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October 2025: CONTENTS

To see photographs in colour, please visit the digital edition at
steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine

Previous issues of SAL are also available on this site

OCTOBER FEATURES	PAGE	REPORTS FROM CLUBS & SOCIETIES	PAGE
Autumnal Trees	37	Baby & Toddler Group	31
Community Garden Project	13	Deddington Guides	31
New Speed Limits	33	Garden Club	33
Spooky tours at the bus museum	43	Golf News	29
Summer Flower Show Spectacular	10-11	Valentine Club	21
Summer Show Success	40-41	WI Report	17

REGULAR FEATURES	PAGE	INFORMATION	PAGE
Blast from the Past	39	Bus Times (revised)	47
Church Matters	45	Calendar	50
Editorial	5	Church Services	47
Music in Adderbury	35	Directory	4
Our Local MP	9	Noticeboard	6
Parish Council Report	25	Parish Councillors	14
Poetry Corner	35	Rubbish collections	49
Poppy Cascade update	29	Village Hall News	23
School Report	27		

Contributions are welcome. Please email editorsalife@gmail.com

Cover photo: Summer Show spectacular by Nigel Francis

Top: Richard Preston, Vicky Clifton; Bottom: Graham Clifton, Janet Coley

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

All articles and letters to
the Editor
editorsalife@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline for the November 2025 issue is
Tuesday 14th October

READ STEEPLE ASTON LIFE ONLINE

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Badminton (Thursday - eve)		Alison Moran	01869 347033
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WI	President	Julie Hillier	01869 349185



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

Steeple Aston *Life*

October 2025

Issue No.626

Editor: Carol Neville

editorsalife@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vaughan Billings
01869 340857

Secretary: Tina Ferguson
tina.merlins@gmail.com

Advertising:
Zazi Barrell
salife.advertising@gmail.com

Deliveries:
Greg Elphick
07891 760176
greggles1262@gmail.com

Layout design:
Edward Dowler, Martin Lipson

Committee:
Jenny Bell, Nigel Francis,
JennyTaylor

Editorial

As I write, we have just had a week of much-needed rainfall to quench the gardens and bring respite to our parched outdoor spaces. Reports state that this summer has been the hottest on record, and that since 1884, the five warmest summers of mean temperature have occurred since 2000, even beating the long hot summer of 1976!

With leaves dropping and fruit ripening earlier than usual due to the heat, some trees such as horse chestnut, oak and sycamore experienced a 'false autumn' whereby they released their fruit and foliage early in a bid to save energy and water to aid their survival. Hedgerow plants have also been affected, yielding early berries which may bring a welcome glut for pies and preserves, but can have an adverse effect on wildlife's ability to fatten up and prepare for the coming winter. Unsurprisingly, the dry spring and summer had an impact on our ability to grow some of our much-loved produce, which meant some classes at the summer show were slightly down this year. However, despite the challenges faced, there were still plenty of fabulous entries – colourful, tasty, artistic and funny - plus much to enjoy on a sunny afternoon, as depicted by the photos and results in this issue.

Read all about the Steeple Village Hall Calendar and how to get your hands on a copy, plus how the church is launching a new Community Garden in association with the allotment committee.

The SAL Committee are delighted to welcome Tina Ferguson to the role of SAL Secretary, taking over from Jenny Taylor (thanks Jenny). A warm welcome to Tina, we look forward to working with you.

Carol

Blackberries adorning the hedgerows, photo by Carol Neville





Do you like the sound of the Church Bells?

In Steeple Aston, we are fortunate to have a very musical and easy peal of bells to ring. Unfortunately, we are finding it increasingly difficult to keep the bells going due to a lack of bellringers. Several of our ringers are now reaching a more mature age and finding it more of a challenge. If you want to continue hearing the bells ring on a Sunday, for national and local occasions, we desperately need you to come forward and learn to ring. We practise on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and try to ring before the church service on Sundays. Our ringers at present range from teenagers to octogenarians and come from all walks of life. Learning to ring is like learning any musical instrument - it takes time and practice. First, you learn to handle the bell on your own, then once you are competent to control the bell, you can then join in with the others.

If you feel you would like to try, why not come and see on a Tuesday evening, or give me a call to find out more. Bells were first installed in the tower in 1674 and have been rung ever since, so it would be a great shame for it to die out in the next few years.

Graham Clifton

01869 347273 or email: gjclifton@btinternet.com

A new Secretary for SAL

Members of the SAL Committee are delighted to welcome Tina Ferguson as their new Secretary. Tina has volunteered to take over the role from Jenny Taylor starting immediately. Many readers will already know Tina, who has lived in the village for nearly 40 years. She has been (and still is) involved in a wide variety of village activities. SAL readers may have read her account of the work of Dr Radcliffe's Trust, of which she is a member, in April's edition of the magazine.

Tina will bring much knowledge and experience of village matters to the committee. We are also very pleased that Jenny Taylor has agreed to stay on as a member to share her experience of SAL over very many years. Jenny first joined the SAL committee in the mid-1980s. She has been an extremely reliable and efficient secretary. Our heartfelt thanks go to her for all that she's done - and we look forward to her continuing contribution.

Irene Smith

As we go to press, we are sorry to announce the sad news that Steeple villager, Irene Smith, has passed away. She was married to Mel Smith, whose family were long term residents of the village. **RIP**

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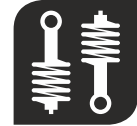
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Letter from *Westminster*

SAL's regular epistle from our MP, Sean Woodcock



In August Parliament was in recess, which meant MPs were not sitting in the Commons conducting usual business. However, I spent time in the constituency, visiting and speaking to local people and businesses.

Opening Magpie Court - New homes for local people: August kicked off with the opening of Magpie Court, part of the Cottsway Housing Association. I was honoured to speak at this event, and am proud that a new social housing scheme is the first thing I have opened since being an MP. The importance of having a place to call 'home' cannot be over-estimated, and we need genuinely affordable homes supported by infrastructure and investment.

Meeting residents: coffee mornings were held in Charlbury and Banbury, giving people the chance to drop in and share their views. I invited many constituents into the Banbury office to raise their concerns face-to-face and allow me to assist in their issues. These conversations are always enlightening and directly shape my work in Parliament. Helping constituents is a big part of my role and very rewarding. Casework successes this month include helping a constituent to be allocated the correct council tax banding. After intervention and correction made, money was repaid and future payments are now reduced. I referred a mother-of-two with cancer to Banbury Charities, who kindly awarded her £500 to help towards her car insurance, ensuring access to appointments and provision for her children.

Supporting our community: I was delighted to welcome the Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth, Stephanie Peacock, to Banbury United Football Club. We discussed the part the club plays in the wider community, meeting with volunteers Mark, Ryan and Clive. Local volunteers rise to the challenge of keeping the club alive, and I am glad that the Minister was able to see this first-hand. I hosted a Q&A at the Ridings Nursing Home, visited the Mill Arts Centre, spoke to volunteers at the local Cancer Research shop, and took part in a session with the Sunrise Multicultural Project's Men's Group, as well as speaking with DiscoBowl about the challenges facing hospitality.

Honouring VJ Day: Finally, the VJ Day commemorations in Banbury, where I met with the Chair of Oxfordshire County Council, Mark Lygo, and spoke with dignitaries, councillors and members of the public who were all there to show their respect. This was a real honour, and I thank all those who risked their lives to give us the lives we have today.

In September: In Parliament, I continued my work representing constituents in the Commons, and use the conversations I've had with constituents to help inform this work. If anyone would like to attend any future surgeries or coffee mornings, or would like my help with an issue, please email sean.woodcock.mp@parliament.uk

Sean Woodcock, MP

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A Summer Scorcher

Bank Holiday Monday in Steeple Aston is always a special day - the annual Summer Horticultural Show - and yesterday's show didn't disappoint. Yes, I am writing this the very next day, slightly jaded, but I have plenty of cake to help me through. There has to be one positive to entering a few bits.

The weather this year has been the most challenging, I think, that I can remember. With so many heatwaves and no real rain since the beginning of June, I was quite expecting to have no veg or flowers, and that the exhibits would be less than wonderful. Not a bit of it, as regular exhibitors and some very welcome new names, did us proud. If I could, I would have given all fruit, veg and flower exhibits a 1st prize! The sheer effort to fill a watering can, carry it up the garden, day in, day out, is astounding. Well done to all, and thank you on behalf of the Committee. Without these efforts, we wouldn't have had such a spectacular and large show.

Sadly, on the day, we made a mistake and a trophy should have been awarded to Rebecca Purtell, who produced some lovely entries. We are working on a plan to give her her moment of glory and present her with the trophy. This should help to even up the bragging rights at home, as her sister also won a trophy - clearly one very talented family. Well done, Rebecca!

We were delighted to have 'Dogs for Good' supporting us again by putting on the dog show. Due to the weather, not as many dogs came, which I am actually quite pleased about. We know our own dogs and should never put winning a rosette ahead of their health. Hopefully next year it will be a little cooler, and we'll be back to normal with a field full of barking. I, for one, would love to see their new class that would have been Musical sit (think musical chairs). Oh well, I'll just have to wait a few more months.

We don't yet have confirmed figures, but hopefully we will have raised the £4,000 needed to host the show. As you can imagine, the marquee is our biggest expense, which is normally sat empty on the Friday and Saturday evenings. Do you have a big birthday coming up, or a wedding perhaps? We'd love someone to make use of this massive space. So if, next August Bank Holiday, you could make use of it, please do get in contact to discuss with a member of the Committee.

That leads me nicely to my last point. We will have held our AGM last month (September 24th), where hopefully we will have recruited some new Committee members. If you missed that day, and would like to be involved, please do get in touch. We always need people with ideas for classes, offers to write a quiz in the spring, propagate some bits for a plant stall, or help with the washing up. Your involvement can be as a member throughout the year, or just on show days. There are many families and individuals out there whom we are eternally indebted to. Thank you all.

The next event in our Calendar will be the spring show in March. The schedule of classes for this will be in the January 'Life', and on the village website from December.

For now, thank you to everyone who has supported our two shows this year, and see you in 2026!

Victoria Clifton - Show Secretary

For a full list of show results, please see pages 40-41 in this issue



**Summer Show
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A NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN IN STEEPLE ASTON

For some time, we have enjoyed our Community Orchard thanks to the many volunteers who nurture it. We are very lucky. We are proposing a new garden venture specifically to help those with mental health issues; loneliness; low self-esteem and associated suffering. It will be a community garden, but with a specialist agenda. Where did this idea arise?



Two years ago, Rev Harriet Orridge and I met to discuss how the church and community might help sufferers working together. Research shows that meeting to garden is a very healing experience. Thus, we decided to find a garden and work with a paid specialist leader.

We needed to identify a location within the village/benefice. The churchyard, though excellent, is not suitable, being too public for people who feel insecure. It is a route way. Through the generosity of the allotmenters and their committee, we have been offered an ideal plot on the allotments, namely the grass area by the club house, which will be a secluded and quiet area. We are hugely grateful to the allotmenters for this offer. What is the church's role in this - why is this a church initiative?

Our church is not just Sunday. It is a living, caring community which believes in being of service to the village. For example - the fete; the harvest supper; the church quiz; plus, the major civic services such as Remembrance; the Funeral of the Queen; the Coronation etc. The community garden is yet another offering.

The church also has administrative systems in place suitable for this kind of activity - insurance; accounting etc and is automatically an exempted charity. It is an ideal body to run such a venture. We have already researched what is necessary with a small expert working committee to whom I am very grateful indeed, and advice from Bridewell Gardens (bridewellgardens.org).

We will need to fund a professional lead gardener. To run the garden with a paid leader will cost some £10,000 per year. We already have a generous donation towards this, and I am applying to various funds and local companies to see if this can be raised. This task was my offering in raising the money for the church re-roofing, so I am used to it!

And so, I am putting out a call for voluntary help to all - church and community. Can you help us set this up and support it further as the needs develop? We need not only funds, but also practical energy and willingness to support both now and as a commitment. The rector, the church and I would love to hear from you to help us set this new venture on the road!

Thank you sincerely for reading this far.

Martin Dale (email: martindale865@gmail.com)



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Charity Appeal!

Tom Coker is running the Oxford half marathon carrying a washing machine to raise funds for SSNAP - the JR Hospital's Neo-Natal Charity



Photo: Tom and Martin carrying washers in 2022.

Ex-Army Officer Tom Coker from Steeple Aston is going to run the 13.1 miles around Oxford on 12th October 2025 carrying his faithful washing machine, inspired by and in memory of his late friend Martin Realey, SSNAP's Director, who started the tradition a few years ago.

Tom and his wife Becca's three children were born at the JR with no small amount of help from the amazing medics, hence the effort to support those who have an even harder journey. SSNAP provides crucial practical and emotional support to parents of premature and sick newborn babies at the John Radcliffe Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

This year has particular poignance for Tom for two reasons. Firstly, because of the unexpected death of Martin, and secondly, because, as Tom was on the way home from the Oxford half last year, he received the awful news that his mother had passed away. He is therefore running with two sets of eyes on him.

If you are able, please contribute to Tom's JustGiving page using the link or QR Code below, and if you're in Oxford on the day please give him a cheer!

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/oxfordwashingmachineman>



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In September, our first meeting after the summer break was very well attended. President Julie Hillier welcomed several new members and also some visitors who came to see if they would like to join the WI.

Charitable donations

- * Julie reported that the WI is to donate a fruit tree to the Community Orchard to mark 110 years of the WI; also, from the £400 raised on the stall at the Horticultural Society Summer Show, the WI is to donate £150 to Katharine House.
- * Two members were congratulated for their charitable donations: Mary Rushworth had raised over £900 in sponsorship when she walked in aid of the Alzheimer's charity; and Hildy Frenken made a donation of over £1,000 to Katharine House, raised by walking the 485 miles of the Camino de Santiago.
- * There is an opportunity to once again send Christmas parcels to injured soldiers in Ukraine. The aim this year is to send 1,000 boxes, and we are asked to donate toiletry treats; new warm hats, scarves, socks and gloves; pastimes such as Sudoku, small jigsaws, paints, crayons, colouring books and sweets, chocolate and biscuits. If you deliver these items to the WI, they will be boxed, a Christmas card with a greeting in Ukrainian will be added, and the boxes and lids will be wrapped separately ready to be taken to Ukraine.
- * John Coley showed the new village calendars. These are available in two sizes, each featuring 12 colour photographs of Steeple Aston. They are available to pre-order at a cost of £10, with all proceeds going to support the Village Hall.

Activities

- * Sally Cooper reported on upcoming WI walks and lunches. Just coming for lunch, without the walk, is also allowed!
- * Sally also encouraged members to come along to Walking Netball at the Village Hall every Wednesday at 10.15am.
- * Kathryn Coysh gave information about a pub lunch that has been booked.
- * Merrill Bayley asked for more people to come and help to sew poppies onto the net backing, so that the cascade is finished in time for Armistice Day. So far over 5,000 poppies have been sewn in place, but there are a couple of thousand still to go.
- * Tina Ferguson sounded out members to see if there was interest in a theatre trip to see 'Emma' in Oxford and/or 'Ballet Shoes' in London.
- * There were also sign-up sheets for making cake toppers and making fused glass, both in Tackley; a North Ploughley Group meeting on October 21st; and on October 28th there will be a demonstration of how to use a defibrillator and do CPR.

Reflexology Talk

Finally, when all the business of the evening was completed, Julie introduced the speaker, Beth Astle, a reflexologist who practises locally in Deddington and Middle Barton. Beth gave a fascinating talk about the history and development of reflexology, its links to other disciplines such as Reiki, acupuncture, Chinese meridian-based medicine, massage, chiropractic and others. She told us what had drawn her to this practice, described her training and talked honestly of how she felt about reflexology and what it can do for people. She explained reflexology of the feet, hands and face. She explained what a typical treatment session would entail - for her and for the patient - and described how she could tell if a patient had particular health problems or a lack of balance. Finally, she treated one member, giving a running commentary on what she was doing as the treatment was happening. The audience was rapt, and when the talk ended there were lots of questions. Beth will undoubtedly be very busy with several new patients in the near future! The October meeting is a talk by a woman drone pilot. There will also be a book & magazine sale and a sale of hand-made cards. If you are interested in joining the WI, or would like to come along for a visit, contact Julie Hillier, 349185.

Cathy Lawday

Dates for the Calendar

October 14th	WI talk by woman drone pilot	Village Hall	7.00pm
October 21st	North Ploughley Group meeting, Willow weaving	Village Hall	7.00pm
October 28th	First Aid, CPR & Defibrillator training	Village Hall	7.00pm

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THE VALENTINE CLUB

Just thirteen weeks until Christmas and then we are into a new year. Where does the time go, I ask?

Talking of Christmas, we are in the process of arranging all the bits and pieces that make our annual gathering in the village hall that little bit special. Catering for around ninety does not appear to be too much of a challenge for S & J Cuisine, who provide a superb meal each year. The club tries to invite an entertainer that might offer something a bit different, and that can sometimes require a bit of ingenuity but hopefully, it all comes together by the 16th December. To practise, we are taking the club to Stratford-on-Avon for a Christmas lunch and entertainment so might get some ideas there. Before then, fifty-one members or friends are going to Studley Castle later this month for a break and a chance to get in the holiday mood before December arrives.

During September, we took a coach to Wells to visit both the cathedral and The Bishops Palace, along with the opportunity to purchase a few bargains at the market and enjoy the beautiful city that is Wells. The weather was what you might call 'changeable'. A bit of rain but not that cold, and not enough to dampen spirits. We were warmly welcomed by Ross and then off to the cathedral to collect the tickets enabling us all to visit both the cathedral and The Bishop's Palace. Six days later, we welcomed back to the club Cheryl Harrison, to provide us with more information about scams and how to prevent getting caught up in the numerous and illegal scams that abound today. This month, we can all sit down on the 21st October to enjoy some fish and chips and homemade puddings.

Our waiting list is still around thirty, as we can only safely accommodate up to one hundred members at any one meeting, but we try to keep those patient Valentine Club members who are on the list up-to-date as best we can. To find out more about the Valentine Club, then simply visit our own website on 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 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) Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com
Tel: 01869 340512

*Photos: Chairs in Wells Cathedral made by
relative of a Valentine Club member;
Wells Cathedral;
Vicars Close, Wells – the oldest, original
inhabited street in the country.
Photos by Daphne Preston.*



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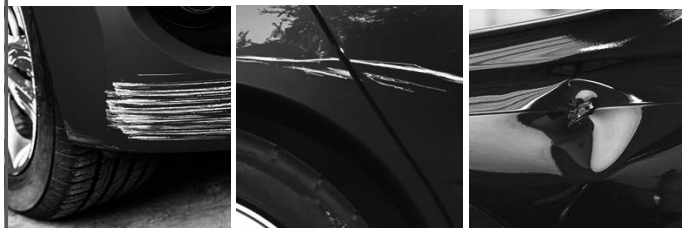
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Village Hall News



I bring lots of exciting news... we have extended our offer on all Friday bookings until this Christmas. Our booking costs can be found elsewhere in every edition of SAL or on our website savh.org.uk/



Steeple Aston Village Hall 2026 Calendar

Pre-orders now being taken. For details, please see the full-page advert in this month's SAL.

Wednesday 5th November 'Fireworks spectacular'

Gates will open with food available from 6.00pm, Bonfire lit from 6.30pm, Fireworks at 7.00pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to enjoy a spectacular evening of fireworks and refreshments. The Recreational Trust and Village Hall committee will present a great display in a safe environment. Glow sticks will be available for sale at the gate: £1 each cash only. Ticket price includes our special home-made soup together with sausage in a roll, and squash for the very young. **Please do not bring fireworks, laser pens, sparklers or alcohol to this event. If anyone has any wood to burn, please contact a village hall/recreational trust committee member. Please do not dump any wood or rubbish outside the gate or in the field prior to the event. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event.**

Ticket prices: bought in advance - £14 family, £5 single. On the gate - £16 family, £6 single. If you are purchasing tickets on the gate, please come along with the correct money, **cash only**. This will help speed up queues.

Advance tickets are available from Barbara (01869 340423) and Steeple Aston Village shop, CASH ONLY, from Monday 20th October. Ticket sales from the Village shop will close at **3.00pm** on the day.

Sunday 7th December Wassail evening

Enjoy a light-hearted evening of mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies, carols, readings, handbell ringers and Christmas music. This is an opportunity for everyone - families, young, and old - to join in some community singing. So come along and join us as everyone is welcome. Free entry.

Saturday 17th January 2026 Annual Quiz Night

Please book your teams early to avoid disappointment; more details next month.

Our letting agent is 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

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

Victoria Clifton (Chair)

savh.org.uk/

Annual Church Quiz Night

Friday 28th November



7pm for prompt 7.30pm start

Light supper included. Bar – CASH ONLY.

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Teams of 6 max, or come as an individual

£10 per person.

Tickets available from Caroline Parsons
carolineinmaston@gmail.com (07811820536)

Please book by Monday 24th November.

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



I'll keep this month's report pacy, as my words have been cut (again!), and there's lots to write about! District Cllr David Rogers warned us that the business rates in Cherwell are about to be reset. In short, the impact could mean £12m of council revenue lost overnight (so no more leisure centres!). While at the same time, our councils could be merged or turned into unitary authorities, so who knows what services we'll be left with! The precept raised by Parish Councils and the role they play will become even more important. Will they even be called upon to subsidise certain services?

"Progress is being made" with regards to 4 Paines Hill, as the owner has at last made contact with the Parish Council.

If we book the Village Hall for a private event – can we also have food trucks in the car park? In short, yes, but with conditions.

The contractors working on our playground "believe they've finished", but there's still plenty of snagging to be done. It has also revealed the huge amount of bark we need for the area, which led to a lengthy chat about bark. One councillor started doing some impressive sums to try and establish just how much should be ordered, the answer was "A LOT". They'll soon be looking for some volunteers to help spread it, and someone enthusiastically said: "It's a good day out" (I'll tell Mr Miggins).

We then had a report about the meeting that took place in the toilet (I was secretly glad I wasn't invited to cover that one), and for the time being, the baby changer is now not positioned at an angle where a baby might roll off it. To summarise they decided they needed to treat the zone as a dairy parlour (think special paint and jet washers).

Given news on council funds, it's unlikely the drive to tackle the Blandford Fly will progress. It will need a very enthusiastic team to push this forward.

Quite a chat next on the damaged raised paving at the Water Lane/North Side junction by what is apparently 'a live well'. Parking lines? Bollards? Signs? Until someone said it was only hit once every few years, which hardly makes it a pressing issue; and I livened things up by mentioning the new S4 double-decker buses coming through our village. Some "sacrificial bollards" were the final conclusion.

The revised Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP) is nearly ready to submit. Listening to the conversation, we should feel very lucky we have a team keeping on top of these things (one councillor even claimed to have read the whole 94-page document), as there's a lot going on when it comes to new development. As many as 9,000 new homes at Heyford Park; approval for a group of warehouses at Baynard's Green; a possible new strategic rail freight interchange at Ardley; and controversial plans for a Puy du Fou 'historical theme park' at Bucknell. County Cllr Gareth Epps has called a 'round table' on 24th September to discuss. The PC will be there, so come back next month to find out what happened.

Village Hall vegetation and railings were discussed, and also 'Swift boxes'. I do enjoy seeing the swifts in the summer – apparently all new developments are encouraged to have swift boxes now, and whether the PC should fund a talk on them? Conclusion was no, as this sort of talk, enlightening as it may be, should be 'self-sustaining'.

Until next time (20th October),
Mrs Miggins

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Dr Radcliffe's School Report



National Schools Equestrian Association ('NSEA') National Championships

In August, Olivia, Frankee and three ponies headed down to the famous Hickstead in Sussex for the day representing Dr Radcliffe's. Olivia jumped Toby in the 40cm class achieving a fantastic clear round and finishing 54th. Frankee had one unlucky fence down in the 70cm on Rosie in a big class and jumped a brilliant, fast clear in the 60cm on Cassie being placed 5th. Both girls had a round in the hobby horse jumping which was great fun! They were very lucky to be given a guided tour of the international arena too, and got to stand on top of the famous Hickstead Derby bank. These are great achievements and opportunities, and we look forward to more children getting involved in the equestrian team this year.



Shining a Light on Sustainability: Dr Radcliffe's Goes Solar

The school has taken an inspiring step towards a greener future with the installation of a 50kWp solar photovoltaic (PV) system, designed and fitted by local renewable energy specialists, UK Solar Generation. The project marks a significant milestone in the school's commitment to sustainability, reducing both its carbon footprint and long-term energy costs. The new solar array, positioned across the school's roof space, is expected to generate around 45,000 kWh of clean electricity every year – enough to power the equivalent of more than a dozen family homes.

Rob O'Malley, Headteacher, said "We're proud to be embracing renewable energy here at Dr Radcliffe's and to be the first of the 43 schools in our MAT to be doing so. The solar panels will not only reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, but also provide a fantastic learning opportunity for our pupils. It's important that children can see sustainability in action and understand how small changes can make a big difference." UK Solar Generation worked closely with the school to ensure the system was designed with maximum efficiency and minimal disruption. As a community-rooted business, they expressed their pride in helping a local institution set an example for others. Director of UK Solar Generation, Russell Lyne, said "We're delighted to support Dr Radcliffe's in their transition to renewable energy. Schools are at the heart of our communities, and projects like this not only cut emissions, but inspire the next generation to think about energy differently."

This level of renewable generation will also deliver impressive environmental savings. By avoiding electricity generated from fossil fuels, the system is set to cut the school's carbon emissions by over 10 tonnes of CO₂ every year. Over the 25-year lifetime of the panels, that equates to a reduction of more than 250 tonnes of CO₂ – the same as planting over 11,000 trees or taking 150 petrol cars off the road for a year. The benefits go beyond environmental impact. With rising energy costs affecting households and schools alike, the system will help Dr Radcliffe's save money that can instead be invested in teaching, resources and extracurricular activities in helping children to live life to the full.

Rob O'Malley, Headteacher

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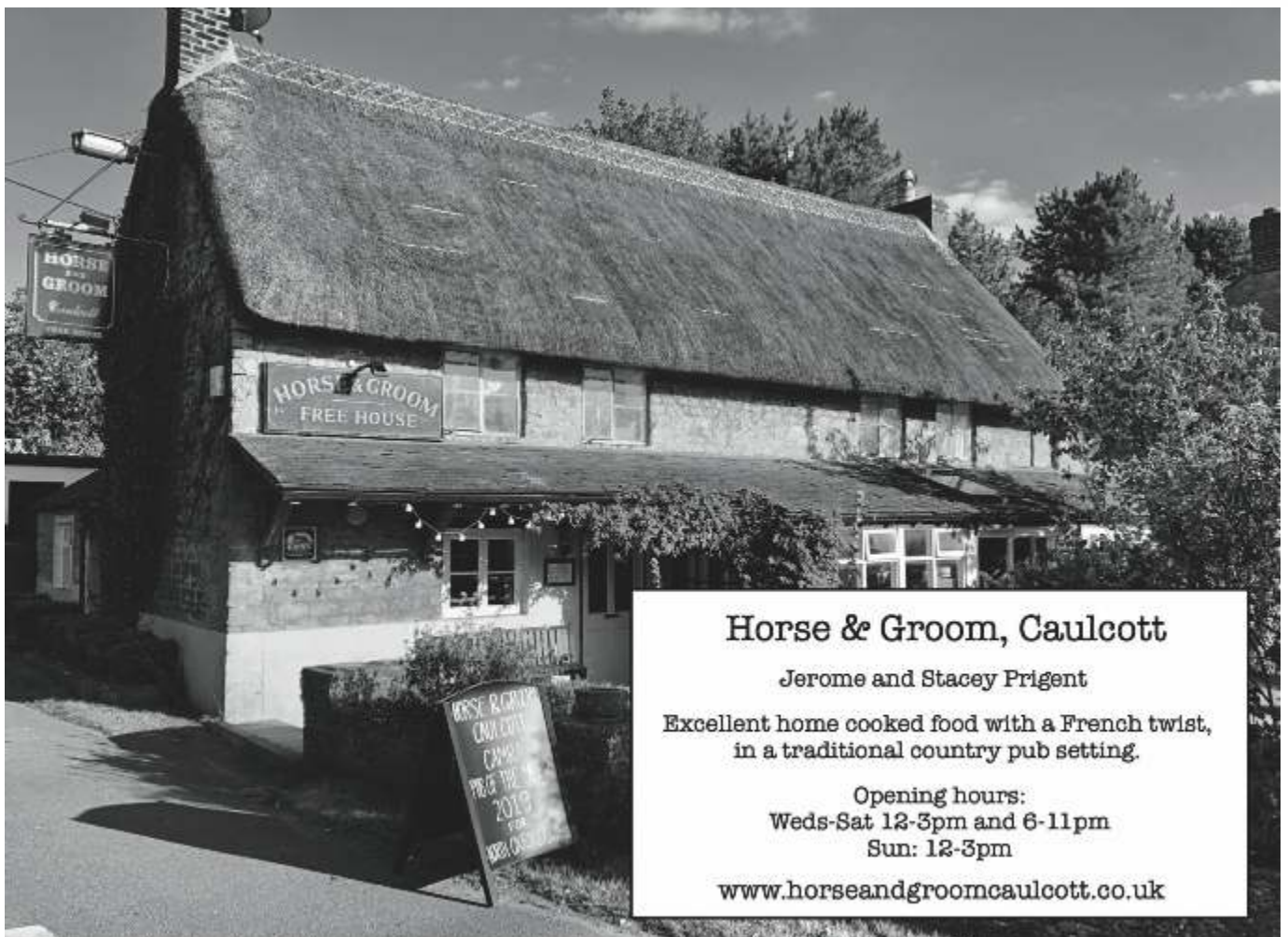
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The fourth meeting of the season was at North Oxford, where we had a great turn-out of 14 people to play this course for the last time before it closes in October. The course was still in very good condition, despite the continuing drought. The overall winner, with a massive 42 points, was Bill Sandhu, followed by Graham Lawrence with 37 points. Nearest the pin on the 11th was Martin Jukes. Nobody got on the green for the other nearest the pin on the 16th. I can't believe that I'm talking about our final meeting of the season. This is to be held at Olton, Mirfield Road Solihull B91 1JH. It's a 95-acre parkland course, over 100 years old, with prevailing south-west wind. The Greens are said to be outstanding and the Putting surfaces are recognised as some of the best in the UK. Contact the usual suspects: Alan or Chris on 01869 340423/347173. We shall all meet up at 12 noon for a 1.00pm start.

Golf tips are like aspirin. One may do you good, but if you swallow the whole bottle, you'll be lucky to survive.

Happy golfing!

Alan Brewer (chair)

Photo: from left to right: Alan, Graham, Martin, Bill & Tony at North Oxford.



Poppy Cascade Update

Before we report on progress of the Cascade, we want to send an enormous thank you to everyone who has been involved in any way in knitting, crocheting, making felt poppies and sewing them to the great net, which we are now confident will hang from the north side of the church tower for Remembrance. We are confident because there are so many willing helpers, but there is still some way to go and the work in October will need to be the Last Push! Having had the number of three thousand poppies suggested to us as the number needed to create a cascade, we've been somewhat overwhelmed to have received very nearly six thousand - such a wonderful effort! We are determined to use every one of them. What a terrific village effort this has been and it's not quite over yet. If you can offer some help this month to finally complete the cascade, please phone Merrill on 01869 347802 to sort out when we can use your help. We need all hands to the pump!

As well as the usual Sunday morning Remembrance service and the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, because it is the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII and because we have created our cascade, we shall also hold the Act of Remembrance again on Tuesday 11th at 11.00am followed by tea and coffee in church, which we hope can be a few minutes when anyone who has been involved in any way with this splendid effort can get together – and congratulate one another. With renewed thanks from us all for the support which Hildy's original idea has received.



Hildy, Eileen, Merrill and Kay.



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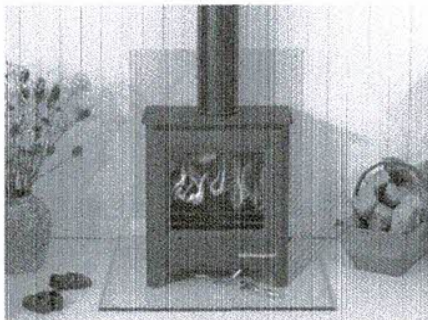
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New Term Begins for Steeple Aston Baby and Toddler Group

The Steeple Aston Baby and Toddler Group is back for a new term, having been connecting local families since 2006. Held at the Sport and Recreation Building, the group meets weekly during term time from 9.30-11.00am. Currently run by a team of local mums with babies, the sessions are relaxed and welcoming. Children can play freely with toys while carers enjoy a hot drink and a friendly chat. Each gathering usually wraps up with a snack and a song or story for the little ones, and families often head to the well-equipped playground afterwards.

The group is open to anyone bringing a baby or toddler, and to expectant parents. There's no need to book, just turn up and you'll be very welcome. A donation of £3.00 per family helps to cover costs, keeping the group accessible to all.



To receive updates about the group and chat with local parents, please email your phone number to steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com to be added to the WhatsApp group.

Where? Sports and Recreation Building (what3words ///objecting.dolly.wedge)

When? Every Thursday during term time 9.30-11.00am

Katie Spencer

1st Deddington Guides *Report*



We began the term with a very lively meeting. Everyone was excited to be back together and share all their holiday news. Plans for the rest of the year are starting to fall into place, and amongst other fun and games, we celebrated Deddington Guides' 54th birthday - inevitably with cake, of course!

All girls of 10 years and over are welcome. Come along and meet us.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way

Would you like to learn to ring the handbells and help us ring around the village at Christmas? No musical skills needed, but a sense of rhythm and ability to recognise the tunes beneficial. Our aim is to ring at every house in the two weeks up to Christmas, so your help during some of these evenings is our Christmas wish. Practices are weekly, and will start on Sunday 2nd November. Open to all ages from 10 years upwards (children must be accompanied by a parent). If you'd like more details, please get in touch.

Vicky Clifton, Handbell captain.

Email: vmcstedman@btinternet.com





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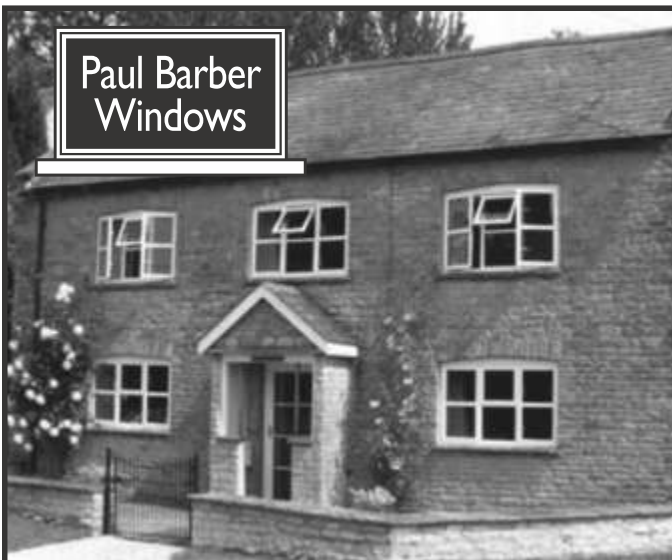
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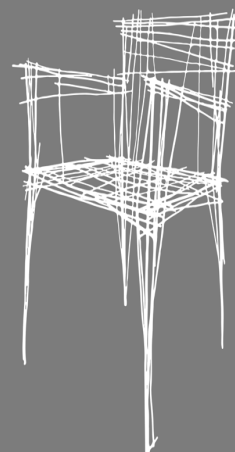
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Having had a very dry summer, as you all know, the weather in September swiftly turned very autumnal. Despite a fairly awful weather forecast a few days before, our visit to two very different scale gardens at either end of the village of Chalgrove, east of Oxford, went really well on a warm, sunny afternoon! The Grange (visited by the Garden Club in 2016 after another reportedly hot, dry summer), comprises a large lake fed by a stream surrounded by extensive, colourful planting. There are also areas of woodland garden and a prairie garden with grasses swaying in the wind, plus a large vegetable garden for us all to envy! The owner showed us around, explaining how she has developed the garden over the last few decades using her extensive knowledge of planting.

Our second visit was to Mill Barn, which is on a much smaller scale, but with nearly as much packed into the garden! With a stream running alongside (a useful water source in dry summers), there are many colourful flowerbeds and fruit trees to screen the view of different areas, such as the vegetable garden and chickens, as well as numerous plants in the greenhouse. We were treated to a cream tea by the host and a friend, which we tucked into whilst sat in the sunshine - what a treat!

The next Steeple Aston Garden Club event is the first of our winter talks on Wednesday 15th October, when Caroline Edwards will talk about how she developed her garden and many others, a follow up to our successful visit to her garden in August. For any non-members, please come along and join us! Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start in the village hall.

For more details, please contact Alison Llewellyn or Richard Preston on alisonllew.home@gmail.com or Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com

Alison Llewellyn - Secretary, Steeple Aston Garden Club

Approved New Speed Limits

Kidlington to Banbury: A4260 Corridor

The following new speed limits were recently approved:

- a) The introduction of the 30mph speed limit on the A4260 Oxford Road at Bodicote/Banbury.
- b) The introduction of the following 40mph speed limits, as advertised:
 - i. A4260 Oxford/Banbury Road at Hopcrofts Holt
 - ii. B4030 at Hopcrofts Holt
 - iii. A4260 Banbury Road at Shipton-on-Cherwell
 - iv. A4095 Bunkers Hill at Shipton-on-Cherwell
 - v. A4095 Upper Campsfield Road at Shipton-on-Cherwell
- c) The introduction of the following 50mph speed limits, as advertised:
 - i. A4260 Banbury Road at Shipton-on-Cherwell
 - ii. A4260 Banbury Road at Rousham
 - iii. A4260 Oxford Road at Steeple Aston
 - iv. A4260 Oxford Road at North Aston
 - v. A4260 Banbury Road at Deddington
 - vi. B4027 at Tackley
- d) The introduction of a 60mph speed limit on the A4260 Oxford Road Northbound carriageway at Middle Aston.

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# Poetry Corner



## Variations On a Theme

There once was a runner called Sue  
Who found that she needed the loo  
She discreetly peed  
Whilst running at speed  
And that way avoided the queue.

There once was a runner called Sue  
Who ran every road in Peru  
The trail of the Inca  
Was a real stinker  
But she did see Machu Picchu.

There once was a runner called Sue  
Who raced all the beasts in the zoo  
She took on a cheetah  
And managed to beat her  
But lost to an old kangaroo.

There once was a runner called Sue  
Who tried out a new running shoe  
The shoes were Nike  
Golly and crikey  
When wearing them Sue really flew!

There once was a runner called Sue  
Who lost every race and was blue  
She tried a new drug  
And now she's called Doug  
But she won by a mile on debut.

**Cathy Lawday**

---

## Music in Adderbury

We are very fortunate to have the Adderbury Ensemble arranging the Music in Adderbury series every year, giving us chamber music of the highest quality from the finest quartets from this country and abroad. Many can be heard on Radio 3 and Classic FM.

The venues at Adderbury Church and Deddington Church are just on the doorstep and, at £20 a concert, gives exceptional value for first-class music without having to travel to Oxford or London.

### Future dates are:

|                            |                               |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> October:   | St Mary's Church, Adderbury   | Maggini String Quartet        |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> October:  | St Peter's Church, Deddington | Trio with Viv McLean on piano |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> November: | St Mary's Church, Adderbury   | Kleio String Quartet          |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November: | St Mary's Church, Adderbury   | Carducci String Quartet       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December:  | St Mary's Church, Bloxham     | Brodsky Quartet               |

All concerts start at 6.00pm and are free to children accompanied by an adult. More details can be found on their website: ***musicinadderbury.com***

Several from Steeple already go – it's wonderful music and a chance to relax in lovely settings.

***Vaughan Billings***



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## Seasonal Spotlight – Autumn

It's that time of year when the trees will be changing colour, the air is getting colder and fresher, and we can't help thinking of warm drinks, cosy clothes and playing in the crunchy leaves. As we enter Autumn, it can be tempting to cut back all the dead and dying vegetation in our gardens and green spaces. It's worth considering that many of these woody stems will become perfect winter homes for insects as they enter hibernation, and can create areas of architectural beauty in our homes and communities. In Oxfordshire, the hedgerow species we generally recommend planting (for their capacity to provide for both people and wildlife year-round), and you're most likely to see in your local area, include Blackthorn, Spindle, Common Buckthorn, Guelder Rose, Wild Privet, Cherry Plum, Dog Rose and Hazel. Fruiting season for many of these species starts from late summer to early autumn. As such, by this time of year, most of the species listed above will be fruiting. Hawthorn berries have traditional use in heart-strengthening natural medicines but also act as a vital source of food for caterpillars, moths, and migratory birds. Keep your eyes peeled for spindle, which has vibrant autumnal colours with vibrant pinks, and the leaves turning from a deep green to a beautiful red.



*Spindle fruits*

**Riverside trees:** The native white, crack, pussy, osier and goat willows are a familiar sight along the Thames and its tributaries. Willows provide shelter for birds and mammals, including bats, otters and water voles. Their leaves are the larval foodplant of the Purple Emperor, Large Tortoiseshell and Comma butterflies and their catkins the earliest sources of food for bees. Both the male and female flowers (catkins) carry sugary nectar, and the male flowers also carry protein rich pollen, which is so important for developing bee larvae. Willow nectar is also a major energy source for Blue Tits during early spring. Traditionally managed by 'coppicing' and 'pollarding', mature trees can be cut to form a thick stump or 'coppice stool' that considerably extends the life of the tree and lets in light to the shrub layer. Some Crack Willow pollards are known to have lived for 1000 years. Willow is also a useful hedge plant in damp conditions.

**Trees for Bees:** Trees are an important, stable long-term source of food for bees and other pollinators, providing thousands of flower heads all in one place. Plant a variety of tree species selected to benefit bees and other pollinators, with species that flower at different times of the year to provide nectar, pollen and nesting sites as well as offering a haven for other wildlife and cleaning the air and water and storing carbon. Check out the guidance on our website for more information: [wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/tree-planting-guidance](http://wildoxfordshire.org.uk/guidance/tree-planting-guidance)

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

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# BLAST *from the past*

These shots depict life at the former White Lion pub in Steeple Aston, which is now a residential dwelling.

## **White Lion Ladies Darts Team – Winners of the League, 1973**

*Left to right: Diane Smith, Janet Kirby, Nina Fairns (Coleman), Mrs Leeman, Mrs McCutcheon, Elaine Coleman, Debbie Robinson. Can you help identify the man pictured? Please let the Editor know.*

## **Men at rear of White Lion pub**

*Back Row (left to right): Bill Cross, Jack Cross, Dick Cross, Bernard Lewis, Mrs Butler (landlady) Oliver Knight, Harry Smith, Bob Cross, Cyril Cross, Harry Windle, Horace Cross, Walt Brock.*

*Front Row (left to right): Ernie Franks, Ginger Barratt, Herbie Butler (landlord), Dick Smith, Mr Seagers, Arthur Knight.*

*(Photos courtesy of SAVA)*



## **Social Bridge comes to Bicester.**

The Bicester Bridge Club has been active in the town for over 50 years with a weekly evening session, currently based at the Highfield Social Club in George Street.

While most of the current members play a competitive, fast paced game, it was felt that there are others who may prefer a more relaxed game and so the club are starting a new Afternoon Social Bridge, starting on **Thursday 2nd October**.

It will also be at the Highfield Club, with ample parking and not far from the town centre. Refreshments will be provided beforehand, with play starting at 2pm and finishing at 4pm.

A host will be available for anyone without a partner, and someone will also be there for advice, if needed. The cost will be £3 for a 12 board session, increasing to 18 boards when needed. Please note that to join our club, you also need to be a member of the Social Club. Payment will be free for the first month.

If interested and would like more details, contact the secretary on **07749 953125** or email **bridgebicester@gmail.com**.

**Give it a try; first month free.**

# 2025 SUMMER HORTICULTURAL SHOW

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Hayter Cup</b><br><b>Robson Cup</b><br><b>Wadham Cup</b><br><b>Walker Cup for Show Champion</b><br><b>Coronation Bowl</b><br><b>Gladys Stevens Memorial Cup</b><br><b>Scott Cup</b><br><b>Rose Lilley Memorial Trophy</b><br><b>Lee Cup</b><br><b>Rousham Cup</b><br><b>Doug Walton Trophy</b><br><b>Fothergills Cup</b> | G Clifton<br>Stan Nelson/Richard Preston<br>Daphne Preston<br>Daphne Preston<br>Victoria Clifton<br>Claire Coysh<br>Daphne Preston<br>Daphne Preston<br>Rachel Marsden<br>Richard Preston<br>Stephen Chessum<br>Daphne Preston | <b>George Alder Memorial</b><br><b>Beehive Cup</b><br><b>Lilley Cup</b><br><b>Jean Stone Trophy</b><br><b>Photography Cup</b><br><b>Senior Children's Cup</b><br><b>Junior Children's Cup</b><br><br><b>Under 8s Cup</b><br><br><b>Under 5s Cup</b><br><b>Children's Photography</b> | Daphne Preston<br>J. Whybrew/S Nelson<br>Daphne Preston<br>Jon Gascoyne<br>Jon Gascoyne<br>James Marden<br>Charlotte Purtell/James Monroe<br>Jacob Lewin/Rebecca Purtell<br>Edward Coysh<br>Isabella Reid |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>First</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Second</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Third</b>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4 tomatoes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Caroline Parsons                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Ann Moreland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Stephen Latchford                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5 pods of runner beans                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Rachel Marsden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Alan Brewer                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3 onions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Rachel Marsden                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3 carrots                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Penny Cummins                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3 salad vegetables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4 potatoes – coloured                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Alex Pasteur                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4 potatoes – white                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Penny Cummins                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3 beetroot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Caroline Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3 courgettes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Amy Austin                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Rachel Marsden                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 5 cherry tomatoes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | John Coley                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Joanna Everett                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Rachel Marsden                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 5 dwarf beans                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Alan Brewer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Collection of 4 vegetables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Rachel Marsden                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Best other vegetable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Penny Cummins                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3 dahlias                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | John Coley                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Caroline Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Penny Cummins                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3 stems of annuals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Victoria Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Cut mixed flowers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Stephen Latchford                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3 stems of roses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Caroline Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Rachel Marsden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5 tomatoes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5 pods of runner beans                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1 cabbage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3 carrots – short                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4 potatoes – coloured                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4 potatoes – white                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3 beetroot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Collection of 5 vegetables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4 onions – over 250 gms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4 onions – under 250 gms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Collection of salad vegetables                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| A cucumber                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 5 pods of dwarf beans                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| A lettuce                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5 cherry tomatoes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 2 peppers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2 sweetcorn                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 5 spring onions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2 leeks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2 parsnips                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 6 shallots – pickling                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 6 shallots – culinary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2 sticks of celery                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Best veg not otherwise specified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Catherine Purtell                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Collection of herbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mark Utting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 4 apples – culinary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Stuart Cummins                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Graham Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Julia Whybrew                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4 apples – dessert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Julia Whybrew                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Joanna Everett                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3 pears                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Harriet Higgins                                                                                                                                                                                                                | R Ganthony                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 5 plums                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Joanna Everett                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Richard Everett                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Dorothy Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Dish of blackberries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Rachel Marsden                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Helen Wright                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Dish of fresh fruit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Richard Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Julia Whybrew                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Bowl of mixed home-grown fruit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Stan Nelson                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mary White                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Joanna Everett                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3 dahlias – cactus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Caroline Parsons                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3 dahlias – decorative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | John Coley                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 5 dahlias – pom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | John Coley                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Stephen Chessum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3 stems of annuals                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Victoria Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Vase of mixed grasses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Caroline Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3 vases of garden flowers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Victoria Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Caroline Parsons                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Single gladioli spike                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | John Coley                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Cut mixed garden flowers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Caroline Parsons                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Charlie Utting                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3 single rose blooms                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Charlie Utting                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| A single bloom rose – unwired                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Chris Cooper                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Caroline Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Roses for scent                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Victoria Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Caroline Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Spray of floribunda roses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Caroline Edwards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5 perennials                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Daphne Preston                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Victoria Clifton                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                    |                    |                                |                    |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 stems Chrysanthemum              | Daphne Preston     |                                |                    |
| Clematis blooms floating in water  | Daphne Preston     |                                |                    |
| Pelargonium - pot plant            | Daphne Preston     | Marion Ganthony                |                    |
| Pot plant flowering                | Daphne Preston     | Stewart Tolhurst               |                    |
| Pot plant foliage                  | Barbara Brewer     | Alan Brewer                    | Barbara Brewer     |
| Pot plant succulent                | Daphne Preston     | Stewart Tolhurst               |                    |
| 5 Fuchsia flower heads             | Daphne Preston     | Rachel Marsden                 |                    |
| Arrangement from my garden         | Rebecca Lewin      | Daphne Preston                 |                    |
| Flower arrangement 'Paris'         | Daphne Preston     | Judith Pettersen               | Rebecca Lewin      |
| Arrangement 'remembrance'          | Judith Pettersen   | Rebecca Lewin                  | Daphne Preston     |
| Foliage arrangement                | Daphne Preston     | Judith Pettersen               | Rebecca Lewin      |
| Arrangement in Champagne glass     | Caroline Edwards   | Judith Pettersen               | Daphne Preston     |
| Arrangement for 5 blooms           | Daphne Preston     | Rebecca Lewin                  |                    |
| Buttonhole                         | Rebecca Lewin      | Judith Pettersen               | Daphne Preston     |
| Hand knitting/ Crochet animal      | Judith Lane        | Joanna Buckingham              | Diane Dale         |
| Handmade poppy                     | Joyce Bedding      | Claire Coysh                   | Diane Dale         |
| A wedding day card                 | Diane Dale         | Claire Coysh                   | Janet Coley        |
| Decorated photo frame              | Claire Coysh       | Diane Dale                     | Janet Coley        |
| Design our new logo                | Claire Coysh       | Joanna Everett                 | Carla Shayler      |
| A painting or drawing              | Mary McIntyre      | Ann Moreland                   | Sue King           |
| Piece of embroidery or tapestry    | Janet Coley        | S Darby                        | Claire Coysh       |
| Any other handicraft               | Charlotte Bartlett | Claire Coysh                   | Mary McIntyre      |
| Limerick                           | Claire Coysh       | Roy Lowe                       | Jay Diffey         |
| Photo: Panel of 4 'Trees'          | Amanda Gascoyne    | Ann Moreland                   | Janet Coley        |
| Photo: 'Reflections'               | Jon Gascoyne       | Janet Coley                    | Lucy Duncan        |
| Photo: 'Harmony'                   | Janet Coley        | Helen Lauder                   | Richard Everett    |
| Photo: 'Red'                       | Jon Gascoyne       | Daphne Preston                 | Claire Coysh       |
| Photo: 'Pondlife'                  | Jon Gascoyne       | Helen Lauder                   | John Coley         |
| Photo: 'Sculpture'                 | Jon Gascoyne       | John Coley                     | Rebecca Lewin      |
| Lemon curd                         | Victoria Clifton   | Lucy Duncan                    | Mary White         |
| Strawberry Jam                     | Victoria Clifton   | Sally Cooper                   | Julia Whybrew      |
| Other jam                          | Sally Cooper       | Stuart Cummins                 | Rachel Marsden     |
| Marmalade                          | Julia Whybrew      | John Coley                     | Janet Reid         |
| Pot of jelly                       | Fiona McLoone      | Stuart Cummins                 | Julia Whybrew      |
| Pot of chutney                     | Julia Whybrew      | Catherine Purtell              | Adrian White       |
| Plaited Loaf                       | Victoria Clifton   | John Coley                     | Alice Monroe       |
| Savoury flan                       | Alice Monroe       | Victoria Clifton               | Julia Whybrew      |
| 5 Savoury Straws                   | Clare Tunbridge    | Victoria Clifton               | Hattie Wright      |
| 3 Cinnamon buns                    | Victoria Clifton   | Clare Tunbridge                | John Coley         |
| French apple tart                  | Alice Monroe       | James Marsden                  | Victoria Clifton   |
| Victoria Sandwich                  | Alice Monroe       | Ben Wade-Martins               | Clare Tunbridge    |
| 3 Biscotti                         | Clare Tunbridge    | Alice Monroe                   | Julia Whybrew      |
| 5 Pieces of Fudge                  | Clare Tunbridge    | Rebecca McLoone                | Charlie Utting     |
| Carrot cake                        | Julia Whybrew      | Victoria Clifton               | Fiona McLoone      |
| Homemade cordial                   | Victoria Clifton   | Hattie Wright                  | Alan Brewer        |
| Home flavoured gin                 | Rebecca Lewin      | Stewart Tolhurst               | Victoria Clifton   |
| Dundee cake                        | Daphne Preston     | Victoria Clifton               | Andrew Marsden     |
| Under 5: Collage natural materials | Lily Trienekens    | Edward Coysh                   |                    |
| Under 5: A painting or Drawing     | Edward Coysh       | Lily Trienekens                | Ruby Trienekens    |
| Under 5: 3 decorated fairy cakes   | Joey Stokes        | Edward Coysh                   | Elodie Smith       |
| Age 5 – Lego creature              | Jacob Lewin        | Douglas Buckingham             | Ailsa Chesson      |
| Age 5–7Collage: natural materials  | Jacob Lewin        | Rebecca Purtell                | Douglas Buckingham |
| Age 5–7 Pizza Face                 | Rebecca Purtell    | Douglas Buckingham             | Jacob Lewin        |
| Age 5-7 Painting or drawing        | Clemmie Baggallay  | Rebecca Purtell                | James Smith        |
| Age 8–11 Collage: natural material | Charlotte Purtell  | James Monroe                   | Isobel Coysh       |
| Age 8 – 11 Lego train              | Charlotte Purtell  | James Monroe                   | Isobel Coysh       |
| Age 8-11 A painting or drawing     | Henry Monroe       | James Monroe/Charlotte Purtell | Lottie Baggallay   |
| Age 12 – 15 Painting or drawing    | James Marsden      |                                |                    |
| Age under 16 Design our logo       | Isobel Coysh       | Douglas Buckingham             | Edward Austin      |
| Junior photo 'Birds'               | Isobel Coysh       | Woody Wright                   | Ben Wade Martins   |
| Junior photo 'View through window' | Isobella Reid      | Woody Wright                   | Isobel Coysh       |
| Junior photo 'Green'               | Ben Wade Martins   | Isabella Reid                  | Ella Darby         |
| Largest sunflower head             | Richard Preston    |                                |                    |
| Heaviest pumpkin                   | Richard Preston    |                                |                    |
| Heaviest potato                    | Graham Clifton     |                                |                    |
| Most misshapen vegetable           | Rachel Marsden     |                                |                    |
| Longest Bean                       | Alan Brewer        |                                |                    |





*Steeple Aston Choral Society*

*Presents*

*A Joyful*

*Evening With Rossini*

*Petite Messe Solennelle*



*Paul Badley - Conductor*

*Susie Allan - pianist*

*Paul Herrington - Harmonium*

*Elizabeth Roberts - soprano*

*Clary Amelia Taylor - mezzo-soprano*

*James Atherton - tenor*

*Christopher Foster - bass*

**Steeple Aston Village Hall at 7 pm**

**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025**

**Tickets £12 (Children under 16 free)**

**from Margaret Bulleyment**

**(01869) 347346 or [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com)**

**Or the Village Shop**



# Oxford Bus Museum

## Hallowe'en and half term: Fun for all the Family Come and be scared!

On Sunday 26th and Wednesday 29th October, we shall be decorating the museum and buses, and laying on some surprises for our visitors. For children, there will be a 'Pumpkin Hunt' in the museum with prizes for those who find all of the dozen pumpkins (adults are also allowed to take part!) There will also be a display of live spooky owls brought to the museum by Alan Charlett, who runs Al's Owls. For a small extra charge, visitors will be allowed to hold the owls. We shall run regular bus rides from 11.30am. The buses will be dressed appropriately for Hallowe'en. On Wednesday 29th October we shall run an additional evening twilight bus ride. More details will be on our website nearer the date: [oxfordbusmuseum.org/](http://oxfordbusmuseum.org/)

Recently we had an unusual bus visiting. No, your editor has not reversed the photo! This 1953 AEC Regent, made in Southall with a Weymann body, was designed to have a left-hand drive as it was exported to Lisbon in October 1954, where it operated for the (then) British-owned Carris company. It remained in service with Carris for 29 years. It was one of 112 built between 1950 and 1957 for Carris. In 1966, extra seats were inserted: two on the lower deck and five on the upper deck. In 1983 it was withdrawn and made the long journey home through Portugal and across Spain to Santander, where it boarded a roll-on/roll-off ferry to Plymouth to undergo preservation in the UK. The bus visited our museum on 25th August, where running repairs were made to its injection pipes and an oil leak identified.

**Frank Collingwood**



**Steeple Talks 16<sup>th</sup> October**  
**In the Church – 7.15pm for 7.30pm**



# **Animal Magic**



## **Adventures in Costa Rica**

**(but without the funny voices.)**

**With John White**



**Refreshments from 7.15pm**  
**Donations are welcomed for church funds.**

**All Welcome**







The month of October is bookended by two festivals. We begin the month celebrating the harvest, giving thanks for all the wonderful gifts God has given us. October ends with Halloween, traditionally All Hallows eve, the night before we celebrate All Saints' Day, when we remember our loved ones who have died.

The harvests this year have been very mixed, with farmers' crops being hit by the lack of rain, whilst the hedgerows seem to have produced a bumper crop of plums and blackberries. Which leads me to thinking about the harvest we produce in our own lives. In August, 16 and 18 year olds received their exam results, and we could think of these as a harvest of their hard work over the previous two years. The world likes to prioritise these and sporting achievements as our harvest, yet few are so much more than results and accolades.

Personally, the greatest harvest we can produce is when we touch another person's life with love. The special personal anecdotes that we remember and share are like berries, juicy and sweet, giving bursts of flavour in our lives. The memories of laughing and crying together like rich fruit provide taste and texture.

Just as we celebrate the land's harvest with our harvest festival services, so we also annually celebrate the lives (harvest) of our loved ones with a special 'All Souls Service' at St Nicholas Church, Tackley on 2nd November @ 5:30pm. Everyone is very warmly invited to come and join us, lighting a candle as we remember and celebrate the harvest of their lives.

God Bless,

**Harriet**

# **SS Peter and Paul Church**

**invites everyone**

**5-7pm 31st October**

**for Hot Chocolate  
and refreshments**

**in**

**Steeple Aston  
Village Hall**



THE STEEPLE ASTON RECREATION TRUST AND VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT A

# **FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR**

## **WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2025**

### **ROBINSON'S CLOSE**

**Gate Open and Food from 6.00pm**

**Bonfire Lit 6.30pm**

**Fireworks Start at 7.00pm promptly**

Admission including food

|                        | Individual | Family |
|------------------------|------------|--------|
| In Advance             | £5.00      | £14.00 |
| On the Day (Cash Only) | £6.00      | £16.00 |

U16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Members of the Public must not bring sparklers, fireworks or laser pens of any description

Please do not bring alcohol



Advance tickets will be on sale from Monday 20th October from the Village Shop and Barbara Brewer (01869-340423). Advance sales will close at 3.00 pm on the 5th November.

Proceeds will be shared between the Recreation Trust and the Village Hall

# Local Information

## Church Services October 2025

| Date                                      | North Aston                     | Steeple Aston                    | Tackley                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>5<sup>th</sup> October</b>  | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion<br>BCP | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion<br>BCP | 5.30pm<br>Harvest Festival and<br>Auction                |
|                                           |                                 |                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>12<sup>th</sup> October</b> | 9.30am<br>Morning Prayer        | 11.00am<br>Family Worship        | 5.30pm<br>Holy Communion                                 |
|                                           |                                 |                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>19<sup>th</sup> October</b> | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion        | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion        | 5.30pm<br>Evensong                                       |
|                                           |                                 |                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>26<sup>th</sup> October</b> | 9.30am<br>Morning Prayer        | 11.00am<br>Morning Prayer        | 9.30am<br>Family Communion                               |
|                                           |                                 |                                  | <a href="http://www.sntchurch.com">www.sntchurch.com</a> |

Our church buildings are also open every day. Do feel free to visit at any time.

## BUS TIMES

### STAGECOACH S4 BUS SERVICE (timetable effective from 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025)

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

**Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays)**

0619 0721 0831 0931 then hourly to 1531 1645 1754 1849 1937 2037 2216  
0703 0817 0920 1020 1620 1737 1840 1932 2022 2122 2253

**Saturday**

0721 0821 0931 then hourly to 1531 1641 1746 1849 1937 2037 2216  
0809 0909 1019 1619 1729 1834 1932 2022 2122 2253

**Sunday (and most Public Holidays)**

0907 1037 1207 1337 1507 1637 1806  
0953 1123 1253 1423 1553 1723 1852

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

**Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays)**

0758 0910 1008 then hourly to 1508 1624 1732 1835 1933 2025 2113 2213 2341  
0837 0947 1045 1545 1703 1809 1909 2006 2055 2142 2242 0009

**Saturday**

0758 0908 1008 then hourly to 1508 1608 1718 1828 1927 2025 2113 2213 2341  
0737 0837 0945 1545 1645 1755 1905 1958 2053 2142 2242 0009

**Sunday (and most Public Holidays)**

0917 1044 1214 1344 1514 1644 1814 1944  
0956 1122 1252 1422 1552 1722 1852 2022

*Times subject to change. Before starting your journey, please check the timetables at: [Stagecoachbus.com/timetables](http://Stagecoachbus.com/timetables)*

### OURBUS BARTONS

OurBus Bartons offers services through Steeple Aston to and from Lower Heyford Station (Mon-Fri), to and from Chipping Norton (Wed), and to and from Bicester (Fri). See the website for details: [ourbusbartons-org-uk.stackstaging.com](http://ourbusbartons-org-uk.stackstaging.com)



# DR RADCLIFFE'S TRUST ANNUAL AWARDS

## TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

The Dr Radcliffe's Trust invites applications from young people who:

are 16 (post GCSE) - 25 years old

are studying at school, college, university or are in an apprenticeship

live in Steeple or Middle Aston, or attended Dr Radcliffe's School for a minimum of 2 years.

In the past awards have been made to help fund school or college field trips, tools or equipment for apprenticeships or vocational training, uniforms for trainees, specialist software and laptops, equipment for students at college or university, travel costs, and help with living expenses for those living away from home.

Awards are made based on the financial needs of the applicant, so family household income is considered, but there is no restriction as to family income; each case is considered individually. Young people can apply any year that they are eligible regardless of whether they have received an award in the past.

Applications for the awards must be made by 11<sup>th</sup> November. Any late applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. The scholarship committee then reviews the applications and aims to make awards during December.

To simplify the application process this year we are asking young people to apply electronically via a Google form. The link to this is given below as well as a QR code. The link can also be found on the Steeple Aston website and facebook page.

<https://forms.gle/ZkB8XSiXZtEv9fqz7>



If you need help with the application process or need more information then please contact me, Tina Ferguson. My email address is [tina.merlins@gmail.com](mailto:tina.merlins@gmail.com)

## 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 Aston and Middle Aston Rubbish bin collection day is THURSDAY.

#### October 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Blue and brown  
9<sup>th</sup> Green  
16<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
23<sup>rd</sup> Green  
30<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown



#### November 2025

6<sup>th</sup> Green  
13<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown  
20<sup>th</sup> Green  
27<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 November and December to [editorialife@gmail.com](mailto:editorialife@gmail.com)

| Month                       | Event                                                           | Venue           | Time                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>October</b>              |                                                                 |                 |                                        |
| Friday 10th October         | SAGS match                                                      | Olton Solihull  |                                        |
| Tuesday 14th October        | WI talk: Being a woman drone pilot                              | Village Hall    | 7.00pm                                 |
| Saturday 11th October       | Race Night                                                      | S & R Building  | 6.30 for 7.00pm                        |
| <b>Tuesday 14th October</b> | <b>SAL November copy &amp; advert deadlines</b>                 |                 |                                        |
| Wednesday 15th October      | Garden Club: Caroline Edwards Talk                              | Village Hall    | 7.00 for 7.30pm                        |
| Thursday 16th October       | Animal Magic - Costa Rica talk by John White                    | Church          | 7.15 for 7.30pm                        |
| Monday 20th October         | Parish Council meeting                                          | S & R Building  | 7.30pm                                 |
| Tuesday 21st October        | Valentines: Fish and Chips                                      | Village Hall    |                                        |
| Tuesday 21st October        | WI: North Ploughley Group: Willow Weaving with Lynn Humberstone | Village Hall    | 7.00pm                                 |
| Saturday 25th October       | Farmers' Market                                                 | Deddington      | 9.00am - 12.30pm                       |
| Mon 27th - Fri 31st October | Valentines holiday                                              | Studley Castle  |                                        |
| Tuesday 28th October        | WI: First Aid, CPR & Defibrillator training                     | Village Hall    | 7.00pm                                 |
| <b>November</b>             |                                                                 |                 |                                        |
| Tuesday 4th November        | Garden Club: Kiftsgate's Women Gardeners                        | Village Hall    | 7.00pm for 7.30pm                      |
| Wednesday 5th November      | Bonfire and fireworks evening                                   | Robinsons Close | 6.00pm gates open;<br>7.00pm fireworks |
| Sat 8th & Sun 9th November  | SAVA Exhibition: Wartime in Steeple Aston                       | Village Hall    | Afternoons                             |
| Tuesday 11th November       | WI: Block print card making                                     | Village Hall    | 7.00pm                                 |
| <b>Friday 14th November</b> | <b>SAL December copy &amp; advert deadlines</b>                 |                 |                                        |
| Monday 17th November        | Parish Council Meeting                                          | S & R Building  | 7.30pm                                 |
| Tuesday 18th November       | Valentines: Songs of the 60s & 70s                              | Village Hall    | 2.30pm                                 |
| Saturday 22nd November      | Farmers' Market                                                 | Deddington      | 9.00am - 12.30pm                       |
| Sunday 23rd November        | SACS Autumn Concert                                             | Church          | 7.00pm                                 |
| Friday 28th November        | Church quiz                                                     | Village Hall    | 7.00pm                                 |

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

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

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e-mail: [print@joshuahorgan.co.uk](mailto:print@joshuahorgan.co.uk)

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

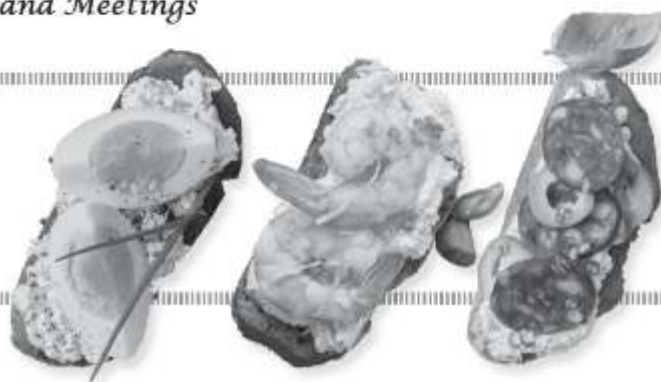
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## **ROSARA** at NICHOLSONS

Our purpose is to connect people with climate and nature through meaningful experiences. We place people, principles and planet before profit.

We invite you to explore our carefully curated Plant Centre and Rosara retail space featuring locally-grown, fresh cut flowers courtesy of The Chipping Norton Flower Farm. Enjoy generous hospitality from our Michelin-recommended Yurt restaurant and brand new Tiny Café.

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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