

Welcome to Steeple Aston

Calor Oxfordshire Village of the
Year 2007

Our Village Societies and Clubs



This booklet has been assembled by your Parish Council to welcome you to the village and to let you know what societies and clubs we have in Steeple Aston should you wish to join others with interests similar to your own, or perhaps if you want to try out something new

As well as the things listed here, you'll find in "Steeple Aston Life", our monthly village magazine (delivered free to your door each month), many other practical and worthwhile things you can do as well as relaxing at entertainments put on in the Village Hall. Don't forget our website – www.steepleaston.org.uk, which also carries lots of news and pictures about village events.

We want you to enjoy what the village has to offer and also to continue the long traditions of the village community by joining and taking part in keeping Steeple Aston the vibrant and dynamic place it is today.

Steeple Aston Church Bellingers

The Steeple Aston Church Bellingers ring the Church bells on Sundays and for other services such as weddings. They meet in Steeple Aston Church tower for practice every Tuesday at 7.30pm and also on Sundays half an hour before the service. The Bellingers are a very sociable group and welcome visitors. They also have many social events through the year. Anyone over the age of 10 is welcome to join the group. The only proviso is that you must be able to climb the stairs.

Membership is free for the first year, then £6.50 per year. If you are interested in joining, either give Graham a call to discuss ringing or just turn up on a practice night and have a try.

Contact: Graham Clifton, Tower Captain Tel: 01869 347273 email: gjclifton@btinternet.com Website:

www.parishes.oxford.anglican.org/steeple-aston/bellringing.htm

Steeple Aston Handbell Ringers

The main purpose of the Handbell Ringers is to play Christmas carols door-to-door round Steeple and Middle Aston in the two weeks leading up to Christmas with a different charity chosen every year. They meet to practise on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm in a member's house. Meetings start in September if they have been asked to entertain for a given function, but in late October if they are just practising carols. The handbells are the property of the parish church and it is traditional that handbell ringers are also church bell ringers.

Anyone over 10 is welcome to join the group. You don't necessarily have to be able to read music as they play by numbers. Membership is free. If you are interested in joining the Handbell Ringers, contact Sally or Graham. Contact:

Sally Cooper, Handbell Captain

Tel: 01869 347173

Graham Clifton, Church Tower Captain Tel: 01869 347273

Steeple Aston Players

Steeple Aston Players are a fairly small group of people who share an interest in live theatre. Their most recent productions have included a pantomime, and two one act plays. Their productions are normally staged on three nights (including highly successful Dinner Nights) at the Village Hall. They have a good team of enthusiasts who show their skills both on and back stage! Players try to get together in The Red Lion once a month (usually on a Wednesday) for readings and a chat. When they are staging a production rehearsals are twice weekly in the village hall.

New members are very welcome. The group is open to all ages and the cost of membership is £5 a year. If you are thinking of joining the Players, you should contact Alan Wightman, Secretary, Tel: 01869 324875 email: wightmanaln@aol.com

Steeple Aston Choral Society

The Choral Society puts on three concerts a year generally in the village hall. The autumn and winter concerts usually include an oratorio, mass or other sacred music and the spring/ summer concert is fairly light hearted comprising part songs, readings and possibly some instrumental music. At Christmas, the society invites the village to the last rehearsal before Christmas for an evening of suitable entertainment. Individual members form an ad-hoc choir to put on music in the parish church for special occasions and the Christmas carol service.

Members meet for rehearsals in the village hall every Monday evening at 8.00pm. Membership is open to all singers age 18 and above and costs £20 per term. An ability to read music is helpful; an ability to sing in tune is essential. All voices are welcome. If you are interested in joining, either contact Denis Long, Chairman or you can just turn up to a rehearsal. Tel: 01869 347820 email: Denis.long1@btinternet.com

Steeple Aston Cricket Club

Steeple Aston Cricket Club plays at nearby Steeple Barton. It has a busy programme of eleven games this summer, five of which are on their home ground. The club has its own website which gives details of the programme for the summer, photos and results.

Contact www.steepleastoncc.org

Steeple Aston Football Club

The village has a successful and popular football club. The first team reached the final of the Jersey Cup in 2006/07, but unfortunately lost to Kineton. The club has its own website which gives contact details and match reports.

Contact www.steepleastonfc.org

Steeple Aston Tennis Club

Members of the Club use the two tennis courts on the playground of Dr Radcliffe's School. Players are welcome to use these courts outside of school hours i.e. weekends and school holidays and after 4pm on school days. There is no club night at the moment. Membership is open to anyone who lives in Steeple Aston. Contact Heather or David for an application form. The cost is £10 for an individual, £20 for a family for the whole year.

Contacts: Heather and David Brooks, Membership and Maintenance

Tel: 01869 340032 email: Heather_brooks@lycos.co.uk

Steeple Aston Golf Society (SAGS)

SAGS has been going since 1984, and is recognised by the R & A. The Society currently has 45 members. Members meet at a different golf club each month. The average cost of a day's play is £55. All games are played midweek, except for the annual game against Steeple Aston Cricket Club which is played on a Sunday.

The club is open to all males over 18. A handicap is preferred, but not essential. Most important is a sense of humour and to be able to enjoy a game of golf with good company. The cost of membership is £20, which includes society club tie and entry to all competitions. To enquire about membership, please contact Alan or Frank.

Alan Brewer, Chairman Tel: 01869 340423 email:

alan@kushmahal.fsnet.co.uk

Frank Damm, Secretary Tel: 01869 347269 email:

knarfmmad@btinternet.com

Tuesday Badminton

This Badminton group meets on Tuesdays in the village hall between 10.00am and 12.30pm during term time - but not in the school holidays. It is a mixed group with all abilities and ages. They try not to take themselves too seriously, and don't compete in a club league.

Barbara, the organiser, says that this is a fun way of getting some exercise. If you are tempted to come along and see if it's for you, either phone her or simply turn up in trainers and comfortable clothes. She looks forward to seeing you there.

Membership is open to all from 18 to 90 years. No skills are needed, but maybe a little knowledge of badminton would be useful. Contact: Barbara Brewer, Tel: 01869 340423 email: barbara@kushmahal.fsnet.co.uk

Thursday Badminton

This Badminton group meets on Thursday evenings in the village hall between 8.00pm and 10.00pm. They are a very informal group of mixed ages who like to have a bit of exercise and a laugh on a Thursday night. Membership is open to all from age 18. There is no membership fee, just a charge of £1.00 per session. Any skill level is welcome. You don't have to arrive at the beginning or stay until the end of a session. Just turn up wearing trainers whenever it fits in with you. Contact: Lydia Powell

Tel: 01869 347746 email: nick.lydia@btopenworld.com

The Horticultural Society

The Horticultural Society has been established in Steeple and Middle Aston for well over 100 years. It organises two shows each year. The first is the Spring Show, usually staged during March and the second is the Annual Flower Show held every August Bank Holiday Monday in a marquee on the recreation field and in the village hall. There are classes for all skills and abilities from flower arranging to photography, classes for children, cookery and handicraft and, of course, flowers and vegetables. The Annual Show also incorporates a Fun Dog Show, entertainment for all ages, stalls and some superb teas. It is without doubt, the largest and best show to be found in North Oxfordshire. People of all ages and skills are encouraged to enter the shows. A payment of £1 per household entitles you to entry in all shows for one year.

Contact: Richard Preston, Chairman

Tel: 01869 340512 email: richard.preston5@btopenworld.com

Steeple Aston Garden Club

The Garden Club is an extremely friendly and active group that has been in existence for seven years. In the winter meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month (except December) in the village hall at 7.45 for 8pm. There are speakers on a diverse range of subjects, some with slides, some not. The talks range from plant hunting, pruning, garden visiting, to question and answer sessions, quizzes and a wide range of other garden related topics.

In the summer months of May, June and July visits gardens usually only open by special arrangement. Members generally drive themselves but there are occasional coach trips. There are usually no meetings in August or September. Membership is open to all; no skills are required, just an interest in gardening and gardens. The cost of membership is £10 per household per year, but there may be additional charges for garden visits. New members are warmly welcomed. To join, just turn up to a meeting, or phone Contact: Caroline Parsons, Secretary

Tel: 01869 340666 Email: carolineparsons@tiscali.co.uk

Steeple Aston Youth Club

Steeple Aston Youth Club meets once a week during school term time, on Thursday evenings, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. It is usually held in the Sports and Recreation Centre, next to the Village Hall. It is a thriving club, attracting up to 35 youngsters of secondary school age per session. The club is run by an organising committee largely made up of parents. There are around ten volunteers who work in rotation to supervise the youngsters at each session. The club is always supervised by at least three adults. The club offers:

- its own tuck shop.
- a great place to meet and chat.
- opportunities to play table tennis, table football, snooker and other games such as giant chess and indoor skittles. In the summer time outside games may be organised, such as Softball.
- monthly fun games and sports sessions with the A Team from Active Ten-20, a local organisation supporting youth activities throughout Oxfordshire. In summer these sessions are in the village and in winter they are in the Active Ten-20 Centre at Upper Heyford.

The club charges £1 a session. For further information please contact Simon, Deborah or Anne. Contacts: Simon Aumonier, Secretary Tel: 01869 349167
Deborah Smith, Chairman Tel: 01869 347771
Anne Bissell, Volunteer Tel: 01869 340381

Steeple Aston Baby and Toddler group

The Baby and Toddler group will be running every week during the school holidays from 9.30 to 11.30am. The group is a friendly one. Children can socialise with others whilst mums, dads, grandmas, grandpas and carers chat over a cup of tea or coffee. They have a good selection of toys, puzzles and other activities. Organiser Helen Cooper says they also benefit from being next to a fantastic children's play area. Membership is open to anyone with a "bump", or bringing along a baby or toddler. The cost is £1 per session. All you need to do is turn up on the day and you will be very welcome. Contact Helen Cooper, Organiser Tel: 01869 347437 Email:

Hlcooper2003@yahoo.com

Valentine Club (Over-60s)

The Valentine Club encourages members of our community who have attained the magic age of 60 to join them. It holds meetings on the third Tuesday of each month in the village hall with speakers, films, slide shows or entertainers. This is always accompanied by tea, cake and sandwiches, a raffle and information relevant to the rural needs of the new 40 year olds! The club also arranges regular day and half-day coach trips at subsidised prices and additional activities such as Old Time Music Halls, computer classes or visits to other local clubs.

Richard, the Club Chairman, says, "This is the fastest growing club in Steeple Aston as all us baby boomers retire." Anyone aged 60 plus is welcome to turn up to a meeting and they will be made most welcome. Alternatively you can find out more by contacting Richard. The cost of membership is £5 a year.

Contact: Richard Preston, Chairman Tel: 01869 340512 email:
richard.preston5@btopenworld.com

Steeple Aston Women's Institute

Steeple Aston WI engages in a broad range of social and educational activities. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month (except August) at 7.30.pm in the Village Hall. Details of forthcoming meetings are published monthly in Steeple Aston Life magazine. They are a very friendly group, with a wide range of interests and events each year. They also have a walking group that meets on the final Friday each month to enjoy a bit of outdoor activity.

The WI does not take partisan political positions, though they are interested in current affairs. Membership is open to women of all faiths or none. The cost of membership is currently £26 a year. If you are interested in joining you can either call Janice for information, or turn up at a meeting. Contact: Janice Kinory, Secretary Tel: 01869 340868 email: Kinory1@aol.com

Your Parish Council

Parish councils are the first tier of local government and so are the closest to the electors of the parish. We work together with the District and County Councils on village matters. We have seven councillors who are elected by villagers for a four-year term of office and employ a part time Clerk to assist us.

We have many responsibilities, among which are providing and maintaining public open spaces such as sport, recreation and play facilities. We lease and maintain the area behind the Village Hall and the Sport and Recreation Centre, which includes the Play Area, the new teenage facilities for which we recently obtained grant aid and the Millennium Park, from Dr Radcliffe's Trustees so that villagers have open spaces to play, picnic or just sit and talk. The Village Hall provides one of the best village venues in Oxfordshire. The Sport and Recreation Centre, also leased by the Parish Council, provides a second venue which includes sport and changing facilities and is well used especially by Youth Club and other societies for the younger villagers. With support from the young people (who suggested the need for the teenage facilities to us and fundraised magnificently for them) and also from the new website the village recently won the Calor Oxfordshire Village 2007 .

We also pay for cutting grass on verges around the village and maintaining shrubs and trees growing on them: other legal obligations include the war memorial and buying and looking after seats, bus shelters and litter bins.

To pay for these your Parish Council prepares an annual budget which is financed through setting a precept. This is collected (as part of Council Tax) by Cherwell District Council and passed on to us.

We enjoy residents coming to our meetings and positively encourage public participation. We meet on the 3rd Monday in the month (except August and December) in the Village Hall Committee Room.

Clerk:	Sue Lee	01869 347652
Chair:	Margaret Mason	01869 340485
Councillors:		
John Coley	Stuart Ferguson	Paul Hotston
Clare McKinley	Richard Preston	Dorothy Willatt

Other Useful Information

Cherwell District Council	Bodicote House White Post Road Bodicote, Banbury OX15 4AA 01295 252535 www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk
Oxfordshire County Council	County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1ND 01865 792422 www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
MP for North Oxfordshire	Tony Baldry MP House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Local Contact phone	01295 262341 www.tonybaldry.com