



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

January 2016

From the Editors.

As we bid farewell to 2015 and say hello to 2016 it's good to reflect on the past and look forward.

One of the highlights of 2015 was certainly the Harvest Festival. Once again, a fun and successful event in which the whole village took part.

In 2016 we look forward to the completion, with seven years in the planning, of the refurbishment work to the Village Hall. As a facility used by everyone, the support from the village has been overwhelming.

Steeple Morden continues to be one of the best places to live with its vibrant community and friendly folk. We all look forward to attending clubs, events and activities over the coming year. Organised by the many volunteer groups, we are lucky to have such a wonderful group of

## Saint Peter and Saint Paul Church, Steeple Morden Diary for January

The Church is one of six in the Shingay Group and details of all services are published monthly in Prospect. Our website is [www.shingaychurches.co.uk](http://www.shingaychurches.co.uk)

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 8.30am Parish Communion**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 9-12 Café Church**  
**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30-12 Coffee morning with Traidcraft Stall**  
**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.45am Mattins**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 9-12 Café Church**  
**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 10.45am Joint Communion Service with Baldock Methodist Church, Whitehorse Street**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 9-12 Café Church**  
**Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> 9.45am Family Service**  
**Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> 11.15 Home Group, 22 Craft Way**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> 9-12 Café Church**  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 10.00am Group Holy Communion, Wendy**

Café Church is held every Friday in term-time from 9am to 12 noon. It is open to everyone from 0 to 100+ and is a time to meet friends old and new, have a good chat and enjoy a variety of hot drinks, bacon baps, cake ....

**All are welcome.**

## Guilden Morden Congregational Church Diary for December

Check out our website:

[www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com](http://www.guildenmordencongregationalchurch.com)

### Events in January 2016

**Fri 1st Jan 12.00pm** Soup and Socialise. Does exactly what it says on the tin – plus a quiz!

**Saturday 2nd Jan 7.30pm for 8.00pm** Folk Night

**Sunday 3rd Jan 10.30am** Café style service. Come and join us for croissants and coffee in our relaxed style form of worship. All welcome

**Wed 6th Jan 9.30am** \*Mix and Match Coffee Morning

**Sunday 10th Jan 10.30am** Service in the Chapel led by Fionnaigh Reid. All welcome

**Wed 6th Jan 9.30am** \*Mix and Match Coffee Morning

**Sunday 17th Jan 10.45** Ecumenical Service with St Mary's and Baldock Methodist Church at Baldock Methodist Church

**Wed 6th Jan 9.30am** \*Mix and Match Coffee Morning

**Sunday 24th Jan 10.30am** Taize Style Service in the Chapel led by Alex Wilkinson. All welcome

**Sunday 31st Jan 10.30am** Communion Service in the Chapel led by Fionnaigh Reid. All welcome

\* Mix and Match Instead of hosting two toddler groups and one coffee morning, we are looking to 'mix' them together and open a 'Mix and Match' toddler group and coffee morning instead on a Wednesday morning. The 'toddler' part of the morning will start at 9.30am with the 'coffee' morning starting at 10.30am which is open to all ages. The toddler group will end at 11.00am leaving the other members of the coffee morning to continue enjoying their fellowship in a slightly quieter environment ;-)

Please be aware that the above services are possibly subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Many thanks.

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed a tree and to all who visited. The Church looked lovely and the trees were amazing - so much thought, time and skill had gone in to them and they were much appreciated by all who came. The School, too, contributed amazing trees which looked wonderful in the Church and were greatly admired.

We will have another Christmas Tree Festival in two years' time. Having a theme seemed to be popular, so we are thinking of concentrating on the days of the Christmas season, with each tree illustrating a different one - e.g. The Annunciation, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, the individual days of the Twelve Days of Christmas, Epiphany, etc. So please put your thinking caps on and be ready for 2017!

## NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The Full PC meets on the second Monday in the in the Cricket Pavilion (the Village Hall in Winter) at 8.00pm.

The meeting is listed every month in the Village Post Office window, on the Notice Board at the Recreation Ground, and in Odsey near the station.

A copy of the full minutes from the Council Meetings may be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk, Sally Walmesley, Redwood Lodge, South Street, Litlington, Royston SG8 0QR. Telephone 01763 852137 or e-mail [sally.walmesley@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.walmesley@btinternet.com). Minutes can also be viewed on the Steeple Morden Village Website [www.steeplemoden.org](http://www.steeplemoden.org) and the Village Post Office. Discussion on agenda items at the December meeting included the following:

- The Parish Council voted to **co-opt Chris Whittington** to the Parish Council
- County Councillor Adrian Dent gave his report: **Guilden Morden School** received a poor Ofsted report and measures are in place. **White line painting** in the Parish will take place in the New Year. **Litlington** is currently undergoing the **addition of speed bumps**. *New cuts are required to Cambs. CC*
- District Councillor Cicely Murfitt gave her report. Again, **Guilden Morden school** have some issues to address. The **South Cambs. Website** was upgraded on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. The **SCDC magazine** should have been delivered to all households.
- **SMFC** presented a plan to **alter the Reading Room** by obtaining a grant of £75K from Sports Aid - the PC, in principle and subject to planning permission, were supportive of the plans. A request was also made for **semi-permanent dugouts** - the PC will discuss at the next meeting after they have seen visuals of similar ones.
- **A505 Junction**. A meeting with Chief Superintendent Hawkins (the lead for road policing matters across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire), Guy McCallan (Traffic Management Officer - North Herts, Stevenage & East Herts), and 2 members of Herts CC determined that a safety audit would not be cost effective as the junction is not in the top 160 dangerous junctions on Hertfordshire. Other measures were agreed (signage, lines/arrows on road, vegetation cutting) - the PC to follow up.
- Cllr John Brocklehurst reported that the number of **cars parked in Odsey** by train users had almost doubled. A local family whose business is running cars parks are going to see if the land at the East of the railway is an option for a new car park.
- Brian Burton has come forward as a **Speedwatch Champion**. 6 other volunteers are needed for the project to go ahead (see page 10).
- The **Budget/Precept 2016/2017** has been drafted and will be reviewed at the next meeting. An increase of £1,000 in the Precept is proposed.
- A complaint has been received about **dog mess on the Recreation Ground**. The PC is to review and discuss what further measures can be applied.
- Cllr Angela Drew reported on the **Recreation Ground/Rec. Working Group**. It is going well and the team are doing a good job.
- Special Projects: The **3 new benches** are in place. The **CCTV images** are being reviewed to see whether they are "good" enough. More examinations and testing will take place after the Village Hall is completed.
- **Proposed new Ward Boundaries**. Comments have been invited as to how the District Councillors wards can be more efficient. County Cllr Murfitt is concerned that proposals which mat suit more concentrated areas of population are not workable for our rural area.
- An appeal is going forward to the rejection of the plans to build **2 houses on the Horse and Groom site**.
- Cllr Sacha Wheatley read out a letter from the **PTA** thanking the PC for their support of the **bonfire and fireworks**. The evening raised about £2K for the school.
- **The PC thanked the Clerk, Sally, for all her hard work this year.**



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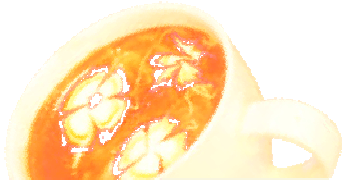
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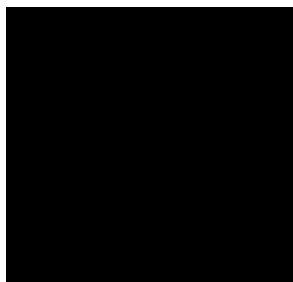
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## Steeple Morden Lunch Club

### New Members and New Helpers Wanted



28 years and still going strong Steeple Morden lunch club invites you to come along and join us. Over 60 and too busy to cook?

We serve a lovely lunch cooked at the village school.

Held at the village hall on Tuesdays during the school term time, a two course lunch followed by tea or coffee.

anyone who may be interested can contact

**Debbie Fisher on 01763 852811**



### **MORDEN YOUNG WRITERS GROUP**

We are a small, informal group, led by a professional writer, who meet on an occasional basis in Steeple Morden.

We discuss and practise all forms of writing (but especially fiction) - inspiration, technique and especially finding that all-important individual 'voice'.

If you are aged 11 - 16, enjoy writing, and want to develop your interest and your skill, do join us - we'd love to see you!

Contact Sarah Harrison 01763 53171  
[novel@sarah-harrison.net](mailto:novel@sarah-harrison.net)

## **Walking with Comberton Ramblers**

Walking is an excellent form of exercise as well as making new friends We are very

fortunate in that Cambridgeshire is an ideal area for walking - it has relatively few hills.

### Regular walking can:

Strengthen your heart,  
your bones and your muscles  
Walking can reduce the risk of:  
Coronary heart disease  
Strokes  
Diabetes  
High blood pressure  
Bowel cancer  
Alzheimer's disease  
Osteoporosis  
Arthritis  
Anxiety  
Stress

### Walking improves your:

Mood and helps combat depression  
Walking can improve your:  
Confidence  
Stamina  
Energy  
Weight control  
Life expectancy

We walk alternative Sunday mornings – between 5 – 6.5 miles. New walkers are welcome to join us with up to 2 free walks, and if you enjoy our walks we request that you become a member.

Our Autumn 2015 walk programme starts on the 6th September 2015. For further details please contact Stella the Secretary.  
[stella.ramblers@hotmail.com](mailto:stella.ramblers@hotmail.com)



Fraudsters are targeting online advertising platforms where items are acquired for free. The fraudsters will list items on the website and advise any purchasers that they have recently moved from the area they were originally living in and can arrange a courier to dispatch the items for a fee.

The payment requested for this service is usually via Money Transfer such as MoneyGram or Western Union, or an e-money voucher. The items they were promised are not received and any attempts to contact the individual to gain a refund are unsuccessful.

### **Protect Yourself:**

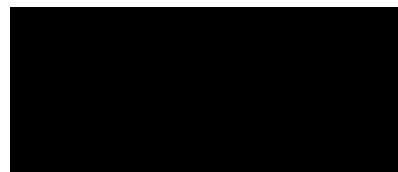
- Stay within the auction guidelines stipulated on the website.
- Ask to view the item in person.
- Be cautious of making advance payments to a stranger via Money Transfer or e-money products.
- If the item advertised seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online [http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud) or by telephone 0300 123 2040.

## **A focus on local businesses**

In support of promoting local businesses, the Newsletter is inviting local businesses to submit a short advertorial about the products and services they offer to be included in a future Newsletter.

The advertorial is to be written by you and can include a couple of photos. The articles need to be no more than half an A4 page including photos. Send it to [newletter@steeplemorden.org](mailto:newletter@steeplemorden.org) – first come, first served basis.

This is YOUR opportunity to tell local people about your local business!



## **Steeple Morden Royal British Legion Women's Section**

**No meeting during January**

Please contact Chairman T Covington (01763 852982)  
or Secretary Pat Smith (01763 852511) for further  
information.

My name is Janice Comerford and I live with my family in Bogs Gap Lane, Steeple Morden. My husband is Sean Comerford, who is a Station Commander with the Fire Service and the face of the man on the microphone at the Harvest Fair and for his yearly Charity Breakfast.

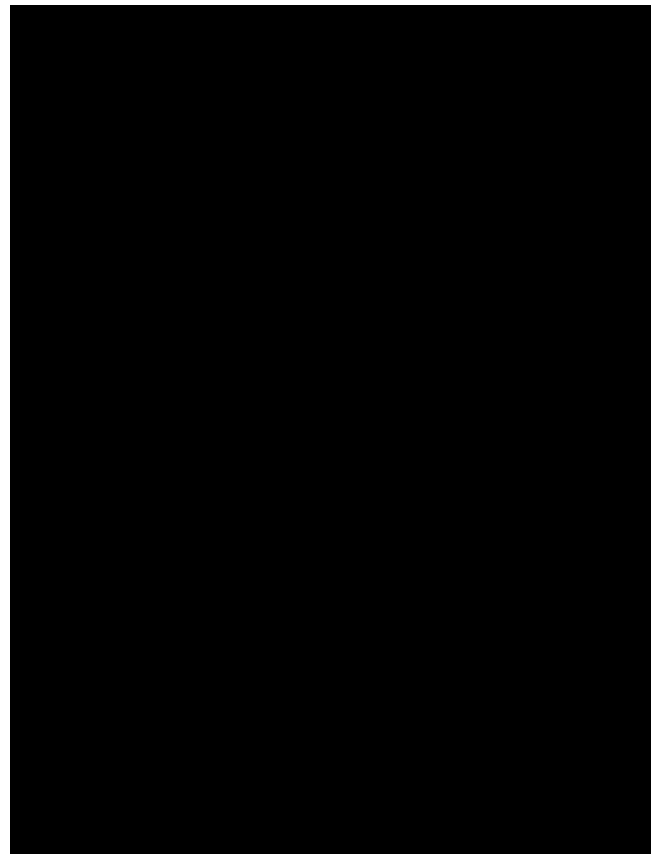
I started Doodles Pet Sitting Services in 2004 and it has gone from strength to strength during that time. I have developed some lovely friendships with people who have booked with me over the years and have formed an attachment to the various pets that have come under my care.

Over the years, I have looked after numerous animals including cats, dogs, birds, small animals and chickens. I have even had the pleasure of looking after ducks!

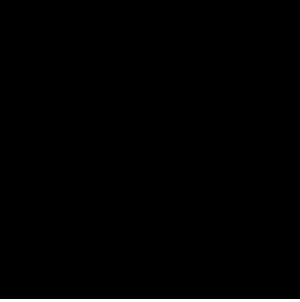
I am police checked and fully insured and come complete with references.

Please feel free to contact me for more information and availability.

Janice







## **Steeple Morden Parish Council Election 2016 - Your Chance to Make a Real Difference to Your Community**

Next year's PC Election will give Steeple Morden's parishioners the opportunity to select their Parish Council for the next four years.

Today, your Parish Council consists of nine dedicated and hard-working individuals representing all aspects of our community and it is important for us all that the Council continues to be well supported and well represented in order to best serve the Parish for the future.

Consequently, the Parish Council is now on the look-out for Parishioners with a real passion for the villages that they live and work in who would like to play a pivotal part in determining the future direction and running of our Parish.

Whether you would like to represent your community as a Parish Councillor or whether you would like to get involved in one of the many Council Working Groups such as Planning, Environment, Finance or Project Implementation we would love to hear from you.

So, if *you* want to make a real difference to your community why not call David Brown on 01763 853793 or email [davidjohnbrown@btinternet.com](mailto:davidjohnbrown@btinternet.com) for an informal chat. more about the opportunities available and what's involved.

Remember, Your Community Needs You!

## **PILATES**

**Pilates classes held at Steeple Morden village hall on  
Fridays 9.30-10.30am**

Exercise is suitable for all ages and fitness  
levels

Pilates builds strength and core stability and improves  
posture, muscle tone and flexibility

For further details contact Larisa on 07791078782 or  
[Larisa.pilates@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Larisa.pilates@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Church Roof Appeal**

Thank you again to all who have responded to the Church Roof Appeal letter from The Friends, delivered with the September copy of Prospect.

The total received so far has just broken through £4000 which is very encouraging. Do please give to this appeal if you are able and let me know in case you have not received it as I have spare copies. The cost of the essential work needed to be done is in the region of £77,000.

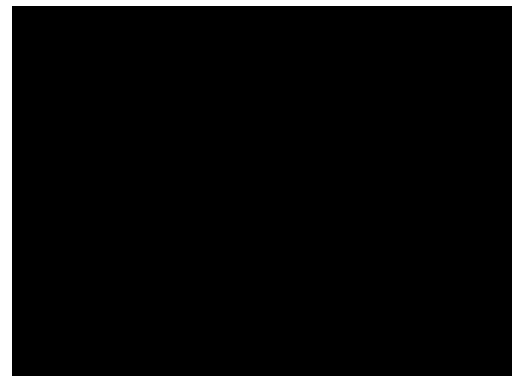
The 'All American Evening' held in the village hall on September 25<sup>th</sup> was a sell-out, attracting some 85 diners to a three course American themed meal accompanied by Californian wines and beer.

The raffle for three magnificent hampers of American food, wine and chocolate proved very popular, one of which was most generously auctioned by the winner.

Songs from American musicals presented by Tom Asher and Fae Evelyn, accompanied by Phil Asher, were warmly appreciated, and the evening raised a total of £1620 towards the roof appeal.

Please look out for details of our regular Christmas Carol Singing around the village....the more voices the better!

David McKee,  
For The Friends of SS Peter & Paul



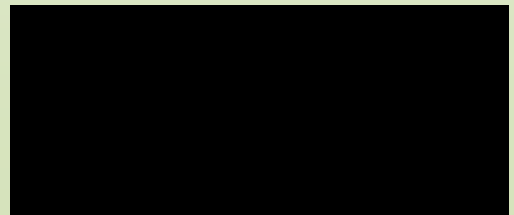
## **Steeple Morden Village Hall – refurbishment update**

After 7 years in the planning and over 2 years of intense fundraising, over £60,000 has been raised to carry out major work which is now almost complete.

The work commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> November. The toilets are almost complete. The new doors will be installed in early January.

The project has replaced the existing men's and ladies toilets, added a disabled toilet with baby changing facility and altered the entrance to have electronic doors and an access ramp. This will deliver a much needed enhancement to the hall making it more accessible to the wider community and keeping this very important facility in Steeple Morden alive.

Our regular users will return to the hall in early January and as an added bonus a small team of volunteers have also decorated the main hall whilst it has been closed. We look forward to welcoming you all back and hope to have an opening ceremony in January.



## **Stay well this winter**

In the past year as many of one in four residents in Cambridgeshire visited A&E when they could have used an alternative service or looked after themselves at home.

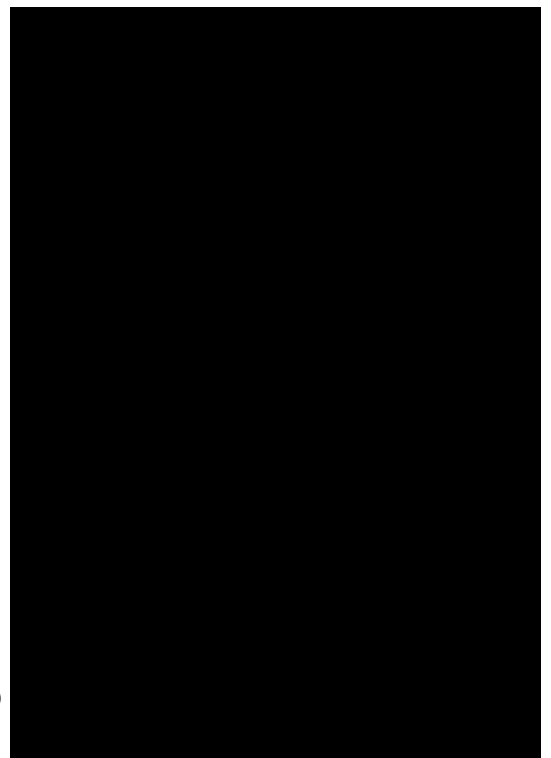
Each visit to A&E costs the local NHS £87, and that's before any treatment is given. When you look at the figures, this costs the local NHS over £4million a year. In turn this is the equivalent cost of 677 hip replacements, or 287 liver transplants or 115 more dementia nurses.

Using A&E when you don't need to can also have a knock-on effect to the rest of the hospital, as busy A&E departments resulted in 500 cancelled operations and procedures because a bed was no longer available, and longer waiting and referral times.

But you can help

- Stay healthy – get a flu vaccination if you are eligible
- Look after others – check on elderly friends, relatives and neighbours especially in spells of cold weather, help them to keep warm and have the medication they might need
- Be prepared – get your prescriptions in early before the holidays and see your pharmacist or GP for any issues you might be putting off
- Choose the right service – your local pharmacy can provide confidential, expert advice and treatment for a range of common illnesses and complaints, without having to wait for a GP appointment.

For help with finding local NHS services visit <http://www.cambsandpeterboroughchoosewell.co.uk/>



## MORDEN MAGPIES JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB - [www.mordenmagpies.co.uk](http://www.mordenmagpies.co.uk)

A family-friendly club seeking players for U6, U7, U8 U9 & U10 age groups.  
Boys and girls of any ability welcome.

Morden Magpies football club has a long history in local junior football. The club restarted in September 2012 and gain Charter status in 2014. We are keen to hear from young boys, girls and parents who would like to join us. This is a family club that enjoys the support of the senior Steeple Morden Football Club. Above all we want young players to have fun, enjoy and learn about the game and be part of a team. If you would like your son or daughter to join the club or would like to find out more please contact any of the following FA-qualified coaches:

Under 6 - Kevin Donnelly - 07860 607416. [kevin@donnelly.tv](mailto:kevin@donnelly.tv)

Under 7 - Martin Holt – 07740215874. [martin.holt@arjconstruction.co.uk](mailto:martin.holt@arjconstruction.co.uk)

Under 8 - Laurence Harrison – 07799625529. [Laurence.harrison@digitalradiouk.com](mailto:Laurence.harrison@digitalradiouk.com)

Under 9 - Andrew Holt – 07850801899. [Andrew.Holt@arjconstruction.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.Holt@arjconstruction.co.uk)

Under 10 - Pete Summers – 07709258359. [peter.summers@virgin.net](mailto:peter.summers@virgin.net)

### NMC Div 2A Recent Results

	<u>Home Team</u>		<u>Away Team</u>
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	City Life	2 - 3	SM 1 <sup>st</sup> Team
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	SM 1 <sup>st</sup> Team	3 - 3	Steeple Bumpstead
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thaxted Rangers	1 - 3	SM 1 <sup>st</sup> Team
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	SM 1 <sup>st</sup> Team	H - W	Meldreth

### NMC Div 5A Reserves Recent Results

	<u>Home Team</u>		<u>Away Team</u>
28 <sup>th</sup> Nov	SM Reserves	0 - 2	Wickhambrook
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Barrington Res	1 - 1	SM Reserves
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	SM Reserves	4 - 1	Haverhill Rovers A
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Fulbourn "A"	3 - 3	SM Reserves

## Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 8:00pm

1. Ref No. S/1712/15/FL - 3 Cheyney Close - Replacement Boundary Fence

**-Recommendation No Objection**

2. Ref No. S/2615/15/FL North Brook End Cottages, 25 North Brook End. Alterations and Extension (Dr Philip Rosher)

**-Recommendation No Objection**

3. Ref No. S/2761/14/FL - Appeal - Horse and Groom - 2 detached houses.

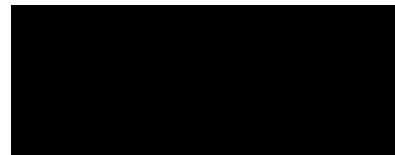
No further comments above those submitted at the initial planning application

### **The Village Wheelchair**



There is a manual wheelchair available for short term use by anyone in the village. For more information and availability please contact Trish at the Post Office.

### **CUTLERY AND CROCKERY HIRE**



We have upwards of 80 sets of dinner plates, dessert bowls, cups and saucers with accompanying knife, fork spoon and teaspoons. We charge 5p per item for hire. Details and more information can be obtained from Diane on 01763 852580. All charges go to our fund raising for Save The Children.



**MOBILE LIBRARY**  
The Mobile Library stops in the village on the first Wednesday of every month.

It stops at Russell Close between 10.10am and 10.55am.

The calling date for January is:  
**Wednesday January 7th**

**The Newsletter is printed by: Hales Printers, 23 Jarman Way, Royston, Hertfordshire. SG8 5HW. 01763 243195. [www.halesprinters.com](http://www.halesprinters.com)**

### **STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL**

The Steeple Morden Village Hall is available for hiring for parties, wedding receptions, club and social activities.

*It comprises: Tables, Seating for 120, Bar, Kitchen, Cooker, Fridge, Crockery, Stage, Parking.*

**\*\*NEW\*\*** We now have a projector and screen available for hire – ask our booking clerk for more details.

For bookings and prices please contact:

**Diane Knight**

**33 Cheyney Street, Steeple Morden, SG8 0LR**

**Tel 01763 853073** (please don't phone between the hours of 6 - 7 p.m.) **email: [Viguersk@aol.com](mailto:Viguersk@aol.com)**

**Contributions sent to the editors prior to the newsletter deadline will normally be printed in the next available edition.**

**The deadline for the February edition is 12 noon on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

***Contact details for the editors are at the top of the first page of the Newsletter***

***Don't forget you can view this issue and back issues of the Newsletter online at [www.steeplemorden.org](http://www.steeplemorden.org) and also subscribe to the monthly e-mail copy of the Newsletter. Lets save money and trees!***