

STEEPLE ASHTON
NEWSLETTER

GREAT HINTON
APRIL 2024



*The
Village
Shop*

Steeple Ashton

Steeple Ashton Village Shop

Opening Hours - please see page 8 for the
current shop opening hours.

Shop telephone: 01380 871 211

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Editorial

Hello everyone - 44 pages in this April edition. So good to have lots going on in our village and to hear more from Great Hinton. I gather that there are many D Day events in Keevil but it was too late to include them in this newsletter. As you can see here, the first weekend of June seems to be entirely taken over by the 80th celebrations.

We did have some news about the vicar - please see p18 which includes a message from the Bishops of Salisbury and Ramsbury. They were sorry not to be able to tell us how Fr Oliver is after six months of sick leave. As they say, we hope to hear something soon.

Again, many thanks for all your generous contributions to this newsletter. You can contribute anytime throughout the year! (Please see p17) **Helen**

Newsletter Deadlines for 2024

April 23rd; May 21st; June 18th

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 23rd April**. 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 NEWS

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for Steeple Ashton will take place on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. Members of the public and representatives from local organisations are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

Parish Council Vacancies

At the current time the PC has two 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.

New PCSO's

Two new Community Support Officers have been appointed to the SA area, Izabela Dybowska and Evie Griffin. Both officers have provided a brief introduction to residents:

My name is Evie Griffin and have just started tutorship alongside PCSO CLIFFORD. I will be based in Melksham when independent. Alongside work, I enjoy playing rugby and walking my dog (Labrador) so you will see me on foot patrols even when wet and muddy.

My name is Izabela Dybowska I will be based in Melksham along with Evie. I have begun my tutorship with PCSO THOMAS. My interests are around criminology; which I have attended University for, and I enjoy engaging with people!

Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered at the March meeting:

PL/2024/01194 - 12 High Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6EL - Replacement of 3 no. existing windows and 1 no. existing door – No Objection.

PL/2024/01551 - 26 Acreshort Lane, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6HD - Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension – No Objection.

PL/2023/10772 - Land at 2 The Holdings, Ashton Common, Steeple

Ashton, Wilts - Standing of an additional two residential caravans (two statics) and two storage of two touring caravans on the land, refurbishment of site through ancillary works – Objection.

PL/2024/00094 – Old Estate House, 50 High Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EU - T1 Ironwood - Crown reduction by 3 metres. T2 Scots Pine - Crown reduction by 20% T3 Judas Tree - Remove one branch – No Objection.

PL/2023/10354 - The Manor, Church Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EW - New air source heat pump – Previously considered, no further comment.

PL/2024/01289 - The Manor, Church Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EW - Joist repairs, alterations and changes to floor finishes – No Objection.

PL/2024/00617 – Woodside, West Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6DF – Change of use of annex building from ancillary to independent holiday accommodation for Air B and B and ancillary use – No Objection.

Parish Council meeting dates 2024

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

Wednesday 24th April – Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 1st May – Annual Council Meeting

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/>

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

## **GREAT HINTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **GH Parish Council meeting dates 2024**

The Parish council will meet on the following dates, at 7pm, in the Great Hinton Memorial Hall:

Thursday 9th May – Meeting of the Parish (7pm)

Thursday 9th May – Annual Council Meeting (7.30pm)

Further dates to be confirmed.

### **GH Parish Council Budget and Precept 2024-2025**

At the January PC meeting the members considered and agreed the precept for the coming fiscal year. This has been set at £3,243.55 for the year which is a 3% increase equating to £30.80 per band D property.

### **GH Planning Applications**

The Parish Council considered the below applications ahead of the March meeting:

**PL/2024/01097** – 6 Littleton, Semington, Trowbridge, BA14 6LG – Proposed demolition of existing attached double garage and enclosed car port and erecting single storey front extension with two storey side extension – No Objection

**PL/2024/01145** – FORE ST FARM, 23 Great Hinton, Trowbridge, BA14 6BX – Conversion of existing linked barns to a single dwelling unit; the provision of a car port; associated works – No Objection subject to Highways Conditions being met.

### **GH Parish Matters – Traffic Update**

We are really pleased to report that our Highways Improvement Request for ‘road narrows ‘with a supplementary sign saying, ‘single track road for 1 mile’, to be placed at the location of the MOD signs at each end of the village, has been approved by Melksham Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group. There will be new poles and MOD signs as well.

We will also have two portable signs saying, ‘single track road unsuitable for diverted traffic,’ with sandbags to weight them, to be used at each end of the village when there are problems arising from a road closure. The method of deploying these will be decided by the Parish Council.

Regarding the Traffic Survey Request from a parishioner, our Parish Clerk, Naomi Mildenhall, responding to contact from Wiltshire Council has heard that the original choice of location (outside the Village Hall) is not

ideal for installation purposes, and they have given a location outside Barn Cottage. We have been informed by Highways that we are more likely to qualify for a 20mph limit, if the results show 24/25mph or lower, so we hope the survey will show that traffic is driving slowly at that location.

Jonathon Seed was very active in ensuring that members of the LHFIG were well briefed on the importance of our requests so Mike Sankey Chair of LHFIG was able to give more support to looking at the speed limits at the ends of the village, and the facilitating of the repair of some of the damage to roads and verges by the inappropriate diversion on 5th January. Keevil Parish Council were also able to support us by submitting the request for the signs at the Strand end of the village.

We would like to thank all those who attended the PC meeting on 11th January, and to those villagers who have campaigned so enthusiastically to support us in our endeavours to create a safer village for us all. The traffic survey is only the first step, so your continued support will be most welcome.

### **Parish Council Contact**

Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer: Naomi Mildenhall

E-mail: [greathinton@gmail.com](mailto:greathinton@gmail.com) Website: [www.greathinton.org.uk](http://www.greathinton.org.uk)

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

March was a month of ups and downs both personally and locally. I pen this month's news from a hospital bed having had an accident which resulted in a fractured pelvis. I will mend but the experience of a short spell in hospital has reminded me, in spite of demonstrable problems, just how lucky we are to have our National Health Service. This time also reminds me what a debt we owe to those that staff the NHS 24/7 giving superb nursing care and often carrying out critical but less than palatable personal care tasks.

Modern technology means that I have been able to keep up with local issues and the workings of local government in Wiltshire. The majority of the Parish Councils in this area are held in the first half of the month as was the Melksham Area Board, which I chair, so I was able to attend these important local meetings in person. I also attended my first meeting as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and it was satisfying to vote on the long standing injustice of developers forcing unwanted housing developments in local areas and particularly one in my Council Division.

I have recently been elected by fellow councillors to chair an influential task group to examine how Wiltshire Council sets and assesses the criteria for local speed limits. This appointment comes to me as a senior back bencher and allows me to use my experience to influence important policy change in Wiltshire. All these meetings take place remotely and I look forward to reporting our findings and recommendations in June, and hopefully seeing them actioned later this year.

At the end of the financial year I can look back at the local grant funding that has been achieved for local communities. There have been several successful bids for area board funding, including for football equipment in Steeple Ashton, heritage assets in Great Hinton and for air conditioning in Berryfield Village Hall. We now look forward to the next financial year and the opening of bids for funding of community projects in the forthcoming year. If there is a project in your village that needs funding then please work up a bid and I will help. We either use the community funding or lose it.

Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk Tel. 07770774463

**THE WILTSHIRE GUILD OF SPINNERS, WEAVERS &  
DYERS**

**TEXTILE STUDIOS**

**HOMEGROWN**

Textiles Exhibition

A field to fashion project exploring how to produce clothing using  
locally grown fibres and dye

THURS 1ST AUGUST - SUN 4TH AUGUST 2024

10:30 - 16:00

FREE ENTRY

3 ST MARY'S SCHOOL BUILDINGS  
STEEPLE ASHTON, WILTSHIRE BA14 6EU

For further information please see [www.wiltshireguildswd.org](http://www.wiltshireguildswd.org)

# STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP

## Normal Opening times:

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**



\*\*\*\*\**Introducing the Spring Coffee Shop special*\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\**Hot Drink + Cake for £4*\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Finances;**

There's been an increase in sales growth, year on year, and we're improving on the previous decline. Thanks to all those who are supporting the shop.

Losses have been substantially reduced.

All of this is due to a lot of detailed hard work undertaken by the committee.

## **Coffee machine;**

We're looking at improving the quality of the coffee offering in the shop and we will be canvassing opinion from our customers.....watch this space.

## **Coffee shop revamp;**

The photocopier has now been moved to the back office. It is still accessible, but we felt that it was taking up a lot of valuable shop space for an item that didn't need to be on show. This allows us to reconfigure the coffee shop area. We are also introducing some new artist prints, alongside Paula Boardman's work, and thanks to Nigel Woodwood, some new shelving has gone up for display – looks great!

## **Fruit & veg;**

Good news - We have found a new fruit and veg supplier that can deliver. This new contract will be implemented in April.

**Fran**







## **Spring is here!**

We hope you are all enjoying more time in the garden.

Thank you to all who came to our last meeting on 'Gardens of the Rich and Famous' by Dave Moon. It was a great turnout for his beautiful presentation.

Dave has raised nearly £20,000 giving this talk in aid of cancer and caring charities. A fantastic achievement!

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April: Charity Race Night.**

SAGE are sponsoring a race at this fun evening in aid of Coppafeel Cancer Charity. Tickets available from village shop. £20ea including buffet supper.

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May: Visit to Heale Gardens, Lower Woodford.** Please contact Jennie Willis for details/to reserve a place: [jennie.willis@btinternet.com](mailto:jennie.willis@btinternet.com)

#### **Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May: Garden Fair in the village hall.**

Don't forget to visit the SAGE garden stall!

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> June: Visit to the Special Plants Garden of Derry Watkins at Cold Aston.** Please contact Jennie Willis for details/to reserve a place:

[jennie.willis@btinternet.com](mailto:jennie.willis@btinternet.com)

#### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September: Picnic in the Park**

SAGE's annual summer event in Acreshort Park.

Details to follow. All welcome!

#### **Barney's Garden Jobs for April**

\*Sow new lawns or repair bare patches \*Keep weeds under control

\*Prune fig trees \*Feed hungry shrubs and roses

\*Increase water given to houseplants

Contact us at: [sagecontact851@gmail.com](mailto:sagecontact851@gmail.com)

Join our SAGE Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/2548517398732853](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2548517398732853)



Steeple Ashton Village Hall

## APRIL 2024

Well it looks as if Spring is finally showing its face, with the magnificent Magnolias on display around the village and beautiful daffodils popping up along the verges, bringing a much needed bit of sunshine. But the rain hasn't gone away so you might need.....!!

### UMBRELLAS!! -



We seem to have acquired 4 umbrellas now! They have been left in the cloakroom, so please have a think about when you were last in the hall on a rainy day and let me know if one might be yours. 3 are long black umbrellas with hooked handles and 1 is a small folding umbrella, black with grey writing on. There is also a green woolly hat hanging on one of the pegs! Please call me to arrange collection if any of these items are yours. We'll hold on to them until the end of April, then they will go to charity.

### EVENTS:

**Fish and Chip Quiz Night:** Saturday 23rd March 2024. All tickets now sold - Thank you!! We're looking forward to a fun evening.

**"From Victorian Squire to Laser Spire":** Friday 19th April 2024. 7pm for 7:30 start. A talk by Bryan Berrett. A visual tour through Steeple Ashton history. Cheese and wine to follow the talk. Tickets £10 (including 1 glass of wine and delicious cheeses). Available from: Marian 01380 871161 or Justine 01380 870334. This will be a great opportunity for new residents to learn about the history of our lovely village and enjoy meeting people over a glass of wine.

**Garden Fair:** Saturday 18th May 2024. Sandie Lewis is organising her popular event again this year and the VH committee will be providing the refreshments - all proceeds from which will go to the Village Hall Kitchen and Bar fund.

**DD80:** Saturday June 8th. 2 - 4pm. Come & join us for a cup of tea, coffee and a piece of homemade cake. There will be no charge, just enjoy a chat with friends as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings, where so many of our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen gave

their lives for our future. We look forward to seeing you.

**Night for the Ladies:** Friday 27th September 2024. From 7:30pm.  
More info to follow nearer the time.

### **AGM 2024**

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 17th April at 7pm  
in the Village Hall. All welcome

BOOKINGS: Sandra Stevens 07827 291945 email:  
stepleashtonvh@hotmail.com

GEN. ENQ: Marian Little (Sec) 01380 871161 email:  
secretary@stepleashtonvh.org.uk

TREASURER: Francesca Buffery-King email:

[treasurer@stepleashtonvh.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@stepleashtonvh.org.uk)

Website: [www.stepleashtonvh.org.uk](http://www.stepleashtonvh.org.uk)



Steeple Ashton Village Hall

## **Neighbourhood Plan Update**

Thanks to all those who replied to the recent consultation on housing sites in the village; in total we received 269 responses, 186 online and 83 as paper forms. Our consultant will be processing the data and further ranking it against the objectives of the plan before making their recommendations at the May meeting of the Steering Group.

In the meantime, the members of the Steering Group are preparing supporting papers on topics such as village heritage, character, green spaces and key views. These all go towards making up the evidence base behind the final plan.

The next big step is to commission a strategic environmental assessment, once we have a shortlist of sites. This is likely to take 6 to 9 months to complete, meaning that the public referendum on the final plan will not take place until late 2025.

Members of the Steering Group will be in attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th April should you wish to discuss with them progress with the plan.

In the meantime please contact the parish clerk if you have any specific queries in relation to the neighbourhood plan.

# NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

## News

Our last meeting in March saw a talk and picture show presented by David Culverhouse on the wildlife of The Gambia, especially the birds. It was very interesting especially when you contrast the species with the UK. For a country half the size of Wales it has twice as many species. For example we have one species of Kingfisher, The Gambia on the other hand, has eight! Amongst other birds such as Nightjars, we were shown pictures of Hooded vultures, Sacred Ibis and Great White Egrets. Plenty of Black Kites amongst the 100 species of Raptors, but no Red Kites, in contrast to UK.

Nearer home, members have reported seeing birds in their gardens that wouldn't normally come in such as Yellowhammers and Reed Bunting . Red Kites are ever increasing in numbers and reported on a daily basis. Not so long ago they were a rare sight in this area. Siskins have been seen on feeders.

Hedgehog feeding brings other issues. It would appear many of our hedgehogs, probably due to the mild weather, haven't bothered hibernating. Feeding them, according to members, has attracted unwanted visitors such as Rats. It would appear from reports that Rats in people's gardens has been a big talking point this winter.

You're all probably aware of Starling murmurations as these iridescent birds gather at dusk to roost. Well we have had our own mini version over the fields at the back of Bartletts Mead. Presumably roosting in the trees down Butts lane.

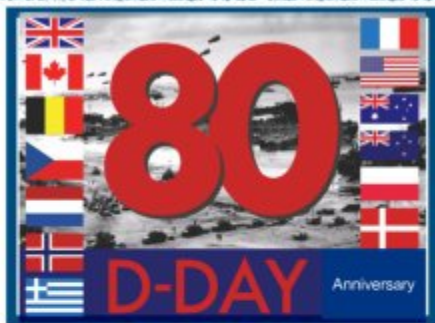
We hope to start having local outings such as a nature walk and foraging walk locally.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday 13th June at 7:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street Steeple Ashton.**

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

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

**Roger Ferguson**



# Steeple Ashton Village Hall

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US

FOR

## TEA AND CAKE

ON

SATURDAY 8th JUNE 2024

between 2pm and 4pm

NO CHARGE

just come along, enjoy & reflect...

**To mark the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings  
and the ultimate sacrifice given by our brave soldiers, sailors and airmen.**

and to remember -

...For our tomorrow, they gave their today.





## Steeple Ashton WI

It is always a little worrying at the beginning of a WI meeting, will the subject, and the speaker, booked for that meeting really appeal to the 60 diverse members. And making baskets, while it filled me with nostalgia for a youth of egg and fruit gathering, may not, I began to consider, have a great pull! So with some trepidation, after the business of the evening had been dealt with, quickly and efficiently, by Alison in her usual easy manner, Geoff Travers, basket maker, was introduced.

Nothing could have been more relaxing or more engaging. We were all lulled by Geoff's easy accent as he shared the wide knowledge he had gained over the years.

'Basket weaving,' he told us, 'is therapeutic. Well I find it so.'  
I think we all did!

We learnt how Geoff had moved from the bustling world of industry to take up an age old craft. Geoff uses sustainable materials to weave baskets of all shapes and shades – and gives classes for others to share his enjoyment. You'll find him on our village website.

It turned out to be a thoroughly pleasant evening - no worries!

The competition, 'Weave a...', was interpreted by members in a variety of objects including a stool and a lavender bottle, and many different materials. The display as always was a delight to see.

The winner, voted for by the members, was Sandie Lewis with a basket made at one of Geoff's classes, which he had been delighted to recognise.

The speaker at the next meeting on Wednesday April 10th is Dr Francis Burroughs. His talk is entitled 'Can you play Jerusalem?' and will concern the happenings - and mis-happenings! of the many WI's he has spoken at. Francis has visited Steeple Ashton more than once before. He has a droll sense of humour and it is hoped that we won't have committed any faux pas in the past to be remembered in his talk.

Come and join in this happy group – all young at heart and very welcoming.

**Rosie**

# METHODIST CHURCH

## Reflection from this year's World Day of Prayer

*Put peace into each other's hands  
And like a treasure hold it.*

Put peace into each other's hands. Put **peace** – it requires action, Lord. **Prayerful action.**

Not just **hoping** for something, **yearning** for something, even **praying** for something, but **actively doing something.**

And, **put** peace into each other's hand, Lord?

But what about **my viewpoint and opinion**? Because to put something into someone else's hands means giving it away, not holding onto what is mine, letting go.

It might be a bit easier if I knew I would be giving it to those I know and love, those I trust. But what about the 'other'? Those who are different to me? Those I don't agree with? Those I'm not sure I can trust? My thoughts, viewpoint, hopes and prayers – given away.

And as I stand, momentarily empty-handed, how do I feel? There is a vulnerability in giving, offering peace.

Will it be rebuffed? Mocked? Or accepted? Welcomed?

*Put peace into each other's hands  
And like a treasure hold it.*

Like a treasure hold it. A reminder, Lord, that this is something precious, this gift of peace we give each other.

Having given, can I now recognise its worth? Can I treasure it? Indeed, can I even accept it?

That's not so strange a question as it may seem. Because, again, it'd be easier from those I know and love, those I trust.

But can I **receive** from the 'other'?

Those who are different to me? Those I don't agree with? Those I'm not sure I can trust?

Significant parts of the Parable of the Good Samaritan lie in the wounded traveller accepting help, care and provision from one of the Samaritans, who were so despised – very definitely – the 'other', the 'different', the 'I don't agree with them', the 'I never trusted them'.

Giving and receiving peace requires generosity of spirit, openness and trust, as well as the humility to accept. It's a precious thing, then!

Lord, grant us grace to  
*Put peace into each other's hands*  
*And like a treasure hold it.*

## 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.

### APRIL

|           |         |          |                                     |
|-----------|---------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| THURSDAY  | 4th     | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 7th     | 9.15 am  | Rev. Gary Gotham                    |
| WEDNESDAY | 10th    | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship            |
| THURSDAY  | 11th    | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 14th    | 9.15 am  | Rev. Peggy Kabonde - Holy Communion |
| THURSDAY  | 18th    | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 21st    | 9.15 am  | Ed Colling                          |
| WEDNESDAY | 24th    | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship            |
| THURSDAY  | 25th    | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 28th    | 9.15 am  | Songs of Praise                     |
| SUNDAY    | MAY 5th | 9.15 am  | Eric Clifford                       |

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### **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.



## **CATHOLIC NEWS**

**Saint John the Baptist, Saint Bernadette & Saint Thomas More  
Working in Communion for Mission**

**Parish Priest: Canon Thomas Finnegan**

TELEPHONE: 01225 752152

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

Diocese of Clifton Registered Charity No 1170168

### **Services for Easter Week and Easter Day**

|                 |                                                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Maundy Thursday | 8pm Mass in St John's                                  |
| Good Friday     | 3pm Service in St John's                               |
| Holy Saturday   | 8pm Vigil Mass in St John's                            |
| Easter Sunday   | 9am Mass in St Bernadette's<br>10.30 Mass in St John's |

**Please see below the usual weekly timings of our Masses:  
but please check newsletter for changes.**

### **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](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)

# St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton

## Services during April

### Sunday 7th April

11am Holy Communion Ven Dr Sue Groom

### Sunday 14th April

8am Holy Communion

11am Family Service Richard Havergal

### Sunday 21st April

11am Holy Communion Ven Dr Sue Groom

### Sunday 28th April

8am Holy Communion Rev. Tony Longdon

## Message read out in St Mary's Church on 17th March by Archdeacon Ven. Dr Sue Groom

*We would like to thank church members for their patience whilst we discuss with Father Oliver the future of his ministry, following last year's Pastoral Enquiry. We recognise and regret the difficulties that a prolonged period of uncertainty causes in the Benefice and are grateful to Archdeacon Sue and local colleagues for their continued involvement. We hope to offer a fuller communication before long and assure you of our prayerful support during this holy season*

*From Bishops Stephen and Andrew*

## A prayer for Eastertide

Gracious and Eternal God, our hearts lift with the moment of this morning.

Now we see more clearly the way, now we know more nearly the truth, now we find more dearly the life.

This is the day of rising. This is the day of unutterable joy. This is the day of death's defeat.

This is the day you have made new all our dearest desires, all our hopes and schemes and dreams, all our chances to choose to live for the sake of our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the day, and this is the time, today, now we gather before you in worship, in the name of the same Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(From 'Seasons and Celebrations – Prayers for Christian worship' – compiled by Donald Hilton).

## **Summer at St Mary's Church**

**Saturday May 11 th:** Chippenham Male Voice Choir  
Proceeds to St Mary's Church remodelling

7:30pm

Admission £10: refreshments

**Friday June 7 th:** Military Wives Choir  
Proceeds to Flower Fund and Remodelling

7:30pm

Admission £10: Wine bar

**July 19th:** Bratton Silver Band  
Proceed for the Band

7:30pm

Donations: refreshments.

Free tickets also via website.

### **Creation Weekend**

**Saturday June 8 th:** Children's activities/wildlife count

**Sunday June 9th:** Family Service

You are cordially invited to the  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & COMMUNITY GROUP FAIR**  
Steeple Ashton Village Hall 7pm to 9pm 24th April 2024

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will run to a slightly different format with community groups being offered stalls around the hall in the form of a fair.

Formal presentations will be kept to total of 30 minutes to enable a more relaxed evening with the opportunity to talk to community groups in your own time and understand what they offer, whilst enjoying a free glass of wine.

The Parish Council and its various sub-groups will provide an update on their activities and what can be expected in the year ahead.

Do join us for what should prove to be an enjoyable and informative evening.

The AGM of St Mary's Preservation Trust was held in the Village Hall on Friday 22nd March and was attended by 36 members and 3 guests.

Jeannette Walton with her daughter and son-in-law were welcomed back into the village. After the business of the meeting was completed, the chairman, Lord Geddes introduced Helen Montague-Smith as the speaker for the evening. She gave an illustrated talk about the St Mary's Organ Project which is ongoing and is being funded by the Trust on behalf of the PCC. Many of the slides showed specialist decorator Robert Woodland at work in the church uncovering the original decoration on the pipes. She concluded with the amazing image of how the pipes should look when the restoration is completed - hopefully later this year.

---

### **More Useful Information**

St Mary's Church PCC supports the newsletter - which used to be the Parish Magazine - and there is a separate account for the newsletter which is used to pay printing costs.

Please put the word NEWSLETTER in the box marked Reference.

**LloydsBank: Sort Code 30 98 75.**

**Account Name: PCC of Steeple Ashton.**

**Account Number: 00320207**

Should you wish to contribute to the Church by direct debit or donation you can use these details and indicate where your money should go. **Ed**

### **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

April 3rd; April 17th; May 1st



## **Garden Fair 18th May Village Hall**

This is the second year of the garden fair which proved very popular last May. A great time to pick up some lovely plants and pots to spruce up your garden in readiness for this year's open gardens. Lovely antique and modern decorative items for sale including planters.

Refreshments as always will be wonderful and proceeds will help with fundraising for the kitchen and bar refurbishment in the village hall.

Do come along and support. If you have anything to donate for us to sell or for any further information ring Sandie on 07764 576106



celebrating 80th anniversary

A faded, black and white photograph of soldiers wading across a beach during the D-Day landings, serving as a background for the main title.

# D DAY CONCERT

*featuring*

## **The Military Wives Choir**

and

Steeple Belles

(Andrews Sisters tribute)

**Friday 7th June 2024**

St Mary's Church

Steeple Ashton

7.30pm

doors open 7.00pm

refreshments available

tickets £10 available from Steeple Ashton shop  
or ring 01380 870696 for details

**in aid of St Mary's Church and flower fund**



# Charity Race Night

In aid of CoppaFeel Cancer Charity  
In the Village Hall

Saturday 27th April at 7.00pm

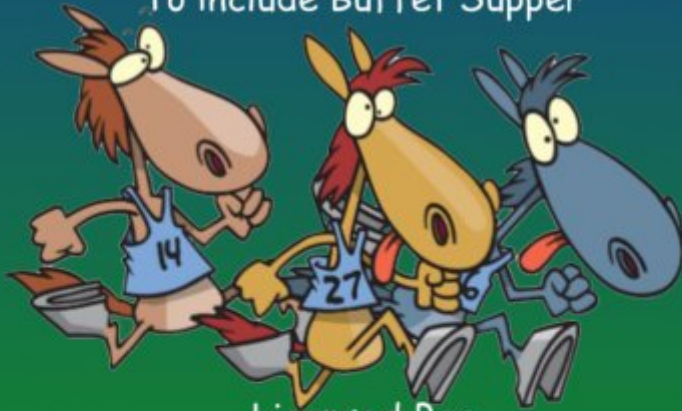
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**St Mary's Recreation  
Group is holding  
A Fundraising**



**7.30PM Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

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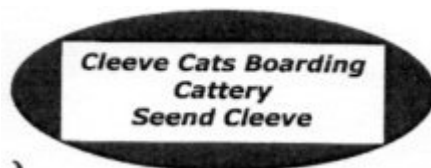
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The scheme was begun in order to cut down on the number of lorries coming to the village; an ideal we should continue.

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

## “FROM VICTORIAN SQUIRE TO LASER SPIRE”



A visual tour through Steeple Ashton history  
by

Bryan Berrett

Friday, 19th April 2024

7pm for 7.30pm start

followed by

Cheese & Wine

Tickets: £10

From: Marian 01380 871161 or Justine 01380 870334

(to include 1 glass of wine & cheese buffet)

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## **A FOOTNOTE ON THOMAS SEYMOUR**

May I, on behalf of everyone in the village, say a huge thank you to Bryan Berrett, (no doubt with help from David), for the continuing series of articles on the local history of this area. As someone who is a volunteer Room Guide at Lacock Abbey, I would just like to add a postscript to the recent articles about Thomas Seymour, whom many of you may not realise had close connections to Lacock Abbey. The Abbey was founded almost 800 years ago in 1232 and has a long rich history . Three hundred years as an abbey until 1539 when good old Henry VIII closed it down during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Then followed almost 500 years as a family home.

Bryan mentioned that Seymour entered crooked dealings with the Vice Treasurer of Bristol Mint. That man was the owner of Lacock Abbey, Sir William Sharrington. Sharrington had bought Lacock in 1540 from Henry VIII. He paid only £783 to buy the Abbey, the village of Lacock and all the surrounding land. As a crony of Henry, I suspect he got a discount! Like many people in power, Sharrington was a bit of a rogue. He became the Vice Treasurer of the Mint in 1547. This was one of the few outside of London that was licensed to mint Gold coins. Sharrington soon started to produce counterfeit coins and falsify records stashing away a fortune.

Seymour needed money to fund a private army to wrest power from his brother Edward. He had become Lord Protector, effectively ruling the country as Regent for the young King Edward VI, who had succeeded Henry VIII on his death in 1547 at the age of only 9. Sharrington supported Seymour in his quest for an armed insurrection using his ill gotten gains from the Mint. Eventually both Seymour and Sharrington were accused of Treason and locked in the Tower of London. Sharrington had been arrested In the Strong Room at Lacock Abbey. The misuse of the funds was only one of 33 charges eventually laid against Thomas Seymour. Sharrington pleaded ‘ not me Gov ‘ and was eventually given a pardon although he still had to pay £12000 to get out of Jail and subsequently reclaim his many properties, which included Lacock. These had been confiscated on his arrest. Poor old Thomas Seymour was found guilty and beheaded in March 1549. Sharrington returned to Lacock, was reelected as an MP in 1551 and became the Sheriff of Wiltshire in 1552. But he died only a year later in 1553 at the age of 58. Edward Seymour had also by then, fallen from power, and had been beheaded in 1552. King Edward VI only lived until 1553 when he died of TB at the age of 15. Lady Jane Grey and then Mary succeeded Edward over the next 5 years until 1558 when Henry VIII's daughter

Elizabeth from his marriage with Anne Boleyn became Queen ruling until 1603.

Sharrington's descendants lived at the Abbey for almost 500 years. In 1944 the Abbey was gifted to the National Trust, but the family continued to live there until 2011, only 13 years ago.

The Abbey's many layers of history include, the possession of one of the four surviving copies of the 1225 Magna Carta, held from 1232 until 1944 and is now on display in the British Library; occupation by the Parliamentarians during the English Civil War in 1645; and the invention of photography by William Fox Talbot in 1835. Indeed the Abbey is now classified as one of the 'Treasure Houses' of the National Trust because of the significance of Fox Talbot's invention.

Almost 200,000 visitors came to the Abbey last year, although ironically some of them came because of the link with the Harry Potter films rather than the history of the place! Many of the Hogwarts scenes were filmed in the Cloisters at Lacock. Is it a coincidence that the Postmaster at Lacock Post Office from 1927 until 1966 was also called Harry Potter? Over recent years, both the Abbey and the village have been used as backdrops in many films and TV series.

The National Trust is now starting to plan for the 800th anniversary of the Abbey in 2032. Another chapter in its long history! **Ken Hunt**

---



**Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset & Lord Protector  
of the Realm from 1547 to 1550**

## **Bryan writes...**

### **The final word on the Seymour Brothers, Thomas & Edward**

Last month, we left off where the estate of Steeple Ashton was returned to the crown following the execution of Thomas Seymour in March 1549. He had owned the estate for 10 years. Thomas's downfall had come about as a result of his persistent attempts to undermine his brother Edward – Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector and guardian of the young King Edward VI.

Thomas was charged with 33 acts of treason – and Edward's signature headed the list of names on the death warrant which sealed his fate.

What follows this month is the final act in the Seymour brothers' saga:

Freed from the devious schemes of his brother, Edward Seymour now seemed more secure in his lofty position at the head of government, and in Tudor high society. However, as events played out, this was not to be the case.

Six months after Thomas's execution, Edward began to learn that his leadership was under threat. The other members of the Regency Council had become united in their view that his handling of the political and religious unrest in England during 1548 and 1549, and his preoccupation with war with Scotland, had caused a colossal failure of government.

By 1 October 1549, fearing the worst, Edward issued a proclamation calling for assistance – and fled with the young King Edward VI to the safety of Windsor Castle. One week later he wrote to the Lord Mayor of London, requesting 1000 troops to defend himself and the king; but the mayor had already attended a meeting that moved against the Protector.

Edward Seymour was arrested on 11 October 1549. He faced various charges issued by the Regency Council, amounting to mismanagement of government. He was held in the Tower of London, but then released early in 1550 and restored to the council. In February 1550, a new leader of the council emerged: John Dudley, the Earl of Warwick – who became Lord Protector.

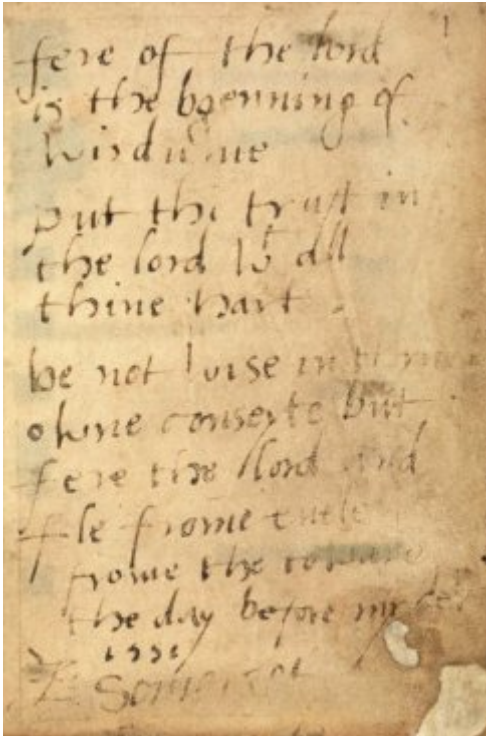
By mid-October 1551 Edward was back in the Tower on exaggerated charges of treason and felony. He was accused of attempting to effect a change of government by working to overthrow his successor, John

Dudley, and inciting Londoners into rebellion. Tried at Westminster Hall on 1 December, Edward was acquitted of treason, but found guilty of felony – and sentenced to death.

On the morning of 22 January 1552, in defiance of government orders to stay at home, a large crowd gathered on Tower Hill. They had come to watch Edward Seymour face the same fate as he had condemned his brother to three years earlier.

Having knelt in the straw to pray, Edward handed some gold sovereigns to his executioner. He then removed his gown, knelt, and placed his neck on the block. The executioner turned down his collar, and gave him a handkerchief to cover his eyes. He then asked him to stand and remove his waistcoat. After placing his neck again, Edward began praying “O Lord Jesus preserve me” three times – with the axe falling partway through his third utterance of “Jesus”.

Within the British Library, there is a small almanac measuring just 3¾ inches x 3 inches. On its fly-leaf are the following words – penned by Edward Seymour in the Tower of London, the day before his execution:



*Fere of the lord is the bgenning  
of wisdume*

*Put thi trust in the lord wt all  
thine hart*

*Be not wise in thyne owne  
conseyte but fere the lord and fle  
frome euele*

*frome the toware*

*the day before my deth*

*1551*

*E Somersset*

Edward had secretly kept the almanac on his person when taken to the Tower, and was quoting verses from a 1535 translation of the Bible. By dating it 1551 he was using the calendar of his time, when the civil new year began on Lady Day – 25 March. For clarity, his words read:

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom  
Put thy trust in the Lord with all thine heart  
Be not wise in thine own conceit but fear the Lord and flee from evil  
From the Tower  
The day before my death

1551

E Somerset

**Bryan Berrett**

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## **Keevil Primary School News - March 2024**

Keevil School is pleased to announce dates for our free preschool Forest School, which begins this Spring.

To give younger children the opportunity to experience our beautiful outdoor Forest School, we would like to invite parents to bring their preschool aged children along on the first Wednesday of the month in May, June and July. Our Forest School is located just behind the main School building. The fun outdoor activity sessions will start at 1.30pm, and will run for around 90 minutes.

The sessions are completely free of charge. Please contact the school office if you would like to register your interest.

In other news, forget World Book Day, Keevil School ran a World Book week! The aim was to create a series of memorable moments to truly ignite the children's love of books. One event included the wonderful author M.P Robertson who visited each class and taught the children how to draw dragons. It's fair to say the pupils were inspired owing to the number of incredible dragon stories and sketches being written and illustrated at school and at home.

There were book signings, book fairs, swap shops, and the children were surprised to have different teachers and other guests in their rooms to introduce them to their favourite books.

The week culminated in a very special 'Books Before Bedtime' event. The children came back to school in their pyjamas carrying their blankets and cuddly toys for a bedtime story and a hot chocolate waiting for them in their classroom. Many pupils said it was the highlight of the year!



Head teacher Mrs Hermon said “A big thank you to everybody who helped make our Book Week a brilliant celebration of reading.”





# Steeple Ashton Open Gardens

**SUNDAY 2ND JUNE 2024**

**11am - 6pm**

Refreshments & Cream Teas

Plants & Flower Sales

Raffle & Tower Draw

Pimms on the Lawn

Advance Tickets from:

The Village Shop - £8.00

[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) - £8.00

Tickets on the day - £10.00



# OPEN GARDENS 2024

Sunday 2nd June 11- 6pm

**Please could all Open Gardeners and helpers come to a meeting on Thursday 4th April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.**

(Advance tickets available from the Village Shop and TicketSource online from 1st May).

The Plant Stall would be grateful for any seedlings, cuttings, garden or house plants that you can spare.

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## Forget-Me-Nots

The first meeting of 2024 in February was well attended, and the speaker entertained members with an amusing and very interesting talk entitled "Recycling Old Rubbish", showing examples of the various flowers, birds, faces etc that, with great ingenuity, he fashions from innumerable articles of rubbish.

Members were treated to muffins with their cups of tea by the Secretary in celebration of her return to post almost a year after breaking her arm, etc etc!

The next meeting, on March 20th, at the time of writing, is the always most enjoyable Bingo and Buffet Tea, with food provided by members to enjoy together. The April meeting on 17th will welcome back Bob Rogers with a talk and slides on "The Hebrides".

Visitors always welcome, 2.30pm in the Village Hall, 3rd Wed of the month. Why not come along to see if this relaxed, informal and jovial Club would be of interest to you?

Further information, please phone Gloria (Chairman) 01380/870593 or Glynnis (Secretary) 01225/775681



*Vivaldi & Monteverdi*  
*The Joy of Venetian Baroque*

*The Trowbridge Philharmonic Choir  
and orchestra*

*Emma Lydon Soprano, Cassandra Dalby Mezzo-Soprano  
Tony James Organ Director: Graham Dalby*

**St James' Church, Trowbridge**  
**Saturday 4th May 2024**

**Doors 7:00 Concert 7:30 - 9:15**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/trowbridge-philharmonic-choir/t-lalykd](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/trowbridge-philharmonic-choir/t-lalykd)

Tickets £15 on-line or on the door (cards accepted)

(Interval drinks cash donation)

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