

STEEPLE ASHTON
NEWSLETTER

GREAT HINTON
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023



**Regional Gliding Champs
coming to Wiltshire**



Steeple Ashton Village Shop

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

Shop telephone: 01380 871 211

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Editorial

Hello everyone - Good news again - Nigel Perrin and his choir are aiming to perform a sung evensong in St Mary's at 6.30pm on Sunday 6th August.

It was with great sadness that I removed Michael Moore's name from the list of contacts for St Mary's Church. He will no longer be in post as church warden from the end of August and he will be sorely missed.

Something a bit different on the cover this time - the gliders we see regularly over our area and more to come. Please see the article on p5.

On the back outside cover I had to share with you the amazing image which was created recently which gives us a good idea of how wonderful our church organ pipes will look after they have been conserved and restored.

Next month, October, is the usual time for contributions to the newsletter and you should find a small envelope which you can either return to me or to your deliverer, if you see them. £10 would be very helpful! **Helen**

Newsletter Deadline for 2023 September 19th;

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 19th September**. 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.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Parish Council Vacancies

At the current time the PC has four vacancies. We would welcome new recruits, particularly to make our council more diverse to better represent our village population.

If you care about your community, want to make a difference and get involved in some exciting projects, please contact me, Robert Leonard (871244) or our clerk, Nicola Duke (01373 864127), for an initial chat. 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.

Information on Ball Games in parish recreation areas and playing fields

At the July PC meeting members considered the rules to be applied to parish recreation and play areas in respect of ball games and resolved the following, having heard from members of the public and noting their comments:

- Village Green – the current policy of no ball games would be maintained and the appropriate signage re-instated.
- Acreshort Park – small, unorganised ball games would be permitted and appropriate signage would be drafted. Interested parties and local residents would be consulted on the wording.
- St Marys Rec – would remain the focus for larger, organised ball games. The PC would investigate the purchase of a small, permanent goal and would liaise with the contractor to ensure the grass was maintained at an appropriate length. The recent project to purchase a mower for volunteer use at Keevil was noted and residents expressed an interest in raising funds for a similar project in Steeple Ashton, which was encouraged.
- Newleaze Playground – the current policy of no ball games would be maintained.

June Police Report

The June Police Report has now been published and can be found at <https://steeple-ashton.co.uk/news/>

Please also note the below information regarding online crime reporting: <https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Highways Group

The Parish Council would like to form a Highways group within the village of Steeple Ashton. The group would consult and consider matters relating to the highways through the village in particular to road safety to all road users including pedestrians.

Members of Community Speed Watch have indicated a willingness to participate in this group. If any parishioner would like to join this group or like further information please contact the Parish Clerk.

Wiltshire Council Planning Decisions

PL/2023/03524 - 1 St Marys, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EN - New two storey dwelling - Approve with Conditions

PL/2023/03432 - 6 Home Farm Close, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6AH - Construction of a garden room in the back garden – Approve with conditions.

Parish Council meeting dates 2023

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

Monday 7th August – Planning Only (if required)

Monday 4th September – Full Council

Monday 2nd October – Planning Only/Neighbourhood Planning

Monday 6th November – Full Council

Monday 4th December – Planning Only/Neighbourhood Planning

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**, we cover many topics of interest to our residents. There is also a **Steeple Ashton Village Discussion Group** and a group called ‘**Steeple Sells**’ for those of you that would like to buy and sell things locally – these pages are not a part of the Parish Council policies or procedures, 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.

Find us on the website at <https://steeple-ashton.co.uk/>

Regional Gliding Champs coming to Wiltshire

Bannerdown Gliding Club, based on Keevil Airfield, will be hosting the Bannerdown Regional Gliding Competition including the Interservices Championships from 5-13 August. There will be approximately 45 competition sailplanes conducting cross country flights throughout the week, depending on the weather.

Throughout the week if you happen to look up you may see the fleet of gliders circling overhead as the pilots prepare to start the race, or see them cruising towards the finish line towards the end of the day. The gliders are launched in late morning or early afternoon using powered tug aircraft. This is completed in approximately 90 minutes and the gliders are released in different locations each day depending on the conditions and course that has been set.

During the week you might see competition crews with glider trailers arriving or leaving the airfield if they need to collect gliders that have landed away from site. You may also see more vehicles and caravans at the start and end of the week as pilots and their crews arrive to stay at the airfield. All competition attendees will be specifically briefed on care when driving in the local area, villages and community. You can track the gliders' progress online at Bannerdown Regional Gliding Competition 2023

You can find out more information about gliding as a sport and the competition through the club at www.bannerdown.co.uk or email the competition at comp_admin@bannerdown.co.uk

Rob Leonard

Photographs on the front cover.

Useful Information

Postal Collections:

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

Newleaze - Weekdays - 9am; Saturday - 7am

Great Hinton - Weekdays - 9am; Saturday - 7am

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

Ashton Common Bus Stop - 3.35pm - 4.00pm

August 9th; August 23rd; September 6th; September 20th

Colourful Ladies

You may be surprised to see a growing number of glowing women out and about in the village. The reason for this will be the successful meeting of the WI in July.

The speaker Lindsay West shared her experience of gaining confidence through choosing a brightly coloured wardrobe in hues that flattered her natural colouring. Lindsey explained that she turned from a quite mouse to a self-assured head teacher before opening her own colour awareness business.

Our very able and assured president and the equally poised committee led the July meeting of the WI with the usual aplomb. After the usual rousing rendition of Jerusalem (accompanied by Alison on the piano) the business was swiftly dealt with.

The speaker Lindsay West shared her experience of gaining confidence through choosing a brightly coloured wardrobe in hues that flattered her natural colouring. In her easy chatty way, Lindsey explained that she turned from a quite mouse to a self-assured woman who was noticed and rose through the ranks of her profession. Wanting a change of direction and so enthused was she with her discovery of colour confidence that she has begun her own business sharing expertise and tips with others. Lindsey even shared a bit of colour science and art history.

She didn't pick on a member of the audience to demonstrate how the right shade of colour enhances the complexion, she probably saw no one in need; members of Steeple Ashton WI are a bright, colourful lot who probably didn't need this good advice. Nevertheless it is good to be reassured that you are doing all the right things in life to keep looking' young and beautiful' - as we all undoubtedly do!

The competition was 'something in rainbow colours. The entry table was an array of all colours of the spectrum. The winner was Rosie with a lavender bag made of woven ribbons; second was Kathy P with a fan and third a flower arrangement from Ann H.

In August our meeting becomes our annual coffee morning on Wednesday August between 10:30 and 12 on the garden of 10 Holme Farm Close (by kind permission of Ann and Ken). There will be stalls and a raffle as usual – AND all of you will be more than welcome..

Our September meeting on Wednesday 13th at 7:30pm is another opportunity to improve vitality. Wafaa Powell will be giving us' a belly dancing experience'. Wafaa is a lively and entertaining speaker who has

visited before. She will demonstrate this ancient female keep-fit technique with more besides but you won't be expected to get up and dance – necessarily.

The competition is for a 'Razzle-dazzle skirt so we expect some daring entries.

Do come along and share friendship and a lot of fun. **Alison and Rosie**

STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP

Normal Opening times:

Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am – 4pm

Sunday: 9am to 12noon



VILLAGE SHOPVOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you've ever thought you'd like to be involved in the village shop as a volunteer, but weren't sure what the roles were, hopefully this will help clarify. It is a very social place and a good place to meet villagers who you may not meet on a day-to-day basis. The shop is all volunteer run, apart from the Manager role, and you are guaranteed a warm welcome, you'll make new friends and you will have a laugh.

Shifts are 2 hours generally, and **FULL TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN**. You can have a regular shift, or just volunteer for 'fill ins' (cover sickness, holidays, appointments). There's lots of choice.

There are different roles;

BAKERS

This doesn't mean you have to knead dough and create magnificent mille feuille! It just requires you to put ready prepared doughs for breads, croissants, sausage rolls and pasties into the ovens and cook them. The shift is an early one; 07.30 – 8.30 ish, so suits the early risers.

COFFEE SHOP

This involves; making teas, coffees and other drinks (there is a coffee machine). Making sandwiches and serving cakes. Clearing up after each customer, and loading the dishwasher. Some customers do takeaways.

Assisting with pricing of new stock and putting it away, and checking the shelves (particularly the chilled items) for stock going out of date soon. Stock comes into the shop on different days and times. It varies.

TILL

Entering the products and taking the money. Processing any credit card payments. Answering the phone and dealing with customer queries.

Assisting with pricing of new stock and putting it away, and checking the shelves



Happy Summer Gardens to you All!

For our **'Autumn 23'** meeting SAGE is hosting a

'Village Picnic in the Park'

to be held on

Saturday September 9th

from **1pm - 4pm**

at Acreshort Community Park

in Acreshort Lane. (*weather permitting*).

Gardenalia / Produce / Plants - Bring & Buy / Raffle /

Pop-up shops inc. Bratton Plant Centre, Sandie's Vintage Garden & others.

Toilet is available, Marquee shading and some tables and chairs provided.

Disabled parking only at the Park, and absolutely no parking on Acreshort Lane please.



Please bring your own picnic and refreshments.

Everyone welcome, completely free, come along and enjoy!



Barneys garden jobs for the weekends..... ☀

August - * Deadhead flowering plants regularly to ensure continuous flowering * Prune wisteria * Feed the soil with green manures * Lift and pot up rooted strawberry runners
September - * Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them * Plant spring flowering bulbs * Divide herbaceous perennials * Net over ponds before the leaf fall

Contact us at: sagecontact851@gmail.com

Follow our SAGE Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2548517398732853>

METHODIST CHURCH

Firstly we'd like to thank all those people who braved the wind and rain to support our Tea and Cake event recently. We made a mammoth £470+ to help us pay for our modern communication system. It was lovely to greet so many visitors from near and far; one couple came from the Isle of Wight! Watch out for our next event, perhaps a Quiz Evening, a Fashion Show or maybe a Christmas Sale – who knows?

At our Reflections & Fellowship meeting this week we closed with the following prayer, which pretty well sums it all up for me.

Our walk with God
Is never a lonely walk,
It is a family occasion,
If taken in the company of
God's children.
If we lag behind,
There are those who will turn
And offer words of
encouragement,
Hold out a hand, offer
assistance
Over stiles and other obstacles,
Share refreshment,
Help us from our knees
When we stumble.

Our walk with God
Is never a lonely walk.
It is a joyful experience,
As along the path others join us,
Attracted by the company
Of God's children,
Singing the same songs of praise
That angels sing,
Following a path
Worn down by tears and joy
And sacrifice.

Our walk with God
Is never a lonely walk,
For he walks with us,
On a track that leads
To a glorious destination,
And for this we bring
Our grateful offering
Of praise and daily life.

John Birch

Church Diary

All services are at 9.15 am unless otherwise stated. Please come along and join us. You can be assured of a warm welcome, and a time to chat, plus a cup of tea or coffee after the service. If there is anyone for whom you would like prayers to be said, please leave details in the post box at the front door, and they will be included in the Intercessory Prayers on Sunday.

AUGUST

Thursday	3rd	2.30 pm	CAMEO
Sunday	6th	9.15 am	Rev. Gary Gotham
Thursday	10th	2.30 pm	CAMEO
Sunday	13th	9.15 am	Rev. Peggy Kabonde – Holy Communion
Thursday	17th	2.30 pm	CAMEO
Sunday	20th	9.15 am	Sunday worship
Thursday	24th	2.30 pm	CAMEO
Sunday	27th	9.15 am	Rev. Gary Gotham
Thursday	31st	2.30 pm	CAMEO

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	3rd	9.15 am	Sunday worship
Thursday	7th	2.30 pm	CAMEO
Sunday	10th	9.15 am	Sunday worship
Wednesday	13th	10.30 am	Reflections & Fellowship
Thursday	14th	2.30 pm	CAMEO
Sunday	17th	9.15 am	Sunday worship
Wednesday	20th	10.30 am	Reflections Fellowship
Thursday	21st	2.30 pm	CAMEO
Sunday	24th	9.15 am	Sunday worship
Thursday	28th	2.30 pm	CAMEO

C A M E O (Come And Meet Each Other) A Warm Space

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

REFLECTIONS & FELLOWSHIP

A group who meet on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday mornings of the month, to have a cup of coffee, and look at parts of the Bible to see how it affects our lives. This is an informal group led by our own Izzie Smears. Feel free to come along, and try it. Any queries speak to Izzie on 01380 870538. **We will not be meeting in August, but will resume in September.**

CATHOLIC NEWS

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

PARISH PRIEST CANON TOM FINNEGAN

TELEPHONE: 01225 752152

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.**

Now that Canon Liam has retired from St Thomas More church in Bradford-on-Avon, it has been combined with Trowbridge & Westbury parishes under Canon Tom. This has caused a change in some mass times as follows:

St John the Baptist - Trowbridge

Sunday & Weekday Masses:

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 10.30pm

Monday 9am

Tuesday 6pm

Friday 9am

St Bernadette's - Westbury.

Mass times will be:

Sunday 9am

Thursday 10am

St Thomas More, Bradford-on-Avon

Mass times will be:

Saturday 4pm

Wednesday 9am

Live streaming:

All masses are streamed live on www.Churchservices.tv or on
You Tube 'Mass in Trowbridge'

Parish Newsletter:

This is available weekly on the Parish website

www.stjohnthebaptisttrowbridge.co.uk

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

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

Richard Havergal (Licensed Lay Minister)
Tel. 01225 762668 rhavergal16@gmail.com

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

**Worship and Prayer in the Benefice
in the months of August and September**

*Except for Evensong, all services scheduled below include
a sermon or homily.*

Sunday, 6th August THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

11 am Lammastide

Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton

11 am Family Service St Thomas', Southwick

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton

**Tuesday, 8th August Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order
of Preachers, 1221**

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW) St Thomas', Southwick

Sunday, 13th August THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

10.30 am Family Service St Mary's, Steeple Ashton

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

Sunday, 20th August THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

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

Sunday, 27th August THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Sunday, 3rd September THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary (transferred from 8th September)

9.15 am Holy Communion (CW) St Nicholas', North Bradley
11 am Holy Communion (CW) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton
11 am Family Service St Thomas', Southwick
6.30 pm Evensong (BCP) St Mary's, Steeple Ashton

Sunday, 10th September THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Tuesday, 12th September

9.30 am Holy Communion (CW) St Thomas', Southwick

Sunday, 17th September THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

Sunday, 24th September THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

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

CW - Common Worship, Order 1 (contemporary language)

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In consideration of those around you when in church, you are encouraged to continue **using hand sanitisers and take appropriate precautions to minimise the risk of spreading the virus.**

**Morning Prayer is normally said
at St Nicholas', North Bradley Monday – Wednesday, and
at St Thomas', Southwick at 10 am on Thursday.**

**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 !*

Getting involved at St Mary's

There are currently vacancies at St Mary's for the role of churchwarden and PCC treasurer and PCC secretary. We are also delighted to hear from anyone who would like to read at services or act as a sidesman/woman.

*If you are interested in any of these roles,
please contact The Vicar.*

Church Street Cinema

Embarking on a new initiative, which started on 28th July, St Mary's has brought films back to the Village Hall at Steeple Ashton.

The plan is to show a film once a month on a Friday evening.

Details for August and September appear nearby.

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.

Church Street Cinema

Following on from our screening of 12 Angry Men in July, I am pleased to publish details of the films we shall be showing at **Church Street Cinema** at the **Village Hall, Steeple Ashton** in the two months covered by this particular issue of the Newsletter.

The Madness of King George (GB), 107 minutes (directed by Nicholas Hytner, and with Nigel Hawthorne, Helen Mirren, Ian Holm, Rupert Everett, Geoffrey Palmer...) is to be shown on **Friday, 25th August**; and

The Prairie Home Companion (US), 105 minutes (directed by Robert

Altman and with Kevin Kline, Meryl Streep ...), is to be shown on **Friday, 29th September.**

Tickets are £5 each, and will be **on sale on the door from 7 pm.**

Each film will start at **7.30 pm.** Wine and soft drinks will be available at a modest price before the film starts. Afterwards there will be an opportunity for informal discussion about the film.

Of **The Madness of King George**, Derek Malcolm wrote in *The Guardian*:

“Essentially it is Hawthorne’s triumph and no one else’s, since he provides the holding centre without which the rest might have seemed an ephemeral romp, uncertain as to whether to comment on its own times or ours and drifting towards parody in both instances”.

Described in *Halliwel* as a “delectable swansong to the career of its great director Robert Altman”, the **The Prairie Home Companion** starts as the long-running live radio variety show of that name prepares for its final broadcast - unbeknown to the listening audience. The radio station's new parent company has scheduled the show's home, the storied Fitzgerald Theater, for demolition, and dispatched "the Axeman" to judge whether to save the show...

Details of the films we will be showing up until Christmas will appear in October's issue.

Fr Oliver

STEEPLE ASHTON OIL SCHEME

From August the scheme is open to all and there is no fee.

The scheme was begun in order to cut down on the number of lorries coming to the village; an ideal we should continue.

All you have to do is phone or email your order to me the first week of the month for delivery on the second Thursday– you cannot be late – if you miss the date you have to wait till the following month – and you have the first week to think about it! If you wish you can email/ phone Kinch directly and state that you are part of Steeple Ashton Oil Scheme. **BUT DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE**; the scheme is for one lorry per month.

Rosemary 870119 colingwyrddrugog@gmail.com



Steeple Ashton Village Hall

'A Night for the Ladies'

Please come & support your Village Hall

Join us

on

Friday 22nd September 2023

From 7.30pm

BAR

Wines & Prosecco - all sold by the bottle for sharing

Music playing, Stalls, Chat and Fun!

(Bring some nibbles if you wish)

Tickets £4 (from Village Shop or Marian (871161))

A chance to enjoy getting together, having a drink, a chat
and browsing some stalls selling lovely things ~ **and** to raise
some funds towards our Kitchen & Bar project!

Please note this is for ALL village ladies,
Young & Vintage!!!



Steeple Ashton Village Hall

JULY 2023

Merci! Our French Café turned out to be a splendid occasion, despite the sunshine deserting us! We have had lots of great comments about how the hall was decorated inside and out, the accordionist's music, the delicious coffee & pastries and the produce. Our thanks to Steve & Bel Miller for the lovely eggs! And the raffle was a huge success thanks to all of you who donated prizes. I've also heard that the shop did a roaring trade in sandwiches on Saturday!!

None of this would have been at all possible without the extremely hard work, not only of the committee events team: Justine, Sandie, Jennie & myself, but of our wonderful helpers: Ali & Charlie Monk, Bel Miller, Adrienne Hale, Avril Lye, Lesley Carter, Tracy Bolton, Amelia Nicholson and her friend Olivia. Also to Ann Hunt who helped announce the raffle tickets. And of course I cannot forget Clive, our Chairman, who, apart from helping set up, was at our beck and call to ensure the technology worked and that any emergencies were dealt with! We do not underestimate how hard it was and give our heartfelt thanks for everyone's support. After costs, the current sum raised is a wonderful £750.00 - thank you!

Raising money: As I'm sure you know from all my written meanderings, the Village Hall needs to raise a lot of money in order to refurbish our kitchen and bar. Alongside this, there are always our utility costs as well as ongoing repairs and maintenance and although we are well supported by our regular groups and activities, there are more slots to fill and, as a charity, it is not enough to absorb the rising costs which we have all been subject to over recent months. We have tried not to increase our hire charges too much but will be reviewing them annually - it's a tricky balance.

Therefore we rely solely on our fundraising events to pay for improvements. We will get grants but have to match these, they don't just drop in our laps unfortunately. People are extremely kind and we have had some donations this year, not least from the Friends of Steeple Ashton, who donated some of their remaining funds to the village hall as well as other village groups. Also, we had a generous donation from a village family who held a wake at the hall. Please forgive me if I've left anyone out, but please know that we are hugely grateful for all your help.

In this respect, we would like to say that if there is anyone in the village who would like to help us with a donation towards the Village Hall, we would love to hear from you and would be extremely grateful.

Next event: "A Night for the Ladies"! On **Friday 22nd September from 7.30pm.** Tickets will be available in the shop or from Marian - please call 871161. Please see the advertisement in this Newsletter for more details.

The committee will have a short breather after that and then it's on to the Christmas Fair teas and our Candlelit Supper! Hoping to see you there!

BOOKINGS: Sandra Stevens 07827 291945 email: steepleashtonvh@hotmail.com
GEN. ENQ: Marian Little (Sec) 01380 871161 email: secretary@steepleashtonvh.org.uk

ST MARTY'S
PEOPLE ASHTON
PRESERVATION TRUST

Village

Hog Roast

Raffle

Bar



Acreshort Community Park

Saturday 19th August 2023

7.00pm

Tickets: £18 from the Village Shop

Tel: 01380 871211 to reserve

Tickets available from 17th July



STEEPLE ASHTON

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISION & OBJECTIVES

The results of the community questionnaire and analysis of the Steering Group have been drawn together to create a Vision and set of Objectives for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Vision and Objectives will be used to guide the overall direction of the Plan and the policies that will be included.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN VISION

Maintain and enhance Steeple Ashton's strong sense of community spirit and historic village character as a distinct rural settlement. Village identity to be retained.

Small-scale development will meet needs of local people, attract a diverse community, with a thriving population of all ages.

The natural environment throughout and surrounding the parish, the biodiversity and important historic assets will be enhanced and protected.

The community will be at the core of all future development. Steeple Ashton will be an accessible and safe space for all with enhanced footways, cycle routes and bridleways, and improved traffic management.

Steeple Ashton will contribute to the net zero carbon targets as all new development will meet maximum energy efficiency standards, use renewable energy sources, and employ a high level of flood resilience

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OBJECTIVES

1. To retain the thriving village identity of Steeple Ashton and ensure sustainable development is of a scale appropriate to the size of the village and local community.
2. To ensure future housing responds to locally generated needs, with an emphasis on family homes, starter homes, and housing for the older population, is of a high standard of design, and fits well into the context of the Parish in terms of type, mix, scale and character.
3. To identify, protect and enhance Steeple Ashton's heritage assets and key public spaces, including the conservation area and setting of listed buildings. Ensure that any future development reflects modern day living whilst being sympathetic to the existing character and heritage of the Parish.
4. To protect the community facilities, including the St Marys church, the village shop and post office and the Longs Pub, and encourage provision of additional facilities and amenities.
5. To ensure new development is supported by the necessary services and infrastructure, including coverage of broadband and mobile networks.
6. To protect and enhance the Parish's local open and recreational spaces, and improve access to and enjoyment of the countryside.
7. To ensure that development does not impact our valued natural environment and provides benefits to the climate and biodiversity net gain.
8. To reduce the community's contribution to the future environmental impacts of climate change, encouraging development to meet net zero carbon standards through energy efficiency and renewable energy installations, as well as ensure the installation of sustainable drainage systems and flood resilience.
9. To promote the environmental wellbeing and health of the residents of Steeple Ashton by providing safe and convenient access, by foot and bicycle, reducing vehicle congestion and pollution through encouraging the use of sustainable transport.
10. To encourage improvements for traffic management, particularly along the High Street, with a focus on safety and speed and ensure all new development provides sufficient levels of off-street parking.

THE NEXT STAGE.....

Once funding is received from Central Government, we will be able to start the assessment on sites that were put forward by the Parish for development. The assessment will cover many aspects, and once assessed, we will organise a **public consultation** on the shortlisted sites

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Mr Moose in Keevil School

Keevil School welcomes surprising new staff member, Mr Moose

Children at Keevil Primary School couldn't believe their luck when they met their latest teaching assistant this month. A huge, hairy dog named Mr Moose.

The school has recruited the help of Mr Moose, a registered therapy dog who is trained to quietly listen to the schoolchildren read.

Mr Moose, a gigantic Irish Wolf-Hound, has been helping the children overcome any nervousness when reading aloud by visiting each classroom and patiently listening to pupils read their story books.

Early research suggests that listening dogs can help improve reading performance in children, and Keevil head teacher Lindsey Hermon says their initial observations reflect those conclusions.

"It's clear to see that the children read more confidently to Mr Moose. Pupils not only love reading to him, they appear to put aside any shyness or self-consciousness that may be holding back their reading performance."

"It is amazing to see not only their enthusiasm, but also the focus the children possess when reading to Mr Moose."

Mr Moose, and his volunteer owner Emily, were organised via Therapy Dogs Nationwide (TDN.ORG.UK), a registered charity that specialises in assessing and training would-be therapy dogs, and matching them up with suitable placements.

Therapy dogs and their owners also make visits to local hospitals, hospices, care homes, and other establishments

This week, Keevil School was thrilled to receive a set of outstanding Sats and Mrs Hermon believes their innovative approach to developing 'the whole child' has really helped the children thrive.

"Together with other teaching initiatives, we expect Mr Moose to strengthen the children's learning achievements even further this year. It's tremendous seeing the children thriving and becoming more confident. However, it's fair to say that we also simply love having Mr Moose at the school and seeing the pure delight on the children's faces".





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NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

With June being the warmest month on record, July has started out looking like being the wettest! But there is plenty of time for that to change. At least it has given the plants a well needed boost.

Plenty of orchids are being spotted including Bee Orchid, Spider Orchid and Pyramidal Orchid which in turn attracts butterflies such as marbled whites.

Other butterflies are being seen such as Essex Skipper, White Admiral and Purple Hairstreaks along with the more common ones like Painted lady, Red Admiral and Tortoise Shell.

Let's not forget our moths. Did you know there are about 2,500 different species in the UK. Some reported recently with wonderful names are Buff Tip, Privet Hawkmoth and Burnett Moth.

Hares seem to be thriving locally with seven being reported in one field alone. These beautiful animals are usually nocturnal but can be seen foraging during the day. They rest and rear their young (Leverets) in 'forms' which are simply a scrape on the ground. They don't burrow like rabbits.

Last month (June) two Yellow Wagtails were seen locally in a field just off Sandpits lane. These are scarce summer visitors to this part of the UK and although they are the size and shape of the resident Pied Wagtails they are insectivores and as their name suggests, predominately yellow in colour. One of our members has had a pair of Stock Doves visiting his garden. This is highly unusual as they tend to be a bird of the woodland. Not as common as their cousin the Collared Dove and smaller than the Wood Pigeon they have a lovely iridescent plumage. Do not confuse them with the feral pigeons in town. These are hole nesters and often try to occupy Owl boxes.

A date for your diary. We have a local 'bat walk' arranged led by our own 'Bat Woman' Alison, which all are welcome to come on. We have about ten hand held bat detectors to use. We will be able to identify the species by 'listening' to them. The walk will be on Friday 25th August meeting at St. Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton at 8pm for an 8:15pm set off. Sunset is around 8:10pm that day.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 7th September at 7:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Steeple Ashton. The short talk is yet to be determined. Everyone welcome.

Please report anything of interest such as sightings of animal / bird / insect activity etc. Or any 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**

Steeple Ashton Guides and Rangers

We have been busy improving our walking skills in readiness for our next trip to Switzerland on the 26th July when we will be meeting in Melksham at 0630 heading for Heathrow terminal 5 and Zurich Airport.

We are staying for 10 days in a Budget Hotel and using a Bernese Oberland Pass while enjoy travelling around the area using the buses, trains, mountain trains, funiculars, cable car and Lake Steamers. There will be lots of walking, swimming in the lakes and local pools, as well as white water rafting, high ropes and trotty biking. This will be the 14th time that Diane Bouault and myself have organised these trips and this time we're being led by Carolyn Collis. We are all getting very excited and have been very successful with our fund raising and the paperwork is all but completed.

In order to keep our Rainbow, Brownies, Guide and Ranger Units running we are looking for some adults to help run our units. We have 3 leaders, all with very good reasons, leaving us in the coming months/year, so in order that we can continue we are reaching out for some new replacements.

WE WOULD HATE TO SEE OUR Guides in the village having to close down.

If you can help in any way, please contact Diane Bouault 01380 870 545 dbouault676@btinternet.com or Christine Glover 07746370848 cmaryglover@btinternet.com.



St Mary's playing field survey – the results are in!

A big **thank you** to everyone who completed the survey about improvements at St Mary's. We had **277 responses**, sharing views on the different options, lots of comments, ideas and enthusiasm.

Headline results

Respondents were asked to select their first and second choices from the three outline options. The three options were:

- 1 – full sized football – low cost and time to deliver
- 2 – sports and play – medium cost and time to deliver
- 3 – fun for all – high cost and time to deliver

The most popular first choice was option 2 – sports and play

Option - first choice	Quantity
2 - sports and play	44.8%
3 - fun for all	36.8%
1 - full sized football	18.4%

This was closely followed by option 3 - fun for all, with option 1 – full sized football – in third place.

Option 2 was also the most popular second choice, with 43.7%, followed by option 3 with 39.7% and option 1 with 16.6%.

You can find the full survey report:

- On the Parish Council website
- In the village Facebook Group
- Copies in the village shop – have a read with a cuppa!

What will happen next?

Using the results of this survey, the Rec Group is developing a final plan for improvements at St Mary's field. This will go to the Parish Council for consideration in September.

Once a plan is approved by the Parish Council, we'll hold an open meeting in the village hall to show the plans and information about next steps.

We'll then need to apply for funding to start bringing the plans to life. This will take time, but we'll aim to start some improvements as soon as possible, with more to follow over time as funds are raised.

We'll also share updates here in the newsletter and on Facebook.

How can I help?

If you can spare even a little time to help with this exciting project for our fantastic village, we'd love to hear from you! Please email sarecgroup@gmail.com.

Rachel Pearson, Steeple Ashton Recreation Working Group

Organ Pipes Extra

You may have seen a notice tied to the church gate inviting comments about the application which was described as 'Restoration of polychromatic organ pipe decoration'. We are now awaiting a decision about this project from the diocese.

To help visualise what the restored pipes might look like, I realised that my grand daughter was the person to consult. She seemed to think that producing an image was no problem. She took the background photograph in colour and then we had a detailed chat about the original colours of the designs on the pipes. I have a series of images from Robert Woodland and Debra Miller after they had stripped five of the pipes last autumn. They had told me about the original colours on the pipes, which had faded but which they could easily identify. The red they described as ox-blood, a lovely rich red. To my surprise, the 3 larger pipes on the edge of the facade, they assured me, were not blue but had a khaki background with cream flowers and only small blue areas around the mouths of the pipes. The central smaller pipes have a pale blue background with the red and pink decoration. All the facade has lots of gold areas which catch the light and make it look so special. I hope you agree that the total effect is very beautiful and should enhance our church. **Helen**





St Mary's Church Organ 2024

This wonderful image shows how the restored organ pipes in our church should look after the proposed conservation and repainting. My grand daughter, who is studying Concept Art at university, spent a few hours on her ipad to draw the original designs and colours onto a new photograph.