

Steeple Aston *Life*

November 2022 Issue No. 591



- Apple picking and pressing • SAVA village personalities •
- Local music, theatre and exhibitions • Society and club reports •

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Cover: Seren Grainger drawing with light from a sparkler. Photo by Nigel Francis.
See page 16 for details of the Steeple Aston Fireworks Spectacular

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

All articles and letters to
the Editor
editorial@steepleaston.org.uk

COPY DEADLINES

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

This means the copy deadline for the
December 2022 issue is 15th November.

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

ADVERTISING

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

01869 347347

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The deadline for adverts is the 15th of the
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		
	Churchwardens	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 Emergency Telephone 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*

November 2022

Issue No. 591

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Editorial

Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off. (Tommy Cooper, comedian, 1921-1984.)

Most celebrations are for successful events. Bonfire night, in contrast, commemorates a failed assassination attempt. Guy Fawkes and a group of radical English Catholics planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament on 5th November 1605.

The authorities appear to have been alerted to the 'Gunpowder Plot', as it became known, by an anonymous letter. This was sent to a Catholic sympathiser, advising him to avoid the State Opening of Parliament by King James I. At midnight on 4th November, a search party found Guy Fawkes in a cellar under the building, together with 36 barrels of gunpowder.

The plot was originally proposed by Robert Catesby and his co-conspirators included Tom Wintour, Jack Wright, Thomas Percy and, of course, Guy Fawkes. Most were arrested and executed, except for Catesby, who died in a shootout with English troops.

So who was Guy Fawkes? Also known as Guido Fawkes, he was born in York in 1570. He converted to Catholicism and fought for Catholic Spain in the Eighty Years' War against Protestant Dutch reformers. Having sought, unsuccessfully, support for a Catholic rebellion in England, he was introduced to Robert Catesby.

After the death of Guy Fawkes on 31st January 1606, people in London were encouraged to celebrate the King's escape from assassination by lighting bonfires. An Act of Parliament designated each 5th November as a day of thanksgiving. This remained in force until 1869. However, the tradition did not disappear and continues to this day in Steeple Aston and across the country, now with added fireworks. Initially, an effigy of the Pope was set at the top of the bonfire, but this later gave way to an effigy of Guy Fawkes. Not so many years ago, children dragged the effigy around on a cart asking, "a penny for the guy?"

"Every generation reinvents Guy Fawkes to suit their needs," comments historian William B. Robison. "But Fawkes was just one of the flunkies. It should really be Robert Catesby Day."

Robert



DR RADCLIFFE'S TRUST ANNUAL AWARDS

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AWARD FOR 16-18 YEAR-OLDS

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- 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.

Steeple Aston Noticeboard



List closure at Deddington Health Centre

The NHS has agreed to a list closure at Deddington Health Centre as they do not have sufficient staff to deliver services and there is a lack of personnel available to recruit. It means that the centre can only register patients who have moved into and live permanently in Clifton, Duns Tew and Deddington. This may change in the new year and the centre may be able to go back to registering new patients in all their catchment areas. At the moment, new residents of Steeple and Middle Aston will have to look elsewhere for a GP. See: www.deddingtonsurgery.co.uk/letter-to-patients/

Book now for Church Quiz

Don't forget to book your place for the Church Quiz in the Village Hall on Friday 18th November at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each to include a simple warm supper and can be obtained from carolineinmaston@gmail.com or phone 07811 820536 by 8th November. Bring your friends and make a team or join one when you arrive!

Gigaclear broadband work continues

Trench Cut Ltd. (a contractor for Gigaclear) has requested a temporary road closure to apply to a section of Paines Hill while utility remedial works are carried out. The closure is set to operate from 16th to 23rd December 2022 between the hours of 8am to 5pm each day.

You can view information about roadworks within five miles of your postcode at:

<https://streetguide.co.uk/>

What to do if you are feeling the pinch

With energy prices at a record high and interest rates soaring, many people may be feeling the pinch. The Parish Council cannot provide direct assistance, but we can give you information that may be useful in helping you make ends meet.

- If your energy costs are the main problem, talk to your energy supplier. You may be able to negotiate a better deal than the one you are on.
- If you think you might be eligible for help – especially if you are on low income, have a disability, are unable to work, or unable to pay your rent or your energy supplier – get in touch with Citizens Advice. You can reach the Banbury office on 0300 330 9037 or the Bicester office on 0808 278 7906 or online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/north-oxon-south-northants/contact-us/
- Food vouchers are available from Citizens Advice and other outlets for use at food banks in Banbury or Bicester. The closest food bank which does not require you to have vouchers is at The Pantry, Heyford Park. Check their Facebook page for opening times:

<https://www.facebook.com/HeyfordParkPantry/>

- Other excellent sources of ideas for saving money – on all things from insurance, to energy, to broadband and phone deals, to banking, to travel, and much else – are:

MoneySavingExpert: www.moneysavingexpert.com/

MoneySuperMarket: www.moneysupermarket.com

We hope this helps.

Steeple Aston Parish Council



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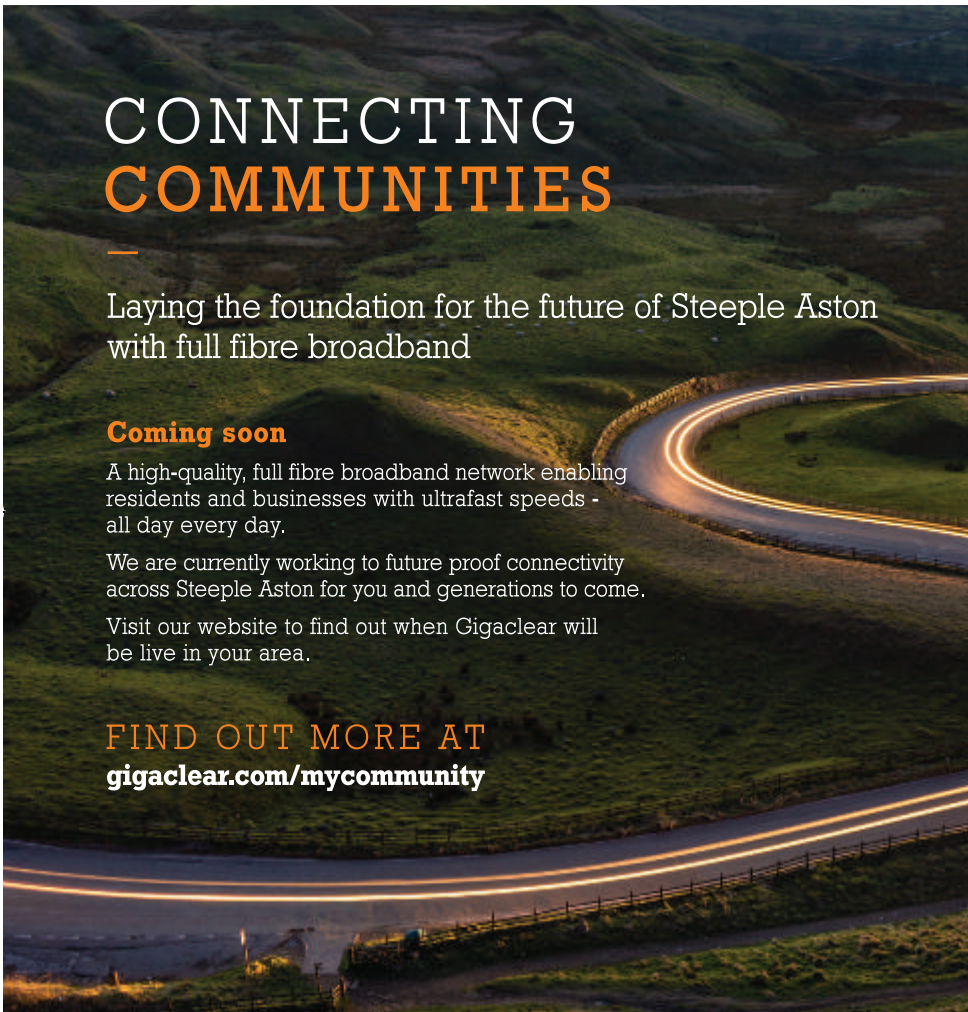
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Steeple People



How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? Nearly 3 years.

Where did you move from? Buckinghamshire and London, but I'm Northern and Welsh first and foremost.

What brought you here? I fell in love with a building that was ready to start the next stage of its life.

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? People.

How has the village changed in the time you've been here? I think my opinion is skewed having moved in three months before the first lockdown.

Where do you think of as 'home'? North Wales, but Oxfordshire is starting to steal its share.

How do others see you, in five words or less? A loyal, optimistic, stubborn, chatty organiser.

What do your family or friends find most annoying about you? Will argue black is blue if allowed to.

What do your family or friends find the most endearing about you? Hopefully that I'll argue black is blue if allowed to.

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist? Forced early bird, natural night owl. Cat. Optimist.

Technology: friend or foe? Friend.

To marmite or not? Never (nor bananas).

What was the best thing about being a child? Time.

What is the best thing about being an adult? Choice.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I haven't the foggiest. But I remember an early 90s careers quiz at school curiously pinpointed I should be a librarian.

What was your first job? Selling advertising to the music industry.

What is the best job you've ever done? There isn't one. I honestly think each one has given and taken something different to and from me. I've not regretted a single one though.

What is the worst job you've ever done? Lucky enough to not have had one.

What's your secret/guilty pleasure? 'Real Housewives of Cheshire'.

What's your favourite piece of music? My family and friends know I can remember neither lyrics nor titles to any songs, so just can't answer this question.

What are you reading at the moment? About to start reading 'Wintering', by Katherine May. It seemed appropriate.

What would you save from your house if it was on fire? After my family, as much art and photography as I could.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? Advice.

Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive? My dad.

What do you get grumpy/mad about? When irritatingly small things go wrong. I love a big calamity, but get totally infuriated by those little things that mess up.

Tell us something about you that most people don't know. I synchronised swam for a few years.

Tell us a good joke. In honour of my husband. 'What do you call a cheese that isn't yours? Nacho cheese.'

Angharad Lloyd-Jones



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The ARTS Page



We are blessed with so much in our area that one page a month can only provide a small selection, but here goes.

‘Dinner with Groucho’. Groucho Marx meets TS Eliot at an imaginary dinner, by Frank McGuiness, at the Oxford Playhouse (oxfordplayhouse.com) Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 5th November. A b*spo*ke theatre company production from Ireland, it looks unmissable – “sharp, funny, smart and delicious” – Irish Times.

Banbury has three offerings which caught my eye.

The Banbury Symphony Orchestra (banburysymphony.com) in Deddington Church on Saturday 26th November at 7.30pm with Rachmaninov’s fabulous ‘Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini’ – RachPag as it is known – and a lesser known gem, Kalinnikov’s 1st Symphony.

The Banbury Choral Society (banburychoralsoc.co.uk) typically offer Handel’s four Coronation Anthems and Christmas music in the Church of St Peter and St Paul Church, Deddington, on Saturday 10th December, 7.30pm.

From 19th November 2022 to 19th March 2023 the Banbury Museum (banburymuseum.org) have a ‘May the toys be with you’ exhibition – UK’s finest collection of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters.

Welsh National Opera visits to the New Theatre, Oxford, are always a highlight (wno.org.uk). They bring ‘La Boheme’ (30th November, 1st and 3rd December), which speaks for itself, but also Janacek’s ‘Makropoulos’ (2nd December) – “an unmissable triumph” (Daily Telegraph). Janacek is one of the towering operatic geniuses of the 20th century – you will be bowled over.

Our friends at the ever-enterprising Woodstock Music Society (woodstockmusic.info) have Parry’s ‘Ode on the Nativity’ and carols on 9th and 10th December at St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock, 7.30pm. You may even see some Steeple Aston friends amongst the performers!

Two events for children.

At the North Wall Arts Centre, Summertown, Oxford (thenorthwall.com), Creation Theatre presents ‘The Tale of Beauty and the Tail of the Beast’ from 4th December 2022 to 7th January 2023. “A joyfully anarchic adaptation of this Christmas classic for the whole family to enjoy”.

For 3-to-8 year olds, the Oxford Playhouse (oxfordplayhouse.com) production of ‘Crumple’s Christmas Adventure’ in the BT Studio from 8th to 31st December also looks terrific.

Three local offerings.

Mozart’s ‘Solemn Vespers’ and ‘Requiem’ with the Benson Choral Society (bensonchoralsociety.org.uk) in Dorchester Abbey on Saturday 12th November, 7.30pm, conducted by yours truly.

Fleur Enser Pottery (I visited this during Oxon Arts Weeks and it is terrific). She writes: “I run a pottery workshop, where I make the types of Tableware and Statement pieces in monochrome. My pots are contemporary and eye-catching. I work to Earthenware and Stoneware and all my pots are handmade, either with coils or slabs. I will be holding a Winter Event on Saturday 26th November, 11am to 5pm at The Old Rickyard, Church Lane, Lower Heyford, OX25 5NZ. (www.fleurenser.co.uk)

Last, but decidedly not least, Steeple Aston Choral Society will be performing highlights from Handel’s Messiah, plus seasonal carols, on Sunday 20th November in Steeple Aston Church at 7pm. Tickets: £10.00 from the Post Office or from 01869 347346. SACS is dedicating this concert to Margaret Mason, stalwart SACS audience member and village legend. Margaret was also a loyal supporter of Woodstock Music Society and we are delighted that some WMS members will be with us for this concert. Please come and join us and Margaret’s family for an evening of glorious and uplifting music in her memory.

Nicholas Cleobury



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★★★★★ - Google Review



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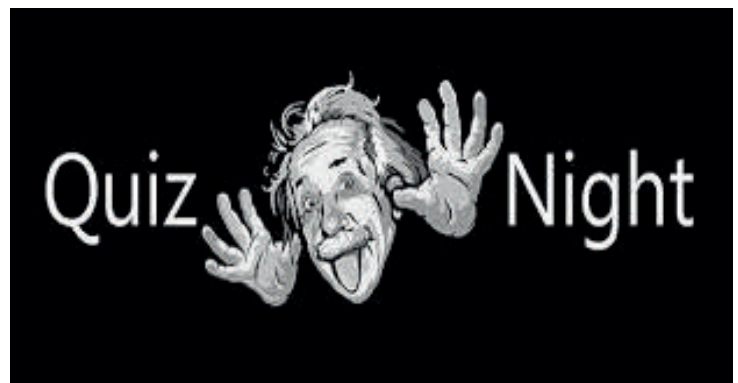


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???? Mind Games

Pathfinder puzzle

Start at the shaded square. Move from one letter to an adjacent letter horizontally or vertically. Can you make a continuous path that visits every square just once and which spells out all the words in the list? (Submitted by Cathy Lawday).

K	R	A	E	S	I	S	U	P	T
I	O	N	N	S	S	T	R	B	L
N	G	G	D	R	E	A	S	A	Y
D	N	E	N	I	C	N	R	E	R
L	I	U	N	K	E	E	A	M	H
T	N	W	O	E	S	E	G	M	Y
T	E	A	D	W	N	R	H	I	T
G	N	F	N	I	E	R	O	W	H
C	I	R	A	I	P	S	E	S	M
I	L	O	P	D	S	U	S	C	I

Abruptly, afraid, eager, horse, kindling, orange, policing, resistance, rhythmic, suspense, swimmers, tent, unkindness, window

Making words

How many words of four letters or more can you make using letters from **NOVEMBER**? You can only use each letter once (apart from E, which can be used twice). As far as we know there is no eight-letter word. Some of the words are listed below. Can you do better?

Been, beer, bone, bore, born, borne, brome, ember, enrobe, ever, mere, more, morn, move, mover, nerve, never, norm, ombre, omen, oven, over, overmen, remove, robe, rove, veer, venom, verb.

THE STEEPLE ASTON RECREATION TRUST AND VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT A

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2022

ROBINSONS CLOSE

Gate Open and Food from 6.15pm

Bonfire Lit 6.30pm

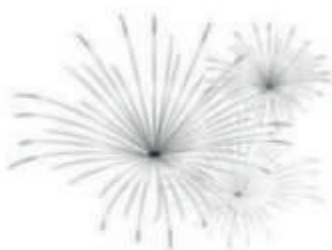
Fireworks Start at 7.00pm promptly

Admission including food and drink

	Individual	Family
In Advance	£5.00	£14.00
On the Day (Cash Only)	£6.00	£16.00

U16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Members of the Public must not bring sparklers, fireworks or laser pens of any description



Advance tickets will be on sale from Monday 24th October from the Village Shop and Barbara Brewer (01869-340423). Advance sales will close at 3.00 pm on the 5th November.

Thanks to our Sponsors

HATCH END – DAVID FRY – ROBERT FRY

Proceeds will be shared between the Recreation Trust and the Village Hall



The Gardening Spot

Time for a rest

Can you believe it? Bonfire night is upon us, Christmas is just around the corner and another year is coming to an end. In respect of gardening, there is a soothing sense of calm approaching as the evenings draw in and the weather becomes less conducive to gardening. However, there are a few jobs to be done to ensure the garden is in good shape come 2023.

I know I keep banging on about preparing your garden in good time so that you are ready for the onslaught come next spring, but it is so important for a variety of reasons. Let us start with the vegetable patch or allotment. With few crops left in the ground, this is the perfect time to clear the weeds, brassica stems or anything else that has no place on 'the veggie plot'. Once you have cleared away all that unwanted material, dig in some organic matter or spread it over the soil and let the worms and Mother Nature do their job. Manure or compost does not carry that many nutrients to feed your plants come next year, but it acts as an amazing soil conditioner. A soil that is full of organic matter encourages good root growth, producing a strong and healthy plant and a good crop of vegetables.

When it comes to flower beds or areas that cannot be dug, I spread rotted manure to a depth of a couple of inches over the entire bed in the knowledge that come next spring, I will have a lovely tilth of compost that will help encourage growth over the coming months. If you have a supply of leaves, collect them up and store in a heap, possibly contained by some wire mesh or old pallets, and leave them to decompose for 12 months or so and by this time next year you will have the perfect mulch to cover your garden.

Rhubarb! Let's face it, you either love it or hate it, but now is the time of year to ensure you have the best rhubarb possible. If, like me, you have a clump of rhubarb that is well established and the clump is looking rather mature, now is the time to split it and divide, encouraging better plants next year and maybe offering the unwanted section to your neighbour. To divide the plant, dig around the mother plant ensuring you do not damage the buds that will be showing. Lift the clump out of the ground and split it by using two forks, back-to-back and levering apart gently. You could separate the smaller crowns and pot them up for another season, leaving two crowns ready for their new home. Dig a new hole for the replacement crowns and place them so that the buds are just at soil level then cover with soil and compost and water in if necessary. Come next spring you will see new leaves emerge. During the first year, do not harvest stems from these plants as they need time to establish. Hopefully, you have retained one crown untouched so that you can enjoy that wonderful rhubarb crumble next year.

Finally, sit back in your favourite chair, have a cup of tea or something stronger and consider how your garden might be improved. It might be time to create a new flower bed, try a different variety of runner bean or simply scroll through the seed catalogues and make plans for next year.

Happy gardening and take that well-earned rest.

Richard Preston

Parish Council Meeting Notes



It is three months since I last went to a Parish Council meeting as there was no meeting in August and I was away for the September meeting because The Funeral meant the Parish Council meeting date was changed. It seemed a long time.

There were two members of the public present and they were concerned about the terrible state of the road to the White House, between the allotments and the Sports and Recreation Centre. They asked whether the road had been mended in the past and who they should talk to. They were told the road was the responsibility of the Dr Radcliffe Trust and were given the relevant contact details. They were invited to stay for the rest of the meeting, but warned that my partisan version of events might be 'more fun' than staying to see what was actually said. They chose to leave.

There was a brief discussion of two planning issues. It was noted that the planning approval for Wincote had included making a second entrance specifically for the builder's vehicles which is to be removed when the job is complete. The other query was about why a substantial building with a very large hardstanding is needed for the maintenance equipment for some trees.

There are two cars which seem to be being stored on the roads. There is a yellow Volkswagen beetle which had a flat tyre near the Dickredge, though the tyre has been reinflated recently. There is also a dead looking car opposite number 4 Paines Hill.

That particular house is still causing concern because it is not clear if it is safe. We were told the house was meant to be the subject of an interdepartmental meeting at Cherwell and the situation is 'very complicated'. According to a Councillor this is the standard reason (whether fair or not) for doing nothing.

The Community Orchard now belongs to the village. This was given to us by Sarah Lucas and from all of us in the village – a huge thank you to Sarah. The transfer of the land to the Parish Council involved legal fees and Sustainable

Steeple paid these – thank you to Sustainable Steeple.

The Orchard is locked at the moment because there is a fallen tree in the middle which needs to be removed. There was a discussion about what might happen to the wood from the tree. The general opinion seemed to be that if this was offered to villagers it was likely it would disappear quite quickly. It is possible a stump grinder will be needed and if so the Parish Council will pay for it.

A group of generous owners of apple trees has allowed a gang of volunteers to pick their apples. This generosity in time, and apples, means that there are now 170 bottles of apple juice for sale. Part of the proceeds will pay for a plaque commemorating the donation of the Orchard to the village by Sarah Lucas in memory of her uncle.

There was a discussion of which boundaries of the Orchard were owned by whom. The ownership is a bit vague, except that Oxfordshire's Highways Department is responsible for the wall by the road where the ground in the Orchard is lower than the pavement. Where the pavement and Orchard are at the same level, the Parish Council is responsible for the roadside wall.

Once the fallen down tree has been cleared the intention is that the Orchard will be unlocked each morning and relocked at night. There is a small shed on the Orchard and it was assumed that this would be retained, at least while it is still solid.

Rather surprisingly, there are two people wishing to organise a village celebration for the coronation, due next year on 6th May. They are suggesting the celebration should be centred around Robinsons Close and the Village Hall. The Parish Council was pleased by the suggestion and supportive in general. I think it is a great idea to have a party and personally my only regret is its royalist connotations. (This is my view and probably unlikely to be shared by the Parish Council.)

Parish Council Meeting Notes



The next discussion was about the workings of the lock on the lavatory door at the Play Area. I think I understood it correctly that if you use the sensor the door opens and shuts ok, but if you use the handle the door won't open again from the outside for 20 minutes. There was a suggestion that there might be lots of imprisoned children. Apparently, the reason we have not had loads of disappearing children is that however you get in, you can always get out ok.

The parking below the MUGA seems to be a bit random (hugger mugger even?), but it was thought that signs or requests for tidier parking were unlikely to be heeded so the proposal was not followed up.

There was a discussion about the upkeep of the War Memorial. Apparently one family clean it up every year before Remembrance Day and thank you to them.

There was a brief discussion about how villagers might save energy. A long time ago some of us borrowed a camera showing where heat escaped from our houses and this might be considered again. Someone said that Johnsons in Deddington offered discounts on things like draught excluders to its local residents.

Then the Parish Council got to the most surprising issue, to me at least, on the agenda. Apparently, the Councillors had been worried by the delays in getting appointments and the impossibility of new arrivals getting on the list at the Deddington Health Centre. The Parish Council had written to the Centre asking for information. I thought this was very odd. I think the point is that the UK has not trained enough doctors and nurses for many years, preferring to entice them here from poor countries instead. This is an issue for the Government or our MP, rather than the local GPs. I cannot help

wondering whether improving the understanding of the background issues is better than writing to out GPs. One of the things I was told after the meeting was that one of the Councillors found he could book a flu jab instantly at most of our local pharmacies and he had not needed to hang on to the telephone line for ages to try to book one at the surgery.

The Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum is having to update its policies because of changes to the planning rules. Apparently, this update will be done with the help of consultants and Steeple Aston was asked to share the costs. Everyone agreed to this.

The Parish Council meetings used to be held in the Committee Room of the Village Hall. The meetings were always at the same time as the Choral Society was rehearsing, or when not rehearsing the choir was relaxing with refreshments in the Village Hall kitchen, next door to the Committee Room. I can remember some ill will between the groups. One Councillor suggested the Parish Council might consider returning to the Committee Room, at least on a trial basis, because he had never been to a meeting there. Without exception those who had sampled both locations were quite clear that the Sports and Recreation Centre was preferable. For this reason, the next meeting will be in the S&R Centre at 7.30pm on 21st November. Do come – it really is interesting.

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



VILLAGE PERSONALITIES OF STEEPLE AND MIDDLE ASTON



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SUNDAY, 13th NOVEMBER 12.00 - 4.00pm

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SAVA Village Personalities exhibition

Do you know which villager sat in front of a digger to protect the ancient hedgerow at Lawrence Fields? Or whose colourful cottage garden featured in numerous magazines, books and TV programmes? Who was the Steeple Aston resident commemorated by Australia's Lake Eyre? And who whizzed along the Monte Carlo Dash in a 1972 MGB GT to raise money for charity?

These are just a few facts about the fascinating characters of our community who feature in the latest exhibition and book organised by Steeple Aston Village Archive. Each year, the SAVA team aim to provide an exhibition on a topic that will be of interest to local and not so local members of the community. This year the theme is 'Village Personalities'. A similar theme was used back in 2009 and this new exhibition builds upon and, more importantly, adds many new names.

Deciding on who could be added to our 'Village Personalities' list was a long and tortuous process for the team and just emphasises how the archive continues to grow. Many more people were suggested than could ever be included this time around and they may well appear in future editions. The 2009 exhibition and book contained a high proportion of historical characters, so the new entrants are mainly people that the village has lost over the last decade and so will have been well-known in the community. Hopefully, the narrative will be a mixture of known and not so known facts and anecdotes for each. It is an opportunity to thank the many family members and acquaintances who sat through our interviews and helped shape our descriptions for each. Much more information than could be used was provided and, where possible, this has been included in the accompanying book. Nothing is lost, though, and the original very long drafts will be held in the archive. The retained personalities from the earlier book have all been updated with new information and photographs where possible.

To support the exhibition, original and copied documents, articles and objects related to the personalities will be displayed in the village hall. SAVA is constantly adding new material to the village archive. Most of this is from donations of documents and photographs, but just as valuable are the conversations and reminiscences of visitors to the Village History Centre, next to the village hall, during our regular Saturday morning openings between 10am and 12 noon.

The exhibition will be held in the village hall on **Saturday 12th November between 2pm and 6pm** and on **Sunday 13th November between 12 noon and 4pm**. Entrance is free, but donations are welcome. Copies of the accompanying new book will be on sale, as well as previous publications.



To find out who these characters are, come along to the exhibition.



Steeple Aston Community Apple Press

Good use of the community apple press was made this year. We held two open days at the Red Lion in September and two sessions were also held at the allotments. This year appears to have been a particularly bumper year, with plenty of windfalls to go around. Add in the tremendous number of apples collected by the Community Orchard picking teams and the village can be proud of the amount of juice created, harking back to the village orchards of days gone by! Our open days at the Red Lion are particularly popular with the very young members of the community. They appear transfixed by the process of quartering the apples, then filling and operating the crusher – a particularly popular activity – and finally turning the screw on the press, catching the juice as it appears at the base....and no matter how often we tell them, someone always grabs the greased spindle resulting in little oily fingers! Many thanks to all who attended and particularly Charlene and Ryan for letting us use the Red Lion as our venue. We hope to see everyone again next year and a reminder that the press is always available for loan.

Penny and Stuart Cummins





Juicy bits of news from the Community Orchard

If you've taken advantage of a session at the Red Lion to press your own apples, you'll know just how good they taste freshly squeezed. It's a simple process. Pick em, press em, pour em – from the tree to the tankard and straight down the throat.

Take three buckets of apples and you could make an awful lot of juice. Thirty pints of White Permain, say, or twenty bottles of Red Delicious. Ten magnums of Maiden's Blush. There's only one snag – even assuming you've got that much room in your fridge, you've got three days to drink all the juice before it ferments, goes fizzy and then goes off.

Volunteers for the Steeple Aston Community Orchard have come up with a healthy, alcohol-free solution to the problem. They've been gathering the harvest from donors all over the village and taking them in boxloads to the local bottler, Tiddly Pommies. There they've been mixed together, pressed and pasteurised to make a new Steeple Aston blend with its own label, which will keep indefinitely. Watch this space and we will tell you when the 2022 vintage is ready for you to taste and buy.

Watch out too for our 'Heartfelt Thanks' fundraising campaign in the run up to Christmas. It will give you a special chance to acknowledge acts of kindness carried out by people in the village, thank them AND send them a surprise gift. We will also let you know, of course, when the Community Orchard on Water Lane is safe from falling branches and is opening for public access as a peaceful green space.

If you would like to get involved in the Steeple Aston Community Orchard in any way, please contact one of the following: angharad.lloydjones.sapc@gmail.com, annie.stogdale@gmail.com, elenwm@yahoo.co.uk, shirley.e.palmer@icloud.com.

Annie Stogdale

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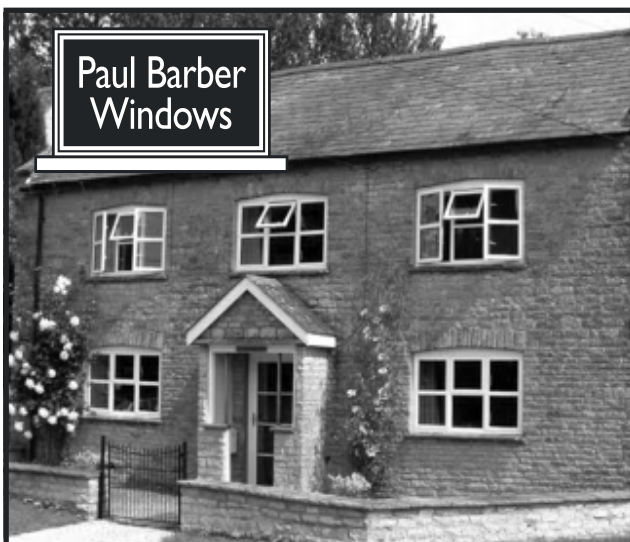
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Insecticide

I've learnt a horrifying statistic
In fact I've only just recovered
From learning that over a million types
Of insect have been discovered.

But entomologists suspect
There are ten times that many
Just think – we share the earth
With 20 million antennae!

This doesn't make me happy
It's a truth I'd rather not recall
Because when I see an insect
My skin just starts to crawl.

Bed bugs, bat bugs, water bugs
Bugs too small to see
Katydid and ants and moths
Cockroaches, flies and fleas.

Robber flies, rust flies, tsetse flies
Marsh flies and march flies too
Shore flies, soldier flies, stiletto flies
(I guess those live in your shoe).

Botflies, black flies, blow flies
There are flesh flies and fruit flies as well
Some are called 'thick-headed' flies
Although how can they tell?

Don't forget the mantid
The earwig, the weevil
Termites, locusts, types of lice
Insects are just evil.

Fleas all over your cat or dog,
Aphids on every rose
Midges that attack
Any flesh that you expose.

Insects are not attractive
They're not furry; they're not cute
They get inside the wardrobe
And eat holes in your best suit.

Insects are not friendly
They are creepy, they are crawly
They spread malaria and Lyme disease
And can make you very poorly.

Insects get into your bed
And in the middle of the night
They chose a fleshy part of you
And then they take a bite.

And the place where they have bitten you
Will redden and will swell
And the itch will nearly drive you mad
It's something I know well.

The blasted carpet moth is
An especially loathsome bug
It lays eggs in your Axminster
Then they hatch and eat the rug

I hear the perfection of a wasps' nest
Leaves engineers just reeling
But that's no consolation
When they build one in your ceiling.

The particular bane of my life
Is the despicable wood louse
I swear there must be thousands
Living in my house.

I sit down with the paper
For a peaceful Sunday afternoon
And then a great fat bluebottle
Starts buzzing round the room.

So I roll up the newspaper
To form a handy weapon
And try to find the culprit
It's insect Armageddon.

I'm all for mass insecticide
Go on and kill the lot
I would not shed a single tear
I would not care one jot.

I make an exception for the bees
Because they give us honey
But all the rest can go to hell
And I'm not being funny!

Cathy Lawday

Kite flying

Too high to see
it's shrill cry pierces the air
as if by my side
my thoughts laid bare
of thermals there to ride
soundless
other than that cry
my eyesight fails

narrow slits to thwart the sun
in a clear blue sky
azure laced with aircraft trails
glides into view
twin-tailed rocket
dancing in the air
nature's kite
The real thing

Peter Wild

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

What have these over-aged teenagers been up to during the past months? At the end of September we took a coachload of members down to Corton, in Suffolk, for five days. The weather played its part and the sun shone most of the time. The food and accommodation were great and, most importantly, the company was fabulous!

We visited Cromer on the northern coast of Norfolk, Norwich where there is so much to see and do, and enjoyed a cruise around the Norfolk Broads where we were able to enjoy the peace and calm of the waterways and view the expensive properties that looked like they could sink at any time. We are already planning our next holiday, when we will return to the Isle of Wight next April.

It was time for fish and chips at our October meeting, combined with a quiz that kept the grey matter in working order. This month we welcome Deborah Hayter to the club to talk about 'The lost villages of Oxfordshire'.

In December we are travelling to Warwick to enjoy a celebration of ABBA with entertainment based on 'Mama Mia'. Hopefully, many of our members will be dressed in their platforms, trouser suits or whatever and ready to hit the floor. With the expected energy required to relive the moves of the day, we will enjoy a three-course meal and possibly a few drinks. It will be a bit like an invasion as we are taking 58 club members to Warwick. Four days later it is time for our Christmas dinner.

Finally, thanks to Cherwell District Council and their lottery grant. We have been awarded the sum of £1000 to help us provide support for the older members of our community through club activities.

To learn more about the Valentine Club visit our own website at www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston (the easiest way to log-on is to go to the village website, go to '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



The fish and chips lunch in the Village Hall (Photo: Nigel Francis)

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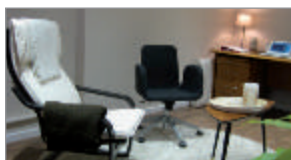
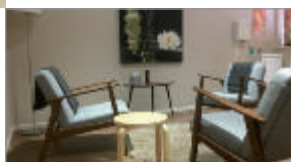
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Terry Pollard, a longstanding member of Kidlington Camera club, came to show us a collection of images from his trip to New Zealand. He travelled in 2019 from the top of the North Island to the toe of the South Island.

His preference is landscape photography and New Zealand offered extensive opportunities for him to capture the changing geography whilst incidentally collecting images of some wildlife, as well as antics of the human variety, too. He caught many landscape photographs ranging from mud pots and geysers, gushing waterfalls, National Parks including volcanoes, interesting rock formations, lush forests and even a 90-mile beach. He trekked the McKinnon Pass on the popular tourist trail on Milford Sound, climbing to an altitude of approximately 1150 metres, taking in dramatic scenery whilst photographing his ascent and descent, which would test many a walker.

His final collection of images was of sculptural-shaped icebergs floating in the most beautiful blue waters and also petrified trees down on the Southern Island. These images were my favourites and were an advert for possible future holiday plans.

Our monthly topic slideshow of our own photographs followed. The theme was 'Vibrant Colours' and our members' images were just that. The variety of photographs is always interesting to see – from colourful cotton reels and garden flowers to neon-signed rides and technical studio work. They all demonstrated once again the talent of our current members. Next month we will be taking images with the title 'From a different angle'.

Our next talk will be on Wednesday 2nd November at 7.30pm at The Adderbury Institute. More details on our website.

Anne Hunsley www.addphoto.co.uk

Steeple Aston Golf Society



The fifth SAGS meeting of the year was at Studley Wood. There were 13 players, with Nigel Mills coming out on top with 34 points, closely followed Tony Giles with 32 points. Nigel's handicap has now been cut by 1 shot for the last match of the season.

The nearest the pin was won by Tony Giles (there were vicious, unsubstantiated rumours that he then four putted). Amazingly, no one hit the 12th in two shots.

Alan Brewer



Alan Brewer putting for a birdie and finishing up with a bogey on the 18th. (For non-golfers, 'par' is the number of strokes an expert golfer is expected to make on a hole. A 'birdie' is when the golfer uses one fewer strokes than par for the hole. A 'bogey' is when the golfer needs one more stroke than par to finish a hole.)



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Thank you!

Thanks to your support we have been able to donate £1500 to the Parish Council to help establish the new Community Orchard!

Dates for your diary – we will be at **St. Peter & St. Paul's in Deddington** for the monthly craft fair that takes place alongside the Farmer's Market on **Saturday 22nd October, 26th November and 17th December** – please do come and see us!

We will also have a stall at the **Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall on 3rd December**.

If you have any items you no longer need but don't want to just throw away, please contact Amanda Rodgers on amanda@sustainablesteeple.com or **07793 553150**. We will help to find them a new purpose or a new home if we can!

Village Hall News



Forthcoming Events

Saturday 5th November: Annual Fireworks Evening.

Gates open and food from 6.15pm; bonfire from 6.30pm approx. Fireworks at 7pm.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to enjoy a spectacular evening of fireworks and refreshments. The Recreational Trust and Village Hall committee will present a great display in a safe environment.

- Please do not bring fireworks, laser pens or sparklers to this event. Glow sticks will be available for sale at the gate. Ticket price includes our special homemade soup together with sausage in a roll and squash for the very young.
- Simon Thatcher is building the bonfire so if you have any wood you would like burnt, please email annawhybrew35@hotmail.co.uk to arrange a time to get into the field. Please do not dump any wood or rubbish outside the gate or in the field prior to the event.
- All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event.
- Ticket prices: bought in advance £14 family, £5 single. On the gate £16 family, £6 single, CASH ONLY. Tickets available from Barbara (01869 340423) and Steeple Aston Village shop from Monday 24th October. Ticket sales from the Village shop will close at 3pm on the day.

Sunday 11th December Wassail evening.

Enjoy a light-hearted evening of mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies, carols, readings and Christmas music. This is an opportunity for everyone, families, young and old to join in some community singing. So come along and celebrate a country Christmas. Everyone is welcome. Free entry.

Saturday 21st January 2023 Annual Quiz Night

Please book your teams early to avoid disappointment. Further details next month.

Please note our letting agent is Mrs. Angela Smith, 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

Welcome to all our new Guides who have made their promise this term. Congratulations to our newly elected Patrol leaders and their chosen Seconds. We spent some time beforehand discussing the qualities of a good leader and the fairest way to vote.

Our hobbies evening was very successful with each Guide demonstrating or talking about their other interests. We have some very talented artists and musicians among us. We also discovered a wide range of other hobbies from dancing to snorkelling and skiing.

Messy painting was very popular, as were toasting marshmallows, games in the dark and knotting. Various activities, learning about the natural world around us and how to cope and help in various emergencies will hopefully stand us in good stead for the future.

The Guides are all working on two chosen badges: Mixology – great fun involving creating new smoothies and planning parties, etc. – and First Aid. By the end of term we should be able to live up to our 'Be Prepared' motto.

All girls of 10 years and over are very welcome to come along and have a 'taster' of what we're all about.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755 and Marian Trinder 07786 001641

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A cheery group of nine members met at the Ashmolean for a guided tour. Our wonderful guide Cheryl took us on a fascinating and riveting tour of selected events in time, location and antiquity. A huge pottery urn deserves a mention, not apparently a container for olive oil as expected, but for date oil used as sweetener.

An in-depth explanation of the stitching of 'The Cranes' wall hanging had our crafty members fascinated, especially how the stitched wisteria was used to camouflage the joins of the three panels. Fragments of materials unearthed and now dated had us gasping in astonishment at how the designs and colours had survived all this time. We finished with the iconic painting of 'The Hunt' that we have all seen many times, but can always find something new in it. Cheryl mentioned that apparently the moon could be seen if you looked closely – but no one saw it this time, not even our guide! However, I am sure we will all visit again and look more closely!



Lessons over we were pleased to revive ourselves at the Rooftop Restaurant and enjoy our delicious afternoon tea – finger sandwiches and a plethora of cakes! Duly replenished we boarded the S4 bus for home.



The WI meeting in October was quite surprising – entitled 'How we fell in love with Caffeine' involving the wonderful trio of tea, coffee and chocolate. What's not to like! This session with speaker Melanie King was quite interactive – posing questions like where was the first coffee drink sold in England? Naturally a member quickly responded with Oxford – amidst some nodding of heads! A few historical dates were also bandied about with good responses from members as well as how many had visited tea plantations. Yes, two or three had! At the end, members enjoyed a taster bag of chocolates with our customary tea and coffee and even some Welsh cakes provided by a fellow Welsh member.

Future offerings are an organised walk around North Aston and a lunch planned for November. The next meeting will be on 8th November – a social evening with music from The Jay Birds. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Merrill Bayley

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Churchwardens' Chat



Harvest Festival may not be a 'principal feast, Holy day or Festival' observed by the Church of England calendar, but it most certainly is a festival which continues to be traditionally observed with enthusiasm, warmly welcomed and well supported every year as autumn approaches in our village.

Only a tiny fraction of people now work on the land, but there is a continuing respect for those who do and gratitude for the farming community as it grows food for us, and indeed for the work of all who bring food to our tables. This was very evident during the weekend of 1st and 2nd October when the church hosted a number of harvest displays from a variety of village organisations and some by the ladies on the usual flower rota. They formed the backdrop to the generous donations from children at Dr Radcliffe's school, which we took to the Banbury Food bank.

Breaking with tradition, our harvest service was a blend of the peaceful and joyous: an Evensong enlivened by harvest hymns which led us across the road to the village hall for harvest supper. Vicky Clifton cooked the tasty main course which was followed by a selection of crumbles made by members of the congregation – all enjoyed in a friendly chatty atmosphere. A rousing rendition of 'We Plough the Fields and Scatter...', a challenging table quiz and a surprise visit from Bernard Miles (who seemed to some to resemble our organist) all added to the fun. Harvest had been well and truly celebrated.



Alongside harvest and our usual services, the PCC and the six Benefice churchwardens have been continuing work on the Parish Profile in preparation for the appointment of the new Rector. We hope we will attract a good field of applicants – but it's a slow process. Soon we hope to be able to report that an advertisement has been placed as we pray that the right person will put in an application.

Many of us enjoy seeing the sparkling star on top of the church tower around Christmas time. This year we hope to have it shining throughout Advent – which begins on 27th November, but with the soaring cost of electricity we need help to be able to do this. So soon you will have an opportunity to sponsor it for a night – or more than one if you feel especially generous. There will be a poster in church for you to complete with your name and, if you wish, an indication of someone in whose name you are brightening the sky – perhaps a loved one who is no longer with us or a new member of your family – or just for the enjoyment of looking out that night and knowing that you've sponsored the star! There will be a request to put your donation in the wall safe. Do join in if you can. To light up the star from 5pm to 11pm we suggest a donation of £10.


By the time you read this we shall have held our annual 'All Saints Tea Party' on 30th October. This is an important opportunity to thank everyone in the village who makes any sort of contribution to ensuring that our village church and churchyard are looked after and available to all. We hope we didn't forget anyone.


Best wishes.


Graham Clifton and Eileen Baglin-Jones. Churchwardens




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Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
Sunday 6th November Third Sunday before Advent	9.30am BCP Communion Rev. David Tyler	11.00am BCP Communion Rev. David Tyler	5.30pm Evensong Richard Bailey
Sunday 13th November Second Sunday before Advent	9.30am Remembrance Service	11am Remembrance Service Rev. Andrew Bunch	4.30pm Communion 5.30pm Remembrance Service Rev. Sue Spankie
Sunday 20th November First Sunday before Advent	10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion		
Sunday 27th November First Sunday of Advent	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	9.30pm Family Communion
Details of the people leading some of the services have not been confirmed as we go to press.			
<u>www.sntchurch.com</u>			

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

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

Rubbish bin collection day is Thursday

November 2022

3rd Blue and brown
 10th Green
 17th Blue and brown
 24th Green



December 2022

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

Food caddy is collected weekly

Steeple Aston Sport & Recreation Centre Letting Charges

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

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 E-Mail to rec.trust@googlemail.com

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

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 0702 0800 0844 1003 1603 1702 1802 1902 2010 2125 2255

Saturdays

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

Sundays and most public holidays

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

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 0835 0935 1035 1535 1638 1738 1838 1929 2024 2135 2250 0020

Saturdays

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

Sundays and most public holidays

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

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Steeple Aston Calendar

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

November			
Tuesday 1st	Garden Club. Andrew Woodall: 'Life & times of a Head Gardener'	Village Hall	7pm
Wednesday 2nd	AD&D Photographic Society	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Saturday 5th	Fireworks Spectacular	Robinsons Close	from 6.15pm
Tuesday 8th	Wl. Members' social evening: music from the Jay Birds. Drinks and canapes	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 12th	SAVA exhibition: Village Personalities	Village Hall	2pm to 6pm
Sunday 13th	SAVA exhibition: Village Personalities	Village Hall	12noon to 4pm
Tuesday 15th	SAL December 2022 copy and advert deadline		
Tuesday 15th	Valentine Club. Deborah Hayter: 'The lost villages of Oxfordshire'	Village Hall	2.30pm
Friday 18th	Church Quiz	Village Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 20th	Steeple Aston Choral Society Autumn Concert	SA Church	7pm
Saturday 26th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 26th	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
December			
Friday 2nd	Valentine Club. 'Mama Mia' with three-course lunch	Warwick	
Tuesday 6th	Valentine Club Christmas dinner with entertainment: £5 per person. Doors open at midday with meal at 1pm	Village Hall	12 noon
Sunday 11th	Wassail evening	Village Hall	6pm
Thursday 15th	SAL January 2023 copy and advert deadline		
Saturday 17th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 17th	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm

Due to coronavirus some clubs and societies might still be meeting online. Please contact the organisers for the most up to date information. Contact details can be found on page 2.

Choral Society Rehearsals. Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays

Badminton. Village Hall - 10am -12.30pm - Tuesdays

Bell Ringing practice. Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays

Scouts. Sport & Rec Centre - 7.30pm - Tuesdays

Baby and Toddler Group. Sport & Rec Centre - 9am -11am - Thursdays

Cricket Nets. Robinson's Close - 6pm - Thursdays

Badminton. Village Hall - 8pm - Thursdays

Village History Centre (SAVA). 10am - 12pm - Saturdays

Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee

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

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