

## French Horn Re-Opening



The French Horn will soon be re-opening, run by the newly formed partnership of Richard Hargroves, Melissa Thomson and Laurence Nelson. Richard sends the following message to the village:

"Between the three of us we have a mixture of experience and local knowledge. Having successfully run Ye Olde Fighting Cocks in St Albans for 5 years, it was a pleasure to take on the challenge of the French Horn. We fell in love with the pub and village the moment we saw it and feel that we can make it a real pub again, serving the community with good old fashioned food and hospitality.

"The food will be traditionally English, we have found a gem of a Head chef and also brought with us our favourite sous chef from The Fighting Cocks. We intend to serve home cooked traditional British fayre in cosy and warm surroundings. Using local produce where possible drawing on old English recipes with a fresh approach. Our warm scotch eggs, rib eye steak with triple cooked fat chips and Smoked haddock kedgeree were legendary dishes at the Fighting Cocks, so we will return to these old favourites that we've tried and tested, and hope that you like them as much as we do.

"The task at hand is to return the pub, near as possible to what it once was, losing the wine bar, food only approach and bringing back comfort in every sense of the word. We want you to be able to pop in for a pint of ale, grab a bite at the bar where dogs are welcome, with the restaurant reserved for a sit down dinner and lunch. We welcome children and families but will also have a quiet grown up area for those who would like to relax.

"Your comfort is our priority, we are scouring antique shops and auctions as we speak, trying to find you to cosiest of seats to rest on, warm fires, rugs and brass low lighting to create a welcoming environment.

"We hope you will join us when we open, which we are working hard to ensure is as soon as possible. We will keep you updated on the goings on at the French Horn and look forward to spending time getting to know the village."

## Rectory Road Closure

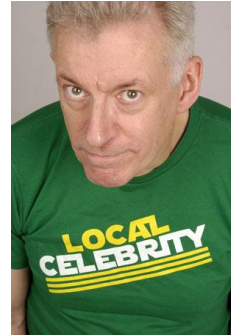
Between Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Rectory Road will be closed from 7:30am to 6pm for surfacing and pavement work. Specific dates will be advertised nearer the time. Where possible, access may be allowed at certain points during the closure.



## Comedy Night - 21<sup>st</sup> November

At 7pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November in the village hall, Steppingley Comedy Night presents Ronnie Golden. A veteran of film, TV, radio, the Edinburgh Fringe festival, as well as a successful musician, Ronnie has worked with some big names including David Bowie, Tracey Ulman, and Barry Cryer.

Tickets are £10 which includes a hot-dog, available from Bruce Henninger on 07968 369 804



## We Own The Rec!

Earlier this year, Steppingley Parish Council completed the purchase of the Recreation Ground on behalf of the Village, safeguarding this important green space for generations to come.



The purchase was made possible thanks to a grant of £15,000 from Mid Beds District Council, to whom we are very grateful. The remaining money was raised through a loan and use of the Council reserves.

You may have noticed that your annual precept (paid as part of you Council Tax) did not rise this year. This good news is because we no longer need to raise additional money for the purchase.

Owning the Recreation Ground now allows us to progress our next project - improving the Cricket Pavilion.

## Steppingley Beer Festival

Big thanks to The Drovers Arms for hosting this year's Beerfest and to all those of you who supported the event.

The night was enjoyed by all those who attended. The beer, band, bonfire and curry all went down a storm and capped with some fantastic raffle prizes, the night went really well.

Thanks to all of you who made the night happen, especially to The Drovers Arms who had pledged a donation of £750 to the Steppingley Village Association but subsequently increased this to £1,000 as they were so pleased with the night and all the effort put in by the Villagers.

Such events are essential to fund the upkeep of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground for the benefit of the whole village.

Bottoms up!



# Steppingley Newsletter – November 2009

## Carol Service

The Steppingley Carol Service will be on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm in the Church, followed by festive refreshments in the Village Hall.



Donations of mince pies on the night will be gratefully received!

## Church Services

11:15am Holy Communion every Sunday at St. Lawrence, Steppingley

Date	Festival
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 5pm	Christingle Service at St Andrews, Amphill
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 6:30pm	Carol Service at St Lawrence, Steppingley
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 11:30pm	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at St Michael and All Angels, Millbrook
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 11:15am	Christmas Day Holy Communion at St Lawrence, Steppingley

There is also a Christmas Tree Festival at St. Andrews, Amphill from 10am to 5:30pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec and 11am to 5pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec.



## Hall For Hire

Don't forget that the Village Hall, with it's now even wider range of facilities (new tables & chairs, boules pitch, BBQ area) is available to hire.

The Village Hall section on the Steppingley website has full details, an online booking form, and you can even see on which dates the hall is available for hire.

## Therapeutic Massage

Vivienne Williams and Brenda Webb are your local holistic therapists. They are qualified and experienced, offering the following treatments:

*Brenda:* Reiki, Swedish body massage, Indian head massage

*Vivienne:* Swedish body massage, Indian head massage, holistic facial, reflexology, baby massage, aromatherapy massage



Sample prices are £10 for a back massage, £15 for an Indian head massage, or £20 for a full body massage.

Please telephone Brenda 715202 or Vivienne 712765 to make an appointment for yourself, or to purchase gift vouchers for friends and relatives – a great Christmas present!

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**Our next newsletter will go out in January**

Please send contributions to [sam@steppingley.org](mailto:sam@steppingley.org)  
by Tues 12<sup>th</sup> January