

STEEP AND STROUD NEWSLETTER

NO 645

OCTOBER 2026





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STEEP FLOWER SHOW

Lucy Mollwraith & Maike Heining
Co-chairs, Steep Flower Show

What an amazing place we live in! As Steep Flower Show demonstrated again this year, we have a wonderful community of people who pull together to celebrate in a wholly idiosyncratic and original way. We saw exhibits entered in the competition that showed how well we can make the best of a drought in careful watering from water-butts or from choosing to focus on home-made produce. We saw this in an entertaining and thought-provoking range of exhibits such as the ever popular Lego gardens, flower arrangements to celebrate American independence, dragon cakes, amazing animals made of vegetables, a button-mannequin, limericks about the Bayeux Tapestry and the 'best in show', a fabulously characterful mangle-wurzel.

Thank you to everyone who entered something into the show. Everyone's entries are enjoyed by the village and even those without a prize are admired. The children's categories have seen a massive leap in entry numbers since the introduction of the separate children's schedule, distributed to local schools before the end of term. If you have children, do look out for these in July but if you don't find one in their bag, you can see the categories online.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who make the show work. From those who stroll by and say, "Need a hand?" and end up putting up a gazebo, to those who put their names down well in advance and promise to do the

unglamorous jobs; the staff at Bedales who order and pay for the marquee and those who help us set up the tables and big gazebos - the whole village as well as the committee thank you. Most of all, thank you to everyone who makes cakes for the tea-tent. People come to the show to exhibit, to enjoy community atmosphere, to listen to jazz, to give their children a run around, but most of all, people come to eat the amazing cakes this village creates and generously gives. Those of us who bake know how lovely it is to get feedback, so make sure you tell people about the delicious cake you had a slice of - your praise will get back to the baker!

Our guest of honour, Andrew Plais-towe, has been on the committee for years so when we heard that he was going to be on The Great Pottery Throw Down, we booked him quickly! He's the ideal judge, having plenty of experience judging the poetry classes over the years, and he was a thoughtful and careful judge of the whole show, saying how difficult it is to choose the best from such an assortment of exhibits.

We always need new volunteers. Whether it is distributing pink posters in the run up to the show, running the children's games, helping in the tea tent, please let us know if you would like to help. We have had some requests to revive the bottle stall at the flower show and would appreciate if

Cover Picture and overleaf: Steep Flower Show Entries.

anyone felt like taking on that task.

The AGM will be at the village hall on Tuesday 17th November. This is primarily an opportunity for the committee to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the show, but it is also a community event at which all are welcome. If you would like to come, please contact us by October 15th so we can cater for you. The committee makes a range of home-made dishes which we enjoy together. This is a great time to discuss anything to do with the show, including making suggestions for categories we might consider for the schedule next year. The baking, poetry and photography categories change theme each year and we'd love to hear your ideas. If you can't come to the AGM but would like to suggest anything, please talk to one of the committee (names below) or email us.

Contact: [steepflow-](mailto:steepflow-ershow@gmail.com)

ershow@gmail.com

Committee: Lucy McIlwraith, Maike Heining, Matt Meyer, Mike Robinson, David Anson, Andrew Plaistowe, Ellie Thackrey, Steve Amos, Helene Young, Kate Thorne

Dates for your diary:

Steep Flower Show AGM: Tues 17th November 7pm, Steep Village Hall

Plant sale: Sat 22nd May 2027 2-4pm, 50 Church Road

Next year's show: Sat 28th August 2027



DIARY DATES

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting: **Mon 5th October**
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.

2nd Oct - THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2

16th Oct - THE GOOD BOY

30th Oct - THE HOUSEMAID

See page 12 for film details

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

BEDALES LIVE EVENTS

Fri 2nd Oct - WHOLE SCHOOL CONCERT
(Music)

Fri 2nd Oct – RURAL REFUGEE NET-
WORK - 10th Anniversary Celebrations
(Talk/Film)

5th Oct - SULI BREAKS - MASCULINITY
(Poetry)

12th & 13th Oct - SIXTH FORM SHOW
- INK (Drama)

14th Oct - THE RED DRESS - Kirstie
Macleod, Old Bedalian (Talk)

5th & 6th Nov - BAND NIGHT (Music)

To book tickets please visit

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

STEEP VILLAGE HALL

Sat 10th Oct BINGO NIGHT

See page 7 for details

HARVEST FESTIVAL Sun **11th Oct** at
6.30 p.m. at **Stroud Church**

See page 14 for details

STEEP CHURCH LIGHT PARTY

31st Oct, 4.30-6.30pm

See page 8 for details

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Next Meeting: **Tues 17th November**
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**.

13th Oct THEATRE GHOSTS - THE
HAUNTED STAGE Wayne Newton, &
£100 Stroud Evening Memorial
Bursary

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

STEEP WELCOME CLUB

Steep Village Hall at 2.30pm

Thurs 8th Oct Lesina Ashfield shares
her experiences “VOLUNTEERING
WITH THE ROSEMARY FOUNDATION.”

Thurs 22nd Oct “STEEP
SPEEDWATCH” With Jeff Graham
Contact Heather Maybury: 07554
747361; hjmaybury@gmail.com
Judy Thompson: 07769 182181
judy.thompson@me.com

STEEP BONFIRE BUILDING

25th Oct & 1st Nov at **Steep Common**
from **10am to 12pm**

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

5th Nov at **Steep Common**.

Gates open at **18:30**,

[https://steepvillage.com/](https://steepvillage.com/events/steep-bonfire-fireworks-nov-5/)
[events/steep-bonfire-fireworks-nov-5/](https://steepvillage.com/events/steep-bonfire-fireworks-nov-5/)



CHARITY AUCTION

Sat 28th Nov at **6pm**; at **Steep Village Hall**. See page 14 for details

STEEP AND STROUD NEWS

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

*Barry Haywood,
Councillor, Steep Parish Council*

CHURCH ROAD DEVELOPMENT - PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OWNER- SHIP

Background:

The new development on Church Road in Steep is due to be completed in early 2027. Currently all but one of the houses are sold. With the three affordable homes bought by Eames Alms housing and reserved for residents in accordance with their objectives. Within this development, there are areas of “public open space” (POS) along the frontage bordering Church Road, along the boundary with the Village Hall, and at the rear bordering Bedales (as shown in green hatching on the attached plan). A final decision over which of the three organisations will take on the ownership and responsibility for these areas in perpetuity as the development draws to a close now needs to be made.

There is a maintenance schedule for the POS (called “Landscape management Plan”) which lasts for 10 years has already been approved by South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). Before works commenced, the developer deposited the sum of £18,746 to SDNPA for the sole purpose of maintaining the POS - this is called ‘s106 money’. This money will be available to whoever takes over ownership and is to cover maintenance

of the POS for the first 10 years on an annual drawdown basis. Once it has been spent, any additional funding will then have to be found by the new owner.

As agreed with SDNPA, ownership of the POS is to be offered to the following in order:

Steep Parish Council (SPC)

Steep War Memorial Village Club (SWMVC)

A new management company formed of residents of the new development

The future management company will be retaining the strip of land to the south of the southern-most houses (plots 6-9) bordering Bedales due to the boggy nature of the strip. The remaining POS land is to the north and west of the site.

It is considered that management of the land by SWMVC would not be appropriate due to any possible future financial burden imposed on the club.

Facts:

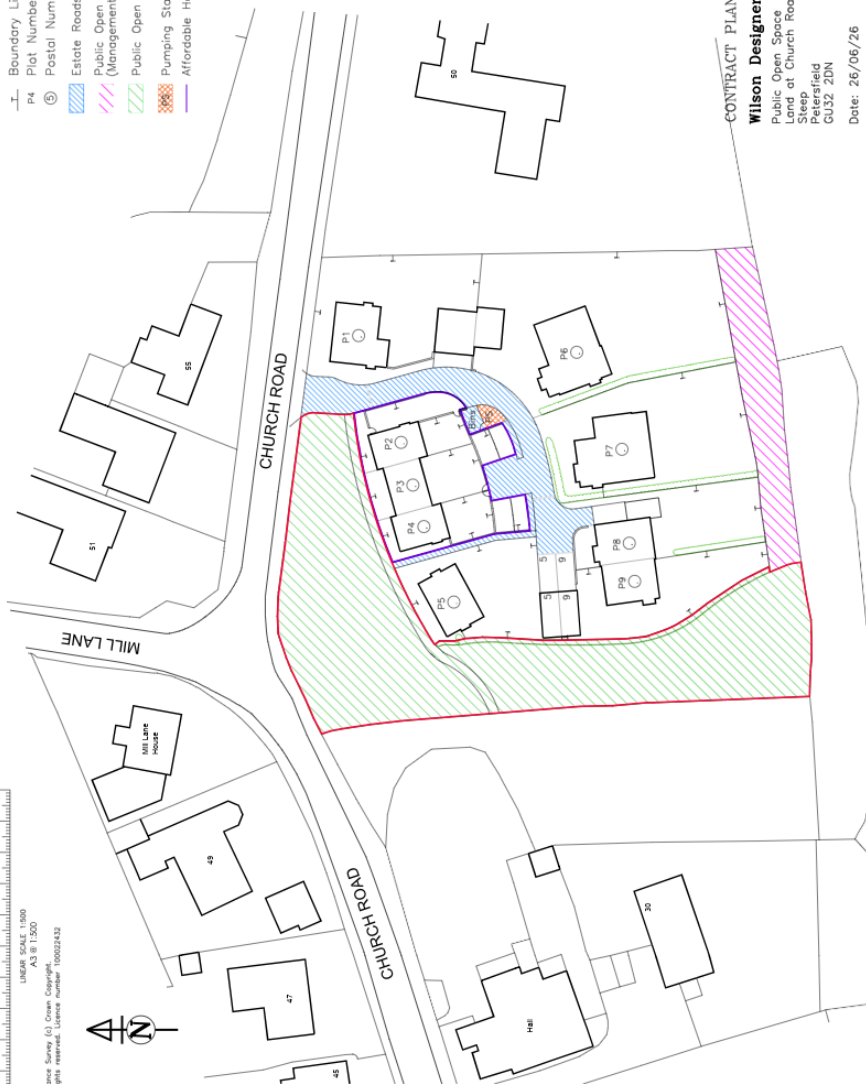
- The POS will be planted and signed off to the approved plans by the developer and subsequently managed according to the 10 year “Landscape Management Plan”.
- The layout and design of the POS including the planting scheme has been approved by SDNPA and cannot fundamentally be changed without applying for planning permission.
- The POS must only be used for “recreation and amenity” purposes



LINEAR SCALE 1:500
 OS 1:1250
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- LEGEND**
- Boundary Line
 - P4 Plot Number
 - ⊙ Postal Number
 - ▨ Estate Roads
 - ▨ Public Open Space (Management in Company)
 - ▨ Public Open Space
 - ⊙ Pumping Station
 - ▨ Affordable Housing



CONTRACT PLAN 1:500
Wilson Designer Homes
 Public Open Space
 Land at Church Road
 Sheep
 Pinnerfield
 GU32 2DN
 Date: 26/06/26

Continued overleaf

Continued from previous page

by the general public.

- The design is on a gradient and planting is largely meadow grass and flowers.
- The annual upkeep cost is predicted to be between £1,400 (if we utilise volunteers) and £2,000 (for an external contractor) per year. Most of this can be covered by the s106 money and could last for 10 years or until it runs out. Afterwards, this cost will need to be met from SPC funds.
- All legal costs for this transfer will have to be covered by SPC.

Your chance to comment:

Whilst the decision rests with the Parish Council, we would very much welcome residents' views on whether SPC should take ownership of the POS and, if so, the associated management responsibilities.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPC TAKING OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE POS:

1. SPC and the parish would have greater oversight of how the POS is maintained.
2. There would be greater continuity in how the POS is managed during the initial 10-year period and potentially beyond.
3. The Parish Council and the Village Hall Trustees may, in time, be able to consider how the two areas of land could work together as a more coherent space, subject to finances, practical considerations and community views.

4. SPC may be able to use the POS for appropriate parish activities or events, although the Common or Village Hall grounds would be expected to remain the usual venues.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPC NOT TAKING OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE POS:

1. SPC could potentially consider taking ownership at a later stage, once there is more experience of the maintenance requirements and associated costs. However, this would depend on the future arrangements and there would be no guarantee that the management company would agree to this.
2. The actual maintenance costs may be higher or lower than the s106 funds available. If the funds were to be exhausted before the end of the 10 years, SPC would need to consider how additional costs could be met.
3. Taking ownership would mean accepting responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the POS beyond the period covered by the available s106 funding (in perpetuity).
4. SPC would need to oversee the maintenance arrangements and establish an appropriate maintenance contract.
5. As with any newly developed land, there may be issues relating to matters such as drainage, flooding, settlement or hardscaping which would need to be monitored and addressed as appropriate and could have financial implications on SPC.

6. SPC would need to ensure that any activities permitted on the POS were consistent with any covenants and did not create a nuisance or cause damage to neighboring properties.
7. SPC would need to spend money on any legal costs during the transfer.

You are all welcome to the next meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 5th October at Steep Village Hall.

Now is your chance to have your say:

We would very much welcome your views on whether you think SPC should take over ownership and management of the POS, or whether an alternative arrangement would be preferable.

Please send any comments to our Parish Council Clerk, Sam, at clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk **by the end of November 2026.**

In other council news, in early September the government announced that they would stop any further work towards the new unitary councils which would have seen EHDC merged into a much larger rural area which included the New Forest. We must now wait to find out what the implications of this latest decision will mean and we will keep you updated as this becomes clear.

If you have any suggestions for projects that can be included into the 2027-28 budget, then please get in touch through our Parish Clerk at clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk

A final plea to please cut back any of your hedges that overhang the footpaths or road now that the birds have finished nesting for the year.

STEEP VILLAGE HALL

Steep Village Hall presents:

BINGO NIGHT

OCT 10TH

7 PM



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NIBBLES

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£10
per ticket

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FOR OUR BINGO NIGHT AS WE RAISE
MONEY TO SUPPORT YOUR WONDERFUL
VILLAGE HALL



manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk
01730 774936

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Tom North,
Councillor, Stroud Parish Council

The September meeting of Stroud Parish Council was taking place as this issue went to print, so a full report will be provided in the next issue.

In the meantime, the Council are pleased to pass on the following news from EHDC.

EHDC is rolling out food waste collection in the next month. Food kitchen caddies and outdoor caddies will be delivered to all households in the next few weeks. EHDC has 7 food waste collection vehicles, and there will be 7 new food waste collection routes as every household will have a weekly food waste collection.

The food waste will be taken to an anaerobic digester in Basingstoke, and will help increase recycling rates and reduce the weight of non-recycled (or residual) waste from the households in EHDC. The latest DEFRA figures (to the end of March 2025) showed that Hampshire households on average produced 440 kg of waste per year – or just over 8kg per week. The government targets in the Environment Act are 333kg per household in 2030 and 287 kg per household in 2042. The recent experience of Winchester City Council is that food waste collection has reduced their residual waste collection by just over 15% to 368 kg per household. This reduction of residual waste is the driver behind food waste collection.

TenAM Together

Something new is coming to Steep Church every month for people of all ages...



STARTING 10AM SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER



Crafts and Activities



Quizzes and Cake



Music and Prayer



Meeting Jesus



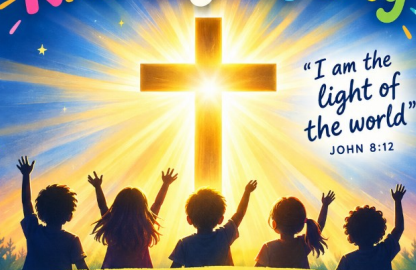
and Meeting each other

Everybody's welcome – come on your own or bring friends or family.

Wriggly kids, chilled persons and smiley grannies, thoughtful questions and singable tunes

Steep Church Kids Light Party

"I am the light of the world"
JOHN 8:12



Saturday 31st October
4.30pm - 6pm

Suitable for children in years 3-6

Parents must supervise their children at all times.



Fun



Games



Activities



Crafts



Sweets

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

Glen Wellstead

A tinge of sadness hovered over the SVHARA AGM as Charlie Rogers was stepping down as chair after many years of dedicated service. His fellow trustees thanked him with a poem and promise of a meal out. His replacement has yet to be found, but we have welcomed Stroudfield's resident Carol Coole to the board of trustees.

Looking out to the gardens. It's been a reprieve for the mowing gang—no grass! The wildflower plots did well until the deep drought, but we should be able to harvest lots of seeds for next year. Hopefully the chain gangs of watering cans will have saved the trees too, good exercise.

The main event of the hall was our fourth year of Hampshire Open Studios over the Bank Holiday. New artists join the gang of regulars, providing a variety of creative arts and crafts. This in turn attracted many folks who would otherwise not know of our beautiful Hall. Coming up, We have a

Murder Mystery Night written by our very own trustee, Kat Wootton. See posters and website for details.

To all the good people of Steep.

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all your kindness, help and thoughtfulness that you have given me for the past 25 years or so. It made my job so much easier and enjoyable.

In the 35 years I worked for Royal Mail I saw many changes; from two deliveries a day to one and parcels etc going through the roof. However the one thing that never changed was the friendly greetings I always received from my customers in Steep.

Thank you for the fantastic send off, gifts and cards, memories I will treasure. Hopefully in the coming years I will continue to see many of you in and around Steep.

Once again Thank you all very much.

Best Wishes

John's (exposie)

SELF STORAGE

**Garage Units Available
Steep
07836 784330**



STEEP CHURCHYARD

Pippa Madgwick

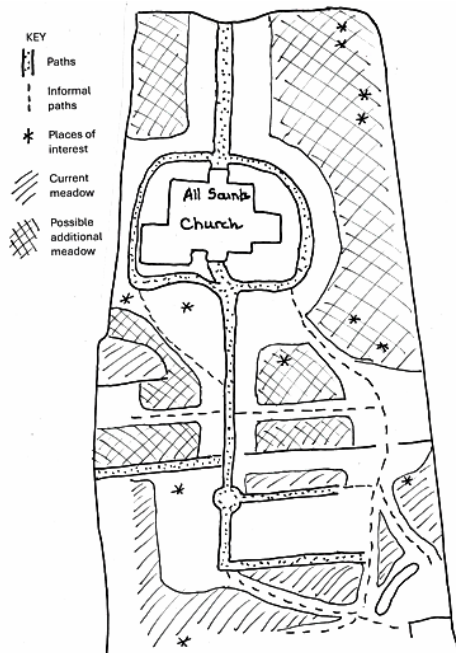
As I wrote last month, Steep churchyard is a lovely space appreciated by many visitors. Like other rural churchyards, our churchyard has an important place in village life, with many stories to be told of people buried here. It has been relatively undeveloped while surrounding areas have been farmed intensively, developed for housing and more, allowing the churchyard to become a haven for a wide variety of plants and animals. This is particularly important since many species are struggling in our changing climate.

In discussions with many local people, plans to refresh the churchyard management are developing. We want to keep the open views and tidy grass, in areas visited and used regularly, but mow other areas less often. Other ideas include bird boxes, a hibernaculum for reptiles, log piles for invertebrates and producing trails around the churchyard, with access to the

points of interest. We'd welcome suggestions and comments on the initial ideas in the sketch below.

pippa.madgwick1@btinternet.com

Initial suggestions for refreshing the management of Steep churchyard.



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Samantha Thompson (ITEC)
samthompsonbeauty@gmail.com
www.orchardbeauty.com
07791 962327

GRATITUDE

Canon Susie Collingridge
Vicar

I love October in our part of the world. The Hangers turn golden. The fields around our parishes have struggled through the summer drought, but now the harvest is safely gathered in. Extra apples are appearing in buckets outside people's gates, and the evenings are drawing in. Even the first pumpkins are beginning to make their appearance. I love seeing the amazing designs people carve into theirs.

Harvest gives us a wonderful excuse to stop and notice all this – and to say thank you.

Thank you for the food we enjoy; for farmers and growers; for gardens and allotments; for the rain and sunshine that we sometimes complain about, but which together make things grow (even for my very, very few runner beans!). And thank you for all the people whose work, much of it unseen, enables our communities to flourish.

But harvest is also a reminder that abundance is not equally shared. For some people, the rising cost of food and household bills means that simply making ends meet remains a daily struggle. So our harvest celebrations are not just about filling our churches with beautiful displays of fruit, vegetables and flowers. They are also about turning gratitude into generosity – sharing what we have with those who have less.

That theme of gratitude has been particularly on my mind recently.

I read of a recent consultation organised by the Save the Parish campaign. There was much discussion about the pressures facing parish

churches across the country: clergy and congregations stretched increasingly thinly, growing expectations and fewer resources. There was also concern that some decisions being made by senior leaders in the Church can sometimes add to those pressures rather than relieve them.

Against that background, I found myself feeling especially grateful for our own Bishop, Jonathan.

He understands something very important about places such as ours: presence matters. He trusts us to know our own communities and recognises the value of having clergy who actually live among the people they serve.

We are fortunate that our Ministry Team all live locally. We are about much more than taking services on a Sunday. Sue, Pippa, Graham, Lindsay and I love bumping into people in the village, getting to know the faces, the families and the stories, sharing celebrations and sorrows, being alongside people when life is difficult, and becoming part of the community rather than simply arriving to provide a service. I am so grateful that our diocese continues to invest in our villages in this way.

And, of course, the Christian life of our communities has never depended on one church or one priest alone.

We have a wonderful history of Christians working together locally through PACT – Petersfield Area Churches Together. Some of the things which we now regard as an established part of life in Petersfield began because Christians from different churches looked at the needs around them and decided to do something about them.

PACT was involved in initiatives

which eventually led to the Petersfield Housing Association and Butser Homestart, supporting people who needed somewhere secure to live and young families who needed a helping hand. And there is the Food Bank, together with the annual Christmas lunch – practical, down-to-earth expressions of Christian care which make a real difference to people's lives.

These things can become so familiar that we forget how remarkable they are.

They began with people asking a very simple question: What can we do, together, for the people around us?

That feels like a particularly good question to ask at harvest.

Even if we sometimes struggle, we have received much. We have much for which to be thankful. And gratitude, when it is genuine, tends to make us look outwards. It prompts us to ask not simply "What have I got?" but "What can I share?"

So as we celebrate harvest this year, I hope we will give thanks not only for the food on our tables and the beauty of the countryside around us, but also for the people who make our communities what they are – those who volunteer, organise, visit, cook, give, pray, welcome and quietly get on with helping others.

And perhaps, in the spirit of harvest, we might each find one small way to add to that abundance.

After all, the Christian story is one of a God who gives generously. We are blessed not simply so that we can count our blessings, but so that we can become a blessing to others.

With every blessing,

Canon Susie Collingridge

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 <https://steepfilmsociety.org.uk/> or contact Robin Hollington at robin.hollington@steepfilmsociety.org.uk.

newsletters@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.

October Films

2 Oct - THE DEVIL WEARS

PRADA 2 sheds light on the brutality of professional hierarchies in ways that feel even more urgent now than they did in 2006.

16 Oct - THE GOOD BOY Jan Ko-

masa's bracingly wicked tale follows a couple who plan to retrain a delinquent teen with a brutal regimen.

30 Oct - THE HOUSEMAID Millie Callo-

way, a young woman with a troubled past, becomes the live-in maid for a wealthy family whose household hides dark secrets.



THE ROSEMARY FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS MARKET



SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
10.00AM - 1.30PM
Churcher's College
Ramshill, Petersfield, GU31 4AS



Raffle, A Variety of Stalls, Handmade Gifts,
Fashion, Homeware, Handbags, Ceramics,
Plants, Cards, Jewellery, Candles & More!

Face Painting

Games



Live Music

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£2.50 Entry to Include Hot Drink & Mince Pie, Under 12s Free

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& His Elves



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Visit our newly refurbished Victorian Justice site for an exciting range of fantastic events, stunning exhibitions and gifts from our shop.

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Museum open

Wed – Sat: 10:00am – 5:00pm

For all Museum information, go to
www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT STROUD CHURCH

Angela Snow

Sunday 11th October at 6.30 p.m.

Help with decorating the Little Church would be very welcome on Saturday 10th October at 10.00 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you for coming.

CHARITY AUCTION 28 NOVEMBER 2026

John Trewby, Chair FOSC

On behalf of Friends of Steep Church (FOSC) and the Rosemary Foundation, David Erskine-Hill will be conducting a Charity Auction in the Steep Village Hall on 28th November. The sale will comprise a mixture of promises - anything from a hot air balloon ride to a day's fishing on the Test - as well as some artwork and other items, the whole being donated by generous supporters. It is anticipated there will be around 20 lots on offer.

Tickets for the event are £15 each and are available from One Tree Books (01730 261199). They include canapes (kindly donated by No Fuss Catering) and supper. A cash bar will open at 6 p.m. and the auction will commence after supper at 8 p.m.

It promises to be a fun community event so do put the date in your diaries. FOSC's share of the proceeds from the auction will support one of the Parochial Church Council's next major projects: replacing the Church's ageing oil-fired boiler with a modern far-infrared heating system powered by renewable electricity.

Aside from related websites, a Pdf of the auction catalogue will be available from David from early October: davidjehill@gmail.com

**For the benefit of Friends of Steep Church & The
Rosemary Foundation**



CHARITY AUCTION

From 6pm Sat 28 Nov 2026 at Steep Village Hall

£15 to include pizza supper

**Tickets from One Tree Books 01730 261199 or
mail@onetreebooks.com**

Auction catalogue from davidjehill@gmail.com

FOSC AGM 2026

*John Trewby,
Chair, FOSC*

Friends of Steep Church held their AGM after the morning service in the church on Sunday 13th September. John Trewby (Chairman) welcomed everyone and in his annual report noted that after last year's 900th anniversary activities of a concert in Be- dales and the Hands Around The Church event last August, this year's activities were more modest. A sellout bridge tea was organised at Cold- hayes in April courtesy of the Dales, organised by Ingrid Dale and Anne Bevan. The next big event is the Auc- tion run by David Erskine Hill on 28th November in Steep Village Hall in aid of FOSC and the Rosemary Founda- tion. Please note for your diaries. More information including a cata- logue of lots will be coming out at the beginning of October. Also our flag- ship event – the candlelit carol ser- vice – on Tuesday 8th December, fea- turing our bellringers, Two Colours Ukrainian Choir, Steep Primary School and our own church choir. Again please note for your diaries. The Chairman thanked his Committee for their organising ability, enthusiasm and sheer hard work, without which none of these events would happen.

Peter Cruttenden (Treasurer) then produced the Finance Report. In it he showed that net assets had gone up from £29,790 in 2024/25 to £37,082 in 2025/26, but since the close of the financial year on 31st March a further grant had been made to the PCC of £12,500 towards roof repairs. Most of our income comes

from subscriptions, donations and income from events. A very generous donation was made this year by the team who organised Steep Open Gar- dens who gave half their surplus to FOSC. Gift Aid yielded a very welcome income of £1435. Since our inaugural carol concert in 2015, thanks to the generosity of our community, we have raised gross revenues of nearly £104,000, made surpluses of £73,000 and been able to make grants of more than £36,000. Our independent auditor, Paul Nickell, was thanked by Peter for his sterling work auditing our accounts over the years and it was agreed he would be asked continue.

The Chairman's Report and Treas- urer's Report were both approved by the meeting. It was announced that Jenny Hollington had agreed to take up the role of Minutes Secretary, re- lieving Deirdre Mitchell who had done the job magnificently for 10 years. Trevor Hines had resigned as a Trus- tee. He was thanked for organising many Trivia Quizzes over the years and being the main driving force be- hind Hands Around the Church last summer. Caroline Welch was elected as a Trustee and Jonathan Lubran and Catrine Clay were re-elected as Trustees, having stood down on a rotational basis. John Trewby, Peter Cruttenden and David Erskine-Hill were re-elected as Chairman, Treasur- er and Secretary respectively.

General discussion followed during which David Dobson supported by Susie Collinridge was wholesome in his thanks to FOSC for their contribu- tion to the church and local com- munity.



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PARTY SEASON COMING UP? -

Some Ideas for Starters.

Elizabeth Housden

EGGS À LA DIJON

Ingredients:

4 hard boiled eggs

Tomato garnish

Filling:

4ozs cooked ham, minced or chopped

2ozs cooked mushrooms

Cut the eggs in halves, remove yolk and cut small thin slices off the bottom of the half-eggs to make them stand properly and not rock over.

Make a purée of the minced or chopped ham and mix with the egg yolks and chopped mushrooms and season. Fill the egg whites with the mixture. Garnish with tiny pieces of tomato to serve

RICE SALAD

Ingredients:

3 ozs Patna rice

1-2 tablespoons olive oil

1-2 tablespoons vinegar

1/2 teacup cooked peas

1/2 teacup cooked diced carrots

Small red or green pepper

2-3 gherkins

1 teaspoonful chopped chives or onions

Watercress

Cook the rice in boiling salted water, drain and mix with the oil and vinegar while still hot. Add the peas, carrots, finely chopped peppers, gherkins, seasoning and chives or onion. Put into a dish. Put a bowl of watercress on the table, too.

CUCUMBER BARQUETTES

Ingredients:

1 large cucumber

Salad oil

Vinegar

2 tablespoons capers

3— 4 gherkins

4- 6 ozs smoked salmon or fresh salmon

Cut the cucumber into boat-shapes, peel if you like, and scoop out the centre part of each of them. Soak for about an hour in a marinade of oil and vinegar. Mix together the salmon, capers and gherkins and season with salad dressing. Fill the little boats with the mixture, garnish and serve.

You can put each salad in separate serving dishes and invite your guests to help themselves or serve all three on one plate, one for each guest.

FROXFIELD CHOIR LOOKS AHEAD TO 2027

2026/27 promises to be a big year for Froxfield Choir, culminating in the magnificent Bach B Minor Mass in June. It is an ambitious work, so we are looking forward to rehearsing it throughout the year, while also preparing for other concerts and services. Our first concert, to include Britten's Ceremony of Carols, is at St Peter's High Cross on Saturday 5 December. Keep an eye out for news on our website, www.froxfieldchoir.co.uk and via Instagram and Facebook

We welcome new singers. Please contact Lesley Howe via the website, or come along to a Thursday evening rehearsal in Froxfield Village Hall. We're a friendly bunch, and we think we make a good sound too!

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RON'S NOTES

Ron Allen

A Little Bit of Stroud History.

What is now Stroud Parish has changed so much in recent years with a greatly increased population, the change from cattle to sheep in our fields and much more; the modern parish being derived from adjoining parts of historic East Meon, Steep and Buriton parishes.

One constant has been the Seven Stars public house. While it may have changed hands several times it is clearly shown on the first Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1808 and the published OS map of 1810 and is probably much older; indeed, Goggle AI tells me that it dates to the 17th century prior to our present village and presumably providing for an agricultural and travelling community.

My set of historic maps can be found on the Stroud village hall website: <https://stroudvillagehall.org/Petersfield-history-in-maps/>. Clicking on each map reveals a description of each map.

The first detailed maps are the Tithe maps of 1839-1852, and my description and interpretation of these maps can be found on the link above. Looking at the map we can see that much of the western part of the Parish comprised 'Stroud Common' described as 'Waste' and including land either side of Ramsdean Road and across west to include North Stroud Lane and north to over the Winchester Road (then Beckham

Lane) beyond which it adjoined Steep Common.

The last remnant of the one-time common is now our Village Green. These tithe maps also show Rothercombe Farm and the former Stroud brickworks and the now gone Holmwood Farm. The name Holmwood (holly wood) can still be found in Holmwood Cottage and was the early name (Holmwood Copse) for what is now Furzefield Copse. Stroud brickworks was a major employer in Stroud from around 1870 to the late 1930s.

Within the wastes of the common is another constant, the East Meon Pest House. Judith Wright who lived in the building (and sadly recently deceased) explained that '*The Pest-house was constructed in 1703 to house families afflicted by malaria that had taken over from the former devastating plagues*'.

Outside of the Common and east to the present parish boundary alongside the A3 Petersfield bypass, the farmland was divided into grass, arable and possibly some hop fields. My surveys of this land led to my conclusion that the present-day field layout is 'ancient countryside' and the field pattern likely dates to the Medieval Period and perhaps before. Indeed, we know that Stroud was inhabited in Romano-British times from the excavations of Stroud Roman Villa and so our Parish has had an exceedingly long and complex history.

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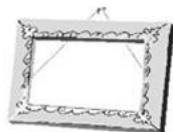
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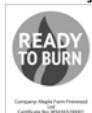
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CHURCH NEWS

Amanda Greenlee

Church services

In our services this month we have heard from three different preachers. On 23rd August Sue expressed a sympathy with the disciple Peter and said there are more churches named for St Peter than for any other. It was he who proclaimed Jesus to be the Son of God, surrounded by shrines to other gods and Roman Emperors above Caesarea Phillipi. Peter featured in Graham's sermon at the Benefice service on 30th August when he contradicted Jesus speaking about his death and Jesus compared him with Satan. Into September and Susie preached that only God can judge us and told us firmly 'Get out of the Judgement seat' when we deal with one another.

TenAM

On the 6th September we had our final TenAM service in its current format. In October we will be celebrating TenAM Together when adults and young people can join together in worship, bible readings and craft. Susie led us as we read about Jesus being the Vine and the children assembled a banner proclaiming this to be displayed on the pulpit. Naomi played the keyboard.

Hymns and Pimms

We again came together On Sunday 6th September to enjoy fellowship and refreshments in the sunny churchyard outside the south door

before coming inside to sing favourite hymns and learn why people had chosen them. Gerald played for us and was able to chose a hymn himself 'Be still for the presence of the Lord' which he wanted us to sit down and sing as an example of a modern hymn with memorable words and tune written by the same person.

Rides and Strides and a Prayer Day

As usual the second Saturday of September saw cyclists and walkers visiting churches across Hampshire and in our Benefice to raise funds for Historic churches. We see familiar faces and can send them on their way with a penguin biscuit. Thanks to those who made people welcome and recorded their visit on the register. This year Steep took part in the 24-7 global week of prayer, when several churches in PACT opened to people praying in hourly slots for twelve hours in each church in turn. We had three prayer stations, Philip and Penny Mileham displayed uniform and artifacts including a bible carried on active service to thank those who serve their country and work for peace. Another station highlighted the Edward Thomas window and some of his poems and prose by his wife Helen to aid worship. Some kneelers and Fran's book on our kneelers encouraged people to pray for God's world and our natural world at the third station.

OCTOBER



2026

Benefice Worship

Sunday 4th October (Green)

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

10am The TenAM Together, **Steep**

10am Harvest Communion, **High Cross**

Sunday 11th October (Green)

10am Parish Communion, **Steep**

6.30pm Harvest festival, **Stroud**

Sunday 18th October (Green)

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

10am PET Service, **High Cross**

Sunday 25th October (Green)

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

10am Parish Communion, **Steep**

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

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

4pm Service of Thanksgiving and
Remembering, **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 1ATHigh
Cross, St Peter's, GU32 1EQ; Froxfield Green, GU32
1DQ;Privett: Holy Trinity, GU34 3PE**

FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS

Weddings

1st Sept Angharad Muir-Davies and Benjamin Skinner

11th Sept Frances Bowden and Calum Harris

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 Dr. 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 07757 944350 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

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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

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

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not later than midday on

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

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