


Steeple Aston *Life*

April 2023 Issue No. 596

- 
- An evening with Robert Powell • Red Lion reopens • SAVA report •
• Easter Services • The churches of Eastleach • Village Hall Walking Trail •

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Contributions are welcome. Please email editorsalife@gmail.com

Cover: Photo by Nigel Francis

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

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

COPY DEADLINES

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

This means the copy deadline for the
May 2023 issue is 14th April.

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

ADVERTISING

All adverts, and all advertising queries
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ADVERTISING RATES

1/4 page - £8

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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
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Choral Society	Chair	Ann Livings	233518
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	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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Steeple Aston Walking Group		Penny, Stuart, Sue and Graham	sawgox25@gmail.com
Toddler Group		Hilary Clayton-Lyne, Angela Smith	steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com
Valentine Club		Richard & Daphne Preston	340512
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WI	President	Cathy Lawday	347209



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

Steeple Aston *Life*

April 2023
Issue No. 596

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Editorial

"Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana." Groucho Marx, American comedian (1890-1977)

April is here again. Time seems to speed up as you grow older. The theory is that when you are, say, five years old, a year is one-fifth of your life. But when you reach 50, a year is one-fiftieth of your life and seems to pass ten times faster. This concept was put forward by Paul Janet, a French philosopher, in 1897. Sometimes known as 'log time', it asserts that as we age, a year becomes a smaller fraction of our lives up to that point.

Fortunately, there are things you can do to slow time down. The best is to try something new. Travelling to unfamiliar places is an obvious example. This might involve expensive overseas trips, but a weekend break in the UK can be just as good, or even a day out (see 'Have you ever been to...?', page 15). And if you want to stay closer to home, you could join a choir, attend yoga classes or do voluntary work. Steeple Aston offers plenty of choice.

But does time really speed up or slow down? Of course not. Every second has the same length. It is our perception of time which changes, depending on our activity.

Do you believe in time travel? You should, because you are moving forward in time, second by second, as you read this. Time travel in the sense of being able to visit the past is unlikely, otherwise we would already have been visited by people from the future. However, memories allow you to revisit events that have taken place in your past. Photographs provide the detail you might otherwise have forgotten.

But, for me, better by far than photos are the words written by diarists. Give me a thousand words anytime over a single picture, not least because diaries have been around for far longer than cameras and often provide unexpected insights. I don't keep a diary, but can recommend 'The Assassin's Cloak: an anthology of the world's greatest diarists'. It ranges over four centuries and 170 contributors, with several diary excerpts for every day of the year. Time well spent.

Robert





Save the Date **Saturday July 8th** **In Robinsons** **Close** **the Church** **Fete**



**Another super
 afternoon event in
 Steeple Aston - includes
 Children's "Whit Races"**



Save the date! **Plant Sale at the Church** **Saturday May 20th,** **2.00- 4.00pm**

**A selection of home grown
 annuals , perennials etc.**



Teas & Cake
at the church tower
(inside if wet)

Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Mel Smith

Thank you to all of you who attended the funeral of my husband Mel Smith on 20th January 2023. The collection raised £175. I am very grateful to you all who donated. The money will be divided between Parkinson Disease and Dementia. Thank you.

Irene Smith

Passing the baton

Penny and Stuart Cummins have been co-ordinating deliveries of Steeple Aston Life for several years, but now feel it is time to “pass on the baton”. The SAL Committee is looking for volunteers to take on the work. This involves receiving the newsletters from the printer, sorting them and passing on to the people who do the door-to-door deliveries – around three hours a month.

If you would like to volunteer, or obtain more details, please email editorsalife@gmail.com

Age UK support



Age UK Oxfordshire is a local independent charity that is dedicated to helping all older people live life to the full. Whether people are on a quest to live well into old age or are going through tough times, we're here to help.

We support over 30,000 people across the county each year through the provision of free local information, advice and a wide range of support services, from exercise classes and digital support to telephone befriending and bereavement support – with much more in between.

We want to make sure that all older people in Oxfordshire know about the various services we provide to local communities. Amongst older people there is a significant ‘digital divide’. 40% of those 75+, and 12% of those 65-74 are not online, meaning that there are over 25,000 local older people who we cannot reach through online channels. We're hoping that by listing our organisation in Steeple Aston Life we could reach more people offline, enabling us to support more local older people.

We already have the services and teams in place to support older people within your community, so we would love to ensure that they are benefiting from our support!

For more information visit www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire or call 0345 450 1276.

Ross Downey
Age UK Oxfordshire

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Steeple People



Bev Davies

How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? 38 years.

Where did you move from? Aberdeen via Bletchington and Eynsham.

What brought you here? Job at the University and a desire to live in a village rather than the city.

Where do you think of as 'home'? Steeple, definitely.

Give a potted history of yourself – in 40 words or less. Born in Toronto, Canada, then moved to London aged 13. Married in Oxford, moved to San Diego for three years, then worked at Aberdeen University for six years. Happily, returned to Oxford, settling in Steeple Aston with our young son and worked as an academic researcher until my retirement six years ago.

How do you see yourself, in five words or less? Caring, cheerful, empathetic, dependable, organised.

How do others see you, in five words or less? Kind, generous, patient, optimistic, but with a tendency to take on more than I should.

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

Technology: friend or foe? To marmite or not? Let's say 'an acquaintance', but not yet a friend...maybe in time? No marmite, ever!

What was the best thing about being a child? Playing outdoors in long hot summer days and snowy winters in Toronto.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Air hostess, because I thought I could travel and see the world and it seemed glamorous to me.

What was your first job? Working in the accounts department of Smithfield Market, London. Lovely people, but unpleasant surroundings!

What is the best job you've ever done? I enjoyed my entire career as a researcher.

What is the worst job you've ever done? Residential social worker in a locked unit for girls in Littlemore. I was once attacked by a girl with a knife!

What's your favourite piece of music? Hard to choose... Bach's concerto for two violins in D minor / Handel's 'Happy We' from Acis and Galatea.

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have. Looking after other people's dogs! (We no longer have one of our own.)

What are you reading at the moment? 'The Weight of Ink' by Rachel Kadish – gripping historical novel that brilliantly weaves together the lives of two intellectual women, one in the 1660s and the other in 2000.

What's your favourite food? I love all Italian food.

If you could ban one thing in the country, what would it be? Automated call answering systems with multiple choices, none of which are relevant, accompanied by terrible music as you wait to be put through. Life is too short!

What do you do to relax? Listen to music, read, walk, watch a good movie.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? Face it – sometimes in life you're the pigeon and sometimes you're the statue.

What do you get grumpy/mad about? Injustice.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really good at. Figure skating.

And a surprising thing that you are really bad at. Baking cakes.

Tell us a good joke. BREXIT!!



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The ARTS Page



With the school holidays in mind, I am flagging up three venues with terrific-looking activities for children.

The Banbury Museum (banburymuseum.org) has Easter Holiday activities from Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April, including Hot Air Balloons, Brick Madness, Farmyard in a Box and plenty more.

Also at the Banbury Museum, an enticing new exhibition (1st April to 2nd July) 'Revealing the Human Form' – 30 sculptures, including works by Antony Gormley, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore. This continues their track record of outstanding offerings.

The Oxford Story Museum is a magical museum for all ages (storymuseum.org.uk). Right in the centre of Oxford this is an Aladdin's Cave of activities for children, offering The Whispering Wood, The Enchanted Library, Small Worlds and many more. The informative website has all the details.

Further away, but really marvellous, is Compton Verney (comptonverney.org.uk). Lots for children in the holidays, including Animation Camp and Woodland Tribe. Many other exhibitions and glorious grounds.

6th to 29th May sees the Oxfordshire Art Weeks (artweeks.org) – South Oxfordshire 6th to 14th, North and West Oxfordshire (that's us) 13th to 21st and Oxford City 20th to 29th. Their informative website has the details. I have always found visiting these exhibitions most enjoyable and have been very impressed by the range and quality of the work by these local artists.

Leading to Easter, there are two Bach Passion Concerts in Oxford. The St. Matthew Passion is on Thursday 6th April at 7pm in the Sheldonian Theatre with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and Queen's College Choir, conducted by Owen Rees (oxfordphil.com), and the St John Passion by the Oxford Bach Soloists, conducted by Tom Hammond-Davies, on Good Friday (7th April) at 1.30pm in New College Chapel, Holywell Street, Oxford (oxfordbachsoloists.com).

Oxford May Music is serving up an exciting variety of events under the title 'Music, Science and the Arts meet in Creative Harmony' (oxfordmaymusic.co.uk), from 'The eccentricity of chalk-making bugs' and 'The large Hadron Collider and the Higgs Boson' to Mahler's 4th Symphony and Beethoven's Septet. All in the Church of St John the Evangelist, 169 Iffley Road, Oxford). Devised by the wonderful violinist Jack Liebeck and featuring some stunning artists and scientists. Looking ahead at SJE Arts (sje-arts.org) among many fine artists in their piano series is Angela Hewitt (Wednesday 17th May at 7.30). I have worked with Angela and she is a miracle of sensitivity and classical clarity.

As I write, while we are still assessing the budget cuts made by the Arts Council, in addition to ENO and the Britten Sinfonia (which I started at the behest of, guess who, the Arts Council) the BBC have taken an axe to the BBC Singers and cut salaried positions in the BBC orchestras each by 20%.

We can't let the cultural vandalism continue - go to bit.ly/3JsCSpP to register your protest (this is a shortened link taking you to the petition page). Not to mention the £90K 2019 manifesto promise for the Arts in schools, yet to be delivered. Apart from their intrinsic value, the Arts are a net contributor to GDP.

Nicholas Cleobury

nicholascleobury@btinternet.com



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HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?



Eastleach

St. Andrew's Church, Eastleach

April might be a good month to take a trip to Eastleach, an attractive Cotswold village in Gloucestershire. It's even more attractive than usual in April because of the many daffodils. When I lived in Burford there was quite a tradition of going to see the Eastleach daffodils, which I understood had been planted ready to be filmed for an advertisement when the flowers bloomed in spring.

The other reasons for visiting Eastleach are to explore the two churches, both medieval and Grade 1 listed, which face each other across the little River Leach. It's hard to believe that there were two villages – Eastleach Turville and Eastleach Martin – in such close proximity, each of which had its own church until 1935, when the two villages were amalgamated to become just Eastleach.

The more interesting church is probably St Andrew's, which is the village church of Eastleach. It has an unusual Saddleback tower roof and was mentioned in the Domesday Book. There's a carved Tympanum of Christ in Majesty over the West door which is worth a look.

You can walk over the road bridge to go to visit St Michael and St Martin church which is now cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), a charity dedicated to preserving and wherever possible finding new uses for churches which are no longer in use. You can even camp and spend the night in some of the CCT churches (champing!) – not yet this one in Eastleach, I think, but you can learn more about CCT there!

You can also reach this church by crossing the Leach on the ancient clapper bridge named the Keble Bridge now because John Keble was the priest in charge of the Eastleach Martin church. A clapper bridge and an Oxford College seem an interesting combination of things by which John Keble is commemorated, but I hope he might have enjoyed the daffodils which flourish alongside the bridge.

The lanes you will drive in order to reach this pleasant village (incidentally with a restored and well-advertised restaurant, The Victoria Inn, which I'd like to try one day) are very attractive and you feel deep in the countryside. It is signposted off the cross-country Burford-Fairford road, or you can approach from the Burford-Lechlade road. The postcode GL7 3NQ should help you to find the churches.

Eileen Baglin-Jones

The Doctor, the Rector and a Case of Alleged Misconduct

Doctor Edmond Consett Wilson, born in Yorkshire and previously practising in Thame, lived in what is now known as Payne's Hill House. He was one of a long list of doctors who practised there for nearly a century. Wilson was involved in an accusation of misconduct in 1849-50 which throws some light on the life of doctors in villages like Steeple Aston, particularly after the Poor Law Act of 1834. The Act, which established the Workhouses of Dickensian outrage, enabled the appointment of 'medical officers' who worked at the behest of the Unions. These were groups of parishes which oversaw the administration of the Act and the various reforms to it that followed. Steeple Aston and about ten other villages came under the Woodstock Union which was situated in and around the present Hensington Road car park.

One tenet of the Poor Law had been to prohibit 'outdoor relief' which was the receipt of benefits for people living in their own homes, outside the Workhouse. The idea was that the poor must endeavour to keep themselves out of the Workhouse through their own efforts and 'outdoor relief' discouraged this. In practice, 'outdoor relief' never completely disappeared. "Exceptional circumstances" meant the very poorest parishioners could apply for medical help and sometimes food. This was financed half by the parish itself and half centrally by the Consolidated Fund. For doctors like Wilson, this provided an income which amounted, in rural areas, to the equivalent of £11 per visit today. The recipients paid nothing. Like other medical officers, Wilson would make up his income by means of additional payment from his wealthier private clients.

This arrangement was the subject of great national controversy with many taxpayers on one side demanding that the poor stand on their own two feet without 'outdoor relief'. It was felt the threat of the Workhouse was the necessary tool to 'motivate' them. Others favoured what they regarded as the humanitarian approach of retaining 'outdoor relief'. These forces came into play with Wilson's alleged misconduct.

Wilson's chief accuser was none other than the Rector of Steeple Aston, Joseph Burrows. The charge was that Wilson was habitually drunk whilst in service. This resulted in a two-day inquiry which took much of the form of a trial. As reported in *The Banbury Guardian*, the Rector began his evidence to the Board of Guardians at the Woodstock Union by recounting a casual meeting with Wilson one afternoon on Heyford Bridge. "I judged him to be tipsy from his mode of addressing me" and said that he had seen him on other occasions the worse for wear. To follow up, Burrows brought forward a number of pauper parishioners who gave testimony, albeit somewhat patchy, about Wilson's behaviour and appearance on medical visits including his 'leaning against a fireplace' or stair rail to steady himself, stumbling and tripping, having a florid and agitated appearance and the fact that he was observed repeatedly failing to place his foot successfully in the stirrup of his saddle.

Mr Francillon, who defended Wilson, proposed that the accusations were imprecise in terms of date, frequency and time of day. The doctor's florid appearance was the result of hours spent on horseback in bad weather, not drink, he explained. The physical missteps said to be the result of intoxication were fuelled and exaggerated by



Hensington House, 1906
© Oxfordshire Photographic Archive

rumour and gossip and would have passed unremarked in any other person. Moreover, the adverse testimony had come exclusively from those patients who received treatment for no payment, which Francillon dubbed 'the supposed neglect of pauper patients'. In contrast, he put up a number of Wilson's private clients as witnesses who spoke of him in glowing terms. Addressing the Governors of the Union, he painted a picture of the work of the medical officers: "No men... are more useful than skilful medical men; or work harder for the pittances the Poor Law doles out... for their exposure to the midnight wind, the midday sun, the storm, the rain, the ever-changing elements, and instead of clergymen attempting to run them down, they ought to support and cherish them.... Mr Wilson is not a rich man. The circumstances of his holding this hard, this ill-paid appointment shews it, for a rich man would be too lazy to ride over eleven parishes at all hours and at all seasons, at the call of hundreds, it may be thousands, who really are, or imagine themselves, ill".

Mr Francillon offered this assessment of the pauper patients: "I do not wish to speak harshly of the poor; they have their grief and troubles; but it is a fact that no persons are so hard to please as paupers about their doctor; they pay nothing for his services and some of them are careless about how much trouble they give him whilst the middle classes, thinking of the bill thereafter to come in, study to avoid unnecessary visits, operations and medicine".

He reserved some of his attack for the Rector himself. He accused him of being unworldly, distant from his parishioners, making few visits to them and being ignorant of the names and identity of parish officers.

The case was referred upwards to the Poor Law Commissioners who had not decided on it before the election of new officers was required and advertised in 1850. It appears the verdict went in Wilson's favour as he continued in position for a further ten years and posted a notice in the newspaper thanking those who had supported him.

For more on the Woodstock Union, see: www.workhouses.org.uk/Woodstock/#google_vignette

Dave Jarratt – SAVA

???? Mind Games

ROUTE FINDER

Start at the shaded square. Moving from one letter square to an adjacent square in any direction (horizontally or vertically), find a route that visits every square just once and which spells out all the words in the list below. The solution is on page 20.

G	R	E	T	A	P	E	E	T	T
A	S	T	N	I	D	E	R	S	I
R	N	Y	L	A	N	A	N	C	M
D	E	S	E	U	Q	S	E	O	M
R	A	C	M	E	O	R	Y	I	B
P	E	N	R	T	E	T	H	T	I
Q	N	T	E	U	M	O	O	T	H
U	O	C	E	L	I	T	S	H	X
E	R	B	T	A	L	E	H	U	E
R	E	R	A	C	E	T	T	M	B

Bracelet, carpenter, committee, conquerer, exhibit, garden, hyena, meteor, painter, squanders, stimulate, styles, thumb, tooth

Parish Council Meeting Notes



The March meeting of the Parish Council was one of the shortest ever. This was partly because not much of great substance was discussed and partly because the Councillors were agreeing with each other swiftly without their usual somewhat arcane discussion first.

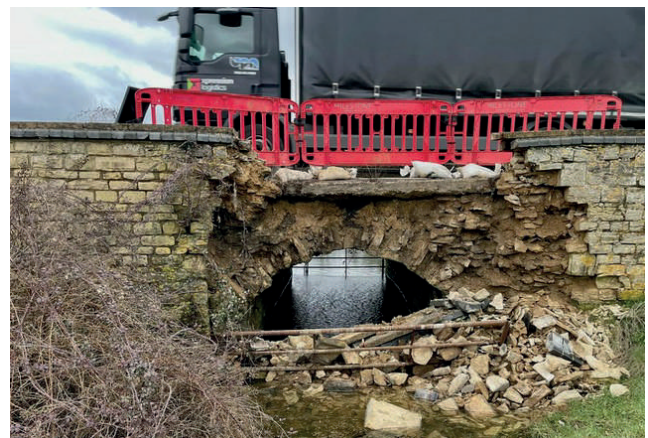
There was a member of the public at the meeting who told us about two blocked drains; one at the bottom of Water Lane and the other near the junction between Fenway and Water Lane. We were told that Chris Cooper had cleared the drain at the bottom of Water Lane recently. Thank you Chris, on behalf of the village. I remember Roderick Nicholson clearing the same drain in the past so it looks as if Highways have not cleaned that drain properly over the last fifty years or so. The Councillors said they would tell our County Councillor, Arash Fatemian, about both the blocked drains and ask him to see if he could get them cleared both immediately and more regularly.

We were shown a photograph (right) of the partial collapse of one arch of the Rousham bridge, over the water meadow rather than the river. I wondered if I would be confident driving to Bicester that way again till it is mended. It probably won't be my decision though, because it looks as if the next heavy lorry will bring it down anyway. Astonishingly, the road had not been shut immediately. Ric Fowles of the Lower Heyford and Caulcott Parish Council has written a scathing message on Facebook to Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council about the bridge. He says, "We have petitioned you for years to prevent this. You have ignored us repeatedly, passing the buck for sorting it between each other, cancelling the repairs on several occasions. You have told us the bridge was structurally sound, but you were lying and we knew that you were." He goes on to say it will now cost a lot more to repair than it would have done had the bridge been mended more promptly and that we, the local Council Tax payers will be footing the bill for the extra cost.

Rectory Homes, the developer of Townend, has been asked to provide a new noticeboard for the village map. Someone wondered if Rectory Homes might be put off because the map did not include Townend. Luckily a Councillor had thought of this in advance and the new map shows it.

A number of minor issues were whizzed through. We were told that it was impossible to forecast how many grass cuts would be needed in any year because it depends on the rain and temperature. This meant agreeing a contract for grass cutting is difficult. They decided on the fairly obvious conclusion that the village should contract for relatively few cuts and add more if necessary.

The bin on Southside by the entrance to the Tchure is often full. It is a regular deposit for bags of dog poo. Someone asked if things other than dog poo were in the bin and got the reasonable response 'don't know, never looked in it.' The Councillors will decide next month whether it should be replaced by a bigger bin.



The village has about £14,500 to spend on transport-related items as a consequence of the development of Heyford Park. After discussion they decided to spend most of it on two extra speed indicator signs. This means there can be permanent speed indicators by the school, close to the sharp corner on Fenway and on Heyford Road. Up to now we have had one indicator which Councillors have had to move regularly. This is a slow and heavy process and cannot be done by one person. The new ones will be solar powered.

The speed indicators will not use all the money related to transport improvements. One suggestion was that the residual money should be used for white gates to mark the entrance to the village. The idea was that this would enable the Councillors to see if the gates did have an effect on speeding and allow them to assess how unpopular such gates would be.

continued.....

Parish Council Meeting Notes



As one Councillor pointed out he had never heard anyone say about gates that “we should have those”. An alternative suggestion was to pay for repainting existing white lines or to cover the cost of a central line around the dangerous corner on Fenway. You will not be surprised to hear no decision was taken.

The road by Townend was closed for three weeks in March while the chicane and footpath were constructed making the only S4 bus stop in the village at The Crescent. One Councillor told about finding someone waiting unprofitably at another bus stop because Stagecoach had not put up a sign to explain about the changed bus route.

The broken gate on the play area has been mended and it opens one way only now. Thank you, Bob Ganthony. The drains at the Village Hall and the Sports and Recreation Centre are being blocked by wet wipes and sanitary products being flushed down the loos. The management committees of both buildings will be asked to tell their clients about the problem and to include this in their booking conditions.

There was a discussion about the area on the right of the War Memorial which was recently cleared by a group of volunteers led by the Parish Council Chairman and his wife. Thank you to them. The Councillors questioned whether the cleared land was actually owned by the Parish Council; it was checked after the meeting and apparently it is. The Councillors discussed whether the Parish wished to keep the land (not necessarily) and whether they ought to open the purchase of it beyond the owners of the three gardens that bordered the land. They decided that they might sell the land as long as the Parish Council continued to own the hedge that protected the War Memorial. They agreed that if it was sold, they would dedicate the funds raised to developing other facilities such as the Pocket Park.

We were told that the donor of the Community Orchard, Sarah Lucas, had come to the official opening ceremony and that she had told the Parish Council chairman the next day that she had been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm for the orchard. A huge thanks to her from the village. She said she did not want to be mentioned on the commemorative plaque and that it should simply say the gift was in

memory of her uncle Bos. There was a discussion of whether the plaque should be part of a noticeboard, on a tree, on the gate, on the shed or on the ground. It was agreed that the management committee of the Orchard would be consulted and a decision, yes you have guessed, would be made the following month.

There was a brief discussion of whether, instead of expecting Councillors to take turns on the management committee of the Sports and Rec Centre, the management committee should instead be asked to send a representative to the Parish Council. The Parish Council thought this would be satisfactory as long as they reserved the right to send a representative if they so wished in the future.

There used to be a low and damaged wall in front of where Townend is being built, but the developers have said they won't be replacing it. However, the planning approval may require it and the councillors agreed to support a local resident who is pursuing this.

Two of the Councillors said they had heard that a café might be opening at Hatch End. Since the Red Lion also sells coffee one Councillor suggested the custom would go to where the coffee was best.

The Councillors considered the role of chairman after the present incumbent retires. It was noted that the Clerk would be taking on extra correspondence and that the current chairman had generously offered to continue doing chores in the village. They agreed it would not be workable to have a rotating chair but that one Councillor could chair the meetings without taking on any more responsibilities than the other Councillors.

The next meeting is on 17th April. Please 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

ROUTE FINDER

Here is the solution to the Route Finder puzzle on page 17.

G	R	E	T	A	P	E	E	T	T
A	S	T	N	I	D	E	R	S	I
R	N	Y	L	A	N	A	N	C	M
D	E	S	E	U	Q	S	E	O	M
R	A	C	M	E	O	R	Y	I	B
P	E	N	R	T	E	T	H	T	I
Q	N	T	E	U	M	O	O	T	H
U	O	C	E	L	I	T	S	H	X
E	R	B	T	A	L	E	H	U	E
R	E	R	A	C	E	T	T	M	B

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Villagers welcome reopening of the Red Lion



Sue and Andy King toasting the new publicans.

New pub landlords Craig Schindler and Victoria Sykes welcomed villagers back to The Red Lion on Friday 10th March after a closure of nearly two months.

Pictured here are the first couple in the door when the pub reopened, Sue and Andy King, toasting our new publicans. Local artist Sue was quick off the mark persuading Craig and Victoria to display eight of her paintings in the pub.

Catherine Crook, who took these photographs, reported: “Craig and Victoria offered every customer their first drink on the house. Within a very short time the room filled, conversation buzzed and the log fire kept us all warm. It was a great atmosphere and our new publicans were kept busy serving and conversing with local villagers and their guests.”

The pub was only serving drinks for the first week. Food service started on Friday 17th March. Craig, who is a qualified chef, has been in the business for ten years, most recently working at The Royal Lodge, Symonds Yat, Ross-on-Wye.

They will start with a small menu of traditional pub food – fish and chips, burgers, steaks, risotto and, of course, the Red’s famous pizzas. Over time they plan to expand their opening hours and offer lunches, including Sunday lunch. The snug bar will be available for private dining, buffets, functions, meetings, etc.

Both Victoria and Craig are originally from South Wales. Victoria worked in hospitality for many years. Most recently they have been learning their trade as temporary landlords in Devizes and Northleach.

They appreciated the very warm welcome from villagers on their opening night, but need the continuing support of residents to enable them to expand their offering. For opening hours, see the advert on page 12.



The Red Lion was soon attracting customers.

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The Gardening Spot

It's that time of the year again!

April is the month when it all kicks off in the garden, so best be prepared. I know I go on about this, but keep an eye open for weeds and remove them in whatever manner you like as quickly as possible. It might be just me, but if you care for your garden and want to enjoy beautiful flowers and luscious vegetables, why on earth would you want them to compete with weeds?

If you have access to well-rotted farmyard manure, add it to your flower beds as a mulch to help your plants cope better with the weather conditions that summer might throw at us. Feed your roses and tie in climbers and ramblers in readiness for that stunning display come June.

Once spring flowering shrubs such as Viburnum or Forsythia have finished flowering, prune them to keep them looking tidy. Deadhead daffodils and tulips once they have finished flowering to encourage better bulbs for next year. Watch out for pests and diseases and treat as soon as possible. Plant herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses to fill gaps in the border. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials, using the sharp edge of your spade's blade to cut through woody roots. Now that there's less risk of sudden frosts, prune penstemons, cutting stems back to new growth lower down. Pinch out the growing tips of fuchsias and sweet pea seedlings to produce bushy plants with plenty of flowers.

Sow broad beans, carrots, beetroot, and parsnips outside during this month. You can also sow Brussels sprouts and other brassicas into seedbeds outdoors. Indoors, sow runner and French beans, squash, cucumber, and courgettes in small pots. If you have tomato seedlings growing in the greenhouse, pot them on into larger pots as they grow. If you haven't sown any tomatoes yet, there's still time to do it this month.

Plant early potatoes in the vegetable garden and if not adverse to a few slug pellets, drop some in the trench where the potatoes are to be grown as that will reduce the damage to your crop come later on when you dig down to see what has been produced. I have mentioned sowing runner beans, but would advise leaving that until later in the month as they do so much better if, once planted into their final position, they grow away uninterrupted by a late cold snap.

Get your lawn ready for summer by giving it a spring feed and aerate it by spiking it with a garden fork or hollow tine aerator. Remember to set your mower blades a bit higher for the first couple of cuts to reduce an infiltration of moss and possible damage to the turf if we have a cold snap. This is also a wonderful time of the year to give your plants a feed. Flower beds and herbaceous borders have just come through a long hard winter and are ready for their breakfast. I use fish, blood and bone meal. This is organic and slow release so will give all those plants a kick-start for the summer months.

Bedding plants might be considered a bit 'old fashioned', but they create a superb display of colour throughout the summer months and things have moved on considerably over the past decade or two. Having had the opportunity to listen to Stuart Lowen of Ball Colegrave at a recent Garden Club meeting, it became obvious that many of the plug plants available at local garden centres or online have come on in leaps and bounds and are now much better suited to our changing climate, so why not give bedding plants a try?

Now, I have to tell you this little story which I think was rather funny. Two men were standing at the bus stop when a lorry went past loaded with rolled turf. Tom turned to his mate Michael and said, "I'm going to do that when I win the lottery". "What's that then Tom?" asks Michael. "Well look at that lorry that just went past. I'm going to send my lawn off to be cut just like that fellow".

Happy gardening.

Richard Preston

Lord's Taverners' Evening, Steeple Aston Church

On a cold March evening a group of talented local musicians and a distinguished actor from stage, television and film, provided Steeple Aston with a wonderfully light-hearted evening celebrating cricket and, more importantly, the charitable work of the Lord's Taverners.

Under the musical leadership of local maestro Nick Cleobury, we were given a joyous hour of music, readings and witticisms that lifted everybody's spirits. The choir sang magnificently music from Benjamin Britten (*Flower Song*), Josquin des Prez (*El Grillo/The Cricket*), Peter Warlock (*The Cricketers of Hambledon*), Don Bradman (*Every day is a rainbow day for me*) and Rodgers and Hammerstein (*June Is Bustin' Out All Over*). Local singer, Rebecca Lewin, gave a beautiful solo performance with excellent support from the choir.

The Cricketers of Hambledon featured the superb solo voice of Charles Cunliffe, a young bass-baritone singer from the Royal Academy of Music Opera School. Charles also treated us to a delightful rendition of *The Green-Eyed Dragon* (Wolsely Charles), combining his wonderful voice with excellent theatricality. A great future surely awaits this talented young musician.

Readings were presented with appropriate mirth and gusto by the celebrated actor Robert Powell (*The Thirty Nine Steps*, *The Detectives*, *Dalziel and Pascoe*). Robert gave splendid performances of *Cricket Explained to a Foreigner* (the one about 'ins' and 'outs'), *Seaside Golf* (John Betjeman) and *Lament and Triumph* (Derek Walcott). Robert is a keen cricketer and a Past President of the Lord's Taverners and is now an Ambassador for the charity.

The fearsome Australian fast bowlers, Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson were remembered thanks to an audio recording of Richard Stilgoe's hilarious song *Lillian Thomson*, which deftly plays upon a merging/mishearing of the surnames of these two great Aussie sportsmen. A classic if there ever was one!

An evening celebrating cricket would not be complete without a recording of that most catchy theme tune for BBC's Test Match Special (*Soul Limbo*). Thanks go to Nick and Heather Cleobury for such clever programming and giving Steeple Aston a highly enjoyable evening.

The seriousness of the evening was brought home by a short video presenting the work of the Lord's Taverners. This remarkable charity helps raise the aspirations and potential of young people with disabilities, and from disadvantaged communities, by providing innovative, inclusive, and impactful cricket programmes. A collection at the end of the evening raised over £2,000, for which the Lord's Taverners is truly grateful.

Amadeus

The Pig

(one of the readings by Robert Powell)

It was an evening in November,
As I very well remember,
I was strolling down the street in drunken
pride,
But my knees were all a-flutter,
And I landed in the gutter
And a pig came up and lay down by my side.

Yes, I lay there in the gutter
Thinking thoughts I could not utter,
When a colleen passing by did softly say
"You can tell a man who boozes
By the company he chooses" —
And the pig got up and slowly walked away.

Anonymous

*Photos by Nigel Francis
(clockwise from right.)*

*Nicholas Cleobury (Conductor/Piano)
introducing the evening's programme.*

Robert Powell

Soloist Rebecca Lewin

*Bass-baritone Charles Cunliffe
(see
[youtube.com/watch?v=yVfQ9YVufGM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVfQ9YVufGM))*

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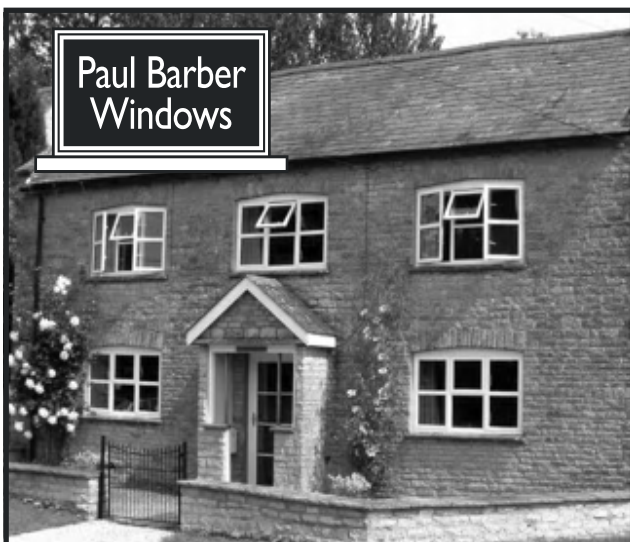
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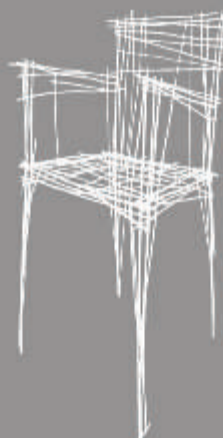
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heart versus head

the joke's on you
my body said
as it sat pointing at my head
which suddenly was on the floor
then rolled sedately to the door
where looking up it realised
that on its own it couldn't rise
to turn the key or handle

how has it come to this I thought
my body's there
and I'm distraught
we've never spent our time apart
the arms the legs the head the heart
we've stuck it out through thick and thin
he with I and I with him
like candlestick and candle

but recently my head and heart
have bit by bit begun to part
not literally as you must know
more figurative body blow
has split us both athwart
no longer one we've drifted off
he can't think and I can't doff
creating quite a scandal

and though he's said the joke's on me
and I'm not one to disagree
the paradox is heart can't speak
(yet heart's in head there's been a leak)
a role reversal helps me see
we are as one when chips are down
he signals me it's fine to frown
but not to be a vandal

we need each other..... bottom line
so now we've had our pantomime
for heart and head there'll be no loss
as long as both can be the boss
and never disentangle.

Peter Wild

The Joys of Spring

It's time to spring into action
Time to find
That springy things will
Spring to mind

Spring into life
Spring forward not back
Spring to attention
Get on track

Eat your spring greens
Spring onions, spring lamb
Spring a friend from prison
If you can

You're no spring chicken
But even so
Put a spring in your step
And away you go

Visit hot springs
They're good for your skin
Leap from a springboard
Jump right in

Ignore spring cleaning
That's a bore
Spring's the time for a break
Not a chore

Springtime is the time
To see Paris, France
Time to sing and
Time to dance

On your spring mattress
Lose control
Release your spring fever
Have a spring roll

Cathy Lawday

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

A bit of a change of direction for our March meeting as our programmed speaker was unable to attend, so we moved away from the serious side of how to protect any money we might have accumulated and instead enjoyed Eyrilis, who came along with her '50s, 60s and 70s' show. Music that we all remembered and enjoyed in our youth.

This month, on Tuesday 11th April (a week earlier than normal), we are going to be educated on 'Doorstep crime and scam protection'. Considering I had my computer hacked recently, I must pay attention to this as it is something we all need to be aware of in these digital times.

Our first trip of the year will be taking us to Salisbury on the 25th April, so fingers crossed for a nice day. Not long after that a large number of members will be boarding a coach to transport us away for a few days to an exotic island, best known as the Isle of Wight.

To find about more about The Valentine Club, simply visit our website at www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston or call me on 01869 340512. The Valentine Club, with 100 members, is possibly the largest club in the village and as such, offers companionship and interest to many of our more senior residents. Every month, we have visiting acts such as singers or speakers and along with the most basic of expenses, the club has to raise a considerable sum each year to provide what is now accepted as the biggest and possibly best seniors group in Cherwell. One of our main lines of income is the Cherwell Lottery where by purchasing one ticket per week at a cost of just £1, you support the club, as 50 pence of that £1 comes directly to the club and you have a chance of winning big money. Simply 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

1st Deddington Guides Report

It's been a busy few weeks. We started with our own 'Thinking Day' activity, learning about the history of Guiding and our own International celebrations. Some of the Guides then joined in the fun at the District Thinking day evening, with Guides and Brownies from surrounding villages.

We, of course, had pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and food figured highly again when each Patrol created some tasty snacks for their imaginary café. Menus and creative presentations made it very hard to choose a winner! As a follow up to these activities, each patrol has been taking turns to provide some simple refreshments during the meeting. There has been a surprising amount to consider when tackling something that seems very simple at first.

There have been a lot of great ideas and activities enjoyed during weekly patrol time, as well as some energetic games. It was great to welcome four new Guides with their special Promise ceremony, and to say thank you and good luck to two of our Young Leaders, Issie and Alana, who are stepping back to concentrate on exams. We look forward to seeing them again in the summer.

At some point in the near future Marian, who has been Guiding with us for many years, is moving away. This will leave us a leader short. All support welcome.

Forthcoming events this year: Division Fun day, Residential weekend, all sorts of outdoor activities, camp and a trip to Paris.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755 and Marian Trinder 07786 001641

Steeple Aston Community Orchard



The Community Orchard opened on 12th March. This piece of land on Water Lane used to belong to the Randolph family and they were represented by Sarah Lucas, who visited Steeple Aston for the official opening, picnic tea and cakes. She wants the orchard to commemorate G. B. Randolph, her Great Uncle Bos, who moved into the house on the corner of North Side and Water Lane in 1902, and Harold and Olive his gardener and cook, who were engaged to each other and spent their whole working lives there.

She says, “G. B. Randolph, Uncle Bos to us, was the last male of our branch of the family. He lived in Steeple Aston for 50 years and was a notable contributor to public life in many ways. I never met him, but many of my interests are the same as his and through a number of incidents it seemed right that my orchard should be offered to Steeple Aston Parish Council as a community orchard for everyone. I am absolutely delighted to know that the plan is to extend its use to enable and encourage people of all ages to share and enhance their knowledge of the environment in all its diversity.”

Volunteers will meet to work in the orchard on the first Sunday afternoon of every month. All are welcome. It is a beautiful space and we are not going to make drastic changes, but there are a few things that we need and would like, from tools for volunteers and bird boxes for our feathered friends, to a small number of fruit trees/bushes/other pollinator-friendly plants and a picnic bench.

To give you some idea, £15 buys a small bird box, £110 buys an owl box, £365 buys an all-weather noticeboard. If you are able to contribute – even a small amount – you will be helping us to create a truly magical, nature-friendly space for our village.

<https://www.gofundme.com/manage/steeple-aston-community-orchard>



Celebrating the opening of the Community Orchard. (Photo by Nigel Francis.)

DUNS TEW DRAMA GROUP PRESENTS

MÉNAGE À TROIS

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& A TWO COURSE MEAL

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Sunday 30 April

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In advance, £5 individual; £10 for a family

On the day, £6 individual; £12 for a family

Cash only

Collect your Trail clues from the Village Hall at around 2pm.

Follow the clues back to the Village Hall.

Take Care! Parts of the trail have no pavement and also cross farmland.

Includes light refreshments on return.

Advance tickets from Barbara Brewer (01869 340423) or the Village Shop

from Monday 17th to Friday 28th April

Any profits go to Steeple Aston Village Hall funds.



LORD'S TAVERNERS
Empowering young people through cricket

DAVID GOWER, former England cricket captain, TV commentator and President of the Tavs, will host a dinner at Great Tew CC on Saturday 20th May 2023 in aid of the Lord's Taverners charity.

Tickets will be £100 each, which will include a three-course meal (including Fillet steak!), 2/3 of a bottle of wine plus beer & lager. All proceeds will 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 Peter Higgins by emailing peter.higgins@ctshirts.co.uk or call 01869 347493.

Steeple Aston CC will play the Taverners' XI the next day. The Tav's team includes Rob Andrew (captain), Monty Panesar, Andy Caddick, Michael Vaughan, Gavin Hastings, Will Carling, Will Greenwood, Matt Dawson and Stephen Mangan amongst others. Messrs Gower, Gatting and Gladstone Small will umpire. Entry is FREE!!

FIXTURES FOR 2023 SEASON

Here are the fixtures for the 2023 season. The most important thing you need to remember is that Home Matches are now at Great Tew Cricket. Here is the full address: Great Tew CC, Ledwell Road, Great Tew, Oxfordshire, OX7 4AG. Telephone 01608 683896.

Day	Date	Opponents	Venue	Time
Saturday	13 th May	Peter Higgins XI	Home	11.30am
Sunday	21st May	Lord's Taverners	Home	2pm
Sunday	28 th May	Middleton Stoney	Away	2pm
Sunday	4 th June	Oxford Downs	Away	2pm
Thursday	22 nd June	Kings Head CC	Away	6.30pm
Sunday	25 th June	Minster Lovell	Home	2pm
Sunday	2 nd July	Sandford St Martin	Away	2pm
Sunday	9 th July	Blenheim Park	Away	2pm
Sunday	23 rd July	Ascot-u-Wychwood	Away	2pm
Sunday	6 th August	Great Tew	Home	2pm

We very much hope to see you on the boundary this summer.

Peter Higgins – Chairman SACC



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For our March club night, we had the absolute pleasure of inviting Scarlet Page, an English photographer and also daughter of Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page.

Scarlet describes her style as very editorial, but likes to keep her editing and lighting simple. Her colourful resume includes the who's who of the rock music world, including her beginnings with photographer Ross Halfin who she travelled the world with and cut her teeth as his assistant, loading the film for his cameras and eventually started taking her own photos and grew professional relationships with tour managers.

Her first festival was the infamous Lollapalooza festival in USA back in 1994 and by using her 'fish eye' lens captured what was to become some iconic photos of behind the scenes, which were eventually picked up by RAW! And Kerrang magazine. Through working with them she forged relationships with the likes of Stereophonics, The Verve, The Red Hot Chilli Peppers and eventually went on the road with The Darkness for 12 months of their world tour.

Shortly after that, the Robbie Williams team reached out to her as they were after images for his picture biography, which was the dawn of a new style of autobiography, shortly followed by other music stars such as Leona Lewis and Ronan Keating. Her intimate portrait of Brian from Placebo has recently been picked up by the National Portrait Gallery, which is a very high accolade indeed!

In 2020 she was selected as a winner of The British Journal of Photography's 'Portrait of Britain' award and she has become an active member of the Association of Photographers and its associated women's group f22.

Her photos can be seen on our website.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

This photo is of a guitarist called Slash, published here by kind permission Scarlet Page.

Next meeting is on the 5th of April at 7:30pm at the Adderbury Institute. All welcome.





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Or A full day workshop, Saturday 10th April, Friday 7th July or Saturday 12th August, 10am – 4:30pm (£110)

You will learn a range of key skills, including preparation, painting techniques, and detailing 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.

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Village Hall News



Sunday 30th April Walking Trail. Starting at 2pm

For those of you thinking of strolling along on the Trail, here are some things to bear in mind:

- Collect your trail clues from the Village Hall, which will be open from 2pm.
- It is not competitive, so no prize for the quickest jog round, but the hall will close at 5pm.
- Wear sturdy shoes, as some of the trail will take you off-road.
- Bring something to write with and something to rest the trail sheet on.
- Pre-booked entry fee, cash only, £5 per person and £10 for a family, from Barbara Brewer (01869 340423) or the Village Shop (from Monday 17th to Friday 28th April). On the day, tickets (cash only) are £6 per person and £12 for a family.
- Any profit made will go to help Village Hall costs.
- At the end, when you return your forms, there is tea and cake included in the price.

There will be a lucky draw when all forms have been checked and a bottle of champagne awarded to the lucky person, and a bag of sweets if the form is for a family. The event will go ahead, no matter what the weather, wet or Mediterranean sunshine.

Monday 15th May: Village Hall AGM – 8pm.

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

Saturday 1st July: Barn Dance (details to follow later).

Please note our letting agent is Mrs. Angela Smith 07734 112967. 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



Our March meeting speaker was Stuart Lowen from Ball Colegrave, Adderbury. What an interesting talk. We learnt of the work carried out to develop seeds and plants which are more and more robust and colourful for our ever-changing climate. This international company is sitting in our very midst creating thousands of plug plants for growers, parks and most public spaces. All the planting colour we see around us in the summer months probably starts right here.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 4th April is also our AGM. We meet in the Village Hall at 7pm for tea and coffee, followed by the AGM. This year we need to appoint a new treasurer, so if you think you can fulfil this role, it would certainly be appreciated.

The annual subscription will be due, £10 for an individual and £15 for a family. Once you have registered you will receive a member's card which enables a 10% discount at certain nurseries and garden centres. Information regarding this and the programme of planned summer visits will be available at the meeting. We then have our speaker, Libby Reeves from Nicholsons, talking about 'Environmental Gardening', which should have interest for us all.

Do please make the effort to attend and if you are new and wish to come along and see what happens, you will be most welcome.

Chris Clarke, S.A. Garden Club Secretary.



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Our March meeting saw the return of speaker Melanie King, who came to us last October to talk about our love of tea, coffee and chocolate. This time she spoke about spying in World War I in a talk with the intriguing title ‘Secrets in a Dead Fish’. She told us of messages hidden as knots in knitting; of ‘cigar salesmen’ who sent coded messages in which the different sizes of cigars meant different types of naval warship – for example ‘large cigars’ was code for destroyers, ‘small cigarillos’ meant submarines. Messages were hidden underneath postage stamps, in the small ads in newspapers, written as tiny pin-pricked holes in newspaper articles, in dog collars, wristwatches, and pipes. When it became known that homing pigeons were being used to carry messages, any pigeon was shot on sight – even one that had been painted red and green in an attempt to disguise it as a parrot! We learnt about the different types of invisible ink: lemon juice, saliva, diluted milk and even urine.

The tales of espionage in WWI was a fitting topic as the evening also marked the 105th birthday of Steeple Aston WI. It has now been in existence in the village since 1918, the time our speaker was referring to in her talk. We celebrated with a fabulous birthday cake baked by one of our newest members, Alyson Jaycock.

On 25th March we were given a demonstration by Lottie Baxter of how to make a door wreath for Easter and the dozen members who attended were very pleased with their creations.

11th April is our AGM, when the president and other officers for the coming year will be elected. Please come along and give your vote and your support to the new committee. This will be my last meeting as President and I invite you to a social evening with wine and nibbles, a quiz, puzzles, a raffle, and some poems too. All members welcome!

Cathy Lawday

Photo: Trish Vickers



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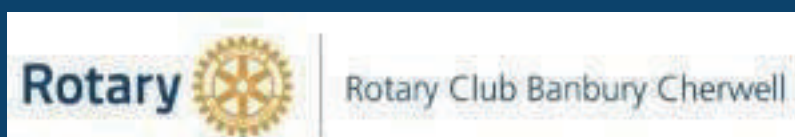
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who participate in the 100 miles, 75 miles, 50 miles routes.*

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www.broughtoncastlesportive.co.uk

Event organised by the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell

All profits to local and nominated charities



Churchwardens' Chat



So our long wait for a new Rector is nearly over! Four people were interviewed on 10th March and the (big!) panel agreed after a long day who should be offered the post. We were thrilled when Rev. Harriet Orridge, who is an experienced Parish priest, very focused on community and who says she has a passion for rural ministry, recognising that God loves everyone, was said by Bishop Gavin who made the phone call to offer her the post also to be absolutely thrilled.

After such a long interregnum it will be a pleasure to have our new Rector and her family living in the village. Before long, Harriet will introduce herself more fully to everyone. We do not yet know the date of her induction into the Benefice.

During Lent a group of us from the congregation has been meeting to reflect on the Beatitudes – a passage from the Sermon on the Mount which gives advice about how to lead a fully human life. We've been following notes and watching videos made for participants in this 'Come and See' series by the Bishop of Oxford.

Recently, it's been good to welcome several visitors who have 'come to see' what goes on during Sunday morning services, some of whom stop to share a chat and coffee after the service. It would be a pleasure to welcome more people during these last few weeks before our new Rector arrives.

Soon, of course, we shall be celebrating Easter. You can find details of the Easter services on the rota and we hope the church will be nicely full as we sing the Easter hymn and celebrate the resurrection of Christ and all which that means for mankind. Posies for all were distributed during Mothering Sunday service as usual – a bright moment during the rather bleak and chilly early spring.

After morning service on 12th March we held a small tree planting ceremony. You will remember that we consulted everyone about what sort of tree might celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Hornbeam was the eventual choice and so it was a (rather small!) Hornbeam which went into the ground. Perhaps it was a bit late for the Jubilee, but better late than never!

We decided not to make a house-to-house collection for Christian Aid week this year, recognising that many people will have made donations already to the various urgent calls for help. Instead, Caroline Parsons held two Christian Aid/Lent lunches which were well attended and at which generous donations were made. We'll tell you the final total next month.

We wish everyone a Very Happy Easter.

Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton. Churchwardens

Why is St. George the patron saint of England?

23rd April is St. George's Day. Hundreds of years ago it was a national holiday in England, but this tradition faded away towards the end of the 18th century. However, there have been recent campaigns for it to be a public holiday again.

This is odd, as it is very unlikely that St. George ever visited England, and almost certain that he did not fight a dragon. Very little is known about his life, but it is thought that he was an officer in the Roman army. It seems that St. George was tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ and was finally beheaded in Palestine around 303 AD. Stories of his strength and courage spread across Europe and it was these qualities which made King Edward III appoint him Patron Saint of England in 1350.

William Shakespeare helped to immortalise the saint with words attributed to Henry V – "Cry God for Harry, England and St. George".

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Church Services

	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
Sunday 2nd April	9.30am BCP Communion Rev. David Tyler	11.00am BCP Communion Rev. David Tyler	10.30pm Methodist Church Shared service
Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday			7.30pm Holy Communion Rev. Sue Spankie
Friday 7th April Good Friday		12.00 noon Reflection on the Seven Last Words Lay led	
Sunday 9th April Easter Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 16th April			10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd April	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	5.30pm Evensong Rev. Sue Spankie
Sunday 30th April	9.30am Morning Prayer Stephanie Lacey	11.00am Morning Prayer Stephanie Lacey	9.30am Holy 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			




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Local Info

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Peak Times – involving hire after 6pm

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(Additional hours at £10/hr)	
Non-Village (up to 6hrs)	£110 (Plus Refundable Deposit £300)
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Others	£17 (up to 3hrs)
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plus Refundable Deposit £200)

Committee Room

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Chairperson	Barbara Brewer (01869-340423)
Secretary	Margaret Bulleyment (01869-347346)

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

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Meeting of represented clubs: (Daily per session, max 2 hours)	£11.00
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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
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See <http://ourbus.co/bartons/> for details and times

Rubbish bin collection day is Thursday

April 2023

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



May 2023

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

Food caddy is collected weekly

Steeple Aston Calendar

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

Please send details of events for May and June to editorsalife@gmail.com

April			
Sunday 2nd	Steeple Aston Choral Society: Coronation Concert	SA Church	7.00pm
Tuesday 4th	Garden Club. Libby Reeves: 'Environmental Gardening'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Wednesday 5th	'AD&D Photographic Society. The Society AGM and 'What is it?'	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday 11th	Valentine Club. Trading Standards and AGE UK: 'Doorstep crime and scam prevention'.	Village Hall	2.30pm
Tuesday 11th	WI. AGM, Elections. Social Evening	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Friday 14th	SAL May 2023 copy and advert deadlines		
Monday 17th	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Saturday 25th	Valentine Club. Coach trip to Salisbury. £15pp.		
Saturday 22nd	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 22nd	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
Sunday 30th	Walking Trail	Village Hall	from 2pm
May			
Friday 5th	Coronation bells: an attempt to ring a full peal	SA Church	from 3pm
Saturday 6th	Coronation Parade around Steeple Aston		
Tuesday 9th	WI. Anna Thatcher: Demonstration of air fryers and slow cookers	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Monday 15th	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall	8.00pm
8th to 12th	Valentine Club. Holiday to Norton Grange	Isle of Wight	
Sunday 14th	SAL June 2023 copy and advert deadlines		
Tuesday 16th	Valentine Club. 'Elvis is alive.' Tribute act	Village Hall	2.30pm
Saturday 20th	Plant sale. Home grown annuals, perennials, etc.	SA Church	2 to 4pm
Monday 22nd	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Wednesday 24th	Valentine Club. National Space Station	Leicestershire	
Saturday 27th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 27th	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
Toddler Group. Sport & Rec Centre - 9.30am -11.30am - Thursdays
Badminton. Village Hall - 8pm - Thursdays
Village History Centre (SAVA). 10am - 12pm - Saturdays

Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee

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

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