

Steeple Aston

November 2025

Issue No. 627

Life



HARRIS'S STORES & POST OFFICE

Opening hours:
7.30am - 7.30pm (Mon-Fri)
8.00am - 7.30pm (Sat)
8.00am - 6.00pm (Sun)

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

Fresh bread from Nash's Bakery.

Fresh meat and poultry.

Quality frozen fish and sea-food.

Organic free-range eggs.

Bread rolls and baguettes baked daily on the premises.

Cakes: a taste of home-made.

*Off-licence with a wide range of beers,
wines and spirits.*

Fresh fruit and vegetables.

Top-up for mobiles, gas and electric.

Fax and photocopying services.

Dry cleaning agent.

National Lottery tickets and much more.

Thank you all for your continued support.

*Please let us know of any ideas or suggestions of ways
in which we can extend our services to you.*

Tel: 01869 340201

e-mail: raj4878@hotmail.com

[COMPUTERPRO]

IT Support & Computer Repair



Repairs & Upgrades



Phone & Tablet



Wifi Issues & Installation



Online Security



Data Backup & Recovery



Onsite Support



Cloud Services



Remote Support



New & Refurb Machines



Recycling Service

Supporting Oxfordshire's homes & small businesses for over 20 years

01869 352002

hello@computer-pro.co.uk www.computer-pro.co.uk

Heyford Park Innovation Centre, 77 Heyford Park, OX25 5HD



BY LISA BOOTE

Reiki Master Practitioner and Teacher

(Accredited by CNHC and The Reiki Federation)

Balancing ~ Harmonising ~ Restorative

Reiki is a natural healing therapy, which helps with a variety of conditions:

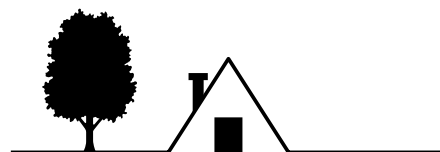
- ~ Alleviates stress and anxiety
- ~ Strengthens the immune system
- ~ Improves sleep
- ~ Increases energy
- ~ Relaxes the body and mind

Visit my Reiki room in Steeple Aston to discover how Reiki can help you.

Call on: **07879448674** or

Email: lisa.reiki@outlook.com

Find me on Instagram @reiki.lisaboote



Kirtlington Property Maintenance

Local and reliable home and garden improvements, maintenance and repairs

- Painting and decorating internal and external
- Household repairs
- Various jobs inside and out
- Garden maintenance
- Pressure washing
- Landscaping including fencing, gates, decking, turfing, patios, driveways, shed/base installation etc.

Competitive rates, fully insured and references available on request

No job is too small – please call Noel Price on 07884 185171 or 01869 351619 or email noelprice@btinternet.com

www.kirtlingtonpropertymaintenance.com

For domestic and commercial cleaning please call Jayne Price on 07795 055202



November 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

NOVEMBER FEATURES	PAGE	REPORTS FROM CLUBS & SOCIETIES	PAGE
Album review - Ray Lamontagne	35	Cricket News	31
Community Orchard - Apple harvest	7	Football Club	29
Emergency Village Plan	6	Garden Club	33
Going the extra mile	15	Golf News	29
Local Planning Developments	9	Valentine Club	21
Quiz Time	11	WI Report	17
Quiz Answers	41		
Winter Wildlife	15		

REGULAR FEATURES	PAGE	INFORMATION	PAGE
Blast from the Past	27	Bus Times	43
Church Matters	41	Calendar	46
Editorial	5	Church Services	43
Our Local MP	39	Directory	4
PC report	25	Noticeboard	6
Pet Pawtrait	7	Rubbish collections	45
Steeple People	19	Village Hall News	23

Contributions are welcome. Please email editorsalife@gmail.com

Cover: Halloween horrors, photo by Nigel Francis
L to R: Seren Grainger, Annabelle Jenkinson, Ottie Maclean

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

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

COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline for the December 2025 issue is
Friday 14th November

READ STEEPLE ASTON LIFE ONLINE

<https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine>

ADVERTISING

All adverts, and all advertising queries
(*availability, prices, dimensions, suitability of
illustrations, etc.*) to **Zazi Barrell**
salife.advertising@gmail.com

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The deadline for adverts for the December 2025 issue is
Friday 14th November.

ADVERTISING RATES

1/4 page - £10

1/2 page - £18

Full page (village events only) - £20.00

Steeple Aston *Directory*

Allotments (Church) SACAA		Amanda Rodgers	07793 553150
Angling Club		Antony Morley	tonyriver_83@hotmail.com
Archive (SAVA)	Chairman	Stuart Cummins	01869 349155
Badminton (Tuesday - am)		Barbara Brewer	01869 340423
Badminton (Thursday - eve)		Alison Moran	01869 347033
Beekeepers (Swarm collection, advice)		Paul Honigmann	340665, 07512 224700
Bell ringers		Graham & Dorothy Clifton	01869 347273
Baby and toddler group		Katy, Martha, Hilary and Lisa	steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com
Handbell ringers		Victoria Clifton	07817 025948
Brownies		Fiona McLoone	01869 340132
Catholic Church, St.Teresa's	Charlbury	Father Clive Dytor	07484 158642
Cherwell District Council	Castle Quay, Banbury		01295 227001
Cherwell District Councillor:	Deddington Ward	Cllr David Rogers	David.rogers@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Cllr	Deddington Ward	Cllr Gareth Epps	Gareth.epps@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Choral Society	Chair	Bev Davies	01869 347684
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector	Rev'd Harriet Orridge	01869 932224
	Churchwardens	Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton	340099 347273
Church (Methodist) - Tackley		Rev'd Paul Carter	01865 243216
	Steward	Tim Bailey	01869 331516
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	01869 347493
Crimestoppers			0800 555111
Deddington Guides		Maggie Rampley	07957 600755
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments	Patient Triage	01869 338611
	Repeat Prescriptions	Deddingtonhealthcentre.co.uk	
	Out of Hours		111
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Headteacher	Rob O'Malley	01869 340204
Football Club	Secretary	Stuart Baillie	07809 629666
Garden Club	Chairman	Richard Preston	01869 340512
Golf Society	Chairman	Alan Brewer	01869 340423
Horticultural Society	Show Secretary	Vicky Clifton	07817 025948
Parish Council	Clerk	Cathy Fleet	07989 398838
Police	24hr Call Centre	(non-emergency)	101
Post Office & Harris Stores		Raj	01869 340201
Pre-school			01869 340863
Public House	Red Lion		01869 389174
Robinson's Close	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Steeple Aston Walking Gp		Penny, Stuart, Sue, Graham	sawgox25@gmail.com
Toddler Group		Bryony Rowcliffe	steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com
Valentine Club		Richard & Daphne Preston	01869 340512
Village Hall (see Local Info)	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Village Emergency Telephone System			690691
Village Website	Editor	Jenny Bell-steepleaston.org.uk	01869 943573
Volunteer Driver Service (North Oxfordshire)		https://livewell.oxfordshire.gov.uk/services/2561	0300 303 0125
WI	President	Julie Hillier	01869 349185



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

Steeple Aston *Life*

November 2025
Issue No.627

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,
Jenny Taylor

Editorial

November's kaleidoscope of colour is reaching its full glory and what a spectacle it is this year, with the summer warmth bringing higher concentrations of sugar to the leaves, producing brilliant hues of russet, orange and gold. My recent towpath stroll of leaf peeping was further enhanced by the delightful presence of a heron fishing along the banks of the canal at Heyford. Yet more vibrant colour is promised when the much-anticipated poppy cascade is suspended from the church tower, as part of the remembrance commemorations. SAVA's exhibition that weekend will focus on Wartime in Steeple Aston, with a new book dedicated to those brave souls from our local community depicted on the village war memorial.

I never fail to be surprised by human endeavours to help others, and Tom Coker's Oxford half-marathon charity run whilst carrying a washing machine on his back is simply amazing. Well done, Tom, have a well-deserved rest!

Read all about the plans that are afoot for local developments, including housing, transport, warehouses, leisure complexes and a solar farm, all of which are likely to impact on our rural lanes, villages and transport systems, as well as the countryside, farming and natural environments. The onward march of development is somewhat alarming in pace, and the need to preserve our precious pockets of peace and tranquillity was never more pressing. Talking of plans, the Village Emergency Plan has now been updated by the Parish Council with further details in this issue. Enjoy those spectacular autumnal colours before the onset of winter!

Carol

*Heron fishing along the Oxford canal at Heyford.
Photo by Carol Neville*



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Steeple Aston Remembers

Join us for an Act of Remembrance on 11th November by the Poppy Cascade on the north side of the church tower (weather permitting) or in the church at 10.50 am, followed by tea/coffee and cakes at the Sports & Rec for all those who shared in creating the Cascade.

A cascade of poppies



Hildy Frenken sewing the last poppies onto the cascade.

Photo by Nigel Francis.

By the time you read this, you will not be able to ignore the proliferation of poppies which are adorning the village as we remember the fallen of both World Wars, and indeed the victims of too many conflicts.

Eighty years ago, the Peace Treaty which ended the Second World War was signed. Hildy's suggestion that we try to create a cascade of poppies to suspend from the top of the Church Tower in remembrance, became an extraordinary village project. We appealed for 3,000 poppies to be made – we received nearly 6,000, and you will have seen the result.

We are enormously grateful to everyone who has been involved and has given their support in any way at all. It's lovely that there are far too many people to mention, but we do want to record special thanks to Graham Clifton who dealt patiently with all the logistics, and Julia Whybrew who generously allowed part of her home to be dedicated to the army of stitchers creating the completed cascade for several months.

We hope you agree that, together, we have created a fitting tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of previous generations.

Eileen, Merrill, Kay and Hildy

Be Winter Ready – Introducing Our Village Emergency Plan

As the colder months settle in and winter weather begins to make its presence felt, it's the perfect time to remind everyone about our Village Emergency Plan - a community initiative designed with Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Planning Team, to help us stay safe, connected, and resilient during challenging times. The plan sets out how our village can respond to local emergencies such as flooding or power cuts. It identifies key volunteers and local contacts who can help co-ordinate support, check on vulnerable residents, and share important information if normal communication channels are disrupted.

While the emergency services remain at the heart of any major response, our local knowledge can make a real difference before help arrives. Be prepared and take simple steps like keeping a torch, batteries, warm blankets, and essential medicines at home to keep you safe and comfortable during severe weather. Can we advise any individuals deemed 'vulnerable' to contact SSE in person, to ensure they'll be treated as a priority during any electrical power cut. We also encourage everyone to look out for neighbours - particularly the elderly, those living alone, or anyone who may need extra support. A quick mobile phone call (as landlines are likely to be out in a power cut), or doorstep check, can make all the difference. You can find the full Village Emergency Plan and contact details for local support, on the village website.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact the Parish Clerk:
parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com, 07989 398 838.

Pet Pawtrait - Freya

What is your name?

Freya – named after a Norse goddess apparently.

What breed are you?

Hungarian Vizsla, with a super shiny coat of russet gold.

How old are you?

I was born on 3rd July 2025, and arrived in Steeple at the start of September. I started meeting other doggie friends and humans at the start of October after my vaccinations.

Do you have a nickname?

Pumpkin.

Professional interests?

Currently specialising in digging up flowerbeds when my humans (Greg and Emily) are looking the other way. And keeping them awake at night, obviously!

If I ruled the world for a day:

In an ideal world, my snuggles and cuddles blanket would be on the sofa ALL the time, not just when my humans decided it was acceptable.

Local recommendation/s:

I can strongly recommend the warm spot near the log burner in The Red Lion pub. My Mum and Dad seem to like that table too, and I expect to be there a lot over the autumn and winter.



Apple Bonanza!

The Steeple Aston Community Orchard volunteers have been hard at work, collecting apples to make this year's 'Tiddly Pomms' Apple Juice.

Thank you to all the generous villagers who allowed us to harvest their apples, and thank you to all those who helped pick and gather the fruit, which helps prevent food waste and produce this lovely organic beverage.

It is, as usual, available to buy in our village shop and occasional pop-ups throughout the year, but if you need some for a special Christmas gift, then get in contact with the orchard team Nigel: 07836261532, Kay: 07725554296, or Annie: 07740290291.

We always welcome new volunteers to join us to keep the orchard a special place to use and visit in our village.



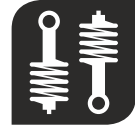
FOR ALL YOUR VEHICLE NEEDS



SERVICING



MOT



SUSPENSION



CLUTCHES



EXHAUSTS



TYRES

PLUS all our work is covered by our 12 month guarantee*

*Covers parts & labour. Ask for more details in branch.

01869 347 770 | WWW.PTAGARAGES.CO.UK
HOPCROFTS HOLT, STEEPLE ASTON, BICESTER, OXFORDSHIRE OX25 5QQ

NORTH ASTON FARMS & DAIRY

Organic, pasture-fed meat, ice cream & more - on your doorstep!

<i>Order online</i>	<i>Visit our shop</i>	<i>Join a milk round</i>
Fresh beef boxes plus individual cuts of beef, lamb and rose veal, ice cream & more! Free delivery within 15 miles (on orders over £40) or collection from the farm	Open 7 days a week 8am - 7pm - Fruit & veg - - Meat & dairy - - Cupboard essentials - Find us at: <i>The Old Bakehouse, North Aston, OX25 6HX</i>	Twice-weekly deliveries Monthly invoice Reusable glassware Delivery before 7.30am Milk, yoghurt & cream plus extras including bread, butter, eggs, juice, meat & ice cream

Find out more at www.northastonfarms.co.uk

Unprecedented development threats to our locality

The number and scale of development projects currently being proposed in our area includes the following: two large warehouse schemes at Baynards Green (one approved); Puy du Fou at Bucknell (to be decided); Great Wolf leisure complex at Chesterton (approved but stalled); Heyford Park 'New Town' including its southwards extension (to be decided); Oxfordshire Strategic Railfreight Interchange (SRFI) near Ardley (to be decided by Ministers), and more housing around Heyford Park near Caulcott. We also have 'Himley Village' close to Middleton Stoney (approved and slowly being built), and Botley West Solar Farm extending to near Tackley (another Ministerial decision).

The proposed expansion of Heyford Park to over six times its present size to become a 'New Town' of 13,000 homes will be decided next Spring by Ministers, overriding any local decision by Cherwell on the Dorchester Group's current application for a mere 9,000 more homes. The proposed SRFI at Ardley will generate huge numbers of heavy goods vehicle movements from its vast warehouses.

Although Steeple Aston is less directly affected than other parishes, we will certainly feel the effects of these schemes if they go ahead. Although each of the projects is alarming in its own right, the real concern is the cumulative impact of all of them together on our patch of treasured countryside. The biggest worries relate to traffic and transport issues, and their impact on our rural lanes and their junctions, traffic volumes through villages, and the impact on the public transport system (such as it is), with thousands of new residents, employees, and the services they require, all moving in and out of the area each day. The loss of countryside, farming land and the impact on the natural environment, wildlife, air quality and so forth, are also of major concern.

Some of the projects are to be decided by Government Ministers, over the heads of the local planning authority, Cherwell District Council. Most of the local parish councils and parish meetings are expressing their opposition to these schemes, and some are also focussed on the measures needed to mitigate the developments, perhaps grimly assuming an inevitable outcome of approvals for most or all of the schemes. Revamping Junction 10 on the M40, traffic-calming, enforcement of HGV routing agreements, requiring community benefits to be delivered early – these are all aspects of mitigation, after the stable door has been slammed shut.

Something is needed to help decision-makers to look at the bigger picture. Oxfordshire County Council is producing a local 'Movement and Place Plan' for Bicester West and Mid-Cherwell, as part of the County's strategic transport planning function. This is apparently to be done at pace, with local consultation on it starting next month. It will form a new part of the County Council's existing Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, and will be intended to show how all this development (and the impacts it will generate) can function effectively. While, of course, this is better than not having such a plan, it will probably be too late to have a great deal of effect on the scale or nature of the proposals.

Most politicians seem to accept that more growth is a good thing, and that their role as decision-makers is to react to the market place in a cautiously positive way. Not everyone would agree. The need for these huge projects must be questioned, and a proper balance found with the modest growth of rural communities, while avoiding these large-scale developments and the confusion they will bring. Email our District Councillor, County Councillor and our MP and tell them what you think:

david.rogers@cherwell-dc.gov.uk; gareth.epps@oxfordshire.gov.uk; sean.woodcock.mp@parliament.uk

Martin Lipson - Chair, Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum

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 CASH ONLY	£5.00	£14.00
On the Day	£6.00	£16.00

Cash or card on the gate

Thanks to our Sponsors:

Lakeside Farm Business Park

Middle Aston Ltd



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

Quiz Time - How much do you know?

- 1) Who was the first official Poet Laureate?
- 2) What is unusual about the etymology of the word 'television'?
- 3) What is the medical name for the condition of grinding or clenching your teeth, often when sleeping?
- 4) By what name was Richard Wayne Penniman better known?
- 5) What scam did 'Count' Victor Lustig pull off in 1925?
- 6) In what year was the last person in the UK prosecuted and imprisoned for witchcraft?
- 7) What is *turbary*?
- 8) Who wrote the music to Rule Britannia?
- 9) Which England cricketer was the first to score a century on his Test debut?
- 10) Who wrote *Blood Meridian*?

Quizmaster

(Answers on page 41)

Bay Tree Willow

WILLOW WEAVING WORKSHOP

Join me, Jo Entwistle, to weave your very own round willow basket.

You will learn how to make a base, stake up and weave the sides, then finish with a border and handle.

This workshop is suitable for beginners but please note that a certain amount of hand strength and dexterity is required.

Friday 28th November
9.30am - 4.30pm
Steeple Aston Village Hall

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea/Coffee/Biscuits will be provided throughout the day.

To reserve your place,
please book online
www.baytreewillow.com





FAMILY BUSINESS

As your nest egg, we understand that your property is one of your most precious assets. It makes sense to leave it with an estate agent who will handle it with the utmost care. Simply give us a call:

01869 343 600
cridlands.co.uk



Selling or Letting Your Home?

The traditional estate agency model is broken causing communication breakdowns, inefficiencies & a lack of personal attention.

At AR Property Partners, we've revolutionised UK real estate with a one-on-one model that removes departmental barriers.

You Deserve *Better!*

- ✓ Seamless, personalised service
- ✓ Expert guidance from start to finish
- ✓ Better outcomes for sellers & landlords

If you're thinking of selling or need top-tier letting agents, let's talk.
Experience a smarter way to move.



ALISTAIR REDHOUSE
PROPERTY PARTNERS

We Care More!



01865 364541



Hello@ARPropertyPartners.co.uk



www.ARPropertyPartners.co.uk

Merry Christmas



Wartime in Steeple Aston



Exhibition

Saturday 8th 2.00 - 6.00pm, Sunday 9th
November 2025 12.00 - 4.00pm

Steeple Aston Village Hall, Fir Lane

FREE ENTRY



sava

STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE ARCHIVE

Candy Groom

Local Dog Groomer located
in Steeple Aston

Professional grooming for your dogs
Our work is a labour of love

All services carried out;
Quiet home salon
One2One services
Clipping
Hand scissoring
Puppy Pamper Package
Fully insured

Contact Jodie for your appointment
WhatsApp / MMS - 07944397861
www.candygroom@gmail.com



For further info, please use the QR code



SATURDAY
15TH NOVEMBER
AT 7.30 PM

IN AID OF
DUNS TEW
CHURCH



Live MUSIC

PERFORMED BY THE AMAZING
GOSPEL BELL

IN DUNS TEW VILLAGE HALL
TICKETS £12 under 16s free
CONTACT: Claire Burgess
07809 881 596
dunstewpcc@gmail.com
BAR AVAILABLE

THE

ATRIUM

WELLNESS AND SKIN HEALTH SPA

BEAUTY & MASSAGE TREATMENTS SKIN TREATMENTS PRACTITIONER ROOM HIRE EVENTS



 the_atriumwellnessco
the-atrium-wellness.co.uk
info@the-atrium-wellness.co.uk
01869 843143



THE HATCHERY
MIDDLE ASTON
OX25 5QL

Going the extra mile!

To all my incredible sponsors (many of whom are anonymous to me), I wanted to send a massive, heart-felt THANK YOU for your unbelievable support and generosity!

Running the Oxford half with my faithful washing machine again was pretty uncomfortable and I am only today able to climb stairs without wincing! I made it around the 13.1-mile course in two hours and 59 minutes, and I am enormously grateful to everyone who supported me in the lead up to, on, and since the day. That support meant a huge amount, so thank you.

The day of the race was chilly and overcast, but funnily enough carrying 60lbs of white goods tends to keep one warm (even when not on a cold cycle). The team of four of us (running in honour of the late Martin Realey), had a super response from the crowd all through Oxford, Summertown, and out to Marston (and back). The new route wasn't quite as fun as previous years, but the atmosphere amongst the runners was still super. The bands, pipes and drums, DJs, drummers various, choirs, and other musical acts all added to the event, although I must admit I was rather grateful to get into the final mile or so through the park!



Because of the kindness of SAL readers, friends, and family, I have exceeded my fundraising target and raised over £3,200 for SSNAP – Support to Sick Newborns and their Parents (the JR's neo-natal charity). This money will make a huge difference, and can be used to buy specialist equipment for the unit as well as providing both practical and emotional support to parents during some incredibly difficult times. Thank you so much for helping them in the work that they do.

If anyone still wishes to donate the link is still live here:
justgiving.com/page/oxfordwashingmachineman

The Oxford Mail had a rather super little shot of the team of us (halfway down the page):
oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25536395.oxford-half-marathon-live-updates-race/

I've been told by my wife that this is the last year I am allowed to do this, but then, no-one would give money to a man carrying a toaster...

Tom Coker

November Wildlife

Bees in Winter: Heading into the cold winter months, we need to be even more considerate to our local bees than usual. In winter, honeybee queens remain in their hives with the exception of particularly sunny days. Bumblebee queens may also emerge from hibernation if prompted by mild weather. Solitary bees will leave their nests once ready to mate. When bees emerge during winter, they need access to nectar, or they risk dying of starvation. In order to help these pollinators survive the winter, we recommend you plant winter bloomers in your garden. These include single flowered Hellebores (the open face gives great access to pollen and nectar!), Crocuses (make sure to plant them in an area with lots of light so they fully open), Snowdrops and Aconites. Ivy also works well as a late nectar source, as well as shelter from any harsh conditions. If gardening isn't your thing, you can make natural spaces bee friendly by creating twig and leaf piles (which can be as easy as not raking your garden when fallen leaves drop!) and caring for wayward queen bumblebees by either carefully relocating them to flowers or offering her a 1:1 sugar and water solution.

Tips for looking after our hedgehogs this winter

Always move your burn piles before you light them, as hedgehogs and frogs often use them to sleep in. This is, after-all, how hedgehogs were once upon a time cooked to be eaten! Thankfully it is now illegal to eat this endangered species.

If you find a sick or injured hedgehog, or one that's up and about during the middle of the day, call either Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue centre on [07549322464](tel:07549322464) or Tigglywinkle's wildlife hospital on [01844 292292](tel:01844292292).

Leave some areas untouched! Messy log piles, long grass and fallen leaves are great for hibernating hedgehogs. Please leave a wild area in your garden so hedgehogs can hibernate in peace - cosy and safe.

Put out a shallow dish of water or make sure your ponds are easy to get out of for hedgehogs, so they have water to drink. Sometimes hedgehogs come out of hibernation to eat and drink, especially in warmer weather, so even at this time of year, putting out water can help.

Avoid using pesticides or herbicides as this will make hedgehogs very ill.

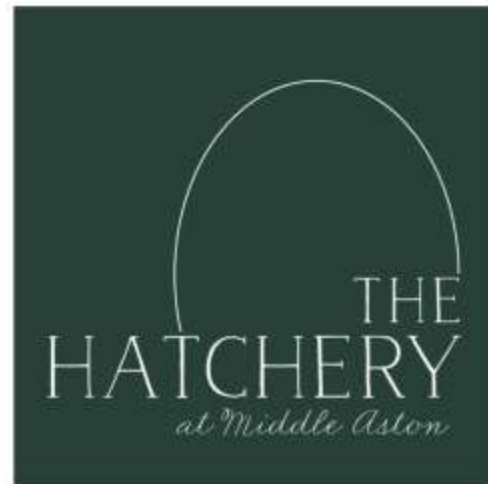
Find out more at hedgehogrescue.org.uk



Rhiannon Young – Wild Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Engagement Officer wildoxfordshire.org.uk/

The Grain Store Café
 The Atrium Wellness Spa
 Reformer Pilates
 Bulb Hair Salon
 Lisa Jayne Art Studio
 BEAT Fitness Gym
 Egg Box Self Storage
 Body Performance Therapy
 Middle Aston Pet Supplies
 Flora & Fauna - Florist
 Polly Pincott -Portrait Artist

www.thehatchery.uk



Spaces for hire!

Get to know our fabulous facilities

Deddington Studio

Ideal for dance and yoga classes

Clifton Room

Brilliant meeting space with AV

The Lookout

Kids' parties next to Adventure Playground
or hire our **All Weather Court**

Main Hall

Perfect for parties and performances

Hempton Lounge

Great for clubs, accessible

t: 07720 834006

www.thewindmillededdington.org

Puppy Classes

Teach your puppy to walk on a loose lead,
wait, sit, down, come and much more!

Have a sociable and well-trained dog

Puppy play & socialisation.
It's fun & easy for all the family!

Classes held in Deddington



Book online at
www.canine-paradise.com

Wow, what a busy month this is for the WI, with so many different events to join in with.

- The poppy cascade has been completed. This has been an enormous effort from the whole village. Over 6,000 poppies were made and every poppy will be used, either on the cascade, decorations for the doors and interior of the church or for the war memorial. BBC local news is coming to film the cascade being hauled up on the 1st of November. There will be a short service led by Harriet Orridge by the cascade at 10.50am on the 11th November, followed by tea, coffee and cake in the Sport and Rec building. On Remembrance Sunday, there will be a service in church, followed by the walk to the war memorial and laying of wreaths.
- Walking netball is going well. More players are always welcome.
- A big group are going to see 'Emma' at the Oxford Playhouse, followed by a meal out.
- CPR and defibrillator training is taking place in the village hall on Tuesday 28th October. This will be free to WI members as part of the WI 'Bystanders save lives' campaign. If there are spare places, these will be offered at a small cost.
- North Ploughley Group meeting was held in Steeple Aston on October 21st. We are hosting other WI groups. Lynn Humberstone will be leading a craft session on willow weaving.
- Hildy thanked everyone for the massive response for Christmas gifts to go to the injured in hospitals in Ukraine. She now has the unenviable job of packaging it all up.

On to the speaker for the evening, Janine Kilroe talked about being a drone pilot. Her background was in photography, but as drone cameras improved, she decided to capture the world from a different angle. She took a week of training to get a drone pilot licence. There are many regulations around the use of drones, for example, the height at which a drone is allowed to fly and that it must be in eye view at all times. Janine showed us beautiful still photographs taken from the drone, some of which have been exhibited nationally, as well as some stunning video sequences that she sets to music to really capture the feel of a place. Janine's work has also been used by farmers, as she is able to set her drone to take multiple pictures, travelling in straight lines across farmland. The data is fed into software to provide accurate mapping and acreage of fields, and has been used to help farmers get compensation when their fields have been purchased for use for HS2. Similar technology can distinguish weeds from an arable crop, when spraying a field with herbicide. This saves money on chemicals, is better for the environment and for the food we eat. A very fascinating talk.

Tina Ferguson



Drone flying over a rapeseed field. Photo by Janine Kilroe.

Deddington Health Centre – road closure

Earls Lane will be partially closed from 20th October (likely until January 2026) for Water Mains work. Please ensure you allow adequate time to accommodate possible delays when attending appointments. Further information on website: deddingtonhealthcentre.co.uk

BEAT

FITNESS CO.

Invest in your physical and mental health with a membership at BEAT Fitness and discover Oxfordshire's premier fitness destination.

Offering a transformative personal training programme in a state-of-the-art facility, we can guarantee you results if you are ready to make a positive change in your life



Take your first step

Book your consultation

call on 07362376573

or email

info@beatfitness.co.uk

Unit 5

The Hatchery

Middle Aston

BEAT

FITNESS CO.

Ease

MASSAGE
THERAPIES

Rebalance, Restore, Relax

Tranquil room in Aynho offering a range of massage treatments:

- Relaxing massage
- Deep tissue massage
- Sports massage
- Pregnancy massage
- Indian head massage

Call Jo on **07751 684693** or email
jo@easemassagetherapies.co.uk

www.easemassagetherapies.co.uk

BACK PAIN, SPORTS INJURY & HEADACHE CLINIC

Especially for long term pain and problems

Hector Wells Bsc (Hons).DO.

Laura Humphries Osteopath

Both University Clinical Osteopathic Tutors for over 15 years

Back, Neck, Sciatica, Frozen Shoulder

Knees and Hips, Pregnancy Backs

Baby Sleep/Colic Clinic

Recurrent Headaches, Migraine

Mental Wellbeing Clinic (also postnatal)

To avoid disrobing please wear leggings/joggers and T-shirt

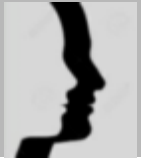
Appointments (01295) 265267

Email: hector@the54clinic.com

www.the54clinic.com

54 Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9JR





Kate Symondson

Where did you move from, and what brought you here? My (long-time local) partner, Will, set his dating app location to London, and in doing so, drew me to the calm of Middle Aston where I now spend the lion's share of the week.

What do you like best about living here? Feeling connected with the land and the seasons, being reminded of nature's rhythm, and doing the FT's half-and-half crossword with my partner in front of a roaring fire.

A potted history of yourself in 40 words or less: Carefree child turned lonely boarding schooler; finding belonging in books and folk at university; academic of literature; chaotic freelancer across several jobs of my own making (thanks, austerity!); co-creator of family foundation and passionate advocate for disrupting inequitable funding practices.

How do others see you in five words? Principled, silly, intellectual, loving, curious (according to Will).

How would you describe yourself in five words? Curious, passionate, independent, imaginative, playful.

What do others find most annoying/endearing about you? My unbridled bouts of zeal?!

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? A 'burn the candle at both ends' person (regrettably). Dog (with the handy excuse of having a cat allergy).

Town or countryside? Gym or ramble? I am drawn to the countryside, but I would miss the bustle and brilliance of the city. I am very lucky to be able to enjoy rambling in both.

Optimist or pessimist? Fast-paced or relaxed? Optimist with heady doses of worry; fast-paced with dreams of becoming relaxed.

Technology – friend or foe? Facilitator; no rival to the possibilities of pen, paper, and imagination.

What was the best thing about your childhood? The freedom to roam, play, create, and adventure on my family's farm in Lancashire.

What did you want to be when you grew up? A Marine Biologist, specialising either in sharks or the deep ocean.

What was your first job? And your current job? My first job was when I was 10 – a back breaking couple of days 'rogueing' cereal crops (weeding fields). I now run a grant-making charity focussing on funding organisations working to overcome issues of inequity in the UK.

What's your guilty pleasure? I switch off with brain-numbing reality shows like Below Deck and Come Dine with Me; an activity I try and fail to dress-up as anthropological research.

What food do you most enjoy eating? A good quality, rare cheeseburger.

If you could ban one thing, what would it be? Spitting in the street; London's streets are alive with people's effluence.

What makes you feel grumpy/angry? Faffers.

What makes you happiest in the world? Being in water, especially with a snorkel in clear, creature-filled reefs.

What is your favourite saying or piece of advice? In my line of work one mantra in particular serves me well: "fall in love with the problem, not the solution".





Everyone is welcome in the salon — ladies and gents, and children from the young to teenagers

We want you to relax, laugh and have fun whilst being looked after and getting a great service at the same time

Visit our website to see all our services

And come to visit us for a warm, friendly experience with qualified hair stylists

The Holcombe Studio
High Street, Deddington OX15 0SL

Telephone: 01869 226522

Email: polkadotsuk@gmail.com

SN Beauty Studio 
now open upstairs!
lots of lovely beauty treatments available
call the salon, book online or Email
sineaddoyle70@yahoo.co.uk

JLDA building design

- ✓ Feasibility & Costings
- ✓ Planning Applications
- ✓ Building Regulations
- ✓ Construction Drawings
- ✓ New Builds & Extensions
- ✓ Loft & Garage Conversions
- ✓ Internal Alterations

"JLDA has done 3 designs for us. The first one has transformed our lives. The work was of the highest quality and the level of service excellent." ★★★★★

Call now for a
Free Consultation: 01869 349825

Email: design@jlida.co.uk

Visit: www.jlida.co.uk

Helping You Create a Better Home

Free Informal Valuation Mornings



A Louis XV style console table
Sold for £3,800

Mallams

Tuesday mornings
9am to 1pm

Free valuations for items you are considering selling at auction in all our branches.

No appointment necessary.

For more information visit
www.mallams.co.uk

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS
SINCE 1788



THE VALENTINE CLUB

Bonfire night is just around the corner, Christmas is not far away and then it is 2026. I remember all the concern (fuss) about the arrival of the new millennium. What happened to 2025, I ask, and the last 25 years?

Anyhow, I am supposed to be keeping you up to speed with The Valentine Club and how us overgrown teenagers are coping. Our monthly meeting in October came with the treat of fish and chips, thanks to Mark Davison, and homemade puddings provided by our own members, with cream I should add. What's not to like? This was followed by a few games of bingo and some prizes which, well, I don't want to make you all envious, so I am not going to tell you what they were, or you will all want to be 65 and join the club.

By time you read this, 52 of us will have just returned from Studley Castle in Warwickshire, where we enjoyed five days of each other's company, some great food, superb accommodation and West End style entertainment. More of that next month.

We welcome back to the club for our November meeting, what must be one of the best vocalists around. Neil, who came to us about three years ago, actually asked to come back as he thought our group was so amazing. Not sure who paid him to say that, but considering he has a round journey of about 150 miles, I guess there might be an element of truth in the story. His renditions of anything by Matt Monro must be heard to be believed!

Talking of holidays, as I am sure many of you are thinking of next year and where to go, we have arranged and secured three breaks for 2026. South Somerset first, The Isle of Wight next and finally, a return to Norfolk and Thursford Christmas Show towards the end of the year.

Sometimes you will hear people say, leave the best news to last and so here we go! About a month ago, we received a grant from Bicester Village for £1,000 which is amazing, as it enables us to do so much more, make trips more affordable and bring in the best possible speakers and entertainers. Only a couple of weeks ago, we received some more good news when we were awarded £3,000 from OCVA's Connected Community Fund. This makes an enormous difference to what we can do. Coach hire is around £850 per trip, and we arrange six trips a year. Good speakers and entertainers are not cheap but then, you get what you pay for. We are so indebted to the support of these amazing organisations and without their support, the club would not be in such a wonderful state of health. Thank you to all!

Our waiting list is still around 30 as we can only safely accommodate up to 100 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', 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

Steeple Aston Online

News, information, pictures, local directory, weather forecast,
noticeboard and much more...

Your village. Your website. Visit today!

www.steepleaston.org.uk

Gas Heating & Service

Specialise in:

**Commercial and Domestic
Boiler Service, Maintenance
and Repair**

**Boiler/Warm air/Water
heater/Gas proving**



For a free and friendly quote contact:
Joe McEneaney

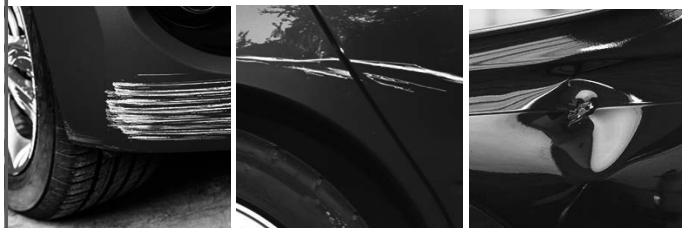
Mobile: 07808 608 970

Email: ghsoxford@gmail.com

Gas Safe No: 532113

**Vehicle damaged?
Don't delay, repair it today**

» Bumper Scuffs? » Paint Scratches? » Minor Dents?



“Very impressed with the overall service. Great job on the paintwork repair. Awesome customer service.”

Call or go online today for your FREE estimate



ChipsAway

LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED



0800 028 7878

www.chipsaway.co.uk


DAVID
— cuts hair —

**MOBILE HAIRDRESSING IN THE COMFORT
& SAFETY OF YOUR OWN HOME**



Friendly, mobile hairdressing service
for the Cherwell district.



All equipment fully sanitized before
every appointment for your protection.



Fully insured and DBS checked.



30 years hair cutting experience.

call DAVID on 07775 806655 or 01869 346910

david@cutshair.co.uk • www.davidcutshair.com



Wednesday 5th November 'Fireworks spectacular'

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



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 or card on the gate. 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 or card on the gate. 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 at 6.00pm: 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. Santa hats encouraged.

Steeple Aston Village Hall 2026 Calendar



SELLING FAST. For details please contact John Coley to purchase one growlpaine35@gmail.com. Only £10 each.

Sunday 21st December: Opera Anywhere - Steeple Aston Village Hall, 3.00pm start

This is a travelling theatre company who have put on many highly popular performances at the hall in the past. Booking is via their website: operaanywhere.com/

Saturday 17th January 2026: Annual Quiz Night. Please book your teams with Barbara Brewer (01869 340423) early to avoid disappointment. More details in December SAL.

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

Annual Church Quiz Night

Friday 28th November



7pm for prompt 7.30pm start

Light supper included. Bar – CASH ONLY.

RAFFLE

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



The meeting started with some public participation as a gentleman came to express his concern about the raised pavement 'getting battered' by large vehicles on the junction of North Side/ Fenway/Water Lane. Apparently, Simon, our lovely postman, has even taken a tumble on these loose slabs, which made us all gasp - "clearly something has to be done" - but what? Councillors discussed bollards, signage and lines...

OCC Cllr Gareth Epps gave us his report and thanked members for going along to his 'round table' and participating in the discussion on planning issues – Heyford Park, Ardley Rail Freight Depot and Puy de Fou (historical 'theme park') in Bucknell – all currently on the table. He believes it's important to look at the cumulative effect of these applications, and says feel free to contact him at the County Council and make your feelings known!

I took the opportunity to grab Cllr Epps and quiz him on the new ('temporary') congestion charge being implemented in Oxford – he told me that we were in the zone which could apply for 25 free permits into the city centre (I'll get Mr Miggins on the hotline), although I was assured that it's only really Westgate that we'll now struggle to get to by car. Gareth recommended more useful info here:

oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars/map-locations.

The Chair thanked all those who helped lay down bark in our newly renovated play area. However, apparently, we need even more bark. I got the feeling that everyone felt quite warm and fuzzy at the thought of how popular our lovely playground is (our bark volunteers came from outside the village), and a few councillors seemed to sit up and take notice when someone mentioned our popularity was partly down to 'influencer mums'! I suggested it was probably the fact we have a toilet, and someone else said the proximity of the school helped. Good news on the drains too! HART (Highways Asset Response Team) have scheduled a 'deep clean' on Water Lane and a wider village clean in due course as well. The MCNP Forum was well attended and we heard how these 11 parishes working together is 'impressive' and, with all this planning nonsense on-going, I daresay pretty important too!

There was some discussion on Village Hall maintenance, including size of bushes, which in some cases are getting out of control. The PC decided to take on a freelance gardener to keep things in trim. We are also getting some building surveys done – apparently drones are used to assess the condition of roofs these days. And we have a 'very busy' wasps' nest to contend with as well. A brief update on the overgrown house on Paines Hill – I got a bit confused when some Latin was read out in one email, but suffice to say 'the owner is in contact with us', which if you ask me, is a step in the right direction.

The next two and half pages of my sizeable notepad were taken up with a discussion on the multitude of developments proposed in our area. Will Steeple Aston be considered "too out of the way" for any Section106 money? What will the impact be on congestion and traffic in the area? If there are another 25,000 residents and six new schools in Heyford Park (as proposed), will we see a decline in numbers at Dr Radcliffe's? Do we have enough electricity and water for these new dwellings? Deddington Health Centre "will be mullered" by these numbers and so on. Cllr David Rogers (CDC) is attending a very important sounding meeting in London where he will ask Steve Reed (Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Govt) about it all. While our PC will have a separate Planning Committee meeting to discuss further – I encourage you to find out more and make your feelings known!

That's all I have room for – until the next meeting (17th November).

Mrs Miggins

EGG BOX

Secure Self Storage in Oxfordshire

Affordable | Flexible | Local & Easy

eggboxstorage.com

The Hatchery, Middle Aston OX25 5QL



WYCHWOOD ART
GALLERY

CONTEMPORARY
ART GALLERY

Located in
Deddington

Offering carefully
selected art and free
art advice in selecting
works for your home

Try before you
buy option

WYCHWOODART.COM
07799 535765 | 01869 338155

BLAST *from the past*

These photos show the Co-operative Society in Heyford Road (1910) and the Co-op bakery. This building is now a series of private dwellings at New Manor House.

Photos courtesy of Steeple Aston Village Archive (SAVA).



The Duns Tew Drama Group presents

Aladdin

The pantomime

Friday 5th December
Saturday 6th December

Friday 12th December
Saturday 13th December

Tickets: £19.50
Includes 2 course meal

Door & bar
Open from 6:45pm

Box office
Open 15th October

Duns Tew
Village Hall

dunstewdgs@yahoo.co.uk

Duns tew drama group



Atlas Pest and Wildlife

Control

Locally based

For all your pest problems inc.
vertebrate, invertebrate and avian

Call Phil on 07768 111491

for a prompt response

Never beaten on price or
professionalism

Shaun Guard TV AERIAL & WIFI SERVICES

- **Aerials** - supplied, repaired and poor reception solved
- **Satellite** - Sky Q dish upgrades, discreet dish installations
- **WiFi** - blackspots cured, data cables installed
- **TVs** - hung on your wall or set up & tuned

 **OXFORD AERIALS**

www.oxfordaerials.co.uk

shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk

Call Bicester 01869 221783



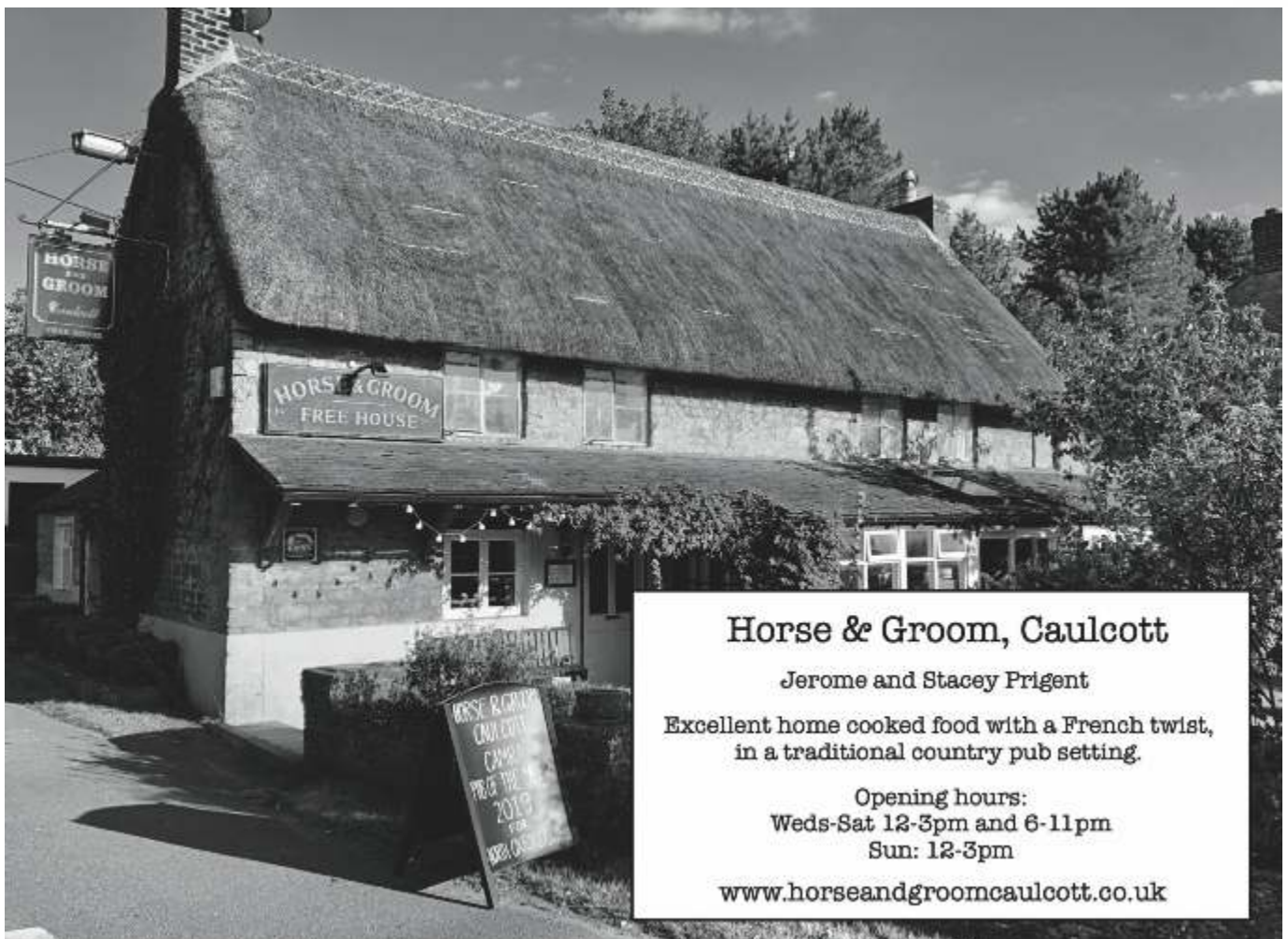
Market 9am - 12.30pm
SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER



With over 40 stalls offering the very best in local produce, beer, bread, crafts, eggs, fish, flowers, fruit, meat, preserves, patisserie, ready-made meals including international cuisines, vegetables, gluten free food and so much more...

For more information visit:

www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk



Horse & Groom, Caulcott

Jerome and Stacey Prigent

Excellent home cooked food with a French twist,
in a traditional country pub setting.

Opening hours:

Weds-Sat 12-3pm and 6-11pm

Sun: 12-3pm

www.horseandgroomcaulcott.co.uk

Steeple Aston Golf Society



Ten SAGS and two guests rolled up to our final tour event for 2025 at Olton Golf Club. The course was in stunning condition with lightning-fast greens and long par 4's bathed in sunshine, with none of us quite managing to tame it. The bacon roll and chicken pie and staff were all of excellent quality, and I am sure this is a course we will return to in 2026. I have listed below the winners of the day, and end by sending you and your families an early Happy Christmas! I look forward to catching up with you all on the fairways next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Brown & Chris Cooper for their tireless work in putting this year's games together, which allowed us to play golf on some of the best courses in the surrounding Counties.

Winner of the Hogs Back trophy with 30 points – Alan Brewer;
2nd Place with 26 points on countback – Graham Lawrence;
Guest Winner - Bob Allen with 33 points; Nearest the pin on the Par 4 3rd in 2 - Mark Lawrence. Nearest the pin on the Par 3 13th - Chris Cooper. No Birdie 2s.

"My worst day at golf still beats my best day at work"

Happy golfing!

Alan Brewer (chair)



Photo Left to right: John Morris, Bob Allen, Graham Lawrence, Alan Brewer



Football Focus

It has been a while since Steeple Aston Football Club has been in the pages of Steeple Aston Life. It is lovely to be back, and I assure you we never went away. Future instalments should include match reports from our latest fixture(s), but for this time, I would just like to remind you of a few points around this fine Club that was founded in 1897.

SAFC is part of the Banbury District & Lord Jersey Football Association, playing in Division 2. Our home games take place at Robinson's Close on Saturdays, from 2.00pm. We try to keep the village website up to date on our upcoming matches, but the vagaries of fixture planning in a regional league means these are announced a few at a time throughout the year. Historically, we used to field two teams, but are down to one at the moment. We are always on the lookout for players - especially from the village - and we are also currently trying to recruit a new manager. If you are interested in playing, managing or even being a player/manager, please do get in touch with either me or Stuart Baillie, our secretary, whose details (along with other information about the club) can be found on **SteepleAston.org.uk**.

Spyro Markesinis



Eldon Friends

For all your Social Care requirements

Eldon Friends are an independent service, who specialise in providing support to enable you to remain living independently in your own home.

Whether you require personal care, assistance with medication, transport to appointments, help with your shopping or simply companionship, Eldon Friends can cater for your needs.

Contact us today for a no obligation discussion of your individual requirements.

Directors Elaine and Don Kelly: Tel: (01869) 340449 Email: info@eldonfriends.co.uk

Feel free to visit our website at: www.eldonfriends.co.uk

Covering The Astons and surrounding villages.

Qualified in Health and Social Care

Fully Insured • Eldon Friends. Established 2014



Iron and Wood Ltd
the wood burning stove centre



Visit our showroom to discuss a
new Wood Burning Stove

Beaumont Road, Banbury, OX16 1RH

T: 01295 253936

E: info@ironandwood.co.uk

www.ironandwood.co.uk



Safeclean
BY GUARDSMAN

Professional Cleaning Services

The experts in cleaning:

Carpets • Upholstery • Mattresses

Oriental rug cleaning • Stain removal

Stain protection • Allergy treatment



All our work is fully insured and guaranteed.
We are DBS checked & adhere to all current government guidelines.

Contact Russ Vernon,
for your free, no obligation quote:

Email: rvernonsafeclean@gmail.com

Mobile: 07825 918946



www.safeclean.co.uk

The Cricket Report



Some personal reflections, looking back to 2003...

I have played my last game of cricket, though like all of us who retire from sport, two things have happened:

- 1) I still think I can play one more game (I can't!)
- 2) I have become significantly better in my memory than I really was

Incredibly, I played rugby at Twickenham twice. As I recall, I very nearly scored a try. In reality I should have scored a try, but was tackled from behind by a chap called Mickey Skinner because I was chronically slow! I once faced Fred Trueman (he was 48 years old and bowling off 5 paces), when he played for the MCC against my school. In my mind, I stroked him for four through the covers. In reality, I never saw the ball and was so terrified, I gleefully holed out to the off-spinner at the other end for a glorious duck.

SACC in reality...

What I can say in truth is that Steeple Aston Cricket Club is in rude health. Yes, it is always hard to put a competitive team out, but thanks to the sterling efforts of Messrs Chesser, Doggett, Scotchbrook and Longman (father and son, and hopefully grandson soon), we continue to play a decent standard of cricket and have a lot of fun along the way. My only disappointment is that we never managed to find any women who wanted to play, though not for want of trying. I once played cricket with a 13 year old girl called Natalie, whose father has played for the Chairman's XI on numerous occasions. She turned into Nat Sciver-Brunt, arguably the best female all-rounder in the world. So, for any young girls or women of any age, who may be reading this, please do come and play for us. You never know!

SACC Stats...

With apologies, I only have the data going back to 2003, but here are some statistics: We played 191 games from 2003 to 2025 and won 63% of those games. In the first four years, we were a bit 'hit or miss' and won 53% of our games, but in 2007 all the regular players left the village. I remember the wonderful Neil Powles saying to me "Pete, me and Janet are retiring to Somerset, my boys are moving on too, so there is nobody left, but you to skipper the side". Thanks, Neil, I think that is what is known as a Hospital Pass! Secretly, of course, I was flattered to be asked, though there was literally nobody else. I skippered for three years, before passing that ball onto skippers Jon Scotchbrook, Greg Renk, Nige Doggett and Jeremy Farrar. With help from Honorary Fixtures' Secretary, Phil Chesser, we have fashioned a team that is very hard to beat. Much of that has to do with our children rather than us, obviously, but it has been for me an unalloyed joy to play cricket with local friends and family.

Who is better: Bazball England or Steeple Aston CC?

In the last 19 seasons (2007-25) SACC's record is:

Played 155 Won 99 Drawn 5 Lost 51 Win Rate 65% (1/2 pt for tie/draw)

Coincidentally this is the same % success rate as England under Brendon McCullum and they are not a bad team!

Played 40 Won 25 Drawn 2 Lost 13 Win Rate 65%

Let's hope that win rate is the same after this winter's Ashes.....

With best wishes to all

Peter Higgins – Chairman, SACC



Arbor Vitae Oxford
TREES & GARDENS

: Arboricultural Expertise :

Tree Surgery : Planning : Consultancy :

Benjamin Downing Nch Arboriculture
Nch Horticulture

Old Butcher Heyford Road Steeple Aston
OX25 4SH

e: arborvitaeoxford@yahoo.co.uk
m: 07443 582 747 h: 01869 347 985

NOAHSARK
Painting Company

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL DECORATION

All forms of interior and exterior painting and decorating, specialising in murals.



T: 01295 811026

E: pete@noahsarkpainting.co.uk

W: noahsarkpainting.co.uk

Pebsham Cottage, Aynho Road, Adderbury
Oxfordshire, OX17 3NL

**Paul Barber
Windows**



T: 07836 623407

E: paul@paulbarberwindows.co.uk

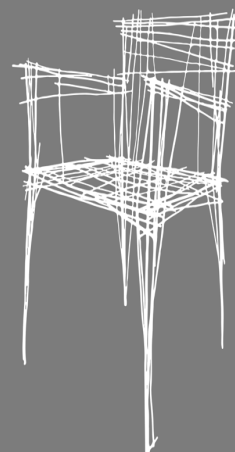
www.paulbarberwindows.co.uk

OVER 30 YEARS
EXPERIENCE

FENSA
Registered Company

**WINDOWS ■ SECONDARY GLAZING
RESIDENTIAL DOORS ■ FOLDING DOORS**

lawrence furnishings
RE-UPHOLSTERY CUSHIONS



RE-UPHOLSTERY

01280 704437

**www.lawrencefurnishings.co.uk
info@lawrencefurnishings.co.uk**

Steeple Aston *Garden Club*



It is always nice to hear a story about gardening by someone who is known to many of us, and back in the summer we were able to visit her garden at Middle Aston. At our October meeting, Caroline Edwards gave us a splendid description of how she was born into gardening, and how her business progressed over the years. Her love of roses was evident from the pictures shown of both her own garden and that of some of her garden designs.

At our next meeting on Tuesday 4th November, we will learn all about Kiftsgate Court Garden and the 'Three Generations of Women Gardeners'. Doors open at 7.00pm in the village hall with a start at 7.30pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available at no additional charge, and all are welcome. If you are not a Garden Club member, don't worry. Just turn up and see what we are all about.

In December, we will be meeting at The Holt for a three-course meal on Wednesday 10th December. This has, for the past few years, proved the correct way to finish off a 'gardening year'. If you would like to come, and have yet to tell Richard or any of the Garden Club committee, please do so ASAP so that we can arrange a table large enough to accommodate us all.

Happy gardening, enjoy the winter, and hope to see as many as possible at our meeting on 4th November.

Richard Preston – Steeple Aston Garden Club





OUR SERVICES:

- Expert Tree Care ✓
- Hedge trimming & removal ✓
- Stump removal & treatment ✓
- Planting & woodland management ✓
- Site clearance ✓

☎ 07788 289344
🌐 www.kptreecare.co.uk
✉ kptreecare@outlook.com

D L HANCOCK LTD

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Established 30 years and still independent

WE ARE BICESTER'S OLDEST INDEPENDENT
FAMILY OWNED & RUN FUNERAL DIRECTORS

A caring traditional **24 hour** service
provided by Mr. Hancock and his team personally

~~~~~  
Serving Bicester and all Surrounding Areas

~~~~~  
Private Chapel Of Rest

~~~~~  
Jaguar Fleet of Funeral Cars



 ecclesiastical  
Planning Services



Member of  
The National Association  
of Funeral Directors

**Tel: 01869 244200 (24 Hrs)**  
Chapel House, 13 North Street,  
Bicester, OX26 6NA.

# Humphris funerals

Serving your family

Complete Traditional,  
Contemporary, Preplanned  
Funeral Service and  
Monumental Masons.

**01295 265 424**

32 Albert Street, Banbury, OX16 5DG



[www.humphrisfunerals.co.uk](http://www.humphrisfunerals.co.uk)



# C.S. Boswell

**Independent Family Funeral Services**  
Your wishes, in your time, our care, every time...



24 hour personal service E: [info@boswellfuneralservices.co.uk](mailto:info@boswellfuneralservices.co.uk)



Carl S. Boswell  
Funeral Director



Ryan Boswell  
Funeral Director



Joy Davies, Dip FD  
Funeral Director

**58 Bucknell Road, Bicester, OX26 2DW**

**01869 221937**

Also at

7 Bicester Road, Kidlington, OX5 2LA

**01865 373712**

364 Banbury Road, Summertown, OX2 7PP

**01865 553737**

“For every life is Unique, so is every funeral”

[www.boswellfuneralservices.co.uk](http://www.boswellfuneralservices.co.uk)



## Album Review: Twenty-one years of *Trouble*

Roll back the years to 2004. *MOJO* music magazine comes with a sampler CD of new releases. One track in particular sticks in my mind: *Jolene* – not a Dolly Parton cover, but a completely new song by someone I’ve never heard of: Ray Lamontagne. It comes from the album *Trouble*, which I buy on the strength of that one track. So, it seems, do many other people. Three years later, he fills the Royal Albert Hall for a memorable gig. Ray cites his major influences as Bob Dylan, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Joni Mitchell, Van Morrison, Neil Young, and The Band. You can feel that vibe shine through in this debut album, produced by the incomparable Ethan Johns. Despite its popularity, *Trouble* was not without its critics: “songs without a chorus”, “songs with no bridge”, “songs that feel unfinished”. But in a recent interview, Ray says of the songs: “listening to them now it’s a really strong record”.



*“Been so long since I seen your face  
Or felt a part of this human race  
I’ve been living out of this here suitcase for way too long  
A man needs something he can hold on to  
A nine-pound hammer or a woman like you  
Either one of them things will do  
Jolene, I ain’t about to go straight  
It’s too late  
I found myself face down in the ditch  
Booze in my hair, blood on my lips  
A picture of you holding a picture of me  
In the pocket of my blue jeans  
I still don’t know what love means”  
Jolene*

Since 2004, Ray has released another eight albums, but the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of *Trouble* is the focus of his upcoming tour. Rumour has it, he will play *Trouble* in its entirety for the first time since it was released. As he says: “Some say it’s brave never to look back – but I disagree. If you never look back, you’ll never see how far you’ve come. This year, I place a signpost: twenty years of *Trouble*.” He will be at the New Theatre, Oxford on 6th June 2026 – tickets are still available.

### Songsmith

#### The Wisdom of Terry Pratchett

“Always be wary of any helpful item that weighs less than its operating manual.”

— Terry Pratchett, [Jingo](#)

“But here's some advice, boy. Don't put your trust in revolutions. They always come around again. That's why they're called revolutions.”

— Terry Pratchett, [Night Watch](#)

“Nanny Ogg looked under her bed in case there was a man there. Well, you never knew your luck.”

— Terry Pratchett, [Lords and Ladies](#)

## Biology A-level and GCSE Science Tutoring

**Unlock Your Potential: how to master Biology and Science with Expert Guidance!**

Starting Biology A-level this year? Struggling with GCSE Sciences or Biology? Need help to boost your grades? Let me help you succeed in your studies

### What I Offer:



- One-to-one tutoring sessions tailored to your needs
  - Clear explanations of complex topics
  - Proven strategies for exam success
  - Flexible online or in-person sessions
- Support with revision and exam preparation



### Why Choose Me?

- Experienced and qualified tutor with a passion for Biology
- Approachable, informal, friendly and supportive teaching style
- Results-driven approach, focused on understanding and application
  - All UK exam boards covered, including IB
  - Based in Lower Heyford, and as mobile as required
  - References and testimonials available
  - Enhanced DBS certification

Contact Me Today to schedule your first session and start improving your Science and Biology skills!

Mob:- 07415 062 942

[paris.michaelides1@gmail.com](mailto:paris.michaelides1@gmail.com)

## Upton Construction

Small local family business

We offer:-

Wide range of groundwork services using our mini excavators, dumper and construction equipment. This includes soil screening bucket, concrete crushing bucket and post hole auger

We also hire mini diggers for self-drive

Please contact

Craig Upton 07702 159212

[Uptonconstruction@hotmail.com](mailto:Uptonconstruction@hotmail.com)



## OSBORNE STONESCAPES

Dry Stone Walling & Landscape Construction



[www.osbornestonescapes.co.uk](http://www.osbornestonescapes.co.uk)

07596 161364

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

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



Treat yourself, a friend or family member to a day (or longer) in the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside. An ideal gift, wedding car, prom car, or just for fun, we are offering an introductory discounted price for those in Duns Tew and the surrounding area. Make the most of the summer weather and book today! Gift vouchers are also available.



Email [contact@CotswoldClassicVehicleHire.co.uk](mailto:contact@CotswoldClassicVehicleHire.co.uk) for more information including prices and terms.



# Walking Netball

**New members wanted!**

**Not played since school days?**

**You are just the players we are looking for!**

**Join us at Steeple Aston Village Hall**

**Every Wednesday 10.15 a.m.**

**Contact: [merrill.bayley@gmail.com](mailto:merrill.bayley@gmail.com) or 01869 347802**





# Humberts have been helping people move for over 180 years.

*Can we help you?*

Since we were founded in 1842, quite a lot has happened, but despite the recent economic turmoil, one thing remains certain; demand for the most desirable properties in Oxfordshire remains strong. And you can still rely on Humberts to give you sound advice on the value of your home and how to achieve the best price if you decide to sell. Currently, we are achieving **101% of asking price**.

*"Thank you" seems totally inadequate for all your advice, help and support, but the need for a first-class agent has rocketed in our eyes and we will forever be grateful."*

We offer a personal and dedicated service that you can really trust, and at Humberts you always deal with one person who will handle the entire process all the way from negotiating offers to exchange and completion. And if needed, our no-fuss Accelerated Conveyancing means you can be exchange-ready and able to move in just a few weeks.



## Humberts

Specialists in Prestige, Character, Period and Rural Homes

To find out more, call us today on 01865 306 630



# UK SOLAR GENERATION

## POWERING CHANGE



**Friendly, responsive,  
Oxfordshire company**

**Save up to 70% on your  
electricity bills**

**Solar PV Systems**

**Battery Storage Systems**

**Electric Car Charging Points**

**TESLA**  
POWERWALL  
CERTIFIED INSTALLER

**MCS**  
CERTIFIED



**t: 01869 932250**  
**e: [info@uksolargeneration.co.uk](mailto:info@uksolargeneration.co.uk)**

# Letter from *Westminster*

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



**In Parliament:** I met with charities and campaign groups, including Animal Free Research UK, Greenpeace UK and the NFU to Back British Farming Day, with priority given to meeting groups highlighted by constituents to represent local interests. I attended 'How to make GBR truly great', in preparation for Great British Railways, which will be fully set up once the previous train contracts have expired. I look forward to the companies that service the stations within the constituency becoming nationalised over the next couple of years. I started my training under the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. Our armed forces are incredibly brave people, protecting our country and way of life, so it was a proud moment to spend time with our soldiers, sailors & aviators. Over the next year, I'll be gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges in keeping our country safe.

**In the constituency:** After reaching out to Tooley's boatyard following news of financial struggles, I spoke to DEFRA about our canals, promoting the yard and visitor centre, and will host a meeting with interested parties in the coming months, discussing the state of the towpath with Cherwell District Council. Visits to local schools about the MP role brought a wide range of questions and interests from students. I hope they felt inspired that someone who grew up just around the corner has gone on to champion their area in Parliament. I held surgeries and drop-ins to speak to people directly where support is needed, and celebrated great investments in the local area, such as a £115,000 investment to the Horton Maternity services, bringing improvements and modernisation for the benefit of local patients.

**Labour conference:** I spent a few days in Liverpool, engaging with many different businesses and charities. I was delighted to speak as part of a panel regarding farming and rural issues. I spoke in depth with Tom Bradshaw, President of the National Farmers' Union, and collaborated on ideas with another three rural MPs on the panel. It has been crucial to engage with these issues as a rural MP. As usual, if anyone would like to contact me and gain my support with any issue, please contact me at [sean.woodcock.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sean.woodcock.mp@parliament.uk)



## Teasel & Finch

Greener garden care  
in North Oxfordshire  
[www.teaselandfinch.com](http://www.teaselandfinch.com)

**Are you looking for a qualified,  
reliable, friendly gardener?**

**I can help with:**

- long-term garden care
- pruning, shaping, training of shrubs, climbers, fruit trees
- handmade supports and edging
- wildlife garden planning.

**Contact Taissa at**  
[tandfgardens@gmail.com](mailto:tandfgardens@gmail.com)

## Change How You Feel

**Trauma Informed Counselling  
and Psychotherapy**

*'Moving forward with confidence'*

Facing difficult memories & emotions - or stuck patterns, beliefs & phobias - on your own can feel overwhelming - where do you start?

Together, we'll get to the root of it, bringing your whole being into balance - empowering you to **be yourself** and live life to the full, with no limitations!

I can help you to:

- Process traumatic memories and feelings
- Overcome fears and phobias
- Break patterns of self-doubt & reactivity
- Relieve anxiety & stress symptoms
- Trust in your own choices and actions
- Regulate your own nervous system
- Find self-belief & inner-trust - Feel Free!!

*"My role is to  
guide and  
support you  
every step of  
the way."*

**Let's make meaningful  
change together!**

**Get in touch for a free  
consultation.**

**CONTACT SALIMA MCKNIGHT :**

07554 606569

[salima@innervisiontherapies.com](mailto:salima@innervisiontherapies.com)

[www.innervisiontherapies.com](http://www.innervisiontherapies.com)



Oxford area or Online





Steeple Aston Church

Invites you to a



# Messy Advent Afternoon



For families with children up to 12

**Stories, games, crafts,  
songs and more!**

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November from 2pm to 4pm

Steeple Aston Village Hall

To find out more, contact Rachel Marsden: [blairrachel@hotmail.com](mailto:blairrachel@hotmail.com)

# Church Matters



To help commemorate and celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, the idea to create a poppy cascade to hang outside SS Peter and Paul Church in Steeple Aston was born. Throughout the spring and early summer, people from across the whole community have been busily knitting and crocheting, whilst during various meetings there would be someone sitting there quietly, studiously cutting out red felt ready for younger members of our community to make into poppies. These thousands of flowers have been carefully sewn onto netting to create the wonderful visual Poppy Cascade hanging outside SS Peter and Paul church.

Thinking about the community effort to create this stunning display, reminds me of the community effort of the World Wars. Local people came together, working side by side for the good of the wider community. People in the countryside took young child evacuees in to keep them safe from the bombing of the cities, parks were turned into allotments as food was grown in the 'Dig for Victory' campaign due to the difficulties of importing food. Young ladies, like Joyce Bedding, moved from cities out to the countryside to help farmers in the Land Army. Others volunteered to fight - soldiers, sailors and airmen - as well as all those working behind the lines to keep them supplied with fuel, ammunition and food. Winning the World Wars took a community effort spanning the entire globe.

As I write this, after two years of fighting, there is again a ceasefire in Gaza. Whilst President Donald Trump is being heralded as securing the peace breakthrough, many nations including several in the Middle East eg. Egypt and Qatar, have worked behind the scenes, talking to Hamas. Equally important has been the international recognition of a Palestine state by various European nations. To secure the ceasefire agreement has taken an international community effort. The wider international community has already been working together to get aid, food, water and medical supplies into Gaza, and will need to continue over the longer term to help rebuild Gaza.

To continue to live in peace, we need to continue to work together in communities, across the generations at local, national and international levels. Sadly, the other week there was an horrific attack on a synagogue, when two worshippers were killed. In this season of Remembrance, Bishop Gavin's prayer following that attack is particularly appropriate:

*Dear Lord, we thank you for placing us in relationship with those around us.*

*We pray for our communities at local and national level;*

*As we give thanks for the glorious diversity of humanity reflected in our nation,*

*We acknowledge with lament that for some that diversity can become a source of division and fear.*

*We ask that you would help us to build relationships of honour and respect.*

*Be with those who mourn and those who are fearful, bringing comfort, peace and strength.*

*And help us to be a nation where we value and love our neighbours as ourselves.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

God Bless,

Harriet

---

## Answers to Quiz Time

- 1) John Dryden.
- 2) Half Greek (from tele: far, distant), half Latin (visio: sight, vision).
- 3) Bruxism.
- 4) Little Richard.
- 5) He 'sold' the Eiffel Tower to scrap metal merchants, André Poisson.
- 6) Helen Duncan in 1944. (She was convicted under The Witchcraft Act of 1735).
- 7) The right to cut peat for burning.
- 8) Thomas Arne.
- 9) W G Grace 152 vs Australia in 1880.
- 10) Cormac McCarthy.



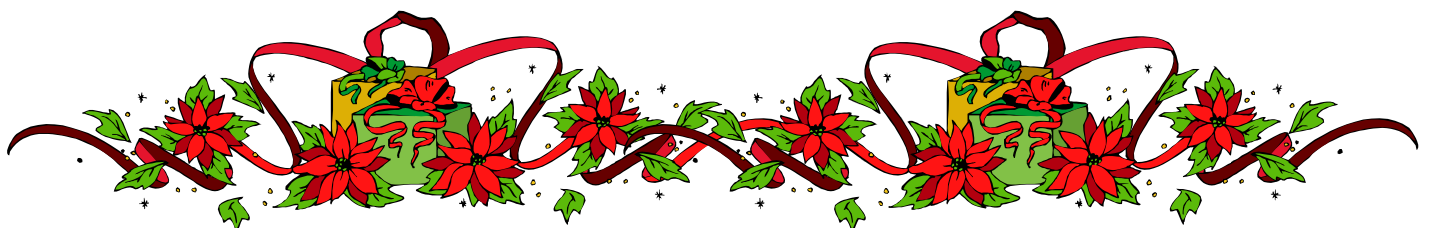


# WASSAIL EVENING

*'CELEBRATE A COUNTRY  
CHRISTMAS'*

*An informal gathering to enjoy an evening of  
seasonal songs and carols, together with  
mulled wine and mince pies  
including a performance from the handbell ringers*

STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL  
Sunday 7th December 2025 at 6.00 pm



# Local Information

## Church Services November 2025

| Date                                       | North Aston                     | Steeple Aston                                | Tackley                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>  | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion<br>BCP | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion<br>BCP             | 5.30pm<br>All Souls Service                              |
|                                            |                                 |                                              |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>9<sup>th</sup> November</b>  | 9.30am<br>Remembrance           | 10.45am<br>Remembrance                       | 5.30pm<br>Remembrance                                    |
|                                            |                                 |                                              |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>16<sup>th</sup> November</b> | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion        | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion                    | 5.30pm<br>Evensong                                       |
|                                            |                                 |                                              |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>23<sup>rd</sup> November</b> | 9.30am<br>Morning Prayer        | 11.00am<br>Morning Prayer                    | 9.30am<br>Family Communion                               |
|                                            |                                 |                                              |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>30<sup>th</sup> November</b> |                                 | 10.30am<br>United Benefice Holy<br>Communion | 5.30pm<br>Advent Organ Meditation                        |
|                                            |                                 |                                              | <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)



*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**



## 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.

##### 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

##### December 2025

- 4<sup>th</sup> Green
- 11<sup>th</sup> Blue and brown
- 18<sup>th</sup> Green



Please consult the Cherwell District Council website for further details of collections during the festive period: [cherwell.gov.uk/recycling](http://cherwell.gov.uk/recycling)

#### 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 December and January to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

| Month                       | Event                                                                         | Venue                 | Time                                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <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                             |
| Sunday 9th November         | Remembrance Service                                                           | SA Church             | 10.45am                                |
| Tuesday 11th November       | WI: Block print card making                                                   | Village Hall          | 7.00pm                                 |
| Tuesday 11th November       | Act of Remembrance                                                            | SA Church             | 10.50am                                |
| <b>Friday 14th November</b> | <b>SAL December copy &amp; advert deadlines</b>                               |                       |                                        |
| Saturday 15th November      | Gospel Bell Live Music                                                        | Duns Tew Village Hall | 7.30pm                                 |
| 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: Rossini                                                  | Village Hall          | 7.00pm                                 |
| Friday 28th November        | Church quiz                                                                   | Village Hall          | 7.00pm                                 |
| Sunday 30th November        | Messy Advent Afternoon                                                        | Village Hall          | 2.00pm - 4.00pm                        |
| <b>December</b>             |                                                                               |                       |                                        |
| Saturday 6th December       | WI workshop: Christmas Wreath Making                                          | Village Hall          |                                        |
| Sunday 7th December         | Wassail Evening                                                               | Village Hall          | 6.00pm                                 |
| Tuesday 9th December        | WI Christmas Lunch                                                            |                       |                                        |
| Wednesday 10th December     | Garden Club Christmas Lunch                                                   | Holt Hotel            | 12.30pm                                |
| <b>Friday 12th December</b> | <b>SAL January copy &amp; advert deadlines (slightly earlier due to Xmas)</b> |                       |                                        |
| Friday 12th December        | Valentines: Christmas meal and entertainment                                  | Coventry              |                                        |
| Tuesday 16th December       | Valentines: Christmas Dinner                                                  | Village Hall          |                                        |
| Saturday 20th December      | Farmers' Market                                                               | Deddington            | 9.00am - 12.30pm                       |
| Sunday 21st December        | Opera Anywhere: Amahl & the Night Visitors                                    | Village Hall          | 3.00pm - 5.00pm                        |

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

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

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

Unit 2 Glenmore Business Centre, Range Road, Witney, OX29 0AA Tel: 01865 246762

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.  
Readers are recommended to seek appropriate financial or legal advice before entering  
into any binding agreement with advertisers, as appropriate*

# Home-made food

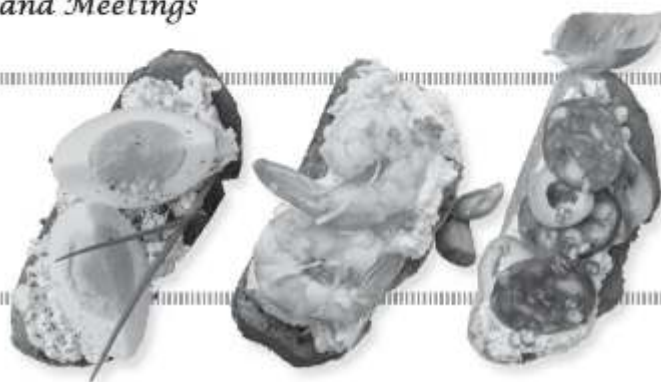
with The Personal Touch



- > Weddings and Family Celebrations
- > Dinner Parties
- > Afternoon Tea
- > Drinks Party Canapes
- > Balls & Banquet catering
- > Themed Events - Including - Mexican, Tapas, Bbq's, Paella & Spit Roasts
- > Business and Corporate Events and Meetings

sandycuisine@hotmail.co.uk  
Call Sally on 07786131667  
Or Jasmin on 07801975210

Prices from £9.50pp



## the Indian Block Print CO.

Indian block printing supplies, tuition, and  
space for anyone to find joy and confidence  
through traditional craft & creativity.

kits &  
supplies

block printing  
workshops

studio  
sessions

visit us:

The Studio,  
2 Lakeside Farm  
Middle Aston  
OX25 5PP

follow us:

[www.theindianblockprintco.com](http://www.theindianblockprintco.com)



@theindianblockprintco



## **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



*'Improving the lives of  
pets and their  
owners'*

- Family-friendly, caring, local vets
- Experts in treating dogs, cats and family pets
- Open 7 days a week
- Modern premises with excellent facilities
- Dedicated Night Nurses
- 24/7 emergency care provided by our own vets



Bicester 01869 323223  
 Waddesdon 01296 651000  
[www.hartvets.co.uk](http://www.hartvets.co.uk)

