

Steeple Aston *Life*

May 2023 Issue No. 597



• The new Rector • Spring Show photos • Coronation Concert report •
• Broughton Castle • Locally produced food • Lord's Taverners at great Tew •

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Contributions are welcome. Please email editorsalife@gmail.com

Cover: Rev'd Harriet Orridge (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
June 2023 issue is 14th May.

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

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Full page (village events only) - £15

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Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	347033
Beekeepers (Swarm collection, advice)		Paul Honigmann	340665
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Hand-bell ringers		Sally Cooper	347173
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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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		Cllr Bryn Williams	07836 271998
		Cllr Hugo Brown	
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Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
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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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Village Website	www.steepleaston.org.uk	Editor: Jenny Bell	347714
Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme		0300 3030125	
WI	President	Julie Hillier	349185



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

Steeple Aston *Life*

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Editorial

You might have read recent reports about ‘ChatGPT’ (<https://chat.openai.com>). Driven by artificial intelligence (AI) technology, it can answer questions and help you write articles and essays. It is currently free to use as the developers are looking for feedback. They make it clear that incorrect information might occasionally be generated and that the system has limited knowledge of events after 2021.

I decided to enlist its assistance in writing this editorial by asking for information about Steeple Aston. What follows is an unedited response, generated in just a few seconds. It is well-written, though with a few errors which will be obvious to residents. So my job is safe – for the moment.

Yes, here is some information about Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, England:

Steeple Aston is a village located in the Cherwell district of Oxfordshire, England. It is situated approximately 10 miles north of the city of Oxford, and about 5 miles south of the town of Banbury.

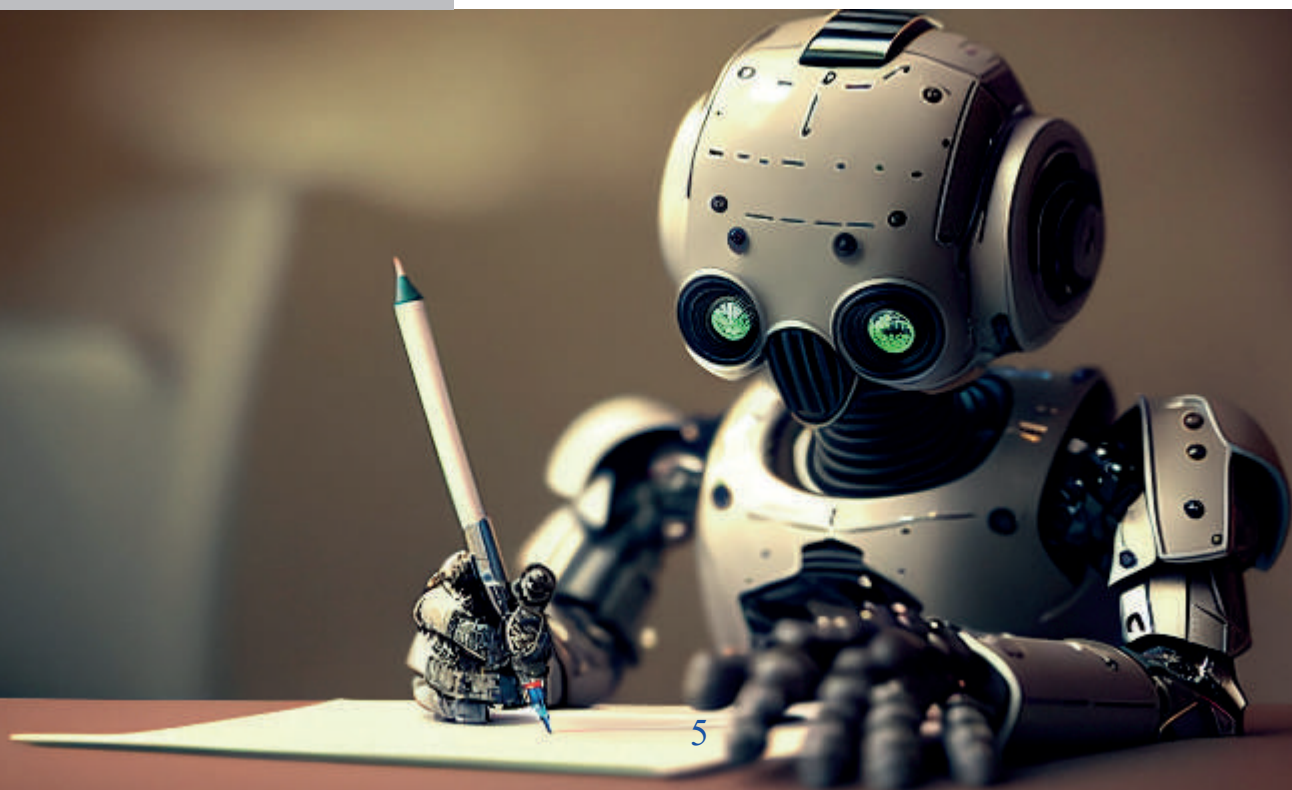
The village has a long history, with evidence of human activity dating back to the Neolithic period. In the Middle Ages, Steeple Aston was an important market town, and it played a significant role in the wool trade. Today, it is a peaceful, rural community with a population of around 1,500 people.

One of the most notable features of Steeple Aston is its parish church, St. Peter and St. Paul. The church dates back to the 12th century and is known for its impressive tower and spire, which can be seen from miles around. The village also has several other historic buildings, including a 17th-century manor house and a number of thatched cottages.

Steeple Aston is surrounded by beautiful countryside and is a popular destination for walkers and cyclists. The Oxford Canal runs through the village, providing opportunities for boating and fishing. The village also has several shops, pubs, and restaurants, making it a convenient place to live or visit.

Overall, Steeple Aston is a charming village with a rich history and plenty of natural beauty. It is a great place to explore if you are interested in traditional English architecture and rural life.

Robert



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Christian Aid Week 14th to 20th May 2023

I am delighted to say that the Lent lunches raised £250. Thank you to all who came and for your very generous donations.

Should you wish to donate during Christian Aid week there will be envelopes available in the church or from me. Please drop filled envelopes at Tchure Cottage, Northside, or contact me and I will collect them.

Alternatively, you can donate on line at caweek.org. However you choose to donate, please remember to include gift aid.

Caroline Parsons, Local organiser

carolineinmaston@gmail.com **tel:07811 820536**

Litter pickers

Two of the groups which explored the verges and undergrowth around Steeple Aston in April, picking up litter and collecting it in black bags.



(Photos by Catherine Crook and Nigel Francis)

A serious outbreak in Steeple Aston!

I know we live in a society where we appear to be given instructions on just about everything, but is it completely necessary to have numerous poles littered along South Side and Sixty Foot alerting us to the fact that there have been changes to the road layout – which is pretty obvious to any road user?

If we have to have instructions on what to do or not do on our village roads, could those instructions possibly have been attached to just one pole? Even more ludicrous is the fact that some of those new instructions have been placed on poles partially obstructed by trees.

Maybe Oxfordshire Highways have acquired a 'job-lot' of metal poles or a surplus of money. Maybe the use of 'common-sense' has been removed from the council's vocabulary. With the obvious surplus of funds held by our local councils, as demonstrated by all these new signs, they might have spent it on clearing the roads of debris (not seen a road sweeper for a year or more) or cleared the drains (again, if they can find them) or as a last resort, repaired the road surface that is more reminiscent of a farm track in many places?

Sorry to sound so negative about such minor issues, but it is OUR money that is being spent and could be used much more effectively.

Richard Preston

Answers to Cryptic Crossword (see March issue, page 15)

ACROSS. 6. encore; 7. omission; 9. hero; 11. cup; 12. stands; 13. habit; 14. beam; 15. Cat; 17. faint; 18. teams; 23. fun; 24. evil; 25. horde; 28. adrift; 29. spa; 30. Isis; 31. Deserter; 32. endear

DOWN. 1. kneepad; 2. fence; 3. couplet; 4. midsummer; 5. cordial; 8. swag; 10. Olive; 16. intestate; 19. Maori; 20. hundred; 21. fissure; 22. admiral; 26. mile; 27. water

No correct answers were received for this crossword.



An Ode to Freedom (for 220 days anyway)

I am an escapee, a long time on the run,
Freedom is exciting, I thought it would be fun,
I made my break in August when it was sunny and dry,
By December I missed my home, I wanted to cry,
The fridge* I live in began to appeal, as the temperatures became bitter,
I dug myself in amongst the brambles, hawthorn and leaf litter.

I am the nose, able to pick up a trail,
with rabbits, deer and foxes, I will invariably fail,
but hares are my favourite, they like a good chase,
Albert was different, he wouldn't even show his face,
He would not run, or dodge or do anything bold,
No, he just sat there, all armoured with nothing to hold,
Then my boss picked him up and said I done good,
Remarkable really, I thought it was wood.

April and I am home again, reunited with my kin,
They will never know how I nearly lost my skin,
Crossing the road, and Rectory Homes,
My adventures were many and I did like the roams,
But it's nice to be safe and not be scared of the dark,
have regular meals and not up with the lark,
for I am a tortoise called Albert, as you have probably guessed,
found by Max, part spaniel, part husky, part retriever no less.

By Max and Albert, with a little help from Stuart Cummins

**Albert would normally hibernate in a fridge over winter set at around 5 degrees C.*



Albert is found – more mud than tortoise.



*Albert cleaned up and back home with
Anne Bonwick*

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Steeple People



Helen Wright
*Co-organiser of the Steeple and Middle Aston
Coronation Parade and Party*



How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? 11 years.

Where did you move from? In the three years before moving here we'd lived in Derbyshire, Norfolk and London.

What brought you here? My husband had a job at the JR.

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? The people – it's a busy, active, friendly village.

Is there anything you don't like about living here? Coming across dog poo on our paths.

How do you see yourself, in five words or less? Friendly, chatty, quite loud.

What does your family find most annoying about you? I can be a bit messy...

What does your family find the most endearing about you? My friendliness.

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist? Night Owl. Cat. Optimist.

Technology: friend or foe? To marmite or not? Mostly friend. Marmite.

What was the best thing about being a child? Freedom!

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Vet (until I realised how bad I was at chemistry!!).

What was your first job? Had lots of early jobs – from cattle market runner to door-to-door frozen foods saleswoman! First 'proper job' was as a journalist with IRN (the radio version of ITN).

What do you do for a living now? I run 9-2-3 Jobs (www.923jobs.com) an award-winning recruitment agency specialising in flexible roles for professionals. I was inspired to set up the business while standing in Steeple Aston playground back in 2015.

What is the best job you've ever done? I once spent a wonderful fortnight as a Security Guard at Wimbledon – I was posted onto one of the main gates so had to do exciting things like keep the crowds back when Princess Diana was driven in, chaperone past winners to their seats and check celebrities' (like Arnold Schwarzenegger) tickets! Plus on my breaks I got to go to any court and watch the tennis.

What is the worst job you've ever done? Working in Burger King in the centre of Cardiff. I did a late shift – we needed security guards while we served everyone as they piled out of pubs!

What's your secret/guilty pleasure? Reading The Sun.

What are you reading at the moment? 'Ma'am Darling – 99 Glimpses of Princess Margaret' by Craig Brown (a book about another spare heir!).

What's your favourite food? I do love a home-made lasagne with a salad, balsamic dressing and garlic bread.

What would you save from your house if it was on fire? Apart from children, husband and pets – I think I'd grab all our photo albums.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? I'd probably go to Waitrose and buy all the food. Then I'd book an indulgent family holiday somewhere gorgeous. Then I would think about giving lots of it away!

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? I like this saying my dad often uses: "It'll be all right in the end, if it's not all right – it's not the end!"

Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive? Any famous figure from history.

What do you get grumpy/mad about? Bad customer service.

What makes you happiest in the world? Seeing my children happy.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really good at. My daughter does all the delicious baking in our house – but we're both surprised at how good my profiteroles are.

Tell us something about you that most people don't know. I briefly joined Chris Evans and Billie Piper during one of their drinking binges at The Nags Head – they bought me gin-and-tonic.

Tell us a good joke. What do you call a dinosaur fart? A blast from the past.



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The ARTS Page



Oxfordshire Art Weeks fit neatly into May – South Oxon 6th to 14th, North and West Oxon 13th to 21st, Oxford City 20th to 29th. It is the largest and oldest open studios pop-up exhibition in the UK. Last year there were over 1500 artists and over 100,000 visitors. Spanning the whole gamut of the visual arts, with showings, themed art trails, workshops and more, it is one of the highlights of the year. They won the Oxfordshire Business Awards: Outstanding Visitor Experience award last year. Delight in their terrific website. You'll see that the nearest exhibitions are in our own Bradshaw Close, plus Lower Heyford, Tackley and beyond. www.artweeks.org

The Sunningwell School of Art, near Abingdon, has a wide-ranging teaching and coaching programme for budding artists in drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and more, and celebrates its 50th birthday this year. There are more than 40 different classes with around 500 students "walking through our doors each week". The excellent website is well worth a look. artschool.org.uk

A little further away is the Langford Arts Festival – 10th to 11th June. Midway between Oxford and Cheltenham it would make a wonderful outing into the Cotswolds. "The amazing work of 65 amateur and professional artists to view and buy, plus art-inspired activities for visitors to try." It began life five years ago as a village initiative, bringing the community together, delighting visitors and raising money for village charities. It looks to be a wonderful role model. www.langfordartsfestival.co.uk

About the same distance away are the Chipping Campden Festivals – Music 5th to 22nd May and Literature 22nd to 27th May. The church is described by Alfred Brendel as "one of the finest acoustics I've encountered in my 60-year career" and Bernard Haitink says "the chance to be part of the audience and to hear concerts of outstanding quality in such a setting is the purest joy". The line-up of artists for both festivals is extraordinary, too long to list here. Suffice to say, it has an international reputation. www.campdenmayfestivals.co.uk

Nearer to home, The English Music Festival, in and around Dorchester – 26th to 29th May - is the brain child of Em Marshall. It has flourished over years, featuring English Music, some unperformed, some neglected, some well-known. For many centuries we were called "Das Land ohne Musik/The Land without music", but from Elgar onwards, this enterprising festival shows how that has emphatically changed. www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk

There is also the small but high-quality Dean and Chadlington Festival – 30th June to 2nd July. My good friend, Craig Ogden, international guitarist, is giving a Recital in Spelsbury Church on July 2nd, alongside five other events in beautiful settings. A local gem. www.chadlingtonfestival.org.uk

Even nearer is the Kite Festival in Kirtlington Park – 9th to 11th June. A new festival of ideas and music. Headline artists from Hot Chip and Suede to Sir John Major and Dame Joan Collins. Whacky and inventive, we're lucky to have it on our doorstep. www.kitefestival.co.uk

Two websites with lots of similar information are theoxfordmagazine.com and eventbrite.com. Also, do please let me know of events that interest you, which you can recommend. The Arts page will be more wide-ranging with your input.

As I write, the BBC have temporarily reprieved the BBC Singers and are reconsidering their proposed cuts to three of their orchestras. English National Opera has got a revised Arts Council offer. Small steps in keeping our artistic excellence alive.

Nicholas Cleobury
nicholascleobury.net



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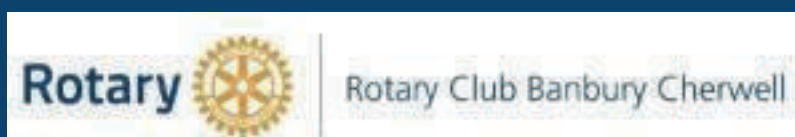
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The Umpires:



The Players:



Photos of Steeple Aston players unavailable due to "copyright" restrictions

Sunday 21st May 2023. Match starts 2pm

Entry is only £5, including car parking and a free programme. Bar, food stalls, tea and cake stand available on the day

All proceeds go to the Lord's Taverners 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

Venue: Great & Little Tew Cricket Club, Ledwell Rd, Great Tew, OX7 4AQ



LORD'S TAVERNERS
Empowering young people through cricket

???? Mind Games

Place names quiz (answers on page 26)

(compiled by Cathy Lawday)

1. What was Sri Lanka formerly called?
2. Which Indian city is known as The City of Joy?
3. What is the name of Finland in Finnish?
4. Fifteen separate countries were formed out of the old Soviet Union. How many can you name?
5. What is the new name for Swaziland?
6. What was the former name of Ho Chi Minh city?
7. Which city started out with the name New Amsterdam?
8. What was the former name of Uluru?
9. There are 60 towns in the world called Richmond. How many Richmonds are there in the UK? And how many are there in the USA?
10. What is the new name of the Ellice Islands?

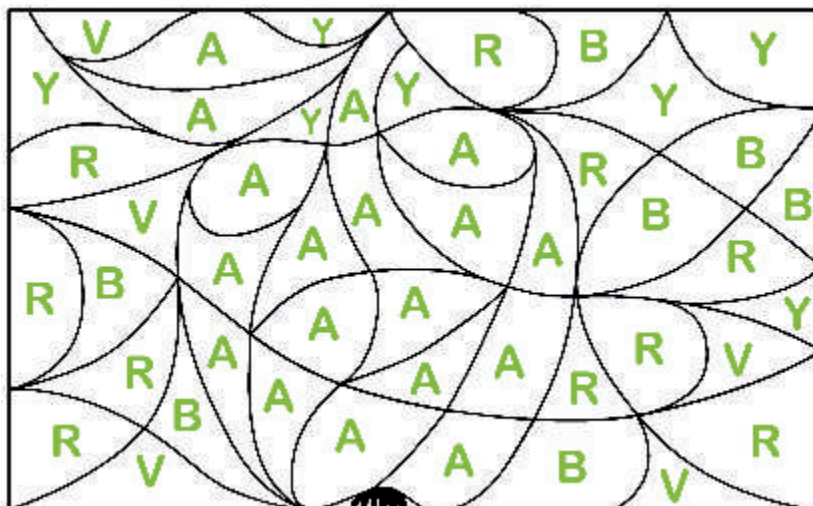
Royal riddles (answers on page 26)

May is the month of the Coronation of King Charles III. Here is a list where the answer to each contains the word 'King'.

1. Rider Haggard book
2. Film monster
3. Rodger and Hammerstein musical
4. Shakespeare plays
5. Famous for Christmas Eve broadcast
6. Fast food restaurants
7. He had a dream
8. Disney's award-winning musical
9. American writer of horror
10. He called for his pipe

Colour by letters

Fill in all the spaces marked 'A' with a green or red colour to reveal a tasty fruit.



Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



At the April meeting, the village map was discussed. The frame for the current village map is gently falling apart and the Parish Council has approached Rectory Homes, the developer of Town End, to see if they would donate a new frame, its supports and the cost of installation.

There was a long discussion of the form the map and its frame should take. The proposed new frame has a pediment on the top and the Councillors wanted to select a suitable motif for the pediment. The alternatives considered were the Rousham Eye Catcher, the stylised apple drawn by Peter Waite for the Millennium mug or something related to the Orchard on Water Lane. In time honoured fashion they put off the decision till next month. The Councillors decided that the new map should include Parish boundaries, should specifically mention Middle Aston as well as Steeple Aston and should not identify the Conservation Area boundaries or listed buildings. Someone commented that he was not sure how much the map was used and claimed he was wondering if he was wasting his time choosing a new one. The Councillors decided to order the frame as Rectory Homes had just told the Council that they will pay for it. Thank you to Rectory Homes from all our visitors.

I was asked to thank everyone who turned out for the April spring clean of the entrance roads to the village. A lot of people came and collected a mountain of mess which has since been removed by the refuse lorry. So thank you to all the helpers.

There was a discussion of the repairs being done to Rousham Bridge. These are due to happen in July, but there are already heavy-duty coverings between the bridge and an entrance to the water meadow by Lower Heyford station. Someone suggested that this may mean the bridge will be repaired sooner than July. Either way it sounds as if we are going to get the repairs done relatively soon.

The Councillors asked about the school bus taking children from here to the Warriner or Marlborough schools. Apparently, the buses will continue to run, but the bus itself is likely to be smaller so that it may not have enough seats to accommodate all those who now use the Spare Seats Scheme. For

those lucky enough to get a spare seat the cost is likely to increase (what a surprise).

I am all for encouraging people out of their cars, but it can go too far. We were told that it might be seen as unrealistic of Oxfordshire's Highways Department to recommend the refusal of planning permission for a care home for 128 people at Bodicote unless it had parking for 64 bicycles. Someone suggested it could make sense if you defined a mobility scooter as a bike. Fortunately, Highways has been overruled by Cherwell District Council and common sense has prevailed.

There was a post mortem on the lack of information on the bus stops when the new road layout at Town End recently closed off Southside and Sixty Foot. The bus could only go as far as The Crescent and turn round. There were no signs on the village bus stops to warn hopeful travellers to go to The Crescent. The Councillors thought this was not the fault of the road work contractors, but rather of Stagecoach who pointed out the signs were needed but did nothing themselves to inform the potential users of their own busses.

The Play Area needs some new bark. Apparently, there are different sorts of bark chippings and those for play areas are more expensive than the stuff from wet wood recently put through a chipper. Someone said the Play Area and its lavatory is starting to look its age (join the club) and might benefit from a revamp relatively soon.

The gate to the Orchard on Water Lane has been open recently and does not seem to be causing problems. The suggestion of a self-closing spring was again mooted. A pond has been dug at the Orchard to encourage wild life.

The next item on the agenda was, as someone pointed out at the meeting, just the sort I most enjoy. There is a dip by the door to the Committee Room at the Village Hall and to stop people tripping up there are two low walls on either side of the entrance. The problem is that the walls have got a bit damaged. No one knows what has caused the damage, but it was assumed that it was likely to be cars because drivers did not see the low walls and/or bicyclists doing wheelies. I wondered if the latter was even possible.

Parish Council Meeting Notes



Lots of suggestions have been considered, but solutions that might be effective were rejected as not aesthetically appropriate. The rejected ideas included raising the walls to a height visible to drivers, steel handrails and a metal capping on the walls. The current proposal is to put a layer of concrete over the crumbling tops of the existing walls. This proposal had the advantage of being cheap, but it was not clear to the Councillors how this would help in the long-term. They accepted the only really effective solution would be to protect the walls with bollards, but they did not think this would look pleasant. I wondered, but not aloud, whether it was simpler to just paint the walls white every year and forget a long-term solution. At least this would look good.

There was a public meeting a couple of months ago to consider the draft Local Plan by Cherwell that proposed 47 new houses to be built in Steeple Aston by 2040. That Plan was deferred, so we do not know if our allocation will be the same when CDC updates the original version. Our representatives on the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP) team were asked at the public meeting to represent the village. What is being done is to try to be prepared for the new Cherwell proposals which are likely to be similar to the original ones and probably available after the local elections in early May. Martin Lipson, the chair of the MCNP steering group, has got a small group together to look at all the possible development sites in the village. He has carefully selected the individuals so none have a personal interest in any development site and three are from outside Steeple Aston. One of the outsiders has been intentionally selected because of coming from Kirtlington, which the original CDC proposal put in the same development category as Steeple Aston. This should help to transfer experience between the MCNP parishes. The group will report back to the Parish Council in about four to six weeks with their take on alternative sites for development.

It was noted that there has been some building at Hatch End for which planning approval has not been sought or given. It was assumed that the owners will seek retrospective planning approval

in the future. There is a video on Facebook showing the new blockwork.

The chair of the Parish Council, Richard MacAndrew, is resigning and despite this he has volunteered to continue with some practical duties. He offered to organise a working party which would change the batteries on the speed sign and the defibrillator, keep the emergency plan up to date and liaise about a possible café at Hatch End. His generous offer was happily accepted by the Councillors who suggested that if he forgot anything he was welcome to return to a Parish Council meeting for a reminder. Richard thanked them, a trifle insincerely, for the offer. Thank you, Richard.

Once a year there is a discussion of what is meant to happen at the annual village meeting and the AGM of the Parish Council. Both of these are held before the usual monthly Parish Council meeting in May. The first of these meetings, the village meeting, has never received any interest despite trying to entice people in with wine or John Coley's delicious biscuits. This meeting, we were informed, could be organised by anyone and does not even need to be called by the Parish Council. The meeting usually only lasts sufficiently long to be closed down.

The AGM is where the chair describes what has been achieved in the last year and the chair and vice-chair for the following year are elected by the Councillors. Usually, I can make a good guess about who this will be, but this year I have no idea. I think my antennae must have fallen off. Do come and join me at 7.30pm in the Committee Room on 15th May to find out.

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

WEEKLY CLEANING HELP

Cleaner wanted for busy author's comfortable house in Steeple Aston.

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Locally-produced food: Suppliers within reach of Steeple Aston

I have created the following listing at the suggestion of the Environment Committee of the Parish Council (of which both Martin and I are members). I have tried to visit each one of these suppliers where possible, so if anyone has further questions I will try to answer them.

Ruth Dale martinandruth123@icloud.com

North Aston Organics

www.northastonorganics.co.uk 01869 347702

Soil Association registered organic box scheme.

Weekly organic vegetable box also supplying fruit, eggs, bread, etc.

There is the possibility for home delivery and/or collection points.

North Aston Dairy

www.northastonfarms.co.uk northastondairyoffice@gmail.com

Organic pasteurised, unhomogenised milk; yoghurt; cream; ice cream.

Organic home-reared beef, veal and lamb. Also eggs and Forgehouse Bakery Bread.

Weekly deliveries or collection points: Order online.

Charlotte Powell

charlotte@southfielddlivestock.co.uk www.southfielddlivestock.co.uk

Producing high health and welfare beef, lamb and rare breed pork.

Brown's Pop-up Farm Shop

Park Farm Middleton Stoney OX25 4AL

brownsatparkfarm.co.uk

Open first weekend of every month. Home-reared pork, lamb, beef and free range eggs.

Also provides bread, seasonal vegetables, jams, chutneys and honey.

Deddington Farmers' Market

www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

Fourth Saturday of each month 9am to 12.30pm.

Over 40 stalls offering local produce including bread, eggs, fish, meat, vegetables, fruit, flowers, beer, preserves and much more!

Forgehouse Bakery

www.forgehousebakery.com forgehousebakery@btinternet.com tel: 07584 666561

Home-baked sourdough bread, pastries, etc.

Pre-order Saturday to Thursday for collection Fridays (see website for details).

Cotswold Lamb

Email: whpspray@gmail.com

Rare breed lamb, will deliver.

Fenemore Farms Micro Farmshop

fenemorefarms@gmail.com tel: 07917 795207

Provides lamb, eggs, honey, fruit and vegetables.

Open daily (sign on main road from Deddington to Clifton).

Steeple Aston Community Orchard

sacommunityorchard@gmail.com

Local village apple juice.

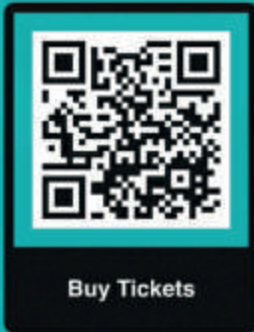
Worton Kitchen Garden

Rectory Farm, Cassington OX29 4SU

wortonkitchengarden.com tel: 07710 634631

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laughingoxcomedyclub.co.uk



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STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL



The Gardening Spot

April showers bring forth May flowers

May is one of those months when everything changes in the garden. Plants and shrubs start to put on growth at an alarming rate, subject to some warmer weather. To accompany this, so do the weeds! So, for fear of repeating myself, keep on top of the weeding as that will allow the plants you want in the garden to flourish.

Towards the end of the month, it will be time to start planting out bedding plants, but do not be in too much of a hurry as any young plants will do so much better if the soil is warm and there are no cold winds. Don't be tempted to cut back the foliage on your daffodils and tulips, but simply let them die naturally and give the clumps a liquid feed to make for an even better display next spring.

This is the time to create your hanging baskets using plants of your choice, but best to incorporate a slow-release fertiliser into the compost to promote growth over a longer period. In the greenhouse, keep an eye on the temperature. Ventilate when possible and try to keep the air moist by damping down as that in turn will reduce the infestation of red spider mite and whitefly.

Keep cutting the lawn and keep the edges tidy as that sets off the lawn. Tie in the climbing roses and keep an eye open for 'black spot' and treat as best you can with fungicide. In the vegetable garden, earth up potatoes to encourage a better crop and also protect from the possibility of a late frost. Thin out seedlings such as lettuce, beetroot, and carrots and, if like me, you suffer from carrot root fly, consider some protection such as a fleece or environmesh to keep the nasty bugs at bay.

As for runner beans, my experience is that they do best when not planted too early. It is always tempting to plant them out at the first opportunity as they are such a wonderful vegetable, but they are very susceptible to cold winds and low temperatures and, with our climate, who knows what might be coming over the next few weeks. Brassicas can be planted out now, but these are some the favourite meals for pigeons, so protect as necessary. Those delicious fruits called strawberries are coming in very soon so try to keep the fruit off the ground by using a membrane or straw, keeping the fruit clean and less prone to mildew.

Some evergreen hedges might need a trim about now and consider shading your greenhouse if the sun makes an appearance, especially for tomatoes and cucumbers, because as much as they like to be kept warm, they do not like too much direct sunlight. Tomatoes will need a feed once a week, moving from a nitrogen feed in their earlier stages to a potash feed once fruits appear on the plant. Cucumbers on the other hand need a nitrogen feed throughout their life to produce those succulent fruits. Keep an eye on pots and planters as they dry out very quickly in the summer sunshine and, just like us, they appreciate a meal sometimes so consider a regular feed to promote growth and flowers.

Did you know that on Sunday 4th June, Steeple Aston will be opening eight private gardens for you to visit, all as part of The National Garden Scheme (NGS)? You will see signs at the entrance to the gardens where you can purchase a ticket for just £7, allowing you into all eight gardens and supporting such amazing charities as Macmillan nurses, cancer research and Parkinson's UK. To complete the afternoon, home-made teas will be available at the village hall where half the profit will be donated to the NGS and half to supporting your village hall.

Happy gardening.

Richard Preston

The Spring show

On a fairly grey Sunday at the end of March, spring arrived in Steeple Aston Village Hall courtesy of many villagers and friends who discovered amazing daffodils in their gardens, baked numerous cakes and created stunning floral art exhibits or handicraft items. Spring had arrived!

With over 360 entries, this was one of the best-supported Spring Shows on record, thanks to all the wonderful people who took the time to enter something, be it a bowl of tulips or a photograph. It was accompanied by what we believe to be the highest number of visitors ever to visit a Spring Show – what a way to kick off a new season. The tea ladies were kept busy serving up some delicious cakes and, as I have always been told, if there is a gathering of more than three people, then there must be a raffle – and what a raffle!

Congratulations to all the trophy winners and prize winners in all classes, but most importantly a big thank you to all those who exhibited. As with all organisations, these events don't just happen and it is thanks to a wonderful committee that this show is such a success.

On the subject of the committee, we are capable of organising a flower show, but we are also getting that bit older and come the Annual Show on August Bank Holiday Monday, we could really use some help. Even if for only a hour or so on the day. If you feel you would like to help keep the annual village show going, please let me or a committee member know. The show has been around since 1869 and for some of us it feels just like that!

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to preserve village life and traditions and hope to see you all on 28th August.

Richard Preston

Horticultural Society Chairman – 01869 340512



Photos by Nigel Francis



Mind Games Answers

Place names quiz (see page 17)

1. Ceylon; 2. Kolkata / Calcutta; 3. Suomi;
4. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan;
5. Eswatini; 6. Saigon; 7. New York;
8. Ayers Rock; 9. There are three Richmonds in the UK and 29 in the USA;
10. Tuvalu

Royal Riddles (see page 17)

1. King Solomon's Mines; 2. King Kong;
3. The King and I; 4. King Lear, King John;
5. King's College, Cambridge;
6. Burger King; 7. Martin Luther King;
8. The Lion King; 9. Stephen King;
10. Old King Cole



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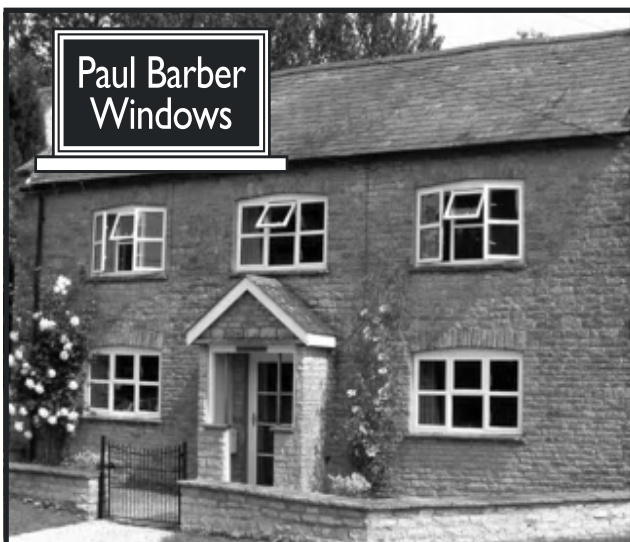
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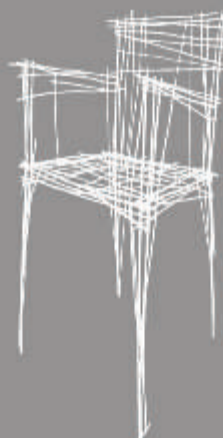
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Poetry Corner



May

the birds sing out to signal that it's spring
it's loudest at the breaking of the day
a simple act that does such pleasure bring

and so it is that when we get to May
the sun beats down and warms with amber glow
to soothe our soul and keep our blues at bay

the month speeds by I wish it passed more slow
and yet I would not wish my hands to wring
when June that follows softens up the blow
and summer comes now it's my turn to sing

Peter Wild



Rain on our parade



Rain, rain go away
Come again another day
People would be so dismayed
If it rained on our parade
For the coronation of the king
So please don't dampen everything

I know you make the rivers flow
And give succour to all things that grow
But please could you just stay away
I only ask it for one day
Because you have it in your power
To ruin the day with a heavy shower

And a full-on downpour really could
Change Robinsons into a field of mud
That would curtail the planned pursuits
Out would come macs and welly boots
Rain would soak through the summer frocks
And seep right into shoes and socks,

The glimpse of springtime so revered
Would suddenly have disappeared
And winter's back – cold, damp and wet
And summer would feel months off yet.
Then suddenly there is a shout
Cheer up and smile! The sun's come out!

Cathy Lawday

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

By time you read this, 41 of our members will be packing in readiness for a holiday near Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight. On their return, at our monthly meeting on the 16th May, we have a very famous entertainer who is going to transport us all back to the good old days of rock and roll. Yes, Elvis is still alive and appearing for The Valentine Club for just one day only!

At our meeting in April we were given a most informative talk on scam protection and the services provided by AGE UK Oxfordshire. Cheryl from Trading Standards and Troy from AGE UK provided some great tips on keeping safe, both online and at the doorstep and Troy provided us with a condensed description of what is available for the slightly more senior members of our community.

Have you ever wondered what happens to items that have been confiscated from criminals when the police have caught the perpetrators? Thames Valley Police hold 'contraband' for a period of time to see if it is claimed and then sell the items, distributing the proceeds to worthy causes. The Valentine Club was considered to be a 'worthy cause' and as such awarded £500 towards the work that we do with the older members of our community. Thank you TVP.

The club has made the first coach trip of the year to Salisbury and I can tell you more about this next month. With the summer months coming along, we will be enjoying more coach trips to all parts of the country, so watch this space.

To find about more about The Valentine Club, then simply 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.

The Valentine Club, with 100 members, has to continue to raise funds to enable us to bring top-rated entertainers and speakers to the club and subsidise many of the coach trips each year. One of our main lines of income is the Cherwell Lottery whereby 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

Football Focus



The Annual General Meeting of Steeple Aston Football Club will be held at the Sports and Recreational Centre, Steeple Aston, at 7.30pm on Monday 15th May 2023.

The meeting is open to all who have an interest in the club.

Peter Wild
Secretary SAFC

The King Shall Rejoice

Steeple Aston Choral Society believes in starting the party early and their Coronation! concert did exactly that with an event packed full of contrasting musical gems.

The opening anthem, Haendel's iconic *Zadok the Priest*, was probably heard in Middle Aston as the choir, under the enthusiastic direction of Paul Badley, sang their hearts out, skilfully accompanied by organist Jonathan Kingston and trumpeter Daniel Mills. Daniel was playing a 'baroque' – a piccolo, high-pitched – trumpet, which added a bright, sparkling quality to the music.

After the pomp of *Zadok*, the spacious serenity of Bruckner's *Locus Iste* was a complete contrast and this mood continued, with the Bach/Gounod, *Ave Maria*; Brahms' *How Lovely are They Dwellings* and Franck's *Panis Angelicus*. A wonderful arrangement, of what is commonly called Albinoni's *Adagio*, specially written for the choir by Paul Herrington, SACS accompanist and composer, followed and this work with its declamatory organ interludes and flowing choral sections, cleverly wove the contrasting moods together.

A year ago, the plan for this concert had been to sing some of the best-loved choral classics – which included *Zadok* – but when news of the Coronation was announced several months later, more royal music and a trumpeter were added. Haendel is the undisputed king of 'royal' music, composing for Queen Anne, George I and George II. The first half of the concert closed with his sparkling *Let their Celestial Concerts all Unite* from *Samson*, his first oratorio composition since *The Messiah*.

After the audience and performers had fortified themselves with wine and nibbles, the concert continued with Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine*, a tranquil work composed when Faure was still a student, its gentle flowing style already reflecting the composer of the *Requiem* to come.

Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus* and Schubert's exquisite *Sanctus* highlighted the choir's increasing skill in the difficult accomplishment of singing very quietly.



Then, with the complete contrast that the audience had now come to expect, Jonathan Kingston played Percy Grainger's *Handel in the Strand*. This work, originally called *Clog Dance*, blends Handelian style with the Strand in London, the then home of musical comedy. Jonathan gave us a toe-tapping performance, perfectly capturing the wit and exuberance of this delightful piece.

The final Haendel work, which like *Zadok* was composed for the coronation of George II in 1727, was *The King Shall Rejoice*. With Paul Badley almost dancing off his podium, this was another sparkling and glorious anthem, which brought the concert to its climax – but not its end.

The final work had to be by Hubert Parry, who we are told is King Charles's favourite composer. The audience and performers joined together in a resounding version of *Jerusalem* with trumpet (an ordinary Bb one) descant.

The *Monty Python*, 'Now for something different' style of this concert, which had something for everyone and showed the breadth of so much wonderful music, worked well and the audience was very appreciative.

One concert goer wrote – “*Thank you very much for an entertaining evening. A fabulous programme for the imminent King's Coronation. Well done to all!*”

Another – “*Just fabulous!*”

The next SACS Concert is the SACS Summer Party in the Village Hall on Sunday 25th June at 7pm (with tables available from 6.30pm). This will be an informal evening of light entertainment with wine and strawberries, including arrangements of folk songs, Simon and Garfunkel, the Carpenters and – returning by popular request – the audience sing-a-long medley.

If you would like to join SACS to sing in this fun evening, rehearsals begin on Monday 17th April at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. Please contact Margaret Bullement on 01869 347346 or email mtheb@gmail.com for details.

Margaret Bullement

Steeple Aston Coronation Peal

To start the village celebrations to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III there will be an attempt to ring a full peal at Steeple Aston on Friday 5th May starting at 2.45pm. If the peal is successful it should take about 2 hours 50 minutes to complete. We will be ringing a method called Double Norwich Court Bob Major. This is an older method not rung so much these days, but is very musical.

The ringers taking part are all officers or ex-officers of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers. They are:

Patricia and Robert Newton from High Wycombe, both past Masters.

Stuart Gibson, the current Treasurer.

Ken Darvill from Beaconsfield, past Secretary.

Catherine Lane from Long Crendon, current Master.

Alan Marchbank from Great Lindford, past Deputy Master.

Colin Lee from Adderbury, current Steward.

Graham Clifton from Steeple Aston, past Master.

Our local ringers will also be ringing on Saturday 6th May along with churches all over the country in conjunction with the ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

Graham Clifton



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I hope by now everyone knows that Steeple Aston Cricket Club is playing against the Lord's Taverners on Sunday 21st May at Great Tew Cricket Club to raise money for the charity. In 2011 we raised £25,000, which was the most any village had ever raised in the 73-year history of the Taverners. In 2016 we broke our own record raising £30,000. With this money we were able to buy a modified mini-bus that allowed many disabled children to be taken to Taverners' cricket matches. There they learnt to play cricket together, making new friends. However, most important of all were the huge improvements in their physical and mental well-being.

This time we have set a target of raising £45,000 and are well on our way to achieving it. However, we can only do this with your help. There are three ways in which you can contribute:

1) Buy raffle tickets – we have more than 50 prizes, including a bench from Nicholson's/Rosara, Bed & Breakfast for two at the White Horse, a £100 Charles Tyrwhitt voucher, cricket bats signed by Johnny Bairstow and Viv Richards and a half-case of wine from Domaine Watson, amongst many more. If you wish to buy any tickets, please email me at peter.higgins@ctshirts.co.uk or call 01869 347493. Tickets are £2 each.

2) Come to the game, which starts at 2pm on Sunday 21st May at Great Tew CC (see advert on page 16 for more details). Car parking costs £5, but that includes free entry for you and your family and friends. There you can buy raffle tickets and/or tea and cakes. The Lord's Taverners team will include many cricket and rugby internationals: David Gower, Mike Gatting, Michael Vaughan, Monty Panesar, Andy Caddick, Gavin Hastings, Will Carling, Matt Dawson, Will Greenwood and Rob Andrew, as well as Chris Tarrant and Stephen Mangan. Please do come and watch.

3) Attend the Lord's Taverners Dinner at 7pm on Saturday 20th May at Great Tew CC. Tickets are £100 each for a three-course meal (including fillet steak or vegetarian alternative) with as much beer, lager and wine as you can drink. David Gower, former England captain and President of the Taverners, will host the evening and will be our guest speaker.

Please do try and find a way to support this incredible charity. Together we really can transform disabled children's lives. We very much look forward to seeing you.

All the best.

Peter Higgins
Chairman SACC & Member of Lord's Taverners



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The formality of a Society AGM took up the first part of our Club night in April. We saw Martyn Pearse retire as Chair and Miggy Wild was voted into this position. Andrew Dayer was voted in as Secretary. The remaining Officers, Nick Hardwick and Colin Lamb, continue in their roles as Treasurer and Programme Secretary respectively.

Martyn Pearse thanked the working committee for their help this last year which included Meriel Flux, Lindsey Smith, Neil Grantham, Courtney Killpack and Anne Hunsley. They have been instrumental in keeping the Society moving forward.

Martyn Pearse concluded his Chairman's report with, "I leave confident in the knowledge that the society has a highly capable committee that will continue all the good works to ensure the continued success of the Adderbury Deddington & District Photographic Society". Thank you, Martin, for all your work on the Committee over the last ten years.

The second part of Club night was a well-fought quiz of guessing 'What is it?' A two-round collection of images guessing something taken in close-up and their full size, answers leaving a winning team of four with Easter chocolate as a prize. This is possibly one of the quietest moments we have had in our club nights together. Well, chocolate was up for winning!

As part of our Society calendar, we enjoy photoshoots and workshops. This last month we enjoyed a light photoshoot organised by myself at Deddington Church. Next month we have in-house presenter Colin Lamb showing his recently taken images from his visit to New Zealand. At each club night we have a slideshow of members' images on a theme. This next month's title is 'Discovery'.

On 5th May we are visiting The Old Dairy Farm, Cropredy and Slimbridge Wetland Centre – dates and times tba.

Our new year begins and we welcome new members to our Society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. Website and contact details are at addphoto.co.uk

Courtney Killpack

Steeple Aston Garden Club



We were delighted to welcome Libby Reeves from Nicholsons as our speaker on 'Environmental Gardening' at our April meeting.

It was also the Garden Club AGM in April, very short and very sweet. Subscriptions which are now due remain the same as last year – £10 for individuals and £15 for families. As our Treasurer for the last eight years, Anne Bonwick, was retiring, we welcome Chris Cooper as the club's new Treasurer. Please make it easy for him by paying your subs promptly. Thanks were given to Anne for doing such a good job over the past years. Richard Preston remains as Chairman and Chris Clarke as Secretary.

A full year's programme of visits and speakers has been arranged and we are all looking forward to starting our first visit of the season on Wednesday 31st May at 6.30pm to Sue Bedwell's garden, 'Monks Head' in Bletchington OX5 3DH, £8 per person to include refreshments. "This is a garden evolving all the time becoming more of a wildlife garden." Please offer to car share wherever possible.

Thank you to all members for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our various visits over the next few summer months. Any new members are always welcome. For further information please do not hesitate to contact Richard (tel. 340512), Chris Cooper (tel. 347173) or myself (tel. 347192).

Chris Clarke



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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 at around 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. At the end, when you return your forms, there is tea and cake included in the price.

Advance tickets (cash only) £5 individual, £10 for a family, from Barbara (01869 340423) or the Village Shop until Friday 28th April. On the day (cash only) £6 individual, £12 for a family. Any profit made will go to help Village Hall costs.

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

The Annual General Meeting of the Steeple Aston Management committee will take place on the above date. The AGM lasts approximately 15 minutes and is followed by the monthly Village Hall committee meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Sunday 4th June 2–6 pm NGS (National Garden Schemes) Village Open Gardens.

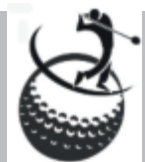
Teas in Village Hall. The Church allotments plus seven gardens open, admission £7 to all gardens. The Village Hall Committee are once again organising refreshments for the Open Gardens. The money raised goes towards Macmillan Nurses and other cancer charities. If anyone would like to bake or supply a cake, or help serve teas in the afternoon (for approximately one hour, for a time to suit you) please contact Barbara on 01869 340423. Cakes can be brought to the hall after 10am on the Sunday morning or dropped off to me before the event.

Saturday 1st July Barn Dance - details to follow.

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 Golf Society



Hello fellow golfers,

We would like to send our thanks to Paul Kay, our Captain for 2022, for a great season.

Meeting dates:

As we start our 35th year, we would like you to come and join us and enjoy the fun that we have on these great days out. You may be thinking that you cannot make all of these meetings – that doesn't matter, just pick one out that you fancy and give me or Chris a call. We would love to see you: 01869 340423 / 347173

We have been able to put together a very strong programme for 2023 with two new venues for SAGS.

Following glowing reports from our members, we have booked the Vale at Pershore and The Worcestershire – one of the oldest clubs in England and renowned for its stunning views over the Mendip Hills.

Please reserve these dates in your diaries:

Friday 19th May - Wychwood - meet 12.00, first tee 13.00

Friday 23rd June – The Worcestershire - meet 12.00, first tee 13.00

Friday 21st July - The Springs - meet 12.00, first tee 13.00

Friday 11th August – Wrag Barn – meet 11.30, first tee 12.30

Friday 15th September – The Vale - meet 12.15, first tee 13.20

October – Captain's Day – to be decided

Alan Brewer



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11th April was our AGM and my last meeting as President of Steeple Aston WI. I have stepped down after doing the job for two years and have handed over to the highly capable Julie Hillier.



*(left to right) Former President Linda Needle, newly-elected President Julie Hillier and outgoing President Cathy Lawday.
(Photo by Hildy Frenken)*

The evening began with voting for the new committee members. Julie Hillier was elected as President unopposed. The end-of-year reports from secretary and treasurer which had been emailed to members earlier were accepted and I gave my President's Report on the past year. I was then presented with a John Lewis voucher from the members and from the committee I was given a rose bush, a variety called 'The Queen of Sweden'. This ended the 'business' part of the evening and we then settled down to relax and socialise. We enjoyed a quiz 'All About Women' which gave Linda Needle and Sally Cooper the chance to display their general knowledge and achieve a high score. We were kept supplied with wine or soft drinks and delicious canapes made by local caterers, *S & J Cuisine*.

Raffle prizes were won by Sally Cooper, Hildy Frenken, Joyce Atkins, Janice Kinory, Kathryn Coysh and Paula Jarrett. This year, the flower cup was won jointly by Merrill Bayley and Trish Vickers.

To round off the evening I read a poem about my time in office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Steeple Aston WI for making me feel welcome, both as a member and as their President.

Our meetings are held at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month. Coming up this month is a demonstration of cooking with air fryers and slow cookers, and in June there is a talk on Body Language. There will also be the usual walks, lunches and weekly walking netball, so do come along and see if the WI is right for you. If you would like more information about the WI, please contact the new president, Julie Hillier – telephone 349185, email j.hillier3@hotmail.co.uk

Cathy Lawday

Church Matters



Hello everyone.

Thank you for inviting me to come and join you in Steeple Aston. I'm delighted to have moved into the Rectory with my family. Thank you to everyone who has helped us move so quickly, the last two months have flown past since my interview. We have found the kettle, so you are welcome to call round for a coffee and chat, but please bear with us whilst we get properly unpacked.

The last few weeks have been busy for everyone as we travelled through Lent, traditionally a time for self-reflection, regularly using the time to change our habits by giving something up. This year Caroline Parsons hosted weekly 'Lent Lunches', raising £270 for Christian Aid. Thank you Caroline for organising the lunches and your delicious soups.

During the last few weeks we have celebrated Easter, seeing Jesus Christ crowned through his death and resurrection, my licensing and now we are busy preparing to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. Three significant and special events in the life of the world, our nation and local community. The scale of the events differ vastly, Easter is *the* turning point of Christian history, King Charles' coronation begins a new era within the life of our nation. My own licensing, whilst significant within the life of Steeple Aston, North Aston and Tackley, will go unnoticed by the world. Despite the huge differences in scale, there are massive similarities within the order of events.

His Majesty King Charles' coronation is based on the service used for King Edgar (the first to be crowned King of All England) back in 973AD. The service is comprised of six parts: His Presentation, Swearing of the Oaths, His Anointing, Crowning, Enthronement, ending with the Archbishops, Bishops and Peers of the Realm paying him Homage.



The new Rector introduces her family. "Going left to right we have Georgina (known as G – our eldest), Geoffrey (youngest), John (husband) and finally, but definitely not least, Rachel."

(Photo by Nigel Francis.)

I look forward to us celebrating His Majesty's Coronation together with the parade through the village. Please also come to the Community Coronation Service at 6pm on Sunday 7th May, when we will be praying for King Charles III.

When we look back at Easter the same stages can be seen beginning with Jesus' presentation as he rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. As he cleared the temple, ensuring it was a house of prayer, and taught and healed people, Jesus fulfilled the promises given in his first sermon in Nazareth of proclaiming good news to the poor, liberty, and healing to those in need. At supper in Bethany, a women anointed him with oil, ahead of his burial. Ahead of his crucifixion the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns, mocking him as King of the Jews. Jesus' enthronement was on the cross where he died to pay the price for the things we have all done wrong. As he died, the centurion watching paid him homage recognising him as The Son of God.

My own licensing service consisted of various stages, Presentation, first of me to the community, and then I was presented with the of various symbols of ministry (water for baptism, oil for healing, etc.), I took Oaths of allegiance to His Majesty King Charles and to the Diocesan and Area Bishops and Institution, Induction, Installation.

As your new Rector, I pledge myself to care for the communities of Steeple Aston, North Aston and Tackley, to share with them the Word of God and the work of ministry, to celebrate with them and to encourage them in their discipleship. Please pray that together we may make this a place where all people are equipped for their life and witness in God's world.

I am looking forward to getting to know you, working with you all over the coming years.

Rev'd Harriet Orridge



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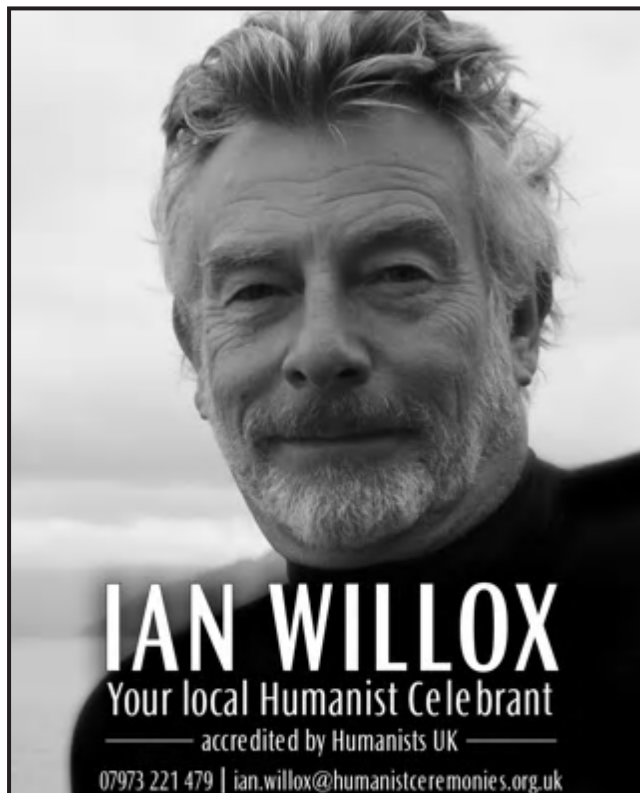
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Sunday 7th May Easter 5	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) Harriet Orridge	6.00pm Coronation Celebration Parish Team & Harriet Orridge	11.00am Coronation Celebration Father Robin Gibbons & Harriet Orridge
Sunday 14th May Easter 6	9.30am Rogation Sunday Service Harriet Orridge	11.00am Holy Communion Harriet Orridge	5.30pm Holy Communion (CW) Harriet Orridge
Sunday 21st May Sunday after Ascension	See Steeple Aston	10.30am Benefice Service Stephen Pix	See Steeple Aston
Sunday 28th May Pentecost	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.00am Holy Communion Harriet Orridge	9.30am Holy Communion with Baptism Harriet Orridge
www.sntchurch.com			




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0702 0800 0844 1003	1603 1702 1802 1902 2010 2125 2255

Saturdays

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

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0944 1114 1244 1414 1544 1714 1844	

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

Saturdays

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

Sundays and most public holidays

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

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May 2023

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



June 2023

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

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

May 2023			
Wednesday 3rd	AD&D PS. Colin Lamb – New Zealand	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Friday 5th	Coronation bells: an attempt to ring a full peal	SA Church	from 3pm
Friday 5th	AD&D Photographic Society visit to The Old Dairy Farm and Slimbridge Wetland Centre		
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
Sunday 14th	SAL June 2023 copy and advert deadlines		
Monday 15th	Village Hall Management Committee AGM	Village Hall	8pm
Monday 15th	Steeple Aston Football Club AGM	S & R Building	7.30pm
Tuesday 16th	Valentine Club. 'Elvis is alive.' Tribute act	Village Hall	2.30pm
Friday 19th	Golf Society.	Wychwood	12 noon
Saturday 20th	Lord's Taverners Dinner	Great Tew	7pm
Saturday 20th	Plant sale. Home grown annuals, perennials, etc.	SA Church	2 to 4pm
Sunday 21st	Steeple Aston Cricket Club v. Lord's Taverners	Great Tew	2pm
Monday 22nd	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Wednesday 24th	Valentine Club. Visit to National Space Station	Leicestershire	
Saturday 27th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 27th	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
Wednesday 31st	Garden Club. Visit to Sue Bedwell Garden	Bletchington	6.30pm

There's so much going on in our village that we haven't got room to list the June events in this issue!

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

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