

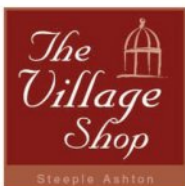
STEEPLE ASHTON
NEWSLETTER

GREAT HINTON
MAY 2024



Castle Lodge, formal entrance to Rood Ashton House, A350

This lodge gate still stands, a reminder of the Victorian Gothic 46-bedroomed mansion – ancestral home of the Long family – that lay beyond. In May 1975, with the wrecking ball having swung into action at the stripped-out roofless shell the mansion had become, an eleventh-hour spot listing by the Department of the Environment stopped total demolition. Today, what was saved – the former servants' wing – is a substantial country house, overlooking the original parkland.



Steeple Ashton Village Shop

Opening Hours - please see page 5 for the current shop opening hours.

Shop telephone: 01380 871 211

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Editorial

Hello everyone - May has arrived but we don't think the weather gods have noticed and whoever is doing the rain dance has got to stop. Hopefully by the time we get to Open Gardens at the beginning of next month, the ground will have dried out, seeds will have been planted and are growing. The odd flower would be helpful to raise moral.

We have another Annual Parochial Church Meeting scheduled for the 21st May at 7.30pm in Church. It will be chaired by Bishop Tim Thornton who you may have met last autumn when he came to the village hear about our problems by holding an Episcopal Inquiry.

Again, many thanks for all your generous contributions to this newsletter. You can contribute anytime throughout the year! (Please see p15) **Helen**

Newsletter Deadlines for 2024

May 21st; June 18th; July 23rd for August and September

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 21st May**. 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

Rural Policing Report

The Parish Council receives the Rural Policing Report on a quarterly basis and residents are asked to note that this is published on the Council website under the News section. The Rural Policing Report contains useful information relating to Steeple Ashton and the wider rural area.

Defibrillator

At the April PC meeting Members considered the purchase of a second defibrillator for the village and agreed to allocate the required funding to take this forward. The Council is looking into available grant funding support and investigating appropriate locations for the installation of a second device.

Parish Council Accounts Year Ending 31.03.2024

The Parish Council will be approving the year end accounts for the financial year 2023-2024 at the June meeting. Residents are most welcome to attend and all the relevant information will be made available via the website. Hard copies of the information will also be available from the Parish Clerk on request.

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.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered at the April meeting:

PL/2024/02211 - Raydown Farm House, Edington, Westbury, BA13 4NW - Closure of existing access's and creation of new access – No Objection

PL/2024/02820 - Midbrooks, Southbrook Lane, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6HW - Demolition of existing dilapidated outbuilding, creation of new stable area and change of use to equestrian – No Objection

Parish Council meeting dates 2024

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

Monday 3rd June – Planning and Approval of Year End Accounts

Monday 1st July – Full Council

Monday 5th August – Planning Only

Monday 2nd September – Full Council

Monday 7th October – Planning Only

Monday 4th November – Full Council

Monday 2nd December – Planning Only

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*** ~~~

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

I have now been a Wiltshire Councillor for 15 years and am still very much enjoying working in the local area, with all of our Parish Councils and on behalf of local residents. I am in the area most days and work closely with the excellent Parish Council on local government matters. As the Wiltshire Councillor for your area I am always happy to help residents to resolve your issues with local government matters. For Wiltshire Council this particularly means planning concerns, highways issues, waste collection matters and lots of other services provided by Wiltshire Council.

As we enter the new financial year this is a time to look forward at plans for local government doing our best for local people. We are blessed not only with living in a beautiful County but also in one of the (sadly rare) Council areas that has managed its finances well and is not in financial difficulty. This does not mean that we can afford to do all that we want to do but it does mean that we can do our best to produce decent local services. This includes an improving leisure service, a decent library service, regular and reliable waste services, and care for the vulnerable. That having been said, our roads are not good but are receiving better investment this spring than in most local government areas.

Over the past year I have increased my work within Wiltshire Council and I am now a member of the influential Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as well as the Strategic Planning Committee, the Western Area Planning Committee and I also chair the Melksham Area Board. My work in County Hall has included chairing policy development committees on social housing allocation and speed limit assessment. All of this Council work has been made more difficult since mid March when I suffered a fractured pelvis in a riding accident but I am now well down the road to recovery and getting out and about.

In summary there is always lots to do as a Wiltshire Councillor, which is supposed to be a part time role(!), however I will always make time to help local residents with local government issues. I try to communicate regularly with an active Facebook page where you can follow me at [www.Facebook.com/JSforWC](http://www.Facebook.com/JSforWC) I also write this monthly Parish article and finally if you need to contact me then my direct then my contact details are below.

Email [Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk) Tel 07770774463

**Jonathon Seed**

07770774463

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## **STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP**

**Normal Opening times:**

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**





## **Garden Delights**

We hope that by the time you read this the rains have stopped and you have been enjoying the wonders of spring in your garden...and other people's gardens. We are so lucky to live in such a pretty village where gardens and greenspace abound.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Visit to Heale Gardens, Lower Woodford.** *Now fully booked.*

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

Don't forget to visit the SAGE garden stall!

**Visit to the Special Plants Garden at Cold Aston.** *Now fully booked.*

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Steeple Ashton Open Gardens**

Not a SAGE event but a lovely celebration of village gardens that we feel sure you will want to attend!

Tickets now on sale online and in village shop.

**Thurs 4th July: SAGE Summer Evening in a Courtyard Garden**  
Stable Cottage, Vicarage Lane. Details to follow.

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

*\*Watch out for late frosts and protect tender plants \*Regularly hoe off weeds*

*\*Earth up potatoes and promptly plant out any still remaining*

*\*Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month*

*\*Mow lawns weekly but consider leaving some areas uncut for the benefit of wildlife*

[sagecontact851@gmail.com](mailto:sagecontact851@gmail.com)

Why not follow us on Facebook? [www.facebook.com/groups/2548517398732853](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2548517398732853)

## **Gazebos / Chairs / Tables**

Calling all Steeple Ashton groups

Please can I ask the event organisers to contact me (below) with their requirements for future events that require gazebos, chairs, and tables.

Brent has passed the baton on to me to organise for the future.

Lots of notice would be great, if you know you need them let's get it in the diary.

Also, please can I ask villagers to contact me (send me a text on the number below) to be put on our WhatsApp group so I can ask for help when required to do some of the carrying etc. we already have a few on the group, but the more the merrier.

**Steve Miller**

8 dark Lane North

Tel 07852921197

Email [stephenmiller@post.com](mailto:stephenmiller@post.com)

## **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)

## NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

It's now May and we are having reports of summer migrants arriving. Warblers such as Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler are here and have been for several weeks as have House Martins and Swallows. Cuckoos are also on their way back from Africa to breed here. Keep a listen out as they are around this area.

Local hibernating mammals such as Bats, hedgehogs and possibly dormice, if there are any locally, are becoming active.

If you see a wild bird or animal in distress, there are a lot of caring folk in the village who want to help our wildlife when it needs it but one of the best points of contacts for this area is the Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital. Their contact phone number is 07850 778752. They are a team of dedicated volunteers and will offer advice on pretty much any situation.

Their website also offers some invaluable advice:

<https://www.wiltshirewildlifehospital.co.uk/advice>

And It is worth looking here first before calling.

Recently, we had a foraging walk from High Street down to Luffenham field led by one of our members. This turned out to be a real eye opener. You would be surprised that the weeds growing down Butts lane for example, could probably sustain you and heal you in times of trouble. For instance, did you know that Hogweed can be used like asparagus and Ribwort Plantain is an excellent anti-histamine for nettle stings and insect bites.

We are a non-subscription village club and free to join so if you want to learn more about the flora and fauna around us, please come along to our next meeting where you will meet local people with knowledge in natural history.

Our next meeting will be on : **Thursday 13th June at 7:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street Steeple Ashton.** The short talk will be a demonstration of birdsong identification.

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



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

## Forget-me-Notes

The Easter Bingo and Buffet Tea meeting was, as usual, very popular, with almost a full complement of members attending. The lucky winners of the twelve games played received either a tin of biscuits, a large Easter Egg, or a bottle of sparkling wine with flecks of edible real gold floating in it. Thanks to members generosity a plentiful array of food was enjoyed by everyone.

Bob Rogers, the speaker at the April meeting, gave a most interesting talk entitled

“Islands on The Edge”, about the Hebrides, illuminated by slides. He obviously has a great fondness for the islands, as he spoke with such enthusiasm about their beauty.

The AGM will be held at the meeting on 15th May, and the Chairman urged all members to make a special effort to attend this important meeting.

Visitors always welcome, 2.30pm Village Hall, 3rd Wed of the month, more details please phone Gloria (Chairman) 01380/870593 or Glynnis (Sec) 01225/775681

## 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  
May 1st; May 15th; May 29th

# Chippenham Male Voice Choir



will sing at

**St Mary's Church,  
Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EW**

**Saturday May 11th**

**At 7:30 pm**

Tickets £10 (to include refreshment)

You may obtain tickets at the village shop, at the door or  
telephone 01380 870119.

**Also don't miss**

**The Military Wives Choir - June 8th**

**Bratton Silver Band - July 19th**



## Can you play Jerusalem?

This was the intriguing title of the talk given by Dr. Francis Burroughs to members of Steeple Ashton WI on 10th April, and many members were curious as to what the subject matter would be.

Strangely enough we were without both our usual pianists but in true WI style the membership pulled together and managed a delightful rendition of Jerusalem without accompaniment.

Dr Burroughs has given talks to WIs all over southern England from as far away as Cornwall and the north of Wiltshire and was discreet enough not to name them individually as he entertained us with tales of his experiences.

The degree of hospitality he received varied from the usual cup of tea and biscuits right through to a 3 course meal complete with a 'rather acceptable' white wine and the WIs he visited ranged from one in Cornwall with only 8 members, which had a 'business' section lasting over an hour and where he was warned that he needed to finish his talk by 9.15 as the electricity would go off then, right through to a new branch in Dorset, with many young members, who conducted a 10 minute initial 'business' section which required people to check on their website before he was asked to go straight into his talk.

The only visit he didn't enjoy was one where he was due to give a talk at short notice, on a day where he had covered many miles doing other talks, only to find that the lady had arranged for another speaker to come at the same time and intended to let the members decide which one they would like to listen to. Needless to say he won't be visiting them again!

The competition this month 'My favourite WI moment in 20 words' was won by Avril Lye, with her description of the first in-person meeting after the pandemic.

Our next meeting will be the AGM and Social Evening on Wednesday 8th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

We have many interesting speakers throughout the year, with subjects as diverse as belly dancing and what your handwriting says about you, together with visits (our latest one being to Bletchley Park), lunch club where we visit different local pubs and a variety of workshops.

New members are always welcome.

**Viv Wright**

## **Ven. Dr Sue Groom**

Archdeacon Sue Groom's last Evensong took place in Salisbury Cathedral to mark her 8 years as Archdeacon for the Diocese of Salisbury. Her final service is on Sunday 5th May at 6pm in St John's Church in Devizes.

Her last service in St Mary's was on Sunday 21st April. She was thanked for all her help during the absence of Fr Oliver. Gerry Oughton presented her with a bunch of flowers and a modern map of the waterways of the UK.



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## **METHODIST CHURCH**

In Salvador Dali's paintings you can sometimes find crutches. I've been told that these symbolise how none of us can manage in life completely on our own. We all need help and support. Maybe this is why Jesus sent his disciples out two by two. Yet loneliness is something I think most of us have experienced, more or less. In our journeys through life, we don't always walk two by two.

I remember once, when travelling on my own, I got stuck at the Airport overnight due to bad weather conditions. It was late evening. I sat down on the floor and another woman of my age did the same. We looked at each other, both tired and on our own. We started chatting. The restaurants were closed, but we went to the small supermarket to buy some food to share. With the help of a few tissues my suitcase became a dinner table, and laughter and thoughts about life turned our cheese, bread and juice into a little feast. Our life journeys crossed, but we never spoke again.

Could it be that God sends strangers our way sometimes, as supporting crutches? Two by two. Maybe the one next to us isn't someone we know very well. Maybe it's someone who just briefly crosses our path. Other times we can feel utterly alone without even a stranger to be found.

Then I think of another feast: simple bread and a drop of wine. A feast where I sense a love that, like a crutch, is there to support us, even in times of loneliness.

Can you remember a brief meeting with a stranger that meant a lot to you? Could you have been that stranger to someone else?

## **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.

### **MAY**

|           |      |          |                                     |
|-----------|------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| THURSDAY  | 2nd  | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 5th  | 9.15 am  | Eric Clifford                       |
| WEDNESDAY | 8th  | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship            |
| THURSDAY  | 9th  | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 12th | 9.15 am  | Rev. Peggy Kabonde - Holy Communion |
| THURSDAY  | 16th | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 19th | 9.15 am  | Rev. Gary Gotham                    |
| WEDNESDAY | 22nd | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship            |
| THURSDAY  | 23rd | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY    | 25th | 9.15 am  | Rev. Susan Holden                   |
| THURSDAY  | 30th | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |

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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

**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)

**Important Diocesan News:**

On Thursday 14 th March it was announced that Bishop Declan Lang has resigned as the Bishop of Clifton due to health reasons. We keep Bishop Declan in our thoughts and prayers and thank him for his 23 years as our faithful and dedicated 9 th Bishop of Clifton. Following on from this announcement, it has also been announced that Canon Bosco McDonald has been invited by Pope Francis to become the 10 th Bishop of Clifton. Which Canon Bosco has excepted. Canon Bosco is at present the Dean of Clifton Cathedral and a priest of our Diocese. We keep Bishop Elect Bosco also in our prayers at this time.

The ordination will take place on May 8th at 12 noon in Clifton Cathedral in Bristol.

## St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton Services for the month of May

|                 |         |                                  |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday 5th May  | 11am    | Rev Tony Longdon, Holy Communion |
| Sunday 12th May | 8am     | Rev Tony Longdon, Holy Communion |
| Sunday 12th May | 10.30am | Richard Havergal, Family service |
| Sunday 19th May | 11am    | Richard Havergal, Morning Prayer |
| Sunday 26th May | 8.am    | Rev Tony Longdon, Holy Communion |

### 'Thin places'

Over Easter there was a series of TV programmes about a group of pilgrims on a journey across North Wales to the holy island of Bardsey. Some of the group were better known on TV than others; their faiths were diverse.

At one point a priest took them to the top of a hill and explained about 'thin places' where heaven and earth might be felt to be closer than usual. Examples might be mountain peaks disappearing into the mist, the horizon where sea and sky meet, or places with particular spiritual significance. The pilgrims encountered all of these on their journey.

We might perceive a spiritual 'thin place' between heaven and earth in these days after Easter. Jesus, risen from death, appears and reappears in different places. Mountains and seashores feature strongly in these accounts. Likewise, angels, figures in white robes, Jesus' ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost suggest movement between earth and heaven. We too might feel those links in our own lives are closer than usual as we hear these stories and join in seasonal worship. What these stories also make clear is that no matter where we are, and no matter what the time of year, God is always close to us whether in clear sunshine or hidden by the clouds that lie low on the hills of our lives. **Richard Havergal**

### 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**

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

### **Saturday May 11 th:**

*Memorial Concert*

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 Church Reordering

7:30pm

Admission £10: Wine bar

### **Creation Weekend**

#### **Saturday June 8 th:**

Children's activities/wildlife count

Saturday Flower count and Butterfly day

( live caterpillars for children who attend

As last year)

#### **Sunday June 9th:**

Family Service 10:30am

#### **July 19th:** Bratton Silver Band

Proceed for the Band

7:30pm

Donations: refreshments.

Free tickets also via website.

### **Patronal Festival**

September 7th-8th

Watch this space



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

A couple of dates for the diary from Keevil School. Firstly, please join us for this year's Scarecrow Trail, around the beautiful village of Keevil, on the 18th & 19th May 2024. Keevil's famous scarecrow trail will also include a fantastic plant sale, BBQ, food and drink stalls, children's activities, and much more.

The event is used to help fund new equipment and activities for the children of Keevil School, whilst money raised from the car park is used to support charities such as Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Secondly, don't forget to sign up to Keevil School's free preschool Forest School, which runs on the following dates: Wednesday 1st May, Wednesday 5th June, Wednesday 3rd July 2024.

The forest school sessions will take place in our wonderful Forest School, located just behind the main School building. The fun outdoor activity sessions will start at 1.30pm, and will run for around 90 minutes. They offer the ideal opportunity for children to learn and interact with other children of the same age, and develop a love of the great outdoors.

The sessions are aimed at 3 to 4 year old children and their parents/carers, and are completely free of charge. Please contact the school office if you would like to register your interest.

Finally, in other news, Keevil School's Spring class continued getting to know the residents of Goodson Lodge care home in Trowbridge this month. The children spent the morning planting sunflowers with the residents. They read books together, and even had plenty of time for a game of bingo.







Remember our lovely 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. Lovely raffle too!

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 running across a beach during a D-Day landing, with a large landing vehicle in the background.

# D DAY CONCERT

*featuring*

## **The Military Wives Choir**

and

Steeple Belles

(Andrews Sisters tribute)

**Friday 7th June 2024**

St Mary's Church

Steeple Ashton

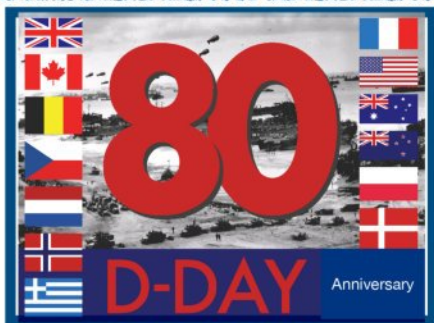
7.30pm

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**



# 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 VILLAGE SHOP

Changed accountants &  
changed card provider  
Saved £3,000/year

Improved stock control;  
Order/delivery checking  
Waste management  
(baking, breads, veg)  
2 x stock checks  
Proactive reduction of  
stock going out of date

Introduction of sales info to help  
make decisions and understand shop  
profitability and which products are  
our best sellers so we mustn't run  
out!

New local fruit & veg supplier

Online Banking

TURNED A PREDICTED ANNUAL  
LOSS INTO A  
BREAK EVEN

Using committee members'  
specific expertise to  
support shop  
operations and improve  
finances

Reviewing and  
improving  
procedures in shop  
to aid volunteers  
and adhere to  
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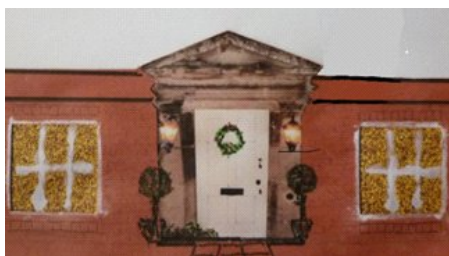
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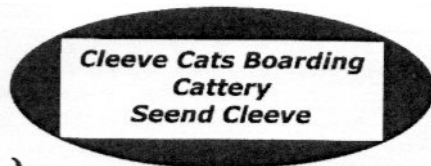
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All you have to do is phone or email your order to me the first week of the month for delivery on the second Thursday– you cannot be late – if you miss the date you have to wait till the following month – and you have the first week to think about 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

## **The Great Hinton Heritage Group**

This group was formed some 6 months ago with the idea of exploring the history and natural environment of the village and its surroundings.

With very little having been written about the village we decided that the main project would be to look at the Houses of Hinton, not just the older and listed ones but every house that we could find had been erected in the village. We were soon to find that this included several which had been demolished or destroyed during the last century. Fortunately we have managed to discover photographic evidence of all these properties. Dating property, has proved much more tricky and often we are dependent on the listed building status as the historical evidence is scant. The hope eventually is to develop a chronology or timeline of the villages development. In this we are being aided by the Long Estate Map of 1760, the Tithe Maps of the 1800's, and the 1911 property sale, of houses owned by the Longs in the village.

Fortunately one of our members has unearthed all the Census data for the village which will prove hugely useful when matching up people to houses. However if you have information which could help us discover more please get in touch.

At our monthly meetings we have heard interesting talks from members of our group on many issues, including one on the Castle Leaze complex, and another on the Peppercorn Orchard estate, which we discovered was originally going to be called the Elms.

Recently a member gave a talk on the Warship Week (February 1942) fund raising event which saw the village raise money to sponsor H.M.S. Aphis. Another ongoing venture is what we call Covid Times. It was thought it might be a good idea before memories fade to ask villagers to put down their reminiscences of that period that so altered our lives, and this has met with a good response with several informative and interesting replies which have highlighted many of the issues that affected us all, and some which were unique to that individual.

If you are interested in joining the group or finding out about what we do, please do pop in to our meetings which usually take place on the 3rd Thursday in the month at 2.30 pm in the village hall or contact John Buckingham ( foysfoys@yahoo.co.uk) for details.

**Mary Winterburn**

## Edington Arts

Our next event in Edington Priory Church is our annual Choral Workshop, on Saturday June 15th. King's Singer Chris Bruerton will work on music from Eastern Europe – Russia, Poland and Latvia, sung in English or Latin. You can secure your places for this day of fun music-making, online from [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org) ; the cost is £25, which includes all music, and welcome and mid-morning refreshments. Altos are already been first off the mark – come on, tenors basses and sopranos – don't hold back!

Contact Anne at [anne@edingtonarts.org](mailto:anne@edingtonarts.org) or Chrissy on 01380 831256 if you need any help.



### Steeple Ashton, An Ode

Ashton, little eden of the West  
To its north able Jeremy  
tends the herd  
South, Simon tills the cane  
Head east to the infernal capital

by James MacBryde

## **Bryan & David Berrett write...**

The Victorian Gothic mansion of Rood Ashton House was constructed in 1808, and then remodelled during the 1830s by architect Thomas Hopper. It had been built to replace a smaller, earlier house that had been bought in 1597 by Edward Long of Monkton, from William Button. When its demolition began in May 1975 after a decision by then-owner Mr A J Green of Trowbridge, this former grand home to the Long family had been in a stripped and ruinous condition for more than 20 years.

In 1930, when the Longs sold their estate following the death of Walter Hume Long – 1st Viscount Long of Wraxall – six years earlier, the house sale catalogue described the central hall as giving access to “the Magnificent Suite of Six Reception Rooms”. On the first floor, separate from the “Servants’ Wing”, the catalogue gives details of “Eleven Principal Bed and Dressing Rooms”. The second floor contained seven bedrooms, and the servants’ quarters 12. A “Nursery Wing” is detailed, which contained “School Room, Governess’ Bed Room, Night Nursery, Bed Room, Box Room and Nursemaid’s Pantry, and above on the Second Floor are Housemaid’s cupboard, Wardrobe Room, Work Room and two Maids’ Rooms.” Further rooms are also described, including “Six Men’s Rooms and Two Chauffeurs’ Rooms over the Laundries and Carpenter’s Shop.”

### **Rood Ashton House, mid-19th century**



In July 1984, a student at Bristol University named Richard Murphy wrote a dissertation on Walter Hume Long and his association with the Conservative Party. Submitted towards his Doctor of Philosophy degree, Murphy titled this dissertation: 'Walter Long and the Conservative Party, 1905-1921'.

On pages six and seven of his work, Murphy introduces Rood Ashton House and its grounds, and quotes a description from a 22 December 1886 piece named 'Celebrities at Home' – a feature which ran in 'The World', a weekly society paper published in London from 1874 until 1920. Murphy begins:

*Today, the main road between Westbury and Melksham passes directly in front of Rood Ashton and the house lies in ruins. But an impression of the estate as it was in Long's lifetime can be gleaned from a description published in 1886:*

*'You have barely left the tall chimneys and quaint brick houses of Trowbridge behind you, when you enter by an avenue of Scotch firs an expanse of tree-studded meadows which form the favourite grazing ground of the Rood Ashton shorthorns. From the Castle Lodge the road through the home-park rises abruptly till you come suddenly on a carefully kept garden, and a house ... of Tudoresque turrets, pinnacles and battlements .... On one side is an Italian fountain, standing amidst ... trim flowerbeds ...; at the foot of the grassy slope, with its giant elms and beeches, lies a dark willow-fringed lake, tenanted by swans and wild ducks; on the other side rises steep Stourton Hill, with its covers and its famous fox-earth; while in the valley beyond, the distant woods, copses and hedgerows of Gastard seem to fade away into gray mist. ... Passing the billiard room with its Japanese cabinets ... leads you into a central lobby, which takes in the whole height of the house. The Gothic tracery, the vaulted roof, and the elaborate stucco mouldings, all savour of the present, ... and a green baize door ... opens on the ... roomy and cheerful study.'*

*Here, then, was the centre of Long's world, his home and his retreat throughout a political career spanning four decades.*

**Bryan & David Berrett**



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