

Steeple Aston *Life*

February 2023 Issue No. 594



- Actor Robert Powell at Steeple Aston Church in March •
- More new houses planned for Steeple Aston • Witney Blanket Hall •

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Contributions are welcome. Please email editorialife@gmail.com

Cover: Photo by Catherine Crook

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

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

COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline is the 14th of the previous month.

This means the copy deadline for the March 2023 issue is 14th February.

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

ADVERTISING

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1/4 page - £8

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Full page (village events only) - £15

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Archive (SAVA)	Chairman	Martin Lipson	347046
Badminton (Tuesday mornings)		Barbara Brewer	340423
Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	347033
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Bell ringers		Graham & Dorothy Clifton	347273
Hand-bell ringers		Sally Cooper	347173
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Cherwell District Council	Bodicote House		01295 227001
Choral Society	Chair	Ann Livings	233518
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector		
	Churchwardens	Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton	340099 , 347273
Methodist Church – Tackley		Rev Paul Carter	01865 243216
	Steward	Tim Bailey	01869 331516
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		Cllr Bryn Williams	07836 271998
		Cllr Hugo Brown	
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	347493
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Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
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WI	President	Cathy Lawday	347209



“...folly is not always folly.”
Jane Austen

Steeple Aston *Life*

February 2023

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Editorial

They dined on mince, and slices of quince, Which they ate with a runcible spoon; And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand, they danced by the light of the moon. Edward Lear (1812-1888). English artist, illustrator, musician and author, best-known for his nonsense verse and limericks.

Have you heard of a black moon? You certainly will not have seen one! It refers to a calendar month with no full moon.

A lunar month is the time it takes for the moon to pass through all of its phases, measured from one new moon to the next. In the middle of these phases is the full moon, when the moon appears as a complete circle in the sky. The length of a lunar month varies a little, but is generally around 29.5 days.

February only has 28 or 29 days so occasionally, very occasionally, the month passes with no full moon on any of the nights – a so-called ‘black moon’. The last time this happened was in February 2018; the next will be in February 2037. As if in compensation, the preceding January and the following March each have two full moons.

In a calendar month with two full moons, the second is called a blue moon – though it is no different in colour to other full moons. Because there are around 29.5 days between full moons, it is unusual for two full moons to fit into a 30 or 31-day month (and impossible to fit into a 28 or 29 day month). However, despite the saying ‘once in a blue moon’, the occurrence is not that rare, taking place about every 2.5 years. The next will be over the evening of 30th to 31st August 2023.

The Latin for moon is luna, from which is derived the word lunatic. For several thousand years it was believed that the full moon made people crazy. Recent research has debunked this theory, so you will need to find some other excuse for your weird behaviour under the light of the silvery moon!

Robert

Below: the phases of the moon. This month, the full moon occurs on Sunday 5th February.



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



£2 maximum fare on the S4 bus

From 1 January until 31 March 2023 the Government is subsidising single bus fares so that £2 will be the maximum, irrespective of the usual cost. This means a saving of £3.50 on the fare from Steeple Aston to Oxford and that two singles will be cheaper than a return which is usually £7.50. Substantial savings are to be had on almost all S4 journeys as few fares are usually less than £2. The £2 fare applies to all journeys including morning and evening peaks.

The purpose of the subsidy is both to reduce the cost of living for those who use the bus regularly and to encourage bus usage to return to pre-Covid levels. Overall, the use of buses in Oxfordshire is substantially below pre-Covid levels, so by taking advantage of this offer to make extra journeys you could be helping to keep the S4 running. At the moment the last bus (Monday to Saturday) from Banbury is 2145 while from Oxford there are late buses at 2145 and 2315.

Stuart Ferguson (Parish Council)

Photo by Nigel Francis



More information on becoming a Parish Councillor

If you have been at all attracted to the idea of becoming a Parish Councillor, you might be interested to know that the Oxford Association of Local Councils is running a number of free, online, one-hour sessions which set out the basics of being a councillor and give you the opportunity to ask questions. The sessions are entitled 'So you want to be a Parish Councillor?' They are available at the times below. Booking is not necessary.

13th February 10 to 11am and 15th March 2 to 3pm. Zoom joining details: bit.ly/3kk1tnv
Meeting ID: 871 2501 2109 Passcode: 386520

Alternatively, you could go along to a meeting of Steeple Aston Parish Council. They are held in the Sports and Recreation Building at 7.30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. The next meetings are on: 20th February and 20th March.

Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Steeple Aston Handbell Ringers Xmas 2022

Hats off to the Handbell Ringers this Christmas! They were certainly very firmly pulled down on our heads, plus scarves, gloves and extra layers as we made our way ringing Christmas carols round Steeple and Middle Aston in December. It must have been the most prolonged, coldest winter weather we've rung in for many a year. We also visited and entertained the residents of two Nursing Homes – Featherton House, Deddington and Fewcott House.

Thank you to all who were willing to not only open your doors to us in the freezing temperatures, but who gave so generously to our charity, Maggie's Centre, Oxford. We collected a magnificent £1,621.29. We will be sending off a cheque to Maggie's for £1,600 and keeping the remainder in the Tower Fund for the maintenance of the bells.

We have 22 people who make up the members of the ringing team, some of whom have been playing for 50+ years and others who started learning 10 weeks ago. I would like to thank them all for their dedication to keeping this tradition of ringing carols door-to-door going and hopefully with new and younger members joining us, we can continue on for years to come.

My grateful thanks go to Diana Gardner, Vicky Clifton, Pam, Jack and Lewis Knowles, Graham and Dorothy Clifton, Nick Powell, Lawrence White, Catherine Cooper, Hannah and Rebecca McLoone, Helen, Edie and Cooper Arlett, Alex Tabb, Freya Smith and Katie, Isla and Ruby Rushworth.

Sally Cooper (Handbell Leader)

Photo Nigel Francis



Change of date for judging the Summer Show Hanging Basket Class

The Horticultural Society has noticed over the past few years that numbers for entering the Container/Hanging Basket Class for the Summer Show have declined. This class is usually judged the last week of August just prior to the Show, which is on Bank Holiday Monday.

From comments received it has been decided by the Committee that the date for judging this Class is going to be brought forward to around 1st August, the precise date to be confirmed. Details of places awarded will be kept by the Show Secretary and entered on the computer to be included with all the rest of the classes and declared on Show Day as usual.

Janet Coley

King's Coronation

Plans for Steeple & Middle Aston to celebrate the King's Coronation on 6th May are well underway. We will be contacting clubs and societies again with more details on how to take part in the parade. Also watch this space, as well as Facebook, to find out more about joining the lunch.

We're currently trying to raise money to fund the marquee so we can make the event accessible for everyone – so we're keen to hear from any local businesses who might like to sponsor the event (packages from £50) or any individuals who feel able to make a donation of any size (which could be done anonymously if preferred). Any ideas or help gratefully received!

Thank you. *Helen Wright & Josie Cassidy*

steeplecoronation@yahoo.com

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Steeple People



Lisa Boote



How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? 24 years in June.

Where did you move from? Leicestershire, but I was born and grew up in Nottinghamshire.

What brought you here? We moved to Oxfordshire for my work. I was a Product Manager/Buyer at Boots and a supplier offered me an opportunity to work in licensing with properties such as the Teletubbies, Wallace & Gromit, The Simpsons and Peter Andre. How could I resist?

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? My friends (you know who you are) and being a governor at Dr Radcliffe's.

Is there anything you don't like about living here? No, I feel extremely privileged to be living in such a beautiful village with a great community.

How has the village changed in the time you've been here? The amount of traffic has increased and some housing development, but in essence it's the same village.

Where do you think of as 'home'? Steeple Aston, but there's a little bit of my heart in the village I grew up in.

How do you see yourself? Busy, thoughtful, fun, a good listener and intuitive.

How do others see you? I hope they would say friendly, good fun, and she gets things done.

What do your family or friends find most annoying about you? Tidying things away.

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist? I'm a night owl, I enjoy the peace and quiet late at night. My outlook is optimistic although I can be inclined to overthink things, and it has to be dogs.

Technology: friend or foe? A bit of both, the problem is it moves on so quickly and you have to keep up.

To marmite or not? Absolutely not, the only time it's in the house is at Christmas in the form of Twiglets for my husband.

What was the best thing about being a child? My parents ran the village post office and shop and we lived in close proximity to my relatives which looking back was just wonderful as I spent so much time with my grandparents.

What was your first job? My parents ran the village newsagents, so I had a newspaper round from the age of 11, which I did with our family dog and worked in the shop on a Saturday.

What do you do for a living now? I 'retired' last April, after 15 years working for the headteachers of the Warriner Partnership, to concentrate on my Reiki business. I am a qualified Reiki Master therapist and teacher and have a fabulous studio at home where I see clients.

What's your secret/guilty pleasure? The television series 'Married at First Sight UK' and chocolate. Both together equals a great sofa night in.

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have: I bought a potting shed last year and grew dahlias for the first time.

What is your all-time favourite book? 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' by CS Lewis. I still have the copy I was bought as a child.

What's your favourite food? Italian – we had a wonderful holiday in Puglia last year and the food is sensational.

What would you save from your house if it was on fire? Apart from everyone in it and our dog Welly it would have to be as many photos as possible as some are irreplaceable and the passports.

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

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? There is an island called Aitutaki in the Cook Islands which has been on my list for many years.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? If you don't ask you don't get.

Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive? My wonderful dad, who died last year.

If you were on a desert island, what would you miss most? A cup of tea.

What do you get grumpy/mad about? People being late or me being late.

What makes you happiest in the world? Sunshine and blue skies.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really good at. I qualified as a painter and decorator 18 years ago and I'm very good at straight lines.

Tell us something about you that most people don't know. I was adopted at two weeks old and gained two brothers later in life. So rather than the youngest sister I became an older sister.

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The ARTS Page



We are awash with wonderful choral music in our area, so this time I will plug two concerts with which I have a connection and two here in Steeple Aston.

As a Vice-President and ex-Conductor of the Oxford Bach Choir, I highlight their 'Missa Solemnis' on 12th March at 5pm in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. This is a rare chance to hear this monumental, life-enhancing work of Beethoven. He said it is "from the heart, may it go to the heart". Tickets from £15 to £45 at ticketsoxford.com

As Honorary Patron of the Woodstock Music Society (with members from Steeple Aston), it's a pleasure to mention their 31st March and 1st April concerts at 7.30pm in St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock. Puccini's 'Messa Di Gloria' and Rossini's 'Stabat Mater' are rare non-operatic works by these famous composers with more good tunes than I've had hot dinners. concerts@woodstockmusic.info

Elsewhere in SAL there are details of the Lord's Taverners concert on 10th March in Steeple Aston church at 6.30pm. Local singers join actor Robert Powell in an hour of 'Music and Readings'. All in aid of the wonderful charity.

2nd April at 7pm in the church sees our own Choral Society, fresh from their Messiah triumph, in a concert of Choral Classics.

Two theatres, a little further afield, have interesting stage adaptations of famous books.

The Watermill, Newbury (watermill.org.uk) gives the world premiere of Bill Bryson's 'Notes from a Small Island' from 3rd February to 18th March. Lovers of his books will not want to miss this. There is also the 'vivid and gripping bestseller' by Kate Summerscale, 'The Suspicions of Mr Whicher' from 5th May to 10th June.

The Royal Shakespeare Company is mounting 'Hamnet', Maggie O'Farrell's wonderful book about Shakespeare's early life, from 1st April to 17th June in the Swan Theatre, Stratford. (rsc.org.uk)

The Oxford Playhouse also offers adaptations. The acclaimed stage version of the nation's favourite movie, 'The Shawshank Redemption', plays from 6th to 11th February. It examines "desperation, injustice, friendship and hope behind the claustrophobic bars of a maximum-security facility". oxfordplayhouse.com

Theatre de Complicité, "the greatest trailblazers in our theatrical history" (Emma Thompson), presents 'Drive your plow over the bones of the dead', based on the book by Nobel Prize Winner Olga Tokarczuk. I've ordered the book, so fascinating does it look, and read their website (complicite.org). "Electrifying, it is a truly must see" (Observer). Part thriller, part comedy. 1st to 4th March at Oxford Playhouse, before it goes on tour including Luxembourg and Paris.

We have, I think, three book clubs in Steeple Aston. In this day and age of hype and hyperbole about books, when so many seem to be International Bestsellers, some more objective suggestions about what to choose, from the doubtless excellent deliberations of these clubs, would be very helpful and could be announced on this Arts Page.

How about a music club, along the same lines? It's wonderful to hear other people's musical choices, chat about them and widen our horizons – all genres. I'd be happy to lead on this, perhaps with a pilot. Do get in touch on both – nicholascleobury@btinternet.com

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THE ASTONS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – SPRING FLOWER SHOW 2023 – ENTRY FORM

The Spring Flower Show will be held in the Village Hall on **Sunday 26th March** from 2.30 to 4.30pm. Entries are open to everyone and new exhibitors are welcome. The entry fee includes the Society's membership fee. Rules for exhibitors are as laid down by the secretary in the Annual Show Schedule except: a) entries must be in by **7pm on Thursday 23rd March**. **Late entries will be charged double and no entry will be accepted after Friday 24th March**; b) exhibits must be staged between 9am and 10.45am on the morning of the show **after which the Hall will be closed**. Multiple entries in the same class will not be allowed in Divisions 1, 2 and 3. Cups will be awarded to the winner of most points in each open Division and the Mead Vase will be awarded to the person having entered in at least three of the five divisions and gaining the most points in the show. Easter eggs will be awarded to the winner of the most points in each of the children's age groups and the Bedding Cup for the best exhibit.

DIVISION 1

HORTICULTURE – FOR DUNCAN CUP

1. Tulips growing in a container
2. Daffodils (longer trumpets than petals) in container
3. Daffodils (shorter trumpets than petals) in container
4. Daffodils (multi-headed) in container
5. Miniature Daffodils in container
6. Hyacinths in a container
7. Any other container grown bulb
8. Any other container grown spring flower(s) of one or more variety, excluding bulbs
9. Cactus or succulent) *must be in your possession for*
10. Pot Plant Flowering) *8 weeks*
11. Pot plant foliage) *8 weeks*
12. Vase of Cut Garden Blooms
13. Container of Garden shrubs/Hedgerow/Trees Buds or Blossom, judged on variety and quality
14. 5 cut stems of Daffodils (long trumpets) any varieties
15. 5 cut stems of Daffodils (short trumpets) any varieties
16. 5 cut stems of miniature Daffodils
17. 5 cut stems of multi-headed Daffodils
18. 3 Stems of Rhubarb (tops on)
19. Container of Cut Scented Spring Flowers
20. A single cut daffodil with solitary bloom

DIVISION 2

COOKERY – FOR WI CUP

21. A savoury flan (state flavour)
22. Brioche loaf
23. 2 Vegetable pasties
24. Treacle tart
25. 3 egg Victoria Sandwich
26. 3 Pieces of flapjack
27. Marble cake
28. 5 Chocolate truffles
29. Seville Marmalade
30. Fruit curd (Lemon, orange, lime, etc.)
31. 3 home produced eggs from domestic fowl (with saucer)
32. Homemade lemonade in a clear bottle with a glass
33. Homemade alcoholic drink in a clear glass bottle with a glass. (Shop purchased gins / vodkas to flavour are allowed)

DIVISION 3 – FLORAL ART FOR THE FLOWER CLUB

SILVER TROPHY (All 4 classes count for the cup). Exhibits marked * to be staged in a niche 18" wide, 18" deep and 25" high

34. Arrangement in a gravy/ sauce boat - no other accessories
35. *Title - 'Coronation' – accessories allowed
36. *Foliage Arrangement – no accessories allowed
37. *Title - 'A Musical' – accessories allowed

DIVISION 4 -FOR HANDICRAFT CUP

38. A Knitted animal
 39. 'Ink' on fabric (e.g. ink printing, tie dye on fabric of your choice)
 40. A limerick - 'There once was a naughty M.P.' (With 8 syllables in 1st, 2nd and 5th lines and 5 syllables in 3rd and 4th lines)
 41. A painting or drawing
 42. Any other handicraft
 43. A 'New Home' card
 44. Photo – 'Aston animals' Winner to supply a Jpeg to be used on Steeple Aston Village social media.
 45. Photo – 'Wet'
 46. Photo – 'Yellow'
 47. Photo 'Wheel(s)' Must be black and white photo
- Photos - may be in colour or black and white for classes 44 to 45 and all photos are not to exceed 7" by 5". No mounts allowed**

DIVISION 5 – NOTE NEW AGE GROUPS, age must be written on entry form.

Under 5

48. Hand/finger printing, A4 max. size
49. Painting or drawing of a crown, A4 max. size
50. Decorated biscuit (biscuit can be shop purchased)

Aged 5 to 7 inclusive

51. Handmade decorated crown
52. 3 homemade biscuits – to be judged on taste
53. Painting or drawing of a house, not larger than A4

Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

54. Junk vehicle that has functioning wheels
55. Painting or drawing of a crown, not larger than A4
56. 3 Brownies to be judged on taste. Displayed on a plate

Aged 12 – 15 inclusive

57. Pizza to be judged on taste and appearance.
58. A decorated T shirt
59. Photo – 'Action photo' no larger than 7"x 5"

Please circle the classes you wish to enter and return the entry form to Richard Preston, Primrose Gardens (behind Primrose Cottage), North Side (01869 340512) or Victoria Clifton, Bluebell Cottage, Middle Aston (07817025948) with full entry fee by 7 pm on Thursday 23rd March 2023. Extra forms are available from Richard or village website.

Classes 1-47 entry fee 25p. Classes 48-59 entry fee 10p. Prizes first £2, second £1, third 50p.

For our privacy policy see: <https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening/#horticultural>

ENTRY FORM

	Classes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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Address.....																				
Tel No																				

If entering Division 5 - Age on day of Show

Parent's consent to entry: 56 57 58 59

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The Gardening Spot

What makes a village?

What on earth can I write about regarding gardening in the middle of January when the rain is beating against the window and everywhere is so damp and dismal? So I thought I would bore you all with my personal thoughts of our villages. My reason for living here is simple. I was born here, and no one has managed to get rid of me since. That is over 70 years, so approaching some sort of a record.

I went to school here from the age of five until fifteen. It may surprise you to know that there were around 400 children at Dr Radcliffe's in my school days when it was both an infant, junior and secondary school. I spent two years at college to expand my education and get a few GCEs and then carried on for 40 years as a greengrocer and market gardener, just like my dad before me. I married my wife Daphne and we were blessed with three children and eight grandchildren.

My working life was a mix of growing as many vegetables as possible in my garden and then taking them out on a van and selling around the local villages. Throughout my married life we had one week's holiday a year and maybe a few odd days at some sort of attraction or other. Life was fairly simple and as one of my distant cousins said to me once, "you have had a very boring life". This was, I should add, from a 90-year-old who had had a few husbands and even at that age, had a toyboy in tow!

Steeple and Middle Aston have changed somewhat over those 70 years, but the fundamental reason to want to live here has probably not. A village is made up of properties, varying in size and appearance, some new and some fairly old. But the most important benefit of living in a village like ours is the people. There are still a fair few of us 'old villagers', but the vast number of residents are comparatively new to the village and in many cases, new to village life. In my opinion, that is a good thing as it brings with it new ideas and new approaches to old country customs.

I read with interest Richard McAndrew's article in last month's SAL, where after nearly five years he is stepping down from the parish council. I would urge anyone to consider becoming a parish councillor if you want to make a positive difference to the village. Way back in the early 1990s, the village had no play space other than a severely sloping field and a village hall that was in need of refurbishment. This was my reason for being part of the PC and hopefully, making a positive difference to the village.

Parish councillors are the lowest form of government, but they are the first point of call when you have ideas or concerns about your village or services. It is not just about reporting overhanging foliage or making sure the litter bins are emptied. We are so fortunate to have such amazing play facilities, recreational space and community buildings, but are you aware of those amazing villagers that keep those facilities in such wonderful condition for you?

The village hall and sport and recreation centre are managed by volunteers who give up their time to make sure those facilities are in good condition for when you want to hire them or participate in group activities. There are those who manage the clubs and societies and provide us all with activities to enjoy in our own community. Although working full-time for most of my 25 years as a parish councillor, I feel I achieved something for the village along with a great supporting team of fellow councillors. If you enjoy living here and have the time, consider becoming part of our village by contributing some of your many skills by joining the parish council or involving yourself in one of the many clubs and societies this village has to offer.

Apologies for moving away from gardening and I will be back next month with more tips and thoughts for the garden.

Richard Preston

One final thought. Why do gardeners plant bulbs? So that the worms can see where they are going!

Letter from *Westminster*



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

Our health service is facing some enormous pressures; there is no question that flu has made this winter particularly difficult alongside high levels of Covid admissions. Hospitals have been dealing with their highest ever number of A&E attendances and the pandemic legacy of delayed discharges has put a real strain on our frontline services. These are not issues unique to us, but are mirrored in health systems across Europe.

While the circumstances are challenging, we must keep our foot on the accelerator as the NHS continues to deliver on the most ambitious catch-up programme in its history. Thanks to the incredible efforts of our health workers, NHS England reported last week that waiting lists have fallen for the first time since the start of the pandemic. I know that the Prime Minister remains focused on ensuring better care for patients. His vision is for an NHS where people are more in control, with as much choice as possible. There are no silver bullets; it is a complex challenge that needs a range of responses. But we are making steady progress.

I remain in regular contact with our local health officials: last week I had a catch-up with Nick Broughton, Chief Executive of Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust to talk about mental health provision in Oxfordshire, including waiting times for Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) services. I also met our Bicester GPs to hear more about their experiences and listen to their concerns. It is clear that they are working extremely hard to provide consistent, high-quality care to all their patients. I hope to be able to speak to the Banbury GPs in the weeks ahead.

I am conscious that Will Hancock will be standing down as Chief Executive of the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS) after seventeen-years of service next month. Will achieved lots in his time, most notably the merger of the four ambulance services covering Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in 2006. I look forward to working with his successor, David Eltringham, as SCAS seeks to integrate health and social care further as part of a new five-year strategic journey. David is extremely experienced with a particularly strong patient focus. I have no doubt that SCAS has been left in very capable hands.

Victoria Prentis was called to the bar in 1995. For seventeen years she was a lawyer for the Treasury Solicitors' Department and headed up the government's Justice and Security team. Her responsibilities included providing advice on military, prisons and national security matters and representing the government in court. She was elected as the Conservative MP for Banbury in May 2015.

On 25th October 2022 the Prime Minister appointed Rt Hon Victoria Prentis MP as Attorney General of England and Wales and Advocate General for Northern Ireland.

The Attorney General oversees the work of the Law Officers Departments which include the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office and the Government Legal Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

The Attorney General also carries out a number of functions in the public interest, such as considering unduly lenient sentences and taking action when there has been a contempt of court. These functions are carried out independently of their role as a Government minister.



LORD'S TAVERNERS

Empowering young people through cricket

Nicholas Cleobury, on behalf of Steeple Aston Cricket Club (SACC) and the Lord's Taverners, is delighted to announce that **Robert Powell** (famous actor – Jesus of Nazareth, The 39 Steps, Holby City) will host an hour of cricket-related 'Music and Readings' in Steeple Aston Church at 6.30pm on Friday 10th March 2023.

Tickets are only £5 and will include drinks after the event. You will be given the chance to buy Raffle Tickets or make a contribution to the Lord's Taverners. All proceeds go to the charity, whose mission remains to empower young people with disabilities and those from disadvantaged communities to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence by playing sport.

Tickets can be bought from the village shop or by emailing peter.higgins@ctshirts.co.uk or call 01869 347792.

Peter Higgins
Chairman SACC

Robert Powell arriving to play for Lord's Taverners cricket team in February 2009. Photo by David Edsam.



Cherwell Local Plan aims for more village houses

Steeple Aston residents are faced with having to absorb 47 more new houses, in the newly-released Emerging Local Plan for Cherwell, which covers the period from 2020 to 2040. We are one of eleven 'larger villages' (a new classification) that are to share in the supply of 500 new houses across the District's rural areas. While the main concentrations of new housing will remain as extensions of Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and Upper Heyford, those rural communities fortunate enough to have adequate support services (bus connection, school, shop, etc.), such as ours, do not escape their share.

We are at an early stage of the adoption of the new Local Plan – its public consultation runs until March 17th and will go through various stages before it is written in stone, probably in late 2024. There will also be several opportunities for the public to comment on, object to, or indeed support its 88 draft policies, many of which are progressive and helpful to rural communities as well as to urban folk.

But local people may well question how a village such as ours can accommodate a 12% increase in its population in the 15-year period after the Plan is confirmed. When the Parish Council agreed in 2018 to the last increase in housing in the village, it was limited to 5%, or about 20 houses (10 of which are now under construction at Townend on Sixty Foot). It's a big leap to now go from the 10 remaining to an additional 47. Is it even possible?

In the draft document, Cherwell asks parish councils affected by these housing proposals to respond to the consultation, stating whether they wish to leave it to the District Council to decide on the sites that should be used for the additional houses, or – alternatively – whether they want the parish council to choose the sites themselves: for the local community to determine the location, number, and type of housing on sites that are considered suitable. This second option is only available to parishes that have, or will have, a neighbourhood plan, through which they can determine local needs more accurately and sensitively than would be done by the District.

Steeple Aston is, as most readers will know, one of the group of parish councils that make up the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum, of which I am Chairman. So we are fortunate in being able to say – if we choose to do so – that the parish wants to control the next stages of the process. A review of our Neighbourhood Plan is also under way, so we have the opportunity to work with other local parishes (especially Kirtlington, which has a similar number of houses allocated to it) in deciding on these questions. Initial discussion at Steeple Aston parish council's meeting in January supported this idea, and decided that there should be a public meeting for parishioners to better understand what might be involved. See the advert on page 26 for details.

At the same time, the Government has published its intentions to change the way in which housing need is calculated, and so the numbers behind the Local Plan, which have generated the figure of 500 for the larger villages, could change. There is much water still to flow under this particular bridge.

Martin Lipson

Chair of Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum, and parish councillor.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

Witney Blanket Hall



When I came to work in Burford in 1966 I remember being shown large wooden frames on which, in long-ago days, blankets made in one of the several Witney blanket mills had been pegged out to dry on warm days. I learnt where the word ‘tenterhooks’ came from – the name of the pegs used – and was rather pleased to discover that the famous Witney Blankets were still being made in the town, although the practice of hanging new blankets in the open air has been consigned to history.

There is much history to be discovered about Witney Blankets as the wool and cloth trade in Witney dates back about 900 years. There is a record of a fulling mill on the river Windrush in 1223.

You can learn quite a lot about various aspects of the blanket industry if you visit the Witney Blanket Hall. This is a fairly new tourist attraction, although the hall (see photo) was built in 1721 by the Company of Blanket Makers. It is the place where weavers brought their blankets to be weighed, measured and authenticated and, of course, were charged for the service. However, it meant that their blankets had reached the well-regarded standard of being a Witney Blanket. It was a famous name which was known around the world. The Hudson Bay company in Canada traded fur for Witney blankets.

The great activity which there must have been in the Blanket Hall ceased in 1845, after which the building was used for an enormous number of different activities. It has now been brought back to life to tell us about the work of the Blanket Makers Company, to show (and sell) items, especially the brightly striped Point Blank throws in the shop, and to offer coffee, beers and wines as well as light lunches in the Pieshop café. There is a rather wonderful staircase leading up to the Great Room which is where the Company set its rules for the trade – and no doubt counted its income!

The Blanket Hall, at 100 High Street, opens off the main road as you enter Witney from the East (A40 from Oxford or via Bladon and Long Hanborough). It’s the building with the one-handed clock and entry is free, although donations are welcome, and opens between 10.00am and 5.00pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It’s just a short walk from the Witan Way car park – there’s no parking at the Blanket Hall. Pop in for a coffee if you are visiting Witney and find out a little about an unusual relic of Witney’s industrial past. www.blankethall.co.uk

Eileen Baglin-Jones

Parish Council Meeting Notes



The January Parish Council meeting was held on an exceptionally cold night, but despite that four visitors came. They were welcomed and told they could stay as long as they liked; three left as soon as they could, probably in order to find better heating elsewhere.

The first two visitors were from the Friends of Heyford Station. They explained that the station has a retaining wall holding back a long flowerbed on the path down from the railway bridge to the canal. The path gives access to the station. The wall is made of old sleepers and has lasted for many years, but the wood is now so rotten that it cannot survive much longer. The idea is to replace the wooden struts holding up the wall with steel supports. This would mean that planks could be attached to the new supports and be replaced in future relatively easily and cheaply when needed. The cost will be about £7,500.

The Friends of Heyford Station are hoping to raise the money from a 'consortium of stakeholders' – including Great Western Railways, the Canal and River Trust (CRT), local parish councils and local charities. Our councillors asked who owned the land – it is CRT. The councillors suggested it might be more appropriate to ask CRT for the total funding and were told that the Friends had been trying to do this for the previous two years. So far CRT had offered only some free volunteer labour.

The councillors wanted to know who had built the wooden retaining wall initially and who had replaced the tarmac on the path so that one or both of these organisations could be approached to assist with the current problem. Unfortunately, there are no available records on this. Our councillors said they were 'sympathetic', but would not make a contribution unless CRT had been approached more 'forcefully' to cover the cost of the whole project.

The next discussion was about the 20mph speed limit in Steeple Aston. David Palmer told us he was doubtful that the change from the 30mph to a 20mph speed limit was desirable. He explained that vehicles were designed to be efficient when driven faster, rather than slower than 30mph. So cars pollute more at slower speeds. He said there were two pieces of research into the effects of reducing speed limits to 20mph. He loaned me the research results and after the meeting I had a look at what I had been given.

The research was done on urban and city centre roads so I tried to pull out the results most relevant to us. One study showed that speeds were influenced more by the look and feel of the road rather than by a 20mph or 30mph limit. Changing from a 30mph to a 20mph limit reduced speed on average by about 1mph, and interestingly the fastest drivers showed the biggest reduction. In general, driving at higher speed equates to more collisions and worse injuries. But the change from 30mph to 20mph in one study 'found no significant change in collisions and casualties in the short term in the majority of the case study areas.'

The collisions and casualties were only part of the story because the same study reported that 'slower speeds are one of a combination of factors required to improve the environment for walking and cycling'. In the case study areas, 5% of residents surveyed said they were walking more and 2% cycling more since the introduction of the 20mph limits.

We were told that when the 30mph limit was introduced in the village in the 1970s the argument was that drivers went at the speed they were confident was safe. This implied that any speed limit was inherently unnecessary. The councillors emphasised that Oxfordshire County Council had approved the rollout of 20mph limits so that, irrespective of what individuals or villages thought, the policy was already decided and would not be changed. Putting up 20mph signs was relatively cheap so spending the same amount on, say, filling potholes would have a minimal effect.

Apparently, Cherwell is in the process of preparing a Local Plan, which it is expected will go out for consultation in the next couple of weeks. This matters to us because Steeple Aston has been designated as one of three 'larger villages', which in turn means we are expected to have 47 new houses between now and 2040. There is a separate article in this month's SAL explaining how we can put our local knowledge into the choice of sites for these new houses. There will be a public meeting about this in the Village Hall on Thursday 16th February and the Parish Council will put in its evidence to Cherwell after that.

Continued.....

Parish Council Meeting Notes



When there is a new development, the developers sometimes have to provide 'Section 106' money to local communities to mitigate the effects of that new development. For this reason, the Steeple Aston Parish Council was allocated £14,500 to spend on travel and transport in relation to the development at Heyford Park, but the money has not yet been made available. We have no control on where the Section 106 money goes and cannot, for example, spend it on playground equipment instead. There is no deadline for spending the money, but in a period of high inflation there is a case for spending it sooner rather than later.

There is a new steward of the Play Area, Shawn Hamilton. On behalf of the village and the Parish Council – welcome Shawn.

There was a discussion of whether it might be worth spending £100 to get a card reader so that Play Area users could tap in their cards to make a contribution to the upkeep of the facilities. The councillor who proposed this hoped users would choose to contribute and that the machine would not be vandalised because it would not hold cash. Others were dubious it would be used much or that the machine would survive.

The Chairman said he had ordered new links for the trampoline and it was agreed the 'ropes' on the basket swing would be renewed. The gates to the Play Area have been rehung, but are no longer self-closing. Apparently, the repairers were asked to replace like with like and since the damaged gates did not close themselves, neither did the replacement gates. The low wall by the door to the Committee Room at the Village Hall has been damaged and there was a discussion of the cheapest efficient way to repair it.

A new gate will be put on the Community Orchard. Rectory Homes will be asked to provide a new aluminium frame for the map of the village. The map was the idea of the WI; they prepared the map and are keen that its history should continue to be acknowledged.

The councillors had enquired about how the door of the lavatory at the Play Area might be prevented from locking people out for 20 minutes if the previous user had let themselves out with the door handle rather than the button. (You cannot get locked in for 20 minutes, only locked out). They were concerned that correcting the problem should not be costly.

The new proposals for the Hatch End development are roughly what the Parish Council expected. Apparently, the idea is to add three small buildings at the back. The parking area will stay at the back, but will be 50% larger than now. There are still issues about low-loaders during the construction period which, according to the plans, will be going down Southside or Northside and not through Middle Aston. The councillors noted that three units at Hatch End are currently empty so the reason for getting planning permission for another three units is unclear.

The people in Middle Aston use the facilities in Steeple Aston, especially the School, Play Area and Robinsons Close. They do not currently contribute to the cost of the Play Area or SAL and it was suggested they might be asked to consider changing that.

The Chairman had had a meeting with Victoria Prentis and other local Parish Chairmen about getting more local input into county and district decisions that affect rural and urban communities differently. A letter and possible meeting were discussed.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 20th February. Do come.

Steeplejack

This report is the personal view of the SAL reporter and is not intended to be a complete record of the Council meeting. The official record – once approved – will be available at www.steepleaston.org.uk

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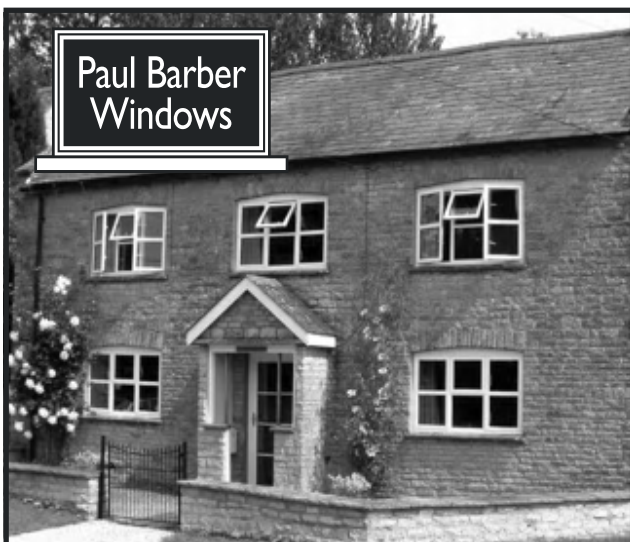
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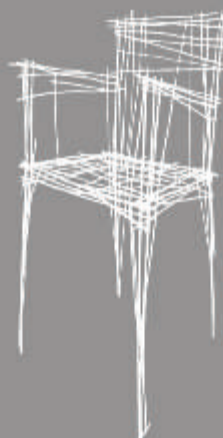
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V day

romance in the air
my cup is full
I have no care
as she steps in
and holds my hand
I puff my chest
I feel quite grand
that after
all the years we've had
the spark's still there
I'm Jack the Lad
a strutting bantam
giant eagle
ego large
but looks like Sméagol

thanks to tricks my mind can play
my youth's not gone
it's here to stay
yet I'm not sure I can sustain
(encounter short I'm on the wane)
my Valentine
It's true to say
I'm rather glad
It's just one day

Peter Wild

Clearing the air

We're told it's good to unburden ourselves
To get stuff off our chest
That we should air our resentments
That opening up is best.

But Prince Harry has just published
His autobiography, 'Spare'
And it appears that opening up
Has not really cleared the air.

His wife will probably be blamed
For encouraging him to "come clean"
But after all, she's an American
And telling all is part of their scene.

We British are known to be reserved,
Least said, soonest mended, we think
We generally avoid spilling our beans
To the press or a friend or a shrink.

Because telling the truth is one-sided
It's only your truth that you tell
The other people involved in the story
Have their versions of events as well.

Your family and friends all tell you
Their comments were not meant to sting
Just forget them, shrug them off
And develop a bit thicker skin.

And when you try to explain
How their comments left you feeling reviled
it just sounds like the whining
Of a spoiled and petulant child.

As you talk of your mistreatment
Public comment becomes extensive
Those you accuse feel under attack
And they go on the offensive.

They say that you are also at fault
That you bear some blame too
And now you've opened this can of worms
They're free to tell tales about you.

It's a shame that no-one gave
Prince Harry some sound advice
"If you rake this all up in public
You will pay a very high price."

Did no-one think to offer
Prince Harry this simple tip
"Don't dwell on what others have said about you
Live your own life, and button your lip!"

Cathy Lawday

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

We are in the shortest month already and the days are drawing out, so plenty of things to look forward to as we approach those balmy days of summer.

The club started off the year with a chance to reminisce with the music of their youth and also be treated to some renditions of poetry written by the wonderful Pam Ayres with the help of 'Old Gold'. When I say 'reminisce' you have to remember that most of the club members, with the exception of a few 'infants', were brought up during the transitional days of the 60's music scene where everything was changing, from music to dress style. So, to bring back those memories brings with it so much joy and, thank-goodness, not too many members considered dancing on the tables!

This month will be a bit of a treat when we welcome Kevin Allen to the club. He is going to tell us all about his exploits whilst acting as a firefighter. Kevin has travelled far and wide to fight fires and much more, so hold onto your hats as we listen to him tell us all about 'A Firefighter on Tour'.

Finally, and really good news at that, the club has been awarded a grant of £565 by Oxfordshire County Council with support from Community First Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) via the 'connected community fund'. Thank you to all concerned.

To find about more about The Valentine Club, simply visit our own website at www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston (easiest way to log-on is to visit 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.

If you feel you could help support the club then go to CherwellLottery.co.uk/support/the-valentine-club where you can participate in the Cherwell Lottery and hopefully, like many of our supporters, become a winner.

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

Steeple Aston Garden Club



Our 1st meeting of 2023 is on Tuesday 7th February at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tea & Coffee will be served on arrival.

Our speaker will be Andy Howard, his subject being 'Fruit Thro' the Seasons'. I am sure this will be a very informative subject for us all.

Any guests wishing to attend will be very welcome.

Chris Clarke
Secretary



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Steeple Aston Parish Council

PUBLIC MEETING

Cherwell's Local Plan proposes

47 MORE HOUSES IN STEEPLE ASTON



Hear more and tell us what you think

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16th 7.30pm

Steeple Aston Village Hall

See page 18 for more about the proposals



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The year is 1997. The shocking news is that children in Bulgaria are sleeping at railway stations and worse. Carol and Paddy Henderson, residents of Salisbury, using a legacy from Carol's mother, Betty Trussell, decide to devote it to alleviate the dreadful conditions of the 60 plus children sleeping at the central railway station.

But then Paddy receives a call from a mother in Salisbury, struggling to afford food and sending her children to bed hungry. After investigating the poverty and deprivation in the UK he finds that the figures speak for themselves. The Salisbury Foodbank is started in Paddy and Carol's garden shed and 'The Trussell Trust' is born.

The model then spread rapidly through churches, communities, supermarkets, other networks and personal giving. Now The Trussell Trust has a huge network of foodbanks nationwide and has developed policies and campaigns not just to provide for immediate need, but also to try to end hunger by many means. They look at and challenge structural economic issues which trap people in poverty.

In the UK there are now some 2000 food banks, 1200 of them run by The Trussell Trust which itself is a registered charity. People in need arrive with a voucher given by a relevant authority. They receive a carefully made-up bag which contains food for some three days and other needs such as hygiene items.

Donations such as those being collected at Steeple Aston church are not used immediately. They go to a warehouse from where they are weighed and stored. Then they are redistributed according to need. It's very efficient and ensures that there is no waste.

The Trust also works tirelessly in the fields of advocacy and research – this latter both alone and with major universities. Their overall goal is to reach a point where foodbanks are not needed through reform of social systems at government level. They continuously lobby for this. To date we have counted 22 publications – there are likely to be more. Here's an example from their own research: in 2017 they calculated that throughout the UK the unpaid labour supporting foodbanks was worth some £30 million.

May we thank you again and again for your kindness in donating through the collection point in the church. February is a lean month in the foodbank calendar – please keep giving. The church is open every day.

Ruth and Martin Dale

Village Hall News



Forthcoming Events

Sunday 4th June: 2 to 6 pm NGS Village Open Gardens

Saturday 1st July: Barn Dance – details to follow later

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

Our first event of the year was a talk by Tom Way. This award-winning photographer specialises in taking pictures of wildlife – from stark photos of rhinos, cheetahs or elephants in the vast, scorched landscapes of Africa, to smaller scale pictures of British wildlife. We were treated to stunning shots of a wide variety of creatures in their natural habitat – red deer, foxes, water voles, owls, kingfishers, hedgehogs, badgers and a particularly memorable image of a red squirrel in mid-leap.

Tom explained the advantage of taking photos in the ‘golden hour’, using the special light at dawn or dusk. He also described how he always tried to capture the personality or character of his animal subjects and showed two photos of foxes to demonstrate the difference: one a cute, fluffy fox cub with a sweet expression, the other an adult fox with a predatory look on its face, poised ready to chase its prey. He also had pictures taken in the far north of the British Isles, of elusive Arctic hares, and photos of puffins which clearly showed the comical personality of these ‘clowns of the sea’.

Tom told us how he waited patiently for days or even weeks to catch some of these pictures –hiding peanuts under leaves to tempt a woodpecker into shot, or standing chest-deep in icy water to snap a water vole. It was a fascinating talk and many of us later bought cards to remind us of the remarkable photos we had been shown.

In February, Jennifer Cowling is coming to tell us how to extend our fitness, our balance and our brain – all very useful skills! This is a fun taster session, with music. We will also be marking Valentine’s Day at this meeting.

Then in March we welcome back Melanie King. This speaker came in October last year to talk about our love of caffeine, on March 14th she returns to speak on a very different topic: spying in WWII. This evening is also WI Birthday Night, when we will celebrate 105 years of the WI in Steeple Aston.

Also in March, on Saturday 25th, florist Lottie Baxter returns to give a workshop on making a door wreath for Easter. Lottie has previously given us a workshop on Christmas wreaths which was very popular, and all those who attended were very pleased with the wreaths they made. The workshop is free to WI members and includes tuition, all materials and refreshments.

May I take this opportunity to welcome two new members. If you are interested in finding out more about the WI or are considering joining, please get in touch.

Cathy Lawday 01869 347209
cathy@lawdaymacandrew.co.uk



© Tom Way
Photo (left): A comical puffin
Photo (right): A water vole

Photo (opposite page): Christmas wreath makers with their creations





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We welcomed the new year with a look back at our favourite images from 2022. The range of genres from landscape to studio portraits, street, architectural, wildlife and action shots were all covered. It was interesting to hear the memories the shots invoked. It was a veritable tour around the world. I do urge you look at the photographs featured on our website as our favourites from 2022. We also welcomed five guests to our first meeting of the year. Hopefully we can encourage them to become members soon.

The next evening with a guest speaker, Scarlet Page, accomplished portrait photographer, will be on Wednesday 1st March at 7.30pm. Before then we have Mick Brittain talking about Photoshop and how that influences his photography. This is on Wednesday 1st February at 7.30pm at The Adderbury Institute. Do have a look on our website for further details.

Anne Hunsley
www.addphoto.co.uk

???? Mind Games

Word Builder

P	D	I
A	E	R
C	L	E

Answer the clues, using words which contain only letters from the grid.
ALL answers must include the letter in the shaded central square. Answers on page 36.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. to cease to be alive (3) | 12. what an item costs (5) |
| 2. a decorative fabric with holes (4) | 13. wept (5) |
| 3. told an untruth (4) | 14. a feeling of self-satisfaction (5) |
| 4. small cubes used in board games (4) | 15. a precious stone, produced from a grain of sand (5) |
| 5. to irritate, make someone angry (4) | 16. a fishing basket (5) |
| 6. a fruit (4) | 17. a baby's nappy in American English (6) |
| 7. to be on horseback or on a bicycle (4) . | 18. positioned (6) |
| 8. a kind of grass (4) | 19. reimbursed (6) |
| 9. not obscured in any way (5) | 20. to substitute (7) |
| 10. to beseech, beg (5) | |
| 11. walked, stepped (5) | |

Churchwardens' Chat



After the busy end of the year with decorations, candles and carols, with bells and handbells, mulled wine and mince pies, everything has calmed down a bit! It was a delight to have several well-attended positive services, with a full church and, especially at the Crib Service and the school Carol Service, to welcome so many families.

Now we begin the tramp through the rest of the winter months. Sometimes it does seem dark and cold and rather miserable and many people have had troubling coughs and colds. But light comes after the dark. Our usual church services continue to which all are welcome. It's good to worship together and enjoy some company. The warming cup of tea or coffee after morning service at Steeple Aston is always a cheerful and friendly moment to begin the week. Do come and join us. Times of services are on page 35.

We are always looking forward and planning ahead. Gardeners among us are suggesting that snowdrops might appear earlier than usual. We hope that there will still be a good display on 5th February, which is Snowdrop Sunday. From 2.30pm, do come to enjoy the snowdrops in the churchyard, have a cup of tea and cake with friends and perhaps buy a book to keep you company on one of those dark nights.

If you walk in the cemetery or look across at the Rectory from Fir Lane you might see various workmen's vans parked there. A number of improvements to the Rectory are being carried out by the Diocese before our new Rector moves in. No. The appointment hasn't been made yet, but we are creeping closer. Even as we write, Bishop Gavin (we hope) is completing the Parish Profile with an introductory letter. The Profile – a document to give details of the three churches in the Benefice which possible candidates will use to help them to decide whether to apply for the post – was formally signed off at a meeting in early January with the Acting Archdeacon. Soon the advertisement will appear, so we are hoping and praying that there will be a good field of applicants and among them the person who will just fit our Benefice! We'll keep you posted!

Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton, Churchwardens

Letter of thanks

Further to the Churchwardens' Chat in last month's edition of Steeple Aston Life, I would like to congratulate and thank all the parishioners who volunteer their services week in week out to ensure the running and upkeep of our village church. Services and concerts have continued through the interregnum period, which has been a Herculean task. The grounds continue to be maintained, the church is cleaned each week, flowers are displayed, bells are rung and of course, coffee is served at the end of each service. All this is done to provide a warm welcome for all.

Throughout this void the Churchwardens are responsible for ensuring that each service is conducted by a minister of the Church. This in itself is not an easy task. Many of the visiting clergy are retired ministers who have brought fresh and interesting themes to our Sunday mornings.

It is hoped that a new Rector can be appointed as soon as possible, but in the meantime, I believe that the goodwill and support of the village and all church members can help us navigate through what is a difficult time for everyone.

Ray Clarke

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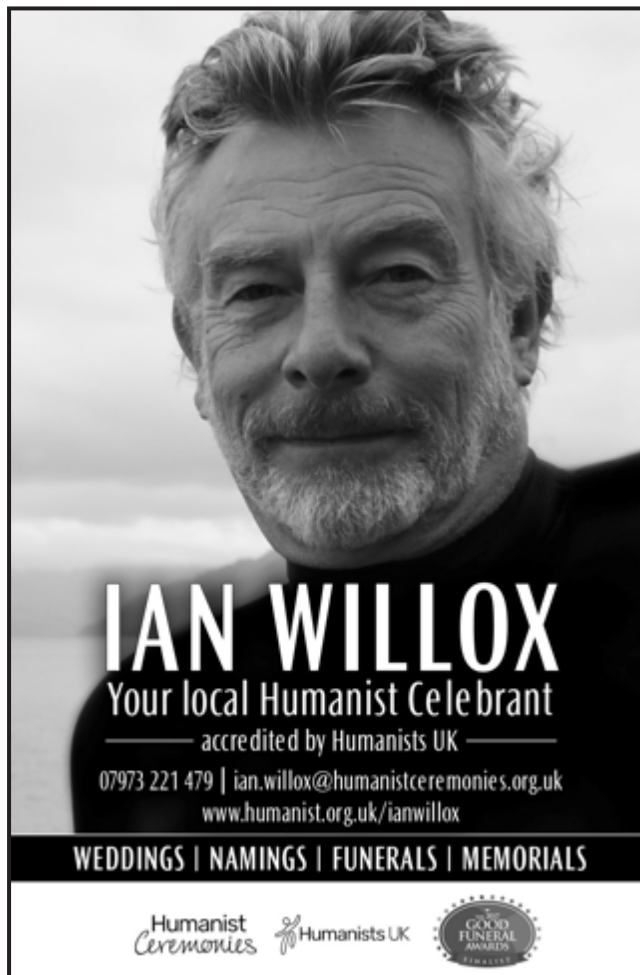
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Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
Sunday 5 th February	9.30am BCP Communion Rev. John Underwood	10.30am BCP Communion Rev. John Underwood	5.30pm Evensong Richard Bailey
Sunday 12 th February	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer	5.30pm Holy Communion Rev. Sue Spankie
Sunday 19 th February		10.30am United Benefice Rev. David Tyler Acting Archdeacon	
Wednesday 22 nd February	10am and 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Services at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock		
Sunday 26 th February	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	9.30am Family Communion Rev. John Underwood
Details of the people leading some of the services have not been confirmed as we go to press www.sntchurch.com			

Word builder answers

See page 32

1 die, 2 lace, 3 lied, 4 dice, 5 rile, 6 pear,
7 ride, 8 reed, 9 clear, 10 plead,
11 paced, 12 price, 13 cried, 14 pride, 15
pearl, 16 creel, 17 diaper, 18 placed,
19 repaid, 20 replace



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Secretary	Margaret Bullement (01869-347346)

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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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Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays and most public holidays

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

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Rubbish bin collection day is Thursday

February 2023

2nd Green
9th Blue and brown
16th Green
23rd Blue and brown



March 2023

2nd Green
9th Blue and brown
16th Green
23rd Blue and brown
30th Green

Food caddy is collected weekly

Steeple Aston Calendar

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

FEBRUARY			
Wednesday 1st	AD&D Photographic Society. Mick Brittain talking about Photoshop	Adderbury Institute	2.30 to 4.30pm
Sunday 5th	'Snowdrop Sunday'	Churchyard	2.30 to 4.30pm
Tuesday 7th	Garden Club. Andy Howard: 'Fruit through the Seasons'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30m
Tuesday 14th	SAL March 2023 copy and advert deadlines		
Tuesday 14th	WI. Speaker: Jennifer Cowling: 'Extend your fitness, your balance & your brain'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Thursday 16th	Public Meeting on 47 more houses in Steeple Aston	Village Hall	7.30pm
Monday 20th	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Tuesday 21st	Valentine Club. 'Firefighter on Tour' with Kevin Allen	Village Hall	2.30pm
Saturday 25th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 25th	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
MARCH			
Wednesday 1st	AD&D Photographic Society. Scarlet Page, accomplished portrait photographer	Adderbury Institute	2.30 to 4.30pm
Tuesday 14th	WI. Speaker: Melanie King: 'Spying in WWII'. Birthday Night	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Tuesday 14th	SAL April 2023 copy and advert deadlines		
Monday 20th	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Tuesday 21st	Valentine Club. 'How to protect your future'	Village Hall	2.30pm
Saturday 25th	Workshop – free to WI members. Lottie Baxter: Make an Easter door wreath. Includes tuition, all materials, refreshments.	Village Hall	10.00am to 12 noon
Saturday 25th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 25th	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm

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

Badminton. Village Hall - 8pm - Thursdays

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

Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee

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