



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2014

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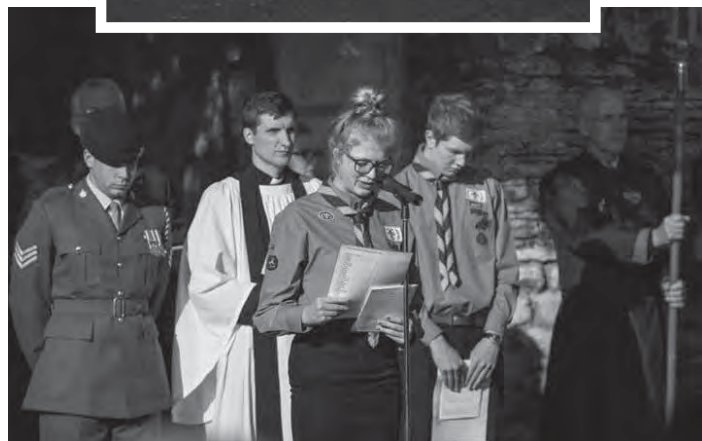


SHERSTON REMEMBERS

Thank you to all those who played a part in our Remembrance services on Sunday 9 November and Tuesday 11 November. It was a special year, with the centenary of the start of WW1 and the recent withdrawal from Afghanistan. Blessed by glorious weather, several hundred people attended our outdoor Sunday ceremony at the lychgate as the uniformed organisations and military personnel marched. The change in service involved considerable organisation but all went extremely well and thanks are due to those who organised, prepared, played or sang, and participated. Feedback on the services would be most welcome.

Christopher Bryan, Vicar of Sherston

Photos: Nick Holland. More on page 12



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

Standby help needed

Following my request in a previous issue of Cliffhanger I have been able to cover all our distribution areas. This is a call for help just to stand in if some distributors become temporarily unavailable. At the moment I have two distributors off sick, Willesley and the Knockdown area. I have managed to shuffle distributors around, but if there is anybody who could help for a short while it would be very much appreciated as, at the moment I do not have anybody for Knockdown. Also if there are people who would be prepared to go on a standby list so that I could call on them on a temporary basis if needed that would be a great help. If you can go on this list please call me on 841201 or 07850 623517 or e-mail me at beryl@clampton.com. Thank you.

Defibrillator Training Course – Save the Date

The parish council has provisionally booked a further training course to cover the use of defibrillators. The course will be held on Saturday 10 January. Look out for further details in the January Cliffhanger.

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

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

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

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

To advertise, contact:
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Advertising rates:
for 12 months:
1/4 page £220; 1/8 page £110; and 1/16 page £55
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1/4 page £88; 1/8 page £44; and 1/16 page £22
Inserted leaflet drop £85 max size A5

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

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

PRINTED BY THE COMPLETE PRODUCT COMPANY, PINKNEY

Sherston 1016 Christmas Vouchers - your help please

Sherston 1016 is a small group of villagers, who get together with the aim of raising funds to provide some Christmas cheer to the most needy within the parish. We run a number of successful fund-raising events each year, the annual fireworks display, the village hall book sales, the Boules weekend crêpes stall, the Tug of War, and the Pancake race to name just a few.

The Christmas vouchers are appreciated by many and will be distributed over the weekend of the 21 December. But we always have a problem identifying villagers who have become eligible under the current criteria – over 65 or widowed. If you are eligible and do not receive a voucher or know someone else who doesn't, please let us know – details below. Also those that do not wish to receive a voucher in future please let us know.

We will be including a form with the vouchers for the recipient to fill in which will help us improve our distribution and make the most effective use of the funds collected. These can be returned to the Post Office where a box will be available to place them in.

This year, any recipients who wish to return their vouchers please place them in the box at the Post Office - the value will be donated to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance and other local good causes. (This replaces the box that used to be in the Church porch.) By returning the vouchers the recipient will be removed from our list so helping with our aim to better distribute our funds.

We would also be very happy to hear suggestions about anyone else who would benefit from some help even if they don't fall within the current criteria.

Any correspondence will be held in complete confidence, and you can contact us as follows:

By email at reply@sherston1016.org

In person, by speaking with Mike Tarrant at Grays Garage

By phone, call Martin or Cathy on 841309.

Meeting of the parish council

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

Remembrance Week at Sherston School



From L – R: Mr Bowditch, James Gray MP, pupils from Y6 and Richard Broadhead.

Sherston Primary School spent much of the first week of November focusing on WW1 as we mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War.

On 11 November the school observed a minute's silence at 11.00am. There was an assembly that touched on some of the locals from the village's Roll of Honour and Year 6 attended a service at the Sherston War Memorial where a poppy had been placed to remember every person who gave their life during the War.

Later in the week, James Gray MP joined headteacher Mr Bowditch and members of Year 6 at the local churchyard looking at the graves of the village's fallen heroes who they'd been studying at school. James Gray is planning to visit all the graves of Wiltshire's war heroes throughout this year. He was accompanied by Richard Broadhead, a local historian who is behind the website <http://www.wiltshiresoldiers.co.uk/> which allows people to search for the records of over 12,000 servicemen who lost their lives during the Great War.

The children were in reflective mood as they studied the graves and discussed what they had learnt about the local people. 'If they didn't fight for us, we might not be here today,' said Beth. Oscar added, 'it's only fair to remember the people as they fought for us in the war.'

Mr Bowditch invited James Gray to come back to the school to look at the display of the Year 6 homework; research and stories about their own families during the War.

Emma showed James Gray a WW1 ensign flag. She explained: 'My great great grandfather was in the Merchant Navy and was promoted to Captain of the ship, when the boat was sunk he saved the ensign and kept it under his life jacket'.

James Gray commented, 'It's an absolutely wonderful display, by focusing on your own ancestors you understand the truth of what actually happened - it is a great way to learn and to bring history to life.'

Pupils and parents give generously to Operation Christmas Child 2014



Sherston Primary School has now been supporting Operation Christmas Child for 23 years – and this was a bumper year, with 185 boxes donated.

In the early days, headteacher Nick Bowditch, with Mary Clements and many village volunteers even hosted the founder, Dave Cooke, with his drivers and convoy who were en route to Eastern Europe. They stayed overnight in the new scout hut and were given breakfast in the school hall after a hilarious game of footie on the rec as a warm-up! The founders say they will never forget the role Sherston played back then.

Operation Christmas Child is now the largest global children's Christmas charity and increases its giving annually. More than 100 countries now receive the gifts given by over 60 other countries.

On Thursday 14 November, Sherston pupils brought their 185 filled boxes to the British School Room. Mary and Roger Clements, two of the long-serving co-ordinators of the programme, showed the pupils the recent Operation Christmas Child film and answered questions about the journey that their gifts make around the world. 'The children do identify immediately with the idea of children not having toys,' Mary said. 'We talked in assembly about the reasons behind this around the world. In some countries we used to find children would keep the wrapping paper to decorate their walls, they also love to have the pictures of the person who made the box. They'd always want us to have something of theirs in return – even a single prized flower from a vegetable patch.'

Pupils were concerned about what happened if there weren't enough boxes to go round. 'We often have to reassure the children that this won't happen. The volunteers are very careful to ensure that no child leaves without their Christmas box – the preparation starts in June to make sure boys get a boy box and girls get a girl box. It's a long and complicated process but worth it when you see the smiles on their faces.'

Thank you to pupils Adam and Euan who shared their thoughts about the project: 'Filling shoeboxes like these gives poor children a chance to be happy, and it gives us a lot to think about,' they said.

Letter from the time of the Great War

Sheila Cutcher has very kindly given us access to family letters written from the front, such as this one:

An extract from a letter written by Gunner HG (Harry) Stowell to his sister, Mabel, dated 14 January 1917. Headed simply 'France'. Harry had lied about his age to join up in 1914 and was 16½ when he wrote this.

We had quite a good time here at Xmas with the aid of a neighbouring canteen and extras from parcels we managed quite a decent tuck-out. The menu card was as follows, (only drawn and gaily decorated)

Soup QO (otherwise known as Quaker oats)

Fish Brislings en Huile (sardines) and salmon

Entrée Crab, Tongue, and Sauce de H P

Dessert Ananas de----- (Name)

Sweets Gateaux de Noel (otherwise Xmas cake)

Cigars nuts and oranges

Some feed eh! The table was a few empty boxes with a few clean sandbags for a cloth. And we managed to cram 18 into our dugout to take part on the repast! The evening was voted a complete success by everyone. Glad to hear you had a decent time at home in spite of the war.

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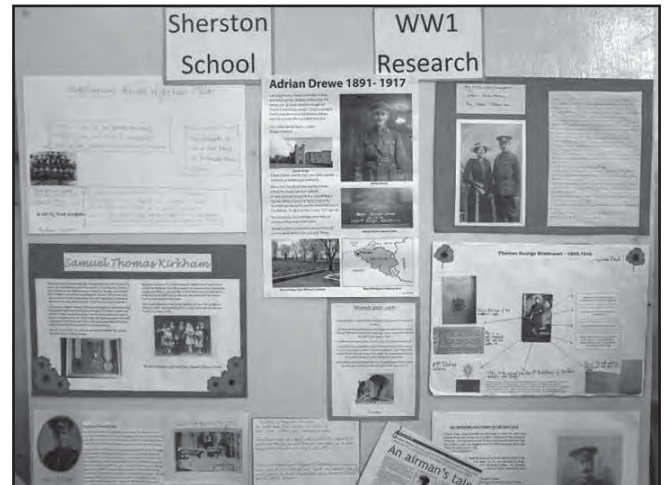
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Great War Exhibition



Sherston hosted a thought-provoking Great War Exhibition on Remembrance Sunday helping our community to further understand and remember the sacrifices made. On display were many remarkable objects from coins and diaries to gas masks and helmets.

The exhibition also helped to inspire Sherston schoolchildren. Mr Stewart (Year 6) felt it had been a really worthwhile project for the school. He said: 'Among the very well-researched presentations of daily life during the Great War and stories of personal sacrifice, there were some very moving accounts of individual heroism and tragedy. The class had the opportunity to study each other's work before the exhibition in the village and, as such, were able to gain further insight into this terrible period of history. The whole undertaking has proven to be a real eye-opener.'

An enormous thank you to all the people who helped make the Great War Exhibition such an enjoyable day. A great deal of hard work went into the organising - from a WW1 reading corner to trench art for the youngsters to enjoy. Thank you to all those who shared their amazing war memorabilia and family stories. Special thanks to Howard Harding and his wife for arriving in costume (we all thoroughly enjoyed his stories and bugle playing); to Mary Clements for her support with the British School Room and lending her projector; to Graham for sharing his wonderful map; and to Neil Forster for his wealth of memorabilia. We were thrilled to see so many people enjoy the event, so lastly thank you to all those who took their time to come by. It was a memorable way for us to come together to honour those who fought in the Great War.

by Ceri, Lauren and the Friends of Sherston School team

Report from Sherston W.I.



Our meeting took place on a cold November afternoon in our winter quarters, the British School Room. An afternoon meeting is more acceptable with dark evenings now upon us.

President Sheila introduced the speaker Shaun McCormach, a serving member of 'The Yeoman of the Guard'. It was an interesting and amusing talk, well illustrated by the many items of memorabilia which he had brought. The uniform in particular was heavy and very ornately decorated. Details of their history, origin and ceremonial duties accompanied by photographs and historical documents gave us a good picture of the organisation and its importance.

After refreshments, we dealt with some business. We had all enjoyed our recent birthday dinner at The Mayfield Hotel, Crudwell and hoped that our table-top sale on 8 November would be a success. Plans are being made for the 100th Anniversary of the W.I. for 16 September 2015 when we hope to join with other local Institute members to celebrate this event.

Our next meeting is on 4 December at 2.30pm in the British School Room when we hope to start Christmas festivities with refreshments and entertainment by The Minety Handbell ringers.

by Ann Wilcox

Sherston Church Bazaar: Saturday 6 December

Start your visit with a mince pie and mulled wine, then browse the stalls which include jewellery, Christmas gifts, produce, second-hand toys, and cakes. New this year, Sherston Church Christmas cards and individual-sized Christmas cakes. Try your luck with the raffle and tombola. Then from 12.00noon enjoy a really good value lunch of home-made soup and a bacon or cheese roll. For a special treat, enjoy a head or hand massage with a qualified practitioner. Father Christmas will be visiting.

Held in the village hall, the bazaar starts at 11.00am, and the raffle will be drawn at 2.00pm.

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New Parish Councillor

Martin Rea resigned from the parish council in July 2014 and, after applications from two Sherston residents, a new councillor was co-opted on to the parish council at the November parish council meeting. We would like to welcome Caroline Jarvis to the parish council, and look forward to working with her in our efforts to support the local community.

Table amnesty

The tables at the village hall have in recent times been mysteriously disappearing sometimes to return sometimes not. The present tally of 'lost' tables is 4 large and 3 small. As can be imagined this shortage of tables causes a number of problems not least when all tables are required for large events. If anyone has these tables please return them as soon as possible on a 'no questions asked' basis.

As to the future all hall equipment must not be taken by anyone without the appropriate permission and payment of an appropriate hire charge. Any hire will be on the basis of all items being promptly returned and in good condition.

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Christmas is nearly upon us and at our workshop on Wednesday 17 December we're making a festive pot cascade – a different take on the traditional tree. We'll then enjoy a relaxing bring-and-share supper while we admire the results of our efforts. Everyone is welcome – no need for experience as guidance is available for those who want it. The New Year starts for us on Wednesday 21 January with a demonstration by Emily Broomhead entitled 'Country Living' – very apt for our rural area. The competition that night is 'Twigs and Twine' and it's always fun to see the varied interpretations of the same theme. Any ability can take part as we have two classes: 'Improvers' for less experienced; and 'Experienced' for those who fit that bill better. Complimentary tea / coffee / cakes served. Come along to Crudwell village hall, SN16 9HB (just off the A429 Malmesbury to Cirencester road) at 7.00pm for 7.30pm and you will be made very welcome. More information available from Sue on 577125. February sees us heading to the Hare and Hounds, Westonbirt, for our annual dinner and the chance to let someone else slave over a hot stove and do the washing-up. The delicious two- or three-course menu caters for most preferences and is very tempting so dining for Wednesday 18 February is well sorted. Thank you to our many members and friends for packing out the Sundial Theatre in Cirencester for our November blockbuster event with international demonstrator, Jonathan Moseley. It was a sell-out, with over 200 people enjoying the evening – the start of Christmas for many. Only a year to go until the next one! Watch this space.

Community Apple Day – first of many?

On 17 October Sherston Primary School celebrated autumn by hosting the village's first Community Apple Day.

During the afternoon each class took part in a workshop led by MyAppleJuice* owner Richard Paget. In the workshops, the children learned about the process of making juice, watched it being made and got to taste the results.



Sherston Community Apple Juice: collection in progress, thanks to Richard Stancombe (above) ... and the tasty result (below)!



The children were also able to enjoy some seasonal fun with conker competitions and conker craft workshops.


Lots of pupils, parents and members of the community had brought in their own apples and these were pressed on site to make the very first Sherston School Apple Juice.

A big thank you to Richard Stancombe, Lottie Bostock and the Badminton Estate for allowing us to forage for fruit in their orchards.

Fresh juice was sold on the day and pasteurised juice will also be available for sale at the School Christmas Fair – which is on Friday 5 December see opposite.

A hugely successful and well-supported first Sherston Community Apple Day - look out for it next year!


*To find out more visit www.myapplejuice.co.uk




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The Sherston School Christmas Fair!

This legendary Friends of Sherston School (FSS) event makes everyone at school feel ready for the Christmas Season. There will be stalls run by the children, a raffle, tombola, secrets room, and refreshments featuring Tucks sausages and mulled wine. You may even spot Father Christmas and his elves! Join us on Friday 5 December from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Parents are asked to leave donations for the tombola in the trug at the front of school. Our FSS events are currently raising money to extend the fitness trail on the field, to make it bigger and better for the children at break time.

SmallAds

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

Private advertisers only please – no businesses.

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Hall improvements

A planning application has been submitted to Wiltshire Council to rebuild the main lobby of the village hall. The plans include a larger lobby, new toilets and storage area as well as an extension to the present kitchen which will include a complete refurbishment. Once permission has been obtained a major fundraising exercise will commence hopefully early in 2015.

Art Display at Shear Class

The artist showing work in the entrance area of Shear Class for December and January is Arabella Perry who lives in Pinkney. Do call in - you do not need to be visiting the salon.

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Doctor's Bag

Judy Sharp Practice Manager



Friends and Family Test

You will be given the opportunity to have your say to help improve more services across the NHS. From December, the NHS is introducing the Friends and Family Test to General Practice. You will be given the opportunity to give us feedback every time you receive care or treatment. This can either be by completing a card at the surgery or you can go online at www.tolseysurgery.co.uk and click on Our Patient Survey to complete the form. It's quick and easy and will help us to know how we can improve our service to you. If you need help in completing a form, please ask at reception.

Carers Gold Plus Award

We are very pleased and proud to announce that we have gained a Gold Plus award for our Carers Service this year. Lisa Neal and Sally Bishop attended the award ceremony in Devizes where they collected the coveted award for their hard work in improving our service to Carers and running the Carers clinics, which have been very much appreciated by many of our Carers. If you'd like more information about what we can offer our Carers, please ask at reception.

Christmas/New Year Opening

Wednesday 24 December	Open as usual, emergency appointments only in the afternoon
Thursday 25 December	CLOSED
Friday, 26 December	CLOSED
Monday 29 December	Open as usual
Tuesday 30 December	Open as usual
Wednesday 31 December	Open as usual
Thursday 1 January 2015	CLOSED
Friday 2 January 2015	Open as usual

We wish all our patients a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!



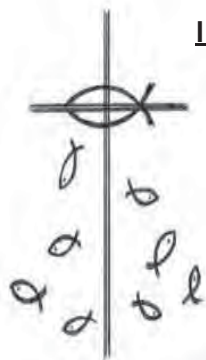
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New Pastor



With his two brothers

We are delighted to report that the Induction Service for Andrew Williams-Tarling to become Pastor of Sherston Congregational Church took place on Saturday 25 October.

This event, plus subsequent celebration, was attended by over 70 friends, relations and clergy from all local denominations. We thank them for their attendance, support and prayers. The 'Right hand of Fellowship and Welcome' was given by Reverend Susan Harvey on behalf of Reverend Christopher Bryan.



Reverend Phil Daniels (of Gauzebrook) and Howard Harding showed the many youngsters how to master table tennis!

Pastor Andrew – (operating in part-time capacity, with full-time employment, plus training events in his schedule) - will lead the Congregational Chapel in the following pattern of worship in 2015.

Monthly in the British School Room

2nd Sunday: 11.00am Communion Service

3rd Sunday: 4.00pm Family Friendly Service (with Sunday School for children with enquiring minds.)

4th Sunday: 4.00pm Children's church (with Sunday School for adults with enquiring minds!)

Also

Informal prayer slot – (silence is fine) Thursdays strictly 8.00pm until 8.30pm International/National/local or personal concerns (by request). All welcome.



Some members with (far left) Reverend Judith Mbaabu, Head of Mission and Society and (centre back) Reverend Adrian Wyatt, south-west area representative for The Congregational Federation.

We trust that our continuing work with Anglican and Methodist churches, plus the primary school, will prove to be a blessing to not only the next but future generations.

awtcharfield@hotmail.co.uk or 07921 390878

Secretary clementsmary@btinternet.com or 07778 934742

Charming House to rent in historic Southern France

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

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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.

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Prohibited Goods

Prohibited and restricted goods span many everyday items. When considering gifts, please do not send body sprays, nail varnish, perfumes and aftershaves. A full list is available at the counter. If you are in doubt, ask.

Last Recommended Airmail Posting Dates

Wednesday 3 December	New Zealand, Far East (including Japan)
Thursday 4 December	Australia
Tuesday 9 December	Canada
Friday 12 December	USA
Saturday 13 December	Western Europe

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Carol Service and Campaign4Rob - Please support

Just a reminder that on Friday 12 December Beaufort Hunt are holding their Carol Service, 7pm, St Michaels and all Angels Church, Badminton. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Old Hall, Badminton House. £5. There will be a retiring collection for Badminton Church and CAMMPAIGN4ROB.

Please ring Jo Aldridge 840175 or email pr@beauforthunt.com if you wish to come so we have an idea of numbers.

CAMMPAIGN4ROB

Rob is the son of vet Ian Camm from the local B & W Equine Clinic at Willesley.

Rob was paralysed from the neck downwards last year and faces the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

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Dick Whittington



*By Richard Skeffington
Photos by Marc Lehrer*

Sherston Drama Group's production of NODA Pantomimes' Dick Whittington by Toby Bradford and Tina Webster played to packed houses in the Village Hall last month. Annalise Jacques played the title role in thigh-slapping style, ably assisted with remarkable facial expressions by Grace Pettit as Tom the Cat. Kate Neal didn't put a foot wrong in her characterisation of Dick's love interest, the unbelievably soppy Alice Fitzwarren, able to wrap her father Alderman Fitzwarren (Richard Warren – too many Warrens here) round her little finger. Rory Calland yet again showed his versatility (and love of custard pies) as the amazingly high-pitched Dame Sarah, and Charlie Brock as Idle Jack kept the audience smiling. The forces of good were helped, or perhaps hindered, by Kirstie Blair as the flustered Fairy Bow Belle. The forces of evil were led in fine style by Finlay Evans as King Rat, putting in a great ranting performance in his first major panto role. He was ably assisted by his hench(rat)women Georgina Evans and Tahiti Van Rooyen in a variety of disgusting costumes. Providing exotic sex appeal in the way only he can do, Shaun Scott was Queen Megabazooma,



with Sue Ormiston his over-enthusiastic admirer as high priestess. Dominic Evans, Tim Iliffe-Moon and Luke Tappin gave good support in the character roles of cockneys, captain, genie and (rat)vamp. Sherston's youngest performers, all completely new this year, put in a tremendous effort as dancers, singers, citizens and rats. Special mention should be made of Daisy Eatwell who won the Malcolm Jarrett award for most promising newcomer. Sue Lehrer directed, and Sarah Scherer not only acted as choreographer and trained the dancers, but took charge of costumes as well! Christine Massey prompted, Paul Ormiston somehow managed to operate both sound and lights, Vee Skeffington ran the Box Office, Riaan Van Rooyen marshalled the stage crew, and Caty Tappin again organised an efficient Front of House. And lots of people – too many to mention – helped out. Another great production – watch out for the Spring Play in April!



Walk on the wild side

WildSherston - Season 2

In May this year we ran WildSherston - and we were delighted with the support and involvement from so many parts of the village. On a beautiful weekend in May we ran a whole series of walks, talks and demonstrations, with many local and national environmental groups really getting involved.

We have started thinking about doing something similar for next year, provisionally on 16 May, and are keen to hear what people would like to see. This year, we had bats and moths, next year we could have something different. We could change the format or have other groups involved. We would be delighted to hear any ideas you may have.

To run the event, we have a number of people who want to continue from this year but we welcome anyone who is interested to help, particularly if they would like to get involved with the marketing or fundraising aspects of running the event – it would be great if you had some experience but enthusiasm is even more important.

Based on interest at WildSherston this year, we have been meeting with the Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust and various landowners to explore what could be done to improve the quality of our local streams. Overall, they seem to be in quite good condition, particularly as we had a good steady flow of water

all summer. The key issue, which is quite localised, is the river banks being broken down by cattle and consequently the river flows more slowly and the river bed gets covered in silt. This means the stones that insects and small fish need are covered up.

Dr Mark Everard, who you may remember from the river walk at WildSherston, showed a great example near Stretchline where the streams join together. The Sopworth branch was overgrown with water cress forcing the water into a narrow flow while the Luckington branch was relatively wide and slow flowing. Just picking up a few stones near the water cress produced all kinds of small insects, while it wasn't possible to see any insects in the Luckington branch. If there aren't any small insects then the fish aren't present which means there is less for the kingfishers to eat – and who would want to be without the kingfishers (and the little egrets!)? Hopefully a project will develop to improve the stream banks and increase the diversity of what lives in the streams. Watch this space.

If you would like to get involved, please do let me know over the next week or so – call me on 840995 or email me at geoff_carss@hotmail.com.

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News from Holy Cross Church

Advent will soon be upon us, and that means the Advent Service of Light. The choir is rehearsing, and a lovely selection of seasonal music has been chosen. This service is beautiful, moving and popular. It's well worth keeping the evening of Advent Sunday 30 November free so that you can come along to Holy Cross Church for 6.00pm. This is Group Service Sunday, so the only other service that day will be the 10.30am Family Communion in Hullavington.

Christmas carols will be on the Sunday before Christmas at 6.00pm, and then of course there are the wonderful services on Christmas Eve and the Day itself. Take your pick from Crib Services, Midnight, Family Services, Communion and Prayer Book, each one reflects the mystery and awe of the incarnation in a different way. For more details on services across our churches, please see the pattern in the Parish Life, or the Christmas card from the local churches that will be delivered in the run up to Advent.

The other upcoming event is the Sherston bazaar at 11.00am on Saturday 6 December in the village hall.

Last year's Alpha course was so enjoyable and such a great success that we plan to run another one. It will start on the 28 January and carry on through to just before Holy Week. These evenings involve an excellent meal, a stimulating video, and discussion which you can join in as much or as little as you like. Please contact Phil Daniels (01249 248219 or philjdaniels@talktalk.net) or Henny Metters for more information.

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Sadly, I shall miss being at the Alpha course (but as I won't be introducing each session with my dreadful jokes that may be another incentive to attend!); instead, I shall be on sabbatical, which is formally known as Extended Study Leave. After a brief post-Christmas break I shall begin a programme of reading and reflection. At the end of January I hope to visit the Holy Land on an introductory pilgrimage. The rest of February and part of March will be occupied with further reading before I go on a course in mid-March and return to parish ministry on 22 March.

During this time pastoral care and leadership of the Gauzebrook Group churches will be shared between the Ministry Team and the churchwardens/PCC of each parish. The service rota has already been organised, and please use the regular contact numbers as printed in The Parish Life, as I will be out of email and phone contact. I shall continue to pray for you during this time. Please pray for me that this sabbatical may be useful, refreshing and recreating – please pray too for the Ministry Team members and others as they take on an extra load.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

Christopher Bryan

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Two Hairy Men

Keep a look out during December for two of your fellow villagers getting hairier by the day! Ask them what they're doing and you could get some information which might save your life. Persuaded by me, my husband Jim Robinson and our long-time friend Paul Rutter are taking part in the Decembeard fundraiser run by the charity Beating Bowel Cancer. I have a very personal interest in this charity as exactly three years ago I was waiting to hear what my future would be after a diagnosis of bowel cancer. After a very worrying Christmas, I finally found out in January 2012 that my treatment had a good chance of success and I have now been in remission for two years.

Beating Bowel Cancer supported me throughout the tough treatment I underwent and I want to do something to make sure that help is there for other people who need it. As it says in the charity's magazine, 'Can't grow a beard? Encourage your family and friends to get involved' so, being unable to grow a beard myself, I have duly 'encouraged' Paul and Jim and we're all now asking for your support in this fundraising effort. Go to www.justgiving.com/jimsbeard or www.justgiving.com/paulsbeard31 to donate and to follow their progress or speak to them in person.

And what about that life-saving information I mentioned at the beginning? When I was first diagnosed I took to the internet for information. Before I decided to stick to just the Beating Bowel Cancer website for its good factual information and support, I discovered that the most up-to-date figure then for five-year survival of bowel cancer was less than 50%. That really scared me, but I realised that most of those who did not survive long had late diagnoses for a variety of reasons.

Bowel cancer does not get the publicity of other cancers, such as breast cancer, although it is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK (Cancer Research UK). People do not like going to the doctor to talk about their bowel motions and a lot of people throw away the screening test, which is sent to all 60-74 years olds, because they find it all a bit nasty. Recognising the symptoms and early diagnosis can save your life, so when you see one of the two Hairy Men with their Decembeards just think about what they're doing. Yes they're raising funds for Beating Bowel Cancer but for that month they'll also be a reminder to the people of Sherston to be aware of this cancer – take the screening test if it's offered and talk to your doctor if you have symptoms.

Thanks in advance for your support and remember Real Men Grow Beards. (I wonder who asked me to include that!).

by Sue Robinson

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Cricket

Results from the Chippenham indoor league

9 November Sherston Magna Vs Golden Fleece

With Golden Fleece batting a good opening spell from Pegg and Gould put them on the back foot from the start. Lovell was called upon to bowl an over and managed to take a wicket with his first ball and Golden Fleece reached a total of 58-5 off their 10 overs.

Sherston opened up the batting with Gould and Cartwright who got us off to a great start, a few big hits from Cartwright meant he retired in the fourth over Gould and Goodwin kept the run rate ticking over nicely and Sherston reached the required total needed with more than three overs to spare. A comfortable win for Sherston Magna, with a good all round team performance.

23 November Sherston Magna Vs Biddestone B

Sherston lost the toss for the first time this indoor season and were put in to bat. Gould and Cartwright opened the batting again but the first two overs didn't quite go to plan with only 9 runs scored. However, suddenly the scoring picked up and both retired on consecutive balls in the sixth over (Gould 25* and Cartwright 29*). Lovell and Pegg came in at three and four and considering this was the first game Sherston have used more than three batsmen the

run rate ticked over nicely. Pegg (who also retired on 26*), got the team to a respectable score of 112 in the 10 overs.

Sherston saw Biddestone B get off to a good start keeping up with the required run rate without any loss of wickets. A good couple of overs in the middle from Hulance and Dickenson kept the game close, leaving Biddestone B needing 22 off the last two overs! Dickenson bowled a cracking penultimate over conceding only seven runs and applying pressure on Biddestone. A great final over from Pegg left Biddestone 10 runs short!

A great win for Sherston Magna, who are still unbeaten.

The result leaves Sherston joint top

DIVISION 2	Played	Won	Tied	Pens.	Runs	Balls	Run Rate	Points
Christian Malford	4	4			403	218	1.849	8
Spye Park A	4	4			372	205	1.815	8
Sherston Magna	4	4			282	162	1.741	8
Biddestone B	4	1			326	185	1.762	2
Marshfield B	4	1			387	231	1.675	2
Sutton Benger	4	1			267	201	1.328	2
Golden Fleece	4	1			312	236	1.322	2
Spye Park B	4	0			271	204	1.328	0

Fixtures at Sheldon School

7 December Christian Malford

11 January Marshfield B

25 January Spye Park A

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6th	131	Sue Clayton	£8
7th	147	Richard McNicol	£7
8th	112	Barbara Vagg	£6

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

We will start collecting the 2015 subscriptions in December; the annual sub remains the same at £6.00. We are also hoping to recruit new members, so please tell your friends and family, who aren't members, about 300+ Club. There are forms for new members in the stationery department of the post office.

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Bonfire Night thanks

Sherston's Bonfire Night on 8 November was a real community event, made possible by the generosity of many people lending land and equipment and giving us their time.

A very wet Saturday morning was a challenge to all those setting up the site, so we must thank everyone who stuck with us after our decision to go ahead in view of improving weather promised by weather forecasters.

Apologies for the inevitable list of people to thanks, but it's important to record our gratitude to those who helped us to stage this village event and to keep it safe for everyone.

Sherston 1016 could not hold the event without the generous agreement of the Hillier family to let us use their land. It is impossible not to cause some damage and rutting of the pasture at this time of year, but John and his family selflessly welcome us back each year. We must give them our grateful thanks.

Other notable thanks:

- the neighbours of the field, Pat, Stan, Maggie and Phylip for their patience with the mud, donation of electricity, water and hot drinks.
- Rex Smith for the loan of his JCB telescopic handler, and to Brian Littlejohns for so expertly using it to build the bonfire

- extra helpers this year, including Roger, Dave, Darren and son Owen, Shane, Paul F and Graham S.
 - all the first aiders and marshals
 - Nurdens Skip Hire for the skip
 - T H White for donation of combustible material!
 - the ladies (Lesley, Nicky, Sue, Jane, Katie, Cathy), for the catering and serving,
 - Lesley and Stedman for manning the gate.
 - our sponsors, without whom the event would not be possible: Tolsey Surgery, Tinplate Products, Optimum Mobility, Stretchline, Lansom Polymers.
 - Gail and Paul at the Post Office for giving us the food and drink at cost, and selling the family tickets on our behalf. It would be difficult to run the event without their help. Best wishes to Paul for a full recovery.
 - Grays of Sherston for supplying copious cable ties, tape and a firework preparation area.
 - Piers and Bryony for the loan of their horsebox as a dry storage area on the field.
 - Gail and Bruce of Sherston Eggs for the loan of fencing posts.
 - UBE of Cheltenham for the loan of the PA equipment.
 - Balfour Beatty for the loan of road cones, and Phil Catley for organising this for many years.
- If we've omitted anyone, please accept our apologies and thanks for your help.

Lastly, thanks to all who supported us by coming along to enjoy the show on the night.

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Now it's December, it must be Scout Christmas Hamper Raffle and Post time ...

Tickets for our Luxury Hamper Raffle and Scout Post will be on sale Saturdays and Sundays from 6 December at the Post Office and the Sunday Papers.

The hamper draw will take place during our annual family get-together, open to all but especially the families of our cubs, brownies, scouts and explorers. This year, it will be held on Thursday 18 December, 6.30pm at the Scout Hut, £10 per team of six (kids & adults) with a mix of team games, quiz rounds, family games and hot food. You are welcome to bring a drink of choice. To avoid disappointment, please book a team via kirstieblair@googlemail.com. For those involved with brownies, cubs, scouts or explorers, could you please bring an item suitable for our luxury hampers to a meeting before Friday 12 December?

The Scout Christmas Post, which has proved to be very popular over the last few years, will be delivering to Sherston, Pinkney, Luckington, Easton Grey, Alderton and Sopworth on Sunday 21 December.

Post boxes will be at the post office and The Tolsey Surgery from Monday 8 December.

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Sherston Market

The next market is Saturday 13 December at Sherston Village Hall from 10 am to 2pm. This will undoubtedly have plenty of Christmas gifts on offer plus some great food and drink.

At all markets a free stall is offered for a charity or voluntary group to raise funds. Anyone interested in running such a stall should please use the contacts below. All these stalls have done well to date so don't be shy in booking one! In December Sherston Busy Hands Pre School will be running Santa's Grotto and if last year is anything to go by will be great fun for young and old. In addition Sally Miles Harris will have a stall to support the appeal for a scanner at Bath RUH's cancer unit. There will also be an opportunity to sign up for the Village Hall 300+ Club for 2015.

For those on face book there is an active Sherston Market page with lots of information about our stallholders and their products.

If you are a local maker, baker, grower or producer and are interested in taking a stall please either use the contact form on the web site, phone 07887 814843 / 07769 613627 or email info@theawkwardsquad.co.uk



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Groups and Regular Events in and around Sherston

Holy Cross Church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade biscuits - biscuits and brownies - open on Thurs mornings from 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 2nd Sunday 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.

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 Will start again 6 and 20 May (as he would have wished) All friendly fellas welcome for simple chat and chat Every other Wed 2.30 - 4 pm (Alternating with the Senior Club.) in the British Schoolroom

Drawing Classes in Sherston

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

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

Footpaths group

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

Forest School Club

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

Hogwards

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

Ingleburn Trefoil Guild

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

Infant and Junior Jazz Dance and Ballet Classes in Sherston

Starting Sept - every Tues 3.30pm £3.50 per session. For more info or to reserve a place please call 07894 991545 or email minetydance@aol.com or www.minetydance.com

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

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

Malmesbury Concert Band

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

Malmesbury Community Choir

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

Malmesbury Embroiderer's Guild

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

Malmesbury Luncheon Club

Over 60s meet every Wednesday at midday in the Wesleyan Room of Malmesbury Town Hall for a chat and a 2 course lunch followed by tea or coffee. £3.50. Please call Helen Churchill on 840080 if you'd like to attend. New members most welcome. Volunteers also needed to prepare and serve lunch, no washing up.

Malmesbury Film Society

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

Malmesbury Villages Community Partnership

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

Malmesbury Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

For details contact the Division Commissioner at malmesbury@wncounty.org.uk

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

(affiliated to National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies - NAFAS) meets at 7.30pm on the third Wed evening of most months of the year at Crudwell Village Hall. Join members come from the surrounding villages to hear speakers and enjoy floristry demonstrations and do workshops and competitions. Call Sue on 577125 to answer any queries or give information about forthcoming events.

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

The Rattlebone Boules League Consists of 48 teams playing in 3 Leagues. Contact Tony Towle on 840574.

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

Sherston 1016 Fundraising for local good causes and charities. Contact sherston1016@gmail.com or Martin Jacques 07717 424619

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

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

1st Sherston Cub Scout Pack Membership of the Cub Pack is open to those between 8 and 10 ½ years old. The Pack has regular meetings on Friday nights in term times from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. There is a waiting list for Cubs, and those interested should contact Greg Hughes, Baghera, Cub Scout Assistant Leader, greg.hughes_2000@yahoo.co.uk to obtain an application form

1st Sherston (John Rattlebone) Scout Troop Is open to young people from the village and surrounding parish from the ages of 10 ½ to 13 ½. We meet at the Scout hut on Tuesday nights from 7.00pm to 9.00pm during school term times. To join contact Riaan van Rooyen riaan@pulse-software.co.uk There is currently a small waiting list to join.

Sherston Whitewall Explorers

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

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

Sherston Drama Group The Drama group puts on plays and pantomimes in the Village Hall. If you are interested in taking part or helping out contact Richard Skeffington (Chairman) richard.skeffington@virgin.net Tel. 840092 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. 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 Magna Cricket Club Sherston Magna has a senior cricket side that plays league cricket on Saturdays and friendly cricket on Sundays throughout the summer. If you are interested in playing please contact sherstonmagna@yahoo.co.uk or turn up to nets - details below.

Senior practice nets take place from 6.15pm every Wed throughout the summer at the cricket ground at Pinkney Park.

Two junior league sides (under 13s and under 15s). Junior coaching has finished now for the season but for the latest info check out the

junior facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/SMCCJuniors/

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

SH.O.C.C. New term starts 10 Sept and new members would be very welcome for the new term. BSR 7.30pm each Wed from 10 Sept - 26 Nov. £33.00 for the term. More details: Lucy Lawrance 840778 or lucy@sherston.plus.com

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

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

Sherston Tennis Club

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

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

Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

The group is a fun way for babies, toddlers and their parents to meet and play. We meet at 10 -11.30am each Tuesday in the Scout Hut with toys for all stages from wrigglers to toddlers, craft activities, music and snacks for all, not to mention a much-needed cup of tea/coffee for the deserving parent. Further details contact Sophie Cheetham, sophcheetham@gmail.com 07786 990045 or alternative like us on Facebook for regular updates 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. Meetings for Dec and Feb each 1st Thurs at 2.30pm in the British Schoolrooms. Visitors always welcome £3. Further information: Jill Woodward 840578

Sherston Young Craft Group Every Monday 6.45 - 8.15pm in the village hall (children 9 years and over). £3 (incl all materials) per evening paid in advance of each half term. To join, please contact 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

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

Village Hall 300+ Club 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.

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

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

What's on in 2015

Dates for your diary

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

Sherston The Rattlebone Inn

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

Sunday Nights Bingo & Pizza every Sunday evening from 6pm

Live music with The Dicey Rileys Fri 19 Dec

The Rattlebone Christmas Party Mon 22 Dec

Live Music from Nobodys Business Fri 26 Dec

New Years Eve Party - This year's theme "Doctors and Nurses"

Check boards for more details of events

For further details call 840871 or follow on Twitter #GavinHunt@Therattlebone or visit 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. Fri 5 Dec 5-7pm Entry is free, all proceeds to the Friends of Sherston School who are raising funds to repaint the playground Free entry

FSS Fab Family Christmas Show There'll be comedy, a brand-new pantomime, singing, dancing and of course plenty of audience participation! Featuring some well-known, (but sometimes barely recognisable) faces from the school playground Fri 12 6.30-8.30pm Tickets on sale from the Friends of Sherston School from Monday 24th November outside school Sherston School For further details call 840237 or visit www.sherston.wilts.sch.uk/fss.html

Sherston Market

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

Every month a free stall in the lobby is made available to local charity or voluntary group to raise funds. See www.sherstonmarket.weebly.com for dates and a contact form should any prospective stallholder wish to get in touch or call 840348 / 07887 814843 10am-2pm

Sat 15 Nov Sat 13 Dec Village hall

For further details call 840348 or visit <http://sherstonmarket.weebly.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sherston-Market/195319400641324>

Art Exhibition at Shear Class Salon

A display of paintings and drawings by local artist Arabella Perry who lives in Pinkney. Anyone can call in to see them – you don't have to be attending the salon. Shear Class, High St

Sherston WI

Minety Hand Bell Ringers with Festive Refreshments

4 Dec at 2.30pm

Late Members' Christmas lunch 08-Jan

AGM followed by talk on Wood Turning with Derek Edwards 2

Feb at 2.30pm

Open Meeting with a talk by Marc Allum of The Antiques

Roadshow 16 Apr at 7.30pm Tickets for the general public for this event will be on sale in the New Year.

For further details call Jill Woodward 840578 or jillwoodward222@btinternet.com

Sue's Strolls

Next walk Sun 18 Jan Please assemble at the village hall for 10.00am with a return Rattlebone Inn just around 12noon for seasonal refreshments. As ever children and well behaved dogs, the latter on leads, are very welcome. The walk is entirely free and there is no need to book a place – just turn up on the day. This is a PHEW! event see www.legacymalmesbury.org.uk

For further details call Sue McKechnie 840601 or susanmckechnie@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.legacymalmesbury.org.uk

WEA courses

Picasso and Matisse Course by Paul Chapman 6 weekly meetings starting on 16 Jan to 20 Feb 2015 10am until 12.15 Course Fee: £40 (Free to anyone in receipt of a means tested benefit) Village Hall

For further details call Enquiries and bookings contact Warwick or Pat Jones on 840764 or on warwick.jones@btinternet.com

Upcoming events at Holy Cross Church

Church Bazaar Sat 6 Dec 11am in the Village Hall Start your visit with mulled wine or a coffee and a mince pie, then browse the stalls which will include home-made mini Christmas cakes and other edible treats, gifts, jewellery and toys.

Christmas Carols Sun 21 Dec 6pm

Christmas Eve and Day services: Take your pick from Crib Services, Midnight, Family Services, Communion and Prayer Book

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

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www.luckingtonpreschool.org.uk



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Easton Grey

Festive open day at Tracklements

Tracklements Open day 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 6 Dec 9.30 - 1pm Whitewalls, Easton Grey
For further details call 827044 or visit www.tracklements.co.uk

Whatley Manor

Thursday evening cinema Thurs 11 Dec **The Grand Budapest Hotel** £23 includes a choice of either a glass of wine, a bottled beer or soft drink. A small tub of delicious ice cream (choice of flavour) and of course popcorn.

Sunday Cinema New format: £8.50 includes your cinema ticket for the screening and popcorn. In addition, on the day, choose one, two or three courses from the a la carte lunch menu in 'Le Mazot' brasserie The Sunday Cinema Screenings must be pre-booked Sun 7 Dec The Grand Budapest Hotel Sun 28 Dec **Gravity**
For further details call 834026 or visit www.whatleymanor.com

Knockdown

The Holford Arms Live Music every weekend.

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

Westonbirt

The Arboretum

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

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



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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. Fri Sat and Sun evenings till 21 Dec - 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 £10 adult /£8 concs/ £5 ch
Check website for details of events, courses, guided walks and family fun days during the school holidays
Dec - Feb admission prices Adults £5 Concs £4 Children £2 Closed Christmas Day For further details call 880220 or
visit www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Malmesbury

Late Night Christmas Shopping in Malmesbury

Festive street market with Santa's Grotto, carol singers, and late night shopping Fri 12 Dec 6 - 9 pm Free park & ride from Malmesbury Garden Centre

New Late Night Shopping: some shops will have later night opening till 7pm on Thurs and Fri till Christmas e.g Green & Grey check with individual shops for details

Upper High St, Malmesbury For further details call To book a stall call 01249 783434

Christmas trees in aid of Alive & Well

Sat 13 & Sun 14 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 and now helping fight Ebola in one of the remotest parts of Sierra Leone, in West Africa. Get there early, they're great Nordman fir trees and go quickly
For further details call or visit www.alivewell.org.uk

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Julian Law, 7 Manor Close, Sherston on
07866 000056

MP's Surgery

Local MP surgery with James Gray MP 12 noon - 1pm
Sat 6 Dec Sat 17 Jan Sat 21 Feb
Hobbes Parlour, Malmesbury Town Hall
For further details www.jamesgray.org or email
jamesgraymp@parliament.uk for online surgeries

Malmesbury Singers Christmas Concert

A Christmas in Venice

Sat 13 Dec 7.30pm The concert will feature Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" and other seasonal works by Giovanni Gabrieli & Adrian Willaert. The singers will be accompanied by The Bradford Baroque Orchestra and Octavo, a small locally based chamber choir. Tickets (£12, £10 senior citizens, £5 students) available from Abbey Bookshop or email: jeansaxty2@gmail.com Malmesbury Abbey

Malmesbury Film Society

Showing world and classic films every 3rd Sun of the month at 7.30pm. Tickets £5, no booking required. Autumn 2014 films: The Bishop's Wife - 21 Dec
St. Mary's Hall, Malmesbury
For further details call www.malmesburyfilmsociety.org.uk

Malmesbury & District University of the Third Age

The Witches of 17C Malmesbury - Thurs 22 Jan U3A is a unique organisation which provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities for retired and semi-retired people to come and learn together, drawing upon the knowledge, experience and skills of their own members to organise and provide interest groups in a very wide range of subjects
Assembly Rooms at the Town Hall
For further details call Membership Secretary Julia Batty on 01249 720327 or visit www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Charlton Park

WOMAD - World Music Festival

early bird tickets on sale including SN16 Thurs 24 - Sun 27 July
2015 WOMAD Early Bird tickets are on sale now Including •
SN16 Weekend £115 (full price £160) - till 5 Jan 2015 More information at womad.co.uk/tickets.
For further details call Reading Box Office on 0118 960 6060 or visit www.womad.org/festivals/charlton-park

Grittleton Moviola -

the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme

No film in Dec - Happy Christmas to Grittleton Moviola supporters back in January Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start £6 on the door
Grittleton Village Hall For further details call Lesley
01249 783157 or email l_palmer@btinternet.com

Didmarton

Flicks in the Sticks

Christmas Special for the Children Fri 12 Dec - FROZEN Doors will open at 5:30 with the film starting at 6. We will have the usual bar but also soft drinks, sweets and popcorn for our younger audience Prices - £3 pre booked and £3.50 on the night
Didmarton Village Hall For further details call Jenny Body 01454 238358 or jenny.body@virgin.net

Tetbury

The Christmas Lights Switch-On

by Santa Thurs 4 Dec 5.15pm starting with a torchlit procession from St Mary's Church - children are requested to dress as Nativity scene characters Community carols, evening entertainment and stalls under the Market Hall & late night shopping
Road Closure 4-8pm Church Street from Old Brewery Lane to Long Street will be closed to traffic. A traffic diversion will apply.
Tetbury Market Square
For further details call Tetbury Tourist Information 503552 or visit <http://www.christmasintetbury.org.uk/switchon.shtml>

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Wotton-Under-Edge

The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers from the local community This month's Live screenings: Mr Turner; Rembrandt from the National Gallery and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II; NT Live: John Tues 9 Dec c check website for details

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 6 Dec 3pm v. Altrincham FC; Tues 9 Dec 7.45pm v. Woking; Fri 26 Dec 3pm v Kidderminster Harriers Adults £17/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £4 Adults £15/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £2

The New Lawn Forest Green Nailsworth

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

Lacock

Special Events at Lacock Abbey & Village

Discover Christmas customs: the children's trail Pick up a Victorian style Christmas card from Visitor Reception or the National Trust shop and explore our grounds and the village to find answers to questions such as 'Why do we have Christmas trees?' and 'Why do grown-ups kiss under mistletoe?' 11am - 4pm throughout Dec

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



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Swindon

Great Western Railway Museum

Christmas stalls @ Steam Sat 6 Sun 7 Dec 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

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 £10

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

Wessex Male Choir

Christmas Concert accompanied by guest artists the Pegasus Brass Band Fri 19 Dec at 7.30pm, with doors will open at 7.00pm.

Tickets are £12 per adult (free for under 16yrs, are free though a ticket is still required to ensure a seat. Tickets are available from 01285 869955, or tickets@wessexmalechoir.co.uk. Please bring a cushion for comfort

St Mark's Church, Church Place, Swindon SN1 5EH

For further details call or visit www.wessexmalechoir.co.uk

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Bath, Stroud, Bristol, Wotton National Theatre Live

Live and pre recorded screenings

Live from the National theatre: JOHN Tues 9 Dec

Treasure Island - LIVE Thurs 22 Jan

RSC: Love's Labours Lost - LIVE Wed 11 Feb

ENO: La Traviata LIVE Wed 11 Mar

NT Live: Behind the Beautiful Forever Thurs 12 Mar

For further details call or visit www.ntlive.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 Live : Alice's Adventures in Wonderland 16 Dec

Opera Live: Andrea Chénier Thurs 29 Jan

Stroud Apollo, Odeon Bath and many other Cinemas

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

Bath

Bath Christmas Market

170 wooden stalls between Bath Abbey and York Street till 14 Dec 10am - 7pm / 9pm at weekends

For further details visit www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk

City of Bath Choir in concert

Carols by Candlelight in the Pump Rooms These concerts are a popular mix of traditional carols and exciting new Christmas music. Each performance will feature a different local children's choir and virtuoso soloists from Wells Cathedral School 17,18 and 19 Dec at 7.30pm Tickets £12-£20 from Bath Box Office 01225 463 362 or bathboxoffice.org.uk

For further details visit www.bathbachchoir.org.uk or www.bathboxoffice.org.uk

Theatre Royal

Jeeves & Wooster in Perfect Nonsense 1-6 Dec £15-£33.50

Cinderella 11 Dec - 11 Jan

To Kill a Mockingbird 12-17 Jan

Calamity Jane 19 - 24 Jan

For further details call 01225 448844 or visit

www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Bristol Horseworld

Festive Celebration for the Horses It's Jingle Bales all the way for the 140 rescued horses, ponies and donkeys at HorseWorld's specialist rehabilitation centre, Keynes Farm in Whitchurch Sun 7 Dec 11am - 2pm, Free entry but donations to save the horses welcome

Horseworld For further details call Kim Goddard on 01275 893024 or visit www.horseworld.org.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 841377
Tolsey Surgery	01666 840270
Wiltshire Council	0300 4560100



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