

Steeple Aston *Life*

January 2023 Issue No. 593



- Messiah concert • Wassail evening • New Year Quiz •
- Poetry Corner • Valentine Club • Churchwardens' Chat •

HARRIS'S STORES & POST OFFICE

Opening hours:
7.30am - 7.30pm (Mon-Fri)
8.00am - 7.30pm (Sat)
8.00am - 6.00pm (Sun)

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

*Fresh bread from Nash's Bakery.
Fresh meat and poultry.
Quality frozen fish and sea-food.
Organic free-range eggs.
Bread rolls and baguettes baked daily on the premises.
Cakes: a taste of home-made.
Off-licence with a wide range of beers,
wines and spirits.
Fresh fruit and vegetables.
Top-up for mobiles, gas and electric.
Fax and photocopying services.
Dry cleaning agent.
National Lottery tickets and much more.
Thank you all for your continued support.
Please let us know of any ideas or suggestions you
may have of ways in which we can extend our services to you.
Tel: 01869 340201
e-mail: raj4878@hotmail.com*

[COMPUTERPRO]

IT Support & Computer Repair



Repairs & Upgrades



Phone & Tablet



Wifi Issues & Installation



Online Security



Data Backup & Recovery



Onsite Support



Cloud Services



Remote Support



New & Refurb Machines



Recycling Service

Supporting Oxfordshire's homes & small businesses for over 20 years

01869 352002

hello@computer-pro.co.uk www.computer-pro.co.uk
The Old Forge Building, North Green, Kirtlington, OX5 3JZ

John Dovey

—FCCA—

**Chartered Certified Accountant
& Registered Auditor**

- Limited companies, Partnerships & Sole traders
- Accounts prepared
- Self Assessment Tax Return completion
- Book-keeping services
- New business start-ups
- Personal & Corporate tax advice
- Company secretarial services
- VAT and payroll

email: jmd@johndovey.co.uk
telephone: 01869 233003
mobile: 07801 658328

ACCA



Kirtlington Property Maintenance

- *Local and Reliable – Home & Garden Improvements/Maintenance/Repairs.*
- *Painting & Decorating internal & external, household repairs, various jobs inside & out.*
- *Garden Maintenance, pressure washing, landscaping including fencing, gates, decking, turfing, patios, driveways, shed/base installation etc.*
- *Competitive Rates, references available on request and fully insured.*
- *No job is too small – Please call Noel Price on 07884185171 or 01869 351619 or email noelprice@btinternet.com www.kirtlingtonpropertymaintenance.com*
- *For Domestic and Commercial Cleaning please call Jayne Price on 07795055202*



January 2023: CONTENTS

Click on the item's page number below to go straight to its page. To return to Contents, click on the page number at the foot of any page.

| JANUARY FEATURES | PAGE | REPORTS FROM CLUBS & SOCIETIES | PAGE |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Leaving the PC | 17 | AD&D Photographic Society | 33 |
| SACS Messiah Concert | 19 | Garden Club | 29 |
| Wassail Evening | 20/21 | Valentine Club | 25 |
| Church Building Project | 33 | WI Report | 31 |
| REGULAR FEATURES | PAGE | INFORMATION | PAGE |
| Arts Page | 11 | Bus times | 37 |
| Churchwardens' Chat | 32 | Church Services | 35 |
| Editorial | 5 | Rubbish bin collection dates | 37 |
| Gardening Spot | 13 | Steeple Aston Calendar | 38 |
| Mind Games: New Year Quiz | 15 | Steeple Aston Directory | 4 |
| Mindgames: Quiz answers | 30 | Steeple Aston Noticeboard | 6/7 |
| Poetry Corner | 23 | Village Hall News | 29 |
| Steeple People | 9 | | |

There was no Parish Council meeting in December.
Steeplejack will be back in the February issue

Cover: Photo by Nigel Francis

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

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

COPY DEADLINES

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

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

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

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The deadline for adverts is the 14th 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 | | 572039 |
| 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*

January 2023

Issue No. 593

Editor: Robert Scott
editorsalife@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vaughan Billings
01869 340857

Secretary: Jenny Taylor
01869 340551

Advertising:
Charlotte Bartlett
01869 347347
salife.advertising@gmail.com

Deliveries:
Stuart & Penny Cummins
01869 349155
cummins2011@outlook.com

Layout design:
Edward Dowler, Martin Lipson

Committee:
Jenny Bell, Sue McLean,
Nigel Francis

Editorial

"If I had my way, I would remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead." – **Roald Dahl, novelist, 1918-1990.**

January is named after the Roman god Janus. He has two faces, allowing him to look back to the old year and forward to the new year.

Now, more than ever, it seems appropriate to wish you a 'Happy New Era'. We are entering the fifth month of the reign of King Charles III in the second Carolean era (the name comes from the Latin word for Charles). Later this year we have the coronation on Saturday 6th May, plus a celebratory bank holiday on the following Monday. May will now see three bank holidays as the early May bank holiday on the 1st of the month and the spring bank holiday on the 29th are both retained.

After a long hot summer, we are now experiencing a cold winter, but hopefully not as glacial as 'The Big Freeze' of 1962-63. The Thames froze over in Oxford, with a car being driven over the river on 22 January 1963.

The January birth flowers are the carnation and the snowdrop. At one time, the carnation was used to treat fevers. In the first Elizabethan era it was a substitute for the more expensive clove to spice wine and ale. An essential oil extracted from the flower is used in aromatherapy.

The snowdrop is usually the earliest garden flower to bloom. It appears in late winter or early spring, sometimes when snow is still on the ground. According to one Christian story, an angel turned snowflakes into snowdrops and gave them to Adam and Eve as a sign of hope after they were banished from the Garden of Eden. Extract of snowdrop was used by ancient Greeks for its mind-altering effects. However, be aware that plant contains poisonous alkaloids, particularly in the bulbs. Eating these can cause vomiting and diarrhoea. Snowdrops are also toxic to cats and dogs.

Steeple Aston celebrates 'Snowdrop Sunday' in the churchyard, this year on 5th February (see page 16). There is usually an attractive display of the flowers at this time.

Robert

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023

Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Church Bells for King Charles

More bell ringers urgently required to ring for the Coronation of King Charles

Steeple Aston is in urgent need of new people to come forward and learn the ancient art of Church Bellringing. Although we just about manage to ring the bells at present, most of our ringers have been ringing for over 50 years so some younger members are required to come forward and learn. Read Jon McLoone's excellent article in the January 2022 edition of SAL which gives an insight into what happens.

A recruitment drive is needed to train more people to ring for the coronation in May of King Charles. We practise on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm to 9.00pm. If you are interested to find out more, or have a go, please come along and have a look or give me a bell (no pun intended).

In a recent letter in The Times newspaper it was described as 'Sexy Campanology', where you can make music without being a musician, connect with your heritage, learn arcane bell-language, commune with ringers and get a very respectable upper body workout into the bargain.



I am not sure that's exactly as we would describe it, but please consider joining us and help keep our bells ringing for another 500 years. Anyone from about 11 years old can learn.

Visit <https://steepleastonbellringers.com>

Graham Clifton 01869 347273

Food bank

A HUGE THANK YOU to people who have so kindly donated to the food bank collection hub which we set up at the church. As you appreciate, this is an ongoing effort. However, we are so grateful for the generosity of folk especially as we built up to Christmas. We are delivering these gifts to the Trussell Trust every week and they have expressed much gratitude.

Please keep donations coming to help relieve people's hardship.

Martin Dale

Steeple Aston Online

There is a new email address to contact the editor of the Steeple Aston Online website:
steepleastonwebeditor@gmail.com



Spring is just around the corner

In less than 12 weeks the clocks will have advanced to longer evenings and, hopefully, the sun will be shining and the spring flowers will be out in their full glory. And with that in mind, just a simple reminder of the 'Annual Spring Flower Show' to be held in the village hall on Sunday 26th March. A full schedule of classes is to be found on page 18.



Have a close look at the schedule and see what you can do now to prepare for the show. For instance, you could be taking photographs in readiness for classes such as 'Aston Animals' – the winner of this class will be used on the new village social media site. A photograph with the subject title of 'Wheels' to be taken in black-and-white, or maybe a photo of 'Wet', or the colour 'Yellow'? It is also that time of the year to make Seville orange marmalade, so why not keep a jar for the show? And have a look at the handicraft section as there are plenty of ideas to keep you occupied throughout the remainder of these dark winter evenings. Any questions, just send an email or give me a call.

Photo of flooding at Rousham Bridge by Stuart Cummins.

Richard Preston – 340512

email – Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com

The Arty Crafty Place is becoming The Indian Block Print Co.

Over the years, we have witnessed and experienced first-hand the positive impact that creativity and craft have on mental health and wellbeing. We have grown as a company and over time we have increasingly channelled our focus into our love of block printing. We felt that those of you who meet us at shows and in our studio in Middle Aston can see who we are and everything we are about, but that our business name and how we show up on our website didn't reflect that. We also felt it wasn't really clear to everyone what we do and – most importantly – why we do it. We decided it was about time we fully captured and celebrated everything that is special about who we are and what we do and shared with you our vision for well-being via the joy of traditional craft.

We believe in a good life for all – for us, for our carvers in India and most importantly for you. We believe in honing a craft, using our hands and getting into a creative flow to improve well-being. We also passionately believe that block printing is an art truly accessible to all. As such, we are dedicated to providing the tools, support and space to help anyone find lasting joy through craftsmanship and creativity.

You'll always find a warm welcome and loads of inspiration at our cosy studio at Unit 2 Lakeside Farm Business Park, Middle Aston, so please do pop in for a cuppa, a chat and a browse anytime. We're open Monday-Friday 10am to 4:30pm and occasional Saturdays, or you can give us a call on 01869 349020.

See page 39.

MATHEW DAVIES

Experienced Painter
and Decorator
Interior and Exterior

Mobile:
07877 829576

Email:
mathewdavies686@gmail.com

City & Guilds qualified

Vehicle damaged?
Don't delay, repair it today

» Bumper Scuffs? » Paint Scratches? » Minor Dents?



“Very impressed with the overall service. Great job on the paintwork repair. Awesome customer service.”

Call or go online today for your FREE estimate



ChipsAway

LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED



0800 028 7878

www.chipsaway.co.uk



**MOBILE HAIRDRESSING IN THE COMFORT
& SAFETY OF YOUR OWN HOME**



Friendly, mobile hairdressing service
for the Cherwell district.



All equipment fully sanitized before
every appointment for your protection.



Fully insured and DBS checked.



30 years hair cutting experience.

call DAVID on 07775 806655 or 01869 346910

david@cutshair.co.uk • www.davidcutshair.com

Steeple People



Abigail Boisot



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

Where did you move from? Acton in London.

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? I love walking down Cow Lane to see the Eyecatcher every day. It is my muse!

Is there anything you don't like about living here? I don't like the shooting season, it disrupts the peace and quiet and is a dreadful, cruel 'sport'.

How has the village changed in the time you've been here?

It hasn't really changed, some people have come and gone.

Where do you think of as 'home'? Steeple Aston.

Give a potted history of yourself – in 40 words or less. Born in London, grew up in France until I was sent to boarding school on a windy cliff in Brighton at the age of 8! Spent sixth form clubbing in London, had to reinvent myself, moved to Boston, USA, went to Mass College of Art for four years to study painting, fell in love with a Catalan in my final year, moved to Barcelona, worked in publishing for nine years, then met my husband and moved back to London in 2005, where I went back to art school.

How do you see yourself, in five words or less? Compassionate, creative, funny, very busy.

How do others see you, in five words or less? Angry, creative, crazy, caring (words by my daughter!). Just lovely (words by my son!).

What do your family or friends find most annoying about you? My husband has given me a list.

What do your family or friends find most endearing about you? My husband says he can't tell me!

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist? Early bird, definitely dog, optimist.

Technology: friend or foe? To marmite or not? Friend although I struggle with it, love marmite!

What was the best thing about being a child? Being completely carefree and being outside all day long!

What is the best thing about being an adult? Speaking my mind and not caring about what other people think.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a vet, but would have been terrible as I can't stand to see animals suffering.

What was your first job? I was a coat check at Joe's Cafe in London, I once hid a half-eaten pain au chocolat in someone's pocket as a customer came in and forgot which coat I had put it in!

What do you do for a living now? I am a teaching artist and work for an educational consultancy in Oxford.

What is the best job you've ever done? I love the job I do now!

What is the worst job you've ever done? Working at a venture capital firm in Boston as an events planner.

What's your secret/guilty pleasure? Chocolate.

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have. I like rescuing dogs, much to my husband's fury! I would have more if I was allowed...

What's your favourite piece of music? I love Fauré's Requiem, but haven't been able to listen to it since my father's funeral.

What is your all-time favourite book? The Magus by John Fowles.

What's your favourite food? I love curry.

What would you save from your house if it was on fire? Assuming my husband can walk, my children and all our pets!

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

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? A huge piece of land to rewild.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? I used to want to go to Borneo, but I think I would just feel depressed by deforestation.

What do you do to relax? I walk the dogs in the countryside.

Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive? My father, Mozart, Jane Goodall and David Attenborough.

If you were on a desert island, what would you miss most? My family and dogs; a good pillow.

What do you get grumpy/mad about? Brexit, The Tories, Politics, hunting – the list is endless!

What makes you happiest in the world? Being on a beach with my family and dogs.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really bad at. Sewing! I got a friend to make my mother a sponge bag at school and pretended I'd done it.

The Red Lion

South Side, Steeple Aston

01869 572039

www.theredlionsteepleaston.co.uk

Opening Hours

12pm to 3pm Tuesday to Saturday

5pm to 11pm Tuesday to Saturday

12pm to 8pm Sunday



Stonebaked Pizza, Burgers, Chicken Wings and Desserts – Eat in or Takeaway

Lunchtime 12pm – 2.30pm, Evening 5pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday Cask Day – 50p off any Hooky Cask

Wednesday night offer – half price wings

Thursday – half price burgers

Plus new Specials every week

Roast Sunday Lunches every Sunday

Booking only by phone



Under New Management ●

Visit your local plant nursery and enjoy browsing our range of plants, shrubs, and trees.

Swallows Nursery & Plant Centre

Formerly Anna's Garden Services of Steeple Aston. Garden Club members receive 10% discount on all plants.

New! Haddonstone garden urns and ornaments

Contact us

Phone

01280 811003

Website

www.swallowsnursery.co.uk

Email

enq@swallowsnursery.co.uk



Open daily

Evenley Road, Mixbury,
Brackley, NN13 5RR
Oxfordshire



**SWALLOWS
NURSERY**
AND PLANT CENTRE

The ARTS Page



Happy New Year.

Elsewhere in this issue is a review of the SACC Messiah Concert. Suffice to say, what a terrific achievement for the village. Next concert: 2nd April 'Choral Classics'. William Byrd wrote in 1588, "Since singing is so good a thing, I wish all men would learn to sing". Let's update that to "everyone" and do be in touch via the website (steepleaston.org.uk) if you want to sing. All welcome.

On the Choral theme, amongst a plethora of choral activity in and around Oxford, I mention two choirs that caught my eye, celebrating two major composers.

The Oxford Bach Soloists (oxfordbachsoloists.com) with three Bach Motet Concerts in New College Chapel at 2.30pm on Sundays 8th January, 5th February and 5th March. A newish group and extremely good.

2023 is the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd – one of the true greats. Stile Antico, an outstanding group, are in the University Church, Oxford, on Friday 27th January at 8pm, with the music of Byrd. Tickets from: <https://www.stileantico.co.uk/events/2023/01/27/englands-nightingale>

Here I flag up two terrific local orchestras. The Oxford Symphony Orchestra (oxfordsymphonyorchestra.org.uk) on Saturday 18th March, in Oxford Town Hall, with the ever-wonderful Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2, of 'Brief Encounter' fame, and Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra, a humdinger and one of the 20th century greats.

The Banbury Symphony Orchestra (banburysymphony.com) in Deddington Church on Saturday 25th March with a programme including Amy Beach's 'Gaelic Symphony'. This is the first symphony composed and published by a female American composer. So much more music by female composers is being performed now – well done BSO!

We have two literary festivals on our doorstep. The Oxford Literary Festival (oxfordliteraryfestival.org) from 25th March to 2nd April. A gallimaufry of literary talent on offer, too many to list here! Also, the Chipping Norton Literary Festival (chiplitfest.com), 27th to 30th April. Yet to announce, but also no slouch in inviting distinguished writers. They also run a 'short story competition' – any takers? - and have 'fantastic fun things for children' and is 'an exceptionally welcoming festival'.

Three other thoughts. I've mentioned before the enterprising Oxford Story Museum – Oxford's Family Museum (storymuseum.org), again check them out. "Stories are the most important thing in the world. Without stories we wouldn't be human beings at all" – Philip Pullman.

The Old Fire Station in Oxford (oldfirestation.org.uk) has a wide, eclectic variety, but their 'Robin Hood – The People's Pantomime', for ages 6+, looks intriguing. Performed by the Oxford People's Theatre (oxfordpeoplestheatre.com) 19th to 21st January. New to me, worth checking them out, it looks fascinating.

As is the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury (themillartscentre.co.uk), with a large variety of popular events, including lots of classes and workshops that could help dispel the January blues.

Friday 10th March, 6.30pm at Steeple Aston Church, sees a concert to flag up the Lord's Taverners May weekend (20th/21st). This wonderful charity for disabled and disadvantaged children (lordstaverners.org) was started by actors and musicians. Details to follow.

Let's hope this year sees some more sense in Arts Council funding, especially the English National Opera situation. Let's also hope the Arts bring you joy and nourishment in 2023.

Nicholas Cleobury



North Aston Organics

Veg boxes collected locally
or delivered to your door

For more details, please contact
northastonorganics@gmail.com

JOHN WHITWORTH TREE SURGERY



BODICOTE COTTAGE
16 HIGH STREET
BODICOTE
OXFORDSHIRE
OX15 4BS

Tel/Fax: 01295 268170

Mobile: 07970 154552



ESTATE AGENTS

Alistair Redhouse

ESTATE AGENTS



LETTING AGENTS

"I highly recommend Alistair Redhouse. I've bought and sold my property with these guys whilst also purchasing and selling with separate agents. They stand head and shoulders above the competition. They are extremely responsive throughout the whole process and know exactly what they are doing. Other agents valued my property lower than 'AR' and it was sold within a week."

★★★★★ - Google Review

"As first-time renters in the Kidlington area, we couldn't be happier with Alistair Redhouse - they are an all round wonderful agency! Ben (who was our first port of call when signing the lease) is incredibly personable and an absolute joy to chat to! And the same can be said for everyone at the agency, including Adam and Michelle, who were consistently helpful with any house-related queries. I would recommend them wholeheartedly!"

★★★★★ - Google Review



www.aredhouse.co.uk 01865364541



The Gardening Spot

Time for a fresh start!

I guess you are all thinking the same as me, what on earth can this old man tell me to do in the garden during what is probably the coldest and most inhospitable month of the year? Well first, and most important, do not go on the garden if it is covered in snow as you might get lost! If the ground is wet and waterlogged, keep off! If you are feeling the cold, then best stay indoors! So, going back to my original question, what on earth can we do in the garden?

January is the perfect time to plant bare-root shrubs, roses and trees, provided the ground is not frosted. Dig out a hole that will accommodate the roots when they are spaced out, in other words, untangle any roots. Add some organic matter in the hole, back-fill with soil and firm. If dry, water well! If you fancy some more snowdrops in your garden, then now is the time as they are best planted 'in the green'. Put another way, once the blooms start to fade.

Keep clearing waste matter such as dying stems and leaves and place them on the compost heap. Winter prune fruit trees such as apples and pears, removing dead wood and branches which cross and come into contact with each other. If possible, open the middle of the tree to allow passage of air, thus reducing mildew or bacterial damage. If you grow rhubarb, try covering some of it with a bucket or similar to force some early stems. If you grow spring cabbage, give them a high nitrogen feed to encourage plenty of leafy stems and – as I keep saying – clear the veggy patch as soon as you can and dig in some organic matter, allowing the frosts to break down the soil so that it is ready to sow seeds in the spring.

In the greenhouse, if you haven't already, tidy the place up and remove anything which might harbour insects such as old packets, broken pots and general rubbish. Then, if the greenhouse is completely empty, spray over with a disinfectant such as Jeyes Fluid, which should in turn, help to reduce any bad bugs that are hiding in the nooks and crannies of the structure. If you have the space, plant a few strawberry plants in a container in the greenhouse for an early crop, but don't forget to water them!

Ideally, this is the month to prepare for the new season that is only a few weeks away. Check your fences and repair if necessary. Service your lawn mower so that it is ready to cut the grass come late March. Clear paths and steps, removing moss and debris. Scrub your pots and seed trays to reduce infection in plants come the spring. And don't forget the birds during these dark days of winter.

Now, here is a little story about an old man. For years he had grown vegetables that won prizes for him at the local flower show. The garden was not that large, but the soil was very compacted and hard to dig and unfortunately, his son, who usually dug the garden, was a guest of His Majesty somewhere on Dartmoor. What shall I do, asked the elderly man to his friend? Well, his friend, a learned sort of guy, came up with the perfect answer. Why don't you write to your son and ask him what might be the best solution? I'll do just that said the old gardener, so off he went to write a letter to his son, asking for his advice. The weeks went by with no reply until one day, the postman came up the garden path with a letter marked on the outside, 'from HM Service'. So excited was the old man that he opened the letter, and this is what he found. "Dad, I am sorry to hear about your predicament, but please do not dig up the garden as that is where I have buried the bodies!"

Happy New Year to all gardeners and everyone else for that matter.

Richard Preston – *and no, the story is not about me or any family member*

LiberHouse Garden Buildings

For the Business of Working from Home

With internal floor areas starting from 6 sqm (68 sq ft) up to our top of the Range Studio Multi at 20 sq m (215 sq ft), our Studio Range offers many possibilities.

Starting with a Studio One home office, you can add a separate storage space for garden tools, or you can add an external open space, or have both.

The Studio Multi with a shower room and a kitchen can be a granny flat or guest room and also be used for holiday/Airbnb lets.

With a choice of a flat roof, pitched roof or lean-to roof our buildings can be freestanding or can go up against a wall of the house to form an extension.

All our garden buildings carry a 10 year guarantee.

High Quality Garden Buildings built to your specific requirements

Made in Oxfordshire

design@liberhouse.co.uk www.liberhouse.co.uk



"Thank you for the excellent service through organising the planning approval, the delivery and the assembly. First rate and a nice change to deal with a company that really understands what the customer wants and then supplies it."

Happy to recommend you to friends and if someone would like to come and have a look at the finished job we would be delighted to show it off."

★★★★★

**Call now to find out more
01869 349825**

BACK PAIN, SPORTS INJURY & HEADACHE CLINIC

Especially for long term pain and problems

Hector Wells BSc (Hons), DO.

Laura Humphreys Osteopath

Both University Clinical Osteopath Tutors for over 15 years

- **Back, Neck, Sciatica, Frozen Shoulder**
- **Knees and Hips, Pregnancy Backs**
 - **Baby Sleep/Colic Clinic**
- **Recurrent Headaches, Migraine**
- **Mental Wellbeing Clinic (also postnatal)**

To avoid disrobing please wear leggings/joggers and T-shirt

Appointments (01295) 265267

Email: hector@the54clinic.com

www.the54clinic.com

54 Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9JR

Established 1991 (over 10,000 registered clients)



Spaces for hire!

Get to know our fabulous facilities

Deddington Studio

Ideal for dance and yoga classes

Clifton Room

Brilliant meeting space with AV

The Lookout

Kids' parties next to Adventure Playground
or hire our **All Weather Court**

Main Hall

Perfect for parties and performances

Hampton Lounge

Great for clubs, accessible

t: 07720 834006

www.thewindmillededdington.org

???? Mind Games

New Year Quiz (from Cathy Lawday)

1. Which letter of the alphabet does not appear in the name of any US state?
2. What do these cockney rhyming slang expressions mean?
a) whistle b) Ayrton Senna c) titfer
3. Who said:
I say to my daughter, 'That outfit is a little bit too risqué or revealing' and she looks at me and says, 'That's rich coming from you'.
4. What links these words?
King Jobs Seasick Fry Miller
5. Fill each gap with one of the following animals to make four sentences which are true.
Chimpanzees Elephants Mice Ants
a) navigate by the sun.
b) poo six times faster than dogs.
c) can be cured of depression by eating yoghurt.
d) have no interest in music.
6. What is the name of Dorothy's dog in 'The Wizard of Oz'?
7. Are these statements true or false?
a) 35% of Brits reckon they could outrun Tyrannosaurus Rex.
b) 90% of Brits make rectangular sandwiches
c) People who swear often are more honest than those who don't.
8. What links these words?
bob mullet beehive crew crop bangs
9. Who is the new...
... host of Mastermind?
... host of University Challenge?
... Dr Who?
10. What five-letter word can go before all these words?
_____ share _____ struggle _____ plant
_____ mad _____ dressing

Making words

How many words of four letters or more can you make using letters from **NEW YEAR**? You can only use each letter once in each word (apart from E, which can be used twice). There are at least 30 words, though you will be doing well to find 20.

Answers are on page 30.

Snowdrop Sunday

Sunday 5th February

2.30 – 4.30pm

Snowdrops in the churchyard
Homemade cake and tea £2
in the church

PLUS BOOKSTALL





Leaving the Parish Council

Me? On the Parish Council? No way! That was my reaction five years ago when a number of people suggested I should stand for election to the Parish Council. So what happened? Well, I allowed my arm to be twisted...twice. Once when I was persuaded to stand for election; then again when I was asked to take over as Chair.

To my surprise, I've had a fascinating and rewarding five years. To be sure, there are irritations. There are in any job, paid or voluntary. But overall it has been an intensely rich learning experience. I've met a lot of interesting people. I now know far more about the village than I did before, though still not nearly as much as Stuart Ferguson. And I hope I've made a positive contribution to life in Steeple Aston.

It was only when I joined it that I realised how much the Parish Council does and what a difference it makes. Over the last five years we have sorted out a number of local issues and set up several new initiatives. For example, the white lines on South Side ensure the bus always gets through these days. Our representation of local opinion about the development at Hatch End contributed to Cherwell's refusal of their planning application. We have acquired defibrillators for the village. We were able to accept the gift of the Community Orchard and set up a committee to run it. We've established an Environment and Sustainability Committee to improve all our lives in a 'green' way. And during the first lockdown we co-ordinated volunteers to run errands for the most vulnerable residents, which contributed towards keeping the village almost entirely free of Covid during the early, most serious days of the pandemic.

You could easily be part of this. You don't need special skills or experience to be a Parish Councillor. In fact, the more diverse the Parish Council is, the better. Practical skills are as just as useful as professional or academic abilities. The PC needs a mixture of men and women, older and younger, so that it can hear, and represent, the views of the whole village. We need people who would like to contribute towards improving the village in whatever way they can. Yes, this is a recruitment plug. You should seriously think about joining the PC, whatever your age, gender, background, skills or education. Let your arm be twisted. Talk to me (01869 347209), or to Cathy Fleet, our Parish Clerk (01869 347000).

Now that I've been Chair for nearly five years, you might well be asking, "Why are you leaving?" I'm giving up because any organisation regularly needs some new inspiration, new ideas, and sometimes someone new in charge. I feel the time has come for that.

From a more personal point of view, as many of you know, my wife Cathy has Parkinson's Disease. Her health is pretty good considering she's had the condition for over 20 years, but it is not getting any better. As we approach 'late middle age', we both want to slow down a little. Whilst we are still reasonably active, we'd like more time with our grandchildren, and for ourselves.

There is already a vacancy on the PC that needs to be filled; and there will be another one when I leave. To put it bluntly, we need bums on seats. There are plans in the pipeline that will need active involvement and decision-making. The playground needs constant upkeep and possibly further renovation. A decision needs to be made about Pocket Park and how to develop that. We are still in the process of getting subleases for the Village Hall and the Sports and Recreation Centre to make it easier for them to get grants in the future. And doubtless new, interesting and unforeseen challenges will arise which require creative and practical solutions. Please think about giving up some of your time and joining us. Your village needs you.

Richard MacAndrew

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 8 weeks*
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 |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Name..... | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | |
| Address..... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tel No | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | |
| If entering Division 5 - Age on day of Show | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parent's consent to entry: | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SEASONAL MUSIC IN STEEPLE ASTON

A festive season without music and singing was always unthinkable until the pandemic reared its ugly head, but now we fully appreciate what we used to take for granted, there is no holding back.

The season would not be complete without Handel's *Messiah*. Steeple Aston Choral Society, combined with friends from Woodstock Choral Society; soloists Angela Kazimierczuk, Rebecca Lewin, Guy Harpole and Paul Badley, and the two organists Paul Herrington and Nick Cleobury, gave an impressive and uplifting performance of the highlights of this well-loved oratorio, conducted by Paul Badley, in Steeple Aston church (photo below). The concert was dedicated to the memory of Margaret Mason, who supported both *SACS* and *WCS*, and her family continuing that were seated in the front pews with Roger happily back in his place, in the choir's tenor section.

Comments from Bev Davies, a (sadly, on this occasion) non-singing *SACS* member:

Paul Badley's first tenor recitative was a delightful surprise to those who had not realised that the conductor would have dual roles in the concert. He turned to face the audience filling the church with his powerful voice, setting the musical standard for the night at a high level.

The choir's first chorus opened with great confidence and real commitment which continued throughout the whole performance. It was obvious to the audience that there was a real sense of joy as the choir put all their hard rehearsal work into practice, mastering the technical hurdles that Handel presented in his work. They were swept up by the glory of the music and passed that glory on to those who listened.

The soloists moved effortlessly into place and their exquisite voices added such powerful impressive drama and enchanting sensitivity, leaving the audience delighted.

The sharing of the organ accompaniment was not explained until the end, so no one realised that there was anything unusual happening. The smooth transition between the two indefatigable organists at various points in the concert is to be commended, as is their skilful and balanced playing of the difficult accompaniment in a church with very poor sightlines.

After a joyful intermission of happy conversations, with wine and nibbles from the Bass Boys, the concert continued, with the performance maintaining its high quality and rising, with the Amen chorus, to its thrilling conclusion. A breath-taking achievement overall and, from the enthusiastic clapping at the end of the concert, the appreciation was clear.



Wassail Evening – Sunday 11th December

The traditional Wassail Evening in the Village Hall is a time when villagers gather to have a fun evening, eat mince pies, drink the odd glass of mulled wine and sing seasonal favourites together.

Paul Herrington on piano and keyboard/organ and Holly Viner on violin, produced some wonderful arrangements of old favourites from *Rock You Merry Gentlemen*, to a seven-carol medley, via *Joy to the World* and *Jingle-Bell Rock*, that had the whole audience singing its socks off.

The Wandering Wassailers (aka SACS members) provided a Dvorak/Hovis advert backing for Alan Brewer's plea of *What Have They Done To My Christmas?* and later were joined by two lovely young local Ukrainian ladies, to perform the Ukrainian *Carol of the Bells*.

There were other memorable moments, from the WIssailers performing a poem by Cathy Lawday about 'thoughtful' presents, Eileen Baglin-Jones reading Joyce Grenfell's *Nativity Play*, Lorraine Watling's nativity impersonation of the Angel Gabriel – complete with halo – to the arrival of the (semi-frozen) Handbell Ringers. The youngest members of the group were performing for the first time in front of an audience and they did very well indeed. It was interesting to see that whatever size you are, there's a bell for you. Later, there was a collection for the bellringers' charity, *Maggie's Centre*.

Roger Mason and Barbara Brewer were kept busy providing a steady stream of mulled wine and mince pies to keep everyone warm, although the most energetic performance of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* for years kept the whole hall glowing.

As SAL goes to press, there is still one seasonal sing yet to happen – the Carol Service – directed by Nick Cleobury. For me, if you have not sung 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' (with descant, for us sopranos) at least four times, Christmas has not arrived.

Waes-hael and Happy New Year!

Bev Davies





Photos by Nigel Francis

JLDA

Design, Planning Applications, Listed Building Consents & Building Regulations Applications, Construction Drawings

A complete service for all your building needs, including New Builds, all types of Extensions, Internal Alterations as well as Loft and Garage Conversions

"JLDA has done 3 designs for us. The first one has transformed our lives. It was a ground floor extension and involved redesigning our kitchen as well. The work was of the highest quality and the level of service excellent. We were very much involved in the process of design but the bureaucratic requirements such as Design, Planning permission were expertly handled by JLDA."

★★★★★

Call now to discuss the project you have in mind

01869 349825
design@jlda.co.uk
www.jlda.co.uk

NOAHSARK Painting Company

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL DECORATION

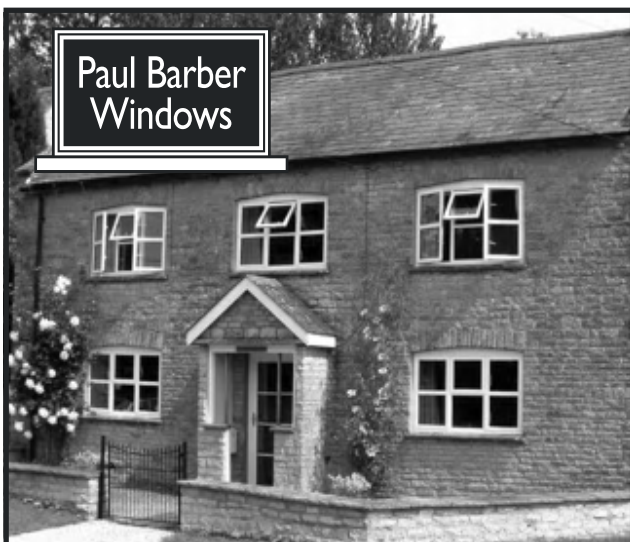
All forms of interior and exterior painting and decorating, specialising in murals.



T: 01295 811026
E: pete@noahsarkpainting.co.uk
W: noahsarkpainting.co.uk

Pebsham Cottage, Aynho Road, Adderbury
Oxfordshire, OX17 3NL

Paul Barber Windows



T: 07836 623407

E: paul@paulbarberwindows.co.uk
www.paulbarberwindows.co.uk

OVER 30 YEARS
EXPERIENCE



WINDOWS ■ SECONDARY GLAZING
RESIDENTIAL DOORS ■ FOLDING DOORS

lawrence furnishings RE-UPHOLSTERY CURTAINS

FAMILY BUSINESS
TRADING SINCE 1978

WORKSHOP WITH SMALL
TEAM OF FULLY QUALIFIED
PROFESSIONAL CRAFTSMEN

FREE HOME VISITS WITH
DETAILED QUOTATIONS

COMPLIMENTARY
INTERIOR DESIGN

SHOWROOM WITH
INSPIRING FABRICS



01280 704 437

8d Boundary Road Brackley NN13 7ES
www.lawrencefurnishings.co.uk • info@lawrencefurnishings.co.uk

LFB LINDS INTERIOR DESIGN FOR WINDOWS • SUPERIOR SERVICE & PRODUCTS

07966 622 053 • Matthew Newman • info@lfbblinds.co.uk

CURTAIN DEPARTMENT NOW CLOSED



Drink this in!

This is a non-seasonal offering, but is a tip I wish to share following the publication of research indicating that a solution of alcohol and water can, come the summer, improve drought resistance in plants.

research has shown that alcohol
diluted in a mix
produces drought resistance in your plants
it helps them fix
the nutrients and by the by means they don't
have to drink
as much and this took hold in me and gave me
pause to think
I took my wat'ring can and mixed some water
with some wine
and offered to my lawn this brew
then paused to give it time
the drought bit in my grass survived
without an if or but
and as an added bonus when it grew
it was half cut

Peter Wild

January blues

What is the point of January?
The most miserable month of the year
Overcast in weather and mood
No brightness, no cheer.

It's dark first thing in the morning,
Then it's dark again at night,
We all get seasonal depression
From the shortage of sunlight.

Fogs, mists, haar and fret
Frosts and hailstorms too
Cold, dull, grey and wet
And everyone has the flu.

And what of historical interest
Has happened in this month so horrid?
King Charles was beheaded, Churchill died
And Admiral Lord Nelson was buried.

All you can do is sit and wait
Just hold on for 31 days
There is no point in bemoaning your fate
No matter how heavy time weighs.

I feel little enthusiasm
For doing anything
I'll just hunker down with a book
And hibernate till spring.

Cathy Lawday

Shaun Guard TV & WIFI SERVICES

- **Aerials** - supplied, repaired and poor reception solved
- **Satellite** - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installations
- **Internet** - blackspots cured, internal & external data cabling
- **TVs** - hung on your wall or set up & tuned

 **OXFORD AERIALS**
www.oxfordaerials.co.uk
shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk
Call Bicester 01869 879111



Market 9am - 12.30pm
SATURDAY 28 JANUARY

With over 40 stalls offering the very best in local produce, beer, bread, crafts, eggs, fish, flowers, fruit, meat, preserves, patisserie, ready-made meals including international cuisines, vegetables, gluten free food and so much more...

For more information visit:
www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk
 or call 01869 337 940



Hearing Healthcare Clinic of the Year



Central England
Prestige Awards
Winner 2021/22

Connect to Better Hearing with SJB HEARING COMPANY

Visit us for:

- Comprehensive Hearing Assessments
- Earwax Removal with Endoscopic micro-suction
- State-of-the-Art Hearing Solutions • Friendly, Impartial Advice
- Bespoke Hearing Protection for shooting, motorcyclists & music

Visit our Deddington Centre,
call **01869 254 019** to book.

Bookings by appointment only - We're open 5 days a week!



ABOUT SJB HEARING
COMPANY LTD

Sarah-Jane Brown is an experienced Hearing Aid Audiologist and has been working in the Banbury area for the past 7 years. She has built up a strong reputation and has helped hundreds of local people to improve their hearing and overall health & wellbeing.

"I'm looking forward to welcoming you all into my clinic and helping with your hearing health needs."

Sarah-Jane Brown



SJB HEARING COMPANY LTD

"Where your hearing comes first"

call us on: 01869 254 019

visit our website: www.sjbhearingcompany.co.uk



THE VALENTINE CLUB

It is here already, so Happy New Year Everyone. First, let me give you an idea of what is in store for The Valentine Club this year. In our programme for 2023 we have arranged two coach holidays, have informative presentations from Trading Standards, ways to secure your financial future and services available from AGE UK. We have visiting acts coming to entertain us and believe it or not, Elvis is alive and appearing at Steeple Aston Village Hall just for those of us who actually remember him. We have numerous coach trips taking us to the seaside, the National Space Station, the National Memorial Arboretum and many more locations. We have even chartered a river cruiser all to ourselves to enjoy a relaxing cruise down the River Thames and, of course, a meal is included. And not forgetting our annual Christmas dinner which is legendary.

Talking about Christmas and 'that' dinner, during December 2022, S & J Cuisine served up over 90 amazing meals in the hall for our members and helpers, followed by top class entertainment by Paul Dumas and his friends (see photos). The wine flowed, laughter was all around and even the occasional cracker had a funny joke. It would be appropriate at this point to thank the amazing committee who support the club in so many ways and the members. Why the members you may ask? Every month, the hall has to be 'set-up' placing vast numbers of chairs around the equally large number of tables, homemade cakes arrive along with plates of delicious sandwiches, all provided by the members. This all has to be cleared after the meeting and it is again, the members who do this without being asked or prompted. This is why I say a big thank you to all the members. And not forgetting the wonderful ladies who come along each meeting to serve up the food and then wash up all those plates, cups and saucers. What a club and what wonderful people we have living here in Steeple and Middle Aston.



At the beginning of December last, we took a coach to Warwick to enjoy a three-course meal and then be entertained by a very talented duo and the music of ABBA. Yet again, a great time was had by all and when you see over three hundred people, all enjoying the occasion and making some very daring 'moves' on the dance floor you realise that life begins at 60, or maybe a bit older than that!



This just leaves me to remind all our members that our first meeting of 2023 is on Tuesday 17th January, in the village hall for 2.30pm where we will be entertained by 'Old Gold', a singing duo who can transport us back to the days of real music. And don't forget, if you want to support The Valentine Club, then simply visit:

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.

To learn more about the Valentine Club visit our own website on:

www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston

(easiest way to log-on is go to the village website; go to 'clubs and societies', 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

FREE COLLECTION & DELIVERY*

We will only ever give you HONEST ADVICE
We will only carry out work with YOUR APPROVAL
We GUARANTEE our work (12 months parts & labour)

SPECIAL OFFER - BOOK & GET

10% OFF

USE VOUCHER CODE
STEEPLE1016

Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is valid at our Hopcrofts Holt branch only.

- **MOTS**
- **SERVICING**
- **TYRES**
- **CLUTCHES**
- **EXHAUSTS**
- **SUSPENSION**

01869 347 770 | WWW.PTAGARAGES.CO.UK
HOPCROFTS HOLT, STEEPLE ASTON, BICESTER, OXFORDSHIRE OX25 5QQ

*FROM STEEPLE ASTON & SURROUNDING VILLAGES



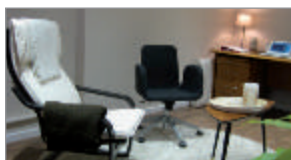
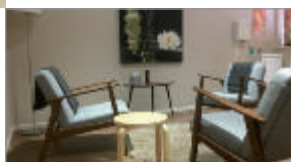
Ashcroft THERAPY CENTRE

Hudson Street, Deddington OX15 0SW
www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk

The range of treatments on offer from practitioners at Ashcroft Therapy Centre now includes:

- ☺ Chiropractic
- ☺ Osteopathy
- ☺ Sports & Remedial Massage Therapy
- ☺ Child & Adolescent Psychotherapy
- ☺ Cognitive Behavioural Therapy - CBT
- ☺ Clinical Psychology
- ☺ Counselling & Coaching
- ☺ Audiology, Hearing Aid & Ear Care Specialist
- ☺ Sleep Therapy
- ☺ Time Line Therapy

Visit www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk
for booking information



Fully Serviced Therapy & Treatment Rooms for Hire

7 beautifully decorated, stylish & relaxing treatment rooms all set in a warm professional atmosphere at an affordable price.

Visit our website for more details

www.ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk

Contact Robert on 01869 254 007 or
email enquiries@ashcrofttherapycentre.co.uk



Eldon Friends

For all your Social Care requirements

Eldon Friends are an independent service, who specialise in providing support* to enable you to remain living independently in your own home.

Whether you require transport to your appointments, assistance with your shopping trips, light housework or just simply companionship, Eldon Friends has the right package for you.

Contact us today for a no obligation discussion of your individual requirements.

Elaine Kelly: Tel: (01869) 340449

Email: info@eldonfriends.co.uk

Feel free to visit our website at: www.eldonfriends.co.uk

Covering The Astons and surrounding villages.

Qualified in Health and Social Care. Fully Insured.

***Eldon Friends is a provider of non-regulated services**



Iron and Wood Ltd

Stoves for the Future



**Visit our showrooms in Banbury
or Kidlington**

T: 01295 253936

E: info@ironandwood.co.uk

www.ironandwood.co.uk



Safeclean®

BY  GUARDSMAN

Professional Cleaning Services

The experts in cleaning:

Carpets • Upholstery • Mattresses

Oriental rug cleaning • Stain removal

Stain protection • Allergy treatment



All our work is fully insured and guaranteed.
We are DBS checked & adhere to all current government guidelines.

Contact Russ Vernon,
for your free, no obligation quote:

Email: rvernonsafeclean@gmail.com

Mobile: 07825 918946



www.safeclean.co.uk



SIMPLE EXCHANGES

We believe the more detail, effort and time we put into selling your home, the sooner you'll be exchanging and toasting those pastures new.

To discuss your property, simply give us a call.



01869 343 600
cridlands.co.uk



Furniture Painting Workshops

Restor8iv is teaming up with our friends at The BlockCraft Co. (the new name for The Arty Crafty Place) to run furniture painting/upcycling workshops in the new year. You will learn a range of key skills, including preparation, painting techniques, and detailing such as distressing, crackle glazing, detailing and stencilling. Practice items, all paints and equipment will be provided. All you need to do is bring a small item that you would like to paint/upcycle. Advice on the best items to bring is available on the website.

You have two options to choose from:

A three week course, Tuesday 10th, 17th, 24th January, 7 - 9:30pm (£95)

or A full day on Saturday 11th February, 10am - 4pm (£110)

Hosted at The BlockCraft Co's studio,
Unit 2, Lakeside Farm, Middle Aston, Bicester OX25 5PP

For more info and to book, please visit: theartycraftyplace.co.uk,
call 01869 349020 or email shop@theartycraftyplace.co.uk



Village Hall News



On behalf of the Village Hall committee may we wish you all a happy and safe New Year 2023.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 21st January 2023 Annual Quiz Night

Ring Barbara on 01869 340423 to book your team. Entrance fee £2.50 per person, maximum eight people to a table. Entrance fee at time of booking please. Entry 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. There will be a licensed bar so please do not bring your own drinks. Only one table left as we go to print.

Sunday 4th June 2 – 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

Steeple Aston Garden Club



The Garden Club celebrates Christmas

It may not be the time to venture into the garden, but the Garden Club ventured to Middle Aston House during mid-December on one of the coldest days for years to be welcomed by the friendly staff and shown to the main lounge where we all enjoyed a three-course meal and most importantly, good company.

There is no meeting of the club during January, but we are back in the Village Hall on Tuesday 7th February when we will be given a talk by Andy Howard on "Fruit through the seasons". Doors open at 7pm with a 7.30pm start. All welcome and if you are not a member, just come along and see what we are all about.

The photo shows members enjoying their Christmas meal at Middle Aston House.





The Holcombe Studio • High Street • Deddington • OX15 0SL
 Telephone: 01869 226522 • Email: Polkadotsuk@ymail.com

Horse & Groom, Caulcott

Unspoilt 17th century thatched coaching inn, specialising in high quality seasonal food inspired by the best of French and English cuisine. North Oxfordshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2019



Opening hours:

Weds- Sat 12-3 and 6-11pm; Sun 12-3 pm

www.horseandgroomcaulcott.co.uk

Lower Heyford Road, Caulcott, OX25 4ND
 01869 343257

horseandgroomcaulcott@gmail.com

Answers to New Year Quiz (see page 15)

1. Q
2. a) suit (*whistle & flute*); b) £10 (*tenner*); c) hat (*tit for tat*);
3. Madonna
4. They are all names of people called Steve/Steven
5. a) Ants navigate by the sun; b) Elephants poo six times faster than dogs; c) Mice can be cured of depression by eating yoghurt; d) Chimpanzees have no interest in music.
6. Toto
7. a) true; b) false - 60% of Brits make rectangular sandwiches, 28% make triangular; c) true
8. They are all types of haircut
9. a) Clive Myrie b) Amol Rajan c) Ncuti Gatwa
10. power

Making words list

All words have been checked with a dictionary.

6 letters: weaner, yawner

5 letters: newer, ranee, renew, waney, weary, weeny, yearn

4 letters: anew, awry, earn, erne, ewer, eyra, eyre, near, nary, wane, ware, warn, wary, wean, wear, ween, were, wren, yare, yarn, yean, year, yawn

We rounded off 2022 with two Christmas treats: a trip to see *Mamma Mia* at the New Theatre, Oxford and a Christmas meal at the Cartwright hotel in Aynho. We were chauffeured by coach to these events and both were enjoyed by all who went.

Mamma Mia was great fun, a slick, professional production with some wonderful period costumes (flares, catsuits and silver platform boots) and lots of audience participation in the rousing final numbers.

At our Christmas meal (photo below), we began the evening singing carols and some favourite Christmas songs, accompanied by Nick Cleobury who played the keyboard with gusto and got us all singing heartily. Heather read two short extracts from Gervais Phinn's stories of Christmas in the Yorkshire dales.

At the village Wassail evening, four members of the committee read a poem on the subject of a well-meaning relative who tries hard to pick suitable gifts for everyone, but never gets it quite right. It was well received by the audience, so we repeated the performance at the Christmas meal.

We also held a competition, to design and make a table decoration based on a cracker. There was an interesting range of entries and the winner was Trish Vickers.

May I take this opportunity to thank Linda Needle for sending birthday cards to all our members. She has done this for many years and is now standing down. Mary Rushworth will take over the task until she leaves the committee in April.

Last year we had an informative, practical workshop where Lottie Baxter showed us how to make door wreaths for Christmas. Lottie returns on 25th March to help us make Easter door wreaths. The workshop is free to members and will be popular, so you need to sign up for it promptly.

Best wishes to all our members for the new year, 2023.

Cathy Lawday



Churchwardens' Chat



After all the lovely celebrations of the Christmas season we look ahead with optimism and hope to what promises to be a significant year when a new Rector will be appointed. We shall of course keep everyone informed as soon as there is information to tell. Meanwhile, we have picked up various bits of comment and disquiet about the fate of the Building Project led by Marcus Green and enquiries about what is happening now that he has left us, so we thought it would be helpful to use this Churchwardens' Chat to be absolutely clear about the present position.

We think most people in the village know that for many years the congregation of St Peter and St Paul have wanted to improve the facilities of the church so that the building could serve the village community with more flexible space and greater comfort. There had been a number of initiatives and possible plans, but it is not easy to make changes to Church of England churches and it became clear that there had to be a properly designed and costed project before there could be any progress. Thus, an ambitious Building Project was established in 2015, led by the Rector, who fired many of us with enthusiasm to believe that we could look forward to the day when there would be toilets, modest kitchen facilities, more space for activities, better heating and improved flooring. Of course, there were different opinions about what should be done – but nothing was ever made final.

Since those heady days we have all learnt a lot – not least the recognition of the eye-watering cost of the huge amount of planning and preparing for such a project, let alone that actual cost of the work to be done once that has been agreed. There were organisations we were obliged to consult, detailed architect's plans to be drawn professionally – and paid for – and permissions to be granted by the Diocese. Above all, we needed to secure funding beyond the money we could raise from donations and money-raising initiatives. All these and all other finance for the Building Project have always been kept completely separate from the funds we have to find to keep the church running week by week, which causes us headaches on its own account!

You'll see opposite a complete account of the finances of the Building Project as it stands at the moment. The PCC has formally told the Diocese that for the present it is on hold. Our hopes to upgrade various aspects of the church – perhaps especially installing toilets and kitchen facilities, for example, remain. However, we have encountered some unexpected events and pitfalls which mean that activity concerning the project must pause. The distressing combination of circumstances we refer to include, of course, Covid. No one anticipated a pandemic which would close down society for months and have such a far-reaching impact on all our lives. Then there was news of the death of the person whom the Rector had approached as a possible funder whom we understood was interested in the project and was inclined to offer a major contribution. The prolonged illness of the Rector himself followed by his sabbatical and then his departure to a new post did not help matters and now we all face the cost-of-living crisis and the collection of issues which are making us all poorer.

So we hope everyone with anxieties (some of which we share) will understand the situation and see why the project is not active. Until the new Rector has been appointed and has had time to settle in to the Benefice we think there is little we can do except ask for your understanding and sympathy.

Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton. Churchwardens

Church Building Project
Financial Review as of May 2022

A number of people have asked for an update
and review of the finances relating to the
Church Building Project (see opposite page).

Money received

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Personal pledges | £27,555 |
| Concerts | £5,413 |
| Fund Raising | £838 |
| Grants | £7,000 |
| Donations | £4,358 |
| Tax reclaim | £4,000 |
| Interest | £133 |
| Total income | £51,914 |

Balance in fund £2,018

Money paid out

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Architect | £41,579 |
| Concert Expenses | £352 |
| Heating Survey | £1,305 |
| VAT advice | £288 |
| Quantity Surveyor | £1,465 |
| Tower floor Survey | £1,433 |
| Pew alterations | £2,345 |
| Other surveys | £1,188 |
| Total paid out | £49,956 |

Graham Clifton

AD&D Photographic
Society



We were treated to an encyclopaedic view of wildflowers, trees and fungi by Colin Lamb, ARPS in his talk about the Art of Plant Photography. Using depth-of-field to achieve separation between the subject and the background Colin showed a range of images exploring different aspects and directions to create an interesting image. Orchids look amazing when you get down to their level. When photographing trees, whilst the leaf litter can look untidy it does give texture and context for the time of year. Patience on a windy day is a virtue.

Black-and-white images can work well despite the temptation to show off the beautiful colours with all things wild. Nature is an amazing image maker if you look carefully and explore. Colin enjoys this genre, and it is clear from his wonderful images that he has mastered it as a subject.

Our next meeting will be on 4th January 2023 at 7.30pm at The Adderbury Institute. Rather than a speaker members will be submitting their three favourite images from 2022. The next evening with a speaker will be the 1st of March. Do have a look on our website for further details.

Anne Hunsley www.addphoto.co.uk

D L HANCOCK LTD

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Established 27 years and still independent

WE ARE BICESTER'S ONLY INDEPENDENT
FAMILY OWNED & RUN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

A caring traditional **24 hour service**
provided by Mr. Hancock and his team personally

~~~~~  
Serving Bicester and all Surrounding Areas

~~~~~  
Private Chapel Of Rest

~~~~~  
Jaguar Fleet of Funeral Cars


~~~~~  
Perfect Choice
Funeral Plans



Member of
The National Association
of Funeral Directors




Tel: 01869 244200 (24 Hrs)
Chapel House, 13 North Street,
Bicester, OX26 6NA.



IAN WILLOX

Your local Humanist Celebrant
— accredited by Humanists UK —
07973 221 479 | ian.willox@humanistceremonies.org.uk
www.humanist.org.uk/ianwillox

WEDDINGS | NAMINGS | FUNERALS | MEMORIALS

Humanist Ceremonies Humanists UK 



Mallams

1788

Thinking of selling your artwork?

Design & Modern Art Specialist
Max Fisher, is available to give
free confidential valuations on
any piece(s) you are considering
selling at auction.

Home visits also available

Enquiries: 01865 241 358 or
[max. isher@mallams.co.uk](mailto:max.isher@mallams.co.uk)

www.mallams.co.uk

Church Services



| | North Aston | Steeple Aston | Tackley |
|---|---|--|---|
| Sunday 1st January | | 10.30am BCP Communion United Benefice | |
| | | | |
| Sunday 8th January | 9.30am Holy Communion | 11am Holy Communion | 10.30pm Covenant Service |
| | | | |
| Sunday 15th January | | | 10.30am Holy Communion United Benefice |
| | | | |
| Sunday 22nd January | 9.30am Holy Communion | 11am Holy Communion | 5.30pm Evensong |
| Sunday 29th January | 9.30am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey | 11am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey | 9.30am 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> | | | |

C&S Chimney Services

h
i
m
n
e
y
s

- New Chimneys, Rebuilds and Repairs
- Stove Installations
- Chimney Lining
- Internal and External Twin Wall Chimney Systems
- Stove Service and Repair
- Lead Flashing
- Bird guards & Cows



Steve 07947701953

Office 01295811083

Email

cschimneys@yahoo.co.uk



cschimneysoxfordshire.co.uk



Humphris funerals

Serving your family

Proudly serving the community of Banbury as Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons since 1880.

Complete Traditional, Contemporary, Preplanned Funeral Service and Monumental Masons.

01295 265 424

32 Albert Street, Banbury, OX16 5DG



www.humphrisfunerals.co.uk



STAPLES

BUILDING

EST 1984

Staples Building creates beautiful living spaces of outstanding quality.

For an estimate please contact Tim Staples

☎ 01869 345 592

✉ enquiries@staplesbuilding.co.uk

🌐 www.staplesbuilding.co.uk

🏠 EXTENSIONS

🏠 CONVERSIONS

🏠 RENOVATIONS

🏠 NEW BUILD

Steeple Aston Online

News, information, pictures, local directory, weather forecast, noticeboard and much more...

Your village. Your website. Visit today!

www.steepleaston.org.uk

Local Info

STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL

HIRING FEES

All Facilities

Peak Times – involving hire after 6pm

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Village Residents (up to 6hrs) | £65 (Plus Refundable Deposit £200) |
| (Additional hours at £10/hr) | |
| Non-Village (up to 6hrs) | £110 (Plus Refundable Deposit £300) |
| Non-Village (over 6hrs) | £160 (Plus Refundable Deposit £300) |

Off-Peak – all hire before 6pm

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hourly Rate | £10/hr (or £30 for 4 hours) |
| Plus Refundable Deposit | £200 |

Hall Only

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Represented Clubs | £9 (up to 3hrs) |
| Others | £17 (up to 3hrs) |
| plus Refundable Deposit | £200 |

Committee Room

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Represented Clubs | £6 (up to 3hrs) |
| Others | £12 (up to 3hrs) |
| Letting Agent | Angela Smith (07734-112967) |
| Chairperson | Barbara Brewer (01869-340423) |
| Secretary | Margaret Bulleyment (01869-347346) |

Represented Clubs must nominate a trustee to attend Village Hall committee meetings.

Discounted rate for represented clubs – 15% for six block bookings.

Steeple Aston Sports & Recreation Centre

Letting Charges

| | |
|---|--------|
| Social Function peak times: (Daily up to 6 hours, from 6.00pm) | £55.00 |
|---|--------|

| | |
|--|--------|
| Social Function off-peak times: (Daily up to 5 hours, up to 6.00pm) | £27.50 |
|--|--------|

| | |
|---|--------|
| Meeting of represented clubs: (Daily per session, max 2 hours) | £11.00 |
|---|--------|

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Caution money for Private Lettings | : £100.00 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|

Block Bookings for Social Events:
15% discount for 6 or more bookings in advance.

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

Chair – Torquil McLusky Tel : 01869 347914

Treasurer – Chris Cooper Tel : 01869 347173

BUS TIMES

STAGECOACH S4 BUS SERVICE

This timetable is effective from 28 August 2022.

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

Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays and most public holidays

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

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

Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays and most public holidays

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

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

OURBUS BARTONS

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

Rubbish bin collection day is Thursday

January 2023

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 5 th | Green |
| 12 th | Blue and brown |
| 19 th | Green |
| 26 th | Blue and brown |



February 2023

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

Food caddy is collected weekly

Steeple Aston Calendar

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

| JANUARY 2023 | | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|
| Wednesday 4th | AD&D Photographic Society Club Night | Adderbury Institute | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 10th | WI. Speaker: Tom Way, wildlife photographer | Village Hall | 7pm for 7.30pm |
| Saturday 14th | SAL February 2023 copy and advert deadline | | |
| Monday 16th | Parish Council meeting | S & R Building | 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 17th | Valentine Club. 'Old Gold' singing duo | Village Hall | 2.30pm |
| Saturday 21st | Annual Quiz Night (see page 29) | Village Hall | 7pm for 7.30pm |
| Saturday 28th | Deddington Farmers' Market | Deddington | 9am to 12.30pm |
| Saturday 28th | Sustainable Steeple | Deddington Church | 9am to 12.30pm |
| | | | |
| FEBRUARY 2023 | | | |
| Sunday 5th | "Snowdrop Sunday" | Churchyard | 2.30 to 4.30pm |
| Tuesday 7th | Garden Club. Speaker: 'Fruit through the Seasons' | Village Hall | 7pm for 7.30m |
| Tuesday 14th | SAL February 2023 copy and advert deadline | | |
| Tuesday 14th | WI. Speaker: Jennifer Cowling: 'Extend your Fitness, your Balance & your Brain' | Village Hall | 7pm for 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 |

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

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

Unit 2 Glenmore Business Centre, Range Road, Witney, OX29 0AA Tel: 01865 246762

e-mail: print@joshuahorgan.co.uk

*The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Committee.
Readers are recommended to seek appropriate financial or legal advice before entering
into any binding agreement with advertisers, as appropriate*

Home-made food with The Personal Touch!

Menus to suit all tastes & budgets

Weddings and Family Celebrations

Dinner Parties

Afternoon Tea

Drinks Party Canapes

Balls & Banquet catering

Themed Events - Including - Mexican, Tapas, Bbq's, Paella & Spit Roasts

Business and Corporate Events and Meetings

Prices starting from £6.50pp

Contact- sandjcuisine@hotmail.co.uk

Call Sally on 07786131667 Or Jasmin on 07801975210



The Arty Crafty Place
is now
the Indian
Block Print
CO.

kits & supplies
workshops
studio sessions

We provide the tools, support and space for anyone to find lasting joy and confidence through creativity & craftsmanship.

shop & say hi at:

Unit 2 Lakeside Farm
Business Park
Middle Aston
OX25 5PP

www.theartycraftyplace.co.uk
[@theblockprintco](https://www.instagram.com/theblockprintco)
01869 349020

The advertisement features a light blue background with a large, stylized Indian block print design on the left. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout, with the company name prominently displayed in the center. The contact information is provided at the bottom, including a physical address, website, social media handle, and phone number.

NICHOLSONS

Plants Forestry Landscapes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Here at Nicholson's, we aim to offer you much more than your typical plant nursery experience.

Nicholson's Plants

Expert advice & guidance | Hedging & screening
Colourful herbaceous | Ornamental and fruit trees David Austin roses

Rosara - Outdoor style for your garden

Furniture sets | Planters | Kadais | Lighting

The Yurt - A unique dining experience

Breakfast | Lunch | Innovative menus
Locally sourced food | All dietary requirements welcome
Tuesday to Saturday

Walk-ins are welcome at the Yurt but to secure a table and time, please book via our website.



www.nicholsonsgb.com

The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL | 01869 340342



*'Improving the lives of
pets and their
owners'*

- Family-friendly, caring, local vets
- Experts in treating dogs, cats and family pets
- Open 7 days a week
- Modern premises with excellent facilities
- Dedicated Night Nurses
- 24/7 emergency care provided by our own vets



Bicester 01869 323223
Waddesdon 01296 651000
www.hartvets.co.uk

RCVS
**ACCREDITED
PRACTICE**
SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL