

STEVENTON NEWS

ESTABLISHED MAY 1969

Corona virus lockdown special issue

May 2020

Due to the lockdown we are not able to do the usual hand delivery to every house in the village but we know that there are many living in the village who don't do social media or other virtual communications so we decided to go ahead with a shorter version of Steventon News to help us all keep in touch and up to date.

For those who do social media here are two Facebook groups active in the village
Spotted : Steventon & Drayton Steventon Community

If you feel comfortable to share this copy please do.

If you know someone who would like a copy but can't collect it for themselves please do take another for them if you are able.

We hope to be able to resume the usual format and delivery soon .



THANKS to ALL The Staff at the



for keeping us supplied with necessities, delivering to those who can't get out and helping get this issue to you.

Steventon Parish Council - Emergency help

We are drawing up a register of those needing assistance due to the current Corvid-19 emergency. If you are either able to help or require assistance, please get in touch. Email steventonpcemergency@gmail.com, telephone 01235831024, send the information below or drop off at 8 Stocks Lane Steventon OX13 6SG. .

We need to know:

Name

Contact details, email, phone, address.

Are you able to offer help and if so what type?

Do you need help with what?

This information will be kept on computer for the purpose of emergency planning, you are agreeing to participate by submitting the information.

Date for May

Tuesday 5 May - Virtual Parish Council Meeting - please contact Parish Clerk - steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk - for an invitation to join the meeting online.

St Michael & All Angels, Steventon

Minister: Rev Phil Sutton email:
revphil@damascusparish.org.uk (01235
526 114)
Lay Minister: Mr Jack Jarvis (01235 831 395)
Church Warden: Dr Hilary Otterburn (01235
834 725)
Deputy Warden: Mr Alan Binning (01235 820
009)

Dear friends

Although your church building is required to be closed, we have been active in serving our wonderful community to the best of our ability. We would be pleased to receive requests for practical support for any villager struggling to obtain essential supplies, especially in accessing the local foodbanks. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sadly, there is an increase in deaths in our community for which we can only offer limited funeral services. We plan to organise special remembrance events for families affected but in the meantime bereavement support is readily available for anyone struggling with grief and loss at this lonely time.

Thank you to the Steventon News team, village associations, clubs, pubs, businesses and to each one of you for showing the spirit of kindness and compassion that can see us safely through this pandemic.

Please keep yourselves and others safe and well.

Phil Sutton

Pat Jarvis

We were saddened to hear of the death of Pat Jarvis. She was a force for good in the village for many years, with the WI, Darby & Joan club and meals on wheels to name a few. Our thoughts are with Jack and the family and we hope to be able to include a fuller tribute in a future issue.

Steventon Darby & Joan Club.

Dear members.

Audrey (our leader) and I send greetings to you all. There is no need for me to say what a difficult and strange time we are going through but we are thinking about you and how the Club can carry on after this. The Church service and the River Trip will need to be moved to a different date. In fact I have provisionally re-booked the River Trip for the 10th September, the weather can be nice in September. Probably, the same will happen to the Birthday lunch, change of date. The Annual meeting we can re-arrange when we meet.

Sadly, two members have died, Lorna Payne and Richard Gerring, both funerals will have taken place by the time you read this. Lorna was a regular and helpful member, she and Iris Taylor used to make greeting cards to help with Club funds, also Lorna kept the register of members attending meetings and arranged the Birthday cards, and regarding this Audrey is quite concerned that some of you have had birthdays and no cards but we have not as yet got back the birthday list

Richard was a regular member and generous at times and always attended our functions.

As we would have said had we had a meeting while remembering them, 'May the souls of the of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace'.

I hope during this shut down that you may have used our closing vesper when going to bed. Lord keep us safe this night, secure from all our fears, may angels guard us while we sleep, till morning light appears.

Best wishes

Jack, Audrey and all the committee.

Editorial

This issue of Steventon News is another victim of the strange times we are currently living in, and a stark contrast to the May 2019 issue that celebrated our 50th anniversary.

This issue has been prepared, printed and made available under the stringent lockdown conditions. BUT there are reasons to be cheerful - the menace of the demolition of the railway bridge is over - thanks to the amazing and sustained campaign headed by the Parish Council.

The swallows are back, the bats are about, I've seen a hedgehog on the lawn, the wild birds are nesting and trees blossoming so some things are continuing as usual

Sue Rees - Editor

Copy for the **June 2020** issue to the editor by **18 May** please.

By email to steventon99@btinternet.com and in Word. Please do not send as a pdf as these cannot be edited.

If you do not have access to a computer then please type or write your contribution clearly and leave it in the blue folder at the Steventon Co-op counter.

Usual Collating is suspended until lockdown is lifted.

Important Information for all readers and contributors.

The Editors reserve the right to alter, omit or hold over any copy submitted to Steventon News. The views expressed in Steventon News are not necessarily those of the editors. We will not publish anonymous letters or contributions but will withhold names on request.

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Steventon News Advertising

You will note this May edition of Steventon News carries no advertisements. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) many of the local businesses are closed, and to protect our team we have decided not to deliver to every household in the village and only make this edition available for collection. Therefore due to the reduced distribution we have decided to remove all advertisements. Once the situation improves and businesses reopen we will reinstate the advertisement section in the Steventon News, anyone with prepaid advertisements these will carry on, therefore meaning you will not lose out on the duration paid for.

Martin Stimpson-Tame - Treasurer

Any enquiries about advertising to steventon99@btinternet.com

Local events with no entry fee FREE if space available

YOUR STEVENTON COUNCILLORS Oxfordshire County Council:

Mike Fox-Davies

mike.fox-davies@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Vale of White Horse District Council:

Matthew Barber. Tel 07816 481452

councillor@matthewbarber.co.uk

www.matthewbarber.co.uk

Parish Council Chairman:

Dr Chris Wilding Tel 01235 861665

crwilding@aol.com

Steventon Parish Council Clerk Angela

Einon, Phone: 01235 831024

Email: steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk

April and May deliveries

As we were preparing, printing and delivering the April issue the current emergency was escalating rapidly. Our most mature deliverers (we have 70 and 80+ year olds in the team who usually bring you your issue every month) were asked not to do their rounds to protect them. Huge thanks to the willing new volunteers who stepped into help to take on these rounds temporarily at short notice (especially Joe Bennett).

As chair of the group who produce SN I took the decision to halt all "through the door" deliveries before all the deliverers were able to get round to everyone as the situation became increasingly serious. This was not due in any way to the usual wonderful delivery team, we had people to do it I just didn't think it was fair to ask them to in the light of the directions being issued by the government at the time. Most of the undelivered ones were retrieved and made available for pick up from the Co-op (sincere thanks to the manager and all the staff there who took in these remaining issues to be collected).

At the time of writing it seems very likely the current lockdown will still be in force when this May issue is due to be delivered so to protect deliverers and recipients we will not be doing the usual hand delivery to every house in the village. I hope you found this one easily at the Co-op or via the Parish Council page on the village website. If you know someone who would like a copy and is not able to get one from the Co-op or the website please let me know.

Sue Rees 01235 834 105

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale

We are still here to help. We are no longer able to offer face to face appointments from our Advice Centres. But you will be able to talk to our advisers on the telephone.

Advice Line: 0300 330 9042

Monday to Friday 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

For general advice please visit our website [Citizensadvice.org.uk](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

What can the Steventon Allotment and Relief In Need Charity do for me?

The main aim of the Trustees is to ensure that the Allotment site is maintained for the village and villagers. The Charity has a secondary purpose, which is to support individuals and groups of the Steventon Parish that are in need.

All cases are dealt with on an individual basis and in the strictest confidence. The Trustees recognise that if anyone is seeking assistance, they will be in challenging circumstances. Asking for help is difficult and often a last resort.

If the Trustees are not aware of your situation they cannot provide support. Yes you may have to fill out a form, and provide some personal details. This should not be a bar to applying. Help is at hand during each step of the application process from the either the Trustees or the Clerk.

The Trustees, as the appointed representatives of the Charity have a legal duty to comply with the Charity Commission rules around their governance. Please do not be put off by the process that is all it is.

If you need help, pick up the phone, email, or write to the Charity. If the Charity cannot help they may be able to offer guidance on where help is available.

Steven Ward	07719 779479
Carole Denton	07776 453099
Dawn Clements	820371
Bill Temple	831449
Robin Wilkinson	07802 487159
Wendy Lucas	833931
Steph Everill	821770

Or contact the Clerk: -

Patrina Effer

The Limes, 19 Lime Grove, Southmoor
Oxon, OX13 5DN

Tel: 01865 821055

E-mail: info@sarinc.org.uk

The Steventon Allotment and Relief In Need Charity

Providing support to the residents and groups of the Parish since 1987

REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council held a “virtual” meeting on Wednesday 15th April with 8 Councillors, Mike Fox-Davies, Oxfordshire County Council Councillor and 1 member of the public signing in.

We are currently experiencing unprecedented times with the wretched COVID-19 Coronavirus. The Parish Council would like to thank residents of Steventon for their community spirit, comradery and ingenuity during these stressful times. It is a delight to see the support given to the NHS and front line workers and the messages given in the form of painted/chalked stones, pavements and walls plus trinkets dangling from trees, the Causeway is quite impressive together with looking out for neighbours and those vulnerable and delivering essential supplies.

A thank you goes to all the staff in the Co-op who have maintained a vital supply of food to residents and more recently delivery to vulnerable residents, well done. At times they have experienced abuse from impatient/ignorant people, there is no excuse for this type of behaviour.

Everybody should now have had the letter from Network Rail stating that they have withdrawn their appeal and now have no intention to demolish Steventon Railway bridge. The Appeal process has been going on since the Vale of White Horse District Council refused permission for demolition of Brunel's Grade II listed Railway Bridge in August 2018. Steventon Parish Council is therefore both pleased and relieved at the news that Network Rail are withdrawing their Appeal. It has ended the threat of having our High Street closed for almost a year and the logistical transport headache for residents, businesses and people in neighbouring villages.

We would like to thank all those who provided both advice and support for our campaign since 2014. The electrification project that led to decimation of our countryside and national heritage was started by Network Rail with no detailed design and rigorous technical

evaluation. We always knew that technologies, associated testing and modelling techniques were evolving in the UK to enable solutions similar to those being deployed on the Continent.

It is our hope that going forward, much more of our national Railway Heritage can be retained as Network Rail progress electrification throughout the UK, than was previously the case. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are waiting for Bouygues (OCC electrical contractor) to install the belisha beacons and power supply to allow the zebra crossing in Hanney Road to become 'live'. Bouygues are currently only carrying out critical works. They have a proposed plan to gradually bring in non-essential works that will be undertaken over the coming month.

The saga of replacing the chicane on Hanney road continues. OCC are trying to de-couple planning conditions on Phase 3 Linden Homes development from installation of a new chicane on Hanney road. If successful this will then allow the removal of the existing chicane on Hanney Road and replacement with a new one.

The collection of litter, with a picker straight into a bag is not seen as a high risk, but the emptying and sorting of bins is likely to put you in a vulnerable situation. With the exception of bins in St. Michaels play and on the big green it is the responsibility of Biffa to empty. The bins in St Michael's play area and on the big green have been sealed as it is considered too high a risk for our regular village litter pickers.

A reminder that under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 a person who is in charge of a dog must clean up after it when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access. It is therefore a crime to allow a dog to foul in any public area without clearing it up. Those that fail to do so could face a fixed penalty notice of £50 or prosecution. If the bins on the public roads are full then please take your poo bags home and dispose of with normal domestic waste.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have reopened their paid-for bulky waste collection service for large household items and are also issuing a warning about fly-tipping while other outlets for domestic waste remain closed.

The bulky waste collection service was temporarily stopped to allow the councils' waste contractor, Biffa, to prioritise the important kerbside household collections while members of their waste collection crews were off sick or self-isolating. Biffa has now built up sufficient resilience in its workforce and can now provide the paid-for service again. The situation is being regularly monitored and residents should be aware that if staffing levels fall the service may need to be suspended again.

With household waste recycling centres still closed, along with charity shops and their donation banks, there are fewer places to dispose of unwanted items that do not fit into kerbside collections.

The councils have issued a warning to anybody tempted to fly-tip - this includes leaving rubbish next to litter bins – that they will investigate and prosecute anyone found to be responsible.

The next virtual Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7pm. If you want to take part in Public Participation please contact the Parish clerk via steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk who will send you an invite

Dr Chris Wilding – Chair

Plant Sale , June 6th.

Last month I suggested a plan for a plant sale, and although we cannot know at the present time how the Covid-19 precautions will be affecting us by June, I hope we can still go ahead .

It may be that I will put a table outside our house and a collecting box !

Please save any plants which you might be able to donate.

The date will be Saturday June 6th at 27 Stocks Lane, from 10.30.till 1pm..

Do contact me with any thoughts and ideas.

Mary Thompson. - 832077

Letters to the Editor

VE Day Celebrations

While I do appreciate that the original VE celebrations have to be cancelled under the current lockdown, but does it mean that we have to cancel everything? Steventon is a village where houses are well separated and almost all have front gardens. Could we not replace the events on the green with an event in our front gardens?

All of us get apart to have a picnic lunch in our front gardens at 1.00pm on VE day itself. We can decorate our houses for the event, we already have some lovely decorations and bears in the village recognising the heroism of our NHS workers. Such an event would be entirely within the Covid-19 lock down regulations.

We have all been coming out of our houses to clap, crash and bang in thanks to the NHS on Thursday evenings, why not do, essentially, the same with a picnic on VE day?

Catherine Petts

Thank you all

A huge thank you to the fellow villagers who came to the rescue of us ancients, not allowed out so unable to shop.

It is not just getting our food for us, but the little gifts of 'inessential' foodstuffs; choccy Easter eggs even if we are past the usual age for them; homemade cakes, quiches and so on, way past just being helpful'.

The little sponge cake which will be most welcome at teatime; yes, enjoyable in itself but all the more for the thoughtful kindness.

Name supplied but withheld by request

"No Mow May"

Last year the wildlife charity Plantlife launched a campaign called "No Mow May" and this year they are again asking gardeners and landowners to make simple changes to grass mowing regimes this month, to benefit wildflowers and honeybees.

In 2019 Plantlife conducted a survey with gardeners across the UK and data from that survey showed that lawns cut only once a month attracted 10 times as many bees as grass cut more frequently. The findings were also used to calculate Plantlife's first National Nectar Score. Lawns cut once every four weeks had the highest number of flowers and nectar sugar because plants such as daisies and white clover flowered for a longer period. Every day, just 1 square metre of lawn which has been left uncut can produce enough nectar to support 3.8 honeybees. If you have ample space, then areas of long grass left uncut allow other nectar rich flowers such as oxeye daisy and knapweed to flourish which extends nectar availability into late summer.

These simple actions can be of enormous benefit as well as being visually pleasing. The Every Flower Counts survey is being organised again this month and gardeners and landowners are encouraged to take part by adopting the No Mow May principle. For details of how to take part and for other ways to benefit wildlife, visit plantlife.org.uk

Catherine Brickwood

Jigsaws available

I understand that some people in the village are looking for puzzles. I once ran a Jigsaw Library in the village and still have a considerable collection. If you would like to borrow one (or some) please get in touch. Telephone 01235 834778. Betty Webb.

Steventon Friendly Association

WED 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1017 18/3	5	Mike Toplis
1018 25/3	9	Mrs Spinks
1019 1/4	30	Mr Butler
1020 8/4	7	Mark Payne
1021 15/4	17	Alan Hutchings

SAT 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1236 21/3	41	Steve Ponting
1237 28/3	11	Val Collett
1238 4/4	25	Joanne Dunsdon
1239 11/4	50	Ann Ashton

SAT "59 Club Extra" Results

Week	No.	Winner
312 21/3	41	Roy Everill
313 28/3	11	Margaret Jenner
314 4/4	25	Gill Gay
315 11/4	50	Mrs Freemantle

Congratulations to all this month's winners. Your 59 club collectors will not be collecting until things get back to normal but we will still be paying out to the winners. We will catch up with your payments later. If you wish you can put though your collectors letter box or mine at 38 Hanney Road . telephone 831 462

Summer Trip - This will not now happen as planned - but watch this space as we may try and do something later in the year

Pat Hemmings, Chairman SFA

This time next year.....

When Spring returns will all be well
With life released from living Hell?
As “daffs” again nod yellow heads
Will we sleep soundly in our beds?
On days refreshed by April showers
Will we walk freely through the flowers?
And family members will we meet
And move up close to friends we greet?
And so, we ask – this time next year
Will we no longer live in fear?
We all must hold out hope and trust
That normal life returns – it MUST!
.....and soon
Ann Turton - April 2020

STEVENTON CRICKET CLUB

Sadly, at time of writing, all cricket-playing activities are still suspended indefinitely, and we will continue to follow government and ECB guidance on this. We are doing the essential minimum ground work on the cricket square to maintain the integrity of the wicket, and measures are in place (as detailed on the notices on the green) to ensure this happens in the safest possible fashion. We still hope to have a partial season for seniors & juniors, perhaps starting at a later date. In the meantime, please try to continue to exercise whenever it's possible to do so safely and in accordance with guidance, and please take care of yourselves and each other.

We will be in regular contact with club members via email, but if anyone wants more up-to-date or detailed information please feel free to contact club secretary Joe Bennett on 07966 592381, or via email Joe@woodfestival.com

A34 West Berkshire/Oxfordshire – Road Marking and Road Stud Replacement

Monday 4 May for two nights – closure of the A34 southbound carriageway from the A420 Botley Interchange to the A4130 Milton Interchange, with a signed diversion in place via the A420, A338, Wantage and the A417

Monday 11 May for two nights – closure of the A34 northbound carriageway from the A423 Hinksey Hill junction to the A44 Peartree Interchange, with a signed diversion in place via the Oxford ring-road

Monday 18 May for four nights – closure of the A34 southbound carriageway from the A4130 Milton Interchange to the M4 (Chieveley), with a signed diversion in place via the A417, Wantage, A338 and A4

Thursday 21 May for one night – closure of the A34 northbound carriageway from the A4185 Chilton Interchange to the A4130 Milton Interchange

Message from Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

PRACTICE NURSES – YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU!

Oxfordshire’s Patient Care during Coronavirus programme is asking experienced practice nurses to join the teams in our dedicated COVID-19 clinics across the county. If you are not currently working in one of our Oxfordshire practices but are interested in helping care for patients during the pandemic, please complete this quick availability survey and we will contact you. Thank you and please share this link

<https://surveyhero.com/c/e7684979>

