Stapleford MESSENGER

Ne Nuntium Necare!

November 2026 *Volume 85 No 11* *Price 90p*



Bug hotel on the Stapleford allotments created by Stapleford and Shelford Cubs and Beavers *(see page 41).*

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

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phone: 844227 or 07877 055934

Director of Music: Tim Kwan
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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



ISN'T party conference season a rather wonderful display of wish lists?

The latest, as I write, is Kemi and Co deciding that abolishing inheritance tax on family homes and on the first £1 million in addition to the home is vital for the UK. It would have been nice to pay less tax on my parents' estates, for sure. We would have been better off as a result, though we could hardly be said to be suffering as it is. There already is a generous inheritance tax threshold, but I suppose this might be a vote winner among some of the beneficiaries of the 4-5% of estates that would otherwise be taxed.

The fuel behind the plan is the idea that wealth is held for individuals rather than for the common good. My wealth, so the argument goes, should belong to my family. The BBC estimates it will cost £6 billion a year, so someone is going to have to pay more elsewhere in the system, unless the double nirvana of 'savings elsewhere' and 'growth' come to pass.

Andy and Co are thinking along similar lines. Their ambitious plan for a National Care Service (estimate: £18 billion a year of tax money if entirely state-funded) actually takes the Tory philosophy a step further. Not only is my wealth mine, but it is somehow unreasonable for society to expect me to use it to look after me. Instead, I should be able to look to other taxpayers to pay, so that my wealth devolves intact, subject only to inheritance tax, to my family.

It all got me thinking about wealth, what it is and how we use it.

Have you heard of the Church Urban Fund, a charity which works with local partner groups active in their communities? As part of its work it publishes 'parish deprivation rankings'. There are 12,134 parishes in England. Where do you think Stapleford comes in that list?

Answer: Stapleford is the 14th least deprived parish in England, the fourteenth richest if you prefer. It was, incidentally, 25th when I came here eleven years ago, so it has moved up markedly. But it doesn't feel like it to me. If you wander around Stapleford there are a few very large houses, the vicarage included, but on the whole it is not a place that screams wealth. Well-off prosperity, yes, extreme wealth, no. So how is it so far up the rankings?

The answer is that the data used come from the government's Index of Multiple Deprivation. It does measure income, including child poverty, working age poverty and pensioner poverty. But it also measures the

proportion of the population in work, the educational levels achieved, longevity and the risk of premature death or disability, the quality of indoor and outdoor living environments, physical and financial barriers to housing and local services, and the incidence of crime, including the risks of both personal and material harm. In other words, the stats take a very holistic view of deprivation. I think we instinctively know this is a sensible approach: there are lots of factors that make our lives better, and lots of stuff and some cash in the bank is only part of the picture. We in Stapleford are indeed, as a group, very well off.

Jesus talked about wealth in his well-known parable *The Rich Fool*. The Gospel of Luke, chapter 12 if you want to read it for yourself. Jesus tells a story about a farmer who had a bumper crop, too large for his existing barns. 'I have no place to store my crops' he said. So he decides to build more and bigger barns to store the surplus. Then 'I'll say to myself "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy. Eat, drink and be merry."'

Sounds like a good plan, not all that dissimilar to my own retirement planning. 'But' the story continues 'God said to him "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself."'

Nice story, but what's it about?

Jesus explains. He prefaces it by saying 'life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.' Then he tells the story, climaxing with God calling the farmer a fool, and demanding the return of the life that he had on loan from God. And then Jesus says 'This is how it will be for whoever stores up things for themselves and is not rich towards God.'

The farmer's life and his decision-making are characterised by self-absorption, self-deception and self-indulgence. He makes his decision entirely by himself. No-one else is consulted, let alone God. No thought is given to the effects of his accumulation on others. He kids himself that he has nowhere to store his crops when he already has barns. His aim is a life of ease for himself.

The message? Watch out for these traps, says Jesus. Anyone falling into them will be called a fool by God and their life will be demanded from them.

On behalf of us all, or many of us at least: ouch!

The remedy? Be rich towards God. Now I don't know whether that means Kemi's or Andy's extravagant plans are better, or any other party's for that matter. But I do know that we are meant to use our wealth in service of God and to help others.

Every blessing to you in your planning for the future! Simon

St Andrew's Noticeboard

1 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY Revelation 7.9-17; Matthew 5.1-12 *Blessed are …*
	6 PM	MEMORIAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SOULS' Lamentations 3.17-26, 31-33; 1 Peter 1.3-9
2 NOV	7 PM	MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING
8 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	MESSY CHURCH in the Johnson Hall
	10.45 AM	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE Amos 5.18-24; 1 Timothy 2.1-7
15 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION Malachi 4.1-6; Luke 1.5-25; 39-45 *Women of the New Testament: Elizabeth*
19 NOV	10.30 AM	THIRD THURSDAY MIDWEEK COMMUNION followed by refreshments
22 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	ALL AGE & FAMILY SERVICE on the Feast of Christ the King Matthew 25.31-46
29 NOV	9 AM	BCP COMMUNION
	10.30 AM	CW COMMUNION on the First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 64.1-9; Mark 13.2-37 *Do not remember our sins forever*

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

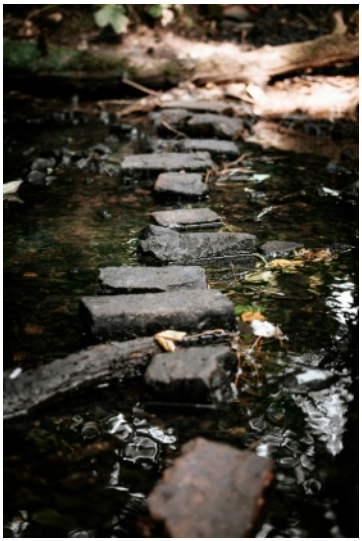
FROM THE REGISTERS

26 SEPT Baptism of MAGGIE BALFOUR
25 OCT Baptism of LUCY HARRIS

Serendipity

A SPLENDID word - fanfare material. The syllables work beautifully together, pleasing on the tongue. Fun; somehow magical. Like abracadabra it seems to be an essential part of a spell. Unpacking is required. Serendipity is a noun. As an adjective it is serendipitous. There again lies charm and strength. It is believed that the English writer Horace Walpole first used the word in a Persian fairy tale entitled, 'The Three Princes of Serendip,' the old name for Sri Lanka. In the story heroes make discoveries. The findings are accidental, unexpected but lucky. Somehow serendipity is always positive, whereas we generally refer to luck as good or bad.

After a strange coincidence, serendipity could gleefully be uttered. A phone number may be rung, but the person being called is trying to contact you at the same time. Perhaps a name pops in your mind. You wonder about them. Suddenly they appear in random circumstances. In Austria a band played. One tune was familiar, 'The Lincolnshire Poacher'. More followed. It was a group from our home town. A long lost friend might be at the same destination. Sometimes I've failed to find a recommended book. Strangely an alternative has been a serendipitous success. Other times little gems may appear. Recently I discovered a stone hollowed out by waves. Tucked away from sight, all sorts find hiding places besides loose change. We remain young at heart, putting away for safe keeping valuable or agreeable things to us alone. Simplicity is being pushed aside. Often best are wise thoughts or meaningful messages written by a greatly admired individual. Uplifting and strengthening. A friend arriving offering practical help at the perfect moment. These are illustrations of the warm positivity of serendipity.



Belongings may be lost or mislaid, searching proving fruitless and finally giving up. Astonishingly they may come to light. Patience rewarded. Being reunited is a joy. Possessions have significance, often too much. Yet sentimentality has merit. The past relived can promote happy memories of days once shared: nostalgia triggering thoughts and emotions. We must not dwell on the past but appreciate it as stepping stones to build and reinforce the future. Occasional serendipities help along the way. **Judith Lee**

St Andrew's Choir - Come and join us !

REHEARSALS
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music@standrewstapleford.org

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Stapleford *Messenger*

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

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IT'S time to renew your *Messenger* subscription if you would like to continue receiving it in 2027. We hope you will!

Annual costs are being held at 2026 prices:

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However we do appreciate that some readers are unable to pay online… Option 2: The **next best option is a cheque**. Cheques should be made payable to Stapleford PCC. Please put cheques in an envelope and send or deliver to:

The Messenger

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You may gather that it was very frustrating last year having sub payments but no idea who they were from! So give us the first line of your address!

We look forward to delivering village news and info to you through 2027! **The Stapleford *Messenger* Team**


St Andrew
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St Andrew's Church
Mingle Lane
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CB22 5SY
Memorial Evensong
for All Souls'
Sunday 1 November 6 pm
come to remember those you have loved & lost

Memorial service at St Andrew's

A HEADS up for our annual memorial service for All Souls on Sunday 1 November at 6pm. This will be a wonderful Choral Evensong at which, amidst wonderful music and readings we will read out the names of those we have loved and lost and wish to remember. It is always a hugely moving occasion. Everyone is invited, with refreshments afterwards.

If you would like your loved one remembered, please get in touch with Elspeth, our St Andrew's administrator, on admin@standrewstapleford.org. She will add names to the list. **Simon Taylor**

Friends of St Andrew's

THE Friends of St Andrew's is a charity independent of the church which exists to raise funds essentially to help maintain and develop the church building. It has its own trustees and bank account, and funds raised can only be used for those purposes. Lots of people in Stapleford and beyond support it because they think it is important to maintain our lovely historic church.

Please would you consider joining? You can do so for just £5 a year, though many are more generous. Details are on the on the St Andrew's website at standrewstapleford.org, and you can join online there.

Members are entitled to attend the **Annual General Meeting** scheduled for **Wednesday 18 November at 7pm** in church and to stand for election to the management committee. The AGM will include a presentation about the proposed work to the church. **Simon Taylor**

Mothers' Union

Toiletries Collection in November

WE will again be collecting toiletries for the Cambridge Women's Refuge. There will be a box in the church porch for donation from 15 to 29 November. Items required are simple toiletries such as soap, shower gel, shampoo, tissues etc. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Refuge. **Hilary Street**

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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 **6pm 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 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**

A rubbish time was had by all....!



LAST Spring, around 20 people volunteered their time and energy to walk around the village collecting 30 bags of rubbish, 24 discarded vapes, 12 batteries, a dispiriting amount of full dog-poo bags, a mattress and a microwave!

This was followed by hot-dogs and drinks on Stapleford Allotments and a chance to chat and get to know each other.

Well, it's time to do it again...

Sunday 22 November at 1.30pm. Meet at the Jubilee Pavilion in Stapleford.

Bags, pickers and hoops will be provided. Please bring gloves. 'Warm-up' BBQ on the Allotments around 3pm.

Come along, bring friends, make new friends and pick a little litter!

Juliet Hawksworth


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Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 8 November 10.45 am
We shall remember them

Stapleford-Nachingwea Link

Thank you from Nachingwea students

"We know that you are far away but your kindness reached us here in Nachingwea."

A heartfelt speech of thanks to all our kind donors from the students of Nachingwea Secondary School.

"GOOD morning everyone. I am very happy to stand before you today. We have just finished two days of learning how to make reusable sanitary pads. I want to say a big thank you to all of you who made this possible.

"First, I want to thank the Link DARE Women's Group from the bottom of my heart. You came to our school and taught us with so much patience. You showed us every step - from cutting the cloth to sewing the pads.



Our guest of honor Madam Agatha Issaya Mtepeka (MP's PS) greeted students/trainers

"You did not make us feel shy. Instead, you made us feel strong and capable. Now we can make our own pads and we can even teach our friends and sisters. Thank you for sharing your skills and your time with us.

"I also want to thank the Stapleford Community for sponsoring the training. Without your money and your care, we could not have had these two wonderful days. You paid for all the materials – the cloth, the needles, the thread and the soap. You also provided snacks and transport for our teachers. We know that you are far away but your kindness reached us here in Nachingwea. We are very grateful for your generosity.

"This training means a lot to us girls. Now we do not have to worry about missing school during our monthly periods. We can make pads that are cheap, clean and can be used again and again. This helps us stay healthy and in class. It also gives us confidence. We feel proud that we can make something useful with our own hands. This gift will help us for many years.

"Finally I want to say thank you once more to everyone. To the Link DARE Women's Group –You are our heroes. To the Stapleford community – You are our friends. We will never forget what you have done for us. We promise to use what we learned well and to share it with others.

"May God bless you all."



Head trainers walked from one group to another seeing how their instructions were followed

The students at Nachingwea Girls Secondary School



Trainers and trainees (their bundles of gifts up) in one photo with guest of honour

NOTES:

This speech was given to the guest of honour, Madam Agatha Issaya, at a closing celebration party. Students participated in songs to empower women which were played through a big speaker in the room and girls clapped their hands and sang those songs happily. There were one hundred female students (trainees) of 13 to 20 years who were trained and 23 trainers from Link DARE women's group which is under St. Andrew's Anglican church, Nachingwea, Tanzania. In the two days 514 reusable pads were made.

The Link DARE Women's Group was formed by the ladies who were trained on our initial course in 2023 by a team from the NGO 'DARE

Women's Foundation' based in Tanzania. Although the initial training was expensive, the results are spreading far and wide.

The girl who gave this speech learned much of her English from Kevin Bushiri, chair of the Nachingwea Link committee, who runs English courses for children before they transfer to secondary school where all lessons are taught in English. Stapleford Link supports these courses each year.

And Thank you, Waterlilies



Thank you again to Helen, Alison, Kyan and Elka, staff at Waterlilies who have continued to raise funds for our sanitary pad project to celebrate their 20th anniversary. Here they are on the morning of their 'Jailbreak' when they were locked into the shop until they had painted enough people's nails to be let out. The letter above is for all of you at Waterlilies and for all those who so kindly donated.

Thank you too to the Reverends Simon and Matt, the choir of St Andrew's, the Stapleford school choir conducted by Lucy Barlow and all who came to the service at St Andrew's to celebrate the 45th year of the Link between Stapleford and Nachingwea, Tanzania. **The Stapleford-Nachingwea Link Committee**

Magog Singers



JOIN us for our end of term concert Tuesday 1 December at 3pm in the Jubilee Pavilion. We are rehearsing our customary eclectic mix of songs chosen by John Clenaghan, our Musical Director. These range from Abba's *Money, Money, Money* to the Spiritual *Little David, Play on Yo' Harp* and of course the odd Christmas Carol!

Our performance will be followed by mince pies and a cup of tea. We look forward to seeing you there.

A cash collection will be taken in aid of the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign (CRRC).

Please contact kathleen.foreman@ntlworld.com if you are interested in joining the choir. **Sue Duraikan**

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MUSIC MOMENTS

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER, 6-7PM
FREE (with retiring collection)



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Raising funds for music at St Andrew's

Mothers' Union

Kathleen Snow, the new worldwide president

KATHLEEN Snow succeeds Sheran Harper from Guyana as the second non-UK Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union.



She was formally commissioned last March at St Martin-in-the-Fields by the most Reverend and Right Honourable Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.

Kathleen is a retired parish nurse who set up a branch of the Mothers' Union in Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton, the capital of New Brunswick in Canada in the 1980s. She started with five members, and it is still going strong. There is not a large MU presence in Canada, and one of Kathleen's aims is to grow it further. Kathleen had held the post of zonal Trustee on the MU Worldwide Council and was planning a peaceful retirement at the end of 2024 – but then she was asked to become the Worldwide President, which she eventually agreed to.

Her new role is ambassadorial, and her emphasis is on the three pillars of the Mothers' Union: ending poverty, violence and injustice. She has visited the UK where she undertook to run 150 miles to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union this year, after her commissioning. She was with the Anglican delegation at the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV in May. On each visit she has set herself the challenge to run 15 kilometres to raise the profile of the Mothers' Union in this, its 150th year – for example, in Tampa and San Diego in the USA and in many places in Canada, as well as in Tanzania.

Kathleen's Presidency differs from previous leaders of the Mothers' Union: firstly, she has a renewal focus on the relevance of the Mothers' Union in countries where membership is declining, such as the UK and Australia; secondly, her engagement with parenting programmes in Canada for Indigenous Peoples there; and thirdly, using the MU as a bridge back to the church for young people who may have become disengaged from organised religion. And of course, her leadership differs in that she was a practising health professional - in the past many MU leaders were more associated with the Anglican hierarchy.

We wish her well in her new role. **Hilary Street**

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Women's Institute

"TO invite a person to your house is to take charge of his happiness as long as he be beneath your roof." Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, The Physiology of Taste.

This lovely sentiment seemed particularly appropriate for our September meeting, when we gathered for our annual Harvest Supper under the roof of the Pavilion - an evening of good food, friendship and plenty of laughter.

The food was collected from a local takeaway and served by members of the committee, while the tables had been beautifully decorated with attractive autumn arrangements. The meal was much enjoyed, but the highlight for many was perhaps the dessert - Eve's Pudding, made by members as their entries for the Produce Cup. Our two judges, Tony Smith and Tony Hore, thoroughly enjoyed their tasting session, and the recipient of the cup for the second year in a row was Di Sage.

There was plenty of chatter and laughter throughout the evening, and it was lovely to see members simply relaxing and enjoying each other's company. The business of the meeting was, of course, attended to as well, with some items dealt with before the meal and the remainder afterwards.

An evening such as this is an excellent reminder that the WI is about much more than meetings and business. It is also about friendship, companionship and the simple pleasure of sitting down together to share a meal and enjoy one another's company.

If you would like to know more about the WI and all it offers both in our village group, and in Cambridgeshire in the way of numerous varied activities and outings, then please do not hesitate to come along to one of our meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month. Our next meeting in November which is a Christmas social evening is the final one this year as we do not meet in December. Information can also be found on our website staplefordwi.weebly.com or call Sallie Dixon on 843847. **Joyce Dobson**

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.

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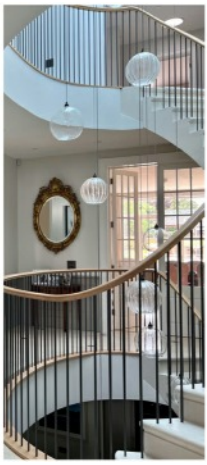
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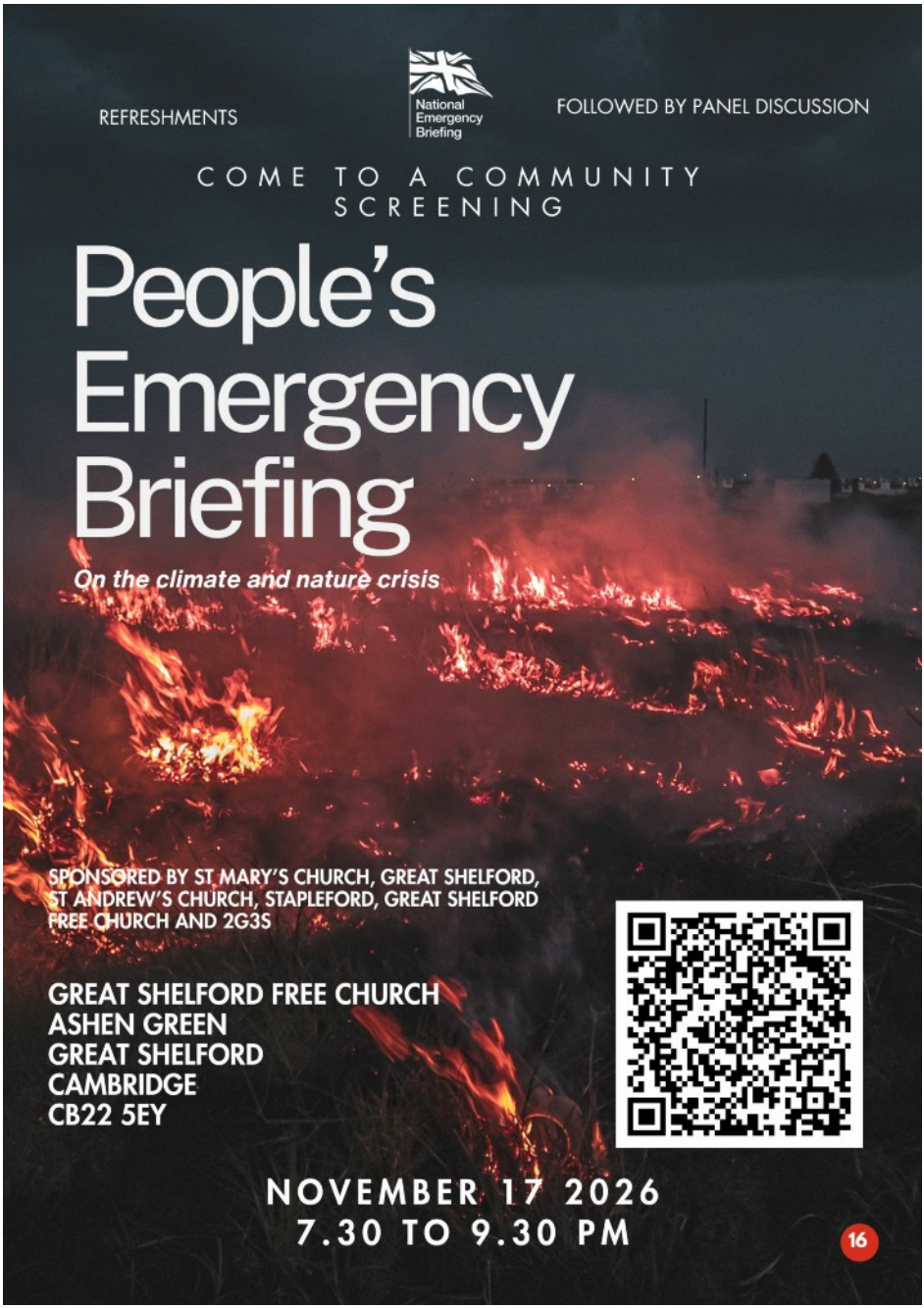


2G3S

PEOPLE'S Emergency Briefing – film showing on Tuesday 17 November**.** The National Emergency Briefing on Climate and Nature was an event held last November, to which many politicians, business people, civil servants, representatives from churches and civil groups and others were invited. A number of expert speakers talked about the risk of climate change to national security, health, food security, agriculture, the economy, our green spaces, and other aspects of life in the UK. Some of these things are beginning to happen - the Government has suggested we all stock up on a few days' worth of tinned food and bottled water in case of wildfires, floods, or cyberattacks. There is now a film covering the points in the briefings, fronted by Chris Packham and Deborah Meaden, and there have been showings all over the country. Together with three local churches we are holding one at Great Shelford Free Church on Tuesday 17 November at 7.30pm, with a panel to answer your questions and facilitate discussion afterwards. With almost 5000 showings a public discussion on these issues is happening - come and be part of it and get the message to our politicians that they must act. It's not all doom and gloom, there are things we can do to reduce the challenges we face. Free to attend but you need to book a seat in advance. Here's the booking link: tickettailor.com/events/shelfordcommunityevent/2370719.

Repair Café – if you missed the one in September**,** our next will be on Saturday 21 November in St Mary's Church Hall in Sawston from 2pm to 5pm. To book a slot go on the CCF (Cambridge Carbon Footprint) website and click on Repair Cafés – you will also see others in the area that are run by other groups. Please do book in your item for repair as soon as possible – this helps us plan our schedule so we can avoid people having to wait, and also means we can do our homework in advance to assess the repair.

We can tackle a wide variety of repairs including jewellery, clothes and fabrics as well as electrical and electronic devices. Although the repairers are brilliant we cannot guarantee that they will be able to mend your item – but they have a pretty good success rate, and will be able to advise you on where to have a repair done if they can't do it themselves. Please note that we will not be able to replace cracked screens on phones or tablets. We will collect portable non-working (unfixable) electrical items and ensure these are properly disposed of. We are always busiest when the cafe opens at 2pm – best to aim to arrive on time for your booked slot if you have one, or anytime between 2.15pm and 4.15pm if you don't have a booking.


REFRESHMENTS
National Emergency Briefing
FOLLOWED BY PANEL DISCUSSION
COME TO A COMMUNITY SCREENING
People's Emergency Briefing
On the climate and nature crisis
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NOVEMBER 17 2026
7.30 TO 9.30 PM
16

The **2G3S Book Club** meets every three months to discuss a book that has some relationship to green living and the natural world. On Tuesday 10 November we will be discussing 'Sixty Harvests Left' by Philip Lymbery. This book takes its title from a UN report warning that the world's soils could disappear within a lifetime if industrial farming practices continue as currently. 'Sixty Harvests Left' reveals the threats to our food supply posed by "business as usual" and presents a provocative vision for change, challenging us to think again about the food we buy, and its impact on the land it is grown on and the climate. We meet at 8pm in the Three Horseshoes pub in Church Street in Stapleford. Don't worry if you haven't read the book, come and enjoy the discussion.

Our next **planning meeting** is on Thursday 19 November at 8pm at Cox's Close Community Room, Church Street, Stapleford. Come along and see what we're planning next and contribute your ideas. We are a friendly group and you will be welcome.

Don't forget **Dr Bike** continues to hold its volunteer-run weekly bike repair sessions at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stapleford, 3pm to 5.30pm every Tuesday. For more information and to book a slot, contact drbikestapleford@gmail.com. You can donate by card as well as by cash. Bring your children with their bikes, 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.

A couple of tips:

If you were collecting water in the summer to water your plants, it's still a good idea to do this, as the drought is continuing as I write this. Although you might not now be watering your plants, any water that can be saved from going down the drain means less goes off down the rivers to the sea. Pour your collected water somewhere on the garden and it will soak into the aquifer, which is where we (over)extract our water from and where our chalk streams are fed from.

If you're pondering a heat pump to replace your ageing gas boiler, something to sway you might be that if you buy the right one it can also act like an air-conditioning unit in hot weather – useful to know if other actions you've taken to cool your house weren't enough in our hot summer. Cambridge Retrofit Hub can give you more information, they ran our cooling workshop in July but also advise about energy efficiency and keeping warm in the winter.

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

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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.

Along with us, there are other 'green groups' in the area – e.g. in Stapleford alone, South Cambs Organic Gardeners meet once a month, and there is the Sustainable Stapleford Advisory Group (linked to the Parish Council) and the Stapleford Tree Project. See the local magazines for more details. **Helen Hale**

Puzzle Corner

4 x 4 with seasonal themes

Identify the four groups of four clues and
the connections between the clues in each group

ONCE	A	STEEL	BATTLESHIP
PEARL	GARVEY	UNDICI	ELF
ELLA	ICE	RITCHIE	ASH
FAWKES	ONZE	EMBER	MOWBRAY

November anagrams

Solve the anagrams
The initial letters spell NOVEMBER

WAR	REAL	CANOE	SELVES
TOENAIL	SCHUBERT	GERANIUMS	REINSULATE

Set by Hermes – Answers on page 35



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Stapleford Strollers: Walk 152

A way to Barkway

To get to start of walk

TURN left off the A505 at Flint Cross towards Barley and Barkway. Drive through Barley. At the far end of Barkway turn left towards Nuthampstead, just past the Tally Ho pub on the left and opposite a garage. After nearly two miles turn right at a sign to The Woodman, which can be found 100 metres down this lane.

Length of walk

About 4.75 miles. An optional shortcut is also shown, which approximately halves the length. The going is generally easy, with some gentle uphill stretches. The footpath goes across a field that gets ploughed, but the field boundary can be followed instead.

OS map

Explorer Sheet 194.

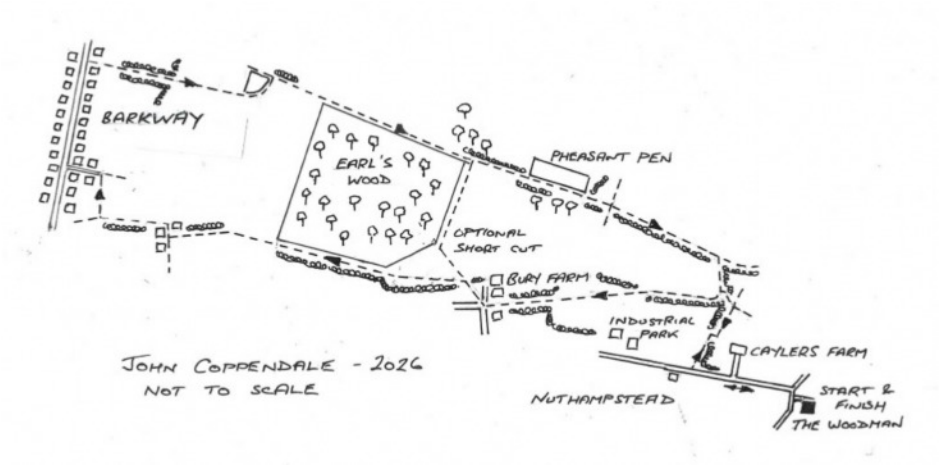
Extra information

The walk starts and ends at The Woodman pub. During WW2 this was a favourite haunt of the American airmen who flew fighters and later Flying Fortress bombers from the airfield, located to the south east. There is a monument to them outside the pub and extensive memorabilia inside, including a large map of the airfield.

Route of walk

Turn right out of the pub car park and walk for about 100 metres to a road junction. Turn left and walk carefully along the lane in the direction of Barkway for about 400 metres. After passing a drive leading to Caylers Farm, and just before an isolated house on the left, turn right onto a footpath. The footpath sign is rather concealed. Walk along the edge of the field with the hedge on your right. Look out for a gap in the hedge with a footpath marker and a footbridge. Go over the bridge and through a kissing gate. Turn left and after a few metres pass through a second kissing gate in the corner of the field. Carry on in the same general direction with trees on your left until you come to a marker post at a junction of footpaths. Turn left and walk for a short distance through trees until you emerge at the edge of a large field.

Turn left around the corner of the field and at a gap and a marker post, keep right with a hedge on your left. After about 300 metres, where the hedge veers slightly right, go through a gap in the hedge. The path follows



the same general direction to cross a large field towards a marker post on the far side. Keep some industrial buildings to your left as you cross this field. If the field has been recently ploughed you may be better following the field boundary on the right.

At a marker post on the far side of the field pass through a gap in the hedge and go over a footbridge. Follow this path in the same general direction until you emerge at a lane. Turn right and then immediately left through a gate to cross a field. Walk towards the gate on the far side. After passing through this gate, turn left and, keeping the field boundary on your left, head towards a wide gap with a footpath marker post.

Follow the path alongside the south side of Earl's Wood until you emerge on an open path between fields. Continue along this path until you reach some houses. Turn right and then left to go along a track. After 250 metres follow the track round to the right and walk for 200 metres until the track turns left into a lane with houses on either side. Follow the lane until it comes out into the main street through Barkway. Turn right along what used to be the main road from Cambridge to London. After 350 metres, look out for a footpath sign to Nuthampstead between houses on the right. Take this path, which eventually emerges into open countryside. Go up a gentle incline towards a fenced garden. Keeping the fence on your left, follow it round to the left to a junction of paths. Turn right and keeping a hedge on your left, walk towards the corner of Earl's Wood.

Continue on a broad track with Earl's Wood on your right. When you get to some trees on the left, continue through a gap in the same general direction, ignoring a footpath to your right. After about 100 metres, turn left to cross a small bridge and then turn immediately right. The path climbs a

gentle incline between hedges. At the top it continues with a pheasant pen on the left and trees on the right. The path eventually emerges at the corner of a large field. Keeping this field on your left and a hedge on your right, climb another gentle slope. Ignore a footpath crossing your path. Beyond the top of the hill look out for a footpath marker post. At this post turn right through the hedge and walk for just over 100 metres with a large field on your right until you reach a gap in the hedge and a footpath marker post on your left. This is where you emerged on the outward journey. Retrace your outward route back to The Woodman, where you can enjoy well-earned refreshments. **John Coppendale**

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

South Cambs Organic Gardeners

Food Growing in a Changing Climate

A ZOOM talk by Anton Rosenfeld of Garden Organic. Garden Organic is THE gardening association for organic gardeners, with a particular focus on the growing of fruit and vegetables at home. After a challenging summer, this is a highly relevant subject. Do come along!

Monday 9 November at 7pm at Cox's Close Community Room, Stapleford. Entry £3. Please note: talk starts promptly at 7pm. Don't be late!

For more information contact Helen Harwood on 840393 or e-mail helen_harwood_uk@yahoo.co.uk. **Helen Harwood**

Cambridge Flower Club

'Behind the Shed Door' - Crystal Dyball

Thursday 19 November

NAFAS demonstrators; raffle of flower arrangements after demonstration. Whittlesford Memorial Hall, Whittlesford CB22 4NE on third Thursday at 7.15pm, Refreshments 6.45pm.

Annual subscription £45. Visitors £10 each meeting

Information and tickets from Chair Alison Drake – 840117

The power of wildflowers

Why they matter to nature and people

THE Gog Magog Hills provide some of the richest ecological habitats in the region. The underlying chalk supports unique, wildflower-rich grassland. This environment creates a haven for diverse insect and bird populations, and is a priority habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Our two local environmental charities Cambridge Past Present and Future and The Magog Trust have both recently created large areas of new chalk grassland from previously agricultural fields at Wandlebury and Chalk Hill Down.

Wildflowers are far more than just a pretty backdrop for a summer stroll. These native plants form the foundation of grassland ecosystems, with up to 40 plant species in a square metre. Sadly, we have lost 97% of species-rich wildflower meadows since the 1930s but even small restored patches can make a dramatic difference for wildlife and human wellbeing.

How Do Wildflowers Help Nature?

Wildflower habitats perform vital work to keep local ecosystems functioning:

Fuelling Pollinators: On a warm summer day, a single acre of wildflower meadow can produce up to three million flowers and 1 kg of nectar sugar—enough to sustain nearly 96,000 honeybees per day.

Supporting Nature's Food Web: Native plants support specialised local insects. For example, caterpillars feed on wildflowers, and those insects in turn feed songbirds, bats, and small mammals.

Soil Protection & Flood Prevention: Wildflowers and native grasses develop deep, complex root systems that anchor the topsoil, prevent nutrients from washing away, and absorb rainwater to reduce local flooding risks.



Carbon Capture: Undisturbed grassland soils store significant amounts of carbon, helping pull greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.

How Do Wildflowers Benefit People?

The presence of wildflowers directly impacts human health, food security, and daily life:

Food Security - Over a third of human food crops rely directly on insect pollinators. Wildflowers and grasses provide the year-round habitat these pollinators need to survive and pollinate our fruits and vegetables.

Mental Wellbeing - Studies show that spending time around green spaces and walking in flower meadows can lower blood pressure, reduce stress, and elevate mood.

Modern Medicine - Many native wildflowers contain active compounds used in pharmaceuticals. For example, the foxglove plant yields digitalin, a compound crucial in heart disease treatments.

How Can You Can Help?

Bringing back wildflowers doesn't require acres of land. Small, collective actions can make a big difference:

Plant a Mini-Meadow: Sow native wildflower seeds in garden beds, balcony containers, or window boxes.

Leave a Patch Wild: Let a section of your lawn grow longer without mowing or fertilizing to allow naturally occurring grasses, clover, daisies and other wildflowers to bloom – many gardens in the village have seen wild orchids emerge when participating in 'No Mow May/Let it Bloom June'.

Avoid Chemical Pesticides: Allow natural predators like ladybirds and hoverflies to control pests while keeping flower nectar safe for pollinators. Email sustainablestapleford@gmail.com for more information.

Sustainable Stapleford



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Stapleford Horticultural Society



WE seem to be jinxed this season. Our first two speakers have had to pull out through illness, at too short notice to arrange a substitute. Regretfully we have had to cancel both evenings.

So it's with some trepidation that I announce the topic of our November meeting. Kim O'Brien is talking to us about 'Growing Dahlias: from tuber to vase'. Kim has 200 varieties of dahlia in her garden, field and allotment, and is an acknowledged expert as well as a talented floral designer; so it should be an interesting and authoritative talk.

The talk will start at 7.30pm on Thursday 12 November in the Johnson Hall, and all are welcome. **John Sherwell**

Cambridge Cake Creators

We are a group of friendly enthusiastic cake decorators who meet up to share ideas, learn from guest demonstrators and each other on how to improve our cake icing skills. Anyone with an interest in baking and cake decorating (including beginners) is welcome to join us!
We meet on the third Thursday of the month (except August and December) in the Pavilion from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.
Cost: £10 pp which includes Tea/Coffee & Cake.
For more information contact:
Vanda 561053 or vanda.butler@gmail.com

Puzzle Corner answers

4 x 4 with seasonal themes

ELF ONCE ONZE UNDICI: 11 in other languages

(German, Spanish, French, Italian)

A ELLA EMBER ICE: add NOV- to make a word

ASH BATTLESHIP PEARL STEEL: shades of grey

FAWKES GARVEY MOWBRAY RITCHIE: famous Guys

November anagrams

RAW, EARL, OCEAN, VESSEL, ELATION, BUTCHERS, MEASURING, NEUTRALISE

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Stapleford Tree Project

FIRST of all, thanks so much to all our 'adopters' who have kept the trees alive during the heat and the drought. As I write this the drought is continuing, so keep watering if you can. We have only lost a few trees thanks to your sterling efforts!

Apart from watering, over the summer we have been planning what to do next. We have met with an arborist for advice, and looked at the health of some of our old village trees. We have been told by the Woodland Trust that the ash tree on the community allotment plot has been classed as a 'venerable' tree, and the oak on Collier's Field and the plane tree down Vicarage Lane have been classed as 'notable'. All are now on their register.

Now it's autumn we will plant to replace those trees that have died, and also plant in a few other places that have been identified. If you would like us to plant some in your garden or on the verge outside your house this winter, please get in touch with the Stapleford Tree Project. Did you know that planting trees can reduce the temperature of nearby areas by up to 8°C?

Our main project is to plant some hedging up Haverhill Road in between the trees we have already planted up there, at the field edge where there is no hedging. This will help wildlife to move between the Magog Down, the hedge further down the road, the vegetation on the drift road, and the new Chalk Hill Down. Even though it can't be a very tall hedge as the farmer needs access to that field, it will still be a valuable corridor. We aim to plant 80 to 100 metres this season, and we need your help! We have arranged three village planting days (subject to weather):



The ash tree on the community allotment. Image from woodland trust website

- Sunday 13 December 2pm to 4pm.
- Sunday 10 January 2pm to 4pm.
- Sunday 7 February 2pm to 4pm.

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

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Booking is recommended. Bookings open on 20th September.

Repair Café is FREE, but donations are welcome.
Tea/coffee and cake will be provided!

St Mary's Community Hall Sawston

21st November 2026 2pm - 5pm

Venue: Church Lane, Sawston, CB22 3JR

For further details & to book an item for repair, scan the QR code or visit:
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Email: 2G3Srepaircafes@gmail.com

Cambridge Carbon Footprint

GOING GREEN SHELFORDS GG SSS SAWSTON STAPLEFORD

Cambridgeshire REPAIR CAFE Network

Sustainable Stapleford Advisory Group (SSAG)

DID you know that Cambridgeshire is one of the most nature depleted counties across England? Cambridge and Peterborough Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has a response to this, with an ambition to 'double nature' by increasing the area of rich wildlife habitats from 8% (Cambridgeshire at the moment) to 16% (the national average). Did you know that here in Stapleford we have globally rare chalk grassland? A local resident has written an article on 'The power of wildflowers' (see page 32) which will give more insight into this highly diverse and rare ecosystem.



Image credit: Rosie Brown

There is clearly a need for nature recovery in our local communities, but who is going to do it? Here is how we can all support the unique biodiversity in Stapleford (even in small ways!)

A project called NR-FGU (nature recovery from the ground up) has been running Community Nature Recovery Projects, with funding from Cambs County Council, in a number of local parishes. The NR-FGU supports communities to create their own Community Nature Recovery Plans to increase biodiversity. Sustainable Stapleford (SSAG) has been set up by members of the parish council, local environmental groups, experts and interested residents. The aim is to work on projects that will:

- Enhance and protect our precious and rare chalk downland and river.
- Increase areas and corridors of biodiversity within our parish, linking with the chalk downland and with other parishes.
- Improve sustainable practices in the village.

Between 20 and 30 people have attended each of the three sessions so far. The sessions have included information about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and some interesting talks from local environmental groups (CamSwift, Magog Trust, The Tree Project, St. Andrew's Eco Church, the Allotments' Community Plot, CamCatchment Partnership, and Duxford's

Looking for a local venue?



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

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Nature Recovery Plan). We have held workshops to identify which projects to take forward in Stapleford's Community Nature Recovery Plan.

The third SSAG session took place in September and three broad project areas have been identified:

- A 'community pledge' for residents to dedicate an area of their gardens to biodiversity.
- Support to regenerate the Granta Chalk Stream and wetland.
- The creation of new wildlife habitats and corridors linking biodiverse areas.

We would love for more people to get involved in SSAG, maybe to help us name and plan our flagship 'community pledge' project, or maybe you have already 're-wilded' a patch, or made a wildlife pond and can share your experience? Or perhaps you'd just like to come along and see what it's all about. All ages, skills and ideas are most welcome.

Contact sustainablestapleford@gmail.com for more information about our next meeting. **Juliet Hawksworth**

Thank you Cubs and Beavers!





STAPLEFORD'S insects and wildlife were treated to some wonderful, 5 star accommodation in September. Cubs and Beavers from Stapleford and Shelford have been buzzing around the allotments: digging a wildlife pond, creating bug hotels, building a herb spiral, collecting wood and enjoying well-earned hot-dogs and marshmallows around the fire-pit as the sun went down.

You can visit their creations on the 'Community Plot' and also see the Beavers' hard work on their 'Bee-ver Hotel' next to the Pavilion in Stapleford. Fantastic work by the Cubs and Beavers - looking forward to your return visit in the Spring.

Some inspiration here for wildlife havens in your own gardens perhaps?

If you are interested in joining the Sustainable Stapleford Group to help with projects to increase biodiversity and to create more wildlife areas in gardens and public spaces in Stapleford, come along to the Community Plot on Stapleford Allotments for a chat - you might even get a cup of tea! Or email sustainablestapleford@gmail.com! **Juliet Hawksworth**

Stapleford Twinning Association

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 12 November, 7pm

Cox's Close Community Centre

Open to all (including members and anyone interested in learning more) You don't have to speak French!

Come along and enjoy a 'welcome' glass of Vouvray sparkling wine and complimentary puddings!



Royal British Legion

Sawston and District Branch

WELCOME to the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, as the poet John Keats expresses in his Ode to Autumn.

The Branch meets every month, usually on the final Wednesday evening of the month - the November meeting will be on 25 November in the Community Centre at Chapelfield Way, Sawston. The speaker for the evening will be Alan Osborne and he will be telling us about 'The most beautiful woman in the world'!

This is a busy season for the Royal British Legion as the annual Poppy Appeal collection begins on 22 October. Here in Sawston, there will be a presence outside the Co-op on the High Street so please come and chat, collect your poppy and make a donation if you are able to. We will also have some information about the possibility of joining the RBL, so please also collect a leaflet or two about that!

The Remembrance Day service is on Sunday, 8 November at the War Memorial in Sawston at 10.45am and there will be a parade from the Bellbird School on Link Road, Sawston. If you wish to take part in this, you will need to be there by 10.15am latest. There will also be a service at the Memorial on Armistice Day (11 November) beginning at 10.45am.

A new exhibition will be opening on 7 October about the soldiers, sailors and airmen whose names are on the War Memorial in Sawston, so over this Remembrance period, if you come into Sawston for shopping or to visit the Health Centre, just pop in to Challis House on the High Street and have a look!

With all good wishes. **Ann Barton - Branch Secretary**

Bin collection dates this month

	GREEN	BLUE	BLACK	GREY (food waste)
3 November	✓	✓		✓
10 November			✓	✓
17 November	✓	✓		✓
24 November			✓	✓



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Should I insure my pet?

Church Street Vets

THIS is a tricky question, but one that we are often asked here at the surgery...

There have been many advances in pet healthcare in the past few decades. While this is great for your pet, the cost of treatment can quickly mount up. Having insurance in place allows referral of more complicated (and possibly very expensive) problems and avoids large, unexpected bills should your pet need emergency treatment. It also means that cost is less of a factor when deciding on the best treatment, and there is less chance of having to make upsetting decisions if the required treatment is not affordable.

Some owners choose instead to put some money aside each month or are happy that they could cover the cost of a large, unexpected bill if they needed to, so it does depend on your individual circumstances.

If you do opt for insurance, choosing the right policy can be confusing. The level of cover varies hugely so it is worth comparing carefully and checking factors such as:

- How long is the cover for each condition?
- What is the maximum level of cover per condition?
- How much is the excess and the monthly premium?
- Is there a co-payment as well as the excess?
- Is there a time limit for making a claim?



Insurers will not usually cover pre-existing conditions so bear this in mind if you are thinking of changing providers and your pet has an ongoing condition.

Routine healthcare, such as boosters, flea and worm treatment, dentals and neutering are not generally covered, unless there is an underlying medical reason for the procedure. Many practices now offer healthcare plans to spread the cost of routine treatments.

We hope this short guide is helpful! If you need further advice on pet insurance or any other aspect of pet care, please do give us a call on 776773.

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Ronan O'Hora
Sunday 1 November | 3:00pm
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Mátyás Gayer Trio
Friday 6 November | 7:45pm
Sophisticated jazz in a mainstream style with a distinctive, lyrical touch; the London-based Hungarian pianist is joined by renowned bassist Dave Green and drummer Steve Brown.



Connaught Brass
Wednesday 18 November | 7:45pm
A thrilling fresh talent in chamber music, Connaught Brass combine technical brilliance and a youthful perspective with deep respect for the rich heritage of the brass quintet.



Granny's Attic
Wednesday 25 November | 7:45pm
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Great Shelford Library

AS the new school year progresses, don't forget how much libraries can help with school projects. We have a wide selection of junior non-fiction books, packed full of trustworthy facts and information. With a library card you also have free access to online dictionaries, encyclopaedias and history research websites: visit our website and explore our learning and research page.

Activities during November

Engage Talk – 'The 1947 Floods of Cambridgeshire' talk by Selwyn Richardson. Wednesday 25 November at 2pm. Donation of £2 appreciated. Please stay for a drink after the talk. Please pre-book in the library or via Cambourne.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Story, Rhyme and Duplo Time – Every Tuesday at 10.30am. For children aged 0 to 4 years. Come and enjoy stories and rhymes led by our wonderful volunteers. This is a free drop-in event. Parents/carers please stay with your children.

LEGO Club – Mondays, 4pm to 5.30pm. Suitable for ages 2 to 10. Parents/carers please stay with your children during all library activities.

Art Club - Every Saturday 10.30am to 12noon. Suitable for ages 4 to 10. Drop in event.

Craft & Chat – For Adults, every Friday morning 10.30am to 12pm. No need to book.

Reading Group – Second Wednesday of each month, 10.30am to 12pm. We have spaces in this group. Please enquire in the library.



We look forward to welcoming you to the library soon.

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		

Cambridgeshire County Council

Great Shelford library

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An update from your local MP

Fighting to keep Arthur Rank Hospice's beds open

HOSPICE Awareness Week was an opportunity to pay tribute to hospices such as the Arthur Rank Hospice, which does incredible work for patients and their loved ones at the hardest moments of their lives. I recently spoke with their CEO, Sharon Allen, about the hospice's fight to save nine beds threatened with closure after Cambridge University Hospitals (CUH) drastically cut their funding. Generous local fundraising has kept them open for 12 months, but time is running out and the hospice needs a long-term funding decision.

I am pressing CUH to sit down with the hospice to find a way forward. I am also writing to the Integrated Care Board to ask how hospices and community care will sit at the heart of its plans, backed by longer-term contracts that give real stability. I will keep fighting to make sure Arthur Rank can keep caring for local people when they need it most.

Campaigning to end the SEND crisis

I continue to hear from parents and carers of children with special educational needs (SEND) facing huge delays with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and school placements. Some children started the new school year without a place, and many parents have been left unable to work. Schools tell me they are struggling to meet needs without the funding they need, when they need it.

Cambridgeshire has some of the lowest per-pupil funding in the country and sits in the lowest quartile for high needs funding. I led a national debate in Parliament on funding for SEND and am pressing ministers to review the funding formula. And having been successful in our campaign to get the two new special schools in Gamlingay and March funded, I am now demanding that they are built swiftly.

People's Emergency Briefing

I was privileged to join a local screening in Comberton of the People's Emergency Briefing. It sets out in in stark and clear terms what the latest science says about the climate and nature crisis. It's not a distant threat. It's already hitting our health, our food supply, our economy and our national security.

Here in South Cambridgeshire, local councils and communities have a huge part to play in responding, so hearing the evidence together really matters. As the Lib Dem Spokesperson for Energy Security and Net Zero, I'm pushing the Government to listen to the scientists, to broadcast

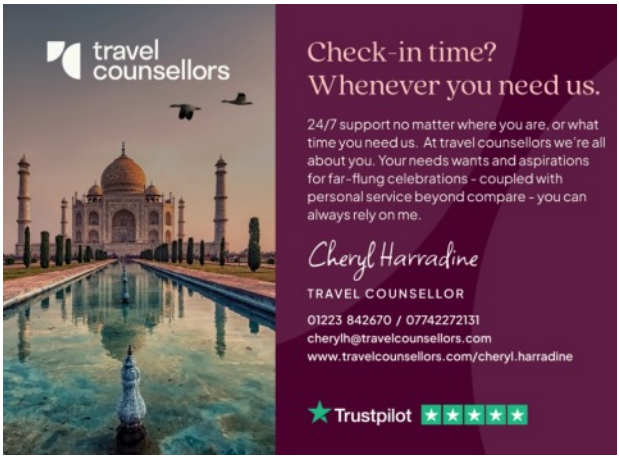
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nationally the information and act at the scale this emergency demands. Do look out for a screening near you. You can find a schedule of future screenings in our area at nebriefing.org/screening-map

These are just a few of the things I've been working on in recent weeks that I wanted to share with you. If you would like to keep up to date with my work, you can register for my e-newsletter at: pippaheylings.org.uk/newsletter. **Pippa Heylings MP**

Sawston Cinema

Golden Boy (Rating TBA)



1930s New York, at the height of the Depression. Joe Bonaparte (Josh O'Connor) is a gifted young violinist with a future in music, until a chance at fame and fortune lures him into the brutal world of professional boxing. He must confront what he's willing to sacrifice, who he's willing to become and how to find his place in a world that demands he choose a side. **National Theatre Live production** filmed at the Almeida Theatre with a live string quartet.

Thursday 5 November, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm), £10. Running time 180 minutes.

Dragonfly (15)



NEGLECTED pensioner Elsie (Brenda Blethyn) finds an unexpected ally in her younger neighbour Colleen (Andrea Riseborough). Over time, Elsie gains a friend and the troubled Colleen finds a fresh purpose in life as she shops, cleans and cares for her. It brings brighter days for both of them. But Elsie's son John (Jason Watkins) resents the way that Colleen has selflessly fulfilled the responsibilities that he has shirked, and the resulting simmering tensions bring shocking consequences.

Thursday 26 November, 7pm (doors open 6.30pm), £5. Running time 98 minutes.

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


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

District Councillors' report




Housing Developments

ANOTHER month, another speculative development. This time for 4,000 homes at 'Cambridge South' to the West of Cambridge Road. As we mentioned last month, we are opposed to all the proposed housing developments in and around the Shelfords and Stapleford. South Cambridgeshire District Council has a strategic plan which meets and will continue to meet the projected housing needs of the District and it is delivering on that plan. We do not need additional, speculative, housing proposals and we will robustly oppose these speculative proposals.

Our understanding is that the 'Cambridge South' proposal will be dealt with and decided upon by the new Cambridge Development Corporation, when it assumes its planning powers late this year or early next year, **not** by the District Council. Regardless, we will oppose the development and we believe that it makes a mockery of having a strategic local housing plan if these developments are approved.

At the time of writing, we have yet to receive a reply to our letter to the Bishop of Ely, co-signed by County Councillor Laurence Damary-Homan and Stapleford Parish Council requesting that the diocese reconsider its proposals for 400 houses around St Andrew's Church.

Food Waste Collections

Everyone in Great Shelford and Stapleford should, by now, have received their food waste caddy and collections should have started. This is a nationally mandated initiative by the government, but we would be interested to know what residents think, particularly if there are any teething issues which we may be able to help address

Please do not hesitate to contact either, or both, of us at: cllr.lunn@scambs.gov.uk or cllr.hussain@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Lunn and Cllr Farhan Hussain

Autumn fayre

CAMBRIDGE CANCER HELP CENTRE

SATURDAY 7 November, 11am to 2pm, Stalls include: Gifts and crafts for sale, Food and drink, Games, Tombola, and much more. £2 entrance, children free. 120 Cambridge Road, CB22 5JT. For more information contact 840105 or email manager@cambridgecancerhelp.org. **Cambridge Cancer Help Centre**

Parish Council report

AT its meeting on 8 October, Stapleford Parish Council discussed a range of issues affecting the village, including planning, highways, community facilities and environmental matters.

Planning

A number of household planning applications were reviewed, mostly for extensions or small alterations. While none raised major concerns, councillors highlighted practical issues such as contractor parking and protecting mature trees.

Councillors echoed the concerns of many at the 4,000 houses speculatively proposed for the 'Cambridge South' development (between Great Shelford and Addenbrooke's Road), and also in opposing the speculative proposals on the edge of Stapleford, where the Local Plan already fully provides for need. Concerned residents are encouraged to join an interest group which is likely to be formed.

Highways and road safety

Recent resurfacing works have taken place locally, though some potholes remain. The Council was disappointed to learn that its application for a village-wide 20mph limit was not successful this time, but a further opportunity to apply is expected soon.

Bollards near Bridge End Cottage have been replaced and road markings refreshed.

New applications for safety improvements will be submitted to meet County Council deadlines.

The Pavilion improvements

The Jubilee Pavilion continues to see investment. A new television has arrived and will be installed shortly, hiring arrangements are being reviewed, and additional keys have been sourced. A utility survey of the recreation ground has also been completed, with results expected soon.

The cricket club requested help with maintaining the pitch, and the Council agreed to contribute towards the cost of loam, subject to finalising licence arrangements. Councillors also received an update from the Sports & Recreation Advisory Group on ongoing projects.

Environment, grounds and sustainability

Sustainable Stapleford Advisory Group's contributions and progress in its local works have been recognised by winning the Cambridgeshire &

Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) Mike Tew Environmental Project of the Year award.

A draft Sustainability Policy will be considered next month, and councillors will also discuss joining the Cam Catchment Partnership to support river and watercourse protection. The Council agreed funding for the Tree Project group to print flyers promoting local tree-planting initiatives.

Other matters

The much loved Stapleford Weekend will return 24 to 27 June 2027, with planning already underway. Residents can also look forward to the Winter Quiz on 27 November (see page 42) which will be raising funds for the Stapleford Weekend.

The village sign is due to be reinstated shortly. A former councillor suggested placing a small time-capsule beneath it, and the Council agreed to support the idea with a modest budget.

At the Cemetery, some residents have raised concerns about artificial flowers not complying with cemetery regulations and this will be followed up.

Concerns about the new T3 bus route have been passed on to the Combined Authority, which is reviewing the service.

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

The next meetings for this year will be held on: 5 November and 3 December.

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

Operation Christmas Child

YOU are invited to a free event - shoebox filling party on Saturday 14 November, 10.30am to 1pm at the Free Church, High Street, Great Shelford.

Everything is provided to fill a shoebox for a child. The boxes are sent to many countries to give that child an unconditional gift of love. Come as a family, any ages welcome, and join in a morning of great fun.

If you would like to fill a box at home, the boxes are available from the Free Church.

If you would like further information, contact the church office on 842181 or Jane on 07745 046921. **Jane Furlow**

Stapleford Parish Council

staplefordparishcouncil.gov.uk

COUNCILLORS

Howard Kettel (Chair)	Rebecca Trigg (Vice Chair)
Rosie Brown	Nel Clark
Mick Davies	Anna Disley-Stevens
Matthew French	Juliet Hawksworth
Duncan Kerr	Barbara Ann Kettel
Gillian Pett	

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 07971 886 113

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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