

Steeple Aston *Life*

July 2022 Issue No. 587



• Jubilee decorations and events • Hollywood skies • Mindgames •
• School OFSTED report • Oxford History of Science Museum • Salad ideas •

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Cover photo: Jubilee flags and bunting on North Side

Photo by Nigel Francis

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

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

COPY DEADLINES

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

This means the copy deadline for the August 2022 issue is 15th July.

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

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1/2 page - £15

Full page (village events only) - £15

Steeple Aston Directory

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Allotments (Church)	SACAA Clerk	Nigel Grugeon sacaaclerk@btinternet.com	
Angling Club		Antony Morley	tonyriver_83@hotmail.com
Archive (SAVA)	Chairman	Martin Lipson	347046
Badminton (Tuesday mornings)		Barbara Brewer	340423
Badminton (Thursday evenings)		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
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Cherwell District Council	Bodicote House		01295 227001
Choral Society	Chair	Ann Livings	233518
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector		
Church Wardens		Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton	340099 , 347273
Methodist Church – Tackley		Rev Paul Carter	01865 243216
	Steward	Tim Bailey	01869 331516
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		Cllr Bryn Williams	07836 271998
		Cllr Hugo Brown	
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	347493
Crimestoppers			0800 555111
Deddington Guides		Marian Trinder	340806, 07786 001641
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments		338611
	Repeat Prescriptions	10am - 3pm	338847
	Out of Hours		111
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Head Teacher	Frances Brown	340204
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Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
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Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
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Toddler Group		Charlotte Clarke	07799 030490
Valentine Club		Richard & Daphne Preston	340512
Village Hall (see advertisement)	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
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Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme			0300 3030125
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“...folly is not always folly.”
Jane Austen

Steeple Aston *Life*

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Editorial

“Summer vacation: where you drink triple, see double and act single.” –
Unknown

July is normally the hottest month of the year, but it will have its work cut out to beat the tropical days of June. Friday 17th June was the hottest day of the year so far, with a temperature of 32.7 °C recorded at Heathrow. Most newspapers managed to avoid the clichéd headline “Phew, what a scorcher”, though The Telegraph came up with “It’s Fryday!”

With temperatures hotter than some popular European holiday destinations, taking a staycation appears to be a sensible option at the moment, especially after all the airport chaos in June and possible problems travelling by road and rail. A staycation originally meant remaining at home and taking day trips to places of interest. Steeple Aston is fortunate in having Blenheim Palace and Waddesdon Manor not too far away and offering many attractions, not least space for picnics.

Talking of space, 2nd July is World UFO Day, the day of the supposed UFO crash in the 1947 Roswell incident. Join with others to watch for unidentified flying objects coming to a field near you (below). However, given the association of UFOs with alien creatures, some investigators prefer terms such as ‘unidentified aerial phenomenon’, or the snappier ‘anomalous phenomena’.

Back on earth, Steeple Aston Life offers attractive local destination ideas in our regular feature ‘Have you ever been to...?’. The History of Science Museum (page 18) sounds fascinating. Previous issues this year have recommended Upton House (April), Shipton-under-Wychwood (March) and FarmEd (January), with many more in previous years (going back to 2015). If you have recently decluttered and no longer have all the issues, you can view them online (going back to November 2019) at steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine. These digital issues also offer many more images in colour and are well worth viewing – after you have finished reading this print edition, of course.

Whatever your plans, I hope that you cope with the hot, sultry ‘dog days’ of summer. This is the period following the rising of the star system Sirius, known colloquially as the ‘dog star’. If you are outdoors, make sure you use a high-factor sunscreen – and maybe a fashionable wide-brim hat.

Robert



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Gigaclear Build Update

Gigaclear continues its work installing full-fibre broadband in the village. Work on North Side is scheduled from 20th June to 1st July and there may be two-way signals on some days for traffic control. Fenway might also have two-way signals between 4th and 15th July. There will be a road closure at The Dickredge from 1st to 12th August. These dates are subject to change. Up-to-date information is available at <https://one.network/>

Blenheim Palace closures

At Blenheim, the Palace will be closed from 27th June to 7th July. From 29th June to 6th July the Formal Gardens will be closed. These closures are to allow for a large private event. The Park, Walled Garden, Oxfordshire Pantry Café, Shop and toilets will remain open.

CPRE Planning Volunteers Needed – Bicester and Surrounding Villages

This role involves being aware of factors affecting the countryside or green spaces in your local area and helping us to suggest solutions and improvements through the planning system. You'll keep an eye on local planning applications and developments and alert us to them. You'll also help to investigate them further to gather the facts so we can respond appropriately. Our friendly team will provide you with training and support to develop in your role. You'll gain valuable skills and experience in the planning process for a range of different developments.



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If you are interested, visit our website for more information: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

For an informal chat, please get in touch with Helen Marshall, Director of CPRE Oxfordshire, telephone 07791 376365 or email director@cpreoxon.org.uk

OurBus Bartons fares increased

OurBus Bartons, which runs buses through Steeple Aston, is facing increased fuel costs and other price increases. To cover these additional costs, it has had to increase fares. Their standard single fare is now £3.40 (was £3.00) and there are similar increases for other tariffs. However, this will not affect the use of Bus Passes.

There is more information at ourbusbartons-org-uk.stackstaging.com/



Cycling for a cure for Parkinson's disease

Steve Boote's cycling challenge in 2022 is to conquer the 100 Greatest Cycling Climbs in Britain (from the original book by the famous cycling hill climber Simon Warren). "I love riding my bike," says Steve, "hence I always feel really guilty about asking my family and friends to donate their money, but the devastating impact that Parkinson's has had on my father-in-law Stuart's life inspires me to keep doing it. In such a short time a once strong and physically imposing man who worked in the coal mines of Nottinghamshire has become so frail and vulnerable.



"This challenge will take me all over the UK, to the corners of England, Wales and Scotland, starting with Cheddar Gorge in the Mendip Hills and finishing with Constitution Hill in Swansea. It will take about 30 days cycling to complete, I will ride approximately 3500km and climb about 50,000m. Each day will be a full-day's cycling with some days including one of the climbs and other days up to six or seven climbs.

"It will include iconic hill climbs such as the Winnats Pass in Derbyshire, Wrynose Pass and Hardknott Pass in the Lake District, the Bealach-Na-Ba in NW Scotland and the hills of Yorkshire made famous in the 2014 Tour de France. I started in March and am aiming to complete by the end of October.

"Please support me in this challenge by donating to this very worthy cause, the funds raised will go towards Cure Parkinson's pioneering and vital research into a cure for Parkinson's. You can donate at bit.ly/3QB2F1x (this is a shortened form of a long URL). Many thanks."



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Steeple Aston Environment and Sustainability Committee

Following on from the introductory article by Carl Tomlinson in the June 2022 issue (page 5), I am writing a bit about myself as one of the members of the committee.

I grew up in the 1980s down the road from Swampy's camp at Twyford Down. At school we learnt about 'renewable energy' as a bit of a mystical futuristic solution. Back then, I didn't really feel a connection to the cause.

Fast forward and the impact we are having on our world is definitely taking my attention now – oceans full of plastic, declining bee populations, the finite resources from our planet and the irreversible effect of our modern lifestyles on the environment. My realisation was secured with media coverage from COP26 and the local council declaring a climate emergency. OK, I'm late to the party, but I get it now and I want to do my bit to help.



I have a broad range of interests across the workstreams of the committee, but I could sum it up as follows:

Things that make me angry:

- People driving too fast through the village
- Destruction of hedgerows and unnecessary removal of trees and other wildlife habitats.

Things that scare me:

- Declining bee populations
- Plastics in our oceans and ecosystems
- Rising costs of energy (both financial and environmental).

Things that are really important to me:

- Preserving the ecosystems we have and enabling/promoting biodiversity.
- Future proofing the village – e.g. electric car chargers
- Supporting local food producers/farmers and buying local
- Reusing/Recycling/Repurposing – being responsible with our use and disposal of resources.



I think the biggest effect on reducing our carbon footprint in this village will come from individuals making changes in their own homes. I'm really keen to engage local people in these initiatives and I think the key to that is outreach, education and engagement – and probably a good amount of listening!

On that note, at the Church Fete on 9th July there will be an Environment and Sustainability stall. Please come and talk to us about what matters to you, what information you want and what campaigns you would like to see progressing forwards locally. We'll have free wildflower seeds and plenty of useful information to give out.

COP26 was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It was held at the SEC Centre in Glasgow from 31st October to 13th November 2021. COP stands for Conference of the Parties. 'The Parties' are the 197 nations that agreed to a new environmental pact on climate change in 1992.

Claire Hall



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Bunting Bonanza

Thank you to everyone who donated fabric and/or time to enable us to support the Jubilee Committee in providing over 250 DIY bunting kits and decorate over 60 strings of bunting at our block printing workshops ahead of the celebrations.

What to do with your bunting now? Please keep it and enjoy it! – or, if you don't want it, you can donate it back to us and we will put it into a 'bunting pot' for use at future village events. Please don't throw it away!

To put your bunting back into wider use, please drop it off at Windyridge, Paines Hill (Amanda Rodgers) or email amanda@sustainablesteeple.com / call 07793 553150 to arrange for it to be picked up.



A clutch of July salads

These seasonal summery ingredients combine to make a colourful trio of salads for BBQs, lunches or fridge-snack raids on a sunny day. Enjoy.

Roasted Peach Quinoa Salad

200g quinoa	25g parsley, leaves picked and finely chopped
100g chard, finely shredded	25g mint leaves finely chopped, plus extra mint leaves to serve
2 peaches, sliced	4 tbsp capers, drained
2 peaches, quartered	2 tbsp sumac (optional)
2 lemons, juiced	1 tbsp red wine vinegar
4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil	100g soft goat's cheese, crumbled
50g hazelnuts, roughly chopped	3 tbsp sesame seeds, toasted

Cook quinoa in salted water by simmering for approximately 25 mins. Drain well, mix with the chard, then set aside to cool and wilt.

Turn grill to high.

Put the sliced peaches in a bowl, drizzle over the lemon juice and set aside.

Quarter the remaining peaches, toss in olive oil and lay out on baking sheet.

Grill peaches for five minutes until soft with light caramelisation. Scatter the hazelnuts over a second baking tray and toast in the oven for the last five minutes until golden. Combine the quinoa mix, herbs, sliced peaches and any juice from the bowl, the capers, sumac (if using), vinegar and remaining oil. Season. Put on a large serving plate and top with the roasted peaches, goat's cheese, hazelnuts, sesame seeds and extra mint leaves.

Courgette Summer Salad

75ml Greek yoghurt thinned with 25ml cold water	2 tsp poppy seeds
½ small garlic clove, crushed	2 courgettes
zest and juice of ½ lemon	50g feta cheese, crumbled
small bunch fresh mint	a few fresh basil leaves

Whisk the yoghurt and water, garlic, lemon zest and juice, fresh mint and poppy seeds in a bowl, then season.

Peel the courgettes into ribbons with a peeler, toss in the dressing and serve sprinkled with the feta cheese and a few fresh basil leaves.

Potato Salad with Mustard Dressing and Watercress

600g baby potatoes (the smaller the better), scrubbed
2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
2 tbsp Dijon mustard
2 tbsp whole grain mustard
2 tbsp chopped dill pickles
1 tbsp pickle brine water
2 tbsp dill, chopped
black pepper ground
100g watercress
Olive oil (for drizzling when serving)

Bring new potatoes to a simmer in well-salted water and cook until fork-tender (about 15 minutes). Drain, then let cool slightly (the potatoes should be warm when you dress them, which will help them soak up the flavours).

Mix vinegar, Dijon mustard, whole grain mustard, pickles, pickle brine water and 2 tbsp dill in a large bowl.

Slice potatoes in half and transfer to bowl with vinegar mixture. Season with salt and pepper and toss to coat. Let cool.

Add watercress and toss to coat. Top with more dill, a good drizzle of oil, and more pepper.

Primary School OFSTED Inspection



After many years of waiting (the last full OFSTED inspection took place in 2007), Dr Radcliffe's CE Primary school was finally inspected by two Senior inspectors on 23rd and 24th March. As a team everyone was prepared and had been preparing for months to maintain the standards that the whole school community has come to expect of us. But when you know a team of inspectors are coming to visit everyone goes into overdrive to ensure everyone is working as a team to show the Inspectors what a great school we are. The school team and governors deserve enormous congratulations for their professionalism, energy, and teamwork during the inspection.

The inspection was a very thorough process which looked at all aspects of the school. Meetings were held with Frances Brown the Head Teacher, members of the Senior Leadership Team, teachers, office staff, pupils, and Governors. The overall judgment is that the school is good, with outstanding features. We are delighted that OFSTED has recognised so many strengths of our school.

The judgement is made up of five categories: Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years Provision. The inspectors looked at four curriculum areas in depth. These were early reading, maths, science, and art. Judgements about the school were made based on lesson observations and conversations with pupils, discussions with staff, governors, parents, ODST and the Diocese of Oxford. The children were an integral part of the process with the inspectors continually asking their views and knowledge of the broader curriculum throughout the inspection.

The inspectors were very impressed with how confidently the children were able to talk about all areas of the curriculum. We are immensely proud of the way they interacted with the inspectors. We were particularly delighted that the two areas which were graded as 'outstanding' were Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development. We feel that this reflects the ethos of our school and the wide range of opportunities and wealth of cultural experiences the children have when they attend Dr Radcliffe's. As one of the inspectors himself expressed it: "for the size of school, Dr Radcliffe's is batting way above its weight".

The report also reflects the children's commitment to diversity and fighting prejudice in all its forms, the care and kindness they display towards each other and their outstanding behaviour for learning. The school community and the loyalty and high regard which parents feel towards the school was also mentioned on more than one occasion. Alongside the many positives, the Inspectors recommended three areas for action. These were to further improve the depth and challenge of the curriculum, to continue to develop the early years curriculum and to continue to focus on reading through Key Stage 2. These areas will now be included in our School Improvement Plan.

We are absolutely delighted with the report as are our Academy the Oxford Diocesan Trust, who we joined in June 2017. Their Chief Executive Officer Anne Deller commented in her letter to parents: "This is a very strong outcome! Leaders, governors and all the staff work very hard to offer an excellent education to pupils and all of us across ODST – the Academy Trust responsible for the school – are very proud of their achievements. Dr Radcliffe's became an academy in 2017 and this is the first time the academy school has been inspected.

Continued opposite...

"You will be aware that the school was previously inspected in 2007 and judged outstanding overall. Significant changes to the inspection handbook have taken place since then and there is no direct comparison between this 2022 grading and the one from 2007. I do want to pay tribute to the leadership and governance at the school – they really are offering your children an excellent education. As the report says: 'Leadership is strong'. I am particularly thrilled that the inspectors highlighted that "provision for pupils' personal development is superb".

"That's a really positive word for an Ofsted inspector to use in a report and it is absolutely spot on! It is also reassuring to have confirmed what we know – that the behaviour and attitudes of pupils and their personal development are both outstanding at your school; that "pupils behave extremely well and bullying is incredibly rare;" that "teachers constantly seek to make learning interesting and relevant for pupils," and that "leaders make safeguarding a top priority." Many congratulations."

As a school team we will continue to work with the children, staff, parents, governors and ODS to maintain and improve the high standards which have already been achieved. And look forward to being at the heart of our community knowing that we have your support.

With best wishes.

**Frances Brown Headteacher
and Lisa Boote Chair of Governors**



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The ARTS Page



Here are four more 'Concert for Ukraine' pictures, taken by Nigel Francis on 28th April. 'Justgiving' closes at the end of June, but at present we have made over £6500 for Unicef and The Red Cross.



Our Ukrainian friends dancing



Dr Radcliffe's Choir – conducted by Guy Brigg



Nicholas Cleobury and Juliia Rudnieva teaching the Ukrainian National Anthem



Holly Viner playing 'Ladies in Lavender'

On 5th June at the Jubilee Service, a magnificent choir from the Astons and Tackley sang their hearts out, notably in the Hallelujah Chorus. With that and our Choral Society, singing is in rude good health in these parts.

If you missed the wonderful Mikron Theatre (mentioned in previous Arts Pages) in North Aston on 24th June, they are in our area again, notably in early August – 3rd at Eynsham Cricket Club/7pm; 4th at The Plough, Wolvercote/7.30pm; 5th at The Boat Inn, Thrupp/7pm; and 14th at Pig Place, Adderbury/3pm. Well worth a visit – see more details at mikron.org.uk.

With the summer holidays here, Chipping Norton Theatre again has terrific offerings, including for 5-to-7-year olds a 'Three Day Drama' workshop (25th to 27th July) and a '3 Day Musical Theatre' workshop (1st to 3rd August). For 8-to-14-year olds there is an 'Acting Summer School' (1st to 5th August).

www.chippingnortontheatre.com

Best wishes.

Nick



The Gardening Spot

Village gardens, gardening in general or simply country living

You have all heard of 'The Greatest Showman'. Well, in Steeple Aston on Monday 29th August you will have the chance to be part of 'The Greatest Show' in North Oxfordshire. To be honest, I am writing this on the hottest day of the year so far and I can't think of anything to help you with your garden, so I am going a little 'off track', but still very much related to gardening.

Steeple and Middle Aston epitomise what country living is all about, organising so many wonderful things such as the Jubilee celebrations, the church fete, football and cricket and just about anything you can think of. All this comes together by volunteers giving a bit of their time to make our villages such a wonderful place to live. The annual flower show is no exception and would not happen without those wonderful volunteers.

As I am sure you know, this village, along with Middle Aston, stages one of the largest traditional flower shows in the area, if not the county. It has 140 classes ranging from vegetables and flowers to photography, cookery, and everything in-between. The Horticultural Society, which has been in existence since the late 1860s, organises both the annual show and a spring show.

We give prizes up to third place for most of the classes, but it is not about the financial gain as, to be absolutely honest, you will not purchase a world cruise with your winnings. It is all about taking part and to do that, all you need is a schedule which is available online via the village website or in our shop on the magazine rack, or simply give me a call as I have some copies.

Along with the annual show, which is held in a very expensive marquee, we have a fun dog show organised by 'Dogs for Good'. On Robinsons Close (the playing field) you will find classic cars, pony rides, stalls offering local crafts and ice cream. Teas will be found in the village hall along with the floral art exhibits. To experience all this there will be a charge of £2 per person with children free. By that I mean we allow children under 16 years old in for nothing, not confusing you by suggesting we give children away at no charge!

If you would like to have a stall at the show, all we ask is that you give a donation to the horticultural society of £15 and any proceeds are yours. We also run lots of sideshows such as bowling, plate smashing, coconut shy and so much more, but we need volunteers to help manage those stalls. If you feel you could give a bit of your time to help, we would love to hear from you. This year we will welcome Morris Dancers to the main arena for your entertainment. It will be a fun-packed two or three hours on what we all hope is a warm and sunny Bank Holiday Monday.

When it comes to dogs, this is your chance to bring your dog to the fun dog show and show off its attributes. Your dog might have the waggiest tail, be the prettiest bitch or most handsome dog. Whatever takes your fancy. We will give rosettes to third place in all five categories and a trophy will be awarded to the 'Dog of the Day'.

If you want a few tips on exhibiting, our committee members will always be pleased to advise you and guessing that many of you do not know who those people might be, give me a call or email and I will point you in the right direction.

This show on August Bank Holiday Monday is possibly the highlight of the village calendar and we hope to see you there and having a go by entering something. We only have a show if we have entries, so it is down to you!

***Richard Preston – telephone 01869 340512
email richard.preston5@btopenworld.com***

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



The meeting on 20th June began with a review of the Internal Audit. Before your eyes glaze over, please note the figure that stood out was the amount it costs to keep the toilet beside the playground maintained on a daily basis. It has already cost £8,000 since the contract began. The annual cost is estimated at almost £10K per annum. This amounts to 40% of the precept (the tax the PC charges local electors to meet their budget requirements). The village precept is already quite high, as it is very expensive to maintain what is virtually two halls – Village and Sports and Recreation.

There was considerable discussion around this. Should the toilet be cleaned less frequently? Should people using it be asked for contributions? What percentage of outside people use it? Is it used that often? How much is it costing us per pee? Do we need it? Do we close it?

I pointed out that it is usually called the playground toilet, but I had been at the original Village Hall Committee Meeting at which a committee member, a keen walker, proposed we had a toilet near the village hall as he and his wife were always grateful for such facilities when walking in other villages. Several of us had also been in the Village Hall when desperate parents had turned up asking to use the hall facilities, so we thought it was a good idea and it went from there to become a useful adjunct to the playground. However, in those days it was not maintained by outside contractors.

The decision was to trial various solutions. The summer holidays would see the playground at its busiest, but shutting it in the winter might be a possibility. I am sure feedback from villagers would be welcome.

The owner of 4 Paines Hill has promised Cherwell District Council (CDC) to get rid of the ivy overwhelming the house within six weeks and stay in touch with the Council. (An unsubstantiated rumour suggests there is concern that when the ivy is removed, parts of the house will come with it.)

CDC has been informed about the ‘untidiness’ at 2 Grange Park. I usually report annually for SAL while

Steeplejack is on holiday and this is the third year I have found this property still on the agenda. Does CDC realise that postman Simon has been ordered not to deliver there?

There is still ongoing discussion on what to do with the land behind the War Memorial. The residents of Lawrence Fields, nearest the memorial, have expressed concerns over security and privacy, but as they were unable to attend the meeting any decision was postponed until July.

The Community Orchard benefactor has agreed on paying her legal fees and for the work on the trees, but the Parish Council (PC) will need to pay their own legal fees. Amanda Rogers at Sustainable Steeple says that a grant will cover legal fees. It is envisaged that the orchard will be run along similar lines to the Allotments Association.

The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils has issued new guidelines on Fraud Mitigation (post Jackie Weaver), but you will be relieved to know that there is already no way that either the PC Chair, or Clerk, would be able to abscond with the finances.

The PC Chair and Vice Chair had attended the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange exhibition. The word ‘Rail’ is a misnomer, as it is ‘Road’ that will be the crucial for us.

The figures are frightening. It is proposed there will be between four to twelve trains a day. Each train will be pulling fifty containers. The estimation for lorries in and out is around 5,000 per day. In addition, there will be 9,000 people on site, travelling in and out. The overall estimation is around 20,000 extra road journeys per day. One councillor remarked, “What about the weight limit on Heyford bridge?”.

There will also be four-and-a-half square miles of warehousing. Other potential sites for the scheme have not been considered and there is still plenty of warehousing space in Bicester. There will be a public consultation, but 130 people objected to the Great Wolf scheme and were ignored.

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



One councillor reasonably said that we should also look at it from the other side. The freight was not near the village and the infrastructure for delivery is needed for all of us. However, she conceded that villagers who can now travel easily to and from Bicester might have problems. Mid Cherwell (Forum of the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan) is mounting a campaign with the object of stopping the whole scheme, or at least mitigating it.

The Awareness Session for the Defibrillator will be on 5th July. This prompted a discussion about The Red Lion. Was the defibrillator going on the wall of a building site, or was an alternative site needed? Hook Norton Brewery had said as soon as the new damp proof course has been installed, the pub will be ready to re-open in a few weeks' time and they have two people interested in becoming the new tenants. (Another unsubstantiated rumour has it that no one is interested.)

There were comments as to why the brewery had not put the improvements to the pub in place, before the last tenants moved in. Why, when Chris and Naomi were getting into their stride, did they then decide to upgrade the place? A cynic would say, so that they could increase the rent.

While the pub is shut, the Sports and R. Trust is considering offering a large screen and bar.

Thames Valley Police have given assurances to the PC that a 20mph limit in the village is enforceable and it was agreed for the Sustainability and Environment Committee to submit an application for this.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) cannot be moved to Fenway at the moment, as the padlock has seized up. However, one councillor offered bolt cutters and a battery-operated grinder to solve the problem.

Obtaining quotes for work on the playground – mending the trampoline, renewing the special bark that needs to go under the zip wire etc. – has been politely described as a nightmare. Quotes for the trampoline go from £315 for replacing the hooks to £5,186 (and that's not for a new trampoline). One councillor did say, "think of their insurance premiums". Does the bark have to be a special one? Other playgrounds do not have that kind of bark, but

are still legal. It was suggested that resurrecting the Playground Working Party might be helpful. This was a group of dads who helped keep an eye on what needed doing and often did it themselves.

Dog fouling is still an issue in the village and the PC will be visible on their stall at the Church Fete handing out the appropriate bags, as a reminder. It was suggested that dog owners might actually look at their dogs occasionally and not be so busy on their phones that they have no idea what their animal is doing, or where they are doing it.

There is some residual funding – approximately £1,400 – from the Jubilee Activities. When the final figure is known, this will be discussed. The Jubilee Committee were all thanked for their hard work. (It did not go unnoticed. The Sainsbury's delivery man, unloading SACS Concert supplies, remarked that there is always something happening in SA. He had been delivering on Jubilee Saturday and the whole village was buzzing – unlike his next stop in a neighbouring village.)

The Hatch End developers may appeal. However, they are also considering a different direction in erecting three new small sheds alongside the refurbished ones. This will perhaps make better use of the site whilst not leading to the increase in traffic that was problematic with their original application.

There was a suggestion that the church porch might be a possible site for a 'Little Library'.

Whenever I attend a PC meeting, I am in awe of what our local representatives have to do. A simple comment about your child's favourite playground equipment being out of use results in someone spending hours trying to solve the problem, within the budget available.

They need our support. If we want to have a toilet and expensive equipment in the playground then we must help them by suggesting ways to pay for it. If we don't want 20,000 extra cars and lorries jamming the roads, let us support the campaign to oppose it. It's up to us.

Steeple Hound

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 18 July at 7.30 in the Sports and Recreation Centre.

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Steeple Aston Garden Club



To date we have had two successful visits. In May, we visited Chivel Farm in Heythrop, a beautiful garden melting into the farming landscape. Then, in June, we visited Rousham, with superb grounds and a magnificent walled garden, finishing off with wine and nibbles.

On Tuesday 26th July we are off to Broughton Grange Gardens, set in over 400 acres of beautifully undulating north Oxfordshire countryside. The gardens have been extensively renovated and developed over the past 20 years. We are to arrive at 2pm and finish our visit at 4pm. We will be given a brief talk and also have refreshments included. Garden Club members £12.00 per person. Guests £17.00 per person.

Please let Richard Preston or Chris Clarke know if you will be attending by Wednesday 20th July.

On 4th August at 4pm we are going lawn bowling at Middle Barton – no charge, just come and ‘have a go’. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Richard or Chris.

On 6th September it is our summer soirée, this year in Richard & Daphne’s beautiful garden. Bring a plate of food and some drink. 6pm. Enjoy!

From October onwards we will be back to inside meetings – look out for further information. If you would like to join the Garden Club, we would love to see you on a visit or at one of the winter meetings. You will be very welcome.

Chris Clarke
S.A.G.C.

Steeple Aston Golf Society



On Friday 15th July Steeple Aston Golf Society is going to one of the best golf courses in Oxfordshire. ‘The Springs’, Wallingford Road, OX10 6BE, is situated deep within the beautiful South Oxfordshire region and has unrivalled facilities.

This course was designed by Brian Hugget. It is 133 acres of parkland bordered by the River Thames, within which lie three lakes and challenging wetland areas. The course has traditional features like a double green and sleepered bunker with sleepered lake edges of typical American design. Bring plenty of balls for this 18 holes, par 72, on a 6470 yds course.

We would love you to join us so for more information please contact Alan or Chris on 01869 340423 / 347173.

Alan Brewer

Golf balls are like eggs. They’re white, sold by the dozen, and after a week you need to buy some more!
Happy Golfing.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

History of Science Museum, Oxford

Well, I don't know where to start! This museum, which sits next to the Sheldonian Theatre in Broad Street, Oxford, is full of fascinating and remarkable exhibits. It was the world's first purpose-built museum, completed in 1683. One of the things you must not miss in the Top Gallery is an astrolabe made in 1559 for Queen Elizabeth I. The device is a scientific instrument used, among other things, by sailors to determine their distance north or south of the equator.

I could have spent the whole of my visit in the Entrance Gallery where I was charmed and somewhat overwhelmed by the extraordinary display of sundials and other devices, many exquisitely made, which people have used to measure time in days gone by before clocks, watches and smartphones.

Don't think, however, that this museum is not up to date. It has plenty to offer concerning modern developments in science, medicine and communication. There's even a glass sculpture of a single particle of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine – one million times its actual size. It reminded me of one of those dreamcatcher decorations. Have I really had several shots of something like a collection of dreamcatchers to protect me from the worst of Covid?

This museum is extremely child friendly. There are quiz sheets and themed trail questionnaires to point people towards the most important things to see. From time to time activity days are organised and are well worth watching out for. Adults might find it worthwhile to hire an audio Acoustiguide for a tour, so that you don't miss the star exhibits.



A camera which was owned by T. E. Lawrence, better known as 'Lawrence of Arabia'. You can read more about the camera at www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/cameras/lawrence.htm

There's a shop in the basement (and a jolly, if graphic, video to delight young visitors about life in Oxford when typhoid was rampant and water from wells, which everyone drank, was contaminated with poo!).

Don't expect a café or loos though, and do be prepared for stairs up and stairs down and indeed a flight of stone steps to reach the front door of the museum.

The History of Science Museum is open Tuesday to Sunday, 12 noon to 5.00pm. Entrance is free and you can just turn up, but visitors are encouraged to book online (www.hsm.ox.ac.uk) and to make a donation.

As summer holidays approach it's worth considering the museum as a very reasonable and enjoyable afternoon's outing.

Eileen Baglin-Jones



It's a dog's life

hound and man, man and hound
out walking as a pair they're found
it makes you smile to see
when they are walking who would bet
on who's in charge... and who's the pet
and which one is more free!

hound and man, man and hound
they cover lots and lots of ground
but neither can agree
the pace at which the walk is set
the hound just runs without a fret
he's eas'ly outrun me

hound and man, man and hound
a partnership that's quite profound
there is no I in we
the man looks down without regret
as hound barks at the dogs he's met
whilst sizing up a tree

Peter Wild

I've got those old committee blues

A light-hearted grumble about committee life; dedicated to all the committee members in the village; you know who you are.....

I'm on another committee
More fool me
I can only blame myself,
Here's how it came to be.

I didn't actually mean to join,
But help was needed with a task
And it seems I was the only one
Who responded to the ask.

Everyone else was 'busy'
When they appealed for aid
So like a mug, I said I'd help
Although I don't get paid.

So yet another midweek evening
I tramp out to a meeting
(Instead of staying home
On more comfortable seating.)

Thank heaven for 'catch-up tv'
So later I can watch all
The programmes that I miss
While 'committing' in a draughty hall .

Agendas, motions, minutes
Sending emails, phoning
But after all, I volunteered
So there's no point in moaning.

When I meet my end
And wend my way to heaven
I bet that I'll arrive there
Early evening, about seven.

St Peter will be at the gate,
And this will be his greeting
"Oh, good, you're just in time
For this week's committee meeting!"

And you will hear me answer
Very clearly, very loud
I'm not sitting on ANY committees
In the bl***y cloud!

Cathy Lawday

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???? Mind Games

Mixed-up people

Can you solve these anagrams to find the names of people who have recently been in the news?

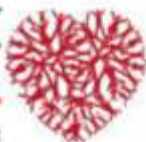
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| 2 bear harmed | _ _ _ _ r H _ _ _ _ |
| 3 mark retires | _ _ _ r _ _ _ r _ _ r |
| 4 adopting Brenda | P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ B _ _ _ |
| 5 chin replacers | P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ s |
| 6 mark VIP aunt | I _ _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ _ |
| 7 Belize equine hat | _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ |
| 8 barmy Ian | _ _ _ _ _ M _ _ |
| 9 very hard beak | _ _ _ _ k _ _ V _ _ _ _ |

Over the moon

Man first walked on the moon on 20 July 1969. Can you solve the maze and answer some moon-related questions?

- Who wrote the story 'The First Men in the Moon', originally serialised by The Strand Magazine?
- Who played James Bond in the film 'Moonraker'?
- Who was the first man to walk on the moon?
- There is a 'supermoon' occurring on 13th July 2022. Why is it so called?
- 'The Dark Side of the Moon' is the eighth studio album by which English rock band?
- Who wrote: "O, swear not by the moon, th' inconstant moon"?
- In which film did Bette Davis, as Charlotte Vale, say, "Oh Jerry, don't let's ask for the moon. We have the stars"?
- 'The Sun Whose Rays Are All Ablaze' is also known as 'The Moon and I'. From which Gilbert and Sullivan operetta does it come?
- "And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand, they danced by the light of the moon'. In which Edward Lear poem does this line appear?
- 'The Moon's a Balloon' is a memoir by which British film actor?





Community Defibrillator Seminar

Learn about the village defibrillator and how it works.
Find out about Sudden Cardiac Arrest and how to
recognize it. See how you could save a life.

Everyone Welcome - Admission Free
(no special skills needed)

Steeple Aston Village Hall Tuesday 5th July 7.00 p.m.

The Community Heartbeat Trust will be demonstrating the use
of defibrillators and explaining how the equipment works and
its benefits to the community in saving precious minutes in the
treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.

**The more people that know how to use the portable
defibrillator installed in our community, the more chance
there is of saving the life of a victim of
Sudden Cardiac Arrest**

GDPR Compliance Statement 1

24th April 2018

Community Heartbeat Trust Charity (CHT) and Community Heartbeat Trust Solutions Ltd (CHTS)

By contacting us or asking us to contact you, you are agreeing for us to hold your details on our systems so we are able to support you and contact you in respect to any enquiries; in an emergency; for other purposes relating to the defibrillator; or for research purposes.

Details of individuals (including local Webelos contact) may be transmitted to the local Ambulance Service for their command and dispatch computer system. These details will only be accessible to the Ambulance Service, or other Statutory Agency where required. In case of defibrillator activation it is necessary for the Ambulance Service to report such instances, make contact with the local caretaker, and ensure that equipment is made fully operational after use.

If delivery details have been passed to a supplier, or courier company they will be required to delete your data after delivery unless needed for repeat deliveries.

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Steeple Aston Open Gardens 29th May 2022

On what turned out to be a fine and reasonably warm Sunday afternoon at the end of May, Steeple Aston opened its doors to seven gardens – and not forgetting some wonderful teas at the Village Hall.

Thank you to all those who came to have a look around the gardens, who made cakes and served teas, washed-up or helped at garden gates. And most importantly, the gardeners who allowed around 300 adults to visit their gardens or allotments and raise funds for such amazing charities under the umbrella of the National Garden Scheme (NGS).

With a large contribution from the village hall management who organised the refreshments, Steeple Aston was able to send £2,383.00 to the NGS to assist with their many charities and assist people who are not so fortunate as ourselves.

It was so good of all the owners to open their gardens and it was obvious to all visitors as to how much time and effort had gone into making the spaces so pristine. It was especially nice to welcome The Old Post Office who opened for the very first time and The Allotments (photo below by Nigel Francis)) for showing visitors what can be achieved in such a varied and professional manner.

I will just finish with a comment by one of the visitors which I think says a lot about our village. “Steeple Aston is such a welcoming place where everyone welcomes us with open arms. I wish I lived here.”

Thank you to everyone who contributed to another great village event.

Richard and Daphne Preston and all the wonderful gardeners of this village

Nigel Francis has a gallery of his Open Gardens photos on the village website. The original URL is quite long, so we have shortened it to bit.ly/39vc5LD



Steeple Aston Jubilee Photographs

“Bunting packs flew off Paines Hill. Fingers got messy in print block workshops courtesy of the Arty Crafty Place. The Queen’s Pants were decorated to adorn the Pre-School railings and The Toddler Group got their hands messy creating hand print bunting – and that was before we even reached the Platinum Jubilee Weekend.

“The weather may not have played ball, but it was amazing to see the village out and about. People created street parties, competed at the ‘lite’ version of the Whit Races (see page 29), joined Sunday’s concert and sold, bought (and drank) at ‘Fete at the Gate’. We discovered master bunt makers and amateur bakers, gardeners, musicians, artists and space enthusiasts.”

In addition to village views, this page also shows the Valentine Club party and some of the crowns from the WI competition. Photos by Nigel Francis.

The Jubilee Committee





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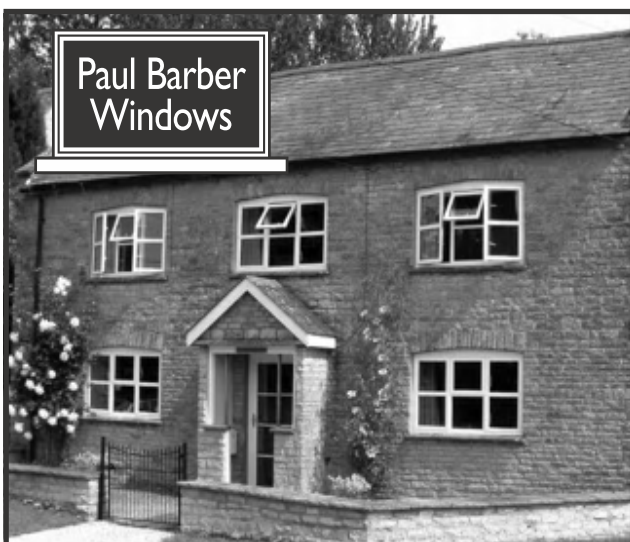
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SACS Summer Party

June was definitely bustin' out all over as *Steeple Aston Choral Society* launched into their *Summer Party/Midsummer Medleys/Caf /Summer Celebration* concert. There were so many things to celebrate – the first party concert for three years, the end of a successful three-concert year and a convivial evening of wine, strawberries and song – that the choir never did decide on a definitive title.

The evening began with three iconic Irish folk songs – *Danny Boy*, *The Lark in the Clear Air* and *The Last Rose of Summer*. As the haunting melody of the last song died away, the choir suddenly broke into the rousing *I'm Getting Married in the Morning* and a medley of songs from *My Fair Lady* followed, skilfully arranged by Paul Herrington, with special permission from *Faber Music*.

After more wine, nibbles and strawberries, the second half of the evening began with the audience being promised a solo from Paul Badley, the choir's director of music. At the last summer party, he sang *Maria*, from *West Side Story*, so the audience was delighted, and very surprised, when he donned his coat and bells and danced a solo Cotswold Morris jig called *Ladies' Pleasure*.

Appropriately, three contrasting English folk songs followed – *Early One Morning*, *Dashing Away with the Smoothing Iron* and *O Waly, waly*. Then the choir headed for Sweden, with a spirited *ABBA* medley, arranged of course by Mr. Medley Herrington. Sk l.



The last item was a special *Sing-a-Long*. After years of the audience quietly humming along, the choir had decided to let the audience join them for some rousing numbers from their favourite musicals, arranged by You-know-who.

There was something for everyone, *Getting to Know You*; *Some Enchanted Evening*; *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*; *June is Bustin' Out All Over*; *Sunrise, Sunset*; *Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head*; *When You Walk Through a Storm* and *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*. The audience joined in lustily and were all invited to join SACS for their first rehearsal of the Autumn Concert Season, on Monday 5th September.

It was a great party and SACS would like to thank Honorary Patron, Heather Cleobury, for her support; Paul Badley, conductor, singer and Morris Man; Paul Herrington, composer, arranger and accompanist; Nigel Francis, photographer, and the enthusiastic audience, for an exuberant evening of fun, music and conviviality. In the words of one audience member, "it's great to be back together".

If you would like to join *Steeple Aston Choral Society*, or would like more information, please contact the SACS Secretary, Margaret Bulleyment – 01869 347346, or at bulleyment@waitrose.com



STEEPLE ASTON



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July**

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Close
2.00pm - 4.00pm**



Entry £1



Whit Races

Sunday 5th June

Despite the inclement weather, the Whit Races went ahead, though in a slightly reduced form and in the Village Hall. The winners are shown below. Nigel Francis took the photos.

Egg & Spoon Race

	<i>Age 3-5</i>	<i>Age 6-7</i>	<i>Age 8+</i>
1 st	Oli Grainger	Seren Grainger	Amelia Bailey
2 nd	Rufus Webb	Otilie Maclean	Hattie Wright
3 rd	Isobel Coysh	Rupert Hogg	Woody Wright

Handbags & Gladrag

	<i>Age 5-6</i>	<i>Age 8+</i>
1 st	Seren Grainger	Amelia Bailey
2 nd	Rufus Webb	Charlie Wright
3 rd	Rayna Markham	Hattie Wright

Frog Prince/Princess Race

	<i>Age 3-4</i>	<i>Age 5</i>	<i>Age 6</i>	<i>Age 7</i>
1 st	Chester Hogg	Rupert Hogg	Otilie Maclean	Charlie Wright
2 nd	Clemmie Baggallay	Rufus Webb	William Atkinson	Charlie Simpson
3 rd		Henry Bonaria	Seren Grainger	Hattie Wright

3-legged Race

	<i>Infants</i>	<i>Juniors</i>	<i>Adult & Child 1</i>	<i>Adult & Child 2</i>
1 st	Otilie Maclean & Rupert Hogg	Hattie & Woody Wright	Sarah & Ava Obinna	Katherine & Isla Markham
2 nd	Lottie & Clemmie Baggallay	Charlie Simpson & Amelia Bailey	Mark & Oli Grainger	Angharad Lloyd-Jones & Seren Grainger
3 rd	Rufus Webb & Henry Bonaria		Steph & William Atkinson	



Hollywood skies by Edward Longinotti

The 1986 ‘Top Gun’ film perfectly captured the emphatic spirit of not only fighter pilot culture, but also a Ronald Reagan governed United States on the cusp of Cold War ascendancy. To this day, as reinforced by the enthusiasm for the recent launch of the sequel, ‘Top Gun: Maverick’, it is the defining film of Tom Cruise’s career. Top Gun even made a star out of its aircraft and the F-14 Tomcat, still the largest and heaviest fighter aircraft to have been operated by the US Navy, remains rare as an aviation icon that has established itself in popular culture.



An F-14A Tomcat doing its job and intercepting a Soviet maritime patrol aircraft in 1983. *Source: US Navy via Wikipedia (open licence).*

However, instead of the F-14 Tomcat Tom Cruise almost ended up flying the F-111 – that many reading this will recall as a feature of the skies above Steeple Aston until 1993. Originally, the F-111 was to be designed in two versions as a common aircraft for both the US Air Force (the F-111A) and the US Navy (the F-111B). This plan was driven by the belief that doing so would reduce procurement costs through the acquisition of large numbers of a very similar aircraft design.



A prototype F-111B conducting aircraft carrier trials in 1968. The US Navy would later develop the F-14 Tomcat in preference to the F-111B. *Source: US Navy via Wikipedia (open licence).*

This required the F-111 to cover three main missions: a strike aircraft for the US Air Force, an interceptor and also a fighter for the US Navy. At the start of its development, it was believed that new technology would allow these competing requirements to be successfully reconciled. The F-111 eventually emerged as the world’s first operational aircraft with swing wings, afterburning turbofans (more powerful and also quieter than turbojets – residents of Steeple Aston might disagree!) and terrain-following radar to enable very low-level flight.

Although it proved possible to credibly combine the strike and interceptor roles in one aircraft, no technology can change that these two missions require the smallest possible wing, whilst the fighter mission requires the biggest possible wing (swing wings can change wing shape, but not size). This tension ultimately led to the termination of the F-111B, with one US Navy Vice-Admiral memorably declaring “*there isn't enough thrust in all of Christendom to make a Navy fighter out of that airplane [the F-111B]*”.

Subsequently, the F-111B donated most of its major systems (swing wings, long range Phoenix missiles and engines) to the F-14 Tomcat – which repackaged them into an aircraft that could be both an interceptor and a fighter thanks to a bigger wing. In the F-111, the US Air Force also got the dedicated long range strike aircraft it wanted, uncompromised by the Navy fighter mission, and it matured into a hugely effective aircraft that still remains without peer for range or load carrying capability.

Whilst the F-111 will always be overshadowed by its more glamorous Hollywood sister, on 15th April 1986 it delivered its own real-life blockbuster one month and one day before the release of ‘Top Gun’ with the Operation El Dorado Canyon strike on Libya. The 10,000km round trip, accompanied by five jammer variants of the F-111 launched from RAF Upper Heyford, remains the world’s longest combat mission by a fighter type aircraft. Its feasibility was demonstrated in late 1985 by F-111s that launched from Upper Heyford and completed a return trans-Atlantic trip in a simulated strike against Goose Green, Canada.

Whilst the F-111s hit their targets in Libya, F-14 Tomcats were also in the skies as support – but they were not called upon and shortly would become much better known for their scripted Hollywood dogfights.

Today, Upper Heyford is closed and the US Air Force and US Navy have long since retired the two sisters, the F-111 and F-14 Tomcat. The seemingly evergreen Tom Cruise is yet to do the same and in ‘Top Gun: Maverick’ he takes on a plot updated for the 2020s – a long-range, low-level strike against a rogue state’s nuclear reactor. It’s exactly the kind of scenario the F-111 was built for! You’ll have to go to the cinema to see how Tom fares.



20th Operations group F-111s making one last flyover of RAF Upper Heyford, December 1993, upon their departure from the base. *Source: Wikimedia Commons*

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Bob Brasher gave us a tour of the world with his 'Artistic Travel Photos'. His travelogue provided a glimpse of familiar tourist sites, but with an Impressionistic slant.

Bob uses art filters in the Topaz Studio programme to edit regular images and make them more interesting and inventive. He presented his famous sights as panels of three, which gave an appealing presentation. His pictures of colourful Cuba were enhanced by the textures the programme gave.

Bob's favourite place to photograph is Iceland with its waterfalls and glaciers. He pointed out that using painterly effects can helpfully cover camera shake and less interesting compositions. Bob had so many prints to show members and he encouraged the use of matt and art paper when printing images for display to again enhance the more artistic effect.

Ten members have returned with full memory cards after a four-day tour photographing the secrets of Wiltshire. It was a truly inspiring trip with each morning beginning at 4.30am to catch the sunrise and ending with a stunning sunset. Exhausting, but fantastic. Watch out for images on the website.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th July at 7.30pm at The Adderbury Institute. Everyone is welcome; just check the website for details on how to contact us. The speaker will be Steven Galvin, LRPS.

Anne Hunsley

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

There is so much going on with The Valentine Club at present. On 3rd June the club celebrated not only our Queen's Platinum Jubilee, but also the 70th year of our club. Seventy-three members congregated in the village hall during the afternoon to enjoy a wonderful 'high tea' and, most importantly, each other's company.

A massive thanks must go to The Midcounties Coop and especially the Deddington store for providing us with a grant of £150 which in turn purchased all the food and a bit more. And not forgetting a superb committee who decked the village hall with bunting, flags, balloons and just about anything else you could think of (see page 25). This was left in situ for the use by the village on Sunday 5th June in the case of inclement weather conditions on Robinsons Close.

On 9th June we took a coach to Belvoir Castle (*pronounced 'beaver'*) where we were treated to a guided tour of the castle or the gardens and a cream tea to end a wonderful trip.

By time you read this we will have joined The Horticultural Society on 29th June for a trip to RHS Wisley and will be looking forward to our cruise on The Thames with a visit to Bekonscot Model Village on 20th July.

Our monthly meeting had to take a change to the programme as our intended speaker sadly suffered a heart attack, but is recovering. We were very fortunate to welcome Martin Hanson to tell us all about lasting powers of attorney (LPA) along with representatives of Carers Oxfordshire and Rosie Phillips who is a community development worker and was fascinated to know how we have such a large number of members!

Our July meeting on the 19th welcomes 'The Trio', a group of ukulele players who are going to entertain us with what I am told is a unique performance.

As you will have read in the last issue of SAL, the club enjoyed a holiday together on the Isle of Wight. We must have done something right as we are off to Suffolk in September with a coach and back to the IOW next April.

I think I have travelled more in the years that I have belonged to The Valentine Club than in my previous 60 years or so and have made some wonderful friends. Just don't know how I found time to go to work! Please take a moment to see what the club is up to by visiting our own website at www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/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



Some of the wonderful food enjoyed by members at their 'high tea' on 3rd June.

Mindgames answers

(see questions on page 21)

Mixed-up people

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Boris Johnson | 6. Ivanka Trump |
| 2. Amber Heard | 7. Queen Elizabeth |
| 3. Kier Starmer | 8. Brian May |
| 4. Paddington Bear | 9. Rebekah Vardy |
| 5. Prince Charles | |

Over the moon

1. H. G. Wells
2. Roger Moore
3. Neil Armstrong
4. The moment when the moon is closest to the earth is a lunar perigee. If this occurs very close to a full moon, we see a supermoon.
5. Pink Floyd
6. William Shakespeare in 'Romeo and Juliet'
7. 'Now Voyager' (1942)
8. 'The Mikado'
9. 'The Owl and the Pussycat'
10. David Niven

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Village Hall News



Sunday 29th May NGS (National Garden Scheme) Open Gardens

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, a very big thank you to all those who provided cakes, served teas, took money, washed and dried endless crockery and helped clear up at the end of the day to make this event such a great success. This year – as in previous years – we were able to make a generous contribution to aid Macmillan Nurses and other charities. This could not have happened without your help and generosity.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 5th November – Annual Fireworks evening

Sunday 11th December – Wassail Evening (more details later)

Saturday 21st January 2023 – Annual Quiz Night

In the next few months with continuing rising costs to maintain the village hall we will be reviewing our hiring charges for all users.

Our letting agent is Mrs. Angela Smith, telephone 07734 112967. Please do not call this number between 6pm and 8pm unless urgent.

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Barbara Brewer (Chair)

1st Deddington Guides Report



Well, we've certainly had a varied month! We had a lovely evening for a circular hike from Adderbury to Bodicote. One of the few occasions when we were bothered by the weather occurred when we were all set to pitch tents at Barford – and the heavens opened! However, with a bit of quick thinking we redirected everyone to an indoor venue and learnt how to pitch a tent there.

It was another fine evening when we met at Horley Scout campsite. We enjoyed having the place to ourselves and had great fun playing wide games and exploring the site.

Deddington Church was our next meeting place, where we had fun exploring the church and learning its history!

Then as our community service for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we set about cleaning the church. We had great fun dusting, sweeping, hoovering, mopping, cobwebbing and tidying anything that stood still – and in some cases several times over! By the end the church was gleaming, still slightly damp and smelt great! Thank you to Reverend Annie and Christine for the welcome and the Kit-Kats. Thank you Guides and a job well done.

Thanks again to Janet and Brian for allowing us to use their field. We had a super evening Ready Steady Cook style. The Patrols could choose from a range of foods and did a good job of cooking a meal – not something everyone could do on an open fire. Well done again.

Lots more outdoor adventures to come and looking forward to camp in July.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755
and Marian Trinder 07786 001641

The Cricket Report



Chairman's XI....our first match at Great Tew CC

It was only fitting that such a momentous match should be our first home game and how wonderful it was not to have to prepare the pitch and outfield, but arrive to such a perfect wicket. Lunch and tea provided and a bar – luxury!

This was the 18th match in this fixture, with the village 11-6 ahead. SACC won the toss and Nige Doggett put the 'oldies' in. Like New Zealand, we made the most of it, although perhaps Alain Michaelis and Paul Longman were not quite as scary as Anderson and Broad!

Rich, dad of Nat Sciver (number one ladies all-rounder in the world) showed where she gets her talent from with a cultured 51 not out. Alain Michaelis (2-14) then summoned up the spirit of Broad removing two batsmen in quick succession, but the damage was done and even the Chairman managed a 'lightening fast' (for him!) 16 not out to leave the Chairman's XI on 238-3 off 35 overs. It was wonderful to see Hugh Lazenby (1-16) on debut taking his first wicket with a smart stumping by Will Doggett.

A short legside boundary...

With a fast outfield and a short boundary SACC began at pace with Jeremy Farrar (21) and Nick Entwistle (16) clubbing the ball out of the middle of the bat. Incredibly both were caught by people over 60 who can barely walk, let alone catch; sometimes things just go your way.

Nige Doggett (40) batted beautifully until being run out by the Chairman, who not only managed to bend down, but also throw the ball in one movement in the vague direction of the stumps. SACC were 101-3 at the halfway stage, but with some 'Muppet' bowling to come, it was always going to be close.

Jon Scotchbrook hit a cracking 46 before being caught on the boundary ropes for what would otherwise have been a six. Small margins again! With Will Doggett hitting 51 not out and retiring, the village needed 60 runs off the last ten overs. Alain Michaelis (18) was caught behind bringing Phil Chesser to the crease – 24 needed off three overs. Phil smacked the Chairman (1-24) for four over the legside boundary (where else?) and took seven runs from over 33. Another seven runs were accumulated in over 34 leaving 10 required from the final over.

The Chairman held his nerve and Phil needed six off the last ball. My team were willing Phil on as they could take the mickey out of me for the rest of my life and conversely the SACC team were thinking, "If Phil gets this, we will never hear the end of it!". Finally.....a dot ball (no runs, no wicket, recorded in the score book with a dot) and the Chairman's geriatric friends were relieved to make it 11-7.

Middleton Stoney...

We won the toss, batted and got off to a cracking start with Jeremy Farrar (26) and Will Doggett (27) putting on 49 for the first wicket. Nige Doggett (53) hit nine fours in his fifty before holing out, ably supported by Jon Scotchbrook (31) who was also caught attacking the bowling.

At 148-2 there was only one winner, but three wickets fell for only seven runs. It was left to Professor Mark Nelson, also on debut, to hit a quick fire 20 in partnership with Tim Jones (11). Peter Higgins and Hector Higgins got us to 200-8 in the final over before our tea-time declaration. Middleton Stoney still play 'timed-cricket' with 20 overs from 6pm, so any four results were possible.

Continued opposite...

Quite a batting line-up...

Middleton Stoney had three Junior County players and one former Senior County player, so it was going to be close. Our cause was not helped when Peter Higgins bowled one ball and pulled up with an injury. Fortunately, Nige Doggett was up to the challenge, bowling 6.5 overs and taking 1-7. Jack Higgins also piled the pressure on with four overs for only five runs. Paul Longman (3-39) bowled a 14 over spell of off-breaks, but time was running out.

At the other end something quite extraordinary was happening (and forgive me as his father) – Hector Higgins tore through the Middleton Stoney batting line up, bowling two all ends up, with another two falling to fine catches behind by Will Doggett. Our opponents were 55-7 with 20 overs left, but dug in and a draw was on the cards. However, Nige Doggett cleverly started increasing the number of slips and at one point we had five slips and a gully. It was a bit like watching the West Indies in the 1980s!!

I don't know what was more amazing – that Hector was still bowling at 70mph or that our slips could catch a ball travelling at that speed! Prof Nelson caught their captain at 4th slip and then Jon Scotchbrook took an absolute screamer at 5th slip. He still has the bruise! Hector finished with 6-22 off 11 overs and Paul Longman took the final wicket as Jack Higgins made a simple bat-and-pad catch at short leg. A sensational win by 121 runs, our biggest ever against Middleton Stoney.

Next home game...

Our next home game is on Sunday 3rd July at Great Tew CC against the Philanders. We start at 2pm, so please do come and support us.

With best wishes to all

Peter Higgins
Chairman SACC



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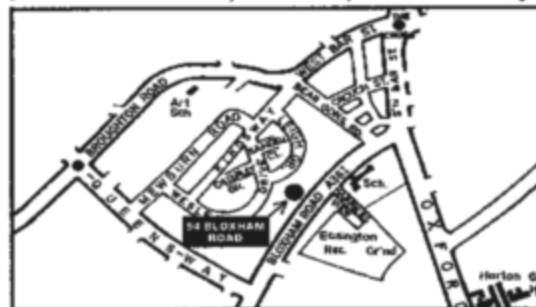
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We had a busy, but successful day at the 'Fete at the Gate' on Jubilee Saturday. We were offered the use of Greenacres' front garden on South Side and pitched our Crown-making stall there. Despite the disappointing weather, over 50 people came to the stall and more than 30 crowns were made. Each was given its own unique decoration with jewels, stars, ribbon, feathers, fake pearls, diamante, glitter glue, drawings of the queen and her corgi, even custard creams!

The crowns were judged by an independent adjudicator from Deddington, who was very impressed with the creativity and imagination on display and found it hard to choose the winners. But finally, the decisions were made, and Izzy Coysh won in the under-8 category; Amelia Bailey was the winner in the 8 to 14 age group, and Gareth John (who only just qualified for the age group!) won the over-15 class. The winners were presented with their crown-themed prizes at the Whit Races the next day. (See page 25.)

Thanks to the Bagallay family for sharing their garden with us, to all the parents who brought their children along, to all the clever, creative children who made crowns, and to all the WI members who worked hard to make sure the event ran smoothly.

Our speaker evening on Tuesday 14th June was well attended and we were given an interesting behind-the-scenes insight into how locations and props are provided for film and television. One fascinating aspect of Lynda Warren's talk was discovering how she fulfilled requests for various animals. Over the years she had been asked to provide a snake for an exotic dancer, a dog that appeared to have been attacked by a mystery monster, a hawk that found a missing item in a large Chinese vase, a dog who would 'play dead' on command and 20 moles. These requests required some ingenuity and involved phone calls to the local abattoir, to a friendly taxidermist, to bird of prey experts, to animal shelters, and in one case Lynda resorted to making 20 moles from scraps of leather and velvet. Lynda gives talks on several topics and we might well ask her to come and speak to us again.

Walking netball is proving to be very popular, and there have so far been two Wednesday morning sessions at the Village Hall, which were reported to be great fun. Please contact Merrill if you would like to take part.

I would like to remind members to let us know whether they wish to receive the Oxford Federation magazine or not, by returning the slip stapled to the front of the latest 'Inspires' magazine to any member of the committee.

Summer dates to remember:

Tuesday 12th July: Garden party at Burland, with strawberries and cream and musical entertainment. There will be Pimms for sale and also a raffle, so don't forget to bring some money with you! 3.00pm start.

Friday August 5th: One-hour Guided walk around Chipping Norton. Limited places. 11.00am start.

Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a member of Steeple Aston WI. New members are always welcome.

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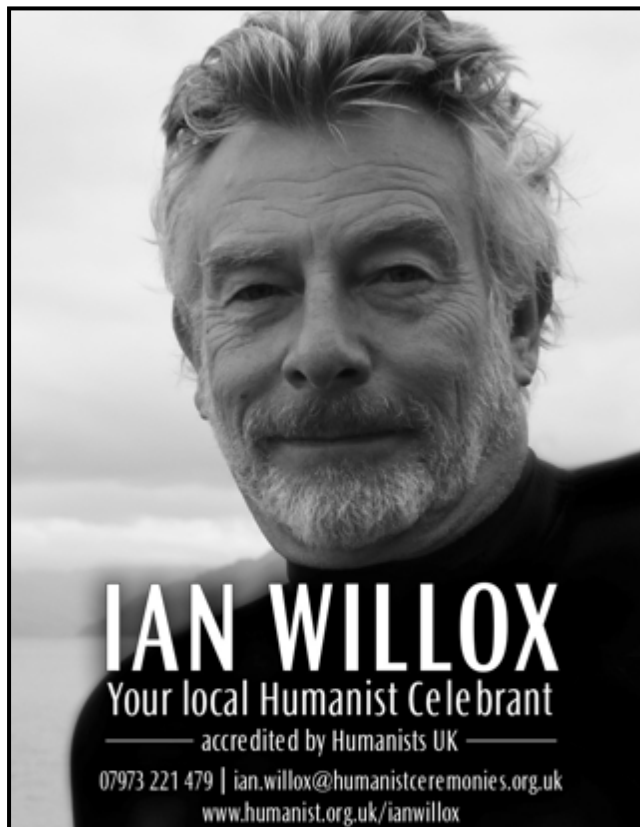
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Churchwardens' Chat



After Marcus' farewell service on 12th June, a gathering of friends from the village and from North Aston and Tackley (the other churches in our Benefice) enjoyed a light lunch together and said warm thanks, wishing Marcus well in his new post as Chaplain of Worcester College.

It was a happy and friendly occasion and Marcus was clearly pleased with the gifts he received, riding off on his new bicycle (just as far as the Rectory!). He may be less thrilled with the dog toy for Harry which has three squeakers, but was grateful for the picture of the three church buildings which will remind him of the nine years he has been our Rector. He thanked everyone most warmly, describing the time here as a privilege and a pleasure to have lived in such a lovely part of the country.

Especial mention was made of the support and care which his 'Worship at Home' videos and his 'Ramblings' notes gave so many people during the Pandemic. The nine years have brought unexpected challenges and there have been turbulent times for us all, but appreciation was expressed not only about the steadfast determination of Marcus to keep the life of the church going despite difficulties, but also about the various highlights of his service to all three churches in the Benefice.

Now we face what promises to be a lengthy interregnum before a new Rector is appointed (sometimes the Church of England has rules which some of us find annoying!). We shall keep the usual pattern of services going as much as we can, although sometimes there will have to be changes and we shall look for understanding and support – even encouragement please! In particular we urge you to come to church so that the various clergy whom we persuaded to visit and take our services know that their visit has been worthwhile.

The PCC hopes to plan some special events during the year – and watch out for news of the poor old Lady Chapel roof. The Fete will be on July 9th and we know that the Village will support that with enthusiasm. We shall soon begin the rather convoluted process of seeking our next Rector so prayers and thoughtful support about his/her appointment are needed please. Keep an eye on the Benefice and Village websites if you can for up-to-date news (www.sntchurch.com). Life may be less smooth when there's no Rector to run things!

Good wishes from the Churchwardens

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: www.sntchurch.com



The Rector on his new bike

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Church Services

Please note that as we begin the interregnum (the period between the departure of the rector and a new appointment) we might not have full information about services as SAL goes to the printer. The blanks in the rota do not necessarily mean that there will be no service – and services are subject to change. Please check the website – sntchurch.com – for up-to-date information.

Our church buildings are now open each day once more and Sunday services continue again in each parish. Masks are no longer compulsory when you come into church – but if there are more than a few people gathered in a building, feel free still to wear them if you like so that all might feel safe. If you struggle with masks or just can't wear them, then please come anyway without one and know that we are thrilled you are here.

We are no longer keeping every other pew empty. If you want to build in a little distancing when you come, just put a scarf or a bag next to you and people will respect your space. We understand that some people want to fill our churches, especially at key life points, but our aim is to keep everyone safe and well. At very large services we may well request that all wear masks.

	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
Sunday 3rd July Third Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>	11am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>	5.30pm Evensong
Sunday 10th July Fourth Sunday after Trinity		11am Family Communion Service Rev. Clare Haynes	
Sunday 17th July Fifth Sunday after Trinity			10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion Rev. Andrew Bunch
Sunday 24th July Sixth Sunday after Trinity		11am Holy Communion	
Sunday 31st July Seventh Sunday after Trinity		11am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey LLM	
www.sntchurch.com			

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Local Info

Steeple Aston Village Hall

Hiring Fee Caution

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

Letting Agent : Angela Smith (see p.2)
 Chairman: Barbara Brewer (340423)
 Secretary: Margaret Bullement (347346)

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

Rubbish bin collection day is Thursday

July 2022

7th Green
 14th Blue and brown
 21st Green
 28th Blue and brown



August 2022

4th Green
 11th Blue and Brown
 18th Green
 25th Blue and Brown

Food caddy is collected weekly

Steeple Aston Sport & Recreation Centre Letting Charges

Social Function peak times (up to 6 hours)	£55
Social Function off-peak times (up to 5 hours)	£27.50
Meeting of represented club (per session)	£11
Caution money for Private Lettings	£100

Letting Agent Angela Smith Tel. 07734 112967
 E-Mail to rec.trust@googlemail.com

Chair – Torquil McLusky Tel. 01869 347914
 Treasurer – Chris Cooper Tel. 01869 347173

BUS TIMES

STAGECOACH S4 BUS SERVICE

This timetable is effective from 7 March 2021.

From Steeple Aston (outside Post Office) to Oxford (arrival time in italics)

Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

0624 0702 0746 0920 then hourly to 1520 1621 1721 1821 1932 2047 2217
 0702 0800 0844 1003 1603 1702 1802 1902 2010 2125 2255

Saturdays

0704 0804 0919 then hourly to 1819 1932 2047 2217
 0746 0846 1002 1902 2010 2125 2255

Sundays and most public holidays

0903 1033 1203 1333 1503 1633 1803
 0944 1114 1244 1414 1544 1714 1844

From Steeple Aston (outside Post Office) to Banbury (arrival time in italics)

Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

0752 0855 0957 then hourly to 1457 1600 1700 1800 1900 1955 2107 2222 2352
 0835 0935 1035 1535 1638 1738 1838 1929 2024 2135 2250 0020

Saturdays

0759 0857 0957 then hourly to 1557 1657 1757 1855 1955 2107 2222 2352
 0835 0935 1035 1635 1731 1831 1924 2024 2135 2250 0020

Sundays and most public holidays

0917 1037 1207 1337 1507 1637 1807 1937
 0953 1113 1243 1413 1543 1713 1843 2005

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

OURBUS BARTONS

OurBus Bartons offers services through Steeple Aston to and from Lower Heyford Station (Monday to Friday), to and from Chipping Norton (Wednesdays) and to and from Bicester (Fridays). See <http://ourbus.co/bartons/> for details and times

Steeple Aston Calendar

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

July 2022			
Saturday 2nd	Battle Proms picnic concert	Blenheim Palace	from 4.30pm
Sunday 3rd	Cricket Club. Great Tew CC	Great Tew	2pm
Tuesday 5th	Community Defibrillator Seminar	Village Hall	7pm
Wednesday 6th	AD&D Photo Society. 'I shoot animals', Steve Galvin	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Saturday 9th	Steeple Aston Village Church Fete	Robinsons Close	2pm
Tuesday 12th	WI. Members' Garden Party	Burland	3pm
Friday 15th	SAL August 2022 copy and advert deadline		
Friday 15th	Golf Society. The Springs Golf Club	Wallingford	
Monday 18th	Parish Council meeting	Sports & Rec.	7.30pm
Tuesday 19th	Valentine Club. 'The Trio' (Ukulele musicians)	Village Hall	2.30pm
Wednesday 20th	Valentine Club. Thames river trip and Bekonscot Model Village		
Saturday 23rd	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Tuesday 26th	Garden Club. Broughton Grange Gardens		2pm
August 2022			
Thursday 4th	Garden Club. Lawn Bowling.	Middle Barton	4pm
Friday 5th	WI. Guided Walking Tour	Chipping Norton	11am
Sunday 7th	WI. Tea and cakes stall	Chastleton House	12 to 5pm
Monday 15th	SAL September 2022 copy and advert deadline		
Tuesday 16th	Valentine Club. Middle Aston House (£5, to include tea)		14:30:00
Monday 29th	Annual Flower Show and Fun Dog Show	Robinsons Close	from 2pm
Saturday 27th	Farmers' Market	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

Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee

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