



Jubilee Diamond tree



Jubilee tree c1900

The Tree Council is donating 60 trees to communities that could show that they would be planted in the centre of their community and that children would be involved in the project to commemorate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The idea is that children will see the tree grow to maturity in 60 years and take pride in their tree, showing it to future generations. The project also nods to the link between trees and the formation of diamonds from carbon from trees planted millions of years ago. By planting trees we are planting diamonds in the raw with hope for the future.

I am pleased to say that Sherston's application for a tree has been successful and we are about to take delivery of an oak sapling that will be planted on the Recreation Ground near the Golden Ash planted for the Queen's Golden Jubilee (let's hope it survives). The project is being taken on by Sherston Scouts under the

leadership of Riaan van Rooyen who will be digging the hole and overseeing the planting with help from the older Explorer Scouts.

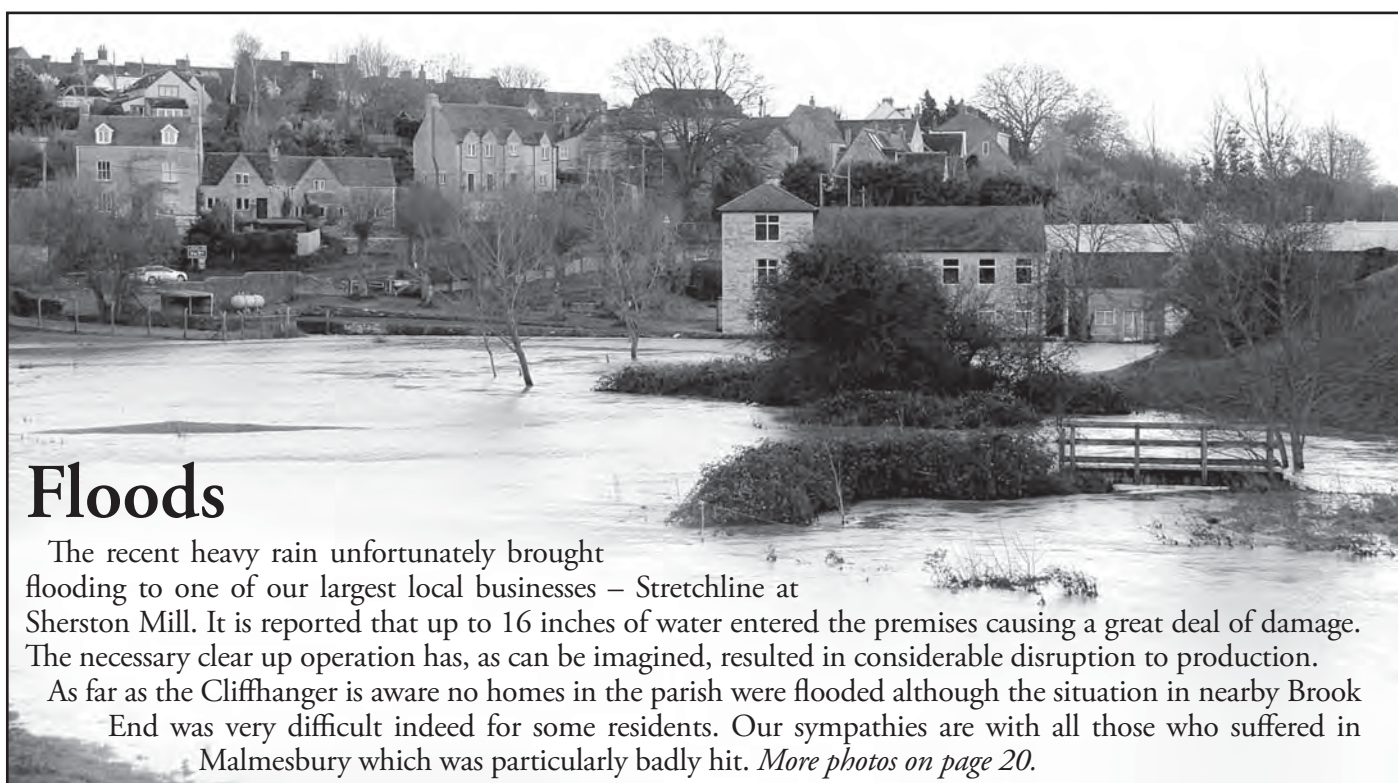
Every stage of the planning and planting is being recorded in words and photos and will be sent to The Tree Council, which plans to make a presentation of all 60 records to the Queen next June on the anniversary of her Coronation. There will also be pages on its website for an online version which will also be accessible by smartphones from a special plaque in front of the tree.

It would be great if anyone in the village had some royal connection as tenuous as having been born, christened or married on the day of the Accession or Coronation to come forward and take part in the planting.

We already have a Diamond Jubilee Tree in the village, commonly known as the Jubilee tree, which was planted in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's reign. This has already survived for 115 years but has not grown to a great size due to it having been planted on a large rock which has effectively 'bonsaied' it. A similar tree was planted in Easton Square at the same time and is now huge. Let's hope ours grows to be enormous.

The planting ceremony will be on Sunday 16 December at 12noon

Sue McKechnie, Deputy Tree Warden



Floods

The recent heavy rain unfortunately brought flooding to one of our largest local businesses – Stretchline at Sherston Mill. It is reported that up to 16 inches of water entered the premises causing a great deal of damage. The necessary clear up operation has, as can be imagined, resulted in considerable disruption to production.

As far as the Cliffhanger is aware no homes in the parish were flooded although the situation in nearby Brook End was very difficult indeed for some residents. Our sympathies are with all those who suffered in Malmesbury which was particularly badly hit. *More photos on page 20.*

Merry Christmas everyone

Special greetings to our advertisers, the staff at our printers CPC of Pinkney together with all our wonderful distributors and contributors. The Cliffhanger just wouldn't happen without you. Have a good one!

Thank you

Thank you to those of you who answered my plea last month for people to stand in for deliveries of the Sherston Cliffhanger. I have three people who have offered their services if I am short of deliverers. I hope only to use these people in emergencies, so if anybody else wants to go on the list please call me.

I would also like to thank all those people who help me with deliveries throughout the year. It is a great help and we could not carry on without you. Thank you.

Beryl Clampton, beryl@clampton.com, 841201

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.

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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

Malmesbury Rural – Update from PC Mike Tripp

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new beat manager for the area. I have spent a large part of my police career based in the Malmesbury area and after a year away working in Swindon I am excited to be back and looking forward to meeting the residents on my new patch. With regards to incidents in the rural area, we have unfortunately had a rise in dwelling burglaries and although numbers are low, it is important to bring this to the attention of all residents. Vigilance and willingness to report any suspicious activity is always required, and I am confident that with these actions along with increased police patrols we can reduce further incidents.

I have held consultations across the rural area since my arrival and it is very clear that the rise of dwelling burglaries is the main concern amongst residents. Malmesbury Rural's priority for the next quarter will be to increase police visibility and reassurance within the community. I will be working closely with my colleagues, specialist units and bordering forces with the aim of achieving this.

On a different note and as we all know too well, winter is now on its way and of course that brings difficult driving conditions, especially on the country lanes. Allow extra time for your journey and prepare your car before driving off by clearing your windscreens.

Christmas vouchers

This year's delivery of Sherston 1016 vouchers to senior citizens in both Sherston and Easton Grey will take place on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 December, weather permitting. If anyone who is expecting a voucher has not received it by Tuesday 18 December, please contact Eric Thacker on 841344

Sherston 1016 Fireworks

This year's display at Lower Easton Farm was very enjoyable indeed - some say one of the best. A dry evening with a clear sky certainly helped bring out the crowds. Sherston 1016 are very grateful to all those who make this such a great event. This year we had extra help from volunteers who helped us prepare on the day itself and clear everything away the following morning. Thank you one and all.

Displays were also undertaken by 1016 at Didmarton and Westonbirt School which were similarly blessed with good crowds and weather. Some 1016 member are still recovering from the now infamous Didmarton Drenching of a few years ago!

Clem's Club

Clem's Club will be meeting again on 4 and 18 December from 2.30pm to 4.00pm in the British Schoolroom, Cliff Road, Sherston. Please note that there will be no meetings in January.

We're going to be illustrators when we grow up

Korky Paul inspires children at Sherston School

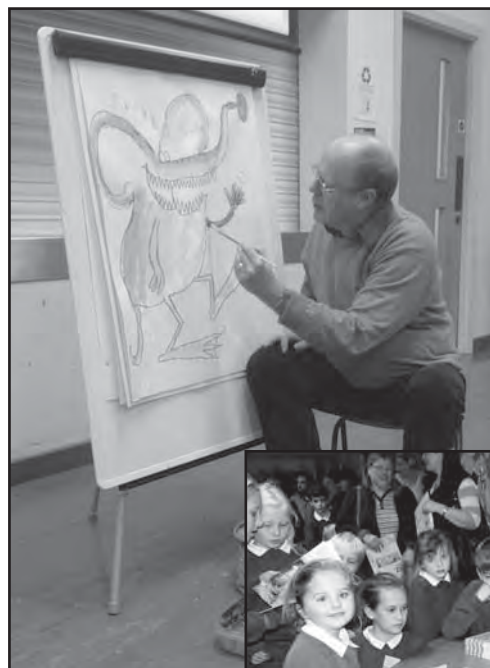
The world famous and award winning illustrator Korky Paul stood in front of pupils in Year 5 with a pair of gold underpants on his head. They burst into laughter as he read from his book 'Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants', the story of a small six year old boy, Scallywag, who has to overcome a giant to find King Colin's missing underwear.

Korky Paul may not be a familiar name to adults, but his illustrations of children's books, such as 'Winnie the Witch', 'The Fish Who Could Wish', and 'Aesop's Funky Fables', are magical; highly detailed, drawn in pen and ink with watercolours. Korky still likes to 'get messy', but admits that he's had to move with the times and invest in digital software, although he's reluctant to use it.

His real name is Hamish and he was born in Zimbabwe in 1951 into a family of seven children. At an early age he was scribbling cartoons. He went to Durban School of Art, and worked for an advertising agency before his big break in 1976. He was living in Greece when he was asked to illustrate a series of books which aimed to teach children to speak 'the Queen's English'. And so his career began. 'Winnie the Witch' won the Children's Book award in 1987 and has been published in over 10 languages.

The Friends of Sherston (FSS) booked Korky nearly a year ago, such is his popularity, but he was well worth the wait. Every class had a 40 minute workshop, and Korky drew a creature based on ideas suggested by the children. Joseph Clegg recalls the 'gruesome sea-monster' which Korky came up with for Year 6. 'It was great fun...apparently it usually takes him about five days to draw a picture for a book, so imagine how long it takes him to illustrate the whole thing!' Joseph was also picked as a brave volunteer, and Korky drew him as 'Joseph-O-Saurus Rex', complete with a bar of chocolate, his favourite food.

The day finished with a book sale organised by the Yellow Lighted Bookshop, a first for this FSS committee, which was pleased to support a local independent store. It went so well that a donation of



£155 was given to the school for children and teachers to spend at the Tetbury shop.

Since that memorable Thursday, there have been all kinds of mysterious rumours in the village of teachers cancelling scheduled lessons so that pupils could draw, of children poring over the pages of 'Winnie the Witch' looking for the face of Korky Paul hidden in his own illustrations (he's there, it's true), and of a rise in cases of parental harassment. Pupils are drawing their mums and dads over breakfast, long-nosed, chicken-legged, red-necked and eating toast.

'What did you think of Korky Paul?' I asked my son on the walk home. 'Even better at drawing than Rufus' he said. He thinks Rufus is the best in his class, so there could be no higher praise from an 8 year old boy.

FSS would like to thank all parents who help raise funds to enhance the children's education at Sherston School.

by Fi Picton



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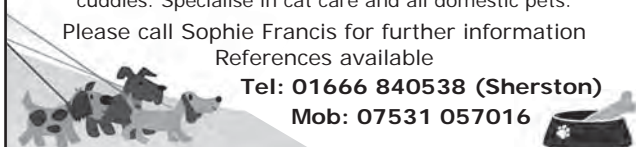
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References available

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Sherston Old School

COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Soscic members' meeting

The meeting held on 12 November at the British School Room was extremely well attended. The main points made at the meeting were:

All construction work (including work to the former playground area at the rear of the building) has now been completed – both on time and below budget.

The surface of the yard to the rear of the Old School is fragile – it was not originally constructed to accommodate vehicular traffic. This area is for use by cars and light vehicles only. The area immediately adjoining the Old School is specifically restricted to use by the tenants of the Old School. This area will in due course be delineated. The rest of the yard now belongs to the Village Hall. None of the yard is to be used for general parking.

SOSCIC will shortly be erecting a sign on the front of the building (to replace the existing black notice board) giving details of all of the occupants.

Confirmation was given that all of the units are now fully let and that the final occupants (Shear Class) were hoping to begin trading from their unit before the end of January (after completing some necessary shop-fitting works).

Members and villagers were thanked for their generous support given to the various fund-raising events and initiatives over the last 18 months. Members were advised that some £24,000 had been raised by a combination of individual donations and events during this period – in addition to the £50,000 received from the Prince's Countryside Fund. Whilst some additional fund-raising is required to complete the project it is hoped that we should achieve our target by the end of the year – assisted by the forthcoming Winter Ball and the sale of a painting kindly donated by Neil Forster.

An official opening is planned for early next year – as soon as all of the units are fully occupied – to which all of the members, donors and supporters will be invited.

It is intended to erect a board inside the main porch which will have on it the names of all of the donors to the project. This will be a temporary arrangement until such time as we can organise a more permanent way of recognising the generosity of all of the donors. Members were invited to put forward any ideas that they might have of doing this (see below).

A bell for the old school?

We are looking for some ideas as to how we can best recognise the generosity of all of those people who have so kindly donated money towards the successful completion of this Project.

One such idea is to try and get hold of a bell that could be placed in the currently vacant bell tower – on which we could have engraved the details of the various donors (as given to us). This would potentially be the final act for the construction phase of the project – the 'topping out' as it might be called.

What do you think? Is there anybody out there who has a bell that we could use, or who might like to purchase a bell on our behalf?

If not a bell – what else? Any bright ideas gratefully received.

For further information about SOSCIC please visit the Old School project webpages at www.sherston.org.uk/oldschoolproject.php or contact Mike Johnson on 840917 or Geoff Martin on 840272



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We don't believe in fairies!

The dog poo fairy that is.

Complaints about dog fouling continue to be made to the clerk to the parish council who is looking into some innovative methods of dealing with this seemingly never ending problem.

You may wish to make your own views on the subject known by getting some free posters such as the 'dog poo fairy' from Keep Britain Tidy either on line www.keeptobritaintidy.org/ or phone 01942 612621. They even pay the postage.



Walks booklet

The first edition of 'Sherston Walks' has now all but sold out although you may still be able to buy the very last of the 600 copies from Sherston Post Office Stores if you're quick. A second edition will be printed shortly to include a new route – No 10 – from Sherston to Alderton and Luckington. For those of you who already have the first edition it will be possible to buy the sheet for the new route separately so you can make up the set of 10. More details to follow in the New Year.

Sherston Tag Rugby Success

The eighth Annual Minety Primary Schools' TAG festival took place last month, with 7 teams taking part from 7 primary schools.

Games were played with great spirit with all teams playing one another in a round robin structure.

Huge congratulations to the Sherston team which won 4 and drew 2, and was the only unbeaten team in the competition. Sherston won with 26 points, Minety and Crudwell tied on 22 points, with Minety edging Crudwell as runners-up on try count (21 tries to 18 tries).

The Sherston team is going from strength to strength; this is the third time that it has been awarded the Winner's Shield.

Photograph shows the team at the award ceremony with Danny Ligairi-Badham, former Worcester and Harlequins winger and current Tonga rugby league team manager.



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High Street plans

The Parish Council has agreed details of the intended highway improvements to the area around the Old School and the Rattlebone Inn. The works are expected to be undertaken on behalf of Wiltshire Highways in February or March. There will be some disruption to traffic particularly alongside the Rattlebone but this will be kept to the minimum possible.

Village hall 300+ club

October Draw

1st	£12	151	E Thacker
2nd	£11	256	L Capps
3rd	£10	322	S Bailey
4th	£9	74	L Lawrence
5th	£8	257	A Huntley
6th	£7	316	S Bunce
7th	£6	31	S Griffiths
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Busy Hands Pre-School Quiz Night

The next annual Busy Hands Pre-school Quiz Night will take place on Saturday 2 February at 8.00pm in the village hall. Busy Hands Pre-school is run as a charity and the annual quiz night is its biggest and most important fundraiser. Each year it relies on the support of the local community to help raise funds, which helps make the pre-school a wonderful learning environment for local children. Last year's fundraising enabled the pre-school to create a tremendous new outside play area for the children.

Tickets are available for £20 (per team of four) from 10 December onwards from Joey Ross (07768 947 693) and from the post office - but be quick, they sell like hot cakes! Rumour has it that the auction and raffle prizes are looking really exciting this year. Details will follow in the January edition of the Cliffhanger.

Walk with Sue

Sue McKechnie's next walk will be on Sunday 30 December. Just right to walk off all those mince pies. Please assemble at the village hall for 10.00am with a return to the Rattlebone Inn just around 12 noon in time for a complimentary snack. As ever, children are very welcome, as are well-behaved dogs on leads.



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SHERSTON W.I. November meeting

The first of our Winter meetings took place on 1 November at the British Schoolroom at 2.30pm. This was to help members who do not like to venture out on dark evenings.

The President welcomed 24 members and then introduced our speaker, Susan Jonas-Black. The subject was 'ACWW - Associated Country Women of the World.' The W.I. has long supported this charity as it concerns the welfare of Women worldwide. She explained that the organisation is recognised and supported by the United Nations (UN). The aim is to raise the standard of living of rural women and families through education, training and community development projects. ACWW offers mutual support, friendship and practical help. We were pleased to learn more about these important issues concerning women worldwide.

After refreshments we had some business to discuss. The October dinner had been very good and the jewellery workshop run by Alison had been enjoyed. A visit to the BBC in Bristol had also been very interesting.

The President and Secretary had attended the Annual Council Meeting at the Civic Hall in Salisbury and reported back on decisions made and interesting speakers.

There are opportunities to extend your skills in W.I. at Denman College attending a wide choice of courses. Local classes are also available in photography, heirlooms, craft competition, and patchwork, as well as taster golf lessons and many more.

The competition for the Joyce Butler Cup was won by Pat Smith, with Sue Hewitt second. The recipe was chocolate brownies.

Two members had been presented with flowers to mark special birthdays.

Next meeting is on 6 December at the British Schoolroom at 2.30pm. The speaker is Lynda Warren on 'A Dickens of a Christmas' followed by afternoon tea.

by Ann Wilcox

Planning

Just a reminder that if you wish to comment on any planning application you must do so direct to Wiltshire Council within the specified time. The parish council is consulted on all planning applications but decisions are the sole responsibility of Wiltshire Council. Residents are encouraged to copy any comments they may have to the parish council as these can be very useful when it decides upon its response to a particular application.



OPEN DOOR DAY

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DYB DOB Corner

The Annual Scout Raffle is coming together and tickets will be on sale during the first two weekends in December from the Post Office, Tucks & Sunday Papers.

As a change to our usual draw location we will be holding a family evening with a quiz on 13 December in the Carpenters Arms. There will be a charge of £10 per family to include a hot snack. This is not exclusive to people involved in the Scouts or Cubs at all but there will be a theme...

Cubs

We have been busy with a craft evening making photo frames, maybe to hold some of our nice Remembrance Parade ones. There has been planning for a climbing trip and another night hike as well as deciding what we would like at the all-important end of term party.

Scouts

Having had two Tuesdays off due to half term we have had a quiet month but we did have two great brainstorming sessions for ideas to contribute to the Neighbourhood Development Plan, hopefully ensuring the interests of our young people are included.

We did get out though with a night time treasure-hunt down at the cliff.

Explorers

Again half term has eaten into our programme but we made the most of the sessions we did have. The Doyle Foundation came to visit us with a view to gaining ideas for equipment they have in mind for Pennymead, with a hope to include something for the older teenagers. For bonfire weekend we decided to make our own firesticks from tubing, wick and a very small amount of paraffin (promise). As you can see from the photos we had lots of fun.



Remembrance parade

Thank you for the fantastic turnout. Yet again the boys and girls of 1st Sherston Scout Group, Sherston Whitewall Explorers and 1st Sherston Brownies were joined by 1st Westonbirt Guides with their associated leaders to present a very smart and proud collective. Our flag bearers did us proud both on the march through the village and at the flag ceremony at the Lych Gate whilst a full church heard Tilly Gould read out the names of the fallen from our parish. We hope to see you all again next year.



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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL CONSULTATION Sherston Neighbourhood Plan Neighbourhood Area Designation Application

An application for the designation of the Parish of Sherston as a "neighbourhood area" (for the purpose of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan) has been received from Sherston Parish Council.

Comments on this application can be made during the consultation period starting from 9.00am 3 December 2012 until 5.00pm on 17 January 2013.

Why are we consulting?

In order to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan, the first formal stage is to designate the actual "neighbourhood area". In this particular case the Parish Council has to formally apply to Wiltshire Council to designate a neighbourhood area, state its reasons and submit a map of the proposed area. Following receipt of the application, Wiltshire Council must consult for at least six weeks before making a decision. The Parish Council submitted such an application following a decision made at the Sherston Parish Council Meeting held last month.

At the expiry of the consultation period Wiltshire Council will consider the comments received in determining the application to ensure that the area is appropriate. The decision will be published on the Council's website and in a later version of The Cliffhanger.

How to respond:

We encourage people to view and respond to this consultation – details of which can be found on both the Parish Council's website (sherston.org) and on the Wiltshire Council Consultation Portal: http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal/spatial_planning/

Representations can be made by e-mail via neighbourhood.planning@wiltshire.gov.uk or by post to:

Spatial Planning
Economy and Regeneration
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your comments will be kept on a public file and they may be reproduced publicly in writing or on our website.

Food Waste Digesters at Discounted Prices

To help divert food waste from landfill, Wiltshire Council is working in partnership with Great Green Systems to encourage residents to compost food waste in their gardens using specially designed food waste digesters known as Green Johannas and Green Cones. Patented and unobtrusive, the units accept all types of cooked and uncooked household food waste including meat and bones, reducing the contents to either nutrient-rich compost or water, depending on the model used.

Similar in appearance to a traditional garden composter, the units are currently being heavily subsidised by Wiltshire Council. Whilst stocks last, a Green Johanna, for producing nutrient rich compost from household food waste mixed with green garden waste, is currently available for £25 instead of £108.90, whilst a Green Cone for disposing of food waste only is being offered for £20 instead of £79.50. Prices include delivery.

For more information both about the food waste digesters and how to order them please visit the Recycle for Wiltshire website or telephone 0800 7312572.

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Sherston Senior Club

On 2 October we visited Bourton-on-the-Water and Moreton-on-Marsh. This time we took some members to Bourton first, then the rest went to Moreton market then returned to Bourton, when the market closed. This seemed to please most people. This was followed on 16 October by our annual autumn sale which raised £208. Thank you to everyone who contributed items for sale and who worked so hard to make it a successful and enjoyable afternoon.

Our next meeting on 30 October was at Home in the British School-room where we had a very interesting talk by Lynda Warren on The Mysteries of Agatha Christie. This was very enjoyable and informative. There were 70 novels and 120 short stories and she was outsold only by The Bible and William Shakespeare. Agatha Christie also wrote under the name Mary Westmacott. Lynda then asked questions at the end to see if we were awake. All 29 members and 3 visitors were not to be outdone and were able to show they had paid attention. A very interesting afternoon.

Our Christmas lunch will be on Tuesday 11 December at the Old Royal Ship at Luckington (12noon for 12.30pm) and guests are welcome –

the cost to be advised. Please let Liz Bell know on 841411 if you are coming as soon as possible.

Our first meeting in 2013 will be on 8 January. This will be our Annual General Meeting when we review what we did in 2012 and elect new officers and committee. It will be followed by bingo and a quiz. I do hope that as many of you as possible will come to this important meeting.

On behalf of the Club, I conclude by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

by John Venning 840915

Meeting of the parish council

The Parish Council meets on Thursday 13 December 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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Tracklements open day

The festive season is here again and in celebration, Tracklements is throwing open its doors, inviting you to come and take a look into the appetising world of chutney making.

On Saturday 8 December from 9.30am – 1pm why not bring friends and family along to our factory at Whitewalls where you can take a sneaky peak at how we transform the finest ingredients into delicious mustards, chutneys, jellies and sauces?

We will be armed with plenty of mulled wine and mince pies for you to enjoy and it is a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping whilst you are here.

Our onsite shop will be open with jars galore and free recipe cards accompanying lots of products. Choose from our beautiful Le Parfait jars, fantastic new gift boxes and superb ready-made hampers to solve all your Christmas shopping needs.

Tracklements is located along the B4040 between Sherston and Malmesbury. Turn into Whitewalls and continue straight to the end. We are the last building on the left.

by Ali Glennie

Christmas raffle and party

A raffle in aid of Sherston 1016's Christmas vouchers for senior citizens is now underway in the Rattlebone Inn. Be sure to get involved – there are some absolutely fantastic prizes including a Kindle Fire HD and its only a £1 to enter.

The raffle will be drawn at the annual Rattlebone Christmas party on the evening of Thursday 20 December. Our great friends the Dodington Parish Band will be leading the carol singing from around 7.30pm with free nibbles and mince pies for everyone. Make sure you don't miss it!

Local churches together carol service

On Sunday 16 December at 6.00pm there will be a Local Churches Carol Service. All are welcome to join after the service for mulled wine. For further details contact Reverend Susan Harvey on 840696.

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Help get On Line

The Wiltshire Online team is working on a program of free basic computer support available to all.

It is estimated that out of a population in Malmesbury and the villages of 18,750, currently 3562 people are not online and many more are not confident to use the internet regularly. Wiltshire Online aims to support anybody in our community with the basics so they can benefit from being able to get online. The training is delivered by our volunteer Digital Champions and is friendly and informal so people can learn what they want to learn, at their own pace.

To kick start the project in Malmesbury and the villages the Wiltshire Online team is looking to recruit volunteers as Volunteer Coordinators. Would you like to have a hand in helping members of your community get online so they can save money, feel less lonely or live more independently?

Do you have good people skills, are you confident and well organised? As a Volunteer Coordinator you will be responsible for supporting a small team of Digital Champion volunteers; we would like your support to help us recruit and train this team. You'll also be helping register new learners over the phone, before matching them up with one of your Digital Champions who has the right skills and expertise to help them get online.

An exciting, varied and crucial voluntary role, interested?

Visit our website www.wiltshireonline.org to find out more or contact Jenny Wilcockson, Digital Literacy Co-ordinator (jenny.wilcockson@wiltshire.gov.uk or 01225 793349)

Success for Malmesbury Dance

During the October half-term some of our pupils, at Malmesbury Dance, took part in Pershore Dance Festival.

We are pleased to let you know that Georgie Johnson-Greening came 1st with her Slovakian solo, Alice Hawtin 2nd with a Serbian solo and Zaccary Frankham 3rd with a Russian solo. Alice also came 3rd with her tap solo. Phobe Piper came 1st with her Italian solo and 3rd with her modern solo. All our other competitors gained Commended certificates, with 81 marks or above.

We have also just received the results of a recent exam session in Modern and Tap dance and 11 pupils passed with Distinction and the remaining 15 passed with Merit.

Classes are held at United Reformed Church, West Street, Malmesbury and Brinkworth Village Hall. New Adult tap class starting on Monday evenings, new teenagers tap class, Monday evenings, New Modern & Tap class at Brinkworth on Friday at 4.30pm. Places available in pre-school classes, (3 & 4 year olds)

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by Gill and Sarah, Malmesbury & Braywood Dance

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TREEtalk

December 2012



The trees have done their best to cheer us up after a very wet and cold summer with a glorious display of autumn leaves. The Grove Wood team has started clearing and coppicing in the last section of the wood. Many of the trees planted by the children from Sherston School have enjoyed the rain and are flourishing, but so are the brambles and nettles. Help on Sunday mornings to work in the wood will be much appreciated.

You will have heard of the problems of ash dieback disease which so far has not been identified in our area. This is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called *chalara fraxinea*. This causes leaf loss and crown dieback and can lead to tree death although some can recover and some are immune. For identifying the symptoms and reporting if you suspect you may have spotted it go to www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara. There is a video and a pictorial guide to help with identification and more information, with instructions on how to report it. The legislation on restrictions to importation of ash trees is also explained. Advice from Westonbirt Arboretum is that if people who have visited woodlands in infected areas should clean the mud off their boots, pushchairs etc. before visiting the arboretum and walking in the countryside. Let's hope we don't see it here.

The Tree Council invited applications for Diamond Jubilee trees that they were giving to suitable applicants. We have been lucky enough to have been chosen to have one to be planted in the Recreation Ground. The scouts led by Riaan van Rooyen are overseeing the planting.

Sopworth boy reaches Wembley

At the start of November, one of the Malmesbury Under 10s, Ben Bayliss from Sopworth, was lucky enough to play on the pitch at Wembley in his Malmesbury kit. During the summer holiday, his parents entered him in a competition, which Ben fortunately won and his prize was to spend a Sunday morning training at the home of English football with specially trained coaches from the Football Association.



After an early 6.00am start in Wiltshire and a two hour drive to North London, Ben had an 80 minute training session on the pitch along with the other 90 competition winners. This large group was split into

six age-groups and Ben was then put through his paces in a range of skills-based drills, followed by some mini-matches.

The icing on the cake came when he was presented with a special medal by Sky Sport's Paul Walsh. To quote Ben, 'It was my best day ever!'



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Three course table d'hôte lunch

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Christmas Day lunch – £105 per person *fully booked*

Boxing Day lunch – £39 per person
Three-course table d'hôte lunch including coffee

New Year's Eve dinner – £155 per person *fully booked*

New Year's Day lunch – £39 per person
Three course table d'hôte lunch including coffee

Call Events on 01666 834 026 or email events@whatleymanor.com to make your Christmas and party reservation.
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'Thank you Sherston'!

Charlotte Langley is in her final year at the University of Portsmouth, and had vowed to take part in the Great South Run this year. She wanted to raise funds for Cancer Research UK, as her mum Liz has spent the last year battling recurrent breast cancer. Having lost her grandmother, great-aunt and other family to different forms of cancer over the last few years, Charlotte was determined to do her bit to help the search for cures for cancer.

Sunday October 28 dawned grey and drizzly, and large parts of Portsmouth and Southsea were closed to vehicular traffic as 25,000 competitors in party spirit, converged on the city. But Charlotte's determination paid off: she completed the ten miles of the Great South Run in 1 hour 21 minutes and 37 seconds.

'I was very pleased with my time, particularly as I finished ten minutes ahead of my boyfriend!' chuckled Charlotte.

Proud parents Liz and Richard were there to cheer her on and see Charlotte reach the finishing line in 3,206th place. Not bad out of 25,000 runners!

Charlotte has raised £1863 for Cancer Research so far. This includes the remarkable figure of £758 raised in cash from the people of Sherston. Several of the village businesses were kind enough to have collection boxes on their counters. Of that figure, a remarkable £520 in cash was raised from Charlotte's stint outside the Post Office and with the Sunday newspapers early in September.

Sherston is such an amazing, supportive community, so, all the Langley family say a big 'thank you' to everyone for their generosity in supporting Charlotte's run.

More: Richard 07879 612776

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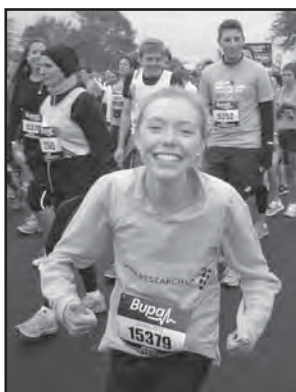
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Ingleburn Trefoil Guild

The Trefoil Guild is part of Girlguiding UK, so it has the same principles and supports Guiding locally, although you don't need to have been a Brownie or Guide to be join. Anybody over 18 is welcome – even men! We aim to have a varied programme, chosen by the members, and since starting after the summer, we have heard about driving VIPs at the Olympics and being a Tiller Girl in the 50s, seen 'Charley's Aunt' at Bath and hosted an Autumn Ramble for Trefoil Guilds from all over Gloucestershire at Westonbirt. At the time of writing, we're looking forward to a 4-day break at The Manor House, Okehampton, where we can pursue our artistic hobbies and outdoor interests, and sharing a Christmas meal at The Horse Guards, Brokenborough. We're also running a tombola at Tetbury's Christmas Late Night Shopping evening, to raise money for Holiday at Home.

We meet on the third Monday of the month, usually at St. Mary's Hall, Malmesbury. Members come from Tetbury, Malmesbury and the surrounding area and we are usually able to offer lifts to people without transport. This is what we have planned for the rest of the session

21 January Making cards
18 February An international evening for Thinking Day – food from other countries and a talk about visiting Antarctica



20 March The AGM, when we shall be celebrating our 10th anniversary and enjoying light refreshments
15 April A musical evening
20 May A talk on 'Safer Driving with Age'
17 June Canal trip
5 July Summer picnic
6 September Barbecue

We also enjoy activities organised by Glos & Wilts North Trefoil Guilds and try to go for a walk and pub lunch every month or so.

If this sounds your sort of thing, contact Margaret Palmer on 826390 or at margaretapalmer65@yahoo.co.uk or Helen Price on 503187 or at retreatcottage17@btinternet.com



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Malmesbury Cake Society 'Bake and Take' November cake news

A huge thank you to all our society members who were able to attend our November meeting. It was our highest attendance so far with 30 members. Congratulations to Louise and Charlie for baking the most talked-about flapjacks. Bakewell tart and peanut butter were a hit, yummy...

This month's bake and take raised £189.39 so we now have a grand total of £577.75 and are already well and truly above our Christmas target of £450. So it's time for a new target. I think it's possible for us to raise £850 for Christmas. We should achieve this with ease with our fantastic prizes in both the auction and raffle.

Our Just Giving page is www.justgiving.com/JessicaHancock1507 A huge thank you to Jo from The Little Gingerbread House. The feedback I have had has been very positive. All of our members had a try at icing their own cupcakes, a few of which even made it home before being devoured. Have a think about what demonstrations you would like to see and I'll get to work organising them for 2013. The sweepstake game sheets have changed, so the prize pot is now slightly smaller at £36 rather than £40. The winner of September's £36 sweepstake was Stuart Bettington.

by Jess Hancock, 07823 338000,

malmesburycakesociety@yahoo.co.uk

Find us on Facebook Malmesbury Cake Society

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Where have they all gone?

In the 1950s there were some 30 million Hedgehogs in the UK. Today there are about half a million! (That's a drop of about 97%)

Apparently there has been little research into the reasons why but there are some obvious causes. As we all know Hedgehogs are often killed on the road, killed by dogs and maybe poisoned by eating slugs who have themselves eaten Slug Pellets (although there seems to be limited evidence for this).

With the changes to the way in which our countryside is being managed means there is less food for them but there has also been an increase in their major natural predator – the Badger. With very strong claws and being carnivorous they can easily kill and eat a Hedgehog.

Even in the past 10 years the times I have seen Hedgehogs less and less often (when was the last time you saw one?) One appeared in my drive in May, the last one before that was about 2 years ago when I found one in the garage in some distress not being able to walk so I took it to a wildlife rescue center in the Cotswold Water Park.

On a more positive note the Little Egrets are back and can often be seen on the Sopworth Road near



the river. Thank you to a number of people who let me know in particular to Frank Hatt who advised we shan't have to get Edith Piaf to sing No Egrets!

In addition there are a number of Marsh Tits in Grove Wood. These are basically like a Blue Tit but black and white as you can see from the photo, quite hard to spot so next time you are in Grove Wood just

pause for a couple of minutes and see what turns up.

Don't forget to feed the birds and be careful about disturbing hibernating Hedgehogs...

If you would like to read more go to sherstonwildlife.wordpress.com

Fun at the fifth Family Fest

17 youngsters on 28 October (some out of shot,) sang 'Vine and branches, leaves and fruit, leaves and fruit' to the tune of 'Head and shoulders knees and toes, knees and toes'.



So what is 'Family Fest'?

A monthly initiative started in May 2012 by all three Sherston Churches, (Methodist, Congregational, and The Holy Cross).

By the time you read this our sixth Family Fest will have taken place. Did you come?

Held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 4.00pm in The British Schoolroom (apart from December, July and August) it provides an opportunity for whole families to gather informally for faith-building activities. Craft, stories and songs weave around a central educational theme. Members of Junior Choir often lead the singing. Grannies, granddads, mums, dads and siblings are all most welcome. Afterwards, over refreshments, dads and youngsters usually compete at table-football, snooker or table-tennis. We rarely clear away before 5.30pm. Pre-schoolers are appreciated and catered for. Why not come along in January, February or March or all three?

The Family Fest Team contacts are clementsmary@btinternet.com or becky.fisher@deanery.org.uk

by Mary Clements



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Christmas Trees from Malmesbury School

On Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December from 10.00am to 4.00pm in the car park at Malmesbury School Alive & Well will again be selling Christmas trees with the proceeds going to charity.

All proceeds will help Alive & Well fund the work sinking water wells in Sierra Leone.

There will be a selection of Nordman Fir (non drop) from £35 (5' / 150cm to 5'6" / 175cm) or Norway Spruce from £24 (5' / 150cm to 5'6" / 175cm).

The trees are provided by Frenchay Forestry, one of the biggest Christmas tree growers in the South West.

We will also have some trees in pots and if you want a larger tree (10ft or more) let us know in good time and we can get it delivered to the school.

Alive & Well sunk three water wells with the proceeds of last year's Christmas tree sales.

by Kim Findlay, 840089, 07973 828217. kim@findlay.me

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Red Riding Hood



images by Gunter Coventry

Sherston Drama Group's production of Red Riding Hood by Bob Hammond played to packed houses at the beginning of November. Niamh Andrews played the title role as a sweet but slightly self-obsessed teenager, rescued from the Wolf by dashing principal boy Rosie Pyle as Tom the Woodsman. Kevin Smith relished the villain's role as the suave but deadly Wolf, ably assisted (and assisting Kevin is a challenge) by Dominic Evans as his sidekick Lurch. Harry Andrews was the stolid Farmer Hood, helped by his gormless friend Walter (Rory Calland) – indeed the wallpapering scene showed just how well two friends can work together! The Andrews family trio was completed by Mark as the myopic Dr Darling, abetted in medical affairs by the unbelievably sexy Shaun Scott as the Nurse. Sue Ormiston exercised her maternal instincts as Mother Hen, and Immy Cambridge was suitably empty-headed as Clarissa the Chief Chicken. Phil Seldon bravely made his first appearance on stage as the Dame, Granny Hood, sacrificing his beard in the process. CJ Egerton put her considerable vocal talent to good use as Cleo the Cat, and Finlay Mcleish was a violent but fortunately half-blind Hooded Avenger.



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Sherston's other young performers excelled in a variety of roles, mostly chickens who were enthusiastically chased at every opportunity by André van Rooyen's Randy Rooster, but also little pigs, French hens, woodland nymphs and villagers. Richard Warren directed, not without advice from the rest of the team, including choreographers Sue and Emily Lehrer, producers and lyric writers Richard and Katie Skeffington, and prompter Hazel Jarrett. Graham Instrell marshalled the stage crew, and the wonderfully colourful costumes were due to Helen Mcleish, Emma Bowles, Laura Gould and Georgia Evans, while Caty Tappin organised a great community effort as Front of House.

Next production should be Agatha Christie's Spider's Web in April. Watch this space!



Malcolm Jarrett Award

This year Sherston Drama Group inaugurated an award for the best performance by a new member of the pantomime chorus, named after Malcolm Jarrett. Malcolm was always very supportive of our junior members, and particularly liked young people who were prepared to have a go at anything. This year, in the face of some stiff competition, the award was won by Annalise Jacques. The picture shows Annalise receiving the award from Hazel Jarrett.



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Flood at Easton Grey 1925

Both pictures were taken in 1925 from the bridge in Easton Grey, looking up towards Mr Green's house (owned I think at that time by either the Wilders or Tremaynes)

The photographer was Mr Basevi of Malmesbury a very well-known photographer.

by Cilla Liddington



Flood at the Grove 2012

Photos including cover: Paul Ormiston



Safe Drive Stay Alive Roadshow

The Safe Drive Stay Alive Roadshow is based on powerful personal testimonies designed to make the audience aware of the nature and extent of the personal tragedy and suffering that a road traffic collision can and does cause.

The most hard hitting road safety presentation you will ever experience. It has been shown to more than 3,000 military personnel and 7,500 young people in Wiltshire each year and now available to the general public. Minimum age 15.

Firefighters, medics, police officers, bereaved parents and people who have been directly involved in road traffic collisions recount their stories, often in heartbreaking detail.

Safe Drive Stay Alive is a Wiltshire and Swindon road safety initiative coordinated by Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and Wiltshire Council.

Ian Hopkins, road safety development manager at Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The presentation is hard hitting and

upsetting, but we make no apology for that. The speakers are real people who have experienced the horror of road traffic collisions, whether as a member of the emergency services, as a victim or as a parent who has lost a child.

The Roadshow comes to Malmesbury Secondary School on Tuesday 11 December at 7.30pm.



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CHRISTMAS PARTY MENU: 3 COURSES INC. COFFEE FOR £18.95

SUNDAY LUNCH: ROAST - £10.95, 2 COURSES - £13.95

STEAK NIGHT THURSDAY: £25 FOR 2 PEOPLE INC. BOTTLE OF WINE

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER: THE KNOCKDOWN "KNOCKDOWN"
 - SKITTLES - CASH - TOURNAMENT - ASK AT BAR FOR DETAILS -
 SUN 30TH - GRAND FINAL - WINNER TAKES ALL !!

PLUS...

FRI 7TH - LIVE MUSIC - THE KNOCKDOWN BOYS - 8PM
 - BLUE GRASS, FOLK & COUNTRY BAND: PICKING SESSION -

FRI 14TH - LIVE MUSIC - STAPLE HILL - 8PM
 - GUITAR, DRUMS & VOCALS - 3 PIECE BAND: COOL, EASY LISTENING -

FRI 21ST - LIVE MUSIC - THE KNOCKDOWN BOYS - 8PM
 - PICKING SESSION WITH GUEST 'STAR' GUITARIST -

SAT 22ND - CHRISTMAS PARTY - ALL WELCOME
 - MUSIC & FESTIVE FUN !! -

WED 26TH - BOXING DAY - CHARITY 'RACE' NIGHT -
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Cricket

I had the honour of captaining Sherston Magna CC (SMCC) in the Chippenham Indoor Cricket League on Sunday 11 November. Notwithstanding a few notable absences, we went in to battle against Bradford-on-Avon in our first indoor match of the season, you may remember having won Division 2 last year so that we are now taking on the might of Division 1.

Basic match summary is as follows: Bradford-on-Avon 133 for 2 in 10 overs; SMCC 109 for 4 so a loss by 24 runs. But to put a bit of detail to things, although we lost, we fought hard in defeat. 133 was always going to be probably an above par score and 20 or so too many.

Generally we bowled pretty well including quite a few tight overs, but we also had a few which were a bit too long and/or travelled a bit too far. Credit perhaps to the batsmen too who at this higher standard showed they are willing and able to hit cleanly and straight. We conceded a few too many sixes which really can quickly accelerate a total.

Batting second and with a daunting total to chase, we again performed with plenty of credit

and indeed at half way were up with the rate, having scored about 70 after the first five overs. But a couple of wickets and a few too many dot balls to straight bowling meant we ended up falling short by 24 runs. Great team effort nonetheless and plenty to prove that we have nothing to fear this season.

The batting highlight has to be opener Ewen Kenny, who batted wonderfully and retired at

25+, only to return to try and see us home at the end. Not a bad audition for a 15 year old!

The bowling highlight was Andy Pegg who bowled with pace and accuracy, keeping things tight

through his three overs. Again, another fine audition for this year strongly putting his case for automatic selection for the next game on 25 November.

The fielding highlight was me taking a catch at mid-on and proving in the process I can catch without the wicket keeping gloves. Oh and two good run outs.

by Matt Goodwin

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Doctor's Bag

The Tolsey Surgery

by Judy Sharp



Patient survey 2012

Did you complete our survey? We have run our patient survey again this year and the results will soon be available to you online, in the surgery and in our latest newsletter.

Flu Vaccinations

All our dedicated flu clinics have now taken place, but if you received an invitation and were unable to attend, please call the surgery to make an appointment to have your vaccination – it's not too late.

If you think you should have a free flu vaccination, but have not received a letter, please call the surgery. For more information about how to protect yourself and your family this winter visit nhs.uk/winterhealth

New Nurse's Room

We are giving the nurse's room a facelift. Work is to be carried out from 3 December for two weeks when we will be replacing all the old units, flooring, sink and lighting to give us a room that fully complies with all the new health and safety legislation and quality standards dictated by the Care Quality Commission. We apologise for any inconvenience while the work is being carried out and will attempt to keep disruption to a minimum.

We will also endeavour to maintain our full range of services during this period.

Wear it Pink – message from Lucia Bridgeman, our Head Receptionist

Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise £340.65 for Breast Cancer Research at our 'Wear it Pink' day on Friday 26 October. All our patients had lots of fun during the day, seeing the receptionists and dispensers wearing pink wigs, buying cakes (made by the staff), buying raffle tickets for about 50 prizes (all donated by staff) and entering the 'Wear it Pink' competition. The patient that won the £15 prize very generously donated the money back to the fund.

Christmas

We will again limit our appointments over the Christmas weeks to patients that need to be seen quickly. Appointments can be booked either on the day for urgent cases or up to 2 days in advance for less urgent cases. Routine appointments should be booked outside this period up to 8 weeks in advance. This helps to alleviate the pressure at this busy time.

We would like to wish all our patients a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year!

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THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

One of our more military members of the Ancient Order spends much of the winter months reading through old manuals on the arts of soldiering. He finds this particularly comforting whilst suffering withdrawal symptoms from sowing and nurturing his mangold crop for the next season's hurl.

Our member recently gave a fascinating lecture on the place of the humble mangold in improving the swordsmanship of the British cavalry at the end of the 18th century. A packed audience in the Carpenters Arms sat enthralled as the full story of Major – General John Gaspard Le Marchant (1766 – 1812) was revealed.



Editorial controls of the Cliffhanger restrict me from giving full justice to the entire three hour and forty three minutes of the lecture, which was punctured by many members visiting the bar, but essentially Le Marchant introduced a new light cavalry sword in 1797 which

was so successful that it was in use for the next fifty years. In addition he wrote a manual the 'Rules and Regulations for the Sword Exercises of the Cavalry' in which the following is recommended –

'The drawing cut is made best with a curved sword, and is executed by placing the edge of the sword on the object and drawing it over until it is severed. A good large mangel-wurzel is capital practice. Place the root loose on a table, stand at arm's length from it, lay the edge of the sword lightly on it, and slice the root by repeatedly drawing the sword over it. This is very difficult, although it looks easy enough, and is sure to jar the arm from the wrist to the shoulder the first time or two, while the sword slides off it as if the root is cased in polished steel, however a little practice will soon overcome this difficulty. This cut is much used by the Sikhs'

Suffice it to say a number of members left the lecture not only slightly unsteady on their feet but also determined to re-enact the exercise at next year's Hurl. I am already preparing the necessary risk assessment demanded by the Order's insurers.

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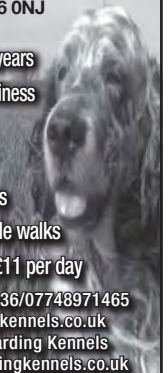
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Groups and Regular Events in and around Sherston

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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 see the posters in the church porch or contact Becky Fisher (07974 030212) or email Becky.fisher@deanery.org.uk

Congregational Church - in The British Schoolroom
 Services first three Sundays of month at 11am – 12 noon followed by coffee/chat 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. Now with 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 The Autumn

Term starts on Wed 26 Sept in the British Schoolroom. There are two classes: 10am to 12 noon and 1.30 to 3.30pm. The classes are suitable for any level of experience, from those who have attended art courses for years to interested beginners. 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 Juniors every Tuesday at 3.15pm and Seniors Thursdays 7-9pm both in Sherston primary school hall. Abby Lees-Smith 510125 or email info@eudotkd.co.uk or see the website www.eudotaekwondo.co.uk

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

Ingleburn Trefoil Guild The Trefoil Guild is part of Girlguiding UK but anyone over 18 is welcome - 3rd Monday of the month, usually at St. Mary's Hall, Malmesbury. Members come from Tetbury, Malmesbury and the surrounding area and we are usually able to offer lifts to people without transport. Further details contact Margaret Palmer (01666 826390, margaretapalmer65@yahoo.co.uk) or Helen Price (01666 503187, retreatcottage17@btinternet.com)

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. For further information please phone Heather Martin 840375.

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. Please call Helen Churchill on 840080 if you'd like to attend. New members most welcome.

Malmesbury Netball Club We welcome new players of any ability as we would like to promote the sport and provide an opportunity for people to get fitter and meet new people. We have a Level 2 coach and endless support from the Wiltshire Netball Development Officer, Sophie Warner. 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

Patchwork & Quilting Classes

1st Thursday of each month from 10am - 2pm in The British Schoolroom. Further details from Anne Chapman on 01249 782842.

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. New season starts 4 Sep. For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592.

Sherston Brownies

Meet every Wed during term time 6.15-7.30pm in the Scout Hut. All girls are welcome to join after their 7th birthday, but there is a waiting list. If you're interested, please contact Snowy Owl (Liz Walker) on 840216 for more details

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@goolemail.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 Cricket

Cricket practise has now finished for the winter. Indoor practise nets will resume again in the new year. Look out for details in the Sherston Cliffhanger or 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 Iliffe-Moon 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

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. For further information please phone Annabel (840592) or Heather (840375)

Sherston's Living Churchyard

Please help maintain the living churchyard on the second Sunday 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 Tennis Club

The tennis courts are located on Knockdown Road, next to the football pitch. Membership fees again unchanged (family £80, adult £45). Club night is Thursdays from 6:30 pm - contact Belinda, and Men's Match tennis on Wednesdays - contact Kim or Nic. Your committee this year is: Nic Riley - membership, men's matches – 840682; Kim Stuckey - men's matches - 07710 981568; Gemma Bird - children's coaching - 840557; Belinda Robinson - club nights - 07944 782785

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 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 SherstonToddlers@gmail.com or Kirsty on 07841 571 943 or Cathy on 07779 546 716

Sherston Village Hall Available for hire by all. Ideal for meetings, events, parties etc. For details contact the bookings officer Julia Nichols on 840633 or julia.nichols@btinternet.com

Sherston W.I. Usually meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall but Dec and Feb meetings will be in the British Schoolroom at 2.30pm, Jan the members meet for a lunch. 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 Cathy Garton on 841309 or email cathy@jd-racing.co.uk

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

Village Hall 300+ Club Monthly draw with eight prizes ranging from £12 down to £5 for a £6 annual stake, plus a quarterly £5 bonus for seven non-winners. If any new members of the village would like to join, contact either Mary Goulding on 840794, Joyce Gleed 840744 or Gwen Mason 840660.

Wiltshire Walks The Get Wiltshire Walking project has recently launched a new health walk in Malmesbury. Meet at 11.45 every Monday outside Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes for this free walk, all ages welcome. The walk last approximately forty-five 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 A new six week yoga course starts on Mon 3 Sep - 5.45pm Pregnancy Yoga, 7pm for beginners and at 8.15pm more advanced. £45. 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 2012

Dates for your diary

December

8 2012 Winter Ball - Fire and Ice

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

very Sunday night 7.30 for 8pm start free entry, prizes

Open for lunch on Christmas day

New Year's Eve fancy dress party @ the movies 31-Dec

Check boards for details For further details call 840665

The Rattlebone Inn

Monday Quiz Nights Every Monday at 7.30pm Free entry and prizes for the winning team

Live music from 'Log Off' Sat 15 Dec

Christmas Party Sing carols with the Dodington Brass

Band. Free nibbles and mince pies. Grand raffle board in aid of Sherston 1016 Thurs 20 Dec

New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Party Theme is James Bond 007

Check boards for more details of events

Further details contact 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

Church events

Advent Service of Light 2 Dec 6pm Rehearsals in the church Sat 1 Dec 3-5pm and Sun 2 Dec 5-5.30 for 6pm concert Further details from Ness Whiffin 07774 524756

Christmas Carol Service Sun 16 Dec 6pm

Church of the Holy Cross

Friends of Sherston School Christmas Fair

Craft stalls & festive cheer and even an early visit from Santa Fri 7 Dec 4 - 6.30pm free entry Free entry Sherston School

For further details contact 840237 or

www.sherston.wilts.sch.uk/lfss.html

Sherston Photography Forum

A monthly group has formed in Sherston for anyone with an interest in photography Second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm - next forum on 12 DEC

For further details contact Nick Holland on 841019 or

nholland63@btinternet.com

Jubilee Diamond tree

The planting ceremony will be on Sunday 16 December at 12noon at the Rec

Sue McKechnie, Deputy Tree Warden

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

Painting classes with Nicki Heenan

Painting Workshops - Beginners and Intermediates

Wednesday 10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm -

£25 full day / £15 half day Bring your own paints, brushes and supports The Carpenter's Arms, Sherston

Advanced painters meet on Thursdays for En Plein Air painting at local sites, please contact me for details of location

For further details contact Nicki Heenan 840883 or

nicki.heenan@btinternet.com

Sue's Strolls

Sun 30 Dec starting from the village hall at 10am returning to the Rattlebone Inn for complimentary seasonal victuals at around 12 noon

For further details contact Sue McKechnie 840601 or

susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk

Busy Hands Pre School

Annual Quiz Night Raffle and auction. Sat 2 Feb Bar

opens 7.30pm Quiz starts at 8pm £20 for a team of up to 4 All proceeds to Busy Hands Pre-school Sherston Village Hall

For further details contact Tickets are available from Mon 10 Dec onwards from Joey Ross (07768 947693) and from the Post Office - but be quick, they sell like hot cakes!

Knockdown

The Holford Arms

Sunday Pie & Quiz Night Every Sunday from 7pm food

service and quiz begins at 8.30pm Big prizes, teams and individuals welcome. Free house and restaurant - under new management Spring 2012. Further details call 01454 238669

Pinkney

Festive open day at Tracklements

Tour the factory and enjoy some Mulled Wine and our famously delicious Sticky Onion Marmalade sausages Sat 8 Dec 9.30 - 1pm Whitewalls, Easton Grey

For further details contact 827044 or www.tracklements.co.uk

Grittleton

Moviola - the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme

Christmas Break in December Next film Wed 30 Jan

Grittleton Village Hall

For further details call Lesley 01249 783157 or email

l_palmer@btinternet.com

Westonbirt

The Arboretum

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

Enchanted Christmas illuminated trail Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening from Fri 30 Nov till

Sun 23 Dec 5.00 - 8.30pm (last entry at 7.15pm). The Enchanted Christmas returns with a new illuminated trail route through the Old Arboretum and more exciting festive activities, foods and stalls onsite. The hard paths are accessible for wheelchairs and electric scooters and these can be booked in advance. On Fridays, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum members will receive a 50% discount on the full ticket price. Children (under 19s) accompanying parent/ guardian FOWA members go free. Admission £9 adult / £8 concs/ £5 chd / under 5s free. Reindeer Trail **Summer Concerts Announced:** Paul Weller Sat 20 Jul - tickets on sale from Fri 23 Nov 9am tickets from the shop or box office on 03000 680400 or www.forestry.gov.uk/music £39 plus booking fee. December admission: Adults £9 / Conc £8 Chd £4. For further details contact 880220 or www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Westonbirt School

Christmas Drinks Evening Christmas Drinks Party organised in association with Rose Hill Westonbirt Parents Association Fri 7 Dec

Christmas Carols and Readings by candlelight Thurs 13 Dec at 7.30pm in The Great Hall

For further details contact Laura Reid on 880333 or lreid@westonbirt.gloucs.sch or www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk

Malmesbury

Sir James Galway in concert at Malmesbury Abbey

with the Orchestra of St John Sat 1 Dec 7.30pm £27.50 / £22.50 under 18s half price. Malmesbury Abbey. For further details call Abbey book shop or 826666

Malmesbury Cake Society

"Bake and Take" in aid of Cancer Research UK Mon 3 Dec 7.30pm-late 7.30pm-late 7.45-9pm. Lee Bamforth the head pastry chef at Whatley Manor will be demonstrating how to make choux pastry. 9-10pm Auction held by Hilditch Auctioneers and raffle in aid of Cancer Research UK. The Kings Arms. For further details contact Jess M: 07823 338000 E: malmesburycakesociety@yahoo.co.uk Facebook: Malmesbury Cake Society

MP's Surgery

Local MP surgery with James Gray MP Sat 22 Dec 12 noon - 1pm
Sat 26 Jan Hobbes Parlour, Malmesbury Town Hall
For further details visit www.jamesgray.org or email jamesgraymp@parliament.uk for online surgeries

Tetbury

Christmas Events in Tetbury

The Christmas Lights Switch-On by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall Fri 7 Dec at 6pm. Preceded by torch light procession & community carols. Evening entertainment from The Big Brunch Band, Swindon Brass, Avening Silver band, stalls under the Market Hall & late night shopping Tetbury Market Square. For further details contact Tetbury Tourist Information 503552 or www.christmasintetbury.org.uk/index.shtml

Stanton St Quinton

West Country Game & Deer Park

Open Day

Open Day with 11am & 3pm Butchery Demonstrations and 12 and 2pm cookery with Lee Maycock. Game Feast lunch 11am - 3pm Sat 8 Dec 10am-5pm

near Stanton St Quinton

For further details contact 837524 or 07588 444419 or email info@westcountrygame.com or www.westcountrygame.com

Brinkworth

Brinkworth Butterflies Christmas Extravaganza

Sat 1 Dec 1-4pm at Brinkworth village hall. Meet Father Christmas in his grotto, Christmas stalls, face painting, nail and temporary tattoo bar. Mulled wine and a mince pie or cake. Raffle & silent auction. All in aid of Brinkworth village pre-school. Brinkworth Butterflies is a community pre-school based at the village hall in the village of Brinkworth (between Royal Wootton Bassett and Malmesbury). The pre-school is a registered charity, managed and run by a committee of volunteers

Charlton

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust –

Malmesbury Local Supporters Group

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – Winter Talks Programme 2012-13 **Fungi - edible, poisonous and folklore** by Dave Shorten Thurs 13 Dec Admission £2.50, children free. Non-members very welcome. Charlton Village Hall

SHERSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Meets 11.0 – 12.0 first three Sundays of month in THE BRITISH SCHOOLROOM

Hosts "FAMILY FEST" 4.0 – 5.0pm on 4th Sunday



11.0am – Dec 2nd – Communion Service.

11.0am – Dec 9th – JUNIOR CHOIR

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.

6.0pm – Dec 16th – United Carol Service

11.0am – Dec 23rd Christmas Service Barry Emerton

11.0am – 30th Dec. – Prayer and Share

ALL MOST WELCOME

"Defeat does not come to those who trust in You but to those who are quick to rebel against You" Psalm 25 v 3

STANTON COMPUTER SERVICES

We come to you!

PC repairs

Upgrades

Installation of new hardware

Wired and wireless networking

Internet and email set up and coaching

Virus cleansing

Please call Nick Greene on 01666 837850

Mobile 07887 721396

Email: nick@computerfixer.org.uk

WOMAD - World Music Festival

Thurs 25 - Sun 28 July 2013 WOMAD Early Bird tickets are on sale 23 Nov 2012 - 4 Jan 2013 including SN16 special deals More information at womad.co.uk/tickets.

For further details contact or

www.womad.org/festivals/charlton-park

Wotton-Under-Edge

The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers from the local community This month: Skyfall; The Sapphires; Madagascar 3; Beasts of the Southern Wild; Argo; Elf; Holly and the Ivy

The Electric Picture House For further details call

01453 844601 or visit www.wottoneph.co.uk

Lacock

Special Events at Lacock Abbey & Village

Christmas Tree Fest 2-18 Dec - Over 20 decorated trees in the cloisters 11am - 4pm £7.70 for adults / £3.80 chd

Homemade Christmas 02-Dec

Christmas Cracker Trail Find sparkly crackers in the grounds and cloisters of Lacock Abbey and discover the punch lines to some truly awful festive jokes. free after admission - takes 30 mins

Dog Walking at Lacock well behaved dogs on leads welcome in the grounds November - 31 March

For further details contact 01249 730459 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock

Swindon

Great Western Railway Museum

Christmas stalls @ Steam 1-2 Dec 10am - 5pm £2 adult £1 child and entry to whole museum at this price

For further details call 01793 466646 or visit

www.steam-museum.org.uk

Cotswolds

Cotswold Rural Skills

Stone Masonry Taster Day 10 Dec and 6 Jan Filkins, Oxfordshire Book ahead to avoid disappointment

Woodland Coppicing 6 Jan 2013 Coberley Glocs 2 day course £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.

Professional football only 20 minutes drive from Sherston.

Home matches: Sat 1 Dec 3pm v Nuneaton Town; Sat 8 3pm v Macclesfield Town; Wed 26 3pm v Newport County;

Sat 29 5.15pm v Kidderminster Harriers 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

Ballet - The Nutcracker (live) Thurs 13 Dec 19:15

Opera - La Boheme (live) Tues 15 Jan 19:15

Stroud Apollo, Odeon Bath and other Cinema For further details call 0871 220 6000 or visit www.roh.org.uk/cinema

Bath

Theatre Royal

Northern Ballet present Beauty and the Beast 26 Nov - 1

Dec 7.30pm / 8pm £15-£33.50

The Woman in Black Mon 3 - Sat 8 Dec

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Quartermaine's Terms starring Rowan Atkinson Mon 14 - Sat 19 Jan

For further details call 01225 448844 or visit

www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Bath Christmas Market

Bath Christmas Market - 123 wooden stalls between Bath

Abbey and York Street 22 Nov till 9 Dec 10am - 7pm / 9pm

at weekends For further details visit

www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk

Bitton

Avon Valley Steam Trains

Santa Express - meet Santa on a 1 hour train ride through the Avon valley Every weekend in Dec 6 departures from

10.30 am till 4.30pm £9 £9.00

Avon Vally Railway

For further details contact 0117 932 5538 or

www.avonvalleyrailway.org

Downend

The Soul Destroyers in concert

Wed 12 Dec Horseshoe Pub, Downend

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