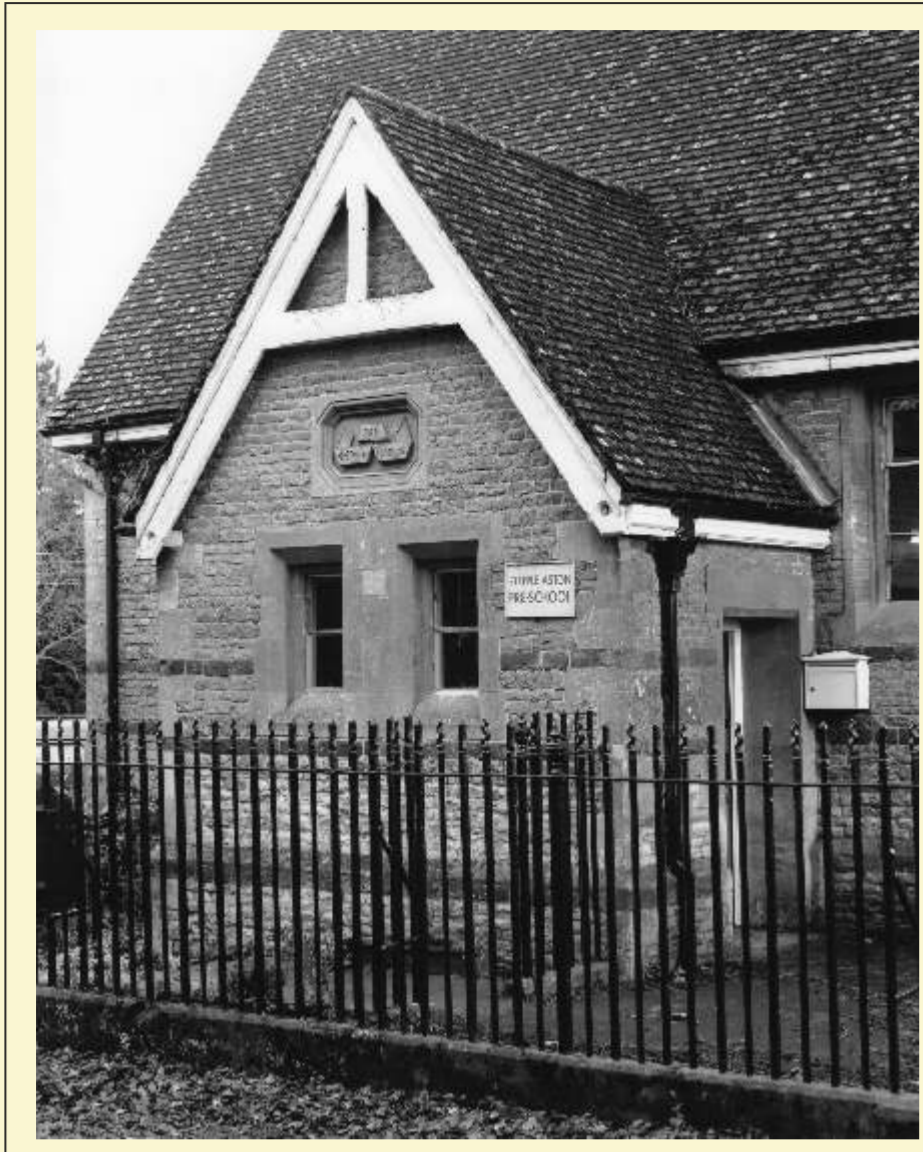


COMMUNITY CARE



(Above): Initially called Steeple Aston playgroup, established in 1970, the Pre-School has continued to provide daycare for under-5s in the former Infants School in Fir Lane.

(Below): The mobile children's library, seen here parked next door to the Pre-School in 2015, visits every two weeks.



MEALS ON WHEELS

In May 1978 a group of local residents started to run a Meals on Wheels service, in the village. Food would be prepared and kept hot while it was delivered by car to the grateful recipients. Most are elderly and infirm, but those temporarily disabled could benefit too. Over the years, up to 13 village folk have received lunch twice a week, although numbers have fluctuated considerably. In recent years, the practice has continued as an informal neighbourly arrangement.



The red door on the right of the photo above was the entrance to the Doctor's surgery in Paines Hill. This was one of four locations of the surgery over the years, the last one being the Village Hall. When Deddington Health Centre opened in 1974, many people felt that the loss of their village doctor was an unfortunate blow.

COAL BARN

The Steeple Aston Coal Club was formed in 1830 to buy coal directly from the wharf at Lower Heyford; it was then stored in the specially-constructed building on Paines Hill until required by the members. By 1996 only a few people were using the club, and then only for heating; gas had been available in the village since 1988. The Committee decided to wind up the Club in November 1996.



WI outing of 1973

THE BLUE LION

In 1977 an Age Committee for Older People was set up in the village to provide a day centre. However, it wasn't until 1996 that it became a reality, named The Blue Lion Centre (presumably because we already had a red and a white one). It ran for a few years, based in the Youth building, until 1998 when it folded for lack of customers.

Ellen Bedding with Paul: Dr. Radcliffe's School ran a scheme by which younger residents would read to older ones.



VALENTINE CLUB

The Valentine Club was started in 1954, one of the first in the County, as a social club for villagers of a certain age. Today it is the largest of its kind in Oxfordshire, with 100 members and a waiting list.

Christmas party 2005 (Top right): T. Haines, D. Haines, Mrs Keys, Mrs Gardner. Mr and Mrs Allen (Right) Mrs Oliver, Mrs Gardner and Amy Cattermole



(Right) Elsie and Jack Hudson with Joyce Bedding at the 60th anniversary party of the Club in 2010.



(Bottom right): Valentine Club Garden party held at Primrose Cottage in 2005.

