

Steeple Aston *Life*

September 2022 Issue No. 589



• Red Lion reopens • Hogwarts at Gloucester Cathedral • Dog walk •
• WI events and photos • 70 years of gardening • Church services •

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Cover 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 October 2022 issue is 15th September.

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

ADVERTISING

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Full page (village events only) - £15

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Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	347033
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		Cllr Hugo Brown	
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Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme			0300 3030125
WI	President	Cathy Lawday	347209



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

Steeple Aston *Life*

September 2022

Issue No. 589

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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 editorialife@gmail.com

Editorial

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree." – Emily Brontë (English writer and poet, best known for her novel 'Wuthering Heights'. 1818-1848)

September is another month with a misplaced name. It was originally the seventh month in the ancient ten-month Roman calendar ('septem' is 'seven' in Latin). However, January and February were added in 451 BC, making September the ninth month and giving us our 12-month year. Not only that, but September started out with 29 days. It was Julius Caesar's reform of the calendar in 46 BC that added the extra day. "Thirty days hath September..."

The Romans liked to couple each month with a god. Vulcan, the Roman god of fire, was chosen for September. This might be because it was a fiery month, the equivalent of our July, in the original calendar. July 2022 was certainly very hot across Europe. It was the first time since records began that 40°C had been recorded in the UK (40.3°C on 19th July at Coningsby, Lincolnshire).

The birthstone for September is a variety of the mineral corundum, consisting of aluminium oxide with trace amounts of elements such as iron, titanium, chromium, vanadium, or magnesium. We know it better as the sapphire. This is usually blue, but can occur in yellow, purple, orange and green. If red, they are known as rubies. Traditionally, a sapphire is a gift for a 45th wedding anniversary. It is also said to protect the wearer from poisoning. Hopefully, no connection!

Last month I mentioned that 1st August was Lammas day, traditionally regarded as the beginning of the harvest. This month we have Michaelmas Day (29th September), traditionally the last day of the harvest season. In Steeple Aston, there will be a harvest supper in the Village Hall on Sunday 2nd October (tickets available soon).

Another date to remember this month is Friday 23rd September – the autumn equinox. This is when the day and night have approximately the same length – not to be confused with the solstices, which mark the longest and shortest days of the year.

Robert



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Church fete on Saturday 9th July

Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped with the Church Fete. Sadly, the writer was totally stuck to his sick bed, so missed the day!

However – and this is super to report – everybody, but everybody with whom I have spoken since has said what a lovely atmosphere there was and as a result what a super occasion it was. These events only occur because of the kindness of friends, especially those who help set things up, run stalls and events, and this year especially the children's races, and help giving of themselves, their labour and their love to an event which is part of the village year.

May we, the church, and especially the committee of friends who organise the fete, send out to you all our very sincere gratitude for such a lovely occasion.

Next year's fete is already fixed for Saturday 8th July 2023. See you there!

From your Fete Committee and all the congregation of our Church of St Peter and St Paul

Railways in the Cherwell Valley and the rebuilding of Heyford Station at Didcot Railway Centre

Tuesday 20th September, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Somerton

Our speakers will be Tim Part and Alan Price. Both are long-standing members of the Great Western Society at Didcot. Tim is the Project Manager for the Heyford Project (he was actually part of the team that dismantled the original building way back in 1985). Alan is a member of the Heyford team as well as taking a leading role in the establishment of ongoing stewardship of the signalling exhibits at Didcot.

The talk will be 45 to 60 minutes long, with an opportunity for Q&A. It will focus on the history around the railway line through Heyford and then move on to the project at Didcot. There will be plenty of photographs to illustrate the talk.

Tickets £7.00. Contact deddlib@hotmail.com telephone 01869 345439
Bar will be open. Light Refreshments included.

Parish Council Meeting Notes

The Parish Council does not meet in August, so there are no notes in this issue. 'Steeplejack' will be back in the October issue with a report of the September meeting.

Postage stamps need a barcode from next February

New postage stamps now include a barcode. Stamps without barcodes will not be valid after 1st February 2023 (there are exceptions for special issues and commemorative stamps). If you are unable to use all your old stamps by the end of January 2023, you can swap them for barcoded stamps. Visit [royalmail.com](https://www.royalmail.com) for further details and a 'Swap Out' form. Post Offices are not able to swap stamps or supply the 'Swap Out' form.



Fire hydrants and parking regulations

A reader has written to SAL about a fire hydrant on North Side. Most people do not realise that it is a hydrant as it looks like a drain cover.

Under the 'Fire and Services Act 2004' it is an offence to damage or obstruct a fire hydrant. Some Fire and Rescue services say that while it is illegal to obstruct a fire hydrant, the offence is only committed when the hydrant is required for firefighting. However, in the event of an emergency, a fire officer is allowed to move a car, even if this involves breaking a window to release the handbrake. The sensible advice is to park clear of fire hydrants at all times.



A fire hydrant cover on North Side. The covers are normally painted bright yellow for visibility, but this one appears to have faded and could easily be mistaken for a drain cover.



You should find a yellow 'H' sign on a wall near to a fire hydrant. The upper number indicates the size of the water main, usually in millimetres. The lower number indicates the distance to the hydrant in metres. An arrow might also be used to show the location if it is not directly in front of the sign.

Old paper bank notes withdrawn

The Bank of England is withdrawing the legal tender status of paper £20 and £50 banknotes after 30th September 2022. If you are lucky enough still to have these banknotes, it is recommended that you spend or bank them before the end of the month. Most UK banks will still accept old paper notes after the deadline, but it is at their discretion and you will probably need to hold an account with them. You can always do a postal exchange with the Bank of England after the deadline, but posting banknotes will be at your risk.

The new polymer banknotes, which are harder to forge and made of a more durable material, are not affected. The new £50 note features mathematician Alan Turing, while the new £20 note features artist J. M. W. Turner.





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Steeple People



Laura Bliss



How long have you lived in Middle Aston? 18 months.

Where did you move from? Adderbury.

What brought you here? So many reasons, but ultimately our beautiful house and garden.

What do you like best about living in Middle Aston? Again, so much – the countryside, the people, the peace and quiet (when there's not building work going on).

Is there anything you don't like about living here? How far away we are from the coast!

Give a potted history of yourself. Born and raised just outside Souldern, Oxfordshire. Lived in London, Dubai, Devon, Souldern, Adderbury and now the centre of the world in Middle Aston! I've probably had more jobs than most people due to working (tenuous term!) as an actor for four years in London – which in translation means doing a thousand and one jobs I didn't want to do in order to support the unpaid (or very low paid) acting work!

What do your family or friends find most annoying about you? Indecisiveness!

What do your family or friends find the most endearing about you? Probably how loyal and protective I am over the ones I love.

Early bird or night owl? Early bird by default (I can't not wake up to my husband's 5:30am alarm!)

Technology: friend or foe? Can't live with it, can't live without it!

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Marine Biologist – until I discovered that I suffered from sea sickness and needed to be good at science!

What was your first job? Ironing and cleaning for a local bed & breakfast.

What do you do for a living now? I work part-time for two businesses – accounts and admin for my husband's electrical business and assistant agent for a talent management company.

What is the best job you've ever done? Tour and project manager for a music tour around the UK.

What is the worst job you've ever done? Packing Marmite in a factory during school holidays.

What's your secret/guilty pleasure? I don't admit this often – but 'Made in Chelsea'!

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have. I grew up with a vintage car obsessed dad. I discovered at the age of 17 that it was warmer and a lot more fun as a driver rather than a passenger!

What's your favourite piece of music? I love most music, but one that gives me goose bumps is the piece of music I walked down the aisle to – 'Overture', by Michael Kamen (film fans will recognise it from the film 'Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves', football fans may recognise it from Nottingham Forest football matches!)

What is your all-time favourite book? 'A Little Life', by Hanya Yanagihara – I read this book about four years ago and I still think about it regularly – inspiring, heart-breaking and incredible.

What would you save from your house if it was on fire? I wouldn't have a chance – my husband would have scooped up our dog and me (in that order probably) before we knew it!

If you could ban one thing in the country, what would it be? Animal cruelty.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? We had the most incredible holiday in Barbados a few years ago, so I'd love to go back one day.

What do you do to relax? Can't beat a walk with my husband and dog in the sunshine with a coffee/pub stop!

What's your favourite piece of advice? If you feel rubbish for whatever reason, put on clothes and/or make-up which make you feel good – it will instantly perk you up.


Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive? I have a number of friends and family across the world. I'd love to bring them all together.


If you were on a desert island, what would you miss most? My dog, my husband, my dog, my husband.....ahhh!


Tell us a surprising thing that you are really bad at. Wrapping presents – really, really bad!




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Local restaurant celebrates entry in the Michelin Guide

The Yurt at Nicholson's, situated in North Aston, has been selected by the Michelin Guide for Great Britain & Ireland.

In addition to being featured in the guide, The Yurt was identified as one of the inspectors' six favourite new additions for June 2022. The Guide describes "Unfussy dishes that are big on flavour and come with some Mediterranean influences; brunch is served every morning and a bright and breezy service comes from a capable young team". The Yurt is summed up by the Michelin inspectors as 'cosy and characterful'.

With only 25 Oxfordshire-based restaurants being featured, The Yurt finds itself listed with the best in the county. Judging was undertaken over a series of visits by a group of Michelin inspectors who base their assessments on five objective criteria:

- quality of ingredients used;
- mastery of flavour and cooking techniques;
- the personality of the chef in his cuisine;
- value for money;
- consistency between visits.

All menus offer a variety of dishes using seasonal ingredients and cater for all dietary requirements. Award-winning head chef, Andrew Carr, takes pride in introducing new ideas to customers. The chefs work in partnership with the seasons and are passionate about the food they produce. Zero food waste is achieved by utilising surplus ingredients in their specials or returning goodness to the soil through composting. If they cannot produce the ingredients for themselves, suppliers are chosen to ensure that their values align with Nicholson's and their packaging is minimal or recyclable.

The canopy of The Yurt is made from sustainable materials and is lined with sheep's wool for insulation. A sizeable log burner heats The Yurt during colder months using waste wood from local forestry projects. A fan circulates the heat efficiently.

Nicholson's Managing Director, Liz Nicholson, comments: "To be featured in the Michelin Guide for Great Britain and Ireland is a fantastic achievement that all of the team are incredibly proud of – especially me. We all look forward to continuing to provide our customers with unforgettable experiences, whilst also pushing ourselves more and more from a sustainability perspective. We hope to welcome you soon!"





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The ARTS Page



This from Richard MacAndrew

Live music – small venues

There is plenty of live music throughout Oxfordshire for lovers of folk, country, singer-songwriter, Americana and many other genres – all at affordable prices. James Morgan organises gigs at venues in Oxford, Witney and Carterton. Go to:

facebook.com/jamesmorganpresents for more information.

Mike Trotman promotes gigs in Oxford, Thame and Dinton – see **www.empty-rooms.com** for details.

Open mic events

If you play and/or sing, are a poet or spoken word artist, or if you enjoy an evening watching others perform, there are free weekly open mic nights at Carterton, Witney and Oxford, and others on a less regular basis in Bicester, Freeland and Long Hanborough. Check times, further information and daily updates on James Morgan's Facebook page (see above).

The Chipping Norton Folk and Acoustic Club currently meet on the second Monday of every month. Further details at **chippingnortonfolk.org.uk**

Or try the Lakes Sessions – a monthly get-together on Sundays at the Lakes Resort in Witney. Further details available at **bit.ly/3QOiJgp** (*this is a shortened form of a long link*).

If you'd rather stay closer to home, there is an open mic session every other Thursday at The Bell in Lower Heyford **facebook.com/thebelllowerheyford/**

Here are a few September events that caught our eye. Please get in touch with SAL if you come across interesting future arts events for this page.

The Oxford Playhouse (www.oxfordplayhouse.com/)

Monday 12th September: In 'Basie & Beyond', the National Youth Jazz Orchestra explores the impact on popular music made by Count Basie and 20th-century Black American artists that followed. Artistic Director Mark Armstrong leads this 19-strong NYJO through bespoke arrangements of classic American Songbook melodies.

Tuesday 20th to Saturday 24th September: 'Bugsy Malone'. Prohibition era, New York. A city full of mobsters, showgirls and dreamers. Rival gangster bosses Fat Sam and Dandy Dan are at loggerheads. The custard pies are flying and Dandy Dan's gang has gotten the upper hand since obtaining the new-fangled 'splurge' gun. Alan Parker's world-famous movie becomes a spectacular theatrical experience.

Tuesday 27th September to Saturday 1st October: 'Spike', by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman. It is 1950s austerity Britain and out of the gloom comes 'The Goon Show'. While Harry Secombe and Peter Sellers get down to the serious business of becoming overnight celebrities, fellow Goon and chief writer Spike Milligan finds himself pushing the boundaries of comedy and testing the patience of the BBC.

Chipping Norton Theatre (www.chippingnortontheatre.com/)

This theatre has a wonderfully eclectic program of music, plays and films. Here is a small selection.

Monday 5th September: 'The Railway Children Return'. 38 years after the original film took place, we return to find Bobby is now the retired headmistress of the local high school. As the WWII evacuation of children from cities begins, Bobby is called upon to set up an emergency school for evacuee children flooding into the countryside to escape from the bombing. Jenny Agutter reprises her role of Bobby from the 1970 film alongside Sheridan Smith and Tom Courtenay.

Thursday 8th September: 'Much Ado About Nothing', by William Shakespeare, with Katherine Parkinson and John Heffernan. The legendary family-run Hotel Messina on the Italian Riviera has been visited by artists, celebrities and royalty. But when the owner's daughter weds a dashing young soldier, not all guests are in the mood for love. A string of scandalous deceptions soon surround not only the young couple, but also the adamantly single Beatrice and Benedick. Broadcast live from the National Theatre stage.

Tuesday 27th September: 'Madama Butterfly'. With a score that includes Butterfly's aria, 'Un bel dì, vedremo' ('One fine day') and the 'Humming Chorus', Giacomo Puccini's opera is entrancing and ultimately heart-breaking. Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier's exquisite Royal Opera House production takes inspiration from 19th-century European images of Japan.

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The Gardening Spot

A change in gardening over the past 70 years

I am writing this on one of the hottest days of the year, when gardens look more like the Sahara and it is only the bravest of souls who venture into the dustbowl once described as our garden. It is difficult to try to advise you on what to do during the month of September as I have no idea when or if we will get any significant rain. Instead, here are my recollections of gardening throughout my time here in Steeple Aston.

Gardening was one of the main 'pastimes' of the folk of the village, not because they enjoyed it that much (although some certainly did and were very good at what they accomplished), but more a case of necessity. The surrounds of front doors would be adorned with climbing roses, hollyhocks and a bed of annuals, but much of the garden would be reserved for the production of vegetables.

This was in the days before the emergence of supermarkets and large imports from abroad. If you couldn't grow your own vegetables or fruit then your only other option would be to use the local shop or, maybe, a mobile greengrocer. Wages were considerably less than today even considering inflation and it would not have been that unusual to have a pig in the backyard to provide a source of meat.

Gardens tended to be much larger than those of today and there were numerous allotments scattered around the village. I remember some plots at the front of The Crescent, where the bungalows now stand, and a very large number of allotments over the road next to Nizewell Head. If you moved across the village, allotments were to be found to the roadside of Fenway, in front of what was then the sand quarry and now where houses line the side of the road. If you walked down Cow Lane, on your left were allotments from the last house to the bottom of the track and the Church Allotments, which are still in use today.

As a greengrocer trading around the local villages in the 1960s, I can remember it was quite difficult to sell vegetables as many of the inhabitants grew their own and probably had a glut at some stage so passed that on to their neighbours. Despite the comparative poverty of rural areas such as our village, gardeners were always happy and also very competitive.

I can remember one tale from my early days of working on the van, around the village, selling my vegetables. As was often the case, some of the men working the allotments would have a surplus and offer me their spare vegetables. One day, very early in the morning, I collected some fine examples of spring cabbage from the allotment gates as previously arranged with the gardener. About 30 minutes later, a customer of mine was so complimentary of these fine examples of young, fresh cabbage that she insisted on purchasing two with the objective of treating her husband to a superb meal once he returned home from work that evening.

Now, at this point I should explain that I was in a deep dilemma as the cabbages in question were grown by her husband, but he had obviously not taken any home for personal use. Should I have informed the housewife of their origin, but possibly denied her the opportunity of serving up a wonderful meal that evening, or should I simply keep quiet, take the money, and wait for the consequences? I did the latter and all was well until I called on that lovely lady the following week. I had not experienced language like that before and promised not to sell her any produce sourced from her husband's allotment again!

Richard Preston

– retired greengrocer, but still gardening!

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HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

Hogwarts



(aka Gloucester Cathedral)

If you are familiar with J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter stories you will know that Hogwarts is the abbreviated name of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. I know young people who love the books so much that they (very nearly) believe that the school exists in reality. But it doesn't – so sadly you can't actually go to see it, but if you go to Gloucester Cathedral you can find several of the sites there where filming of three of the movies took place.

During a recent visit I was amused to see quite a few young Harry Potter fans – and indeed some older ones – with pens and clipboards and information sheets trotting excitedly round the cloisters, which led me to find out what they were looking for.

Gloucester Cathedral was founded around AD 679 and has a proud history as a centre of worship and learning. Much of the building you can visit today dates from soon after the Norman Conquest and was built in the Perpendicular Gothic style with galleries and a crypt to explore and a wonderful Cloister garth and what is now a peaceful garden.

Until 1541, Gloucester Cathedral was Gloucester Abbey, populated by Benedictine monks for whom the Cloister was a place of serenity for prayer and contemplation and perhaps also for writing, illustrating and copying documents. How amazed they would have been to see the East Corridor of their Cloister flooded to represent the scene when Moaning Myrtle flooded the 2nd floor girls' lavatory in Hogwarts! In the Cloister's North corridor is the oldest surviving lavatorium, where the monks washed their hands before meals – it's now also where Harry and Ron hid from the troll!

It occurred to me that there could be a double reason for visiting Gloucester cathedral – the younger members of the family, especially if they are Harry Potter fans, could enjoy finding out about the several locations used in the films which were partially filmed there, while other members of the family could immerse themselves in the history and architecture of this wonderful building and seek out the tomb of Edward 2nd.

It's free to visit Gloucester Cathedral – though donations are welcomed. You can enjoy refreshments in the Monk's Kitchen when you need a rest!

Eileen Baglin-Jones

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Poetry Corner



Setting yourself up for the day...

The fleeting pleasure of breakfast
it's over all too soon
starting off with cereal
I then lay down my spoon
the eggs and bacon follow on
accompanied by tea
to go with toast and marmalade
there's more to come for me
The time has come for pastries
the Danish have it right
I'm intercontinental
In all foods I delight
the giant buffet breakfast
a truly sumptuous meal
It's all included in the price
a really epic deal

Peter Wild



What girls can do

In the past, girls could play the piano and sing
Could sew, do embroidery too
Could dabble a little at sketching
But there wasn't much else they could do.

They could read the latest novels
But did nothing very exciting
Sports were not open to women
No boxing or bare-knuckle fighting.

Girls were given the skills they'd need
To win in the marriage mart
But no one ever paid any heed
To making them street smart.

They were taught to speak in French
And write romantic billets-doux
But not how to hit a man where it hurts
Or to run in unsuitable shoes.

Today things are much better
The education of girls is improved
But even so, when it comes to sport
The goalposts have not moved.

Male footballers took the limelight
Women were kept in the shade
Confirming the myth that football
Was a game that only men played.

Men sang of past footballing triumphs
And dusted their trophy shelves
Till – bored of men losing in Europe
The girls won the cup for themselves.

Now people will have to admit
Girls **can** play the beautiful game
And not only can they play it
But they play it to great acclaim.

Now we have to admit that soccer
Is a sport for women as well as men
And the days of not taking them seriously
Are long gone and over. Amen!

Now the old diehards will have to change
And concede the truth of this 'pome'
That women **can** play football
And it was women who brought football home!

Cathy Lawday

**St Peter and St Paul's Church
Steeple Aston**

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**Sunday 2nd
October 2022**

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Eileen Baglin-Jones:

email: Eileen@baglinjones.com

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email: gjclifton@btinternet.com

From the Dog House

Taking your dog for a walk

If you don't mind going a little further afield for a walk, then the circuit between Thrupp (off the A4260) and St. Mary's Church in Kidlington has open fields, woodland and a good paddling area for your dog in the Cherwell.

It should take up to about one-and-a-half hours at a leisurely pace. It is flat with no stiles, but at least one kissing gate. In Thrupp, follow the road to the end and go over the canal bridge, and the car park is behind Annie's Tea Rooms.

To start the walk, go back over the swing bridge and turn left to follow the canal down to the Jolly Boatman pub (this would be an alternative starting point if you prefer). Leave the towpath to cross the canal bridge, then turn right across a field. It is a good idea to keep your dog on the lead until you have crossed the railway at the far side of the field. After the railway, follow the footpath straight ahead along the edge of several fields towards St. Mary's Church in the distance.

As you approach the church, the footpath bears right across a corner of a field, then along a path leading to the road. Go left/straight on, following the road round to the car park behind the church. Go through the kissing gate and keep straight on into the woodland. This area is St. Mary's Fields Nature Reserve which is maintained by the Parish Council. You can find more information on their Facebook page 'St Mary's Fields Kidlington', or on the Parish Council website.

After a short distance you will see a large field to your left. Leave the woodland and cross diagonally over the field and into the next one, where you can either continue across to the far corner or take a slightly longer walk around the edge. You want to end up in the corner of the field where the woods and the river meet.

Take the path through the woods and follow it keeping right so that you are as close as possible to the river, although you will not be directly alongside it most of the time. After a few minutes you will find a lovely shallow area of the river which is ideal for any size of dog to have a paddle and a drink.

Continue along the path and where it gets quite narrow you might like to put your dog on the lead as you will soon go under the railway bridge at the end of the walk. The path then brings you out at Annie's, where the refreshments are highly recommended.

Snifferdog



Villagers drink the Red Lion dry on opening night!

When the Red Lion re-opened on Thursday 11th August, the enthusiasm of thirsty villagers meant that the pub nearly ran out of drink!

The pub was shut for refurbishment in early March. The new tenants Ryan and Charlene Keogh only had a couple of weeks to prepare for the re-opening, but they did a great job painting and upscaling the bar and the furniture. So, the pub looked inviting on its opening night, one of the hottest of the summer.

They were also lucky to be offered a complimentary Pig Roast by Steeple Aston's Bradley Andrew Hookway and his Oxfordshire Pig Roast Company. Locals didn't hesitate in coming to claim their free meal. They were queuing down the road for a while and many stayed on to drink late into the night.

The following morning, Ryan and Charlene found they had sold out of lager and nearly run out of wine! Fortunately, they managed an emergency run to top up supplies by the time customers started to return to the pub.

Their plan is to open daily, except for Mondays, from 12 midday until 11pm. The food on offer will be limited, at least to start with. They hope to offer 'Steeple Stone-baked Pizzas' to eat in and takeaway almost immediately, along with chicken wings and chips.

Ryan is going to do the cooking, helped by Tyler who has returned to help in the kitchen. In the autumn they plan to start providing Sunday lunches, maybe Fry-up Fridays, and themed events such as curry nights. Coffee and cake will be on offer during the day and there may also be a limited lunch menu eventually. The idea is to offer simple pub food, mainly sourced locally.

There will be more entertainment for customers, with a pool table in the garden room and regular music nights on the last Friday of the month. Preparations are under way for the first of these, an 'End of Summer Party Night' on 26th August, and there is an Elvis tribute band booked for 28th October. More details to come.

Ryan and Charlene have already made friends in the village as they moved from Bloxham to Grange Park with their five children in March 2020. Charlene says they love it here and have always wanted to run a pub, so when the opportunity to take on the Red Lion came along, they were very excited.

This will be their first time in charge of a pub, but they say they have had good support from the owners, Hook Norton Brewery, and help from some former members of staff and their family.

Both born and bred in Banbury, Ryan and Charlene have been running Keogh & Keogh, a bespoke fibreglass service based in Thorpe Way, since 2014. Ryan brings his skills as a boatbuilder to the business and Charlene does the books.

They have staff to keep the business going while they concentrate on running the Red Lion. Judging by the reaction of villagers so far, it should keep them pretty busy!

Jenny Bell



Left: Ryan and Charlene Keogh

Above: The popular free pig roast

Below: A well-supported opening night

Photos by Nigel Francis



DR RADCLIFFE'S TRUST ANNUAL AWARDS

TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

AWARD FOR 16-18 YEAR-OLDS

This award is for students who:

- are 16-18 years old
- are studying at school, college or in an apprenticeship
- live in Steeple or Middle Aston or attended Dr Radcliffe's school for 2 years minimum

Financial awards are offered to students aged 16-18 who are continuing in education or training and whose total family income is less than £45,000, for anything that will help you with your course or to complete your studies.

Awards are made at the discretion of the Trustees of Dr Radcliffe's School Foundation based on the financial need of the applicant. Household circumstances will be taken into consideration. Young people can apply any year that they are eligible regardless of whether they have received an award in the past.

AWARD FOR 18-25 YEAR-OLDS

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

- are 18-25 years old
- live in Steeple Aston or Middle Aston (when not at university or college) or attended Dr Radcliffe's school for 2 years minimum

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

Application forms and further information for these awards are available from:

- the Steeple Aston Village website
- Dr Radcliffe's School
- Louise Lewis, Freeths LLP, 5000 Oxford Business Park South, Oxford OX4 2BH
Louise.Lewis@freeths.co.uk

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



*An image from our monthly club topic 'Motion and movement'.
Photo by Richard Broadbent, who named it 'Slow motion'.*

August gave us a wonderful look at prints by Andrew Marker, FRPS, who spoke about his route to becoming a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society in the visual arts category. The work that goes into making a panel of images, adjudicated by the RPS, is a very interesting process. Andrew needed to show progression in his photography to be awarded the honour, with the process taking years and many trips to a variety of continents to achieve a suitably challenging panel of images. Andrew eventually settled on a set of minimalist images of Santorini buildings, proving how many shades of white there are. Super stuff.

We will meet again on Wednesday 7th September to listen to Peter Greenway talk about taking images for book covers. If you would like to join us, we meet at 7.30pm in the Adderbury Institute.

Finally, our annual exhibition will be in the Adderbury Institute on Saturday 3rd September from 10am – 4pm. Entry is free and there will be refreshments, so do pop along and have a look at the work of our members.

Anne Hunsley
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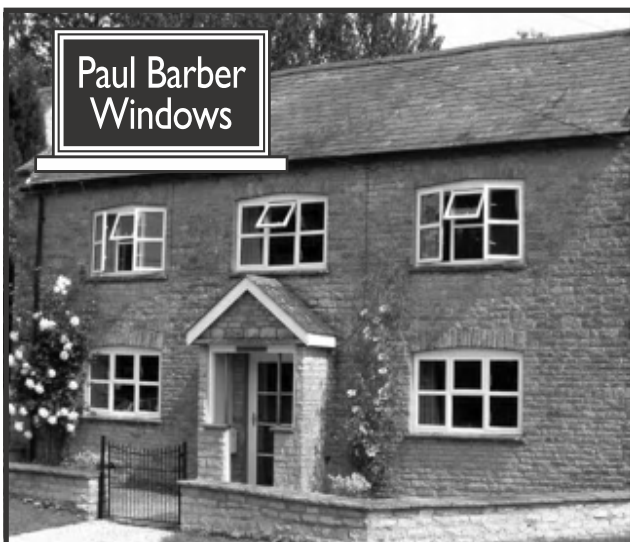
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Ascott-under-Wychwood – our first home match on the 1st XI pitch

The only disadvantage of moving to Great Tew Cricket Club is that, if you are a bowler, there is very little margin for error; it is a wonderful batsman's wicket. Ascott-under-Wychwood won the toss and, unfortunately for us, chose to bat on a blisteringly hot day. The bowlers toiled away, but were not helped by some average fielding and a few chances going awry. Thankfully, Paul Longman (1-22) bowled his best spell of the season and was unlucky not to take more wickets in his seven over spell as he beat the outside edge on countless occasions. The Chairman (2-19) plodded away and, with plenty of sweat from his glistening pate being applied to the ball, somehow managed to remove a couple of their batsmen. Having raced to 162-4, Ascott subsided as Olly Doggett (1-32), Nige Doggett (2-14) and Arthur Higgins (1-40) applied the brakes late on to leave them on 193-7 off their allotted 35 overs. I must make special mention of Merrik Baggallay, who was playing in his first game for the Club and was undoubtedly our star fielder, taking a diving catch running in from mid-wicket.

'Bazball' reaches Steeple Aston...

Needing 5.54 runs per over for victory and no doubt inspired by Johnny Bairstow and Joe Root, our openers Olly Doggett (25) and Nige Doggett (11) set off at 8 an over and laid the foundations for the forthcoming onslaught. Tom Chesser and Jon Scotchbrook both batted intelligently rotating the strike at will and moving the score along to 87-2 off 15 overs. 11 overs later it was all over as they smote 108 runs to all parts of the ground with Tom finishing on 88 and Jon 55. They had put on 152 runs together, but sadly just missed surpassing the SACC Club Record for the 3rd wicket of 157, also set by Jon with a little help from Rob Wilson Fry in 2015.

And that's it for now...

Tragically, I do not have another game to write about, since we have now had four games cancelled this season, none of which were down to us. It is a great shame that so few clubs can put out a Sunday team. Please forgive me for being political for a moment, but if the ECB concentrated on supporting local/grass roots cricket rather than spending millions of pounds on a competition that men's cricket does not need, or in many cases want, the village game would be in much better shape. Where are the young cricketers going to come from? The Lord's Taverners is certainly doing its bit to widen access for young cricketers (more about the Tav's next month), but cricket's governing body is asleep at the wheel. That's it, rant over!!

Next home game...

Our next home games are on Sunday 11th September at Great Tew CC between the Captain's and Chairman's XIs and at home on Sunday 18th September against Blenheim Palace. The teas really are very good, so please do come along and support. If ANYONE wants to play for us, please email me at peter.higgins@cctshirts.co.uk

With best wishes to all.

Peter Higgins – Chairman SACC

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

Tuesday 2nd August and we were back in the Village Hall to be entertained by what was originally described in our programme as 'The Trio'. The name gives it away as there were to be three ukulele players who were going to entertain us, but 'inflation' took place and on stage were 15 ukulele players from U3A Bicester to bring back tunes from the 60s and more. Not only could they play in harmony, but they could also sing, so a bonus for us all.

On the 16th August we made our way to Middle Aston House where we were able to enjoy a relaxed afternoon with a superb 'high tea' supplied by their wonderful catering department.

Our next meeting is a trip to Bletchley Park on Wednesday 7th September, where we will have the opportunity to learn all about the Enigma machine that almost certainly reduced the length of the last world war and possibly ensured victory for our country.

Our club meeting this month welcomes Ann Sharman who is going to tell us all about 'Her India'. Later during September, a group of our members is going to Corton Coastal Village in Suffolk for a well-earned break and maybe a dip in the sea. Who knows?

Although I am writing this well in advance, thank you to all those who donated items for our 'nearly-new' stall at the annual flower show this year. I am sure it will have made a difference to our bank balance enabling us to invite more, well-respected speakers and entertainers to the club next year.

Finally, on behalf of The Valentine Club, I would like to thank Oxfordshire County Council via their small grants fund for providing a grant of £500 to our club. This is in recognition of what we do to enable the slightly older members of our community to keep active and involved.

To learn more about The Valentine Club, visit our own website on www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston (easiest way to log-on is go to the village website, go to 'Clubs and societies' and 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
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Steeple Aston Garden Club



A good number of us, plus a couple of guests, visited Broughton Grange Gardens in the North Oxfordshire countryside on a lovely sunny afternoon in July. We had a brief talk by the Head Gardener, Andrew Woodall, explaining how the gardens have been developed and renovated over the last 20 years. We were all given maps, as the gardens are set in 400 acres and make the most of the 'borrowed landscape'. We set off in small groups, mostly in different directions, to discover the large herbaceous borders, the rose gardens, stumpery, water gardens and the wooded area. It was all far too much to take in on one visit, but we managed to make it back to base by the wild flower meadow, for a cup of tea and a chat. Andrew will be visiting the Garden Club at our meeting on Tuesday 1st November to give us a talk on 'Life & Times of a Head Gardener' – be sure to make a note in your diary.

In August, a number of intrepid members visited Middle Barton Bowls Club, where we had some instruction and advice regarding the rules of the game (photo above), before we split into three teams and had a go! There was a lot of conversation and laughter on the green and, considering it was the first attempt by most, we did surprisingly well. The afternoon finished with tea and cake. Hopefully, Middle Barton Bowls Club will have a few new members next year.

Our final 'outside' meeting will be our Tuesday, 6th September soirée at Primrose Garden, North Side, courtesy of Richard & Daphne Preston, starting at 6pm. Please bring a plate of food and something to drink.

Anyone wishing to join Steeple Aston Garden Club, please get in touch with Richard Preston (tel. 340512) or Chris Clarke (tel. 347192).

Many thanks

Chris Clarke (Secretary)



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The Steeple Aston Apple Press 2022

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.

We never make mistakes. What, never? Well, hardly ever!

Many thanks to all those readers who, having spotted the error in the last issue, gallantly decided not to write in and embarrass us.

We are referring, of course, to The Arts Page in the August issue, where we attributed the plot for 'HMS Pinafore' (or The Lass That Loved a Sailor) to 'The Pirates of Penzance'.

In our defence, it was an easy mistake to make, given that Opera Anywhere had both Gilbert & Sullivan operettas in their August schedule. Confusion could reign again in November, when the company performs 'HMS Pinafore' in Abingdon and 'The Pirates of Penzance' in Brackley – see operaanywhere.com/tour-dates/

Did anyone catch the English National Opera production of 'HMS Pinafore' that was recently broadcast on television? Gilbert & Sullivan purists might not have approved, but it was amusing, with excellent singing and an enthusiastic performance from Les Dennis as Sir Joseph Porter. One of the highlights was a dance routine by the sailors at the start of the second act which was almost certainly not in the original D'Oyly Carte production.

Village Hall News



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.

Please note 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

Steeple Aston Golf Society



The third SAGS meeting of the year took place at The Springs, Wallingford, with 17 players enjoying a warm afternoon.

The winner of the Jubilee Cup with a splendid 40 points playing off a handicap of 27 was Eric Blincoe, Paul Needle coming second off 18 with 37 points. Paul will now be off 17. Eric's SAGS handicap has now been cut by four shots for the rest of the season. This may seem harsh, but we don't muck about when it comes to winners. The nearest the pin on the 8th was won by Tony Peck and nearest the pin in two shots on the 17th by Martin Kay. There were birdie twos from Paul Kay and Brian Kay.

September's meeting on Friday the 9th is at an old favourite 'Studley Wood' in Horton-Cum-Studley. OX33 1BF. We will meet at 12 noon for the usual bacon bap and coffee, then play 18 holes on this gentle undulating woodland course set in a former deer park. A tranquil setting with an abundance of wildlife. USGA specification tees and greens, with lakes coming into play on nine holes.

During the presentation of prizes and silly chatter we will be having a two-course meal. I read it somewhere that if you have more than three people in a gathering then you must have a raffle! So this is all rounded off with a raffle. Those not in the frame for a golfing prize always look forward to the raffle.

If you would like to join us then please contact myself or Chris on 01869 340423 / 347173.

An interesting thing about golf is that no matter how badly you play it is always possible to get worse. Happy golfing.

Alan Brewer

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One morning in August, six members of Steeple Aston WI drove to Chipping Norton, where we were met by two women, both life-long residents of 'Chippy' and volunteers at the museum there. They spent an hour-and-a-half taking us round the town, pointing out architectural features, drawing our attention to the alleyways, the rope makers' walk, a hidden underground tavern, the old hospital, police station, boys' school and alms houses. They told us stories of past benefactors and villains and showed us what an interesting place Chipping Norton is. We finished the outing with a very pleasant lunch.

Our next outing was equally interesting, but rather more hard work. We took 14 cakes plus tiffin, flapjacks and brownies – all home-made by our members – to the church at Chastleton House and served them up to people visiting the manor house and seeking refreshment. We had a steady stream of customers from 12.30pm to 5pm and raised over £500. A huge thank you to all the bakers and helpers.

Our final event in August was the flower show, where we ran various competitions and a prize quiz.

The speaker for our meeting on 13th September was due to talk about the controversial life of Princess Margaret, but unfortunately has had to cancel – for the second time! We will have a members' social evening instead, so you can catch up with friends – and news – after the summer break. Musical entertainment is also planned for the occasion.

Our next outing is a tour of the 'Treasures of the Ashmolean Museum'. It starts at 2.00pm on Tuesday 27th September and is free of charge. Afterwards we are planning to take afternoon tea in the museum's rooftop restaurant!

Do get in touch if you would like to join us, at a meeting or for an outing or at the weekly walking netball.

Cathy Lawday telephone 347209

Top: Visit to Chipping Norton

Middle: Serving food at Chastleton House

Bottom: Walking netball



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Churchwardens' Chat



We may have had little rain this summer, but there were huge amounts of cut grass to be collected when the stalwarts of the Churchyard Working Party met to rake it up after the churchyard had been mown. It's now looking quite smart, if rather brown and crisp, but no doubt it will 'green up' when the rain finally comes. The PCC had hoped that a few more wildflower species would appear in the areas left un-mown, but wild flowers seem to be taking a time to establish. Perhaps next year? We live in hope.

You will see from the rota of services that there will be a baptism on each of the first three Sunday morning services in September when we shall be delighted to welcome Henry, Annabelle and Jasper into the church family. Baptism is an important sacrament of the church when parents and godparents and indeed the whole congregation make promises on behalf of and in support of the child. Later we hope they will confirm those promises for themselves.

The PCC and the Benefice churchwardens have met and the process of planning and preparation for appointing our new rector (which does seem long and drawn out) has swung into action. We are being supported by Rev. Charles Chadwick from the Diocese to make sure that we act within the rules of the Church of England. A document called the Parish Profile is in preparation which will give candidates a picture of the three parishes of the Benefice and outlines some of the skills, qualities and attributes we hope the new Rector will have and will bring to his or her ministry here. We are praying that the right person will apply!

Lastly, a date for your diary. The first weekend in October will be harvest weekend. We hope village organisations will help to decorate the church on Saturday 1st – perhaps with displays demonstrating the different kinds of harvest achieved by their activities during the year. Our service on Sunday 2nd will be Evensong at 6.00pm, followed by Harvest Supper in the Village Hall. Tickets for the Harvest Supper will soon be on sale. We look forward to seeing you and hope this will be another happy village celebration.

Good wishes from us both.

Graham Clifton and Eileen Baglin-Jones, Churchwardens.

A display from last year's Harvest Festival. Photo by Nigel Francis.





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Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
Sunday 4th September Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Communion BCP Rev. Sue Spankie	11am Communion BCP Baptism Rev. Sue Spankie	5.30pm Evensong Richard Bailey
Sunday 11th September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Family Communion tbc	11am Family Communion Baptism Rev. Andrew Bunch	5.30pm Holy Communion tbc
Sunday 18th September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity		10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion Baptism Rev. Stephen Pix	
Sunday 25th September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Morning Prayer Ben Knighton	11am Morning Prayer Ben Knighton	9.30am Family Communion Rev. Jeremy Auld
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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

September 2022

1st Green
 8th Blue and brown
 15th Green
 22nd Blue and brown
 29th Green



October 2022

6th Blue and brown
 13th Green
 20th Blue and brown
 27th Green

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)

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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

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Steeple Aston Calendar

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

September			
Saturday 3rd	AD&D Annual Exhibition. Admission free	Adderbury Institute	10am to 4pm
Wednesday 7th	Valentine Club. Visit to Bletchley Park		
Wednesday 7th	AD&D. 'Taking images for book covers'	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Friday 9th	Steeple Aston Golf Society	Studley Wood	12 noon
Sunday 11th	Steeple Aston Cricket Club	Great Tew	
Tuesday 13th	WI. Members' social evening	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Thursday 15th	SAL October copy and advert deadline		
Sunday 18th	Steeple Aston Cricket Club	Great Tew	
Tuesday 20th	Valentine Club. 'My India', by Ann Sharman	Village Hall	2.30pm
Saturday 24th	Deddington Farmers' Market		9am to 12.30pm
Tuesday 27th	WI. Guided tour of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford & afternoon tea		2.00pm
October			
Saturday 1st	Race Night	Sports & Rec.	6.30pm for 7.30pm
Sunday 2nd	Harvest Supper	Village Hall	After Evensong
Tuesday 11th	WI. Melanie King 'Tea, coffee, chocolate'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 15th	SAL November copy and advert deadline		
Tuesday 18th	Valentine Club. Fish & Chips (£7 per person)	Village Hall	1pm for 1.30pm
Saturday 22nd	Deddington Farmers' Market		9am to 12.30pm
Friday 28th	Elvis tribute band	Red Lion	tbc

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

Printed by: **Joshua Horgan Print & Design**

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