



Fond farewell and hats off to Mrs Liddle

Thursday March 21 2013 was a very special day in the history of Sherston School as a fond farewell was bade to Debby Liddle, reception teacher and deputy head who has been with the school for 21 years. The main hall was packed with well-wishers from pupils and teachers (past and present), governors and parents. Debby is planning on doing some travelling with her husband, before an extended stay in Australia.

Mr Bowditch delivered a lovely assembly with the help of all the school to mark the occasion.

Starting off with a power point presentation of 'What makes a Mrs Liddle' Mr Bowditch talked about the special qualities she has which have made her a hugely popular teacher. From all her hard work in setting up the Sherston Musul school, to being a follower of fashion and her amazing hat collection. He shared pictures of her through her time at Sherston and even from her childhood, from the time she met the Queen to playing netball.

The rest of the assembly was jam packed with all sorts of heart-felt acknowledgements to Debby's great career with Sherston. All the classes took a turn to say thank you, to share some special memories and to hand over individual thank you cards shaped as hats. The Netball team did a fun rap and Debby's current class did a lovely rendition of Oak Class Rock 'n' Roll (to the tune of Harvest Rock 'n' roll)

The assembly was interspersed with hymns, video clips and sound bites of ex pupils saying the positive impact Debby had on their lives. There was a photo medley to Adam Ant and even some video footage from the BBC when they came to the school in 1995.

Mr Bowditch presented Debby with a PC tablet and a camera for her travels.

Debby then spoke and with the aid of children in the audience wearing her hats, she explained what coming to Sherston School meant to her, and thanked the school for all the opportunities she had been given. She then unveiled some gifts for the school – a hat stand, two library seats filled with hats and some hat related books.

As one pupil said during the assembly 'Mrs Liddle might be going, but won't be forgotten'.



Thanks Jade

At the end of this month Jade Thomson will be leaving the Cliffhanger team for a full time job before moving on to university later in the year. Jade has been an invaluable member of the team being in charge of all the advertising administration. We wish her all the very best for the future. During April Jade will be handing over her role to James Kutchera who has very kindly agreed to take up the advertising baton.

Walk with Sue

Sue McKechnie's next walk will be on Sunday 28 April. Please assemble at the village hall for 10.00am with a return to the Rattlebone Inn just around 12noon in time for a complimentary snack. As ever children and well behaved dogs on leads are very welcome. Let's hope we will all be basking in the spring sunshine by then.

Copy deadline: 10th of the previous month.
Send to editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk
or hard copy to Sherston Post Office Stores.

What's On: contact Caroline Moore on
841405 or info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk

The size and content of the Cliffhanger depends entirely on the amount of copy we receive from individuals and groups. So, if you feel you have something of interest, please don't hesitate to tell us. Around 400 words would be a maximum but the shorter the better and less editing would be needed.

Top tip: if you're telling us of an event coming up, write a short piece about it rather than just supply basic details or a poster. You will then get a short article published to help boost interest as well as a mention in our What's On section. Don't forget to tell us how your event went, with a photo if possible.

To advertise, contact:
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Jade Thomson 840785 Beryl Clampton 841201

Advertising rates:
for 12 months:
1/4 page £200; 1/8 page £100; and 1/16 page £50
for one month:
1/4 page £80; 1/8 page £40; and 1/16 page £20

Inserted leaflet drop £75

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of advertisements contained in this publication, Cliffhanger cannot accept any liability for errors and omissions. Inclusion of an advert should not be taken as an endorsement by Sherston Parish Council.

Please remember the Cliffhanger is delivered free to every home and business in the parish – more than 950 copies. This and all previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

PRINTED BY THE COMPLETE PRODUCT COMPANY, PINKNEY

Thank you for your contribution to the new Zip Wire



By the time you read this edition hopefully the zip wire will be fully functional and in full use. We wanted to say thank you to everyone who contributed to Mark's Memorial fund which raised a total of £10,096.37, which has been used to fund the zip wire. This money came from the collection at his funeral in lieu of flowers, the fun day and the calendar. Without all of your support and contributions none of this would have been possible. It is a fitting tribute to the fun loving person Mark was, his smile and laughter fill our hearts and always will; thank you from The Doyle Family.

Sherston School Red Nose Day

On Friday 15 March, pupils and teachers at Sherston school dressed in red to raise money for 'Red Nose Day' - from t-shirts to dresses, noses to deely bobbars, shoes to hair! Budding chefs from Year 6 also made cakes to sell at break time.



Electric blanket causes bedroom fire

A fire that badly damaged a bedroom and caused extensive smoke damage to the first floor of a house in Norton, near Malmesbury, was caused by a fault in an electric blanket. Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service was called to the property at 9.10pm on Saturday 23 March after fire broke out in a first floor bedroom. Five crews from Malmesbury, Chippenham (two), Tetbury and Cirencester tackled the blaze supported by an Incident Command Vehicle and crew from Stratton St. Margaret. The British Red Cross Fire Victim Support Unit also attended from Westlea Fire Station to provide welfare and assistance to the occupier.

Eight firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used two hose reel jets to extinguish the fire, which was contained to the room of origin due to the early warning provided by smoke detectors fitted throughout the house. Firefighters also used a mechanical fan to clear the smoke from the property. Following a fire investigation, the cause of the fire has been identified as a faulty electric blanket. Station Manager Wayne Jones said: 'While the electric blanket, which we believe started this fire, was not particularly old it is important that they are regularly checked for signs of wear. This can cause a breakdown of the structure and lead to incidents such as this. Wear can be caused in a number of ways such as through folding when not required, or regular use. If there are signs of wear you should refrain from using the blanket.'

Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service offers free home fire safety advice – for further details, and to see if you qualify for a home visit, call 0800 389 7849 or visit www.wiltshirefire.gov.uk

Sherston WI's open meeting

Come and hear Penny Junior romp through her stories for 30 years as a royal biographer and journalist. She has many tales to tell. This is an open meeting; you don't have to be a member to come along. Thursday 18 April in the village hall, 7.30pm Tickets available from the post office, £5 to include refreshments.

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Changes

Thanks are due to Tony Weedon for his work over recent years as local coordinator of the Sherston Neighbourhood Watch scheme and to Beryl Clampton who has kindly agreed to take over this important role. The parish council continues to support the scheme by funding the costs of meetings and signage.

Bag2School fundraiser for Sherston school

The Friends of Sherston School (FSS) are trying a new way to fundraise. Something lots of primary schools are involved in is Bag2School so the FSS thought it was worth a try. Children at the school were recently sent home with a bag to be filled with any unwanted clothes, paired footwear, curtains, towels, blankets, soft toys, belts and handbags. All donations will be collected by the charity Bag2School on Thursday 11 April. Bag2School will then send the school a cheque based on the weight of the items - simple!

If you don't have a child at the school but would like to donate any items, please contact Sophie Cheetham on 07786 990045 or at sophcheetham@gmail.com. All donations must be in a reusable condition please (so no holes please!) and will be needed before Thursday 11 April.

The FSS are currently raising money to replace and extend the green felt underneath the school fitness trail, to make a larger area for all-weather play. They are also raising funds for a small canopy for Ash class so that children can play and learn outside all year round. There will be play equipment too so that children from all years can use the canopy at break times. The cost of these projects is too large to be covered by the government funding that the school is given.

Thank you for your support.

The Rattlebone Inn

01666 840871

Monday to Friday Lunchtimes

Soup & A Sandwich £7

Bowl of Pasta & A Glass of Pinot Grigio £9.95

Evenings

Mondays - Gourmet Burger & Quiz Night

Wednesdays - Steak Night £29.95
(2 Rump Steaks, Chips, salad & a Bottle of House Wine)

Sundays - Homemade Pizza Night



Neighbourhood Watch

We now have a new coordinator for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Sherston. This has been dormant for a while and we now find that we are short of a few road coordinators. These are listed below. If you feel you can take one of them on please let me know. It may be that some road coordinators, who are out during the day, share their area with somebody who is around during the day and can keep an eye out for anything strange.

To get the system running efficiently it is necessary for all the road coordinators to have as many e-mail addresses as possible. This makes it simpler for them to notify people of messages. It is essential for a road coordinator to have an e-mail address where they can just press a button and pass a message on, as we cannot expect people to go round on foot putting notes through letterboxes. Messages can be given to people without e-mails in this way, this but not a whole road.

To this end I would be grateful if anybody who wishes to receive the Neighbourhood Watch information sends in their e-mail to the address below.

If you do not have an e-mail address and wish to receive the updates please put your name, address and telephone number on a piece of paper and hand it in to the Post Office. This will ensure that your road coordinator has all the information necessary to pass the messages, where relevant, to you.

Sherston is a village that does not have a lot of trouble but it is always a good idea to be vigilant. For additional coverage relevant notices will be put on the notice board in the Post Office. We will also be holding a meeting in the Village Hall. The date and time of this will be in the Cliffhanger and on the Village Hall and Post Office noticeboards.

The roads that do not have coordinators with the necessary e-mail access are

High Street (this can be split)	Gaston Lane (Upper)
Gaston Lane (Lower)	Brook Hill
Cliff Road	Knockdown Road
Green Lane	Manor Close 22-41
The Tartars 1-21, 36-39	Grove Road

If you have not already done so please let me have your e-mail address as soon as possible and we can get the scheme up and running. Just send an e-mail with the subject NHW to beryl@clampton.com.

If anybody has any useful further suggestions please contact me and let me have them.

One further point is that we have been given the following information from the central Neighbourhood Watch organisation. If anybody wishes to know more about this I have all the necessary information.

We are pleased to announce that we have secured free Public Liability Insurance for all Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch schemes across England and Wales to enable volunteers to carry out their roles. The policy starts from the 1st April 2013 and will run

until the 31st March 2014.

The policy covers any scheme registered with an Authority recognised or verified by the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network. This includes the police service, the local authority or constituted NHW Associations. There will be no need for each police force or NHW Association to register with the policy holder (NHWN) or the broker (Towergate Insurance). In an event of a claim it will be for the Scheme or Association to evidence how they are recognised as a NHW Scheme or Association in line with local policies and procedures or within their constitution.

What is covered?

If any of your activities cause injury to third parties or damage to third party property the insurer will cover claims arising for up to £5 million per claim occurring during the insured period.

The insurance applies for activities which are undertaken with your full knowledge, authority and under your control in line with good practice procedures and adhering to all relevant local policies and practices.

The erection and maintenance of signs and posters, including whilst erecting, is covered providing that the lower edge of the sign is not less than 2.1 metres above the footway.

Neighbourhood and Home Watch events, street parties and Neighbourhood and Home Watch stands at other peoples events are covered provided they are not prohibited by any exclusion criteria

The cover is also for other Wider Watches, Junior NHW and Speed Watch, if incorporated into a NHW Scheme or Association and local policies and practices are adhered to

There is no age restriction (upper or lower) placed on the cover

Beryl Clampton

841201 07850623517 beryl@clampton.com

Julian Lloyd Webber is coming to Malmesbury Abbey ...

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society is thrilled to be welcoming Julian Lloyd Webber to Malmesbury Abbey for the first time on Saturday 11 May at 7:30pm. Julian will be accompanied by Rebeca Ormodia and will give a wonderfully varied cello recital including Bach's Adagio in G, Bridge's Scherzetto, Ireland's The Holy Boy, Britten's Scherzo Pizzicato from Sonata in C, op 65, Faure's Elergie, Saint-Saens' The Swan, Delius' Sonata (1915), William Lloyd Webber's In The Half Light and Rachmaninov's Sonata, op 19. The evening promises to be a real treat.

Tickets, priced at £20 / £5 (students), can be obtained from the Abbey Bookshop, the MAMS Ticket Secretary, David Barton, on 824924 or email d.barton763@btinternet.com or Joy Smith on 840865. Alternatively, they can be bought online through the Malmesbury website (www.malmesbury.com/mams).

However it is not too late to become a member. For £55 you get a season ticket that covers all the season's concerts, while £10 membership gets you discounted tickets. The society also organises trips to musical events, the annual highlight being our trip to the BBC Proms at the Albert Hall.

Contact David Barton for further details.

1016 Book Sale

The first of our popular book sales for the year is set for Saturday 13 April in

Sherston Village Hall from 9 am to 12 noon – free entry. As ever we will have a huge selection of books to choose from with most at only 25p each or 5 for £1. If you have any books, videos, CDs or DVDs to donate these may be left with Mike Tarrant at Grays of Sherston. All proceeds from the sale go towards the senior citizens' Christmas vouchers.

High Street

The planned for improvements to the High Street are due to begin during April and are likely to take 5 weeks to complete. Any residents of the High Street likely to be affected directly by the works should receive advance notice from the contractor.

Eucharist to mark the end of term at Sherston School



The children filled Sherston Church for the first Eucharist service that the school has held.

The service was conducted by Christopher Bryan, Becky Fisher and Phil Daniels. It included a dramatized reading, child led prayers and uplifting hymns. Mary Clements' school choir sang during the service and Alex from school played the organ.

The theme was saying 'goodbye'. Just as Jesus said goodbye to his friends, sharing bread and wine at the last supper - the school said goodbye to the term and to Mrs Liddle (whose last day co-incided with the service). Pupils, teachers and parents lined up in the church to take part in the communion service – with the children receiving grapes, and the staff and parents taking communion.

C.J.GOUGH

PAINTER &
DECORATOR

41 The Tarters,
Sherston,
Malmesbury,
Wiltshire
SN16 0NT

Telephone:
01666 841003

Sherston Church of the Holy Cross

Thanks to all those who returned their Electoral Roll forms - the completed list will be in church for the Annual Parish Church meeting on 14 April at the 9.30 service and all are invited to come to learn more about the church.

If you forgot to fill in your form you can still do so and return it and your name will be added next year.

Shortly, everyone in the parish will receive another leaflet from the church. Please read it carefully as it explains that our church has currently more expenses and outgoings than it has income. It is nearly 20 years since we last asked the general population of the village for regular financial support (there was, of course, the amazingly generous contribution that the village made to the new roof appeal). But now we need people to make a commitment to give regularly to help us cover rising costs of, for example, ministry, heating and insurance. Many of our regular congregation already make a standing order from their bank (and these people do not need to respond to the request unless they wish to change the amount they give) but this number is relatively small in comparison to the population of the village. There are probably many more who are keen to preserve the fabric of the building, to keep it warm and welcoming and to support the work of the church even if they don't attend it very frequently.

Please respond generously to this request.

Meeting of the parish council

The parish council meets on Thursday 11 April in the village hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities to raise questions and pass comments. If you cannot make the meeting but have something to raise please contact the clerk Mrs. Sarah Wood on 840197 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. You can also contact the council via the response form on www.sherston.org.uk where minutes of meetings can be read.

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or 07850 623517
e-mail: beryl@clampton.com

Saturday tennis lessons for kids

Sherston Tennis Club will be running Saturday morning tennis lessons again for school-age children, starting on Saturday 20 April.

The course is due to run for 10 weeks, with three groups (based on age/ability):

- 9.00am-10.00am;
- 10.00am-11.00am; and
- 11.00am-12.00.

The cost of the 10 lessons is £45, plus membership to Sherston Tennis Club (child: £20, family: £90, with a 50% discount to anyone signing up by the end of April).

If you're interested in enrolling your child(ren), please contact Sophie Cheetham at sophcheetham@gmail.com or on 07786 990045.

World Book Day at Luckington Pre-school

Thursday 7 March saw the children at Luckington Pre-school celebrating World Book Day. Everyone dressed as their favourite character from a story and we had a royalty of princesses, a banner of knights, a Dr Seuss cat in the hat, Puss in Boots, a nurse, pirate, cowboy and even Angelina Ballerina.

Great fun was had throughout the day, with each child given a picture and asked to make up a story. Their imaginations ran wild and we had princesses, witches, frogs, pirates, sharks and more having adventures with the children including themselves in the stories along with their friends and family. The stories were written down and have been kept for the children to look back on in the years to come.

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Thank you

Belinda and Andy would like to thank everyone who has sent congratulations following the birth of Max Thomas Tremellen. We are overwhelmed by the generosity and love shown for him and it demonstrates why there could be no better place than this village for him to grow up. Thank you.



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More sports successes at Sherston

Hot on the heels (literally) of the Sherston Primary School gymnastics awards came a blur of runners taking part in two cross-country festivals. So hungry were they for cross-country recognition that our PR team cameras barely managed to catch them.

Firstly, at the Westonbirt School Cross Country festival on 20 February, a total of 37 Sherston pupils took part (Years 3 – 6). It was a tough run against the elements that day and, as part of a field of 500 runners, the Sherston teams did well against some very tough competition. Although we came away without any top prizes, mention must be made of those who ran a great race on the day and who led the way for Sherston. These include: Evie Worbys, Alicia Ratcliffe, Maisie Laddle, Oscar Power, James Hulme, Ed Watling, Kyle Van Rooyen, Thomas Warboys, Willa Gibb, Millie Harvey, Luke Tappin and Emily Vaughan.

Just one week later on another freezing cold day the runners were out again, this time at the Malmesbury School Cross-Country Competition, competing against six other schools.

Team and Individual Results:

Years 3 & 4 Boys Team Result:

1st Sherston 'A' Team

Individual results:

1st James Hulme and 3rd Alex Laddle

Year 3 & 4 Girls Team Result:

1st Sherston 'A' Team

Individual results:

1st Willa Gibb and 2nd Lucy Peevers

Year 5 & 6 Boys Team Result:

2nd: Sherston 'A' Team

Years 5 & 6 Girls Team Result:

1st Sherston 'A' Team

Individual results:

1st Milly Harvey and 3rd Emily Vaughan

The Sherston runners really pulled out all the stops and brought in fantastic results across every year group – the result of a lot of hard work, effort and sheer determination. Well done to everyone who took part. The team was organised by Ms Wilde and Mrs Leatherland, and headteacher Nick Bowditch arranged a special assembly to present the winners with their certificates.



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Beaufort Hunt raises £2186.22 for the Air Ambulance at annual Charity Meet



As ever, the Beaufort Hunt was keen to support the Air Ambulance and at the annual charity meet held this year at Wick Farm, Luckington, hosted most generously by farmers Andy and Hayley Godwin, the sum raised in a short 30 minutes was a staggering £2,186.22.

The Beaufort was keen to support this valuable service, especially as from time to time its members have benefitted from their services.

For many years, the annual charity meet has been held at nearby Hundred Acre Farm, the home of Olive and the late Leslie Milsom whose support for

many differing charities has been outstanding. Sadly this year, owing to Mr Milsom's illness, the meet was moved to nearby Wick Farm where the Godwins stepped in and filled the breach.

Photo shows (left to right) Captain Ian Farquhar, joint master of the Beaufort Hunt, Chris Casey, field master, and Tony Holdsworth, huntsman. At front, Noel Banks and Louise Cox from Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Photo www.ttlvideos.com

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Did you know that more than a dozen clubs and groups regularly meet at the British School Room in Cliff Road?

Full details are given below – please get in touch if you're interested in joining one of the many activities.

Sherston Senior Club

Tuesday 2.30pm, fortnightly Rosemary Venning (840915)

Clem's Club

Tuesday 2.30pm–4.00pm, fortnightly

Roger Clements (840688)

Sherston Occasional Community Choir

Wednesday 7.00pm– 9.00pm Jill Woodward (840578)

Wiltshire Education for Adults

Friday morning Tony Wood (840558)

Drawing and Art Classes

Wednesday Heather Martin (840375)

Glass Fusion Workshops

Occasional – next courses 19 & 20 April Jill Ashley (840993)

Drama Club

Tuesday and Thursday evening Richard Skeffington (840092)

Guitar Club

Monday evening Chris Driver (841130)

Women's Institute (for Winter sessions only.)

Thursday 2.00pm – 4.00pm Sheila Harris (840518)

Theatre club

Helen Quirk (840516)

In Touch Occasional meetings

Helen Price (503187)

Family Fest – Churches Together

(Anglican/Methodist/Congregational)

Fourth Sunday of the month at 4.00pm (except July/August/September) becky.fisher@deanery.org.uk or rebeccasimpkins@btinternet.com

Sherston Congregational Church

First and second Sunday: 11.00am–12.00noon. Third Sunday: 3.00pm. Fourth Sunday: 4.00pm.

clementsmary@btinternet.co.uk (07778 934742)

More is on the way, including a 'Kick start your week' exercise class - watch this space for details ...

And don't forget, the British School Room is available to hire for your club, group or birthday party. Special rates apply, just ask for details.



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Elections - reminder

All 13 seats on Sherston Parish Council are up for re election on Thursday 2 May.

Nomination papers can be lodged from Monday 18 March with a deadline of 12 noon on Friday 5 April. For full details see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/elections/forthcomingelections/unitaryandparishelections.htm

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor and want to know more about what's involved please speak to any present councillor or the Clerk Sarah Wood on 840197. Sarah will also be able to provide you with nomination papers which are also available directly from Wiltshire Council.

Elections for Wiltshire Council will also take place on 2 May.

SHERSTON CHURCHES TOGETHER INVITE YOU TO...



FAMILY FEST



Fourth Suns at 4 – 5.30 pm – Cliff Rd.Brit.Schoolroom

FEB 24th

MARCH 24th

APRIL 28th

MAY 26th

JUNE 23rd

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A parent's journey to pre-school

Mornings are rather stressful in our house. If the children aren't dressed by eight, I know I am going to be late. I try my best to squeeze in milk, breakfast, hair, teeth, vitamins, odd glove hunting, missing shoe searching, and getting everyone toggled up for the journey ahead - all in the next 45 minutes. If I'm super-organised (and everyone is compliant), I can even unload the dishwasher (a rare event).

Anyway, so we are now all ready to leave the house and set off for Busy Hands Pre-School. My three children are all three years old so I'm still training them to walk carefully along roads and to stop at appropriate places. We stop at each road, hold hands and 'stop, look and listen'. It is an eventful journey from Strongs Close to the village hall for a number of reasons. One being that shifting three three-year-olds anywhere is hard work and I'm trying hard to teach my children about road safety all along the way.

At nine o'clock in the morning, the lowered kerb on the corner of Manor Close and Knockdown Road generally has a car parked across it so we cross where we can. We then tend to make it relatively unscathed to Green Lane and the junction between Court Street, Knockdown Road and the Sopworth Road.

I announce, 'What do we need to look out for here?' 'Dog poo and fast cars, Mummy.' Eyes to the ground then, as we have yet to walk along that stretch without having to dodge something dubious.

Sensible walking now helps us to end up safely at the point where Court Street splits outside the hairdressers. It is here that my stress levels reach their peak. Hopefully no one has trodden in poo or fallen over, so we start to walk along the last part of Court Street opposite the old post office where there are two white lines marking a pedestrian pathway. Yes, I said a PEDESTRIAN pathway, not a place for cars to park! Unfortunately, more often than not, there is a car parked on this pedestrian pathway so I have to walk in the middle of the road with my children up to the High Street. As you can imagine, at ten past nine this is a busy time and there is a lot of car activity. Seriously, my children and I are being put in the path of oncoming cars; this is not a good experience.

Our goal is almost in sight! Crossing the High Street by the tree to the Post Office sounds simple but our last challenge is to hope that nobody has parked right across the white lines outside the post office forcing us to walk on the main road for the final 20 yards.

We eventually arrive at Busy Hands and my stress levels can go down, we have arrived safely.

Generally, three-year-olds are very much in to what's right and what's wrong, so they often ask me why people are parking in the wrong places or why there is dog poo on the ground. I find it difficult to answer them.

Please, I ask that you take time to consider where you park your car and consider the needs of everyone in this village. I have a dog and I have never found it difficult to clear up his mess so please, please, please keep my children's shoes poo-free.

Thank you for reading this far, rant over and out.

SmallAds

You can now advertise items for sale or wanted in the Cliffhanger including services required such as gardening or cleaning. Cost is £2 for up to 20 words. Copy should be in paper form and put through the letterbox at 37 High Street by the 15th of the month together with £2 in cash. All monies raised will be donated to charity.

Private advertisers only please – no businesses.

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Sherston Boules Day Saturday 13 July 2013 - Stalls

Stalls for Boules day are quickly filling up. One of my aims is to fill every available space with varied and unusual stalls, which will in turn attract more visitors. If you would like to book a stall for this year's event please contact me on 841233 or by email Sharon.doyle@sjpp.co.uk as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Sharon Doyle.



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Wessex Concert Orchestra: Concert at Malmesbury Abbey

The Wessex Concert Orchestra is very much looking forward to returning to Malmesbury Abbey on Saturday 20 April to perform its spring concert:

Mendelssohn's Symphony No.3 (The Scottish)

Beethoven's Egmont Overture

Slovak Suite by Vítězslav Novak

The Wessex Concert Orchestra is based in Chippenham and is a dynamic amateur symphony orchestra that plays a variety of music, ranging from light music and film works through to classical pieces, symphonies and concertos. Players come from a wide area in North Wiltshire, including the Malmesbury area and further afield into Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. Do come along and hear this versatile, and exciting local orchestra.

Tickets, priced £10, or £8 for under 16s and concessions, are available from Malmesbury Abbey Bookshop, via the website www.wco.org.uk, and on the door. Concert start time: 7.30pm.

There are a few vacancies in some sections of the orchestra. If you would like to find out more, please visit the website or contact md@wco.org.uk.

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PEOPLE PHOTOGRAPHER

Sherston Living Churchyard

My optimistic comments about the arrival of spring last month seem somewhat misplaced, as I'm writing this to the accompaniment of an Arctic blast outside and some of the lowest temperatures of the year. A small group did manage to get into the churchyard on 9 March, despite a miserably damp and chilly day. We cleared a lot of the undergrowth which has grown up in the woodland area during a year when nothing was done there. This was threatening to overwhelm the bluebells and wood anemones, which were planted there in 2011 and are just starting to show their first growth this spring. The primroses and snowdrops planted there are already flowering well and show up much better now this clearance has taken place. We were heartened as we worked by the comment of someone passing by that she had not noticed these flowers before and how beautiful they looked. It's good to know that our efforts are indeed both benefiting wildlife and making the churchyard a more attractive place to be – the twin aims of our work

Yesterday evening I heard a blackbird singing from my neighbour's garage roof, as it struggled to maintain its perch in a snow flurry. The natural world does show spring is near, even though it may not seem like it at the moment. Once again I'll look forward to a better session next month, this time from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Saturday 13 April.

Sue Robinson

841263

Andrew James

QUALITY TRAVEL

PORTSMOUTH OR SOUTHSEA

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH 2013
ADULT: £18.00 SENIOR: £17.00 CHILD: £16.00

Portsmouth is home to three historic ships, HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the Mary Rose. It is also the birthplace of Charles Dickens. You can visit the museums and historic harbour or shop at the Gunwharf Quays Shopping village. Southsea seafront has a wide variety of attractions and facilities to enjoy and the sea views across the Solent are always interesting due to the ships and other vessels passing close to the shore.

Tetbury 09:00 Sherston 09:20 Malmesbury 09:40
Return 16:30

STRATFORD UPON AVON

SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2013
ADULT: £15.00 SENIOR: £14.00 CHILD: £12.00

Stratford-upon-Avon is the birthplace of William Shakespeare, steeped in culture and history. Set in the beautiful rural Warwickshire countryside, on the banks of the river Avon. As you walk in Shakespeare's footsteps through the historic town, see the Shakespeare houses, 15th century timber-framed buildings and discover the many tea houses, pubs and shops.

Malmesbury 09:00 Sherston 09:20 Tetbury 09:40
Return 16:30

CARDIFF CITY OR CARDIFF BAY

SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2013
ADULT: £16.00 SENIOR: £14.00 CHILD: £12.00

Cardiff city centre has a maze of shops. The old and the new nestle harmoniously in Cardiff whose Victorian/Edwardian style shopping arcades sit comfortably next to modern shopping centres. Cardiff Bay is just a mile from the City. Visitors can enjoy a wide range of restaurants bars and shops.

Malmesbury 09:00 Sherston 09:20 Tetbury 09:40
Return 16:30

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Walk on the wild side

It's all change - as usual

For me, this is the most exciting time of the year, with the countryside emerging from the winter, the trees turning to green and migrating birds arriving in large numbers and starting to nest. We also have a large number of birds leaving for Scandinavia, such as fieldfares and redwings.

March has been cold so the bird migration may well be a bit delayed this year. Many of the birds taking up summer residence around the village will have spent the winter in the Mediterranean or West Africa and aim to time their return to ensure there is plenty of food (ie insects) around when their chicks hatch in May and beyond. With the poor harvest of wild berries this winter, please keep your bird feeders topped up.

Among the first to arrive will be the chiffchaffs - one of a number of the little brown jobs that duck and dive along our hedgerows and field boundaries (see picture) and are common along the Cliff (just listen for their distinctive song which sounds just like their name!). A number of blackcaps (which look similar except for a black or brown cap) were here over the winter but these will migrate north for the summer, with new ones arriving from the south.

Every so often, an unexpectedly large number of a species of bird or insect arrive either in the autumn or the spring, such as the waxwings we saw last winter, known as an irruption. This year we may well get a large number of black-fronted wallabies, which arrive in the area every few years because of the mangold harvest. It takes quite some time for them to migrate here as it's not easy hopping all the way from Australia and they need to be good swimmers. You may find them building nests in your chimney!

Work on Grove Wood has been completed for a few years; the hazel coppice will be allowed to grow before it will need to be cut again. One of the last tasks this year was to open up parts of the footpath by removing some large shrubs to encourage more butterflies and birds, such as marsh tits. If you get a chance, please let me know which butterflies you see in Grove Wood this summer.

For those who like an early start, I will be running a Dawn Chorus walk on Saturday 4 May. Meet outside Stretchline on the road to Luckington at 4.15am (that's not a typo!). This will take place if the weather is OK. Please let me know if you plan to



join me either by email (geoff_carss@hotmail.com) or by phone (840995). Please wear stout shoes, warm clothes and bring a torch. We should be finished by 6.30am so you may have a little wait for the shop to open ...

By Geoff Carss

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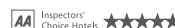
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March 2013 Draw

1st	202	Mr N Langdon	£12
2nd	56	Anne Dryden	£11
3rd	251	Maggie McKenna	£10
4th	332	Madeline Perry	£9
5th	284	John Pritchard	£8
6th	220	Alan Llewellyn	£7
7th	298	J Laddle	£6
8th	40	Kay Exell	£5

Collectors: A Andrews, G Mason, M Goulding, J Platts, L Prior, M Thacker, and M Yeend.

Due to reduced membership this year, there will be no Bonuses for Non-winners. If you are new to the village and would like to join for a £6 annual stake, (pro rata if joining during the year) ring the coordinator, Lin Prior, on 840846.

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Our Neighbourhood Plan

At a well attended public meeting in the Village Hall on Saturday 23 March about 70 residents discussed the major elements and geography of potential development in and around the village for the next fifteen to twenty years.

The meeting, which included an exhibition and a workshop, was led by two independent consultants. After a fascinating introduction which examined our village from an outside point of view, the meeting was divided into five separate groups to consider the

work done so far and produce their own ideas on how the village could evolve.

For those of you who were unable to attend this event we thought it might be helpful and informative to reproduce some of the background detail that was on display for the purpose of aiding those discussions. This included boards showing:

- A summary of the key issues and aspirations identified so far;

WHAT YOU HAVE SAID SO FAR

Following a series of public meetings, workshops and discussions both within and through the Steering Group the following key issues/aspirations have so far been identified (in no particular order):

	AGREE	DISAGREE
• The provision of a new enhanced GP surgery		
• Protecting existing community facilities		
• Additional and improved accommodation for the elderly		
• Relocation of the pre-school facility onto its own site		
• Additional burial space		
• Additional allotments		
• Affordable housing – to meet a locally identified need (c.20 units)		
• Improved sports and recreation facilities		
• High Speed Broadband		
• New (replacement) vicarage		
• Opportunities for new businesses to set up in and around the village		
• Resisting the loss of existing business opportunities		
• Limited amount of new build general housing (c.20 units)		
• Community orchard		
• Safeguarding specific parts of the settlement from future development		
• Encouraging greater use of appropriate alternative energy sources		
• Encouraging greater use of public transport, cycling and walking		

ARE THERE ANY KEY ISSUES THAT YOU THINK WE HAVE MISSED?

(If so – please make a comment and put in the ballot box)

**ARE THERE ANY KEY ISSUES THAT YOU WHOLE-HEARTEDLY
DISAGREE WITH?**

(If so – please make a comment and put in the ballot box).

DO YOU SUPPORT ANY OR ALL OF THE ITEMS ON THIS LIST?

(Add a sticker if you do)

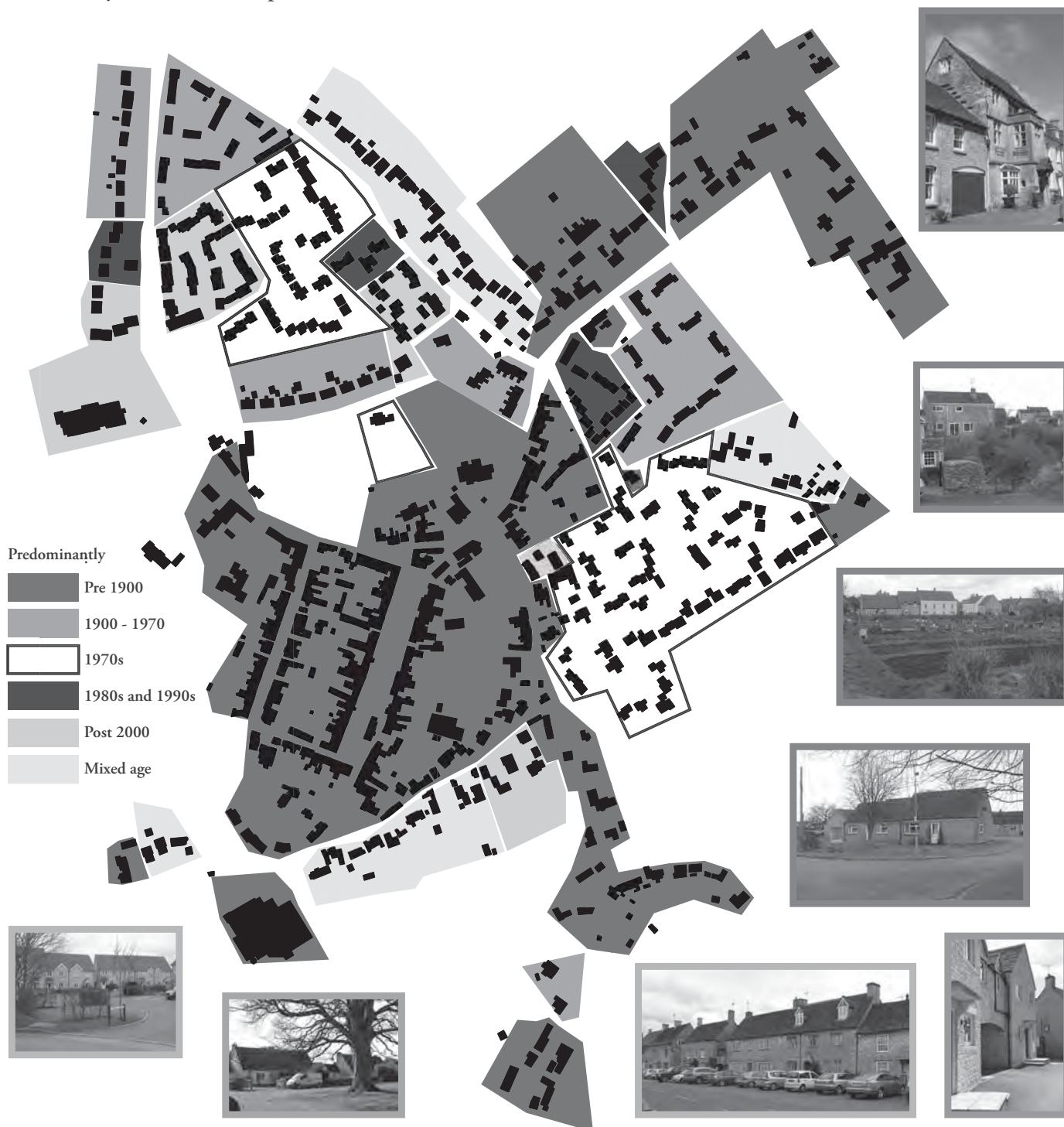
- A brief history of the village;

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SHERSTON

The village is an ancient settlement, first mentioned by Ethelred Ealdorman of Mercia in the 9th Century. It is considered to be one of the oldest boroughs in the country.

Sherston is a classic example of a small compact purpose-built market town. The informal layout of the village preserves to a large extent the form of the original borough, centred round its wide High Street which once served as a market place. The distinctive character of Sherston owes much to this historic layout and to the predominant use of local

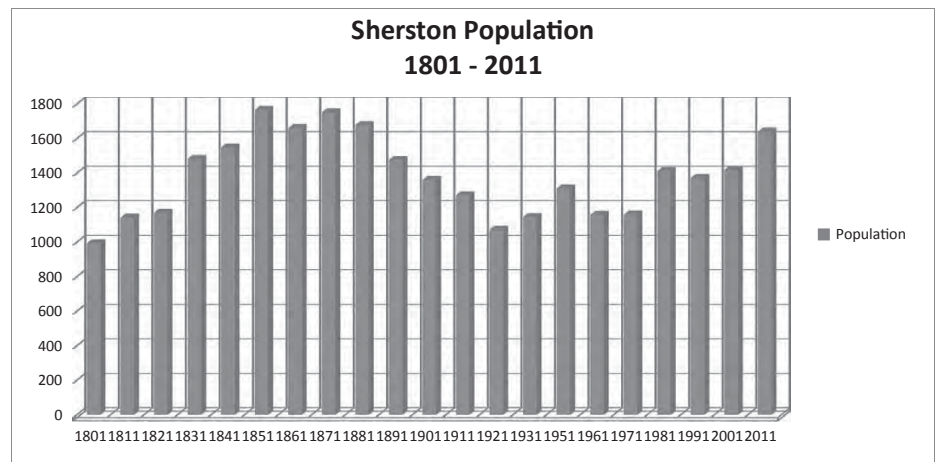
stone. There are a number of significant buildings, including some of 3 storeys and civic buildings reflecting the relative wealth and significance of Sherston in the past. The village has expanded considerably in recent years with significant "modern" phases of development taking place just after the war, in the 1970s and again in the early 2000s (see map below). These developments have added more suburban street layouts around the historic centre, with varying degrees of consideration given to the essence of Sherston's character.



There has been a considerable amount of development in and around the village over the last 70 years. We have estimated that there have probably been about 250 or more houses built over this time period – at least 80 of these in the last 15 years. It is interesting to note that the population of the village is still today lower than it was in the mid 1800s – see population graph below. Agricultural change meant that rural settlements declined for

many years. Over the last 70yrs increased personal mobility has allowed more people to commute for employment or retire to the country. Sherston today is attractive to local people who want to stay, and also to others wanting to move into an established rural community on a permanent or occasional basis. Our local population is skewed toward more older and less younger people than the national average.

Population	Year
992	1801
1,141	1811
1,169	1821
1,481	1831
1,548	1841
1,764	1851
1,659	1861
1,751	1871
1,678	1881
1,475	1891
1,359	1901
1,271	1911
1,071	1921
1,145	1931
1,310	1951
1,156	1961
1,158	1971
1,411	1981
1,372	1991
1,418	2001
1,639	2011



The Parish of Sherston covers an area of approximately 1712 hectares and has a population of about 1500 persons. In addition to the village itself, the parish contains two smaller hamlets – Willesley and Pinkney – together with a large amount of agricultural land.





Sherston has always had local employment. Whilst many still work in the Parish there has been a significant reduction in businesses in recent years. This is particularly true of shops which have halved in number to seven since 1980. The largest employer, Stretchline Mill, has reduced its workforce from 100 to 35 within the last five years. That said there are many small businesses now operating throughout the Parish, often based in either converted farm or other buildings (notably at Pinkney Park where there are now 16 small businesses) as well as individuals and businesses working from home.

Until recently commercial premises in the High Street have generally been converted to residential use once they fall out of use - the most recent being the butcher's shop. The main exception to this rule being the decision by the Parish Council in 2011, with the backing of the entire community,

to purchase a redundant Victorian School on the High Street and to convert this into a range of business units – all of which are now fully let.

The village now has two main shops, including a thriving Post Office/Stores. It has two pubs. It has a new and thriving school at the western edge of the village.

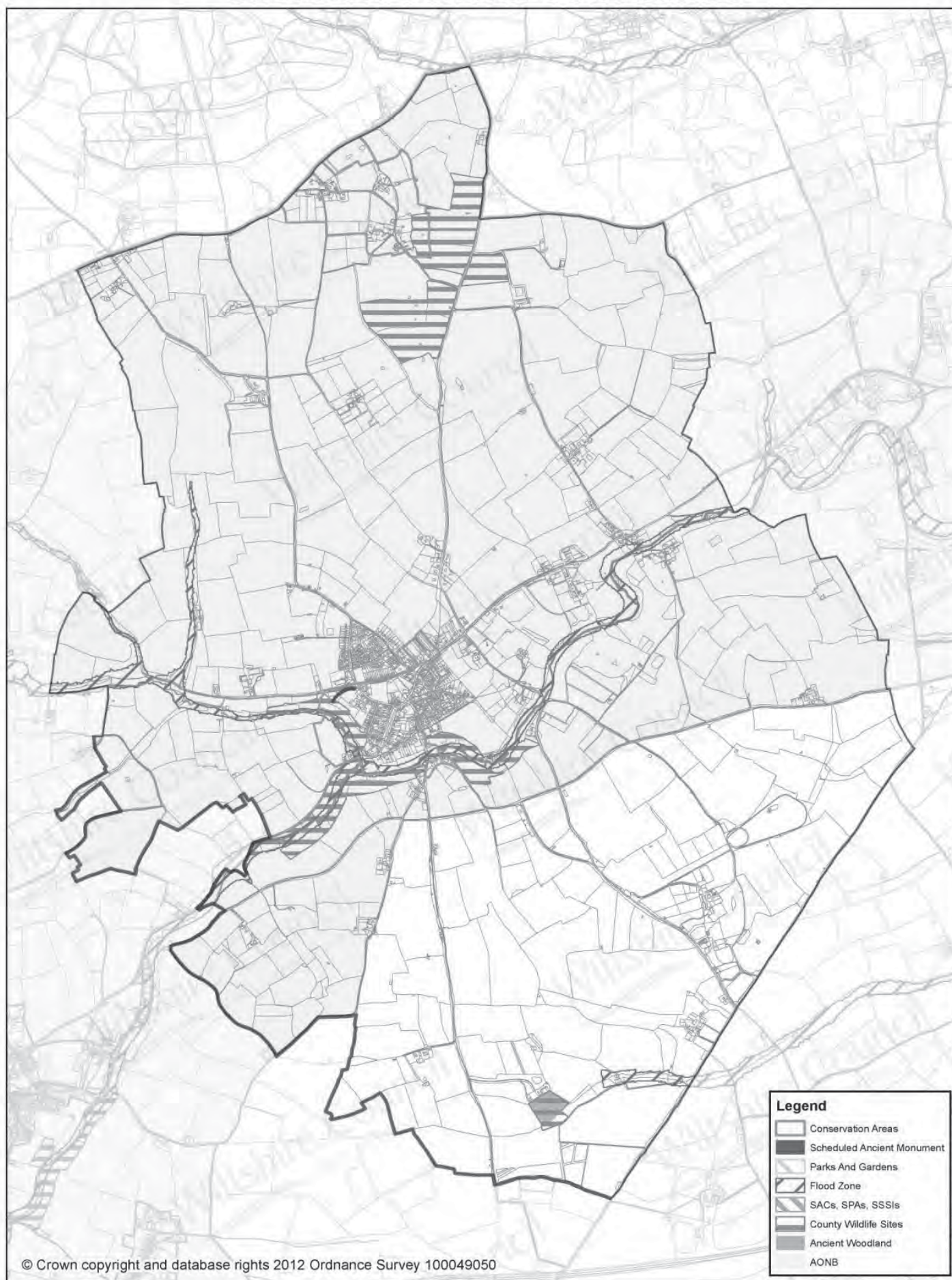
Sherston today has close working and shopping relationships with Malmesbury and Tetbury, and good road access to the M4, Swindon or Bristol, although main roads largely avoid the village itself. There is a limited bus service and railway service at Kemble. Most people in the village rely on the private car as their main means of access.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan, we have the opportunity to take stock of Sherston's story of change up to now, and to draw lessons from the past that may help guide us into the future.



- A general constraints map for the entire Parish;

Sherston General Constraints



- A map showing 400 metre distance from the village centre (the Post Office/Stores)

WALKING DISTANCES



All the views put forward at the workshop will now be collated and produced as a comprehensive report which will be available in due course for everybody to read on the website. We also intend to reproduce a summary of the outcome of this workshop in a future edition of the Cliffhanger.

In the meanwhile one of the consultants, Ben Hamilton-Baillie, who specialises in traffic,

parking and street design will return to Sherston for a full day to give us his advice. There will be an opportunity for residents to meet him and put their concerns to him at a meeting probably in the Village Hall.

Please watch the website and notices in the Post Office to publicise this meeting if it happens before the next edition of the Cliffhanger.

THIS AND ALL PREVIOUS ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW AND DOWNLOAD AT WWW.SHERSTON.ORG.UK

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Last call for Boules teams for Sherston Boules Day 2013

Get your team entry in by 30 April 2013 for the 28th Sherston Boules tournament on 13th July 2013 as the demand for places in the usually exceeds the number available.

The preponderance of the 128 places will be reserved for teams whose captain resides within the five Parishes of Sherston, Alderton, Luckington, Foxley and Easton Grey: i.e. local teams. The remaining places will be allocated to visiting teams.

There are now 2 ways of applying. Application forms are available at the Post Office or via the website <http://sherston.net/boules-2013/>

Either way, please note that no one household can apply for more than two teams. A valid application must include the team name and the name, postal address, telephone number and email address of the captain. Please note that only applications complying with these conditions will be accepted.

The closing date for entries will be 30 April 2013; the draw will take place in early May. The decision of the Tournament Organiser will be final.

Confirmation of success or failure in the draw will be sent out by email (for those applying electronically) or in the stamped-addressed envelope provided by you on application, if you are a postal applicant. If you have been successful in gaining a place, the letter

or email will include your first round match details and ask for a cheque, by return, for £18 made out to "Sherston Boules and Carnival Committee". If you have not been successful in gaining a place, please check your letter/email to see if you have been placed on the reserve team list.

Thank you very much for supporting the Sherston Boules Tournament. We look forward to seeing you on the day!



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There are still sponsorship opportunities available for anyone wanting to have a tobleron round a pitch on Boules Day this year – Sat 13 July 2013. Not only is it a great chance to get your company's name out to the 1200 plus people attending Boules Day in Sherston High Street but makes this valuable community event possible, all of the proceeds of which support local groups, clubs and charities. Please contact Bob Morris on bob@rpmorris.co.uk or 841337 for further details.



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Since launching a campaign two years ago to obtain mobile telephone numbers and sending reminder texts out the day before a booked appointment, the number of DNA (did not attend) appointments almost halved. However, these numbers are on the rise again. If these appointments were all used appropriately, there would be enough for the patients needing them.

You can help by ensuring that we have your mobile telephone number, allowing us to send you a reminder text of your appointment.

Baby Quiz

Can you guess which baby picture matches up to which member of staff? Come and have a go and help raise funds for Dr Pettit's Raleigh International expedition to Borneo this year.

Dispensary survey – 92% Excellence in Staff Politeness

We have now had the chance to analyse the Dispensary Survey conducted in February, and are pleased to report that there were improvements made in all sections. The full results are available at the surgery in the waiting room.

The main improvements were:

- More patients able to take medication away straight away.
- Improved comfort and convenience of waiting room.
- Having correct medication in stock.
- Length of time waiting to be served.
- Staff response to queries.
- Online requesting of repeat medication.

Even with such a positive response, we are not complacent about the service we provide and we continue to look for improvements. Many thanks to all our patients who have completed surveys recently.

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Cricket

Overnight frosts might make the thought of cricket seem a long way away, but with the season starting in April the new Saturday League captain, James Harmer, will be looking to identify the form players before this year's opening league game on Saturday 4 May. If you would like to be considered for the friendlies in April please contact James on 07879 811420 or james-harmer@hotmail.co.uk.

Indoor season

Away from the cold, SMCC have been playing for the first time in the first division of Chippenham indoor league over the winter months. After victories against Biddestone and a walkover against Spy Park it looks like Sherston will finish in fifth position out of eight teams. This means that first division status has been retained for next season.

Kit update

New Sherston Magna cricket kit, training and leisure wear is now available from the Globe Sport website. Just click on Sherston Magna at www.globesports.net. Order by 14 April for delivery by the week of 4 May.

Practice

With the recent freezing overnight conditions the

time and place of practice nets has not been agreed. Please look at the club website www.sherstonmagna.play-cricket.com or contact James on 07879 811420 or james-harmer@hotmail.co.uk.

Pre-season drinks

A regular fixture for the SMCC members is the pre-season drinks at Pinkney Park. This year it will take place at 6.30pm on Saturday 6 April. This will be preceded by a Groundforce Day at Pinkney Park to start prepare the ground for the coming season.

Newsletter

Magna Magic is the new club newsletter for the latest information. If you would like to be added to the circulation list just send an email sherstonmagna@yahoo.co.uk or download the latest copy from www.sherstonmagna.play-cricket.com

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Beginners classes have the teacher in the water. Two levels of improver classes & also lane swimming for advanced improvers.

All teachers are fully qualified & CRB checked. We follow the ASA award scheme & have termly "badge nights" for distance awards. We also run personal survival classes, bronze, silver & gold challenge awards & also rookie lifeguard courses. Holiday courses also available.

All lessons run half termly & are ongoing so no need to keep booking in every term!

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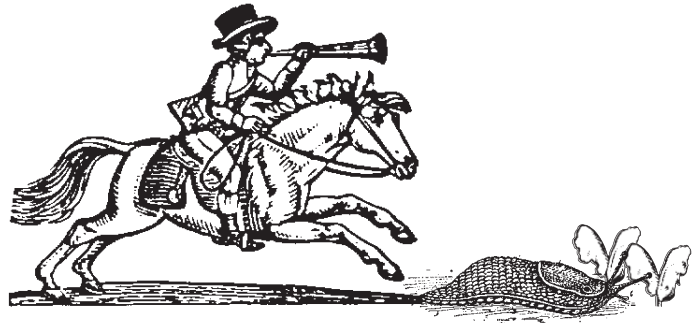

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THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

To put it mildly the recent weather has not been the best for sowing the seeds of this year's mangold crop. Whilst the ground has dried out to some extent thus making our 'mangold field' ready to plant the temperatures have been worryingly low. Fortunately mangolds can be sown throughout April and even into May so for the moment time is on our side. A number of members have decided that it is best to start plants inside and accordingly many a village windowsill has been commandeered and now proudly display trays full of seedlings.

As to variety of this year's crop there has been much heated discussion between members. Two distinct camps of opinions have emerged – one for the traditional 'Yellow Ekendorf' grown in this area for many years, the other preferring 'Giant Long Red'. After much deliberation and indeed on expert advice 'Yellow Ekendorf' won the day although some members are determined to grow their beloved red variety if only for ornamental purposes amongst their garden borders.

One of the greatest dangers to young mangolds is of course the dreaded slug. To counter this menace the Order is organising weekly overnight slug patrols.



If you wish to be involved simply assemble at the Carpenters Arms at closing time every Saturday night from 13 April onwards until the end of May. All necessary equipment and training will be provided. All welcome.

Yarp! *Keeper of the Quill* 

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Groups and Regular Events in and around Sherston

Holy Cross Church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade biscuits. Open Thursday mornings till Spring 9.30 am – 12 noon
Sunday services 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist (3rd Sunday 9.30am Family Service); 6pm Evensong (3rd Sunday Evening Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer)
 See the Parish Life for more details

Little Lights is fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at 1.30 for all preschool children and their parents. **Mustard Seeds** is a Saturday morning club for children aged 4 and over, from 10am – 12noon once a month.

Party Praise is a very short service at 3pm on the second Sunday of each month. Young children and their families are invited to worship which is interactive and fun. For more information contact Becky Fisher (07974 030212) or email Becky.fisher@deanery.org.uk

Congregational Church - in The British

Schoolroom 1st & 2nd Sundays of month: Service at 11am – 12 noon followed by coffee/chat. 3rd Sunday Service at 3pm. 4th Sunday Service at 4pm. 5th Sunday (occasionally) members visit Castle Combe Congregational Church Service 10.30am For further details see parish Life or phone 07778 934742.

Methodist Church Services every Sunday at 10.30am apart from 3rd Sunday in the month when service is held at Luckington. For further details see the Parish Life

Gauzebrook Church for Children

Children are welcome at all the services which are held in the Gauzebrook Group churches but there are some occasions which are particularly for them:

Junior Church is held at Court House, Hullavington now on the first Sunday of each month, except for August. This is for children from 3 to 11+. Any children under 3 need to be accompanied by an adult. Contact Ness Whiffin 840185.

Easton Grey Parish Church

See Parish Life for details of services

Sunday Newspapers On sale 8am - 11am every Sunday in Sherston village hall. Eggs, milk and sweets available too.

Link provides a voluntary car service for residents living in the Malmesbury area, taking those in need to hospital, the chiropodist, GPs' surgeries and to visit sick relatives. For further information please call 840861 between 9am and 1pm Monday to Friday.

Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold

Hurlers Why not join us and discover the joys of mangold hurling and all its traditions? For further information email ebeplaced@aol.com.

Boules at The Bull Meet every Thursday at 7.15pm April till Sept at The Red Bull Inn, Malmesbury Rd. £2 per session, with winners getting half the pot. The annual subscription is £10 for adults and £5 for under 18s but the first 3 visits are free. We can lend boules for absolute beginners and we have a local supplier if you wish to purchase. Transport from Sherston is available. Further details from Sue McKechnie 840601 or susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk

Busy Hands Pre-school

Meets 9.10am - 12.10pm everyday in the village hall for 2 1/2 - 5 year olds. Lunch Club Mon to Fri until 1pm and exciting new outdoor free flow area. All childcare vouchers welcomed. For further details call 07766 714544 any morning or 840232 all day.

Charity Bingo In aid of a different local charity each month on the 3rd Friday at 7.30 for 8pm start in the village hall. 50p entry and 30p a book. Light refreshments available.

Church bell ringing Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00pm. Call Geoff Martin 840375 or come along.

Clem's Club Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a char and a chat' in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm, alternating with the Seniors. Donations to BSR expenses collected each week.

Drawing Classes in Sherston There are two classes: 10am to 12 noon and 1.30 to 3.30pm in the British Schoolroom. The classes are suitable for any level of experience. Individual tuition is given in a variety of media and subject matter is provided for observational drawing each week. For further information please contact Heather Martin (840375) or heather@geoffmartin.plus.com

Eudo Tae Kwon Do Thursdays 7-9pm in Sherston primary school hall. For details contact Simon Penfold 824773.

Footpaths group The group has published the booklet 'Sherston Walks - a new guide to local rights of way', featuring 9 local walks and is now on sale at the post office. If you would like to learn more about the footpath group and perhaps take part in some of its activities please come along to a meeting. For further information contact Maggie McKenna on 841047 or maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com

Forest School Club Weekly outdoor activities during term time at both Sherston and Luckington School and further fun extended sessions during school holidays. For further information please contact nikiwalden-forestschool@hotmail.co.uk

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

For details see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards

Malmesbury Embroiderer's Guild

The local branch holds monthly meetings at Little Somerford Village Hall. On alternate months there are Saturday workshops on a wide range of topics, and on the intervening dates there is a Tuesday evening talk at 7.30pm. We always welcome newcomers and occasional visitors, although prebooking is essential for the workshops. Just turn up for the talks – non members £5. For further information please phone Heather Martin 840375 or www.malmesburyembroiderers.blogspot.com

Malmesbury Luncheon Club Over 60s meet every Wednesday at midday in the Wesleyan Room of Malmesbury Town Hall for a chat and a 2 course lunch followed by tea or coffee. £3.50. Please call Helen Churchill on 840080 if you'd like to attend. New members most welcome.

Malmesbury Netball Club

Every Thursday at 7pm, £3 per session, payable at the front desk at the Activity Zone, Malmesbury. For further details contact Tahiti tahitivanrooyen@gmail.com

Malmesbury Villages Community Partnership

For details contact Sue Webb 824620 dennis. webb01@virgin.net

Malmesbury Rangers

Girls over 14 years meet every 2nd Thursday in the month. Further details from Gill Shaw on 825647 or email sgshaw@orchardshaws.co.uk

Malmesbury Guides - Ingleburn Trefoil Guild

Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, usually at St. Mary's Hall, Malmesbury at 7.30 p.m. Details from Helen Price, 503187 or retreatcottage17@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meeting Takes place on the 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the village hall. Minutes of meetings can be read online at www.sherston.org.uk. Further details contact Sarah Wood on 840197 or clerk@sherston.org.uk

The Rattlebone Boules League Consists of 48 teams playing in 3 Leagues. For more information contact Tony Towle on 840574.

Senior Club Meets at 2.30pm in the British School Room every other Tuesday alternating with Clem's Club.

Sherston 1016 Fundraising for local good causes and charities. For further details, contact Eric Thacker on 841344 or eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk

Sherston Badminton Club We play every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm in the Village Hall from September to May. For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592.

Sherston Brownies Meet every Wednesday during term time 5.45 – 7pm in the Scout Hut. All girls are welcome to join after their 7th birthday, but there is a waiting list. Visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk> and follow the parents link to register your interest, for all other queries contact Tawny Owl (Nicky) at nicky.gray@btinternet.com

1st Sherston Cub Scout Pack Membership of the Cub Pack is open to those between 8 and 10 ½ years old. The Pack has regular meetings on Friday nights in term times from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. There is a waiting list for Cubs, and those interested should contact Ray Sneddon-Jenkins to obtain an application form – raysneddonj@gmail.com

1st Sherston (John Rattlebone) Scout Troop Is open to young people from the village and surrounding parish from the ages of 10 ½ to 13 ½. We meet at the Scout hut on Tuesday nights from 7.00pm to 9.00pm during school term times. To join contact Mark Sparrow on 840983 or e-mail mark@scorranstone.co.uk There is currently a small waiting list to join.

Sherston Whitewall Explorers You don't need to have previously been a member of scouts or guides to join us, just be aged between 13 ½ and 18 and free between 8.30 and 10pm on a Friday night during term time; for further information please contact Darren Walsh - 841043 or Ewan Blair –840096 – whitewallexplorers@googlegmail.com

Westonbirt Guides Meet in Querns Hall, Rosehill School, Westonbirt 5pm – 7pm every Wednesday. Sherston Brownies tend to come along if they don't join Scouts. Details from Ann Bye, 01454 218152, ann.bye@virgin.net

Sherston Magna Cricket Club Indoor practise nets will start at Tetbury Sports Centre in Lowfield Road every Sunday at 4.30pm until 6.30pm until Easter. Further details at www.sherstonmagna.play-cricket.com

Junior Mini and Junior practice Monday evenings from 5.30pm. Under 15 training and matches on Tuesday evenings. Further details are available from Fiona Iliffe-Moon on iliffemoons@gmail.com / 07877 400834. Non members should please contact Fiona before coming to training.

Sherston Drama Group The Drama group puts on plays and pantomimes in the Village Hall. If you are interested in taking part or helping out contact Richard Skeffington (Chairman) richard.skeffington@virgin.net Tel. 840092 or Graham Instrell (Vice Chairman) ginstrell@hotmail.co.uk Tel. 840978

Sherston FC

The club play in the Stroud league at Knockdown Park on Saturday afternoons - spectators and new players welcome. For more details contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or peter.brock666@btinternet.com

Sherston Ladies' Swimming Club

Starts back after the Christmas break on 9 Jan. Any ladies from the area can join, just swim at your own pace (there is a lane for fast swimmers) every Wednesday evening at Westonbirt Leisure Pool from 8 to 9pm. For details phone Heather 840375 or Annabel 840592.

Sherston's Living Churchyard

Please help maintain the living churchyard on the second Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon or 2pm till 4pm, weather permitting. Please check with Sue for timings each month. Church of the Holy Cross Further details contact Sue Robinson on 841263

Sherston Martial Arts Club Bujinkan Budo Taijutsu. Traditional Samurai Jujutsu and Ninjutsu. Ages 13 and up, every Thursday night in the Scout Hut 7pm. For further information contact Gary Liddington 07779349115 or Gary@budotaijutsu.co.uk

Sherston Photography Forum A monthly group has formed in Sherston for anyone with an interest in photography 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. For details call Nick Holland on 841019 or nholland63@btinternet.com

Sherston Tennis Club

The tennis courts are located on Knockdown Road, next to the football pitch. Membership fees for 2013 family £90, adult £50 with a 50% discount for those signing up before the end of April. After Easter, Club night is Thursdays from 6:30 pm - contact Gemma, and Men's Match tennis on Wednesdays - contact Kim kim_stuckey@btinternet.com. From April, junior tennis lessons on Saturday mornings - course of 10 sessions costs £45, plus membership to Sherston Tennis Club. Your committee this year is: Nic Riley - membership, men's matches – 840682; Kim Stuckey - men's matches - 07710 981568; Sophie Cheetham 07786 990045, sophcheetham@gmail.com - children's coaching - Gemma Bird - club nights 840557

Sherston Theatre Club Excursions with a Sherston High Street-to-venue return coach service. Annual fee £20. Listings under www.communitate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/ or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or Hjquirk@aol.com

Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

The group is a fun way for babies, toddlers and their parents to meet and play. We meet at 10 -11.30am each Tuesday in the Scout Hut with toys for all stages from wrigglers to toddlers, craft activities, music and snacks for all, not to mention a much-needed cup of tea/coffee for the deserving parent. Further details contact Cathy 07779 564 716 or Kirsty on 07841 571 943 or alternative like us on Facebook for regular updates <http://www.facebook.com/sherston.toddlers>

Sherston Village Hall Available for hire by all. Ideal for meetings, events, parties etc. For details contact the bookings officer Martin Rea on 840348 or martdrea@aol.com

Sherston W.I. Usually meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors most welcome £3. Further details contact Maureen Jolliffe on 840867.

Sherston Young Craft Group Every Monday 6.45 – 8.15pm in the village hall (children 9 years and over). £3 (incl all materials) per evening paid in advance of each half term. To join, please contact Victoria Parish on 840071 or email vparish@btinternet.com

Splash Dance Dance classes for 2 to 12 year olds including ballet, modern and tap. Every Wednesday afternoon in the village hall. Prices are £35 per term with the first lesson free. For details contact Charlotte on 01453 886632 or charlotte@splashdance.co.uk

Tetbury Chess Club Meet every Wednesday at the Ormond Hotel from 10am. If anyone is interested please contact Colin Francis on 505835 or email colval08@btinternet.com

Tots of Fun Soft play sessions for children 1-4 years old only 10am-12pm every Friday during term time starting end of Feb in the scout hut. £3.50 per child and £1.50 for each additional sibling, complimentary tea, coffee, squash and biscuits during the session. Parents are expected to stay and supervise their own children Book a place with Emma Liddington on 841525 or 07896 085338 or email emma@totsoffun.co.uk or www.totsoffun.co.uk

Village Hall 300+ Club Monthly draw with eight prizes ranging from £12 down to £5 for a £6 annual stake (or pro rata if joining during the year). If you would like to join, or need more information, contact the coordinator, Lin Prior on 840846.

Wiltshire Walks The walk lasts approximately 45 minutes and often ends with a cup of tea or coffee. Further information contact Sarah Sims on sarah.sims@wiltshire.gov.uk or 07846100233. For a full list of walking groups in Wiltshire please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/getwiltshirewalking.

Yoga in Sherston New 6 week course starts Mon 15 Apr. Mon 5.45pm Pregnancy Yoga, 7pm for beginners and at 8.15pm more advanced. £45 for 6 weeks. All classes must be pre-booked due to limited spaces. Scout Hut. For further details call Kathryn 07903 802985 yoga_in_sherston@hotmail.com or www.facebook.com/Yoga.with.Kathryn

If you run a club, society or organisation in Sherston that holds regular events such as the above and wishes to be listed, please supply your details and we will add them to the Regular events list. If you have a particular event then please write a short piece about it and we can include it as an article and put the details in the What's On list for that month.

What's on in 2013

Dates for your diary

June

14-15 2013 SherstonFest

July

6-14 Sherston Boules & Carnival

13 Boules Day

October

11-20 2013 Arts Festival

30-2 Nov Sherston Drama Group Pantomime

If you're planning a community event in the parish why not let the Cliffhanger have the basic details as soon as possible? Email info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk to add the event to this list. Everyone will then know what's occurring in good time and it will help prevent events clashing.

WHAT'S ON

Sherston

The Carpenter's Arms

New weekly quiz every Sunday night 7.30 for 8pm start free entry, prizes

Garden Talk 22-Apr

Check boards for details For further details call 840665 or visit us on Facebook - [CarpentersArmsSherston](https://www.facebook.com/CarpentersArmsSherston)

The Rattlebone Inn

Monday Quiz Nights Every Monday at 7:30pm Free entry and prizes for the winning team

Far Eastern Food Night Authentic far eastern 3 Course Menu including a Glass of Bubbly for £25 per head

Thu 24 Apr

Check boards for more details of events

Further details contact 840871 or

www.therattlebone.co.uk

Sherston Drama Group

Spring Play 2013- Agatha Christie's classic play 'Spiders' Web' Wed 3 - Sat 6 Apr 7.30pm Door open 7pm Tickets £6.50/£5.50 concessions, including interval refreshments on sale at the Post Office

Panto dates 30 Oct - 2 Nov 2013 Village Hall

For further details call Richard Skeffington 840092 richard.skeffington@virgin.net

1016 Book Sale

Sat 13 Apr 9am - 12 noon village hall - free entry
Donations of books, videos, DVDs and CDs gratefully received. Please deliver to Mike Tarrant at Grays of Sherston. All proceeds to the senior citizens Christmas voucher fund. For further details call 840611

Sue's Strolls

Sun 28 Apr starting from the village hall at 10am returning to the Rattlebone Inn for complimentary seasonal victuals at around 12 noon

For further details call Sue McKechnie 840601 or susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk

SHOCC

Sherston Occasional Community Choir The choir meet every Wed singing pieces by Haydn, Stanier, Fauré and Mendelssohn and will work towards giving a concert locally on 1 June 7-9pm in the British School Room For further details call Nicki Heenan 840883 or

nicki-heenan@btinternet.com or Jill Woodward 840578 or jillwoodward222@btinternet.com

WI Open Lecture

Talk by Penny Junor, the Royal Biographer and Journalist Thurs 18 Apr 7.30pm Village Hall Visitors very welcome Tickets £5 to include refreshments - available from the Post Office. Sherston Village Hall

Painting classes with Nicki Heenan

Painting Workshops -

Beginners and Intermediates

Wednesday 10.30am - 12.45pm Beginners -materials provided for the first few lesson thereafter bring your own preferred paints, brushes and supports

Advanced painters meet on Thursdays- private lessons, portfolio preparation or workshops by appointment. The Carpenter's Arms, Sherston For further details call Nicki Heenan 840883 or nicki.heenan@btinternet.com

Glass Fusion Course

Caroline Lambert returns showing glass fusion techniques making jewelry, bowls, window decorations, tiles or clocks Fri 19 Apr , Sat 20 Apr 10am - 4pm £28 a day plus the cost of the glass approx £15 British School Room.

For further details call Gill Ashley 840993

Hold a Fish and Chip Supper in aid of Spinal Injuries Association

Great British Fish and Chip Supper - Friday 17 May 2013

For further details call or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 0714350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk

Olympic Legacy Day

Olympic-themed sports on the rec for local children.
More details in next edition! Sat 29 Jun

Open gardens trail in aid of Sherston Church

23-24 Jun If you would like to open your garden (all proceeds go towards the upkeep of Sherston Church), please contact Pat Whitehouse 840640, or Heather Martin 840375.

Knockdown

The Holford Arms

Live Music every weekend

Free house and restaurant *for further details call 01454 238669*

Grittleton

Moviola - the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme

Wed 24 Apr - RUBY SPARKS [15] Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start £5 in advance £6 on the door

Grittleton Village Hall

For further details call Lesley 01249 783157 or

email l_palmer@btinternet.com

Badminton

Badminton Horse Trials

Thurs 2 - Mon 6 May 2013 from 9.00/ 9.30 am Gates open at 8am

See website for ticket information Under 12s free. Cash (only) at gate is £2 more than advance tickets. Free admission after 4pm.

For further details call 01454 218375 or

boxoffice@badminton-horse.co.uk or visit www.badminton-horse.co.uk

Westonbirt

The Arboretum

Family Event : All things great and small Crafts include: Clay pollen, Lichen dyes, pollen mystery with microscopes 2 - 4 Apr

10.30am - 4pm ages 3+, free after admission. Education centre

Specialist Wood Sales 2nd Saturday and Sunday every month

10am-1pm in aid of FOWA Exhibition: The Art of Trees 27 Mar - 2 Apr

Walks: Free, volunteer led guided walks every Sat, Sun and Bank Holidays at 2pm and Wed at 11am, from 29 Mar (Good Friday) until 3 Nov

Dog Friendly Guided Walk: Walkies with Maisie. Sun 7 Apr 11-12:30 meet Maisie and owner Dave Lucas at the Skilling Gate Free after admission - book with Dave 07774 711094

Wildflower walk Tues 9 Apr 10.30-12.30 free after admission Meet at the Great Oak Hall Dogs on leads welcome

Workshops: Beginners and Advanced Digital Photography One Day Courses 19 Apr £55 and adv Mon 22 Apr £105 both include entrance to the arboretum Graham Light on 01285 653069 or email consult@abbey-studios.co.uk

Workshops: Make a Windsor Chair six day course 29 Apr - 6 May, 6 -11 May, 3-8 Jun Cost £300 including all tools and materials. Booking essential contact Paul Hayden 01373 836051 or www.greenwoodcourses.co.uk

Summer Concerts: Blondie Fri 21 Jun; Paloma Faith Sat 22 Jun SOLD OUT; Olly Murs Sun 23 Jun SOLD OUT; Jessie J Fri 19 Jul SOLD OUT; Paul Weller Sat 20 Jul - SOLD OUT; Jools Holland Sun 21 Jul tickets from the shop or box office on 03000 680400 or www.forestry.gov.uk/music £39 plus booking fee Spring and Summer admission till Sept: Adults £8 / Conc £7 Chd £3 (Half price Wednesdays in Apr & May) For further details call 880220 or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Westonbirt School

Summer Term Lecture: Close Encounters with Wild Animals by Col John Bashford-Snell OBE Fri 26 Apr 7.30pm Free Optional post lecture supper £15 - must be booked in advance 880333

Summer party to celebrate Westonbirt's 85th year Sat 11 May 7pm £85 couple £45 single £20 under 25s including reception, food, live band and dodgems

Open House and Gardens The House and Gardens will be open 11-5pm on Sun 14 Apr, Sun 5 May, Sun 2 and Sun 28 (NGS) Jun. Garden tours 2-5pm Sun Mon 1, Sun 7, Mon 8 Mon 15 Apr. Sun 5, Mon 6, Tues 28 - Fri 31 May. We are offering guided tours of the House and will be guiding with a maximum of 20 visitors per tour.

You can wander at leisure around the stunning gardens, including Italian gardens and Camellia House and enjoy the peaceful pleasure gardens, all run by Garden tours £5 Entrance for both House & Garden is £7 (under 12s free), both include a hot beverage and biscuit. No need to book, we welcome all ages and are happy to host dogs on leads for the garden tours!

Westonbirt School For further details call Tania Warner on 880333 or twarner@westonbirt.org and Arabella for the open house and garden aparr@westonbirt.org or visit www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk

Malmesbury

Malmesbury Cake Society

'Bake and Take' Fundraiser for Cancer Research UK First Monday of each month 7.30-9.30pm bring along your bake, your recipe and £4.50 entry fee The Kings Arms For further details call Jess M: 07823 338000 E: malmesburycakesociety@yahoo.co.uk Facebook: Malmesbury Cake Society

MP's Surgery

Local MP surgery with James Gray MP Sat 27 Apr Sat 18 May Sat 15 Jun 12 noon - 1pm Hobbes Parlour, Malmesbury Town Hall *For further details visit www.jamesgray.org or email jamesgraymp@parliament.uk for online surgeries*

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society

Cello recital by Julian Lloyd Webber accompanied by Rebeca Ormodia

11 May £20 Tickets from the Abbey Bookshop or via website.

For further details call David Barton 824924

d.barton763@btinternet.com or visit www.malmesbury.com/mams

Wessex Concert Orchestra

Concert at Malmesbury Abbey Mendelssohn's Symphony No.3 (The Scottish), Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Slovak Suite by Vítězslav Novak. Musical Director Andrew Baatz, Leader Nicola Ashton Malmesbury Abbey, Sat 20 Apr at 7.30pm £10/ £8 student or chd Tickets and details Malmesbury Abbey Bookshop or on the door or visit www.wco.org.uk

Charlton

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – Malmesbury Local Supporters Group

Winter Talks Programme 2012-13 7.30pm Admission £2.50, children free. Non-members very welcome. Charlton Village Hall

Dragonflies and Damselflies Talk by Steve Covey 04-Apr

Wotton-Under-Edge

The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers from the local community This month: Hitchcock, Wreck-It Ralph, Zero Dark Thirty, Song for Marion, Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D, Untouchable, The Sessions ; check website for details

For further details call 01453 844601 or visit www.wottoneph.co.uk

Wotton Concert Series

Spring Concert No 1 Carmina Burana - Orff With the Rinaldo Choir conducted by Benedict Hoffnung **Pictures at an Exhibition - Mussorgsky** (for 2 pianos) Sat 18 May 7.30pm Tickets £28, £18 or £10 For further details call Book online or call the box office on 07415 541359 or visit www.wottonconcertseries.co.uk

Ozleworth, Wotton-under-Edge NHS Newark Park House and Estate

Tudor hunting lodge, exhibition, shop and plant stall, tea room and 725 acres of parkland open Wed - Sun from Mar - Oct Adult £6.40 / Chd £3.30 / Family £16.10 Free parking. Dogs welcome on leads in the grounds.

Easter trail 11am - 4pm 29 Mar - 1 Apr £2 to follow the trail and win a Cadbury egg prize. Free face painting Easter Sun and Mon
Easter Fancy dress egg and spoon race Easter Mon 2pm - bring your champion spoon - with fancy dress the order of the day we are looking for the best dressed Easter bunnies, eggs and chickens

For further details call phone 01793 817666. or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/newark-park/

Cotswolds

Cotswold Rural Skills Courses

Dry Stone Walling for beginners 13-14 April Landsdown Bath 27-28 Apr Naunton FULL 11-12 May Tetbury FULL, 15-16 Jun Long Compton £99 Book ahead to avoid disappointment

Map & Compass Day 32 Apr Northleach £10

Blacksmithing Taster Day 11 May Northleach £99

Cotswold Tile Roofing - Taster Day 8 Jun Naunton £99

Lime Mortar Beginners 24-25 Jun Nailsworth £99

For further details call David Molloy on 01451 862000 or david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.

Nailsworth

Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Home matches: Easter Mon 1 Apr 3pm v. AFC Telford Utd; Tues 9 Apr 7.45pm v Hereford Utd Adults £15/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £2 Adults £15/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £2 The New Lawn Forest Green Nailsworth

For further details call 01453 834860 or visit www.forestgreenroversfc.com

Bath, Stroud, Bristol Covent Garden Royal Opera House and Ballet @ the cinema

Live and pre recorded screenings of opera and ballet from the ROH Covent Garden

Opera: Nabucco Mon 29 Apr Starring Placido Domingo

Opera: La Donna Del Lago, Rossini LIVE Mon 27 May

Gloriana Mon 24 Jun

Stroud Apollo, Odeon Bath and other Cinema

For further details call 0871 220 6000 or visit www.rob.org.uk/cinema

Bath

Theatre Royal

Noises Off till 6 Apr 7.30pm / 8pm £15-£33.50

Abigail's Party Mon 8 - Sat 13 Apr

Midnight Tango Mon 15 - Sat 20 Apr

Relatively Speaking Tues 23 - Sat 27 Apr

Theatre Royal For further details call 01225 448844 or visit www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Cheltenham

Didmarton Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support Charity Race Day at Cheltenham

Wed 17 Apr Table for 10 includes Entrance Badges, Car Parking, Champagne Reception followed by a 4 course luncheon and afternoon tea. Bespoke Auction and racing with the main race of the day The Macmillan Cancer Support in conjunction with Ceres Estates Silver Bowl £1,500 per table of 10

Cheltenham Racecourse For details, and application form please email cerescharity@gmail.com or visit

www.macmillan-didmarton.com/Events.aspx

Bristol

The Soul Destroyers in concert supported by the Sherston Village People

Sat 27 Apr at Fiddlers in Bristol. A bus will be going to and from the gig, picking up from the High Street in Sherston. To book a seat on the coach contact Gemma on 07824 347245 or email gemma.waldron@btinternet.com

For further details call Dave Shephard 07860 448438 or email ds@oldbellhouse.com or visit www.soul-destroyers.co.uk

Useful Numbers

BT fault line	0800 800151
CLARENCE (Highway complaints)	0800 232323
Cllr John Thomson	01666 840785
Malmesbury Activity Zone	01666 822533
Malmesbury Library	01666 823611
Malmesbury Police 101	(emergency 999)
Malmesbury Primary Care Centre	01666 825825
Malmesbury Secondary School	01666 829700
Malmesbury Youth Centre	0799 0908550
MP James Gray	01249 652851
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Sherston Parish Council	01666 840197
Sherston Post Office	01666 840456
Sherston School	01666 840237
Sherston Village Hall (bookings)	01666 840633
Tolsey Surgery	01666 840270
Wiltshire Council	0300 4560100



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