

STEEP AND STROUD NEWSLETTER

NO 636

NOVEMBER 2025





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HANDS AROUND THE CHURCH

Trevor Hines

Friends of Steep Church (FOSC)

"Really, it couldn't have been a better or a happier occasion. All round the church we went, hand in hand, everyone talking and smiling, meeting new people. I'd say the feeling of community is thriving in Steep."

"It was a huge success, and everybody really enjoyed it. A perfect village day in the grounds of our lovely church. It felt like a very well provisioned summer garden party!"



More than two hundred members of our Steep community joined hands around our very special church - the jewel in the crown of Steep - to pay homage to the church's 900 years of

service to the neighbourhood. It was a display of friendship as community members - some of whom had not met each other before - joined hands around the church. There was a palpable sense of camaraderie and fun in the church yard as groups rotated to have their photos taken at the front of church with our vicar, Susie Collingridge. The enjoyment intensified over generous quantities of wine, sandwiches and a piece of the brilliant Steep 900 celebration cake, baked by Anne Grove.

Thank you, Anne, and thank you to all those who supported the event.

A picture, they say, is worth a thousand words, so here are some happy reminders of a very special day.

But the final words must go to the attendee who asked:

"Are you taking early bird discounted bookings for the Millenium Anniversary Event?"



Cover Picture, Inside Cover, Above and Overleaf: Hands Around the Church event and cake



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REMEMBRANCE

David Erskine-Hill

Following the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day, the act of visiting the lives of those listed on the 1939-45 War Memorial inside All Saints' Steep is both poignant and relevant. Last year we touched upon the fate of two such soldiers, both of whom died of wounds in Italy.

Another local man to suffer mortal wounds was William Maurice Baldwin-Upton, who was serving as a Driver in the Royal Army Service Corps (R.A.S.C.) at the time of his death in Cyrenaica, Libya, on 7 August 1941. The son of Harry and Alice Upton, he was baptised at All Saints' Steep in July 1916 and likely attended the local school.

Without knowing his exact sub-unit, it is difficult to ascertain in which action William received his fatal wounds, but it seems probable it was during the famous siege of Tobruk. Boxed in by Rommel's 'Afrika Korps' from April to November 1941, the garrison endured regular artillery bombardments, in addition to costly visits from the Luftwaffe. In his supporting role as a Driver in the R.A.S.C., William would have been charged with bringing up ammunition, food and water to those manning the outer perimeter of the town's defences. That work – involving moving about in the open – would also have made him vulnerable to enemy mines.

He is buried in Tobruk War Cemetery, where his Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone bears a fitting epitaph chosen by his loved ones: 'Not Forgotten at Home'.

Another resident of Steep followed in William's footsteps: he was

Osborne Frederick Cottrell, who was employed as a chauffeur and gardener and living at Bowyers Place Lodge. On the outbreak of hostilities, he enlisted in the Hampshire Regiment and was posted to the 1st/4th Battalion, in which he was promoted to Lance-Corporal.

In September 1942, his unit was based at St. Martin's Plain Camp, Shorncliffe, where it was preparing for active service in the Middle East and undertaking 'field exercises'. Tragically, in one such exercise on the 26th – and as later reported in *The Folkestone Herald* - Osborne received fatal injuries. He had been charging in the middle of an assaulting section when the soldier behind him tripped on his rifle butt and unintentionally threw his live grenade to his front.

The ensuing inquest heard that Osborne - who 'was well-liked as an N.C.O. and comrade' - was semi-conscious in the immediate aftermath of the accident, but that he was dead by the time an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps arrived on the scene: the cause of death was a dreadful wound in his back.

In common with William Upton, he was 25. His Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone at St. Mary's, Liss, also bears an epitaph chosen by his loved ones: 'His Life a Beautiful Memory, His Loss a Silent Grief.'

Today widespread conflict continues to cause just such grief and that is a matter for grave concern - not least for those who wear The King's uniform.

Lest we forget.

DIARY DATES

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting:

Monday 3rd November 7.30pm

Steep Village Hall. All welcome.

Contact: Sam Marchant

(clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk)

<https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/>

STEEP FILM SOCIETY

Steep Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm start.

14th November PENGUIN LESSONS

28th November WHIPLASH

12th December TRADING PLACES+

mince pies, mulled wine and Xmas

jumpers See page 13 for details

<https://steepfilmsociety.org.uk/>

STEEP BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

Sundays 26th October and 2nd November from 10:00 to 12:00. BONFIRE BUILDING

Wednesday 5th November at Steep Common STEEP BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS Details on Page 12

STEEP REMEMBERS

Saturday 8th November at Steep Village Hall at 7.30pm. More details on page 15

BEDALES LIVE EVENTS

13-14th November at the Olivier Theatre Band Night

15th November at the Olivier Theatre The Zoo That Comes To You

19th November at Lupton Hall Music Exhibitioners' Concert

10th November at the Olivier Theatre BAC Theatre Studies Devised

24th November at Bedales Historic Library Ophelia - An Immersive Dance-Theatre Experience

26th November at the New Assembly Hall St Cecilia Concert

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 18th November 7.30pm

Stroud Village Hall. All welcome.

Contact: Sam Marchant

(clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk)

<https://www.stroud-pc.gov.uk/>

STROUD EVENING W.I.

All meetings take place at **Stroud Village Hall**, on a Tuesday, starting at **7.30pm.**

11th November Christmas Decoration Workshop

<https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/stroud-evening>. X @WiStroud

STROUD VILLAGE HALL

Sunday 30th November ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Friday 5th December at 7pm CHRISTMAS QUIZ

www.stroudvillagehall.org

STEEP WELCOME CLUB

Thursday 13th November at Steep Village Hall at 2.30pm "A Miscellany of Poetry and Music" with Carol Tubbs and Mike Pennicote-Henrie.

Thursday 27th November at Steep Village Hall at 2.30pm Dunhurst Students Entertain

Thursday 11th December at Steep Village Hall at 12 noon Christmas Lunch.

Heather Maybury: 07554 747361;

01730 266855; hjmaybury@gmail.com

judy.thompson@me.com

STEEP CHURCH 900th ANNIVERSARY

Saturday 1st November

SAFARI SUPPER POSTPONED



STEEP AND STROUD NEWS

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

*Debora Harding
Councillor, Steep Parish Council*

The Parish Council met on Monday 6th October 2025 in the Village Hall, and were joined by four members of the public. A vacancy was filled by Debora Harding who was co-opted onto the Council – Debora brings a wealth of professional expertise to the Council. We have one more vacancy to fill. County Cllr Russell Oppenheimer submitted a written report, on revised grant funding, local-government reorganisation, and winter gritting routes.

Roads, speed and hedge trimming:

Following residents' concerns, the council are working with Hampshire Highways to complete implementation of the new 20 mph limit on Church Road. A Speed Indicator Device (SID) proposal has been submitted to Hampshire Highways, while Cllr Howard explores a small traffic-camera survey in Steep Marsh, pending data-protection clearance. Meanwhile, a hedge at Hayes Cottages is obstructing the path. Once ownership has been established, a reminder will be sent to cut this back. Hedges should be maintained at 1m back from the roads for access, safety and visibility.

The Common, finances and future work:

The Bonfire and Fireworks Event agreement was discussed including the timing, clean-up and safety so the

paperwork could be signed by both parties.

It was agreed to appoint contractors Arborlec to handle the entrance-improvement works, overseen by Cllrs Askew, Duthie and Harding. We give our thanks to Chris Budd and Paul Marston for taking the time to supply their quotes.

The Council's finances are in good shape. These funds cover regular running costs and future village projects. Cllr Inkley was added as a bank signatory, and the Homestart grant application will be discussed at the November meeting.

New Terms of Reference were

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL



Steep Parish Council Vacancy For a Parish Councillor

There is a Councillor vacancy for Steep Council which will be filled by co-option.

Applications should be sent in writing to the Clerk at the address below or by e-mail.

Dated: Wednesday 6th October 2025

Sam Marchant, Parish Clerk

Address:

Steep Parish Council

Steep Village Hall

28 Church Road

Steep. GU32 2DN

clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk

adopted for the IT and Communications group. The Steep Village Centre project, Council website objectives, and our document-management policy will be finalised for next month. The Council will also introduce Standard Operating Procedures for smoother parish business.

The Parish Council has various projects taking place and councillors are working hard to complete their statutory duties and make improvements to the Parish.

We welcome all correspondence about your Parish - positive or negative, - so do get in touch:
clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk

STEEP FLOWER SHOW AGM

Tuesday 18th November at the village hall. Meal from 7.45pm, followed by AGM at 8.15pm

All welcome: please let us know if you are coming for the meal by emailing: steepflowershow@gmail.com or by seeing one of the committee in person (Maike Heining, Lucy McIlwraith, David Anson, Ellie Thackrey, Mike Robinson, Matt Meyer, Ailsa McNaughton, Andrew Plaistow, Steve Amos)



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STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Tom North
Councillor, Stroud Parish Council

The Parish Council held their latest meeting on Tuesday 15th September.

The Parish Council was pleased to hear that Hampshire County Council has announced that, from Spring 2026, residents will be able to recycle some of their household food waste. They estimate that 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes of food waste will be collected from Hampshire households. This will be recycled through anaerobic digestion, a process where bacteria break down organic matter to produce valuable by-products such as renewable gas and organic fertiliser.

The council discussed the idea of updating the Parish Plan. This was last updated in 2013. We are likely to consult on what to include in a new addendum throughout the coming winter and spring.

Concern was raised regarding the continued flooding of the A272 opposite the car and motorbike garages. It was agreed to continue to work with Hampshire County Council and landowners to prioritise the drainage issues for both safety reasons and to avoid damage to the new road surface.

On the back of recent conversations about improving the social facilities for local teens, the possibility of establishing a monthly Youth Club was explored. The village hall has kindly agreed to donate at least one evening a month for free and the Council agreed to support with expenses. There is a large TV that could be used for Films/Gaming etc. To make this a reality we would need volunteers/parents to run the evenings. Please email Cllr North at Tom.North@stroud-pc.gov.uk if you would be interested in discussing getting these up and running.

STROUD VILLAGE HALL

*Katy Lace
Hall Manager*

We kicked off our Autumn events at the hall this month with our first ever barn dance! Thank you to everyone who donned their cowboy hats and boots, and helped to make it such a fun evening. The band and caller were brilliant and really got everyone involved. It was lovely to see people of different ages dancing together and having a great time. Thank you to the team who organised the Ploughman's Supper too. It was a real feast with ham, pork pies, cheese, coleslaw, crusty bread and home-made chutneys and pickles. We're still putting together the final numbers but we will have made a profit which will go back into the running costs of the hall. This will be a big help as utility prices and other expenses continue to rise, so your support really does make a difference.

The next date for the diary is our annual Christmas Fair which takes place this year on Sunday 30th November between 11am and 3pm. The big news is that Father Christmas will be making a special visit to see us this year! Tickets to meet Father Christmas cost £5.50 and include a small gift and sweet treat. Tickets must be pre-booked in advance and can be purchased via our website www.stroudvillagehall.org. Grown ups can do a bit of Christmas shopping at the stalls which will be hosted by lovely local makers and businesses. Some

stalls will be cash only, so please do bring along cash if possible. Stroud Evening WI has also kindly volunteered to run a cake stand so come with plenty of room for a slice of cake or a mince pie!

The following week will be our Christmas Quiz! This will be taking place on Friday 5th December at 7pm. Our quizmaster Kat is already planning the questions, some with a festive twist of course, so round up your teams and start brushing up on your general knowledge. There will be food, a cash bar, and lots of seasonal merriment so please do come along and join us if you can. Once again tickets are available to buy on the village hall website.

Finally, events such as these are a fantastic way to raise funds for the hall and to bring the community together. However, they also take a lot of work to organise and rely on the goodwill and hard work of a team of volunteers. Currently volunteer numbers are low and unfortunately this does mean that going into next year we need to consider whether we can continue to keep running events such as the ones above. We'd be so grateful if you can spare a little bit of time to help. There is no pressure to help out with every event - you can choose which events you'd like to get involved with, and it's also a lovely way of getting to know people locally. Please email me if you'd like to get involved:

manager@stroudvillagehall.org

COPY FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A DOUBLE ISSUE AND ADVERTISING/COPY FOR EVENTS IN JANUARY NEED TO BE IN BY 17TH NOVEMBER . Details on page 26

STROUD COMMUNITY GARDEN

*Katy Lace
On behalf of Stroud Garden Group*

The gardening team have been hard at work this month levelling the hall lawn and laying new grass seed. The grassy area near the wildflower patch in particular had become rather rough and uneven, due in part to a large number of wasps who had burrowed into the earth this summer. The wasps are now gone and the area is looking much better already. Levelling the area was heavy work and we'd like to thank Dave Coole, Philip Wellstead, Paul Dunning, Sam Howe and Tom North for helping out. Many hands make light(er) work! For those of you using the hall gardens, just a gentle reminder to please avoid going on the grass and stick to the pathways for now to protect the new grass seed.

Many of you may also have noticed a change to the area around the gas tanks. Calor Gas visited this month to clear the area around the tanks and to lay gravel. This is to make access to the tanks easier both for delivery drivers and in event of an emergency. Unfortunately this means that one of the wildflower areas has now gone, but we were able to save many of the plants still growing there and re-plant them in the other wildflower patch. Thanks again to Dave, Oliver and Glen who leapt into action, salvaging our remaining wildflowers!

The gardening jobs never end! The next project is to tackle the overgrown flowerbed to the rear of the hall which has become something of a jungle.

The team will then be pruning the trees and hedges as required, planting spring bulbs, and sourcing and planting some new fruit trees.

We always welcome extra help. No gardening experience required - just a willingness to get stuck in! You don't need to be involved with every project either; you can simply help out when you have time. Please email me if you'd like to get involved and I can add you to our WhatsApp group of volunteers:

manager@stroudvillagehall.org

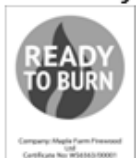


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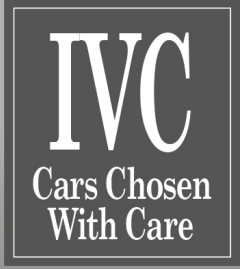
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STEEP 900 EVENTS



STEEP 900 CELEBRATION WALK: All Saints', Steep to All Saints', East Meon

Philip Mileham



On Saturday 11th October a group of 10 walkers together with 3 dogs set off from All Saints' Steep to All Saints' East Meon as part of the 900 celebrations. The aim of the walk was to remember and retrace, in part at least, what our forebears would have had to regularly do in order to attend church in the years prior to 1125 when Steep Church was first built. Our 6 mile route took us via Ridge Common Lane to Stroud Mission Church and thence mostly by footpaths via Ramsdean to East Meon. Although Autumnally fresh, we were blessed with fine weather and it was dry under foot. The walkers arrived in good spirits soon after Noon having enjoyed fine views, sights of

both wild and farm animals as well as fulfilling companionship throughout.

On arrival we were welcomed by the vicar of East Meon, Tony Forrest, and others who had not been able to do the walk, and all enjoyed restorative refreshments and cake before being given a brief history of the church. Finally, Tony Forrest lead a short celebratory service to acknowledge our forebears and that noted, in particular the influence of St Wilfred in the development of Christianity and the church in this wonderful part of England.

PS Thank you Philip for enabling, planning and leading such an enjoyable excursion, from all the walkers.



STEEP BONFIRE

The annual **Steeple Bonfire and Fireworks** will take place on Wednesday 5th November at Steep Common. Gates open at 18:30 with the bonfire being lit at 19:15 and Fireworks at 19:45.

Parking will be available at Bedales School Main Car Park from 18:30. Please do not try to park before this time.

The **Bonfire Building** will take place at Steep Common on Sundays 26th October and 2nd November from 10:00 to 12:00. All volunteers will be warmly welcomed. Please bring gloves and a sturdy set of boots. Refreshments will be provided.

Steeple Bonfire is again working with Friends Of Steep School to build, host and run the event. FOSS will be providing Food and Drink, feeding the village and raising money for the school.

Ticketing is Online. Please use the QR Code below to book your tickets. Tickets will be available at the gate on the night, but these may be restricted. We are limited in numbers for the event. Please try and book online to avoid disappointment.



<https://steepvillage.com/events/steep-bonfire-fireworks-nov-5/>

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STEEP FILM SOCIETY



Steep Film Society is a charity which shows films every fortnight at Steep Village Hall.

Members pay £6 per showing, guests are welcome but pay a bit more. For free membership go to steepfilmsociety.org.uk or contact Robin Hollington at robin.hollington@steepfilmsociety.org.uk.

Book preferably online or by email or phone to Robin or (01730 774869). Please check online that your membership is in date.

14th November—Set in 1976 and inspired by true events, **THE PENGUIN LESSONS** tells of an unexpected friendship between Buenos Aires-based boarding-school teacher Tom Michell and a penguin he rescues during a holiday in Uruguay.

28th November—WHIPLASH: A promising young drummer enrolls at a cut-throat music conservatory where his dreams of greatness are mentored by an instructor who will stop at nothing.

12th December—TRADING PLACES: One of the best comedies of the 1980s. A snobbish Wall Street commodities broker and a wily street hustler find their positions reversed as part of a bet by two callous millionaire brothers who run a brokerage house.

Doors Open 19:30 for bar and social. 20:00 start of the film.

We continue to need:

- Volunteers to help at each film, on the door, the bar, ice creams, washing up
- Active committee members who can assist with film choices, projectionist, poster design, marketing and social media etc

Please get in touch to offer your services or you might get "pinged" at a film!

Note we are now offering all little helpers a drink on the house as reward!

1st Nov – 10.30 Children's film

As part of Steep Film Club's commitment to their objectives, we are showing children's films to the children of the local schools free of charge, currently once a month. Details are available at <https://steepfilmsociety.org.uk/product/free-to-attend/>

We do ask that you "buy" a free ticket as this allows us to align the catering needs – select the film(s) you want, and the number of tickets, then check out. No card needed!



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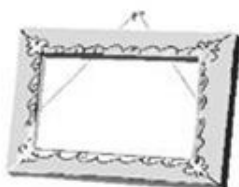


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POPPY APPEAL 2024

Philip Mileham

I am delighted to report that the parish of Steep raised £974.54 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal. This was achieved through donations made at Steep, Bedales schools, Petersfield Golf Club, Owens Cycles, the Cricketers Inn and the All Saint's Remembrance Sunday Service. Also particular thanks are again due to Barbara Hines, Gill Wicksteed and Bridget MacMillan for their sterling efforts in undertaking door to door collections together with those of Jenny Hollington, Hilary and Olivia who raised £80.00 through their plant stall at the Stroud Mission Chapel.

Steep's contribution helps to underpin the enduring work of the Royal British Legion to care for and support those who have served, many of whom have complex physical and mental health issues and other problems. When need is apparent, it is vital that the Legion's case workers can get to individuals and families needing support as quickly as possible, to start the process of assessment of need, the delivery of care and hopefully improvement. On occasion assistance might include signposting to other services, including help with employment and housing. By enabling this vital welfare and benevolent work, the lives of the ex-Service community and their families can be greatly enhanced.

Please would anyone who might be able to offer help with door to door collections from late October get in touch. This will greatly assist in maintaining the contribution that Steep Parish makes to the Poppy Appeal.
pcemileham@icloud.com

Steep Remembers

Saturday 8th November, 7.30pm

at Steep Village Hall

We invite you to a community supper event to celebrate and commemorate the extraordinary feats Steep residents have achieved in both war and peacetime

Talks from:

Fran Box

"So, what did our forebears do for us?"

David Erskine-Hill

Accounts of wartime bravery of servicemen buried in Steep Church

Trevor Hines

"It'll never happen!" How the Steep community proved the naysayers wrong and achieved the Hands Around the Church

Tickets: **£10** per person

- Includes a glass of sparkling wine on arrival, a 2-course supper of cottage pie and peas, and a Magnum ice cream
- Guests are invited to bring their own liquid refreshments

Tickets available from: **manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk**

For catering purposes, please purchase tickets by **5th November**

In aid of Hounds for Heroes and
Friends of Steep Church



**THE ROSEMARY FOUNDATION
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

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RON'S NOTES

Ron Allen

Butterflies and other Moths.

I thought long and hard about this title. As I understand it, **butterflies are merely day-flying moths**, having separated from moths as an early branch of the moth evolutionary family tree. The evolution of moths and butterflies is both ancient and exceedingly complex, but the idea that butterflies are really early divergencies from ancient moths appears well established.

We had Butterfly Conservation's **2025 Big Butterfly Count** during July and August where we counted the butterflies seen from a standard list during 15 minutes and of which there were eight counts undertaken in Stroud parish and ten counts in the much larger parish of Steep. Details of the counts can be seen on: <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/map>.

The ten species variously recorded in **Stroud** were **Large White, Small White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood and Jersey Tiger Moth**. The seven species recorded in **Steep** were **Large White, Small White, Meadow Brown, Comma, Brimstone, Common Blue and Ringlet**.

Stroud Village Green has seen a wide variety of species over the years that did not appear during the count including the pretty little **Small Copper, Small and Essex Skippers, Large Skippers, Holly and Common Blues,**

Painted Lady, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Green-veined White, Marbled White, and Ringlet. In previous years there has been a large show of **Marbled Whites** but recently, hay cutting has occurred early when they would be emerging, and numbers have been reducing and I saw none this year.

A species that we have seen only once in our garden was the **Brown Hairstreak** and our neighbour, had a spectacular **Purple Emperor** that landed on his garden lounge a few years ago. **Orange-tips** occur regularly in the spring and early summer and the footpath through Furzefield Copse is a good place to see them.

Standout species in our own garden this summer were two spectacular moths: **Jersey Tiger** and **Hummingbird Hawkmoth**.

Jersey Tiger, a large spectacular butterfly-like moth occurred for many nights at our moth recording light trap and also feeding from our Buddleia butterfly bushes. Dart-shaped at rest with black wings crossed by broad bright white or cream streaks and, when disturbed, showing brilliant red underwings. When flying, they flash brilliant red, black and white/cream as they strongly flap their large wings. First recorded on the Isle of Wight as a migrant in 1935 and not again in Hampshire until 1987 in Fareham. More recently they have been

recorded across Hampshire where it is most likely now a resident breeding species.

Humming-bird Hawk-moths were regularly feeding by day from our Buddleia bush flowers. These large bulky moths hover to extract nectar by unfurling and extending their very long proboscis deep into flowers. Apparently, these moths migrate to the UK in summer from Southern Europe and North Africa and were first recorded in the UK in 1834 and are now widely distributed as a migrant across the UK and across Hampshire. They have been recorded over-wintering, and some are thought to breed in the UK.

A STING IN THE TAIL

Sybill Venning

Years ago my husband decided to keep some bees. He bought hives and a colony, joined the Petersfield and District Beekeepers Association and learned how to look after them. I bought a bee suit and helped out. Each year they gave us a fair bit of honey and we were fascinated by the whole process.

When the worst happened and my husband died in 2009 I carried on looking after them for a couple of years but I found it demanding work on my own. With a heavy heart, I took them to a beekeeper in Cockshott Lane but some of them had other ideas. Their new home was less than a mile away as the bee flies and a few came back and moved in behind the

barge board at the end of my roof. They were too high up to be collected so there they stayed.

One day my neighbour came round in a great fright, saying her drive was a-buzz with flying bees. She wasn't exaggerating but I reassured her that they were swarming and much too busy to sting and would shortly disappear. Sure enough, fifteen minutes later they'd gone.

A few remained though and once again they multiplied and the colony flourished for many years, unbothered by human interference. At one point the gardener was convinced they were wasps and should be exterminated. They were so high up it was hard to be sure but I stuck by my bees and the pest control man agreed that they behaved like bees so we left them alone.

They swarmed fairly regularly, twice this year, and by early August there seemed to be virtually no activity. To me they'd been a reminder of happier times when we had hives in



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the garden and two of us looking after them so I was slow to admit that this time it was final. But there was worse to come. The barge board, their chosen home, was detaching from the guttering and was about to fall off. Builders came and scaffolding was needed to reach it. They managed to clear the sticky remains and repair the damage – but it left me with a very expensive bill.

FINGER FOODS FOR BONFIRE NIGHT

Elizabeth Housden

Mini -Toads in the Hole, Prawns in the Hole and Veggies in the Hole

Preparation: 2-3 tspns sunflower or olive oil in the bottom of each cup of a deep 12 hole muffin pan. Place pan on a baking tray.

Ingredients:

85 ml milk
1 egg
50g plain flour
12 mini cocktail sausages (or 12 prawns to make a seafood version or 12 baby carrots for a veggie version)

1. Preheat the oven to 180c/gas mark 6. Put half a teaspoonful of oil in the bottom of each cup of a deep 12-hole muffin tray . Place the pan on a baking tray.
2. Pour the milk into a mixing bowl , add the egg, flour and a pinch of salt and whisk until smooth. Pour

into a jug.

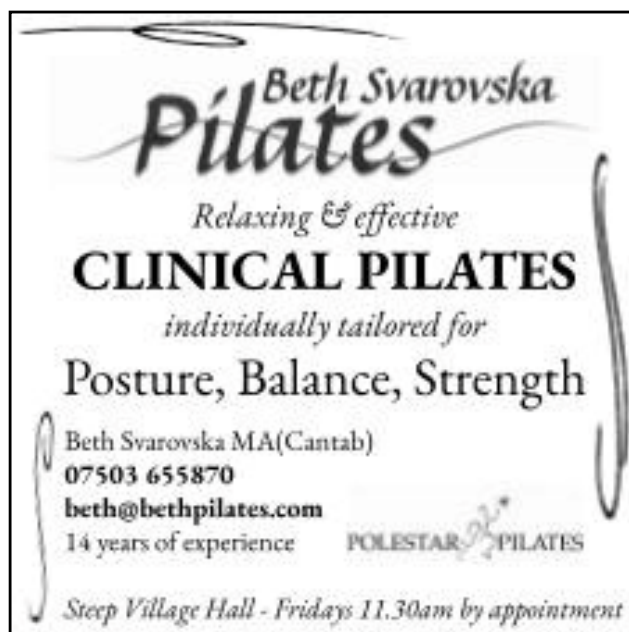
3. Put the muffin pan in the oven for a minute to heat until the oil is very hot. Remove from the oven and fill the little cups to about 2/3rds full (they rise in the oven!). Pop a sausage into each cup and bake for 20 -25 minutes until golden brown, well risen and crisp. Take them carefully out of the baking tray and pop on a plate or tray

Serve with ketchup or mustard sauce for the sausages.

If you are cooking prawns use tartare sauce and with baby carrots, for example, a thick cheese sauce with a dash of Worcestershire sauce would be nice.

FROXFIELD CHOIR

A reminder that Froxfield Choir's performance of The Armed Man is at St Peter's, High Cross at 7.30pm on Saturday 8th November. Tickets £18 (£12 students) from TicketSource or on the door.



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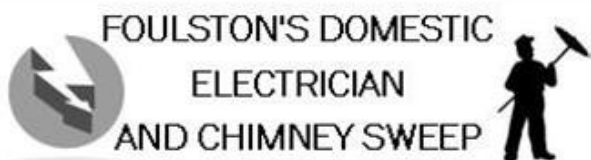
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GLUT – (*noun*) an excessively abundant supply of something.

Hugh Nickless

It would seem that many of the residents of our villages are suffering from a glut of garden produce.

Boxes, baskets and bins of apples, pears and other foodstuffs are appearing at the pavement side with notices exhorting passersby to “Help Yourself” with additional advice – cookers, eaters.

So what to do with this excess produce?

Well, there are a wide range of options including juicing (don’t forget to sterilise the resultant juice unless you want fruit wine or a fur growing on top and don’t forget to sterilise containers), jelly (buy a good quality muslin bag or a clean pair of stockings and some suitable “sticks” to support the bag over the bowl), compote, (try using honey, golden syrup or maple syrup and add other ingredients – ginger, spices and eat with yoghurt, ice cream or clotted cream and always refrigerate), jam, (reduce the fruit to a minimum of water and use as little sugar as possible – again sterilise everything and top the jars with a circle of waxed paper and pop a cover – we use off cuts of printed cotton and an elastic band or string), chutneys (as for jam but for additional flavour use Balsamic vinegar and caramelised shredded onion plus anything else you fancy or go mad and add fresh chillies), pickles (with other fruits and vegetables – carrots, cour-

gettes, tomatoes – you choose) and finally, but not least, apple crumble (add oats and chopped nuts to the topping), apple tart (or tarte tatin with maple syrup and brown sugar), apple snow or one of our favourites - Farmhouse Apple Cake from a 1970’s Reader’s Digest book of Cooking with Apples. Or Pears.

Or if eaters, wash the fruit and get your dentures working.

Box loads of quince – the headmaster of Bedales always seems to have a surfeit - can be transformed in to Quince Jelly or chutney – delicious with cheese or baked ham.

Bins full of grapes can be transformed in to juice or better still, wine.

So don’t walk past the offerings, get your cookery books out or, as is done these days, Google it and enjoy delicious treats you could never buy in supermarket or store.

And as a postscript, I note it is a MAST YEAR this year. So what is a Mast year?

Every few years, some species of trees and shrubs produce a bumper crop of their fruits or nuts. The collective term for these fruits and nuts is 'mast', so we call this a mast year.

The main producers this year are Oaks – there are acorns everywhere and Horse Chestnuts.

So The Cricketers’ conker festival should be well stocked and wait until next spring when gardens throughout the villages will be sprouting oaks, horse chestnuts and in our case, walnut trees.

CHURCH NEWS

Amanda Greenlee

Steep 900

As our year of celebrating the foundation of our church comes to an end we can treasure how All Saints' has been at the centre of village life and will continue to be so in the future. On Saturday 11th October Philip led a walk from Steep to what was our mother church, All Saints' East Meon. Susie walked with her black lab Willow and others the six miles arriving at East Meon just after noon where we were met by Sue and more friends of Steep Church. The vicar Tony Forrest had laid out refreshments for us and a special service was held. We learnt about St Wilfred, whose Saint's day was the next day and who had founded nearby Tichfield Abbey. We admired the carved Tournai Font and learnt how the church had grown over the years, just like our own. Anyone wishing for a memento of Steep 900 can purchase a tea towel with the image of our building on it from Judy, one of our Church Wardens. An example to view is up in the church.

Harvest

How beautiful Steep looked for our Harvest Festival on Sunday 28th September. Selina and Jessica were thanked for the bountiful displays and wonderful floral arrangements that surrounded us. Pippa preached on what we do when food is scarce and

how lucky we are compared with other people. Simon Mason took the food offerings to the Food bank. We then sat down to a harvest lunch in the church. A new addition was a quiz run by David Kidd. Judy had made a table for prizes but Amanda had inadvertently opened a couple of packets for the pudding stage so we could all taste her baking. Thanks go to Judy and Carole for preparing the lunch, and David Kidd for organizing the drinks. A surprise addition were two beautiful harvest loaves baked at Stroud House, two of whose staff joined us for the service.

Services

The Anglican Church marks this period of harvest by holding Generosity Fortnight. On 12th October Susie preached about being truly grateful for all that God provides. She told us of a young girl in a café, who wanted to thank God out loud and how a simple prayer lifted the spirits of all present. How we thank God for what we do have rather than look at things we lack. Our All Age service on 5th October also stressed how a small act of faith can grow. Graham led the service and played his guitar as Ellie played keyboard. She and Balthazar read the bible reading. Naomi used the size of a mustard seed to demonstrate how small beginnings can flourish.

ish. She threw some seeds along the aisle in the nave and despite much searching by Raoul and Balthazar, even using a magnifying glass, they could not be found. The children had painted stones to show what they were grateful for and these were piled to make a cairn during the prayers.

Installation of Susie as vicar

On Tuesday 11th November Susie will be installed as our vicar by Bishop Jonathan at 6pm at Steep. This is to mark the transition from being priest in charge to being vicar of our Benefice. All are welcome.

Owing to the pressure of events in November, the Safari Supper planned for 1st November is being postponed until the spring - further news in January!

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Baptism:

5 October— Cosmo John Buckland
Barnes

Marriage:

20 September—Sam Snoxall and
Rebecca Denton

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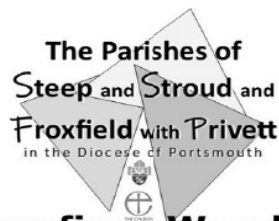
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Benefice Worship

The Righteous will be remembered for ever; the memory of the righteous is a blessing.

Psalm 112.6; Proverbs 10. 7

Sunday 2nd November All Saints' Sunday, Steep

10am Benefice Communion Finale of Steep 900 celebrations with Ven. Kathryn Percival

Sunday 9th November Remembrance Sunday

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Stroud**

10.45am Service of Remembrance, **Steep**

10.45am Service of Remembrance, **Froxfield Green**

Tuesday 11th November Licensing Service

6pm Installation of Canon Dr Susie Collingridge as vicar, **Steep**

Sunday 16th November

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Steep**

10am Parish Communion, with Baptisms, **High Cross**

Sunday 23rd November

8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Stroud**

10am Parish Communion, **Steep**

11am Morning Prayer, (BCP), **Froxfield Green**

Sunday 30th November 1st Sunday of Advent (P)

10.00am Advent Benefice Communion, **High Cross**

Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice.

For further information, request our weekly emailed news sheet at

steepfroxfeldprivett@gmail.com.

or visit our website **www.steepfroxfeld.com**

**Steep: All Saints' GU32 2DD: Stroud Church GU32 1AT
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Parish Communion Services are in modern language (Common Worship)
Early Sunday Services (8.30am) are said, in traditional language, from the Book of Common Prayer
Silent Prayer, All Saints', Steep: 6.30-7pm every Thursday
The TenAM (all age less formal worship): 10am on the first Sunday of the month
Choir Practice: 6pm on Fridays before 10am Parish Communion
Sunday School: Second Sunday of the month during 10am Parish Communion excluding school holidays

Priest -in-Charge & Area Dean(Petersfield): The Revd Canon Susie Collingridge - 624245, Susie.collingridge@gmail.com
Assistant Curate: The Revd Sue Jones 07884 141019, susan.jones1410@gmail.com
LLM Graham Madgwick - 07946 197038, g.madgwick@btinternet.com
PtO Clergy: The Revd Dr Pippa Madgwick 07923 933649, Pippa.madgwick1@btinternet.com
PtO LLM: Caroline Hilton - 263460
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Lindsay Clegg - 827505, lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com
Churchwardens: Steep: Judy Thompson - 07769 182181, judy.thompson@me.com
Froxfield with Privett: Lindsay Clegg - 827505, lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com
Benefice administrator: Helen Muir-Davies - Steepfroxfordprivett@gmail.com
Gift aid(GA) and Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) officers:
Steep/Stroud: Stephen Rae - 260571 and Caroline Robinson
 (Caroline@rokehouse.co.uk) **Froxfield/ Privett:** Ian Hughes - 828344
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Steep Village website: www.steepvillage.com

Steep Parish Clerk: Sam Marchant, clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk

<https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/>

Stroud Parish Clerk: Sam Marchant, clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk

<https://www.stroud-pc.gov.uk/>

Stroud Village Hall: Katy Lace, manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk

<https://stroudvillagehall.org/>

Steep Village Hall: Louise Knight, manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk; 774936

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Bus services to and from Petersfield

STEEP: Daily service starts at **Bedales** at **10.08am**, thence **The Cricketers**, to **Petersfield hospital**, the **station** and the **Square**, ending at **Tesco** at **10.24am**.

Returns (same route) from **Tesco** at **12.27pm**, arriving at **Bedales** at **12.42pm**.

STROUD: Details from 0345 241 8000 and

<https://tis-kml-stagecoach.s3.amazonaws.com/PdfTimetables/XPB0067.pdf>.

There is also an X17 Xelabus service which runs on **Wednesdays** starting from **The Seven Stars** at **10.54am** and returning from **Petersfield Square** at **1.15pm**.

COPY FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER

not later than **midday** on **Monday 17th November**

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A DOUBLE ISSUE AND ADVERTISING/COPY FOR EVENTS IN JANUARY NEED TO BE IN BY 17TH NOVEMBER

FOR STEEP to Caroline Robinson at Roke House, Mill Lane, Steep GU32 2DJ; caroline@rokehouse.co.uk.

FOR STROUD to Jeremy Mitchell at Fairlands, Finchmead Lane, Stroud GU32 3PF; mitchjd@btinternet.com; 01730 267214.

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