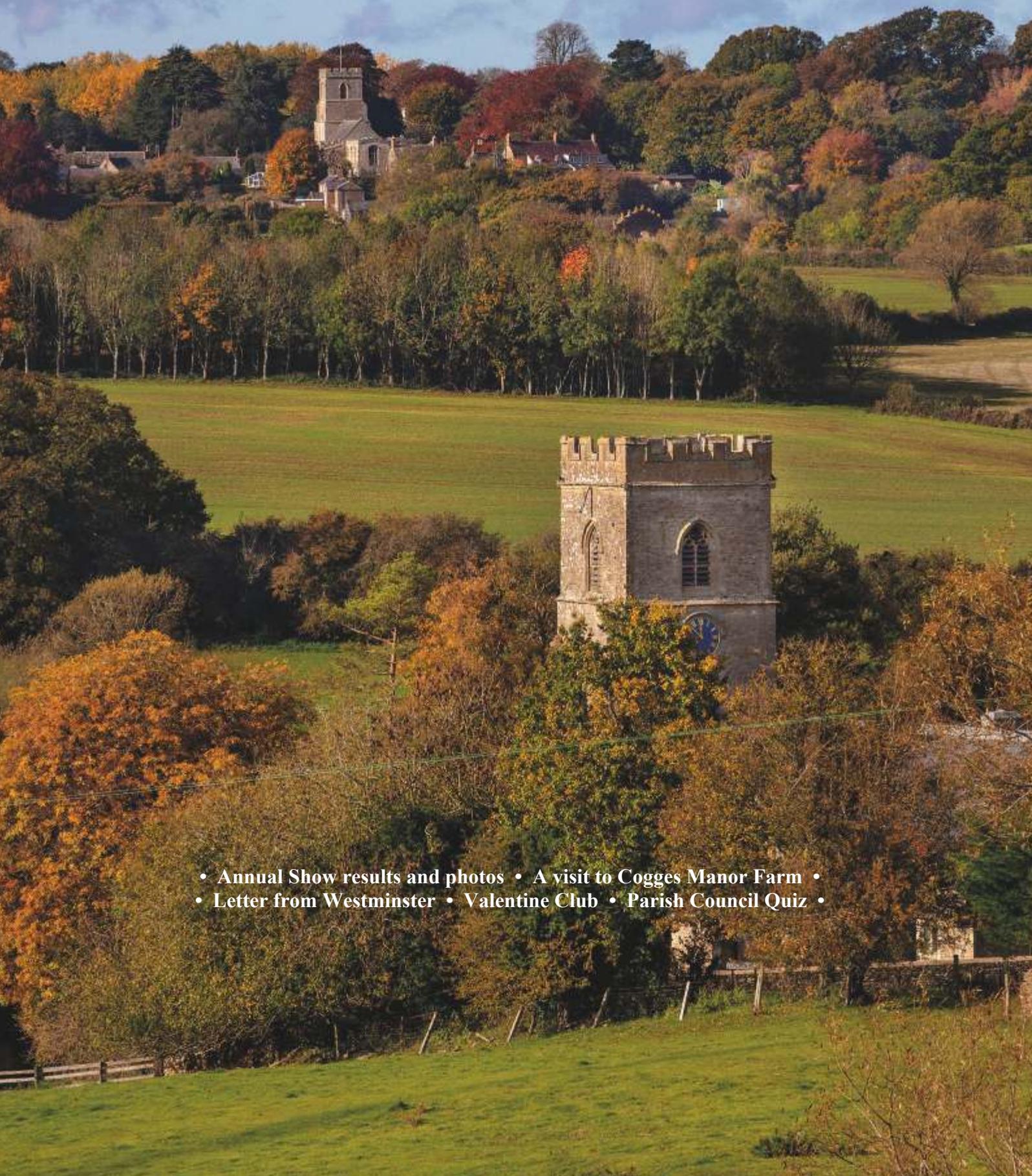


Steeple Aston

October 2021

Issue No. 578

Life



- Annual Show results and photos • A visit to Cogges Manor Farm •
- Letter from Westminster • Valentine Club • Parish Council Quiz •

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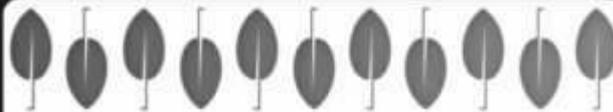
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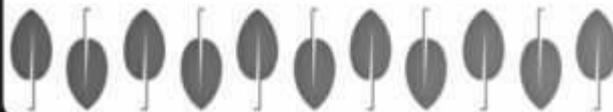
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October 2021: CONTENTS

Click on the item's page number below to go straight to its page. To return to Contents, click on the page number at the foot of any page.

OCTOBER FEATURES	PAGE
Annual Show report and photos	24-25
Annual Show results	26-27
Car battery update	23
Nicholsons – Back to our Roots	21

REGULAR FEATURES	PAGE
Arts page	10
Church Matters	43
Quizzes	14
Quiz answers	41
Editorial	3
Gardening Spot	13
Have you ever been to...	20
In the Kitchen	19
Letter from Westminster	9
Poetry Corner	15
Steeplejack (PC Meeting Notes)	16-17
Steeple People	7
Sustainable Steeple	36

REPORTS FROM CLUBS & SOCIETIES	PAGE
1 st Deddington Guides	34
AD&D Photographic Society	38
Cricket Report	39
Golf Society	38
Steeple Aston Garden Club	33
Valentine Club	30
WI	32

INFORMATION	PAGE
Bus times	47
Church Services	46
Rubbish bin collection dates	47
Steeple Aston Calendar	48
Steeple Aston Directory	2
Steeple Aston Noticeboard	4-5
Village Hall News	33

Cover photo: St. Mary's Church, Upper Heyford, in the foreground, with Steeple Aston in the distance. Taken by Nigel Francis.

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

All articles and letters to the Editors
editorsalife@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINES

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

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

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

ADVERTS

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

01869 347347

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The deadline for adverts (black & white only) is the 15th of the previous month.

ADVERTISING RATES

Non-commercial adverts:
1 page (village events only)- £15
1/2 page - £12, 1/4 page- £6.
Commercial adverts:
1/2 page- £15, 1/4 page- £8

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		ClIr Mike Kerford-Byrnes	07805 665393
		ClIr Bryn Williams	07836 271998
		ClIr Hugo Brown	
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	347493
Crimestoppers			0800 555111
Deddington Guides		Marian Trinder	340806, 07786001641
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments		338611
	Repeat Prescriptions	10am - 3pm	338847
	Out of Hours		111
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Head Teacher	Frances Brown	340204
Football Club	Secretary	Peter Wild	07950 837773
Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
Parish Council	Chairman / Clerk	Richard MacAndrew/ Cathy Fleet	347209, 347000
Police	24hr Call Centre	(non emergency)	101
Post Office & Harris Stores		Raj	340201
Pre-school			340863
Public House	Red Lion	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*

October 2021

Issue No. 578

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Editorial

October derives its name from ‘octo’, Latin for eight. This might seem odd, given that it is the tenth month of the year. But this was not always so. The ancient Roman calendar was based on lunar cycles and had only ten months, with October as the eighth month. Then, in 451 BC, January and February were added to the beginning of the calendar, shunting October into its current tenth position.

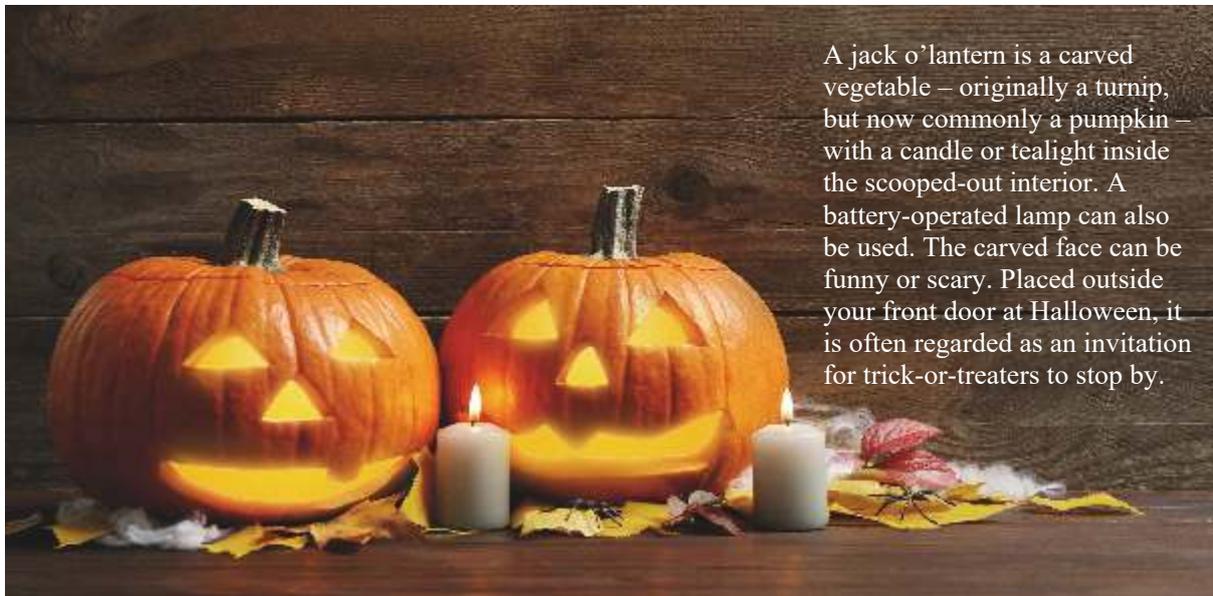
At 2am on the last Sunday in October – the 31st in 2021 – the clocks go back one hour. This marks the end of British Summer Time (BST) for the year. Whether you reward yourself with an extra hour in bed, or get up early to change all the clocks in your house, is your choice. Some recent clocks feature wireless control and automatically reset. The clocks on smartphones and computers also change without your intervention. But many clocks and wristwatches still require time-consuming manual adjustment. BST was first introduced in 1916, during the First World War. It takes advantage of the early hours of daylight during the summer months. There have been many debates about whether BST should be scrapped, or used throughout the year, but no change has yet been agreed.

This year, the end of BST coincides with Halloween (or to be precise, Hallowe’en, as it celebrates All Hallows’ Eve). All Hallows’ Day – better known now as All Saints’ Day – is always 1st November. Hallow is an old English word for a saint or holy person. It is thought that Halloween is associated with the 2000-year-old Celtic festival Samhain, when ghosts were believed to be abroad. Samhainophobia is defined as an unwarranted fear of Halloween.

These days, Halloween is most associated with ‘trick-or-treat’, when children dress in costumes and go from house to house asking for treats – usually sweets or small amounts of money. The ‘trick’, should a treat not be forthcoming, is usually an idle threat of mischief or misfortune. Many people believe that trick-or-treating is an American import, but it is a tradition going back to the 16th century in Britain, where the treat was usually food.

More recent, and definitely American, is the designation of October as National Cookie Month. Enjoy.

Robert



A jack o’lantern is a carved vegetable – originally a turnip, but now commonly a pumpkin – with a candle or tealight inside the scooped-out interior. A battery-operated lamp can also be used. The carved face can be funny or scary. Placed outside your front door at Halloween, it is often regarded as an invitation for trick-or-treaters to stop by.

Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Bell Ringing

Steeple Aston is lucky having an active team of bell ringers. Many other local villages do not have bell ringers. We aim to ring the bells every Sunday and for weddings and other village and national events. Unfortunately, we are all getting older and need to try and boost our numbers if we are to continue keeping this very English tradition going.

Have you ever thought about giving bell ringing a try? Or are you a lapsed bell ringer? Why not come along to the church tower any Tuesday evening and meet us and see what goes on, or give me a call (347273) to find out more.

We are a social group, aged 12 to 80. We enjoy a number of social events during the year including a dinner, BBQ, handbells at Christmas and tours to other churches.

Graham Clifton

Letter of thanks to Steeple Aston

Dear Steeple Aston,

I wanted to thank everyone for the contributions you have made to the charity Mary's Meals via the collecting box in the Village Shop. An enormous thank you as well to Raj, Pari and his family, for allowing me to keep the box by the till. Mary's Meals has a very simple aim to **'Feed a hungry child in their place of education'**. In this way we not only help to solve the problem of world hunger, but also by attending school and getting an education, these poor children may just escape poverty. Only education can solve poverty.

Mary's Meals feeds children in Malawi, Liberia, Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Haiti amongst others, which are some of the poorest countries in the world. Incredibly, every day **we feed two million children**. Over the last two years you have contributed just over £630 in old coppers and silver – it is amazing how it all adds up! In Malawi, where we feed one million children every day, incredibly it only costs £9 to feed a child for a whole school year. Just think about that, one trip to Costa Coffee or feed a child in school for a year! Through your generosity therefore we have been able to feed 70 children in Malawi for a year.

I would also like to thank Reverend Marcus for his support for Mary's Meals. The three churches of Steeple Aston, North Aston and Tackley have raised £2,400 so far. In addition, Caroline Edwards has helped support the charity through Plant Sales and Peter Robottom raised £50 just by putting his change from nights in the Red Lion in his Mary's Meals collecting mug.

If you would like to know more about Mary's Meals, please do visit the website at www.marysmeals.org and if you would like your own Mary's Meals collecting mug, they are free and can be collected from me any time from Canterbury House (just behind the church). We use ours as a 'Swear Box' – when we lost to Italy in the Euro Final, I think I contributed about £40 in one night!

Many thanks to all of you for your support.

Peter Higgins
Trustee Mary's Meals



Red Lion café



Steeple Aston's new café opened on Wednesday 15th September. 'Naomi's Bit on the Side' can be found in the Snug Room at The Red Lion on South Side. Opening hours are 9am to 3pm, Tuesday to Saturday. This photo shows customers enjoying coffee and cake – and the good weather – at the outside table. *(Photo Nigel Francis)*

Steeple Aston Parish Council

LOOKING FORWARD – VILLAGE CONSULTATION

The Parish Council is keen to consult villagers on some questions of current importance. We would welcome your views on the issues below. Please write to the Parish Clerk, Cathy Fleet, at Westfield Farm Cottage, Fenway, Steeple Aston OX25 4SS, or email parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com

1. Cherwell District Council has declared a 'climate emergency' and is reviewing all its activities and expenditure in the light of this. What issues do you think Steeple Aston Parish Council should be addressing with this in mind?
2. What other issues would you like to see the Parish Council address over the next five years?
3. If there was a 'car club' in Steeple Aston, would you consider using it in place of owning a car?
4. Since the retirement of Bob Bickley, the PC has had to employ contract cleaners. As a result, the cost of cleaning the public toilet and keeping the playground litter-free has increased dramatically. What do you think the Parish Council should do?
 - a) **increase the precept** – this would mean an increase in the precept of around £7K p.a (The total precept at the moment is c. £30K), and thus an increase in council tax (which funds the precept that the Parish Council receive from Cherwell District Council).
 - b) **arrange for less frequent cleaning** – this may mean that you find litter lying around the playground and the toilet uncleaned.
 - c) **another option** – please make a suggestion.

VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Meet Victoria:

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



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SW1A 0AA

victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk



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Steeple People



How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? 46 years.

Where did you move from? Kidlington, before that Oxford.

What brought you here? Schooling for my children as Steeple Aston has a great primary school.

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? Having fantastic friends around me and the feeling of being safe when out walking and enjoying the village and surroundings of the countryside.

Is there anything you don't like about living here? People who put posters up on the notice boards and telegraph poles and do not take them down after the event.

Where do you think of as 'home'? Steeple Aston, but before that Filton, Gloucestershire, where I grew up. However, after returning there a few years ago and seeing all the fields disappearing to housing, I now know Steeple Aston is my home for good.

Give a potted history of yourself – in 40 words or less. Born in Filton and attended Thornbury Grammar School. Met my husband, who I have been married to for 57 years, on holiday in Cornwall which is my favourite place to go. Have two grown-up sons, one unmarried the other married and one grandson.

How do others see you, in five words or less? Kind, generous, reliable.

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist? Early bird, dog, optimist.

Technology: friend or foe? To marmite or not? Technology foe. Hate marmite.

What was the best thing about being a child? Growing up in a happy family.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Air Hostess. I had an uncle who worked for BOAC as Chief Flight engineer and longed to visit some of the places he flew to. Unfortunately, wearing spectacles in those days it was out of the question.

What do you do for a living now? Housewife.

What is the best job you've ever done? Supervisor in the buying departments of C&A alongside the buyers.

What's your secret/guilty pleasure? Cheese, especially cheddar.

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have. Goldwork embroidery, but unfortunately have several pieces unfinished as the gardening takes over at certain times of the year.

What's your favourite piece of music? Anything by Abba (I enjoy singing along as it really cheers me up).

What are you reading at the moment? 'The Golden Rule' by Amanda Craig (WI Book Club reading).

What is your all-time favourite book? 'The Kon-Tiki Expedition' by Thor Heyerdahl.

What's your favourite food? Roast Lamb and mint sauce.

What would you save from your house if it was on fire? First, my husband; second, the dog.

If you could ban one thing in the country, what would it be? Chewing gum – I hate seeing it stuck all over the pavements.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? I would pay off my sons' mortgages.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Return to Maligne Lake and Spirit Island in Canada – these were just magical.

What do you do to relax? Read and sew.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? Never go to bed on an argument.

Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive? My mum and dad, just to be able to tell them again how much they helped me to appreciate life.

What do you get grumpy/mad about? My husband's untidiness.

What makes you happiest in the world? Being amongst my family and friends.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really bad at. I am hopeless at making scones.

Tell us something about you that most people don't know. I hate small furry animals – gerbils, hamsters, mice, etc. They just give me the shivers.

Linda Needle



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

Letter from *Westminster*



SAL's bi-monthly epistle from our MP, Victoria Prentis

With Parliament in recess throughout most of August, I used this time to make a number of visits in my role as Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food. Early in the month, I really enjoyed a visit to the Northern Fish School in North Yorkshire. I was taken out on the banks to fly fish by Angling Trust Ambassador Marina Gibson.

Other memorable visits included to the magnificent Nether Wasdale Common in Cumbria to discuss their unique situation and to Fir Farm in the Cotswolds where we spoke about sustainable farming. To mark #Farm24, a day which celebrates everything farming, I met my parliamentary colleague Dehenna Davison and local farmers in Bishop Auckland.

Towards the end of August I flew to Norway. In Trondheim, I attended Aqua Nor, the world's largest aquaculture technology exhibition. I also travelled to Bergen and met Odd Emil Ingebrigtsen, Norwegian Minister of Fisheries. To finish off a busy summer, I headed to Gower in Wales to visit Weobley Castle Farm. They produce the world-renowned Gower Salt Marsh lamb, which is the first food to gain protected status under our new Geographical Indication Schemes. On the way back, I called in for a tour of the Three Choirs Vineyard in the heart of Gloucestershire, where I was fortunate enough to try some lovely wine!

More locally, I have been pleased to see businesses returning to some normality, with foot traffic increasing on our high streets. Earlier in the summer, I enjoyed dropping into a number of shops in Banbury, including the Ruskin Bakery, Wildbean Café and David's Flowers. I was also delighted to be able to resume my Pub Tour with a visit to The Bell in Lower Heyford. Lots of constituents came along and asked me questions on a whole host of issues, from climate change to the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange proposal at Ardley. These events are always a great way for constituents to raise concerns with me and I look forward to hosting more in the autumn.

It only seems like yesterday that students were breaking up from school for the summer. I hope the autumn term has got off to a great start and I wish students, parents and teachers the very best for the school year ahead. Running from 1st to 7th November, this year's UK Parliament Week is fast approaching. Last year, North Oxfordshire was the most engaged constituency in the country – more schools, groups and young people signed up to take part in the activities locally than in any other constituency. It is a great opportunity for young people to learn more about Parliament and it was brilliant to see so many actively involved. I hope that we can carry that momentum through to this year. To find out more and sign up to take part, visit www.ukparliamentweek.org

I know it may seem a little early to start thinking about Christmas too, but I like to give plenty of notice for my annual card competition. This year's theme is 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'. I hope as many primary school children as possible will send in entries. The winner will have their design printed on the front of my Christmas card and will also get to meet me for tea in Westminster. I have written to local schools with further details on all of these activities and look forward to getting out to visit lots of them this autumn term.

The ARTS Page



Two articles about Steeple Aston groups make up most of this month's page. We'd love to hear from you about other artistic ventures, actual or envisaged.

First Book Club celebrates 20 years of reading



Jenny Bell writes: In October 2001, following an article by Caroline Langridge in Steeple Aston Life, it was agreed to set up Steeple Aston's first Book Club. The 12 initial members met the following month to discuss their first book – **The Shipping News** by Annie Proulx. Now 20 years later, six of those at the first meeting are still enthusiastic members of the group. Others have come and gone over the years, but the club currently has 13 members. We've been holding our regular monthly meetings over Zoom for the last 18 months, but eventually we managed to meet in person in Julia Whybrew's garden in September. Pictured above, meeting by lamplight, are (left to right) Tina Ferguson, Alison Moran, Judith Lane and Heather Cleobury. Over the years, meetings have normally been held in a member's house. The hostess (we are all women, though men aren't excluded) provides drinks, a few nibbles, and most importantly, this being Steeple Aston, cake! To mark the 20th anniversary of the club's founding we have compiled a list of the 235 books we have read over the years. And we've done a strictly unscientific survey to find out which were our favourites. Every member was asked to name their top ten books. We certainly didn't agree. In all, 80 books made the short list. But we were able to find a winner – just. In first place was **The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini – a particularly relevant choice with all that's going on in Afghanistan at the moment. In joint second place were Donna Tartt's **The Goldfinch** and **Mao's Last Dancer** by Li Cunxin – the fascinating story of a famous ballet dancer brought up in Communist China. And in joint fourth place were **All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr, **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman, **The Sense of an Ending** by Julian Barnes and Andrea Levy's **Small Island**. Though most of these favourites are modern novels, we do also like classics and non-fiction, especially biographies. You can see the full list of all the books we've read on the village website at steepleaston.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/SA-Book-Group-2001-2021.pdf

Since 2001 several other book clubs have been set up in Steeple and Middle Aston. So, although this first one is not currently open to new members, do let us know if you want your book club mentioned on this page.

SACS Concert: Sunday 21st November 2021

Steeple Aston Choral Society will be performing its postponed, now *Belated Beethoven Anniversary* Concert. Special guest for this concert is **Dr. Paul Whittaker OBE**, a profoundly deaf musician who will be performing on the piano and organ and signing other pieces. The Concert is a pop-pourri of well-known Beethoven and other pieces (directed by Paul Badley) and ends with Paul Harrington's GLORIA, written for SACS. The whole ensemble does not fit into Steeple Aston Church under the present conditions and will be in Witney Methodist Church at 6.30pm. Tickets for the concert are **£10.00** and can be obtained from Margaret Bulleyment jbulleyment@waitrose.com telephone 01869 347346.

Workshops for the deaf and hard of hearing

Dr. Paul Whittaker and his sister, Rev. Mary Whittaker, a church of Scotland minister who is also profoundly deaf, will be visiting Oxfordshire on **Saturday 9th October** and will be leading two workshops at St. Peter's Church, Wootton, near Abingdon, for any interested deaf, or hard of hearing people, or hearing people.

2.00 to 3.15pm – a session for children of Junior and Senior School ages. (Learn some songs and SIGN them)

3.45 to 5.15pm – a session for adults (Being Deaf; BSL; Songs and Signing; Q and A)

Costs: Children's Workshop – £2.50. Adults – £5.00. (Pay on the day)

Please email Paul Herrington to confirm attendance. pamadama1948@gmail.com

Oxford Lieder Festival

The fantastic Oxford Leier Festival runs from 8th to 23rd – a cornucopia of international talent. Detailed diary and bookings at oxfordlieder.co.uk

Nick and Heather

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STEEPLE ASTON
Community
APPLE PRESS

The Steeple Aston Apple Press 2021

We will be running 'Apple Pressing Days' at the Red Lion on **Sunday 26th September and Sunday 10th October** from 10:30. No booking required, just turn up with your apples!

Alternatively, the complete kit is available for hire at the unchanged rate of £20.

Contact Penny and Stuart on 01869 349155 or email cummins2011@outlook.com for details.



Market 9am – 12.30pm

**Saturday 23rd October
Saturday, 27th November**

Over 50 stalls offering the very best fresh local produce
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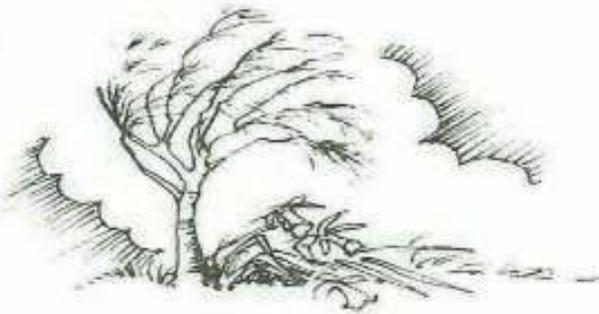


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Dates for your diary – we will be back at St. Peter & St. Paul's in Deddington for the monthly craft fair that takes place alongside the Farmer's Market on Saturday 23rd October, 27th November and 18th December – please do come and see us!

Please keep buying things from our online shop! – it's probably a bit too early to use the 'C' word, but if you're looking for gifts, seasonal or otherwise, we have a broad range of beautifully crafted items, all made from items that we have saved from being thrown away.

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The Gardening Spot

This is where 2022 starts in the garden!

October is a funny month. It could be looked at as the beginning of winter, but there again, we have some really nice days in October so maybe some time to enjoy our gardens. For me, it is the beginning of 2022 where I can start to plan what we might do next year and take some time to work out what went wrong this year and how we might improve our garden. It is also a busy month as it is time to put the garden to bed. The more tidying up you can do now the easier it is next spring when the new season starts.

These are a few other things you can do when not tidying the garden or plot. Plant daffodil bulbs about four inches deep and about two bulbs apart to create a superb display next spring. Tulips are better planted in November!

Give your houseplants a check-over for pests and tidy up the foliage.

If you don't have a compost heap, make a leaf bin where you can deposit all the leaves that will drop in your garden even if they are not from your tree. They will in turn make some wonderful mulch for your borders next year.

Check your tree stakes and make sure the ties are secure and have possibly become too tight over the past months.

If you are thinking of planting a hedge, now is the perfect time. Bare rooted hedging plants can be purchased from most garden centres or online. My tip would be to make sure the bottom of the hole where you are placing the hedging plants is moist and add a small amount of fish, blood, and bonemeal. This will give them a great start in life, and you will see the benefit next year.

To enjoy the last blooms from your pelargoniums, move them to a sheltered spot near the house and out of the wind.

Divide herbaceous perennials as they can become less productive after the first three or four years of their life. The best way to do this is to lift the plant out of the ground and with your bare hands, divide them into three or four new plants. Just as with the hedging plants, dig a hole, make sure it is moist in the bottom and add some slow-release fertilizer. You will then have more plants at no cost and maybe a spare one or two for your friends and neighbours.

And what about your lawn? You will still have to make another cut or two before the grass stops growing, but this is the perfect time to ensure your lawn will look good next year. I was told at a young age that grass needed light, air and water or as is often referred to in the trade as LAW. Light is self-explanatory, as you all know grass does not do well in shaded spots. Air is maybe not so obvious, but just like us, grass needs air and to help, you need to aerate the turf by spiking it with a fork to about four inches or use a hollow tined aerator. If you can rake out all the dead grass then so much the better. Then, again, just like us, give your lawn an autumn feed to encourage strong root growth. Do not use spring fertilizer as that will simply encourage a lot of top growth.

Well, that should keep you all busy for now, but basically, 2022 starts here in the garden and the more you can do now, the better your garden will be come next spring.

Enjoy your garden and if you don't have one, go and visit the many public gardens that abound in and around Oxfordshire.

Happy gardening.

Richard Preston

PS. By the way, if you wondered why I didn't win first prize for my tomatoes at the annual show it was because they all decided to stop ripening for a couple of weeks. Even after 60 years of growing tomatoes I can still get it wrong!

???? Mind Games

Test your global and local knowledge

Place names quiz (from Cathy Lawday) Answers on page 41

1. What was Sri Lanka formerly called?
2. Which Indian city is known as The City of Joy?
3. What is the name of Finland in Finnish?
4. Fifteen separate countries were formed out of the old Soviet Union. How many can you name?
5. What is the new name for Swaziland?
6. What was the former name of Ho Chi Minh city?
7. Which city started out with the name New Amsterdam?
8. What was the former name of Uluru?
9. There are 60 towns in the world called Richmond. How many Richmonds are there in the UK? And how many are there in the USA?
10. What is the new name of the Ellice Islands?

Steeple Aston Parish Council Quiz

At the Flower Show on Bank Holiday Monday there was a quiz at the Parish Council stand. Sadly, not many people entered so we are giving those who missed it a chance to test their knowledge. Answers on page 41

1. Answer these questions.

- a) Name all the councillors on Steeple Aston Parish Council:
- b) Who is the Steeple Aston Parish Clerk?
- c) How often does the Steeple Aston Parish Council meet?
- d) Where does it usually meet?
- e) Who can attend a meeting of the Parish Council?
- f) How much do councillors earn from being on the Parish Council?
- g) Who owns the Village Hall and the Sports and Recreation Centre?
- h) The Parish Council receives money each year from Cherwell District Council to provide public services. What is that money called? And how much does the Parish Council receive (to the nearest £1000)?
- i) Who represents the interests of Steeple Aston at Cherwell District Council?
- j) Who represents the interests of Steeple Aston at Oxfordshire County Council?

2. Who is responsible for the following? The Parish Council (PC), Cherwell District Council (CDC) or Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). Who...

- a) pays for grass cutting in the public areas around the village?
- b) maintains the playground?
- c) is responsible for maintaining the roads in the village?
- d) pays to keep the public toilet clean?
- e) can allow or refuse planning applications?

3. Are the following statements True (T) or False (F)?

- a) Only one person is directly employed by the Parish Council.
- b) Parish Councillors receive a discount at the shop and the pub.
- c) Parish Councillors have to belong to a political party.
- d) The whole of the village of Steeple Aston is a Conservation Area.
- e) There are more than 40 listed buildings and structures in Steeple Aston.

Poetry Corner



Autumn Gold

sitting in the garden looking at the sun
gazing at a flower where a bee's just come
on a run
with its mates
pollinates
moves on
then the sun dips into
a large white cloud
that's fluffy and full
makes the sky go dull
then butterflies dance
on a current of air
they go next door
but not before
making lettuce go bare
with a large hole here
and a small hole there
I've got a few more

sown enough to share
and I don't have a care
as the sun pops back
there's nothing I lack
for a while
at least
as the golden feast
brings a smile
to my face
leaves a lingering trace
then I smell the rose
as my eyelids close
all's well
head nods
drift off
drift off.....

Peter Wild

Maturing nicely

It's not much fun, this growing old
In fact it's hell if truth be told.

Your joints all ache, your back does too
Your memory will turn to goo.

Your muscles ache, so do your bones
You can't stand up without deep groans.

You can't work out your mobile phone
Your kids think you shouldn't be on your own.

But don't despair, do not rage
There are consolations to advancing age.

No more daily rush hour. No more daily grind
You can lie in every day – nobody will mind.

You don't have to put on your 'working' face
Now you're out of the old rat race.

Today, power dressing's not for you.
Your clothes are comfy; your shoes are too.

Oh, how relaxing it now feels
Not to be wearing suits and heels.

How lovely to give up the stress
Of always trying to impress.

If you forget facts, it's no shame
Just ask Alexis (Is that her name?)

Now your age gets you free entry
To shows and exhibitions plenty.

Your bus pass lets you travel free
So why not set off on a spree?

Holidays are cheap; the reason:
You can take them all off-season.

Time with grandchildren – there's a joy
So much pleasure from a little girl or boy.

And meeting old friends is just sublime
They are life's reward for the passage of time

So if you're worried, be consoled
There are many good things about growing old.

Cathy Lawday

Parish Council Meeting Notes



There has not been a Parish Council meeting for two months, so there was a lot to get through.

We were warned that there is going to be a women's bicycling event on Monday 4th October and there will be considerable local traffic disruption that day. The cyclists will start in Bicester at 11.00am, but the square will be closed from about 4.00am that day. The cyclists are going on a very circuitous route and will finish in Banbury at about 3.30pm. The centre of Banbury and the Broughton Road will be closed between about 1.30 and 6.00pm. The elements of the cycling route will each be closed temporarily as the cyclists go by. The closest the route gets to Steeple Aston is along the A4260 between the Tackley turn and Deddington and the cyclists are expected to get there at about 1.20pm.

It would be useful if there was Wi-Fi in the Village Hall. Apparently, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are setting up a pilot scheme to get Wi-Fi into village halls which would involve OCC organising the work and not charging in the first year. Our Councillors are waiting to see what the cost would be in subsequent years and whether our village might be eligible for the scheme.

The Government has announced that it would like to see about a million extra people living in the areas around and between Oxford and Cambridge, which is described as the Oxfordshire Cambridge Arc. We are in this designated area. There is a public consultation on the proposals which you can see at

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-vision-for-the-oxford-cambridge-arc. The

Parish Council will be commenting and individuals are invited to comment as well, with all responses having to be in by 12th October. The Parish Council response is likely to include the argument that this is a rural area and no one would have come here if they wished to see the fields covered in lots of additional housing. The proposals are not yet specific, but there is already one major hurdle in that the railway line between

Oxford and Cambridge is only feasible as far as Bedford because the route of the former railway line to Bedford has now been covered by buildings.

The Councillors have agreed the wording of a note to be put under the windscreen wipers of cars that have been parked thoughtlessly or dangerously. I assume that the Councillors will decide for themselves when the note would be appropriate; I don't envy them. I wondered if the decision should be confined to the Councillors alone or whether the Councillors could ask villagers to suggest where the most regular bad parking was happening.

A few of the potholes by the edge of the road along Fenway have been filled. No one knew why about a quarter of the length required had been repaired by the Highways and not the rest. Since the Parish Council meeting some of the potholes on Fir Lane have been filled by volunteers led by Graham Porcas. Do go and see what has been done by this cheerful but amateur chain gang. If you see us, please encourage us and don't stop to tell us where there are more potholes – we already know we have a lot more to do.

The raised pavement on North Side was mentioned and OCC know that it is in a conservation area. They will be reminded that it is currently very dangerous because pedestrians are being forced onto a bit of road where there is limited visibility and fairly regular speeding.

Elsewhere in this edition of SAL the Parish Council have asked us all to see if any of our too healthy foliage needs cutting back. The Council has a list of the bushes and trees for which it is responsible and they have arranged an inspection to ensure they are not among the owners of any unduly exuberant foliage.

There are two new signs warning of horses around the stables on Fenway. Apparently one of the signs was put in the wrong place, but

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



Oxfordshire County Council moved the other one. The signs will be re-sited again shortly.

The Council has had a report on the Play Area by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). The suggestions included replacing or repairing the gate to the multi-use games area (MUGA) because there is an area by the catch where rusting away has left dangerously sharp edges. The Councillors are going to inspect the Play Area generally and consider what repairs are needed in the light of the RoSPA report. One suggestion was that all the equipment with moving parts should be inspected, with special attention given to the zip wire mechanism. If the repairs are expensive some of the money coming to the village from the new development on Southside might go to repairing it. But this money will not arrive until the first house is occupied and this is not expected to be before next summer.

It is inevitable that the wood chips below the zip wire get pushed out of place with the result that the membrane below is revealed. The Councillors discussed the pros and cons of replacing the chips with a rubbery matting which is made from recycled material, but according to one Councillor it might be a bit smelly.

The Councillors discussed the potential financial consequences of extending their remit at the Village Hall to include the lower car park. It would be convenient if the car park was improved, but the ongoing repair costs are making them hesitate.

There was a discussion of the high cost of cleaning the lavatory next to the Sports and Recreation Centre. It was agreed that the facilities in this village are excellent, but that this had consequences for the precept, the local part of our Council Tax. One Councillor handed out a table of this year's precepts, by Parish Council, in Cherwell. This had some interesting anomalies. We have a relatively high precept and excellent facilities, whereas many other Parish

Councils had one but not both. For example, the precept for Weston on the Green is over 40% higher than ours, whereas Deddington's precept is less than ours.

Charlotte Bartlett has arranged for meals to be delivered around the village by S and J Catering since the start of the Covid epidemic. The scheme is running smoothly and Charlotte feels a co-ordinator is no longer needed and she has stepped down. The Councillors were "hugely appreciative" of her contribution and on behalf of the village as well THANK YOU Charlotte.

The Councillors have produced a new Welcome pack for those moving into the village. If you know of anyone who might like one, they are available from any of the Councillors, the pub and there is an electronic version on the website steepleaston.org.uk

There is a delay in deciding the planning application for Hatch End while the categories of business for which planning approval is being sought are clarified. It is now likely it will be considered in November.

Some local Parishes have introduced car sharing schemes and Hook Norton, for example, have three such cars. Our Councillors are finding out more about the local car sharing schemes.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 18th October in the Sports and Recreation Centre. The Councillors decided to stay in the Centre for the time being because it allows us all to be spaced out, though perhaps not in both meanings of that comment.

Steeplejack

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

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Our new garden has produced a great harvest of field mushrooms and it looks like there are more to come. We have a cultivated blackberry bush boasting a huge crop of fat fruit, three different plum trees and a medlar, which is laden with strange brown upside-down fruit. I've never even picked a medlar, never mind eaten one. I've found this recipe for an experiment. Fingers crossed. The remaining harvest will become 'cheese' to eat with a vintage cheddar.

Walnut Bakewell Tart with roasted Medlars

1 packet ready-made sweet shortcrust pastry, rolled out to 0.5cm thick
175g butter
175g caster sugar
4 free-range eggs
175g ground walnuts
110g breadcrumbs
300g damson jam
12 walnut halves
250ml double cream

For the roasted medlars

50g butter
400g medlars
75g caster sugar
1 cinnamon stick



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
2. For the tart, line a deep 23cm tart tin with the sweet shortcrust pastry. Place a sheet of baking paper or foil over the pastry and weigh down with baking beans or rice. Bake for 15 minutes
3. Remove the paper or foil and baking beans from the tart tin, then return to the oven for a further ten minutes until the pastry is lightly golden-brown. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly.
4. Place the butter and sugar into a bowl and beat together until light and fluffy.
5. Crack in the eggs, one at a time, mixing well between each addition.
6. Add the ground walnuts and breadcrumbs and fold together until well-combined.
7. Spread two-thirds of the damson jam over the base of the pastry case. Cover with the walnut filling mixture and smooth the top using a wet palette knife. Place the walnut halves around the edge of the filling.
8. Transfer to the oven and bake for 25-30 minutes, or until risen and golden-brown. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly.
9. Meanwhile, in a bowl, whip the cream until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed. Fold in the remaining damson jam.
10. For the roasted medlars, heat the butter in an ovenproof frying pan and fry the medlars for 1-2 minutes.
11. Add the sugar and cinnamon stick, then transfer the pan to the oven and roast for 10-15 minutes, or until the medlars are soft and the skins have split.
12. To serve, cut the tart into slices and place onto serving plates with a spoonful of damson cream and some roasted medlars.

Caroline Edwards

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

Cogges Manor Farm

In general, when I make suggestions about a place or exhibition which readers of SAL might like to visit there's a particular focus – history, architecture, nature, animals, gardening or countryside, for example, usually with an idea of whether or where there might be a coffee shop nearby! A visit to Cogges Manor Farm, just off the A40 near Witney, offers something from that list for everybody!

The 17 acres of farmland which can be explored – try the Woodland walk – have at their centre a most attractive 13th century manor house adjacent to a lovely walled garden and fairly extensive listed farm buildings. Exploring the manor house takes the visitor back into past rural life of the Cotswolds. There are plenty of information boards, books of photographs and stories about Cogges owners during the last 1,000 years. I spent quite a long time in the kitchen learning about some of the recipes for food prepared there in the 19th and 20th centuries (although I'm not sure when I shall need to make 5 litres of pea soup!).

Looking with envy at the bountiful fruit, flowers and vegetables in the walled garden, which is maintained by friendly and chatty volunteers (Friday is the best day to come they said), I strolled on around the grounds with various breeds of chicken and a few ducks, all roaming free, to keep me company. I loved the ancient orchard where the variety of each apple tree is made clear by more information boards as there are near the various animals. 'Pigs can bite' warns a sign over the pen for Gloucester Old Spots. As well as pigs I spotted goats, sheep and Shetland Ponies. There are also small breeds – such as rabbits and guinea pigs calculated to please young visitors who can get near them and even feed them from a 'veg pot' which can be picked up at the entrance. This may be a less dramatic selection of animals than at some local farm parks, perhaps, but I thought that Cogges would be a very good place to introduce young children to animals and to farming life.

When visitors are peckish there are plenty of picnic tables in several locations as well as the Cogges Kitchen café, situated in the old milking parlour. Apparently Cogges Manor Farm is attracting visitors because it is where the Yew Tree Farm episodes of Downton Abbey were filmed – so if you are a Downton fan that might interest you too! Whether you are or not I do recommend a visit.

The post code for Sat Nav is OX28 3LA. There's free parking before you walk across a wide field footpath (the rest of the field is often used for grazing) to the ticket office and shop. Run by a charitable trust and lots of volunteers one is encouraged to Gift Aid the cost of entrance tickets to Cogges Manor Farm. With Gift Aid the cost of a day ticket for adults (no Concessions) is £7.50, for children £5, and for a family (two adults, three children) £23.

Eileen Baglin-Jones.



Nicholsons – Back to Our Roots

At Nicholsons we are very fortunate in that we have been able to continue our core business throughout the pandemic, but like everyone, we have also had time to reflect and reconsider our purpose. ***Our company ambition is clear – to plant trees at scale to mitigate Climate Change and work towards Net Zero, and to offer Plants, Forestry and Landscapes with a core focus on sustainability.*** In line with this ambition, our business is expanding rapidly and we have outgrown our resources of nursery production, car parking and office space at The Park, North Aston. This is why we have changed our offer slightly and no longer sell coffee and cake and the household items inside the shop. We have been very grateful for all the support over the years from our local communities and this has been a tough, but well-considered decision. So what are we doing and what can we offer you?

Our Plant Centre has been awarded Plant Healthy Certification, an international standard to protect our ecosystems against destructive pests and diseases. This is significant progress marking us as industry leaders in the field and has encouraged us to focus on our expanding plant sales. All customers are invited to come in and select from our broad range and receive expert advice from our onsite trained horticulturalists.

The shop will make way for space to meet with clients for complimentary horticultural consultations – an essential part of our offer. We will continue to stock essential sundries. All plant customers are welcome and while we can't offer Yurt coffee, we do have a Nespresso machine with lovely biscuits on hand to have a complimentary coffee while you browse.

The Yurt is refining its offer to lunch, breakfast and (pre-ordered) afternoon teas only. Feel free to simply turn up, but if you would like to guarantee a table at a certain time, then please book online at nicholsonsgb.com/yurt/yurt-menu/ Enrico and the team provide locally sourced, seasonal, and innovative menus. Frankie's afternoon teas (plenty of cake!) have become iconic and we have individual huts for your private celebrations – please book teas with 48 hours' notice as they are exquisitely hand made. Please note that we do not offer coffee and cake as before, but can recommend Quince and Clover at Great Tew and The Milk Shed at Weston-on-the-Green and, excitingly, I hear that the Red Lion is now open!

Rosara will continue to offer our curated outdoor garden furniture via our website, our showroom (the old shop and Clarence) and our existing warehouse, Monday to Friday and by appointment, Saturday.

Christmas – while we are unable to host the Christmas Fair our lovely Millie, who helps run Rosara, is taking the Christmas tree business on as a young business entrepreneur. Although this will be a different offering, Millie will be able to get your Christmas trees conveniently delivered to your door and I sincerely hope that you are able to support her new venture. Updated website coming soon. <https://www.oxfordchristmascompany.co.uk/>

To put this development in context, Oxfordshire aims to plant 23,000 hectares of woodlands by 2050. Despite being the leading forestry company in the area, Nicholsons only planted 50 hectares of woodlands last year. You can see the scale of the endeavour and our need to focus on the solution. Our nursery grows excellent quality trees in peat free compost and our role as founders of the Forest Canopy Foundation will result in great opportunity for woodland creation.

We realise that our offer is significantly changing and we hope to bring you along with us in supporting our developing focus – we have loved the positive interaction with our community and have been truly grateful for your encouragement and enthusiasm for our brand. This support has enabled us to reach for this next vital step and take our place in the important journey to Net Zero and beyond.

Thank you,

Liz, Niel
and all the team at Nicholsons

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Car battery update

This month you are spared a long twisty-turny article (“phew”, I hear you say!) for two reasons.

First, Graham Porcas has pointed out to me that electrical power is really a stopgap measure. It’s necessary right now, but while we will continue to develop it in many ways, the true long-term power source for cars will be hydrogen. This is intriguing and I shall now do some research on this and, in due course, I’ll offer an article hopefully elucidating some of the way forward.

Second, I’m simply going to recommend a book: ‘How to Save The World for Free’, by Natalie Fee (published by *Laurenceking.com* - ISBN 978-1-78627-499-1). I like it because it’s one that I can dip into and use as a mini-reference book. It’s divided into chapters with overall titles like ‘The Seven Things you need to Save’ or ‘Save The World when you drink or bank or travel’, etc. (all different chapters). Then within the chapters there are many paragraphs, all separately labelled, which make for effortless reading. The ideas are easy to absorb and it doesn’t have to be read at one sitting. It’s a good book to have lying around. So why not buy it?

And no, you can’t borrow mine!

Martin Dale



Invitation to Quote: Village Gardening Services for the Parish Council

Steeple Aston Parish Council are inviting interested parties to quote for providing occasional gardening services in several locations around the village, including the playground and car parks, and elsewhere as needed. Services will include:

- hedge trimming
- weeding
- looking after flower boxes & planters in the playground
- grass trimming
- strimming

Works will be under a services contract and parties must be self or otherwise employed, with own insurance, tools and equipment.

The SAPC are interested to contract with one, or several, individual gardeners or firms, and Invite quotations to be emailed to the Parish Clerk, Cathy Fleet, parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com or at Westfield Farm Cottage, Fenway, Steeple Aston OX25 4SS no later than 15th October 2021.

Please include pricing information in the form of hourly rate exclusive of VAT and any discounts by volume. Please also include the details of two referees. Quotations will be appraised based on overall value for money and references; SAPC also reserves the right to give preference to those who are resident within the parish. If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Clerk at the above email or on 07989 398 838.

Steeple and Middle Aston Flower Show – August 30th 2021

It might seem some time ago now, but after an enforced ‘holiday’ of one year the flower show and fun dog show was back in the village – and what a show! This was the 129th show, which dates back to the 1860s. The visitors that came to view the exhibits were not disappointed. Over 700 exhibits – a good average – filled the marquee. During the three hours of a rather cool and cloudy bank holiday afternoon well over 700 visitors filled Robinsons Close, which is well above average. At least it didn’t rain!

As the chairman of what is a very small committee, I have to say what an amazing bunch of volunteers make up the committee that stages what must be the premier event of the village’s calendar. And not forgetting all the volunteers that help on the day either setting up the tables during the Sunday morning or helping on the stalls during the afternoon of show day. What I saw and what most visitors experienced on the day, were smiling faces and excited children, enjoying the benefits of living in such a wonderful village. What most of those visitors don’t see is the hard work and determination of the committee, their families and friends who work their socks off to make this show the success it is and is the envy of villages and towns across Oxfordshire.

The Fun Dog Show was an amazing success, possibly because of the high-value prizes that were on offer, but also the wonderful array of dogs that abound in and around our village. Our thanks must go out to ‘Dogs for Good’ who manage the dog show.

It is impossible to thank everyone who contributes to this show and it would be unfair to put names to those people who make this possible, but a very big thank you must go to the people of Steeple and Middle Aston who place exhibits in the show, bring their dog to the dog show or visit the show during the afternoon. Without all those people we wouldn’t have a show and the village would be a lesser place to live. Also, a mention to two sponsors who help us to meet the cost of the show which exceeds £3,000. They are ‘Finders Keepers’ at Bicester and ‘The Hart Veterinary Centre’ without whose help we would struggle to balance the books.

From me personally, thank you all for your contribution no matter what. Who knows, next year we might have an even bigger show!

For more details of how you might be able to contribute to next year’s show, give me a call or send an email. You don’t need to join our committee, but some help on the day maybe, or ideas of how the show could be improved.

Many thanks to everyone, no matter how you might have contributed.

Richard Preston and the Horticultural Society committee





*Photos by
Catherine Crook*



2021 SUMMER HORTICULTURAL SHOW

	Chris Cooper Andrew Grimmett Daphne Preston Daphne Preston Victoria Clifton Janet Coley Daphne Preston Daphne Preston Geoff Rawnsley Andrew Grimmett Andrew Grimmett Daphne Preston	George Alder Memorial Beehive Cup Lilley Cup Jean Stone Trophy Photography Cup Banksian Medal Senior Children's Cup Junior Children's Cup Under 8s Cup Under 5s Cup Childrens Photography Novice Grower	Daphne Preston Mary White Harriet Higgins Lauren Reid Miggy Wild Andrew Grimmett Lucy Everett S. Wheeler Nunneley Ralphie Bailey/William Atkinson Ava Reid Isabelle Reid Clare Walker
	First	Second	Third
4 tomatoes	Chris Cooper	Harriet Higgins	Mary White
5 pods of runner beans	Roderick Nicholson	Chris Cooper	Alan Brewer
3 onions	Geoff Rawnsley	Chris Cooper	John Coley
3 carrots	Geoff Rawnsley	Chris Cooper	John Coley
3 salad vegetables	Chris Cooper	Geoff Rawnsley	Julia Whybrew
4 potatoes – coloured	Geoff Rawnsley	Stuart Cummins	Graham Clifton
4 potatoes – white	Chris Cooper	Alan Brewer	Graham Clifton
3 beetroot	Chris Cooper	Paul Rogers	Julia Whybrew
3 courgettes	Julia Whybrew	Mary White	Geoff Rawnsley
5 cherry tomatoes	Rachel Marsden	Chris Cooper	Julia Whybrew
5 dwarf beans	Geoff Rawnsley	Graham Clifton	Stuart Cummins
Collection of 4 vegetables	Geoff Rawnsley	Chris Cooper	Alex Pasteur
Best other vegetable	Chris Cooper	Geoff Rawnsley	HannahNorburyMeeajan
3 dahlias	Chris Cooper	Mary White	Harriet Higgins
3 stems of annuals	Chris Cooper	Julia Whybrew	Stephen Latchford
Cut, mixed flowers	Mary White	Roderick Nicholson	Chris Cooper
3 stems of roses	Harriet Higgins	Chris Cooper	
Outdoor Planter or hanging basket	Daphne Preston	Shirley Black	Chris (Red Lion Pub)
5 tomatoes	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson	Richard Preston
5 pods of runner beans	Richard Preston	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson
1 cabbages	Richard Preston		
3 carrots – long	Andrew Grimmett	Not entered – no name	Stan Nelson
3 carrots – short	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	
4 potatoes – coloured	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson	Richard Preston
4 potatoes – white	Stan Nelson	Richard Preston	Paul Rogers
3 beetroot	Stan Nelson	Paul Rogers	-
Collection of 5 vegetables	Andrew Grimmett	Richard Preston	H/C Stan Nelson
4 onions – over 250 gms	Andrew Grimmett	-	Paul Rogers
4 onions – under 250 gms	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	
Collection of salad vegetables	Andrew Grimmett	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson
A cucumber	Richard Preston		
5 pods of dwarf beans	Stan Nelson		
A lettuce	Stan Nelson	Andrew Grimmett	-
5 cherry tomatoes	Andrew Grimmett	Richard Preston	Peter Bedding
3 courgettes	Stan Nelson		
2 peppers	Dorothy Clifton	Richard Preston	-
2 sweetcorn	Richard Preston		
5 spring onions	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson	
2 leeks	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson	Richard Preston
2 parsnips	Andrew Grimmett	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson
6 shallots – pickling	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson	
6 shallots – culinary	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson	
2 sticks of celery	Andrew Grimmett		
Best veg not otherwise specified	Andrew Grimmett	Richard Preston	HannahNorburyMeeajan
Collection of herbs	Stan Nelson		
Pair of Table marrows	Stan Nelson	Rachel Marsden	-
4 apples – culinary	Richard Preston	Mary White	Chris Cooper
4 apples – dessert	Richard Preston	Hannah Norbury Meeajane	Mary White
3 pears	Harriet Higgins	Joanna Everett	Stan Nelson
5 plums	Joanna Everett	Mary White	Richard Everett
Dish of blackberries	Stan Nelson	Rachel Marsden	Mary White
Dish of fresh fruit	Mary White	Roderick Nicholson	Joanna Everett
Bowl of mixed home grown fruit	Miggy Wild	Alex Pasteur	Joanna Everett
3 dahlias - cactus	Daphne Preston	Sally Jobling	
3 dahlias – decorative	Daphne Preston	Ray Hopkins	John Coley
5 dahlias – pom	Daphne Preston	John Coley	
3 stems of annuals	Victoria Clifton	Mary White	Daphne Preston
Vase of mixed grasses	Daphne Preston		
3 vases of garden flowers	Daphne Preston		
3 Gladioli spikes	Daphne Preston	John Coley	Mary White
Single gladioli spike	Daphne Preston	John Coley	Alex Pasteur
Cut mixed garden flowers	Daphne Preston	Caroline Parsons	
3 single rose blooms	Roderick Nicholson	Daphne Preston	

A single bloom rose – unwired	Roderick Nicholson	Chris Cooper	Daphne Preston
Roses for scent	Victoria Clifton	Daphne Preston	
Spray of floribunda roses	Daphne Preston	Roderick Nicholson	
5 perennials	Daphne Preston		
3 stems chrysanthemums	Daphne Preston	Roderick Nicholson	-
5 stems of sweet peas	Caroline Parsons	Mary White	
Pelargonium - pot plant	Daphne Preston		
Pot plant flowering	Daphne Preston		
Pot plant foliage	Daphne Preston	Alan Brewer	Barbara Brewer
Pot plant succulent	Daphne Preston	Ray Hopkins	HannahNorburyMeeajan
5 Fuchsia flower heads	Daphne Preston	Ray Hopkins	
Arrangement from my garden	Daphne Preston	Sheila Ballard	Hanny Nicholson
Japanese inspired arrangement	Daphne Preston	Sheila Ballard	Rebecca Lewin
'Forest walk' arrangement	Daphne Preston	Sheila Ballard	Miggy Wild
Foliage arrangement	Daphne Preston	Miggy Wild	Charlotte Clarke
Arrangement In a tankard	Harriet Higgins	Rebecca Lewin	Daphne Preston
Arrangement for 5 blooms	Miggy Wild	Sheila Ballard	Daphne Preston
Buttonhole	Daphne Preston	Charlotte Clarke	
Hand knitting	Judith Lane	Miggy Wild	Diana Gardner
A mobile phone case	Janet Coley	Miggy Wild	
Recycled / upcycled item	Madeleine Pasteur	Janet Coley	Sheila Side
Vegetable animal	Stephanie Atkinson	Miggy Wild	Jenny Reid
Book mark	Diana Gardner	Janet Coley	Miggy Wild
A painting or drawing	Sue King	Sheila Side	Janet Coley
Piece of embroidery or tapestry	Fran Cooke	Sarah Darby	Miggy Wild
Any other handicraft	Fran Cooke	Janet Coley	Miggy Wild
Limerick	Cathy Lawday	Rebecca Lewin	Mary White
Photo: Panel of 4 'Water'	John Coley	Sue King	Ben Wade Martins
Photo: 'A single flower'	Miggy Wild	Richard Everett	Andrew Reid
Photo: 'Blue'	Lauren Reid	Richard Everett	Miggy Wild
Photo: 'Village life'	Miggy Wild	Janet Coley	Andrew Reid
Photo: 'Silhouettes'	Miggy Wild	Lauren Reid	Janet Coley
Lemon curd	Julia Whybrew	Victoria Clifton	Janet Reid
Strawberry Jam	Diana Relton	Julia Whybrew	Victoria Clifton
Other jam	Julia Whybrew	Victoria Clifton	John Coley
Marmalade	Julia Whybrew	Janet Reid	Mary White
Pot of jelly	Diana Relton	Julia Whybrew	Victoria Clifton
Pot of chutney	Victoria Clifton	Diana Relton	Lauren Reid
Brown bread Loaf	Victoria Clifton	John Coley	Andrew Grimmett
Savoury flan	John Coley	Claire Hall	Victoria Clifton
5 Cheese Straws	Victoria Clifton	Lucy Duncan	Gail Bedding
Victoria sandwich	Diana Relton	Victoria Clifton	Daphne Preston
5 Pieces of traybake	John Coley	Lucy Duncan	Claire Hall
3 Savoury scones	Diana Gardner		
3 Gingerbread men/ people	Victoria Clifton	John Coley	Stephanie Atkinson
5 Pieces of fudge	Victoria Clifton	Alice Sleightholme	Julia Whybrew
Homemade cordial	John Coley	Victoria Clifton	Julia Whybrew
Homemade flavoured gin	Alan Brewer	Diana Gardner	Victoria Clifton
Decorated cake	Zoe Shayler	James Marsden	
Dundee cake	Andrew Grimmett	Daphne Preston	Victoria Clifton
Under 5: A collage	Ava Reid	Isobel Coysh	Olivia Clarke
Under 5: A painting or Drawing	Freddie Bailey	James Monroe	Ava Reid
Under 5: 3 decorated biscuits	Ava Reid	Alistair Reid	Isobel Coysh
Age 5 – 7Edible jewellery	Megan Walker	Ralphie Bailey	William Atkinson
Age 5 – 7 A thumb print / painting	Jessica Reid	Archie Webster	Ralphie Bailey
Age 5 – 7 3 Choc cornflake cakes	William Atkinson	Rose Preston	Ralphie Bailey
Age 8 – 11 A lego monster	Hector Wheeler Nunneley	Seren Wheeler Nunneley	Tom Darcy
Age 8–11 Underwater in a shoebox	James Walker	Eliza Webster	Isabella Reid
Age 8 – 11 Victoria Sandwich	Seren Wheeler Nunneley	Bea Owen	Ben Wade Martins
Age 8-11 Painting or drawing	Freddie Owen	Seren Wheeler Nunneley	Hector WheelerNunnele
Age 8 – 11 Block printing	Lara Pasteur	Bea Owen	Freddie Owen
Age 12 – 15 Topical tweet	Lucy Everett	Alex Wade Martins	
Age 12 – 15 Garden on a plate	Lucy Everett		
Age 12 – 15Homemade bird feeder		Lucy Everett	
Age 12 – 15 Show stopper cupcake	Zoe Shayler	Alex Wade Martins	Lucy Everett
Childrens – Photo 'Trees'	Isabella Reid	Jenny Marsden	Ben Wade Martins
Childrens – Photo 'Something old'	Isabella Reid	Ben Wade Martins	Alex Wade Martins
Children Photo View from window	Jenny Marsden	Isabella Reid	Lucy Everett
3 Eggs	Clare Walker	Helen Shayler	
Largest sunflower head	Richard Preston		
Heaviest pumpkin	No entries		-
Heaviest potato	Stan Nelson	Clare Walker	-
Heaviest marrow	No entries	John Coley	
Most misshapen vegetable	Amelia Paraouty	Alan Brewer	
Longest Bean	Andrew Grimmett		
Novice – 2 Potatoes	Alan Brewer		
Novice – 2 Onions	Peter Bedding		
Novice – 2 Pods of runner beans	Clare Walker		
Novice - Jam jar of homegrown flowers	Clare Walker		

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

Is it really that time of year already? Believe it or not, I have been planning our annual Christmas dinner, organising the caterers, booking the village hall and have managed to bring to the village one of the country's favourite entertainers to provide some seasonal magic and laughter to The Valentine Club when we meet on the 14th December.

Anyhow, enough of Christmas as that will arrive all too soon. For our first meeting in the village hall since February 2020, we welcomed back Donna who sang songs that some of us might remember from back in the 60s, but also some more modern favourites.

For our October meeting on Tuesday 19th we will be starting a little earlier at 1.30pm in the village hall where we can enjoy some of the best fish and chips in the county. But before then, on the 11th October we are making our way to the seaside. I know, it is a bit late in the season for lying around on the beach, but we have a plan! On arriving at Poole, we are boarding The Dorset Queen, a motor yacht first commissioned in the 1930s and was part of the Dunkirk evacuation during World War Two. From there we will be cruising along the River Frome to Wareham where we will enjoy fish and chips before our return to Poole and then back home. In November we will be welcoming members of 'Dogs for Good' to explain exactly what they do. You may well have seen them at this year's annual flower show and fun dog show.

I must say at this point how nice it is to welcome so many new members to our club and I hope they enjoy our company. Someone said to me the other day, "how old do you have to be before you can join the old people's club?" My immediate answer was, "what old people's club?" "The Valentine Club", they replied. My answer was very simple. "The Valentine Club is not an 'old people's club', it is a group of friends of a certain age that enjoy each other's company and probably have a better social life than you do!" What is old age you may well ask? I can't answer that, but it is just a number that indicates when you were born and for me personally, I was born around the millennium and feel twenty-one!!!!

Again, apologies to all those who were looking forward to our annual jumble sale, but we felt this might be taking a risk too far.

For more information about how to join 'The Old People's Club', better known as **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

STOP PRESS!

The Valentine Club has just been awarded £1,500 from the National Lottery Community Fund. This will make a big difference to our ability to engage with the more senior members of our community.



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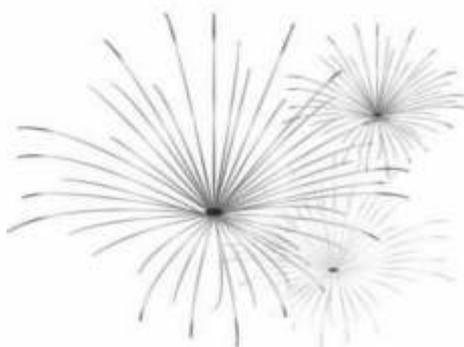
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Gates open 6.15pm

Fireworks from 7.00pm



Admission including 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

The first members' meeting for over 18 months was a social get-together called 'Verse & Converse' and was planned as an occasion for existing members and new members to get to know each other.

The evening began with business, notices, and news of upcoming events. Then new members and guests were introduced to the group. We were told their name and three 'facts' about each person. We had to decide which of the facts were true and which were made up. We learnt some surprising truths about our new members, who include a bungee jumper in Las Vegas, a proficient cartwheeler, an American TV karaoke competition winner, a family of seven children, a name that means Lily Horse, and more.

There was a getting-to-know-you quiz and everyone mingled and found out interesting things about each other: who was a twin, who played golf, who was born abroad, who had an apple tree in her garden, who had lived in Steeple Aston for over 20 years, and so on. Cathy then read a few of her poems – some old favourites from SAL and some new ones.

Next followed a poetry quiz, in which everyone scored well, filling in the missing words in famous lines of poetry.

Cathy finished off the evening by reading two poems, both about a body buried under the patio: first the light-hearted tale of a woman 'bumped off' by her husband who is looking forward to seeing justice done; the second about a Roman soldier who is laid to rest in the garden of a house in Steeple Aston.

The evening marked a return to normality for the WI and members look forward to getting to know each other better over meetings and events in the months ahead.

Our next meeting is on 12th October, when a speaker from Blenheim Palace will talk about 'The Ladies of Blenheim', famous women who made their mark on the Palace.

Cathy Lawday

Cathy Lawday reading one of her poems.



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 measurements 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 (bearing in mind that most groups will not normally be functioning during the summer). We shall still have the 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 and 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.

Annual fireworks evening, Friday 5th November

Gates open: 6:15pm, bonfire from 6:30pm approx. Fireworks 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. 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.

Provisional dates: Wassail evening, Sunday 12th December; Annual Quiz, Saturday 29th January 2022

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)

Steeple Aston Garden Club



What a pleasure to be writing about the Garden Club opening up again, at last.

We began this month with a celebratory evening drinks get-together at the Pound House, which had the added benefit of a look around Chris and Ray's lovely garden. Our thanks to them, it was a splendid evening which I think everybody really enjoyed and the rain held off until we were packing up!

I hope that COVID will not stop us all in our tracks again, but meanwhile we are putting together a programme of talks for the autumn and winter months. We will be in the Village Hall once a month on Tuesdays at 7.45pm for an 8.00pm start.

I am hoping to have a lawn expert, David Hedges-Gower coming to talk on 19th October about all things to do with lawn care. He is a consultant for the National Trust and English Heritage and has written and broadcast on lawn care. He might be quite controversial! After that we have Philip Aubury, who gave an excellent talk on fruit growing in 2019, returning on 16th November to talk about conservatory and house plants.

More next month. It will be good to be up and running again.

Margaret Mason

Deddington Guides Report

We finished the summer term in traditional style with our stream walk – thank you to the Wolff family at Barford.

After our high hopes, we were unable to camp again this year. However, we're up and running with outdoor meetings this term. It's been great to welcome so many new members! We've enjoyed wide games and toasting marshmallows and learning outdoor skills.

This month is our 50th anniversary. No big party has been possible, but cake was definitely called for! Over the next few months we are going to try to complete 50 various challenges – we'll let you know how we get on!

If you were a previous Deddington Guide we would love you to get in touch so that we can hear what you're doing at present. Please text me on the number below or email maggierampley@icloud.com

In the mean time we will continue with slightly shorter meetings out-of-doors. When it's too dark or cold we may resume our temporary plan of occasional weekend meetings. We'll certainly do all we can to keep going!

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755
and Marian 01869 340896

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Reflections from the Seaside Cornwall, September 2021

Sitting on the beach in Cornwall, watching the breakers, it's hard not to be in awe of this planet we call home and to be starkly reminded of how much we need to both respect and protect it. It's easy sometimes to believe the 'doom-mongery' and to feel that it's all too late, that the damage is done and that we, as individuals, families or communities are too small and insignificant to make the level of difference needed. For me, as well as all the positives, seashores are often places I associate with the single-use, throw-away, consumer culture that has become predominant; with barely used bodyboards abandoned at the end of holidays, plastic drinks bottles/straws littering the shoreline and shops packed with tacky plastic toys/ornaments that will amuse for a few minutes, then lie untouched and unwanted until they are consigned to the rubbish. However, Cornwall has also provided me with a real sense of hope and here's why:

Innovative ideas

The first sign that things are different was just that, a sign as I walked down a path to the beach announcing, 'Recycle Bound – Recycled Plastic Flooring – Oltco has used the equivalent of 960,000 straws in the making of this surface'. My next excitement came from a row of tiny 'container' style shops in Newquay, built by the Council for small, independent retailers, and nearly all selling sustainable items, my favourites being a swimwear company who make all their products from recycled plastics and a surf shack selling bodyboards made from recycled, wait for it, bodyboards. In a place so synonymous with the sea and where surfing may well be the single biggest contributor of rubbish, it is truly heartening to see local people working to solve the problem and being able to turn those solutions into successful businesses. At the top of every beach there is a box to place unwanted/broken surf boards, bodyboards and wetsuits, all of which are then taken away to be recycled, many back into new versions of themselves.

I also came across a wonderful charity, The Wave Project, who use surfing as therapy with young people with behavioural issues and those facing isolation. They generate valuable funds from selling second-hand surfing equipment/attire that's been donated (think specialist surf charity shop) as well as a variety of products made from upcycled items, such as the ankle bracelet I'm currently sporting, which is made from recycled plastic (some of which is from fishing nets). The thing that all these businesses/projects have in common is the fact that they are being championed and led by young, local people – and that is the thing that gives me hope!

Small & local

I've also been struck by a change in consumer behaviour that is apparent when people are on holiday, with eating local produce and buying from local artisans becoming the thing to do, from freshly caught fish eaten in one of the many independent seafront restaurants, to jewellery handcrafted using sea glass picked from the shoreline. If we can do it on holiday, surely it's only a minor adjustment to do it in our day-to-day lives.

Simple pleasures

From skimming stones, digging trenches in the sand, building sandcastles, paddling, jumping in the waves, collecting shells, eating ice creams, to long walks along the headlands and sitting watching the sunset across the bay, I've been struck by how simple our activities have been and how much we have enjoyed them. Looking around the beach today, it is clear, we are not the only ones. The joy on children's faces as they rush to the sea edge, the cold water on their feet eliciting squeals of delight is reflected in the faces of everyone on the beach, irrespective of age. It may not be every day that we get the chance to visit the beach (especially in land-locked Oxfordshire), but it is a great reminder that we don't need the latest gadget to keep us entertained!

Above all, this holiday has reminded me of the importance of the words, attributed to Mountaineer and Father of the National Parks, John Muir. **"Take nothing but photos. Leave nothing but footprints. Kill nothing but time."**

amanda@sustainablesteeple.com



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Steeple Aston Golf Society



Our last meeting was at The Wychwood, playing for the Jubilee Cup. This was won by Danny Phillips with 36 points playing off scratch. Runner-up was Paul Kay with 34 points playing off of 15. Nearest the pin on the 6th was Mike Carron on the difficult par 3 over water and nearest the pin in two on the par 4, 11th was Alan Brewer. Our guest prize went to Neil Brewer with 35 points and the Birdie '2's was won by Danny Phillips and Brian Kay.

SAGS captain Martin Kay chose Kirtlington for the following venue. Results will appear next month.

Final meeting of the season will be at The Cotswold Club, Chipping Norton, on the 15th October. This downland course is situated 800ft above sea level, its undulations providing a good walk. On a limestone base, the course dries quickly in wet conditions. The opening few holes provide a good test of golf made more difficult when the prevailing wind makes the player use the extremes of the course. If you fancy a game with a great bunch of people, all abilities welcome, please call Alan 01869 340423 or Chris 01869 347173.

Seeing the funny side

Peter was not feeling well. In fact, he felt so bad that his wife Sharon had to go and get the results from the doctor. "Now Sharon, I don't exactly know what the problem is – Peter may even die if he doesn't get the right treatment. The only thing is, the right treatment is going to seem a little strange. Peter needs to play golf as often as he can and you need to give him all the love, passion and whoopee that he can handle." Sharon nodded and left. When she got home, Peter was anxious to find out what his test results were. "Well Sharon, what did the doctor have to say?" Sharon looked him straight in the face. "He said you're gonna die."

Stay safe & play well

Alan Brewer (Chair)

AD&D Photographic Society



Our first meeting together after all these months of 'Zooming' gave us an opportunity to welcome friend and member of the society, Andreas Klatt, ARPS, who gave a visual trip to Yunnan Province, China. In true Andreas style there was an eclectic mix of genres from street and portrait photography to even a few wildlife images (not normally a choice for him). Andreas is an enthusiast of architecture, especially walls (with mould and rising damp) which give super abstract images because of the colours and contrast. He and his wife explained their road trip went from the North to South of the province with a guide and government driver as a chaperone.

Images covered local people with a view of their life, evocative buildings that showed a level of decline as well as those with intricate decorations and detail. A stunning set of shots featured the Tiger Leaping Gorge on the Yangtze River, where the tributary runs fast and furious. The mountains created heavenly images of dramatic clouds and almost unreal sunsets which, Andreas agreed, was almost impossible to capture the true beauty in a photograph. He finished the evening off with a series of images showing bird's nest collectors in a vast cave complex. These barefoot, agile young men would give an Olympic climber a run for their money. Astounding.

It was so great to see members back together even if it was wearing masks and with the traffic thundering past the open door for ventilation. As autumn approaches remember to bring your coat – it could get cold. Our next big event will be our annual exhibition of members' photographs in the Living Room, Deddington Church on Saturday 23rd October, 9.00am to 12.30pm. If you would like to join us for the next talk, we will be transported back to 'The Yorkshire Dales in the 1950's' by Paul Brewerton. We meet on 6th October at 7.30pm at the Adderbury Institute.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

Blenheim Palace....

We always have highly competitive and feisty games against Blenheim and this one was no different. Blenheim started steadily with our bowlers hitting a canny line. Olly Doggett (1-25) encouraged a snick to Phil Chesser – he never drops them! Jonty Renk (2-23) continued his fine form this season, bowling numbers 2 and 4, including their captain for a golden duck; the chair on the boundary took a thumping – feisty indeed! Nige Doggett (1-27) held on to a fine caught and bowled and James Liebrecht (2-16) removed their top scorer and kept the runs down at the close. Blenheim finished on 133-6 off 35 overs. A very gettable total....

Arthur Higgins (19) opened the batting and started well, ably supported by Nige Doggett (24), who took the score on at pace. Then Olly Doggett hit a swash-buckling 42 to take us to the brink of victory, but sadly our tail did an impersonation of the Indian tail (Pre-Lords Day 5) and we fell 5 runs short. Like England we had let slip a game we should have won.

Great Tew 2...

The final game of the season saw the return of our friends at Great Tew. The Barton Abbey pitch looked amazing, bone hard and the grass straw-coloured in the blazing sun. Thankfully, Great Tew's Annual Awards Dinner had taken place the night before and their team looked a tad tired! Tew won the toss and elected to bat. Hector Higgins (1-10) opened the bowling with great control and pace to remove their opener with an in-swinging yorker. Jonty Renk (1-24) after an erratic first over (had he been at the dinner too?) found his usual line and length and had the other opener trapped in front. Paul Longman (1-20) kept the pressure on and Olly Doggett (1-11) benefitted from a fabulous catch by Jonty Renk. Then Merlin Kavenna (aged 14) making his debut for Steeple Aston did his best impersonation of Shane Warne by bowling Tew's number 6 around his legs. Merlin finished with incredible figures of 4-18 off 5 overs. Nige Doggett (2-0) then swept away the tail with two quick wickets, including a fine catch by Hector Higgins. 97 all out. Surely an easy win looming?

The Doggetts opened the batting in explosive style: Olly hitting 22 in 17 balls and Nige a masterful 27. Suddenly wickets started to tumble and despite a redoubtable 19 from Tim Jones, brilliantly caught at gully, we were reeling at 86-6 with the 'Indian tail' to come: Jonty 'Siraj' Renk, Paul 'Shami' Longman and Charlie 'Bumrah' Simmonds-Jones. Thankfully Hector 'Stokes' Higgins (16*) kept his cool and batted with great guile to lead us to victory with absolutely no help from his father, Peter 'Leach' Higgins, who finished with a Leach-like 1 not out! An exciting victory to end the season.

2022...

And so to next year – we meet in the White Horse on Thursday 14th October at 7.30pm to discuss plans for next year. Perhaps a third Lord's Taverners' match? Watch this space.
All the best.

Peter Higgins (Chairman)

POLITE NOTICE

At this time of year overhanging foliage from residents' gardens can sometimes obstruct footpaths and roads in the village. Please could you check whether yours needs attention and cut it back if necessary. Thanks from your Parish Council.

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Place name quiz answers (see page 12)

1. Ceylon
2. Kolkata / Calcutta
3. Suomi
4. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
5. Eswatini
6. Saigon
7. New York
8. Ayers Rock
9. There are three Richmonds in the UK and 29 in the USA
10. Tuvalu

Answers to Parish Council Quiz (see page 12)

1. a) Charlotte Clarke, Peter Dammermann, Stuart Ferguson, Rebecca Lewin, Martin Lipson, Richard MacAndrew; b) Cathy Fleet; c) Ten times a year – every month except August and December; d) The Committee Room at the Village Hall; e) anyone; f) Nothing; g) The Dr Radcliffe Foundation; h) The ‘precept’, about £30,000; i) Mike Kerford-Byrnes; j) Arash Fatemian
2. a) PC; b) PC; c) OCC; d) PC; e) CDC
3. a) T; b) F; c) F; d) F; e) T



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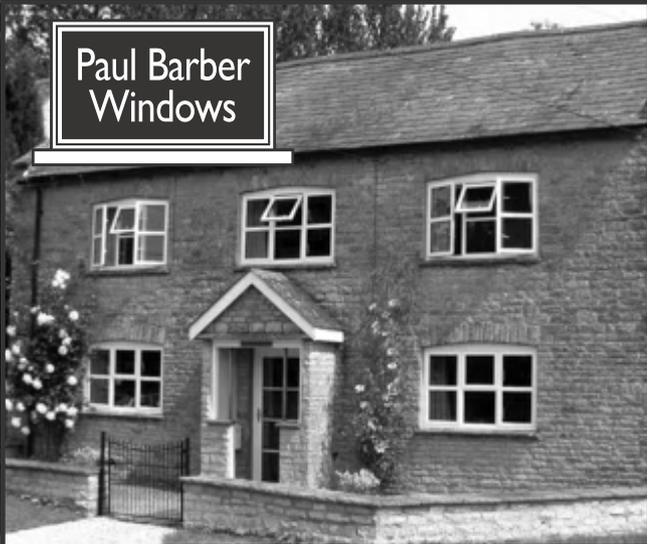


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Church Matters



This month – Harvest, All Saints and a quick look at continuing COVID guidelines in church.

COVID Guidelines

We all want the pandemic to be over, but for the time being we're still putting some things in place in order to keep people safe when we gather together. So:

- * **Facemasks:** if you come into the church building alone, there is no need to wear a facemask. But for a service when there are quite a few folk around – please wear one if you possibly can so we do our best to care for each other. If you are exempt or just can't manage them, then do come anyway. It's OK. We keep masks on throughout services or other events.
- * **Distancing:** we are keeping every other pew empty (they are marked with an X or with a sticker saying 'pew unavailable') in order to maintain some distancing. Apart from that – sit where you want, with whom you want. If you want a bit more space around you, bring a coat or a bag so no-one gets too close!
- * **Maximum capacity:** because of distancing, the maximum number of people we can get in church is around 90. That's more than fine on an average Sunday – but it does mean that we may say we are full on big occasions like Remembrance Sunday. So come early! To keep everyone safe, we won't go over that number.
- * **Booking a place:** we don't plan to go back to this. But if you come at the very last minute for a big event, please don't be cross with a church warden who tells you we are full. We are sorry – but keeping everyone safe right now has to remain at the top of our to-do list.

Harvest Festival

We are celebrating Harvest on the weekend of **2nd & 3rd October**. Lots of village organisations are joining us for this – putting up all sorts of displays they are making around the church. Thank you to everyone one who is joining in with this! It promises to be a wonderful village occasion, a real thanksgiving for all that we are. Please come along on the afternoon of Saturday 2nd October and have a look at the displays. There will be tea and cake available from the church tower porch.

On Sunday 3rd October at 11am we have our Harvest Festival service – do come and worship with us at this wonderful time of year, when we all are reminded of the gifts of creation all around us. In the midst of everything that has been happening, let's celebrate all the goodness we can find.

All Saints & All Souls – Remembering All God's People

Last year we couldn't do our annual Benefice service in **Tackley** where we remember our loved ones who have gone before us, giving thanks for life and love. This year we are doing it. It will be a bit different because of how things are right now and Tackley church has a maximum capacity of just over 60 people, but please do join us at **5.30pm on 31st October** for this very special service. With more apologies than I can possibly offer – if we reach capacity on numbers we won't be able to cram more people in. We have to keep everyone safe at all our services. At least this year we can put this service on, reading out all the names as we always do, with candles lit, standing together in love and remembering.

And do remember – all our churches are open every day. So please do come along and take a moment to sit quietly, to pray and listen and be with God. We offer them to you as a safe space in the midst of this strange world. If everything feels too much or just wrong or people or life are just making you frustrated or upset – come and sit in church and take time in the silence to be with God. He knows. He understands. He hears. And he loves you and me, always.

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Church Services

	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
Sunday 3rd October	9.30am Harvest Festival Revd Marcus Green	11am Harvest Festival Revd Marcus Green	5.30pm Harvest Festival & Auction Revd Marcus Green Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 10th October	9.30am Family Service Revd Marcus Green	11am Family Service Revd Marcus Green	5.30pm Holy Communion Revd Marcus Green
Sunday 17th October	9.30am Holy Communion Revd Marcus Green	11am Holy Communion Revd Marcus Green	5.30pm Evensong Canon Robin Gibbons
Sunday 24th October	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11am Morning Prayer Revd Marcus Green	9.30am Family Communion Revd Marcus Green
Sunday 31st October			5.30pm A Service of Love and Remembering for All Saints and All Souls Revd Marcus Green Canon Robin Gibbons
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
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Local Info

Steeple Aston Village Hall

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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	
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 Secretary: Margaret Bulleyment (347346)

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October

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 14th green
 21st blue & brown
 28th green



November

4th blue & brown
 11th green
 18th blue & brown
 25th green

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 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

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 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

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Steeple Aston Calendar

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

October			
Wednesday 6th	AD&D Photo Society. The Yorkshire Dales (p38)	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Monday 11th	The Valentine Club. Coach trip (p30)	Poole, Dorset	
Tuesday 12th	WI. 'The Ladies of Blenheim' (p32)	Village Hall	
Wednesday 15th	SAL November copy and advert deadline		
Monday 18th	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 19th	The Valentine Club. Fish and Chips (p30)	Village Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 23rd	Farmers' Market (p11)	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 23rd	AD&D Photo Society. Annual Exhibition (p38)	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
November			
Tuesday 9th	WI. 'I went to a Wedding in Delhi'.	Village Hall	
Friday 15th	SAL December copy and advert deadline		
Monday 15th	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Tuesday 16th	The Valentine Club. Dogs for Good (p30)	Village Hall	2.30pm
Sunday 21st	Steeple Aston Choral Society (p10)	Venue to be confirmed	
Saturday 27th	Farmers' Market (p11)	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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