



Photo: Paul Ormiston

HRH Prince of Wales Visits Sherston Old School



A Project supported by the Prince's Countryside Fund

The village turned out in force last Monday (25 November) to see HRH The Prince of Wales look round the Sherston Old School project - one of the projects supported by the Prince's Countryside Fund.

HRH arrived outside the Old School at just after 10.00am and received a rousing reception from the massed ranks of Sherston Primary School and many local residents. He was greeted by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire who first introduced him to a group of local dignitaries including the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, *cont. page 16*



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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!

Walk with Sue

Sue McKechnie's next walk will be on Sunday 29 December – ideal to start getting rid of any 'excess' due to too many mince pies. Please assemble at the village hall for 10.00am with a return to the Rattlebone Inn just around 12.00noon in time for a complimentary snack. As ever, children and well-behaved dogs on leads are very welcome.

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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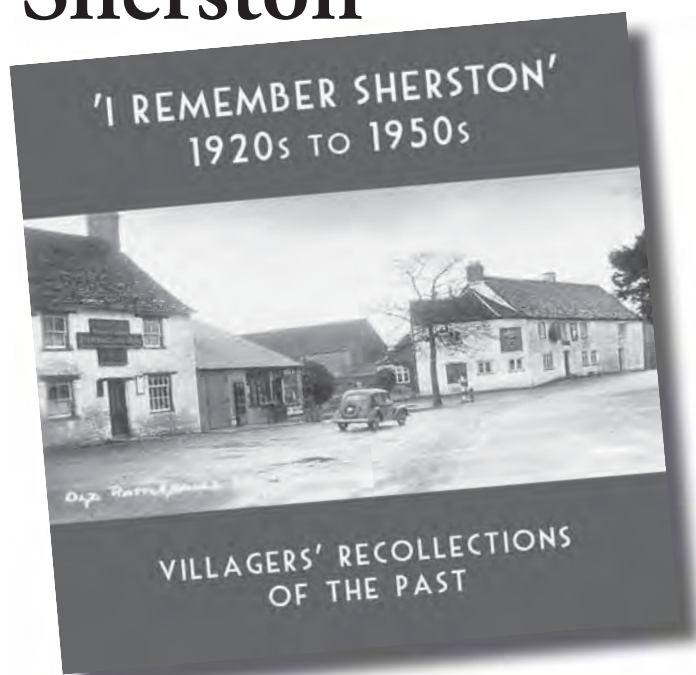
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Please remember the Cliffhanger is delivered free to every home and business in the parish – more than 1000 copies. This and all previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

PRINTED BY THE COMPLETE PRODUCT COMPANY, PINKNEY

I remember Sherston



Ten of our lifelong residents have given interviews remembering life in Sherston before, during and after the war. The interviews were conducted by Barbara Gale, a BBC radio journalist who has lived in the village for over 40 years, and she has recorded them on to a CD for ourselves and future generations to share.

There is a good mix of contributors from all walks of life, including a farmer, builder, shopkeeper and haulier. They all recall their experiences of the wartime, especially Robbie Grant who was taken prisoner in Italy and then escaped by cutting the wire of the camp and walking across the Alps to Switzerland.

Barbara recorded as much as 24 hours of interviews and then had to edit each person down, to make the hour long CD. The attractive cover has been designed by Paul Ormiston at Compass Graphic Design and the CDs were manufactured by The Complete Product Company Ltd (or CPC as they are known locally) based in Pinkney Park.

The project has the backing of the parish council, and the CD is entitled 'I Remember Sherston' and it is on sale at the post office at a price of £4.99, which is to cover the costs of CD production, cover design, editing, etc. CDs are also available by post for £6.50 inc p& p in the UK. For details please contact Sarah Wood the clerk to the parish council on 840197 email clerk@sherston.org.uk

It has already created a lot of interest and discussion, particularly with long-time residents who themselves, their parents and perhaps grandparents, lived in the village during this period. The CD could also make an ideal gift for family or friends, who have left the village but still have happy memories of their time here.

by Chris Bowyer

Christmas vouchers

This year's delivery of Sherston 1016 vouchers to senior citizens in both Sherston and Easton Grey will take place on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December, weather permitting. If anyone who is expecting a voucher has not received it by Tuesday 17 December, please contact Eric Thacker on 841344.

Just to remind everyone that vouchers are available to all who are over 65 with the proviso of only one voucher per household. In addition, vouchers are provided to all those whose partner (whether by marriage or civil partnership) has passed away irrespective of age.

Scouts

Hamper Raffle

Tickets will be on sale in the next weeks outside the post office and Tucks on Saturdays and at the Sunday Papers.

The draw will be on Saturday 14 December at 4.30pm at the Scout Hut, there will be a quiz and chilli or hot dogs, tables are £10 a family.

Christmas Post

We will again be selling our Christmas stamps for delivery of Christmas cards to Sherston and the surrounding villages - Luckington, Pinkney, Alderton, Easton Grey.

Meeting of the parish council

The parish council meets on Thursday 12 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, 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.

Regarding minutes and following a request from a resident it has been decided that these will in future be posted both on the notice board and website in draft form as soon as they are available. This will ensure that issues raised and decisions made are known to all quicker than having to wait until they are formally approved. In practice, any amendments when approving the minutes are nearly always of a minor nature in any event.

Area Board

The next meeting of the Malmesbury Area Board of Wiltshire Council takes place at Malmesbury Secondary School on Wednesday 15 January, 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. This is an opportunity for residents to see their area board in action and to participate in discussions. All welcome.

Christmas Trees from Sherston Christmas Market on Saturday 14 December

After last year's success, Alive & Well are again selling Christmas trees. All profits will help fund our work sinking water wells in Sierra Leone. Comments about last year's trees ...

'Still the best tree I've ever bought', 'This one didn't drop a single needle either'.

We will have a wide selection of trees at the Sherston Christmas Market at the village hall on Saturday 14 December between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

These high-quality trees are supplied by Frenchay Forestry one of the leading Christmas tree growers and importers in the South West. www.alivewell.org.uk

Warning over telesales campaign

The trading standards team at Wiltshire Council is putting out a warning regarding a telesales call campaign which is currently targeting Wiltshire homeowners. The caller offers domestic alarm systems which appear cheap, but then buyers are required to sign up to a monitoring service which can cost up to £6,000. It is also claimed the alarms are linked directly to the local police. These claims are untrue and calls should be reported to Consumer Direct on 08454 040506.

Anyone agreeing to buy anything from a trader who visits them at home must be provided with a written notice of the right to cancel within seven days; it is a criminal offence for them not to provide this.



Sherston Post Office - Get Ready for Christmas!

Opening times

We are pleased to serve you any time between 7.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Fridays and from 8.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. No other post office in the vicinity will offer this service. The only time we would recommend you avoid is between 4.00pm and 5.00pm each day when businesses usually call.

Posting abroad

Weighty problem

If possible, avoid sending items over 2kg outside Europe or it could cost you dear. A cheaper option could be to 'split' the parcel, eg:

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Australia/ NZ	£24.65	£53.25	n/a	£59.60	£49.30	£75.65

Don't guess the weight of your parcel or use scales that are not fully reliable. If your postage is wrong, it could result in problems with your delivery or you paying too much.

Size Matters

Even if the weight is less than 2Kg, to qualify as a 'Small Parcel' the combined 'length' plus 'width' plus 'depth' of your parcel must be less than 90cm (3 foot) AND the longest side less than 60cm. Anything outside these sizes would have to go via Parcelforce and could result in you paying considerably more (see table).

Value for Money

Standard airmail postage only carries compensation of £20 and nothing for cash. If you send a high value item or cash please request either 'Airsure' or 'International Signed For' to obtain appropriate compensation cover.

Wrap It Up

Make sure your parcel is capable of 'going the distance'. If you are unsure, we have a range of Jiffy bags, super strong tamper-proof bags and boxes - all very competitively priced.

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Tuesday 10 December -

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Friday 13 December - USA

Saturday 14 December -

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Special Delivery is the only service that provides compensation for cash or gift vouchers

Size Matters

The cost of a 'Small Parcel' up to 1Kg is £3.00 first class and £2.60 second class. The cost of a 'Medium Parcel' up to 1Kg is £5.60 first class or £5.20 second class – a huge difference. To qualify for a 'Small Parcel' think of a shoe box as a rough guide. Better still ask at the counter for guidance.

Last Recommended Posting Dates

Wednesday 18 December - Second class

Friday 20 December - First class

Monday 23 December -

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Left a bit, right a bit..



This enormous crane heading for the Badminton Overbridge past Luckington on the B4040 works brought Sherston to a standstill on Friday 22 November as it manoeuvred at a snail's pace past the recently completed highway improvements opposite the Old School. Despite heavy backing on an informal book in the Post Office that a bollard or two would go west all went well. The crane returned through the village again safely late on the night of Sunday 24 November but caused some residents to spring from their beds to rapidly move parked cars from its path.

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Sherston Senior Club

Our meeting on 17 September was our harvest festival which was taken by the Reverend Susan Harvey, I understand all went well. I must thank our vice chairman Mr John Venning for standing in for me whilst I was away on holiday. I have been told that the sum of £100 was raised at this meeting and it was decided to contribute this sum to Water Aid in Africa. Well done to all who made this meeting such a success.

Our next meeting was on 1 October, when we had a trip out for the day by coach to Gloucester Quays. A most enjoyable day was had by all shopping and sight-seeing, it was well worth the visit. The next meeting was in the British School Room on 15 October where we were entertained by Mr Johnston with poems and songs, a part of Sherston Arts Festival enjoyed by all.

The last meeting was on 29 October held in the British School Room when we had our autumn sale, which was again a very successful meeting, so successful in fact that our club funds were boosted by £233.06. I feel I must say a big thank you to all who sold, or bought to make it such a success as well as those who attended.

From your Chairman, Mr Malcolm Hillier, 840737.

Sherston Arts Festival

It may seem like a distant memory now but we are still finalising the accounts. So far we know that it was a great success, both in terms of excellent participation by the community and very positive feedback, but also financially. In order to close our books we need to sell the last remaining Arts Festival calendars, there are a few left in the Post Office so don't miss out. We can then divide our profits between the three venues we use in the village – the church, the village hall and the British School Room, to ultimately benefit everyone who lives here.


We will be holding another Festival in 2015 so look out for that. In the meantime, we have an event next year. When we booked our Rural Arts Touring show for families – Peter and the Wolf – we were offered the opportunity to book another so have booked 'Fireside Tales with Grandad' which is on Saturday 15 March at 3.00pm in the village hall. Put the date in your new diary!

by Heather Martin



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Autumn at Busy Hands with some 'Children in Need' fun!



Raising money for Children in Need was a fun-packed day at Busy Hands in November. Children and staff turned out in pyjamas, making Pudsey headscarves for themselves and their bears.

The children have also been enjoying the autumn with some seasonal crafts, including rolling apples in paint, a forest treasure hunt, apple bobbing, making beds for their bears in hibernation week and some very messy firework painting - flinging paint across the playground to make some splendid pictures for bonfire night. That was just one week at Busy Hands!



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Sherston Arts Festival scarecrow entries

With its 'Best of British' theme, the scarecrow trail had a whopping 29 entries this year (see below for owners and entries). Congratulations to Lisa Neal and Karen Parkes for their winning entry of the Queen and Prince Philip, and many thanks to Gail and Paul for sponsoring and providing prizes.

1	James & Keith Waterhouse	James Bond
2	Lucas & Carron Waterhouse	Paddington Bear
3	Shephard/Clayton family	Will Shakespeare
4	Paul & Gail Mather Busy Hands	Bradley Wiggins QE11
5	Kiddell family	Postman Pat
6	Phillips family	Spongebob Squarepants
7	Picton family	Gangsta Granny (David Walliams)
8	Munson family	Harry Potter
9	Gould family	Sherlock Holmes
10	Jacques family	Stig
11	Whatley family	Adam Jones
12	Isaac Palgrave	Fireman
13	Amelie Meheust	Milly the Mermaid
14	Longley/Hurcom	Andy Murray
15	Apples & Pairs	Chris Frome
16	Gray family	Peppa Pig/George & Mr Dinosaur
17	Lanman family	Simon the SeaCat
18	Milne family	Gromit
19	Potter family	John Rattlebone
20	Tilly Egerton	Eliza The Bride
21	Clegg family	Dr Who
22	Lisa Neal and Karen Parkes	The Queen and Prince Philip
23	Strachan family	Loch Ness Monster
24	Geoff Martin	Jack & the Beanstalk
25	Liddington family	British Farmer
26	Bishop/Harris family	Chelsea Girl
27	Moriarty family	Scarecrow Bond
28	Heather Martin	Queen Elizabeth 1
29	Powers/Pettit families	Bradley Wiggins



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'Children in Need' meets 'Operation Christmas Child'

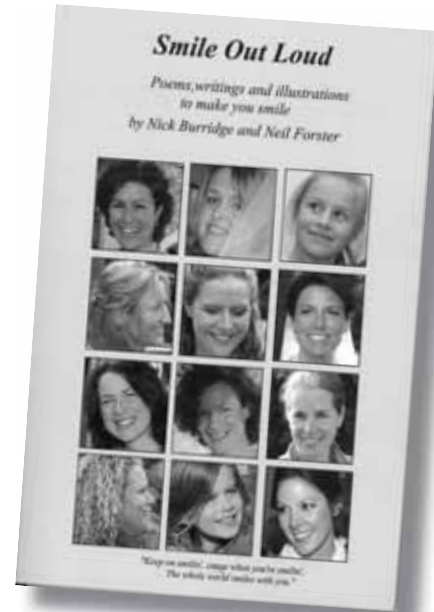


Children and teachers at Sherston Primary School didn't have to get dressed one morning, as they were allowed to come to school in their pyjamas in aid of Children in Need.

This coincided with the traditional Operation Christmas Child Appeal, where children bring in gift-filled shoeboxes to send off to less fortunate children around the world.

The whole school, still dressed in their pyjamas and carrying the brightly decorated shoeboxes, made their way to the British School Room for a short blessing with Mary and Roger Clements who coordinate the Operation Christmas Child Appeal for Sherston.

Smile Out Loud



Those regular listeners to Radio Wiltshire will have heard Sherston's Smile Out Loud book launch receive a plug on Sue Davies' afternoon show on Tuesday 26 November. Nick Burrige and Neil Forster were interviewed by Sue to help promote the book launch in the village hall on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 November. Kevin Smith's thespian skills, which helped act out scenes from Smile Out Loud at the launch, were also mentioned!

The book contains Nick's prose and Neil's illustrations which take a humorous look at modern life. Smile Out Loud is being sold to help raise much needed funds for a new practice facility at the cricket ground in Pinkney Park.

Details of how to buy the book are available from sherstonmagna@yahoo.co.uk, www.sherstonmagna.play-cricket.com or look for updates on Twitter @sherstonmagna

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Walk on the wild side

Getting to the hungry time

Winter is upon us, bringing with it the first frosts and birds migrating from Scandinavia. Many of the latter have already arrived, including redwings and fieldfares, which are out in numbers on the Cliff. Many of the resident birds, such as song thrushes (see photo), chaffinches and robins, are supplemented by birds also migrating south. When the winter food situation is poor further north, large numbers of some birds may arrive as we saw a few years ago, with many waxwings feeding on the fruit tree next to the school.

These migrations are a way for the birds to cope with the cold, lack of water (it's all frozen) and limited food supplies which leads me on to what we can do. While the birds may have food in the countryside at the moment, it won't be too long before it starts to be in short supply; we need to get our feeders, water and nest boxes ready ...

Checklist:

- Take any feeders in, give them a really good clean with hot soapy water and dry them.
- Provide a range of seeds if you can - peanuts for the tits (blue, great and coal).
- Sunflower seeds are great for seed-eaters. Black sunflower seeds are good but, if you don't want the mess from the husks, try sunflower hearts (they are more expensive but make less mess).
- Clean out nest boxes, as birds can roost in nest boxes when it gets really cold.
- If you don't have any feeders then ask for some for Christmas with some seeds.
- Make sure, when it's freezing, there is water available

If you put up feeders in a new location, be prepared for it to take a little while for the birds to find them, and please ensure you keep them topped up. When thinking about a location for feeders, place them away from bushes etc where predators may lurk. (There are a few sparrowhawks around the village.)



A couple of final tips: also put fruit out and even leave fruit when it falls off trees. Apples are very much appreciated by blackbirds and thrushes. Try hanging them in a tree, as well as leaving them on the ground. When you come to tidy the garden for winter, leave any seed heads, as they can make great food for sparrows and finches.

Finally, I have had the most visitors I have ever had to my blog (sherstonwildlife.wordpress.com) - and the reason? I took a stack of photos when Prince Charles was in the village last month and published them! Maybe I should become a royal paparazzo? (Maybe not ...)

Geoff Carrs

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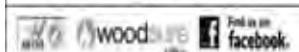
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Sherston Church Bazaar

Held on 23 November in the village hall, this was a lovely occasion for getting together with friends, sitting and having lunch together and listening to the excellent Mount Zion Choir, also buying gifts, produce and cakes, and participating in the raffle and tombola. Many thanks to the countless people who worked behind the scenes, contributed goods or sold tickets. It wouldn't be possible without a large amount of goodwill. Final figures will appear on the notice board in the church porch.

by Heather Martin

Art display at Shear Class


In response to an invitation by the owners of Shear Class, local artists will have the opportunity to display their work in the area alongside reception. Starting in December, and with each artist showing for two months, there will be a small display of work for sale. So look out for that if you regularly go to the salon or pop in anyway to see the pictures – you might find just the thing for a gap on your walls. The first artist is Gill Ashley who is exhibiting during December and January.




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Wiltshire Good Neighbours



Fork handles ... for anyone who, like me, enjoyed that unforgettable sketch by the Two Ronnies, this will raise a smile! Hopefully, it has attracted your attention to read further!

At this time of year, the dark nights and cold wet weather often encourages us to stay home and light those 'four candles'! This brings me onto the serious matter of fire and safety. Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service are anxious to prevent fires happening and so offer a free check-up on homes. They offer advice on safety measures as well as checking that your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work. If you are interested in having a check on your home, please call me to arrange on 07557 922020.

Finally at the end of the year, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ellen Blacker, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator

P.S. For anyone interested there is an excellent follow up sketch by Ronnie Corbett and Harry Enfield titled 'My Blackberry is not working'. Well worth checking out.



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The FSS fab family Christmas Show

Friday 22 November saw a sell-out crowd at Sherston Primary School for the annual Family Festive Show, put on by the Friends of Sherston School (FSS) and parents. The cast of 22 included 12 newcomers and two members of staff – Lara Farahar who was not only Snow White but also a Saxon from Horrible Histories, and Liz Walker who was the Jolly Christmas Postwoman linking the acts and being welcomed each time with a loud ‘rat-tat-tat’ from the audience.

The first half saw Judy Laddle and Caty Tappin wrapping presents for the teachers ... but not with their own arms (hidden behind them were Steve Harvey and Laura Gould, scratching noses, flicking hair, flinging tights, and generally causing chaos); Disaster Chef saw audience participation from some willing Year 6 pupils; a troupe of eight dancers confused everyone with an optical illusion that meant no-one was quite sure whose legs were whose; and Gangnam Style was given a festive makeover and turned into ‘Santa Style’, with the help of Huw Bowles and his elves Sally Clayton and Gemma Waldron.

After a short interval with juice, cookies, mulled wine and mince pies, the second half kicked off with a song from Graeme Strachan and Juliet Blows that saw everyone joining in the chorus and asking Santa to bring them a dinosaur. However, the highlight of the second half was the pantomime ‘The Mermaid and the Prince’ written by Gemma Waldron and performed by the majority of the cast. Sailors, witches, a fairy, a prince and a mermaid delighted the audience, but nothing could prepare them for the sight of Jonathan Gould, Riaan van Rooyen and

Graeme Strachan in grass skirts and coconut bras, shimmying and wiggling their way through ‘Mele Kelikamaka’ and wishing everyone a happy Christmas Hawaiian-style.

Big thanks go to Dave Shepherd for providing all the music, sound effects and accompaniment, and to Laura Gould for creating some fabulous props and costumes on a budget of about £2.50! Thanks to all the team who kept a packed audience entertained for the evening; Pat Starke, Sally Clayton, Graeme Strachan, Steve Harvey, Harry Stevens, Lara Farahar, Lloyd Wood, Caty Tappin, Gemma Waldron, Juliet Blows, Jo Lees, Sophie Cheetham, Annie Llewellyn Palmer, Suzie Power, Huw Bowles, Liz Walker, Emma Bowles, Ceri Gascoyne, Jonathan Gould, Riaan van Rooyen and Linda Tate.



Tracklements open day

The festive season means we're opening our doors once again for our annual Christmas Open Day, giving you the opportunity to step inside the tasty world of Tracklements. On Saturday 7 December from 9.30am to 1.00pm bring your friends and family to our factory at Whitewalls, where you can experience the transformation of the finest ingredients into your favourite sauces, chutneys, jellies and mustards. Think mulled wine, festive nibbles, prize draws and a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping. Our on-site shop will be stocked full of jars galore, with free recipe cards accompanying lots of products. Choose from our fantastic gift ranges, beautiful Le Parfait jars and wonderful ready-made hampers to give you all the ingredients you need to make the perfect Christmas present. We hope to see you there!

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 (SN16 0RD).

Sherston Occasional Community Choir (SHOCC)

Six members of SHOCC joined with several members of the Tetbury Community Choir to visit Zwingenberg in Germany (Tetbury's twin town) for three days of sightseeing and singing. Host families were most hospitable and a tour of Heidelberg on a sunny autumn day was a delight. SHOCC is now rehearsing for a concert with the Tetbury choir which will take place at Christ Church, Tetbury on Tuesday 10 December at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at £8/Concessions £5 from choir members or Nicki Heenan on 840883 / nicki.heenan@btinternet.com or Jill Woodward 840578 / jillwoodward222@btinternet.com

The new term will commence in early January on Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the British School Room.

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TREEtalk

December

by Irene Johnston



Winter workout at the wood

Making good progress at Grove Wood in the battle against the brambles. We may be rather light on manpower but it hasn't stopped us getting on with the jobs. There are now several cleared areas where we are ready to plant wild daffodils which will brighten up the path for visitors, ramblers and dog-walkers. You may remember how fantastic the slopes looked last year when the wood anemones and bluebells flowered simultaneously in a riot of white and blue for several weeks in April and May. Now we'll have yellow daffodils and snowdrops appearing as harbingers of spring. Let's just hope we don't have to endure weeks of icy conditions before that! Nice also to welcome some new volunteers to the team. With plenty of activity planned, weather permitting, over the next few months, we hope that even more of you join us in the New Year.

Did you know?

- The average Christmas tree takes about eight years to grow from a sapling, itself some three years old
- All Christmas trees are grown from seed. Pines, firs and spruces are ancient varieties of trees, and never developed the ability to grow from cuttings

Beautiful two bedroom holiday cottage for rent in Cornwall

The Boathouse is an idyllic cottage on the spectacular Fowey River Estuary, just two miles from Fowey and a step away from the water's edge.

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- There are more than 10 different varieties of Christmas tree grown in the UK, the most common being the Nordman fir
- The USA has banned the importation of artificial trees from China because they are concerned about the importation of pests
- The tree in Trafalgar Square is the only un-milled tree over 12 feet allowed to be imported into the country. It is a thank you gift from the people of Oslo for Britain's help to Norway in WW2
- Different types of Christmas tree are used in different parts of the country/world for example the Scots Pine is more popular in the North of England than the south
- The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510
- In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as two pints of water per day.
- An acre of real Christmas trees provides for the daily oxygen requirements of 18 people

Finally, a big thank you to all our Grove Wood volunteers and a Merry Christmas to everyone from Sherston's Tree Wardens - Irene Johnston and Sue McKechnie. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, email ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk

by Irene Johnston



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Children's author Jeremy Strong visits Sherston School



'Every person in this room is an author' Jeremy Strong told an audience of children at Sherston School 'There are very few differences between us. I am older, taller, and maybe just a little bit uglier than you'.

Luckington School pupils came to join Sherston Primary School for the day for Jeremy's workshops which were engaging, inspiring, and had the children in stitches.

Jeremy lives in Bradford on Avon, and is known to many of his young fans as 'Germey', or sometimes even 'Germany' (as he says himself, the name 'Jeremy' is hard to spell.) He's famous for writing stories about families where extraordinary things happen. The 99 children's books he's already written include 'The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog', and 'The Invasion of the Christmas Puddings'. Jeremy hates Christmas pudding and needed to get his revenge, so the puddings are evil and turn humans into zombies.

He's often inspired by day to day life. When one Sherston pupil asked him which of his characters he'd like to come alive, he replied 'They are already alive. Miss Pandemonium is a teacher I used to know, and the hundred mile an hour dog is a real dog'.

Jeremy writes in the garden shed, which his wife

prefers to call his 'studio', accompanied by his cat Jeeves, and a fridge containing dark chocolate, his writer's fuel. He has a flying cow which hangs over his desk and goes round in circles. It was given to him by a boy who loved one of his books about a cow's attempts to save the world.

Jeremy also asked the pupils what a cliffhanger was. Something of course which we'd hope Cliffhanger readers would know. He suggested that they use a 'cliffhanger' as a technique in their stories, to encourage readers to beg for more.

He showed the children the story he wrote about Jason and the Argonauts when he was six years old, which had no punctuation and fifteen spelling mistakes. A teacher and pupil had a go at reading his handwriting, and rated it as 'very bad'. Jeremy also couldn't say the letter 'r', when he was a child, he said 'w' instead. His mum gave him rhymes to say to correct his pronunciation. But he knew he wanted to write stories when he grew up, and that stories are about one thing, and that's great ideas.

William from Luckington School said he had an idea. It was for a story about a giant which was too big to fit inside the book. Jeremy Strong said he'd like to read it when it is finished.

The Friends of Sherston School would like to thank all parents for supporting last year's Christmas Fair which raised the funds to pay for Jeremy Strong's visit.

by Fi Picton, Friends of Sherston School



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Continued from Page 1

the local MP, the Chair of Wiltshire Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner. She then escorted him into the Old School building where he met the six Directors of SOSCIC (Sherston Old School Community Interest Company) together with John Matthews, Chairman of the Parish Council and John Thomson, Local Councillor – all of whom had played a significant part in securing the delivery and completion of the project since its conception.



The Prince was escorted around the building by Mike Johnson, one of the SOSCIC Directors, where in turn he was introduced to all of the tenants and employees of each of the business units comprising: Shear Class; Compass Graphic Design; Pulse Business Software; Electric Octopus Marketing; Balcony House Cellars; and the Sherston/PO Stores. The Prince took some time in each of the units talking to all of the individuals concerned. On leaving



the Sherston/PO Stores he was presented with a hamper of local produce by the two longest-serving employees – Anthea Young and Janet Platts – who clearly enjoyed the moment.



Photos: Mark Lord unless otherwise credited

On returning outside HRH was once again met by the sound and colourful sight of the local school children and villagers – all of whom had remained to watch him unveil a plaque commemorating his visit (which will in due course be hung in a strategic location on the building) whilst the newly re-installed 'school bell' was rung by James Hulme – one of the pupils at Sherston School. After speaking to several individuals and children he bid his farewell and set off for his next appointment in Cirencester at about 11.00am.



Sherston Old School is a grade II listed building that has been given a new lease of life, housing the village shop and Post Office and a host of other local businesses. The building stood empty from February 2005, when it was made redundant by the opening of the new village school. Like many other rural communities, Sherston has seen a significant decline in businesses and services in recent years and the village was concerned the site would be developed into houses.

With full support of the village a community group was set up (SOSCIC) with the combined aim to increase local employment as well as preserve the character of the High Street. The Sherston Old School Project created a new model of local retailing and is believed to be one of the largest 'community interest' projects of its kind in the UK.

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the entire community the school was secured and restored so as to enable the Post Office and shop to be relocated. A £50,000 grant from The Prince's Countryside Fund helped the team to finish the renovation of the school and to create a further five business units.

Village hall 300+ club

November 2013 Draw

1st	59	Dawn Smith	£12
2nd	248	Margot Holland	£11
3rd	311	David Gibson	£10
4th	124	Cilla Liddington	£9
5th	26	Fiona Picton	£8
6th	99	Minnie Hulme	£7
7th	323	Sharon Bailey	£6
8th	207	Margaret Yeend	£5

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

2014 Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your membership — or to join, if you are not already a member.

Membership will remain at £6.00 per person, and we will start collecting the 2014 subscriptions in December. So, expect a visit from one of our collectors. However, if you are out when they call, a form will be left explaining how to pay, which can then be delivered to the post office.

For those who would like to join, please apply for an application form at the post office.

If you have any queries please call me on 840846.

Thank you for your support.

Lin Prior, Coordinator 300+ Club

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Five Loaves and Two Fishes Project - St Paul's Bristol

The Anglican Community of the Sisters who run the Five Loaves and Two Fishes Project in St Paul's Bristol are asking if it is possible for us to provide fifty 200gram jars of coffee. These will be added to the food bags which we give out to several hundred people just before Christmas.

This year the Sisters are also asking for men's gloves and hats to give out as presents. Other items needed are on the information board in the church porch.

I will leave an empty box at the back of the church, which can be found in the last pew on the right-hand side, for any contributions. My grateful thanks to you all for your on going support for the project, especially at Christmas time and throughout the year.

Reverend Susan Harvey 840 696

Seasonal lights - last call

Could all those residents of the High Street who would like Christmas lights for the fronts of their houses please let Laurence Price know by Friday 6th December so they can be distributed in good time. The lights are low energy and the parish council has all the sets safety checked every year. Contact Laurence on 840289.

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THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

A seasonal card from the archives - Yarp!

A brace of Sherston Mangold Maids
relaxing after their performance at
The Ancient Order's Christmas party
at the Rattlebone Inn on Saturday
20th December 1947



Copyright : The Estate of Lobber Jenkins deceased



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a Hurling New Year !

from
The Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold Hurlers

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Wednesdays - Steak Night £29.95

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Sundays - Homemade Pizza Night



Clem's Club

Clem's Club will take place on Tuesday 3 December only (with mince pies!), and will then go into hibernation until the spring. All friendly fellas welcome for simple char and chat 2.30pm until 4.00pm in the British School Room, Cliff Road, Sherston.

CHRISTMAS AND THE FESTIVE SEASON AT

Three-course festive à la carte menu – £29 per person
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Sunday Lunch in December – £29 per person
Includes a three-course table d'hôte menu
with the option of a traditional roast

Christmas Eve lunch – £29 per person
Three course table d'hôte lunch

Christmas Eve dinner – £85 per person
Champagne and canapé reception, four-course menu
in candlelit surroundings with coffee and petit-fours

Christmas Day lunch – £107 per person *fully booked*

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

New Year's Eve dinner in the Sitting Room – £160 per person *fully booked*

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

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News from across the Gauzebrook Group

November was a visionary month – we had two parish away days and a ministry team away day. The Parish away days for Sherston and Luckington focused on the life of the local church and what we can do to strengthen links between church and community. At the ministry team away day, we shared a good time together at Mays Farm and had a helpful training day on team dynamics and working with different personality styles.

At the thanksgiving service on 13 October we were able to announce that Holy Cross in Sherston has achieved an excellent result for its funding campaign. We even slightly exceeded the target, which means we are able to fund our essential foreseeable expenses for the next few years. Thank you to everyone who took part in this! It's worth clarifying one question that was put to me: the only person in the church who knows who gives what and how much is the Treasurer, who keeps this information confidential. The clergy deliberately don't want to know who gives what – we want to be able to minister to everyone equally without being aware of their giving.

Advent Sunday is on 1 December and, to celebrate the new church year and in preparation for Christmas, we'll

be holding a special service at 6.00pm in Holy Cross Church, Sherston. It will feature a selection of Advent readings and music sung by a choir gathered from across our villages. Events like this are a great chance to bring together the talents of many people and achieve things that no one church could manage on its own. It promises to be a great evening, do come along!

The focus soon turns to Christmas and carol services, details of which are in the service plan and the diary sections of the Parish Life.

Soon after Christmas we'll be running an Alpha course. Alpha is an immensely popular course, completed by millions, which is an open-ended presentation of the Christian faith. It aims to suggest answers to life's big questions, and one of the main features are the discussions. I'll be leading one on Wednesday evenings, from 8 January through to Ash Wednesday. The timing is likely to be 7.30pm to 9.00pm. It will be based in Hullavington, but we can help with lifts for anyone who'd find transport an issue. Depending on demand, there may also be a daytime course, so please be in touch if you'd like to come to it.

by Christopher Bryan



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4th Sunday @ 4pm



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Rattlebone Christmas raffle and party

A raffle in aid of Sherston 1016 and The Friends of Sherston School organised by the Rattlebone Inn will be run from early this month. Be sure to get involved and help these two worthy organisations which between them do so much for the young and not so young in our community. 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 Monday 23 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!

Varied times & types of Services monthly

Visitors & Observers		Very Welcome
1 st Sunday - 11.0am		For Believers, Sermon/Communion
2 nd Sunday - 11.0am		Remembrance Service-Holy Cross
3 rd Sunday - 3.0pm		"Why the Cross?" Questions & Reflections
4 th Sunday - 4.0pm - 5.30		"FAMILY FEST" - What it says on the tin!

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You can now advertise items for sale or wanted in the Cliffhanger including services required such as gardening or cleaning. Cost is £2 for up to 20 words. Copy should be in paper form and put through the letterbox at 37 High Street by the 15th of the month together with £2 in cash. All monies raised will be donated to charity. Private advertisers only please - no businesses.

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Doctor's Bag

The Tolsey Surgery - Judy Sharp Practice Manager

Happy Christmas to all our patients

We will be open as usual up to Christmas Eve, although all doctor's appointments on Christmas Eve will be 48-hour or emergency, book-on-the-day appointments to ensure that all patients who need to be seen before the Christmas break can be accommodated.

Monday 23 December Open as usual

Tuesday 24 December Open as usual

– 48-hour or emergency only for doctor appointments

Wednesday 25 December Closed

Thursday 26 December Closed

Friday 27 December Open as usual

Monday 30 December Open as usual

Tuesday 31 December Open as usual

Wednesday 1 January Closed

Thursday 2 January Open as usual

Friday 3 January Open as usual

We wish all our patients a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

New Care Co-ordinator

We are very pleased to announce the arrival of Tracy Mead, who is now working with us to help with some of our more vulnerable patients. These are patients who may need a little extra help, or may have just been discharged from hospital, and need assistance in accessing other services that may be available to them that they don't necessarily know about. Tracy has previously worked with the ambulance service and brings with her a wealth of experience.

Friends of Tolsey Surgery (FOTS)

We are delighted to announce that Tony Towle was voted in as our new Chairman for the Friends of Tolsey Surgery (FOTS) at our last meeting on 15 October. We are grateful to John Buckley for his chairmanship over the last four years and wish to extend our thanks to him.

FOTS members represent the views of patients and help us to improve our services by answering a question or two periodically. Any of our patients interested in joining the group should ask for details at the surgery or come to the next meeting on Monday 27 January at 6.30pm at the surgery.

Improving Practice Questionnaire

We will again be running a patient survey to help us monitor feedback and opinion, and to help to improve our services. We would like to thank all our patients for their help with this. If you wish to take part, please pick up a questionnaire from the surgery.



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Weds: 8.00-9.00 Tetbury Leisure Centre

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Results will be published on our website and will be available in the surgery to look at.

Care Data

You may have heard about Care Data in the press recently. Information about you and the care you receive is shared, in a secure system, by healthcare staff to support your treatment and care. It is important that we, the NHS, can use this information to plan and improve services for all patients. We would like to link information from all the different places where you receive care, such as your GP, hospital and community service, to help us provide a full picture. This will allow us to compare the care you received in one area against the care you received in another, so we can see what has worked best.

Information such as your postcode and NHS number, but not your name, will be used to link your records in a secure system, so your identity is protected. Information that does not reveal your identity can then be used by others, such as researchers and those planning health services, to ensure we provide the best possible care for everyone.

You have a choice. If you are happy for your information to be used in this way you do not have to do anything. If you have any concerns or wish to prevent this from happening, please speak to practice staff, collect a leaflet from the surgery or download a copy of 'How information about you helps us to provide better care' from our website

We need to make sure that you know this is happening and are aware of the choices you have.



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Poppy seed planting



After Year 6 pupils from Sherston School attended the placing of crosses by the Church lychgate on Remembrance Day 11 November they planted poppy seeds in the churchyard to provide a 'living memorial' for the centenary of the First World War which starts next year and runs through to 2018. Thanks are due to the Rev Susan Harvey for not only leading the service at the Lychgate but also for helping sow the seeds with all the children. The seeds were provided free by MVCAP (Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership) as part of their Great War Project for the area. Seeds are still available if you would like some - details at [/www.facebook.com/groups/greatwarproject/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/greatwarproject/) or call 390110

VC remembered



A few days before 11 November the Victoria Cross Trust placed a wreath on the grave of George Strong VC in Sherston churchyard.

In September 1855, only days before the end of the year long siege of Sevastopol, Private Strong, aged 19, was on duty in a trench when a live shell fell in. Well aware of the extreme danger, he picked up the shell and threw it over the parapet, thus saving many lives. He was awarded the VC on 24th Feb 1857. George Strong was born in Odcombe, Yeovil in Somerset on 30th Nov 1835. He died on 25th August 1888 aged 53, at Sherston Magna in Wiltshire. His grave's present headstone was erected in 1986 by his regiment The Coldstream Guards.

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www.luckingtonpreschool.org.uk



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Cricket

On Sunday 17 November Sherston Magna Cricket Club (SMCC) had their second indoor game of the winter season. After an enforced four-week break while the hall at Sheldon School was being renovated, SMCC batted first and got off to a good start with Chris Lovell and Richie Cartwright opening the batting (despite some interesting calling between the wickets!). The other batsmen chipped in, with Sherston completing

their ten overs with a score of 117, Andy Pegg (33 not out) and Richie Cartwright (28 not out) top scoring.

The bowling performance was equally good, but Simon Hulance stood out – ripping through the Christian Malford batting line-up and completing a triple wicket maiden!

Christian Malford were eventually bowled out for 55. A good all-round performance and Sherston Magna getting back to winning ways.

by Andy Pegg

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Groups and Regular Events in and around Sherston

Holy Cross Church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade biscuits. Open Thurs mornings till Spring 9.30 am – 12 noon

Sunday services 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist (3rd Sunday 9.30am Family Service); 6pm Evensong (3rd Sunday Evening Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer)

See the Parish Life for more details

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

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

Gauzebrook Church for Children

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

Junior Church is held at Court House, Hullavington now on the first Sunday of each month, except for August. This is for children from 3 to 11+. Any children under 3 need to be accompanied by an adult. Contact Becky Fisher 07974 030212 or becky.fisher@deanery.org.uk

Little Lights

The first date of the Autumn term will be Thurs 12 Sept 12, 10.30 am in Hullavington church and weekly thereafter. 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. 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.

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 Kirsty Strachan on 07841 571943. 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 hall. 50p entry and 30p a book. Light refreshments available.

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

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

Drawing Classes in Sherston

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

Eudo Tae Kwon Do

Thursdays 7-9pm in Sherston primary school hall.

For details contact Simon Penfold 824773.

Footpaths group

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

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

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

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

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 <https://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 Villages Community Partnership

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

Malmesbury Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

For details contact Liz Fleming, the Division Commissioner on 575229 or liz@jacfleming.plus.com

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

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

The Rattlebone Boules League

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

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

Sherston 1016

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

Sherston Badminton Club

We play every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm in the Village Hall from September to May. For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592. New season starts on 3rd September 2013 – new members welcome

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 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 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 or Graham Instrell (Vice Chairman) ginstrell@hotmail.co.uk Tel. 840978

Sherston FC

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

Sherston Ladies' Swimming Club

Starts back after the Christmas break on 9 Jan. Any ladies from the area can join, just swim at your own pace (there is a lane for fast swimmers) every Wednesday evening at Westonbirt Leisure Pool from 8 to 9pm. For details phone Heather 840375 or Maggie (840969).

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 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).

Sherston Photography Forum

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

Sherston Tennis Club

The tennis courts are located on Knockdown Road, 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 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 Lauren (07885 597429), Saara (07739 552336) or alternative like us on Facebook for regular updates <http://www.facebook.com/sherston.toddlers>

Sherston Village Hall

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

Sherston W.I.

Winter meetings in British Schoolroom at 2.30pm Visitors most welcome £3. Further details contact Maureen Jolliffe on 840867.

Sherston Young Craft Group

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

Splash Dance

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

Tetbury Chess Club

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

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

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

Yoga in Sherston

New 7 week courses start Mon 9 Sep. 4.45pm Children's Yoga, 5.45pm Pregnancy Yoga, 7pm for Beginner Adults and 8.15pm more advanced. All classes must be pre-booked due to limited spaces. Sherston Village Hall. 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 2014 Dates for your diary

January

18 Sherston Market 10am - 2.00pm.

February

1 Busy Hands Quiz

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 Rattlebone Inn

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

Live music from the acoustic junkies Sat 21 Dec

Christmas Carols with the Dodington Brass Band 23 Dec 7.30pm

New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Party pop stars vs rock stars Tues 31 Dec

Check boards for more details of events

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

Friends of Sherston School Christmas Fair

Festive cheer with Santa's grotto, children's crafts, tombola, secrets room, face painting, refreshments, and festive stalls run by the pupils. The choir will sing at 6pm followed by the raffle Fri 6 Dec 4.30-6.30pm Entry is free, all proceeds to the Friends of Sherston School who are raising funds to repaint the playground Free entry or further details call 840237 or visit www.sherston.wilts.sch.uk/fss.html

Sherston Market

Local crafts and produce, cake stall, Sherston Rare Breed bacon butties and sausage rolls, Aunt Addie's Farm Project fresh vegetables

Sat 14 Dec 10am - 2pm Village hall

Non Drop Christmas trees in aid of Alive and Well

Art Display at Shear Class

Local Artist Gill Ashley Dec & Jan

Shear Class Salon

Community bus shopping trip

Christmas Shopping at Cribbs Causeway day trip Wed

6 Dec -10am - 3.30pm 16 places available on the bus

- book your ticket at the post office in advance to avoid disappointment. £5 return donation suggested. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult

Sherston's Soul Shakers live

Sat 28 Dec 7.30pm Cash Bar Village hall £9 tickets from the Tucks, Miles Morgan Travel

For further details call James Crawford 07738 570260 or www.thesoulshakers.bigcartel.com

Sue's Strolls

Sun 29 Dec starting from the village hall at 10am returning to the Rattlebone Inn for complimentary seasonal victuals at around 12 noon This is a PHEW! event see www.legacymalmesbury.org.uk

legacymalmesbury.org.uk

For further details call Sue McKechnie 840601 or

susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk or visit

www.legacymalmesbury.org.uk

Upcoming events at Holy Cross Church

Advent Service of Light featuring a selection of Advent readings and music sung by a choir gathered from across our villages Sun 1 Dec 6pm Church of the Holy Cross

For further details call Pam Pickthall on 841072 or pampickthall@hotmail.co.uk

Painting classes with Nicki Heenan

Painting Workshops - Beginners and Intermediates

Wednesday 10.30am - 12.45pm Beginners -materials

provided for the first few lessons thereafter bring your own preferred paints, brushes and supports

Advanced painters meet on Thursdays- private lessons, portfolio preparation or workshops by appointment

For further details call Nicki Heenan 840883 or visit nicki.heenan@btinternet.com

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SHOCC Sherston Occasional Community Choir

"Swingle Christmas" 04-Dec

SH.O.C.C. in concert with the Tetbury choir which will take place at Christ Church, Tetbury on Tues 10 Dec at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at £8/Concessions £5

The new term will commence in early January on Wednesdays at 7pm in The British Schoolroom British School Room For further details call Nicki Heenan 840883 or nicki-heenan@btinternet.com or Jill Woodward 840578 or jillwoodward222@btinternet.com

Sherston WI

Flower arranging talk/demo Thurs 5 Dec followed by special afternoon tea

Luncheon at the Ship Jan - first Thurs

AGM Feb - first Thurs British School Room

Busy Hands Pre School

Annual Quiz Night Raffle and auction. Sat 1 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 call Tickets on sale at the Post Office in December

Knockdown

The Holford Arms Live Music every weekend.

Check boards for more details of events

For further details call 01454 238669

Easton Grey

Festive open day at Tracklements

Tracklements celebrate the first Small Business Saturday UK There will be factory tours, mulled wine and festive nibbles to enjoy, and of course a chance to do some Christmas shopping in the on-site shop. Sat 7 Dec 9.30 - 1pm Whitewalls, Easton Grey For further details call 827044 or visit www.tracklements.co.uk

Whatley Manor

Christmas Wreath Making with Rachel Wilson Thurs 5 Dec 10am for a 10.30am start - 3.30pm £70 incl On arrival you will be welcomed with mulled wine and mince pies. Rachel Wilson our in-house florist will demonstrate how to create and make a decorative Christmas wreath, two-course lunch served in our brasserie 'Le Mazor' you will be ready to put into practice all you have learned and make your very own Christmas wreath using quality materials. Take your wreath home and impress family and friends

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



Noah's Ark Day Nursery

Providing a nurturing and stimulating environment for babies and children aged 3 months to pre-school.

Telephone: 01666 840105

E Mail: noahsarknursery@aol.com

Didmorton Flicks in the Sticks

Song for Marion Fri 13 Dec Doors open 6:30pm for 7.30pm start. Cash bar £3 in advance £3.50 on the door Didmorton Village Hall

For further details call Jenny Body 01454 238358 or jenny.body@virgin.net

Grittleton Moviola - the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme

Wed 25 Jan RED 2 - no film in Dec Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start £5 in advance £6 on the door

Grittleton Village Hall F

or 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

Stick Man Trail Based on Julia Donaldson's book, Stick Man Sun 1 Dec - Fri 31 Jan 10am-4pm Sorry no dogs. free after admission Meet at the Great Oak Hall

Talk:Q&A with Stephen Segar, Chairman of the Friends' Board of Trustees Wed 8 Jan 10am free after admission

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 by calling 881218. Sorry, dogs (except assistance dogs) are not allowed on the trail because it is in the Old Arboretum, the dog free zone. 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 Dec - Feb admission prices Adults £5 Concs £4 Children £2 For further details call 880220 or visit www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Westonbirt School

Community Carols & Reading by Candlelight

Thurs 12 Dec 7pm Join us in our magnificent Great Hall for our annual Community Celebration of Carols and Readings by Candlelight.

The evening will be led by Westonbirt School's choirs and promises to deliver a magical and musical Christmas journey interspersed with readings and poems. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards. Admission is free, but tickets must be reserved and are likely to go quickly! To reserve your free ticket(s), please contact Tania Warner on 880333 or email twarner@westonbirt.org or visit www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk



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Charlton Park

WOMAD - World Music Festival

Early Bird tickets On sale now till Jan 3 for the 2014 festival Thurs 24 - Sun 27 July Including • SN16 Weekend £115 (full price £160) You can spread the costs with 4 easy instalments via direct debit
For further details call Reading Box Office on 0118 960 6060 or visit www.womad.org/festivals/charlton-park

Charlton

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust –

Malmesbury Local Supporters Group

Winter Talks Programme 2013-14

7.30pm Admission £2.50, children free.

Non-members very welcome.

Charlton Village Hall

Salisbury Plain – a botanical tour by Sharon Pilkington

Thur 12 Dec

Val Melville talks on Luanga National Park, Zambia 9th Jan

Malmesbury

Late Night Christmas Shopping in Malmesbury

Festive street market with Santa's Grotto, carol singers, and late night shopping Fri 13 Dec 6 - 9 pm Free park & ride from Malmesbury Garden Centre

Upper High St, Malmesbury

For further details call To book a stall call 01249 783434

Events at Malmesbury Children's centre

The children's centre will be closed over the Christmas period from Mon 23 Dec - Thurs 2 Jan 2014

Look out for our latest newsletter and new programme details for January to April 2014 which will be on our website www.malmesburycc.org from mid December

Library

For further details call 825566 or email:

malmesburycc@spurgeons.org or visit www.malmesburycc.org

Malmesbury Cake Society

'Bake and Take' Fundraiser for Cancer Research UK First Monday of each month 7.30-9.30pm This month's theme: Yuletide Log. Demo - chocolate with Sasha and Carla from Hobbs House Bakery Monthly raffle. Bring your bake, recipe and £4.50 entry fee 100% of all proceeds to CRUK The Kings Arms

For further details call Jess M: 07823 338000 E:

malmesburycakesociety@yahoo.co.uk Facebook: Malmesbury Cake Society or visit www.malmesburycakesociety.weebly.com

Malmesbury Singers Christmas Concert

Come and enjoy a selection of favourite and new carols Sat 14 Dec 7.30pm Tickets (£12, £10 senior citizens, £2 students) available from Abbey Bookshop, choir members or call 823642

Malmesbury Abbey For further details call Abbey book shop

MP's Surgery

Local MP surgery with James Gray MP

Sat 7 Dec 12 noon - 1pm

Hobbes Parlour, Malmesbury Town Hall

For further details call www.jamesgray.org or email

jamesgraymp@parliament.uk for online surgeries

Christmas trees in aid of Alive & Well

Sat 7 & Sun 8 Dec 10am-5pm Alive & Well is the charity run by Kim Findlay, from Luckington, and all proceeds go to the charity's valuable work sinking water wells in one of the remotest parts of Sierra Leone, in West Africa - they are great trees too

For further details call or visit www.alivewell.org.uk

Tetbury

Christmas Events in Tetbury

The Christmas Lights Switch-On by the Fabulous Baker Brothers

Fri 5 Dec at 5.20pm starting with a torchlit procession from St Mary's Church Community carols, evening entertainment and stalls under the Market Hall & late night shopping Tetbury Market Square

For further details call Tetbury Tourist Information 503552 or visit <http://www.christmasintetbury.org.uk/switchon.shtml>

Bowood

Bowood House

Christmas Extravaganza The Marchioness of Lansdowne invites you to the Bowood House Christmas Extravaganza supporting The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust Wed 4 Dec 4-8pm £15 Ticketed evening preview with Carols and Cocktails, Thurs 5 10am-5pm and Fri 6 Dec 10am-4pm £8 All day shopping

For further details call 01249 812102 or visit www.bowood-house.co.uk

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Julian Law, 7 Manor Close, Sherston on

07866 000056

Lacock

Special Events at Lacock Abbey & Village

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

Christmas Trail free after admission - takes 30 mins

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

Lacock Abbey

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

Swindon

Great Western Railway Museum

Christmas stalls @ Steam Sat 30 Nov - Sun 1 Dec 10am - 5pm Over 40 stalls £3 adult £1 child and entry to whole museum at this price

For further details call 01793 466646 or visit www.steam-museum.org.uk

Stroud, Bath, Wotton

Covent Garden Royal Opera House and Ballet @ the cinema

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

Ballet & Opera: Live from the ROH 2013/14 season

The Nutcracker 12 Dec Parsifal 18 Dec Giselle 27 Jan

Don Giovanni 12 Feb The Sleeping Beauty 19 Mar The

Winter's Tale 28 Apr

Manon Lescaut 24 Jun

Stroud Apollo, Odeon Bath and many other Cinemas

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

National Theatre Live

Live and pre recorded screenings

Live from the National theatre:

Frankenstein starring Benedict Cumberbatch Encore screenings of the live performance from 31 Oct

Live: Coriolanus 30-Jan-14

Live screening of War Horse at the National Theatre 27-Feb

Wotton-Under-Edge

The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers from the local community This month: BSunshine on Leith; Captain Phillips; Philomena; Gone with the Wind; Project Wild Thing; Le Week-end; Gravity 3D; Rare Exports; Mamma Mia Singalong; Free Birds 3D; Nutcracker 3D check website for details

For 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: Sat 7 Nov 3pm v.Grimby Town; Sat 14 Nov 3pm v. Braintree Town; Boxing Day 3pm v. Aldershot

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

Stroud

The Cotswold Playhouse

Tongues of Fire Youth Theatre present Bouncers 4 to 7 Dec

Cotswold Players present Jack and the Beanstalk 14 to 18 and 22 to 25 Jan 2014

For further details call Box Office at Stroud Tourist Information Centre 01453 760960 or visit www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

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Ozleworth

NT Newark Park House and Estate

Christmas at Newark Park The House will be open with wonderful decorations and glorious views, while outside you can enjoy a brisk walk on the Estate. Have a warm drink and get some lovely gifts ready for this festive season Sat 7 and Sun 8 Dec 11am - 4pm. Adult £6.40 / Chd £3.30 / Family £16.10 Free parking (free to NT members).

Apart from this weekend, the house and gardens are shut until until Snowdrop Week in February but the estate is still open for miles of woodland walks (free entry). Dogs on a lead welcome

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

Bath

Theatre Royal

The Spanish Golden Age Season Sep - Dec A Lady of Little Sense (La Dama Boba); Don Gil of the Green Breeches (Don Gil de las Calchas Verdes); Punishment without Revenge (El Castigo sin Venganza) 7.30pm / 8pm £15-£33.50

The Woman in Black 2-7 Dec

Peter Pan 12 Dec - 12 Jan

The Perfect Murder 13-18 Jan

Book ahead for: Moon Tiger; Balck Coffee; The Full Monty; Fallen Angels; Chariots of Fire; Moscow City Ballet present Romeo and Juliet and Swan Lake; The Life of Galileo Pygmalion; Moon on a Rainbow Shawl; The Witches of Eastwick

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

Bath Christmas Market

123 wooden stalls between Bath Abbey and York Street
28 Nov till 15 Dec 10am - 7pm / 9pm at weekends
For further details call or visit www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk

Bath Film Festival

Bath Film Festival 25 Nov - 8 Dec £4-£12
various cinema locations throughout Bath

For further details call 01225 463362 or visit www.bathfilmfestival.org

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/£5

Avon Vally Railway For further details call 0117 932 5538 or visit www.avonvalleyrailway.org

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 841377
Tolsey Surgery	01666 840270
Wiltshire Council	0300 4560100




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visit us at www.sherstonbusyhands.org.uk

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