

STEVENTON NEWS

ESTABLISHED MAY 1969

December 2023

Merry Christmas

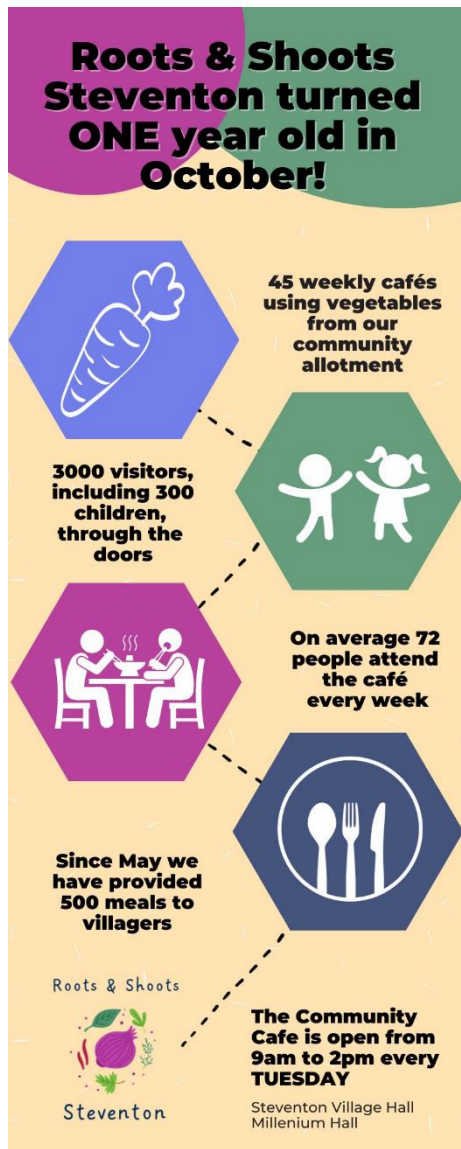


*Season's Greetings to one and all!
Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2024*



Dates for December 2023

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 rd Xmas Lights & Carols at North Star 5:30pm | 16 th SCS Christmas Concert 7:30pm |
| 5 th Parish Council Meeting 7pm | 21 st SCS Christmas Concert 7:30pm |
| 6 th WI Xmas Dinner | 24 th Family Holy Communion 9:30am |
| 10 th Steventon News cut off date | 24 th Children's Crib Service 4pm |
| 13 th SARINC meeting | 24 th Holy Communion 11:30pm |
| 14 th Darby and Joan Xmas Lunch | 25 th Christmas Family Service 11am |



Steventon Choral Society Christmas concerts

Our "Jingling Christmas"

concerts this year take place in Steventon Village Hall on Saturday **16th December** and Thursday **21st December** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and available from Caroline Miller on 01235 633166

or info@steventonchoral.org.uk and include festive snacks and mince pies in the interval. We'll be singing a mix of festive songs old and new, as well as some favourite traditional carols which you are welcome to join in with.



If you are interested in joining the choir we would love to hear from you. January is a good time to join as we'll begin to rehearse Handel's Messiah in earnest ahead of our spring concert. Have a look at www.steventonchoral.org.uk and get in touch if you are interested.

MULTI-AWARD WINNING TRIBUTE ARTIST

Danny Graceland

ELVIS

30 December 2023
Drayton Village Hall, Abingdon, Ox14 4LF
Showtime 8:30 PM
Tickets £20 each (inc. food) / £180 for table of 10

AS SEEN ON:

the one show this morning 5NEWS

Elvis will be in the building for one night only. winner of best Elvis UK 2023.

Make sure you get your tickets, available to buy from Wednesday 11th October at The Wheatsheaf, Drayton

Drayton Players present

Away with the Fairies
this Christmas

An adult Christmas comedy play by Sue Hadley

Fri 8th Dec at 8.00pm
Sat 9th Dec at 7.30pm

Steventon Village Hall

Tickets: £7.50 from Vickerys Hardware Store, Drayton 40 Castle St, Steventon, OX13 6SR

www.TryBooking.co.uk/CTER (+fees)

Tel **01235 821351** or on the door

www.DraytonPlayers.org.uk

Cut-off dates for next issue

Contributions for the **January** issue to steventonnews@outlook.com by **Sunday 10 Dec.** please.
Advert cut-off is **3 Dec.** 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 current advertising rates and availability.

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For Village Hall contact Booking Secretary
Tel: 07561 209421
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For St Michael's Hall contact
The Booking Clerk
Ruth Howard Tel: 01235 831409

Steventon Friendly Association WED 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1204 18/10	38	Denis Hastings
1205 25/10	21	Jimmy Axford
1206 01/11	50	Tom Feeney

SAT 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1423 22/10	6	Tracy West
1424 29/10	6	Tracy West
1425 4/11	43	Mrs Spicer

SAT "59 Club Extra" Results

Week	No.	Winner
499 22/10	6	Brian Humphries
500 29/10	6	Brian Humphries
501 04/11	43	Pat Ross

Congratulations to this months winners.

A Thank you...

Steventon Friendly Association, would like to thank:

Lisa & H and all the North Star patrons for their continued support and kind donations throughout the year.

The pumpkin competition organisers for their donation from the sale of soup.

Santa (Foss) & Elf for the kind donation from the Christmas collection.

Finally thank you to the SFA team and all our supporters.

Pat Hemmings, Chairman & the SFA Committee

Please note the application form for the Senior Citizens Annual Party (for all over 65years old) on the **14th January 2024** is on the back page and must be received by 1st January 2024

Editor

Decorating the Church for Christmas 2023

We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on **Saturday December 16th** from 10.00. You are welcome to join us that morning for decorating and also for coffee and mince pies!

The decorating will be done in time for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on **Sunday 17th at 6pm.**

This year we will be making a change and using only greenery and some red and gold materials from previous years -- no flowers please.

Since March the Diocese of Oxford has been encouraging churches to support a movement to use only locally grown flowers and greenery, and to stop using floral foam which is made from microplastics and chemicals.

Have a look at the website for Sustainable Church Flowers –www.suschurchflowers.com and support us as we make this important step to help our planet.

Mary Thompson 832077



President: Michael Jarvis
Chairman: Stuart Fisher
Steward: Lucy Perkins
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What's on at S.S.S.C

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Thurs 7pm -11pm Darts Night

Fri 4pm - 11pm Wind down after a hard
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Sun 12pm - 7pm Live Sport on TV

Summer hours have commenced

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St Michael & All Angels, Steventon

One of the DAMASCUS Parish Churches

Associate Priest: 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)

We look forward to greeting you at one of the many services and events this Advent & Christmas.

May we not 'spend' Christmas or 'observe' Christmas but rather 'keep' it.

Christmas should always be about presence.

If you take Christ out of Christmas all you are left with is M&S

Christmas/sacred Christ/massacred – where do I draw the line?

Sunday 3 December 08.00 Holy Communion (BCP)

09:30 Family Service – our 2023 theme of 'Saints Alive' ends with St Nicholas
– the true Father Christmas!

During this service we will receive the annual gifts of supermarket vouchers for distributing to local children and families in need.

17:00 Village School Christingle Service – Amazing Light followed by a procession of lights to the North star for the singing of carols and the lighting of the village Christmas tree



Sunday 10 December 09:30 Holy Communion for Advent

Saturday 16 December 10:00 Meet at church to put up the Causeway Stars – there is an open invitation to join us in the fun and challenge of securing the stars to the trees. **Volunteers are needed!**

also at 10:00 Decoration of church - please come and watch or help arrange our sustainable Christmas decorations.

Sunday 17 December 09:30 Sunday Morning Worship

18:00 Traditional candlelit service of Nine Lessons & Carols



Sunday 24 December 09:30 Family Holy Communion Service

16:00 Crib service for children of all ages

23:30 Midnight Holy Communion for Christmas



Christmas Day 11:00 Family Service – *Christmas Unwrapped*

Sunday 31 December 11:00 Parish Holy Communion at All Saints, Sutton Courtenay

Midweek Holy Communion every Wednesday at 09:30 except on 27 December.

.....
What's the point of angels and shepherds and camels and stars? You say.

It's just a nice story to tell the kids to celebrate Christmas Day.

It's not just a story, it's the hinge on which history swings!

That Bethlehem baby grows into a man who challenged all powers and kings.

With my prayers that you and yours will be blessed with God's gifts of peace and hope.

Phil Sutton

Season's Greetings: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Poppy Appeal again this year and especially those who braved the weather and dark evenings to

do house-to-house collections throughout the villages of Steventon, Milton and Milton Heights. Also, thanks to businesses which hosted the poppy trays. I will report results when I have completed the counting process of 60 tins. Thanks also to Sally Anne White for maintaining the garden at the Steventon War Memorial and Chris and Ann Turton for regularly clearing any litter round it.

Nick Thompson

Chairman RBL Steventon Branch

Steventon Darby & Joan Club

We have only one more meeting this year, and that is our Christmas Dinner on the **14th December** 12.30pm for 1pm. For the raffle if we all bring a nice gift, we shall win a nice gift, looking forward to it.

We will then be ready to start a New Year. (I wonder what that will bring!!)

Jack Jarvis 831395.

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

The annual switching on of the Steventon Christmas Lights will be taking place on **Sunday 3 December** 2023, at the North Star. The evening will commence at 6:00 pm, with traditional singing supported by the Wantage Silver Band.

All Steventon residents are warmly welcome to come and join in the fun.

The Trustees will next meet to consider grant applications and any other business on **Wednesday 13 December**.

Residents and groups can contact the Clerk or any of the Trustees to discuss any support. All requests will need to complete the Charity's application form, this includes Education Grants, applications are being

received for the 2022/2023 academic year, the closing date for Education Grants is **31 January 2023**

SARINC is a village charity, established in 1987 with two main roles:

To maintain the allotment site for the villagers of Steventon

To support any residents or groups within the village who are in need

To request an 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



It was good to see so many people at our Craft Fair last month. We hope you enjoyed it and managed to start your Christmas shopping. We raised in excess of **£1000** for our funds so a big 'thank you' to all the stallholders and those who supported us.

On **6th December** we will be having our members' Christmas Dinner at 'the Fox' at Denchworth. Our next meeting is on **12th December** when Mike Brook will present 'A Christmas Miscellany'.

Everyone is always welcome to visit our meetings, contact a member or call 01235 833009 for details. We meet each Tuesday at 7.30 pm in the Millennium Room. There will be no Busy Hands or Book Club in December, both will resume in January.

Date for your diary - NSPCC Quiz Evening **Saturday 3rd February 2024.**

All details in January issue.

Many thanks.

Margaret (01235 834067).





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Steventon Brownies and Rainbows.

This autumn term is full of activities, much enjoyed by Brownies and Rainbows. We are hugely grateful to all our volunteers who come to help us every week so enthusiastically, and enable wonderful activities to be enjoyed.

New volunteers are always welcome, and the Brownies are particularly keen to find a new volunteer to join their team one of the present team has moved away recently.

If you would like to know more, do get in touch and come to chat about it – we would love to meet you in the village Hall on Mondays between 5.30 and 7.30p

Contact details –

for Brownies ---Vicky on
browniessteventon@gmail.com

For Rainbows – Debra or Mary on
steventonrainbows@gmail.com

For Girlguiding information look on line
at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Steventon Speedwatch Group



What is Community Speed Watch (CSW)? The Thames Valley Police (TVP) supported scheme has been active in Steventon since July 2022. The Scheme

aims to educate drivers in keeping to the speed limits to promote safety on the roads in the village.

Speedwatch is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in their community.

Are your sites approved by the Police?

Yes, each site we use has Police approval based on a range of factors, with each having been looked at individually.



Will I get fined or banned if Speedwatch take my details? No, the scheme is educational, not punitive - but the registered owner of the vehicle should receive a letter from TVP.

Will the Police knock on my door? It's a possibility if you persistently get recorded. If you do choose to consistently break the limit you do run the risk of a knock at the door from a uniformed officer.

What happens if I am seen gesturing, shouting, or swearing at Community Speedwatch volunteers?

All forms of abuse are recorded and reported to TVP, who will, if appropriate, write to the registered owner of the vehicle. In more extreme circumstances, or where this abuse is persistent, officers may, and have in the past visited drivers at home or at work. TVP will prosecute if a Public Order Offence is deemed to have taken place. Filming or photographing a Speedwatch group without permission is not allowed. There is a prosecution case currently going through the justice system of one such incident in the village from the summer.

What records are kept? CSW itself holds data in line with GDPR, as is all data sent to the Police, which is kept on their database, and used accordingly by TVP.

Is it ok to say hello when I see a team out and about? Of course – we may not always be able to give you our fullest attention, but we appreciate the many positive interactions we have had with Steventon residents.

So, is CSW making a difference to the speed of vehicles through the village?

Yes - along with the introduction of the 20mph zone, CSW has contributed to slowing the traffic. On the bridge alone over the past 8 months the percentage of drivers that pass during a session being recorded as speeding has more than halved from 25% to 11%. The average speed of driver's recorded has decreased from 38 to 29mph.

Can I volunteer? We are always happy to have new volunteers. Email us at: Steventonspeedwatch@gmail.com



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Contact **Emily**
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Steventon Mummers

Mummers Plays have been produced for centuries and are, or were, believed to bring

good luck to performers and audience. Meant as a recreation of the struggle between good and evil the plays were traditionally passed from generation to generation by word of mouth.

In December 1983 Steventon News gave the following account supplied by Tony Sloggett 'The characters being Molly, who was always played by a man, King George, a French officer called Beau Slasher, a doctor, Jack Vinny a jester, Happy Jack, a pauper and Old Beelzebub dressed up as Father Christmas... the Steventon mummers replace King George by an "Africky King".

The Steventon mummers performed, in their homemade costumes, after the traditional Christmas church service on Boxing Day and the players performed at village pubs etc. This custom seems to have ended by the beginning of the 20th century, and an appeal for 'writings' of the old play in the Parish Magazine in 1902 implies the original play had been forgotten. In recent years the mumming tradition has been revived with a team from the Abingdon Morris men visiting pubs in the village to perform the 'Sunningwell play' that was first written down in 1948.



For more information on our activities, please visit our website: www.steventonhistory.co.uk

Steventon Cricket Club

Unsurprisingly, no cricket to report on at the moment! But pre-season indoor training will be on us before we know it, starting Sunday **January 21st** AM in Abingdon. As ever, if you or your child would like to get involved with our community club, do get in touch - we have teams and coaching available for girls and boys of all ages from 5-17, plus senior cricket for men and women. As well as being a fantastic sport, it's a great way to meet new people, in a fun and social 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.

And a Merry Christmas to all, from all of us at the Club!

Steventon Football Club

Report for December 2023

New season same story: Residents won't need me to tell them that we've entered the 'monsoon' season and games on the Green become rare!

Since my last report the Reserves have not had a game and the 1st team 2 defeats: one at home and a one away

First Team

NBL: **Steventon 1 Compton 3**

A much-changed side took time to settle in the 1st half and as a consequence, went in at Half time two goals down. Despite a Steve Bell goal, Stivvy couldn't make up the deficit.

Drayton 2 Steventon 1

Another derby game defeat! Drayton, who hadn't won a match to date; raised their game and 'stole' all 3 points, with Steve Bell's 2nd consecutive goal serving as purely consolation.

At the time of writing Steventon sit 7th in the top division, with 3pts from 3 games, just above Drayton on goal difference

As I said last time, please come and cheer us on down on the Green, before the dark & snow arrives in December. Bring your wellies!

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Parish Council Report

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 7th November 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. The VWHDC have now determined their schedule for our Neighbourhood Plan. Formal consultation will commence at the end of November and last for a period of 7 weeks. Any comments will be addressed, and the plan then sent to the Government Inspector for consideration. It is hoped that a referendum will take place in April 2024. In December in the run up to Christmas, single bus fares in Oxfordshire will be capped at £1.

The Parish Council has written 2 letters to Therese Coffey and 1 to Steve Barclay former, and present Secretary of State for Environment stating our objections to the proposed 150 Mm3 capacity reservoir by Thames Water. The proposed new reservoir is based on limited "field studies" carried out in the 1990's and an original design produced in 2005. Modelling studies on the reservoir uses data from the 1990's with no new verified data being used since. There is an absence of any published documents on Safety and fault analysis of the reservoir, Environmental Impact Assessment, flood risk and Microclimate. We await their decision. Good progress is being made on the making of the first of a series of benches for installation around the village. The first incorporates a "timeline" on a spiral oak bench that will be installed on the big Green early in the New Year.

Age UK are asking for support in supporting older people in Oxfordshire this winter. They have brought together some useful information and resources in the form of an online Winter Hub that can be found on the link

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/about-us/winter-hub/> Age UK are also aware that not everyone has or wants access to the internet so they have created physical Winter Wellbeing packs which they can post out to you. The packs contain: An introductory letter, Age UK 'Little Handbook of their Services',

A Live Well Oxfordshire bookmark,
A Winter Wrapped up Guide (from Age UK),
An Oxfordshire Talking Therapies leaflet,
An Age UK Cost-of-Living Payment Grid.
Please get in touch with Age UK via contactus@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk or 0345 450 1276 if it would be helpful to receive some packs

The next Parish Council meeting is on **Tuesday December 5th, 2023**, at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Have a Merry Xmas

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

Email: steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk



GARD is a local community group formed to campaign against Thames Water's proposals to build a reservoir south-west of Abingdon.

GARD has written to the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Therese Coffey) to ask her to confirm the timetable for her decision on the Thames Water plans, and particularly for the Mega-Reservoir. Our information on the grapevine is that this will be around the end of November. We will let all residents know her decision (Newsletter or Village website). Until then, GARD will continue to send in our list of Unresolved Issues about the Reservoir plan, which Thames Water refuse to answer properly. Looking at TW's "Statement of Response", GARD finds that they did not actually answer criticisms properly. If you feel that they have not answered complaints you made to Thames Water in the consultation, you can write to the Environment Agency and/or Ofwat and complain. This should be done as soon as possible, so it can inform the Secretary of State's decision.



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Water-Company-Plan@xn--environmentagency-0z2j.gov.uk

Costs to customers, leakage and water efficiency issues:
wrmpp@ofwat.gov.uk

In the meantime, Thames Water are on a 'charm offensive' trying to sell the Reservoir plans to local residents.

They were met by protesters at their 'Drop-in event' at East Hanney Village Hall on 10th November, when Councillor Sally Povolotsky and Helen Marshall (Oxfordshire Director for CPRE) were interviewed by Press and TV. Thanks to all protesters, including other Vale and Parish Councillors from Steventon, East Hanney and East Hendred. Thames Water gave the usual PR-based presentation (not a bulldozer in sight on any of the posters, one assumes the work will be done by birds and butterflies). We are promised 'leisure facilities' (which we already have, and which they have no idea how they will provide, after devastating the area), but our questions on disruption, pollution, flooding and safety of the structure were brushed aside.

We must keep up the pressure for the Reservoir plans to be scrapped!

Details for contacting your MP: make your voice count:

David Johnston, Wantage
david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk ·
Layla Moran Abingdon
layla.moran.mp@parliament.uk

Please copy gard.secretary@gmail.com into any correspondence and see the website for developments

<https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/>

Derek Stork
Chairman GARD

David Johnston M.P.

Thank you very much to the 2,127 people who signed my petition to re-open Grove Station. It shows again the huge strength of feeling on this locally, and I will now be presenting it to the House of Commons and to the Department for Transport to make the case to them. Thanks too to Andy Holding of

the Wantage and Grove Rail Supporters Group for his support. I will keep pushing for this station, which makes economic, social, and environmental sense. We are the proud home of the 11 EOD and Search Regiment at Vauxhall Barracks in Didcot, and it was a pleasure to visit again and meet Lt Col Rob Swan and the team. Just this year they have so far responded to more than 1,800 requests in the UK to deal with explosive devices and I planted a remembrance stake in Parliament's Garden of Remembrance in their honour. I also, as ever, took part in poignant remembrance services and parades – this year in Wantage and Didcot. Thank you to everyone who made them happen. UK Parliament Week takes place every November, and I was pleased to visit local schools and talk to different youth organisations about my role as an MP and how they can get involved in politics, including: Wallingford School, St Michael's CofE Primary School in Steventon, Brightwell Primary School, St Blaise Primary School, the 7th Abingdon Beavers, Chilton Explorer Scout Unit and Brightwell cum Sotwell Scouts. I have been campaigning to improve our roads since I was elected and I have now launched my Local Roads Survey to give you the opportunity to tell me exactly where you are seeing issues on our roads that need to be resolved – including potholes, congestion, speeding and other safety concerns. I want to pull together a complete map of all the issues we are facing, and where, so that I can raise these with the road authorities. Fill it out at www.david-johnston.org.uk/RoadsSurvey. Now that I am the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, one of the things I have responsibility for is overseeing the Government's big new expansion in childcare for parents. Once it is completed in Autumn 2025, it will give working parents 30 hours of free childcare every week from when their child is 9 months old until they start school. It is great to be involved in delivering this exciting new policy and you can see exactly what you're eligible for at: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As ever, if I can help with anything then do please get in touch via: johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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From Steventon to Marcham



of years!

After much liaison work, together with tenacity, the bridge was designed and reconstructed. The right of way of the footpath is the responsibility of Oxfordshire council, the bridge is owned by the landowner, all in all an amazing feat. After the morning of will it won't it rain, the sun came out just in time for the cutting of the ribbon. A wonderful event for Marcham and opened up the walk from Steventon to the newly open Crown public house in Marcham.

All in all a fabulous achievement.

Christine Casson

On Saturday 21st October I went to Marcham to witness the opening of the Marcham Mill bridge over the River Ock which forms part of bridleway 17 and a network of routes beyond.

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If you wish to come along please fill in the form below and return it to us.

Closing date is **1st January 2024**

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Pat Hemmings – Chairman – S.F.A

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