

Steeple Aston *Life*

August 2022 Issue No. 588



- Church fête photographs • Great flood of 1998 • Precept report •
- Gordon Russell Design Museum • Letter from Westminster •

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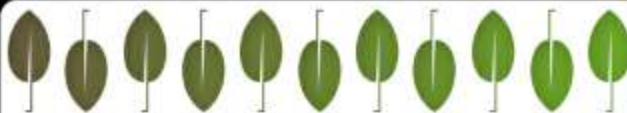
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Cover photo: Jubilee Brass (Oxford) Band at the Church Fête on Saturday 9th July
Photo by Nigel Francis

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
September 2022 issue is 15th August.

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

ADVERTISING

All adverts, and all advertising queries
(availability, prices, dimensions, suitability of
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01869 347347

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previous month.

ADVERTISING RATES

1/4 page - £8

1/3 page - £11

1/2 page - £15

Full page (village events only) - £15

Steeple Aston Directory

Age UK		Richard Preston	340512
Allotments (Church)	SACAA Clerk	Nigel Grugeon	sacaaclerk@btinternet.com
Angling Club		Antony Morley	tonyriver_83@hotmail.com
Archive (SAVA)	Chairman	Martin Lipson	347046
Badminton (Tuesday mornings)		Barbara Brewer	340423
Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	347033
Beekeepers (Swarm collection, advice)		Paul Honigmann	340665
Bell ringers		Graham & Dorothy Clifton	347273
Hand-bell ringers		Sally Cooper	347173
Brownies		Fiona McLoone	340132
Catholic Church -			
St Teresa's (Charlbury)		Father Tony Joyce	01608 642703
Cherwell District Council	Bodicote House		01295 227001
Choral Society	Chair	Ann Livings	233518
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector		
Church Wardens		Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton	340099 , 347273
Methodist Church – Tackley		Rev Paul Carter	01865 243216
	Steward	Tim Bailey	01869 331516
Councillors - Cherwell District Council		Cllr Eddie Reeves	07445 395166
		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
Football Club	Secretary	Peter Wild	07950 837773
Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
Parish Council	Chairman / Clerk	Richard MacAndrew/ Cathy Fleet	347209, 347000
Police	24hr Call Centre	(non emergency)	101
Post Office & Harris Stores		Raj	340201
Pre-school			340863
Public House	Red Lion		340225
Robinson's Close	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Scouts Group		Colin Cassford	243038
Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Steeple Aston Walking Group		Penny, Stuart, Sue and Graham	sawgox25@gmail.com
Toddler Group		Charlotte Clarke	07799 030490
Valentine Club		Richard & Daphne Preston	340512
Village Hall (see advertisement)	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Village EmergencyTelephone System			690691
Village Website	www.steepleaston.org.uk	Editor: Jenny Bell	347714
Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme			0300 3030125
WI	President	Cathy Lawday	347209



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

Steeple Aston *Life*

August 2022

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Editorial

"The brilliant poppy flaunts her head, Amidst the ripening grain, And adds her voice to sell the song That August's here again." ~ Helen Winslow (American editor, author, publisher and journalist, 1851-1938)

August has two birth flowers – the deep crimson poppy and the vibrant multicoloured gladiolus. Poppy flower meanings include sleep, dreams, imagination, sacrifice, remembrance, regeneration and luxury. In the language of flowers, the gladiolus holds the symbolic meaning of honour, faithfulness, persistence, calmness, integrity and strength of character.

August was once the sixth month of the year and went by the name Sextilis (Latin for 'the sixth month'). This was when the Roman calendar had ten months. When January and February were added, it moved to eighth position. The name changed to August in honour of the Roman Emperor Augustus. At one point August had 29 days. It was only when Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar that it took on the familiar 31 days.

1st August is Lammas day, traditionally regarded as the beginning of the harvest. Originally a pagan festival, it was taken over by the early English church. On Lammas day, loaves of bread were baked using new grain. These loaves were taken to a church where they were consecrated. In some churches, the Lammas loaf was used for the bread of the Eucharist, though this tradition appears to have ended when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church.

Talking of bread, it is said that the first sandwich was created, at least with that name, on 6th August 1762. Apparently, the Earl of Sandwich was in the middle of a gambling game which he did not want to interrupt for a meal. Instead, he asked for meat to be placed between two pieces of bread which he could eat at the table.

In normal times (i.e. pre-Covid) many countries in Europe saw August as a holiday period. Cities such as Paris were said to be empty of locals – but filled with tourists. Plus ça change.

Robert

Steeple Aston Life welcomes contributions relating to the village or surrounding areas. These can be short items or longer articles with or without photographs. Submit to editorsalife@gmail.com or email your ideas for feedback.



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS)

01869 690691

Imagine you are at home when your partner or spouse suffers a sudden cardiac arrest. Call the emergency services and ask to speak to the Ambulance Service. They will automatically despatch an ambulance to you and give instructions on how to perform CPR (chest compressions).

If appropriate, the 999 call-taker will then call the Village Emergency Telephone System. A volunteer will then bring a defibrillator to you. This will greatly increase the patient's chances of survival.

The VETS number connects simultaneously with ten volunteers in the village. When a volunteer picks up, they will be told where the defibrillator is needed. They will collect it from the cabinet by the Sports and Recreation Building and bring it to you. If they arrive before the ambulance, you can open up the defibrillator together and follow the spoken instructions.

If someone else is with you, you can ask them to call the VETS number and say where a defibrillator is needed. But if you are on your own, **DO NOT STOP GIVING CPR** to make a phone call.

In a case of cardiac arrest, call the emergency services on 999

Outdoor planter or hanging basket Class 18 of The Annual Flower Show

Entries for the above class at this year's flower show need to be with Janet Coley, Paines Hill (347882) or Richard Preston, Primrose Garden, North Side (340512) by Sunday 21st August.

Judging will take place during the week preceding the show. Please include your telephone number to enable the judge to contact you so that your entry can be judged.

Parking plea

I would like to ask the people who park in the area between the Sports & Rec and the Village Hall to show a little basic consideration and to respect the two disabled spaces.

I was at the playground in June and both spaces were unavailable to disabled users. One space was taken up by a woman with small children – who had no visible disability and no blue badge. The other space was made useless because someone had parked right in front of it, completely disregarding the fact that this made the disabled space totally inaccessible. Will people realise that these disabled spaces are not a 'perk' which can be used by anyone. For disabled users they are a necessity.

If there are no spaces it may be inconvenient for you to park further down the road and walk a little distance, but for a disabled user this walk may not be physically possible. Your use of the disabled space means a disabled user may not be able to carry out a basic everyday task. Please think of others when you park in this area and show some understanding...and some basic common sense.

(Name supplied)

Ukraine Independence Day Celebration

Everyone is welcome to a Ukrainian charity supper on Wednesday 24th August, from 7pm to 10pm, at the Village Hall. There will be speeches, Ukrainian music and a Ukrainian supper with traditional dishes. Donations to support Ukraine will be welcome. Please email pirog.vk@gmail.com if you are planning to attend,

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Steeple People



Martin Dale



How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? 11 years.

Where did you move from? Rochester, Kent.

What brought you here? To be near our son and his family.

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? The people, the place and the total silence these summer nights.

Is there anything you don't like about living here? Many of the pavements are too narrow. Plus, I wish Cherwell Council would clear the leaves off the roads and pavements in the autumn and not leave them to make rotten piles.

How has the village changed in the time you've been here? Lots more younger people. The trees have grown.

Give a potted history of yourself – in 40 words or less. Born Swanley Kent. Viola lessons aged 12. National Youth orchestra at 16. Read music at Durham. Peripatetic teaching in Kent. Later Deputy Director of Kent Music School (15,000 pupils, 360 teachers.) Then became a cook/baker and finally a painter/decorator.

How do you see yourself, in five words or less? Deep thinking, melancholic, creative, sensitive.

How do others see you, in five words or less? 76-year-old bloke, team person.

What do your family or friends find most annoying about you? I take on too much.

Early bird or night owl? Night owl.

Optimist or pessimist? I think I'm an optimist – those who know me well wouldn't necessarily agree.

Technology: friend or foe? Friend – been working with it since 1979, but often it still betrays me.

What was the best thing about being a child? Dreaming in the sun.

What is the best thing about being an adult? Dreaming in the sun and occasionally turning those dreams into reality.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? An engine driver.

What was your first job? Selling school uniforms at a local shop in Sidcup.

What do you do for a living now? 'Stuff' round the house, round the village. Mostly bloke things – DIY and so on. Technically, I am retired.

What is the best job you've ever done? Conducting my Medway Youth Orchestra in Saint Saens' Organ Symphony in Rochester Cathedral.

What is the worst job you've ever done? Mending toilets, which seems to happen too often.

What's your secret/guilty pleasure? Custard creams.

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have. Model railways, like lots of my generation. Those of us who remember steam – it's in the blood.

What's your favourite food? My lovely wife's home-made winter soups.

What would you save from your house if it was on fire? My lovely wife.

If you became prime minister, what law would you pass? Rejoin the European Union.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? A farm for our son and a house by the sea for our daughter.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? New Zealand via Bhutan.

What do you do to relax? Sleep.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? Every choice we make is the right choice because we cannot go back in time to change it. We can only move on to better things.


Tell us a surprising thing that you are really bad at. Cleaning my shoes.


Tell us something about yourself that most people don't know. In my twenties I offered myself three times for the priesthood in the Church of England – luckily for me (and the church) I was rejected!


Tell us a good joke. Groucho Marx: "This morning I shot an elephant in my pyjamas – how it got in there I'll never know".




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Dates for your diary – we will be back at St. Peter & St. Paul's in Deddington for the monthly craft fair that takes place alongside the Farmer's Market on

Saturday 23rd July and 27th August.

We will also have a stall at the village **Horticultural Show on**
Monday 29th August.

Whether you're looking for gifts, sustainable wrapping, produce bags, cards, plant labels (and more) or are just looking for ideas for upcycling every day items, please do come along and see us!

All proceeds from our upcycling sales will go to support the work of the village Environment & Sustainability Committee.

www.sustainablesteeple.com

www.facebook.com/SustainableSteeple

amanda@sustainablesteeple.com or 07793 553150

Letter from *Westminster*



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

It does not feel as if we have stopped since I last wrote. I think we all enjoyed Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations enormously. I'm sure that we will all look back with fabulous memories of this extravaganza weekend for years to come.

It has been an extremely busy and interesting month in Westminster, with the leadership election now well underway. It is clearly an important time for both the Conservative Party and the country. We have a really strong field of candidates standing. With voting taking place over the summer, we are all hoping that a new Prime Minister will be in place in September.

It is important that the Government continues to function in the meantime. In Defra, we remain focused on protecting and strengthening our food security at this difficult time. I was proud to launch our first ever food strategy last month which sets out our plans to support farmers and food producers.

I was pleased to welcome students to my office to undertake work experience over the past few weeks. It was good to be able to host groups in-person once again with the students getting the opportunity to see Parliament in action before summer recess. One of the highlights of working as an MP is being able to sit down and speak with enthusiastic and passionate young people. For those who are interested in future opportunities, please email me at ***victoria.prentis.mp@parliament.uk***

My office continues to receive lots of casework emails from constituents. Much of my team's work recently has been focused directly on supporting constituents with visa, passport and DVLA applications. I know that many are frustrated by delays, but the situation is starting to improve.

I know from correspondence that many families continue to face challenges with the cost of living. It is important that we ensure that government support reaches those who need it most. There is a really useful government webpage which constituents can use to identify what support they may be eligible for. You can access the site at:

<https://costoflivingsupport.campaign.gov.uk/>

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated a very special milestone as the Horton General Hospital turned 150 years old. Opening in 1872 with two wards and just 12 beds, the Horton has come a long way indeed, now serving a wide catchment of some 170,000 people. All of us have memories of the hospital, both happy and painful. It has been there for us and generations of our families. I am determined to do everything I can to make sure that we keep the services at the Horton and that we continue to modernise the site and its structures so that it can care for local people of the future.

I know that we have been waiting a long time for a decision to be made on the bid for the Horton to be included as one of the final eight hospitals to receive funding from the government's health infrastructure plan. I have been told that the submission is still under active consideration by the Department for Health and Social Care. Even if we are not successful this time, the Trust now has a coherent plan for the future of our hospital and we will keep up the pressure to ensure this is delivered.

I hope you have all been enjoying the fabulous weather. I am looking forward to seeing many of you out and about at fêtes and events over the summer.



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★★★★★ - Google Review



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The ARTS Page



Organ recitals at Blenheim Palace

The Willis Organ is the largest in private ownership in Europe, with four manuals and pedals, 2300 pipes and 53 speaking stops. Situated in The Long Library at Blenheim Palace, visitors can enjoy Sunday recitals from 2pm to 3pm in a beautiful setting.

Sunday 14th August - Andrew Patterson

Sunday 21st August - Alessandro Bianchi

Sunday 28th August - Edward McCall

Tickets are required – Palace, Park and Gardens or Annual Pass.

www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/organ-recitals/

Oxford Shakespeare Festival

Siege Theatre is performing 'King Lear' from 1st to 13th August (not Sunday). King Lear divides his kingdom among the two daughters who flatter him and banishes the third one who loves him. His eldest daughters both then reject him, so Lear goes mad and wanders through a storm. The Oxford Shakespeare Festival is an outdoor theatre experience taking place in the Castleyard of Oxford Castle and Prison. Tickets are £17 (£15 for children, students with valid ID and people 60+). www.oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk/events/

The Duke's Theatre Company

There is more outdoor Shakespeare at Newbarn Farm, Ditchley Park, Chipping Norton OX7 4EX. In 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', the Fairy Kingdom is at War. Oberon and Titania's marital mayhem unleashes chaos on four young lovers with disastrous – and hilarious – consequences. In another part of the forest, a troupe of aspiring actors prepare for the most important night of their lives – a command performance before the Duke and Duchess. Madness, mayhem, magic, love and hilarity ensues – and don't forget the donkey! Saturday 27th August (7pm) and Sunday 28th August (2pm and 7pm). Tickets £18, concessions £16, under 26s £12.50.

chippingnortontheatre.com/whats-on

Opera Anywhere

'The Pirates of Penzance' is a tale of mismatched love across different social classes. Josephine is the captain's daughter and has fallen for lowly sailor Ralph. Yet her father has other ideas – he has promised her to Sir Joseph Porter, the First Lord of the Admiralty. Will love prevail? The touring company is performing Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta at Heath Farm, Swerford, near Chipping Norton OX7 4BN, on Saturday 13th August (7pm) and Sunday 14th August (2pm and 6pm) – tickets £21 (concessions £19). Also in the grounds of St. Katherine's, Parmoor, Oxfordshire RG9 6NN, on Sunday 28th August at 3pm – tickets £25 (booking fee applies). Both are outdoor venues – bring a picnic and your own chairs, if you wish. operaanywhere.com/tour-dates/

Banbury Museum & Gallery

Sat 25th June 2022 - Sun 6th November 2022

In this age, where superheroes exist only in fiction, 'Heroes of the Viking World' allows you to discover some of the real-life hero 'celebrities' of the Viking world, including Eric Bloodaxe – last Viking King of York, Lathgertha – warrior woman, and Harald Hardrada – the thunderbolt of the North. Until Sunday 6th November. Tickets: adult £5, child £2.50, concessions £3. Booking required at:

www.banburymuseum.org/events/heroes-of-the-viking-world/

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

From a sketch on the back of an envelope to grand, elaborate chalk drawings, this exhibition - returning after its sold-out, limited run last year - offers the chance to view the museum's internationally-renowned collection of Pre-Raphaelite works on paper. The exhibition explores the enormous range of techniques and media used by the artists that made up this movement and sheds light on their connections to Oxford, as well as their intimate and often complex friendships and love affairs. There are over 100 artworks on show. These include works of extraordinary beauty, from the portraits the Pre-Raphaelites made of each other, their studies for paintings and commissions, to subjects taken from history, literature and landscape. There is a Pre-Raphaelites family art trail leaflet available for younger exhibition visitors. Tickets at £13.50 for adults (children under 12 free, concessions available) can be pre-booked at www.ashmolean.org/pre-raphaelites. Until 27 November 2022.

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



The recent Parish Council meeting was held on the first of July's two record-breaking hot days. Our District Councillor sent a message saying he would not be attending 'for obvious reasons'. The general feeling seemed to be that the heat had not prevented the rest of us from turning up, so perhaps his motive was influenced by Tory embarrassment about the performances of the contenders to be Prime Minister that we had seen on TV the evening before our meeting.

A plaque to Margaret Mason has been put up on the road side of the Village Hall. It is a good reminder of how much she is appreciated for all she did to improve the facilities in the village. One Councillor explained he had been up a ladder the evening before, setting up a curtain so it could be suitably unveiled. A group of appreciative villagers had been to see it unveiled on the morning of the meeting.

There are two subjects which keep on coming up at Parish Council meetings and this time, luckily, we only got one of them – dog poo. A villager explained that he had seen four dumps of poo on North Side that evening and he wanted to talk to the Parish Council about it. This regular hot potato, or at least warm poo, is easier described than eliminated. The Dog Warden has been to the village and told the Parish Council that when he was there about half of the apparent dog poos are in fact fox poos. The Parish Council has no jurisdiction over the activity of foxes, or of dogs and their owners, so the discussion ranged over whether there was anything they could do which might help indirectly. One suggestion was to try to increase awareness of the issue among dog owners. But notices and reminders have had no effect in the past, so were assumed to be unlikely to be any more effective now.

Duns Tew are trying out an alternative approach – spraying the poo with white chalk. The chalk disappears in a few days and in the interim makes the poo more noticeable. The benefit of this was twofold. First, it was less likely to be stood in by accident and second, it made the poo more noticeable and it was hoped that this might influence dog owners to check on their animals more carefully. Apparently, in Duns Tew chalk

spraying like this had been tried for a few months and there had been a small but noticeable improvement. But it was too soon to know how quickly the effect would wear off. One issue was who should do the spraying. In Duns Tew it is done by dog-walking Councillors. Asking for volunteers here was suggested and rejected on the grounds of being too close to vigilantism. The councillors decided that if anyone used the chalk spray here it would have to be wielded by a Parish Councillor. I could not help wondering if one of the village's bus shelter spray-painters might be given the job instead.

After the fun of the dog poo discussion, it was decided that the Parish Council would put up three extra poo bag dispensers on North Side, South Side and the Fenway footpath. The chairman volunteered to do any poo spraying.

There was a long discussion about the land behind the War Memorial and whether it would be OK if the old hedge was partially replaced by new planting of native trees in a more appropriate position. Everyone agreed to this as long as the changes did not leave a gap while the new trees grew.

The transfer of the Water Lane orchard to the Parish Council seems to be going ahead and apparently the lawyers have located all the necessary papers. This was followed by a discussion of the sort I love. The issue was how the orchard will be managed, since it will be owned by the Parish Council. It was agreed a subcommittee would be needed to manage the orchard. But if there is a subcommittee, does it have to report back to a committee? Apparently, the Parish Council is not a committee so the issue was whether something which isn't a committee could have a subcommittee. After no solution was found for this appalling conundrum, the Councillors turned to how to manage the bank account for the orchard. Does it have to be a Parish Council account or can it be managed by a subcommittee? It was decided that the Councillors will ask the internal auditor about whether a subcommittee, with its own bank account, can meet the financial requirements for managing something the Parish Council owns.

Parish Council Meeting Notes



One of the picnic benches on the play area has been vandalised, leaving a sharp bit of metal protruding. The metal is set in a bit of concrete so it is hoped the whole thing can be yanked out with 'a very heavy sledgehammer'. If this is impossible it will be cut off. The Councillors were treating this as a health and safety issue and that meant they would not need the usual three quotes.

The zipwire in the Play Area needs a bit of tlc. The cable is going to be unwrapped and its cover replaced. The seat seems OK, but the bark needs substantial replenishing. The Councillors had three quotes for the extra bark with the cheapest almost exactly half the cost of the most expensive. They decided to check the quality before opting for the cheapest.

The low wall by the entrance to the Committee Room at the Village Hall has been repaired recently but some of the concrete has been chipped off already. The Councillors decided that if it was re-mended it should be done with quick drying cement so the kids could not jump on it before the cement went off.

The next issue was how to improve the gravel path between the Village Hall and the road. The alternatives seemed to be to put down more gravel, cheap but difficult for wheelchair users, or a gravel lookalike composite which is more expensive, but does not have problems with wheelchairs sinking into it.

CCTV was considered again for around the Village Hall because the image can now be so well-defined that individuals can be easily identified. The possibility of CCTV will be kept under review and revisited as necessary.

The large cost of cleaning the lavatory by the play area was considered again. There seem to be two possibilities, the first of which is to ask for contributions from non-village users. This would need to be managed electronically, such as by text donations, because of fears of vandalism with an honesty box. The contributions would be requested for the whole play area and not confined to being

just for the loo. No one knew if this would be effective as a fundraiser. The other option would be to shut the loo in winter when the playground is used less and the cold means shorter visits.

There are three potential warehouse developments around Junction 10 of the M40. The four parishes closest to the junction are uniting under the auspices of the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan committee to oppose the schemes. They are fundraising to get the technical and legal advice that will assist their opposition.

There is no Parish Council meeting in August, so you will next hear from me in the October edition of SAL reporting on the Monday 19th September Parish Council meeting. The meeting will be at 7.30pm in the Sports and Recreation Centre and visitors are welcome.

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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How your Parish Council spends your money

In recent years, the Parish Council has published a commentary on the Parish 'precept' for you, the council tax payers, to see where and how your money is being spent. The precept is the local, i.e. parish, element of the overall council tax bill. For those who wish to delve deeper a full breakdown is published online and can be found from the link below.

For 2022/23 we have had to raise the precept by 8.1% to £32,527 per annum. To put this in 'real terms', this amounts to an additional £5.77 per annum for an average Band D home, or the equivalent of four packs of own brand, large eggs from Tesco.

It's interesting to see that both larger and smaller neighbours, Deddington and Upper Heyford, have posted 10% and 8.4% increases respectively in 2022/2023.

So, what is it spent on? The precept is divided into three categories: administrative, maintenance and grants.

'Administrative' includes the vitally important qualified part-time Parish Clerk. Alongside managing the council, they also implement decisions and administer advice. £4,900 covers their salary (graded according to a local government scale) as well as training and expenses. Other administrative requirements include insurance (£3,000), external and internal audits (£300), Payroll services (£189) and training for councillors (£300).

'Maintenance' is where the bulk of cost increases have occurred, reflecting a wider rise in the cost of living. This area of responsibility includes general land maintenance from grass cutting (£3,000) to hedge and weed spraying (£1,000) as well as wider responsibility for the public realm from street furniture to bus shelters and the War Memorial. Given the size of our parish we are particularly well served by a range of facilities from the playground to the Sports & Rec, football pitch and Village Hall.

The single greatest increase has been in maintaining the public toilet. In 2021 the cleaning and maintenance contract for this was awarded to a firm of cleaning contractors. This was necessary due to the retirement of our previous cleaner and the struggle to recruit a replacement. £9,500 is now allocated annually to cleaning of the toilet and playground litter collection.

'Grants' are given annually to eligible village groups and organizations which choose to apply and are deemed to be providing a community service. These are nominal, but the council is pleased to have helped The Sports & Rec, Steeple Aston Village Archive, The Baby & Toddler Group as well as Steeple Aston Life, The Church, Friends of Heyford Station and in previous years the Allotments Association, with modest sums to support these volunteer-led services.

Wherever possible council members take responsibility for saving the village money. That might be taking on maintenance work themselves such as jet washing graffitied bus shelters or researching and applying for grants. In 2021 our County Councillor, Arash Fatemian, secured funding from the Councillor Priority Fund to pay for the defibrillator cabinet and in 2022 the Jubilee Committee's Arts Council application funded the village Jubilee celebrations.

The purpose of this report is to provide reassurance to parishioners that we are managing your affairs with care and consideration, balancing necessary spend with spend that helps our community grow and develop. We always welcome feedback on the work we are doing by either attending one of our monthly public meetings or emailing parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com

Steeple Aston Parish Council

For further information please view [***www.steepleaston.org.uk/finance***](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk/finance)



The Gardening Spot

130 years and counting!

Believe it or not, our annual flower show is celebrating its 130th event on 29th August 2022, as usual on Robinsons Close and in the Village Hall. The advert in this issue of SAL (page 7) tells you all you need to know about entering this village tradition and social highlight of the village calendar. However, I would like to tell you a bit more about the show and why Steeple Aston still has a large, traditional marquee, holding upwards of 800 exhibits, placed on the benches by you!

For fear of boring many of you I will keep the history short. It all started way back in 1869. A 'root and produce' show held in what was the village school on North Side. Back then, turnips and mangels would have taken pride of place alongside the skill of darning socks. Things have moved on somewhat and you will now find photography, floral art, a vegetable animal without 'googly' eyes and a focaccia loaf which I bet the Victorians had never heard of.

The show has moved around a few times, but eventually ended up on Robinsons Close in a very large marquee and is now one of the few traditional shows remaining in Oxfordshire. Stalls were added many years ago to help supplement the cost of running the show and around 40 years ago a fun dog show was introduced. This year we step up the pace once more with the additional entertainment provided by Morris Dancers.

So why has our village got such a great show when other villages have lost theirs? Primarily, two reasons. First and most importantly, the village works together and enters into the spirit of village life by putting something in one of the 140 classes in the schedule, which can be found online via the village website, or a hard copy can be obtained from the magazine rack in the village shop (thanks to Raj and Co.). The second reason why we have such a great show is the small but aging (with the exception of two or three) committee members who make this show happen each year.

With a population of around 1,300 across both Steeple and Middle Aston we could potentially see 1,000 entries, which has only been achieved once in the show's history. All the committee asks is that you have a go at one or more classes in the show and let us make a bit of history for the 130th show. Entry fee for each class is only 30p and just 10p for children and although you probably will not be able to take early retirement with the prize money, a red card (first prize) on your desk will make your friends envious of such record-breaking achievements.

Our final request is that we could really do with some help on the afternoon of the show if simply to help out at a stall for an hour or so. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to meet fellow villagers and make a difference to our village along the way. Just give me or any committee member a call to ask "what can I do?".

Finally, a few facts and figures just to send you to sleep! The marquee and tabling cost a few pennies short of £2,000. We attract an average visitor number to the show of around 500 to 800 people. The number of classes is 140, more than any other village show.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 29th August and don't forget to bring your dog, or maybe borrow one. Sadly, as we have no secure internet connection on the field, it will be cash only!

Richard Preston 01869 340512
or email Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

The Gordon Russell Design Museum

Tucked behind the Lygon Arms Hotel in Broadway in a delightful little square where even the Co-op looks attractive you will find the Gordon Russell Design Museum.



During Covid lockdown, thanks to Helen Lauder, I watched a couple of their Zoomed lectures and was keen to visit the museum itself. I was not disappointed and for anyone who likes wood, is interested in design and the story of development and change in 20th century furniture design this is a fascinating place to visit.

There are comprehensive and well-illustrated information boards which tell you about the life and work of Sir Gordon Russell (1892-1980) as you enter the museum. These give a helpful framework for what else you will see. He began designing individual pieces of furniture such as a beautiful English Walnut lace or glove box in 1925 which is on show. It is inlaid with boxwood, cherry, laburnum and yew – very intricate and lovely and a work of art. Work or bespoke furniture of this standard is of the kind which could only be owned by the wealthy.

However, Sir Gordon Russell came from the arts and crafts tradition of design, believing that good design could and should be made accessible to all. This led him to set up his company in Broadway training apprentices to become craftsmen and women, learning cabinet making skills ‘using hand and machine’ so that members of the general population could own quality pieces of furniture.

The museum exhibits many products of the company and demonstrates the way it adapted to the changing tastes of the public throughout Sir Gordon Russell’s life. You will, for example, recognise the cabinets in which you would have stowed your radio when public broadcasting broke into peoples’ lives in the 1930s.



The museum opens in March to October between 11.00am and 5.00pm; in November, December and February between 11.00am and 4.00pm. Entry is £5 for adults and free for children. There’s a little shop – no café, but plenty in Broadway and, of course, the drive across is a delight!

gordonrusselldesignmuseum.org

Eileen Baglin-Jones

Poetry Corner



Garden of delight

the colours of the rainbow dance
before my eyes
my senses soar
it would be easy to believe
I'd never
sat down here before
the flowers that are
now in bloom
that make the space
a garden room
with help at times from me
a labour offered free

this help has never cost me dear
it's symbiotic
let's be clear
in fact that's why
it's not a chore
the ground's a carpet
nature's floor
where I can tread
and feel at peace
not mine to own just short-term lease
as things move on we see
her labour's also free

things new each day
as others fade
a constant cycle on parade
enrichment for the soul
but it's not stated as a goal
or deadlined target
pressure-on
there's no remorseless pace
just dignity and grace
no chance of losing face
reward for taking action
a deep self-satisfaction

Peter Wild

The Race

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Political hopefuls, betting their shirt,
Hoping that the press don't uncover any dirt.

Any past indiscretions or unwise youthful tweets,
Any skeletons in the cupboard that might lead to their defeat.

Any secret liaisons or extramarital romances,
That might leak into the papers and ruin their chances.

A dodgy land deal or costly home redecoration,
An interest-free loan or insider information.

To win the party leadership, you must be pure as snow
Be sincere and honest (or at least appear so).

However, once you've been elected, you can play
Free and easy with the truth; then lying is OK.

When you are PM, you can lie without a doubt
It will not even matter if your lies are found out.

You can just be blatant, show no shame at all
But even as you do, the writing's on the wall.

For you will lose your party's love and affection
As soon as they think you won't win the next election.

And then more politicians, honest and true
Will line up in a race to replace you.

All hoping for a chance to prove to the nation
That they will bring about a transformation.

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They are the new brush which will sweep clean.

And to our surprise we may discover then
An honest politician in Number 10.

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Church Fête Saturday 9th July

A selection of photographs taken by Nigel Francis, Catherine Crook and Paul Honigmann.

See page 37 for more information





Whit Races Winners

It was not possible to do the 'running' races on the Jubilee weekend, so they were re-scheduled to the Church Fête on 9th July. (Winners of the reduced races in the Village Hall on 5th June were published in Steeple Aston Life, July 2022, on page 29).

RACE	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Egg & Spoon (5 years and under)	Olivia Clarke	James Bonaria	Rufus Webb
Egg & Spoon (6 years)	Seren Grainger	Harmonie Reid-Evans	Frankie Burrows & Ottie Maclean
Egg & Spoon (7 years and over)	Oliver Gill	Nancy Alcroft	Demmie Brown
Sprint (5 years and under)	Olivia Clarke	Frankie Burrows	Rufus Webb
Sprint (6 years and over)	Nancy Alcroft	Charlie Simpson	Freddie Burrows
Sack Race (6 years and under)	Ottie Maclean	Harmonie Reid-Evans	James Anthony
Sack Race (7 years and over)	Hattie Wright	Nancy Alcroft	James Walker and Harriet Hae
Backwards Sprint (6 years and under)	Harmonie Reid-Evans	Ottie Maclean	Rufus Webb
Backwards Sprint (7 years and over)	Charlie Simpson	Nancy Alcroft	Demmie Brown

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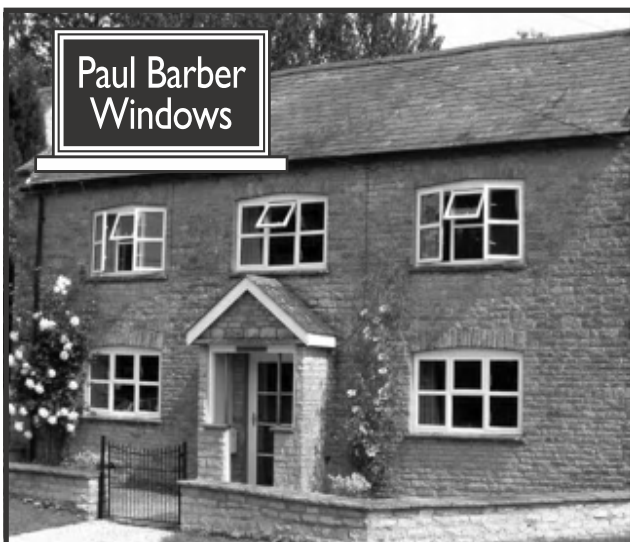
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???? Mind Games

Who wrote about these characters?

1. Uriah Heap, Mr Brownlow and Betsy Trotwood?
2. Anne Eliot, Marianne Dashwood and Emma Woodhouse?
3. Dorothea Brooke, Silas Marner and Daniel Deronda?
4. Jo, Laurie and Marmee?
5. Captain Hastings, Inspector Japp and Tuppence?
6. Ron Weasley, Luna Lovegood and Sirius Black?
7. Harris, George and Montmorency?
8. Nancy Blackett (actually called Ruth), Titty Walker, the Coots?
9. Mr Plod, the golliwogs and Big Ears?
10. Byrnisson, Pantalaimon and Lee Scoresby the balloonist?

Compiled by Cathy Lawday. Answers on page 32.



AD&D Photographic Society

Steven Galvin, LRPS, gave us a fascinating talk about one of his favourite photographic genres – natural history. As a member of Marlow Camera Club, he regularly judges competitions, but focused on his photography and how he tries to enhance his composition to give a less formulaic image of the creatures he shoots.

We saw flora and butterflies, but very few birds, except an owl manipulated with software into a more pleasing background, a lovely misty morning landscape. By passing on his techniques Steven gave us ideas to improve our own images.

Steven uses focus stacking to ensure pin sharp images from front to back and some of the technical data showed as many as 100 images stacked into one. He also recommended any negative space in an image be composed on the left rather than the right as we tend to track left to right when looking at an image.

Tips on underwater photography, especially diving in the Red Sea, also were interesting for members. Steven saved the best shots until the end – a safari to Southern Africa, where shots of elephants were captured from a sunken hide by a waterhole. Stunning. Steven's work can be viewed on his website www.stevengalvin.photography

If you would like to join us our next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd August at 7.30pm at The Adderbury Institute. Our speaker will be Andrew Marker about 'The Journey to FRPS Panels and Beyond'. Do check out our website for further details.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

The Great Floods at Easter 1998

Weathermen gave no indication of the scale of the deluge which was to strike Oxfordshire during 48 hours of the worst floods seen for generations. Flood water poured into Oxfordshire as flood gates were opened further north and the Cherwell and the Oxford Canal burst their banks. Residents in Banbury were forced from their homes as the water level rose eleven inches in four hours. It was described as being like a scene from a disaster movie.

We are fortunate to have a personal view of how the flooding affected our area as Hazel Hall wrote about it in her diary, which her husband, Derek, has kindly donated to the archive following her death last year. This is what she wrote.

Maundy Thursday, 9th April 1998

What an incredible weekend it has been, beginning with Thursday night. We left to go shopping in Banbury at 7pm thinking it was just another wet miserable night. Rumours were rife with flooding at Gaydon – as we travelled back home you could see non-moving nose-to-tail traffic on the motorway as far as the eye could see.

Good Friday, 10th April

We woke to floods the like of which I have never seen. Taking a walk down onto Long Bridge the pole registered 13ft on the Rousham side of the bridge, but further along when we crossed to look over the other side it was an amazing 2ft higher and about 18 inches from the top of the parapet. It was already pouring through Turnpike Cottage and by evening had covered the 14ft mark which meant Cuttle Mill, Turnpike Cottage, Station House and Lower Heyford Mill were now well flooded and the



road closed. North Aston had fared no better. The road in one place had already been a seething mass of foam which was impossible to ford and the mill house totally surrounded. By evening this had risen to a point necessitating the closure of the road. So now we were cut off at Heyford, North Aston and the Rock of Gibraltar.

Continued opposite...

Saturday 11th April

Saturday saw things much better – it had evened out and the road to Lower Heyford was clear, but battle-scarred. I saw one thing I have never seen before. A lad sat in his canoe on top of the parapet whilst his mate launched him into the flood water- he had a ball and was last seen paddling back to Tackley – easy as the flow of the current did all the hard work. Where we had watched water squirt through the bridge walls the mortar was all flaking away and the road



cracked and holey. The fence in front of Turnpike Cottage was broken and washed askew and the ground flattened with the force of the water. Station House had thrown all their carpets outside and must have been heaving a sigh of relief that the water was just lapping at the side of the hedgerow 18 inches away. The poor old canal was in a sick and sorry state. The water had subsided quite a lot, but the path along to the narrow boats between Heyford Station and The Cleeves was waterlogged.

Easter Sunday, 12th April

At North Aston the water was still up round Mill House and you had to drive carefully as the road was still flooded and water still pouring across the meadow. We went down to have a look at Heyford Mill, which had had the doors stoved in with the weight of the water. I don't think we shall see the end of the floods until the end of the week. Although we have seen flooding many times, this is the first time in all my 67 years I have seen the like.

Thursday 16th April

At this rate the valley is going to stay flooded for a long time. Whoever made the foolhardy decision to release the water was very stupid. Fortunately, with the change of farming there don't appear to have been any cattle grazing. I hate to think what could have been – it truly doesn't bear thinking of – usually there have been a very large flock of sheep in Dormer's.

Friday 17th April

The floods are on a high again and to within a whisper of the fence in Dormer's field. The river and canal are right up to bursting. It's going to take weeks before we are back to normal.

Many people went to look at the flooding, of course. How many have photographs of it? How many wrote about it at the time? SAVA would be pleased to take copies to store in the archive. To read the full version of the flooding from Hazel's diary go to the SAVA website: articles. To see more of Hazel's life and her records, come to SAVA's exhibition on Village Personalities on 12th and 13th November 2022.

Diana Gardner, SAVA

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SACC vs Minster Lovell – Sunday 26th June

Re-visiting the scene of last year's dramatic tie, SACC skipper Nigel Doggett won the toss and elected to bat. The multi-generational Jeremy Farrar and Tom Chesser were sent in to provide a fast start, doing exactly that with both playing fluently off some good bowling. Quick singles were in slightly short order and the partnership came sadly to an end when Jeremy had to retire hurt on 21 with a damaged hamstring.

Tom continued to play some beautiful shots and rapidly got to his fifty, putting on a partnership of over 100 runs with the hard-running skipper before Nige was given out plum LBW for 28. At 163-1 Steeple were in a strong position, with new bat Jon Scotchbrook (29) taking his time whilst also smashing some trademark strokes over the bowler's head.

A century and comedy moments....

Tom continued his relentless march to a century, which he reached and then retired. This brought in Mark Nelson, aka Mutley, who had travelled all the way from London on the train to be bowled first ball! With Tim Jones also out LBW, in came debutant Alec Michaelis, playing his first game for eight years. When Jon went (the third LBW of the innings – unheard of!), Alec was joined by the signing of the season, his father Alain.

Comedy ensued as Alec ran himself out taking a quick single to the wicketkeeper, who was standing no more than two yards from the stumps, quickly followed by Alain who was caught behind and stumped off the same ball. With the loss of five very quick wickets Phil Chesser (15) joined the fray along with Pete Higgins. Whilst Pete nurdled, Phil hit three fours in a row, the last of which unusually went through the off-side. Minster brought back their opening bowler who immediately clean bowled Phil first ball, allowing the considerably more talented Tom (106*) to return to complete the innings.

Minster requiring 239 at nearly seven an over

In Act Two of the Michealis family day out, Alain and Alec opened the bowling. Alain continued his excellent form going for just 20 runs off his six overs, including one early wicket caught behind. Soon after Alec (1-42) opened his wicket tally with an LBW, a great performance after so long away from the cricket pitch. He did give away quite a few byes though...

Tom Chesser and Pete Higgins were first change bowlers, with Pete bowling his usual tight line and length and Tom's bowling figures not helped by his mate Alec remarkably turning a single into a four. Mutley made his journey worthwhile by taking a catch on the boundary – until it bounced out of his hands, that is. He manfully declined to use the sun as an excuse.

At drinks, Minster were in a good position, but immediately Steeple broke through as Pete Higgins (2-23) took a sharp finger-stinging catch off his own bowling to remove the dangerous leftie opener. Another wicket to Pete, clean bowled in the same over, quickly redressed the balance. Despite some strong hitting by a couple of the Minster batsmen and with Alec continuing to cement a long-standing friendship by putting down a sitter at mid-wicket off Tom's bowling, a catch at cover and another behind the stumps off Nigel Doggett (2-30) put paid to the run chase.

A Steeple win by 57 runs – a great fun game played in a friendly spirit. Many thanks to Minster Lovell for hosting. Our next games are against Great Tew (at Tew) on 7th August and away to Sandford-St-Martin on 14th August.

Phil Chesser
Secretary, SACC



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THE VALENTINE CLUB

With the forecast of the hottest day on record, we decided to postpone our meeting in July and reschedule this for Tuesday 2nd August in the Village Hall at the usual time of 2.30pm. Apologies to all concerned, but we must always place the health and safety of our members first.

On Wednesday 20th July we took a very large coach (extra wheels to take the extra length, or maybe the additional weight) to Windsor to join a river cruiser on The Thames. Here we enjoyed a ploughman's lunch before re-joining our coach and off to Bekonscot Model Village where, after exploring the magical world of miniature, we ended the day with a cream tea.

I should have mentioned our trip to RHS Wisley at the end of June where we joined the horticultural society for a wonderful day exploring the well-manicured flower-beds and greenhouses. Many thanks to the horticultural society for enabling such a superb day out.

This month, as well as our additional meeting on the 2nd August, we are off to Middle Aston House on the 16th, meeting at 2.30pm for a relaxing afternoon and enjoying the superb tea that MAH provide.

Our plans for our next group holiday are well underway. We will take a coach to Suffolk for a five-day break at the end of September. September looks like another busy month when we visit Bletchley Park to learn all about the code breaking during WWII, followed by a talk on 'My India' by Ann Sharman and then off to the seaside.

To help with the club's funds we are planning a nearly new stall at the annual flower show. If you have anything suitable that you would like to donate to the club, contact me for further information. This will not be a 'jumble sale' stall as we simply will not have enough space or manpower.

To learn more about the Valentine Club visit our own website on www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston (the easiest way to log-on is go to the village website, select 'clubs and societies', find The Valentine Club and click on the link) 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

Steeple Aston Golf Society



The second SAGS meeting of the year took place at Wrag Barn with 12 players enjoying a very warm afternoon. The winner with 31 points was Jack Kay, with Vaughan Billings coming second on count-back from Martin Hurst with 30 points. Jack's SAGS handicap has now been cut by one for the rest of the season.

The nearest the pin was won by Jack Kay and nearest the pin in two shots by Stanley Kay. There were birdie twos from Brian Kay and Danny Phillips. Overall, points were relatively low, reflecting the difficulty of the playing conditions, therefore handicap adjustments have been made for anyone scoring under 23 on the day rather than the standard 25 points.

Results from 'The Springs' will be in your September edition of the Life.

Friday 5th August, 12 noon meet, 13:00 first Tee.

Our captain Paul Kay has chosen Naunton Downs for his day out. This course plays over beautiful Cotswold countryside. A valley running through the course is one of the main features, creating one par 3 hole that crosses over it. The prevailing wind adds extra challenge to the Par 5s (which play into the wind), combined with small undulating greens. Postcode GL54 3AE.

If you would like to play and support Paul then please contact Alan on 01869 340423 or Chris 347173.

"I'd give up golf if I didn't have so many sweaters." Bob Hope.

Happy golfing

Alan Brewer



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The community "Apple Pressing days" will be held in the **Village Hall car park** this year. Look out for dates on the village website, Facebook and notices around the village.

No booking required, just turn up with your apples and empty bottles!

Alternatively, the complete kit is available for hire at the unchanged rate of £20 Contact Penny and Stuart on 01869 349155 or email cummins2011@outlook.com for details.

Mindgames answers (see page 25)

1. Charles Dickens (David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, David Copperfield)
2. Jane Austen (Persuasion, Sense and Sensibility, Emma)
3. George Eliot (Middlemarch, Silas Marner, Daniel Deronda)
4. Louisa M Alcott (Little Women)
5. Agatha Christie (Poirot books, Tommy and Tuppence books)
6. J K Rowling (Harry Potter series)
7. Jerome K Jerome (Three Men in a Boat)
8. Arthur Ransome (Swallows and Amazons series)
9. Enid Blyton (Noddy series)
10. Philip Pullman (His Dark Materials trilogy)

Village Hall News



The Village Hall has upgraded its presentation equipment and is available for hirers.

The Village Hall projection facilities can now play full HD video (1920x1080) with sound and also professional Power Point type presentations. It is now possible to connect laptops and DVD players directly to the projector and sound system through an HDMI wall plate located near the stage. The projector is permanently located above the stage and the three-metre wide retractable screen has been moved to the back wall of the stage.

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, tel: 07734112967 (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



It was great fun to meet up with the Brownies for our Annual Sausage Sizzle! Thanks to the Fenemore family for their hospitality. It was a very lively evening with the Guides showing the Brownies how to cook on an open fire and make them aware of safety around the fire.

We had an evening of camp preparation, including a fun fashion show by the Young Leaders – highlighting what to wear at camp day and night and what not to wear.

We hiked from Milton to Barford St. John on a beautiful evening and en route had to deal with various challenges including making an animal picture out of natural objects, some first aid and an obstacle course.

Thanks to the Wolfe family and their hospitality we had great fun stream-walking – if you live in Barford I'm sure you heard the shrieks!

We will finish the term with Backwoodsman cooking and a promise ceremony for seven new guides. Quite a term.

Then we'll be off to camp which we are all very excited about, followed by a break until September.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

and Marian Trinder 07786 001641

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The WI have enjoyed the summer weather with two very pleasant events. On 29th June we visited Kelmscott Manor. This has recently been refurbished inside and out, all authentically done in the style of William Morris, following methods used in his day – for instance, producing new hand-printed wallpaper using his designs. The visit was preceded by a pub lunch in the pretty hamlet of Kelmscott and followed by a visit to Aston Pottery, where we enjoyed tea and cake in their wonderfully colourful gardens.

12th July was our garden party and we were once again blessed with good weather. Almost 30 members enjoyed Pimm's and strawberries and cream whilst sitting in my garden, chatting to friends and listening to traditional folk and country music provided by John and Sue West. We had two bunting-bedecked gazebos, which provided shelter from a brief light shower at the end of the afternoon (so Jill was justified in bringing her umbrella!).

Members continue to enjoy walking netball on Wednesday mornings (contact Merrill on 347802 if you'd like to join in).

On Friday 5th August we are being taken on a guided walking tour of Chipping Norton. It starts at 11am and will last approximately one hour. There is no cost. Places are limited, so contact me now if you are interested.

Our Autumn programme of speaker evenings starts with a talk entitled 'Princess Margaret: a Controversial Life'. I have been promised it will be suitably scurrilous, so don't miss it.

Do contact me if you would like to join us. You are welcome to come to a meeting as a visitor to see if you would like to become a member.

Cathy Lawday 347209



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Churchwardens' Chat



Well, we seem to be getting used to life without a Rector! Church services are pretty much being kept to our usual pattern and we are rather enjoying the different approaches of the various priests who, thanks to the help and efforts of our Rural Dean Rev Jeremy Auld, are coming week-by-week to lead worship. Once a month, alternating between North Aston, Tackley and Steeple Aston the service of the day is a Benefice service – you'll find details on the Rota of services (page 39). Do come when you can to any service to share worship with others. It's holiday time, of course, so we know that from time-to-time people will be away – enjoying some relaxation we hope (and avoiding Covid!).

Sadly, due to the wretched Covid, neither Bridget nor Martin, both of whom had done so much towards organising the Fête, were able to be there this year. However, the usual magnificent crew of planners, preparers and participants turned out and the Fête went ahead without a hitch. There was a very happy atmosphere on Robinsons Close on July 9th when over 300 adults and goodness knows how many children came to enjoy a proper village Fête with sideshows, music (from the indefatigable Jubilee Brass band from Oxford who played magnificently), things to look at and be interested in, games of skill to try your luck at, things to buy and of course plenty of tea, cake and ice cream to enjoy (see pages 22 and 23 for photos).

The Whit Races, which had to be postponed because of poor weather for the Platinum Jubilee, were also run during the second half of the afternoon, so many children were able to go home proudly wearing a medal!

We'd like to give medals to the crew who set up the Fête on Friday and Saturday morning – it's hard work, but everyone seemed cheerful and continued to be so as the field was cleared in record time. A preliminary count of the takings suggests that church funds have benefitted by nearly £2,000 – it sounds a large amount, but we are much in need of funds. Apart from having to work out how to repair (well replace really) the roof of the Lady Chapel, which will cost about £30,000, and consider how to pay for various other issues with the building which were pointed out to us during the recent Quinquennial Inspection, it costs a surprising amount just to keep the church open, in use and available to everyone. You'll hear more about these problems!

Other news is that by the time you read this there will have been two churchyard working parties – a group of stalwarts who gather on a Saturday morning to keep the churchyard looking good. More volunteers would be welcome – just give one of us a ring!

The PCC has also met and begun planning for future events. In spite of being without a Rector it's important for us to maintain the rhythm of the Church's year to help us keep in the forefront of our minds why we are a church – a Christian community dedicated to loving God and our neighbours. That means everyone – not just our next-door neighbours, though don't forget them will you!

Best wishes from Graham Clifton and Eileen Baglin-Jones
Churchwardens

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Sunday 14th August Ninth Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Family Communion Rev. Nigel Knights-Johnson	11am Family Communion Rev. Nigel Knights-Johnson	5.30pm Holy Communion Rev. Jeremy Auld
Sunday 21st August Tenth Sunday after Trinity	10.30am United Benefice Service Rev. Stephen Jones		
Sunday 28th August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	5.30pm Family Communion Rev. John Underwood
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Others - over 6 hours.....	£160£300
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August 2022

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 11th Blue and brown
 18th Green
 25th Blue and brown



September 2022

1st Green
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Saturdays

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 0746 0846 1002 1902 2010 2125 2255

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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

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

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Steeple Aston Calendar

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

AUGUST 2022			
Tuesday 2nd	Valentine Club. 'The Trio' – Ukulele musicians	Village Hall	2.30pm
Thursday 4th	Garden Club. Lawn Bowling	Middle Barton	4.00pm
Friday 5th	Wl. Guided Walking Tour	Chipping Norton	11.00am
Sunday 7th	Wl. Teas	Chastleton House	12 to 5.00pm
Monday 15th	SAL September 2022 copy and advert deadline		
Tuesday 16th	Valentine Club. Middle Aston House (£5, to include tea)		2.30pm
Wednesday 24 th	Ukraine Independence Day Celebration (see p6)	Village Hall	7 to 10pm
Monday 29th	Annual Flower Show and Fun Dog Show	Robinsons Close	from 2.00pm
Saturday 27th	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
SEPTEMBER 2022			
Wednesday 7th	Valentine Club. Visit to Bletchley Park		
Tuesday 13th	Wl. Speaker Jeff Rozelaar 'Princess Margaret: A Controversial Life'		
Thursday 15th	SAL October 2022 copy and advert deadline		
Tuesday 20th	Valentine Club. 'My India', by Ann Sharman	Village Hall	2.30pm
Saturday 24th	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Tuesday 27th	Wl. Guided tour	Ashmolean Museum	2.00pm

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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