

Steeple Aston *Life*

***READERS SURVEY
RESULTS***

April 2026

1) Introduction

Steeple Aston Life (also known as 'SAL' or 'The Life') is a monthly magazine, delivered freely to every home in Steeple and Middle Aston. It is available to buy from Steeple Aston village shop, and can be read locally at The Grain Store in Middle Aston, The Holt Hotel and Red Lion pub in Steeple Aston, and other hostelrys further afield. SAL is also available to read online via the Steeple Aston website steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine The magazine has been published since 1973, run by a dedicated team of volunteers who cover tasks including editorial, advertising, layout, proofreading and deliveries. The SAL Committee meet regularly to oversee the publishing of this non-profitmaking magazine, as well as keeping an overview of the annual accounts. The Committee consists of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and not more than seven other members, with the Editor being an ex-officio member. Further details via the 'Constitution of the Committee of the Steeple Aston Life Magazine' (dated 01/11/2007, amended 17/01/2022) (*Appendix 2*).

In September 2024, there was a change of Editorship and after eighteen months, it is useful to take stock of where the magazine is at and check out with readers that it is fulfilling their needs. SAL is the magazine of the community, which should be reflected in its content and style. We aim to be as inclusive as possible, to appeal to a wide readership, and efforts have been made to cover articles for different ages, appeal to a variety of interests and introduce new items to keep it fresh and relevant.

The SAL Survey (*Appendix 1*) was devised to gauge how far we are meeting readers' needs, and to gather ideas for new articles. At the same time, it is pertinent to check whether any items are no longer enjoyed, or might be scaled back. With readers' input, we hope to ensure that the magazine continues to reflect the interests and concerns of our community, and to help shape the future of the publication.

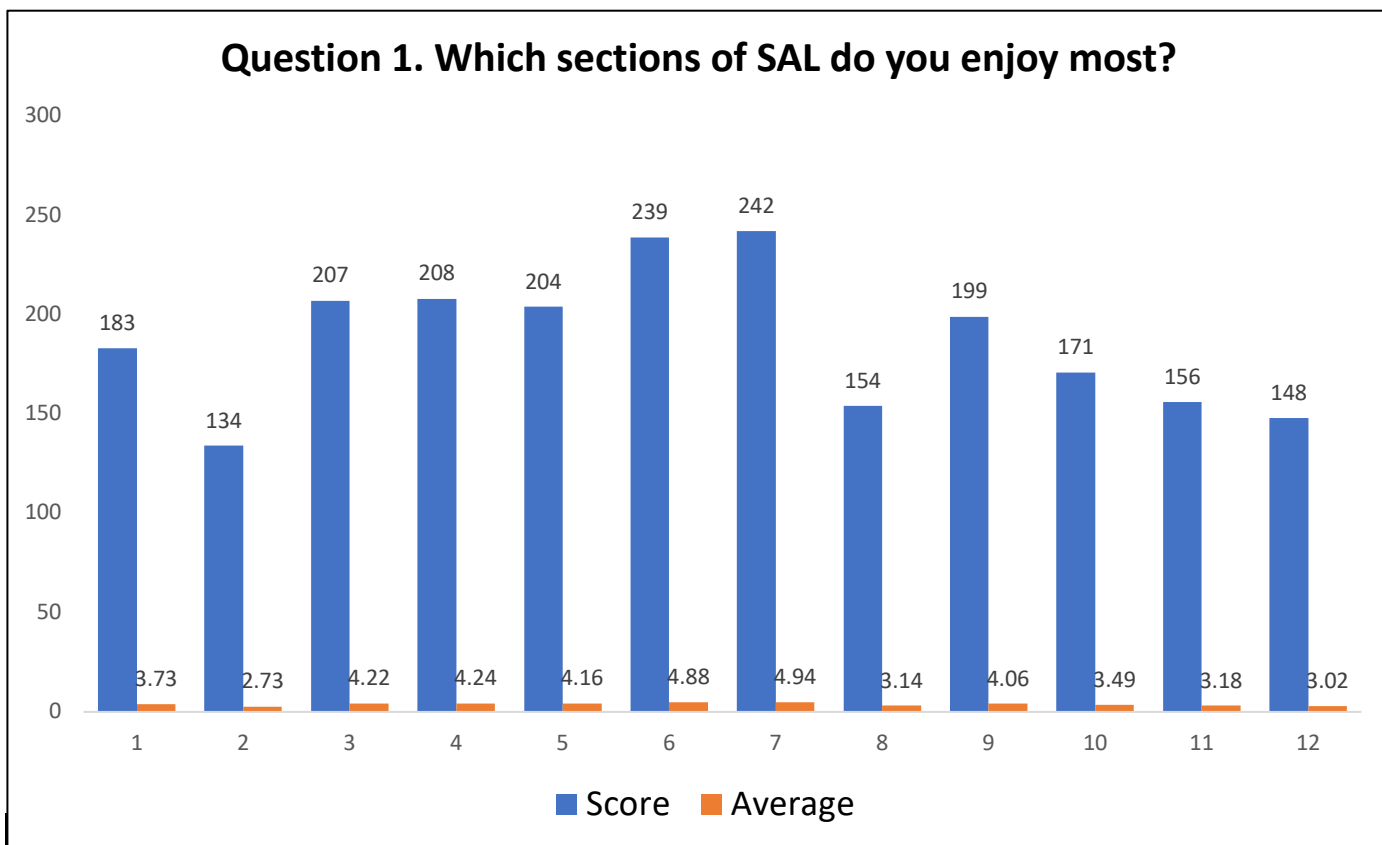
2) Methodology

Survey questions were drawn up to gain feedback on both editorial and informative content, as well as covering advertising, presentation and design, regularity of publication and ideas for change. A total of twelve questions were asked, using a combination of numerical ratings plus free-text fields, with the option of anonymity.

The survey was available as both a hard-copy (centre page pull-out from SAL) and an online questionnaire via a weblink/QR code to make it easily accessible to all. Returns for hard copies was via a returns box at the Steeple Aston shop, Red Lion pub and The Grain Store at Middle Aston. The timescale for survey returns was initially one month from 1st February 2026, later extended by a further two weeks until 15th March 2026 to capture any late returns.

There are 540 copies of SAL delivered to households every month. At the end of the survey period, we had received a total of 49 completed surveys (online/hard copies) which equates to 9.08% of the total distributed. 37 (75.5%) were online returns and 12 (24.5%) were hard-copy returns. From this, it is possible to obtain a snapshot of readers' views on the magazine, and this report aims to show the extent and scope of their feedback.

3) Results



SECTIONS			
1	Arts Pages	7	SAVA history/photos
2	Church Matters	8	School Report
3	Eco/Nature articles	9	Steeple People/Pet Pawtrait
4	Garden/Horticultural Society	10	Sports Club updates
5	Local MP/Councillor updates	11	Valentine Club News
6	Parish Council report	12	WI News

Looking at the results above, there are two clear winners when it comes to popularity with readers – namely articles and photographs of local history, plus the Parish Council report which is a humorous anecdotal way of updating villagers on what’s going on in the parish. Five sections are pretty much on a similar footing – Arts pages; Eco/Nature; Garden/Horticultural Society; Local MP/Councillor updates and Steeple People. There appeared to be less enthusiasm for sports updates; Valentine Club (OAPs); WI; and the school, with Church Matters receiving the least votes. This is perhaps more indicative of these articles being targeted towards specific groups, whether determined by age, religious leaning or interest. To some extent, when you are catering for a diverse community, it is inevitable that ‘you can’t please all of the people, all of the time’, and therefore whatever content is included, there will always be someone who doesn’t like it! It is therefore necessary to acknowledge that readers will need to select what is relevant to their particular tastes and disregard those articles they do not wish to read.

Question 2

Is there any content or topic you feel is missing from the magazine that you'd like to see included in future issues?

Many readers were happy with the content as it is with no wish to see any changes. There were, however, some helpful suggestions for content they would like to see in future issues, and some they would rather not:

Nature/Wildlife: *'Nature Notes'; 'Maybe more specifics about local wildlife, including where to see it. Maybe local walks? Things to do with children'; 'How about readers recommendations for local walks?'; 'More history and conservation ... and a focus on litter picking!'; 'Angling Club - Ref River Cherwell and Oxford Canal - fish and water news'.*

Media & Arts: *'I wondered if there was room for children's art work?'; 'Book Reviews'; 'I would like, particularly in the winter, TV show recommendations'; 'You haven't mentioned Cathy's poetry/quizzes for children'; 'Film reviews/TV series worth watching'; 'Fun section for adults and kids. Sudoku, wordsearch or similar'; 'Cookery/recipes. Bring back puzzles'; 'baking/cookery/recipes'.*

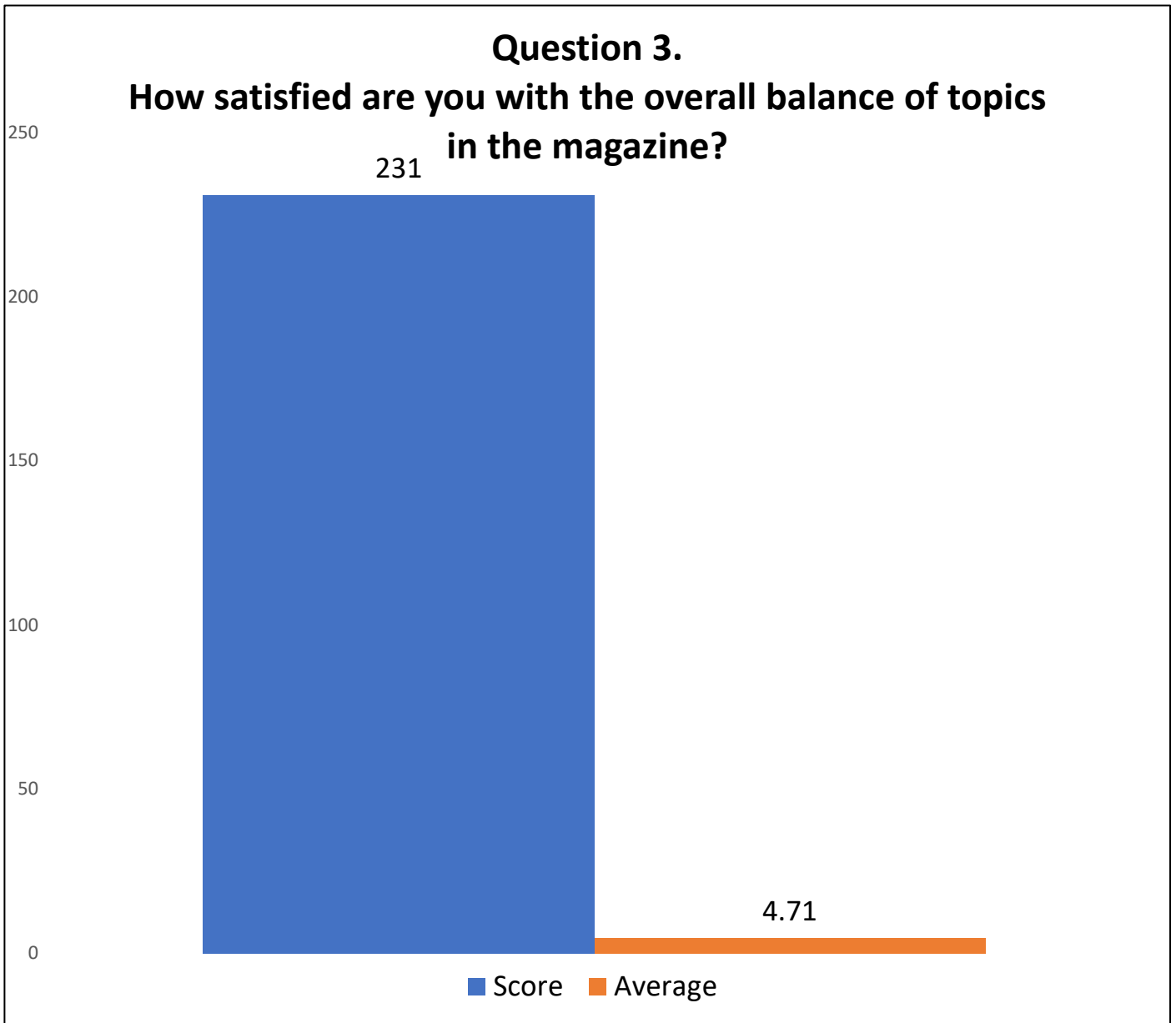
Current affairs: *'PCC minutes'; 'a running commentary on the Upper Heyford 'eco-town' or 9,000 homes and more building on arable land owned'; 'We are not a single-party state, so please include updates from the Green Party (not just Labour). We are a democracy, so please include Q&A to and from us and our MP'; 'More articles on "Serious matters" affecting our village – e.g. the horror Proposed Property Development in Heyford'; 'More about local planning'.*

Local History: *'Old photos of Steeple Aston'; 'I think there could be more focus on the history of the village & local area'.*

Letters to the Editor: *'More letters would be good, but then I haven't written in for ages'; 'letters to the Editor encourage discussion about local issues'; 'More letters from residents. Controversial or not!'.*

Village Information: *'SAL is delivered to Middle Aston and so there must be a section on Middle Aston and a lot more Middle Aston news'; 'Church fetes - Steeple, Tackley and North Aston'; 'Please include the emergency number to call and report a power cut. It would also be useful if the bus timetable could be updated to include the Oxford, Steeple Aston and Banbury times in all journeys. That way we'd know what time the S4 leaves Magdalen Street in Oxford when heading to Banbury via SA and vice versa which would be very useful when planning a journey'; 'News from the pub and shop'; 'More 'club' reports, e.g. allotments (note to self!), Police reports/updates'; 'More about planning applications regarding properties in the village. Get clubs and societies in the village to post monthly updates'; 'obituaries'; 'Bin dates. Planning permission notices 'Spotted Steeple Section' - positive and negative activities around the village... bad parking, animals, wildlife'; 'Good to include all ages, so more from the younger clubs would be good, e.g. Brownies, Scouts, Toddler group etc as well as the regular school input. Plus, input from teenagers'.*

Other Requests: *'We are not a theocracy: we are a multi-cultural community with allegiances to other religions (not just Christianity) so there should be content about other religions such as Buddhism (not just Christianity)'; 'Not 'Local MP' or 'Pet Pawtrait' please'; 'Appreciate that there needs to be local school & church news.... just not of high interest to me'.*



The feedback suggests that the majority of readers are satisfied with the overall balance of topics in the magazine.

The following question addresses those articles that readers feel could benefit from more or less focus.

Question 3A

Do you think anything should be given more or less focus?

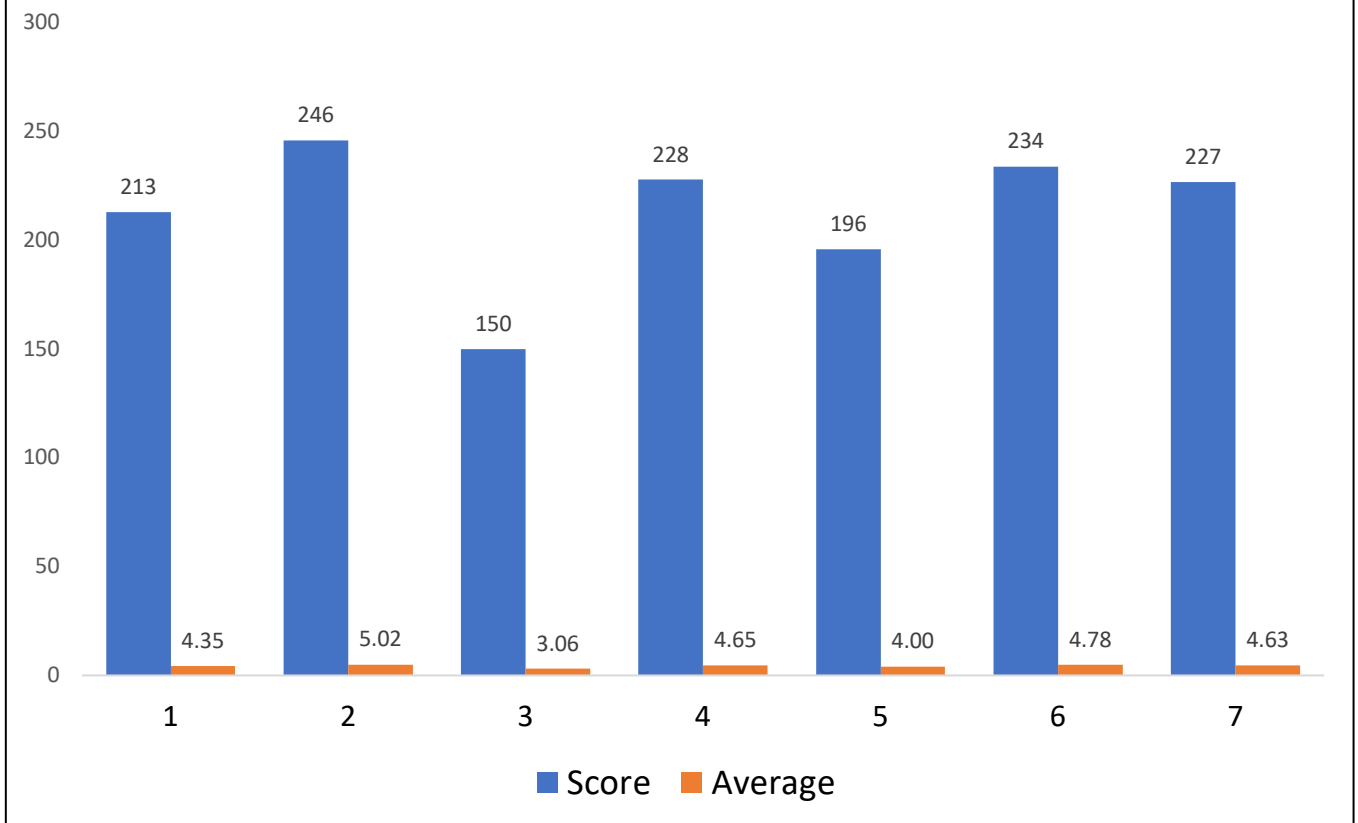
Topics that readers would like to be given more focus:

'What's on at the theatre in Oxford'; 'More on Middle Aston. More on other religions and political parties. More letters, including letters to MP and councillors for their answers in SAL. More on local and national campaigns'; 'I used to like a more detailed account of the Parish Council report - why has this article been cut down?'; 'Enjoy Steeple People'; 'More detail on Parish Council discussions might give more understanding about what they do/some issues?'; 'The Heyford Park proposals seem to have caught many people unawares. Perhaps the magazine could flag up news relevant to local life earlier?'; 'More focus towards a younger crowd'; 'School and pupil achievements, requests for volunteering. How to get involved in the cadence of village activities'; 'Culture and arts, music'; 'Civic pride'; 'I think the focus on local is good'; 'Return to a more detailed 2 pages on parish council minutes. 1 page is not enough and restricts detail of discussions'; 'I would like more on environmental issues and nature especially specific to the village and surrounding farmland'; 'more on really important local issues'; 'I love Steeple People. It is lovely to find out more about people in the village'; 'Love Mrs Miggins reports, overall like the balance'; 'Local political issues'; 'Competitions and crosswords'; 'Relevant history of village'; 'Please include Flower Show results, as it is very rewarding for the prize winners, particularly the children'; 'The title should include "Middle Aston" as it is delivered to Middle Aston and so should have (more) content on Middle Aston'.

Topics that readers would like to be given less focus:

'Pet page a complete waste of space'; 'Pet Pawtrait unnecessary - nothing personal!'; 'The Steeple People/Paws item is very annoying and adds nothing to the magazine'; 'I have no interest in Pet Pawtrait, it doesn't even tell you who owns these pets. It makes some villagers appear more important than others so could be divisive. If someone meets someone new, they can find out about them over a coffee in The Grain Store. I would much prefer more historical info about the village as a community'; 'Pet Pawtrait awful and unnecessary, and quiz results from VH quiz and Church quiz'; 'I'd be happy to see less focus on some club updates, e.g. Cricket club, Golf, SACS reports can be too long'; 'Cricket – briefer'; 'Like Steeple People, less keen on Pet Pawtrait, but am sure others like them'; 'Less old people stuff!'; 'I wrote to the Editor a year ago, asking to be spared the platitudinous nonsense on 'the page from Westminster'. Since then, things have nose-dived further. Spare us - it's an insult and intrusion into village life'; 'when looking at the village demographic as a whole it works well.... if anything, it does miss the 'middle' a little... lots for the school & kids.... & lots for the retired.... not sure what that would look like though...!'; 'Rambling political rhetoric from MP's past and present is tedious. Should only concern matters significant to the village'; 'Less Cricket, boring'; 'They just seem silly to me'; 'Less focus on the WI'; 'Less space given to Valentine Club and WI, which could either be every other month, or allocated half a page per month. They cover similar issues each month, so it gets rather samey. Also, does the Village Hall need a full page as much of it is repetition from adverts and/or calendar entries?'; 'I repeat, let's do without the Local MP's attempts at writing in English: Feb 2025: 17 sentences starting with 'I' and 5 with 'I' in them. The 'Eleven Plus' would have been a challenge'.

Question 4. How useful do you find the information sections in SAL?



SECTIONS			
1	Bus Timetables	5	Parish Councillor members
2	Calendar (at back of SAL)	6	Rubbish collection dates
3	Church Services	7	Village Hall News
4	Directory (at front of SAL)		

In terms of the information sections in the magazine, readers appear to find all of them useful, with the exception of Church Services, that received the least votes. This is perhaps indicative of the small number of regular churchgoers in the community, although this remains an important element of the village, especially for marking milestones such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, plus the popular Christmas Carol Service. It is important to continue to include these sections, but it may be possible to merge them onto one page, rather than use two separate pages.

The village Calendar at the back of SAL is particularly useful to readers, as well as the Directory of contacts at the front. Readers also like to know what's going on at the village hall. Rubbish and recycling information is helpful, as no-one can ever remember what colour bin it is each month!

Question 5

Is there any other local information that would be useful to include in SAL?

Transport:

'Train timetables please'; 'Train times to Oxford/Banbury'; 'School bus routes and times?'; 'Clearer bus timetables as not aware they are in there'.

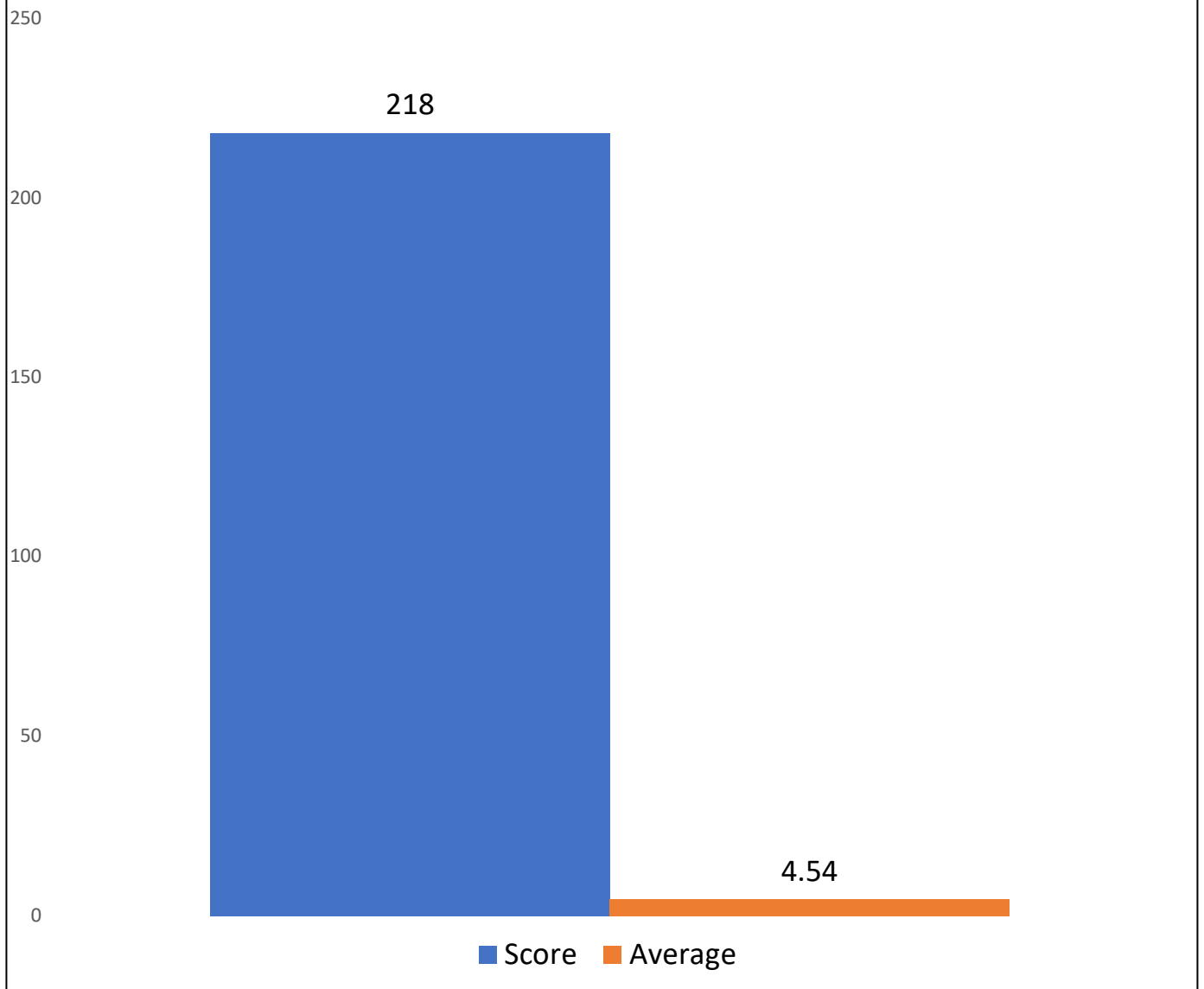
Events:

'What's on at local theatres and productions'; 'Perhaps updates on surrounding villages. Events. Clubs. Activities to get involved, section from the pub or Grain Store - not advert, but article with updates and stories. Also, North Aston Farms do interesting updates on their shop and animals. This might be interesting to include'; 'pub events'; 'a link & QR code to the village website, to catch anything that may crop up between issues of SAL'.

Current affairs:

'Monthly reports from our MP that includes info about what he's doing that is relevant to our community rather than a list of things that appear to be more to show where he's been. Include a list of any CDC and OCC consultations that people might want to participate in'; 'More Middle Aston information'; 'Interesting walks around the area...? With The Hatchery developing... how can this be incorporated in the magazine?'; 'Wider infrastructure and planning. Upper Heyford and Bicester's Wolf resorts and business developments etc'; 'Initiatives for conservation'; 'More updates on the ongoing planning issues'.

Question 6. What do you think about the balance of editorial articles-v-advertising?



Most readers are happy with the balance of editorial articles and advertising, although some feel that there are too many adverts, and that this should be minimised. There may be a case for cutting some adverts in size to half page rather than full page to respond to this. This would help to redress the balance, where readers feel the ads are taking over from editorial.

We have recently incorporated a Contents list of the adverts so that they are easier to locate rather than having to flick through the whole magazine. We will review how this goes over the next few issues.

Question 6A

As a follow up to Q6 - Why do you feel this about the balance of editorial-v-advertising?

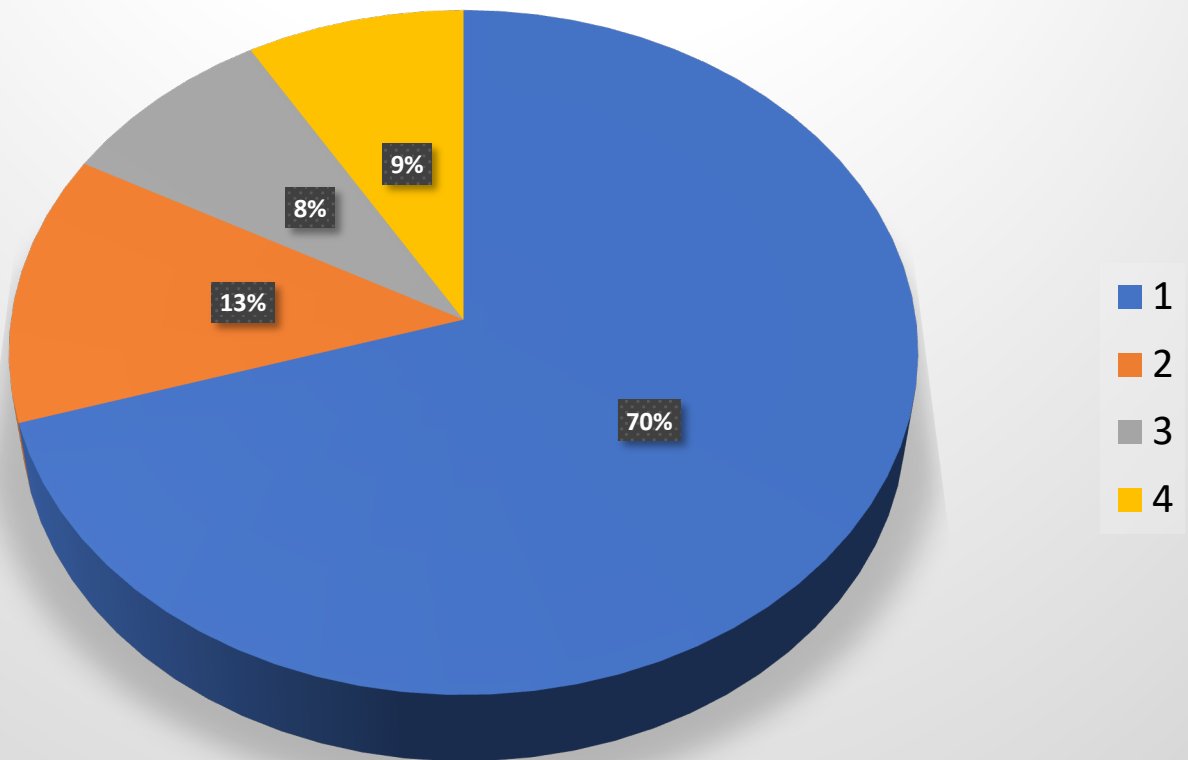
The majority of readers understand the reasons for advertising, which provides funds to support and offset the magazine outgoings:

'You need to balance these two financially and Ads are useful to have'; 'Understand the need for ads and how hard it is to get content'; 'Advertising is obviously necessary and can be overlooked easily enough'; 'Advertising spots are useful'; 'I understand that advertising is needed to support SAL as a free magazine and advertising can be useful'; 'Adverts help keep SAL afloat'; 'Without or with less, there would have to be a cover price. The ads are very useful'; 'You need to fund the mag so it's fine'; 'Some useful adverts, all local so relevant'; 'Useful to see local businesses'; 'Advertising pays for the magazine. Would be good to encourage customer testimonials to support adverts. From people in the village'; 'You don't have to read the adverts and they pay for printing'; 'More adverts = more funds, presume mag needs all the funds it can get'; 'You need advertising to help pay for the running of the mag'; 'Recognise that the advertising is essential for maintaining the free distribution'; 'There does seem to be an awful lot of advertising but I realise it is necessary to make the magazine viable'; 'There is a good amount, not too many and a good amount of words to be able to read easily and effectively'; 'Just seems about right'; 'There has to be advertising & generally it's useful & relevant'; 'Need to pay for magazine'.

Some felt that the balance was not always achieved:

'Too many ads: too little content'; 'I know that the magazine needs advertising to make it viable, but the tail shouldn't wag the dog. Adverts should only be about local services or events offered within a limited radius to the village to maximise their relevance'; 'Should be more articles than advertising - it's not an advert sheet'; 'Many don't relate to me'; 'There are a fair few adverts & understand the reason why... but they are losing their impact as they are the same ones each month'; 'Adverts could be smaller. Also are the adverts verified? Particularly for trades people, can we trust them? This is unclear'; 'Just read the February issue, felt like a quick read as lots of advertisements. Though understand they are necessary for funding'; 'Sometimes too many ads'; 'Sometimes it can seem a little top heavy with adverts although I do understand the income they bring is essential'; 'Generally this is well balanced, but need to keep an eye on it so it has an even balance where possible. Advertorials kept to a minimum, unless there is a specific case for it and they are also advertising in SAL'.

Question 7. How often would you prefer to receive SAL?



SECTIONS	
1	Monthly
2	Every 2 months
3	Quarterly
4	10 issues per year

In answer to the question of the preferred regularity of receiving SAL, an overwhelming majority of 70% said they would prefer to continue receiving it on a monthly basis. 13% opted for every two months; 8% suggested quarterly; and 9% would prefer to receive 10 issues per year.

This confirms that we are meeting readers' needs in terms of how often the magazine is published. There may, however, sometimes be a need to bring in a 'guest editor' in order to relieve the editor of the ongoing monthly production of SAL, and to bring a fresh pair of eyes, as well as being good practice for succession planning. It might also be worth considering publishing 10 issues per year rather than 12.

Reader's comments include: *'less than once a month, it risks being irrelevant as events info is one of the most useful bits and earlier copy date for bi-monthly issue would mean some things wouldn't appear. Very happy with the mag, you do a great job, though delivery is sometimes quite late (I can look online not everyone can)'; 'Selected 2 months as frequency but equally happy with the current and other options'.*

Question 8

Do you feel that the presentation/design of SAL needs any changes?

Most readers are content with the current presentation and design of the magazine:

'Presentation and design is very good'; 'As an ex-magazine person, I think that the layout is very good indeed. Well done'; 'I always like the front cover!'; 'Not really - the quality of copying has improved!'; 'It's great - no need to change'; 'I appreciate the improvements as time passes'; 'Pretty good. Well done'; 'it's fine as it is'.

Some suggestions were made for improvements to the presentation/design:

'I think the design and layout could be improved'; 'More illustrations - in colour if possible - would enliven many an article!'; 'Seems expensive to have the front cover in colour rather than black and white'; 'More pictures in colour would be nice but obviously cost driven'; 'Opt-out option for a paper version, so that we can read online'; 'Looks a little tired, so a revisit to the design would be good'; 'Possibly need updating'; 'Any change is good & refires interest but understand the challenges faced'; 'If those that deliver felt a smaller magazine was appropriate, I'd be OK with that'; 'It's fine. A5 might be more eco-friendly - with larger/large print available upon request for visually impaired. Consider recycled paper'; 'No need for colour print. An online version dropping into your inbox or a village portal - misdirected parcels - security - chats etc. could all be incorporated'; 'Turn it into a feature film, an online game, and a West End play'.

The magazine layout has been skilfully carried out by Martin Lipson and Edward Dowler for a number of years (thanks guys), who do an amazing job in a very short turnaround. In spring 2026, Edward will be stepping back, and we look forward to welcoming Chris Neville, who has agreed to take on this role, alternating with Martin every three months. Martin will be looking to step down before long, so there is a need to find a second person to share the layout responsibilities with Chris. The software used for many years is Serif PagePlus X9, but as this no longer qualifies for technical support, we are moving to using Affinity by Canva, which shares many of the same functions but carries them out in a slightly different way. This new software has the bonus of being absolutely free to download, plus it can be used on either Apple Mac or Windows platforms.

Looking at printing costs, it may be worth asking readers whether they would prefer to 'opt out' of receiving a paper copy of SAL, and instead be happy to read the online version which is already available via the Steeple Aston website each month. This would reduce printing costs plus lighten the workload of the delivery team, so would be worth pursuing.

Question 9

Any other comments you may wish to make about SAL?

Readers wished to make the following comments on their village magazine:

'I recently moved to SA and found the magazine most useful'

'Please continue doing what you're doing! Many congratulations to all involved in producing a superb village magazine'

'Thanks to all volunteers. Well done Editor - good job!'

'Well done to everyone who makes SA Life happen every month. It's a lot of work and everyone is an unpaid volunteer, so thank you very much for your time and commitment' 😊

'Very happy with it. I think the village is lucky to have such an informative magazine'

'I think it's marvellous that the village has such a quality magazine, and am very grateful to those who work so hard to produce it. Thank you'

'I think it's a remarkably high standard. We are lucky to have it. Please keep it up!'

'Worthy publication that still serves an important part of our village life'

'It is a great way to bring the village together... & I always enjoy reading.... the info is great to keep on hand'

'We feel the Editor is doing a fantastic job with light humour thrown in. Love it.

I enjoy reading it. Particularly the village updates. I tend not to pay attention to the adverts as they are always the same. Information on surrounding villages would be interesting. And longer parish council minutes'

'I am sure a lot of work goes into each magazine by many people volunteering their time. SAL is an asset to the village that we wouldn't want to lose. Especially in this digital age it's nice to be able to stay informed about the village without having to use social media'

'Always enjoy reading SAL though at the moment it arrives rather late on Fenway so we miss some events!'

'We love SAL - it is a fine magazine and we look forward to getting it'

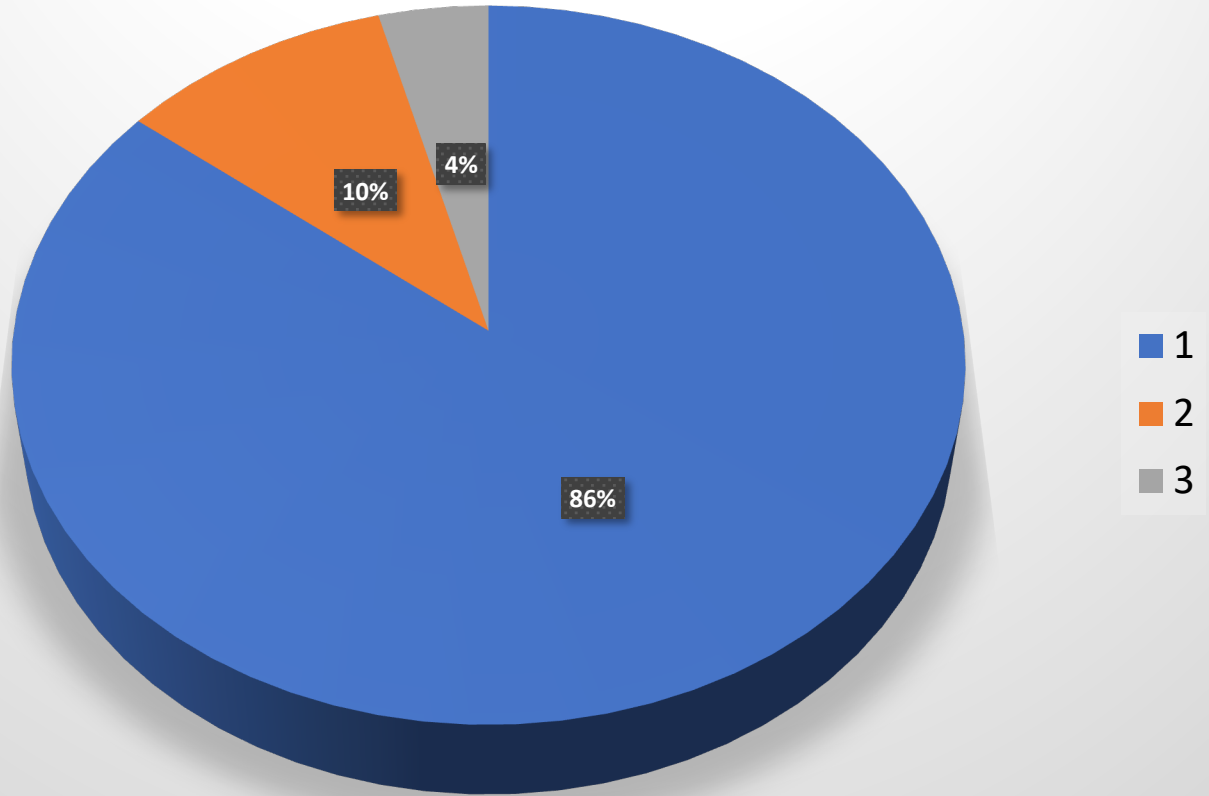
'Great job volunteers. Many people love these publications'

'Long may it continue whether just digital or in physical format as well'

'Huge thanks to those that make it happen'

'Keep up the great work!'

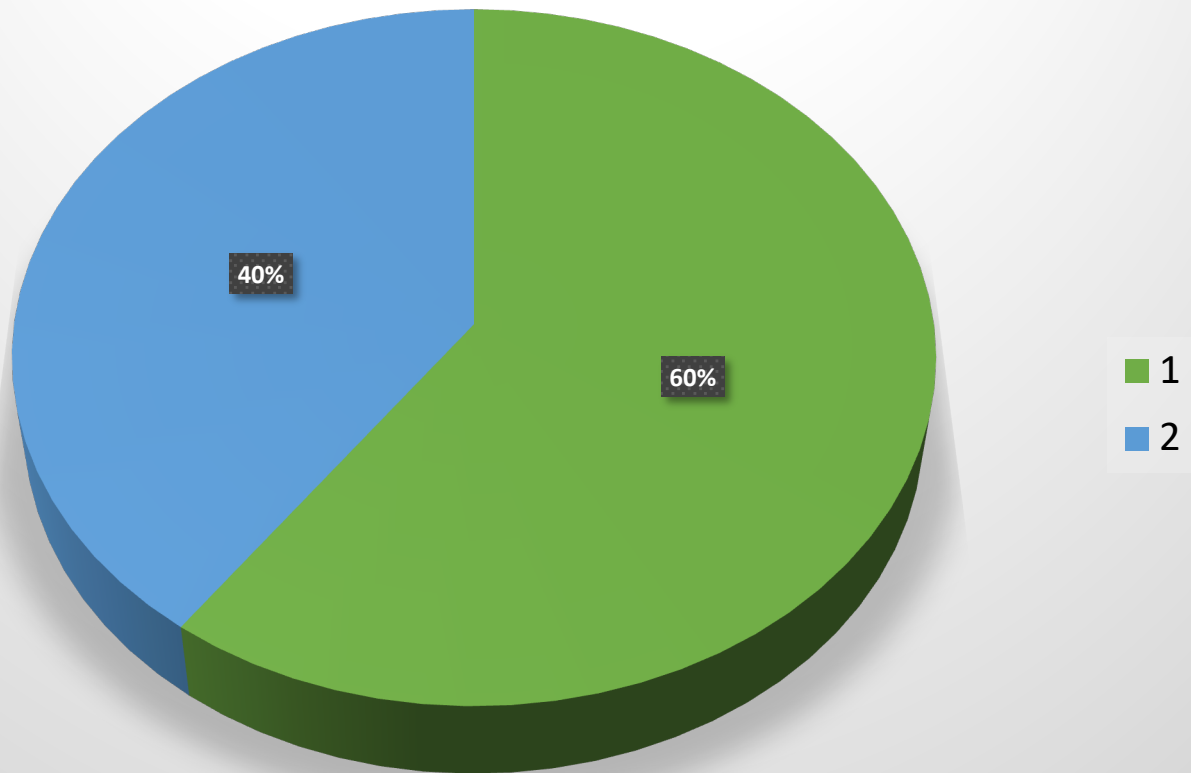
Question 10. Do you live in Steeple Aston/Middle Aston/elsewhere?



SECTIONS	
1	Steeple Aston
2	Middle Aston
3	Elsewhere

Of the survey respondents, 86% live in Steeple Aston; 10% are from Middle Aston; and 4% live outside of the Aston villages. Obviously, the magazine is distributed more widely than these figures suggest, but it was interesting to see who responded to the survey, and the level of interest generally in the magazine.

Question 11. SAL is run entirely by volunteers. Would you be interested in helping out?



SECTIONS	
1	Yes
2	No

From those who took the survey, a total of 60% would be happy to volunteer to help, although that figure includes some who are already helping in some way. The remaining 40% of respondents would not wish to help out. We will follow up with those offering help as required.

Question 12

If the answer was 'Yes' to question 11 please tell us how you can help:

'Delivering'; 'Currently have a delivery round'; 'Already do'; 'I deliver SAL in Jubilee Close'; 'Yes in principle, although I'm afraid there's little I could do to be really useful'; 'I would like to, but time is at a premium'; 'I am working away but when back happy to help'; 'We already supply the occasional article/poem and are happy to continue'; 'I could deliver issues and I could make the effort to write something too'; 'I am willing to help with the layout of the magazine (Chris N)'; 'Already working on SAL!'

4) Recommendations

A) Short term (in next 3 months):

- I. Reinstate two pages for 'Mrs Miggins' PC Report each month rather than one page.
- II. Look into including recipes using locally sourced seasonal produce.
- III. Start a new series featuring small local businesses, including those at The Hatchery.
- IV. Include information on train times – timetable weblinks due to space.
- V. Sports articles to be restricted to half a page maximum (sometimes photo).
- VI. Choral Society to be no more than one page maximum (including photo).
- VII. WI & Valentine Club to be no more than one page maximum (including photo/s).
- VIII. Church Services and Church Matters to share the same page.
- IX. Local MP slot to be edited back to only feature items of local interest.
- X. To cease 'Pet Pawtrait' articles; maybe use occasional pet photos.
- XI. Include Eco articles from Environmental Steeple on a quarterly basis.
- XII. Include a quiz or puzzle when space allows.
- XIII. Continue with regular SAVA local history articles plus 'Blast from the Past' photos.
- XIV. Limit Village Hall News to half a page per month unless there's something specific.
- XV. Quarterly updates on planning issues via the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum.
- XVI. Follow up on any offers of help from volunteers (e.g. with delivery rounds).

B) Medium term (in 3-9 months):

- I. Find someone to write a regular 'Nature Notes' monthly feature.
- II. Something on Angling now and again, as not currently featured apart from in the Directory.
- III. How to include 'Middle Aston' more in SAL: update front page; contact MA Annual Parish Meeting.
- IV. Consider incorporating changes to the 'look'/layout of SAL to update & keep it fresh.
- V. Include local walks for villagers – advertise local footpaths guide when space allows.
- VI. Look at how to appeal to all age groups, e.g. middle age group? Teenagers?
- VII. Consider restricting the use of full-page adverts. Recommend half-page ads; full page ad rise to £30? and review rates in 2027.
- VIII. How to reflect other religions in SAL? Discuss with Committee.
- IX. How to reflect a diverse political landscape? Discuss with Committee.
- X. Look into the possibility of having a 'guest editor' now and again to cover for the Editor. Good for succession planning not to focus on one person (illness; holidays etc) plus the need for a break!
- XI. Look at moving to 10 issues per year in line with PC meetings – possibly not having a September/January issue (following quieter months of the year)? This would give volunteers a break and save on printing costs.
- XII. Encourage letters to the Editor - already invite them, and receive one most months.
- XIII. Book reviews? Have already asked, but not forthcoming. May need to source ourselves?
- XIV. Steeple People – how to engage more villagers in contributing? Target specific people, as there are few volunteers.

C) Long term (in 9-12 months):

- I. Recruit a second layout person before summer 2027, when Martin will likely step down. Suggestion of small advert in SAL every few months to keep it in readers' minds.
- II. Could we include something during the winter months, reviewing TV, films etc?

5) Conclusion

The SAL survey has been a worthwhile endeavour, illustrating that Steeple Aston Life continues to be read and valued by a great number of residents in Steeple and Middle Aston, as well as the surrounding villages and further afield.

It has been helpful to read suggestions from readers for new items to consider for inclusion, and we will look at how best to respond over the coming months. It was good to note those articles particularly enjoyed by readers, that pointed to a genuine interest in their local history and also what is going on via Parish Council reports.

We will take time to consider how best to respond, and the suggested recommendations and timescales provide some ideas that could be followed up.

It would be beneficial to run a SAL survey every 5-10 years, as households change, people move away, and interests wax and wane over time. That way, Steeple Aston Life can continue to provide a quality publication for villagers, that will reflect the lives and interests of its vibrant community. Hopefully it will continue to flourish for another fifty years and beyond.

Carol Neville – SAL Editor

Zazi Barrell – SAL Advertising Manager

02/04/26/CN/ZB

Steeple Aston Life survey

We'd love to hear from you. As a reader of Steeple Aston Life magazine, your opinion is important to us. This survey is designed to gather your views on the content of the magazine and what you enjoy most about life in our village. With your input, we can ensure that the magazine continues to reflect the interests and concerns of our community. Whether it's the latest update from the Parish Council, news from the school or local club activities, your feedback will help shape the future of the publication.

Please take a few moments to answer the questions overleaf – thank you. **Deadline for replies: Sunday 1st March 2026.**

Either pull out this paper copy, complete and return it via one of the boxes situated at: Steeple Aston village shop, the Grain Store or the Red Lion; alternatively, complete the survey online at <https://s.surveypal.com/9uhcrso5> or use the QR code:



SAL Survey Questions

1) Which sections of SAL do you enjoy reading the most?

Please circle below: (1 = least enjoy; 6 = most enjoy)

Arts Pages	1	2	3	4	5	6
Church Matters	1	2	3	4	5	6
Eco/Nature articles	1	2	3	4	5	6
Garden/Horticultural Society	1	2	3	4	5	6
Local MP/Councillor updates	1	2	3	4	5	6
Parish Council report	1	2	3	4	5	6
SAVA history/old photos	1	2	3	4	5	6
School Report	1	2	3	4	5	6
Steeple People/Pet Pawtrait	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sports Clubs' updates	1	2	3	4	5	6
Valentine Club News	1	2	3	4	5	6
WI News	1	2	3	4	5	6

2) Is there any content or topic you feel is missing from the magazine that you'd like to see included in future issues:

.....

.....

.....

3) How satisfied are you with the overall balance of topics in the magazine?

Please circle below: (1 = dissatisfied; 6 = very satisfied)

1 2 3 4 5 6

3a) Do you think anything should be given more or less focus?

.....

.....

.....

.....

4) How useful do you find the information sections in SAL?

Please circle below: (1 = least useful; 6 = most useful)

Bus Timetables	1	2	3	4	5	6
Calendar (at back of SAL)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Church Services	1	2	3	4	5	6
Directory (at front of SAL)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Parish Councillor listing	1	2	3	4	5	6
Refuse/Recycling dates	1	2	3	4	5	6
Village Hall News	1	2	3	4	5	6

5) Is there any other local information that would be useful to include in SAL?

.....

.....

.....

6) What do you think about the balance of editorial articles-v-advertising?

Please circle: (1 = dissatisfied; 6 = very satisfied)

1 2 3 4 5 6

6a) Why?

.....

7) How often would you prefer to receive SAL? (please circle):

Monthly Every 2 months Quarterly 10 issues per year

8) Do you feel that the presentation/design of SAL needs any changes?

.....

.....

.....

9) Any other comments you may wish to make about SAL?

.....

.....

.....

ABOUT YOU:

10) Do you live in Steeple Aston/Middle Aston/elsewhere? (please circle)

11) SAL is run entirely by volunteers. Would you be interested in helping out?

(Please circle): Yes/No

How?

.....

12) Your contact details (optional):

Name:

Email address: **Mob/tel no:**

Thank you for your feedback

**Please post your completed survey sheets in the box provided at
the village shop, Grain Store or Red Lion pub**

Alternatively complete the survey online at: <https://s.surveypal.com/9uhcrso5>



By Sunday 1st March 2026

Appendix 2: SAL Committee Constitution

CONSTITUTION of the COMMITTEE of the STEEPLE ASTON LIFE MAGAZINE

1. The object of the Committee is to publish a non-profitmaking village magazine, issued monthly, free of charge, to every household in the villages of Steeple Aston and Middle Aston. The magazine is a vehicle for the dissemination of information, general news and the expression of views.
2. The Committee will consist of a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and not more than seven other members. The Editor will be an ex-officio member.
3. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected annually in January to serve for that calendar year and will be eligible for re-election. At the December meeting or, should the December meeting seem likely to be cancelled, the November meeting, serving officers will be invited to indicate whether or not they wish to stand for the following year. Further, any member of the Committee who wishes to stand for one of these offices should make his or her intention known at the December or November meeting. Proxy or postal voting will be allowed in all these elections and should be given to the Editor.
4. In the event of the Chair being unable to attend a meeting, the Committee members present will choose one of their number to act as Chair for that meeting.
5. The Committee will have powers of co-option as and when necessary. Voting rights will be with the Committee members only.
6. If it is felt that a Committee member should be dismissed, this will be put to the Chair and the Committee will take a vote.
7. If a vacancy should arise, individual Committee members may suggest a replacement and a vote will be taken.
8. The number of Committee meetings will normally be ten per annum, held monthly except for August and December when there will be no meeting unless required. Extra meetings may be called by the Chair or by any two Committee members.
9. In the event of absences, four Committee members present at a meeting shall be deemed to form a quorum.
10. The annual accounts will be presented to the Committee preferably at the following February meeting or otherwise at as early a date as circumstances allow. At as early a date as possible the accounts will be independently examined, the results being reported to the Committee.

01-Nov-07

(amended 17_01_22:
Chair replacing Chairman)