

Steeple Aston *Life*

August 2023 Issue No. 600



• Church Fête photos • SACS Summer Concert • Letter from Westminster •
• Claydon House • Community Orchard • The Arts Page • Mindgames •

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Cover: Deddington Firefighters at the Church Fête. They were using a nozzle from Steeple Aston's old fire engine – it fitted and still worked! (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 September 2023 issue is Friday 14th August.

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<https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine>

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Badminton (Tuesday mornings)		Barbara Brewer	340423
Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	347033
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Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Head Teacher		340204
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Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
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Toddler Group		Hilary Clayton-Lyne, Angela Smith	steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com
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WI	President	Julie Hillier	349185



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

Steeple Aston *Life*

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The Allotments bench, with Stuart Walton and the new plaque reading 'Sit here a while and admire your hard work' (see page 7). An ideal way to spend part of a bank holiday.

(Photo: Nigel Francis)

Editorial

"I have had a holiday, and I'd like to take it up professionally." – Kylie Minogue

Welcome to the 600th edition of Steeple Aston Life. To celebrate, there is a bank holiday at the end of this month!

The August bank holiday did not always fall on the last Monday of the month. Some more senior villagers might recall that up to 1971 it took place on the first Monday of August. It was moved to avoid clashing with the factory fortnight common at the time, an enforced shutdown to give staff leave during school holidays and to allow for essential maintenance work.

In the early nineteenth century there were 33 public holidays in the UK, mostly celebrating saints' days and religious festivals. This was seen to be somewhat excessive so, in 1834, the number was reduced to just four – Easter Monday, Whit Monday, the first Monday in August and Boxing Day. It was the liberal politician and banker Sir John Lubbock with his Bank Holidays Act of 1871 who made these public holidays official. Good Friday and Christmas Day were added later, along with New Year's Day.

Whit Monday was a bank holiday in the UK until 1971, when it was replaced by the Spring Bank Holiday on the last Monday of May. The Early May Bank Holiday (1st May in 2023) was added to the list in 1978. It is also known as May Day, and sometimes International Workers' Day.

This gives England and Wales eight public holidays each year, occasionally increased to nine with a special day, such as for the Coronation in May this year. Only Mexico has fewer annual public holidays – just seven. India, on the other hand, celebrates with 21 special days.

This August Bank Holiday, on 28th of the month, sees the 131st Steeple and Middle Aston Horticultural Society Annual Show taking place on Robinsons Close and in the Village Hall (see page 30). And, for the first time, the Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society will be mounting an exhibition of members' work in the Sports & Recreation Centre (see page 22).

Enjoy the day.
Robert



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Apology to Arash Fatemian

There was a mistake and confusion in the Parish Council Meeting Notes in the July issue of Steeple Aston Life.

There are three levels of local authority input. The first is at County level and our County Councillor is Arash Fatemian. Then there is our District Councillor who is at Cherwell and finally there are our village Parish Councillors. Unfortunately, a SAL reporter at the last Parish Council meeting got in a muddle and described our District Councillor's non-attendance, but named him as Arash Fatemian.

This was particularly unfair on Arash, who is a very effective County Councillor. He has been to many of our Parish Council meetings and has frequently been asked to look at issues specific to Steeple Aston. He has been assiduous in getting us help and suggesting whom to approach.

Many apologies to Arash for this unintended error.

New Headteacher

After 15 years of being our Headteacher, Frances Brown reached the hard decision to retire from headship and left Dr Radcliffe's in April.

Frances was an incredible Headteacher who showed selfless dedication to our school and led the school team and community with empathy, inspiration, commitment and compassion and in so doing gave our school the opportunity to flourish and be admired.

Frances has left the school in safe hands with an experienced team of teaching staff, support staff and Governors. For the Summer term Guy Brigg, Deputy Head and Year 6 Teacher, agreed to be Interim Head Teacher supported by Sarah Goldsworthy and Becky Roberts as Interim Assistant Heads. With the support of our Academy Trust – Oxfordshire Diocesan Schools Trust – the Governors made the decision that it would be best for the whole school community if Guy, Sarah and Becky led the school through the Summer Term with a new Headteacher to start in September.

I am delighted that after a rigorous recruitment process Mr Robert O'Malley (photo above) has been appointed as our new Headteacher and will lead Dr Radcliffe's into a new chapter in its history. Mr O'Malley comes to us as an experienced Headteacher. Originally from London, he has taught in schools in Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes and has been the Headteacher of two Milton Keynes schools for the last 12 years. He looks forward to joining Dr Radcliffe's and working with the children, families, staff, Governors, Rev. Harriet and the local community.

We eagerly await the arrival of Rob and look forward to welcoming him to our vibrant school community.

Lisa Boote, Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governors





Church Allotment Association

On a balmy evening in late June, at our Summer Social, Steeple Aston Church Allotment Association (SACAA) said thank you to Rose McCready, Nigel Grugeon, and Stuart Walton for their sterling work on the Committee over many years, with gifts of wine, gardening vouchers and a new plaque for our bench, reading 'Sit here a while and admire your hard work'. In gratitude to Stuart & Anne Walton, SACAA Committee Stalwarts.

Amanda Rodgers



Steeple Aston Baby and Toddler Group

Steeple Aston Baby and Toddler Group is looking for volunteers available approximately once a month to help us run our sessions in the Sports and Recreation Centre on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30am.

We are a friendly bunch so you'll get lots of help. If interested please email Angela and Hilary at steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com Thank you!

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Steeple People



Greg Elphick



How long have you lived in Steeple Aston?

Fresh newbie as of April 2023 along with Emily and our spaniel Poppy.

Where did you move from? Charvil, Reading.

What brought you here? Lucky to quit work before 60. Daughter flown the nest, wanted a smaller new build and Townsend looked perfect.

Give a potted history of yourself. Council house/free school meals.

Parents divorced. First in family to Uni. Sporty. Aero engineering degree.

Copper 1984-2014. 2015 joined civil service until 2021 and a second retirement.

Just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary.

How do you see yourself, in five words or less? My nickname is Tigger. Apt.

How do others see you, in five words or less? Enthusiastic, easily distracted, loves adventure (says Emily).

Technology: friend or foe? Love tech and if allowed would have every gadget under the sun.

What was the best thing about being a child? Unrestricted outdoor play.

What is the best thing about being an adult? Emily. Our daughter making her way in the world. Having fantastic mates.

As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? Watched 1969 moon landing so I was only ever going to be an astronaut.

What was your first job? Milkman's assistant at 14. He allowed me to drive the float.

What do you do for a living now? Very happily retired.

What is the best job you've ever done? Tough pick out of loads of great police roles, but I reckon hostage negotiator.

What is the worst job you've ever done? Tough pick between Home Office secondment and a Cabinet Office security role.

Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have. Anything a wee bit risky – scuba diving, mountain biking, pistol shooting, kick-boxing, skydives, bungee jumping, track days, road cycling.

What's your favourite piece of music? To my family's great dismay, I love Abba. It was the soundtrack to my university studies. That and Jim Steinman.

What's your favourite food? Sunday roast with all the trimmings (and Craig at the Red Lion does the very best).

If you became prime minister, what law would you pass? Mandatory ID cards.

If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy? New Mazda MX5 convertible in Soul Red crystal paint.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Back to our 25th anniversary/second honeymoon island in the Maldives.

What's your favourite saying or piece of advice? Knowledge is Power. Served me well throughout my life.

Who is your hero? Which person do you most admire, and why? My hero is my younger brother Roy. Former London Ambulance Service motorcycle paramedic and now theatre nurse/ODP. He's probably been key to saving a life most days of his NHS career.

Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive? My lovely mum who I lost in 2013.

What do you get grumpy/mad about? Having just moved to SA, grossly inefficient utility companies, multiple wrong bills, unanswered phone calls and their infuriating AI chatbots.

What makes you happiest in the world? Keeping fit and planning the next travel adventure with Emily.

Tell us a surprising thing that you are really good at. I can write excellent complaint emails. I will escalate. And I will never, ever, give up or go away.

Tell us a good joke. I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. I got a lovely hug...



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The ARTS Page



August is holiday time and there are many artistic activities for children in our area. Here are some venues offering lots for children.

banburymuseum.org I flagged up 'Robot' last month and it continues to 8th October. Plenty more in August, including 'Brick Madness' – Lego building, Wednesday mornings until 23rd August (£3 per child), 'Animal Pen Pots' – make a wildlife-themed pen pot, Monday 7th August (£3 per child), 'Make a Dinosaur' – Thursday 3rd August (£4 per child) and plenty more. A reader of SAL recently asked me why I mention the Banbury Museum so much. Answer - because it is so good!

Escapehunt.com Based in Oxford and round the country. Enter a world of unlimited excitement and pulse-racing real life adventures, such as 'Escape Rooms' and 'City Hunt' as well as a play-at-home option. "Packed with excitement, you and your teammates will leap into new worlds to complete ground-making missions."

Storymuseum.org.uk The brilliant Oxford Story Museum is always worth a visit for children. Workshops in August include 'Fearsome Fruits and Venomous Plants' (1st to 4th), 'The Power of Puppets' (2nd to 11th) and 'Lego Master Builders Club' (2nd to 17th), as well as their "Whispering Wood", "Enchanted Library" and more. Admission to The Galleries is £12 per person

prm.ox.ac.uk The Pitt Rivers is a terrific museum for all ages and they have a fascinating exhibition until the end of the year called 'Unmasked: Spirit in the City' by David Pratten and Ziro Saro-Wiwa. I can only quote briefly from the introduction: "This show combines anthropology and contemporary art to capture the complex emotional stories behind a modern urban masquerade called Agaba." It's certainly whetted my appetite.

Shakespeare continues in August. Siege Theatre is at the Oxford Castle Courtyard until 12th with 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Creation Theatre is at the South Oxford Adventure Playground until 19th with 'Much ado about nothing'.

I'll look more at autumn in the September edition, but two music organisations are worth checking out ahead of this. ***Musicatoxford.com*** – Christ Church Carols always sells fast, as will Andreas Scholl – one of the world's great countertenors – on February 7th 2024 at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. At the Oxford Philharmonic (***oxfordphil.com***) Evgeny Kissin (21st September, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's) and Nigel Kennedy (The Bach Concertos, 10th November, Olivier Hall, St. Edward's School, Woodstock Road) are likely to sell fast too.

As I write, I have just heard an interview with Sir Keir Starmer on Classic FM speaking up for music in schools. "We have lost sight of the value of music and arts in schools...every child should have a chance to play a musical instrument in schools across the country." Quote from Andrew Lloyd Webber, "only 12% of state schools have orchestras". Music in state schools is in crisis. Dr Radcliffe's is a glorious exception.

I'll finish with a lovely anecdote told by former PM Edward Heath. He read PPE at Oxford and was Organ Scholar of Balliol. As he left university he was torn between politics and music. He asked the Professor of Music for advice, who said among other things that music was a tough and difficult profession. Heath told us "I didn't want any unpleasantness, so I chose politics".

Nicholas Cleobury
Nicholascleobury.net



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Letter from *Westminster*



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

This is always a busy time of year for our farmers in North Oxfordshire. After a particularly dry spell, haymaking is well underway and combines are gearing up for harvest. As Jeremy Clarkson has shown us on Diddly Squat Farm, the summer marks the end of a long and difficult agricultural year. Farmers hope for high yields and good prices to make all of the long hours and sleepless nights worth it.

The need for a good harvest has been no more pressing than in recent years. Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and its impact on the global supply chain has left farmers' input costs spiralling. The invasion of one of the bread baskets of the world has also thrust global food security into the spotlight.

This is something the Government takes extremely seriously. During my time as Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food, I published the first-ever Government Food Strategy. This committed to bolstering our domestic food security and boosting production through innovation and investment.

I know that farmers and rural communities are at the top of the Prime Minister's agenda, as a proud rural MP himself. This was demonstrated when he hosted the Farm to Fork national food security summit in 10 Downing Street recently. At this summit, the Prime Minister pledged to put UK agriculture at the forefront of our trade negotiations, protecting our standards and sensitive sectors while prioritising export opportunities.

This comes at an important time for UK farming. Having left the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, we are able to set our own agricultural policies for the first time in over forty years. This has enabled us to embark on a bold transition away from unfair direct payments, which simply gave farmers a cheque based on the area of land they owned, towards our new Environmental Land Management Schemes.

Under our new schemes, sustainable farming practices are being incentivised, which reduce our carbon emissions and increase our biodiversity. Investment is also going into large-scale landscape recovery, as well as improving animal health and welfare and boosting productivity. More details were announced on these schemes last month, with more and more farmers signing up all the time.

Our farmers in North Oxfordshire produce the finest quality food with some of the highest standards anywhere in the world. This Government will always back British farmers. We can do the same by buying British and buying local wherever possible.



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HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

Claydon House



Since we've been reminded of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the NHS in 1948, it seems quite appropriate to suggest that you might be interested in visiting Claydon House. It's a place with a strong connection to Florence Nightingale – such an important precursor to the minds which created the NHS – free at the point of delivery and at its best with high standards of care and skill.

Florence Nightingale's sister, Parthenope, married Sir Henry Verney in 1858 and they lived in Claydon House, Buckinghamshire. This was a magnificent mansion built by the Verney family in 1620 (and extended in 1757 and 1771), intended to rival Stowe. Sir Harry gave Florence a suite of rooms at Claydon where she could write, rest and meet people who might influence the improvements in nursing for which Florence Nightingale campaigned.

There are artefacts and much memorabilia of Florence Nightingale at Claydon House, but it's also worth going to enjoy the marvellous 18th century interiors with their richness of architectural styles and the lovely peaceful setting of this delightful country house.

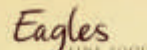
In 1791 one wing and the ballroom of Claydon House were demolished, thus reducing the splendid mansion which had been in competition with Stowe to a more manageable size. The house you see today, courtesy of the National Trust, is the one Florence and Parthenope knew. It has some magnificent rooms with extraordinary carving and woodwork and I'm not sure that I've ever seen a more beautiful staircase. This is unusual in being inlaid with different woods and even little mother of pearl spots on each stair which would pick up the light from your candle as you walked up or down it at night.

There are few ropes to hold back visitors from exploring rooms at Claydon House – I especially enjoyed the Reading Room with well-organised second-hand books for sale and comfortable chairs where you can sit and relax or enjoy a quiet read with lovely views through the unusual bow windows.

Claydon is a handsome house with a pleasant garden. Alongside the house the large and attractive range of buildings around the courtyard, which includes the stable block, is not part of the National Trust estate, but it gives a clue to past glories. Now there are shops and various businesses in different parts of these buildings, including a café.

Claydon House is open Friday to Monday from 10.30am to 3.30pm until the end of October. Between 10.30am and 11.30am there are guided tours. Entry (for non-National Trust members) is £10 for adults and £5 for children. It is at Middle Claydon, near Buckingham. Using a satnav to find it is recommended – MK18 2EY. House opening is subject to volunteer availability – if there are low volunteer numbers, some parts of the house may need to remain closed. However, it is an interesting destination for a summer morning or afternoon and worth the effort of getting there!

Eileen Baglin-Jones



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CIRCUS

Community Orchard



The community orchard that was gifted to Steeple Aston in the spring is going from strength to strength as local volunteers work to make it a useable space for all.

The monthly get-together to work on the plot takes place on the first Sunday of each month and has seen path trimming and tree cutting to make sure the orchard remains well pruned and accessible to villagers.

This month the pond has been given a face lift with new stones and pebbles to soften the edges and additional pond plants, kindly donated by villagers Helen Taylor and Anne Bonwick, have made it an attractive home for wildlife. A group of baby frogs has already made the place their home, so here's to hoping we will have tadpoles next year!

Steeple Aston Brownies were back again this month armed with pallets, bottles, sticks, wood, straw and bricks to make a magnificent bug hotel. We love seeing all the local bugs make use of the hotel and hope to build another soon to help encourage even more creepy crawlies into the area.

And finally, the orchard hive is now occupied! The new bees have been enjoying coming and going over the wall into the meadow and beyond, which is great news.

Please enjoy and use this wonderful oasis in the heart of the village and do feel free to join us when we do our little work party to keep the place looking nice.

Nigel Francis



Parish Council Meeting Notes



The July meeting of the Parish Council started with the sort of discussion I enjoy. The issue was how soon the official minutes of the Parish Council meetings could be made available to all. At the moment the minutes of one meeting are signed off at the next meeting a month later. The alternative would be to eliminate the wait of nearly a month by circulating the draft minutes as soon as they are written. However, if the Council was to do this the minutes would not necessarily have been read and approved by all the Councillors before circulation. I don't know if the Councillors have made substantive changes to the minutes before the meetings, but certainly by the time of the next meeting the changes requested on the minutes tend to be very minor. So the options seemed to me to be speed versus the small changes the Councillors sometimes request. Speed lost out to meticulous accuracy.

The new Parish Councillor, Matt Watson, was welcomed and officially co-opted on to the Parish Council and we were told there might be someone else interested in filling the final vacancy. No names were mentioned.

Arash Fatemian, our County Councillor, arrived at this point and was told there would be an apology on the SAL Noticeboard for him having been wrongly named last month as our non-participating District Councillor. I have never tried to hide my political leanings so it is a real compliment to Arash to say that he is one of only three Tory Councillors I have been prepared to vote for, ever.

Arash was thanked for the mysterious £3,500 deposited in the Parish Council's bank account. Apparently, it was a contribution from the previous financial year towards the cost of the sealed composite resurfacing of the gravel path between the Village Hall and the road. The path is currently gravel which is difficult for wheelchair users and so the new surface will make it easier for them to get from the disabled parking spaces to the sloping entrance to the Village Hall. The cost will be quite

a bit more than the £3,500 already given towards the project and Arash was gently questioned about whether he could fund the difference from his budget for this year. Very politely he said he would prefer to fund a new, more 'exciting' project instead.

Arash sent our Parish Councillors a report on Oxfordshire County Council activities. Most of the report was sensible and dull, but I enjoyed this: OCC has received a bronze Carbon Literacy Organisation Award. I am advised a Carbon Literate Organisation is an organisation that has been accredited by The Carbon Literacy Project as being 'culturally Carbon Literate'; maintaining a substantial proportion of its workforce as Carbon Literate and demonstrating its Carbon Literacy through its organisational behaviour. Councillor Liz Leffman, Leader of OCC, said: "We are proud to receive this award, which highlights the importance we place on climate action".

We were told that a 20mph speed limit has been approved for Deddington and Adderbury and the plan is for all Oxfordshire villages to have a 20mph limit by 2025. The road between the end of the dual carriageway and Deddington is now 50mph. The speed signs that had been blacked out, which we all thought was vandalism, have been cleaned off and now say 50. It is odd – why didn't Highways just put up the signs and not bother to black them out first and then clean them off afterwards?

No one knew how long Gigaclear will take to finish putting in a cable round the village. All the Councillors knew for sure was that Gigaclear had offered the sweetener of wiring up the Village Hall and not charging for the first two years. So far nothing has happened near the Village Hall. The current sub-contractors seem a bit better than the previous ones – who left an unlit open hole across Paines Hill with a covering that could slide off.

continued.....

Parish Council Meeting Notes



We were told the Parish Council does not need a new lease to keep the Pocket Park area. The old lease was allowed to lapse which Cherwell has accepted as being equivalent to giving the Parish Council an implicit extended lease on the land. On this slightly obscure logic the Parish Council can continue to use the land as long as it is properly looked after. Hoorah for common sense.

The Parish Council intends to maintain the grass and the hedges at the Pocket Park and is thinking about play equipment. At the moment the Park has brambles and plenty of wildlife, plus two swings and one goal post. The general view seemed to be that it is a pity the two and one were not the other way around. Anyway, the Councillors are asking the parents of the children using the Pocket Park what sort of equipment they would like and are hoping to fund it largely from Section 106 money – i.e. the contribution Rectory Homes are giving for the village improvements.

Then we got to much the most interesting bit of the meeting. Martin Lipson explained what was happening on the search for sites for potential new housing in the village. Cherwell has withdrawn their initial Local Plan that said Steeple Aston had to take an extra 47 homes by 2040. But our Councillors are assuming that something similar is likely to be re-issued in the autumn and that means the village should get ahead and look for possible sites. The consideration of sites is being supervised by Martin Lipson and the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan team to ensure total objectivity and transparency between parishes and within parishes.

Martin had sent the Councillors a map of the sites being considered for development in Steeple Aston. Although I was meticulously not shown the map, it was clear from across the room that the potential development sites, shown in bright blue, almost entirely encircled the village. When Cherwell had previously called for sites here for housing only four had been put forward. This time

17 are being considered. After discussion it was agreed the owners of the sites would be approached this month to ask if they had any interest in developing them, either now, in the foreseeable future or ever. Those where the owners did not wish to sell would be removed from the exercise and a public meeting will be called in September to consider the suggested pros and cons of the resulting possibilities. Both the initial map, and the revised version taking land owner opinions into account, will be available to all before the public meeting. The sites that might be developed should be identified in a priority order by the time of the September meeting.

Apparently, there are 31 criteria for selecting the priority of sites for development and the idea is that these should be as objective as possible. The criteria are wide and concepts such as the traffic consequences of a potential development will be part of the decision-making process. Consultants are going to be asked to do a parallel assessment of the possible sites for their environmental impact and the results of both exercises will be considered together. Sites will not be put on the priority list unless they are large enough for five or six homes. Martin made it clear he knew giving an order of priority for the sites ‘may raise the temperature’, but he emphasised that there will be many opportunities for comments and consultation before the plan finally goes to an examiner in about a year from now.

The meeting closed with our Parish Clerk, Cathy Fleet, telling us she was moving to Duns Tew, but was intending to stay on as our Parish Clerk. Everyone wished her well with the move.

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

Church Fete Kids Races 2023 Results

Running Races

Under 5s: 1st Emilia Joyce, 2nd Harper Oliver, 3rd Bella Burrows

Age 6-7 (Round 1): 1st Otilie Maclean,

2nd Frankie Burrows, 3rd James Anthony

Age 6-7 (Round 2): 1st Rupert Hogg, 2nd Isobel Coysh, 3rd Olivia Clarke

Age 8+ (Round 1): 1st Amelia Bailey, 2nd Digby Ferguson, 3rd Jack Grace

Age 8+ (Round 2): 1st Nancy Alcraft, 2nd Shayan Kularajakara, 3rd Ralphie Bailey

Sack Race

Age 6-7: 1st Otilie Maclean, 2nd Frankie Burrows, 3rd James Anthony

Age 8+: 1st Alan Wyszowski, 2nd Hugo Wyszowski, 3rd Freddy Burrows/Harriet Hall

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The Gardening Spot

First, let me remind you about ‘Steeple and Middle Aston’s Annual Flower Show’. It takes place on Monday 28th August from 2pm to 5pm in Robinsons Close and the Village Hall.

- It happens every year and has done since the 1860s.
- It is one of the biggest traditional flower shows in Oxfordshire.
- It attracts 700 to 800 entries each year.
- It is accompanied by a ‘Fun Dog Show’.
- There are games and stalls scattered all around the sports field.
- The marquee is about as big as you can get.
- Scrumptious teas are served in the Village Hall.
- There is a photographic exhibition in the Sports and Recreation Centre
- How does this all happen you ask? It is down to the people of Steeple and Middle Aston and surrounding villages who, every year, find exhibits to enter and make this one of the biggest events in the village calendar.
- It would not happen without the drive and dedication of a small and ageing committee who put so much into this event.
- On the day, they, the committee, could really do with some help, even if only for an hour or so during the afternoon of the show.
- Be part of this historic and major event in your village by contacting Richard (01869 340512 or email Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com) or any committee member.

Please come along to ‘The Greatest Show on Earth’ or at least Steeple Aston!

What on earth do I do in the garden in August?

Why does gardening always revolve around the weather? Usually, if I have to write something around mid-July, I would be encouraging you all to water carefully, but regularly, to keep those precious plants alive. As I write it is mid-July and it is bucketing it down out there, so maybe you can put those watering cans away until next year, or maybe not! For me, August is all about harvesting the many crops in the vegetable garden and making sure the weeds are not taking over. If you grow potatoes, you could start to dig the main crop now, although I would leave them in the soil until late in the month or maybe September. The skins need to be ‘set’, otherwise they simply will not store. Dig them up on a dry day and leave on the soil for a few hours to properly dry off before storing in sacks or bags that do not let any light in.

Keep a watch out for caterpillars as they can devour brassicas in a very short time. Also be watchful of potato/tomato blight as that will decimate your crop in no time at all. With potatoes, if blight arrives, remove the tops and harvest as soon as you can, throwing out diseased potatoes. As for tomatoes, it is the same infection, but not a lot you can do other than rescue any crop you might have and destroy infected plants. Do not put them in the brown bin as that could transfer the problem to other gardeners through the compost that is made from your brown bin waste. Apples start to come into harvest during this month along with plums, and pears. Enjoy what you can straight off the tree and store apples and pears carefully to provide you with fruit for later in the year.

I think that will do for now, but hope to see you all at ‘The Annual Show’ on 28th August – and maybe some entries?

Richard Preston

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???? Mind Games

Word puzzle

How many words can you make using these letters? Each word can only use the letters once. Answers on page 26: **HOLIDAY**

How many words of 3, 4, or 5 letters can you find?

15 = good 20 = excellent 25 = superb Over 25 = brilliant!

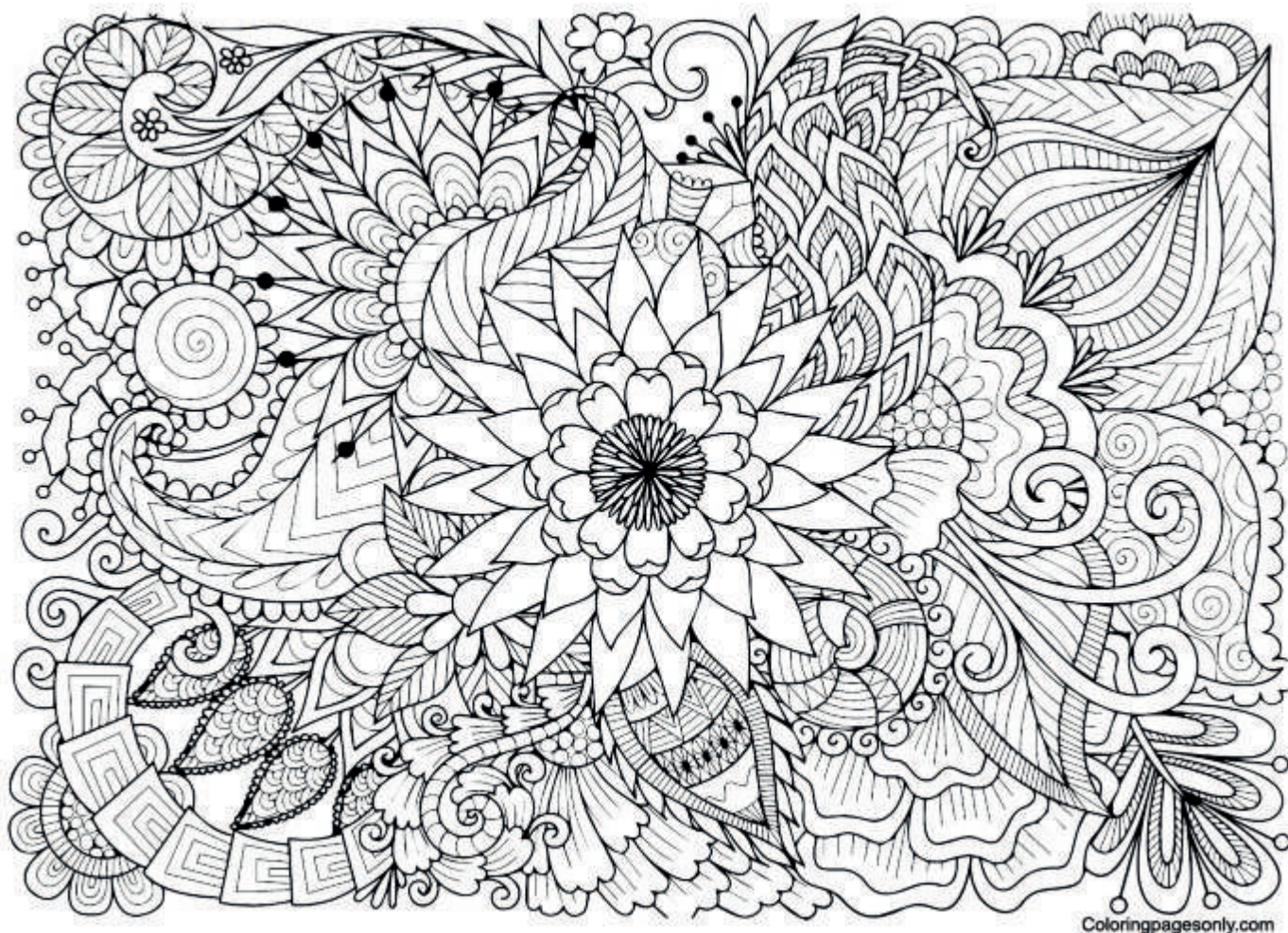
First and foremost

Quite a few authors and poets are best known by their initials in place of first names. Without using a search engine, how many of the following initials can you identify? Answers on page 26.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1) A. A. Milne | 6) T. S. Eliot |
| 2) J. R. R. Tolkien | 7) J. B. Priestley |
| 3) J. M. Barrie | 8) C. S. Lewis |
| 4) W. B. Yeats | 9) H. G. Wells |
| 5) P. G. Wodehouse | 10) D. H. Lawrence |

Rest and relax

Find a few coloured pencils or crayons and bring this image to life with pigments of your imagination. This mindfulness activity will reduce stress and help to introduce a calmness to your busy day.



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Church Fête - Roaring Success!

Saturday 8th July saw Steeple Aston turn out onto the green for a wonderful afternoon of community fun. Thank you so much to everyone who attended, and to those who put so much time and effort into making it a spectacular day for everyone involved. Though the day began rather grey and grim, no one seemed to let that get them down and by early afternoon the green was transformed. Numerous stalls spilled out from under their gazebos with an air of anticipation buzzing in the air. A short speech from Rev. Harriet Orridge and the fête was officially opened! She then handed the mic back to Eileen Baglin-Jones, who did a fantastic job emceeing the entire afternoon and making sure everything ran smoothly.

I'd like give a shout out to the orchestra, who serenaded us with a wonderful collection of songs. I'm not ashamed to admit that I shed a tear during 'I dreamed a dream' and enjoyed the field-wide chorus of 'Bum-bum-bum's' during 'Sweet Caroline!' They set a fantastic mood and were a wonderful backdrop to the festivities. By the time the Children's Races came around, the fête was in full swing, the sun finally made an appearance and kids had to be pulled away from games of Hook-a-Duck and bowling (to name only a few) to compete. The races went off without a hitch and were fun not only for the competitors but also the spectators. Congratulations to everyone who competed and particularly to the winners. (See page 20 for results.)

As the sun began to beat down, I think it's important to say thank you to the numerous refreshment stands which played a large part in keeping everyone cool and hydrated as the afternoon wore on – The Red Lion Pub, serving delicious beers, the Guides' Ice Cream cart and the pop-up café in the Village Hall. Thank you very much for all your delicious contributions. It takes a lot of work to make sure that there is enough cake to go around and I know that there was plenty left over at the end of the afternoon.

We are very grateful that the Volunteer Fire Department was able to attend. Their display was incredibly interesting and everyone enjoyed getting to see such an important and selfless occupation up close and personal. Not to mention, the tug of war was great fun. But they weren't the only display and there were so many fascinating things to see, from bee hives to steam engines. Thank you to everyone who manned these stalls.

At the end of the day, a little over £4000 had been raised for the Church. Words cannot express the gratitude for everyone who attended and contributed. In particular, thanks go to Martin Dale who put so much work into making sure that the day went smoothly. Thanks must also go to Nigel Francis for taking such incredible photographs of the day. Please make sure you take a look at his work (bit.ly/3XRW3zQ). Thank you so much to everyone who worked so hard to make the day a success and to those who came and enjoyed the fête. I cannot wait to see what next year's event will bring!

Georgina Orridge





Mindgame answers (see page 23)

Word puzzle

3-letter words: aid, ail, day, had, hay, hid, hod, lad, lay, lid, oil, old

4-letter words: ahoy, dahl, dial, hail, hiya, hold, holy, idly, idol, lady, laid, lido, load, oily

5-letter words: daily, doily

First and foremost

- 1) Alan Alexander Milne
- 2) John Ronald Reuel Tolkien
- 3) James Matthew Barrie
- 4) William Butler Yeats
- 5) Pelham Grenville Wodehouse
- 6) Thomas Stearns Eliot
- 7) John Boynton Priestley
- 8) Clive Staples Lewis
- 9) Herbert George Wells
- 10) David Herbert Lawrence



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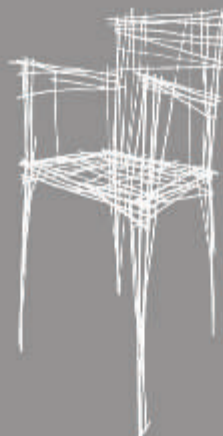
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The Cricket Report



The changing face of village cricket....

One thing is for sure – getting a team out every Sunday to play village cricket is becoming harder every year. There are so many more opportunities for people to follow on a Sunday and it is a sad fact that fewer schools are playing cricket. However, on a more positive note the women's game is flourishing. Steeple Aston CC would dearly love to welcome women into our team, so please do let me know if you are interested in playing.

King's Head CC, Bledington....

With that in mind we played a T20 on a Thursday night against the King's Head (a pub team from Bledington) at the beautiful Bruern CC in the Cotswolds. As we arrived their captain had just finished mowing the square! The King's Head batted first, but were pegged back by some accurate bowling from James Liebrecht (0-18 off 4 overs) and Alain Michaelis (1-26). Our opponents began to accelerate, but thanks to a fine catch by James on the boundary off Arthur Higgins' bowling (1-28) we were back in the game. Dave McDonald then set a new record by taking four wickets in his allotted overs, whilst somehow managing to bowl nine wides as well! KHCC finished on 138-6.

In our reply Nick Foster (40) batted with great assurance and a fine technique before being run out by me – what an idiot! I thought the ball had raced past the infield to the boundary, so set off for a run. Sadly, my eyesight is failing and I was wrong. Sorry, Nick. Unfortunately, the rest of us could not rustle up enough runs, though in our defence it was pretty dark, as a large cloud had settled over the late evening sun. We fell 32 runs short, but did have a wonderful time in the King's Head afterwards, where our hosts treated us to supper and we availed ourselves of Jeremy Clarkson's Hawkstone lager. The game was played in a great spirit and we will definitely play another midweek T20 there next year, though hopefully we can bat first next time.

Appleton CC....

We have been playing Sandford St Martin CC for as long as I can remember, but sadly they could not put out a team for our Sunday fixture. It is a problem that all village clubs must contend with. Luckily our resourceful Fixtures Secretary, Phil Chesser, found us a replacement fixture against Appleton CC, which has a picturesque ground just west of Cumnor.

Nige Doggett won the toss and put Appleton into bat. James Liebrecht (2-27) and Alain Michaelis (1-10) both bowled a tight line again, but it was Paul Longman who wreaked havoc in the opposition middle order, taking 3-13 in six overs, including one sensational catch by wicket-keeper Phil Chesser. Many would say that the ball simply darted into Phil's gloves without him actually moving, but I don't believe them! Peter Higgins (1-22), Alec Michaelis (1-6) and Tom Chesser (1-2) soon wrapped up the tail and we were left with a target of 92.

Nige Doggett (46) and Phil Chesser (24) set off like Bairstow and Buttler and raced to a 53-run partnership in 52 balls before Phil was bowled attempting yet another swish over mid-wicket. Arthur Higgins and Olly Doggett then came in to take us home with Olly hitting a straight six to win the game by eight wickets.

Anyone can play...

If you fancy playing for Steeple Aston CC you will receive a warm welcome. Cricketing ability is not a requirement, the ability to have fun is. Please do get in touch.

Peter Higgins
Chairman SACC

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

I am writing this on a very wet and cool July day when, to be honest, I can't do much else other than sit at the computer or watch Wimbledon. Two days previously, a coach full of Valentine Club members visited Bournemouth on what was a fine, mostly sunny and warm day. They say, 'the sun shines on the righteous'! As always, Bournemouth did not disappoint and we all had a wonderful few hours enjoying the sea air and, by what I witnessed, eating vast amounts of fish and chips!

Our next coach outing is to The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire where we will have the opportunity to see the numerous memorials to our armed services personnel and so many more. A two-course lunch is included. On writing this just a few days before our visit to Middle Aston House for 'high tea'. I am hoping the forecast is correct and the day will be dry and warm so that we can sit out on the terrace and enjoy each other's company and, of course, some cake!

Returning after a gap of four years, we welcome back Lee Wilkinson, who is always popular and a highly-talented, singer, guitarist, and comedian. Our holiday plans for a few days in Llandudno are now sorted and we have two days of excursions already planned. Next April, we are going back to Norton Grange on the Isle of Wight for another break, so something else to look forward to in the spring.

To find more about The Valentine Club, simply visit our website at valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston or the village website at www.steepleaston.org.uk or use that old-fashioned thing called a telephone and call me on 01869 340512. If you would like to support The Valentine Club and all the great things we do why not have a go at the 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@bopenworld.com

Deddington Guides Report

After 16 years we were sad to say goodbye to Guider Marian Trinder. She has been a stalwart colleague, fully involving herself in all aspects of Guiding, not only with our unit but in the District and County too.

Having been a Guider in Deddington for 48 years, I valued her support and companionship and, as times changed, her digital know-how. We have many special shared memories over these years which neither of us will forget. Marian moved to East Anglia, but will return in October to lead a joint trip (with Guides from Banbury) to Disneyland, Paris. In the meantime, we wish her well in her future Guiding and in her new home.

We have continued with our outdoor activities, mainly in fine weather. Learning to erect tents was fun, once the Guides got the hang of the old-style canvas tents! A hectic evening was enjoyed by all when the Brownies joined us for the annual sausage sizzle. Thank you again to the Fenemore family for being our hosts.

We completed the circular walk between the Barfords for our Incident hike, with various challenges along the way. The weather didn't dampen our spirits and no one fell in the river – so a success!

One of our favourite end-of-term activities is Backwoodsman cooking. No utensils or pans, but cooking in foil or on sticks, etc. The Guides were very inventive, baking eggs and cakes in hollowed-out oranges. Great fun, as always!

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

STEEPLE ASTON

(131st Annual)

FLOWER SHOW

AND

FUN DOG SHOW



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and I do not exaggerate
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my mental state
I'm Dalek like - exterminate!

they really need a jolt
but do complain
if you have strength
you'll feel the strain
you'll know the length
that they will go
to grind you down
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permanently frown
just stick it out
and grind them back
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don't be the first to show a crack
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Peter Wild

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Do I fancy a lazy beach week
Or an energetic hike?
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And tour the canals of Britain
Hoping to spot an otter
A heron, or a bittern.

Or I could travel further
Visit the United States
Where Graceland, the Grand
Canyon
And Las Vegas await.

But in these travel brochures
Every suggestion pales
Beside my childhood holidays
In the Yorkshire Dales.

There was no place on earth
I would rather spend my time
Staying with my grandparents
To me was just sublime.

Roaming on the moors
Dotted with sheep and lambs
Splashing in the river
Skimming stones, or building
dams.

Going with my Grandad
To collect the eggs
As the hens gathered round
And pecked my sunburnt legs.

I'd 'help out' in their teasshop
(No doubt getting in the way)
I relished and enjoyed
Every minute of the day.

Chapel on Sunday morning
Followed by a roast
A picnic by the river
A coach trip to the coast.

Every day an adventure
Every day without a care
If I close my eyes
I can be right there.

So travel companies can compete
To tempt me with their fare
With these magic childhood
memories
No brochure can compare.

Cathy Lawday

A Hot Evening in Steeple Aston

The temperature was rising steadily as *Steeple Aston Choral* launched their Summer Party Concert with a medley of *Carpenter Hits* – specially arranged by Paul Herrington – from the infectious, *Sing*, through the more reflective *We've Only Just Begun*, *Close to You*, *Bless the Beasts and the Children*, to the final foot-tapping *Top of the World*.

Angela Kazimierczuk, *SACS*'s guest soprano soloist, last heard singing Handel in the autumn *Messiah* concert, then transported everyone to the LA night club of *Pal Joey*, with a delightful performance of Richard Rodgers' *Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered*.

Staying with the night club atmosphere, but switching cities, the choir delivered two sassy performances of *All That Jazz* and *Roxie*, from Kander and Ebb's *Chicago*. The audience really enjoyed both numbers, which was fortunate, as after the interval, they too, would be singing in the *All That Jazz* reprise.

Back on this side of the Atlantic, the musicals theme continued, with Paul Herrington, *SACS*'s accompanist and arranger, playing a wonderful *Phantom of the Opera Medley*, which with Paul's skill, made the *SACS* piano sound like a full organ and more – i.e. 'lots of notes, but all in the right order'.

By now, the audience who had been humming and tapping their feet for some time, had the opportunity to warm up their voices properly, with a gentle arrangement by Paul Herrington of *I Am Sailing*. They were then urged to indulge in the wine, strawberries and nibbles, to fortify themselves for the second half. (They did and emergency supplies had to be brought in.)

The second half began in the customary way, with a solo from Paul Badley – *SACS*'s conductor and sometime Morris dancer – who treated us to a lyrical performance of *Stranger in Paradise* from the Borodin-based *Kismet*.

The choir, in reflective mood again, followed with *The Oak and the Ash* and *Swing Low* – two traditional folk songs arranged very effectively in Swingle style.

Then the mood shifted, the temperature rose several degrees and the Village Hall shook, as the audience enthusiastically joined the choir, shimmying along to *All That Jazz*.

As everyone recovered, Paul and Angela joined forces (they are husband and wife) for the tender love duet from Lehar's, *The Merry Widow*. Aah.

The choir finished their American tour with a trip to New York, for three Frank Sinatra favourites – *I've got you under my skin*, *The lady is a tramp* and the foot-stomping, *New York! New York!*

The ever-popular *Summer Sing-a-Long* of favourite songs from iconic musicals, arranged by the indefatigable Paul 'Hot Fingers' Herrington, brought the evening to a close and everyone shimmied out into the cool evening air, still humming.

Many thanks to Paul, Paul and Angela, and to our patron, Heather Cleobury, for their expertise and support. Special thanks are also due to the audience for their enthusiasm and sense of fun. There were some new faces in the audience for this concert, so whether you came from South Africa, Ukraine, Banbury or Steeple Aston, please join us again.

Saturday 7th October – Music for Pleasure – 7pm in Steeple Aston Village Hall

A concert of music from the Classics, Films and Musicals performed by Paul Herrington (*SA Choral Society*'s accompanist) on the Electronic Piano and Electronic Keyboard. Some of the music will be sing-a-long and there will be wine and nibbles.

Sunday 26th November – A Concert of Seasonal Music – 7pm in Steeple Aston Church Concert includes – *On Christmas Night*, Bob Chilcott; *Solemn Vespers*, Mozart; *Sing a Song of Merry Christmas*, arr. Herrington, from Mozart, and Audience Carols.

Continued.....



Photo by Nigel Francis with members of the choir waving their 'jazz hands'.

Sunday 14th April 2024 – Spring, the Sweet Spring – 7pm in Steeple Aston Church

Sunday 30th June 2024 – Summer Party Concert – 7pm in Steeple Aston Village Hall

If you would you like to sing with *Steeple Aston Choral Society*, please contact Margaret Bulleyment on 01869 347346, or mtheb749@gmail.com

Rehearsals for the Autumn Concert begin on ***Monday 4th September*** at 7.45 in the Village Hall

Margaret Bulleyment

Steeple Aston Garden Club



Our June visit to Dean Manor was extremely enjoyable. On a warm and sunny evening we were treated to wine and nibbles in a wonderful setting. The English countryside at its best and an equally wonderful garden to wander round, some of which was fairly established while other parts, such as the new Mediterranean garden and glasshouse area, were brand new. It would be interesting to visit again in the future, to see how things progress.

On Thursday 20th July we visited Fir Farm, Lower Swell, an 800-acre organic mixed farm. More details on this next month.

On Wednesday 16th August, at 2.30pm, we have a guided tour of Aston Pottery, with an option of lunch beforehand. Tour £6.95, lunch £9 - £12 approx. Must be pre-booked. Full details from Chris Clarke telephone 01869 347192.

Anyone interested in joining Steeple Aston Garden Club will be most welcome. Just get in touch.

Chris Clarke
Secretary



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Mary Macintyre is a familiar face at the club and is always well-received. Her knowledgeable astrophotography talks are a favourite topic.

In July, Mary focused her talk on photographing the Milky Way and explained how she goes about it with her Canon 1100D, kit lens, tripod and shutter cable. Mary entertained her audience explaining the best way of keeping her lenses warm in the colder months is to use cheap, easy to buy, hand warmers wrapped in socks which are then held onto the outside of the lens with Velcro or hand sewn buttons and fastenings.

That's where the basic equipment ends. Her vast array of technical star viewing equipment ranges all the way up to her Star Adventurer mini tripod which can be controlled by an app, from the comfort of your home.

Mary went on to explain that on the Bortle dark sky scale, 1 or 2 is best and only found far south in Devon or in the northern parts of the UK. Oxfordshire is 4, the better parts being the villages, away from light pollution.

July is the ideal time for photographing the Milky Way, with the 23rd of July around midnight the absolute optimum evening for anyone wanting to try their hand at this fascinating hobby.

Mary advises that it is best to have some type of foreground interest within your photo, such as a windmill or trees. Try and stack 30 20-second exposures and stitch together in post-processing with Adobe Photoshop or programmes such as Sequator.

If this has sparked your interest, social media is a great way to see what others are photographing. Stephen Cheatley @starman_1969 is a great account to follow. Mary Macintyre can be found on YouTube, Instagram and Facebook @spiceyspiny.

We are looking forward to 28th August when we will be exhibiting our members' images at Steeple Aston Flower show. We are really excited to be there and look forward to meeting you all and talking about our photographs, the club and anything else photography-related.

Courtney Killpack
www.addphoto.co.uk

The Milky Way by Mary Macintyre





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Super Summer Sale

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St. Peter & St. Paul's in Deddington (alongside the Farmer's Market) – Saturday 26th August

Steeple Aston Horticultural Society Summer Show – Monday 28th August

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**.

Thank you for your continued support

Village Hall News



Forthcoming events with further details later.

Sunday 5th November: Annual Firework Evening

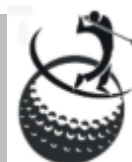
Sunday 10th December: Wassail Evening

Saturday 20th January 2024: Annual Quiz evening

Please note our letting agent is Mrs. Angela Smith. 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



The second game of the season was at Buckingham where the weather was very warm and the course was in good condition. The steep climb up to the first green sorted the men from the boys – or rather the youngsters from the oldies!

Fifteen players turned out on the day, with Teddy Kay scoring a fantastic 38 points off of a 6 handicap to win the Cardale Challenge Trophy. Like Jack in our first meeting, he will be cut one shot for winning and one shot for scoring 37 points or more. Brian Kay came second with 34 points. Nearest the pin was Paul Kay who holed for the only birdie 2 of the day. Nearest the pin in 2 was Teddy Kay. The guest prize went to Mark Lawrence, who has subsequently become a member – welcome Mark.

On the 11th August we shall be at Wrag Barn Golf & Country Club, Shrivenham Road, Highworth SN6 7QQ. Come and enjoy this beautiful 18-hole golf course just outside Swindon, Wiltshire. This 6622-yard course will test and excite all levels of golfers. We will be meeting at 11:30am for registration, followed by bacon bap and coffee. Teeing off at 12:30.

If you would like to join us, please give Alan or Chris a ring on 01869 340423/347173.

Alan Brewer

Buckingham winners from left to right: Kay family - Paul, Teddy, Martin and Brian. Front is Eric Blincoe.





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The WI is traditionally renowned for its members' baking talents and these skills have been put to good use lately. In June, members held a sale of cakes, traybakes, cupcakes and biscuits at the Sports & Rec, which proved to be very popular. On Friday 8th September members will be busy baking again for another sale after school, from 2.00pm till 5.00pm. At the June sale, goods sold out pretty quickly, so make sure you are near the head of the queue in September!

You will also be able to buy quality home-made jams, preserves, cakes and baked goods from the WI stall at the Horticultural Society Summer Show on August 28th. There will also be bags, scarves and other fashion accessories for sale. In addition, you will be able to pick up literature and information about the WI and talk to members, so if you are interested in joining the WI do drop by the stall and say hello.

On 11th July members enjoyed a garden party at President Julie Hillier's house. Despite a low turnout of members, it was a very pleasant occasion. The heavy rain which was forecast held off and we were able to sit out in the garden for a delicious shared lunch. Raffle prizes were won by our hostess, Sheila Side, myself and other lucky members.

There is no meeting in August as we take a summer break and resume activities in September. There are plans for a coffee morning, a trip to see *'The King & I'* at the theatre in Oxford and to the pantomime in Chipping Norton. There will also be walks, monthly pub lunches and suppers, a Christmas meal on 5th December and walking netball every week, so keep a look out for details on posters around the village and in SAL.

On 12th September Graham Sutherland will give a talk about popular music, entitled *'Drainpipe Trousers to Rock 'n Roll'*, so come along for a lively evening and see how many of the old hits you remember.

Cathy Lawday



Lucky raffle winners Sheila Side (left) and Cathy Lawday (above).

Oxford health research studies

New figures show that more than 37,000 participants volunteered for health research studies supported by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) in Oxfordshire in the 12 months from April 2022. A total of 23,846 participants took part in 545 studies at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, up from 17,527 in the previous 12 months. A total 1,703 also volunteered in 46 studies at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, which provides physical, mental health and social care. And a further 11,575 participants took part in 210 studies in the community, including trialling possible treatments for COVID-19. As well as patients being offered the opportunity to participate, healthy people can also take part so results can be compared to those with a medical condition.

Among the studies participants volunteered for in the 12-month period were:

- A drug to reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes in people with vascular disease
- How best to investigate if a patient with a severe headache has had a brain haemorrhage (a bleed in or around the brain)
- Investigating the link between immune system problems and psychosis, a condition that can cause hallucinations or delusions
- A system which monitors trends in people who self-harm to provide better care.

Case study: screening for spinal muscular atrophy

Grace Johnston volunteered daughter Lyra to take part in a screening study for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital when she was five days old. The study, Newborn Screening for SMA, involves testing for SMA in the blood that is already taken as part of a routine test offered to all newborns in the UK to screen for other conditions.

SMA is a rare genetic condition that makes the muscles weaker and causes problems with movement, including weak arms and legs, difficulty sitting up or crawling and breathing difficulties. Symptoms become more severe over time. There is no cure, but gene therapy treatment can be given if detected before three-months old to slow development of the condition. The study revealed Lyra tested negative for SMA.

Case study: 10-year involvement in haemophilia trial

Eloise Clark's son Jacob joined a haemophilia study in 2013 aged five. The study assesses a blood-clotting drug as a preventative treatment for life-threatening bleeds in children. Haemophilia B is a blood-clotting disorder where injured blood vessels cannot heal normally.

The study, run at the John Radcliffe Hospital, offers participants a drug which is injected into a vein in the arm once a week instead of injections of a different clotting drug every three days. Jacob, who recently completed his GCSEs, said: "I'm really grateful for all the care and treatment I've had from my haemophilia medical team. Being part of the trial has been a great experience. The treatment meant I could experience my childhood like any normal boy."

Increasing numbers of patients within Oxfordshire are benefiting

Professor Adrian Banning, Director of Research and Development at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "These annual data show the breadth of medical research activity that is happening in Oxford, both in the hospitals and the wider community. Recruitment to medical research is recovering following the pandemic and increasing numbers of patients within Oxfordshire are benefiting from participation in these studies. Enhanced collaborations with Oxford University, Oxford Brookes and Oxford Health together with the renewal of two new Biomedical Research Centres which develop scientific breakthroughs into potential new treatments, diagnostics and medical technologies, will hopefully maintain this progress into the next decade."

Health research saves lives

Participating in health research helps develop new treatments, improve the NHS, public health and social care and save lives. Patients are encouraged to ask their doctor or health professional about research opportunities and search for and sign up to be contacted about trials at [bepartofresearch.uk](https://www.bepartofresearch.uk)

Church Matters



Summer is here!

The school summer holidays are here at last. I hope that as you read this the weather is better than as I write, with the sun shining.

As we approach the summer, I love hearing about where people are going and what they are looking forward to doing. The variety of places is fantastic, with some spectacular scenery of the Norwegian Fjords or a sunny beach holiday in the Greek Islands, or a family activity holiday at Butlins. Equally there is an enormous range of things that people enjoy doing on holiday, from walking to reading, exploring different cities and museums. John and I will be returning to the Jura region of France for some more cycling and walking. (Watching the Tour de France preview show, the commentators considered the Stage through the Jura as almost flat – something it doesn't feel like when you're riding it!)

With any holiday the trick is to find the right balance of things, so that when we arrive back home we don't need another holiday to recover from the holiday, but are fully rested and recovered, as well as reinvigorated and ready to go forward. The etymology of 'holiday' (n.): 1500s, earlier *haliday* (c. 1200), from Old English *haligdæg* 'holy day, consecrated day, religious anniversary; Sabbath', from *halig* 'holy' + *dæg* 'day'; in 14c. meaning both 'religious festival' and 'day of exemption from labour and recreation', but pronunciation and sense diverged 16c'.

Taking time to rest is very important (you may remember the parable of the woodcutters from June's article). Having created the world God rested on the 7th day, setting the example for us to follow and commanding us to *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11.*

What we actually do on holiday is important, so that we return fully rested and reinvigorated. We can all fall into two unhelpful habits. Firstly, as the holiday approaches and things are piling up, we often have the mindset of delaying certain things (reading or jobs around the house), until we are on 'holiday'. This though only fills our time off with non-work jobs, and we remain equally busy, doing things rather than resting. Secondly, we often carry with the cultural pressure to always be available for work, which equally prevents us from actually relaxing.

To actually take time off (without looking at emails or answering the phone) takes planning and discipline. In a recent leadership post Carey Nieuwhof talks about seven steps to a great holiday, how to take time off without cheating. <https://careynieuwhof.com/7-steps-to-a-great-vacation-how-to-take-a-full-month-off-work-without-cheating/> (or bit.ly/3OeJQ4b)

Wherever you go, and whatever you do, I wish you all a wonderful, fun and refreshing summer holiday.

God bless.

Harriet

Please look out for details of our upcoming special services during the autumn, such as Harvest, Service of Remembering, All Saints Day and Remembrance Sunday.

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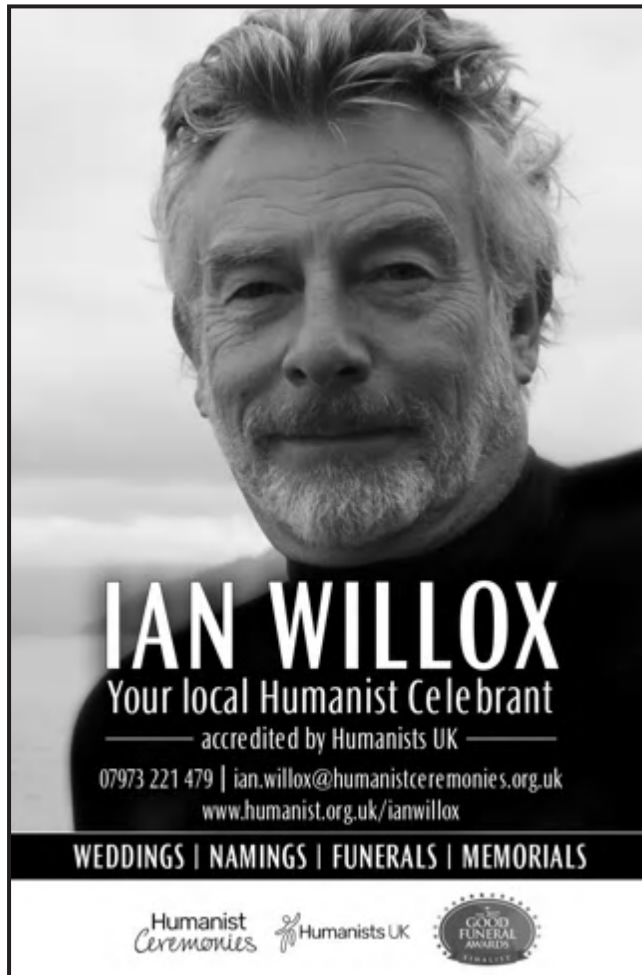
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Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
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Sunday 13th August Trinity 10	9.30am Morning prayer Richard Bailey	11.00am Morning prayer Richard Bailey	5.30pm Holy Communion Rev'd Stephen Pix
Sunday 20th August Trinity 11		10.30am Benefice Holy Communion Rev'd Stephen Pix	
Sunday 27th August Trinity 12	9.30am Morning Prayer Rev'd Stephen Pix	11.00am Morning prayer Rev'd Stephen Pix	9.30am Holy Communion
www.sntchurch.com			




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Secretary	Margaret Bulleyment (01869-347346)

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BUS TIMES

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0631 0722 0832 then hourly to 1532 1643 1753 1852 1941 2041 2218
0717 0817 0920 1620 1731 1838 1933 2027 2127 2257

Saturdays

0722 0832 then hourly to 1532 1643 1753 1852 1941 2041 2218
0817 0920 1620 1731 1838 1933 2027 2127 2257

Sundays and most public holidays

0907 1037 1207 1337 1507 1637 1808
0955 1125 1255 1425 1555 1725 1853

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

Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

0809 then hourly to 1609 1728 1838 1929 2024 2124 2246 2346
0848 1648 1808 1918 2008 2053 2153 2315 0015

Saturdays

0809 0909 then hourly to 1609 1728 1838 1929 2024 2124 2246 2346
0848 0948 1648 1808 1918 2008 2053 2153 2315 0015

Sundays and most public holidays

0917 1044 1214 1344 1514 1644 1823 1944
0956 1123 1253 1423 1553 1723 1903 2023

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See <http://ourbus.co/bartons/> for details and times.

Rubbish bin collection day is Thursday

August 2023

3rd Green
10th Blue and brown
17th Green
24th Blue and brown
31st Green



September 2023

7th Blue and brown
14th Green
21st Blue and brown
28th Green

Food caddy is collected weekly

Steeple Aston Calendar

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

Please send details of events for August and September to editorsalife@gmail.com

August			
Wednesday 2nd	Valentine Club. Visit to The National Memorial Arboretum		
Wednesday 2nd	AD&D Photo Society. Peter Crane: Street Photography	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Friday 11th	Golf Society. Wrag Barn Golf & Country Club, Highworth, near Swindon		11.30am
Monday 14th	SAL September 2023 copy and advert deadlines		
Tuesday 15th	Valentine Club. Lee Wilkinson, musician and comic	Village Hall	2.30pm
Thursday 16th	Garden Club. Aston Pottery, Bampton		2.30pm
Saturday 26nd	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9.00 to 12.30
Saturday 26nd	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9.00 to 12.30
Monday 28th	Annual Flower Show and Fun Dog Show	Robinsons Close	2.00pm
September			
Saturday 2nd	Circus	Deddington School Field	12.00 to 4.00pm
Friday 8th	WI. Sale of coffee, tea, juice, cakes, cookies	Sports & Rec.	2.00 to 5.00pm
Tuesday 12th	Valentine Club. Neil, with music of 60s and 70s	Village Hall	2.30pm
Tuesday 12th	WI. Graham Sutherland: 'Drainpipe trousers to Rock 'n' 'Roll	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Wednesday 13th	Garden Club. Visit to Barton Abbey, Steeple Barton		5.00pm
Thursday 14th	SAL October 2023 copy and advert deadlines		
18th to 22nd	Valentine Club. Coach Holiday to The Marine Hotel, Llandudno		

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

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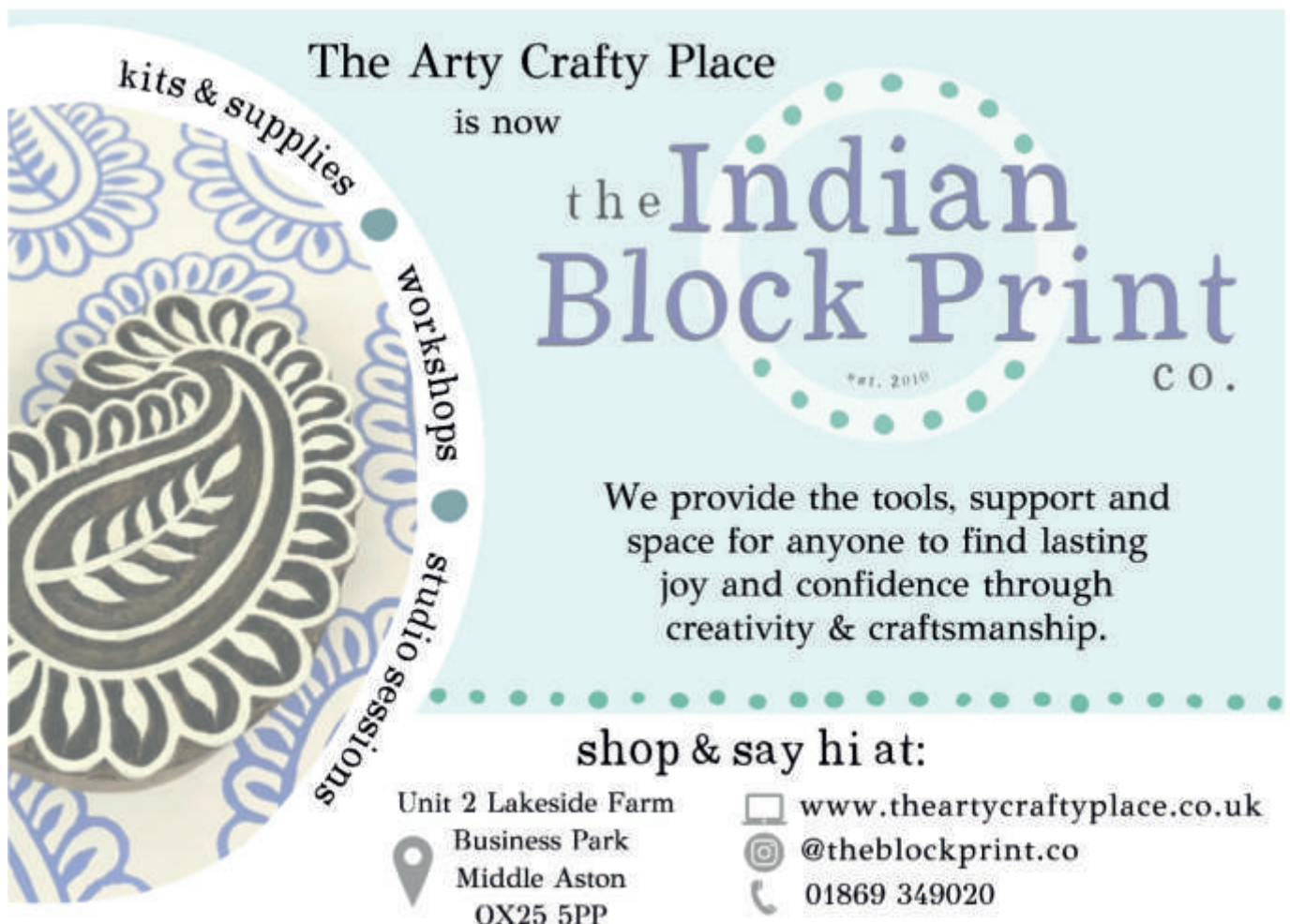
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