THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

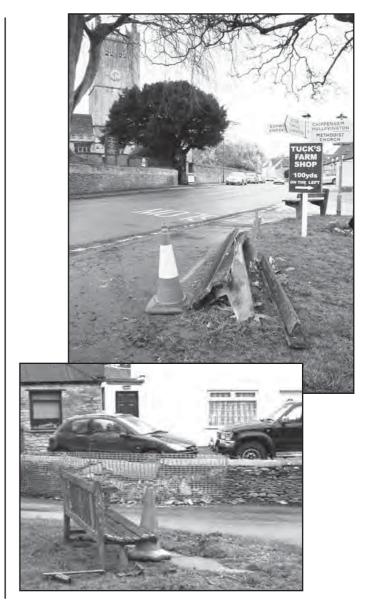
Damage to Jubilee Tree benches



One of the places in the village for watching the rest of the world go by was badly damaged by a vehicle on either Sunday 15 or Monday 16 March. Two of the three benches around the Jubilee Tree were damaged, and a wall knocked down at the top of Noble Street. Deep tyre marks were left in the grass and one of the benches was completely destroyed. The wall and the benches will have to be rebuilt and replaced, but luckily the Jubilee Tree was not damaged, nor the lovely spring flowers that have been thoughtfully planted at the base of the tree.

The tree was planted in 1897 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee for Queen Victoria, so it is nearly 120 years old.

If you have any information on who drove over the benches and knocked down the wall please contact the clerk, Sarah Wood, on 840197 or email clerk@ sherston.org.uk.



After its recent refurbishment, The Carpenter's Arms will be reopening at 6.00pm on Wednesday 1 April.



Things for you(th) to do

Are you aged between 9 and 19 – or know anyone who is? The parish council would like to hear your thoughts on what it is like to be a teenager living in Sherston in 2015. How could things be improved, (whether it involves transport, sporting facilities, more clubs and activities)?

All the questions can be found on Survey Monkey www.surveymonkey.com/r/sherstonyouth or if you prefer you can contact Finn Wood, the youth representative for the parish council, at finnjamescookseywood@hotmail.com.

It only takes a few minutes to complete the survey and all completed surveys and emailed ideas will be entered into a draw to win a £15 iTunes or Amazon Play voucher.

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: advertising@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk James Kutchera 07985 050791

Advertising rates:

for 12 months:

1/4 page £220; 1/8 page £110; and 1/16 page £55 for one month:

1/4 page £88; 1/8 page £44; and 1/16 page £22

Inserted leaflet drop £85 max size A5

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 1000 copies. This and all previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

PRINTED BY THE COMPLETE PRODUCT COMPANY, PINKNEY

Sherston Young Craft Group – Swallows and Amazons





Just after Christmas, a party of craft group members and their parents enjoyed a wonderful trip to Bristol Old Vic to see the production of Swallows and Amazons. This was subsidised by a grant we received from Boules and Carnival last year. It was a great show and we have spent much of this term using this inspiration for our projects, making boats in clay and also stitched ones, and stitched maps of the island in the story.

Craft Group is open to over-nine-year-olds but it's best to put your child's name on the waiting list beforehand. See details in the Regular Groups section.

History Lecture – Edmund Ironside

Put this date in your diary: Saturday 27 June at 7.00pm in Sherston Church. Edmund Ironside fought at the Battle of Sherston in 1016 on the same side as our local hero John Rattlebone.

Further details will be available nearer the time but please pass this date on to anyone you know who may be interested. All proceeds will go to the upkeep of the church.

The Ugly Duckling – a performance by le Petit Artiste Children's Theatre

On Sunday 26 April at 3.00pm in the village hall, le Petit Artiste Children's Theatre will put on a unique retelling of Hans Christian Anderson's classic tale, The Ugly Duckling. Be enchanted by exploding eggs, singing frogs, dancing swans and live music. Join the Ugly Duckling, learn about the true value of friendship and the pain of being the odd one out. This magical journey includes puppetry, mask, dance and live music.

Suitable for families with children aged 3 and over. No unaccompanied small children.

Tickets available from the beginning of April from Sherston post office or on 840375. Adults £7, concessions £6, child £4.50, family (2 adults + 2 children) £20.

Refreshments (tea, soft drinks and homemade cakes) will be available after the performance so please do stay – these will be supplied by Sherston Young Craft Group and all proceeds will go to the Village Hall Development Fund.

The show is brought to us by Rural Arts Touring – high-class events to village venues.

Use of sherston old school railings for publicity



Sherston Old School COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY at the heart of the community

When the Old School railings are used for publicity posters, the Old School Company (SOSCIC) has to keep in mind the balance between the promotion of community purpose and development, the need to preserve general good housekeeping and avoid clutter, and any potential conflict with the commercial needs of the tenants.

SOSCIC arose from our very strong sense of community and needs to retain that support. The railings are a great place to put publicity but the use of them has to be controlled in order to achieve the balance of objectives that we need.

All posters must be approved before being posted. In the first instance, this approval can be sought directly from Paul Mather. If Paul is uncertain he will refer to Geoff Martin at SOSCIC. All posters without prior authorisation will be removed.

It is expected that approval will be given in all cases where it is a local community organisation promoting a village event with a poster not greater than A3 in size and being put up not more than three weeks in advance of the event.

In all other cases SOSCIC may well refuse permission. Any posters without permission will be removed. All posters must be removed immediately after the event in question.

Meeting of the parish council

The parish council will next meet on Thursday 16 April in the village hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities to raise questions and make comments. If you cannot attend the meeting but have something to raise, please contact the clerk, 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 also be read.



Sherston Senior Club

In February, members had an enjoyable outing to the Rococo Gardens at Painswick, to see the snowdrops – a stunning display.

On 26 February, Alison Atkins gave us an informative talk on the formation of various precious stones in rock layers millions of years ago. We were all delighted to handle opals, sapphires, and various other gems, in the form of rings, which were passed around everyone. One very good tip from Alison: if wearing an opal ring, do not put your hand into a hot air dryer as it might shrink and come loose in its setting, as opals have a high water content.

On 3 March, Colin Law took us through his career as a coach driver. From a small boy riding with his father (who drove coaches) to eventually driving luxury coaches for Andy James. Having gained his licence at 21, Colin spent several years working up north for Wallace Arnold in an administrative capacity. On his return south, he took up driving coaches and buses of all kinds. He had many adventures, some hilarious, driving at home and abroad. Members were entertained and absorbed by everything Colin had to say.

On 17 March, we held our Spring Sale in aid of club funds and, on 31 March, Sharon Doyle will be advising us on 'Asset preservation and funding for care'. As always, visitors are welcome. Entrance (£2.00) includes refreshments.

On 14 April, we have a coach trip to Whitminster Garden Centre, leaving the High Street at 11.00am, open to non-members. £10.00 members, £12.00 non-members. Contact Helen Quirk on 840516 to book a place.

After the clocks go forward, our meetings in the British School Room start at 2.30pm. Hope to see you at our meeting on 28 April when Susan Platford of the Labrador Rescue Trust will be talking to us.

Helen Quirk



Captain Alfred Ernest Sackville Cresswell



Captain Alfred Ernest Sackville Cresswell was born at Pinkney Park on 14 September 1878. He was the Great Grandson of Thomas Estcourt Cresswell, Member of Parliament for Wootton Bassett, who also resided at Pinkney Park.

He was Captain of the 2nd Battalion, The Buffs, East Kent Regiment, and served in the South African campaign. He was promoted to Captain in 1904.

On 13 March 1915 Captain Sackville Cresswell was killed in action at St Eloi, France. His final resting place is in the Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Belgium.

On Friday 13 March at 11.45am, the church bells were rung to commemorate the centenary of Captain Cresswell's death. This was followed by the tenor bell being rung 36 times, this was Captain Cresswell's age at the time of his death.

In 2005, attempts were made to ensure that all of the men from the parish who made the ultimate sacrifice should be included on our new war memorial. It was then discovered that, in fact, another 13 men's names had been omitted from the original memorial that was erected in 1920.

Since then, with the help of records now available on the internet, more names are being found. Although Captain Sackville was not residing in the parish at the time of his death the criteria laid down for inclusion were that they should have been born in the parish or were living here at the time of enlistment or have a military grave in the churchyard, as is the case of five men.

We will remember them.

by Cilla Liddington

Sherston W.I.



At the March meeting, we were most interested in the talk given by Kirsty Gray who is an 'Heir Hunter' tracing family members who may inherit. Many people try to trace their ancestors and she showed us just how difficult it can be when unusual names or incorrect spelling is involved and when there are inaccuracies in census returns. We were shown many amusing entries from earlier times.

On 2 April in the British School Room our talk is about 'Allotments' - just in time for spring sowing and then on 16 April at 7.30pm in the village hall, Marc Allum will give a talk combining antique objects, elements of his work with the Antiques Roadshow and his general experience in the art, antiques and auction world. Tickets, priced at £7, are on sale at the post office and this talk is open to the general public.



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Good Neighbours



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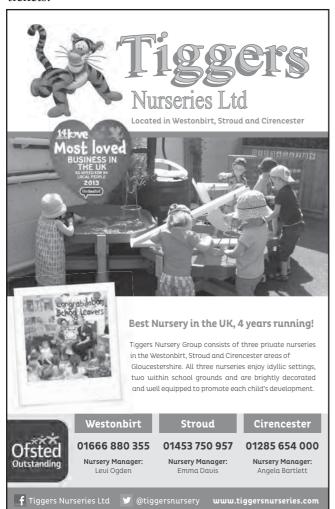
Curry and Quiz Night success



Luckington Pre-school would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our sell-out Curry and Quiz Night on Friday 6th March, it proved to be a very successful evening. We raised an astonishing £1363.62 for the Pre-school.

Particular thanks go to the key committee members who helped to organise the evening and to the staff and committee members who helped out on the night. Also, thanks go to Jon Bathie who compiled the questions, Ben Russell our quiz master and Nina Daniels for all her hard work in the kitchen making the curry — single-handedly.

We were also very grateful to all the local businesses who donated the prizes for the auction and raffle, not forgetting Luckington Post Office who helped sell tickets.



Sherston Drama Group Seeds of Doubt



Make sure you get your tickets for Sherston Drama Group's production of Seeds of Doubt by Peter Gordon at the village hall from 8 to 11 April. Seeds of Doubt is a comedy of relationships set in a suburban garden. Alan's wife Claire plans a surprise for him on his birthday and, though Alan is normally more concerned with his eternally unsuccessful attempts at gardening than pleasing his wife, his jealousy is roused by mysterious events. Meanwhile, his friend Derek is trying to pluck up courage to declare his love for recently separated Sarah. Neighbour Dave's strategy of allowing his partner Jill to earn both their livings while he concentrates on drinking beer is starting to unravel. Seeds of doubt are everywhere and when they start sprouting there are hilarious consequences for all.

Tickets are on sale at the post office or from the box office on 840092 (evenings) or via richard. skeffington@virgin.net. Ticket prices are £6.50/£7.50. Don't miss it!

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Christian Aid Week 2015

This year Christian Aid week will be held from 10 to 16 May. Once again, we are aiming to carry out our door-to-door collection, visiting as many homes as we can in the Gauzebrook Group – Sherston, Luckington, Hullavington, Stanton St Quintin, Alderton, Norton, Foxley and Easton Grey. We have already started our preparations; the thousands of envelopes, the banners, posters and collectors' badges have arrived.

Now we are starting to organise the teams of people who will help to carry out this big undertaking. Many of them have been faithfully collecting for years and will do so again this year, but some have left the area or can no longer help so we are looking for new helpers so that the 2015 collection can be as successful as in previous years, or even better.

Could you be a Christian Aid volunteer in 2015? We need people who will deliver and collect donation envelopes during Christian Aid Week. You could just visit the ten houses closest to your home; if a good number of people would do that, it would make such a difference.





Please look kindly on the red Christian Aid envelope when it comes through your letterbox this year and join us in trying to help our neighbours in the world who need support to deal with lives that are full of problems we can hardly imagine.

Thank you in advance for whatever you can do to help.

Sue Robinson, 841263

Boden Sale at Sherston School

Saturday 18 April, 11am-3pm, Sherston School hall. New summer clothing range for adults and children, come and try before you buy. 20% off with free postage and returns, and a £25 credit to your Boden account if you introduce a friend. Refreshments and a raffle, proceeds to the FSS.

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Sherston homes selected for energy trial



Keeping energy costs low is always a struggle and so some new homeowners in Sherston are celebrating the news that they have been selected to trial a revolutionary energy saving technology developed in America.

Those of us with a cat will know how easily they spot the warmest place and how quickly they warm up in direct sunlight. A team at the University of California have been studying the properties of cat fur and have developed a synthetic fur that can be used to not only insulate homes, but also capture the sun's energy and turn it into heat that can be used by the householder.

The new houses on Easton Square have been selected to participate in this trial to test the synthetic fur. Heather Liwanag, director of the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology department at the University of California, said that many innovative solutions to life's problems are drawn from the natural world and cat fur shows some of the best thermal properties of all mammalian fur. The challenge was creating a synthetic fur, linked to heat exchangers that would keep a house warm for low cost in winter, but not cause over-heating in the summer. Heather said, keeping a house warm in California, is not a problem, but we've confirmed that this system doesn't cause homes to get too hot. We needed somewhere cold to test the insulating properties of our fur and these new homes in Sherston are purrfect.

Contributed by Prof Lisa Lo



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Wessex Concert Orchestra returns to Malmesbury Abbey for Spring Concert



The Wessex Concert Orchestra is very much looking forward to returning to Malmesbury Abbey on Saturday 11 April at 7.30pm to perform its spring concert with a programme of very exciting, well-known classical music:

Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, (Op. 18) – soloist Daniel Browell

Brahms Academic Festival Overture (Op 80)

Dvorak Symphony No 8 in G Major (Op 88)

This is a marvellous opportunity to hear these classical gems in a local setting performed by a local orchestra.

The Wessex Concert Orchestra is based in Chippenham and is a dynamic non-professional symphony orchestra which 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.

In 2010 the orchestra celebrated its 70th anniversary. It was originally formed in 1940 as a works orchestra, known then as the Westinghouse Orchestra and its long and varied history included performances for BBC Radio. It is now 10 years since the current conductor Andrew Baatz took over the baton and the orchestra became the Wessex Concert Orchestra. The works chosen for this concert are in celebration of this achievement.

Tickets for the orchestra's spring concert on Saturday 11 April will be on sale at The Abbey Bookshop, Michael Thomas Butchers at The Triangle, Malmesbury; via our website www.wco.org.uk; and from members and at the door. Do come along and hear this versatile and exciting local orchestra.

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

Malmesbury & District U3A March meeting

The March meeting of Malmesbury & District University of the Third Age (U3A) was held on Thursday 26 March in the Assembly Rooms at Malmesbury Town Hall.

The speaker was Dinah Starkey, a well-known author of children's and other books, including Ghosts & Bogles, and Witches, Dragons & Buried Treasure. Her subject was Sevington Victorian School, near Grittleton. More information on www. sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk

If you are interested in learning more about Malmesbury U3A, then please contact Membership Secretary Julia Batty on 01249 720327 or access our website www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Cellophony to perform in Malmesbury Abbey: 2 May

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society (MAMS) are thrilled to be welcoming the London-based cello octet, Cellophony, to Malmesbury Abbey for the first time on Saturday 2 May. These eight young professional cellists are accomplished exponents of both the standard ensemble repertoire and a diverse array of specially commissioned arrangements and adaptations. The result is a vibrant, sonorous and exhilarating sound.

Cellophony are bringing a wonderfully rich and varied programme of Schubert, Gabrieli, Liszt, Birchall, Mendolssohn, Bach and Dvorak to the Abbey, as well as Three World Folksongs arranged by Barralet.

MAMS urges you to join them for what promises to be a very exciting evening indeed.

Tickets for the concert are priced at £15 (or £12 members) or £5 for students, and can be obtained from the Malmesbury Abbey Bookshop, from the MAMS Ticket Secretary David Barton on 824924 or from Joy Smith on 840865. Tickets will also be available on the door.



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Registered charity no. 296903

Boondocks Festival line-up: The First 5!



Ladies and gentlemen, we've confirmed the first five acts at the Boondocks Festival 2015. It's YOUR Friday, featuring:

Bite The Buffalo: a beefy rock n' roll racket characterised by fuzzy, bluesy riffs and vocals that howl and bark with delight.

The ShowHawk Duo: young British guitarists Mikhail Asanovic and Jake Wright have dazzled audiences worldwide with their spectacular approach.

Dub Mafia: since forming four years ago, Bristol-based Dub Mafia have become one of the most popular dance acts in the UK.

The Rinky Dinks: well-known songs with a ukulele twist, all underpinned with a true rock and roll attitude.

The People's String Foundation: led by Ben Sutcliffe, The People's String Foundation mix passionate theatrics with an urban gypsy sound.

Find out more about them all and see them in action at: http://theboondocksfestival.co.uk/lineup/

And don't forget to invite your friends and bag your Boondocks tickets while you're there! We expect to be sold out pretty soon.

All the best, The Boondocks team.

Charming House to rent in historic Southern France

16 Rue Montmorency is a charming three-bedroom town house located in the heart of Pezenas, a beautiful medieval market town. The house can accommodate 6 people comfortably and was built in the 18th Century. Constructed from ancient stone (probably from the neighbouring castle ruins!) it comes complete with authentic touches such as decorative wrought iron railings and sky blue wooden shutters which are a decorative theme running through Pezenas.

Light and airy with stunning views

Number 16 is situated on the apex of a row of town houses, and so has light on three sides as well as a roof terrace with stunning views over the old town and Languedoc countryside. Rue Montmorency is a stone's throw from the bars and bistros of the vibrant old town.

Please see the website for more details www.realsouthoffrance.co.uk

Or call Jennie Lamont on 07985443863

Quote Cliffhanger on any enquiry

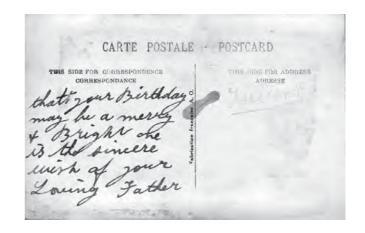
The Great War in Wiltshire, March 1915 Taken from the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre Newsletter, Wiltshire Monthly Intelligencer, Issue 396, March 2015

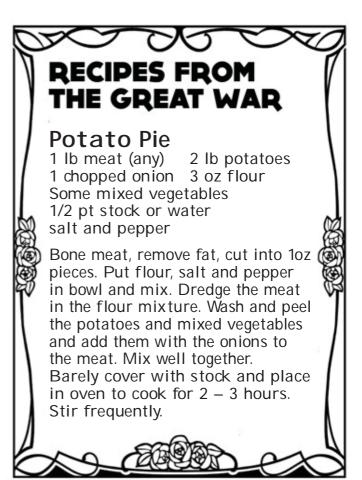


There was a great two way traffic in letters, cards, food parcels and presents between the men at the front and their families and friends at home. Birthdays and Christmas time were especially poignant for men who felt that they may never see their sons and daughters again. The above example is a silk birthday card produced in France (continental Europe was ahead of Britain in sophisticated postcard production) for the Tommies. It was sent, in an envelope to protect it) by a soldier to his son in Trowbridge. This soldier did survive the war.

As part of Sherston's Great War Project, the Drama Group and Sherston Community Choir will present a joint entertainment aimed at giving people an idea of what things were like on the Home Front here in Sherston through sketches, music and readings.







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Sherston Book Club

On the evening of 10 March, Sherston Book Club were delighted to welcome author Vanessa Lafaye who has recently published her first novel 'Summertime'. She is an American living in Marlborough and was keen to test the reaction of local readers. We had all read her book and found it very enjoyable. It is set in her native Florida in 1935 and she has based it on true facts: the plight of World War 1 veterans who are down and out and sent to work camps while waiting to receive the promised bonuses from the American government and a hurricane that hit Florida causing huge loss of life and devastation. These facts are interwoven with well-drawn fictional characters in the steamy heat of the tropical area and the tension of racial segregation. It was fascinating to hear how both these events are little remembered in America and how she came across the facts while on holiday in

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Mobile: 07813 877509 Workshop: 01666 238925 Email: lucytominteriors@gmail.com her home town. Her book has already been translated into several languages and she has been approached by a film company so we may well be hearing more of Vanessa!

by Sue McKechnie



WE NEED YOUR IMAGINATION! If you are between 8 and 108 and love Lego... ... Join us for a fortnightly 'LEGO CLUB' – Hosted by the Congregational Church



Starting Friday 10th April at 6.30pm - meeting in the British School Room, Cliff Road

Any donations of unwanted Lego will be put to good use!

Please contact Andrew on



Tolsey News

Judy Sharp Practice Manager Care Co-ordinator



Tracy Mead has been working with us for over a year now. She is part of the Community Team that works at The Tolsey Surgery and Malmesbury Primary Care Centre. She helps us to look after some of our more vulnerable patients. Tracy has been helping us to formulate and agree some of the Care Plans designed to give the very best care to some of our most vulnerable, elderly patients. She will also contact older patients who have just been discharged from hospital to ensure they have everything they need at home. Many of our patients have benefited from this extra layer of care and have been able to access services they didn't know existed. Tracy has been able to spend that extra bit of time with patients that makes all the difference.

Online Access to Summary Records

We have offered our patients online access to book routine appointments, cancel appointments and order repeat medication for about three years. We are now offering patients online access to their Summary Records. If you don't already have online access you will need to obtain log-in details from us. We will then supply these to you on production of proof of identification: ideally a passport or driving licence, but if you don't have photo ID, a utility bill or credit card with your name on will suffice. If you already have online access, you can contact the surgery and ask to be enabled to view your summary records.

Andrew James QUALITY TRAVEL

Andrew James Quality Travel prides itself on always providing a high level of service, attention to detail for any event or trip and providing perfectly presented, clean and valeted vehicles.

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Telephone: 01666 825655 Email: ajcoaches@andrew-james.co.uk Website: andrew-james.co.uk

How to get the best from your appointment

Here are some tips to help you get the most from your appointment:

- Ask yourself: How important is it that I'm seen quickly, or would I be better waiting for an appointment with a particular GP? If you have a long-term condition you'll probably benefit from a GP who knows you. Do I really need to see the GP or could the nurse or pharmacist help me?
- Don't be put off by a GP who runs late they may be spending needed time with patients. One day you may appreciate them running late for you.
- It's tempting to bring a list of unrelated problems, but consider what's achievable in 10 minutes: four problems in 10 minutes that's 150 seconds each. It's often better to come back again and spend more time on a problem rather than squeeze as many as you can into one 10-minute appointment.
- Before you see the GP, work out in your own mind what you're worried about, and highlight any particular concerns. Consider preparing short notes, including how you would describe your symptoms.
- Get to the point, don't beat about the bush and don't keep important issues until the end.
- Wear accessible clothing if you're likely to need to undress for examination.

Have your say and get your views heard: join our patient participation group, FOTS.



C.J.GOUGH

PAINTER & DECORATOR

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

Telephone: 01666 841003



Money Week Success

Children at Sherston Primary School were given the chance to be entrepreneurs in February when they had to make as much profit as possible on a loan of £10 from the Friends of Sherston School (FSS).

It was part of 'Money Week', an event held for the first time by the school to enable pupils to learn how to manage their money, and how money can be made through hard work and a good idea.

The children came up with a range of enterprising ideas. Sycamore class ran a photo booth and a popcorn stand at break time, making £90. Children in Willow Class charged £1 entry to a talent show, raising £85. Chestnut class managed to bring in another £85 with a copper coin trail, and by selling piggy banks which they had made. A snakes and ladders tournament was organised by Birch Class with an entry fee, making £20. A classroom disco and hot soup stall raised £40 for Ash Class. Even the youngest children in Oak class joined in; they sold smoothies and raised £70. The class that came out on top though was Beech Class, with the 'Beech Bubbles' car wash. At £3 a go, it raised £108.34, and some customers were so pleased with their shiny motors that they paid more. Beech Class teacher, Lara Farahar, said the result was, in a word, 'amazing'. Her pupils have decided to spend the money on soil, seeds and pots, to grow flowers and vegetables to brighten up the outdoor area.

by Fi Picton

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BIOLAGE

Walk on the Wild Side - Nature's going nuts

I missed last month's article as I was on a trip seeing exotic birds and animals such as the forty-spotted pardalote, eastern quoll and the duck-billed platypus – and spring is really getting started with some early warm weather, which bodes well for a great breeding season.



Our summer breeding birds are really starting to get into the swing of spring, with our resident rooks taking centre stage. Rooks are one of four members of the crow family around the village – we also have lots of jackdaws, some carrion crows and a small number of ravens. Jackdaws are the smallest and are often seeing on top on the houses on the high street and nest in gaps on roofs or chimneys, while rooks build nests in trees such as those next to the church. They are very social birds and have a distinct bare patch of skin at the base of the beak, unlike a carrion crow. There are a number of rookeries around the village and they may move location from year to year, with a couple of new ones at the back of Grove Road.

The rookeries we get in the village are relatively small (although you may not think that from the noise), with one in Scotland having some 2,500 nests and with rookeries of up to 50,000 nests being recorded elsewhere in Europe. There are a number of collective nouns for rooks, including building, parliament, clamour and storytelling (great pub quiz question).

Male chiffchaffs (see picture) are already singing along a number of hedgerows, and the ones I saw along the Cliff may be one of the few resident birds that are claiming their territory early before the migrant chiffchaffs return from southern Europe. The early warm weather has encouraged butterflies as well, with a number of brimstone and small tortoiseshells along the Cliff. Both these species over winter as adults, typically in sheds and garages and can be seen on warms days even in January.

Many birds will start to nest in March and April, although some birds have adopted a different strategy. Both wood pigeons (of which we have lots and lots)



and stock doves can nest all year round and I found a freshly hatched egg on New Year's Day! Our local herons will be well through the nesting season by now. They are also communal breeders with large nests and typically lay their eggs in February. A heronry is quite a sight and there is an easily accessible one at the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust site at Lower Moor Farm in the Cotswold Water Park – so get along and have a look. Otters are often seen from the viewing hide.

While in Australia, I was fortunate to visit Tasmania where there is necessarily a very different approach to wildlife conservation. The lack of any significant predators for millions of years means the local marsupials and birds are easily killed by cats, stoats, rats, etc and, on Bruny Island, like many parts of Tasmania, they have regular cat-trapping training sessions! They also have a fascinating concept of Men's Sheds ... something new to me!

WildSherston won't be happening this year as we have other things happening – hopefully a few talks and a joint project with the Bristol and Avon River Trust to improve our local rivers – watch this space.

by Geoff Carss

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Nadia Whiffin Ringing before her Third Birthday



Nadia Whiffin, daughter of Martin and Revered Ness Whiffin, is a regular Sunday ringer at Holy Cross Sherston. She is actually 11 years old but because she was born on 29 February she has had only two birthdays.

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Village hall 300+ club

January 2015 Draw

1st	171	Mary Hibbard	£13
2nd	239	Caroline Law	£12
3rd	165	Viv Hibbard	£11
4th	249	Rosemary Chudleigh	£10
5th	133	Di Bush	£9
6th	156	Mary Lindrea	£8
7th	167	Jane Milne	£7

Collectors: A Andrews, M Goulding, A Lyall, G Mason, P Moody, R Moody, J Platts, L Prior, and M Thacker.

February 2015 Draw

1st	58	Ray Wiltshire	£13
2nd	110	Carol Hillier	£12
3rd	69	Roger Ashley	£11
4th	155	Mr CJ Brant	£10
5th	75	Vicky Johnson	£9
6th	259	Gwen Perraton-Russell	£8
7th	36	Jill Woodward	£7

Collectors: A Andrews, M Goulding, A Lyall, G Mason, P Moody, R Moody, J Platts, L Prior, and M Thacker.

March 2015 Draw

1st	226	Sally Stratton	£13
2nd	129	Kerry Williams	£12
3rd	176	Andy Tremellen	£11
4th	95	Joan Weeks	£10
5th	209	Pete Verard	£9
6th	107	Douglas Gee	£8
7th	169	Pat Jones	£7

Collectors: A Andrews, M Goulding, A Lyall, G Mason, P Moody, R Moody, J Platts, L Prior, and M Thacker.



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The Imitation Game [12A]

During the winter of 1952, British authorities entered the home of mathematician cryptanalyst and war hero Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) to investigate a reported burglary. They instead ended up arresting Turing himself on charges of 'gross indecency', an accusation that would lead to his devastating conviction for the criminal offence of homosexuality - little did officials know they were actually incriminating the pioneer of modern-day computing. Famously leading a motley group of scholars, linguists, chess champions and intelligence officers, he was credited with cracking the so-called unbreakable codes of Germany's World War 2 Enigma machine. An intense and haunting portrayal of a brilliant and complicated man, The Imitation Game follows a genius who under nail-biting pressure helped to shorten the war and, in turn, save thousands of lives.

Also starring Keira Knightley, Charles Dance, Matthew Goode and Mark Strong.

Doors open from 7.00pm. Screening starts at 7.30pm with a short feature film followed by our main film.

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THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

At last the results of the 2014 International Rutabaga Curling Championship held at Ithaca New York state on 20 December have been published. They are as follows -

- 1 Dr. Todd Stein, Ithaca, NY
- 2 Jeremy Betterly, Sterling, MA
- 3 Kevin Luke, Cornell

I am grateful for the following report from The Ithaca Voice

Mayor Svante Myrick kicked off the 17th Annual International Rutabaga Curling World Championship at the Ithaca Farmers Market, according to the market's manager Aaron Munzer

The Rutabaga Curling championship is a delightfully Ithaca event in which the Rutabaga, a cruciferous vegetable of the Brassicaceae family, is rolled down the central farmers market pavilion.

Myrick tossed the "Ceremonial First Rutabaga, after the Parade of the Athletes descended from Mount Cruciferous," according to Munzer.

"To our knowledge Mayor Myrick is the youngest mayor in the world to have kicked off a sporting event of



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this kind," Munzer said in a news release.

Rutabaga's have been much maligned in the past but as the acclaimed author Garrison Keillor writes

So many people confuse rutabagas with turnips. They're not alike at all. Rutabagas have a pleasant yellow-orange color, large friendly-looking leaves, and a smooth dense texture. Turnips are fish-belly white and purple on top like a bad bruise and have hairy leaves and taste brackish, like swamp water. Rutabagas are the root crop that any sensible person would prefer.

Rutabaga — it's suitable for any occasion. Rutabagas' firm yet impetuous flavor go well with Bordeauxs, Chablis, or even champagne. Use julienned rutabagas to clear the palate before dessert. Stir-fried rutabagas can bulk up any Chinese dish. Or how about rutabaga ratatouille. And instead of an olive in your Martini, why not try a rutabaga wedge.

Rutabaga— it's America's under-utilized vegetable.

For those unfamiliar with rutabagas they are known to us as swedes.

It's great to see the increasing interest in root vegetable sports around the world and that Mangold Hurling has some competition – not a bad thing at all though to be kept on our toes although we are of course the senior sport by many centuries.

Rutabagas are not the only root vegetable enjoying the limelight at the moment as much nearer to home the Ocker is said to be being revived. An intrepid



SHERSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MEETS IN THE BRITISH SCHOOLROOM

April Services

5th April 4.00pm – Easter Service 12th April 11.00am – Communion Service

19th April 4.00pm – Fruits of the Spirit: Peace

26th April 4.00pm – Children's Church

ALL MOST WELCOME



"May all who fear you find in me a cause for joy, for I have put my hope in your word" Psalm 119:74



member of the Ancient Order stumbled across the Ocker on a visit to the Royal Oak at Bishopstone a lovely village on the Wiltshire/ Berkshire border. In the first week of March the pub hosted its first Ocker Festival. Two intrepid members of the Bishopstone Eccentric Society Russell Hatch and Adrian Dent have resurrected this rare root vegetable and have grown a crop of some 100kg in the village. For more on the Royal Oak see http://helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk/pub.html Its well worth a visit – good ales and great organic food plus a touch of eccentricity!

Next month I will mainly be concentrating on mangold growing tips as the parish gears itself up ready for the October onslaught that is the Hurl.

Yarp! Keeper of the Quill





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ricket

With spring in the air, the summer sound of leather on willow is never far away. Sherston Magna Cricket Club (SMCC) has wintered well and has some important events in April and May.

Indoor League Success

SMCC's indoor six-a-side finished the winter season unbeaten and winning the second division of the Chippenham Indoor League, but it was high drama at the end of the season. SMCC went in to the final match of the indoor league against Spye Park A, having won all but one of their indoor games - and that one game had been a dramatic tie in an earlier match against Spye Park A.

Earlier results had ensured that coming in to the final game SMCC were guaranteed of winning the league, but the team was keen to finish the season unbeaten and prove themselves by beating Spye Park who had finished second in the league.

The game started with Spye Park batting first and with some unusually wayward bowling and lusty blows from Spye Park's young lower order set SMCC a very respectable score of 121 to win.

SMCC's batters started well and kept up with the required scoring rate throughout the first 6/7 overs with Chris Lovell and Richie Cartwright required to retire at scores of 25. These enforced retirements brought new batters to the wicket and, while the run rate kept at the required rate, SMCC started to lose wickets.



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SMCC eventually found themselves requiring 18 to win from the final over with the two wickets of Richie Cartwright (having returned after retirement) and Harry Stevens (playing his first game since the previous summer). Cartwright and Stevens played the first four balls perfectly – each being hit for three runs. But with six required from the final two balls Cartwright was caught above the head of the fielder protecting the back wall (an inch higher would have been six runs). With Stevens now the final wicket he found himself at the strikers end needing six to win from the final ball. It was with shrieks of delight that the remaining SMCC players, viewing from the balcony, saw the final ball despatched against the back wall by the heroic Stevens.

Dates for the diary

Saturday 11 April is SMCC's ground-force day when the club gets together at the ground in Pinkney Park to start preparing the pitch and ground for the new season.

Sunday 17 May marks the official opening of the new practice facility installed at the end of last season.

Junior coaching and practice starts on Monday 13 April and Senior practice starts on Wednesday 15 April.

Further details of all events, fixtures, membership and more can be found at the clubs new website www. sherstonmagnacc.co.uk. The club will also send out it's Magna Magic newsletter to club members at the start of the season.



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Children's tennis coaching is back!

Sherston Tennis Club is once again offering Saturday morning tennis coaching for school-age children. The 10-week course is due to start on Saturday 18 April and finish on Saturday 4 July (with no lessons on 6 or 13 June).

Times are likely to be 9.00am-10.00am, 10.00am-11.00am and 11.00am-12.00noon, depending on take-up, with children grouped according to age/ability.

The cost is £45, plus junior membership to Sherston Tennis Club (just £15 for those signing up before the end of April).

For further information or to enrol, please contact Sophie Cheetham on 07786 990045 or sophcheetham@gmail.com.







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North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Our February meeting took 30 plus members to The Hare and Hounds at Westonbirt for our annual members' dinner. Comfortable surroundings, nice food and good company made for a most enjoyable evening.

At our March meeting, we have our first workshop of the year, entitled 'Sally Forth in Spring'. Sally Taylor will return to the club to demonstrate 'Sally Special' and 'All Twigged out' for members to try their hand at.

At the meeting on 15 April there will be Julia Russett's demonstration called 'My Life in Flowers'. This evening will also see the third round of our annual competition entitled 'Spring Posey'.

On 20 May, Beryl Griffiths (area demonstrator) will demonstrate under the title of 'The Pleasure is Mine'.

Meetings take place at Crudwell Village Hall, SN16 9HB on the third Wednesday of the month, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. New members and visitors welcome.

For more information please contact Margaret on 01285 770 639

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Drawing Classes in the British School Room

The summer term will start on Wednesday 15 April and new students of all standards are welcome to join. Classes are 10.00am to 12.00noon or 1.30pm to 3.30pm and it is a 10-week term. When weather permits, we try to paint and draw outside, working from the landscape or visiting local gardens.

For further information phone Heather Martin 840375 or email heather@geoffmartin.plus.com

GRAZING/STABLING wanted. Sherston surrounds for 2 horses. Self contained or yard share. Experienced owner with references available. Could consider offering help with exercise, dressage training, event grooming in return if desired. 07961 298489.

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.





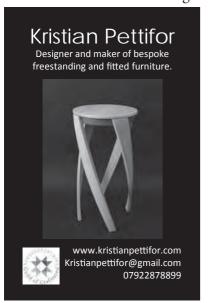
Sherston Market

Our next market is on Saturday18 April at Sherston Village Hall from 10.00 am to 2.00pm. We have some very interesting new stalls as well as your usual favourites.

The cafe will be serving up some enticing and interesting food to tempt you, including our very popular vegetarian curry with naan bread to eat in or take away. The sought-after bacon butties and sausage baps will also be on the menu.

At all markets at least one free stall is offered for a charity or voluntary group to raise funds. Anyone interested in running such a stall should please use the contacts below. All these stalls have done well to date so don't be shy in booking one! In April Sheila James will be back with a stall in support of Riding for the Disabled.

For those on facebook there is an active Sherston Market page with lots of information about our stallholders and their products. Please also visit our new website www.sherstonmarket.co.uk which lists details of which stallholders are attending the next market.



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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 biscuits and brownies - Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 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

Mustard Seeds is a Saturday morning club for children aged 4 and over, from 10am - 12noon once a month.

Congregational Church - in The British

Schoolroom 1st Sun we visit local Churches together. 2nd Sun 11am. Visiting Speaker. 3rd Sun 4pm Family Friendly Service.4th Sun 4pm Children's Church. 5th Sun we worship elsewhere. All services are led or hosted by Pastor Andrew Williams-Tarling Contact awtcharfield@ hotmail.co.uk or 07921 390878 (or find us on Facebook.).

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. This is for children from 3 to 11+. Any children under 3 need to be accompanied by an adult.

Contact Becky Fisher 07974 030212 or becky.fisher@deanery.org.uk

Little Lights

Every Thurs, 10.30 am in Hullavington church. Children aged 0-5 and their parents/carers come from across the Group, including Sherston, for songs, crafts, activities, Bible stories and snack time. Any questions, contact Chantal on 837522

Easton Grey Parish Church

See Parish Life for details of services

Sunday Newspapers

On sale 8am - 11am every Sunday in Sherston village hall.

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.

Busy Hands Pre-school

Meets 9.10am - 12.10pm everyday in the village hall for 2 3/4 - 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 Henry Crawford on 841065 www.sherstonbusyhands.org.uk or email us on chair@sherstonbusyhands.org.uk

Charity Bingo In aid of a different local charity each month on the 3rd Friday at 7.30 for 8pm start in the village half. 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 Meets 2nd & 4th Tuesdays Feb to June and Sept to Dec 2.30pm – 4 pm in the British Schoolroom (alternating with the Senior Club). All friendly fellas welcome for simple char and chat.

Drawing Classes in Sherston

The summer term will start on Wed 15 Apr and new students of all standards are welcome to join. Classes are 10am to 12 noon or 1.30pm to 3.30pm for ten weeks. When weather permits we try to paint and draw outside, working from the landscape or visiting local gardens. For further information phone Heather Martin 840375 or email 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

Hogwards The Help a Hedgehog Hospital charity has a satellite hospital in Tetbury.Mary Hinton 07779 299224 www.helpahedgehog.org

Ingleburn Trefoil Guild Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, usually at St. Mary's School Tetbury at 7.30 p.m. Lifts are available for non-drivers in the Sherston/Malmesbury area. Details from Helen Price, 503187 or retreatcottage17@btinternet.com

Infant and Junior Jazz Dance and Ballet Classes in Sherston Starting Sept – every Tues 3.30pm £3.50 per session. For more info or to reserve a place please call 07894 991545 or email minetydance@aol.com or www.minetydance.com

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

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

Malmesbury Concert Band Rehearsals on Fri evenings in Malmesbury, 7.15 – 9.15pm. The band performs at local Bandstands, public concerts, etc. and is always on the look-out for brass and woodwind players (and percussion and string bass or bass guitar) of reasonable sight-reading ability. For further details and to ascertain current vacancies see our website http://www.freewebs.com/malmesburyconcertband/ and/or contact Tony Fleming, the Musical Director, on 575229 or tony@jacfleming.plus.com

Malmesbury Community Choir

The Malmesbury Community Choir is a non-audition performing choir that meets for rehearsals in the Old School Room at the Town Hall every Monday evening from 7.30-9.30pm. The waiting list is currently full for ladies, but we would always welcome extra men and young people between 14-21 years old. Membership is £50 per quarter, but membership for U18s is free and U21s is half price. For further information please email

info@malmesburycommunitychoir.org, visit the website at www.malmesburycommunitychoir.org or www.facebook.com/MalmesburyCommunityChoir.

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. Volunteers also needed to prepare and serve lunch, no washing up

Malmesbury Film Society Memorable new, classic and foreign films are shown at 7.30pm every 3rd Sunday of the month at St. Mary's Hall, Malmesbury - no booking or membership necessary. Join us for unique films and an enjoyable evening out. See our website www.malmesburyfilmsociety.org.uk for details on all upcoming films.

Malmesbury Villages Community Partnership

For details contact Woody Allen 390110 mark.allen@allenclan.co.uk

Malmesbury Rainbows, Brownies & Guides For details contact the Division Commissioner at malmesbury@ wncounty.org.uk

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club (affiliated to National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies -NAFAS) meets at 7.30pm on the third Wed evening of most months of the

year at Crudwell Village Hall. Join members come from the surrounding villages to hear speakers and enjoy floristry demonstrations and do workshops and competitions. Call Margaret Stanford on 01285 770 639 to answer any queries or give information about forthcoming events

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. 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. Contact sherston1016@gmail.com or Martin Jacques 07717 424619

Sherston Badminton Club We play every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm in the Village Hall from September to the end of May. – New members welcome. For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592 or email ray.clifton@wrsl.com

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 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 Greg Hughes, Bagherra, Cub Scout Assistant Leader, greghughes_2000@yahoo.co.uk to obtain an application form

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 Riaan van Rooyen riaan@pulse-software.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@googlemail.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 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

 $Sherston\ FC$ The club play in the Stroud league at Knockdown Park on Saturday afternoons - spectators and new players welcome.

Contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or peter.brock666@btinternet.com

Sherston Ladies' Swimming Club
Want to get fit? Lose weight? Our Club is a friendly and sociable group open to any ladies of any swimming ability from Sherston and the surrounding area. We swim at Westonbirt Leisure Centre on Wednesday evenings from 8 – 9 pm. Everyone swims at their own pace although there is a lane for faster swimmers. It costs £5 per week, £40 for 10 weeks. For further information please phone Maggie (840969). Appeled on 840503 or Heather (840375) (840969), Annabel on 840592 or Heather (840375).

Sherston's Living Churchyard
Please help maintain the living churchyard on the second Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm, weather permitting. Please check with Sue for timings each month. Church of the Holy Cross Further details contact Sue Robinson on 841263

Sherston Magna Cricket Club In preparation for the new season SMCC are having indoor practice nets at Malmesbury Activity Zone every Sunday in March from 1pm to 2.30pm. New and existing players welcome. £3 per person. Sherston Magna has a senior cricket side that plays league cricket on Saturdays and friendly cricket on Sundays throughout the summer. If you are interested in playing please contact sherstonmagna@yahoo.co.uk Junior and senior outdoor practice nets will take place soon at the cricket ground at Pinkney Park. Look out for further notices here. We are looking to run three junior league sides (under 11s, under 13s and under 15s) next season. For updates on when junior coaching will begin for the season see the latest info on the junior facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/SMCCJuniors/

Sherston Netball Club Training every Monday 7.30pm at Westonbirt Leisure Centre. All ages and abilities welcome. £3 per session. For more info, please contact Ailsa (07971 845206), Lauren (07885 597429), Saara (07739 552336) or Kate (07792 064438).

SH.O.C.C. The choir meets this term at 7.30pm each Wednesday in the British Schoolroom. Rehearsing music of WW1 for performance 8 & 9 May with the Drama Group. £3 per session. Further information from Lucy Lawrance on 840778 (evenings) or lucy@sherston.plus.com

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 Pilates Classes held on Tuesday lunchtimes and Thursday evenings at the village hall. Run by Saara Sharman, Chartered Physiotherapist. All ages and abilities welcome. For more details contact Saara on 07739552336 or sherstonpilates@gmail.com

Sherston Tennis Club The tennis courts are located on Knockdown Road, open to all over the winter. Children's Sat am coaching will start after Easter. If you would like to be emailed with details nearer the time, please contact Sophie Cheetham on 07786 990045 or sophcheetham@gmail.com. If you're interested in joining the club or using the courts, please contact Nic Riley on 840682 or nic50riley@gmail.com.

Sherston Theatre Club Excursions with a Sherston High Street-to-venue return coach service. Annual fee £20. Listings under www.communigate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/ or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or helenandjim@thequirks.plus.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 Sophie Cheetham, sophcheetham@gmailcom 07786 990045 or alternative like us on Facebook for regular updates www.facebook.com/sherston.toddlers

Sherston Velo A new cycling club formed of enthusiastic road cyclists from Sherston and the surrounding area - formally accredited by British Cycling at the end of 2014. There are regular rides each Saturday and Sunday morning with a fast paced group leaving first for an hour, followed by a longer club run. For membership and other information about the club, visit the website www.sherstonvelo.cc or email Mark Walsh at secretary@sherstonvelo.cc

Sherston Village Hall
Available for hire by all. Ideal for meetings, events, parties etc. For details Chris and Tony Weedon 841377 or email dogleg3@gmail.com

Sherston W.I. Meetings in April and May - British Schoolroom at 7.30pm on first Thursday of month – June to Sept in Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors always most welcome £3.50.Further information: Secretary 840578

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 Minnie Hulme on 841118 or email hulmessherston@sky.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

WEA Sherston Arts, Literature and History Courses The WEA (Workers's Education Association) offers courses on the Arts, Literature and History in the British School Room, Cliff Road. For more information or to book a place contact Warwick or Pat Jones on 840764 or warwick.jones@btinternet.com.

Village Hall 300+ Club For an annual subscription of only £6, give yourself the opportunity of winning a cash prize in every monthly draw whilst supporting the Village Hall. 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.

Wild Yoga Mon evenings during term time – 6.45-8pm and 8.15-9.30pm in the village hall. Drop in rate £9 reducing to £7.50 if you take up the course. Contact Theo 07818 401110 or theo@wildyoga.co.uk

WHAT'S O

What's on in 2015 Dates for your diary

8/9 Pack Up Your Troubles

20/21 Open Gardens

11/12 Boules Day

October

9-18 Sherston Arts Festival

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.

Sherston

The Rattlebone Inn

Monday Quiz Nights Every Monday at 7.30pm Free entry and prizes for the winning team Mothering Sunday Lunch 15 March Easter Sunday party – 5 April live music with The Killertones, hog roast starts 7.30pm Check boards for more details of events For further details call 840871 or follow on Twitter #GavinHunt@Therattlebone or visit www.therattlebone.co.uk/

Sherston Market

Local crafts and produce, cake stalls, Sherston Rare Breed pork, Aunt Addie's Farm Project fresh local vegetables and cheeses from Brinkworth Dairy

Every month a free stall in the lobby is made available to local charity or voluntary group to raise funds. Sat 18 Apr Sat 9 May Sat 13 Jun Sat 4 Jul Village hall For further details call 07887 814843 or 07769 613627 or email info@awkwardsquad.co.uk or visit http://sherstonmarket. weebly.com or https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sherston-Market/195319400641324

Art Exhibition at Shear Class Salon

The paintings of Sherston artist Gill Ashley are on display this month. Anyone can call in to see them - you don't have to be attending the salon

Art Exhibition At The Angel

Paintings by Sherston artist Gill Ashley and mosaics by Lou Fitch-Peyton local art on display and some for sale more details for Gill at www.tetburyartsociety.org.uk/Gallery_ ashley.html and for Lou www.louropnermosaics.com/ For further details call 840039 or tara@sherstonangel.co.uk or visit www.sherston-angel.co.uk/

Sherston Drama Group

Spring Play Seeds of Doubt by Peter Gordon Wed 8 to Sat 11 Apr 7.30pm Doors open 7pm Tickets £7.50/£6.50 concessions, including interval refreshments - on sale at the Post Office or via sherstondramagroup@gmail.com Sherston Great War Experience with Sherston Drama Group and ShOCC on 8-9 May We intend to present an idea of what it was like for local people 100 years ago, both in the Services and back at home. If you would like to offer any stories, anecdotes, reminiscences, or take part yourself, please get in touch with the Richard, the Drama Group Chairman, at richard.skeffington@virgin.net or ring 840092. All material will be treated with respect Village Hall For further details call Richard Skeffington 840092 sherstondramagroup@gmail.com

Sue's Strolls

Sun 26 Apr Please assemble at the village hall for 10.00am with a return Rattlebone Inn just around 12noon for seasonal refreshments. As ever children and well behaved dogs, the latter on leads, are very welcome. The walk is entirely free and there is no need to boo This is a PHEW! event see www.legacymalmesbury.org.uk For further details call Sue McKechnie 840601 or

susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.legacymalmesbury.org.uk

Sherston Senior Club

Coach Outing to Whitminster Garden Centre Tues 14 Apr leave Sherston High St. 11.00am £10.00 Members £12.00 Non-members

Speaker Susan Platford from the Labrador Rescue Trust Tues 28 Apr 2.30pm in the British School Room Visitors welcome entry £2.00 members free.

For further details call Helen Quirk 840516

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Upcoming events at Holy Cross Church

Christian Aid week 10-16 May Please look kindly on the red Christian Aid envelope when it comes through your letterbox this year and join us in trying to help our neighbours in the world who need support to deal with lives that are full of problems we can hardly imagine

Alpha course starts 28 Jan till Easter These evenings involve an excellent meal, a stimulating video, and discussion which you can join in as much or as little as you like Please contact Phil Daniels 01249 248219 philjdaniels@talktalk.net or Henny Metters for more information

History Lecture – Edmund Ironside Sat 27 June at 7pm Edmund Ironside fought at the Battle of Sherston in 1016 on the same side as our local hero John Rattlebone. All proceeds to the Church Roof appeal – more details to follow Check the Parish Life for more details

Wiltshire Young Farmers Annual Rally

80th Anniversary celebratory event at Widleys Farm Sun 3 May - stalls and games, trade stands and a bar Admission: Members £2, Non Members £4 or £10 family, Under 10s Free The Rally is filled with hundreds of members from the 8 clubs across the County competing against each other in a variety of competitions. Members demonstrate an array of skills such as go kart design and race to auctioneering and brick laying, with Floral and cookery skills - with special thanks to the Hibbards





Sherston Arts Festival

9 -18 Oct If you would like to join the planning committee or can offer help in any way, please get in touch with Heather Martin 840375 or Pat Jones 840764. Ten days of arts events suitable for all ages including art and photography exhibitions, concerts, lectures, Family workshops, Scarecrow Trail

For further details call Heather Martin 840375 / heather@geoffmartin.plus.com or Pat Jones 840764 / warwick.jones@btinternet.com

Events at Sherston School

Boden Sale, Sat 18 Apr, 11am-3pm, Sherston School hall New summer clothing range for adults and children, come and try before you buy. 20% off with free postage and returns, and a £25 credit to your Boden account if you introduce a friend. Refreshments and a raffle, proceeds to

Spring Clean Up Day at Sherston School, Sat 9 May, check FSS Facebook page for timings

Bring a broom and a spade, and help spruce up the outdoor area ready for the summer! Free refreshments from the FSS for families who take part.

Pop-up Italian Café, Fri 5 June, Sherston School hall 5.15-6.45pm

An Italian tea for all the family, with pizza, pasta, ice cream, and proseco! Games and crafts for the children. Held to celebrate ten years of the school at its current site. Tickets on sale at school after the Easter break. Proceeds to the FSS. More details in the next Cliffhanger...

Olympic Day - Sun 14 June, 11am-2pm, medals ceremony 3pm, Sherston Rec

A mini-decathlon of Olympic Sports for children at Sherston Primary School, a great day out in the heart of the village. Refreshments, a tombola, and medals for the winners. Proceeds to the FSS.

Sherston WI Talks

Talk on Allotments with Fiona Warin 2 Apr at 7.30pm -British Schoolroom (Note change of venue) Open Meeting with a talk by Marc Allum of The Antiques Roadshow 16 Apr at 7.30pm Tickets £7 for the general public for this event will be on sale at the post office Member's holiday slides and Resolution discussion 7 May 7.30pm BSR For further details call Jill Woodward 840578 or jillwoodward222@btinternet.com



or for a consultation, please call

07811 437633 www.juliatully.co.uk



Knockdown The Holford Arms

Live Music every weekend Check boards for more details of events For further details call 01454 238669 or info@ theholfordarms.co.uk

Sherston & Grtittleton Rural Arts Wiltshire

The Ugly Duckling – Le Petit Artist Children's Theatre This show, suitable for families and young children is brought to us by Rural Arts Wiltshire and is being presented to raise funds for the Village Hall. Put the date in your diary, more details later. Sat 26 Apr 3pm Tickets available from the beginning of April from Sherston Post Office or from 840375. Adults £7, concessions £6, child £4.50, family (2 adults + 2 children) £20. Refreshments (tea, soft drinks and homemade cakes) will be available after the performance so please do stay- these will be supplied by Sherston Young Craft Group and all proceeds will go to the Village Hall Development Fund.

visit www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk

Sevington

Summer Sundays at Sevington Victorian School

Children's Easter egg hunt Easter Sunday 5 April 2.30 - 4.30pm Children can play with hoops and tops and learn some of the games children played in Victorian times. Adults can take a tour of the schoolroom, untouched since 1913, take homemade afternoon tea in the teacher's parlour and stroll in the Victorian garden Open every Sunday from 17 May to 13 Sept 2-5pm free admission, donations welcome Museums at night Come and spend the evening at Sevington School and step back into a time of firelight and candlelight. £6 includes a tour of the church, schoolroom and light

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refreshments in the teacher's parlour. Sevington Victorian School, SN14 7LD For further details call Dinah Starkey on 01225 755713 or misssquire@sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk or visit www.sevingtonvictorianschool.co.uk

Westonbirt The Arboretum

Mar - Aug admission prices Adults £9 Concs £6 Children £3 under 5s free. Half price admission to those arriving by bike or public transport

Specialist Wood Sales 2nd Saturday and Sunday every month 10am-1pm in aid of FOWA

Check website for details of events, wood and photography courses, guided walks and family fun days

Summer concerts: Forest Live June: Paloma Faith Fri 19 Jun SOLD OUT; Tom Odell Sat 20 Jun; The Vamps Sun 21 Jun Fri 10 Jul: Robert Plant and The Sensational Space Shifters Sat 11 Jul Spandau Ballet, Sun 12 Jul McBusted Tickets: £34.50 - £46.50 (plus £3.85 booking fee) on sale from the Forestry Commission box office tel: 03000 680400, or buy online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music For further details call 880220 or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Cotswolds Cotswold Rural Skills

Hedge laying for beginners - Somerset style Hedge laying for beginners - Midlands style

Woodland Coppicing

Introduction to Horse Logging

Cotswold Tile Roofing - Beginners 7-8 Mar Naunton LANTRA Level 2 (Intermediate) Dry Stone Walling

2 day course £109 1 day £59

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





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Easton Grey Whatley Manor

Thursday evening cinema Thurs 16 Apr - What we did on our holiday £23 includes a choice of either a glass of wine, a bottled beer or soft drink. A small tub of delicious ice cream (choice of flavour) and of course popcorn.

Sunday Cinema £8.50 includes your cinema ticket for the screening and popcorn. In addition, on the day, choose one, two or three courses from the a la carte lunch menu in 'Le Mazot' brasserie The Sunday Cinema Screenings must be pre-booked

Films coming soon: Hundred foot journey; The Imitation Game; Mr Turner

For further details call 834026 or visit www.whatleymanor.com

Malmesbury

Events at Malmesbury Children's centre

Look out for our latest newsletter and new programme details on our website www.malmesburycc.org Library For further details call 825566 or email: malmesburycc@spurgeons.org or visit www.malmesburycc.org

MP's Surgery

Local MP surgery with James Gray MP 12 noon - 1pm Hobbes Parlour, Malmesbury Town Hall For further details www.jamesgray.org or email jamesgraymp@parliament.uk for online surgeries

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society

Cellophany eight young professional cellists, will fascinate us by playing a very varied programme with their own unique vibrant, sonorous and exhilarating sound 2 May



VOCES8 20-Jun 'Eventide' with a plainchant thread exploiting the wonderful acoustic qualities of Malmesbury Abbey.

For further details call David Barton 824924 d.barton763@btinternet.com or visit www.malmesbury.com/mams

Malmesbury Film Society

Showing world and classic films every 3rd Sun of the month at 7.30pm. Tickets £5, no booking required.

Tracks Sun 19 Apr 7.30pm

St. Mary's Hall, Malmesbury

For further details visit www.malmesburyfilmsociety.org.uk

Malmesbury & District University of the Third Age

U3A is a unique organisation which provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to come and learn together, drawing upon the knowledge, experience and skills of their own members to organise and provide interesting talks.

AGM Thurs 23 Apr

Keeping / staying safe out there Talk by Gordon Burley Thurs 28 May

Assembly Rooms at the Town Hall

For further details call Membership Secretary Julia Batty on 01249 720327 or visit www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Didmarton

Flicks in the Sticks

The Imitation Game Fri 10 Apr Doors open 6:30pm for 7.30pm start. Cash bar £3 in advance £3.50 on the door Paddington Sat 11 Apr at 4pmfor 5pm start Didmarton Village Hall For further details call Jenny Body 01454 238358 or jenny.body@virgin.net



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Grittleton Moviola the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme

The Imitation Game [12A] Wed 29 Apr

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start £6 from Lesley or on the door. For further details call Lesley 01249 783157 or email l_palmer@btinternet.com or visit http://www.moviola.org/

Chippenham Just Play Football

Weekly informal football sessions for anyone aged 16 plus Weekly informal football sessions for anyone aged 16 plus. Come on your own or with friends. No need to book, just turn up and play! Cost: £3 per session Just Play sessions are being delivered at 8 locations across Wiltshire, including: Friday 6.30 – 7.30pm Theme: Male. 7.30 – 8.30pm Theme: Walking Football Tel: 01249 463905 Stanley Park Sports Ground, Chippenham For further details call Wiltshire FA's Football Development Officer Chloe Buller on 01793 486047 or email Chloe.Buller@wiltshirefa.com

Cirencester

North Wilts Villages Flower Club

Julia Russett's demonstration - "My Life in Flowers". Thurs 15 Apr This evening will also see the third round of our annual competition entitled "Spring Posey".

Beryl Griffiths (area demonstrator) - "The Pleasure is Mine". 20 May

Crudwell Village Hall

For further details call Margaret on 01285 770 639

Wotton-Under-Edge The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers from the local community This month's screenings: Shaun the Sheep; Still Alice; The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel; Suite Francaise; Vincent Van Gogh: A new way of seeing from the Van Gogh Museum Amsterdam; Mommy; Globe on Screen: Julius Caesar; NT Live Man and Superman 14 check website for details

Films: The 100 year old man who climbed out of the window and disappeared; Hermitage Revealed; Wakolda; Two days, one night; In order of Disappearance Further details call 01453 844601 or visit www.wottoneph.co.uk

Nailsworth

Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Professional football only 20 minutes drive from Sherston. Home matches: Fri 3 Apr 4.30pm v Aldershot; Sat 11 Apr 3pm v. Macclesfield Town; Sat 25 Apr 5.15pm v Dover Athletic Adults £17/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £4 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

Wessex Male Choir

Royal Wootton Bassett Arts Festival Sat 18 Apr The concert will include the Swindon Young Musicians Choir. Tickets £12 and £10 Contact 01793 529678

Mercure Hotel Leisure Club Dinner South Marston Sat 25 Apr Tickets for this event are £22 for members of Mercure Leisure Club and £26 for non-members. Contact 01793 833700

St Mark's Church, Church Place, Swindon SN1 5EH For further details visit www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk

Wessex Concert Orchestra

Concert at Malmesbury Abbey Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, (Op. 18) – soloist Daniel Browell, Brahms Academic Festival Overture (Op 80), Dvorak Symphony No 8 in G Major (Op 88) Sat 11 Apr at 7.30pm £10/ £8 student or chd

For further details call Malmesbury Abbey Bookshop, Michael Thomas butchers, on the door or the website or visit www.wco.org.uk

Wiltshire Cycle Festival

The Wiltshire Cycling Festival finale is the Cycle Wiltshire Sportive and Grand Prix race on 9 – 10 May 2015, taking place in the south of the county - routes to suit all abilities and is a great day out for all. For further details call Miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk

Slamdunkz Basketball Easter Camps

2015 Easter camp schedule 31 Mar – 2 Apr Olympiad Leisure Centre, Chippenham 10am – 3pm £45 A 50% reduction in fees may be available when families are in receipt of certain benefits contact karlene.jammeh@wiltshire.gov.uk For a booking form or further information contact Matt Pearson, Sports Development Officer matthew.pearson@wiltshire.gov.uk or 01225 770213

Chippenham ChippFolkFest

3-26 May - early bird tickets on sale till 29 Jan Concerts throught the town *For further details call 01249 657190 or visit www.chippfolk.co.ukk*

Bath Theatre Royal

Twelve Angry Men 30 Mar - 4 Apr £15-£33.50 A Mad World My Masters 7 - 11 Apr And Then Theee Were None 13-18 Apr Dear Lupin 20-25 Apr Book ahead for: Twelve Angry Man; A Mad World My Masters; And then there were non; Dear Lupin: The importance of being earnest For further details call 01225 448844 or visit www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Useful Numbers

O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	
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 841377
Tolsey Surgery	01666 840270
Wiltshire Council	0300 4560100