

Stapleford

Ne Nuntium Necare!

MESSENGER

July 2026

Volume 85 No 7

Price 90p



Wildflowers in Stapleford Cemetery

Photograph by Peter Lister. Read more page 15

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



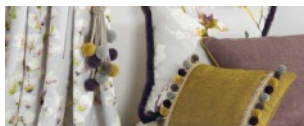
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Who's who at St Andrew's

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

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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

KEMI Badenoch has been writing and speaking about the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Never heard of it? The PSED is in the Equality Act 2010. It requires all public authorities exercising their functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between persons who share a characteristic protected under equality law (such as being disabled) and those who do not. Those running public authorities are not just under the negative duty that binds employers and service providers not to discriminate unlawfully; they have to go a step further and think about the impact of their policies and decisions on equality in society.

Badenoch's first issue is that campaigners and lawyers rely on the PSED in their cases. In those cases the courts have held that for a public authority the substance of the PSED has to be specifically considered on each major issue. Things like the closure of the Independent Living Fund, health policies, criminal justice, immigration policies and more have come under scrutiny in relation to the PSED. So, you think stop and search is a bad policy, or the police response to domestic violence needs improvement? Check out PSED compliance in policy and practice. Don't like the plan to close a library down the road? If there is no PSED assessment, the courts won't make the local authority change the decision, but will tell it to think again, this time properly.

Now, as you would hope, the courts have been pretty sensible. A well-documented, timely, and substantive equality impact assessment by the relevant authority will usually be sufficient to demonstrate compliance. If there is one, the court does not interfere even if its assessment might have been different. If there isn't, the public authority is going to have to do one and re-visit the decision.

But Badenoch's main point is not just the obvious one that significant resources are spent on operating the PSED, but on a more subtle assertion that the existence of the PSED has tended to a fearful and defensive approach, both at policy level and by public sector workers on the ground. The former may be true to an extent, the latter is pretty doubtful. Badenoch went down that individual-effect line because she was, sotto voce, trying to link the PSED to the seemingly crass decision of an individual police officer to handcuff Henry Nowak as he lay dying, because he had been accused by his Sikh assailant of committing a racially aggravated assault. Band-wagon



Badenoch, tagging along behind Farage's toxicity on the Nowak issues, therefore argues that the PSED ought to be abolished, and that society should just rely on the specific prohibitions against discrimination and on the common sense of policy makers, trainers and front-line staff.

It would have been great if she had just focused on the point about policy-making, because it is an important one. Equality impact assessments are time consuming and can be expensive and may produce defensive policy. My take is that there are positive achievements of the PSED in achieving cultural change and broad acceptance of the need to think about equality issues in public policy making; and that is a Good Thing though costly. If, as a society we want to define and combat unlawful discrimination, then a system only composed of prohibitions and individual enforcement seems rather lukewarm. Much better that tax-funded public authorities should make sure that what they do promotes good equality practice.

That at any rate is the issue, and Badenoch has done us all a service by bringing the rather dry topic of the PSED into public consciousness and highlighting difficult decisions ahead.

I was thinking about these things in the same week that we in St Andrew's have been taking our minds back to 50 AD. Around that time the followers of Jesus gathered in Jerusalem to debate issues of race and identity. The problem: the earliest followers of Christ were almost all Jewish, but by 50 AD the spread of the church across Asia Minor meant that the church now included many Gentiles. It is possible that even at this very early stage in the life of the church Jews were in the minority, though still very much in the majority in the senior leadership. So the question arose whether you had to adopt Jewish customs, including circumcision and dietary laws, to be a follower of Christ. There was a very full debate with contributions from all sides considered. They heard evidence of large numbers of Gentiles coming to faith in Jesus Christ and looked to see what scripture taught. Then the Jerusalem Council made the decision that you do not have to adopt Jewish customs to join the Jesus movement. It was a pivotal moment in history. Faith in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection, was the only entry ticket for reconciliation with God, not doing ancillary things in a particular way.

So a clear decision was promulgated, but it had a footnote. The Council instructed all church groups to behave with tolerance and kindness in very specific ways, recognising the concerns of the Jewish groups. So, for example, if eating foods of particular kinds in communal meals was going to

cause offence, it shouldn't happen – not, in the new movement, a religious prohibition, but active care for the sensitivities and beliefs of the minority.

Here, then, is a good pattern of dispute resolution: discussion, hearing all sides, careful consideration of the issues, a clear decision made on evidence and principle, promulgation of the decision in unambiguous fashion, and respect and tolerance for those for whom the decision is going to be difficult. We might pray for such good decision making in relation to the PSED and other areas. May our decisions be as principled and clear, and respect and tolerance abound!

Every blessing, Simon.

St Andrew's Stapleford Messenger Fund

ANOTHER couple of donations to good causes from the *Messenger* Fund to tell you about: £1,500 awarded to the Stapleford PTA to go towards the renovation of the Primary School swimming pool, and £300 to the Stapleford Tennis Club for equipment and facilities that will enable them to compete in local leagues.

That takes the total donations from the surplus generated by the *Messenger* to £20,441 since the fund started seven years ago. Thank you!
Simon Taylor

Music Moments Concerts

FOLLOWING the success of our April concert, we are excited to share that the next Music Moments concert will be on **Saturday 11 July from 6 to 7pm at St Andrew's Church.**

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

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

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



St Andrew's Noticeboard

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>
6 JULY	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
9 JULY	1 PM	LUNCHTIME PRAYER in person & on YouTube
11 JULY	1 pm	DRUM HEAD SERVICE in Strawberry Fields
12 JULY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Acts 17.1-15; Matthew 13.1-9 <i>... of noble character</i>
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH in the churchyard
	6 PM	COME & SING EVENSONG
16 JULY	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION
19 JULY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Acts 18.1-22; Matthew 13.24-30 <i>Keep on speaking</i>
23 JULY	1 PM	LUNCHTIME PRAYER in person & on YouTube
26 JULY	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE 1 Kings 17.1-7 <i>Elijah & the ravens</i>
2 AUG	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY COMMUNION in the churchyard 1 Kings 17.7-16 <i>A Jar & a Jug</i>

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

28 MAY Interment of ashes of MARY ANTCLIFF

St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us!

REHEARSALS
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Contact - Timothy Kwan
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music@standrewstapleford.org



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Stapleford Messenger

Deadline for the August Messenger

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 10 JULY**

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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Appreciation

MARY Antcliff died last December aged 94. Her ashes were scattered in St Andrew's churchyard on 28 May. Her family, including brother Mike and sister Jenny, remember a long life fondly.

For many years Mary hosted our Friday Prayer group at home. In her lifetime good friend Jane Randall was with us. Former district nurses, midwives and more besides, Mary latterly taking on chiropody, vocations chosen well. On Fridays, flowers and foliage selected from the beautiful garden were displayed indoors. Candles awaited lighting. Music favourites were harp, Taize, and singing choirs. We felt united and peaceful. Mary's personality, strong faith and deep-rooted conviction was uplifting. As macular degeneration took hold tasks grew harder. Determination set in. Her heartfelt reflections were sensitive and eloquent. Woven words seamlessly stitched with truth and trust. Devoted rescue dog and companion, Cody, sat with Mary, accepting us all. A witty tribute penned to mark the sad end.



Alert to nurturing nature, Mary liked simple, Iona prayers. David Adam contrasting with Malcolm Guite. We were honoured to know David Thomson, then Bishop of Huntingdon. Wise words encouraged and guided. We discussed the Trinity celebrating Holy Communion in Mary's sitting room. Unique, special and humbling.

We had Bring and Share lunches, if possible outside. A walking frame re-purposed for transporting tasty morsels or antique, mismatched plates. Mary delighted in sharing. Ever inventive. A bell called us to order when we over talked. She listened attentively offering wise counsel. People were a passion. As more help was required company was valued. Friends assisted. Stories at hand, smiles and laughter. Patient, positive, appreciative and hopeful. Mary was content with her lot.

Birds pecked at the feeder, a robin happily hopped into the kitchen. Seasons came and went. Health declined, yet mind and spirit remained strong. We cherish memories. Thank you, Mary, **Judith Lee**

Letters to the Editor

Please include a contact postal address with all correspondence.

From: David Karniely

Re: Wildflower display at the cemetery

A BIG thank you to the creators of this amazingly colourful display at the cemetery.

From: Sallie and Keith Dixon

Re: Wildflowers in the cemetery

WE normally have no reason to visit the cemetery but a friend told us about the wild flowers in the cemetery.

Congratulations to the team which must have worked hard to achieve such a stunning and beautiful display.



Image from Keith Dixon

From: Trish Maude

Re: White Line

DEAR Jane Hall,

Thank you for your letter in the June *Messenger* in which you draw attention to the white line along the kerbside outside the Johnson Hall. You mention that you would rarely benefit from this since your gate is used only occasionally.

However, the white line serves a vital and on-going safe access purpose, as it marks the only dropped kerb linking Gog Magog Way with Mingle Lane, from the dropped kerb on the opposite side of the road, near the Royal Mail post box.

The white line provides not only access and safe passage for mobility scooters, but also for users of wheelchairs, buggies, prams, rollators, running bikes and others who are unable to, or have difficulty in mounting steps.

Prior to the white line my experience was that, when vehicles were parked across the dropped kerb, I would leave my mobility scooter by the post box, walk across the road, climb the kerb, continue round to the entrance to the Johnson Hall, disturb the users, request that the parked vehicle be moved and then retrace my steps back to the scooter.

Another alternative would be to travel on the road and risk collision with vehicles at this busy three-way junction.

I am very grateful for the access to the dropped kerb provided by the white line.

From: Jim Chisholm

Re: White Lines

THERE was a letter in the last *Messenger*. Finding information is never easy, but so called 'H' bars are often used to reinforce the Law about obstructing 'dropped kerbs'.

I found no reference in the local Civil Enforcement rules, but those for Huntingdon state:

'A vehicle must not be parked on the carriageway (road) adjacent to a footway (pavement), cycle track or verge where it has been lowered (or the carriageway raised) to assist pedestrians crossing, or cyclists and motorists entering or leaving the carriageway.

This is subject to the following exceptions, where the vehicle is:

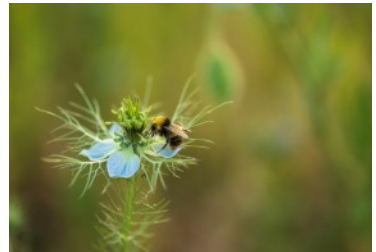
- parked wholly within a designated parking place, therefore permitted
- parked outside premises by or with the consent of the occupier
- one being used by the emergency services
- being used for delivery of heavy goods or loading or unloading to premises
- being used for waste collection or for undertaking works nearby.

The exception for loading is given where a vehicle cannot reasonably be parked anywhere else and is parked for no longer than necessary (no more than 5 minutes).'

White 'H' bars are often used to reinforce the above rules.

I'd expect that if the access to Utility equipment has been obstructed the Utility provider may have requested the lines to aid with compliance. In an area 'full' of yellow lines, or designated parking, it means 'when the gas person cometh', they can park at the end of your drive (with white 'H' markings) and not find a ticket when they've completed their tasks.

It is a system that is not well understood, or well used, but can be beneficial to all.



Stapleford wildflower images; above: Stephanie Foote, left: Keith Taylor

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Joy as the new school uniforms arrive



OVER the years many of you have generously supported the provision of school uniforms for children with special needs in Nachingwea. We have just received these photos from Kevin Bushiri, chair of the Link in Nachingwea and the joyous message below from Siamini Faraja, Head of Special Needs at Nachingwea Primary School. The uniforms are particularly important for these children, as, if they do not have them, they will not attend school and, by wearing the same uniforms as the able-bodied students, they feel a sense of normalcy and belonging. Their pleasure can be seen in their faces.

We have often been asked why the uniforms are not passed on from student to student. This is because the red dust from the soil gets into everything and, after constant hand-washing, the uniforms are worn out by the end of the school year.

Thank you so much for your generosity,
The Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committee
 Siamini writes:

“Thank you so much for the gift of school uniforms for the pupils with special needs. They received them with great joy together with their parents. They were truly delighted and encouraged to receive the new style of uniform that was introduced for all students in 2026. The new look has brought them so much happiness because many of their parents were unable to afford to buy the new uniforms for them. Your kindness has made a real difference in their lives and has brought smiles to both the children and their families.

“May God richly bless you for your hospitality.
Siamini.”



Puzzle Corner

EX-words

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

e.g. 4- and 6-letter words

look after/lengthen

Answer: TEND/EXTEND

4- and 6-letter words

Kia car/surpass

healthy/breathe out

fortified wine/send abroad

6- and 8-letter words

alter/swap

quoting/dramatic

area(s) of land/clarifies

sensitive/added substance

5- and 7-letter words

demand/cry out

pamphlet/remove

enough/illustration

thump/state in detail

7- and 9-letter words

simpler/guide

thoughtful/dear

vehicle/type of fan

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 33

Cambridge Cake Creators



AT last month's meeting one of our members gave a demonstration on making a 'Bride and Groom' topper made using modelling paste.

If you would like to visit one of our meetings, we meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Pavilion from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. £10pp which includes coffee/cake.

We are a friendly group and all abilities are welcome, you just need an interest in baking.

For more information contact: Vanda 561053 or vanda.butler@gmail.com



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Wildflowers continue to flourish

WHAT started as a small project in 2023 has grown into something special for Stapleford.

The Stapleford Wildflower Project began with the planting of four areas around the village, using a mix of annual and perennial wildflowers. The first full bloom in 2024 was amazing, with a spectacular display of colour and all areas full with biodiversity. The success of that first season gave the project the green light to continue and expand for the following year.

Fast forward to the 2026 season, and the project has really taken off. There are now six wildflower areas across the village, including a new trial plot on the recreation ground where different seed mixes are being tested for next year's scheme.

The centrepiece of the project is the new meadow at Stapleford Cemetery.

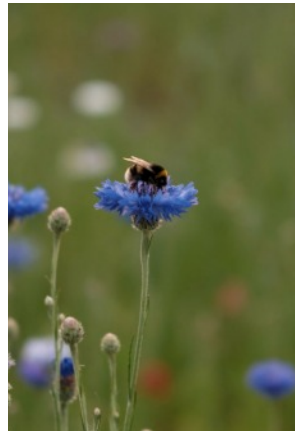
The site was heavily overgrown with brambles and deadwood, with a large mound of excavated soil at the rear. After months of work, clearance and excavation, the area has been transformed into a dedicated wildflower meadow for reflection, now full of wildflower and insects.



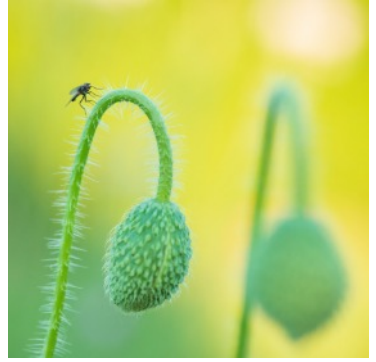
Aerial photo by Matthew French

A winding path now leads visitors through the centre of the meadow, beginning from the existing tarmac path to allow access for everyone. At the bottom of the meadow is a work in progress seating area, surrounded by a circle of young silver birch trees. As these trees mature over the coming years, they will provide a peaceful place for people to sit, reflect and enjoy the wildflowers from a slightly higher up position overlooking the meadow.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to enjoy and photograph the project. It is wonderful to see these areas not only bringing colour and biodiversity to the village but also creating spaces that people can enjoy and relax in. **Matthew French**



*This page - top row: Keith Taylor, bottom row: Grace Harrison Ronge.
Opposite page - top two rows: Stephanie Foote, bottom: Sophi Hart.*



st Andrew
STAPLEFORD

Come and Sing
Evensong

12 July 6 pm

Rehearsal 3.45 pm

refreshments after

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- church for the whole community -

Stapleford WI



MEMBERS gathered for our May meeting to discuss the two resolutions that were due to be debated at the National Federation of Women's Institutes Annual meeting in June. While many people correctly think of the WI as a place for friendship, learning and fun, these discussions are an important reminder of the organisation's long history of campaigning on issues that affect women and communities. Last year we campaigned on Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers and one of our own members, Gillian Pett, organised an instructive evening to promote life saving techniques here in Stapleford.

This year the first resolution we discussed focuses on the provision of accessible, clean, free public toilets which are fundamental to inclusion and wellbeing, especially for women, older people, disabled individuals and carers. Members' support for this was unanimous as our discussion highlighted how many facilities have been closed, and how this affects people's independence and ability to enjoy community life.

The second resolution under discussion concerns the need for action on women's homelessness. This is a situation which encompasses the challenges faced by women experiencing homelessness and the fact that it is often less visible than people realise. There is much to consider, and again members supported the resolution, acknowledging the need for action whilst noting the enormity of the issue.

At the meeting our President, Susan Clark, reported to members on the recent Cambridgeshire Federation Annual meeting which had been held at the new venue of CAST, Robinson Road, Cambridge. The evening was a great success with many stalls and an entertaining, excellent speaker, Adam Frost, who described his career to date.

Our meeting in May was not held at our usual venue due to the renovations being undertaken at the Pavilion and we are very grateful to Strawberry Fields who made us



Catherine Jacobsen (on the left) is presented with her award by the President Susan Clark

extremely welcome. We asked one of their staff, Daniel, to judge the entries for this month's competition. Members had made shortbread and the winner was Catherine Jacobsen who was awarded the Liz Hodgkins tea light holder.

The meeting was an enjoyable evening and a reminder that alongside crafts, speakers and social events, the WI continues to provide opportunities for women to discuss important matters, influence policy, and help bring about positive change. If you would like to join us or find out more about our WI group in Stapleford, you are very welcome to attend one of our meetings as a visitor - we meet at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Pavilion. You can also speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847 who will be happy to provide more information. We also have a website staplefordwi.weebly.com. **Joyce Dobson**

Mothers' Union



THE Branch is looking forward to visiting Strawberry Fields for coffee on the morning of 23 July, thanks to a member who is now living there. It should be a nicely sociable outing.

We are looking forward to the Celebration Service for 150 years of the Mothers' Union in Ely Cathedral on 7 August at 2pm. Mary Sumner Day is on the 9 August. **Hilary Street**



Art exhibition

Original art by

- ▶ **George Meliniotis**
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Open 10am to 5pm

Lady Alwyne Compton

First President of the Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union



MARY Sumner founded the Mothers' Union in 1876: the movement grew rapidly and by 1892 there were 60,000 members in 28


Dioceses, including Ely. At that time, there were four distinct archdeaconries in the Diocese – Bedford, Huntingdon, Sudbury and Ely (which covered the core areas of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely).

The Mothers' Union was made Diocesan in Ely in 1890 with a President and a Diocesan Secretary. The first President of the newly formed Ely MU Diocese was Lady Alwyne Compton, wife of the then Bishop of Ely, Lord Alwyne Compton. She was born Florence Caroline Anderson in 1828, the eldest daughter of Robert Anderson, a Brighton clergyman, and she married Lord Alwyne Compton on 28 August 1850. Lord Compton was consecrated as the Bishop of Ely on 2 February 1886, having been personally nominated by Queen Victoria. In 1894, an MU Diocesan council was formed with representatives from the four Archdeaconries, and under Lady Compton's Presidency, the Diocesan rules were drawn up. The Council met for the first time on 12 October 1895, and thereafter regularly at Scroope House, which belonged to the Clark family, Mrs Clark being a member of the Council in Cambridge. (The house was demolished in 1962 and is now the site of the Department of Engineering). At the first meeting in 1895, it was agreed that the time had come for a Central MU organisation to be formed on the lines of a scheme proposed by Lady Horatia Irskine, an adviser to Queen Victoria. (In 1897, Queen Victoria granted royal patronage to the Mothers' Union during her Diamond Jubilee). There was also discussion at the Council about the nature of reports to be sent in by each parish; it was agreed to look at a form compiled by Winchester Diocese to make it simpler to send in reports. By 1909 the Mothers' Union had become the largest voluntary women's organisation in Britain.

Lady Compton was also a supporter of the arts: she corresponded with Thomas Westwood, a religious poet and bibliographer of angling, whose work was dispersed at his death in 1888.

There is no record of how long Lady Compton remained President of the Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union – she died in 1918, her husband, the Bishop, having predeceased her in 1906. Mary Sumner died on 9 August 1921; Mary Sumner Day has become a Lesser Festival in the Anglican liturgical calendar. **Hilary Street**

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2G3S



MAYBE you saw us at the film evening at Stapleford Village Weekend and our stall at the Shelford Feast. The film showed how vital the health of the six inches of soil we grow our food in is to our future.

Cooling our Homes – you will recall how difficult it was to keep cool in the May heatwave. Cambridge Carbon Footprint and Cambridge Retrofit Hub are running an online session on 30 June on getting your homes ready for heatwaves. We are planning a similar in-person event on **Thursday 16 July at 7pm** at Cox's Close Community Centre. Come along and find out tips on shading, ventilation, insulation, and other ways to avoid being tempted into buying air conditioning – which just adds to your electricity bill and to the climate crisis.

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. 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. Parents of Year 6 children – bring your children after school with their bikes to get prepared for the commute to SVC in September. They can learn simple necessary maintenance jobs from the volunteers.

People's Emergency Briefing – if you missed the previous screenings of this film, there are several more showings, go to [nebriefing/screening-map](#). We may hold a showing in our local area in the autumn. The film shows in a nutshell the various ways climate change is a serious risk to the UK right now, in so many ways – agriculture and food security, the economy and cost of living, national security, floods, droughts, heatwaves (33 degrees in May!!), and of course nature and biodiversity. It calls upon the government and businesses to take action to address this – we can't afford NOT to.

Water – we all know how dry the spring and summer have been, and despite a wet winter we need to conserve this precious resource. The usual advice I've given before will help – collect water in a jug or similar as you run the kitchen tap to get hot (or cold) water and put it on the garden, pour washing up water on the garden, don't water lawns, don't flush the loo every time you use it, have quick showers not deep baths, fit water butts for garden watering, plant drought-tolerant plants, and so on. The principle is to reduce usage, and where possible putting what you do use onto the garden. This means the water drains into the underground aquifer, not the storm drains and rivers (which reduces floods, and hopefully reduces the amount



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of overflow sewage the water companies discharge). Taking this further, if you have a water butt you could open the tap when it rains heavily, so once the butt is full the excess runs onto your garden rather than down the drain, like a kind of leaky dam. To manage very wet periods and very dry periods is tricky, and drainage systems need to become more sustainable – if you are building a house or an extension, have downpipes draining to a soakaway or a ‘rain garden’ rather than straight to the drain; if you install a driveway, it is important to let the water drain into the soil by using permeable surfacing or with a soakaway.

Of course, we all know that to avoid dry taps in the future the water companies need to invest in their infrastructure – sewage treatment plants, new reservoirs, pipelines, and fix leaks, and houses need to be built with grey water systems. But we need to do our bit to cut down our water use and waste.

From Peter Woods (or perhaps his dog?), one of our members: What can your pet do for nature recovery?

As the owner of a lively spaniel I consider myself a responsible dog owner. But news that the government is considering a ban on the sale of over the counter flea and tick treatments, due to concern about the widespread damage to wildlife caused by their use, made me think again. Although I already avoid using treatments applied to the dog’s fur and skin (called ‘topical’ treatments) which can leach out into waterways if the dog goes swimming for example, I have nevertheless signed up with my vet for regular (and expensive) flea and tick treatment, which is probably not needed.

The best advice is that this type of treatment should only be used when necessary rather than preventatively, and the sheer number of dogs and cats who are being routinely dosed with the topical type of flea treatments means that there are detectable and potentially damaging amounts measured in rivers and in birds’ nests.

I would urge all dogs and cats reading this to tell their owners to switch away from topical treatments, and follow best practice in only requesting these type of treatments when actually needed. If they ask you why, tell them it will save them money and help halt the decline in populations of songbirds.

If you are interested in green matters and the environment, send an email to mail2G3S@gmail.com to sign up for our monthly newsletter. We welcome anyone who wants to come 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**

A heartwarming reunion:

Stapleford and Villedômer reconnect



LAST month, 12 members of the Stapleford Twinning Association crossed the Channel to visit our beautiful twin village in the Loire Valley. It was a wonderful four days filled with sunshine, laughter, culture, and the rekindling of long-standing friendships. Our French hosts pulled out all the stops with a fantastic itinerary, kicking off with a lovely

welcome reception and dinner at the Sainte Antonia Village Hall.

Highlights of the Trip

Day 1: Cultural Tours We enjoyed a fascinating excursion to the Fine Arts Museum in Tours to take in the regional art and exhibitions, followed by lunch with our hosts and a scenic visit around the city.

Day 2: Châteaux and Cuisine We explored the majestic Château de L'Islette on the banks of the River Indre, complete with a guided visit by the current owner and a magnificent picnic under the trees in the château grounds. In the evening, we were treated to a delicious group dinner at a local restaurant in



The Chateau de L'Islette

Amboise, sharing the very best of French cuisine and camaraderie.

Day 3: This dedicated free day allowed everyone to explore the beautiful surrounding countryside, shop for local delicacies, or simply relax in the sunshine with their hosts.

After a final morning gathering in the village hall and a spectacular farewell brunch, it was time to say goodbye. We headed home with incredibly warm hearts and a wealth of wonderful memories.

Looking to the Future

The success of this trip is a beautiful reminder of why our twinning association is so vital. Now in its 47th year, it bridges cultures, creates lifelong memories, and reminds us of the deep ties of friendship that exist beyond our borders.



Picnic in the Chateau grounds

Get Involved!

Would you like to know more about the Stapleford Twinning Association or become a member? Please note that you do not need to be a French speaker to join! Visit our website:

twinning.staplefordvillage.org.uk.

Jill Gardner (Deputy Chair of the Twinning Committee)



Farewell photo of the French and English combined group

Shelford Brownies



THE main highlight of this term so far has been a sleepover in Duxford. The Brownies had chosen a panda theme for their time away. As well as making clay pandas, using forks to paint pictures of fluffy pandas and decorating cupcakes as pandas, the Brownies did many other panda-themed activities,

including tasting bamboo shoots (most were not keen!). They learnt lots of amazing things about pandas along the way, e.g. that they have pseud thumbs on their front paws to help them hold bamboo.

Meetings this term have been continuing the Skills for My Future theme with activities on money and shopping, using screwdrivers and hammers to make mini wooden owls, and chopping and grating vegetables to make fajitas. The Brownies have also started a Civil Engineering badge. Towards the end of term there will be a campfire with singing and s'mores and an ice cream hike.

We're always glad of new volunteers for our local Girlguiding units: Rainbows (4 to 7 year olds), Brownies (7 to 10 year olds) and Guides (10 to 14 year olds). We have several units who need qualified leaders or people prepared to do Girlguiding's leadership training. Any 14 to 17 year olds wanting to be young leaders and/or do their DofE volunteering locally are also very welcome. Please contact shelforddistrict@gmail.com. Thank you.

Lisa MacGregor



Stapleford Strollers: Walk 148

County High Points: a walk from Great Chishill

To Get to Start of Walk

THE walk starts from The Pheasant at Great Chishill (SG8 8SR). Parking on the roadside is no problem. To get to the starting point take the A505 past The Imperial War Museum and then turn left at Flint Cross for Barley and Barkway. Take the first left, signed Great Chishill, and drive until reaching the village. Turn right at a T junction and The Pheasant will shortly be seen on the left.

Length of Walk

This walk is almost exactly 5 miles. It is not flat but is not exacting. There are some excellent views. Underfoot conditions should be good for most of the year.

OS Map

Explorer map 194. You can use your smartphone app if you have one or, if you prefer, run off a free map extract from the-hug.net.

Extra Information

The walk takes you from Cambridgeshire into Essex and only just misses out on Hertfordshire. It passes the highest point in both counties. There is more road walking than usual but the traffic is normally very slight. The views are good and Great Chishill windmill is a particular delight: a trestle mill with a superb fantail. There are only 8 such mills in the country.

Route of the Walk

Start with your back to The Pheasant and walk across the road; then go left along the roadside pavement. Just before the old phone box and bus stop, turn left at a footpath sign and walk up the left-hand side of a green area. Pass under some trees and then turn right after a gate into a large pasture field.

Swing left before the hedge line at the end of the field and walk on the grass path until a gate is reached. Go through it and, beyond, exit on to the main road at the entrance to the Village Hall. Cross the main road and walk carefully left, keeping well to the right-hand side of the road. Pass the last of the houses and keep on until, at the top of the rise, a sign for Hall Farm will be seen. Take the track to the right, at this point. A footpath sign is to the left of a wide farm gate (usually shut). Pass the gate and then a large green grain store, ignoring its entrance track.



After about 100m, another farm track diverges to the right and follows the hedge line. Take this and then take the first turn left, heading downhill to the right of a wood. Follow this new track all the way downhill until it meets a very minor road. Turn right on the road and follow it as it swings left and then heads uphill. The tarmac soon gives out and the road, which is still a right of way, now has a surface of loose chippings and gravel. Keep on the road uphill, passing a wood to the left at the top.

Shortly afterwards, a minor road is reached at Killem's Green (a hamlet). Turn right and walk along this lane, going gently uphill. There is usually little traffic but take care. Pass Gypsy Corner Farm after half a mile and, another half mile later, Manor Farm. The road now goes downhill and comes into Little Chishill. The church is to the left and can be reached via a wooden footpath sign but is usually shut. Shortly afterwards, where the road swings left, take the signposted track (with a post box), to the right.

This path has a stony surface and climbs uphill. When things level out, the views surrounding are pretty good. Great Chisholm windmill can be seen to the left: restored and reopened just a few years ago, it is a very impressive structure. When a road is reached, go left and then immediate right at a footpath sign. The grass path ahead crosses a couple of fields and then meets another road: the B1039.

Turn right and walk very carefully alongside it. Turn left after the church on to Heydon Road and walk along the roadside pavement to return 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 route

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Great Shelford Library

IT'S fun, fantastic and free to join - sign up your children for this year's **Summer Reading Challenge** at Great Shelford Library from Saturday 4 July! The theme is **Read to the Beat** and there'll be lots of chances to get creative. The Challenge is designed to keep children reading all summer, with rewards along the way and a medal and certificate for everyone who finishes. We have extra goodies to give away during the challenge. So, come and sign up and enjoy the summer. Reading is good for relaxation, interest and sparking imagination, plus reading through the holidays will help keep important skills in shape during the long break from school.

We will be holding lots of children's events at Great Shelford Library to add to the Summer Reading Challenge fun. In July we have:

Cultivating for change - Thursday 23 July, 2 to 3.30pm, £2 per child.

Come and do some gardening and planting with us. Suitable for ages 4 to 10

Musical crafts - Wednesday 29 July, 2 to 3.15pm, £2 per child. Come

and make some fab musical instruments. Suitable for ages 4 to 10.

For all children's events please pre-book in the library or via

Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Regular Activities during July

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

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

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

Craft and Chat - for adults - every Friday morning 10.30am to 12noon. No need to book.

Tea and Games - for adults - every Friday afternoon 2 to 3.30pm. No need to book.

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		

The Stapleford Community Primary School PTA



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Stapleford Fun Run returns this July

THE much-loved Stapleford Fun Run is back for 2026 and will take place on Sunday 5 July at 10am at the beautiful Magog Down, thanks to the kind permission of the Trustees of the Magog Trust.

Organised by the Stapleford Community Primary School PTA, the event promises a fun and active morning for the whole community. With 1km, 4km and 8km routes to choose from, there is something for all ages and abilities – whether you are a seasoned runner, taking part with your family, or simply coming along to enjoy the atmosphere.

As well as medals for the top three male and female runners in each distance, every runner who crosses the finish line will receive a participant medal. There will also be a prize for the best fancy dress.

This year, all proceeds will go towards the **Big Splash Fund**, which aims to raise £15,000 for essential works and staff training for Stapleford Community Primary School's swimming pool. This will ensure that every child at the school has the chance to take part in swimming lessons over the summer months and learn an important life skill.

To find out more or sign up for the Fun Run, visit staplefordrun.com. If you would like to support the Big Splash Fund, you can also find out more at goodhub.com/go/stapleford-community-primary-school-pta.

A big thank you goes to this year's Fun Run sponsors for their generous support: Wedd Joinery, Strawberry Fields, Redmayne Arnold & Harris, Gympo's, Scotsdales, Shelford & Stapleford Strikers FC, Church Street Vets, TFM Renewables, AcuCert Electrical, The Barn Gym, Thorne Wines, Angelica Fachechi Tennis Coaching, Tayabali & White, The Three Horseshoes and the South Cambridge Striders.

We hope to see you on Sunday 5 July! **Sarah O'Driscoll**

Puzzle Corner Answers

EX-words

(from page 13)

4- and 6-letter: CEED/EXCEED; HALE/EXHALE; PORT/EXPORT

5- and 7-letter: CLAIM/EXCLAIM; TRACT/EXTRACT; AMPLE/EXAMPLE; POUND/EXPOUND

6- and 8-letter: CHANGE/EXCHANGE; CITING/EXCITING; PLAINS/EXPLAINS; TENDER/EXTENDER

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Sawston and District Branch



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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 of our members attending the Branch meetings – particularly those who live in and around Sawston and the surrounding villages. Our next Branch meeting is on Wednesday, 29 July at 7.30pm and our speaker for the evening will be Tim Wreghitt – a Challis House trustee who will be telling us about the history of the High Street and its buildings in Sawston – so come and find out! We have a few events coming up over the next few months:

We have been invited to take part in the Rangeford Village's Summer Fair 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 are there; they are not just for the residents but are open to the public.

We shall also have a stall at each of the following Air Shows this year: **4 and 5 July, 12 and 13 September, Saturday 3 October**. You can find us at Duxford School car park, so come and say hello, especially if you have served in the armed forces at any time.

We really need to find some new members in order to be able to continue to offer the Remembrance Service and Parade to the villages in November, in addition to other dates of thanksgiving and recognition through the year – so we will also be holding a recruitment drive at the same time. Those of us who are getting older cannot continue to do these things year after year without help from those of the community who can spare a little time to keep them going.

In case you wonder what else we do and where any monies that we collect goes we have just received the report on grant making between July

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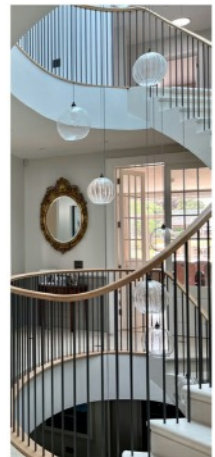
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and September 2025. During this period, Cambridgeshire gave 42 grants to individuals (and their families) who have served this country, to the value of £12,376. The categories are as follows: brown goods, crisis, debt, employment, energy, funerals, housing, immigration, miscellaneous, mobility, medical, and white goods. The total amount for this quarter for the whole of the UK amounted to £2,125,000.

You don't have to be a member to come to our meetings nor indeed to assist us in raising funding, so if you have any spare time, and would like to make new friends and help those in your community who have served and who are in need - please do contact us
 SawstonDistrict.Secretary@rbl.community.

Ann Barton - Sawston and District Branch Secretary

Cambridge Flower Club

Thursday 16 July

Jennifer Thompson 'Let there be Music and Flowers'



Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE on third Thursday at 7.15pm. Refreshments 6.45pm. Annual subscription £45. Visitors £10 each meeting. Raffle of Arrangements after demonstrations. Further information: Alison Drake - 840117.

Bin collection dates this month

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14 July	✓	✓	
21 July			✓
28 July	✓	✓	

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Dogs and swimming

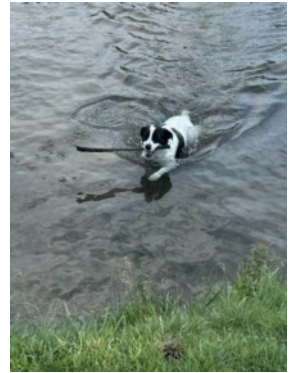


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DOES your dog like swimming? There are plenty of breeds that are real water babies, and even those who are not usually keen might have been tempted during the recent heatwave. Swimming can be lots of fun, provide great exercise for dogs, especially in the warmer weather, and can also be

used therapeutically for older dogs or those recovering after surgery. With summer just around the corner, here are a few top tips to keep you, your dog and wildlife safe whilst swimming.

Dogs need an annual booster vaccination for ongoing protection from various diseases, including leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that is commonly transmitted by contact with the urine of infected animals. Dogs (and people) can contract leptospirosis by swimming in contaminated water. The disease can be passed between dogs and humans and can be serious, and in some cases fatal. We recommend that all dogs are vaccinated against leptospirosis, and young dogs should not swim in lakes and rivers until they are fully vaccinated.



Spot on flea treatments should not be used for dogs who like to swim, as the chemicals can leach into the watercourse and cause harm to wildlife. There are plenty of other treatment options, so ask your vet if you are unsure about suitable parasite protection.

Ideally choose a spot where your dog can get in and out of the water easily. Some people like their dog to wear a harness while swimming so they can help them out of the water. However, harnesses can get heavy while wet, and there is also the risk of them getting caught on underwater debris, so a collar alone might be best if your dog is a fit and confident swimmer and the visibility is poor. There are buoyancy aids for dogs available if your dog is old or a novice or just needs a little extra help staying afloat.

If you fancy swimming with your dog, but are not a fan of outdoor swimming, there are a few local pools that you can hire by the hour. Positive Paws in Comberton offer a secure dog field complete with a swimming pool, whilst Newton Farms in Swaffham Prior offer a heated, indoor pool.

Canine hydrotherapy is controlled, low impact exercise that helps reduce pain and inflammation both post-surgery and for animals with chronic, often age-related conditions such as osteoarthritis. It's also great

Looking for a local venue?



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If you have any questions about dogs and swimming, or any other aspect of pet care, we are always very happy to hear from you!

Patrick, Harriet and all the Church Street Vets team.

Magog Singers

Tuesday 7 July



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

This term we have been singing: Medley from South Pacific, Goodnight Sweetheart, I believe I Can Fly, Steal Away, and Blessed be the God and Father.

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

A cash collection will be taken in aid of charity.

If you are interested in joining the choir please contact:

kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com. **Kathleen Foreman**

Plant sale in aid of the Children's Society

**The
Children's
Society**

THE stall at St Andrew's on 17 May was a great success. We had a great variety of plants including perennials, tomatoes and hostas. Thanks to Scotsdales we were able to offer packs of agapanthus and dahlias. The stall opened at 11.30 and by midday nearly everything had found a home.

Donations reached a grand total of £360. Thank you to everyone who participated.

To find out about the work of The Children's Society in supporting children and teenagers and campaigning on their behalf follow this link: childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do. **Glenda Ferneyhough**



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Sawston Cinema

SOMETHING different this month – two chances to see films the students have made over the year. Admission free, but you need to book.

The Library Project – a Celebration

Monday 13 July 6.30pm. Running time 60 minutes

A series of short films about books, libraries and reading made by Sawston Village College Book Club members in conjunction with Cambridgeshire Libraries as part of the National Year of Reading. Join them to watch the premiere of their films on the big screen!

Film Showcase

Thursday 16 July 7pm. Running time 90 minutes tbc

Join Cinema Club members for their annual Film Showcase and enjoy all the films they have made this year at this wonderful premiere event.

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

British Cactus and Succulent Society - Cambridge and District Branch



BRITISH
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SOCIETY
Let's Grow Together

OUR next meeting is on Wednesday 8 July at Great Shelford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm - 10pm.

Our speaker will be Ian Woolnough, a founder member of the BCSS. He

travels widely in South America, searching for, and cataloguing, cacti in habitat. He always brings to our meetings a large selection of his cacti and succulents for sale, all grown from seed at his cactus nursery near Kings Lynn. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings - just come along, you will be most welcome.

On Sunday 9 August we are holding our Annual Summer Cactus and Succulent Show in Great Shelford Memorial Hall, open to the public from 10.30am to 4pm.

Admission is £2. Children under 15 free entry when accompanied by an adult. As well as some prize winning outstanding cacti and succulents to see, there will be plant sales, refreshments and a raffle.

There's so much more about our Society on our website: bcss.org.uk. It's well worth a browse. **Jacqui Arbon**

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Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan update



HAVING spent several years writing regular updates for our village magazines about the making of our Neighbourhood Plan (NP), being able to watch the monthly copy deadlines go by in 2026 without pressure to contribute has been a bit of a guilty pleasure. However, I thought it worth popping back up from time to time just to remind people that we have a NP in place and to assure all those who supported its development that it is actively being used.

Why we need a neighbourhood plan

It's been 8 months since our NP was formally adopted by South Cambs District Council as part of the statutory development plan. Since then, all decisions about planning applications coming forward in the two parishes should have been made with reference to policies in the National Planning Policy Framework 2024, SCDC's Local Plan 2018, and the Stapleford & Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan. All three of these documents carry equal weight in the decision-making process.

Here's a brief reminder why Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils spent 4 years producing a NP for our area:

- it's the main way that local people can have a stronger voice in planning decisions
- it can shape, rather than stop, development to suit our local needs
- it provides evidence of local priorities
- it helps to protect valued local assets, like green spaces and biodiverse habitats
- it can support environmental sustainability, such as nature recovery and biodiversity enhancement
- it can bring additional funding through a larger share of the community infrastructure levy
- it can create more certainty for residents and developers.

How has it been used so far?

It's too early to properly assess the impact of the Stapleford and Great Shelford NP, but it's certainly:

- helping our parish councils to shape their responses to planning applications

We provide the following services:

- Domiciliary /Care
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- At-Home Respite Care
- Urgent Home Care
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- feeding into the local authority's planning decisions
- being used to support local environmental sustainability projects
- shaping development proposals.

How the parish councils and the local authority use our NP in planning decisions, and whether there is scope for improvement (the introduction of any new process takes time to bed in), merits a full review towards the end of 2026. But there are clear indications that our NP is benefitting local environmental work and having a big influence on larger development proposals.

It was a pleasure to talk to 2G3S (Going Green in the Shelfords, Stapleford and Sawston) earlier this year about how they can support the implementation of the NP through a range of desk-based and hands-on activities, including discussion of biodiverse locations in our parishes that they could help to protect and enhance (e.g. the Clay Pit on Granham's Road). Similarly, it was good to contribute to Stapleford Parish Council's first 'Sustainable Stapleford Advisory Group' meeting. For example, the NP contains a wealth of data and maps on local biodiversity assets, and policies which protect multiple green spaces in the parishes. These planning protections can be exploited to improve the biodiversity of our green spaces and enhance their role in local nature recovery by creating or strengthening links between existing and new habitats. Without protection courtesy of the NP, these spaces would lack security from future development.

Our NP is more than a yardstick against which planning applications are assessed. It has an active role to play in shaping new development before the planning application stage is reached. We've seen this happen locally. In March 2026, developer Nightingale Lane submitted an outline planning application (which establishes the general principle of a proposed development before committing to a fully detailed proposal) for up to 110 homes on arable land behind Mingle Lane, straddling the Stapleford/Great Shelford parish boundary. The developer's proposed affordable housing numbers, property sizes, drainage plan, play spaces, etc, broadly reflect policies in our NP. However, there are aspects of the proposals which fall foul of the NP (e.g. development at the site would deliver a negative biodiversity net gain) and of various NPPF and Local Plan policies (perhaps notably that the site is in the greenbelt), and on these bases the parish councils have objected to the outline planning application. In effect, our NP has narrowed the range of arguments. Whilst it has given the developer greater clarity about what might be acceptable, it has given the community stronger grounds to challenge a scheme where it does not meet locally agreed standards.

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STAPLEFORD GRANARY SUMMER EXHIBITION SHIRLEY BAKER: CHILDREN AT PLAY 11 JUNE - 25 AUGUST

In the middle of the 20th century, 'playing out' was a daily norm and for many children, especially those in cramped terraced houses, the street was a place free from adult intervention where they could create their own games, rules and rituals. These were the scenarios that fascinated Shirley Baker (1932 – 2014), one of Britain's most compelling yet underexposed social documentary photographers, which she captured in tender, playful and candid photographs of post-war street life in Manchester and Salford. Taken during the late afternoon, working fathers are absent, mothers are washing, cleaning and cooking; and children, home from school, are at play. There is a scarcity of toys, but an abundance of invention and adventure, along with a palpable sense of community, solidarity and resilience.

This exhibition consists of 39 vintage gelatin silver and chromogenic prints, taken and hand-printed by Shirley Baker between 1960 and 1973.

Photographs kindly
loaned and selected by
Shirley Baker's daughter,
Nan Levy

FIND OUT MORE

www.staplefordgranary.org.uk



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What's in-coming?

I've already mentioned the need for an end-of-year review of the NP's implementation by our parish councils and local authority. Before that, I'll be representing Stapleford Parish Council at SCDC's Planning Committee meeting in July when it discusses the Mingle Lane proposal. This will be an important test of whether some of our local greenbelt could be redesignated as 'grey belt' land and so could be released for development. There's a large planning application pending for around 120 homes on land rear of Cambridge Road by Shelford Rugby Club. The Stapleford Sustainability Advisory Group is preparing to take its next steps. The Greater Cambridge Development Corporation will get its new powers (and another new name). The Greater Cambridge Local Plan should be gearing up for its final consultation in the summer. And the NPPF will be revised following consultation earlier this year.

Planning is a moving target – policies change, development pressures shift, and today's decisions help to shape tomorrow's community. We're in this for the long run.

Jenny Flynn - Chair, Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

P.S. The NP has a new home. You can view it at greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/30jhf3xz/stapleford-and-great-shelford-neighbourhood-plan.pdf

Arthur's Shed

Chat, Connect, Create

ARTHUR'S Shed is a beautiful studio set in the landscaped garden of Arthur Rank Hospice, based at Shelford Bottom. From here we run wellbeing related workshops, free of charge, to our local community.

Here's what you need to know:

- You do not need a connection to the Hospice; sessions are open to the public and most attendees are local residents
- Sessions are FREE, donations are welcomed but not mandatory
- The maximum in a session is 10 people, most have around 6-8 people
- Access to the Shed is through our Bistro and into the garden, you do not come into clinical areas
- The Shed is wheelchair accessible and disabled toilets are based in the main building

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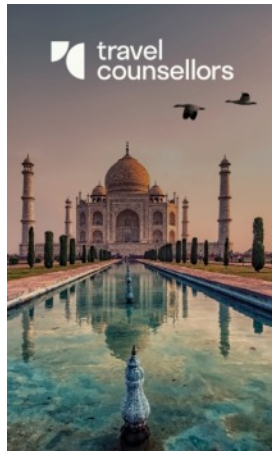
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What's on?

Sessions are primarily led by volunteers who are passionate and experienced (and where appropriate, qualified).

Chair Fit with Sarah - A registered yoga teacher with advanced training in areas relating to trauma and mental health Sarah's chair fit sessions focus on a gentle and supported approach with the intention of improving mobility, strength, tone and confidence.

Astronomy with Peter - Retired from a career in telecommunications engineering and teaching, Peter teaches his sessions on the assumption his guests have no prior knowledge and teaches you a basic understanding of the night sky.

Knitting and Crochet with Suzanne - A keen knitter, Suzanne creates a space for all levels of experience to learn or simply enjoy crochet and knitting. Bring existing projects or patterns you'd like to try or come and learn the basics! Wool and needles provided or you are welcome to bring your own.

Mindful Drawing with Helena - An experienced artist, Helena believes drawing is the foundation for all art. This session is a mixed ability session, more experienced artists are welcome to bring projects; those who are starting from scratch will be taught the basic principles. The session is relaxed and guests are invited to be creative in ways which feel interesting and exciting for them. All materials provided.

Meditation with Daksha - Using guided meditation, breathing exercises and singing bowls Daksha creates an absolute sense of calm and tranquillity. She also shares information about the chakras and how these relate to different areas of the body, for those that find this interesting or beneficial. Listen to Daksha's soothing voice and peaceful music and drift into a sense of deep relaxation. Sessions are primarily seated but guests are welcome to use a yoga mat if they prefer.

Get in touch:

If you have any questions about the space or would like to book it for your own use please contact us at Arthurs.shed@arhc.org.uk /675777 or visit us at: arhc.org.uk/open-to-all/arthurs-shed/. You will be able to find a full calendar of activity on our webpage or email/call us to request a paper copy.

We look forward to seeing you!

Hannah Touhey, Voluntary Services Manager



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District Councillors' report

IN early June, the Government announced the creation of a Development Corporation (DevCo) for Greater Cambridge (Cambridge and South Cambs District). This is vastly larger in geography and population than has ever been seen before anywhere in the UK and will have a profound impact on how planning decisions are made. In simple terms, after a transition period, the DevCo will make decisions on and be responsible for delivery of developments over 250 houses unless it decides to hand the decision to the local authority.

The DevCo will report to the Secretary of State for Housing and will have a board which, by law and design, has a majority of non-politically elected individuals. The Government is moving at pace and the DevCo will be established by 23 July. These changes come at the same time as councils in Cambridgeshire have to plan for the establishment of and transition to new single 'Unitary' authorities.

South Cambs District and City Councils made representation during the consultation process that planning should continue to reside with the councils and elected representatives, citing the record of housing delivery and that the joint planning authority has recently been awarded the title of Best Planning Authority in England. The Council is continuing to talk with the Government to see if it can move the situation into something acceptable to the council and communities based upon the large amount of consultation it has conducted and the responses it has seen to their consultation, most of which align with the council's strongly held views.

At a minimum, that would mean increasing the thresholds for housing by a significant amount and getting assurance that the DevCo will concentrate its resources on sorting out the infrastructure gap that is actually slowing growth of our area. This includes the shortage of water and electricity and the pressure on health, education and transport links.

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

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

Parish Council Chair's report

MINGLE Lane development – The Council will be submitting a further response to the proposed development of up to 110 homes between Hinton Way and Mingle Lane ahead of the South Cambridgeshire Planning Committee meeting in July. The Council is continuing to work with Great Shelford Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan team to ensure local concerns are represented.

Road safety and parking – Councillors discussed proposals to extend the **30mph speed limit** near Bridge End Cottage and introduce village gateway features, working with Sawston Parish Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. Following concerns raised by residents, businesses in Dolphin Way will also be asked to encourage more considerate parking.

Pavilion improvements nearing completion – The programme of minor improvement works at the Pavilion is almost complete, with only a few finishing touches remaining. Further recommendations for future enhancements will be considered at the July meeting.

Pavilion hire charges – The Council agreed that VAT will now be included within the existing Pavilion hire rates, with charges to be reviewed again over the next few months.

Stapleford Weekend preparations – Planning for the Village Weekend is progressing well, with signs now in place ahead of the event at the end of June. The Council looks forward to another successful community celebration.

Supporting local services – The Council approved a **£2,500 grant** to the Stapleford Warden Scheme run by Age UK to support its services for local residents during 2026/27.

Trees and the village environment – Funding was approved for tree works on Haverhill Road to improve visibility and safety, while a longer-term tree survey will help plan future maintenance. The Council also received positive feedback from residents about the wildflowers in the cemetery.

A fresh new look – Councillors agreed to adopt a new, simpler Parish Council logo, which will begin appearing on future communications.

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 2 July**, with meetings continuing on the first Thursday of each month.

Read the full minutes and find out more about Parish Council business at staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk. **Howard Kettel**

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

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Laurence Peter Damary-Homan

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



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