

# Steeple Aston *Life*

July 2023 Issue No. 599



- The art of scything • Lord's Taverners & SACC match report • Hailes Abbey •
- Wild Arts opera evening • Busy times on the allotments • Open Gardens •



# HARRIS'S STORES & POST OFFICE

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

## PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

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

# [COMPUTERPRO]

## IT Support & Computer Repair



**Repairs & Upgrades**



**Phone & Tablet**



**Wifi Issues & Installation**



**Online Security**



**Data Backup & Recovery**



**Onsite Support**



**Cloud Services**



**Remote Support**



**New & Refurb Machines**



**Recycling Service**

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

**01869 352002**

[hello@computer-pro.co.uk](mailto:hello@computer-pro.co.uk) [www.computer-pro.co.uk](http://www.computer-pro.co.uk)

The Old Forge Building, North Green, Kirtlington, OX5 3JZ

# John Dovey

—FCCA—

Chartered Certified Accountant  
& Registered Auditor

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

email: [jmd@johndovey.co.uk](mailto:jmd@johndovey.co.uk)  
telephone: 01869 233003  
mobile: 07801 658328

**ACCA**



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



## July 2023: CONTENTS

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

<b>JULY FEATURES</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>REPORTS FROM CLUBS &amp; SOCIETIES</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
A long-lost rural art returns	23	AD&D Photographic Society	35
Annual Flower Show preview	32	The Cricket Report	24/25
Busy times on the allotments	27	Garden Club	35
Church Plant Sale	33	Golf Society	37
NGS Open Gardens	17	Valentine Club	29
Wild Arts Opera Evening	13	WI Report	39
<b>REGULAR FEATURES</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Arts Page	11	Bus times	45
Church Matters	41	Church Services	43
Editorial	5	Rubbish bin collection dates	45
Gardening Spot	21	Steeple Aston Calendar	46
Have you ever been to....?	15	Steeple Aston Directory	4
Mindgames	9	Steeple Aston Noticeboard	6/7
Mindgames answers	20	Village Hall News	37
Poetry Corner	31		
Steeplejack PC Report	18/19		

Contributions are welcome. Please email [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

Cover: Nicole Clough scything on South Side (see page 23)

Photo by Annie Bayley

## Steeple Aston *Life*

### COPY

All articles and letters to  
the Editor  
[editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

### COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
previous month.  
This means the copy deadline for the  
August 2023 issue is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

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

### ADVERTISING

All adverts, and all advertising queries  
(availability, prices, dimensions, suitability of  
illustrations, etc.) to **Charlotte Bartlett**  
[salife.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:salife.advertising@gmail.com)

01869 347347

### ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The deadline for adverts is the 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
previous month.

### ADVERTISING RATES

$\frac{1}{4}$  page - £8

$\frac{1}{3}$  page - £11

$\frac{1}{2}$  page - £15

Full page (village events only) - £15

# Steeple Aston Directory

Age UK		Richard Preston	340512
Allotments (Church)	SACAA Clerk		sacaaclerk@gmail.com
Angling Club		Antony Morley	tonyriver_83@hotmail.com
Archive (SAVA)	Chairman	Martin Lipson	347046
Badminton (Tuesday mornings)		Barbara Brewer	340423
Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	347033
Beekeepers (Swarm collection, advice)		Paul Honigmann	340665, 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 Clive Dytor	07484 158642
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
Councillors - Cherwell District Council		Cllr Eddie Reeves	07445 395166
		Cllr Bryn Williams	07836 271998
		Cllr Hugo Brown	
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	347493
Crimestoppers		0800 555111	
Deddington Guides		Marian Trinder	340806, 07786 001641
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments	338611	
	Repeat Prescriptions	10am - 3pm	338847
	Out of Hours	111	
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Head Teacher		340204
Football Club	Secretary	Peter Wild	07950 837773
Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
Parish Council	Chairman / Clerk	Richard MacAndrew/ Cathy Fleet	347209, 347000
Police	24hr Call Centre	(non emergency)	101
Post Office & Harris Stores		Raj	340201
Pre-school		340863	
Public House	Red Lion	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

## Steeple Aston *Life*

July 2023  
Issue No. 599

**Editor:** Robert Scott  
[editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Vaughan Billings  
01869 340857

**Secretary:** Jenny Taylor  
01869 340551

**Advertising:**  
Charlotte Bartlett  
01869 347347  
[salife.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:salife.advertising@gmail.com)

**Deliveries:**  
Stuart & Penny Cummins  
01869 349155  
[cummins2011@outlook.com](mailto:cummins2011@outlook.com)

**Layout design:**  
Edward Dowler, Martin Lipson

**Committee:**  
Jenny Bell, Sue McLean,  
Nigel Francis

# Editorial

4<sup>th</sup> July is Independence Day in the USA. In 1776, 13 colonies claimed their independence from Great Britain, an event that eventually led to the formation of the United States of America. The legal separation actually occurred on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, but the date shown on the Declaration of Independence was two days later and has been celebrated ever since.

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signatories of the Declaration of Independence who went on to become Presidents of the United States, both died on the same day – 4<sup>th</sup> July 1826, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration. Although not a signatory to the Declaration, James Monroe, a Founding Father who was also elected President, died on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1831. Calvin Coolidge was the only US President to have been born on Independence Day (in 1872).

It has been suggested that 31<sup>st</sup> January should become a 'British National Day', being the day that the United Kingdom officially left the European Union in 2020 – but this unlikely to gain sufficient support. However, there are plenty more contenders, including 29<sup>th</sup> May (Oak Apple Day, commemorating the restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660), 7<sup>th</sup> June (Democracy Day, remembering the Representation of the People Act 1832), and 21<sup>st</sup> October (celebrating the Royal Navy victory over the combined French and Spanish fleets at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805).

A day many of us are happy to celebrate is 7<sup>th</sup> July – World Chocolate Day! Chocolate comes from the tropical cacao tree, which has been cultivated for thousands of years in Mexico and South America. Initially, the cacao seeds were ground and mixed with chillies, water and cornmeal. Later, sugar and honey were added to sweeten the naturally bitter taste. As a drink, chocolate was very popular among the rich and wealthy.

In 1828, chocolate making was revolutionised by the chocolate press. Cocoa butter was squeezed from roasted cocoa beans leaving cocoa powder behind. When mixed with liquids and poured into a mould, the powder turned into a bar of chocolate. Dark chocolate is said to improve blood flow, lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease. Enjoy (in moderation!).

*Robert*

Traditional types of chocolate are dark, milk and white, but there are many variations. Baking chocolate is often unsweetened, while modelling chocolate is a paste made by blending melted chocolate with corn, glucose or golden syrup.

There was lots of chocolate available from the Lord's Taverners tea and cake team (right) on 21<sup>st</sup> May (see page 24) – including cakes and flapjacks.

(Photo Nigel Francis)





## **The Dr Radcliffe's Trust Scholarship Committee**

For many years I think I have had the best job in the village. I am currently the Chair of the Dr Radcliffe's Trust Scholarship Committee. Many of you will know that our village school was set up by Dr Radcliffe way back in 1640 and that he left in his will considerable money that still provides very significant additional funding to the school today. A truly lasting legacy.

The Dr Radcliffe's Trust also allocates money each year to fund young people, from age 16 (post-GCSE) to 25, in education and training as they start to move to the world of careers and work. Over recent years we have been able to help fund young people buy tools, equipment, uniform, and PPE. We have helped fund field trips, specialist software, laptops, equipment and training for young people with special needs as well as helping with costs for those living away from home.

Every year the range of things that young people are doing is a joy to see. From apprenticeships in carpentry and dry-stone walling, to college and university courses in subjects ranging from veterinary science, law, geography, music, politics, dance, maths and so much more. I like to think that Dr Radcliffe has helped them all on their way in life.

We welcome applications from young people who either live in Steeple or Middle Aston or have been a pupil at Dr Radcliffe's School for a minimum of two years. We do make awards based on family income so that we can target help where it is most needed. In this way we have been able to make the biggest difference to young people who might otherwise struggle to access education and training.

This year we are hoping to make it even easier for young people to apply as the application will be done online using a Google form. There will be a link to it available on the village website or a QR code that you can scan to access the form. These will be made available in August and September.

If you are a young person who would benefit from support, please look out for details of how to apply. If you are a parent, grandparent or neighbour of a young person who would benefit from this then please also encourage them to apply. If you want more information about how to apply or whether you may be eligible for a scholarship, please contact me or one of the other scholarship sub-committee members.

Tina Ferguson

*[tina.merlins@gmail.com](mailto:tina.merlins@gmail.com)*

*Scholarship sub-committee members: Graham Clifton and Anna Thatcher; to be joined this year by Rev'd Harriet Orridge, Pamela Knowles and Eileen Baglin-Jones*

## **Retirement of Sheila Wood**

After 50 years' service delivering Steeple Aston Life, Sheila has decided to hang up her post bag. Sheila has been involved in production and delivery, latterly doing the Fenway round, since the beginning of the magazine which started life as a single A4 sheet of paper. We would like to thank her for all her efforts in all weathers over the past half-century! Thanks also to Amy Green who is taking on Sheila's round.

**SAL Committee**





## Why are the new village houses called Townend?

Rectory Homes have now completed their development of ten new homes on South Side and its first residents have moved in. I know that some villagers wonder where the name 'Townend' came from and I also know that some think it is inappropriate. After all, Steeple Aston isn't a town.

When Cherwell asked the Parish Council some time back if it had any suggestions for naming the new development, I had a careful look at the old maps in our Village History Centre. Around the 1860s, the group of buildings around the Red Lion was called Townend, a name that has since gone out of use. In fact, the use of that term was relatively common in Victorian times to signify the last dwellings out of villages before open countryside.

Fenway was called Townend Road on a map of 1864; the public well below The Grange on North Side was called the Town Well to distinguish it from other wells in the parish and the field opposite Manor Farm on South Side was called Town Furlong. There is a Town Well End in Fritwell. In fact, the word 'town' was quite widely used in growing villages in Victorian times.

So I proposed resurrecting the name for the development which would become one of the new exit points of the village. I pointed out that if we couldn't find a better name, the developers would most probably do their usual thing, naming it 'Chestnut View' or 'Aston Fields' or some such. No better name was suggested and the historical connection of 'Townend' was liked enough for it to be put forward to Cherwell.

Perhaps, knowing the back-story, its detractors will get accustomed to the name.

**Martin Lipson**

## Recycle your coffee pods with Podback

[Podback](#) is a nationwide, not-for-profit, coffee pod recycling service. Created in partnership with the biggest names in coffee pod systems, Nespresso, NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto and Tassimo, it gives people who use coffee pods simple and easy ways to recycle them. Cherwell District Council is working with Podback to provide this new free recycling service.

Sign up and order your free recycling bags from [Podback](#) at [www.podback.org/](http://www.podback.org/)

Podback will send you two rolls of recycling bags, along with an instruction leaflet. Each roll contains 13 bags for recycling your aluminium or plastic coffee pods. Bags are sent by Royal Mail and should arrive within 7 to 10 working days. Once you have your bags, fill them as instructed. Put the bag(s) out on top of your refuse or recycling bin by 7am on your normal collection day. When you need to top up your supply of recycling bags you can log into your Podback account on the [Podback website](#) and reorder.

Plastic and aluminium pods for coffee, tea, hot chocolate and milk can be recycled using Podback collection bags. When you sign up on the Podback website you'll be asked which brand of pods you use. This is so you get the correct bag – white bags for aluminium pods, green bags for plastic pods. The two materials need to be collected separately as they are sent to different recycling facilities.

You can watch the pods being recycled at: [bit.ly/3NauIUC](http://bit.ly/3NauIUC)

## C&S Chimney Services

- |                                 |                       |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| h<br>i<br>m<br>n<br>e<br>y<br>s | t<br>o<br>v<br>e<br>s | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Chimneys, Rebuilds and Repairs</li> <li>• Stove Installations</li> <li>• Chimney Lining</li> <li>• Internal and External Twin Wall Chimney Systems</li> <li>• Stove Service and Repair</li> <li>• Lead Flashing</li> <li>• Bird guards &amp; Cows</li> </ul> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|



Steve 07947701953

Office 01295811083

Email

[cschimneys@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cschimneys@yahoo.co.uk)



[cschimneysoxfordshire.co.uk](http://cschimneysoxfordshire.co.uk)



## Vehicle damaged? Don't delay, repair it today

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



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

Call or go online today for your FREE estimate



**ChipsAway**



LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED

**0800 028 7878**

[www.chipsaway.co.uk](http://www.chipsaway.co.uk)

**DAVID**  
— cuts hair —

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



Friendly, mobile hairdressing service for the Cherwell district.



Fully insured and DBS checked.



All equipment fully sanitized before every appointment for your protection.



30 years hair cutting experience.

call DAVID on 07775 806655 or 01869 346910

[david@cutshair.co.uk](mailto:david@cutshair.co.uk) • [www.davidcutshair.com](http://www.davidcutshair.com)



# ???? Mind Games

## Word Pairs 1

Find a word to fill each gap. The word must complete both phrases

e.g. anti ..... services = anti social / social services

1. puppy ..... letter
2. picnic ..... tennis
3. time ..... separation
4. lion's ..... cropper
5. factory ..... board
6. ethnic ..... report

## Word Pairs 2

Match words from the list below to make six pairs of phrases. Each pair of phrases must have one word in common.

Example: green tea / tea set

tripper, patch, day, *tea*, motor, cry, light, sitter, *green*, mouth, house, moon, organ, husband, detached, blue, baby, up, field, bald, *set*

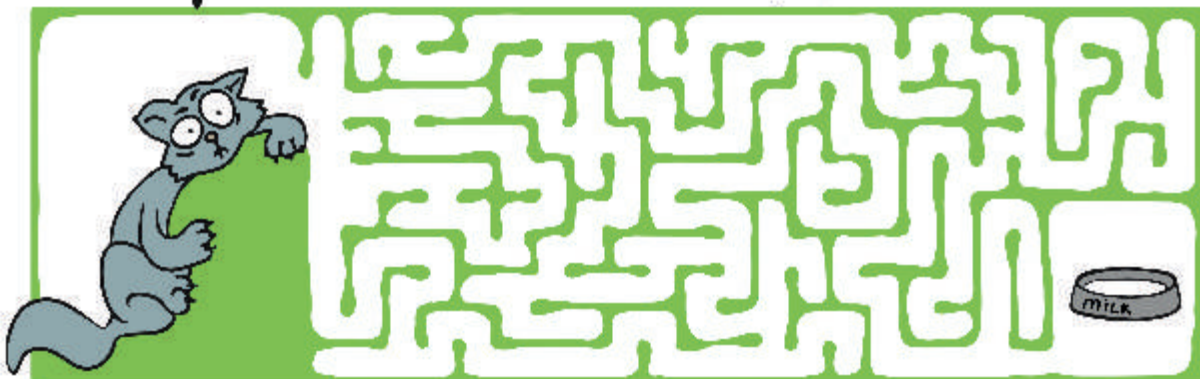
1. .... / .....
2. .... / .....
3. .... / .....
4. .... / .....
5. .... / .....
6. .... / .....

Set by Cathy Lawday

Answers on page 20

Starting on the lefthand side of the maze, can you follow a purrfect path through to the bowl of milk?  
There is no prize, other than the satisfaction of a job well done.

## Help the cat to find the milk





40 YEARS  
OF KEEPING  
CARS ON THE ROAD

## FREE COLLECTION & DELIVERY\*

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

### SPECIAL OFFER - BOOK & GET

# 10% OFF

USE VOUCHER CODE  
**STEEPLE1016**

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

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

**01869 347 770 | WWW.PTAGARAGES.CO.UK**

**HOPCROFTS HOLT, STEEPLE ASTON, BICESTER, OXFORDSHIRE OX25 5QQ**

\*FROM STEEPLE ASTON & SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Under New Management ●

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

### Swallows Nursery & Plant Centre

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

New! Haddonstone garden urns and ornaments

#### Contact us

##### Phone

01280 811003

##### Website

[www.swallowsnursery.co.uk](http://www.swallowsnursery.co.uk)

##### Email

[enq@swallowsnursery.co.uk](mailto:enq@swallowsnursery.co.uk)



#### Open daily

Evenley Road, Mixbury,  
Brackley, NN13 5RR  
Oxfordshire



**SWALLOWS  
NURSERY**  
AND PLANT CENTRE



# The ARTS Page



I write this having recently been (again) to Banbury Museum and seen their 'Revealing Human Form' exhibition – 30 sculptures by 20th century British sculptors. It finishes on July 2nd. There are seven from Henry Moore and, amongst others, works by Antony Caro, Anthony Gormley and Barbara Hepworth.

'Robot' is a stunning exhibition curated by Dale Johnson, their Exhibitions Manager, and running from 15<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> October. It explores the role Robots, Cyborgs and Androids have played in popular culture and science fiction stories, in books and on screens. Go to [banburymuseum.org](http://banburymuseum.org) to see their varied programme of other events and some terrific things to do in the summer holidays.

There is also the 'Ironstone Art Prize', to be exhibited in January 2024, showcasing the best recent work by artists from our region. Artwork can be in any medium from painting to ceramics, textiles and metalwork. Details are at [www.banburymuseum.org/ironstone-art-prize-entry/](http://www.banburymuseum.org/ironstone-art-prize-entry/) The competition is open for entries from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Please do enter – it would be wonderful to have Steeple Aston represented.

The Mikron Theatre Company is here again! If you missed North Aston on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, try Eynsham Cricket Club on 30<sup>th</sup> July; Plough Inn, Wolvercote, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August; Boat Inn, Thrupp, on 3<sup>rd</sup> August; The Bell, Lower Heyford, on 4<sup>th</sup> August; and others not too far away. They always commission two pieces for their tours. This year 'A Force to be reckoned with' – investigating the pioneering women in the police – and 'Twitchers' – a flight through RSPB history, feathered with birdsong and laughter. This is a professional touring company going to non-theatre venues by canal, river and road. Highly recommended. [mikron.org.uk](http://mikron.org.uk)

The Oxford Playhouse ([oxfordplayhouse.com](http://oxfordplayhouse.com)) has plenty to offer, including 'The Verdict' from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July. It was a multi-Academy Award-Nominated film starring Paul Newman. A brilliant courtroom thriller. it has enjoyed standing ovations all over the UK and Ireland, and superlatives abound as you can see on the website. For the family, 'Zog' (Julia Donaldson and Axel Sheffler) runs from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July. A smash-hit stage adaptation from Freckle Productions, it promises to be bigger, brighter and more roar-some (sic) than ever before, with songs from multi-talented Joe Stilgoe. Plus 'Around the World in 80 Days', a York Theatre Royal production, runs from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July. This is a new take on Phineas Fogg's race around the world. "Must see show - captivates young and old". (age 5+ suggested).

The Ashmolean Museum Oxford ([ashmolean.org](http://ashmolean.org)) has 'Labyrinth – Knossos, Myth and Reality, on until 30<sup>th</sup> July. This is the first UK exhibition to focus on Knossos, based around the work of the Ashmolean's Sir Arthur Evans. Stunning. Also, coming up, an enticing-looking exhibition in 'Ashmolean Now' – Flora Yuhknovich and Daniel Crews-Chubb'. It opens on 8<sup>th</sup> July. I love the excitement of new work so will check it out, which leads me to Modern Art Oxford ([modernartoxford.org.uk](http://modernartoxford.org.uk)) who have a free exhibition 'Boundary Encounters', from 22<sup>nd</sup> July to 29<sup>th</sup> October, a collaboration with artists and communities, featuring new commissions, residences and live events. This exhibition connects "multiple perspectives, histories and wide-ranging areas of interest". Again, sounds fascinating.

I thought I would do a month 'sans musique'. But – noise pollution – does it worry you? It worries me like hell, for our health, well-being and general comfort in public places. Also, for "young people facing a future half-crippled by hearing loss due to listening to excessively loud music through headphones and at concerts". This is a quote from 'Pipedown' ([pipedown.org.uk](http://pipedown.org.uk)), an organisation campaigning for freedom from piped music. From Stephen Fry: "piped water, piped electricity, piped gas – but never piped music!" Shops, restaurants, pubs, airports and many more, are blighted by this trash often being blasted in our ears, debasing music and often preventing proper conversation. Look at their very informative and sometimes disturbing website! Do join, only £15 per annum, and help their campaign to clean our ears out!

**Nicholas Cleobury**    [nicholascleobury.net](http://nicholascleobury.net)



## THE RED LION

SOUTH SIDE, STEEPLE ASTON

NEW PHONE NUMBER:- 01869 574708  
NEW EMAIL:- info@theredlionsteepleaston.co.uk

### OPENING HOURS

Monday Closed  
Tuesday – Thursday 4pm – 10pm  
Friday – Saturday 12pm – close  
Sunday 12pm – 8pm

TRADITIONAL PUB FOOD AVAILABLE



# Alistair Redhouse



ESTATE AGENTS

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

★★★★★ - Google Review

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

★★★★★ - Google Review



www.aredhouse.co.uk 01865364541



## Wild Arts Opera Evening



Wild Arts Summer Opera Tour visits 39 venues.  
See this and their other performances at [wildarts.org.uk](http://wildarts.org.uk)

They came to Steeple Aston on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June and gave their performance in the garden of Caitlin and John Kennedy on Paines Hill. Their aim is "to bring top-quality performances to unusual settings in an environmentally sustainable way... to provide opportunities to exceptionally talented young artists and players....and to build a green carbon-positive opera house". They ask – where should we build it?



**Singers:** Gareth Brynmor (Baritone), Sam Harris (Tenor), Joanna Songi (Soprano), Martha Jones (Mezzo).



**Musicians:** Sophie Matter (Violin), Matthew Ward (Violin), Milena Simovic (Viola), Orlando Jopling (Cello), Marianne Schofield (Double Bass)

It was a brilliant evening, high-quality singing, playing and direction, and a carefully thought-out eclectic opera programme, showing the overwhelming strength and dramatic power of opera.

Let's hope we see them here again, and send best wishes for their laudable enterprise.

*Nicholas Cleobury*

*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.***

***Suitable for adults and families.***

***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

## BACK PAIN, SPORTS INJURY & HEADACHE CLINIC

*Especially for long term pain and problems*

**Hector Wells BSc (Hons), DO.**

**Laura Humphreys Osteopath**

*Both University Clinical Osteopath Tutors for over 15 years*

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

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

**Appointments (01295) 265267**

Email: [hector@the54clinic.com](mailto:hector@the54clinic.com)

[www.the54clinic.com](http://www.the54clinic.com)

**54 Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9JR**

*Established 1991 (over 10,000 registered clients)*



### Spaces for hire!

**Get to know our fabulous facilities**

#### **Deddington Studio**

Ideal for dance and yoga classes

#### **Clifton Room**

Brilliant meeting space with AV

#### **The Lookout**

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

#### **Main Hall**

Perfect for parties and performances

#### **Hempton Lounge**

Great for clubs, accessible

**t: 07720 834006**

[www.thewindmillededdington.org](http://www.thewindmillededdington.org)



# HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

## Hailes Abbey

You'll need to exercise your imagination as you wander among the quiet stones of Hailes Abbey. It is extraordinary to know that until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1549 this was a wealthy, busy, grand and famous monastery and one of the foremost places of pilgrimage in Britain.



The Abbey was founded in 1246 by the Earl of Cornwall (he was the son of King John and the brother of King Henry III) to give thanks for being alive after surviving a storm at sea (I wonder if he also wanted to secure his place in heaven, but perhaps that's too cynical a thought!).

The wealthy Cistercian community was gifted what was said to be a phial of Christ's blood in 1270, after which the Shrine of the Holy Blood was established, leading to many pilgrim visitors who no doubt increased the wealth even more.

Hailes Abbey was famous enough for Geoffrey Chaucer to mention it in *The Canterbury Tales*. When you visualise the huge church and its shrine, the large cloister and the many other monastic buildings which make up the site, aided by helpful information boards or the audio tour, it's much easier to understand the size and the history of this fascinating place.

There's an excellent small museum (and shop) with some artefacts which bring to life the lost glory of the monastic buildings such as the carved ceiling bosses which probably come from the church. I took my Australian daughter-in-law to visit Hailes. She was rather stunned by the age of what we were seeing, but also awed by the craftsmanship and interested in the life of the 20 Cistercian monks and the 10 Lay brothers.

We spent a long time in the museum, but perhaps the memory she will take back to Australia will be of the delightful setting of Hailes, which truly nestles in the Cotswolds and which is a peaceful and lovely place to spend a morning.

The site is managed by English Heritage, although unusually National Trust members have free entry too. Otherwise, it costs from £7 for adult entry and £4.50 for children over the age of five. Hailes Abbey opens between Wednesday and Sunday and is very near Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Use GL54 5PB in your satnav. There's no café, but just up the road is the Hayles Fruit Farm which has both shop and café.



[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/hailes-abbey/history-and-stories/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/hailes-abbey/history-and-stories/)

*Eileen Baglin-Jones*





# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## RADIO PRESENTERS 🎤

Have you always loved music and radio? Would you like to come and train with us to present your own radio show?

## FUNDRAISING & CAMPAIGNS OFFICER 🤝

Could you help us raise funds to help further our charity? Experience in fundraising, grant applications & sourcing sponsors would assist!

## COMMUNITY EVENTS ASSISTANTS 📢

We provide music & PA at many events across North Oxfordshire. Can you assist with setting up equipment and raising awareness?



## CARE HOME COORDINATOR 👤

This role will involve managing & facilitating relationships between Radio Horton & local care homes, coordinating our volunteers' visits.

## MINUTE TAKER / BOARD ADMINISTRATOR 📝

Do you have good listening, organisational and IT skills? Could you take Minutes for our monthly evening Committee/Trustee meetings?



## COME & JOIN OUR TEAM!

For more information, scan the QR code or visit [radiohorton.co.uk](http://radiohorton.co.uk)

Radio Horton is a Charity registered in England & Wales: 1194152



## Open Gardens 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

On a beautiful, sunny afternoon at the beginning of June, six gardens and The Church Allotments opened up to the general public to raise funds for the National Garden Scheme (NGS) – and what a result!

Nearly 400 adults visited Steeple Aston along with some children and a few dogs and enjoyed walking around our village, admiring not only the 'Open Gardens' but also the splendour of our village and the amazing teas provided in the Village Hall.

The end result was a grand total of £3,195 raised. That included a magnificent £415 as a contribution from the Village Hall Management Committee from the proceeds of tea sales.

A massive thank you has to go to all those garden owners who toiled endlessly to make their gardens look amazing, to the allotment holders who received praise from all who ventured onto the site and to all those people who made cakes and helped with the teas on the day.

I will leave you with a quote from a visitor who had never visited our village before. *"What a wonderful, welcoming village Steeple Aston is and the gardens are simply the icing on the cake for the perfect afternoon."* This is one reason why Steeple Aston is such a special place to live.

Thank you to all concerned.

**Richard and Daphne Preston**



*Photos by Nigel Francis*



# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



The Parish Council welcomed a new member in his absence at its June meeting – Mat Watson lives in the village, but was abroad at the time. He will definitely be co-opted in July. Two other people are thought to be interested in joining, so the one remaining vacancy seems fairly certain to be filled soon.

The main points of discussion were the three children's play areas near the sports pitch – the playground, the dirt track and the basketball court, all of which were due to be inspected by RoSPA – the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Cherwell District Council had just allocated nearly £40,000 for improvements to play areas in the village from section 106 contributions (which are levied from developers as planning obligations), but this money was for capital expenditure only and there were some maintenance issues that needed fixing immediately. The Parish Council decided to spend up to £340 from its own budget on the premium type of bark chippings that absorb impact to provide soft landings for falling children. Contractors should have already repaired the trampoline and replaced the basket-swing ropes, but like all contractors they needed chasing. In addition, a low horizontal metal bar required a piece of wood attaching so that children wouldn't catch their toes under it and fall on their faces.

The Parish Council's new Chair, Angharad Lloyd-Jones, and fellow councillor, Charlotte Clarke, are organising a survey among local parents and children, and on the village

website and Facebook, to find out how people want the nearly £40,000 to be spent. Obvious questions include things like what ball sports they want to play on the hard court known, for some obscure reason, as the muga, and whether better security is needed to prevent or discourage young children from running away from their parents, out of the playground and straight into the car park? Perhaps the survey will also find out how things are trending more generally. Is gym equipment still a high priority or is it going out of fashion? Who knows? Is the imported American game of pickleball becoming so popular here that it is set to supercede skateboarding, the imported American recreational activity that became an Olympic sport? Watch this space – or come to the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July, when the findings of the community survey will be reported!

Cherwell District Council has also allocated just over £13,000 of section 106 contributions to 'Community Buildings' and the Village Hall subcommittee has obtained quotes for two top priorities – a lighting scheme and a new ladder. The Sports and Recreational Trust is in line for around £34,000 to spend on indoor and outdoor sports provision and its subcommittee is looking at window blinds, a new kitchen and treatment for the sports pitch that will get rid of chafer bugs. The Parish Council's section 106 subcommittee will meet again to discuss the capital expenditure allocations which need more time for consideration. For one thing, Councillors need to find out whether



# Parish Council Meeting Notes



the District Council will judge the pocket park at Nizewell Head to be safe and therefore allow it to stay open before they can decide whether or not to spend a significant sum of money on play equipment there.

Under the heading of planning matters, Councillors noted that they had referred complaints about some recent building work in the village to Steeple Aston's local County Councillor, Arash Fatemian. However, they were not confident that they would get a swift response from him, given that he had not attended a single meeting in the village in the year since he was appointed.

Quotes from contractors are still awaited for repairs to the low walls outside the village hall, the gravel path and repointing and, you guessed it, these need chasing. Meanwhile, the cleaning of the public toilets has been jeopardised by a nest of wild bees – not in the toilets themselves, but in the cupboard where all the cleaning materials and toilet paper are stored. They are thought to be white-tailed bumblebees, which normally live in trees and, like all wild bees, are a declining species. As the nest cannot be moved, and as the bees are not expected to vacate it of their own accord until autumn at the earliest, and as the regular cleaner has been reluctant to approach the cupboard with the bees buzzing inside it, the Councillors decided that storage space for the cleaning products and toilet rolls must urgently be found in someone else's cupboard so that the normal standard of hygiene can be maintained. The Sports and

Recreation subcommittee was thought likely to oblige if asked nicely but firmly.

Decision after decision and no bumbling. It was that kind of meeting. Councillors swiftly moved on and agreed it was worth spending £250 so that a second defibrillator, which it has owned for years, can be set up outside the Red Lion where it will be accessible at all times, rather than inside the pub during opening hours only. They also confirmed a grant of £50 to help keep the station at Heyford looking spruce and commented in passing that it was heartening to see major progress being made on the restoration of the road bridge.

Ironically, a sweeper lorry came and removed the mud and dead leaves that had blocked the drains at the bottom of Water Lane just a day after the last meeting, when it was decided that the only solution was to recruit a working party of drain-unblocking, leaf-sweeping volunteers. Still, a working party is to be recruited for jobs like clearing pavements – the call to action will go out in August.

The meeting closed 1 hour and 45 minutes after it began, 45 minutes earlier than the scheduled finishing time. This may set a new Parish Council record – if anyone knows what the previous record was.

*Steeplejack was away for the June meeting. Many thanks to their alternate for this report*

*It 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](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk)*

## Mindgames answers

(see page 9)

### WORD PAIRS 1

1. puppy love/love letter
2. picnic table / table tennis
3. time trial / trial separation
4. lion's share / share cropper
5. factory floor / floor board
6. ethnic minority / minority report

### WORD PAIRS 2

cry baby / baby sitter  
field day / day tripper  
bald patch / patch up  
motor mouth / mouth organ  
detached house / house husband  
blue moon / moonlight

## Tosh Property Care.

*Quality craftsmanship in all  
fields of work.*

*House Fit outs, Wooden  
restorations, Landscaping.*

*All work is considered.*

*Trained and professional  
staff.*

*Contact for more details.*

*Email: [joetosh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joetosh@hotmail.co.uk)*

*Mobile: [+447547728104](tel:+447547728104)*

## Thinking of selling your artwork?

**Mallams**  
1788



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

**Home visits also available**

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

[www.mallams.co.uk](http://www.mallams.co.uk)



# The Gardening Spot

## Have you ever asked yourself this question?

Why are some of us obsessed with our gardens while others simply have an outdoor space? Any answers direct to me please, as I am still asking the question after seven decades of gardening. For me, I was brought up with a mother who was simply the best gardener around and had what many people described as 'green fingers'.

My father was a gardener by default, not design, as he was suddenly faced with an acre of garden but no garden experience, but he did see an opportunity to supplement his income by gardening. That is where Primrose Garden / Cottage came into my life and with it, the expectation that I would live to be a gardener!

For my early years, gardening was placed as far out of my mind as possible, although I was expected to do 'my bit' in the garden, such as hoeing thousands of cabbage plants or weeding between the carrot rows. Then, along came my father's idea of building a very large greenhouse capable of producing tomatoes by the ton rather than by normal quantities of pounds. This is where my rather amateur approach to commercial gardening first arose. To propagate around 1,000 tomato plants and grow them on to ten feet tall giants, producing ridiculous quantities of tomatoes, became the norm for me whilst still at school.

Partly due to this reason, I vowed I would never follow in my father's footsteps and be working from dawn to dusk seven days a week. What went wrong? That is another story which could take many editions of SAL to explain. Forty years passed whilst I worked in my garden producing vast quantities of vegetables until I decided to retire and then the big question. What on earth do we do with an acre of garden without all those vegetables?

For those of you who managed to have a look around at the Open Gardens on the 4<sup>th</sup> June, you will see how mine and Daphne's approach to gardening has evolved. And to be honest, this is probably the first time in my life that I really enjoy gardening. How gardening has changed over the decades. Back in my younger days, vegetable growing was a necessity to supplement the rather modest income that was achievable by most of us living in this rural part of the country.

Allotments were an essential part of life, cultivated to the very last inch and producing vegetables for the kitchen 12 months of the year. Nowadays, we don't need to be that prolific with our gardens and can create anything we like in our own private space, be it a window box or a large estate. And there is nothing wrong with that as any outdoor pursuit allows us the chance to enjoy nature and all that this country of ours has to offer.

I do however, get somewhat confused when I see some of the creations that are portrayed to us as the latest in design for our 'open space', otherwise known as our gardens. Did you see the wonderful design at the Chelsea Flower Show this year where it appears that some old bricks, discarded ironwork and an old bicycle wheel can be identified as 'garden design'? I was always led to believe that gardening is all about the encouragement of growing plants for enjoyment and possibly the kitchen table. I must be getting old and out-of-date with modern thinking!

Talking of 'Open Gardens', I have just received an email from Oxfordshire's National Garden Scheme organisers, telling me that Steeple Aston is in the top five fund raisers across the county, amassing well over £3,000 for their charities.

Now here is a bit of advice for you budding gardeners. The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a nice glass of wine in the other, tell someone else where to dig!

**Richard Preston**

*To be found somewhere in his garden on a recliner with a glass of wine.*





## Photographic Exhibition

In Steeple Aston Sports Recreation Centre

On August 28th 2023

(Alongside Steeple Aston Horticultural Show)

Everybody welcome.  
12 midday - 5pm

## Banbury Pest Wise Pest Control



*Domestic, Industrial & Commerical Pest Control*

We are a local pest control company based in  
Banbury, Oxfordshire covering anywhere within a 30-mile radius.

Whatever your pest problem, we have a solution.



**NO  
LOCAL  
CALL OUT  
FEES!**

**Lee Ross 07510 296082**

waspanapestcontrol@gmail.com    @ Banbury Pest Wise Pest Control  
[www.banburypests.co.uk](http://www.banburypests.co.uk)

## A long-lost rural art returns to Steeple Aston

As she walks with scythe in hand and hay rake over her shoulder from her home in Lower Heyford to cut a meadow in Steeple Aston, Nicole Clough is bringing the scything revival into the heart of the village. “What a privilege,” she says, “to pass through our fields and woods, as our ancestors will have, and spend the day with the birds singing, the sun shining and a cooling breeze riffling the grasses.”

With many of us seeking greener, cleaner solutions, the scythe is making a comeback. As a teacher of scything, Nicole is almost evangelical about its merits. She says her enthusiasm is well justified. Since she first picked up a scythe as a Tudor history re-enactor 20 years ago and became smitten, she has witnessed the increase in popularity first hand. From The Wildlife Trusts to our Community Orchard, organisations of all sizes, as well as gardeners, smallholders and allotmenters, are choosing not to fire up their mowers and strimmers.

“The positive reports and feedback are endless – being able to cut around seeding wildflowers, look out for wildlife, listen to birdsong, talk to companions, breathe fresh air, exercise gently, release less carbon, spend less money – it’s no wonder I have a reputation for raving about scything!”



Lightweight Austrian style scythes are the stars of this rebirth. Men and women, regardless of stature can use them quite comfortably (Nicole is 5 feet 6 inches). “Whilst there are some key techniques, using a scythe can become quite personal. With the rhythmic movements and the focus on the moment, many even regard it as a meditative practice akin to Tai Chi.”

Over 150 years ago, J. Madison Watson put it only slightly differently when he described the benefits of scything *without a scythe* in his Manual of Callisthenics, a systematic drill book without apparatus, for schools, families and gymnasiums (1864). “These movements cause a lively activity, not only of the muscles of the shoulders and the allotment muscles of the arms, but also a sort of see-saw stretching of all the muscles of the trunk, leg and foot. They have, therefore, an invigorating influence upon the limb-moving muscles of the whole body, and are of great service in cases of a general muscular weakness, and of paralyzation of the spinal marrow.”

To find out more about scything and Nicole’s training courses and mowing services, visit: [www.joyofscything.uk](http://www.joyofscything.uk) and [www.scytheassociation.org](http://www.scytheassociation.org)

**Annie Bayley**





**LORD'S TAVERNERS**  
Empowering young people through cricket

After a year's preparation, on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2023 Steeple Aston CC finally took the field at Great Tew against a Lord's Taverners XI featuring three Test Cricket Internationals, seven Test Rugby Internationals and one World Champion Ballroom Dancer. The Tavs won by three runs in 2011 and SACC won by one wicket in 2016, so this was the decider!

On a balmy day we gathered at midday for a delicious lunch prepared by the ever-resourceful and talented Jane Stewart and her team; the waiters, David Stewart and Richard Gibbs looked fetching in their pink pinnies! Replete with delicious food, Steeple Aston CC took to the field and Hector Higgins walked back 24 paces to his bowling mark – he had not been drinking as he had two GCSEs the next day and was only allowed to bowl four overs before returning to his revision! David Gower and Bob Longman were behind the stumps as umpires and with roughly 700 spectators looking on, Hector ran in....

### **Tavs' Dinner the night before...**

The previous evening 200 people had gathered for a dinner in a marquee at the Tew Cricket Club to raise funds for the Tavs' Charity. David Gower regaled us with hilarious stories of cricketing titans from previous Ashes' series: of Shane Warne's prodigious appetite for fun; of Ian Botham's irreverence for 'early nights and no drinking' before a Test Match; of Lamby and Boon setting new drinking records; and David's own battle with a Tiger Moth in 1991 over the Queensland skies. Charlie Ross, arguably the finest auctioneer in the world, worked his magic and raised an impressive £19,000. The Steeple team followed Botham's leadership and were safely in bed by 1am!

### **The Tavs bat first...**

We had six slips, a gully, a fine leg and a very slow decrepit 61-year-old in the covers – Rob Andrew looked worried. Brendon Cole (Ballroom Champ) was soon back in the pavilion, smartly caught by Chris Watson at second slip off Hector. Rob Andrew (British Lion & England fly-half) was then clattered in his 'special place' by a thunderbolt from Hector (1-11), expertly caught on camera by Nigel Francis, who as ever took some incredible photos of the match (see gallery at [bit.ly/43EhOpd](http://bit.ly/43EhOpd)). Jonathan Webb (England full-back) played elegantly and put on 62 before Rob Andrew was dismissed by Paul Longman (1-39), a fine catch by Olly Doggett.

It turns out Marcus Smith (England fly-half) is quite a good cricketer too, hitting two huge sixes over mid-wicket. However, Nige Doggett (0-14) bowled a tight line to increase the pressure on the Tavs and Chloe Hill (England Women's cricketer) could not resist trying to launch Tom Chesser (2-18) into the stands. She missed and incredibly was stumped (or was it run out) by Phil Chesser who was keeping ten feet behind the stumps to his spinner son!

Olly Doggett (1-19) then had Neil Smith (England ODI International) caught for 19 by David Allison, who had donated a large sum of money to the Tavs just to play in the game. Nige Doggett then took a smart catch to remove Monty Panesar off Pete Higgins' bowling (3-19). The Chairman somehow bowled Harry Randall (England scrum-half) and had Gavin Hastings (British Lions' captain) caught by Mutley to keep the Tavs score down, but a sprightly 24 not out by Will Carling (British Lion & England captain) took them to 173 off their 35 overs. A gettable target surely, though Chris Tarrant, who was commentating, poured scorn on our chances in-between burying a large schooner of Chablis!



## 2-1 to whom?...

Gladstone Small and Mike Gatting came on as the new umpires and Olly Doggett raced to 30 not out before retiring with one spectacular six over the marquee off Harry Randall. Merrik Baggallay battled manfully to tire the 'quicks' and allow Nige and Jon Scotchbrook free range, but sadly Nige got a 'beauty' from Jonathan Webb and Jon, who was just getting going, was run out....by Mutley, who then spooned a catch to Rob Andrew off Will Carling. At 57-4 off 16 overs the Village was in trouble! Tom Chesser, despite being badly injured, batted with his customary calm assurance and raced to 30 before retiring and with the Chairman (28), incredibly, put on 50 for the 5th wicket in five overs and a win looked possible – 67 off 14 overs. In the bag surely?

Sadly, Rob Andrew had other ideas and took two quick wickets, but Chris Watson scored a battling 15, whilst Olly Doggett returned to the crease (everyone else was out!) and hit another 19 runs. He then hit what looked like a six to get a well-deserved fifty, but was caught at the third attempt over his shoulder by Marcus Smith – if only I had one-tenth of his talent! And so we fell 16 runs short. Nevertheless, it had been a great game and a wonderful experience, played in front of a large cheering crowd, who had amazingly spent more than £1,000 on tea and cakes. These had been provided by Sarah Chesser and her energetic team of mums/wives/girlfriends and Chris Nevile.



*Members of the Lord's Taverners and SACC teams. (Photo by Nigel Francis)*

## Some gloating...

Chris Tarrant then took huge delight in accepting the trophy on behalf of the Tavs and did not gloat much....well he had stopped by 9pm! A few speeches followed with Mark Curtin, CEO of the Lord's Taverners, praising Steeple Aston as a village for yet again smashing the previous fund-raising record by any village team ever. The previous holder was, of course, Steeple Aston! Nick Cleobury closed events with warm thanks to all the Lord's Taverners who had helped to make the day so special. It only remained for Mike Gatting to help finish all the cakes...he left about 9pm too!!

## Our record-breaking total...

So how much did we raise this time? In 2011 we raised £25,000, in 2016 we beat that with £30,000 – and this time we raised: **£55,000**

Wow, how amazing is that! Many more disabled children and those from disadvantaged backgrounds will now be able to enjoy playing cricket with all the mental and physical health benefits that go with it. For their parents too it can be life-changing, as they see their children having so much fun and making new friends. A big thank you from me to everyone who helped.

**Peter Higgins**

**Chairman SACC & Member of Lord's Taverners**

## **Want to get NOTICED?**

*Would your written content  
benefit from a professional eye?*

*Could your website  
use a little more  
personality?*



Author, journalist and copywriter offering:

- Website & social media content
- Company reports, blogs & press releases
- Advertising copy
- Proofreading, e.g. job applications & academic theses
- Presentation coaching - to help you face an audience or the media with confidence.

Contact Jane on 07971 051221

jane@janedeith.com  
<https://www.janedeith.com>



SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL DECORATION

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



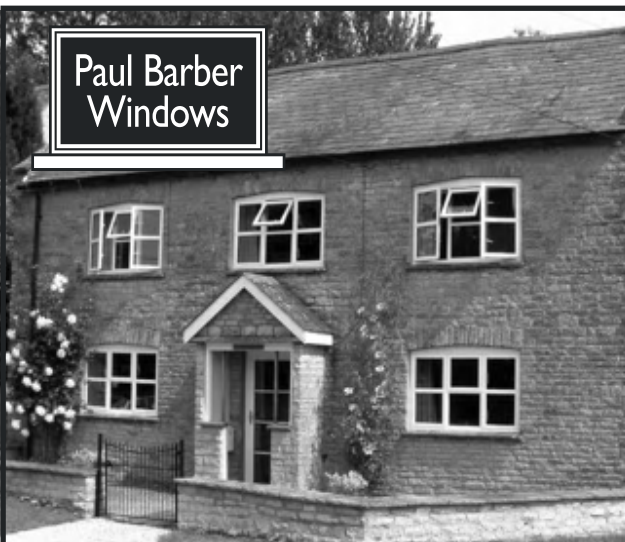
**T: 01295 811026**

**E: [pete@noahsarkpainting.co.uk](mailto:pete@noahsarkpainting.co.uk)**

**W: [noahsarkpainting.co.uk](http://noahsarkpainting.co.uk)**

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

**Paul Barber  
Windows**



**T: 07836 623407**

**E: [paul@paulbarberwindows.co.uk](mailto:paul@paulbarberwindows.co.uk)**

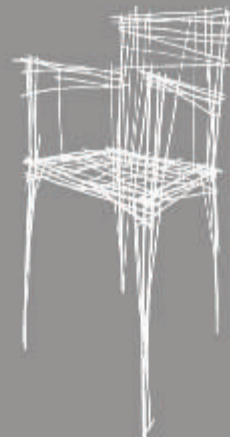
**[www.paulbarberwindows.co.uk](http://www.paulbarberwindows.co.uk)**

OVER 30 YEARS  
EXPERIENCE



**WINDOWS ■ SECONDARY GLAZING  
RESIDENTIAL DOORS ■ FOLDING DOORS**

*lawrence furnishings*  
RE-UPHOLSTERY CUSHIONS



**RE-UPHOLSTERY**

**01280 704437**

**[www.lawrencefurnishings.co.uk](http://www.lawrencefurnishings.co.uk)  
[info@lawrencefurnishings.co.uk](mailto:info@lawrencefurnishings.co.uk)**

## **Busy times on the allotments**

As I write this, I am sitting on our allotment plot, enjoying the early morning sun, the birdsong and listening to the church bells strike 7am. At this time of year, when the weather is this glorious, there is nowhere better to be than here!

Spring and early summer are always busy times on the allotment as we start to see our winter's efforts come to fruition. The strawberries are ripening and salad leaves are abundant, and it's great to take a break from the weeding just to sit and 'watch things grow'.

When you grow in somewhere as beautiful as this, listen to the birds, watch the bees, share worms with the robins and blackbirds (and produce with muntjac, pheasants and pigeons), the natural world is never far from your mind and we work hard to work with nature rather than against it. This year, that desire to positively impact our surroundings has seen the construction of 'Buggingham Palace' our rather superior bug hotel (see page 32). Also, large swathes of the orchard are left unmown (which the bees are loving) and, thanks to a generous donation from a villager who would prefer to remain nameless, we have a large number of water butts ready for installation to reduce our reliance on mains water. Solar power for the cabin is our next initiative, to enable us to charge our battery-operated tools onsite – and there are regular mutterings about installing a composting loo!

Whilst it's quiet right now, with just a few people tending their plots (it is still early after all), one of the greatest things about the allotments is the community. In May, we held the first of our regular working parties, where, as well as catching up on jobs in the communal areas, there's much chatting, drinking of tea and eating of biscuits. A few of us also spent a morning decorating wheelbarrows ahead of dressing as scarecrows to take part in the wonderful, if damp, Coronation Parade.

We were delighted to be able to share the allotments with the wider community as part of Open Gardens, where visitors from as far as California, Indiana, New Orleans (and Tackley) wandered amongst our plots, chatted to allotmenters and took home an array of veg plants, as well as taking advantage of our rhubarb glut!

Next up, it's our Summer Social, always a fantastic evening of food, drink and conversation. This year, it will also be tinged with sadness as we say thank you and farewell to three of our longest standing committee members and allotmenters. Having served more than two decades between them, three of our committee members stepped back or stepped down at April's AGM. Rose McCready has been a committee member for 14 years and chaired SACAA for over 11 years now, with Nigel Gudgeon in the role of Clerk for the past seven years and Stuart Walton also serving for 11 years. Between them they have been a driving force in getting the allotments to where they are today; fully occupied, well-tended, involved in a range of wider village activities and a real community. A massive thank you them all from the whole allotment community– we really appreciate everything you've done for us and we'll miss you!

Temporarily we were left with a committee of three – Stuart Cummins, Rose (who has generously stayed on the committee for now) and myself – but we were delighted to have four willing volunteers put themselves forward to join and now welcome Catherine Crook, Kay Francis, Annie Bayley and Mark Utting to the committee. We look forward to continuing the amazing work of our predecessors and only hope we can do them proud!

Now, back to sitting and enjoying the sights and sounds of our plot!

***Amanda Rodgers – SACAA Clerk***  
***sacaaclerk@gmail.com***



# Shaun Guard TV & WIFI SERVICES

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

 **OXFORD AERIALS**  
[www.oxfordaerials.co.uk](http://www.oxfordaerials.co.uk)  
[shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk](mailto:shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk)  
**Call Bicester 01869 879111**



**THE MULTI  
AWARD-WINNING  
Deddington  
Farmers' Market**

**Market 9am - 12.30pm  
SATURDAY 22 JULY**

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

For more information visit:  
[www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk)  
 or call **01869 337 940**



**Hearing Healthcare Clinic of the Year**



Central England  
Prestige Awards  
Winner 2021/22

## Connect to Better Hearing with **SJBHEARINGCOMPANY**

Visit us for:

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

**Visit our Deddington Centre,  
call **01869254019** to book.**

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



### ABOUT SJBHEARING COMPANY LTD

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

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

Sarah-Jane Brown



**SJB HEARING COMPANY LTD**

*"Where your hearing comes first"*

call us on: **01869 254 019**

visit our website: [www.sjbhearingcompany.co.uk](http://www.sjbhearingcompany.co.uk)





## THE VALENTINE CLUB

First and most importantly, a big thank you to 'Magic Little Grants' for awarding The Valentine Club £500 towards our funds, enabling us to continue providing support to the slightly more mature members of our community. This fund is in partnership with Local Giving and The Postcode Lottery.

So, what have we been doing since last month. Following the miraculous reincarnation of Elvis in May, Nicola and friends came to tell us all about the life of a guide dog, and very informative it was. We visited The National Space Station at Leicester at the end of May which was a real eyeopener for many of us and provided an insight into how space travel has progressed and what we might experience in the future. During June, we chartered a boat, The Waterman, at Henley and enjoyed four hours cruising the River Thames accompanied by a superb ploughman's lunch and some liquid refreshment. This proved so popular we had to hire a very large coach and still needed to take a car full of members to Henley for a chance to laze around on the river!

This month will be a little different as we are going to meet at Middle Aston House on 18<sup>th</sup> July at 2.30pm where we will be able to enjoy a 'high tea' and hopefully some summer sunshine so that we can sit along the terrace, watching the world go by and having a relaxed afternoon. Before then, on 12<sup>th</sup> July, we are taking a coach to Bournemouth and again, it looks like this is a very popular trip, so fingers crossed for a fine day. Our holiday plans for a few days in Llandudno are taking shape and both the transport and accommodation are booked.

To find more about The Valentine Club, simply visit our website at [valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston](http://valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston) or the village website at [www.steepleaston.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com)



*Valentine Club River Thames cruise*

# BROUGHTON CASTLE SPORTIVE 2023



*Don't miss out on the cycling event of the summer*

*Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July*



## *Four Major Routes Starting and Finishing at Broughton Castle*

*100 miles, 75 miles, 50 miles, 20 miles, plus a 5 miles Family Fun Ride,  
all through the wonderful Cotswolds countryside.*

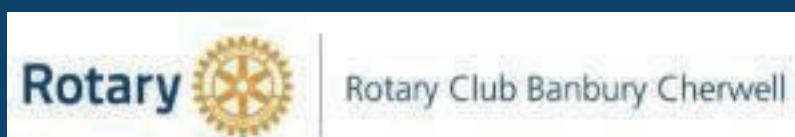
***Broughton Castle Trophy:** A team event for teams of four to six riders  
who participate in the 100 miles, 75 miles, 50 miles routes.*

*For more details and registration visit our website*

*[www.broughtoncastlesportive.co.uk](http://www.broughtoncastlesportive.co.uk)*

*Event organised by the Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell*

*All profits to local and nominated charities*





## Poetry Corner



### A poem for July A spray of flowers

Those tiny bugs that in my garden crawl  
destroying leaves and petals on the flower  
the loss of which doth truly make me bawl  
those small tormentors living in my bower  
And yet without them nature would be lost  
as balance is the key live and let live  
a few lost plants collateral is the cost  
and in return there is much more to give

So spare a thought before you devastate  
if all are gone the balance is no more  
think twice before you spray it's not too late  
without these creatures gardens will be poor  
Let nature take its course just help a bit  
the plants you lose help make the others fit

**Peter Wild**

### A poem to mark the resignation of Boris Johnson Lies, damned lies and porky pies

He often "forgot the details"  
He sometimes "misremembered" too  
He would "bend the truth" a little bit  
But he never lied to me and you.

He was "economical with the truth"  
And kept some "meetings" from his spouse.  
But he was always very ethical  
And did not mislead the house.

He could not recall the details  
He was practised at evasion  
With a creative turn of phrase  
And a good imagination.

He didn't readily own up  
To doing things he shouldn't do,  
But he said he always told the truth,  
'Cause lying is taboo.

He was confused about the lockdown rules  
He thought the gathering "was for work"  
It was clearly not a party  
It was a reward for staff, a perk.

It seems he never saw the email  
The one that said "Bring booze"  
The first he knew about it  
Was when it featured on the news.

The public over-reacted  
The press just went berserk  
He thought it wasn't a big deal  
And tried hard not to smirk.

There are guidelines for politicians  
Standards in public life  
If MPs don't follow their own rules  
Then we'll wield the knife.

It's an old familiar story  
MPs from either side  
Forced into resignation  
When we discover they had lied.

There is a basic truth  
On which everyone's agreed  
That if you're going to be a leader  
You should be fit to lead  
And liars and dissemblers  
Are not the sort we need.

**Cathy Lawday**

## The Annual Flower Show – Bank Holiday Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August

Two months to go until one of the major events of the village's calendar! This year, the Horticultural Society will be holding its 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Flower Show on Robinsons Close and in the Village Hall. Don't be put off by the fact that it is 'The Horticultural Society' putting on this show as they are simply a committee of villagers who are helping to continue a village tradition that first was recorded on the 1860's. There are classes to suit all abilities from growing flowers or vegetables to baking a cake, taking a photograph, painting or drawing and for the younger members of our community, just about anything!

The first class you might want to consider is 'an outdoor planter or hanging basket' as this will be judged at your home, without the need to transport it to the marquee that will be erected on the sports field. Many of you have some wonderful examples of container grown, outdoor plants so why not enter? All you have to do is let Janet (347882) or me (340512) know you are entering that class by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July and a judge (very friendly and unbiased) will visit you on the following day to judge your entry. An entry fee of 30 pence is payable for each entry and this can be done with your other entries or be given to Janet or myself.

Schedules are available on the village website or at the shop or from me at no charge. Also, this is a wonderful opportunity to raise some funds for your society or yourself by renting a pitch on the field for just £15. This way you can promote your club or society or simply sell on all those unwanted items that you have been meaning to get rid of for months if not years. And finally, if anyone would like to offer some help with the show on the day, please get in touch with me so that we can discuss possibilities further.

**Richard Preston – 01869 340512**  
***richard.preston5@btopenworld.com***



### Buggingham Palace

The was no room to include this photo on page 27 with the article about the allotments, so we have published it here. There is no obvious sign of occupancy so far, but there is little doubt that bugs and insects will soon check in to this superior accommodation.



## Raising money from plants

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May saw one of the earliest sunny days of the year. It was gratefully received by the organisers of the Church Plant Sale.

Part of the church's fundraising efforts, the sale proved enormously popular, with dozens of villagers joining visitors from farther afield in Oxfordshire (and one stray Australian!) to seize upon the array of flowering and vegetable plants available. Many dogs also provided moral support, as people sat drinking tea and eating cake in the spring churchyard.

It was a great success and the sale of plants raised £672, of which £172 was donated to Mary's Meals, a charity providing school meals for children in the developing world. The remaining £500 went to the church and together with the £200 raised through the sale of teas and cakes, this means a lot to those working hard to maintain the village's oldest building.

Thanks go to all who came along and supported the sale, but they are especially due to Ruth Dale, whose brainchild it was. There was a lot of planning and many people were involved. Plants and help were provided by Caroline Edwards, Caroline Parsons, Harriet Higgins, Rachel Blair, Yung Pin, Chris Clarke, Penny Cummings, Anne Bonwick and Jane Stewart.

Thanks are also due to the many people who provided delicious cakes and to those who sold them: Shirley Palmer, Dorothy Clifton, Heather Cleobury and Jackie Watson. And finally, nothing could have happened without the trusty cashier, Martin Dale.

*Jackie Watson*

*Photos by Nigel Francis*







# Eldon Friends

**For all your Social Care requirements**

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

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

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

**Elaine Kelly: Tel: (01869) 340449**

**Email: [info@eldonfriends.co.uk](mailto:info@eldonfriends.co.uk)**

**Feel free to visit our website at: [www.eldonfriends.co.uk](http://www.eldonfriends.co.uk)**

Covering The Astons and surrounding villages.

Qualified in Health and Social Care. Fully Insured.

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



**Iron and Wood Ltd**  
**Stoves for the Future**



**Visit our showrooms in Banbury  
or Kidlington**

**T: 01295 253936**

**E: [info@ironandwood.co.uk](mailto:info@ironandwood.co.uk)**

**[www.ironandwood.co.uk](http://www.ironandwood.co.uk)**



**Safeclean**

**GUARDSMAN**

## Professional Cleaning Services

**The experts in cleaning:**

**Carpets • Upholstery • Mattresses**

**Oriental rug cleaning • Stain removal**

**Stain protection • Allergy treatment**



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

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

**Email: [rvernonsafeclean@gmail.com](mailto:rvernonsafeclean@gmail.com)**

**Mobile: 07825 918946**



**[www.safeclean.co.uk](http://www.safeclean.co.uk)**



For our June club night we had the pleasure of welcoming renowned wildlife photographer Robert Harvey speaking about what makes a good bird photograph. Robert has spoken to the club on previous occasions and last year took a group of members to Wiltshire for a few days showing them the sights and sounds of the Wiltshire countryside.

His talk focused on moving away from the 'bird on a stick' glamour shots and about adding background to the image, but stressed that it needs to match what you're trying to say about the photo and whether it relates to the habitat of the bird. He spoke about how reflections make a great photo and getting up early or waiting until the golden hour with silhouettes making beautiful images if you catch the light in the right way.



He showed us images of birds in flight and how shadows and viewpoints can really make an image 'pop', and suggested one should always keep camera settings on manual. We were shown some images of birds taking off and landing, but also how a flock of birds can make an interesting picture if framed correctly.

Birds that interact with each other and are caught in action or calling to each other can create good shots for the viewer and he emphasised that although portrait-style shots are great, one should focus on birds with interesting and eye-catching head feathers or plumage.

Looking forward, on 28<sup>th</sup> August 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 images, the club and anything else photography related.

***Courtney Killpack***

*Photo by Robert Harvey*

## **Steeple Aston Garden Club**



Our first visit of the season was to Sue Bedwell's garden in Bletchington. A good number of us arrived to find a cottage garden filled to the brim with specimen plants. We were treated to homemade cake and tea, which was gratefully received on such a chilly evening.

Our visit on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June was to Dean Manor, courtesy of Mr & Mrs Johnny Hornby. This is an English country garden of about six acres which boasts a spectacular new kitchen and cutting garden, complete with a new large glasshouse. I will report back on this in August.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm is a visit to Fir Farm in Lower Swell and a tour by Jonathon Heath, Head Gardener of the 800 acre organic mixed farm 'Managing the land in harmony with nature'. Although most of us will probably not make the full 800 acres!

If anyone is interested in joining the Garden Club, do get in touch with either myself (tel. 347192) or Richard Preston (tel. 340512). You will be most welcome to join us on our visits for the rest of the summer.

***Chris Clarke***



## SIMPLE EXCHANGES

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

To discuss your property, simply give us a call.



01869 343 600  
[cridlands.co.uk](http://cridlands.co.uk)



## We'll be at the following events over the summer:

**Steeple Aston Village Fete – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

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

**Steeple Aston Horticultural Society Summer Show –  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:amanda@sustainablesteeple.com) or 07793 553150.**

## Thank you for your continued support



# Village Hall News



The Annual General Meeting of the Steeple Aston Village Hall management committee was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The full committee is listed below, showing which group they represent.

Barbara Brewer (Chair) – Tuesday Badminton; Margaret Bulleyment (Secretary) – Choral Society; John White (Treasurer); Alison Moran – Thursday Badminton; Deborah Morris – Village Rep; Sally Cooper – WI; Torquil McLusky – SRT Co-ordinator; Chris Clarke – PCC; Stuart Cummins – Archive; Richard Preston – Valentine Club; Cathy Fleet – Parish Council; John Coley – Garden Club

In the next few months, the committee will be deciding on a programme of events for the forthcoming year. If there is a specific event you would like to see in the programme or if you have any new ideas, please contact me or any committee member

## **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June NGS (National Garden Scheme) Open Gardens**

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee a very big ‘thank you’ to all those who provided cakes, served teas, took money, washed and dried endless crockery and helped clear up at the end of the day to make this event such a great success. This year – as in previous years – we were able to make a generous contribution to aid Macmillan Nurses and other cancer charities. This could not have happened without your help and generosity.

## **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July Barn Dance – 7:30pm for an 8pm start**

If you have any special dietary needs, please let Barbara know so we can do our best to cater for them. Please remember it is a cash-only bar.

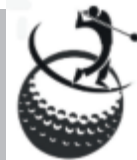
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Annual Firework Evening      Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Wassail Evening**

## **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Annual Quiz evening**

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](mailto:steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com) Collect keys from ‘Mijas’ South Side, Steeple Aston. OX25 4RU.

**Barbara Brewer – Chair (telephone 01869 340423)**

# Steeple Aston Golf Society



Our first meeting of the new season was held at The Wychwood Golf Club in Lyneham, near Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. I mention this in detail as one of our guests finished up in Crewe, Cheshire, some 110 miles away. He was given the satnav coordinates by one of our members days before the event, just in case you ask.

It is a shame as he missed a really good afternoon of golf. The course, which is nestled on the fringes of the Cotswolds, was looking the best that I have ever seen it. Lakes and streams enhance the challenge of the course with water coming into play on 8 of the 18 holes.



None of this seemed to phase our winner with 38 points. Jack Kay was playing off 18 and because of his score he will be cut two shots next time out. In second place, our scratch resident professional Danny Phillips with 32 points. Guest prize Ken Lewis with 27 points. Nearest pin on the 6<sup>th</sup> was Martin Kay and on the 18<sup>th</sup> in two Alan Brewer. Only one birdie, Brian Kay.

Our July meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> is at The Springs, Wallingford OX10 6BE.

*Left to right: Eric Blincoe (who caddied for Jack Kay), Jack Kay, Alan Brewer and Brian Kay*

If you are a golfer and have never played this course then come along and join us, you will not be disappointed – in fact you will be in for a treat. This parkland course is bordered by the River Thames, within which lie three lakes and challenging wetland areas. A very typical American design. I just love the old club house which overlooks the 18<sup>th</sup> green. We meet at 12 noon for a 1pm start. For more information please call Alan or Chris on 01869 340423 / 347173.

**Happy golfing from Alan Brewer (Chair)**



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

## JOHN WHITWORTH TREE SURGERY



BODICOTE COTTAGE  
16 HIGH STREET  
BODICOTE  
OXFORDSHIRE  
OX15 4BS

Tel/Fax: 01295 268170

Mobile: 07970 154552

## Horse & Groom, Caulcott

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



Opening hours:

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

[www.horseandgroomcaulcott.co.uk](http://www.horseandgroomcaulcott.co.uk)

Lower Heyford Road, Caulcott, OX25 4ND  
01869 343257

[horseandgroomcaulcott@gmail.com](mailto:horseandgroomcaulcott@gmail.com)

At our June meeting, Alan Jones gave a fascinating talk about Body Language. He borrowed five of our members in a demonstration of how we react in small spaces, such as in a lift. Yes, we all want a bit of 'me' space and shuffled around as expected!

Then there was the bit about how people shake hands, hold their thumbs, etc. A rather gratifying statistic made by Alan was that men only have six areas of the brain for identifying body language, but women have 16. No surprise there then!

He gave us some very amusing examples of body language conveying alarming differences in different countries. We now know how to detect if someone is lying – certain hand gestures to the face! An additional fact from Alan – apparently, we can make ten thousand expressions with the forty-three facial muscles.

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July we will be at the Church Fete with our gazebo and will be displaying our various WI wares and encouraging new members to join our happy throng. On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July members will be invited to a bring-and-share Summer Garden Party.

The NFWI had its annual meeting in Cardiff and our representative member took our vote for the resolution for 'Clean Rivers' and this motion was carried by the delegates.

If you would like to know more about our WI and would like to join us please contact our President Julie Hillier on 01869 349185

***Merrill Bayley***



*WI members chatting over tea/coffee and biscuits*



# Steeple Aston Church



## Saturday 8th July

**2.00-4.00pm** (entrance £2 children free)

**Super prize draw! Childrens' Fun Corner! Races! Teas;!Croquet!  
Target shooting:;! Junilee Brass! Indian Printing! Bottle Stall!  
Craft Stalls etc. and loads of fun! Steam train!**



# Church Matters



One evening as we were sitting outside enjoying the beautiful weather, another neighbour quietly slipped into the garden, a young Muntjac deer, and enjoyed wandering around, popping in and out of the hedges. Living here we are privileged to be surrounded by nature. Part of 'settling in' is learning to live alongside nature well.

As part of constantly trying to reduce our environmental footprint, we left the edges of our garden for '#NoMowMay' so as to encourage the growth of wildflowers, providing a feast for pollinators, in an attempt to reverse the decline of insects. Insects themselves are vitally important as pollinators and recyclers, as well as being food for other animals.

The reality of '#NoMowMay' was to allow lots of 'uncultivated' plants, namely nettles, thistles and dandelions, to grow along our borders. At the end of May I'd joined an online rural lecture entitled a 'Brief history of weeds' during which I was warned that if I allowed weeds to grow unchecked for one year, I'd be de-weeding them for the next seven years. So at the start of June I began clearing the dandelions and thistles and have been struck by this disparity. I'd deliberately allowed them to grow in May, as they are good for nature, but was now destroying them because... Well, because humans have decided that they don't belong in a cultivated English garden.

I'd like to add here how lovely it was to wander round Steeple Aston at the 'NGS Open Gardens' event. There are lots of amazing gardens and dedicated gardeners here. Thank you for sharing your fantastic spaces and for raising money for charity.

This term Dr Radcliffe's school is focusing on the value of respect, thinking about respecting and valuing others, with our differences and different opinions. Which leaves me wondering how are we respecting nature? Don't thistles and dandelions have as much right to exist as I have? We are after all, all part of God's beautiful creation.

James Cameron's Avatar films make the point quite vividly. As humans have ravaged earth's resources, we have turned to the skies and are now ravaging Pandora's resources – grasping and taking what we want, regardless of the consequences to the local environment. There is the beautiful moment when Jake Sully's eyes are opened to the wonders of Pandora. He suddenly sees the beauty of the natural world around him.

In destroying the insect population, we are in fact endangering ourselves, God created the whole world and that *'all things work together for good'* Romans 8:28.

On this morning's news was a warning that the government is going to miss its target of planting 7,000 hectares of new woodland per year by 2024. Last year only 3,100 hectares were planted. Trees and woodlands are another vital part of our world's natural ecosystem, not only capturing carbon, but also providing habitat for a wide variety of species.

As a world we need to learn to respect the whole of God's beautiful creation, valuing every part of its fantastic diversity (which includes me learning to respect and care about spiders), otherwise we are disrespecting ourselves and enabling our own extinction. When asked what the greatest commandment was Jesus replied "*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'* This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: *'Love your neighbour as yourself.'* (Matthew 22:37-39), which includes the whole of the natural world, from the insects, wild plants and Muntjacs.

**Rev'd Harriet Orridge**

# D L HANCOCK LTD

## Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Established 27 years and still independent

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

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

~~~~~  
Serving Bicester and all Surrounding Areas

~~~~~  
Private Chapel Of Rest

~~~~~  
Jaguar Fleet of Funeral Cars


~~~~~  
**Perfect Choice**  
Funeral Plans



Member of  
The National Association  
of Funeral Directors




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



## IAN WILLOX

Your local Humanist Celebrant  
— accredited by Humanists UK —  
07973 221 479 | [ian.willox@humanistceremonies.org.uk](mailto:ian.willox@humanistceremonies.org.uk)  
[www.humanist.org.uk/ianwillox](http://www.humanist.org.uk/ianwillox)

**WEDDINGS | NAMINGS | FUNERALS | MEMORIALS**

Humanist Ceremonies Humanists UK 



# C.S. Boswell

**Independent Family Funeral Services**  
Your wishes, in your time, our care, every time...



24 hour personal service E: [info@boswellfuneralservices.co.uk](mailto:info@boswellfuneralservices.co.uk)



Carl S. Boswell  
Funeral Director



Ryan Boswell  
Funeral Director



Joy Davies, Dip FD  
Funeral Director

**Our new Funeral Home & Chapel of Rest is now open at:**  
**58 Bucknell Road, Bicester, OX26 2DW**  
**01869 221937**

Also at

7 Bicester Road, Kidlington, OX5 2LA

01865 373712

364 Banbury Road, Summertown, OX2 7PP

01865 553737

“For every life is Unique, so is every funeral”



[www.boswellfuneralservices.co.uk](http://www.boswellfuneralservices.co.uk)





# Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i>	<b>5.30pm</b> Evensong
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>11am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>5.30pm</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b>			<b>10.30am</b> United Benefice Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion	<b>5.30pm</b> Evensong
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>11am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion
<a href="http://www.sntchurch.com">www.sntchurch.com</a>			




## Rebalance, Restore, Relax

**Tranquil room in Deddington offering a range of massage treatments:**

- Relaxing massage
- Deep tissue massage
- Sports massage
- Pregnancy massage
- Indian head massage

Call Jo on **07751 684693** or email **jo@easemassagetherapies.co.uk**  
**www.easemassagetherapies.co.uk**



## Humphris funerals

Serving your family

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

**01295 265 424**

32 Albert Street, Banbury, OX16 5DG



**www.humphrisfunerals.co.uk**



Staples Building creates beautiful living spaces of outstanding quality.

For an estimate please contact Tim Staples

☎ 01869 345 592  
 ✉ enquiries@staplesbuilding.co.uk  
 🌐 www.staplesbuilding.co.uk

🏠 EXTENSIONS   🏠 CONVERSIONS   🏠 RENOVATIONS   🏠 NEW BUILD

# Steeple Aston Online

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

Your village. Your website. Visit today!

**[www.steepleaston.org.uk](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk)**

# Local Info

## STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL

### HIRING FEES

#### All Facilities

#### Peak Times – involving hire after 6pm

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

#### Off-Peak – all hire before 6pm

Hourly Rate	£10/hr (or £30 for 4 hours)
-------------	-----------------------------

Plus Refundable Deposit £200

#### Hall Only

Represented Clubs	£9 (up to 3hrs)
-------------------	-----------------

Others	£17 (up to 3hrs)
--------	------------------

plus Refundable Deposit £200)

#### Committee Room

Represented Clubs	£6 (up to 3hrs)
-------------------	-----------------

Others	£12 (up to 3hrs)
--------	------------------

Letting Agent	Angela Smith (07734-112967)
Chairperson	Barbara Brewer (01869-340423)
Secretary	Margaret Bulleyment (01869-347346)

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

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

## Steeple Aston Sports & Recreation Centre Letting Charges

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

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

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

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

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

Letting Agent Angela Smith Tel : 07734 112967  
E-Mail to [rec.trust@googlemail.com](mailto:rec.trust@googlemail.com)

Chair – Torquil McLusky Tel : 01869 347914

Treasurer – Chris Cooper Tel : 01869 347173

## BUS TIMES

### STAGECOACH S4 BUS SERVICE

This timetable is effective from 4 June 2023.

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

##### Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

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	

Times subject to change. Before starting your journey please check the timetables at [www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables) E&OE

### OURBUS BARTONS

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

## Rubbish bin collection day is Thursday

### July 2023

6 <sup>th</sup>	Green
13 <sup>th</sup>	Blue and brown
20 <sup>th</sup>	Green
27 <sup>th</sup>	Blue and brown



### August 2023

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Green
10 <sup>th</sup>	Blue and brown
17 <sup>th</sup>	Green
24 <sup>th</sup>	Blue and brown
31 <sup>st</sup>	Green

**Food caddy is collected weekly**



# Steeple Aston Calendar

Check the village website at [www.steepleaston.org.uk](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk) (Home > Calendar) for any changes.

Please send details of events for August and September to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

<b>July 2023</b>			
Saturday 1st	Barn Dance	Village Hall	7.30pm
Wednesday 5th	AD&D Photographic Society. Mary McIntyre FRAS: 'Photographing the Milky Way from the UK'	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Saturday 8th	Steeple Aston Church Fete	Robinsons Close	2pm to 4pm
Tuesday 11th	WI. Summer Garden Party (members only)		
Wednesday 12th	Valentine Club. Seaside trip to Bournemouth		
<b>Friday 14th</b>	<b>SAL August 2023 copy and advert deadlines</b>		
Monday 17th	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Tuesday 18th	Valentine Club. High tea at Middle Aston House	Middle Aston	2.30pm
Thursday 20th	Garden Club. Visit to Fir Farm	Lower Swell	3pm
Friday 21st	Golf Society. The Springs	Wallingford	12 noon
Saturday 22nd	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 22nd	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm

**Choral Society Rehearsals.** Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays  
**Badminton.** Village Hall - 10am -12.30pm - Tuesdays  
**Bell Ringing practice.** Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays  
**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**

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

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

e-mail: [print@joshuahorgan.co.uk](mailto:print@joshuahorgan.co.uk)

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

*Home-made food with The Personal Touch!*

*Menus to suit all tastes & budgets*

*Weddings and Family Celebrations*

*Dinner Parties*

*Afternoon Tea*

*Drinks Party Canapes*

*Balls & Banquet catering*

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

*Business and Corporate Events and Meetings*

*Prices starting from £6.50pp*

*Contact- [sandjcuisine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandjcuisine@hotmail.co.uk)*

*Call Sally on 07786131667 Or Jasmin on 07801975210*



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

kits & supplies  
workshops  
studio sessions

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

shop & say hi at:

Unit 2 Lakeside Farm  
Business Park  
Middle Aston  
OX25 5PP

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

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

# NICHOLSONS

Plants Forestry Landscapes

## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

### Nicholson's Plants

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

### Rosara - Outdoor style for your garden

Furniture sets | Planters | Kadais | Lighting

### The Yurt - A unique dining experience

Breakfast | Lunch | Innovative menus  
Locally sourced food | All dietary requirements welcome  
Tuesday to Saturday  
Walk-ins are welcome at the Yurt but to secure a table and time, please book via our website.



[www.nicholsonsgb.com](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com)

The Park, North Aston, DX075 6HE | 01869 540347



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

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



Bicester 01869 323223  
Waddesdon 01296 651000  
[www.hartvets.co.uk](http://www.hartvets.co.uk)

