

STEEPLE ASHTON
NEWSLETTER
GREAT HINTON
JULY 2024



St Mary's Church, June 2024

The organ pipes are being restored by Robert Woodland and Debra Miller - seen here with Jeannette Walton who came to admire the wonderful work being carries out this month. Declan, her late husband was very keen to get the pipes restored and she has given money in his memory to do this.



Steeple Ashton Village Shop

Opening Hours - please see page 9 for the current shop opening hours.

Shop telephone: 01380 871 211



Open Gardens

To the cake makers and helpers

We would like to say a huge thankyou to all those who baked cakes and scones for the refreshments at Open Gardens on 2 June and to all those who helped on the day. We are grateful for all your hard work and efforts. We were busy on the two sites throughout the day and visitors seemed to really enjoy the cakes and cream teas. Thanks again.

Lesley and Julia

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Editorial

Hello everyone - Lots of colour this time to celebrate the most amazing day when our gardens were open. After the most dreary weather, the 2nd June could not have been better and hundred of visitors came to the village and as ever, loved our gardens, the plants, the food, the Pimms and the warm welcome they received. The amount of money raised was also amazing and will hopefully be used to look after our lovely church and to finally get some useful facilities into the building.

More great images of pipes and people and the lovely angels from the organ on the back cover. My thanks to all concerned.

Again, many thanks for all your generous contributions to this newsletter. You can contribute anytime throughout the year! (Please see p18) **Helen**

Newsletter Deadlines for 2024

July 23rd for August and September; September 24th

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

St Mary's Playing Field

Firstly, I would like to thank the group of volunteers who have been researching, gaining funding and those who have helped at fundraising events. As we have been actively fundraising, I thought you all might like an update on the progress so far.

Things are moving forward. You may have noticed the main football goals have vanished. These were kindly donated by the Parish Council to Semington Magpies Football Club. We are glad they can be reused for many years to come. Now that they have been removed, we are now going to place a five aside pitch. Thanks to the Melksham Area Board, the group was awarded £950.00 to buy new suitable permanent goals and nets. These we hope will be up ready for the summer holidays.

One item the village voted to have was a Petanque Pitch. This again will hopefully be in situ during the summer. We are currently awaiting materials and volunteers to help put this in place. If you can help, please do contact me.

Thanks to the great success of the charity bingo night held in May which raised after costs £936.92 the group at the last meeting decided to purchase a couple of cricket nets. Again, these will be in place for the summer holidays.

The group have also managed to secure funding from the Great Western Community Forest Project. The project has already planted hundreds of trees and hedges in Bulkington Community Park and will do the same in St Mary's. There is no cost to the Parish Council and they will be awarded money which will be ring-fenced to maintain the trees/ hedges for the next ten plus years.

Regards main play equipment. The group have met with many suppliers and have narrowed it down to two. This type of equipment is very costly, they will have to do lots more fundraising. So, watch this space!!

Talking of fundraising. Did you know you can sign up for free to Easy Funding? Download the App and search for Steeple Ashton Recreation and Community Development Group. It's free and simple to use. Each time you shop online, the group gets a small percentage of your purchase from the retailer at no cost to you.

We are also hoping to hold a dog show in September. Penny Hornsey, who arranged one a few years ago, has approached the group and is willing to help arrange another one. It was a great success last time. We will keep you posted on this.

I do hope you can see that the group is making progress. Sadly, it is not a quick fix and we do need to have a safe area for the children to play. They are our future of the village after all. But hopefully reading this, you will see that it is not only going to be a playing field, but a place for all generations of the community to enjoy.

Please do come along to our meetings, which take place the 2nd Monday of every month in the village hall. If you can spare a few hours to help with the project, such as fund raising, or muscles to help we would love to see you.

Once again. Thank you to all the time and effort already given by the volunteers of the group.

Cllr Sally Petrie

Highways Working Group

The Parish Council Highways group have led and provided funding to Wiltshire Council for road safety initiatives in Sandpits Lane , following concerns raised by residents.

We are pleased to advise the work has now been completed which includes much improved pedestrian access into St Mary's playing field from the public right of way in Sandpits Lane. We have achieved this by providing defined steps into the field and the path through the access gate has been levelled and stone chipping added.

A Steeple Ashton village sign has now been erected as you enter the village along Sandpits Lane. 'Pedestrian in the road' signs have been placed either side of the improved access into the playing field. In addition, a painted 'slow' sign has been installed on the road surface.

In providing this village gateway name sign, the additional road signs and painted 'slow' on the road it will emphasise to motorists entering our village that there is potential for pedestrians on the road using the Sandpits right of way into the playing field. We want to see reduced speed and considerate driving through our village and these improvements/additions should have a positive visual impact as you enter via Sandpits Lane.

We will be requesting that Wiltshire Council paint white lines on the road at the new steps to further emphasising a pedestrian access into St Mary's playing field.

The Parish Council Highways groups are exploring with Wiltshire Council a second pedestrian access into the playing field from Sandpits lane at a point where there is an existing tarmac pavement and within the 30 mph speed limit.

With the repurposing of St Mary's playing field, it is essential that we consider access improvements to this important village asset.

Cllr Jon Tapper

Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered at recent PC meetings:

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

PL/2024/02840 - Manor Farm, The Strand, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EP - Proposed Apex and Lean-to Structures to cover existing feeding and dung storage areas to prevent the escape of dirty water, proposed apex roof structure to cover existing feeding area yard – Support

Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions have been issued by Wiltshire Council:

PL/2024/02840 - Manor Farm, The Strand, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EP - Proposed Apex and Lean-to Structures to cover existing feeding and dung storage areas to prevent the escape of dirty water, proposed apex roof structure to cover existing feeding area yard – Approve with conditions.

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 - Approve with Conditions

Exercise of Public Rights to Inspect the 2023/2024 Accounts

The dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights are as follows:

Commencing on Monday 10th June 2024 and ending on Friday 19th July 2024

Any person interested has got the right to inspect and make copies of the

accounts to be audited and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating to them. For the year ended 31st March 2024 these documents will be available on reasonable notice on application to the Clerk whose contact details are set out above.

The period of inspection is 30 working days. This year it commences 10th June and ends 19th July.

The internal audit report and other relevant documents 2023-2024 are available for inspection. The paperwork has now been sent to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP 1 Westferry Circus London E14 4HD. The external auditor's report will be published when completed.

Parish Council meeting dates 2024

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

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

## **A Glorious Garden**

The WI was delighted to welcome a number of visitors to its June meeting. Not only were there a goodly number of members present but enthusiastic gardeners – men and women attended the open meeting to listen to our speakers Patsy and Robert Floyd.

After the business part of the evening Robert spoke of the history of Great Chalfield manor which has been his family home for several generations and which his grandfather gave to the National Trust in 1942. He spoke of their continuing interest in their home and the many changes and developments made to it. Patsy then shared with us a series of photographs of the magnificent garden through the year, explaining as she went the how, where and why of its success (and occasional failures). Her enthusiasm was truly inspirational. The WI intend visiting the garden at some point during the summer – Robert suggested that a Monday would be a good choice for a visit. Judging by the response to our evening it will be a popular jaunt.

The competition was for a flower in any media. Almost all medium were covered. The winner was Bett Horrox who used a variety of objects including pasta and screws to create a whimsical daisy.

At the next meeting on July 10th we will welcome Jonathon Holt who has published a book, 'Wiltshire Follies' and will be telling us more about his subject. His book will be available to buy. The competition will be 'A limerick which contains the word Folly'. Hopefully we will shall have a jolly evening.

**Rosie**

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## **Forget-me-Notes**

The AGM held in May was well attended, and all Commitee members remain in post, including our Chairman of twenty eight years.

The Summer Lunch will be held in the Hall on 17th July, with no meeting in August, we return on 18th Sept for a quiz/ beetle drive.

A happy, relaxing and safe summer to all members and their families.

Visitors most welcome, for more info please phone Gloria on 01380/870593 or Glynnis on 01225/775681.



## STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP

Normal Opening times:

Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am – 4pm

Sunday: 9am to 12noon



## STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP

### STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP CALLING ALL SHAREHOLDERS..... you are invited to attend the AGM of the

Steeple Ashton Village Shop which will take place on

**Wednesday 17 July 2024 in the Village Hall**

6.30pm – Informal drinks and nibbles

7.00pm – Formal AGM which includes the Treasurer’s report, Chairman’s report and an update on future strategy. There is also the election of the Committee for the forthcoming year

Prior to the meeting from Wednesday 10 July the following will be available for viewing in the Village Shop;

- Minutes of the last AGM in 2023
- Agenda for this AGM 2024
- Draft Annual Accounts for financial year ending 31 March 2024

Nomination forms for new Committee members will be available from Monday 7 July in the Village Shop, and the deadline for submission is Monday 15 July, for voting at the AGM.

The meeting is closed to shareholders only, but it is not too late to become a shareholder.

Please contact Lucy Wilcox on [lucycwilcox@outlook.com](mailto:lucycwilcox@outlook.com), or 07740 872363

## STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP

### **VOLUNTEER EVENING not to be missed.....**

**Wednesday 24 July, at 7.00pm in Village Hall**

We plan to have a volunteer 'Thank you' evening to which all current and lapsed volunteers are invited, and any potential volunteers are welcome to come along and find out about the workings of the shop, and talk to current volunteers (see article below). This is an informal meeting where we will share information on the shop and what our plans are. Wine and nibbles will be available.

### **Do you have a spare two hours?.....and like meeting people.....**

We are currently looking for volunteers to help in the shop. We have a bank of local people, some of whom like a regular slot, some just fill in when they can. Either of those is fine.

Each shift is 2 hours and you can choose whether you work on the till, in the coffee shop or in the early slot as a baker of the pastries we sell. There are always at least two volunteers on shift, and for four days the shop supervisor, Julie, is there too.

We are an easy going, happy bunch and help one another out when it's needed. Full training is given, whichever role you choose ( or you can alternate between all of them if you'd like to!) There is plenty of ongoing support, you will meet lots of people, and you will be helping us to ensure our shop thrives for the future.

If you'd like to know more, why not come along to our **Volunteer Evening event in the Village Hall on Wednesday 24 July at 7.00pm** (see article above) Or for an informal chat either pop into the shop and speak with Julie Ludlow, Shop Supervisor, or ring her on 01380 871211.  
Or ring Sandie Lewis on 07764 576106

# STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP

What's new in the shop.....



## HAVE YOU TRIED OUR NEW COFFEE MACHINE?

We had to replace our old coffee machine, as it had become uneconomical to repair, and after listening to the feedback from the coffee survey, we now have a new machine, with better milk, which also serves Decaf now. So come along and try it out.....

## NEW PRODUCTS IN THE SHOP

We now stock.....

**Blue Dragon Egg Noodles:** Key ingredient for a quick and easy stir-fry

**Uncle Ben's Microwave Rice:** So easy and versatile – just microwave for 2 minutes

**Le Francais Part Baked Baguettes:** A store cupboard standby with long shelf life – so delicious when baked and served warm

**Mary Berry's Classic Salad Dressing:** For when you don't have time to make from scratch but still want the best for your salad

## **The Great Hinton Heritage Group**

Appropriately in line with the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, at our June meeting Malcolm Burch gave another very interesting presentation on the links with WW2 and Great Hinton. Based on local memories, it was confirmed that a Pundit Beacon was based in a field by the crossroads, along with some American troops to carry out the operation and maintenance. Malcolm gave the group a description of a Pundit Beacon and outlined the role the Beacons played in WW2. Our Beacon was maintained by some American troops, who lived onsite. At night, the base's Pundit Beacon was employed to flash Keevil airfield's Pundit Code in Morse in red light.

Adverse weather caused us to postpone the village heritage walk part of the meeting, but we hope better conditions will enable us to make it part of the July meeting

We are pleased to announce that the Melksham Area Board has granted the group some funds to purchase presentation and display materials, and we would like to thank Wiltshire Council, and Cllr Jonathon Seed for their support.

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

Our next meeting is on Thursday 18th July at 2.30 in Great Hinton Village Hall.

**Mary Winterburn**



**Great Hinton Village Fete**

*Saturday 6 July At 2 30*

## NATURAL HISTORY CLUB

The very last day of May, eight of our members led by Matt from The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust had an early evening 'tour' of Biss wood which is the home to very rare Bechstein's Bat. Luckily we were preceded by a few days of no rain, a rarity lately, so it was reasonably dry underfoot. I was particularly pleased to see that the good work of the previous owner, Gilbert Green, was still being carried out 12 years later. We saw a lot of Ermine moth caterpillars that envelope trees and hedges with their web. Quite alarming to those who are unaware of this phenomenon. The caterpillars, in their thousands, feed off the foliage and use the webbing as protection against predation. Eventually they turn into small white or light grey moths with small black dots and fly away. The host plants and trees usually recover.

As well as the moths we saw common spotted orchids in the meadow and Balkan Spurge. Cinnamon moth was also seen.

Our summer meeting mid June, which was to be outdoors in Barton House's meadow but due to the weather was again in the church hall, had a member reporting Hedgehogs in his garden captured on film and even a fox eating the hedgehogs food. Luckily not the hedgehogs! A slowworm was found and photographed. Probably a male as no thin black stripe was present down its back. Although some females are without this stripe as well. The same member had Pyramidal Orchids growing in their garden. We were also shown by one member photographs of Dormice, Bechstein Bats (caught in HARP trap), Great Crested Newts and Butterfly Orchids all taken by his ecologist grandson on a site survey.

We all said that there has been a big increase in Rooks, Jackdaws and carrion crows raiding garden bird feeders this year. What could be the reason? Are we losing their natural habitat locally?

A largish yellow bird, not matching any UK species, was briefly seen in the Gullivers /sandpit lane area. Was it an escapee?

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 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**

## **EDINGTON FESTIVAL, Sunday 18 August to Sunday 25 August**

Hildegard of Bingen, the 12th century abbess, poet, composer, scientist, and visionary, provides the focus for this year's Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy. Our three choirs will sing four daily services, including Choral Evensong broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday afternoon, a liturgical performance of Faure's Requiem on Friday evening and Choral Matins on Friday and Saturday mornings.

### **MUSICAL SUPPER, Wednesday 21 August 6.30 for 7pm**

All the planning is done for this splendid fund-raising evening and now all we need are guests to entertain in the marquee on the Coal Path Field beside the church.

There will be a two course supper, with desserts – as always a sumptuous treat – provided by the generous cooks from the local villages and the entertainment happily given by some of the Festival Singers, in a very different style to that which you hear in church! Proceeds from this event go to various village charities and amenities.

Tickets are £30, available from Hugh Hancock (musicalsupper@edingtonfestival.org or Dunge Farm, West Ashton, BA14 6AX), payment by cheque or BACS. Please give us any dietary requirements you or your guests may have and if you have any access needs and we will do our very best to accommodate them. Please bring your own preferred drinks with you. We look forward to an enjoyable evening.

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## **METHODIST CHURCH**

### **Mark 6:v.40-43 – The feeding of the 5,000**

So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish.

In one of their songs, Swedish hymn writer Lina Sandell wrote something that I would translate along the lines of: 'Do the little that you can, and never look upon it, thinking it is too small or unimportant. Because how would you then be able to joyfully walk where your Lord sent you?' These words often come to mind when I think of a tiny amount of bread and fish feeding thousands. There is so much power in the smallest action of love. This should never be underestimated.

Climate change and extreme weather conditions are a worry to us all. How do we take care of God's creation so it will still be there for future generations? The feeding of the 5,000 might sound implausible, and so might any good news for our future earth at times; but in a tiny morsel of fish and bread there is a rebellious hope. We need this hope, and so does our world.

Prayer: God of life, give us the imagination and the courage to work for a better future. Help us to see power in the smallest of actions, so that we never give up. Amen

## 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.

### JULY

|                |          |                                     |
|----------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| THURSDAY 4th   | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY 7th     | 9.15 am  | Izzie Smears                        |
| 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  | Rev. Jane Knowles                   |
| WEDNESDAY 24th | 10.30 am | Reflections & Fellowship            |
| THURSDAY 25th  | 2.30 pm  | CAMEO                               |
| SUNDAY 28th    | 9.15 am  | Rev. Craig Manley                   |

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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:**

Canon Tom's Announcement: As we heard at all Masses last weekend, Bishop Bosco has asked Canon Tom to take over as Parish Priest in Sacred Heart Parish and St. Anthony Parish in Bristol. We wish him well in his new ministry and we look forward to meeting with his successor Fr. Richard Elson. We hope he enjoys his ministry and time with us as much as Canon Tom has.

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### **St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton**

The church has been closed for security reasons while the conservation and re-painting of the organ pipes has been underway. Robert and Debra have worked really long hours to try and complete the facade pipes so that they can be put back safely in place. Gary, organ tuner, has also cleaned and refurbished the pipes and is now cleaning and waxing the wooden case.



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

Sunday 7th July, 11am Communion with Tony Longdon

Sunday 14th July, 10.30 Family Service with Rosie Brett Green

Sunday 21st July, 11am Morning Prayer, Tony Longdon or Richard Havergal

Sunday 28th July, 8am Communion with Tony Longdon

Petertide, the Feast of St. Peter ( and now also St. Paul in Common Worship) this year celebrated on 29th June is the traditional time for the Ordination of Priests and Deacons. My own ordination as a Deacon took place on the Feast of St. Michael ( Michaelmas) almost twentyone years ago at Salisbury Cathedral when Bishop David washed my feet and those of my fellow ordinands during the service. That simple act epitomises what it means to be a real Christian and is a re-enactment of Jesus washing the disciples feet at the Last Supper before the Passover Festival ( John 13.1-17). But Jesus was using this act to show that he was no greater than anyone else and that we should be prepared to follow the examples of Jesus as best we can. "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." ( vs.15). Jesus also said," whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." ( Mark 10.43-44). Service and humility is a fundamental mark of a true Christian and whilst we may not live up to the exacting standards set by our Lord, we can at least do our level best. At a Chrism and Renewal of vows service in Salisbury Cathedral on Maundy Thursday a few years ago, former Bishop Nicholas in his address said in reference to service and humility said that"no matter what it looks like on great church occasions, it is not convincing in our day to proclaim the authority of institution and hierarchy." In reality building the Kingdom of God begins not at the top, but at grass roots level, that is in our case, but not exclusively, " the parish church" here at St. Mary's. There is much to do and success can only be achieved by teamwork. Fortunately St. Mary's has a dedicated team who work extremely hard in our Lord's service. But the whole village and wider parts within the parish boundary have a part to play in supporting that work. At the D Day concert in June St. Mary's the church was full to the brim and someone remarked, " Wouldn't it be nice if it was as full as this on a Sunday!" Wouldn't it indeed!

Your friend in Christ, **Tony**

## 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**

# BRATTON COMMUNITY BRASS BAND

Present

## A SUMMER SERANADE

- Concert -

7:30pm

FRIDAY

JULY 19th

ST MARY'S CHURCH

STEEPLE ASHTON



Tickets can be acquired on line (donations)

Or call 07983144183

[WWW.BRATTONSILVERBAND.COM](http://WWW.BRATTONSILVERBAND.COM)



# Renaissance meets Rock'n'Roll

**Sunday 14 July 7pm**

**St Mary's Church Steeple Ashton**

**Tickets on the door: £10 (cash only)**




Registered charity No. 293240

# OPEN GARDENS







please join us

Cheese & Wine Garden Party

Sunday  
July 21  
6-8pm

The Lodge High Street  
Steeple Ashton

£10 tickets available from  
village shop



We cordially invite local villagers to our two relaxed summer events:

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 from 7pm**

**American Independence and UK Election Day!**

Stable Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Steeple Ashton.

Enjoy a summer's evening with a glass of Pimms and light eats in a pretty courtyard garden. Mingle and chat with likeminded folk (including Edington Gardening Club. All we ask is for a small donation or the purchase of a raffle ticket to cover the cost of the Pimms.

Gardening related interest includes....

Hazel Fox Garden Designer; Bratton Plant Centre; Sandie's Gardenalia.

There will be limited seating but you are welcome to bring a chair.

**Sunday 8th September, 1pm-4pm**

**Picnic in the Park**

SAGE's annual end of summer event in Acreshort Community Park,  
Acreshort Lane.

Full details to follow. All welcome!

**Barney's Garden Jobs for July**

*\*Deadhead bedding plants and repeat flowering perennials for continuous flowering*

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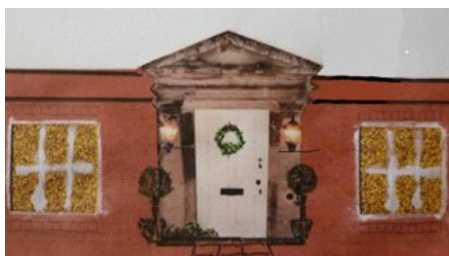
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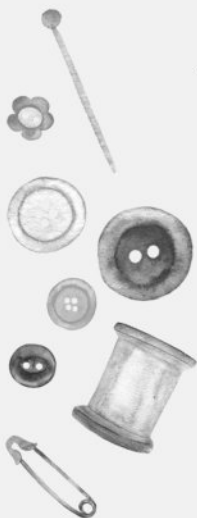
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## **Open Gardens 2024**

After some wet and cool spells we couldn't have asked for a more perfect summer day on 2nd June and the lovely weather certainly brought people out to see the beautiful village gardens in all their glory. Excellent marketing from Caroline Mackay helped too and so many people came we ran out of tickets and cream teas by the middle of the afternoon and had to improvise!

As always, Open Gardens involves a lot of hard work and many helping hands and I would like to acknowledge that this support is greatly appreciated. All the various teams worked tirelessly to create a welcoming experience for everyone and judging by the feedback it was very much enjoyed.

This year's Fairy Folk Trail gets a special mention as it added a lovely new element to the event and delighted the children and their parents. Thanks to Ruth for all your hard work on this and Sandie for the dressing up box and story books. The colourful Plant Stall looked amazing and was a destination in itself with visitors queuing up impatiently at 11am to choose from a fabulous array of plants. Brilliant work Gill and massive thanks to your knowledgeable team as well. Sandie organised the Raffle and thanks to her, Justine and Emma and to the kind sponsors who donated great prizes again. The Tower Draw led by Gill Verschoyle was another unique money raiser and the bacon butties provided by Pauline and Brian in their stunning garden was a tasty way to start the day off. Gerry and helpers sold hundreds of tickets and Lynda and Matthew tirelessly collected the cash throughout the day clocking up thousands of steps between them. Thanks for all your considerable efforts.

Open Gardens would not be the same without the famous Cream Teas and donated homemade cakes at the Village Hall and Moorfields Farm opposite. Julia and Lesley get their experienced teams superbly organised and were run off their feet by hungry and thirsty visitors and luckily Sandra was in charge of providing Pimms on the lawn which proved incredibly popular in the sunshine. Many thanks to them and all the village bakers and servers, and to Steve and team for putting up the gazebos and tables and chairs on the Green and around the village and for taking them all down again afterwards.

Lastly to the gardeners who generously shared their private spaces with nearly a thousand people, huge thanks on behalf of the Preservation Trust and St Mary's church.

All the money raised, a record £14,000, will go towards projects to maintain and improve our beautiful church.

**Kathryn Sewell**

## **Bryan writes...**

**Louisa Pollard, June 1926 – May 2024**

**Bryan and Terry Berrett and families would like to thank all those who extended their condolences at the loss of our dear aunt Louisa, who passed away just four weeks short of her 98th birthday.**

### **A Tribute**

As far as I know, Louisa ('auntie Lou') was the oldest Steeple Ashton resident. She was born on the 22nd June 1926 in Waun-Lwyd, just south of Ebbw Vale, South Wales. She was the fifth of 11 children; tragically, four died during childhood, leaving four brothers and three sisters.

Lou was 12 years younger than her eldest sister (my mother Doreen) and 13 years older than her youngest sibling Mary. Despite the difference in their ages, they had a special bond, and the whole family were very close.

Lou never married. Consequently, she had no children, but she had a large extended family of 17 nieces and nephews, of which I am the eldest. Most of us had children, and our families have grown so much that Lou recently became a great, great, great aunt! Lou's family were very important to her. She was never happier than when she was surrounded by several generations, and if a baby was present, she was over the moon!

When my Welsh cousins were growing up, they loved their visits to her old quirky thatched cottage in Silver Street, with its winding staircase hidden in a cupboard, and large back garden. They also loved her Welsh Cakes, and other meals she cooked in her ageing Rayburn. They have their own memories – too many to share here.

Lou was born just after the General Strike. This was followed in the 1930s by the Great Depression. By 1932, almost half the male population of Wales were out of work – and Lou's father was one of them. She never forgot those days. It taught her to waste nothing – to make-do-and-mend, and recycle – to prepare for hard times, and to strive for a better life. Lou never forgot where she came from; she was still sending money home to her mother in the 1950s.

Before the NHS was formed, when Lou was 15 years old, she was sent to care for me just three days after I was born, as my mother was too ill from the birth to cope. She also cared for my mother and I five years later when we both had pneumonia at the same time, whilst also looking after my baby brother Terry.

In 1944 at age 18, Lou registered for war work. She intended to join the NAAFI, but her father persuaded her to join the Red Cross – so she began working at a hospital for wounded soldiers in Newport.

After the war Lou worked in domestic service. She was a housekeeper and cook for a family in Bristol, on Clifton Down.

Later, a prolonged spell of ill health due to a blood disorder forced Lou to leave her job on Clifton Down, and return home to Ebbw Vale. Slowly she recovered, with the help of iron injections, which she continued to use for some years.

In 1947 my parents moved from Bristol, where they had spent the war years, to the family farm in Steeple Ashton. Later, they learned that Mrs and Mr Herbert of Ashton House required a cook and housekeeper. (The Herberts were from the family that owned the now-defunct Alfred Herbert Ltd machine-tool company of Coventry.)

So it was, that in the early 1950s auntie Lou moved to Steeple Ashton. She loved working for the Herberts, living in a cottage attached to the main house, arranging and cooking for dinner parties etc, and travelling with them to stay in their London flat.



**Lou & I at Moorfield  
Farm, Church St,  
around 1957**

After Mr Herbert died, Mrs Herbert moved to a house in Hilperton which she named ‘Little Ashton’, and Lou moved with her. However, Lou was not happy there. So, in the early 1960s she returned to Steeple Ashton and rented a cottage in Silver Street owned by Mr and Mrs Holmes.

Ever resilient, Lou took a job on a chicken farm. She also did some domestic work and cooking for Mrs Holmes, and for the owners of Old

Merchants' Hall. She served behind the counter in my parents' grocery shop at 48 High Street, cooked for private dinner parties, and worked as a caretaker and cleaner at the village school. Lou became involved in many village activities: WI, Forget-Me-Nots, the Village Hall Entertainments Committee and the Ladies' Club.

Later, she started a part-time catering service for weddings and birthdays. She was eventually joined in this venture by Betty White and her husband Chris, who were among the many good friends she made here over the years. Mary Ashby was an outstanding friend. As they both grew older, Mary phoned her every morning to make sure she was OK.

Brought up in the Methodist tradition, auntie Lou had a strong religious faith, and as a young teenager taught Sunday School classes in Chapel. She was good at needlework, an excellent cook, and a keen gardener. She enjoyed an occasional glass of wine, gin, or brandy, and loved dark chocolate. She read novels, and books about influential women. She loved dogs, but never had one after she left Wales.

In December 2021 Lou suffered a bad fall in her cottage, breaking the top of her arm. After a period in hospital her worsening dementia made it impossible for her to return to Silver Street. Consequently, for the past two-and-a-half years she has been well looked after at Wingfield Care Home, Trowbridge, where she was comfortable and not distressed. She passed away there in the early hours of Saturday 25 May. She was the last link with my parents' generation.

Lou was proud, independent, not afraid to speak her mind, and sometimes stubborn. She was always a pleasure to visit, and unforgettable. To say we will miss her is an understatement. Personally, I will miss that "Hello love"!

**Bryan Berrett**

### **Useful Information**

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July 10th; July 24th

## **Keevil School News - June 2024**

Last month Keevil welcomed visitors from neighbouring villages, parishes and beyond for our annual scarecrow trail.

The event, run by Friends of Keevil School (FOKS), was a fantastic success and raised almost £8,000 for the school. It was made possible by over 75 volunteers who ran the various activities and food stands during the weekend.

This year the village kindly allowed the school use of the rec, which really added to the event, making it possible to host lots of games and activities to entertain the children.

Given the summer so far, we were incredibly lucky to experience fair weather, and this year's scarecrow entries raised the bar once again.

The money raised will help fund new school equipment as well as improvements to our forest school, which now runs free pre-school sessions. Head Teacher Lindsey Hermon said "I'd sincerely like to thank everyone who came along and got involved, all of the volunteers and organisers led by FOKS, and of course the scarecrow makers. However, as always, the biggest thanks goes to Keevil residents for supporting the school in such a huge way and welcoming all of the visitors."

In other news, our year four children experienced their first trip away from parents and carers with an exciting residential school trip to the Brecon Beacons, staying in the Danywenallt Youth Hostel and undertaking activities led by staff from the National Parks Authority.

The activities centred around the wildlife and geography of the National Park. This included a treasure hunt, survival challenges, and a tough 4.5 mile hike, learning navigation skills along the way.

Lindsay Hermon reinforced the importance of these trips, "The children met all of the challenges thrown at them with an incredible spirit. Through taking part in challenging activities the children move outside of their comfort zones, which helps them develop resilience and self-belief. This translates into increased self-esteem and better learning behaviours back in the classroom."

Keevil School pupils all have the opportunity to embark on several residential and outward bound activities.

**Louisa Pollard, June 1926 – May 2024**



**Keevil School children in Wales**



## St Mary's Church Organ

Have you ever notice the carved wooden angels on top of the organ frame? They have just been cleaned - dust of ages - and wax polished by Gary Cook who is working with Robert Woodland to restore not only the pipes but also the case and these beautiful musicians.

