

STEVENTON NEWS

ESTABLISHED MAY 1969

August 2023



DUCK RACING,- the Steventon Way

(Photo by Steve Atkey)

Dates for August

6th Steventon News Ads cut-off date

10th Darby & Joan trip to Poole

12th Book Sale in aid of MND

13th Steventon News copy cut-off

15th WI Garden Party

24th Darby & Joan Meeting

31st Happy 100th Birthday Jim Butler

***Community Cafe - every Tuesday
9am-2pm***



The continued success of the Roots & Shoots allotment depends on our wonderful volunteers and all their hard work, which also helps to supply the Community Café and Kitchen with fresh locally grown vegetables... and with zero food miles!



Volunteering is open to everyone of all ages and you don't need to have any experience of growing vegetables, just a willingness to have a go and help out. It's also a chance to get out in the fresh air and meet some new people.

We have work parties on Sunday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30 and on Wednesdays from 5 to 7pm.

There is no need to be there for the full session, nor to feel you have to make a regular commitment. Even if you can only spare an hour or so from time to time, we would love to have your help.

To get started just come along to a work party at whatever time suits you within the hours above.... or e-mail info.steventonrootsshoot@gmail.com

for more information.

The allotment is next to the Folly Road, by the first gate on the left, if coming from The Causeway direction, so why not come along to see what we have been up over recent months.

Finally, don't forget to visit the Community Café, which will be open throughout the summer and beyond, taking place every Tuesday between 9am and 2pm and is open to everyone, with donations welcome, but not expected.

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There will be a book sale on **AUGUST 12TH 2023** in the Millenium Room, Steventon Village Hall at 14.30 until 16.30. All proceeds will go towards the Motor Neurone Disease Association. If you have any books you wish to donate, please do drop round to Brian and Joan Leahy at 26 Hanney Road in Steventon or email Andrea at wright.andrea1@sky.com and the books can be collected.

Brian and Joan's health has improved enough to hold the sale – AT LAST.



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Cut-off dates for next issue

Contributions for the **September** issue to steventonnews@outlook.com by **Sunday 13 August** please. Advert cut off is **6th August**. If you do not have access to a computer, then please type or write clearly and leave it in the blue folder at the Steventon Co-op counter.

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Regular advertisers can update or change your advert anytime, providing changes are received before our monthly cut-off date.

Adverts are in 1/10th page size - 5cm high by 8.5cm wide. Acceptable digital artwork formats for adverts only include PDF, JPG* and TIFF*

(*300ppi at final size). Word files may also be acceptable, e.g. where an ad is text only; other formats on request. We strongly recommend that artworks are designed to fit the space (not stretched or shrunk) and text checked for legibility at final printed size. Please send all enquiries about adverts by email to

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Local events with no entry fee FREE if space available

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STEVENTON SHORT MAT BOWLS

We will be re-starting on **Tuesday 19th September in the Village Hall at 1.30 to 4.00 pm.**

New members would be warmly welcome and no experience is necessary. The first session will be free of charge and we have spare bowls. All we ask is that you bring a pair of flat indoor shoes.

We are a very friendly club and providing we can increase the membership we hope to carry on until Easter.

Please come along and give it a try.

Steventon Darby & Joan Club

What a lovely afternoon we had when we entertained the Rose Hill Club. These are old friends that have been coming to us and we to them over many years. The entertainment was good, a little different but it was enjoyed by all, the food was excellent and also the raffle. There must be thanks first to Audrey our Leader for all her hard work and then all those who helped on the day, Thank you.

Thursday 10th August, our trip to Poole, the coach is filling up well, there maybe a few seats still available but do contact Audrey Keeler if you would like to come 834064. We leave the village at 8.30am.

Thursday 24th 1.30pm August Meet in the Hall.

If you are 60 or over and are sitting at home looking for somewhere to go, then do come along for the afternoon and see what we get up too.

Jack Jarvis 831395



We hope everyone who came to the games evening enjoyed themselves and are now competent bingo players!

This month's meeting on **15 August** will be a Garden Party with an 'Ascot Ladies Day' theme competition, venue tbc, the race course is proving a bit difficult to find! There is a Kennet and Avon Canal boat trip from Newbury planned which we hope will be on a lovely sunny day.

All our usual clubs will be meeting and please, as ever, if you would like to visit or join us please contact a member or call 01235 833009 you will be most welcome. We meet every third Tuesday in the Millennium Room at 7.30 pm

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Deputy Warden: Mr Alan Binning (01235 820 009)

Dear Friends

It took \$2 billion and 200 Canadian engineers and scientists to design a space pen capable of writing in zero gravity. In a short note to the Canadians, NASA congratulated them but said that they too had found the answer but at a fraction of the cost. They use pencils!

At the start of the school holiday season, my message for the teachers and pupils is that you have a 'simply wonderful holiday'. We over complicate life and especially holidays. Simply the best holidays are the ones where you quickly feel rested and refreshed and can enjoy the beauty of the surroundings and where the food and entertainment are excellent. Steventon offers it all; true our waterways may lack some of the history and drama of Venice, but quiet chalk streams, rolling hills, historic walks, the beauty of sunsets, swallows performing aerial feats as they catch insects on the wing and the home-making house martins provide so much that is peaceful and restful. Fine food and entertainment are to be found in our pubs as well as our highly rated Community Café (serving children's lunches each Tuesday in August). If activity holidays are your preference, why spend a fortune on a visit to a major sporting event when you can enjoy the sporting drama and festivities of a cricket match on The Green. If you want high stress sporting challenges at a low cost, then take up Aunt Sally – far cheaper than golf but offers the same sporting challenge without the long walks!

Please take time to enjoy the quiet rest and peace of God's good creation, so evident in Steventon. Enjoy the slow pace of life (now officially 20mph), marvel at the fragility, beauty and resilience of the created order and ponder how such wonder and diversity comes into being even with the best human efforts to destroy it. Steventon offers us many 'thin spaces' – where the boundary between heaven and earth is especially thin. A place where we can sense the divine more readily, a place where the earth takes on the hue of the sacred. My special 'thin space' is our church at sunset when it speaks so peacefully of the sacredness of humanity's connection to a place which has remained unbroken through the ages.

.....

Sunday & Midweek Services for August

Sun 6 August	08:00 Holy Communion (BCP) 09:30 Family Service 18:00 Evening Prayer (BCP)	Revd Phil Sutton ' <i>Saints Alive</i> ' Led by Mr Mike Murray
Sun 13 August	09:30 Holy Communion	Revd Phil Sutton
Sun 20 August	09:30 Morning Worship	Mr Jack Jarvis
Sun 27 August	09:30 Holy Communion	Revd Phil Sutton
Wednesdays	09:30 Holy Communion (BCP)	Mr Jack Jarvis

With my prayers and very best wishes for a beautifully restful August. *Phil*



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Parish Council Report

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 4th July with 8 Parish Councillors, Sally Povolotsky, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Councillor and Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) and several members of the public being present.

Parking by commercial vehicles in Stonebridge Road was raised as a problem for residents and passing traffic. Any instances of obstruction should be reported on 101 or the OCC website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/illegal-parking> with a photograph if possible. The Parish Council have written to the operators and would do so again

Two applications had been received for co-option to the Parish Council, with two further enquiries. Interviews would be arranged in the near future.

Further to the July report the recent road surface trials on Hanney road were the first in the country where all the different technologies were brought together in one location to complete an in-depth controlled trial. The aim of the trials is to independently verify the supply chain claims around their products in order to give a contemporary view, comparing them for value for money, durability and suitability for use across various highway defect types and locations. The surfaces will now be monitored over a prolonged time period.

The Vale of White Horse District Council have refused planning permission for 2, 2A, 6 and 6A High Street (formally Mira Spice, Munchies, Rainbow Colour and the "old paint shop").

The refused application included: 13 residential units comprising of--

7 one-bedroom apartments and 6 two - bedroom apartments with provision for 13 parking spaces;

- 2 commercial units with 4 car parking spaces;
- No disabled parking spaces;

- Two turntables, one to turn round delivery vehicles to allow a one way in/out route and one to assist in on site residential parking.

The main reasons for refusal were:

- Overdevelopment of the site in terms of the number of flats leading to cramped conditions for vehicle movements, hence 2 turntables, and parking. In addition, no provision was made for disabled parking;
- Restricted access to the site which, together with insufficient on-site parking would lead to a detrimental impact on both residents and highway safety.

The proposal also failed to provide adequate affordable housing provision at 20%, suitable provision of street naming and numbering, adequate waste management, waste collection and recycling.

There is no Parish Council meeting in August. The next Parish Council meeting is on **Tuesday September 5th, 2023, at 7pm** in the Village Hall.

Dr Chris Wilding

Chair

Your Steventon Councillors

Oxfordshire County Council:

Sally Povolotsky 07939 912997

Sally.Povolotsky@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Vale of White Horse District Council:

Sally Povolotsky 07939 912997

sally.povolotsky@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Parish Council Chairman:

Dr Chris Wilding Tel 01235 861665

Email: crwilding@aol.com

Steventon Parish Council Clerk

Angela Einon Tel 01235 831024

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EVENING

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Contact **Emily**
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Cllr Sally Povolotsky

At tonight's Planning Committee (7th July)...I spoke on behalf of the residents as requested regarding:-

2A, 2, 6 and 6A

High Street

Steventon

Abingdon OX13 6R

Rejected unanimously by the planning committee on the grounds of road safety, parking spaces and overspill, and over development!

This development amendment incorporates P21/V0140/FUL which was granted on 30th July 2021 which had 10 parking spaces for 7 flats and two commercial units with 3 parking spaces. The current proposal increased the flats to 13, considerably increased the area to be developed and found 3 parking spaces. Well done to the Parish Council and local residents for all their objections.

David Johnstone MP for Wantage and Didcot

Access to childcare is something that is regularly raised with me on the doorstep, and I launched a Childcare Survey last month to give parents and guardians across the constituency the chance to tell me about their experiences. Thank you to everyone who took part.

I will be sharing the findings with Ministers at the Department for Education, but the headline results included 95% of people saying we need more childcare infrastructure (much like most other infrastructure!) and 95% of people supporting the Government's plan to expand free childcare to 30 hours every week for children from 9 months old until they start school. This is the largest ever investment in childcare and will hopefully make a huge difference to the 75% who said that cost has been an issue in accessing childcare.

This month I was pleased to host my third annual Wantage and Didcot Climate Summit featuring a keynote speech by Grant Shapps, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who took questions on

everything from renewables to transport. We also welcomed local and national experts including Mike Blanch from the Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust, Jack Richardson from Onward and Professor Adrian Bull from The University of Manchester to talk and take questions about wind, hydrogen and nuclear energy. This was followed by the chance to question Thames Water's Director of Sustainability on water quality and tackling storm overflows. It was a very interesting event, and you can watch the recording on my website.

I also hosted a Crime Summit with Thames Valley Police in Wallingford this month after a local resident wrote to me with concerns about crime. It was a productive discussion about lots of issues and there were several things that TVP committed to go away and look at – including the time it takes to report an incident of anti-social behaviour online.

In addition, I hosted a Farmers' Forum for local farmers with the Farming Minister, Mark Spencer. We had a wide-ranging discussion about food production, farming incentives, the challenges for beef/pig/dairy/arable farmers, the environment and much more.

It is always a pleasure to welcome constituents to Parliament, and it was great to meet with Sarah and a group of young people from SOFEA when they visited again for a tour. I helped organise this after a visit I made to them recently – they do great work for the local community.

As one of the patrons of Play2Give I try to get to as many of Andy Baker's events as I can and this month he was running a great football tournament in Wallingford, which raised over £4,000. Well done, Andy!

In other news, my campaign for the local AEAT Pensioners hit another milestone as Parliament's Public Accounts Committee finished their inquiry that I helped secure and made recommendations to Government. This is a campaign I will continue to support. As ever, if I can help with anything please email me via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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News from GARD

Everyone will have read about the Thames Water financial situation and the fact that the company is negotiating with the government about how to continue. Will it be new money from existing shareholders? Or new shareholders? Or the government? Over the coming weeks we shall see what happens. It is not clear what this means for the reservoir proposal.

RAPID: The RAPID Gate 2 report came out but as we expected there was no commitment to a particular direction (Reservoir or water transfer). It is disappointing to see that RAPID have not answered GARD's criticisms of the water companies cost or carbon footprint estimates, nor have they insisted on an early evaluation of Reservoir safety.

GARD has had an online meeting with RAPID and the Environment Agency to discuss these issues, with local Councillors being present and supportive; this is leading to several more meetings, including two with GARD and Ofwat/Environment Agency, and one between RAPID and the Councils. These meetings are scheduled for the coming weeks, and we will keep you updated.

WRMPs: as we reported in July, the Water Company and WRSE responses to stakeholders' and residents' criticisms have been delayed. These plans will not be made public until early September.



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Steventon Friendly Association

WED 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1187 21/6	54	John Webb
1188 28/6	20	Alan Humpries
1189 5/7	12	Mrs Enoch
1190 12/7	45	Mr & Mrs Lucas

SAT 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1406 24/6	31	Mr & Mrs Harvey
1407 1/7	34	Lewis Hastings
1408 8/7	14	Edie McKenzie
1409 15/7	30	Julia Ponting

SAT "59 Club Extra" Results

Week	No.	Winner
482 24/6	31	Joanne Golding
483 1/7	34	Doreen Goddard
484 8/7	14	Linda Humpries
485 15/7	30	John Wood

Congratulations to this month's winners
Pat Hemmings, Chairman - SFA
01235 83162 /07808086603

Senior Citizens Summer Trip July 16th

All went well and we took 71 Senior Citizens on a boat trip on Southampton Water. The weather was not as kind to us as in previous years but a good time was had by everyone. We were wined and dined with a 3 course meal, followed by afternoon tea with cake during the 5 hour trip.

Many thanks to Pat and Jim and their support crew for all their efforts to make it a very enjoyable day.

Editor

SARINC

(Steventon Allotments and Relief In Need Charity) – 2023

Advance notice that the Trustees will be reviewing the allotments on **Wednesday 6 September**, this is as part of one of the Charity's key roles which are to:

- maintain the allotment site for the villagers of Steventon
- support any residents or groups within the village who are in need

Education grant application forms for the 2023/2024 Academic year are available from the Clerk. Steventon residents are able to apply to the Charity to be considered for an Education grant providing they are in full time education and are in receipt of a student loan or are paying fees. The application must be made via the application form together with the requested supporting evidence as detailed in the form. All applications must be received by the Clerk by **31 January 2024**, late or incomplete applications will not be processed.

Individuals and Groups can apply to the Charity for a grant by completing the grant application form. The Trustees will next meet to consider grant applications and any other business on **Wednesday 13 September**.

Residents and groups should contact the Clerk or any of the Trustees to discuss any support. All requests are dealt with confidentially

To request a grant application form, please contact The Clerk or any of the Trustees.

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St. Michael's C.E. Primary

As we come to the end of the school year, we reflect on all we have accomplished. This year has seen the best Key Stage 2 SATs results in several years. The staff and children have worked incredibly hard to catch the children up since COVID and all of that hard work has paid off. We are so proud that 80% of our children will leave St Michael's at the expected standard in Reading alone - almost 10% higher than the National figure!

We know that SATS are just a snapshot of what our children are capable of and they do not allow the artists, geographers, athletes, musicians and scientists to shine but with our new curriculum in place, these skills and attributes thrive in other ways.

We wish our Year 6 children lots of luck on their new adventures at Secondary school and know they will take our St Michael's Vision and Values with them.

We also welcomed a SIAMS inspector - The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools - in July. The inspector said St Michael's vision had been "transformational" in creating a school that had "high expectations" and "celebrated difference and diversity by putting children first". We are so proud of all of the work we have done to create a school where children and adults alike can all flourish.

We also saw record numbers of children on roll. 73% of our pupils currently come from the village and this is rising each year. We currently only have 10 places left across the school and will be starting our open days for September 2024 intake in the Autumn.

We would not be able to go from strength to strength without the phenomenal staff team, as well as the fabulous support of parents and the community. Thank you!

We hope everyone has a restful summer and comes back in September ready to go again!

Hayley Leyshon-Brady (Headteacher)

St. Michael's C.E. Primary

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Steventon History Society current activities



A small group of members and friends visited The Rifles Museum, Salisbury in June (there being insufficient take-up amongst the public to hire a coach). An excellent tour of the museum was given by the staff with access to rooms and

displays not normally available to visitors. Highlights included anecdotal story telling concerning the past characters of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and a viewing of the museum armoury: see photo below (all arms deactivated)

At our July meeting, members were given a fascinating presentation by Chris Brickwood on the History of the Cherry Tree public house, with additional anecdotes provided by Dick Bosley. Particular attention was given to the period that the pub was called The Railway House, a name which it held for much of its existence.

Forthcoming events include a walking tour of Oxford to explore the history of the original GWR track into the city and the Steventon – Oxford turnpike road. We will also be welcoming Dr Christopher Currie to talk to members about the medieval history of Steventon. Further into the future, Dick Bosley will be leading members on a tour of the historic public houses of Abingdon.

The Society meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the back room of The North Star. New members are assured of a warm welcome (membership is free, all we ask is for an interest in our village history). For more information contact Tim Owen at owentd@talk21.com or visit our website.

The Perseid meteor shower

The Perseid meteor shower is lighting up the sky over the next month in what is always a highlight of the calendar for stargazers. With about 100 shooting stars streaking through the sky every hour, it is one of the brightest and most active showers of the year.

The shower is caused by Earth slamming into the debris left behind by comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle in July and August every year.

It is called the Perseids because the meteors appear to originate from the constellation of Perseus.

The Royal Observatory said: “The average speed for a Perseid meteor is 36 miles per second. The air in front of the meteor is squashed and heated to thousands of degrees Celsius. The smaller meteors vaporise and leave behind a bright trail of light. Larger meteors can explode as fireballs.”

The shower will be at its peak – meaning the most meteors should be visible – on the night of **12 August** and before dawn on **13 August**. As with most things in the night sky, the best time to see the Perseids is when the sky is darkest. At this time of year in the UK, that means between midnight and around 5.30am. However, the Royal Observatory adds: “The radiant of the Perseids is actually always above the horizon as seen from the UK, which means that observers in the UK should be able to see some meteors as soon as the Sun sets. “Therefore, it is worth looking up in the early evening.”

Meteors can appear in any part of the sky so the more sky you can see the better. You ideally want to be away from tall trees and buildings. Observers can look out for the shower wherever they are, but a clear sky with minimal light pollution offers the best chance of catching a glimpse.

The Royal Observatory adds: “This could mean heading out to the countryside, a nearby park or even do something as simple as turning your back to street lamps if you are not able to go anywhere. Give your eyes at least 15 minutes to adjust to the dark so that you can catch more of the fainter meteors – this does mean that you should not look at your phone.”

Happy Stargazing

Steventon Cricket Club

Again lots of cricket to report this month! The women's team have made a good start to their league season, securing a couple of excellent wins. Against Oxenford



on **July 2nd**, 35 from Bobbi Cookson and 30 from Emilia Harding saw us to our highest score to date, 142-9 in our 25 overs, before Sasha Taylor (4-14) destroyed the Oxenford batting, for a 59-run win.

July 16th saw a low-scoring thriller on a grey wet day v Maidenhead; B Cookson again (3-20) and Lottie Hart (3-18) led the way as we bowled them out for 85, before a real team batting performance got us over the line by 3 wickets.

The Senior Saturday sides continue to have mixed fortunes. Matchday 8 saw the 1s bowl Oxenford out for 184, before succumbing meekly in the chase. The 2s dismissed Wantage for just 80 thanks to Chris Shaw (4-7) and Lokesh Kempaiah (4-20) before Paul Rees (29*) and Ankit Shukla (27*) eased them home for an 8 wicket win.

July 8th saw both teams playing against Golden Sparrows; the 1s were away at a slightly unkempt Hanney field, and only made it to 95 all out, thanks to Richard Chapman's gritty 32. In reply Paul Tolley (6-38) tore through their top order but we couldn't quite kill them off and lost by 3 wickets. The 2s got their 2s 187-9 thanks to Roland Arasamuthu's 4-17, but batting let us down.

July 15th saw Clifton Hampden visit the Green, and thanks to Ethan Webb's fluent 42 and 37 from Glen Willett, we got into a good position, only to fold for a sub-par 134. Our

bowlers, led by Tom Cannon (3-34) and Simon Lock (3-40) made them work for it but ultimately we were 20-40 runs short. The 2s went to leaders Letcombe and dismissed them for 136 thanks to a great team bowling show, led by Craig Wilson (3-24), but unfortunately couldn't back it up with the bat.

There've been many excellent junior performances too.

The u15 girls got a great win vs Cumnor thanks to B.Cookson's 34 and 4-8 from Evelyn Hamilton.

The U13 girls had a last ball thriller at Eynsham, losing by 1 run, despite an excellent 16* from Lilidh Keymer, and won a good game.



against Oxford CC, thanks to Katharina Pongratz's 19*.

The U11s beat Oxford downs, thanks to a great all-round team performance (Eden Peters 13*, Wilfred Snuggs 13).

In the U13s Miles Cookson scored 18*, 30* and 26 in consecutive matches to help us to very competitive totals in some hard-fought games.

If you or your child would like to get involved with our community club, whether playing, umpiring, scoring, doing groundwork or coaching, do get in touch. As well as being a fantastic sport, it's a great way to meet new people, in a fun and sociable environment. Contact Joe on 07966 592381, email SteventonCC@gmail.com, or use the website to find out more and get in touch, SteventonCC.org.uk

Congratulations to Walter James Butler known to his friends as Jim who will achieve the grand age of 100years on 31 AUGUST this year.

Jim moved from Langley to Drayton in 1946. and was married to Joan for 54 years who sadly passed away. In 2000 he moved to Steventon and has never regretted the move.

Jim worked for 32 years as a Safety Manager at Amey's along with 50 years of service in the St John Ambulance and 24 years as a Magistrate which is why some people know him as the Judge. When asked on the Senior Citizens trip "what was his secret of long life? His immediate reply was **"WOMEN"**. Over the course of his life he said he had been cared and loved by good women. The fact that he is tea total and a non-smoker coupled with good genes must have helped too. (photo by Steve Atkey)



In my post ride, exhausted yet euphoric state, I wanted to apologise for missing out some very key thank you's.



In addition to those made in June issue of Steventon news I'd like to thank the following from the bottom of my heart for their superb support:

The Steventon News Team – I certainly didn't expect the front cover last month.

H & Lisa and customers of the North Star, Steventon for great publicity, awareness, and donations.

I've been lucky enough to have had some incredible donations and would like call out the following for their individual generosity shown in support of blood cancer:

Andrew Richardson, Steve Carter, Rosh & Iain Embury, John Nicoll, Claire Rush & Robert Tyrrell

The final thank you must go to Tony, my long-suffering husband who puts up with me and my goals and crazy challenges.

My just giving page currently stands at £3456.00 (and £532.50 gift aid) and our Team Portcullis has smashed the £23,000 threshold, our target was £12,000 and the whole London 2 Paris event has raised £230,000 – thank you for being part of that. Now onto the next challenge!! From Sharon O'Loughlin



A huge thank you to everyone that supported our Marie Curie Blooming Great Tea Party on Saturday 8th July. Total raised was £2502.77, so thank you to everyone who donated, helped and came along to support us on the day. It really is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to H & Lisa for allowing us to host the event at The North Star, we couldn't do it without you!

See you again next year!
(Photo by Steve Atkey)