

# Steeple Aston *Life*

October 2023 Issue No. 602



- Steeple Aston Flower Show and Fun Dog Show results • Sulgrave Manor •
- Village History Centre anniversary • Reports from Clubs and Societies •



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

Cover: Bella, 'Dog of the Day' at the Fun Dog Show on 28<sup>th</sup> August, with owner Betsy Walton.  
(Photo by Catherine Crook)

## Steeple Aston *Life*

### COPY

All articles and letters to  
the Editor  
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### COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
previous month.  
This means the copy deadline for the  
November 2023 issue is Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>  
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READ STEEPLE ASTON LIFE ONLINE  
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Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	347033
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	Out of Hours	111	
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Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
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Toddler Group		Hilary Clayton-Lyne, Angela Smith	steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com
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Village Hall (see advertisement)	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
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Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme		0300 3030125	
WI	President	Julie Hillier	349185





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

## Steeple Aston *Life*

October 2023

Issue No. 602

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# Editorial

Was September's heatwave an 'Indian summer'? No, it was just a heatwave.

The Met Office says, "A heatwave is an extended period of hot weather relative to the expected conditions of the area at that time of year. A UK heatwave threshold is met when a location records a period of at least three consecutive days with daily maximum temperatures meeting or exceeding the heatwave temperature threshold. The threshold varies by UK county." The threshold for Oxfordshire in September is 27°C.

The UK had an unprecedented seven consecutive days of temperatures of 30°C or higher in early September – a new record. According to Met Office data, the UK has only had three consecutive days of 30°C weather in September on four previous occasions – 1898, 1906, 1911 and 2016. Are heatwaves linked to climate change? Given that September heatwaves have been recorded as far back as the 19th century, you might think that the answer is no. However, climate change is likely to increase the frequency of heatwaves, both in September and at other times of the year.

So what is an 'Indian summer'? You might think, as I did, that it is related to the weather in India. Wrong, apparently. The first recorded use of the phrase appears in a letter written by Frenchman John de Crevecoeur dated 17 January 1778. In his description of the Mohawk Country he writes, "Sometimes the rain is followed by an interval of calm and warm which is called the Indian summer." There is speculation that it referred to a spell of warm autumn conditions that allowed native American Indians to continue hunting.

The term was first used in the UK in the early 19th century. Some people say that a true Indian Summer does not occur until after the first frost. The Met Office Meteorological Glossary first published in 1916, on the other hand, defines it as "a warm, calm spell of weather occurring in autumn, especially in October and November". However, because of the unclear history of the phrase, they tend to avoid the expression.

*Robert*

*Photo: if you still think of temperatures in Fahrenheit, here is a simple guide to the Centigrade scale.*

*0°C is freezing; 10°C is cool; 20°C is warm; 30°C is hot.*



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# Steeple Aston Noticeboard



## Dexterous driving

This photo, by Merrill Bayley, highlights the skills of Stagecoach S4 bus drivers in negotiating our village roads. A revised S4 bus timetable came into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> September – details can be found on page 45.



## Heyford Bridge to close in October for six weeks

The closure of Heyford Bridge for resurfacing and drainage works will start on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The bridge will be closed for six weeks until Friday 1st December.

Oxfordshire County Councillor Ian Corkin explained on Facebook, “Following recent conservation work to the bridge, the next step is an extensive rebuild of the road-deck to improve drainage and prevent further damage by water ingress to the listed structure. There will be pedestrian access across the bridge during this time, via the south footway.”

The closure means there will be a lengthy diversion for drivers coming to and from Steeple Aston to Bicester and the M40.

## Editorial help needed

Do you aspire to be a writer or journalist? Or perhaps you already have these skills. Either way, Steeple Aston Life would like to hear from you. We are looking for a person, or people, to help with putting each issue together. A range of interesting tasks is available. Please express your enthusiasm to [editorial@gmail.com](mailto:editorial@gmail.com) (alliteration adroitness welcome, but not essential).

## October facts

- October gains its name from the Latin ‘octo’, which means eight. It was the eighth month in the early Roman calendar, which had ten months. When January and February were added to the calendar, October became the tenth month, where it remains today.
- The birthstone of October is the opal. This can take on many shapes and colours. Opal deposits have been discovered on Mars.
- ‘Wintirfylith’ was the Anglo-Saxon name for October. It refers to the month having the first full moon of winter.

## Deliveries change

The SAL Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to Stuart and Penny Cummins for organising the deliveries of Steeple Aston Life around the village over many years. When the newsletter drops through the letterbox, we tend to forget that there is a dedicated team of people out in all weathers making this happen.

This work has now been taken over by Greg Elphick.



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## November Event 2023: Village memories

The newsletter editor of Oxfordshire Buildings Record wrote a piece recently on the importance of preserving ‘the archaeology of COVID’, that is to say, items, photos and the ephemera of the lockdown era. The first thought may well be how unpleasant that process is. No one wants to relive or be reminded of such an awful time.

Well, the answer to that is that no one who has lived through wars wants to be reminded of them in the aftermath either, but now we are very grateful for the amazing records that were made of life in those difficult times. It’s an important reminder that archives are not just about shuffling through old stuff to satisfy a sense of curiosity; archivists have a duty to actively preserve the present too, which will rapidly become the past. The word ‘archive’ is a verb as well as a noun.

In that spirit, SAVA has always sought to capture the present in some form, saving current documents of all kinds, although perhaps our most valuable activity has been conducting interviews with villagers.

We made a film of interviews with local people called ‘Village Memories’, which was shown, once, in the village in 2014. Some people then bought a DVD of the film, but many others and our newer residents have never seen it. In recent months, several more villagers have agreed to be interviewed and the digital records and their transcripts are being archived. The areas of contemporary life covered include work and leisure, school, family, health, transport and changes over time.

This November’s SAVA event will be a new showing of the Village Memories film with a number of changes and additions. This will be coupled with ‘24 Square Miles’, a public information film produced by the government in 1946, which we also showed back in 2014. Taking a single square on the Ordnance Survey map of an area to the south-west of Banbury, from Chipping Norton to Deddington, this wonderful film shows country life as it was then. Hopefully the audience will be able to see the link between ‘24 Square Miles’ and the testimony of our own interviewees and their memories of the post-war years in and around Steeple Aston.

Please come to the show on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm** in the Village Hall and join in a discussion afterwards of how life has changed for Steeple’s people. Tea and cake will be served, and SAVA’s bookstall will be on hand.

*Dave Jarratt*

*The village shop  
in the 1930s*



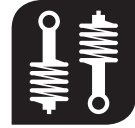
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# The ARTS Page



This is going to be an 'Arts Quote' sandwich.

Pablo Picasso – “Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

Oscar Wilde – “What Art seeks to disturb is monotony of type, slavery of custom, tyranny of habit, and the reduction of man to the level of a machine.”

‘SAL’ or ‘the life’ (or as I’m told they say in Middle Aston – Steeple Aston get a life), started in 1973. Can anyone say whether the Arts Page started then?

What is clear is that much has changed since. The advent of the internet means that pretty much all information is now available online. Here are a few of the local sites worth a look.

‘Daily Information’ started in Oxford in 1964. I remember it as a daily sheet posted widely around the city. It is now a very good website – [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk) – covering not just the arts, but food and drink, property, jobs, etc. Easy to navigate and very informative.

A newer site with a different profile, but equally informative, is [oxinabox.co.uk](http://oxinabox.co.uk). It is more of an entertainment and food blog – with reviews and previews.

[theoxfordmagazine.com](http://theoxfordmagazine.com) is a curated guide to events, outdoor dining and cultural outings.

There are two sites for Banbury, again with lots of information – [Banburyfm.com](http://Banburyfm.com) and [banburyguardian.co.uk](http://banburyguardian.co.uk). For events generally, but with links to things locally, have a look at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com)

For singing, dancing and acting skills for children, check out [stagecoach.co.uk](http://stagecoach.co.uk) and search for Oxford Woodstock. Looks terrific and is nearby.

There are many more, so if there are ones not listed here that you can recommend, do let me know. Past Arts Pages have listed numerous individual websites, so I won’t replicate those this time.

Nearer home - Steeple Aston Choral Society presents ‘Music for Pleasure’, given by the indefatigable Paul Herrington (SACS accompanist) – Music from the Classics, Films and Musicals – on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm for 7pm in the Village Hall. They have their own Concert in SA Church at 7pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, featuring Mozart’s glorious Vespers and Christmas music with audience Carols. Tickets for both from Margaret [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com) or (01869) 347346.

As Patron of the Woodstock Music Society, I must mention their Christmas Concert on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December, and immodestly my all-day ‘Come and Sing’ Mozart Mass in C minor on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. More details at [woodstockmusic.info](http://woodstockmusic.info)

Heather tells me off sometimes for being critical of a musical performance. I try not to be, but sometimes can’t help it. There probably is no such thing as a ‘perfect performance’, however accomplished, tastes and interpretations differ. But I can truly say that I couldn’t fault Lise Davidsen at the Last Night of the Proms. If it is still available, do have a listen. Also, wonderful to hear Marin Alsop champion women conductors in her closing speech.

Two more quotes:

Yuval Noah Harari ([ynharari.com](http://ynharari.com)) – In order to obtain wisdom you need information, of course, but you also need silence (see [pipedown.org.uk](http://pipedown.org.uk))

And Leonard Bernstein again (many liked last month’s quote) – Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable.

**Nicholas Cleobury**  
[nicholascleobury@btinternet.com](mailto:nicholascleobury@btinternet.com)



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# ???? Mind Games

## Word Builder

by Cathy Lawday

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R	E	T
P	S	O

Answers to every clue:

- are four letters long
- contain only letters from the grid,
- include the letter in the shaded central square.

Answers are on page 21.

1. A bird's home; 2. To relax; 3. Close by; 4. The back of the neck; 5. To rip; 6. Painful; 7. Tidy; 8. Paid to a landlord; 9. A fruit; 10. Cheeky; 11. Used for tying; 12. Expensive; 13. A short written message; 14. Fastened with string; 15. A single stair; 16. Digits on the foot; 17. An amount of medicine; 18. The feature in the centre of a face; 19. To peel away the skin; 20. A day on the calendar





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



## Sulgrave Manor

The Washington family had owned Sulgrave Manor for several centuries by 1656 when John Washington, whose life was probably disturbed by the nearby events of the Civil War (when his family supported the Royalist cause), decided to sail to Virginia in the New World and make a new life there. His descendant was George Washington (photo above), the first President of the United States of America. So you can imagine that American tourists are frequent visitors to Sulgrave Manor. “There are Americans here every week,” said a faintly weary guide, and there is a good exhibition about George Washington’s life and legacy in one of the manor’s outhouses which is worth a visit in its own right.

Sulgrave advertises itself as ‘The Original Home of the Special Relationship’, having been rescued from a near-derelict state in 1921 by a group of UK and US philanthropists who wanted to create ‘a centre from which sentiments of friendship and goodwill between American and British peoples will forever radiate’. That remains the estate’s primary purpose today in this beautifully restored Tudor mansion with its 18<sup>th</sup> Century extension and its delightfully spacious garden with lawns, bowling alley, orchard and children’s play area. On the day I visited there were very few people and in the quiet of the house and garden it was easy to feel it as a symbol of peace and unity between nations which the original Board hoped to create.

You wander freely through the Manor where there was a very helpful guide who knew her history and was ready to answer questions or impart little extra nuggets of interesting information which I much enjoyed. There are plenty of information panels – though not intrusive – in each room with lots for children to discover and enjoy. I was particularly impressed by them and think that Sulgrave Manor (run by an independent charitable trust) would be an excellent place to take children to show them what life was like in Tudor and early Stuart times.

You’ll have to find a day in October if you want to visit Sulgrave this year. It opens between April and October on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays between 10.30am and 4.00pm. It seems to be quieter during the afternoons. Tickets (which need to be booked online ahead of your visit) cost £8 for adults and £4 for children (between 5 and 15 years).

Sulgrave Manor is about seven miles north of Banbury in South Northamptonshire – the postcode for satnav is OX17 2SD. There’s no café, but you can get tea and cake in the reception area and enjoy it in the Brewhouse if the weather doesn’t tempt you outside!

<https://sulgravemanor.org.uk/>

*Eileen Baglin-Jones*



*The SAVA team in August, each with an example of archived material.  
Left to right: Martin Lipson, Miggy Wild, Geoff Lane (now retired), Clare Keating,  
Dave Jarratt, Carol Neville, Stuart Cummins, Diana Gardner.*

## **Can it really be ten years since the opening of the Village History Centre?**

SAVA members, it seems, almost missed an acknowledgement of the anniversary. Historians asleep on the job or just too fixed on planning the next event?

The unveiling of the name plaque took place on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013, witnessed by representatives of the five bodies who helped its funding: the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, the Viridor Environmental Company, the Village Hall Management Committee, the Parish Council and Dr Radcliffe's School Foundation. Astonishingly, fund-raising for the project had only begun exactly a year before but, following £100,000 from willing donors and with good builders, work progressed rapidly. It also needs to be said that it was the energy and expertise of Martin Lipson that enabled such a wonderful project to come to fruition.

The origins of the project lay with the founding principles of SAVA itself, formed in 2000, which were 'to collect, educate and reach out to the community'. But there was also a real need to build suitable storage for the burgeoning amount of archive material which was plainly outgrowing its unsuitable housing which was, to quote the project description: "*a lean-to of single brick wall thickness, with a slated roof, with no insulation, and several steps below the floor level of the Village Hall. There is no heating and no fixed ventilation and, at times of heavy rainfall, water enters the outer room under the external door*" (see photo on next page).



Moreover, there was no room to view documents and enable archive material to be seen by the community from whom there was an increasing clamour to research family and village history. A computer and a suitable environment in which to use it were becoming essential. Support for the project was heightened by incorporating it into a planned extension to the Village Hall, underlining its role in providing another service for villagers.

On the day after opening, SAVA invited supporters and other local people to visit. We were taken aback by the extraordinary level of interest shown by so many of the 80 to 90 people who came throughout the morning. Some came with small but important artefacts that they wished to donate to the archive, while others wanted to discuss future projects that they had in mind related to the history of the village. Others spent time looking at the small display which we had put up, showing samples of past exhibitions on village history. Most noted the permanent dehumidifier in operation, which keeps the old books, photographs and other documents in the archive store at optimum environmental conditions.

There are very few purpose-built community archive buildings in the country and we are proud to have created this one for our two villages. Its biggest asset is probably the Study Room, where visitors can inspect historic maps and old documents of various types brought from the adjacent archive store on request.

The creation of the Village History Centre has enabled SAVA to go forward in creating and compiling original research in the form of publications, exhibitions and events for the community. In case you need a reminder, it is open to everyone each Saturday morning from 10am until 12 noon. SAVA looks forward to seeing you there.

*Dave Jarratt*



*The lean-to which used to house the archive before its demolition and replacement with the new Village History Centre.*

# Parish Council Meeting Notes



The September meeting of the Parish Council was interesting, but sadly there were no visitors there. This is what you missed.

The meeting started with a check on a number of issues raised last month. Fenway will be closed for about a week from 2<sup>nd</sup> October for broadband installation. Southside, near Jubilee Close, will be closed for a couple of days from 18<sup>th</sup> October for work on water pipes. The Councillors are looking at what needs doing to the hedges around the play area and a new wheelchair-friendly path beside the Village Hall should be completed before this copy of SAL is delivered.

The Parish Council has a vacancy, so if you feel like contributing to the village and meeting lots of new people then this could be for you. If you are interested you can contact the Parish Clerk, Cathy Fleet, on 07989398838. Or if you would prefer a light-hearted chat about it you can ask me (Julia) on 01869 347850.

Our County Councillor could not make the meeting and sent a report which said, among other things, one bit of Oxfordshire County Council had refused planning permission for a proposal from another part of the Council, a Just Stop Oil supporter has been appointed as an Oxfordshire Tree Officer (great – it shows he is likely to be committed) and a new longer lasting road surface is being tested out on North Street in Middle Barton.

There was a brief discussion of Birmingham Council going bankrupt and the likelihood that other areas will be following soon. It was noted that Cherwell is the eighth most vulnerable local authority in the country. Apparently, Cherwell is having to consider selling Bodicote House and moving to a site they rashly speculated on some years ago.

There was a long discussion, as usual, about dog poo. This time it was on whether more dog poo bins are needed. Apparently, the poo bins are emptied every week in summer and fortnightly in winter. Each emptying costs the village £1.80 a time. The Councillors decided to ask the Dog Warden for advice on whether more bins are

needed and, if so, where because the Councillors' views were incompatible.

We now have three speed indicators and a chicane controlling the four entrances to the village. Two of the speed indicators are solar powered – the ones on Fenway and on Heyford Road. The indicator by the school has a battery and the Councillors asked me to thank Richard MacAndrew for changing and recharging it regularly. The battery is very heavy and needs two people to change it, so a huge thank you from the village to Richard and his helper.

The Parish Council has had a representative on a number of local committees and they wondered if this was necessary. They think it is sufficient to offer to help the committees as and when necessary. The allotments are being leased to the Parish Council by the Diocese of Oxford and in the past there were two inspections by the Parish Councillors of the allotments every year. The chair of the Council said her upstairs windows overlook the allotments and she is very happy to inspect them from there. Everyone appreciated this more relaxed approach.

The play area has had its annual Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) inspection. This year, as in all previous years, they said they could not inspect the zip wire cable because it has a plastic covering and without removing the covering it was impossible to be sure it was ok. The Councillors have recently had the zip wire fixed so this comment was discounted. The Councillors have not got anyone doing a regular inspection and if you would like the job contact Cathy Fleet on 07989 398838.

The Councillors thought it might be useful to warn users the area was not being inspected very regularly, though at the same time to describe the inspections that were being made. We were told that the old BMX track has become a toddler adventure playground because the BMX users have now made themselves a far more exciting alternative track beyond Seven Springs. There were some concerns that bikes and toddlers were not well matched and that perhaps it should be designated specifically for one or the other, but not both.

New bark has been spread out over the play area and the spreading and smoothing of the bark was done by

# Parish Council Meeting Notes



Tom Coker and his helpers. Thank you from the village (and lots of users from outside the village as well).

It is not just dog poo which is a regular issue for the Parish Council. Cleaning the loo on the play area is another. The consensus seemed to be that the loo cleaning should be left with contractors because attempts to find a village alternative had not worked out. One Councillor suggested charging users, but all agreed a cash payment system would invite vandalism and an electronic alternative is impossible at the moment because of the lack of signal.

Finally, they got to the bit I found most interesting – discussing the public meeting of the previous week, referred to here as the Site meeting, to look at possible sites for extra housing in or around the outside of Steeple Aston. One of the Councillors owns one of the bits of land being considered and he was told he would have to leave the meeting when the Council discussed the proposals. It was suggested he should try out the zip wire, but he did not seem to appreciate that idea.

Apparently, there were 75 people at the Site meeting including two (who did not sign in) who were developers involved with what is happening in Kirtlington, where a similar process is under way.

The Councillors said they were glad that many of the land owners had spoken at the Site meeting about the village's need for small and relatively reasonably-priced homes for the young and elderly, with its implicit generous implications.

Cherwell District Council published a Local Plan earlier this year saying Steeple Aston had been identified for 46 new homes by 2040. The Plan was withdrawn and a new version is about to be published which is likely to retain the overall number of new homes required from all Cherwell's villages, but is likely to give no specific target figure for any one village. Martin Lipson, the chair of the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP) team is organising the identification of the least damaging development sites in Steeple Aston. He explained that planning protocols had been followed and this might explain some of the questions he had received. He said there was no simple preference between sites

with a frontage on a reasonably sized road or a back land site with equally good access. MCNP's consultants had stressed the need for owners of back land sites to identify their access routes.

Martin said he is collating the comments from the Site meeting and will report back to the October Parish Council meeting. In addition, he will explain the reports by the MCNP's independent consultants on the environmental impact of developing each site. A Councillor reminded us that when Coneygar Fields was being built the rules on housing need tightened so that people with minimal connections to the village were offered housing here. Martin explained that managing any development through a Community Land Trust would have the advantage the village could ensure the houses would be of the size needed and could go to those with close village connections.

One of the Councillors asked for a definition of 'affordable' housing as the smallest houses at Town End were still £750,000. An excessively loose definition of 'affordable'?

The village has the opportunity to apply for a grant from Oxford County Council for Improvements to Sustainable Transport. This could be used, for example, for setting up electric car charging points, or extending the pavement by the school. The Environment Committee will be sent the details in case they have a suitable project.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 16th October at 7.30pm in the Sports and Recreation Centre. It will be taking a report on the housing needs of the village and the least damaging sites for development. It is likely to be an interesting, or do I mean explosive, meeting. Do come and tell the Councillors what you think.

## ***Steeplejack***

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





## APPLE PRESSING DAYS

*The Steeple Aston and Middle Aston community Apple Press will be available for use at the Red Lion on the following dates:*

**Sunday 17 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Sunday's 1 & 15 OCTOBER 2023**

From 11:30 am

Bring along your apples, a chopping board, a knife and bottles (plastic milk containers are good too). We supply the crusher, apple press, sterilizer and a helping hand.

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## More houses in Steeple Aston?

A packed public meeting in the Village Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> September provided much food for thought about possible future housing sites in Steeple Aston. The event was jointly organised by Steeple Aston Parish Council and the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP) Forum.

There were underlying concerns expressed by several people about whether the narrow streets of the village could cope with any more traffic from expanding the population. If that problem can be overcome, though, there was clearly strong support for the principle of selecting a site or sites on which homes could be built. A map was displayed showing 16 possible sites which the MCNP assessment team was looking at. Of these, seven had already been declared by their owners as ‘unavailable’.

So the focus was now on the remainder, many of whose owners were present at the meeting. Some of them spoke in favour of using their land for relatively modest schemes aimed at meeting local needs, although a view was also expressed that a more ambitious approach was needed to ‘square-off the village’ by extending westwards on several sites. Others in the audience were concerned about the appearance of more new development extending the village out into open countryside. Whether or not a site was connected to the existing village settlement was a point of contention for some, with views expressed that the definition of the settlement area could be changed, while others said that community cohesion was an important aim.

Several people were not impressed by the prices of the new houses at Townend by developer Rectory Homes – out of reach for many. This prompted the response that MCNP’s aim, working with the parish, was to establish a community-led housing organisation that could deliver what was needed locally at affordable prices. This aspiration would be dependent on the co-operation of landowners.

There were contrasting views from some about walking distances from some of the suggested sites to the village amenities – shop, bus stops, Village Hall and playground – which must of course be a factor in any decisions. A dramatic idea to move the school to a new site briefly entertained the meeting as a solution to traffic problems, but was quickly met with questions about who would pay?

The nine sites now in consideration were reviewed one at a time and some useful comments were made which will help the assessors. Since the meeting, more comments have been received from those present and from some who were not. Recommendations will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October and members of the public, as always, are welcome to attend. In November, MCNP will be consulting on changes to the Neighbourhood Plan which will include draft proposals for more homes in Steeple Aston, so there will be further opportunities for comments or objections before decisions are made. Indeed, nothing will be decided until well into next year, when the Plan will go to a local referendum.

Views are welcome at [mcnpsites@gmail.com](mailto:mcnpsites@gmail.com)

### Answers to Mind Games Word Builder

*(see page 13)*

1 nest, 2 rest, 3 near, 4 nape, 5 tear,  
6 sore, 7 neat, 8 rent, 9 pear, 10 pert,  
11 rope, 12 dear, 13 note, 14 tied,  
15 step, 16 toes, 17 dose, 18 nose,  
19 pare, 20 date

THE STEEPLE ASTON RECREATION TRUST AND VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT A

# **FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR**

**SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2023**  
**ROBINSONS CLOSE**

**Gate Open and Food from 6.15pm**

**Bonfire Lit 6.30pm**

**Fireworks Start at 7.00pm promptly**

Admission including food and drink

	Individual	Family
In Advance	£5.00	£14.00



On the Day (Cash Only)	£6.00	£16.00
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U16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Members of the Public must not bring sparklers, fireworks or laser pens of any description

Advance tickets will be on sale from Monday 23rd October from the Village Shop and Barbara Brewer (01869-340423). Advance sales will close at 3.00 pm on the 5th November.

Proceeds will be shared between the Recreation Trust and the Village Hall



## **Steeple and Middle Aston Flower Show and Fun Dog Show**

Bank holiday Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August arrived, as did some fine weather, after what can only be described as ‘an inclement summer’. As the morning progressed, the marquee filled up with exhibits and the judges arrived, ready to make their decisions as to where to award prize cards. With over 700 exhibits in total, those judges were soon hard at work. By around 12.30pm, the prize cards were distributed around the tables.

For a very brief period, peace and quiet fell on Robinsons Close. This was not to last as visitors started to arrive. At this point, I should acknowledge the additional car parking at Hatch End kindly provided by the owners – this relieved the chaos that usually ensues on Fir Lane. For the first time that I can remember, we had traffic operatives guiding cars safely to their parking positions.

The queues began at the gate and by the end of the show we had an estimated 800 visitors on the show ground. Some had travelled from nearby villages and a few from much further afield, such as Bristol. I have always told you that this is the best traditional flower show around, so I guess that is why they travelled so far!

On the field, dogs started to gather ready to show off their special attributes in front of the judge at the Fun Dog Show. The eventual winner of ‘Dog of the Day’ was Bella with her owner, Betsy Walton (see cover). Well done to all the dogs and their owners – you provided some wonderful entertainment.

And talking about entertainment, how about The Wychwayz Morris Dancers who performed all around the ground dressed in what, some thought, might be described as a bit of a scary costume. It is impossible to highlight all that happens on the showground, but Steeple Aston not only has the more traditional games such as bowling and shooting, but also champion plate smashers and, of course, its own steam train! Stalls were scattered around the field, accompanied by ice creams and a BBQ. In the Village Hall the team of tea ladies, and probably tea gents, were kept exceptionally busy serving homemade cakes and copious amounts of tea and coffee.

So how does all this happen? With a few breaks due to unavoidable circumstances, such as war or a pandemic, this show has been held here for over 130 years – a tradition that encapsulates all that is great about living in such a wonderful part of the country. It is primarily down to a very small committee of dedicated volunteers who give their time to make this show and the spring show happen. A bit like the show itself, many of the committee are also getting older and could do with some help. On saying that, we have to thank all those wonderful people who offered their help at this year’s show without being part of the committee.

My personal thought is that things could be even better when you consider a marquee is on the field from the Friday before the show and not used before the Sunday morning. A marquee that size costs over £2,000, so what an opportunity for another village event that weekend? Maybe some different classes in the show itself? Different games and stalls on the field? The possibilities are endless, but can only happen if someone leads the ideas.

Anyhow, enough of my thoughts. Can I just say what a pleasure it was for me to be Chairman of The Horticultural Society and be able to provide such an enjoyable afternoon’s entertainment in the village and see so many smiling faces. And last, but not least, thank you to my amazing committee who work tirelessly to stage this show. Many thanks to all concerned.

**Richard Preston**

*See next page for photos of the event.*



# **Steeple Aston & Middle Aston Annual Flower Show and Fun Dog Show**

*photographs by Catherine Crook  
and Paul Honigmann*









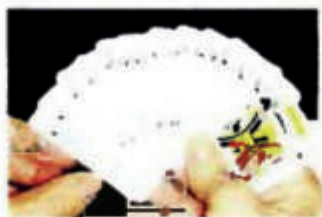
## 2023 SUMMER HORTICULTURAL SHOW RESULTS

<b>Hayter Cup</b> <b>Robson Cup</b> <b>Wadham Cup</b> <b>Walker Cup for Show Champion</b> <b>Coronation Bowl</b> <b>Gladys Stevens Memorial Cup</b> <b>Scott Cup</b> <b>Rose Lilley Memorial Trophy</b> <b>Lee Cup</b> <b>Rousham Cup</b> <b>Doug Walton Trophy</b> <b>Fothergills Cup</b>	Geoff Rawnsley Stan.Nelson Daphne Preston Daphne Preston Victoria Clifton Janet Coley Daphne Preston Daphne Preston Geoff Rawnsley Richard Preston Lily Bockenek Daphne Preston	<b>George Alder Memorial</b> <b>Beehive Cup</b> <b>Lilley Cup</b> <b>Jean Stone Trophy</b> <b>Photography Cup</b> <b>Banksian Medal</b> <b>Senior Children's Cup</b> <b>Junior Children's Cup</b>  <b>Under 8s Cup</b> <b>Under 5s Cup</b> <b>Childrens Photography</b>	Daphne Preston Mary White Steve Chessum Jon Gascoyne Jon Gascoyne Richard Preston Jenny Marsden Hector Wheeler Nunneley Isobel Coysh Jacob Lewin Jenny Marsden
	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
4 tomatoes	Mary White	Caroline Parsons	Julia Whybrew
5 pods of runner beans	Graham Clifton	Geoff Rawnsley	Rachel Marsden
3 onions	Marie O'Conner	Rachel Marsden	Geoff Rawnsley
3 carrots	Geoff Rawnsley	Rachel Marsden	Stuart Cummins
3 salad vegetables	Geoff Rawnsley	Mark Utting	Chris Neville
4 potatoes – coloured	Graham Clifton	Geoff Rawnsley	Alex Pasteur
4 potatoes – white	Graham Clifton	Geoff Rawnsley	Alex Pasteur
3 beetroot	Paul Rodgers	Mark Utting	Harriet Higgins
3 courgettes	Mary White	Harriet Higgins	Chris Neville
5 cherry tomatoes	Mary White	Chris Nevile	Caroline Edwards
5 dwarf beans	John Coley	Mark Utting	Stuart Cummins
Collection of 4 vegetables	Geoff Rawnsley	Graham Clifton	Rachel Marsden
Best other vegetable	Geoff Rawnsley	Mark Utting	Mary White
3 dahlias	Chris Cooper	Stuart Cummins	John Coley
3 stems of annuals	Caroline Neville	Mary While	
Cut, mixed flowers	Mary White	Caroline Neville	Rachel Marsden
3 stems of roses	Harriet Higgins	Caroline Edwards	
Outdoor Planter or hanging basket	Daphne Preston	Diana Relton /Ann Bonwick	
5 tomatoes	Richard Preston	Andrew Grimmett	Chris Cooper
5 pods of runner beans	Andrew Grimmett	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson
1 cabbage	Richard Preston	Chris Cooper	Mark Utting
3 carrots – long	Stan Nelson		
3 carrots – short	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	Paul Rodgers
4 potatoes – coloured	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	Andrew Grimmett
4 potatoes – white	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson	Richard Preston
3 beetroot	Stan Nelson	Paul Rogers	Chris Cooper
Collection of 5 vegetables	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	Andrew Grimmett
4 onions – over 250 gms	Lily Bockenek		
4 onions – under 250 gms	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	Lily Bockenek
Collection of salad vegetables	Stan Nelson	Richard Preston	Andrew Grimmett
A cucumber	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	Chris Cooper
5 pods of dwarf beans	Stan Nelson		
A lettuce	Stan Nelson		
5 cherry tomatoes	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	Chris Cooper
3 courgettes	Stan Nelson	Rachel Makari	
2 peppers	Andrew Grimmett		
2 sweetcom	Rachel Marsden	Stan Nelson	Stuart Cummins
5 spring onions	Andrew Grimmett	Mark Utting	Stan Nelson
2 leeks	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	
2 parsnips	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	
6 shallots – pickling	Stan Nelson	Andrew Grimmett	
6 shallots – culinary	Stan Nelson	Andrew Grimmett	
2 sticks of celery	Richard Preston		
Best veg not otherwise specified	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson	Lily Bockenek
Collection of herbs	Mary White	Richard Preston	Rachel Marsden
Pair of Table marrows	Lily Bockenek	Stan Nelson	
4 apples – culinary	Chris Cooper	Judith Pettersen	Joanne Everett
4 apples – dessert	Hannah Norbury Meeajane	Richard Preston	Chris Cooper
3 pears	Harriet Higgins	Stan Nelson	Joanne Everett
5 plums	Joanna Everett	Mary White	Carla Shayler
Dish of blackberries	Stan Nelson	Rachel Marsden	Helen Wright
Dish of fresh fruit	Mary White	Judith Pettersen	Richard Preston
Bowl of mixed home-grown fruit	Mary White		
3 dahlias - cactus	Daphne Preston	C Neville	Caroline Parson
3 dahlias – decorative	Daphne Preston	S.Chessum/ Stephen Spencer	R Hopkins
5 dahlias – pom	Daphne Preston		
3 stems of annuals	Lottie Horwood	Daphne Preston	
Vase of mixed grasses	Caroline Neville	Daphne Preston	Caroline Edwards
3 vases of garden flowers	Daphne Preston	Victoria Clifton	
3 Gladioli spikes	Daphne Preston		
Single gladioli spike	Daphne Preston	John Coley	Carla Shayler
Cut mixed garden flowers	Daphne Preston	Caroline Parsons	Antonia Maclean
3 single rose blooms		Daphne Preston	
A single bloom rose – unwired	Steve Chessum	Carla Shayler	Racheal Makari

Roses for scent	Daphne Preston	Victoria Clifton	Caroline Edwards
Spray of floribunda roses	Daphne Preston	Caroline Edwards	
5 perennials	Daphne Preston		
5 Stems of sweet peas	Victoria Clifton	Chris Cooper	
Clematis Blooms floating in water	Daphne Preston	Claire Coysh	
Pelargonium - pot plant		Daphne Preston	
Pot plant flowering	Victoria Clifton	Barbara Brewer	Daphne Preston
Pot plant foliage	Barbara Brewer	Daphne Preston	Carla Shayler
Pot plant succulent	Caroline Neville	Chris Neville	Daphne Preston
5 Fuchsia flower heads	Chris Cooper	Daphne Preston	Judith Pettersen
Arrangement from my garden	Edwina Kinch	Harriet Higgins	Caroline Edwards
Holiday inspired arrangement	Daphne Preston	Judith Pettersen	Rebecca Lewin
'Red' arrangement	Caroline Edwards	Rebecca Lewin	Daphne Preston
Foliage arrangement	Daphne Preston	Charlotte Powell	Rebecca Lewin
Arr. In an item of headwear	Rebecca Lewin	Daphne Preston	
Arrangement for 5 blooms	Rebecca Lewin	Daphne Preston	
Arrangement in an egg cup	Judith Pettersen	Daphne Preston	Rebecca Lewin
Hand knitting/ Crochet	Joyce bedding	Barbara Brewer	Racheal Makari
Illustrated capital letter	Janet Coley	Mary White	Amanda Rodgers
An item of patchwork	Janet Coley	Charlotte Bartlett	Mrs P Hopkins
Garden on a plate	Janet Coley	Dorothy Clifton	Victoria Clifton
Flower pot person	Janet Coley	Jenny Hickey	Rebecca Lewin
A painting or drawing	Susannah Cohen	Janet Coley	Sue King
Piece of embroidery or tapestry	Janet Coley	Hattie Wright	Mrs P Hopkins
Any other handicraft	Isla Markham	Jenny Marsden	
Limerick	Caroline Edwards	Catherine Purtell	Susannah Cohen
Photo: Panel of 4 'Colour'	Jon Gascoyne	Janet Coley	John Coley
Photo: 'Weathervane'	Janet Coley	John Coley	Jenny Marsden
Photo: 'Renewable energy'	Jon Gascoyne	Janet Coley	John Coley
Photo: 'Shop windows'	John Coley	Janet Coley	Jon Gascoyne
Photo: 'Celebration'	Victoria Clifton	Sarah Turl	Jon Gascoyne
Photo: Insects	Carla Shayler	Jon Gascoyne	Lauren Reid
Lemon curd	Victoria Clifton	Mary White	Lucy Duncan
Strawberry Jam	Julia Whybrew	Sally Cooper	Antonia Maclean
Other jam	Marie O'Conner	Antonia Maclean	Dorothy Clifton
Marmalade	Rebecca Lewin	Judith Pettersen	Mary White
Pot of jelly	Julia Whybrew	Stuart Cummins	Richard Critchley
Pot of chutney	Catherine Purtell	Judith Pettersen	John Coley
Cottage Loaf	Julia Whybrew	Victoria Clifton	John Coley
Savoury flan	Julia Whybrew	Hattie Wright	Antonia Maclean
5 Cheese Straws	Victoria Clifton	Antonia Maclean	Lucy Duncan
3 Chelsea buns	Victoria Clifton	John Coley	Julia Whybrew
5 Custard tarts	Victoria Clifton	Rebecca Lewin	James Marsden
Victoria Sandwich	Claire Coysh	Victoria Clifton	Daphne Preston
3 Biscotti	Antonia Maclean	Rachel Marsden	Julia Whybrew
5 Fudge	Claire Coysh	Mrs P Hopkins	Lucy Duncan
Homemade cordial	Rebecca Lewin	Antonia Maclean	Hattie Wright
Homemade flavoured gin	Rebecca Lewin	Julia Whybrew	Victoria Clifton
Decorated Birthday cake	Daphne Preston	Jenny Marsden	James Marsden
Dundee cake	Andrew Grimmett	Daphne Preston	Victoria Clifton
Under 5: A pasta painting picture	Rebecca Purtell	Jacob Lewin	Zora Meeajane
Under 5: A painting or Drawing	Jacob Lewin	Zora Meeajane	Rebecca Purtell
Under 5: 3 decorated fairy cakes	Jacob Lewin	Rebecca Purtell	Zora Meeajane
Age 5 – Lego car	Ottie Maclean	Charlotte Purtell	Isobel Coysh
Age 5-7Animal face on paperplate	Isobel Coysh	Charlotte Purtell	Megan Walker
Age 5 – 7 3 Krispie cakes	Sophia John	Isobel Coysh	Ottie Maclean
Age 8 – 11 A butterfly from junk	Hector Wheeler Nunneley		
Age 8-11 Chocolate sponge	Sienna Balaji	Hector Wheeler Nunneley	Woody Wright
Age 8 – 11 Painting or Drawing	Hector Wheeler Nunneley	James Walker	Sienna Balaji
Age 8-11 Garden on a plate	Isla Markham	Hector Wheeler Nunneley	
Age 12 – 15 Upcycled 2ltr bottle	Jenny Marsden	Lily Bockenek	Hattie Wright
Age 12 – 15 Stained glass window	Jenny Marsden	Seren Wheeler Nunneley	Hattie Wright
Age 12-15 3 Chocolate Brownies	Ollie Martin	Seren Wheeler – Nunneley	Jenny Marsden
Age 12 – 15 Pointillism	Ollie Martin	Jenny Marsden	James Marsden
Junior photos 'Yellow'	Jenny Marsden	Isla Markham	Hattie Wright
Junior photo 'Wheels'	Hector Wheeler Nunneley	Isobel Coysh	Jenny Marsden
Junior photos 'Celebration'	Bella Reid	Sienna Balaji	Seren WheelerNunneley
3 Eggs	Carla Shayler		
Largest sunflower head	Dorothy Clifton		
Heaviest pumpkin	Richard Preston		
Heaviest potato	Graham Clifton		
Heaviest marrow	Harriet Higgins		
Most misshapen vegetable	Richard Preston		
Longest Bean	Andrew Grimmett		

*Do you play Bridge?*

*Ever thought about playing in a club?*



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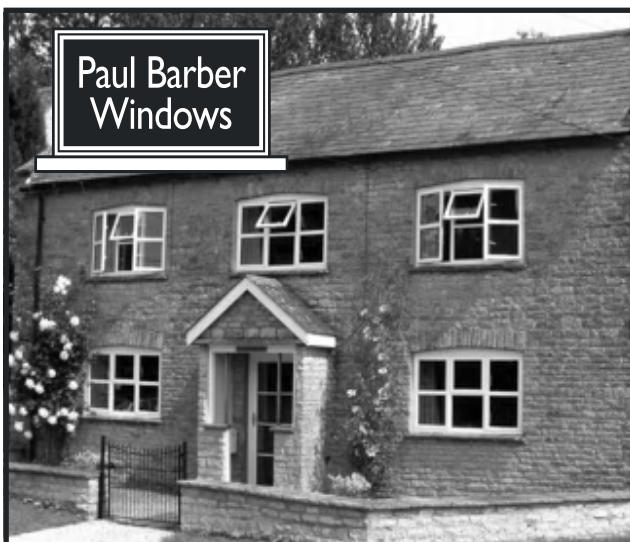
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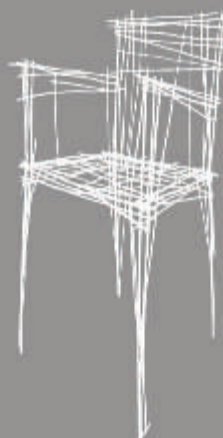
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St Peter and St Paul's Church, Steeple Aston  
Thursday 26th October - 7.00pm

# **“THE ROYAL COMMISSION FOR THE EXHIBITION OF 1851”**

An Illustrated Talk by  
**John Lavery MVO**  
Secretary to the Commission



A fascinating view into an historical event which influenced science and technology in the past. The Commission's work in our own day may well amaze you.

Refreshments from 7.15pm  
Donations invited - Proceeds to the Parish Church Funds.



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## *THE VALENTINE CLUB*

I am writing this just before 38 members of the club depart for a holiday to Llandudno so it's fingers crossed that summer continues for a few more days.

For our meeting in September, we welcomed for the first time Neil, who was described by many of the members as the best singer we have had. Having travelled from Kettering to sing for us, he later contacted me to say what a wonderful group we were, and he would love to come back at some stage.

Our next trip is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October when we travel to The National Memorial Arboretum to not only enjoy a chance to view the amazing memorials to all those who have served our country, but to enjoy a two-course meal with friends.

Our meeting for this month is yet another chance to eat together, this time with fish and chips and puddings supplied by many of our members. We will also welcome as a guest, the police commissioner for Thames Valley Police Mr Mathew Barber, so hopefully, all our members will be on their best behaviour.

To find more about The Valentine Club, simply visit our website at <https://valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston> or keep up to date by looking on the village website [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 that we do why not have a go at [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***



*One of the memorials at the National Memorial Arboretum.*





# Your Village Needs You

Steeple Aston's roads and pavements have been taking quite a hammering over the last few years and your Parish Council, with your approval, would like to start a new community initiative to clean and tidy up our streets. The sort of things that we could do are:

- Cleaning roadside signs
- Sweeping the pavements outside your house!
- Clearing debris from road gutters into your brown bins.
- Remove any obstacles on pavements such as builder's rubble/bags.
- Ask estate agents to remove boards once a property has sold.
- Remove all notices once an event has passed.
- Cut hedges which are intruding onto the pavement.

We could all do these simple jobs regularly but if you can't, please let your Parish Council know and we can send in the "PC Team" to help out.

Let's be proud of our village and help each other – we can do it – and start a new competition – "best kept village streets".

If you would kindly like to join the "PC Team" for a few hours per month, please contact:



[peter.dammermann.sapc@gmail.com](mailto:peter.dammermann.sapc@gmail.com)

# DR RADCLIFFE'S TRUST ANNUAL AWARDS

## TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

The Dr Radcliffe's Trust invites applications from young people who:

are 16 (post GCSE) - 25 years old

are studying at school, college, university or are in an apprenticeship

live in Steeple or Middle Aston, or attended Dr Radcliffe's School for a minimum of 2 years.

In the past awards have been made to help fund school or college field trips, tools or equipment for apprenticeships or vocational training, uniforms for trainees, specialist software and laptops, equipment for students at college or university, travel costs, and help with living expenses for those living away from home.

Awards are made based on the financial needs of the applicant, so family household income is considered, but there is no restriction as to family income; each case is considered individually. Young people can apply any year that they are eligible regardless of whether they have received an award in the past.

Applications for the awards must be made by 11<sup>th</sup> November. Any late applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. The scholarship committee then reviews the applications and aims to make awards during December.

To simplify the application process this year we are asking young people to apply electronically via a Google form. The link to this is given below as well as a QR code. The link can also be found on the Steeple Aston website and Facebook page.

<https://forms.gle/ZjxSi5FYxUPr5ya4A>



If you need help with the application process or need more information then please contact me, Tina Ferguson. My email address is [tina.merlins@gmail.com](mailto:tina.merlins@gmail.com)



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September's meeting saw Adderbury connect via the wonders of technology (albeit intermittent!) with South Africa, so we could chat with past member and keen wildlife photographer, Scott Hurd.

Scott's talk, entitled 'My Namibia' took us on a journey from the beginnings of his hobby with his Aunty Vera through to his photography around the country. Scott explores Namibia in his Bakkie (4x4 off-road vehicle) and began by showing us his recent visit to the Vasbyt (meaning 'art of being stoical') 4x4 races, where competitors driving adapted 4x4s must keep between the white taped off area and complete the course as quickly as possible, but remain in one piece! What started out as a predominantly white spectator and participant sport, thanks to historical apartheid, is now enjoying more spectators from other communities.

Scott also showed us how the country can go from rain and rainbows to 'dust devils', which is a loose term for upside down plug holes which are similar to hurricanes and tornadoes, but on a smaller scale. He mentioned if you are caught in a dust devil, you will spend the next few hours cleaning your lenses of dust and debris!

Scott enjoys his work as a hotel photographer and has travelled the length and breadth of the country photographing all manner of hotels and camping sites. Scott explained how he enjoys getting to know hotel and kitchen staff as they are the beating heart of the business and will always keep you fed and watered!

As Namibia enjoys more sun hours than the UK, it's not surprising that they are now embracing solar panels in some of the hotels and lodges and that this usage is expanding.

Scott's local area is surrounded by a variety of animals including flamingos, onyx and cattle. If he travels further inland he can see elephants, geckos, yellow hornbills and baboons. He explained that the local Herrero people rehabilitated the vulture population.

Scott's travels have taken him further north to photograph hyenas, zebras and antelopes. On his travels into Botswana, he has photographed elephants, hippos, cape buffalo, bee-eaters and spoonbills.

This month sees our Annual Exhibition on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October at The Adderbury Institute, where our members will exhibit a variety of high-quality images taken in the past 12 months. All are welcome.

**Courtney Killpack**  
[www.addphoto.co.uk](http://www.addphoto.co.uk)

## Check your insurance

A recent post on a photo forum relates the sad tale of a photographer who had all his cameras and lenses stolen. He made a claim to his insurance company, but this was rejected as he had discarded all his receipts. As the insurer pointed out, there was no proof that he had actually owned the equipment.

The advice is to retain receipts for the period you own equipment, even if this is many years. As a back-up, it is also worth photographing the equipment, if possible showing any serial numbers.

This advice, of course, applies to anything of value you own – mobile phones, computers, jewellery, and much more.

**Robert Scott**



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**Wooden Christmas Decorations** – over the course of three evenings, hand paint, with festive designs, a wooden Christmas tree (made from recycled wood) and a set of tree decorations. Trees/decorations, paint and all equipment provided.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November, 6:30 – 8:30pm (3-week course)**

**Introduction to Furniture Painting** - You will learn a range of key skills, including preparation, painting techniques, and detailing such as distressing, crackle glazing, detailing, and stencilling. Practice items, all paints and equipment will be provided. All you need to do is bring a small item that you would like to paint/upcycle.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 10:00am – 4:00 pm**

**Hosted at The Indian Block Print Co. studio,  
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# Village Hall News



## Annual fireworks evening Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Gates will open with food available from 6:15pm. Bonfire lit from 6:30pm approx. Fireworks at 7pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to enjoy a spectacular evening of fireworks and refreshments. The Recreational Trust and Village hall committee will present a great display in a safe environment. Please do not bring fireworks, laser pens or sparklers to this event. Glow Sticks will be available for sale at the gate. Ticket price includes our special homemade soup together with sausage in a roll and squash for the very young.

Please do not dump any wood or rubbish outside the gate or in the field prior to the event. If anyone has wood to burn, please contact a Village Hall / Recreational Trust committee member.

All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event.

**Ticket prices:** bought in advance £14 family, £5 single. On the gate £16 family, £6 single. If you are purchasing tickets on the gate and to avoid a long queue, please come along with the correct money, if possible. Cash only.

**Tickets available from Barbara (01869 340423) and Steeple Aston Village Shop from Monday 23rd October.** Ticket sales from the Village Shop will close at 3pm on the day.

## Wassail evening, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 6pm

Enjoy a light-hearted evening of mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies, carols, readings, handbell ringers and Christmas music. This is an opportunity for everyone, families, young and old to join in some community singing. Free entry.

## Annual Quiz, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Please book your teams early to avoid disappointment. Further details next month.

Our letting agent is Mrs. Angela Smith, telephone 07734112967 (please do not call this number between 6pm and 8pm unless urgent).

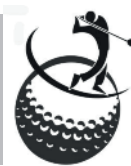
Email: [steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com](mailto:steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com)

Collect keys from 'Mijas' South Side, Steeple Aston. OX25 4RU.

**Barbara Brewer – chair**

<https://savh.org.uk/>

# Steeple Aston Golf Society



The fourth game of the season was at Wrag Barn, where the weather was a warm 24 degrees and the course was in good condition, as always. Fifteen players turned out on the day and it was a Kay whitewash with Teddy Kay winning with an excellent 37 points playing off of 4, two shots clear of runner-up Martin Kay. Teddy will be cut one shot for winning and one shot for scoring 37 points or more. Nearest the pin was Jack Kay and nearest the pin in 2 was Martin Kay. George and Teddy Kay had birdie twos.

Our next and final meeting is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October when we will be playing at North Oxford, a course which SAGS has visited before. This may well be our final game at this course as the colleges want their land back and intend to turn it into a housing estate. The Chairman's Cup & GPK Cup will now be played for at this meeting. We will meet at 12 noon and, as always, if anyone would like to join us on this our final meeting of the season, please give Alan or Chris a ring on 01869 340423 / 347173

*Lee Trevino won six majors, but started out as a caddie, so he speaks from experience when he says, "Nobody but you and your caddie care what you do out there, and if your caddie is betting against you, he doesn't care, either".*

**Alan Brewer (chair)**





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Steeple Aston WI goes from strength to strength and now has 39 wonderful members. If you like the idea of making new friends, hearing interesting speakers, going on theatre trips, meeting for pub lunches, garden parties, a Christmas lunch, the occasional craft class and having a go at walking netball, why not consider joining us? For more information, contact the current President, Julie Hillier on 349185 or at [j.hillier3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j.hillier3@hotmail.co.uk)

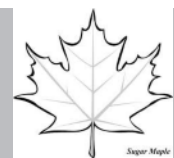
Our speaker for September was Graham Sutherland. His talk was entitled '*Drainpipe Trousers to Rock 'n' Roll*'. To my surprise it was not a talk about music, but instead was a fascinating look at the decade of the 1950s, covering many aspects of British life. One area he looked at was fashion. His collection of old photographs showed the gradual relaxing of the formal clothing styles of the early 50s, when women almost always wore a hat and men wore a shirt and tie even when relaxing. He also looked at increasing mechanisation, at how inventions such as the electric iron and the Hoover revolutionised housework. The photographs – particularly old adverts – brought back many memories and were sometimes hilarious. The idea that a stylish evening party of glamorously-dressed people would culminate in *Bovril sandwiches* or that an adolescent boy's ambition to be a doctor could be set on the right track by his drinking *Ovaltine*, caused much laughter and the audience were both amused by, and nostalgic for, this bygone era.

Thanks to all the members who helped out or baked supplies for the cake sale last month, which gave a useful boost to our finances.

The line-up of events has now been completed up to April 2024 and once the programme has been printed, every member will get a copy. Our next meeting, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm in the Village Hall, is a talk by Alistair Lack. He is a returning speaker and will tell us about his life in the BBC World Service. Visitors are welcome.

**Cathy Lawday**

## Steeple Aston Garden Club



Our September outing was a visit to Barton Abbey, with a tour of the grounds by the Head Gardener. This has rounded off this year's summer visits, which have all been very enjoyable. We now start our inside meetings, which I am sure will be just as good.

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Steeple Aston welcomes Alan Clark speaking about 'Extreme Allotmenting'. This is a man who has NINE allotments! The evening starts with tea and coffee from 7pm and the talk begins at 7.30pm. Looking forward to us all getting together at the Village Hall. New members are welcome.

**Chris Clarke**  
**S. A. Garden Club Secretary**



United Benefice of Steeple  
Aston with North Aston  
and Tackley

## All Souls Service

Sunday 29th October 2023  
at 5.30pm  
at St Nicholas Church,  
Tackley

All are welcome to remember family and friends who died recently or longer ago. Candles will be lit and names read out.



## WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL CHURCH QUIZ EVENING



**In the Village Hall  
On  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November  
At 7.30pm**

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phone 07811 820536 by 8<sup>th</sup>  
November**

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# Church Matters



*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

As we begin October with our local harvest celebrations (which everyone is very welcome to join us at 6pm on 1<sup>st</sup> October at SS Peter and Paul Church followed by Harvest Supper in the Village Hall), and others around the world, we say thank you to God for the harvest.

The seasons around us are changing, in more ways than one, as we see climate change apparent in the weather. The disruption to the Gulf Stream, not coming as far north as usual, can be seen in our poor summer and the heatwaves and wild fires followed by torrential rain and floods in Europe. Part of being thankful for God's gifts to us is good stewardship of them, caring for our environment. Our efforts in working towards net zero carbon will ensure that future generations will also be able to be thankful for creation.

The changing of the seasons are clearly visible by the beginning of October. The days are shorter and the nights longer. The temperature drops in the evenings as they struggle to hold the warmth of the days. The countryside around us is also changing with ripening apples and blackberries, and shiny conkers. The leaves of trees are turning from green to a range of colourful hues of red, orange and brown before falling to the ground. Animals are busy preparing for the winter and we have begun to see the arrival of starlings from northern Europe in search of warmer weather. In contrast, other animals are fattening up and burying food ready for the winter.

There are different seasons within the life of our local communities. In Steeple Aston this term we welcome Rob O'Malley as the new headteacher at Dr Radcliffe's. Everyone is excited about how he, together with his staff, will shape the next season of the school's life and the positive impact it will have for the children and the wider community.

There are also seasons within our own lives, stages through which we grow before moving on to the next season. This summer saw our youngest child graduate. His graduation service was a wonderful celebration of his and his fellow students' achievements. Equally, it was the closing of one season – student life – and the threshold of a new season – work and career.

The musical 'Salad Days' begins with Jane and Timothy meeting as they leave Oxford University, promising "not to look back", recognising the fun they shared with friends is to be remembered and celebrated, but that they must go forward into a new season of life. The rest of the musical is about that transition, about looking forward and embracing the new opportunities that lie ahead.

Sometimes the road ahead is clear and we know where we are going and have a clear plan of how to get there. In the middle of October, I'm going on retreat in North Wales, travelling by train. I have my ticket and know how I'm going to get there. Sometimes, though, the way isn't as clearly defined and we have to feel our way forward, pushing forward, perhaps cautiously as through mist and fog, trusting that the sun will burn through and that new doors will open for us. At these moments we can take comfort that God is walking with us and that he "knows the plans he has for us, plans to prosper and not to harm, plans to give us hope and a future" (from Jeremiah 29:11).

God bless.

**Harriet**

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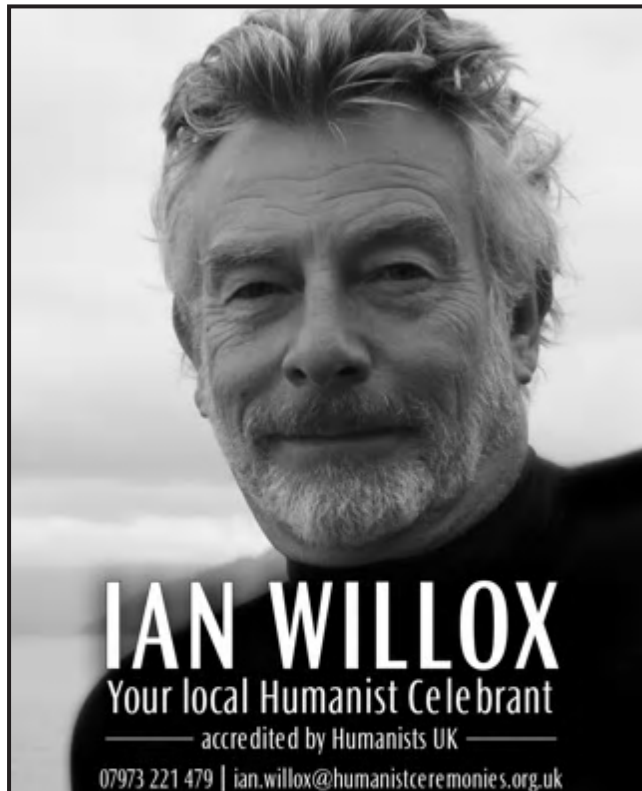
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# Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
<b>Sunday</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> October</b> Trinity 17	<b>9.30am</b> Harvest Service	<b>6.00pm</b> Harvest Evensong <i>followed by supper</i>	<b>5.30pm</b> Evensong
<b>Sunday</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> October</b> Trinity 18	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	<b>11.00am</b> Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	<b>5.30pm</b> Harvest Service <i>followed by auction</i>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> October</b> Trinity 19	<b>9.30am</b> Family Service with Baptism	<b>11.00am</b> Family Service with Baptism	<b>5.30pm</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sunday</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup> October</b> Trinity 20	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Worship	<b>11.00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sunday</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> October</b> Trinity 21	<b>9.30am</b> Benefice Holy Communion	<b>2.30pm</b> All Saints Tea	<b>5.30pm</b> All Souls Service
<p align="center"><b><u><a href="http://www.sntchurch.com">www.sntchurch.com</a></u></b></p> <p align="center"><i>The church buildings are open every day. Feel free to visit at any time.</i></p>			






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# Steeple Aston Online

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# Local Info

## STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL HIRING FEES

Website: [www.savh.org.uk](http://www.savh.org.uk)

### 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: £55.00  
(Daily up to 6 hours, from 6.00pm)

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

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

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 3 September 2023.

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

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

0619 0721 0831 0931 then hourly to 1531 1645 1754 1849 2002 2102 2216  
0703 0817 0920 1020 1620 1737 1840 1932 2047 2147 2253

##### Saturdays

0721 0821 0931 then hourly to 1531 1641 1746 1849 2002 2102 2216  
0809 0909 1019 1619 1729 1834 1932 2047 2147 2253

##### Sundays and most public holidays

0907 1037 1207 1337 1507 1637 1806  
0953 1123 1253 1423 1553 1723 1852

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

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

0758 0910 1008 then hourly to 1508 1624 1732 1835 1933 2025 2135 2246 2346  
0837 0947 1045 1545 1703 1809 1909 2006 2053 2203 2315 0015

##### Saturdays

0758 0908 1008 then hourly to 1608 1718 1828 1927 2025 2135 2246 2346  
0837 0945 1045 1645 1755 1905 1958 2053 2203 2315 0015

##### Sundays and most public holidays

0917 1044 1214 1344 1514 1644 1814 1944  
0956 1122 1252 1422 1552 1722 1852 2022

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

### October 2023

5<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
12<sup>th</sup> Green  
19<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
26<sup>th</sup> Green



### November 2023

2<sup>nd</sup> Blue and brown  
9<sup>th</sup> Green  
16<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
23<sup>rd</sup> Green  
30<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown

**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 October and November to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

## OCTOBER 2023

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Photo Exhibition. AD&D Photographic Society	Adderbury Institute	10am to 4pm
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Harvest Supper (following Harvest Festival Evensong)	Village Hall	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Garden Club. Alan Clark: 'Extreme Allotmenting'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Valentine Club. The National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire		
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Steeple Aston Choral Society: Music for Pleasure	Village Hall	6.30pm for 7pm
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	WI. Alan Lack: 'My Life in the BBC World Service'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm

## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> SAL November 2023 copy and advert deadlines

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Valentine Club. Fish & Chips, plus pudding (£8)	Village Hall	1.30pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	John Lavery: 'The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851'	SA Church	7pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	All Souls Service	Tackley Church	5.30pm

## NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Fireworks Spectacular	Robinsons Close	from 6.15pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club. Paul Williams: 'Digging Deeper'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	SAVA. Village Memories	Village Hall	3pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	WI. Jennifer Cowling: 'Those extraordinary things we say'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> SAL December 2023 copy and advert deadlines

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Church Quiz	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council meeting	S & R Building	7.30pm
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Valentine Club. Ukuleles from Bicester U3A	Village Hall	2.30pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Steeple Aston Choral Society. Christmas music	SA Church	7pm

**Choral Society Rehearsals.** Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays

**Badminton.** Village Hall - 10am -12.30pm - Tuesdays

**Bell Ringing practice.** Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays

**Brownies.** Sport & Rec Centre - 6pm - 7.30pm - Wednesdays

**Toddler Group.** Sport & Rec Centre - 9.30am -11.30am - Thursdays

**Badminton.** Village Hall - 8pm - Thursdays

**Village History Centre (SAVA).** 10am - 12pm - Saturdays

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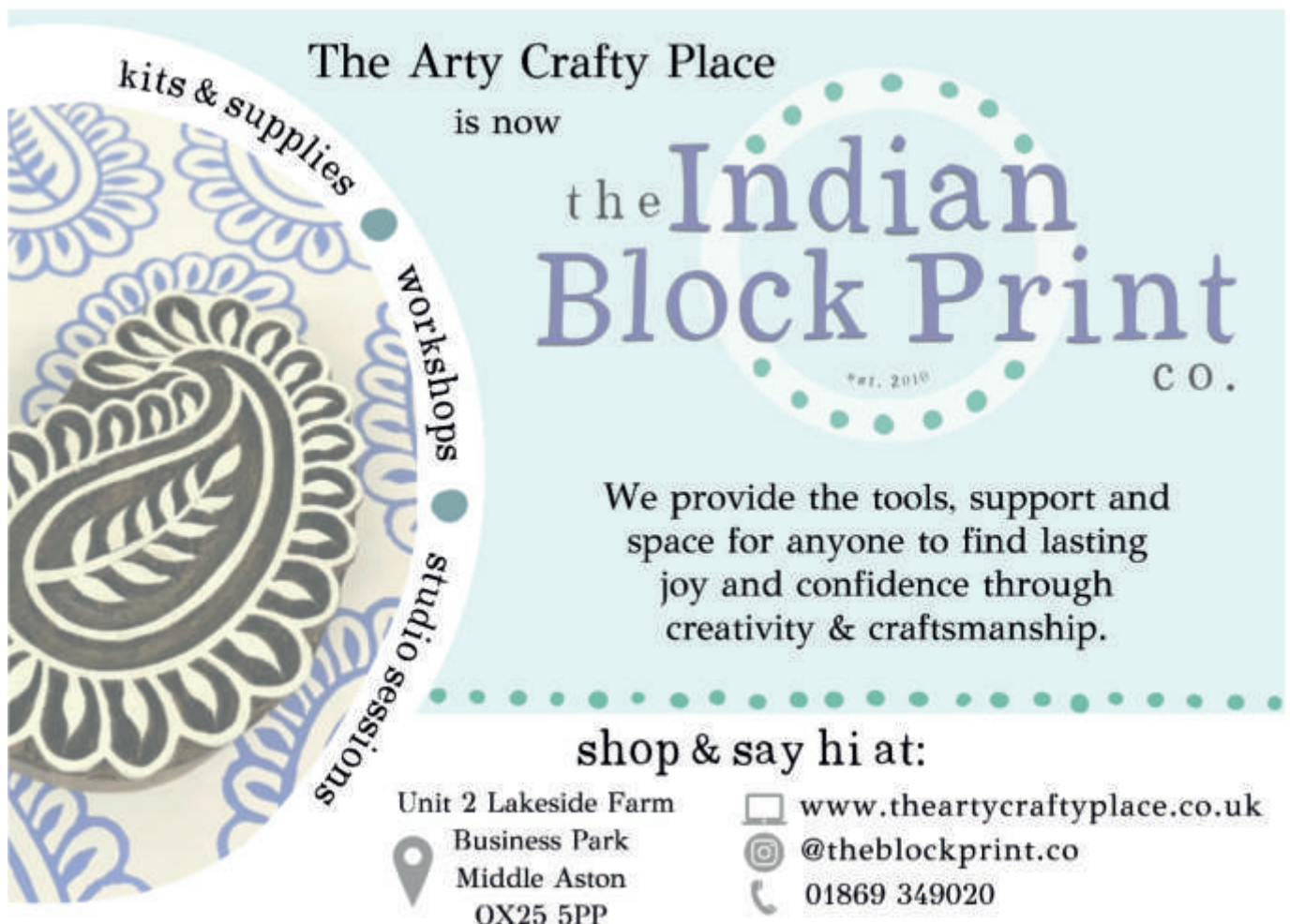
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