:15pm Village show prize giving
-  5pm Ziggy - reggae tribute act
-  6pm Slack McGirdle folk dancers
-  7:15pm POKE - cover band
-  10pm England vs Panama on big screens (in marquee)

TO DRINK:

Stapleford Weekend Bar

- Newly named -
'The Shoe Inn' 
- Mini beer festival 
8 local ales and lagers
- Wines, ciders and soft drinks
Vote for beer of the weekend!


For tickets and to find out
more visit our website:

www.staplefordweekend.com

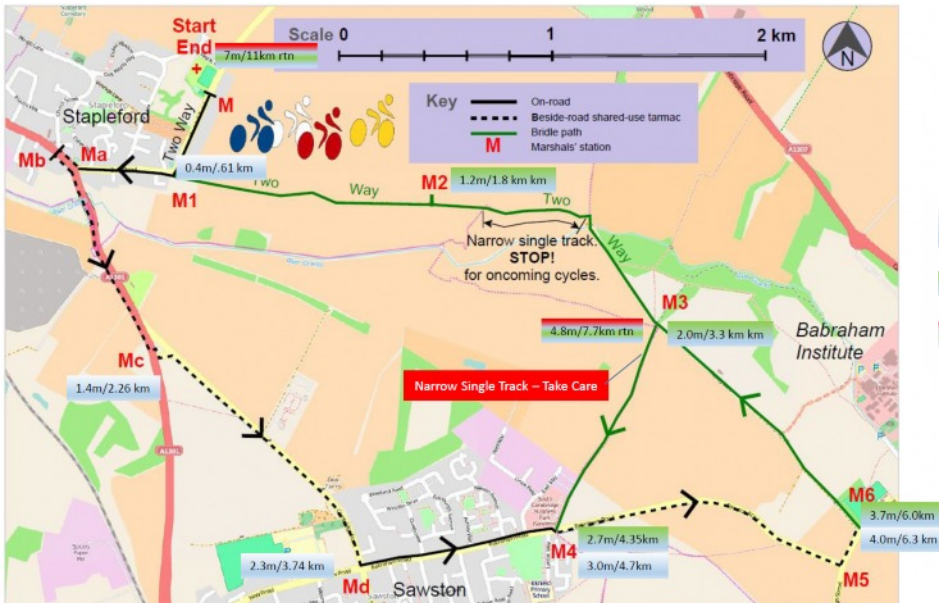
Tour de Stapleford family bike ride

PART of the Village Weekend, the family bike ride will be held on Sunday 28 June at 10am leaving from the Jubilee Pavilion.

Tour de Stapleford was first held in 2014, the year that the Tour de France came to Stapleford. The route uses all the cycleways between Stapleford, Sawston, and Babraham. The ride is suitable for riders of all ages, and all types and sizes of bicycle. The full distance of the course is 7 miles, however shorter routes from as little as 1 mile, 3 miles, and 5 miles are there for those more suited to a shorter distance. The course is marshalled at junctions, so riders can't get lost. A mechanic will be on hand in case of punctures, or other breakdown. Unless in possession of a Bikeability level 2 qualification, participants should be accompanied by parent or guardian if under 16. Dr Bike will be present in front of the Jubilee Pavilion to carry out a free safety check on all bicycles that wish to be checked. Refreshments will be available at the end.

Entry is free, but please register for the event on the village weekend website: staplefordweekend.com, so the organisers know the likely number of participants. **Tom Robinson**

Timetable:	10.15 Grand depart
9.45 Dr Bike opens	11.15 Barbecue
9.50 Signing on opens	12.00 Close



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WE are looking forward to seeing friends, old and new, at the Stapleford Village Weekend Dog Show on Saturday 27 June at 6pm!

Categories include Waggiest Tail, Golden Oldie, Cutest Pup and more. There

will be handsome rosettes to be won and worn with pride, plus other great prizes including a year's free membership of our Paws & People pet health plan for the Best in Show!

More information can be found online at staplefordweekend.com.

We can't wait to see you there!

Patrick, Harriet and all the Church Street Vets team.



National Garden Scheme

Gardens open for charity, Stapleford village gardens

17 Hawthorne Road, 3a Dukes Meadow, 5 Priams Way,
The Stone House, Mingle Lane.

Sunday 28 June, 1pm-5pm



SO much interest in these contrasting gardens. At 17 Hawthorne Rd is a garden on various levels with greenhouses containing a large collection of cacti and succulents. 3A Dukes Meadow is a garden with surprises at each turn. 5 Priams Way there is lots of colour, unusual plants, a pond and playful design. The Stone House has a completely wild garden with very old trees, wildlife feeding stations, a pond and a

mixed woodland area.

Combined entry £6, Children free, Admission tickets for sale at garden gate. Cash only. More information at ngs.org.uk. **Tony Smith**

We're waiting for your story!

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

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The Big Green Week takes place 6-14 June. People come together to take action in their communities for nature and the climate. We will have a display of books to support the Green Week, pop in to find books on how you can get involved and improve your local environment.

Activities for Adults

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

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

Engage Talk: Master of Lies with author Piers Blofeld. Wednesday 24 June at 4pm.

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

Activities for Children

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.

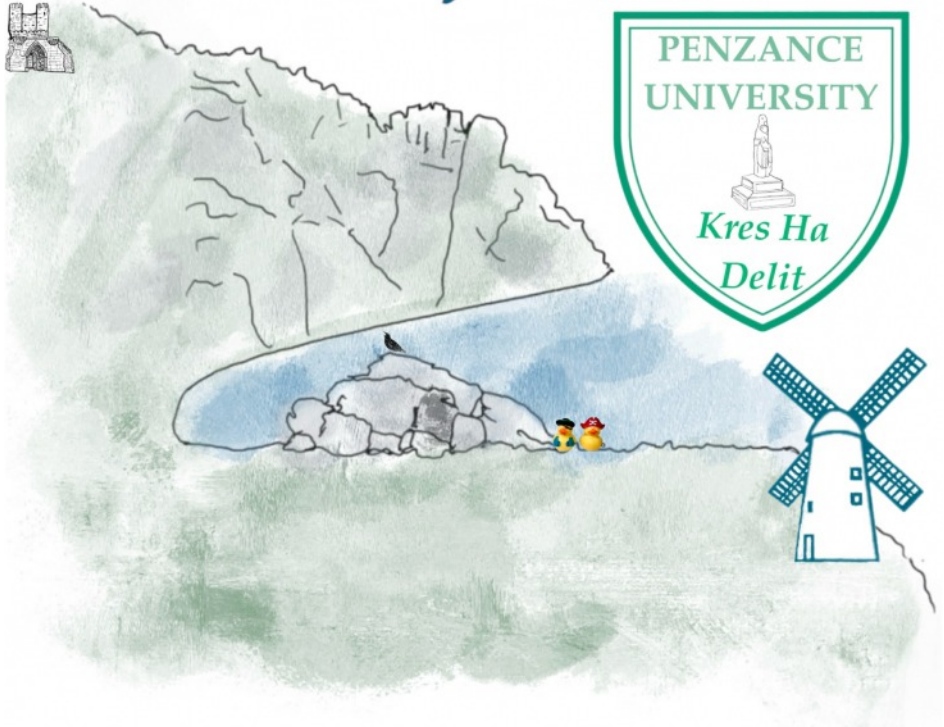
Children's Games and Chess Club: Tuesday's 3.30pm to 4.30pm. No need to book, just drop in to try your hand at chess or other games. Suitable for primary school aged children.

Art Club: Every Saturday morning 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		

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Pirates of Penzance



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Sawston Area u3a: learn, laugh, live



SAWSTON Area u3a currently has around 500 members, drawn from Sawston and the surrounding villages. The only requirement for joining is that you are no longer in full-time employment, have free time on your hands and a zest for life!

With over 50 groups, there are a multitude of activities to choose from, whether your interests be creative, educational, social or sport.

The annual subscription is payable from 1 August and represents excellent value for money with most classes/activities included. Payment of a small additional fee entitles you to join the Theatre and Outings group. This has a varied programme, with recent visits including the Thursford Christmas Spectacular, Sunny Afternoon at Milton Keynes, as well as Starlight Express, Hamilton and Tina in the West End.

Outings are also arranged throughout the year to local places of interest. Previous visits have included Chislehurst Caves, Helmingham Hall Gardens, Burleigh and Hatfield Historic houses and a guided tour of Oxford.

Joining Sawston u3a is a great way to meet like-minded people, make new friends and have fun. So, if you are recently retired, have just moved into the area, or simply have time on your hands, why not give it a go?

For further information on our full range of opportunities, come along to our Summer Meeting on Tuesday 28 July at Ickleton Village Hall from 2pm or visit our website at sawston-area.u3asite.uk. **Martyn Northfield**

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!

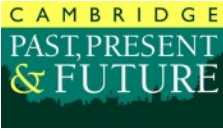
We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except August and December) at 7.30pm in the Johnson Hall, Magog Way

Cost: £10 pp which includes tea/coffee & cake.

For more information contact:

Vanda 01223 561053 or vanda.butler@googlemil.com

Cambridge Nature Festival



CAMBRIDGE Past, Present & Future (CPPF) is proud to announce the return of the Cambridge Nature Festival, now in its fifth year and bigger than ever. Running from Saturday 23 May to Tuesday 30 June, this year's festival features more than 180 events organised by a wide network of partners across Cambridge and beyond.

Led by Cambridge Past, Present & Future on behalf of the Cambridge Nature Network, the festival this year is part of the River CamCAN Project (Climate Action Through Nature), funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. The River CamCAN initiative aims to raise awareness of the challenges facing the River Cam and its tributaries, and to inspire communities to take action.

Building on the record-breaking success of 2025, which saw 160 events attracting audiences across the city, this year's programme offers an even broader range of activities spanning scientific discovery, creative expression, outdoor adventure, and film. Many events are free or low cost, and are designed to be accessible to all ages and interests.

The Cambridge Nature Festival is the public expression of a longer-term ambition: a coordinated effort to restore and connect nature across the Cambridge area. Behind each event sits a simple but urgent idea: the landscapes that shape this region - fens, meadows, waterways, woodlands, and chalk downland - form a delicate and interdependent system whose future depends on collective attention.

Find out more: cambridgenaturenetwork.org/naturefestival



Art exhibition

Original art by

- ▶ **George Meliniotis**
- ▶ **Lucy Winter**

33 Newton Road Cambridge CB2 8AL

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- ▶ Weekend 1 July 4-5
- ▶ Weekend 2 July 11-12
- ▶ Weekend 3 July 18-19
- ▶ Weekend 4 July 25-26

Open 10am to 5pm

Sawston and District Branch



THE Branch meets every month (except December), on the final Wednesday evening of the month 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, listening to fascinating talks and enjoying refreshments. It would be wonderful to see more people attending the Branch meetings – particularly those who live in and around Sawston. In June, the Branch meeting will be on 24 June. Jill Haydon from John Huntingdon's Charity (JHC) will be talking about its history and the work that takes place today by JHC.

Our Branch has been invited to take part in the Rangeford Village's Summer Fayre at Strawberry Fields, Haverhill Road, Stapleford from 1pm onwards on **Saturday, 11 July**. We will have a stall and have organised a band concert with the Newmarket Town Band. Owing to popular demand, there will also be a Drumhead service later in the afternoon, ably assisted by the buglers from the Sawston Youth Group Band. The service will be led by the Revd Matt Lewis of St Andrew's Church. It is a wonderful site and if you have never been, come and see what facilities there are, including their lovely restaurant, which is not just for the residents but is open to the public.

We will also be at the following Air Shows this year: **4 and 5 July, 12 and 13 September**, and **3 October**. We really need to find some new members in order to be able to continue to offer the Remembrance Service and Parade to the village in November in addition to other dates of thanksgiving and recognition through the year – so we will be holding a recruitment drive at the same time.

Ann Barton, Sawston & District Branch Secretary

Shelford support group

Summer break



THIS year the community transport service for the Shelfords and Stapleford will close for two weeks.

We will not be taking any bookings between 27 June and 11 July. **Marjorie Smith**



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Sawston Cinema

The Playboy of the Western World (Rating tbc)

A YOUNG man walks into Pegeen Flaherty's pub claiming that he's killed his father. The killer becomes a local hero and begins to win hearts - until a second man unexpectedly arrives on the scene...

John Millington Synge's riveting play of youth and self-discovery, darkly funny and full to the brim with secrets, is directed by Caitríona McLaughlin. Thursday 4 June, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm), National Theatre Live £10. Running time tbc.

Song Sung Blue Rating (12A)

The inspiring true story of two down-on-their-luck performers who form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams.

Thursday 18 June, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm), £5. Running time 133 minutes.

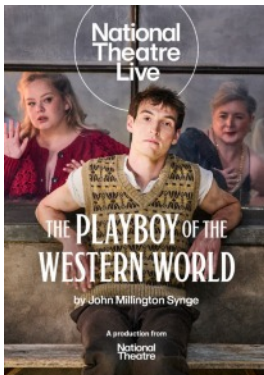
Les Liaisons Dangereuses (Rating 15 tbc)

BAFTA Award-winner Lesley Manville (Phantom Thread) joins Aidan Turner (Rivals) in a striking new staging of Christopher Hampton's celebrated adaptation of the classic novel, where among the glittering salons of the super-rich, one misstep can mean ruin.

Marianne Elliott (Angels in America) directs this thrilling game of love, lies, and social warfare.

Thursday 25 June, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm), National Theatre Live £10. Running time tbc

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



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Shelford Festival & Feast

BELOW is the schedule for the week's events held on Great Shelford rec in the big marquee unless otherwise stated:

Friday	3 July	Pixie Lott + Aine Deane
Saturday	4 July	Beer Festival, 12pm to 5pm Trevor Nelson + Jus' Neil
Sunday	5 July	FEAST DAY
Tuesday	7 July	Sawston Youth Drama (SYD)
Wednesday	8 July	Comedy Night with Milton Jones, Tom Houghton, Jules O'Brien, Rob Rouse
Thursday	9 July	The Big Quiz
Friday	10 July	Big Screen Football
Saturday*	11 July	Summer Concert in St Mary's Church 'Back to the 80s'+ 'What's Next'

Due to the clash with scheduled FIFA World Cup matches when England may (or may not) be playing, we have booked a big screen and the schedule may be subject to some alteration depending on England's progress. All the advertised events will be going ahead but it is worth keeping an eye on shelfordfestival.org for any changes in timing which may occur. The bar will be open when football is being screened.

Volunteers

We urgently need volunteers to run a Festival of this size so please sign up by e-mailing volunteers@shelfordfestival.org

Tickets

Tickets are on sale for all events in local outlets in Great and Little Shelford, Stapleford (The Three Horseshoes) and Sawston and online: shelfordfestival.org. Sarah Coppendale



Puzzle Corner Answers

Village Show words 2

- 3-letter: VOW, VIE, LEV, SEA
- 4-letter: HIVE, OVAL, LEGS, GLIA
- 5-letter: TOTAL, HALVE, VEGAS, GAVEL
- 6-letter: ALLIES, SHEILA, WOLVES, GALOSH
- 7-letter: GALLOWS, ALVEOLI



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What we do



CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is the local branch of the national countryside charity

CPRE, formerly known as the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Our aim is to help protect, enhance and promote the countryside across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough so that it can be enjoyed by both current and future generations.

We campaign nationally and locally for positive solutions to safeguard the long-term future of the countryside. This includes protecting precious green spaces and green belt land, encouraging the reuse of previously developed brownfield sites before greenfield land is built on, and supporting planning policies that help maintain the character of rural communities and landscapes.

A large part of our work focuses on responding to planning and development proposals across the county. Cambridgeshire is one of the fastest-growing areas in the country, and while development is important, we believe it must be balanced with protecting the environment, wildlife habitats and the identity of villages and rural areas. We carefully review planning applications and wider development strategies to ensure the countryside is considered in local decision-making.

We also work to raise awareness of environmental issues that affect people living in both towns and villages. This includes concerns such as littering, traffic pressures, loss of farmland, biodiversity decline and light pollution. Through campaigns, research and community engagement, we encourage practical and sustainable solutions that benefit both residents and nature.

Alongside campaigning work, CPRE supports projects which celebrate and improve the countryside. We encourage walking, access to green spaces and community involvement in caring for local environments. We also work with volunteers, parish councils and local organisations who share an interest in protecting the landscapes that make Cambridgeshire special.

As a charity, much of our work depends on the support of members, volunteers and local communities. Whether someone wants to help through volunteering, supporting campaigns or simply learning more about local environmental issues, we welcome anyone who cares about the future of the countryside.

At CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, we believe the countryside is important not only for wildlife and agriculture, but also for people's

wellbeing, heritage and quality of life. By protecting and enhancing these landscapes today, we hope to ensure they remain valued and enjoyed for generations to come.

To find out more about our work, current campaigns or opportunities to support CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, please see our website cprecambs.org.uk or find us on Facebook and Instagram. **David Slater**

Musical instrument ‘taster morning’



WOULD you (or your child) like to play a musical instrument, but you aren't sure which one? Would you like to try out one or more instruments before making up your mind?

If so, Duxford Saturday Workshop Taster Morning is for you!

At this event experienced tutors and players will help you to have hands-on, practical experience of one or more instruments. They will be available to answer your questions and to help you to decide which instrument is for you.

This is completely free. There is no need to book in advance, and you do not have to be a current member of the Music Workshop to attend - so just come along and have a go!

Of course, if you decide to join us for the next Workshop year (beginning in September) you will be most welcome. If you need an instrument, items can often be borrowed for the year at low cost from our hire stock, meaning that it is possible to gain tuition and experience of playing for a very modest outlay indeed.

Now in its 52nd year of existence, Workshop happens at Duxford School on Saturday mornings during term-time and is very much about enjoying music-making in a supportive and fun environment. All ages, abilities and experience levels are welcome, and we offer both tuition and ensembles, to cater for a wide range of musical tastes and interests.

Instruments included in the Taster Morning are: Violin, Viola, Cello, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Cornet, French horn, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Guitar and Ukulele.

When? Saturday morning 20 June from 11am to 12.30pm.

Where? Duxford Primary School, St John's Street, Duxford CB22 4RA.

For further information, see: duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk

Peter Howarth

District Councillors' report

FARHAN and I, Mark are honoured and privileged to have been elected as the two District Councillors for Shelford ward, covering Great and Little Shelford and Stapleford, in the District elections on 7 May. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Fane and Will Jackson-Wood, the outgoing District Councillors, for their hard work and dedication over the last eight and four years respectively. Will is moving house and Peter is focussing on his County role having been elected as County Councillor last May.



Farhan (left) and Mark (right)

Farhan and I have got straight down to work, taking over 'in flight' casework from Peter and Will and initiating new casework that was collected while we were calling on people over the last few months. Within eight days of taking office, we had attended our first parish council meetings and are looking forward to working with the three parish councils.

Our diaries have been filled with various induction courses for new councillors, including topics such as introductions to the various departments, code of conduct, council meeting procedures and local government reorganisation. Writing this on 14 May, we are looking forward to our first District Council meeting next week.

We thought we'd mention a bit about ourselves by way of introduction. Mark has lived, studied and worked in the Cambridge area for over 40 years and is now retired having spent many years commuting into London where he worked in financial services. He is married with two grown up children and a wonderful granddaughter who recently turned one. He lives nearby in the Abingtons. Farhan is also married and is one of the council's younger members. He runs two businesses on Woollards Lane and lives in Queen Edith's. Greater Cambridge is growing at an unprecedented rate and we are both committed to trying to ensure that the character of the three villages and the surrounding area is preserved

Local Government Reorganisation

At the moment in Cambridgeshire we have both a District Council, responsible for planning, council housing, waste disposal and licensing and a County Council, which is responsible predominantly for adults' and children's social care and highways. The government has decided that

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

Cambridgeshire should move to a single ‘unitary’ authority providing all services. Unitary authorities already exist in other parts of the country. Following recent consultation, we expect the Government’s decision on the boundaries of the new unitary authorities for Cambridgeshire in early summer. There will then be elections for the new unitary authority in May 2027. There will be a one year hand over or ‘shadow’ period, after which the unitary authority will take over the running of services. The District and County councils will cease to exist and District and County Councillors’ terms of office will come to an end.

Please do not hesitate to contact either, or both, of us at:
 cllr.lunn@scambs.gov.uk or cllr.hussain@scambs.gov.uk.
Mark Lunn and Farhan Hussain, District Councillors for Shelford Ward

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Cambridge & District Branch



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 Let's Grow Together

WE look forward to Julian Cooke’s presentation on Thelocactus at our next meeting in Great Shelford Memorial Hall, Wednesday 10 June 7.30pm. All are most welcome. Free parking too.

And if you can’t make it to our monthly evening meetings, why not come to our Summer Cactus and Succulent Show, in Gt. Shelford Memorial Hall on Sunday 9 August, open to the public from 10.30am to 4pm. As well as some prize-winning, outstanding cacti and succulents to view, there will be plant sales, refreshments, and a grand raffle.

Jacqui Arbon, Branch Secretary

Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
2 June	✓	✓	
9 June			✓
16 June	✓	✓	
23 June			✓
30 June	✓	✓	

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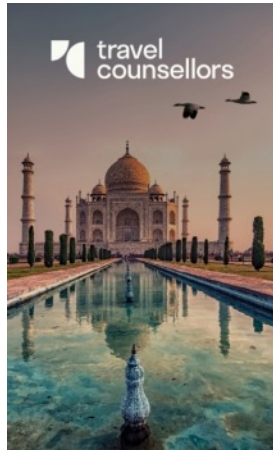
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Chair's report following the Annual Parish Meeting

MEMBERS of the public attended the Annual Parish Meeting and had an opportunity to air their views. Reports from village organisations are available on the Parish Council website.

Sophi Berridge gave an update on the very successful Tree Project and Helen Harwood gave a presentation about Camswift and provision of nestboxes.

This has been a busy and challenging year for the Parish Council. However, for the first time in many years we have our full complement of Parish Councillors which makes the work of the Parish Council easier. Michael Gatward has resigned as Parish Councillor and we thank him for his service, and all councillors for their work and support over the last year. Thank you also to Jenny Flynn and the Neighbourhood Plan steering group. The adopted plan assists the Parish Council with decisions on planning applications. The Parish Council works hard to enhance and preserve our village and none of the work can proceed without the assistance of our Parish Clerk and Financial Officer and our admin assistant, to whom we give thanks. We have a new admin assistant starting in May, Sally-Ann Nixon, replacing Lesley Watts who has retired.

The busway continues to be a problem on the horizon, literally! The public inquiry into the proposal has now been delayed because of the scheme's proximity to a gas pipeline and will take place towards the end of the year or early 2027. The Parish Council is supporting the objection to this project.

An objection has been sent to the planning department registering the Parish's objection to the development of land between Hinton Way and Mingle Lane on the grounds of harm to the green belt, loss of separation between Shelford and Stapleford, traffic and access problems on Mingle Lane, environmental and biodiversity impact, change to the character and landscape of the area and pressure on local services.

The Parish Council's commitment to biodiversity continues with further planting of trees and wild flowers and tree work continues to ensure safety and wellbeing of the trees in public spaces in the village.

The state of the village roads continues to cause problems for safe travel, and the Parish Council continues to bring this to the attention of South Cambs District Council. Lack of funding has meant patching of potholes rather than resurfacing, although resurfacing has taken place on

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London Road, making a big difference to cyclists and motorists alike. Members of the public are encouraged to report potholes, damage to pavements and other safety hazards to SCDC via the Highways website link, although this does not always result in a quick fix as potholes are graded for repair according to their depth and severity.

An accident at Bridge End Cottage brought safety of cyclists and pedestrians en route to and from Sawston into focus and safety measures will be discussed in conjunction with Sawston Parish Council. The Sawston Greenway scheme to improve transport for cyclists and pedestrians is still being discussed, but this particular area is not in the present scheme. Plans include traffic calming along Mingle Lane with several across-road ramps, ramps at junctions in Church Street and improvement of the junction with Church Street and London Road, including relocation of the bus stop. As yet there is no start date for the scheme through our village. An application for a 20mph limit along Haverhill Road has been made as the last application was unsuccessful.



Work has been undertaken in the cemetery, and the area has received compliments. Recent additions have been wildflower planting and several trees in the new cemetery as well as fence repairs. The groundwork contractors are to be commended for their work in the cemetery and around the village, including the new fencing and gates for the children's playground.

Communication with sports and leisure groups in the village is being improved.

Some of you will have noticed that the village sign is absent. This is being repaired and will be reinstated.

By the time you receive your copy of the *Messenger* the initial stage of the pavilion refurbishment will have been completed or will be about to be completed. Apologies are given for any inconvenience to hirers during the work.

The next Parish Council meeting was delayed until Thursday 14 May, because the Parish Council cannot function until four clear days have elapsed following the election. All of your 11 Parish Councillors have been re-elected. Howard Kettel was elected Chair and Rebecca Trigg Vice Chair. Gillian Pett decided to step down from the role. **Gillian Pett**

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Howard Kettel (Chair)

Rosie Brown

Mick Davies

Matthew French

Duncan Kerr

Gillian Pett

Rebecca Trigg (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

Farhan Hussain

cllr.hussain@scambs.gov.uk

Mark Lunn

cllr.lunn@scambs.gov.uk

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

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



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