

STEVENTON NEWS

ESTABLISHED MAY 1969

February 2024

A CALL TO ARMS



Steventon
Community Flood Group

Villagers meet to create Admin,
Ecology and Flood Response teams

Dates for February 2024

3rd NSPCC Quiz 7pm`

4th Steventon News Ad cut off date

6th Parish Council Meeting 7pm

8th Darby & Joan Fish 'n' Chip Lunch

11th Steventon News cut off date

17th Lent Lunch

24th Lent Lunch

28th SARINC Trustees Meeting

Steventon Community Café every Tuesday 9am-2pm

Steventon Friendly Association

Last month we hosted the annual post Christmas party.
105 villagers joined us for the event.



Proceedings kicked off with Rev Phil leading Grace. We all then enjoyed a delicious 3 course lunch, followed by coffee, cheese and biscuits, mince pies, and a complimentary bar.

After which Chairman Pat Hemmings gave his annual speech, an overview of what the Friendly Association does and how it raises money to host 2 annual events for Steventon residents who are over 65 years of age.

Thanks were given to:

The committee for the on-going work they each perform.

SARINC for the generous donations

The North Star for holding the Meat Draw and other events, and their kind donations

Pete Beecham and Keith Fowles for the donation from the Pumpkin event

Elegant Cuisine for the Mince Pies

Robert Tyrrell for the party beer

Martin & Steve for the party spirits

Derek Fletcher for the surprise entertainment.

After which SARINC representative Wendy Lucas gave a speech, on how SARINC helps local people and the village community.

District & County Councillor Sally then spoke about the strength of our community, some challenges we face, what has been achieved, and things happening in the future.



Finally the entertainment then kicked off with a tribute act of Rod Stewart, then dancing to live 60s music by Kevin.

If you would like to come to one of our events, all we ask is that you are a village resident and that you or your partner is 65 years old or over. Please look out for more information in Steventon News for our Summer 2024 trip.

Roots & Shoots



Steventon

The Community café is open every Tuesday from 9am to 2pm serving home made hot food and drinks.

From 2pm to 4pm we hold an Arts & Crafts session with all materials provided including drinks and biscuits.

Why not pop along and try some crafting or if not just sit have a drink and chat.

Cut-off dates for next issue

Contributions for the **March** issue to
steventonnews@outlook.com

By **Sunday 11th Feb.**, please.

Advert cut -off is **4th Feb.** 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.

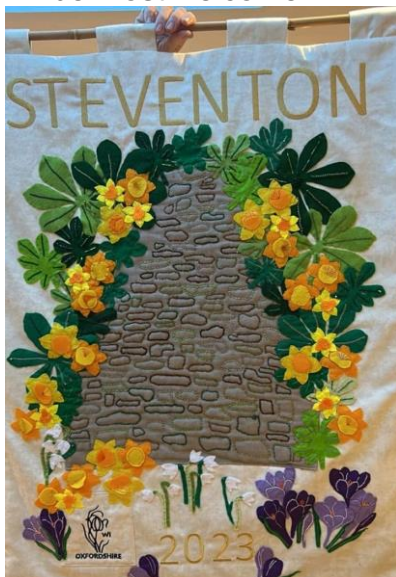
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Our new banner is now finished after several months' work by some of our members. It replaces our previous, fragile 100 year old, banner and was needed so we could take it to events. (See picture).

Our meeting this month is on 20 February when Peter Hague will talk about 'The Life and Times of a Film Extra' and there will be a competition to 'Guess the Film'. So if this subject appeals to you you're very welcome to come along, visitors and new members are always welcome, call 01235 833009 to find out more. We meet in the Millennium Room the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm and you will be most welcome.

**Halls for hire in the Village**

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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
1212 13/12	57	Robin Wilkinson
1213 20/12	16	Jimmy Lister
1214 27/12	42	Jill Moody
1215 03/01	55	Joan Leahy
1216 10/01	2	Vicky Rogers

SAT 59 Club Results

Week	No.	Winner
1431 16/12	8	Jimmy Lister
1432 23/12	44	Steve Miles
1433 30/12	38	Miriam Williams
1434 06/01	41	Steve Ponting
1435 13/01	7	Nicki & Lec Oleksiw

SAT "59 Club Extra" Results

507 16/12	8	Peter Berry
508 23/12	44	Mrs Enoch
509 30/12	38	Ivor Mills
510 06/01	41	Roy Everill
511 13/01	7	David Goodenough

Congratulations to this month's winners.

Pat Hemmings, Chairman – SFA
 01235 831462



Steward: Lucy Perkins
Telephone: (01235) 821507
Email: steventonssc@gmail.com

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Saturdays 12pm - 11pm

Sundays 12pm - 7pm

Dates for Your Diary

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(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

Greetings for February - a significant month this year, for enabling us to keep our lives on track.

It takes the earth slightly more than 365 days to orbit the sun; scientists calculate it to be 365.242190 days. If we didn't account for this extra time, the seasons would begin to drift. This would be annoying if not devastating, because over a period of about 700 years our summers, which we've come to expect in June in the northern hemisphere, would begin to occur in December! The 29th February is added this year to maintain our timely course. Best wishes also to any village "Leaplings" whose birth day is the 29th February.

Lent starts early this year on Valentines Day – not the best combination for a notable day! Lent is often considered as a sober period of abstinence, yet Lent offers the opportunity to consider our life and priorities in the context of a loving, faithful God. Our church life is certainly not committed to miserable living in Lent; we will be holding another Pasty Day on 23rd February in addition to our Saturday Soup Lent Lunches – further details will be seen on our church notices board, community Facebook page and notices around the village. The communal sharing of simple food is a Lenten example of how fellowship and service can assist us in understanding the faithful heart of God. To help us 'continue on a true (Lenten) course' we will be hosting 4 informal and relaxed evening reflections on the 10 Commandments to be held in the warmth and comfort of one of our homes. Each gathering will commence at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 21 February and continue on the next 3 Wednesdays. Each session will last for a maximum of one hour and designed to be of interest to both church and non-church goers. If you would like to come along, or find out more information, please contact either Hilary Otterburn or myself so we can provide adequate refreshments and study documents.

Jesus, you have known us from the beginning of time, you have known us in the depths of our dreams and in the darkness of our lives, you know us as your beloved. Help us to own this true identity more and more in this season of repentance and mercy. Give us the rock-solid assurance of your unwavering faith in us as we seek the same in you. Amen.

Phil Sutton

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

Sunday 4 February	8.00 Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30 Family Service 6.00pm	6:00pm Evening Prayer Continuing the theme of 'animals of the Bible' Traditional BCP Service of Evening Prayer
Sunday 11 February	9:30 Holy Communion	Revd Phil Sutton
Sunday 18 February	9:30 Morning Worship	Mr Jack Jarvis
Sunday 25 February	9:30 Holy Communion	Revd Phil Sutton
Each Wednesday throughout February	9:30 Holy Communion led by Mr Jack Jarvis	

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Steventon Darby & Joan Club

We had our first meeting of 2024 on the 11th January, where we put together the programme for the year. There will be a copy for all members at the next meeting. We would like to encourage anyone in the village who is 60 years or over to come and visit us and see what goes on, you will be most welcome.

Thursday 8th February Fish and chip lunch followed by singing by the School Choir. We did enjoy this.

Thursday 22nd February Meet in the Hall.

I hope if you were affected by the floods in any way that you are recovering and trying to get back to normal.

Our Leader is Audrey Keeler on 834064

Jack Jarvis 831395

Village Litter Collection 2023

Our annual assessment of the litter that we have collected during the past year reveals that we filled 410 sacks of general rubbish and 29 green bins of recycling items. This represented 225 hours of labour and reflects a 37% increase when compared with 2022, no doubt a result of the disposal of more dog waste bags and domestic food items.

May we take this opportunity of asking that those who put up notices advertising local events remove them immediately after the event has taken place. Out of date notices are an eyesore and detract from the general ambience of the village.

Ann and Chris Turton

Steventon Flood Group

The Flooding in Steventon and surrounds post Storm Henk was at levels not seen for a long time.

Firstly thoughts go to all those who have experienced flooding, secondly on Sunday 7th January Cllr Sally organised an initial flood meeting which was very well attended at the Fox in Steventon (thank you Carly for accommodating us all).

The premise was to set up a Community Flood Action Group, and work has begun to get those going as soon as possible, with the main objective of the group being to reduce impact of further flooding by education, preparation and early response.

Sally has contacted the councils, Thames Water and the Environment Agencies for urgent meetings to look at future flood resilience and preparation as well as maintenance and repair of ditches, waterways, and drains. Since the main meeting, volunteers have met and started to prepare the flood plan and what each group will do. More volunteers always needed so please do email us.

Sally has secured £1800 to start with, as funds will be needed for insurance, equipment and training as well as further work needed to improve flood resilience. We hope the groups will now grow, we have an admin and coordination group, an ecology and environment group and a rapid responder's group.

The government has also released some high level information about a compensation scheme so please get in touch for details and links. Don't forget to come play the flooding toolkit on the link below to indicate if you have been flooded, in the home or garden / shed / garage, as this will help prompt further resources and support for the group.

More information and updates will be in the next Steventon News but if you want to help please email - steventoncfg@gmail.com



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

SARINC is a 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

As the New Year gets underway the Charity is dealing with preparing its Annual report and reviewing the grants made available to support residents and groups in Steventon. The report will be available to view in due course to view on the Charity Commission's website.

The Trustees will next meet to consider grant applications and any other business on Wednesday 28 February.

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. The closing date for Education Grants is 31 January 2024

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



Our recent Annual General Meeting marking the second anniversary of the Society included a review of our activities of last year and looked forward to the many events we have planned for 2024.

Highlights of 2023 included an exhibition to mark the coronation of Charles III and a public talk on Steventon Railways. We also had some fascinating talks to the Society at our monthly evening meetings with varied topics such as the evolution of the medieval village; a history of the Cherry Tree Public House; and the Stagecoach, Turnpike and Railway era of 19th century Steventon.

Outings included guided walks around Steventon and The Hendreds to study the landscape archaeology of the area; the Folly Bridge neighbourhood of Oxford to learn about the coming of the railway to the city; and to the Rifles Museum in Salisbury. We have also been consulted by a number of statutory bodies about various aspects of Steventon's past. Finally, a recent piece in the Steventon News about Harriet Jacobs, the 19th century escapee slave from America who lived in Steventon for a while, was taken up by the BBC both as a radio interview and on their national website.

Many of our talks and walks are led by Society members and we are all grateful to them for sharing their fascinating research.

Looking forward to 2024

We have a similar range of activities planned for 2024, details of which will appear on our website, social media and in the Steventon News. One which we feel will have a wide interest is an exhibition of the history of the public houses of Steventon. We hope this might include a trail around the village leading people to discover the unexpected history of some of our dwellings. Please help us: if you have any artifacts, anecdotes, photographs or memories we would love to receive them. Dick Bosley is the man to contact: rbosley@talktalk.net

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm at the North Star. All are welcome. There is no membership! For more information, please see our website www.steventonhistory.co.uk or contact Tim Owen at owentd@talk21.com.

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Parish Council Report

The Parish Council met on Tuesday 2nd January with 9 Parish Councillors Sally Povolotsky, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Councillor and Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) and one member of the public being present.

Flooding within the Parish has been a major concern for everybody.

Community spirit and people's kindness and generosity have shone through and the Parish Council thanks everybody for their efforts and looking after vulnerable residents.

There has however been a minority that regardless of the conditions have no respect or concerns to fellow residents. Prior to the flooding "fly-tipping" into the Ginge Brook and ditches, ranging from car bumpers to willow tree, hedge and grass cuttings. The effect of such behaviour leads to blocking of culverts and ditches and reduces the flow of water. The ditch network throughout the Parish is there for the sole purpose of allowing free movement of water at all times. Please take these seriously.

Drivers who drove through flooded streets at speed causing bow waves that impacted on people's houses would appear to have no regard to anybody apart from themselves.

At a meeting in the Fox arranged by Sally Povolotsky a Steventon Flood Group was set up. Such a group had already been established in Hanney with the result that they had permissions in place to action "emergency road closures" something that took far too long in the village.

The flood group are looking for volunteers for 3 groups:

1 Physical work. Help in distributing sandbags, putting up road closure signage and helping vulnerable residents.

2 Co-ordination team. Help all year round with administration and co-ordinating training.

3. Ecology team. Working with landowners, the Environment Agency and Oxfordshire County Council.

In all cases training will be given. If you would like to volunteer your time and services to the flood group then please contact: steventonpc@tiscali.co.uk.

The dog bin has been removed from the Village Hall car park by the Vale of White Horse District Council Waste Disposal unit. It had become rather rusty but, rather than being given the option to replace, it was removed. The Parish Council is looking into providing a replacement and arranging emptying.

It has come to light that Thames Water have been sending the following communication to people who were "lost" as part of the consultation process on their draft Water Management Plan.

"Following public consultation on our draft water resource management plan 2024 (dWRMP24), we published our statement of response and revised draft plan on 31st August 2023.

A review of our considerations of the 1700 representations received identified a very small number which had been missed in the August publication. Please see a link to the addendum document which includes your representation and our consideration.

Thank you for making a representation to our draft water resource management plan (dWRMP24). Our revised draft plan is currently under review by the Secretary of State for the environment."

This highlights that procedures used by Thames Water are inadequate and badly managed. How can Thames Water be trusted with such bad processes and procedures?

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday February 6th, 2024, at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Dr Chris Wilding – Chair

SB

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GARD calls for Public Inquiry

On 20th December, GARD issued a call to the Secretary of State for DEFRA, Steve Barclay, to call a Public Inquiry into Thames Water's proposal to go forward with its huge Reservoir between Steventon and East Hanney. In our letter to Mr Barclay, we cited that there are many unresolved issues and issues of significant public interest on which Thames Water and its partners have chosen to ignore public consultation and criticism. Thus, in our view there is the need for a public hearing, inquiry or examination in public. We await the Secretary of State's response.

Support for a Public Inquiry grows

Subsequently, our MP, David Johnston has also written to the Secretary of State, supporting our demand for a Public Inquiry. We are very grateful for Mr Johnston's support, and this shows the value of all the letters you have written to him on this matter. We have also heard that the countryside charity, CPRE, has written to Mr Barclay supporting the call for a Public Inquiry. At the time of writing (15th January) we know that there are other organisations and political parties considering adding their voices to these calls. We remind readers that both the County Council (on the 12th December) and the Vale of White Horse (on the 13th December) have already 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.

Join us! Your support is needed, at this time, to show the breadth and depth of the opposition. New members are joining all the time, but being able to announce a strong increase in membership would make a good political point to our opponents. Please contact gard.membership@gmail.com or use the online form on the website <https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/joinus.html>

Derek Stork – Chairman

County and District Councillor Report

What a start to 2024, and I thought 2023 was busy. I wanted to say a massive thank you to all the community volunteers who run so many of the parishes clubs and groups, and it's been wonderful watching the growth of the Roots & Shoots community cafe and allotment. Who would have thought a chat in the park and the idea of a resident could have grown to what it has!

I can't wait to see how the flood group helps the parish this year and how we can reduce our reliance on agencies and bodies who when we need them are so overwhelmed and over stretched that we go to the back of the queue! Whilst I don't have a magic wand and can't fix everything, I hope you see me as a community focused councillor and it's my honour to represent you at County and District. Some of you may know, in 2023 I went independent because the politics in politics are just overwhelming and too distracting. Meanwhile please do contact me if you want to discuss any issues around councils or if I can just be an ear to listen. Thank you all for your support and let's hope 2024 is a year of recovery and resilience Cllr Sally.



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:

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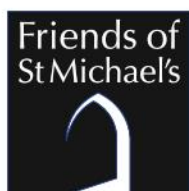
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LENT LUNCHES 2024

Soup and bread lunches begin this month from 12 till 2pm on the following dates. Volunteers to host a lunch, to help on one of the days, or to make soup, will be most welcome.

Contact details are below.

Saturday February 17th at 27 Stocks Lane
Saturday February 24th
Saturday March 2nd
Saturday March 9th
Saturday March 16th
Saturday March 23rd

Do come along and enjoy homemade soup and raise money for Christian Aid.

Contact Mary Thompson 01235 832077 or email revphil@damascusparish.org.uk

STEVENTON NSPCC QUIZ

On Saturday 3rd February 2024
In Steventon Village Hall
Doors open 7.00pm
Starts promptly 7.30pm

Teams of 8. Don't worry if you are less, we often have 1/2 teams, couples, singles. It's a good way to make new friends.

Tickets £10 to include ploughman's supper. Bar. Tombola.

We do not have a card reader so cash or cheques please.

Info and tickets from Margaret
asham07@yahoo.co.uk or
Tel 01235 834067

THANK YOU

Sarah and her family would like to say "THANK YOU" to all their friends and neighbours who have been so kind and supportive following the sad passing of Michael Jarvis on 18th December 2023.

He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Steventon Cricket Club

The club & committee would like to pass on our condolences to the family and friends of Michael Jarvis, and all who knew him. As well as being a pillar of our village community, he was a great supporter of sport in the village, and his unflappable presence in and around the club will be missed in so many ways, great and small.

Looking ahead to the new season (which will be on us before we know it!), we have now begun pre-season indoor training on Sunday mornings in Abingdon. As ever, if you or your child would like to get involved with our friendly and welcoming 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 wonderful sport, cricket is 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.

Steventon Rainbows

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

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