

# Steeple Aston *Life*

May 2025

Issue No. 621



**\*VE Day\*   \*Musical delights\*   \*Spring Show\***

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

Cover: 'SACS Ahoy' event photos by Nigel Francis

## Steeple Aston *Life*

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WI	President	Julie Hillier	01869 349185





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

## Steeple Aston *Life*

May 2025  
Issue No.621

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# Editorial

The village has definitely sprung into life with a wealth of events taking place recently, with more to whet the appetite this month. Nature is also brimming with activity, as shown in this delightful photo of ducklings on the canal towpath at Lower Heyford.

Congratulations to all who entered the spring show, the results of which are included in this issue and on the Steeple Aston website. We also feature musical performances from SACS 'Ahoy' and Americana evenings enjoyed at the end of March. Across the county, artists will be exhibiting their work during Oxfordshire Artweeks (17<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May), so do pop along to view and support our talented local artists.

We're delighted to include a contribution from Steeple Aston Baby & Toddler Group, who are keen to put to good use any toys you may wish to donate. We look forward to receiving more articles from the younger generation, so watch this space!

This month marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, and the village will be celebrating in style with the 'We'll Meet Again' extravaganza in the village hall giving you the chance to don your patriotic 40's outfits on the evening of Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. The poppy cascade continues to take shape thanks to a trusty team of volunteers, and we look forward to viewing it in the church. Read the moving personal memoir of the Blitz as witnessed by a fellow villager as a young child, and see how our community celebrated when the end of WWII finally arrived.

**Carol**



*Ducklings resting on the canal towpath at Lower Heyford, photo by Chris Neville.*



## Pop-Up Soup Cafe

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Soup Cafe at Tchure Cottage on 2nd April. It was a beautiful spring day and over 40 people came for soup, tea, coffee and cake. The total of the donations came to £508. We have sent £254 to help the work of Save the Children in Sudan, with the remainder adding to the fundraising for the Steeple Aston Church roof. A huge thank you to everyone who helped on the day, those who came, and those who donated even though they were not able to come. The Soup Cafe may 'Pop-Up' again in the autumn - everyone welcome!

Rachel Marsden, Tchure Cottage, North Side.

## Parish Council report

There will be no Parish Council Report in this issue, due to the meeting being held later in April after the printing deadline. The June issue of SAL will include PC reports from both the April and May meetings. For further details of PC meetings, please refer to the Parish Council section of Steeple Aston website.

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

### 11<sup>th</sup> to 17th May

This is my annual request to invite you to contribute to Christian AID. For 80 years churches have supported Christian AID's work throughout our troubled world. They have a presence in so many stricken areas, be it through war, famine, climate change and, of course, the recent horrendous earthquake in Myanmar. As Christian AID itself states "we have seven days, and with your help we will make a difference".

The easiest way to donate is online at [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk). If you feel able to help, please donate and please remember to Gift Aid your donation. Thank you.

Caroline Parsons, Local Organiser  
07811 820536

## The Big Spring Clean 2025

On Palm Sunday, just as Spring was clocking off for a bit, more than a dozen villagers clocked on for the annual Spring Clean. The general consensus was that the village remains gratifyingly litter-free, but there were still a few bags collected from the verges and hedgerows. Here's my pick of the haul:

Most considerate litterer: the person who packed all their cans and plastic bottles in a carrier bag, so I only had to bend down once to pick them all up.

Most commonly found item: mini-Smarties boxes - we start our litterers young in Oxfordshire.

Most likely to be found in the opening line of a country and western song: A pregnancy test in the layby.

Saddest litter: An almost entirely uneaten kebab. Grain was grown, a sheep slaughtered and plastic transformed for that.

Most labour-intensive act of littering: Two saucepan lids, handles removed, left by the recycling bins.

Thank you to everyone who turned out from the WI and the wider village, to everyone who picks up litter all year round, and to the many, many people who don't drop it at all.

**Carl Tomlinson**

**Chair, Steeple Aston Environment and Sustainability Committee**



## Editor's Letterbox



SAL welcomes letters to the Editor, but it should be noted that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor nor the SAL Committee

Dear Editor

We were surprised to see in the 'SteepleJack's Apprentice' report that Councillors expressed concern about people 'working their fingers to the bone' as they knitted poppies, and that they are being asked to 'put their needles on hold'. Perhaps whoever reported that would be wise to check facts before spreading what can only be described as false rumours.

Since the beginning of the year when the plan to create a cascade of poppies was first proposed, we have been thrilled by the enthusiastic response of so many people and by the numbers of poppies we have received. As far as we are aware, there have been no complaints from anyone that they've been overworked and we certainly don't see ourselves as slave drivers! The total number of poppies which has so far been received increases by the day, thanks to willing volunteers and is now well over 2,000. It's great that the number continues to increase, as we think we'll need another thousand! The next task, which has already begun, is to attach the individual poppies to the netting which will form the backing of the Cascade. Anyone is welcome to give a hand - just phone Merrill on 01869 347803 or Eileen on 01869 340099 and we'll book you into a sewing slot. As for when it will be displayed - once we realised the enormity of the task and the time constraints, it became clear that we could not complete the Cascade to hang from the church tower by VE Day, but we shall have a significant amount of work done by then which will be displayed in church, and everyone can enjoy seeing the work in progress. Following VE Day, we shall press on with making poppies and attaching them to complete the Cascade by Remembrance Day. We hope this clears any misunderstanding. It's going to look marvellous and it's wonderful that so many people in the village have contributed to the project: a real Village Affair!

From Hildy, Merrill, Kay and Eileen.

Dear Editor

Whilst pleased to note the return of the village's Spring Clean, having dabbled over the past month in litter picking both in the village and towards Rousham, it saddens me that, walking round the village tonight, I found the contents of someone's dinner had been thrown out in Water Lane (now in a bin). This is, of course, the tip of the iceberg, as evidenced slightly further afield. Frankly, wherever you go, but no more so than on the road to Ardley...it's like an extension to the dump. In my limited experience, a well-known energy drink company's cans account for 50+%.

Which leads me to ask:

- when did it become socially acceptable to just throw rubbish out of the window?
- should we consider 'please do not litter signs' (assuming might not make any difference)?
- is the country/Local Authority so broke that litter picking is no longer undertaken (in turn, I'd suggest adding to a general degradation in society)? What does our Council Tax pay for?
- same goes for the Council actually doing some road sweeping!
- is there anything that can be done?

I'm not immune to the financial pressures facing the country, but equally suggest we are on a slippery slope and welcome more knowledgeable input. Can we do anything?

Jon Silversides







## **80th anniversary of VE Day**

**KEEP CALM**

**and**

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***[mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com) or***

***The Village Shop***



## VE Day – 80 years (1945 – 2025)

We commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day this May, to mark eighty years since the end of the Second World War. The images here show Steeple Aston Home Guard in early 1940, plus RAF trainees at Lower Heyford Station around 1941. The children of Steeple Aston celebrated VE Day with a Victory Tea Party on South Street (now Southside) to mark this momentous event in 1945. They enjoyed a sumptuous tea, donkey rides and sports, topped off by a 20-ft bonfire and fireworks that lit up the countryside at dusk, with villagers dancing in the streets.

*(Photographs courtesy of SAVA)*



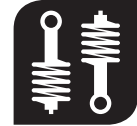
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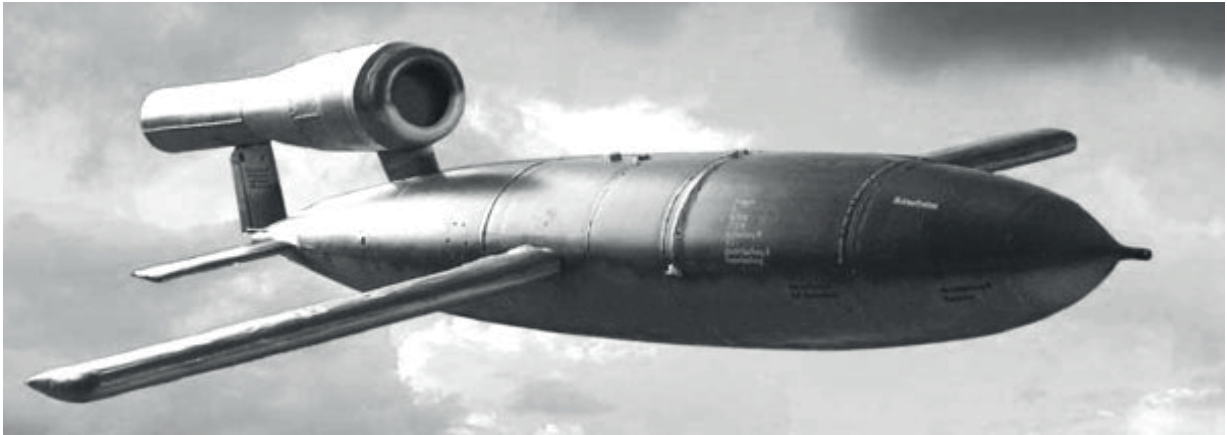


## Memories of WWII - The dreaded Doodlebug

It is 1944 and I am living in Acton, London in a large Victorian house with my mother, her three sisters, my two cousins and grandma. My father is overseas fighting with the RAF and has been since 1939.

"Quickly wake up," says my mother, as she pulls me out of bed.

Dressing gown on, we rush downstairs as the wailing 'air raid' sirens scream outside. Through the kitchen with my aunts and cousins, we run down to the garden and into the air raid shelter. It always smells of earth and damp, but I am used to it now, as it seems that this happens every night. We huddle together with a torch, sandwiches and two flasks of tea, and wait and wait.



Then the sound - getting nearer. Rum, rum, rum, rum, like every night – the V1 flying bomb or doodlebug. We are used to it now and not frightened by the sound. The scary bit is when the engine stops, and then the whistle as the doodlebug falls out of the sky. We wait. Where will it land? A whoosh and a crump, but it is some way off. The rum, rum, rum continues and the whistle and the crump. We sit there trying to be brave, but we are not. When will it stop? Then rum, rum, rum and silence. The engine stops and we wait for the whistle. It's loud, very loud and there is no crump, but a huge noise and crashing. The ground moves and the shelter shakes and things fall onto it and then it is quiet, very quiet. Then the rum, rum, rum carries on.

Then it stops and the 'all clear' siren sounds and we hear the bells of the fire engines. It is morning and we push our way out of the shelter. The house is still there, but not all the windows, and there is broken glass and bits of wood and trees everywhere. We all run through the house to the front door and into the street. It is a mess with broken things all over the place. At the bottom of the road, we see the fire engines and we run down towards them. Yesterday there were eight houses there. Now there are only three, next to huge piles of bricks and wood and a broken bed. There are firemen on top of the bricks shouting and others pulling at things.

"What are all those blankets on the road in a line?" I ask mother.

"Nothing," she says quietly as she takes my hand and we walk back home.

I am too young to really understand what it is happening, but I know that tonight we will again be in the shelter listening to the rum, rum, rum!!

Today we think we know what the war was like. Ukraine and Gaza are still suffering in a similar way every day and night, with the continuous bombing and the suffering; we don't. We can only try and understand what war is like. However, even though it is almost 80 years ago – I remember, and I know!

**Patrick Fitz-Gibbon**

**Steeple Aston villager for 46 years**



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# Letter from *Westminster*

*SAL's regular epistle from our MP, Sean Woodcock*



It's been a busy month representing the people of Banbury, across the constituency and in Parliament. I've been enjoying meeting and talking to local people, whilst getting out on the doorstep across the constituency. I've been listening and getting on with fixing any issues raised.

In visiting the Banbury Sewage Works, I was pleased to hear from Thames Water about the steps they are taking to address pollution in the River Cherwell and local waterways. I am pleased to have voted for the Water (Special Measures) Bill, that will make water company bosses criminally responsible for illegal sewage dumping, and will ban bonus payments to those who have pumped significant levels of sewage into rivers. I hope these steps will help to clean up the River Cherwell and local rivers for good. Another thing I've enjoyed is meeting young local people. I attended a Pizza and Politics event with young people where they could ask me any questions about politics. It was great to see so many young people getting engaged! I also visited Banbury and Bicester College as part of colleges week, talking to and learning from students and staff.

I've been helping constituents with issues across the board - including helping with an immigration visa and highlighting the road conditions to Oxfordshire County Council. I also intervened and wrote a letter to the Chief Executive of Cherwell District Council, Cllr Gordon Stewart, after the council wrongfully issued a Banbury Gurdwara with a council tax bill.

Recently, I have also been busy with my work on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill Committee, which came to a close at the end of the month. It was crucial to talk about these important issues, and champion wellbeing at every step. The constituency has been at the centre of my Parliamentary work. I met a constituent at the Parents for Future UK drop in which was focussed on climate change, and I spoke in the chamber highlighting how shoplifting offences harm our local community, especially with local shops in rural areas such as Hook Norton, Enstone and Bloxham. That is why I rose to support the Government's Crime and Policing Bill, which will answer the concerns that shopkeepers in the constituency have been telling me about. The effective immunity for thefts under £200 will be removed, loopholes will be closed, and the streets of Banbury and the villages will be safer. Rising rates of shoplifting will not be tolerated by Labour.

I have been pleased to support national Labour policies and the Plan for Change that will improve the lives of people in Banbury, Chipping Norton, Charlbury and the villages. The news that NHS waiting lists have fallen for five months in a row I'm sure will be reassuring to people in the local area. Additionally, a record £1.6bn investment to repair roads and potholes will see £8.9m allocated to Oxfordshire, with a requirement for local councils to prove their progress. This will end the frustrating and dangerous road conditions that drive motorists mad, and I look forward to realising the effects of this on our local roads. I will continue to champion Banbury and the villages in all that I do. Labour's Plan for Change is already working, and I will work to make sure positive changes can be seen to improve the lives of people across our constituency.

**Sean Woodcock, MP**



## Garden *Club*

On April Fool's Day, the garden club held its AGM and what a joyous occasion. It was well attended and soon got underway, with officials elected with very little change other than a change of secretary. This is probably the most demanding of tasks and we welcomed Alison Llewellyn to the post, replacing Christina Clarke who did the job so efficiently for the past few years. Financially, the club has seen a slight reduction, but is still well in the black. After the AGM, members settled down to a challenging quiz accompanied by a glass of wine and some excellent nibbles. All, I should add, at no cost to those in attendance.

To kick off summer meetings, we visit The Old Rectory Gardens at Albury OX9 2LP on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, meeting at 2.00pm. Cost including refreshments is £13. All are welcome to events and annual membership is *still* £10 per person or £15 per family. New members are welcome, so why not 'try before you buy'. A full programme of summer visits and winter meetings awaits, so if you enjoy gardening or simply like what others can offer, why not consider joining? For further information, contact me on 01869 340512 or email: [Richard.preston5@bopenworld.com](mailto:Richard.preston5@bopenworld.com)

Happy gardening!

Richard Preston – Garden Club chairman



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## SACS Ahoy!



On a balmy spring evening, SACS sailed into an appropriately decorated hall for its watery Spring Concert – Ahoy! The choir began with a beautiful composition by Edward Elgar – *Sea Pictures*. This was originally five evocations of the sea written for solo voice, but this evening it was two for the price of one, as the choir sang four songs and village mezzo-soprano, Rebecca Lewin, gave an exquisite performance of *Where Corals Lie*, in its original form. This was a tricky piece for everyone, as the mood of the music constantly changes like the sea, but the whole ensemble rose to the occasion, with conductor Paul Badley, steering the choir to the triumphant conclusion. Special mention must go to pianist Paul Herrington (appropriately) who negotiated an accompaniment that not only sounded like the waves, but looked like it too. Peter Grevatt, a baritone from Sussex (by the sea, of course) followed with an evocative performance of John Masefield's poem, *Trade Winds*, set by Frederick Keel. Paul Herrington followed this with two contrasting movements from Handel's *Water Music*, written for George I's water party on the Thames on 17.7.1717. Paul had arranged this for his keyboard to stunning effect. After the royal splendour of Georgian London, the choir transported us across the world. From a North Eastern shore, where a girl awaits her lover's return, in *Blow the Wind Southerly* and a cheeky *Billy Boy* tells us the qualities of his girlfriend, the

journey continued to the other side of the Atlantic, with *Shenandoah* and then on towards South America, as our sailors struggle to reach the *Rio Grande*, before battling the French in the Channel on *The Arethusa*. Phew! The medley, skilfully arranged by Paul Herrington, gave the choir an opportunity to show the contrasts in these very different songs.

Then it was the audience's turn, as they sang Sutherland's, *I am Sailing*, sufficiently well for the Bass Boys' Bar to open revealing the usual beverages, plus some specially brewed rum punch. With the audience suitably fortified, Stanford's *Songs of the Sea*, began the second half of the concert. Peter, accompanied by the choir, gave a wonderfully ebullient performance from the lively *Drake's Drum*, in which Drake will rise to England's aid, if his drum is sounded and *Devon, in Wind and Rain*; through the expressively tender, *Outward Bound* and *Homeward Bound*, to the final battle, as Nelson's dilapidated ship, *The Old Superb*, gallantly struggles to keep up with the fleet and the French – again. Korean composer, Yiruma's *The River Flows in You*, played by Paul Herrington, had a calming effect after all the drama of the high seas, and the reflective mood continued with Rebecca's delicate singing of Bantock's tender *Song to the Seals*. Peter returned with his rum punch, to sing Warlock's, *The Old Bold Mate* – a song to the joys of the dark liquid, cleverly managing to swig and sing at the same time. We then followed him to the French Riviera, where Michael Flanders and Donald Swann warned of the dangers of expecting sun in the South of France – *Rain on the Plage*. As the evening drew to a close, it was time for the audience to join in again, with a four-song medley including *Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean* and *Sloop John B*. The final challenge was to sing three sea shanties at once (they all fitted together) and having achieved that, everyone headed home, still humming. Thanks to everyone for such a joyous fun-filled nautical journey, with something for all tastes.



Margaret Bulleyment

Photos by Nigel Francis

*Please join SACS again on Saturday 21 June for the Summer Party Concert – 7pm in the Village Hall*



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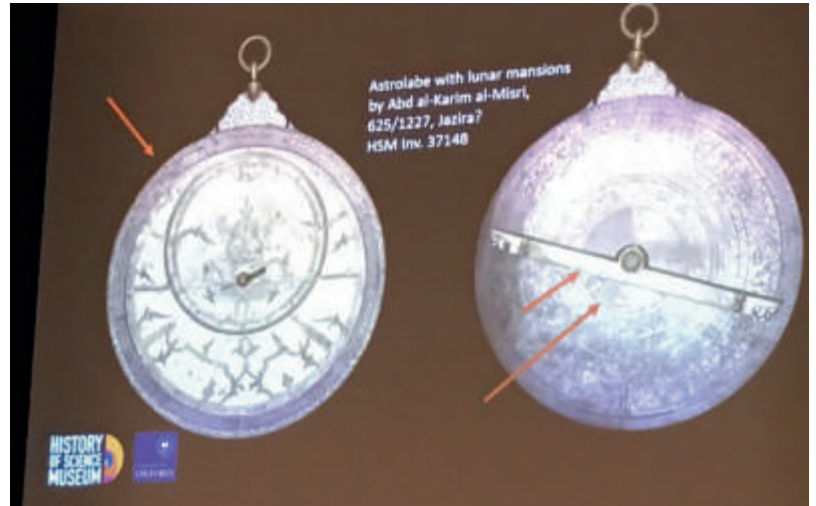


The evening commenced with tea, coffee and cake as usual, then the vote for a new President. The ballots were collected by Liz in a saucepan (traditional system) and counted by an independent WI member from The Heyfords. The result was a landslide win for Julie Hillier. Congratulations to Julie!

Our speaker for the evening was Dr Sumner Braund, Curator of Founding Collections, History of Science Museum, University of Oxford. She was the winner of the Museum & Heritage Community Engagement Programme of the Year Award 2024 and Joint winner of the Vice-Chancellor's Community Partnership Award 2024. How about that for worthy credentials!?

What an excellent speaker, who presented her subject with such passion and with plenty of flair!

Had we heard about ancient instruments like an Astrolabe, with lunar mansions made by Abd al-Karim al-Misri back in 1227? The information on the dials was obtained purely by observations of the stars discovering that they moved across the heavens in a 24-hour cycle!



How astounding that such an item should still be around! The secret of its longevity lay in the fact that it was considered significant back then and therefore handed down by, and to, fellow seekers of evidence-based information. It was then sold onto collectors as trophies, before finally coming to museums and private collectors of today.

As April is the end of our WI year, there was the report from Janice Kinory, our outgoing secretary, who had emailed this to members beforehand. The accounts had likewise been emailed, and Merrill Bayley read out a brief summary before asking for a proposer and seconder, and both were forthcoming. Julie welcomed our new member, Arlene, and two guests. She then gave us an outline of up-and-coming events; our new programme; and updates on the Poppy Cascade from Hildy Frenken – in the Church for VE Day. More poppies needed please to complete the cascade from the church tower on Armistice Day.



Liz Falconer was presented with a gift as she was stepping down after serving many years on the Committee as Secretary. Janice Kinory was presented with a bouquet of flowers as she was also stepping down. Lots of new sign-up sheets were on display, including the WI walk around Souldern and Aynho with lunch at The Fox; Supper at The Red Lion; a St John's Ambulance course and Watch Party at Fringford. The flower of the month trophy was won by Merrill Bayley again – more entries this next year will stop that from happening again! Cathy Lawday's poem won third place in the Pat Eades Memorial Poetry Challenge – the citation read "With some deft touches, this poem also packed a serious punch in challenging some of the inaccurate stereotypes of the WI".

At our May meeting the results of Tina's questionnaire will be revealed, hopefully confirming that we are on track but changing things that need to be changed in our WI! Sounds interesting to you? Want to know more about our WI? Call Julie Hillier on 01869 349185.

Merrill Bayley [Merrill.bayley@gmail.com](mailto:Merrill.bayley@gmail.com)

*Photos by Merrill Bayley*

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## Marco Bonaria

- **Which village do you live in? How long have you lived here?** Steeple Aston for just over 9 years.
- **Where did you move from, and what brought you here?** Lived in Oxford for 7 years. Great position between Banbury, Oxford and Bicester, school in the village, loved the feeling of the village when we first had a look around.
- **What do you like best about living here?** I love the fresh air, quiet evenings and starry skies. I like casually knowing half the village and really like the community it has.
- **A potted history of yourself in 40 words or less:** Grew up in Cape Town and studied 3D. Worked for advertising, then Supa Strikers animated cartoon before moving to Oxford, where I met my wife Kate and now live here with 8 year old twin boys and Darcy, our Jack-corgi rescue dog.
- **Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog?** Both? Own a little dog, don't mind cats.
- **Town or countryside? Gym or ramble?** Countryside and ramble always, I'm over busy city life.
- **Optimist or pessimist? Fast-paced or relaxed?** Optimist. Relaxed most of the time.
- **Technology – friend or foe?** Friend.
- **What was the best thing about your childhood?** Going to the beach and bodyboarding big waves.
- **What is the best aspect of being an adult?** Not having to answer to anyone.
- **What did you want to be when you grew up?** I always wanted to be a robotics engineer, and build massive robots that walk around doing things.
- **What was your first job? And your current job?** First job was selling pies and ice-cream at a little shop during the weekend. Currently a digital artist making 2d and 3d characters and animations.
- **What is the best/worst job you have had?** Best was renting out peddle-boats and water-skiing trips in Faliraki. Worst was working for an advertising firm doing 18-hour days trying to make unrealistic deadlines.
- **What's your guilty pleasure?** I do like jellybeans, Italian nougat and any chocolate with fruit and nuts in it.
- **Tell us about your hobbies:** Working in the allotment, making jam, playing board and video games, taking the dog for a walk, playing poker at the pub and snowboarding when I can.
- **Who is your favourite musician and track?** Oblivion by Thirty Seconds to Mars.
- **What is your best loved book & your favourite author?** RA Salvatore and the Legend of Drizzt book series.
- **What food do you most enjoy eating?** Biltong (Dried cured meat from South Africa - can be beef, ostrich, kudu, spring-buck).
- **What do you like to cook/bake?** Apple or plum tarts. Barbequed meat and veg when it's warm.
- **Do you have a signature dish?** Roast of any description with all the trimmings and homemade Yorkshire puddings.
- **What is your favourite sport? Sporty or spectator?** I loved playing baseball when I was younger and used to play touch rugby. I can play most sports and would rather play than watch.
- **If you could travel anywhere, where would it be?** Japan for the food, the ski slopes and the culture.







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## THE VALENTINE CLUB

As I am writing this just before our meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> April, I am assuming Chrissie and her owls have arrived and behaved themselves. Should have been a good meeting, so more about this next month. May is a busy month for the club with a holiday for 45 members, a coach trip to Somerset and a visit to the club by Bill King who will help us reminisce under the title of 'Yesterday's Childhood'. So, at the beginning of this month, we are off to Hayling Island for five days visiting Arundel Castle and probably Portsmouth, along with enjoying the entertainment provided by our hotel and most importantly, some great company. Our meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May allows us to remember our past childhood and then two days later, we are off to Oakham Treasures in Somerset where we are about to be amazed!

Over the past 12 months, Cherwell Lottery has provided the club with over £1,200 in revenue which makes an enormous difference to what we can do with the club. 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.

To find out more about The Valentine Club, then simply visit our own website on **[valentineclub.wixsit.com/aston](http://valentineclub.wixsit.com/aston)** (easiest way to log on is go to the village website, go to 'clubs and societies' and find The Valentine Club and click on the link), or keep up to date by looking on the village website **[steepleaston.org.uk](http://steepleaston.org.uk)** or use that old-fashioned thing called a telephone and call me on 01869 340512.

Richard Preston – Group organiser (for lack of a better description)

### VE & VJ Day Exhibition

1<sup>st</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

See **[sofo.org.uk](http://sofo.org.uk)**

An exhibition entitled '*From Conflict to Peace: Celebrating VE and VJ Day*' has been launched to commemorate the end of the Second World War, with a focus on local stories and experiences. It aims to capture the jubilation felt across the county in 1945, as well as the harrowing experiences of Oxfordshire residents serving in the armed forces. In addition to the military aspect, it will highlight the significant role played by the people of Oxfordshire in the final stages of the war, with personal accounts from both soldiers and civilians.



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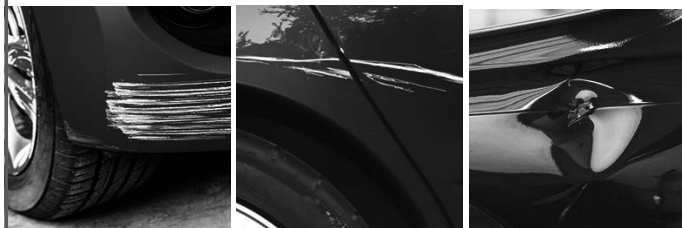
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# Village Hall News



## **Saturday 10 May 2025 - 'We'll Meet Again' - 6.30pm in the village hall**

From 'The White Cliffs of Dover' to 'The Lambeth Walk' – a family event in music, words and dance, to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Come and sing the music that kept people going through the war; enjoy a song or two from Vera Lynn; listen to the wartime bells; hear stories of villagers during the period and strut the Lambeth Walk – Oi! You can wear whatever you like, but feel free to come in 40's dress; or red, white or blue. There will be a bar (**cash only**) and nibbles. Please purchase tickets prior to this event to help with catering etc.

Tickets: £5 (under 16s free) will be available from the village shop and Margaret Bulleyment tel: 01869 347346 or [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com).

For more information contact Margaret Bulleyment – 01869 347346 or [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com)

## **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May - 8.00pm: Village Hall AGM followed by committee meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Steeple Aston Management Committee will take place on the above date. The AGM lasts approximately 15 minutes and is followed by the monthly village hall committee meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend.

## **Forthcoming events:**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November - Annual bonfire and firework evening**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Wassail evening**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Annual Quiz Night**

Our letting agent is Mrs Angela Smith – 07734 112967. Please do not call this number between 6.00pm and 8.00pm 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)** [savh.org.uk/](http://savh.org.uk/)



*The Eyecatcher in Folly Field which appears to have lost a pinnacle. Photo by Carol Neville.*



## Spring Show

Sunday 23rd March saw the first show of the year for the Steeple Aston and Middle Aston Horticultural Society. With 80 exhibitors entering over 300 exhibits, the hall was brimming with spring blooms and talents. We had lots of new names taking part and quite a lot of change in the cup winners. Please do take a look at the results. I am always delighted when children transition from their age category into the territory of the 'adult' divisions and win prizes - full credit to them for taking the plunge, it certainly keeps us old timers on our toes. Sadly, there were a few classes that had no entries at all. So next year, if you have a cactus or spring planter, please do take part and enter them, as it all adds to a beautiful display.

Whilst we as a committee enjoy a few days' rest, we're already formulating some exciting plans for our summer show on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August. The schedule for this event is already live on the village website and printed paper copies will be available in the village shop from the end of July. If you'd like one sooner, please get in touch. Once again, thank you to all that took part and came along to the show during the afternoon.

**Vicky Clifton, Show secretary** [vmcstedman@btinternet.com](mailto:vmcstedman@btinternet.com)



*Photographs by Nigel Francis.*

# STEEPLE ASTON SPRING SHOW RESULTS – 2025

Duncan Cup	Mary White	WI Cup	Alice Monroe
Flower Club	Daphne Preston	Handicraft Cup	Claire Coysh
Bedding Family Trophy	Isobel Coysh	Mead Vase	Mary White
Under 5s	Edward Coysh/Elodie Smith	8 to 11 years	Isobel Coysh
5 to 7yrs	Jacob Lewin	12 to 15 years	Hattie Wright
	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>
Tulips grown in a container	Caroline Parsons	Mary White	Dorothy Clifton
Daffodils – long or short trumpet	Mary White	John Coley	
Multi-headed daffodils in a pot	Mary White	John Coley	
Miniature daffodils grown in a pot	Mary White	Diane Dale	
Hyacinths in a bowl	Caroline Parsons	John Coley	Mary White
Other pot grown bulb	Victoria Clifton	Caroline Parsons	Mary White
Container of spring flowers	No entries		
Cactus or succulent	No entries		
Pot Plant – flowering	Barbara Brewer	Jo Mallinson	Edwina Kinch
Pot Plant – foliage	Barbara Brewer		
Vase of cut garden blooms	Mary White	Stewart Tolhurst	
Vase of cut buds or blossom	Mary White	Mark Utting	Rachel Marsden
5 Long Trumpet Daffodils – cut	Marie O'Connor	Richard Preston	Alex Wade-Martins
5 Short Trumpet Daffodils – cut	Alex Wade-Martins	Richard Preston	Mary White
5 miniature Daffodils – cut	Marie O'Connor	Richard Preston	Mary White
5 stems of multi-headed daffodils - cut	Mary White	Caitlin Kennedy	John Coley
3 stems of rhubarb	Richard Preston	Stephen Latchford	Rachel Marsden
Scented spring flowers - cut	Mary White	Victoria Clifton	Julia Whybrew
Single cut Daffodil	Richard Preston	Mary White	Andrew Marsden
Fresh vegetable (excluding rhubarb)	Graham Clifton	Rachel Marsden	
Savoury Flan	John Coley	Charlie Utting	Alice Monroe
3 Hot cross buns	Alice Monroe	John Coley	Victoria Clifton
3 Savoury rolls	Alice Monroe	Julia Whybrew	Rachel Marsden
Bakewell tart	John Coley	Victoria Clifton	Alice Monroe
3 Egg Victoria sandwich	Ben Wade-Martins	Alice Monroe	Victoria Clifton
3 Pieces of Millionaires shortbread	Alice Monroe	Charlie Utting	Julia Whybrew
Vegan Cake	John Coley	Victoria Clifton	Julia Whybrew
5 White Chocolate	V. Clifton/ J. Whybrew		
Seville Marmalade	John Coley	Judith Lane	Janet Reid
Fruit curd	Mary White	Alice Monroe	Charlie Utting
Homemade Lemonade	Victoria Clifton	Carla Shayler	Dan Wright
Homemade Alcoholic drink	Charlotte Powell	Stewart Tolhurst	Victoria Clifton
Wrist corsage	Rebecca Lewin		
Flower arrangement – Nursery rhyme	Daphne Preston	Charlotte Powell	Rebecca Lewin
Flower arrangement – Foliage	Daphne Preston	Rebecca Lewin	
Flower arrangement with a candle	Charlotte Powell	Edwina Kinch	Daphne Preston
Knitted or crochet item	Judith Lane	Diane Dale	Diana Gardner
A brooch	Claire Coysh	Janet Coley	Kelly Cooper
Limerick	Victoria Stokes	Jay Diffey	Janet Coley
Painting or drawing	Claire Coysh	Carla Shayler	Nigel Francis
Any other handicraft	Carla Shayler	Claire Coysh	Diana Gardner
Decorated Pebble	Victoria Clifton	Carla Shayler	Rebecca Lewin
Photo – Antique	Stewart Tolhurst	Victoria Clifton	Jon Gas coyne
Photo – Wonky	Janet Coley	John Coley	Stewart Tolhurst
Photo – Light	Jon Gas coyne	John Coley	Janet Coley
Photo – Silhouettes (black + white)	John Coley	Jon Gas coyne	Victoria Clifton
Under 5s: Finger painting	Arlo Loveluck-Taplin	Edward Coysh	Evie Rivers
Decorated pebble	Elodie Smith	Evie Rivers	Maddie Rivers
Decorated biscuits	Edward Coysh	Elodie Smith	Joey Stokes
Age 5-7: Decorated pebble	Jacob Lewin	Max Austin	Douglas Buckingham
3 Jam tarts	Jacob Lewin	Edward Austin	Max Austin
A handmade animal mask	Deanna Cooper	Jacob Lewin	James Smith
Age 8-11: Decorated pebble	Ralphie Bailey	Ottile Maclean	Henry Monroe
A bookmark	Isobel Coysh	Henry Monroe	Olivia Clarke-Powell
3 pieces of blondie	Woody Wright	Isobel Coysh	Henry Monroe
Age 12-15: A lemon drizzle cake	Oliver Gill	Hattie Wright	Amelia Bailey
Decorated pebble	Amelia Bailey	Felix Loveluck-Taplin	Jenny Marsden
Photo - Eyes	Hattie Wright	Charlie Wright	





**Dr Radcliffe's Church of England School**  
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The Local Governing Body of Dr Radcliffe's C of E Primary school has vacancies for governors. Being a school governor is a hugely rewarding voluntary role which gives you the chance to make a real difference to young people and the local community.

Governors have a strategic role in setting aims and objectives, monitoring and evaluating progress and they act as a source of challenge and support to the headteacher. Our core functions are to ensure:

- That the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined.
- That the headteacher performs their responsibilities for the educational performance of the school.
- The sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

This role may interest you if you have a passion for education, have skills and knowledge in finance, legal and HR. Your commitment would be to attend six full LGB meetings a year (held in the evening) and six committee meetings a year (held during the day) as well as termly visits to school. Full training is available and governors are encouraged to attend regular training.

The vacancies include the role of Foundation Governors who represent the Church and have special responsibility to ensure the Christian ethos, vision and principles are supported in all aspects of school life, as well as taking on other governor responsibilities. We would welcome active members of any local church congregation to join our team. Additionally, if you have the skills we need but aren't an active churchgoer, other governor roles are available.

If you care about improving education, have time to commit, are a good listener, a team player and are able to make informed judgements, we are keen to hear from you. It's a rewarding opportunity, as you will become part of a team making a positive impact on the lives of children at our school, will gain or refine invaluable leadership and strategic thinking skills, and will work alongside a dedicated group of professionals and community members.

If you would like to find out more and have an informal conversation, please contact our Chair Lisa Boote on [l.boote@dr-radcliffes.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:l.boote@dr-radcliffes.oxon.sch.uk)

You must be 18 years or over to apply.

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.

# Middle Aston Open Gardens



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Martin Lipson (Vice Chair), Planning,  
Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum

Peter Dammermann

Greg Elphick

Charlotte Powell, Sports & Recreation Centre,  
Environment

Mathew Watson


Cathy Fleet – Parish Clerk

Email: [parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com)



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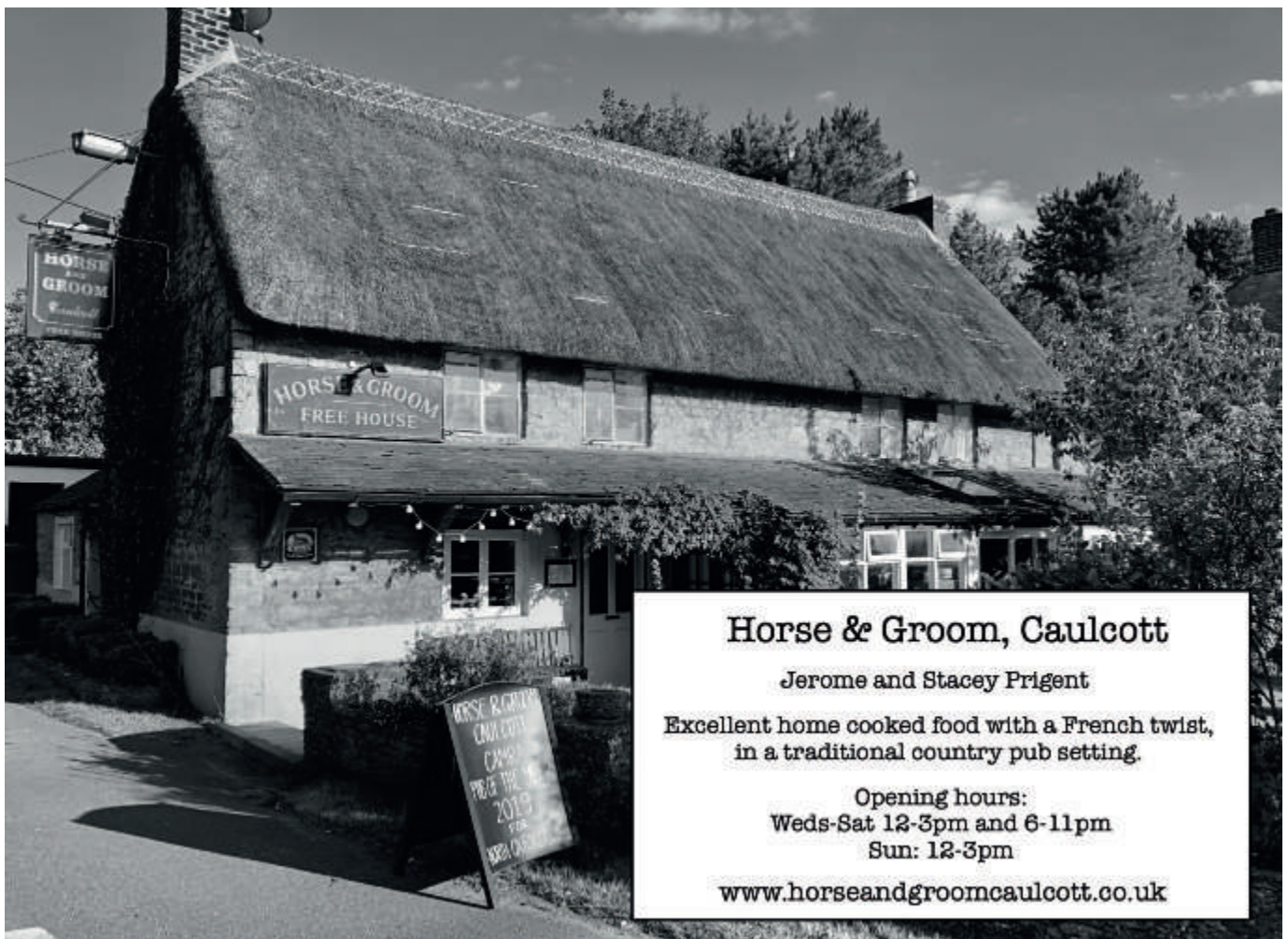


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## Steeple Aston Baby and Toddler Group

We are a friendly local group run by two local mums, Bryony and Clare, welcoming all parents and carers with their little ones. We run on a small donation of £3 per family which covers the costs of a snack/drink for the children, along with a hot drink and cake/biscuit for adults. Children sit together at snack time and enjoy a selection of fruit, vegetables, crackers, rice cakes etc with milk/water.

We set out a selection of toys during each session for the children to explore, along with a craft for them to enjoy. We have mats and toys for babies and we love a sing-song at the end of our sessions! With Easter approaching, we had a clear theme so have been making sheep and enjoying an egg hunt in the park.

We run term time on a Thursday morning in the Sports and Recreation Building from 9.30am-11.30am, but please feel free to drop in and leave at any time to suit your little ones! We love to see new faces and it's a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents/carers, enjoy a hot drink (a rare treat), and let your children enjoy a variety of exciting toys. If you have any questions, do get in touch via our email

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

We are always grateful to receive donated toys to expand our collection. We are currently looking for the following:

- Brio or Brio compatible trains/track or accessories
- Playmobil
- Zoo and Zoo animals
- Role play/dress up items including play shoes/bags etc
- Cars and a car track (Vtech/toot toot/hot wheels etc)
- Hobby Horses
- Magnetic Tiles
- Play House
- Ride on toys
- Animal Hoppers

If you would be willing to donate any of the above, or if you have any toys you think would work well for our group, please do get in touch via our email address above.

Thank you so much.

Bryony and Clare xx





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Dear fellow golfers

This is Steeple Aston Golf Society's 37th year and we got off to a great start with our first meeting of 2025.

Tuesday 20th May meeting is at The Vale, Bishampton, Pershore. WR10 2LZ.

Set in 300 acres of stunning countryside, The Vale Golf & Country Club offers golfers fantastic golf. With superb views over the Malvern and Bredon Hills, The Vale is situated in a natural amphitheatre of mature woodland in breathtaking scenery. This course offers an American-style layout, with large greens, trees, bunkers and several water hazards. Its rolling fairways provide a testing round. It's a 12 noon get together for a 13.00 start.

If anyone out there fancies playing at this Jack Nicklaus designed course, please call Alan or Chris, who will let you know what goes on during the day and for the rest of the season. Our May meeting at The Vale results will be in the June issue of the Life.

Our June meeting is on Tuesday 17th being held at the Coventry Hearsall Golf Club, Beechwood Av. CV5 6DF. This is parkland with fairly easy walking. A brook provides an interesting hazard. If you would like to play, please call Alan or Chris on 01869 340423/347173.

Happy golfing, Alan

## Poetry *Corner*



### Ageing

Ageing is no fun  
It creeps up on you without warning  
And you finally admit you're old  
One depressing morning.

Your skin is full of wrinkles  
Your assets are heading south  
There's the hint of an incipient  
moustache around your mouth

You've got less hair than you used to have  
It gets sparser every day  
And what hair you have left  
Is predominantly grey

You can't get out of a low chair  
Without an unseemly grunt  
And you got dressed without your glasses  
So, your sweater's back to front

People offer you their seat  
when you travel on the train  
which is very kind of them  
but is depressing just the same.

Someone behind you in the checkout queue  
sighs loudly when you drop your purse  
And then the assistant says 'bless'  
Which is very much worse.

You keep your mobile phone in your handbag  
With your bus pass, keys, your pills, some tissues, a comb,  
your shopping list, two out-of-date money-off coupons,  
your glasses, a dried-up bottle of scent, an ancient lipstick, a  
nail file, 2 random buttons, a bulldog clip and other useful  
things  
Which means that you can't find it  
If ever it rings.

And when your body lets you down  
With surprise attacks of gas  
There's nothing you can do  
Except wait for it to pass.

But worse than all of these indignities,  
Oh alas, a lack  
Is when you look into the mirror  
And see your mother looking back.

**Cathy Lawday**





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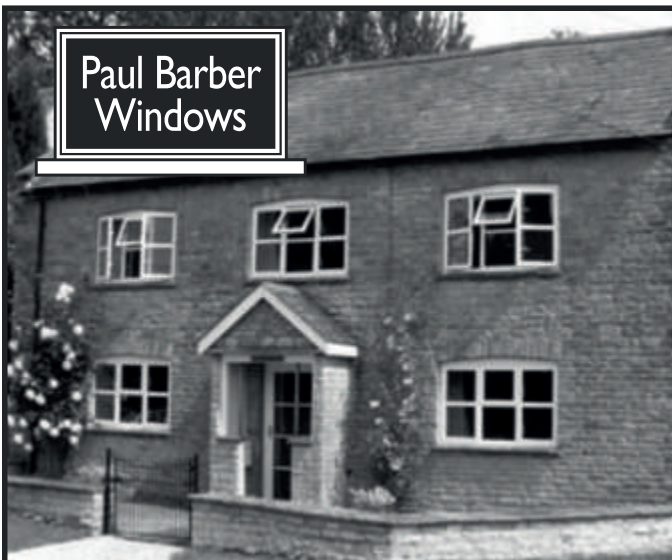
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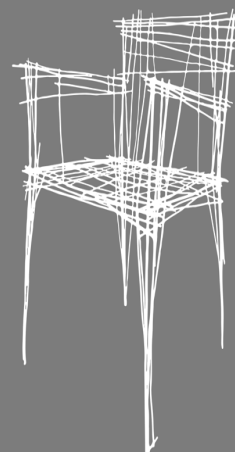
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## Americana evening

If you weren't at the Village Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> March, you missed a cracking evening. With bass from Alan Stubbersfield; harmonica from Michael Green; and guitars and vocals from Ben Whittaker & Toby Auld, Colin Greenway, Josie Slade, Richard MacAndrew and Gordon Mackay, the village hall rocked to the sound of Americana music, old and new. A varied programme featuring songs made popular by, among others, Hank Williams, Sam Cooke, John Prine, JJ Cale, Chris Stapleton, Zach Bryan, and Jason Isbell delighted an audience of both villagers and people from further afield.

Admission was free, but donations were sought for Tom's Trust, a charity which provides support for children diagnosed with brain tumours, and their families. Co-founder of the trust, Andrew Whiteley, gave a moving speech just before the interval about how his son had died from a brain tumour at the age of nine, and why the trust had been set up. For more information see the link below. The concert raised almost fund £700 in support of the trust. Congratulations to all involved.

[tomstrust.org.uk](http://tomstrust.org.uk)

### From Our Music Correspondent



*Photos by Nigel Francis*



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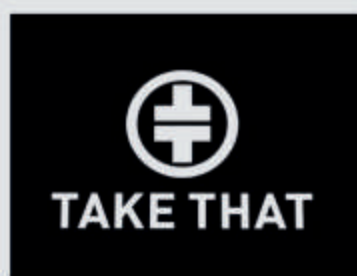






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**Middle Aston House**



**[www.tributemusicfest.com](http://www.tributemusicfest.com)**

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## Wildflower Meadows

### Let it Grow - in our Community Green Spaces!

The temptation for many of us can be to regularly mow our greenspaces and keep them looking as neat as possible but research by Plantlife has shown just how beneficial to wildlife the opposite can be. In their 'No Mow May' survey, Plantlife found that the highest production of flowers and nectar sugar was on grass cut once every four weeks. 'Short-grass' plants like daisies and white clover had a chance to flower in between mowing, boosting nectar production tenfold. Areas of grass that were left to grow for even longer periods of time were more diverse in their range of flowers, with other nectar-rich plants like oxeye daisy, field scabious and knapweed providing varied nectar sources well into late summer. Finally, you can take part in a survey by counting the flowers in a square metre of your green space and reporting it to Plantlife.



Find out more at [plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/](https://plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/)

### Garden mini-meadows:

Spring has arrived, and with it comes the annual tradition of No Mow May: a movement urging people to lock up their lawnmowers throughout May, promoting biodiversity and supporting pollinators. It's an opportunity to witness the beauty of wildflowers and native plants, which thrive when lawns are left untouched. But this year, why not take it a step further and create a mini-meadow or grassland? No-mow is great to show you where the wildflowers are in your lawn, i.e. what is already there naturally - making it the perfect 1<sup>st</sup> step of mini-meadow creation. If you want to provide the maximum food source for your pollinators, rather than mowing it all again in June, leave an area of it untouched throughout spring and summer and only mow it in September once the flowers have finished. This is the easiest way to grow a mini-meadow in your garden and means our native bees can easily find nectar sources throughout their most active months. You can always enhance this area with bulbs or by planting wildflowers (e.g., cowslips, ox-eye daisy or foxgloves).

Lawns, or sections of garden, can be turned into wildflower meadows in several ways, depending on how much time and effort you want to put in and the result you want to achieve. I would recommend Plantlife's 'How to Grow a Wildflower Meadow.' You can find it online at [plantlife.org.uk/how-to-grow-a-wildflower-meadow](https://plantlife.org.uk/how-to-grow-a-wildflower-meadow)

So, as May unfolds and the grass grows taller, consider creating a mini-meadow. Let your lawn be a sanctuary for pollinators, and a testament to the beauty of nature. Together, we can turn our gardens into vibrant ecosystems which collectively make a real difference for nature. Happy gardening everyone!

**Imogen Parker (Wild Oxfordshire Community Ecologist)** [wildoxfordshire.org.uk/](https://wildoxfordshire.org.uk/)



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# Steeple Aston Church Fete

---

**Sunday, July 13th**  
**13:00 - 16:30**

---

***Robinson's Playing Field  
and Village Hall.***



**Want to get involved?**

Anyone interested in volunteering  
or running a stall, please email:  
**[Georginaorridge@gmail.com](mailto:Georginaorridge@gmail.com)**





## **Steeple Talks**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> In the Church – 7.15pm for 7.30pm**

# **COURTING JUSTICE**

**Richard Jones and Jonathan Shortis**

**Do you think you could sit in judgement?**

**Find out about the life (and trials) of a magistrate.**

**Refreshments from 7.15pm**

**Retiring Collection in aid of the church roof repairs**

**All Welcome**





# Church *Matters*



On the 8th May, we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day). The church bells at Steeple Aston will be rung at 6.30pm in celebration.

We are extremely fortunate within the benefice to have two wonderful teams of bell ringers and I love hearing the bells ring out whether it's on a Sunday, just before a service (at Steeple Aston and Tackley), or on a Tuesday evening as the ringers practice or other occasions including when we host visiting ringers. The ringing of church bells has been used for centuries as a way of proclaiming news, both that a church service was about to start and calling people to worship at a time when clocks were not common. They are also used to announce big news, such as the coronation of a new monarch, as local ringers did for King Charles' Coronation and more local news, such as funerals and weddings.



*Ron Gardner (Vice Captain to Harry Adams, Captain) teaching the oldest children from Dr Radcliffe's School, in 1972.*

*Photo steepleastonbellringers.com*

As well as proclaiming cheerful news, church bells have been used to warn people of imminent danger. During the World Wars, the ringing of the church bells was severely restricted by the Defence of the Realm Act. The ringing of the bells, especially in WWI, was reserved as a means of communication, and their tolling would warn people that our shores had been invaded. At the end of both wars, the church bells were rung in celebration.

With all our modern technology and news alerts, church bells are no longer used to spread news. And yet, their ringing is still woven into our society, and I cannot imagine life without them. As they ring and we pause to listen, I enjoy a beautiful moment of stillness, peace. As you listen to the church bells this summer, take a moment to enjoy them and think about what news you have to share, be it happy or sad, and what you are thankful for, big or small.

If you would like to learn to ring, please contact our local Tower captains, or come along one Tuesday evening.

Please join us in SS Peter and Paul Church in Steeple Aston, following the ringing of the church bells on the 8th May, for a special VE-Day celebration service, when we will give thanks for 80 years of peace and pray for

The Peace of the Lord be always with you and those you love.


**Harriet**

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# Church Services



May 2025

| Date                                  | North Aston                                                     | Steeple Aston                                                    | Tackley                                                  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>  | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion<br><i>Book of Common Prayer</i> | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy Communion<br><i>Book of Common Prayer</i> | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Evensong                                |
|                                       |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>11<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                 | <b>11.00am</b><br>Family Worship &<br>APCM                       | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Holy Communion &<br>APCM                |
|                                       |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>18<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion                                 | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy Communion                                 | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Evensong                                |
|                                       |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>25<sup>th</sup> May</b> | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                 | <b>11.00am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                 | <b>9.30am</b><br>Family Communion                        |
|                                       |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                          |
|                                       |                                                                 |                                                                  | <a href="http://www.sntchurch.com">www.sntchurch.com</a> |

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0703 0817 0920 1020 1620 1737 1840 1932 2022 2147 2253

**Saturdays**

0721 0821 0931 then hourly to 1531 1641 1746 1849 1937 2037 2216  
0809 0909 1019 1619 1729 1834 1932 2022 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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0837 0947 1045 1545 1703 1809 1909 2006 2053 2142 2242 0009

**Saturdays**

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0837 0945 1045 1645 1755 1905 1958 2053 2142 2242 0009

**Sundays and most public holidays**

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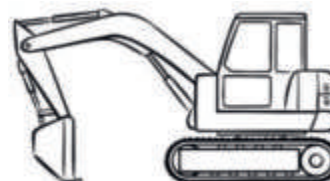
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#### Steeple and Middle Aston rubbish bin collection day Is Thursday

##### May 2025

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

##### June 2025

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



#### 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 Sport & Recreation Centre and Field

| Letting charges                                                                                        |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Social Function peak times<br>(Daily up to 6 hours from 6pm)                                           | £55          |
| Social Function off-peak times<br>(Daily up to 5 hours before 6pm)                                     | £27.50       |
| Meeting of represented clubs<br>(Daily per session up to 2 hours)                                      | £11          |
| Caution money for private lettings                                                                     | £100         |
| Block bookings for social events<br>15% discount for 6 or more bookings in advance                     |              |
| Contact us if you wish to hire the field or use the changing facilities                                |              |
| Letting Agent – Angela Smith<br><a href="mailto:rec.trust@googlemail.com">rec.trust@googlemail.com</a> | 07734 112967 |
| Chair – Torquil McLusky                                                                                | 01869 347914 |
| Treasurer – Chris Cooper                                                                               | 01869 347173 |

- The Sport & Rec is available to hire
- The "Friendly" space - the ideal venue for smaller parties, children's parties and get togethers
- Need more space? Hire the Sport & Rec and Village Hall together
- Fantastic playground just outside
- Internet
- Full disabled access, toilets, showers and changing rooms
- High quality grass playing field with power supply for football, marquees, events etc. (contact us for details and availability)
- Small kitchen and separate bar
- Room for around 50 seated
- Brand-new projector with retractable screen
- Car Parking
- Regular events include Home Education, Babies & Toddlers, Brownies, After School Club, Bridge and of course the Football Club (it's been going since 1898!)
- Next event Race Night  
...more details to follow!



# 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 June and July to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

| May                                                           |                                                       |                    |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Monday 5th-9th May                                            | Valentines: Holiday to Sinah Warren                   | Hayling Island     |                        |
| Saturday 10th May                                             | We'll Meet Again: VE Day - 80th anniversary           | Village Hall       | 6.30pm                 |
| Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> May               | Christian Aid Week                                    |                    |                        |
| <b>Wednesday 14th May</b>                                     | <b>SAL June copy &amp; advert deadlines</b>           |                    |                        |
| Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May                                 | Courting Justice Talk                                 | SA Church          | 7.15pm for 7.30pm      |
| Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May-<br>Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> May | <b>Blooms &amp; Tunes</b>                             | Duns Tew Church    | 10.30am-4.30pm         |
| 17th-26th May                                                 | Oxfordshire Artweeks Exhibition - North & West Oxon   |                    |                        |
| Sunday 18th May                                               | Deddington Four Farms Challenge - Fun Run for charity | Deddington         | See advert for details |
| Monday 19th May                                               | Parish Council Meeting                                | S & R Building     | 7.30pm                 |
| Tuesday 20th May                                              | SAGS match                                            | The Vale, Evesham  | 12 noon                |
| Tuesday 20th May                                              | Valentines: 'Yesterday's Childhood'                   | Village Hall       | 2.30pm                 |
| Thursday 22nd May                                             | Valentines: coach trip: Oakham Treasures, Somerset    | Somerset           |                        |
| Saturday 24th May                                             | Farmers' Market                                       | Deddington         | 9.00am-12.30pm         |
| <b>June</b>                                                   |                                                       |                    |                        |
| Saturday 7th June                                             | Middle Aston Open Gardens in aid of church roof       | Middle Aston       | 2.00pm-6.00pm          |
| <b>Saturday 14th June</b>                                     | <b>SAL July copy &amp; advert deadlines</b>           |                    |                        |
| Monday 16th June                                              | Parish Council Meeting                                | S & R Building     | 7.30pm                 |
| Tuesday 17th June                                             | SAGS Match                                            | Hearsall, Coventry | 10.00am                |
| Tuesday 17th June                                             | Valentines: Songs of the 50s & 60s                    | Village Hall       | 2.30pm                 |
| Saturday 21st June                                            | SACS Summer Party Concert                             | Village Hall       | 6.30pm for 7.00pm      |
| Wednesday 25th June                                           | Valentines: Coach trip to Severn Valley Railway       | Severn Valley      |                        |
| Saturday 28th June                                            | Farmers' Market                                       | Deddington         | 9.00am-12.30pm         |
| <b>July</b>                                                   |                                                       |                    |                        |
| Sunday 13th July                                              | Steeple Aston Church Fete                             | Robinsons Close    |                        |
| <b>Monday 14th July</b>                                       | <b>SAL August copy &amp; advert deadlines</b>         |                    |                        |
| Tuesday 15th July                                             | Valentines: Tea and grounds at Rousham                | Rousham            | 2.30pm                 |
| Thursday 17th July                                            | Valentines: Coach trip to Hatfield House              | Hatfield House     |                        |
| Friday 18th July                                              | SAGS match, The Springs, Wallingford                  | Wallingford        | 12 noon                |
| Saturday 19th July                                            | Tribute Music Festival                                | Middle Aston House |                        |
| Monday 21st July                                              | Parish Council Meeting                                | S & R Building     | 7.30pm                 |
| Saturday 26th July                                            | Farmers Market                                        | Deddington         | 9.00am-12.30pm         |

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

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

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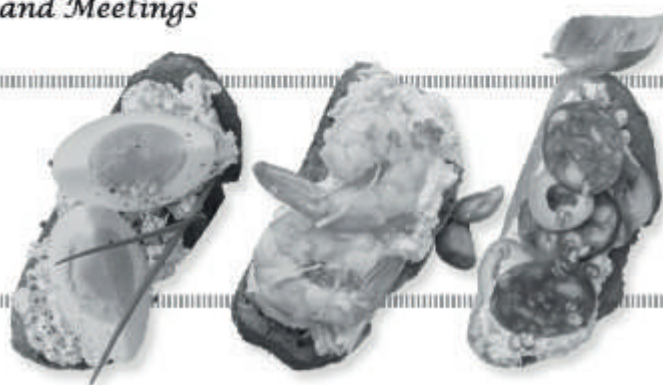
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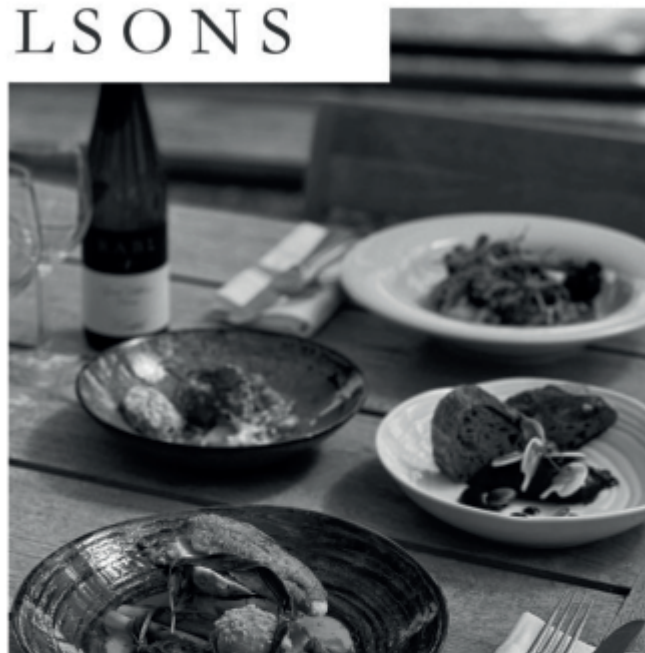
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