

# Steeple Aston

January 2024

Issue No. 605

# Life



- Deer in our local area • SACS and Wassail evenings • Parish Path Warden •
- The Arts Page • Mindgames • Parish Council report • Church matters •



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

Cover: Flooded fields (Photo by Nigel Francis)

## Steeple Aston *Life*

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All articles and letters to  
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The copy deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
previous month.  
This means the copy deadline for the  
February 2024 issue is Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>  
January.

READ STEEPLE ASTON LIFE ONLINE  
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WI	President	Julie Hillier	349185





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

## Steeple Aston *Life*

January 2024

Issue No. 605

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# Editorial

*"Tonight's December thirty-first, something is about to burst... Hark, it's midnight, children dear. Duck! Here comes another year!" – Ogden Nash (American poet, 1902-1971)*

Welcome to AD 2024. Maybe.

AD is short for Anno Domini, which is Latin for 'in the year of our Lord'. The premise is that it is now 2024 years since the birth of Jesus Christ. However, given that most scholars currently think His date-of-birth to be between 6 BC and 4 BC, you can see that we are on shaky ground. (BC is short for 'before Christ'). If Jesus was born four years earlier, should we now be welcoming AD 2028?

Let's blame it on Dionysius Exiguus. He was a monk who lived from about AD 470 to AD 544. It was Dionysius who came up with the idea of dating the years from the birth of Christ and introduced the concept of AD 1. Given that he was working half-a-millennium from the actual event, a possible error of a few years is understandable.

Another issue is the lack of year zero. The calendar goes straight from 1 BC to AD 1. This is not surprising, as the notion of nothingness did not exist at the time. Roman numerals, for example, do not have a symbol for '0'. The concept of '0' did not come into common use in Europe until the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Incidentally, you might now see the use of 'CE' in place of 'AD'. It is short for 'current era' and used as a secular term. 'BCE' (before current era) replaces 'BC'.

Without a year zero, all decades, centuries and millennia start with '1' and end in '0'. The last millennium ran from 1001 to 2000. Despite this, many people celebrated the new millennium in 2000, rather than 2001.

If you find all this confusing, pity the poor South Koreans. Under the Korean method of counting someone's age, babies were considered to be one-year-old on the day they were born (time in the womb was included). Then a year was added every 1<sup>st</sup> January. So a baby born on 31<sup>st</sup> December became two-years-old the next day. The system was scrapped earlier this year. Age is now calculated from the person's actual date-of-birth, meaning everyone officially became a year or two younger.

Whatever your age, I hope the new year brings what you want. For me, a couple of years younger would be good.

**Robert**



# Steeple Aston Noticeboard



## Heyford Bridge reopens

Heyford Bridge, which was closed for resurfacing and drainage works from 23<sup>rd</sup> October, reopened on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December – a day earlier than expected. This is good news for those travelling from Steeple Aston to the Ardley Recycling Centre or Bicester, as the diversion added considerable time and distance to the journey.



## Refuse, recycling and food waste collections

As mentioned in the December issue (page 45) we were waiting for the Christmas and New Year bin collection dates from Cherwell District Council. These have now been confirmed.

The blue bin and food caddy collection moves from Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December. Bins should be placed out for collection by 7am.

Green bin and caddy collections will resume as normal on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Garden waste collections (brown bin) will be suspended for two weeks from the last week of December to the first week of January (inclusive).

Christmas trees will be collected on 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> January. Any tree over five feet tall must be cut in half.

## Garden Waste subscriptions

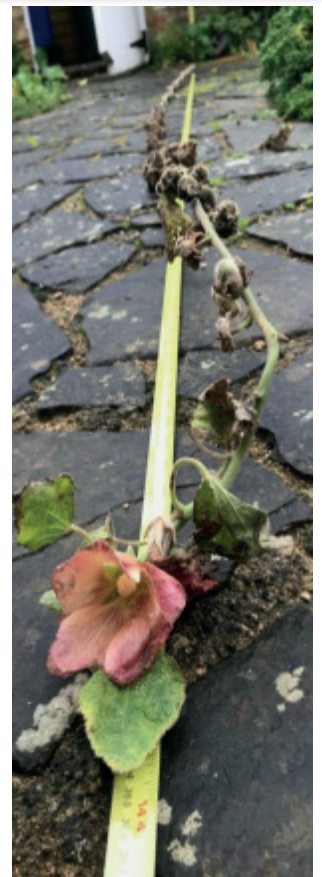
If you want your garden waste brown bin(s) emptied you need to pay a subscription and attach a supplied label to each bin. The next subscription period is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The subscription charge will be £49 per bin (up from £36 per bin this year).

If you already have a subscription, you should receive an email with details of how to renew. If you do not have an email address, you can call the Customer Service Team on 01295 227003.

If you want to sign up for a new garden waste subscription, go to:

**[cherwell.gov.uk/info/10/rubbish-and-recycling/872/payable-garden-waste-collection](https://cherwell.gov.uk/info/10/rubbish-and-recycling/872/payable-garden-waste-collection)**

or call the Customer Service Team on 01295 227003.



## Tallest hollyhock?

This hollyhock was 12 feet in length – measured when I cut it down. I only removed it because I have workmen at the front of the house. Left in place it might have grown another couple of inches! As you can see, it was still alive and indeed flowering with buds yet to open.

Is this a record for Steeple Aston?

**Merrill Bayley**





## Parish Path Warden

Steeple Aston now has a Parish Path Warden to keep an eye on our footpaths. Greg Elphick has volunteered to take on the role which involves walking all the local footpaths at least twice a year. He will take his secateurs with him to prune overgrowing vegetation and ensure that signposts and waymarks are kept clean. He will report more serious problems to Oxfordshire County Council's Countryside Access Team.

The Parish Path Warden scheme is run by the Ramblers' Association in association with the county council. Around 80 per cent of villages in Oxfordshire have their own warden. Greg is pictured here in the centre with his hedgecutter and faithful companion Poppy, a sprocker spaniel. They were part of a recent work party on a path in Alkerton that had become almost impassable due to brambles and self-seeding trees.

Greg says. "Such work parties cover the wider local area, not just Steeple Aston. They are needed only a few times a year as most paths get well used and any issues usually get sorted before a work party is deemed necessary. Obviously, I will be checking all our paths myself, but invite any villagers to contact me if I've missed something."



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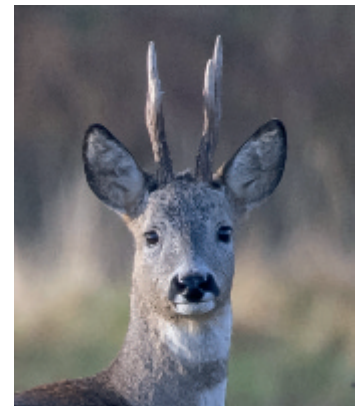
## Our Local Deer

We have three species of deer in our local area – Muntjac, Roe and Fallow. They can all be seen in the beautiful countryside surrounding the village. Of these, only the Roe deer is a native species. The other two were introduced to this country. Some of the introduced deer escaped, forming the foundation of the populations that now roam our countryside.



To get good sightings of any deer usually requires you to be very quiet and to move slowly. Otherwise, all too often, all you see is the back view of a deer disappearing into the nearest patch of woodland. Muntjac deer are probably the easiest to see as they are the most tolerant of human activity. They are the smallest of the three and have a slightly hunched appearance. Most often you will see them on their own, but occasionally as a pair, or maybe a female (doe) with her fawn. The males (bucks) have short, unbranched antlers that curve slightly inwards. If you disturb a Muntjac, it will run away with its tail held up like a flag, showing just the white underside. It may also bark in alarm.

Roe deer are larger than Muntjac, have an elegant stance and move beautifully, especially when bounding across a field. They are usually seen singly or in a small family group of maybe an adult pair and their latest offspring (they usually have one, or sometimes two, fawns each year). The male roebuck has fairly short upright antlers with, at most, only three points on each antler. Although they are shy, they are also inquisitive so, if you don't disturb them, they may watch you, and even come closer to get a better view.



Fallow deer tend to move around in herds so, if you see a large group of deer, they are most probably Fallow deer. They are larger than Roe and exhibit a wide variation in coat colour, from almost completely black, through many shades of chestnut brown, to almost completely white. They also have a variable number of white spots along their flanks. A mature male can possess an impressive pair of antlers, very distinctively palmate, flattened towards the tip with several sharp points. They shed and regrow these every year, each set usually larger and more impressive than that of the previous year.

Keep a look out for all three species on your winter walks.

**Bridget Lewis**

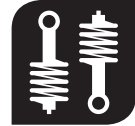
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# The ARTS Page



A very Happy New Year. Let's continue to bring the Arts into our lives and especially those of our children. Funding continues to be under threat and some standards lowered, yet the Arts contribute hugely to the economy and our well-being. We are very lucky in Steeple Aston, with our excellent school and numerous artistic societies. Also, within very few miles there is so much on offer.

To start this bird's eye view, take Chipping Norton, which has an exciting new community-based boutique cinema ([thelivingroomcinemachippy.co.uk](http://thelivingroomcinemachippy.co.uk)). "Quality films in intimate surroundings". I've heard very good reports. It will add to the already outstanding Chipping Norton Theatre's work, mentioned regularly in these pages.

Much to enjoy at the ever-enterprising Oxford Playhouse. You choose, but four upcoming shows we'll be going to are:

**Fascinating Aida** Britain's greatest Cabaret Trio! "Uniquely charming, with diamond-sharp satire, filthy, hilarious, belligerent, political, poignant and outrageous, this indomitable trio are still the mistresses of their craft." More about them at [fascinatingaida.co.uk](http://fascinatingaida.co.uk) and they're at the Playhouse 30<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**The Circle** by Somerset Maugham. A sparky comedy of manners, set in 1921, with a star cast including Jane Asher and Clive Francis. "An exceptional cast. Thrilling to watch. A comic treat." *WhatsOnStage*. 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February.

**Noises Off** needs no introduction. A Modern Classic! 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February.

**Macbeth** English Touring Theatre in association with the Bristol Old Vic. From 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March. "A struggling and divided nation, tearing itself apart. So, when the Macbeths see their chance at the crown, why shouldn't they take it?" "A thrilling production" *Reviews Hub*

These and much more at [oxfordplayhouse.com](http://oxfordplayhouse.com) and across the road at the Ashmolean, ([ashmolean.org](http://ashmolean.org)) it is worth catching their joint Flora Yukhnovich and Daniel Crews-Chubb exhibition – a showcase of new large-scale paintings from two exciting contemporary painters. Until 14<sup>th</sup> January. And look out for 'Breugel to Rubens' – great Flemish drawings, from 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> June,

The Banbury Symphony Orchestra gave a marvellous concert in Deddington Church in November and are there again on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm, with "lesser-known works, beginning to emerge from obscurity". Women composers are now, at last, fully recognised, not least Ethel Smythe – child prodigy, prodigious composer and suffragette, who spent two months in Holloway prison. Here represented by her Overture to 'The Wreckers'. Her works received public recognition, for example, *The Russian Musical Gazette* noted in 1912: "Her gifts as a composer are a most welcome phenomenon of St Petersburg's musical life". She was BBC Radio 3's Composer of the Week in December 2022. Also Dvorak's 'American Suite' and Leokadiya Kashperova's 'Symphony in B Minor'. As with Paul Ingram and the Woodstock Music Society, this is wonderfully adventurous programming, widening all our horizons.

Do make your own suggestions and widen the appeal of the Arts Page! Like with Paul Ingram and Here's a wonderful performance of Vivaldi's 'Winter' 2<sup>nd</sup> movement, by the outstanding Rachel Podger. Also played beautifully at the Wassail Evening by Holly Viner.

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**Nicholas Cleobury**  
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# ???? Mind Games

(from Cathy Lawday)

What are the words defined below? They can all be made from the letters of the word  
**J A N U A R Y**

*answers are at the bottom of this page*

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1. a colourful bird                               | ----  |
| 2. a large flat fish                              | ----  |
| 3. a receptacle for jam                           | ----  |
| 4. a few  | ----  |
| 5. Stubbs, O'Connor and Healy                     | ----  |
| 6. moved with speed                               | ----  |
| 7. colonial rule in India                         | ----  |
| 8. a score in cricket                             | ----  |
| 9. a vase to store the ashes of a deceased person | ----  |
| 10. a partially open door                         | ----- |
| 11. twelve good men                               | ----- |
| 12. Giggs, Gosling, Cooder and O'Neal             | ----- |
| 13. a length of wool                              | ----- |
| 14. the atmosphere or force surrounding a person  | ----- |
| 15. the name of a Spanish king                    | ----- |

Answers  
1. Jay; 2. ray; 3. jar; 4. any; 5. Una; 6. ran; 7. raj; 8. run; 9. urn; 10. ajar; 11. jury; 12. Ryan; 13. yarn; 14. aura; 15. Juan

## 2023 Season

The highlight of our 2023 season was undoubtedly the match against the Lord's Taverners, which we lost narrowly. At least on the bright side we gave Monty Panesar, a fervent Luton Town FC fan, something to celebrate this year. Our overall results for the year were:

Won 3    Drawn 1    Lost 2

This is our 14<sup>th</sup> year out of the last 16 seasons, in which we have won more than we have lost, not a bad effort for our small village team. Our overall win rate is 64%. We are hoping to play eight or nine games this year and the 2024 Fixture List will appear in next month's Steeple Aston Life. We are holding our Awards Dinner and AGM at 6pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January in the White Horse, Duns Tew, to which all Club Members are welcome.

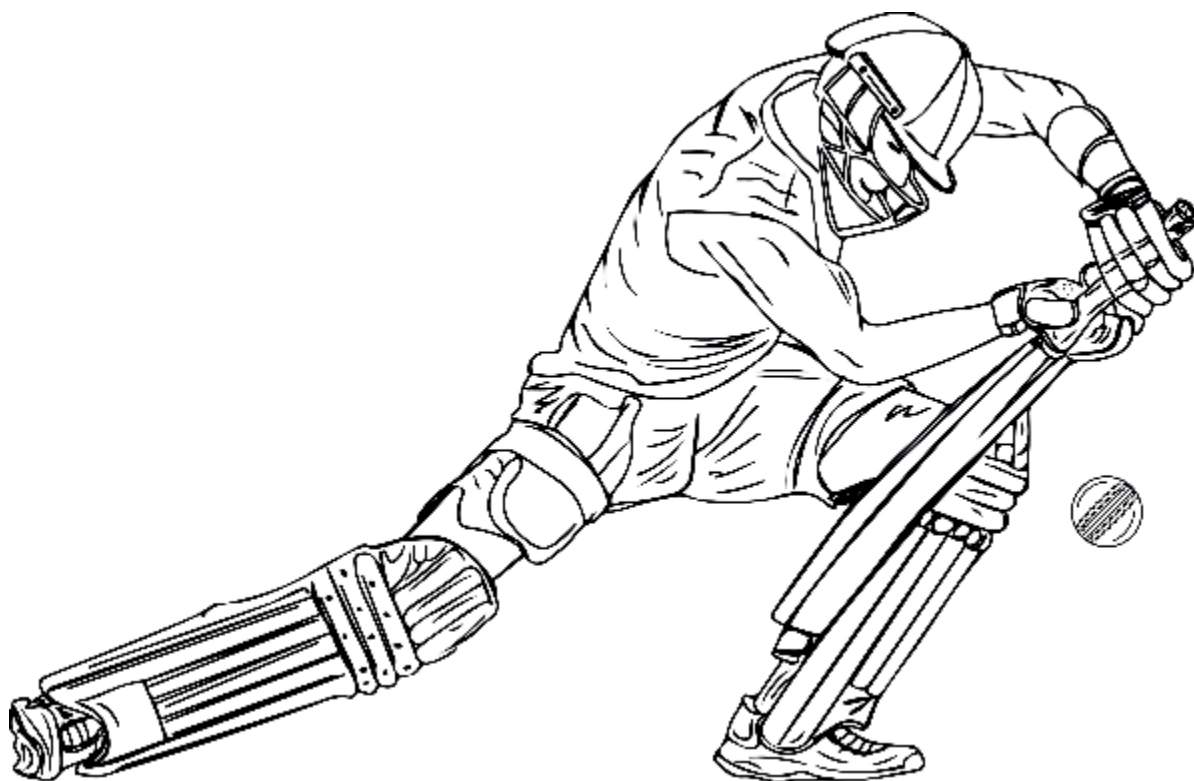
## Life-Time Averages

Whilst of course I cannot reveal the 2023 Season's Averages, since the Winners of the Awards are a closely guarded secret, here are the Life-Time Averages for all current members of the Club:

### Batting

Players	Runs	Outs	Average	100s	50s
Nick Foster	197	3	65.67	1	
Tom Chesser	745	13	57.31	2	5
Richard Wilson	48	1	48.00		
Alec Michaelis	118	3	39.33	1	
Hector Higgins	141	4	35.25		
Jeremy Farrar	955	28	34.11	1	7
Peter Higgins	2177	64	34.02	1	12
Jon Scotchbrook	3237	103	31.43	3	23
Olly Doggett	573	20	28.65	3	
Arthur Higgins	595	21	28.33	1	3
Nigel Doggett	1487	58	25.64	8	
Chris Watson	169	10	16.90		
Tim Jones	88	6	14.67		
James Liebrecht	92	8	11.50		
Phil Chesser	484	46	10.52		
Charlie Simmons-Jones	61	6	10.17		
Jack Higgins	89	9	9.89		
Alain Michaelis	37	4	9.25		
Merrick Baggallay	32	4	8.00		
Mutley Nelson	43	6	7.17		
Sam Hatzigeorgiou	112	16	7.00		
Lewis Holland	17	3	5.67		
Paul Longman	134	29	4.62		





## Bowling

Players	Overs	Runs	Wickets	Average	R/O	5W/I
Ben Evans	5	22	3	7.33	4.4	
Jack Higgins	14.2	38	5	7.60	2.7	
Richard Wilson	9	40	4	10.00	4.4	
Hector Higgins	41	133	12	11.08	3.2	1
Alain Michaelis	43	138	10	13.80	3.2	
Peter Higgins	587.8	2217	148	14.98	3.8	2
Tom Chesser	170.1	608	39	15.59	3.6	2
Arthur Higgins	58	299	18	16.61	5.2	
Paul Longman	503.1	2117	119	17.79	4.2	3
Nick Foster	11	62	3	20.67	5.6	
Nigel Doggett	111.3	546	26	21.00	4.9	
Chris Watson	24	154	6	25.67	6.4	
Alec Michaelis	15	87	3	29.00	5.8	
Charlie Simmons-Jones	14	120	3	40.00	8.6	
James Liebrecht	53	288	7	41.14	5.4	
Olly Doggett	79	376	9	41.78	4.8	
Sam Hatzigeorgiou	46.1	384	9	42.67	8.3	
Phil Chesser	41	295	6	49.17	7.2	
Jeremy Farrar	12	120	1	120.00	10.0	
Mutley Nelson	1	7	0	-	7.0	
Merrick Baggallay	3	39	0	-	13.0	

With best wishes to all

**Peter Higgins**  
**Chairman SACC**



## Dr Radcliffe's Church of England School

Fir Lane, Steeple Aston, Bicester, OX25 4SF

T: (01869) 340204

E: [office.3828@dr-radcliffes.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3828@dr-radcliffes.oxon.sch.uk)

[www.dr-radcliffes.org.uk](http://www.dr-radcliffes.org.uk)

## Site Supervisor (from end April 2024)

**Up to 27.5 hours a week split shift (to include opening and closing) (negotiable)**  
**45.6 weeks a year.**

Our school needs a site supervisor to take over from our current site supervisor who has been in post for a number of successful years. Duties include security (including opening and closing the school); carrying out maintenance, repairs and minor decoration, maintaining school records and co-ordinating the work of cleaning staff and the ordering of stock.

We are part of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust [www.odst.org.uk](http://www.odst.org.uk) and enjoy a rural location in North Oxfordshire.

The successful candidate will:

- ☐ Be self-motivated.
- ☐ Have previous relevant handyperson experience.
- ☐ Have the ability to relate well to members of the school community.
- ☐ Be willing to participate in development and training opportunities.

We are looking for a Site Supervisor who will enjoy working on behalf of our children and families. Visits to the school are welcomed and encouraged. If you want further details on the role available, including application forms, please call the school on 01869 340204 or email [office.3828@dr-radcliffes.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3828@dr-radcliffes.oxon.sch.uk)

**Closing Date: - Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.**

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

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





# *The Gardening Spot*

## **Time to celebrate our outdoor space**

You may not have noticed yet, but the days are getting that bit longer and it is time to start planning for 2024. With 1<sup>st</sup> January looming, or maybe already here, tradition suggests we make a 'New Year resolution'. This is something I have never done as it is one thing less to go wrong, but it is a great time to think about what the year might bring or could bring given a bit of thought.

Maybe you have plans for a family celebration, a holiday somewhere exotic or simply, what to do with the garden. Over the past few grey and miserable days, I have looked through the various seed catalogues and decided what I would like to grow. Some are old faithfuls, such as 'sweet candle' carrots, 'Benchmark' runner beans and some wallflower seeds for that splash of colour in spring 2025. But more excitingly, yes, I know, I am very easily excited, a few seeds I have never grown before. These include cherry plum tomatoes that are supposed to have more flavour than a certain make of tomato ketchup, a cucumber that is going to grow to at least 18 inches in length and some flower seeds that I have never heard of, but apparently, with climate change and the hope of a hot, dry summer, display colours that will make a rainbow look dull and boring. This is the fun side of gardening and even if all my dreams and expectations do not come to fruition, at least I have had a go and can blame those seed catalogues if they fail. After decades of growing, it could not be my fault!

January is the time of the year for so called 'garden experts' to keep fairly quiet, rather than suggest you might want to make an early cut of the lawn or prune the fruit trees. Why? Because we in Britain, an island situated on the eastern side of a very large expanse of water, have what can best be described as changeable weather. Oh goodness, here he goes again, talking about the weather. But let's be honest here, we in this country receive varied weather conditions and, for the past decades or centuries, this has provided us with a conversation piece unequalled anywhere else in the world.

To prove a point, every day for the past 12 years or so, I take a measurement of the rainfall. I have an indoor/outdoor thermometer to tell me if it is hot or cold outside. How sad is that you ask! Interestingly, although the 'experts' claim 2023 to be the hottest year on record, we experienced the wettest year for the past 12 years with over 40 inches of rain. The previous highest here in Steeple Aston was in 2020 and 2012 when we had about half-an-inch less. Anyway, enough of the weather.

So what advice can I give you for the garden during January? Probably the best suggestion is to keep off the garden unless there are a few leaves to collect, or a monster weed has emerged and needs removing. Make sure the greenhouse or frames are clean and ready for the onslaught once the temperatures begin to climb. Make sure all your tools are clean and sharpened if appropriate. Get the lawn mower serviced, or at least sharpen the blades and lubricate all moving parts. But the best advice of all is to enjoy the wonderful outdoor space that we have all around us. Take a walk around some of the many footpaths that abound here in rural north Oxfordshire. Maybe go in search of the first snowdrop blooms or simply take in the scenery that surrounds us all.

Now I have to let you all into a little secret! Three of my grandchildren, who appear to love gardening, asked me what they might be getting for Christmas and I had some wonderful advice from a gentleman who is now having a well-earned rest. I spoke to Santa Claus, well some of us have good connections! He immediately came up with the perfect answer and with a chuckle and a smile, simply said to me, "Hoe, Hoe, Hoe!"

All the best for 2024.

***Richard Preston***

# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



This is a report from the special Parish Council meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. This was for the Parish Council to hear comments on, and decide if it approved of, the proposals from the second report of the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP) site assessment team for housing development sites around Steeple Aston.

At the last Parish Council discussion of the sites I was unusually virtuous and did not give any of my typical slant on the issues discussed. I am still trying to be completely objective again this time. It is a terrible strain not to give you my slant on discussions, and worse than usual this time as I live close to site three, the field to the east and north of the two parts of Grange Park. So you have been warned – like many in the village I have a personal interest in the proposals.

The meeting began with Angharad Lloyd-Jones, the Chair of the Parish Council, saying the revised report was recommending sites eight and six, with site three as the reserve. Site eight is opposite Townend, site six is on Fenway next to Coneygar Fields and site three is behind the east and south sides of Grange Park. The report says site four, the old sand quarry off Fenway, had been excluded because of its potential for legal disputes. The potential legal disputes were not explained at the meeting (although they are in the report) and the owner, Mat Watson, who is a Parish Councillor, was not at the meeting.

Martin Lipson was asked to explain the background. Since I have written about this quite a lot before, I am confining myself here to just the bones of Martin's description. This spring the Parish Council and those who came to a village meeting accepted that if we had to have some housing development it would be preferable to decide for ourselves about where and what is built rather than having it imposed on us by Cherwell District Council. It was agreed that the MCNP committee would be asked to provide a four-person site assessment team to make recommendations. The team was to include at least one person from outside the village to ensure impartiality. The team chosen was Martin Lipson and Paul Rodgers from Steeple Aston, Philippa Tickle

from Duns Tew and Caroline Edwards from Middle Aston.

Martin told us that if the Parish Council endorsed the proposed plan its recommendations would go into a consultation document on which views from everybody will be sought. Cherwell will then be sent a revised plan and they will send it out for yet another consultation. After the meeting I rang Martin and asked him how comments could be most effectively made at this point and he suggested that it might be best to wait till MCNP consults on the proposals in January. After Cherwell's further consultation on the plan it will be sent to an examiner appointed by the Government. The examiner's recommendations will be subject to a local referendum and so, finally, we should get a decision. Wow!

The four assessors treated the meeting rather like a school nativity play with each of them having a turn to say something. One of them said that the Parish Council had decided last month that there should be about 30 new homes on two or three sites with 10 to 15 homes on each site.

The members of the public present were then asked if they wished to comment. Graham Porcas handed over a petition against development at site four, the old sand quarry. He said he had got 116 signatures in two days. He told us that many of those he talked to were angry that site four had been considered again after being rejected for development as recently as 2017.

Richard Preston told us he was not going to speak about site three, which he owns and which is the proposed reserve site. Instead, he concentrated on site six on Fenway which is the second of the recommended sites. He pointed out that site six is a long way from the school, shop, bus stop, village hall and play space. Richard said the Fenway site would extend the village into the countryside and wondered where any development on Fenway would stop. He said the Fenway site was close to one edge of the conservation area, was agricultural and adjacent to a bridleway.



# Parish Council Meeting Notes



He said that because site six is at the edge of the village it would mean that the new residents could feel isolated and they would need to drive into the village, making the traffic worse. He quoted the 2017 report on developing site six where Cherwell planners had commented that 'it would not be possible to achieve a satisfactory form of development without harm being caused to the character and appearance of the area'. Richard said site six would damage the first impression of the village as you approached it along Fenway.

Someone suggested that the potential rural exception sites should be considered at the same time as the proposed development sites in case they would impinge on each other, for example in relation to more traffic. Another villager told us he was worried that the trees on the proposed development sites should remain and was assured they were protected.

Martin Lipson then answered all the comments. He said Richard Preston had identified all the cons of site six, but not the positives. He gave the example of the construction traffic being able to reach site six from the main road without needing to go through the village. He said Richard's field, site three, was the worst site of all in this respect.

Martin explained that a Gateway site was on an entrance to the village. Hence sites eight and six were both Gateway sites. No one said this at the meeting, and I have no idea if others agree with me, but I notice Coneygar Fields each time I come into the village along Fenway. To me this entrance to the village is already compromised.

Cherwell will probably comment on the proposals in due course, but they have no more power of veto than any of the rest of us. It will be for the Government examiner to decide if there is a difference of opinion. Martin explained that the site assessment team were not making any recommendations about possible rural exception sites as these were for the future. He

pointed out that any new homes would cause extra traffic in the village, whichever sites are chosen.

It was noted that the Plan will recommend conditions for any development such as the number and size of housing, proportion of affordable houses, need for footpaths and environmental factors such as preserving trees. Paul Rodgers told us that a community land trust, which would allow us, rather than commercial developers, to decide these issues was working well in Hook Norton and it was being investigated as a possible model for us.

At this point a few people were allowed a second opportunity to speak. Graham Porcas said that when he was going round with his petition about 20% to 30% said they would prefer no extra housing at all. Someone asked about rural exception sites and was told these would probably be refused unless it was the Parish Council asking for them and that this was unlikely to happen before 2025 and even then might well take more years before completion.

The Parish Councillors voted to accept the site recommendations, with two abstentions – Martin because he was on the site selection team and Peter Dammerman because he lives close to site four, the one rejected because of potential legal uncertainties. Angharad was given delegated authority to agree the wording of the Plan policies for the sites.

Angharad thanked the four on the development site team and said she appreciated the huge amount of work and expertise they had put into the whole exercise. A huge thank you from the village as well.

## *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)*

## Sing A Song of Merry Christmas, by Margaret Bullement

It may be winter, but in Steeple Aston, music, laughter and conviviality always greet the darkest time of the year.

The Choral Society's *Autumn into Winter* concert was a delightful programme, spanning two-and-a-half centuries of seasonal music beginning with Mozart's exquisite *Vesperae solennes de confessore* – *Solemn Vespers*. We know Mozart was a great joker and this joyful work with words from the Psalms, is anything but solemn, as the chorus, four soloists and organ demonstrated, while weaving an exuberant tapestry of sound, enthusiastically directed by SACS director, Paul Badley.

Mozart's sparkling concert round, *Sing a Song of Merry Christmas* led us into winter and to Bob Chilcott's *On Christmas Night*. This work has eight carols skillfully set to traditional and contemporary melodies, but also allows for other seasonal pieces to be added between the carols.

The soloists gave us some beautifully contrasting pieces. Soprano, Angela Kazimierczuk, sang Dunhill's *How Soft Upon the Evening Air*; mezzo-soprano, Susanna Spicer, another Chilcott composition, *The Time of Snow* and baritone Guy Harbottle, gave us Cornelius's *The Three Kings*, with Jon Kingston, a previous SACS accompanist, giving his usual expert support on organ and piano.

The evening ended with the audience enthusiastically joining with the choir in singing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*.

There was some difficult music in this concert and notwithstanding power cuts and illness hampering rehearsals, everyone involved deserves praise for such a joyful evening.

The Village Wassail two weeks later, continued the joyful theme. After the entrance of the Wandering Wassailers led by Holly Viner on violin and Daniel Viner, reindeer, on sleigh bells, Paul Rodgers read *The Shortest Day*, reminding us that whatever we choose to call this time of the year, it has only ever been about the winter solstice and our slow emergence into the light – accompanied by suitable liquid refreshment.







The evening had a royal flavour – appropriately, for the end of Coronation year – with Alan Brewer and Vaughan Billings telling us the real truth about bad King John and what he hoped Santa would bring him for Christmas. The audience joined in enthusiastically with the royal Wish List. *We Three Kings* also got an update, with Nick Cleobury's impression of King John's thirty-fifth successor.

*We Three Kings* was not the only perennial favourite to get updated. *White Christmas* transformed into *Strictly Come Wassailing*, as Eileen Baglin-Jones and Nigel Francis took to the floor. We laughed a lot when the Wassailer ladies performed Cathy Lawday's, *A Relatively Happy Christmas*, as we all recognised a relative, or two, in her witty poem.

The interval was time to visit Barbara Brewer in the kitchen for a mince pie and sample Roger Mason's excellent and fragrant mulled wine, before tackling Paul Herrington's *A Medley of Carols* – five carols already programmed into Paul's keyboard – which requires some concentration.

Holly Viner, transformed from village fiddle player to accomplished young violinist, gave us a lyrical performance of part of the *Winter* concerto, from Vivaldi's *The Seasons*, accompanied by Paul Herrington.

The Wandering Wassailers (aka *SACS* members) reprised *Sing a Song of Merry Christmas* and then the Handbell Ringers arrived. Christmas is not Christmas in SA without the handbell ringers. Both the Junior and (aah-hem) Senior groups each performed three delightful carols, ending with seventeen bells. Their selected charity this year is the *Disasters Emergency Committee* and you can donate to this even if you were not at the Wassail.

After the bells, we were introduced to Santa's Rappin' Rassailers – Daniel and Holly Viner – two reindeer, who were definitely not amused at having to haul Santa through the sky. Santa slept through the whole rap, but was woken rather abruptly at the end.



None of this would have been possible without WPH – the Wonderful Paul Herrington and his Christmas keyboard. He had come straight from playing for an hour -and-a-half at the Helen and Douglas Hospice in Oxford, to play for us and then had to load his car and drive back home to Abingdon. We really appreciate the time and effort he commits to the village's musical events.

Thanks also to our photographer and Christmas Elf, Nigel Francis, who continues to record our musical events for posterity.

(The Carol Service always happens too late to be recorded here, but if you did not attend this year, please put it in your musical dairy for next. It is directed by Nicholas Cleobury and brings our musical season to a wonderful end.)

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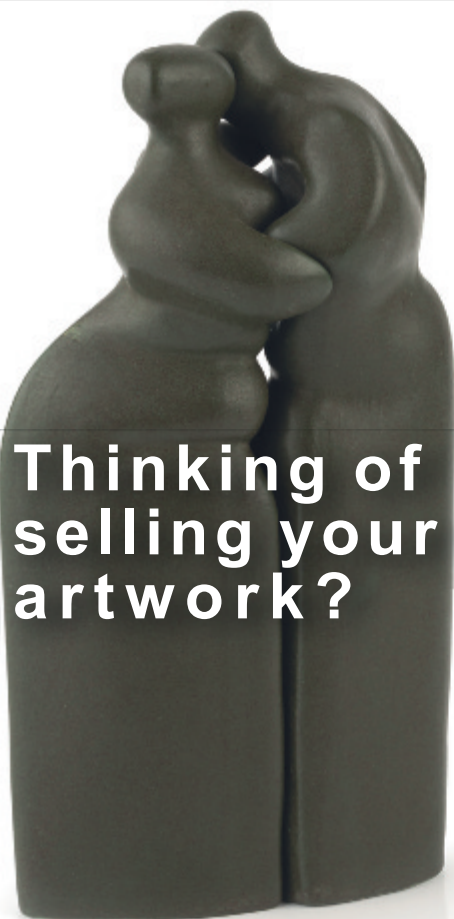
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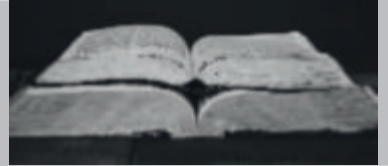
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# Poetry Corner



## A poem for January Think Bold

beyond the year that we've just had  
the future's rich if we can shape  
what lies ahead both good or bad  
a future poor we must escape  
the hopes we have are crystal clear  
we choose this month to reassess  
as we resolve this time each year  
our past let go (well more or less)

yet come the depths of winter days  
we hunker down our minds turn back  
we then regress to older ways  
it's far less work than changing tack  
but if we swell our minds and just stay bold  
the changes that we make repay tenfold

*Peter Wild*

## A Relatively Happy Christmas

There is a tradition I can't understand  
Although I've really tried  
Why must we see the family  
Every year at Christmas tide?

We manage to avoid these people  
All through the rest of the year  
So why must they always visit  
In the season of good cheer?

Aunties, uncles and cousins  
Folk we can barely remember  
All come out of the woodwork  
Once the calendar says 'December'.

Grandparents and godparents  
Even parents-in-law  
Turn up on our doorstep.  
What are they hoping for?

The answer to that is easy  
When it comes to Auntie Cherry  
What she wants is always the same  
A glass or two of sherry.

And the sherry has the same effect  
As port & lemon has on Auntie Megs  
The alcohol goes straight from their glass  
Down to their little fat legs.

So they stay and chat for hours  
Beached on the settee  
Waiting to be offered  
A sobering cup of tea.

Uncles Eric and Derek come and visit  
And think that it is wise  
To criticise my pastry  
Whilst eating all of my mince pies.

Another Christmas visitor  
Is the Reverend Grandpa Coley  
Who comes around at Christmastime  
And starts to get all holy.

He preaches to all and sundry  
That Christmas is materialistic  
Meanwhile sitting at the table  
Scoffing all the biscuits.

My cousin Maggie turns up  
With her seven rowdy kids  
I feel so sorry for them  
I suspect they're on the skids.

So I wrap up little presents.  
And give them each a stocking  
Though if they don't get the toys they want  
Their language is quite shocking.

Grandad Evans turns up as well  
And drinks most of a bottle of whisky  
Then he pinches my behind  
And says he's feeling frisky.

Another seasonal visitor  
Is my step-brother Mike  
Who drinks all the cider in the house  
Then wobbles home on his bike.

All these guests are keen to hold forth  
And give a hundred reasons  
Why folk these days are selfish  
And miss the true meaning of the season.

They all explain how Christmas  
Should be about giving not receiving  
And they expand upon this theme  
Until, at last, they're leaving.

I wave goodbye to my relatives  
From the open door  
And I assess the damage  
And pick empty bottles from the floor.

And I don't tear my hair out,  
Or start yelling and shrieking.  
Because my family are all right  
'Relatively' speaking.

I really love my family  
Even though they're a little rough  
And it's good to see them all at Christmas  
..... But once a year is quite enough!

*Cathy Lawday*

*(This is a poem read at the village  
Wassail Evening on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>  
December)*



# 1st Deddington Guides *Report*



The Guides were disappointed not to parade to the church on Remembrance Day, but all the youngsters in the uniform groups managed amazingly well with the last-minute change of plans and no rehearsal. They remained calm and carried out their duties impeccably. Well done to them all.

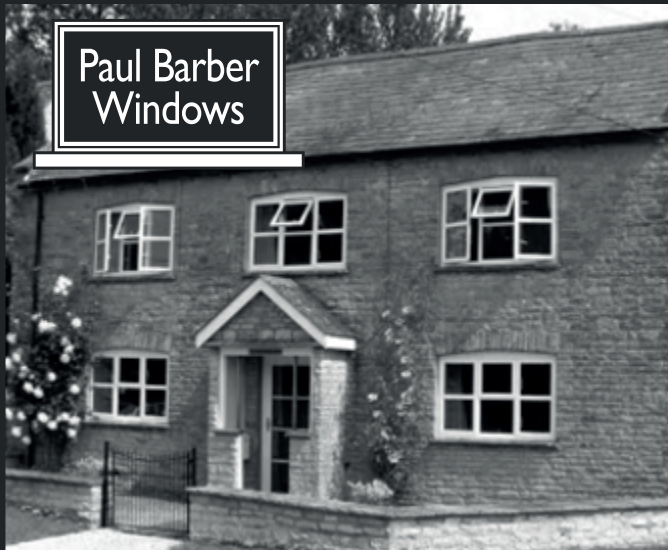
The experience helped us in the badge 'Skills for my Future' that we are all working towards. We have been practising organising events and emergency situations that test our initiative, teamwork and quick thinking!

Melissa and Daisy did a grand job organising all the Guides to put on a fashion show. We had a catwalk, music and commentary – the real thing! We saw some amazing performances on the catwalk.

We had a lot of fun and games, particularly at our Christmas party. Who knew that musical chairs could be such a contact sport! Well done to Holly who survived the game to the end, coming second – but on crutches!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. We meet again on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**Maggie Rampley**  
**07957 600755**



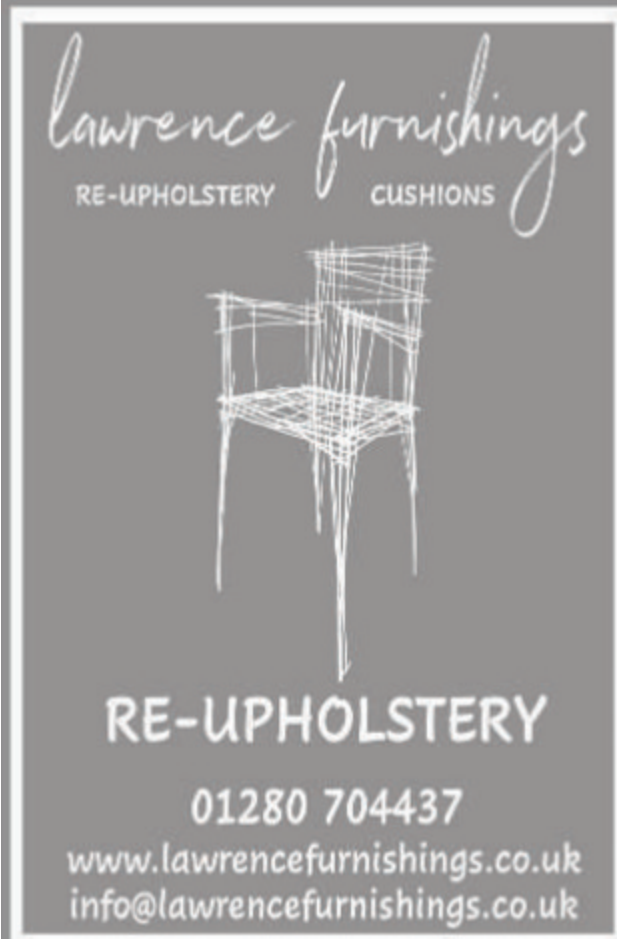
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## THE VALENTINE CLUB

First and most importantly, a very happy and healthy New Year to everyone!

December started off with a visit to The Delta Marriot Hotel in Warwick (see photo). where around 50 of us enjoyed a three-course meal accompanied by some liquid refreshment and entertainment based around the music of The Beatles. Some of our members dressed in the 1960s gear and it would be fair to say, some of the vintage clothes still fitted – some achievement given the time since they were last worn. As always, there was a raffle and a welcome mince pie as we entered the hotel. I did not realise that so many of our members were still able to 'cut up' the dance floor in such a stylish manner and come away without breaking any bones!



This was simply the practice session for the following Tuesday when 90 members packed into the village hall for a superb Christmas feast supplied by S & J Cuisine and accompanied by copious amounts of wine and soft drinks plus a magnificent cheese board. If that was not enough there was what is now, the famous raffle. Yes, all 2,000 raffle prizes, or at least, that is what it felt like, mostly given by members themselves. To follow the meal, we welcomed Lee and Jamie with some great music, comedy, and their highly polished show which apparently, could be heard on South Side! At this point it is only correct to mention those few, wonderful people who festooned the hall with lights, decorations and table centres – they know who they are. These were enjoyed by not only our club, but many others including the wassail and private parties.

So, what are we going to do for 2024? To start with, we welcome back Jackie Maynard on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, a singer with a truly amazing voice as witnessed by many on TV and around the country. With her Welsh origins, she has the voice that could easily be mistaken for Shirley Bassey but has a style all of her own. As usual, the meeting will start at 2.30pm in the village hall.

The club has coach trips taking us to all parts of the country and possibly three holidays during 2024. The first is back to The Isle of Wight during April and then, later in September, we are all off to Eastbourne, before possibly taking a coach to The Thursford Christmas Show in Norfolk in November. Our monthly meetings will have a mixture of speakers, information, and entertainment and most importantly, great company.

We have a membership of 100 and sadly, that is all we can take at any one time simply because the village hall is unable to accommodate any more in comfort. We do have a waiting list, but if anyone wants to learn more about the club and maybe join at some stage, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I would like to say massive thanks to my committee and all those who come to the club. The success of the club is entirely down to all those who attend each meeting, join us on our coach trips and even want to have a few days away together as a big family. Thankyou all for your amazing support throughout the year and let us make 2024 even better.

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 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. In 2023 we had three lucky participants who won £250 each, so why not have a go?

**Richard Preston – Group organiser**

[richardpreston5@btopenworld.com](mailto:richardpreston5@btopenworld.com)



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## THE ASTONS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - SPRING FLOWER SHOW 2024 - ENTRY FORM

The Spring Flower Show will be held in the Village Hall on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March** from 2.30 - 4.30 pm. Entries are open to everyone and new exhibitors are welcome. The entry fee includes the Society's membership fee. Rules for exhibitors are as laid down by the secretary in the Annual Show Schedule except (a) entries must be in by **7pm on Thursday 21st March. Late entries will be charged double, and no entry will be accepted after Friday 22nd March** (b) exhibits must be staged between 9 – 10.45am on the morning of the show **after which the Hall will be closed.** Multiple entries in the same class will not be allowed in Divisions 1, 2 and 3. Cups will be awarded to the winner of most points in each open Division and the Mead Vase will be awarded to the person having entered in at least three of the five divisions and gaining the most points in the show. Easter eggs will be awarded to the winner of the most points in each of the children's age groups and the Bedding Cup for the best exhibit.

### DIVISION 1

#### HORTICULTURE - FOR DUNCAN CUP

1. Tulips growing in a container
2. Daffodils (long or short trumpets) in container
3. Daffodils (multi-headed) in container
4. Miniature Daffodils in container
5. Hyacinths in a container
6. Any other container grown bulb
7. Any other container grown spring flower/s of one or more variety, excluding bulbs
8. Cactus or succulent) *must be in your*
9. Pot Plant Flowering) possession *for*
10. Pot plant foliage ) *8 weeks*
11. Vase of Cut Garden Blooms
12. Container of Garden shrubs/Hedgerow/Trees Buds or Blossom, judged on variety and quality
13. 5 cut stems of Daffodils (long trumpets) any varieties
14. 5 cut stems of Daffodil (short trumpets) any varieties
15. 5 cut stems of miniature Daffodils
16. 5 cut stems of multi-headed Daffodils
17. 3 Stems of Rhubarb (tops on)
18. Container of Cut Scented Spring Flowers
19. A single cut daffodil with solitary bloom
20. Any fresh vegetable (excluding Rhubarb)

### DIVISION 2

#### COOKERY - FOR WI CUP

21. A Quiche Lorraine
22. 100% Wholemeal loaf
23. 2 Empanadas (Similar to mini pasties)
24. Panettone (Any flavour)
25. 3 egg Victoria Sandwich
26. 3 Florentines
27. Marble cake
28. 5 Pieces of Turkish delight
29. Seville Marmalade
30. Fruit curd (Lemon, orange, lime etc.)
31. 3 home produced eggs from domestic fowl (with saucer)
32. Homemade lemonade in a clear bottle with a glass
33. Homemade alcoholic drink in a clear glass bottle with a glass. (Shop purchased gins / vodkas to flavour are allowed)

### DIVISION 3 -FLORAL ART FOR THE FLOWER CLUB

#### SILVER TROPHY (All 4 classes count for the cup).

Exhibits marked \* to be staged in a niche 18" wide, 18" deep and 25" high

34. Handtied Spring posy
35. \*Title - 'Sunshine and rain' - accessories allowed
36. \*Foliage Arrangement- no accessories allowed
37. Title – 'Easter Wreath' (Ready to hang)

### DIVISION 4 -FOR HANDICRAFT CUP

38. A Knitted or crochet flower
  39. 'A repurposed piece of clothing'
  40. A limerick - 'The loveliest thing about spring' (With 8 syllables in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> lines and 5 syllables in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines)
  41. A painting or drawing
  42. Any other handicraft
  43. An 'Easter' card
  44. Photo – 'New Life'
  45. Photo – 'Patterns'
  46. Photo – 'Opposites'
  47. Photo 'Building (s)' Must be black and white photo
- Photos - may be in colour or black and white for classes 44 to 46 and all photos are not to exceed 7" by 5". No mounts allowed**

### DIVISION 5 -NOTE NEW AGE GROUPS, age must be written on entry form.

#### Under 5

48. Hand/ finger printing A4 max size
49. Painting or drawing of an animal, A4 max size
50. Decorated cupcake (cupcake can be shop purchased)

#### Aged 5 to 7 inclusive

51. Toilet roll animal
52. 3 homemade biscuits – to be judged on taste
53. A playdoh pet

#### Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

54. An item of origami
55. A portrait, either painted or drawn, not larger than A4
56. 3 Cereal bars to be judged on taste. Displayed on a plate

#### Aged 12 – 15 inclusive

57. A chocolate cake to be judged on taste and appearance.
58. A painting or drawing

Please circle the classes you wish to enter and return the entry form to Rebecca Lewin, Lansdown House, Heyford Road (07768904841) or Victoria Clifton, Bluebell Cottage, Middle Aston (07817025948) with full entry fee by 7 pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Extra forms are available from Vicky Clifton or the village shop, or village website.

Classes 1-47 entry fee 30p. Classes 48-59 entry fee 10p. Prizes first £2, second £1, third 50p

For our privacy policy see: <https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening/#horticultural>

### ENTRY FORM

	Classes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Name.....	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37		
Address.....																				
Tel No .....	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55		
If entering Division 5 - Age on day of Show .....																			56	57 58 59

# Village Hall News



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

Ring Barbara on 01869 340423 to book your team.

Entrance fee **£2:50 per person**, maximum **8** people to a table. Entrance fee at time of booking please. **7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start**. There will be a licensed bar so please **do not** bring your own drinks to this event. Only 12 tables will be available for this event so please book early to avoid disappointment.

On behalf of myself and the Village Hall Committee we would like to wish you all a happy and safe New Year in 2024.

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2--6 pm NGS Village Open Gardens

Our letting agent is Mrs Angela Smith – 07734 112967. Please do not call this number between 6pm and 8pm unless urgent.

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

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

**Barbara Brewer – chair**

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



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Our last meeting of the year, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, took place at the Deddington Arms Hotel, where we had our Christmas lunch. There was an excellent turnout, with 29 members in attendance. There was a competition to design and make a Christmas tree decoration. The winner was Judith Lane, who was presented with a bottle of wine, supplied by Merrill Bayley. There was also a quiz, produced by committee member Alyson Jaycock, with questions on Christmas and notable women. This led to a close-run competition. Alyson awarded the winning team a box of chocolates.

The walking netball group had their Christmas meal and get together on 13<sup>th</sup> December. To get an invite you had to join the netball group!

For our final event of 2023, we joined in the Wassail evening, where some of the SAWI read a poem by Cathy Lawday.

Looking ahead to 2024, our first meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> January, when speaker Pam Newall will give a talk entitled 'A walk around Rome, off the beaten track'.

Also, we are restarting regular WI coffee & cake mornings in the New Year, trying the Grain Store at The Hatchery for our first get-together.

Don't forget the trip to the ballet in February – two different ballets on two different days.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

**Julie Hillier**  
**WI President**





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Happy New Year!

I hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas break, enjoying the festivities and celebrations. The Christmas season within church lasts until 28th January when the Baby Jesus was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem (sometimes known as Candlemas). However, most of us think of Christmas as being over on the 6th January, as we remember the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men).

There are a number of historical traditions associated with the wise men, due in part to how little the Bible actually says about them. Whilst we typically think of there being three wise men, in connection to the number of gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh, further east, there are traditionally 12 wise men, possibly linking into the original 12 tribes of Israel. In the 8th Century, a Chronicle cemented the number three when they named them as Balthasar (hailing from Arabia or Ethiopia), Melchior (from Persia), and Gaspar or Casper (from India).

One of the traditions that I like is the story of the Other Wise Man, another Magi who recognises the signs in the heaven about a new King about to be born. He arranges with the others to meet up and travel together to find the King. As he nears their meeting place, he sees a man in need, and so stops to care for the man. Having been delayed, he has to sell one of his treasures, that he was going to give to the new King, to pay for a camel so he can cross the desert.

Sadly, he arrives in Bethlehem too late to see baby Jesus, as He, Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt almost as soon as the other Wise Men left. The fourth Magi however, saves another baby's life through giving away another of his treasures. The magi keeps on travelling, searching for Jesus, helping and caring for others throughout his life. Some 30 years later he arrives in Jerusalem, his money gone except for one last pearl, the last of his treasured gifts for the new King. A young girl is about to be sold into slavery to pay a family's debt. He gives his last pearl to pay her ransom and save her.

The Magi is then struck in the head by a falling roof tile and as he lays dying, he is sad that he never found the new king. However, a voice tells him: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40. NIV). He dies in peace full of wonder and joy. His treasures were accepted, and the Other Wise Man found his King.

I have mentioned before how I spend some time at the end of each day reflecting on the day. One of the questions I'm invited to think about is "where did I see God this day?" As we begin 2024, I invite you to think about where you saw God in the Christmas celebrations. The Other Wise Man constantly saw God in other people treating them with love, dignity and respect. As we look around the world, at the end of 2023, and consider policies regarding immigrants and climate change, can we say we are treating everyone with dignity and respect? This year I pray that we may all know God living within us, and see him in others, loving our neighbours, locally and internationally as God loves us.

God bless.

**Harriet**

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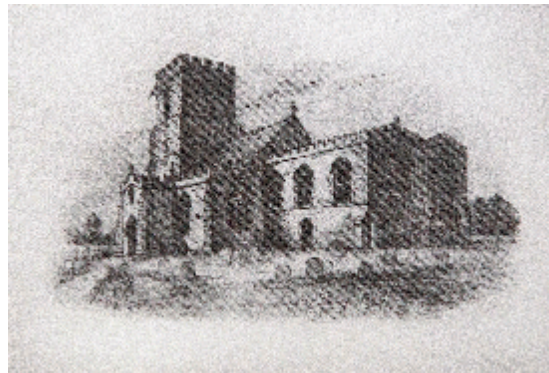
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# Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Epiphany Family Service	<b>11.00am</b> Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	<b>5.30pm</b> Evensong
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion <i>BCP</i>	<b>11.00</b> Family Service	<b>5.30pm</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>11.00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>5.30pm</b> Family Service
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11.00am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>10.30am</b> Covenant Service at Tackley Methodist Church
<b><i>www.sntchurch.com</i></b>			
<b><i>The church buildings are open every day. Feel free to visit at any time.</i></b>			






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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)
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Secretary	Margaret Bulleyment (01869-347346)

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

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Social Function peak times: £55.00  
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## BUS TIMES

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This timetable is effective from 3 September 2023.

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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

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## Rubbish bin collection day is normally Thursday

### December 2023

29<sup>th</sup> Blue moves to Friday



### January 2024

4<sup>th</sup> Green\*  
11<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
18<sup>th</sup> Green  
25<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown

### February 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Green  
8<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
15<sup>th</sup> Green  
22<sup>nd</sup> Blue and brown  
29<sup>th</sup> Green

Food caddy is collected weekly. Batteries and small electrical items packed in clear plastic bags and placed on the top of any bin lid are collected weekly.

# Steeple Aston Calendar

Check the village website at [stepleaston.org.uk/home/calendar](http://stepleaston.org.uk/home/calendar) for any changes.

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

JANUARY 2024			
Tuesday 9th	WI. Pam Newall: 'A Walk around Rome'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Tuesday 16th	Valentine Club. Jackie Maynard sings	Village Hall	2.30pm
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	<b>SAL January 2024 copy and advert deadlines</b>		
Monday 15th	Parish Council meeting	S&R Building	7.30pm
Friday 19th	Cricket Club Awards Dinner and AGM	White Horse, Duns Tew	
Saturday 20th	Annual Quiz Night	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Saturday 27th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 27th	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9am to 12.30pm
<b>SAVE THE DATE!</b>			
24th March	Spring Flower Show	Village Hall	2.30pm to 4.30pm
14th April	SACS: A Spring Evening at the Opera	Village Hall	6.30pm for 7pm
2nd June	NGS Village Open Gardens		2pm to 6pm
30th June	SACS: Summer Party Concert	Village Hall	6.30pm for 7pm
24th November	SACS: Autumn Concert	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  
**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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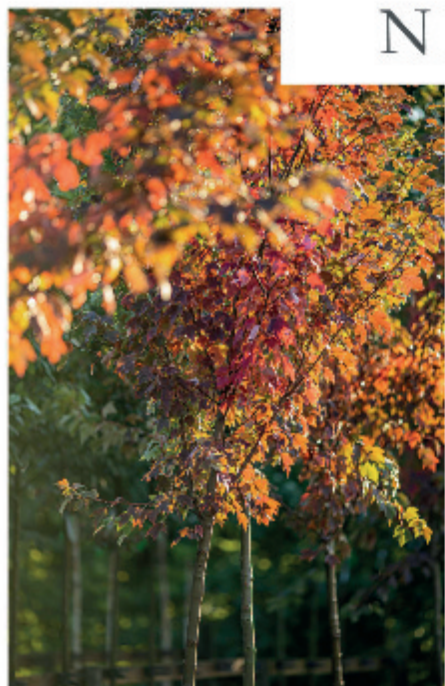
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