

Steeple Aston

October 2024

Issue No. 614

Life



* Champion growers, makers, and hounds * Changing seasons and SAL
* Ventriloquists and Magicians

HARRIS'S STORES & POST OFFICE

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

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

*Fresh bread from Nash's Bakery.
Fresh meat and poultry.
Quality frozen fish and sea-food.
Organic free-range eggs.
Bread rolls and baguettes baked daily on the premises.
Cakes: a taste of home-made.
Off-licence with a wide range of beers,
wines and spirits.
Fresh fruit and vegetables.
Top-up for mobiles, gas and electric.
Fax and photocopying services.
Dry cleaning agent.
National Lottery tickets and much more.*

*Thank you all for your continued support.
Please let us know of any ideas or suggestions you
may have of ways in which we can extend our services to you.*

Tel: 01869 340201
e-mail: raj4878@hotmail.com

[COMPUTERPRO]

IT Support & Computer Repair

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Repairs & Upgrades |  Phone & Tablet |
|  Wifi Issues & Installation |  Online Security |
|  Data Backup & Recovery |  Onsite Support |
|  Cloud Services |  Remote Support |
|  New & Refurb Machines |  Recycling Service |

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

01869 352002

hello@computer-pro.co.uk www.computer-pro.co.uk
Heyford Park Innovation Centre, 77 Heyford Park, OX25 5HD

John Dovey

FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountant
& Registered Auditor

- Limited companies, Partnerships & Sole traders
- Accounts prepared
- Self Assessment Tax Return completion
- Book-keeping services
- New business start-ups
- Personal & Corporate tax advice
- Company secretarial services
- VAT and payroll

email: jmd@johndovey.co.uk
telephone: 01869 233003
mobile: 07801 658328

ACCA



- Local and Reliable – Home & Garden Improvements/Maintenance/Repairs.
- Painting & Decorating internal & external, household repairs, various jobs inside & out.
- Garden Maintenance, pressure washing, landscaping including fencing, gates, decking, turfing, patios, driveways, shed/base installation etc.
- Competitive Rates, references available on request and fully insured.
- Domestic and Commercial works undertaken.
- No job is too small – Please call Noel Price on 07884185171 or 01869 351619 or email noelprice@btinternet.com
www.kirtlingtonpropertymaintenance.com



September 2024: CONTENTS

Click on the item's page number below to go straight to its page. To return to Contents, click on the page number at the foot of any page.

OCTOBER FEATURES	PAGE	REPORTS FROM CLUBS & SOCIETIES	PAGE
Hindu Festivals and Magicians	15	AD&D Photographic Society	19
Horticultural Show Highlights	29 - 31	Garden Club	15
Champion Growers and Makers	33 - 34	Golf Society	26
Steeple Aston Exhibition	43	Valentine Club	15
		WI Report	42
REGULAR FEATURES	PAGE	INFORMATION	PAGE
Arts Page	13	Bus times	49
Church Matters	36	Church Services	45
Editorial	5	Rubbish bin collection dates	49
Gardening Spot	21	Steeple Aston Calendar	50
Have you ever been to...?	17	Steeple Aston Directory	4
Mind Games	43	Steeple Aston Noticeboard	7
Mind Games Answers	44	Village Hall News	25 - 26
Nature Notes	23		
Poetry Corner	39		
Parish Council Report	46 - 47		
Steeple People	10		

Contributions are welcome. Please email editorsalife@gmail.com

Cover: Isobel Coysh receiving the Under 8's Cup from Richard Preston (photo by Catherine Crook)

Steeple Aston *Life*

COPY

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

COPY DEADLINES

The copy deadline is the 14th of the previous month. This means the copy deadline for the November 2024 issue is Monday 14th October.

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 **Charlotte Bartlett**
salife.advertising@gmail.com

01869 347347

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The deadline for adverts is the 14th of the previous month.

ADVERTISING RATES

1/4 page - £8

1/2 page - £15

Full page (village events only) - £17.50

Steeple Aston Directory

Allotments (Church) SACAA		Amanda Rodgers	07793 553150
Angling Club		Antony Morley	tonyriver_83@hotmail.com
Archive (SAVA)	Chairman	Stuart Cummins	01869 349155
Badminton (Tuesday mornings)		Barbara Brewer	01869 340423
Badminton (Thursday evenings)		Alison Moran	01869 347033
Beekeepers (Swarm collection, advice)		Paul Honigmann	340665, 07512 224700
Bell ringers		Graham & Dorothy Clifton	01869 347273
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	Bodicote House	01295 227001	
Choral Society	Chair	Geoffrey Cotterill	01608 641654
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector	Rev'd Harriet Orridge	01869 932224
	Churchwardens	Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton	340099 / 347273
Methodist Church – Tackley		Rev'd Paul Carter	01865 243216
	Steward	Tim Bailey	01869 331516
Councillors - Cherwell District Council		Cllr Andrew McHugh	07515 120470
		Cllr Eddie Reeves	
		Cllr David Rogers	07900 998555
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	01869 347493
Crimestoppers		0800 555111	
Deddington Guides		Maggie Rampley	07957 600755
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments	338611	
	Repeat Prescriptions	10am - 3pm	01869 338847
	Out of Hours	111	
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Head Teacher		01869 340204
Football Club	Secretary	Nick Cameron	nickcameron@live.co.uk
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	01869 347000
Police	24hr Call Centre	(non emergency)	101
Post Office & Harris Stores		Raj	01869 340201
Pre-school			01869 340863
Public House	Red Lion		01869 389174
Robinson's Close	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Scouts Group		Colin Cassford	01869 243038
Sports & Recreation Centre	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Steeple Aston Walking Group		Penny, Stuart, Sue and Graham	sawgox25@gmail.com
Toddler Group		Bryony Rowcliffe	steepleastontoddlergrp@gmail.com
Valentine Club		Richard & Daphne Preston	01869 340512
Village Hall (see advertisement)	Letting Agent	Angela Smith	07734 112967
Village Emergency Telephone System		690691	
Village Website	www.steepleaston.org.uk	Editor: Jenny Bell	01869 943573
Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme		0300 3030125	
WI	President	Julie Hillier	01869 349185



Editorial

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

Steeple Aston *Life*

October 2024
Issue No.614

**Editors: Carol Neville and
Kate Symondson**
editorialife@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vaughan Billings
01869 340857

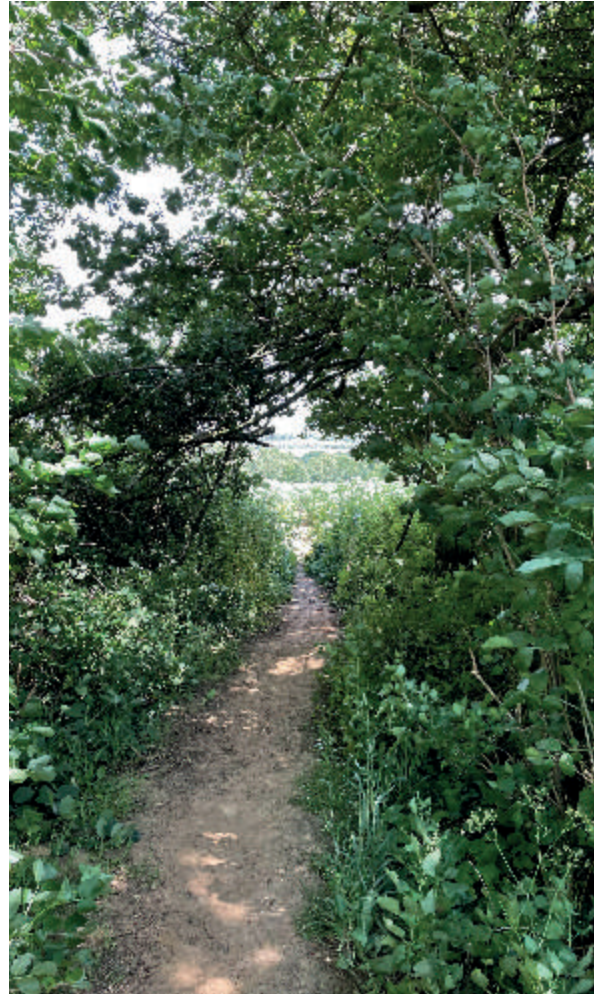
Secretary: Jenny Taylor
01869 340551

Advertising:
Charlotte Bartlett
01869 347347
salife.advertising@gmail.com

Deliveries:
Greg Elphick
07891 760176
greggles1262@gmail.com

Layout design:
Edward Dowler, Martin Lipson

Committee:
Jenny Bell, Nigel Francis



*Fresh feet on well-trodden paths, as SAL
welcomes new contributors to the team*

It seems fitting that as the leaves are starting to turn autumnal hues, SAL is also entering a new season as we say goodbye to stalwart contributors and welcome, to new. In editing this issue, I found resonance in Peter Wild’s poem (p.39) where he writes:

“it’s difficult to know just what to do
its trial and error ‘til things get more clear
tried and tested cedes to something new”

Ostensibly a poem about changing seasons, it struck me that this could speak to the daunting task of doing justice to all who work so hard to keep our community publication alive. I am in awe of the collective teamwork and dedication that goes into keeping the pulse of Middle and Steeple beating, and I speak for Carol as well as myself when I thank Cathy and Robert for shepherding us into our new role as co-editors. Being an effective editor can mean keeping yourself as inconspicuous and invisible on the page as possible. Consequently, as a reader, we may not realise the work that has gone in to making a publication. As Carol and I find our way, we are immensely grateful for the path that has been laid out for us by our predecessors, and the highly efficient systems they have put in place. We certainly have tough acts to follow!

Carol and I are keen to strike a balance between keeping the spirit and tone of SAL alive, while inviting new features and focuses. We welcome our readers’ thoughts for what you would like to see and invite you to email in suggestions to editorialife@gmail.com. As you will read on our Noticeboard (p.7), more departures are sadly imminent, providing locals with excellent opportunities to be involved.

We support Nicholas in his quest for more contributions to the Arts page, adding more colour to the kaleidoscope of the local cultural landscape, and we look forward to receiving contributions from Dr Radcliffe’s School on activities the children have been involved with. We would also like to have a focus on sustainability, which might include suggestions for how to give old things new life; recipes focusing on what’s in season; and a space for sharing things you would like to go to a new home. Given that we have many farmers in our community, we welcome updates and reflections on the farming calendar, allowing readers to find greater connection to those who help sustain the community. We are likewise aware of the avid readers that make up our numbers, and if book groups or individuals would like to share literary favourites and reviews, please do.

For now, thank you to all those who have welcomed Carol and me as we embrace our new roles.

Kate Symondson and Carol Neville

Autumn in the Orchard

Sunday 6th October 1pm - 4pm
At the Community Orchard, Water Lane, Steeple Aston

Come and meet Chrissie's Owls
Family Fun with Children's games
Connect with Nature alongside
Alison our Forest Ranger

Make your own apple juice - bring your apples

Tea and Cake

CAO Oxfordshire
COMMUNITY
ACTION
GROUPS



Sheila Churchill

**Part of your local Humanists UK
Celebrant team**

I create warm, personal, non-religious ceremonies for funerals and memorials.

Contact me if you would like to talk about these on **0794 2822 808** or

sheila.churchill@humanistceremonies.org.uk
<https://humanist.org.uk/sheilachurchill/>

WANTED

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAL

Have you got a letter, a photo, a joke, an article, an advert, an idea, a story, a puzzle...?

SEND IT TO "STEEPLE ASTON LIFE"

All contributions welcome
Regular pieces or once-only items

Please send to
editorsalife@gmail.com

Whatever is of interest to you is of interest to us



Calling all gardeners

You will see in this month's Gardening page that Richard Preston is sadly retiring from his role as contributor and consequently we are seeking someone to step into his wellies with monthly gardening advice and observations. Richard has valiantly written this illuminating section for 12 years and, for novice veg growers like me for whom his advice has been invaluable, will be sorely missed. I know I speak for many when I express appreciation and thanks for his many years helping SAL to flourish.

He will continue to write the Valentine Club page and is thankfully still very much a part of the SAL community. If you're interested in writing our gardening page, please contact the editors at editorsalife@gmail.com.

Kate Symondson, co-editor of SAL

A huge **THANK YOU to Cathy Lawday** for stepping into the breach and editing the September issue.

Share your passion for the arts

As you may have noticed in our last issue, Nicholas Cleobury is keen to have fellow contributors in the Arts page in the hopes of covering more diverse ground and opening up more creative and cultural avenues of interest.

We encourage people of all ages and tastes to get in touch with contributions, whether it be upcoming gigs, exhibitions, performances, music releases – or whatever it is that you find connection and joy in, and that you'd like to share with the community.

New SAL Advertising Manager required

The SAL Committee is looking for a new Advertising Manager. Charlotte Bartlett has been doing the job very efficiently since 2018, but sadly has decided she wants to retire at the end of the year.

The post involves:

- Answering queries from potential advertisers - by phone or email.
- Giving advertisers details of the sizes and prices of adverts, the deadlines for submission, and how to present their advert for printing.
- Receiving adverts and passing them on to the Editor.
- Informing the Editor each month which adverts are to remain unchanged, which are to be updated, which are to cease, and which new ones are to start.
- Sending out the invoices to advertisers and checking their payments on the bank statements.

The Advertising Manager will also join the SAL Committee and contribute a report for the monthly meeting. If you're interested in this role, please contact the editors at editorsalife@gmail.com. For more information about what's involved, contact Charlotte at salife.advertising@gmail.com or call 01869 347347.

THE STEEPLE ASTON RECREATION TRUST AND VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT A

FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2024

ROBINSON'S CLOSE

Gate Open and Food from 6.15pm

Bonfire Lit 6.30pm

Fireworks Start at 7.00pm promptly

Admission including food and drink

	Individual	Family
In Advance	£5.00	£14.00
On the Day (Cash Only)	£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



Advance tickets will be on sale from Monday 21st 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



Sunday 13th October

Steeple Aston Church

Warmly invites you to join us for

Harvest Festival Evensong

5.30pm in the church



Harvest Supper

6.30 for 7pm In the

Village Hall

£10 per ticket/ £5 under 16s

2 course hot meal

Main course, Cottage Pie or Vegetable Lasagne


(veggie option ***MUST BE PRE-BOOKED***)

Raffle

NO BAR – BRING YOUR OWN DRINK & GLASS

Buy tickets from Graham Clifton 01869 347273 or

Eileen Baglin Jones 01869 340099 by 9th Oct.





Penny Cummins



- **How long have you lived in Steeple Aston?** 9 Years.
- **What's the best and worst thing about living in Steeple Aston?** Really friendly inclusive community/rubbish mobile phone signal.
- **Give a potted history of yourself:** Born in Singapore, brought up in Bicester (mostly), first job in Bicester and then Office Manager for a construction company on sites across the UK, finished up as a gardener, now retired, married to Stuart.
- **How do you see yourself in 5 words?** Helpful, practical, funny, clumsy, grumpy.
- **How do others see you?** Tall, clumsy, funny, loud, helpful.
- **What do your family find most annoying about you?** Putting things away that are still being used.
- **Early bird or night owl? City slicker or country girl? Cat or dog? Beatles or Beethoven?** Night owl definitely, country, dog, Beatles.
- **What was the best thing about being a child?** Freedom to play.
- **What is the best thing about being an adult?** Choice.
- **What is the best job you've ever done?** Working in the construction industry.
- **What is the worst job you've ever done?** A Saturday job selling tea, coffee and snacks in a furniture sales warehouse (Queensway in Bicester).
- **What would you save from your house if it was on fire?** Stuart and Max (the dog) – order to be determined!
- **If you could ban one thing in the country, what would it be?** Chewing gum.
- **What do you do to relax?** Reading, gardening, embroidery, nothing.
- **What's your favourite saying or piece of advice?** This is not a dress rehearsal.
- **Tell us a surprising thing that you are really good at?** Cooking curry.
- **And a surprising thing that you are really bad at?** Singing.
- **Something about you that most people don't know.** I drove an amphibious vehicle in the Charles River in Boston.
- **Tell us a good joke.** Why do elephants have big ears? Because Noddy won't pay the ransom!

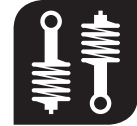
**FOR ALL
 YOUR
 VEHICLE
 NEEDS**



SERVICING



MOT



SUSPENSION



CLUTCHES



EXHAUSTS



TYRES

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

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

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



Locally grown plants, six inspiration
 gardens and a warm welcome for all



SWALLOWS
 NURSERIES & GARDENS

Open 7 days a week – Evenley Road, Mixbury NN13 5RR | SwallowsNursery.co.uk



Steeple Aston Choral Society

Presents



Light in the Darkness

Come and join us for an evening of seasonal music,
with mince pies and refreshments

Vaughan Williams – *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*

J.S.Bach – *Wachet Auf (Sleepers, Wake)*

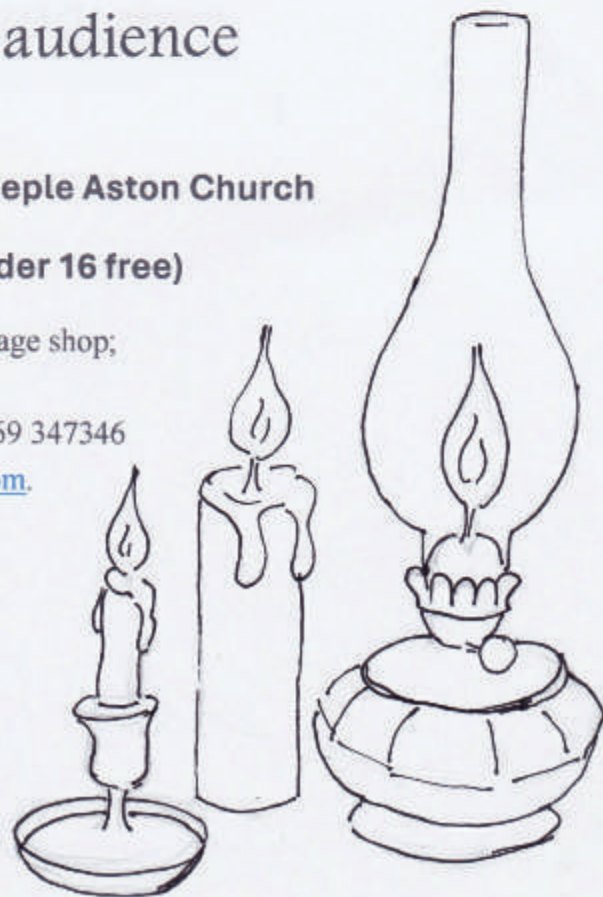
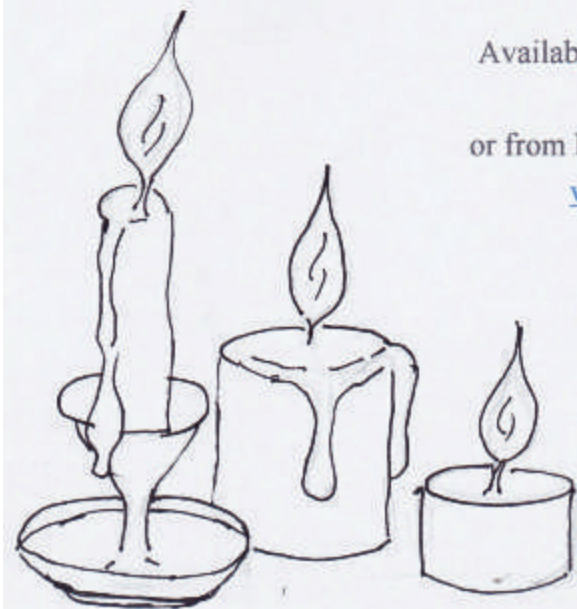
Monteverdi – *Beatus Vir*

Carols for choir and audience

Sunday 24 November - 7pm in Steeple Aston Church

Tickets - £12 (Children under 16 free)

Available from Steeple Aston village shop;
from SACS members;
or from Margaret Bullement 01869 347346
www.mtheb749@gmail.com



The ARTS Page



My "Poem of the Month" is 'Poem in October', by Dylan Thomas. You can listen to Thomas reading this on YouTube. Dear Reader - do send in your poems for future months.

Here is a reply (from Martin Dale) to last month's piece in the Radio Times about the Proms. "With regard to whoever wrote the letter to the Radio Times about the content of the Proms needing to include more disco, folk and pop, perhaps they might like to check out the full programme of the Proms which is incredibly eclectic and inclusive. There is repertoire to suit just about all tastes. Secondly, I would be happy if the above content were increased as long as Glastonbury, Reading etc. were to even include classical music in their repertoire! I note that the Oxford Symphony Orchestra does play a concert at the Wood Festival near Wallingford which is always well received. So, it can work!"

Cultural potpourri for October

Banbury Museum is always worth a visit (banburymuseum.org). As well as the wide-ranging standing exhibitions, 'The Changing Face of Banbury' (October 19th - 16th March 2025) looks fascinating.

Oxford's Story Museum is a treasure trove, and amongst its other attractions, has a half term offering (October 28 - 31) with a talk by Cressida Cowell and a wonderful variety of other events (storymuseum.org.uk).

Around the corner in Broad Street is the new Weston Library, (bodleian.ox.ac.uk/libraries/weston), well worth a visit anyway, but the 'Kafka: Making of an Icon' is "serious, funny and brilliant all at once", on until 27th October.

The Oxfordshire Museum's 'Representations of People' exhibition, curated from an Oxfordshire wide competition for art of all genres, is well worth a visit, on until 30th October. Much else besides. Straying into November, there is a talk by Deborah Hayter (daughter-in-law of a distinguished past Rector), on the 'Lost villages of Oxfordshire', at 7.00pm on 6th November. Consider becoming a Friend (friendsoftom.org.uk), and also making a visit to The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum (sofo.org.uk), also at Park Street, Woodstock.

You may have heard thriller writer Lee Child recently on the radio, talking about the importance of libraries. Locally, I have been told of the excellent library in Adderbury, and, again, flag up the wonderful 'Music in Adderbury' series, (musicinadderbury.com), there and in Deddington and Oxford. Chamber music by top quality artists.

Also locally, the enterprising Trinity Camerata in St Edburg's, Bicester on 13th October, has a fun programme, including Britten's 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' and 'How to train your Dragon' (trinitycamerata.org) Also, the Banbury Symphony Orchestra (banburysymphony.com) is in Deddington on 23rd November, featuring two pioneering women composers - Ethel Smythe and Ruth Gipps - well done BSO!

Is 'Guys and Dolls' the best musical ever? This wonderful production is on in Abingdon (abingdonoperatic.co.uk) from 29th October to 2nd November at the Amey Theatre.

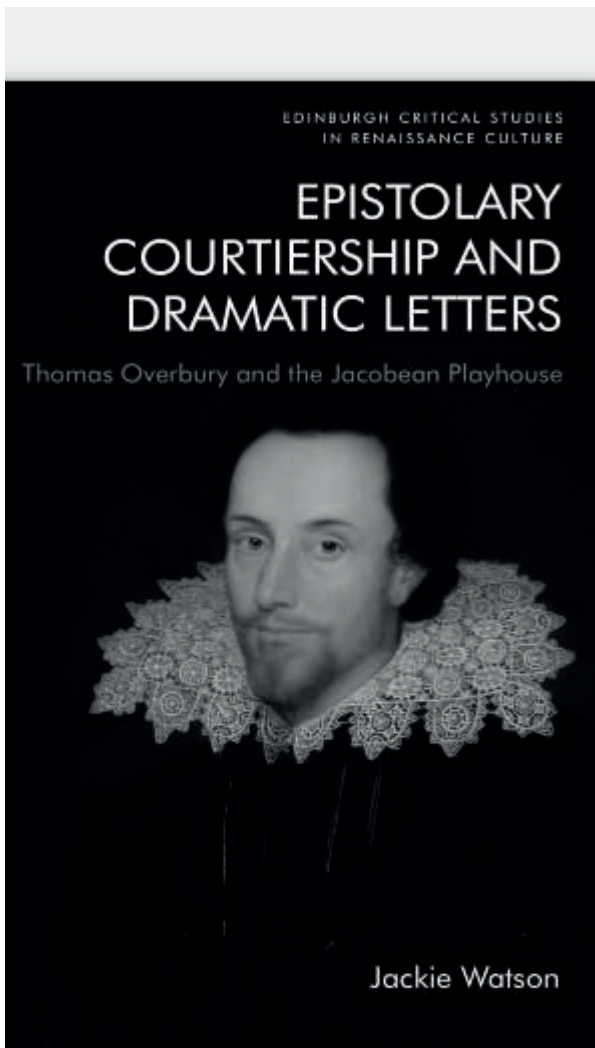
Finally, in November there are two local concerts in Steeple Aston Church. I am devising the 'Concert for Remembrance' on Saturday 9th at 7.30, and the Steeple Aston Choral Society have their concert on Sunday 24th at 7.00pm. More details are available through the usual channels.

Nick Cleobury

**Derring-do at the court of King James the 1st.
Come and enjoy a 17th century story of
intrigue.**

**Author Jackie Watson will take us through the
thrills and spills of an amazing moment in
Jacobean History.**

**See you in the Church
On 17th October 2024 at 7.15pm**



The talk will take you to the murky world of Jacobean court corruption. When the Scottish king, James VI, inherited the English throne, and became James I of England, he changed the way the court worked. Suddenly, attractive men were put in positions of great influence. One such, Thomas Overbury, took full advantage of the opportunities presented. But suddenly, in 1613, he was imprisoned in the Tower of London and, 6 months later, he was dead. Find out how Overbury took advantage of James's new court, and how he became such a threat to those ruling the country that, after a show trial in 1617, two aristocrats were found guilty of his murder.

A glass of wine at 7.15pm
Retiring Collection in aid of the Church



THE VALENTINE CLUB

Back in August, the club was treated to a wonderful talk by Alan Lavender on his time as chef to four prime ministers from Margaret Thatcher to David Cameron. Much of this involved his time at Chequers and more on the people he served under rather than the food he created.

Towards the beginning of September we took a very large coach to Stratford-upon-Avon for an enjoyable day out. Starting with a river cruise along the Avon at eye level with the numerous swans that frequent the river, we then went off in all directions to find some lunch and maybe a bit of shopping plus the opportunity to take in many of the sights of the town. We were by chance in town when we were able to witness the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, a Hindu festival that honours the beloved elephant-headed Hindu god Ganesh. As is customary by now, the day stayed fine until we boarded the coach when the rain started but by request, it had stopped again by the time we arrived home.

For our monthly meeting we were treated to some amazing magic and ventriloquism and left us all puzzled as to how David the magician was able to bemuse us all. Towards the end of September, 35 of us travelled to Eastbourne for five days to relax by the sea and enjoy each other's company. One day was spent in Brighton and another in The Weald and Downland Living Museum which is where 'The Repair Shop' is filmed for those of you who manage to watch daytime TV. More about this visit next month.

October just happens to be a bit less busy, but our monthly meeting will include Fish and Chips and of course, a selection of puddings. To find out more about The Valentine Club, then simply visit our own website on valentineclub.wixsit.com/aston (easiest way to log-on is go to the village website; go to "clubs and societies" and find The Valentine Club and click on the link) or keep up to date by looking on the village website, stepleaston.org.uk or use that old-fashioned thing called a telephone and call me on 01869 340512.

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 - 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

Steeple Aston Garden Club



Our September garden visit to Carter's Yard Garden in Sibford Gower was enjoyed on a sunny but chilly afternoon. We were fortunate to visit between some quite heavy showers and what a treat it was, more like a secret garden in between thatched cottages, sheltered by stone walls and full of colour. Our hosts, Mr & Mrs Bannister, were very good hosts and Sue Bannister was particularly knowledgeable about plants and had lots of stories to tell about how the garden had developed over the years. We were treated to homemade cakes and tea, of course. This was the last of our summer programme and Wednesday 9th October, starts our Autumn/Winter programme of talks in the village hall, with Howard Drury 'Encouraging Birds into your Garden', at 7pm for 7.30pm. All are welcome and if you want to find out more about joining the Garden Club, just come along to see what it is all about.

Christina Clarke
SAGC Secretary

EGG BOX

Secure Self Storage in Oxfordshire

Affordable | Flexible | Local & Easy

eggboxstorage.com

The Hatchery, Middle Aston OX25 5QL



NOAHSARK

Painting Company

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL DECORATION

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



T: 01295 811026

E: pete@noahsarkpainting.co.uk

W: noahsarkpainting.co.uk

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

the windmill
DEDDINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Spaces for hire!

Get to know our fabulous facilities

Deddington Studio

Ideal for dance and yoga classes

Clifton Room

Brilliant meeting space with AV

The Lookout

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

Main Hall

Perfect for parties and performances

Hempton Lounge

Great for clubs, accessible

t: 07720 834006

www.thewindmilleddington.org

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO.....?

Waterperry



I can remember the first time I visited Waterperry – it was a cold winter's day and the snowdrops we had come to see were frankly somewhat sparse and looked as miserable as the weather. Waterperry then – in the late 60s – was a small and rather unusual horticultural college. We observed students listening to a fierce looking lady in a tweed suit and later poring over assignments with pen and ink in the café which appeared to double as a classroom. Student life then had no help from iPads, laptops or mobile phones, but the extensive park-like grounds full of stunning trees and shrubs, the ancient church and the grand house (then not open to visitors) made Waterperry a striking place to visit and in which to learn.

A few years later after the College (which was founded in 1932) had closed in 1971, the Art in Action initiative tempted us to visit again. This was a feast of art, much lively and practical work being demonstrated by artists and artisans to see, enjoy, buy and admire. People were attracted to come and take part from all over the country and for art lovers of all kinds these were marvellously exciting days. The café, which still serves interesting lunches and tasty patisserie, seems to be what has survived from those heady days and to have contributed to the continuing development of Waterperry, which seems to have been reborn during succeeding decades.

When describing what happens at Waterperry now it would be easy to leave something out! Alongside the café there's a gift barn and a shop selling some produce and just about anything which a gardener needs. The small museum of rural and agricultural bygones is well worth a visit if you can drag yourself away from the original work on display in the Art in Action gallery. This gallery can be a good source of special gifts, I find, when an artisan made item of jewellery, art or ceramics would fit the bill. Then you cannot overlook the plants for sale, which are carefully displayed and all seem healthy and thriving.

All these areas tempt you to spend your money of course! You can stroll the grounds around the house and perhaps look into the church for free, but you should not neglect a visit to the Formal Gardens which are lovely and generally quiet and peaceful. Until October 20th there is a sculpture exhibition of work by Jenny Pickford displayed around the garden which you might be interested to see. When there are events at Waterperry such as the annual opera programme perhaps it's less quiet and peaceful. You might be interested in the Apple Weekend (October 12th and 13th) or the Halloween Hunt at the end of October, or what about Grounddog Day when, unusually, dogs are allowed into the Waterperry Garden. This place feels vibrant and busy with plenty to interest most people, and most areas (other than the Formal Gardens) are free to enter and enjoy. It's well worth finding your way there – Sat Nav OX33 1LA.

Eileen Baglin-Jones



SIMPLE EXCHANGES

We believe the more detail, effort and time we put into selling your home, the sooner you'll be exchanging and toasting those pastures new.

To discuss your property, simply give us a call.



01869 343 600
cridlands.co.uk

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.



01295 230714



bloxham@aredhouse.co.uk



Bloxham Mill, Barford Road,



OX15 4FF



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.



We were invited into the world of Robert Harvey with his presentation of ‘Jaguar and Giant Tortoises’ - a Wildlife Photographic Journey in Tropical South America.

As a wildlife photographer he illustrated the comparisons in the environments of vast flat plains, waterfalls, lowland rainforests, cloud forest and island life on the Galapagos Islands by photographing birds, reptiles and mammals living there. Each area requiring different photographic skills to capture the best image.

It is a continent of birds with so many varieties, differing in size, behaviour and colour whilst living in many different habitats. This is a challenge to any photographer, which Robert mastered. He gave us examples of settings and equipment that he used when taking these images, each one requiring consideration of light, movement and atmosphere. In some areas where he was not allowed to use flash, he was able to capture creatures by torchlight and clever choice of time of day to get the shot he was wanting to take.

The variety of creatures, including giant anteaters eating termites from mounds in the grasslands of Cerrado, macaws, toucans, rhea owls and storks in the Pantanal, were captured beautifully by him, as he travelled through their home environment by boat, light aircraft and on foot. It was on his sixth visit to South America that he managed to photograph a jaguar in the wild which he had wanted to do for so many years. Dedication.

One thousand kilometres from the mainland the individuality of the Galapagos Islands where active volcanoes change the landscape, Robert was able to be close to the wildlife and photograph the famous giant tortoises, sometimes laying on the floor with them for a different perspective.



His website is
naturalworldphotography.net/
should you wish to take a look.

Our weekends have been busy recently as we have had our annual exhibitions in Steeple Aston and Adderbury. Thank you if you visited. The photograph that was raffled was won by a lady from Tysoe.

We had three new visitors join us on Wednesday last, and hope that they felt welcomed and will return for our next meeting in October on Wednesday 2nd at 7.30pm. It will be Andrew Buchanan who will give a talk on his photographic journey followed by a practical tabletop photography demonstration with audience participation. Sounds fun.

Courtney Killpack

Puppy Classes

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

Have a sociable and well-trained dog

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

Classes held in Deddington



Book online at
www.canine-paradise.com

JLDA

Design, Planning Applications, Listed Building Consents & Building Regulations Applications, Construction Drawings

A complete service for all your building needs, including New Builds, all types of Extensions, Internal Alterations as well as Loft and Garage Conversions

"JLDA has done 3 designs for us. The first one has transformed our lives. It was a ground floor extension and involved redesigning our kitchen as well. The work was of the highest quality and the level of service excellent. We were very much involved in the process of design but the bureaucratic requirements such as Design, Planning permission were expertly handled by JLDA."

★★★★★

Call now to discuss the project you have in mind

01869 349825
design@jlda.co.uk
www.jlda.co.uk

Our heritage & expertise position us as one of the UK's leading auctioneers.

OUR SERVICES

Mallams' valuation experts can help when specialised valuation reports are required for insurance, taxation or probate purposes.

PROBATE/INHERITANCE TAX VALUATIONS

INSURANCE VALUATIONS

VALUATION DAYS

Free & Informal valuations available at each of our offices

OXFORD

Tel: 01865 241358 or oxford@mallams.co.uk

CHELTENHAM

Tel: 01242 235712 or cheltenham@mallams.co.uk

ABINGDON

Tel: 01235 462840 or abingdon@mallams.co.uk

For entries invited & auction information, please scan the QR code

AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS SINCE 1788

Mallams

1788

Mallams

Auctioneers & Valuers



www.mallams.co.uk

Mallams



The Gardening Spot

October in the garden

As the nights begin to draw in it gives many of us less time to spend in the garden, but that doesn't mean that we can forget it until next spring. Very often October can be a rather pleasant month with the late summer sunshine and clean fresh air that makes it a pleasure to be outside. This is the month to get organised ready for next year by tidying up the garden, possibly by completing the last bit of pruning and clearing away any rubbish that might have accumulated on the vegetable patch or in the borders.

Roses will benefit from a prune to reduce them by at least half to reduce 'rock' in the winter storms and that can apply to other shrubs as well. The lawn would benefit from raking to remove any moss and allow it to breathe, and if there are any bare patches this is a good time to overseed by scattering lawn seed over the patch and covering with a light dressing of compost remembering to protect the area from birds.

This is also the last chance to trim any hedges as an early frost may well damage the growth that is left exposed. The days may be getting cooler, but the ground is still warm and this is a wonderful time to plant container shrubs as they will settle in before the harsher weather comes and will then be ready to romp away next spring.

Garden ponds would benefit from a final clean out of unwanted pond weed and debris before winter sets in and placing a net over the pond now will reduce all those unwanted leaves from falling in. You can also consider sowing some hardy annuals now such as sweet peas by placing them in a cold frame or the greenhouse, giving them a head start next year. How about taking some cuttings from those tender perennials such as pelargoniums as they will produce much better plants next year.

If you have a greenhouse it is important to give it a good clean through by washing down inside with something like Jeyes Fluid to help prevent a build-up of over-wintering pests, remembering to remove the plants first and then clean the glass as the plants will need all the sunlight they can get over the shorter months.

I hope many of you took some time out on August Bank Holiday Monday to take a look at the annual flower show and fun dog show. This year the show was managed by a slightly different team and by what I saw of it, they need to be congratulated on such a superb show with over 800 exhibits and vast numbers of visitors enjoying this traditional village event. Well done to all involved.

It is now over 12 years that I have been writing this column and to be honest, I am running out of ideas of what to write. My gardening knowledge is very limited as I am self-taught and really know very little other than how to grow tomatoes. It is time for me to retire from this role and I hope someone else might take up the reins and probably provide much better suggestions as to what should be done in the garden. Thank you for bothering to read my articles over all this time and I wish every success for SAL over the forthcoming years.

Happy gardening!

Richard Preston

Gas Heating & Service

Specialise in:

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

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



532113

For a free and friendly quote contact:

Joe McEneaney

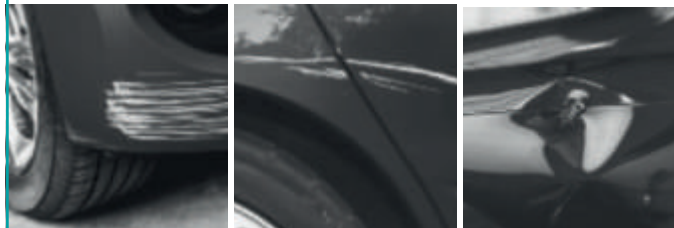
Mobile: 07808 608 970

Email: ghsoxford@gmail.com

Gas Safe No: 532113

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

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



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

Call or go online today for your FREE estimate



ChipsAway



LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED

0800 028 7878

www.chipsaway.co.uk


DAVID
— cuts hair —

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



Friendly, mobile hairdressing service for the Cherwell district.



All equipment fully sanitized before every appointment for your protection.



Fully insured and DBS checked.



30 years hair cutting experience.

call DAVID on 07775 806655 or 01869 346910

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

Nature Notes



As we enter autumn, many animals are preparing for the colder weather to come. The food sources animals have enjoyed over the summer may be running out and they need to find a way to cope with these changing conditions. Some, especially birds such as swallows and house martins that migrated here for the summer, simply migrate to other countries where the winter weather is warmer and food supplies, particularly insects, remain plentiful. Many animals that remain here will change their diet, replacing insects and other invertebrates with the autumn and winter harvest of berries, seeds and nuts. Although such foods provide an energy source, the animals still have to keep warm. Many mammals grow a denser fur coat and birds grow fluffy downy feathers to give a good layer of insulation around them. They also need to find somewhere warm to rest. This may take the form of birds huddling together in thick vegetation or in cavities in tree trunks, or mammals digging an underground refuge. In all cases there is a delicate balance between conserving energy by staying relatively immobile in a warm place or using energy to seek out food to replace their energy reserves. Some take this to an extreme level and hibernate through the winter. Only a few of our mammals take this course of action but this includes bats, the hazel dormouse and the one with which we are probably most familiar, the hedgehog.



The hedgehog's distinctive spiny coat is very good at protecting the hedgehog from predators but is very poor at providing an insulating layer to keep the animal warm. To maintain its body temperature over the winter months, a hedgehog would need to find a vast amount of food. Hibernation solves this dilemma. This biological adaptation involves the hedgehog shutting down its metabolism to a minimal level to maintain life. By reducing its metabolic rate, slowing its heart and breathing rates, and becoming totally inactive, its energy needs are diminished so much that feeding is unnecessary.

This level of inactivity can leave an animal very vulnerable to predators but the hedgehog's spines are a good deterrent. However, the hedgehog still needs to find somewhere safe and warm to pass the winter. Many favour piles of leaves and twigs, but we can assist them by providing hedgehog boxes which offer shelter from both weather and predators.

Entry into hibernation is triggered by a combination of factors: diminishing food supplies, a reduction in day-length and a drop in temperature. In preparation for these, a hedgehog needs to feed itself up over the late summer so that it has a good supply of fat as an energy source to draw on during hibernation. A temporary warm spell during the winter can trigger a hedgehog to emerge from hibernation, often with fatal consequences as this uses vital energy resources which, due to food scarcity, the hedgehog may not be able to replace. Therefore, it is very important not to disturb hedgehogs during hibernation.



Bridget Lewis

Photo credits: Hedgehog (top photo) © Karen Bullock; Hedgehog (bottom photo) © Jesus Duarte.

Both photos used under the Creative Commons Licence: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>

BACK PAIN, SPORTS INJURY & HEADACHE CLINIC

Especially for long term pain and problems



Hector Wells BSc (Hons), DO.

Laura Humphreys Osteopath

Both University Clinical Osteopath Tutors for over 15 years

- Back, Neck, Sciatica, Frozen Shoulder
- Knees and Hips, Pregnancy Backs
- Baby Sleep/Colic Clinic
- Recurrent Headaches, Migraine
- Mental Wellbeing Clinic (also postnatal)

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

Appointments (01295) 265267

Email: hector@the54clinic.com

www.the54clinic.com

54 Bloxham Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9JR



Arbor Vitae Oxford
TREES & GARDENS

: Arboricultural Expertise:

Tree Surgery: Planning: Consultancy

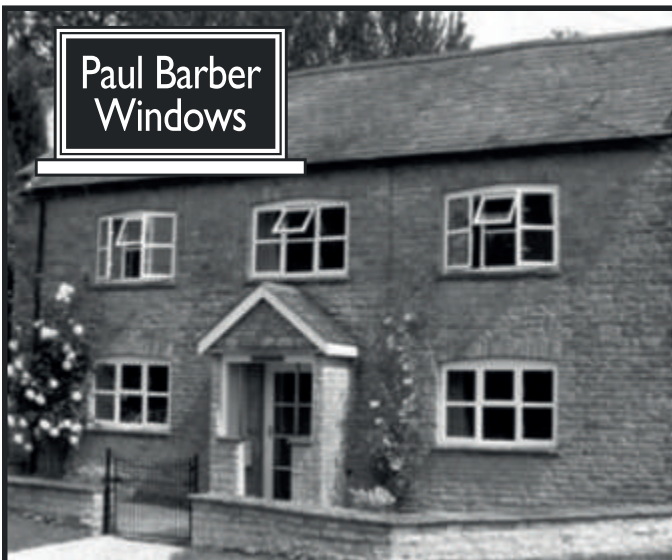
Benjamin Downing Nd Arboriculture
Nch Horticulture

Old Butcher Heyford Road Steeple Aston
OX24 4SH

e: arborvitaeoxford@yahoo.co.uk

m: 07443582747 h: 01869 347985

Paul Barber
Windows



T: 07836 623407

E: paul@paulbarberwindows.co.uk

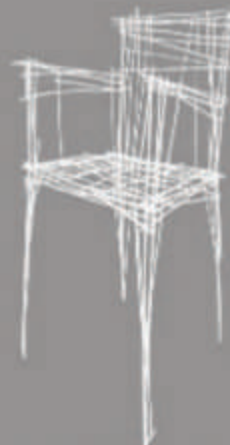
www.paulbarberwindows.co.uk

OVER 30 YEARS
EXPERIENCE

FENSA
Registered Company

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

lawrence furnishings
RE-UPHOLSTERY CUSHIONS



RE-UPHOLSTERY

01280 704437

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



Chairperson 2025

The Village Hall Trustees are still looking for someone to take over as Chairperson from May 2025. The function of the committee is to ensure the village hall is run and kept in a good condition for the benefit of the village and improved as funds allow. This is a good opportunity for someone to network into the community and 'get involved'. If you feel you are that person, you would be very welcome to come along to one of our monthly committee meetings and see what is involved. If you are interested, please call me on 340423 for more information.

Volunteer Marketing Co-ordinator

Steeple Aston Village Hall Trustees need a volunteer to undertake active marketing duties. We have an opportunity for a Volunteer Marketing Co-ordinator who would work as part of a management team. This role will cover various areas of marketing with a focus on supporting the Trustees to achieve increased bookings for the Village Hall. Once set up, we anticipate that a couple of hours a week will be needed, depending on the enthusiasm of the volunteer, to undertake the duties. The main duties will be to:

- Attend monthly meetings of the Trustees to discuss and agree marketing ideas and progress.
- Create engaging and targeted copywriting for our websites.
- Plan, create and deploy marketing campaigns.
- Create and keep third party listing up to date.
- Take on any associated duties agreed with the Trustees.

The post will be an unpaid voluntary position, suitable for a trainee (particularly good for a CV) or a retiree with a marketing background or interest. Contact Richard Preston on 340512, or John Coley on 347882 for more information.

Forthcoming events

Tuesday 5th November 'Fireworks spectacular'

Gates will open with food available from 6:15pm; Bonfire lit from 6:30pm, Fireworks at 7pm

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible to enjoy a spectacular evening of fireworks and refreshments. The Recreational Trust and Village Hall committee will present a great display in a safe environment. Glow sticks will be available for sale at the gate: £1 each **cash only**. Ticket price includes our special home-made soup together with sausage in a roll and squash for the very young.

Please do not bring fireworks, laser pens, sparklers or alcohol to this event. Please do not dump any wood or rubbish outside the gate or in the field prior to the event. If anyone has any wood to burn, please contact a village hall/recreational trust committee member. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult throughout the event.

Ticket prices: bought in advance £14 family, £5 single. On the gate £16 family, £6 single. If you are purchasing tickets on the gate please come along with the correct money, cash only. This will help speed up queues.

Advance tickets are available from Barbara (01869 340423) and Steeple Aston Village shop from Monday 21st October. Ticket sales from the Village shop will close at 3pm on the day.

Continued on next page

Sunday 8th December Wassail evening

Enjoy a light-hearted evening of mulled wine, soft drinks, mince pies, carols, readings, handbell ringers and Christmas music. This is an opportunity for everyone - families, young, and old - to join in some community singing. So come along and join us as everyone is welcome. **Free entry.**

Saturday 18th January 2025 Annual Quiz Night

Please book your teams early to avoid disappointment; more details next month.

Saturday 10th May 2025 'We'll Meet Again' - 6pm

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

For more information contact Margaret Bullement – 01869 347346 or mtheb749@gmail.com

Our letting agent is Mrs Angela Smith – 07734 112967. Please do not call this number between 6pm and 8pm unless urgent. Collect keys from 'Mijas' South Side, Steeple Aston. OX25 4RU. Email steeple-aston-village-hall@hotmail.com

Barbara Brewer (Chair)
www.savh.org.uk

Steeple Aston *Golf Society*



I don't think that I have played on a more well maintained and manicured course than in Hearsall, Coventry. We all very much enjoyed the day and if I lived closer to this course I would like to play it on a regular basis. I am looking forward to a return.

The winner of the May Fu Tu trophy was Richard Watkin with 33 points, just heading off Alan Brewer on countback into second place. Guest winner on countback was Ken Lewis, tying with Gwyn Owen on 28 points. Nearest pins on six and in two on 13, was Tony Giles. No birdie twos were recorded.

"Golf is a game whose aim is to hit a very small ball into an ever smaller hole, with weapons singularly ill-designed for the purpose." *Winston S. Churchill*

Alan Brewer



Eldon Friends

For all your Social Care requirements

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

Whether you require transport to your appointments, assistance with your shopping trips, light housework or just simply companionship, Eldon Friends has the right package for you.

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

Elaine Kelly: Tel: (01869) 340449

Email: info@eldonfriends.co.uk

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

Covering The Astons and surrounding villages.

Qualified in Health and Social Care. Fully Insured.

***Eldon Friends is a provider of non-regulated services**



Iron and Wood Ltd
Stoves for the Future



**Visit our showrooms in
Banbury
or Kidlington**

T: 01295 253936

E: info@ironandwood.co.uk

www.ironandwood.co.uk



Safeclean

BY  **GUARDSMAN**

Professional Cleaning Services

The experts in cleaning:

**Carpets • Upholstery • Mattresses
Oriental rug cleaning • Stain removal
Stain protection • Allergy treatment**



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

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

Email: rvernonsafeclean@gmail.com


Mobile: 07825 918946



www.safeclean.co.uk

Shaun Guard TV AERIAL & WIFI SERVICES

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

 OXFORD AERIALS

www.oxfordaerials.co.uk
shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk
 Call Bicester 01869 221783



Market 9am - 12.30pm
SATURDAY
26 OCTOBER

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



For more information visit:
www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk
 or call 01869 337 940

Hearing Healthcare Clinic of the Year

P

Central England
 Prestige Awards
 Winner 2021/22

Connect to Better Hearing with SJBHEARINGCOMPANY

Visit us for:

- Comprehensive **Hearing Assessments**
- **Earwax Removal** with Endoscopic micro-suction
- State-of-the-Art **Hearing Solutions** • **Friendly, Impartial Advice**
- **Bespoke Hearing Protection** for shooting, motorcyclists & music

Visit our **Deddington Centre**,
 call **01869254019** to book.

Bookings by appointment only - We're open 5 days a week!



ABOUT SJBHEARING
 COMPANY LTD

Sarah-Jane Brown is an experienced Hearing Aid Audiologist and has been working in the Banbury area for the past 7 years. She has built up a strong reputation and has helped hundreds of local people to improve their hearing and overall health & wellbeing.

"I'm looking forward to welcoming you all into my clinic and helping with your hearing health needs."

Sarah-Jane Brown



SJB HEARING COMPANY LTD

"Where your hearing comes first"

call us on: 01869 254 019

visit our website: www.sjbhearingcompany.co.uk

Steeple Aston & Middle Aston Horticultural Society Annual Show

Our 132nd annual show turned out to be a spectacular day with over 800 exhibits from 112 exhibitors! A true triumph for the villages. Following a Friday with gales and a Saturday of heavy rain, the weather gods co-operated with us for a warm but not hot, beautiful sunny day on the Bank Holiday Monday.

Exhibitors aged from one-year olds to those in their 80's, so there's no excuse for not having a go next year, especially as I bet a few of you walked around muttering "... well, my potatoes are better than those...." If you are a first timer and unsure how the whole process works, please ask a committee member or myself and we will gladly walk you through it. Better still, come along to our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25th September at 7.45pm at Steeple Aston Village Hall, in the Committee room, and get involved with a super friendly team. I should add that it gives me great delight that each year new people enter and win prizes. It's not just those that have been doing it for years...

The show days are only made special by the people who put in the hard work to organise (thanks to my colleagues), and most importantly to you for coming, supporting a true village institution, creating a really lovely buzz across the field, thank you.

The joy felt by many was summed up by Max Austin's mum, Amy, who said "he was beyond thrilled with his rosette". He won the under 5's and was presented with his rosette by our Chairman, Graham Clifton.



See you all soon,
Vicky Clifton, Show secretary.



All photos by Catherine Crook





DR RADCLIFFE'S TRUST ANNUAL AWARDS

TO SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING

The Dr Radcliffe's Trust invites applications from young people who:

are 16 (post GCSE) - 25 years old

are studying at school, college, university or are in an apprenticeship

live in Steeple or Middle Aston, or attended Dr Radcliffe's School for a minimum of 2 years.

In the past awards have been made to help fund school or college field trips, tools or equipment for apprenticeships or vocational training, uniforms for trainees, specialist software and laptops, equipment for students at college or university, travel costs, and help with living expenses for those living away from home.

Awards are made based on the financial needs of the applicant, so family household income is considered, but there is no restriction as to family income; each case is considered individually. Young people can apply any year that they are eligible regardless of whether they have received an award in the past.

Applications for the awards must be made by 11th November. Any late applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. The scholarship committee then reviews the applications and aims to make awards during December.

To simplify the application process this year we are asking young people to apply electronically via a Google form. The link to this is given below as well as a QR code. The link can also be found on the Steeple Aston website and Facebook page.

<https://forms.gle/vKsMAw4u7M5ogDiw9>



If you need help with the application process or need more information then please contact me, Tina Ferguson. My email address is tina.merlins@gmail.com

2024 SUMMER HORTICULTURAL SHOW RESULTS

Hayter Cup Robson Cup Wadham Cup Walker Cup for Show Champion Coronation Bowl Gladys Stevens Memorial Cup Scott Cup Rose Lilley Memorial Trophy Lee Cup Rousham Cup Doug Walton Trophy Fothergills Cup	Gill Rawnsley Richard Preston Daphne Preston Daphne Preston Victoria Clifton Janet Coley Daphne Preston Daphne Preston Gill Rawnsley Richard Preston Stan Nelson Daphne Preston	George Alder Memorial Beehive Cup Lilley Cup Jean Stone Trophy Photography Cup Banksian Medal Senior Children's Cup Junior Children's Cup Under 8s Cup Under 5s Cup Children's Photography	Daphne Preston Mary White/Stan Nelson Alex Pasteur Jon Gascoyne Jon Gascoyne Stan Nelson Jenny Marsden Charlotte Purtell Isobel Coysh Max Austin Ben Wade-Martins
	First	Second	Third
4 tomatoes	Mary White	Diane Dale	Helen Wright
5 pods of runner beans	Gill Rawnsley	Rachel Marsden	Graham Clifton
3 onions	Gill Rawnsley	Marie O'Connor	Graham Clifton
3 carrots	Gill Rawnsley	Mark Utting	Alex Pasteur
3 salad vegetables	Mark Utting	Rachel Marsden	Gill Rawnsley
4 potatoes – coloured	Graham Clifton	Marie O'Connor	Gill Rawnsley
4 potatoes – white	John Coley	Paul Rodgers	Gill Rawnsley
3 beetroot	Paul Rodgers	Gill Rawnsley	
3 courgettes	Julia Whybrew	Amy Austin	Gill Rawnsley
5 cherry tomatoes	Mary White	Gill Rawnsley	Dorothy Clifton
5 dwarf beans	Rachel Marsden	Mary White	Gill Rawnsley
Collection of 4 vegetables	Gill Rawnsley	Marie O'Connor	Rachel Marsden
Best other vegetable	Graham Clifton	Mark Utting	Gill Rawnsley
3 dahlias	Chris Cooper	Mary White	Rachel Marsden
3 stems of annuals	Mary White	Hanny Nicholson	Mark Utting
Cut, mixed flowers	Mary White	Stephen Latchford	Mark Utting
3 stems of roses	Alex Pasteur	Chris Cooper	Mark Utting
Outdoor Planter or hanging basket	Diana Relton	Barbara Brewer	Anne Bonwick
5 tomatoes	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	Andrew Grimmett
5 pods of runner beans	Richard Preston	Andrew Grimmett	Stan Nelson
1 cabbage	Richard Preston	Marie O'Connor	Graham Clifton
3 carrots – long			
3 carrots – short	Stephen Chessum	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson
4 potatoes – coloured	Chris Cooper	Stan Nelson	Andrew Grimmett
4 potatoes – white	Stephen Chessum	Richard Preston	Chris Cooper
3 beetroot	Paul Rodgers	Stan Nelson	Chris Cooper
Collection of 5 vegetables	Richard Preston		
4 onions – over 250 gms	Stan Nelson	Chris Cooper	
4 onions – under 250 gms	Stan Nelson	Richard Preston	Stephen Chessum
Collection of salad vegetables	Andrew Grimmett	Chris Cooper	Richard Preston
A cucumber	Richard Preston	Ray Hopkins	Mark Utting
5 pods of dwarf beans	Stan Nelson		
A lettuce	Diane Dale		
5 cherry tomatoes	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	Andrew Grimmett
3 courgettes	Stan Nelson	Chris Cooper	
2 peppers	Stan Nelson	Diane Dale	
2 sweetcorn	Richard Preston	Graham Clifton	Mark Utting
5 spring onions	Chris Cooper	Mark Utting	Stan Nelson
2 leeks	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson	
2 parsnips	Richard Preston		Paul Rodgers
6 shallots – pickling	Stan Nelson		
6 shallots – culinary	Andrew Grimmett		
2 sticks of celery	Richard Preston		
Best veg not otherwise specified	Mark Utting	Catherine Purtell	
Collection of herbs	Taissa Csaky	Richard Preston	Stan Nelson
Pair of Table marrows	Stan Nelson	Mark Utting	
4 apples – culinary	Chris Cooper	Stan Nelson	Mary White
4 apples – dessert	Richard Preston	Mary White	Mark Utting
3 pears	R.Ganthony	Heidi Balji	Stan Nelson
5 plums	Mary White	Richard Everett	R.Ganthony
Dish of blackberries	Stan Nelson	Rachel Marsden	Katie Stevens
Dish of fresh fruit	Richard Preston	Joanna Everett	Mary White
Bowl of mixed home-grown fruit	Stan Nelson	Mary White	Joanna Everett
3 dahlias – cactus	Daphne Preston	Marie O'Connor	Stephen Chessum
3 dahlias – decorative	Stephen Chessum	Daphne Preston	John Coley
5 dahlias – pom	Daphne Preston	Stephen Chessum	John Coley
3 stems of annuals	Daphne Preston	Hanny Nicholson	
Vase of mixed grasses	Amanda Rodgers		
3 vases of garden flowers	Victoria Clifton	Daphne Preston	
3 gladioli spikes	Daphne Preston	John Coley	Diane Dale
Single gladioli spike	Daphne Preston	John Coley	Chris Cooper
Cut mixed garden flowers	Daphne Preston	Mark Utting	

3 single rose blooms	Daphne Preston	Antonia Maclean	
A single bloom rose – unwired	Daphne Preston	Stephen Chessum	Antonia Maclean
Roses for scent	Victoria Clifton	Daphne Preston	Taissa Csaky
Spray of floribunda roses		Daphne Preston	
5 perennials	Daphne Preston	Victoria Clifton	
5 Stems of sweet peas	Victoria Clifton	Chris Cooper	
Clematis blooms floating in water	Daphne Preston		
Pelargonium - pot plant	Daphne Preston		
Pot plant flowering	Barbara Brewer	Daphne Preston	Catherine Purtell
Pot plant foliage	Barbara Brewer	Daphne Preston	
Pot plant succulent	Daphne Preston	Catherine Purtell	Katie Stevens
5 fuchsia flower heads	Paul Rodgers	Ray Hopkins	Rachel Marsden
Arrangement from my garden	Rebecca Lewin	Daphne Preston	Judith Pettersen
Flower arrangement 'Paris'	Daphne Preston	Judith Pettersen	Rebecca Lewin
Arrangement Title of your choice	Rebecca Lewin	Daphne Preston	
Foliage arrangement	Judith Pettersen	Daphne Preston	Rebecca Lewin
Vertically inspired arrangement	Daphne Preston	Rebecca Lewin	
Arrangement for 5 blooms	Daphne Preston	Rebecca Lewin	Charlotte Powell
Arrangement in a thimble	Judith Pettersen	Taissa Csaky	Daphne Preston
Hand knitting/Crochet	Diane Dale	Katie Stevens	Daphne Preston
An apron	Janet Coley	Marie O'Connor	Rebecca Lewin
A children's birthday card	Janet Coley	Amanda Rodgers	Claire Coysh
A pressed flower picture	John Coley	Claire Coysh	Jenny Marsden
A gift-wrapped box	Amanda Rodgers	Janet Coley	Claire Coysh
A painting or drawing	S. Shanmuganathan	Heidi Balji	Janet Coley
Piece of embroidery or tapestry	Janet Coley	Claire Coysh	Isobel Coysh
Any other handicraft	Charlotte Bartlett	Claire Coysh	Jenny Marden
Limerick	Alan Stubbersfield	Victoria Stokes	Claire Coysh
Photo: Panel of 4 'Weather'	Jon Gascoyne	John Coley	Janet Coley
Photo: 'Action'	Jon Gascoyne	David Faul	Richard Everett
Photo: 'Mechanical'	Jon Gascoyne	Claire Coysh	Janet Coley
Photo: 'Folly'	John Coley	Janet Coley	Jon Gascoyne
Photo: 'Urban scene'	Kate Lawson	John Coley	Jon Gascoyne
Photo: 'Purple'	Jon Gascoyne	Kate Lawson	Jenny Marsden
Lemon curd	Mary White	Heidi Balji	Victoria Clifton
Raspberry Jam	Victoria Clifton	Julia Whybrew	Hattie Wright
Other jam	Rebecca Lewin	Rachel Marsden	Hanny Nicholson
Marmalade	Marian Ganthony	Judith Pettersen	Sally Cooper
Pot of jelly	Sally Cooper	Fiona McLoone	Victoria Clifton
Pot of chutney	Catherine Purtell	John Coley	Sally Cooper
Focaccia bread	Kelly Cooper	Victoria Clifton	Mike Malliagh
Savoury flan	Victoria Clifton	Hanny Nicholson	Julia Whybrew
5 Cheese straws	Victoria Clifton	Ruth Emm	Julia Whybrew
3 Iced buns	Victoria Clifton	Julia Whybrew	Mike Malliagh
Lemon meringue pie	Victoria Clifton	Hattie Wright	Alex Pasteur
Victoria sandwich	Joyce Bedding	Victoria Clifton	Heidi Balji
3 Chocolate chip cookies	Hattie Wright	Rebecca Lewin	Sarah Lamarche
5 Pieces of Fudge	Hattie Wright	Julia Whybrew	Rebecca McLoone
Chocolate & Vanilla marble cake	Julia Whybrew	Fiona McLoone	Victoria Clifton
Homemade cordial	Julia Whybrew	Dan Wright	Hattie Wright
Home flavoured gin	Rebecca Lewin	Alan Brewer	Victoria Clifton
Dundee cake	Rachel Marsden	Victoria Clifton	Daphne Preston
Under 5: Collage natural materials	Max Austin	Lily Trienekens	Arlo Loveluck Taplin
Under 5: A painting or drawing	Arlo Loveluck Taplin	Max Austin	Edward Coysh
Under 5: 3 decorated biscuits	Edward Coysh	Joey Stokes	Elodie Smith/ Lily Trienekens
Age 5 - Lego plane	Isobel Coysh	James Smith	Jacob Lewin
Age 5-7 Collage: natural materials	Isobel Coysh	Elka Loveluck Taplin	Edward Austin
Age 5-7 Dec. gingerbread men	Isobel Coysh	James Smith	Edward Austin
Age 8-11 A lego animal	Charlotte Purtell	Ottie Maclean	Felix Loveluck Taplin
Age 8-11 Collage: natural material	Charlotte Purtell	Megan Walker	Ottie Maclean
Age 8-11 Victoria Sandwich	Megan Walker	Ottie Maclean	Woody Wright
Age 8-11 A painting or drawing	Felix Loveluck Taplin	Ottie Maclean	Charlotte Purtell
Age 8-11 A room in a box	Charlotte Purtell	Megan Walker	Ottie Maclean
Age 12-15 Homemade soap	Jenny Marsden	James Marsden	Sarah Lamarche
Age 12-15 A pencil sketch	Sienna Balji	Seren Wheeler Nunneley	Jenny Marsden
Age 12-15 A Swiss role	Jenny Marsden	Sarah Lamarche	H. Wheeler Nunneley
Age 12-15 Create an Avatar	James Marsden	Hattie Wright	H. Wheeler Nunneley
Junior photo 'Blue'	Jenny Marsden	James Marsden	Ben Wade-Martins
Junior photos 'Close up'	Woody Wright	Ben Wade-Martins	Deanne Cooper
Junior photo 'Patterns'	Ben Wade-Martins	Seren Wheeler Nunneley	Ottie Maclean
3 Stems spray chrysanthemums		Daphne Preston	Hanny Nicholson
Largest sunflower head	Andrew Grimmett		
Heaviest pumpkin	Richard Preston		
Heaviest potato	Andrew Grimmett		
Heaviest marrow	Harriet Higgins		
Most misshapen vegetable	Richard Preston		
Longest Bean	Judith Pettersen		

Remembrance Concert

In aid of Royal British Legion and Church Funds

*Saturday, 9th
November*

7.30

*Steeple Aston
Church*

**Devised and Conducted by
Nicholas Cleobury**

Aston Singers
- Charmian Bartlett/Cello
- Rebecca Lewin/Mezzo
- Holly Viner/Violin

Tickets £12 (under 16s free)
from Margaret Bulleyment

01869 347346

mtheb749@gmail.com

Or the Steeple Aston Village Shop





An Attitude of Gratitude

October within the church calendar is dominated by Harvest, when we thank God for his wonderful provision. This year our apple trees are full of apples, and the hedgerows are bursting with berries. I do love a good apple and blackberry crumble.

In September SS Peter and Paul Church hosted its penultimate ‘Steeple Aston Talk’, with Mary and Steve Bacon (sister and brother-in-law of Church warden Eileen Baglin-Jones). It was entitled ‘30 years of heartbreaks and joy’, and discussed their extensive work with local schools in the South African Township of Mamelodi, just outside Pretoria, helping to raise standards and aspirations. They told us stories of what the schools were like 30 years ago, when Steve was invited to visit the township whilst at a conference nearby. Back then the classes were held in broken and discarded cargo shipping containers, with around 100 students per class, and the only resources were pencils and paper. Over the years, Mary and Steve have helped several schools build their own libraries.

Throughout the years of Apartheid the government had suppressed education, so that the black population could not get quality jobs, the legacy of which is still being felt today with 80% unemployment within the townships. Whilst the current government is building concrete housing (roughly the size of a single garage here), people are moving into the townships at a faster rate than they can build them. Consequently, most people are still living in shacks made of cardboard and sheets of metal, with no running water and a hole in the ground for a toilet.

That same evening, our daughter made a surprise trip home from Nottingham. Rachel is a character, and as usual she had numerous stories, one of which was about how she had looked after a friend who ended up spending the night on her sofa, lending them her spare duvet, and tucking them in for the night. She ended her story saying that the clean duvet now smelt of her friend and she needed to change it before she could use it, and then ending the story with the comment “such a first world problem!” As she remarks, there is nothing more comforting than the smell of your own bed.

A marked contrast to Mamelodi.

Gratitude cannot make problems disappear. Being grateful that we live in a country that provides free education for all does not suddenly provide the same for South Africa, nor can it heat all British homes over the winter or solve climate change. However, having an attitude of gratitude helps us find ways forward. Gratitude for their own education gave Mary and Steve a passion for education generally, and to help provide the same for the people of Mamelodi. Gratitude for our world empowered Greta Thunberg to make a stand about climate change. An attitude of gratitude helps us strive to be better and do better. This Harvest season, together let us reflect on what we are grateful for, and see where that gratitude takes us.

PS Don’t miss this year’s last ‘Steeple Aston Talk’ by Jackie Watson entitled ‘Murder in the Tower’ on Thursday 10th October.

Harriet Orridge, Rector

- *Specialists in Period and Listed Buildings*
- *Market Appraisals*
- *Valuations for Probate*
- *Exceptional Local Knowledge*
- *Outstanding Levels of Service and Client Support*



Humberts have been helping people move for over 180 years.
Can we help you?

For advice on the valuation, marketing and sale of your home, call us today.

Humberts Oxford • 01865 306630 • oxford@humberts.com • humberts.com



UK SOLAR GENERATION

POWERING CHANGE



**Friendly, responsive,
Oxfordshire company**

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

**Solar PV Systems
Battery Storage Systems
Electric Car Charging Points**



**t: 01869 932250
e: info@uksolargeneration.co.uk**



Rebalance, Restore, Relax

Tranquil room in Deddington offering a range of massage treatments:

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

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

www.easemassagetherapies.co.uk

Upton Construction

Small local family business

We offer:-

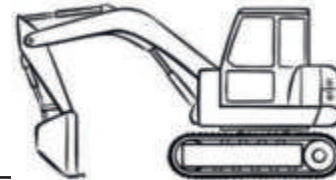
Wide range of groundwork services using our mini excavators, dumper and construction equipment. This includes soil screening bucket, concrete crushing bucket and post hole auger

We also hire mini diggers for self-drive

Please contact

Craig Upton 07702 159212

Uptonconstruction@hotmail.com



Staples Building creates beautiful living spaces of outstanding quality.

For an estimate please contact Tim Staples

☎ 01869 345 592

✉ enquiries@staplesbuilding.co.uk

🌐 www.staplesbuilding.co.uk

🏠 EXTENSIONS

🏠 CONVERSIONS

🏠 RENOVATIONS

🏠 NEW BUILD

Steeple Aston Online

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

Your village. Your website. Visit today!

www.steepleaston.org.uk



The Choir

Every Monday evening
I go to practice with the choir
I sing with the altos
because I can't get any higher.

The sopranos reach the high notes
(Although it's something of a squeak)
Sopranos tend to have the tune
Almost every week.

The altos rarely have the tune
They sing the bass line and don't protest
And after 6 bars of middle 'C'
They have 17 bars rest.

The men, known as 'the baritones'
Have a sound that's deep and low
And every time they lose their place
They sing the part of the altos.

Our efforts are guided by
A long-suffering choir master
She keeps us all in order
And manages to smile at our disasters.

None of us are brilliant
We'd never dare sing on our own
We're beyond the help
of even Gareth Malone.

But it keeps us off the streets
And away from petty crime.
And despite our faults and failings
We have a rocking good time.

Cathy Lawday

NOTE: This poem is about Deddington Local Vocals community choir. If you'd like more information contact Alison Grieve at alisongrmail@gmail.com

A Change of Season

Summer came and went it left so soon
the weather now to autumn does return
the wonder was the wet in May and June
with rainy spells and sun that didn't burn
the patterns in our gardens change each year
it's difficult to know just what to do
its trial and error 'til things get more clear
tried and tested cedes to something new
but soldier on resourceful as we are
the options getting clearer we must face
the choice that lies before us near and far
adapt our ways or lose our natural space
Optimism needs to conquer dread
expressed each summer in our flower bed

Peter Wild

As the seasons change, here are the poems the editors are reading this month:

'October' by Robert Frost

'Blackberrying' by Sylvia Plath

'The Black Cloud' by W.H.Davies

'A Toast' by Ilya Kaminsky

'Fog' by Christopher Reid

Red Tooth Poker

Tournament every Monday at

The Red Lion, Steeple Aston
Registration from 7-15, Shuffle Up and Deal 7-30

Everyone who plays has a chance to win a trip to **Las Vegas**
next year

For more details Ring 07802837237 or just turn up :-)



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

Or contact Antonia 'Toe' Maclean mobile 07867 516 518



The Holcombe Studio • High Street • Deddington • OX15 0SL
Telephone: 01869 226522 • Email: Polkadotsuk@gmail.com

JOHN WHITWORTH TREE SURGERY



BODICOTE COTTAGE
16 HIGH STREET
BODICOTE
OXFORDSHIRE
OX15 4BS

Tel/Fax: 01295 268170

Mobile: 07970 154552

Horse & Groom, Caulcott

Unspoilt 17th century thatched coaching inn, specialising in high quality seasonal food inspired by the best of French and English cuisine.

North Oxfordshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2019



Opening Hours

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

www.horseandgroomcaulcott.co.uk

Lower Heyford Road, Caulcott,
OX25 4ND
01869 343257
horseandgroomcaulcott@gmail.com

A belated thank you to everyone in the village who helped make our stall at the August Horticultural Show successful by loaning us a table or purchasing a cake, jam, book or jumble or having a go at one of our games. The stall is our main fundraising event each year, so community support is vital and much appreciated. Our photo this month shows Julie Hillier, our president, presenting the Coronation Bowl to Victoria Clifton at the show.

The 10th September meeting at 7pm was well attended and offered a chance for a catch up among our members after not having had an August meeting. We were delighted to welcome a new member and a guest, who we would love to see join the institute in the future. Any woman over the age of 18 is welcome to visit one of our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month, other than August. News for our members included the chance to attend events organised by the county federation of WIs including visits to London and craft events, plans for a pub lunch in late September for our members in Deddington, our Christmas dinner in the village hall and possible future outings to try indoor cricket or a night at the ballet when the Varna International Ballet returns to Oxford next February. We have a varied schedule of activities throughout the year as our members have a wide range of interests.

We are collecting material to send to wounded Ukrainian soldiers as Christmas gifts. We are looking for donations of warm hats, gloves and socks for men or women, as well as toiletries for men. Games that can cross the language barrier, such as dominoes or chess sets are also welcome. If you would like to donate something, please drop it off at Barn Cottage, Paines Hill before the 8th of October.

Our speaker at the meeting was historian Dr Kathleen Bradley who enlightened us with tales of 19th century women travellers and explorers. We learned about the often surprising lives of Fanny Trollope, the mother of the novelist Anthony Trollope, Jane Digby, Jane, Lady Franklin, Amelia Edwards, Marianne North and Mary Kingsley. Though all came from wealthy backgrounds – as travel was the preserve of the rich in those days – their life stories were varied and ranged from pioneering scientific expeditions in remote areas to tales of scandalous liaisons.

Our 8th October meeting will feature a used book sale and a talk by Rachel Hicks and Andrew Parsons from Skyway Gin, Bicester. The talk will be followed by a gin tasting. It will be a fine opportunity to do a bit of early holiday gift shopping, as we will be able to buy our favourites after the tasting. As mentioned earlier, we do try to have a wide range of events on offer for the members!



Left: Julie Hillier presenting the trophy to Victoria Clifton

Above: C19th travel bag

SAVA Exhibition ‘The Environment of Steeple Aston’ - November 2024

After last year’s successful film show, SAVA will be hosting a more traditional exhibition in the village hall on the weekend of the 16th and 17th November 2024. We will revisit the well-received 2007 exhibition ‘The Environment of Steeple and Middle Aston’.

The exhibition showcased the late Peter Waite’s photographs, and covers such diverse topics as the birds, animals, insects, trees, hedgerows, geology, footways and flowers to be found in and around our village. To complement the original displays, SAVA has used this opportunity to add some additional work to fill gaps and, where practical, to bring the subjects up to date.



As usual the event is free to enter, and all donations to support the running costs of this community organisation will be welcomed. Book sales will also be available and volunteers from SAVA will be on hand to answer any questions. We look forward to seeing you there.

???? Mind Games

Complete this crossword grid, using every letter of the alphabet. Each letter must be used only once.

¹	A	² N		³ O				⁴ D	O	⁵ T		
L		I		R		⁶ A		I		O		⁷ D
⁸ I	N		U	B	U	S		⁹ P	L	U	T	O
M		H		I		P		P		R		
¹⁰		E	N	T		¹¹ H	A		W	I		E
Y				E		Y						
	¹² A	¹³ P		R	O		I	¹⁴	A	T	E	
¹⁵		A				I		A				¹⁶ S
¹⁷ A	L		E	¹⁸ B	R			¹⁹ S		²⁰ U	A	T
S		E		E		T		S		N		E
²¹ S		A	W	L		²² E	L	E	C		R	A
O		N				D						
		²³ T	O					²⁴ R	E	E		S

A B C ~~D~~ E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Cross out each letter as you use it, as the example above.

Answers on page 44



STEEPLE ASTON
Community
APPLE PRESS

The Steeple Aston Apple Press 2024

Look out for Community “Apple Pressing days” dates on the village website, facebook and notices around the village.

No booking required, just turn up with your apples and empty bottles!

Alternatively, the complete kit is available for hire for a small donation to cover its upkeep.

Contact Penny and Stuart on
01869 349155 or email

cummins2011@outlook.com for details.

Mind Games Answers

1	B	A	2	N	J	3	O				4	D	O	5	T				
	L			I			R		6	A		I		O			7	D	
8	I	N	C	U	B	U	S				9	P	L	U	T	O			
	M			H			I				P		P		R			Z	
10	E	V	E	N	T				11	H	A	Y	W	I	R	E			
	Y						E			Y					S			N	
			12	A	13	P	P	R	O	X	I	14	M	A	T	E			
15	L			A							I		A					16	S
17	A	L	G	E				18	B	R	A		19	S	Q	20	U	A	T
	S			E			E			T		S		N					E
21	S	H	A	W	L					22	E	L	E	C	T	R	A		
	O			N			O			D		U		I					K
				23	T	O	W						2	R	E	E	F	S	



CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON AT THE YURT

3rd- 21st December 2024

Gather with friends and family or host your festive work party at The Yurt this Christmas.

Book a cosy hut for private dining or The Yurt itself for groups of 4 to 24- larger groups are welcome on request.

Flavoursome dishes feature on our 2 and 3-course lunch menus for £27.50 and £32.50.

Speak to The Yurt team about your booking:
theyurt@nicholsonsgb.com

The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL | 01869 340342

www.nicholsonsgb.com/yurt



Church Services



	North Aston	Steeple Aston	Tackley
Sunday 6th October	9.30am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> <i>Rev Charles Chadwick</i>	11am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> <i>Rev Charles Chadwick</i>	5.30pm Evensong <i>Rev Harriet Orridge</i>
Sunday 13th Oct	10.00am Harvest Festival <i>Rev Harriet Orridge</i>	5:30pm Harvest Festival	5.30pm Holy Communion <i>Rev Harriet Orridge & Canon Robin Gibbons</i>
Sunday 20th Oct	9.30am Holy Communion <i>Rev Charles Chadwick</i>	11.00am Holy Communion <i>Rev Charles Chadwick</i>	5.30pm Harvest Festival <i>Rev Harriet Orridge</i>
Sunday 27th Oct	9.30am Morning Prayer <i>Richard Bailey</i>	11.00am Morning Prayer <i>Rev Harriet Orridge & Richard Bailey</i>	9.30am Holy Communion <i>Rev Harriet Orridge</i>
			www.sntchurch.com

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

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



The first Parish Council (PC) meeting after the summer started with a local mother concerned about a 3-4ft drop in the toddler playground on the inside of the 'castle/slide' (a difficult spot for carers to monitor). This used to be filled with sand but isn't any more because of children eating it! My recollection of this part of the park was how it was useful for caging my children, keeping them securely in one place. But with such a drop it was agreed to keep bark well topped-up in that area. Then, with a gleam in her eye, the Chair leapt on the opportunity to invite this member of the public to take part in planning the upcoming development of the park and sense check" the proposals. She had little choice but to agree!

Next, we heard from a delegation from Townend who expressed concerns about the location of the bottle bank at the Red Lion. They were keen to point out they didn't necessarily represent everyone at Townend – they didn't want to get a name for themselves as "a Townend Posse" (not least because one of them lives on Water Lane). The group came well prepared with photos and a three page document outlining their concerns – that the noise is incessant, the bottle bank is unsightly, and if removed it could free up more parking space for the pub (mitigating some of the problems being seen on surrounding roads). The photos showed overflowing bottle banks – which I thought highlighted a real need for this recycling option, and it was pointed out the pub itself surely had recycling bins which would make noise. Residents argued that regular timely use by the pub was okay, but incessant noise at all hours 7 days a week, they could not!

The PC appreciated all their research into the topic (they'd canvassed provision in 10 local villages) and decided they would explore removing the Red Lion bins and increasing capacity at the other recycling point (Robinson's Close).

Next, we heard with some amusement that some speed indicator signs were cheerfully giving the thumbs up to passing motorists who were going 10mph above the speed limit! This would be looked into...

With an apology from Cllr Andrew McHugh (Cherwell District Council) we heard from Cllr David Rogers (also CDC) whose big beef (quite rightly it seems) was that there was not enough money going into expanding our primary healthcare services to meet the growing needs of an expanding local population. He informed us that more than 1,000 new homes were approved and, where the health authority should have applied for £1.55m, they instead applied for just £900k in funding. He said CDC should now be sitting on £7m (which could be shared across existing surgeries as well as building new provision) but have just £300k (£200k of which is from one developer who gave them the money without being asked). He has met with various important sounding people and seems to have the bit between his teeth, so hopefully the health authority will become more reliable at requesting this money.

In a discussion on Section 106 contributions, it was understood that PC's won't be able to cherry pick what they want to have responsibility for, being a case of responsibility for all assets or none. Whilst most PCs are happy to look after things like playgrounds, they might not want responsibility for "balancing ponds". I was a bit lost as I have never heard of the latter, and have since googled them: "A balancing pond is a type of artificial reservoir that manages excess water from heavy rainfall and storms."

County Councillor, Arash Fatemian, mentioned possible expansion of Heyford Park; our Blandford Fly proposals (Banbury is too polluted to have a problem there) and the fact that every

Parish Council Meeting *Notes*



parish seems to have issues with the location of new 20mph signs...

Cllr Andrew McHugh (sick in Scotland) is taking a keen interest in flooding issues, pulling together a report highlighting local hotspots. Our PC will be mentioning problems on Water Lane, the Beeches and a historical problem on Bradshaw Close – but if you have any issues, please let our Clerk know. The aim is to ensure drain clearance is done properly and regularly.

We then moved onto what must be favourite topics for PCs up and down the country – dog poo and bins! A new bin has been erected by the Tchure close to homes – but it is unemptied, has no lid and smells. There was then a lengthy debate on what sort of bin it was; whether it is an official dog poo bin; whose responsibility it is, its colour; need for a lid; possible relocation. I screamed at one point and Arash offered to buy us a new official dog poo bin – with a lid! (“Councillors talking sh*t” is the headline that sprang to my mind...”)

Full fibre broadband, was discussed, highlighting that regulations allow any provider to dig up the village and lay down their fibre optic cables. Lots of disruption and does the fibre optic even work here anyway?! Someone suggested that Elon Musk would have cables in space for us before we got it working here...

A quick chat about our salt bins (what is it about bins?) and whether we wanted any additional salt this year. PC decided probably not, so we’re bound to have an icy winter now!

Thanks was given to the volunteers who helped spread the new bark in the play area. The discussion became quite philosophical – who thought it possible? With chat around hoop fencing and rubberised mulch – which is the current trend as it absorbs more impact than bark (I’m not sure

this sort of thing was thought about when I was growing up... How much impact does concrete absorb I wonder?). The general feeling was that we have a great playground (“we’re hitting the trigger points for play”) that just needs a bit of updating and would be nicest if kept natural. A Playground Sub-Committee is being formed.

One councillor had spent a good hour watching YouTube videos on how to mend our ping pong table after an 8-year old parishioner wrote to the PC asking for it to be fixed. Car body filler, sanding and special paint was the answer.

An update on Planning included news that the Dorchester Group has put in an initial document to expand Heyford Park by 15,000 people (with 6,000 new homes). One councillor said “surely we’ll be hitting our housing target now?” ... “not necessarily...” Followed by news that the strategic rail freight interchange in Ardley has livened up and that a planning application for a new historical theme park (Puy du Fou) is expected on land around Bucknell. The land in question is being sold by one of Bucknell’s PCs and not everyone’s happy at the idea of a historical theme park in their back garden! I have been to Puy du Fou, France, and it was very entertaining – if this goes ahead it will surely boost our local economy. A debate for another day!

All for now,

Mrs Miggins

This report is the personal view of the SAL reporter and is not intended to be a complete record of the Council meeting. The official record – once approved – will be available at www.steepleaston.org.uk

D L HANCOCK LTD

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons
Established 27 years and still independent

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

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

Serving Bicester and all Surrounding Areas

Private Chapel Of Rest

Jaguar Fleet of Funeral Cars

Perfect Choice
Funeral Plans



Member of
The National Association
of Funeral Directors



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

Humphris funerals

Serving your family

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

01295 265 424

32 Albert Street, Banbury, OX16 5DG

www.humphrisfunerals.co.uk

C.S. Boswell

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

----- @ -----
24 hour personal service E: info@boswellfuneralservices.co.uk

Carl S. Boswell
Funeral Director

Ryan Boswell
Funeral Director

Joy Davies, Dip FD
Funeral Director

58 Bucknell Road, Bicester, OX26 2DW
01869 221937

Also at

7 Bicester Road, Kidlington, OXS 2LA
01865 373712

364 Banbury Road, Summertown, OX2 7PP
01865 553737

For every life is Unique, so is every funeral **

www.boswellfuneralservices.co.uk

Local Info

STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL HIRING FEES

Website: www.savh.org.uk

All Facilities

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)
Plus Refundable Deposit	£200

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: £55.00
(Daily up to 6 hours, from 6.00pm)

Social Function off-peak times: £27.50
(Daily up to 5 hours, up to 6.00pm)

Meeting of represented clubs: £11.00
(Daily per session, max 2 hours)

Caution money for Private Lettings: £100.00

Block Bookings for Social Events:
15% discount for 6 or more bookings in advance.

Letting Agent Angela Smith Tel : 07734 112967
E-Mail to rec.trust@googlemail.com

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)

0619 0721 0831 0931 then hourly to 1531 1645 1754 1849 1937 2037 2216
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 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.

October 2024

3rd Blue and Brown
10th Green
17th Blue and Brown
24th Green
31st Blue and Brown



November 2024

7th Green
14th Blue and Brown
21st Green
28th 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 for any changes.

Please send details of events for November and December to editorialife@gmail.com

OCTOBER			
Wednesday 2nd	AD&D Photography Society talk with Andrew Buchanan	Adderbury Institute	7.30pm
Sunday 6th	Autumn in the Orchard	Community Orchard	1 – 4pm
Tuesday 8th	WI Talk, featuring Rachel Hicks and Andrew Parsons from Skyway Gin	Village Hall	7.00pm
Wednesday 9th	Garden Club talk, with Howard Drury: 'Encouraging Birds into your Garden'	Village Hall	7.00pm
Thursday 10th	Murder in the Tower, final 'Steeple Aston Talk' of the year, given by Jackie Watson	SA Church	
Sunday 13th	Harvest Festival (followed by supper 7.00pm, Village Hall)	SA Church	5.30pm
Monday 14th	SAL November 2024 copy and advert deadlines		
Tuesday 15th	Valentine Club Fish and Chips	Village Hall	1.30pm
Thursday 17th	Church Talk on King James I	SA Church	7.15pm
Saturday 19th	Curry nights with Nandita	The Grainstore	TBC
Saturday 26th	Farmers' Market	Deddington	9.00am – 12.30pm
NOVEMBER			
Tuesday 5th	'Fireworks Spectacular'	Robinsons Close	6.15pm
Saturday 9th	Remembrance Day Concert	SA Church	7.30pm
Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th	SAVA exhibition: 'The Environment of Steeple Aston'	Village Hall	
Sunday 24th November	SACS: Autumn Concert	SA Church	7.00pm
Friday 29th November	Church Quiz	Village Hall	7.00pm
SAVE THE DATE!			
Sunday 8th December	Wassail Evening	Village Hall	
Saturday 18th January 2025	Annual Quiz Night	Village Hall	
Sunday 30th March 2025	SACS: Spring Concert		
Sunday 29th June 2025	SACS: Summer Party Concert		

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

Steeple Aston Life is published by Steeple Aston Life Committee

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

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

e-mail: print@joshuahorgan.co.uk

*The views expressed are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Committee.
 Readers are recommended to seek appropriate financial or legal advice before entering
 into any binding agreement with advertisers, as appropriate*

Home-made food with The Personal Touch!

Menus to suit all tastes & budgets

Weddings and Family Celebrations

Dinner Parties

Afternoon Tea

Drinks Party Canapes

Balls & Banquet catering

Themed Events - Including - Mexican, Tapas, Bbq's, Paella & Spit Roasts

Business and Corporate Events and Meetings

Prices starting from £6.50pp

Contact- sandjcuisine@hotmail.co.uk

Call Sally on 07786131667 Or Jasmin on 07801975210



the Indian
Block Print
C O .

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

kits & supplies blockprinting workshops studio sessions

visit us:
The Studio,
2 Lakeside Farm
Middle Aston
OX25 5PP

follow us:
www.theindianblockprintco.com
@theindianblockprintco

The advertisement features a large, intricate blue and white paisley block print design on the left side. The background is a light teal color with a dotted pattern of small teal circles.

NICHOLSONS



NICHOLSONS PLANTS

Expert advice & guidance | Hedging & screening
Colourful herbaceous | Ornamental and fruit trees

THE YURT

A unique dining experience | Breakfast | Lunch
Innovative menus | Locally sourced food
Tuesday to Saturday

01869 340342 | contact@nicholsonsgb.com | www.nicholsonsgb.com
The Park, North Aston, Bicester, OX25 6HL

Hart Vets



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

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



Bicester 01869 323223
Waddesdon 01296 651000
www.hartvets.co.uk

