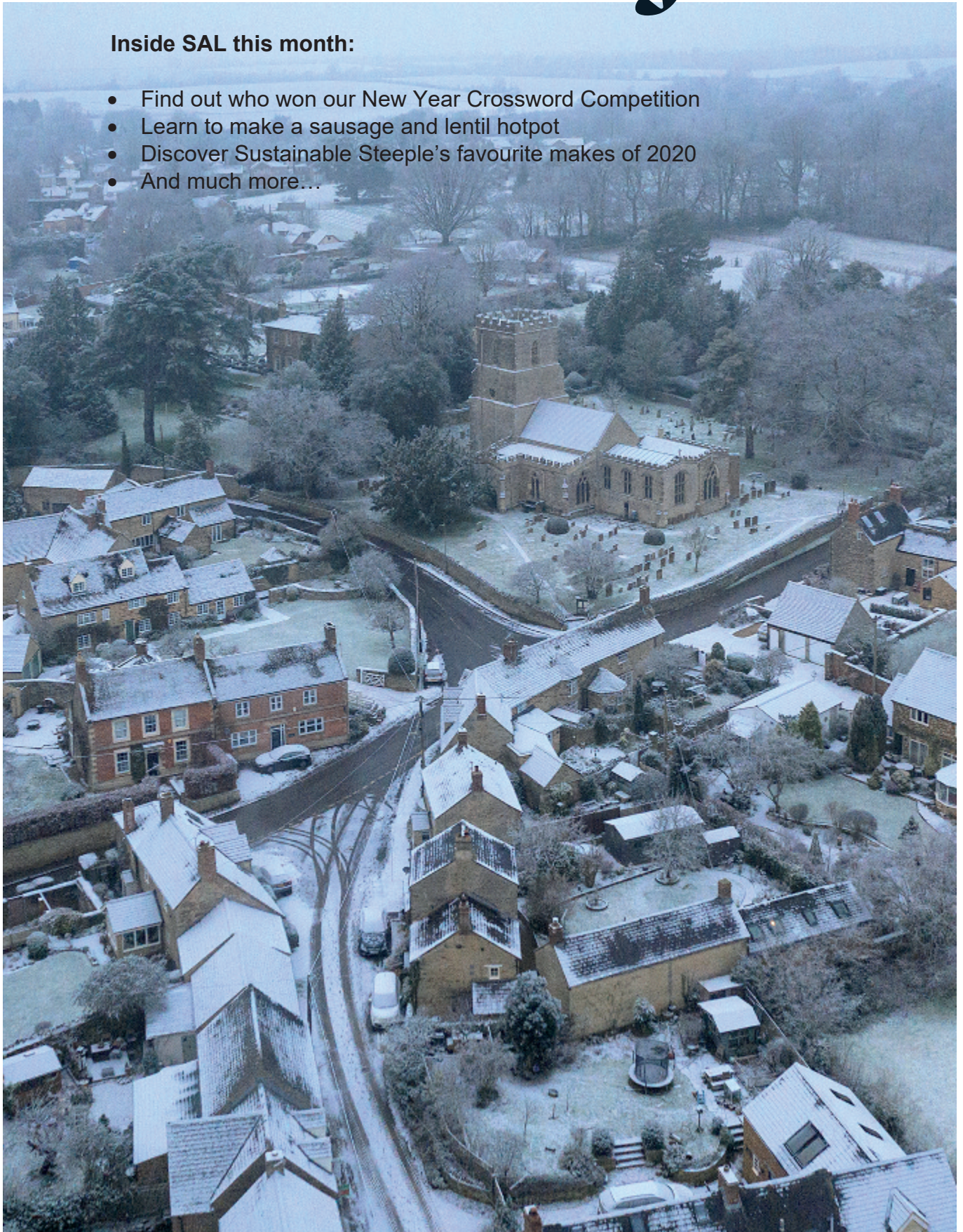


# Steeple Aston *Life*

February 2021    ISSUE No. 570

## Inside SAL this month:

- Find out who won our New Year Crossword Competition
- Learn to make a sausage and lentil hotpot
- Discover Sustainable Steeple's favourite makes of 2020
- And much more...





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*Cover photo: Nigel Francis*

## Steeple Aston *Life*

### COPY

All articles and letters to the Editors  
[editorialife@gmail.com](mailto:editorialife@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 March 2021 issue is therefore 15<sup>th</sup> February.

READ STEEPLE ASTON LIFE ONLINE  
<https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine>

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[salife.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:salife.advertising@gmail.com)

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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

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1 page (village events only)- £15  
1/2 page - £12, 1/4 page- £6.

Commercial adverts:

1/2 page- £15, 1/4 page- £8

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Age UK		Richard Preston	340512
Allotments (Church)	SACAA Clerk	Nigel Grugeon sacaaclerk@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	Head Teacher	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*

February 2021

Issue No. 570

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# Editorial

Welcome to February's edition of Steeple Aston Life! As we are all stuck indoors and the weather isn't at its best, now is a great time to grab a cup of tea and a biscuit and have a read through our village magazine. We've got plenty to entertain you – take a look at Sustainable Steeple's favourite makes of 2020 on pages 12-13, or why not have a go at making sausage and lentil hot pot (recipe on pages 18-19).

Elsewhere we've got more info on reducing food waste on pages 8-9, plus a brand new Word Builder puzzle to get you thinking on page 26.

On the subject of puzzles, congratulations must go to Jo Mallinson, the winner of our New Year Crossword competition. Jo's name was drawn randomly from all the correct answers sent in. Thank you to everyone who took part; answers can be found on page 17.

Finally, as some of you may know, this will be my last edition of Steeple Aston Life for a little while, as I am heading off on maternity leave for a few months. I leave you in the capable hands of Robert Scott, who will edit the magazine while I'm away. I hope to return some time in the summer, when Robert and I will share the job of co-editor. You can find out more about Robert in Steeple People on page 7. I wish him the best of luck in his new role.

Best wishes

*Angela*

*Boxing Day floods:  
photo- Merrill Bayley*



# Steeple Aston Noticeboard



## News on flower shows for 2021

The horticultural society committee has made the decision to cancel the proposed Spring Flower Show planned for the 21<sup>st</sup> March this year. Sadly, this is the second spring show to be cancelled in successive years and is a great disappointment to those who have planned their spring bulbs in readiness for the show. We are however making plans for the annual show to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> August (Bank Holiday Monday) and will have schedules available both online by March and in hard copy by the middle of June. This will be a wonderful chance to celebrate village life and could potentially be the first major event since the outbreak of Coronavirus. With this in mind, it is the perfect time to start planning your garden or allotment, not only for the production of flowers and vegetables for your own use but for exhibition in one of the 130 classes that will make up our 129<sup>th</sup> annual flower show.

Keep safe and start planning your entries for the annual flower show.

**Richard Preston** – Steeple and Middle Aston Horticultural Society Chairman

## Send Us Your Photos

Calling all budding photographers – if you've taken any photos in and around the village, we'd love to see them. Photos can be of plants, animals, landscapes, houses, streets, people, events...anything related to life in Steeple Aston. Please send your photos to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com) and you could see your photo in print.

## CORONAVIRUS

### MESSAGE FROM DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE

**Coronavirus Vaccine:** Please do not contact Deddington Health Centre regarding the vaccine. The NHS will let you know when it is your turn. It is important not to contact the NHS or your practice for a vaccination before then. Thank you.

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.



## *Editor's Letterbox*

**Dear Thoughtless Dog Owner,**

On Thursday, 31 December my brown garden waste bin did not get emptied because you are a selfish person. My bin was so full of garden waste that I could barely get it to the pickup beside the pavement. When I saw it had a tag on it saying that it contained something that caused it to be rejected, I couldn't imagine what the bin men were on about. Yet when I opened the lid, there it was: your dog waste tied up in a black plastic bag on top of my garden waste.

I had to properly dispose of your dog muck, a task that I did not deserve as I do not own your dog, and one that I certainly didn't enjoy, so that in two weeks my still-full bin will finally be emptied.

This isn't the first time you've done this either. My neighbour's blue bins sport tags on their lids saying "NO DOG WASTE" as you've put it into their bins as well. I guess I'll need to redecorate my brown bin to accommodate your shortcomings as a dog owner and neighbour with a tag of my own.

I hope one of your 2021 resolutions is to try to be a better member of the community and stop embarrassing your dog and your family.

A very angry resident of Paines Hill,

**Janice Kinory**



*photo- Nigel Francis*

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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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☎ 01869 233685  
📍 Orchard House  
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Deddington  
OX15 0TD

### Westminster:

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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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## Robert Scott

(new SAL co-editor)



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

Just over 30 years.

**Where did you move from?**

Peterborough.

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

Baby boomer. Born near Lincoln. Formative years in Nottingham. Studied graphic design and photography at art college.

**How do you see yourself, in 5 words or less?**

Handsome, intelligent, creative, witty.

**How do others see you, in 5 words or less?**

None of the above.

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

Night owl. Cat(s). Pragmatist.

**Technology: friend or foe?**

High-maintenance friend.

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

A writer.

**What was your first job?**

Working in Oxford on two photography publications owned by Robert Maxwell.

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

Freelance writer and graphic designer.

**What is the best job you've ever done?**

Setting up my own publishing business. I sold it a few years ago, but am retained as Consultant Editor.

**What's your secret/guilty pleasure?**

If I told you it would no longer be secret!

**What's your favourite piece of music?**

Pachelbel's Canon in D – as magical today as when it was composed in 1680.

**What is your all-time favourite book?**

'The King Must Die', by Mary Renault – a reimagining of the life of the mythical Greek hero Theseus.

**What's your favourite food?**

Pasta smothered in cheese.

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

Me.

**What do you do to relax?**

Sorry, I don't understand the question.

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

Always have a Plan B.

**What do you get grumpy/mad about?**

Almost everything.

**Tell us something about you that most people don't know.**

When very young I was allergic to meat and fish, so have been a lifelong vegetarian.

# Food For Thought

Here goes Dale once more..."Oh No! He'll be wittering on about plastic again!" Quick - hide! Wittering - yes probably...Plastic NO! So you can come out from under the bed now.

**This time it's food and it's good news.** At last good news is creeping out of the woodwork to people like me who are outside the professional field of production. I wrote about **WRAP** before and it's their work that I'm featuring here because it needs telling. As you may already know, food waste seems to run at about 30% (I wonder what Steeple Aston farmers, who work their socks off to produce it think of that?). But, I am absolutely sure that people in our village do not waste food. We all no doubt have garden compost heaps for fresh waste and the brown bins are a boon for all.

Quote from the CDC website -

*"You get an indoor caddy to store your food waste or outdoor compost bin, we recommend using compostable corn starch liners for your caddy as this is the easiest way to keep it clean and to empty it. When your caddy is full, simply tie up the bag and pop it into your brown bin".*

**WRAP FOOD** is a huge professional organisation; too big to summarise in an article like this. Please accept that I'm just skimming the surface. However, we're all locked down now and this means more time indoors – so why not take a look at <http://wrap.org.uk>.

Here is an example of just one series of achievements and goals **WRAP FOOD** has been working on since 2005. It has produced a series of goals- the **COURTAULD COMMITMENT** (because the launch was at the Courtauld Gallery).

Here are some results seen in the UK:

## **Courtauld 1: 2005 - 2009**

*By bringing together government, individual companies and community groups who would not normally work together*

**1.2 million tons of food packaging and waste prevented**

**3.2 million tons of CO2 prevented**

**£1.8 billion saved**

**Equivalent to saving 128,000 refuse lorries worth of waste!**

## **Courtauld 2: 2010 -2012**

*Concentrating on less secondary and tertiary packaging. Primary packaging is what actually touches the goods. Secondary etc. are the layers outside that. This resulted in:*

**10% less packaging**

**3.7% less household food and drink wasted**

**7.4% less waste in the supply chain**

**This was achieved by 53 large major retailers signing up to Courtauld 2.**

## **Courtauld 3: 2013 -2015**

*This reduced production carbon and packaging further resulting in:*

**£1.6 billion benefits**

**1.1 million tons of waste reduction**

**2.9 million tons of CO2 saved**

**Equivalent to taking a million cars off the road!**

And so it goes on. There's a load more and the current goals are being set out for 2025 alongside other goals in the WRAP organisation. Onwards and upwards – it's not all doom and gloom!

**Martin Dale**





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Thank you to everyone who donated unwanted items or bought upcycled items from our online shop. Thanks to you, we have saved a vast number of items from being thrown away and have raised c. £3000 which we will be using to fund local projects just as soon as lockdown restrictions are eased sufficiently.

**Please do keep donating!** – fabric (including sheets), craft materials, wood, furniture, if you are not sure whether we would want a particular item, please drop us an email and ask.

**Please keep buying things from our online shop!** – you will find a wide range of upcycled cards, gifts and wrapping, all made from the items donated to us.

**Join our Zero Waste Challenge** - see how low you can go (details on the website)

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**[www.facebook.com/SustainableSteeple](https://www.facebook.com/SustainableSteeple)**

**[amanda@sustainablesteeple.com](mailto:amanda@sustainablesteeple.com) or 07793 553150**





# *The Gardening Spot*

## **Let's get serious about gardening!**

I don't know about you, but I can't wait for the better weather to arrive. Then I can get out into the garden and start sowing seeds and maybe even mow the grass. If 2020 taught us anything it was to demonstrate how fortunate we are to be living in a glorious part of England and able to benefit from the countryside that surrounds us. It has, according to many surveys and news reports, brought a revised enthusiasm for gardening. For us seasoned gardeners that is no surprise as we know the joys of working the soil, sowing seeds, and watching them develop into fine plants. In my opinion, February is the start of the gardening calendar where, on a cold, damp day you can plan your garden and on the nicer, sunny days, one can prepare the first seed beds or tidy-up the flower borders before too many herbaceous plants emerge from the frozen ground. Gardening is also a wonderful way of getting away from the trials and tribulations of day-to-day living where you can work on the soil without having to concentrate too much and let your mind wander whilst listening to the spring songs of our native birds and seeking the first signs of life emerging from the ground.

If you enjoy the taste of freshly harvested vegetables, then now is the time to prepare the first seed beds in readiness for sowing next month. Chit the early potato tubers and, if you have a greenhouse, how about planting a few tubers in some pots to get the first early potatoes in Steeple Aston?

As the winter flowering shrubs finish flowering, that is the time to prune them, generally by removing the old flowering branches and creating a framework where new growth will form the perfect shaped shrub for next year.

As the snowdrops begin to fade, then is the perfect time to divide the clumps which in turn will invigorate the existing bulbs and provide additional plants for next year. If you have any hardy, evergreen shrubs in your garden, this is a good time to prune them and create the form you want and if you have any grasses in the garden that have not yet been trimmed back, again, this is the time to do just that. One of the best rules of pruning is to remove any damaged branches, and those that cross each other and try and create an "open centre" to a free-standing tree. This way you allow more air and light into the centre of the tree and thus encourage a healthy specimen. Mulch any shrubs and trees that you might have and check for any damaged branches. Tie in wall-trained trees and shrubs to create a balanced and well-spaced spread of branches but do not attempt to prune plums, cherries etc. until summer as they are prone to "silver-leaf".

One of my pet hates is to see climbers such as ivy being allowed to run wild. In the right place they look great but are very invasive and now is a great time to trim back to a manageable state and ensure they are not encroaching on windows, roofs, and guttering as they will cause serious damage. Summer and Autumn flowering clematis can be cut hard back to the lowest set of strong buds and at the same time, feed and mulch for a superb display later this year. Keep an eye on any newly planted shrubs or trees for any 'rock' or upheaval that might have occurred during the winter winds and frosts and possibly consider adding a stake to secure the young specimen.

Whatever else you might do this February, and who knows what the weather has in store for us, when conditions allow, get your garden in good order by clearing any borders of unwanted debris, dig over the vegetable patch if you haven't already and make sure the greenhouse is clean and tidy and free from any pests that might be hiding. The reality is that come March and the longer daylight hours, things in the garden start to grow at an amazing pace and seeds will need to be sown and the grass will need cutting so be prepared! As the old saying goes; "don't put off for tomorrow what can be done today".

Enjoy your gardening and keep safe. Summer is on its way and hopefully life will begin to return to something near normal.

**Richard Preston**





## A Moment of Reflection

As we took a little break at the beginning of January to recover from our pre-Christmas making spree, we reflected on some of what we had achieved in 2020 and in particular our favourite makes. Here are a couple of highlights:

### *Clothing Re-imagined*

We love this bag! Not only is it gorgeous, but it epitomises our aim to reuse as much as we can!

The patterned fabric is the offcut from a dress that needed shortening that had been hanging around for years. The navy-blue linen is part of an old skirt that had reached the end of its life (and we have used the rest of it for other projects) and the lilac lining is an old shirt (you can see that we have even left the buttonhole detail in there as a reminder of its former life). Individually, none of these provided enough fabric to make anything, but together, they form the perfect summer accessory!



### *Gift Bags that Keep on Giving*

Much as we love the rope handled bag, when it comes to our favourite items from 2020, it has to be our gift bags!

That might seem a bit of a strange statement, given they are wrapping rather than gifts and they sell for just a couple of £s each, but for us, they embody a lot of what we are trying to achieve in trying to reduce waste.

Our first gift bags were the result of a clear out at The Arty Crafty Place in Middle Aston. They were fabric samples printed to demonstrate the blocks being sold at shows or for the website and had served their purpose. Rather than throw the unwanted samples away, they gifted them to Sustainable Steeple, and we made them into reusable gift bags.

This got us thinking! We get lots of old sheets, duvet covers, and tablecloths donated to us. Some we make into tea towels, but there are others that may have holes in or be a bit worn in places - yet there's still enough good fabric to be useful for something.

So, now, rather than The Arty Crafty Place buying fabric to print their samples on, we cut up our sheets, tablecloths etc into gift bag sized pieces and give it to the team to print their samples on. Once they have finished with the samples, they return them to us, and we make them into reusable gift bags.

These generous little gift bags not only save fabric from being sent to landfill twice, but they also save The Arty Crafty Place from buying fabric to make samples and prevent the need for single use wrapping paper every time they are used which can be again and again and again! And on top of all that they generate funds for Sustainable Steeple!



We are back to making again now and have a range of gifts and cards for all occasions, as well as our fantastic reusable gift bags available through our online shop at [www.sustainablesteeple.com](http://www.sustainablesteeple.com).

**Amanda Rodgers**



# Parish Council Meeting Notes



The meeting started with an interesting discussion of speeding in the village. Apparently there had been concern that there was speeding on Heyford Road between The Dickredge and The Crescent. To find out if this was correct the Parish Council asked Highways to check. The speed check showed that although drivers might well be going quite fast for that piece of road they were generally below the legal limit. There is little doubt for me that much the most dangerous entries to the village are on Sixtyfoot and Fenway and in both these cases the situation is the same, though worse than on Heyford Road, ie that the legal maximum speed is way faster than the layout of the road makes safe. Highways will not approve sleeping policemen or other traffic calming measures where the legal maximum speed is not being exceeded consistently.

The village has its own sign showing if drivers are doing more than 30 mph and this is moved around the village between alternative 'sockets'. There is still a spare socket which has not been sited yet and three possible places were considered; the bottom of Paines Hill, between The Crescent and Lawrence Fields or near the sharp corner on Fenway, possibly on the village side of the bend. This will be considered again at the next meeting.

At present the speed indicator is on Heyford Road between The Crescent and the Beeches. A Councillor had driven passed it recently and it had not told him to slow down, when he thought it might have done. Another Councillor described the speedometer in cars as being "on the cautious side".

The right hand side of the road at The Beeches as you are going out of the village is far better after the roadworks there. But on the left hand side there is water which is missing the gully and flowing down the road. The manhole there belongs to BT and is not a drain. It has been reported to Highways and in the meantime cyclists especially need to be wary whenever it is icy.

There is a thicket close to the War Memorial which needs attention and the issue was whether it should

be coppiced, to about a metre in height, or cut back to about double that. They all agreed it would look better if taller and would provide more privacy for the nearest household as well. The work will be done before the start of the nesting season.

Someone asked whether Steeple Aston was considering planting trees in the same way as Middle Aston had done. Apparently Middle Aston has planted a tree for everyone in the village. The answer was that the Council had considered this before but no one had come up with any suggestions for where the trees might be planted.

The village has space for seven Parish Councillors but there were only six at the January meeting because of a vacancy. Are you interested? If so you should contact the Clerk, Cathy Fleet on 01869347000 or email her at [parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com)

The Councillors discussed their response to the Covid situation. Apparently those identified as vulnerable had all been contacted again by Councillors to make sure they were ok and where shopping or meals were needed they are being delivered.

The Councillors considered whether they should put more signs on the play area reminding people about Covid restrictions and advice. It seems difficult to believe everyone does not know the general Covid advice but more signs will be put up as reminders. One Councillor pointed out, possibly slightly unnecessarily, that he was extremely unlikely "to catch Covid off playground equipment". Our playground and the one at Lower Heyford are open but users have to bring their own wipes and gels. At Somerton playground, which is also open the Parish Council provide the sanitisers and in Souldern the playground is shut and barricaded up pending its refurbishment. Someone mentioned the photos in the papers of playground equipment elsewhere draped in green nets to stop it being used.

*continued*



# Parish Council Meeting Notes



The play area will need substantial renovation over the next few years and the Councillors have asked for quotes for the work and it looks as if about £30,000 will be needed.

A new door will be fitted to the lavatory on the playground in the next few weeks. The Councillors discussed whether there should be an inauguration for the door and decided it would be for the Chairman to have the inaugural pee, though perhaps with the door shut behind him. Apparently the door will have some sort of failsafe mechanism to get out toddlers. No one seemed too concerned about getting out drunks.

There was a long discussion about the consultation document from the Dr Radcliffe Trust. The Trust's proposal is that the number of trustees should be halved from twelve to six. At present the Parish Council has two trustees and under the new arrangements it would only have one. The Rector, who is automatically a trustee, would continue to be able to nominate another trustee leading to a discussion about whether this meant the church representation was disproportionate. The Local Education Authority, which provides the transport for the school, can nominate two trustees currently, and under the proposals would have no nominations. There was a long, basically political, discussion of the proper role of LEAs and finally the Councillors agreed to suggest the LEA input should be reduced from two to one instead of from two to none. The Councillors queried the need to reduce the total number of trustees and would have liked to have seen the case made for this change.

The Councillors then turned to planning issues. Apparently the appeal about the refusal of planning permission for a development at The Beeches is with the Planning Inspectorate at the moment. The appeal is for building eight houses rather than ten, ie below the threshold that has to include some affordable housing.

There has been an analysis of the effectiveness of our neighbourhood plan in terms of the proportion of planning applications where the policies of the Plan were accepted. The Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan had an 89% success rate. The success rate of our Parish Council is more like 50% (admittedly a wild guess as it has never been checked). This comparison is not really fair as the planners are obliged by law to take the policies of Neighbourhood Plans into account, whereas the comments by Parish Councils do not necessarily have any more weight than those of any other commentators on planning applications. We were told that the Cherwell planners had been particularly good about following MCNP policies. South Oxfordshire has four times as many Neighbourhood Plans as Cherwell but has been considerably less 'supportive'.

The Parish Councillors agreed on the precept, the money they would be asking Cherwell to put on our Council Tax for local activities. I was promised this would be explained in SAL by a Councillor once Cherwell has given its approval.

The next meeting will be at 7.30 on 15 February. Do come and see what it is like and the Clerk will send you a Zoom invitation if you contact her.

*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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## Answers for January's Crossword

Congratulations to Jo Mallinson, winner of our New Year Crossword Competition!

Thank you to everyone who sent in their completed crosswords, and to Cathy Lawday for creating this puzzle.

	1				2		3		4				5						
	C				V		H		B				A						
6	C	H	R	O	N	O	L	O	G	I	C	7	A	L	L	Y			
	A				L		U		E		B		A						
8	H	U	G	9	H		10		G	A	S		11	N	A	B	O	B	S
	C			O		A			E		N		A		A				
12	D	E	R	B	Y		13	G	O	B	I			14	B	M	I		
	R			B		15	B		F		A					A			
			16	A	S	S	A	M		17	A	L	A	18	M	O			
		19	S				K		20	A		S		O		21	A		
22	E	T	A			23	S	A	G	A		24	G	R	A	N	T		
	A			25	K		H		R				E		I				
26	G	R	E	E	C	E		27	O	A	28	K		29	L	I	S	P	
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30	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T	I	V	E	S				
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*Crossword competition winner Jo Mallinson*



# *In the Kitchen*



## **IN AND OUT OF THE KITCHEN**

Many of you will feel you have been cooking non-stop for months. My Mum did all the cooking when I was little, but us children were encouraged to help, with peeling, chopping, mixing. Home with her is where I learnt all my basic culinary skills. I have many happy memories of success and failure in her kitchen. Many of you will be very tired of home-schooling too. Cooking presents so many opportunities for maths, conversation and fun.....

These recipes hark back to those days, with Mum in the kitchen. Aged 92, she can't cook much anymore, but she'll be pleased to know that you might try some food which she cooked for us, more than 60 years ago.

In season now are leafy greens, including sprouts and leeks. Lamb is very tasty (try pot roasting a shoulder of lamb, with pearl barley, herbs and vegetables). Ham knuckles are cheap, and great poached and flaked, added to macaroni cheese, or as filling for omelettes; and turkey is still to be found in shops, made into rice salads, hot or cold. Crab is best during winter months, and smoked fish is somehow more suited to wintery weather. Smoked haddock chowder with potato, sweetcorn and peas, makes a hearty soup. Forced rhubarb is available, blood oranges are back and Seville oranges are ready to be made into marmalade. With lengthening days, laying hens will begin again.

I'm very keen on soup for lunch and one-pot recipes. With many children being fed at home for lunch and in the evening, cooking in quantity saves inventing meal ideas every day.

All these recipes can be made in advance, and left keeping warm, so you can race up for half an hour in the playground, or a brisk walk around the Eye-Catcher and back for delicious hot lunch.

### **Leek and bacon soup Serves 6-8**

50g butter  
2 tbsp sunflower oil  
2 onions, skinned and chopped  
100g smoked bacon, or green if you prefer, chopped  
6 good sized leeks, washed, trimmed, and fairly finely sliced  
4 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped  
2 x 450g tinned tomatoes  
1 litre chicken or vegetable stock  
Salt and pepper

Heat the butter and oil in a large saucepan. Add the onion and sauté for a few minutes until it's soft and transparent. Add the bacon and cook for a few more minutes, then stir in the leeks and potatoes. Cook for about 5 minutes, then pour on the tomatoes. Stir in the stock and season with salt and pepper, bringing to the boil. Turn down the heat and simmer for 30-40 minutes. Allow to cool a little, before liquidising to a smooth texture, if that is what you prefer.

A wholemeal roll, packed with Cheddar cheese and some chutney, will make this into a hearty feast.

Once cool, this will last in the fridge for four days.

## *In the Kitchen*



### **Sausage and lentil hot pot** **Serves 6-8**

500g sausages cut into 2.5cm chunks – grilled, roasted or fried till they are thoroughly browned  
2-3 tbsp sunflower oil  
3 onions, skinned and chopped  
4 carrots, skinned if needed and chopped into smallish chunks  
4 parsnips, peeled and chopped into smallish chunks  
4 medium potatoes, peeled and chopped  
1 large clove of garlic  
250g red lentils  
A sprig of rosemary - optional  
1.2l chicken or vegetable stock  
Salt and pepper

Heat the oil in a largish saucepan, add the onions and sauté for 4-5 mins, then stir in the other vegetables. Cook for 6 minutes, then stir in the lentils and the pieces of sausage, the stock and the seasoning. Cover and cook with the lid on for 45 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender. Serve with chunks of bread to mop up the last of the juices.

### **Seville orange pudding** **Serves 6-8**

75g softened butter  
250g caster sugar  
Grated rind and juice of 3 Seville oranges  
5 large eggs  
50g flour  
300ml milk

*This can also be made with lemons (4), limes and clementines (you'll need 6), or the same number of ordinary oranges or blood oranges, which are now in season.*

Use an empty butter paper to grease a deepish dish. A souffle dish is good for this. Put the softened butter in a bowl, or food processor and cream it gradually adding the sugar. Beat together till pale and fluffy. Beat in the grated rind and then gradually add the juice. Separate the eggs. Add the yolks and beat in one by one. The mixture will probably curdle. It won't affect the end result. Alternating tablespoons at a time of flour and the milk, beat together.

Whisk the egg whites until they are stiff. With a large metal spoon, fold them quickly and thoroughly into the orange mixture. Pour into the ovenproof dish. Stand the dish in a roasting tin, adding hot water into the tin around the dish, so the water is halfway up the sides of the dish. Bake in a moderate oven at 170C, Gas 4, for 45 to 50 minutes, until golden brown and firm on top to the touch. Serve warm or cold, with or without cream. This pud warms up well, so you make it in advance.

**Caroline Edwards**



## She's one in a million

To begin with I'll tell you, (though most of you already know it),  
I live with one of this magazine's regular poets.

When we married, I promised to stay "for better or worse",  
But didn't know then that my life would be blighted by verse.

I should have laid down some guidelines, rules and parameters  
To limit her spouting in rhyme and iambic pentameters.

Every so often she spews out a sonnet or ditty.  
She's serious sometimes, but she usually aims to be witty.

It doesn't sound taxing or hard, but just let me ask you  
How you'd feel if all of your life was turned into a haiku.

If you see her, don't stop and heap praise on her poetic feats,  
Or she'll pounce round for days pretending she's Byron or Keats.

Of course, when I write, I too use poetic licence.  
Most of this poem is fiction, ridiculous nonsense.

Life with my poet is great. We have fun a-plenty.  
I love her, she's special, believe me, she's one in ... er ... twenty?

*Richard MacAndrew*

## Riddle

How can this month be called short  
if it doesn't have any height  
it's a month that emerges from dark  
yet it never casts any light  
how can this month hold romance  
can a date make your heart take a leap  
what are the odds or the chance  
that this month can cause lovers to weep

Yet this month can do all of this  
its length can be measured in time  
so that one year in four lets a miss  
ask a question that's rather sublime  
and being so short isn't bad  
as twenty eight numbers the day  
it's a month of the year to be glad  
as I don't wait so long for my pay.

*Peter Wild*





## Keeping Boredom at Bay

We're in yet another lockdown  
And it really is no fun  
Finding ways to pass the time  
That we haven't already done.

I've had a wardrobe chuck-out  
Of clothes that no longer fit  
Of uncomfortable shoes, holey tights  
And unused fitness kit.

I've moved around the furniture  
And washed the skirting board  
And all my holiday photos  
Are now ordered, labelled and stored.

I've organised the loft space  
Crawling on hands and knees,  
I've donated the books I'll never read  
Alphabetised my CDs.

The kitchen pantry cupboard  
Is now clean and very neat  
Purged of foods past their sell-by date  
And weird stuff we'll never eat.

There's been a comprehensive clear-out  
Followed by many a trip  
From the garage and the garden shed  
Straight to the council tip.

I'm working on a tapestry  
That's been half-finished 5 years or more  
I'm thinking of learning to crochet  
(though I can't imagine what for).

I'm hoping to make a start  
On the complete works of Proust  
I plan to improve my culinary skills  
And make a salmon mousse.

I could learn to dance the foxtrot  
To type accurately and fast  
I could polish up my French  
And learn the Tai Chi moves at last.

I could decorate my study  
I could re-stock my desk drawers  
There must be *something* I can find  
To avoid those dreaded jigsaws!

It has always seemed pointless to me  
Ever since I was a kid  
Fitting bits of cardboard together  
To match a picture on the lid.

I find it so utterly boring  
Doing the miles of edge  
Then searching among all the pieces  
For a bit of kitten, umbrella or hedge.

And as for those fiendish puzzles  
Which are just a plate of baked beans  
They are the true definition  
Of what the word 'pointless' means.

I guarantee you'll never find me  
Rebuilding the picture on the box  
I'll be doing something more useful  
Like...colour coding my socks!

Cathy Lawday



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

## ..... the Camargue

When I was at primary school (oh SO long ago!) a friend wrote in my autograph book 'The world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings!' I'm not sure now that I realised then the truth of her message but, starved as we all are of being able to travel in these days of Coronavirus, I find myself reflecting on many of the wonderful things I've been fortunate enough to see. For some reason this week a rather crazy visit to the Camargue in the early 1970s popped into my mind.

I wasn't alone. I was with two other teachers and ten pupils from Burford School, travelling in a rather primitive mini-bus and an 1100 (with a questionable gear box) – oh and we were camping, always at the cheapest camp site we could find. This wasn't a study tour but an Easter holiday trip.

In spite of this slightly ramshackle sounding caravan we were clear about our destination: the Camargue. Why the Camargue? Well, some of us had read an article about this huge, wild area of water, islands and salty pools formed between the two arms of the Rhone Delta. It sounded remote and romantic and little visited. Alongside hundreds of migrating birds we learnt that if you were lucky you could see a trio of wild creatures: black bulls, white horses and pink flamingos!

Off we set with hope in our hearts determined to see all three species. As we arrived at the campsite, we were greeted by the manager, who had clearly found plenty of sun to bask in even this early in the season. He seemed intrigued by us as we settled in and by the time we'd erected our odd collection of primitive tents, he invited we three adults 'pour un apéritif'.

Describing himself as a nomad, we listened as he told us about taking part in the annual pilgrimage of the Roma people at Saintes Maries de la Mer (when the statue of Black Sara is taken from the church into the sea). When we told him we were anxious to see the wild animals of the Camargue, he suggested the minor road which we could take from near the camp site across part of the southern edge of the Delta or, he said, if we had 'grand courage' there was a 'piste' and people who were brave enough to drive there were practically guaranteed to see all that we had come so far to see.

So of course we set off along the piste – absolutely the worst track I have ever driven! Its impossibly deep ruts caused damage to both vehicles as we wallowed in mud and splashed through big puddles but – yes! – we saw black bulls who were just meandering around innocent of the possibility that they might be called on to appear in one of the Arles bull fights. (Bulls aren't killed but teased in the Arles bullring I'm glad to say.) After a while we saw white horses galloping through water between islands – a sight never to be forgotten – and then amazingly we saw pink flamingos. That was thanks to a telescope being used by a group of Oxford University students who were as startled and surprised to see us as we were to meet them in this most remote of places. We hopped out of our vehicles and took turns to usurp their telescope!

Our nomad was watching out for us as, muddy and tired after the exhausting driving, we arrived back at the campsite. He regarded us with a mixture of admiration and incredulity because he had not expected us to use the badly damaged path. I think perhaps he was a bit anxious about us – but we didn't regret taking up his challenge. As you see even after about 50 years it's an experience not forgotten!

***Eileen Baglin-Jones.***





## Space Word Scramble

ONOM	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
TASR	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
MTOCE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
ETOMRE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
LNETPA	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
NUVRIEES	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
VIRGATY	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
LOUPT	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
EPUNNTE	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
NEVSU	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>



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# ???? Mind Games

## Word Builder

S	E	R
P	A	T
N	I	D

Answers to every clue are:

- 5 letters long,
- contain only letters from the grid,
- and include the letter in the shaded central square.

1. A European country
2. To hang fabric over something
3. A dirty mark
4. Quick
5. Gathers in a crop
6. A holy figure
7. A sharpened weapon
8. A method of public transport
9. Look hard
10. A type of poplar tree
11. Extra
12. A thin candle
13. Footprint
14. Leather strip used as a handle
15. Pub game
16. Snares
17. Constituent pieces
18. A daisy
19. Rips
20. Full, satisfied

*With thanks to Cathy Lawday for creating this puzzle.*

**Answers on page 30**

# Village Hall News



We appreciate that these have been difficult and uncertain times for all our regular users over the last eleven months. As you know Oxfordshire was placed in Tier 4 on the 26th December and we are therefore obliged to close Steeple Aston Village Hall. Not exactly the way we would like to have started the New Year, but sadly we have no choice. People's health, safety and well-being must come first. We will continue to monitor the government guidelines and announcements and will reopen just as soon as we can and let you know.

## **Change of date: Saturday 6th February online (Zoom) Annual Quiz Evening.**

Regrettably we have had to change the date of our online quiz evening via zoom to Saturday 6th February. It is still a great opportunity to come together (virtually) for a bit of fun on a winter's evening. If you are interested in taking part, please email [steepleastonquiz@gmail.com](mailto:steepleastonquiz@gmail.com)

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

**Barbara Brewer, Chair**

## **Child's Play Answers**

ONOM

MOON

TASR

STAR

MTOCE

COMET

ETOMRE

METEOR

LNETPA

PLANET

NUVRIEES

UNIVERSE

VIRGATY

GRAVITY

LOUPT

PLUTO

EPUNNTE

NEPTUNE

NEVSU

VENUS



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The Christmas goodie bags went down a treat! Thanks to the committee for organising this, they were received by all our members. I think it was really a great surprise when one of our committee members turned up on their doorsteps with the bags.

The committee have managed another Zoom meeting especially to discuss changes in the constitution for the Oxfordshire Federation and National Federation. This was because of the way meetings are run; some of them will have to be conducted differently in the future.

Also discussed was a Zoom meeting in February for our members, with Janice Kinory organising one of her talks for us. With how this pandemic is going it looks as though we will not be meeting much before April/May, and so our Birthday Night will have to be cancelled. However, it was decided that if everything is OK in the summer, we will celebrate with a garden party in Julie Hillier's garden, hopefully on a nice summer's day. How lovely it will be to meet up face to face again.

Members can still join other Zoom meetings being organised by the Federation and these include talks on Claude Monet and The Impressionists, a talk on TandemWoW, covering the story of two women who have just broken the world record for a tandem ride around the world, London at Night and Royal Women. Several of our members have joined some of the Zoom talks and found them very interesting.

If you are interested in joining the WI, the largest women's organisation in the country, please do not hesitate to contact me to find out more. We are a fun-loving group of women in this village and have plenty of opportunity to learn new topics such as gardening, culture and science, crafting, and of course cookery. These are some of the many courses we can participate in through the National Federation. To find out more you can contact me on 01869 340028.

**Linda Needle (President)**

## Mind Games Answers

### Word Builder

1 Spain, 2 drape, 3 stain, 4 rapid, 5 reaps, 6 saint, 7 spear, 8 train, 9 stare, 10 aspen, 11 spare, 12 taper, 13 tread, 14 strap, 15 darts, 16 traps, 17 parts, 18 aster, 19 tears, 20 sated.



## THE VALENTINE CLUB

As we move into February and the extension of “lockdown” it is difficult to bring any positive news of the club, however vaccinations are being rolled out by the NHS so there is some light at the end of the tunnel. We are monitoring the situation as it unfolds and as soon as it is safe to do so, the club will recommence with its monthly meetings and coach trips but only when it is deemed safe to do so.

Whilst the club is in this stagnant situation, like so many other organisations, we are not able to raise funds for our future programme, but we are fortunate enough to be part of The Cherwell Lottery, which not only gives participants the chance to win big money, but also contributes 50p of every pound to the society of your choice. All details of how to support The Valentine Club are found below.



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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, keep safe and look after yourselves.

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



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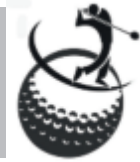


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Following the Government's announcement of a one-month Lockdown in England it is with regret that I don't have much to report. Golf courses are open in Scotland.

Despite making a very strong case to MPs that golf is naturally a socially distanced sport with tremendous physical and mental wellbeing benefits, and reopened safely during the first lockdown, we were unable to persuade the Government that golf should be exempt from the restrictions. This is a petition for you to sign if you would like to get back out there or get your other half to sign it if you are under their feet! <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/557167>

We can only hope that this may be reviewed sometime and that we can get back out and enjoy the game safely.

I hope you enjoy this tale from Africa:

A businessman was attending a conference in Africa. He had a free day and wanted to play a round of golf and was directed to a golf course in the nearby jungle. After a short journey, he arrived at the course and asked the pro if he could get on.

"Sure," said the pro, "What's your handicap?"

Not wanting to admit that he had an 18 handicap, he decided to cut it a bit "Well, it's 16," said the businessman, "but what's the relevance since I'll be playing alone?"

"It's very important for us to know," said the pro, who then called a caddy.

"Go out with this gentleman," said the pro, "his handicap is 16."

The businessman was very surprised at this constant reference to his handicap. The caddy picked up the businessman's bag and a large rifle. Again, the businessman was surprised, but decided to ask no questions. They arrived on the 1st hole, a par-4.

"It's wise to avoid those trees on the left," said the caddy. Needless to say, the businessman duck-hooked his ball into the trees. He found his ball and was about to punch it out when he heard the loud crack of the rifle and a large snake fell dead from a tree above his head.

The caddy stood next to him with the rifle smoking in his hand. "That's the Black Mamba, the most poisonous snake in all Africa. You're lucky I was here with you."

After taking a bogey, they moved to the 2nd hole, a par-5. "Good to avoid those bushes on the right," says the caddy. Of course, the businessman's ball went straight into the bushes. As he went to pick up his ball, he heard the loud crack of the caddy's rifle once again, and a huge lion fell dead at his feet.

"I've saved your life again," said the caddy.

The 3rd hole was a par-3 with a lake in front of the green. The businessman's ball came up just short of the green and rolled back to the edge of the water. To take a shot, he had to stand with one foot in the lake. As he was about to swing, a large crocodile emerged from the water and bit off much of his right leg. As he fell to the ground bleeding and in great pain, he saw the caddy with the rifle propped at his side, looking on unconcernedly.

"Why didn't you kill it?" asked the man incredulously

"I'm sorry, sir," said the caddy. "This is the index 17th handicap hole. You don't get a shot here."

And that, my golfing friends, is why you should never lie about your handicap.

Stay safe.

**Alan Brewer (chair)**



January - What a feast for the eyes after the festive break; members were treated to “The Magic of Macro” delivered by Colleen Slater ARPS, a Brighton-based full-time photographer and lecturer. Lockdown has many downsides but being able to talk to a multitude of experts and enthusiasts from around the country has really enhanced the experience and inspired our photography. Macro is the art of extreme close-up photography, capturing minute detail within an image. Colleen had lots of tips and ideas about equipment and the way her images were composed and lit. Her body of work is mainly focused on insects, plants, and flowers but recently she has branched out into photographing things she finds on Brighton beach. All her images are beautifully composed, with exquisite colours and a gentle feeling of shape that she tries to simplify as much as possible. Colleen endures for her art; spending many hours laid in fields or damp bogs capturing a shot of a grasshopper or butterfly, which she makes look effortless. I am sure it is not with many rejected shots relegated to the delete bin. Do explore her website where the images we saw are displayed.

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

The topic evening Zoom will be on the subject of “Images of the Covid year” on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. Images can be submitted via WE transfer as usual. Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7.30pm. Tony Worobiec FRPS, will give a presentation on “Night and Low Light Photography”

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

*Photo: Mick Bonwick*





## “Same old snide Australia....”

Please don't accuse me of Schadenfreude just yet, but the above quote comes from Matthew Syed's insightful article in The Times of 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Ping Pong guy, my favourite sports journalist, is brilliant at dissecting a team's psychological frailties. He writes that in the Australian Cricket Board's 145-page report into Sandpapergate the word "Sandpaper" is mentioned twice. Clearly the ACB does not want to investigate what really happened. It concludes by saying that only 3 people were involved. Now common sense and Andrew Flintoff, along with assorted other Test Match bowlers, have confirmed that any bowler knows if a ball has been tampered with. So what can we conclude from Steve Smith trampling on Rishabh Pant's guard during a drinks' break and Tim Paine's expletive ridden sledging? That the Australian team has not changed at all and has not been honest about its failings. It is that emotional chink in their armour that might just make it worth flying out to Melbourne for the Ashes Boxing Day Test! Of course Messrs Cummins, Hazlewood and Starc may still roll us over, but if it gets tight, the Aussies may fold because at heart they have no collective spirit.

So, yes, I am guilty of my favourite German word, but the point is that Steeple Aston Cricket Club is the polar opposite of the Australian team. We know we are not very good, but we try our hardest. We are honest about our failings, but most importantly we treat our opponents with respect and with the offer of friendship and witty banter in the White Horse afterwards. That is after all what cricket is all about.

### Fixture List 2021...

Many thanks to the highly efficient Phil Chesser for confirming our fixtures for the season. Please do come and watch; you may also help yourself to tea and cake.

Day	Date	Opponents	Venue	Time
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> May	Bicester & North Oxford	Home	2pm
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup> May	Peter Higgins XI	Home	11.30am
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup> May	Middleton Stoney	Away	2pm
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup> June	Sandford St Martin	Away	2pm
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup> June	Oxford Downs	Away	2pm
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup> June	Minster Lovell	Away	2pm
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> July	Philanderers	Home	2pm
Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup> July	Ascott-under-Wychwood	Away	2pm
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> August	Blenheim Palace	Away	2pm
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> September	Chairman's v Captain's	Home	1.30pm

Here's to hazy summer days of cricket at Barton Abbey, something for all of us to look forward to.

Peter Higgins, **Chairman SACC**

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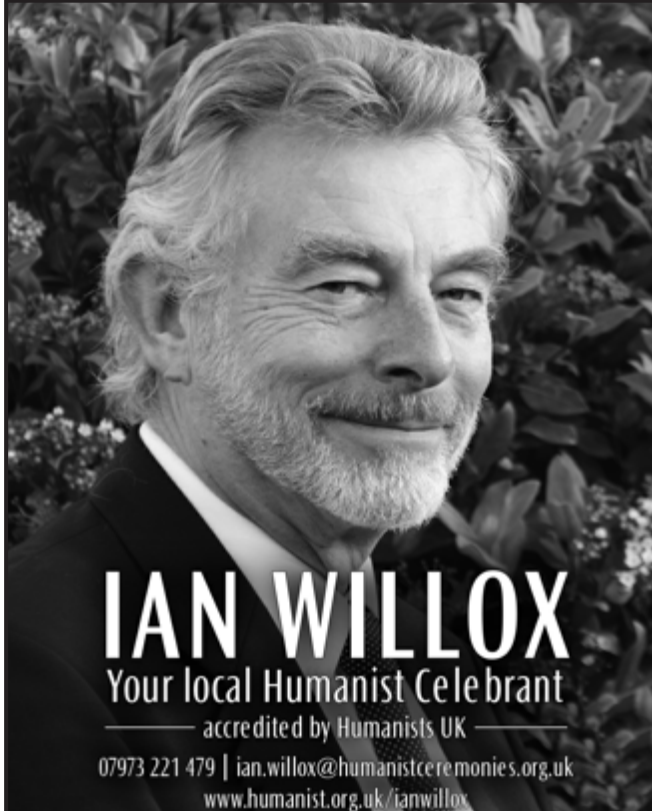
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# Church Matters



Every week I send out two emails to our address list. There are something over a hundred people who receive these emails. Most are local, though some live much further afield.

I began these emails (called *The Rector's Ramblings*) right at the beginning of the first lockdown, just over forty weeks ago. As I write this column, there have been eighty editions of the *Ramblings*. We have exchanged news about people who have held celebrations but not been able to hold parties, we have prayed for folk in great need, we have mourned loved ones, we have shared good news stories that have cheered us all up, we have swapped links to music and theatre and art and sport and all sorts online that have kept our spirits up, we have seen and admired great creativity in others and we have even found the energy and heart to be creative ourselves.

For example: we couldn't replicate last year's amazing Advent Calendar Boxes, where all sorts of groups in Steeple Aston made Nativity scenes in cardboard boxes, and a new one was revealed every day during Advent. So Mary suggested people send in photos of cribs they had, and a different one was put up on our website every day. And all of it was organised via the *Ramblings*.

We watched all kinds of people doing fancy recorded-in-isolation songs and music. We lacked some of the technology we observed, but Martin said let's have a go! So a group of folk responded via the *Ramblings* and we put a couple of hymns together - they're terrific and still up on the website. We then did some much simpler ones, and use these regularly in our weekly online services.

Email is email. We all want weekly services back in church. We all want to be safe when we go shopping. We all want to be able to drop in on friends, or meet in groups to do the things we love. We all want the school to be straightforward and the same every week -for teachers and for the children. But in the meantime...

We will make our community where we can. On the phone. By Zoom. Through an email community of good news and hope. By watching church services each week on YouTube. But if you'd like to receive the *Ramblings* and join our crazy, hopeful, wonderful community of faith - just drop me a line at [steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk) and I will gladly add you to our list.

I try to end each message with a prayer - whether from the Church of England's weekly prayers, or from Canon Robin Gibbon's Twitter feed, or from somewhere else that has caught my eye.

And I so long to put up a regular list of church services for everyone! For now, while we are in Lockdown, or if we simply return to Tier 4, online *Worship at Home* is what we are offering. It's a simple, short service that's new every week and you can find it on the website [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com) (or just search for 'worship at home Marcus Green' on YouTube). If you don't have internet, don't worry: dial 929021 (that's a local number) and you can choose to listen to the whole service, or just the prayers, or even just the sermon!

If and when we get back to Tier 1 or 2, then I promise we will have 9.30am Morning Prayer at North Aston, 11am Holy Communion at Steeple Aston & 5.30pm Evensong at Tackley (with a 9.30am service once a month). Watch the church noticeboards and the church website for details.

Looking ahead, Feb 17 is Ash Wednesday, March 14 is Mothering Sunday, March 28 is Palm Sunday and April 4 is Easter. I very much hope we will have services in our churches for all these events, so do look out: but whether we are in church or online, God is good. And we are a community of hope and faith that will always find ways to stick together, to welcome everyone and to share God's love gladly.



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# **Church Services During Lockdown**

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*(Or listen to the service on the phone:  
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**When we return to Tier 2 or lower  
we will resume weekly services in all our churches:  
North Aston - 9.30am Morning Prayer  
Steeple Aston - 11am Holy Communion  
Tackley - 5.30pm Evensong (9.30am Morning Prayer once a month)**

***Please watch out for updates on our website  
on Church Noticeboards  
and via email***

**Special Dates & Services Coming Soon:  
Wednesday February 17 - Ash Wednesday  
Sunday 14 March - Mothering Sunday  
Sunday 28 March - Palm Sunday  
Sunday 4 April - Easter Sunday**

# Local Info

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<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> green	4 <sup>th</sup> green
11 <sup>th</sup> blue & brown	11 <sup>th</sup> blue & brown
18 <sup>th</sup> green	18 <sup>th</sup> green
25 <sup>th</sup> blue & brown	25 <sup>th</sup> blue & brown

## 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@goolemail.com](mailto:rec.trust@goolemail.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

The OurBus Bartons timetable is subject to change and alteration. For the most up to date information please call Martin Roberts on 01869 347188



# 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.

<b>February</b>			
Saturday 6th	Annual Village Quiz	Zoom	tbc
Monday 15th	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7.30pm
Monday 15th	SAL March issue copy and advert deadline		
Saturday 27th	Farmers' Market - CANCELLED	Deddington	9.00 – 12.30
<b>March</b>			
Monday 15th	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7.30pm
Monday 15th	SAL April issue copy and advert deadline		
Sunday 21st	Spring Show - CANCELLED		
Saturday 27th	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9.00 – 12.30

Due to coronavirus many clubs and societies are unable to meet in person but may still meet online. Please contact the organisers for the most up to date information. Contact details can be found on page 2.

**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)** closed at present

**Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee**

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*Please note: In line with advice from the government and in an effort to keep us all safe, we have unfortunately had to close our Yurt Café and Shop.*



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