

# Steeple Aston *Life*

June 2025

Issue No. 622



**\*Bell target shooting\*   \*Election results\*   \*VE Day Fun\***

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**[steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine](https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine)**

Previous issues of SAL are also available on this site

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

Cover photo: by Nigel Francis.

*Alan Brewer, Royston Kinch, Jeana Atkins and Edwina Kinch enjoying the 'We'll Meet Again' VE Day event. Edwina was Editor of SAL from 1988 to 2013!*

## Steeple Aston *Life*

### COPY

All articles and letters to  
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### COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline for the July 2025 issue is  
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Full page (village events only) - £20.00



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Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	01869 347033
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Cherwell District Councillors		Cllr Andrew McHugh	07515 120470
		Cllr Eddie Reeves	07445 395166
		Cllr David Rogers	07900 998555
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	Churchwardens	Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton	340099/347273
Church (Methodist) – Tackley		Rev'd Paul Carter	01865 243216
	Steward	Tim Bailey	01869 331516
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	01869 347493
Crimestoppers			0800 555111
Deddington Guides		Maggie Rampley	07957 600755
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments	Patient Triage	01869 338611
	Repeat Prescriptions	<b><i>Deddingtonhealthcentre.co.uk</i></b>	
	Out of Hours		111
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Headteacher	Rob O'Malley	01869 340204
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Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	01869 340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	01869 340423
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Steeple Aston Walking Group		Penny, Stuart, Sue and Graham	<a href="mailto:sawgox25@gmail.com">sawgox25@gmail.com</a>
Toddler Group		Bryony Rowcliffe	<a href="mailto:steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com">steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com</a>
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Village Website	Editor	Jenny Bell - <b><i>steepleaston.org.uk</i></b>	01869 943573
WI	President	Julie Hillier	01869 349185





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

## Steeple Aston *Life*

June 2025  
Issue No.622

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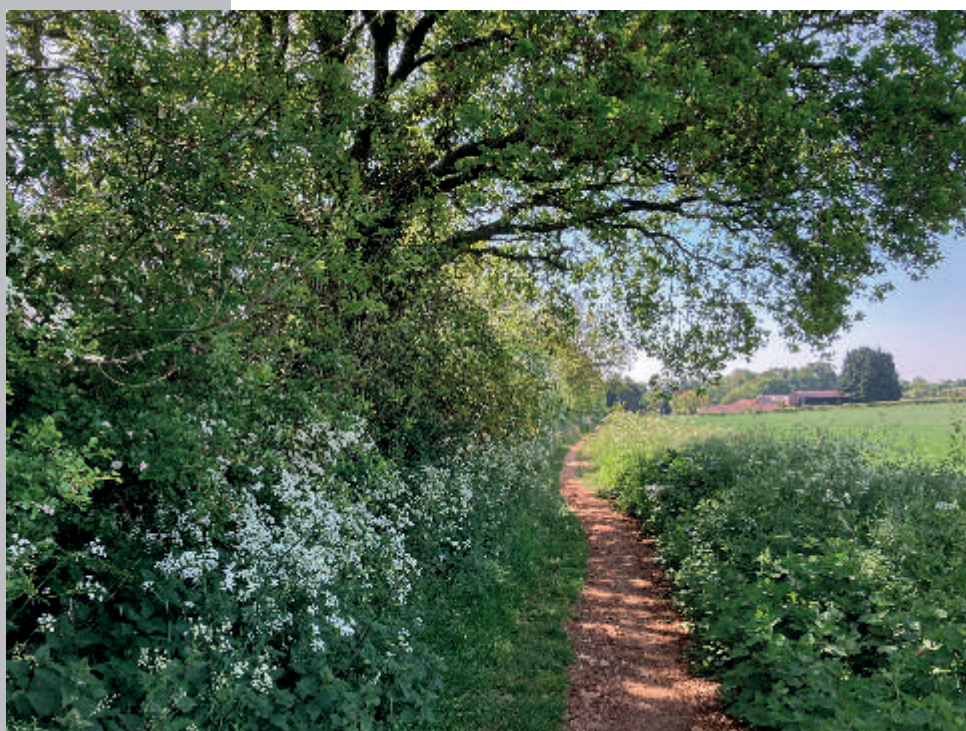
# Editorial

Can you believe this month brings Midsummer's Day, when the Sun reaches its highest and northernmost point in the sky and Earth's North Pole tilts directly towards the Sun. The Summer Solstice occurs on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June and marks the official start of astronomical summer for us in the Northern Hemisphere, bringing the longest day and shortest night of our calendar year, although Meteorologists mark summer from 1st June to 31<sup>st</sup> August. Solstice comes from the Latin words 'Sol' ('Sun') and 'Sistere' ('to stand still').

All this sunshine gives us ample opportunity to get out and enjoy some summer warmth. The Middle Aston Open Gardens on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June are well worth a visit and will be raising funds for a great cause - the village church, so why not take a relaxing afternoon stroll to check them out. It's also a great time for a cycle ride along our leafy lanes and steep hills for an added fitness boost! Our 'blast from the past' features a trio of lady cyclists at the foot of The Beeches hill, later stopping off at Hopcroft's Holt Inn (now The Holt Hotel) back in 1890. For the little ones, read all about the Parish Council's plans for updating the playground facilities. I hope you enjoy our new feature 'Pet Pawtrait' being launched by the ever so cute 'Otter'.

Have a wonderful summer!

**Carol**



*Coneygar footpath, photo by Carol Neville*



## Getting to know your community

**Steeple People** is a fun way of getting to know more about fellow villagers.

Have you just moved to the village and would like to introduce yourself? What brought you here?

Or you may have lived here for years, but still don't feel you're really known in the village?

Do you have a hidden talent you would like to share with others?

What's your favourite book, music track, sporting achievement, or gastronomical delight?

What's important to you? What makes you tick?

If you would like to share a few fun facts about yourself, we would love to hear from you. Please email the Editor at [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com) with your name, stating briefly why you would like to be the subject of Steeple People. We then send you a series of questions from which you select 15-20 to answer along with a recent photo of yourself.

## Playground refurbishment

We are pleased to announce that a refurbishment of the Robinson's Close playground starts this summer. The primary focus for the parish council was providing a safe space for play, reducing maintenance costs and, as far as possible, future-proofing the playground. For that reason, the project will focus on the perimeter, surfacing and repairs to existing equipment.

So, what will you see change? The wooden boundary, which inevitably rots and requires costly replacement, will be replaced with 100% recycled plastic sleepers. These should outlast the wooden sleepers by decades, whilst still providing an effective and aesthetically pleasing boundary. Where surfacing is uneven, we will be extending the bark mulch already in use within the playground. This will focus around the mound, at the village hall end where mulch is already in use, as well as under the zip wire where excited feet regularly kick the bark away to reveal the matting beneath. Whilst none of the equipment will be changing, there will be repairs and safety updates to equipment across the site.

How will this impact your children? The project should take a few weeks and will be phased. This way, we will maintain a safe environment whilst keeping as much of the facility open as possible. A section of playground will be fenced off at a time, leaving the rest of the playground to be enjoyed. Anyone looking for updates will be able to find them on Steeple Aston's Facebook page and at [steepleaston.org.uk](http://steepleaston.org.uk)

**Steeple Aston Parish Council**

## Parish Council reports

Mrs Miggins' reports from both the April and May Parish Council meetings are featured in this issue. For full meeting minutes, please refer to the Parish Council section of the Steeple Aston website: [steepleaston.org.uk](http://steepleaston.org.uk)

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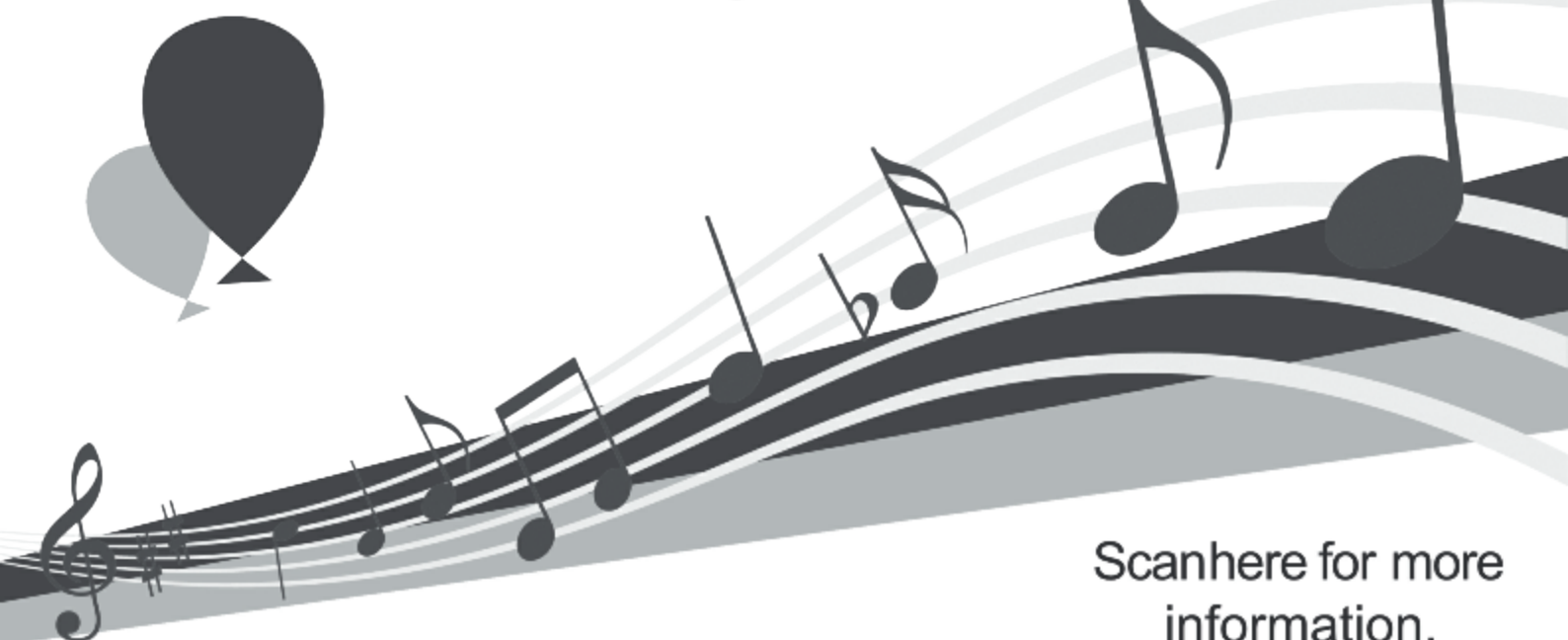
# Steeple Aston Church Fete

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

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



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information.

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## Patrick Fitz-Gibbon

- *Which village do you live in? How long have you lived here?* Steeple Aston, 46 years.
- *Where did you move from, and what brought you here?* London – head-hunted by Unipart Group.
- *Where do you think of as 'home'?* Steeple Aston.
- *A potted history of yourself in 40 words or less:* My career with Unipart allowed me to travel worldwide becoming involved in many exciting activities – 7 Grand Prix every year for 8 years; 21 years with Lord Lichfield shooting a glamour calendar; being in the USSR before glasnost and perestroika.
- *How would you describe yourself in five words?* Confident, talkative and organised.
- *What do others find most annoying about you?* Too many to mention.
- *Optimist or pessimist? Fast-paced or relaxed?* Optimist and fast-paced.
- *Technology – friend or foe?* Kind of a friend, but still wary!
- *What is the best aspect of being an adult?* Being able to do what you like (within reason).
- *What did you want to be when you grew up?* An Architect.
- *What was your first job, and your current job?* Counting cars in a survey for a week; Retired as Group Public Relations Director for Unipart.
- *Tell us about your hobbies:* Bridge, castles & historic houses, history, music, reading, holidaying and walking.
- *Who is your favourite musician and track?* Bizet; 'Au fond du temple saint' from the Pearl Fishers.
- *What food do you most enjoy eating?* Anything my wife cooks.
- *Who would you most like to have dinner with?* Lord Nelson.
- *What is your favourite sport? Sporty or spectator?* Rugby – spectator as I am too old to play.
- *What was your favourite holiday destination & why?* 6 weeks in Australia, New Zealand and Thailand with the opportunity to visit relatives (but not stay with them).
- *If you were marooned on a desert island, what would you miss most?* People.
- *What in your view makes a good friend?* Loyalty and honesty.
- *Something surprising that you're very bad at?* Listening.



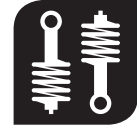
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# Letter from *Westminster*

*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 assisting constituents with various issues, including helping obtain my constituent's sister's passport, and calling for an inspection at a local farm after welfare concerns were raised. I have also been directly listening to my constituents' needs, by talking with people throughout Chipping Norton and Banbury, and by holding advice surgeries, where I spoke directly with constituents about their concerns. I am grateful that constituents brought these issues to my attention, so that I can help find solutions and eradicate their problems.

I have also made multiple contributions in Parliament, championing local issues and speaking on behalf of constituents and other important matters. This includes holding Thames Water to account, highlighting problems raised by my constituents. I am hopeful that the new Water Act will help enforce higher standards across Thames Water, and fix the problems left behind by previous Conservative mismanagement. I also contributed to the debate on Child Rape Gangs, supporting Labour's commitment to introduce mandatory reporting of suspected sexual abuse. Other contributions include speaking in support for veteran homelessness in Banbury ahead of VE day; support for Labour's funded school-based nurseries, which includes one at St Mary's Primary School in Chipping Norton; as well as the importance of banning trail hunting - where the Heythrop hunt and the Warwickshire hunt continue to kill foxes in the constituency.

I have been holding local companies to account after hearing concerns raised by constituents. I have written to the Acting Chief Executive of Oxford University Hospitals about car parking at the Horton Hospital, where constituents have struggled with limited parking availability, the cost of parking and the imposition of harsh parking penalties. I have also written to the Paymaster General, alongside other Labour Parliamentarians, to ask that the government prioritise an improved trading relationship between the UK and the EU.

Engaging with local people and local businesses has also been a priority this month. I have reached out to all local importer or exporter businesses in Banbury, inviting them to share their concerns following the new US trade tariffs. I look forward to continuing to speak with them over the coming weeks to support them through this difficult transition. I have also been out visiting local people and businesses, including the Fortescue Electric Vehicle battery facility in Banbury, where I spoke with staff about their contributions to green batteries, and congratulated them on creating more than 120 jobs in the local area. I also had the pleasure of visiting a local Gurdwara, and following the visit, I look forward to working with them and Cherwell District Council to find them a new home to suit their growing community's needs.

I have been pleased to back various Labour policies announced this month, such as the rise in the minimum and living wage, increasing community care, congratulating the start of Labour's free breakfast clubs scheme and plans to tackle fly-tipping by seizing fly-tippers' vehicles. It has also been great to see that by expanding the NHS app, Labour has saved 1.5 million hospital appointments from being missed, and that 1,500 more GPs have been recruited since October, as the government brings down waiting lists.

As always, I will continue to represent Banbury in Parliament, and through engaging with local people, I am able to put them at the centre of my work.

## Steeple Aston Parish Councillors

Angharad Lloyd-Jones (Chair)

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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There is a lot to report this month. We received the sad news that Heyford WI had closed. Julie Hillier had written to their members to invite them to join us – five came to our meeting and will be joining us!

- The poppy appeal is continuing. An interim cascade was hung inside the church and those who went to see it were impressed. Everyone is encouraged to continue making poppies for the final cascade from the church tower in November.



- Hildy Frenken has started her walk along the Camino de Santiago. She has encountered some cold, wet weather and not all of her accommodation has been comfortable or welcoming, but she is soldiering on. We wish her all the best.

- Ten members of SAWI were joined by two ‘extras’ to perform at the VE day celebrations in the village hall. Armed with props such as a string of onions, a brown paper parcel addressed to the Red Cross in Russia, a foxglove, a bottle of cod liver oil, a home knitted scarf, a jam pan, a rolling pin and more, they gave a lively performance of a poem by Cathy Lawday which listed all the varied contributions the WI made to World War II. These included growing and selling veg, knitting kit for forces, collecting wild rose hips for vitamin C and foxgloves to make digitalis, looking after evacuees, mending agricultural workers’ boots, cooking school meals, and, of course, making jam. In these, and many more ways, the WI supported the war effort. The performance was both entertaining and informative, and was well received with plenty of positive comments.

- The first WI in the UK was at Llanfair PG in North Wales in 1915. We are celebrating this 110th birthday by donating a tree to the SA Community Orchard – their choice is Medlar.

- Tina Ferguson suggested a visit to see the Astrolabe, which will be at Oxford Museum later this year.

- The new programme for 2025/2026 has been sent out to members electronically. Please notify Julie if you have not received one.

- At the May meeting, there were sign-up sheets for: St John’s Ambulance course, BBQ in Sally’s garden on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and a chutney-making workshop on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

- The speaker on Power of Attorney cancelled at the last minute and our member, Tina Ferguson, stepped in to talk to us about Down’s Syndrome. She spoke movingly of her son, Robin, and gave an enlightening and powerful talk explaining everything from how it was dealt with until the ‘50s and then with knowledge and enlightenment, this has now enabled people with Downs Syndrome to live meaningful and fulfilling lives. The cause of Downs Syndrome is the extra copy of chromosome 21.



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# Steeple Aston Local Elections




In the local elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May, villagers elected a new Oxfordshire County Councillor, and a new Cherwell District Councillor, both for the Deddington ward – and both for different parties.

In the county council election, voters followed the trend in Oxfordshire electing Gareth Epps as our new Liberal Democrat representative. He defeated the sitting Tory Arash Fatemian who had been on the council since 2009 and represented Deddington since 2013. Another notable loser was Eddie Reeves, leader of the Conservative opposition on the county council, who is also one of our Deddington district councillors. He keeps that job but failed to win back his Cropredy seat as the Tories lost more than half their county councillors. The Liberal Democrats have now taken control of Oxfordshire County Council with a majority for the first time.


The vote for a new district councillor was a by-election caused by the resignation of Councillor Andrew McHugh. Here the Conservative candidate managed to buck the trend and was elected with a large majority. She is Zoe McLernon, a former Bicester Town Councillor and caseworker for Victoria Prentis, the previous local MP and now member of the House of Lords.

The full results are as follows:

## Oxfordshire County Council – Deddington Ward

Gareth Epps	Liberal Democrats	1050 Elected	
Arash Fatemian	Conservatives	870	
Paul Yoward	Reform UK	637	
Sian Tohill-Martin	Labour Party	273	
Aaron James Bliss	Green Party	249	
			<i>Electorate 7765 Turnout 39.8%</i>

## Cherwell District Council – Deddington Ward

Zoe McLernon	Conservatives	1560 Elected	
Nick Mylne	Liberal Democrats	916	
Helen Oldfield	Labour Party	478	
Aaron James Bliss	Green Party	370	
			<i>Electorate 7673 Turnout 44.34%</i>

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#### **Middle Barton Sports and Social Club**

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## Have you heard of Bell Target shooting?

It is a traditional indoor air rifle sport originating in the UK, particularly in the Midlands, during the late 19th century. Apparently, Queen Victoria demanded the British became more accurate shots following a poor performance during the Boer War.

It is a standing, unsupported discipline where competitors use low-powered air rifles aiming at a small circular metal target with a central hole of 3/8 inch (9.5mm) in diameter. Behind the hole is a bell that rings when a shooter hits the target dead centre, hence the name 'Bell Target'. The shooting distance is usually 6 or 7 yards, and only .177 calibre air rifles with open sights are allowed. The target consists of concentric scoring rings around the central hole. A direct hit to the hole results in a maximum score and rings the bell.

The Oxfordshire Bell Target League shoots at Middle Barton Sports and Social Club on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm. Traditionally it is held in pubs, village halls and social clubs, making it a social as well as competitive activity. It is open to all types of people. We have a lower age limit of 14 years and up to 18 years they need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Women tend to be especially good shooters. There are several leagues, especially in areas like the Midlands, Yorkshire and Wales. As this county did not have one, we started this league in Oxfordshire, and Aunt Sally seems to be the closest local alternative.

**David Irvine - Oxfordshire Bell Target League, Middle Barton**

## Steeple Aston *Garden Club*



The first visit of the season for Steeple Aston Garden Club was to the Old Rectory in Albury, near Thame. Unfortunately, after days, if not weeks, of sunshine, the sun failed to come out, but this didn't affect our enjoyment of the visit. The setting was a large garden and fields of some five acres with a huge diversity of plants, including some rare trees located in a variety of settings including lawns, borders, fruit trees and a large lake. We were shown around by the owner who shared her expert knowledge of them all, before being treated to excellent tea and cakes served in a lovely setting close to the house. Animals included horses being schooled for a forthcoming 'Riding for the Disabled' event, ducks on the lake, chickens with feathery feet and the family dogs! Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Our next visit is to Kiftsgate Court Gardens, near Chipping Camden GL55 6LN on Thursday 12th June at 2.00pm at a cost of £12.50. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

**Alison Llewellyn**

**Secretary, Steeple Aston Garden club**

[alisonllew.home@gmail.com](mailto:alisonllew.home@gmail.com)

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### Professional interests:

- Archaeology, mostly the digging part.
- Connoisseur of sheep poo.
- Community support officer/vigilante.

### If I ruled the world for a day...

- I already rule the world. Next question.

### One piece of advice I would give my younger self:

- Courage is an excellent quality, with appropriate due diligence.

### Mortal enemies:

- Vacuum cleaners.
- Mops.
- Cats.

### Best friends:

- Every creature that isn't a cat.

### Things I am asked the most:

- What's in your mouth?
- Otter, COME!
- Why are you so cute?

### Local recommendations:

- The Grain Store, which is bountiful in its supply of biscuits, strokes and new friends.
- A bog on the way back from Grange Farm - very cooling after my visits to the goats.



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## THE VALENTINE CLUB

Here we are at the beginning of summer and the club has already enjoyed one holiday and our first coach trip of the year.

Back in April, Chrissie brought two of her very friendly owls to the club and explained how these fascinating birds behave, the way they hunt and interestingly, their unusual vision and very small brain. You may well ask, where does the saying, “as wise as an old owl” come from? We all had the opportunity to be up close and personal to these two wonderful birds and learnt a lot. During May, we had a visit from Bill King who took us back many years to ‘Yesterday’s Childhood’. More about this next month.

So, what happens when you take 45 seniors by coach to the seaside for a few days? We tested this out at the beginning of May. The weather was in our favour, with no rain and reasonably warm. We arrived at Sinah Warren, a Warners hotel after a stop at a garden centre for coffee. After gathering our keys and finding our rooms, it was soon mealtime. This was followed by excellent entertainment every evening and the food just kept coming. On Tuesday, we visited Arundel Castle which is well worth a visit. The next day we visited Portsmouth taking in the atmosphere of this historic city. This left Thursday for all hotel residents to enjoy the celebrations commemorating VE day. On Friday morning, just before finishing our breakfast, we celebrated the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of our members with balloons and party poppers. After a comfortable drive home, we arrived safely back in Oxfordshire ready to plan our next trip out together. Talking of trips, by the time you read this, we will have returned from Somerset where we visited Oakham Treasures, but more of that next month.

Now, what is extraordinary about this club is the popularity and attraction of a group of over 60’s meeting together and making new friends. Whilst enjoying the attraction of the seaside, I received two additional requests to join the waiting list to become a member of The Valentine Club. We now have 100 paid members and more than 30 waiting to join. If there is anyone out there who thinks they might like to start a twin club, meeting on a different day, please let me know.

Thank you to all those who have joined The Cherwell Lottery and support the club, raising well over £1,200 which makes an enormous difference to what we can do with the club. Although we organise six or more day trips and have some amazing entertainers and speakers, the expenses keep rising. A coach is now around £850 each trip and good speakers and entertainers do not come cheap, so if you feel like supporting us ‘oldies’, why not subscribe to The Cherwell Lottery? Simply google ***CherwellLottery.co.uk/support/the-valentine-club*** where you can participate and hopefully, like many of our supporters, become a winner.

To find out more about The Valentine Club, simply visit our website ***valentineclub.wixsit.com/aston*** (go to the village website; go to ‘clubs and societies’, find The Valentine Club and click on the link), keep up to date by looking on the village website ***stepleaston.org.uk*** or use that old-fashioned thing called a telephone by calling me on 01869 340512.

Richard Preston – Group organiser (for lack of a better description) [Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com](mailto:Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com) –  
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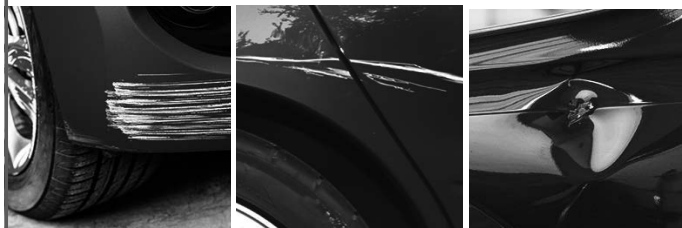
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# Village Hall News



At the Annual General Meeting of the Steeple Aston Village Hall Trustees committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Vicky Clifton was voted on to become our new Chair. The full committee is listed below, showing which group they represent.

• Vicky Clifton	Chair	• Tina Ferguson	Village Rep
• Barbara Brewer	Tuesday Badminton	• Torquil McLusky	SRT Co-ordinator
• Margaret Bulleyment (Secretary)	Choral Society	• Anne Haymes	Village Rep
• John White	Treasurer	• Chris Clarke	PCC
• Alison Moran	Thursday Badminton	• Stuart Cummins	Archive
• Deborah Morris	WI	• Richard Preston	Valentine Club
		• John Coley	Garden Club

In the next few months, the committee will be deciding on a programme of events for the forthcoming year. If there is a specific event you would like to see in the programme, or if you have any new ideas, please contact me or any committee member.

## 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 – tel: 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)

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**Vicky Clifton (Chair)** [savh.org.uk/](http://savh.org.uk/)

# Steeple Aston Golf Society



Due to the publishing deadline of SAL, which is the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month, The Vale results will be in July's edition and not June's as promised. Our June meeting is on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

During the Battle of Britain in the Second World War, the St Mellons Golf Club in Monmouthshire adopted a set of unusual rules for unusual circumstances:

- 1) Players are asked to collect the bomb and shrapnel splinters to prevent their causing damage to the mowing machines.
- 2) In competition, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take shelter without penalty for ceasing play.

More next month.

*Happy golfing, Alan*

# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



A rather inauspicious start to the April meeting, as no-one had a key to the SRC. Luckily one was soon procured, and I then appeared to be the only person who knew the alarm code, which luckily hadn't changed in many years. After a short delay, the meeting started and there were two other members of the public in attendance who wanted to 'introduce themselves' to the Parish. Both happened to be candidates in forthcoming local elections: Helen Oldfield (Labour) and Gareth Epps (Lib Dem). We started hearing about how a bin on Southside is always full. We do have a spare one, but having two there would 'clutter the place up' and 'look a bit odd', so we may need to invest in yet another, larger, bin. Users need to 'be careful with their flush' in the SRC loos, as drains can get blocked and there's some confusion over who has responsibility for unblocking them.

Cllr Arash Fatemian investigated a large pothole on the North/Middle Aston Road after the last meeting – not quite deep enough to engulf him, so he was able to report it, but does admit that our County Council isn't great at dealing with rural road issues. One Parish Councillor attempted some hedge-trimming near the village hall, but it's been put on hold due to the nesting season. Although there's a missing stop end on some guttering, there's no evidence of water causing any damage, but this didn't stop one keen councillor suggesting getting some ladders and a bottle of water to put things to the test! The now obscured view of the church from Cow Lane due to the new development at Wincote, resulted in disappointed councillors agreeing that the 'Conservation Officer should have spotted this'. It looks like this particular view is not going to be enjoyed ever again.

Hopefully work to improve our play area facilities will start in May. As Helen Oldfield was in attendance, who happens to be Chair of Deddington PC, there followed a comparison of 'teen facilities'. I got confused and needed to turn my hearing aid up – for a while I thought they were discussing 'team facilities', and couldn't understand how a BMX track would help matters. Anyway, Pickle Ball might be an option over in Deddington, meanwhile, we're still trying to get our table-tennis table mended, while in Heyford Park, there's serious talk of a new skate park being built.

Valiant efforts to contain The Blandford Fly continue, and given the blighters are currently out in force, our PC were hopeful they might persuade other parishes, including Deddington who didn't seem keen, to join the fight. Apparently spraying would add 50p onto our council tax precept, which, if you ask me, is cheaper than buying cream to treat the bites. One councillor asked "why are our roads so bad? It's like a Third World country". No-one really had any answers other than to note the £15bn shortfall in the County Council budget.

A rather prescient discussion on our Emergency Plan then followed, just as Spain and Portugal were grappling with major power cuts. Councillors looked at how we would react in the case of power outages, cut water supplies and even a plane crash. One councillor joked about a nuclear attack, and my suggestion of planning in case of woodland fire was deemed unnecessary. The main point of discussion was how to contact everyone if there was no power, given most phones in the village need power, and many mobiles rely on a WiFi signal to work. My other suggestion of ringing church bells was greeted with slightly less derision than my fire warning was, although I think a telephone pyramid will be the course of action. In any case, our Emergency Plan certainly seems more robust than it was.

Our Clerk noted that she had received a complaint about a noisy neighbour mowing his lawn past 8.00pm one evening. It transpired that the noisy neighbour in question was probably in fact a councillor, who didn't realise his one-off evening mow had caused quite such offence, and said he'd try not to do it again, and it certainly wasn't as noisy as the motorbike with a loud exhaust that's been roaring around the village ("it's not even quick"). Our Clerk then assured everyone that "it's being dealt with", which somehow reminded me of an episode of Line of Duty.

A final few words on Planning Applications, and how Cherwell Council is now so slow at making decisions they're under investigation by the Planning Inspectorate who can 'take over', which would be 'bad news as they'd just let everything through'!

## April

# Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



An evening of multiple meetings all called similar things. The 'Annual Parish Meeting' saw the Chair provide a round-up: of thanks to local volunteers; of activities from Community Land Trust to Millenium Park renovation; of day-to-day business that keeps our village running and of plans for the future. We heard from the driving force behind our fabulous village website, which is 19 years old and stronger than ever, plus a report from one of Steeple Aston's newer groups, The Community Orchard, a wonderfully active group doing splendid things outdoors. Then followed the 'Annual Meeting of the Parish Council', which saw our Chair and others duly re-elected. I was briefly intrigued by some chat about 'dolls' in the village, which sounded interesting, until it was pointed out that this was a typo and there were no 'DOLS' but simply time for 'Declarations of Interest' (DOIs). In my disappointment, I missed the official start of our third meeting – the regular 'SAPC May Meeting'.

My words have been cruelly cut again this month, so I'll aim to share only the best bits, starting with a member of the public asking why our roads haven't been cleared in 2 years? Our Chair explained the sweepers came, but it seems they then went pretty swiftly. Discussion led onto our District and County Councillors explaining proposals for a large Unitary Authority, which is apparently on the cards for us, which could make for more joined up thinking and action on issues like roads, but could also make for more cumbersome bureaucracy, with small villages being somewhat forgotten. We heard arguments for both, and at the end of the day, it's the Secretary of State who will decide our fate. Back to roads, and apparently, our District Councillor has a stick for attacking drain blockages, so if you see him, try not to be alarmed. The Clerk's Report mainly involved yet more chat around bins. One of our councillors has been out looking at overhanging foliage, whilst another was keen with his clippers, but were told to wait until autumn. A timetable of 'hedges, trees & verges' was created, on when we need to think about pruning, which sounded a jolly sensible idea.

Our newly elected OCC councillor, Gareth Epps, said that 90% of things he was approached about while campaigning involved 'highways and drains'. He has already had a useful briefing on local bus services and hoping for good news regarding our trusty S4 service. Our District Councillor, David Rogers, told us about 130 new homes approved for Bloxham, as their Neighbourhood Plan was out of date. Thank heavens we have Martin Lipson on the case looking after us on this front! David

gave a passionate speech on Primary Health Care, and how he wants better use of development cash for new GP surgeries. With all these new houses, there is surely a good case for this. I would've given David a high five, but my gippy shoulder wouldn't allow for it! A short discussion followed on the cost of our playground loo. I was desperate (!) to instigate a debate on how to pay, just so I could write a line about 'spending a penny', but the headline is simply that it's well used and reliably cleaned, so this village cost will remain 'under review'. Our Chair is incredibly frustrated by the company chosen to update our playground. It seems the 8-week lead time was simply to speak to their contracts manager, so who knows when the work will start. Our councillors remain committed to ridding ourselves of the dratted Blandford Fly, so please look out for questionnaires on this topic!

Our new Emergency Plan Telephone Tree has been created, and will be available on the village website. Still some questions, namely that the plan relies on being told there is an emergency and how/who can actually be contacted when there's a power cut with very few phones actually working, due to being digital or WiFi? Not to

mention, how many people need to lose power before it's actually considered an emergency? Our Chair doesn't want calls every time there's an individual issue, and come to think of it, what defines an emergency? At this point, I confess that I regretted leaving my

## May

thermos at home. Next, we were updated on our Community Land Trust. Many are keen on affordable housing in principle, but some, understandably, seek reassurance that a 'local connection criteria' will be in place. The CLT is discussing a revised set of criteria with Cherwell. Under 'Correspondence', someone had said the baby-changing table in the playground loo is now at such a slope that a baby will probably roll right off! One councillor volunteered to go and tighten it and possibly find 'a fresh baby to try it out'. I assure you this comment was not as sinister as it sounds. Other correspondence invited our PC to join forces with others who are stating a case against plans for a new Puy du Fou (historical 'theme park') proposed for Bucknell. It was felt that we should gauge community opinion, as there will be those for and against, and then possibly delegate the whole issue to the MCNP forum. Cllr Epps made a good point, saying we need to be mindful of the 'cumulative impact' of this, along with plans for Ardley Rail Freight Depot, alongside Heyford Park expansion. The next meeting's later in the month than usual – on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Until next time, **Mrs Miggins**



## We'll Meet Again

Celebration, Commemoration and Reflection. It had finally arrived! The postponed 2020 VE celebration had transformed into the 80th anniversary party and villagers clad in red, white and blue streamed into a bunting-adorned hall, clutching flags of all sizes, ready to party. After a moment of reflection with Siegfried Sassoon's, *Reconciliation*, read by Tina Ferguson, the most popular song of WWII – *Lili Marlene* – warmed up the audience. Lorraine 'Vera' Watling led the singing, with Paul Herrington, honorary resident of SA, accompanying on the piano. This was the first of nine iconic musical numbers.

Paul Rodgers set the scene, reading Noel Coward's *Lie in the Dark and Listen*, describing planes flying out the troops, while those responsible for the war slept snugly below. Stuart Cummins read the first of SAVA's local stories, which included an evacuee, a civilian and a housewife. This one was personal, as Reggie, the airman writing the letter, stationed at Upper Heyford, was a friend of Stuart's great-uncle. Reggie was 'billeted' in a hayloft, over the stables at Jersey Manor Farm, Somerton. Sadly, just weeks later, Reggie was dead, and by the end of the war, two more of his friends and Stuart's great-uncle, Denis, had also given their lives.



A brisk *Run, Rabbit Run* followed and then WI members dotted around the hall, performed Cathy Lawday's wonderful *Don't Underestimate the WI!* in which the ladies described their many wartime activities to Mr Hitler. The climax where they brandished their various props – including hammers, saucepans and onions – would have scared anyone! Next came a disgraceful episode in which an inebriated Private Brewer tried to persuade Sgt Vaughan 'Smeck' to tuck him up in bed, just like his mother. In the end, both soldiers retired to their respective beds with a teddy and a dolly.





From the ridiculous to the sublime, *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square* – a lovely performance from Vera – took us to a magical world far beyond smoggy London – and sunny France, where it was written. The audience now had to sing for its sausage rolls, in *The Quartermaster Store*. Please note there was no ‘cheese with shocking dirty knees’ offered in the interval.

The second half began with a soaring version of Eric Coates’ *Dambusters’ March*, for which Paul Herrington received thunderous applause. *The White Cliffs of Dover* changed the mood entirely. All the evening’s songs had been written just before, or during the war, so ‘*Tomorrow when the world is free*’ was a hope, not a certainty. The hall was getting livelier, as Nigel and Kay Francis skilfully demonstrated *The Lambeth Walk*, before others joined them on stage for a stompin’ performance. Oi!



Stuart returned, to give us some wartime recipes, far more stomach-churning than anything in *The Quartermaster Store*. *A bellringer is not just for Christmas*, the audience was reminded, as the Handbell Ringers struck up a jaunty medley of wartime favourites, for more hum-a-long and sing-a-long. The party climax, the Elgarian *There’ll Always be an England*, came with the instruction to raise roofs in Deddington, but by the end, flags a-waving, Banbury was suffering.



After plaudits to participants and helpers, there were special thanks to Lorraine and Paul, without whom the event could not have happened. Final thanks went to Barbara Brewer, who was attending a village hall event for the last time as Chair of the VH Committee.

The final song, *We’ll Meet Again* – says it all. It was joyous!


**Margaret Bulleyment**

*Photos by Nigel Francis*



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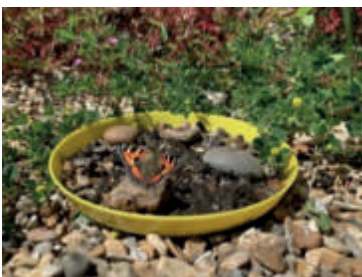
## Summer Nature

**Seasonal Spotlight:** For many of our local hedgerows, summer is berry season! If you're curious about your own hedgerows at this time, consider surveying your hedges to receive advice to ensure your hedges stay healthy! [wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/hedgerow-surveying](http://wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/hedgerow-surveying)

**Great Big Green Week - 7th to 15th June:** The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. See how you can join in the action and follow local communities: [greatbiggreenweek.com/](http://greatbiggreenweek.com/)

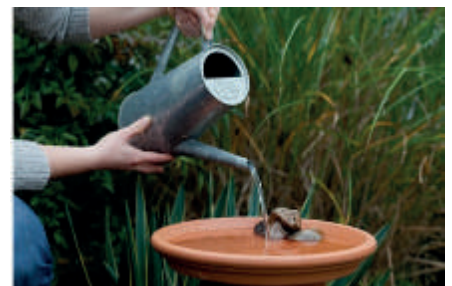
**Swift Awareness Week - 28th June to 6th July:** See if you can spot any swifts this month and sign up to our monthly Bulletin to hear all about events and walks taking place: [wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news](http://wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news)

**Let it Bloom June!** Enjoyed 'No Mow May'? Bring even more wildlife to your wildflowers and take part in 'Let it Bloom June'! Mowing at the end of May removes the free buffet you've created for your bees and butterflies. 'Let it Bloom June' allows the nectar source to stay that little bit longer. Why not leave an area that's got the most flowers? If you're able to, a way to provide nectar all through the summer is to leave this section uncut until September and then strim it. All these options give your garden even more of a chance to diversify and provide for wildlife.



**Wildlife friendly gardening jobs for June:** June is another bustling period for garden wildlife. Birds diligently seek caterpillars to nourish their chicks, while bees, moths, butterflies, and other pollinators thrive amidst blooming plants and sunny days. At night, hedgehogs forage for beetles, millipedes, and other invertebrates along our borders to provide for their young. As if this wasn't enough, this season's amphibians will venture from garden ponds in search of cool, moist refuge for the first time.

**Put out and top up water:** Water is crucial for wildlife beyond drinking. Keeping the bird bath topped up means birds can drink and bathe in dry weather. With clean feathers, birds are better able to regulate their body temperatures, fly from predators and are less likely to get disease. Amphibians like newts, frogs, and toads use water for shelter and breeding, while butterflies obtain essential minerals from muddy water. Any water source, from puddles to ponds, attracts and helps wildlife – particularly now we're in the warmer months! Make sure you've got water sources in your garden.



- Try placing water dishes and bird baths near trees or shrubs so that wildlife can get to safety easily.
- Also try putting water at ground level in dishes or a dug-in pond so that hedgehogs can drink (make sure your pond has an easy escape route).
- You could also put in butterfly puddling stations which are shallow dishes of gravel and water to help butterflies get the minerals and hydration they need.



### Create a cool, damp spot for amphibians to take shelter:

Make a log pile or 'hibernaculum' in a shady corner. If doing a log pile, bury the bottom layer of logs and fill nooks and crannies with fallen leaves and moss to make it good for amphibians. Or use the Wildlife Trust's 'how to' to make a hibernaculum. This is a dug-down structure that can be used by reptiles and amphibians for shelter in the summer and hibernation in the winter.



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Stuart Broad: “Retirement is great – we can now watch Steeple Aston Cricket Club play at Great Tew on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June”.

Jimmy Anderson: “I’d rather watch the paint dry at Turf Moor” (home of Burnley FC).

Stuart Broad: “This tea is nearly as good as the cuppa you get at Steeple Aston Cricket Club on a Sunday”.

Jimmy Anderson: “Bloomin’ Earl Grey, give me PG any day”.



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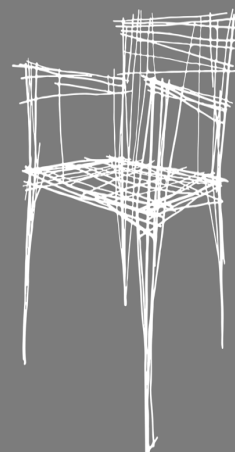
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# Dr Radcliffe's *School Report*



## Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show

We are so pleased that Imogen in Reception and Henry in Year 4 have had their art selected to be displayed at the Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show: [\*Young Artists' Summer Show Royal Academy\*](#)

It is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of them. All the entries this year were amazing, and we hope even more children will be inspired to submit their artwork for the show next year. Well done everyone, and especially Imogen and Henry.



## Cotswold Arts through Schools (CATS)

Callie and Gill came to teach us about layering a colourful background and using acetate over the top to create these fantastic pieces of pop art.

Years 4 and 5 have also been involved in a project run by CATS. Abigail Boisot has been working with the children to create a magnificent sculpture. The children designed the concept then created it using various materials. Both classes visited Kingham Lodge to see their sculpture on display, and all the other sculptures that are being exhibited. The sculptures are open to the general public from 17<sup>th</sup>- 26th May. For more information on CATS, visit their website at [\*Charity Providing Arts Lessons in Cotswold Primary Schools\*](#)



Rob O'Malley, Headteacher

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# **Middle Aston**

## **Open Gardens**

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

### **2pm to 6pm**

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- \* In aid of Steeple Aston Church roof appeal**
  - \* 6 Gardens for £6**
- \* Dogs allowed on short leads**
- \* Refreshments \* Cash only**



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**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at the Village Hall 7.30pm-9.00pm**

Solar panels and heat pumps are becoming increasingly important, both in the battle to prevent climate change, and in the constant struggle many of us face with escalating fuel bills.

As the equipment becomes more sophisticated, it's ever harder to determine what is right for you; and with a bewildering number of renewable energy companies advertising on the internet.

How can you sort the professional consultants from the sales companies?

How do you choose the best installer?

Steeple Aston Environmental Committee would like to help you answer these questions and ideally advance the installation of more renewable energy in the village. The format will be a 30-minute presentation followed by plenty of time for people's questions.

**Our Speaker:**

Ian Williams is a former chartered surveyor, now with 15 years' experience in solar panels and heat pumps. Ian will be with us to offer impartial advice and help guide you down the renewable energy path most of us will inevitably tread sooner or later.

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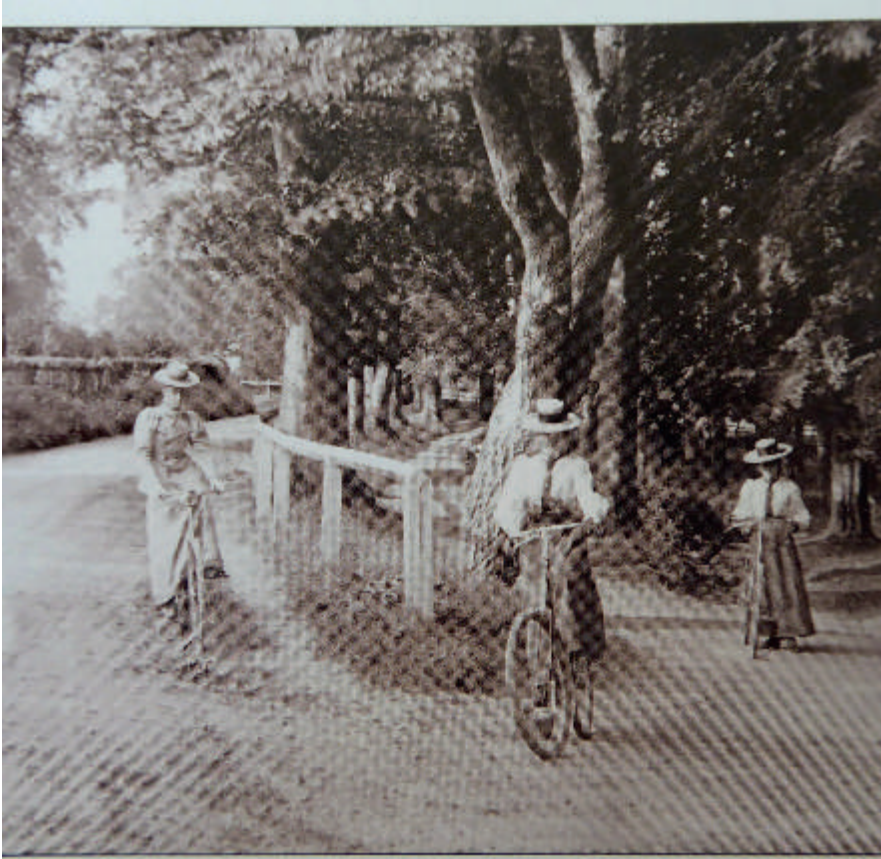
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## Blast from the Past

This smartly dressed trio of cyclists are seen at the foot of Beeches Hill (near to where the traffic lights are now, by Rousham Bridge), and then at Hopcroft's Holt Inn (now The Holt Hotel), in 1890.

*Photos courtesy of Steeple Aston Village Archive (SAVA)*





Steeple Aston Choral Society

Presents

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## A visit from the grandchildren



When my grandchildren come to stay  
The day starts at 5.30 on the dot  
When the youngest one manages somehow  
To climb out of our old cot.

Her father slept there contentedly  
Till he was over three  
But my granddaughter is more adventurous  
And is determined to cut free.

She comes into our big bed  
Which suddenly seems quite small  
With a little person wriggling about  
It's a brutal wake-up call.

She pokes her finger up my nose  
And bounces on my chest  
There is no hope of a quiet cuddle  
Or a half hour more of rest.

By 6.00am all three of them are awake  
Running around in bare feet  
I consult the notes I have been given  
About what they're allowed to eat.

All these suggestions are rejected  
They don't want fruit, yoghurt or porridge oats  
After lengthy negotiation  
I cook mountains of French toast.

At eight o'clock there's a moment's peace  
They're all inside a 'den'.  
Made of chairs and my best table cloth  
It's quiet for nearly 3 minutes, then...

The den collapses in a tangled heap  
On the kitchen floor  
And this is so hilarious  
They do it three times more.

By 10 o'clock they're finally dressed  
Though it took quite some persuasion  
One has insisted his spiderman costume  
Is right for the occasion.

The other can't wear his clean t-shirt  
Because it's not a yellow day  
So, he asks if he can wear the dirty one  
And I say that's OK.

We set off for the park on foot  
I'm pushing the buggy, a scooter and a bike  
My grandson helpfully suggests  
I can ride one if I like.

At the park, one wants pushing on the swing  
Another wants catching at the end of the slide  
Number 3 has fallen off the monkey bars  
And has bruised his elbow and his pride

Then it's off to the nearby cafe  
And baby chinos for everyone  
I ignore the list of approved foods  
And buy each of them a large sticky bun.

On the walk home from the park  
I thought they would be tired  
But (possibly due to the sugary bun)  
All three children seem to be wired

Once we get home, I plonk them all  
In front of daytime telly  
They are transfixed by the Kardashians  
While I prepare beans on toast and jelly

After lunch the little one  
Goes down for her afternoon nap  
I look at her sleeping form with envy  
And suggest that the other two play 'Snap'.

The rules are freely interpreted  
It seems I cannot win  
So, I change the game to who can throw  
Most cards into the wastepaper bin

The afternoon winds slowly down  
They agree we can do some baking  
Though so much raw mixture gets eaten  
That it's hard to know what we're making.

They eat the biscuits with gusto  
And pack some to take home for tea  
They'll be on a sugar high for hours  
But that doesn't bother me.

With hugs and kisses they say goodbye  
Then into the kitchen I creep  
I wrap myself in my best tablecloth  
Crawl into the den, and fall asleep.

**Cathy Lawday**

**DUNS TEW DRAMA GROUP**

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Photo by Nigel Francis

## Poppy Update

It was a delight to hear positive comments from people who came to the VE Day service, or who popped into the church during the weekend, when the poppy-cascade-in-progress hung from the high beam in the chancel. Now the task of adding many more poppies including one from every child in Dr Radcliffe's school awaits. Please phone either Merrill (01869 347802), Eileen (01869 340099) or Kay (07725554296) if you can offer some time to help sew them on.

Do keep creating/knitting poppies, and we'll let you know when we have enough for what is going to be a splendid cascade on Remembrance Day in November!

## E H Shepard: Before & Beyond Winnie-the-Pooh Exhibition runs until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025 Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock OX20 1SN

A new exhibition of original artwork by Ernest Howard Shepard, the original illustrator for A A Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* and the 1931 edition of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* is on show for the first time in Oxfordshire. Alongside some of his beloved children's illustrations are a wealth of his Great War sketches and comic art, on loan from the University of Surrey Archives and The Shepard Trust. By the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, E H Shepard was already a regular contributor to *Punch* magazine, then by 1915 he had enlisted, serving as an officer in the Royal Garrison Artillery in France's Western Front, then in Italy. He documented his experiences of war, in pencil sketches, pen and ink drawings and watercolours, depicting humorous caricatures and more detailed studies of life in the trenches.

The exhibition also includes some of his wartime kit such as his officer's forage cap and ID tags. Post-war, alongside his work for *Punch* magazine and children's illustrations, in the 1950s he became the magazine's leading weekly political cartoonist for 20 years, covering the rise of Hitler and the Nazis in Germany, the Second World War, government and radical changes. There will be a programme of family events and activities, including a Winnie-the-Pooh visitor trail. For adult visitors, there will be a talk on the life of E H Shepard and his art.







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# Steeple Aston Open Allotments

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**2 - 6pm**

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Refreshments

Quiz

Children activities



The National  
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Sunday the 8th June is the festival of Pentecost, when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on everyone. It is a wonderful story, when everyone who had gathered in Jerusalem suddenly hears the Disciples speaking in their own language, despite coming from numerous countries around the Mediterranean. Pentecost is regarded as the reversal of the Old Testament story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). In the days following Noah and the flood, people all spoke the same language, and in their pride, they decided to build 'a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves'.

On the 8th May, many of us gathered to celebrate, commemorate and remember the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The Second World War saw nations coming together to stand up for the rights and freedom of others. Roy and Edwina shared their memories of the war, a time when people worked together (be it in the Land Army, or as an air raid warden), for a common aim.

Since the start of the year, in Steeple Aston, we have been working together to create a poppy cascade. Thank you to everyone who has been making poppies either by knitting, crocheting or making felt poppies, and to those sticking the poppies to the netting. It was wonderful to see what can be accomplished when we lay aside our individual pride and work together.

80 years ago, people worked together for peace. That peace was fought for, not only in battles on land, sea and in the air, but also in the hearts and minds of individuals. Sadly, the 8th May this year saw renewed tensions between India and Pakistan. Peace is not the absence of fighting, or the silence of guns. Peace, genuine peace, starts within us, and begins with us loving and valuing ourselves, and our neighbours.

The Bible ends with a wonderful vision of a new creation where everyone, from all the nations, comes together as one people to worship God. This year, as we celebrate Pentecost, I pray that we can all work together for the good of everyone.

God bless,

**Harriet**

## **Bicester Motion: condolences**

As we go to press, we are deeply saddened to hear the devastating news of the terrible fire at the site of Bicester Motion on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, that resulted in the deaths of two brave firefighters and a member of the public, with a further two firefighters seriously injured. Sincere condolences to their families and friends, and to all those affected by this tragedy in our local town. Bicester Motion is home to more than 50 specialist businesses focussing on classic car restoration and engineering, and located on the former site of RAF Bicester. It was previously RAF Bomber Command in World War II and became redundant in 2004. **Ed**




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## Church Services June 2025



| Date                               | North Aston                                                          | Steeple Aston                                                    | Tackley                           |
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| <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>  | <b>9.30am</b><br>Meet at the Fountain<br>for Rogation Sunday<br>Walk | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy Communion<br><i>Book of Common Prayer</i> | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Evensong         |
|                                    |                                                                      |                                                                  |                                   |
| <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>  | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                      | <b>11.00am</b><br>Family Worship                                 | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Holy Communion   |
|                                    |                                                                      |                                                                  |                                   |
| <b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b> | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion                                      | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy Communion                                 | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Evensong         |
|                                    |                                                                      |                                                                  |                                   |
| <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b> | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                      | <b>11.00am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                 | <b>9.30am</b><br>Family Communion |
|                                    |                                                                      |                                                                  |                                   |
| <b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b> |                                                                      | <b>10.30am</b><br>United Benefice<br>Holy Communion              |                                   |

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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

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

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0837 0947 1045 1545 1703 1809 1909 2006 2053 2142 2242 0009

**Saturdays**

0758 0908 1008 then hourly to 1608 1718 1828 1927 2025 2113 2213 2341  
0837 0945 1045 1645 1755 1905 1958 2053 2142 2242 0009

**Sundays and most public holidays**

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0956 1122 1252 1422 1552 1722 1852 2022

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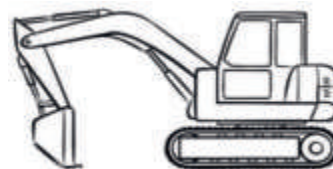
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We are a brand new business, based out of Duns Tew, offering the opportunity to drive a 1973 classic MGB GT - a quintessential British sports car that is as fun to drive as it is spectacular to look at.



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## Local Info



### STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL

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

#### Our hall is available to hire:

- Ideal site for parties, receptions, seminars, exhibitions and workshops
- Full width raised stage and well-equipped kitchen
- Main hall can seat around 100
- HD projector and retractable screen
- Meeting Room to seat 20, with separate access
- Off-Road Car parking

**For hire charges and bookings** see our website or call Angela on 07734 112967

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

#### 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

#### July 2025

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Green
- 10<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown
- 17<sup>th</sup> Green
- 24<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown
- 31<sup>st</sup> Green



#### Food caddy is collected weekly

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

## Steeple Aston 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 July and August to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

| Month                     | Event                                           | Venue              | Time            |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>June</b>               |                                                 |                    |                 |
| Saturday 7th June         | Middle Aston Open Gardens in aid of church roof | Middle Aston       | 2.00pm-6.00pm   |
| Tuesday 10th June         | WI: Barbecue at Sally Cooper's, Water Lane      | Steeple Aston      | 6.00pm          |
| Saturday 14th June        | WI Workshop: Chutney Making                     | Village Hall       | 9.30am          |
| Saturday 14th June        | SACC-v-Peter Higgins XI                         | Great Tew CC       | 2.00pm          |
| <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          |
| Thursday 19th June        | SACC-v-King's Head T20                          | King's Head CC     | 6.00pm          |
| Saturday 21st June        | SACS Summer Party Concert                       | Village Hall       | 6.30 for 7.00pm |
| Sunday 22nd June          | SACC-v-Ascott-under-Wychwood                    | Great Tew CC       | 2.00pm          |
| 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 6th July           | SACC-v-Blenheim Park                            | Blenheim           | 2.00pm          |
| Tuesday 8th July          | WI: Brewing in Oxford                           | Village Hall       | 7.00pm          |
| Sunday 13th July          | Steeple Aston Church Fete                       | Robinsons Close    | 1.00pm-4.30pm   |
| <b>Monday 14th July</b>   | <b>SAL August copy &amp; advert deadlines</b>   |                    |                 |
| Tuesday 15th July         | Valentines: Tea and grounds visit to 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 | 2.00pm-9.00pm   |
| Monday 21st July          | Parish Council Meeting                          | S & R Building     | 7.30pm          |
| Saturday 26th July        | Farmers Market                                  | Deddington         | 9.00am-12.30pm  |
| Sunday 27th July          | SACC-v-Strollers                                | Great Tew CC       | 2.00pm          |

**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 - 12 noon - Saturdays

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

Printed by: **Joshua Horgan Print & Design**

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*The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Committee.  
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# Home-made food

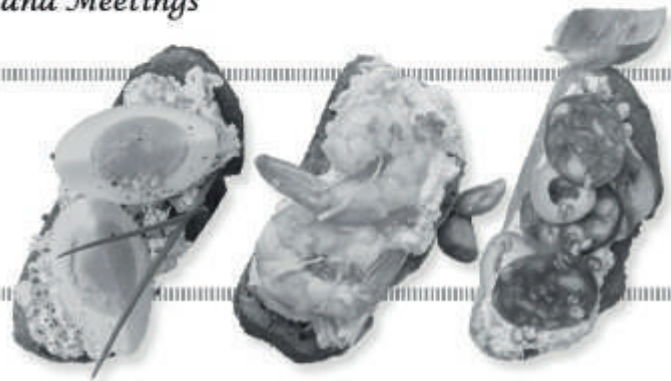
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To spark your curiosity, Rosara at Nicholson's offers a varied events programme consisting of dining experiences, seasonal fairs, talks, demonstrations and workshops.

We hope to welcome you soon.

[www.nicholsonsgb.com](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com) | 01869 340342 | The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL



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