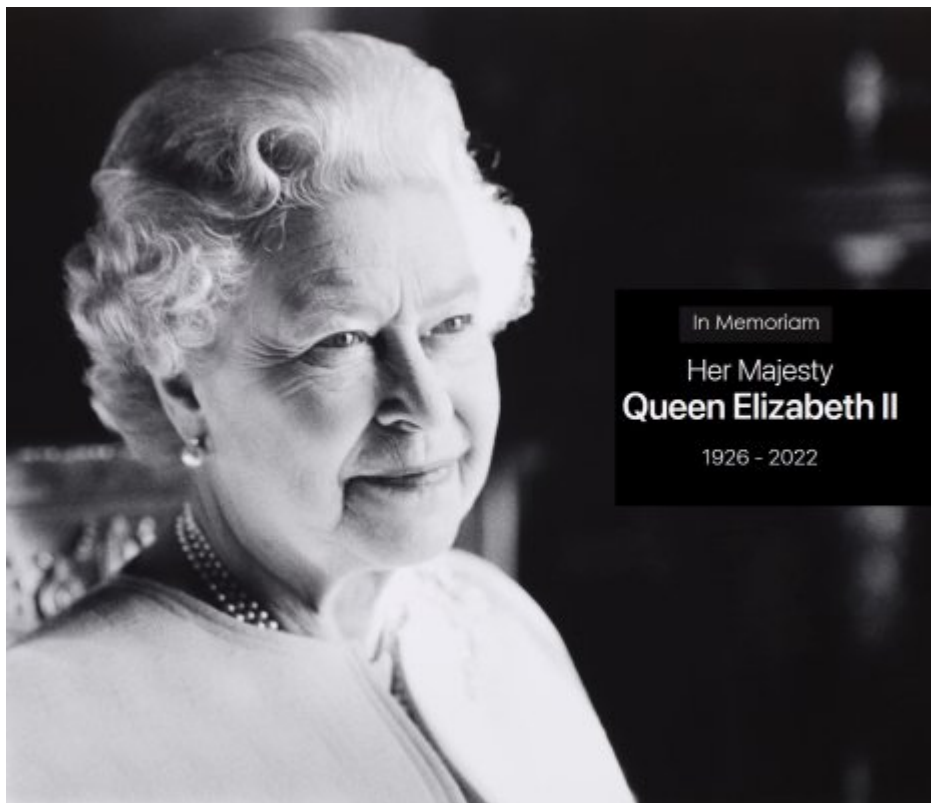


STEEPLE ASHTON
NEWSLETTER

GREAT HINTON
OCTOBER 2022



In Memoriam

Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II

1926 - 2022



Steeple Ashton Village Shop

Opening Hours - please see page **12** for the current shop opening hours.

Shop telephone: 01380 871 211

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Editorial

Hello everyone - What a wonderful service for the late queen. I so admired the pall bearers; the young sailors in charge of the gun carriage and the young royals, George and Charlotte - so well behaved!

As Richard says on page 18, autumn is a time for giving. You should find a small envelope in your newsletter in case you feel you can contribute to our printing costs. £10 would be very helpful as the newsletter costs about £400 per month to print.

Many thanks to Sarah for her work on the advertisers over the last few years. Welcome to Bridget Lewis who has taken over this vital role!

The recent experiment with small charges for groups of contributors to the newsletter did not really work - although many thanks for those who did actually manage to pay for their pages. We shall only charge for a colour A5 page (£25) as before. Many thanks - **Helen**

Newsletter Deadlines for 2022

Oct 25th; November 22nd for December/Jan.

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 25th October**. They should be sent to Mrs Helen Montague-Smith, 1A Butts Lane, Steeple Ashton or by email to **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 **Bridget Lewis** : email: adverts4steepleashton@gmail.com or 01380 871279

Please send your ads by email if possible.

Please note, we do not deliver flyers for advertisers.

STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Tree Planting

The village has requested a further batch of trees from the Woodland Trust for delivery this autumn. If you have available land which is near to a public footpath, or similar, please get in touch if you would like us to add some trees to it. We will also be replacing some of last year's saplings which unfortunately perished over the hot summer. New trees will also be added around St Marys recreation ground.

To mark the 70 years of the Queen's reign, we aim to plant some trees along the High Street between Ashton House and the Longs Arms. We have consulted on a suitable species and have chosen *Sorbus Lutescens*; this is a Mountain Ash/ Rowan which is a small, native, upright, slow growing variety with minimal maintenance requirements. It has lighter, silvery, more decorative leaves than most trees and so would enhance the existing view in the village without becoming too tall or dominant.

To make room for the trees, we are considering moving the Best Kept Village plaques (currently outside the Merchant's House) to an alternative location in the village. Please let us know your thoughts on this.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

In response to Wiltshire's Local Plan, the Council has decided to proceed with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Steeple Ashton. The plan will cover the entire parish area and it is anticipated that it will focus on the allocation of land for housing development as required by the Local Plan.

We are told that Steeple Ashton will have to provide 30 to 35 new dwellings over the next 15 years. Through the Neighbourhood Plan process, the village community can have a say on where these houses should be built. Without this plan the development will be located at the discretion of Wiltshire Council and landowners/developers.

Progress to date comprises:

- designation of the Steeple Ashton Neighbourhood Area & registration with Wilts Council;
- request submitted for a Rural Housing Needs survey;
- short-listing of consultants to assist with the project;
- preparation of consultant's brief and request for costs.

Once we have a consultant on-board, we will be able to apply for grant funding to cover these costs.

We aim to hold a public meeting in early November to present the aims of the plan, how it will be carried out and to request that interested members of the community join the steering group.

Preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan involves extensive community liaison and ultimately must be approved by a parish referendum. There will be plenty of opportunity for everyone to provide input and to comment on the plans as they develop over the next 12 to 18 months.

Parish Council Vacancies

Your Parish Council currently has only six members out of its normal compliment of nine. 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, Newleaze 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).

Steeple Ashton Community Speed Watch

What is the Community Speed Watch?

The Community Speed watch is a group of volunteers who record vehicle activity in our village, particularly in relation to exceeding the speed limit.

The Steeple Ashton Community speed watch reformed on 3rd August. We have four fully trained volunteers with potentially one more waiting for training. Our community speed watch is fully supported by Wiltshire Police who are responsible for providing the training and equipment including supply of our high visibility tabards.

What do we do with the information we gather?

Our activity must be approved by Wiltshire Police, and we report all our checks and information gathered to them, including providing details of motorist exceeding the speed limit. This enables Wiltshire Police to consider what further action they may consider appropriate.

Where are we completing the speed watch?

The 30mph speed limit runs throughout our Parish, from Ashton Common and Bleet through Steeple Ashton (see map for approximate

details of the 30mph Zone).

Our current enforcement area for the speed watch is Common Hill however we are looking at additional locations within our Parish, this will require the authority's approval before checks can be take part in other locations.

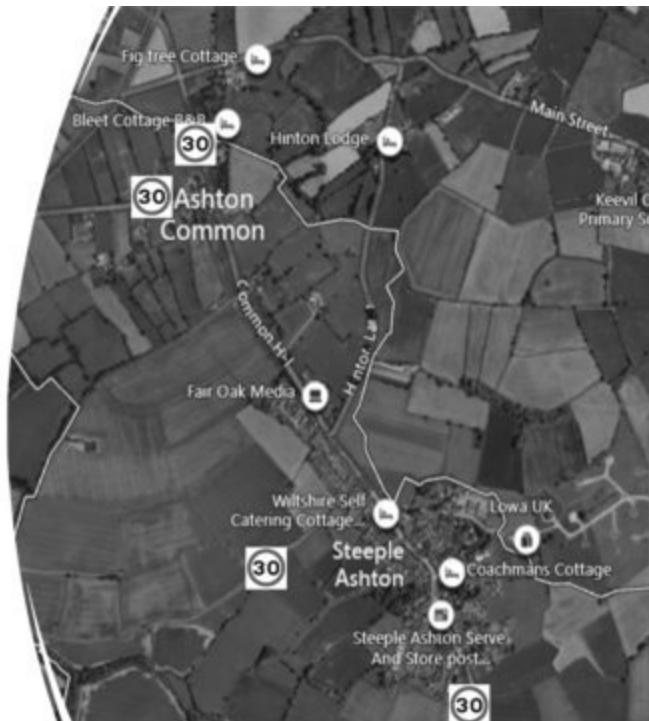
How can you help?

We are very grateful for the warm response from the community who have provided a lot of useful information about the times and days we should focus our visits.

To be effective in the village and to provide resilience we do need more volunteers and are more than happy to talk to anyone interested in joining our small team.

The more volunteers that come forward the more occasions we can be out and about for our community.

If you would like to know more about the community speed watch in Steeple Ashton or would like to volunteer, please contact us at: SA_community_speedwatch@yahoo.com



AVR Half Marathon

This year's AVR Wiltshire Half Marathon will be taking place on Sunday 27th November at 11am starting and finishing at Station Yard, Edington and passing through Steeple Ashton and Keevil. Runners will start to arrive from approximately 9.30 am and the last runner is expected to cross the finish line at approximately 2.00 pm. The course will be cleared of signage by 4pm. The organisers of the event have informed the PC that they will put out a few signs on the course approximately two weeks in advance of the event with details of the event and contact details. This will be the 10th running of the hugely-successful event which helps to raise much-needed funds for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Parish Council comments on Planning Applications

PL/2022/06464 - 1 St Mary's, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EN - New single storey dwelling – Deferred to the October PC meeting

Wiltshire Council Planning Decisions

PL/2021/10904 - Elmsgate Barn, South View Farm, Southbrook Lane, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6HW -

Erection of Dwelling (replacing single dwelling approved under 21/01450/PNCOU) - Approve with Conditions

PL/2022/04789 - 8A Dark Lane South, Steeple Ashton, BA14 - Cypress tree - Reduce height by 4mtrs because close to house - No Objection

PL/2022/02409 – Bullen Hill Farm, Steeple Ashton Common, Steeple Ashton BA14 6DY - Conversion and extension of an existing residential building to form two dwellings and erection of Garage Building – Refuse

PL/2022/04621 – Brookside, Ashton Common, Steeple Ashton BA14 6DT - Erection of agricultural shed - Approve with Conditions

PL/2022/05734 - 11 Home Farm Close, Steeple Ashton BA14 6AH – Works to trees in a conservation area - No Objection

Parish Council meeting dates 2022

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

Monday 3rd October 2022 – Full Council

Monday 7th November 2022 – Planning and Neighbourhood Planning

Monday 5th December 2022 – Full Council – Budget setting 2023/2024

Parish Council Contact:

The Clerk can be contacted on 01373 864127 / 07971 987806 or email clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk. All Councillors have live @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 the Parish Clerk at clerk@steeple-ashton.co.uk or 07971 987806.

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

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### **Jonathon Seed writes:**

The past month has been dominated by the incredibly sad news of the passing away of Her Majesty the Queen. I was privileged to meet the Queen and other senior members of the Royal Family during my 23 years of military service including during several years of ceremonial duty in London with the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. However the last occasion I met the Queen was as a Wiltshire Councillor in Salisbury in 2012 when she visited Wiltshire as part of her Diamond Jubilee Tour. The County Reception was a great success and again it was a privilege to be presented as the elected representative of the people of Melksham as Chairman of the Melksham Area Board. That visit to Wiltshire concentrated in Salisbury was a huge success and, I think, the last civic visit by the late Queen and the late Duke of Edinburgh to Wiltshire.

As one reign ends another immediately starts and we usher in the reign of King Charles III. There was much civic activity in Wiltshire to mark both the death of the Queen and the proclamation of our new King. This activity is coordinated by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton. Several messages and instructions from the Lord Lieutenant were issued to Councils and Councillors from her office in County Hall in those key days last month. The moment was well prepared for with the relevant parts of Operation London Bridge (the detailed plan

for the Queens death) having been previously circulated. Instructions were reissued to give local Wiltshire Councils and Councillors guidance on important matters like flag flying, national mourning and the Proclamation of our new King by Town and Parish Councils where they wished to participate.

The County proclamation of the new King took place in Trowbridge and was read to the assembled public and dignitaries by the High Sheriff, the Marchioness of Lansdowne. My wife and I chose to attend the local proclamation in Melksham and what a good choice it was. After signing the book of condolence in the Town Hall we gathered along with several hundred local residents outside Melksham Town Hall. The event was introduced by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Robert Floyd of Great Chalfield. King Charles III was proclaimed in Melksham by our young and very able Mayor Councillor Simon Crundell and followed by the singing of two verses of God Save the King. It was all brilliantly well done, very local and a superb local example of what we do best in this Country, County and our local Town.

Finally amongst all of these momentous events the business of local government continues. As your Wiltshire Councillor I am always available to help residents with any local government issues or problems that you may experience. Please feel free to contact me and my contact details are below with e mail often being the best way to get in touch.

**Jonathon Seed**

Wiltshire Councillor for Melksham Without West and Rural

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

Telephone:

07770 774463

**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 - 3.35pm - 4.00pm

October 5th; October 19th; November 2nd; November 16th



## FORGET-ME-NOTS CLUB

A Dutch Auction will be held at the meeting on 19th Oct, so now is a great opportunity for members to have a good rummage in cupboards and drawers, and bring along to that meeting any saleable items they find to raise money for funds. What may be trash to one person may be treasure to another. This is always a fun afternoon so, please members, do make a special effort to be there and take part in an amusing event.

16th November will be our Christmas Bingo afternoon, with some really great prizes for the lucky winners, and novelties for everyone. For further info, please contact Gloria (Chairman) 01380/ 870593 or Glynnis (Sec) 01225/775681

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES 'Steeple Ashton Newsletter'

### In October 1976...

#### RICHARD GODDARD'S BLUE PETER RED POSTER

Young Richard sent a poster to the 'Blue Peter' programme, in response to their appeal for hints to beat the drought. Although he was not named personally on the programme of Sept 23rd., viewers could clearly see his entry in the middle of the pile of suggestions - a red poster saying 'Turn Off Taps' alongside a picture of a dripping tap. All the hints have been passed on to the Minister for Drought.

#### THE DEEPENED POND in the field to west of Acreshort Lane

This has recently been excavated to a depth of about twelve feet, to act as a reservoir in any future period of drought. Mrs. Irene Jefferies (the field is owned by the Matthews-Jefferies partnership) has asked this Newsletter to draw attention to the danger to children if they go near the pond. The pond will be protected by a barbed wire fence as soon as practicable.

**David Berrett**



## Steeple Ashton Village Hall

So much has happened since I wrote in the June Newsletter. We dressed the hall for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, a banner was made and hung proudly on the wall outside, between our planters full of red, white and blue flowers. The W.I. held a Jubilee Afternoon Tea for its members who enjoyed sharing this happy occasion while eating delicious home made scones, cream and jam.

What a contrast we see this week. Our beloved Queen passed away on Thursday 8th September and the nation has been watching as the Royal family, along with people around the world pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth who carried out her promise to serve her country and the Commonwealth for 70 years. By the time you read this, we will have watched as she was taken to Westminster Abbey for her state funeral. The Village Hall committee decided to open the hall from 10 am so that anyone in the village who wished to, could watch the funeral on the larger screen and perhaps share the momentous occasion with friends and neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee. 18 people came along to join us in watching what was an incredible funeral for this incredible lady.

On 11 June we were so sorry to say goodbye to our Moviola Film nights, with the final excellent film "The Duke" being shown. Thanks to Alison and Marcus for enabling us all to enjoy these films for so long.

We have also seen the welcome return of SAGE (Steeple Ashton Gardening Endeavours), a Musical concert, the Coffee Morning for Sudan, a family party and the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows are back after their summer using Acreshort Park.

The MOD also held several information meetings where they explained to villagers about the "Watchkeeper" drone which will be used in airspace over Keevil Airfield and local environs - it takes amazingly detailed photographs from here to as far away as the Clifton Bridge or Oxfordshire. It is all in aid of National Security and the MOD are keen to ensure local communities are fully informed and involved.

Looking forward, Trowbridge Players will soon be returning to entertain us, there will be a 'Mick Jogger' Rolling Stones village party in October and in December, the Village Hall committee will be holding a pre-Christmas Candlelit Supper where villagers can enjoy a two course home-cooked meal, drink wine and share some social time with friends before the madness that is Christmas! Look out for posters in the village and on Facebook nearer the time. Tickets will be on sale in the village shop and we'll let you know when.

**Improvements:** We are continuing to make improvements to the hall, with new stage extensions arriving soon to give more space for musical and theatre events. Also, a commercial dishwasher will be installed very shortly in the kitchen. We are very grateful for a contributions from Geoff Hyatt and the Parish Council towards the dishwasher and hope it will make a big difference when foodie events are held in the hall. At least the ladies won't be standing washing and drying for hours on end!

We are working towards a design for new Kitchen and Bar areas and have already taken delivery of two bottle coolers, which will be very useful for the 'Mick Jogger' party when the Bar proceeds will go towards the Village Hall Kitchen and Bar project. We are mindful that the Bar area has to be a flexible space and is often used as an overflow kitchen so our plans will ensure that this is still possible, but also that it can be used efficiently as a small bar and just as importantly look the part! Of course an upgraded Kitchen and Bar will not be cheap, so we will be holding fundraising events and will be seeking grants in order to reach our goal, as well as doing as much as we can ourselves to save costs.

Our plans include (with current Hygiene & Safety standards in mind):

**Bar:**

Bottle Coolers (already purchased)  
Commercial glass washer  
New deep sink/hand-wash sink  
New Servery worktops, counter tops,  
Cupboards - wall & base  
Bar with bespoke painted cupboards  
to hold glasses, mirror, optics,  
shelving. Correct flooring

**Kitchen:**

Commercial Dishwasher (already  
on order)  
New Microwave  
New Servery worktop (to match Bar)  
New worktops, sink, hand-wash sink  
Cupboards - wall and base  
Correct flooring

This will of course take time, but we are determined the results will allow, along with the improvements already carried out, greater scope to use the hall and its facilities for groups & private events, large or small and for the hall to be a bright, clean happy venue with good facilities for local people to enjoy in a variety of ways. Judging by many comments we gratefully receive when people first see the hall, we are on the right track!

Finally, if you know anyone who you think might like to make a donation at any time, however small, towards our Kitchen & Bar project, the Village Hall committee would be extremely grateful for their valued support. Please do pass on the following contact details:

Clive Little (Chairman) 01380 871161 email: chair@steepleashtonvh.org.uk

Marian Little (Secretary) email: secretary@steepleashtonvh.org.uk

Francesca Buffery-King (Treasurer) 01380 870362

email: treasurer@steepleashtonvh.org.uk

A huge thank you to everyone who supports our Village Hall in so many ways.

**Marian Little**

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

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

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

## **STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP**

**Normal Opening times:**

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**

There is not much to report this month - however, one thing might be useful - during the hours when the Post Office within the shop is open, namely Wednesdays 9.30am - 1.20pm it is possible to top up one's electricity key card.



**Caren Felton**

After 10 years of organising the village shop volunteer rota and serving on the committee, I feel it's time I began to enjoy my retirement! I would like to thank all the volunteers that I have become so friendly with and say how much I have enjoyed our many conversations. It feels like the right moment to get more involved in village activities which I haven't had time to do as this has been more than a full time job! I would love to keep in touch and will always be pleased to hear from you!

Best wishes, **Alison Wilson** 871345

## NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

Summer is almost officially over as I write this and will be over by the time you read it. Autumn officially starts 23rd September this year.

This has been the driest summer on record I believe and it has taken its toll on not just the grass, trees and other plant life, but on insects, birds and animals.

This was reflected at our last meeting on 15th September where members reported that nesting Swallows were leaving after having just one brood. Usually they will go on to have a second brood or even a third. Being insectivores, it can only be the lack of insects that has made them leave. The same can be said of House Martins and Swifts. Numbers of all these returning birds were down this year.

However, Red Kites seem to have moved into our area and are almost becoming a daily sight as they hang gracefully on thermals. Contrary to belief they are not a serious threat to domestic animals and poultry. Although they are capable of taking a live chicken, they much prefer the easy option of eating carrion. They will scavenge for scraps!

The possibility of a pair of Great White Egrets breeding near Westbury was reported. These are the same family as our Grey Herons only larger and completely white. These have been a rare visitor in recent years. Not to be confused with the smaller, more common, Little Egret.

It is now the start of the fungus season. The wetter weather giving rise to such wonderfully named fungi such as 'Black edged shield', 'The Blusher', 'Artists Bracket', 'Brown Rollrim' and 'Dyer's Mazegrill'. All seen and recorded in local woodland by a member.

Also at our meeting, one member brought along a collection of bugs and insects from around the world. These were fascinating to examine (they were dead but preserved) and you probably wouldn't want to meet a live one!

With the upcoming talk in St. Mary's Church in October on Hedgehogs by one of the UK's experts, it was decided the planned talk by one of our members on Hedgehogs be cancelled. So as an impromptu presentation I showed some videos and photographs of the wildlife that visits my garden as captured by my trailcam. This included a fox having an altercation with a local cat!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st December at 7:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Steeple Ashton. The short talk to be determined. everyone welcome.

Please report anything of interest such as sightings of animal / bird / insect activity etc. Or unusual or rare plants. Is there something you can't identify? Contact 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 can.

Photographs are always welcome and help identification. **Roger Ferguson**



## The Friends of Steeple Ashton

As you read this article we are hoping to have gathered at the Village Hall on 30th September to enjoy an evening celebrating our local Polish heritage. The Friends committee is keen to continue to organise various events aimed at providing villagers with the opportunity to appreciate the special aspects of Steeple Ashton and our surroundings. Unfortunately, the ageing demographic and ongoing consequences of Covid appear to be negatively impacting our broader subscribed membership as well as committee participation. We hope that some of the recent arrivals in the village might be interested in joining us, thereby helping us to regenerate and ensure that our 50th year in 2023 will be one of rejuvenation rather than our last. If you are interested in getting on board, do please contact the undersigned on 871914.

As we enter autumn and cooler climes beckon, we hope you might have a chance to visit Luffenham Field. Given the hot and dry summer, it is not surprising that our new saplings and wildflower plantings have struggled, but sincere thanks are due to Geoff Witts who has continued against the odds to maintain the field in excellent order.

In closing, we await the due publication of the final draft of the Wiltshire Local Plan and a last opportunity for the village to influence the content therein, including any mandated new dwelling targets. We look forward to supporting the Parish Council concerning response and input to the Local Plan, as well as the associated development of Steeple Ashton's Neighbourhood Plan.

**Mike Beard**

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 **sahtonfoil@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**



## **AFTER TRINITY**

- 8 am Holy Communion (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)  
10.30 am Harvest Festival Family Service  
St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (RH)  
11 am Harvest Festival Holy Communion (CW)  
St Thomas', Southwick (OL)

## **Sunday, 16th October THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

## **Sunday, 23rd October THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

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

## **Sunday, 30th October ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

- 11 am Holy Communion for All Saints (CW)  
St Thomas', Southwick (OL)  
6.30 pm In Loving Memory Service for All Souls (CW)  
St Mary's, Steeple Ashton (OL)

CW - Common Worship, Order 1 (contemporary language);

BCP - Common Worship, Order 2 (traditional language).

OL - Fr Oliver; RH - Richard Havergal; DH - The Revd David Hart

\*\*\*

On account of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in consideration of those around you, you are strongly encouraged to **maintain physical distancing; use hand sanitisers; and wear a face covering** - unless you are exempt from doing so.

\*\*\*

**Morning Prayer is normally said at St Nicholas', North Bradley, Monday - Wednesday. Further details are posted weekly in the Pew News and on the Benefice website.**

*"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.**

\*\*\*

*Please 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.*

*And note that the Blog is now up and running !*

### **Other Notices**

#### **Headstones in the churchyard, St Mary’s, Steeple Ashton**

A list of headstones that have been laid flat in St Mary’s churchyard, was first published in July, 2021, together with the request for anyone responsible for the maintenance of a headstone (heir-at-law) to notify us that a headstone should remain as it is, or to offer to fund its refixing. It has been decided that sufficient time has now elapsed for the receipt of any responses to this request; and permission (by way of Faculty) is being sought for the work already carried out.

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.*

#### **Concerts and other cultural events at St Mary’s**

We welcome such occasions. If you are interested in using St Mary’s as a venue, *please direct your initial enquiries to The Vicar.*

## **Autumn – a time for giving and receiving**

At this time of year there is a lot of giving and receiving and offering thanks. On Sunday 9 October we will celebrate Harvest Festival and give thanks for all the good things we receive from God's great creation and all who work on the land. Details of the day's services are on a separate page. At the beginning of November, we give thanks for the lives of the saints and those close to us who we see no more. On Remembrance Sunday, we give thanks for all who made the ultimate sacrifice in the great wars of the 20th century.

Then as Christmas gets closer our thoughts turn to what we will give to others. Not just the presents we buy for our friends and family, but what we give to people in great need. Every year there has been a Gift Service at St Mary's church when we bring presents for the Salvation Army to give to less fortunate children in our local communities. Usually that has been in early December, but this year it will be at a Family Service on Sunday 20 November (10.30 am). This gives the Salvation Army sufficient time to ensure that our gifts go to families in greatest need. Our country's current economic situation means that many more families will find it harder to celebrate Christmas with their children. We hope that a representative of the Salvation Army will be able to attend our service.

For many years, St Nicholas church in North Bradley and St Thomas Church in Southwick have supported Operation Christmas Child's 'Shoebox' appeal for underprivileged children around the world. They will continue to do so this year and a special 'Shoebox Service' will take place on Sunday 6 November at St Thomas church.

Our benefice therefore supports children and families near to home and far away. It works both ways since anyone in Steeple Ashton who wishes to support Operation Christmas Child can attend the service at St Thomas and anyone in North Bradley, Southwick or Heywood who wishes to support the Salvation Army can come along to the Gift Service. Also, both appeals will support families taking refuge from the war in Ukraine. The Salvation Army is in touch with those in this country, while Operation Christmas Child has stated that two-thirds of the shoeboxes donated in the UK will go to families in Ukraine, or those who have found refuge in Eastern European countries such as Moldova and Romania.

As Christian churches, we thank God for all the good things that we receive and we express our thanks in what we give to others, particularly in these months that culminate in the great festival of Christmas.

## **SAVE THE DATE -**

A musical evening will be held in St Mary's Church Steeple Ashton on Saturday 3rd December featuring Steeple Rocks Choir and special guests in aid of St Mary's Preservation Trust. More details will follow next month

Hope you can join us.



## **Thank you...**

The Sudan Coffee Morning-cum-Cream-Tea raised £685 for the project in South Sudan. We are particularly grateful to Steph and Sally, and to the WI members who on hearing that there was to be another coffee morning spoke with one voice, "I'll help".

**Sue and Rosie**

A decorative border consisting of a repeating pattern of small, stylized evergreen trees, framing the central text.An illustration of three hedgehogs, shown in profile, facing right, positioned at the top of the central text area.

**Hedgehogs and hedgerows**  
(and 'Hedgehog street')

**A talk by Hugh Warwick**  
Author, ecologist, spokesperson for the BHPS,  
**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October**  
**7pm**  
**St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton**  
Refreshments – wine, juice, nibbles  
Donations gladly received (suggest £3)

An illustration of three hedgehogs, shown in profile, facing right, positioned at the bottom of the central text area.

# **⌘ The Trowbridge Players ⌘**

*present*

## **Two short Comedy Plays**

*A Little Box of Oblivion*

*by Stephen Bean*

*Lockdown in Little Grimley*

*by David Tristram*



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**The Royal British Legion POPPY APPEAL**  
**in Steeple Ashton, Great Hinton, Keevil and Bulkington**  
**27th OCTOBER TO 12th NOVEMBER 2022**



I am working with Lydia on this year's Poppy Appeal with a view to taking over the organisational element from next year.

All the usual house to house collectors, plus a few new volunteers have generously agreed to give their time to "do the rounds" on your doorsteps in all four villages from 27th October – they will all carry identity cards, so please ask if you wish to see them. If you'd like to use Gift Aid (which increases your donation by 25%), all collectors carry Gift Aid forms for you to complete.

All collectors will have poppies with pins, large silk poppies, pin badges and crosses – if you don't see what you would like, please ask your collector to get in touch with either Lydia or myself.

If you're unable or would rather not make your donation at your door, there will be poppies and collecting boxes in the following locations from the same date:

- Steeple Ashton Village Shop
- The Longs Arms
- The Well in Bulkington
- Keevil School
- The telephone box in Great Hinton

Many thanks in advance for your generosity towards this important charity appeal

Paula Boardman (01380 870122) and  
Lydia Peters PAO TEE14 (01380 870029)



**Two images from the funeral; the lovely flowers on the coffin and the sailors in charge of the gun carriage.**

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## **It's a nun's life!**

At September's WI meeting, a new member and two visitors were welcomed. The meeting began with a minute silence for the Queen. She had been an enthusiastic WI member. The beautiful flowers arranged by Rene were done with the Queen in mind. The lovely white roses were interspersed with rosemary for remembrance and heather for her Scottish heritage.

The speaker for the evening, Margaret Beaument, told us what life would have been like for us, rich women, as nuns in Lacock Abbey in the middle ages. It turned out to be less onerous than some of us had imagined; other than rising at 2am. There would have been servants to perform the drudgery for the nuns so no scrubbing floors or doing the ironing.

Lacock was founded by Ela who with her husband William Longspee founded Salisbury Cathedral. It was eventually closed by Henry the eighth but Thomas Cromwell's inspect three times to find something amiss as an excuse to close it. Nothing was ever found but Henry claimed it anyway. Next year Margaret will return with the 'What happened next' and the story of the Talbot family who owned it for so long. Members found the talk very interesting.

At the meeting on October 12th we will hear about the work of 'Riding for the Disabled', a talk requested and arranged by one of the members. There will also be the opportunity to donate 'Pennies for Friendship'. The collection will go to the ACCW, an umbrella organisation that links organisations of country women around the world and offers support to our less fortunate neighbours.

New members and visitors are always welcome at our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month; come along and see for yourself!

**Rosie Brett Green**

---

## **St Mary's Organ pipes - restoration.**

A quick update as I have a small space! The PCC have now met and approved the project as mentioned in the last newsletter. The Preservation Trust have been formally approached to fund the work on the organ pipes and they have agreed in principal subject to the estimates for the work being acceptable. The first step is to test a few of the pipes to discover the condition of the original painted decoration and to establish the colours of the original designs. Helen.





*For one night only*

# Mick Jogger

and

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## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION STEEPLE ASHTON**

Following a gap of three years due to the Pandemic, the Annual RBL Autumn Party will be held in Steeple Ashton Village Hall on Friday 28th October 2022 between 7pm and 9pm.

Tickets are £10 a head which will include all drinks (wine/beer/orange juice) and canapes

There will be a raffle and gifts of raffle prizes will be very welcome.

For tickets please contact Geoff Hyatt on 01380 871319  
and tickets will be delivered prior to the event.

**PLEASE DO COME AND SUPPORT THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

## **Bryan writes...**

This 1884 image is the earliest known photo of this part of Church Street. It was taken in front of Longs Villas and features Kitty Raymond with her baby sister Renie in the pushchair. They lived with their parents at the east end of Longs Villas – No 6 Church Street, where the road turns north towards the church.



**Kitty & Renie 1884**

The story of how I recently acquired the above image began in July this year, with a request from Pamela Pittard – a very distant Australian relation of mine – asking if I could help an American lady named Felicity Arnold (nee Prosser). Pamela had contacted Felicity after browsing an ancestry website and had helped her solve a family history question. Pamela was now asking for my help in answering more questions from Felicity regarding Steeple Ashton.

Felicity was born in Bristol but is now living in North America. Her childhood memories included trips to Steeple Ashton with her parents during the 1970s to visit George and Ethel Burbidge, who retired to a bungalow in St Marys after living for many years in Church Street.

While living at No 7 Church Street, George and Ethel were neighbours to Felicity's great aunt Louie Raymond, who lived at No 5, next to the village hall (George and Ethel later moved to No 5 after the death of Lou Raymond). Felicity was trying to find out exactly where her maiden aunt Lou Raymond had lived, along with her widowed sister Kitty Prosser (nee Raymond) and her brother-in-law Frank Prosser.

I was able confirm where Lou Raymond lived, as my younger brother Terry and I had our photo taken in Lou Raymond's garden by a Mr Prosser around 1950.



**Terry & I around 1950**

**Longs Villas around 1900**



I could also remember Lou Raymond being the caretaker of the village hall next door. Rosie Brett Green could also remember both Lou Raymond and Frank Prosser, and that Frank was an artist. Rosie has inherited one of his paintings, which was given to her grandfather, Herbert Smith, who was the village blacksmith and a neighbour of Frank.

At this stage I was not aware that the Raymond family originally lived in the house on the corner of Church Street – No 6 at the east end of Longs Villas. I stumbled on confirmation of the fact while checking for more information on that terrace of 19th-century houses in the 1989 book by Rosie's mother, the late Betty Smith, entitled 'Our Wiltshire Village, Steeple Ashton'.



Betty Smith writes...

*The Gabled houses on the right-hand side of the road, going down towards the main road, appear today just as they did on the old drawing of the village from the church tower, with neat, fancy tiles, decorated roof ridges and tall gable ends. I feel they were initially built for some of the higher grade of servants of the Longs' Estate. The design and space in them is superior to most of their cottage neighbours.*

*The one on Church Street corner was occupied for many years by one of the Rood Ashton household staff. Two daughters of the household married two brothers named Prosser. Mr Frank Prosser regularly read the lessons and preached at the church on his frequent visits to the village. He was also an artist who painted many oil colour pictures of the neighbourhood. One of Vine Cottage (later The Sanctuary), pre-1914, shows the house with a thatched roof exactly as I first remember it.*

Betty writes of Lou Raymond:

*After the sale of the Longs' Estate Miss Raymond moved out of the Longs Villas house to make way for the new owner, ... the Raymond's unmarried daughter found life difficult in her old age and to sustain herself she undertook to clean the church and act as caretaker of the village hall. In this latter occupation she was viewed askance by the younger generation, for she sat in at the social evenings and did her best to keep the young from mischief, from her seat by the stove.*

I passed the above information to Felicity in a series of emails, during which time she kept me more informed on her side of the story. Felicity was aware that her great uncle Frank Prosser was an artist as she and her family have several of his paintings, but she was not aware that at least one (of The Sanctuary) still exists in Steeple Ashton.

Felicity confirmed that Frank Prosser was her great uncle – husband of Kitty Raymond – and brother of her grandfather Edwin Prosser, who married Renie Raymond (confirming two brothers married two sisters).

Felicity was not aware that her grandmother Renie had lived in Longs Villas, but she confirmed that both her great-great grandfather and great grandfather had worked as carpenter/joiners “for the Longs, mainly at the house in Rood Ashton.” Felicity had sent me the photo of her grandmother Renie in the pushchair attended by her great aunt Kitty, saying: “I think this was taken in Steeple Ashton, but I don’t know where.” I was able to tell her that it was in Church Street, close to Longs Villas where the family lived.

Felicity also sent me another image of her grandmother Renie. Taken in 1898 when she was aged 14, it shows Renie with three of her dolls at what appears to be the front door of their Longs Villas home.



Lastly, after removing the 1950 photo of my brother Terry and I from an album in order to scan it, I discovered the following on the back:

PHOTO BY  
R. O. & A. PROSSER  
19 BAYHAM RD.  
BRISTOL 4.

Felicity thinks these initials were her father Alex and his two brothers, and that they must have run a small photographic business together. So, it could have been Alex that took our photo, before Felicity was born.

**Bryan Berrett**



## **CALL FROM CHORAL WORKSHOP: TENORS AND BASSES NEEDED!**

The Edington Arts Choral Workshop on Saturday 22nd October is still taking applications, and anyone interested is urged to apply. Application forms are downloadable from the Edington Arts website, [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org). There is space for more singers, but Edington Arts is encouraging tenors and basses in particular to apply.

The workshop, to be taken by former Kings' Singer and international choral conductor Simon Carrington has attracted a good response; the two pieces to be worked on, Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb' and Elgar's 'Great is the Lord', have interested choral singers from Devon, Hampshire, Dorset and Sussex as well as from Bath, Bristol and Salisbury, as well as all points closer to home. However, the assembled forces could do with more male support, so don't be shy!

The day will run at Edington Priory Church from registration at 9.30am to about 4.30pm, and there will be a final run-through at 5pm after tea and cakes, when singers' friends and families are invited to join the party. (No charge, but donations welcome).

The cost of the day is £25, £22.50 for Edington Angels, and £10 for students in full time education or training. This includes refreshments on arrival and mid morning, and hire of copies.

Visit the website or email [anne@edingtonarts.org](mailto:anne@edingtonarts.org) for more information.

### **C A M E O (Come And Meet Each Other)**

An open invitation for anyone who would like to meet others for a cuppa and a social chat from 2.30 – 4.00 pm on a Thursday afternoon at Steeple Ashton Methodist Church – All welcome.

### **REFLECTIONS & FELLOWSHIP**

A group who get together on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday mornings of the month, to look at parts of the Bible to see how it affects our lives. This is an informal group and not 'heavy'; and led by our own Izzie Smears. Feel free to come along and try it. Any queries speak to Izzie on 01380 870538.

## METHODIST CHURCH

“When things go wrong, as they  
sometimes will,  
When the road you’re trudging seems  
all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts  
are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have  
to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit,  
Rest, if you must, but don’t you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a failure turns about,  
When he might have won had he  
stuck it out;  
Don’t give up though the pace seems  
slow-  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than,  
It seems to a faint and faltering  
man,  
Often the struggler has given up,  
When he might have captured the  
victor’s cup,  
And he learned too late when the  
night slipped down,  
How close he was to the golden  
crown.

Success is failure turned inside out-  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you  
are,  
It may be near when it seems so far,  
So stick to the fight when you’re  
hardest hit-  
It’s when things seem worst that you  
must not quit”

**John Greenleaf Whittier**

*I find this poem immensely supportive; so if you too find times hard, perhaps you can get some comfort from these words.*

## CHURCH DIARY

Our services are normally at 9.15, followed by refreshments; we welcome everyone; why not come and join our happy friendly group one week.

### October

|           |      |          |                                                        |
|-----------|------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 2nd  | 9.15 am  | Pauline Tiller                                         |
| Thursday  | 6th  | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO - and every Thursday this month                  |
| Sunday    | 9th  | 9.15 am  | Rev. Peggy Kabonde – Harvest Festival & Holy Communion |
| Wednesday | 12th | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship                               |
| Sunday    | 16th | 9.15 am  | Izzie Smears                                           |
| Sunday    | 23rd | 9.15 am  | Rev. Tracey Lewis                                      |
| Wednesday | 26th | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship                               |
| Sunday    | 30th | 10.30 am | Sector Service at Westbury Methodist                   |

## **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

Fr Tom has informed our  
community

that the Bishop has appointed  
him to the position of Canon  
as from October this year.

We offer him our  
congratulations & prayers  
on this occasion.

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)