

STEEP AND STROUD NEWSLETTER

NO 642

JUNE 2026



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43 Years of Stroud Evening WI

– From the Tin Hut to Today

Secretary, Stroud Evening W.I.



Stroud Evening WI has been part of village life for many decades, offering friendship, learning and laughter to generations of local women of all ages. Like many WIs across the country, it was founded to bring people together, share skills and support one another – values that continue to shape the group today. Local resident Angela Snow founded and served as president in November 1983.

For many longstanding members, memories of the early days are firmly rooted in what was affectionately known as *the Tin Hut*. It may have been modest and sometimes a little chilly, but it was rich in character and camaraderie. Evenings there were filled with lively conversation, talks on practical and creative topics, demonstrations, competitions, and of course the all-important refreshments. The Tin Hut years forged strong friendships and a sense of belonging that many still speak of fondly.

As Stroud changed and community needs evolved, so too did Stroud

Evening WI. Eventually the group moved to the Stroud Village Hall, providing a warmer, brighter and more accessible meeting place while retaining the same welcoming spirit. The Village Hall has allowed the WI to expand its activities, host speakers more comfortably and continue to grow its membership.

Today, Stroud Evening WI remains an active and inclusive group, **welcoming women of all ages (18+)** from Stroud and the surrounding area. Monthly meetings are a highlight, with a varied programme that might include guest speakers, craft and skills evenings, social activities, or explorations of current issues. There is always time set aside for conversation and a cup of tea – an essential part of WI tradition.

While much has changed since the Tin Hut days, the essence of Stroud Evening WI is unchanged. Members continue to value friendship, community involvement and the opportunity to learn something new. Over the years, the WI has supported local causes, taken part in county and national WI events, and contributed to village life in quiet but meaningful ways.

Looking ahead, Stroud Evening WI is keen to build on its strong foundations while modernising our meetings and communications to our members.

Continued overleaf

Cover Picture and Above : Stroud W.I. in 1984 and today.

Continued from previous page

New members are always welcome, whether they are new to the village or have lived locally for many years. **The WI offers a chance to connect, to share interests, and to be part of something that is both local and part of a much wider network.**

From the humble Tin Hut to the comfort of Stroud Village Hall, Stroud Evening WI's story is one of continuity, friendship and adaptability – and it is a story that continues to be written each month by its members.

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www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk

DIARY DATES

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting:

Mon 1st June

Mon 6th July

7.30pm at 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.

Films resume in September

18th Sept AGM

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

BEDALES LIVE EVENTS

Mon 1st & Tue 2nd Jun

Bedales Prep Summer Play

Wed 3rd Jun

Pieces of My Live by Kirris Rivrere - Ad Infinitum (Drama)

Wed 10th Jun

Sebastian Bergne in Conversation

Mon 15th Jun

Painting the Roses Red - a work in progress (Drama)

Wed 17th Jun

Summer Music Exhibitioners' Concert

Wed 24th, Thu 25th & Sat 27th Jun

Bedales Senior Summer Show - The Witchfinder's Daughter

To book tickets please visit

<https://www.bedales.org.uk/whats-on>

COLDHAYES OPEN GARDENS

Sun 14th June at 2-4pm See page 15 for details.

ROSEMARY FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

Sat 27th June Summer Concert

See page 14 for details.

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting:

Tues 21st July

7.30pm at 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.**

9th June SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Rowan Suart, celebrity speaker

[https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-](https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/stroud-evening)

[wi/stroud-evening](https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/stroud-evening). X @WiStroud

STEEP WELCOME CLUB

Thurs 11th June at Steep Village Hall at 2.30pm STRAWBERRY TIME - a celebration of one of our favourite Summer fruits.

Thurs 25th June. END OF YEAR LUNCH at 12 noon at Mulberry Cottage, Steep.

The Welcome Club will not be meeting during July and August but will restart on Thursday 10th September.

Heather Maybury: 07554 747361;

Judy Thompson: 07769 182181

hjmaybury@gmail.com

judy.thompson@me.com

CHURCH EVENTS

Wed 3rd June: LICENSING of Sue our current curate, as Assistant Vicar.

Sun 7th June: Our very popular PET SERVICE will be at TenAM, All Saints'.

Sun 21st June: THE STEEP LECTURE. 'Caring for Heritage: Creating the Future'

STEEP AND STROUD NEWS

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

*Alison Driver
Chair, Steep Parish Council*

Chairman's Report from the Annual Parish Assembly

Steep parish is rich in history and is constantly evolving both environmentally and economically and this tiny 12 km² patch in the south-east of England has seen much change.

As the parish council, we have the most local level of government to the 1400 or so residents that live here and, as volunteers, we do our absolute best to account for every penny to maintain and improve where we live.

In the past 12 months we have received and responded to thousands of emails. In a quick search today, I estimate I've received over 5000 emails and I must have sent the equivalent amount. I dread to think how many the Clerk deals with. But even these numbers don't reflect the hard work we have put in over the past year. The number of hours we spend preparing and refining documents, liaising with the public, land-owners, the Environment Agency, Hampshire County Council, EHDC, SDNPA, HALC, the lengthsman, local schools and businesses, organisations like Speedwatch and the Bonfire Committee is **phenomenal**.

We proudly represented the parishioners at the Remembrance Day services held in November and contribute monthly to the parish Newsletter to keep everybody up-to-date with council activities and discussions. We

have put on events at the Village Hall that brought people together for evenings of reflection, enlightenment and laughter. These were great successes, and we aim to keep this momentum going with more events.

We've spent the past year doing a lot of housekeeping and trying to bring the parish council into a more modern era, with up-to-date policies, agreements, procedures and an electronic filing system so that all councillors can have access to Council files. Transparency and collaborative working is, and should always be, how any government organisation should function.

On a more practical level, we have worked hard to improve the Common, spending nearly £15,000 (half in grants) to improve drainage and replace the access gates which have vastly improved the entrance there (so please don't park in front of the gates or hit them for that matter!). We are anticipating the replacement of the play equipment and are already putting money aside for that eventuality.

The development on Church Road still requires our attention, as we or the Village Hall have the option of taking on the public open space around November this year. We would really like to hear what the parishioners think about this possibility and would welcome any thoughts in relation to this.

In the coming year, we are all in agreement to focus more of our energies towards improving and support-

ing Steep Marsh. The heavily deteriorated roads are under ever-increasing load from more traffic and the hamlet is under constant threat of change as planning applications come in for more and more light industry in the area. Without intervention to limit the impact, this may cumulatively have a detrimental effect on the community there.

Other things we have achieved this year include:

- Repairing signposts, repainting road markings, dealing with vandalism, overgrown hedges, and fallen trees
- A full review of all our footpaths
- Designating two pieces of land as Local Green Spaces in the new South Downs Local Plan
- Finally getting Hampshire County Council to complete their flood prevention works in Ashford Road
- Responding to numerous public enquiries or complaints
- Working collaboratively with Bedales and its students to re-lay the footpath by the church, and the planting of new hedging and hazel hurdles by the new Common gates

Through the planning system, we have dealt with:

- Works on listed buildings, conservatory, solar panels, side-extensions, garage removals, and minor home alterations
- More industrial applications like a microbrewery, paddle courts, dog kennels, storage and distribution warehouses and agricultural barns
- Unfortunately, we are seeing more retrospective planning applications on unlawfully built homes, businesses and changes in land use.

On the horizon some of our other future projects include:

- Repairing the War Memorial - to re-do the lettering and re-lay the surroundings to ensure safe access and its longevity
- Exploring options to lower vehicle speeds along Church Road
- Continuing our work with planning enforcement to prevent encroaching development and unlawful activities
- Further tidying up parish council procedures

So huge thanks to all of our lovely counsellors who work tirelessly and often without thanks to keep this parish from falling apart. Thanks to Nick Drew, our newly elected Hampshire County Councillor, and the outgoing Russell Oppenheimer, who have both supported us with all aspects of our work this year.

Our thanks to the volunteers of Speedwatch who put in endless hours to keep our roads safe. Also, to Steve Cook, who voluntarily tends so magnificently to the planting at the War Memorial.

Finally, even though she is our employee, massive thanks to our hard-working and extremely conscientious clerk, Sam, who goes above and beyond with assisting us to do our work.

After a fairly turbulent year of five resignations and six new counsellors, we currently find ourselves with a vacancy. This is an exciting opportunity to join a proactive and wonderful bunch of individuals that can make a real difference to lives on a local level. Who knows what is coming our way with future Hampshire County Council reorganisation but you can certainly say that there are interesting times ahead. Thank you.

EFFECTS OF SID AND SPEED WATCH

There are two Speed Indicator Devices (aka SIDs) in the village; one at The Lodge which is turned every other week to register up and down traffic and another which is located either at end of the village and this is rotated every other week.

The SIDs have two modes – Active which shows the speed and registered speed, time and date, Spy Mode which just registered speed, date and time.

When Speed Watch is monitoring, average speeders are around 5%, with SIDs active, average speeders are around 15% and when SIDs are in Spy Mode, average speeders are around 25%, all of which goes to prove, hanging around in our yellow jackets in groups of three has a distinct effect and the SIDs in Active mode also have an effect.

Steep Speed Watch Results				
Date	Location	Vehicles Speeding	1st Time Letters	2nd Time Letters
Jan- Apr	Stoner Hill	172	129	11
29/1/26	Bell Hill	1	1	
Total		327	246	20

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

*Tom North
Councillor, Stroud Parish Council*

Stroud Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – Newsletter Report

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Stroud was held at Stroud Village Hall on Tuesday 28 April 2026. It was a great evening, with local participation from councillors and district/county representation, to Village Hall Trustees, our speakers, and members of the public keen to share views and ask questions.

The meeting was opened by the Chair Cllr Mark Rowden, who welcomed everyone and thanked residents for their continued interest and support in parish matters.

The Parish Council would like to place on record its sincere appreciation to:

- All councillors for your time, dedication, and the steady work you do throughout the year.

SAVE THE DATE - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE!

June is a busy month at All Saints' Steep so please try and keep these dates free.

Wednesday 3rd June: Evening - **Licensing by Bishop Jonathan of Sue** our current curate, as Assistant Vicar.

The service begins at **7pm** followed by celebratory refreshments.

Sunday 7th June: Our very popular **Pet Service** will be at TenAM, All Saints'. Please bring your pet or pets - large or small! to be blessed at our welcoming family service.

Sunday 21st June : **The Steep Lecture. 'Caring for Heritage: Creating the Future'** This year our guest is Carole Souter CBE. She is the current interim Chair of Historic Royal Palaces and former Master of St. Cross College, Oxford.

These annual lectures, from distinguished speakers, are always topical and provide much food for thought.

Refreshments from 6pm with the lecture at 6.30 pm.

Tickets - No Charge - judy.thompson@me.com

- District Cllr Robert Mocatta for attending and for sharing information and updates that help keep the community informed.
- County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer for all the support he has given to Stroud. Russell has now left the role, and the Council wishes him every success for the future.
- All volunteers for helping make community events possible, including those who took part in the recent litter pick and supported parish initiatives in practical ways.
- The Village Hall Committee for your ongoing commitment in keeping the Village Hall a thriving hub for Stroud.
- Our wonderful guest speakers: Will Atkinson (Meonside Farms) and James Donnelly (Hampshire Countryside Services) thank you for taking the time to speak and for engaging so well with residents.

The APM provided a valuable opportunity to review the year's work, hear updates from councillors and local partners, and invite residents to raise questions and share comments helping shape the priorities for Stroud moving forward.

All minutes and reports can be found on the Stroud Parish Council website.

Councillor vacancy

The Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a councillor. If you'd like to get involved and have some time to spare, please contact the Clerk, clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk, to find out more we would love to hear from you.

STROUD VILLAGE HALL *Katy Lacey Hall Manager*

We were pleased to attend the Parish Council APM last month and to share some of the hall's successes over the previous twelve months. For those who were unable to attend, I've included some of the highlights below.

People & Community

There were six events at the hall over the past year, all organised by a small group of volunteer Trustees. These included four free community events: a VE Day 80 celebration in May, the Hampshire Open Studios art exhibition, our annual Christmas Fair, and the Community Coffee Morning in March. Free events such as these help us meet our goal of ensuring the hall remains accessible and affordable for everyone.

Trustees also organised two fundraising events in support of the hall. Our popular January Quiz returned for another year, and the first-ever Barn Dance took place in October.

A huge thank you goes to our wonderful Social Committee volunteers, who organised another fantastic Stroud Revels in July 2025 and are already hard at work planning the next one this summer. Tickets are available to purchase via the website now.

In addition, we were delighted to welcome two new Trustees to the board – thank you to Chris Holt and Heather Coulson. Both live locally and care deeply about the important role the village hall plays in community life.

Financial Update

At the time of writing, our financial accounts for the year ending 31.03.26 are still being finalised. However, they currently show a break-even position before depreciation.

The main pressure on expenditure has come from rising gas prices and wider inflationary increases in day-to-day running costs. The single biggest increase has been in gas prices, which have risen by 98%.

Our income comes mainly from hall hire (78%), supported by grants (9%), fundraising (7%), and a small amount of other income (6%). More detailed reports are available on request from the Hall Manager.

Hall Use

A large proportion of our booking revenue comes from regular commercial hirers, who run a weekly programme of clubs and classes at the hall. These activities bring a great deal to the village and offer something for everyone, from baby groups to craft clubs and fitness classes.

We were delighted to introduce three new classes this year: an additional Toddler Sense session with Hayley on Friday mornings, a new weights class with Chandni on Monday evenings, and a monthly yoga therapy class with Lou Rose on Friday afternoons.

A full timetable can be found on our website, or we can email you a copy on request.

We also receive many bookings from customers hiring the hall for children's parties, workshops, and even weddings. A big thank you to all our wonderful hirers – your support helps keep the hall open.

What's Next

One of our goals is to increase private bookings, supporting our long-term aim of becoming financially self-sufficient without reliance on grants. Over the coming months, we'll be exploring a range of ideas to help achieve this.

We would also like to run more free community events to help bring people together. However, this will depend on volunteer capacity, so we'll be encouraging more people to get involved.

Finally, we're planning to improve how we communicate both offline and online. With this in mind, we're setting up a postal distribution list for residents who do not use the internet. If you or someone you know would like to be added to the list, please get in touch.



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KEEP OFF OUR VERGES!

"It's a pity the people at HCC insist on mowing some of the verges, thus destroying the native bluebells and other wild flowers. Despite asking them not to every year, they still do! it's a disgrace especially when the public are being asked to create wild flower gardens and not mow their lawns."

Viv Nickless

STROUD COMMUNITY GARDEN

*Dave Coole, Volunteer Gardener
On behalf of Stroud Garden Group*

The garden has been woken up from its winter break in the last couple of months. We've been weeding and planting up the flower beds and progressively lowering the height of the grass - cutting not only on the main lawns, but we have also "tamed" the area between the shingle path and the stream. The dock leaves get a mow over every week and hopefully they will give up trying to dominate the bank side.

Our mini orchard is now established and we eagerly await the first crop. Our wild flower garden also seems to be in good health. It's amazing the amount of hard work that goes into making it look like it has been ignored for years!

The kids and parents now meet up in the gardens after school, and we have provided a new seating area and flower beds to make it feel more inviting. Not only do we get human activity, we are seeing a lot of wildlife in the form of butterflies and bees setting up home and also the arrival of a colony of voles who seem to have made it their mission to turn the lawn back into the field that it previously was!

We recently helped the local Beavers group to get their gardening badge by planting seeds in the raised vegetable beds and building a hedgehog/ bug hotel. Hopefully, the enthusiasm shown on the day will keep them inspired and maybe they'll want to come back with more projects.

Talking of which... if you have ideas for our village garden, or are

spending too much time doing Sudoku or Wordle on your phone and looking for a fulfilling hobby, please email Katy at

manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk

Alternatively, just wander down to the garden as there is nearly always one of the volunteer team tidying up and we are very happy to chat. You can also follow our Community Garden blog on the village hall website to find out more about volunteering, as well as some of the projects we're working on. www.stroudvillagehall.org



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STEEP FLOWER SHOW

Lucy McIlwraith
Co-chair, Steep Flower Show



Plant Sale defies the weather

Thank you to everyone who donated plants and cakes to the plant sale on May 16th – we rely on your donations and were delighted by the variety of plants we had to sell this year. Our stock went fast though, so my photos show largely empty tables! A range of home-made cakes tempted customers to stay and chat or sit and enjoy our junior jazz band who kept the rain away with their relaxed and flexible playing.

Please do peruse the schedule of competitive classes for this year's show on 22nd August. You can find



this online through our website: steep-flower-show.sumupstore.com or you might still have the March village Newsletter which contains a printed version with a yellow cover. Extra printed schedules will be available from village community centres nearer the time. Even if you've never entered your produce in any class before, I urge you to be bold and grow something to show – it adds a very special spice to the enjoyment of the show when you win a prize!

As always, we are eager to hear from people willing to help the show run. If you can make a cake or volunteer an hour of your time to run a stall or sell cake or do washing up, please do email us to let us know well in advance: steepflowershow@gmail.com



If you are growing plants that are only just ready to pot on now but have spares, please drop them off at 60 Church road in Steep and I'll add them to my stall. All proceeds go to running the Steep Flower Show and giving back to our wonderful community!

Good growing,



WELCOME TO STEEP AND STROUD

June 2026

This leaflet is produced by **Steep Parochial Church Council** to introduce you to local services and amenities, and give contacts for activities which might interest you. We very much hope you will join in with village life.

NB Steep Church parish covers the Civil parishes of both Steep and Stroud. The church website is steepfroxford.com.

Parish Church

Steep Church parish is linked with Froxfield to form the benefice of Steep and Froxfield with Privett. (GU322DD)

Vicar: The Revd Canon Susie Collingridge 01730 624245 Susie.collingridge@gmail.com

Associate Priest : The Revd Sue Jones 07884 141019 susan.jones1410@gmail.com

Retired/PTO Clergy: The Revd Dr. Pippa Madgwick pippa.madgwick1@btinternet.com

Readers: Caroline Hilton 01730 263460 carolinehilton6@virginmedia.com

Graham Madgwick g.madgwick@btinternet.com

Churchwardens: Judy Thompson: 01730 267362 judy.thompson@me.com

Simon Mason simonmason8@gmail.com

PCC Secretary: Amanda Greenlee 01730 263008 greenlee_amanda@hotmail.com

The Church features two windows dedicated to the poet, writer and Steep resident Edward Thomas, who was killed in the First World War.

Stroud Church is also part of Steep Church Parish and has an early Sunday morning communion service twice a month (BCP), and special services at Easter, Harvest and Christmas. (GU321AT)

The Steep and Stroud Newsletter

This free publication comes out ten times a year and is delivered to every household in Steep, Steep Marsh and Stroud. Its purpose is to provide regular information about what is going on in the villages. The current editor (and producer of this Welcome leaflet) is Caroline Robinson caroline@rokehouse.co.uk

There is also an information kiosk (an old phone box) outside Steep village hall, and notice boards in Church Road, Steep Marsh and Stroud. All are kept up to date with local news and events

Steep Village and Village Hall

Website: <https://steepvillagehall.org.uk>

Bookings: Louise Knight (Hall Manager) 01730 774936
manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk

Village Website: <https://steepvillage.com>

Pull out and Keep For Future Reference

Steep Marsh Residents Association: steepmarshresidents@gmail.com

Stroud Village and Village Hall

Village and Hall Website : www.stroudvillagehall.org.uk

Bookings: Katy Lace (Hall Manager) manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk

Stroud Village Hall and Residents Association Charlie Rogers 01730 266929

www.stroudvillagehall.org.uk

Local Government

Steep Civil Parish www.steep-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to Steep Parish Council: Sam Marchant 07472 966304 clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk

Stroud Civil Parish website www.stroud-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to Stroud Parish Council: Sam Marchant 07472966304 clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk

East Hampshire District Council 01730 266551 <https://www.easthants.gov.uk>

Steep District Councillor Nick Drew 07920 086475 nick.drew@easthants.gov.uk

Stroud District Councillor: Robert Mocatta 07768 613996

robert.mocatta@easthants.gov.uk

Hampshire County Council 0300 555 1375 <https://www.hants.gov.uk>

County Councillor for both villages Nick Drew 07920086475

nicholas.drew@hants.gov.uk

Member of Parliament Damian Hinds 02072197057

damian.hinds.mp@parliament.uk Constituency office 01420 841222

Community Police Support Officer John Payne. john.payne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Schools

Steep C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School: 01730 263988

<https://steep.hants.sch.uk/hants/primary/steep>

Langrish Primary School, Stroud: 01730 263883 <https://www.langrish.hants.sch.uk>

Froxfield Primary School, High Cross, Froxfield: 01730 827251

<https://froxford.hants.sch.uk>

The Petersfield School, Petersfield: 01730 263119 (state secondary school)

<https://www.petersfieldschool.com>

Bedales, Bedales Prep and Pre-Prep Schools, Steep: 01730 300100

<https://www.bedales.org.uk>

Churcher's College, Petersfield: 01730 263033 <https://www.churcherscollege.com>

Ditcham Park School, Ditcham, Nr.Petersfield: 01730 825659

<https://www.ditchampark.com>

Day Nurseries

Old Dairy Farm Nursery, Stroud: 01730 233444 www.olddairyfarmnursery.co.uk

Medical Facilities

A&E. Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham.P06 3LY. Tel: 02392 286000. (A&E facilities are also available in Chichester, Winchester and Guildford)

Petersfield Hospital: 023 823 19000 has an Urgent Treatment Centre, open 8am-8pm every day.

Swan Surgery, Petersfield: Appointments: 01730 264546

The Grange Surgery, Petersfield: Appointments 01730 267722

Out of hours GP service: tel. 111

Dispensing Chemists

Boots (High Street, Petersfield) 01730 263350

Swan Street 24 hours Pharmacy (adjoining the Swan Surgery, Petersfield) 01730 264943

Day Lewis Pharmacy, (Petersfield) 01730 263948

Dustbin Collections

Currently Thursday for Steep and Friday for Stroud. Fortnightly, alternating household waste and recycling. Garden waste collection service available fortnightly at extra charge.

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/bin-collections/find-your-bin-calendar>

Clubs and Events

Bedales Arts Events (theatre, concerts, lectures) Booking and more information:

<https://www.bedales.org.uk/whats-on> 0333 666 3366

Welcome Club (a club for senior citizens) Heather Maybury 01730 266855 hjmaybury@gmail.com and Judy Thompson 01730 267362 judy.thompson@me.com

Steep Film Society (Village Hall) www.steepfilmsociety.org.uk

Robin Hollington 01730 267784 and

Steep Tennis Club www.steepltc.org.uk

Membership Secretary Matt Thompson membership@steeppltc.org.uk

Steep Cricket Club <https://steep.play-cricket.com/>

Captain John Smith 07738 933234

Stroud Evening WI Stroudevesec@hampshirewi.org.uk

Facebook: @StroudEveningWI X: @WiStroud

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

Steep Flower Show <https://steep-flower-show.sumupstore.com/>

Lucy McIlwraith & Maike Heining Co- Chairs steepflowershow@gmail.com

The Edward Thomas Fellowship www.edward-thomas-fellowship.org.uk holds an annual walk up to the Poet's Stone on the Shoulder of Mutton on the first Sunday in March – all welcome. Chair of trustees: Jeremy Mitchell mitchjd.etf@outlook.com 07920193025

Scouts Nearest unit is the 1st Sheet St Mary's Scout Group.

<https://sheetscouts.org.uk> Chairman Mark Harvey gsl.sheetscouts@gmail.com

Guides Petersfield Division petersfield.girlguiding@outlook.com

Choirs All Saints' church has a choir (unrobed) which leads the main services. There are also several choirs and choral societies in the area. Closest to hand is Froxfield Choir, <https://froxfordchoir.co.uk> Secretary Lesley Howe 01730 261 280 and Petersfield Choral Society <https://www.petersfieldchoralsociety.org.uk>

Pubs

The Cricketers (Steep) 01730 261035 <https://www.cricketersinn.com/>

The Harrow (Steep) 01730 262685 <https://www.theharrowinnsteep.co.uk/>

The Seven Stars (Stroud) 01730 264122 <https://www.sevenstarsstroud.co.uk/>

Museum

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery. It also houses the Edward Thomas Centre (open Museum hours or by prior arrangement). 01730 262 601 and www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk

Public Transport

Steep to Petersfield daily bus service, starting at Bedales at 1008 and returning from Tesco at 1227 Tel:01730 892052

Stroud to Petersfield is served by the no.67 (Stagecoach) bus service between Petersfield and Winchester <https://www.stagecoachbus.com>

Pull out and Keep For Future Reference

Exhibition 9th June - 21st June

Say it with Flowers

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Sunday: 12pm - 4pm

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Bill Lowe, a dedicated botany enthusiast, has deep roots in our community.

Bill's diaries, filled with illustrations and findings from his botanical adventures offer insights not only into the local botanical world but also into the social history of our area.

We are excited to announce that Bill's diaries will be on display for the second time at the Oxmarket Contemporary Gallery from June 9th to June 21st, as part of the 'Say it With Flowers' 2026 exhibition.

<https://www.oxmarket.org/exhibitions/say-it-with-flowers-1>

RASPBERRY SOUFFLÉ

Elizabeth Housden

The raspberry season is with us. Delicious! This is something else to do with raspberries in the unlikely event that you are tired of eating raspberries and cream! Try them hot! (You can try this in the winter, too, of course, if you are prepared to buy expensive raspberries from somewhere warmer than here!)

Ingredients:

- ½ lb ripe raspberries
- 2 ozs cornflour
- 2 ozs caster sugar
- ⅛ pint of cream
- 3 eggs
- 2 ozs cake crumbs (or breadcrumbs)

Method:

1. Butter a soufflé dish.
2. Pass the raspberries through a fine sieve.
3. Mix together the cornflour, sugar and raspberry pulp to a smooth consistency.
4. Add the cream.
5. Separate the eggs, beat the egg yolks into the mixture and add the cake crumbs.
6. Stiffly whisk the egg whites and fold them into the mixture.
7. Turn the mixture into the soufflé dish and bake in a fairly hot oven (400F, 200°C, Gas 6) for 25-30 minutes.

Serves 4

Good on its own, or with fresh cream in a nice large dollop, or vanilla ice cream.

Pet Service

All Saints' Church, Steep

Sunday 7th June 10 am



***Bring your pets,
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Refreshments

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Summer Concert

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Thank you!

Lesina Ashfield

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www.froxfieldchoir.co.uk

RON'S NOTES

Ron Allen

Green and white and hob-nailed boots.

About a week after my last notes, the countryside turned green. Hedgerows seemed to suddenly come into leaf and oaks and ashes were coming into bud and, as I write (29 April), these trees are just coming into leaf and the steep 'hanger' woodlands that surround our parish have turned from brown to green.

At the same time, we are entering Mary's second 'season of white'. Hawthorns are in full blossom, bright white against the green hedgerows. The pungent garlic smelling white ramsons flowers and the nodding heads of the wood anemone are out in the verges and woodlands, and the delicate white Queen Anne's lace flowers of the cow parsley are coming to line our road verges. And then we have the white deadnettle (or 'white archangel') lining the hedgerows and actively used by bumble bees. White sparks of the common daisy are spread across the lawn.

Across the garden and around the village green we have seen the small pale blue holly blue butterflies which seem to be doing well this year. Also, orange-tip butterflies, the females being white and the males having those brilliant orange patches on the forewings. The wings of both orange-tip sexes have strangely green and white mottled undersides making them disappear when they settle with closed wings. We found an orange-tip roosting overnight on a white garlic

mustard flower in our garden camouflaged and looking like just part of the flower.

Red mason bees are using their bee hotels, laying their eggs in their burrows (drilled holes in logs hung on our house wall) and on completion sealing with mud. Our patch of spanish bluebells is being actively used by tree bumblebees. These bumbles are black with bright orange patches on their backs and bright white tails and were only first found in the UK in Wiltshire in 2001 and have since spread across the UK.

Under our wildlife tins, bank voles are burrowing with the occasional common shrew and, on warm days, slow-worms shelter in the warmth. A small toad has also been using the wildlife refugia 'tins'. These 'tins' are pieces of rusty corrugated iron placed in warm locations around the edge of our garden and attract much of our unseen smaller wildlife.

Starlings are nesting and (as Mary says) stomping about our roof with their hobnailed boots, the nestlings calling loudly for food. Blue-tits are using one of our nest boxes and in the wider area the air is full of the loud songs of blackbirds, robins and great-tits. We have stopped feeding the birds now for the summer to prevent the spread of disease, but we hear the songs of goldfinches and greenfinches, dunnock and blackcap. Chiffchaffs are 'chiff-chaffing' in the wooded end of our garden along with many other bird species defending their territories.

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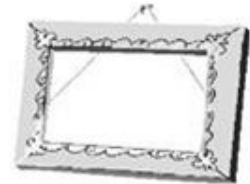
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CHURCH NEWS

Amanda Greenlee

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Steep held its annual meeting after a shortened communion service on Sunday 26th April. Our vicar Susie Collingridge chaired the meeting and in her report recalled the highlights of the previous year. The Churchwarden's report contained many thanks to those who ensure services run smoothly, the churchyard is maintained and the church can be a welcoming beautiful space for worship. Our Electoral Roll Officer Heather Maybury reported that the roll had increased to 130. Hew Granlund our Treasurer was thanked for all his work on the church accounts. Simon Mason was elected joint churchwarden alongside Judy Thompson. The Deanery Synod representatives Caroline Robinson and Amanda Greenlee were re-elected for the new three-year term that starts in July.

PCC Meeting

At the PCC meeting held on 28th April the list of people that act as Sidesmen, Chalice Bearers and Intercessors was approved. Graham Madgwick, the new head of the Fabric and Finance Committee gave an up-to-date report on the church repairs and what the focus of church maintenance will be in the following months.

Services after Easter

Sue Jones led the TenAm service on Sunday 3rd May and as a treat we had Gerald on the organ at this All Age Service. Sue emphasized that we needed to do things together and cooperate. The children had made a huge paper chain and Sue told them to lay it in the nave and all the children came and stood inside it. The paper chain was displayed from the pulpit when the service ended. The following Sunday Pippa Madgwick took the service with Graham Madgwick preaching. We heard that the missionary journeys by St Paul did not always run smoothly. 'Faith is not certainty. Faith is a quest.'

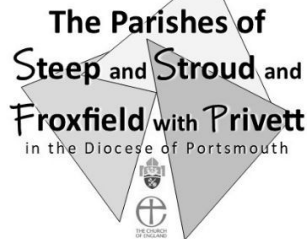
Events in June

Bishop Jonathan will be investing Sue Jones as our Assistant Priest on Wednesday 3rd June at 7pm in Steep. All are welcome at the service. Last year as part of our 900 years Steep celebrations lots of people opened their gardens to the public.

This year Coldhayes is opening its grounds on Sunday 14th June between 2pm and 5pm. There will be plants for sale, refreshments, art to admire and activities for children. Adults pay £5 at the entry in aid of church funds. Under 18s are free. Parking on site.

WANTED Friends of Steep Church **Secretary**. After 10 years devoted service Deirdre Mitchell has decided to retire. The requirement is not onerous - four meetings a year requiring sending out a calling notice and taking minutes of the meeting. Aspiring applicants please contact the Chairman, John Trewby, on jatrewby@gmail.com or 07799661763

JUNE



2026

Benefice Worship

Wednesday 3rd June

7pm Licensing of Sue Jones as associate Vicar, **Steep**

Sunday 7th June Trinity 1 (Green)

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

10am The TenAM, Pet Service **Steep**

10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**

Sunday 14th June Trinity 2 (Green)

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

10am Parish Communion, **Steep**

Sunday 21st June Trinity 3 (Green)

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

10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**

6.30pm Annual Steep Lecture, Steep

refreshments from 6.00pm

*Guest speaker **Carole Souter** CBE*

Sunday 28th June Trinity 4 (Green)

10am Patronal Festival, Benefice Communion, **High Cross**

Sunday 5th July Trinity 5 (Green)

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

10am The TenAM, **Steep**

followed by Parish Picnic Brunch & games

10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**

Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice.

For further information, request our weekly emailed news sheet at

steepfroxfordprivett@gmail.com.

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

**Steep: All Saints' GU32 2DD; Stroud Church GU32 1AT
High Cross, St Peter's, GU32 1EQ; Froxfield Green, GU32 1DQ;
Privett: Holy Trinity, GU34 3PE**

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

Vicar, Steep and Froxfield with Privett and Area Dean of Petersfield: The Revd Canon Susie Collingridge—624245, Susie.collingridge@gmail.com

Assistant Priest: 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

Simon Mason simonmason8@gmail.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

n.ianhughes@btinternet.com; Christine Stephens - Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk

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STROUD:

Details from 0345 241 8000 and

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/south/67/petersfield-winchester/XPB0067.I>

COPY FOR THE JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER

not later than midday on

Monday 15th June

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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