

Steeple Aston

November 2026

Issue No. 639

Steeple and Middle Aston Magazine

Life



• The Hatch Kitchen café • Indian Block Printing • Trumpets galore •



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steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine

Previous issues of SAL are also available on this site

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

Cover: Grey Heron (*Ardea Cinerea*) fishing on the Oxford Canal. Photo by: Carol Neville

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Allotments (Church) SACAA		Amanda Rodgers	07793 553150
Angling Club		Sean Simms and Antony Morley	information@steepleastonanglingclub.com
Archive (SAVA)	Chairman	Stuart Cummins	01869 349155
Baby and toddler group		Katy, Martha, Hilary and Lisa	steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com
Badminton (Tuesday mornings)		Barbara Brewer	01869 340423
Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	01869 347033
Beekeepers (Swarm collection, advice)		Paul Honigmann	01869 340665, 07512 224700
Bellringers		Graham Clifton and Janine Coaker	01869 347273/07721 575228
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 Councillor (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
	Churchwarden	Graham Clifton	01869 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	
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Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Headteacher	Lorraine Wood	01869 340204
Environment and Sustainability Committee	Chair	Chris Nevile	chrisnevile@gmail.com
	Secretary	Martin Dale	martindale865@gmail.com
Fix My Street		Graham Porcas - grahamporcas@btconnect.com	01869 347240
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	The Chequers		01869 389174
Robinson's Close	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Steeple Aston Walking Group		Penny, Stuart, Sue and Graham	sawgox25@gmail.com
Team Steeple Cycling		Steve Boote	07805 910281
Valentine Club		Richard & Daphne Preston	01869 340512
Village Hall (see advertisement)	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Village Emergency Telephone System			690691
Village Website	Editor Jenny Bell	steepleastonwebeditor@gmail.com	01869 943573
Volunteer Driver Service (North Oxfordshire)		live.well.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Services/2561	0300 303 0125
Walking Netball	Wed. - 10.15am	Merrill Bayley	01869 347802
WI	President	Julie Hillier	01869 349185



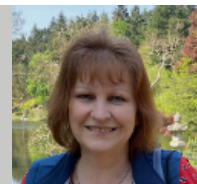
"...folly is not always folly."
Jane Austen

Steeple Aston *Life*

November 2026

Issue No.639

Editorial



November marks the end of Autumn, as we prepare for winter, bringing cooler temperatures, blustery weather and shorter days. Animals go into hibernation as it gets too cold for them to survive – hedgehogs, dormice, bats, frogs, butterflies and moths seek a safe sanctuary in which to slumber until warmth returns. I love the changing seasons, as we are lucky to witness the falling leaves bringing a kaleidoscope of colour, or enjoy a cool, crisp walk on a misty morning before curling up in the cosiness of a warm fire. There's something about this time of year, when we can catch our breath before the rush in the run up to Christmas.

Important traditions are marked including Guy Fawkes Night on the 5th, when our village puts on a spectacular fireworks display, with bonfire and hearty food. Remembrance Day gives us all the chance to don our red (and purple) poppies to pay tribute and thanks to all those lost during wartime, with special church services and events in their honour. November also includes the cultural celebration of Diwali – the Hindu festival of lights. It also marks World Vegan Month, as well as Movember, which focusses on men's health issues. Men raise money for charity by not shaving for a month, thereby growing a moustache, providing much amusement and an incentive to others to donate to a good cause!

This issue features the new owners of 'The Hatch Kitchen Café' which has replaced 'The Grain Store' at The Hatchery in Middle Aston. We wish Matt and Gavin all the best in their new venture, and look forward to trying out what's on offer from the kitchen! Also, this month is the annual SAVA exhibition taking place on the weekend of the 7th & 8th November, that will be taking a delve into the history of our village clubs and societies – from gardening pursuits to sporting activities and everything else in between. Do pop along for an interesting display, and for ideas of new hobbies to explore.

Carol

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Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

All articles and letters to
the Editor

editorsalife@gmail.com

COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline for the December 2026 issue is
Saturday 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 2026 issue is
Saturday 14th November

ADVERTISING RATES

¼ page- £10

½ page- £18

Full page(village events only) - £20.00

The Hatch Kitchen Café

Café re-opens under new name



The Grain Store Café in Middle Aston closed at the end of September and, at the time of going to press, is expected to re-open within a few weeks under new ownership and with a new name. The new owners are Matt Saxton and Gavin Allcock, two men with a lifetime of experience in the hospitality industry. They have experience of working in hotels, pubs and restaurants, including the famous Daylesford Organic. They are very excited to be taking on a new project working for themselves in Middle Aston. To make their own mark on the business, they have decided on a rebrand so in future it will be called The Hatch Kitchen Café. Appropriately enough, as you can see, their logo includes a very fetching picture of a chicken!

They took over from the previous owners, Totally Delicious, on 1st October and are taking a few

weeks to complete a small amount of building work, including an additional toilet and a smart new pizza oven. As well as pizzas to eat in or takeaway, they plan to provide good, wholesome food at affordable prices. They will be keeping on many of the local suppliers to the Grain Store and trying to stay as local as possible. They're hoping to attract customers for breakfast as well as lunch. The opening hours will remain the same for the time being. They will also apply for an alcohol licence and plan to open in the early evenings on Fridays and Saturdays. Matt and Gavin are hoping to take on as many of the former Grain Store staff as they can afford, but also plan to be very hands on. The idea is that they will both be working in the café, with at least one or other of them present every day. They have both given up great jobs to devote themselves to this new project, and they want to be at the heart of the community. They're busy developing new menus but they want villagers to tell them what they would like, plus, they'll try to keep prices reasonable. Matt says, "We're very aware of what's happening in the economy, and we want the café to be accessible for everybody."

Matt knows Steeple Aston well and loves the village. His son went to Dr Radcliffe's School, and he has family in Middle Aston. He now lives not far away in Milcombe, while Gavin lives in Warwick. But they plan to spend most of their time in Middle Aston in future. "We're here to stay!" they say.

Jenny Bell

Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Thank you from Joyce Bedding

I just want to say a big thank you to everyone for sending birthday cards or birthday wishes via various social media. I also wish to thank my family for the lovely party they arranged and for bringing so many of my friends and family together, some of whom I had not seen for quite a few years. It was so good to see everyone getting to know each other. It must have taken a tremendous amount of planning and organising in the months leading up to it and, of course, on the day getting the hall decked out and decorated. Thank you, Jasmine and the team, for the catering side, and also a huge thank you to the bellringers for marking the celebrations on the Sunday afternoon - what a wonderful thought.

Thank you to each and every one of you, love and best wishes,

Joyce Bedding

Deddington Health Centre *Update*

What would you think if, after staying in all day for a delivery, it didn't arrive? The group was shocked to realise the number of missed appointments, by speciality, in the last year. The department with the highest percentage, at 37%, was the nurse/care co-ordinators with GPs scoring 23.2% and the Health Care Assistants/Health Checks at 23%. Altogether across all the specialities, this adds up to over 400 appointments missed! Whilst it is accepted that life can get in the way and circumstances change, please make sure you cancel any appointment you know you cannot attend, as another patient could benefit.

At the last meeting, the group were pleased to meet Matt Winsor, the Advanced Clinical Practitioner (Paramedic)/Urgent Care Manager at the surgery. As a Paramedic with more than 20 years' service, Matt has since completed a master's degree and a prescribing qualification to enable him to treat patients with urgent needs each day. His wealth of experience and training means he can make referrals to hospital with the exclusion of referrals for X-rays and imaging.

If you need help to get started accessing the online Advice and Appointment Hub or the NHS App, then the PPG will be arranging sessions at Deddington Library soon. Look out on the PPG Facebook page for further details. You can always contact the PPG via the email below, or if you are visiting the surgery, collect a feedback form from the noticeboard and pop it in the collection box when you have completed it. If you require an answer, please supply your contact details.

Anne Hunsley - Deddington Patient Participation Group

ppg.deddington@gmail.com



THE HATCH
KITCHEN CAFE

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OPENING TIMES

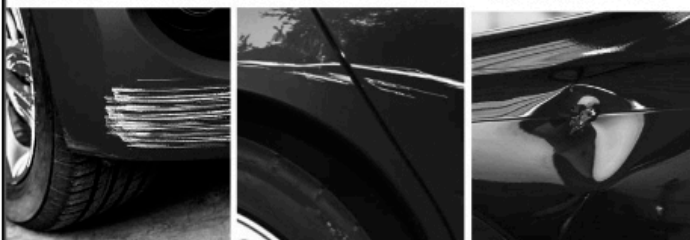
Monday to Friday 8.30 to 4pm	Saturday 8 to 4pm	Sunday 9 to 4pm
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Steeple People - John Silversides



Which village do you live in? How long have you lived here? Steeple Aston/24+ years.

Where did you move from and what brought you here? Oxford and a search for more space.

What do you like best about living here? Space, fresh air, good friends and the pub.

Is there anything you don't like about living here? Not being closer to the sea!

A potted history of yourself in 40 words or less: Born in Sussex, educated in Dorset, various jobs before ending up in property, London then Oxford for love (!), Chartered surveyor selling and leasing commercial property. Married to Nic, one son, Jack. Lucky to have travelled extensively and tried most (legal) things I've wanted to.

How do others see you in five words? Fun. Kind. Loyal. Large. (Faulty) off switch!

How would you describe yourself in five words? Fun. Busy. Restless. Pleaser. Untidy.

Early bird or night owl? Cat or dog? Early bird/Dog (still miss Sid).

What was your first job? And your current job? Working for Millets shop selling checked shirts/camping gear. Partner at Carter Jonas.

What is the best/worst job you have had? I'm lucky that, on the whole, I like what I do, which is just as well as I've been doing it for 35 years. Worst was probably demolishing the basement of Southampton library as a student job.

What's your guilty pleasure? Orange Matchmakers.

Tell us about your hobbies: Cycling/fitness to balance eating/drinking/socialising.

Who is your favourite musician and track? Coldplay/Clocks.

What is your best loved book & your favourite author? Simon Mason/DI Ryan series.

What food do you most enjoy eating? Cheese!

Who would you most like to have dinner with? My late father (if possible), as he died when I was 12.

Who do you most admire and why? Barack Obama for his effortless ease and quality at speaking, in sharp contrast to the current incumbent.

What is your favourite sport? Sporty or spectator? Rugby: ex-player, now frustrated ex- Wasps' fan.

If you won the lottery, what would you splash out on? A swimming lake and land to build it.

If you could travel anywhere, where would it be? A road trip taking in Stockholm, Austrian Lakes, Slovenia and finishing in Greece for Nic.

What makes you feel grumpy/angry? Littering.

Something surprising that you're very bad at? Stopping after the third pint (no great surprise).

What is your favourite saying or piece of advice? 'It's only money' (when trying to convince others to do something or justify a big spend).



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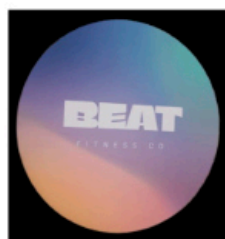
Fireworks Start at 7.00pm promptly

Admission including food

	Individual	Family
In Advance (Cash only)	£5.00	£14.00
On the Day (Cash or Card)	£6.00	£16.00

U16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult

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



Thank you to all our
Sponsors...



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Advance tickets will be on sale from Monday 19th 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


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PILATES

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 Maureen, Somerton

<p>MONDAY'S</p> <p>09.00-10.00 Steeple Aston village hall</p> <p>19.30-20.30 King George's Field Hall Lower Heyford</p>	<p>FRIDAY'S</p> <p>11.00-12.00 Barnes Memorial Hall Somerton</p>
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Village Hall News



 As the nights become longer than the days, we start to yearn basic home comforts, tradition, warmth and, of course, a little sparkle too. What better solution than coming to the village event of the season, **the fireworks spectacular on 5th of November**? Gates open at 6.00pm, with hot dogs and soup included in your ticket price. Tickets can be purchased from the village shop or Barbara Brewer – see full page advert. 

 We have secured extra parking thanks to The Hatchery.
Please follow the signage or speak to one of our stewards.

Sunday 6th December: Wassail evening. If you've not been before, it's a fun family friendly evening of music, song, verse, mulled wine and mince pies. This event is provided free for villagers, with refreshments available to purchase. A full advert is elsewhere in this month's SAL. Due to last years unprecedented high turnout, it may be necessary for us to ticket this event to comply with fire regulations – please keep an eye on the village website and Facebook for further updates.

And lastly – we have had to have the red chairs professionally cleaned to the tune of over £1,000. This in turn gets paid for through increased hiring charges. Whilst we fully understand accidents do happen, if we are notified immediately, we can clean them before it's too late – **ALL ACCIDENTS** should be communicated to the letting agent ASAP. Thank you for your co-operation.

Remember - the hall is maintained for the village to use, so if there is something we could offer and don't, please do get in touch.

Our letting agent is Angela Smith – 07734 112967.

Please do not call this number between 6.00pm and 8.00pm unless urgent. Email steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com Collect keys from 'Mijas' South Side, Steeple Aston. OX25 4RU.

Victoria Clifton (Chair) savh.org.uk/

1st Deddington Guides Report



Our new patrols and elected Patrol leaders are settling in well and beginning to organise their own activities. The biscuit icing and food tasting challenge were very popular! Armpit fudge (not as bad as it sounds!) was also a great hit. We had fun, too, creating some very elegant outfits out of newspaper. The nature quiz was very well supported - we've been learning a lot about many things spotted in Autumn. The Young Leaders organised a Spa night, when the guides had great fun, all dressed in their pyjamas or onesies and making hand-creams etc with many insisting on wearing their face masks home - not a bad look for Halloween! It was great to welcome Molly and Lillian at their promise ceremony.

All girls of 10 years and over are welcome.

Maggie Rampley 07957 600755

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A Wonderful Evening of Brass and Piano

“The Trumpets Shall Sound” was the theme of a thoroughly enjoyable evening of music in the Village Hall from trumpeters Brian Thomas and Harry Kent accompanied by pianist Paul Herrington, who also provided piano solo works.

And did those trumpets sound! With a sonority and high degree of technical ability, Brian and Harry played well-known works from the classical repertoire (*Prince of Denmark’s March*, *The Trumpets Shall Sound*, Mozart’s *Alleluia*, Handel’s *Every Valley Shall Be Exalted*), as well as a combination of jazz (*Maple Leaf Rag*, Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*) and show music (Lloyd Webber’s *Love Changes Everything*).

Steeple Aston’s own (or regular visitor) Paul Herrington, not only accompanied the visiting trumpeters, but played a number of classical solos (J S Bach’s *Prelude and Fugue in A Major*, Purcell’s *Rondeau from Abdelazer*; Haydn’s *Sonata in D Major*, 2nd Movement, Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy*), and more contemporary works from film and theatre (John Williams’ *Raiders March*).

Paul also displayed his musical virtuosity by playing his ‘party piece’, which consists of asking the audience for a musical key (Eb Major) and time signature (3/4), from which he extemporises, entertains and excels in equal measure. Needless to say, this performance was welcomed with enthusiastic cheers and applause from a delighted audience.

All in all, a wonderful evening of music, enjoyment and fun was experienced by all. Proceeds from the evening will go to support Steeple Aston Choral Society.

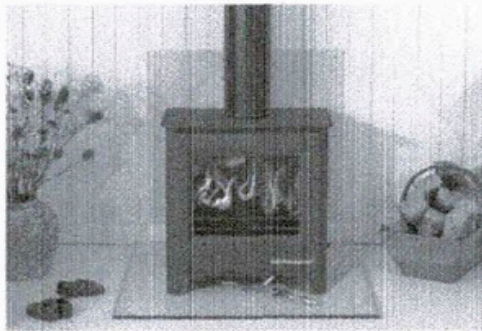
Amadeus



Paul Herrington, Brian Thomas and Harry Kent. Photo by Simon Lutter



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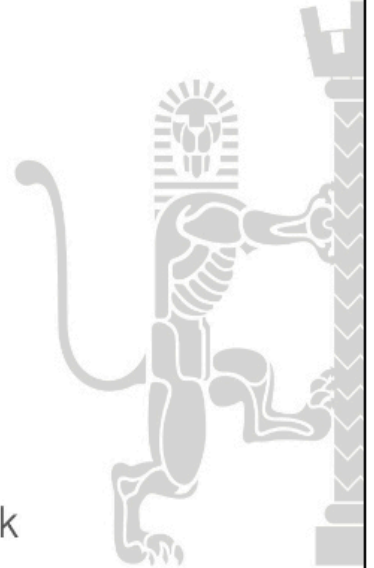
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Members have enjoyed meeting for autumnal walks, with yet more planned, including around Rousham on 6th November. These usually depart from the shop at 10.00am ending with a pub lunch. If you would like to join, or just come for lunch, contact Sally Cooper for further details. Other dates for your diary:

Saturday 14th November: Quiz and curry night for the Princess Alice Hospice, Village Hall 7.00pm.

Tuesday 8th December: WI Christmas Dinner, Village Hall, Note: food choices required by 10th Nov. Contact Kathryn Coysh for details of both events. There was an appeal for medical supplies and outdoor equipment, which ShiptonHub are collecting to send to Ukraine. Julie (07740 794386) has more details. Please bring any suitable goods to the November meeting.

After all this admin, we enjoyed a talk by Keith Westcott who is a metal detectorist, historian and archaeologist, plus a member of the *Time Team* regularly consulted for his expertise. He is often asked what 'treasure' he has found, meaning coins, gold artefacts and items of high monetary value. Keith has in fact found several real 'treasures', but their value lies in what they reveal about life in the past. His most valuable finds so far have been the bottom of a bucket and a piece of tile. Keith was puzzled when a lead-lined sarcophagus was found near Broughton Castle. The body was clearly that of an important woman with significant local status, but there was nothing else to suggest how she came to be there. Curiosity roused, Keith set about searching around the burial and found a piece of tile from a hypocaust, a Roman underfloor heating system. This led to the discovery of a huge Roman villa comparable in size to Buckingham Palace. Unsurprisingly, Keith views this piece of tile as a true 'treasure'. It was a fascinating talk and we would welcome Keith back in a few years to tell us how the Broughton Castle dig is progressing and what other 'treasures' he has unearthed. Linda Needle gave a vote of thanks. The next meeting is on 10th November, when Graham Davison will give a talk with the intriguing title *'Three Chemists and a Doctor You Should Know'*.

OFWI events

Tuesday 24th November: Kelmscott Manor, the Village, May Morris, & the First Oxfordshire WI.

Thursday 26th November: Christmas Brass.

Friday 11th December: Winchester, Winchester Xmas Market and Xmas at Marwell: Fire & Ice Evening.

For all these events, booking closes: Friday 13th November, or when all tickets are sold.

Home and Garden Craft competition, deadline for entry forms to be received: Weds 2nd Dec.

Cathy Lawday

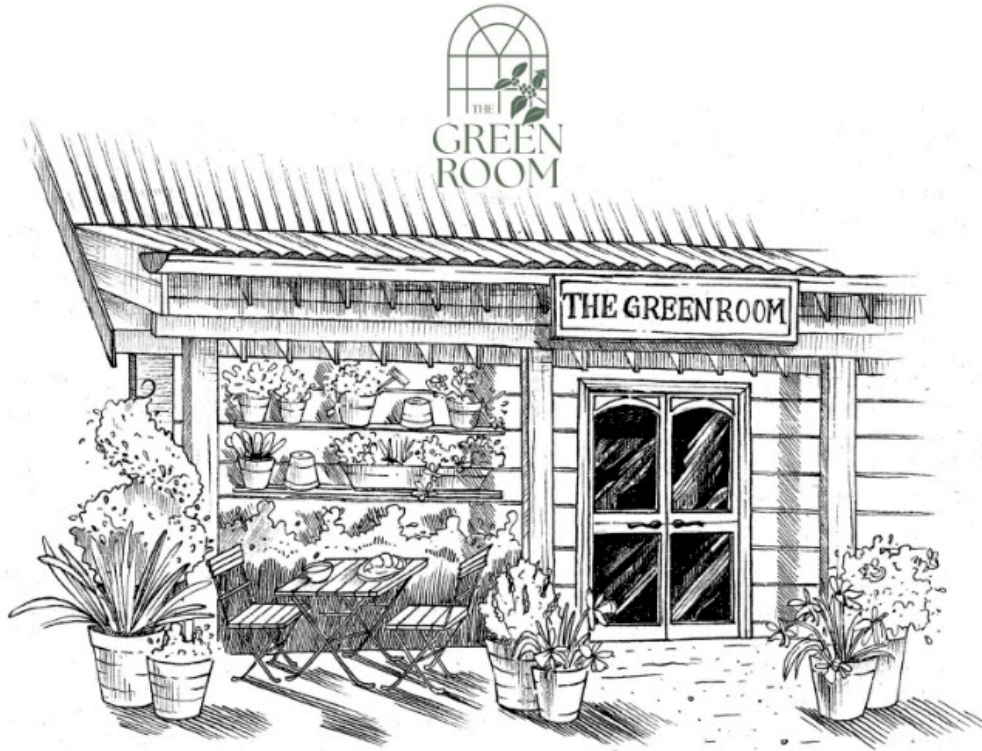


The Valentine Club

It's a little early for me to report on our fish and chip meal plus a quiz, but I am sure numerous folk returned home fully nourished, well-informed and ready for a short lie down after the meeting on 20th October. Back in early October, forty of us ventured by coach abroad, well, I should say the Isle of Wight for a five-day break. As one might hope and expect, the weather was kind, with little rain and plenty of sunshine. We travelled around much of the island stopping at Godshill and the obligatory garden centre before returning home to Norton Grange. We also took a steam train ride through part of the island and had a chance to see the history of the island's railway. Probably the most memorable part of our holiday is the companionship enjoyed by all members and the hospitality provided by Warners at Norton Grange near Yarmouth. It may come as a shock to many, but some of the club members forming a quiz team came first against some formidable competition! Quite a few took to the swimming pool, whilst others tried their hand at bowling or simply enjoyed the many walks that abound on the island. In a few days, some club members are off to Gunton Hall in Suffolk where we will have the opportunity to visit Thursford and yet again, the hospitality of a Warner hotel. Later this month, we welcome Emily to the village hall, who is going to sing her way through the 60s and 70s. On 1st December the club is going to enjoy a three-course meal at The Holt before our annual festive meal on 15th December.

To find out more about The Valentine Club, visit our website on valentineclub.wixsit.com/aston (simply go to the village website, go to 'clubs and societies' and click on the Valentine Club link), 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 or email richard.preston5@btopenworld.com

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



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Restorations and repairs

We have an extra event on Sunday 8th November: 'The Model Bus Meet'. There will be displays of model buses and diecasts, trade stands and much more. More information is found on our website

oxfordbusmuseum.org.uk

From time to time, I write about restorations and repairs to our running fleet in the workshop, but this month's article concerns a bus repair in a running shed. A member's 1957 AEC Regent V, 956 AJO, is currently off the road so its front can be repainted, as the paintwork had peeled after being in the sun for many years. The City of Oxford Motor Services (COMS) repainted its fleet every two years in the 1950s and 1960s. When 956 AJO left COMS, it was operated by Hornsby's of Ashby, who repainted it into their own livery. However, this is the bus's only second repaint since it entered preservation about 50 years ago. Passengers board the bus via the open platform at the back. Doors were not felt essential in those days. Many years ago, not long after it was acquired by the current owner's late father for preservation, the platform had to be rebuilt. The opportunity has now been taken to rip out the rotten floor, replace it with plywood covered by a resin coat to make it smooth, and top it with non-slip rubber matting.

Its sister bus, 952 AJO, collided with the Oxford station bridge in 1969. After the accident 952 was acquired by a local group of enthusiasts who were members of Oxford Preservation Syndicate, the museum's forbear. It was converted into an open top bus and later found its way to the Bahamas. The repairs to 956 should be completed in early 2027. So, the bus will be on the road again carrying passengers to celebrate its 70th anniversary.

Frank Collingwood – Oxford Bus Museum



956 AJO, Now undergoing much needed repair work



952 AJO, after its collision with Oxford station bridge



956 AJO, In service during the 1960s



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Steeple Snippets

What's in a picture?

We have a number of photographs in SAVA that do not have a back story, dates or names.



So, what can we find out about this photo?

What does the fashion of hair, hats and clothes tell us? Trilbies (1890s) and Panama hats (1900/1910s).

Why would someone wear so many badges? Competence at sport? Venues played at? Swapped with other teams?

Evidence of sportswear or equipment? Bowling balls. A team logo (unknown).

Any other evidence? Smoking pipes and cigarettes.

Do we know anyone in the photo? So far - John Walton, lived in Steeple Aston 1883-1921.

Conclusion - Village Bowls club. End of 19th early 20th century.

HELP! CAN YOU PUT ANY NAMES TO THE FACES?
If so, please contact: steepleastonarchive@gmail.com

Parish Council Meeting Notes



There was a lively start to the meeting, as I found myself being dive-bombed by a giant wasp. Proceedings did have to pause briefly as the assault was so bad that I spilt my cocoa! Soon back to business and it seems that our bid for money for a new bus shelter has hit a hitch, as the layby by Rousham Bridge isn't Highways owned. It's been a formal bus stop for years, but certain permissions will likely be needed if we're to get a new shelter there. Cllr Gareth Epps (OCC) gave us his report, briefly starting with the controversial plans for a massive "XXL" logistics and warehouse development near Junction 10 of the M40 (at Baynards Green and Ardley) which are now "mid examination". Onto the latest set of planning documents for Heyford Park which will apparently include some PFAS results. Then onto a topic that felt close to the councillor's heart – the OCC "Plan for Bus" consultation has just opened – and we're all welcome to take part! So, if you value our trusty S4 then do take a look: letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxbus-2040-plan-for-bus Staying with buses, and it is good news if you work for schools or the NHS, as you'll be able to get a discounted bus pass (thanks to funds from the congestion charge). Gareth assured us that using park & ride was best (Botley Road has been keeping him very busy – I'll say no more). He talked about road safety at Dr Radcliffe's and is keen for views on what can be done there. A discussion ensued about how to remove cars from the whole equation – could more people use the existing school bus? Could better walking/cycling routes be developed? I've always been a fan of implementing some kind of funicular ski lift on Paines Hill, but I didn't feel this was the time or place to mention it!

Next, news that I know Mr Miggins will be sad about, is the closing of the Ardley Recycling Centre after 42 years as the lease is ending. It's early stages, but the centre will move to a more modern setting closer to Bicester. The next topic was one that I think we all feel quite passionate about - PFAS. If you're a regular reader of mine, then you'll know that high levels of PFAS ("forever chemicals") have been discovered near the former RAF Upper Heyford airbase. Discussion this evening centred on news that we've submitted details of springs, surface water and wells in Steeple Aston to be tested; Dorchester is about to publish results of some kind, but will they be scientifically viable enough for the Environment Agency? And will "depth testing" be

required at some point? This subject came up later in the meeting with one councillor feeling shocked at what's happened in Islip and another saying what a good job the campaign group "Gallos Brook" have done at "generating noise" on the whole topic.

There was next some chat on the cost of extra hedge cutting, and the Chair was accused of stealing the Clerk's paperclip. Both issues were soon resolved and we moved onto Planning. There's a new submission from Heyford Park which is quite similar to their last submission but with a bit more detail. I sat up with mention of a proposed Data Centre - they seem to be springing up everywhere! One councillor even said they were talking about building them under the sea and in space (where it's cold). But do we want one up the road? I'm not sure. Our PC will be objecting on similar grounds as before – on the scale of the whole project at a point when so many other developments are happening in the area, on traffic issues, on the potential loss of a greenfield site and possibly on PFAS too. It was noted this is a new submission, so individuals wanting to object need to log on and register their comments again.

Now a date for your diaries: on 12th November our village hall is hosting a public hearing before an independent examiner to review some specific aspects of the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP). One of the topics will be a site allocation for possible new housing off Grange Park. You can go along and listen to proceedings but unless already invited to do so, will not be permitted to speak.

Next, a councillor opened their laptop to show us a preview of the new PC website (likely to be live in November), so I leapt from my seat with such speed I nearly knocked the remains of my cocoa over again! One councillor said "It's a bit boring but exactly as I thought it would look like". I can't say I disagree. I was soon back in my seat.

The next topic was quite fascinating and definitely counted towards my "you learn something new every day" quota. The Clerk had been contacted regarding some tree maintenance that was required in "the closed graveyard". Well, there was me thinking that meant the graveyard apart from the church and closed by a wall, but that is not the case at all! A "closed graveyard" is a burial ground where no new burials are allowed. So, in our case, the area by the church.

Parish Council Meeting Notes



The playground needs (yet more) bark which will probably be delivered in 400 plastic bags (I am not making this up), so the Chair offered to take any bags to the local recycling centre (hopefully before it closes). We heard about repair costs to some rotten wood, the condition of the zip line and controversy over trees growing over wooden platforms. Meanwhile, we have some quotes to repair the damaged wall (by Village Hall/Pre-School). Someone said “we’ll never know the culprit” which led to discussion on installing CCTV – one for next month’s agenda. And then it seems the lock on the playground toilet door is broken. The Clerk said the lock was “too fancy” (and I have to confess to

finding it ridiculously high tech – with all the jeopardy of never quite being sure if someone will burst in suddenly or not). It is a “Healthmatic” lock called “The Wave” (enough said). It’s five years old and was installed after regular locks kept being vandalised. Maybe some CCTV is a good idea...?

Finally, we heard how some parishioners spent a dark Sunday evening in the shipping container with some cricket netting. It was by all accounts “a worthwhile exercise”.

Time for my bed. Until next time (16th November)!

Mrs Miggins

Correction

In the October edition of Steeple Aston Life, we reported on comments made by a member of the public during a Parish Council meeting regarding the relocation of a village lamp post. It was suggested that the lamp post had been moved “apparently without permission”. It has since been brought to our attention that the homeowners in question did, in fact, have full and proper permission from Oxfordshire County Council to have the lamp post moved. We are happy to set the record straight. We apologise for any harm to the residents’ reputation and clarify that no unauthorised works took place.

The SAL Committee

The moving lamp post in Grange Park



Lamp post position in 2011



Lamp post position today

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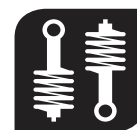
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Steeple Aston footpaths guide

Are you new to the village, or interested in exploring our beautiful countryside? Why not pick up 'A Guide to the Footpaths in & around the parish of Steeple Aston' from the village shop, priced at just £2.00, to discover seven local routes. As the last Cotswold village, with the River Cherwell marking the end of the Cotswolds, the surrounding hills and valleys bring a pleasant air of tranquility. Footpaths vary in length from 2km to 5.2km with different routes available. This informative guide is produced by Steeple Aston Life, therefore, all sales help with product costs of the magazine.

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Steeple Aston Garden Club



In October, the Garden Club was treated to a talk by Anton Blackie, Head Gardener from Estelle Manor, a country club and hotel near Witney who was talking about '*Horticulture in Hospitality*' including some valuable and entertaining insights into the challenges of keeping the gardens looking good this summer!

On Wednesday 4th November, Sarah Turton, who is a Master Medicinal Herbalist and Iridologist based in Oxford, is coming to talk about '*The Garden as Apothecary*'. Apparently, she has a particular love of the plants that most gardeners already grow, and enjoys giving the audience a completely new way of seeing them, so please come along and hear her speak in the Village Hall at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

If any garden club member or family member would like to come to the three-course Christmas meal at The Holt on Wednesday 9th December, the doors open from midday with the meal at 1.00pm. The cost is £38.50 and final numbers with payment please by Wednesday 4th November.

If you want to know about future talks and events including the Christmas meal at The Holt, please check out the Steeple Aston website steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening, or contact Alison or Richard using the details below. You'll be very welcome!

Alison Llewellyn alisonllew.home@gmail.com

Richard Preston richard.preston5@btopenworld.com

Steeple Aston Golf Society



Eleven of us attended the penultimate match of the season at Kirtlington on a lovely autumnal day. Mike Brown came out on top with 42 points, with Alan Brewer scoring 36 points. The guest prize was won by Bob Allen, also with 36 points. Nearest the pin was Martin Jukes with Derek Hayday winning nearest the pin in two, and there were no birdie 2s. Mike has been cut 3 shots for his win. The report from our last match of 2026 will be in the December issue.

"The difference between golf and government is that, in golf, you can't improve your lie!"

Happy golfing.

Alan Brewer



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Alan Brewer, Derek Hayday and Mike Brown.



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# Mother Nature's Notes



Here we are now into November, winter is on the way, the clocks have gone back, the nights have drawn in and there is a chill in the air. Summer migrants have long gone, but we can look forward to seeing our winter visitors such as the Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) and Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*). Both belong to the Thrush (*Turdidae*) family and arrive from northern Europe in large numbers and group together in sizeable flocks. They are both nomadic species and roam our countryside looking for fruits and berries in the woods and hedgerows. The Fieldfare is the larger of the two with a grey head, lower back and rump, chestnut coloured upper back and wings with a heavily spotted breast and a black tail. The redwing is speckled in cream and brown with a white stripe over the eye and a bright red flash on the underwings and flank.

Have you ever wondered where bumblebees go in the winter? Well, most of the colony will die at the end of the summer but the Queen will hibernate. She gorges herself on the last available sources of nectar and pollen to build up her fat stores and will then hide away in loose soil, banks of earth and flowerpots. She will emerge in spring to find a nest site, having mated before she hibernated, to lay her first brood of eggs. Solitary bees, such as mining bees and masonry bees have a quite different strategy in which the Queen will lay her eggs in late spring. The grubs will stay in the nest throughout the summer feeding on pollen stores left by the female. The grubs mature and pupate in late autumn staying in the nest to emerge in spring. You can help any winter active bees in your garden by planting things like mahonia, winter aconite and hellebore which all provide rich sources of nectar. By creating habitats such as piles of leaves and twigs, not cutting back any ivy you have growing and building a bee hotel [woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/) you will support these vital insects.

Recently, I have heard Tawny Owls (*Strix Aluco* - Family: *Strigidae*) calling to one another from the trees around the village. They are nocturnal birds that are often heard rather than seen. The male makes the classic 'Twit Twoo' sound and the females respond with a shriller 'Kew-wick'. Owls disgorge pellets containing parts of their prey that cannot be digested, and if you find any of these on a walk or in your garden, it is a tell-tale sign that there is a roosting site nearby.

Ending on a cautionary note, autumn is the time when lots of different fungi such as mushrooms and toadstools appear. The variety is huge, some are edible, and some are deadly poisonous! Please do not pick and eat **any** fungi unless you know **for certain** what it is or you are with someone who is an expert on fungi identification.

And lastly, hedgehogs naturally seek out piles of wood and leaves as they make warm and comfortable spaces to hibernate so **please don't forget to check any bonfires** for hedgehogs before lighting.

If you are interested in helping our wildlife at any time of the year, there is plenty of information available on what you can do provided by organisations such as [woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk) the [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk) or [wildlifetrusts.org.uk](http://wildlifetrusts.org.uk)

## Mother Nature



Tawny Owl.  
Photo by Les Foster - Barn Owl Trust



Fly Agaric Toadstool.  
Photo by Deborah Dunn



Fieldfare on Hawthorn berries.  
Photo by David Whitaker - Woodland Trust

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### Bubble and Squeak Cakes

Just a different way to present an old recipe

*4 medium potatoes  
1 large onion  
Medium bunch of chives  
Mixed herbs/tarragon – good pinch of each  
5 rashers streaky bacon  
Oil and small slice of butter to fry with  
1tsp parsley*

Green beans to accompany cakes.

Cut up potatoes small and boil for 20 minutes, then mash. Use pestle and mortar to coarse grind the herbs. Add chopped chives to the mash.

Cut up and fry bacon in the butter/oil for 4-5 minutes and then add diced onion. Add the herbs. Fry until soft and a little browned. Keep the oil mixture. Put beans on and boil for 6 minutes.

Mix fried components into the mash. Make 4 cakes and place back in the pan to crisp on both sides (about 3 minutes a side). Plate up cakes and beans, pour over the pan liquor and sprinkle parsley on the top.

### Growl's Kitchen

Save the date for our  
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## **Business: The Indian Block Print Company**

**Location: Lakeside Business Park, Middle Aston**

**Owner: Maggie Sheehan and daughters, Tess Grace and Annabel Hucker.**

There's something very satisfying about lifting a wooden printing block and seeing the pattern it leaves behind. That simple pleasure is at the heart of The Indian Block Print Company, where we run workshops and sell blocks, paints and supplies to help people enjoy this beautiful craft themselves. Indian block printing is a centuries-old craft with a rich tradition in and around Jaipur, India. Skilled artisans individually carve each wooden block, which is then carefully positioned and pressed onto fabric by hand, building a pattern one impression at a time.

My name is Maggie Sheehan, and I fell deeply in love with the craft when I first discovered it. I was instantly hooked and knew others would be too. Having started *The Pottery Place*, a 'paint your own pottery' studio in Witney, twenty-five years ago, I initially came across Indian printing blocks through using them to create patterns in clay. My daughters, Tess and Annabel, later accompanied me on a sourcing and workshop trip to India. We were captivated by the country and the extraordinary skill of the artisans carving blocks and printing fabric. We returned full of ideas and began selling blocks at craft shows in 2012. Since then, we have adapted the traditional printing process to make it accessible for people crafting at home. Using paints and techniques suited to smaller projects on fabric and paper, our customers can create anything from a greeting card to a patterned tea towel. Every block remains hand carved in India, keeping that traditional craftsmanship at the heart of what we do.

A typical day in our studio involves workshops, demonstrations, packing online orders and developing new designs and collaborations. Seeing the joy that printing brings to people is one of the most rewarding parts of the business. Some customers have even gone on to start their own creative businesses, running workshops or selling hand-printed items. After six years at Hatch End, we were fortunate to find our current home at Lakeside Farm, next to The Hatchery. We fitted it out with a shop and purpose-built studio and have now spent another six happy years here. I am gradually taking a back seat, with Tess running the business and Annabel leading the studio and workshops. Together, they continue to develop the company, introducing new workshops and welcoming guest tutors to share other creative skills. We also take our workshops to other venues. We would love more local people to discover us. Whether you'd like to try a workshop, pick up supplies for your next project or simply have a look around, you'll find a warm, creative welcome. Our studio is open to visitors from 10.00am to 4.00pm most days.

Find out more at [theindianblockprintco.com](http://theindianblockprintco.com)

**Maggie Sheehan**





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Steeple Talks November 19th  
In the Church – 7.15pm for 7.30pm

**Dr Philip Davies**



## Blood and Fire – A Social History of the Salvation Army



Refreshments from 7.15pm  
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# **CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT**

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**Friday 27th November**

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Steeple Aston Church and Tackley Church

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# Advent Activity Afternoon

For families with children aged up to 12

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

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November - join us at 2pm, finishing at 4pm

Steeple Aston Village Hall



NB Adults need to come with their children  
To find out more, contact Rachel Marsden:  
[blairrachel@hotmail.com](mailto:blairrachel@hotmail.com)

# Church Matters



The seasons have definitely turned, autumn has arrived with cooler, more blustery weather. Whilst I enjoy the beautiful golden sunshine and the autumnal colours (yellow and browns) of the leaves on the trees, I also look back and remember the warmth of the summer sunshine.

November brings with it a season of Remembering. On the 1st November we celebrate All Saints' Day, when we honour Christian saints and martyrs. Generally, we think of Saints as being famous people like St Peter or St Paul, recognising that they were especially close to God, and lived a life of exceptional holiness. However, the Bible uses the term saint to describe anyone who believes and follows God. The word appears dozens of times across both testaments - almost always in the plural form ('saints' or 'holy ones') - to describe ordinary, living people who belong to God's faith community. The 2nd November is All Souls Day when people, particularly in the catholic tradition, would pray for those who have died and are still in purgatory, which is a passing intermediate state after physical death for the purifying or purging of a soul before entering Heaven. On 11th November, we fall silent to remember those who have given their lives for our freedom, particularly those who died in the First and Second World Wars.

When we remember, we bring things from the past into the present in our thoughts. During this time, we also re-member (put back together, reassemble) those whom we have loved and lost. We re-member their character and personalities, by bringing special moments from the past into the present, with each memory a precious thread in the tapestry of who they were. On Remembrance Sunday, as we stand in silence listening to the names being read out, I invite us to remember them, thinking about who they were, their characters, passions, hopes and dreams that they sacrificed so that we can live. Remembering them helps us to honour them through the way we choose to live. By choosing to live life in all its fullness, making the most of every day and opportunity, and through choosing to stand up for freedom and peace each day.

God Bless, *Harriet*

## Church Services November 2026

| Date                                       | North Aston                        | Steeple Aston                 | Tackley                            |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>1<sup>st</sup> November</b>  | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion BCP       | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion BCP | 5.30pm<br>All Souls Service        |
|                                            |                                    |                               |                                    |
| <b>Sunday<br/>8<sup>th</sup> November</b>  | 9.30am<br>Remembrance              | 10.50am<br>Remembrance        | 5.30pm<br>Remembrance              |
|                                            |                                    |                               |                                    |
| <b>Sunday<br/>15<sup>th</sup> November</b> | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion           | 11.00am<br>Holy Communion     | 5.30pm<br>Evensong                 |
|                                            |                                    |                               |                                    |
| <b>Sunday<br/>22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> | 9.30am<br>Morning Prayer           | 11.00am<br>Morning Prayer     | 9.30am<br>Family Communion         |
|                                            |                                    |                               |                                    |
| <b>Sunday<br/>29<sup>th</sup> November</b> | 10.30am<br>Benefice Holy Communion |                               | 5.30pm<br>Advent Organ Meditations |
|                                            |                                    |                               |                                    |

[sntchurch.com](http://sntchurch.com)

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You can find the application form using this link

<https://forms.gle/UuNa3fZBiueZDQD6A>

Or use the QR code below



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# Travel Times

## RAIL TRAVEL

Our nearest train station is at Lower Heyford, with more frequent services from Oxford Parkway, Bicester Village and Bicester North.

Oxford Parkway, Bicester Village and Bicester North: services to London Marylebone via High Wycombe; to Oxford; and to Birmingham via Banbury. Go to [chilternrailways.co.uk](http://chilternrailways.co.uk) for further details.

Heyford: Heyford station is unmanned and is about a twenty-minute walk down the hill from Steeple Aston. This service runs between Banbury and London Paddington, often requiring changes at Oxford, Didcot Parkway or Reading. Go to [firstgreatwestern.co.uk](http://firstgreatwestern.co.uk) for details. (N.B. key in Heyford, not Lower Heyford).

## OurBus Bartons

Did you know that a bus from OurBus Bartons has been meeting the 17:06 and 18:06 trains from Oxford at Heyford Station for the last ten years? The bus waits for the train (even if it's delayed) and goes through Steeple Aston on its way back to Middle Barton. It only costs £1.50 for an adult single to any of the bus stops in Steeple Aston. If you're an early bird, we also go through the village in the morning at just after 7.00am. You can hear more at our AGM on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm in the Middle Barton Sports and Social Club, when we will also be celebrating these last ten years, all driven by volunteers. We'd love to see you there. For further details of our bus services, visit [ourbusbartons.org.uk](http://ourbusbartons.org.uk)

## STAGECOACH BUS TIMETABLE

### STAGECOACH S4 BUS SERVICE (timetable effective from 11<sup>th</sup> October 2026)

#### 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)

## Local Information

### 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
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Get involved!  
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committee help  
keep village  
activities going.

### STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL

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



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|                                                                                                                                    | Monday to Friday                                | Sat/Sun & Bank<br>Holidays<br>Before 6pm         | Sat/Sun & Bank<br>Holidays<br>6pm to Midnight    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Steeple &amp; Middle Aston Village Residents / Voluntary Groups</b>                                                             |                                                 |                                                  |                                                  |
| All Facilities<br>(Main Hall, Kitchen and<br>Meeting Room )                                                                        | £10 per hour<br>(£20 min charge)<br>£75 Deposit | £10 per hour<br>(£40 min charge)<br>£75 Deposit  | £15 per hour<br>(£60 min charge)<br>£200 Deposit |
| <b>Non-Residents/Commercial Organisations</b>                                                                                      |                                                 |                                                  |                                                  |
| All Facilities<br>(Main Hall, Kitchen and<br>Meeting Room)                                                                         | £10 per hour<br>(£20 min charge)<br>£75 Deposit | £12 per hour<br>(£40 min charge)<br>£200 Deposit | £20 per hour<br>(£80 min charge)<br>£200 Deposit |
| <b>All Hirers</b>                                                                                                                  |                                                 |                                                  |                                                  |
| Main Hall                                                                                                                          | £8 per hour<br>(£10 min charge)<br>£75 Deposit  | Not available to book separately                 |                                                  |
| Meeting Room                                                                                                                       | £5 per hour<br>(£10 min charge)                 | Check availability with Letting Agent            |                                                  |
| See website <a href="https://savh.org.uk/village-hall-hire-fees/">https://savh.org.uk/village-hall-hire-fees/</a> for full details |                                                 |                                                  |                                                  |

## HARRIS'S STORES & POST OFFICE

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8.00am – 7.30pm (Sat)  
8.00am – 6.00pm (Sun)

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*Thank you all for your continued support.  
Please let us know of any ideas or suggestions of ways  
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**Tel: 01869 340201**  
**e-mail: [raj4878@hotmail.com](mailto:raj4878@hotmail.com)**

**Steeple Aston and Middle Aston  
Refuse & Recycling collection day  
is THURSDAY.**

November 2026:

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

December 2026:

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



### **Food caddy is collected weekly**

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

Glass bottles and jars can now be placed in blue recycling bin or approved recycling sacks – please rinse items first to remove any residues. No need to remove labels/lids.

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



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**07749 953125.**

# 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>      |                                                                    |                       |                   |
| Wednesday 4th        | Garden Club: The Garden as Apothecary                              | Village Hall          | 7.00pm for 7.30pm |
| Thursday 5th         | Fireworks Spectacular                                              | Robinsons Close, S/A  | 6.00pm            |
| Sat 7th & Sun 8th    | SAVA exhibition: A history of SA's Clubs and Societies'            | Village Hall          | See ad for times  |
| Mon 9th - Thurs 12th | Valentines: Holiday to Gunton Hall, Lowestoft                      | Lowestoft             |                   |
| Tuesday 10th         | WI: 3 Chemists & a Doctor                                          | Village Hall          | 7.00pm            |
| <b>Saturday 14th</b> | <b>SAL December copy and advert deadlines</b>                      |                       |                   |
| Saturday 14th        | Quiz and curry night - in support of Princess Alice Hospice        | Village Hall          | 7.00pm            |
| Sunday 15th          | The Re: Market - crafts & workshops using recycled materials       | Village Hall          | 10.00am - 4.00pm  |
| Monday 16th          | Parish Council Meeting                                             | S & R Building        | 7.30pm            |
| Tuesday 17th         | Valentines: 60s & 70s music                                        | Village Hall          | 2.30pm            |
| Thursday 19th        | Church Talk: Blood & Fire - A Social History of the Salvation Army | SA Church             | 7.15pm            |
| Saturday 21st        | Christmas Fair - The Hatchery (in aid of Dr Radcliffe's School)    | The Hatchery, M/Aston | 10.00am - 4.00pm  |
| Saturday 21st        | Dr Radcliffe's Christmas Fair                                      | Dr Radcliffe's School | 11.00am - 2.00pm  |
| Sunday 22nd          | SACS Autumn Concert: A Celebration of John Rutter                  | SA Church             | 7.00pm            |
| Friday 27th          | Church Quiz Night                                                  | Village Hall          | 7.00pm for 7.30pm |
| Saturday 28th        | Farmers' Market                                                    | Deddington            | 9.00am - 12.30pm  |
| Sunday 29th          | Church Messy Advent Activity afternoon                             | Village Hall          | 2.00pm - 4.00pm   |
|                      |                                                                    |                       |                   |
| <b>December</b>      |                                                                    |                       |                   |
| Saturday 5th         | Christmas Fair at Rosara, Nicholson's, North Aston                 | North Aston           | 10.00am - 4.00pm  |
| Saturday 5th         | Christmas Fayre                                                    | Village Hall          | 12 noon - 4.00pm  |
| Sunday 6th           | Wassail Evening                                                    | Village Hall          | 6.00pm            |
| Tuesday 8th          | WI: Christmas dinner                                               | Village Hall          | 6.30pm for 7.00pm |
| Wednesday 10th       | Garden Club: Christmas Lunch                                       | The Holt Hotel        | 12.30pm           |
| <b>Saturday 12th</b> | <b>SAL January copy and advert deadlines (earlier due to Xmas)</b> |                       |                   |
| Tuesday 15th         | Valentines: Christmas dinner and entertainment                     | Village Hall          | from 12 noon      |
| Saturday 19th        | Farmers' Market                                                    | Deddington            | 9.00am - 12.30pm  |

**Pilates.** Village Hall - 2.00pm - 3.00pm & 3.15pm - 4.15pm - Mondays

**Choral Society Rehearsals.** Village Hall - 7.45pm - Mondays

**Badminton.** Village Hall - 10.00am - 12.30pm - Tuesdays

**Bellringing practice.** Church Tower - 7.30pm - Tuesdays

**Walking Netball.** Village Hall - 10.15am - Wednesdays

**Brownies.** Sport & Rec Centre - 6.00pm - 7.30pm - Wednesdays

**Toddler Group.** Sport & Rec Centre - 9.30am - 11.30am - Thursdays

**Badminton.** Village Hall - 8.00pm - Thursdays

**Village History Centre (SAVA).** 10.00am - 12 noon - Saturdays

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

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

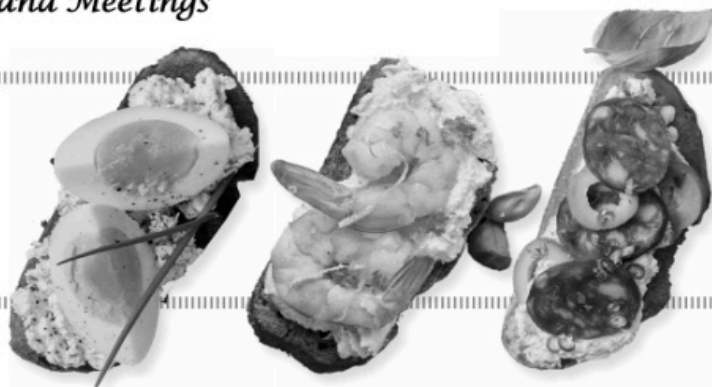
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