

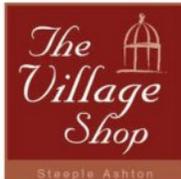
STEEPLE ASHTON  
**NEWSLETTER**

GREAT HINTON  
**FEBRUARY 2022**



**1860s or 1870s carte de visite by Wilkinson of Trowbridge**

This recently-acquired carte de visite of St Mary's Church seems unremarkable at first glance. However, it includes the only known photographic image of a large, thatched timber-framed house which for centuries stood in what is now the south-western corner of the churchyard. The current churchyard hand pump draws water from a well that probably once belonged to the property.



**Steeple Ashton Village Shop**

**Opening Hours** - please see page 7 for the current shop opening hours.

**Shop telephone:** 01380 871 211

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### Editorial

Hello everyone - Happy New Year!

I thought that this newsletter might be smaller - shortest month, not a lot happening, too cold to venture out etc. Wow, how wrong could I have been. I had a bumper crop of files - over 50 - to try and fit into the February edition. Our printer does not like more than 48 pages if we have a coloured cover. Luckily, we don't so we can have 52 pages with slightly thinner paper for the cover. I hope I have included everything I should have and that you enjoy reading a variety of news stories.

The work on the church stonework is almost complete. The gate is being repainted to match the lovely matt grey of the downpipes. Kathryn has taken a splendid photo of the very fine restored clock face (p26). **Helen**

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### Newsletter Deadlines for 2022

**February 22nd; March 22nd; April 19th**

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 22nd February**. They should be sent to Mrs Helen Montague-Smith, 1A Butts Lane, Steeple Ashton or by email to **[helenmontaguesmith8@gmail.com](mailto:helenmontaguesmith8@gmail.com)**

All published items solely express **the views of the author** and are the copyright of the author and the newsletter unless otherwise stated.

The Editor would like to remind you that it is up to you, the readers, to supply all news and copy for the newsletter. The sender's name and address need to be received before printing. Telephone 01380 871285.

Inquiries for advertisements in the newsletter should be made to **Sarah Blake** on 01380 502648 email: [adverts4steepleashton@gmail.com](mailto:adverts4steepleashton@gmail.com)

Please send your ads by email if possible.

**Please note, we do not deliver flyers for advertisers.**

# **STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Queen's Jubilee Celebration**

The jubilee is a unique event to mark 70 years on the throne by Queen Elizabeth, our longest serving monarch. It provides an opportunity for celebration and for bringing our community together after the last two difficult years. Various events are planned nationally over the extended bank holiday weekend of 2nd to 5th June this year; including beacon lighting on Thursday 2nd June, Party at the Palace on Saturday and the Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th June.

In order to help plan and coordinate events for Steeple Ashton village the Parish Council invite representatives of the various village organisations and interested, willing individuals to a meeting in the village hall on Friday 11th February at 7pm.

The aim will be to ensure a cohesive plan for the weekend, allowing individuals and organisations to coordinate and work together; fitting into the overall national plans.

Once we have a plan for the celebrations, the Parish Council can help to communicate this to the village as whole.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## **Parish Council Vacancies**

Your Parish Council currently has only six members out of its normal compliment of nine following the recent resignation of the Chair after nearly a decade of service. We would welcome the support of more community minded residents; especially, but not limited to, those who could represent the views of residents in Ashton Common, Common Hill, Holmeleaze and Elmsgate/Raydown.

New members can be co-opted to the council through a simple vote, there is no need to go through an election process. You do need to be over 18 years old and have lived or worked in the parish for the past 12 months.

If you would like to find out more about joining the parish council, please contact our clerk Nicola Duke via phone (01373 864127 / 07971 987806) or email (clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk).

## **Parish Council Website**

The new Parish Council website will shortly go. Local groups and associations are invited to send any information they would like to see included on the website to the Parish Clerk – clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk

## **Parish Council comments on Planning Applications**

**PL/2021/11790** - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - 16 Home Farm Close, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6AH - **Proposal:** T1 - Silver Birch tree - crown thin by one-fifth (20%) – No objection.

**PL/2021/11368** - Full Planning Permission - Larks Leaze, Edington Road, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6HP - **Proposal:** Demolition of existing dog kennels and cattery and construction of a B2 joinery workshop – Support.

## **Budget and Precept 2022-23**

The PC set its budget and precept at the January meeting. The precept for 2022-23 was set at £25,631. Whilst this represents a 5% increase, which has been needed to meet the rising costs of Council administration and services, this equates to an annual cost of £58.16 on a Band D property, which is an increase on the current year of £2.77 per annum. Copies of the budget are available from the Parish Clerk on request.

## **Parish Council minutes**

Copies of the minutes of the Parish Council meetings are published on the website and can be found at [www.steeple-ashton.co.uk/parish-council/parish-council-minutes](http://www.steeple-ashton.co.uk/parish-council/parish-council-minutes)

## **Parish Council meeting dates 2022**

The Parish Council will meet on the following dates, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall:

Monday 7th February 2022

Monday 7th March 2022

Monday 4th April

Monday 2nd May 2022 – Annual Council Meeting

Date for Annual Parish Meeting to be determined (must take place before 1st June)

## **Parish Council Office:** (2 St Mary's School, High Street)

The Clerk is not attending the Parish Office on Wednesdays following the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, the Clerk can be contacted on 01373 864127 / 07971 987806 or email [clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk](mailto:clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk)

All Councillors have live [@steeple-ashton.co.uk](mailto:@steeple-ashton.co.uk) email addresses which are also posted on the website.

**Find us on Social Media!** Through the **Parish Council page** and

**Steeple Ashton Village Discussion Group**, we cover many topics of interest to our residents. Please be assured that this page is monitored regularly, and we take all requests seriously, actioning where appropriate. We also have a group called '**Steeple Sells**' for those of you that would like to buy and sell things locally – this is not a page that is part of the Parish Council policy or procedure, just a natural extension of social media activities. We would love you to get involved – search for 'Steeple Ashton' on Facebook. If you are a village group and need help with your social media or village event promotions, please get in touch with Pippa at [pippabirch@steeple-ashton.co.uk](mailto:pippabirch@steeple-ashton.co.uk) or 871578.

~~~ [www.steeple-ashton.co.uk](http://www.steeple-ashton.co.uk) ~~~

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### **A Note of Thanks from Mother Christmas.....**

A BIG thank you to all who helped with the organisation of the Annual Christmas Tree light up event on the Village Green on Sunday 12th December. It was great to be able to have this event back (post Covid restrictions) and to see so many villagers, of all ages, attending.

Special thanks must go to:

Mr and Mrs Townsend – for donating a lovely tree to the village.

Mr & Mrs Wyborn – for providing the electricity to keep the tree lit throughout Christmas.

Adrienne Hale and her choir for the carols and songs that make the event very Christmassy.

All my Elves that help put up the tree, purchase the food, drink and sweets and organise the event, and 'make it happen'; Lynda Beaven, Jennie Willis, Paula Boardman, Mel Burge, Justine Grace, Bob Beaven and Matthew Lavington

Santa for providing his time during such a busy season.....a big hit with the children.

The Parish council for funding the event

And anyone else who helped make this event special on the day.

We had a small surplus of sweet bags left over that we donated to Julia's House Hospice for children.

We hope all that attended had a really good time.

Thanks again

**Mother Christmas** (aka Francesca Buffery King)

## **WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED**

January is the month in which Councils set out their plans for Council Tax for the next Financial Year. Wiltshire Council has just published its plans which will be discussed and voted on at a meeting of the Council in mid February. The headline is that general Council Tax will increase by 1.99% and the social care levy will increase by 1%. An effective increase of 3%. I have seen and voted on over a dozen of these annual taxation decisions and I have been closely involved in the formulation of several of them. I have looked carefully at this year's Wiltshire Council Budget proposals and I see a well prepared and sound proposal. There is even a commitment to build up unacceptably dwindling reserves and whatever happened to the £120million reserves Wiltshire Council started with in 2009? Finally it is of note that this is a balanced budget - which is no longer the case with many local authorities.

In addition to the headlines some of the wider detail is impressive in its broad agenda. In this I include the commitment to deliver investment in our communities and leisure provision such as the Melksham Campus, which opens later this year, and a £1million continued investment in our market towns. Our roads need investment and there is a commitment to invest in major road and transport schemes. In addition there is a £20million uplift for Children's and Adult Social Care. All in all there is something for everyone in this Budget and it has been carefully crafted. In summary IMO the proposed budget represents mature governance in difficult circumstances.

Other issues continue to concern local residents and the A350 Melksham Bypass looks like it will be going ahead, pretty much on the route put out for consultation. My experience of the history of local by passes is that if communities do not take what is on offer they do not get a by pass. Evidence of this can be seen in the failure of the Seend By Pass offer in the 1970s because locals could not agree on a preferred route and the never ending saga of the arguments over a Westbury By Pass route. My view is that if our community area wants to see a By Pass then we should try our best to get the most acceptable route but we should take what we can get even if it is the least worst option.

**Jonathon Seed**

Wiltshire Councillor for Melksham Without West and Rural

Tel: 07770 774463

E mail: [jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP



### Opening times:

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30 am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**

Happy New Year to all our Customers!

Halfway through January, the Christmas festivities seem a long time ago. Although fewer customers took advantage of our Christmas Box opportunity this year (pre-orders for meats, fruit and vegetables, dairy products, etc, for collection just prior to Christmas) and some consignments of Christmas stock were late, sales last month were actually quite good.

The Spice Kitchen condiments and spices sets proved very popular. They are beautifully packaged, wrapped in original Sari fabrics and make a unique present at any time of year. The Baby Spice Kitchen Tin is unusual in that it contains spices blended specifically for the younger palette which are free from salt, sugar and chilli. It contains a map and stickers to encourage parents to cook with their children and, at the same time, to understand the origin of the spices they are using to create the 14 recipes provided.

We are expecting plenty of new products next month and we haven't forgotten Valentine's Day – have you?

A short survey is being created for distribution with the Steeple Ashton Newsletter soon – we hope that you will take the opportunity to bring us up to date with how you feel about using the Village Shop.

Please note that the shop will close at 1.30pm on Monday 31st January for the Annual Stocktake.

**Caren Felton**

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### **The Stonemason**

A talk by our stonemason

Andrew Ziminski

Friday, April 29th, 7:30pm

St Mary's Church



## **Dear Friends and Villagers**

Many thanks for your many cards and greetings. Jo and I apologise for our failure to reciprocate but as some may know I, (Robbie) have been laid low with COVID. It really is horrible and takes a long time to recover.

Anyway, all the best for 2022 and stay safe.

**Robbie & Jo Campbell**



### **Dates for your diaries:**

- \* **PRESERVATION TRUST SUPPER**  
on MARCH 5th VILLAGE HALL  
7.30PM

Tickets available from Village Shop £18

- \* **OPEN GARDENS 2022 MEETING**  
on MARCH 10th VILLAGE HALL  
7:30PM

Volunteers needed. Please get involved!

- \* **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
on MARCH 25th VILLAGE HALL 7:30PM

All Welcome. Refreshments will be served.

- \* **OPEN GARDENS 2022**  
on SUNDAY MAY 29th 11am – 6pm

Advance Tickets available from Village Shop  
and Online via Ticket Source soon.



**Curry Supper**

Saturday March 5th 2022

Village Hall  
7 for 7.30pm

Cash Bar

**Tickets £18.00**

from the Village Shop  
Tel: 01380 871211



**World Day of Prayer 2022**

Date for your diary:

Friday 4th March at 2.00 pm

‘I know the plans I have for you’

Prepared by the Christian women of England,  
Wales and Northern Ireland

## **‘To the Ladies!’**

Toastmaster Ian Pugh greatly amused the ladies of the WI at their January meeting. He began by telling us that the very first ‘toast’ was, indeed, ‘to the ladies!’. The two ladies in question were swimming in the altogether whereas the WI members were not only their usual smart selves but were warmly dressed to abide by the village hall Covid rules of having a well aired room on a cold evening!. Ian shared plenty of facts about the history of the toastmaster (wine had to be drunk through a small piece of toast in the days of Beau Nash to filter the bits out hence the word ‘toast!’) and several anecdotes in a most entertaining manner, and much laughter was shared. The competition was for a toasting vessel and a wide variety of mugs and glasses were submitted proving of great interest. Bett Horrox was judge to have the winning entry with an earthenware jug dating from 1870.

The membership was delighted to welcome five new members. It is hoped that they will continue to participate in the WI at village and national level pursuing their interests at their own particular way

At the next meeting, on February 9th, we will be entertained by a group of musicians who play older reed instruments. We shall hear something of their history as well as listen to some older songs. This group is coming on the recommendation of a member who enjoyed them immensely. The competition is “A concert programme”. As ever the members will interpret this their individual way.

Visitors are always welcomed at our meetings – give us a try!

**Rosie**

## **Weather Report for Steeple Ashton 2021**

2021 began with a rather cold January with the mean temperature  $0.5^{\circ}$  below the average. Snow fell overnight on Saturday 23/24 which measured around 100mm, wet snow also fell on the 31st but did not last. The coldest day of the year was on the 7th when only  $0.2^{\circ}$  was reached on a misty day. Rainfall was just above the average.

February rainfall was just below the normal. Most of the month was fairly mild apart from a period from 7th – 13th which was cold, with a minimum temperature of  $-5.5^{\circ}$  recorded on the 10th which was the coldest night of the year. A maximum of only  $1^{\circ}$  on the 8th, 9th and 11th was reached, these temperatures are not particularly cold but with a ‘biting’

easterly wind this period felt exceptionally cold.

March rainfall and temperatures were both near normal, but a warm spell at the end of the month gave a temp of 21.9° on the 30th, which was the warmest March day in 71yrs of recording.

April was a dry month with only 17.4mm of rain recorded, the average being 49mm. This month will be remembered for the number of overnight frosts that occurred with 13 air frosts plus many mornings with a ground frost visible. The mean temp of 7.2° was the coldest since 1989, the normal mean is 8.8°

May was a cool and wet month with the mean temperature 1.0° below the normal and the rainfall 36% above the average. On the 27th warmer and drier weather arrived bringing an end to a rather cold Spring.

With the growing season a few weeks behind, June was a warm month with mainly dry weather up to the 27th when overnight 32.5mm of rain fell making this the wettest day of the year. The rainfall total was now brought up to normal.

July started with average temperatures and was quite wet until the 13th when a period of dry, hot weather occurred with temps exceeding 30° for five consecutive days between 18th to 22nd. The hottest day of the year was on the 19th when 31.9° was recorded. Thunder storms on the 23/24 brought the hot weather to an end with 27.7mm of rain on the 24th.

The first nine days of August were wet with 64mm of rain with 27.7mm (again) falling on the 9th. The rest of the month was drier but the temperatures were below average.

September was more summery with just 39.8mm of rain, 30mm of which fell over the last five days. The temperatures were 2.0° above the average with 29.2 recorded on the 7th, the warmest September day since 2004 when 29.7 was reached on the 5th.

October was a wetter month with 109.7mm of rain making this the wettest month of the year. The mean temperatures were around 1.5° above the average.

November was remarkable for the lack of rain with only 14.9mm recorded. The normal is 75.9mm making this the driest November since 1950 when these records began. There was a cold spell at the end of the month when storm Arwen produced wintery weather on the 27th with a maximum temp of only 4.1°, an unusually cold day for this month.

December was again mild with a reasonable evening for the

Christmas lights and Carols on the Village Green. Christmas Day was rather damp but stayed mild. New Years Eve was exceptionally mild with a max temp of 14.1° and a min temp of 11.6°. These both exceeded the previous warmest recorded for New Years Eve in 2011.

Looking back over the year the rainfall total was 699mm with the annual average being 747mm.

The mean temperatures for the year were again higher than average particularly February, June, July, September, October and December all well above the normal. Other months were also above the average, only January April, May and August were cooler than normal.

**Geoff Witts**

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## Steeple Ashton Village Hall

### **JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022 UPDATE**

Well, Christmas is over and 2022 offers a new start and we all hope for a better year. The Village Hall committee are feeling very pleased with all the new improvements that have been made to the hall during the last two years and are looking forward to planning a few fundraising events in 2022.

However, best laid plans and all that - suddenly we had two emergency situations to be addressed: part of the main hall ceiling fell down during the installation of the stage lighting (not the fault of the people installing) and then the heating system failed.

**1. Ceiling:** The ceiling was put in almost 50 years ago and is a suspended ceiling with suspension wires attached to the main roof. It was clear upon inspection (not an easy task) that the ceiling would have to be replaced in its entirety for safety reasons and without delay. Our chairman researched specialist companies and in the first week of January, SLP Interiors Ltd did an excellent job of replacing it and it now looks light, bright, safe and secure and will see the hall well into the future. In addition, up-to-date insulation has now replaced the original fibreglass insulation.

**2. Heating System:** The Oil-fired heating system is also nearly 50 years old and we knew that eventually it would need replacing. But following a good service last year, it was working more efficiently than previously and we hoped we had some time to plan our finances for a replacement. Sadly, that was not to be and in December, after many years of repairs, the fan motor that pushes the heated air around the hall failed. The company we use to look after our heating were able to make yet another temporary repair while they researched new fan motors. But as predicted, they are no longer available and we require a whole new heater.

We had already been discussing the possibility of installing a more environmentally friendly system and so many more hours were spent researching, meeting and having detailed discussions with companies who supply Air Source Heat Pumps and Air to Air Heat Pumps. Infra Red heating was also investigated.

The resultant information is that neither Air Source Heat Pumps nor Air to Air Heat pumps are viable for this building at this time. Apart from being financially prohibitive, the technology is just not yet suitable for uninsulated buildings, where heat loss via doors and windows cannot be controlled and there are also issues surrounding neighbouring properties, conservation area, noise and external space.

Similarly, after investigation, Infra Red heaters were also found to be unsuitable for this type of building.

Our only option therefore is to replace the current system and we are applying for a grant to add to the donation received from the Parish Council - for which we are very grateful. The heating is still working - at the moment - but not as efficiently as it should. We put it on well in advance of any hire to try and ensure the hall is as warm as possible, but we do apologise for any discomfort felt due to the hall not being as warm as you are used to.

### **Carpets and Curtains:**

New carpets and doormats are now in place and there are now black curtains at the rear and sides of the stage, allowing the cupboards to be hidden and a good clear dark backdrop to enhance performers on the stage and allow wings access for plays and pantomimes. The stage ceiling tiles have been replaced with black tiles which again works much better with the lighting for performances.

## **Audio Visual System:**

The new system is being used by groups such as The Friends, and the Guides enjoyed a sleep-over and film before Christmas! It is easy to use, but as with all new technology, there are always questions raised and assistance needed, which our Chairman is happy to provide. We have discovered that ease of access to the system depends upon what sort of device you are using: if you are using an Apple device, it is easy and seamless to connect your device using the Village Hall WiFi. If you are using a Microsoft device with Windows, it very much depends on the level of software your device is supplied with. We have found that some devices don't have the necessary basic software to enable 'Screen Mirroring' (where your device's screen is shown on the main screen), or to allow connection to the internet via WiFi. In these cases, you can plug directly into the dedicated socket provided over on the right hand side of the stage by the steps, but you will have to provide your own device's relevant cable. If you are wanting to use the AV System for a presentation etc, it may be helpful if you arranged a half hour run through with Clive Little to get your device set up ready in advance of your meeting.

## **Planters:**

Early in February we hope to have new planters in place outside the front of the hall, which will hopefully improve it's rather bland appearance a little. Gradually we will add plants and may be consider a red blue and white planting scheme for the Jubilee - who knows!

## **EVENTS:**

Six Nations Rugby: The Longs Arms is due to reopen on 7th February, which we are all looking forward to! After chatting to Adam the General Manager, and acknowledging that we all want to work together for the village community, the Village Hall committee has decided to show the Six Nations Rugby for the first weekend of matches, ie. 5th and 6th Feb (see separate notice in this Newsletter). The hall will be set out with tables, flags, lights etc, to create as pleasant an environment as possible to enjoy watching these initial games on our excellent new AV System. There will be local craft beers, wine and soft drinks on sale and also some finger food should you wish to partake. We do hope you will support your Village Hall and come along with friends and family (your teenage children are welcome to enjoy the rugby with you!!). The following weeks' matches will be shown at The Longs Arms in the bar area so the VH committee felt that our uptake would probably not make showing those viable for us.

## **Jubilee:**

As far as the Jubilee is concerned, the Village Hall will be flying flags, bunting and generally trying to look the part for this amazing celebration of Her Majesty's 70 years as our Queen. Whether you are a royalist or not, I think we all have huge respect for this lady's dedication to our country and the Jubilee is an opportunity for our community to come together to celebrate her reign and our wonderful village.

Well, that's it for now! Hope you're all still awake!

**Marian**

**BOOKINGS:** Sandra Stevens 07827 291945 or email: [steepleashtonvh@hotmail.com](mailto:steepleashtonvh@hotmail.com)

**SECRETARY:** Marian Little 01380 871161 or email: [secretary@steepleashtonvh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@steepleashtonvh.org.uk)

**Please feel free to contact us at any time with any queries**



**Frank Geraghty** died 21st September 2021

What Dad (Frank) said about you and Steeple Ashton is true. It's a very special place and you were wonderful towards him: making time to visit and chat with him. You made it possible for him to live as he wanted in the home he loved. Amazingly you continue to support his family, that's true care.

His family cared deeply for him and we know that he is still greatly missed by many. Now his home is Trowbridge Cemetery NT0003. His family are greatly comforted by all the messages, calls, cards acknowledging his funeral. Health vulnerabilities forced many of you into virtually attending his funeral and those free of impediments were with us celebrating Dads life. Your simply act of waving Dad on his last journey to Church in October deeply touched the family.

Dad's home has amazing views in a lovely place. Truly though, it is the residents and their actions that make it special. Heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

**Ann Smith**



## **"Remembering Marian Atkins"**

Marian Atkins was born in the St Mary's district of Birmingham in 1937. She was the second eldest of 4 children. She left school at 15 and worked in the office of a company, where she met her husband Brian. Marian loved animals, and always wanted to be a Vet, but it wasn't to be. Marian and Brian married in 1958 and went on to have 4 children. They lived in the West Midlands up until 1996, when Marian and Brian moved to just outside Penzance in Cornwall. A few years later, they moved to Steeple Ashton to be nearer to their children, and grandchildren. Marian excelled at sugarcraft, baking, knitting, and gardening, and she would spend hours in her greenhouse, nurturing plants from seeds to blooms to be proud of.

Marian was well-travelled, having holidayed with Brian in places such as Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, many European countries, and she also visited Alaska and Canada too. They also loved holidaying in the UK, particularly in Cornwall or Scotland. Marian and Brian settled well into Steeple Ashton life, and made many friends within the Village. Marian was diagnosed with Vascular Dementia later on in life, and spent her last few months at home, being nursed by excellent carers as well as members of her family. She sadly passed away on 8th November 2021. She will be greatly missed by her husband Brian, their 4 children, 4 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Thank you to everyone who sent their condolences and support to Brian and the family, and special thanks must go to Louisa Homecare and Dorothy House Hospice also.

**Jayne Dowling**

## FORGET-ME-NOTS CLUB

The last meeting of 2021 in December was a Festive Fish & Chips Lunch held in the Hall, complete with crackers and delicious desserts. Everyone enjoyed the occasion, and went home with full tummies, a raffle prize each, and numerous other small gifts.

The first meeting of the new year will be in the Hall on 16th February, and will be a “get together” afternoon, where members can enjoy a good natter, and catch up on each other’s Christmas and New Year activities.

Visitors are always welcome, so please come along for a relaxed and friendly afternoon, in pleasant company, 2.30pm, Village Hall, 3rd Wednesday of each month.

If you would like to know a little more about the Forget-me-Nots, please contact Gloria (Chairman) on 01380/870593 or Glynnis (Sec) on 01225/775681.

### Useful Information

#### Postal Collections:

**Longs Arms** - Weekdays - 4.15pm; Saturday - 10am

**Newleaze** - Weekdays - 12noon; Saturday - 11am

**Mobile Library Visits - Wednesdays;** Longs Arms - 11.00 - 12noon;

Ashton Common Bus Stop - 3.35 pm - 4.00pm

February 9th, February 23rd, March 9th, March 23rd

#### **Your waste collection day will change from 28 February**

From Monday 28 February, household waste collection days for nearly all Wiltshire properties will change.

This change will only affect your general household waste collections – there is no change to recycling or garden waste collections, which will still take place on their usual day.

Personalised letters will start landing on doormats from 31 January and for the following two weeks, so if you don’t get a letter straight away, don’t worry.

You do not need to do anything at the moment

Find out more about waste collections [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste)

**Ministry Team for the Benefice of  
North Bradley, Southwick, Heywood  
and Steeple Ashton**  
**www.threeinonebenefice.org**

**Fr Oliver Learmont** (Vicar)  
The Vicarage, 62 Church Lane, North Bradley, BA14 0TA.  
Tel. 01225 774845, 07464 795590  
froliverlearmont@gmail.com

**Fr Tony Longdon**  
Tel. 01225 754771 07951 703187  
**Richard Havergal** (Licensed Lay Minister)  
Tel. 01225 762668 rhavergal16@gmail.com  
**Churchwarden of St Mary's, Steeple Ashton**  
**Michael Moore**  
Tel. 01380 870280

*The Pew News can be downloaded from the Benefice website.  
If you do not have access to the internet, do consider letting us  
have your postal address so that we can post/deliver you a copy.*

**Worship and Prayer in the Benefice in February**

Please see publicity displayed outside St Mary's; or visit the Benefice website **www.threeinonebenefice.org** for details of services, which may be subject to change - and for a range of information about the Parish and the Benefice.

*Services currently scheduled for February include a sermon, hymns  
(unless otherwise stated), and are as follows:*

**Wednesday, 2nd February Feria**

**10am** Holy Communion St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL)

**Sunday, 6th February THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

**9.15am** Holy Communion (CW) St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL)

**11am** Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)

**Sunday, 13th February THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

**8am** Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)

**10.30am** Family Service St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (RH)

**11am** Holy Communion (CW) St Thomas', Southwick (OL)

**Sunday, 20th February THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**9.15am** Holy Communion (CW) St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL)

**11am** Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)

**Sunday, 27th February THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**

**8am** Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)  
**10am** Family Service St Nicholas', North Bradley (RH)  
**11am** Holy Communion (CW) St Thomas', Southwick (OL)

BCP - Common Worship, Order 2 – "BCP";  
CW - Common Worship, Order 1 - contemporary language.

\*\*\*

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

This disease is still a cause for great concern. To protect those around you, please consider wearing a face covering in church unless your personal circumstances prevent you from doing so; and maintain a sensible physical distance from others.

\*\*\*

**Morning Prayer is said at St Nicholas', North Bradley,  
Monday - Wednesday at 9.30am.**

*"We lift up in prayer the people of our Benefice each morning; please let us know if you would like us to include in our prayers any particular person or cause." All are welcome!*

\*\*\*

**St Mary's is open for individual prayer during the day.**

**Other Notices**

**Headstones in the churchyard, St Mary's, Steeple Ashton**

If you happen to be responsible for the maintenance of a headstone that has been laid flat for safety reasons (i.e. heir-at-law), please let us know *without delay* that you are content that the memorial should remain as it is, or that you would be prepared to refund its refixing. Please also note that any repair or refixing of a headstone may only take place *after prior consultation with the Vicar, churchwarden and PCC.*

*The Vicar, churchwarden and PCC.*

**Occasional offices**

For baptisms, marriage services and funeral services in church,  
*please contact Fr Oliver.*

**Vacancies for church officers at St Mary's**

There are currently vacancies at St Mary's for the role of churchwarden and PCC treasurer and PCC secretary.

*If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact Fr Oliver.*

## Dear All,

I am delighted to report that the Family Service is to be reintroduced at St Nicholas', North Bradley, on Sunday, 27th February - after a gap of almost two years. And so this less formal act of worship is to be held once again in both parishes of the Benefice. I do hope that, as the year unfolds, increasing numbers of people of all ages will feel inspired to get involved in presenting these services, coming up front to read, lead prayers, provide musical and other support.

The theme for the February Family Service at St Mary's on the 13th of the month is to be St Valentine, a priest in the city of Terni who ministered to persecuted Christians and who for his steadfast faith was martyred in nearby Rome under Emperor Claudius in c.269. The commemoration of Valentine on 14th February became associated with lovers in medieval times when by tradition it was believed that birds mated around the middle of this month. For Christians the day marks an acknowledgment of an all-loving God who blesses those who love one another, as Jesus implored his disciples to do.

Near the end of this month, on 27th February, we mark the life and ministry of George Herbert (1593 – 1633), parish priest of Bemerton in this Diocese, whose poem **Love** is one of the most celebrated of the subject in English literature:

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,  
    Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
    From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
    If I lacked anything.  
"A guest," I answered, "worthy to be here":  
    Love said, "You shall be he."  
"I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
    I cannot look on thee."  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
    "Who made the eyes but I?"  
"Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame  
    Go where it doth deserve."  
"And know you not," says Love, "who bore the blame?"  
    "My dear, then I will serve."  
"You must sit down," says Love, "and taste my meat."  
    So I did sit and eat.



*Valentines Day*  
 St Mary's Church  
 Family Service

Sunday February 13th 10:30 – 11:15 am

A service for everyone- tots, parents, grandparents,  
 aunts, uncles, friends, and everyone!  
 Children are invite to colour a card

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## **SAVE : Steeple Ashton Values the Environment**

### **Ideas for saving money, saving energy and cutting carbon**

Steve Carver writes - One thing about which there is no doubt is that everybody is aware of the rising cost of energy: be it gas, oil, petrol, diesel or any other type; and there is no end in sight. Later this year we are due to see another hike in energy prices so if you're looking to take action to save costs here are some ideas.

Despite the rising energy costs there are still ways that we can all save energy and hence cost. Typical ideas for saving money are as described in the sections that follows. Cost savings quoted are based on March 2019 energy prices, so with the recent hike in energy costs these savings could be significantly higher

#### **How to cut costs:**

1. Install a smart thermostat.
2. Turn down your thermostat.
3. Buy efficient appliances.
4. Install a new boiler.
5. Wash clothes at a lower temperature.
6. Be smarter about water.
7. Invest in double/ triple glazing.
8. Draught-proof your property
9. Invest in insulation
10. Reduce food waste
11. Turn-off standby appliances

#### **1. Installing smart thermostats**

Most heating systems are managed around a single thermostat, often located in a hallway or kitchen. The temperature of this thermostat is set at a temperature suited for the area in which it is located, and the valves on other radiators around the house are opened to give enough heat to make it comfortable for living in each of the rooms.

However, should you consider the possibility of controlling the temperature in every room of your home this is now possible. Using a mobile phone app coupled with room thermostats (roomstats) and using motorised valves on each radiator there are significant cost savings to be made. Using the app to turn-down the roomstat in those rooms that you are not using means that you are not using energy in those rooms. If you

plan to use the rooms at some point just turn-up the roomstat an hour before you plan to use the room and the valve will be automatically opened. This is possibly one of the most effective energy and cost-saving measures available. Installing room stats, motorised radiator valves and programmers can offer as much as £75/a saving on the cost of energy.

## **2. Turn-down your thermostat**

The modern trend is to heat the house to a comfortable temperature and wear thin clothing around the house. However, you might wish to consider saving energy costs by lowering the temperature a couple of degrees and accepting that wearing a jumper around the house is perfectly comfortable. Again, this is effective at saving energy and costs. A couple of degree reduction in temperature could save £160/a

## **3. Buy efficient appliances**

It is possible to buy extremely efficient modern appliances. If you considered buying an A+++ rated washing machine you could use £65 less energy than an A+ machine over an 11 yr lifecycle. For a similar comparison with dishwashers the saving would be £7/a. For a similar comparison with fridge/ freezers the saving over the lifetime of the appliance would be £320.

## **4. Install a new boiler**

If you were to consider upgrading an existing G-rated oil-fired boiler to a new A-rated oil-fired condensing boiler, this could save possibly up to £300/a. Replacing your boiler with an air-source heat pump, and making adjustments to some radiators, would offer significantly more cost savings and also help with reduced carbon usage through use of renewable energy.

## **5. Wash clothes at lower temperatures**

You might wish to consider washing clothes at 30°C rather than 40°C and using a detergent designed to work at lower temperatures. This would save energy; and in addition cutting one wash cycle per week could save as much as £5/a

## **6. Use less water**

Washing-up in a bowl, showering rather than taking a bath, using a more efficient shower head and fitting a shower timer: all of these can help to save water, so offering a saving of up to £50/a. Opting for a smart water meter can offer further savings for small families.

## **7. Install double/ triple glazing**

Single-glazed windows are very poor insulators and being in a room with

single-glazed windows it is common to hear ambient noise from outside of the room. Installing double or triple glazing will reduce heat loss, and also cut noise transmission from outside. Installing A-rated double glazing, if you don't have it already, you could save as much as £110/a.

### **8. Draught-proofing your property**

Draught-proofing your property, if not already done, offers cost savings but also a pleasanter environment for living. A cold draught causes heat loss, and for many people this leads to a temptation turn-up the heating. You might wish to consider fitting draught excluders and draught-proofing kits, which are readily available to prevent this. Other sources of draughts would need to be identified and sealed (skirting boards, floorboards, chimneys, windows, etc.). If double glazing is not fitted, secondary glazing can help to saved energy and cut draughts.

### **9. Insulation**

Recommendations for the thickness of insulation in property lofts has changed over recent years, so even if you think your insulation is adequate it is worth checking whether your loft insulation is the optimum thickness. The UK government recommends a minimum thickness of 270mm of loft insulation. Insulating to this standard will offer a saving of up to £135/a (but supplementing an already well insulated loft will offer less further benefit).

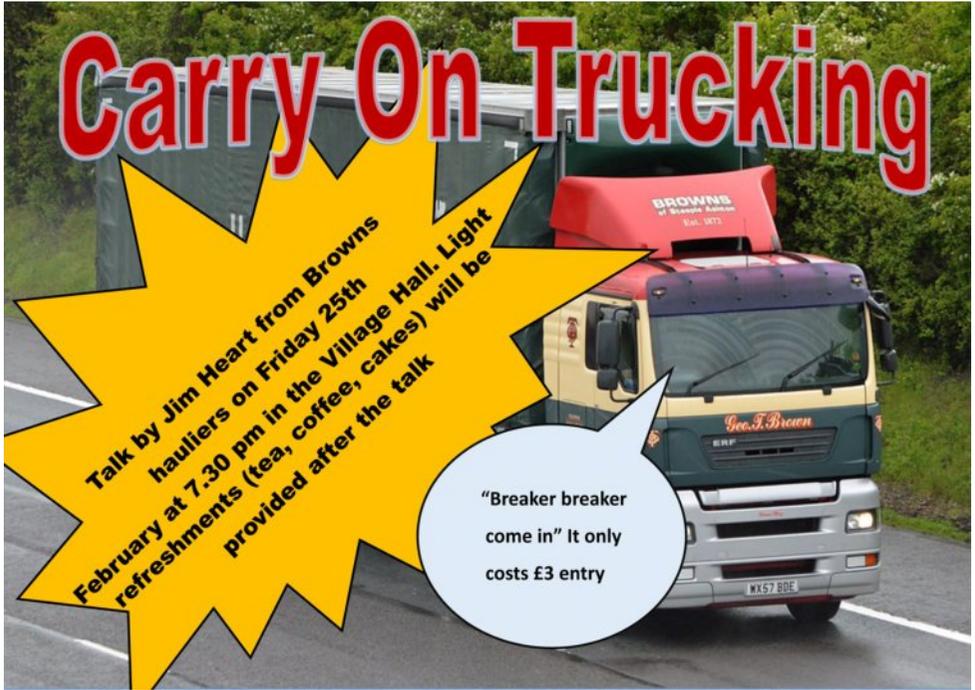
### **10. Reducing food waste**

In Wiltshire, food waste is not currently recycled so rots in landfill sites adding volume to the waste and generating greenhouse gases that add to climate change. Should you consider ways to avoid wasting food, this would help the environment as well as saving you money. Planning meals for the week will help with buying the right quantities of ingredients. Preparation of too much food can be managed by use of Tupperware containers and the surplus can be frozen for future meals.

### **11. Turn-off standby appliances**

Most appliances are far more efficient than they were 20 years ago so the savings from turning off appliances on standby is less than it was. However, it is still good practice to turn off TVs every night at the mains switch. This practice could save £30/a.

Not all of the above ideas will be suitable for everybody. Many houses in the village are old and for these it can be difficult to retrofit modern energy saving windows; or draught-proofing may be too difficult. However, energy prices are unlikely to fall in the near future so I would urge you to consider which of the ideas would work for you and take action.



St Mary's Church clock face restored - photo by Kathryn

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## **BOOK THE DATE SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL**

**2.30pm on St Marys Field, an interactive day of songs, dance and costumes for all villagers, and others from further away, who have memories of past village....**

### **Pantomimes and Shows.**



**Amy and Ron Lester have kindly agreed to share, and project on a big screen in a gazebo, Amy's Parents large collection of photos and videos, from their albums, for all to enjoy.**

**If you can add to this topic with, costumes, photos, music or any other memorabilia please contact Amy Lester.**

**All ideas and help from all generations most welcome.**

***A big thank you from all those participating in Fading Memories.***

***More details next month.***



## **The Friends of Steeple Ashton**

The Friends look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a very interesting talk at 7.30 pm on Friday 25th February in the Village Hall entitled 'Keep on Trucking'- all about the past, present and future of the hauliers 'Browns of Steeple Ashton'. The talk will be delivered by Jim Heart, and will be followed by light refreshments. Please bring £3 cash for entry.

Looking a little further ahead we hope to schedule our next AGM in May, and will publish further information about the meeting and our guest speaker in due course. In support of the Parish Council's excellent tree planting initiative we have recently planted a small number of selected saplings at Luffenham Field, and will continue to do what we can to support wider environmental efforts.

It was good to see more considered management of road verges last year, and we hope this might be extended to hedgerows in order to help sustain and develop our flora and fauna. Road safety and drainage are clearly important factors in relation to hedge trimming, however there is perhaps scope for some hedges to be more carefully managed and left to grow for longer in order to provide improved wildlife habitat.

Recent planning input by the Friends has included environmental as well as heritage observations, and a recent submission made the observation that there was no Neighbourhood Plan in place to clarify the extent of the parish settlement area, parish development priorities and limitations etc. The Friends look forward to supporting the Parish Council with the evolution of such a plan, however potential progress remains subject to the content and direction of the overarching Wiltshire Local Development Plan (including new dwelling targets for large villages such as Steeple Ashton) which is currently being drafted to the schedule below and overleaf:

- **Initial consultation on the scope of plan:** Commenced November 2017
- **Plan preparation** (including evidence gathering and informal consultation, with public consultation completed Qtr 1 2021): Over the period Qtr 1 2018 to Qtr 3 2022

- **Publication of plan for pre-submission consultation and preparation for submission following consultation:**  
Qtr 4 2022 - Qtr 2 2023
- **Submission to Secretary of State:** Qtr 2 2023
- **Examination** (including hearing and receipt of Inspector's report):  
Commencing Qtr 2 2023
- **Adoption:** End Qtr 4 2023.

**Mike Beard**

---

## #SHOWTHELOVE

In February you may see green hearts and bunting around the village, all part of “show the love” the Climate Coalition initiative. Add your own or write to our MP to insist he plays his part.

### WHY WE NEED TO SHOW THE LOVE

Our world is warming faster than ever before. The last decade was the warmest since records began, and this year we’ve seen the impacts of the climate crisis right on our doorstep - and further afield. But we’ve also seen concern about climate change reach an all-time high as people across the country used their voices to call for urgent action. It’s clear that beautiful things are possible when we work together

### A CLEANER, GREENER FUTURE IS WITHIN REACH

We can clean up the air we breathe. We can have warmer homes powered by cleaner, cheaper energy. We can restore our green spaces and make it easier for Brits to live in a cleaner, greener world that future generations can enjoy.

To create a future where the things we love are protected from climate change, we need to see action today. The solutions to the climate crisis are at our fingertips, we just need to get on with it.



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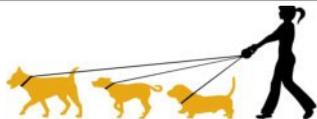
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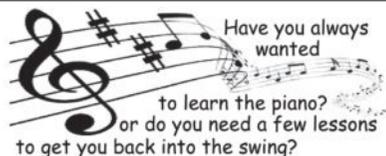


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# FROM THE ARCHIVES

BUMPER CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE

STEEPLE ASHTON, GREAT HINTON AND SEMINGTON NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1973

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

3rd. (Sat) "Skittle Night" Village Hall, Semington. Good prizes. Proceeds to St. George's Church Heating Fund. Enquiries - Mr. Dick Merchant, Church Street. See posters for time it begins.

9th. (Fri) "MATTERS OF OPINION". Village Hall, Steeple Ashton 7.45pm Admission 10p (Schoolchildren 5p). Proceeds to New Village Hall Fund. Refreshments and the opportunity for talking among the audience half way through. PANEL

THE HON. SARAH LONG (representing the teenagers. Interests: horses and - we hope - school-work.

MRS. FLORENCE RUTTER (of Holmeleaze, representing the young housewives. She is training to be a nurse).

MR. PETER TRIGGS (Mrs. Jefferis' son-in-law, representing the young business - MR. GILBERT HARDING-GREEN (of the Old Merchants' Hall. Retired head (man of the Ceramic Dept. of the Central School of Art and Design - this also touched on architecture and general art).

MR. RONALD BROWN (too well known to need description. He represents the "old"

This is a confident and articulate team and will give a good (village account of itself.

QUESTIONMASTER (last and least): Mr. Denis Hobson.

Your questions are invited on any subject, the more controversial the better. They should be written on bits of paper, with your name on or not, as you wish, and handed to the Questionmaster at the start of the show.

16th. (Fri) Steeple Ashton Football Club St. Valentine's Dance. S/Ashton Village Hall 9 pm to 1 am. Dancing to the Checkmates. Tickets 75p (includes Buffet Supper) from D. Barnett, 12 Newleaze or Berrett's shop or the Longs Arms.

David Berrett

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THE RED NOSE  
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## FAMOUS FOR 15 SECONDS

Steeple Ashton's's answer to

“What's My Line” etc

Ploughman's Supper and Quiz

Friday, March 18th

Village Hall - 7:30 P.M.

Bar

£10

## Friends' of Steeple Ashton Oil Scheme

We are changing arrangements for the oil scheme!

It will take a few months to get acclimatised I'm sure so don't worry about getting it wrong for a month or two.

There is a new email address [sahntonfoil@gmail.com](mailto:sahntonfoil@gmail.com) – the nearest available to S. Ashton oil, I'm afraid. The telephone number is the same 01380 870119 and, of course, a note through the door at 9, Church St gets the same result.

Please can you order the week you receive your newsletter for delivery the following Thursday. This will make it easier for those of us who forget until the last week!

The scheme was begun to reduce lorry deliveries to the village, to be a member of the scheme (£2pa) you must be a member of the Friends of Steeple Ashton – also a gift at £2pa – subs due now.

If you'd like the job of being secretary for the scheme get in touch as above.

**Rosie and Colin**

# **SAGE FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW**

**Saturday 27 August 2022**

**Steeple Ashton Village Hall**

## **CLASSES**

### **A) FRUIT AND VEG**

1. 5 Runner Beans - with some stalk attached.
2. 3 Carrots - with foliage trimmed to 3"/ 75mm.
3. 3 Onions - with stems trimmed and tied, without roots.
4. 5 Potatoes - of the same named variety, medium size, shown on a plate.
5. 3 Courgettes - green or yellow.
6. 6 Standard Tomatoes - with fresh calyces attached.
7. 10 Cherry Tomatoes - with fresh calyces attached.
8. 3 Beetroot - with foliage trimmed to 3"/ 75mm.
9. 1 Cucumber.
10. A collection of 4 different culinary herbs, one stem each shown in a vase.
11. 5 Apples - dessert or cooking.
12. 6 Stoned Fruit - of any variety.
13. 3 Pears - dessert or cooking.
14. 10 Berried Fruit – with fresh calyces attached.

### **B) CUT FLOWERS AND POT PLANTS**

15. Single Rose - 3 stems.
16. Cluster Rose - 3 stems.
17. Dahlias - any variety, 3 stems.
18. Annuals - one variety, 6 stems.
19. Annuals - six varieties, 6 stems.
20. Perennials - mixed garden flowers, 6 stems.
21. Hydrangea - 1 head.
22. Pot Plant - foliage, in a pot, not purchased within the last six months.
23. Pot Plant - flowering, in a pot, not purchased within the last six months

## **Contact**

**Sue Hodges Email [sue@hodgesassociates.co.uk](mailto:sue@hodgesassociates.co.uk)**

**Penny Hornsey Tel 01380 87076464**



**C) COOKERY – RECIPES SUPPLIED FOR CLASSES 28 and 30.**

24. 1 Pot of Jam - with wax disc and cover.
25. 1 Pot of Marmalade - with wax disc and cover.
26. 1 Pot of Chutney - with wax disc and cover.
27. Loaf of Bread with recipe, wrapped in cling film. Bread machine may be used.
28. 1 Victoria sponge, presented on a paper plate, covered with cling film.
29. 6 Shortbread Biscuits - presented on a paper plate and covered with cling film.
30. GENTLEMEN'S Class. Fruit Loaf Cake.

**D) FLORAL ART**

31. "The Kitchen Garden" - an interpretative design using flowers and foliage, max size 20"/ 51cm wide.
32. An arrangement in a cup and saucer - maximum diameter 8"/ 20cm.
33. A table arrangement - with or without a candle, max size 20"/ 51cm wide.

**E) CHILDREN'S CLASSES - FOR UNDER 16s, FREE ENTRY**

34. A miniature garden - in a seed tray, maximum size 14"/ 36cm x 8"/ 20cm.
35. An animal made from vegetables.
36. A variety of 4 home grown vegetables in a shoe box.
37. Home grown flowers in a jam jar.
38. 6 small decorated cakes. Recipe supplied.
39. Make a Model. Wood, card, anything you like. Max size 14"/ 36cm x 8"/ 20cm.

**F) CHILDREN'S GROUP CLASS - FREE ENTRY**

40. A Bug Hotel - maximum size 24"/ 61cm x 15"/ 38cm, must be fully assembled.

**G) NOVELTY CLASSES FRUIT OR VEG. FREE ENTRY, ENTER ON DAY**

41. Largest
42. Heaviest.
43. Funniest.
44. Rudest.



**Our new Seasonal SAGE meetings will begin  
with our Spring opening meeting on**

**Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022, 7pm at the Village Hall.**

- Powerpoint presentation of SAGE 2022 Programme, including 3 proposed trips to visit fabulous gardens/venues
- Q&A session with knowledgeable gardeners
- Raffle
- There will be the usual refreshments and nibbles with tables & chairs in the main hall
- Entry is £2, via Skittle Alley entrance



**Other 2022 seasonal meetings are:**

**Summer:** Thurs. June 9<sup>th</sup> - **Autumn:** Sat. Sept 27<sup>th</sup> - Village Produce Show:  
Sat. August 27<sup>th</sup>. **Winter:** Thurs. Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Party! 🎄

**Jobs to do this month:** \* Prune your roses – the harder you cut, the stronger the growth  
\* Prune Buddleia – cut back to second bud from ground \* Prune Clematis, late flowering varieties \* Cut old leaves off Hellebores, this will ensure the nodding flowers are on full display, burn infected leaves \* Divide Snowdrops when they are still flowering \* Renovate deciduous hedges (e.g., Hornbeam, Beech and Hawthorn) these can be cut by as much as half \* Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds. \* Dig over any vacant plots

**Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2548517398732853>**

Or call Kathryn on 01380 871866 for more information.

## **EDINGTON ARTS OPENS ITS 2022 SEASON WITH – SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!**

It's not very often you find a Choral Workshop which doesn't need you to be able to sight read or read music, or even one where it doesn't matter which voice part you sing. But Edington Arts has come up with one – a half day Plainchant Workshop in the Priory Church on Saturday 12th March, starting at 2.30pm and finishing with Compline at 6.30pm.

The workshop will be led by Peter Stevens, the Assistant Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral - though in Wiltshire he may be better known as the Director of the Edington Festival Schola, the specialist plainsong choir. He is one of the most knowledgeable and enthusiastic practitioners of what is the forerunner of modern musical notation, sung at services from the Middle Ages, and which would have been perfectly familiar to the monks in the Priory Church in the 14th and 15th Century.

Peter will give a bit of background to plainchant, how it works, and will teach us the chants for Compline, which we will sing in the church at 6.30pm. As the Compline chants are relatively straightforward, he may also bring some which are more developed for us to get our teeth into. We are hoping that some of the regular Festival Schola members will be able to join us to provide a bit of practical support and encouragement – this may after all be an entirely new experience for many of us.

The cost for the half day is only £10, including music and mid-afternoon refreshments; £5 for students in full time education or training. There will be tea and cake at 5.30, for a small donation, to which friends and family are warmly welcomed, before Compline at 6.30pm.

To apply, please email [anne@edingtonarts.org](mailto:anne@edingtonarts.org), or visit the website at [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org) where you can download the form.

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## **NATURAL HISTORY CLUB**

Although it's now February. A Happy New Year to you all!

With colder days and natural food sources becoming scarcer, look out for Winter Thrushes coming into the garden especially if you have berry bearing bushes/trees. Birds to look out for are Fieldfare and Redwing that are winter visitors from Northern Europe and Scandinavia. You may see an increase of Blackbirds too as birds also from Northern Europe come to over winter here.

It's encouraging to see some fields left as stubble again as this helps



the local resident birds survive the winter. On a recent walk I noted small flocks of Yellow hammers, Linnets, Gold finches, meadow Pipits and Skylarks all taking advantage of the split seed and wild flower heads in the fields. Red Kites are an almost daily sight now as their range is expanding West and South. Look out for them seemingly hanging in the air, gliding, hardly batting a wing using their distinct forked tail as a rudder as they seek out carrion on the ground.

It's worth noting that nearby Salisbury Plain is a 'sanctuary' for over wintering birds migrating from the colder northern climes and in the same way, but on a smaller scale, our own gardens can be a 'sanctuary' for all kinds of wildlife all year round. Insects such as bees, beetles, ladybirds – the list is endless and also includes small mammals and reptiles such as hedgehogs, newts and even bats that once out of hibernation all rely on somewhere to live and feed. These species are vital to the ecology of the planet.

So wouldn't it be great if we all thought about that when we are tidying and cutting back vegetation in our gardens this winter. Why not create a hedgehog highway? Cutting small holes out of the bottom of your fencing will allow Hedgehogs to travel through gardens to search for food. Remember, slugs are Hedgehogs favourite food so win for the Hedgehog and win for the gardener!

It's not too late to put up bird boxes in your garden as the hole nesting birds such as Blue Tit, great Tit and House Sparrow will be searching out potential places to raise a brood of young. If you want advice on what boxes to put up and where to site them. Please contact us on the email/phone numbers below.

Don't forget please report anything of interest such as sightings of animal / bird / insect activity or lack of. Or indeed unusual or rare plants or anything you can't identify to David Culverhouse, 01380 871621 42anchor@gmail.com or Roger Ferguson 01380 870860 r.ferguson550@btinternet.com If we can't answer your question then we probably have a member who specialises and can.

**Roger Ferguson**

## Bryan writes...

The front-cover image is from a late-19th-century carte de visite. CDVs were photographs mounted on a piece of card, the size of a formal visiting card, and they became popular during the 1860s. This CDV of St Mary's came into my possession entirely due to the diligence and kindness of John Berrett of Hilperton Marsh – son of the late Lystra.

I am indebted to John, as he contacted me on New Year's Day to let me know that a “very early interesting photo” of the church was for sale on ebay, listed as “1860s/70s” – and that the CDV showed “the house on the corner of the churchyard.” John thought I may be interested in buying it. At first, I was not at all convinced that the building was the old churchyard house. So, both John and I then carried out independent research using 19th-century maps, plus site surveys with photos taken from the same location, and closer shots along the same sightline as the original.



Once we had compared our results, I was pleased to discover that we had proven – independently – that John was indeed correct. The house on the right of the photo is not No 1 Church Street. Nor is it Moorfield Farm, or the timber-framed thatched house which stood in what is now the garden of Moorfield, next to the pavement, until destroyed by fire in 1926. It is, as John had said, “the house on the corner of the churchyard”.

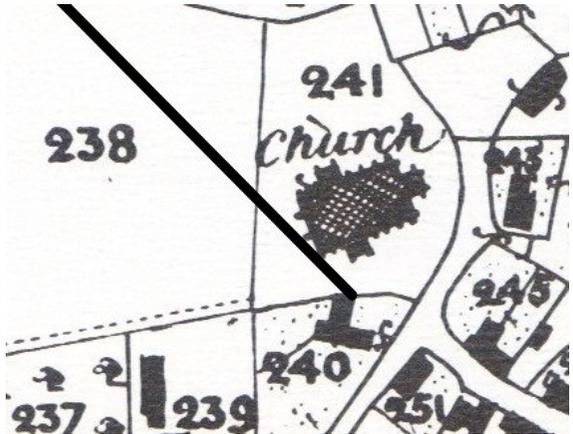
Needless to say, I then promptly bought the CDV!



This close-up from a mid-19th-century lithograph by Owen Browne Carter (engraved by Francis Bedford) shows the property as a substantial, thatched timber-framed house, complete with cross wing, similar to other medieval houses in Steeple Ashton. Until John's discovery of

the Wilkinson photo/CDV on ebay, I had not known that this house may have been still standing as late as the 1870s. The 1852 lithograph was the latest dated image I had ever seen, or was aware of, which depicted the property.

**From 1841 Tithe Map,  
with CDV  
photographer's  
sightline added**



Earlier images include a Tithe Map of 1841 (plot 240), and – I now realise – an 1807 watercolour by John Buckler which also includes the house in the background. I had previously assumed that the building in Buckler's watercolour was a rather odd depiction of No 1 Church Street. The research which John and I have now carried out proves however, that No 1 cannot be seen from Buckler's viewpoint.



**Watercolour by John Buckler, 1807**

The land which was occupied for so many years by the house, was consecrated as part of the churchyard in 1896. Today, the oldest legible gravestone in that area is dated 1902. It is possible, therefore, that this old, thatched timber-framed house – which stood so close to the church – could have survived until later than the 1870s.

Further research is needed to establish when, why, and how this ancient Steeple Ashton building met its end...  
**Bryan Berrett**

## **METHODIST CHURCH**

On behalf of our entire congregation I would like to let you know that our good friend and minister Rev. David Coppard has now moved onto pastures new. David has been with us for more than 9 years, giving us wonderful support at all times both before and during the recent Covid pandemic. David was often to be seen cycling round visiting his parishioners in Warminster, Westbury and here in Steeple Ashton. During the pandemic he would knock at the door or window and make sure that everyone was well and let them know that he was there for them if they should need him. We really will miss you David, but wish you well for your new position as head of the ministry team at Taunton and District Hospitals. You will be a hard act to follow.

**Alison**

To David and all our readers -

*I wish you Summer memories to warm each Winter's day,  
And all the hope and joy of Spring when Winter slips away.  
I wish you many blessings along the path you tread,  
And all the love of all the years to light the way ahead.*

By Iris Hesselden

## **CHURCH DIARY**

All our Sunday services are at 9.15 am. The preaching rota for our services is shown below.

We serve refreshments after the service, and you are welcome to join us.

We are wearing masks at the present time, but have resumed the singing of hymns.

At this time we cannot be certain what restrictions will be in place. We ask you to observe the rulings we have agreed upon and still maintain respectable distances from each other.

### **February**

**6th            Rev. Tom MacMeekin    Holy Communion**

**13th          Izzie Smears**

**20th          Eric Clifford**

**27th          Ed Colling**

## **CATHOLIC NEWS**

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**Please see below the usual weekly  
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Saturdays 12noon & 6pm (Vigil Mass)

Sundays 10.30am & 12noon

Monday/Weds/Friday 9am (First Friday  
of the Month 6pm) Tuesday 6pm

### **St Bernadette's - Westbury.**

Mass times will be:

Sunday 9am

Thursday 10am

Pope Francis has invited the whole Universal Church  
to walk with him towards a Church Synod in 2023.

Resources to help engage with this process can be found at  
[www.cliftondiocese.com/synod](http://www.cliftondiocese.com/synod)

### **Live streaming:**

All masses are streamed live on  
[www.Churchservices.tv](http://www.Churchservices.tv) or on  
You Tube 'Mass in Trowbridge'

### **Parish Newsletter:**

This is available weekly on the Parish website  
[www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk)

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