STEEP AND STROUD NEWSLETTER

NO 643 JULY/AUGUST 2026



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Bill Lowe—Local Botanist

Introduction by Fran Box.

You may have seen the notice in our last newsletter about the Say it with Flowers exhibition which took place in June at the Oxmarket Gallery in Chichester and in which the diaries of well known Harrow regular Bill Lowe, were on display. Some of his beautiful images have been included in this month's newsletter. The following piece by local artist Sheryl Pape gives more details of their background:

Celebrating Local Botany: The Legacy of Bill Lowe by *Sheryl Pape*

Bill Lowe, a dedicated botany enthusiast, has deep roots in our community. Born in London, his family was evacuated to the countryside during World War II, first settling at Shingles Corner around 1942. His early education began at Rake School and later at Langrish Primary School, where his love for plants began. As a teenager, Bill worked at Baileys' Nursery shop in Petersfield. His fascination with plants started young; he recalls a memorable day when he and a friend believed they had discovered a monkey orchid. After presenting it to their teacher, they learned it wasn't what they thought, leading Bill to promise to never harm a wildflower again—a promise he has kept.

I first met Bill at The Harrow, where he and his best friend, Steve Povey—a fellow botanist—were discussing their shared passion for flora. As a Botanical Artist and SBA Fellow, I had plans to collaborate with Steve on a book about the botany of the Hampshire Hangers. Sadly, after Steve's passing, I had no expert to consult with, however I found a new friendship with Bill, who generously shared his extensive knowledge of local orchids and rare plants.

In 1968, Bill was appointed warden of Noar Hill by Lady Anne Brewis, a role he held for nearly twenty years. During this time, he cultivated a deep interest in British orchids, often consulting the esteemed botanist Francis Rose. Bill's mission to identify every British orchid was nearly complete, with only one exception—the elusive Small White orchid. Alongside friends Bridget Long and Steve, Bill

Continued on next page



Cover Picture and Above : Bill Lowe's Diaries

Continued from previous page

travelled across the country in search of rare orchids, including the remarkable discovery of the Lady's Slipper orchid in the wild.

Bill's diaries, filled with illustrations and findings from his botanical adventures, are invaluable. They offer insights not only into the local botanical world but also into the social history of our area. As Bill approached his 89th birthday, he graciously shared some of these diaries and allowed them to be displayed in June in Chichester.

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DIARY DATES

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL
Next Meeting:
Mon 6th July
Mon 7th Sept.
7.30pm at **Steep Village Hall**.
All welcome.
Contact: Sam Marchant
(clerk@steep-pc.gov.uk)
https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/

STEEP FILM SOCIETY
Steep Village Hall, 7.30 for 8pm start.
Films resume in September
18th Sept AGM
https://steepfilmsociety.org.uk/

BEDALES LIVE EVENTS
Wed 27th July at **7.30—9.30pm** in the **Lupton Hall, Bedales**
FILM SCREENING & Q&A: WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS... EVERYONE'S EVEREST £6
More Details at: https://www.everyoneseverest.com/film
To book tickets please visit https://www.bedales.org.uk/whats-on or call the TicketSource Box Office on 0333 666 3366

PETERSFIELD COMMUNITY CHOIR
Wed 8th July at **7.30 p.m.** in **St. Peter's Church**, Petersfield "SOUNDS OF SUMMER" CONCERT
Details on page 9

STEEPFEST
Sat 11th July from **3pm-9pm** on **Steep Common** LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT FOSS Event. Details on page 10

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL
Next Meeting:
Tues 21st July
Tues 22nd Sept.
7.30pm at **Stroud Village Hall.**
All welcome.
Contact: Sam Marchant
clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk)
https://www.stroud-pc.gov.uk/

STROUD EVENING W.I.
All meetings take place at **Stroud Village Hall,** on a Tuesday, starting at **7.30pm.**
14th July SHANTIES AND SEA SONGS *Andy Jackson*—Open Meeting
11th August A CONSPIRACY HISTORY OF THE World - Open Meeting *Andy Thomas*
https://hampshire.thewi.org.uk/find-wi/stroud-evening. X @WiStroud

STANSTED PLAYERS
19th– 22nd August at **7.30pm at Bedales Theatre** *FRIAR BACON AND FRIAR BUNGAY*
Details on page 8

STEEP FLOWER SHOW
Sat 22nd August from **2pm—4pm** at **Bedales School.** Adults £2 Under 18's: Free Details on page 9

STROUD REVELS
Sat 25th July at **New Buildings Farm**. FAMILY FRIENDLY FESTIVAL Details on page 7

AUCTION FOR FOSC AND THE ROSEMARY FOUNDATION
Sat 28th Nov at **6pm**; at **Steep Village Hall**. More details on page 19

STEEP AND STROUD NEWS

STEEP PARISH COUNCIL

Alison Driver
Chair, Steep Parish Council

Steep Parish Council continues to make progress on several projects and initiatives affecting the village.

Traffic and Road Safety

Work is ongoing to develop the proposed 20mph scheme for Church Road, alongside consideration of wider traffic-calming measures. The Council is also reviewing previous traffic survey work to help support future improvements.

South Downs Local Plan Consultation

The Council has agreed to submit a response to the South Downs National Park Local Plan consultation. Residents are encouraged to share their views as the consultation will help shape planning policies for the years ahead.

Church Road Public Open Space

Councillors continue to examine proposals for the future management of the Church Road public open space, including maintenance responsibilities and long-term arrangements. Residents will be kept informed and consulted before any decisions are made.

War Memorial Project

Plans to enhance the War Memorial are progressing, with quotations being obtained and grant funding applications being prepared to support the next phase of the project.

The next meeting of Steep Parish Council will take place on Monday 6 July 2026.

STROUD PARISH COUNCIL

Tom North
Councillor, Stroud Parish Council

Stroud Parish Council met for its AGM on May 19th. It was a busy agenda covering a wide range of topics relating to ensuring Stroud remains a fantastic place to live and work. We were delighted to be joined by our new County Councillor – Nick Drew.

The Council discussed the consultation process on the National Park's Local Plan. The council will submit a response that is in line with the outputs of the Parish Priorities Statement that was written this winter.

As ever, the important issue of road safety was raised. The Council are trying to organise a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss whether the average speed cameras on the A272 can be extended to cover our stretch.

Related to roads, please continue to report pot holes and other issues via the OurHants app.

As we are in summer, please ensure to remind playground users that it closes at 8pm. This an important part of the park's lease arrangements.

The council has vacancies. We would love to hear from residents' keen to hear more. Please contact Sam on Clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk or any of the current Councillors.

STROUD VILLAGE HALL

Katy Lace
Hall Manager



With summer officially in full swing, our thoughts turn to the annual **Stroud Revels** – the local and affordable family-friendly festival! This year it takes place on **Saturday 25th July** at New Buildings Farm. Thanks to the Rowden family for hosting again.

Our amazing Social Committee has been hard at work organising the big day for months and has lots of exciting plans in store. We're delighted that Black Cherry Jam will be headlining, and this year there will be a brand new open-mic session for local talent. There will be plenty of games and activities to keep children entertained too, and amazing local food vendors selling everything from wood-fired pizza and hog roast to artisan coffee and homemade cakes. It wouldn't be Revels without the iconic Charlie's Baa, who will be selling alcoholic drinks and soft refreshments at their usual reasonable prices.

Thank you so much to all the amazing volunteers who are working so hard to organise another year of family-friendly fun and community spirit. If you can spare some time to help put up the marquees (either on Thursday or Friday) or take them down on Sunday morning, then please get in touch with Katy by emailing: manager@stroudvillagehall.org
Tickets cost £25 for a family of four, £12.50 for an adult and £8 for a child (plus a nominal booking fee) and include all live music and children's entertainment (except face painting which is at a small additional cost). Find out more and get your tickets at https://stroudvillagehall.org/events/

An Italian family with 15 yr old teenage son who is keen to improve his English are looking for a **Host Family** with teenagers of a similar age who likewise might be keen to improve their Italian. He is hoping for a placement this summer for 3-4 weeks. Contact Stuart Duncan on 07799 765372
stuart.duncan58@outlook.com

There will be a **memorial for Judith Wright** on Saturday 4th July in Stroud Village Hall at 2:30pm.
She has asked for a simple Quaker style memorial, followed by tea and cakes. She requested that no one wears black, and no 'shop bought' flowers. If you want to bring flowers then bring garden flowers in a vase, and please take them home again afterwards. There will be a collection for one of her favourite charities Practical Action. practicalaction.org

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TEA AND FRIENDS

By Suzanne Knights

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again." I slip out of my reverie and am pleased to see around me not that gloomy drive of vast rhododendrons in Cornwall, but a sweeping road leading to Coldhayes in Steep Marsh, Hampshire. The view is the Surrey Weald not Carthew Bay. Cheerful faces direct me to an easy parking spot underneath the Hangers.

I am looking forward to my afternoon out touring the gardens at Coldhayes, so wonderfully open today and run in conjunction with The Friends of Steep Church. It's a costly business maintaining a 900 year old church.

I muse on this whilst walking past sumptuous specimen trees when something catches my eye: a curtain twitches in a third floor room window. Is that Mrs Danvers? Fortunately I am distracted by friends who welcome me. Smiles all round, happy memories. New ones are being created as I admire the rolling terrace down to a divine rectangular fishpond.

Startled, I see in the distance, a stunning lady in fuschia, which matches the luscious roses. Is that my predecessor, the first Mrs de Winter? No. Nor is the elegant gentleman offering me Fizz, Maxim. However I am distracted by 'Blue Moon', the melody first recorded in 1934 by Ted Fio Rito. The Jazz Trio here today is playing our music. I must remember to thank the Bedalians.

I quickly reassess the situation. The petite young woman shyly admiring the many-coloured sisal bags is not me, the second Mrs de Winter. The gaggle of people, tightly packed, are not discussing the forthcoming costume ball but the weight of the fruit cake.

Not only is it a relief to be here at Coldhayes on a beautiful June day in 2026 but it is a positive pleasure. What's more the children are delightfully entertained by a slidy wire thingy. I am not sure I can manage that but I'm sure I can 'Whack-the-Rat'. Then I spot a finger post indicating a pathway. Will it lead to that fateful cove and boat house? My neighbour advises it goes through a perfectly arranged wood.

Tonight I definitely won't rewatch Alfred Hitchcock's 'Rebecca'. I will watch 'Breathe' starring that lovely Clare Foy. Apparently the wedding is notionally set at Coldhayes. The film is a romance based on family love and tender care. This is the message from today.

Stansted Players 2026

in their 37th annual production
on
August 19th – 22nd
at
Bedales Theatre 7.30pm
will perform

Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay
(1589) by Robert Green

(who is perhaps best known for calling his contemporary William Shakespeare "an upstart crow")

Players will include;
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STEEP FLOWER SHOW

Lucy McIlwraith & Maike Heining
Co-chairs, Steep Flower Show

Steep Flower Show: Saturday 22nd August 2026, 2-4pm in the marquee at Bedales

As your gardens, allotments, patios and pots are coming to their best, make sure you think ahead to what you could enter in the competitive categories of the Steep Flower Show. If you go to our website (use the QR code or website address below) you can find the class schedule for this year's show to guide you on what you could enter. From jam to crafts, photography to phlox, your home-made and home-grown produce is sure to fit a category. Entries are only 30p each, so please enter as many classes as you can.

As ever, there are kids' classes which encourage creativity as well as gardening. Kids' classes have little financial prizes which are much sought after, so look forward to spending a summer watching them plant and nurture their garden in a seed tray (or Lego garden!) and collage or craft until they've got something really special. In addition to this, kids can enter any of the other classes for free. If your child has a special tomato plant they are nurturing or a prized cactus, they can go up against the adults' entries. Just imagine their delight when they win!

Adults love prizes too, so to have a chance of winning a trophy, enter as many categories as you can – each first, second or third prize gives you points which all add up – I won the Novice Cup in my first year just because I'd entered every class I had anything in. I was hooked straight away!

If you prefer to peruse a paper copy of the schedule you should be able to find spares in community centres in Steep – pubs, the church, the village hall. If not, you can try calling at 60 Church road, where we usually have some.

As ever, we always welcome volunteers to help out with the show or to join the committee and become a more permanent part of the show. We're particularly interested in hearing from people who are willing to run games stalls at the August show so please do get in touch.

If you're able to give a bit of time for these fabulous village events or you can donate a cake for the summer show, please email us: steepflowershow@gmail.com

Website: https://steep-flower-show-sumupstore.com or scan the QR code below.

Petersfield Community Choir, lead by Ysanne Bonner, will be performing their "Sounds of Summer" concert on Wednesday the 8th July at 7.30 p.m. in St. Peter's Church in Petersfield. The concert will be free with a retiring collection for The King's Arms Youth Project.

STEEPFEST 2026



A new festival for the whole family and community. Come and enjoy an afternoon on Steep common with your friends and family, enjoying live music with local legends Black Cherry Jam, The Smooth Tones, Men Overboard and more.

Delicious food will be for sale alongside a fully stocked bar selling local beers, wine and soft drinks. Bon and Rose will be selling gelato.

There will be plenty for the kids to do including face painting, games, candy floss, and more...

And it's all for a good cause - raising money for Friends of Steep School.

Get your tickets now!

Scan the barcode above or go to https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1442711190

Tickets will be available on the gate.

THIS MONTH WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS



OLD DAIRY FARM NURSERY

Fiona Rowden
Nursery Director

Old Dairy Farm Nursery life has been all go so far this year! One of our biggest recent achievements has been the opening of our new nursery building last September. The additional space has been a huge success, giving children even greater opportunities to learn, explore and grow within a calm, inspiring environment. It has allowed us to further develop our vision for early years education whilst maintaining the warm, family feel that sits at the heart of our nursery.

Old Dairy Farm Nursery is inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, recognising children as capable, curious and enthusiastic learners. We place great importance on child-led learning, creativity, independence and de-

veloping a lifelong love of learning. Every day, we aim to create meaningful opportunities that encourage children to question, investigate and explore the world around them.

This year also saw growing recognition nationally of the importance of early childhood education and child development, including Princess Catherine's visit to Reggio Emilia in Italy in May to learn more about early years approaches and how environments and relationships shape children's development, something that strongly aligns with our own values and ethos at Old Dairy Farm Nursery.

Being farm-based remains a very special part of who we are. Children benefit from daily experiences that connect them with nature and the changing seasons, from walks around the farm, collecting eggs and caring for our chickens and chicks, to planting, growing and observing wildlife. These hands-on experiences help children develop confidence, responsibility and an understanding of the world around them.

Outdoor learning continues to play a huge role in nursery life. Our Forest School sessions allow children regular opportunities to explore woodland environments, build dens, climb, investigate nature and develop resilience, problem-solving and teamwork skills through play and adventure outdoors.

This year has also seen continued investment and growth in our team and provision, strengthening leadership, developing staff skills and continually reflecting on how we can provide the very best experiences for children and families.

We are incredibly proud of all that has been achieved so far and very grateful to our wonderful nursery community for their continued support. It has been lovely to see so many local families continue to be part of Old Dairy Farm Nursery's journey, and we look forward to an exciting final few weeks with our preschoolers. They are particularly excited as they prepare for their graduation party at Stroud Revels before beginning their next adventure. We look forward to celebrating with them and wish them every success for their next exciting chapter at school in September.



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LANGRISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Heather Jones
Head Teacher



As we approach the end of another busy and rewarding academic year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that our school community has achieved together and celebrate the values that continue to guide everything we do.

Ambition encourages our children to believe in themselves and strive to be the very best version of who they can be. This year we have seen pupils challenge themselves academically, creatively and personally. One of the highlights of the year came at Easter with our first whole-school performance since Covid, as 50 pupils from Years 1–6 came together to perform *Shrek the Musical*. The enthusiasm, confidence and teamwork shown by our pupils were remarkable, and the production was a wonderful celebration of talent and perseverance.

Belonging remains central to our school community. We continue to work hard to ensure that every child feels known, valued and supported. This year we have focused on developing our whole-school understanding of neurodivergence and reflecting carefully on our own practice to better support neurodivergent learners. By listening to current research alongside the voices and experiences of our pupils and staff, we are strengthening our understanding and creating an even more inclusive environment. We have also been considering how we can make lunchtimes more positive and inclusive for all children by opening up indoor spaces and broadening the range of resources and opportunities available outside, helping every child find ways to connect, play and thrive.

Our value of **Curiosity** continues to inspire children and adults alike to ask questions, think deeply and

embrace learning. This year, alongside an ever-growing offer of extra-curricular clubs, experiences and trips, we have reviewed our approach to the teaching of early writing to ensure transcription skills are securely and consistently embedded from our youngest pupils onwards. We know that developing these strong foundations gives children the confidence and skills they need to flourish as learners as they move up through the school.

As always, a school's success is built on the efforts of many people working together. We would like to thank our staff, families and wider community for their continued encouragement and support. We are incredibly proud of our pupils and everything they have achieved this year and look forward to another exciting year ahead of learning, growth and opportunity for all.



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STEEP CHURCH OF ENGLAND VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Vicki Mason
Head Teacher



Steep Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a very special place, and I feel incredibly proud to be part of such a warm and welcoming community. From the moment you walk through the gates, there is a real sense of family. We place great importance on nurture, connection and the relationships we build with our children and their families. Getting to know each child as an individual and celebrating their unique personality is one of the most rewarding parts of my role as Headteacher.

Church of England schools were first established to provide all children with an education rooted in Christian values and the teachings of Jesus, and this remains true today. We are open to everyone, welcoming people of all faiths and none as part of our community. Alongside our Christian ethos, we also promote British values; children learn how to live well together, understand right and wrong, and develop essential life skills. While we are proud of our strong academic outcomes, what matters most is that our children are happy, confident and ready for their next steps, preparing them for life in modern Britain. Our staff team and governors are truly exceptional, dedicated, caring, and committed to going above and beyond every day to provide the very best for our children. There is a shared determination to continually develop our practice, reflecting and adapting to meet the needs of every learner. This openness and willingness to grow make Steep a positive and forward-thinking environment.

At Steep, children benefit from a wide range of enrichment opportunities that support both their learning and personal development. Strong links with the Diocese and regular use of Steep Church, including weekly worship led by clergy, help nurture a sense of community and reflection. Pupils can take part in orchestra and choir, as well as swimming, sports and nature clubs that encourage teamwork and wellbeing. Cultural visits, school trips, productions and residentials provide exciting experiences beyond



the classroom, while our excellent links with Bedales offer workshops that broaden horizons and inspire creativity.

We are also very fortunate to have the support of the 'Friends of Steep School'. Families play a vital role in school life, and there is a genuine sense of everyone working together. Whether improving our indoor and outdoor spaces or raising funds to enrich the curriculum, the level of support we receive is remarkable. This enables us to provide a wide range of opportunities that help prepare our children for the next stage of their education and beyond.

Steep is a community where every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish, and where strong academic outcomes sit alongside a deep commitment to personal development. For me, it is a privilege and a joy to lead such a special school and to work alongside wonderful children, families, and dedicated staff and governors each day. Being part of a community where everyone supports one another, celebrates success, and works together to help every child thrive makes my role both rewarding and inspiring.



TOMATO SALAD

Elizabeth Housden

Living here we are blessed in being the closest county to the tomato-growing heaven in this country that is the Isle of Wight, just a short trip across the Solent! I thought I'd share this delicious recipe with you.

Ingredients:

Isle of Wight tomatoes (as many as you like/need depending on numbers of guests and whether this salad is an accompaniment or a starter)
Fresh basil
Olive oil
Salt and pepper

Method:

1. Chop your tomatoes and put in a large bowl.
2. Marinate - with minced garlic, torn fresh basil leaves, olive oil, salt and pepper. Let sit at room temperature for 30 minutes to create a rich juice.
3. Cook your favourite pasta (spaghetti works very well with this. Please use fresh pasta. Dried is awful with this!!) Drain, and toss immediately with your mixture. Top with Parmesan or Mozzarella.

Lovely on its own as a starter or an accompaniment to anything you fancy. I'd serve it with fish of your choice.

Yum! You're back in Italy with this one and not nearly so far to travel (either you or the tomatoes!)

RON'S NOTES

Ron Allen

Summer is for Hawkmoths

Summer is upon us, despite the cold and heavy rain at the time of writing (6th June 2026) and, if the weather warms, summer will be time for some **spectacular hawkmoths**. Hawkmoths are large, fast flying, and often brightly coloured moths.

My *Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland* (Waring and Townsend 2017) explains that we have nine UK resident species, and nine immigrants plus a few that arrive from time to time.

At the time of writing, we have already had several hawkmoth species to our Stroud garden moth light. First to arrive on 24 May was a spectacular **Lime Hawkmoth** (with a distinctive scalloped-edged forewing and subtly coloured in pinkish and green with a dark green band across its forewings) and, at the same time, the strange **Poplar Hawkmoth** with hindwings that project beyond the forewing. A few days later on 1st June a yellow and pink coloured **Small Elephant Hawkmoth** arrived. A fellow mother in Waterlooville has already had the rare **Striped Hawkmoth** (an immigrant from North Africa and Southern Europe).

Other species that we have seen previously and hope to see again are the chunky olive-green and pink **Elephant Hawkmoth**, the massive **Privet Hawkmoth**, the **Eyed Hawkmoth** with large eye markings on its hindwings, and the **Hummingbird Hawkmoth** that will soon be feeding in daylight, hummingbird-like, on our Buddleia bushes.

Other species that could perhaps turn up are the **Bedstraw Hawkmoth**, the **Pine Hawkmoth**, the **Convolvulus Hawkmoth** (recorded recently from Petersfield), the **Pine Hawkmoth**, and just possibly the **Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth** with transparent wing patches. Perhaps even the large **Death's-head Hawkmoth** with a skull-like marking on its thorax and ability to squeak when disturbed; a rare migrant from continental Europe and Africa and of which a larvae has been recorded from Steep but so far, none from Stroud.

Addendum 10th June 2026

Another amazing hawkmoth to the garden this evening. A splendid **Privet Hawkmoth**, UK's largest hawkmoth with an impressive pink and black striped body and hindwings. This massive moth had a body length of 4.5cm and an open wing-spread (in defensive) mode of 10.4cm.



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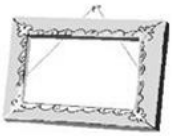
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CHURCH NEWS

Amanda Greenlee

Pentecost

This year Pentecost was celebrated on 24th May, marking the end of Easter and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Steep enjoyed an extremely hot Bank Holiday weekend making the coolth of our beautiful church even more welcome. Susie led the service and Sue preached on the locked room, where the disciples met in fear until the coming of the Holy Spirit and asked us to consider the locked room in our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to enter in.

.

Trinity Sunday

The Benefice came together to celebrate Trinity Sunday at Holy Trinity church, Privett. Gerald played the keyboard, Susie led the service with Sue preaching and refreshments were served around the font afterwards.

Licensing of Sue Jones as Associate Priest

On Wednesday 3rd June Bishop Jonathon and Katherine Percival, Archdeacon of the Meon invested Sue as Associate Priest. The clergy from the Deanery sat in the choir stalls, including Peter Sutton, retired vicar of Hawkley, who had supervised Sue's curacy. Bishop Jonathon preached from the nave of the church, listing all the strengths that Sue brings with her. We parishioners must not expect Sue to always be available as she will spend much time in prayer. The full church then enjoyed wine and nibbles as we gathered to congratulate Sue.

All Age Pet Service

June 7th saw a wide range of pets and their owners gather, with black labradors most numerous as usual. A pony arrived at the north door and was directed to the opened south door and tethered outside so all could admire him. We had spiders and glowworms that survived the canine presence. Graham led us with his guitar and Susie spoke about God's world and how we must protect it. David Anson prayed for each pet by name and at least one dog joined in the hymns. Refreshments afterwards included bowls of water and dog treats whilst several children in turn were able to sit on the pony.

Coldhayes Open Garden

At the service on June 14th Alistair McConville preached a sermon on how enduring suffering built character. Based on the reading from Romans on justification by faith we can deepen our faith and character by how we manage the low points in our life. In the afternoon the gardens of Coldhayes in Steep Marsh were open in aid of church funds. The weather was perfect to stroll about the grounds, enjoy the view with a cup of tea and cake, buy a plant or book or painting whilst children tried their skills on the slack line and archery. All the arrangements by Judy Thompson and her many volunteers ran like clockwork as the approximately 90 visitors with their children enjoyed the sunshine in beautiful surroundings.

JULY and AUGUST

The Parishes of Steep and Stroud and Froxfield with Privett in the Diocese of Portsmouth

2026

Benefice Worship

Sunday 5th July (Green)
8.30am Holy Communion,(BCP,said)**, Steep**
10am The TenAM, **Steep**
10am Parish Communion **High Cross**
Sunday 12th July (Green)
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Stroud**
10am Parish Communion, **Steep**
Sunday 19th July (Green)
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Steep**
10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**
Sunday 26th July (Green)
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said), **Stroud**
10am Parish Communion, **Steep**
11am Morning Prayer,(BCP), **Froxfield Green**

AUGUST

Sunday 2nd August (Green)
8.30am Holy Communion,(BCP,said)**, Steep**
10am The TenAM, **Steep**
10am Parish Communion **High Cross**
Sunday 9th August (Green)
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said)**, Stroud**
10am Parish Communion**, Steep**
Sunday 16th August (Green)
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said)**, Steep**
10am Parish Communion, **High Cross**
Sunday 23rd August (Green)
8.30am Holy Communion (BCP, said)**, Stroud**
10am Parish Communion**, Steep**
11am Morning Prayer,(BCP), **Froxfield Green**
Sunday 30th August (Green)
10am Benefice Communion, **Steep**

Steep: All Saints' GU32 2DD: Stroud Church GU32 1AT
High Cross, St Peter's, GU32 1EQ; Froxfield Green, GU32 1DQ;
Privett: Holy Trinity, GU34 3PE

Welcome to a variety of services across our benefice.
For further information, request our weekly emailed news sheet at
steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com.
or visit our website **www.steepfroxfield.com**

The auction for Fosc and the Rosemary foundation will be on Saturday 28th November, doors open at 6pm; light supper provided, plus a pay bar and it will be at the Village Hall (Steep). Entrance tickets will be sold much nearer the time - and more details provided ditto.

WANTED Friends of Steep Church **Secretary**. After 10 years devoted service Deirdre Mitchell has decided to retire. The requirement is not onerous - four meetings a year requiring sending out a calling notice and taking minutes of the meeting. Aspiring applicants please contact the Chairman, John Trewby, on jatrewby@gmail.com or 07799661763

Parish Communion Services are in modern language (Common Worship)
Early Sunday Services (8.30am) are said, in traditional language, from the Book of Common Prayer
Silent Prayer, All Saints', Steep: 6.30-7pm every Thursday
The TenAM (all age less formal worship): 10am on the first Sunday of the month
Choir Practice: 6pm on Fridays before 10am Parish Communion
Sunday School: Second Sunday of the month during 10am Parish Communion excluding school holidays

Vicar, Steep and Froxfield with Privett and Area Dean of Petersfield: The Revd Canon Dr. Susie Collingridge—624245, Susie.collingridge@gmail.com
Assistant Priest: The Revd Sue Jones 07884 141019, susan.jones1410@gmail.com
LLM Graham Madgwick - 07946 197038, g.madgwick@btinternet.com
PtO Clergy: The Revd Dr Pippa Madgwick 07923 933649, Pippa.madgwick1@btinternet.com
PtO LLM: Caroline Hilton - 263460
Lay Pastoral Assistant: Lindsay Clegg - 827505, lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com
Churchwardens: Steep: Judy Thompson - 07769 182181, judy.thompson@me.com
Simon Mason 07757 944350 simonmason8@gmail.com
Froxfield with Privett: Lindsay Clegg – 827505, lindsay.clegg@hotmail.com
Benefice administrator: Helen Muir-Davies - Steepfroxfieldprivett@gmail.com
Gift aid(GA) and Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) officers:
Steep/Stroud: Stephen Rae - 260571 and Caroline Robinson (Caroline@rokehouse.co.uk) **Froxfield/ Privett**: Ian Hughes – 828344 n.ianhughes@btinternet.com; Christine Stephens - Christine@tcfk-stephens.co.uk

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https://www.steep-pc.gov.uk/
Stroud Parish Clerk: Sam Marchant, clerk@stroud-pc.gov.uk
https://www.stroud-pc.gov.uk/
Stroud Village Hall: Katy Lace, manager@stroudvillagehall.org.uk
Steep Village Hall: Louise Knight, manager@steepvillagehall.org.uk; 774936

Bus services to and from Petersfield

STEEP:

Daily service starts at **Bedales at 10.08am**, thence **The Cricketers**, to **Petersfield hospital**, the **station** and the **Square**, ending at **Tesco at 10.24am**. Returns (same route) from **Tesco at 12.27pm**, arriving at **Bedales at 12.42pm**

STROUD:

Details from 0345 241 8000 and
https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/south/67/petersfield-winchester/XPB0067.I

COPY FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

not later than midday on

Monday 17th August

FOR STEEP to Caroline Robinson at Roke House, Mill Lane, Steep GU32 2DJ; caroline@rokehouse.co.uk.
FOR STROUD to Jeremy Mitchell at Fairlands, Finchmead Lane, Stroud GU32 3PF; mitchjd@btinternet.com; 01730 267214.

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