

Steeple Aston

NOVEMBER 2019

ISSUE No. 555

Life



Inside SAL this month:

- Graham Porcas puts us on the right track
- We all find out what a Rubbish Weekend it was in September
 - SAVA tells us a story full of history
 - And much more!

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Cover photo: SAVA Archive and part of the Unseen Village exhibition

Clicking on the underlined page number will take you directly to that page

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

All articles and letters to the Editor

Heather Sherkunov
editor@salife.co.uk

01869 518121

COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline for SAL has now changed to the 15th of each month.

The copy deadline for the December 2019 issue is therefore 15th November.

ADVERTS

All adverts, and all advertising queries (*availability, prices, dimensions, suitability of illustrations, etc.*) to **Charlotte Bartlett**
salife.advertising@gmail.com

01869 347347

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Please note: there is a new deadline for adverts (black & white only), which should be submitted no later than the 15th of the month.

ADVERTISING RATES

Non-commercial adverts:
1 page (village events only)- £15
½ page - £12, ¼ page- £6.

Steeple Aston Directory

Age UK		Richard Preston	340512
Allotments (Church)	Enquiries	Stuart Walton	347300
Angling Club		Antony Morley	tonyriver_83@hotmail.com
Archive (SAVA)	Chairman	Martin Lipson	347046
Badminton (Tuesday mornings)		Barbara Brewer	340423
Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Lydia Powell	347746
Beekeepers (Swarm collection, advice)		Anna Allen, Paul Honigmann	340160, 340665
Bell ringers		Graham & Dorothy Clifton	347273
Hand-bell ringers		Sally Cooper	347173
Brownies		Fiona McLoone	340132
Catholic Church - St Teresa's (Charlbury)		Father Tony Joyce	01608 642703
Cherwell District Council	Bodicote House		01295 227001
Choral Society	Chairman	Geoffrey Cotterill	01608 641654
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector	Rev Marcus Green	340903
	Church Wardens	Eileen Baglin-Jones, Rebecca Hoare	340099, 340949
Methodist Church – Tackley		Rev Paul Carter	01865 243216
	Steward	Tim Bailey	01869 331516
Councillors - Cherwell District Council		Cllr Mike Kerford-Byrnes	07805 665393
		Cllr Bryn Williams	07836 271998
		Cllr Hugo Brown	
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	347493
Crimestoppers			0800 555111
Deddington Guides		Marion Trinder	340806, 07786001641
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments		338611
	Repeat Prescriptions	10am - 3pm	338847
	Out of Hours		111
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Headmistress	Frances Brown	340204
Football Club	Secretary	Peter Wild	07950 837773
Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
Meals on Wheels		Hanny Nicholson, Judith Lane	340823, 349052
Players	Secretary	Alan Wightman (07943 537909)	324875
Parish Council	Chairman / Clerk	Richard MacAndrew/ Cathy Fleet	347209, 347000
Police	24hr Call Centre	(non emergency)	101
Post Office & Harris Stores		Raj	340201
Pre-school			340863
Public House	Red Lion	Sarah and Mel Phipps	340225
Robinson's Close	Letting Agent	Katie Rushworth	340196
Scouts Group		Colin Cassford	243038
Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Katie Rushworth	340196
Steeple Aston Walking Group		Anna Allen	340160
Toddler Group		Charlotte Clarke	07799 030490
Valentine Club		Richard & Daphne Preston	340512
Village Hall (see advertisement)	Letting Agent	Katie Rushworth	340196
Village Website	www.steepleaston.org.uk	Editor: Jenny Bell	347714
Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme			0300 3030125
Women's Institute	President	Linda Needle	340028



“...folly is not always folly.”
Jane Austen

Steeple Aston *Life*

November 2019
Issue No. 555

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Editorial

Remember, remember the 5th of November – as if we planned it, this month the issue number is 555. I'm looking forward to the sparkling spectacular of the fireworks in the village which is always fun at this time of year. If you do anything exciting for Bonfire Night, send in your photos for the chance to be featured in next month's edition of Steeple Aston Life.

For November, we give you full details on what happened at the Rubbish Weekend, we feature Graham Porcas and his very interesting hobby and former SAL Editor Cathy Lawday is featured in Steeple People.

It's also an exciting month because for the first time ever Steeple Aston Life is available on the village website. This is in no way to replace the hard copies you receive on your doorsteps each month but to offer another way to read the magazine. If you have a member of the household who gets their news online, please let them know they can now find SAL there too. Head to www.steepleaston.org.uk to have a look.

Also, in a bid to make the designing and printing time run as smoothly as possible, we are moving the date for you to send in articles and adverts from the 18th of the month to the 15th. Send your articles to editor@salife.co.uk and your adverts to salife.advertising@gmail.com.

With very best wishes,

Heather



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



The Noticeboard is intended for all sorts of news in and around the village. Please use it – and let us have news of births, marriages, special celebrations, deaths and any other notable events.

SAL is now online

From this month, you'll be able to read your favourite village magazine online at <https://www.steepleaston.org.uk>. Have a look now!

MacMillan Coffee Morning – thank you

I would like to thank all those who came to my MacMillan Coffee Morning on 24th September. It was great to have the support from some wonderful people in this village. The support I had on the day was fantastic and really identifies what a marvellous place this village is with so many helpful people. The sum raised in just a couple of hours was a quite substantial £325 with most welcome contributions coming from villagers who even did not attend on the day. Once again many thanks to all who participated in any way.

Linda Needle

Deadline dates and photos

The copy and advertising deadline for Steeple Aston Life has now changed from the 18th to the 15th of each month. If you are sending in articles to be published, and/or are sending photos, please ensure they are the biggest size you can send. Ideally, photos should be at least 300dpi. If you are unsure of the dpi, the bigger the better is key and you can send them via by Dropbox if they are too big for email.

SAL – Deliverers

Sheila Wood has been delivering Steeple Aston Life to Fenway, Shepherds Hill and Coneygar Fields but has decided it would be nice to halve her round. Sheila has been involved in delivering the magazine since before Shepherds Hill and Coneygar Fields were built. This means that a new member has joined the delivery team - Amy Green and her little helpers will be covering these two roads leaving Sheila to continue with Fenway. Thanks to all and welcome.

Graham John Stone

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Graham John Stone, aged 60, on September 29th (late of this Parish). He fought courageously for seven years against cancer and passed away in London where he lived. The son of Peter and Gwen Stone (Dec) and brother to Andrea, Graham is survived by his wife Gina, five children and four grandchildren. Graham will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Editor's Letterbox

Dear Editor,

Defibrillators.

I noted in the October edition of SAL a mention of defibrillators in the Parish Council section. Your commentator noted that; "Someone asked if anyone knew of a public defibrillator ever being used and if not whether it was a waste of money to buy a box for it".

Many villages in the UK now house defibrillators in a prominent place, the common reason is because getting a number of local 'first responders' prepared to be on call-out duty is getting harder and harder to fulfil. Hence the need for a 'plan B'.

If one were to question the value in terms of a monetary argument, then the only response I would have would be to point out that it might, in a worse case scenario, become a question of what a life might be worth?

It is to be hoped that a defibrillator is never needed, but should the occasion arise, then it would be a good idea to be prepared.

Peter Wild

Many congratulations to Tony & Jean Clifton of Primrose Garden, Northside, on their sapphire wedding anniversary (65 years) on November 20th.

From all the family.

Graham Clifton

Steeple Aston Apple Pressing days

This apple season, two pressing days have been held at the Red Lion so far (thanks to Mel and Sarah for letting us use the car park and electricity). The first, on the 22nd September, took place in the pouring rain, this seems to be the norm for the first event! Four brave men, Gareth John, Alistair Gibson, Hamish Hogg and son Rupert, turned up with a wheelbarrow and two buckets full of Steeple Aston apples and some pears. Amid jokes about the weather, chopping, pressing, bottling and pasteurizing produced 17 litres of juice.



On the 6th October the weather was much in our favour with sunshine and a warm breeze. Lucy and daughter, Ines, arrived first with bags of apples and got straight to work to produce "delicious juice" in the sun. It must have been good fun as they came back, this time with Granny, Clare Keating, to do some more! Thanks also to Matt and children Maisie and Ted who got stuck in as well. Apparently Matt has been meaning to join us since moving to Steeple Aston nine years ago. Sarah from the pub joined in as the bottle she was donated last time got guzzled by her daughter and family. In all, seven litres were produced.

By the time you read this the final event will have taken place at Red Lion so see you next season!



Penny and Stuart Cummins

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The Village by Village Project

Steeple Aston FC has recently become involved in a self-help programme in Ghana called 'Village by Village'. The project is part of a drive to raise living standards in impoverished villages.

Our club's contribution is to donate a full football kit to the scheme. We are playing a small part in a wider programme, whereby local Ghanaian football teams donate their labour for free to support the construction of a community facility like a school or a hospital. In return, the team is given a football strip and equipment donated by a UK club...in this case Steeple Aston. Win-win for all concerned.

As one village to another we hope that schemes like this will help to promote international goodwill through the comradeship of sport and we are pleased to play some part in that, albeit a small one. We won't change the world, but we might help to spread a bit of joy.

We in turn have recently had a new kit bought for us by McCaffertys (The White Hart) in Bicester. We also have support from our own pub the Red Lion, illustrating that everyone needs a little help when it comes to equipping themselves. So, it is what goes around comes around and nothing need go to waste. Our club has an illustrious history going back to the year of our foundation, 1897, and it is good to know that our scope lies beyond the village boundary to our neighbouring towns and villages; and now, Ghana as well.

If you are interested in the Village by Village project, they can be contacted via email neil@villagebyvillage.org.

On the subject of self-help, we will be hosting a race night at the Sports and Recreation Centre on the 9th November at 7pm (all welcome).

Peter Wild, Secretary, SAFC

Random *but True!*

Random but True! gives you a collection of interesting but very random facts which, unbelievably, are true.

1. As of 1998, more than 50% of Iceland's population believed in elves.
2. The term 'footage' comes from films being measured in feet, when being edited in the early days of film making.
3. Baked beans are not actually baked, they're stewed.
4. Alligators will give manatees the right of way if they are swimming near each other.
5. If you sneeze whilst travelling at 60mph, on average your eyes will be shut for 50 feet.
6. A duel between three people is called a truel.
7. Tigers not only have striped fur but they have striped skin also.
8. Eight of the 10 largest statues in the world are Buddhas.
9. The human nose can remember 50,000 different scents.
10. Guy Fawkes is the reason guys are called guys.

Have you got any random but true facts? Send them in to editor@salife.co.uk.

Annual Church Charity

QUIZ

In aid of OXPIP

A local charity helping parents make loving and secure bonds with their babies

Saturday 16th November

in the

Village Hall

At 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets £8: includes food, which will be served during the break

Bar and Raffle

Everyone welcome! Come on your own or as part of a team -a team is approximately 6 people

To book your ticket contact Eileen Baglin-Jones
01869 340099 or eileen@baglinjones.com



Cathy Lawday

How long have you lived in Steeple Aston?

Since 2011.

Where did you move from?

From Caversham, near Reading, where we had lived for 27 years.

What brought you here?

We wanted to move into the countryside, and to get away from rampant over-development (Ha!).

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston?

The feeling of belonging to a community.

Where do you think of as 'home'?

Steeple Aston is 'home' but my roots are in Yorkshire.

Give a potted history of yourself – in 40 words or less.

I was a teacher of English, taught in Sweden (where I met my husband) and Malaysia; then worked in publishing till the arrival of twin boys, when I became a freelance writer of English-teaching books.

How do you see yourself, in 6 words or less?

A cosmopolitan, stylish, entertaining free spirit.

How do others see you, in 6 words or less?

A stubborn, dowdy, middle-aged obsessive.

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist? Technology: friend or foe?

To marmite or not?

Early bird; Dog; Try hard to be an optimist; Both (love my Apple Mac and my ipod; hate my mobile phone); Marmite (on buttered toast, in bed, Mmmm.)

What was the best thing about being a child?

Going to stay with my grandparents in the Yorkshire Dales.

What is the best thing about being an adult?

Not getting told off when I leave lights on, leave the fridge door open, don't eat my cabbage....

What is the best job you've ever done?

I've been lucky enough to enjoy all my jobs, but one particular treat was travelling round Greece to meet teachers and promote a course book I'd written. Sunshine, sea views, great food – can it really count as 'work'?

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have.

I've recently got addicted to patchwork quilting.

What's your favourite piece of music?

My favourites change year to year; currently I love the Barr Brothers. And Nimrod never fails.

What would you save from your house if it was on fire?

The controls and re-charger for my deep brain stimulator. And photos of my children.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice?

In difficult times my aunt used to say: "These things will pass." And they always do.

Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive?

George Clooney, preferably alive, obvs.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really good at.

Ignoring the fact that I've got Parkinson's ... and making crème brulee.

And a surprising thing that you are really bad at.

I played the cello very badly at school. I once left it on a bus, but unfortunately no-one stole it.

And something about you that most people don't know.

I got married in Sweden.



THE STEEPLE ASTON RECREATION TRUST AND VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT A

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2019

ROBINSONS CLOSE

Gates open 6.15pm

Fireworks from 7.00pm



Admission including food and drink

	Individual	Family
In Advance	£5.00	£14.00
On the Day	£6.00	£16.00

U16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Members of the Public must not bring sparklers, fireworks or laser pens of any description

Advance tickets will be on sale from Monday 21st October from the Village Shop and Barbara Brewer (01869-340423). Sales will close at 3.00 pm on the 5th November

We would like to thank the following company for sponsoring this event

LAKESIDE FARM BUSINESS PARK

Proceeds will be shared between the Recreation Trust and the Village Hall

Rubbish Weekend

The “Rubbish Weekend” organised by Sustainable Steeple over September 28th and 29th could be called many things: inspiring, innovative, interesting, entertaining, thought-provoking, varied – but it was certainly not rubbish!

Thanks mainly to the efforts of the indefatigable Amanda Rodgers, the Village Hall was home to a wide variety of workshops. On Saturday several of us enjoyed block printing fabrics (run with support and materials from the Arty Crafty Place) making colourful and original patterns on tea towels, t-shirts, bags, bed linen and cardigans. We also printed autumnal themed designs on recycled fabric (a pair of red satin curtains and a couple of old sheets) to make tablecloths and runners, which were used later that evening to decorate the tables for the Harvest Supper.



On the Sunday Amanda ran several workshops: participants made and decorated memo boards from old roof tiles, or made and filled feeders for bugs and small animals. And both adults and children enjoyed pottery painting. Julia Whybrew demonstrated hand-stitched patchworking and there were also people on hand to demonstrate machine patchwork and quilting. Graham Porcas and Paul Rodgers made their skills and tools available to mend broken items. One visitor from Deddington brought a favourite frying pan and asked Graham if he could fix the handle for her. On Sunday, there was also

a clothes swap shop; bric-a-brac, a stall showing items made by recycling old fabrics and another with hand-made cards and notebooks; Giddy Glass filled a stall with lovely recycled glass ornaments and jewellery and there was more artistry from Woodland Witch and Silver by Nature, using recycled metals, natural stones and crystals.

We hope the “Rubbish Weekend” will become a regular annual event in the village, and as a first attempt it was a success. It would have been nice to see a few more people, but those who came said they found it interesting and worthwhile. Amanda says she has been pretty overwhelmed by the level of support she received, and feels that the whole weekend was a useful learning experience, reflecting that “...we've created a lot of goodwill and enthusiasm”.

The weekend made a profit of over £250 for Sustainable Steeple. This will be added to the money Amanda has raised selling crafts made from recycled materials at Deddington Farmers' Market, together with the donation by “Torchlight” Red Lion quiz team of half their prize money. With lots of Christmas markets and three more Deddington Markets to come this year; Amanda hopes to reach – or even surpass - the £1,000 mark by the end of December.



The Rubbish Weekend certainly gave a wide view of what can be achieved by recycling, upcycling and reusing all manner of things and should make us think twice before we judge something as being of no use and consign it to the bin.

Cathy Lawday

A childhood passion turns into to a grown-up obsession

I had heard around the village that Graham Porcas builds model trains so I met up with him to find out more.

When I heard the words ‘model trains’, I had visions of Graham tinkering over tiny train carriages, maybe painting them whilst looking under a magnifying glass. There might be tinkering involved but I could not have been more wrong about the size. The scale of the trains that Graham not only puts together but builds from scratch is far bigger than I could have imagined – the one Graham is currently working on is in fact big enough to sit on and drive, and powerful enough to pull a trainload of passengers. Not exactly small scale, more like a major operation. I wanted to know where did this passion start?

Graham said: “I used to have a Hornby train set, like a lot of people, which is now in the loft. About 20 years ago I started to build them and I made a 45.5mm gauge 1 tank on and off for about 15 years. I finished it a couple of years ago and I think it’s my favourite because it’s the first I built myself from scratch. It’s a fully working steam engine. I made nearly all the pieces myself and crafted them in the way I wanted. I’m now building a 5 inch track sized engine and am working from the original Great Western Railway drawings which I got from Swindon. It’s a big job and I’ll probably be working on it for about 10 years. It’s a class 28XX heavy freight locomotive and



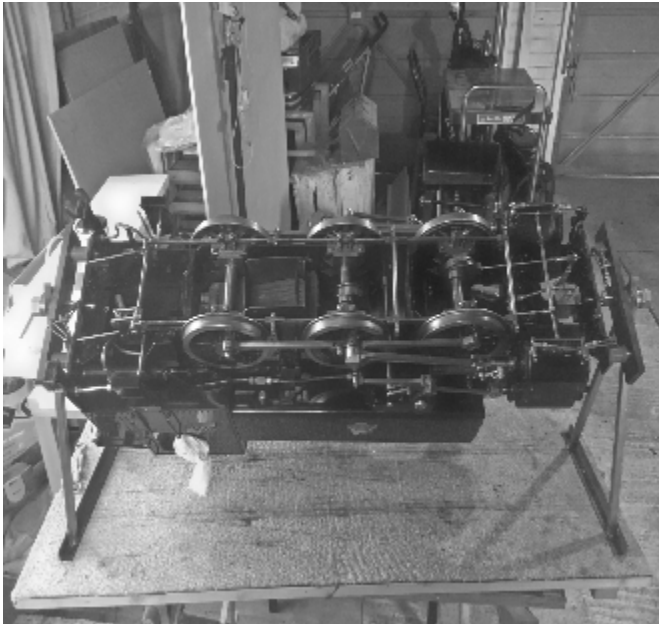
will be about a metre and a half long, weighing 150 kilos. It’s really massive and no one has ever built one before so it’s exciting. I think a 5 inch is about as big as I would build because I can still fit it in the car and also lift it up. When you go up to 7¼ inch they are getting very big and, of course, can be dangerous if they go off the tracks.”

I’m curious then – do they come off the tracks often?

“We do sometimes come off the tracks but no one gets hurt because we are going so slowly, it’s more that you have to repair things if there’s damage. We drive about 5 miles an hour which equates to 50 on the full-size versions – which is as fast as they would have gone. It’s interesting because you can’t just scale down as you do with the size, you have to redesign and try things and then amend things. You rarely get it right first time round.”

Graham who is ‘trying to retire’ has spent his career as an Engineer in the plastics industry.





He continued: “I find it really relaxing although it drives my wife, Sue, mad. I have friends who also build trains and have garden railways but it’s not competitive. They are all engineers like me so there’s a lot of discussion around making things work and what to do. There is a group of about a dozen of us in south Oxfordshire where we drive our engines on a local garden railway but there are many bigger model railway clubs and we travel around the country – my favourite track is in Gilling in North Yorkshire. Not all of the people have big gardens and the one where we meet is in a small garden behind a very typical semi-detached house where the track runs round the edge. I think we should have a Steeple Aston track in the village, it would be fantastic and I’m sure a lot of people would want to get

involved.”

It seems as though ‘from a kit’ might be dirty words in this house because everything is handmade, designed and built from scratch using old and abandoned machinery that Graham has collected over the years.

He said: “I don’t like kits because they are usually designed down to a price and quality suffers but it can be a good way to start for some people. I made small working models as a teenager and this progressed as I got older. They are very powerful machines and great fun. They are true replicas of the full-size trains and so you have to have everything a full size railway would have including signals.

“If you bought one it would be expensive and potentially many thousands but to build from scratch it’s nowhere near as expensive, it’s just time consuming. It’s really not that complicated to build them when you break it down into piece by piece.”

Graham has been in Steeple Aston for around 35 years after moving here in what they thought would be a temporary move. As well as trains, Graham is a keen member of the Steeple Aston walking club, is an amateur blacksmith and has a 4-month-old Collie puppy called Ellie. He is involved in the Horners – a livery company devoted to the plastics industry, including Horn - and he sits on the Parish Council and is the rep for, as he puts it, ‘poo, play area and potholes’.

He said: “My three children and wife aren’t so keen on my hobby because it takes up so much time – none of them are interested in railways. My wife did buy me an experience to drive a full-size train some years ago, I’ve done that a few times now. I like both versions. I just love steam engines, I’ve always been excited by them – they’re living, alive, they talk to you and they are very complicated. You have to have everything just right to get them to run smoothly.”

So, what happens when he finishes the big engine he is currently working on?

“Good question! You never really finish them, there is always something else to do or add on. I would love to have my own railway in the garden one day but that will depend on planning permission.”

“From the council?” I ask. “No, from my wife!”

If you have an interesting hobby or job and would like to be featured in Steeple Aston Life, email editor@salife.co.uk.

A Vision of Angels



**Steeple
Aston
Choral
Society**

**Presents
In Terra Pax - Gerald Finzi
&
Fantasia on Christmas Carols -
Ralph Vaughan Williams
and Seasonal Music**

**Sunday 24th November 2019
Steeple Aston Church
7.00pm**

**Tickets £12 -£10 in advance from 01869 347346
(or the Village Post Office & Choir members)**

The ARTS Page



Greetings all! In September we previewed four plays (Oxford Playhouse's *Posh* and *An Inspector Calls* and Chipping Norton Theatre's *Skylight* and *No Man's Land*). We've seen all four and they were terrific, showing the two theatres in rude, good health.

PREview

The "Last Supper in Pompeii" at the Ashmolean is wonderful and on until January 12th and the Cattelan Exhibition at Blenheim was strong and thought-provoking, even without the "golden loo". They are now advertising their Christmas Market and *Alice in the Palace* - see blenheimpalace.com/christmas. Waddesdon, too, have what looks like a terrific Christmas programme - waddesdon.org - and of course it's nearly pantomime season - Chipping Norton (*Puss in Boots*) always sells fast, as we imagine does the Oxford Playhouse (*Beauty and the Beast*) and New Theatre (*Stories with Santa*).

There are three local choir events well worth supporting:

Our very own Steeple Aston Choral Society - "A Vision of Angels" on Saturday 24th November at 7pm in the Church, Choros (conducted by Janet Lince) in Deddington Church, with "Advent Music" Sunday 8th December at 6.30pm and the Woodstock Music Society have a French programme in St Mary Magdalene on 13th and 14th December at 7.30pm.

One other plug, because it is such a fabulous piece – The Cunning Little Vixen by Welsh National Opera on November 21st, in their week at the New Theatre. (atgtickets.com).

REview

Creation Theatre has been producing classic texts in Oxford for over 20 years, delighting audiences in venues from the University Parks, the Bodleian Library, Blackwell's Bookshop and The Covered Market, Oxford. Creation's education programme reaches 2,000 children every year through live performances, weekly drama clubs, holiday workshops and courses in schools. (www.creationtheatre.co.uk)

Creation Theatre's "Don Quixote" in the Covered Market brought Cervantes' hilarious, heroic and heart-breaking 17th Century novel to the more-or-less here and now. The hero of the original – a Castilian gentleman – spends his last years living out the chivalric fantasies he has soaked up from his library full of old books about knights errant. He is accompanied, rescued and despaired of by his ever-hungry wise fool of a squire, Sancho Panza.

In Jonathan Holloway's adaptation Dom is enchanted by the James Bond books and their depiction of manly men, feminine women and villainous villains. He's confused by the way the world has changed around him. He can't understand his travelling companion Sam's care and concern for him. Holloway shows us how Dom is damaged physically and emotionally by his delusions, and how problematic these are for his friend. Whilst faithful to the satire, slapstick and sentiment of the original, the play asks us to think about how changing norms of acceptable behaviour can isolate people who struggle to adapt. This production was pure Creation, a classic text in a special location. Eric McLennan and Graeme Rose gave compelling performances which provoked gasps, belly laughs and tears, and had the audience on their feet at the curtain. This year's Christmas show, "The Snow Queen" opens at Oxford's North Wall on 30th November.

Carl Tomlinson

A big thank you to Carl for his REview. Please keep them coming in. Also, do flag up events coming up, right across the Arts. This can add such value to the information on websites and posters.

Nick and Heather Cleobury



RACE NIGHT

WE ARE HOSTING A RACE NIGHT AT...
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RAISING FUNDS FOR...
STEEPLE ASTON F.C

FIRST RACE RUNS	DATE
7:30 pm	SAT 9TH NOV



* CASH BAR

* CASH BETS

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

Nuffield College Chapel?

Nuffield College Chapel was described to me recently as 'a quiet, hidden gem in the centre of Oxford' and having visited it on a bright October day I cannot but agree. I suggest that any readers of SAL, especially those who enjoy the work of John Piper, and are interested in architecture, would enjoy a visit to the chapel.

Nuffield College in New Street is one of Oxford's 'young' colleges. It was generously endowed by Lord Nuffield (he of the Morris car manufactory) in the 1930s and from the beginning there were plans for a chapel to be included in the buildings. In fact, it was not finally dedicated until December 1961 by the Bishop of Oxford so it is not of great antiquity. It's also not very big. You see first simple white wooden pews edged in black sitting on a black and white chequered tiled floor. The pews are set against gentle grey walls, enlivened by some panels of dull red, and at first it all reminded me of a rather severe New England room. However, when you looked at the five windows designed by John Piper (four of them in recesses somewhat like some Spanish Still Life pictures) their warmth and colour brought the chapel to life.

It is a small chapel – but small can be very beautiful and in this case I think it is. The chapel can be visited whenever the Oxford preservation Trust holds its Open Doors event (usually in September) or it may be possible to see the chapel by applying to the college porter when you call in to see when it might be convenient.

In the midst of the busy city, the chapel offers visitors a beautiful space for reflection and contemplation for a few minutes. I recommend it!

Eileen Baglin-Jones

Photos: Bev Davies



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Book at www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk

19:30-21:00 (Drop-in)

Upper Heyford Village Hall, OX25 5LB

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How many people know the full story behind the tradition of Bonfire Night? It is an intriguing one that still resonates. If you want to find out more, try visiting the place where the plotters met (the stunning National Trust property, Coughton Court in Warwickshire) where, incidentally, they also have a beautiful garden.

Remember, Remember?

Remember, remember the 5th of November
gunpowder, treason...now what was the
reason?

We knew, but we may have forgot?...
...they'd sat in a cellar betrayed by a spy
determined to blow up their foes to the sky
(a real case of losing the plot!).
Yet still we light fire
and people conspire
things change, yes, but not by a lot.

So light up your sparklers
stand back and beware
let's hope that the weather is fine.
Do we need the 'back story'?
There wasn't much glory,
but,
we've remembered for quite a long time!

Peter Wild

What to wear

We've been invited to a party,
A rather swish affair,
A dinner and then dancing,
But, oh, what shall I wear?

I've got a beaded evening dress,
A bargain, second-hand,
(Some woman bought it for a cruise
Then got divorced and stayed on land.)

It's been a wardrobe staple,
But I can't wear it any more.
These days the beads come unattached,
Bouncing like shrapnel on the floor.

I've got a pair of velvet trousers,
A little threadbare in the seat,
And they're very nearly big enough,
(So long as I don't eat).

I've got a pretty dress of lace,
Cut cleverly on the slant,
But it's frumpy, and more suitable
For tea with a maiden aunt.

There's a fetching see-through chiffon
blouse
I wear from time to time.
But the see-through bit's a problem,
When your figure's past its prime.

Trying on a low-necked number
Makes me feel down in the mouth.
It's meant to show your bosom off,
But my bosom's travelled south.

And I must steer clear of a micro skirt.
Thigh-high slit, or backless frock.
The party hosts are elderly
It could be dangerous to shock.

And there's the problem of footwear,
For me high heels are out of place.
It's neither glamorous nor elegant,
To fall flat on your face.

The dress code I would like to see,
One which would suit me better:
"Comfortable stretchy jeans,
Ancient slippers, and a sweater."

Cathy Lawday

Quips and Quotes



“You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something; your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.” – **Steve Jobs**

“The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.” – **Walt Disney**

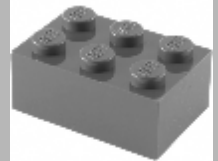


“The big lesson in life, baby, is never be scared of anyone or anything.” – **Frank Sinatra**

Saying it is impossible to live without failing at something is impossible. Unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default.” – **J.K. Rowling**



Child's Play



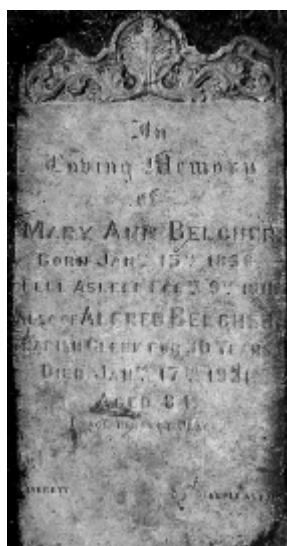
1. Where does the president of the United States of America live?
2. What is the largest brass instrument in an orchestra?
3. Which country does parmesan cheese come from?
4. What is the name of the highest Mountain in Africa?
5. What type of tree do dates grow on?
6. What are the colours of the five Olympic rings?
7. How many holes are there in a standard ten pin bowling ball?
8. What letter is located between letter E and T on a computer keyboard?
9. How many cards are there in a complete pack of cards?
10. Who was leader of the Romans when they invaded Britain in 55 and 54BC?
11. Can you pick out the adjective in the following sentence: The friendly dog barked for most of the day?
12. What is the only US state that starts with the letter 'P'?
13. What is the largest island in the Mediterranean sea?
14. What is the most popular sport throughout the world?
15. Is hot air lighter or heavier than cold air?

Answers on page 26.

Maisie Dance

Each year SAVA receives a dozen or so requests from people from inside or outside the village to give some insight into family history and we usually do our best to help in various ways through archived documents, cuttings and records. A query made last year perhaps shows how this function of SAVA works at its best and it involves the delightfully named Maisie Dance.

A friend of Jenny Grubb showed her an extract from the “Best of British” magazine where there was a letter from 84 year old Maisie asking if anyone could shed light on the origins of her great grandfather, Alfred Belcher, who had lived in Steeple Aston for more than thirty years spanning the turn of 19th to the 20th century. Jenny passed the magazine cutting to me and I responded to the magazine with some basic information about the places her relative had lived. Maisie wrote back and said she would like to visit Steeple Aston and look around.



Coincidentally, about two years ago, Geoffrey Lane of SAVA uncovered several gravestones in the churchyard that had fallen over years ago, and become buried beneath the grass. One was for Alfred Belcher (d. 1921) and his wife Mary Ann (d. 1911). It was finely decorated and the inscription well preserved. Unusually, the stone also carried the name of the engraver, Robert Barrett, who plied his trade from South Side. Geoff was able to provide a history of the Belcher family's time in the Steeple Aston area before they moved to Surrey, showing that Alfred had once been clerk to the parish for 30 years and, presumably, remarkably literate for a man whose occupation in the census is that of agricultural labourer.

When Maisie arrived on a Saturday morning in September accompanied by her son and daughter-in-law, the SAVA member on duty, Bridget Lewis, took them to the grave, which Geoff had spruced up for the occasion, and showed them the homes where her ancestors had lived.

Maisie was delighted with her day and brought with her a photograph of Alfred Belcher and his wife standing in front of the church porch which was then copied for the archive. She also bought two SAVA books and presented us with a published copy of her own life story which included surviving the demolition of her Surrey house by a Doodle Bug in WW2 while she took shelter under the stairs.

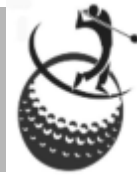
Maisie's day demonstrated the many facets of SAVA's work and showed how the give and take of historical documents works for everyone. So if you have something to give (or want to take) from SAVA, contact SAVA via their website (www.steepleastonarchive.org.uk) or call into the Village History Centre any Saturday morning between 10am and midday.

David Jarratt



*Alfred and Mary Ann Belcher
outside the West porch*

Steeple Aston Golf Society



Our final meeting of the year was held at Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club. We were welcomed by the Club Secretary, Kay, and Arthur, our starter for the day, who made sure we got off to a good start pointing out the do's and don'ts on this wonderful parkland course which was founded in 1894. The club has close links to Samuel Ryder who was Captain in 1929, the year Britain beat the USA at Moortown.

The winner of the May Fu Two trophy was Lawrence Cole 36 points (pictured second from left). Runner up was Paul Needle - also 36 points but lost it on count back.

The Chairman's Cup, best score on all par 3's 14 points was Chris Cooper (far right) and the guest winner was Matt Jolley, 41 points (far left). Matt also picked up the prize for second shot nearest the pin on 13. George Kay NP on 10. Birdie 2's Lawrence Cole and Tony Giles.

We ended the day with a splendid carvery and homemade sticky toffee pudding.

This was a really enjoyable day and I look forward to returning next year. A warm thank you from all the members of SAGS went out to Chris Cooper and Mike Brown for all their hard work in the running of our society.

Happy golfing.

Alan Brewer, Chairman



Village Hall News



Tuesday 5th November: Annual Fireworks Evening

Gates open: 6.15pm, bonfire from 6.30pm approx. and fireworks at 7pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to enjoy a spectacular evening of fireworks and refreshments. The Recreational Trust and Village Hall Committee will present a great display in a safe environment. Please do not bring fireworks, laser pens or sparklers to this event. Glow pendants will be available for sale at the gate.

Ticket price includes our special homemade soup, together with sausage in a roll and squash for the very young. Please do not dump any wood or rubbish outside the gate or in the field prior to the event. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult throughout.

Ticket prices: bought in advance £14 family, £5 single. On the gate £16 family, £6 single. Tickets are available from Barbara (01869 340423) and Steeple Aston Village shop from Monday 21st October. NB; Ticket sales from the Village shop will close at 3pm on the day.

Sunday 15th December: Wassail Evening 6pm start

Enjoy a light-hearted evening of mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies, carols, readings and Christmas music. This is an opportunity for everyone, families, young and old to join in some community singing. Carols may be part of the Church service, but they can also be enjoyed as part of the joy of Christmastide. So come along and join us as everyone is welcome. Free entry.

Saturday 18th January 2020: Annual Quiz Night.

Please book your teams early to avoid disappointment. Further details next month.

Please note:

Our letting agent is Katie Rushworth, 01869 340196, email steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com. Collect keys from "Touchstones" The Dickredge, Steeple Aston, OX25 4RS.

Barbara Brewer, Chair



The Gardening Spot

Do I really want to be in the garden in November?

It is not too late to complete any tidying up of the garden and greenhouse when the weather conditions allow and there are still some daylight hours remaining. Try to collect as many of the fallen leaves as possible and add them to the compost heap as they will in turn make great mulch for next season. Make sure young trees and bushes are supported so that they do not suffer with the effects of winter storms. This is an ideal time to clean-up the greenhouse by washing the glass to allow maximum light and clean off all the pots and seed trays that you might be using next year. It is this time of the year when we complete any mulching of flower beds with the compost that has matured over the past 18 months or so. It is also time if you have not already done so, to divide many of the herbaceous plants to help provide more strength to those remaining and provide additional plants for yourself or friends at no extra cost. I am amazed at the price charged for potted plants to be found in so-called garden centres when we are regularly potting up new plants that we have divided or have simply self-seeded and are surplus to our requirements. I say “so-called garden centres” as gardening is becoming much less of a priority for many of them, where you can instead purchase highly expensive ornaments that simply collect dust and end up in the next jumble sale. Boy, am I getting grumpy these days?

November is the time of the year when seed catalogues start to arrive so spend an hour or two looking through them to see what you might like to grow next year. One of the best things about gardening is that you can try growing different varieties or maybe, completely new plants, and if they fail, so what, the fun is in trying something different.

Believe it or not but this month your Horticultural Society committee, including the four new additions to that committee, will be working on a schedule for the spring show to be held later in March next year and throwing ideas around as to how we improve the annual show held each year on August Bank Holiday Monday. Thinking about it, The Horticultural Society as a title sounds really boring but in village terms, it is the organisation that puts together what is acknowledged as one of the biggest and best annual flower shows around and, with the space we have on Robinson's Close, it can get even bigger. Now, remembering this is your show, not exclusively for the growers of large onions or posh cakes, what would you like to see happen on Robinson's Close next August Bank Holiday Monday? Why not let me or any member of the committee know as it is ultimately a village show, organised by the village and primarily, for the villages of Steeple and Middle Aston?

Now that you have all got a few jobs to do in the garden, and while you are “putting the garden to bed”, have a think about the village show and, if you come up with ideas, pass them on and maybe next August, when you come onto the show ground, you can say, “that was my idea!”.

Richard Preston – “a gentleman who obviously has too much time on his hands!”

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



The October Parish Council meeting started with gossip, largely about the immature driving habits of men in black Mazdas. The meeting could not start because there were only two Councillors present and that isn't enough to be able to do any business. One of the two got a bit restive and suggested we should go home. Just then a third Councillor arrived and was told he had stopped us all going home and said "that's a pity as there is a good football match on this evening". You can see from what follows that they stayed and held the meeting. The Councillors were told that if a tree came down for which the Council was responsible, it might be liable for any damage caused. It was agreed that such trees would be identified and then checked for safety once a year. After further discussion, they decided to identify the Council's hedges as well and see which of these would benefit from an annual trim.

Our District Councillor, Mike Kerford-Burns, brought us up to date with Cherwell's work on its declaration of a Climate Change Emergency. He told us 30,000 trees would be planted in Banbury near the motorway as part of a carbon offset initiative. He said Cherwell were now checking on the climate change implications of its policies. I was rather startled by this as it seemed an inappropriately weak approach and not at all proactive. I hope he was just being unduly concise.

At present if the planners at Cherwell do not agree with the Parish Council's recommendation on planning applications, they don't tell us why they disagree. Mike told us that from now on the planners were meant to be explaining their decisions when there is disagreement - and my guess is that this should be highly informative. He said the Castle Quay development was proceeding satisfactorily and it was hoped part of the

former BHS site would be let to small emerging businesses.

The next part of the meeting was a bit like a joke in a Christmas cracker - when is a Councillor not a Councillor? The regulations were checked and the answer was a Councillor cannot throw off Councillorship and be treated as an ordinary member of the public while attending a Council meeting. This mattered at the last meeting because it prevented a Councillor being able to listen to the discussion about something that affected that Councillor in a personal way. Members of the public, however, are allowed to listen.

There was then a long discussion of whether the village needed a defibrillator and if so where and how it should be stored. It was noted that some of the local villages have one but no one knew of them ever being used. It was thought that this was a poor argument because if it was needed it might save a life. The Councillors thought our existing machine should be replaced as they are only meant to have a ten year lifespan and our machine was believed to be considerably older. The idea is that it would be stored in a cabinet on the road side wall of the Village Hall. When the machine is needed the key code will be obtainable from the emergency services. When the defibrillator is needed the first responders, or anyone else for that matter, can use it. The Parish Council Chairman told me after the meeting that 'the machine is fool proof as it will not deliver a shock if it isn't needed and the only way you can do any harm with it is to hit someone over the head with it'. The Councillors discussed the possibility of getting some grants towards the cost and are going to follow this up. I have never wanted to be an actress in Casualty but for those who have, this may be your opportunity to practise for the part.

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



A flashing sign which warns drivers they are speeding is going to be purchased for the village. The idea is to have about five sites where the sign will be used and to move the sign between the sites. At least one of the sites may be close to houses so it was proposed that if the local residents were disturbed by the signs they, the signs rather than the residents, might be fitted with the equivalent of blinkers. The data on the speed of passing cars will be recorded and downloaded roughly every fortnight when the batteries on the sign will have to be changed anyway. Unfortunately, it does not look as if we can have a flashing sign charged by a solar panel if we are intending to move the sign around the village, rather than leaving it in one place.

It has been suggested that we should plant wildflower seeds in suitable places around the village. Apparently this will require quite a lot of work as the areas would have to be raked so that at least 50% of the soil was bare, and then rolled. There was concern that some residents might see the wild flowers as weeds. The best time to do the seeding is in the autumn so the Councillors decided to do a small patch immediately and see if the result was generally regarded positively. The trial plot is on Heyford Road so let's keep a look out for it next summer. Another idea to make the village look more floriferous (the word appears in flower seed catalogues but I am unsure if it exists), would be to have planters. The Councillors considered whether they could ask for sponsors for the planters ie to plant them initially and subsequently to weed or replant as necessary. They came to the conclusion that although some sponsors would be reliable others might be less consistent and the planters, depending on their shape or location, could possibly be a safety hazard.

Once a year we have a safety report on the play area from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The report is quite expensive and has not produced any significant comments. Each year RoSPA suggest the users of the BMX track should go one way round only, but this has been received with the

lack of co-operation that could have been forecast. However the Parish Council will have to continue to get RoSPA reports on the play area as our insurance company insists upon it. The Councillors decided that it was good practice for all planning decisions to be considered at an open meeting, however comments by the Parish Council on planning applications have to be made within three weeks of the request. Parish Council meetings are usually held once a month only, and not at all in August or December. This means that at present not all planning applications can be discussed at an open meeting. The Councillors decided they would hold a special planning meeting if necessary when there was thought to be sufficient interest in any specific application which did not fall within the timescale of the regular monthly meeting.

One of our Councillors, Martin Lipson, had a heart attack a few weeks ago. The other Councillors said they missed him and his contribution and hoped he would be returning soon. They were impressed that within days of getting out of hospital Martin had sent in a correction to the minutes of the previous meeting. I went to see Martin a couple of days after the meeting and asked him how he was and he said he is 'gently improving'. On behalf of the village and the Parish Council – we hope you continue to improve Martin.

I am not quite sure how the topic began, but the Councillors considered whether it was ok to hold a meeting in the Sports and Recreation Centre. They knew they are not allowed to have a Council meeting in a pub and wondered whether the S & R's alcohol licence should, officially at least, prevent a Parish Council meeting being held there. It is a pity about not being able to hold the meeting in the pub because it might mean more people would attend.

The next meeting will be on 19th November. Do come even though there are no drinks at the meetings.

Steeplejack

This report is the personal view of the SAL reporter, and is not intended to be a complete record of the Council meeting. The official record - once approved - will be available at www.steepleaston.org.uk



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Child's Play Answers

1. At the White House
2. The tuba
3. Italy
4. Mount Kilimanjaro
5. Palm trees
6. Red, blue, black, yellow and green
7. Three
8. R
9. Fifty-two
10. Julius Caesar
11. Friendly
12. Pennsylvania
13. Sicily
14. Football

???? Mind Games

Can you unravel the actual names of the below spices and herbs?

1. clabk reppap _____
2. racywaa esde _____
3. Ringge _____
4. Labis _____
5. Lidl _____
6. saine dees _____
7. Gumten _____
9. lefnne edse _____
10. Micnu _____
11. Slecvo _____
12. anneyec prepep _____
13. Cruetrim _____
14. Ages _____
15. aby feal _____
16. Ceam _____
17. lichli drowpe _____
18. Mythe _____
19. Timn _____
20. Seyrmoar _____
21. mesaes dees _____
22. ryruc sleeav _____
23. marag slaama _____
24. Eknufrege _____
25. Gratnoar _____
26. Franfos _____
27. Splaicle _____
28. Drammoac _____
29. Draincore _____
30. Goreona _____
31. Jamorram _____
32. Slyrape _____
33. Nanicnom _____
34. theiw preppe _____
35. ppoyp edse _____
36. dimex beshr _____

Answers on page 37.



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Church Matters



A Village Advent Calendar

A couple of years ago we had a wonderful Harvest when all sorts of village groups decorated different windows and areas of the church. We'd like to try something similar this Advent - and hope that lots of people would like to be involved!

We will be putting 25 large boxes around church, and need village groups (or individuals) to decorate them. We have a scheme of 25 verses from the Bible which tell the Christmas story. Every day through Advent, a new box will be uncovered, revealing the next bit of the Christmas story. All the boxes are being provided by a removal company and are the same size - but how they are decorated to tell the Christmas story is entirely up to you. You could use paint, dried flowers, crafts, modelling clay or you could knit something...or anything really. The only limit is your imagination. Though as this will be open to everyone coming into church at any time, please don't use anything valuable. Feel free to light your boxes - with battery-powered lights (no electricity or candles) and feel free to do something which is very literal (Mary and Joseph and a donkey) or very figurative (maybe swirls of colour and light) - it's up to you.

If you are doing a box as a group, do try to think if you can weave your group into the story.

The boxes will be available to collect from church on the weekend of 2nd - 3rd November, and we ask that you have the finished article back to us by the end of our morning service on Sunday 24th November so that we can then have time to put everything in order and assemble our grand village advent calendar by the following weekend. We will have open afternoons for people to come together and work on their boxes at 2pm on Saturday 2nd November and Saturday 23rd November. Bring your ideas and any crafts you'd like to use - we will provide space, hospitality, a box to decorate, encouragement and help.

Then we will cover the boxes and number them...and do come and see what happens as we reveal a new part of the story each and every day in December up until Christmas. I am contacting some groups, but if you would like to take part please email me at steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk. The more the merrier!

Brexit

Whatever your views on Brexit, most of us are left feeling pretty anxious and concerned right now. Why not take a moment and come into church - it's open during the day, every day. Light a candle, pray, or just take a moment to be still. We are all different, but the heart of Christian faith says that God loves each of us - especially when we are worried and don't know what to do.

Remembrance

Last year saw the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. But Remembrance Sunday continues to be marked, and this year it falls on November 10th. Please join us at 10.55am for our annual service in church, followed by the walk up to the war memorial and the laying of wreaths there. We honour those who have given their lives for us, and pray for peace.

Bible Study is in the Rectory most Mondays at 2pm. More details of Church life can be found on our website www.sntchurch.com

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Tangled Spices and Herbs

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Black pepper | 13. Turmeric | 25. Tarragon |
| 2. Caraway seed | 14. Sage | 26. Saffron |
| 3. Ginger | 15. Bay leaf | 27. Allspice |
| 4. Basil | 16. Mace | 28. Cardamon |
| 5. Dill | 17. Chilli powder | 29. Coriander |
| 6. Anise seed | 18. Thyme | 30. Oregano |
| 7. Nutmeg | 19. Mint | 31. Marjoram |
| 8. Paprika | 20. Rosemary | 32. Parsley |
| 9. Fennel seed | 21. Sesame seed | 33. Cinnamon |
| 10. Cumin | 22. Curry leaves | 34. White pepper |
| 11. Cloves | 23. Garam masala | 35. Poppy seed |
| 12. Cayenne pepper | 24. Fenugreek | 36. Mixed herbs |



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BOCARDO HOUSE, 24A ST MICHAEL'S STREET, OXFORD OX1 2EB

This month our president, Linda Needle, started the meeting off with a few current topics including news of the forthcoming Christmas dinner which will be at the Deddington Arms this year. Following this, Pauline mentioned the annual trip to the Chipping Norton Theatre for the pantomime, Puss in Boots, the tale of King Rat and his gang of rodents.

The speaker for the evening was John Paine, who gave us an interesting talk entitled 'Tigers and Maharajas' showing photos taken from his trip to the Golden Triangle of India. We saw some beautiful palaces, and also shots of tigers and other animals taken on a visit to a tiger reserve.

This month members have been supporting two very worthy charities. Julie Hillier has been collecting donations of scarves to raise money for Dementia, and Linda held a coffee morning for MacMillan Cancer Research earlier in October.

Both have been well supported, so thank you to members for their generosity.

If you wish to find out more about the group, please get in touch with Linda Needle on 340028.

Angie Allen

1st Deddington Guides Report



As ever we made the best use of the remaining light in the evenings and spent time outside, enjoying toasted marshmallows on a campfire and playing games. We also showed the Rainbows how to light a fire and toast marshmallows. As a team we went along to a Brownie meeting and told them all about the activities we get up to at Guides. The Brownies really threw themselves into playing the energetic games, led by the Guides, and everyone had a great time.

We also found out about Rangers and Young Leaders, which the girls can move to after age 14.

With our new patrols and patrol leaders settled we are embracing the new programme. We've also completed some artwork connected with autumn and found out about lots of seeds, nuts and berries.

Skipping is a good way to keep fit and everyone mastered the almost forgotten art of jumping in and out of a big rope and trying for a record number of guides skipping together.

The Guides made some amazing fashion creations – all from recycled materials – which was a lot of fun.

Lastly continuing our theme of looking at some more unusual career opportunities for girls we loved the talk from a formula 1 engineer, Kate, who explained how she began her career and why she loves it so much.

All girls over 10 are very welcome to come and join us and make some new friends and join in our adventures,

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

Fish and Chips always go down well and our meeting during October proved to be no exception. Great fish and chips, superb, homemade puddings and even better company. What more can you ask for? At the very end of September, we visited Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron and Blists Victorian Town in Shropshire. If you haven't been and want a great day out for all the family, this is certainly a place to go. Coalbrookdale is basically where the Darby family started the industrial use of iron and there is so much history there and lots to entertain both young and old. Blists is a recreation of a Victorian town with shops of that era and trades that have disappeared from modern living.

During October we held our annual jumble sale to help raise funds for the club which now attracts around 90 members from Steeple Aston and the surrounding area. Thank you to all who supported us in making the amazing total of £1,065.40 which will go a long way to provide the quality speakers and entertainers we have at each of our monthly meetings and, of course, help pay for the Christmas dinner.

November looks set to be a busy month with two coach trips where, first, we will be entertained by a tribute to The Beatles whilst enjoying a three-course lunch and, a week or so later, we are off to Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market where we can purchase all those Christmas presents or simply have a great day out. There is a possibility that we might have a few seats available if anyone would like to join us so just give me a call if you are interested. For our monthly meeting we will hear all about The Story of "Dad's Army".

For more information on The Valentine Club and all the news and photos of our exploits go to our website at www.valentineclub.wixsite/aston where you can also view the forthcoming programme. Why not give yourself a chance of winning up to £25,000 and supporting The Valentine Club by signing up to The Cherwell Lottery?

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Sunday 10th November	9.30am Remembrance Service Rev Marcus Green and Richard Bailey	10.55am Remembrance Service Rev Marcus Green and Richard Bailey	5.30pm Remembrance Service Rev Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 17th November	9.30am Holy Communion Rev Marcus Green	11am Holy Communion Rev Marcus Green	5.30pm Evensong Rev Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 24th November	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11am Morning Prayer <i>With Children's Church</i> Rev Marcus Green	9.30am Family Communion Rev Marcus Green
Sunday 1st December	9.30am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Rev Marcus Green	11am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Rev Marcus Green	5.30pm Advent Sunday Informal Carol Service Rev Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
Thursday 5th December			3.30pm Tackley Praise: Christingle with Tackley CE Primary School Rev Marcus Green

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November 21 st blue & brown bin	Later dates in December still to be confirmed.
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Steeple Aston Calendar

NOVEMBER			
Saturday 2nd	SAVA The Unseen Village	Village Hall	2 – 6pm
Sunday 3rd	SAVA The Unseen Village	Village Hall	12 – 4pm
Tuesday 5th	Fireworks Spectacular	Robinsons Close	Gates open 6.15pm
Saturday 9th	Race Night	Sports & Recreational Centre	7pm
Tuesday 12th	WI meeting – Snowflakes and Christmas Trees	Village Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 16th	Annual Church charity quiz	Village Hall	7pm
Friday 15th	SAL December issue final copy date		
Monday 18th	Parish Council meeting	Committee Room	7.30pm
Tuesday 19th	Valentine Club – “Dad’s Army”	Village Hall	2.30pm
Tuesday 19th	Steeple Aston Garden Club meeting - Harriet Rycroft “Planting Pots for Winter Interest and Spring Joy”	Village Hall	7.30pm for 8pm start
Thursday 21st	Valentine Club trip - Victorian Christmas Market	Gloucester Quays	
Saturday 23rd	Farmer’s Market	Deddington	9 – 12.30pm
Sunday 24th	Steeple Aston Choral Society: A vision of Angels	Steeple Aston Church	7pm
Saturday 30th	Christmas Party in aid of Katharine House	Village Hall	7pm
DECEMBER			
Tuesday 10th	WI Christmas Dinner		
Sunday 15th	Wassail Evening	Village Hall	6pm
Sunday 15th	SAL January issue final copy and advert deadline		
Tuesday 17th	Valentine Club Christmas Dinner	Village Hall	12pm
Saturday 21st	Farmer’s Market	Deddington	9 – 12.30pm

Choral Society Rehearsals. Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays
Badminton. Village Hall - 10am -12.30pm - Tuesdays
Bell Ringing practice. Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays
Scouts. Sport & Rec Centre - 7.30pm - Tuesdays
Baby and Toddler Group. Sport & Rec Centre - 9am -11am - Thursdays
Cricket Nets. Robinson’s Close - 6pm - Thursdays
Badminton. Village Hall - 8pm - Thursdays
Village History Centre (SAVA) open 10am-12pm - Saturdays

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