

Steeple Aston *Life*

SEPTEMBER 2020

ISSUE No. 565



Inside SAL this month:

- Meet our new Parish Councillor
- A call for books for Africa
- Plan a trip to Compton Verney
- And much more...

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Cover photo: Nigel Francis

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 October 2020 issue is therefore 15th September.

ADVERTS

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

01869 347347

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING RATES

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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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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
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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
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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*

September 2020
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Editorial

I'm sure I'm not alone in feeling that time has become distorted this year and being surprised that we've reached our September issue! Whether you've spent the last five months adapting to a much slower pace of life or a much quicker one, I think we can all give ourselves and our village communities a big pat on the back for getting through it.

Members of our clubs and societies are now able to do a few more things together in person, which is wonderful, and local attractions are continuing to open up. It's great to see the pages of this magazine getting busier, and I'm hugely looking forward to when more and more of us can get together for village events.

In the meantime, in this issue you can read about our new Parish Councillor, Rebecca Lewin, on page 10; there's a request for new footballers on page 28, and on page 30 you can read about the work that Christopher Compston is doing to send books to Africa, and how you can help.

If you would like to contribute to a future issue, please do drop us an email. If you have an idea and aren't sure how to turn it into an article, we can help. And if you're a child who would like to feature in Steeple People, we can tailor the questions to make them relevant. Please get in touch!

With very best wishes,

Becca

Photo: Edward Dowler



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



JEAN MARGARET CLIFTON, mother of Graham Clifton of Middle Aston and of Daphne Preston, who lived in Primrose Gardens, Steeple Aston, died 23rd July 2020. Jean and husband Tony moved to Tchure Cottage, Steeple Aston in 1999 and later moved across the road to live at the Clifton End of Primrose Gardens. They were long term residents of Great Tew but family connections meant they had been part of our village scene for many years. Both regularly took part in the Flower Shows. Her funeral took place in the churchyard on Tuesday 4th August. In these strange times mourners were limited to 30, and no hymns were sung, nevertheless Marcus made it a pleasant and meaningful service, and the setting was very peaceful. The family has been helped by the kind messages and cards from so many people.

Thank you from all the family.

Photo: Nigel Francis





Planning application for chicken sheds withdrawn

The developers, Middle Aston Limited, have withdrawn their application for planning permission to redevelop Hatch End Old Poultry Farm between Steeple and Middle Aston as a 29-unit business park.

The application was withdrawn after the Planning Officer James Kirkham responsible for the application raised a number of concerns about the proposal. These include the impact on the rural character and appearance of the area of the increased height and the design of the buildings along with the amount of office floor space proposed on the site.

He expects the developers will be looking to amend the scheme and come back with a resubmission of the planning application.

The withdrawal follows objections from Middle Aston Village meeting, Steeple Aston Parish Council, the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum, and Dr Radcliffe's School. Nearly 30 residents of the two villages also put in written objections to the planning authority Cherwell District Council.

The main concern of the objectors was the amount of traffic that would be generated first during the construction of the site and then when it was up and running.

The proximity of Dr Radcliffe's School and the pre-school, where there have already been worries about road safety for children, was a particular worry.

The objections from the Parish Council raise a number of other concerns, as do the submissions from Middle Aston and the MCNP Forum and others. They include:

- economic factors – intensification of the existing use of the site
- parking provision is already double that on the site and will be insufficient
- lack of footpaths
- the design and height of the proposed new buildings are out of character with the rural setting
- the failure to consult the school or local neighbours
- that the application fails to comply with planning policies at a national and local level.

Oxfordshire County Council, the Highways Authority, did not object to the scheme, but the Conservation Officer at Cherwell District Council did raise concerns about the appearance of the proposed new buildings.

In her response, the Conservation Officer writes: "Although there are concerns regarding the proposed development overall the redevelopment of the site is supported, and it is acknowledged that there may be consequential public benefits. It is also considered that the scheme could be amended to address the concerns raised. The Conservation Team would welcome further involvement to find a solution that is acceptable to all."

It remains to be seen whether the developers will take her up on her offer and submit a revised scheme in due course.

IMPORTANT NOTICE – RE-OPENING OF THE SPORTS & REC AND ROBINSON’S CLOSE FIELD

The Committee is keen that the Sports & Rec building and sports field should be available to use as soon as possible but we also need to balance that against the continued uncertainty around organised events, both indoor and outdoor. At the moment our intention is as follows:

- The first league football match of the season will take place on **Saturday 26th September**, with the teams arriving changed and not using any of the facilities in the building.
- We plan to allow regular hirers of the building to start using it once again from **Monday 28th September**.

We will keep both dates under review, in particular taking account of how the return to school works for children, teachers and parents.

Please note that some activities that take place in the Sports & Rec, including use of the kitchen, are still not permitted. Once we have trialled the reopening of the Sports & Rec building with our regular users we will make a decision regarding other events.

For more information please contact:

Chris Cooper (Tel. 347173); Torquil McLusky (Tel. 347914) or Letting Agent Katie Rushworth (Tel. 340196)

Thank you for your help. We hope to have everything in place to get the Sports & Rec up and running as soon as possible.

Corrections: Last month we incorrectly cited Martin Dale as being a member of the Horticultural Society. In fact, Martin is not a member of the society.

The credit for August’s cover photo goes to Nigel Francis.

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.



Richard Smith



How long in Steeple Aston? A total of 55 years (born in No. IV Fenway) left for 25 years between 1979 and 2003, seeking my fortune (failed).

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? Being back in touch with old friends and acquaintances of many years standing. Also how the village is pulling together facing the problems of the pandemic.

Is there anything you don't like about living in Steeple Aston? Snobbish tendencies and the plethora of cars parked on pavements and roads.

How has the village changed in the time you have been here? More affluent (not necessarily a good thing).

Where do you think of as home? Steeple Aston.

What do your family find annoying? Selective hearing.

What was the best thing about being a child? Freedom to roam in the sandpit and woods. Being able to play football, cricket etc. in the road by my home as there were very few cars about.

What was your first job? Apprentice bricklayer.

What is the worst job you've ever done? Car worker at Cowley.

What is the best job you've ever done? Planned building maintenance manager.

What's your favourite piece of music? Love of my Life by Queen.

What would save from your house if it were on fire? My wife Betty, cat Charlie and my wallet (I'm not a possession person).

If you could ban one thing in the country, what would it be? The sale of the social housing stock, as in most villages this has led to local families being unable to rent affordable homes. (Probably about 40 years too late.)

What's your favourite book? Spike Milligan's Memoirs.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? Treat others how you like to be treated.

What do you get grumpy about? Greed (I believe that greed is one of the major causes of worldwide problems). When Spurs are defeated.

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MEET OUR NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR - REBECCA LEWIN



Rebecca Lewin was co-opted on to the Parish Council at its July meeting. She will fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Amanda Rodgers.

Born and brought up in High Wycombe, Rebecca moved to the village with her husband James in early 2018. Baby Jacob came along 14 months ago. The family are currently living in Kidlington while an extension is built to their home, Lansdowne House on Heyford Road.

They have been away from Steeple Aston since March. Although she is living closer to her mother and sister, Rebecca says she is really missing village life and the friendliness she has found here. They will be back in the autumn once the building work is finished, and she will look forward to taking on her new role as a parish councillor.

She has already thrown herself in to village life joining the Choral Society, taking on an allotment and becoming a member of the Horticultural Society committee. Rebecca very quickly got hooked on horticultural matters, visiting the Spring Show on her very first weekend in the village, and going on to win prizes for her flowers and preserves.

And since Jacob was born Rebecca and James have met lots other new parents through the Baby and Toddler group and the Mums and Dads groups that have grown from there. They've been coming back to the village during lockdown for walks and James helped out with the recent renovation of the play area.

All this is quite a contrast with her previous life where she spent 15 years travelling to some of the world's most unhappy places. Though she studied astrophysics at university, Rebecca soon found a career working on logistics, managing operations for emergencies on behalf of large international charities including Oxfam and Plan International. She visited and lived in Africa, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region as she says seeing "some of the loveliest places in the world at the worst of times."

Rebecca met James, who works in IT, at an evening class on photography when she was working for Oxfam. She says she could hardly miss him as he is 6ft 7ins tall! They were married nearly four years ago in the small Northamptonshire village he comes from and decided they too wanted a change of lifestyle and looked for in a village in which to bring up their family.

Rebecca has stopped travelling and now works for a small charity based in Kidlington. She is Operations and Finance Director for Emergency Nutrition Network which is a think tank and knowledge centre working to overcome malnutrition across the world.

She brings plenty of experience to her role as a parish councillor. She knows about financial management, human resources, legal and health and safety issues. But she readily admits that she has plenty to learn about parish council matters. She says, "I was surprised and honoured to be appointed, and I'm pleased to be of service. I hope to learn from the very experienced councillors, and perhaps to represent the views of my age group who don't always have time to get involved in village affairs."

Jenny Bell

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

Compton Verney



In 2004, Sir Peter Moores bought Compton Verney – an 18th Century Grade 1 manor house near Kington, set in 120 acres of parkland which were landscaped by Capability Brown. A philanthropist, Sir Peter Moores, restored the house (which always reminds me of a small French Chateau) to house his collection of art and artefacts and to become a place of beauty where people could enjoy nature and many kinds of art. It is a delightful gallery where you can always see the several permanent collections: one of Chinese art and artefacts, some exceedingly valuable; one of European and British portraits and a third of delightfully naive British Folk Art, which I love!

The gallery also usually offers special exhibitions. It's good to hear that, with careful attention to government guidelines to keep visitors safe during the present pandemic, the gallery has been able to open its doors again after the enforced lockdown. You have to pre-book tickets for your visit and do not have quite the same freedom to stroll through exhibitions as you did pre-Covid but it's a great treat after weeks of lockdown to be able to stand in front of interesting, beautiful, real and thought-provoking art.

The two special exhibitions, extended until early 2021, are Cranach, Artist and Innovator and Fabric, Touch and Identity. I found the fabric exhibition a rather unusual juxtaposition of works by contemporary artists somewhat extraordinary although I loved the final piece 'Japanese Fanfare' – 200 large blue silk and paper fans. The Cranach was more to my taste. It includes Cranach's famous and beautiful ethereal nude Venus and Cupid and also some of his marvellous portraits and a selection of the woodcuts he made to illustrate Luther's translation of the Bible. There are other treats too as Cranach's work is displayed alongside the work of artists from Picasso to Michael Landy.

If you've not yet taken the plunge of travelling beyond home you can watch a virtual tour of the special exhibitions online via the Compton Verney website – but for me there's nothing to compare with standing in front of a work of art, deciding for yourself what you think of it. Do consider taking a trip to Compton Verney. For your Sat Nav the postcode is CV35 9HZ. You can book online or by phone 01926 645500. Opening from Tuesday to Sunday, there is a variety of ticket prices and possibilities – for example, a Grounds pass is £5 for the day, children free; a permanent collection pass is £5; an Access all Areas pass which lasts for a year is £37... It can be slightly complicated and you'll need to work out what suits you. There is a shop, and coffee and snacks are available from the Garden Shed – a Compton Verney café in the car park.

Eileen Baglin-Jones

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Photo: Martin Lipson





The Gardening Spot

Are you fed-up with gardening yet?

Let's face it, if you are lucky enough to own a garden or have use of an allotment, you should have no excuse if your garden is not immaculate and an abundance of vegetables adorns your dining table and probably your neighbours' as well. I hear screams of horror from any weeds that might have hidden from my notice as I approach with a gleaming and highly sharpened hoe. I don't know about you, but I have had one of the best returns from my vegetable plot this year from vast quantities of runner beans to celery that stands around 4-5 feet high. Some of you might have noticed that I have been placing surplus vegetables outside my house for collection in return for a donation to Katherine House Hospice and I will give you the result of my efforts and the generosity of passers-by next month.

September is the beginning of autumn when it comes to gardening and many plants will need a trim to remove dead growth. The vegetable patch will have bare soil in places following the potatoes or summer brassicas and this is a great time to add organic matter to the soil to aid the composition of the ground. I am a great believer in digging in as much organic matter as possible at this time of the year allowing the winter weather to help decomposition in readiness for next year's crops. I know some people prefer the "no-dig" idea but for me, I am not convinced. Check your shrubs and trees to make sure they are well supported in readiness for the winter storms. Clear away any weeds, not that you will have any following months of "lockdown" with nothing else to do! This month is also a great time to put your lawn in order by giving it an autumn feed and keep mowing, but not too short. What about planting some spring bulbs? There are loads of offers around at present for daffodils, tulips and other spring bulbs so why not plant a few now, as you will have a wonderful show of colour come March or April next year? You could also consider creating a winter hanging basket or container by using a mixture of bulbs and plants such as pansies or heathers amongst others to be found at any garden centre. If you are the proud owner of a wisteria, then later this month is the ideal time to prune it back to about two buds in readiness for next year's blossom. You might want to train a few of the longer runners to form a better shape but a hard prune over the next few weeks will encourage flowers next year.

This month is a great time to divide herbaceous perennials and to gather flower seeds. They cost you nothing and will provide you with numerous plants for next year where you can replace your old specimens and possibly pass a few plants onto your neighbour or friends. This reminds me of one of the most amazing gardeners I ever had the privilege to know. She lived in our village most of her life and had little spare cash but created the most remarkable garden that was featured in many magazines. She always saved seed from her wide collection of flowers and was very generous in giving or swapping plants with one proviso! She would say to me, "look after this plant and propagate from it but if my plant dies for any reason, I want one of yours". This way she always knew that the specimen would continue, and she would not have to purchase a replacement. The same lady gave me the advice to always ask the owner of a plant before taking a cutting as a good gardener would always be happy to help another. Guess I should have told me Mum this!

So, with Christmas in sight and, hopefully, Covid-19 in retreat, our gardens hopefully have given you all some joy and relief in these very strange times and you are all now, possibly, fully converted gardeners and planning for 2021. It is only just around the corner!

Richard Preston

Primrose Gardens, which I hope will be open to you all within the NGS scheme next year.

???? Mind Games

ANAGRAMS

Answers on p.31

Films

1. Oh One Male
2. In Attic
3. Pa Reminds
4. End of Mining
5. Thank Third Keg



Countries

6. Rain
7. Moan
8. Dark Men
9. Moon Race
10. Lizard Newts



Musicians

11. Terrain Nut
12. Darn Oasis
13. Marble Boy
14. Splendid First Guy
15. Boa In Truck



???? Mind Games

QUIZ

1. Which famous novel features two fictional islands called Lilliput and Blefuscu?
2. Which planet takes around 3 Earth months to orbit the Sun?
3. What is a synonym?
4. The Northwest Passage is a sea route that connects which two oceans?
5. What is the only mammal on Earth that can actively fly?
6. What is the tallest building in America?
7. What song was released in 1964 and begins with the lyrics, 'Hello Darkness my old friend, I've come to talk with you again'?
8. Can you place the following fractions in order beginning with the smallest first: $\frac{6}{9}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{7}{8}$, $\frac{3}{5}$?
9. Who is known as the world's fastest 1000m sprinter?
10. The Harmon Trophy is a set of three international trophies awarded annually to the world's most outstanding what?
11. What is the longest country in South America?
12. Who did Adolf Hitler succeed as President of Germany?
13. What is the title of Louisa May Alcott's 1868 children's novel based on the lives of four sisters?
14. Can you unscramble the following letters to reveal a word that means quiet: LISTEN?
15. What is the name of the character played by Keira Knightley in the 2005 movie *Pride and Prejudice*?
16. Good Friday commemorates which important event in the life of Jesus?
17. What part of a bird of prey is known as a talon?
18. Which one of the following numbers is a prime number: 12, 15, 17, 21, 27?
19. What is the name of the famous fountain visited by three women in the 1954 film 'Three Coins in a Fountain'?
20. On which Hawaiian Island did the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor occur?

(Credit: www.challengethebrain.com) Answers on p.34

MISSING ANSWERS

Apologies that last month we missed off some of the answers to the riddles. For those of you still pondering, here they are!

20. A bed
21. A coffin
22. A map
23. A penny
24. Yesterday, today, tomorrow
25. An envelope
26. Your name
27. Your finger
28. A piano
29. His horse is called Sunday
30. A dice

Child's Play

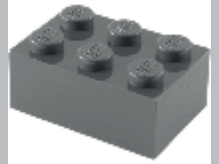


NATURE HUNT

Can you find all of these things around our villages? Go for a walk and have a close look for all the things that live near you. How many different kinds of each can you see?

 ACORN <input type="checkbox"/>	 LOG <input type="checkbox"/>	 ANIMAL TRACKS <input type="checkbox"/>	 CLOUD <input type="checkbox"/>
 FLOWER <input type="checkbox"/>	 TREE <input type="checkbox"/>	 BIRD <input type="checkbox"/>	 GRASS <input type="checkbox"/>
 SUN <input type="checkbox"/>	 FLY <input type="checkbox"/>	 PINE TREE <input type="checkbox"/>	 BEE <input type="checkbox"/>
 MUSHROOM <input type="checkbox"/>	 SPIDER <input type="checkbox"/>	 BUTTERFLY <input type="checkbox"/>	 LEAF <input type="checkbox"/>
 WATER <input type="checkbox"/>	 STUMP <input type="checkbox"/>	 ANT <input type="checkbox"/>	 BRANCH <input type="checkbox"/>

Child's Play



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AWARD FOR 16-18 YEAR-OLDS

This award is for students who:

- are 16-18 years old
- are studying at school, college or in an apprenticeship
- live in Steeple or Middle Aston or attended Dr Radcliffe's school for 2 years minimum

Financial awards are offered to students aged 16-18 who are continuing in education or training and whose total family income is less than £45,000, for anything that will help you with your course or to complete your studies.

Awards are made at the discretion of the Trustees of Dr Radcliffe's School Foundation based on the financial need of the applicant. Household circumstances will be taken into consideration. Young people can apply any year that they are eligible regardless of whether they have received an award in the past.

AWARD FOR 18-25 YEAR-OLDS

This award is to support young people who are in further education or training who:

- are 18-25 years old
- live in Steeple Aston or Middle Aston (when not at university or college) or attended Dr Radcliffe's school for 2 years minimum

Awards are made at the discretion of the Trustees of Dr Radcliffe's School Foundation based on the financial need of the applicant. Household circumstances will be taken into consideration, but there is no restriction as to family income; each case is considered individually. Young people can apply any year that they are eligible regardless of whether they have received an award in the past.

Application forms and further information for these awards are available from:

- the Steeple Aston Village website
- Dr Radcliffe's School
- Mr Nigel Roots, Freeths LLP, 5000 Oxford Business Park South, Oxford OX4 2BH

Applications for the awards must be received by 11 November. Any late applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances at the Trustees' discretion.



THE VALENTINE CLUB

Sadly, the club is still in “lockdown” in line with government guidelines. At present, all coach trips have been cancelled for this year unless some miracle occurs allowing 40 seniors on one coach. The safe number that can use the village hall is still much lower than our normal gathering and thus the same applies to regular, monthly meetings.

I have been talking to speakers, entertainers and venues that we were booked to visit, and they are all looking forward to welcoming us next year, so all is not lost.

I have spoken to many of our members and with very few exceptions, it appears that it would be advisable to reduce unnecessary contact with others at this time. Things will return to some sort of normal and we can all meet up again, hopefully soon but until then, everyone, keep safe.

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.

Kind regards to everyone.

Richard Preston, Group Organiser

Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com or 01869 340512

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Steeple Aston Golf Society



Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled “Gentlemen Only... Ladies Forbidden” – and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language. Thank goodness that rule has changed.

We are still waiting on Stratford as to the state of play regarding societies and social distancing rules in relation to catering and changing facilities in the clubhouse. October seems a long way off for our first and final meeting (2nd Oct) and things can change, as you know very quickly, at short notice on Government guidelines.

If any of you out there fancy a game on that day at Stratford and are not on our mailing-list then please call me on 01869 340423, or Chris Cooper on 347173.

Ladies are very welcome.

Stay safe,
Alan Brewer

Village Hall News



I am very pleased to announce that the Village Hall is now open again.

Please note that under current Government Guidelines to keep everyone safe, there is also a Special Conditions temporary hiring agreement in addition to the normal agreement.

All societies and regular users of the hall will receive a copy of this and there is also a copy on the village website.

Anyone needing further information please contact Katie (letting agent).

We look forward to welcoming everyone back as soon as possible.

The following Village Hall-organised events 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.

(There will be other events from village clubs, etc.)

Contact details for our letting agent, 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



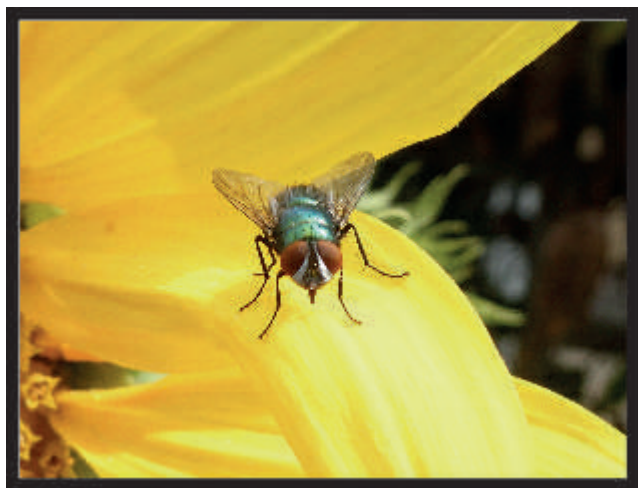
Each month, **Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society** have a Club Night when we have a presentation, currently by Zoom, and also a “club only” look at our own images which we have taken throughout the last month.

Our August Club Night meeting took us close up and personal into the world of macro photography with Robert Harvey in his Zoom presentation titled ‘Small is Beautiful’. He shared his collection of images of butterflies, bugs and orchids that were outstanding as well as sharing what camera settings he used and how he took them to encourage us to have a go. Robert was able to give other technical advice including composition and lighting. He demonstrated that finding subjects to photograph and then taking images of their life cycle and behaviour in their own habitat could produce some amazing images – as can be seen on his website www.naturalworldphotography.net

Our next Club Night is on Zoom on Wednesday 2nd September at 7:30 pm when we will have a presentation by Astrid McGechan on Landscape Photography titled ‘Feed the Land’. If you’d like to join in, please contact the Society through our website.

Our monthly topic title for our own photographs for August was ‘Garden Wildlife’ and in our next meeting we will share our images and chat in a casual way about what we created, offering praise, advice and suggestions. Post meetings, the images are put on our website www.addphoto.co.uk for all to share. Take a look.

Miggy Wild



Poetry Corner



A response by Martin Pedel to Cathy's poem, The Patient Patient, in our August issue.

Oh Cathy, I'm so sorry,
To hear your tale of woe.
And that rushing off to Casualty
You did have to go.

A place where time has meaning,
So different to its norm,
Where every minute seems like ten,
And evenings turn to morn.

Ah, those nurses are like angels.
And the doctors are just great.
But you cannot make appointments,
You just have to sit and wait.

And I'm sorry that your knee hurts,
Though it's comforting to think,
If it was me all black and blue,
I could blame it on the drink!

Martin Pedel

*Although I usually like to keep things light, the passing
of summer always makes me a bit wistful.*

Summer Lament

September sees the fading of the light
as Autumn grasps with soft yet steely grip
it's warm by day but cooler by the night

patterns shift life's like a dancing kite
blown back and forth on breeze you flop and flip
September sees the fading of the light

The harvest's in and birds start taking flight
the evening chill as cutting as a whip
it's warm by day but cooler by the night

fading glory garden's last delight
rest awhile and take a pleasant sip
September sees the fading of the light

cling to summer stave off winter's bite
press for time as you might squeeze a pip
it's warm by day but cooler by the night

grasp each day but do not take to fright
colder seasons hold a different trip
September sees the fading of the light
it's warm by day but cooler by the night

Peter Wild

Poetry Corner



The Book Group

*With apologies to my lovely book group, who are innocent
of these crimes....mostly.*

On the second Tuesday of each month,
Before Covid 19 intervened,
A group of like-minded readers,
Regularly convened.

They are members of a Book Group.
Their motives are quite clear.
They plan to read more books,
And then discuss them here.

It seemed a simple plan.
No problems should ensue.
But keeping everyone happy,
Proved difficult to do.

One doesn't like the classics.
One wants a romance ban.
One likes modern fiction.
Another is a horror fan.

One wants books about true life.
One hates books that jump about in time.
One only likes happy endings.
Another loves true crime.

And when they get together,
Not everyone has read the book.
"It was too long, too hard, too sad.
I just gave it a quick look."

They start to talk about the book,
It was a real pot-boiler.
But "Don't talk about the ending"
"I've not finished; don't want a spoiler".

One hasn't read the book they chose,
But wants to tell them all
About a different book she's read.
The discussion starts to stall.

But in the end, these hiccups
Really do not matter.
The books are just a pretext
To meet good friends for a natter.

Cathy Lawday

In the Kitchen



Bold colourful beetroot is a beautifully versatile root vegetable that offers the opportunity for a bit of playfulness in the kitchen. This spicy beetroot and coconut soup and the beetroot, ginger and sour cream cake are two fun recipes to try.

Spicy Beetroot and Coconut Soup (Serves 4)

Ingredients:

- 500g raw beetroot or 2 vacuum packets
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 red onion
- 1 Tbsp Thai red curry paste (shop bought)
- 1 tin coconut milk
- 800 ml chicken stock
- Sunflower oil

For garnish:

- 2 limes - one juiced for a pre-serve drizzle the other quartered as a garnish;
- 4 sprigs Coriander

Method:

If using fresh beetroot, heat oven to 180C (360F) then wrap scrubbed beetroot in foil and roast for 40 mins. If using vacuum packed beetroot, drain and finely dice.

Gently sauté a finely chopped red onion in sunflower oil for about 5 mins until soft.

Add Thai red curry paste, stirring carefully for about 3 mins making sure the onion and curry paste mixture does not burn.

Peel roasted beetroot and dice into a pot and then add hot chicken stock.

Simmer gently for 15 mins.

Add coconut milk and cook gently for another 5 mins then add a tbsp of lime juice.

Serve with a wedge of lime to spritz and a sprig of coriander.

Beetroot Ginger and Sour Cream Cake

Cake ingredients:

- 75g walnut halves, chopped roughly
- 200g plain flour
- 150g caster sugar
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 250g medium raw red beetroot, peeled & coarsely grated (about 2 medium beetroots)
- Finely grated zest of 1 large orange
- 100g stem ginger, finely chopped
- 2 large eggs
- 60g sour cream
- 125ml sunflower oil
- 1 large vitamin c tablet* (1500mg) crushed, alternatively 3 x 500mg tablets

Topping ingredients:

- 150g cream cheese, room temperature
- 60g icing sugar, sifted
- 70ml double cream
- 20ml ginger syrup from the stem ginger jar

In the Kitchen



To decorate:

Finely grated zest of 1 orange or a couple of handfuls of fresh pomegranate seeds

Method for the cake:

Preheat the oven to 180C (360F), grease and line a 20cm round cake tin (line around the edges as well).

Place the chopped walnuts in a heavy frying pan on the cooker and toast for a few minutes at a low heat. Do keep a careful watch on the toasting as walnuts burn quickly. Put aside.

Put the flour, sugar, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda and salt into a large bowl and stir with a whisk to combine and aerate.

Add in the measured beetroot, orange zest, walnuts and stem ginger, but don't stir yet. In a separate small bowl, place the eggs and sour cream and whisk to combine.

Add the oil, crushed vitamin tablet/s and whisk again. Pour the liquid over the beetroot and flour mix and use a large spatula to combine thoroughly.

Pour the batter mix into the cake tin – it should more or less level itself out and bake in the middle of the oven for 50-55 minutes (on the lower oven shelf, mine took about 60 minutes). Test that it is cooked properly by inserting a skewer into the cake – it should come out clean.

Note to self: sometimes my cakes rise higher in the middle and crack just a little – given the cake is rustic, it's definitely not a problem!

Take the cake out of the oven and set it on a wire rack for 30 minutes before removing from the tin. You can leave the baking paper on while it cools (which takes a good hour), as it will keep the cake moist.

Method for the icing:

Put the room temperature cream cheese into the bowl of an electric mixer with paddle attachment and beat for around 10 seconds or so, just to ensure it is smooth.

Add the sifted icing sugar and beat until well incorporated. Add the cream and beat for about 1 minute – beating in the cream will ensure the icing becomes thick and smooth.

Add the ginger syrup and beat for just a few seconds until it is combined.

Spread the icing over top of the cake with a large palette knife. If you like you can top with some orange zest or pomegranate seeds.

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Football *Focus*

Banbury District and Lord Jersey Football Association (BD&LJFA) has decided that its 2020/21 League season will begin on Saturday 26th September. Under the current Football Association (FA) guidance, changing rooms and showers will be closed until further notice. Players will arrive at games, observing the family, bubble and individual social distancing protocols, kitted up and ready to play. Social distancing must be observed in the car park and entering and leaving Robinson's Close and also when watching the game from the sidelines.

The Sports and Recreation Centre (SRC) and Steeple Aston Football Club (SAFC) are both drawing up risk assessments to hopefully address most situations, and both organisations have a COVID-19 Officer if required. Most importantly though it is down to each individual, be they match officials, players, club members, supporters or occasional spectators to act responsibly, to ask if they are unsure and to follow the most recent guidelines, to enable us, as safely as possible, to resume grassroots football.

To the football itself. The good news, BD&LJFA promoted us to Division 2 of their League, rightly so after winning Division 3 last season. The bad news, we will be without the services of six of the players who contributed to our success. With two of them being our joint top goal scorers with 21 goals each they are going to be sorely missed.

SAFC is an adult male club. You have to be 16 or over to play. We play Saturday afternoons, normally with a 2pm kick off. There is training at Robinson's Close each Wednesday from 6:30pm – please come along. Just mention to the bloke putting out the cones (Nick) or the chap with the book/clipboard (Pete) that you'd like to join in to see what it's like. They will be very welcoming and it would be great to have people from the village again playing for SAFC.

In these difficult times we appreciate there may be many questions out there concerning the resumption of grassroots football. If we can help, please contact.

Nick Cameron COVID-19 Officer 07710519095

Pete Wild Secretary 07950837773

Look forward to seeing you, from a 2m distance, obviously, watching a game this season.

Kind regards,

Alan Peckham, Chair SAFC



Comet Neowise above the treetops - Photo: Tim Haymes

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Saturday 12 September 2020

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BOOKS2AFRICA

In 2013, four African students met at the University of Kent and founded Books2Africa, now a registered charity. They founded the charity because they realised that whilst they had generous family support, both in Africa and the UK, there were thousands of young people in Africa who had no such advantages – no money, no contacts, no books, no educational tools. In reality, no hope at all of avoiding grinding poverty, perhaps even famine and death. The four determined to help and over the last seven years have sent over one million books to 20 African countries.

In the same year, 2013, I too had a change of career and a change of heart. After 20 years as a barrister and 27 years as a circuit judge, in London and Oxford, I retired. I vowed that I would never play golf or bridge. I have kept this vow. Instead, I founded Books for Charity, not a registered charity. I work on the lines that people give me the books that they no longer need and I dispose of them for charity. Over the last seven years, over £35,000 has been raised. For instance, some children's books have gone to Little Village, a charity helping impoverished single mothers with equipment for very young children. Some have helped build up a children's library in a London state school and the rather grander library at Ditchley Park. Others have gone to the local Helen and Douglas House shops, others, mainly foreign and technical, have gone to the Oxfam bookshop in St Giles, Oxford.

Many have been sold, sometimes to dealers in Oxford and Brackley, sometimes from shelves in local restaurants. From 2014 to 2019, thanks to Mel and Sarah, the former publicans of our Red Lion, £4,129.00 was raised – for years a fruitful and easy source of income.

Many kind people in Steeple Aston have given me books over the years and I am really grateful. But, the problem is how to distribute these books even more widely.

Since retirement, my wife, Caroline, and I have travelled extensively. Among other countries we have visited Rwanda, South Africa, Namibia, Ethiopia and Tanzania. Beautiful countries, delightful people but the poverty! For example, we visited the national library of Kigale, the capital of Rwanda. We were appalled at the lack of decent books.

Thanks to COVID19 I have a huge number of books in my bookstore which is where Books2Africa comes in. In a large warehouse in Canterbury all the books are sorted and then dispatched to specific organisations in Africa. They take virtually any book in good condition and the drill is as follows: for £7 the courier will collect a box weighing no more than 20 kilos. In other words the weight of your suitcase at Heathrow, if you remember Heathrow!

Having consulted Tonson Sangu at Canterbury, I have some further facts and figures. To send books to Africa from Canterbury the costs are as follows:

500 books would cost £250; 1,000 books would cost £500.

A 20 ft. container with 20,000 books costs £5,000; a 40 ft. container with 40,000 books costs £8,000.

In other words, the more you send, the cheaper.

So far this year they have sent 400,000 books despite COVID.

And now, my appeal: considering how fortunate we are in this village, surely we could collect 1,000 books and surely we could raise £500. I have at least 300 books and at least £150 available. Any help with the remaining books and money would be appreciated.

After all, the news from Africa is so dire that surely we can help a little. We may not be able to plant rice but we can help plant books.

We are happy to co-ordinate all this. Please email editorsalife@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

Christopher Compston



Pomegranates, will we be able to grow them soon as temperatures increase? They do have very pretty red flowers, growing in England but, sadly, no edible fruits.

Well, a disappointing season for the Garden Club. No meetings, no visits. Meanwhile the weather has been wonderful and we have had probably the best growing season for many years. Just a pity we haven't been able to share it more.

But there is some light at the end of the tunnel. There are gardens to be visited, just not as a club since, I am told, even if we arrive in separate cars we will be classified as a 'group' and more than 6 people exceed the regulations.

There are exceptions to be found. Both Kiftsgate and Bourton House, both favourite gardens, are open without booking and are offering teas! There are a number more. Do check on websites first though. The 'Gardens Open' website also offers gardens that will open during the week, you do have to book online but it is quite easy, worth a look if you are feeling that your own garden is getting a bit too familiar!

At present it doesn't seem possible to resume meetings in Autumn; if things change we will get organising straight away. Meanwhile, enjoy your gardens and look forward to less challenging times.

Margaret Mason,

Secretary SAGC

Mind Games - Anagrams Answers

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Home Alone | 9. Cameroon |
| 2. Titanic | 10. Switzerland |
| 3. Spiderman | 11. Tina Turner |
| 4. Finding Nemo | 12. Diana Ross |
| 5. The Dark Knight | 13. Bob Marley |
| 6. Iran | 14. Dusty Springfield |
| 7. Oman | 15. Kurt Cobain |
| 8. Denmark | |



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Rosemary

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



MIND GAMES QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Gulliver's Travels
2. Mercury
3. A word that has the same meaning as another word
4. The Pacific Ocean and the northern Atlantic Ocean
5. Bat
6. One World Trade Center
7. The Sound of Silence
8. $1/2$, $3/5$, $6/9$, $7/8$
9. Usain Bolt
10. Aviator, aviatrix and aeronaut
11. Chile
12. Paul von Hindenburg
13. Little Women
14. Silent
15. Elizabeth Bennet
16. The crucifixion of Jesus
17. Claw
18. 17 (only divisible by 1 and itself)
19. The Trevi Fountain
20. Oahu

Well, we did manage to meet in Julie Hillier's garden but didn't as planned have a Garden Party as guidelines from WI Headquarters were not to provide refreshments at meetings. Those members who felt safe to come along on one of the hottest days brought their own drinks and we sat in the shade under the trees social distancing on scrubbed chairs. Several members had a tour of her garden and even made friends with Julie's chickens. Julie had been very kind and laid out the garden and sanitised the chairs etc. and even provided a toilet facility in her shed (a camping flushing toilet) and provided sanitiser and wipes etc. This wasn't made use of, but it made an interesting photograph for our memories book.

Members have been asked if they would like to have the September meeting in the village hall, as a risk assessment has been carried out, but the majority feel it is still not quite the right time so again we have cancelled. We will review again for the October meeting but hopefully we may have another get together in Julie's garden as those who came felt it was nice to feel a little normal and the chatter was great.

Keep safe and keep well.

Linda Needle – President.



United benefice service, the first since lockdown, with music by Steeple Aston handbell ringers, 19th July 2020. Photo: Dorothy Clifton

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Church Matters



As I write this, my calendar tells me it's the middle of August, but on the TV this weekend there is live F1, football, cricket, snooker, golf, horse-racing, rugby... I don't think I've spotted curling and skiing, but they must be there somewhere.

'Live' sport that we can watch on TV. But we long to be there in person. 'Live' music without crowds. Last night I watched the magnificent VJ75 commemoration on the BBC, and wondered at the creative skill that went into such a production – and missed the faces of others watching in wonder that surely would have been there, any other year.

From quarantining after holidays to scarecrows in the village, life is full of new things – some of them are making us tear our hair out (not a good course of action if you have my haircut!) and some are making us find the very best of ourselves.

Church life is – like everything else – experiencing the gamut of new things. Worship without singing isn't a positive for most of us; outdoor services have though been a genuine joy. The weather has played ball – and we're regarding that as answered prayer! – and our churchyards have provided beautiful surroundings as we have started back after the lockdown. We will carry on with these open air services (see photo on p.35) through September – until the end of the month when we celebrate Harvest, though we haven't quite sorted what that service will be, so do watch out for news of that!!!

Worship on Line, our online service available on YouTube, via www.sntchurch.com and through the 929021 phone line for those without internet, is remaining very popular, and we will carry on providing this for the time being. August saw new contributions from our placement theological student Raj and his family, and from Peter, our Tackley organist. In September we are hoping to have a new selection of hymns from our parish singers.

Our annual congregation meeting was postponed at Easter but is happening on Saturday September 12th at 4pm in church. We have a new Church Warden to elect, some PCC members to put in place, and our reports from 2019 (remember back then?) will be available in print form. If you want to attend, please contact Eileen Baglin-Jones or me at least 3 days in advance, as we need to operate reserved seating for an indoor meeting.

Looking ahead –life looks like it will carry on being different and confusing and we will need to continue adapting and getting used to all sorts of things being not quite as we expect. In October we are looking at ways to bring our services indoors, and if we do, then we will need to have a booking system for these too: watch this space for more news as we have it.

Whatever the future holds, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He will love us through all these days and help us to love each other too so that together we can cope whatever the season. Times are hard; but God is good.

More news is always available at: www.sntchurch.com

Revd Marcus Green



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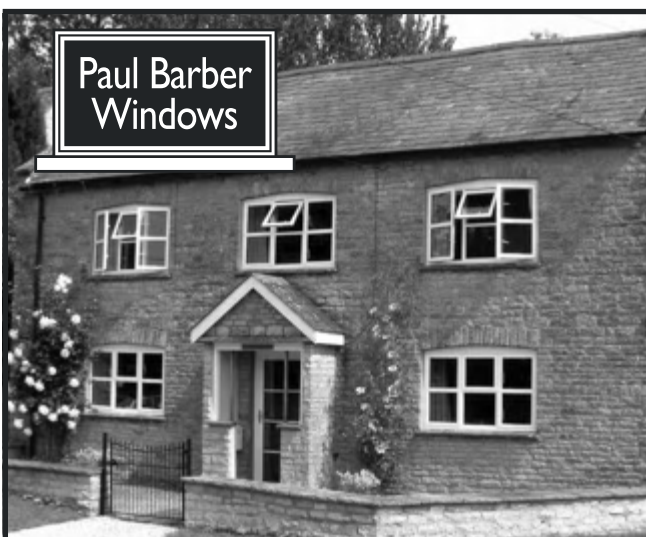
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The Cricket Report



Match 2 Middleton Stoney....

On a muggy day, Middleton Stoney won the toss and put us into bat. Arthur Higgins was going well on 17 before being superbly caught at Mid Off, whilst Greg Renk (17) also got off to a good start, but nobody could go on to make a big score and soon SACC were 60-6. Tom Chesser steadied the ship with a battling 37 not out, ably supported by Paul Nicolaides (15) who lost his wicket to a questionable LBW. 113 all out however in 37.3 overs was never going to be enough.

Or was it....?

Paul Longman opened the bowling and did not stop until the 44th over, the longest spell by a Steeple Aston bowler in our history. He ended with phenomenal figures of 22-6-48-5, well supported by fine catches from Stan Owen and Phil Chesser. Extraordinarily, Tom Chesser almost beat Paul's record in the same match by bowling 21.3 overs, including 8 maidens, and taking 2-29. Middleton Stoney were reeling at 82-7. In the last over, their 50th (!), any of 4 results was possible – a win for Middleton Stoney, a win for Steeple Aston, a draw or a tie. Sadly, our opponent's number 9 hit a lucky thick edge and ran 2 to steal victory, though was almost run out in the attempt. What an incredible match; I only popped down to watch for 30 minutes and stayed all afternoon!

Match 3 Blenheim Palace...

There can be few more picturesque grounds than the lawns at Blenheim Palace. If only the wicket itself were as wonderful! In front of a crowd of nearly 1,000, well, okay, so only 50 were actually watching the cricket, Blenheim Palace CC were soon in trouble as Jonty Renk (2-24) and Paul Longman (1-38) took early wickets. Frustratingly we dropped their best batsman three times, the first when he had barely got off the mark, and he went on to score 80. The Chairman was in miserly mood however and only conceded 14 runs from his 7 overs, removing their top run scorer thanks to a fine catch by Nigel Doggett, but at 130-4 Blenheim looked set for a big score. Thankfully Hugo Rittson-Thomas (3-14), bowling with great accuracy, and Arthur Higgins (3-29), bowling with great inaccuracy (they all count!), ended the innings in great style to keep Blenheim down to a gettable 170.

Not a great start...

In no time at all their Starc-like left-armer had wreaked havoc and we were 20-3, but Arthur Higgins (63) and Nigel Doggett (22) batted beautifully together to put on 73 for the fourth wicket and put us back in the game. Sadly, Blenheim did not drop any catches and both fell in quick succession. Despite some entertaining hitting from Phil Chesser (13) and Hugo Rittson-Thomas (17*), we fell 19 runs short. If only we had held one of those catches! But then look at Joss Butler, two missed catches and a missed stumping against Pakistan almost cost England the game; everyone is entitled to an off day.

More fixtures...

6 th September	Captains vs Chairman's XI	Home
13 th September	Blenheim Palace	Home

Please do come and watch our last two fixtures at home.
All the best

Peter Higgins
Chairman SACC

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Sep 13 – 10.30am Tackley

Sep 20 – 10.30am Steeple Aston

Sep 27 – Harvest: tbc

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***If a Sunday morning suffers really bad weather, services
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September	October
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10th blue & brown	8th blue & brown
17th green	15th green
24th blue & brown	22nd blue & brown
	29th green

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 20.29 21.29

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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.

September			
Sun 6	SACC Captains v Chairmans XI	Steeple Barton	
Sat 12	Ride & Stride	Oxfordshire Churches	
Sun 13	SACC v Blenheim Palace	Steeple Barton	
Tues 15	SAL October issue copy and advert deadline		
Mon 21	Parish Council meeting	Online	7.30pm
Sat 26	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9.00 - 12.30
October			
Fri 2	SA Golf Society match	Stratford-on-Avon Golf Club	
Thurs 15	SAL November issue copy and advert deadline		
Mon 19	Parish Council meeting	Online?	7.30pm
Tues 20	Fish & Chips & Quiz	Village Hall	1pm for 1.30pm
Sat 24	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9.00 – 12.30

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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