



If you are not one of Steeple Aston's older folk, you may not know that the village post office for many years had its own franking stamp (above, from 1907); that there have been at least six pubs in the village, and eight shops (although not all at the same time, of course); South Street had a village stocks, Fenway was once gated, and that at the bend next to the site of the new Coneygar Fields houses, there was for many years a pond. All this knowledge and much more resides in some form in the Village History Centre, home of SAVA's archive.

Since its opening in September 2013, local people and those with distant connections have been bringing in old photographs, documents and artefacts which they want to see preserved for posterity for the village of Steeple Aston. We are happy to accept any original material directly related to the village, and if you can't part with it we can scan or photograph it for you.

Contained in the humidity-controlled store room are items dating from the C18th to the present day. There are early photographs of many of the old houses of the village and of course the church and school, leases and other documents, Parish Council records dating from the 1850s, and a rare village War Book (top right) outlining action to be taken during WW2 in the event of invasion, and many more fascinating gems. All these items are stored in conservation-grade boxes, with

WAR BOOK.

TOWN.....
 PARISH *Steeple Aston*.....
 DISTRICT *Banbury R.D.*

POPULATION (approx) *600.*

PART I.

HEADQUARTERS *Dr. Radcliffe's School.* TEL. NO. *240.*

Composition of Invasion Committee.

	Name.	Address.	Tel. No.
Chairman	<i>Mr Pearson</i>	<i>Steeple Aston</i>	<i>240.</i>
Deputy Chairman..	<i>E. Pennington</i> ..	<i>Westfields</i>	<i>277.</i>

some of the more fragile documents and photographs kept individually in special plastic sleeves. SAVA's catalogue currently lists in excess of 1,500 items, with more still in the process of being catalogued.

SAVA's Autumn exhibition and Spring talk on related themes each year illustrate the extensive range of historical materials which are available for research and investigation relating to the life and times of the village. Our recent exhibition on the 1767 village Enclosure Map, for example, gave many a chance to try to identify the sites of their houses, and to identify the C18th owners of orchards and meadows on which houses have since been built.

The History Centre is open every Saturday morning from 10 am till noon giving you the opportunity to bring in your items, discuss village history, see what we actually hold, or embark on your own research.

