

"L'alma mia fra le tempeste" Land the transformation Straight my arm and strong my -thinder. All the joys of rank an plander. Straight my arm and

"Likraintan Folk Song"

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You'll ne Arrow and

Programme Steeple Aston Ukrainian Concert • Young Musicians' Evening • Jubilee crossword • Letter from Westminster • Reports from clubs and societies • Diary dates for June •

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Cover photo: A display at the Ukrainian Concert, Steeple Aston Church, 28 April 2022. Photo by Nigel Francis.

Steeple Aston Life

COPY

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

COPY DEADLINES

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

This means the copy deadline for the July 2022 issue is 15^{th} June.

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

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		Clir Hugo Brown	07030 27 1990
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"....folly is not always folly." Jane Austen

Steeple Aston Life

June 2022 Issue No. 586

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"At the time of the Silver Jubilee, I was a grumpy anti-monarchist. I didn't celebrate and was appalled by the celebrations. In my idiocy, I missed out! I feel completely differently now compared with that time." Helen Mirren, actress.

The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was on 2nd June 1953, so why are we celebrating her Platinum Jubilee (70 years) in 2022? It is because when a monarch passes away, the heir to the throne immediately accedes to the position. This gave rise to the saying, "the king is dead, long live the king".

George VI acceded to the throne in 1936, following the abdication of his brother Edward VIII. George VI had two daughters – Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret – making his eldest daughter the somewhat unexpected heir presumptive. After a long illness, George VI died on 6th February 1952 and Elizabeth, in Kenya at the time, became Queen.

Her coronation over a year later is attributed to the tradition of allowing a respectful period of time to pass after a monarch dies before holding the event. As another example, Queen Victoria acceded to the throne on the death of her uncle, William IV, on 20 June 1837, but her coronation was on 28 June 1838.

All this rather begs the question as to why we are celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth in June, rather than February. In fact, anniversary events have been taking place throughout the year, culminating in the four-day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. This ties in with Trooping the Colour which marks her official birthday each year in June (the Queen's actual birthday is 21st April). And the weather is usually better.

Why platinum? Well, silver, gold and diamonds have already been appropriated for 25, 50 and 60-year anniversaries. Platinum is a very rare metal, which makes it more valuable than gold. It does not tarnish easily and is resistant to corrosion. And it sounds better than rhodium, which is the most valuable of all precious metals.

Talking of anniversaries, the first issue of Steeple Aston Life was published in 1973, so next year we can celebrate its golden jubilee. Though possibly without the bunting.

Robert





Anger over Paines Hill Bank Holiday trench

The rumble of dissatisfaction about the performance of Trench Cut, the contractors installing the full fibre network for Gigaclear in the village, turned to anger over the May Bank Holiday. There was real fear that there would be an accident on Paines Hill where a trench was left covered only in yellow boards designed for use on pavements not roads (see photo below by Yoni Kinory).

Ian Hughes-Williams, Senior Project Manager at Gigaclear has issued a statement apologising to all those affected. He said: "The work was carried out by one of our contractors to a standard that fell well below what we would consider acceptable. I take these instances very seriously and have spoken to the director of the company who accepts there were failings in its approach to the work and will ensure that supervisors are re-briefed to the correct standards. Additionally, I will be instructing the contractor not to do any further civil work in the area until all defect/remedial works are completed to the correct highway standards and the correct roadworks guarding equipment is available for future use."

The trench was outside Paul and Amanda Rodgers' home on Paines Hill, and they spent much of the Bank Holiday weekend replacing the boards which kept migrating down the road when vehicles drove over them.



Mikron Theatre Company visits North Aston

The Mikron Theatre Company is an English touring theatre company, founded in 1972, notable for its tours by canal boat during the summer months and by road in the spring and autumn. On Friday 24th June they will be performing 'Red Sky at Night' on North Aston Village Green, starting at 7pm. The story is about Hayley, whose dad was the nation's favourite weatherman. Hayley is now following in his footsteps to join the ranks of the forecasting fraternity. Or at least, local shoestring teatime telly.

This is an outdoor show and it is recommended that you bring a picnic, a chair and a blanket. And perhaps an umbrella. No tickets are required, but a 'pay what you feel' collection will be taken after the show. *https://mikron.org.uk/*



Steeple Aston Environment and Sustainability Committee

Our Parish Council recently approved the formation of an Environment and Sustainability Committee to assist the Council in its goal of making our village a sustainable and healthy place for all residents.

The committee consists of Amanda Rodgers, Claire Hall, Martin Dale, Ruth Dale, Charlotte Clarke (who represents the PC) and myself. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is interested to join us at our meetings which will be publicised in the same way as PC meetings. The members are very grateful to Richard MacAndrew and Martin Lipson for their help and guidance in establishing the committee.

At our first full meeting on 31st March we agreed a list of standing agenda items for future meetings. These are:

- Proposals for a 20mph speed limit
- Planning policies
- Community engagement

We also decided to explore the ways in which we can contribute to:

- Establishing and reducing the village's carbon footprint
- Improving public access to EV charging
- Biodiversity and habitat creation within our village

In the coming months, I will ask each member of the committee to share some of their thoughts about our work. This is my take. In 1970, amid increasing public concern about our treatment of the planet, Wendell Berry wrote of his fear that "the Environmental Movement will...be a public cause, served by organizations that will self-righteously criticise and condemn other organizations, inflated for a while by a lot of public talk in the media, only to be replaced in its turn by another fashionable crisis." He went on to say that "if millions of people cannot or will not undertake [action to protect the environment] as a *private* cause" then the Movement would be doomed to fail. 52 years later it's an open question whether the Environmental Movement has succeeded or failed, but Berry's analysis remains pertinent. As chair of the Committee, I believe we will achieve nothing by criticizing and condemning. I hope we will enable, encourage and support public – and private – progress towards our goal.

Carl Tomlinson

Village Hall leaving party for Marcus Green

There will be a lunch on June 12th. Please see page 45 for full details.

STEEPLE ASTON YOUNG MUSICIANS' EVENING

Steeple Aston Village Hall was alive with the sound of music as seven talented young local musicians delighted parents, friends, teachers and a few passing dog-walkers and cyclists, with a wonderful evening of music of every genre.

Violinists Amelie Bull, Sune Letley and Holly Viner; French Horn players Ben Wade and Daragh Cassidy; pianist Eliza Webster and Ruby Gillett, who played piano and recorder, took us all on a memorable musical journey. We heard dances – pavanes, a tango and a Ukrainian gopak; film music from John Williams; musicals *Les Miserables* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; jazz, blues and rock; Mozart, Diabelli and the first movement of Vivaldi's Violin Concert in G – to name but a few.

The evening ended with Paul Herrington, *SACS* accompanist, composer, arranger, teacher, examiner and mastermind of the *SAYME*, who had accompanied every piece played, performing a two-song medley he had arranged from Tim Minchin's musical *Matilda*.

Tremendous thanks are due to Paul for all the effort and time he put into organising this highly successful evening, to help young musicians of all levels gain experience playing for an audience. What was especially gratifying was that every performer, however inexperienced or experienced, gave such a polished performance.

Thanks are also due to all the young musicians for giving us such an entertaining evening, to their supportive parents, their teachers Jose Lluna and Jana McNab and to Bowmaster Martin Dale.

We look forward to seeing all these talented young people on the next stage of their musical journey.

Margaret Bulleyment



Front row: Ben Wade, Amelie Bull, Sune Letley, Daragh Cassidy. Back row: Holly Viner, Eliza Webster, Paul Harrington, Ruby Gillett.

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Taking a Short Break – Back in September

Thank you to everyone who continues to donate their unwanted items for upcycling!

We are delighted to announce that the funds you have helped raise so far are being donated to support the work of the Parish Council's newly formed Environment & Sustainability Committee.

The combination of a pending operation and a bit of a backlog of donations (too busy cutting bunting for the Jubilee) mean that we need to take a short break in receiving donations until September – but we will be back!

amanda@sustainablesteeple.com or calling 07793 553150.

Letter from Westminster



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

It has been wonderful to see North Oxfordshire pull together in recent months in response to the devastating war in Ukraine. Our community has really played its part by organising donations, appeals, and collections to support humanitarian efforts. It was great to attend a charity concert in Steeple Aston Church last month where I was able to meet so many Ukrainians who have recently arrived, as well as their host families.

As a family, we were really pleased to welcome Vika to our home in March. She is staying with us until it is safe for her to return to Ukraine and help rebuild her country. We are all doing our best to support her, as is our wider area. Vika has been overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness local people have shown since her arrival, and she feels very welcome in our community.

The proposed Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at Ardley continues to be at the forefront of my mind. I cannot see that this is a suitable location for such a development, but am continuing to engage with the developers to see what mitigation measures are proposed. A public consultation was launched last month and runs until Saturday 4th July. As part of this, Oxfordshire Railfreight Limited are holding four public exhibitions, as well as two webinar sessions. You can read more about the proposals here: *www.oxsrfi.co.uk* I would strongly encourage everybody affected by the plans to respond to the consultation.

In recent weeks, I have been contacted by many constituents who are concerned about the volume of proposed developments currently being considered around Bicester and the surrounding villages. A multitude of planning applications for housing and industrial developments, stretching from Ardley and Baynards Green to Chesterton and Wendlebury, are causing significant concern about the possible impact on local communities and infrastructure.

It is clear to me that many of these exceed or are contrary to the vision established by the Cherwell Local Plan. I therefore intend to work closely with Council officers, local Councillors and also my colleagues in Government to see what more can be done to ensure that local development is guided by our agreed policies and the consent of the local community, rather than speculative, opportunistic proposals.

On this, I was really pleased to see that the Government has used the Queen's Speech to commit to improving the planning system to give communities a louder voice. I look forward to seeing the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill progress through this Parliament.

Although it was saddening to see the Queen miss the State Opening owing to mobility issues, it will be very exciting to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee this month, marking 70 years of magnificent service to our nation. If you are planning on holding a street party or parade, it is important that you get permission. You can call Cherwell District Council on 01295 221704 for any advice and information on this.



Steeple *People*

Eileen Baglin-Jones

How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? 31 years. Where did you move from? Shipton-under-Wychwood. What brought you here? My job – I became the Education Officer for schools in Banbury, Bicester, Chipping Norton, etc. What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? The people; peacefulness. Is there anything you don't like about living here? Just at the moment - the noise from the Rectory Homes building site! How has the village changed in the time you've been here? I think it's got bigger with more young families – a good thing! Where do you think of as 'home'? Here. Give a potted history of yourself - in 40 words or less. Grammar school girl, trained to teach, did final teaching practice at Burford school – never left Oxfordshire after that. Did various jobs in the world of education, magistrate for 36 years alongside work. Life was always good, but got even better when I married - late - my lovely Neville Jones. How do you see yourself, in five words or less? Busy, cheerful, organised, happy, fat. How do others see you, in five words or less? Reliable, friendly and kind – but better ask around! What do your family or friends find most annoying about you? I write thank you letters and expect them to do the same! Technology: friend or foe? I'm learning to make it my friend. What was the best thing about being a child? Playing out – unsupervised. What is the best thing about being an adult? You can choose whether to be grown up or not. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Princess Margaret. What was your first job? Saturday girl in local greengrocers. I can still smell the beetroots cooking! What do you do for a living now? Retired, though sometimes I think being churchwarden is as good as having a job! What's your secret/guilty pleasure? Chocolate. Dark chocolate. Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have. Visiting churches, learning about art. What are you reading at the moment? 'The Bookseller of Florence' by Ross King. What is your all-time favourite book? Difficult question. Perhaps 'Vanity Fair' by Thackeray, but it changes weekly! What's your favourite food? Crusty brown seeded bread and lots of butter. What would you save from your house if it was on fire? Handbag, iPhone, car keys, passport. If you could ban one thing in the country, what would it be? Smoking. If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? Lots of Chanel No. 5. If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Australia, to see my step-family again. What do you do to relax? Sing with Steeple Aston Choral Society, read, visit art galleries, meet friends. What's your favourite saving or piece of advice? Never let the sun go down on your anger. Who would you most like to have dinner with - dead or alive? Grayson Perry, Dame Brenda Hale, Judi Dench, Richard Burton (without Elizabeth Taylor please.) If you were on a desert island, what would you miss most? People, Shampoo, my bed. What do you get grumpy/mad about? Traffic What makes you happiest in the world? Having fun with family. Early bed with a good book.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really bad at. Working out which is the hot/cold tap. Tell us a good joke. Here is a genuine exchange heard in court: Q. What gear were you in at the moment of impact? A. Gucci sweats and Reeboks.





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The Gardening Spot

It's all happening in the garden during June!

June is what should be described as 'an energetic month' as everything is growing like crazy – especially the weeds! Without wishing to sound like I am repeating myself, it is so important to keep on top of the garden, or it will get on top of you. The enjoyment of gardening then becomes a chore.

Over the past few weeks Daphne and I have had the privilege of inviting people to our garden at Primrose Gardens. Some of you might have visited it during the NGS open gardens. The most common question is, how do you keep it looking so tidy? The answer is simple. We do a little each day and try to stop weeds in their tracks before they take over. Mow the grass around once a week and trim the edges about every two weeks.

So, with that bit of advice in mind, keep the hoe working and tidy up the flower beds now that the spring bulbs have died back. Deadhead your roses to encourage more flowers and cut back the hardy geraniums to help support a second flush of flowers once the first flowers have faded. Support any tall flowers as they might get blown about in the wind and the sooner you do this the more chance the new growth will hide the supports. Now that, hopefully, any chance of frost has disappeared you can plant out the more tender crops like courgettes, runner beans and outdoor tomatoes. In the greenhouse, pinch out the side shoots of cordon tomatoes and keep training cucumbers to support the crop. It you like to grow sweetcorn, plant them in blocks and not straight rows as they pollinate so much better and protect each other from any high winds. Your early crop of potatoes should be ready this month and there is nothing quite like a new potato straight from the garden with a pinch of mint and some butter.

Summer pruning of cherry, plum and apricots is best done now as it reduces the chance of fungal disease like 'silver leaf'. As for watering, I am not an advocate of watering unless it is absolutely necessary. My reason for this is that unless you soak plants at this time of the year, any water encourages the roots to seek moisture and they send their roots upwards to the water. The next day the sun shines and the ground becomes hot and so do the roots and then the plants die. On saying that, there are times when watering is not an option, but use your common sense. Now, on the subject of watering, keep an eye on hanging baskets and containers as they will need constant attention during the summer months and they also benefit from a regular feed.

Now it is time for me to have a little moan. Why do some garden centres insist on selling bedding plants and plants that are not entirely hardy so early in the season that they almost cross over with holly wreaths and fairy lights? There should be a law protecting plants from these retailers who sell plants that will undoubtedly die when planted out in the cold of early May. Having worked in retail for 40 years, I know profit is a key component of any business, but there should be some sort of decency that does not mislead customers and, ultimately, deter them from the enjoyment of gardening. Try to imagine if you were a runner bean plant. Would you rather be placed into position where the soil is warm, moist and all you want to do is grow, or would you rather be dumped into cold soil with a chilling wind blowing around your tender growth?

With that question I will leave you to enjoy your garden.

Richard Preston

Parish Council Meeting Notes



The Parish Council goes in for some bureaucratic nonsense each May. Instead of one Parish Council meeting there are three meetings on one evening. One is the ordinary monthly meeting, one is the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council which re-elects the Chairman and Vice Chairman etc. and the final meeting is a complete nonsense. It is meant to be an annual opportunity for anyone to come and speak to the Parish Councillors. But no one has done this for many years as there is already a more convenient monthly meeting where anyone can raise any subject they wish anyway. The Council is obliged to hold this meeting, but it is such a waste of time it seems to me that the only way to get anyone there would be to hold it in the pub if only it were open.

The second of the three meeting gives the Chairman the opportunity to report back on what the Parish Council has achieved in the last year. Unfortunately, I forgot the meetings were starting earlier than usual so I missed the Chairman's report, but was sent it afterwards. This year I was thanked for reporting on the Parish Council's deliberations for SAL; I wasn't thanked in the previous two years. I think this means I must have done something wrong this year; I cannot have irritated them enough over the last year.

The Chairman's report reminded us that the Parish Council had recently revamped large parts of the play area and that the lower car park at the Village Hall would be resurfaced by Dr Radcliffe's Trust. The Council is trying to accept the generous offer of the orchard on Water Lane, to sort out the Pocket Park at Nizewell Head and the piece of land behind the War Memorial.

The usual monthly meeting started with a discussion about what happens when the Queen dies, which for some unknown reason the Councillors were discussing as 'Operation London Bridge'. Have they not come to terms with the concept of death? Anyway, apparently the book of condolences will be in the Church and beside it there will be a framed picture of the Queen with a

black ribbon diagonally over a corner of the frame. Someone described this as the Queen looking (appropriately?) as if she had been 'crossed out'.

The Councillors discussed whether the non-Steeple Aston users of the playground should be asked if they would like to contribute to the costs of the upkeep of the lavatory and the playground. One idea was to put up a notice on the lines of 'It costs £x a day to keep this swing going and please could non village users contribute'. There was a discussion about the mechanics of a payment system and whether anyone would actually contribute. There were concerns that if the lavatory was closed people would go round the back of the S&R Centre instead.

There was a long discussion about a piece of pavement in Grange Park where foliage growing over the pavement has made it impassable so that pedestrians, buggies and wheelchairs are forced into the road. Apparently, Oxfordshire Highways will not do the remedial work and charge the individual until they have sent out three requests to deal with it to the offending house owner. We were told that no one knew how any letters would get to the owner because the porch on the house is so dangerous that Simon, our wonderful postman, has been told it is not safe for him to deliver there anymore. The other jungle in the village is at 4 Paines Hill where the neighbours are equally suffering from the uncontrolled and vigorous vegetation next door.

The Play Area needs some work, for example, to change the bark under the zipwire for a plastic mulch which cannot be kicked out of the way. There was also concern about vandalism in the Play Area and whether CCTV should be installed as a deterrent. Some favoured this, but others disagreed feeling it should only be contemplated as a last resort.

Our District Councillor, Mike Kerford-Byrnes, has just retired after 11 years in the job and he came to say goodbye. He told us that as a retirement project



he had bought a 25-year-old bulldozer which he was hoping to get working again. He was thanked for all he had done for the village over the years, especially for leading the successful objections to the Hatch End development proposal. As a sign of our appreciation he was given a presentation bottle of Chateauneuf-du-Pape, a card and a bright yellow plastic toy bulldozer – the latter seeming to please him more than the former.

There was a swift round-up of developments in the village. There is an area of brambles behind the hedge at the War Memorial and alternatives for it were considered. One would be to cut back a bit of native hedgerow (which Margaret Mason, according to village myth, lay down in front of a bulldozer to save), replace it with grass and replant the hedge further back. This would give somewhere off the road for the participants at the annual wreath laying and upkeep would be easy. No decision was taken on this.

Apparently, Gigaclear are not doing any more work in the village, due mainly on Northside and along Fir Lane, until their contractors have made good the mess they have made already elsewhere.

The village has representatives on the Forum of the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan, Martin Lipson and John Coley. John is standing down and on behalf of the village – thank you, John. Richard MacAndrew will take his place.

We have all had a leaflet about the proposed Strategic Rail Freight Interchange at Ardley. The Parish Councillors were each given a memory stick, sent by the developers, holding files explaining the proposals in more detail – a good way of reducing paper, but it meant I could not see what was there. The proposals will matter to us as the warehouses will be 100 foot high and up to a third-of-a-mile long and will generate a huge amount of road traffic to deliver the goods that will arrive at the depot by train. There was a discussion about the potential village orchard on Water Lane. The legal issues are still being investigated, but I was astonished to hear that if the gift goes ahead the generous donor may well be asked to contribute to tree work and legal costs. It seems to me that the village will benefit from the gift and to ask for a donation as well is behaving a bit like the National Trust, rather than a grateful village. Some were concerned that if the orchard was left unlocked it might encourage vandalism. However, since sheds have been broken into elsewhere, I could not see why this would encourage more vandalism than we get already.

Someone has suggested the village would benefit from an arrangement to swap children's books. The idea was welcomed, but no one was sure about where one could be located that would be secure at night. The only place I know that is locked at night is the lavatory on the Play Area, which I accept might not be the most helpful suggestion. There was the usual discussion of dog versus fox poo and what could be done about it. One suggestion was that the Dog Warden might be asked to teach some of us how to identify the animals concerned.

Since I have been involved with the Parish Council there have been regular discussions about introducing a 20mph speed limit in the village. Some thought a sign, as in North Aston, that '20 is plenty' might be just as effective as an unenforced 20mph speed limit.

The next meeting will be on 20 June. Do come.

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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Poetry Corner



Serendipity

My garden is a place of great surprises nothing is for certain that I know I fumble and I fudge 'til something rises then make out it was me that made it grow despite that colour's in abundance and everywhere I look there's nothing coy I stand and wait as nature does a fine dance excuse me whilst I tap and dance with joy

Let all of you who garden make a note here it's clear to me that nature is the boss but work along and dig and plant with no fear enough will grow so you'll not make a loss rewards are there to bless you all year round just be amazed by what comes out the ground

Peter Wild

The Remains of Empire

We're having a Platinum Jubilee There are revels all over the nation To celebrate a record reign Of seventy years duration.

There are parties, picnics and pageants Processions and all kinds of bash And many manufacturers Have seen a chance to make some cash.

There are jubilee plates on sale Jubilee tea towels, jubilee jugs Jubilee pens and pencils Jubilee beer glasses, jubilee mugs.

There are games too – Jubilee Bingo, and Pin the Jewel on the Crown Packs of jubilee playing cards Even a jubilee dressing gown.

Buy a jubilee cup, saucer and teaspoon A key ring, an apron, a bell A flower pot, a shopping bag Some jubilee tea and a teapot as well. But the worst example of merchandise That I have so far seen Is a little clockwork figure Of a plastic dancing queen

Companies are cashing in Selling their jubilee merch But to find items made in England You really have to search.

Most of this stuff is made overseas In India, China, Hong Kong Is this what is left of the Empire? Its ultimate swan song.

I'm not a great fan of the monarchy I can't say that I'm pro-royal But to this frail old lady I feel surprisingly loyal.

And so I hope that Her Majesty Doesn't stop to think That this souvenir tat is all that remains Of the world map that once was all pink.

Cathy Lawday



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???? Mind Games



ACROSS

- 1. Country in West Africa which left the Commonwealth in 2013 and rejoined in 2018. (6)
- 7. see 20 down. (8)
- 8. A spirit traditionally drunk by the Royal Navy. (3)
- 9. Title of the Emperor of Japan. (6)
- 10, 18 down. The last title remaining to Prince Andrew. (4, 2, 4)
- 11. The designers of Meghan's wedding dress were & Russo. (5)
- 13. In 1977 the Queen celebrated her Silver (7)
- 15. Larger than. (7)
- 17. The Elizabeth: a medal awarded to the next of kin of Forces personnel killed on operations or by terrorism. (5)
- 21. Another name for the Jamaican tangelo fruit. (4)
- 22. An officer in the royal household responsible for the management of horses (alternative spelling). (6)
- 23. A British order of chivalry awarded for contributions to the arts and sciences, and for charitable and welfare work. (3)
- 24. A stick of French bread. (8)
- 25 A chemical element, symbol Ni, atomic number 28. (6)

DOWN

- 2. The group of vertebrates fed milk by their mothers. (6)
- 3. Relating to birds. (5)
- 4. A soft-bodied, eight-limbed creature of the Cephalopoda class. (7)
- 5. More haughty, arrogant behaviour, as befits a lord. (8)
- 6. A hand tool with a curved blade and a short handle used for cutting grass. (6)
- 12. 2022 is the year of the Queen's Jubilee. (8)
- 14. The Queen is celebrating years on the throne. (7)
- 16. Relating to a monarch and their reign. (6)
- 18. see 10 across. (6)
- 19. A high-pitched call by an animal or person. (6)
- 20, 7 across. This British monarch reigned for 63 years. (5, 8)



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Duties and requirements:

For full details about our Pre-School Manager's duties and what we are looking for please visit our website at www.steepleastonpreschool.org.uk/vacancies.

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Equal opportunities:

Steeple Aston Pre-School is an equal opportunities employer.

Application Process:

If you think you are what we are looking for and will be a great addition to our team, we would love to hear from you. Please email a copy of your CV together with a covering letter to steepleastonpreschoolcommittee@gmail.com, **by no later than 6 June 2022**. Interviews will be held throughout June & July 2022.

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CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

Was held in Steeple Aston Church on Thursday 28th April Curated by Nicholas Cleobury/Organ and Piano

Opening of 'The Great Gate of Kyiv' – Modest Mussorgsky Nigel Doggett/Trumpet Niel Nicholson/Horn

'Prokimen Tone 8' (Galician Chant)
'Crucem tuam Veneramur' – Alexander Koshetz (1875-1944)
Miranda Doggett Lynn Quek James Taylor Nigel Doggett

'My Testament' - Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861) Read by Juliia Rudnieva

Theme from 'Ladies in Lavender' - Nigel Hess. Holly Viner/Violin

'Silent Noon' – Ralph Vaughan Williams 'Long the Night' (Ukrainian melody) *Rebecca Lewin/Mezzo Soprano*

Audio

'A Girl was walking through the Meadow' – Ukrainian Folk Song State Anthem of Ukraine – Mykhailo Verbytsky (1815-1870)

Two poems by Lina Kostenko (born 1930) 'Sometimes blinded by beauty' and 'Wings' *Read by Katie Forshaw, James Marsden and Sam Taylor*

Audio

'The Walking Rabbit' – Shchedryk Children's Choir, Kyiv 'Carol of the Bells' – Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921)

'Feed the Birds' from 'Mary Poppins' – Robert and Richard Sherman 'No wars will stop us singing' – Debbie Wiseman/Don Black Dr Radcliffe's School Choir Conductor/Guy Brigg Acc/ Denise Evans

'Everyone Sang'- Siegfried Sassoon (Read by Eileen Baglin-Jones)

'Lascia ch'io pianga' (Rinaldo) – G F Handel
'An die Musik/To Music' – Franz Schubert
'L'alma mia fra le tempeste' (Agrippina) – G F Handel
Helen Sherman/Mezzo Soprano Maddy Aldis-Evans

We chose the RED CROSS and UNICEF as our charities. James Darcy has over 30 years' experience working in the international humanitarian sector and acts as an independent adviser to UNICEF and other agencies working in conflict and refugee settings.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AstonsConcertforUkraine https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AstonsConcert-ForUkraine

> Audio 'O Marychka' (Ukrainian Folk Song)

'You'll never walk alone' from 'Carousel' (Rodgers and Hammerstein)

The glory and freedom of Ukraine has not yet perished Luck will still smile on us brother-Ukrainians. Our enemies will die, as the dew does in the sunshine, and we, too, brothers, we'll live happily in our land. We'll not spare either our souls or bodies to get freedom and we'll prove that we brothers are of Kozak kin.

Words of the Ukrainian National Anthem sung in the original at the Concert.

Thanks to:

Curator/Organiser - Nicholas Cleobury; Concert Management - Heather Cleobury and Martin Dale Ticket Manager - Margaret Bulleyment and thanks to the Village Shop Programmes - Martin Dale and Cathy Lawday; Flowers - Chris Clarke, Ruth Dale, Harriet Higgins. Lighting - Tony Simpson; Bell Ringing and Donation Buckets - Dorothy and Graham Clifton Audio - Marcus Green; Budget and Charity arrangements - Philip Davies and James Darcy Ukrainian Research/on the day help - Beverley Davies; Translations - Olia Martin, Ivanna Lyepyeyko and Juliia Rudnieva; Dr Radcliffe's School - Frances Brown and Guy Brigg; Catering - Barbara Shooter General help from Ruth Dale, Eileen Baglin-Jones and Lawrence White

As for the performers, what a galaxy of local talent. Brass and singing quartet from North Aston, Eileen, Holly and Rebecca from Steeple, Maddy from Lower Heyford, international Australian star Helen from Bicester and the wonderful Dr Radcliffe's Choir, readers and bunting makers. The three audience participation pieces were the icing on the cake – learning the Ukrainian National Anthem in five minutes, the spontaneous dancing by our Ukrainian friends and raising the roof with 'You'll never walk alone'.





The concert was sold out. View this photo in the digital edition of this issue of SAL (<u>https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/</u>) to see the church illuminated in the yellow and blue colours of Ukraine.

Nigel Doggett/Trumpet and Niel Nicholson/Horn



Eileen Baglin-Jones



Helen Sherman

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Football Focus

125 years of village football

This year, Steeple Aston Football Club is proud to be celebrating its 125th Anniversary (1897 to 2022).

In our founding year, amongst other things, the monarch (Queen Victoria) celebrated her Diamond Jubilee year, Country Life published its first magazine and the National Trust acquired its first coastal stretch at Tintagel in Cornwall. Warfare was prevalent, as was disease and shortages of goods. No change there then!

All of the above institutions still exist, as do we, albeit in differing circumstances. Some things do pass the test of time, even though they may have to evolve in order to do so.

In honour of our longevity, the Oxfordshire Football Association has awarded us a certificate recognising the commitment of players, coaches, volunteers and members of Steeple Aston FC for providing football to the local community for 125 years. The certificate will be framed and put on display at the Village Sports and Recreational Trust Clubhouse at Robinsons Close.

The club has had to evolve as demographic trends have meant that players from outside of the village are now also a part of the team. However, this has led to positive outcomes in terms of burnishing our reputation throughout Oxfordshire as a club that has a worthy ethos, excellent facilities and a commitment to fair play. In recent times our chairman has received a High Sheriff's award for community service and our manager was recognised by the Football Association for his outstanding efforts to sustain 'grassroots' football. As a club we have sponsored and supported other clubs in countries with fewer resources and football club badge collectors worldwide frequently write to request our badge.

No one knows what the future holds. However, we hope to continue to provide a club that will allow people to play football in the village now and in the future.

Peter Wild, Secretary Steeple Aston FC



The certificate presented to Steeple Aston Football Club at their end of season dinner. On the left is Alan Peckham (Chairman) alongside Alan Brewer (Vice-President). FRIDAY 17 JUNE 5-11PM





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Steeple Aston *Golf Society*



The Wychwood is located between Burford and Chipping Norton. It is a par 72 course set on the fringe of the Cotswolds and blends superbly with its surroundings. Lakes and streams enhance the challenge of the course with water coming into play on eight of the 18 holes. This was our first meeting of the year and the weather gods looked down on us with bright and sunny, yet breezy conditions. The course was in its usual condition of being excellent, as was the catering and friendliness of all the staff.

Results

Winner of the Richard Cardew Trophy: Mike Brown 33 points. Runner-up: Alan Brewer 32 points. Nearest the pin on the 6th: Mike Granville. Nearest the pin in two on the 18th: Robbie Robinson. No 2s, so a bigger raffle at the end.

If you would like to join us on the 17th June we are at Wrag Barn in Wiltshire, just a 45 minute drive away from Steeple Aston. Please get your entries in early as we have been restricted to 16 players only.

When your shot has to carry over a water hazard, you can either hit one more club or two more balls. Henry Beard.

Happy golfing.

Alan Brewer



Crossword answers

Across: 1. Gambia; 7. Victoria; 8. Rum; 9. Mikado; 10. Duke; 11. Ralph; 13. Jubilee; 13. Greater; 17. Cross; 21. Ugli; 22. Equery; 21. OBE; 24. Baguette; 25. Nickel. Down: 1. Garter; 2. Mammal; 3. Avian; 4. Octopus; 5. Lordlier; 6, Sickle; 12. Platinum; 14. Seventy; 16. Regnal; 18. of York; 19. Squeal; 20. Queen.

Steeple Aston Village Archive



The rector's riddle

A curious collection of letters was donated to SAVA last summer, which told of an unusual series of events that befell one of our former rectors. Rev Frederick John Brown was rector of Steeple Aston from 1896-1918 and correspondence between the rector and a Mr J F May covers a four-year period from 1899-1902. It centres around the fact that Rev Brown's brother, George, had received a sum of interest on a former investment which should have been shared with the Horton family. It transpired that this interest had never been apportioned over a period of ten years, with George remaining resolutely tight-lipped. Being a pillar of the community, Rev Brown went to great lengths to try to avert this 'fraud' from going public, with both him and his sister trying to scrape funds together and desperate to keep it quiet, admitting *"the knowledge of it would simply kill my mother... who has already had the terrible experience of her family's misdoings"*.

In November 1899, Rev Brown met with Mr May in person to discuss the situation, after which the latter writes 'you are acting for the best in this, as you have acted throughout, it seems to me, in circumstances of very exceptional difficulty'. The plot deepens the following year, when more unpaid beneficiaries are identified and the rector offers to sell shares, along with debentures from the brewery, to help meet costs. A Trust Fund is set up from which payments can be made, with the rector finding the whole process very painful: 'I feel like a man in the dentist's hands, the tooth has got to come out, and I must trust the operator'. The rector suggests that his brother's portion should go towards making good the Horton's claim. He then softens a little towards his sibling, adding in confidence, 'I will let him have the money again, but it will be a long time first'.

Rev Brown is clearly a busy man, often rushing off to catch a train from Heyford or trying to read his post in between his travels and work commitments. With accounting clearly not his forte, he inadvertently mixes up his own private accounts with that of the Trust Fund, admitting to being 'a *muddler*' referring to '*my wretched attempts at keeping accounts*', and appealing to Mr May, '*after all our correspondence lately, it would have been pleasant to hear that I had not played the rogue, but I must hope for the best*'. Adding to his distress, a letter from Mr May in April 1902 seems to indicate that the matter would need to be made public. A bewildered Rev Brown is aghast at the prospect, as he '*thought it was a private matter* ... *all my sacrifice will have been in vain*'. The rector once again tries to smooth things over, offering to bear the cost of his own oversights, as '*it would not be fair to saddle the Trust with this. A muddler, I know I am, but I do try to be honest*'.

Thankfully, by July 1902, Rev Brown talks of winding up the Trusteeship, saying 'what a great relief to finish the matter'. But not without something of a sting in the tail as, in November, Mr May writes implying there is some uncertainty over whether the complete accounts should be made known to all: 'I should think the latter formality need not be gone through, but I am under orders and will do as I am told'. In December 1902, Mr May confirms he's awaiting a receipt from a beneficiary for monies paid, along with the Trust's accounts. So, it appears that the full accounts were indeed published, for which Rev Brown seems to take responsibility, commenting it was 'no doubt through my fault!'.

SAVA's book on 'The History of Steeple Aston Church' (2017) describes a memorial plaque to Rev Brown in the church chancel as follows: '*This simple classical memorial honours a rector known for his kindness and commitment to his Church both in a spiritual sense and in improving the* fabric of it. He provided much of the furniture, despite 'a thin purse', and was a force behind the building of a new vestry, providing a new organ and heating apparatus.' He also contributed 10/- to start a fund for the church clock.

Carol Neville Steeple Aston Village Archive



SAVA THE DATE

SAVA's exhibition and book for 2022 will be an updated version of 'Village Personalities', featuring many of the most significant people from both Steeple and Middle Aston - some well-known and others unsung - from the 17th Century to the present day.

The exhibition will be held over the weekend of **November 12th and 13th** in the Village Hall, where the accompanying book will be on sale too. Entry to the hall will, as ever, be free of charge. Like everyone else, though, SAVA will be bearing the brunt of much higher energy costs this year, so your generous donations will be particularly welcome.



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On 4th May, Steve Williams gave us a whistle-stop tour of photographing sport. He provided ideas for panning as well as the best shutter speeds for all the different sports. He highlighted the problems of floodlighting, too.

AF AL

A GAGE

Steve tends to photograph without permits and attends sports events that might be amateur meetings so that he can get up close. Official experiences often need a more formal arrangement to access the action.

Steve showed us many sports from wrestling (and yes, it is staged), to speedway, weightlifting, superbikes at Silverstone, polo and rugby. An outstanding set of images was of jet ski racing and tricks. The shots of the Moto GP at Silverstone really evoked the extremes of the sport and bravery of the riders. Do visit *www.stevewilliamsphotography.co.uk* to see his work.

Our next meeting at the Adderbury Institute will be on Wednesday 1st June at 7.30pm, where our speaker, Bob Bracher, will give a talk about travel. Check our website for more details.

Anne Hunsley www.addphoto.co.uk

AD&D^{Photographic} Society



Jet ski racing. Photo © Steve Williams.





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THE VALENTINE CLUB

Sometimes you are lucky enough to have things fall in your favour and for our first holiday as a club during late April, I think I can say, everything did just that.

InterChoice sent a coach from Leicester to pick 40 members up, almost from their doorsteps, and transport us all to Norton Grange, near Yarmouth, on the Isle of Wight. We were greeted by sunshine that stayed with us all five days and were made very welcome by the staff at this Warner hotel. Excursions took us around the island, a large garden centre, Ryde and The Needles. For the more energetic, dancing in the evening, preceded by variety shows and, of course, a three-course meal. Some of the group attempted bowling for the first time, whilst others took advantage of the many facilities to be found. I think the most rewarding outcome of this holiday was to be able to enjoy each other's company, have a laugh and generally chill-out after what has been a difficult couple of years.

So, how do we follow that? On the 17th May we were able to welcome Mellissa, for the first time to The Valentine Club, who sang songs from the 60s and proved to be a great hit with the audience. A few days later, 60 members joined the steam train at Cheltenham racecourse to travel to Broadway where we then proceeded to The Valley at Evesham for a meal and some therapeutic shopping – or at least that is what I was told!

June is proving to be a busy month as we celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the club's 70th anniversary with a tea party in the village hall on Friday 3rd June. A very big thank you to Midcounties Coop – and especially the store at Deddington – for sponsoring the event to the tune of £150. On the 9th June we are all off to Belvoir Castle where not only do we have a chance to look around the castle and extensive grounds and gardens, but also enjoy a cream tea. Let's face it, life is nothing without cake! On the 21st June we will have a change to our original programme when we welcome presentations on carers and lasting powers of attorney. Finally in June, in conjunction with the horticultural society, we travel to RHS Wisley for a day of inspiration for our gardens, or simply a day out.

The club owes a very big thank you to Barrus of Bicester who, after using Primrose Gardens for promotional photography, decided to donate £700 to the club. Barrus is a great British company founded in 1917 and operates across four diverse market sectors, Marine, Garden, Industrial and Vehicle. It is one of the UK's leading importers and distributors of engines, engine-powered equipment, garden tools and accessories, partnering with leading global companies including Stanley, Black & Decker, Brunswick, Yanmar and John Deere. The Garden Tools and Accessories Division, based at Bicester, offers an extensive range of quality garden tools and accessories from the well-known brands of Wilkinson Sword, Town & Country and WOLF-Garten.

So, while achieving the age of 60 years plus suggests that life might slow down somewhat, being part of such a vibrant group of 'upcycled' teenagers throws that idea out of the window!

You can see what the club is up-to by visiting our own website on www.valentineclub.wixsite/aston or keep up-to-date by looking on the village website www.steepleaston.org.uk or simply call me on 01869 340512.

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



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Village Hall News

Thursday Badminton



Village Rep

Valentine Club

Parish Council

Garden Club

PCC

Archive

The Annual General Meeting of the Steeple Aston Village Hall Management Committee was held on the 9th May 2022. The full committee is listed below, showing which group they represent.

Amanda Rodgers

Stuart Cummins

Richard Preston

• Chris Clarke

• Cathy Fleet

John Coley

- Barbara Brewer (Chair) Tuesday Badminton
- Margaret Bulleyment (Sec) Choral society (Treasurer)
- John White
- to be confirmed
- Deborah Morris
- Cathy Lawday
 - WI
- Torquil McLusky Scouts / Cubs / Beavers

Village Rep

In the next few months the committee will be deciding on a programme of events for the forthcoming year. If there is a specific event you would like to see in the programme, or if you have any new ideas, please contact me or any committee member.

Sunday 29th May NGS (National Garden Scheme) Open Gardens 2 to 6pm. Teas in Village Hall. The Church allotments plus six gardens open, admission £7 to all gardens.

Saturday 5th November Annual Fireworks evening.

We are sad to say that Mrs Katie Rushworth has decided to stand down from her position as letting agent after nearly four years. The Village Hall Committee would like to thank Katie for all her work, patience and commitment to this position. Our new letting agent is Mrs. Angela Smith, tel. 07734 112967. Please do not call this number between 6pm and 8pm unless urgent. Email steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com Collect keys from 'Mijas', South Side, Steeple Aston OX25 4RU.

Barbara Brewer (Chair)

1st Deddington Guides Report



As always in the summer term, our aim is to be out-of-doors as much as possible. With this in mind we got straight into the term with a cook out. Thanks to the Fenemore family for their hospitality.

We have welcomed seven new guides this term and they soon all got involved in getting the fires going. Aah – the smell of the woodsmoke! Sausages and beans were the order of the day, with experimental toast - most finished up like black floor tiles - but delicious toasted marshmallows were more successful.

Next, we had a wonderful evening, thanks to Brian and Janet, exploring the woods, climbing trees and building shelters. The guides were reluctant to stop although the light was fading and it was time to dismantle the shelters. It then proceeded to pour with rain. We stayed, under cover in the woods, for the last 10 minutes. The guides all gathered under one tree and entertained themselves singing their heads off - that really was singing in the rain!!

We have many more adventures planned for the next few weeks.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755 Marian Trinder 07786 001641



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The Cricket Report



SACC Awards for 2020 & 2021....

We held our Club Awards Dinner in May for the last two seasons and the trophies went to the following club members: 2020 Batting: 3rd Jon Scotchbrook, 2nd Arthur Higgins, 1st **Tom Chesser** 2021 Batting: 3rd Phil Chesser, 2nd Jon Scotchbrook, 1st **Peter Higgins** (lots of not outs!) 2020 Bowling: 3rd Paul Longman, 2nd Arthur Higgins, 1st **Peter Higgins** 2021 Batting: 3rd Paul Longman, 2nd Peter Higgins, 1st **Nige Doggett** Young Player of the Year 2020: **Arthur Higgins** Young Player of the Year 2021: **Tom Chesser** Clubman of the Year 2020: **Bob Longman** Clubman of the Year 2021: **Greg Renk** A Special Award for the finest all-round performance in the History of Steeple Aston Cricket Club for his feats vs Ascot-under-Wychwood with 107 not out, 3 catches and 5-27: **Tom Chesser**

Our evening ended with an entertaining Pub Quiz, arranged by Quiz Nut Rob Wilson-Fry. If there was an award for popular music knowledge, Phil Chesser would have won it; sadly no JS Bach or Modest Mussorgsky questions for Nick Cleobury.

Blenheim Place, our first game of 2022....

At 1pm on Sunday 15th May we stood on the lawn of Blenheim Palace in the pouring rain. Alan, one of their players, said, "It will be fine, trust me". He was right and so an enthralling game ensued. SACC lost the toss and we batted. Since Jeremy Farrar had chopped one of his fingers off (don't worry, he's fine, it was just the tip!), Nige kindly asked me to open the batting and see off their very fast, to me at least, left-armer. This I duly managed, then got out to their wily off-spinner for 17. Nige Doggett hit a fluent 16 before falling to the same bowler. It was left to debutant Richard Wilson, a Housemaster at the Dragon, to hold the innings together with a patient start followed by a blistering finish. He was out last ball for 48, ably assisted by Phil Chesser who clubbed 12 runs including one marvellous 6 into Mike Ashley's daughter's wedding marquee, which ever so slightly spoiled our usually marvellous view. Phil almost knocked out our star batsman, as they took a quick single. It wasn't Phil's fault, there were just a lot of fielders converging on the spot where Phil had hoped to pass Richard. Luckily nobody was injured and it was heartening that Blenheim did not claim a run out. We finished on 124-7 off 25 overs, probably 20 runs short of par.

Fielding matters...

Blenheim got off to a fast start despite Simon McGrath (1-16 off 5 overs) removing their best batsman first ball. However, after 8 overs they were 43-1 and in a strong position. The match then swung on some fine fielding, which helped build scoreboard pressure. Sam Hatz made two wonderful stops that turned 8 runs into 2 and gradually our bowlers got on top. Richard Wilson bowled his off-breaks to great effect taking 1-17 off 5 overs and the Chairman bowled a canny line taking 2-10 off his allotted overs. Tim Cook behind the stumps was clinical and conceded no byes, quite some feat on a wicket with inconsistent bounce. Alain Michaelis (3-11), another making his debut, then took three wickets to seal the match. Paul Longman (1-25) finished off with a much-deserved wicket and Nige Doggett took the final wicket for a 34-run victory. It had been a fine team performance with a special mention for Charlie Simmonds-Jones, who fielded well, despite having an operation the morning after. We wish him well.

With best wishes to all.

Peter Higgins Chairman SACC



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Following our AGM in April, when we learned that we had the second most successful recruitment drive in the Oxfordshire WI Federation, we started the new year with another new member joining the Steeple Aston Branch. We welcome CJ Hamilton and hope that she will enjoy the varied events that are planned for the coming year.

WI Report

Our May meeting was a talk by Alistair Lack, speaking about the Oxford of Morse, Lewis and Endeavour. It was interesting to hear stories from 'behind the scenes' and to learn more about the author Colin Dexter, the actors John Thaw and Kevin Whately, the theme tune by composer Barrington Pheloung and about the Oxford locations.

There is a change to the programme for this month. Unfortunately, our June speaker has doublebooked himself. So this month Lynda Warren will speak about her 40 years' experience of supplying film and TV crews with locations, costumes, props and animals. The talk on Princess Margaret's controversial life has been postponed until September.

In addition to our regular monthly meetings, members can enjoy Walking Netball (contact Merrill Bailey on 347802 for details) and Bowling (contact Kathryn Coysh on 572238). Also, there are still places left on our summer trip to Kelmscott Manor on 29th June. The outing costs £18 and includes entrance to Kelmscott Manor, coach travel for the day, tea at Aston Pottery and a visit to the village of Bampton. Please contact Kathryn Coysh to sign up.

Don't forget that as part of the village Platinum Jubilee celebrations the WI are running a competition to 'Make a Crown'. You can knit a crown, crochet one, make one from papier mache or cardboard or Lego or plasticene or fabric – whatever you can think of. It has to be possible to wear your crown, but that is the only requirement so let your imagination run riot! You can make a crown in your own time at home, or if you prefer you can visit the WI 'Fete at the Gate' stall on South Side on Jubilee Saturday and use the materials provided there to make a crown or to decorate one. Crowns have to be handed in to the WI stall by 3.00pm on Jubilee Saturday (4th June) so they can be judged by the independent adjudicator. Winners will be announced and prizes presented at the Village Picnic on Jubilee Sunday 5th June. If you want any more details, contact me on 347209.

Good luck with your crown!

Cathy Lawday WI President



Kelmscott Manor





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Church Matters



All Good Things...

So it's time for me to say farewell. I am enormously grateful to have been Rector here for the past nine years – it has been a genuine joy. It has been wonderful to be able to write occasional words of hope and to pass on information of things that have been going on in church life via these pages and as I look back – I do think there has been quite a bit of hope and quite a lot of stuff going on!

Quite apart from all the weddings and christenings we have celebrated together, as well as those we have loved and trusted into God's tender keeping, we've had a new organ in North Aston and windows renovated; a new pathway to the church and cottages built in the village at Tackley (thanks to Bob Clow, whose gift has made the church more financially secure than for a very long time); we've celebrated all kinds of community events and concerts in Steeple Aston, had a new bell in the tower, and although we haven't seen our plans for the church project come to fruition, we've done an enormous amount of fantastic work that is ready to be taken forward at the right time.

It's invidious to pull out specific events, but perhaps I may be allowed to comment on the most recent, our Concert for Ukraine? To me it spoke of the best that we offer as the church in our benefice – providing a focal gathering place for a whole community, doing something very concrete to help people in need. So far, the musicians, singers, schoolchildren, readers and all under Nick Cleobury's phenomenal guidance have raised over $\pounds 6,000$ for UNICEF and the British Red Cross appeals. Thank you to everyone!

I've had a couple of visitors recently who have spent time in our church buildings, and who have commented on the care that is so obviously taken over these places. They haven't begun to see the half of it. People who put flowers out, or who take time to polish brass, or who mow the grass, or who tend graves of loved ones, or who provide music, or ring bells, or sort hymn books, or who provide things for children to do, or who unlock the doors, or who dust and clean, or who come in to pray, or who take time with occasional visitors, or who help when school classes visit, or who are simply ready to do whatever needs doing. Our churches are communities. And it has been my joy to be a part of these communities for nearly a decade.

But now: June begins with the Jubilee weekend and our services on 5th June will mark this wonderful event. Do join us. North Aston has a traditional prayer book communion at 9.30am, Tackley is at 11am for a village Celebration Service, and Steeple at 6pm for a Coronation Songs of Praise with a choir and lots of music to join in. Come to any or all! And 12th June at 11am sees my final service – a United Service for the whole Benefice held at Steeple Aston. Everyone from all our villages is welcome. Please join us – I'd love to see you there as I take my leave as Rector.

And then?

God is good. I'm looking forward to my move to be chaplain at Worcester College. And I have a sneaky suspicion that someone lovely will be coming here before too long, someone wonderfully kind, who will be just perfect for our three villages. You might spare a prayer for them as they start to sense a call to be your next Rector!

Every blessing. *Revd Marcus Green*

For news and ongoing details of services, as well as contact details for all our churchwardens and the Area Dean, please do check our website: <u>www.sntchurch.com</u>





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Church Services

	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley		
Sunday 5th June Pentecost Jubilee Weekend	9.30am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Revd Marcus Green	6pm Coronation Songs of Praise Revd Marcus Green	11am Jubilee Celebration Service Revd Marcus Green		
Sunday 12th June Trinity Sunday		11am United Benefice Communion Revd Marcus Green <i>Rector's Farewell Service</i>			
Sunday 19th June	9.30am Holy Communion Revd Andrea Russell	11am Holy Communion Revd Andrea Russell	5.30pm Evensong Richard Bailey		
Sunday 26th June	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Family Communion Revd Andrew Bunch		
www.sntchurch.com					

A note from the Churchwardens

You will have read in SAL or the village website or just heard the news that our Rector, Marcus Green, is leaving to take up a post as Chaplain of Worcester College, Oxford. His last Sunday service in Steeple Aston will be at 11am on 12^{th} June and will be followed by a 'bring-and-share' lunch in the Village Hall. Anyone who would like to come to wish Marcus well will be welcome both to the service and to lunch. If you decide to come to the Village Hall party, please let one of us know and we'll be grateful if you can bring a little something to contribute to the lunch (finger food please) or something to drink to enjoy with others. The Village Hall will be open from 9.30am. Any contributions towards a gift for Marcus would be welcome too – just give it to one of us by 5th June. Marcus has touched the lives of many of us during the years he has been our Rector. We hope to send him off with warm wishes for the future after a happy event on 12th June.

Graham Clifton 347273; Eileen Baglin-Jones 340099



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Local Info

	Rubbish bin collection day is T
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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) 200 200	Steeple Aston Sport & Recrea Letting Charges
Village Residents $\pounds 30 \dots \pounds 75$ Represented Clubs $\pounds 30 \dots \pounds 75$ Committee Room $\pounds 6$ Non-Represented Clubs $\pounds 6$ Non-Represented Clubs $\pounds 12$ Discount for represented clubs – 15% for six block bookings	Social Function peak times (up to 6 hours Social Function off-peak times (up to 5 ho Meeting of represented club (per session Caution money for Private Lettings
Letting Agent : Angela Smith (see p.2) Chairman: Barbara Brewer (340423) Secretary: Margaret Bulleyment (347346)	Letting Agent Angela Smith Tel. 07 E-Mail to rec.trust@googlema
A represented club must send a representative to the Village Hall Committee meetings.	Chair – Torquil McLusky Tel. 0 Treasurer – Chris Cooper Tel. 0

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Steeple Aston Calendar

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

June			
Wednesday 1st	AD&D Photo Society. Bob Bracher: Travel (p27)	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Friday 3rd	Valentine Club. Platinum Jubilee tea party (p31)	Village Hall	2.30pm
Saturday 4th	WI. Design/Make a crown competition (p35)		
Saturday 4th	Bunt the village/Fete at the Gate (p12)		
Saturday 4th	WI. 'Make a Crown' competition (p35)		
Sunday 5th	The Whit Races/The Village Picnic (p12)		
Wednesday 8th	Valentine Club. Belvoir Castle (p31)	Village Hall	2.30pm
Tuesday 14th	WI. 'Props, locations, costumes animals' (p35)	Village Hall	7.00pm
Wednesday 15th	SAL July 2022 copy and advert deadline		
Sunday 19th	SACS Midsummer Medleys Party Concert (p5)	Village Hall	7.00pm
Monday 20th	Parish Council meeting	Sports & Rec.	7.30pm
Tuesday 21st	Valentine Club. Carers and lasting powers of attorney.	Village Hall	2.30pm
Wednesday 29th	Valentine Club. RHS Wisley (p31)		
Wednesday 29th	WI. Trip to Kelmscott Manor and Aston Pottery (p35)	meet at Village Hall	11.30am
July			
Saturday 9th	Steeple Aston Village Church Fete	Robinsons Close	2.00pm
Tuesday 12th	WI. Members' Garden Party	Burland	tbc
Friday 15th	SAL July 2022 copy and advert deadline		
Monday 18th	Parish Council meeting	Sports & Rec.	7.30pm

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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