

Steeple Aston

March 2025

Issue No. 619

Life



* A Century of Memories * Community Land Trust * Boxing Hares *

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



Kirtlington Property Maintenance

Local and reliable home and garden improvements, maintenance and repairs

- Painting and decorating internal and external
- Household repairs
- Various jobs inside and out
- Garden maintenance
- Pressure washing
- Landscaping including fencing, gates, decking, turfing, patios, driveways, shed/base installation etc.

Competitive rates, fully insured and references available on request

No job is too small – please call Noel Price on 07884 185171 or 01869 351619 or email noelprice@btinternet.com

www.kirtlingtonpropertymaintenance.com

For domestic and commercial cleaning please call Jayne Price on 07795 055202



March 2025: 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.

MARCH FEATURES

	PAGE
Blast from the Past	23
Book Review	33
Community Land Trust update	11
Community Orchard news	31
Music for Pleasure	29
'Mad' March Hare	37
Spring show entry form	25
Village Hall chairperson sought	35

REGULAR FEATURES

	PAGE
Arts page	33
Church Matters	41
Editorial	5
Editor's Letterbox	7
Our local MP	39
School Report	13
Steeple People	9

REPORTS FROM CLUBS & SOCIETIES

	PAGE
Garden Club	31
Valentine Club	21
WI Report	17-18

INFORMATION

	PAGE
Bus Times	43
Church Services	43
Parish Councillors	39
Rubbish bin collection dates	45
Steeple Aston Calendar	46
Steeple Aston Directory	4
Steeple Aston Noticeboard	6
Village Hall News & quiz night	27

Contributions are welcome. Please email editorsalife@gmail.com

Cover: Brown hare (photo by Kim Benson, Adderbury, Deddington and District Photographic Society. www.addphoto.co.uk)

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 April 2025 issue is Friday 14th March.

READ STEEPLE ASTON LIFE ONLINE
<https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/sal-magazine>

ADVERTISING

All adverts, and all advertising queries (availability, prices, dimensions, suitability of illustrations, etc.) to **Zazi Barrell**
salife.advertising@gmail.com

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

The deadline for adverts for the April issue is 14th March.

ADVERTISING RATES

1/4 page - £10
1/2 page - £18
Full page (village events only) - £20.00

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
Cherwell District Councillors		Cllr Andrew McHugh	07515 120470
		Cllr Eddie Reeves	07445 395166
		Cllr David Rogers	07900 998555
Choral Society	Chair	Bev Davies	01869 347684
Church of England (St Peter & St Paul)	Rector	Rev'd Harriet Orridge	01869 932224
	Churchwardens	Eileen Baglin-Jones, Graham Clifton	340099/347273
Church (Methodist) – Tackley		Rev'd Paul Carter	01865 243216
	Steward	Tim Bailey	01869 331516
Cricket Club	Chairman	Peter Higgins	01869 347493
Crimestoppers			0800 555111
Deddington Guides		Maggie Rampley	07957 600755
Deddington Health Centre	Appointments	Patient Triage	01869 338611
	Repeat Prescriptions	Deddingtonhealthcentre.co.uk	
	Out of Hours		111
Dr Radcliffe's C of E School	Headteacher	Rob O'Malley	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	07989 398838
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	Editor	Jenny Bell - steepleaston.org.uk	01869 943573
Volunteer Connect - Community transport scheme			0300 3030125
WI	President	Julie Hillier	01869 349185



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

Steeple Aston *Life*

March 2025
Issue No.619

Editor: Carol Neville
editorsalife@gmail.com

Treasurer: Vaughan Billings
01869 340857

Secretary: Jenny Taylor
01869 340551

Advertising:
Zazi Barrell
salife.advertising@gmail.com

Deliveries:
Greg Elphick
07891 760176
greggles1262@gmail.com

Layout design:
Edward Dowler, Martin Lipson

Committee:
Jenny Bell, Nigel Francis

Editorial

March sees the arrival of a welcome new season, as temperatures start to warm a little causing plants to emerge and tease us of joys to come in the months ahead. As we enter the spring or vernal equinox, the sun is directly above the equator, making day and night of equal length. Animals start to stir from hibernation and many of us begin sowing seeds for later planting in gardens and allotments. The spring show in the village hall on Sunday 23rd March provides a great opportunity to showcase your spring flowers, culinary delights and artistic endeavours. Our much-loved village hall, the venue of so many community events, is searching for a new Chair to steer the committee, so please support this valuable asset if you have a little time to spare.

We are delighted to launch a new feature sharing some fascinating pictures from the past (courtesy of Steeple Aston Village Archive), to give readers the chance to see how people lived and played in times gone by. This month presents pictures from the village flower show a century ago, when modes of transport and attire were markedly different, including the obligatory hat!

After a chilly January and rather damp February, who knows what March is likely to bring. As the saying goes, March can come ‘in like a lion, out like a lamb’ signifying the unpredictability of this month. Other folklore states the ‘borrowing days’ of 29th-31st March as having a reputation for being stormy. Whatever unfolds, the month has much to get out and enjoy, including some musical delights in the hall with the Americana evening on the 29th and SACS nautical concert on the 30th.

Enjoy springing into March!

Carol

Daffodils at spring show (photo: Nigel Francis)



Steeple Aston Noticeboard



Jim (James) Nicholls 15.02.1947 – 8.02.2025

Jim passed away very peacefully on Saturday 8th Feb, aged 77 years, at Larkrise Care Centre, Banbury, following a period of ill health. Jim resided with Pam in the village, where they brought up their girls together between 1987 and 2004.

During this time, he worked assiduously in his role as National Sales Director at Cardale Garage Doors, Brackley. A keen (albeit sometimes frustrated!) player in the Steeple Aston Golf Society for several decades, Jim formed strong bonds with many of the members, making friends for life. Jim will be fondly remembered as a remarkable man, funny, thoughtful, incredibly strong and always immaculately presented. He will be greatly missed by all, especially daughters Gemma and Sophie, younger sister Kath, and little granddaughters Ella and Poppy.

Rest easy now, Dad xxx

For funeral details please contact smnicholls16@gmail.com

New SAL Advertising Manager appointed

The SAL committee is delighted to announce that we have a new Advertising Manager at last. Charlotte Bartlett, who has been doing the job so ably since 2018, was hoping to retire before Christmas, but she kindly agreed to stay on until we found her replacement. We are very grateful to Charlotte for all her hard work over the years. It's been a pleasure to work with you, Charlotte, and we will miss you. Zazi Barrell has come forward to volunteer as her replacement. She has been working with Charlotte on this month's SAL, and will fly solo on the April edition. A very warm welcome to Zazi, let's hope you enjoy your new role, and we look forward to working with you.

Introducing Zazi

My name is Zazi Barrell, who has foolishly agreed to try to fill Charlotte's rather experienced and efficient shoes looking after the advertising for SAL. I'm Oxfordshire born, been in Steeple since 2006, long time married to Jackie, lover of all things outdoors, for example, a poor gardener, cycling, animals, domestic and wildlife. Used to do a lot of sport, however, now spend a lot more time watching it. Self-employed, though just getting used to saying semi-retired, which is a truer reflection of time doing paid work! Hence, having some time to contribute to something locally in our village.

Deddington Health Centre – Repeat Prescriptions

We are grateful that you are keen to update your readers on our services. 79% of our patients use the NHS App to order repeat prescriptions, this is the easiest way to order at a time that is convenient for the patient, as it is available 24 hours a day. For those patients without access to the online services, they are able to request a repeat prescription request slip. If patients collect their medications from our dispensary they can ask us for this slip, if they collect their medications from a pharmacy they can ask the pharmacy for the slip. For a small number of patients, who meet the requirements, we operate an 'automatic' repeat dispensing service that does not require requests to be submitted. This service depends on the type and frequency of medications. Patients who try to request repeat medications via our website triage form are directed to the NHS App. Contact us about your request. These processes ensure we have all the relevant information for your request and are able to prescribe and dispense safely.

Rachel Mandeman
Deddington Health Centre

Parish Council report

There will be no parish council report featured in this month's SAL, as the meeting took place after the deadline for printing. It will therefore be included in the April issue, but if you wish to see details of PC meetings in the meantime, please refer to the village website: steepleaston.org.uk



Editor's Letterbox

SAL welcomes letters to the Editor, but it should be noted that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor nor the SAL Committee

Dear Editor

I'm not sure how many people in the village have seen the enormous mansion being built down Cow Lane, known as Wincote. That area of the village near the church, with its ironstone houses overlooking the Eyecatcher Folly is actually a conservation area. What was once a pretty stone cottage is now a sandy coloured monolith with a pool house that dominates the landscape. What is the point of a conservation area if it doesn't protect the village's character? When we built our extension, we were forced to use ironstone or it would not have got planning. Surely those same rules should apply to everyone?

Abigail Boisot

Dear Editor

At the January meeting of Steeple Aston Parish Council, one agenda item was a conversation around the current emergency plan. We wanted the chance to discuss this as a group before responding to recent letters printed in Steeple Aston Life. In the past year, our village and surrounding area has suffered from multiple power outages and even a water shortage. These have ranged from short periods across a handful of houses, to longer stretches such as the recent power cut caused by Storm Darragh. This affected approximately 15% of the population in and around Steeple Aston. That population included more than Steeple Aston residents, impacting both Middle Aston and local businesses. In total 75 households and businesses were without power for approximately 29 hours.

Having reviewed our emergency plan against those supplied by the Joint Oxfordshire Resilience Team, the processes outlined within it are in line with common practice. The plan does, however, need updating in terms of contacts and roles and responsibilities, which the Parish Council are now working through. One such improvement is a notification system whereby, in this case, SSE should have contacted the PC, which did not happen, and in turn, the PC would activate its network of local residents to check on neighbours. As a village, we are powered (pun intended) by our community, the parish council are one small part of this, giving of their time to help maintain and improve our spaces and community. Whilst we navigate updating the Emergency Plan, we will be keen to hear from those within our community who are willing to take their small role, should an Emergency Plan need to be actioned.

Your Parish Council

Looking for a Room to Rent

I am a fully qualified and registered physiotherapist who has lived in Steeple Aston for ten years.

I work part-time for the NHS and part-time as a self-employed practitioner. I am happy to treat patients in their own homes, but I am also seeking somewhere local where I can establish my private practice.

If there is anywhere in the village that might be suitable, I would be pleased to discuss renting premises where I could open a treatment room.

To ensure the comfort of my patients, the space will require heating, water and access to a toilet, with parking if possible.

If you might be able to help, please contact me by email victorwikt0r73@gmail.com or phone 07868 421759.

Steeple Aston Choral Society

Presents



Ahoy!

Don your blue and white and sail down to the hall for a fun-filled evening of nautically-inspired music



**Stanford, Songs of the Sea
Elgar, Sea Pictures
Sing-along Sea Shanties
Handel's Water Music
(excerpts)**



**Sunday 30 March at 7.00
in the Village Hall**

**(Tables available from 6.30, seating 8 to a table)
Bar with wine, beer, soft drinks and nibbles**

**Tickets £12 (Children under 16 free) from Margaret Bullement
(01869) 347346 or mtheb749@gmail.com**

Steeple People



Helen Taylor



Which village do you live in? We moved from Suffolk to Middle Aston almost 20 years ago, when my husband took the post of Head of Classics at St Edwards School in Oxford.

What do I like best about living here? Our home, garden, the countryside, lots of beautiful places to visit and walk. Favourites being Barton Abbey, Rousham, Great Tew Estate and Blenheim. The close proximity to Oxford and the darkness, no street lights are a huge bonus. On warm summer nights, we look up at a clear starlit sky, spot satellites and the occasional shooting stars.

History? I was born in Worcester and grew up in Leicestershire, left home at 18 to be a nanny/groom in a tiny hamlet near Wantage. My charges ranged from a newborn baby to a 17.2 hand horse. I have had various jobs mainly in catering and childcare. Lived in Suffolk for many years before moving here. When we first arrived here our youngest was 8 months old. Steeple Aston toddler group was a small handful of mums who took their own toys along. I took over the running and secured a grant to purchase equipment.

Favourite holiday destination? Tortola in the Virgin Islands. The warm bath-like ocean, seeing the most beautiful sea life whilst snorkelling, we spent an incredible 3 weeks exploring the island and visiting other islands. It was paradise. This was affordable because we swapped homes through a home exchange site.

What makes me grumpy/angry? People spreading misinformation on social media and others believing them without knowing the true facts.

What would I ban? Smoking and vaping anywhere in public.

Best loved book? Though I read a lot, my all-time favourite book is one from childhood, 'Where the wild things are.' We have a small book swapping library at The Grain Store, and I am grateful to those who leave books for others to enjoy.

Best thing about childhood? Freedom. We lived on the edge of a small town in Leicestershire, at weekends and holidays with friends we ran wild. We built dens in the bluebell woods, and made dams in streams to make them deep enough to swim in. I think we succeeded at this once! I won't go into detail, but we had a lot of fun with cow pats:) As a teenager I had a horse for a few years, on loan, and worked to pay for its keep. I'd ride all day with a friend covering miles.

What food do I most enjoy eating? Anything cooked by Nick Anderson, the chef at The Boxing Hare. And picnics that include cake, a flask of tea and a comfy camping chair.

If I won the lottery: Sort our house out, there are too many jobs to list, and have more time to garden.

What do I excel at? Apparently, driving abroad, for some reason driving on the other side of the road feels natural to me.

Hobbies: I started cold water swimming with a friend a couple of years ago, but have lapsed. I need to find more time to swim this year. One of my favourite swims was up the River Teme past Ludlow castle.

First job and current job? My first job was at Wimpy in Loughborough. Now I co-own The Grain Store in Middle Aston with my son. We have been open for just over a year now and whilst it has been very hard work, it is incredibly rewarding to be received so positively by customers, especially the local community in both Middle and Steeple Aston.

Countryside or town? Countryside. One of the best things my mum taught me was to look at and appreciate nature, look up, look down, look at what is around you. Bend down and look at the smallest moss, and look up at the trees. I love trees. When looking at holiday destinations, there has to be trees, it's a deal breaker.

Dog or Cat? Both. Have owned and shown two Old English sheepdogs in the past, then latterly owned and bred Border terriers. We currently have Bramble who is sadly now deaf but quite spritely in her old age. I was never a fan of cats. However, we rehomed a cat four years ago and I am now a convert.

Favourite Saying? "There's never nothing to do."

What law would I pass? Without a doubt, 'The Right to Die Law.'

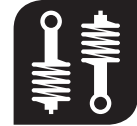
**FOR ALL
 YOUR
 VEHICLE
 NEEDS**



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

NORTH ASTON FARMS & DAIRY

Organic, pasture-fed meat, ice cream & more - on your doorstep!

<i>Order online</i>	<i>Visit our shop</i>	<i>Join a milk round</i>
<p>Fresh beef boxes plus individual cuts of beef, lamb and rose veal, ice cream & more!</p> <p>Free delivery within 15 miles (on orders over £40) or collection from the farm</p>	<p>Open 7 days a week 8am - 7pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fruit & veg - - Meat & dairy - - Cupboard essentials - <p>Find us at: The Old Bakehouse, North Aston, OX25 6HX</p>	<p>Twice-weekly deliveries Monthly invoice Reusable glassware Delivery before 7.30am</p> <p>Milk, yoghurt & cream plus extras including bread, butter, eggs, juice, meat & ice cream</p>

Find out more at **www.northastonfarms.co.uk**

Community Land Trust

The Steeple Aston and Middle Aston Community Land Trust has a lot going for it, except for the length of its name. For simplicity, this report on its first members' meeting will refer to it as our CLT. All members and others who had expressed an interest in the scheme were invited and there were 36 people present. Martin Lipson, the chairman of our CLT Board, explained that the meeting had been called for two reasons. Firstly, it would provide an opportunity for the committee to explain to members what had been achieved so far, and, secondly, for members to discuss and inform the committee what they would like from the CLT.

Martin explained that CLT members had been extremely helpful, and, with donations from the PC and Dr Radcliffe's, the organisation had now become a legal entity. The intention now was to see if it might be feasible to develop both affordable homes for local people and some wider objectives, that could benefit villagers now and in the future. The CLT is hoping that its structure may enable a different sort of tenure, so that affordable homes for local people can be created now and remain available in the future. These homes could be for sale, rent, co-ownership, co-operative housing or self-build. Many CLTs in other areas started before us and so far, CLTs have built 2,000 affordable homes with a further 7,100 in the pipeline.

We know there is a shortage of housing around here, especially of one- and two-bedroomed properties, because there was a recent survey of local housing needs. Two local sites have been identified by the Neighbourhood Plan for development, and it is hoped that there might be further sites suitable as Rural Exception Sites. The point of the latter is that they are highly unlikely to get planning approval for market housing, but might get approval as a Rural Exception Site, as long as the development is mainly affordable housing. The CLT committee is approaching local landowners of the potential development sites around the villages to discuss if, and how, the CLT may be able to take forward these ideas. These discussions are at a preliminary stage, and members will be told if and when anything develops from this.

Questions were invited, and one person said he understood that the property should be affordable and for locals in perpetuity, but he was unsure how this could be achieved in practice. He asked if he could give or bequeath his CLT home to a family member who did not live in the village? Someone asked where the CLT would find the finance for developing affordable housing? Others suggested single-storey dwellings for the elderly and starter homes for the young, which one person pointed out need not be at each other's expense. Some wanted to be certain that any affordable homes could be confined to those with genuine local connections. At this point, participants divided into groups and were asked to identify both housing and non-housing issues where our CLT might contribute.

There were many ideas, with the most prominent housing-related ones being:

- if houses had few bedrooms, the idea of communal spare bedrooms made sense.
- houses should be built to encourage social cohesion, by designs such as homes facing into a courtyard.
- large extensions should be prohibited to prevent small houses becoming large houses.
- working locally might be sufficient to be considered for an affordable home.

Other suggestions not housing-related included:

- the desirability of a footpath between Fenway and Northside near the stables.
- a smaller bus that might be able to negotiate Fenway and Water Lane.
- sustainable shared power generation.
- community facilities, such as a room for medical appointments.

The full list of questions and suggestions can be found on the CLT website steepleandmiddleastonclt.org.uk If you would like to become a member and influence the future of the villages, the details of joining are on the website membership page.

Julia Whybrew, Community Land Trust



FAMILY BUSINESS

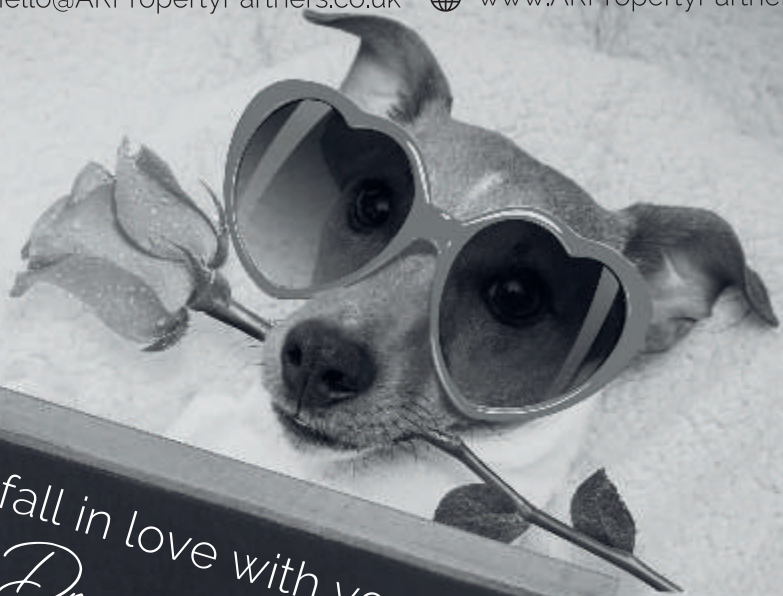
As your nest egg, we understand that your property is one of your most precious assets. It makes sense to leave it with an estate agent who will handle it with the utmost care. Simply give us a call:

01869 343 600
 cridlands.co.uk



We Care More!

✉ Hello@ARPropertyPartners.co.uk 🌐 www.ARPropertyPartners.co.uk



fall in love with your
 ♥ *Dream Home*
 our Property Partners are
 excellent at match making!
 Give us a ring ♥

📞 01865 364541
 Head Office

📞 01865 419630
 Oxford Office

School Report



Dr Radcliffe's P (for Poetry) Factor 2025

Each year, we have a poetry performance competition in school where children from each class have the opportunity to perform poetry, with class winners performing to the whole school. Our winning performances this year were from:

Reception – Clara Gillam – ‘Itsy Bitsy Monkey’

Years 1 and 2 – Tara Wadhwa – ‘Cats’ by Eleanor Farjeon

Years 3 and 4 – Otilie Maclean – ‘Please, Mrs Butler’ by Allan Ahlberg

Years 5 and 6 – Samuel Rodriguez-Gonzalez – ‘If’ by Rudyard Kipling

Otilie has won her age group three years in a row!

Well done to all the children and we look forward to next year’s competition.



BeSpace

Thanks to Rev’d Harriet and all the parishioners involved in leading BeSpace sessions for all children in school recently. BeSpace equips churches to serve the spiritual life of school communities through creative, interactive prayer and reflection spaces. Our library was converted beautifully into a number of these spaces and the children enjoyed the sessions. Further details at www.bespace.be

Sculpture in School

Children in Years 4 and 5 have been working with local artist, Abigail Boisot, on sculpture in preparation for next year’s Sculpture at Kingham Lodge in May. More details at www.sculptureatkinghamlodge.com

This is a great opportunity for our children and we are grateful to Abigail and Cotswold Arts Through Schools for leading on this and their continued support of the school.

www.cotswoldartsthroughschools.com

Rob O’Malley, Headteacher

AN EVENING OF AMERICANA

Featuring the music of:

Ryan Adams, JJ Cale, Tim Hardin, Jason Isbell, Dave Rawlings,
Josh Ritter, James Taylor, Hank Williams & many others



Performed by

Ben Whittaker & Toby Auld, Colin Greenway
Josie Slade, Gordon Mackay, Richard MacAndrew

with

Alan Stubbersfield (*bass*) & Michael Green (*harmonica*)

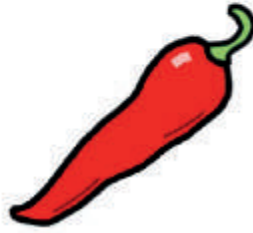
SATURDAY 29th MARCH 7.30pm

**STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL
Fir Lane, Steeple Aston OX25 4SF**

- Free admission
- Cash bar

*Collection in aid of Tom's Trust: <https://www.tomstrust.org.uk/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp3n11v3q54o>*

Some like it hot... and some like it mild



Saturday 22nd March - Quiz & Chilli Night

The big science, sport, geography, art, TV, movies, music and trivia quiz

Be there **7pm** on Saturday 22nd March at the **Village Hall**
Just **£10 per person** in advance to include Meat or Vegie Chilli

Teams of 8... Get your team together!! ...or apply as a single and we will add you to a team.

For tickets:

please contact Chris Cooper on [01869 347173](tel:01869347173) / [07803 750442](tel:07803750442) or Chris777.cooper@btinternet.com

STEEPLE ASTON FOOTBALL CLUB

It's been a while and this fits very neatly into the category "you only get in touch when you need something". However, we would like to hear from anyone who may be interested, a little or a lot, in a Chairperson or Secretary role within the Club. Both positions will become available at our A.G.M., the date of which has yet to be decided, but will be in the warmer months.

The two roles are a fundamental requirement of our league (Banbury District and Lord Jersey Football Association) to enable our Club to be registered with them and affiliated to the Oxfordshire Football Association.

If you feel that you could give it a go, or would like more information on either role, please ring me on 01869 347756. Very many thanks.

Alan Peckham

Chair S.A.F.C.

The Grain Store Café

The Atrium Wellness Spa

Sole Pilates

Body Performance Therapy Centre

Bulb Hair Salon

Lisa Jayne Art Studio

BEAT Fitness Gym

Egg Box Self Storage

www.thehatchery.uk



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

Ronnie Barker: Oxford's Comedy Legend

This exhibition celebrates the life and career of Ronnie Barker (1929-2005), who grew up in Cowley and began his career at the Oxford Playhouse. Through numerous original scripts, programmes and photographs, plus two very special hats, it shines a light on his journey from local lad to national icon. Oxford has an esteemed comedy history, from Maggie Smith, Alan Bennett, Michael Palin, Rowan Atkinson and Miriam Margolyes, and this exhibition puts the spotlight on the venues across Oxford that have enabled these past success stories and are now inspiring new ones.

11th January – 19th April 2025, Museum of Oxford, Town Hall, St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1BX.

Open: Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm. Exhibition entry included in general admission to the Museum of Oxford, by an optional pay-what-you-can donation.



Poppies and Puppies

At the start of the February meeting, we were told which members were standing for the Committee. Janice Kinory stressed the importance of people stepping up, if the WI is to continue. Currently the committee has only six members and two of these have serious health issues, so anyone who feels they have time and energy to spare is encouraged to come forward. Tina Ferguson reported that there has not been much progress on the 'WI in prisons' initiative. Members were advised not to donate any items until we have a clearer response. Members agreed with the suggestion that we support a 'Charity for the Year'. Macmillan Cancer Care was chosen and a coffee morning will be held in due course to raise funds for this worthwhile cause.

Sign-up sheets invited members to a lunch at the Turnpike in Yarnton and also for a walk and pub lunch in Adderbury. Hildy Frenken thanked everyone who had contributed poppies for the remembrance weekend poppy cascade. The current total is 300. A poppy count will take place at the end of February, and members were asked to continue making poppies and to place them in the box in the church. Just over 3000 poppies are needed in total, so whilst 300 is a good start, there is still a way to go. Hildy has put together a history of the WI, which is to be included in the packs for new members. It is hoped this will give a better understanding of the past and purpose of the WI. The VE-Day 80th anniversary event in the Village Hall on May 10th gives the WI an opportunity to tell people about the contribution they made to the war effort. An extended poem on this topic is to be performed by Steeple Aston WI members. Anyone interested in taking part should ring Cathy (347209) or Merrill (347802) as soon as possible.

Finally, Julie introduced the speakers from 'Dogs for Good'. This Banbury-based charity was founded in 1986 by Francis Hay, and was initially called 'Dogs for the Disabled'. The name was changed in 2015 to reflect the wider service provided by the charity. They provide dogs for people living with physical disabilities, early-stage dementia, learning difficulties and autism. We learned what the dogs are trained to do, and watched several videos demonstrating the life-changing impact these clever dogs have on adults and children alike. The dogs are first socialised, and then train rigorously to do things like push buttons, open and close doors, take washing out of the machine, fetch or pick up items such as keys, phones, spectacles, pens, books, etc. They learn to interrupt repetitive behaviours, and are also taught to apply deep pressure support to a child with autism to help reassure and calm them. There is such a high demand for dogs that, as well as breeding puppies, especially for training, the charity also helps dog-owners to teach their family pet the necessary skills. The speakers brought along Lady, an adorable puppy in training. There was merchandise for sale and altogether the WI raised £160 on the evening which 'Dogs for Good' gratefully received.



Lady, a puppy being socialised ready for training to work as a 'Dog for Good'.

*WI report
continues on
next page*

Dates for your diary

March

Subscriptions due now for April.

March 11th 7.30

The speaker booked has cancelled so we will have a social evening with quizzes, tea/coffee & cake.

Wednesdays

Walking netball meets at the Village Hall at 10.00 on Wednesdays.
New members welcome.

March 21st, March 28th, May 2nd, May 9th

Rehearsals for VE Day event on May 10th

Cathy Lawday



*'Dogs for Good'
merchandise for sale.*

reiki BY LISA BOOTE

Reiki Master Practitioner and Teacher
(Accredited by CNIIC and The Reiki Federation)

Balancing ~ Harmonising ~ Restorative

Reiki is a natural healing therapy, which helps with a variety of conditions:

- ~ Alleviates stress and anxiety
- ~ Strengthens the immune system
- ~ Improves sleep
- ~ Increases energy
- ~ Relaxes the body and mind

Visit my Reiki room in Steeple Aston to discover how Reiki can help you.

Call on: 07879448674 or
Email: lisa.reiki@outlook.com
Find me on Instagram @reiki.lisaboote

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

MYCO
MUSICAL YOUTH
COMPANY OF OXFORD

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT
JAMIE

WED 9 – SAT 12 APRIL 2025

BOOK & LYRICS BY **TOM MACRAE**

MUSIC BY **DAN GILLESPIE SELLS**

FROM AN IDEA BY **JONATHAN BUTTERELL**

DIRECTOR **GUY BRIGG MBE** MUSICAL DIRECTOR **ALI KANE** CHOREOGRAPHER **CATIE SIMPSON**



01865 305305 OP
OXFORDPLAYHOUSE.COM OXFORD
PLAYHOUSE

This amateur production of EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE
is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk



Everyone is welcome in the salon — ladies and gents, and children from the young to teenagers

We want you to relax, laugh and have fun whilst being looked after and getting a great service at the same time

Visit our website to see all our services

And come to visit us for a warm, friendly experience with qualified hair stylists

The Holcombe Studio
High Street, Deddington OX15 0SL

Telephone: 01869 226522

Email: polkadotsuk@gmail.com

S N Beauty Studio

now open upstairs!



lots of lovely beauty treatments available

call the salon, book online or Email

sineaddoyle70@yahoo.co.uk

JLDA building design

Transforming Homes & Spaces by Design

- ✓ Planning Applications
- ✓ Building Regulations
- ✓ Construction Drawings
- ✓ New Builds & Extensions
- ✓ Loft & Garage Conversions
- ✓ Internal Alterations

"JLDA has done 3 designs for us. The first one has transformed our lives. The work was of the highest quality and the level of service excellent."

★★★★★

Call now for a
Free Consultation: 01869 349825

Email: design@jlida.co.uk

Visit: www.jlida.co.uk

Helping You Create a Better Home

Mallams

1788

Thinking of selling your Jewellery, Silver or Works of Art?

Our specialists offer auction valuations every Tuesday, 9am-1pm at any of our salerooms.

Other times available by appointment or a home visit can be arranged.

Please visit
www.mallams.co.uk
or scan here:



A U C T I O N E E R S & V A L U E R S S I N C E 1 7 8 8



THE VALENTINE CLUB

I am going to ask you a question. What is the definition of an older person or, as we say these days, a senior? According to the NHS, older people are: *'Generally, someone over the age of 65 might be considered to be an older person. However, it is not easy to apply a strict definition because people can biologically age at different rates so, for example, someone aged 75 may be healthier than someone aged 60.'* In other words, no-one has a clue! If someone asks me how the older people are getting on at Valentine Club, I might be inclined to ask them for their definition of 'older' as many of our members will tell you, age is simply a number. This might come to you as a shock, but did you know that in five years' time, one in six people in the UK will be over 60! Yes, it has been confirmed, the older generation are taking over the world, but then you know this. Just look towards the US! Anyhow, enough of my rambling. The club is going strong with around 100 members and a waiting list as long as your arm, so maybe, Steeple Aston is the UK's centre for seniors.

At our February meeting, we welcomed Graham Clifton to tell us all about his adventures as a church bellhanger. A fascinating story that so many of us had not thought of or realised what effort goes into the church bells. It also looks like many of the members have been busy knitting poppies in readiness for the cascade to be draped over the church tower. Our meeting this month (March) welcomes back Lee Wilkinson with his great guitar skills and vocal cords plus his slightly warped sense of humour. The one thing for sure is, we will all have a great time. It is also that time of the year when around 45 members and friends are thinking of checking out their swimsuits in readiness for our holiday in early May. Brad Pitt and Elle Macpherson, watch out as you have competition!

Oxfordshire's Good Neighbour Scheme has very kindly granted the club £347 towards our funds and we thank them for their support. It is so nice to be recognised by other community groups around the county. As always, I add this paragraph in to remind you of how to keep up with the club and maybe support us by having a go at the Cherwell Lottery. Over the past 12 months, Cherwell Lottery has provided the club with over £1,200 in revenue which makes an enormous difference to what we can do with the club. You might also like to know that we have had some winners over that period ranging from free tickets for the next week to £250. Sadly, no-one has won enough to retire but you could win £25,000 so why not give it a try?

To find out more about The Valentine Club, then simply visit our own website on www.valentineclub.wixsit.com/aston The 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 www.steepleaston.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 (for lack of a better description)
Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com – Tel: 01869 340512

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

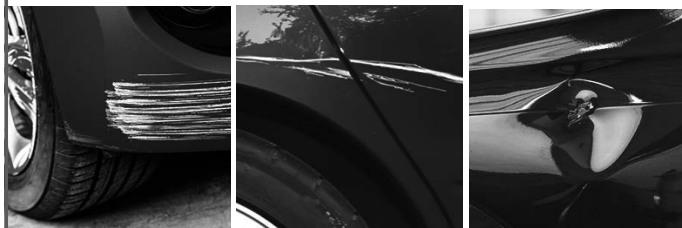
Mobile: 07808 608 970

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

BLAST from the past

These photos from the Steeple Aston Flower Show in 1925 show how the occasion was enjoyed just as much then as now, although modes of transport and clothing have changed in a century.
(Photos courtesy of SAVA).





STEEPLE ASTON SPRING SHOW

**Sunday 23rd March
2:30-4:30**

**Village Hall
Fir Lane, OX25 4SF**

**Admission £1 Adults - Children U16 go free
Cash only event**

Teas & Cakes

Plant stall • Raffle • Show exhibits

Family friendly activities!

**People of all ages and skills are
encouraged to enter the show.
For full details of how to enter
follow the link or scan the QR code:**



www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening/

THE ASTONS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - SPRING FLOWER SHOW 2025 - ENTRY FORM

The Spring Flower Show will be held in the Village Hall on **Sunday 23rd March** from 2.30 - 4.30 pm. Entries are open to everyone and new exhibitors are welcome. The entry fee includes the Society's membership fee. Rules for exhibitors are as laid down by the secretary in the Annual Show Schedule except (a) entries must be in by **7pm on Thursday 20th March**. **Late entries will be charged double, and no entry will be accepted after 7pm Friday 21st March** (b) exhibits must be staged between 9 – 10.30am on the morning of the show **after which the Hall will be closed**. Multiple entries in the same class will not be allowed in Divisions 1, 2 and 3. Cups will be awarded to the winner of most points in each open Division and the Mead Vase will be awarded to the person having entered in at least three of the five divisions and gaining the most points in the show. Easter eggs will be awarded to the winner of the most points in each of the children's age groups and the Bedding Cup for the best children's exhibit.

DIVISION 1

HORTICULTURE - FOR DUNCAN CUP

1. Tulips growing in a container
2. Daffodils (long or short trumpets) in container
3. Daffodils (multi-headed) in container
4. Miniature Daffodils in container
5. Hyacinths in a container
6. Any other container grown bulb
7. Any other container grown spring flower/s of one or more variety, excluding bulbs
8. Cactus or succulent) *must be in your*
9. Pot Plant Flowering) *possession for*
10. Pot plant foliage) *8 weeks*
11. Vase of Cut Garden Blooms
12. Container of Garden shrubs/Hedgerow/Trees Buds or Blossom, judged on variety and quality
13. 5 cut stems of Daffodils (long trumpets) any varieties
14. 5 cut stems of Daffodil (short trumpets) any varieties
15. 5 cut stems of miniature Daffodils
16. 5 cut stems of multi-headed Daffodils
17. 3 Stems of Rhubarb (tops on)
18. Container of Cut Scented Spring Flowers
19. A single cut daffodil with solitary bloom
20. Any fresh vegetable (excluding Rhubarb)

DIVISION 2

COOKERY- FOR WI CUP

21. A Savoury flan (state flavour)
22. 3 Hot Cross Buns
23. 3 Savoury rolls (Sausage roll shape/type State flavour)
24. Bakewell tart
25. 3 egg Victoria Sandwich
26. 3 Pieces Millionaire's shortbread
27. Vegan cake (List ingredients)
28. 5 White chocolate truffles
29. Marmalade
30. Fruit curd (Lemon, orange, lime etc.)
31. 3 home produced eggs of domestic fowl (with saucer)
32. Homemade lemonade in a clear bottle with a glass
33. Homemade alcoholic drink in a clear glass bottle with a glass. (No home distilled spirits. Shop purchased gins / vodkas to flavour are allowed)

DIVISION 3 - FLORAL ART FOR THE FLOWER

CLUB SILVER TROPHY (All 4 classes count for the cup).

Exhibits marked * to be staged in a niche 42cm wide, 42cm deep and 59cm high. **NOTE NEW SIZES**

34. Wrist corsage
35. *Title - 'A nursery rhyme' - accessories allowed
36. *Foliage Arrangement- no accessories allowed
37. *Arrangement with a candle- Accessories allowed.

DIVISION 4 - FOR HANDICRAFT CUP

38. A Knitted / crocheted item
 39. A brooch
 40. A limerick - 'There once was...' (With 8 syllables in 1st, 2nd and 5th lines and 5 syllables in 3rd and 4th lines)
 41. A painting or drawing
 42. A decorated pebble
 43. Any other handicraft
 44. Photo - 'Antique'
 45. Photo - 'Wonky'
 46. Photo - 'Light'
 47. Photo 'Silhouettes' Must be black and white photo
- Photos - may be in colour or black and white for classes 44 to 46 and all photos are not to exceed 7" by 5". No mounts allowed**

DIVISION 5 - NOTE NEW AGE GROUPS, age must be written on entry form.

Under 5

48. Finger painting A4 max size
49. A decorated pebble
50. 3 Decorated biscuits (Biscuits can be shop purchased)

Aged 5 to 7 inclusive

51. A decorated pebble
52. 3 Jam tarts – to be judged on taste & appearance
53. A handmade animal mask

Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

54. A decorated pebble
55. Bookmark
56. 3 Pieces of blondie to be judged on taste & appearance.

Aged 12 – 15 inclusive

57. Lemon drizzle cake. Judged on taste and appearance.
58. A decorated pebble
59. Photo - 'Eyes' no larger than 7"x 5"

Please circle the classes you wish to enter and return the entry form to Rebecca Lewin, Lansdowne House, Heyford Rd, OX25 4SH (07768904841) or Victoria Clifton, Bluebell Cottage, Middle Aston, OX255PZ (07817025948) with full entry fee by 7 pm on Thursday 20th March 2025. Extra forms are available from Vicky Clifton or the village shop, or village website.

Classes 1-47 entry fee 30p. Classes 48-59 entry fee 10p. Prizes first £2, second £1, third 50p

For our privacy policy see: <https://www.steepleaston.org.uk/clubs-societies/gardening/#horticultural>

ENTRY FORM

	<u>Classes</u>																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
Name.....	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37			
Address.....																					
Tel No	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55			
If entering Division 5 - Age on day of Show																		56	57	58	59
Parent's consent to entry:																					
Email																					

Your photo on the cover of the first ever
Village Hall Calendar

Get on the Front Cover !

Photos must be of Steeple Aston in
landscape format and up to
5"x 7" size

Photos will be judged by the public at the
Horticultural Society's Summer Show.
(Winning photo must have digital jpeg
available)

More details from John Coley 01869 347882
or growlpaine35@gmail.com



Steeple Aston Annual Quiz Night 2025

Once again, the Village Hall Committee organised a thoroughly enjoyable quiz evening on Saturday 18th January. Ten teams with a maximum of eight to a table took part in the fun, with names ranging from 'Highly Questionable' and 'Veterans +1'. Perhaps next year there should be a prize for the most creative team name? As usual, the teams went to town providing a wide and interesting variety of food and nibbles to keep them going during the evening. A bar was also available to serve liquid refreshments to all. Thanks go to Debbie and John for running the bar. This year the quiz was devised and led by Carl Tomlinson and Ian Hart. Questions and conundrums challenging the teams included:

* What's unusual about the Henley on Todd regatta which takes place near Alice Springs? Answer: It is raced in a dry river bed with the competitors running in their bottomless boats. In 1993 the event was cancelled due to there being water in the river.

* What is the difference, in hours and minutes, between the longest and shortest days in Oxford to within 15 minutes either way. Answer: 8hrs 54mins.

As usual the evening was rounded off with the presentation of the trophy and bottles of wine to the winning team – 'Grange Park Guinea Pigs' – with a score of 73. Congratulations!

The Village Hall Committee gratefully received donations of generous raffle prizes from the Holt Hotel, Red Lion, Holt Garage of wines, hamper and sweets. Thanks go to all who participated, not forgetting the Village Hall Committee who organised this event.



*The winners are (from left to right): Anna, Helen, Hilary, Dennis, Nick, Dean, John and Lorna (seated).
(Photo: Paul Rodgers)*

Village Hall Chairperson 2025


The Village Hall Trustees are still looking for someone to take over as Chairperson from May 2025. For further details, see Richard Preston's article on page 35.

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

Barbara Brewer (Chair) <https://savh.org.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



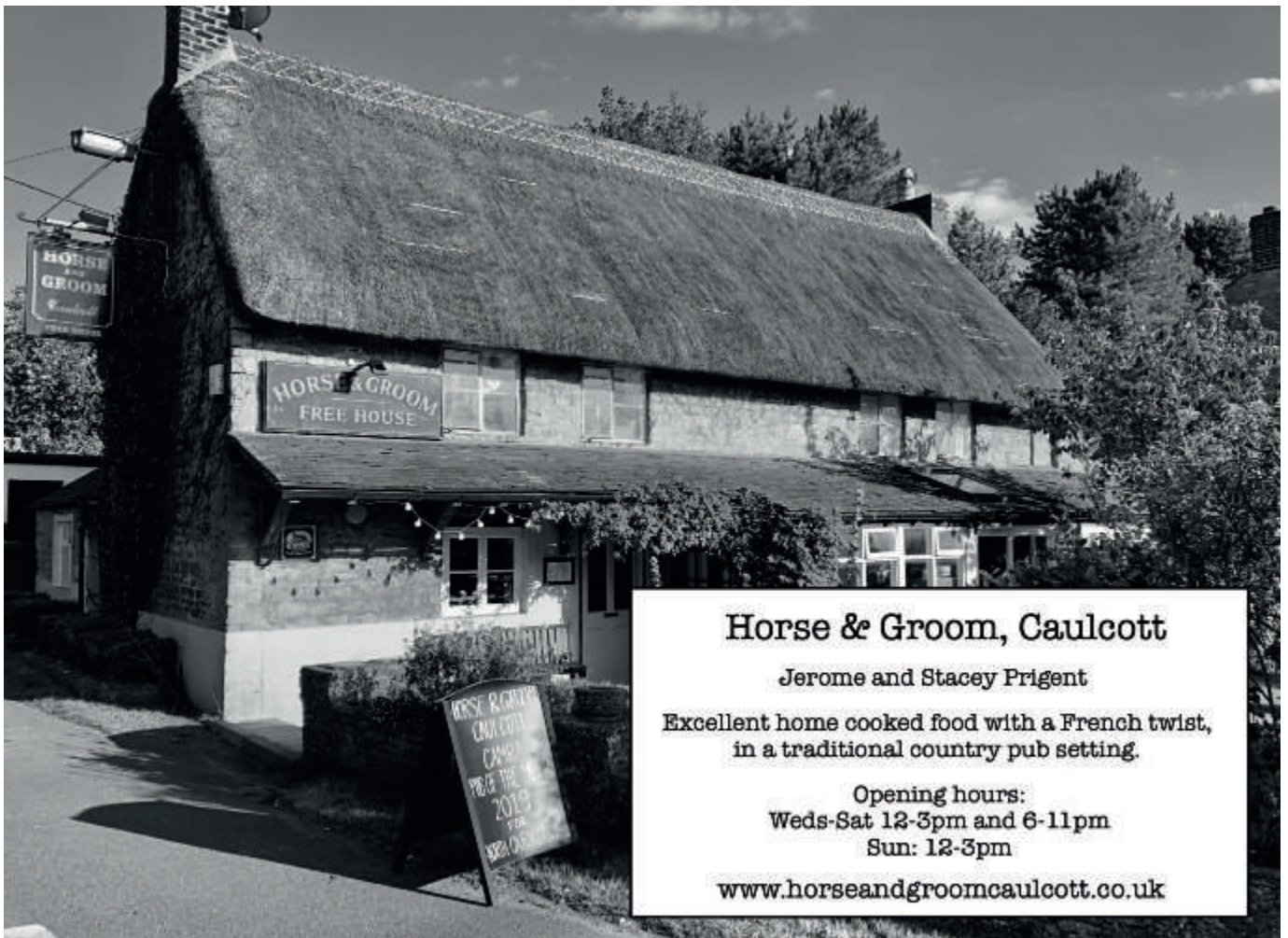
Market 9am - 12.30pm
SATURDAY 22 MARCH



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



Horse & Groom, Caulcott

Jerome and Stacey Prigent

Excellent home cooked food with a French twist,
in a traditional country pub setting.

Opening hours:

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

Sun: 12-3pm

www.horseandgroomcaulcott.co.uk

Music for Pleasure

On a rainy February evening, there's nothing like a toe-tappin' Scott Joplin rag to whisk you into a brighter mood and, with Paul Herrington tickling the ivories, the *Music for Pleasure* concert began. The evening featuring Paul on the piano; Charmian Bartlett on the cello and Brian Thomas playing trumpet(s), took us on a fascinating musical journey through many contrasting styles and genres. After Joplin, Paul continued with Schumann's *Songs without Words*, ending with the dreamy *Traumerei* and then following that, a Lee Evans piece inspired by the Schumann composition.

Brian then took us back four centuries to Baroque Germany, with a wonderfully bright performance of the final movement of Telemann's *Trumpet Concerto*. Brian is a long-time friend of Paul's and the first public performance of a very enjoyable piece written for him by Paul followed, before we leapt back to the Baroque, with Handel's stirring *Ev'ry Valley* from *Messiah*. Now it was Charmian's turn. She began with a beautiful performance of Mendelssohn's, *Song without Words* op.109, his last work for cello and piano, published after his death. Saint-Saens, *The Swan*, from *The Carnival of the Animals* – one of the most the most recognisable of all cello solos – followed. Both pieces brought out the warm, mellow tones of Charmian's playing. Then, in the concert's spirit of variety and contrast, she finished with a sparkling *Tarantella*, by cellist and composer, WH Squire. Although the village hall is not known for its poisonous spiders, it was certainly a lively performance.

The first half of the concert finished with a 60s sing-along medley featuring the whole trio, plus audience. The trio's *I'm a Believer*, *Born Free* and *Georgy Girl* was somewhat superior to the choral accompaniment, but it was great fun. During the interval, there was a chance to buy an apron or a padded bag, especially made for SACS fund-raising by Paul's wife, Maggie, as well as an opportunity to re-fuel for the second half of the concert.

This began with a scintillating performance of Mozart's *Rondo alla Turca*. How can Paul's fingers move that fast? Chopin's *Raindrop Prelude* (so called because of the repeated notes) was very appropriate for the evening, and then we moved forward to the twentieth century with *Cry Me a River* and *You Raise Me Up*. Paul was improvising and generally playing around with the music – no two performances are alike – which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Brian returned with another stirring solo from Handel, *Oh had I Jubal's lyre* and then, throwing caution to the wind, followed this with the second movement of Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto* with beautifully sustained playing and then the break-neck, *Tico, Tico* by Brazilian composer, Zequinha Abreu. (You might not have heard of it, but trust me you will know it.) Was Brian ever going to breathe? Staying Hispanic, but with an entirely different mood, Charmian gave an eloquent performance of the *Intermezzo* from Granados's *Goyescas*, followed by Nino Rota's theme for Zeffirelli's, *Romeo and Juliet*. She finished with a dazzling rondo from a Georg Goltermann concerto.

Then there was a quiz to name the song and guess the year of composition. This turned into a mini sing-along as soon as the song was recognised. Naming the song was not difficult, even though some were hidden in the music – *Away in a Manger* for example – but the difficult part was the date. Imagine our surprise, to find that all the songs were from the nineteenth century. (Just so you know, the music hall song, *Daddy Wouldn't Buy me a Bow Wow* was composed in 1892, not the 1930s.) The finale was *Four Sea Shanties*, arranged for trio and audience by Paul. You may have heard *Fire Down Below* on the other side of the village, in spite of the rain. It was a suitably warm finish to a delightful evening of music-making.

Thank you, Paul, Charmian and Brian for your wonderful playing, and Maggie for your fund-raising needlework, all for Steeple Aston Choral Society. We really do appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

Margaret Bulleyment



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 personal care, assistance with medication, transport to appointments, help with your shopping or simply companionship, Eldon Friends can cater for your needs.

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

Directors Elaine and Don Kelly: Tel: (01869) 340449 Email: info@eldonfriends.co.uk

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

Covering The Astones and surrounding villages.

Qualified in Health and Social Care

Fully Insured • Eldon Friends. Established 2014



Iron and Wood Ltd
the wood burning stove centre



Visit our showroom to discuss a
new Wood Burning Stove

Beaumont Road, Banbury, OX16 1RH

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

Steeple Aston *Community Orchard*



The days might be dull and dreary, and there doesn't seem to be much happening in the orchard. However, our team have been busy pruning fruit trees and clearing ivy from the larger trees, as well as generally tidying up bits and pieces ready for the spring. The snowdrops have given us a lovely show, and the daffodils are already starting to emerge. All the hedging we planted seems to have taken and not been eaten by deer as yet!

We are keeping an eye out to see if the frogs and toads have laid frogspawn in our wonderful pond, which is now well established. We hope to have more events taking place this year, so will keep you updated as to when this will be after we had such a great response last year. The orchard is a nature area, so please don't let your dogs off the lead, or let them run around disturbing the peaceful place that this orchard is meant to be - thank you.

Our next working group day is **Sunday 2nd March from 2.00-4.00pm** with cake! If you would like to, come along and join us to see what's going on.

Nigel Francis
Community Orchard



Steeple Aston *Garden Club*



On a cold, damp February day, fourteen Garden Club members visited Evenley Wood Garden, for a Snowdrop Tour with Dan Winter, the Head Gardener. What a treat this was, who knew how many species of snowdrops there are, all with their different identities. We certainly didn't cover the whole 60 acres of woodland, but as we meandered through pathways and streams, stopping to see the many different varieties of named snowdrops carpeting the clearings, Dan explained how to identify each species. The time slipped by and, after an hour or so, we found ourselves at the woodland cafe, time to warm up with a cup of tea and cake, of course.

Our March meeting is a joint affair with Tackley Garden Club, on Tuesday 18th, starting at 7.45pm, at Tackley Village Hall. The speaker, a firm favourite, is Tim Walker, ex-director of Oxford Botanical Gardens. Guests welcome for a small charge. For further information, please contact Chris Clarke, tel: 01869 347192.

Chris Clarke
SAGC Secretary



Arbor Vitae Oxford
TREES & GARDENS

: Arboricultural Expertise :

Tree Surgery : Planning : Consultancy :

Benjamin Downing Nch Arboriculture
Nch Horticulture

Old Butcher Heyford Road Steeple Aston
OX25 4SH

e: arborvitaeoxford@yahoo.co.uk
m: 07443 582 747 h: 01869 347 985

NOAHSARK
Painting
Company

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL DECORATION

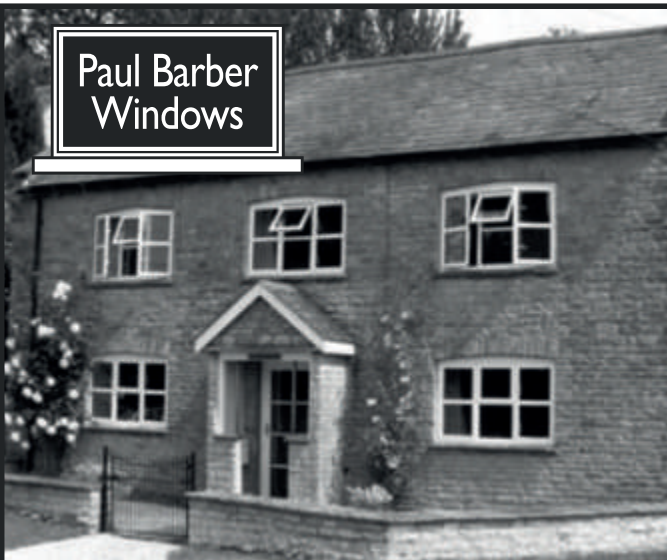
All forms of interior and exterior painting
and decorating, specialising in murals.



T: 01295 811026
E: pete@noahsarkpainting.co.uk
W: noahsarkpainting.co.uk

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

**Paul Barber
Windows**



T: 07836 623407

E: paul@paulbarberwindows.co.uk

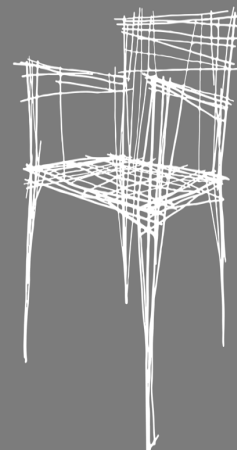
www.paulbarberwindows.co.uk

OVER 30 YEARS
EXPERIENCE



WINDOWS ■ SECONDARY GLAZING
RESIDENTIAL DOORS ■ FOLDING DOORS

lawrence furnishings
RE-UPHOLSTERY CUSHIONS



RE-UPHOLSTERY

01280 704437

www.lawrencefurnishings.co.uk

info@lawrencefurnishings.co.uk



Aspiring young artists invited to take part in museum's annual competition

In its third year, the theme for Oxfordshire Museum's 2025 open art competition is animals. A young artist's award has also been launched for the first time, with Oxfordshire residents aged 11 to 18 eligible to enter. The competition is free to enter and will culminate in an exhibition displaying the shortlisted entries and winners, which will be open to the public at the museum from 27th September until 2nd November.

Neil Fawcett, Oxfordshire County Council's community and corporate services chief, said the competition was an "opportunity for everybody and anybody to share their talents. We know that Oxfordshire is full of creativity and we want to show it off", he said. On this year's theme, Mr Fawcett said he hoped it would "provide inspiration for a range of responses" and "produce another moving and enjoyable exhibition showcasing our residents' talents. Animals are all around us in Oxfordshire, at home, at work and in the wild, and the face of our animal companions is ever-changing", he added.

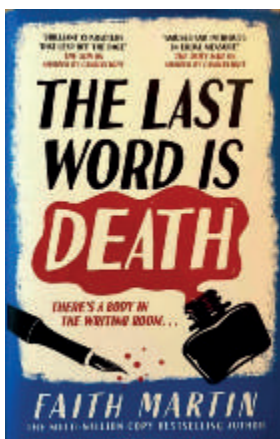
The museum, based in Woodstock, said it was "particularly keen to encourage three dimensional entries", including sculptures, to this year's competition. There will be a first prize, second prize and a people's choice award. The museum said a panel of "special guest judges" would allocate prizes, with the winners announced at a special preview party later in the year, ahead of the public exhibition.

An online portal where artists can submit their work was opened on 1st February. Or request a form from Oxfordshire.museum@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Book Review:

The Last Word Is Death, by Faith Martin

It's time to don your Oxford Bags or Flapper dress, get in the Alvis and drive to the coast for a murder mystery in similar vein to Agatha Christie and P G Wodehouse written by local author, Faith Martin. Set in 1925, at the exclusive 'Dashwood House Hotel' situated in the resort of Galton-Next-The-Sea, where we find Arbuthnot 'Arbie' Swift working on the follow-up to his successful book 'The Gentleman's Guide to Ghost-Hunting'. This guide gives information and critique regarding exclusive accommodation that just happens to have supernatural events occurring on or close to the premises.



Whilst Arbie is staying at the Dashwood, an engagement party is due to take place, with one of the guests being Valentina Olivia Charlotte Coulton-James, or Val as Arbie knows her. Val and Arbie have known each other since childhood, their relationship akin to a couple who have been together for years. They make little jibes at each other, mostly generated by Val, but are also supportive when the need arises. These qualities make them likeable characters, at times humorous and, most importantly, believable and real. Not only do Arbie and Val endeavour to seek out the ghost, but, after a member of the party is murdered, the future bride, aware of the duo's success solving a murder in their home village, requests their own investigation to boost the local constabulary's efforts.

As with their previous adventures in 'Murder by Candlelight', nothing is straightforward. With some delightful twists, a good balance of humour and a satisfying conclusion, this is the cat's pyjamas for a cosy night-time read.

Review by *Read Alert*

D L HANCOCK LTD

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

Established 30 years and still independent

WE ARE BICESTER'S OLDEST 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



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](http://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](mailto: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, OX5 2LA

01865 373712

364 Banbury Road, Summertown, OX2 7PP

01865 553737

“For every life is Unique, so is every funeral”

[www.boswellfuneralservices.co.uk](http://www.boswellfuneralservices.co.uk)



# WANTED!

Have you ever visited the village hall? Have you ever wondered how it is managed? Do we actually need a village hall? Why do villages usually have a community building, and what purpose do they serve? These are a few questions that might be asked occasionally, but in reality, who cares?

Being someone who has lived in Steeple Aston all of my life, I am a little biased, as I went to school in what is now the village hall for ten years of my life. I served as chairman of the management committee for many years, but handed over the reins to Barbara Brewer many years ago now. For me, it is a place where I attend various functions within the village from a quiz to a wake, a Valentine Club meeting to a celebration. I wonder what it might be like if the village hall simply did not exist? Is this leading somewhere, you may ask?

The straight answer is YES! At the village hall management meeting in May, we will lose our chairperson, Barbara, after many years of service. Thank goodness, she is staying on the committee along with another ten committee members, sometimes described as trustees, but more accurately should be called village volunteers. They attend up to eleven monthly meetings a year, lasting about one hour and, from there, the village hall functions efficiently for the use of the village. With few exceptions, the existing 'committee' are of an age at not really wanting to take on the position of chairperson. Saying that, an incoming chairperson would not have that many duties, other than to chair a monthly meeting, prepare an agenda, alongside the secretary, report to the village through SAL or the website, what the village hall is doing and keep the village up to date with proceedings, plus take a lead in the management of our village hall. We have a very competent secretary and treasurer, so no worries there, and the hall is in a very sound financial position. The structure is actually owned by Dr Radcliffe's School Foundation and the exterior upkeep is the responsibility of the parish council, so all the management committee have to do is make sure the hall is used to its best ability, and that it covers the regular ongoing costs associated with the hall.

**So here is the challenge!** Do you think you could be the next village hall chairperson and bring your own ideas to the management committee? What a great way to meet people in the village and make your mark on what must be the best village community around. Rather than bother Barbara, or any existing committee member, just give me a call, email, or simply knock on my door, and I will try to answer any questions you may have.

**The village needs YOU** Please give some thought to my plea as the village is relying on YOU! Many thanks for taking the time to read this and I look forward to having a 'no obligation' chat with you very soon.

**Richard Preston** Email: [Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com](mailto:Richard.preston5@btopenworld.com) Tel: 01869 340512, or knock on my door at Primrose Garden, North Side.

## **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at 6.00pm 'We'll Meet Again' in the Village Hall**

From 'The White Cliffs of Dover' to 'The Lambeth Walk', a family event in music, words and dance, to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. Come and sing the music that kept people going through the war; enjoy a song or two from Vera Lynn; listen to the wartime bells; hear stories of villagers during the period and strut the Lambeth Walk – Oi! You can wear whatever you like, but feel free to come in 40s dress; or red, white or blue. There will be a bar (cash only) and nibbles. Tickets: £5 (under 16s free) will be available from the village shop and Margaret Bullement, Tel: 01869 347346 or email: [mtheb749@gmail.com](mailto:mtheb749@gmail.com)

# bulb

hair & health

---

- ladies & gent cuts
- colours
- styling
- japanese head spa
- health bar
- silent treatments
- free parking

bulb is where hair meets health, and every visit is an opportunity to feel your best inside and out.

## CONTACT DETAILS

bulbbookings@gmail.com

the hatchery, middle aston, OX25 5QL

+447457416801

## BEAT

FITNESS CO.

Invest in your physical and mental health with a membership at BEAT Fitness and discover Oxfordshire's premier fitness destination.

Offering a transformative personal training programme in a state-of-the-art facility, we can guarantee you results if you are ready to make a positive change in your life



Take your first step

**Book your consultation**

call on 07362376573

or email

info@beatfitness.co.uk

Unit 5  
The Hatchery  
Middle Aston

## BEAT

FITNESS CO.

# The ‘mad’ March Hare

During February and March, it is not uncommon to spot the characteristic outline of brown hares ‘boxing’ in and around the fields. I used to spot them in the fields between Rousham and Tackley, whilst on the bus route into Oxford and it’s certainly a welcome sign that spring is on its way.

The brown hare (*Lepus europaeus*) was first introduced by the Romans, and by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were over four million brown hares in Britain. Sadly, today their numbers have plummeted to fewer than 800,000 and it is listed as a priority species on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994). They have limited legal protection in England and Wales, and can be shot throughout the year as a ‘game species’, however, they do have protection from coursing and hunting through the Hunting Act 2004, which bans the hunting of wild mammals with hounds. They have also been hit hard by habitat loss, particularly the degradation and development of arable land under agricultural intensification, in addition to vast areas of arable land being lost to urban development.

The brown hare is one of over forty hare species worldwide, and has adapted to temperate, open country, where they prefer a mosaic of arable fields, grasses and hedgerows. Unlike rabbits, hares don’t have burrows, but shelter in shallow depressions in the ground or grass called ‘forms.’ If disturbed, they are able to bound across fields, sometimes zigzagging, at speeds of up to 70kmh (45mph). They are the fastest land mammal in the country and one of our great athletes, which can make them tricky to spot.

The brown hare is 50-70cm in length, weighing 2-5kg, with an average lifespan of 2-4 years. They graze on vegetation and the bark of young trees and bushes. They are golden-brown in colour, with a pale belly and white tail. Larger than the rabbit, they have longer legs and longer ears with distinctive black tips. They are found throughout the UK, but as mentioned, their numbers are declining. Brown hares are most visible during springtime, when the breeding season encourages them into fighting or ‘boxing’, which, contrary to popular belief, is not courtship nor two males fighting, but actually females rebuffing over-amorous males! The two hares will stand on their hind legs and attack each other with their front paws, even pulling out fur. This gives the impression of two boxers in the ring, hence the term ‘boxing’ hares. Females can produce three to four litters of two to four young (called leverets) each year.

Hares occupy a special place in folklore. Samuel Pepys carried a hares-foot believing it cured him of colic, but Derbyshire miners believed that, if a white hare stared at them as they ate, the creatures would lead their souls into the darkness, never to be seen again! The Romans added them as a symbol of fertility and renewal. They have been seen as goddesses, messengers, tricksters, and associated with Easter, eggs, March madness, the moon, the elixir of life, purity, harvest-time, shapeshifting and witchcraft. In Celtic mythology, the hare is often associated with various deities and plays a key role in rituals and ceremonies. Unsurprisingly, much folklore has grown up around the hare, sometimes rather sinister as they are seen as fast and elusive. But their sudden leaps have also been associated with new dawns and fresh beginnings. I, for one, will always treasure the occasional fleeting glimpse of this magical, mystical creature.

**Carol Neville**



# Humberts have been helping people move for over 180 years.

*Can we help you?*

Since we were founded in 1842, quite a lot has happened, but despite the recent economic turmoil, one thing remains certain; demand for the most desirable properties in Oxfordshire remains strong. And you can still rely on Humberts to give you sound advice on the value of your home and how to achieve the best price if you decide to sell. Currently, we are achieving **101% of asking price**.

*"Thank you' seems totally inadequate for all your advice, help and support, but the need for a first-class agent has rocketed in our eyes and we will forever be grateful."*

We offer a personal and dedicated service that you can really trust, and at Humberts you always deal with one person who will handle the entire process all the way from negotiating offers to exchange and completion. And if needed, our no-fuss **Accelerated Conveyancing** means you can be exchange-ready and able to move in just a few weeks.



## Humberts

Specialists in Prestige, Character, Period and Rural Homes



To find out more, call us today on 01865 306 630



# 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](mailto:info@uksolargeneration.co.uk)**

# Letter from *Westminster*

*SAL's regular epistle from our MP, Sean Woodcock*



It's been a busy start to 2025 with lots going on in parliament and across the constituency. One thing I've really enjoyed, however, is getting out and seeing more of our area and meeting individuals and businesses, particularly in our rural areas. Recently I spoke in a debate on rural services about how robust and innovative rural areas are and that is very clear from the conversations that I have been having with people here. Because poverty is not limited to cities and towns. Indeed, lack of service provision whether transport, the main topic of the debate in the House, or community infrastructure, can mean that poverty is exacerbated further. Whether it is tackling flooding, providing more resources for the local school or getting locals to hospital appointments, people in rural areas have shown remarkable resilience. That's why I am so keen on championing the many examples of brilliant community-led infrastructure that we have here. The Barton Buses, Southhill Solar Farm and the Community Land Trusts we see opening up following the success of the one we have in Hook Norton.

As conversations around local government reorganisation and devolution take place, rural voices must continue to be heard. The important role played by parish and town councils in keeping our communities going cannot be overestimated. A strengthened role for the lowest level of government can only be welcomed as an enabler of citizen participation. The path to growth, the central mission of this government, is through rural areas and I know that people here want to play their part. But change must be by, with and for people, not done to them. A message that I will keep hammering home to government.

Best Wishes

**Sean Woodcock**

## **Steeple Aston Parish Councillors**

Angharad Lloyd-Jones (Chair)  
Martin Lipson (Vice Chair), Planning, Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum  
Peter Dammermann  
Greg Elphick  
Charlotte Powell, Sports & Recreation Centre, Environment  
Mathew Watson  
Cathy Fleet – Parish Clerk  
Email: [parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerk.steepleaston@gmail.com)

The Parish Council looks after the interests of the community of Steeple Aston. It deals with the District and County Council on local issues such as highways, traffic, housing, rights of way and street lighting, and erects and maintains facilities in the village such as seats, bus shelters and the war memorial. It also leases and maintains the Village Hall, Sports and Recreation Centre buildings and the play area. It is consulted on all local planning matters.

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room. All villagers are very welcome to attend. The agenda is posted on the website and village noticeboards at least three days before the meeting and will confirm the date of the next meeting. Parish Councillors are elected every four years. The Parish Clerk is the main contact for any queries within the village, so please feel free to contact her with any problems/questions you may have that you feel the Parish Council could help you with.

# STEEPLE TALKS

March 13th in the church 7.15pm for 7.30pm

**Geoffrey Cotterill**  
will intrigue us with the story of



## ‘Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Sceptical Monsignor’

Refreshments from 7.15pm Retiring collection in aid of the church  
roof repair.

**ALL WELCOME**

-----  
**ADVANCE NOTICE - Save the Date:**

**Nicholas Cleobury** - Steeple Aston's own maestro will talk on April 10th  
on "A Life In Music"



# Church *Matters*



With a late Easter this year, Ash Wednesday is on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, and is marked with a special service at SS Peter and Paul (6pm). Traditionally, during this service people are marked on their foreheads with an Ash Cross as a way of showing we are sorry for the things we have done wrong, a sign of penitence.

During the BeSpace week of prayer at Dr Radcliffe's school in February, one of the activities used zippers to help us think about reconciliation. A zip helps two sides come together. When we do something wrong, our relationship with others is often broken, like a zip being undone. Sometimes we need a third-party mediator to help bring us back together, acting like the zipper on the zip. A mediator will listen to both sides, helping each side to understand what happened and working to find a way forward. This can be an incremental process, with progress inching forward over time, just like a zip bringing the two sides together tooth by tooth. When we do things wrong, our relationship with God is also broken. Often, like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, we want to hide. Jesus is our mediator, bringing us back to God. Being both fully human and fully God, he is uniquely positioned as the zipper, being able to understand both sides. His death on the cross acts like the zip, bridging the gap between our sin and God's faithful, everlasting, immense love for us.

This Lent, as we prepare to celebrate our reconciliation with God at Easter, I invite you to think about any relationships in your life which need to be mended. Are you the zip in that situation, or are you the zipper? Either way, remember that God is always ready to help. And that sometimes, all it takes is one simple sorry. In the words of St Francis of Assisi, 'Lord, make me a channel of your peace.' Amen.

God bless,

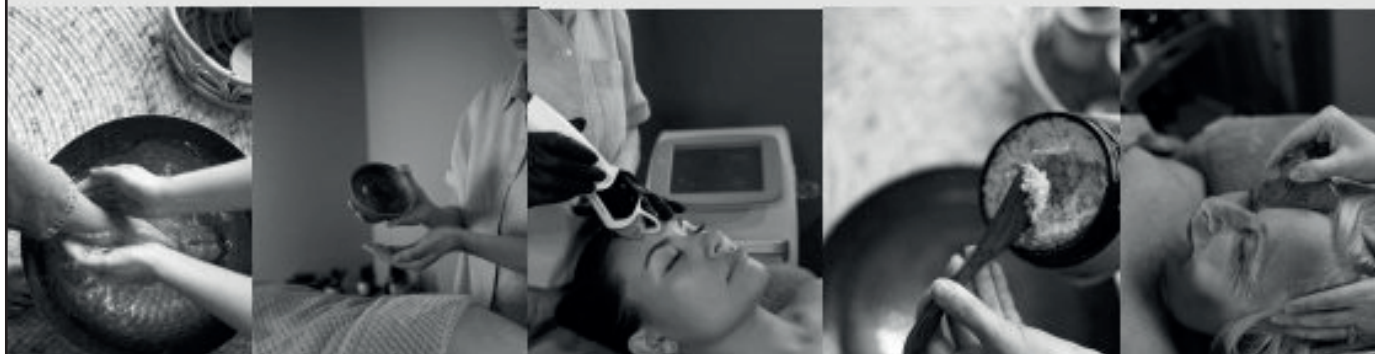
**Harriet**




THE  
**ATRIUM**

WELLNESS AND SKIN HEALTH SPA

BEAUTY & MASSAGE TREATMENTS   SKIN TREATMENTS   PRACTITIONER ROOM HIRE   EVENTS



 the\_atriumwellnessco  
the-atrium-wellness.co.uk  
info@the-atrium-wellness.co.uk  
01869 843143



THE HATCHERY  
MIDDLE ASTON  
OX25 5QL

## Sole Pilates By Saulo Ouverney

A variety of Pilates equipment classes:  
Reformer, Chair and Tower

Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm

Book now at [www.solepilates.co.uk](http://www.solepilates.co.uk)



Unit 7, Hatchery End Industrial Estate, Middle Aston,  
Bicester, OX25 5QL

T: 07398392865

 @solepilates

# Church Services



## March 2025

| Date                                                             | North Aston                                                     | Steeple Aston                                                    | Tackley                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>                           | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion<br><i>Book of Common Prayer</i> | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy Communion<br><i>Book of Common Prayer</i> | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Evensong                                |
|                                                                  |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>9<sup>th</sup> March</b>                           | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                 | <b>11.00am</b><br>Family Worship                                 | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Holy Communion                          |
|                                                                  |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>16<sup>th</sup> March</b>                          | <b>9.30am</b><br>Holy Communion                                 | <b>11.00am</b><br>Holy Communion                                 | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Evensong                                |
|                                                                  |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>                          | <b>9.30am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                 | <b>11.00am</b><br>Morning Prayer                                 | <b>5.30pm</b><br>Holy Communion                          |
|                                                                  |                                                                 |                                                                  |                                                          |
| <b>Sunday<br/>30<sup>th</sup> March<br/>Mothering<br/>Sunday</b> | <b>9.30am</b><br>Family Communion                               | <b>11.00am</b><br>Family Service                                 | <b>9.30am</b><br>Family Communion                        |
|                                                                  |                                                                 |                                                                  | <a href="http://www.sntchurch.com">www.sntchurch.com</a> |

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

### OURBUS BARTONS

OurBus Bartons offers services through Steeple Aston to and from Lower Heyford Station (Monday to Friday), to and from Chipping Norton (Wednesdays) and to and from Bicester (Fridays). See <https://ourbusbartons-org-uk.stackstaging.com/> for details and times.



**Ease**  
MASSAGE  
THERAPIES

**Rebalance,  
Restore, Relax**

Tranquil room in Aynho 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**



**JOHN WHITWORTH TREE SURGERY**



**BODICOTE COTTAGE  
16 HIGH STREET  
BODICOTE  
OXFORDSHIRE  
OX15 4BS**

**Tel/Fax: 01295 268170  
Mobile: 07970 154552**

**Steeple Aston Online**

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

**Your village. Your website. Visit today!**

***www.steepleaston.org.uk***

# Local Info



## STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL

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

### Our hall is available to hire:

- Ideal site for parties, receptions, seminars, exhibitions and workshops
- Full width raised stage and well-equipped kitchen
- Main hall can seat around 100
- HD projector and retractable screen
- Meeting Room to seat 20, with separate access
- Off-Road Car parking

For hire charges and bookings see our website or call Angela on 07734 112967

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

#### March 2025

6<sup>th</sup> Blue and Brown  
13<sup>th</sup> Green  
20<sup>th</sup> Blue and Brown  
27<sup>th</sup> Green

#### April 2025

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



### 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 Sport & Recreation Centre and Field

| Letting charges                                                                                        |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Social Function peak times<br>(Daily up to 6 hours from 6pm)                                           | £55.00       |
| Social Function off-peak times<br>(Daily up to 5 hours before 6pm)                                     | £27.50       |
| Meeting of represented clubs<br>(Daily per session up to 2 hours)                                      | £11.00       |
| Caution money for private lettings                                                                     | £100.00      |
| Block bookings for social events<br>15% discount for 6 or more bookings in advance                     |              |
| Contact us if you wish to hire the field or use the changing facilities                                |              |
| Letting Agent – Angela Smith<br><a href="mailto:rec.trust@googlemail.com">rec.trust@googlemail.com</a> | 07734 112967 |
| Chair – Torquil McLusky                                                                                | 01869 347914 |
| Treasurer – Chris Cooper                                                                               | 01869 347173 |

- The Sport & Rec is available to hire
- The "Friendly" space - the ideal venue for smaller parties, children's parties and get togethers
- Need more space? Hire the Sport & Rec and Village Hall together
- Fantastic playground just outside
- Internet
- Full disabled access, toilets, showers and changing rooms
- High quality grass playing field with power supply for football, marquees, events etc. (contact us for details and availability)
- Small kitchen and separate bar
- Room for around 50 seated
- Brand-new projector with retractable screen
- Car Parking
- Regular events include Home Education, Babies & Toddlers, Brownies, After School Club, Bridge and of course the Football Club (it's been going since 1898!)
- Next event Quiz & Chilli Night March 22<sup>nd</sup> – more details to follow!



# Steeple Aston Calendar

Check the village website at [steepleaston.org.uk/home/calendar](http://steepleaston.org.uk/home/calendar) for any changes.

Please send details of events for April and May to [editorsalife@gmail.com](mailto:editorsalife@gmail.com)

|                               | Event                                    | Venue             | Time            |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>March</b>                  |                                          |                   |                 |
| Tuesday 11th March            | WI: Social Evening with quizzes          | Village Hall      | 7.00pm          |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March | SAL April copy & advert deadlines        |                   |                 |
| Monday 17th March             | Parish Council Meeting                   | S & R Building    | 7.30pm          |
| Tuesday 18th March            | Valentines: Lee Wilkinson entertains     | Village Hall      | 2.30pm          |
| Saturday 22nd March           | Farmers Market                           | Deddington        | 9.00-12.30      |
| Saturday 22nd March           | Quiz & Chilli Night                      | S & R Building    |                 |
| Sunday 23rd March             | Spring Show                              | Village Hall      | 2.30-4.30pm     |
| Saturday 29th March           | Americana Musical evening                | Village Hall      | 7.30pm          |
| Sunday 30th March             | SACS: 'Ahoy' Nautical Spring Concert     | Village Hall      | 6.30 for 7.00pm |
| <b>April</b>                  |                                          |                   |                 |
| Tuesday 8th April             | WI: History of Science                   | Village Hall      | 7.00pm          |
| Saturday 12th April           | SAL May copy & advert deadlines          |                   |                 |
| Tuesday 15th April            | Valentines: Chrissie's owls              | Village Hall      | 2.30pm          |
| Saturday 26th April           | Farmers Market                           | Deddington        | 9.00-12.30      |
| Monday 28th April             | Parish Council Meeting                   | S & R Building    | 7.30pm          |
| <b>May</b>                    |                                          |                   |                 |
| Monday 5th-9th May            | Valentines: Holiday to Sinah Warren      | Hayling Island    |                 |
| Saturday 10th May             | We'll Meet Again': VE Day-80th           | Village Hall      | 6.30 for 7.00pm |
| Monday 19th May               | Parish Council Meeting                   | S & R Building    | 7.30pm          |
| Tuesday 20th May              | SAGS match                               | The Vale, Evesham | 12 noon         |
| Tuesday 20th May              | Valentines: 'Yesterday's Childhood'      | Village Hall      | 2.30pm          |
| Thursday 22nd May             | Valentines: coach trip: Oakham Treasures | Somerset          |                 |
| Saturday 24th May             | Farmers Market                           | Deddington        | 9.00-12.30      |

**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](mailto: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

*S&J* Cuisine

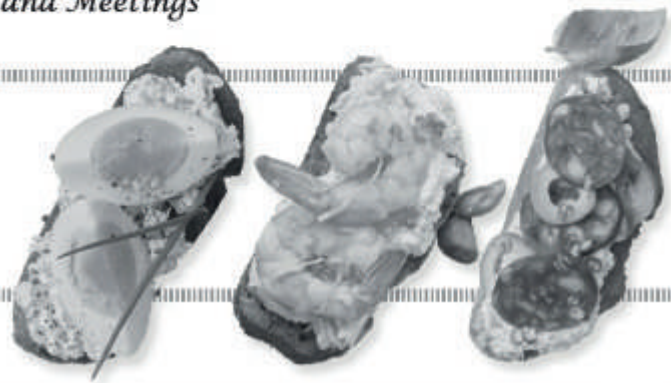
- > *Weddings and Family Celebrations*
- > *Dinner Parties*
- > *Afternoon Tea*
- > *Drinks Party Canapes*
- > *Balls & Banquet catering*
- > *Themed Events - Including - Mexican, Tapas, Bbq's, Paella & Spit Roasts*
- > *Business and Corporate Events and Meetings*

*sandjcuisine@hotmail.co.uk*

Call Sally on 07786131667

Or Jasmin on 07801975210

Prices from £9.50pp



## 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

block printing workshops

studio sessions

visit us:

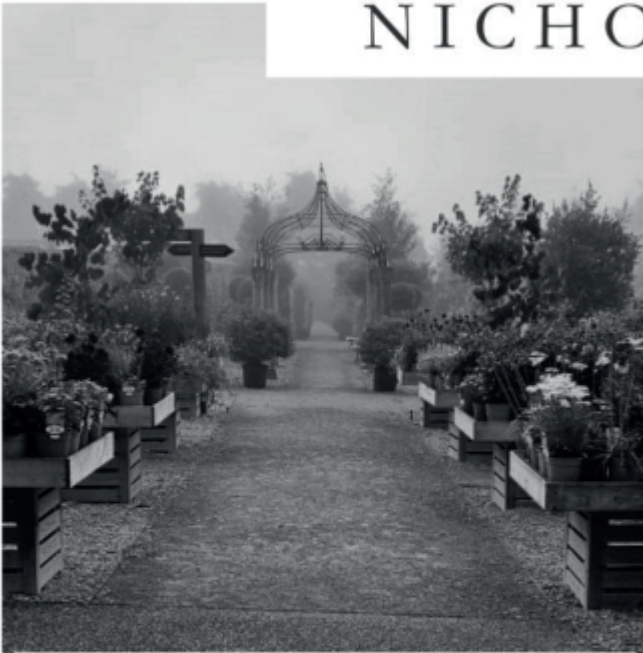
The Studio,  
2 Lakeside Farm  
Middle Aston  
OX25 5PP

follow us:

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

  @theindianblockprintco

# NICHOLSONS



## PLANTS

Expert Advice & Guidance | Hedging & Screening  
Colourful Herbaceous | Ornamental & Fruit Trees

*Monday to Saturday*



## THE YURT

A Unique Dining Experience | Brunch | Lunch | Desserts  
Innovative Menus | Locally Sourced Food

*Tuesday to Saturday*

01869 340 342 | [contact@nicholsonsgb.com](mailto:contact@nicholsonsgb.com) | Nicholson's at the Park, North Aston OX25 6HL

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

# 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



# RCVS

## ACCREDITED PRACTICE

SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL



Bicester 01869 323223  
Waddesdon 01296 651000  
[www.hartvets.co.uk](http://www.hartvets.co.uk)