

STEEPLE ASHTON
NEWSLETTER
GREAT HINTON
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2024



The Holy Family: An altar piece painted for Steeple Ashton, Wills., by A. B. Connor.

One hundred years ago, this triptych oil painting by A B Connor (1880-1960) was completed for St Mary's Church, and mounted in the late-Victorian reredos behind the altar. It remained there until the late 1960s – when unknown and unwelcome visitors vandalised the images with a lit candle. Considered damaged beyond repair, all three were removed and never replaced. With the organ pipes now restored to their former glory, we can imagine the visual impact this east end once exhibited. When sunlit by the stained-glass east window (replaced with opaque in 1978), the area beyond the chancel step was a blaze of colour. **Bryan Berrett.**



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 - here is the summer edition of the newsletter. Summer seems to be a bit on and off at the moment but we have been lucky with outdoor events - the Garden Party in aid of church flowers turned out to be the most beautiful sunny evening in the garden of The Lodge.

Again, many thanks for all your generous contributions to this newsletter. There will be small envelopes, for those who still like to use cash, in the October edition but you can contribute anytime throughout the year! (Please see p16) **Helen**

Newsletter Deadlines for 2024

September 24th, October 22nd, November 19th

Items for the **next** newsletter should be received by **Tuesday 24th September**. They should be sent to Mrs Helen Montague-Smith, 1A Butts Lane, Steeple Ashton or by email to

helenmontaguesmith8@gmail.com

All published items solely express **the views of the author** and are the copyright of the author and the newsletter unless otherwise stated.

The Editor would like to remind you that it is up to you, the readers, to supply all news and copy for the newsletter. The sender's name and address need to be received before printing. Telephone 01380 871285.

Inquiries for **commercial** advertisements in the newsletter should be made to **Bridget Lewis**: email: advert4steepleashton@gmail.com or 01380 871279 Please send your ads by email if possible. Please note that if you want a colour A5 page in the newsletter, we charge £25 to cover extra printing costs. The newsletter can be seen in colour on the village website.

Please note, we do not deliver flyers for advertisers.

STEEPLE ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Luffenham Meadow

At the July PC meeting Members considered the future arrangements for Luffenham Meadow and it was formally resolved that the Council would take on the lease for an initial period of one year, subject to the approval of the lease documents.

Events on Council owned land

The Parish Council has recently received a request to use council owned land for a local event. The insurance arrangements for granting permission to such requests have now been established with the PC's insurer. Any local group wishing to use Council owned land for an event is asked to complete an event form and send this, together with an appropriate risk assessment, to the Parish Clerk. It would be extremely helpful if this could be done at least a month prior to the planned event (where possible) so that the appropriate submission to the insurers can be made in good time. Forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Planning Applications

The following planning applications were considered at recent PC meetings:

PL/2024/05542 - 11 Common Hill, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EE - First floor rear extension to create a bedroom – No objection.

PL/2024/05056 – Sundial House, 19 High Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6EL - Install a new kitchen/diner into the existing 'reception room'. Decommission the existing ground floor WC return the space to be used as an open under stairs storage, Partition the existing kitchen to form a small office, entrance vestibule and laundry/utility, Partition the existing utility room into a new WC and boiler room/store– No objection.

PL/2024/05059 - Sundial House, 19 High Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6EL - Replacement of existing damp and failing suspended floors to the front of the house with insulated solid floor – No objection.

PL/2024/05726 – Homestead House, Vicarage Lane, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge BA14 6HH - Holly tree - 10% Crown reduction and thinning – No objection.

PL/2024/05811 - 1 Silver Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6HB
- Demolition of most of single storey rear offshoot extensions to existing dwelling and formation of proposed 2 storey rear extension including related external works – No objection

Planning Decisions

The following planning decisions have been issued by Wiltshire Council:

PL/2024/03880 - 48 High Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6EU - Replacement of 6 no. external windows (4 on the south side, 1 on the west side and 1 on the north side)

Decision: Approve with Conditions

PL/2024/03398 - 5 Silver Street, Steeple Ashton, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 6HB - Certificate of Lawfulness for conversion of the old stable block into ancillary accommodation

Decision: Refuse

Parish Council meeting dates 2024

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

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) ~~~

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

This is a pretty busy summer for me as your local government representative and made even more busy by the calling of the General Election. That is now over and we have a new MP to whom we wish the very best of luck during his tenure.

As your Wiltshire Councillor for Melksham Without West and Rural I attend as many of the Parish Councils as I can in the villages of Berryfield, Semington, Great Hinton, Keevil, Steeple Ashton and Broughton Gifford. I also attend other local events such as fetes, coffee mornings and Annual Parish Meetings. Part of my role is to represent you at County Hall where I sit on both the Strategic and Western Area Planning Committee as well as the influential Overview and Scrutiny Task Group where I also chair policy forming Task Groups. I have been elected to Chair the Melksham Area Board for a further year. In addition I sit on my own local village Parish Council and run a small business. I have recently chaired an all party Task Group to look into the process of speed limit assessments in the County and after many month of meetings and taking evidence we have made recommendations that we hope will improve the process and its transparency as well as providing an appeals process where applicants and communities are unhappy with results. In my spare time I enjoy country sports, gardening and supporting my daughter as an international equestrian athlete. I also give time as a volunteer to oversee the running of nationally organised Horse Trials so I have plenty to do all year round.

Over the past weeks there has been a great deal going on in this Wiltshire Council Division of Melksham Without West and Rural. Every village has some important project that they are working on and many of these use a little help from Wiltshire Council. My role is to facilitate that help. This ranges from significant Highways contributions to installation of curbing on the grass verge on the Hight Street in Keevil, to the installation of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera at the Semington Bus Gate to working to limit unacceptable traffic through Great Hinton. I also help our local communities to improve their quality of life and this ranges from supporting Area Board grant applications for projects such as Great Hinton Historical matters to negotiating local matters between villages and one of these was to help get the redundant Steeple Ashton goal posts transferred to the thriving football club in Semington. I also visit community groups who have been supported by Grants for our Area Board

to see how our community funding is being used and last month I visited the local Riding for the Disabled Group to see just how well they use grant funding. It is all part of what I do!

I was concerned to see the wild flower verge in Steeple Ashton mowed in early July so I wrote to the Area Highways Manager on behalf of Steeple Ashton residents and particularly those who put so much work into that verge. I received a refreshingly honest and helpful response in which the Highways Department admitted that the young operative of the mower misread his map and mowed the verge in error. They also offered an extra day of work from the Highways Department in the village and the Parish Council is currently negotiating this. Not an ideal situation but at least Wiltshire Council is trying to put a genuine mistake right.

I have been out and about delivering leaflets in all villages this year, including Steeple Ashton. I really enjoy getting out in your village as it gives me a great opportunity to talk to you and other residents. Similarly attending village events affords good social opportunity.

If you would like to contact me to discuss a local government issue then see the contact details below.

Jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk

Tel. 07770 774463

Facebook: Councillor Jonathon Seed for Melksham Without West and Rural

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## **Forget-me-Nots**

Members enjoyed a musical afternoon on 19th June as SloeJam's seven musicians entertained us with old favourites, with some members joining in the singing.

The Summer Lunch held in the Village Hall on 17th July was a happy occasion with members tucking into a plentiful buffet lunch, with a prize for everyone in the Raffle. They all also received a pretty folding fan each, and a bag of luxury Belgian chocolates.

There are no meetings during August, and when they resume on 18th Sept there will be a Beetle Drive.

Visitors most welcome, for more info please phone **Gloria** (Chairman) on 01380/870593 or **Glynnis** (Sec) on 01225/775681.

## **Steeple Ashton WI:**

### **‘Tired but happy...’**

The July meeting of the WI was ‘full’ to say the least! The business section of the meeting promised to be very long. It included a report on the annual meeting in the Albert Hall in June (admirably delivered by Justine) and Marion Little’s video of the highlights of that day. Members joined the 2000 members on film, to sing a rousing ‘Jerusalem’. When the WI sing it at the annual meeting, it certainly is inspiring.

July 1945 was the occasion of the first meeting of the revived WI so a birthday celebration was in order. A birthday cake and a toast was enjoyed all around.

Business over the speaker, Jonathan Holt was introduced. Jonathan, who has written a couple of books on the subject, is a ‘Follies’ enthusiast. He showed slides and shared his great knowledge of the follies around Wiltshire, their whereabouts and something of their eccentricities – of construction and builders.

Naturally there was time for a cuppa and a chat to follow, and time to judge the competition. The limericks were about ‘Dolly’ or ‘Molly’ or ‘Polly’ each with a dolly or perhaps a broolly, and all containing the word ‘folly’. Sandie won the day. I think we all left ‘tired but happy’.

In August our meeting will be a coffee morning at 11 Home Farm Close – open to absolutely anyone. And, we are back in business on September 11th when we will be Zorba dancing with Yainnnis Tsenkos. He sounds a lot of fun. Come along and find out. The competition is an easy one, ‘Anything with a Greek Theme’; now, that could be interesting! **Rosie**

### **Useful Information**

#### **Postal Collections:**

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

**Newleaze** - Weekdays - 9am; Saturday - 7am

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

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

Ashton Common Bus Stop - 3.35pm - 4.00pm

August 7th; August 21st; September 4th; September 18th; Oct. 2nd

## STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE SHOP

**Normal Opening times:**

**Monday – Friday: 7.30am to 4.30pm**

**Saturday: 8.30am – 4pm**

**Sunday: 9am to 12noon**



**On July 17th, we had a very successful AGM** with over 50 shareholders in attendance.

Key highlights being;

The shop has, for the first time in years gone from loss making to making a small profit – a good place to be.

Using the skills of various committee members, a number of strategies were employed to get us there, and we will continue to develop these – which should lead to more growth and profit.

The shop is now registered as a Community Interest Shop – which means that any real profit (after we have funded projects and replaced assets etc) will be shared back into the community. We HOPE that one day we can do this – so not only will the shop benefit, but so will the village.

The Shop Committee now consists of;

**Chairman;** Francesca Buffery-King

**Vice Chair;** Maureen Hodge

**Treasurer;** Alan Burge

**Company Secretary;** Sarah Woodward

Paula Boardman; Lucy Wilcox; Jenny Stewart

We have 1 vacancy - so please knock us down in the rush to put yourself forward.

**The volunteer evening** on Wednesday 24th July went very well with over 35 current and soon-to-be volunteers enjoying wine, buffet style nibbles and a short overview of the financial results and future plans. It was an opportunity for the Committee to thank everyone for their contribution, and it was a successful and enjoyable evening.

\*\*\*\*\* **NEW IN THE SHOP** \*\*\*\*\*

We are introducing a new premium wines selection and expanding our range, so there should be a wine for all tastes and budgets. Do come along and try them, and the selection can always be changed if some are more popular than others.

AND.....if you are organising a party or event come and see us as we can source your drinks and some foods for you from our wholesalers at a discounted price.....

**Fran**





## Steeple Ashton WI



theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# Coffee Morning

Wednesday 14th August

10.30 - 12.00



11 Home Farm Close

£3 entry

**non members welcome**

coffee\tea, home-made biscuits  
bring and buy, produce/cakes, raffle

BRING & BUY

SALE

**come and join us!**



## **The Great Hinton Heritage Group**

At our July meeting Malcolm Burch gave us an interesting summary of the development of rural housing through the ages, linking the changes to social conditions and historical events. He gave examples of how the progress of building techniques is reflected in our village houses. As we had a lovely sunny day, we were able to walk to New Barn Farm and link the information to aspects of the construction of the 17thC property, including some amusing evidence of a handprint and some names pressed in the render on one of the chimneys dating back to some building work in 1998.

If you are interested in joining the group or finding out more about what we do, please do pop into our meetings which usually take place on the 3rd Thursday in the month, or contact Malcolm Burch (acting Chairman) at malcolmburch323@gmail.com for details.

We will be taking a break in August, so our next meeting will be on Thursday 19th September at 2.30 pm in Great Hinton Village Hall.

**Mary Winterburn**

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## **Interested in Setting Up a Community Shed?**

Men's Sheds were started in Australia over 40 years ago and have spread worldwide. The idea is to create a workshop and community space where people can socialise and carry out practical projects.

Men's Sheds have evolved into Community Sheds where everyone is welcome. Projects can be individual or joint and often have charitable aims or involve help to the local community. Some sheds are well known for projects such as toy making and bicycle repair while many support their community by maintaining flowerbeds and grass cutting.

If there is any interest in setting up a Community Shed in Steeple Ashton the Parish Council would like to know. The essentials for establishing a shed are potential premises, a source of start-up funds and an enthusiastic steering group. One way or another the premises and the funds could be found; all we need is the steering group. If you are willing to help then please contact me at g.oughton@btinternet.com and I will liaise with the Parish Council.

**Gerry Oughton**

## **NATURAL HISTORY CLUB**

Last month we seemed to experience every season within a week or two. Cold days, hot days, rainy days, humid days and gusty wind days. I guess that's what our weather is going to be like now.

There was a lot of bird and wildlife sightings reported from gardens last month such as;

A Sparrowhawk perched on a greenhouse with a wood pigeon sat nearby totally unfazed. Also a Great Spotted woodpecker feeding a newly fledged juvenile. The ever increasing numbers of Red Kite's in the area are forcing them to look for food in gardens. They rarely kill other animals but are capable of killing small mammals such as mice, voles and rabbits. Being quite lazy they prefer dead meat or carrion. Even a Peahen has been making the rounds in village gardens. Most likely an escapee from another local garden.

As well as birds, caterpillars are being reported especially moths. Poplar Hawkmoth and Cinnabar Moth in particular. A White Admiral Butterfly was seen in Biss Wood. They are widespread in Southern England but not particularly common. Look for them on Bramble.

The young Peregrines are still checking out the church tower as a potential nesting site. Maybe one day?

Quite a few young Hedgehogs, or hoglets as they are known, have had to be rescued mainly from themselves as they wander out onto the roads. A local resident has been checking them, feeding them, weighing and releasing them back into a safer area. Being born this time of the year should enable them to fatten up enough to survive winter hibernation.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 3rd October at 7:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Steeple Ashton. All are welcome. The short talk is yet to be determined.

Please report anything of interest such as sightings of animals / birds / insect activity etc. Or indeed any unusual or rare plants. Is there something you can't identify? Contact David Culverhouse, 01380 871621 42anchor@gmail.com or Roger Ferguson 01380 870860 r.ferguson550@btinternet.com If we can't answer your question, then we probably have a member who can.

Photographs are always welcome and help identification.

**Roger Ferguson**

## **METHODIST CHURCH**

*There is a time for everything ... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.*

*Ecclesiastes 3 vs 1a,4*

Here we are presented with the gift of time. In a poetic series of comparisons, the writer of Ecclesiastes shows us a serious side of life along with the lighter side. Whether we have little or plenty, whether we are ill or healthy, we have God's gift of time. Time to grieve; Time to heal; Time to grow; Time for God to work in our hearts, lives and circumstances. We're even allotted a time to dance!

We have an instinctive desire to celebrate, to sing and dance, in celebration of birthdays, marriage and other happy occasions. Who hasn't done a little happy dance when something good happens? Today, somewhere, someone is celebrating National Cat Day. We also celebrate meeting friends or family we haven't seen in many months, or spring blooms after a long winter. Celebration is sometimes loud and sometimes soft and quiet.

There is a time for every season. Some seasons may last longer than others. A Canadian winter, for example, seems like it will never end. The important thing to remember is that there is a purpose for every season, for every time element. A freezing cold winter is good, because in the north plants and trees need the shorter days and cold temperatures to store energy for new growth.

As the seasons pass our circumstances change, but what does not change is God's love for you. He has a wonderful plan for your life – a plan to redeem what was lost; a plan that brings hope for your future.

*\*Father, thank you for your gift of time, and for the healing and growth it brings me.*

### **Church Diary**

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

## AUGUST

|                        |                |                                         |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday 1st</b>    | <b>2.30pm</b>  | <b>CAMEO</b>                            |
| <b>Sunday 4th</b>      | <b>9.15am</b>  | <b>Pauline Tiller</b>                   |
| <b>Thursday 8th</b>    | <b>2.30pm</b>  | <b>CAMEO</b>                            |
| <b>Sunday 11th</b>     | <b>9.15am</b>  | <b>Derek Gard</b>                       |
| <b>Wednesday 14th</b>  | <b>10.30am</b> | <b>Reflections &amp; Fellowship</b>     |
| <b>Thursday 15th</b>   | <b>2.30pm</b>  | <b>CAMEO</b>                            |
| <b>Sunday 18th</b>     | <b>9.15am</b>  | <b>Rev. Craig Manly, Holy Communion</b> |
| <b>Thursday 22nd</b>   | <b>2.30pm</b>  | <b>CAMEO</b>                            |
| <b>Sunday 25th</b>     | <b>9.15am</b>  | <b>Shirleyn Anne Cairns</b>             |
| <b>Thursday 29th</b>   | <b>2.30pm</b>  | <b>CAMEO</b>                            |
| <b>Sunday Sept 1st</b> | <b>9.15am</b>  | <b>Morning Worship</b>                  |



**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: Fr Richard Elson**

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 recently, 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 last family service was really well attended with 29 people and some teddies! Three elderly visitors said they thought their church should have services like this. Everyone is most welcome to come and refreshments are served afterwards so that there is time to chat and socialise.

**St Mary's Church, Steeple Ashton**  
**Provisional services for the month of August**

Sunday 4th, 11am Communion

Sunday 11th, 10.30 Family Service with Rosie Brett Green

Sunday 18th, 11am Morning Prayer, Richard Havergal

Sunday 25th 8am Communion

**Please note** that because of the continued absence of the vicar, services may change or even have to be cancelled. Tony Longdon is now unavailable but we are hoping to keep to this pattern of services for September as well.



**St Mary's Church**  
**Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:30am**

**Bear food to follow -**  
**bring your bear**  
**toddling tots to tottering old and all the**  
**in-betweens, come and join in!**

## **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**

### **Chest tombs in the churchyard, St Mary's, Steeple Ashton**

A list of chest tombs in the churchyard which are in need of repair and conservation is now also available in the church porch. The PCC is applying for a Faculty for permission to carry out this work.

This request is for anyone responsible for the maintenance of a tomb (heir-at-law) to notify us that it should remain as it is, or to offer to fund its refurbishment.

Please also note that any repair or refixing of a tomb may only take place *after prior consultation with the PCC.*

The following chest tombs are in urgent need of repair and restoration and some have been barriered off for safety reasons.

There are six chest tombs as follows:

Grade II\* List entry - 1252398 (A1 and A2 on map)

2 tombs, both early to mid 18cen, the southern one collapsed, in very poor condition and barriered off for safety.

Grade II List entry - 1262301 (B1 and B2 on map)

2 chest tombs in poor condition. This entry includes the Ball family tomb, late 18cen and the Mitchell family tomb also late 18cen.

Grade II List entry - 1252397 (C1 and C2 on map)

2 chest tombs in poor condition, late 18cen.

There is a map identifying the position of these chest tombs posted in the church porch.





## Steeple Ashton Village Hall

**AUGUST 2024**

Hello everyone and I hope you are enjoying the summer, albeit it comes and goes with remarkable speed. The Village Hall committee have been taking a well-earned break from fundraising over the summer, but are now gearing up for our Autumn and Winter events.

Before we tell you about those, we would like to thank all of the lovely ladies who baked cakes and helped serve them and the teas and coffees on 8th June at our DD80 afternoon tea. It seems a long time ago now, but it was a very enjoyable afternoon - thank you to all of you who came along to chat over a cup of tea.

The last weekend in June saw a village couple celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary with an afternoon tea in the village hall. One of the highlights of the afternoon was when they were able to link up with their family in New Zealand via our AV system and see and talk to each other in real time. A wonderful treat. So please do bear in mind that these things are possible now - if you have family or friends abroad, or just in other parts of the UK or Europe, why not get together in the hall and have a chat and catch up on new hair-dos, teenage fashion, new homes, weddings, new babies..... lots of reasons to get in touch and actually see each other!! Clive is happy to guide you on how to set up - it's easy!! (Unless your family live in New Zealand and they have to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning!!!).

### **UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS:**

#### **A NIGHT FOR THE LADIES:**

Please see the ad in this newsletter.

The holidays are over, the children settled back at school, work continues and some normality had resumed. **BUT WHO WANTS NORMALITY????!!**

Why not come along on **Friday 27th September at 7.30pm** to share an evening with your girl friends and help raise funds for the Village Hall? Simply a fun social evening, a bar selling wine, Prosecco and soft drinks, Bric-a-Brac stall, local produce and country crafts stalls, background music and a few nibbles - and you can walk home!!! Please feel free to bring your own nibbles if you wish, but no bottles please. We had a lot of fun last year, so let's do it again! Tickets available from Marian Little (01380 871161) or Justine Grace (01380 870334) - £4 each. You can buy individual tickets or if you would like to book a table of 6 full payment will be needed for all tickets, plus the name for the table. Thank you.

**SAVE THE DATES:**

Sunday 1st December - Christmas Craft Fair (Paula Boardman/VH teas)

Friday 6th December - Candlelit Supper (VH)

**BOOKINGS:**

Sandra Stevens 07827 291945 email: [steepleshtonvh@hotmail.com](mailto:steepleshtonvh@hotmail.com)

**TREASURER:**

Francesca Buffery-King email: [treasurer@steepleshtonvh.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@steepleshtonvh.org.uk)

**INVOICES:** Justine Grace email: [accounts@steepleshtonvh.org.uk](mailto:accounts@steepleshtonvh.org.uk)

**GENERAL ENQUIRIES:**

Marian Little (Sec) 01380 871161 email: [secretary@steepleshtonvh.org.uk](mailto:secretary@steepleshtonvh.org.uk)

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

**Damage done to the church reredos - see the front cover**



Does anyone know if the original paintings were kept? Bryan has a small card with a copy of the paintings which he used for the cover. It might be possible to reproduce the images from this card if it was felt that they could be put back in the reredos.



# A NIGHT FOR THE LADIES

FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 7:30PM  
STEEPLE ASHTON VILLAGE HALL

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## **Keevil Primary School ...**

...looks forward to another activity filled year

It may feel like summer hasn't really started yet, but Keevil Primary School is already looking forward to welcoming their new reception class at the beginning of Autumn term. Headteacher, Mrs Hermon, reveals that all pupils "can look forward to another action packed year ahead."

Keevil pupils will once again be lucky enough to embark on activities that are not available to the majority of primary state schools, including swimming, gymnastics, outward bound activities, and Keevil's very own forest school.

Keevil is pleased to have again secured swimming for all children through the entire school year. Unfortunately very few primary schools are able to offer children access to swimming all year, through every year group, due to restrictions in funding, time, and lack of availability at swimming pools.

Similarly, Keevil will be continuing their partnership with Wiltshire School of Gymnastics, offering all children the opportunity to access tuition and world-class facilities at the excellent regional gymnastics centre.

Furthermore, the children will be able to enjoy getting mucky at Keevil's Forest School. This is part of the school's core curriculum. Mrs Hermon explains "We believe it is important that children are able to extend their learning and development beyond that prescribed by the subjects of the National Curriculum. We are very lucky to have our own forest school where the children can enjoy our beautiful outdoor space."

We hope everyone has a fun-filled summer, and we look forward to sharing news and activities from Keevil School over the forthcoming school year.

**Ollie**

---

## **NIGEL PERRIN 1947-2024: Kate writes:**

Thank you to all those who have kindly written since my beloved husband passed away in June. We moved to Steeple Ashton from Bath in the spring of 2022, drawn by the beauty of the village and surrounding countryside and the delightfully warm reception from the Community Shop. Scaling down his amazing career in music, Nigel was keen to spend more time in the garden and with his bees, to join the shop rota and to help enrich the musical life of the church. Sadly he became ill before he had a chance to fulfil these ambitions. There will be a service of thanksgiving for his life at Bath Abbey on Thursday 5th September at 11.00am, to which all are warmly invited.



**St Mary's Church Organ**