

Steeple Aston

DECEMBER 2019

ISSUE No. 556

*Life*



**Inside SAL this month:**

- Read about Marian Trinder in Steeple People
- Abigail Boisot tells us all about creative living
- And there's a festive ARTS Page to get you in the Christmas spirit
  - Plus much more.....

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Cover photo: Edward Dowler

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## Steeple Aston *Life*

### **COPY**

All articles and letters to the Editor

**Heather Sherkunov**  
[editor@salife.co.uk](mailto:editor@salife.co.uk)

### **COPY DEADLINES**

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

The copy deadline for the January 2020 issue is therefore 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT ISSUE WILL NOT BE DELIVERED UNTIL THE SECOND WEEK OF JANUARY**

### **ADVERTS**

All adverts, and all advertising queries (*availability, prices, dimensions, suitability of illustrations, etc.*) to **Charlotte Bartlett**  
[salife.advertising@gmail.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### **ADVERTISING RATES**

Non-commercial adverts:  
1 page (village events only)- £15  
1/2 page - £12, 1/4 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	Chair	Ann Livings	233518
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector	Rev Marcus Green	340903
	Church Wardens	Eileen Baglin-Jones	340099,C15
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		Marian 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	Aidan & Kegan Madden	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



# Editorial



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

## Steeple Aston *Life*

December 2019  
Issue No. 556

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Jenny Bell, Sue McLean

I'm excited now that Christmas is around the corner. It might be cold outside but there are so many fun activities to take part in around the village and beyond. We've got news on this month's ARTS Page of some festive events still to be enjoyed. Also this month, you can read about Marian Trinder in Steeple People and I was delighted to meet Abigail Boisot who makes her living as an artist. I'm as jealous as I am awe inspired by Abigail's talent – take a look on pages 12 and 13.

We received some fantastic news from former Editor, Cathy Lawday, who earlier in the year put the magazine into the National Parish Magazine Awards and we've just found out we came 9<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to Cathy and the rest of the SAL Committee.

Speaking of editorship, there's now an opportunity for you to become the new Editor of SAL as I'm leaving the village for pastures new. It is with a heavy heart that we're leaving and we hope to return one day because we love it here. I also love editing this magazine and would highly recommend it as a fantastic way to meet people in the village. If you are interested, see inside for more.

You may have read in last month's edition that Steeple Aston Life Magazine is now available on the village website. To view the magazine, log on to [www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine).

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year from me and the rest of the Steeple Aston Life Magazine Committee.

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.*

## **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the SAL Committee**

Wishing everyone in Steeple Aston and Middle Aston a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2020 be a happy and healthy year for us all.

### **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 is now online**

You can now read your favourite village magazine online at [www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine). Have a look now!



#### **All Saints Party**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> November a happy afternoon tea was held in the church - an All Saints Party - which was an opportunity for the Rector and the Parochial Church Council to say thank you to the very many people who contribute in some way to the church. Enjoying tea and lots of cake were more than 50 people from the village representing teams such as those who clean the church or churchyard regularly, the bell ringers and the hand bell ringers, the flower arrangers and the people who read or lead intercessions - and others too numerous to mention. In candlelight and with music playing it was a warm and cheerful gathering.

### **Congratulations!**

Tom and Becca Coker of The Rise, South Side, are delighted to announce the arrival of Imogen Frances Mary, born on 27<sup>th</sup> September.





## *Editor's Letterbox*

Dear Editor,

We were really upset and disappointed to wake up on the morning of 29 September, the day after we'd brought our baby home from the hospital, to discover that significant damage had been done to our family car. We found a huge dent in the bonnet, where someone had clearly jumped on it with force. This would cost hundreds of pounds for us to fix.

We had assumed that whoever had caused the damage had done so accidentally, and had hoped that they might have come to apologise. We now understand that this was not an isolated incident. We would encourage whoever did the damage to examine their conscience and ideally apologise, or in the least make sure that this never happens again.

We are very surprised that this sort of intentional damage would be done by someone in our close-knit community. It doesn't take long to destroy a car bonnet, but it causes longer-term upset in the recipients and has fairly hefty financial implications. We hope that whoever did this will in future be more considerate of their neighbours.

Yours,

**Tom and Becca Coker**

Dear SAL

### **Defibrillator debate**

I have followed the articles and comments about installing a publicly accessible defibrillator (PAD) in recent editions of your magazine with interest. My mother and brother both live in the village and consequently I am a frequent visitor. I have recently been involved in a project to fund this equipment for my own local community and felt sharing my experience might prove useful to the debate.

Applying through the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and making a case for a defibrillator in your community you can obtain the equipment for £600, the rest being funded by BHF. You do still need to purchase the cabinet to house it and this can be up to £500 so a budget of £1000 - £1200 could still be needed. BHF do stipulate that the defibrillator must be in an unlocked, uncoded cabinet and accessible 24/7 to qualify for their funding. You can also apply to your local or county councillors for financial support through their locality budgets and we were able to fund the cabinet in that way.

No training is required to use a defibrillator, it literally talks you through step by step and will only administer a shock if its analysis shows this to be needed. You can do no harm only good and could save a life. Encouraging awareness of how to deliver CPR within the community does benefit from training. Along with the equipment BHF supply a full CPR training kit with practise dummies and a DVD which leads groups through a 40 minute training session and does not require a trainer to deliver the session.

We know that our equipment has gone out to at least 3 incidents since it was installed 6 months ago, thankfully it has not yet needed to be deployed on these occasions but it was there as a safety net and who knows whether the next time could be the critical one. We are in a busy location but surely a village community where the emergency services may take longer to arrive increases the importance of having a defibrillator readily available for more immediate use when the need may arise.

I wish you luck and hope that these comments may encourage more support for your initiative.

**Janice Neal**

# Editor's Letterbox

Dear Editor,

## **BOOKS FOR CHARITY - AN ENORMOUS THANK YOU AND AN S.O.S.**

Since I retired from The Bench in 2013 and started Books for Charity I have been given hundreds of books and have managed to raise over £20,000, the proceeds going to charities often quite small ones. I am so grateful to people, many from this village, who have helped and encouraged this venture and not least Mel and Sarah who were then running The Red Lion where it all began.

The problem, the challenge, stems from its success. We need more good outlets within range of the village. At the moment, I have shelves in Steeple Aston church, Nicholsons, the Cinnamon Stick at Middle Barton and we are beginning to sell cookery books to help the Oxford Children's Hospital at the Lynwood cafes in Lechlade and Fairford. However, one or two more outlets, i.e. places to sell books with a good footfall, would help enormously. Any suggestions would be most welcome. Our e-mail address is [c.compston@btinternet.com](mailto:c.compston@btinternet.com) and telephone number 01869 349808.

Finally, we have been asked to close the book room at The Red Lion which does compound the problem!

Many, many thanks,

**Christopher Compston**

To the Editor,

## **Climate Change**

I enjoy reading Steeplejack's take on the deliberations of the PC meetings. She reports that in the October meeting, our District Councillor brought us up to date with the Council's reaction to the climate change emergency. He told us 30,000 trees would be planted in Banbury near the motorway. Steeplejack finds this a weak approach. I find it a very positive approach. The science that afforestation is one of the most simple and effective ways of drawing down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, is well documented. Climate Emergency is not a simple battle. It is going to be a very long drawn out warfare and I am sure this is just an opening salvo.

**Roderick Nicholson**



*Photo: Catherine Crook*



As we get older, we start to wonder if we might need to move to accommodation more suitable for older people. But what does this mean, and what are the options available to us?

The Neighbourhood Plan Forum, which covers eleven parishes including Steeple Aston, is conducting a survey in the run-up to Christmas, providing information on the options, and seeking your views on whether any of them might suit your needs. You should have the survey leaflet through your door (if not please contact us).

The impetus for this survey is the proposal by the Dorchester Group (one of the Forum's members) to build a significant new facility for older people at Heyford Park. A large site has been earmarked, but at this stage no decisions have been taken as to exactly what should be built. Our survey is designed to steer those decisions in the direction of what local people say they might want from among several possibilities – sheltered housing, extra-care homes, or retirement housing. Each one has different characteristics (explained in our leaflet), and there are further options of outright purchase, rental, or shared ownership.

Many older people will want to stay in their local community, but want to downsize to somewhere more affordable and manageable. Shared ownership might appeal to current owner occupiers wishing to downsize and access capital from the sale of their current home. Neighbourhood Plan policies now in force encourage the building of two and three bedroom dwellings in some of our villages. Also, you might have family members who, in the right circumstances, could move locally to be nearer you. Our survey tries to capture that need too.

So please respond to the survey (deadline December 18<sup>th</sup>), even if being “older” feels a little way off!

**Martin Lipson**, MCNP Forum Chairman 01869 347046

## **Steeple Aston Handbell Ringers**

Christmas will soon be upon us and already the Handbell Ringers have begun practising for this year's door-to-door ringing round the two villages of Steeple and Middle Aston.

We will begin our tour on Wednesday 11th December and this year we will be collecting for the charity Versus Arthritis.

As usual a small portion of the money collected will go to the Church Tower Fund for the maintenance of the bells which includes the handbells. That amount will be decided upon at our AGM in the new year.

We look forward to ringing a Christmas Carol at your door.

**Sally Cooper**



# Steeple People



## Marian Trinder

### **How long have you lived in Steeple Aston?**

*Nearly 17 years - since February 2003.*

### **Where did you move from?**

*Kidlington.*

### **What brought you here?**

*The fact that it was rural and the village life. It was also the bonus of a lovely school.*

### **What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston?**

*The wonderful neighbours.*

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

*Vertically challenged hobbit.*

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

*Most see over me.*

### **Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist?**

*To marmite or not?*

*Early bird; both; optimist; love marmite.*

### **What was the best thing about being a child?**

*Ponies! I started riding at four years old (very quickly deciding I wanted to work with horses!). We bought my pony as a six month old foal when I was six from a place in Scotland overlooking Loch Ness. We had her until she died in 2001 at 28.*

### **What is the best thing about being an adult?**

*Having children - two girls, Jasmine and Natalie, and one boy, Philip. All grown up now.*

### **As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

*To work with horses.*

### **What was your first job?**

*I worked on a pony stud in Hereford, then moved on to work for a family in Wiggington as a nanny/groom/general anything. I then progressed to veterinary nursing and then to working for the university in the Physiology Department. Having had children, I went to Sainsbury's and on to the Steeple village shop. I was also a dinner lady and lollipop lady at the school for about five years whilst also being the Avon lady round the village. I then progressed back to a proper job when Philip moved up to secondary school. I was also on the parish council for a number of years.*

### **What do you do for a living now?**

*I'm a Podiatry Clinic Assistant in Oxford.*

### **Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have**

*As a child and growing up, life revolved around ponies and competing locally in the West country. I was a brownie and then a guide until about 12 when ponies took over my time. As an adult I followed the girls back into guiding, as soon as the opportunity arose, and I love it. I have been involved in running Deddington guides for about 12 years or so now and this summer took a group to Switzerland which was amazing.*

### **What are you reading at the moment?**

*The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton and I also love the Harry Potter books and The Hunger Games Trilogy.*

### **If you could ban one thing in the country, what would it be?**

*Boris Johnson, Nigel Farage and Brexit.*

### **What's your favourite saying or piece of advice?**

*Things will work out in the end.*

### **Tell us something you are good at.**

*Something I'm good at - talking! Or maybe that's a bad thing!*

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

*I was born in Hong Kong and there are two of me! I'm an identical twin.*



# Random *but True!*



*Random but True!* gives you a collection of interesting but very random facts which, unbelievably, are true. An avid reader from the village has sent in some fantastic *Random but True!* facts:

- There are as many atoms in a teaspoonful of sea water as there are teaspoonfuls of sea water in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Falling coconuts kill more people per year than sharks.
- Honey never goes bad, even for centuries.

## M.H.

Have you got any random but true facts? Send them in to [editor@salife.co.uk](mailto:editor@salife.co.uk).

This month there is a Christmas theme.

1. "Jingle Bells" was written for Thanksgiving, not Christmas. The song was written in 1857 by James Lord Pierpont and published under the title "*One Horse Open Sleigh*". It was supposed to be played in the composer's Sunday school class during Thanksgiving as a way to commemorate the famed Medford sleigh races. "Jingle Bells" was also the first song to be broadcast from space.
2. In Germany, Poland, and Ukraine, finding a spider or a spider's web on a Christmas tree is believed to be an omen of good luck. According to one legend, a spider wove a blanket for Baby Jesus, according to another a spider web on the Christmas tree turned silver and gold once the sunlight touched it. One way or another, decorating a Christmas tree with artificial spiders and spider webs will inevitably bring you luck and prosperity.
3. Two weeks before Christmas is one of the two most popular times for couples to break up, according to data analysed from Facebook. The other top time is two weeks after Valentine's Day. Christmas Day itself, however, is the least favourite day for break ups.
4. The first artificial Christmas Tree wasn't a tree at all. It was created out of goose feathers that were dyed green. The first artificial Christmas trees were developed in Germany in the 19th century, due to a major continuous deforestation. The feather trees became increasingly popular during the early 20th century.
5. Christmas in Iceland is a colourful fusion of religion, fairytales and folklore. Instead of one Father Christmas, the children are visited by 13 Yule Lads that either reward children for good behaviour or punish them if they were naughty. The festive period begins 13 days before Christmas and each day one of the 13 Yule Lads comes to houses and fills the shoes that children leave under the Christmas tree either with sweets and small gifts or rotting potatoes, depending on how that particular child has behaved on the preceding day. The mother of Yule Lads, half-troll, half-beast, horrifying old woman Grýla, kidnaps naughty kids and boils them in her cauldron.
6. In Germany, *Heiligabend*, or Christmas Eve, is said to be a magical time when the pure in heart can hear animals talking. They can also see that rivers turn into wine, Christmas tree blossoms bear fruit, mountains open, revealing gems hidden inside and bell ringing can be heard from the bottom of the sea.
7. Robins on cards started as a joke 150 years ago when postmen wore red tunics and were named after them.
8. It's technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been rescinded.
9. Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is from the Anglo-Saxon word *misteltan*, which means "little dung twig" because the plant spreads through bird droppings.
10. The Yule Log was originally an entire tree that was carefully chosen and brought into the house with great ceremony and burned over the 12 days of Christmas. A Chocolate Yule Log or 'bûche de Noël' is now a popular Christmas dessert, made of a chocolate sponge roll layered with cream.



# In the Kitchen



Contemplating the food side of the festive season can be just another thing to consider on the to do list. It was when thinking about December catering, the quote came to mind from Louis P. De Gouy 1949 publication 'the Soup Book':

*"Soup is cuisine's kindest course. It breathes reassurance, it steams consolation and after a weary day it promotes sociability, just as the five o'clock cup of tea or the cocktail hour."*

So this December consider making good use of the kindest course by supping up a heart-warming soup to the table. On a cold day a bowl, mug, even served in an espresso cup, soups are all-round winners when it comes to handiness for festive fayre.

## Celeriac, Walnut and Truffle Oil Soup

### Ingredients

30g butter	170ml milk
110g shallots, finely chopped	60ml cream
140g potatoes, finely chopped	Fresh flat leaf parsley chopped, to garnish
Salt and freshly ground black pepper	A splash of truffle oil (optional)
425g finely diced celeriac	25g/1oz toasted, chopped hazelnuts for garnish
1.2 litres chicken stock (vegetarians may substitute with vegetable stock or water)	

### Instructions

Melt the butter in a heavy saucepan over a medium heat. When it foams, add the potatoes and onions and toss them in the butter until evenly coated. Season with salt and freshly ground pepper.

To soften the vegetables, cover with a circle of baking paper (to keep in the steam) and the saucepan lid, and sweat over a gentle heat for about ten minutes.

Remove the paper lid. Add the celeriac and chicken stock, bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 8-10 minutes, until the celeriac is soft.

Liquidise the soup using a hand blender, adding a little more stock, milk (or cream) to thin the soup to the required consistency. Season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Serve the soup piping hot in a bowl with a scattering of chopped hazelnuts, and a little chopped parsley to garnish.

## Cream of Chestnut Soup

### Ingredients

1 tbsp butter  
1 cup celery root, diced (or celery stalks cut in pieces)  
20 ounces chestnuts (fresh, vacuum packed, canned or frozen) or 1 can chestnut puree  
2 ½ cups chicken broth or stock  
1 bay leaf  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 pinch cayenne pepper (if you like it spicy, use more)  
½ cup whipping cream  
8 slices bacon (if you like)  
¼ cup whipped cream (if you like)

### Instructions

If using fresh chestnut, cut an X in the flat side of each chestnut. Place the chestnuts into a large pot filled with water and bring to a boil. Cook for 10 minutes, then remove chestnuts from the pot. Allow to cool slightly, then peel outer shell and brown skin (brown skin can't be peeled when too cold).

Heat the butter in a soup pan and sauté the diced celery for a minute, add the chestnuts and sauté together for another minute or two.

Add the broth, bay leaf, some pepper and cayenne pepper.

Simmer on low heat for 25 minutes or until celery and chestnuts are tender.

Cut bacon in small pieces and fry them until crumbly.

After 25 minutes remove the bay leaf, add ½ cup cream to the soup.

Puree the soup and add salt, pepper and cayenne pepper to taste.



To serve, to each bowl add 1 tablespoon of whipped cream and sprinkle with bacon.

# Become the Editor of Steeple Aston *Life*

*Are you looking for a new interest?  
Would you like to be more involved with village life?*

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**If you would like more information, please contact Heather Sherkunov, on [editor@salife.co.uk](mailto:editor@salife.co.uk).**

## A brush with creativity

*I have always wondered what it's like to be able to make a living from something you have a lifelong passion for. I spoke to Abigail Boisot, who makes her living as an artist, to find out.*

Abigail, who has lived in Steeple Aston since June 2011, has had an exciting and somewhat international upbringing. She was born in London, grew up in France, was sent to boarding school at the age of nine, and moved to the USA in the early nineties. There she went to art school until 1996 when she moved to Barcelona for nine years.

She said: “After graduating from Mass Art, I moved to Barcelona, taught English as a Foreign Language for a couple of years, before finding a job in publishing. It wasn't until I did a post-graduate diploma at Heatherley's in London that I really got into art as a career.

“I've loved drawing all my life but I started focusing on art when I went to Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, USA in 1991. As a child I wanted to be a vet, but I didn't get good enough A-Levels, and it turns out I'm actually quite squeamish and probably too sentimental, so I went to the USA to reinvent myself, spent a year getting a portfolio together through adult education classes, and was accepted by a couple of good art schools.”

So, I wonder, is it easy to make a living as an artist?

“Making a living out of art is very hard. My husband is also self-employed and I have a part-time job to help pay the bills. I do art because I am passionate about it but it's not always easy. I am currently working on dog portrait commissions but as well as portraits I also do horses in sport and landscapes.

“I have several favourite pieces in different genres. There's a portrait of Matt, my husband, that I painted when he had flu, I'm very fond of it despite the fact that he was unwell. There's also a horse-racing picture called “Odds On!” which is very vibrant, and slightly abstract. I usually paint in oil on mdf board. I occasionally paint on canvas but I don't find it nearly as smooth. I am also a keen printmaker and love drawing with charcoal.”

Where does she begin when starting a new painting?

Abigail continued: “It depends what the subject is. I will always start with several sketches, for larger paintings I tend to do an oil sketch to work out composition and colour. If I'm doing a landscape, I tend to go out and sketch plein air in a tiny sketchbook and go back to the studio with a combination of sketches and photos.

“I get most of my clients through word of mouth, if someone has seen one of my paintings hanging in someone's home. I get a lot more interest after exhibiting, I don't often sell very much during exhibitions but people will get in touch to buy something for a big birthday or anniversary.

“I've spent the last year doing commissions of horses, dogs and a cat. In the new year, I plan to go back to doing a series of landscapes as it allows me more expression. The Eyecatcher is my muse, and I always feel inspired by the changing landscape when I'm walking the dogs. I definitely need a break from painting commissions otherwise it feels stale.





“My family know painting is part of who I am, and I am at my happiest when I’ve had a good day’s painting. My children love to come into the studio although I do have to tell them not to touch anything as oil paints don’t wash off and get everywhere!”

“At the moment I’m working on a painting of three rescue dogs for friends of my sister’s in San Diego. They are sitting on a sofa wearing really funny coats and they have such funny expressions. Unfortunately, due to their location, I am having to rely exclusively on photographs, which is always much more of a challenge, as I pride myself on capturing the animal’s personality after meeting with them. That’s much more difficult to do with just photos.”

Abigail, who has two children, also has a passion for rescuing street dogs, and currently has three from Portugal. What would she say is her biggest achievement in her career?

She said: “I think making the cover of the weekend Oxford Times during Art Weeks felt like a seminal moment. Also, having a painting accepted by the AAEA (American Academy of Equine Artists) at the American Museum of the Horse exhibition in Kentucky.

“My goals are to keep painting, and finding new challenges. My greatest fear is becoming too commercial, so I constantly need to change what I’m doing to keep me interested.

“I love looking at everything with an artistic eye. Often, when I’m out walking or talking to someone, I will see a colour, or a tension between two colours and that excites me. I love the isolation. I love being in my studio, listening to Radio 4 and being totally in the zone!”

“I find it hard when I’ve spent a couple of hours mixing really good colours, and am just getting into the swing of things, then realising it’s school pick up, having to down tools to do the evening routine. I can almost hear the paint drying on my palette!”

Find out more about Abigail and her artwork on her website <https://www.abigailboisot.com>, Facebook [www.facebook.com/abigailboisot](https://www.facebook.com/abigailboisot) or on Instagram [www.instagram.com/abigailboisot](https://www.instagram.com/abigailboisot).



If you would like to tell SAL readers about your passion, email [editor@salife.co.uk](mailto:editor@salife.co.uk).

**Heather Sherkunov**, Editor

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# ECO Issues



I don't know what people do who, like me, wake in the middle of the night for an hour or more. I spent a lot of my life worrying about what I had to do the next day. Fruitless and a waste of time! So now I try to divert myself and, yes, I watch or listen to things on my smart phone (with ear plugs so as not to disturb). I came across TED talks like this some time ago and if you haven't done so yourself I recommend them highly. I don't know how they are organised but people give a talk of about 15 minutes to a large audience in a theatre or hall. The thing is anybody can give a talk - you don't have to be a professor of this or that etc (though they take part too). It's a worldwide thing and as a result a lot of amazing ideas fly around in these arenas.

The most recent talk that really stuck with me was given by Allan Savory. He has a history of working in Africa with Safari parks and with conservation. His thesis goes like this: If you live in a place like UK and denude the land around you of all plants, just leaving bare soil, then within a reasonable length of time something will have grown back - grass, weeds etc. However, if you do that in the hot regions of Africa or elsewhere then nothing grows back. You get desert and it's a great worry. The current received wisdom is that this is caused by over grazing - largely cattle. So measures are continuously being put in place to slow down grazing. However, Allan observes that when land is taken out of production by nomadic herding, the grasses initially grow tall. They then reach the end of their season and fall over. Naturally they degrade but nothing clears them out of the way of the roots so they block light and what little moisture there is from the roots. The result: the plants die and desertify.

But, what Savory says is this: Nomadic grazing of sheep, goats and cattle has been taking place successfully in the hot areas of Africa for 10,000 years. And here's the thing - vast herds of wildebeest etc. do the same job in a wild state. Somehow the land has managed to keep its fertility. Interesting...

He took flocks of animals and as an experiment placed them on land that was denuded. He says he didn't give the animals any start up food, they just foraged. However, the crucial thing is, and always was, that this is planned nomadic herding. The animals have to be moved on in a "planned" way as did the herders over thousands of years. They knew what they were doing. The result was that the desertified land on which Allan Savory's animals started out revived amazingly. Whereas land left without herding remained desert. There's a logic in this - animals deposit manure. This helps a lot and starts up insect life which helps land fertility and so it goes. They also cut the grasses back to a small clump - the roots therefore receive the water and light and don't die.

Savory says that by claiming back desertified land in this way we produce animals which do not give off so much methane and the land greens so that it produces life-giving oxygen etc. He claims that if this system were adopted worldwide in hot places we would halve our production of CO<sub>2</sub>. Also there would be a lot of extra meat to eat which would help the world need for food. What we have from him is a complete reversal of the current mindset concerning conservation in hot climates. I like this! But the media doesn't. The articles from magazines and newspapers that I have found online are quite scathing which is a shame and they claim it doesn't work.

Please may I recommend that you make up your own mind? Here are some web addresses to follow this up if you are interested: TED Talk - Allan Savory: <https://tinyurl.com/owpubey>

Allan Savory Foundation: <https://www.savory.global/>

Slate Media - "Allan Savory" is wrong <https://tinyurl.com/y4yco73z>

**Martin Dale**

# HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?



## the Fourteas at Stratford-upon-Avon?

Maybe you are considering a visit to the Christmas Market at Stratford-upon-Avon which fills Bridge Street with seasonal shopping stalls and which has become a popular pre-Christmas event in the town. Or perhaps you are going to Stratford on 7<sup>th</sup> December to enjoy the Victorian Christmas Fayre (even if, like me, you find that the spelling of 'Fayre' grates a bit!)? If you do plan to be in Stratford as part of your Christmas preparations, or just for a shopping or a theatre trip, why not call for refreshment at the unusual Fourteas vintage-themed tea room in Sheep Street.

Fourteas is an amusing tea room with a 1940s theme – hence the punning name which gives a clue to what you will discover. The menu takes the form of a Wartime Ration Book, which some of us can still remember, although the prices are regrettably not what they might have been in 1943! The waiting staff wear specially designed uniforms which add to the 1940s ambience as does the variety of loose leaf tea from which you can make your choice perhaps to accompany a slice of the tempting cakes which the menu tells us are all baked on the premises.



This is all good fun but what pleased and amused us most of all was the great number of wartime posters and pictures around the walls and indeed in the ladies loo! (Even in the interests of research for SAL we didn't visit the Gents I'm afraid!). Cathy's pictures will give you a good idea of what awaits you and the glimpses of what life was like and what was important in the 1940s gives much cause for reflection and appreciation of how life has changed for us now.

The Fourteas tea room, which was the winner of the best Café/Bistro in the West Midlands Food Awards England in 2017 and 2018, is open Monday – Saturday 9.30am – 5pm and Sunday 10.30am – 5pm.

The Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Markets are on 21<sup>st</sup> November 10am – 8pm and on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December 10am- 7pm.

**Eileen Baglin-Jones**

*Photos: Cathy Lawday*

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

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# Poetry Corner



## December

I wrote this in early September having seen Christmas displays already going up, quite disconcerting when you have just got back from a summer vacation!

Merry Christmas  
Christmas comes but once a year  
and what a time it is  
it starts off in September now  
when shops are in a tizz!

Displays are up the goods are out  
with autumn just begun  
(an awful lot of effort for  
a day or two of fun!)

I must be old, I can recall,  
I clearly can remember  
a time when all the prep began  
quite early in December!

What is the harm in being prepared  
as all these goods they tout?  
No harm at all, lest we forget  
what Christmas is about!

Christmas comes but once a year  
a time for hurly burly  
but now the starting gun goes off,  
for me, a tad too early!

**Peter Wild**

---

## Christmas Cheer

*My husband thinks that Christmas should be like the Olympics – held once every four years. I love Christmas, but it always seems to be more stressful for women than for men. I remember when I was newly married my mother-in-law asking what the secret ingredient was in the Christmas pudding. I didn't confess that it was the plastic pudding basin - which had melted when the pan ran dry! So here are some tips for women to reduce their workload - and their stress levels - at Christmas.*

I know that many people  
Find Christmas quite a chore.  
They'd prefer the festive season came  
Not every year, but every four.

After many stressed-out  
Christmasses  
I can definitely state  
That in order to survive it  
You need to delegate.

I make a tasty Christmas cake  
But my pastry is like lead.  
So I let the Sainsbury bakers  
Make my mince pies instead.

The secret to plum pudding,  
No-one will never guess  
Is to buy it off the shelf  
At good old M&S.

Rather than spending hours  
Present-shopping all round town  
Buy gifts on the internet,  
So at least you can sit down.

Glossy magazines have ideas  
For stylish new décor  
But what's wrong with the bunting  
You made in 1984?

In the run-up to Christmas  
When tempers start to fray  
Bribe your children to be good,  
And order takeaway.

As for the advent calendar,  
I know it would be nice  
To put chocolate behind every door.  
But if you haven't – blame the mice.

And if your Christmas visitors  
Don't help out as they ought,  
Make tasks like peeling sprouts  
A competitive team sport.

Let your family think  
That you're a hopeless cook  
So they'll deal with the turkey  
(Leaving you to read a book).

Tell your guests that washing up  
Is strictly democratic.  
And anyone who doesn't help  
Gets the camp bed in the attic.

And if on Christmas afternoon  
When the Queen is in full flow  
You sleep right through the royal  
speech  
Don't feel bad; she'll never know.

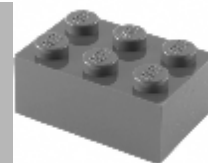
Try to bear in mind that Christmas  
Is just one day in the year  
So keep it in perspective  
And dig out some good cheer.

If you cut back the workload,  
And limit stress, well then  
You may even have the energy  
To feel goodwill towards the men!

**Cathy Lawday**



# Child's Play



## NAME THE CHRISTMAS FILMS

All these films have a Christmas theme.

			
1	2	3	4
			
5	6	7	8
			
9	10	11	12
			
13	14	15	16
			
17	18	19	20

Answers on p30

[www.kensquiz.co.uk](http://www.kensquiz.co.uk)

Apologies to those of you who are still wondering what the answer to number 15 is from last month's Child's Play. The question was 'Is hot air lighter or heavier than cold air?' and the answer is lighter.

# Quips and Quotes



## From the film Elf

"I just like to smile, smiling's my favorite."

"I passed through the seven levels of the Candy Cane forest, through the sea of swirly twirly gum drops, and then I walked through the Lincoln Tunnel."

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!"



"We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corns and syrup."

"This place reminds me of Santa's Workshop! Except it smells like mushrooms and everyone looks like they want to hurt me."

"You stink! You smell like beef and cheese, you don't smell like Santa."

"So, good news—I saw a dog today."

"Francisco! That's fun to say! Francisco. Frannn-cis-co. Fran-cis-cooo."

"Son of a NUT-cracker!"

[Seeing a sign for "World's Best Cup of Coffee"] "You did it! Congratulations! World's best cup of coffee! Great job, everybody! It's great to be here."

"I think you're really beautiful and I feel really warm when I'm around you and my tongue swells up. So... do you want to eat food?"

"Why don't you just say it? I'm the worst toy-maker in the world? I am a cotton-headed ninnie-muggins!"

"He's an angry elf, he's from the South Pole."

"I'm sorry I ruined your lives, and crammed 11 cookies into the VCR."

## From the film Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street

"Oh, Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind... and that's what's been changing. That's why I'm glad I'm here, maybe I can do something about it."

**Kris Kringle**

"I believe... I believe... It's silly, but I believe."

"If you're really Santa Claus, you can get it for me. And if you can't, you're only a nice man with a white beard, like mother says."

**Susan Walker**

"Faith is believing in things when common sense tells you not to."

"Susan, I speak French, but that does not make me Joan of Arc."

**Doris Walker**





# WASSAIL EVENING

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CHRISTMAS'*

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**STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL**  
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## Nicholsons celebrates 40 years

Earlier this year Nicholsons, in North Aston, turned 40. I spoke with Niel Nicholson, the son of Roderick and Hanny from Steeple Aston, to find out how it all started.

“The business started in February of 1979 on a rented site in Middleton Stoney, as a small nursery growing container-grown trees and we offered a small amount of forestry consultancy and contracting. When I joined in 1992 it had just a handful of staff and a modest £300k turnover. The business has consistently grown every year except one! It is now almost £10m turnover with more 150 staff – of these over 50 come from within five miles of our site, so we now are an important local rural employer.



*Left to right: Roderick, Clara, Rosi, Liz, Niel and Hanny*

“My father started the business with huge support from my mother. He was a forester by trade and his previous woodland management business had been bought out by a big national company. He did not want to be desk based and set up on his own to grow trees in containers to help farmers “re-tree” their farms following the huge tree losses resulting from Dutch Elm disease. He bought the site at North Aston in 1987 where we have been ever since, and this has allowed us to develop to where we are now. I joined him in 1992 and Liz, my wife, during the middle to late 90’s. The business is now run by my wife as Managing Director and myself as Financial Director and we are ably supported by three fellow directors and a truly excellent team.

“Having started as a nursery, the business has grown into a nursery and plant centre, a Yurt Café (do come and have a coffee and cake or some lunch!), a forestry consultancy and contracting business including tree surveying and tree surgery, as well as a landscape business with garden design, construction and maintenance.

“I hope and believe that in another 40 years’ time the business will be thriving and run by a team of people who believe in the same values and ethos that we do. We have a very strong family feel and value our staff as the most important asset – we would wish this to continue. Both our daughters have and do work at the business during holidays etc., but whether they will follow us into the business, is anyone’s guess, but there is absolutely no pressure from us.

“We are also heavily involved in charity work in Oxfordshire with forest schools, and we help build at least one per year, and then help maintain them. We are also involved with planting trees in Africa, having set up a tree nursery and are supporting the reforestation of the Mao forest.”

So, what did they do to celebrate?

“We have celebrated in style this year. We won the Cherwell Established Business of the Year for 2019, and were then very fortunate to win the Oxfordshire Large Business of the Year for 2019. Liz won the Banbury Women in Business, Business Woman of the Year for 2019 and we then had to celebrate! We threw a big party for all the staff and partners at Kirtlington Park which was a fantastic evening. We also had a small intimate party for my father with a few choice guests from the past (first customer, first nursery manager etc), it was a truly lovely evening.”

Here’s to the next 40 years!



**1<sup>st</sup> Aston Scout Group**

# **JUMBLE SALE**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1.30pm**

**The Village Hall, Fir Lane, Steeple Aston**

## **MEGA Jumble Sale!!**

**Grab yourself a bargain coat, candle or cook-pot...**

**Refreshments available - 40p entrance fee**

Jumble will be collected around the village on Saturday from 9am, or ring Torquil McLusky on 01869 347914 to arrange a drop-off or collection. Please leave jumble outside and marked "Scouts" - sorry, no TVs or furniture.

*Scouts meet every Tuesday during term-time at 7.30pm in the Sports & Social Club – if you have children aged 10 to 14 come up and find out more.*



# The ARTS Page



This month we have a PREView for two concerts, set to be a terrific way to get into the Christmas spirit. Thanks to Vaughan Billings for his contribution to our arts listings, and to Martin Dale who gives his take on a recent performance of Verdi Requiem in this month's REView. PREview/REview is getting going well, so do give us your contributions for the ARTS Page by emailing [editor@salife.co.uk](mailto:editor@salife.co.uk).

## **Music in Adderbury**

Concerts run under the auspices of the Adderbury Trust. Several people from our village attend the Sunday concerts run by Music in Adderbury as these are high class concerts with top performers and well worth attending.

Future concerts are:

- Sunday 1st December in St Peters and St Pauls, Deddington  
Adderbury Ensemble with Craig Ogden (guitar) playing Dvorak, Vivaldi and Boccherini
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December in King's Sutton  
Adderbury Ensemble with Viv McLean (piano) playing Beethoven and Mendelssohn

All tickets usually £15 per head. All at 7pm. Excellent value for wonderful music.

Find out more here: <https://www.musicinadderbury.com>.

## **Vaughan Billings**

### **PREview**

There is still time to get into the mood for Christmas – why not attend this month's 'Advent Carols by Candlelight' performed in Deddington's Parish Church and featuring carols new and old. Not only can you enjoy listening to the music, the audience is encouraged to join in with the familiar favourites. If this isn't enough to get you into the festive spirit, there is also mulled wine and mince pies to be enjoyed.

The concert will take place from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on 8<sup>th</sup> December at the Church of St Peter and Paul, Deddington. More information: <https://choros.org>.

Plus, there is also our own Wassail Night in the Village Hall on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, 'Come and Sing Carols' at the Red Lion on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm and the Church Carol Service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. Pantos, Blenheim etc., all in the November edition.

### **REview**

#### **VERDI REQUIEM IN READING TOWN HALL**

*Whilst this may seem a long way from Steeple Aston, it's totally relevant to us here. This was no ordinary performance but the conducting project of a lifetime for our dear friend Janet Lince with her "Choros" and "Corona Strings". She lives in Upper Heyford and directed this superb performance with wonderful control and deep emotion. Members of our own Choir (SACS) sang in this fantastic performance, hence the relevance to us. The audience were stunned by the sheer excellence of the music and the deeply emotional aura she invoked. Reading Town Hall is a superb venue. It was all truly magical!*

#### **Martin Dale**

Whatever arts you explore this festive season, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

#### **Heather and Nick Cleobury**



## Village Hall News



### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November: Annual Fireworks Evening

What a perfect evening for our annual bonfire and firework display. We watched a great display of fireworks and a wonderful Guy Fawkes burn on top of the bonfire made by the children of Class 4 at Dr Radcliffe's School, along with hot soup provided by Hanny Nicholson, squash and sausages by the Village Hall Committee. Our thanks to the willing helpers of the Recreation Trust, Village Hall Committee, Simon Thatcher and team for building the bonfire, Richard Preston and his team for the display, Raj at the shop for selling tickets, and Bob Bickley for the use of his paddock for the bonfire. Also thanks to the companies who kindly sponsored the event: Lakeside Farm Business Park (David & Robert Fry) and Mr. C. Sandy, The Hatchery (A new business community, coming soon). We could not have offered such a splendid display of fireworks without their continued support.

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Wassail Evening 6pm start

Enjoy a light-hearted evening of mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies, carols, readings, handbell ringers and Christmas music. This is an opportunity for everyone, families, young and old to join in some community singing. So come along and join us as everyone is welcome. Free entry.

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2020: Annual Quiz Night

Ring Barbara on 01869 340423 if you wish to book your team. Eight tables left as we go to print. Entrance fee £2.50 per person, maximum of eight people to a table. Entrance fee at time of booking please. 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. There will be a licensed bar so please do not bring your own drinks to this event. Please book your teams early to avoid disappointment.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June – NGS Open Gardens, Steeple Aston 2 – 6pm

Please note our letting agent is Katie Rushworth, 01869 340196.

Email [steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com](mailto:steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com). Collect keys from "Touchstones" The Dickredge, Steeple Aston, OX25 4RS.

The Village Hall Committee wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to your continued support throughout the coming year.

**Barbara Brewer**, Chair



## Steeple Aston Garden Club



It seems odd to be writing for the Christmas SAL in mid-November (not quite in the mood yet, never mind). It is an opportunity to wish all our members a festive Christmas and New Year and to whet your appetites for some future entertainment.

By the time you read this we will have had a talk on "Planting Pots for Winter Interest and Spring Joy" by Harriet Rycroft which I hope will cheer our gardens into spring with new ideas for planters and pots. Later, in the New Year, we are looking forward to a talk by Clare Foster, House and Gardens Garden Editor, who has recently brought out a really mouthwatering book on growing flowers from seed and will be talking about sowing and growing, with tempting slides.

We are also looking forward to a talk by Paul Barney of Edulis Nursery on "Unusual Edibles" just in time to be thinking of getting out into the garden again. So, something to look forward to in the dark days.

Have a Happy Christmas and roll on spring!

**Margaret Mason**, SAGC



# The Gardening Spot



## A Grumpy Gardener or Someone Way Beyond His Time?

So, soon it will be Christmas and time to purchase all the festive goodies that will adorn your dining room table. A turkey maybe? Roasted potatoes, Brussels sprouts, carrots, parsnips and to light up the room, a Christmas tree in the corner twinkling away with hundreds of lights. Now, in a moment of insanity, I spent a few minutes reading a glossy magazine after seeing the headline “Going Greener for Christmas” (I think I was in a hospital waiting room at the time). The article, written by some eco-warrior, went on to tell me that I should purchase my turkey from a local farmer where the bird had been reared on organic corn and probably entertained by the local choristers (that’s the turkey by the way, not the farmer). The vegetables should be “locally sourced” from certain farm shops. As for the Christmas tree, well that had to be organic, not sure how else they would be propagated, and then, possibly rented as that would enable them to be re-planted and grow a bit larger for next year. Well, there’s a surprise! And then there are logs! Apparently, the latest “in-thing” is to learn how to use an axe or a chopper. I had little choice when I was still at school but to chop wood, otherwise we would all have been very cold as central heating was almost unheard of in our primitive, rural homes in the depths of this uncivilised wilderness of North Oxfordshire!

So, what makes me sound so grumpy when it is time for exuberance and over-indulgence? Maybe it is because I was born just after the second world war and many basics let alone seasonal extras were hard to come by. Maybe, yes, almost certainly, because I earned my living for forty years by growing and selling fruit and vegetables to the local community. I, along with my wife and father, grew vast quantities of vegetables here in Steeple Aston and then went around the villages selling our wares direct to the housewife. If we couldn’t grow enough sprouts, carrots, parsnips or whatever else was on the menu, we would source from local farmers, probably within a few miles of the village. The turkey came from my father-in-law who reared a few birds in his back-garden to supplement the cost of his own Christmas dinner but for many villagers, it was simply a case of going down to the village butcher and ordering a bird which would have come from a nearby farm. As for the Christmas tree, well I used to sell hundreds of them from three feet high to fifteen feet in height and guess what, they all came from Tackley where they were cultivated as a crop to be replanted every year, helping with the environment and for my customers, reducing the food miles to almost zero, if you can count a Christmas tree as food.

So, what is the moral of this story composed by a 70+ year old, retired gardener/greengrocer who even bothered to pick up a glossy magazine let alone read some of its contents? It brought home the fact that I, along with my wife and father before me, were so far ahead of our time that we should be at the very least, awarded a medal of some sort for helping to save the planet and possibly be given some space in a glossy magazine to demonstrate that not all in-trend, yuppy ideas have just been invented. My average mileage during a week’s work was just 70 miles. Most of the vegetables we sold were either grown by us or sourced very locally and they tasted so much better than the “organic” produce that can be found on the supermarket shelves. I did not have any food waste because I knew my customers and their weekly requirements and if, at the end of the week, I had any produce with a short self-life, I simply sold it off cheaply. So, wake-up all editors of glossy magazines who think that you have just invented ways of saving the planet and reducing carbon emissions. Many of my generation have been doing that for years and do not need to be guided to the nearest, celebrity farm-shop to purchase overpriced produce or source an “organic” Christmas tree.

Great to get that off my chest. So, Happy Christmas everyone and thank you for reading my articles over the year. If you are still looking for a last-minute Christmas present, how about renting an allotment where you too can grow really fresh vegetables that taste so much better?

**Richard Preston**



# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



All seven of our Parish Councillors came to the last Parish Council meeting, something that has not happened for ages. There were two I was surprised to see; Amanda Rodgers arrived on crutches and Martin Lipson announced he would stay for an hour. They described themselves as 'making progress' and everyone wished them both well.

The meeting began with an introduction to the new residents of the bungalow on Heyford Road closest to the Beeches. They explained that they were hoping to make a driveway up to their house from the lay-by in front of their bungalow. This would give them ample space for their own parking and leave room for others in the lay-by. Everyone other than me seemed to know about their car, a Defender, and I had to look up what it was after the meeting. For those of you as uninterested in cars as me it is a Land Rover. The couple also have a van which belongs to the wife and prompted one of the Councillors to say 'I would like to meet her'. They are proposing to talk to everyone concerned about the driveway and they will ask for planning permission for it even though no one was certain that such permission was definitely required. The Parish Council said they would support the proposal as it would reduce parking on the side of the road and they appreciated the way the new villagers were discussing their plans openly.

A planning application in Steeple Aston has been turned down recently and after the meeting I went on to Cherwell's website to see the exact reason given as the decision could impact on plans elsewhere in the village. The planner's decidedly pompous decision says 'The proposed development represents new housing that would significantly encroach into the countryside beyond the built-up limits of Steeple Aston, contrary to the housing strategy of the Development Plan for the area..... The proposed development represents inappropriate 'back-land' development that would fail to relate well to the pattern of

development in the area and would appear as an intrusion of built form into the countryside, detracting from the rural character and quality of the area...'

This decision could be relevant to any development outside the village envelope, for example to the quarry off Fenway. But the decision is not relevant to any potential development opposite the Red Lion on South Side as this latter piece of land has been included within the Neighbourhood Plan's designation of the built-up limits of the village. Cherwell are looking for sites for affordable homes for the elderly and the suggestion for Steeple Aston is to build two distinctly compact looking bungalows on land owned by Cherwell at the end of Nizewell Head.

The Parish Council have been trying to find out who owns the South Side end of the Tchure. They have tried, and failed, to find any paperwork on it. They seemed to be concerned that if there was an accident there the Parish Council might be liable. The Councillor who was considering the possible accident was teased by the others as 'Mr Happy', and it was pointed out the Parish Council's insurance would cover any mishap anyway.

The lack of mobile phone signal was considered. It was noted that there was going to be a new mast in Upper Heyford, but this is unlikely to help much here because most of the village is in a dip. Apparently O<sub>2</sub> claim the coverage here is alright and therefore nothing extra is needed. But it is certainly not ok everywhere and the Councillors would like to hear from you if you **do NOT have adequate mobile coverage** in your home and/or garden. Please can you tell the Clerk, Cathy Fleet, about any problems at [parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com) or on 01869 347000. The Parish Council can only try to get things improved if they have good information from as many households as possible so they are keen to hear from you



# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



A new defibrillator has been ordered and will be fitted to the wall of the Village Hall as soon as possible. But it can only be used if the emergency services can be contacted for a code so a full mobile signal around the Village Hall is vital if time is not going to be lost. This has the plus side that it is a strong argument for improving the mobile coverage in the village as a whole. The paucity of signal was tested at the meeting as one Councillor got out his phone and showed us he had no signal and a few minutes later the phone of one of the other Councillors rang loudly. It was suggested that the old defibrillator might be stored elsewhere in the village, but it needs testing daily because of its age, so this may not be feasible.

The Councillors discussed which trees they thought they were responsible for maintaining. They noticed that there were some historical anomalies such as why they maintained the trees on Sixtyfoot and not at the Beeches. I thought this was rather sensible as the Sixtyfoot trees are much smaller, further from the road and more manageable than those at the Beeches and successive Parish Councillors over the years probably thought the same which may well explain the different treatment. The Councillors agreed to find the best time of year for a survey of trees and of the cost of doing a survey.

Next year will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day and the Councillors discussed how this might be celebrated. Apparently a number of village organisations have expressed interest and the possibilities will be considered in more detail at the next meeting. The Councillors wondered whether the celebration had to be near the Play Area because of the lavatories. They thought consideration of lavatories would not have occurred in the past as they claimed people had more self control then.

As usual, the Councillors got on to speeding and the state of the roads. A speed camera is going to arrive but is taking longer than expected and the pot holes are worsening just as fast as expected. Some potholes will be

mended soon but the dreadful road surface at the Beeches will not be repaired by Highways until Thames Water has tamed and channelled away the spring water from the road. There is no sign of action on this and I expect more and more of us will have to start avoiding the Beeches completely on icy days.

The Council is updating its emergency plan but since no one has any idea what form the emergency might take they found it difficult to plan for all varieties of potential emergency. There was a comment about listing the current qualified first aiders in the village and someone suggested the Councillors should take Florence off the list.

There is no Parish Council meeting in December but the Councillors have two meetings in January; the first to set the budget for next year and the second is a normal monthly meeting. In order to set the budget the Councillors need to have all requests for grants by 20<sup>th</sup> December. Last year grant recipients were warned that their grants were not automatic and they would have to apply for grants this year with details of why the money was needed and what fundraising initiatives had been undertaken. If you represent an organisation hoping for a grant from the Parish Council you must obtain an application form from Cathy Fleet and return it to her by the 20<sup>th</sup> December deadline. It is simple; if you don't fill in the form you won't be considered for a grant and even if you do fill in the form the success of your application will depend on whether your request is consistent with the newly itemised criteria for awards.

Do come to the next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January and I am sure you will not be bored (and you can test the accuracy of my reporting for yourself).

## **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](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk)*



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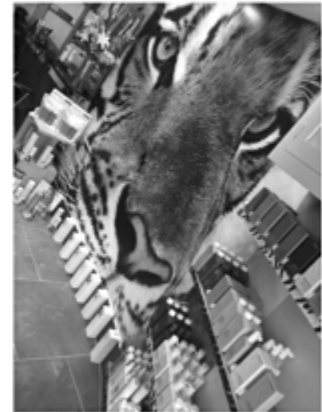
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### Child's Play Answers

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Jingle All the Way                    | 11. A Christmas Carol          |
| 2. Bad Santa                             | 12. The Grinch                 |
| 3. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation | 13. It's a Wonderful Life      |
| 4. Elf                                   | 14. White Christmas            |
| 5. Love Actually                         | 15. Polar Express              |
| 6. Nightmare Before Christmas            | 16. Shrek the Halls            |
| 7. Home Alone                            | 17. The Muppet Christmas Carol |
| 8. Die Hard                              | 18. Santa Claus the Movie      |
| 9. Gremlins                              | 19. The Santa Clause           |
| 10. Miracle on 34 <sup>th</sup> Street   | 20. The Snowman                |



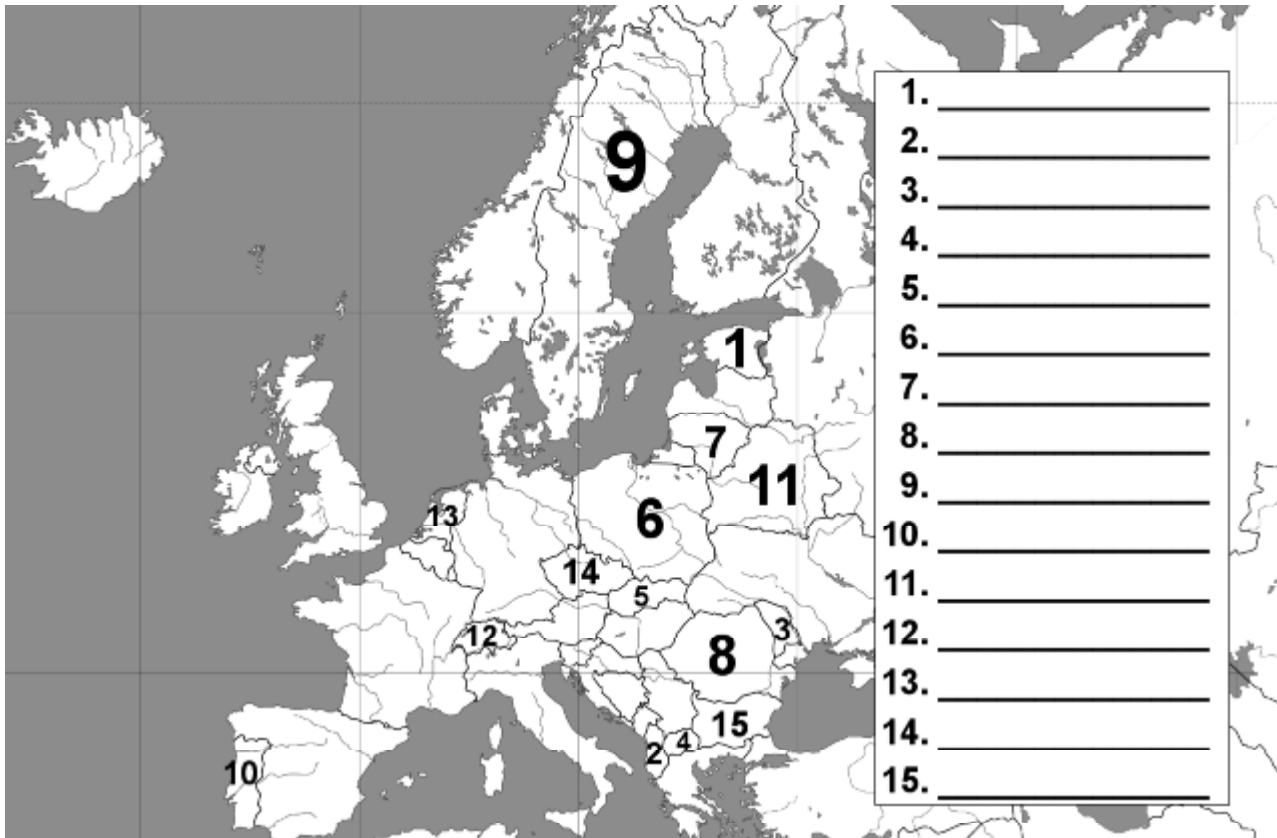
# ???? Mind Games



## Europe Quiz

Whether you think we should be part of Europe or not, how good is your knowledge of it? Can you name the 15 areas on the map?

Answers on p41



## Sayings Explained

### “Good tidings we bring to you and your kin.”

This is a line from the popular 16th-century carol "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Another carol, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" (1833), speaks of "tidings of comfort and joy" but what exactly are tidings? Although there is nothing intrinsic in the meaning of 'tidings' which relates to Christmas, it is this time of year that the word seems to crop up the most.

Tidings is an old-fashioned word for recent news. If someone says "I bring you good *tidings*!" it means they have information to share that you'll probably like.

Even though this word appears to be related to *tide*, *tidings* is actually thought to come from the Old English word *tidan*, which means "to happen." This term is a little unusual since it's almost always in the plural form; you would never say, "I bring you a good *tidings*!" Via Middle English the word also relates to *betide*, meaning "to happen especially by fate". This is from the earliest known use of the word from the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

The most notable usage, perhaps, occurs in Luke 2:10 of the King James Bible, when the angel delivers the news of the arrival of the Saviour: "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."



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# Church *Matters*



Advent is a magical time every year - and this year more than most in Steeple Aston because of our very special Village Advent Calendar! Thank you to everyone who is taking part. Thank you for the careful hours you have spent preparing the boxes which will be revealed day by day through December. Thank you to every club and society, school class and individual who has risen to the challenge - and now it is up and running and over to the whole village to come and see.

Every day during Advent, from December 1st, Advent Sunday, right through to Christmas morning itself, a new box will be uncovered at the back of church and a new part of the Christmas story will be revealed, from the mystery of the opening words of John's Gospel ('In the beginning was the Word...') right through the whole story. We begin with the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary in Nazareth, and then to Joseph as he wasn't sure whether or not to believe Mary's story. This is followed by their journey to Bethlehem for the census and their struggle to find somewhere to stay. Shepherds then see angels and go into the town to see what has happened. Finally, wise men travel from distant lands to bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus, the Word who becomes flesh. And because it's a Village Advent Calendar - do look out to see if you can spot village groups in the story that appears day by day. See if you can see the church or the school or the WI or the cricket club or all sorts of other groups! The church is open during hours of daylight every day. Please come and see what is happening.

## **Carol Service Choir**

Also please do come and join our carol service choir! There are just three rehearsals - Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in church at 7.30pm. Bring Carols for Choirs green and orange books if you have them. We will be looking at some carols from across Europe to sing at our carol service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Everyone most welcome!

## **Christmas Services**

All our Christmas Services are on the church services page of this magazine but do make a special note of the Carol Service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6pm. It is always amazing, and a real treat - the essential Christmas service, with music and readings and carols to join in with, and candles and mulled wine too.

On Christmas Eve, the Crib Service is at 4pm, and is a terrific time for children of all ages to see the Crib assembled and all the people in the story take their place at the front in our wonderful historic crib. By all means - come dressed up as characters from the story! Why not! And we will sing and pray and enjoy the Christmas message together. There is no midnight service in Steeple this year - but do join us at Tackley for an 11pm service to welcome in the songs of Angels and the good news of Jesus, God with us, Love born in our midst.

On Christmas Day we worship in Steeple church at 10.30 in the morning: carols, communion and the whole village family getting together to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year, the most amazing gift of God. Everyone welcome!

*Bible Study is on Mondays at 2pm. For more news see: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com).*

**Rev Marcus Green**



The Red Lion  
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## Local lad takes over the pub

Local boy Aidan Madden has just started work as the new landlord of the Red Lion. He has taken on the tenancy following the departure of Mel and Sarah Phipps after 14 years at the helm. It will be a family affair with Aidan's brother Kegan helping out when he's home from duties in the Royal Navy. The boys' parents Kathy and Colum are also assisting with lots of practical help and business support.



The family come from Middle Aston and have been visiting the pub for many years. In fact Kegan worked behind the bar for a while. They know lots of local people, not least because Aidan and his brother went to Dr Radcliffe's School and then The Warriner.

Aidan studied jewellery design at university, and hopes to continue with this when time allows. But he has always worked in kitchens, including in the coffee shop at Blenheim Palace and most recently as a chef at the Three Pigeons in Banbury. He says that when they saw the tenancy was becoming available from the owners Hook Norton Brewery he and his brother both thought "Let's go for it!".

They plan to brighten the pub up with a lick of paint, possibly updating the toilets and making more use of the small room on the right of the entrance. They will continue to offer pizza to eat in and take away. There will be main courses on offer during the day, and small plates available later into the evening in the bar. The aim is to have a reasonably limited menu with seasonal changes and using local produce. Aidan will have help with the cooking from Josh Tollet from Banbury, and members of staff who worked with Mel and Sarah are staying on.

One of the first investments made by the new team is an up to date coffee machine. The hope is to attract more customers during the day for tea and coffee as there is no café in the village. There was an open evening on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November when free snacks were on offer from 6.00pm until late. Then food service proper started with Sunday lunch the following day. More details about menus and opening hours will be available soon

**Jenny Bell**

---

### Mind Games Answers

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Estonia   | 9. Sweden          |
| 2. Albania   | 10. Portugal       |
| 3. Moldova   | 11. Belarus        |
| 4. Macedonia | 12. Switzerland    |
| 5. Slovakia  | 13. Netherlands    |
| 6. Poland    | 14. Czech Republic |
| 7. Lithuania | 15. Bulgaria       |
| 8. Romania   |                    |



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We have had a busy month with several members attending Oxford Town Hall for an evening with Stella Rimington of MI5. This was a very interesting talk and attended by more than 500 WI members and some husbands. At our monthly meeting we all came armed with rulers, pencils, paper, glue, and paperback books - so what were we letting ourselves in for? After the short business session our speaker for the evening settled us at tables and showed us how to make stars cutting out paper, measuring, sticking and some of us getting in a mess but in the end we had all made a wonderful star. Then it was on to the paperback books - we were shown how to fold each page (best not to have one with 700 pages) and when finished this could be a Christmas tree or an angel. When you walk round the village this Christmas you must see if you can spot any of these stars hanging in windows. The following evening a party of us went for a meal at Whistlers in Chipping Norton followed by the Pantomime. It is great to see adults joining in and we even had Steeple Aston WI mentioned on stage. Next month is our Christmas Dinner for members only and then we meet again on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall - all welcome. Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Linda Needle**, President



## 1st Deddington Guides Report



A large group of Deddington Guides spent an amazing week on a trip to Switzerland. They travelled by coach to Adelboden, with other Guides from the Banbury Area – Cherwell Division. They have talked excitedly about making new friends from other units in addition to meeting other Guides and Scouts from other countries, who were also in Switzerland. The Guides visited Our Chalet – an amazing world centre, high in the mountains – a wonderful experience for the Guides! The opportunity to see the local woodcarver at work and purchase badges is always a must for all Guiding visitors.

Switzerland's stunning scenery was much appreciated by the Guides and they loved visiting the mountains and waterfalls. Another popular trip was to a chocolate factory with a chance to taste and buy gifts for home. Tobogganing on a rail track was voted best outing of all in spite of a few tumbles. What a great trip.

The annual outing to the Big Gig – this year in Sheffield - was loved by the girls, again travelling by coach with sister Guides from Banbury. This is a huge pop concert with well known artists and only for Guides - thousands of them. They arrived home very tired and hoarse but very happy.

Back in the meetings we spent time in patrols, planning and tackling their own activities. We are getting better at identifying natural wonders, including nuts, seeds and fruits, tree and birds and sharing wildlife sightings and experiences. The Guides had a great time producing mini sandwiches and snacks that were healthy and well presented. We had great fun taking up the challenge as to rival teams. "Swizzy Sandwiches" and "snazzy snacks". The menus and presentations were superb. There are definitely some entrepreneurs in our midst.

Lastly, a wonderful turnout for Remembrance Day parade – all the Guides looked very smart and our colour parties and wreath and cross layers did us proud. Well done Guides.

Tuesdays 7 to 9pm, Windmill Centre, Deddington

**Maggie Rampley** – 07957 600755, **Marian Trinder** – 01869 340806 or [mariantrinder@gmail.com](mailto:mariantrinder@gmail.com),  
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# The Cricket Report



## SACC Awards Dinner 2019

We held an ever so slightly uproarious Awards Dinner on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November in the White Horse, Duns Tew. The food was a tad late and libations were flowing freely. Amongst a boisterous crowd, the awards were made:

### Best “Young” Player - Phil Chesser

Despite some fine performances from many young players, none played with enough consistency, so the Young Player award often goes to an “Oldie”. Phil scored 100 runs in a season at the 15<sup>th</sup> time of trying – a deserved winner.

### Best Bowling - Chris Watson

Paul Longman’s 3-30 against Horley (our strongest opposition last year) was undoubtedly the most effective spell of the year, but for sheer determination, hilarity and extraordinary “variety” Chris Watson’s over against the Chairman’s XI won the award. It went like this: *wide, no ball, did not release, wide, wicket, dot ball, wicket, wicket, dot ball, 3 runs*. 3-6 in one over including the prized wicket of Nat Sciver’s dad who was on 110!

### Best Innings - Stan Owen

Hector’s 37 in the last match of the season was noteworthy and Jeremy Farrar’s 85 versus the Chairman’s XI a fine knock, but the clear winner was Stan with 89 against Middleton Stoney. Stan was sadly run out - he had no energy left - but his innings laid the foundation for a win off the last ball.

### Best Bowler - Peter Higgins 12 wkts @ 11.67

2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Longman 7 wkts @ 11.71 3<sup>rd</sup> Arthur Higgins 6 wkts @ 17.9

The Award was the closest ever in our Club History as only one run conceded split Peter and Paul. In the last over of the season Pete needed a wicket to win and not concede more than one run, though unaware of this at the time. The over went: *Dropped catch, 1 run, dot ball, dropped catch, dot ball, caught behind by Jon Scotchbrook* – incredible.

### Best Batsman - Nigel Doggett 208 runs @ 34.7

2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Chesser 107 runs @ 17.8 3<sup>rd</sup> Jon Scotchbrook 144 runs @ 16.0

Jon having been beaten by Phil Chesser is now considering retirement. Nige was a deserved winner, the only player to score more than 200 runs.

### Clubman of the Year - Jock Shepherd

The most prestigious award voted for by the members could only go to one man this year. Jock has practically lived at our Barton Abbey ground this summer, as he has been our primary groundsman. To see Jock’s body shaking in time to the reverberations of our Motorised Roller, as he flattens out our pitch, is a thing of joy and great amusement! Thank you Jock.

### Club Quiz

No Awards Dinner would be complete without Rob Wilson-Fry’s end of season quiz. This, the third one, was undoubtedly the best so far and this has nothing to do with the fact that my team won (thanks, Greg, for the sympathetic marking!). Rob mixes up the questions beautifully, some easy, some taxing, some almost impossible, but it all makes for some amusing banter. I guess you could say that it is emblematic of our club – a modicum of talent, some challenges to be faced, teamwork, friendship, but above all a lot of laughs. Many thanks, Rob.

### Next month...

More stats as the 2019 Season Averages will be revealed in their entirety.  
Happy Christmas.





It's nearly Christmas and the goose is getting fat or, in the case of The Valentine Club, a number of turkeys are hopefully putting on weight ready for our Christmas dinner on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month. As they say, "as one gets older time goes much faster" and it seems no time at all since we were preparing for last year's Christmas dinner.

Back in November, a large number of the club went to a hotel in Warwickshire to enjoy a three-course Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, plenty of beverages and some great entertainment based on The Beatles. There was a 'best dressed' competition which I think it would be fair to say was won 'hands down' by our very own Barbara Brewer, and that is no mean feat as there were about 200 revellers of a certain age at the function. There is no doubt about it that everyone enjoyed themselves, so much so that I have booked up a similar event for next year.

Also, during November we will have been to Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market to find the last few presents or simply have a great day out.

Our Christmas dinner, held in the Village Hall, will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December where we are expecting around 80 plus guests along with some entertainment and probably the biggest raffle you are ever likely to see. More about that in the next edition of SAL.

Our new year starts in January with a new programme of speakers, entertainers, good food and numerous coach trips to include travel by coach, steam train, river cruisers and sea-going vessels. Not managed to charter a plane yet but who knows?

Go to our website to see that latest photos of the club's activities and catch up on all the news: <https://valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston>.

On behalf of all the members of The Valentine Club, have a really happy Christmas and a healthy New Year and also wishing the team at SAL a restful holiday and thanks for all the hard work and dedication they give to this wonderful village magazine.

**Richard Preston** – Group organiser – [Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com](mailto:Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com) or 01869 340512.





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# Church Services

	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
<b>Sunday 1st December</b> <b>Advent Sunday</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Rev Marcus Green	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Rev Marcus Green	<b>5.30pm</b> Informal Service for Advent Sunday Rev Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Thursday 5th December</b> <b>St Nicholas' Eve</b>			<b>3.30pm</b> Christingle Rev Marcus Green <i>Joint Service with Tackley CE School</i>
<b>Sunday 8th December</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Family Service Rev Marcus Green	<b>11am</b> Family Service Rev Marcus Green	<b>5.30pm</b> Holy Communion Rev Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Sunday 15th December</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion Rev Marcus Green	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion Rev Marcus Green	<b>5.30pm</b> Evensong Rev Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Sunday 22nd December</b>	<b>3pm</b> Carol Service Rev Marcus Green	<b>6pm</b> Carol Service Rev Marcus Green	<b>5.30pm</b> Carol Service Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Tuesday 24th December</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>6pm</b> Carols on the Green	<b>4pm</b> Crib Service Rev Marcus Green	<b>3pm</b> Crib Service Canon Robin Gibbons  <b>11pm</b> Midnight Communion and Carols Rev Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>9am</b> Christmas Communion and Carols Rev Marcus Green	<b>10.30am</b> Christmas Communion and Carols Rev Marcus Green	
<b>Sunday 29th December</b>		<b>11am</b> Christmastide Morning Prayer and Carols Rev Marcus Green	



## Steeple Aston Village Hall

	Hiring Fee	Caution
<b>Hall (meeting night)</b>		
Represented Clubs.....	£9	
Non-Represented Clubs.....	£17	
<b>Hall Only (social occasion)</b>		
Represented Clubs.....	£32	
Others.....	£53	
<b>All Facilities (social occasion)</b>		
Village Residents .....	£65	£200
Represented Clubs.....	£65	£200
Others - up to 6 hours.....	£110	£300
Others - over 6 hours.....	£160	£300
<b>All Facilities (off peak - 4 hours)</b>		
Village Residents .....	£30	£75
Represented Clubs.....	£30	£75
<b>Committee Room</b>		
Represented Clubs.....	£6	
Non-Represented Clubs.....	£12	
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<b>Letting Agent :</b> Katie Rushworth (340196)		
<b>Chairman:</b> Barbara Brewer (340423)		
<b>Secretary:</b> Margaret Bullement (347346)		

A represented club must send a representative to the Village Hall Committee meetings.

## Rubbish bin collection day = Thursday

December 5<sup>th</sup> blue & brown bin      Later dates in December and  
December 12<sup>th</sup> green bins              January 2020 still to be  
announced at date of  
publication.

## Steeple Aston Sports and Recreation Centre Letting Charges

Social Function peak times (up to 6 hours) £55

Social Function off-peak (up to 5 hours) £27.50

Meeting of represented club: £11 per session

Caution Money for Private Lettings: £100

**Letting agent:** Katie Rushworth - Tel: 340196

**mailto:** [rec.trust@googlemail.com](mailto:rec.trust@googlemail.com)

Chairman - Torquil McLusky - Tel: 347914

Treasurer - Chris Cooper - Tel: 347173

## Bus times

This timetable is a guide only - please consult local listings for up-to-date information and weekend times.

### S4 BUS SERVICE (Mon - Fri)

#### Buses from Steeple Aston (outside post office) to Oxford

06.29 07.07 07.44 09.23 then every hour till 15.23 16.24 17.24 18.24 19.22

#### Arrives Oxford

07.07 08.05 08.42 10.06 then every hour till 16.06 17.09 18.09 19.09 20.04

#### Buses from Steeple Aston (outside post office) to Banbury

07.57 09.00 10.02 then every hour till 15.02 16.05 17.05 18.05 19.05 20.00 21.00

#### Arrives Banbury

08.40 09.40 10.40 then every hour till 15.40 16.43 17.43 18.43 19.34 20.29 21.29

### MIDDLE BARTON BUS (Mon – Fri)

**Bus from Steeple Aston (Nizewell Head) to Heyford Station** 07.35 18.08

**Arrives Heyford station** 07.39 18.13

**Bus from Heyford Station to Steeple Aston (Nizewell Head)** 18.13

**Arrives Steeple Aston (Nizewell Head)** 18.16

### 5 BUS SERVICE (Wednesdays)

**Bus from Steeple Aston to Chipping Norton** 09.00

**Arrives Chipping Norton** 09.40

**Bus from Chipping Norton to Steeple Aston** 11.50

**Arrives Steeple Aston** 12.26

### 8 BUS SERVICE (Fridays)

**Bus from Steeple Aston (outside Post Office) to Bicester** 10.41

**Arrives Bicester Village railway station** 11.06

**Bicester Tesco** 11.12

**Bicester Avenue** 11.16

#### Bus from Bicester to Steeple Aston (outside Post Office)

**Bicester Village railway station** 13.37

**Bicester Tesco** 13.43

**Bicester Avenue** 13.48

**Arrives Steeple Aston (outside Post Office)** 14.05



# Steeple Aston Calendar

DECEMBER			
Sunday 1st	Advent Sunday	Steeple Aston Church	
Sunday 1st	Adderbury Ensemble with Craig Ogden (guitar) playing Dvorak, Vivaldi and Boccherini	St Peter's and St Paul's, Deddington	7pm
Sunday 8th	Advent Carols by Candlelight	St Peter's and St Paul's, Deddington	6.30pm
Tuesday 10th	WI Christmas Dinner (members only)		
Wednesday 11th	Handbell ringers start visiting houses for charity	Steeple Aston and Middle Aston	
Sunday 15th	Wassail Evening	Village Hall	6pm
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	<b>SAL January issue final copy and advert deadline</b>		
Tuesday 17th	Valentine Club Christmas Dinner	Village Hall	12noon for 1pm start
Friday 20th	Come and Sing Carols	Red Lion	6.30pm
Saturday 21st	Farmer's Market	Deddington	9 – 12.30pm
Sunday 22nd	Carol Service	Steeple Aston Church	6pm
JANUARY			
Tuesday 14th	WI meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
<b>Wednesday 15th</b>	<b>SAL February issue final copy and advert deadline</b>		
Saturday 18th	Annual Quiz night	Village Hall	7pm

**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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Our range of plants extends to all the usual suspects: shrubs, a small herbaceous collection, climbers, fruit and we specialise in bigger screening plants and specimen ornamental trees.

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## We have the pleasure of inviting you for a free valuation of your property

We are pleased to tell you that the local property market has shown positive signs of change in recent weeks. We have had an extremely high demand from buyers looking for properties in your area, so your property may be worth more than you think. We have a team of independent property experts in your area. They have more than 91 years of combined experience in the local market and are more than happy to complete a free valuation of your property with no obligation.

So, if you are curious about the value of your home or want to take advantage of the current market, please contact:

Fine & Country North Oxfordshire  
30 Market Square, Bicester, OX26 6AG

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# CONCERNED ABOUT INHERITANCE TAX?

Are you concerned about the taxman taking your family's inheritance?

Do you want a better understanding of what your Inheritance Tax liability might be?

Would you like to take steps to reduce/mitigate your potential Inheritance Tax liability?

Do you want to have a greater say in who receives your wealth and when?

Could you leave more wealth to your children/grandchildren rather than to the Government?

**If the answer to any of the above is "yes", please contact us to arrange a free initial consultation.**



The Oxford Advisory Partnership Ltd

Independent Financial Advisers

**Tel: 01865 848770**

e-mail: [enquiries@oxfordadvisory.com](mailto:enquiries@oxfordadvisory.com)

*Levels and bases of and reliefs from taxation are subject to change and their value depends on the individual circumstances of the investor*

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