

# Steeple Aston *Life*

NOVEMBER 2020

ISSUE No. 567

## Inside SAL this month:

- Meet a young villager
- Get tips on reducing your household waste
- Be inspired to explore our canal

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](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

### COPY DEADLINES

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

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

### ADVERTS

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

01869 347347

### ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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

### ADVERTISING RATES

Non-commercial adverts:

1 page (village events only)- £15

½ page - £12, ¼ page- £6.

Commercial adverts:

½ page- £15, ¼ page- £8

# Steeple Aston *Directory*

Age UK		Richard Preston	340512
Allotments (Church)	SACAA Clerk	Nigel Grugeon sacaclerk@btinternet.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, Graham Clifton	340099 347273
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
Parish Council	Chairman / Clerk	Richard MacAndrew/ Cathy Fleet	347209, 347000
Police	24hr Call Centre	(non emergency)	101
Post Office & Harris Stores		Raj	340201
Pre-school			340863
Public House	Red Lion	Aidan & Kegan Madden	340225
Robinson's Close	Letting Agent	Katie Rushworth	340196
Scouts Group		Colin Cassford	243038
Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Katie Rushworth	340196
Steeple Aston Walking Group		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*

November 2020

Issue No. 567

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# Editorial

The leaves have changed and there's a chill in the air, so it's the perfect time to sit down with a mug of hot chocolate and November's issue of Steeple Aston Life.

This month I'm particularly delighted that Steeple People (p.8) features Henry Monroe, who's just seven years old. Thank you, Henry, for giving such excellent answers to our questions! In this issue there's also a guide to recycling symbols on packaging (p.11), tips on how to reduce your household waste (pp.12 and 13), and articles to inspire you to explore our local canal (p.20) and Minster Lovell Hall (p.21).

On page 26 we reveal the winner of last issue's crossword competition: a big thank you to Yoni Kinory for setting the challenge and giving out the prize. And if you've been missing live music, do consider attending one of the Compact Concerts at our church, advertised on page 33.

For anyone looking for support, contact details for the Parish Council are on page 4. Even if you're someone who usually takes challenges in your stride, this is a time when many of us need an extra hand, and help is very much on offer.

Wishing you all a good month,

*Becca*

*Photo: Cathy Lawday*





## **Bob the dog**

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all our friends for their wonderful support and kind messages since Bob passed away. He would have been so chuffed to know how much he was thought about. I personally have very much enjoyed talking to many of you and hearing your memories of him - they have been a real joy to me. Thank you all so much.

**Debs**

## **A THANK YOU**

I would like to thank the tall man who paused while walking his dog on Sunday afternoon 28 September to help me trim the buddleia bush at my home on Paines Hill. I am very short and I would not have been able to reach all of the branches needing cutting without his assistance.

He never gave me his name, but he deserves to be thanked publicly. It's people like him that make our village such a special place to live.

Sincerely,

**Janice Kinory**

## **The Parish Council is looking ahead**

Much of the future is still uncertain. The second wave of Covid is now here; the rules will undoubtedly change again; and further restrictions are possible.

However, please be certain that your Parish Council is still here to help over the coming months. If there is another lockdown or you have to self-isolate, if you need someone to do some shopping or collect a prescription, the Parish Council can help. If you need assistance, call Cathy Fleet (01869 347000 or 0798 939 8838) or Richard MacAndrew (01869 347209).

Also, S and J are still providing tasty affordable meals delivered to your door. If you want to sign up again, or maybe try them for the first time, call Charlotte Bartlett (01869 347347) for more details.

*Steeple Aston Parish Council*



## Temporary Road Closure at – Lower Heyford, B4030 Station Road (Heyford Bridge)

In the interests of public safety it will be necessary for Oxfordshire County Council to close a short section of Station Road (B4030) (Heyford Bridge) to facilitate bridge repairs works.

A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is being made to implement the temporary closure and will operate from **16/11/2020**. The estimated duration of the works is 1 month.

(The maximum duration of a TTRO on a road is 18 months and on a footpath is 6 months, or until completion of the works, whichever is the earlier.)

Notice of intention to make the Order will be published in the local press.

Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area, subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor.

Further information regarding the works may be obtained by contacting Oxfordshire County Council on 0345 310 11 11.

## 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.

# VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

## Meet Victoria:

Victoria holds regular surgeries for constituents in supermarkets and her office, and visits pubs across North Oxfordshire as part of her Pub Tour. Please check the website or call Victoria's office for more information about upcoming dates.



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## Victoria Online:



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[www.victoriaprentis.com](http://www.victoriaprentis.com)

## Contact Victoria:

### Constituency:

☎ 01869 233685  
📍 Orchard House  
Hopcraft Lane  
Deddington  
OX15 0TD

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📍 House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

[victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk)



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**If you could have a superpower what would it be?**

I would like to be able to teleport.

**What's your favourite food?**

Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

**What are you really good at?**

I am really good at remembering facts.

**Where would you most like to go on holiday?**

I would like to go to the Lego House in Denmark.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

I want to be a Scientist like my mummy.

**If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?**

I would stop climate change.

**What's your favourite thing about yourself?**

I know a lot of facts.

**If someone gave you £50, what would you do with it?**

I would buy a microscope to look at leaves from the garden.

**Who is your hero?**

Albert Einstein because he was good at maths.

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

I like living in Steeple Aston because it is beautiful.

**What's the bravest thing you've ever done?**

Learning to swim.

**What makes you happy?**

Cuddling my teddy makes me happy.

**What's your favourite memory?**

My brother James being born.

**If you wrote a book, what would it be about?**

I would write a book about a boy who finds a knowledge box.

**If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?**

I would learn to make pasta for my family.

**Describe yourself in three words.**

Happy, funny and nice.

**Henry Monroe, age 7**



## **Dr Radcliffe's School Foundation – proposed new constitution**

As many of you know, the Dr Radcliffe School Foundation exists in order to administer the fund that arose from the bequest made by Dr Samuel Radcliffe, Master of Balliol College and Rector of St Peter and St Paul, Steeple Aston. The primary purpose of the Foundation is to support the education (including social and physical training) of children and young persons under the age of 25 years who are either resident in the Parishes of Steeple Aston and Middle Aston, or have attended the Dr Radcliffe's Church of England Primary School for at least two years. The Foundation does this in two ways: providing funds directly to Dr Radcliffe's Primary School and by providing Scholarships for young people. The Foundation also supports the Sports and Recreational Trust (as Robinson's Close is a facility used by Young People), the Steeple Aston Pre-School and Children's Church. The trust deed also provides for support of the Dr Radcliffe's Almshouses in Steeple Aston.

The Foundation is currently governed by three Charity Commission Schemes and Minister's Orders. The trustees of the Foundation wish to replace these with a new governing document, a New Constitution. As part of this process, the trustees wish to consult the stakeholders. We will be contacting the current appointing bodies and beneficiaries of the Foundation directly, but we also let the village know that we were embarking on this exercise. By adopting a New Constitution, the trustees can reflect current working practices (for example, email as an acceptable form of communication and acknowledging the possibility of virtual Trustee meetings) and ensure we are following best practice. The key changes that are proposed relate to the Objects and the appointment of trustees.

Historically the beneficiaries of the Foundation have been young people resident in the parishes of Steeple and Middle Aston, or young people who attended Dr Radcliffe's School for two years. The Trustees do not propose any change to the definition of the beneficiaries. In considering the support of children and young people, the Trustees considered different stages of education. The proposed Objects of the Foundation support: Dr Radcliffe's School; providing funds to assist the secondary, further, higher, technical or professional education, training or apprenticeship; and Steeple Aston Pre-school. In addition the proposed Objects allow the Trustees to support charitable purposes in Steeple and Middle Aston, and to fund Dr Radcliffe's Almshouses.

### **Proposed changes to appointment of Trustees**

The original Scheme required the appointment of 12 Trustees. Having reviewed the work of the Foundation, the Trustees believe that a body of 10 Trustees is a more appropriate size.

The Rector of Steeple Aston is appointed ex-officio and it is proposed that the Chair of Governors of Dr Radcliffe's School, Steeple Aston is also appointed ex-officio. The Trustees are also proposing that a proportion (four of ten) of the Trustees are appointed by the Foundation on the basis of skills and experience. The skills and experience that the Trustees consider important are: the skills required for the effective management of the Foundation; local knowledge and connections, to the Parishes of Steeple and Middle Aston; and connections with the School and education. A further four Trustees are to be appointed by appointing bodies. The proposed appointing bodies are

- ☐ Steeple Aston PCC
- ☐ the Rector and Churchwardens;
- ☐ Steeple Aston PC;
- ☐ Oxford Diocesan Board of Education;

There is more information, including copies of the original Charity Commission Schemes on the Steeple Aston Village website. If you would like to comment on these proposed changes then please complete the feedback form, available from the website.

**Kate Tomlinson, Chair of Dr Radcliffe's Foundation**

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### **Sustainable Steeple Online Shop**

Thank you to everyone who has already visited and bought from our online shop.

We are delighted to now have a wider range of cards, gifts and sustainable wrapping available.

A great place for some early Christmas shopping – and all proceeds will be used to fund village projects with a sustainable flavour – so it is a win-win!

**[www.sustainablesteeple.com](http://www.sustainablesteeple.com)**

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We are also looking for keen crafters to help us – please email **[amanda@sustainablesteeple.com](mailto:amanda@sustainablesteeple.com)**



## A GUIDE TO RECYCLING SYMBOLS

A little time ago I wrote about recycling recommending the Cherwell advice leaflet which can be found online on the Cherwell Council website. Afterwards some people contacted me and said that whilst that is very good it was still complex to remember everything. They asked if I would simplify things further. Certainly, I don't remember it all! So, I thought I'd write some articles which I hope will help and I'll just concentrate each time on a few symbols at a time. I have been confused by all of these 3 symbols at various times! So – time for a sort out – not least for me!



This symbol above means that this is recyclable. It may come in various forms such as coloured black or completely uncoloured. But the form is always the same. It's called a mobius loop. It is attached to plastic goods and means: "this is recyclable but it may not be made from totally recycled material" Sometimes a percentage number is printed in the middle. This is the amount of recycled material which went into its manufacture.



These symbols are very common and mean simply that the materials/goods are widely recycled by local Authorities. There are often instructions on the symbol such as the "check locally" instruction as above... There are others which are associated with the goods on which they are printed. For example, there is the often seen advice to recycle particular items at waste disposal facilities not in our blue bins. Usually this symbol indicates that the goods are made from 75%-80% recycled material.



Now comes the symbol which is so often misunderstood – the yin yang symbol which again can come in various colours etc. It looks so plausible and that the goods should be recyclable. But it does not mean that. What it means is: "The Green Dot does not necessarily mean that the packaging is recyclable, will be recycled or has been recycled. It is a symbol used on packaging and signifies that the manufacturer has made a contribution towards general recycling. "So care is needed with this one. It doesn't say that it's not recyclable. For all we know it may be recyclable. However, if that were the case, I think the manufacturers would be keen to show their credentials. Not easy to know what always to do here.

To finish a quote from David Attenborough. Would that I felt I lived up to this. One can only try... "You can do more and more and more the longer you live, but the best motto to think about is not waste things. Don't waste electricity, don't waste paper, don't waste food. Live the way you want to live but just don't waste. Look after the natural world, and the animals in it, and the plants in it too. This is their planet as well as ours. Don't waste them."

**Martin Dale**

## All the Rs

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, the 3Rs, has been the sustainable mantra for a long time now. This has been variously expanded to 5Rs, 7Rs and most recently, 9Rs.



When I looked at this the other day, I think what hit me most, is how far down the list recycle is and yet how much we focus on it. I am sure I am not alone in regularly congratulating myself on how little is in the green bin when I put it out each fortnight – and then on how much is in the blue bin. There is almost a sense of pride in just how much recycling I have got.

Now, I am not knocking recycling and the shift in balance that has taken place between what goes in the two bins is fantastic, but it feels a bit like we are missing the point and that is that recycling is 8<sup>th</sup> in the hierarchy – not first.

Recycling is absolutely a good thing. For example, recycling aluminium takes 95% less energy than manufacturing it fresh, whilst even at the other end of the spectrum, recycling glass still takes 21% less energy and the more we can recycle rather than condemn to rot, the better! However, recycling is still a process that has an environmental impact, so it cannot be our only 'go to' to save the planet.

The reality is that we need to pay more attention to the first 7Rs – and particularly some of the less thought about Rs in the middle of the hierarchy: reuse, re-gift, repair, and rent. Reuse has been a major focus of Sustainable Steeple since its inception and I'm delighted that we have been able to take in so much of what was going to be thrown out and repurpose it to give it another life. Whether it's been old sheets turned into hand printed tea towels, dresses, shirts and old curtains turned into stylish bags (check out our website), or roof tiles turned into noticeboards, coasters and plant labels (amongst other things); we've made a difference, however small, to the amount of things going to landfill/incineration.

Through the sale of these items (available on our website - [www.sustainablesteeple.com](http://www.sustainablesteeple.com)), we have raised funds which we are now looking to use to drive forward new initiatives, some of which will focus very much on the forgotten Rs:

## Online Guides (and Workshops)

This month, I have been experimenting with how to reuse cardboard food packaging (e.g. cereal packets) as this seems to be one of the main items in my recycling bin! My favourite reuse so far has been making 12 gift tags and 2 Christmas cards out of one cereal box, all of which could be further reused again next year in a different guise. Visit [www.sustainablesteeple.com/resources](http://www.sustainablesteeple.com/resources) for our 'how to' guide.

When we can start to meet in person again, we will revert to monthly workshops, which will run alongside a Repair Café and Swap Shop.

## Donation Centre

There are a wide variety of charities/causes that will take donations of things that we would not normally think of passing on. For example, there are women's refuges that will take lightly used toiletries and make up; organisations that will recondition and rehome old IT equipment, and even a charity that sends lightly used bras to teenagers in Africa and India. Collecting and sending these things individually can become space, cost and time prohibitive, so we are planning a monthly 'donation centre' where you can bring prescribed items (we will shortly be publishing a full list on our website and will include in next month's SAL) and we will then coordinate sending them on to the relevant organisations.

## Library of Things

How many of us have something we use once or twice a year and spends the rest of the time gathering dust and taking up space (garden shredder, drills, chainsaw, mastic guns...) or something we liked the idea of (ours is a pasta maker), but the novelty wore off fairly quickly after we bought it)?

A Library of Things gives us the chance to use these things when we need/want to, but without having to own them. Items will be stored centrally, maintained by a team of volunteers and available to rent at a reasonable price that just goes to cover costs. Over the course of recent months, we've visited existing libraries to learn how they work, investigated the technology needed, started to collect items and are in active discussions about a home for the library, in the hope that we can launch it next spring. We will keep you up to date through SAL, the village website, our website and Facebook.

**Amanda Rodgers**, Sustainable Steeple





### Five-spiced Duck

*on a bed of kale with wild rice accompanied by roasted plums and sesame soy sauce. Lightly steamed sugar snap peas are suggested to complete the dish. Serves: 4 Oven time: 50 minutes*

#### Ingredients

400g mixed basmati and wild rice  
700ml boiling water  
5cm ginger, grated  
2 whole garlic cloves  
2 teaspoons sea salt  
1 star-anise  
100g kale  
1 tbs sesame oil  
4 duck breasts  
4 tsp Chinese five-spice  
½ a red chilli, finely sliced  
3 spring onions, finely sliced  
100g peanuts lightly toasted

#### Sesame Soy Sauce ingredients

3 tablespoons tahini  
2 tablespoons mirin or rice vinegar  
1 tablespoon soy sauce  
2 teaspoons maple syrup or sugar (brown or granulated)  
1 teaspoon sesame oil

#### Roasted Plum Ingredients

4 plums  
30g butter

Dry off duck breast with kitchen paper. Slash the skin with a criss-cross on the duck breasts with a sharp knife, taking care to cut only into the skin and not the flesh. Then rub them all over with 1 teaspoon of sea salt and the two teaspoons of five-spice.

Preheat your oven to 160°C fan/180°C/gas 4.

Prep sesame soy sauce by whisking the soy sauce, tahini, mirin, sesame oil and sugar or maple syrup. When whisked put into a serving bowl for the table.

Half and de-stone plums. Arrange in dish and place in oven for 20 mins

To render the duck breasts place duck breast skin side down in a cold frying pan (no additional cooking oil) to begin the searing process. When skin is lightly seared remove from heat.

Mix the rice, boiling water, ginger, garlic, star anise and 1 teaspoon of sea salt in a large deep roasting tin. Mix the kale with the sesame oil in a bowl.

Place duck breasts and residual duck fat on top of the rice mixture in the roasting pan.

Cover the roasting tin tightly with foil, then transfer to the oven and roast for 35 minutes.

Remove the foil and duck breasts from the roasting pan to a plate to rest under tin foil.

Add sesamed kale to the roasting pan, recover with the foil and return to the oven for a further 10 mins to allow kale to cook.

Thinly slice duck breast and return duck and any juices to the roasting tin on top of kale.

To serve, scatter over the peanuts, red chilli and spring onions, and serve hot with sesame soy sauce. Serve at the table in a roasting pan.

Suggested accompanying vegetable: lightly steamed sugar snap peas.





Well what a miserable year for our Steeple Aston Golf Society members. Since June 1988 we may have cancelled one or two games due to inclement weather but not all six in a single year. Let's hope that a vaccine is found soon and that we may all get back to some sort of normality.

In the meantime... anybody interested in a free ride in a helicopter for 4 people?! I'm looking for 2 more people to join us on Saturday 7th November. We leave early morning from Biggin Hill airfield and will fly to the river Avon where we will have breakfast and then yacht down the river for lunch. We'll have another flight along the coastline before returning back home. If interested please message me... Preferably someone with a helicopter and yacht, otherwise we can't go.

Stay safe,

**Alan Brewer Chair**



## STEEPLE ASTON AND MIDDLE ASTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We had hoped to have our AGM on 21 October in the Village Hall but sadly this will not now be possible. We have postponed it to give anyone interested plenty of time to contact us for the necessary Zoom link.

The AGM will now be held by Zoom on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 7:30pm. If you would like to attend (virtually), or have suggestions for items for discussion, please contact any committee member, message us through our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Steeple-Aston-Middle-Aston-Horticultural-Society-1266250533387466/>

or email Mary White on [maryw39@aol.com](mailto:maryw39@aol.com)

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*Middle Aston photo: Nigel Francis*

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# Lifting the Lid on Middle Aston House

Have you ever been to Middle Aston House? I've lived in Steeple Aston for almost five years and to be honest it took me a year or so to realise it was even a hotel. So, unsure what to expect, I jumped at the chance to take a look around with new General Manager Mick Earle, with the hopes of discovering more about his plans to open the gates and make Middle Aston House more welcoming to local residents.

## The History of Middle Aston House

- Although the present house dates from 1893, Middle Aston House has a long and uninterrupted history of owners dating back to Doomsday times.
- In the middle of the 12th Century the manor was owned by the Brympton family.
- Part of the manor passed to Eva Brympton in around 1400 when she married William Stokes, who passed it on to his son John in 1427. There was undoubtedly a manor house here at the time as John Stokes was a Knight of the Shire in the 15th century, but no building from that period survives.
- John Stokes died childless in 1459 and the manor passed to the Dyneley family, one of whom married Sir John Baker, who died in office as Chancellor of the Exchequer during the reign of Elizabeth I. Many features from this period remain today, including the Ice House, the Granary and the Bailiff's House, part of which is incorporated into the present building.
- Sir Richard Hawkins, who inherited the manor in 1678, refronted the East Wing, adding an extra storey, and planted an avenue of lime trees, a few of which remain at the side of the front lawn.
- In 1714 the house was sold to Sir Francis Page who had a reputation as a 'hanging judge'. Local legend suggests that the widows of the hundred men he hanged pursued him in the form of owls flying up and down the large pond.
- Sir Clement Cottrell-Dormer, owner of Rousham House, later inherited the manor but, having no use for it, pulled it down, leaving only the farmhouse and the outbuildings. It was Sir Clement's descendants who built the present house, which linked up with the 16th century brew-house to create a spacious and elegant country mansion.
- The wrought-iron railing and gate across the lake were added after World War I. Chestnuts grown from conkers picked up from the battlefield of Verdun were planted on either side.
- From 1969 to 1991 the house was owned by Spillers and Dalgety, a flour milling, bakery and pet food business.

## Middle Aston House: Plans for the Future

Like me, many of you may have little idea what goes on beyond Middle Aston House's driveway gate. Until now that is! One of the things that surprised me the most as I drove through those huge gates was the peace and calm of the place. There are 20 acres of gardens and woodland here, a great escape from the stresses of life, and a wonderful place to relax for a few hours. There's a beautiful lake too, which I felt was best admired from the bar terrace, and there's even a wide variety of wildlife including deer, foxes, badgers, herons, swans and Canada geese.

Mick's hopes for the future include placing more emphasis on the house's relationship with the local community. You may have already seen advertisements about the new evening bar menu, which is open to non-residents on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Much to my delight, Mick hopes to follow this shortly with coffee and cake. The house also offers yoga classes, with ideas afoot for more complementary therapies too. Mick, a huge fan of the great outdoors, hopes to take advantage of the lovely grounds and offer local residents the chance to walk their dogs here, or perhaps come for a picnic – and he's open to further suggestions. He gave me a tour of the meeting rooms, which are all spacious and bright, and offer fabulous views of the lake and the grounds. Any local groups, clubs and associations who wish to use them or the grounds are welcome, although you'll need to book in advance.

Mick and the Middle Aston House team greatly look forward to seeing more of Steeple and Middle Aston's residents enjoying the house and gardens for years to come.

**Angela Smith**





# *The Gardening Spot*

## **Time to reflect**

It's November already and what a year this has been. If you were writing a novel, you would have been hard pushed to come up with a story to match the reality of Coronavirus. For me it has been a time to enjoy our garden and I say "our garden" very carefully as my wife Daphne makes our garden what it is today. I can honestly say, I have never spent so much time in my garden in all the 65 years plus that I have lived here. I have even spent time just sitting on the numerous seats scattered around our outdoor space taking in all that is around us and enjoying what nature can give us all. It has also given me time to admire all the shrubs and plants that we have collected over the years and consider how to improve what we have already got by moving things around a little, splitting herbaceous plants and perusing over catalogues full of tempting specimens. November is the perfect time to plan your garden for next year. As I continually preach, do as much tidying as possible now so that you are ready to enjoy your garden come next spring. Collect all those leaves and compost along with the debris from your flower borders and vegetable plot. Mulch where possible now to allow nature time to absorb all the goodness as in the next few months when, let's face it, you won't be spending much time outside. Winter can work for you.

Looking around our garden it has been a revelation to see how different plants combine to make a great display in the flower borders. Back in my days of growing commercially, if anyone had said to me a few grasses might look good in your garden, I am not sure what the response might have been BUT to watch them now, swaying in the breeze amongst the multi-stemmed silver birch and the asters is a wonderful sight. The combination of shrubs with herbaceous plants and early flowering bulbs has given us a continuous display and it still goes on. I have managed to clean the glass on the greenhouse both inside and out and dug the soil over and added some well-rotted manure in readiness for next season. I don't know about you but I have an ongoing battle with whitefly and there is little to be found in the garden centres to combat it, so I have found this year, that by cleansing the greenhouse thoroughly and washing down with Jeyes Fluid or similar, we seem to have reduced the problem so a lesson learnt! Hopefully, this will work again for next season.

Why is it that for the first time since the last World War, the village did not hold a flower show, and I have grown some of the best tomatoes and onions ever and some exceptionally large specimens of celery? No matter, as I have been able to enjoy the fruits of the garden and eating in a far healthier manner than normal with servings of leek and potato soup and healthy salads. I have had one of the best potato crops possible and they are now stored away in a cool, dark place in readiness for the next "lockdown"!

Talking of giant onions, although we have not held either the usual spring show or the annual flower show this year, we are about to start planning for next year when hopefully we will be able to stage both shows. To do this we have a dedicated committee that diverted its energy this year to scarecrows but is about to work out next year's schedules. The Horticultural Society will be holding a Zoom AGM this year on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, and everyone is welcome to join in.

The moral of all this is that although the garden might be taking a rest, this is the time of the year to start planning for 2021 when hopefully, Covid-19 will be a distant memory and you can decide how or what you would like your garden to look like. In other words, think how you can improve your garden for next year and take time out to reflect on 2020.

Keep safe everyone and enjoy the seed and garden catalogues that abound.

Best wishes, **Richard Preston**

## Canals: Health and Heritage



Thirty-five years ago, while I was at university, I lived and worked in Banbury for six months. During that time, even though I regularly walked and cycled around the town and surrounding area, I hadn't realised that the town was centred on the canal. Even if I had, I'm not sure it would have struck me as somewhere I should actually want to spend my time! How things have changed! Back then, if anyone had said that I'd be living permanently in the area and be Chairman of the Inland Waterways Association, spending my time restoring canals and working with government to help waterways businesses deal with the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, I would have thought it inconceivable!

I would like to think that, with the role that outdoor living plays in our everyday lives and our need to escape from the cooped-up feeling of lockdown, the inland waterways in the form of rivers and the extensive canal network are playing a bigger part in everyone's lives. I also hope that everyone reading this article knows that there is a canal in the valley connecting Banbury and Oxford, and beyond! Having said that, I was stopped in the village last month by a couple who were visiting the area and were hunting for the canal. They were shocked to learn that they'd crossed the canal as they drove through Lower Heyford!

We are very fortunate to have this wonderful 'natural' resource on our doorsteps, especially in the unusual circumstances that 2020 has presented. You certainly don't have to be a narrow-boater to take advantage of the canal; there are opportunities for lots of different activities – walking, cycling, angling, canoeing, and even volunteering in some practical way with organisations like the [Banbury Canal Partnership](#) or the [Inland Waterways Association's Oxfordshire Branch](#) – there really is something for everyone!

For the past couple of years, the Canal and River Trust, the navigation authority for the Oxford Canal, has been emphasising the health benefits of being by water. I think we all appreciate that instinctively and, both for our physical and mental well-being, I encourage you to get out and enjoy all that our lovely canal has to offer. We may be facing increased restrictions due to the pandemic but, with a bit of respect and anticipation, it's possible to maintain social distancing and keep fellow users safe.

There's so much variety on our stretch of canal – to the south is 15 twisting miles through open countryside and a largely pleasant urban backdrop, ending in the dreaming spires of Oxford and to the north is an 11 mile stretch that's only temporarily spoilt by the M40 with the scheduled ancient monument of Tooley's boatyard as a fitting destination. There are lots of great pubs and eateries nearby too. As many will be aware, the most local is the Bell Inn at Lower Heyford, recently much improved under its new ownership. If travelling a bit further afield you could head north to Great Western Arms or The Pig Place just west of Aynho. Heading south you've got The Boat Inn, The Jolly Boatman and Annie's Tea Room at Thrupp.

For those who haven't experienced the canal and would like an introduction to the Oxford Canal's 230 year history and gain some practical insight into operating canal locks and hiring boats, I am planning to organise a Windlass Walk in November from Steeple Aston to Somerton Deep Lock and back. It's an energetic walk so there will also be the opportunity to join from Upper Heyford which both levels out and shortens the walk. As an even shorter option, I can organise a short walk from Allens Lock to Heyford Common Lock. Of course, with the current escalation of lockdown, such plans will be rather restricted over the coming weeks but please keep an eye on the village Facebook page and website for more information.

**Paul Rodgers** 07785 502605

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



## Minster Lovell Hall

In 1966 when I first came to live in Burford, I heard the intriguing and strange story of Francis Lovell, created a Viscount by his friend King Richard III who had stayed with him at Minster Lovell Hall. Francis fought with Richard in 1485 when his Yorkist army lost the battle of Bosworth. Francis escaped after the defeat and managed to reach home but after that he simply disappeared. There's a folk song which tells the next part of his story – a tale which fascinated me even if it appears now that it is likely to be apocryphal! Francis made it to a room in the Tower but no-one knew he was there and the servant entrusted with the Manor House keys efficiently locked every door, unwittingly confining his master and his dog who were not to be discovered for some years. The estate reverted to the Crown (if you were on the wrong side in 1485 there was no chance of keeping your fine estate) and so no member of the Lovell family was in residence for many years. Eventually the family bought the manor back from the Crown and when the Tower was eventually opened there was a skeleton, sitting at the table with the skeleton of his faithful hound by his side!

It may not be true but it's a fascinating and rather eerie tale and for me it has invested Minster Lovell Hall with an air of secrecy and mystery to add to the atmosphere of peace and calm which pervades this beautiful place. It sits in an idyllic situation on the north bank of the River Windrush and although now in ruins having been dismantled for its stone in 1747 when the Coke family (who had bought the estate in 1602 decided to move to Norfolk, building Holkham Hall) you can still see what a delightful manor it once was. There's enough left of the Great Hall and the Chapel framework above it, the evidence of kitchens, water tanks and bakehouse to imagine what it was once like – a really rather upmarket home with its Dovecot (which you can view from its outside) and supplies of fish to ensure a varied diet for the wealthy William Lovell and his household – he built the Manor in the 1430s.

Minster Lovell Hall is now in the hands of English Heritage. It's very well kept with interesting information boards. You reach the ruins through the churchyard next door (it's an interesting cruciform church too, where you can see the tomb of William) and the ruins are open every day of the year. Entry is free. In autumn and winter it is an interesting place to explore with various footpaths to walk and in spring and summer it is a lovely place to picnic. I've watched children paddling in the Windrush when the water is low although it isn't easy to believe that in November!

Do put Minster Lovell Hall on your list of places you intend to visit. Three miles west of Witney the postcode is OX29 0RR. The Swan Inn, which you'll pass in the village before you drive up the lane to the Hall, is rather good for refreshments too!

**Eileen Baglin-Jones.**

# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



The October meeting of the Parish Council was held on Zoom. This is great because we can all finish supper and have a (supposedly) soft drink while it is going on and it is fun comparing what I know of the characters of those present with the bits of room showing behind them. Some are meticulously tidy and others are very messy, some are minimalist and others cluttered.

The meeting started with a long discussion of the best way to protect the door of the lavatory on the Play Area. It was agreed that the door could be repaired or it could be replaced with something that would not look out of place in Fort Knox or a prison. They decided to strengthen the existing door and to consider a heavier replacement if the money became available. Rather surprisingly there might be some money. Apparently when developers build ten or more new houses they have to contribute to the local community under 'Section 106' provisions.

There are two projects which could bring in Section 106 funding if they get built; the Rectory Homes development on South Side just beyond the Red Lion and the one at The Beeches on Heyford Road if it eventually gets planning permission. What happens is that the Parish Council puts forward local projects for consideration for Section 106 funding. Then Cherwell and the developers agree how it should be used and Cherwell will check afterwards that it has been spent by the Parish Council in the way agreed. There are some general repairs needed for the Sports and Recreation Centre; missing tiles, a damaged gutter and leaking dormer windows. The quotes for the job were similar and the Councillors agreed to go with the firm that could do the work quickest. Possible leaks from the Village Hall Committee Room roof will be inspected at the same time.

Our District Councillor explained that Cherwell was going to have to make substantial cuts because, unless the Government intervened, they would have to find savings of £9 million on a budget of £23 million. He did not give any indication of what might have to be cut.

Last month I wrote about the daft idea of putting a bus-gate across the B4030 to prevent cars taking the

quickest route from here to Bicester. Apparently Highways 'were surprised by' the reaction against the proposal. It was a barmy suggestion in the first place and even more odd that they had not foreseen objections.

The hedge by Lawrence Fields, that local fable has it that Margaret Mason laid in front of bulldozers to protect, will be pruned as it has got out of shape and is messy. The hedge further down, between Lawrence Fields and the War Memorial, is also in need of attention and a quote is being obtained to tidy it by laying it and replanting with native species where necessary.

The comments about the hedges at Lawrence Fields started a discussion of speeding along Heyford Road. It was accepted that this might be an area where there was speeding and that even those going at the legal speed limit of 30 mph were probably going too fast for that stretch of road. Solutions such as finding out if Highways would put in a chicane or speed bumps were considered and rejected though one person suggested that possible Section 106 money might be used appropriately for a chicane as it would be near the potential Beeches development. A village-wide 20mph speed limit also was rejected because the police were unlikely to agree to it or to enforce it. Some favoured flashing 'Slow Down' signs and one person suggested wheelie bins might be left out and covered with signs exhorting drivers to think of children and the elderly crossing the road. It sounded to me like those Victorian children's plates with homilies on them. Other roads, especially Paines Hill and Fenway have similar speeding issues.

The playground is starting to look its age and will need repairs. The Councillors decided that it would be hugely expensive to replace or repair everything at once and not everything needed immediate attention anyway. So they decided they should allow for some replacement or repair every year from now on with the first thing being the fences. And if the Section 106 money becomes available swifter replacement might be a suitable project. The other Councillors looked blank when one of them asked whether the Parish Council had depreciated the play area as an asset.



# Parish Council Meeting Notes



There was interesting information on whether (irrespective of looks) it was cheaper to use metal, recycled material or timber, as timber inevitably rotted with time. It was agreed that timber was the cheapest and with modern treatment should last another 20 to 30 years, and no one knew what alternatives might be available by then.

The piece of fencing between the disabled parking and the small children's area is not effective anymore. The sign for the disabled parking has been knocked over and the fence behind damaged meaning that the same, or another, four by four when reversing might easily hurt a young child because the barrier is too low for them to see easily when reversing. Someone suggested the solution was to replace the fence with something with large spikes to puncture tyres. Although an attractive solution, I had the impression that a taller and more solid fence is more likely.

The Parish Council looks at its risk assessment once a year and usually this is an opportunity for amusement, for me at least. I remember one year when they were semi-seriously discussing opening the Village Hall if lots of houses were unusable, while the Hall, in their imagination was undamaged. But this year the discussion of the risk assessment was completely different. The Councillor who looked at it this time knew what she was doing and made succinct and sensible comments on how to tighten the IT security.

The Parish Councillors were very grateful to Jenny Bell who has been doing "a great job" keeping us all up to date on the website and with Facebook.

There are two planning matters that will affect us. The first applies to Cherwell and the other is a White Paper on a potential national change to the way planning decisions are taken. Cherwell have got to rewrite their Plan which will define the concepts they are trying to achieve with their planning decisions and maps of the places they designate for housing, employment and other uses. The Plan will apply till 2040 and will be reviewed every five years, but that would give enough time for possible oversights to

be utilised. The White Paper on planning is considerably more far reaching, as if it is adopted it might be "the most dramatic change to planning since 1947." Although it is likely to affect cities more than rural areas it will still affect us. It will allow big areas zoned for development to be built on without the need for further planning approval to be obtained. This could make it much easier for huge developments, such as the extra 5,000 houses suggested in "Great Heyford", to go ahead.

The White Paper proposals are out for consultation now, with 29 October as the closing date for comments. An example of what can happen is clearly visible on the outskirts of Bicester, if you are coming from here. The area was zoned for housing and employment which meant that the developers of the ugly new warehouse could erect anything they liked as long as it fitted the vague description of either housing or employment.

The Councillors will be sending in comments on the White Paper and one Councillor suggested that they should include how the local context was relevant, rather than being solely bound by a national framework. One reason why this would be important for us is that the Oxford colleges own a lot of land around us which could be very profitable for them if it was zoned for housing as anywhere near a train station for Oxford must be attractive for developers.

The date of the next meeting will be 16 November and if you email the Clerk ([parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com)) she will send you a Zoom invitation. Do come, especially as you can now watch the proceedings from your comfy chair at home.

## *Steeplejack*

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



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# ???? Mind Games

1. Which sporting event is an anagram of 'bothnail'?
2. What film, featuring Elvis Presley, was released in 1956?
3. What is a Mantilla?
4. What are the names of Barack Obama's daughters?
5. What 'H' can be used to define a person who says one thing and does another?
6. How many Bond themes were sung by Shirley Bassey?
7. Which country's flag has three vertical stripes the order of green, white, red?
8. How many feet are there in a yard?
9. Which motor car company uses the hood ornament 'The Spirit of Ecstasy'?
10. The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street is the nickname of which major building in London?
11. Who is the only fictional character to have an obituary in the New York Times?
12. What was the Italian thief, Vincenzo Peruggia, famous for stealing in 1911?
13. What nationality is the architect 'Stephen Sauvestre'?
14. What is the capital of Barbados?
15. What are the third molars commonly known as?
16. Which two colours make up the flag of Poland?
17. What word beginning with the letter P is a film title, a type of cheese and an American city?
18. In the UK, what is indicated by a red circular road sign with a white horizontal line across it?
19. Which celebrity did Jason Alexander marry in 2004 in Las Vegas?
20. What breed of dog are the names Airedale, Bedlington and Boston associated with?

*Answers on p.38*

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD ANSWERS

**Last month's issue included a cryptic crossword, with a book prize donated by Yoni Kinory.** We had five entrants, three of whom got all the answers correct. Congratulations to Cathy Lawday, Edward Dowler, Penny Cummins. To decide who got the prize, the names were put into a "hat" (actually an upside-down duck hand puppet) and one year old Imogen Coker picked out the winner. Well done to Penny!

### Across:

- 6: Angels
- 7: Endpaper
- 9: Nest
- 11: Leo
- 12: Radian
- 13: Stamp
- 14: Isis
- 15: Hen
- 17: Bonus
- 18: Merry
- 23: Dam
- 24: Hear
- 25: Sport
- 28: Matron
- 29: Nil
- 30: Yawn

31: Sideline

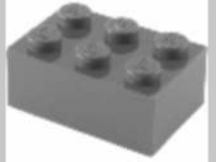
32: Outfit

### Down:

- 1: Entente
- 2: Psalm
- 3: Remorse
- 4: Addresses
- 5: Relaxes
- 8: Aida
- 10: Tempo
- 16: Authentic
- 19: Repay
- 20: Malaria
- 21: Painter
- 22: Brownie
- 26: Free
- 27: Gloom









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Contact: Chris Clarke

Tel. 01869 347192

Email: [stepleclarkes@btinternet.com](mailto:stepleclarkes@btinternet.com)

**AD&D** Photographic  
Society



For October we welcomed an ex-member Scott Hurd, who lives in Namibia, to give a Zoom presentation. It was a whistle-stop tour of the country using Scott's archive photographs of the different and diverse areas; vast desert areas as well as unspoilt beaches and the green Caprivi Strip where the rivers Okavango, Zambesi and Kwando flow through to neighbouring countries. We saw fascinating street shots showing everyday life as well as stunning wildlife shots from meerkats and hippos to all manner of birds. The lack of cloud cover ensured stunning sunsets and Scott would usually shoot with a subject in the foreground to create an interesting silhouette. For the wildlife shots he used aperture priority because of the movement and light exposure thus allowing him to concentrate on the animal's behaviour to create an appealing image. It was a wonderful trip down memory lane for some members who had visited five years ago for a photographic tour. It was a great evening with lots of banter and discussion from members about life in Namibia and the wonderful locations. It was a fantastic escape from rainy Oxfordshire. Scott's delightful images can be viewed on [www.h4urd.co.uk](http://www.h4urd.co.uk); well worth a look.

Scott supports a charity 'Snap Africa' that supplies camera equipment and training to Namibians. The society donated and spoke about donating unwanted camera equipment to 'Snap Africa'.

Do keep checking our website for the latest information about the upcoming presentations, how to join us and members' workshops that run during the month. Following Covid-19 guidelines some members have taken part in a variety of workshops on portraiture at Broughton Castle, the Milky Way at the Rollright Stones, and a fun session in a field at Cropredy making light trails with torches and glow sticks.

**Anne Hunsley**  
[www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)



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*Photo: Nigel Francis*



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*Rosemary*

Rosemary.Jefford@gmail.com

Tel: 07542 086 038







## THE VALENTINE CLUB

If anyone had told me earlier this year that the club would not hold its monthly meetings and all those coach trips that we were all looking forward to would be cancelled, I would have laughed in complete disbelief. But as we all know, life now is so much different, and the club has effectively been placed in mothballs. However, it does not mean that we just left things on hold. The speakers and trips planned for 2020 are all possible once things return to some sort of normality. Sadly, we have had to take the decision to cancel this year's Christmas dinner, which historically is the highlight of the club's calendar, but it doesn't mean we can't celebrate in some way. Thanks to a very generous offer from S & J Cuisine, better known to many of us as Sally and Jasmine, and some financial support from CDC via our local district councillor, Mike Kerford-Byrnes, we will be distributing a two-course Christmas dinner to club members who live within reasonable distance and possibly a few more as well. The club can do this primarily because of the support given by our supporters who purchase a weekly lottery ticket on The Cherwell Lottery. To subscribe, go to [www.cherwelllottery.co.uk](http://www.cherwelllottery.co.uk) and search for The Valentine Club. You can win up to £25,000 and for every £1 ticket you purchase, 50p comes directly to the club. We have had a fair few winners already so well worth a shot.

On a much more sombre note, the club is so sorry to have lost one of its longest serving members; Mrs Joan Fonge. Joan had supported the club for decades and many in the village will remember her in her butchers shop on Heyford Road and her enormous contribution to the cubs in the village. For me personally, she shared my enthusiasm for gardening and we both shared the first journey ever for Volunteer Connect. Me as the driver and Joan as our first client. She will be missed by us all.

For more information about the club go to [www.steepleaston.org.uk](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk) or visit our own website [www.valentineclub.wixsite/aston](http://www.valentineclub.wixsite/aston) or simply call me on 01869 340512.

Kind regards to everyone and keep safe.

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

## Village Hall News



### **Annual Bonfire Night Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November CANCELLED**

Due to constantly changing Government Guidelines, social distancing rules and no food allowed, the Village Hall Committee together with the Sports and Recreation Centre committee it was decided, very reluctantly and regrettably, to cancel this year's Bonfire Night. This recommendation and decision was made after much debate and a heavy heart given the tradition of the event and importance to the Village.

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December Wassail Evening. CANCELLED**

With very much regret we have decided to cancel the Wassail evening.

### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 Annual Quiz Evening.**

Our annual Quiz evening is still on the calendar but a decision will shortly be made as to whether it goes ahead. More information in next month's SAL.

Please note our letting agent is Mrs. Katie Rushworth

01869 340196. Email [steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com](mailto:steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com)

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

Always remember, clean hands, social distancing and don't forget your mask.

**Barbara Brewer**, Chair

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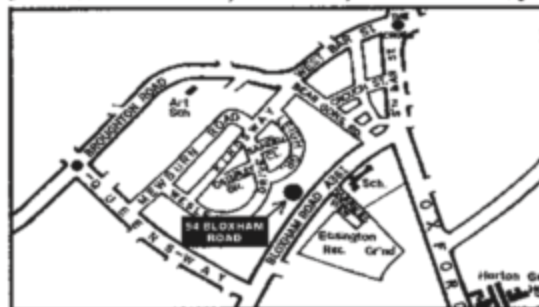
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***Reading a newspaper article about the impact of pet food production on the world ecology, I came across a new name for pets.***

## Good Companions

The name *companion animals*  
are what we used to know as pets.  
So I guess *companion animal physicians*  
will be what we now call vets.

But other creatures share our home,  
(ones that aren't so nice)  
And *companion animals* must also mean  
wasps and fleas and mice.

As for colleagues at the workplace,  
is *companion workforce* what we should say?  
Will Simon, the *companion postal*,  
deliver our mail each day?

Will a *companion dental* upkeep  
my teeth scale and polish and fill?  
And will a *companion nurturing*  
tend me when I'm ill?

Siri and Alexa are my  
*companion gadgets* round the house  
And my *companion human*  
Will be what I call my spouse.

**Cathy Lawday**

## DAY OF REST

What happened to that "Day of rest",  
You know the one I mean,  
When we got up and went to church,  
It set the Sunday scene.

We called on friends and family,  
And mixed with kith and kin,  
Sunday lunch was quite the norm,  
A roast with all the trim.

We all sat round the table,  
Love and laughter in the room,  
Fun tales of this, and tales of that,  
No time for doom and gloom.

Cricket down at Rousham,  
The sound of bat on ball,  
The only noise for miles around,  
Peace and quiet for one and all.

Lying on the Summer grass,  
Gazing at the sky,  
Cloudless, only vapour trails  
From planes that fly so high.

Where do they go  
Where have they been?  
Perhaps one day we'll be up there,  
Or is that just a dream.

"The times they are a' changing"  
If you know Bob Dylan's song  
There seems more noise and urgency,  
Do we have to go along?

That special day can still be found,  
It's ever here at your behest,  
The good Lord said "come unto me,  
And I will give you rest".

**Ted Atkins**





## MARCH INTO NOVEMBER

Attennn....shun!

Go to work  
Stay in your home  
Go to eat  
Don't meet your friends  
Cover your face  
Don't wear a mask  
Track and trace  
Load up your App  
There is no App  
Loss of face  
Two metres apart  
Much too far  
One metre plus  
not the bus

About turn!

Go for a test  
Join the race  
Not enough labs  
Grant some grace  
Go back to work  
Don't catch flu  
Go back inside  
No not you!  
It's easy enough  
Look and learn  
Live in a bubble  
Or there's trouble  
What is the game  
Just stay sane

Halt!

Present arms!  
Vaaaaccine! ..... Wait for it, .... wait for it!.....  
.....


**Peter Wild**



*Photo: courtesy of Helen Wright*

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5. Hypocrite
6. Three: Gold Finger, Diamonds Are Forever, and Moonraker
7. Italy
8. Three
9. Rolls Royce
10. The Bank of England
11. Poirot
12. The Mona Lisa
13. French
14. Bridgetown
15. Wisdom teeth
16. Red and white
17. Philadelphia
18. No entry
19. Britney Spears
20. Terriers



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# Church Matters



## Coming Back to Church

We have a regular pattern of worship sorted now. The summer was really fun: we planned eight services in the open air, and we had eight fine days and everything worked out brilliantly. Thank you, Jesus! At Harvest, back at the end of September, we raised around £650 for Tackley and Banbury food banks – as well as donating bags and boxes of food to those terrific organisations.

At the start of October, we went indoors (just in time for the rain!) and everyone is (sort of) getting used to having to book before coming to church. If you haven't joined us yet, booking means we have safe, organised seating, with plenty of hand sanitiser available when you get here, good distancing, and we are all getting used to wearing masks. Worship at Home, our online service, also continues every week via YouTube or [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com) or ring 929021.

So much for where we've got to so far. It's harder to write about things in the future, because we are all living in a world where our plans are constantly written in pencil. But... here goes!

## All Saints November 1st

Normally we have a really wonderful, full church in Tackley as we take an evening to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before. This year we can't do that with numbers attending capped – but our All Saints Evensong at 5:30pm will still have the names of all those we love read out. If you can't be there, there is a lovely *Worship at Home* option on our website for this weekend.

## Remembrance November 8th

In Steeple Aston, this will be an open-air service in our churchyard at 10:50am. There is no need to book for this. We can't sing, but we will remember, and hear the names of those who served, and pray together, and the bugle will sound. We will do this whatever the weather – but again, if you can't come there is a really good *Worship at Home* alternative on our website. Because of the current restrictions, everyone who comes must wear a face covering or mask, and we do ask that people very carefully distance around the churchyard. You may bring your own chair to sit on, or you can stand if you prefer. The Parish Council and I have agreed that we can't organise the usual post-service walk up to the memorial, but we do invite those who wish to lay wreaths or poppies up there to take a moment any time during the Remembrance weekend and do so privately.

## Private Prayer

On Sundays where there is no service at Steeple, the church will open between 11am and noon instead of on Saturdays as before.

## Compact Concerts

With a long winter ahead of us, we are putting on a series of small concerts in church. The rules allow us (as of mid-October!) to do this because we are a Covid-secure venue, with an audience of around 30 people. The concerts will be just under an hour in length, with no interval. It is the colder part of the year – so do wrap up when coming! We hope the music will also warm our hearts...

On Nov 21 at 8pm we will have a **Concert for St Cecilia** (patron saint of music) with Cassandra Wright, a wonderful young singer, and focussing on the gift of music and the composers Britten, Handel and Purcell. Then on December 12 at both 6pm and 8pm (just decide which time suits you!) we have the Aston Singers, directed by Nicholas Cleobury, getting us in the festive mood: **A Choral Christmas** will be an evening of glorious seasonal music. Concert tickets are all £12 and must be booked in advance by ringing Eileen on 340099.

*To book to attend a church service - call Eileen on 340099 for Steeple, Clive on 340470 for North Aston, & Julian on 331252 for Tackley.*

**Thanks! Revd Marcus Green**

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# Church Services

## November - December 2020

Online services available every week at [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

	<b>North Aston</b> To book a seat at any service at North Aston call Clive on 340470	<b>Steeple Aston</b> To book a seat at any service at Steeple Aston call Eileen on 340099	<b>Tackley</b> To book a seat at any service at Tackley call Julian on 331252
<b>Sunday 1st November</b>			<b>5.30pm</b> Benefice Evensong for All Saints Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Sunday 8th November</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Remembrance Canon David Tyler	<b>10.50am</b> Remembrance (OUTDOOR - no booking) Canon David Tyler	<b>5.30pm</b> Remembrance Canon Robin Gibbons
<b>Sunday 15th November</b>		<b>10.30am</b> Benefice Communion Revd Marcus Green	
<b>Sunday 22nd November</b>	<b>5.30pm</b> Benefice Evensong Revd Marcus Green		
<b>Sunday 29th- November Advent Sunday</b>		<b>10.30am</b> Benefice Communion Revd Marcus Green	
<b>Sunday 6th December</b>			<b>5.30pm</b> Benefice Evensong for St Nicholas' Day Revd Marcus Green
<b>Sunday 13th December</b>		<b>10.30am</b> Benefice Communion Revd Marcus Green	
	Please remember to wear	face coverings or masks to	all services



# Local Info

## Steeple Aston Village Hall

Hiring Fee Caution

<b>Hall (meeting night)</b>	
Represented Clubs.....	£9
Non-Represented Clubs.....	£17
<b>Hall Only (social occasion)</b>	
Represented Clubs.....	£32
Others.....	£53
<b>All Facilities (social occasion)</b>	
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Represented Clubs.....	£65 .....£200
Others - up to 6 hours.....	£110 .....£300
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<b>All Facilities (off peak - 4 hours)</b>	
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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

October	November
1 <sup>st</sup> green	5 <sup>th</sup> blue & brown
8 <sup>th</sup> blue & brown	12 <sup>th</sup> green
15 <sup>th</sup> green	19 <sup>th</sup> blue & brown
22 <sup>nd</sup> blue & brown	26 <sup>th</sup> green
29 <sup>th</sup> green	

## Steeple Aston Sports and Recreation Centre Letting Charges

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

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

Meeting of represented club: £11 per session

Caution Money for Private Lettings: £100

Letting agent: Katie Rushworth - Tel: 340196

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

Chairman - Torquil McLusky - Tel: 347914

Treasurer - Chris Cooper - Tel: 347173

## Bus times

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

### S4 BUS SERVICE (Mon - Fri)

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

06.24 07.02 07.46 08.20 then...20 past the hour until 15.20 16.21 17.21  
 18.21 19.32 20.47 22.17

#### Arrives Oxford

07.02 08.00 08.44 10.03 then..03 past the hour until 16.03 17.02 18.02  
 19.02 20.10 21.25 22.55

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

07.52 08.55 09.57 then ...57 past the hour until 14.57 16.00 17.00 18.00 19.00  
 19.55 21.10 22.25 23.55

#### Arrives Banbury

08.35 09.35 10.36 then.. 35 past the hour until 15.35 16.38 17.38 18.38 19.29  
 20.24 21.39 22.54 00.24

### MIDDLE BARTON BUS (FRIDAY ONLY)

S Aston Red Lion Bicester Mkt Square Bicester Tesco Bicester Avenue S Aston Red Lion  
 10.40 —————> 11.04 —————> 11.12 —————> 11.16  
 13.48 —————> 14.06

# 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](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk) or contact the organisers for up-to-date information before you set out.

November			
Sun 15	SAL December issue copy and advert deadline		
Mon 16	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7:30pm
Wed 25	Horticultural Society AGM	Zoom	7:30pm
Sat 28	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9:00am-12:30pm
December			
Tues 15	The Valentine Club Christmas Dinner	For home delivery	
Tues 15	SAL January issue copy and advert deadline		
Sat 19	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9:00am-12:30pm

**Choral Society Rehearsals.** Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays

**Badminton.** Village Hall - 10am -12.30pm - Tuesdays

**Bell Ringing practice.** Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays

**Scouts.** Sport & Rec Centre - 7.30pm - Tuesdays

**Baby and Toddler Group.** Sport & Rec Centre - 9am -11am - Thursdays

**Cricket Nets.** Robinson's Close - 6pm - Thursdays

**Badminton.** Village Hall - 8pm - Thursdays

**Village History Centre (SAVA)** open 10am-12pm - Saturdays

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