# STEVENTON NEWS

### **ESTABLISHED MAY 1969**

### October 2023



International Cricket on The Green! see match report on p19

#### **Dates for October**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> SARNIC meeting	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Giant Vegetable Competition	25 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Poppy Appeal	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival	26 <sup>th</sup> Darby & Joan Fish & Chips	
12 <sup>th</sup>	Darby & Joan Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov. WI Craft & Gift Fair	
15 <sup>th</sup>	Steventon News Copy deadline	Community Cafe every Tuesday 9am - 2pm	
17 <sup>th</sup>	WI Meeting		





We have enjoyed the summer with a lovely garden party hosted by one of our members and a canal boat trip from Newbury. The sun shone for the first event but not for the second but it did not dampen our enjoyment! This month we have a visit to Westonbirt Arboretum.

All our regular groups will be meeting and this month our meeting on 17th will be a Halloween Party including a fancy dress competition so get your broom sticks serviced. Everyone is always welcome to come along and visit one of our meetings, they are on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm in the Millennium Room at the Village Hall. You could speak to a member to plan a visit or call 01235 833009 for more details.



Adrian Joyce shared this photo of an unusual visitor to his garden on the Causeway.

Although Little Egrets have become more common in this country over the past 25 years it's still quite unusual to wake up and find one in the garden!

Ed

#### **Cut-off dates for next issue**

Contributions for the **November** issue to steventonnews@outlook.com by **Sunday 15 Oct**, please.

Advert cutoff is 8 Oct. 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.

#### **Steventon News Advertising**

Please contact us at steventonnews@outlook.com for this year's advertising rates and space availability.

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SteventonVillageHallBookings@gmail.com

#### For St Michael's Hall contact

The Booking Clerk

Ruth Howard Tel: 01235 831409

# Steventon Friendly Association WED 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1195	26	Mr & Mrs Broughton
16/8		
1196	15	Alison Whittington
23/8		
1197	30/8	Audrey Keeler
30/8		
1198	28	Jim Axford
6/9		
1199	6	Kelly Robins
13/9		

#### **SAT 59 Club Results**

Week	No.	Winner
1414	8	Jimmy Lister
19/8		
1415	43	Mrs Spicer
26/8		
1416	16	Stuart Fisher
2/9		
1417	56	Pete Beacham
9/9		
1418	50	Margaret Perris
16/9		

#### **SAT "59 Club Extra" Results**

<u> </u>			
490	8	Peter Berry	
19/8			
491	43	Pat Ross	
28/8			
492	16	Shelia Layton	
2/9		-	
493	56	Sue Flockton	
9/9			
494	50	Mrs Fremantle	
16/9			

Congratulations to this month's winners Pat Hemmings, Chairman - SFA

PS If I'm a bit late collecting from any members - don't worry - I will be out of action for a few weeks. You can give me a ring on 01235 83162 /07808086603 or put your money through my door at 38 Hanney Road



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week's work

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#### St Michael & All Angels, Steventon One of the DAMASCUS Parish Churches

Associate Minister: Rev Phil Sutton (revphil@damascusparish.org.uk 01235 635476 /

07507378737)

Lay Minister: Mr Jack Jarvis (01235 831395) Church Warden: Dr Hilary Otterburn (01235 834725) Deputy Warden: Mr Alan Binning (01235 820009)

#### Dear Friends

A few weeks ago, I met a fellow dog walker on The Green. He was clutching a large bag full of rubbish he'd picked up. I commented on his care and suggested that more bins be placed where most litter is dropped – by the car park, gym area and Sports & Social Club. He advised me that if bins were placed outside the Sports & Social Club, they would create an unpleasant smell for their customers because dog owners would then drop full poo bags into them. 'There's no point in campaigning for more bins; everyone is responsible. I do this every Saturday and if more people picked up litter or challenged litter droppers, The Green would look tidier.' I left by thanking him for his endeavours and his encouragement to participate in keeping our village clean and safe. If you see a litter picker, then go out and do likewise – it is the only true way to thank them!

Our school worship services this term focus on people past and present, who live out the school values of Courage, Respect and Perseverance. One of the services in October will feature those who work diligently to keep our village safe and clean; they epitomise all the school values by their actions and intentions.

The church will soon be celebrating the season of All Saints when we are reminded that you don't have to be dead to be a saint, just one who lives out their faith in acts of loving service and compassion; for faith without works is dead. Perhaps our church should have a stained glass window to honour the many saints who care for our village. Their commitment is an example of the teaching Jesus gave to his followers: 'so in everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.' (Matthew 7:12)

Thank you to every individual and group who serve our community in many diverse and creative ways; it is greatly appreciated by receivers and observers alike.

#### Phil Sutton

We offer you a warm welcome to our services in October.

	T WOODONIO LO GAN GOLVIDOO III OOLO		
Sunday 1 October	8.00 Holy Communion (BCP)	6:00pm Evening Prayer	
	9.45 Family Service	Followed at 10:15 by an open meeting to	
		hear of the activities of our church in the	
		village – both present and future.	
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer led by Mr Mike Murray	
Sunday 8 October	9:30 Holy Communion for	Revd Phil Sutton	
	Harvest		
Sunday 15	9:30 Morning Worship	Mr Jack Jarvis	
October			
Sunday 22	9:30 Holy Communion	Revd Phil Sutton	
October			
Sunday 29	9:30 Holy Communion	Combined DAMASCUS Parish Communion	
October		Service to celebrate All Saints	
Each Wednesday	9:30 Holy Communion led by Mr Jack Jarvis		
throughout			
October			



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# Giant vegetable competition Sunday 8th October



From 12 noon onwards at the North Star Please bring your biggest pumpkins and marrows and longest runner beans along to the annual show.

Church Flowers for Harvest Festival, 2023. Harvest Festival will be celebrated on Sunday October 8th.

Would you like to help to decorate the Church for this traditional festival? No expertise is needed, just your enthusiasm and enjoyment of flowers. We will be in the Church on Thursday October 5th from 10.00 onwards – do come to join us! If you have flowers, greenery or produce for decorating, or dry or tinned goods which you would like to give for the Abingdon Food Bank, do bring them along.

#### **Steventon Darby & Joan Club**

On Thursday 7th September we were invited to the North Star for an afternoon tea, what a lovely afternoon it was, it was warm(Hot) but everyone really enjoyed it. The food was good and there was a very good atmosphere. So on behalf of all those who came, I say to H and Lisa a sincere thank you, maybe again some time!!!.

I found it very disappointing at the respond to go to Rose Hill Club to share with them in their Harvest Lunch. We have been going to each other's Club for many years, and it is always a good afternoon. Maybe if they invite us next year there will be a better response. **Thursday October 12th** we meet in the Hall at 1pm.

**Thursday October 26th** Meet in the Hall for fish and chips 1pm.

Our trip to Cribs Causeway on **November 23rd** for Christmas shopping, there are still some seats available on the coach if you would like to come. We will leave the village at 9am Please contact Audrey on 834064.

#### **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2023**



The Poppy Appeal covers the period Wednesday 25th
October to Sunday 12th
November and there will be house-to-house collections as usual during that period, hoping to catch residents at

home to buy a poppy. Please set aside some cash, but this year the Steventon and District Branch also has a specific QR Code which will be on collectors' tins for telephone donations. We do need a couple more collectors, so if anybody feels able to take on a street or two for this worthy cause I would be extremely grateful. Phone or email 01235 832077 or nickandmaryt@hotmail.com

There will be the traditional very short ceremony on Armistice Day at the Steventon War Memorial starting at 1050 am on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November.** 

Then the usual Sunday Lunch in Steventon Village Hall on Remembrance **Sunday 12th November**, details of which will be in the November Issue once we have negotiated the catering arrangements. Cost will be £16 per head as last year. Children aged 12 or under free.

Phone or email tel 01235 832077 or email nickandmaryt@hotmail.com

#### Thank You

#### From Rosemary Squire and Buddy

We would like to say thank you to all the lovely neighbours and kind people in Steventon for the support and kindness you have given to me and Buddy my dog. I am very grateful to all the staff at the Cherry Tree for their lovely support while we stayed with them. And thank you to the Red Cross for your support thank you.

Rose and Buddy



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#### **Parish Council Report**

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September with 7 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.

The Parish Council welcomed Laurie-Jane Cann as a co-opted Parish Councillor.

The real threat of the proposed reservoir by Thames Water is now a step closer. The Parish Council has received the following communication from Thames Water:

'I'm writing on behalf of the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) team to provide you with an update on SESRO and the latest on the Water Resources South East (WRSE) Regional Plan and the Thames Water revised draft Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP).

#### South East Strategic Reservoir Option

The revised plan includes a new reservoir in Oxfordshire; with a completion date of 2040. The size of the reservoir has increased from 100Mm³ to 150Mm³ to ensure we can provide a resilient and sustainable water supply for future generations.

#### The plan also:

- Forecasts a shortfall of 1 billion litres of water per day by 2050.
- Describes the investment required to secure the water supply for Thames Water customers for the next 50 years.
- Protects the environment and reduces abstraction from some of the most vulnerable rivers and catchments.
- Delivers 80% of the forecasted shortfall by:
- reducing leaks by over a half by 2050.
- supporting our customers to use water wisely, installing a further 920,000 smart meters by 2030.
- working with Government to reduce water use to 110 l/h/d by 2050, with ambitious targets along the way.

The plan includes developing the Teddington Direct River Abstraction scheme to be ready by 2033.

It also continues to develop options for the Severn Thames Transfer and water recycling in east London to allow us to adapt to an uncertain future.

# Water Resources Management Plan update

Our website has been updated with links to the Plan and a customer summary.

<u>Document Library - Thames Water</u> <u>Resources Management Plan (thames-wrmp.co.uk)</u>

A link to the revised draft Regional Plan can be found below.

Revised draft regional plan published | WRSE - Water Resource South East

#### Next steps

The rdWRMP will now be reviewed by Government. If Government endorses the plan, it will be finalised and published in 2024. Alongside this, we will be continuing with the development of the project, focusing on environmental data collection and ground investigation surveys. Importantly, we will continue our engagement with stakeholders and will be providing an update to stakeholders in Autumn this year."

The proposed 150Mm<sup>3</sup> reservoir design is still the same as the original one produced in 2005 using data from ground investigations in 1990's. Since then. no investigations have been undertaken. To move forward Thames Water need to do further investigations to update their models understanding and gain an characteristics of the materials they will be excavating to build the reservoir.

They are proposing 2 trials. The first, 'compaction trials' at a small scale to determine the behaviour of the different clay type materials during the digging process and how they compact. The second a "full size height" trial embankment to test "limits" of behaviour and to validate and update their Finite Element model.

The first trial Thames Water intend to do in 2024 followed by the second at a later date.

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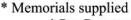


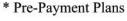
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#### **Parish Council Report continued**

documents such as Environmental Impact Assessment, Flood risk, Safety and fault analyses of the reservoir and, Microclimate. There is thus a lot of uncertainty regarding the construction of a proposed reservoir and its integrity. In addition there are uncertainties on assumptions and data used in the modelling approach that need to be resolved. Thames Water intend to do a Public consultation in summer 2024 to present their suite position and of published

Thames Water are still working on producing

documentation. Thev are planning presenting their final plan for review in January 2025 with a submission for "goahead" in 2026.

You can get further information on Thames Water plan by following the links given above. You can also get details on challenges and alternatives to Thames Water's proposed reservoir by looking at The GARD web-site and getting regular updates by becoming a member.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk Email:

#### **Steventon Football Club**

As I write new Season has just begun and both teams have played twice.

#### **First Team**

County Cup: SB Phoenix 3 Steventon 2

Despite scoring first and leading 1-2 at half time thanks to goals from Eddie Gregory and Reece Burgess, our opponents from the Thames Valley Premier Leage proved too strong

NBL: Steventon 3 Long Wittenham 1 Against more familiar opponents, Stivvy were unlucky to go in at HT at 0-0; twice had Wittenham's goal keeper denied a goal in one-on-one situations.

Adam Atherton got the breakthrough Stivvy deserved early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half, but a rear defensive error soon after, saw the scores level. What followed was a period of sustained pressure by the home side before Sergiu Mudura squeezed the ball into the net. The result was sealed by a rather dubious penalty being converted by Dale Cameron. Steventon sit 4<sup>th</sup> in the top division having played one game less than those above, and boast the only 100% record in Div One (Long may it continue!)

#### Second Team

Wantage Res 3 Steventon Res 1 : Against a team we beat twice last season, only a Jonathan Stephens consolation goal prevented a whitewash.

Steventon Res 0 Sutton Courtenay 5: The result speaks for itself!

We're still on the lookout for New Sponsors: it's a great opportunity to promote a local business across our region. Even just sponsoring training tops and water bottles for those with a smaller marketing budget. Even matchday advertising boards, ensuring publicity when either team are featured in the Herald or on social media. If you're interested contact: robertgreenltd@gmail.com Robert Green tel. 416725

#### Thank You

#### From Mr Jim Butler

Mr Jim Butler has asked us to express his gratitude for all the wonderful kindness. cards and gifts he received for his 100th birthday on August 31st 2023. Jim was overwhelmed by how many took the time to call on him and is extremely grateful.

# SB

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# HARRIET JACOBS: The slave who visited Steventon

October is Black History month, so a good time to consider the life of Harriet Jacobs. How did a woman born into slavery in North Carolina in 1813 find her way to Steventon, and what did she think of our village?



#### Harriet's childhood

Born in 1813 in Edenton, North Carolina, Harriet was enslaved to the tavern owning Horniblow family. Her mother, Delilah Horniblow (slaves typically took the surname of their owners) had her secretly baptised. Delilah died in 1819 and Harriet went to live with the Horniblow's daughter. Although she remained a slave, Harriet had the benefit of a kind mistress who taught her to read, write and sew. (Later, in 1830, North Carolina made it illegal to teach slaves to read and write.)

When Harriet was twelve, her owner died and willed Harriet to her three year old niece, Mary Matilda Norcom. Effectively, the child's father, Dr James Norcom, became Harriet's

owner. A little later, Dr Norcom bought Harriet's brother, John Jacobs, so that he and his sister could stay together.

A life of misery enslaved to the Norcom family As Harriet grew older, she experienced a deeply unpleasant side to Dr Norcom's character. He sexually abused her causing his wife to become jealous. Harriet fell in love with a free negro, but Norcom refused to allow them to see each other. Hoping for protection from Norcom, Harriet started a relationship with Samuel Sawyer, a well-known white lawyer. Together they had two children. When Harriet became pregnant, Mrs Norcom forbade her to return to the house and Harriet went to live with her grandmother, only a few yards away. Dr Norcom continued to visit her there and made her life a misery.

#### Seven years in hiding

In 1835, Norcom moved the now 22 year old Harriet to his son's plantation, six miles away, and threatened to sell her children separately. Harriet decided to escape. A kind white woman hid her, and she later found her way back to her grandmother's house where she hid in a tiny garret under the roof for seven years. Norcom was furious and ordered the sale of Harriet's children and her brother. John. However, the slave dealer was offered a large sum by Sawyer (the children's father) and so sold all three to him. Sawyer allowed the children to live with their grandmother and Harriet was able to see them through the tiny holes that she bored in her garret wall. She made a living by producing pieces of fine needlework which her friends sold for her.

# Harriet's escape and a better life with the Willis family

Ever resourceful, in 1842 Harriet escaped by boat to Philadelphia and was helped by antislavery activists to get to New York. There she was taken in by the popular writer Nathaniel Parker Willis to be nanny to their baby daughter, Imogen. In the following year, Harriet learned that her whereabouts had been betrayed to Norcom. She fled to Boston where she was looked after by abolitionists.

continued on p15



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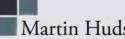


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#### Harriet travels to Steventon

In March 1845, Willis's wife died, and he contacted Harriet to say that he was taking his daughter Imogen on a visit to England to meet her English relatives. He invited Harriet to join them. After a short stay in Liverpool, they arrived in Steventon where Harriet and Imogen stayed with the vicar whilst Willis travelled around Europe. Harriet was still a slave but there was a close bond between her and the Willis family, and she didn't consider using this as an opportunity to escape. Harriet's book, written when she returned from her travels, provides fascinating insight into what she thought of Steventon. She described Steventon as "a small town, said to be the poorest in the county". Although she had heard that the poor were oppressed in Europe, Harriet wrote, "I felt that the condition of even the meanest and most ignorant among them was vastly superior to the condition of the most favoured slaves in America." Harriet noted that there was a school in the village and that education was highly valued.

She found her faith whilst in Steventon commenting that the vicar was "a true disciple of Jesus", unlike many slave- owning clergy that she had encountered in America. The chapter ends with, "I remained abroad ten months, which was much longer than I had anticipated. During all that time, I never saw the slightest symptom of prejudice against color"

#### Freedom at last

When they returned to New York, Harriet lived with a white couple, Amy and Isaac Post. The Posts were staunch enemies of slavery and supporters of women's rights. In 1850, Harriet returned to the Willis household, His second wife was ill and once again, she became nanny to the Willis children. In 1851, the Willis's sent her to friends in Massachusetts as they once again believed her to be in danger of recapture. Cornelia Willis bought Harriet's freedom for

300 dollars so, at the age of 39, Harriet at last became a free woman.

#### A successful author

Whilst living happily with the Willis family, Harriet told her story to Amy Post who encouraged her to write her life story, partly as a way of coming to terms with the trauma she had experienced. After a four-year battle finding a publisher, Harriet's book, 'Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl', was published in January 1861. The book was promoted by abolitionists and was a huge success, earning Harriet respect across the Northern states.

Following the book's publication, Harriet led a busy and fulfilled life. She became politically active and, with her daughter, opened a school for the black community in Alexandria, Virginia. In 1865, after the end of the Civil War, Harriet attempted to start an orphanage and care home for old people in Savannah, Georgia, but her work became too dangerous and had to be abandoned due to the activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

In her old age, Harriet retired to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she and her daughter kept a boarding house. Harriet died in 1897.

To read the full article, including Harriet's account of her time in Steventon, please go to:

https://www.steventonhistory.co.uk/harriet-jacobs

Sharron Jenkinson – on behalf of Steventon History Society



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# Thames Water proposes 150 billion litre reservoir – the largest possible

Thames Water finally published their Water Resource

Management Plan on August 30<sup>th</sup>. It is not good news. The saga of the Reservoir has been going on so long now that people may feel like giving up – PLEASE DON'T! It has never been more important to act. Thames Water has decided to go ahead with the 'Abingdon Reservoir' – with key developments:

- although we were all consulted on their 100 billion Litre proposal, they have enlarged this to 150 billion Litres - that's 150 million tonnes of water sitting above us, with no apparent room for flood mitigation
- They have ruled out the quicker, we believe cheaper and more environmentally adaptive Severn Thames Transfer, designed to bring fresh water from the Northwest to the more drought-prone Southeast
- Southern Water, planned beneficiary of 2/3 of the reservoir capacity, is challenging the cost and logic of the water transfer scheme from the reservoir
- Thames Water has essentially rejected GARD's and probably your objections too, including the need to challenge the inaccurate population forecasts say they are forced to use.

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, could agree for Thames Water to proceed within weeks with no further consultation necessary. However, with Thames Water now accused of illegal sewage dumping and their own financial health in doubt, everybody should take action!

**Lobby your MP**: we have support of the Vale of White Horse and Oxford County Councils, and we lobby within the industry, but you can still help:

- If your MP is David Johnston, Wantage (covering Grove, Steventon, East and West Hanney, East and West Hendred, Ardington, Drayton, Garford, Milton, and Sutton Courtenay) you can contact him on <a href="mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk">david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk</a> It is important to ensure that he actively opposes the reservoir and lobbies Thérèse Coffey
- If you live in Abingdon, you can support your MP Layla Moran's opposition and seek her support layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

Please copy <u>gard.secretary@gmail.com</u> into any correspondence and see the website for developments <u>https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/</u>
Derek Stork, Chairman GARD

#### SARINC (Steventon Allotments and Relief In Need Charity) – 2023

The Trustees are now beginning to review the work the Charity has been doing in support of the village residents and groups and will be putting the information into their annual report. They will review all actions including:

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

Individuals and Groups can apply to the Charity for a grant by completing the grant application form, this includes Education grants. The Trustees will next meet to consider grant applications and any other business on **Wednesday 19 October 2023**.

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.

Email info@sarinc.org.uk

Call 07361 250 922, Post 19, Lime Grove, Southmoor, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 5DN.

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#### **Steventon Cricket Club**

The league season finished with some more mixed results for the senior Saturday sides. The 1s lost comfortably to Risinghurst despite Simon Lock's 3-23. Then the following week were reduced to 40-6 away at Oxenford, before a superb 86\* from Glen Willett guided us to 174-9; despite a good effort by our bowlers, a lack of ruthlessness in the field (in very wet conditions) allowed them to scrape home. The 2s got a comfortable win at Marcham 2s, Dan Strangward top-scoring with 33, before Chris Shaw blew them away with 5-5. The 2s then lost their last game to Wantage 2s, Shaw again the pick of the bowlers with 4-19. The last game of the season, the Dicko memorial trophy, went to Harwell for the first time (in its fourth year!)



The Women's team hosted the Italian women's national team(!) on Thursday August 17th, in front of a packed crowd on the green. The Italians batted first, and scored quickly, but were pegged back by some excellent bowling from our side, in particular Sarah Jones with 4-18. In reply, we couldn't live with the rate against some superb bowling and fielding, but we did manage to bat all 20 overs, and a great evening was had by all (see picture). The following Sunday we travelled to Oxenford, batted first and looked to be on for a good score at 53-3, before collapsing to 59 all out. Oxenford were made to work hard for it by our excellent bowling, but got home with 5 wickets and 9 balls to spare. Bank holiday Monday saw the visit of Freeland to the green. Thanks to our really tight bowling and fielding, they were limited to 79/7 off 25 overs. At 49/7 in the run chase, we were deep in trouble, before a captain's innings of 28\* from Rosh Embrey, in partnership first with Lilidh Keymer and then Ava Tanner, squeaked us home by 2 wickets.

As ever, 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. All sections of the club will have opportunities to train / play over the winter too. Contact Joe on 07966 592381, email <a href="mailto:SteventonCC@gmail.com">SteventonCC@gmail.com</a>, or use the website to find out more and get in touch, <a href="mailto:SteventonCC.org.uk">SteventonCC.org.uk</a>

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