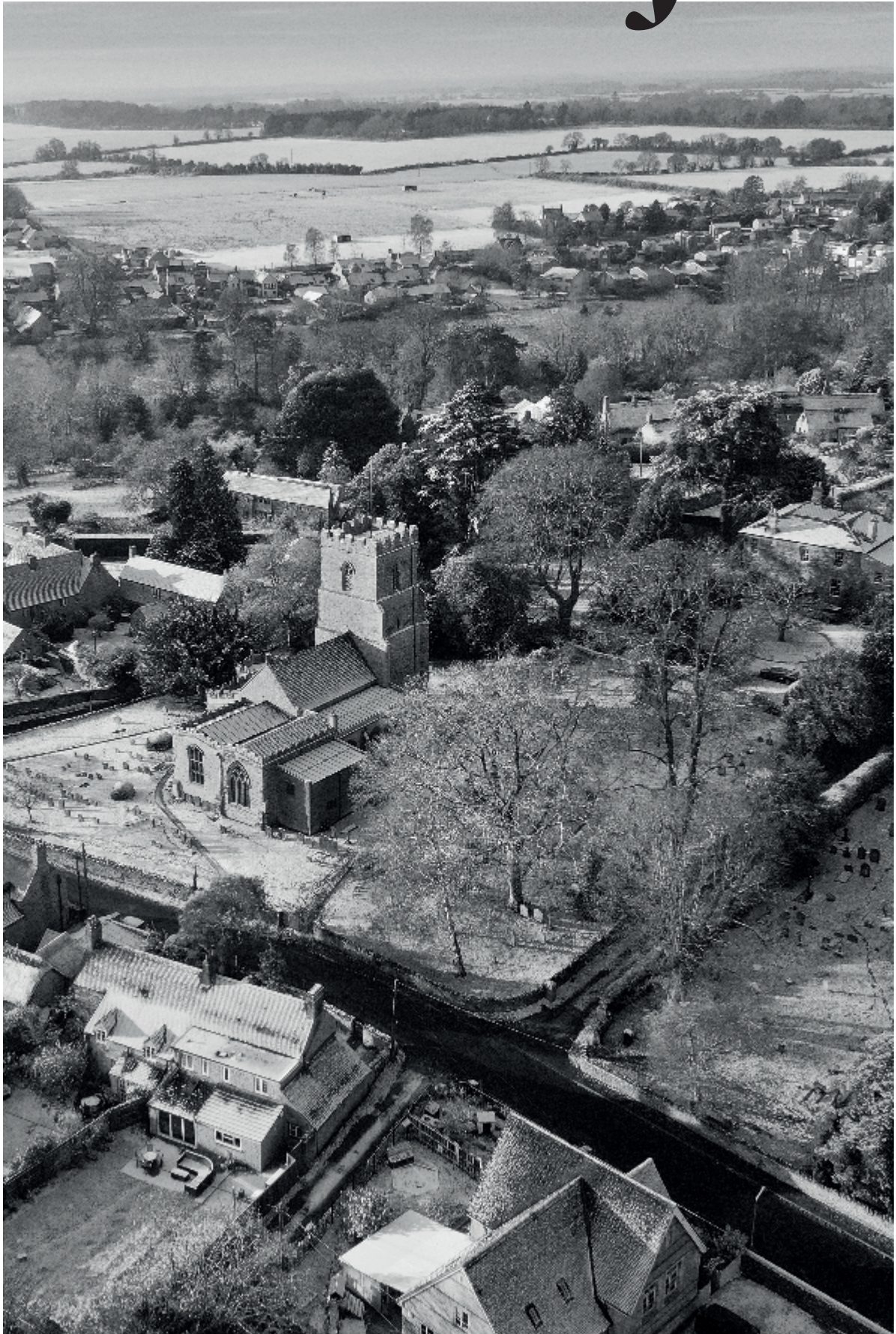


# Steeple Aston *Life*

February 2024

Issue No. 606



- Steeple Aston's resident birds • Aynho House • Environmental impacts •
- An allotment pond • Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan • Mindgames •

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

Cover: Nigel Francis

## Steeple Aston *Life*

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The copy deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> of the  
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Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	347033
Beekeepers (Swarm collection, advice)		Paul Honigmann	340665, 07512 224700
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Hand-bell ringers		Sally Cooper	347173
Brownies		Fiona McLoone	340132
Catholic Church - St. Teresa's	Charlbury	Father Clive Dytor	07484 158642
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Methodist Church – Tackley		Rev Paul Carter	01865 243216
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		Cllr Hugo Brown	
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	Repeat Prescriptions	10am - 3pm	338847
	Out of Hours	111	
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Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
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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
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Village Website	www.steepleaston.org.uk	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*

February 2024

Issue No. 606

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Jenny Bell, Nigel Francis

# Editorial

*"Good morrow, Benedick. Why, what's the matter? That you have such a February face so full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?" – 'Much Ado About Nothing', William Shakespeare*

2024 is a leap year. If you believe these happen every four years, you are mistaken. Read on.

It takes the earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 56 seconds to orbit the sun – slightly longer than the 365 days in a normal year. Without an adjustment, the seasons would begin to drift. It was Julius Caesar – or his astronomer Sosigenes – who came up with the idea of adding an extra day to February.

However, even this was not perfect – there was still a drift of about three days every 400 years. It was Pope Gregory XIII, in 1582, who introduced the rule that century years are only leap years if exactly divisible by 400. So 1700, 1800, 1900 and 2100 are not leap years, but 1600 and 2000 are.

There was a tradition, probably originating in Ireland, that women were allowed to propose marriage to men on 29<sup>th</sup> February. If the man refused, he was required to buy the woman gloves, a silk gown or a fur coat.

There are two other significant February dates – Valentine's Day and Pancake Day. I will leave you to decide which is the more important.

Valentine's Day is always 14<sup>th</sup> February. It is named after Valentine of Terni, a third-century Roman cleric, executed on 14<sup>th</sup> February, possibly in AD 269, for performing secret Christian weddings against the wishes of the authorities.

Pancake Day is more correctly called Shrove Tuesday. It is the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the start of a 40-day period of fasting known as Lent. In olden days, it was traditional to prepare pancakes and other foods made from butter, eggs and milk which would not survive the 40 days of abstinence.

Ash Wednesday is linked to Easter, which is a moveable feast. In 2024, Ash Wednesday falls on 14<sup>th</sup> February, which it shares with Valentine's Day. This means that pancakes should be on the menu for Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Enjoy.

**Robert**

*Why is a leap year so called? A normal year is 52 weeks and one day long (365 days). So if your birthday falls on a Monday in one year, in the next it will be on a Tuesday. However, the addition of an extra day during a leap year means that your birthday 'leaps' over a day to, for example, a Wednesday.*





## Heyford Bridge needs more work

Heyford Bridge re-opened to traffic on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December – a day earlier than anticipated. Residents of Steeple Aston were delighted that after six weeks of closure and the resulting lengthy diversions life would get back to normal.

However, their happiness was short-lived when it became clear that further closures would have to take place in the New Year, because the road surface is uneven and could be a danger to cyclists.

Oxfordshire County Councillor Ian Corkin posted the news on Facebook. He wrote,

“In the final couple of days, when the bridge was being resurfaced, it was discovered that a gas main was closer to the surface than expected”.

Following a site inspection, it has been decided that a number of the new gully covers and frames need to be raised. It was initially thought that the differences in level might be acceptable as the gullies have been positioned behind a solid white line, and general traffic should not run over these. However, on closer review it has been found that this poses a significant risk to cyclists, who may cycle behind the white lines, especially if they get caught between phases of the traffic signals.

Warning signs are being put out indicating ‘Uneven Road Surface’, with cones at the low gullies as a temporary measure until the gully covers can be raised, which is likely to be in the New Year. It appears that the road will need to be closed again for a short duration to rectify this problem, possibly as a series of overnight closures to minimise disruption.

## Large tree across Heyford Road

Heyford Road is now open! Barbara Shooter, the owner of the large tree that fell across the road, arranged for it to be cleared when the County Council failed to do so. She says: “There is still some clearing to do, but the contractors are being brilliant. Thank you all for your patience.”

*Photo from near neighbour Matthew Austin.*



# Steeple Aston Noticeboard



## Sparrowhawk

Have you ever wondered why all of a sudden there are no birds in your garden? The answer might be a visit from this predator – a sparrowhawk! Nigel Francis managed a few quick shots after it unfortunately killed an unsuspecting pigeon which was in his garden. The males are grey whereas the females, like this one, are more brown in colour.

What interesting visitors do you have to your garden? Send a photo and details to [editorial@gmail.com](mailto:editorial@gmail.com) We would love to hear from you.



## SAL proofreader needed

The Steeple Aston Life committee is sorry to say farewell to Sue McLean, who is leaving the village this month. Sue has been a valued member of the committee for several years and has just completed the arduous task of updating our 'Guide to Footpaths in and Around the Parish of Steeple Aston', now available in the Village Shop for £2.

But Sue's regular monthly task has been to proofread the magazine before it's sent to the printers. We have other proofreaders, but are very keen to replace Sue. The more eagle eyes we have checking the copy the better! It only takes a couple of hours a month. If you're interested and would like to give it a try, please email [editorialife@gmail.com](mailto:editorialife@gmail.com)

## Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan

A Revised Neighbourhood Plan for Mid-Cherwell is being prepared. The consultation draft of the MCNP 2040 has been produced to get feedback on draft policies to guide development in the Mid-Cherwell area.

You can view, download or submit comments on the consultation document at [mid-cherwell.org/reg14/](http://mid-cherwell.org/reg14/) and also download a form to express your views. Comments should be received no later than 11.59pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024.

## Celebratory quarter peal for Roy Kinch

The Bellringers were very honoured to be able to mark the start of a weekend-long celebration to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Royston Kinch, one of Steeple Aston's long-term residents. Roy has been a great supporter of the church and bells all his life. He served on the Church Council for many, many years and was also Churchwarden.



On the evening of Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January we rang a celebratory quarter peal for the occasion. The ringers taking part were Roy's son-in-law Nick Powell, Lawrence White, Graham Clifton, Lewis Knowles, Elizabeth French and Sue McCouaig. It was Elizabeth's first quarter peal and Lewis's first on a working bell – well done both.

Afterwards the ringers raised a glass of bubbly and drank to Roy's health. We all wish him well for many years to come.

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Although we may feel that we are still in the grip of winter, some of our resident birds will already be thinking of spring and starting their breeding cycle. The most noticeable (probably because they are the most numerous and vocal) are the blackbirds, robins and rooks. Although they may not lay eggs until the weather is warmer, they will already be trying to establish territories. Both blackbirds and robins will have very noisy, physical disputes over territories and then sing loudly to proclaim victory and to attract a mate. Rooks are very gregarious and will nest in rookeries in close proximity to each other, but still defend their own small patch within the colony.

One of the earliest birds to start its breeding cycle is the raven (below centre). Although there are only a few ravens around Steeple Aston, they can be located by their very distinctive 'cronk' call. They are members of the crow family, are large (around the size of a buzzard), black and have a wedge-shaped tail. In other areas of the country they will nest on cliffs or up mountains. As we lack both of these geological features in rural north Oxfordshire, our ravens will usually choose to nest in a tall tree with a good view out over the surrounding countryside.

Over the winter our resident thrushes, the mistle thrush and song thrush, have been joined by other thrushes, the fieldfare (below left) and the redwing (below right). These have migrated from colder regions of the world, such as Iceland and Scandinavia. Large flocks containing all four thrush species can be seen foraging in open fields, along berry-laden hedgerows or in orchards, feasting on any fallen apples.

The mistle thrush and the fieldfare are both large thrushes with a fairly upright stance. The fieldfare is slightly smaller than the mistle thrush and has a distinctive pale grey head and rump. It also has dark wings and a black tail.

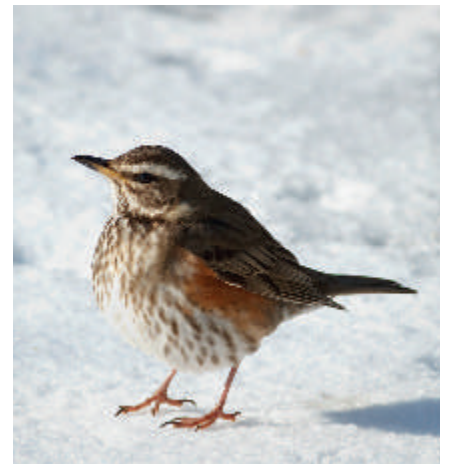
The redwing is very similar to, but slightly smaller than, the song thrush. The redwing has a pale stripe above the eye and an orange-red patch on the flank and underwing, most noticeable in flight.

In a few weeks, the migrant birds will return home to breed. By then, our resident song thrushes and mistle thrushes may already have built nests and started to raise families.

## ***Bridget Lewis***

*Photo credits: Raven © Charles Peterson; Fieldfare © hedera.baltica; Redwing © Phil McIver.*

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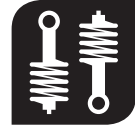
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# The ARTS Page



New Year's Day 2024 has come and gone, but you can keep it a 'Happy New Year' with the various recordings of the Vienna Philharmonic's Concert. See [SonyClassical.com](https://www.sonyclassical.com) or the [bbc.co.uk/iplayer/categories/arts/featured](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/categories/arts/featured) – it's there for five months. No New Year is complete for me without this impeccably performed annual concert.

We are spoilt for opera during the summer months, more anon, but two companies are performing in Oxford sooner. Orchestra Vox at St John's College, Oxford, bring a double bill of Poulenc's 'La voix humaine' and Schoenberg's 'Erwartung' at 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 2.30pm on 4<sup>th</sup> February. "...the two most riveting psychological thrillers of 20<sup>th</sup> century opera". Tickets from [orchestravox.com/events/](https://www.orchestravox.com/events/) Highly recommended.

Welsh National Opera ([wno.org.uk/](https://www.wno.org.uk/)) bring Britten's 'Death in Venice' (26<sup>th</sup> March) and Mozart's 'Cosi fan tutte' (27<sup>th</sup> March) to Oxford New Theatre. A fabulous company and regular visitors to Oxford.

Woodstock Music Society ([woodstockmusic.info](https://www.woodstockmusic.info)) performs Mozart's Mass in C minor on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at 7.30pm in St Mary Magdalene Church, Woodstock. Our own Steeple Aston Choral Society has an 'Opera Choruses and Arias evening' in the Village Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 6.30pm for 7pm. I hope they are doing the 'Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves' and that we can join in. SACS welcomes new members, no audition! Remember William Byrd – "Since singing is so good a thing, I wish all men (update – people) would learn to sing". Write to Margaret at [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com)

There will be a number of 'Passions' in the Lent season. Here is one of Bach's 'St John Passion': Oxford Bach Choir, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm at Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford ([ticketsoxford.com/book/instance/764401](https://www.ticketsoxford.com/book/instance/764401))

Staying in Steeple, we are very lucky also to have wonderful Bell Ringers (Church and Hand Bells), who would welcome new members. See [steepleastonbellringers.com](https://www.steepleastonbellringers.com)

Half-term falls in February and there are plenty of activities for children locally, including [banburymuseum.org/](https://www.banburymuseum.org/), with daily exciting projects, and [themillartscentre.co.uk/](https://www.themillartscentre.co.uk/) Plenty for all, as well, at both these excellent venues. For example, the 'Ironstone Art Prize' at the Museum (...best recent work by artists in our region), and an 'Introduction to Playwriting' on 10<sup>th</sup> February at the Mill.

Also well worth a look is [blenheimpalace.com/](https://www.blenheimpalace.com/) for half-term activities, and much more. As an (ex-)organist, may I flag up the Long Library Organ (the largest organ in private ownership in Europe). They have Sunday 1.30pm recitals. Back in the day, I was lucky enough to play for a few 'Churchill Memorial Concerts' in aid of the charity 'Music Therapy'. Well worth a visit.

For half-term activities and plenty more all the year round, at a wonderful venue – Waddesdon Manor ([waddesdon.org.uk](https://www.waddesdon.org.uk))

I flagged up some theatre in a recent SAL, but two upcoming shows have just caught my eye.

Music Youth Company Oxford ([myco.org.uk](https://www.myco.org.uk)) present 'Me and my Girl' at the Oxford Playhouse (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April). Steeple Aston is well represented and it is directed by the wonderful Guy Brigg – late of this parish! ([oxfordplayhouse.com](https://www.oxfordplayhouse.com))

The ever-enterprising 'Creation Theatre' ([creationtheatre.co.uk/](https://www.creationtheatre.co.uk/)) presents the World Premiere of 'Boatman Town' by the prolific Glyn Maxwell ([glynmaxwell.com](https://www.glynmaxwell.com)) from 21<sup>st</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March (with streamed recordings from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March). It is set in a pub, so is touring pubs in the area (one hour/no interval). "...a tragicomic take on Everyman, the great Medieval Morality play". See their website for venues/dates.

No more room – best wishes

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



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# ???? Mind Games

**from Cathy Lawday**

Answer the questions and write the letter corresponding to each answer in the appropriate box. Then rearrange all the letters to make the name of a well-known film actress. *Answer on page XX.*

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

1. How many bones are there in the human hand?  
(D) 37                                      (R) 27                                      (P) 32
2. Which publication has the most copies printed?  
(O) the Bible                                      (A) Harry Potter                                      (J) the IKEA catalogue
3. Which animal kills the most humans?  
(J) mosquitos                                      (K) snakes                                      (C) bears
4. Which is the largest county in England?  
(S) North Yorkshire                                      B) Lincolnshire                                      (C) Cornwall
5. A lyricist is someone who writes  
(N) poetry                                      (G) opera music                                      (U) words to songs
6. The ulna is a bone in  
(M) the leg                                      (A) the forearm                                      (N) the shoulder
7. Synonyms are words which  
(B) mean the same                                      (A) sound the same                                      (L) mean the opposite
8. Who said: "It costs a lot of money to look this cheap."?  
(F) Madonna                                      (L) Dolly Parton                                      (R) Sarah Ferguson
9. Which book begins with this opening line:  
*It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.*  
(P) Day of the Triffids                                      (R) 1984                                      (E) Lord of the Flies
10. "I've started so I'll finish" is a phrase associated with which TV quiz show?  
(E) Mastermind                                      (T) Pointless                                      (I) University Challenge
11. Which Indian city is known as The City of Joy?  
(I) Kolkata/Calcutta                                      (L) Mumbai/Bombay                                      (W) Chennai/Madras
12. Which city started out with the name New Amsterdam?  
(D) Boston                                      (T) New York                                      (S) Rotterdam

# Snowdrop Sunday

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February

2.30 – 4.30pm

Snowdrops in the churchyard  
Homemade cake and tea £2  
in the church

PLUS BOOKSTALLS AND QUIZ



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

## Aynho Park



Set well back from the bend as you drive through the village of Aynho is the huge mansion which I've always imagined was the original home of the Cartwright family whom I knew owned the village at the time of the Civil War.

Well, that was true, but the Manor has had many changes and been reincarnated several times during the centuries since. As I have now discovered, it was built in 1615 for the Cartwrights, but destroyed by fire as soon as 1645 during the Civil War. How awful that must have been!

During the centuries since it has existed in many guises having been rebuilt and remodelled several times. Aynho Park has been restored, enlarged, endured changes of use and made beautiful with design work on the house and garden by significant designers and architects. We have all heard of such people as Capability Brown, Humphrey Repton and Sir John Soane, each of whom, with others, has contributed to the development of this now-beautiful place. It is no longer a private home, but is open to the public offering a variety of purposes including hiring as a wedding venue, purchasing designer-created furniture and enjoying high dining. Its website declares that it is where 'Jacobean style rubs shoulders with Palladian grandeur and Baroque opulence' <https://rh.com/gb/en/england>

A friend and I decided we must investigate, so drove across to Aynho and through the open gates into the wide courtyard where we were met by friendly attendants who whisked off the car to park it, giving me a receipt with a number to phone when we wanted to reclaim the car and pointing us to the care of a Concierge. (I wondered how often they were called upon to park a Fiesta amongst the collection of very smart cars we could glimpse, but they and everyone we met were cheerful, friendly and eager to help.)

Once inside the mansion, which has been wonderfully restored, one can wander at will through rooms filled with high-end and craftsmen-made furniture, much of it modern, and all sorts of interesting and unusual objets d'art which one might like to buy to enhance the home. The price range seemed to be wide – there were plenty of things which would have taken us a good while to save for, but we chatted to one of the staff in the Library who told us that people can discuss and order things "from a table lamp to furniture for a whole house" to suit their taste. The Library, filled with beautiful artistic books on architecture and design and exhibiting an original copy of Vitruvius\* in a secure case was my favourite room.

Aynho Park has at least three restaurants and places to enjoy refreshments to sustain you as you explore this surprising place. Tea (choose whatever tea you like!) and scones in the peaceful tea salon with sight of a herd of deer below the patio outside was pleasant. We thought perhaps the estate would really come to life during warmer months when furniture which is outside and covered will presumably be revealed and when one might walk some of Capability Brown's acres, but it was certainly a special experience to visit Aynho Park and to stroll through rooms of perfectly displayed furniture, enjoying discussing what we liked and what we might choose. It made a happy outing for a winter afternoon.

**Eileen Baglin-Jones**

\* *Vitruvius was a Roman architect and engineer during the 1st century BC, known for his multi-volume work titled 'De architectura'.*

*Photo: Aynho House, licensed under Creative Commons.*



## *The Gardening Spot*

**Spring is just around the corner, but I am at a total loss as to what to write about!**

As my wife and I were walking around the village the other day, someone stopped me and asked, “what are you going to write about in the gardening column for February?” This was music to my ears as it meant someone actually bothered to read my monthly article – or were they simply being kind?

Writing in the very early part of January when the ground was saturated, it is freezing cold and everyone we met was either walking the dog or scurrying off to find shelter. What could I talk about? It was not gardening weather and to be honest, what could I possibly write that might even encourage the hardiest of you to venture into the mud basin that might be called your garden.

So, I am going to test my memory and go back about 64 years, or thereabouts. It is my days at secondary school here in Steeple Aston, having just progressed to the senior part of the school and amongst the curriculum was GARDENING! Yes, in the 40s, 50s and early 60s the boys were taught gardening and in my time at Dr Radcliffe’s our teacher was a Mr. Jones.

The girls were sent off to learn how to sew and what I seem to remember was called domestic science. During the winter months boys learnt all the theory stuff of horticulture, such as how to use the various tools associated with gardening, soil structure, the use of chemicals and what will grow and where. I am sure we were also taught lots of useful guides as to how to be a better gardener, but much of that passed me by.

The more exciting times spent with Mr. Jones were in the garden where we were actually allowed to practise the art of horticulture to our best ability. For all of you who are not familiar with the school as it was back in the day, there were classrooms roughly where the multi-use-games area is now and across to the site of the BMX track. All the land below there until you reach the old headmaster’s house, the chalet-style house just below where the annual bonfire is held, was garden. This area was divided into ‘plots’ about 20 feet by 10 feet where two students would share a plot for a year and grow more or less what they liked to the best of their ability.

The soil was sandy and easy to dig, but had some challenging weeds. However, as all gardeners know, it is always great to have a challenge! The compost heap was some way towards what is now the football pitch. Near the lane leading down to the houses at the bottom of the side lane were a few fruit trees and a grass tennis court. Only those more trustworthy were allowed to tend the fruit trees or mow the tennis court and sadly, I was not in that category. Not that I wasn’t trustworthy, but to be honest I was very quiet at school and simply kept my head down so as to lead a quiet life.

I remember some rather pleasant flower beds around the area where the old sundial base can be found central to the play-area. There was a small greenhouse and not forgetting the tool shed. Hanging in the tool shed were numerous spades, forks, hoes and all sorts of medieval-looking weapons of destruction. Just outside the shed was a water-butt. Why do I mention this you may well ask? One thing Mr Jones was very insistent on was the cleanliness of the tools once returned after a hard slog in the garden by us horticultural students. In my opinion, and this was shared by many of my fellow classmates, the simple way of cleaning a spade or fork was to dip it into the water butt and most of the dirt would be removed, but NO, that was not the way to clean gardening tools according to the bible of Mr Jones. The offending implement had to be scraped using a special tool carved to perfection by us lads in the woodwork class and then polished with some old rags until as shiny as the crown jewels. I guess it was a lesson learnt as I still clean off most of my tools after use in the garden in the same manner.



## *The Gardening Spot*

Going back to the plot where I and my classmate worked tirelessly for many months, years and what seemed like decades, we had an ingenious method of disposing of waste vegetation. Our plot was some way away from the compost heap and, let's face it, that vegetation was going to be reintroduced to the soil at some stage later, so we thought up a labour-saving method of disposal. Rather than barrow all that 'stuff' miles across grass paths, we decide to do some double-digging at the end of our plot and bury the 'stuff' to rot in its own time. Unfortunately, Mr Jones did not share our point-of-view and we had to pay the price with some totally unnecessary lines which achieved nothing. Although I know Mr. Jones is no longer with us, I have to acknowledge that he was the only teacher at Dr Radcliffe's who predicted what job I would end up doing for the best part of 40 years. Much of his knowledge is still engraved in my memory.

Happy gardening everyone and apologies for boring you all with my old school memories.

***Richard Preston***

*Student of Dr Radcliffe's Primary and Secondary School 1952-1962*



Flooding at Lower Heyford in January 2024. (Photo by Nigel Francis)

# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



The meeting was held on a bitterly cold night and the first substantive thing discussed, rather inappropriately for the weather, was the Blandford Fly. One of the Councillors had been doing some research and he told us about a successful way to control it. Apparently, Blandford Fly is a nuisance around Blandford – OK, that is hardly surprising – but also along the Cherwell and around Deddington and possibly further afield as well. We were told the Fly situation around Blandford became so bad that house prices were affected.

Bournemouth University has worked out how to use a two-week window with a naturally occurring bacteria to effectively control the Fly. The University sprays the river annually during the larval stage of the Fly. They worked out where and when to spray and have eliminated 98% of their local Fly larva. In Blandford there were concerns about the wider environmental effects of the spray and no spraying was done one year. The result was a field day for the Fly. Spraying restarted the following year and there seems to be no significant effect on the ecosystem.

The question put to the Parish Council was whether they should be doing anything about the Blandford Fly problem here. There was a long discussion and it was agreed that our Councillors would write to the neighbouring Parish Councils and local doctors' surgeries to find out exactly where the Fly is a substantial nuisance. Depending on the replies to this it might make sense to ask Bournemouth University's researchers to do a full survey of where the Fly breeds around here and the optimum spraying regime. We were told that this survey and the spraying licences would cost about £20,000 to £30,000 in the first year, plus spraying costs of about £15,000 annually thereafter. Our County Councillor said Oxfordshire might consider partially funding the cost if it was found to be a widespread issue.

We were told that the bacterial spray against the Fly can be bought over the counter. I asked if I sprayed my cabbages would I stop being bitten. Sadly, the answer is no, because the stuff only works when the fly is at its larval stage.

There was a discussion about the role of Highways when a fallen tree blocked Heyford Road. Highways had stopped the owner of the tree using a private contractor to clear up the mess, but had then done

nothing itself to clear the debris or close the road. Finally, the police gave permission for Highways to be over-ruled and the road to be cleared by the owner of the tree. Thank you, Barbara Shooter. Our County Councillor, Arash Fatemian, said he was unsure, but he thought Barbara might be successful if she asked for re-imbursement from Oxfordshire Highways. Arash seemed to think it depended on whether a falling tree was an 'act of God'. I was unsure if man, or even woman, could decide this convincingly and a higher authority might be needed.

In December, Graham Porcas organised a petition against one of the possible housing development sites in the village. This was discussed at the December site meeting, but the petition was only formally accepted by the Parish Council at the January meeting. It was noted that the petition was independent of the separate personal statement Graham presented to the December meeting about the sites. There was a discussion about whether the Parish Council should accept petitions on issues where it had no influence over the related decisions. It was agreed that it was reasonable for petitions to be presented to the Council in these circumstances. We were given the example of speed limits in the village, even though the decision on this would be made by the Oxfordshire Highways department and not our Councillors. We were told that an application had been made for Steeple Aston and Middle Aston to have 20mph limits with the road between the two villages to be 30mph.

The Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP) work on the potential housing development sites has been put out for comment from 2<sup>nd</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> February. But things at MCNP are in a state of flux which may delay our developments. We were told that Heyford Park want to opt out of MCNP and go it alone. But this makes no sense for the other Parish Councils, because it was only the development at Upper Heyford that brought the others together to work with the Heyford Park developers. We were told that MCNP does not fully understand why Heyford Park want out from MCNP. The argument seemed to be that Heyford Park is much the largest parish involved, but only getting the same influence as very small villages such as Middle Aston. No one explained what Heyford Park might like that could be prevented by the other parishes if all parishes continue to have equal voting power.

# Parish Council Meeting Notes



There was one piece of unequivocal good news. The developers of Townend have been dragging their feet about paying the 'Section 106' money due to the village because of their development. The money is now coming through and the Parish Council is submitting proposals for spending on various projects. These may include better lighting around the Sports and Recreation Centre. The money for the Nizewell Head Pocket Park should also be available soon and the Parish Council is looking for suggestions for equipment and prices for that. If you would like to contribute suggestions on this please send your ideas to the Parish Clerk, Cathy Fleet, at [parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com)

There was a discussion of the difficulty of seeing other cars and pedestrians when driving into and out of the walled end of the Village Hall car park. One Councillor offered to get a mirror and try it opposite the entrance to see if this helps. Someone said that there are so many people milling around at school collection time that any mirror would need a large sign in front of it saying 'Don't stand in front of this mirror'. One Councillor pointed out that the walled entrance to the Village Hall is "an accident waiting to happen". Another said there was an argument that where an entrance is totally blind it forces drivers to take special care.

Our County Councillor, Arash, sends the Parish Council regular updates on County Council affairs. This month he sent a report which invited comments from residents about what Oxfordshire Council could be doing differently. Perhaps fortunately it was already past its closing date or villagers here might otherwise have had the opportunity to say exactly what they thought. But don't worry; we were told others have done this very effectively already.

Arash's report on Oxfordshire County Council's activities said the Council are short of money and are looking for ways to balance their budget. It sounded as if they are expecting to achieve this, despite spending £20,000 on colouring books for the young explaining the case for the change from 30mph to 20mph traffic schemes. On a more serious note, the report says the Council are prioritising those with special educational needs and disabilities and are concerned by the number of children in care where the cost is over £10,000 a week (good work if you can get it?). The report also mentions that there will be lots of new pink rubbish bins for recycling vapes. I found myself wondering if it would be much simpler and cheaper to ban single use vapes instead.

Then we got to much the most interesting part of the meeting. The Councillors had been discussing how far it is possible for a Wi-Fi link to work and Charlotte Powell told us it was up to eight miles for cows. Cows? Apparently, cows can be given a pedometer so the farmer can see if the cow is taking fewer steps than usual, which can mean the cow is unwell, or if more steps than usual it implies the cow is on heat. One of the other Councillors told us he was imagining cows skipping around at the thought of what might be on offer. The cows can have neck sensors as well showing if they are eating ok. Suddenly, we were all listening avidly.

The next PC meeting will be on 19<sup>th</sup> February in the Sports and Recreation Centre from 7.30pm. Do come.

## *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)*



## **Steeple Aston's environmental impact – and what we can do to reduce it**

The Environmental and Sustainability Committee (ESC) recently reviewed a report which indicated – in broad terms – the carbon footprint of our community. The report was prepared using a methodology developed at the University of Exeter and can be seen in full on the village website.

It's perhaps no surprise to read that our carbon footprint appears to be over 30% higher than the national average. We are a relatively affluent community, in a rural setting, with some fairly old housing stock. This means greater opportunities for long-distance travel, fewer opportunities to use public transport and higher consumption of energy for heating.

The report breaks down the carbon footprint into four areas, which I list below in descending order of impact. It goes on to suggest areas in which we can mitigate our impact. I've summarized these with a few thoughts of my own.

### **Consumption of goods and services**

All goods that we buy have carbon emitted in their manufacture, packaging, shipping and sale. Every new product increases carbon emissions (and more resources are extracted and sourced – which itself can have huge environmental and social impacts). Reducing how many new goods we buy in the first place reduces goods-related emissions, as does re-using and repairing items. When we have to buy new, we can reduce the carbon emissions by considering how much of the product has been, and can be, recycled. We can look to minimise packaging by buying in bulk if budget and space permit, or by teaming up with neighbours to buy in bulk. All of us appreciate the convenience of next-day delivery, but those vans don't run on fresh air.

### **Travel**

On a recent business trip, I was invited to 'contribute' £2.50 to British Airway's research into sustainable aviation fuel. Barefaced cheek from a wealthy corporate, or legitimate consciousness raising? Electric cars are coming our way, but if the planning authorities continue to have a veto on the installation of solar panels in conservation areas, many residents of the village will be denied the opportunity to fuel these vehicles cleanly. The S4 bus struggling to get past cars parked on South Side is our problem in a nutshell. We must square our own consciences in these vexed areas, but we can all lobby for better public transport. And we can all make our roads safe for pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Housing**

We live in a beautiful part of the world. Many of the homes in the village lie in a conservation area. Some are listed. Is our bargain with future generations the preservation of a particular view which a small committee once deemed inviolate, or the protection of the planet our grandchildren will inhabit? These two aims need not be mutually exclusive, but we must decide which to prioritise and lobby our representatives accordingly. In the average UK home, 64% of energy is used for space heating. The ESC has a thermal camera which many residents have used to identify how heat escapes from their homes. If you would like to use it, contact [SteepleAstonESC@outlook.com](mailto:SteepleAstonESC@outlook.com)

### **Food and drink**

Research shows that changing what we eat will have a greater impact on carbon emissions than changing where our food has travelled from – although, of course, eating locally-produced food brings other benefits such as supporting local businesses. Ruth Dale has produced an excellent summary of local producers. Many of us who grow food will have gluts in the summer and hopefully we find ways of sharing, rather than composting them. But this is a drop in the ocean compared to the 22% of food which is wasted in the UK. That's enough to feed everyone for nearly three months. Even a small change in buying and use habits will reduce this scandalous level and save money into the bargain. How much food goes into your bin every week?

This is of necessity a snapshot of a very thought-provoking report and the views I express above are my own. I hope you'll take a few moments to read the full report and form your views.

**Carl Tomlinson – Chair**  
**Steeple Aston Parish Council ESC**

It all started with ‘pond envy’. Years ago, I watched Monty Don dig a pond – I wanted to have what he had! That couldn’t be at the time. Then I was lucky enough to become the proud leaseholder of plot 7a on the Steeple Aston Church Allotments. A busy couple of years passed me by until one day my allotment neighbour, Bridget, showed me her little pre-moulded pond at the bottom of her allotment – I wanted what she had! So, one autumn day I dug. It was a very warm day and I soon decided that the shape and depth were sufficient. I went onto Google to calculate how much lining I needed and with that information in hand purchased a liner. Within a few short days it was full of water and looking great. I put the word out to my allotment friends for bricks and rocks. Bricks formed a temporary surround to hold down the liner and soon I received a donation of rocks to replace the bricks that then became a firm path surround. I was chuffed to bits and soon saw frogs visiting.

It soon dawned on me that maybe I had been a little hasty in my attempt to achieve the ‘look’ I wanted. I found myself battling blanket weed. We had an NGS open day in 2022 and with visitors onto my allotment I soon had plenty of free advice. The most telling was the simplest question, “do you think it’s deep enough?”. Obviously not! I waited patiently until the harvest was picked and the weather changed.

In early winter of 2022, I set to ‘right the wrong’! I found several frogs whilst draining the pond and reassured them that their home would soon be upgraded to a superior version! I dug and dug. A new liner and a few round pavers donated from my brother’s re-modelled garden helped finish the firm surround. The job was done. I was again chuffed to bits!

My pond is a place I cherish for its tranquility. I sometimes rest between jobs on the allotment and simply sit and watch the goings-on around. Sometimes I go to simply spend time at my pond. Even when it rains, I sit in my shed with the door open and watch the rain on its surface. I contemplate and enjoy the sounds, smells and sights of the plants and creatures that visit it, fly by or skim its surface. It has become a regular topic of conversation with my friends on the allotments and their grandchildren, who love visiting to spot the frogs and report back to me how many they have counted (five seems to be the record). So many people have contributed to my project that I now feel it is more a community achievement, rather than just me wanting what Monty and Bridget had.

***Catherine Crook***

## A pond in the making



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## Leap for Joy you lucky boy

an extra day has been snuck in  
to let the girl propose  
its her that asks not him  
instead of thorn the rose  
an ancient norm doth hold  
despite our modern time  
it's her that needst be bold  
it's him that could decline

her turn comes one in four  
then he must take the strain  
please don't show her the door  
she might not ask again  
and then life would be poor  
let's hope he'll use his brain

**Peter Wild**

## Under House Arrest

On a recent weekend I was confined,  
Detained in a country mansion  
Dressed only in a bathrobe  
As was the general fashion

My meals were all provided  
And were healthy as a rule  
I was allowed to exercise  
And to use the swimming pool

The uniformed attendants  
All dressed in pristine white  
Cleansed me and anointed me  
(And were unfailingly polite)

Now let me reassure you  
This was all voluntary  
I wasn't kidnapped by aliens  
Or forced to enter a seminary

I was not under house arrest  
Or accused of a heinous crime  
I was not water boarded  
Or deprived of sleeping time

I was not bundled off to a care home  
Or committed to a mental institution  
I was quite happy with the process  
There was no coercion or compulsion.

It was a treat, an indulgence  
And more than worth the price  
I spent the weekend at a spa  
... and it was very nice!

**Cathy Lawday**



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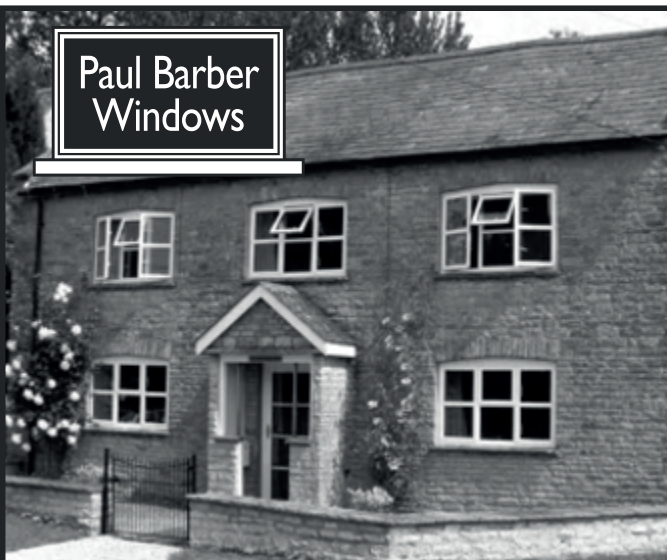
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## Holly tree

As we go to press in the middle of January, there has been no snow in the village. This photo, taken by Peter Bell in January 2010, offers a reminder of what it looks like.



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## THE VALENTINE CLUB

Christmas is over for another year, the New Year has begun, and all is well at The Valentine Club. We began the year with a return visit from Jackie Maynard, who has appeared on television numerous times and sings a bit like Shirley Bassey, but with possibly a wider range of music.

It is always good to see so many of our members back in the Village Hall after what seems like a lifetime since we all met last for our annual Christmas dinner. We were able to welcome a couple of new members, thus making the waiting list that bit shorter.

Many members handed in the list of trips that they would like to participate in this year and are already looking forward to the programme of events from monthly club meetings to holidays. At our January meeting we were also joined by Rosie Phillips from Community First Oxfordshire to tell us all about some exercise classes to be held at Heyford Park, following the success of the Tai Chi classes last year.

For February we are going to study the options of either taking on a 'Toy Boy', or possibly paying less tax. I guess for the gentlemen, there could be other options, but you will have to attend the presentation to decide which might work best for you!

The Valentine Club dates from 1952 when a group of 'seniors' decided to get together on an informal basis to have a chat and provide some of their own entertainment. Although times have changed and our ability to enjoy recreation and sport has possibly improved, there is still a need to bring like-minded people together within their own community. Did you know that the over-60 population in Oxfordshire is outgrowing any other age group in numbers and we are all living that bit longer so there is an even greater need to provide something for our age group?

The club meets on each third Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall where we are entertained by singers, dancers and speakers. We provide information on health care and benefits and work closely with Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire Community Council and Age UK Oxfordshire.

To find out more about The Valentine Club, simply visit our website at [www.valentineclub.wixsite.com/aston](http://www.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 the [CherwellLottery.co.uk/support/the-valentine-club](http://CherwellLottery.co.uk/support/the-valentine-club) where you can participate in the Cherwell Lottery and hopefully, like many of our supporters, become a winner.


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

*The Valentine Club Christmas Dinner 2023*



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January's club night welcomed back current members from their Xmas break to a fun-filled evening showcasing the 'Best of 2023' photos from members. These ranged from portraiture and flowers, to child's toys and composites – a reminder of the monthly topics from 2023.

Our monthly topic for January was 'Creative', which encompassed photos showing motion blur, ICM (intentional camera movement), light trails, double exposure and composite images.

This year we are excited to have new and exciting guest speakers at our monthly meetings and will be showcasing our works across the county at various events and festivals. Watch this space.

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

*Courtney Killpack*

## Steeple Aston Garden Club



Last November we had a good and interesting speaker, Paul Williams. His talk was titled 'Digging Deeper'. Who knew how far tree roots spread or how different worms live at different depths in the soil? We certainly learnt an awful lot and in a very humorous way. At the end of the talk, we were treated to photos of Paul's last landscaping project in the Cotswolds before he officially retired. It is amazing what an unlimited budget can do!

On 24th December members of the Garden Club had their Xmas Lunch at Middle Aston House. Just like last year it was a huge success. Perhaps we are at the beginning of an annual ritual.

There was no meeting in January, but on 6<sup>th</sup> February we have our first meeting of the year. 7pm meet for tea and coffee, then at 7.30pm we welcome our speaker, Ruth Madder, Director of Bridewell Gardens, North Leigh, (replacing Rachel Green). Her talk is entitled 'Gardening for Mental Health Recovery', which is what Bridewell Gardens are all about. This is a very topical and much needed subject to learn about.

If you are interested in joining Steeple Aston Garden Club, come along to the Village Hall on Tuesday 6th February. You will be very welcome.

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

### Mindgames answer

(see page 13)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
R	O	J	S	U	A	B	L	R	E	I	T

Anagram solution: JULIA ROBERTS

# Village Hall *News*



## Forthcoming events for 2024

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2pm to 6pm: NGS Village Open Gardens.**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November: Fireworks Spectacular**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Wassail evening.**

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

***Barbara Brewer – chair***  
***<https://savh.org.uk/>***



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Steeple Aston WI got off to a good start in 2024. We had a group walk around Steeple Barton on Thursday 11th January and learned about the village which was abandoned during the Black Death. The outing concluded with a pleasant lunch at the Cinnamon Stick in Middle Barton.

We are reviving our monthly coffee get-togethers and the first of these took place when we met at the new Grain Store at 10am on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. We are planning to make these a regular feature, so keep a look out for details of time and place.

Our January meeting featured a talk on 'A walk Around Rome'. Speaker Pam Newall took us on a tour of the less well-known sights around Rome, avoiding the huge crowds of tourists and introducing us to some hidden treasures. She illustrated her talk with slides and, as Heather Cleobury said when giving the vote of thanks, we all felt we'd like to visit the places that Pam had introduced us to.

At the January meeting, members submitted their votes on the four resolutions put forward by the National WI. The choices were: Dental Health Matters; Impact of Poor Housing Conditions; Improving Outcomes for Women in the Criminal Justice System; and Say No to Gambling Advertising. This last resolution received the most votes and will be carried forward to Oxford branch.

Our next meeting, on 13<sup>th</sup> February, wildlife photographer John Payne will tell us about the 'Orangutans of Sabah'.

Please contact President Julie Hillier ([jhillier3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jhillier3@hotmail.co.uk)/ 349185) if you would like more information, to attend any of our events, or to become a member of the WI.

*Cathy Lawday*



*The importance of the woollen trade in Steeple Barton is demonstrated by the sheep on this pillar in the church.*



*A gravestone in Steeple Barton church tells an unfortunate story.*



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# Church Matters



It's all change in the supermarket seasonal aisle, with the Christmas confectionary put away. This month the aisle is festooned with red and pink hearts, chocolates and cards.

Watching the news, I think the world could do with more love in it. Not the fickle love of here today and gone tomorrow, but the lasting deep love that God calls us to have for one another. When asked "Which is the greatest commandment?" Jesus replied, with the summary of the Law:

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

This year, Ash Wednesday, which signals the beginning of Lent, falls on 14<sup>th</sup> February, Valentine's day. Lent is the season when Christians think about preparing our hearts, minds and souls for celebrating Easter. This isn't about organising the Sunday roast, or buying chocolate Easter eggs, but rather thinking about aligning our hearts and minds with God's will.

During Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, invited us to read 'Stick with Love' by Arun Arora. Each day we thought about different Saints (Christians) who had chosen, along with Martin Luther King, to "Stick with Love....Hate is too great a burden to bear".

As I listen on the radio to the war between Israel and Hamas and its spiralling widening consequences; the Houthis attacking ships in the Red Sea resulting in retaliatory fire from American and British war ships attempting to guard the shipping lanes; the missile attacks between Iran and Pakistan and our government's attempts to ship illegal migrants to another country, I think the world could do with more love in it.

This Lent we are going to be thinking about 'The Way of Love', using the 'Come and See' material from Oxford Diocese. Through daily readings we will be taking a closer look at the Commandments and what they mean in the context of God's love for us. God invites us to walk the Way of Love with him, in a deep relationship with him, while also showing his love to our neighbours, those who are like us and those who are not, to live a life of love.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we meet to explore 'The Way of Love' together, details for which can be found on the SNT church website:

**<https://www.sntchurch.com/>**

Alternatively, individuals and families can sign up for daily emails via the Diocesan website:

**<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/campaigns/come-and-see/>**

Or perhaps reflect on how you can share love with our local, national and international neighbours using a different love language (words of affirmation, touch, time, gifts and jobs) each week.

**With Love**

**Harriet**

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# Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>11.00am</b> Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>5.30pm</b> Evensong
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Family Service	<b>11.00am</b> Family Service	<b>5.30pm</b> Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> Ash Wednesday			<b>6.00pm</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11.00am</b> Holy Communion	<b>5.30pm</b> Family Service
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>11.00am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion
<b><i>www.sntchurch.com</i></b>			
<i>The church buildings are open every day. Feel free to visit at any time.</i>			




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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

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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)
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Chairperson	Barbara Brewer (01869-340423)
Secretary	Margaret Bulleyment (01869-347346)

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

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Meeting of represented clubs: £11.00  
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0703 0817 0920 1020	1620 1737 1840 1932 2047 2147 2253

##### Saturdays

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0809 0909 1019	1619 1729 1834 1932 2047 2147 2253

##### Sundays and most public holidays

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0953 1123 1253 1423 1553 1723 1852	

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

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##### 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	
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## Steeple and Middle Aston rubbish bin collection day Is Thursday.



### 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

### March 2024

7<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
14<sup>th</sup> Green  
21<sup>st</sup> Blue and brown  
28<sup>th</sup> Green

### Food caddy is collected weekly

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# Steeple Aston Calendar

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

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

February			
Tuesday 6th	Garden Club: Ruth Madder- Gardening for Mental Health Recovery'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
Wednesday 7th	AD&D Photographic Society. Club night	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Snowdrop Sunday	Churchyard	2.30pm to 4.30pm
Tuesday 13th	WI. Speaker: John Paine Photography - 'Sabah, home of the Orangutang'	Village Hall	7pm for 7.30pm
<b>Wednesday 14th</b>	<b>SAL March 2024 copy and advert deadlines</b>		
Monday 19th	Parish Council meeting	S&R Building	7.30pm
Tuesday 20th	Valentine Club. Co-op – Tax or Toy-boys	Village Hall	2.30pm
Wednesday 21st	AD&D Photographic Society - Focus Stacking Workshop with Lindsey	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Saturday 24th	Deddington Farmers' Market	Deddington	9am to 12.30pm
Saturday 24th	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	7.00pm

**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

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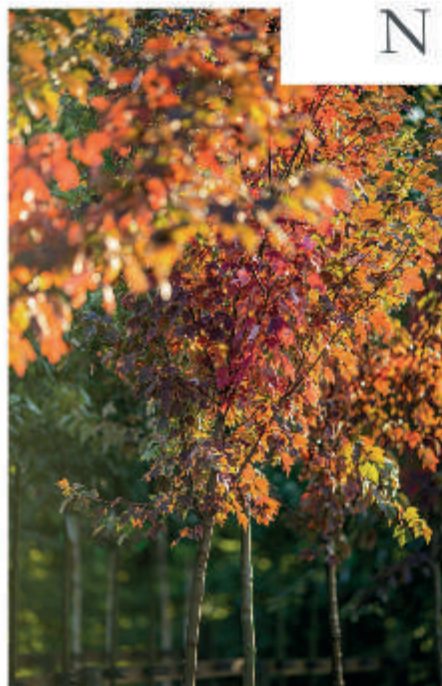
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