

Steeple Aston *Life*

January 2021 ISSUE No. 569



Inside SAL this month:

- Can you go to zero waste?
- 103 trees planted in Middle Aston
- How to prevent separation anxiety in your dog
- 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

COPY DEADLINES

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

The copy deadline for the February 2021 issue is therefore 15th January.

ADVERTS

All adverts, and all advertising queries (*availability, prices, dimensions, suitability of illustrations, etc.*) to **Charlotte Bartlett**
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01869 347347

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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

ADVERTISING RATES

Non-commercial adverts:

1 page (village events only) - £15

½ page - £12, ¼ page - £6.

Commercial adverts:

½ page - £15, ¼ page - £8

Steeple Aston *Directory*

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Allotments (Church)	SACAA Clerk	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
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		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
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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
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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*

January 2021

Issue No. 569

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Editorial

Happy New Year everyone! Although by the time you read this 2021 will be in full swing, and Christmas a distant memory, I do hope you all managed to celebrate in some way. I'll keep my fingers crossed that 2021 is an improvement on last year, and that we can all meet up with our family and friends very soon.

I'll start with the sad news that Becca Coker has decided to step down as my co-editor. Becca has done a wonderful job editing the magazine every other month, and helping me out on my months too. Many thanks to Becca for all your hard work – I and all the members of the SAL committee will miss you.

This leaves us with a position open for a new co-editor. If you'd like to have a go, or would just like some information about what the position entails, please email me at editorsalife@gmail.com. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

This month, we've got From the Dog House, a new semi-regular feature on dog training (page 17), a fun New Year crossword puzzle with a small prize up for grabs (page 26) and the welcome return of the Arts Page, with the hopes that enough venues will stay open for the page to continue throughout the year.

If that's not enough, you can read all about how to reuse and recycle your waste on pages 9 and 11, and learn about how 103 trees were planted in Middle Aston on page 13.

Happy reading!

Angela

Photo: Nigel Francis





Bob's Bench Appeal

After Bob The Dog's emotional send-off through the village an appeal was started by Amanda Tosh to put up a memorial in his memory. A target of £1000 was set to buy a bench, which Tim and Jenny Taylor kindly agreed would be erected at the top of their field looking across The Folly, a popular spot for Bob when out walking his Collies.

The original target was reached within two days and the appeal is now well on the way to doubling the sum needed for the bench with the excess going to Bob's charities for dogs.

The appeal is still active so if anyone who knew Bob would like to contribute they can still do so, see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bench-for-bob>

Bob was a unique character the like of which I doubt we shall see again. I look forward to using the bench and being reminded of him for years to come. On behalf of all his many friends in Steeple Aston, thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Graham Porcas

New Co-Editors Needed for Steeple Aston Life

With Becca Coker stepping aside as co-editor, and Angela Smith going on leave for several months from February, new co-editors are needed for our fantastic village magazine. If you enjoy reading SAL every month and would like to work with a friendly committee to help produce it, we would love to hear from you! Becca and Angela had been alternating months, which has worked really well, so a job share for future publications is encouraged.

To express interest and find out more, please email editorsalife@gmail.com

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.



FAREWELL TO STEEPLE ASTON

Sadly we have had to leave Steeple Aston without the chance of saying goodbye to the many friends we have made while we have lived here.

After eleven happy years we are moving to Bampton. Now that Christopher has celebrated his 80th birthday, we have decided that it is time to downsize and leave our beautiful garden. We leave with marvellous memories and heavy hearts. Steeple Aston is a great village and we wish all the very best to the community here and to the many new families who are coming to live in the village.

We are very grateful to our friends, to our acquaintances, to Pari and Raj in the shop and, of course, to Simon the postman.

With our very best wishes,

Christopher and Caroline Compston



Steeple Aston Handbell Ringers

Photo: Nigel Francis

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Steeple People



How long have you lived in Steeple Aston?

Coming on to 8 months (!?) - it's been a fast and slow year.

Where did you move from?

Jericho, Oxford

What brought you here?

We were looking for more space for our growing family near a good school (tick) and the village came as a recommendation from (unknowingly future) kind neighbours.

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston?

Walking - both around the village and in the surrounding countryside, we are so spoiled here. Of course the people too, although lockdown has stifled a bit of my ability to meet as many of you as I would like so far. Will look forward to that changing next year.

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

Raised in the suburbs of Chicago and have kept moving eastward since - Philadelphia then across the pond in 2009 for a 'one year' masters degree which has turned into 11 years, indefinite leave to remain, a husband and two little girls.

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

Open; Self-reliant; Friendly; Earnest

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist? Technology: friend or foe? To marmite or not?

Definitely a night owl, which I'm afraid doesn't align with baby exhaustion too well. Dog - some day! Optimist, most of the time, this year has pushed the boundaries... Technology foe for sure – it will be a learning curve returning to work from maternity leave to the new world of Zoomland that I have so far missed. And marmite a definite yes - I love a Twiglet and spread on toast.

What was the best thing about being a child?

Summers with the neighbourhood of Timber Lane, Lake Forest, Illinois – we had a real gang and incredible imaginations.

What is the best thing about being an adult?

Being a mother, and dinner parties. I always found them magical from afar as a child.

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

An animator

What was your first job?

Working at the sandwich deli counter in my hometown

What's your secret/guilty pleasure?

Chocolate for breakfast - I pretend it's 'continental'

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have:

Before babies, I was very into my Bangra Dance group in London.

Can you recommend a really good book?

One I recently read and am enamoured with: Summer by Edith Wharton

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Right now, back home to see my parents, grandmother, brother, sister, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. The ocean never felt as big as it has felt this year. But for a bit of holiday the Austrian lakes would be lovely.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really bad at:

Locks and keys and jumping fences - I'm clearly rubbish at breaking-in, and escaping!

Emily Magnuson



It's a.....WRAP!

May I add my own gratitude with others to Graham Porcas for his work with the Parish Council in whose report in SAL last month I read that he has retired. Thank you Graham, and among all the other things you must have achieved in the PC may I say the hole in the road you got OCC to mend outside our house is now a nice smooth bit of road!

Graham has also pointed me in the direction of an organisation called “**Waste and Resources Action Programme**”. This is a worldwide and UK charity which is at the forefront of recycling, reusing and overall, initiating the circular economy. It even has a project on alcohol abuse in Washington DC. What is also excellent is that it has an office in Banbury so perhaps over time we may be able to strike up a relationship. Perhaps a seminar once Covid is over? (Well, we are allowed to dream!)

Their website is huge and comprehensive and shows how effective they already are.

Here is their own initial description of who they are and what they do - much better than if I try to explain.

“WRAP is a catalyst for positive economic and environmental action. We work uniquely, and by design, in the space between governments, businesses, communities, thinkers and individuals – forging powerful partnerships and delivering ground-breaking initiatives to support more sustainable economies and society. We are world leaders in establishing the facts, getting the right people working together, then converting ideas into action and delivery on the ground.

We drive change in areas where we can make the biggest difference. Our priority sectors are:

- Food and drink
- Clothing and textiles
- Plastics
- Collection and reprocessing

Underpinning all our priority sectors is resource management, our focus on maximising the value of waste by increasing the quantity and quality of materials collected for re-use and recycling.”

All these fields are important but you can imagine how my ears pricked up with the mention of their work in plastics. Essentially this is a creative way of dealing with the problem and in this section of their programme there are 25 big subsections including rigid plastics and also (hooray!) the very difficult area of plastic films. (*What makes plastic films so difficult to recycle is that they come in so many forms, both as clear plastic, and multi-layer films of different plastics. So many need treating differently, more than I can mention here.*)

“WRAP” is already working with **90 large companies** signed up on this including **all the major supermarkets**. They also have a **written out, downloadable five-year plan in three priority areas:**

- **Food and drink**
- **Textiles**
- **Electricals and Electronics.**

It's all very clearly laid out and based on the mantra:

- Re-invent**
- Re-think**
- Re-define**

Haven't I already heard this advice locally In Steeple Aston? Of course - “**Sustainable Steeple**” got here first, led by Amanda Rodgers! It is right up there with “WRAP” in both goals and delivery on a local scale. Brilliant - thanks Amanda!

So, with “WRAP's” 25 projects in plastics you can imagine that their food and textiles sections are just as big. Hooray! This is what we need. However, let us not feel that we're not doing enough (I always do) but instead let's have a cheer for this, a large and hugely influential organisation, which is achieving what we've always longed to see in the “macro” world.

Website: www.wrap.org - you'll need a good few hours to read it all! I'm still slogging through - but it's worth it. Good Luck.

Thanks again Graham for this. It will provide reading matter for about a year!!

Martin Dale

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Sustainable Steeple's Zero Waste Challenge: How Low Can You Go?

An average person in the UK produces about 1.4kg of rubbish a day (roughly equivalent to an average person's body weight every 2 months). That is a scary figure and so, for 2021, we are challenging ourselves to reduce our waste – and we would love you to join in.

We are not talking about the sort of all-or-nothing approach that is so often the cause of New Year's resolutions falling by the wayside or diets coming off the rails, but rather about making small, incremental changes that, over the course of the year, will reduce the amount of waste that we produce.

We also know, as with dieting, that it's easier to stick to a plan if you are not doing it alone – hence our issuing this challenge – to get as many people as possible involved so that we can support each other and learn from each other along the way.

The Challenge

To reduce the amount of waste (including recycling) that your household produces over the course of the next 12 months (and beyond).

Taking Part

We will post regular tips and links to resources via Facebook, Instagram, our website, the Steeple Aston website and in Steeple Aston Life.

We would also encourage anyone taking part to share their experiences; things that work well and things that do not! Each month there will be the chance to take part in a virtual 'weigh-in' where we share the % decrease in our waste for that month, with *prizes* for the biggest losers and a '*grand prize*' at the end of the year for the household with the largest % reduction.

Getting Started

- Keep a 'waste diary' for one week (this is best done immediately after a bin collection, so you might need to do rubbish one week and recycling the next), to look at what and how much you throw away. Note if there are key items that form most of your waste/recycling.
- If you want to take part in the 'weigh-in', weigh both your rubbish and recycling prior to collection each week and keep track of the weight so that you can see what impact you are having with your changes.
- Identify one area of high waste to tackle first – don't try to do it all at once.
- Share your initial thoughts and findings with us!

Tips & Ideas to Kick Things Off

There are an increasing number of local(ish) zero waste shops offering a range of unpackaged goods and refills. The below is by no means an exhaustive list, but is a useful starting point if you are looking to try to reduce the packaging you bring into your home:

- **Nicholsons, North Aston** – a growing range of natural/sustainable household cleaning products/toiletries, including refills
- **Nothing but Footprints, Banbury** – a brilliant selection of unpackaged dry foods, refillable household products, natural toiletries and more! You can also 'click & collect' from them at Deddington Farmers' Market each month, courtesy of the Deddington Environment Network
- **Market Deli, Eynsham** – a bit further afield, but if you are out and about, these guys are worth a visit and stock a broad range of package-free goods amongst other things
- **Yarnton Home & Garden, Yarnton** – a small, but well-formed, unpackaged station is a welcome addition to their food shop

Could the item you are about to throw away be re-used or upcycled (unashamed plug coming up, you have been warned!)? For example:

- Toilet roll tubes make great planting plugs and meat/mushroom trays can be used as seed trays/propagators
- Lidded glass jars (jam or other) are great for taking to zero waste shops and filling up with nuts, seeds, tasty treats, pulses and more
- If upcycling is not your thing, you could always donate unwanted items to Sustainable Steeple! This year we have made tea towels from unwanted sheets/tablecloths/curtains, reusable gift bags from fabric scraps, slate coasters & chalkboards from roof tiles, tealight holders from curtain rings and much more! We have also forwarded donations on to other good causes, such as bikes to Bicester Green and wool to local knitters making blankets & hats for charity.

Steeple Compact Concerts

Nicholas Cleobury devised and conducted 2 hour-long Christmas Concerts in Steeple Aston Church on Saturday 12th December.

The ASTON SINGERS are a local octet, brought together from the benefice and a little beyond. Miranda Doggett and Hannah Wight/Sopranos - Rebecca Lewin and Lynn Quek/Altos - Declan Costello and James Taylor/Tenors - Oliver and Nigel Doggett/Basses.

Miranda, Oliver and Nick gave readings. Eileen Baglin-Jones organised tickets and socially distanced seating, with indefatigable patience, all overseen and encouraged by our Production Manager - the Rector, Marcus Green, who recorded the concerts and will use them in his online Christmas worship. Our church is a wonderful concert venue, and I hope we can put on more events of all kinds, when we are released from the pandemic.



Plant Middle Aston

Did you watch Countryfile on 29th November? The whole programme was devoted to the “Plant Britain” initiative, whose purpose is to help reduce global warming. The aim is to plant 350,000 trees across the UK, one for every child starting school this year. Its scale is breath-taking, and the logistics mind-boggling, but it looks like a hugely worthwhile contribution to the effort to address our climate crisis.

In Middle Aston, our ambition was a little more modest. At our Parish Meeting in January 2020 we set ourselves the target of planting 103 trees, one for every person on our electoral register. We considered applying to the Woodland Trust for the supply of trees, but we found the variety they offer too limiting, and their rules for the grant unnecessarily onerous. Instead, we invited residents to make a contribution to the Middle Aston Millennium Fund, to enable us to buy the trees, and, as usual, their generosity was amazing.



The next challenge was to find suitable planting locations. Three local landowners readily agreed to designate suitable locations on their farms, and three residents kindly offered space in their gardens. The owners of Middle Aston House were also keen to participate, and this completed the quota.



On Nicholson's advice, we selected 6 species: Oak, Rowan, Field Maple, Birch, Lime and Wild Cherry. We wanted a good mixture in each location, and asked the people on whose land they were to be planted to make their selections. At the beginning of March, just the first 15 trees had been planted when the dreaded Covid thwarted our plans. Both the virus and the weather obviously ruled out any further progress until much later in the year.

So it was, that on two days at the end of November and early December, an intrepid band of village volunteers assembled to get the job done. We were very ably assisted by Simon Griffiths, formerly of Nicholsons, who made sure we gave them the best opportunity to flourish.

Our 2020 target has been fulfilled – and, who knows, we might decide to make it a rolling programme!



Edward Dowler – Chair, Middle Aston Parish Meeting

*Photos: Simon Griffiths, Graham Clifton,
Lucy Robinson*



The Gardening Spot

Remember 2020 or how could we possibly forget?

Let me paint a picture. It is a cold, wet and dreary day in mid-December, when I need to sit down and write something for SAL, possibly related to gardening, but my garden is equally cold and wet and to be honest, I can't think of anything to write about that might encourage you to read the rest of this page, so I am going to deviate somewhat.

As you pick up this edition of SAL, and at this point, let us thank all those wonderful volunteers who make this village magazine possible, you have probably made loads of New Year resolutions! One of them will almost certainly be to have a better year than 2020. I can remember entering January last year with lots of ideas of what I might do such as take more weekend breaks, visit a few more of my relatives that I haven't seen for ages and make the best of my slightly ageing years, not that I feel more than 41 years old I must add! Well that went "t...-up" as they say.

During April it was a case of do I wear a mask and look like a bank robber and will those rubber gloves save me from this dreadful disease that has come from overseas? Will we be able to get enough toilet rolls or do we revert to the days when carefully disseminated newspaper, tied together with string could be found hanging from the toilet wall? How on earth will Daphne be able to make those wonderful, home-made cakes when someone has decided that flour is impossible to produce now we were in virus mode?

For anyone who has visited our garden, you will know that there are several black, iron gates and they should have been painted a few years ago. Being told to spread the jobs out as we could be 'locked down' for some weeks, I painted one gate a day leaving me time to stain the wooden gates later in the month. I also decided to take drastic action and sow vast numbers of vegetable seeds in case food became short. In hindsight, that was not a bad decision as the possible failure of European politicians to agree on the fact that we are British and don't want to be ruled by Brussels means Daphne and I will have plenty of fresh produce when blockades hit the ports.

Talking of "Brussels", I have got the most amazing crop this season and there was a noticeable change of wind direction along North Side when "Lockdown" was eased. Suddenly toilet rolls came back on the shelves. Obviously, much of the population were not getting their five-a-day so the paper supply improved. Gradually, aircraft returned to the skies over Steeple Aston and cars began to emerge from their driveways. How quiet it had been for a few weeks during the wonderful spring of last year when the sun shone far more than normal and we could all sit outside and enjoy our beautiful surroundings. Every Thursday evening you could hear the applause for our wonderful NHS workers echo around the village, except for one slightly worrying evening. I went out into my garden around 7pm to wait to hear the clapping of appreciative hands before joining in – but nothing! No music from Bradshaw Close or the honking of car horns. My neighbours were deathly quiet. I went back into my living room, disappointed and ashamed that I was the only one to make the effort that week. The next morning, I boiled the kettle as I always do in readiness for Daphne to emerge from the depths of slumber. Turned on the television to see if Boris had recovered from Covid and suddenly realised, it was Thursday! Yes, I had lost my marbles and I had clapped a day early but then, I tend to be early for most things so no need to get too concerned.

Another thing that I have noticed over the past few months is the number of people out walking or cycling. I am doing at least one circuit of the village each day as well as walking the dog and gardening. At one point, I had actually lost a few pounds but hopefully the chancellor will give us oldies a rise this year so those pounds will return! (Think about it!) My hope for this year is that we all recover from hibernation, schools get back to normal, people still have a job, my gates will not need painting for a year or two and we don't get fed-up with brussels sprouts! I have enough to last me and the rest of my family until Easter! Apologies for not giving you any gardening tips this month but I will leave you with this one last thought. A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

Happy New Year and happy gardening.

Richard Preston

The Spring Flower Show and Horticultural Society

The Horticultural Society held its AGM by Zoom in November and we are pleased to say that the finances are stable after a year with little income. The introduction of a scarecrow competition seemed to have been a great success with nearly 40 entries displayed around both Steeple and Middle Aston and it lifted the spirits of the villagers when life was so different. With the uncertainty of what the future holds it is difficult to make too many firm decisions on how to plan for 2021 but we are hoping to be able to hold The Spring Show on 21st March 2021 in the village hall. That is of course subject to government guidelines and being able to ensure the safety of both contestants and visitors. We envisage publishing a schedule for the Spring Show in next month's edition of SAL so watch this space.

Being optimistic, we are planning to hold the annual show on August Bank Holiday Monday as usual but at least we have some time to make a final decision. This show is without doubt one of the main events in the village's calendar and it brings with it the opportunity to expand well beyond a flower and fun dog show.

Speaking on purely a personal note, I have been involved with the horticultural show for nearly five decades and would dearly love to reduce my workload and invite other villagers to come in with new ideas on how the annual show can be improved. The flower show almost runs itself but the opportunity to add more events on the field is endless but needs younger blood with the enthusiasm that comes with youth. So, if anyone reading this feels they could come along and help with the organisation of the field events they would be very welcome. I will not 'sugar-coat' the challenge, but I can also guarantee, the personal gratification of giving one day to the village on an August Bank Holiday pays its own rewards. Please give me a call or email if you think you could help.

Richard Preston – Steeple and Middle Aston Horticultural Society Chairman for 2021

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From the Dog House

Welcome to the first of an occasional column for the many dog owners in our area. I plan to include some training advice, local walks and details of dog-friendly pubs or cafes for when we are allowed out properly again, and would also welcome any other suggestions for items you would like to see.

Now that so many of us are working from home, our dogs have become used to almost constant company and might find it difficult to be left alone when the need arises. If you think that your dog might be suffering from some level of separation anxiety, it can be useful to video his or her behaviour while you are out. Signs to watch for are barking, scratching at doors, or a lack of sleeping, eating or drinking, especially if these occur within the first 10 minutes of being left alone. Similar behaviours which occur more than an hour after being left are more likely to be due to boredom. When you are at home, if your dog always follows you closely from room to room, this could be a first indication that separation anxiety is developing.

Training to resolve the separation anxiety should be done gradually, in the house. Initially reward your dog at any time that it chooses to be at a distance from you, by throwing a food reward to it where it is. Next, introduce a visual barrier such as a baby gate, and again reward your dog for being on the other side of it but still in sight. Last of all, slowly build up the time you leave your dog alone, initially while you are still in the house.

It generally doesn't help to get another dog to keep the first one company, as unfortunately separation anxiety can be passed on to other dogs.

There are steps you can take to prevent separation-related behaviours before they start. Ensure that even if you are at home all day, your dog spends some hours of the day away from you, although you should break this up into short stretches at a time. Consider training your dog to settle in a crate for part of the day and provide interactive food toys or safe chews. When your dog is settled, make a point of moving around briefly and quietly, to get your dog used to thinking that it doesn't need to follow your every move. You could open a drawer or a cupboard, or simply stand up and sit down again.

If you have serious concerns about your dog's behaviour then a visit to the vet is recommended in case there is a physical cause.

Snifferdog



HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

The White Horse

No, I'm not writing an advertisement for a pub called the White Horse, but I'm suggesting that a walk from the National Trust car park above the village of Uffington, which will take you to see the prehistoric figure of a White Horse shining in the grass, would be an interesting and invigorating experience.



The White Horse in this southern corner of Oxfordshire is thought to be the oldest of several – perhaps 16 – white horses set on hillsides around the country. Made in the Bronze Age about 3,000 years ago it sits on the summit of White Horse Hill from where there are magnificent views across the Berkshire Downs and beyond. The White Horse was made by packing chalk into trenches, now lovingly preserved and regularly kept clean by the National Trust so that if you approach from the right direction it does indeed stand out clearly amongst the green landscape of the chalk ridges. That is thought to have been its original purpose – a sort of marker of territory for the Dubonni tribe who lived nearby inside the Iron Age Fort although some people think it may have been a fertility symbol.

That's one of the most interesting aspects of this visit to pre-history – you have to let your imagination run because nobody really knows how people were organised to build the Iron Age Fort, nor later why they decided to add the White Horse a few metres away. Excavations have revealed that there were structures inside the Hill Fort so it probably afforded protection to the tribespeople living within it. Perhaps they feared trouble from travellers along the Ridgeway, an ancient highway stretching from Dorset to the Wash which runs alongside the Hill Fort and which is still a popular long distance walk for the intrepid. I understand that within living memory there was a Thomas Hardy-esque annual fair held inside the Hill Fort, which must have been fun.

As you look down from the White Horse you'll see the rocky outcrop of the Dragon Hill, formed during the Ice Age and the subject of many tales of magic and mystery. If you have the energy after exploring the Dragon, the Fort and the White Horse you can make your way about a mile along the Ridgeway to the burial chamber known as Wayland's Smithy – but perhaps that's an article for another day.

The car park is free to National Trust members and I think £2 for non-members. It does get pretty busy so be prepared for that – and for mud if you go after there has been rain and intend to walk along the Ridgeway. The White Horse is signposted off the A420 southwest of Oxford.

The ARTS Page



As Bob Dylan sung - the times they are a-changing. And how!

By sad coincidence, as I was starting to research London galleries, theatres, concerts etc., they announced Tier 3 there! And just as I was putting in the final touches, more neighbouring counties went in too!

It's a very limited picture in our area. Information for spring and summer events shows a very incomplete picture. Opera always plans further ahead and Bampton - bamptonopera.org, Garsington - garsingtonopera.org and Longborough - lfo.org.uk have all published their programmes. The Cornbury Festival 9 - 11 July - cornburyfestival.com and Truck Festival 25 - 27 July - truckfestival.com are advertising. So many other arts events are not.

Here is a small selection of events for early 2021:

THEATRE

- **Oxford Playhouse** has some terrific online and interactive offers and is offering some bookings, including "Dial M for Murder" (March 9 - 13) and "The Kite Runner" (May 4 - 8) and plenty more. oxfordplayhouse.com
- **North Wall Arts Centre** also has some interesting shows including "Winnie and Korky's Magical Moments" running till Jan 23. thenorthwall.com
- **Creation Theatre** is offering online drama and storytelling sessions for youngsters between 5 and 19. creationtheatre.co.uk
- **Pegasus Theatre** has some interesting dance and drama events. pegasustheatre.org.uk

There's plenty in all the above, especially for children.

MUSEUMS

- **The Ashmolean** has a number of online offers, including "Young Rembrandt" - "wonderful", and much else, including the live "The Pre-Raphaelites", (Feb 4 - May 31) catching my eye. ashmolean.org
- **The Pitt Rivers Museum** continues to have a fascinating mixture of live and online exhibitions. prm.web.ox.ac.uk
- **Modern Art Oxford** has an eclectic range of exhibitions. modernartoxford.org.uk
- **The Story Museum** will, I'm sure, soon advertise their programme. storymuseum.org.uk
- **Music in Adderbury** are recording and streaming their excellent local concerts. musicinadderbury.com
- **Chipping Norton Theatre** has its habitual mouth watering range of events. chippingnortontheatre.com
- **Banbury Arts** are similarly offering numerous workshops from Painting to Textiles, in weekly or short courses, alongside information on the Banbury Cross Players, Adult Ballet and the Rosalind Cross Dance for Children. themillartscentre.co.uk
- **RSC, Stratford**, now in Tier 3, has a cornucopia of online offers, from full plays to talks and presentations, including "5 Tales from Shakespeare" by Michael Morpurgo, for children aged six to sixteen read by RSC actors. (A Midsummer Night's Dream Jan 11 - 18, Romeo and Juliet Jan 18 - 25, The Tempest Jan 25 - Feb 1, Macbeth Feb 1 - 8, The Winter's Tale Feb 8 - 15 and much more. rsc.org.uk.

Please use this Arts Page to draw our attention to other events that interest you, and spare a thought for all the out-of-work artists everywhere, many receiving no government help! The pandemic has really shown us how important the Arts are, let's hope we cherish them even more in the future.

Nicholas Cleobury

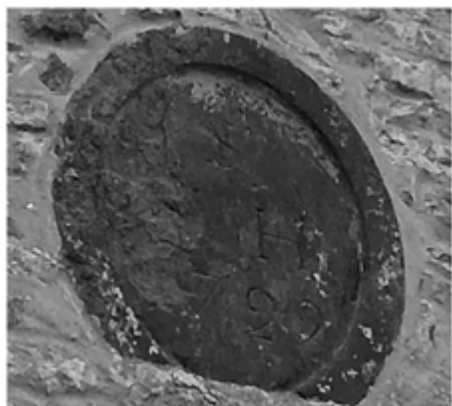
Mind the Gap

The Gap is exactly what it says, a narrow space between old stone buildings, just wide enough for a van or cart. It leads directly from Northside to a handsome Georgian-style building, Wadham's Cottage, which stands in the middle of an old close, with other houses grouped around it. It's a slightly odd feature in the layout of the village -- approaching it for the first time, you are bound to wonder whether it is private place or a street where anyone can wander at will.



Back in 1767, when the Enclosure Map was drawn, the Gap was just an irregularly shaped Close with no name attached, but including a row of buildings along Northside. No building is shown in the heart of the Close, even though Wadham's has a plaque on its façade which appears to read "S H 1729". The date can't be right, or it would be on the map. Perhaps it originally read 1799, but has been re-cut at some time, to match a similar date on nearby Holly Cottage?

The rest of the area seems to have been built up steadily during the early 19th Century, though it was not until the 1860s that it acquired a name of its own: the 1861 Census lists ten dwellings under the heading "Burgin's Rents". This is because all the properties had by then been acquired by William Burgin (1807-1876), who operated as a beer-seller and coal merchant from his own home next to Harrisville, known today as Holly Tree Cottage, which he had commissioned in the late 1840s.



Burgin was quite a rough diamond - in 1832 he had been convicted at Oxford Assizes for handling 4 or 5 bushels of stolen barley, and sentenced to transportation for seven years. He got as far as the prison ships in Portsmouth Harbour, known as the "hulks", first Captivity and then Leviathan (the latter a veteran of the Battle of Trafalgar). He was held there for over four years, but eventually pardoned for good conduct and released in January 1837. He returned to Steeple and to his wife Hannah (Ratband) whom he had married back in 1831.

The local farmer and village historian, William Wing, stuck with "Burgin's Rents" when he acted as enumerator for the 1861 Census, but in the 1867 Rate Book, which is also in his handwriting, he opted for an alternative name, Robinson Court, even though all the properties still belonged to Burgin. In 1871 it was Burgin's Rents in the Census but Robinson Court in the Rate Book.

John Robinson was a tailor and shopkeeper in this area at the start of the nineteenth century. It seems likely that he lived at Wadham's. His son-in-law Thomas Perry, a baker, also lived close by, although his bakery remains to be positively identified. Both appear in this area in the 1821 Census, which follows a roughly circular course around the village. Wing would have known them in his youth, since the Wings' farmhouse, now Randolph House, stood only a few doors away.

The present name for the area, The Gap, makes its first appearance in the 1881 Census, and seems to have stuck. But oddly enough, when Burgin's properties finally came under the hammer in July 1891, following the death of his widow, Hannah, Lot 6 (probably Wadhams again) was described as "situate in Robinson's Yard".

It has proved difficult for SAVA to trace the history of the Gap properties, precisely because they were all in a common ownership. If any of the present occupants have old documents relating to them - even just a summary list of previous owners (an Abstract of Title) - we would very much like to see them to help us separate out the details of this intriguing part of the village.

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In the Kitchen



This nourishing, flavoursome pasta recipe is a ‘hit the spot dish’ – just the business for a dark January supper when you are in need of comfort and sustenance.

Smoked Haddock Chorizo Pasta (Serves 4)

3 large naturally smoked fillets of haddock, skinned and chopped into large chunks. (The bright yellow artificially dyed haddock should be avoided)

150g chorizo sliced into discs

75g butter

1 onion, finely chopped

1 garlic clove, finely grated

½ red chilli, finely chopped

1 vegetable stock cube

3 heaped tbsp plain flour

600ml full fat milk, warmed

200g cheddar cheese, grated

100g Parmesan cheese, grated

a small handful curly parsley, chopped

salt and black pepper

400g pasta (penne or troife or even macaroni)

150g frozen peas (thawed and well drained)

A big handful of fresh chives, chopped

Zest of lemon



In a large based pan sauté the butter, onion, garlic and chilli, on a medium heat for 8-10 minutes and until everything is soft and very sweet. Keep a close watch and stir so nothing catches and browns/burns.

Add a crumbled stock cube to the sautéed mixture plus a good grind of black pepper and the chilli flakes, gently together sauté for a further 2-3 mins.

Warm milk in prep for making the white sauce complement.

Put the flour and butter to make stock cube roux and cook out the flour for a minute or two then slowly add the warmed milk, whisking all the time.

Cook on a low heat until the sauce has thickened, whisking as you go, then take the sauce off the heat and add the grated cheese leaving aside a good handful of parmesan for topping the dish later.

Stir until the cheese has melted into the sauce, add the parsley and season.

Put a large pan filled with water on a high heat and bring to the boil.

Cook the pasta for 6-7 minutes – it will keep cooking after you drain it so you want it to be al dente – and drain well in a colander.

Add the chopped chorizo to a small frying pan – (no oil required) and fry off until slightly crisped.

Save a few pieces of chorizo aside to garnish your dish at the end.

Remove skin from smoked haddock and cut into decent sized chunks. Add the smoked haddock and the peas to the remaining chorizo in the frying pan and cook for approx 3 mins until the haddock starts to flake.

Stir the contents of the pan into the cheese sauce and mix in the pasta. You might need to give everything another quick blast of heat. Garnish with the reserved chorizo pieces and a sprinkle of chopped chives, zest of lemon, remaining parmesan, and tuck in.



A Poem for January

2020 has been a difficult year. Here's hoping 2021 will herald improvements in our prospects and that anyone who has had to deal with separation gets some relief.

January's Wish.

January, a month that always leaves me feeling cold
April is the month that I am waiting for
Nothing left to do but let the winter months grow old
Under dark skies winter's bitter kiss is sore
An Annus horribilis our queen did once describe her year
Readily applied to that just gone before
Yet hope placates our nagging doubts and dispels harmful fear
So let's give thanks and open a New Door.

Winter cannot squash or quell our rising flame
Inside each of us there beats a glowing heart
Soon our lives may be our own again
How sweet to think those split will be no more apart.

Peter Wild

New Year Resolutions

A new year, and a new leaf
Going to colour my hair and whiten my teeth
Going to get fit. Going to join a gym,
Going to start that diet. Going to get slim

Going to learn a foreign language and how to type
Going to keep in touch on Zoom and Skype,
Going to read more books, watch less TV.
Going to meditate. Going to 'just be'.

Going to eat more veg, use the exercise bike,
Going to do my yoga and regularly hike
Going to be more forgiving, less judgmental
Going to stop saying MPs are mental

Going to be nicer to my family, thoughtful and kind
If they annoy me, I won't mind.
The only drawback I foresee
Is nobody will know it's me!

Cathy Lawday



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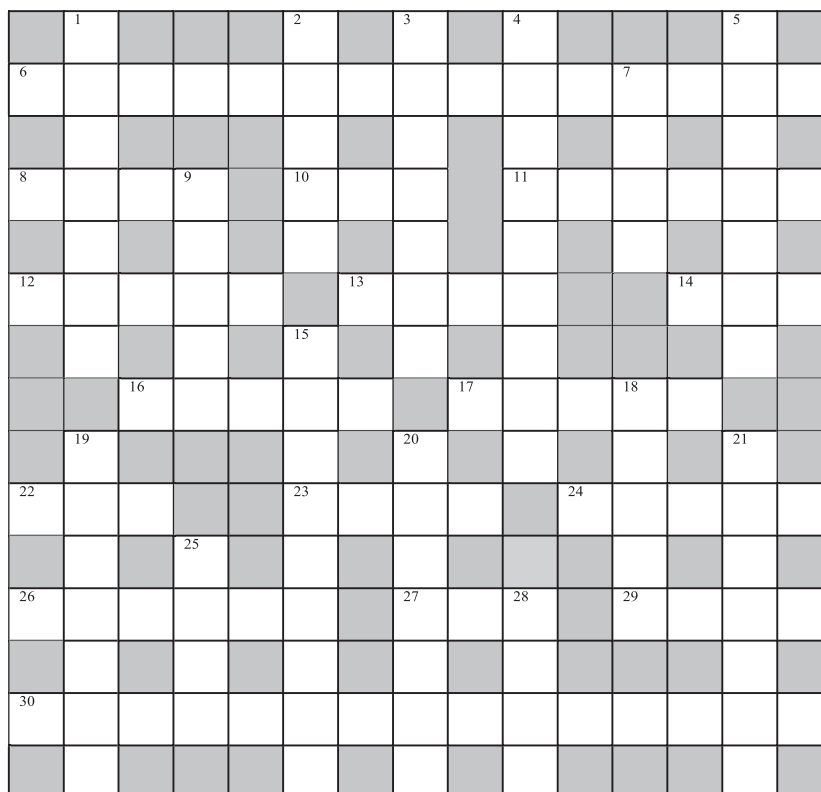


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???? Mind Games

New Year Crossword Competition

For your chance to win a small prize, send your answers to our New Year Crossword to editorsalife@gmail.com before 14th January 2021. The first correct answer drawn at random will win. Good luck!



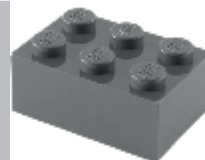
With thanks to Cathy Lawday for creating this crossword.

ACROSS

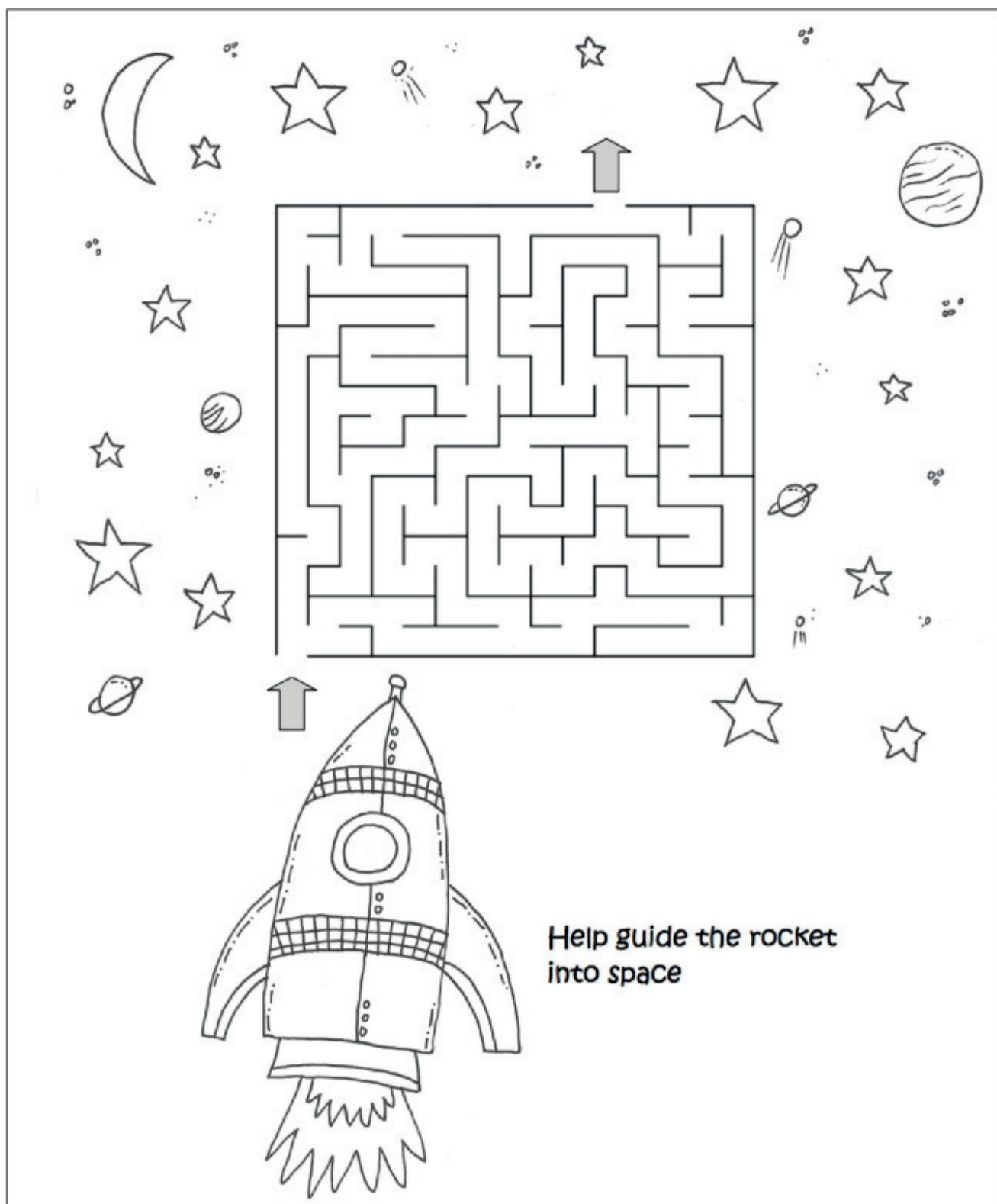
6. Arranged in order of age (15)
- 8, 24. Film actor who appeared in 'Notting Hill', 'About A Boy' and 'Paddington 2' (4, 5)
10. Neither liquid nor solid (3)
11. Governors in India during the Mogul empire (6)
12. A sporting fixture between two local teams (5)
13. A desert in central China
14. A measure of a person's weight in relation to their height (3)
16. A black tea named after the region where it is produced (5)
17. A battle in 1836 where Texan soldiers in their fort were massacred by the Mexicans (5)
22. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet (3)
23. Long novel or series of novels (4)
24. See 8
26. The Hellenic Republic (6)
27. Common name for tree in the genus *Quercus* (3)
29. A speech defect that mostly affects pronunciation of 's' sound (4)
30. See 3 down

DOWN

1. Author of The Canterbury Tales (7)
2. The longest river in Europe (5)
- 3, 30 across, One of the two chambers of the American Congress (5, 2, 15)
4. Plants that take two years to mature from germination (9)
5. State of the US whose capital city is Montgomery (7)
7. Swedish pop group whose name is made from the initial letters of the four members (4)
9. English professional cricketer in the early 1900s, considered the best batsman in the world before WWI (5)
15. Money (often unofficial) given for service (9)
18. An edible mushroom with a brownish cap (5)
19. See 25
20. Stuck on land, unable to float
21. Liquorice-flavoured (7)
- 25, 19 Leader of the Labour Party (4, 7)
28. The basic unit of money in Myanmar (4)



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Well we had our first Zoom committee meeting in December – it was fairly successful, although some of us had a few tweaks to make to get it right. We are hoping to have our first Zoom members' meeting fairly soon, and Janice is going to organise this for us with one of her talks.

Cathy Lawday was asked if she could write one of her famous poems for a Christmas Quiz and Poetry Reading night being organised by OFWI (County) and she obliged with a very topical one which she wrote for us to send in just one day; this has since been forwarded to all our members with some great comments coming back – we are so lucky having her as a member. The poem was read at the Quiz and Poetry Reading night and won the prize for the best poem from Oxfordshire WI members!

Members would have had a meal out at our December meeting, as we did last year, but as this was impossible, we had to come up with an alternative for them. So they had a surprise when committee members delivered goodie bags just before Christmas, each containing chocolates and Janice's famous pecan nuts, plus Christmas cards and a £10 gift card from Marks and Spencer so they could treat themselves to a bottle of wine or some other goodie they might fancy.

We are continuing to have quizzes, and members receive telephone calls so we can keep in touch. Hopefully now with this vaccine coming in we will soon be able to meet face to face once again.

Steeple Aston WI members wish you all well for 2021.

Linda Needle (President)



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

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





THE VALENTINE CLUB

Happy New Year to everyone, young and not so young. We are still unable to make definite plans as to how we proceed with the club. Meetings are still not possible for a group of our size and the members' ages to allow us to congregate safely, so it is a case of 'wait and see'.

Our famous coach trips are even more difficult as the possible capacity of a coach is now half of the normal and thus, makes it uneconomical to visit attractions at the moment. Once deemed safe to do so, I am sure we can quickly organise a few trips out this year.

However, on the positive side, the club managed to distribute 92, two-course Christmas dinners to members and other villagers on the 15th December and completely free of charge. To do this we have to thank S & J Cuisine for offering to cook this large number of meals in the village hall kitchen at close to cost price.

Thanks too to the village hall for granting us the use of the kitchen at a nominal charge; to the numerous drivers who gave their time to deliver the meals to all 92 residents and to the organisations or individuals that contributed funds to make this possible such as the PCC (church), Cherwell District Council and some generous donations from members. The club was able to make up the balance thanks to the support of those who purchase CDC lottery tickets in favour of The Valentine Club. To my amazement, all 92 meals were packed and distributed within 50 minutes and we do hope everyone who received the meals enjoyed them.

As I write this on the 15th December, I have already received numerous thanks and appreciation for the gesture so thank you everyone for making this possible and again, demonstrating what a wonderful village we live in.

Thank you to all those people who have supported us through the past year and hopefully, we will be able to meet up soon and meet all our friends again.

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

Kind regards to everyone and A Happy and Healthy New Year to you all.

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



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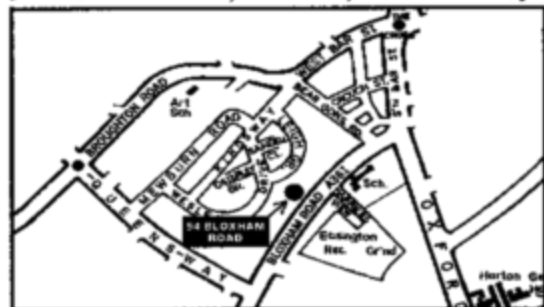
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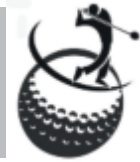
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Steeple Aston Golf Society has been put to bed until Spring 2021.

Let's hope we return to some sort of normality where we can meet up with our family and friends, in the meantime I found this lovely touching story which I hope you enjoy.

Alan Brewer

Very early one morning the telephone rings, "Hello, Senor? This is Ernesto, the caretaker at your country house."

"Ah yes, Ernesto. What can I do for you? Is there a problem?"

"Umm, I am just calling to advise you, Senor, that your green and purple parrot, he is dead".

"My parrot? Dead? The one that won the International competition?"

"Si, Senor, that's the one."

"Damn! That's a pity! I spent a small fortune on that bird. What did he die from?"

"From eating the rotten meat, Senor."

"Rotten meat? Who the hell fed him rotten meat?"

"Nobody, Senor. He ate the meat of the dead horse. "

"Dead horse? What dead horse?"

"The thoroughbred, Senor."

"My prize thoroughbred is dead?"

"Yes, Senor, he died from all that work pulling the water cart."

"Are you insane? What water cart?"

"The one we used to put out the fire, Senor."

"Good Lord! What fire are you talking about, man?"

"The one at your house, Senor! A candle fell and the curtains caught on fire."

"What the hell? Are you saying that my mansion is destroyed because of a candle?!"

"Yes, Senor."

"But there's electricity at the house! What was the candle for?"

"For the funeral, Senor."

"WHAT FUNERAL??!"

"Your wife's, Senor". She showed up very late one night and I thought she was a thief, so I hit her with your new Ping G15 204g titanium head golf club with the TFC 149D graphite shaft."

SILENCE..... LONG SILENCE.....VERY LONG SILENCE.

"Ernesto, if you've broken my new driver, you're in deep, deep trouble."



“You can always tell you’re with a photographer, they keep banging on about the light” says Kieran Metcalfe who gave an excellent presentation all about ‘Chasing the light’. He professes to be a ‘sunburst junkie’ and went on to entertain us with a wealth of excellent landscape shots featuring New Brighton on The Wirral, Snowdonia and predominantly The Peak District. Kieran is a sucker for a sunrise and sunset and is a weather watcher too because it helps in his planning for a destination and a shot. Using apps such as clearoutside.com and the Skyfire app he can estimate the light opportunities for a particular image. During the evening Kieran gave members lots of tips and technical details about shooting into the sun, dealing with high contrast scenes, sidelight and shooting after dark. Photographers talk of the ‘golden hour’ and the ‘blue hour’ and Kieran showed great examples of images that reflect those times of day. Recently, due to travel restrictions during lockdown, he has focused on local trees and woodland capturing some impressive images with mist and fog to enhance the atmosphere. An inspiring evening encouraged members to visit his website www.kieranmetcalfephotography.co.uk where many of his images can be seen.

The Society is always looking to encourage new members of all different skill and experience levels. You do not need lots of fancy equipment, some of the best images are taken on phones. We wish to promote a fun and friendly atmosphere and whilst, currently, we cannot meet in person there have been advantages in that we have been able to have presenters based around the UK talk to us about photography. So, if you want to consider a new hobby in the new year do look us up on our website. Our next ‘Zoom’ meeting on Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 7.30pm is by Colleen Slater, ARPS – The Magic of Macro. We wish you all a happy Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Anne Hunsley

www.addphoto.co.uk

Village Hall News



We appreciate that these have been difficult and uncertain times for all our regular users over the last nine months. Once we have definite Government guidelines, which are very limited and restricted at the moment, and it is safe to do so, we will reopen the Village Hall. Until then we wish you all a Happy New Year and here's hoping for a slow return to a less restrictive life in 2021.

Saturday 23rd January 2021 Annual Quiz Evening.

Sadly we've had to take the decision not to go ahead with the Annual Quiz in January due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. However, we're planning to do an online quiz via Zoom instead. Same date, same time, just a different format. Hopefully we'll be back to at least 'the rule of 6' by then and people can form teams at home but it will work just as well in households. It's a great opportunity to come together (virtually) for a bit of fun on a winter's evening. If you'd be interested to take part, please email stepleastonquiz@gmail.com

2020. We cried, We clapped, We stayed at home, We baked, We home schooled, We painted rainbows, We stayed 2 metres apart, We zoomed, We locked down, We thanked our NHS, We waved through windows, We did DIY, We wore masks, We lived in bubbles, We went on staycations but most of all;
We made it through 2020.

Please note our letting agent is Mrs. Katie Rushworth

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

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

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

Barbara Brewer, Chair

To cheer you up, some oneliners care of comedian Tim Vine

Kindly sent in by Alan Brewer

I like chimney jokes - I've got a stack of them.

*I dreamt last night that I was chopping vegetables with the Grim Reaper -
talk about dicing with death.*

The advantages of easy origami are two-fold.

*I saw this advert in a window that said 'Television for sale, £1, volume
stuck on full.' I thought, 'I can't turn that down.'*


I've just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday. Never again.

I used to go out with an anaesthetist - she was a local girl.

Crime in multi-storey car parks. That's wrong on so many levels.

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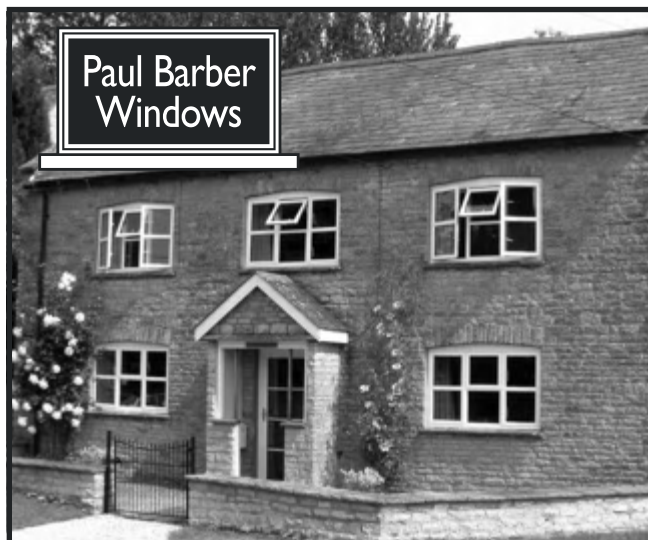
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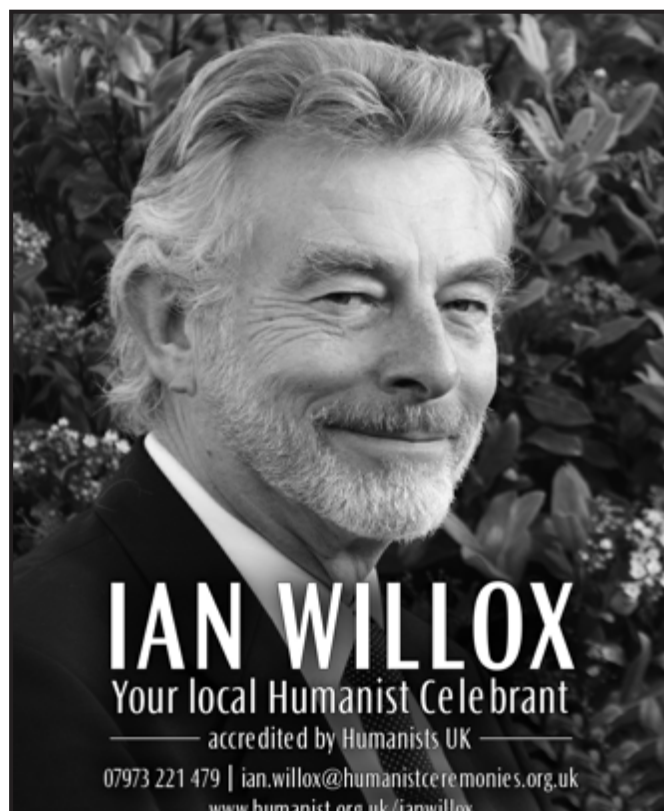
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Photo: Angela Wild

Church Matters



I began this article in January 2020 with these words:

If I had a pound for every time someone stopped me in the pub and said 'I don't need to go to church to worship God', I'd... well, I wouldn't exactly be rich, but I'd certainly be able to afford a decent holiday!

I went on to talk about fixating on old familiar things - and needing to let go of the stuff that takes hold of us. Here's how I put it:

At the beginning of a new year, I need to go to church to worship God because I need to let go of the things that I hold on to - but don't ultimately matter. I need to let go of the stuff that clings on to me. I need not to dwell on the past but to see that even today God can make streams of joy flow in what feel like the wastelands of our lives. It's not a building that tells me this story, but the people I worship with. And that's because the church isn't a building, it's a family - people just like me and you, whose lives are filled with the same reality, the same ups and downs, and yet who shine with the gift of Jesus. Love come down at Christmas.

Of course, a year on, there's both a deep truth in those words, and a real irony... For much of last year, worship wasn't about 'going to church' at all - it was about clicking a link and watching a service online. It wasn't about a building, and (really sadly) it wasn't about being with other people either.

Yet still we carried each other - in our prayers, in acts of kindness, as we got to grips with technology, as we met each other in the street, as we started to worship outdoors and as some of us started to find our way back to worship together too. We carried on because God's love never stops, and our worship is simply a response to that great love.

All our plans were tossed to the wind. Well, the Spirit can do that. As Jesus said, no-one knows where the wind comes from or where it goes... Some of us have known bereavement over these months; all of us have known sadness and bewilderment, if not outright anger at times. Our plans are the least important things in such times: our worship is what matters most, because as we keep turning to God, we keep finding the One who loves us - everyday, come what may, always.

When the world changes, God's love does not. It is more certain than the sunrise.

And as we look to the year ahead, what comes next? Well, that's beyond my pay grade! I'll email the Bishop and see if he knows! What I know is this: we'll keep on loving each other and caring for everyone and we're going to try to re-start weekly worship in all our churches, and if there are times regular services can't happen, we'll try other things, and come what may, these verses from that great Song of Sadness in the Bible, Lamentations, hold true:

"Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness."

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Sunday 3rd January Epiphany	9.30am Morning Prayer Rev'd Marcus Green	11am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Rev'd Marcus Green	5.30pm Evensong Rev'd Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 10th January	9.30am Morning Prayer Rev'd Marcus Green	11am Holy Communion Rev'd Marcus Green	5.30pm Evensong Rev'd Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 17th January	9.30am Morning Prayer Rev'd Marcus Green	11am Holy Communion Rev'd Marcus Green	5.30pm Evensong Rev'd Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 24th January	9.30am Morning Prayer Rev'd Marcus Green	11am Holy Communion Rev'd Marcus Green	5.30pm Evensong Rev'd Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 31st January	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11am Holy Communion Rev'd Marcus Green	9.30am Morning Prayer Rev'd Marcus Green
Sunday 7th February	9.30am Morning Prayer Rev'd Marcus Green	11am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Rev'd Marcus Green	5.30pm Evensong Rev'd Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons

Local Info

Steeple Aston Village Hall

Hiring Fee Caution

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

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

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

Rubbish bin collection day = Thursday

January	February
7 th blue & brown	4 th blue & brown
14 th green	11 th green
21 st blue & brown	18 th blue & brown
28 th green	25 th 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

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Caution Money for Private Lettings: £100

Letting agent: Katie Rushworth - Tel: 340196

Mail to: rec.trust@googlemail.com

Chairman - Torquil McLusky - Tel: 347914

Treasurer - Chris Cooper - Tel: 347173

Bus times

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

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 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

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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

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Steeple Aston Calendar

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

January			
Friday 15th	SAL February issue copy & advert deadline		
Monday 18 th	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7.30pm
Saturday 23 rd	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9.00 – 12.30
Saturday 23 rd	Annual Village Quiz	Zoom	tbc
February			
Monday 15 th	Parish Council meeting	Zoom	7.30pm
Monday 15th	SAL March issue copy & advert deadline		
Saturday 27 th	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9.00 – 12.30

Choral Society Rehearsals. Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays

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

Bell Ringing practice. Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays

Scouts. Sport & Rec Centre - 7.30pm - Tuesdays

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

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

Badminton. Village Hall - 8pm - Thursdays

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

Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee

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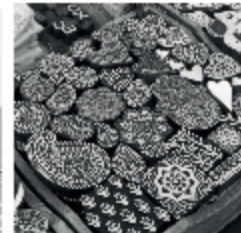


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Do you want to have a greater say in who receives your wealth and when?

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

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



The Oxford Advisory Partnership Ltd

Independent Financial Advisers

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

INHERITANCE TAX AND RETIREMENT PLANNING SPECIALISTS

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