

Stapleford MESSENGER

Ne Nuntium Necare!

September 2026

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Summer in Stapleford



The WI summer barbeque, page 21



Matt Lewis' Ordination, page 11



Royal British Legion drumhead service at Strawberry Fields, page 43

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



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Who's who at St Andrew's

www.standrewstapleford.org

Vicar: Simon Taylor

email: simontaylorstandrews@gmail.com

phone: 840256 or 07970 716163

Churchwarden: Alastair MacGregor

email: armacgregor@ntlworld.com

phone: 843021 or 07855 269844

Curate: Matt Lewis

email: curate@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 07707 166834

Parish Administrator/Johnson Hall enquiries:

email: admin@standrewstapleford.org

Safeguarding Officer: Rob Needle

email: safeguarding@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 844227 or 07877 055934

Director of Music: Tim Kwan

email: music@standrewstapleford.org

phone: 07745 803972

For more Church contacts please see standrewstapleford.org.

SERVICES AT ST ANDREW'S

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

9am BCP or CW Communion

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

6pm Evensong

SERVICES AT OTHER CHURCHES

Our Lady of Lourdes, Sawston (Roman Catholic)

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

Shelford Free Church (Baptist)

Sundays 10.30am

From the Rev Matt Lewis

Being human in an AI age

DID you hear an eccentric billionaire thinks that money won't matter by 2036 because of AI? Allegedly many jobs won't exist as they do today. No specific details of how this happens have been shared. His other predictions have not come to pass, so I'm less worried. Tesla having full autonomy by 2015. No. Tesla running Robotaxis. Still no. What about a self-sustaining colony on Mars by 2050? Probably not. We don't need to put much stock in an eccentric's claim. Although a question arises: what will AI accomplish on our behalf over the next decade?



AI predicts protein shapes, codes data to speed up research, and analyses medical data in x-rays. There are lots of positives. More than I can list here. But our first ever AI minister in cabinet, Kanishka Narayan, suggests the UK has sat out of a tech revolution. Greater engagement with AI development is sure to follow. In fact, it has been reported that Britain plans to triple its data capacity by 2030. Not great news when water resources are becoming scarcer and a hosepipe ban is in place. And a healthy scepticism remains. According to KPMG, 78% of Britons are concerned about the negative outcomes of AI. Thankfully Narayan is realistic about this. Concerns aren't just about jobs, but about how AI will shape the future that future generations will live.

Problems have arisen because of how AI is so easily (mis)used. A rise in fake news and deepfake material exists permanently online. AI has been used accidentally for witness preparation, leading to a retrial. A huge blow for the victim, but thankfully not the end of proceedings. An over-reliance on AI map functions led to the busiest day for rescue operations on the Isle of Skye. The human eye and traditional map reading are a must for the Isle of Skye Way!

Moving beyond real life to science fiction predictions, the film *Mercy* terrifyingly depicts a future where an AI judge decides cases with no jury. The protagonist, played by Chris Pratt, uses his detective skills and imagines the number of possibilities that go beyond what the bare facts seem to indicate. The film hinges on human intuition being greater than anything offered by AI. I imagine if I were in his position I'd be crying out for a judge who is more than only 'fair'. I'd rather know my judge has a greater understanding of humanity. One who has a heart and can imagine. I'd rather

a judge who can do more than process my words as information. People are more than data points.

There's some wonderful poetry about fair judges and judgements relating to what can be seen. The Psalms in the Bible are a particular delight. Find a Bible and go to the middle, you'll find them there. 150 poems, each exploring different aspects of who God is, often from differing human scenarios. Some of these scenarios are deeply distressing; sometimes the poetry breaks out of the confines of politeness to accusation. Cries for a judge who understands humanity stand out as a regular refrain. Each points to God as a result: a judge who does indeed understand humanity.

With regard to AI scepticism, I find myself drawn to Psalm 1, "Happy are those who do not follow wicked advice... their delight is in the law of the Lord." I've certainly been given bad advice before, and even wicked advice in the sense that it was more than patently wrong; it was harmful to others. Our AI can give advice that is patently wrong. *Mercy* depicts a more advanced AI than we have being manipulated. The same is seen in *I Robot*, where an AI becomes wicked. The vintage blockbuster *2001: A Space Odyssey* depicts the AI, HAL, descending into wickedness. Could wicked advice come from our technological advances? These films depict some human fears around AI. To prevent this, we need our humanity intact.

To be human is to do more than understand. We delight in what we experience. Just ponder for a moment what delights there are in life. The enjoyment of ice cream on a hot day. Delight in riding a bike, or walking across the Gogs. Delight in an embrace with family or a close friend. AI can't manage this. Humans can. Psalm 1 speaks of delighting in God's ways. The writer of Psalm 1 has a great delight in living life God's way, rather than a wicked way. The Psalmist goes on to describe how those who meditate on God's ways have deeper roots that anchor their life. A deeper delight than even those listed above.

I'm confident that AI can never replace a human touch. It cannot delight nor imagine as we can. This idea harks back to an idea from Einstein: "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." Similarly, when hiking, the reliance on what can be seen does outweigh what is on a screen. It simply has to. What we see, imagine, and delight in retains our humanity. Not only our knowledge. Human beings are more than data processors.

With the advancements that are promised, we do well to consider what we delight in. As for me, I'll take the Psalmists advice and delight in God. How about you? And do let me know your hopes or concerns for our technologically advancing age. God bless, Matt



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St Andrew's Noticeboard

6 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION 1 Peter 4.7b-11; John 15.1-8 <i>Use your gifts</i>
7 SEPT	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
13 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP Romans 12.1-2; John 15.9-17
	10.30 AM	MESSY FOREST CHURCH In the churchyard
	6 PM	CHORAL EVENSONG Isaiah 52.13-53.12; Ephesians 2.11-22
17 SEPT	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION followed by refreshments
20 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION & CELEBRATION OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP
27 SEPT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE Romans 12.3-5; John 15.18-27 <i>One body</i>
2 OCT	5 PM	EVENSONG with CLARE COLLEGE CHOIR
4 OCT	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30AM	HARVEST FESTIVAL ALL AGE & FAMILY CW COMMUNION Deuteronomy 8.7-18; Luke 12.16-30

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

FROM THE REGISTERS

- 4 JULY Ordination of MATT LEWIS as a priest in Ely Cathedral
- 25 JULY Wedding of ROSIE TAYLOR & JAMES BURMAN
- 31 JULY Interment of ashes of DIANE QUARRIE
- 14 AUGUST Funeral of COLIN TAIT
- 15 AUGUST Interment of ashes of JENNY PINDER

Stapleford Community Warden Service

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

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

(a small weekly fee applies)

For further information call the Warden on



07436 102733 or juliet.hawksworth@ageukcap.org.uk

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Stapleford Messenger

Deadline for the October *Messenger*

Please submit copy **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER**

By email (Word or similar attachment) to staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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Messenger contacts

Editor staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

Advertising stapleford.ads@gmail.com

Subscriptions/Distribution staplefordmessenger@gmail.com

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

Topsy-turvy

WE are experiencing a lengthy phase of disorientation. Mood, temperament and 'get up and go' challenged. The phrase 'topsy-turvy' seems appropriate. Much is due to extreme heat leading to hose pipe bans and now drought. Routine has altered, meaning insecurity, stress and worry. We are tired and drained. Sleepless nights make judgement hard, testing concentration and patience. Rain is desperately needed. Farmers are struggling, livelihoods threatened, price rises inevitable and maybe shortage of food on shelves. Government and fresh leadership may agree to prioritise importance regarding our climate. It would make sense. As it is, parched land stretches far in to the distance. Glorious, gleaming gold. Dust clouds follow harvesters and tractors. Wonderful scenes; wrong times. Seasons are changing. Leaves falling, shrivelled, crisp, crinkled, before autumn. Ripening fruit has no sustenance to mature. Dry land susceptible to fire. Animals and birds unhappy. Records regularly broken, not in our favour. Bees bumble in trouble. Heat is a threat. We need them. Butterflies flutter but fewer species. Skies brilliant blue, pink and purple sunsets with dazzling orange. Beautiful. Dressing lightly, no brollies or waterproofs, instead sun lotion, hats and fans. I'd like to believe we'd rejoice when rain falls and temperatures drop. Air conditioning has offered respite, supermarkets excelling. Cool hubs have opened, our church a welcome space.



Transport has been hot, waiting uncomfortable. Trains achieved a tremendous chill. Wearing heavy uniforms and high visibility jackets must feel exhausting and restrictive for outdoor workers especially. Shadow, shade, sanctuary scarce. Heat health alerts have been issued. I hope puffing runners and cyclists in lycra have taken heed. Comfort and welfare is paramount for carers and the vulnerable.

Anticipation of future events helps. Days out, holidays, meeting with friends. Chatting. Reading, music and board games. Competition, laughter, fun, plus familiar squabbles. Adversity links us in adapting. We share similar troubles and can relate them to others. Grumbles relieve tension, unburdening. We do need to listen back though. Together positivity can be found. Communities rally. Empathy and sympathy builds and supports. Unity becoming an umbrella or parasol of awareness, trust and hope, although we remain 'topsy-turvy.' **Judith Lee**

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Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Celebrate our 45th year of the Link



YOU are warmly invited to a service of Celebration to mark the 45th year of the Link between St Andrew's, Nachingwea, Tanzania and St Andrew's, Stapleford. This will be held on Sunday, 18 October at 10.30am in St Andrew's church. There will be activities for the children and news from

Nachingwea. All are very welcome.

We continue to support girls who have been recommended to us by the Nachingwea Link committee who wish to study A Levels. The top photo shows Irene who is joining the first year of her course and Naima who is in her second and final year. Both are studying a combination of science subjects and are seen here with Irene's father and Naima's mother and the Reverend Phares Lihewe presenting the money which covers their obligatory health insurance.

We have been thanked by the Reverend Phares and the District Medical Officer for money to buy a heavy duty stretcher for the hospital. The lower photo shows the main operating theatre of the hospital.

We are currently trying to increase our support for the hospital as Robert and Liz, who visited Nachingwea last year, found there to be many needs.

If you or anyone you know would like to contribute to medical improvements in Nachingwea, please email us on nachingwealink@standrewstapleford.org. **Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committee**



Mothers' Union



WE have been invited to Balsham MU's service on 15 September, 2.30pm, followed by refreshments.

Hazel Williams, one of the Diocesan Presidents, will be present. Balsham is now a very small branch and would be grateful for any visitors to the service.

We have our own Opening Service on 24 September at 2.30pm in the Johnson Hall. We will start the session for 2026/27, still on the theme 'Join Us and Join In!'.

Mothers' Union celebrations for its 50th anniversary in 1926

1926 saw the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Mothers' Union by Mary Sumner, and the granting of its Royal Charter by George V. In the Ely Deanery at that time, there were 14 branches of the MU (Haddenham, Stuntney, Little Ouse, Wilburton, Sutton, Ely St Mary, Ely Holy Trinity, Mepal, Witcham, Wentworth, Witchford, Downham, Littleport, and Littleport St Matthew - formed in 1926). The Ely Deanery magazine for 1924-27 reports on some of the celebrations.

In 1926, 1,400 members celebrated with a Festival Service in Ely Cathedral on 13 July. Members were allowed to use the Bishop's Palace gardens, the bishop at that time being the Right Revd Leonard White-Thomson, formerly an archdeacon in Westminster. Apparently, it was a very hot day, and the members were afforded 'grateful coolness in the heat'.

Also in 1926, there was a showing of a film about the Mothers' Union in Ely on 6 October at 2pm. The film showed the foundation of the Mothers' Union in 1876; the opening of Mary Sumner House in Tufton Street by HRH Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles (daughter of George V and Queen Mary); the Jubilee celebrations at Westminster Abbey and at Winchester Cathedral (where Mary Sumner is interred); and the MU Pageant at the Albert Hall. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of this film is unknown. There were over 70,000 home branches of the Mothers' Union in 1926. Mary Sumner House was constructed using donations from MU members worldwide, the foundation stone being laid by Louisa Gore-Brown (Mary Sumner's daughter) in July 1923, in the presence of 2,000 MU members. **Hilary Street**



*Mary Sumner House
by Paul Farmer CC BY-SA 2.0*

Matt Lewis ordained Priest



St Andrew
STAPLEFORD

ON the beautiful Saturday afternoon of 4 July Matthew Philip Lewis, known

as Matt, was ordained priest to serve in the benefice of Stapleford. The service was led by Bishop Sarah Clark.

The first hymn was, 'Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.' A pertinent beginning. It led to readings and prayers. The detailed liturgy of ordination followed. Declarations of acceptance were made. The Bishop then turned to the congregation, asking if it was our will that the six individuals be ordained. Our loud response was, "It is." A powerful moment shared by Matt's wife, three children and parents.

After Holy Communion, Bible presentations, blessings and hymns came the 'Sending out.' The organist began playing Pomp and Circumstance composed by Sir Edward Elgar. It was muffled by spontaneous, enthusiastic, hand clapping. Truly joyful. The open west door revealed shimmering sunshine. Outside, Simon our vicar stood with Matt who wore a new stole which I am sure has a story behind it. Stunning in its simplicity. We look forward to working together as Matt pursues his vocation. **Judith Lee**



Little Fishes



*Four of our regulars enjoying a cold treat at the end of the summer term.
Used with permission from their parents*



OVER the last year, our Little Fishes group has grown and grown, sometimes stretching the margins of the Johnson Hall! It has been a delight to gather every Monday morning in term time with so many babies through to pre-schoolers. Each a small treasure, entering the Johnson Hall along with their parents, carers, or grandparents.

During these mornings coffee is consumed, conversations abound, chatter continues. From those learning their first words through to those who can articulate what they are thinking clearly. The wonder of language learning and exploration through play are clear delights for each of the pre-school children that join us.

During the morning, we sing songs and hear stories. We pray together and talk about what is coming up. There is much laughter, joy, and delight. Care is there for the parents, carers, or grandparents as well as the children.

Do you have a young child not yet in school, or do you know someone who does? We will be back every Monday in termtime from 7 September, 9.15 to 11am in the Johnson Hall. For more information contact me or Fiona Holliday, layminister@standrewstapleford.org Come along and say hello. We look forward to meeting you. **Rev Matt Lewis**

Coffee mornings at Cox's Close



MEMBERS of the Stapleford Warden Scheme and local residents have been meeting up at the Monday Coffee Mornings over Spring and Summer to enjoy time together, coffee, cakes and savouries and to catch up with news. The coffee mornings are at Cox's Close and have been running successfully for a year thanks to a start-up donation from The Village Show.

The Warden Scheme (AgeUK Cambridge and Peterborough) in Stapleford is also going from strength to strength with thanks to donations from St Andrew's Church and Stapleford Parish Council.

Volunteers for the warden scheme or the coffee mornings would be most welcome, and of course everyone is welcome to drop in to the coffee mornings, whatever your age!

Our October coffee morning will feature a talk from The Bobby Scheme on home security and scams.

Upcoming coffee mornings at 10.30am to 12.30am in Cox's Close. on September 14, October 12, November 9 and December 14.

We'd love to see you there!

Phone 07436 102733 for more information. **Juliet Hawksworth**

Tell us about your interest

DO you have a general interest (for example, gardening, travel, nature, 'the arts') which our readers might like to hear about? Would you be willing to write an article, or possibly a series of articles, about it? Contact staplefordmessenger@gmail.com and we can tell you how to submit articles, and about our editorial policies for content and length.

St Andrew's Vision Project

What happened here
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- church for the whole community -

Consultation on improving St Andrew's Church for all of Stapleford

ST Andrew's Church is the only church in our growing village. It's a beautiful building in a lovely setting. We want to look after it and develop it to satisfy the village's changing needs. The church will continue to be a focus for Christian worship and celebration. More than that we want it be accessible and inclusive, suitable for events already organised by the church for the community e.g. our growing groups for toddlers (Little Fishes), seniors (JOY), and to encourage participation from people across the village e.g. for music and other community events. We also want to transform the sustainability of the building and to ensure that it fulfils its potential for Stapleford in decades to come.

The PCC (Parochial Church Council) has been thinking about how to adapt the building to enable it to fulfil its potential. We would like to share our preliminary plans with you and to get your feedback. Please come to open evenings at 7:30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 and 9 September to see the plans and tell us what you think.

The preliminary plans encompass:

- Replastering the ceiling in the nave to prevent further plaster falls.
- A new heating system, based on chandelier infrared heaters, to provide comfort, controllability and reliability, and to substantially reduce carbon emissions.
- Better lighting to show off the historic beauty of the building and make it easier for people to see and participate. It will be more sustainable, increase flexibility and simplify maintenance.
- Segmenting the space within the church to suit to smaller meetings.
- Chairs, instead of pews, in the nave (main space in the church) to give greater comfort, safety and flexibility.
- Retaining the beautiful and comfortable pews in the chancel (east end of the church) connecting us to the history of the building.
- New facilities to provide refreshments to make people feel welcome.
- A level-access floor throughout to make it much easier for people in wheelchairs, or people who are unsteady on their feet, to gain access to all parts of the building.
- A fully-accessible toilet in the vestry to make the building more pleasant and accessible.

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- Moving the font to near the main door of the church to make it easier for the families and friends of people being baptised to participate in the service.
- Glass doors to open the view into the church and make it easier and safer to enter the building.

Our aim is that future generations will look back at the changes we make now and be glad that they were done well.

We are keen to hear your views as members of Stapleford community by the end of October. In addition to open evenings, there is a brochure describing the proposed changes. It is available on the church website at standrewstapleford.org/visionproject or as a paper copy in the church porch. We would be glad to hear your feedback through the Google form on the church website, on the paper form at the back of the brochure, or by e-mailing your comments to admin@standrewstapleford.org.

Simon Taylor (Vicar) and **Alastair MacGregor** (Churchwarden)

Stapleford Share Shack

THE Stapleford Share Shack is officially open! (And we even have a Facebook page!)

If you walk through Stapleford allotments and take a bit of time to sit at the chairs on the Community Plot you will see the Share Shack.

We are offering plot-grown produce, home-made goodies and locally made crafts with new things appearing as the seasons go by.

The idea is simple: a space to 'take what you need, leave what you can'. Anyone can share - no need to be an allotment holder - all welcome!

A huge thankyou to everyone who came along to help us celebrate and to all those supporting us so far. **The Community Plot Team.**



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 history of the Granary

How a derelict farm building became a home for 'the culturally curious'



DAVID Martin, the Chair of Little Shelford Historical Society and Trustee of the Granary, gave this talk on 14 July in the classroom of the restored farm building. The talk was supported by photographs by Trevor Barlow who has been crucially involved from the start of the project

alongside Paul Brooke Barnes. The neglected farm buildings of 25 years ago have been transformed into the wonderful and beautiful facilities we now enjoy with special help from local architects, Colin and Toni Moses.

Though the search for the site of Stapleford Manor has never been successful, the Granary was once known as Manor Farm. We know that a large fire, some time around 1870, destroyed virtually everything and Manor Farm was rebuilt as a state of the art Victorian farm with a grain processing complex that was fully functioning until the 1950s.

In 1936 the farm freehold was owned by Corpus Christi College. They changed the name from Manor Farm to Bury Farm in order to avoid confusion in their accounts with another Manor Farm that they already owned. In 2009 Corpus Christi agreed to sell the farm as they needed to fund new student accommodation. The farm was bought by the charity established by Philip Brooke Barnes in 1958.

Philip Brooke Barnes was a missionary who believed in life-long learning and the value and benefits of travel. He had personally visited China, Ethiopia, Libya, India, Denmark, and the Amazon. He founded what we now know as ACE, the Association of Cultural Exchange, which arranges a wide range of cultural holidays from its offices in the Granary. His son Paul took over from his father in 2009 and, with Trevor Barlow, masterminded the conversion of the disused farm into its current glory as a dynamic regional arts centre, employing 50 people and with an annual footfall of about 70,000.

The Granary is sited in the Green Belt and on a flood plain. A small tributary of the Granta, a chalk stream, runs alongside the orchard and the long term aim is to establish a wetland fen. The orchard itself was created in the 1930s to supply apples to the Corpus Christi kitchen. Blue Barrel Cider is now being made with Stapleford apples. It is clear the the future is looking bright for the Granary! **Jane Steadman**

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Stapleford WI



AT our July meeting we heard a fascinating talk from Alison Giles of the Whipple Museum. Alison spoke to us about women scientists and their achievements, giving us plenty to think about and making for a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

The competition for the Janet Smith Rose Bowl was also decided, with congratulations to Carol Lindsell, who was this year's winner with her summer flower table arrangement.

During the business section, members were provided with details of the huge variety of events, activities and outings organised by the Cambridgeshire Federation. Hearing about all that is on offer was a good reminder that there really is something for everyone in the WI, whether your interests are cultural, creative, educational or simply social.



Our own WI is certainly no exception. We have a flourishing book group and craft group, as well as a variety of activities arranged throughout the year in addition to our regular monthly meetings. There is always plenty going on!

And talking of the social side of WI life, the Sunday following our meeting saw our very popular summer barbecue take place. Nearly 40 members and guests gathered together for what proved to be a wonderfully enjoyable and sociable afternoon.

We are extremely grateful to Tony Smith, who generously hosts this much-loved event in his garden and, together with Tony Hore, takes on the important job of barbecuing the meat for everyone. Members provide the salads and desserts, and, as always, there was a tempting array of delicious food to enjoy. A raffle with many excellent prizes was also held, very ably organised by one of our committee members, Jean Hore, who also ensures we are well supplied with a popular and well-stocked raffle at our monthly meetings.

With good food, good company and plenty of conversation, it was a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon — and another reminder that the WI is about so much more than just our monthly meetings. It is about friendship, shared interests and enjoying time together. If you would like to find out more about our group which meets on the fourth Thursday of each

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month in the Pavilion, then please speak to Sallie Dixon on 843847 or look at our website www.staplefordwi.weebly.com

If you would like to attend one of our meetings you are assured of a warm welcome. **Joyce Dobson**

Magog Singers

A SUPPORTIVE audience joined us on a hot summer afternoon to enjoy half an hour of choral singing from The Magog Singers under the direction of John Clenaghan, our musical director with Brian Watkins accompanying. A cash collection in aid of Reach Community project raised £207.27 towards work with the food bank, debt & benefit support, financial education and cookery classes.



The term starts again on Tuesday 15 September when we will be rehearsing some new pieces and arrangements of old favourites - Tears in Heaven, Money Money Money, Little David, Play on Yo' Harp, Sing Me to Heaven, Scots

Nativity, A New Heart.

We meet on Tuesday afternoons at the Stapleford Jubilee Pavilion at 2pm. If you would like to join this SATB community choir, please get in touch with kathleenforeman047@gmail.com. **Kathleen Forman**

Music Moments Concerts

FOLLOWING the success of our July concert, we are excited to share that the next Music Moments concert will be on Saturday 14 November from 6 to 7pm.

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: <https://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**



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The Magog Down Vista

READERS may recall that in the August *Messenger* we featured the installation of a Direction Finder on the Magog Down.

As a follow-up, we are reproducing in two parts, courtesy of the Magog Trust, the article from their website describing what can be seen from the Direction Finder by following the arrows on the disc.

Introduction

Little Trees Hill at 74m is the highest point of Magog Down, part of an undulating chalk ridge to the south of Cambridge, the Gog Magog Hills. The 66 hectares (164 acres) site was formerly arable agricultural land, which was purchased by a newly created company and charity, The Magog Trust, in 1989, whose aim was (and remains) to create a nature reserve for conservation and make the land available for recreation by



Little Trees Hill by Sara Sayer

local residents. Further information about the creation and development of Magog Down is available on the Magog Trust website, especially in the History section - magogtrust.org.uk/about/history.

The three founding Members of The Magog Trust, who are commemorated on the Direction Finder described below, were Colin Davison (Vicar of St Andrew's Church in Stapleford at the time), Christopher South (journalist on Cambridge Evening News) and Joan Barnes (then Chairman of the Stapleford Parish Council).

Many of you will be familiar with Magog Down and appreciate its value to the community and to our many visitors. It provides both a source of recreation for all of us and a place where wildlife can prosper. It is an important site of chalk grassland which is home to some special plants and animals.

As visitors to the Down, we can also appreciate the view of the countryside around us. On a clear day there are many places that we can see and identifying them may lead to a better understanding of this landscape, its geology, archaeology and history as well as the present-day activities that make this area so special.

Direction Finder



Bill French and Pippa Westoby, who engraved the disc of the Direction Finder

In June the Magog Trustees erected a Direction Finder near the top of Little Trees Hill to help identify some of the places that surround us. The details of the Direction Finder are engraved on a disc of Welsh slate set on a sandstone plinth and supporting piers. The Finder shows the direction of the places selected and their distance is marked in miles at the centre of the disc. The neighbouring counties are marked on the rim of the Finder.

We hope that this article and the one that follows will help visitors using the Direction Finder.

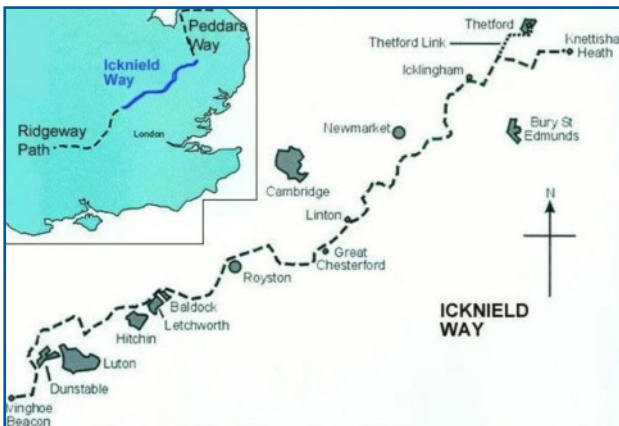
Ancient and modern side-by-side

The places that are shown on the Direction Finder are a sample of landmarks and places of interest. Some may not be seen, especially if visibility is poor. Towards the South you can see

the Hertfordshire hills and the wide and shallow valley between us which has played a very significant role in the history of East Anglia and Great Britain more generally. Historically, the valley has provided a line of communication and a line of defence at different periods over many hundreds of years. The valley also forms part of the Icknield Way, a pre-Roman trackway running from Norfolk to Wiltshire along the chalklands of Southern England. This ancient route permitted the transport of people, livestock, minerals and materials in both directions. For example, the supply

of high-quality flint from Grime's Graves in Norfolk to the rest of the country was a very important trade.

The valley still reveals evidence of attempts by the post-Roman East Anglian tribes to resist onslaught from the Mercian tribes. A series of defensive



ditches across the valley were built at strategic points and at different times. One of these, the so-called Bran Ditch lay between Heydon and Fowlmere. It would have provided a defence of the trackways through the valley, while the heavily wooded hills to the south and the marshy area to the North provided a natural barrier. You can still find the starting point of the ditch in Heydon. More ditches can be found between here and the Norfolk Breckland, namely The Brent ditch near Pampisford, The Fleam Dyke between Fulbourn and Balsham, the Devils Dyke at Newmarket and the lesser-known ditch at Icklingham.

In the second part of this article in October we will move on, going to the west of Heydon and beyond. **Bill French**

Puzzle Corner

EX-words 2

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

quote/arouse

well-formed/skilled

civil wrong/obtain by coercion

6- and 8-letter words

asking/revealing

cared for/lengthy

sounded a bell/praised

luggage carrier/international trader

5- and 7-letter words

media/fast

island/discharge

pretended/inflicted

unadorned/give details

7- and 9-letter words

strain/annex

urged/stated

struck/set forth

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 36

Looking for a local venue?



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one-off events and regular bookings.

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Stapleford community nature recovery initiative



STAPLEFORD Parish Council has taken a positive step towards enhancing the village's natural environment with the creation of the Sustainable Stapleford Advisory Group (SSAG). Bringing together residents, local organisations, businesses, landowners and

environmental experts, the group has begun developing a Community Nature Recovery Plan to protect and restore local biodiversity.

Through a series of workshops, participants celebrated Stapleford's rich natural assets - including its chalk grassland, River Granta and diverse wildlife - while identifying key challenges such as water pollution, intensive farming, development pressures and climate change.

More than 70 ideas for improving nature across the parish were generated, ranging from creating new hedgerows and wildlife corridors to encouraging garden wilding, water conservation, sustainable food initiatives and community pledges for nature-friendly actions. Longer-term ambitions include restoring habitats along the River Granta and exploring major ecological restoration projects. The initiative also supports the Parish Council's statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, working to ensure that Stapleford continues to be a greener, more resilient place for future generations.



BETTER

Enhance the quality of current nature sites through better habitat management.



BIGGER

Increase the size of nature sites to allow wildlife space to thrive and adapt.



MORE

Create new nature sites and more land dedicated to nature recovery.



JOINED UP

Enhance the connections between, or join up, nature sites, either through physical corridors or through habitat 'stepping stones'.

The Lawton principles underpin our approach to improving nature

The group will now refine its priorities, gather further ecological evidence and recruit volunteers to help deliver practical projects; all are welcome to hear more at the next meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 23 September at the Pavilion.

An email address has been set up to allow for interested people to get in touch: sustainablestapleford@gmail.com. **Rosie Brown**

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Stapleford Strollers Walk 150

Bourn free, a circular walk from Bourn

To get to start of walk

Go north on the M11. Turn off at Junction 12 (the Wimpole turn). Go left and then take the first right (B1046) through Barton, Comberton and Toft. Pass Bourn Golf Club and look for a right turn signed Bourn. Take it and go through the village. The entrance to Manor Farm is on the right after a long, high brick wall (CB23 2SH). Go up the entrance road, swing right and pass the huge barn. Park round the corner, near The Stove cafe.

Length of walk

A slightly longer walk than usual: 5½ miles. The going is generally easy, any ups and downs being relatively gentle. There is one large cropped field to be crossed in the latter part of the walk and the farmer does not always reinstate the path route straight away after ploughing.

OS map

The early and final parts of the walk are on OS Explorer map 208 and the middle part on Explorer map 209. It's less hassle to use your smart phone if you have one, or run off a map extract using the-hug.net. The route map provided does much the same job.

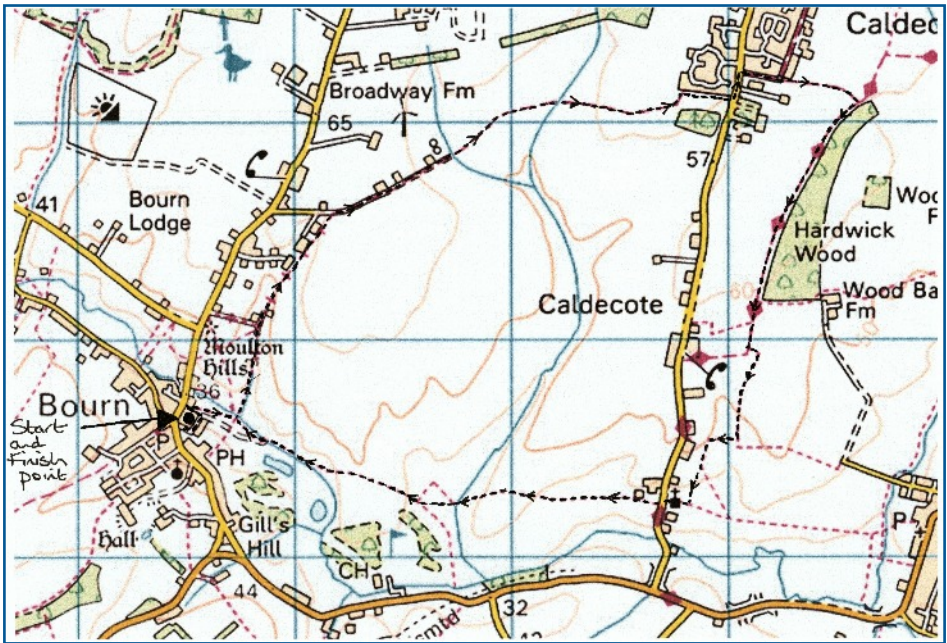
Extra information

The walk starts and ends in Bourn. It is a not-uncommon place name, sometimes a suffix eg. Bassingbourn and often with an 'e' at the end. It means 'place at a spring or stream'. In this case, Bourn Brook runs through the village, joining the Granta at Byron's Pool. In August 2026 the Brook was bone dry.

The village dates back over 1,000 years and, historically, local employment was largely agricultural. It is well known for three things: its World War II airfield which is still used for light aircraft, Bourn Mill a renovated mid-18th century post mill and Bourn Hall Clinic, set up in 1980 which has pioneered research into human fertility problems.

Route of walk

From the starting point at Manor Farm, walk back down the entrance road to Alms Hill and turn immediate right up a signed footpath (Crow End, Caldecote 1½). Pass into a field and follow the path, looking left to spot the footbridge over Bourn Brook which needs to be crossed. After the bridge, go through a metal gate into the field beyond. Walk towards a thatched



cottage ahead, pass to the right of it and exit the field via another metal gate. Turn left on a well-used track under trees.

This track climbs steadily and should be followed for half a mile until it meets a concrete track at a Public Bridleway sign. Go right, soon passing Driftwood Farm on the left. Carry on ahead beyond the Sewage Works, after which the track is no longer concreted. Keep walking for just under a mile until the track meets a main road. Shortly before this point, the edge of a housing estate in Caldecote will be visible to the left.

Cross the road and turn left along the verge next to another Sewage Works! Soon, turn right at a Public Bridleway sign (Hardwick 1½) and follow the track for slightly under ½ mile until meeting a cross track just before a wood. Turn right; the wood to the left is Hardwick Wood: bluebells, oxlips, wood anemones and more in spring.

Keep on ahead after it ends; ignore a path going right but soon after, fork left at a path junction (sign: Footpath Only: No Bikes). Then turn immediate right, walking along the edge of a field and exiting via a footbridge. Walk down the side of the next field. Just before the bottom of the slope, look for a gap in the hedge, with a footbridge. Take this path and walk up the right hand edge of the pasture beyond. Swing left at the top (excellent views), go downhill and exit through a coppice and a metal gate to

the next field. Go downhill, keeping to the right and turn right through a gap when a cross track is reached.

There is a wooden gate into a garden; exit via another gate into a churchyard. Walk to the right of the church and down some steps to meet a road. Cross over and walk up the entrance road to Meunier House. When this swings right, carry on ahead with the hedge line to the left and go through a gate, pass a scrubby area and then walk ahead into a cropped field. Cross the field!!! It is just under ½ mile long.

Keep ahead over a footbridge at the field end and bear left to meet up with another path alongside a tall hedge. Turn right, with the hedge to the left; Bourn Golf Club is behind it. After just under ½ mile swing left over a footbridge, passing two concrete 'lego bricks'. Walk down the right hand side of the field ahead until the road through Bourn is reached. Turn back immediate left into Manor Farm main entrance and 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.

Stapleford Horticultural Society

IN July we received the sad news that our treasurer Colin Tait had died. Colin was the Society's treasurer for more years than we can remember, in addition to which he researched and organised our summer visits programme. All was done with his usual calm and efficiency. We have lost a friend and colleague, and our thoughts are with his family.

Of course, this means that we no longer have a treasurer, without which the Society cannot function. We need to replace Colin as soon as possible so if you think you can help please contact either Sue or myself.

On a more optimistic note, our talks programme resumes on Thursday, 10 September, when Ann Luder will be talking to us on the topic 'Gardening in the Third Age'. She will have plenty of practical tips for the more mature gardener, including some useful gadgets and gizmos. As usual the talk will begin at 7.30pm in the Johnson Hall. Guests paying the meeting fee of £3 are welcome. **John Sherwell**





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Duxford Saturday Workshop



Registered Charity
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IF you would like to learn to play an instrument, play alongside others, or sing in a choir, you're in luck. The Duxford Saturday Workshop is here for you!

The workshop holds group tuition sessions where adults and children from 'year five' onwards, can learn to play an instrument.

There is also a 'junior music group' for children from Year 1 upwards, classes for adult beginners and groups both for 'improvers' and for competent players.

Our members include adults who have always wanted to learn an instrument but haven't had the opportunity, alongside those – so many of us - who 'haven't played for donkeys' years...' but would like to get back to playing music again.

The workshop also has ensembles ranging from recorders, strings, jazz and wind bands to folk fiddlers, ukulele players, guitarists, a community choir and a full orchestra - loads of opportunities for you to join in!

The workshop is all about having fun by learning and performing together in an enjoyable and supportive environment. Registration for the 2026-27 Workshop year is on Saturday 5 September, at Duxford School, St. John's Street, Duxford 10am to 11.30am and term begins two weeks later, on Saturday 19 September. So, if you love music, do come along to see what 'Workshop' can offer you.

Also, if you're keen to learn but don't have an instrument of your own, we have instruments for rental on very reasonable terms so we'll help you out if we can.

For more information, please see the Workshop website,
www.duxfordsaturdayworkshop.org.uk **Peter Howarth**

Cambridge Flower Club

Deborah Bull - 'Memories are made of these'



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Puzzle Corner Answers

EX-words 2

4- and 6-letter: CITE/EXCITE; PERT/EXPERT; TORT/EXTORT

5- and 7-letter: PRESS/EXPRESS; CRETE/EXCRETE; ACTED/EXACTED;
PLAIN/EXPLAIN

6- and 8-letter: POSING/EXPOSING; TENDED/EXTENDED;
TOLLED/EXTOLLED; PORTER/EXPORTER

7- and 9-letter: TENSION/EXTENSION; PRESSED/EXPRESSED;
POUNDED/EXPOUNDED

2G3S



PLANNING meeting – we meet every couple of months to plan our events. Our next meeting is in the community room on Cox's Close, on Thursday 10 September, starting at 8pm. Come along and meet us, we are very friendly, and you are welcome to suggest topics you think we should be looking at.

Repair Café – the next one of these will be on Saturday 19 September at Great Shelford Free Church from 2pm to 5pm. To book a slot go on the CCF (Cambridge Carbon Footprint) website. Our repairers can mend all sorts of things, or at least will be able to tell you if an item can be repaired or not. And there's always tea and cake! And all for a small donation. If you can't make this one, there will be one in Sawston on 21 November.

Don't forget **Dr Bike** continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm-5.30pm every Tuesday and on the last Saturday of every month. For more information and to book a slot, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com. You can donate by card as well as by cash. Bring your children with their bikes to get prepared for the commute to SVC in September; they can learn simple necessary maintenance jobs from the volunteers. In fact, as we always plan to have at least two adults on duty at every session, older children can bring their bike along without needing an accompanying adult.

Heatwaves and how to cool our homes – a more detailed report of the well-attended workshop held in July. Cambridge Retrofit Hub ran the workshop, they are a charitable non-profit organisation, and work to disseminate information about cooling and heating our homes. They also offer for a fee a detailed individual advice service to people who are looking to retrofit their homes. They gave us a comprehensive talk and slideshow, and also had examples of products available and DIY actions we could do.

As you probably know already, the UK climate is set to become warmer, with wet mild winters and hot dry summers. Climate change has made this scenario much more likely. Is this summer going to be the new norm? Our housing stock is poor at keeping us warm and keeping us cool. The workshop looked at ways to cool and shade our homes without having to resort to air conditioning. For maximum cooling, it's important to take action before the heat builds up, not wait till it's 30 degrees outside. There are some easy ways to keep cool

Heat control – shutters, outside blinds, awnings, sails, gazebos, green roofs, large overhangs, trees. NB planning permission is often needed. Shut windows and close curtains in the morning as soon as outside temperature



**CAMBRIDGE
RETROFIT
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KEEP COOL CHECKLIST



First thing in the morning

- ☐ If cool outside, open doors and windows for as long as possible
- ☐ As soon as it starts to get warm outside, close them all and draw your curtains and blinds



During the day

- ☐ Keep doors and windows shut
- ☐ Keep curtains and blinds closed
- ☐ Use external shading: old sheets; parasols; shade cloth; reflective film...

ACT COOL STAY COOL

Use less energy

Avoid cooking

Don't use the oven

Take a cool shower

COOL DAYS

Take a nap / siesta

Eat light, eat later

Drink water regularly

Keep out of the sun

COOL NIGHTS

Use a cold flannel

Cold hot water bottles

Cool sheets in freezer

Use a water spray



In the evening

- ☐ Open windows and doors once it's cooler outside than inside
- ☐ Get a cool breeze from front to back, side to side or down to up
- ☐ Use a fan to keep air moving (they don't cost much to run!)

Find more
information
here:



exceeds the house temperature. Open everything up in the evening and overnight when the outside air is cooler. Solar panels on a roof give a shading effect. Insulate your home on the walls, external or internal. Paint outside walls white. DIY – hang white or pale sheets or car windscreen reflectors on the outside of windows (I can vouch for this first-hand, the window glass doesn't heat up as much), or paint yoghurt or chalk paint on the glass panes to shield from the sun, mop the floor and leave it wet to evaporate and cool the air. Window films, especially on skylights.

Heat reduction – plant trees, deciduous ones will still give you winter light. Climbing plants on outside walls, or 'green' walls. Water features aid evaporation. Ventilation – drying washing inside cools air, opening windows opposite ends of the house to get a draught (when outside air is cooler). If designing a house or extension, have an inner courtyard (think Mediterranean or Moroccan architecture), or plan ridge ventilation in the roof, or think about 'stack ventilation' or 'solar chimneys'.

Fans and in particular ceiling fans got the thumbs up. They are cheap to run, and although they don't actively cool the air they circulate it, which feels more comfy and enables our sweat to evaporate, which cools us down. More extreme fans were discussed, so-called 'swamp cooling'. These have a tank of water and actively cool the air that they blow at you. These are under £100 and can cool a room down by several degrees.

Air conditioning units can be installed, but cost over £2,000 and are expensive to run (unless you install solar panels to run them). They also pump out hot air into the surrounding streets. It was pointed out that if you are considering buying an air source heat pump to heat your house in winter, then buy one that can be reversed in hot weather – then you've got your own air conditioning system – and government grants are available to help offset the costs of installation. If you need to change the radiators to enable efficient heating to happen, there are types of radiators that are extremely efficient at cooling too.

Lots of food for thought, and we were very impressed by the depth of knowledge of the Hub members who came along and ran the workshop – they know their stuff. If anyone is particularly interested, get in touch and we can possibly forward the slides they used.

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**

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Daniel Lebhardt

Wednesday 9 September | 7:45pm

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Consone Sextet

Sunday 20 September | 3:00pm

Landmarks of the string repertoire: Brahms' warm-hearted Sextet in B flat, and Schoenberg's luminous Verklärte Nacht.



Tom Barford Quintet

Wednesday 23 September | 7:45pm

Rising star saxophonist Tom Barford leads a stellar quintet in an evening of bold, high-energy contemporary jazz.



Ensemble Augelletti

Saturday 26 September | 7:45pm

Baroque colour and vitality brought to life in music by Bach, Telemann, Pisendel and Vivaldi.

www.staplefordgranary.org.uk
01223 849004

Tiger On Demand arrives in Stapleford

TIGER on Demand launched in our area in July, providing a new, flexible way to travel around the villages in South Cambridgeshire.

This minibus service works rather like dial-a-ride. It has no fixed route or timetable; instead, passengers pre-book journeys between virtual bus stops within the service zone. Stapleford is in the Tiger 10 zone, which includes destinations such as Great Shelford, Whittlesford and Shepreth. Journeys cannot be made between different Tiger zones (so you can't go into Cambridge, for example).

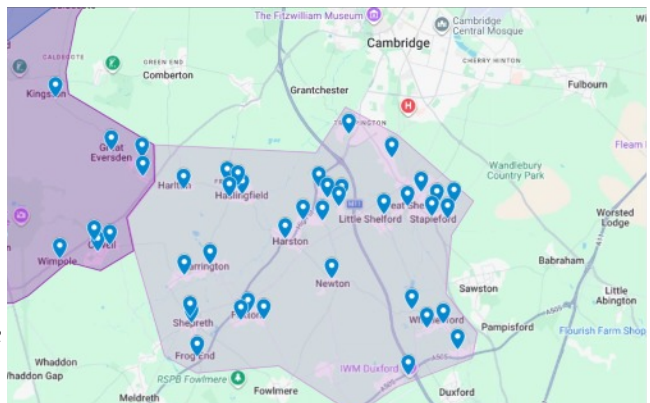
At the time of writing, the Stapleford virtual stops were:

- Gog Magog Way, adjacent to Haverhill Road
- Johnson Memorial Hall
- Bury Road, opposite Greenfield Close
- London Road, opposite Church Street

The service operates Monday to Saturday, from 6.30am to 7pm, with no service on Sundays or bank holidays. Journeys can be booked up to 48 hours in advance using the Tiger On Demand app or at tigerondemand.co.uk. The official Tiger on Demand site includes an interactive map of the current zones and virtual stops, <https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand>

Fares are £2.50 for adults and £1 for children aged 5-16 and Tiger Pass holders. Children under five and eligible concessionary or disability bus-pass holders travel free.

If you need help or would prefer to book by phone, call 01480 595440. The call centre is open Monday to Saturday, from 6am to 7.30pm. Debit or credit card payments can be taken when booking by phone, but drivers cannot accept cash or card payments. **Max Barrett** (Parish Clerk)



Tiger On Demand service zone 10, shaded grey



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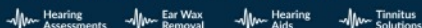
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Royal British Legion

Sawston and district Branch



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

OUR next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 August at 7pm in the Community Centre at Chapelfield Way, Sawston. There is ample parking so anyone, whether they are a current member or not, is welcome to attend and learn about what we get up to and also, of course, learn about what the Royal British Legion does.

We have had a very busy few months which began with a day trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Probably the last time under this name as it will be changed from September 2026 to the 'Royal British Legion Gardens of Remembrance'. It was a beautiful day and the temperature dipped a bit which made it bearable to be outdoors – for which we were extremely grateful.

This was followed by a super day at the Summer Fair at Rangeford Villages site at Strawberry Fields, Stapleford where we had a WW1 display, a grand raffle with some 'grand' prizes and it was capped off by the traditional Drumhead Service accompanied by Northampton Town Band and the Sawston Youth Club Band's buglers. It was a treat for both eyes and ears! We have been invited back next year.

If you want to discover what else we get up to, come to our Garden Party in the beautiful Challis Gardens on 6 September. Look out for posters or ring me on 07898 732307.

Guess who the clergyman was in the final picture – the Rev Matt Lewis from Stapleford! **Ann Barton**



East Anglian Air Ambulance

Fundraising update for a new Cambridge Air Base



EAST Anglian Air Ambulance has raised £2.6 million towards its £8.2 million Cambridge Air Base Appeal, thanks to the generosity of supporters across the region – but still has a long way to go to reach its fundraising target.

The charity is urgently trying to fund the relocation and building of a new air base near Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire to replace its current home at Cambridge Airport, which is due to close before the end of the decade.

The new facility is essential to ensure East Anglian Air Ambulance can continue delivering its 24/7 lifesaving critical care service across Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk for decades to come.

The charity's distinctive yellow helicopters are a familiar sight across the region. Whether responding to serious road collisions, cardiac arrests, or medical emergencies at home or in the workplace, the specialist doctors and critical care paramedics from East Anglian Air Ambulance bring hospital-level treatment directly to patients when every second matters.

Dr Nicola Ebbs, Deputy Medical Director at East Anglian Air Ambulance, said: "We'd like to thank everyone who has donated to the Cambridge Air Base Appeal so far. Together, we've made an incredibly strong start and have been humbled by people's generosity. But this is only the beginning. There's still a significant amount of money to raise. Every donation will help ensure our crews can continue reaching critically ill and injured patients as quickly as possible, when every second counts."

East Anglian Air Ambulance relies entirely on charitable donations to deliver its lifesaving service and aftercare support for patients and their families. To support the Cambridge Air Base Appeal, visit: eaaa.org.uk/cambridge-air-base-appeal **Rachel Hogg**



Gardening with Wildlife in Mind

A talk by Iain Webb of the Wildlife Trust

PRESENTED by South Cambs Organic Gardeners, on Monday 14 September at 7pm in the Cox's Close Community Room. Admission £3

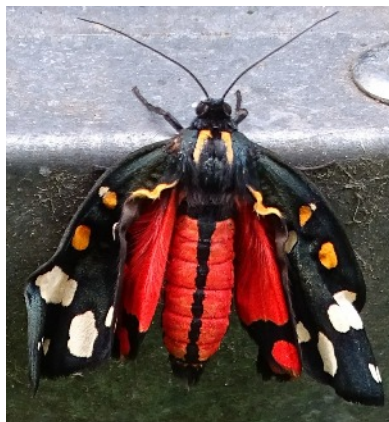
Our other events this autumn

Monday 12 October 'Fungi in an Ever-Changing World', a talk by Dr Ali Ashby, Fungal Biologist.

Monday 9 November 'Food Growing in a Changing Climate', a talk on Zoom by Anton Rosenfeld of Garden Organic.

E-mail helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk for more details, or telephone 840393.

Helen Harwood



British Cactus & Succulent Society

Cambridge & District Branch



BRITISH
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
SOCIETY
Let's Grow Together

AT our next meeting on Wednesday 9 September in the Johnson Hall, we welcome Branch member Paul Hoxey, cacti grower, expert and published author, who is giving a presentation on Cacti of the Caribbean. As usual, all are welcome - you don't need to be a member, just drop in - our meetings are from 7.30pm to 10pm and include refreshments, a raffle as well as cacti and succulents for sale grown by branch members.

The British Cactus & Succulent Society (BCSS) is a charity and aims to promote education, conservation and the growth of cacti and succulents. Our recent National Show at Newark was very well attended with some spectacular plants judged there from all over the U.K. This event was recorded and can be viewed on the BCSS website. Watch this to see some spectacular cacti and succulents. **BCSS Cambridge & district branch**

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Medical detection dogs

Talk and film presented by Friends of Great Shelford Library



SUSIE Bangham from Great Shelford has had her life transformed by having a Medical Detection Dog called Mason (pictured) and both will be attending

the talk. The talk will be given by David Soames and Richard Rigby from the Medical Detection Dogs charity who will also show a film featuring Susie and Mason.

At Great Shelford Library on Tuesday 15 September at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 (Friends £3) available in advance from the library or on the door if space is available.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards. **Sarah Coppendale**



Sawston Cinema

The Misanthrope, (Rating 15)

ALICE, a brilliant novelist, despises the carefully constructed lies of modern society. But the more she challenges those around her, the fiercer the backlash becomes. Soon, she must confront the price of speaking her truth in a world that would rather silence her.

Sandra Oh (Killing Eve) plays the title role in this razor-sharp reimagining of Molière's classic dark comedy. By Martin Crimp, directed by Indhu Rubasingham.

Thursday 24 September, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm). National Theatre Live £10, running time 120 minutes.

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

Hildersham Music Series

Corelli and Company

A CONCERT by members of the Chaos String Quartet (ex BBC New Generation Artists) and Archlute player Sam Brown on Wednesday 30 September at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Hildersham.

Tickets are £20 including refreshments, at the door or from Eventbrite : eventbrite.co.uk then search for Corelli and Company.

Music by Corelli, Vivaldi, Albinoni, Scarlatti, and Tartini's The Devils Trill. Archangelo Corelli (1653-1713) shaped Italian baroque music, inspiring the next generation of violinists and composers whom he taught in Italy and across Europe. Contact huntcam2015@gmail.com **Athene Hunt**



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@gmail.com

Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK
1 September			✓
8 September	✓	✓	
15 September			✓
22 September	✓	✓	
29 September			✓

Granta Medical Practices

OUR 2026 flu clinic dates are as follows:

Date	Surgery	Vaccine Type
26 September 2026	Sawston Medical Centre	Under 16 and pregnant ladies only
Sunday 27 September	Royston Health Centre	Under 16 and pregnant ladies only
Saturday 3 October	Sawston and Shelford Heath Centre	Over 65 years 18 to 64 years*
Sunday 4 October	Linton and Royston Health Centres	Over 65 years 18 to 64 years*
Saturday 10 October	Sawston, Shelford and Barley Surgery	Over 65 years 18 to 64 years*
Saturday 17 October	Linton Health Centre	Over 65 years 18 to 64 years*
Sunday 18 October	Royston Health Centre	Over 65 years 18 to 64 years*
Saturday 24 October	Barley and Sawston	Over 65 years 18 to 64 years*
Saturday 31 October	Royston Health Centre	Over 65 years 18 to 64 years*

If you are a patient registered with Granta Medical Practices an SMS message with a link to book your flu appointment will be sent out shortly. If you do not receive SMS messages or are concerned that you have not received one then please contact our Reception team on 0300 234 5555.

18 to 64 years* please note this group is for those in clinical risk groups only and you will be notified if you fit the criteria. If you believe you are eligible but do not receive an SMS message please contact us.

As a Granta patient you can choose the site you would like to go for your vaccination. If you ring in to book your appointment, please state your age so that you can be booked into the appropriate clinic.

Did you know ... having your flu jab at your doctors' surgery is the quickest and most convenient way as there are no forms to fill out – the doctors and nurses have your medical history at their finger-tips.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact one of our surgeries on 0300 234 5555. **Vicki Collier**

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Great Shelford Library

WELL done to all the children who signed up and completed the Summer Reading Challenge.

It has been a wonderfully busy summer in the library and we have enjoyed hearing about all the books the children have read. **The Summer Reading Challenge awards ceremony** will be held on Monday 21 September at 4.15pm. Please come along if you can. We will keep certificates and medals safe for children who cannot attend the ceremony. All the library staff would also like to thank the Friends of Great Shelford Library who kindly bought extra badges and collectors' cards to give the children during the challenge.

Activities during September.

Engage Talk: – Master of Lies with author Piers Blofeld. The extraordinary and shocking untold story of Anthony Blunt, one of the Cambridge Spies. Wednesday 23 September at **4pm**. £3 per person. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Film and Talk about Medical Detection Dogs – Tuesday 15 September at 7.30pm. Hosted by Friends of Great Shelford Library. £3 for Friends and £5 for Non-Friends. Tickets available in Great Shelford library.

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.

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

Art Club - every Saturday 10.30am to 12noon. Suitable for ages 4 to 10. Drop in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

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

We look forward to welcoming you to the library this autumn. Contact us on 0345 045 5225 or Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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		

District Councillors' report



Mingle Lane Developments

ON the 8 July, the South Cambridgeshire planning committee met and voted unanimously to reject the application for up to 110 houses on land off Mingle Lane.

Farhan and Mark had submitted a written statement in advance in support of the Great Shelford and Stapleford Parish Councils and residents who had objected to the development. Consideration of planning applications has to follow strict rules and planning legislation. In this case, the main argument was that we have a defined housing strategy (the "Local Plan") and a five year housing supply so there was no reason to release the land for development.

Another separate development is now being proposed on adjoining land by a different developer. It is at the 'pre-application' stage, i.e. no formal application has yet been submitted. The proposal is for 400 houses. Changes in national legislation relating to the proximity of the site to the station may have a bearing on the decision making process. The Parish Council is in conversation with us.

Final Consultation on the Local Plan

The consultation on the 'Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan' is open and runs until 5pm on Friday 25 September. This is the final stage of the consultation process and it can be found at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan is the 20-year plan for the Greater Cambridge area (South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge city). It shows where new homes and workplaces could be built over the next 20 years, and how essential community facilities and infrastructure would support this expected growth. Once adopted, the joint Local Plan will become the statutory development plan for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Resurfacing of Cambridge Road

This work should now be complete, we hope you are appreciating the easier driving.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government is moving all local councils across England to a model whereby the services currently provided by the various District Councils across Cambridgeshire (e.g. waste collection) and the services provided by Cambridgeshire County Council (e.g. social care and road maintenance) will all be provided by a number of "Unitary" councils.

In mid-July the government announced the boundaries for the new Unitary Authorities for all areas *except two*: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and West Sussex. The government stated that “further time is required” and to expect a decision “by October”. The delay is incredibly frustrating not only for councillors, but also the staff at councils in Cambridgeshire who were expecting to gain certainty as to their futures.

Ministers also stated that the timeline for these changes remains the same: elections for the new authorities in May 2027 and a “Go Live” on 1 April 2028. The various councils will now have even less time once the decision is made by government to prepare for what will be a challenging set of mergers.

Climate Action

Following the recent record breaking temperatures, we thought it would be good to draw attention to the council's Climate and Nature Strategy. We're taking action, small though it may be in the global order, to do what we can - from solar panels over the car park at the council offices to new electric bin lorries.

You can read more about what we are doing as a council and the full strategy document at scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/climate-and-nature-strategy

For emissions reductions and climate adaptation, we aim to:

- support the district to transition to Net Zero by 2050.
- reduce the council's own estate and operations emissions by 75% by 2030 (from 2018/19 levels).
- ensure communities in South Cambridgeshire are resilient to a 2°C increase in global temperature (from pre-industrial levels).

To support nature protection and enhancement we will:

- ensure that increases in land managed for nature are resilient to future climate impacts.
- prioritise nature-based solutions to tackle climate change .
- work to make sure that increased access to green space is equitable to enhance community health and wellbeing.

So far the council has reduced its emissions by 27% and we are half way to 2030, so there is clearly more work to be done.

Please do not hesitate to contact either or both, of us at:

cllr.lunn@scambs.gov.uk or cllr.hussain@scambs.gov.uk

Farhan Hussain and Mark Lunn

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

Parish Council report



STAPLEFORD Parish Council met on 6 August in the Pavilion.

The Parish Council is backing a proposal to extend the 30mph speed limit on the A1301 from Stapleford towards Sawston. We will also apply for funding towards a gateway on the A1301 on the way into Stapleford from Sawston, creating a sense of arrival in Stapleford and encouraging drivers to reduce their speed.

We are talking to local businesses and local partners to encourage heavy lorries not to travel through residential areas. The Sawston Greenway plan includes traffic calming features in Mingle Lane and Church Street.

Plans for new wildflower planting have progressed. This will improve biodiversity, provide habitats for pollinators and add seasonal colour to the village. We also approved more tree works and a professional tree survey so we can better manage our stock of trees for the future .

The Pavilion Advisory Group is looking into improvements to the Jubilee Pavilion, while we continue to maintain and improve the sports pitches.

The village sign will return soon! The sign is currently being refurbished and repainted.

The Parish Council will next meet in the Pavilion on Thursday 10 September. Residents are always welcome to attend and hear first-hand about issues affecting the village.

Read the full minutes and find out more about the Parish Council on our website staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk **Howard Kettel**

Little Shelford Badminton Club

Our 2026 season starts on 10 September.

We play Thursday evenings at the Little Shelford Memorial Hall; start time is 7.30pm.

First session is free so come along and try us out.

We currently can't take juniors, but hope to and are looking into it (insurance/safeguarding etc.) so if you would be interested, please let us know.

Also as there is only the one court, we cannot teach beginners but, that said, we have a range of abilities.

Contact: James@JamesNewman.org, 07717 394176 **James Newman**

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLORS

Howard Kettel (Chair)

Rosie Brown

Mick Davies

Matthew French

Duncan Kerr

Gillian Pett

Rebecca Trigg (Vice 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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