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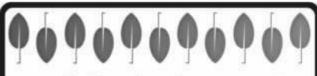
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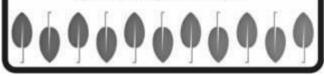
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Cover photo: Harvest Festival display at St. Peter and St. Paul, taken by Nigel Francis.

Steeple Aston Life

СОРУ

All articles and letters to the Editors <u>editorsalife@gmail.com</u>

COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline is the 15th of the previous month.

The copy deadline for theDecember 2021 issue is therefore 15th November.

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Steeple Aston *Directory*

| 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) | | Alison Moran | 347033 |
| 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 | Oteward | Cllr Mike Kerford-Byrnes | 07805 665393 |
| | | Cllr Bryn Williams | 07836 271998 |
| | | Cllr Hugo Brown | 01000 211000 |
| 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 | Chris Gates | 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 |
| WI | Joint Presidents | Merrill Bayley, Cathy Lawday | 347802, 347209 |



"....folly is not always folly." Jane Austen

Steeple Aston Life

November 2021 Issue No. 579

Editors: Angela Smith and Robert Scott <u>editorsalife@gmail.co</u>m

Treasurer: Vaughan Billings 01869 340857

Secretary:Jenny Taylor 01869 340551

Advertising: Charlotte Bartlett 01869 347347 salife.advertising@gmail.com

Deliveries: Stuart & Penny Cummins 01869 349155

cummins2011@outlook.com

Layout design: Edward Dowler, Martin Lipson

Committee: Edwina Kinch, Jenny Bell, Sue McLean, Nigel Francis



"Spring is brown; summer, green; autumn, yellow; winter, white; November, grey." Henry David Thoreau, an American naturalist, essayist, poet and philosopher, 1817 to 1862.

I have never been a fan of November. It has always seemed like a stopping point on a journey between more interesting places. But Steeple Aston proves me wrong with a Fireworks Spectacular on Friday 5th November (see pages 5 and 13). The event was cancelled last year to comply with COVID guidelines, so will be even more welcome than usual. Stay safe – in more ways than one.

Equally spectacular will be the Steeple Aston Choral Society 'Belated Beethoven Anniversary Concert' on Sunday 21st November. Originally planned for 2020 (the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth), it is another casualty of COVID. Too big for St. Peter and St. Paul under current conditions, it will take place in Witney Methodist Church (see pages 22 and 23).

November is another of those months which does not live up to its name. 'Novem' is Latin for nine, which was fine when the Roman calendar had ten months. However, when two more were added, November became the eleventh month of the year. It is said to be one of only four months with 30 days, but pedants will argue that every month except February has 30 days – April, June, September and November are the only ones with exactly 30 days.

November birthstones are topaz and citrine. Topaz is available in a rainbow of colours, citrine is more restrained with its hues of yellow and orange. Both are said to bring fortune and wealth to the wearer.

The November birth flower is the chrysanthemum, conveniently shortened to 'mum' for those of us who need a dictionary to check the spelling. I have five of them in my garden and they are just beginning to flower as I write this in mid-October, so will add welcome splashes of colour throughout November. Then, if cut back almost to the ground, will do it all over again the following year.

So perhaps there are things to be said in favour of November. But as a taurean, I much prefer the merry month of May.





Steeple Aston Noticeboard





Evelyn Preston 14th April 1925 – 18th September 2021

Janet would like to thank all family and friends for the many cards, kind words, offers of help and support received at this difficult time.

James and Letisha Munson

Congratulations on the marriage of James Munson and Letisha Hilton in the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Steeple Aston, on 4th September 2021.

Lots of love from the whole family. xxxx



Ted Atkins 6th February 1936 – 1st October 2021

We, as a family, have been utterly overwhelmed by the kindness, love and support that we received during Ted's last weeks with us and since his death. He loved living in Steeple Aston and being part of the village community. From the many cards, letters, messages and visits, it has been so lovely to hear the positive impact that Ted had on everyone he came into contact with – he will be greatly missed. Thank you all, so much.

Jeana, Simon and Janine



Anyone wishing to attend his service, at church, on 1st November at 2pm would be most welcome. In line with current COVID recommendations by the church, proof of a negative LFT is required and masks must be worn to allow maximum capacity. Ted requested no black clothing and lots of colour!



Joan Crooks 28th June 1927 – 31st May 2021

It is with great sadness that we advise the passing of our mum, Joan Crooks, who spent 27 happy years living in Steeple Aston before moving out of the village following the death of our dad, Geoff, in 2006.



Joan and Geoff moved to Steeple Aston from Heston, Middlesex, in October 1979, as Geoff's job was relocated from Beaconsfield to Kidlington. Joan was a Primary School teacher and later focused on helping children with special educational needs.

On moving to Steeple Aston, Joan became an enthusiastic member of the WI and was involved in the village church including helping out at village fetes, Sunday school and flower arranging. She also joined the patchwork group and helped with Meals on Wheels. For a while she became a supply teacher, working at several local village primary schools and was even known to take visiting American tourists on sightseeing trips around Oxfordshire. Joan was a keen amateur artist and painted several scenes both locally and further afield in Oxfordshire. A number of these paintings now hang on our walls at home.

Over the years Joan made many friends throughout the

village with whom she kept in touch. For the past 13 years she lived in a care home in Virginia Water where she carried on her love of flower arranging and painting.

Joan's funeral took place on Thursday 8th July 2021 at Christ Church, Virginia Water, and her ashes are to be interred at St. Peter & St. Pauls alongside Geoff and near to her friends who have also sadly passed away.

We are extremely grateful for all the kind messages and cards received from Mum's old friends and neighbours in Steeple Aston and to those who were able to attend her funeral.

Chris Crooks Pam Webb

Annual fireworks evening, Friday 5th November

Gates open with food available from 6:15pm. Bonfire lit from 6:30pm approx. Fireworks lit at 7pm.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to enjoy a spectacular evening of fireworks and refreshments after having to cancel last year's event. The Recreational Trust and Village Hall committee will present a great display in a safe environment. **Please do not bring fireworks, laser pens or sparklers to this event.** Glow pendants will be available for sale at the gate. Ticket price includes our special homemade soup together with sausage in a roll and squash for the very young. Simon Thatcher is building the bonfire so if you have any wood you would like burnt please email *annawhybrew35@hotmail.co.uk* to arrange a time to get into the field. **Please do not dump any wood or rubbish outside the gate or in the field prior to the event.**

All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event. Ticket prices: bought in advance £14 family, £5 single. On the gate £16 family, £6 single. If you are purchasing tickets on the gate and to avoid a long queue, please come with the correct money if possible.

Tickets available from Barbara (01869 340423) and Steeple Aston Village Shop from Monday 25th October. NB: Ticket sales from the Village shop will close at **3pm** on the day.

ICTORIA PRENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH OXFORDSHI **Contact Victoria: Meet Victoria:** Victoria holds regular surgeries for constituents **Constituency:** in supermarkets and her office, and visits pubs 01869 233685 across North Oxfordshire as part of her Pub Tour. Orchard House Please check the website or call Victoria's office Hopcraft Lane for more information about upcoming dates. Deddington **0X15 0TD** Victoria Online: Westminster: 020 7219 8756 @victoriaprentis House of Commons @victoria_prentis London SW1A OAA /victoriaprentis www.victoriaprentis.com victoria.prentis.mp @parliament.uk

WORKING HARD FOR NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ALL YEAR ROUND



DR RADCLIFFE'S TRUST ANNUAL AWARDS

TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

AWARD FOR 16-18 YEAR-OLDS

This award is for students who:

- are 16-18 years old
- are studying at school, college or in an apprenticeship

• live in Steeple or Middle Aston or attended Dr Radcliffe's school for 2 years minimum

Financial awards are offered to students aged 16-18 who are continuing in education or training and whose total family income is less than £45,000, for anything that will help you with your course or to complete your studies. Awards are made at the discretion of the Trustees of Dr Radcliffe's School Foundation based on the financial need of the applicant. Household circumstances will be taken into consideration. Young people can apply any year that they are eligible regardless of whether they have received an award in the past.

AWARD FOR 18-25 YEAR-OLDS

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

• are 18-25 years old

• live in Steeple Aston or Middle Aston (when not at university or college) or attended Dr Radcliffe's school for 2 years minimum

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

Application forms and further information for these awards are available from: - the Steeple Aston Village website

- Dr Radcliffe's School

- Mr Nigel Roots, Freeths LLP, 5000 Oxford Business Park South, Oxford OX4 2BH

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

The ARTS Page

Over the last months, I hope we have provided websites for many of the local and regional arts organisations. Please let us know of those we've missed. We want this page to be as broad as can be. Here are a few upcoming events that have caught our eye. Please send in your own suggestions for future Arts Pages.

Oxford Playhouse

Some enticing contemporary plays, one in the main theatre and three in the Studio.

– I saw 'Blue/Orange' by Joe Penhall, years ago in London. It won the Olivier Award for Best Play in 2001 and I can recommend it highly. A "powerful integration of race, healthcare and prejudice". 16th to 20th November.

Three student productions in the Studio by three wonderful writers.

- 'The God of Carnage' by Yasmin Reza (who wrote the highly acclaimed 'Art'). What happens when two sets of parents meet up to deal with the unruly behaviour of their children? 16th to 20th November.

- '2nd May 1997' by Jack Thorne (of 'His Dark Materials') about the General Election, but also "gender, marriage, sex, trauma and teenage crushes". 23rd to 27th November.

- 'The Effect' by Lucy Prebble (Enron and co-producer on 'Succession') – a study of love and science (terrific, I saw it at the National Theatre), "two young teenagers take part in a drug trial for a new antidepressant". 30th November to 4th December. oxfordplayhouse.com

Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

A small treasure trove! Interesting standing exhibitions about Oxfordshire, lovely grounds and coffee shop, with two excellent temporary exhibitions.

- I was enchanted by 'Cabaret Mechanical Marvels' - "an exhibition for all ages, featuring modern automata with intricate mechanisms and humorous scenes". A real gem. It is on until 14th November. *cabaret.co.uk/exhibitions/current/*

- 'Lifting the Veil of Secrecy' features Ian Fleming and James Bond, much interesting background to them and the world of spies and espionage in general. Quite a lot to read, but well worth the time. Until 24th April 2022. <u>sofo.org.uk/spyoxfordshire/</u>

Banbury Museum

As I've said before, this small museum punches above its weight. I haven't seen it yet, but the 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year' looks terrific. Hot from the National History Museum, it is the most prestigious photography event of its kind, providing a global platform that showcases the natural world's most astonishing and challenging sights for over 50 years. Every year it receives over 49,000 entries from all over the world, highlighting its enduring appeal. At the end of its international tour, the award-winning images

will have been seen by over a million people.' Until 23rd January 2022. www.banburymuseum.org/

Two art events

– Landscape and portrait art courses at Middle Aston House start on 3rd November. Bearing in mind my previous admission of my lack of artistic achievement, I think I should go along. *middleastonhouse.com/art* – And a very exciting exhibition at Modern Art Oxford – 'Anish Kapoor: Painting'. The show explores the paintings that are an integral part of Kapoor's studio practice. Until 13th February 2022. *modernartoxford.org.uk*

Two local concerts

– Steeple Aston Choral Society at Witney Methodist Church, Sunday 21st November at 6.30 – see advert and article in this issue.

- A significant concert in Deddington Church at 6.30 on Saturday 4th December. 'Advent Carols' by Choros. Always a highlight of the year, conducted by Janet Lince, this marvellous choir has been singing in our region for the last quarter century and this is their swansong.

Do come and give them a heartfelt farewell. *www.choros.org*

Nick and Heather



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Cake & Conversation – an opportunity to get together to share ideas about how we can take action to repair our planet. Please join us on Saturday 13th November, 10am at Naomi's Bit on the Side (at The Red Lion); help reimagine the future and support this brilliant new village business.

Deddington Craft Market – we will be back at St. Peter & St. Paul's in Deddington for the monthly craft fair that takes place alongside the Farmer's Market on Saturday 27th November and 18th December – the perfect place to pick up unique Christmas gifts for all your family and friends!

www.sustainablesteeple.com www.facebook.com/SustainableSteeple amanda@sustainablesteeple.com or 07793 553150



The Gardening Spot

Is it really that time of year already?

When I used to work as a greengrocer all those years ago, November was the one month I hated. The nights had just become much longer, or to put it another way, daylight hours were at a premium. It was colder and usually damp and for us more mature folk, we had fog – lots of fog! It also meant that I had to plan for what was the busiest week of the calendar year, Christmas! Other than that, I guess it was just another 30 days of the year when I would get cold and wet and must put on a cheerful smile even though I would much rather have been in a nice warm office.

The garden is a bit like that. Nothing is really growing, the soil is cold and it is probably getting wet. All you can do is wait for Christmas and then the warmer months that will hopefully come next spring. However, you could be clearing away the last of the leaves that have landed on your lawn and place them on the compost heap. If you haven't already, dig the vegetable patch over and if possible, find some organic matter to introduce to the soil as farmyard manure. As long as it has been stored for 12 to 18 months it will enrich your soil and make better plants for the coming season. If your compost heap has changed into a nice mulch, dig that in as it will do an equally good job. Both compost and manure do not put that much 'feed' into your garden, although they certainly help, but they will improve the friability of your soil and thus help seeds and plants to establish a good root system, making better plants.

Prune pear and apple trees between now and next February, but do not prune plums as they are susceptible to silver leaf fungus. Tidy your strawberry plants by removing dead or dying foliage and remove unwanted runners. Plant new raspberry canes and remember to build a support system for them as they can grow to six feet or more with no trouble.

Clean your greenhouse and wash out all your pots and containers. Make sure your tender plants are well protected from the coming frosts. I usually clear my greenhouse of everything and wash the inside and outside with a mix of water and Jeyes Fluid. This I hope will reduce the possibility of insects overwintering in my greenhouse and reduce the chance of infestation come spring. You can re-introduce any plants almost immediately after washing down.

As for the lawn, clear all the leaves away as and when possible. You may have to cut the grass between now and next spring, but if you do, set your mower to a higher cutting level to help reduce the chance of moss moving in. One great tip is to edge your lawn during the dormant season as it gives you a great start next year when you start to mow again and helps to define the limits of grass versus border plants.

Now, maybe the best advice I can give you for the dark month of November is to take stock of what your garden was like this year and plan any changes you might like to make for next year. Daphne, my wife and head gardener, takes a monthly video of our garden so that we can look back and see what worked and what didn't – and it takes her out the house for a few minutes at the beginning of each month! It gives you the chance to see how you might reposition some plants for better effect. Take time to look through the seed catalogues or online and see what new things you might like to try. Now is the time for reflection on this year and anticipate what might be in your garden next year.

I will leave you with one last piece of country knowledge. "Why are husbands like lawnmowers? Because they are difficult to get started, emit foul smells and don't work half the time!" This of course is not always true, as my wife will testify!

Happy gardening and let us look forward to Christmas.

Richard Preston

Wordsearch Puzzle (submitted by Cathy Lawday)



Can you find 20 words associated with Bonfire Night? Answers on page 37.

| w | q | р | b | w | h | i | Z | z | z | У |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| s | m | h | 0 | t | d | 0 | g | s | r | b |
| a | q | 1 | n | р | m | f | v | р | 0 | d |
| f | S | u | f | u | f | a | n | a | c | i |
| e | k | f | i | r | e | w | 0 | r | k | S |
| t | У | i | r | b | q | k | v | k | e | р |
| У | d | f | e | f | g | e | e | 1 | t | 1 |
| m | a | t | c | h | e | s | m | e | b | a |
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| j | h | b | a | n | g | e | r | s | n | h |
| e | x | р | l | 0 | d | e | n | 1 | k | j |

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PRESENT A

FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2021 ROBINSONS CLOSE

Food from 6.15pm Bonfire Lit 6.30pm

Fireworks Start at 7.00pm promptly





| Admission i | ncluding food | and drink |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| | Individual | Family |
| In Advance | £5.00 | £14.00 |
| On the Day | £6.00 | £16.00 |

U16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult Members of the Public must not bring sparklers, fireworks or laser pens of any description

Advance tickets will be on sale from Monday 25th October from the Village Shop and Barbara Brewer (01869-340423). Sales will close at 3.00 pm on the 5th November

Proceeds will be shared between the Recreation Trust and the Village Hall

Parish Council Meeting Notes



This report covers two meetings. The first, in September, looked at the latest planning application for the chicken sheds. The second was the October meeting of the Parish Council.

The chicken sheds do not meet current standards and last year the owners put in a planning application to redevelop them. The application was withdrawn and the owners have put in a second proposal. Most of the objections to the current proposal are related to transport – the roads are not suitable for the low-loaders and other large lorries necessary for the construction stage. When the development is complete it could well provide space for 200 workers, but only has parking space for considerably less than half that number. The extra traffic will be appalling, especially when the workers and the school children arrive at about the same time.

There is the safety issue that there is no plan for a pavement beside the road between the entrance to the site and the school (which Oxfordshire Highways had previously said was necessary). The latest plans propose a path through the site joining up with the path through The Beeches. But this is unrealistic as pedestrians are much more likely to take the shortest route between the school and their cars. This means they will be walking along the road which is narrow and dangerous anyway, without extra traffic and the likely overflow parking on the road.

Our Councillors have asked the Cherwell Planning Committee to make a site visit before deciding the application. It is proposed, by our Councillors, for the visit to be at school starting or leaving time. But there is a Catch 22 on timing. If Cherwell does not do a site visit the application will be considered on 4th November. But if they agree to a site visit the application will not be considered for at least another month. The delay does not matter to us because, at the worst, it would just put off the evil day. One good thing which could come out of the development is that there would be a £41,000 contribution to keeping the bus service to the village running. The logic behind this is that the developers have argued, probably unjustifiably, that many of the site workers will come by bus instead of driving.

The October Parish Council meeting was a cheerful and friendly affair. Someone was there who is thinking of joining the Parish Council, but the individual had not completely decided by the time this had to go to the printers so is not identified here. The Councillors were asked if a specific skills set was required for the job and one suggested only enthusiasm was needed.

A Councillor explained that the 'Slow Horses' sign on the corner of Fenway was in place and that there is not an equivalent on the main road side of the stables on Fenway. It seems as if the horses are walking slowly in one direction only.

The Parish Council discussed cutting back foliage overhanging pavements and, I think correctly, seemed more interested in keeping the rural feeling of the village than protecting the neat hair of passing pedestrians.

The Councillors know how expensive it is to employ contractors to clean the Play Area and its lavatory. They also know they produced a very off-putting advert saying that anyone interested in the job had to be self-employed with their own equipment and insurance. Not surprisingly there were no takers, so at long last they are being pragmatic. Now they are offering the job to any locals without any requirement to be self-employed, insured or have equipment. The Councillors say they need enough people to guarantee to do about an hour a day, every day, with cover for holidays and illness. They seem pretty desperate to get the job done so my guess (well-informed on this occasion at least) is that you can negotiate a generous pay rate. If you are interested you should talk to the Chairman, Richard MacAndrew, or any of the other Councillors.

There have been dogs on the Play Area and this has worried some mothers even where the dog owners have done their best to clean up the poo. Previously the notices requesting dogs be kept off the Play Area have been ignored or pulled down. So please, especially around the picnic bench, do not bring your dog to the Play Area. One Councillor suggested putting up a sign on the lines of:

> NO DOGS EVER KIDS PLAY HERE

Parish Council Meeting Notes



There were a number of other issues gone through swiftly. The gate to the MUGA will be repaired which will only cost half as much as replacing it. A village lottery as a potential fund raiser will be researched. The appalling parking around and inside Grange Park was discussed and the Councillors remembered they had previously thought about a windscreen notice asking drivers to be more considerate and safety conscious and to avoid parking opposite road junctions. The noticeboards and the frame around the village map need revarnishing and the out-of-date notices removed. We were told that on one noticeboard there is an advert for football training from seven years ago.

Apparently Gigaclear are intending to offer fibre optics to every house in the village and this will mean some pavements will have to be dug up. Nearer the time they will hold a meeting to explain what advantages this will bring, but if you would like to know more in the meantime you can contact Gigaclear on 01865 591137 or:

networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com

The Councillors did not know what Gigaclear will charge and one queried the value of furtherimproved broadband when it is the poor mobile signal that is much more limiting.

The Councillors discussed declaring a climate emergency and wondered if this would help concentrate everyone's mind. We were told Oxfordshire had 'acknowledged' rather than 'declared' a climate emergency, leaving me assuming they had no real idea what they should be doing. Our Councillors agreed they would find out about and assess what other Parish Councils are doing and analyse the interesting answers already received to their request for environmental ideas.

The Parish Council may decide to press Cherwell to accept solar panels and double glazing in conservation areas. As far as this village is concerned our Councillors will look at the feasibility of solar panels for the Village Hall and the Sports & Recreation Centre. Rectory Homes, the developer working on Southside beyond the pub, are putting boilers, not heat pumps, into their development. Apparently, this is because the developers have previously had issues with the adequacy of the electricity supply for heat pumps. The Councillors agreed that the village should be concentrating on what made the most environmental difference, which was thought likely to be improvements in heating and insulating homes.

We were told that enforcement of parking rules has been transferred from the police to the County Council, though what this will mean in terms of fines is unclear. Apparently, Oxfordshire is keen to expand 20mph limits to villages and where this is done it will apply to the whole village. No one knew if Steeple Aston is likely to be included. The damage to the raised pavement on Fenway has been reported to Fix my Street, without success so far, despite reminders. Since this is a safety worry, the Councillors will continue to press to get the pavement repaired.

There are two huge potential local developments – rail freight warehouses at Ardley (mentioned in previous months) and now five massive new warehouses at Baynards Green. Both of these will mean more HGVs on local roads (assuming drivers can be found, of course). Planning approval has been put in for the warehouses which are expected to be 23 metres high and will be visible from at least two kilometres away all round. The Councillors are hoping Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) will oppose the warehouses on highways grounds, but there were concerns that Cherwell, whose decision it is, would be more interested in job creation and their tax base than aesthetics.

The next meeting will be on 15th November in the Sports & Recreation Centre. Do come.

Steeple jack

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

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In the Kitchen



Slow Cooked Beef Brisket with Gremolata and Roasted Red Cabbage

November starts the call for a bit of slow cooking. To respond, this month's recipe offers a hearty, comforting weekend supper or even a Sunday lunch. So why not try out a delicious oven-totable Beef Brisket with a punchy gremolata sauce. Serves four.

Beef Brisket

1 kg rolled beef brisket 1 lemon, zest only 6 sprigs of fresh oregano, finely chopped 3 tbs olive oil 400ml beef stock 750g pumpkin or squash chopped into 5cm pieces

Gremolata Sauce

50g fresh flat-leaf parsley 1 red chilli, finely chopped 5 tbs olive oil sea salt

1 tsp chilli flakes 2 cloves of garlic, crushed 2 tsp sea salt 1 red onion, quartered 100ml white wine vinegar

30g fresh chives chopped 1 clove of garlic, finely chopped 3 tbs white wine vinegar

Method

Preheat the oven to 130°C fan/150°C/gas 2.

Mix together the chilli flakes, lemon zest, garlic, oregano, salt and olive oil, then rub this mixture all over the brisket and into the centre of the roll.

Add the butternut squash, red onion, chicken stock and white wine vinegar into a roasting tin and put the beef on top.

Cover tightly with foil, then place in the oven and roast for three hours.

For the gremolata sauce, mix the parsley, chives, chilli and garlic with the olive oil and white wine vinegar. Season to taste with sea salt.

Serve the brisket with the gremolata alongside.

Roasted Red Cabbage

For a colourful accompanying vegetable, this roasted red cabbage lets you take advantage of the already hot oven.

1 red cabbage, medium-sized 1 tsp cumin seeds sea salt

3 tbsp olive oil black pepper

Turn the oven up to 200°C

Cut the cabbage into 3cm wedges

Toss the cabbage with olive oil, cumin seeds, black pepper and some salt, leaving the cabbage wedges intact.

Roast for about 15 minutes, turning halfway. Keep an eye on them during the final few minutes. Don't worry if the cabbage looks brown around the edges!

Serve with beef brisket and gremolata and enjoy.

HAVE YOU EVER DEEN TO?

Lichfield Cathedral

Lichfield cathedral – the only medieval English cathedral with three spires – has been firmly part of its Staffordshire town community for over 1,300 years. The remarkable West Front, bristling with carved heads of bishops, saints, kings, queens and priests rather takes your breath away, as does the serene and calm beauty and variety of the architecture of the buildings in the close within which the cathedral is set.

Dedicated to St. Mary and St. Chad, whose burial place here became a shrine for pilgrimage after his death in 672, the cathedral has had some tumultuous periods in its long history. It was even in competition with Canterbury for a few years when Offa, King of Mercia (yes, he of the Dyke) created the bishopric of Lichfield in 786. The building was terribly damaged during the Civil War, but restored thanks to Charles II and later to the Victorians who enlisted George Gilbert Scott. Today, the soaring pillars and arches envelop visitors as they have for over a thousand years.

That's an extremely potted history which you can explore in more detail as you read information boards or spend time looking at various interactive computer screens. The cathedral offers a vibrant programme of regular services, events and art exhibitions, including light and sound shows, all advertised on the cathedral website (*www.lichfield-cathedral.org*).

When you visit, as you absorb the quiet, spiritual atmosphere, there are unique and interesting things to see. The ancient library (you can visit on Wednesdays, but do have to book) is the home of the Lichfield Gospels. Strongly reminiscent of books such as the Lindisfarne Gospels or similar works of medieval art, there is an exhibition about them in the beautiful Chapter House. It was there that I saw my favourite artefact of the day. Discovered only in 2003, the panel of the Lichfield Angel has been dated to about 780 by Birmingham scientists and is thought possibly to have been one panel of the reliquary holding St. Chad's remains. The quality of the carving is remarkable - such delicate hands, feet and feathery wings. It was difficult to drag myself away.

You need to dedicate a day to visit Lichfield Cathedral (the journey took a bit less than two hours), but it is a beautiful and calming place. It's free and welcoming with plenty to interest a visitor whether you want art, architecture or history – and I've not mentioned the bright painted glass, made in Belgium in 1530, nor the current 'Laboratory' installation by Peter Walker. And there are plenty of places nearby for coffee, tea or lunch! You'd better go and explore for yourself!



Eileen Baglin-Jones.

Poetry Corner



Wordly wise

Language development has always been a dynamic process involving new words and phrases being created, as well as existing words getting lost or damaged. Sometimes the word remains, but the meaning changes. These chameleon words are masters of evolution.

However, I wonder whether there is a word anywhere, that having once been lost, is ever fully restored to its original. Perhaps it's time for a repair shop?

I am a wording engineer my spanner is a pen and on my desk there is no vice (please don't squeeze words it's just not nice) their meanings do not need a wrench when they lie shattered on my bench in sentences both short and sweet (though wordier than those who tweet) they're soldered in my den

those soldered words that soldier on that every now and then get meanings changed to something strange who made it so I do not know some that expressed your thoughts so neatly disappearing quite completely left us who knows when? repairs are hard for broken words no weld can make them whole a word processor that is me (I can write electronically) preferring every single time to coax the words I choose to rhyme and query what is in a word (a question that is not absurd) this quest will be my goal

Peter Wild

The country's in a mess

I've had two jabs and a booster too It's safe to go shopping in town But while I've been in isolation My favourite stores have all closed down.

Is Covid to blame? Or Brexit? It's a bit of both, I guess The government won't admit it, But the country's in a mess.

I could take a break to Greece or Spain, Lie on a beach without a care But the tests and documentation Will cost more than the air fare.

The green parties all tell us We're consuming to excess And if we do not stop it soon We're heading for distress.

There's a chronic shortage of fuel The pumps are running dry Petrol stations are limiting The amount that you can buy.

If you've a long drive to a funeral, Meeting or wedding, well, tough luck. Your only hope of getting there Is if you can drive a truck. There are ships that cannot dock Because there are no spaces If they can't unload their cargoes Christmas will see disappointed faces.

There's a shortage now of nurses And if we lose the NHS. We really <u>will</u> be up the creek And in an awful mess.

I called 999 for an ambulance But the dispatcher said "Sorry, Our ambulance driver has been called away To drive a Sainsbury's lorry!"

Whichever way you look at it, Or read it in the press Whether viewed from left or right The country's in a mess

I am a neat and tidy person, I like order, I confess But current life is teaching me, To learn to live with mess!

Cathy Lawday





From the Dog House

The area around Stonesfield and Long Hanborough is excellent for walking and taking in the site of the Roman villa at East End makes a very enjoyable outing for you and your dog. At the time of writing (mid-October) most fields are free of stock with just a short stretch through cattle, where, of course, all dogs should be on the lead. The route is easily undulating with one stile and just a couple of places which can be affected by heavy rain in winter so it may be best avoided at these times. The walk takes approximately one hour depending on how long you spend at the villa.

Location: East End, two miles north of North Leigh, signposted off the A4095. Postcode OX29 6PZ. Park in the lay-by at the northern end of East End. Take the recently-resurfaced bridleway down the hill, keeping your dog on the lead in case there is farm traffic. You will pass the villa on your right, but continue straight on along the track, over the railway, and then through a metal gate directly ahead into a field.

This field is normally free of stock, but check first before you let your dog off the lead. There might be a few pheasants off to the right. Go straight on and follow the obvious path straight down, through a gap in the hedge at the bottom, then bear slightly right to the wooden bridge ahead. Halfway across this field the river is close by on the left, but the bank is a little steep for some dogs; there is an ideal place for them to swim or paddle by the bridge.

Cross the bridge and then put your dog on the lead before going through the metal kissing gate on the right. This spot touches the route of the Roman road of Akeman Street which passed east to west. There may be cattle or sheep in this field. Bear right beside the river (don't go up the hill) and over the stile in the corner of the field. Dogs should now be able to go off the lead again. This section may be a little overgrown, but continue parallel to the river and go through the wooden gate.

Follow the path ahead, keeping the hedge to your right. When you reach a small wooden gate, go through and turn left to continue with the hedge now on your left. Keep going past another gate on the left, and head for the far end of the field. Take the track ahead and after a short distance cross the bridge over the river.



Turn left and follow the river to the gate, then go under the bridge. This area can flood after very heavy rain in winter. After the next gate bear slightly right to cross the field to a kissing gate in the hedge, where the mud can also be deep in wet weather. Keep the hedge on your left until you come to a gap where you can get through to the site of the Roman villa, where it is best to keep your dog on the lead. Make sure that you view the mosaic floor through the window of the building at the far end. The history of North Leigh Roman villa can be found on **www.englishheritage.org.uk**

To rejoin the bridleway, take the path up the slope from the small building by the hedge. Turn left to go back to the road.

Snifferdog

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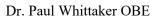
SACS Concert – Sunday 21st November 2021

Steeple Aston Choral Society is very pleased to announce that it will be performing its postponed Beethoven Anniversary Concert (now Belated Beethoven Anniversary) on 21st November 2021.

The special guest for this concert, originally planned for November 2020, is *Dr. Paul Whittaker OBE*, a profoundly deaf musician who will be performing on the piano and organ and also signing other pieces of music in the concert. Paul has vast experience as a theatre, opera and concert interpreter working with the BBC Proms, the Hallé Orchestra, the Edinburgh Festival and on shows like *Les Miserables* and *West Side Story*.

The *SACS* concert will be a wonderful mixture of Beethoven's choral and instrumental music – *Creation's Hymn, Hallelujah* (from *The Mount of Olives*) and other works for choir; vocal solos from professional singers Paul Badley (*SACS* director) and Angela Kazimierczuk; organ and trumpet solos and several very familiar pieces by Beethoven, arranged for maximum 'I know that' enjoyment.





As if that's not enough, the evening ends with the whole ensemble – oboe, violins, viola, cello, trumpet organ and choir – performing a setting of the *Gloria*, composed especially for *SACS* and this occasion by Paul Herrington (*SACS* accompanist/composer/arranger) who has been instrumental (pun intended) in arranging this whole concert.

Unfortunately, the whole ensemble does not fit into Steeple Aston Church under the present conditions, so *SACS* is very grateful for being allowed to perform in: *Witney Methodist Church, 40 High Street, Witney at 6.30pm on Sunday 21st November*

Bearing in mind that *SACS* concerts are usually booked with two years' notice, not two months, and that there are many other important requirements – like a decent organ – that have to be met, *SACS* is incredibly lucky to be able to perform at all, never mind in such a well-equipped, welcoming and conveniently-placed venue (a walk of a few yards from the main Witney/Waitrose car park, off Witan Way).

We can offer you an uplifting and memorable evening, so do please join us and, most importantly, bring any friends who experience hearing difficulties at any level, as this concert is for everyone (the nonmusical parts of the concert will also be signed).

Tickets for the concert are £10.00 (under 16s free) and can be obtained from: Steeple Aston – Margaret Bulleyment *jbulleyment@waitrose.com* or 01869 347346 Witney – St. Andrew's Bookshop, 31 High Street, Witney or 01993 709429

If there is anyone who wishes to attend the concert, but is unable to get to Witney, please contact Margaret Bulleyment, who will co-ordinate any empty car seats available that evening.

Further information from Margaret Bulleyment, SACS Secretary (see details above)

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WI Report

On a bright sunny day at the end of September a band of WI members set off on a walk around the folly field. The weather was fine and we enjoyed clear views over the surrounding countryside. Feeling righteous after our exercise we repaired to the new coffee shop at the Red Lion, where we were joined by several more WI members and all enjoyed Naomi's excellent coffee and cakes. There was a general consensus that this should happen more often and we plan to meet once a month for coffee and also once a month for lunch in future.

3rd October was the Harvest Festival and Jill Vallis arranged a beautiful basket of fruit and flowers to represent the WI (see page 38). Many thanks to Jill on behalf of all the WI members.

Our meeting on 12th October started with some brief ice-breaker games to introduce six new members and visitors to the assembled company. This was followed by the usual business and notices. We then had a speaker from Blenheim Palace. Lynne Wainwright, who has worked as a guide at the Palace for five years spoke about the 'Ladies of Blenheim', describing the part played by women in the history of Blenheim. Over the centuries, the various wives curried favour with the royal court, project-managed the work on the grounds, brought American money into the family to save it from financial ruin, or joined the ATS, supported the Home Guard and took in schoolboys during WWII. It was a fascinating talk, unfortunately beset by technical difficulties. Audio-visual equipment had been borrowed at the speaker's request, but her unfamiliarity with it led to problems with the visuals and the lack of a microphone meant that she was sometimes difficult to hear. Having the doors open for extra ventilation meant that the talk was in competition with bellringing practice. By our next meeting we will have overcome these difficulties and look forward to a more smooth-running event.

It was great to see so many new faces and we hope that they have not been put off and will join us again in the future. If you are interested in coming along, your first visit is free of charge. See the SAL calendar for details of our next event, or contact me for a programme.

Cathy Lawday, President

Tel: 01869 347209 Email: cathy@lawdayamacandrew.co.uk



Village Hall News



Welcome back to our re-opened Village Hall after the restrictions were lifted. We look forward to welcoming back all our user groups, societies and private hirers.

We will leave all Covid measures and notices in place for those as they see fit to use, as we have a responsibility to everyone who uses the building. Different groups have different needs and so we are asking groups to think how they would like to function when they return. We will still have hand sanitisers for those that want to use them; a one-way system for those that want it; groups can socially distance as they would like and wear/not wear masks. All relevant notices will remain in the hall. It is the hirer's responsibility to ensure compliance with any regulations currently in place at the time of hiring.

Wassail evening, Sunday 12th December

Enjoy a light-hearted evening of mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies, carols, readings, handbell ringers and Christmas music. This is an opportunity for everyone, families, young and old to join in some community singing. Come along and join us as everyone is welcome. **Free entry**.

Annual Quiz, Saturday 29th January 2022

Please book your teams early to avoid disappointment as we may have to restrict the number of tables. Further details next month.

Please note our letting agent is Mrs. Katie Rushworth

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

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

Barbara Brewer (Chair)





On a gloriously sunny October Saturday, prior to the match against Arncott, the manager of Steeple Aston, Pete Kerwin (far right) was presented with a brand new kit. Thanks for this go to our sponsor, The White Hart, Bicester.



Whether it was the kit or the weather, it had an excellent christening as we went on to win the game 8-0. A very decent-sized crowd turned out to watch. The pitch was in great condition and thanks go to the Sports & Recreation Committee for looking after it so well.

Peter Wild, Secretary, SAFC.





Brownies pressing apples last month. Photo by Catherine Crook









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Sustainable Steeple



A Question of Imagination

On a recent visit to Hay-on-Wye, I bought a book (I know, not a big shock given the location) and that book was 'From What Is to What If' by Rob Hopkins, founder of the Transition Town movement.

In the book, Rob explores the importance of imagination to our future and the future of the planet, asking 'What if things turned out okay?' - a challenging question in a world where 'if there is consensus about anything in the world at this point, it seems to be that the future is going to be awful.'

At the same time as reading the book, I have been hugely inspired by the BBC series 'Earthshot Prize: Repairing our Planet' (if you haven't seen it already, please do watch it). Through the Earthshot Prize, Prince William, Sir David Attenborough and the Earthshot team ask us to 'imagine what might be possible' as they challenge us to repair our planet within the decade.

I was also delighted to see the request in last month's SAL, from the Parish Council, for ideas on what they might do to help address the 'climate emergency' declared by Cherwell District Council and most other UK councils. At the time of writing, I am still putting together my ideas, but will have sent them by the time you are reading this and very much hope that Cathy's inbox has been overwhelmed (sorry Cathy) as a result of the request.

It's not enough to be a part of the consensus and bemoan the view that 'the future is going to be awful', or to glue ourselves to motorways in the misguided belief that this will spur governments into action. We need to accept the challenge to imagine our way out of the current situation and to unite behind a common goal, to 'build a better future for all'.

The Earthshot team have identified five key areas of focus, all highly interlinked, action around which they believe will indeed build a better future and achieve the goal of repairing the planet within the decade:

- Protect & Restore Nature we must stop the wild from shrinking
- Fix our Climate we must stop the rise in global temperatures
- Clean our Air we must reduce pollution
- Revive our Oceans we must enable the oceans to become as rich and productive as they once were

• Build a Waste Free World – we must ensure the waste of one process becomes the raw materials of the next

Sustainable Steeple is firmly committed to doing whatever we can to achieve these goals and to play our part in the collective reimagining of the future, through an initial fund of £2500 being made available for projects that will drive real positive change against one of the Earthshot areas of focus.

We are currently working to finalise the details and plan to launch the fund in the New Year. Details of the criteria and award process will be published in February's edition of SAL.

In the meantime, if you share our passion for acting, individually and collectively, to repair our planet, then **please join us at Naomi's Bit on the Side (at The Red Lion) at 10am on Saturday 13th November** for what will be the launch of our informal **'Cake and Conversation'** sessions. Simply the chance to get together, over coffee/tea and cake, to share ideas and imaginings – and support this fantastic new village business.

amanda@sustainablesteeple.com



THE VALENTINE CLUB

For our meeting this month on the 16th November we welcome 'Dogs for Good' who will tell us more about their charity and all the good things they achieve. You may have seen them at the annual flower and fun dog show. Doors open at 2pm at the Village Hall and any prospective new members are more than welcome.

Our meeting in October was well attended and all the members were able to enjoy fish and chips supplied by Mark Davidson and some wonderful puddings prepared by members. It was a great chance to have a chat with all the members and find out what they might want as part of the programme for next year. Numerous destinations were proposed, some a little more challenging than others, but all worth consideration. There was also the idea that we might put a short holiday together for members, so watch this space.



On the 11th October the club decided to get back out there and take themselves off to Poole in Dorset – 47 members joined the coach and off we went. The day was sunny and dry which is something of a bonus for October and on arrival at Poole we boarded The Dorset Queen, a motor launch first commissioned in the 1930s and was part of the Dunkirk evacuation during World War Two. A lovely passage through Poole Harbour and along the River Frome to Wareham where some fantastic fish and chips were delivered to our boat, steaming hot and tasty. Then, after a short break on Wareham harbour-side, we returned to Poole for our return journey home. A lovely day out and so good to be able to get back to some sort of normal.

Our next outing is to Nailcote Hotel in Warwickshire where we will enjoy a three-course meal and entertainment focused around the 70's music so time to look out those iconic costumes from 50 years ago, if they still fit!

Our Christmas dinner will be on the 14th December with doors open at midday and the meal, provided by S & J Cuisine, at 1pm. As always, we will have our very large raffle and some entertainment provided by a musician and comedian who has performed all over the world in clubs and cruise ships.

For more information about how to join **The Valentine Club**, and by the way, you only have to reach the grand old age of 60 years young, go to *www.steepleaston.org.uk* and follow the link, or visit our own website *www.valentineclub.wixsite/aston* or simply call me on 01869 340512.

Richard Preston – Group organiser Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com





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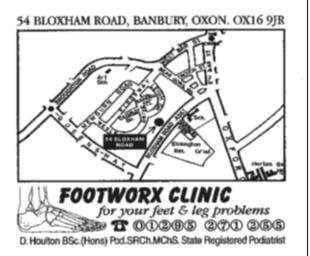
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Steeple Aston *Golf Society*



Our last meeting was the Captain's Day at Kirtlington, playing for the GPK Cup.

Kirtlington is described as an inland links course, but just because there are too few trees does not make this a links golf course. Some of the greens perhaps were links – large with switchbacks, undulations and pins in difficult positions for the amateur golfer.

The meeting was won by Jack Kay with 36 points. The runner-up was Mike Brown with 34 points. Nearest the pin was Paul Kay and nearest the pin in two was Jack Kay. Our guest prize went to Richard Watkin with 30 points. There were no Birdie '2's.

Stay safe & play well.

Alan Brewer (chair)

A young golfer decides that he can get in nine holes before having to head home. As he is about to tee off, an old gentleman asks if he can join him. Although worried this will slow him down, the younger man agrees. To his surprise, the old man plays quickly. At the 9th fairway, a large pine tree sits in front of young golfer's ball. "You know," says the old man, "when I was your age, I'd hit the ball right over that tree." The young man swings hard, hits the ball, watches it fly into the branches, rattle around and land a foot from where it had started. "Of course," says the old man, "when I was your age, that tree was only three feet tall."



The Oxford Christmas Company

Hi, I am Millie, I am 21 and have taken over The Oxford Christmas Company.

This year the Christmas shop is no longer at Nicholsons but I will be running the Oxford Christmas Company from my home in Oxford offering a new bespoke online only service.

We will be working with the same suppliers ensuring that you will continue to get top quality A-Grade, British grown Christmas trees. For those of you who enjoyed choosing your exact tree at Nicholsons, do not worry, you can still do this as all trees will be photographed and displayed online.

Not only will I be selling the Christmas trees but beautiful decorations and lights to make your tree something special. I am preparing now for Christmas 2021 so lots of lovely festive gifts and decorations are being continually uploaded on my website.

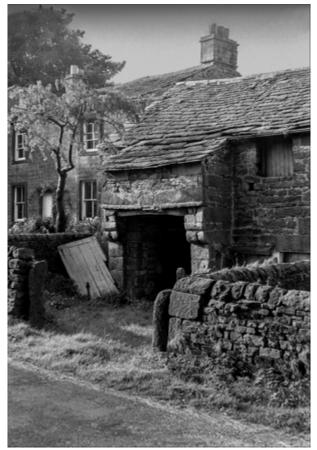
If you would like to contact me about anything, please feel free to email me on *info@oxfordchristmascompany.co.uk* or call on: 07950 452711

Please spread the word and I will look forward to hearing from you as we approach Christmas.



AD&D^{Photographic} Society

At our last meeting we were treated to a very special look at Yorkshire in the 1960s by Paul Brewerton, ARPS. During lockdown Paul used the time to look through his archive of negatives. After investing in a scanner, he transferred his old film images into pixels and produced a series of stunning black-and-white images. It was interesting to see the landscapes of Yorkshire and the Lake District and to hear the accompanying stories with each image. They show a much simpler life with very little traffic, horses working the land and all the textures that black-and-white can create. The main collection was of landscapes, including clean snowy fields with drifted snow against dry stone walls. Paul also showed the contents of run-down tithe barns where old wagons were illuminated by brilliant shafts of light as well as atmospheric stations with steam trains. A truly black-and-white delight.



A ME BACK

Sunday 19th September saw members celebrating together the 15th anniversary of the foundation of the society. Miggy Wild organised a 'Photo Safari' around a circuit of villages and venues including a visit to Hinton-in-the-Hedges for the sky diving. Inspiration for image ideas came from titles such as lines and curves, rural life and transportation. There were some excellent photo opportunities along the route and especially at the airfield. All the participants then met at Middle Aston House for a sunny picnic – a perfect end to a great day. Photographs are on the website.

You can also go to our website to look at the images submitted for our Annual Exhibition at The Adderbury Institute and Deddington Church if you were unable to visit.

Our next presentation will be on Wednesday 3rd November at 7.30pm at the Adderbury Institute where Robert Harvey, ARPS will talk about photographing Wiltshire. You are most welcome to join us, visit our website for further details.

Anne Hunsley www.addphoto.co.uk







Steve Lukather Professional Musician

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Steve Lukather, professional musician, founding member of the Rock Band Toto. As a lifetime musician, he has endured the perils of loud sounds.

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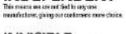
There is no shame in admitting as you get older, you get a little weaker. I had tears in my eyes when I had Widex Moment hearing aids fitted – I've not heard that frequency for a long time. The quality is incredible. You have an app on your phone, and you can change the volume – I realised that I could trust these. Get one!"

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Staying In Touch

Keep connected with us through our Social Media and website posts by searching @middleastonhouse.

Find out about what's going on, what we can host, and link with us to share about all the good times you've had at MAH!

Working at Middle Aston House

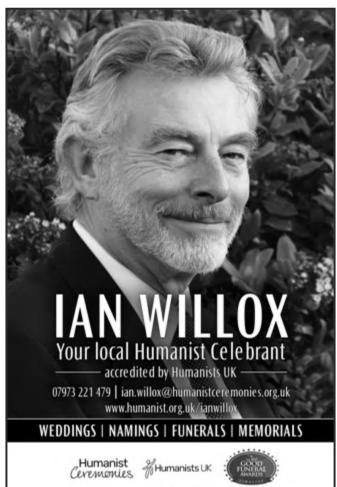
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Photos by Nigel Francis

Church Matters



Thank you for Harvest!

Thanks to everyone who made our Harvest weekend at the start of October such a success. We had the most amazing array of displays around the church, with village societies from the Allotments to the Book Club taking part. It was brilliant to see wonderful colour and life and all sorts of aspects of our community represented and to be able (after all we have been going through) to enjoy everything and say "thank you" together.

On the Saturday afternoon, teas and cakes were offered – and even if the weather was fairly miserable, still lots of folk came and wandered round and enjoyed everything there was to see. On Sunday morning, in addition to singing Harvest hymns and being reminded of the power of taking a moment to be grateful, several of the community groups represented among the displays brought forward symbols of their groups so we could share together in a village thanksgiving.

There were too many people involved to mention everyone, but Jane Stewart masterminded the whole thing and must be thanked for all her work! It was a simply brilliant event! Thank you Jane, thank you everyone!

Remembrance Sunday

Regular readers may recall from last month that we still have a COVID limit on attendance in church of 90 people. This may be a bit of a push on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November. Our plan is to aim for an outdoor service in the churchyard (with singing, prayers and the usual wreath-laying and roll call of names) before walking up to the village memorial together.

We will do this if the weather is as fine as it usually is on Remembrance Sunday. However, if it's rainy, we will be indoors and will do our best to fit everyone in (but sticking around that 90 figure as our limit), keeping the service to around half-an-hour in order to help everyone stay as safe as possible. Please bring a face mask in case we are inside and try to keep good distancing even in the churchyard – some folk are still vulnerable and we do need to look after each other, especially as the autumn begins to head into winter. The service begins at 10.55am sharp.

Church Charity Quiz – Saturday 20th November

Every November we try to run a quiz that raises money for a charity somewhere. Last month in these pages Pete Higgins reminded us of his amazing work with Mary's Meals, so we have decided we want to keep helping Mary's Meals!

This year we are doing our quiz by Zoom. You can join in by gathering as a group together, or by playing as a family – or even just by yourself! The way it works is this:

First: email me at *steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk* and I will send you a link to my Quiz Just Giving page for Mary's Meals.

Second: go to that link and give as much as you like on that page. As much or as little. We're doing this for Mary's Meals and the terrific work they do in helping feed 2,000,000 children across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Your gift goes to their work.

Third: when you have given (and do either just add your name as you give or send me a note to say you've donated!) I will email you the Zoom link so you can join in with your team/family/by yourself 'live' on Saturday 20th November at 7.30pm.

For more news go to our website - www.sntchurch.com. Thanks!

Revd Marcus Green



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Church Services

| | North Aston | Steeple Aston | Tackley | | | |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Sunday 7th November | 9.30am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Revd Marcus Green | 11am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Revd Marcus Green | 5.30pm Evensong Revd Marcus Green | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Sunday 14th November | 9.30am Remembrance Revd Marcus Green | 10.55am Remembrance Revd Marcus Green | 5.30pm Remembrance Revd Marcus Green | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Sunday 21st November | 9.30am Holy Communion Revd Marcus Green | 11am Holy Communion Revd Marcus Green | 5.30pm Evensong Richard Bailey | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Sunday 28th November | 9.30am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey | 11am Morning Prayer and Baptism Revd Marcus Green | 9.30am Family Communion Revd Marcus Green | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Sunday 5th December | 9.30am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Revd Marcus Green | 11am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Revd Marcus Green | 5.30pm Evensong for St Nicholas' Day Revd Marcus Green | | | |
| | www.sntchurch.com | | | | | |

Local Info

| Steeple Aston Village Hall | | | | |
|--|---|---------|--|--|
| | Hiring Fee | Caution | | |
| Hall (meeting night) | | | | |
| Represented Clubs Non-Represented Clubs | | | | |
| 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 | 5% for six block boo | okings | | |
| Chairman: Bar | ie Rushworth (340 bara Brewer (34042 | 23) | | |

Secretary: Margaret Bulleyment (347346)

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

Rubbish bin collection day is Thursday

November

11th green

25th green



December 2nd blue & brown 9th green 16th blue & brown 23rd green 30th 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@googlemail.com Chairman - Torquil McLusky - Tel: 347914

Treasurer - Chris Cooper - Tel: 347173

BUS TIMES

STAGECOACH S4 BUS SERVICE

This timetable is effective from 7 March 2021.

From Steeple Aston (outside Post Office) to Oxford (arrival time in italics) Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) 0624 0702 0746 0920 then hourly to 1520 1621 1721 1821 1932 2047 2217 0702 0800 0844 1003 1603 1702 1802 1902 2010 2125 2255 Saturdays 0704 0804 0919 then hourly to 1819 1932 2047 2217 0746 0846 1002 1902 2010 2125 2255 Sundays and most public holidays 0903 1033 1203 1333 1503 1633 1803 0944 1114 1244 1414 1544 1714 1844

From Steeple Aston (outside Post Office) to Banbury (arrival time in italics) Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) 0752 0855 0957 then hourly to 1457 1600 1700 1800 1900 1955 2107 2222 2352 0835 0935 1035 1535 1638 1738 1838 1929 2024 2135 2250 0020 Saturdays 0759 0857 0957 then hourly to 1557 1657 1757 1855 1955 2107 2222 2352 0835 0935 1035 1635 1731 1831 1924 2024 2135 2250 0020 Sundays and most public holidays 0917 1037 1207 1337 1507 1637 1807 1937 0953 1113 1243 1413 1543 1713 1843 2005

Times subject to change. Before starting your journey please check the timetables at www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables E&OE

OURBUS BARTONS

OurBus Bartons has returned to their 'Pandemic Timetables'. It offers services through Steeple Aston to and from Chipping Norton (Wednesdays) and to and from Bicester (Fridays). See http://ourbus.co/bartons/ for details and times

Steeple Aston Calendar

Check the village website at *www.steepleaston.org.uk* (Home > Calendar) for any changes.

| November | | | |
|----------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Wednesday 3rd | AD&D Photo Society. Robert Harvey ARPS (p34) | Adderbury Institute | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 9th | WI. "I went to a Wedding in Delhi." | Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| Saturday 13th | Sustainable Steeple meeting (p30) | Red Lion | 10am |
| Monday 15th | Parish Council Meeting | Village Hall | 7.30pm |
| Monday 15th | SAL December copy and advert deadline | | |
| Tuesday 16th | The Valentine Club. 'Dogs for Good' (p31) | Village Hall | 2pm |
| Wednesday 17th | The Valentine Club. Meal and entertainment (p31) | Nailcote Hotel, Warks. | |
| Sunday 21st | Steeple Aston Choral Society (p10) | Witney Methodist Church | 6pm |
| Saturday 27th | Farmers' Market (p28) | Deddington | 9am to 12.30pm |
| December | | | |
| Saturday 4th | WI. Workshop to make a Christmas welcome wreath | Village Hall | 10am to 12 noon |
| Sunday 12th | Wassail Evening (p27) | Village Hall | |
| Wednesday 15th | SAL December copy and advert deadline | | |
| Tuesday 14th | The Valentine Club. Christmas Dinner (p31) | Village Hall | 12 noon |
| Tuesday 14th | WI. Christmas meal. | Middle Aston House | 7pm |
| Saturday 18th | Farmers' Market (p28) | Deddington | 9am to 12.30pm |

Due to coronavirus some clubs and societies might still be meeting 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). 10am - 12pm - Saturdays

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