

Steeple Aston *Life*

June 2023 Issue No. 598



• Steeple Aston Coronation Parade and Party • Bell ringers' Coronation Peals •
• The success of village apples • Tree planting at the Community Orchard • The Arts Page •

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Cover: 'King' John Williamson and 'Queen' Julia Whybrew with attendants (and Coronation Parade event co-organisers) Helen Wright (right) and Josie Cassidy (left) - see pages 23, 24 and 25
Photo by Nigel Francis

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

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

COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline is the 14th of the
previous month.
This means the copy deadline for the July
2023 issue is Wednesday 14th June.

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

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All adverts, and all advertising queries
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01869 347347

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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, 07512 224700
Bell ringers		Graham & Dorothy Clifton	347273
Hand-bell ringers		Sally Cooper	347173
Brownies		Fiona McLoone	340132
Catholic Church -			
St Teresa's (Charlbury)		Father Tony Joyce	01608 642703
Cherwell District Council	Bodicote House	01295 227001	
Choral Society	Chair	Ann Livings	233518
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector	Rev'd Harriet Orridge	
	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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Deddington Guides		Marian Trinder	340806, 07786 001641
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments	338611	
	Repeat Prescriptions	10am - 3pm	338847
	Out of Hours	111	
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Head Teacher		340204
Football Club	Secretary	Peter Wild	07950 837773
Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
Parish Council	Chairman / Clerk	Richard MacAndrew/ Cathy Fleet	347209, 347000
Police	24hr Call Centre	(non emergency)	101
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Pre-school		340863	
Public House	Red Lion	574708	
Robinson's Close	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Scouts Group		Colin Cassford	243038
Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Steeple Aston Walking Group		Penny, Stuart, Sue and Graham	sawgox25@gmail.com
Toddler Group		Hilary Clayton-Lyne, Angela Smith	steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com
Valentine Club		Richard & Daphne Preston	340512
Village Hall (see advertisement)	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Village EmergencyTelephone System		690691	
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

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Editorial

‘Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day.’

Cathy Lawday’s poetical plea in the May issue was in vain. It rained on the Steeple Aston Coronation Parade on Saturday 6th May. This should not have come as a surprise. It also rained on the coronation days of Elizabeth II (2nd June 1953), George VI (12th May 1937), George V (22nd June 1911) and Edward VII (9th August 1902).

Edward VIII is not on this list. He became King in January 1936 following the death of George V, but abdicated at the end of the same year to marry the twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson and was never crowned.

We need to go back to 28th June 1838 for a coronation day without rain. Queen Victoria wrote in her journal, “At ten I got into the State Coach with the Duchess of Sutherland and Lord Albemarle and we began our Progress. It was a fine day, and the crowds of people exceeded what I have ever seen”.

The couplet at the top of the page is the start of a nursery rhyme. It continues ‘Little Arthur wants to play, Rain, Rain go away’ and was sung by children in the hope that the weather would improve. Sometimes it did, sometimes not. The verse can be found in print in the 17th century, but has probably been around for much longer. Other versions have included ‘Come again on Saturday’, or ‘Midsummer day’, ‘Christmas day’, ‘Martha’s wedding day’ and, bizarrely, ‘washing day’.

An interesting variation is ‘Rain, rain, go to Spain. Never show your face again!’ This probably refers back to the late 16th century and the planned invasion of England by the Spanish Armada, defeated by bad weather, though bad luck and bad tactics also played their part.

Let’s finish with an appropriate quote from G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936), the English writer and philosopher, probably best known for his creation of the fictional priest-detective Father Brown. *“And when it rains on your parade, look up rather than down. Without the rain, there would be no rainbow.”* Or, as Monty Python’s Eric Idle put it, *“Always look on the bright side of life.”*

Robert



Raining on our Parade
(Photo by Nigel Francis)

Steeple Aston Village Hall

Sumer is icumen in



Barn Dance

Stetsons and bright shirts optional

Saturday 1st July

Village Hall

7.30 for 8 pm start

Cold Supper provided.

**Please let Barbara (01869 340423) know before the event if you
have any dietary needs.**

Cash Only Bar

Tickets limited.

£15 per ticket in advance from 17th to 29th June.

Tickets from the Village Shop or Barbara Brewer 340423

Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Steeple Aston Open Gardens – Sunday 4th June – 2pm to 6pm £7 to visit all seven gardens



This is your chance to visit seven private gardens in your village during a Sunday afternoon and at the same time raise much needed funds for the many charities that The National Garden Scheme (NGS) supports. The gardens range from reasonably small spaces to large plots up to an acre. Some you may not know even existed. And a chance to visit the Church Allotments and see what all those gardeners are doing on their plots. Not forgetting the amazing homemade teas available at the Village Hall during the afternoon.

There will be a sign outside any of the seven gardens that are open. All you need to do is call in at the first one you see and purchase a ticket which will grant you entry to the remaining six gardens. The gardens are Acacia Cottage on South Side, Combe Pyne on Water Lane, Primrose Garden along North Side, The Church Allotments and The Longbyre on Fir Lane, The Pound House on Paines Hill and finally The Old Post Office on Heyford Road. Please come and have a look around the gardens and enjoy a cup of tea and some cake at the Village Hall. Whilst you are doing that you will be making a big difference to so many lives by contributing to some amazing charities.

Richard Preston

Preparatory work at Heyford Bridge

There has been lots of activity on Heyford Bridge recently with the arrival of a 'welfare cabin', fencing and a temporary road surface. All this is in preparation for refurbishment works in July. However, local people are concerned that vehicles, including HGVs, are still able to use the bridge. Oxford County Councillor Ian Corkin explained that the current works are "in anticipation of the ecological survey, consequent vegetation management, full bridge condition survey and temporary remedial works prior to full restoration in July. All this work is necessary to ensure the bridge, which is Grade 2 listed and sits in a Grade 1 listed landscape, is appropriately conserved and repaired."

Letter to Editor

Whilst I would agree with Richard Preston (Noticeboard, May issue, page 6) that there are many contentious issues with Oxfordshire Highways (road sweeping, drain clearance and resurfacing among them), I should in all fairness point out that NO public money has been spent on the new signs along South Side and Sixtyfoot, nor on any of the associated road works.

This was all paid for by Rectory Homes. Richard will also be relieved to know that all the 'New Road Layout' signs will be removed after three months. Doubtless Highways will get round to removing the overhanging foliage at some point, or asking landowners to do so. If not, he (or I) can always get in touch with the Parish Council and ask them to give Highways a nudge.

Richard MacAndrew

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Steeple People



Vaughan Billings

How long have you lived in Steeple Aston? 32 years.

Where did you move from? A far outpost at Marcham, near Abingdon.

What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston? The people and the vibrant village.

Give a potted history of yourself. Born in Leicester (Premier Division champions – admittedly some years ago) and home to Leicester Tigers. Worked in Leicester, Birmingham, Solihull, Bradford, Leeds, Abingdon and Chipping Norton. Married in 1963. Two daughters. Lived in Groby, Solihull, Harrogate, Marcham and now Steeple Aston. Worked as a banker for 40 years.



How do you see yourself? Good at golf and calm on the course.

How do others see you? Not good at golf and anything but calm on the course.

Technology: friend or foe? To marmite or not? Technology – good with help from friends. Marmite – of course yes.

What was the best thing about being a child? Nothing comes to mind.

What is the best thing about being an adult? Not being a child.

What is the worst job you've ever done? As a junior I had to light and fire up the coke boiler first thing early Monday and count the bags sent down the hatch by the coalman – all in a white shirt. Also taking banking exams.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Provided I can come back, I would like to see what Heaven looks like. I might then have to start to attend Church. As my brother is a vicar, that might also help.

What do you do to relax? Play golf (perhaps not relaxing), sing in choirs (not relaxing if in Latin!) and country walks.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? Be happy, be friendly and enjoy life to the full.

If you were on a desert island, what would you miss most? A pair of nail clippers.

What do you get grumpy/mad about? Strikers who claim they do not want to harm/hurt anybody and then strike and do the opposite.

What is the best thing that has happened to you? After my wife's sad death after 41 years of married life, I have been given a another go and have now been happily married to a South African for eight years. There is an extended family of 11 grandchildren and I now have a good excuse to visit South Africa.

Tell us something about you that most people don't know. I am an identical twin and in photos neither of us knows which is which. When on the telephone mother always had to ask which of us she was talking to.



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The ARTS Page



Summer in our area is crowded with exciting arts events of all genres. Over the years The Arts Page has led you to many of the websites, but please let me know of other arts events and websites not yet covered. Here is a selection (it can only be that) of what has caught my eye.

The wonderful Mikron Theatre Company (mikron.org.uk) takes professional theatre to non-theatre venues by canal, river and road and is "fast becoming almost as much of a national treasure as the institution it celebrates". They visit 130 venues a year, you "pay what you feel" and they are, quite simply, terrific. They bring 'Twitchers' – a flight through RSPB history – to North Aston Village Green on 23rd June at 7pm and 'A force to be reckoned with' – pioneering women in the police – to The Bell Inn, Lower Heyford, on 4th August at 7pm. Bring your chairs and picnic and have a ball.

Even nearer to Steeple Aston, 'Wild Arts' bring an enticing evening of opera arias and ensembles to the garden of John and Kaitlin Kennedy, North Ridge, Paines Hill, on Saturday 10th June at 7.30pm, as well as a Family performance at 2pm. ("Wild Arts opera evenings are of a breathtakingly high, ROH-level musical standard... I'd follow them anywhere", Libby Purves). From Handel, Mozart and Puccini to Rodgers and Hammerstein, this eclectic programme will highlight the immense power and range of opera on our own doorstep. Bring your own picnic! Further details and booking at tickettailor.com/events/wildarts/829071 Also not far is Adderbury Music (musicinadderbury.com) with concerts in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Adderbury, on 2nd and 9th July and the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Deddington, on 18th June and 16th July. Chamber Music is wonderfully intimate and personal, letting you feel as if you are taking part. Adderbury has a marvellous history of fine and varied performances.

Three choir concerts, amongst many others. The Oxford Bach Choir (oxfordbachchoir.org) in St. John the Evangelist Church, Iffley Road, on 17th June with Scarlatti's wonderful Stabat Mater, Vaughan Williams and Bach. Our own Choral Society (see page 33) on the 25th June in the Village Hall with a 'Summer Party Concert', light and jolly entertainment for a summer's evening, and the Woodstock Music Society (Woodstockmusic.info) on 7th and 8th July with an all-Handel programme in St Mary Magdalene Church, Park Street, Woodstock. I think the music at the Coronation showed, once again, the power and efficacy of singing, both for performers and listeners, as did the exhilarating all-comers performance of 'Zadok the Priest' in our church on 7th May.

The Oxford Festival of the Arts (artsfestivaloxford.org) runs from 23rd June to 16th July. I can merely select, almost at random, a few of the terrific events on offer – browse at your leisure! 28th June Sir Willard White; 29th June Music of William Byrd (400th Anniversary of his death) by the outstanding Gesualdo 6; 30th June Dame Harriet Walter; 5th July Instruments of Time and Truth (our international, local, period band); 8th July Bernstein's 'Candide' from the Welsh National Opera; and I can't help mentioning Sir Anthony Seldon 14th July on Boris Johnson!

Creation Theatre (creationtheatre.co.uk) bring Shakespeare's 'Much ado about Nothing' to the South Oxfordshire Adventure Playground, off the Abingdon Road, from 12th July to 19th August. Always great shows.

The Oxford Shakespeare Festival at the Oxford Castle and Prison (oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk) offers an intriguing double bill of 'Macbeth' and 'Much Ado about Nothing' by BHM productions, from 19th June to 1st July – love, passion and jealousy collide – two hours/two plays/one unforgettable evening. Then 'Romeo and Juliet' by Wild Goose Theatre, 3rd to 29th July, and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by Siege Theatre, 31st July to 12th August. Always a highlight of Oxford outdoor summer Shakespeare.

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Community Orchard

Thanks to a group of village volunteers, the Community Orchard, which is located off Water Lane, has had some TLC in the form of trimmed lawns, new trees and the installation of a brand-new wildlife pond.



It was all hands on deck to dig out the new pond. This proved a big job, navigating tree roots and tough soil. But it was a job made a lot easier thanks to Graham Clifton who heard about the big pond dig and kindly lent his time and very useful digger, making the job a lot quicker. The pond also benefited from the donation of pond lining thanks to Chris Watson. Now filled and ready to welcome any willing residents, the orchard pond is looking for donations of water plants to help bring the pond to life.

As well as the fantastic new pond, the orchard is now home to two new trees. Planted on 7th May, the first was a plum tree planted in memory of Sarah Lucas' uncle Bos, his gardener Harold and cook Olive, who all loved the village. The second was a pear tree kindly donated by Steeple Aston Garden Society in memory of much-loved villager Roderick Nicholson.

Now a space for all, the Steeple Aston Brownies enjoyed their first evening in the orchard last month. The troop spent their time scavenging the area, learning about the orchard from volunteers and making plans to build their very own bug house.

Steeple Aston Community Orchard was kindly gifted to the village by Sarah Lucas in March this year as an area locals can freely use and enjoy as they please. Volunteers have been working to make the space a useable wildlife area for villagers to be able to come to relax, unwind and enjoy in the heart of Steeple Aston. Anyone can use the orchard to visit, for a quiet time to read a book, have a picnic or even practise yoga.



Volunteers meet on the first Sunday of every month in the afternoon at the orchard. If you are interested in helping out, or have pond plants to donate, do come along. Kay Francis, one of those who has been part of the orchard's transformation, says, "we want the space to feel peaceful and welcoming for all, whether that be villagers or local wildlife."

Photos by Nigel Francis



ROBINA'S WALK

***A walk, with directions, around Steeple Aston as it was in 1923,
finding answers to clues and a quiz.***

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Reviews : 'Good fun and full of facts.' 'Learnt lots about Steeple Aston.'

Buy a digital pack online from <https://www.steepleastonarchive.org.uk/> £5 each.

SAVA has produced a walk, with directions, around Steeple Aston that you can do at any time. A copy will be sent to you digitally on request, with an answer sheet included, at a cost of £5. You can also purchase it at Harris' Stores, Steeple Aston's shop.

The walk is guided by a 1923 resident, Robina Pirie, who walks you around the village noting places and people of interest 100 years ago, with clues from things you can still see today. Starts and finishes at Steeple Aston Village Hall part of Dr Radcliffe's School in 1923.

Robina's Walk around Steeple Aston: the year of 1923

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HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

Broughton Castle

One regret I have is that I didn't see my friend Sonia when she played Titania in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at an open-air production performed at Broughton Castle. She apparently arrived to meet Oberon having swum across the castle moat wearing only a bright yellow bikini!



I rather doubt that the Castle had seen that before, although who knows what stories the ancient Hornton stones could tell of events they've witnessed since the castle – actually a medieval fortified manor house – was built in 1306. It has belonged to the Fiennes family since William of Wykeham bought it in 1377 and his descendants, the Barons Saye and Sele continue to own it and live there to this day.

It has certainly had its ups and downs over the centuries. Having been rebuilt in 1550 after being damaged by fire it was besieged and damaged by Royalist troops in 1642 following the battle of Edgehill. There were periods when lively and frivolous life carried on within the walls, then periods of neglect and decay. It was restored again in the 1860s – but then came another period of neglect!



We are fortunate that in our time the 21st Baron Saye and Sele (pictured, now over 100 years old, who inherited the title on the death of his father in 1968) has lovingly looked after the castle, raising funds to bring it back to a reasonable condition, although it is a constant drain on resources – castles are not cheap properties to own! Nat (short for Nathaniel, as he is known to his friends) and his wife Mariette have strong social consciences and have always been generous to local causes. Some funds have been raised by allowing film companies to use the site – have you seen 'Shakespeare in Love', for example, or more recently 'The Crown'?

Broughton Castle is open to the public on a limited number of days between April and September. You can find details on the Broughton Castle website (www.broughtoncastle.com) and book your tickets. Adult tickets are £11 (£10 if you are over 65) and children between the ages of 5 and 15 are charged £6. The timed tours of the castle take about an hour, but you are free to wander in the lovely gardens or visit the tea rooms at any time on the day of your visit.

The delicious scent of the roses in the peaceful walled gardens on a sunny June day is one which has stayed with me, although I don't expect it will be very peaceful on 9th July when Broughton Castle Sportive – a cycling event – (see advert on page 30) takes place.

Broughton Castle is off the B4035 about 3 miles from Banbury.

Eileen Baglin-Jones

The illustration of the South Side of Broughton Castle is by Orlando Jowitt (1799-1869).

Buying the blossom

How the success of Steeple apples extended far and wide

Fruit growing has long been a prominent feature throughout the history of Steeple Aston, with the popularity of the autumnal apple press being one example, plus the creation of the new Community Orchard in Water Lane recently opened for villagers to enjoy, courtesy of land donated by Sarah Lucas. A peek at SAVA's historical maps reveal rows of orchards proudly punctuating the landscape (as in the segment of the 1881 OS map shown here) and records from former market gardeners are testament to their importance to our village.

A book* was recently brought to our attention by Steeple Aston resident Jill Vallis. Among the fascinating anecdotes was one interesting story of Frederick Salter, a greengrocer originally from a Buckinghamshire village. With the help of his family, Fred acquired land and planted numerous orchards, specialising in unusual fruit which he sold in his Hammersmith greengrocers' shop.

In 1892, Fred's particular interest in apples brought him to Steeple Aston, having learned that *'this small, stone-built Cotswold village boasted a host of orchards filled with fruit from one end of the village to the other'*. Reports of a glut of Blenheim's, Russets, Bramleys, Worcesters and Wellingtons proved too much of a draw for Fred to resist. The following May, he caught the train to Heyford station, made his way up the hill, and on reaching the village was amazed by the stunning valley of pink and white blossom. Hearing that the profusion of fruit was such that villagers didn't know what to do with it, Fred had an idea he was keen to share with the locals, with a view to making them an offer they couldn't refuse!



Having invited them to meet with him in the White Lion Inn later that evening, Fred settled down in front of the blazing log fire, tucking into his bread and cheese (fourpence) and supping his beer (twopence), awaiting his guests. It wasn't long before his new Steeple Aston friends joined him for drinks all round, whereupon Fred made his offer to the local orchard owners. If he paid for the blossom – which could cover a whole year's rent for some cottagers – the title to all the apples would become his. This was quite a test of honesty, and not without risk, as a late frost could potentially destroy the whole crop. His idea was well received and became known as 'buying the blossom'.

By the following day the news had spread fast and over 50 people signed up for the scheme, including those from outlying villages, with a bond of faith paid to the pub landlord to act as banker. Fred made arrangements to call in from time to time to inspect the trees' progress and catalogue the fruit, then returned home hopeful of a good harvest. As luck would have it, no late frosts appeared and the sun shone brightly, helping to ripen an abundant crop of beautiful shiny apples. In August, Fred arrived at Steeple Aston, driving a horse and van, with the help of his eighteen-year-old son, William. It had taken them two days from London stopping on the way at the 'Grave Diggers Arms' on Oxford Road. The crops were duly gathered and dispatched on to London for sale. All in all, everyone did well out of this remarkable venture, which seems to have continued for some years – a great collaborative effort where entrepreneurial spirit tapped into the fruits of village life.

Carol Neville
SAVA

* *'Holmers Green – Heroes of WW1', by Stuart King and Christopher Peers*
(Hawkes Design & Publishing Ltd, 2017).

???? Mind Games

Route finder

Start at the shaded square. Moving from one letter square to an adjacent square in any horizontal or vertical direction, find a route that visits every square just once and which spells out all the words in the list below.

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

argumentative, benchmark, bigot, colourfully, elephant, escaped, finger, holiday, park, plait, swimsuit, very, wedge, wherever

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



Once a year there are three village meetings held on the same evening. There is the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. This gets a description from the outgoing chair of the previous year's activities. It also oversees the appointment of the new chair and the deputy chair for the year ahead. Then there is the Parish Meeting which is meant to allow any parishioner to come and have their say. The only problem is that, as usual, no one came for that. The final meeting is the usual monthly meeting of the Parish Council and, hoorah, there were visitors for that.

The Parish Council chair from last year was Richard MacAndrew and he thanked everyone who has been active in the village in the last year. You can see the full list in the official minutes and sadly there are too many for me to mention here. (I cannot have teased the Councillors enough because he even thanked me.)

Richard reported on the successes of the last year. He said "Perhaps the most important developments have been the establishment of the Environment and Sustainability Committee (the ESC) and the donation to the village of the Community Orchard. The ESC was set up in March and tasked with advising the village on issues to do with the environment and sustainability. They have been extremely active, among other things promoting the 20mph speed limit through the village, acquiring a heat camera for residents to use to identify areas of heat loss from their houses, researching local food suppliers and keeping the village informed of developments with articles in Steeple Aston Life.

"In October 2021, the Parish Council was offered a piece of land on Water Lane by Sarah Lucas, one-time resident of Steeple Aston and niece of George Boscawen Randolph, who lived at Randolph's on the corner of Water Lane and North Side from 1902 to 1951. The Parish Council gratefully accepted her offer and have designated this land as a Community Orchard for the use of village residents."

Richard told us a few months ago that he would be resigning from the Parish Council this month. He has been Chairman for the last five years and I have seen that he has been both very effective and hard-working. I asked him before the meeting what he saw as his main achievements. He said he was especially pleased that the Parish Council had asked for volunteers at the start

of Covid, got them, and then had effectively co-ordinated their efforts. In particular, meals and medicines had been delivered to the vulnerable and the Parish Councillors had helped get the arrangements underway. Richard said he had built up and/or maintained good relations with other village groups such as the Environment and the Community Orchard Committees. He told me the PC was involved in the negotiations about the new road layout by the Red Lion and he was pleased with the changes. I have personal experience that the road there used to be very dangerous for pedestrians and it is much safer now with the chicane. It is still not perfect for motorists, but the general consensus seems to be that it is also much safer for vehicles than it was. We were told that the signs warning us of the new road layout will be removed shortly.

Richard has generously volunteered to continue with some of his former responsibilities, despite no longer being a Councillor. He said that the existing speed detector runs on a battery that has to be changed once a month. He will continue to deal with this. He will liaise about the two new speed detectors which are on order, though these will be solar powered so won't need a battery changed. He will also continue to make regular checks that the defibrillators are working.

One Councillor disappeared and returned with a rather scruffy Sainsbury bag which was given to Richard. Apparently, it contained a personal gift from the other Councillors and the clinking from the bag sounded cheering. A HUGE thank you to Richard from the Councillors and the whole community for his past and future work for the Parish.

Angharad Lloyd-Jones was elected as the new chair and was asked to fill in a declaration of acceptance form. She took one look at the form said, "It is like getting married again".

A visitor to the meeting, Matt Watson, said he was interested in joining the Parish Council. He said he had been living in London and had moved to the village in order to give his two-year-old daughter a good environment in which to grow up. He said he had been a journalist and knew the sorts of things Parish Councils did. He is now a Chief Contents Officer for a website and social media channels. Angharad

Parish Council Meeting Notes



suggested that he should take a month to decide if he really did wish to apply, despite his apparent willingness to have joined there and then.

There was a discussion of sweeping the roads and footpaths in the village, with the drain at the bottom of Water Lane being identified as the worst problem. Apparently, road sweeping and drain clearing is the responsibility of Oxfordshire Highways, but pavements are a local issue. Our County Councillor, Arash Fatemian, suggested he might be able to find some green-minded volunteers to help, but that the village may well have to get rid of the mud for itself.

There has been a lot of disquiet about the possible ending of the school bus to The Warriner and to Marlborough School. We were told that the problem had been sorted for other schools in rural areas in Oxfordshire, but that the continuation of the two bus routes that matter for this village are still being discussed. I asked about the timing for a decision and was told it could still be another couple of months.

The development of Hatch End is an ongoing saga. This time the owners are trying to get approval for three new buildings at the back of the site which would extend the buildings into the grass area behind the existing buildings. The latest proposals reduce the requirement for extra parking from 28 to 14 spaces. This daft change would be consistent with Highways general objective of reducing private car usage by removing parking spaces. This idea might be sensible in towns, but the Councillors were sure that here it would just lead to extra parking along Fir Lane. The proposed footpath between the school and Hatch End is within the Hatch End site so is unlikely to be used much, meaning the extra parking on the road will be particularly dangerous. A lot of people wrote to Cherwell objecting to the initial Hatch End proposals, but far fewer objected to the second lot of plans. The Councillors assumed that residents did not realise that their objections to the first proposal would not be automatically transferred to the next plan. The Councillors are going to ask for an extension to the timing for comments and they will try to find the contact details of those who wrote in before to see if they will make similar comments again.

The Parish Council gets some money when houses or other developments take place in the locality. They had a happy time trying to decide the final details of what the Townend money should be spend on with the Village Hall, Sports and Recreation Centre and Play Area all being considered. One idea was to replace the bark below the zip wire with a permanent rubberised surface that would not need regular topping up. We were told the Village Hall Committee would like to make the Hall more marketable and that for this they would like to make the gravel path around it more wheelchair friendly, to improve the lighting, to get a sturdy ladder to reach the stage lights, to get good Wi-Fi and to upgrade the public address system. The Councillors wanted to check what was needed in the S&R and thought that the improvements needed to be co-ordinated so could not be decided immediately.

The Councillors asked what was the problem with the low wall by the Committee Room at the Village Hall. They were told this was seen as a possible trip hazard, but that cars and bikes were unlikely to damage, or be damaged by, the wall.

There was a discussion of the village Coronation celebrations. I talked to Helen Wright about the day and about what made it go so well. She told me that she felt the greatest achievement was the way it brought the community together. I was especially impressed by the total good temper of those who got sodden; during the parade around the village and when queueing up in the rain to have a ride on Graham Porcas' train. There is a description of what happened and those who contributed in an article by Helen elsewhere in SAL. What she left out of her description was the huge part that she had played. She did a brilliant job in getting lots of us to co-operate by asking us so nicely. She made sure everything came together. So, from the whole village and the Parish Council – a HUGE thank you to Helen and all her helpers.

Steeplejack

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

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The Gardening Spot

Dripping June puts things in tune

June is a busy time in the garden as just about everything is growing quickly. We need to keep an eye on all our plants to keep them in check. On saying that, I am writing this on a pretty wet day in early May and, as we all know, the weather can change. That is one of the joys of living as an island nation.

Someone asked me recently, "How much water should I be giving my plants each week?". There is no straightforward answer to this, but plants need on average around 25mm per week to survive – so best of luck there then!

June is one of the most exciting months in the garden as roses are in full bloom along with so many flowering plants and shrubs and, of course, new potatoes from your garden are just scrumptious with a bit of mint and some butter. I have to confess that my early potatoes were showing through in very early May and my hope is we don't get a frost, but the truth is I got excited to see shoots on the seed potatoes and planted them a bit early. Yes, I know what you are thinking, it doesn't take much to get this chap excited!

One of the main challenges in a garden are weeds. Whilst other seeds struggle to germinate and transplants appear to struggle, weeds grow with so much vigour it is hard to keep up with them. However, keeping on top of them is essential, otherwise they take over and the garden is lost.

In the greenhouse, keep an eye on the watering and also the amount of sunshine. Plants such as tomatoes and cucumbers, as much as they enjoy warmth, do not like too much direct sunshine so consider shading your greenhouse. Tomato plants should be growing quickly now and if they are of the cordon variety, keep removing the side shoots. Feed once a week using one of the many tomato feeds available to produce those luscious fruits that taste so much better than shop bought tomatoes.

Keep earthing up the potatoes to help avoiding the green back on the tubers, which is not at all good for you to eat. Watch out for bugs at this time of the year as they can severely damage any plant. What to use to do this is a good question as most effective insecticides have been removed from the market, so maybe some manual clearance of bugs or some companion planting that assists in the control of the bugs. By now, most of the daffodil foliage is dying back so can be removed, simply to tidy up the flower bed.

Keep cutting the grass. I have just returned from a few days away and I have never seen so much grass on my lawn. It was a bit like haymaking when I attacked the lawn with my mower!

If the weather is as it should be in June, how about giving your house plants a holiday? Place them outside for a while unless we are being blown away by a hurricane or washed away by a monsoon. Keep dead-heading flower plants to encourage more blooms and give those pot plants a feed about every two weeks.

Happy gardening.

Richard Preston

Bell Ringers for the Coronation of King Charles III

Here are details of all the ringing we did over the Coronation weekend at St. Peter and St. Paul church, Steeple Aston.

Friday 5th May Full peal (2 hours 49 minutes), rung by past and present Guild Officers.
(from left to right) Alan Marchbank (Milton Keynes), Patricia Newton (High Wycombe), Colin Lee (Adderbury), Ken Davenport (Beaconsfield), Graham Clifton (Steeple Aston), Robert Newton (High Wycombe), Catherine Lane (Long Crendon), Stuart Gibson (Chilton).



Saturday 6th May General ringing for all of our local ringers to start the day.
(from left to right) Sally Cooper, Malcolm Hensher, Graham Clifton, Alex Tabb, Lawrence White, Lewis Knowles, Jack Knowles, Keith Thomas, Dorothy Clifton, Nick Powell, Jenine Coaker



Sunday 7th May Quarter peal rung for the Coronation Songs of Praise service.
(left to right) Keith Thomas, Lawrence White, Sue McCouaig, Jack Knowles, Graham Clifton, Lewis Knowles, Sally Cooper, Nick Powell. (This was a special achievement for Lewis Knowles as it was his first quarter peal.)



Graham Clifton

Coronation Parade and Party

It was 70 years since the last time Steeple Aston put on a village parade to celebrate a Coronation – and Saturday 6th May 2023 dawned just as grey and wet as it did back in 1953.

Some taking part remembered previous parades (if not as far back as '53!) – but on the day we were all able to reminisce with a look at Martin Lipson's fascinating SAVA display of village parades over the years.

This year's parade left Robinsons Close and headed for Paines Hill – with Jodie Hall as our 'royal outrider' in a borrowed Twizy decked out in Union flags. A beautiful vintage Jaguar (dating from the 1960s) followed, loaned to us by local charity StarterMotor and carrying our very own royalty – King John Williamson and Queen Julia Whybrew (see cover). We then had Daragh and Felix Cassidy and Woody Wright valiantly playing God Save the King on their French Horn, Clarinet and Cornet – trying to keep spirits high in the downpour!

The WI had a brilliant float – even if the rain meant some of their plans had to stay under cover. Nick Powell drove his vintage tractor followed by Graham Clifton at the wheel of another tractor – pulling an impressive church on wheels! This was a brilliant homemade replica of St Peter's & St Paul's Church carrying representatives of the Church and the Bellringers. Next came the Toddler Group (it meets on Thursday mornings in the S&RC) – they'd created some beautiful crowns to wear which were mostly under cover from the rain – we're told they'd had lots of fun making them!

The Allotment Association were also out in force (they don't let a bit of rain stop them!), dressed as scarecrows they pushed wheelbarrows along the route carrying fruit and veg representations of the Crown Jewels. The dog walkers of the village were next – led by Rachel Marsden and a beautiful 'Coronation Canines' banner. The Brownies (who meet on a Wednesday evening) as well as some Guides followed and they were in fine voice singing campfire songs with Brown Owl Fiona McCloone at the helm.

Next, if it wasn't so wet you could be forgiven for thinking you were watching a Disney Parade, because Rebecca Holland and her family came dressed as the Shrek Royal Family – complete with pony and trap! And finally we had Charlotte Harris and Alexander on a pony in full regalia. It really was a sight we'll all remember for many years to come.

So many in the village stood on their doorsteps to watch and wave flags and many more followed the parade along Water Lane and North Side and back to Robinson's Close, where the King and Queen had audiences with them all and awarded commemorative souvenirs, thankfully in the shelter of a marquee.

The event organisers Helen Wright and Josie Cassidy were made Dames (!!) before the gathered throng enjoyed hog roast, pizza, rides on Graham Porcas's miniature steam train, Antonia Maclean's glitter tattoos, a bouncy castle, selfies with the King, Coronation cocktails (made by The Red Lion) and an 80s disco until late...

As well as all those already mentioned – huge thanks to all who helped set up and clear up, those led by Josie in our rolling road block, plus Angharad Lloyd-Jones, Nigel Francis, Cathy Fleet, Jenna Burwell, Amanda Rodgers – and to event sponsors Village Storage, Rectory Homes, 9-2-3 Jobs, Steeple Aston Parish Council, Cherwell District Council and The National Lottery Community Fund. It really was wonderful to have the whole community together – all showing such amazing spirit in the face of such terrible weather! Cheers!

Helen Wright

(see photos on following pages)

Coronation Parade and Party





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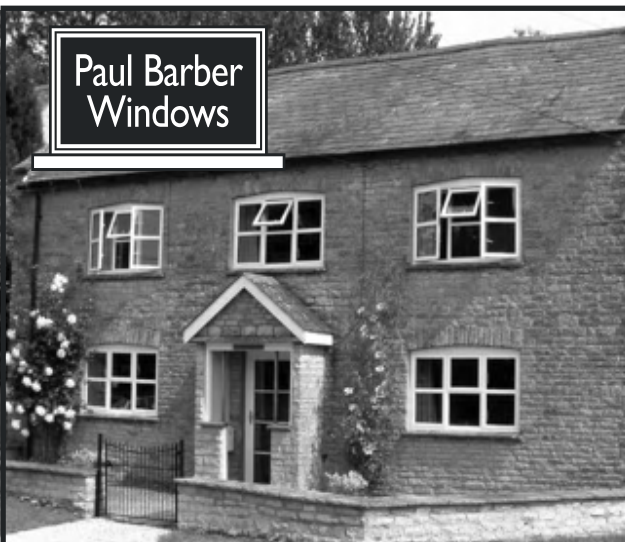
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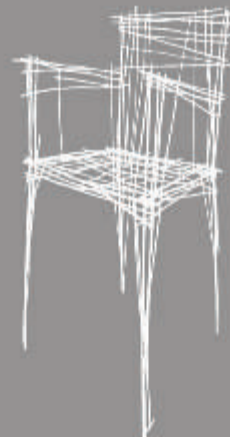
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Letter from *Westminster*



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

On 6th May we witnessed history as His Majesty King Charles III followed in the footsteps of 39 monarchs before him in being crowned at Westminster Abbey.

The atmosphere in London is one I will never forget. Tens of thousands of people braved the wet weather – as they did on the day of his mother's Coronation in 1953 – to watch the immaculately rehearsed procession. I think we were all in awe of the resplendent Gold State Coach which has been used at the Coronation of every monarch since William IV in 1831.

It was a real honour to attend the ceremony inside the Abbey. I was wearing a long wig and gown in my role as Attorney General and this seemed appropriate on this occasion. It felt at times that little had changed since the first English Coronation of King Edgar in 973. So many of the rituals have endured, from the oath and anointing to the crowning and enthronement.

At the centre of it all was The King, who managed to look both magnificent and very human at the same time. He clearly found the service very moving. It was a modern Coronation for a modern King.

The ceremony was just the beginning of a long bank holiday weekend of festivities. From colourful parades and street parties to village fêtes and family fun days, we made sure we enjoyed our communities across North Oxfordshire.

A highlight was Banbury's Party in the Park. Over 15,000 people of all ages came throughout the afternoon to enjoy the sunshine with live music, great food and drink and fun for all the family. To round off the day, Ivy Rose lit Banbury's beacon, which was followed by a red, white and blue themed firework display. It was brilliant to see so many out enjoying themselves and sending a resounding three cheers to His Majesty.

As we celebrated the start of a new chapter in our nation's rich royal history, we were reminded just how important our monarchy is in bringing us together. In it is a great strength that uniquely provides us with a sense of continuity and stability. This is perhaps best captured by The King's own vow, echoing the words of his late mother: "I come not to be served, but to serve."

Result of Council Elections 4th May 2023 Deddington Ward (includes Steeple Aston)

Andrew John McHugh (Conservative Party) – 1280 votes. Elected.

Annette Murphy (Labour Party) – 796 votes

James Hartley (Liberal Democrats) – 547 votes

Linda Iris Newbery (Green Party) – 300 votes

Electorate: 7430. Turnout: 39.65%.

Rejected ballot papers: 23 (unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty)

The make-up of the Cherwell District Council is now:

Conservatives – 20 seats

Labour/Labour and Co-operative – 12 seats

Liberal Democrats – 10 seats

Green Party – 3 seats

Independents – 3 seats

One third of Cherwell District Council is elected each year, followed by one year without an election. The next election will be in 2025.

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

Great news! 41 members of The Valentine Club found their passports and journeyed off by luxury coach to the Isle of Wight for five days during May and, by sheer miracle, 41 members returned, unscathed and even a little sunburnt because, whilst Steeple Aston bathed in over an inch of rain, we sat in the sunshine, at least for much of the time, eating far too much and enjoying the odd glass of wine.

Whilst on the IOW we visited Osborne House and travelled on the IOW steam railway. Thanks to some forward thinking by some members, we purchased a rescue donkey for a year whilst visiting The IOW Donkey Sanctuary. Before you get too concerned, the donkey, called 'Galantine' (see photo), considered that the best care would be provided at the sanctuary, so we left him there rather than putting him in the luggage hold on the coach. A great time was had by all and now we are planning a few days away in Wales in September and then returning to Norton Grange on the IOW next April.



Our May meeting witnessed a miracle when lo and behold, Elvis made a visit to the club. Yes, The Valentine Club has some amazing skills and reincarnation is just one of them!

Our trip to Salisbury was enjoyed by around 43 members and gave us all a chance to visit the wonderful cathedral amongst other attractions. By time you read this we will have visited the National Space Station and be looking forward to a river cruise on The Thames.



Our monthly meeting for June will be a bit special as we have Nicola coming to explain to us all about the life of a guide dog. Nicola has been blind since an early age and so is able to explain how much a difference a guide dog makes to those less fortunate than ourselves.

To find about more about The Valentine Club, visit our own website at www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston or keep up-to-date by looking on the village website at www.steepleaston.org.uk or use that old-fashioned thing called a telephone and 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

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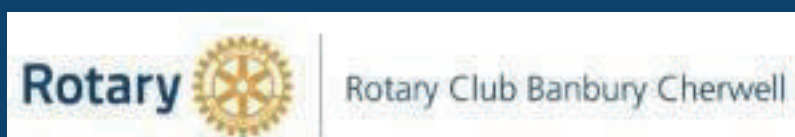
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Poetry Corner



What's the matter?

Her heart is pounding
It gives weird jumps
She thinks that maybe
She's got mumps.
Her head is aching
Her limbs are too
She has all the symptoms
Of Asian flu.
She's feeling sick
She cannot eat
But then she binges
On something sweet.
She gets cold sweats
Then is too hot
Is this the menopause?
Probably not.
Her hands are shaking,
They're sweaty and damp
Her stomach regularly
Goes into cramp

She gets hiccups, she burps,
Her tummy growls
She dare not mention
The state of her bowels
She gets palpitations
When the phone rings
And nervously awaits
What the postman brings
Is it a bill?
Is it a letter?
Will it make her
Feel any better?
She swings from hope
To deep despair
She bites her nails
And tears out her hair
And what is the reason
For all the above?
The cause of this misery...
She's fallen in love.

Cathy Lawday

Ecworrier

A rising of the oceans
rain falling from the sky
above below a pincer move
the burning sun to fry
we even saw it coming
our thoughts were all awry
the rising tides the falling rain
we didn't really try
we gave up bags of plastic
to show we might comply
yet raced around in cars and planes
enough to make you cry
if we can't be the stewards
give someone else a try
... don't worry about the planet
it's us that're high and dry

Peter Wild



Dr Radcliffe's Church of England School

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- Have previous relevant experience (or a willingness to learn, if not).
- Be committed to working in a school which seeks to meet the needs of each child.
- Understand that provision for each child, family and staff member is what will lead to our school community fulfilling its considerable potential.
- Have good English, Maths and communication skills.

We are looking for teaching assistants who will enjoy working in our school. Visits to the school are welcomed and encouraged. If you want further details on the roles available, including role and candidate specifications and application forms, please call the school on 01869 340204 or email office.3828@dr-radcliffes.oxon.sch.uk

Closing date: Thursday, 8th June, 2023 at noon.

Interviews: Week beginning Monday, 12th June, 2023.

'Pupils care for and help each other, which builds on the very strong support that staff give pupils.' (OFSTED March 2022)

Dr Radcliffe's CE Primary School, as a member of ODST, is committed to safeguarding children and young people. All post holders in regulated activity are subject to appropriate vetting procedures, reference checks and a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Enhanced check. Online checks may also be carried out to comply with Keeping Children Safe in Education provisions.



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For our May club night we had the pleasure of hearing about and viewing the fantastic images of our Programme Secretary Colin's recent New Zealand holiday.

His trip centred around the South Islands where he began a tour in Christchurch and, with his wife by his side, they made their way down the country, experiencing whale and dolphin watching and albatross encounters, as well as travelling the coastal path to Blenheim for seal watching. They also stopped off at a few well-known New Zealand wineries for liquid refreshments on the way. Their tour included Punakaiki, which is well known for Pancake rock formations and blow holes, and on to Doubtful Sound for wildlife watching.



On 7th June our speaker will be Robert Harvey on 'Photographing the Beauty of Birds'. At each club night we have a slideshow of members' images. The theme for June is 'Street Scenes & Back Alleys.'

We welcome new members to our Society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. Visit our website at addphoto.co.uk for more information.

Courtney Killpack

Photo of sperm whale tail by Colin Lamb



Dates for your diary

Steeple Aston Village Fete – Saturday 8th July

St. Peter & St. Paul's in Deddington - monthly craft fair alongside the Farmer's Market on **Saturday, 22nd July and 26th August**

Steeple Aston Horticultural Society Summer Show – Monday 28th August

By donating your unwanted items to us, not only do you stop them from going to landfill, but you also help us to support village activities, from providing funds for the Community Orchard, and enabling the purchase of the thermal camera by the Environment & Sustainability Committee, to making commemorative tea towels for the Coronation Celebrations, providing bunting for the marquee & materials for float decorations, and donating craft materials to local charities and care homes.

If you have any items you no longer need but don't want to just throw away, please contact Amanda Rodgers on amanda@sustainablesteeple.com or **07793 553150**.

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Or A full day workshop, Saturday 10th June, Friday 7th July

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Village Hall News



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

Church allotments plus seven gardens open (see page 7). Admission £7 to all gardens. Teas in the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Committee is once again organising refreshments for the Open Gardens. The money raised goes towards the 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 – 7:30pm for an 8pm start

For the first time in many years we have a Barn Dance (see page 6). This is a chance to let your hair down and have a fun evening! We have a very experienced caller to help us make the right moves to the music. There will be a light(ish) cold supper and a **cash bar only** for when you get thirsty.

Numbers will be limited so that we have plenty of space to dance lines and circles. All great fun! Tickets are £15 per person from the Village Shop or Barbara (01869 340423) from 17th to 29th June – cash only please. If you have any special dietary needs please let Barbara know so we can do our best to cater for them.

Sunday 5th November Annual Firework Evening

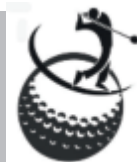
Sunday 10th December Wassail Evening

Saturday 20th January 2024 Annual Quiz evening

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 Golf Society



SAGS first meeting was on the 19th May. This was after the newsletter deadline so nothing to report except an amendment. On the 23rd June 'The Worcestershire' had double booked us so we are now going to the 'Buckingham Golf Club', 12 noon for a 13:00 start.

I have kept this quiet, but I have just finished writing a book and I am quite proud of the results. In order to market it I am asking friends and family to spread the news about this essential read. This book on golf gives the reader valuable playing tips and insider information that I have gained during my 60+ years of golfing experience. Highlights include:

- *How to properly line up your fourth putt*
- *How to hit a Top Flite from the rough just after you hit a Titleist off the tee*
- *How to get more distance off a shank*
- *When to give the Green Keeper the finger*
- *How to find that ball that everyone else saw go into the water*
- *How to relax when hitting three off the tee*
- *How to relax when hitting five off the tee.*

I hope that this gives you an appetite to read more.

Alan Brewer

Editor's note: The above book description is a humorous item which should be appreciated by golfing aficionados. There is no actual book.



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The day of King Charles' coronation was certainly memorable, for the weather if nothing else. Members of the WI had spent some time preparing posters to display on their float, listing the achievements of the WI over the past hundred years. In the event, we did not use them as they would have turned into papier mâché within minutes!

However, we still took part in the parade. I was lucky and rode in the Land Rover pulling the float, so kept warm and dry. Other members were not so fortunate and rode on the float – getting absolutely soaked through. Despite the weather, it was a jolly occasion and we were glad to take part. It was heartening to see so many people, including many recent newcomers to the village, turn out to watch the parade go past.

photo Nigel Francis



WI member Julia Whybrew was the village Queen Consort on Coronation Day. At the WI meeting on 9th May she played a less glamorous role, assisting her daughter Anna to demonstrate to members the use of air fryers and slow cookers. Anna's talk was very informative, giving tips about different-sized air fryers, at different prices, the advantage of being able to see what was cooking and ease of use. She cooked some delicious tortilla, snacks and some bacon and avocado treats. She also cooked various chips (home-made and shop-bought) which we enjoyed snacking on. Meanwhile, Julia demonstrated how to make chocolate cupcakes in an air fryer and these were also sampled and enjoyed.

We were pleased to welcome some fresh faces to the group, including a newcomer to the village. New members are always welcome. Contact Julie Hillier for more information about joining the WI.

Our next meeting is 13th June when we will have a talk on 'Body Language'. Do come along as a visitor if you're interested.

Cathy Lawday

Steeple Aston Church Fete Saturday July 8th

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The Yurt at Nicholson's
Brunch for Two



Indian Block Printing Co.
Free Workshop



The Holt Hotel
Afternoon Tea For Two

Church Matters



Hello again!

As I write this we have been here a month. My how time flies! What with my licensing service and the coronation, it only seems five minutes since we moved into the Rectory.

Once again thank you for your lovely warm welcome. The one question I am repeatedly asked is “are you settled in yet?” My usual answer focuses around the physical aspects of the move, boxes are unpacked and we do now have broadband! Hooray.

However, ‘settling in’ is much bigger than getting unpacked. When we go to a new school, go to university or start a new job, when we ask “have you settled in” we don't mean have you unpacked your school bag, or found your desk.

At the end of every day, I take time to reflect on the day as part of my bedtime routine. Often I use ‘Soultime’ listening to a reflection. At the start of which the narrator invites me (the listener) “to get comfortable and take a couple of deep breaths”. I enjoy taking a moment to settle – snuggling down into my bed, getting the pillows just right so that I’m comfortable.

The broader perspective of getting settled is this idea of becoming ‘comfortable’, which will involve getting to know you and making friends. In terms of settling into a new school or job, we really mean have you made friends, found where you ‘fit’ in. This takes time to do anywhere and it will take time for me to properly get to know you as individuals and the wider community of Steeple Aston and how everything/one is interconnected.

The other side of getting ‘settled’ is finding our new routine. Changes in one area affect other aspects of life. Moving here has significantly reduced my husband’s commute, which is fantastic, meaning he can leave much later in the morning and get home earlier in the evening. One of the ripples of this affects my own morning prayer. Where and when I have quiet time with God, which means going forward I need to tweak my daily habits.

Last summer I read Christopher Chapman’s book ‘Send my Roots Rain’ talking about the importance of spiritual practices, especially for priests. Reading it I resolved to ensure that in my new post I would ensure that I created space to maintain a rhythm of life, that included rest. Within ministry (life) there are a billion things to do and it is easy to feel the need to keep going, to keep on chopping wood. But just as God rested on the seventh day, it is important that we rest too, taking time to step off the treadmill of life, and pause. Settling into a moment, living in that space momentarily.

Taking time to rest is one of the things we should have learnt from the Covid pandemic. Studies have shown you are most at risk of developing Long Covid if you rush back. As a world we have neglected and lost the practice of convalescing. Whilst rest and recuperation after being ill are important, so is ‘pacing’ in our everyday life. In the parable of ‘two woodcutters’, who had a competition to see who could cut the most wood in a day, one woodcutter worked all day chopping wood, whilst the other one stopped every hour for five minutes. At the end of the day it was the second woodcutter who had chopped the most wood, because whilst resting he had also sharpened his axe.

The real answer to the question “have I settled in” is we are getting there (or should that be here?) Settling in is a process which takes time, time to get know you, make friends and find a rhythm of life and ministry that fits being here and is life-giving both to me and this community. But I’m looking forward to every step of this journey with you.

Rev’d Harriet Orridge

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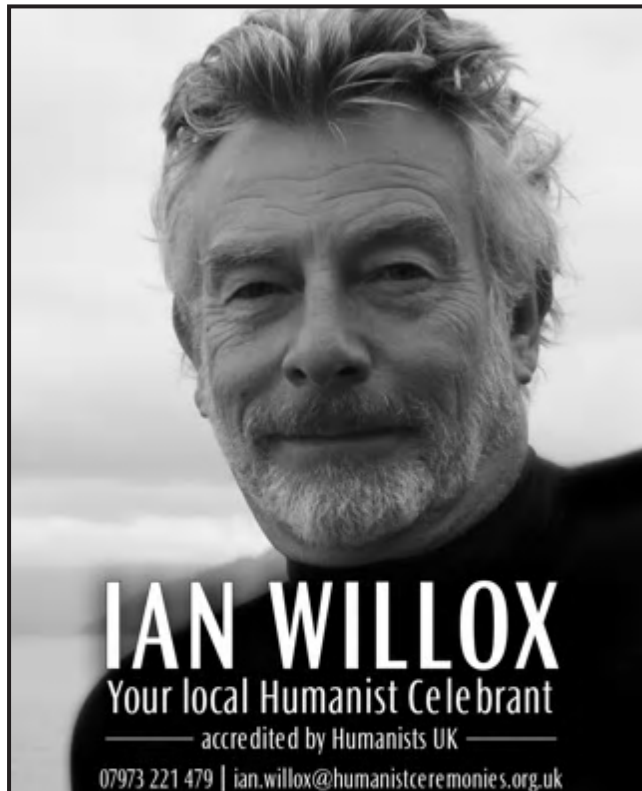
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Sunday 11th June Trinity 1	9.30am Morning prayer	11.00am Morning prayer	5.30pm Holy Communion
Sunday 18th June Trinity 2	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion		
Sunday 25th June Trinity 3	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.00am Morning prayer	9.30am Holy Communion 2.30pm Baptism (Elsie Coles)
www.sntchurch.com			




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0702 0800 0844 1003	1603 1702 1802 1902 2010 2125 2255

Saturdays

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0746 0846 1002	1902 2010 2125 2255

Sundays and most public holidays

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0944 1114 1244 1414 1544 1714 1844	

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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

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June 2023

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



July 2023

6 th	Green
13 th	Blue and brown
20 th	Green
27 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 July and August to editorialife@gmail.com

June 2023			
Sunday 4th	NGS Village Open Gardens	Steeple Aston	2pm to 6pm
Wednesday 7th	AD&D PS. Robert Harvey: 'Photographing the Beauty of Birds'		
Tuesday 13th	Wl. Alan Jones: 'Body Language'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Wednesday 14th	SAL July 2023 copy and advert deadlines		
Wednesday 14th	Valentine Club. River Cruise on the Thames		
Monday 19th	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Tuesday 20th	Valentine Club. 'Life of a guide dog'	Village Hall	2.30pm
Thursday 22nd	Garden Club. Visit to Dean Manor	Chipping Norton	6.30pm
Friday 23rd	Golf Society	Buckingham Golf Club	12 noon
Saturday 24th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 24th	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
Sunday 25th	SACS Summer Party Concert	Village Hall	7pm

Choral Society Rehearsals. Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays
Badminton. Village Hall - 10am -12.30pm - Tuesdays
Bell Ringing practice. Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays
Brownies. Sport & Rec Centre - 6pm - 7.30pm - Wednesdays
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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