STEEP AND STROUD NEWSLETTER

NO 646 **November 2026**





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REMEMBRANCE

David Erskine-Hill

On the last day of May this year, the 110th Anniversary of the Battle of Jutland passed us by like two ships at sea, apparently without recognition.

A crucial contest between our Grand Fleet - under Admiral Sir John Jellicoe - and the German High Seas Fleet, it was a battle that remains movingly worthy of our remembrance, for the Royal Navy suffered a terrible loss: over 6,000 officers and ratings. Fourteen of our ships were sunk, three of them battlecruisers which were blown apart when their magazines ignited. In consequence, thousands of lives were snuffed out within the blinking of an eye and hundreds more sustained grievous wounds, including appalling burns: such are the realities of war.

One officer who emerged physically unscathed from the battle was Commander Gordon Hannay, O.B.E., R.N., the nephew of Augusta, the widow of Ormelie Hannay, and the owner of Coldhayes in Steep Marsh. Gordon was raised there in the Edwardian era and his name appears on the framed Great War roll of 'Those Who Served' inside the front entrance of Steep's War Memorial Village Hall. It's an unusual roll, for few villages and towns made public a record which contained the names of 'Those Who Served', alongside the names of those who died. Therefore, it is an admirable record, for in remembrance, we must also reflect upon those who returned home suffering from mental and physical scars.

In Gordon's case, according to his service record, he 'behaved with great coolness under fire' in H.M.S. *Christopher* at Jutland. A ship of the 4th Destroyer Flotilla, she was called into action with three of her consorts to break up a German attack on our battlecruisers. What followed was a fast and furious engagement, in which H.M.S. *Shark*, *Christopher*'s flotilla leader, was sunk with heavy loss of life. *Shark's* captain, Commander Loftus Jones, R.N., was hit by a shell that took off one his legs above the knee but he continued to give orders until his ship went down. He was posthumously awarded the V.C. Coincidentally, he too was a 'local man', his old family home having been Hylton House in The Spain, Petersfield.

Back at Steep Marsh, further good deeds were being enacted, for Coldhayes became a Red Cross auxiliary hospital, opening its doors to non-commissioned ranks. In fact, Coldhayes became the longest served auxiliary hospital in the Petersfield area and, by the time it

Continued overleaf



Front Cover Picture: Steep Village War Memorial. Above: Coldhayes House

Continued from previous page

closed in December 1918, it had cared for over 600 patients. By way of reward, Augusta Hannay was given a commemorative certificate, signed by Winston Churchill, then Secretary of State for War, to acknowledge the hospital's work.

Unlike Loftus Jones, Gordon and Augusta may not have laid down their lives but they did everything within their power to help the common cause. That is why they - and their like - should also be in our thoughts this Remembrance Sunday, for their shining example of duty remains especially pertinent in today's pernicious world.

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DIARY DATES

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL
Next Meeting: **Mon 2nd November 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.
13th Nov - THE CHRISTOPHERS
27th Nov – DISCLOSURE DAY
11th Dec - CHRISTMAS KARMA
See page 18 for film details
https://steepfilmsociety.org.uk/

BEDALES LIVE EVENTS
5th & 6th Nov - BAND NIGHT (Music)
7th Nov - Mr Sleepybum's Dream Machine - Jody Kamali (Family Show)
9th Nov - Eckersley Lecture 60th Anniversary – The Story of DNA (Talk)
11th Nov - Music Exhibitioners' Concert (Music)
16th & 17th Nov - BAC Theatre Studies Devised (Drama)
24th Nov - Triptych by Lewis Major (Dance)
25th Nov - St Cecilia Concert (Music)
7th, 8th & 9th Dec - The Great Gatsby - Senior School Show (Drama)
10th Dec - Charity Carol Concert (Music)
To book tickets please visit
https://www.bedales.org.uk/whats-on

FOSC
Sat 28th Nov CHARITY AUCTION at 6pm at Steep Village Hall. See pages 15 for details
Tues 8th Dec Church CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS CAROLS at 6.30pm at Steep. See pages 17 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.
10th Nov Pre-Holiday Charity Fashion Show
https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/stroud-evening. X @WiStroud

STEEP WELCOME CLUB
Steep Village Hall at 2.30pm
12th Nov "Bedales Prep Students Entertain"
26th Nov A dramatised reading of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens performed by Jonathan Jones
Contact Heather Maybury: 07554 747361; hjmaybury@gmail.com
Judy Thompson:07769 182181 judy.thompson@me.com

STEEP BONFIRE BUILDING
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/events/steep-bonfire-fireworks-nov-5/

AUTUMN CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY
Sat 21st Nov from 9.00am
See page 6 for details

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL - OCTOBER MEETING

Sam Marchant,
Clerk, Steep Parish Council

Steep Parish Council met on 5 October to discuss a range of local matters, including traffic and road safety, the future of the Church Road public open space, fly-tipping, village maintenance and preparations for Remembrance.

Roads and traffic

Traffic speeds, road conditions and the potential cumulative impact of proposed developments in Steep Marsh remain important concerns for residents. The Council is exploring options for an independent traffic survey, including the possible purchase of monitoring equipment.

The Council is also continuing to work with Hampshire County Council highway engineers on the reducing speed along Church Road.

Residents are encouraged to report potholes through the OurHants app or Hampshire County Council's website (www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes). Six potholes were reported during the Council's recent reporting exercise. Please also let our clerk know the reference number you receive after reporting the pothole so that we can follow up with Cllr Nick Drew.

Church Road public open space – have your say

The future of the public open space at Church Road remains under consideration and we would really like to hear from you. The Council is continuing its consultation and weighing up the available options.

Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping continues to be a problem, with at least four incidents recorded despite previous clearances. The Council is awaiting a response from East Hampshire District Council regarding the possibility of installing a camera.

Councillors will continue to monitor the situation and report further incidents. Information on how to report fly-tipping will also be added to the parish website.

Remembrance Service and Poppy Appeal

The Act of Remembrance service will be held at the War Memorial on Wednesday 11 November to begin at 10:45 with refreshments to follow at the Village Hall.

Volunteers are also needed for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Collections and distribution are expected to begin from 25 October.

Next Parish Council meeting: Monday 2nd November 2026 at 7.30pm.

AUTUMN CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

There will be an autumn churchyard working party morning on Saturday 21st November starting from 9.00am. everyone is welcome to come and help even for a few hours. The work is not arduous and it's fun. Tea, coffee and cake are provided. Please come to help if you can.

CHURCH ROAD - PUBLIC OPEN SPACE OWNERSHIP

Barry Haywood,
Councillor, Steep Parish Council

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 and which 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 found by the new owner.

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

1. Steep Parish Council (SPC)
2. Steep War Memorial Village Club (SWMVC)
3. 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 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 <u>not</u> 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 neighbouring properties.
7. SPC would need to spend money on any legal costs during the transfer.

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.

EAMES ALMSHOUSES - TRUSTEES NEEDED

Annett Heitsch
Clerk to the Trustees

Eames Almshouses is a 9-property almshouse charity (CIO) in Steep near Petersfield which is now looking for two or three additional trustees.

Established in the 1880s, the charity has recently bought three new-build properties in Steep and is committed to providing quality affordable homes to local people in perpetuity. New trustees will be joining an active trustee board, supported by the Clerk who runs the organisation on a day to day basis

To complement the board we are looking for trustees who will bring qualifications or experience in property management, the building and construction trade, finance, law, health and care or for anyone who has an interest in charity governance and in making a contribution to a local grassroots organisation.

Applicants must live within easy travel distance of Steep. The board meets in person four times per year and in between conducts business via email. Board members may, on the rare occasion, need to step in to deal with property matters if the Clerk is away.

This is an unpaid role. Reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

For more information about almshouses see https://www.almshouses.org/

To arrange an informal chat, email eames.clerk@gmail.com

To apply, please go to - https://www.volunteerfirst.co.uk/opportunities/trustee-at-eames-almshouses-5011535

EAMES ALMSHOUSES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSES

Annett Heitsch
Clerk to the Trustees

Following the appeal for Trustees to the Eames Almshouses on the previous page we thought it useful to introduce the current Trustees and clarify the selection process for the new almshouses which are being built in Church Road.

The current Trustees are Stephen Rae (chair), Anne Deakin, Brian Ellis and Maureen Routh. Annett Heitsch is Clerk to the Trustees.

Eames Almshouses currently own and manage the six units in Church Road which are one-bedroomed and only large enough for a single resident or a couple, these units are primarily regarded as most suitable for retired people. In a time of increased need for housing for local people who may not be able to afford to pay the full market cost, Eames Almshouses are buying the three terrace houses in the development in Church Road, thanks to part-funding by Steep In Need Charity and to a loan from the Almshouse Association which we will repay over the next ten years.

The three new almshouses are all two-bedroomed and will have up to four residents in each unit. The most likely scenario for these houses is assumed to be a family of one or two adults with one or two children, but any family in need of affordable housing and requiring two bedrooms could apply. All Social and Affordable Housing in EHDC is allocated through Hampshire Home Choice (HHC) and the Housing Authority determine the min/max numbers of residents who may be accommodated. The Housing Authority will nominate suitable applicants from its client database in the following order of priority:

a) persons who reside, or whose parents or siblings or adult children reside, or have their place of work in Steep;

b) persons who reside or have their place of work in the neighbouring parishes or whose parents siblings or adult children reside or have their place of work in the neighbouring parishes;

c) persons who reside or have their place of work in other parishes partly or wholly within the South Downs National Park or whose parents siblings or adult children reside or have their place of work in other parishes partly or wholly within the South Downs National Park

The Trustees of Eames Almshouses will then carry out due diligence regarding the nominated persons, including interviews when necessary, to ensure that they meet the aims and objectives of our charity, and we will retain the final say over who are granted licences to live in the units. The residents will be licensees, not tenants, and pay a Monthly Maintenance Contribution, rather than a rent, and have no right to purchase at any stage. The units will always remain the property of Eames Almshouses and cannot be sold without the permission of the Charity Commissioners.

Questions about the new properties should be directed to the clerk at eames.clerk@gmail.com Anyone who requires affordable housing and who has links to Steep or the local area, should apply to HHC https://www.hampshirehomechoice.org.uk/

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Tom North, Councillor

The Council met in late September for a full meeting in which we were delighted to co-opt two new Councillors. A very big welcome to Rupert Howell and Sam Howe. A huge thank you to everyone who put themselves forward for consideration for these vacancies.

In the meeting a lot was discussed; including how best to engage the Police & Crime Commissioner on the safety of the A272, the disappointment that the path through the woods off North Stroud Lane has been closed and the recent increase in dog mess left on local paths. The council will install some reminder signs for dog owners.

The Council were pleased to be joined for a detailed update on both District and County issues by both local councillors, which added valuable substance to the conversations.

The Council have reported the road subsidence outside the primary school to Hampshire Highways, as it is getting worse due to severe weather and temperature changes.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th November at 7:30pm. All welcome.

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STROUD VILLAGE HALL

Kat Wootton and Glen Wellstead, Hall Trustees

Stroud village hall hosted a comedy murder mystery on October 2, written by Kat Wootton and performed as a radio play by Lion & Unicorn Players. The hall was packed for an evening of sleuthing and giggling, billed as "somewhere between The Archers and Acorn Antiques" as Babs Dumpling's farm shop in Umbridge was populated with a host of dodgy characters. Trustees provided a splendid ploughman's supper and a bar.

Then on Tuesday, October 6, the Community Cafe returned, with delicious homemade cakes and refreshments available for anyone who wanted to pop in.

The dates for the next two Community Café gatherings are Tuesday 3 Nov and Tuesday 1 Dec, all welcome, 10.30-12.30.

The Stroud Village Hall Christmas Fair is on Sunday 6 Dec, 11-3pm, we can squeeze in a couple more stallholders if anyone local would like to join in the festive fun.

https://stroudvillagehall.org/

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REMEMBERING

The Revd Canon Dr. Susie Collingridge, Vicar, Steep and Froxfield with Privett

You know that feeling when you walk downstairs for something, and your mind goes completely blank?

I stand forlornly at the bottom of the stairs, trying desperately to think of what it was I came here for.

I scour my brain, trying to think carefully through the options. I even search mental filing cabinets in an attempt to recall it.

But no, absolutely nothing comes to mind!

In the end I turn and retrace my steps - I return to the place where I had the idea of what I needed to do, and gradually I finally remember why I was there.

There's something about going back, about taking our minds back to an important time - it can help clear our thoughts. It can help us retrieve the power of a moment.

That can be a positive or a negative thing. A blessing or a curse, if you like.

It can grow our gratitude by remembering the good, or it can bind us in a loop of a grudge, a trauma or a fear.

At its best Remembrance helps us grow into better, bigger-hearted people.

It turns us away from running carelessly into serious situations of conflict.

Us and our leaders too.

No wonder that out of the grim misery of war, our forebears created War Memorials, and ceremonies of Remembrance. They wanted to make sure we would never forget.

Thanks to them we have dates set aside to Remember with sombre gratitude, to Remember with the determination to build a future that is better than what went before.

We set aside times to take ourselves back, to allow ourselves to Remember those who did all they could to make the world a better place, for those who came after them.

Those who died, those whose lives were forever changed because they were sure that what they were doing was for peace.

We are their future, and whatever we think about armed conflict, may we allow ourselves the time and the space in this season of Remembering to set our hearts on peace.

On Saturday 31st October we have our annual Service of Thanksgiving and Remembering when we remember and to honour those close to us who have died. The service is at 4pm at St Peter's High Cross.

Remembrance Sunday is 8th November. Our communities gather to recall the names of those who paid the ultimate price in war. These are at Froxfield Green (10.40am) and Steep Church (10.45am). Everyone is welcome.

Steep also has an outdoor ceremony at its Village war memorial at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

By the end of November, we're already gathering speed towards remembering very much happier things - do look out for events, celebrations and services remembering Jesus' birth at Christmas. Why not make these part of your Advent and Christmas season? There's a reason why Jesus was called the Prince of Peace!

With my prayers and every blessing,

Susie

MUIRHEAD BONE: STEEP'S WAR ARTIST

Jeremy Mitchell

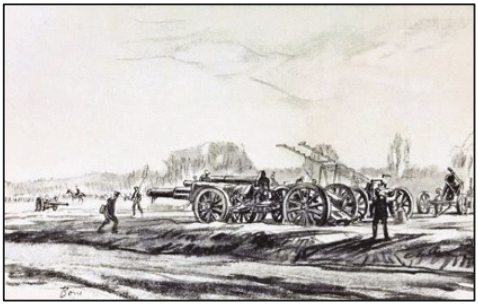


For more than a decade, Steep was home to one of the most important British artists associated with the First World War. Muirhead Bone, his wife Gertrude and their family lived at Byways, at the junction of Ashford Lane and Island Farm Lane, from 1914 until 1929.

Already a highly regarded draughtsman and etcher, Bone became Britain's first official war artist in 1916. He arrived in France that August, at the height of the Battle of the Somme, with the honorary rank of second lieutenant and remarkable freedom to travel behind the lines.

Bone was not principally interested in imagined scenes of heroism. He drew what he actually saw: soldiers marching or resting, medical services, gun positions, shattered buildings and landscapes, and the immense machinery required to sustain industrial warfare. Working rapidly in pencil, charcoal, chalk and pen, he produced around 150 finished drawings during his first weeks on the Somme.

His drawings were subsequently reproduced in *The Western Front*, a series of publications which brought images of the war to a wide audience at home. Bone later worked with the Royal Navy and recorded shipyards and the enormous industrial effort which lay behind the fighting. Taken together, his work provided an extraordinary visual record not just of battlefields but of the people, places and machinery of modern war.



Heavy Guns at Arras



Ruins near Arras

Bone's interest in recording the war continued after the Armistice. He was closely involved in the development of what became the Imperial War Museum, serving as a trustee from 1920 and giving the Museum some 400 of his own drawings and watercolours. For Bone, it seems, recording and remembering the war were closely connected.

That concern with remembrance also had a very local expression. Returning to Steep, Bone advocated

the idea of memorial halls – useful, living memorials which could serve their communities rather than simply monuments to be looked at. He was instrumental in the creation of our own Steep War Memorial Village Hall, became one of its trustees and contributed £108 towards its cost – a substantial sum at the time.

There is therefore a fascinating thread running from Bone's own drawings of the First World War, through the village of Steep and its new Memorial Hall, to Spencer and one of Britain's greatest artistic memorials to that war.

Bone's service as an official war artist was not quite over. During the Second World War he again recorded



Inscription on the Village Hall

Britain's war effort, particularly the work of the Royal Navy and the Admiralty.

But it is his association with the First World War which belongs most strongly to his years in Steep. Bone witnessed and recorded the conflict, helped preserve its artistic record for future generations and, here in Steep, helped create a practical memorial to those who did not return.

He was knighted in 1937 for his services to Art.

More than a century later, Steep War Memorial Village Hall remains in use. Perhaps that is exactly the sort of remembrance Muirhead Bone had in mind.



Steep Village War Memorial Hall

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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

A NEW WAY TO CELEBRATE HARVEST TIME

David Dobson



The years of harvest lunches at Lythe Farm are now gone. Judy and Heather were mulling over the options for a harvest celebration in the parish, but had no viable venue any longer. They then came up with the brilliant idea of reviving another event of the past – the Safari Supper, to celebrate harvest time in our parish.

It was a great success. Organised by them, I expect many of you will remember the format: certain worthies agree to host starter courses for half a dozen or so guests, and others agree to host mains, with the final course, pud, being guests and hosts all together in the village hall.

I think it important to say that although this event was organised by the church it was definitely a for-all occasion and led to a great mix of people at the various venues – sixty six people and nineteen houses in all. This to me was the greatest benefit, meeting new people.

We started at seven o'clock in the evening with the starter course, but many of the guests were due to be hosts at eight, so there was much to-ing a fro-ing as we all changed places. But it all worked perfectly, thanks to the careful planning of Judy and Heather. The final gathering at the village hall was terrific: a great array of delicious puds, lots of noisy chatter – while a team of cleaners and washer-uppers deftly worked behind the scenes.

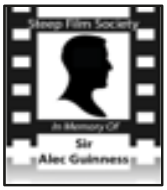
Oh, by the way, in case you think this was simply a case of self indulgence, we raised over £800 for the Petersfield food bank.

Many thanks to the small army of hosts and helpers, who worked together to make the evening such a success. I hope this may be the pattern for the years ahead.




FRIENDS OF STEEP CHURCH
CANDLELIT
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Tues 8th December 2026 6.30pm
STEEP CHURCH GU32 2DD
All Welcome -free
retiring collection
A community and social event
with mulled wine & mince pies

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.

November and December Films

13 Nov - THE CHRISTOPHERS is a spry and witty chamber comedy, most of it set in the ramshackle London townhouse of a famous painter, Julian Sklar. Julian takes on a new assistant, Lori Butler. What he doesn't know is that Lori is a skilled art restorer, and that she's been hired to infiltrate his home by his two greedy grown-up children

27 Nov – DISCLOSURE DAY The film stars an ensemble cast. A television meteorologist and a cybersecurity analyst go on a mission to disclose the existence of extraterrestrial life to the world, while trying to evade the trail of a government contractor who tries to prevent them from getting the secret out.

11 Dec - CHRISTMAS KARMA A hard-nosed businessman, Mr. Sood, is forced to confront his past, present, and future over one fateful Christmas Eve guided by three unforgettable spirits – a nod to Charles Dickens.

CHEESE AND CHUTNEY DIP

Elizabeth Housden

Here is a lovely dip to serve with drinks. Good as a starter, too. Round the bonfire is good, as well, to go with a warming winter drink if you're outside gazing at the sparks flying up and entertainment in the sky.

Ingredients

1/2 lb cream cheese
2 tablespoons double cream
2 teaspoons curry powder
1 heaped tablespoon tomato ketchup
2 teaspoons lemon juice
4 tablespoons finely chopped chutney
Celery leaves or parsley to garnish

Method

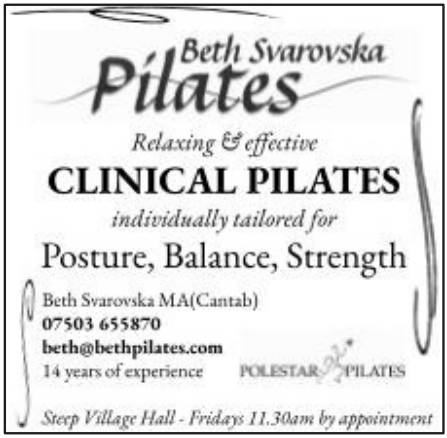
1. Blend the softened cream cheese with the cream until smooth.
2. Stir the curry powder into the ketchup with the lemon juice and add to the cheese plus the chutney.
3. Mix well and pile into a serving dish.
4. Chill for 30 minutes.

Serve with crackers, cheese biscuits or potato crisps. You could also serve with little sticks of carrots, celery, green peppers and cauliflower (nice and peppery!)


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RON'S NOTES

Ron Allen

A little bit more Stroud history; but first, a mega-spider.

The mega-spider

It was on the 25th September that on my walk around our Stroud village green, and venturing down into the old sand digging, I found my first ever Stroud Wasp Spider. Some years ago, I found a wasp spider on the south side of the Winchester Road towards Petersfield about 3m north from the Stroud boundary and so just into Steep parish. The Wasp Spider is spectacular, large and boldly striped in black, white and yellow and builds its vertical orb-web low to the ground best placed to catch its grasshopper prey. A Mediterranean species that first arrived in the UK in the 1920s.



Stroud in 1930

Last month I discussed Stroud in the mid-19thC; what happened in the next 50 years can be seen on later maps and the pre-war 1910 Ordnance Survey Map (see: https://stroudvillagehall.org/stroud-in-1910/).

A major change has been the loss of the open Stroud Common, now having been part worked for clay, the rest having been converted to a network of agricultural fields.

The large part of Stroud that was then in Buriton Parish had been absorbed into Petersfield Urban District and the western part of Stroud, then in East Meon, has now been placed in Langrish parish, both changes in 1894.

North Stroud Lane is now shown as a fenced road with remnants of the old brickworks and clay pits alongside and new housing on the west side. **Stroud Brickwork**s is depicted in some detail and Alpha cottages, Stroud Lodge, and Waltham House are shown. Rothercoombe Farm is now accessed from a fenced road off Beckham Lane (now the Winchester Road). **Ridge Common Lane** first appears on the 1871 OS map.

We see the location of cottages and a house along Beckham Lane and an adjacent sandpit within which pit a **lead coffin** was found in 1898. The excavated outline of **Stroud Roman Villa** is clearly shown having been exposed during the excavation of 1907-8. A homestead is now shown as **Stroud Farm**.

The **Methodist chapel** (now a private house) adjacent Stroud Farm is depicted, having been opened in 1853; the 1897 OS map showing it as 'Methodist Chapel (primitive)' and a Sunday School.

A small building has now been expanded to **New Buildings** (the present farm) and accessed by a new

track from Beckham Lane. Holmwood Copse has been renamed **Furzefield Copse**. Buildings at **Berelands** at the eastern end of Beckham Lane are shown, later to become Berelands Farm and now demolished to make way for the A3 bypass roundabout. From this location east, Beckham Lane becomes the Winchester Road.

Much more on Stroud history on: https://stroudvillagehall.org/history/

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CHURCH NEWS

Amanda Greenlee

Valete, by David Dobson

Since our last issue, two church stalwarts have died: Anthony Littlejohn and Hew Granlund.

Anthony, I think we can say was a driving force on the PCC for most of the past 25 years, with a good stint as churchwarden, guardian of the investments and financial reserves policy and heavy involvement in church maintenance – sound system, outside wall rendering, steeple tiles and roof repairs come to mind – and he and his wife Fiona were brilliant and generous hosts for many Parish Lunches over the years at Lythe Farmhouse.

Hew was a highly efficient Treasurer right up to his final illness, and seemed a natural for that role, deftly keeping our finances on track. He was also the expert on the church boiler behind the scenes, as well as being a familiar figure at churchyard working parties.

Celia Storey joins these two as someone who died and whose funeral was held in the same week we said goodbye to Hew and Anthony. Celia had been crucial to the production of the Newsletter and she and David had hosted many Lenten courses over the years they lived next door to the church. A Timeline was included in the funeral service sheet and we could see how Celia's interfaith work had grown over the years. People who had travelled far were able to enjoy tea and cake served afterwards in the vestry extension and catch up with others from different faiths that had worked with Celia over many years and several continents.

Harvest

Every autumn here in Steep we come together to thank God for the harvest and those that labour in fields and with livestock to keep us fed. Despite the extremely hot summer and mild September the corn has ripened, the trees in the orchards have borne fruit and the hedgerows have been full of berries. As usual our churches have been beautifully decorated for harvest services, in Steep on 27th September and at Stroud in the evening of 11th October. In Stroud the windowsills were decorated with old man's beard and other hedgerow treasures. Pippa led the service in Stroud and local people brought up the fruit of their labours and laid them on the altar, including a fine loaf of bread. The dry goods that the congregations bring to these service are taken to the Foodbank in Petersfield afterwards.

TenAM Together

On the first Sunday of October Graham and Pippa led us in a new form of service where adults and children came together in worship, craft and music. Tables were set up by the pulpit and a screen placed by the organ. Refreshments were served as people entered and they brought them to the tables. There were seeds on the table for us to make pictures with as Graham introduced a quiz on

how small things can be mighty. We heard the parable of the sower and Graham taught us new songs, accompanied by his guitar.

Funerals

3 October Hew Richard Paddison Granlund
7 October Celia Sherwell Storey
9 October Anthony David Findon Littlejohn

NOVEMBER The Parishes of Steep and Stroud and Froxfield with Privett in the Diocese of Portsmouth **2026**

Benefice Worship

Sunday 1st November All Saints' Sunday, Steep
8.30am Holy Communion**, Steep**
10am Benefice TenAM Together with Baptism, **Steep**

Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said)**, Stroud**
10.40am Service of Remembrance**, Froxfield Green**
10.45am Service of Remembrance**, Steep**

Wednesday 11th November
Act of Remembrance at Steep War Memorial

Sunday 15th November
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said)**, Steep**
10am Parish Communion**, High Cross**

Sunday 22nd November
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said)**, Stroud**
10am Parish Communion, **Steep**
11am Morning Prayer,(BCP), **Froxfield Green**

Sunday 29th November 1st Sunday of Advent (P)
10.00am Advent Benefice Communion**, High Cross**
4.30pm Candlelit Carols *after Christmas Fair*, **High Cross**

Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice.
For further information, request our weekly emailed news sheet at **steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com.**
or visit our website **www.steepfroxfield.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: 4.30pm on Fridays and before 10am Sunday Parish Communion Service
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 - Steepfroxfieldprivett@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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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

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