

# Steeple Aston

September 2024 Issue No. 613

# Life



- How well do you know Steeple Aston? • New feature: Snippets of village history
- A steam railway trip • Two farewells and two 'hellos'

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

Cover: the Eyecatcher folly, Cow Lane (photo by Nigel Francis)

## Steeple Aston *Life*

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The copy deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. This means the copy deadline for the October 2024 issue is Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

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Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme		0300 3030125	
WI	President	Julie Hillier	01869 349185



“...folly is not always folly.”  
Jane Austen

## Steeple Aston *Life*

September 2024  
Issue No. 613

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# Editorial

In September 2013 I wrote this in my first SAL Editorial:

*"I first came across SAL when house-hunting. We had found houses we liked, but they were in villages which had a neglected, empty atmosphere. Looking round a house in Steeple Aston the vendor gave me a copy of SAL magazine and said, "Read this. It will give you an idea of what the village is like." I did... and it did. It painted a picture of a village with strong sense of community, a lively social life, and a range of activities for all ages and interests.*

I felt that Steeple Aston was a village with a heart, and as editor I hoped that SAL would help maintain that strong community feeling.

I edited SAL from 2013 to 2019, following on from Edwina Kinch, who had edited the magazine since it started in 1973, who had lived here all her adult life. There was nothing about the place that Edwina didn't know. I had lived here for just two years and was aware that there was a lot I didn't know about village life. (In fact I had no idea just how much I didn't know!) Despite my lack of knowledge, I hoped that SAL could *"be for everyone who lives in Steeple Aston"*.

Over the past couple of years, lots of new residents have come to live here. To help them get 'into the know' about Steeple Aston there are some interesting facts on page 8 - things that locals know and newcomers probably don't ...yet. If you think any vital bits of village knowledge are missing, send an email to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com) and say what you think should be included.

From next month two new editors take over: Carol Neville and Kate Symondson. Carol is a long-term resident and Kate is a newcomer. They both have an impressive wealth of skills and experience in writing, editing, reviewing and proof-reading and they also have a strong belief in the importance of community. I am sure that SAL will continue to be 'for everyone' and that under their editorship the magazine will continue to play an important part in keeping the heart of the village beating.

**Cathy Lawday**



*Interim editor Cathy Lawday hands over SAL to two new editors, Carol Neville and Kate Symondson.*

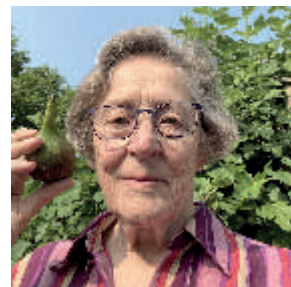


## Steeplejack retires from the race

It was with trepidation that parish councillors watched the sudden movement of the pen, for it meant that Steeplejack had heard something said by a councillor that would, most probably, be turned into a witticism, recorded for posterity in her monthly column for Steeple Aston Life. There are few parish councils in the country that have the privilege of being reported on by their community magazine every time they meet. Most rely on the publication of dry and official minutes, usually on the PC website some months afterwards. But here, no one has taken the role as seriously as has Julia Whybrew in her nearly 20 year stint as our faithful local reporter. Now Julia (and her alter-ego 'Steeplejack') is putting down her pen and handing the role over to others.

Her deep experience as a senior civil servant has given her an enviable clarity when it comes to getting things done. The corridors of power in Whitehall may have few similarities to the Village Hall in Steeple Aston, but parish councillors still have to decide how to deal with knotty problems of – let us say – dog fouling, or repairing the playground toilet, matters of considerable importance to the community. Julia would listen carefully, year after year, to the many (and often repeated) ways in which these weighty matters were discussed and decided, all too often at great length and without full resolution. Her reports of the meetings were therefore laced, ever so carefully, with the impatient tolerance that characterises her view of life. Why make it so complicated? Why not just do this or that, rather than deferring the matter for yet another month? Julia's reports have always made for ever so slightly uncomfortable reading for the councillors who perpetrate these uncertain outcomes, month after month. She has done her best to hold them to account, on behalf of the local community, and her successors may have difficulty following that act. Thank you, Julia, for that, and for your dedication to community life.

**Martin Lipson**  
Vice-Chair, SAPC



Dear SAL  
Committee

Thank you very much for my fig tree. I am looking forward to its first fruit.

**Steeplejack aka  
Julia Whybrew**

## Farewell and thanks to Robert

The SAL Committee would like to say a big thank you to Robert Scott for all his hard work as Editor of Steeple Aston Life for the last 41 editions without a break. Robert edited every SAL from March 2021 until August this year. His organised approach and his attention to detail were much appreciated by all of us who worked with him. We also enjoyed his dry sense of humour!

His many readers really enjoyed his editorials which were full of interesting information around the year. The high quality of the magazine and the lively content were also much appreciated by villagers. Visitors to Steeple Aston often comment on how interesting and professional it is.

All this has been down to Robert's considerable skill and dedication. Thank you, Robert for all you've done. We hope you enjoy a very well-deserved rest!

**Jenny Bell**  
Chair, Steeple Aston Life Committee



# Nature Notes



Britain's commonest owls, the Tawny Owl and the Barn Owl, are both resident in our local area. You are more likely to see the Barn Owl, but the presence of Tawny Owls is usually evident from the familiar *twit-twoo* of a female and male communicating with each other. The male will also use his wavering *twoo* hoot to proclaim ownership of his territory.

The Tawny Owl inhabits woodlands and finds most of its food within the wood or in the field margin bordering the woodland edge. Its preferred hunting technique is to perch on a convenient branch, wait for a small mammal to appear on the ground below then glide down and capture the unfortunate creature in its talons. It may also hunt along the ground, pouncing on beetles and other invertebrates. Only a small proportion of its hunting time is spent searching for prey while on the wing.

The Tawny Owl is a mainly nocturnal species, possibly extending its hunting hours into dawn and dusk but rarely into the main part of the day. Its mottled brown and buff plumage provides excellent camouflage for its woodland environment and it can manage to stay well hidden. Nesting also takes place within the wood, usually in a cavity in a large, preferably broadleaved, tree. During the day the Tawny Owl may use a similar tree to roost in and this is probably your best chance of catching a glimpse of one.



*Left: Barn Owl*

*Right: Tawny Owl*



Although the natural nest site for a Barn Owl is also in a tree, Barn Owls are quick to take advantage of man-made structures, especially barns, suitably-sited nest boxes, and any other structure that provides shelter near their hunting ground. Unlike the Tawny Owl, the Barn Owl prefers to hunt in the open, flying back and forth (an action known as quartering), searching for voles and other small mammals that make their runs through long grass. As such creatures may be well hidden by the vegetation, the Barn Owl locates its prey mainly by sound. In order to do so, the bird must itself be as silent as possible. Owl flight feathers are specially adapted for this by having a comb-like fringe on their leading edge, as well as very soft barbules making up the main vane of the feather. Such features muffle the sound of the wing moving through the air.

Both the Barn Owl and Tawny Owl are very dependent on a good supply of small mammals, especially voles. The breeding success of the owls from one year to another closely follows the fluctuation in the size of the vole population. Both owl species start incubation of their eggs after the first one is laid, with successive eggs being laid at intervals of two days. The resulting chicks hatch at similar intervals so the family of nestlings will vary in age. When food supplies are short, the oldest, strongest chicks are best placed to fight for what food is available, possibly leaving the younger ones struggling to survive.

## **Bridget Lewis**

*Photo credits: Tawny Owl © Karen Bullock; Barn Owl © Natural England.  
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*Over the past couple years, lots of new residents have arrived in the village. Here are some fascinating facts about Steeple Aston that may be of interest.*

## Did you know....?

**1** ...that in addition to the Red Lion there used to be a number of other pubs in the village: The Dun Cow (now the Old Forge), the Wheatsheaf (next to the shop), the White Lion (now a house on South Side), The Fleur de Luce and the Chequers.

**2** ...that the building at the bottom of Paines Hill used to be the village coal store. Coal came by canal to Heyford and was then transported to the store. Villagers deposited money each week throughout the year and then when winter came, they collected the coal they had paid for.

**3** ...that 'tchure' is a local word meaning an alleyway, usually between two high walls. There is another one in Deddington, spelt differently.



**4** ...that the village's Valentine Club is so-called not because it's a dating organisation but because it first met on February 14th 1952.

**5** ...that Bladebone House, formerly Bladebone Hall, on the corner of South Side and Paines Hill, is so-called because it was the site of an abattoir, run by the Walton family, who were the village butchers. A small building adjacent was their butcher's shop, sheltered by a huge tree, both long since gone.



**6** ...that the church owns a valuable 14<sup>th</sup>-century embroidery, the Steeple Aston Cope. Kept in the Victoria & Albert Museum it features wild animals, angels on horseback with musical instruments and more.

**7** ...that the houses in Bradshaw Close were built for occupation by American servicemen stationed at Heyford US air base.

**8** ...that the folly on Cow Lane is a Grade 2 listed building. Also known as The Eyecatcher, it is built of rubble and was designed to be a feature in the view from Rousham House. It has its own postcode: OX25 4SG.

**9** ...that the bench in the Folly Field dedicated to 'Bob the dog' is in memory of a man, not a dog. Robert Craig Wilson was one of the village's characters, who bred collies and was often seen walking them round the village. He died in September 2020.



**10** ...that the curved section of wall on North Side marks the position of the original gateway to The Grange.



**11** ...that Steeple Aston Women's Institute has been going for 105 years and is the oldest extant WI in Oxfordshire.

**13** ...that residents of a house on South Side unearthed a body whilst digging foundations for an extension. It proved to be of more interest to the University archaeology department than to the police. (See more on page 18.)

**15** ...that Hopcroft Holt Hotel is said to be haunted by a 17<sup>th</sup>-century highwayman, Claude Duval.



**17** ...that the small brick building on South Side used to be a cobbler's, and was later a shop selling baby items.

**19** ...that the avenue of lime trees on Sixty Foot was planted to mark the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 1977. Roderick Nicholson had great difficulty sourcing a large number of good quality trees, and this was the impetus for him starting Nicholson's tree nursery in North Aston.



**12** ...that in about 1700 a sycamore was planted in the churchyard which grew to be one of the oldest and largest sycamore trees in England. Sadly by 2012 it had died, and was replaced by a young oak tree. A memorial stone carved with sycamore leaves explains the importance of the tree and is also a memorial to Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee in 2012.

**14** ...that there is a memorial in the church to Judge Page, aka the Hanging Judge, who lived at Middle Aston House in the late C18<sup>th</sup>. The stonemason, Hendrick Scheemaker, was not paid in full because he failed to include a wedding ring on the finger of the Judge's wife. (Another version of the story is that the stonemason left off the ring because he wasn't paid in full.)

**16** ...that in John le Carré's novel 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy', spymaster George Smiley contemplates selling up and moving to the country and thinks to himself "Steeple Aston sounds about right."

**18** ...that the writer Iris Murdoch and her husband John Bayley lived at Cedar Lodge on North Side from 1956 - 1986.

**20** ...that the Whit Races were a popular annual village event. South Side was closed to traffic and a variety of races for both children and adults took place on the stretch of road between the White Lion (at the top of Paines Hill) and the Red Lion - adults often pausing for refreshment at one, or both, establishments!

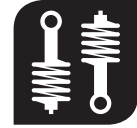
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**Charlotte Powell**

**How long have you lived here?**

On and off my whole life! When I was born we lived at Manor Farm for a couple of weeks as our house in Lower Heyford wasn't ready to move into.

Moved to Harrisville when I was 6, left to go to university at 18 and then moved back to the village when I was 25!

- **What do you like best about living in Steeple Aston?** The community, the countryside and how well connected it is to towns and cities.
- **What do your family or friends find most annoying about you?** I'm often terrible at replying to messages and getting back to people.
- **As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?** A vet.
- **What is the best job you've ever done?** Livestock farming.
- **What is the worst job you've ever done?** Livestock farming!
- **What's your secret/guilty pleasure?** Gin and chocolate!!
- **Can you recommend a really good book?** I still enjoy the Harry Potter books which I'm now reading again with my daughter. I also like books by Dick Francis if I have time to sit and read on holiday as they're easy to pick up and put down.
- **What would you save from your house if it was on fire?** My daughter and my dogs.
- **If you won the lottery, what's the first thing you would buy?** A farm and land locally.
- **What do you do to relax?** Ride a horse.
- **What's your favourite saying or piece of advice?** What's meant for you won't pass by you.
- **What do you get grumpy/mad about?** Inconsiderate users of the countryside, especially when they have dogs.
- **Tell us a surprising thing that you are really good at.** Getting cows pregnant (I was a bovine reproductive management specialist for 12 years).
- **...and something about you that most people don't know.** I work part time for a specialist recruitment firm in Mayfair head-hunting heads of risk and audit for listed companies.
- **Tell us a good joke.** It's not really good but it is one of my favourites and always makes me laugh. 'What do you get if you sit behind a cow?? A pat on the head!'



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### Meet *Lucinda Fuoco*

A North Aston native and an alumna of Steeple Aston School, she is a highly motivated individual who approaches each transaction with unyielding dedication and professionalism.

Recognising the gravity of buying or selling a property, she tirelessly works to ensure clients attain the best possible outcomes. Lucinda's passion lies in the challenges of acquiring, renovating, and selling properties, cultivating a profound understanding of the property market.

Her wealth of experience allows her to offer clients invaluable insights and advice, making Alistair Redhouse Property Partners your go-to source for navigating the dynamic property landscape. Beyond her professional pursuits, Lucinda finds joy in spending time with her family and indulging in her passion for horse riding.



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Choose Alistair Redhouse Property Partners, where Lucinda Fuoco goes beyond being your property partner – she becomes your advocate and guide at every step of your property journey.

# The ARTS Page



I'll start with an appreciation of retiring editor Robert Scott, for his unstinting and expert work. Thanks to all those who work to produce such an excellent publication.

## A plea for diversity

As I've said previously, the Arts Page could benefit from readers' input on jazz, pop, rock, etc. that I don't cover. I would welcome comments and suggestions across all genres, so it represents more widely local interests.

I quote a letter to the Radio Times, from a village not too far from here.

*"I'm pleased to see that there are plenty of BBC Proms this year, celebrating disco, folk and pop music. It is high time that the Proms moved away from evening after evening of long, tedious symphonies by composers such as Mahler, Bruckner and Brahms. Hopefully the classical music content of the Proms will continue to diminish year on year so that people can actually enjoy them".*

Do you agree? Let the Arts Page have your views.

(The Proms go back to 1895 and the BBC took over in 1927.)

## The Arts a century ago

My 'Music Diary' has a page 'What happened in 1924'. Here's my snapshot of the Arts in that year.

4 musical Premieres:

Gershwin *Rhapsody in Blue*, Sibelius 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony, *Fascinating Rhythm*, *It Has to be You*

2 new books

Agatha Christie *The Man in the Brown Suit*  
E. M. Forster *A Passage to India*

2 new plays

Noel Coward *The Vortex*  
Sean O'Casey *Juno and the Paycock*

2 new poems

AA Milne *When We Were Very Young*  
Thomas Hardy *Christmas 1924*

'Peace upon earth!' was said. We sing it  
And pay a million priests to bring it.  
After two thousand years of Mass  
We've got as far as poison-gas.

miscellaneous

BBC 'pips' started from Greenwich  
The Archer's Theme Music - *Barwick Green* by Arthur Wood  
Edward Elgar becomes Master of the King's Music  
Cellist Beatrice Harrison records a duet with a nightingale in her garden  
Wireless Choir (later the BBC Singers) founded  
Plethora of local radio stations started

## The Arts now

Right up to date, go to [www.campaignforthearts.org](http://www.campaignforthearts.org) and you can download their latest report. Worth a skim or a read.

Save the Date: Aston Singers - Remembrance Concert  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm, Steeple Aston Church

Steeple Aston Choral Society - Autumn into Winter  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 7.00pm, Steeple Aston Church

Singing is alive and well in the Astons.

## Nicholas Cleobury

# HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

## Cheltenham racecourse by train?

Here's a suggestion for a delightful day out in the Cotswolds. Roy and Edwina Kinch, their daughter, Lydia and I drove on a sunny morning to Toddington via Chipping Norton, Stow-on-the-Wold and the beautiful B4077 towards Tewkesbury. Trees spread their leafy branches over the road, making a green tunnel and we were grateful for the shade as it was a very warm day. We enjoyed the wide views of countryside and turning into the Toddington railway works and station where the Great Western Steam and Diesel Railway has its locomotive sheds, we were surprised by the level of activity.



One of the trains of this heritage line was waiting in the station and lots of people in high-viz jackets were industriously painting buildings and window frames, sweeping up to keep everywhere spick and span. Some were dressed in railway uniform with keys hanging at their waists, and all were wearing badges. The number of volunteers running this railway is astonishing – and all whom we met were friendly and cheerful, clearly enjoying their involvement in the project.

We made for the café - sorry, 'Railway Refreshment Room' - for an excellent sandwich lunch then found our way to the station, and crossed the line to the southbound platform. Crossing was quite a challenge, but the intrepid Roy and Edwina were unfazed by this hurdle. Boarding the 13.15 train we stepped back in time to the great days of steam. Roy found us a luxurious First Class compartment, upholstered in lavender and with dear little reading lights which came on when we passed through the Greet Tunnel. Oh this was a great way to travel! The big windows allowed us to drink in the views of the lovely Gloucestershire scenery. We saw farms and quiet villages, and Lydia popped down the corridor to photograph what we could see.



The stations where the train stopped were charming. They are preserved as they would have been in the 40s and 50s – with milk churns ready for collection and red fire buckets and metal advertising signs, they seemed just ready to play their part in films such as Brief Encounter!



You can alight from the train at any of its few stations to explore or to walk. We went to the end of the line at Cheltenham racecourse. We were so comfortable in our compartment that we did not leave the train to see more of the racecourse, or take a bus into Cheltenham. Instead we stayed put and after a short wait while the engine was transferred to the other end of the train we steamed back to Toddington, and enjoyed all the views again from the opposite angle.

We all enjoyed the journey very much, despite the heat. We were glad of the breeze when it crept through the compartment. Edwina summed up the trip: "What a lovely way to spend an old-fashioned summer day".

If you look up [www.gwsr.com](http://www.gwsr.com) you can find out about fares, timetables, accessibility and anything else you might need to know. Or you can telephone 01242 621405 during office hours. Have a happy trip!

**Eileen Baglin-Jones**



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# The Gardening Spot

## Ten top tips

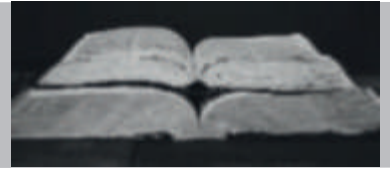
There is a lot to be done at the moment.

- Crops will need to be harvested and you have to decide how best to store many of them. Lift potatoes and leave them to dry in the sunshine for a few hours before carefully storing them in a cool, dark place, ideally in brown potato bags that do not allow light in. Discard damaged or infected tubers as they can cause better tubers to rot if they remain in contact.
- Some vegetables lend themselves to freezing, providing a vegetable alternative come the winter months.
- Apples will be ready to harvest and, if stored correctly, can last until the early months of 2025. For those of you who enjoy jam-making, plums, blackberries and other fruits are out there now for your attention.
- As the vegetable garden starts to leave empty spaces, now is a great time to add some organic matter or possibly some 'green manure'.
- In the herbaceous borders plants that have outgrown their space benefit from splitting, making new plants for other parts of your garden or to donate to friends and neighbours.
- Take a look at the flower borders and think, "What worked well this year and how can I improve for next year?" Take photos throughout the year to remind you of your successes and failures. With a little rearranging of plants and maybe the addition of some new ones you can improve the final result.
- In garden centres or magazines at present you will see lots of bulbs for sale. Now is the time to consider what bulbs you might like for next spring, and you can start to plant them from around the end of this month until mid-November.
- Leaves will start to fall any time soon and they provide you with the opportunity to make some really great compost. Create a 'pen' using old wooden pallets or wire mesh to make a place to store the leaves. Over the winter months they will rot down and come spring you have the ideal medium to add to soil or grit, making a peat-free compost or mulch.
- This time of the year is a great time to scarify your lawn. This can be done with a wire rake, removing as much dead grass as possible or maybe buying or hiring a scarifier which will remove all unwanted grass. Then give the lawn an autumn feed which will set your grass up for the winter months and give you a head start next spring.
- With careful management, you should be able to stretch your tomato crop in the greenhouse for a few more weeks by making sure you pinch out all unwanted growth, giving the plants a weekly feed and ensuring they are kept warm throughout the nights which can become colder at this time of the year.

On a slightly different note, do you enjoy looking around other people's gardens? Steeple Aston has been associated with the National Garden Scheme for decades. Over the years, a group of Steeple Aston gardens have raised tens of thousands of pounds for such worthwhile charities as Cancer Research or Macmillan Nurses. We would like to continue that effort but need some help. Many of our gardeners need a rest and we are desperate to find a couple of gardens that could open up to visitors for just one day, probably in early June, as part of a village group of Open Gardens. If you think you might have that garden - it does not need to be pristine or on a par with Kew - please let me know and Steeple Aston can continue to raise much more funding for all those worthwhile charities.

Happy gardening.

**Richard Preston** 01869 340512



## **Morning Time Lament**

*(to be sung to any tune your mind might concoct)*

I wake up in the morning leave an hour to get ready  
I can be kind of dozy and a little bit unsteady  
the routine that I follow now is getting kind of heady  
oh the things that I must do to keep me fit

My toiletries are simple I don't need any lotions  
but suddenly I seem to need a load of pills and potions  
cod liver oil and senna pods are things that help my motions  
oh the things that I must do to keep me fit

An hour a day to rev myself and ready for the fray  
vitamin D hayfever pill and eye drops by the way  
I'm not sure how I got there but it's like this every day  
oh they're the things that I must do to keep me fit

**Peter Wild**

## **Old Soldier's Story**

I lie under the patio, cold and very dead.  
I'm resting on some concrete and there's rubble round my head.

I am a total mystery. No-one knows my name.  
I never featured on the News or came to Crimewatch fame.

I'm not the victim of a crime. I wasn't murdered by my wife.  
I didn't run up gambling debts or live a double life.

My death was pretty quiet. I just laid down to die.  
And all the other soldiers continued marching by.

As I lay in the coarse grass of this wholly foreign place  
I thought about my family, and pictured my wife's face.

I smelled the sun-warmed earth and realised, with a sigh  
I'd never see my home again. Here was where I'd die.

And hundreds of years later excavating through the rock  
The people living in this place will get something of a shock.

They'll inspect my ancient bones and they'll try and guess  
Who this age-old man can be among the building mess.

And eventually they'll understand that once this man was me.  
A Roman soldier, who passed here in about 44AD.

**Cathy Lawday**

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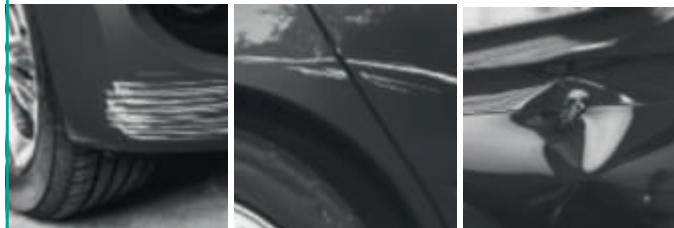
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# Church Matters



Hello everyone

For many September is the beginning of some new adventure. Youngsters have their first day at pre-, primary and secondary school, whilst older teenagers are perhaps looking forward to heading off to university. To everyone starting a new adventure, I pray that you have fun and enjoy the journey, growing as you move forward.

For others, after time away on holiday, going back to work in September can feel more like a grind than an adventure, particularly when faced with an overflowing inbox of emails, or jobs that were put on hold whilst away. I love being away, the freedom both of waking up without an alarm and of an empty diary and, delightfully, no housework.

Coming home generally, for me at least, seems to involve a long list of jobs: the washing & ironing plus tidying away the holiday gear, not to mention catching up on emails and work. This can make coming home seem exhausting. Alternatively we have the chance to view this return as an opportunity to embrace the adventure of life again, even within the familiarity of daily routines.

We often think of adventures being big and grand, like exploring new horizons, visiting new places. When we do so we can miss the little adventures such as trying new authors, spicing up our weekly menu by exploring unknown food dishes, or listening to different music - all of which expand our horizons within our lives. Earlier in the summer I had the opportunity to attend a talk about *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. When we arrived the speaker had been unable to come and instead we were given a talk about *A Passage to India*, a book I'd never read. Whilst away I've grasped the opportunity to listen to the book, which has opened up another new horizon of questions.

This September, as the evenings begin to draw in, what horizons and adventures, big or small might you explore? Whatever they are:

*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

(A traditional Irish blessing)

**Harriet Orridge**

Rector

*Photo: Nigel Francis*



# Steeple Snippets



There are hundreds of newspaper clips stored digitally in SAVA's catalogue. Many have been researched online, dated and catalogued so that we can use them to find out what went on in our village in years gone by.

**CRICKET MATCH.**—On Monday last the first match between the gentlemen cricket players of Woodstock and Steeple Aston came off at the latter place, in the presence of several hundreds of spectators, and was decided as follows:—

	1st Innings.	2d Innings.	Total.
Steeple Aston	92	30	122
Woodstock	72	35	107

Majority for Aston .. 15

The return match is fixed for Wednesday next the 1st of August, to be played in Blenheim Park.

*Oxford Journal 1832*

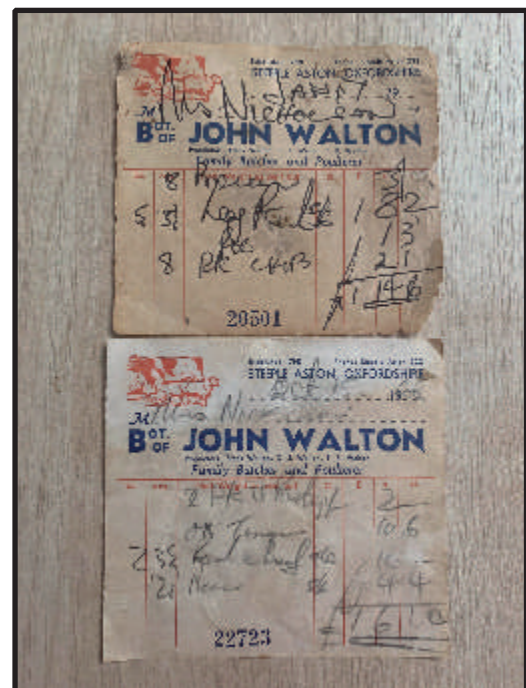
Wow - there were hundreds of spectators at the first Cricket Match between the gentleman cricket players of Woodstock and Steeple Aston in 1832.

The match was played at Steeple Aston and the return match was to be played in Blenheim Park on Wednesday 1st August. Steeple Aston had a majority of 15 having beaten Woodstock 122 to 107.

SAVA has many artefacts in store including these two receipts from John Walton Butchers for Hanny Nicholson in 1966. These two 'rip out' receipts, from a book kept on the shop counter, have details of her order including costs. A duplicate was created using carbon paper under the original.

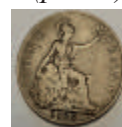
The Village Archive can learn so much more about an era using simple items like this. For example, from these, we learn that:

1. the village had a butcher's shop. Its proprietors were Frank Walton, C. J Walton and F.R Walton.
2. Steeple Aston phone numbers only had three digits at that time.
3. weight was measured in pounds (lbs) and ounces (oz). (16 ounces in 1 pound in weight).
4. half a pound of bacon was 3/- (3 shillings).
5. leg of pork cost 5s 6d per pound; so a leg weighing 5lb 3½ oz cost £1 8s 2d (One pound eight shillings and two pence).



However, sometimes inside knowledge is needed too. The receipt says 'established in 1790' and you could assume that the butchery business was in the name of Walton since that time, but it turns out that the Walton family did not take over until the 1880's and they continued serving the village for three generations.

12d (pence) = 1s (shilling) 20s = £1 (pound)



In July 1896 there was a notice in the Banbury Guardian and Oxford Times for the forthcoming sale, by auction, of some 'Exceedingly attractive Sporting Residential properties', forming the Middle Aston and part of the Steeple Aston Estates, an area of about 1144 acres. Vendor - Captain C.W.Cottrell Dormer.

*They did not sell as one lot so the auctioneers, Walton and Lee, of London, tried to sell Lot 1 and 2 together. Yet again there were no buyers so everything was split into 8 lots.*

Lot 1. Middle Aston, the home farm, accommodation land, cottages, etc, producing an estimated rental of £997 9s 6d. *Started at £15,000 and reached £19,500- when it was withdrawn.*

Lot 2. Grange Farm, two cottages and plantation, of the value £344. *Started at £5,000 and reached £7,100- when it was withdrawn.*

Lot 3. The Manor Farm homestead, comprising 124A 3R 26P, and yielding £173 per annum. *Started at £2,000 and was eventually knocked down to Mr Kinch of Steeple Aston for £3,500.*

Lot 4. A Freehold residence in Steeple Aston, let to Mr Constable at a rental of £35 per annum. *Was withdrawn at £425.*

Lot 5. An enclosure of accommodation pastureland, at Steeple Aston. *No bid.*

Lot 6. An enclosure of accommodation pastureland, let in allotments. *Was not offered, the auctioneer explaining that the lot contained the source of water supply of Rousham.*

Lot 7. 12A 3R of accommodation pastureland producing £13 10s per annum. *Withdrawn at £250*

Lot 8. Hopcroft's Holt Inn and farmlands extending over an area of about 68A 1R 21P with a rental of £96 per annum. *Withdrawn at £2,250*

*After the sale, Lots 1 and 2 were sold privately to Mr Bennett, solicitor in Deddington for a client. The price approaching £30,000 and valuations. Lots 7 and 8 were sold immediately after the auction to Messrs Hall & co. For £2,850. Lots 5 and 6 went to auction at another date.*

*NOTE: Land was measured in Acres, Rods and Perches (A,R,P): 4 rods =1 acre, and 40 perches = 1 road.*



Banbury  
Guardian  
16 July 1896



Banbury Guardian  
20 June 2002

On 20 June 2002 the Banbury Guardian reported that Princess Anne, President of the Rural Housing Trust, was to be visiting Steeple Aston to work in partnership with the Parish Council to build eight affordable village houses. Margaret Mason, Chairman of the Council, expressed that the Trust helped them to take steps to ensure Steeple Aston remains a balanced and sustainable community. The princess's speech was to be part of a seminar sponsored by Cherwell District Council.

*On the day, all the children of Dr Radcliffe's school lined Fir Lane and the Village Hall car park, waving their flags as she drove past and entered the Village Hall's main entrance.*

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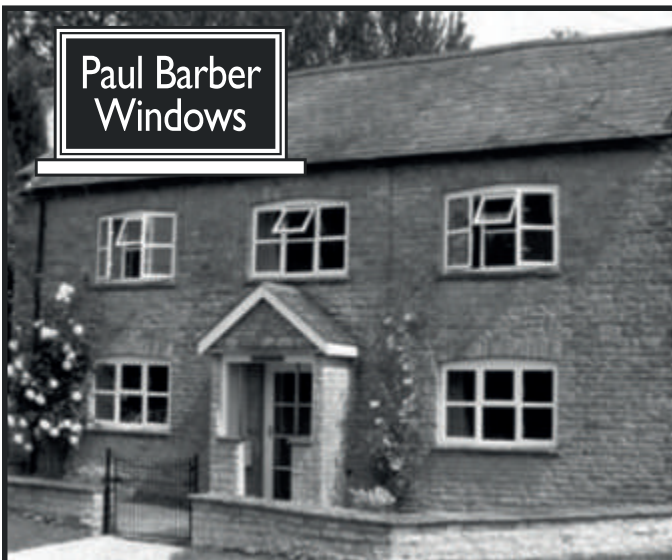
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# ???? Mind Games

Answer the questions and write the letter corresponding to each answer in the appropriate box. Then arrange all the letters to make the name of a country.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- Who wrote about Harris, George and Montmorency?  
(A) Jerome K Jerome                      (P) Charles Dickens                      (L) Thomas Hardy
- In which city is the Petronas Towers building?  
(T) Kuala Lumpur                      (F) Seoul                      (E) Tokyo
- Which of these is not one of the seven dwarves in Snow White?  
(B) Doc      (S) Dozy      (G) Grumpy
- Who used the catchphrase "Eat my shorts?"  
(R) Bart Simpson                      (K) Dennis the Menace                      (M) Kenny in South Park
- Which TV detective is based on a character devised by Colin Dexter?  
(J) Bergerac                      (N) Vera                      (U) Morse
- Who wrote about Lyra, Pantalaimon and Lee Scoresby the balloonist?  
(P) J K Rowling                      (F) Enid Blyton                      (L) Philip Pullman
- Which band containing two brothers was formed in Manchester in 1991?  
(E) The Kinks                      (A) Oasis                      (I) The White Stripes
- Which animal has the longest lifespan?  
(Y) Galapagos giant tortoise                      (A) Bowhead whale      (E) Komodo dragon
- Which was the first colour film to win the Oscar for Best Picture?  
(A) Mickey Mouse                      (G) The Birds                      (I) Gone with the Wind

**Answers on page 38**



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# *Editor's Letterbox*

Dear Editor

As the cooler months loom, I'd like to remind the readers of SAL that there is a thermal imaging camera available for use by anyone wishing to understand how much heat their home leaks during the colder months. The camera was purchased a couple of years back with funds donated from Sustainable Steeple, and several households have already benefited from the information it can provide. Anyone who'd like to borrow it can email me - [carltomlinson1967@gmail.com](mailto:carltomlinson1967@gmail.com).

Kind regards

**Carl Tomlinson**

Chair, Steeple Aston Parish Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee

## **Steeple Aston *Garden Club***



On a wet evening in early August the Garden Club visited Bunker's Hill Nursery in Kidlington. We were treated to hot drinks and lovely cake, so our spirits were lifted, as Andrew, the owner started his talk on how he began the nursery from scratch. The rain, however, persisted so we retired to one of the poly tunnels to end the talk. The rain finally stopped and we all meandered round the nursery, choosing which plants we wanted to buy; well, who could resist with a big 15% discount being given to us for the evening? Thank you Bunker's Hill for being so generous and for having such healthy plants. We can't recommend you enough.

Our last visit of the season is on Thursday 12th September at 2.30pm, when we go to Carter's Yard Garden, Sibford Gower, OX15 5RW. The cost is £10 per person, which includes refreshments, so please make a note in your diary. If anyone would like to join the Garden Club, please contact me for details. After this visit we start our winter programme of speakers in the Village Hall. We do of course have our Christmas lunch planned for December, but details of that are for another day.

**Chris Clarke** 01869 347192

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This month, by the means of the world wide web, Linda Bembridge joined us virtually, to talk about her love for and affinity with Abstract photography. Linda's love of abstract photography originally started with landscape photography which she then formats and prints out as a square (30 x 30). She does this in Photoshop but is equally happy using Pro-create on her iPad. She then progressed to tinkering with her photos, using glitter pens, calligraphy ink, gold leaf paint embellishments and more. She explained that her aim is to create an exhibition-worthy image every time.

Her other specialism is Abstract Triptych - a work of art that is divided into three sections. Her photography subjects varied from views from a dirty window which she abstracted to look like a pond with reeds, to graffiti in Blackpool bus station turned into an art deco view. She also delves into water reflection and enjoys changing the white balance settings in her camera to create an abstract-style photo when printed on a matt velvet photography paper.

Linda virtually put together a panel and in doing so, created more abstract photos using the multiple exposure setting on her camera. She subsequently manipulated them in Photoshop, and using her calligraphy pens and embellishments, created 6 different images.

Linda has self-published a book where she discusses all things Abstract photography. When not renovating her house, she regularly writes blogs on her website. This month's topic was playing with colour where the photos varied from oily bubbles to flowers and street photography.

We welcome new members to our Society nights on the first Wednesday of each month. See our website: [addphoto.co.uk](http://addphoto.co.uk) or find us on [facebook.com/add.photosoc](https://www.facebook.com/add.photosoc) for further information.





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# Village Hall News



- **Forthcoming events in 2024 - more details to follow**

Tuesday 5th November - Fireworks spectacular

Sunday 8th December - Wassail evening

- **Forthcoming events in 2025 - more details to follow**

Saturday 18th January - Annual Quiz Night

Saturday 10 May 6.00pm - "We'll Meet Again"

From 'The White Cliffs of Dover' to 'The Lambeth Walk' - a red, white and blue family event of music, words and dance, to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

For more information contact Margaret Bullement: 01869 347346 [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com)

Letting agent: Mrs Angela Smith

Phone:07734 112967. (Please do not call between 6pm and 8pm unless urgent.)

Email: [steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com](mailto:steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com)

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

## **Barbara Brewer**

Chair, Village Hall

<https://savh.org.uk/>

# Steeple Aston Golf Society



Unfortunately, the July meeting at The Springs and the August meeting at Wrag Barn Golf club had to be cancelled. This was because we did not meet the minimum number that clubs require for a society, which is generally 16 persons. It is a very unfortunate sign of the times that to get the prices we achieve for each meeting we need to hit a minimum number of golfers. To give a couple of examples, The Cotswold Club Chipping Norton charge £50 for a round of golf and Broadway is £75. This does not include any drinks or food. Sadly, this seems to be a sign of the times and our members are not prepared to pay that sort of money for a round of golf.

Our September meeting is a new one for us. It is being held at the Coventry Hearsall Golf Club, Beechwood Avenue, CV5 6DF. This is parkland with fairly easy walking. A brook provides an interesting hazard. If you would like to play and boost our numbers please call Chris on 01869 347173 or me.

Happy golfing.

**Alan Brewer 01869 340423**

# **Steeple Aston Talks in the Church**

## **“30 Years of Heartbreak & Joy”**



**Mary and Steve Bacon have been involved with schools in Mamelodi, a huge township in Pretoria, South Africa, for over 30 years.**

They have raised funds to build libraries, taken teachers from the UK to deliver teacher training, brought teachers from Mamelodi to do residencies in UK schools. They have supported individuals to achieve more than they ever thought possible, made friends, learnt from staff in South Africa and had some surprising and inspiring experiences.

Do Join us for their wonderful informative talk

**12th September 2024 7.15 for 7.30pm**

Refreshments at 7.15pm

Retiring collection in aid of church funds





Like most clubs in our village, the WI does not have a meeting during August, so the report this month is briefer than usual. However, we were still busy last month with preparations for the Summer Horticultural Show. I do hope you visited the WI stall and bought one of our cakes or preserves, a bit of the posh jumble or played one of the games. As this is being written well before the show, my fingers are crossed (which does make typing a bit tricky) for fine weather on the day as the show is our major fundraiser each year. Every penny we make in August helps to pay for our speakers throughout the year and can provide better outings for the members. So, thanks to everyone who helped us get ready, stopped by on the day and, especially, to everyone who bought something.

The Walking Netball team took an August break but from 4th September returning players are back again at the Village Hall every Wednesday at 10.00 am. They still need more players, so do feel free to stop by and join in for some gentle exercise. The sessions usually wrap up about 11.15 am.

The programme of walks, coffee mornings, pub lunches and suppers also re-starts in September. We will hold our next monthly meeting on Tuesday 10th September, starting at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall. This is always a very sociable meeting as we catch up on everyone's summer activities and news over tea and biscuits. There will be a talk on the intrepid women travellers and explorers of the 19th century.

We are looking forward to welcoming the 'WI-curious' women who we met at the church fete. Any woman in the village over 18 is welcome to come along and see the Steeple Aston WI in action. If you are interested, contact Julie Hillier, 01869 349185, [j.hillier@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:j.hillier@hotmail.co.uk)

**Janice Kinory**

### Latest News from Deddington Health Centre

Good news from the Health Centre. This is what the Practice Manager told us:  
'At our crisis point we fell to having 5.5 full-time GPs for 12,500 patients, which meant 2272 patients per full-time GP. We then recruited a very highly skilled paramedic and have since added a full-time advanced practitioner and currently have 6.4 full-time equivalent GPs which results in 1953 patients per full-time GP. When our latest 3 recruits join us and complete their orientation in September, we will have our urgent care team (i.e. the paramedic and advanced practitioner) plus 8.1 full-time GPs. This means 1543 patients per full-time GP, a great improvement. It is worth noting that we have recruited 4 newly qualified GPs, so we are busy mentoring and supporting their development. We have also successfully gained our accreditation as a GP Training Practice and will have our first GP registrar from August. Our registrars will be fully qualified doctors who wish to become GPs, and they will do their GP training with us.

In addition, we have successfully trained our own in-house pharmacy technicians who have both recently completed the latest high-level pharmacy technician qualifications after being mentored at the Practice. We have a full-time and a part-time pharmacist in place. We also have a MIND wellbeing worker, a first contact physio and a record number of staff in our operational teams. Having these other healthcare professionals and specialist operational staff reduces the burden on GPs who can then focus on doing the work that only a GP can do. So, lots of hard work happening to improve the patient experience.

Please be assured that the Practice and its staff want to provide the best service possible whilst working within the constraints of the NHS contract and funding opportunities. For anyone who may not have access to email or the Internet we can always be contacted by post at the Health Centre.

**Anne Hunsley**, Deddington Patient Participation Group, [ppg.deddington@gmail.com](mailto:ppg.deddington@gmail.com)

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## THE VALENTINE CLUB

Back in July, the height of summer, we visited Rousham for a chance to enjoy the wonderful grounds and participate in 'high tea'. After a very short, sharp shower just before members arrived the sun came out and about 70 members of The Valentine Club arrived to enjoy a relaxed afternoon, enjoying tea provided by Ann, Sue and Jane with homemade cakes, scones and lashings of tea or coffee. Many of the members took a stroll around the gardens kindly made available to us by Charles Cottrell-Dormer and Angela. I guess the best way to describe the afternoon was English tea in an English garden.

The next day we took a very large coach to Weston-Super-Mare where, yet again, the sun shone. Everyone had the chance to paddle (yes, the tide was in!) and enjoy al fresco dining or an ice cream whilst taking in the rays of sunshine and the smell of sea air.

Three weeks later we were off once more, this time to Trentham Estate in Staffordshire where yet again, the sun shone - a rarity this summer. Trentham Estate is set in over 700 acres of stunning landscape gardens and grounds situated around a very large lake. An added attraction is 80 cabins' worth of outlet retail therapy and a very large garden centre. Food choices were abundant and judging by the bags returning to the coach, the credit cards took a bit of a hammering.

Although writing this before the event, I know the speaker at our August meeting will be fabulous as he is telling us stories of his time as chef to four prime ministers, in the days before we changed them every few months!

I was going to say September might be a bit quieter until I studied the programme. First we have a full coach (59 passengers) going to Stratford-on-Avon to enjoy a boat ride on the river Avon. There will be a chance to finish off the balance on the credit cards before returning home in time for our monthly meeting. At the meeting we will enjoy some ventriloquism and magic before the club goes off to Eastbourne for a few days' break at a hotel close to the promenade.

In October we are planning a short break to the Thursford Christmas Show in Norfolk in November this year. Talking of holidays, in 2025 we have arranged for a five-day break to Hayling Island in May and then another five-day break to Studley Castle in Warwickshire in October. I received an email from one of our holidaymakers the other day saying that she thought I might be competing for Travel Agent of the Year and having checked on the prices, said I was much cheaper than Hays Travel. Not quite sure how to answer that!

To find out more about The Valentine Club, simply visit our website at [www.valentineclub.wixsit.com/aston](http://www.valentineclub.wixsit.com/aston) (An easy way to log on is go to the village website; go To 'clubs and societies', find The Valentine Club and click on the link.) Or keep up to date by looking on the village website [www.steepleaston.org.uk](http://www.steepleaston.org.uk) or use that old-fashioned thing called a telephone and ring me.

If you would like to support The Valentine Club and all the great things we do, why not have a go at the [CherwellLottery.co.uk/support/the-valentine-club](http://CherwellLottery.co.uk/support/the-valentine-club) where you can participate in the Cherwell Lottery and hopefully, like many of our supporters, become a winner.

**Richard Preston** Group organiser  
[Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com](mailto:Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com)  
01869 340512

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## **Ascott-under-Wychwood**

Just as Joe Root and Harry Brook were giving the West Indies a good hammering, so Josh Drennan (51\*) and Tom Chesser (43) took apart the Ascott-under-Wychwood opening attack. They put on 78 for the first wicket in only 12 overs, even faster than Crawley and Duckett! Adrian Downing entered the fray at No 4 and hit a swift 20, despite refusing to run a number of quick singles (I know the feeling!). Jack Higgins (16\*) and Ben Woods (16), who was making his debut for Steeple Aston CC, kept the momentum going and we reached 179-5 from our allotted 30 overs, a competitive total.

## **Never in doubt...**

With three wins from three, we took to the field in high spirits, sensing a fourth win. Sam Brooks, who was also making his debut, took a wicket with his first ball, a catch by Phil Chesser behind the stumps and finished with figures of 2-14 off his 6 overs. Paul Longman continued his fine season with 2-21 to leave our opponents 66-4 off 20 overs. With further wickets from Josh (1-3), Ben (1-15) and, incredibly, Phil Chesser (1-5), Ascott were well and truly beaten by 52 runs. I should add that Phil (wicket-keeper) took 3 catches in all, which I think equals the most by any wicket-keeper in my time with Steeple Aston. However my memory is not great, so who knows?

## **Oxford University Staff CC...could we go undefeated all season?**

One of the problems with village cricket these days is that getting a team together can be hard work. We went from having 12 in our team to 8, back to 11 and finally ended with 9 players. Our opponents Great Tew fared even less well and were unable to raise a team at all! However we did manage to find a team to play: the Oxford University Staff CC, who turned out to be rather good. On a bright sunny day, OUSCC won the toss and not surprisingly chose to bat and it wasn't until the 19<sup>th</sup> over that Paul Longman finally broke through. Paul bowled admirably finishing with 4-36, but our opponents had already reached 146 after 26 overs. Hugh Baker (1-37), another SACC debutant, bowled with great guile and Nige Doggett (2-26) chipped in with a couple of wickets at the end, but OUSCC finished on 219-7 from their 35 overs.

## **Cometh the hour, cometh (back) Jamie Longman**

We were delighted to welcome back Jamie Longman, who last played for us in 2019, before deserting us to be a caddy on the Women's World Golf Tour – sounds like a tough job! Jamie averages 51 with the bat for SACC and is one of the finest batsmen ever to play for us. Sadly he was a bit out of practice and did not score the hundred we needed, and which his ability might have allowed. In truth our batting succumbed to some fine bowling. Jon Scotchbrook made a dogged 23 and Ben Evans chipped in with 15. Fortunately Ollie Doggett, who came in at Number 5, gave us a semblance of respectability with a swashbuckling 67, including a number of hockey flicks over mid-wicket. We reached 152-8 and lost by 67 runs. A bit of an anti-climax for our last game, but still one cannot complain about an 80% win rate.

## **2025 season**

On a brighter note a number of younger (and better!) players have started playing for Steeple Aston Cricket Club this year and I am confident that the club will thrive next season. We always hope to play 8-10 games each season and this year would have managed eight, but for bad weather and a fixture clash with the England football team. If anyone does want to play for us next year, please contact me. Until next year!!

## **Peter Higgins**

Chairman SACC [peter.higgins@ctshirts.co.uk](mailto:peter.higgins@ctshirts.co.uk)



Looking for fun, **wraparound care** once school is over at Dr Radcliffe's, Steeple Aston?

With a blend of outdoor play to indoor sports, alongside crafting and baking, Fun Club has established itself as the club children want to belong to.

For 2 hours from the end of the school day, term time only.

Fun Club is bookable per term. Limited spaces.

If of interest, please email [steeplefunclub@gmail.com](mailto:steeplefunclub@gmail.com)

Or contact Antonia 'Toe' Maclean mobile 07867 516 518

## Mind Games answers

1. Jerome K. Jerome, 'Three Men in a Boat' (A)
2. Kuala Lumpur (T)
3. Dozy (the seven dwarves are:  
Doc, Sneezy, Grumpy, Happy, Bashful, Sleepy and Dopey) (S)
4. Bart Simpson (R)
5. Morse (U)
6. Philip Pullman, 'His Dark Materials' (L)
7. Oasis: Liam and Noel Gallagher (A)
8. Based on recovery of stone harpoon tips from harvested  
whales it is evident that they live well over 100 years.  
The oldest known was 211 years old (A)
9. Gone with the Wind (I)

### ANSWERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	T	S	R	U	L	A	A	I

**ANAGRAM SOLUTION: AUSTRALIA**

# Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP)	11.00am Holy Communion (BCP)	5.30pm Evensong
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30am Morning Worship	11.00am Family Service	5.30pm Holy Communion
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	5.30pm Family Service
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	9.30am Morning Prayer	11.00am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion		

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

*The church buildings are open every day. Feel free to visit at any time.*



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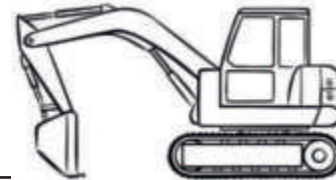
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#### Peak Times – involving hire after 6pm

Village Residents (up to 6 hrs) (Additional hours at £10/hr)	£65 (Plus Refundable Deposit £200)
Non-Village (up to 6 hrs)	£110 (Plus Refundable Deposit £300)
Non-Village (over 6 hrs)	£160 (Plus Refundable Deposit £300)

#### Off-Peak – all hire before 6pm

Hourly Rate	£10/hr (or £30 for 4 hours)
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### Hall Only

Represented Clubs	£9 (up to 3 hrs)
Others	£17 (up to 3 hrs)
plus Refundable Deposit	£200

### Committee Room

Represented Clubs	£6 (up to 3 hrs)
Others	£12 (up to 3 hrs)
Letting Agent	Angela Smith (07734 112967)
Chairperson	Barbara Brewer (01869 340423)
Secretary	Margaret Bulleyment (01869 347346)

Represented Clubs must nominate a trustee to attend Village Hall committee meetings.

Discounted rate for represented clubs – 15% for six block bookings.

## Steeple Aston Sports & Recreation Centre Letting Charges

Social Function peak times: (Daily up to 6 hours, from 6.00pm)	£55.00
Social Function off-peak times: (Daily up to 5 hours, up to 6.00pm)	£27.50
Meeting of represented clubs: (Daily per session, max 2 hours)	£11.00
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Chair – Torquil McLusky	Tel : 01869 347914
Treasurer – Chris Cooper	Tel : 01869 347173

## BUS TIMES

### STAGECOACH S4 BUS SERVICE

This timetable is effective from 10th March 2024

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

##### Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

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0703 0817 0920 1020 1620 1737 1840 1932 2022 2147 2253

##### Saturdays

0721 0821 0931 then hourly to 1531 1641 1746 1849 1937 2037 2216  
0809 0909 1019 1619 1729 1834 1932 2022 2147 2253

##### Sundays 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)

##### Mondays to Fridays (except 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 2053 2142 2242 0009

##### Saturdays

0758 0908 1008 then hourly to 1608 1718 1828 1927 2025 2113 2213 2341  
0837 0945 1045 1645 1755 1905 1958 2053 2142 2242 0009

##### Sundays 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 [www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables) E&OE

### OURBUS BARTONS

OurBus Bartons offers services through Steeple Aston to and from Lower Heyford Station (Monday to Friday), to and from Chipping Norton (Wednesdays) and to and from Bicester (Fridays).

See <https://ourbusbartons-org-uk.stackstaging.com/> for details and times.

## Steeple and Middle Aston rubbish bin collection day is Thursday.

### September 2024

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

### October 2024

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Blue and Brown
10 <sup>th</sup>	Green
17 <sup>th</sup>	Blue and Brown
24 <sup>th</sup>	Green
31 <sup>st</sup>	Blue and Brown

## Food caddy is collected weekly

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



# Steeple Aston 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 October and November to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

<b>September</b>			
Tuesday 10th	WI talk: Dr Katherine Bradley - 19th century Women Travellers & Explorers	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Wednesday 11th	Valentine Club: coach trip to Stratford-upon-Avon		
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>SAL October copy and advert DEADLINES</b>		
Tuesday 17th	Valentine Club: Ventriloquism and Magic Show with David	Village Hall	2.30pm
23rd - 27th	Valentine Club: Holiday to Eastbourne		
Saturday 28th	Deddington Farmers Market	Deddington	9.00 - 12.30pm
Saturday 28th	Sustainable Steeple	Deddington Church	9.00 - 12.30pm
Thursday 12th	Garden Club visit to Carter's Yard, Sibford Gower		2.30pm
Thursday 12th	Talk: "30 years of Heartbreak & Joy"	Steeple Aston Church	7.15 for 7.30pm
<b>October</b>			
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	WI Talk: Skywave Gin, Bicester	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm

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

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

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