

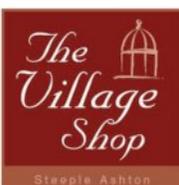
STEEPLE ASHTON  
**NEWSLETTER**

GREAT HINTON  
**MARCH 2022**



**Steeple Ashton High Street – by C S Berrett, 1989**

This sunny view of the High Street was given to me last year by the family of the late Julie Goddard of Newbury. Julie and her family lived at 23 Acreshort Lane from 1971 until 1982. During her time here Julie carried out much research on the histories of local families, and she continued to do so after moving to Berkshire. It is possible Julie acquired this painting during her research. All attempts to trace the artist have so far proved unsuccessful. **Bryan Berrett**



**Steeple Ashton Village Shop**

**Opening Hours** - please see page 35 for the current shop opening hours.

**Shop telephone:** 01380 871 211

# CONTENTS

March 2022

39	Catholic News	3-4,20	Parish Council
37	Concert	8-9	Preservation Trust
37	Edington Arts	34	SAGE
12	Films	35	Shop
11	Forget-me-Nots	15-19	St Mary's Church
13	Friends of SA	10	WI
36	From the Archives	5-6	Village Hall
38	Methodist Church		
14	Natural History		

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## Editorial

Hello everyone - after last month's bumper edition we are now back to a more manageable size newsletter. As you may know, this newsletter is delivered, free, to over 500 households every month although in fact, there are 10 issues per year as January and February are doubled up, as are two of the summer months – to allow me to have breaks! Several copies are also posted out to people who have left the village but want to stay in touch. And, it can be seen in full colour on the village website – go to [www.steeple-ashton.co.uk](http://www.steeple-ashton.co.uk)

Please see the important information on p7 which gives details of costings for commercial advertisers and also the new charges which will apply to most of the group contributors to the newsletter. **Helen**

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## Newsletter Deadlines for 2022

**March 22nd; April 19th**

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 22nd March**. 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

## 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/2021/09303** – 46 High Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EU - Removal and reinstatement of fabric due to fuel leak - Support.

**PL/2022/00298** - Pear Tree Cottage, 15 Dark Lane North, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EY - Demolition of rear entrance lobby, construction of two storey extension with juliet balcony on first floor, gazebo to cover existing Jacuzzi in timber construction, reduction of tree canopy to facilitate new extension and proposed solar panel array - Support.

**PL/2022/00145** – 12a Dark Lane North, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EY - Sycamore tree - fell because phone wires running through and will get too big for area – Request site visit from Tree Officer, as the reason for felling not immediately obvious.

**PL/2022/00485** - The Sanctuary, 9 Dark Lane North, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EY - Retrospective Application for the partial renovation / reconstruction of outbuilding to form annex – Cllr Dallison provided some background to the application and Standing Orders were suspended to enable a discussion with members of the public. Following debate and the reinstatement of Standing Orders members resolved to object to the application on the following grounds:

1. That the building represents an over development of the area as the new structure is larger and higher than the previous structure and therefore has a negative impact on the character and appearance of the area.
2. That the building creates a structure very different from the previous structure, which was ancillary to the main house and did not provide accommodation. The Planning and Heritage Officers are asked to investigate this further, with reference to the statements made in the Heritage Statement.

## Wiltshire Council Planning Decisions

**Application Ref PL/2022/00145** - Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area

**Address:** 12A DARK LANE NORTH, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6EY

**Proposal:** Sycamore tree - fell because phone wires running through and will get too big for area.

**Decision Date:** 14-02-2022 Decision: No Objection

**Application Ref PL/2021/10049** - Householder Application

**Address:** 1 THE FOLLIES, SOUTHBROOK LANE, STEEPLE ASHTON, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 6HN

**Proposal:** 2nd Storey Extension over existing footprint. Replace pre-fabricated garages with carport.

**Decision Date:** 16-02-2022 Decision: Approve with Conditions

### **Parish Council Minutes**

Copies of the minutes of the Parish Council meetings are published on the website and can be found at <https://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 March 2022

Monday 4th April 2022

Monday 25th April 2022 – Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 5th May 2022 – Annual Council Meeting

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

The Clerk is no longer attending the Parish Office on Wednesdays following the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.



## Steeple Ashton Village Hall

### **MARCH 2022**

The Village Hall committee would like to thank everyone in the village who supported us at the showing of the Six Nations Rugby on 5th February. I am sure the SA Grapevine has been working well and you probably all know by now what a fabulous time everyone had.

The hall was resplendent in Six Nations bunting and flags, tables set out with cloths and centre-pieces full of chocolates and after a call from those present, we put the fairy lights on!! Who'd have thought!! We had 68 people, of all ages, who reserved tables and thoroughly enjoyed, not only the rugby, but being together again with friends. To see the happy faces of all those in the hall and hear the chatter and buzz, was reward enough for us, but of course raising lots of money for the Kitchen and Bar fund was what it was all about and we certainly succeeded there.

We would also like to thank Adam from The Longs Arms for his help in obtaining and delivering the drink for the bar. He also provided us with a bottle fridge, which was a huge help. Adam had kindly offered to ask his chef to provide some finger food which we could sell at the event, but unfortunately he had an emergency situation with the gas at the last minute and so was unable to do this. So, it was a quick dash to cash and carry for Sandra and I and we managed to offer plates of hot sausage rolls instead! Not quite the same quality but they kept everyone happy! As agreed, after costs, we split our takings with The Longs and so we both benefited from the event. It has been great to work together with Adam & Eloise for the benefit of our lovely village community and we hope to continue to do so.

Last but not least, we send huge thanks to those lovely ladies who helped Sandra and I behind the bar and in the kitchen - Jennie Willis, Ali Monk and Bel Miller were absolute stars and we couldn't have done it without you.

**Marian**

**PS.** It won't have escaped your notice that a certain virus appeared in the village after the event. Clive and I succumbed, along with several others. It

was more like a nasty cold and not too debilitating, but we were concerned that it would undo all the hard work we had achieved with this event. However, having spoken to many of those who went, it is everyone's view that it was a seated event with reserved tables, that we must all try and get on with life as much as possible and that events such as this are vital for the community. We are now at the stage where we all have to make our own choices and decisions regarding what we do and where we go and we haven't heard anyone say they wish they hadn't gone! There are always lessons to be learnt and as a committee we are always vigilant with regards to Covid. We look forward to continuing to welcome you all, either as individuals or groups, to our lovely village hall.

**BOOKINGS:** Sandra Stevens 07827 291945 or email:  
steepleshtonvh@hotmail.com

**SECRETARY:** Marian Little 01380 871161 or email:  
secretary@steepleshtonvh.org.uk

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

## **ALERT**

If you are visited by representatives of Companies offering Home Insulation, please check carefully to find out if you do really need additional insulation before signing any documents. The representative may turn up at your property unannounced without a planned appointment and convince you of the need for further insulation by telling you that you are on a Government held database of properties that need to have further insulation. You may be told that this will benefit your heating bills as well as the planet. They quickly get you to sign documents and pay a large deposit. They make an appointment for the insulation to be completed a day or so later. There is no 14 day cooling off period and the representative will be very compelling so even the most aware of us may be quickly convinced.

Of course your house may need better insulation but please ensure you get plenty of advice and quotations as opposed to signing up quickly to a particular Company.

Many thanks **Geoff Hyatt**

## **This Newsletter**

I know that the printed copies are valued by most older residents and to make this possible, we ask for donations each autumn and we charge advertisers. Sarah, see p2 for details, does great work co-ordinating the finances of the newsletter and the PCC still pays the printing costs. However, costs are going up and we have not reviewed our charges for quite a time.

Sarah and I feel that more of our contributors should be asked to pay for space and we have agreed the following list of charges:

Individuals will not need to pay but groups will now be charged a modest rate to help cover printing costs. This will be a per page rate. Businesses already pay for their adverts and this does help towards the printing costs. We would all like to see more colour and this does increase the price per unit. Sarah will invoice you accordingly!

Payment can also be made now using BACS.....BANK : MONZO

ACCOUNT: Sarah Blake

SORT CODE: 04-00-04

ACCOUNT NUMBER:44546816

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## **Prices for any advertising for the Steeple Ashton and Great Hinton Newsletter.**

### **BUSINESS ADVERTS**

**Small Black & White advert only** 1/8th page (6cm x 4.5cm)

**Monthly** = £3.50(1 issue) **Yearly** = £35.00 (10 issues)

**Medium Black & White advert only** 1/2 page (12.5cm x 9cm)

**Monthly** = £15.00 (1 issue) **Yearly** = £150.00(10 issues)

**Large Black & White advert only** Whole page (25cm x 18cm)

**Monthly** = £30.00 (1 issue) **Yearly** = (£300.00) (10 issues)

**Combi Black & White Advert** 1/2 pg (12.5cm x 9cm) for 1 month

1/8 pg (6cm x 4.5cm) for 9 months **Monthly** = N/A **Yearly** = £48.00

**Colour Advert** Whole page (25cm x 18cm) **Monthly** = £40.00 (1 issue)

**Yearly** = £400.00 (10 issues)

### **ALL GROUPS & CHARITIES (Text and Images)**

**Black & White** 1/2 page (12.5cm x 9cm) **Monthly** = £1.00 (1 issue)

**Black & White** Whole page (25cm x 18cm) **Monthly** = £2.00 (1 issue)

**Colour** Whole page (25cm x 18cm) **Monthly** = £25.00 (1 issue)



**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.



## Supper in the Village Hall

In consultation with Marian and Clive Little, the tables in the hall for the Trust Supper on Saturday 5th March will be well spaced out. We shall only have 64 places on 8 tables of 8 - see the photo on the left with the fairy lights on! There will be a chicken dish with no curry! and vegetarian curries.

The hall is looking amazing after the excellent work done by the new committee. Please do come and support the Preservation Trust and enjoy being able to socialise - safely - again. Tickets are still available from the village shop.



## Open Gardens

An advance reminder about the village Open Gardens at the end of May. There will be a plant stall - so please do start collecting seedlings or cuttings or plants you have divided so that we have plenty of material to sell that day.

There are more gardens than ever to visit - hopefully on a sunny day!



Steeple Ashton  
**Open Gardens**

**Sunday 29th May 2022**  
**11am - 6pm**

Snacks & Cream Teas  
Plants & Flower Sales  
Raffle & Tower Draw  
Pimms on the Lawn

Advance Tickets from:  
The Village Shop - £7.50  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) - £8.00  
Tickets on the day - £10.00

## WHAT EXACTLY IS A ‘HURDIE-GURDIE’?

Feet were a-tapping at the February WI meeting. Numbers were lower than usual as so many villagers have succumbed to ‘covid’ or isolation or to colds that have made them wary of mixing, so sadly these poorly folk missed a most interesting evening. The lovely spring display of tulips and catkins which Kathy Pearce had arranged cheered us all. Business was brief since both the president and secretaries were absent. It was a pleasure to welcome a new member, Sarah, to the gang.

The evening was entitled ‘Reeds and Things’. Brian Tilley and partner Penny had brought along with them a selection of musical instruments, most of which we were unfamiliar with – French bagpipes included. Brian explained that Penny was a very good classically trained musician and he ‘just played’. His humility was ill founded – he played very well indeed; he played with his heart, and a smile! They told us about the music they had chosen to play for us and the instruments. We were impressed by the beautiful concertina Brian had made himself and fascinated by his fingering of so many notes. But the highlight of the evening was the hurdy-gurdy! My! What a complicated instrument! I’m sorry you missed it because it is impossible to describe the intricacies of its elements, its sound, and the beauty of the crafting of it. I think we all enjoyed the evening.

During refreshments many members chose to sign a card for our MP inviting him to step up to the mark and fight to counteract climate change. The Institutes response to the ‘Show the Love’ campaign

Marion Pearce won the raffle prize. The competition was won by Rosemary Brett-Green (a picture of our Steeple Ashton church on the cover of the programme may have had something to do with that!).

The meeting on March 10th will be the AGM. Traditionally this is the dullish meeting of the year but in the WI’s case it will be an enjoyable social event - as ever.

**Rosie**



**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
Steeple Ashton**

**99th ANNUAL DINNER**

Friday 8th April 2022  
at Steeple Ashton Village Hall  
7.00 for 7.30 pm

Members and friends are all very welcome

**GRAND RAFFLE**

Dinner consists of three courses including  
a choice of puddings  
with Coffee to follow  
Please bring your own wine - glasses are provided  
Tables will be for eight people  
To make a reservation, please ring  
Geoff Hyatt on 01380 871319  
TICKETS £ 19.00

**FORGET-ME-NOTS CLUB**

The first meeting of the year was a great opportunity for members to enjoy a good chin-wag, and catch up with each other's news, making for a cheerful afternoon.

The three games played in the Beetle Drive were fun, the overall winner being Maureen Campbell.

Entertainment at the next meeting on 16th March is hoped to be a singing group who encourage audience participation, which sounds like it may be great fun, and Steve Oakes with a talk on "Tropical Birds of Costa Rica",

Tea, accompanied by doughnuts generously provided by Jennie Drewitt, along with a raffle prize for everyone, drew a pleasant meeting to a close.

Visitors always welcome.

## **STEEPLE ASHTON FILMS**

Thank you to all those who came to see *The Courier*, it's been a long time since we have seen queues! Thanks also to those who applauded at the end and thanked us in person. It was great to see so many of you and thank you for keeping Steeple Ashton Films alive! Our safety measures remain in place and are appreciated by our audiences. Our next showing is perhaps a glimpse into what happens at the Queen's Christmas Party!

**SATURDAY 2 APRIL 2022 at 7.30 PM (PROMPT START!)**  
**AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STEEPLE ASHTON**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM FOR REFRESHMENTS**

**SPENCER (12)** Written by Steven Knight (who wrote the screenplay for *The Hundred Foot Journey* which was the first film we showed) and Directed by Pablo Larrain well know for the acclaimed recent film *Jackie*.

The marriage of Princess Diana (Kristen Stewart) and Prince Charles (Jack Farthing) has long since become strained. Set in December 1991 for the Christmas Festivities at the Queen's Sandringham Estate, rumours of affairs and a divorce are everywhere in the media, but they agree to a truce for the sake of the family. There is lavish eating and drinking, shooting and hunting as usual, but in the coming year things will be profoundly different. Co-starring Timothy Spall, Sean Harris and Sally Hawkins, *Spencer* is an imagining of what might have happened during those days.

*Comment of one of the critics, "Kristen Stewart's performance is nothing short of outstanding. It's the best performance of her career and definitely Oscar-worthy. Watch it with an open mind and you won't be disappointed"*

*and another, "Don't expect it to be 'The Crown' it's just a story about a young woman out of her depth".*

We have a brand new design for our tickets! Please make sure you are given the correct number of tickets you wish to purchase and that you write your name and telephone number on the back. We intend on keeping all our safety measures in place and request that you wear a mask and make use of the hand sanitisers provided and one way system.

Tickets £6 from Steeple Ashton Village Shop.

For Reservations, please ring Alison on 01380 871345 or for up to date news about Steeple Ashton Films, join our mailing list e-mail [safilms268@gmail.com](mailto:safilms268@gmail.com) or look on Facebook.



## **The Friends of Steeple Ashton**

Greetings to all. Please note for your diaries that we plan to hold our 2022 AGM at 7 pm on Friday 20th May in the Village Hall. The meeting will be followed at 8 pm with a talk by Richard Osgood, the MOD's Senior Archaeologist based on Salisbury Plain who recently featured on TV in 'Digging for Britain'. The title of his talk and further information on the evening will be published in due course.

To aid future communication with members and the wider village community we are co-ordinating with the Parish Council for a Friends' element on the revamped village website. We will also have the ability to provide information on Facebook, and to circulate information to members as well as process new member applications via email on [steepleashtonfriends@gmail.com](mailto:steepleashtonfriends@gmail.com)

We note that the 2026 deadline for registering historic footpath rights of way has been scrapped, but preliminary research undertaken with The Ramblers suggested there were few issues in this respect in the vicinity of Steeple Ashton. The Friends' have published seven guides for circular footpath walks around the village, which are available for 25p each from the Village Shop.

The Friends as well as the Parish Council have submitted input concerning the latest retrospective application related to works in the grounds of the Grade II\* listed The Sanctuary – information on this and other applications is available on the internet through the 'Wiltshire Council Planning and Building Control Public Register'.  
**Mike Beard**

## NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

### News

We have just had the worst storm for a generation. So we are told. An over reaction? Maybe. The met office perhaps didn't want another Michael Fish moment? Who knows. I hope no one suffered too much damage caused by the gusts.

Spring is just around the corner and as well as the birds now seeking out potential nest sites, the spring flowers are starting to show well.

It seems like the grass on our lawns hasn't stopped growing and maybe you could consider how you manage your lawn this year. There has been a 'no mow May' campaign running for several years now. Indeed most councils now see the benefits of this. Probably in their case the financial benefits but mainly to allow wild flowers to actually flower and attract bees and other insects crucial to sustaining the ecology. Consider;

Cut once every four weeks. Cutting just once a month encourages the maximum number of flowers to grow in your lawn. Ideally leave three to five centimetres of grass length.

Leave areas of long grass. This will result in greater diversity of flowers in areas of grass left completely unmown with oxeye daisy, field scabious and knapweed offering up important nectar sources.

You don't have to stop mowing completely. Some species, such as daisy and foot trefoil are adapted to growing in shorter swards. Cutting flowers from these plants once a month stimulates them to produce more blooms. If neat lawn edges are important to you, consider leaving a square in the middle.

With all the Covid-19 restrictions relaxed now and all other village groups are back to regular meetings, The Natural History Club is recommencing meetings on: **Thursday 17th March at 7pm at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Steeple Ashton.**

Please come along if you have an interest in natural history or want to learn from local like minded people.

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**

**Ministry Team for the Benefice of  
North Bradley, Southwick, Heywood  
and Steeple Ashton**  
[www.threeinonebenefice.org](http://www.threeinonebenefice.org)

**Fr Oliver Learmont** (Vicar)  
The Vicarage, 62 Church Lane, North Bradley, BA14 0TA.  
Tel. 01225 774845, 07464 795590  
[fr Oliverlearmont@gmail.com](mailto:fr Oliverlearmont@gmail.com)

**Fr Tony Longdon**  
Tel. 01225 754771 07951 703187  
**Richard Havergal** (Licensed Lay Minister)  
Tel. 01225 762668 [rhavergal16@gmail.com](mailto: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 donot 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 March**

Please see publicity displayed outside St Mary's; or visit the Benefice website [www.threeinonebenefice.org](http://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 March include a sermon, hymns (unless otherwise stated), and are as follows:*

**Wednesday, 2nd March ASH WEDNESDAY**

**10 am** Holy Communion St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL)  
**7 pm** Holy Communion St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)

**Sunday, 6th March THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**9.15 am** Holy Communion (CW) St Nicholas', North Bradley (OL)  
**11 am** Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)

**Sunday, 13th March THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

**Sunday, 20th March                      THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

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

**Sunday, 27th March                      THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
(Mothering Sunday)

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

**10 am**        Family Service                      St Nicholas', North Bradley  
(RH)

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

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

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!*

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

**Other Notices**

**Benefice Quiet Day**

The Revd Gerry Reilly will be leading a Quiet Day at the Ratford Retreat Centre ([www.ratfordretreatcentre.co.uk](http://www.ratfordretreatcentre.co.uk)) on **Saturday, 5th March between 10 am and 4 pm**. The theme for the day is **“Seeing and hearing through Jesus”**. The cost for each attendee is £12. *If you are interested in taking part, please contact Fr Oliver for further details.*

## **Lent Course**

**The Benefice Lent Course**, Living Stones, Living Hope, from USPG ([www.uspg.org.uk/Lent](http://www.uspg.org.uk/Lent)) will be held in the Benefice on five consecutive weeks **starting the week of Sunday, 6th March** at the Methodist Church, Steeple Ashton at **2.30 pm on Mondays**, and at St Thomas', Southwick at **2.30 pm on Thursdays**.

Copies of the course booklet are available in each of the three churches of the Benefice or through Fr Oliver or Richard Havergal.

*Please let either Richard or Fr Oliver know  
if you are interested in taking part.*

## **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,**

The church council (PCC) at St Mary's is resolved that if our church building is to grow and flourish as both the major focus for worship and prayer in the parish and a place for the church family and the wider community to gather for a variety of cultural and social occasions, a comprehensive re-evaluation of how we use its interior space, and how it might be re-ordered - taking into account not only current but future needs - is both urgent and essential. The changes we have experienced in our world over the last two years give new perspectives as we address this task.

To answer our calling to be a place of hospitality, we have considered how we might better welcome those who enter our church and offer comfort and refreshment. This can be achieved if, to a greater extent, we open up the entrance to our church to draw people in; provide, crucially, both a WC and a simple kitchen; and install an effective and environmentally sound heating system.

The introduction of flexible space at the West end of St Mary's will allow new opportunities for people to gather informally for refreshment after worship or at social and cultural occasions, and provide an area, when needed, for exhibition and display. Flexible space can only be of help to us, moreover, as we seek to bring to worship people of all ages, especially those young people who are vital to the future life of our church. The provision at St Mary's of a safe and secure place for children's activities is imperative.

Keeping open St Mary's for private prayer has been an important part of our mission, especially in recent times, and we wish to affirm for the future a dedicated space in our church for prayer and reflection.

Our re-ordering programme for St Mary's involves a reconsideration of where and how best clergy and choir can prepare for services; and where routine administration can be conducted. It also features the creation of a meeting space that can be used for a range of purposes by church members or the wider community.

Since his appointment as inspecting architect at St Mary's, Marcus Chantrey, of Benjamin and Beauchamp architects, has given the PCC much helpful guidance and support as we have sought to progress our project for the re-ordering of the church. Following a measured survey of St Mary's (see Newsletter, March, 2021), Marcus met with the PCC in November to

consider its brief for the re-ordering of St Mary's in light of the result of that survey; and he is currently preparing a report that will consider a range of options for re-ordering. Of great help to the PCC now, as we move towards making a comprehensive detailed proposal for the re-ordering of St Mary's, will be your responses to any of the following questions:

- How important is St Mary's to you?
- When and why do you value St Mary's?
- How can St Mary's better serve the community?
- What facilities does St Mary's lack?
- Bearing mind your responses to the above questions, what changes would you like to see in St Mary's?

Please place your responses to these questions in the box provided at St Mary's by 15th March.

**With many thanks and best wishes, Fr Oliver**



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Details in next month's newsletter

# **Steeple Ashton Litter Pick Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March**



**Meet at Acreshort Park: 10.00am**

- Litter pick between 10.00 – 12.00
- Equipment will be provided
- Please wear suitable clothing
- High visibility tabards will be provided
- Everyone welcome
- Refreshments and cakes will be available

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**WHEN**

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10.30 - 12.00

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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**



**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.

## STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP



### Opening times:

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30 am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**

February has been a relatively quiet month in the shop which, as we look back over the years, seems to be very much the norm. Wintery, unpredictable weather doesn't encourage us to go out unless we absolutely have to. The recent storms made even walking down to the shop too hazardous to contemplate! However, our loyal volunteers didn't shirk their responsibilities and we were able to keep the shop open as normal.

March 27th is Mothering Sunday and, as usual, we will have suitable cards on display and, also as usual, we have gift items to suit all pockets. We suggest boxes of speciality chocolates and biscuits or items from the beautiful Michel Designs range – we hope that you come to have a good look around -there is bound to be something that catches your eye. **Caren**

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Ashton Common Bus Stop - 3.35 pm - 4.00pm

March 9th, March 23rd; April 6th; April 20th

### The Stonemason

A talk by our stonemason

Andrew Ziminski

Friday, April 29th 7:30pm

St Mary's Church



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

STEEPLE ASHTON AND GREAT HINTON NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1975

## MARCH

- 5th. (Wed) Steeple Ashton Parish Council Meeting-Village Hall 7.30pm.
- 5th. (Wed) Steeple Ashton Ladies Club - Village Hall 7.30pm. Speaker: Mr. M.Smith, talking and showing slides on Birds. Competition: Best-made flower from feathers.
- 6th.(Thur) SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Association. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE SCHOOL AND YOUR CHILDREN. In the Mobile Classroom 7.30pm. Open Meeting - everyone welcome.
- 13th.(Thur) Friends of Steeple Ashton FOOTPATH FORUM - a discussion on foot-paths and bridleways. Village Hall 7.30pm. It is hoped to have a legal expert, a farmer, a walker and representatives of Parish Council and County Council. Come and ask questions.
- 20th(Thur) Steeple Ashton Dancers present: "The Old Woman Who Lived in a
- 21st.(Fri) Shoe". Adults 30p, Children 15p. S/A Village Hall 7.30pm.
- 22nd.(Sat) Tickets from Mr.Ken Berrett's shop and Mrs.J.Pearce (Keevil 224)
- 24th.(Mon) "The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" as above but for Senior Cit-
- 25th.(Tue) izens only (the Over-Sixties). Free by ticket only(tkts.as above)
- 21st.(Fri) Coffee Morning, in aid of St.John's Ambulance Brigade, at 30, Acreshort Lane, 10.30am - 12.30. Bring and Buy Stall.
- 22nd.(Sat) Prehistoric Monster Competition - Children's Book Group. Make or draw a prehistoric monster. Entries to 3, The Butts by noon on

## APRIL

- 11th.(Fri) Annual Parish Meeting. Village Hall 7.30pm.
- 12th.(Provisional) Story-telling in Village Hall (Children's Book Group)
- 24th. Friends of Steeple Ashton A.G.M. Village Hall 8pm. Guest speaker.

DONATIONS TO COST OF NEWSLETTER: Lt.Col.T.B.Elliott £1; S/A Dancers £0.50

Dear Mr.Hobson,

Please will you put my notice in the Newsletter. Im having a museum in my garden on Wednesday March 26 all day tuppence to see tuppence for squash the money for Save the Children Fund.

Love Derrick (Brett)

**David Berrett**

---

## **The Red-nose team present: 'Famous for 15 Seconds'.**

Some of your neighbours have done things that may surprise you!

Who did the bishop describe as wanton and why? Who held a world record? Who entertained with the Muppets?

Find out this and more, and other amusing tales at our 'What's my Line?' type quiz.

'Famous for 15 seconds' (we are modest villagers!) is a team quiz with ploughman's supper. The Preservation Trust has agreed to run a bar to raise funds for reordering the church.

Ticket cost £10 and ticket and raffle money will go to the Red-nose Day appeal. Form a team or join a table. Rosie

## **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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### **Melksham Choral Society**

The Society is having its Spring Concert on Saturday 9th April 2022 at 7.30 pm at the United Reform Church in Melksham. They will be lead by their Musical Director Paul Bradley and will be performing pieces by Faure including Requiem, Cantique de Jean Racine, Pavane and Madrigal. Please come and support the Choir at this entertaining evening. Contact me 871549 if you would like some tickets.

**PeterLowery**

## **METHODIST CHURCH**

### History and traditions of Shrove Tuesday

The tradition of acknowledging the start of the Lenten fast has been observed for at least hundreds of years. By the age of the late Middle Ages, the feast of Shrovetide lasted until the start of Lent. It was customary in many cultures to eat pancakes or other foods made with the butter, eggs, and fat that would be given up during the Lenten season. The particular tradition of British Christians enjoying pancakes on Shrove Tuesday dates back to the 16th century.

Shrove Tuesday serves multiple purposes of encouraging Christians to repent of their sins before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday and also giving them the opportunity to partake in a last round of jubilation before the beginning of the austere Lenten season, which is characterized by making a Lenten sacrifice, fasting, praying and several spiritual disciplines, such as checking a Lenten calendar and reading a daily devotional.

On Shrove Tuesday, the final day of the Shrovetide season, many Christians, have an emphasized focus of self-examination, reflecting on what sins they need to repent for, and what improvements in life or aspects of spiritual growth they need to ask God's help in edifying.

While undergoing a Lenten sacrifice, it is helpful to pray for strength; and encouraging fellow Christians in their fast saying, for example: "May God bless your Lenten sacrifice."

### **CHURCH DIARY**

All our Sunday services are at 9.15 am unless otherwise stated. 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.

### **MARCH**

<b>Friday 4th</b>	World Day of Prayer – 2.00 pm
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	Tom Hill
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	Rev Gary Gotham – Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	Pauline Tiller
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	Izzie Smears

## **CATHOLIC NEWS**

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE & ST BERNADETTE'S  
WESTBURY (incl VILLAGES).**

**PARISH PRIEST FR TOM FINNEGAN**

TELEPHONE: 01225 752152

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

Diocese of Clifton Registered Charity No 1170168

**Please see below the usual weekly  
timings of our Masses: but please  
check newsletter for changes.  
St John the Baptist - Trowbridge**

### ***Sunday & Weekday Masses:***

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)



# Curry Supper

Saturday March 5th 2022

Village Hall

7 for 7.30pm

Cash Bar

## Tickets £18.00

from the Village Shop

Tel: 01380 871211