

# Steeple Aston

November 2023 Issue No. 603

# Life



- Stir up Sunday • Thermal camera project • Music for Pleasure review •
- Chicken Sheds development • WI owl evening • Rector on Remembrance •

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# November 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>NOVEMBER FEATURES</b>  | <b>PAGE</b> | <b>REPORTS FROM CLUBS &amp; SOCIETIES</b> | <b>PAGE</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| Chicken sheds expansion   | 33          | AD&D Photographic Society                 | 35          |
| Music for Pleasure review | 24/25       | Garden Club                               | 35          |
| Stir Up Sunday            | 23          | Golf Society                              | 37          |
| Thermal Camera Project    | 19          | Valentine Club                            | 29          |
|                           |             | 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            | 17          | Steeple Aston Calendar                    | 46          |
| Have you ever been to...? | 15          | Steeple Aston Directory                   | 4           |
| Mind games                | 13          | Steeple Aston Noticeboard                 | 6/7         |
| Steeplejack PC report     | 20/21       | Village Hall News                         | 37          |
| Steeple People            | 9           |   |             |

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

Cover: An aerial view of Steeple Aston in the autumn  
(Photo by Nigel Francis)

## 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 December 2023 issue is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

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# Steeple Aston Directory

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| Badminton (Thursday evenings)                  |  | Alison Moran                        | 347033                           |
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|  | Churchwardens  | Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton | 340099 , 347273                  |
| Methodist Church – Tackley                     |  | Rev Paul Carter                     | 01865 243216                     |
|  | Steward  | Tim Bailey                          | 01869 331516                     |
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|  |  | Cllr Bryn Williams                  | 07836 271998                     |
|  |  | Cllr Hugo Brown                     |                                  |
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| 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 Emergency Telephone System             |  | 690691                              |                                  |
| Village Website                                | <a href="http://www.steepleaston.org.uk">www.steepleaston.org.uk</a> | Editor: Jenny Bell                  | 943573                           |
| Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme |  | 0300 3030125                        |                                  |
| WI   | President  | Julie Hillier                       | 349185                           |



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

## Steeple Aston *Life*

November 2023  
Issue No. 603

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# Editorial

*"How sad would be November if we had no knowledge of the spring!"* Edwin Way Teale, an American naturalist, photographer and writer, 1899 to 1980.

Overlooked in the October issue was the fact that that the last Sunday of the month marked the end of British Summer Time (BST) for the year. But did the clocks go forward or back? An easy aide-memoire is to think of the seasons – ‘spring forward’ and ‘fall back’. So you should have enjoyed an extra hour of sleep.

But how much sleep do we need? This will depend on our age. For the first five years, anything between 10 and 15 hours a day (or night) is recommended. As you start school, 9 to 12 hours might be enough. In your teen years, 8 to 10 hours should be adequate, reducing to 7 hours or more as you enter adulthood. Older adults (60+) tend to sleep for shorter periods at night.

Why do we need to spend around a third of our lives asleep? You might think that it is a time of rest. In fact, your brain and body remain remarkably active during this period. Research suggests that sleep plays an important housekeeping role. Without adequate sleep, it is difficult to form and maintain pathways in your brain that let you learn and create new memories. It reduces your concentration and response rates.

You might have a sleep tracker – a Fitbit device or an Apple Watch, for example. These monitor your body movements, and might also measure how your heart rate changes, to estimate, with around 75% accuracy, how much time you spend in various sleep cycles – light sleep, deep sleep and REM (rapid eye movement). Not surprisingly, it is deep sleep which leaves us feeling the most refreshed the following day. REM is the cycle where most dreams happen and usually makes up around a quarter of your time asleep. You are more likely to remember a dream if you wake up during a REM cycle.

Why do we dream? Sigmund Freud suggests that dreams represent unconscious desires, thoughts, wish fulfilment and motivations. Other theories are available.

Sleep well.

*Robert*

*'Fall' – another word for autumn – is often assumed to be an American import. In fact, the word was common in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is an abbreviation of the phrase 'fall of the leaf'. Autumn comes from the French 'automne' and only became popular in the English language in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.*



# Steeple Aston Noticeboard



## Steeple Aston Footpath guide

An updated version of the 'Guide to Footpaths in and Around the Parish of Steeple Aston' is now available in the Village Shop for £2. This booklet is produced by the SAL Committee and very kindly printed for us by Nicholson's. The Guide covers seven footpaths, each with a detailed description and map.



## South Side parking

I highlight the ridiculous parking situation all the way down South Side. Haven't the houses on the road parking at the rear. I realise that building workers have to park somewhere, but the house concerned has a massive garden. Surely with a bit of organisation and thought this could be arranged. My main concern is that the S4 will eventually refuse to serve the village.

Come on South Side, be a bit neighbourly.

**Richard Smith**

At lunchtime on 8<sup>th</sup> October, an unfortunate bit of parking resulted in two S4 buses having to reverse and take an alternate route. The bus travelling south then had an accident whilst turning and took out one of the bollards opposite Bradshaw Close (*see photo*).

**Name supplied**



## Steeple Aston Community Apple Press



The community apple press was well used at the Red Lion over three sessions this season. Despite the indifferent harvest due to the strange summer, these were very productive and great fun (*see photo*). Thank you to Victoria and Craig for letting us host the event again at the Red. We will be back in 2024, so come along for some fun and exercise.

**Penny and Stuart Cummins**

## Tiddly Poms

Unfortunately, due to our apple press and bottler firm being closed at the moment, we have been unable to produce and supply the village with bottled apple juice this autumn. It was actually a bad year for the fruit harvest in this country. However, we hope to be back producing again next year as it was a great success in 2022. We will let you know when we will be ready to pick and all help will be welcome.

**Nigel Francis**



## Health Centre update

Deddington Health Centre is changing the way their appointment process works. From 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 there will be an online system where clinicians review all requests, to make better use of the appointments available. Patients who are unable to use the online form will be able to ask the Patient Services team to fill it in on their behalf.

There is more detailed information on their website at <https://deddingtonhealthcentre.co.uk>

Victoria Prentis visited Deddington Health Centre earlier this year (see photo) to discuss the situation with the GP partners. On her Facebook page, our local MP says, "Deddington is facing similar challenges to other surgeries across the country, but the rate of population growth we have seen in North Oxfordshire in recent years has clearly amplified pressures on appointment availability.

"The difficulties the surgery has faced with staffing hasn't helped: a handful of staff have moved on and recruiting replacements has been challenging. However, I was reassured to learn that they have new GPs starting soon which it is hoped will bring much-needed additional capacity."



## Redtooth Pub Poker

Redtooth Pub Poker ([www.redtoothpoker.com](http://www.redtoothpoker.com)) was set up in 2007 and one of its aims was, and still is, to help pubs bring both old and new customers to them for a fun and friendly game of poker on what otherwise would be a quiet night.

In 2012 it introduced the Vegas 100 tournament to find the UK Pub Poker Champion. Every year 100 Pub Poker players who have qualified in various events have been taken to Las Vegas to compete. That is the background and why nearly six months ago, and with the permission of Vicky and Craig of the Red Lion, I posted this message around the village:

*Fun, Laughter, Drama, Excitement! every Tuesday at our weekly Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament at The Red Lion*

I am delighted to report that we have had up to 15 players and we have had fun, laughter, drama and excitement.

Everyone has the opportunity to win a trip to Las Vegas just by playing at their pub, as I did back in 2019. It was a truly fabulous week there. Since I won that trip, I have tried to win a second, so it is with delight and a degree of humility that I can tell everyone that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September I, along with three other players from Oxford and Gloucester, won the Redtooth Team Tournament in Blackpool. By winning we all qualified for a trip to the MGM Grande Hotel, Las Vegas, next May

Everyone who plays in our weekly tournaments has the same chance. So help to support our pub. Come and try your hand at our weekly tournament of the wonderful game of Texas Hold 'em Poker.

Every Tuesday, shuffle up and deal at 7.30pm. The maximum stake is £5 per person per night.

*Andy King*

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# Steeple People



**Sue King**



**How long have you lived in Steeple Aston?** 37 years.

**Where did you move from?** Bodicote, near Banbury.

**What brought you here?** The house. We couldn't figure out the layout from the estate agent's details, so had to come and see it for ourselves!

**What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston?** The view across the valley from our house.

**Is there anything you don't like about living here?** Not being able to see all the view because the trees have grown up so tall!

**How has the village changed in the time you've been here?** The village had two pubs and a butcher's shop and the Harris Stores/Post Office was twice the size!

**Give a potted history of yourself.** Bi-lingual secretary (Italian). Love photography and languages, studied French, German and Spanish over the years. Originally from Essex. Obtained certificate in teaching foreign languages and a degree in Environmental Science with Psychology of Childhood and Youth as a mature student.

**How do you see yourself, in five words or less?** Creative, artistic, 'Grandma Click-Click'.

**How do others see you, in five words or less?** Wacky lady always taking photos!

**What do your friends find most annoying about you?** My procrastination.

**What do your friends find the most endearing about you?** My generosity!

**Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Optimist or pessimist?** Early bird; dog; optimist.

**Technology: friend or foe? To marmite or not?** Foe; Marmite.

**What was the best thing about being a child?** Innocence.

**What is the best thing about being an adult?** Freedom to do what you want when you want!

**As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?** A hairdresser.

**What was your first job?** Secretary at a Wholesale Wine Merchants – I used to receive a wine hamper as my Christmas gift from the company containing champagne, brandy and port!

**What do you do for a living now?** I retired from working at the University of Oxford in 2019 and took up painting in 2021.

**What is the best job you've ever done?** PA to the Director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford.

**Tell us about any interesting hobbies you have.** Painting landscapes and still lifes. Playing squash and tennis (and occasional golf).

**Can you recommend a really good book?** 'There's no such thing as Naughty' by Kate Silverton. A great guide for parents with children 0 to 5 years. I read it when my grandchildren were around that age.

**If you could ban one thing in the country, what would it be?** Cigarettes and vapes.

**If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy?** A piece of land in New Zealand.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?** Back to the Rockies in Canada.

**Which person do you most admire, and why?** My lovely daughter who retrained to be a Nutritional Therapist specialising in providing nutritional support and advice to cancer sufferers.

**Who would you most like to have dinner with – dead or alive?** My dad, so that I could tell him I have taken up painting after retiring (as he was an artist).

**If you were on a desert island, what would you miss most?** Contact with my children and grandchildren.

**What do you get grumpy/mad about?** People (aka my husband) not tidying up after themselves!

**What makes you happiest in the world?** Seeing the Remarkables mountain range from the plane as I come into land at Queenstown Airport.

**Tell us a something about yourself that most people don't know.** I have parasailed over Lake Wakatipu in New Zealand and paraglided (in tandem) from Coronet Peak up to the height of Mount Cook for almost an hour.

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# The ARTS Page



I'm looking north of Steeple Aston to start.

The Banbury Symphony Orchestra ([banburysymphony.com](http://banburysymphony.com)) in Deddington Church at 7.30pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, conducted by Paul Willett with brilliant young Bulgarian Cellist Yoanna Prodanova playing Finzi's little-known but wonderful Cello Concerto. Framed by Beethoven's Egmont Overture and the ravishing Symphony No. 2 by Rachmaninoff.

The Banbury Choral Society ([banburychoralsoc.co.uk](http://banburychoralsoc.co.uk)), conducted by Jonathan Kingston, offer Britten's evergreen Cantata 'St Nicolas' (with soloist Paul Badley of SA Choral Society), with Festive Carols. St Mary's Church, Banbury, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30pm.

Also, take a look at [themillartscentre.co.uk](http://themillartscentre.co.uk) for a wide-ranging assortment of events and [banburymuseum.org](http://banburymuseum.org) for the 'British Wildlife Photo Awards', on until 14<sup>th</sup> January.

The Cherwell Choral Society ([cherwellchoral.org](http://cherwellchoral.org)) are in Deddington Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm with 'Baroque Splendour' – CPE Bach's Magnificat, three motets by Teleman and JS Bach's 5<sup>th</sup> Brandenburg Concerto, with our local top group, the Adderbury Ensemble.

Look up [adderburyensemble.com](http://adderburyensemble.com) for their wide-ranging series of local concerts including: in Adderbury Parish Church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm, an enticing programme of Barber, Britten, Elgar and Mozart; in St Mary the Virgin, Chipping Norton on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm, Schubert's stunning 'String Quintet in C major'; in the Holywell Music Room, Oxford, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 11.15am, Mendelssohn and Haydn String Quartets.

A short, random list of Oxford Musical highlights. Local, top-notch Baroque orchestra, the Instruments of Time and Truth ([www.timeandtruth.co.uk](http://www.timeandtruth.co.uk)), with Merton College Choir, under Benjamin Nicholas, in Merton College Chapel on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm, performing the Monteverdi 'Vespers of 1610'. The next day, 11<sup>th</sup> November, with the Oxford Consort of Voices, under Edward Higginbottom, in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin at 7.30pm, three fabulous, lesser-known composers – Benda, Wanhal and Zelenka. For both and much more, see [ticketsoxford.com](http://ticketsoxford.com)

Check out [oxfordbachchoir.org](http://oxfordbachchoir.org) for their Sheldonian Concert on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30pm. Bernstein's wonderful Chichester Psalms, and the old warhorse 'Carmina Burana', which never fails to exhilarate and make its mark.

On our doorstep, Steeple Aston Choral Society at 7pm in SA Church on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. A Concert of Seasonal Music, also including Mozart's 'Solemn Vespers', containing the wonderful 'Laudate Dominum', which, at least to this writer, seems to come from Heaven. Tickets from Margaret Bullement [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com)

Also local, there are some lovely greetings cards in the Village Shop by our own Susan King. Also see her 'Boats at Horsey' at [oxmag.co.uk/articles/oxfordshire-artists-home-and-away](http://oxmag.co.uk/articles/oxfordshire-artists-home-and-away)

Some of Susan's other work can be seen at our pub 'The Red Lion'. (Save the date – Red Lion Carols, 6.30pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December).

Two of our best local pantomimes sell fast.

Oxford Playhouse – 'Jack and the Beanstalk' – 24<sup>th</sup> November to 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Chipping Norton Theatre – 'Cinderella' – 15<sup>th</sup> November to 14<sup>th</sup> January.

*Nicholas Cleobury*

[nicholascleobury@btinternet.com](mailto:nicholascleobury@btinternet.com)



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# ???? Mind Games

## Word Pairs Puzzle

(from Cathy Lawday)

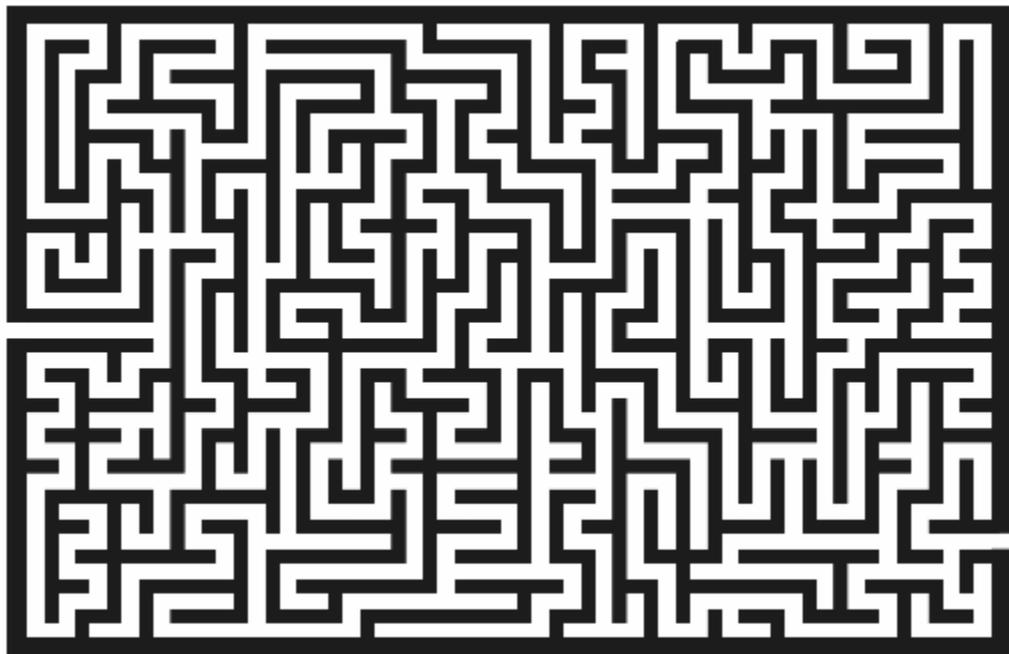
Find a word to fill each gap. The word must complete both phrases  
e.g. anti.....distancing = anti social / social distancing

1. stand-up.....timing
2. top.....tennis
3. cream.....service
4. toy.....office
5. left.....nut
6. coffee.....floor
7. main.....rage
8. stage.....handle
9. pop.....stand
10. Dried.....cloud

(Answers below)

## Amazing

Can you find your way through this complex maze from left to right (or vice versa)?



Mindgames answers: Word Pairs Puzzle (above)  
1. stand-up comic / comic timing; 2. top table / table tennis; 3. cream tea / tea service; 4. toy box / box office; 5. left wing / wing nut; 6. coffee shop / shop floor; 7. main road / road rage  
8. stage door / door handle; 9. pop music / music stand; 10. dried mushroom / mushroom cloud



# Autumn into Winter

**Steeple Aston Choral Society**

Presents

**Bob Chilcott - On Christmas Night**

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

## Tackley church

“Well, of course I have!” I can hear voices saying. I too have often been to services in the lovely old church of St Nicholas, set on rising land at the edge of the village. I had not, however, visited the ‘Tackley Through Time’ exhibition in the South Porch of the church. I’d planned to go soon after it opened in 2018, but what with Covid (the pandemic begins to be a handy excuse for anything we’ve failed to do!) and one thing and another, I’ve only just got round to spending some time in this lovely peaceful church investigating the exhibition.



It proved to be an interesting and pleasant surprise, giving the visitor a great deal of information about Tackley village and the countryside it sits in. There are neat and well-produced information boards which give a clear timeline of what has happened in Tackley from prehistoric times until today. The boards display a series of maps which chart changes and developments in the village. Below the maps, significant dates are listed. Just a few examples will give you the flavour: the earliest record of the Gardiner Arms public house is 1788; 45 emigrants from Tackley died in 1845 when the Catawaqui hit the rocks off the coast of Tasmania; in 1932 electricity came to Tackley (is that later than might have been expected?).

Below the information boards are a number of display cabinets where you can see an eclectic collection of historical and archaeological artefacts, such as Bronze Age flints, Roman pottery and a lethal-looking Civil War cannonball. I think my favourite object is the charming 11<sup>th</sup> century prettily-decorated bone comb which could be used today, found during some excavations near the church.

There is also a treasure of a file which is full of information about farming in Tackley from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day which is well worth browsing through. It charts the changes in agriculture when farming became not a cottage-based means of subsistence, but a business. Seriously posed pictures of prize animals and labourers engaged in farming activities and sale posters illustrate this particular section of the exhibition.



So right on our doorstep is all this interesting information about the local history of the village next to ours, carefully researched and put together by the Tackley Local History Group – and free for anyone to visit. The church is open every day between 9.30am and 4.30pm and the door of the South Porch is left open so that you can visit the exhibition space.

*Eileen Baglin-Jones*

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# The Gardening Spot

## November can be a challenge to the gardener – or maybe it is time to hibernate?

As I write this, the sun is shining and it is around 20 degrees. By time you read this, it may be dark and damp, but there is always something to do in the garden. Leaves will be falling so, if possible, try to collect them and make into leaf mould for next year. Don't allow them to accumulate on the lawn as they will damage the turf and encourage moss.

Prune roses to reduce wind-rock. Some suggest a light pruning, leaving the final trim until next spring, or they can be reduced to a fairly low level now, ensuring you remove all dead wood and weak shoots.

Bring tender plants into the greenhouse for added protection. Plant tulip bulbs ready for that spring display. Put grease bands around fruit trees to stop damage from the winter moth.

Raise containers onto pot-feet to prevent waterlogging. Roots left in water over the colder months will kill off more plants than sharp frosts.

If you suffer from pigeons, cover winter brassicas with netting to prevent damage.

Check the seed catalogues to see what is available for next year and don't be afraid to try something different. Gardening is always an ongoing experiment. Some things work and others don't, but unless you try something different, you will never know.

And don't forget the wild birds that come to visit the garden as this is the time of the year when they have to search for food.

It is a good time to prune apples and pears once the leaves are off, so from now until the end of February. Try to create an open middle a bit like a shuttlecock. Aim to reduce the canopy by 10% to 20% during one season, working around the tree to keep it even. Cut back to a shoot that is facing the desired direction. Avoid over-pruning as this can result in excessive growth. Look closely at what you are pruning. Don't just give it a 'haircut'.

If you haven't already manured your vegetable patch, now is the time to do so. Your own-brewed compost or farmyard manure is just the thing as it enriches the soil making for a much improved growing medium. There is always the debate about 'no dig' and I guess there are arguments for both, but for me, it is dig. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing a patch of ground that has just been turned over and the robin is keeping you company whilst you turn over that last spit. As I have said many times before, it is planning ahead and keeping on top of your garden.

One thing you must do at this time of the year is to get outside and take a walk around our wonderful countryside. The trees are turning colour, the air is fresh and this is what makes living in the country so special.

Finally. I just had to let you see this. It is from a church bulletin advertising a jumble sale. *"Ladies, don't forget it is the church annual jumble sale so a wonderful chance to get rid of all those things that hang around the house and are worse than useless, so please bring along your husbands!"*

Happy gardening.

**Richard Preston**



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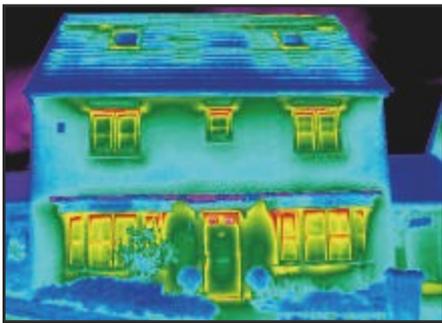
## Steeple Aston Thermal Camera Project

There are conflicting ideas on what we should be doing to protect the environment. People have different perspectives on mankind's relationship with nature, concerns about the seriousness of climate change and what is actually helpful. Insulating your home, however, is a no-brainer. There are multiple benefits (*taken from focusonenergy.com*).

**Lower energy costs** If your home has poor insulation and air leaks, you could be spending 15% more than you need to on heating and cooling. It also means extra wear and tear on your heating system and air conditioner. Proper insulation and air sealing is the best way to prevent wasted energy and keep your home and energy bill in a comfortable, happy place.

**Comfort** Insulation helps your home stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter, so you don't have to crank up your heating or cooling systems to the maximum just to get by.

**Noise** Insulation might not block everything out, but it definitely absorbs sound and can help make your home a quieter place to relax.



**Environmental Impact** Saving energy benefits your home, community and the environment. Improving your insulation is one of the best steps you can take to make a difference in terms of your home's energy performance and carbon footprint.

**Resale Value** Being able to tell prospective buyers that top-quality insulation is already in place, lowering the home's operating costs, can be a real selling point.

A thermal image of the outside surface of a house can show areas which are conducting heat from the inside to the outside of the house, helping to identify draughts, missing insulation, poor or broken window seals and poorly insulated windows. The photo shown here is best viewed in colour in the SAL digital issue on the village website ([www.steepleaston.org.uk](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk))

The Steeple Aston Environment and Sustainability Committee has purchased a reconditioned thermal camera (FLIR C2), kindly funded by Sustainable Steeple. This camera is available for villagers to borrow to take thermal images of their home. We have put together a guide on how to interpret the images.



Cold (less than 5°C), frosty and dry weather is best for thermal imaging (the temperature difference between inside and outside should be at least 10-15°C). From when we bought the camera (February 2023) we ran a pilot project, loaning the camera to 20 houses in the village. Feedback was very positive. Villagers found it easy to use and helpful to identify and/or confirm areas of insulation in their home they needed to improve.

**We are now gathering details of anyone who would like to be on the list to use the camera this winter. It's very weather dependent, but it might be cold enough to start using the camera in another month or so. To be added to the list, please email me at [steepleastonESC@outlook.com](mailto:steepleastonESC@outlook.com)**

*Claire Coysh*

on behalf of the Environment and Sustainability Committee

# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



The October Parish Council meeting had 28 visitors, which I think is probably a record number. The reason was that the main issue to be discussed was the results of the analysis of potential sites for development in the village. Apologies in advance – I have tried to be meticulously accurate in my reporting and there are none of my usual silly comments.

Martin Lipson explained that he was organising the four-person team analysing potential development sites. The purpose was to get the best development sites for the village rather than having sites determined by Cherwell. Martin said the team had used objective criteria and standard techniques for analysis of sites. He emphasised that the selection process had many stages to go before any sites would be finally selected as policies for the Neighbourhood Plan.

We were told that Mat Watson was a site owner and a Parish Councillor. This meant he could comment at the start of the meeting, as a member of the public, but had to leave the meeting after that and could not vote on the sites because of a conflict of interest.

Mat said he felt his site (Number 4 – the old quarry) had had its disadvantages overstated. He queried the environmental assessment as it was based on the whole site being used for 120 houses rather than the impact of, say, 10 to 15 houses. He said he thought he had been misled into thinking all the development should be on one site, rather than 10 to 15 homes each on two or even three sites. Martin explained that the team had only just decided to favour a few smaller sites rather than one larger one, so could not have told Mat sooner. Mat said he wondered if some of the team had held a subconscious bias against his site.

Someone asked what made Site 4 have amenity value and was told the popular path through the Beeches depended on its rural surroundings. Another commentator said he was keen that the

village entrances should not be developed further and therefore a 'backland' site was preferable.

Richard Preston said he had sent comments on his site (Number 3) to Martin, but had not received Martin's reply answering his queries. Richard questioned whether it was right to call his site 'isolated' because it was partly bordered by gardens. He questioned the value of including the sites owned by Charles Cottrell Dormer, because he doubted whether Charles would agree to the development on sites 13 or 14 even if they were not visible from Rousham. Martin said the assessment team were intending to investigate whether any development would be visible from Rousham, because if it was they would accept the sites could not be developed. It was noted that the development plans went up to 2040 and no one knew what would happen at Rousham by then.

There were doubts about the exact location of the boundary between Steeple and Middle Aston, but this turned out to be irrelevant because the proposals could cover the boundary and did not have to be confined to Steeple Aston.

There were questions about the definition of a settlement area. Martin explained that some areas, such as the church or school, were not treated as being part of the settlement area as this term was defined by national criteria and mostly referred only to homes. He said this was the definition adopted by the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan in 2019 and could not be retrospectively altered. Martin explained that although the settlement area had a narrow definition, the team had tried to be open-minded about the definition and had included some sites (Numbers 1 and 7) which did not meet the criteria.

Martin told us that a development using a Community Land Trust would give the site owners the same return as if a conventional developer had bought the site.

# Parish Council Meeting Notes



The Councillors considered how many additional homes they were prepared to suggest to Cherwell and decided that 30 new houses on two, or at the most three sites was about right. The assessment team agreed that to be certain they had been entirely objective they wanted to check out the accusation that there might have been some unconscious bias. They arranged to meet the following morning to look at this and would call another Parish Council meeting for the following Wednesday, when the checks should be complete.

The members of the public were told at the end of the site discussion that they were welcome but 'did not have to stay' and all except for two, both on the assessment team, quickly disappeared.

The consultants (paid for by the government) had told the assessment team that the team needed to prepare a list of sites in order of preference. It was hoped that the further Parish Council meeting arranged for the following week would see a revised list of preferred sites for consideration by the Councillors. The Councillors agreed that at present no site should be discounted. It sounds daft, but apparently Mat will be invited to the next meeting, but won't be allowed to attend.

The rest of the agenda was gone through quickly and for reasons of space the issues are only discussed briefly here. The village is getting two more refuse bins, one at the Northside-end of the Tchure and the other by the Fenway-end of the Beeches footpath. The Councillors did not think it was sensible to have extra specific dog poo bins because we would have to pay for those to be emptied, whereas we are not charged for a refuse bin to be emptied and dog poo bags can be put into either.

The Councillors were worried that the S4 bus might stop coming through the village if the thoughtless parking on South Side continued. I was asked to encourage Southsiders with off-

street parking to use it, rather than parking on the road. The Councillors decided to request an extension of the white lines on South Side as far as Staithe Cottage.

Apparently, the school or village cannot pay for a lollipop person. Highways only allows lollipop people if the County Council pays for them, and since they won't do so, we can't have a lollipop person even if we can pay for it.

We were told the play area looked a bit 'tired' and the Councillors briefly discussed what was needed. It was agreed that some foliage needed cutting back around the Village Hall and Play Areas. In the discussion of the lighting around the Village Hall it came out that there is a round push button at the exit to all the Village Hall and Sports and Recreation Centre doors which turns on the lights around the Hall. This was news to me.

We were told about the intention of Great Western Railways to reduce the number of trains by two a day. Unfortunately, the proposed reductions are exactly at the times when they are most used – that is, when people go to school or work in the morning and when they come home at night. Under the proposals the first train in the morning from Heyford would get into Oxford at 7.56am and the 9.05am arrival in Oxford will be axed. The train back instead of 5.55pm will be 6.59pm. If you would like to have a say in this please contact Great Western Railways at **GWR.Feedback@GWR.com** or sign a petition at **bit.ly/3Qn7ddM**

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 25<sup>th</sup> October to discuss the assessment of alternative development sites and the one after that will be on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Do come – it is never dull.

## *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)*



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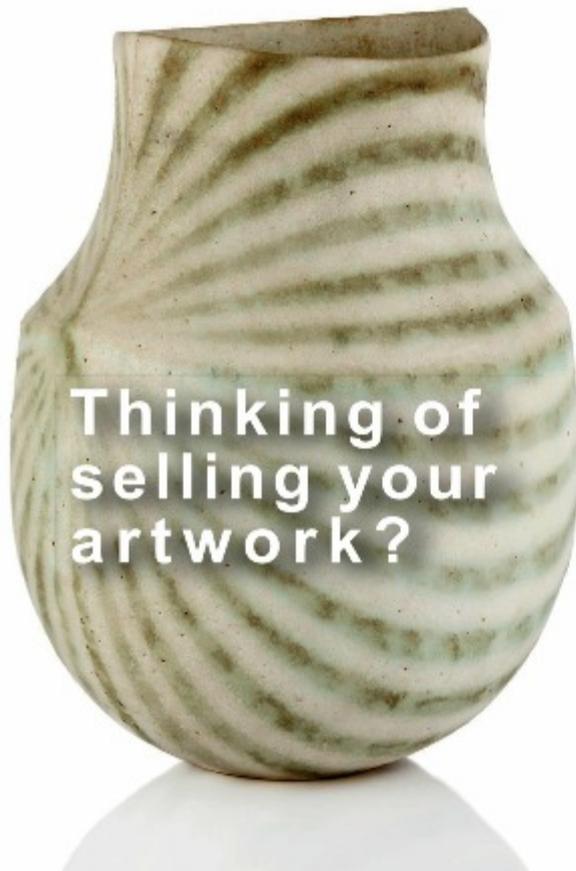
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## Stir Up Sunday – or a Bonfire Pudding?

Stir Up Sunday is a Victorian tradition when families would gather around and stir their homemade Christmas pudding on the last Sunday before Advent. This year, Stir Up Sunday falls on 26<sup>th</sup> November. In my house, however, the Christmas pudding is made much earlier in November. The reason for this is that one of my children's favourite books was *'My Naughty Little Sister'* written by Dorothy Edwards, with wonderful illustrations by Shirley Hughes. One of their favourite stories was 'The Bonfire Pudding'. In it, the Naughty Little Sister (who is never named) refuses to go out with her family on Bonfire Night because she is frightened of fireworks. Instead, she is allowed to stay at home with her grandmother to make the Family Christmas Puddings. They have a lovely time and together they make a wish as they stir the pudding mixture.

So it became the tradition in our family to make the Christmas Pudding on or around Bonfire Night. I still follow that tradition even though the children left home long ago. And I still use the same recipe, which I inherited from my mother many years ago. These days I stir the pudding and think of her. As it's so ancient, it's in old money I'm afraid.

### Christmas Pudding

#### Ingredients

2 oz flour (plain or self-raising)  
4 oz breadcrumbs  
4 oz suet (chopped or shredded, I use vegetarian)  
4 oz sugar (preferably brown)  
½ lb raisins  
¼ lb currants  
¼ lb sultanas  
4 oz shelled, blanched and chopped nuts  
(or a smaller quantity of almonds)  
4 oz mixed candied peel  
Grated rind and juice of a lemon  
1 level tablespoon of syrup or treacle  
½ teaspoonful ground cinnamon  
½ teaspoonful grated nutmeg  
½ to 1 teaspoonful mixed spice  
Pinch of salt

1 medium-sized grated apple (not absolutely necessary, but keeps the pudding moist)

1 medium-sized grated carrot (again not necessary, but gives a pleasant nutty flavour)

2 eggs

¼ pint ale – or not quite that much and use a little spirit. If you don't wish to use either, try milk or fruit juice.

You can also add a small quantity of chopped, dried apricots and prunes to the mixture,

#### Method

Mix all the ingredients well together. It is good to leave the mixture standing overnight before cooking. Put into a well-greased basin, cover with several layers of greased paper and a cloth or tinfoil. For one large pudding, steam for at least 6 to 7 hours, rather less for two small puddings. Take off the damp covers and cover with dry paper. Store in a dry place.

On Christmas Day re-steam for at least two hours. Then turn out onto a plate. Add a sprig of holly. Hold a tablespoon of brandy over a candle flame until it spontaneously ignites (this requires patience!). Pour the flaming brandy over – and there you have your very own Bonfire Pudding!

*Jenny Bell*



## Music for Pleasure – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Steeple Aston Choral Society knows it is very fortunate to have the talented Paul Herrington as its accompanist, arranger and composer, but on this particular balmy autumn evening he excelled himself with a concert of music from the classics, films and musicals – all in aid of SACs.

He began on the piano, with an animal theme. Scarlatti's *Cat's Fugue*, built on the notes the composer's cat sounded jumping on the keyboard, was followed by Ibert's *Le Petit Ane Blanc*, with Paul's intricate playing bringing out the playfulness and humour of both pieces. Then swiftly changing style, he moved on to the waltzes, impromptus and songs without words, of Schumann, Schubert, Chopin and Mendelssohn.



Each piece he played was prefaced with anecdotes about the composer and then he mentioned one musician and composer no one had heard of – A.M.C. Miller. This was the musical pseudonym of Agatha Christie, who had studied to be a concert pianist. Paul plays her piano regularly for the National Trust at Greenway House, her holiday home beside the River Dart, in Devon.

After a beautiful movement from a Mozart Piano Concerto, Paul moved on to the nineteenth century with a lullaby by Teresa Carreno (actually, Maria Teresa Gertrudis de Jesus Carreno Garcia!) the Venezuelan pianist, soprano, composer and conductor. Then pastoral pieces by Edward Elgar and John Ireland brought us back home.

Themes from Karl Jenkins's work, *Palladio*, inspired by the Italian architect, and from John William's *Schindler's List*, led us into the first-half finale – Jean Sibelius's *Finlandia*.

I was expecting an arrangement of the orchestral piece prominently featuring the *Be Still My Soul* chorale, but discovered, as the humble and somewhat terrified page-turner, it was the full orchestral score, somehow shoe-horned into the range of a piano. Paul's powerful, yet subtle playing of this mammoth piece, was astonishing.



*Photos by Catherine Crook*

The interval, as well as giving the audience a chance to refresh themselves with copious amounts of wine and nibbles, also gave them a chance to purchase one of the beautiful soft-lined bags that Paul's wife Maggie makes – also in aid of SACS. Every bag is different – the fabrics with musical motifs are popular with SACS members for carrying their music – and some people took the opportunity to begin their Christmas shopping.

For the second half, Paul played his keyboard. Many of the pieces here were in sing-a-long versions. However, this being a Paul Herrington concert, there were some surprises, including a baroque version of *Dancing Queen*, which I am sure Bach would have loved.

*Fame* was sung lustily, as was *Bring Me Sunshine* (with several comments about Paul, unlike Eric Morecambe, playing all the right notes and in the right order.) We continued with *World in Union*, *Whole New World*, *Matilda* and *Climb Ev'ry Mountain*, recovering our breath with a delightful piece composed by Paul himself – *Parisian Stroll* – followed by William Walton's majestic *Orb and Sceptre* march.

Then we were all on our feet for the finale – Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, sing-a-long version. None of us had sung a sing-along version before, but it worked brilliantly.

*Music for Pleasure* was a very low-key title for what was really, *Music to Dazzle and Astonish* – from old favourites to new discoveries, we loved it all. Thank you, Paul and thank you Maggie, for your contribution to our SACS Music Library fund. We are indebted to you.

***Margaret Bulleyment***

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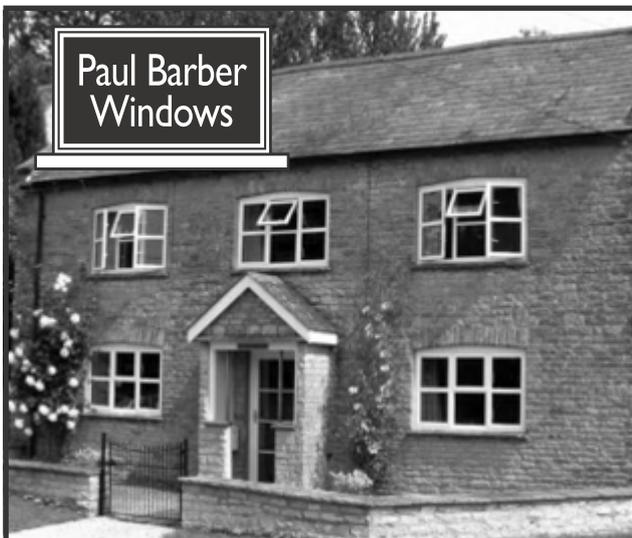
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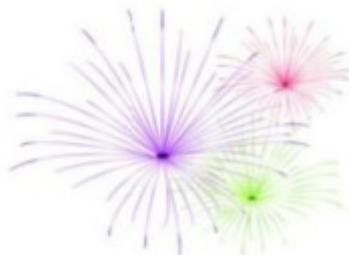
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## THE VALENTINE CLUB

It seemed ages between meetings as we stretched the usual four weeks into five, but thankfully, we all recognised each other which is always a bonus as you get that bit older.

Our meeting during October brought with it fish and chips and a visit from Mathew Barber, Police Commissioner for Thames Valley Police. This had a good effect as most of our members behaved impeccably and no arrests were made during the afternoon. We had a short quiz, simply to test the theory that fish helps the brain. This might be true in a few cases, but in the main, little difference!

Going back to September, where 38 members travelled to Llandudno in Wales for a five-day holiday. We stayed in a superb hotel, four-star (going up in the world!) and visited Portmeirion in the rain and journeyed through Snowdonia in comparative dryness, although a little Welsh rain showed its hand at times. On our 'free day' many of us took the open-top bus journey around the town and travelled to Conwy where we basked in Mediterranean sunshine. All in all, a great holiday with friends and already looking forward to our visit to the Isle of Wight next spring and planning another break, possibly in September.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> October we took a full coach to the National Memorial Arboretum for a fantastic day out and what can only be described as a 'Michelin-style' lunch. If you have never been there, make the effort to visit as it is a most wonderful place where you can commemorate all those lives that have been lost whilst keeping this country safe.

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November we welcome back the U3A ukulele players as they went down so well last year.

Now, I know I go on about The Valentine Club and how successful it is, even when many clubs folded after Covid. Just occasionally, our club receives acknowledgement from outside sources. One such organisation is Oxfordshire County Council, who under The Connected Community Grant Scheme, awarded our club £2,000 to continue the work we do with the slightly more mature members of our society.

Another such acknowledgement is slightly more difficult for me personally to convey to you all. Group Leisure and Travel Magazine, the leading travel magazine for groups such as ours, awards, among many more awards, "Group Travel Organiser of the Year". I was not only nominated, but actually became one of the four finalists out of dozens of candidates. This led to a stay at The Doubletree Hilton Hotel in Milton Keynes and a dinner where guest star Paul Zerdin was on hand to distribute the awards. I guess I must be doing something right!

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?

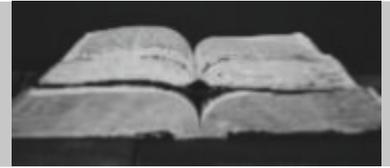
**Richard Preston – Group organiser**  
**[Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com](mailto:Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com)**

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Just turn up or contact me 347802 - [merrill.bayley@gmail.com](mailto:merrill.bayley@gmail.com)





## I'm from....

what does it take to be local  
how many years does it take  
is it to do with our fam'ly  
or is it the impact we make  
at some point we enter the village  
but where does the story begin  
are incomers children born native  
or do you need networks of kin

and what of those people who're born here  
if jobs in the village are rare  
what happens to village credentials  
if you have to move on elsewhere  
it needn't be such a conundrum  
to work out what's needed to be  
a community's made up of all sorts of folk  
and being good neighbours comes free

*Peter Wild*

## Language lessons

My first proper job was in Sweden  
Teaching English to Swedish folk  
I started to learn to speak Swedish  
I was keen *att lära språk*.

*Hej, hur mår du? Varsågod  
Vad är klockan? Tack  
Kan jag få en smörgås?*  
I quickly got the knack.

I made fairly rapid progress  
But looking back, I think  
My Swedish was much better  
When I'd had a bit to drink.

Concerns about vocabulary  
Or which tense was correct  
No longer seemed important  
And my accent was perfect.

### **Swedish**

*att lära språk  
Hej  
Hur mår du?  
Varsågod  
Vad är klockan?*

### **Translation**

*to learn the language  
Hello  
How are you?  
You're welcome  
What's the time?*

### **Pronunciation**

*att 'lair-a sproke  
hay  
hoor more do  
var so goode  
var air 'clock-en*

I picked up rare colloquialisms,  
Added to my vocabulary list  
And learnt a variety of ways  
To describe the state of being pissed.

My Swedish became fluent,  
It flowed right off my tongue  
(Though this ability disappeared  
When I was overhung.)

It's a method I would recommend  
To any language student  
Start your lesson with a drink or two  
And you'll quickly become fluent.

*Cathy Lawday*



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## Chicken sheds expansion given the go-ahead

Three new industrial units are to be built at the ‘chicken sheds’ site – Hatch End Old Poultry Farm between Steeple and Middle Aston. Work had already started on rebuilding the old scout hut even before planning permission was granted.

Cherwell District Council’s Planning Committee approved the plans at their October meeting, though they were told that the council’s Enforcement team was investigating the work that has already taken place.

This application by the site owners Middle Aston Limited was for a smaller development than the plan for 25 new business units which created a lot of concern in the village and was rejected by the planning committee in April 2022.

But Steeple Aston Parish Council and several others objected to the new application. The Parish Council said the plans represented a 30 per cent increase in floor space. It still had the same concerns about traffic and pedestrian safety as in the previous applications. Local district councillor Eddie Reeves told the committee of the Parish Council’s views and said that if the application was approved, it asked for mitigations to address them.

The Highways Authority had expressed concern as well, but their objection was withdrawn when a new footpath within the site to join the existing Beeches footpath was suggested. This means that pedestrians coming from Steeple Aston will hardly have to walk on the road to get to the site.

Patrick Bradshaw of Middle Aston Limited told the planning committee that they had decided to refurbish existing buildings and now sought approval for just three additional units. Since the refurbishment, he had been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and positive feedback he had received, especially from local villagers. Some residents were already creating new businesses which would provide employment for local young people.

There has certainly been more activity on the site recently. In addition to the Indian Block Printing Company which has been there for a while, Egg Box Storage and a new yoga studio have opened. The Grain Store Café is expected to open soon.

The three new buildings will be at the back of the site and not visible from the road. They will be used for storage, warehousing and offices.

*Jenny Bell*





# Open Day

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**Friday 17th November**

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**RSVP to:**

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Can't make our open days?, please contact us so we can arrange a date for you to visit.



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





October's club night welcomed Steve Brabner, a long-term member of Amersham Photographic Society. He is a founding member of the subgroup called 'Beyond', which aims to push club members away from their comfort zone and beyond, by listing monthly topics which need to be newly-taken and will not be judged. Each task lasts three months.

Topics in the past included blur, still-life, playing with scale and perspective, water/bubbles, paper (not trees), self-portrait (foot, shadow, arms, etc.), pop art, joiner/collage, triptych, silhouettes and text – to name but a few.

Steve spoke about the ups and down of organising a subgroup and how more famous photographers, such as Polina Plotnikova, influenced some members with her flower portraits and how she photographed flower movement.

Some more recent topics have included food, postage stamps (where members created a mock-up postage stamp with their chosen photo), decay, create a book cover, AI, deconstructed landscape and surrealism.

The audience were very interested in all of Steve's images and we are now looking into the feasibility of doing this within our own club.

We welcome new members to our Society nights on the first Wednesday of each month at the Adderbury Institute. Website and contact: [addphoto.co.uk](http://addphoto.co.uk) for further information.

**Courtney Killpack**

## Steeple Aston Garden Club



The speaker for our October meeting in the Village Hall was Alan Clark on 'Extreme Allotmenting'. For some, this was interesting and entertaining. We had Alan's life history, growing up in the war and carving out a working passion in horticulture, to presenting award-winning produce for horticultural shows. For others, it was difficult to hear as the microphone kept picking up the boom from Alan's staff. Something we need to address. The really good thing was the ambience in the hall, of people coming together and enjoying catching up over a cup of tea or coffee.



Our next meeting is on Tuesday 7th November, 7pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The speaker is Paul Williams and his talk is 'Digging Deeper'. A bit of soft science looking at what goes on inside plants, how they protect themselves from pests and diseases, etc. Not as heavy as it might sound! Well, we will hold Paul to that.

Guests are welcome.

**Chris Clarke**  
S.A.G.C. Secretary

***Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December is the Garden Club Xmas Lunch at Middle Aston House. £30.00 per person. Please reserve your place with Richard Preston or myself, with payment at the beginning of December.***



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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 fifth game of the season was at The Vale, near Evesham, a well-presented course with wide fairways in a beautiful woodland setting. The greens had just been hollow-tined, sanded and watered and this led to noticeably lower than normal scores. Fourteen players turned out on the day, with Mark Lawrence winning The Hogs Back Trophy with 32 points, on count-back from Mike Brown. Mark will be cut one shot for winning. Nearest the pin on the 5th was Tony Giles and nearest the pin in 2 on the 17th was Martin Kay. Tony Peck holed a birdie two, with Martin Kay sinking two of them! The 'Under 25 point' rule has been applied to Paul Kay, Chris Cooper, Eric Blincoe, Jack Kay, Tony Peck and Tony Giles who will all get an extra shot at North Oxford.

*"Golf is good for the soul – you get so mad at yourself, you forget to hate your enemies".*

Happy golfing.

**Alan Brewer**



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Our October speaker should have been Alistair Lack, who was due to tell us all about his life in the BBC World Service. Unfortunately, he caught Covid and was unable to be with us. I am sure we will see him on another occasion.

At very short notice, Mary managed to book Chrissie and her rescue owls. Chrissie brought with her one tawny owl and one beautiful barn owl, explaining about their excellent hearing, but with poor eyesight, especially at close range! Owls home in on their prey by sound alone!

She duly regaled us with tales of dramatic rescues and caring for them until finally being returned to the wild. But also, tales of those birds who did not make it, having been struck by vehicles, resulting in broken wings and legs which could not be mended. The other cause of death of the poor owls was from ingesting poisoned mice and rats – yes it goes up the food chain! Apparently, owls do not oil their feathers and thus do not hunt in the rain. If they do get wet after falling in water troughs they drown.

The two owls we saw had been hand-reared by Chrissie from abandoned hatchlings so were truly imprinted on her and could never be released into the wild as they would not be able to hunt for themselves. A truly fascinating evening learning about our local wildlife.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> October we we visited the Oxford Playhouse where we enjoyed a brilliant performance of ‘The King and I’. The only glitch was taking the S4 from the village to Oxford during a rail strike – the bus was packed! Many of us had to stand for most of the journey – I sat for one stop only!!

Julie announced that Walking Netball is now inviting non-WI members to join us and we hope to swell our numbers.

We enjoyed one of our regular walks in Blenheim Palace grounds on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October in a quest to find one, or possibly more, Anglo-Saxon Oaks, although most of the 220 ancient oaks were planted in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by Henry I (a deer park). We may not have identified the actual oaks, but certainly saw some very, very old ones!

On 28<sup>th</sup> October Julie hosted a members-only Social Coffee Morning, naturally including the ubiquitous raffle!

At the 14<sup>th</sup> November meeting our speaker will be Jennifer Cowling regaling us with ‘Those extraordinary things we say’. Curious about the title? Let’s go and find out more – Village Hall 7pm for 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome!



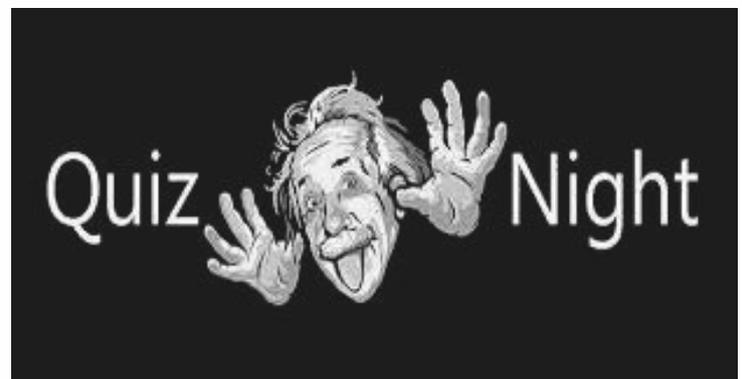


# ANNUAL CHURCH QUIZ EVENING

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or phone 07811 820536 by 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**Both teams and individuals welcome**



# Church Matters



As we move into the later stages of autumn, our focus shifts towards remembrance. We begin with All Saints and All Souls celebrations when we remember those we have loved, but are no longer with us. In Tackley Church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October we held our annual All Souls Service with the opportunity to name and light a candle for our loved ones who have died.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> November we will gather at War Memorials across the nation to pause and remember those who have died in war. During the service we will quote the fourth stanza of Laurence Binyon's poem 'For the Fallen'.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

To remember is to 'call back to mind'. For Laurence and his generation, they were remembering their loved ones, their faces, the times they had laughed together, shared hopes and dreams. They were remembering the cost of war in the loss of those lives and their dreams.

Over a hundred years on from the end of 'the war to end all wars', how will we remember them?

- As we buy poppies, we remember and raise funds for the Royal British Legion and their wonderful, vital work in supporting and caring for those who serve and have served in our armed forces.
- As we gather and hear again the names of those who died in the wars, we remember the tragic loss of lives in all conflicts and the impact their deaths have on families and friends.
- As we stand in silence, we remember the contrast between it and the roar of guns and explosions.

The Geneva Academy is currently monitoring more than 110 armed conflicts, including Russia/Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Israel/Hamas and I am again challenged by how we remember them?

As the bombs fall on Gaza a BBC reporter asked what today's conflict is doing to children caught up in a war not of their making. Adults are fighting over generational past hurts on all sides. How will these children remember war?

I remember in 1990 going to Yerevan, Armenia and Baku, Azerbaijan, during the Nagorno-Karabakh war and being led through war cemeteries, with grieving families, in stark contrast to a memorial for Peace. I can remember visiting the Children's Museum with artwork drawn by children caught up in the conflict, as part of therapy to help them process what had happened to them. Sadly, the region is again at war with the trauma and conflict being passed on to the next generation.

I remember last year's Red Cross appeal calling us not to turn away when the news cycle moves on, as it repeatedly does. I believe that to truly remember and honour those who have given their lives so that we can live in peace with freedom, we are actively called to be agents of that peace. Living lives that encourage and enable peace, or as the prayer often attributed to St Francis of Assisi puts it "to be Instruments of peace".

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.*

**Harriet**

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# Church Services



|   | North Aston                                   | Steeple Aston                                       | Tackley                                 |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>5<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>Trinity 22                               | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion<br><i>BCP</i> | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy Communion<br><i>BCP</i>      | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Holy Communion         |
|   |   |   |   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before<br>Advent | <b>9.30am</b><br>Remembrance<br>Service       | <b>10.50am</b><br>Remembrance<br>Service and Parade | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Remembrance<br>Service |
|   |   |   |   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before<br>Advent | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion               | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy Communion                    | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Evensong               |
|   |   |   |   |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>Sunday before<br>Advent                 | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer               | <b>11.00am</b><br>Morning Prayer                    | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion         |

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# Steeple Aston Online

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

# 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)<br>(Additional hours at £10/hr) | £65 (Plus Refundable Deposit £200)  |
| 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:<br>(Daily up to 6 hours, from 6.00pm)   | £55.00             |
| Social Function off-peak times:<br>(Daily up to 5 hours, up to 6.00pm)  | £27.50             |
| Meeting of represented clubs:<br>(Daily per session, max 2 hours)   | £11.00             |
| Caution money for Private Lettings:   | £100.00            |
| Block Bookings for Social Events:<br>15% discount for 6 or more bookings in advance.  |                    |
| Letting Agent Angela Smith Tel : 07734 112967<br>E-Mail to <a href="mailto:rec.trust@googlemail.com">rec.trust@googlemail.com</a> |                    |
| 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

### 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



### December 2023

7<sup>th</sup> Green  
14<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
Christmas collections  
to be confirmed

**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 December and January to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

| NOVEMBER 2023          |   |                     |                |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|
| Wednesday 1st          | AD&DPS. Chris Dean: 'Finding Nemo'                        | Adderbury Institute | 7.30pm         |
| Sunday 5th             | Fireworks Spectacular                                     | Robinsons Close     | from 6.15pm    |
| Tuesday 7th            | Garden Club. Paul Williams: 'Digging Deeper'              | Village Hall        | 7pm for 7.30pm |
| Sunday 12th            | SAVA. Village Memories                                    | Village Hall        | 3pm            |
| Tuesday 14th           | WI. Jennifer Cowling: 'Those extraordinary things we say' | Village Hall        | 7pm for 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 14th           | SAL December 2023 copy and advert deadlines               |                     |                |
| Friday 17th            | Church Quiz   | Village Hall        | 7pm for 7.30pm |
| Monday 20th            | Parish Council meeting                                    | S & R Building      | 7.30pm         |
| Tuesday 21st           | Valentine Club. Ukuleles from Bicester U3A                | Village Hall        | 2.30pm         |
| Saturday 25th          | Deddington Farmers' Market                                | Deddington          | 9am to 12.30pm |
| Saturday 25th          | Sustainable Steeple                                       | Deddington Church   | 9am to 12.30pm |
| Sunday 26th            | Steeple Aston Choral Society. Christmas music             | SA Church           | 7pm            |
| <b>SAVE THE DATES!</b> |   |                     |                |
| 10th December          | Wassail Evening   | Village Hall        | 6pm            |
| 20th January           | Annual Quiz   | Village Hall        | tbc            |

**Choral Society Rehearsals.** Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays  
**Badminton.** Village Hall - 10am -12.30pm - Tuesdays  
**Bell Ringing practice.** Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays  
**Walking Netball.** Village Hall - 10.15am - Wednesdays  
**Brownies.** Sport & Rec Centre - 6pm - 7.30pm - Wednesdays  
**Toddler Group.** Sport & Rec Centre - 9.30am -11.30am - Thursdays  
**Badminton.** Village Hall - 8pm - Thursdays  
**Village History Centre (SAVA).** 10am - 12pm - Saturdays

**Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee**

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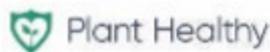
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