

STEVENTON NEWS

ESTABLISHED MAY 1969

January 2024

Steventon from Steventon Hill

The large house in the centre right is one of I.K. Brunel's houses/hotel situated mid-way along his Great Western Railway and where board meetings were held. There was a station here until the 60s.



Photo © [Claire Ward](#) (cc-by-sa/2.0)

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

Dates for January 2024

1 st	Registration Deadline for Senior Citizens Party	14 th	Senior Citizens Party 13:30
2 nd	Parish Council Meeting	16 th	WI Meeting
7 th	Ads cut-off date	17 th	SARINC Meeting
11 th	Darby & Joan Meeting	25 th	Darby & Joan Meeting
14 th	Steventon News Copy cut-off	<i>Community Cafe every Tuesday 9am - 4pm</i>	

Roots & Shoots



Steventon

Roots & Shoots café present Arts & Crafts!

Arts & Crafts are coming on the

9th of January from 2-4pm.

In the millennium Room at the village hall.

All are welcome to begin a new project or bring your own.

Crafts will include paint, clay, paper mâché, mandalas, knit/crochet, and more!

A small donation of £1 for tea & biscuits.

All materials are provided.

Happy New Year to you all!

It has been a busy last few months in the Community Café. We celebrated our first birthday in October (where did that year go?) and we now have approximately 80-90 people attending each week! It's such a great place to socialise, meet new people and feel part of our wonderful community.

We are currently serving our winter menu, which includes hot soups, baked potatoes with assorted fillings and the usual selection of freshly made toasties and sandwiches. Everybody is most welcome. We have no price list for our drinks and food, but we have a donation jar where you can pay what you can afford.

A shout out to any mums/dads with babies in the village who are looking to meet up with other new parents. We have become a great place for meeting up, with plenty of willing hands around to hold babies, give you a break, bring you a drink and cake or just to chat! A good time to drop in to see other parents tends to be between 10am and 11.30am.

New! Extended opening and winter activities
An exciting addition for the winter months of January, February and March is our new Arts and Crafts Group.

This will run from 2pm to 4pm as a continuation after the main café hours. Each week there will be a variety of arts and crafts to try, with all materials provided free of charge. Drinks and biscuits will also be available.

Already in the middle of a craft activity? Bring it along and enjoy working in our warm space! Not really into arts and crafts? Have a go at something new!

Just want to watch and/or chat? That's great too – we would love to see you!

Don't sit at home alone on a Tuesday – come on down to Roots and Shoots!

Please note: Community Café will be CLOSED on Tuesday 26th December and Tuesday 2nd January. Reopen on Tuesday 9th January with new hours 9am to 4pm.
Sheenagh Broadbent



In November we had a lunch to celebrate the completion of our new banner, the setting up of the WI bench on the allotment site close to the

Causeway and the planting of a rowan tree (see picture). We hope you enjoy our bench.



This month's meeting is on **16th January** when we will be doing Seated Zumba.

There will be a competition for the most colourful Zumba outfit!

Lunch Club, Busy Hands and Book Club will all be held this month.

We're looking forward to getting started again and if you've made a resolution to join a new group and make new friends the WI might be right for you. Everyone is always welcome on the third Tuesday of the month in the Millennium Room at 7.30 pm.

Contact a member or call 01235 833009 for details

Cut-off dates for next issue

Contributions for the **February** issue to steventonnews@outlook.com
By **Sunday 14th Jan.**, please.
Advert cut -off is **7th Jan.** 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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Thank you

As we start a New Year, potentially as full of changes as the last few have been; one thing that will remain the same (I hope) is a new Steventon News in every month of 2024. So, it's time to say Thank You to the special people who help get each issue together and delivered to every home in the village, whatever the weather, and especially to the core team - Martin, Adrian, Dilys and Audrey. If you would like to join in please email steventonnews@outlook.com or call me on 07954 720548

Sue Rees - Secretary, Steventon News

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal-RESULT

Those who generously contributed to the Poppy Appeal will wish to know the final result. The Appeal raised **£5,465** from our area of Steventon, Milton,

Milton Park, Milton Heights and the Interchange. The loyal collectors did a wonderful job and got to most houses. Some local businesses were very generous and a big thank you to them. The QR card method of donating worked for the growing number of internet bankers and although less cash is held in pockets the result was outstanding.

Nick Thompson Chairman
RBL Steventon Branch

Halls for hire in the Village

For availability and to book

For Village Hall contact

Booking Secretary Tel: 07561 209421

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
1207 08/11/23	24	Sandie West
1208 15/11/23	4	Mr Hedges
1209 22/11/23	28	Jimmy Axford
1210 29/11/23	13	Pat Ross
1211 06/12/23	47	Shirley Green

SAT 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1426 11/11/23	32	Rosin Marriot
1427 18/22/23	56	Pete Beacham
1428 25/11/23	49	Anita Earl
1429 02/12/23	40	Alan Binning
1430 09/12/23	30	Julie Ponting

SAT "59 Club Extra" Results

502 11/11/23	32	Roger Orchard
503 18/11/23	56	Sue Flockton
504 25/11/23	49	Denis Hastings
505 02/12/23	40	Michael Webb
506 09/12/23	30	John Wood

Congratulations to this month's winners.

Steventon Friendly Association would like to thank TRUCK for their kind donation.
Pat Hemmings, Chairman – SFA
01235 831462



President: Michael Jarvis
Chairman: Stuart Fisher
Steward: Lucy Perkins
Telephone: (01235) 821507
Email: steventonssc@gmail.com

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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Summer hours have commenced

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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)

Dear Friends

Dark Winter Nights Can Be Good For Us.

On 1st January each year an epidemic of fevered optimism sweeps through or globe. We take stock of previous years , and then huge numbers of us determine to make changes for the better: exercise more, get organised, keep to a budget, learn the piano. Local gyms report a 33% increase in membership applications in December and January. New Year resolutions are not part of a self-improvement fad of recent generations; there are records of ancient Babylonians making them 4000 years ago. We're still making resolutions despite analysts reporting that no more than 25% of respondents were committed to them after 30 days and only 8% achieve their ambitions. Why do we make resolutions when our failure rate is so high?

What creates our desire to make fresh resolves to improve our health, wellbeing and surroundings? All of humanity, Christian or not, is made in the image of God. We are made to be holy and made for shalom - wholeness and harmony with God, with each other and with creation. Perhaps we are drawn to the idea that a new year offers a new start because our God is the God of fresh beginnings, and 'his mercies are new every morning' (Lamentations 3:23).

Our rural environment reminds us that life begins in the darkness of the soil; that dark and cold create opportunity for dormancy and renewal. Maybe in the cold and dark of this season, we can use the quiet to consider how we have grown and changed in both the happy and hard phases of life. Rather than looking to the future and feeling apprehensive or fearful, we can settle into the realisation that Emmanuel – God is with us in the here and now and in the future. In the dark and still of a winter's evening we can ponder the wisdom of his love and faithfulness that: 'we will go on our way in safety, and our foot will not stumble. When we lie down, we will not be afraid; when we lie down, our sleep will be sweet'.

Before you rush into making any new year resolutions, take time in the dark, to meditate on *Emmanuel* – God is with us, who makes all things new: '...I am the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life'. (Revelation 21:4-6).

Our church services in January follow the normal pattern of Sunday services at 09:30 and Wednesday Holy Communion also at 09:30. On the first Sunday of the month we hold our Family Service when this year's theme will be animals of the bible – starting with the camel. At 18:00, also on the first Sunday of the month, we hold our short traditional service of Evening Prayer – an ideal time to enjoy the peace and rest of traditional prayers and readings along with beautiful choral music.

May the Lord, grant you peace above all else no matter the circumstances
and guard your hearts and minds in His great love.

Phil Sutton

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Steventon Darby & Joan Club

Looking back on 2023 I hope members will feel it was quite a successful year. There were some disappointments for the committee, particularly in the lack of support in some areas. We will be putting together a programme for 2024, so please do come with ideas for that. It is put together for your enjoyment, to make it worthwhile coming to the meetings.

At the time of writing we have not had our Christmas Dinner but I feel sure we will enjoy it.

We do thank those none members who support our trips, it is much appreciated.

Thursday 11th January Meet in the Hall at 1pm. Subs will be due.

Thursday 25th January Meet in the Hall at 1pm.

The committee wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Jack Jarvis 831395

Steventon Rainbows

NEW YEAR - NEW INTEREST?

Hello, my name is Debbie and I've been helping at the Steventon Rainbows and Brownies for two and a half years, it's not without challenges but it is very rewarding.

Who are the Rainbows?

Rainbows are the youngest group in the Girl Guiding world, they age between four and seven, we trialled a term of taking on the rising fives, this proved successful.

What do we do at Rainbows?

We promote self worth, respect for others and their beliefs, help in the community and best of all HAVE FUN.

We help all girls to know they can do anything.

Last term the Rainbows learnt all about themselves, from doing family trees to learning that everybody is different but that there is a place in the world for everyone.

They learnt about remembrance day, painting rocks which were placed around the war memorial.

They also made poppy pictures in three different ways to display in their windows. Alongside the 'guiding programme' they did a whole host of activities, crafts and games. Leafy hedgehogs, flowers to represent themselves, a promise ladder (to help them learn their promise), they had lots of fun making a fizzing promise potion and decorating a matching cookie.

In preparation for Christmas they 'made' a gingerbread person, peppermint creams, a melting snowman biscuit, a hot chocolate stirrer and a cracker for use at the Christmas party.

They had a party on their last night of term followed by a badge presentation ceremony, just under one hundred badges were handed out between sixteen Rainbows, the work they did during term and at home earned the badges, it was a pleasure to give them out.

It was a very busy term but a lot of fun. We hope to get outside a bit more, once it stops raining!

Rainbows meet on a Monday during school term time, between 5 and 6:15pm at the Steventon Village Hall.
Brownies, 7-11 age group meet on a Monday during school term time, between 6 and 7:30pm at the same hall.

The Brownies really need some help, if you can spare a couple of hours on a Monday evening, they would appreciate it. You might be like me, started out thinking you'd help at a few meetings and progress to running a group or you may just want to help occasionally, any help is appreciated. It's also never too early to get your little one on the waiting list for Rainbows.

Rainbows contact is Mary / Debbie,
email steventonrainbows@gmail.com

Brownies contact is Vicky,
email browniessteventon@gmail.com



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SARINC (Steventon Allotments and Relief In Need Charity) –2024

SARINC is a charity which was 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.

In December the annual Christmas Lights were switched on and the Charity would like to thank the following for their support of the event: Jack Jarvis The Choir Wantage Silver Band Rose Squires for switching on the lights H & Lisa (North Star) for allowing the event to take place at the pub Robert Tyrrell and Michael Toplis, assistance with installing the lights around the tree A huge thanks to the Steventon residents who attended and made the evening such a success – we believe a good time was had by all. The Trustees will next meet to consider grant applications and any other business on **Wednesday 17th January**.

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 2023/2024 academic year, the closing date for Education Grants is **31 January 2024**

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



As a young teenager, Tony Chappell was a keen railway enthusiast. He and his school friends would often travel the line

from Steventon Station to Swindon and back. On hearing of Dr Beeching's plan to close down more than 2,300 railway stations in 1963-64, Tony began to collect 'railwayana' from several stations destined for the axe. He persuaded his father to purchase a bench from the platform at Steventon Station.



The bench carried the insignia of the Great Western Railway in cast iron scrolls on the legs. He recalls the sum of £2 10s was

paid for the purchase.

The fine bench became a handsome fixture in the Chappell's back garden at Victoria Road in Abingdon. Tony eventually moved away from Abingdon, leaving the bench in situ at his parent's home. Many years later, in 1986, Tony's father, Antony Chappell Sr., presented the bench to Christ's Hospital, suggesting that it might be placed in Albert Park. There it has remained ever since.



The bench currently sits at the South West corner of Albert Park, in an area of mature overhanging trees. This results in the

bench becoming bombarded with bird droppings (as too, anyone that risks sitting upon it).

The Steventon History Society believe this bench to be a significant part of the social history of Steventon. It is likely that the bench is around 100 years old and we think it deserves better care and attention than it receives at its current location.

We propose the bench should be released back to the village of Steventon in order for it to be refurbished and maintained in a condition where it can be enjoyed by all. The Steventon History Society would like to see it feature as part of a village History Trail to commemorate the site of Steventon Station. Please sign our petition to **"BRING OUR BENCH BACK HOME"**

Show your support and add your name to the petition at the Co-op, High Street, Steventon, or wherever you see us campaigning.

The Petition is promoted by Steventon History Society: www.steventonhistory.co.uk

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Parish Council Report

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 4th December with 6 Parish Councillors, and several members of the public being present. Apologies were received from Sally Povolotsky, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Councillor and Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC).

Happy New Year

Sally Povolotsky has resigned from the Lib Dem Party but will continue to represent Steventon both on the Oxfordshire District and Vale of White Horse Councils as an Independent.

The bus shelter is to be repaired and a seat installed.

The barriers on the bridge over the Ginge Brook on Mill Street have been put in place by OCC to stop further damage by cars of the stone slab that has a crack in it. The stone slab needs inspecting from below by a competent engineering company, to assess what needs doing to replace or strengthen the weak area. The waterfall just upstream from the bridge makes access difficult. As water levels are high at the moment it's unlikely that any inspection will be undertaken until spring/summer!

Thames Water have applied for planning permission to undertake Clay Compaction Trials in the New Year.

Thames Water intend to undertake archaeological trial trenching associated with the Clay Compaction Trial in the New Year prior to a decision made on the planning application.

As part of the planning application for the clay compaction trial, due to programme constraints, Thames Water have negotiated with Oxfordshire County Council that they could undertake the archaeological trial trenching that is required to support the planning application during the period between submission and determination. The archaeological report will be issued as an update to their application.

To meet the application's target determination dates, Thames Water plan to undertake these works in early January. They are currently aiming to mobilise to site in the first week after the New Year's Day bank holiday (for

site set-up, fencing, ground protection matting etc) and then commence the actual trenching works from the 8th January. The archaeological works will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. It is expected the site works will take between 2 and 4 weeks to complete, depending on the weather and ground conditions on site.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday January 2nd, 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

Email: steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk

David Johnston MP

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I particularly enjoyed attending the Wantage Dickensian Evening to kickstart the festive season. It was minus 2 degrees, but the atmosphere was very warm and everyone from the Wantage Silver Band to Island Farm Donkey Sanctuary to Team Mikayla was there to celebrate.

Looking back on the last year, I am pleased with the progress made on a number of my campaigns. We took another step forward on health services with my Health Services Survey, which thousands of you responded to and which was followed with me holding a debate in Parliament on health services in Wantage and Didcot.

My petition to re-open Grove Station was signed by 2,127 of you and I will be meeting the Rail Minister in the near future to discuss this again with him. Thank you to Andy Holding of the Wantage and Grove Station Supporters Group for providing the final

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signature. I will keep going until we are successful.

My campaigning for more renewable energy run by the local community, through my sponsorship of the Local Electricity Bill, led to the creation of the new £10 million Government Community Energy Fund which will hopefully benefit groups across Oxfordshire.

And my campaign for justice for our local AEAT pensioners resulted in me securing the first ever independent investigation into their case, as well as a Parliamentary inquiry. I was also pleased to welcome so many constituents to Parliament this past year from schools to charities to members of the armed forces. I also hosted a local young person for work experience almost every month – thank you to all of them. If you are planning a visit to Parliament or would like me to arrange a free tour for you then do get in touch.

In 2024 I will be continuing campaigns on infrastructure issues like GP surgeries and Grove Station, as well as my other priorities like protecting our environment, tackling anti-social behaviour, and improving opportunities for children and young people.

Right now, as part of my campaign to improve our roads, I have my Local Roads Survey running so that you can tell me exactly where you are seeing issues on our roads that need to be resolved – including potholes, congestion, speeding and other safety concerns. Since being elected I have spoken in 13 separate debates about the need to improve our local roads, met with the Roads Minister to raise it with them, led a debate in Parliament on safety issues on the A34 and A420 and welcomed the £3 million for this year from Government to help fix Oxfordshire's potholes.

However, there is more to do and I want to hear from as many people as possible so that we have the best data to make the case for improvements, so please do take part on my website at

www.david-johnston.org.uk/RoadsSurvey.

As ever, if I can help with anything then do, please get in touch via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk



At the time of writing (13th December) the Secretary of State for DEFRA (Stephen Barclay) has not made any decision on Thames Water's reservoir plans. So there is still time for you and our MPs to influence his decision.

If you sent your complaints to Thames Water in the consultation, and you feel that they have not answered your points, or you want to write against the new, larger, project, then we urge you to follow GARD's example and write to the Environment Agency and/or Ofwat and complain about TW's attitude. This is the best way to get your point across now (before EA and Ofwat produce their advice for Stephen Barclay). Email your complaint to: Environmental and water quality issues: water.resources@defra.gov.uk, or Water-Company-Plan@xn--environmentagency-0z2j.gov.uk

Costs to customers, leakage and water efficiency issues: wrmpp@ofwat.gov.uk Don't forget to copy to your MP.

Support from Councils and other organisations

Oxfordshire County Council have written to DEFRA citing unresolved issues from the consultation (see above), as have Steventon Parish Council and CPRE.

There was good support for the anti-reservoir demonstration, organised by Steventon's county and district councillor, Sally Povolotsky, at East Hanney, outside the Thames Water 'drop-in' event on the Reservoir on 10th November. Inside the drop-in at East Hanney Memorial Hall, it was the usual 'brochure stuff' from TW, no proper details of the design, or about the 10-plus years of disruption, but lots of pictures of butterflies and birds in unspecified locations.

GARD remain absolutely convinced that there will be major damage to biodiversity by the reservoir project. We are taking legal advice on whether Thames Water's Environmental Assessment of the project, which we know to



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be flawed and biased, is actually illegal, not meeting the standards set down by the government.

Both the County Council (on the 12th December) and the Vale of White Horse (on the 13th December) have passed unanimous council motions re-affirming opposition to the Reservoir, asking for talks with the Secretary of State, and for the reservoir plans to be suspended until issues have been resolved. GARD supports these calls.

Details for contacting your MP

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 david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

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

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

Derek Stork, Chairman GARD

How to keep Christmas poinsettias 'looking good for months'



Poinsettias are a welcome burst of colour in the home over the Christmas period. They can be a particularly difficult plant to care for, but some tips can help them last for months. They are only really comfortable in damp warmth, so keeping them in hot, dry spots should be avoided. They do not like cool nights, very hot dry rooms or big fluctuations in temperatures.

So keep them where there is a constant average temperature, avoiding draughts, cold windows or even very bright spots that can get very hot in the middle of the day.

Finding the perfect spot in your home will help poinsettias to live longer. It is important to keep them well watered but waiting for the right moment to soak them is key.

They like plenty of water but let the compost dry out before giving them a really good soak.

Stand the pot in a sink full of water and leave it to stand for 10 minutes or so before letting the excess water drain from the pot.

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Steventon Football Club Report for January 2024

Since my last report, both teams have managed two games, despite my gloomy weather forecast, with contrasting fortunes: The 1st team won both their games; the Reserves lost both
The 1st team beat Berinsfield; the Reserves didn't

First Team

NBL: Steventon 4 Berinsfield 1

Not often do I record a win against a side from Berinsfield, but against a team 3 places above them, Stivvy scored first and didn't look back. Dylan Burgess got two, with Matt McKenzie & Dale Compton one each, job done, 3 points!

They remained 7th P6 W2 L 4 = 6pts, trailing Drayton by a point with 2 games in hand
Cup: Long Wittenham 0 Steventon 5

Having beaten them in the League and on the back of the Berinsfield result, Stivvy were optimistic and rightly so. With an air of déjà vu Dylan got two and Matt McKenzie scored, this time a brace with Louis Rudman making it five. Fingers crossed for a good draw next.

Reserves Team

Berinsfield 10 Steventon 0

The scoreline doesn't tell the whole story, but let's not go there anyway!

Watlington 3 Steventon 1

Shell shocked from the previous week and facing a team challenging for top spot, it was no surprise that we didn't add to our points tally for the season P7 W1 D1 L5 = 4pts

Here's hoping the New Year brings us better weather and more success

Robert Green tel. 416725

robertgreenltd@gmail.com

Further to 'Fat Jack' by The Underbellies (printed in Novembers issue)



The Underbellies are a duo based in New Zealand, consisting of Pietro & 'Lodge'.

Pietro is originally from Sardinia but lived in England for

a while before emigrating. 'Lodge' was born &

bred in Steventon as was his father & grandfather, on Stocks Lane, his name is Mark Boyes. I understand his mother still lives there & he is planning to visit in September 2024. Mark says he emigrated in 2004 & is settled in New Zealand with his wife & 2 daughters. 'Lodge' is in the white.

Preventing mice and rat infestations

Essential in colder months when the rodents start naturally gravitating towards the warmth of our homes.

Thankfully a score of techniques have been devised to safeguard houses against rodents, including several that are chemical-free and safe for humans and rodents. "Planting mint in different spots around your garden is an excellent way to keep rodents out. The smell of garlic is also repulsive to rats. If they get too close to it, they'll think twice. Try squirting garlic water down a rat burrow. Rats have an extremely strong sense of smell, which they rely on to seek out food and avoid threatening situations. Lavender, basil, thyme and echinacea are particularly effective. Plants that emit a Lemon-like smell, known for their fragrant properties, these favourite plants and herbs will actually be offensive to rodents, since they have a very strong sense of smell. Citronella in candles and eucalyptus oil can also be used wherever traces of the rodent are spotted

Using simple ingredients like essential oils will stop mice from using common entry points into your home because they hate the scent. The three smells that the rodents particularly dislike are peppermint, citronella and bleach. You can use essential oils by diluting and spraying the liquid around your home. Because mice cannot stand the minty smell of peppermint oil, they will avoid it as best as they can. One of the benefits of using peppermint oil around the home is that it is safe for pets and children. Remember, that repelling mice from a home requires a proactive approach, as the rodents are highly intelligent. It's imperative to implement adequate cleaning routines like properly sealing your garbage containers, and avoiding leaving bags and cans open around the home.

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