

Steeple Aston

AUGUST 2020

ISSUE No. 564

Life



Inside SAL this month:

- Thanks to our lockdown volunteers
- Sign up for the village Scarecrow Competition
- Find out more about Broughton Castle
- And much more...

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Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

All articles and letters to the Editors
editorsalife@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINES

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

The copy deadline for the September 2020 issue is therefore 15th August.

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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:
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 ½ page - £12, ¼ page- £6.
 Commercial adverts:
 ½ page- £15, ¼ page- £8

Steeple Aston Directory

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Allotments (Church)	SACAA Clerk	Neil Grugeon	sacaaclerk@gmail.com
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)		Paul Honigmann	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
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
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Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Katie Rushworth	340196
Steeple Aston Walking Group		Penny, Stuart, Sue and Graham	sawgox25@gmail.com
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*

August 2020
Issue No. 564

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Editorial

Welcome to the August edition of Steeple Aston Life! While the summer may not be as jam-packed with events and fetes as usual, the good news is that with pubs, cafes and restaurants now opening up again, it hopefully won't be too long before our social calendars are buzzing once more. And to kick us off, we've got the Not the Annual Flower Show on 29th August, featuring the Scarecrow Competition and Fete at the Gate. See pages 16 and 17 for more information.

Recently, we've had some exceptionally good photos submitted to the magazine, so a big thank you to those who've contributed. Of course, they look even better in colour, so while we are unable to print in colour, head to www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine/ where you can see them, and indeed the entire magazine, in all its colourful glory online. As ever, if you'd like to contribute any photos, articles or drawings, then please do email Becca and me at editorsalife@gmail.com. Contributions are especially welcome from children.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Hanny Nicholson, who has recently decided to retire from the SAL Committee. Hanny has been involved with the magazine for 37 years and on the committee for 32; we will miss her input and expertise greatly. Thank you Hanny!

So that just leaves me to wish you all a wonderful summer; let's hope the sun keeps shining and we can all make the most of our beautiful countryside.

Best wishes

Angela

Photo: J. Coley





Hanny Nicholson Retires

Hanny has decided to stand down from the Steeple Aston Life Committee.

She has been involved with SAL since 1983 when the magazine changed from ten years as a family project to a community asset. She first volunteered to join the 'assemble and staple' team who met in our dining room when we lived at Manor Farm.

When I accepted the editorship in 1988 Hanny agreed to lead the team and offered hospitality at Kralingen. She has served on the committee ever since.

We will miss you Hanny. All of the committee members join me in thanking you for many years of faithful service.

Edwina Kinch, Chairman

Thanks to the Nicholsons

Many thanks to Roderick and Hanny Nicholson for opening their beautiful garden to the public. I spent a magical hour there recently in the early evening with a friend. Having explored the garden with all its interesting plants and trees, spotted birds and butterflies as well as a muntjac deer, we were able to sit socially distanced on a bench and enjoy the birdsong.

The garden will remain open through August, enter via the gate at the bottom of Water Lane - and make sure you take care in the water/bog garden. I do recommend it as a lovely garden to visit without having to get in the car.

Jenny Bell

LOST AND FOUND

Found Garmin Watch on footpath around Folly Field
Sunday evening 12th July.

Please contact Ray on tel. 347192



North Side Road Closure

A short section of North Side will be closed from 29th July until 4th August 2020 in order to investigate a water leak.

THANK YOU FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to extend a huge public thank you to all the volunteers who have been helping in the village over the last four months. Some of you helped with leafleting at the start of the crisis. Some have been paired up with vulnerable and self-isolating people: running errands, picking up shopping and prescriptions, etc. Some have been 'chatting,' providing an essential social lifeline to people who cannot get out and about. All of your help has been invaluable.

Special thanks on this occasion go to Anna Thatcher and Katie Crawshay who have both now stepped down, having run weekly prescription deliveries around the village from the Deddington Health Centre for the last two months. Thank you both for your efficiency and good humour. Their roles have been taken over by Penny Cummins and Linda Watkins respectively.

We also owe a special thank you to Tom Coker and his amazing army of volunteers, from Steeple Aston and Middle Aston, and from further afield as well, who made such a wonderful job of smartening up the playground ready for its re-opening. In the relatively short space of time available they achieved far more than they had planned, and the results are fantastic. Thank you too to Hannah Hodges, who has volunteered for the duration of her school holidays to help Bob Bickley keep the facility as clean, safe and as sanitised as we can make it.

We would also like to extend our thanks to those people who have not yet been called on to help. You allow the PC Chairman to sleep at night, knowing there are people in the village willing to lend a hand if the need arises.

Writing this as lockdown starts to ease in mid-July, it is difficult to know what to expect over the coming months. We hope for a return to some sort of normality; but we must be prepared for the possibility of a second wave. Whatever the future holds, we will do our best to ensure everyone in the village stays safe. Thank you to everyone who has helped us achieve all we have done so far.

Steeple Aston Parish Council

CORONAVIRUS

MESSAGE FROM DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE

If you are concerned that you might have Coronavirus, or have been in contact with someone who has it, please do not come to the surgery. Stay at home, avoid close contact with other people and use the NHS online Coronavirus service <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19> to find out what to do next.

Masks are now required for all visits to the Centre, including the Pharmacy.

Age UK

Age UK Oxfordshire are providing advice & information for anyone worried about Coronavirus on their website here <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/news/coronavirus/> and have set up a new, free telephone support service including a friendly, regular weekly call to see how people are and offer advice if needed. The number is **01865 411288** - leave a message and an advisor will call you back ASAP. Please note this is not an emergency medical service; please ring 111 for medical advice and 999 in a medical emergency.

The Codfather is no longer delivering to Steeple Aston. However, Howe and Co. are visiting various locations around Duns Tew, North Aston, Middle Aston and Steeple Aston every other Wednesday evening. You can track Van99 live via Facebook, and either buy from the van or preorder on 07484 360 719 or van99orders@gmail.com



Editor's Letterbox



Dear Editor

I just wanted to register my thanks to a couple of Steeple Aston residents. I was out on my bike this morning and had just made it up the hill to the church when a gust of wind blew a wasp into my face and it duly stung me a couple of times on the temple. It hurt - quite a lot. One chap just setting off for a walk was kind enough to go back to his house to get me some antihistamine gel, which was pretty effective. A couple of minutes later a father with his daughter came along and once he'd made sure I was ok took an interest in my bike, which is so old it should be in a museum. So, an initially painful experience ended up confirming that there are a lot of kind & generous people around, particularly in Steeple Aston.

Thanks again,
The Aynho Cyclist.

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?



The Food Bank in Banbury is doing a great job handing out between two and three times as much food as usual. But it needs some help.

It needs longer lasting items as it cannot cope with stuff that can go squishy or goes bad. **What they need most is tins of fruit, UHT long life milk and tinned fish or meat.** Please can you help show what kind and caring villages we are lucky enough to live in.

When you are going round the village to see the scarecrows over the August Bank Holiday weekend please can you bring something for the Food Bank. In addition to the collection of food there will be meringues and lemon curd available (for a donation) at both ends of Northside on Saturday and Monday afternoons. All the donations from the meringues and lemon curd will also be sent to the Food Bank.

There will be Food Bank collection points all around the village on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the August Bank Holiday weekend. The donations of food can be made at the four corners in Steeple Aston: opposite the church, at both ends of Water Lane and at the White Lion. The collection point in Middle Aston will be at the bottom of the drive of Folly Cottage. If you prefer I will collect any food donations from you if you ring me, Julia Whybrew, on 01869 347850.

The tins and cartons of milk etc need to be well within date. The Food Bank already has enough pasta, rice, beans and tea so if possible please can you give other things instead.

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Rebekah Tuluie



How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? 7 years.

Where did you move from? Snowdonia and London.

What brought you here? My husband, Robin and I found a lovely home. He used to live in Steeple Aston.

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston?

Walking my dog, Eira, and being close to nature. Living in a house that continues to inspire me.

Where do you think of as 'home'? The mountains of North Wales.

Give a potted history of yourself – in 40 words or less. I trained as a painter, film producer and published a book, *HANDLINES* with the British Red Cross. I have produced three feature films and nine short films. My first film, *THE EDGE OF LOVE*, was about my grandparents and the poet Dylan Thomas. I have been lucky enough to pursue my passions in life.

How do you see yourself, in 5 words or less? Kind, energetic, creative and curious.

How do others see you, in 5 words or less? Calm in a crisis.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? A detective.

What do you do for a living now? Film producer and visiting tutor at the National Film and Television School.

What is the best job you've ever done? Working as a scenic painter above the stage at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

What's your secret/guilty pleasure? Champagne.

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have Photography.

What's your favourite piece of music? Anything by Ludovico Einaudi.

What are you reading at the moment? "Olive, Again" by Elizabeth Strout.

If you became prime minister, what law would you pass? I would instil tougher laws to combat climate change.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? We recently helped a school in Nepal to set up a small solar project; I would love to do more of that.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? I would love to see Java, where my grandfather was born.

What do you do to relax? I paint large canvases in oil.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? "Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive". His Holiness 14th Dalai Lama.

Who is your hero? Which person do you most admire, and why? I admire Jacinda Ardern, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, for her progressive attitude and her empathy.

Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive? Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

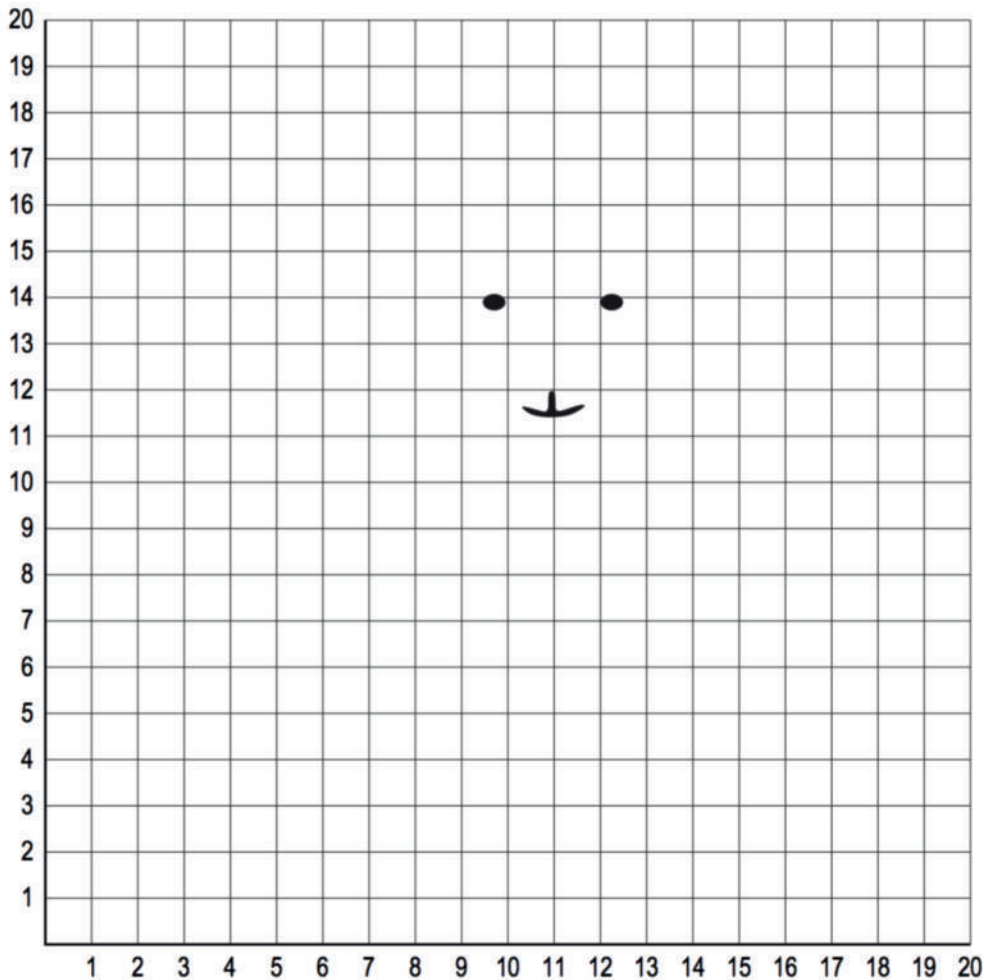
What makes you happiest in the world? Walking in mountains.

Tell us a surprising thing that most people don't know. I was Country Life's Millennium Girl!

Child's Play



There is a picture hidden in this grid. Connect the points with lines to reveal it.



Line 1: (15,2), (16,1) **Line 2:** (6,14), (9,13), (6,12) **Line 3:** (6,6), (4,4), (3,4), (2,5), (1,8), (2,10), (3,11), (4,11), (6,11), (5,12), (3,12), (1,11), (0,9), (0,7), (1,4), (3,3), (5,3), (6,4) **Line 4:** (8,2), (9,1) **Line 5:** (12,2), (14,1), (16,1), (16,2), (14,3), (15,5), (14,7), (15,9), (17,10), (19,13), (18,14), (17,13), (16,11), (14,10), (13,11), (14,13), (14,18), (12,16), (10,16), (8,18), (8,13), (9,11), (7,10), (6,9), (6,4), (8,1), (10,1), (10,2), (8,3), (10,4), (11,5), (11,6), (10,7) **Line 6:** (10,1), (9,2) **Line 7:** (6,13), (9,13) **Line 8:** (14,2), (15,1) **Line 9:** (6,5), (7,4), (8,5), (8,8) **Line 10:** (10,13), (11,12), (12,13) **Line 11:** (16,12), (13,13), (16,14) **Line 12:** (14,5), (13,3), (12,2), (10,2) **Line 13:** (13,13), (16,13)

Answer on page 35

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Photo: Nigel Francis





The Gardening Spot

Gardening in the 21st century and how it has changed

First and most importantly, I hope you are all keeping safe and well and enjoying the privilege that we have living in this most idyllic rural location. I can't remember spending so much time in my garden as I have over the past few months. Weeds must feel like they are under constant observation as the moment they appear I destroy them by what ever means I have. Runner beans have even decided to set on the first truss which is something of a novelty and my onions are so large they might have won first prize at our annual show had it taken place. I grumbled last month about the lack of rain and although we have had some rain and things are getting easier, a regular shower will not go amiss, but for you sun-lovers, maybe it could come at night!

I am going to stray a little from my usual, dubious advice on gardening and look at how gardening has changed over the years. I have possibly got the gardening bug from my mother who in turn would have inherited her skills from my grandfather, Dick Wadham, who was head gardener at The Grange from 1890 until 1938. I often look at my garden as it is now and wonder what he would have made of my amateur efforts. In his day he had up to six gardeners working under him on the estate, managing the wonderful recreational areas around the 'big house' and the kitchen garden, which is now my garden, plus all the woodland and orchards, in all amounting to around 20 plus acres. I have seen pictures of my garden taken over 100 years ago, of superb vegetables, grown to perfection and without the help of today's chemicals or mechanisation. The flower borders would have been comparable to the great gardens of that time and he often guided gardening groups from far and wide around the grounds and gave talks to garden groups apart from judging at flower shows. One of his duties was to provide a buttonhole for the gentleman of the house each morning when he was in residence and then talk to the cook to establish what produce was required in readiness for the meals of the day. The lawns were mown by hand, no ride-on mowers in those days, and the flower beds designed to produce a pattern using annual bedding plants alongside the more permanent herbaceous borders. Fruit from the orchards were stored in an apple store, now Violet Cottage, and without the convenience of a deepfreeze, the vegetable plot had to be able to supply the kitchen for 12 months with the help of a few runner beans being salted down in large glass jars. The glasshouses each had their own purpose. There was a peach house, a vinery for growing both black and white grapes for the dining table, an orchid house and a "pit" where such crops as melons would be produced. All this plus the potting shed which is still more or less as it was in those Victorian days but without the coal fired boiler.

My mother was one of those people who could grow pretty much anything. She had what we then called "green-fingers" and as a young boy I have memories of us both walking around gardens of some renown and being told by my Mum to stand in a certain position whilst she discreetly removed a cutting from a plant that she liked the look of. No garden centres in those days and little money so a new plant from cuttings was an economical way of increasing the garden stock. Not perhaps totally honest but if possible, she would have asked permission from the head gardener and she would never damage a plant. Her only problem was that she very rarely labelled anything so by time the cuttings has matured into decent sized plants, she was not always sure what they were and thus they got planted in the wrong position. At least she could relocate them if necessary.

In these times of 'lockdown' and restricted movement, I have felt so privileged to live in such a wonderful place and be able to enjoy my garden space which is probably not as splendid as it was in those heady days of my grandfather but I hope he would be pleased with mine and Daphne's efforts, as I know my Mum would have been.

Keep gardening, keep safe and very best wishes to you all,

Richard Preston



In October last year I was asked if I would write a poem themed on the month, and so I wrote a poem about Halloween. The idea took root and each month I found myself continuing in that vein. I've now been writing for almost a year. For me the time seems like it has gone by very rapidly with many twists and turns. Writing and gardening have played a bigger part than usual in my life during lockdown and beyond, so I have married the two below:

AUGUST ACROSTIC...

Autumn's herald mist and mellow fruit
Uplifting warmth the best of summer sun
Great Scott! the summer's barely taken root
Upright the Dahlia's blooms are nowhere near full done
Symphonic view the garden sight is music for my soul
The evenings though now close as summer light does fail

August, your namesake, make the harvests whole
Come rain or shine your beauty will not pale

Peter Wild

*Poetry Corner continues
on the next page*



Photo: Martin Lipson

THE PATIENT PATIENT

Last Saturday, I fell over
I swear I wasn't drunk.
I just tripped over my own feet,
And went down with a thump.

My knees were first to hit the ground
And thereafter my chest.
I was in shock for several minutes,
So I sat and had a rest.

I then assessed the damage.
It was clear I was alive,
And though I would be black and blue,
I'd probably survive.

But as the afternoon wore on,
Pain in my chest got worse.
So I dialled 111,
And was put through to a nurse.

She asked me all the questions
That were required of her.
But I must admit I couldn't see
How relevant they were.

She said, I'll get a doctor
to give you a call.
Someone will ring within the hour.
Tell them about your fall.

A doctor duly rang me,
After an hour at most.
And said "You need to see a doctor.
Go to Bicester First Aid post."

So off we drove to Bicester,
Where I retold my tale of woe.
They said "You need an X-ray,
To the Horton you must go".

So back to Banbury we came,
To the Horton A & E.
Where a triage nurse asked me,
To tell him how I'd hurt my knee.

I told my story once again,
And he carefully made notes.
And then I sat and waited
With several other folks.

90 minutes later,
I saw a very young MD.
Who asked me what had happened,
And how I'd hurt my knee.

I then waited in a different place,
Till by X-ray I was seen.
Where I told my story to a nurse,
(Who looked about fourteen).

I waited a while longer,
(And had a little snooze),
Till the young doctor came back,
And told me the good news.

He was pleased to tell me,
It wasn't a disaster.
I had not broken any bones.
There was no need of plaster.

It would be painful for a while,
And the bruises would be stunning.
I'd need to take painkillers,
And I'd have to give up running. (!!)

But I felt that I had let them down.
Our hard-working NHS.
I'd told my sorry story,
To six different folk, no less.

But what a boring tale it was,
"I just tripped up and fell."
Couldn't I have come up
With a more exciting tale to tell?

I was abseiling down a tower.
I was swimming with a shark.
I was hunting with Bear Grylls
in the Kruger National Park.

I fell out of a window
Fleeing a jealous lover.
I was in the middle of a drugs deal
When someone blew my cover.

I feel I have a duty
To give the NHS a lift,
To have a fascinating story,
To add excitement to their shift.

And I admit that I got very bored,
Telling every medic in the town,
That I tripped over my own feet,
And just fell down.

Cathy Lawday

Not the Annual Flower Show

SCARECROW COMPETITION (Open to residents of Steeple and Middle Aston)

In the absence of the annual village flower show this year we are promoting a “**SCARECROW**” **competition with BIG PRIZE MONEY!** All you have to do is make a scarecrow and place it in a prominent position such as your front gate or doorstep to be judged by an independent judge on Saturday 29th August and viewed by villagers throughout the bank holiday weekend. There will be no charge for entry so all you need to do is let Richard know you are entering with your name and the address and location where the scarecrow is to be judged along with a telephone number. Last date for entry is Wednesday 26th August. You will be allocated a number, which needs to be pinned onto the scarecrow and easily visible. The scarecrow will be judged from a safe distance and quality of construction, originality and humour will be taken into consideration to find a **first, second and third place (£100, £50, and £25 respectively)**. Only one entry per household and the judge’s decision will be final.

To enter, please give Richard a call on 01869 340512 or email Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com. It is as simple as that. Best of luck and let us see what you can come up with!

ALSO

We still wanted to give you the opportunity to make, bake, arrange or grow something and share it with the community. There is no judging or prize associated with this. The theme is “**Colours of the Rainbow.**”

We look forward to seeing a range of photos of your flowers, fruit, vegetables, handicraft or baking, and are also keen to see anything that has been made or grown by the children in the village.

If you’d like to send your photos to be exhibited on the village website, please email them to editor@steepleaston.org.uk by Wednesday, 26th August. A maximum of five photos per person please.

Your email should include your name as you’d like it to appear on the website and a short caption for each photo. The photos should be attached to the email as jpegs.

If you don’t have internet access or you’re not able to email photos, please contact Claire Hall on 01869 389508 and she will arrange to do it for you.

The photos will appear on the village website (www.steepleaston.org.uk) by Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August along with, we hope, pictures of lots of wonderful scarecrows.

FINALLY

Some potential show entrants will be placing produce outside their houses for purchase over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. To safeguard all concerned, a suggested donation may be placed in an honesty box and the proceeds will go to a charity of the homeowner’s choice to be displayed with any items on display. Please only touch what you intend to purchase and keep at a safe distance as advised and enjoy a walk around the glorious villages of Steeple and Middle Aston and **KEEP SAFE AT ALL TIMES.**

NOT THE ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

SCARECROW COMPETITION

**I COULD BE WORTH
£100 IF I WERE TO
BE FOUND ON YOUR
DOORSTEP!**



**ENTRY IS COMPLETELY
FREE**

£100 – first prize

£50 – second prize

£25 – third prize

All you must do is make a scarecrow and place it on your doorstep or appropriate position by Saturday 29th August.

To enter, contact Richard by calling 01869 340512 or email richard.preston5@btopenworld.com by Wednesday 26th August who in turn will allocate you a number which needs to be attached to your scarecrow at the time of judging which will be on the morning of Saturday 29th August.

The independent judge will be looking for quality of construction, originality and a sense of humour.

Best of luck!!!!



**By kind permission of
Steeple Aston Horticultural
Society**

**Steeple Aston Village
Church will be running**

Fete at the Gate

Alongside the

Horticultural Society's Scarecrow Festival

Saturday 29th August

A way of celebrating our wonderful village and we look forward to welcoming you on this very festive occasion.

Parish Council Meeting Notes



After last month's virtual Parish Council meeting with twenty members of the public, the July meeting had a mere three members attending. This meeting was the last before the summer break and you could say it was 'all in the detail.'

It never ceases to amaze me how much time and energy our councillors have to spend dealing with these 'details', many of which could have been dealt with by the perpetrators themselves. How many times do you need to be told that your hedges, trees and foliage are a danger to the public and you need to do something about them, or you will be handed a large bill? Our councillors are very patient dealing with these matters, but it seems to me this is an abuse of their time and goodwill.

Phone Box Library A villager who is leaving the village wants to leave a legacy in the form of a bench, or possibly, a phone box library. There was some discussion around this beginning with 'Where would it go?' and 'Who would run it?' Our County Councillor, Arash Fatemian said that there had been a phone box library in Banbury. It was acknowledged that through the years, the library/bookshop which had been run out of *The Red Lion* had raised healthy sums for charity, but there were questions as to whether people would use a smaller phone box library and what were the implications of handling books in the current climate of sanitisation. Perhaps a seat would be more appropriate, especially as no one will forget the Book Library Champion.

Trees and Hedges feature on the *PC* agenda frequently and who deals with what can get complicated. Some major work can be dealt with by the *Highways Dept* but other works need 'in village' care. A hedge at Lawrence Fields and the trees along the Heyford Road are in need of pruning. When the Highways tree expert returns from furlough the trees will be dealt with. The *PC* will arrange for the hedge to be trimmed in the early autumn. The hedge outside *The Red Lion* also needs trimming as this can be a safety issue.

The trees in the **Play Area** get an Arboreal Survey every year for this very reason, although it appears it is not entirely clear whether these trees are the responsibility of the *PC*, or *Dr. Radcliffe's Trust*. As one councillor pointed out, 'these little nit-picking details are so important.'

Approval was given to the extra hours of work needed to thoroughly clean and sanitise the Play Area and to the expenditure for the appropriate wood staining and cleaning materials. Tom Coker and his gang of volunteers were thanked for their help with smartening up the Play Area and Hannah Hodges for her volunteering to help clean and sanitise, on a daily basis.

The Play Area was currently being sanitised twice a day and this would continue during the school summer holidays. There would be a review in September when schools returned. The notices advising parents how to use the Play Area had been ripped down and the *PC* Chair had replaced them. Stencilling instructions directly on to the equipment was considered, but it was decided this might be counter-productive when there were unfortunately elements in the village who would rise to the challenge.

The *RoSPA* report on playground safety has just been received and would be reviewed at a later date. There were no major problems – a few rotten fence posts need replacing and more bark is needed.

The toilet had been re-opened and was being regularly sanitised. The Parish Clerk was investigating deep cleaning and possibly the re-painting of this important facility.

Arash Fatemian reported that there would be a Government White Paper published in September on local government re-organisation. A year ago, our local councils had not been supportive of an **Oxfordshire Unitary Council**, but the situation – post Covid 19 – had changed. Rapid Government contact with so many different councils had been

Parish Council Meeting Notes



difficult and time-consuming and there were also now serious financial complications. Our local councils were therefore apparently now in favour of becoming one – the exception being Oxford City – and it was a case of when this happened, not if. This would make Oxfordshire the third largest unitary council in the country. Arash pointed out that councils which did not go along with this but hung on until the bitter end, would probably miss out on financial incentives.

Arash had supported local opinion and submitted a dissenting statement to Cherwell on the proposed **Hatch End** development. Richard MacAndrew, PC Chair and Edward Dowler, Chair of Middle Aston Parish Meeting will be making a presentation at the **CDC Planning Committee Meeting on 13 August**.

The request to proceed with a sub-lease for the **Village Hall** had been sent to solicitors. There was considerable discussion around this. Are you sitting comfortably? *Dr. Radcliffe's Trust (DRT)* owns the land on which the **Village Hall** and **Sports and Recreation Centre** are built. The Parish Council have a lease from *DRT* and they are responsible for the maintenance of the actual buildings. The **Village Hall Management Committee** and the **Sports and Recreation Trust** have a **Licence to Occupy** and are responsible for the management and interior matters of their buildings.

Two and a half years ago, when the **Village Hall Management Committee** applied for grant-funding to refurbish the kitchen, it discovered to its horror that a **Licence to Occupy** was no longer sufficient for important grant-funders like *Viridor* and without a sub-lease it would not receive any grant funding.

The *DRT* has given permission for the **Village Hall Management Committee** and **Sports and Recreation Trust (SRT)** to secure a sub-lease. However, they do not come cheaply and the discussion was centred around who would be

paying for this. Should it be the *PC*, the **Village Hall** and the **SRT**? Or should it be *DRT* who own the land and the buildings, with contributions from the other three parties?

The *PC*, the **Village Hall** and the **Sports and Recreation Trust** have agreed to share the cost, but the *PC* will request a meeting with the *DRT* as there are a number of details around who is responsible for trees, litter bins in the Robinson's Close car park, and other matters, that need to be ironed out.

The Sport and Recreation Trust was looking at making money from hiring out the football pitch as it had lost money in the past few months.

Both the **Village Hall** and **SRT** are preparing to hopefully re-open in September (see 'Village Hall Notes' and the village website) in accordance with government guidelines. Torquil McLusky, Chair of the **SRT** had suggested it was a good time to review **internet access** for the *PC*, *VH* and **SRT**.

The parish council's **speed monitor** is moving from Heyford Road to outside **The Red Lion** (this is just a warning for white van delivery drivers). The data collected from the previous site will be processed and published.

The final item was to decide on applications for co-option as an additional parish councillor, at which point, members of the public were requested to leave.

The next meeting will be at 7.30 on 21 September.

Steeplehound

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



Vegan Eton Mess, and what to do with the leftover Chickpeas

I'm an omnivore. As a family we eat meat only a couple of times a week now. We love pulses, lentils, nuts, and chickpeas seem to encapsulate all these things. Chickpeas are powerful little things, a very rich source of protein and fibre, either soaked from dry, and simmered for a long time, or tinned, they are a really versatile ingredient, for sweet and savoury recipes.

The magic ingredient for this recipe is aquafaba. It forms the 'meringue' for vegan Eton Mess, and works very well indeed.

Vegan Eton Mess

"MERINGUE" ingredients

80g aquafaba (the soaking liquid from half a 400g tin of chickpeas)

¼ tsp cream of tartar

60g icing sugar

½ tsp vanilla extract

FILLING ingredients:

500g mixed berries

50g icing sugar – sifted

100ml coconut cream

250ml chilled coconut yogurt

The liquid freezes very well, so you can save it from the chickpeas if you don't want to make both recipes within a few days.

Method: Heat the oven to 150°C/fan 130°C/gas mark 2 and line a large baking tray with baking paper. To make the meringue, tip the aquafaba into a large bowl and beat on a high speed using the whisk attachment on a stand mixer, or using electric beaters, for 5 minutes until very light and fluffy, and doubled in volume. Add the cream of tartar, then the icing sugar one tablespoon at a time, fully incorporating each before adding the next. When all the sugar has been added, mix in the vanilla and whisk until stiff, glossy peaks form. Spoon or pipe the meringue onto the baking paper into 6cm circles, leaving a gap between each, and bake for 1hr or until crisp. Leave to cool.

Meanwhile mix the berries with 2 tbsp of the icing sugar and put to one side. Whip the coconut cream in a large bowl until thick and creamy. Add the remaining icing sugar and whisk until smooth. Pour in the coconut yogurt and whisk until light and airy. Break the meringues into pieces, sprinkle a little into the bottoms of four sundae glasses, alternating with the berries, whipped coconut cream and more meringues. Or it can be made in one big bowl.

What to do with the leftover Chickpeas

With the chickpeas from the liquid make:

Curry (chickpea, carrot and red pepper)

Courgette and harissa Falafels

Roast with potatoes, roast with cherry tomatoes, roast till crisp, scattered with smoked paprika and/or dried Mediterranean herbs and sea salt (delicious as a snack, with a glass of something chilled in the garden)

Peanut butter and chickpea blondies



continued



Weetabix Cake

I first came across this cake when staying in a ski chalet in La Plagne, France, when I was about 7 years old. Slices of this sticky, sweet and squidgy cake were there waiting for us after a day on the slopes. My mother, who loves to cook, asked our chalet hosts for the recipe and was very surprised to know it contained Weetabix – we never would have guessed! It's super easy to make too, and was one of the first cakes I remember making with my mother when I was little. I especially loved crushing the Weetabix into the mixture, and of course licking the bowl at the end. I hope you love it as much as I do.

I'm not going to pretend this cake is remotely healthy but it does at least contain a lot of fibre!

Ingredients

4oz/100g butter
8oz/200g brown sugar
1½ tablespoons of golden syrup
8oz/200g plain flour (or use self-raising flour and omit the baking powder)
8oz/200g sultanas
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 beaten egg
5 crushed Weetabix

Method

Melt the butter, brown sugar and golden syrup together in a saucepan over a gentle heat. When the mixture is fully liquid, take the pan off the heat and stir in the flour, sultanas, baking powder, egg and Weetabix. (Top tip: use a very large saucepan to melt butter, sugar and syrup so that you can stir the dry ingredients straight in without needing to transfer the mixture to another bowl – this saves on the washing up!)

Put the mixture into a greased brownie tin around 7 x 10 inches/17x25cm in size and bake at 175°C for around 30 minutes. The cake should be golden and firm on the top and be lovely and squidgy inside. When cool, cut into bars and enjoy with a cup of tea.

For extra decadence, you might like to drizzle melted chocolate over the top of the baked cake and let it harden before cutting it into bars. Alternatively, dip the bars into melted chocolate on one half and let them cool before eating.

???? Mind Games

Anagrams

The following are all anagrams of popular British food dishes. How many can you solve?

Credit: www.quiz4free.com

1. Bad Man Gnashers
2. Often Wellbeing
3. Pick Bald Dung
4. Nuke Bad Squabble
5. Farewell Use Choice
6. Poetic Gate
7. Decimate Instant
8. Fin Dish Chaps
9. Screws A Retired Barman
10. I Sew Shirt
11. Enthral Sociopath
12. Sporty Chains
13. Hung Lump On Clash
14. Naked Keen Sapidity
15. Headline Tooth
16. Terrible Wast
17. Dopy rude shirking
18. Recheck, Emus Nip
19. Free Boats
20. Nun Licks Elk



Riddles

1. What is always in front of you but can't be seen?
2. What can you break, even if you never pick it up or touch it?
3. I have branches, but no fruit, trunk or leaves. What am I?
4. What can you catch, but not throw?
5. What has to be broken before you can use it?
6. I'm tall when I'm young, and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?
7. What goes up but never comes down?
8. The more of this there is, the less you see. What is it?

Continued on next page

???? Mind Games

Continued from previous page

Answers on p.31

9. What can travel all around the world without leaving its corner?
10. What question can you never answer yes to?
11. What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?
12. What has 13 hearts, but no other organs?
13. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?
14. What can fill a room but takes up no space?
15. What has one eye, but can't see?
16. If you drop me I'm sure to crack, but give me a smile and I'll always smile back. What am I?
17. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?
18. What breaks yet never falls, and what falls yet never breaks?
19. I am always hungry and will die if not fed, but whatever I touch will soon turn red. What am I?
20. What has one head, one foot and four legs?
21. The person who makes it has no need of it; the person who buys it has no use for it. The person who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?
22. I have lakes with no water, mountains with no stone and cities with no buildings. What am I?
23. What has a head, a tail, is brown, and has no legs?
24. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?
25. What begins with an "e" and only contains one letter?
26. What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you?
27. What can point in every direction but can't reach the destination by itself.
28. What has many keys, but can't even open a single door?
29. A man rode out of town on Sunday, he stayed a whole night at a hotel and rode back to town the next day on Sunday. How is this possible?
30. What has six faces, but does not wear makeup, has twenty-one eyes, but cannot see? What is it?

Credit: www.cambridge-news.co.uk

Advice for Better Recycling

Did you see the piece on the news recently about huge heaps of our country's plastic waste being burnt by the roadside in Turkey? It was horrendous.

How did it get there?

Some places in the UK are now sending waste for recycling to Turkey. No doubt we're paying for that and once there it really does get recycled - but only the stuff that actually can be recycled. So the items which are not normally recycled get filtered out and sent to... you've guessed it... "somewhere" to be burnt, in huge amounts. Well, even if they were small amounts they would be too much.

Why?

Because we as a nation are not taking enough notice of what can and what cannot be recycled. So lots of things get put into recycling bins quite innocently because we think that, for example, all plastics can be recycled, whereas not all can.

Now... I'm sure that people in our village are more careful than that and I don't intend to rant on and try to give all the details about what can and what cannot be recycled.

Instead....

I truly recommend that we all, once more, look again at the recycling advice from Cherwell Council. It's in a very well presented PDF that can be downloaded. It needs reading carefully but surely it's worth it and perhaps many of us do have the time to do it right now.

Here is the download: It's called "The Right Stuff - Right Bin Leaflet" Happy reading!

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1261/right-stuff-right-bin-leaflet>

Martin Dale



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?



Broughton Castle?

After so many weeks when we've been crushed under lockdown, there's a sense of life returning and, although I think we are going to become reconciled to greater limits on our freedom, there are places to visit opening up which can bring us interest and enjoyment, even if there may be unfamiliar procedures to follow. To begin with the practice of 'booking ahead' or at least checking opening times and whether there is a limit on numbers will become *de rigueur* – placing some limits on spontaneity – but better than making a journey which turns out to have been a wasted one!

I'm very pleased to have discovered that Broughton Castle is opening its ancient doors on Sundays, Bank Holidays and Wednesday afternoons from July 12th. If you want to tiptoe out into the world beyond Lockdown and explore a place of history, beauty and education and haven't ever visited Broughton Castle I can think of no more delightful place to begin practising post-virus outings! Broughton Castle is technically a moated and fortified manor house which has been (and still is) owned by the Fiennes family since 1447 although the core of the house goes back to 1306. The Barons Saye and Sele live in the Castle, which is a World Heritage Site, much of it built in the 1660s after the restoration of the monarchy. Besieged in 1662 after the battle of Edgehill (the Fiennes were opposed to Charles 1st) the castle was overcome by Royalist troops but Lord Saye and Sele was able to make peace with the Crown after the restoration and so escaped captivity.

That is only a glimpse of the Castle's fascinating history. It continues today with lovely gardens, a determination by the family to preserve and enhance the collection of beautiful and interesting artefacts and to encourage visitors to enjoy walks in the extensive land beyond the moat. There is a tearoom and a small shop with toilets in the car park. It costs £10 for adult entry to the house and garden (£9 for concessions) or £6 for garden entry only. The gardens open from 12.30pm., the house opens at 2.00pm. There will be post-Covid expectations of social distancing, hand sanitising etc – and I do recommend making the checks I suggested before you set off but once you've overcome those hurdles I anticipate that you'll enjoy a happy and interesting afternoon.

Eileen Baglin-Jones.

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The Cricket Report



Steeple Aston Cricket Club

And we're off....

Our season finally started on 16th July with a T20 against old friends and rivals Great Tew CC, and what a wonderful start to the season it was. In the last 17 years we have played them 14 times, of which incredibly, we have won 10. The Chairman skilfully negotiated winning the toss and Tew batted first. Six balls later Paul Longman had bowled a double wicket maiden, courtesy of a sharp catch by Tom Chesser and an arm ball that clattered the wickets. Tew 0-2! Nevertheless they are a good side and were soon 49-2 from 7 overs, before Tom Chesser dried up the scoring with some accurate slow left-arm. Paul Longman (3-19) then produced the ball of the day to dismiss Tew's best batsman with a fine catch behind the stumps from Phil Chesser. Some accurate bowling in the middle overs from the Higgins' boys – Hector 0-9 from 2 overs and the Chairman 1-13 from 4 overs – piled the pressure on Tew, ably supported by some athletic fielding from the whole team. Olly Doggett, despite nursing a hangover from 5 days of drinking in Amsterdam, scurried around in the field to great effect and made use of his bullet throw. Despite Phil Chesser missing 3 stumpings and Peter Higgins a steepling catch, all in the last over, Tew finished on 117-6 off 20 overs, an eminently gettable target.

It was always going to be tense...

Despite not hitting a ball for a year Stan Owen grafted well for his 15 runs and laid a solid foundation for Harry Startin, who has played for Sussex 2nd XI (as has Joffra Archer!), to play some shots. Harry hit a belligerent 39 before falling to a wonder catch from Toby Parker. Jon Scotchbrook (23) too was finding the middle of the bat before playing on to a shocker of a ball. 95-2 became 95-4 and the pressure was building, with 23 still needed from 24 balls. Somehow Tom Chesser took a ball from a yard outside leg, via his pad, through his legs and onto his wicket to leave us needing 11 from 12 balls. However Arthur Higgins (10*) was rotating the strike well with some well-placed singles and twos, before Greg Renk (7*) smote the ball over Long On for an amazing six that sealed the match for Steeple Aston. Whilst we celebrated our victory with a well-earned socially-distanced pint outside the pavilion, it is worth saying that Tew played with great integrity, bowling spin in the darkening skies, to avoid any danger to our batsman. It's wonderful to be playing again and wonderful to play against such charming hosts.

More fixtures...

We already have 3 more fixtures in place:

2 nd August	Blenheim Palace	Away
16 th August	Great Tew	Away
23 rd August	Blenheim Palace	Home

Please do come and watch and if you want to come to Blenheim Palace, please contact me at peter.higgins@ctshirts.co.uk nearer the time for a spectator's pass. It's quite an attractive ground!

All the best

Peter Higgins
Chairman SACC

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Not much news this month, but we are still being challenged by weekly quizzes forwarded to us by Janice Kinory, some really taxing our brains. If members Zoom they can apply to join talks on: Eva Braun – Victim or Contriver, A Photographers Tale – 30 years in the Business, and Eva Peron – Saint or Sinner Parts 1 & 2, so virtual meetings organised by the County Federation are still taking place. The County Federation have also invited us to a Photographic Competition so we can expect to see some of our members' photographs in the Federation's Newsletter.

We are still planning on a Garden Party in August, English weather permitting; hopefully the summer will return.

I have made quite a number of masks for people throughout the village and still have material if there are any more required.

The WI movement is built on communication, support, education, fun and laughter and this sums up what Steeple Aston WI is all about so if any of you reading this report would like more information or how to join our friendly bunch of ladies please contact me on 01869 340028.

Linda Needle - President

Fete at the Gate

Elsewhere in SAL this month (page 17) you will find the Horticultural Society's advertisement and invitation to take part in their Scarecrow Competition on 29th August... good fun for all. On the same page you will see that alongside this the Church is hoping to run an event called "Fete at the Gate".

Because this year it was necessary to cancel the July Fete, the stalls and possibly some of the sideshows which would have been at the July Fete will be set up on the day of the Scarecrow Competition but at the garden gate or drive of the people who normally run that stall. So as you go round the village enjoying the scarecrows, you will also be able to enjoy the stalls and more, which normally would have taken place at the Fete.

What we hope is that this will mean that uniquely this year, the festival organised by the Horticultural Society will become a further community event with which to celebrate - something to really look forward to.

So lets all start planning our scarecrows and getting ready for what we hope will be a super community time! See you there!

Martin Dale, Horticultural Society

Mind Games Answers

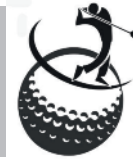
Anagrams

1. Bangers And Mash
2. Beef Wellington
3. Black Pudding
4. Bubble And Squeak
5. Cauliflower Cheese
6. Cottage Pie
7. Mince And Tatties
8. Fish And Chips
9. Strawberries and Cream
10. Irish Stew
11. Lancashire Hotpot
12. Cornish Pasty
13. Ploughman's Lunch
14. Steak and Kidney Pie
15. Toad in the Hole
16. Welsh Rarebit
17. Yorkshire Pudding
18. Chicken Supreme
19. Roast Beef
20. Cullen Skink



Riddles

1. The future
2. A promise
3. A bank
4. A cold
5. An egg
6. A candle
7. Your age
8. Darkness
9. A stamp
10. Are you asleep yet?
11. Silence
12. A deck of cards
13. A river
14. Light
15. A needle
16. A mirror
17. Footsteps
18. Day, and night
19. Fire



This message comes from our secretary Chris Cooper and events organiser Mike Brown after we Zoomed at our last Cobra meeting!

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well and have managed to avoid coming into contact with the COVID-19 virus.

Unfortunately the current situation is still such that organising a SAGS meeting is still not possible. Therefore the Captains Day on 7th August and the SAGS vs. Exiles game on 13th Sept have both been cancelled. We will review the situation in September and make a decision then with regards to our last meeting of the year on 2nd Oct at Stratford on Avon.

Keep Safe

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No "Community Apple Pressing days" are currently planned, but hopefully this will change! Look out for notices around the village.

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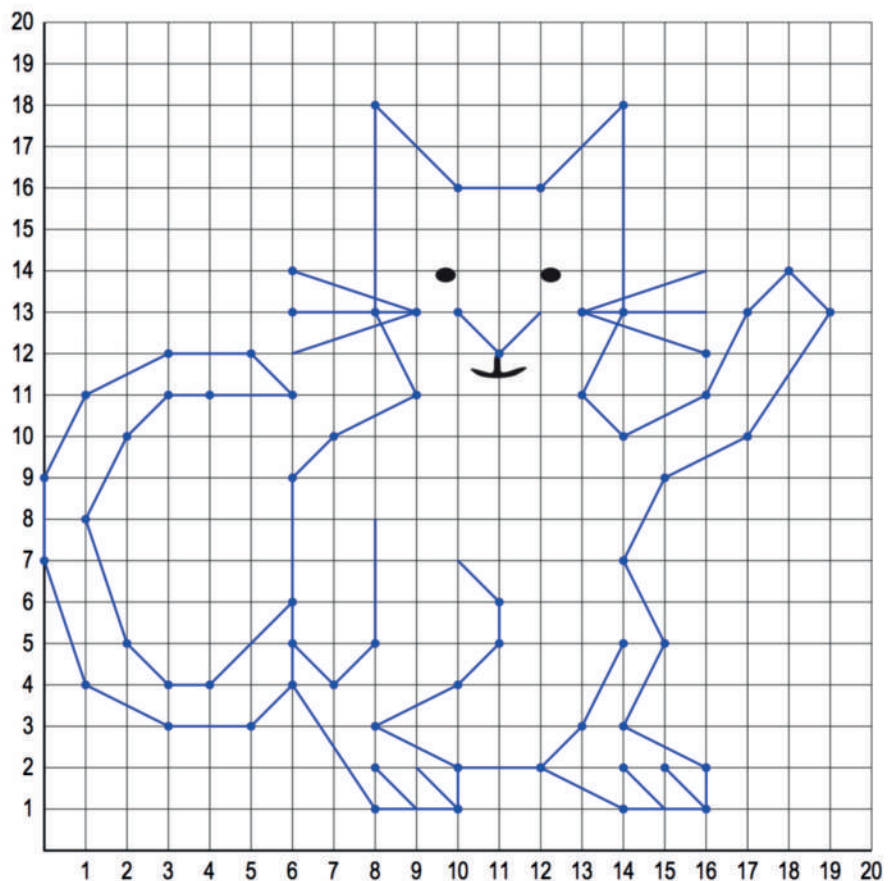
Whether you're contemplating piano lessons for your child or yourself, feel free to get in touch.

Rosemary

Rosemary.Jefford@gmail.com
Tel: 07542 086 038



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IMPORTANT NOTICE – RE-OPENING OF THE VILLAGE HALL

In order for the Village Hall Management Committee to make a robust plan of action in readiness for any re-opening of the Village Hall (under guidance from DEFRA/ACRE/CFO) all potential hirers of the hall need to complete a questionnaire.

Village groups who have regularly hired the hall in the past will have already received information from their representative on the *VHMC*, and regular outside hirers will have received their information from Katie Rushworth, the Letting Agent.

Other potential hirers of the hall need to complete the questionnaire that is displayed on the village website, or collect a paper copy from Margaret Bulleyment, *VHMC* Secretary at 32, Grange Park, Steeple Aston.

Please note that currently most activities that take place in the hall are still not permitted, but we need to know your intentions in advance so we can make an appropriate and safe plan for when the situation changes. Please deliver your questionnaire in person, or by email to Margaret Bulleyment jbulleyment@waitrose.com no later than **15 August**.

For more information please consult the *CFO* (Community First Oxfordshire) website:

www.communityfirstoxon.org

or contact

Margaret Bulleyment (Tel. 347346); Barbara Brewer (Tel 340423) or Letting Agent Katie Rushworth (Tel. 340196)

Thank you for your help. We hope to have everything in place to get the hall up and running as soon as it is humanly possible.

The following at the moment are due to take place.

Thursday 5th November Annual Fireworks Evening.

Sunday 13th December Wassail Evening.

Saturday 23rd January 2021 Annual Quiz Evening.

Please note our letting agent is Mrs. Katie Rushworth

01869 340196. Email steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com

Collect keys from "Touchstones" The Dickredge, Steeple Aston, OX25 4RS.

Always remember, clean hands save lives and when in doubt, don't go out.

Barbara Brewer, chair



THE VALENTINE CLUB

Due to the ongoing concerns with the Covid-19 situation, the club will not be meeting during August or September and all coach trips have been cancelled until further notice.

If anyone has any questions related to the present situation, please do not hesitate to contact me as I might be able to answer them or point you in the right direction.

You can always keep up to date with the club by visiting www.steepleaston.org.uk, or our own website www.valentineclub.wixsite/aston, or simply call me on 01869 340512.

Keep safe everyone.

Richard Preston – Group organiser – Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com or 01869 340512

AD&D Photographic Society



Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society

Let me introduce Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society, a non-competitive camera group that meets monthly.

The society is always looking to encourage new members; you do not need lots of expensive equipment or lots of image-taking experience because the emphasis is on experimenting, learning new techniques and having fun.

As well as the monthly presentation evening, the first Wednesday of each month, we also have monthly workshops that might be all about techniques, learning about post-production software or looking at images linked to a monthly topic.

So, we don't run competitions but we do love a great image and if you would like to see what the group gets up to, please do explore our website www.addphoto.co.uk where you will find lots of previous topic pictures and notes on all our presentation evenings where guest speakers give us lots of tips and inspiration. You will also find information on how to join us; currently we meet virtually using 'Zoom' but ordinarily we would be at The Cartwright Arms, Aynho.

So, if you are considering a new hobby pick up your phone, compact or SLR and give us a try.

Anne Hunsley
ADDphoto.co.uk

The Countryside Code

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways is clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Don't have BBQs or fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures



*Enjoy,
be safe*

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Church Matters



And so we all begin to dip our toes in the waters of normality...

I cannot tell you how glad I am to be able to write that we are again holding congregational services of worship in the Benefice. Christianity is a team sport. We are here to cry with each other and to laugh with each other, and that's very hard to do all alone. I've been tremendously impressed by the care and thoughtfulness I've seen in all sorts of places in these last months - and I know it will only continue - but coming together to express joy and sorrow and praise and lament and thanksgiving and confession and all the hundred other emotions and desires of life lies at the very heart of our common faith.

The very word 'communion' is a sharing word. Not my time with God, but ours. Our joining together - or rather, our being joined together with Jesus and all he has done for us and still does and will do.

So on July 19 we scheduled our first service back together. Then August 2nd, then August 16 - and so on. Initially every two weeks, with a plan to go weekly in September, depending on how things turn out. We are worshipping in the open air as long as the weather allows. In the open air - because it feels safer and more welcoming and more open to more people in these still-not-quite-right days in which we live.

Each service will be a joint Benefice service for now - one week in Steeple, then in North Aston, then in Tackley. The rota at the back of the magazine or on our church website www.sntchurch.com has all the details. If the weather is really bad at 10.30am (our regular start time this summer) but is forecast better in the afternoon, we will push back till 5pm. If it is set in bad all day, then our online service will be all that we have that weekend. *Worship at Home*, our online service available on YouTube or via our website, has been watched by a wonderful number of people throughout the last four months. Thank you for joining with us. We will continue this every week for the time being.

When you come, because we are outside, please do bring your own chair or rug to sit on, and do observe social distancing. Our hope is that the churchyards all allow for this quite well. Please also wear a face covering or mask. Someone said to me - washing hands is something we do for ourselves; face covering is something we do for others. Masks will feel strange in worship - but let's make a positive out of it: I will award a prize to the most colourful or creative mask for the first three or four services! Let's see how that works out!

The diocese asks us not to sing for now. But we can share communion together, and I am sure our gatherings will be wonderful. God is good. It seems clear that there are still long days ahead for all of us, and coming together for encouragement and prayer is a wonderful gift. Do join us if you feel able. If you do not - then stay home, watch the online service or use the telephone version of this (dial 929021 and you can hear our online service in full, or just the prayers, or just the sermon if you would like) and let us know so we can pray for you.

Our church buildings are also open most Saturdays so anyone can take a moment for their own personal prayers or a spot of quiet reflection if they would like to; we do need volunteers to keep the buildings open - please contact me or the church wardens if you'd like to help with this.

This is a long haul. But we will get there together, with God's help.

Revd Marcus Green



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Church Worship

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July 19 - 10.30am Steeple Aston

August 2 - 10.30am North Aston

August 16 - 10.30am Tackley

August 30 - 10.30am Steeple Aston

Sep 6 - 10.30am North Aston

Sep 13 - 10.30am Tackley

Sep 20 - 10.30am Steeple Aston

**Please bring your own chair or rug,
observe social distancing, and
wear a face covering or mask**

***If a Sunday morning suffers really bad weather, services
will be put back to 5pm; if the bad weather continues,
our weekly on-line service will be the only service that day**

Worship at Home

(our online worship service)

continues each Sunday at www.sntchurch.com

Local Info

Steeple Aston Village Hall

Hiring Fee Caution

Hall (meeting night)		
Represented Clubs.....	£9	
Non-Represented Clubs.....	£17	
Hall Only (social occasion)		
Represented Clubs.....	£32	
Others.....	£53	
All Facilities (social occasion)		
Village Residents	£65	£200
Represented Clubs.....	£65	£200
Others - up to 6 hours.....	£110	£300
Others - over 6 hours.....	£160	£300
All Facilities (off peak - 4 hours)		
Village Residents	£30	£75
Represented Clubs.....	£30	£75
Committee Room		
Represented Clubs.....	£6	
Non-Represented Clubs.....	£12	
Discount for represented clubs – 15% for six block bookings		

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Chairman: Barbara Brewer (340423)
Secretary: Margaret Bulleyment (347346)

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

Rubbish bin collection day = Thursday

August	September
6 th green	3 rd green
13 th blue & brown	10 th blue & brown
20 th green	17 th green
27 th blue & brown	24 th blue & brown

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Mail to: 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 10.23 then...23 past the hour until 15.23 16.24
 17.24 18.24 19.22

Arrives Oxford

07.07 08.05 08.42 10.06 11.06 ...06 then past the hour until
 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 ...02 past the hour until 15.02 16.05 17.05 18.05 19.05 20.00 21.00

Arrives Banbury

08.40 09.40 10.40 then ...40 past the hour until 15.40 16.43 17.43 18.43 19.34
 20.29 21.29

MIDDLE BARTON BUS (Mon – Fri)

Our Bus Bartons is suspended because of Coronavirus

Steeple Aston Calendar

All events are subject to possible last-minute changes and cancellations due to Coronavirus. Do check village notices, www.steepleaston.org.uk or contact the organisers for up-to-date information before you set out.

AUGUST			
Saturday 15th	SAL September issue copy and advert deadline		
Saturday 22nd	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am
Saturday 29th	Fete at the Gate and Scarecrow Competition	Steeple Aston and Middle Aston	
SEPTEMBER			
Tuesday 15th	SAL October issue copy and advert deadline		
Monday 21st	Parish Council meeting	Online	7.30pm
Saturday 26 th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am

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

Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee

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Unit 2 Glenmore Business Centre, Range Road, Witney, OX29 0AA Tel: 01865 246762

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The Arty Crafty Place

Home of Indian Block Printing Supplies & Workshops

WE ARE MOVING! You'll find our new Studio & Offices located around the corner at Lakeside Business Park in Middle Aston. Our new Studio will provide us with plenty of space to provide exciting workshops in a creative environment!

You can come and learn the Art of Indian Block Printing, Lampshade Making, Pottery Workshops and loads more...

Our studio is also available for private workshops, birthdays, hen parties, WI and Art Groups! We will be open Weekdays, Weekends and Evenings!



Our Creative Craft Studio will be reopening Aug 2020, Sign up to our mailing list on the homepage of our website to receive our calendar of Events!

www.theartycraftyplace.co.uk 01869 349020



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

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

INHERITANCE TAX AND RETIREMENT PLANNING SPECIALISTS

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