



Old school project to deliver huge bonus



Three crucial sites at the heart of Sherston are set to be owned by villagers.

Not only will the old school be bought for the community but now the sections of the village hall field owned by Wiltshire Council and the Diocese of Bristol are included in the negotiations.

'This entire site, which is at the very heart of the village, will be in the ownership of the community,' said Sherston Parish Council chairman John Matthews.

'Years of uncertainty about its future will be at an end.'

The Old School Project involves the Grade II listed High Street building, empty for some four years, being purchased by a non-profit-making company run by residents for retail, commercial and community use.

The list of prospective tenants includes the village's Post Office Stores, Sherston Wine and the new Wiltshire Council. This last hopes to bring the council to the people with what it calls 'a rural services hub'.

After months of detailed negotiation, sale terms are now agreed in principle.

The Diocese of Bristol will sell the old school to a company controlled by the community with company membership open to all.

In a new turn of events, the diocese will also sell its freehold part of the village hall field to the village hall and Wiltshire Council will grant the hall a 125-year lease, at a peppercorn rent, on its part of the field.

The local Sam Thompson Fund and Wiltshire Council will provide the village hall with the money to buy the field.

The purchase price and initial costs of the old school are likely to be met by the Eleanor Barton Trust, the Sam Thompson Fund and £50,000 from North Wiltshire District Council. This last grant has already been received and is being held by the parish council.

A condition of the grants from the Eleanor Barton Trust and the Sam Thompson Fund is that Wiltshire Council gives the parish council a new 20-year lease on the allotments to safeguard their future.

'The estimated £500,000 cost of developing the old school will be met, if possible, by additional grants with any borrowing kept to a minimum,' said Mr Matthews.

'We intend to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund and launch a local fund-raising campaign.

'There's clearly much still to be done, especially on the legal requirements.

'Once the old school's bought, detailed plans will need to be prepared, planning permission obtained, funds raised and building tenders sought.

'But the community buying the building will be a major step towards the project's completion.'

Late-opening pharmacy

Malmesbury's new primary care centre has a late-opening pharmacy. As a service for Wiltshire Primary Care Trust, Boots opens most nights until 22.30 at the centre in Priory Way, Burton Hill.

Normal opening hours are from 6.30am until 10.30pm Monday until Saturday inclusive and from 10am until 4pm on Sundays.

Over holiday periods, opening times can be checked by phoning the pharmacy on 01666 826115. The fax is 01666 824352.

There is a car park for the disabled, a signing service and an induction loop.

Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 9 April at 7.30pm in the village hall. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities to raise questions and pass comments. Those who cannot make the meeting but have something to raise should contact the clerk Mrs Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. The parish council can also be contacted via the response form on its website www.sherston.org.uk which also has the minutes of meetings.

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

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.

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, email advertising@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk or telephone 01666 841201 / 841197.

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Inserted leaflet drop £50

Please remember the Cliffhanger is delivered free to every home and business in the parish – more than 750 copies. This and all previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

A big thank you from Sherston's sledgers

The sledges have been packed away for another decade and the factor 50 is being readied for a scorching summer.

But everybody who took advantage of this winter's unusually heavy snowfall still cherishes fond memories of February's frolics on the slopes.

Many people have reminded Cliffhanger that the fun was only possible because of Peter and Debbie Sidebottom's generosity in allowing the sledgers on their land.

On behalf of the sledgers and of all those who enjoy walking their dogs on the cliff or simply taking in its breathtaking views, Cliffhanger would like to extend a big thank you to the Sidebottoms.

Editorial reshuffle

The Cliffhanger editorial team has reshuffled its duties.

Having set a style for the magazine and, with Paul Ormiston, organised a production system, Lynda Fleming is taking a back seat.

This edition is the last one for which she will act as sole copy editor although she will continue to assist with the editing.

Frank Hatt has volunteered for the copy editor role and can be reached by the same methods as Lynda. Emails should arrive by the 10th of the preceding month at editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk and paper copy can be left at Sherston Post Office Stores.

The other team members remain: Beryl Clampton, John Mackison, Richard Maslin, Caroline Moore, Phil Moore, Paul Ormiston and Martin Rea.

Paul does the design and layout, Beryl and a small army of volunteers do the distribution and Beryl and John take care of the advertising.

Grays of Sherston

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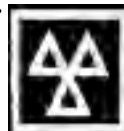
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Don't dump it – Freecycle it

Stairgates, packing cases and maternity clothes could all be given a new lease of life if more of us participated in Freecycle.

The Freecycle network is a non-profit organisation open to all who want to recycle things they no longer need rather than throw them away.

Usually these are things you desperately need but only for a short while. Examples include child stairgates, removal packing cases, maternity clothes and children's toys. It doesn't usually matter that the item isn't new. Many items come up for offer when you move house and find furniture no longer fits or when you upgrade appliances which still function.

Membership is free. To join a group, you should have a Yahoo email address as the notice board is hosted by Yahoo Groups. However, this is no problem as you can redirect the emails to your usual address.

Each group is run by local volunteer moderators. Log on to the website below and join an area which suits you. You can then choose to have instant email alerts (fine if you are seeking something urgently but this can result in 30 emails a day) or a daily digest (listing 12-15 offers). Alternatively, you can opt out of email alerts and simply visit the website.

When you offer an item, you decide who gets it. It's a good idea to wait until the daily digest has been sent out to allow full viewing. It's up to the chosen receiver to collect from the person offering the item at a mutually convenient time. You are allowed to ask for one or two of the items on offer as long as you are offering items yourself.

Everything posted must be free. The description should be honest - you are giving it away, rather than marketing it. An example would be: 2 seater sofa bed, green, sprung bed with mattress, reasonable condition apart from 2" coffee stain.

Freecycle network members use the list at their own risk. Take care to protect your safety and privacy. Never give your number or address on the initial posting. Happy Freecycling!

groups.yahoo.com/group/freecyclechippenham
groups.yahoo.com/group/FreecycleSouthGlos

Correction

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Eric Thacker's phone number was wrong in last month's edition. It is 841344.

Rubbish and recycling at Easter

There will be no change to bin collection days on Good Friday 10 April or Easter Monday 13 April.

Recycling boxes due for collection on Thursday 16 April will be picked up on Friday 17 April instead.

Under-fives get crafty

Youngsters can now enjoy free creative play in Malmesbury's Activity Zone.

One Friday every month, from 1pm until 3pm, the under-fives can create their own works of art with arts and crafts materials.

Supported by Wiltshire Council, Barnardo's, Sure Start and the Wiltshire Scrapstore, the Malmesbury Children's Centre is putting paints, glue and paper into eager little hands.

Normally, sessions are on the second Friday of the month. Because of Easter, however, April's will be on 9 April. The following one will be on 8 May.

There is no need to book and materials are for sale in the centre. For further information, ring 825566.

Help the medics help you

A new idea is sweeping the country to help emergency services save lives.

The idea came from a paramedic who found patients at the scenes of accidents with mobile phones but no indication which number to call.

'Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which is the contact person in case of an emergency?' said an ambulance service spokesman.

'If we know who to ring, it could save your life or put a loved one's mind at rest.'

So the idea of the ICE – in case of emergency – campaign was born.

'All you need to do is store the numbers of the people who should be contacted in an emergency under the name ICE,' said the spokesman.

'Emergency service personnel and hospital staff could quickly contact the right person by simply dialling the number you have stored under ICE.'

'If you have more than one contact, enter them as ICE1, ICE2 and so on.'

The ambulance service is keen for people to pass this message to as many others as possible in order to establish a nationally recognised scheme.

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Sherston Post Office news

Postal rates increase

On Monday 6 April all postage rates increase.

First class will increase from 36p to 39p

A book of 12 first class stamps will cost £4.68 instead of £4.32

Second class will increase from 27p to 30p

A book of 12 second class stamps will cost £3.60 instead of £3.24

Large 1st (up to 100grams /outside first-class size criteria) will be 61p

Large 2nd (up to 100grams /outside first-class size criteria) will be 47p

A postcard / letter up to 20g only to Europe will be 56p

A postcard / letter up to 10g only to the rest of the world will be 62p

A normal letter (up to 20g only) to the rest of the world will be 90p

Stamps bearing 1st, 2nd, Large 1st or Large 2nd bought ahead of the price increase can be used after 6 April at no extra cost.

Despite the increase, sending a first class inland letter compares favourably with other European countries, said postmaster Paul Mather.

e.g.

Holland 0.44 Euro

Ireland, Germany and Ireland 0.55 Euro

France 0.56 Euro

Italy 0.60 Euro

Fishing Licences 2009 / 2010

Licences for 2009 are now on sale. Changes have been introduced since last year.

Cost – trout and coarse salmon and sea trout

Adult - 12 months £26.00 £70.00

Child - 12 months £ 5.00 £ 5.00

OAP - 12 months £17.50 £46.50

All - 1 day £ 3.50 £ 7.75

All - 8 day £ 9.50 £22.50

Upon purchase, a receipt will be provided. This will be the only proof of payment for one-day and eight-day licences. The Environment Agency will forward annual licences in due course.

Unless they have a special letter from the Environment Agency inviting licence renewal, customers need to bring photographic identification.

North Wiltshire bus passes and travel tokens

Travel tokens to the value of £18 will again be available from 1 April for £1 for men and women over 60.

Tokens are only available to those who do not have a free bus pass. People cannot have both.

Bus passes issued last year are valid until 2013. There is no need to re-apply.

'As before, we'll gladly pass unwanted tokens to John Sparrow of Link which provides vital transport to the old, disabled and infirm,' said Paul and Gail Mather of the post office.

A gritty issue

February's harsh weather created a grit bin controversy.

These bins exist to supply grit to help keep public roads and footpaths safe from snow and ice. 'Unfortunately, some people took significant quantities to clear their own private drives, paths and car parking spaces,' said parish council vice chairman Martin Rea.

'This left some bins empty and public roads and footpaths in a dangerous condition for other residents, especially the elderly.

'This was particularly noticeable around the new school.

'In future, please only use the grit for everyone's benefit.'

There are some 1,200 bins in the county and, later this year, the new Wiltshire Council will consider their future positions based on use. Parish councils will be consulted on any changes. Requests for new bins should be put to the parish council.

Meet the police

Anyone wanting to discuss police matters is welcome at a weekly 'surgery' in Malmesbury.

Unless called away to a serious incident, neighbourhood policing sergeant Martin Alvis and his team are happy to meet the public at Malmesbury Police Station, Burton Hill, Malmesbury.

The sessions, which run on Thursdays between 1pm and 3pm, are part of a trial in conjunction with the new Wiltshire council's pilot area board.

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A tale of two schools

A local VIP - very important pensioner - has opened Sherston School's seventh classroom.

Born in 1923, retired church organist Kathleen Hillier started school in the High Street when she was five years old. It was then a school for five- to 14-year-olds.

At the opening of the new classroom children from year 6, who are based in the new room, wrote and acted a short play on the differences between the 1920s and today.

'Then Kathleen, assisted by her great-nephew James who is one of the proud occupants of the new Sycamore classroom, enthralled everyone with her memories,' said Richard Langley, the school's community governor.



Back in the early 1930s, those who passed the 11+ examination went on to Malmesbury Grammar School, provided they could afford the fees. Children who passed comfortably earned free places while those who scraped through involved their parents in extra expense. Those who did not pass stayed at school until they were 14.

The old school had no running water when Kathleen was there and the only water came from the school pump house or was brought from home.

Children went home for lunch as there were no school meals and boys and girls had separate playgrounds.

'Today's Sherston School has not only running water but also computer suites, wireless networks and white boards,' said

Richard. 'It's a world away from the education of the early twentieth century.

'There are even special toilets for the smallest children, resplendent with sanitary ware in a Mickey Mouse design after the Disney cartoons and supplied by bathroom specialists Bear Necessities.'

The new school building is less than four years old but the number of children has grown during that time to around 170. The extra classroom is to accommodate everyone and allow for growth.



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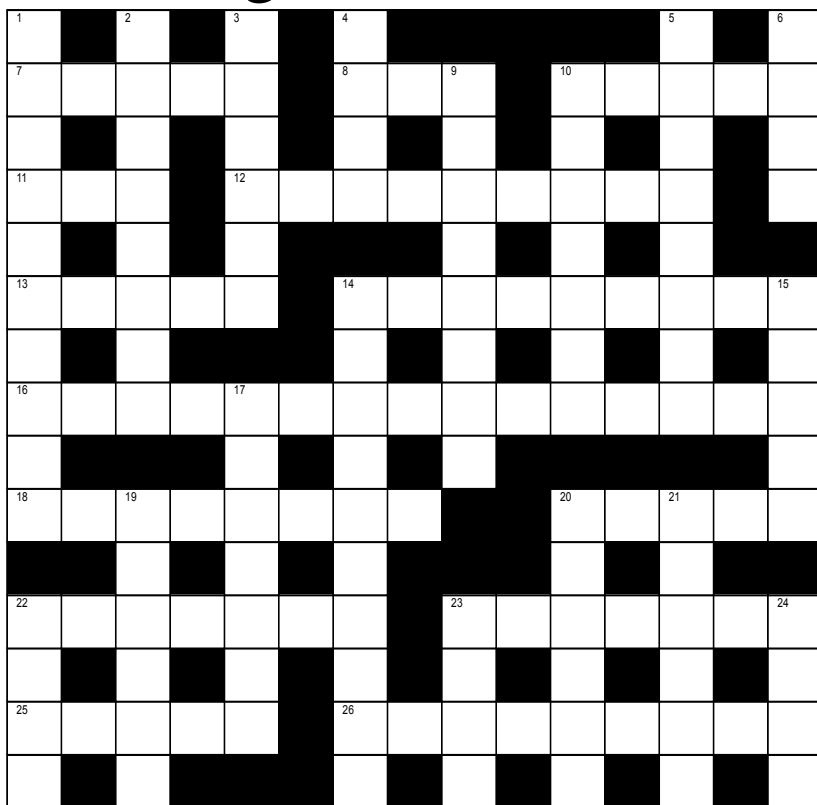
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Cliffhanger Crossword No 6



Answers to March crossword:

Across: 1. Coldplay; 5. Post; 7. Radar; 8. Trinket; 9. Sycamore; 10. Noir; 14. Inca; 15. Ta; 16. Elm; 17. Ra; 19. May; 20. French for she; 22. Dome; 24. Bath; 25. Forget-me-not.

Down: 1. Cartpenters; 2. Ladybird; 3. Paris; 4. Attack; 5. Pantomime; 6. Toto; 11. Take That; 12. Camelot; 13. Beyonce; 18. Boing; 21. Least; 23. UFO;

Clues across:

7. One of two comic brothers who played rap badly in head office? (5)
8. Boycott, Atherton, Tendulkar (openers) all did this pretty well! (3)
10. Shop in Tetbury: emporium's no sloppy women's shop! Seconds only! (5)
11. Sounds like an expression of relief made by a small number (3)
12. Meter adjusted by Nell for Sherston's cricket captain (9)
13. Robin Hood's companion and Sherston's first supplier of fine foods? (5)
14. 1-nil shock arranged by Sherston fuel club's supplier (5,4)
- 16&25. Dramatic warning: watch your step around the middle of last month! (6,3,4,2,5)
18. Have elms been chopped to pieces to make this costume? (8)
20. Holy chaps who fly in the Boules League? (5)
22. Warned two boys about 'er! (7)
23. Sherston chap after whom they named a hill in Sussex? (7)
25. See 16
26. How Bond liked his Martini – when drunk it turns red about 1. (9)

Clues down

1. Revolutionary story about Paul, for example, in Tetbury restaurant (5,5)
2. In elocution lesson, what comes after how now? Not a description of Ermintrude! (5,3)
3. Sherston CC's rivals sound like macs? (6)
4. Competent – but upset the Spanish graduate (4)
5. Downtrodden people shake up skinful around start of Easter? (8)
6. What drinkers in Luckington sail in? (4)
9. Where Sherstonians got drunk? Then a broken leg ensued! (3,5)
10. CD Hulme played – covered with peat etc (7)
14. Instrument was very strange after heater started decomposing! (10)
15. Minutely examines shoe at first – fits badly! (5)
17. Be sick about Muhamed Ali initially featuring in a new game? (7)
19. Make a mistake: throw around fortified wine? (6)
20. Dancing car manufacturer? (6)
21. Am I never upset in this region of France? (6)
22. Weapons borne by King in Didmarton, for example (4)
23. Bankrupt sculpture? (4)
24. Soft drink served to leaders of Sherston's oldest dance academy? (4)

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A dramatic appeal

For the first time in living memory Sherston Drama Group has had to call off its spring play, which normally goes on around Easter. The group simply couldn't find enough actors.

Chairman Richard Skeffington says the group has a keen committee, experienced directors, plenty of helpers, lots of enthusiastic young people for pantomimes and a loyal audience. However, they cannot put on plays unless they can find people to go on stage and try their hands at acting.

The drama group has not flourished for 30 years without re-inventing itself from time-to-time. Mr Skeffington believes this is one of those times when it needs to consider how to adapt to changing conditions. Any views are welcome and the group would be pleased to hear from anyone, of any age, who wants a try at acting. The group is not made up of luvvies and is not run by a clique – all are welcome. Contact details are given below.

The village will not be left without entertainment over Easter. On Friday 17 April (the Friday after Easter weekend) the group will put on a show with a difference. This will take place in the village hall at 7 for 7.30 and will be:

SHERSTON'S GOT TALENT?

It's not a competition! Simon Cowell won't be there!! No-one will be criticised or voted off!

It's a chance for anyone aged 13 or over to come up on a small stage and show a friendly audience what he/she can do. Drama group members will put on a series of comedy sketches, dances etc to give the evening some structure. As a special attraction, there will be the world premiere performance from The Sherston Ladies Tap Dance Display Team known as

THE SHERSTON TAPPERS!

If they can do it, so can you!

If you have a party piece you would like to show off, to be sure of a slot contact Graham or Richard by email/phone or accost them personally or try your luck and just turn up on the night.

For the audience - there will be tables to sit at, nibbles will be provided and you can bring your own drinks. Children welcome but please bring an adult with you.

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Contacts

Richard

richard.skeffington@virgin.net (01666) 840092 (evenings)

Graham

ginstrell@hotmail.co.uk (01666) 840978 (evenings)

For the greater good

Villagers are urged to build on the efforts of others in caring for their surroundings.

'There's no denying that, in recent years, Sherston has improved its general tidiness and in particular reduced litter,' said parish council vice chairman Martin Rea.

'Much of this is down to locals who've taken it upon themselves to collect and dispose of litter in some cases to the very boundaries of the parish.'

The parish council has provided free litter-picking tools and ensures the recreation ground and sports field are regularly cleared of litter.

In addition, the county council's parish steward system has brought improvements, especially in verge maintenance.

'Now we're hoping the new Wiltshire Council will tackle the problem of street cleaning in rural areas which, under the former North Wiltshire District Council, seemed to have been under-funded compared to urban areas,' said Mr Rea.

'After all, we all pay the same level of council tax.'

But locals are suggesting ways villagers can help themselves.

Members of the footpaths group already pick up litter on their walks along footpaths and rights of way. But many hands make light work and the parish clerk will give willing helpers free litter-picking tools.

In addition, Cliffhanger distributor Ian Ashby urges clearing weeds from gutters and where garden walls meet the pavement.

'I suggest we all look beyond our front gardens and have a go with the weed gun,' he said. 'It's a five-minute job three times a year.'

While Ian suggests local traders buy a job lot of weed guns and sell them at a discount, Cliffhanger editorial team prefer an organic solution.

'A few minutes' work with a hoe can work wonders and it's good exercise,' said Mr Rea.

He added: 'Every year the parish council receives invitations to enter best kept village competitions and every time they are politely declined amid visions of chocolate-box villages. After all, we're primarily a working village.'

'But perhaps by working together for the greater good we can one day take the plunge and enter one of these competitions?'



Good Friday workshop

A Good Friday workshop will be held again this year in Sherston Church on Friday 10 April from 10.30 am until 2.30 pm. This includes the children's service at 2 pm. Children are welcome to come for the whole time provided they are accompanied by an adult known to them. If they do so, they will need to bring a packed lunch.

After the service, there will be a walk to Luckington for a further short service followed by hot cross buns.

To avoid disappointment and to ensure there are enough adults to supervise the children, places need to be booked through Susan Harvey on 840696.

Discover the Malmesbury area

Sherstonians are invited to meet other villagers to find out more about the Malmesbury area.

On Saturday 25 April, the Wiltshire Council-backed Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership will hold a community day in Malmesbury Town Hall from 11.00 am until 4.00 pm.

The event aims to find ways to work together and, in particular, to prioritise the issues raised during the recent community plan consultation.

Visitors will also be able to discover the charities, companies and other organisations which serve Malmesbury and the villages. Entry is free and all are welcome.

Sherston Arts Festival

Photographers are invited to get snapping for this year's arts festival.

From 9 to 18 October, there will be concerts and exhibitions including a photographic exhibition.

'We'll also be repeating the calendar so do take lots of photos of our village and its surroundings,' said organiser Heather Martin.



There's only one Wiltshire Council

North Wiltshire District Council is no more.

From April 1 (no fooling) there is a new Wiltshire Council delivering all the services hitherto provided by the county council and the four district councils.

Sherston residents will now be able to have all council business dealt with at the one local office in Chippenham.

There will be area boards, including one for Malmesbury, to provide a channel of communication between the local community and the new council.

Wiltshire Council will have 98 councillors, compared with 245 at present across the five authorities. The first elections to the new council will take place on June 4.

For more information contact:

Communications, Wiltshire County Council,
Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Telephone 01225 713000

Email onecouncil@wiltshire.gov.uk

Or visit the website

www.onecouncilforwiltshire@wiltshire.co.uk



Wiltshire Council Roadshow visits Sherston High Street. County Councillor John Thomson and Parish Council Chairman John Matthews with members of the roadshow staff.

A swing for spring



A basket swing has been installed in the playground at the recreation ground.

Designed to allow able-bodied and disabled children to play together, the swing and safety surface cost £5,850. North Wiltshire District Council paid £4,057 and the parish council met the balance. By ensuring that disabled children, their parents and carers can use it, the playground already meets the requirements of the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act.

'But the new swing makes the playground even better for all and is also great fun,' said parish council vice chairman Martin Rea.

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Performance pancakes

Shrove Tuesday saw competitors in fine form at Sherston 1016's annual pancake-eating competition.

The event, held at the Rattlebone, is one for 'speed of consumption rather than quantity', said organiser Richard Langley.

'Some magnificent techniques were on display particularly in the ladies' section where Minnie Hulme's delicacy of hand combined with an awesome finish saw her deservedly bring home the title.'

Minnie's winning time for polishing off four pancakes was three minutes 28 seconds.

In the children's competition, Niamh Andrews was victorious against an excellent and extremely enthusiastic field.

The overall winner of the annual trophy – a frying pan – was Miles Underwood, polo manager at Beaufort Polo Club, who cleared his plate in just 54 seconds.

'Although this is just a fun event, 24 competitors was a record and they raised £48 towards our funds,' said Richard.

Sherston 1016 thanks Jason Read and Rob Strong at the Rattlebone and all in the kitchen for cooking so many pancakes – well over 120.

The charity also thanks Tucks for donations of lemons, John Lister at Shipton Mill for flour and Gail and Bruce Hamilton at Sherston Eggs for those all-important eggs.



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Wiltshire Air Ambulance joins forces with Devizes Textiles



The Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal now needs to raise more money towards the shared Wiltshire Police helicopter/air ambulance since signing the new five year contract in December 08, between the Wiltshire Police and the Great Western Ambulance Service. In order to keep the helicopter flying the Appeal needs to raise in excess of £500,000 per year, increased from £350,000 in previous years.

Danny Williamson, owner of Devizes Textiles, has teamed up with the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal to launch the WAA Clothing and Shoe Bank Recycling Scheme. Danny donates to the Appeal what he pays for buying donated clothes, shoes, handbags and belts. He then recycles the clothing with the majority going to African countries where they are sold on.

Mr Williamson said: "If every household in Wiltshire donated one dustbin bag of clothes a year we could raise £250,000 for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal, which is a significant amount. The Wiltshire Air Ambulance is close to everyone's hearts and by donating a bag of clothes it will help support the Air Ambulance that could one day save someone's life. Donating to this scheme would also mean that we would be taking away 2,000 tonnes of clothing that could otherwise have been sent to landfill."

Danny added: "More sites are always needed to place a WAA Clothing & Shoe Bank. In order to raise awareness about this scheme, and recycling, it would be great if companies, supermarkets, schools, sports club, and local councils contacted us and allowed us to place a textile bank on their premises."

Existing textile bank locations can be seen on the Wiltshire Air Ambulance website at www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk

If you would like to take part in the scheme call Devizes Textiles on (01380) 724451 or the WAA Appeal office on 0845 122 1423.

Branch out into trees



The parish council is looking for someone with a passion for trees.

Under a national scheme to enable people to conserve and enhance their local trees and woods, environmental charity the Tree Council is promoting a tree warden scheme.

Each parish is being asked to nominate a warden.

'If you've a passion for trees, becoming a tree warden is a great opportunity to improve your knowledge and help protect a precious part of our natural heritage,' said parish council chairman John Matthews.

'While the position is purely voluntary, the parish council will meet expenses for attending training courses and meetings outside the parish.'

Courses cover topics such as surveying woodland and non-woodland trees, summer and winter tree identification, tree planting and aftercare, woodland ecology and management, seed collection and tree law.

Those interested should contact the parish clerk Mrs Sarah Wood on 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk for details. There is more information at www.treecouncil.org.uk.

EXTON GROUP

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Wednesday 9.30 - 11.00 at Nailsworth
6.00 - 7.30, 7.30 - 9.00 at Fairford
Thursday 9.30 - 11.00 at Chestworth
12.30 - 2.00 at Tetbury

FOR MORE DETAILS
CONTACT Susan (BWW Teacher)
(01285) 652150

Dodgy alarm sellers at work

Householders are warned to beware of callers selling security alarms.

'Over the past few days, a number of people have had unsolicited telephone and doorstep calls from persons claiming to represent security companies,' said David Budd, police Neighbourhood Watch liaison officer

'They're offering either a free alarm system or free monitoring and half price installation.

'What they don't tell you is that you will sign up to a five-year contract and, if you take up the offer of a free alarm system, there is a daily charge of £1.60.'

Mr Budd recommends taking the company details, including its phone number, and telling the callers they will be reported to trading standards officers.

Trading standards units will take up complaints with the security industry regulatory body.

'It's worrying that these companies can buy a database containing personal details,' said Mr Budd.

'If you're considering having an intruder alarm fitted, contact your police crime reduction officer for relevant advice.'

Crime reduction officers can be contacted through 0845 408 7000.

Police believe the spate of calls results from the Home Secretary's statement that burglaries were on the increase.

Village hall 200+ club

February winners

1st	Barbara Gale (no.98)	£11
2nd	C. Murphy (no.222)	£10
3rd	Sarah Kamp (no.186)	£9
4th	Dan Pritchett (no.234)	£8
5th	Y. Knight (no.233)	£7
6th	Stuart Griffith (no.31)	£6
7th	Joyce Gleed (no.51)	£5

Collectors

G.Mason, M.Goulding, J.Gleed, M.Yeend, M.Thacker.

Hand 'em over

Sherston School urgently seeks mastheads from the Gazette and Herald.

The Wiltshire primary school which collects the most before 16 April will win £500 of vouchers from Whitehall Garden Centre.

'With the school's allotment area up and running and work started on the wildlife area, winning £500 would be a wonderful boost for the school's activities,' said parent governor Crispian Huggill.

'Back issues to January 15 all count.

'So, please, hand 'em in.'

There are collecting boxes in the post office and the school.

Charity chutney

Lin Prior's sale of her home-made chutney and marmalade outside the post office last month raised £168.71 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

'I was amazed by everyone's generosity,' said Lin. 'I'm very grateful to Paul and Gail for letting me raise funds at their shop for such a good cause.'



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Open 7 days 9am - 6pm
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15 MIN FROM SHERSTON STATION

The great St Trinians photo mystery



Does anybody know in which year this was taken?
Does anyone know who the pupils shown are?

The photo from a past carnival was discovered in the carnival archives and caused much interest.

Information can be emailed to editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk or paper copy to the Post Office.

If anyone has any interesting and unusual images from past carnivals and events please email to editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk



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Consistently high quality fresh meat.
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cheeses regularly in stock.

Hairlift for a Stairlift



Hats off to Hector (Jock) Walker – although on second thoughts, he may wish to keep his hat on for another week or so!

On Saturday, March 14th, Jock had his hair and eyebrows shaved off to raise money for the Tolsey Surgery's stairlift campaign. Ever the diplomat, Jock had half the job done at The Carpenters Arms and the other half at the Rattlebone.

By the last week of March, Jock had raised £515 for the Tolsey Surgery, and a cheque will be presented to Pip Pettit soon after Easter. "It was a good way to get a free haircut," says Jock, who is fast becoming a serial hairlifter. He has now shaved his head for charity four times – twice in Scotland and twice in Sherston.

The Carpenters Arms

Delicious homemade country classics
Open for lunch 12.00noon - 3.00pm
and supper 6.30pm - 9.30pm Monday - Saturday
Sunday Roast 12.00am - 4.00pm

Beautiful garden and children's play area.
Warm and welcome atmosphere.
Children's menu with healthy options.
Local Real Ales.

Best quality meat from local suppliers.
Puddings made in house by our pastry chef.
Private functions catered for.

Loaves and Fishes

Thanks to those who donated their 1016 Christmas vouchers to the Five Loaves and Two Fishes Project, says Susan Harvey, Gauzebrook group lay minister.

The project is organised in St Paul's, Bristol, by the Community of the Sisters of the Church.

Every Sunday they give tinned food and essentials to around 200 people living either on the streets or in bed and breakfast hotels.

The 1016 vouchers bought, through Sherston Post Office, tea bags, tin openers and toiletries such as razors, soap and shampoo.

Mrs Harvey, who made the delivery to St Paul's, also thanks Paul and Gail Mather who took the time to co-ordinate the consignment of goods.

Holiday club

This year's holiday club for primary school children aged 5 to 11 will be in Hullavington Village Hall from Monday 10 August to Friday 14 August.

More information will follow but parents who wish can ring Henny 837778 or Alison 837661.

Book bonanza

Bookworms should catch Sherston 1016's first book sale of the year at the village hall on Saturday 4 April from 9am until noon.

As usual, there will be thousands of books on offer together with videos, CDs and DVDs. Entry is free and sale proceeds go to the senior citizens' Christmas voucher scheme.

If you have items to donate to the sale these can be left with Mike Tarrant at Grays. All donations are appreciated.

Sherston Post Office Stores



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Full range of Post Office services
Everything you need from a Village Store

Open Monday to Friday 7.00 – 6.00

Saturday 8.00 – 1.00

Tel: 01666 840202 / 841021

Dorothy House hospice

Malmesbury School students' Dotty Day, on which they left their uniforms at home, raised £790.

The Malmesbury group of Dorothy House supporters says a big thank you to the pupils, several of whom come from Sherston.

There will be a car boot sale at Wiltshire College, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, on 4 April. Stalls are £5 each. Sellers should arrive at 8am and buyers at 9am. Those interested should call Ben Newport on 01249 465221 or the Wiltshire College student liaison office on 01249 464644.

Fundraisers would also like their friends and neighbours to save tombola prizes, books, bric-à-brac and bottles for future events.

The annual fete will be at Winsley House, Box, on 6 June and the annual garden party will be held at Bybrook, Bustlers Hill, Sherston, on 4 July at 2pm.

Those with donations for these events or who have an interest in the local group should contact Mary Humpherson on 822701 or Beryl Clampton on 841201.

Sherston Cricket Club – Fixtures for April and May

The evenings are lengthening and the sun is belatedly breaking through after a winter that sometimes seemed as though it would never end. So if you're planning to spend a lazy spring or early summer afternoon watching cricket in Sherston or one of the nearby Cotswold villages, here are the early fixtures for your diary:

Saturdays

Friendlies on:

April 18 v White Knights (h)

April 25 v Chipping Sodbury (a)

League fixtures for May

May 2 v Coates (a)

May 9 v Chedworth (h)

May 16 v Adlestrop (a)

May 23 v South Cerney (h)

May 30 v Windrush (h)

Sundays

April 19 v Upton St Leonards (h)

April 26 v Peterboro' Arms (h)

May 3 v North Nibley (a)

May 10 v Corsham (h)

May 17 v Anchor CC (a)

May 24 v Badminton (a)

Contacts

Saturday skipper Andy Tremellen 07979 388208

Sunday skipper Mark Howell 07738 140547

Secretary Kevin Smith 01666 840188

07970 740389

Juniors Jo Lawrence-Mills 01666 840866

Regular events in Sherston

Holy Cross church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade cakes
Thursday mornings from November until April
Pause for prayer

Church of the Holy Cross is now open from 7.30am until 8am
every Wednesday for silent prayer or quiet reflection.

All are welcome for all or some of the time.

For further details see the *Parish Life*

Church gift day

Sat 4 Apr 9am - 1pm All welcome

Congregational church

Communion service each Sunday 11 am - 12.00 All welcome
For further details see the *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 contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143 or see the
Parish Life

Village hall 200+ club

Monthly draw prizes ranging from £11-£4 for a £6 annual
stake. If any new members of the village would like to join,
contact either Mary Goulding on 840794, Joyce Gleed 840744
or Gwen Mason 840660.

Whist drive

A whist drive is held in the village hall on the second Friday in
the month, Fri 10 Apr 7.30 for 7.45pm. Admission £1.50. All
profits help maintain the village hall.

Ladies' swimming club

The club is open to ladies from Sherston and the surrounding
area. It is sociable, friendly and non-competitive. We swim in the
new pool at Westonbirt School on Wednesdays between 8pm and
9.30 p.m. The cost is £35 for 15 weeks. To join, phone Annabel
Clifton on 840592 or Heather Martin on 840375.

Sherston Young Craft Group

Mondays 6.45 - 8.15pm in the village hall (9 years and over).
£2.50 (incl all materials) per evening paid in advance of each
half term. To join, please contact Sue Ormiston on 840694

Senior Club

Meets at 2pm in the British School Room every other Tuesday
Tues 7 & 21 Apr
For further details contact
Cyril Hoskin on 841143

Parish council meeting

Thurs 9 Apr 7.30pm in the
village hall. All welcome

*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.*

C.J. GOUGH

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DECORATOR

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01666 841003

WHAT'S ON

Sherston

The Rattlebone

Boules league starts - so get practising! This
year we go from 14 to 18 teams and will have regular
matches played on Fridays as well

Fish week Mon 20 - Sat 25 Apr

Further details 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

The Carpenter's Arms Launch of the Carps loyalty card

from Sat 4 Apr. Available to local and regular customers
to take part in the 2 for 1 dining offers. Cost £2. Only
one card needed to secure the 2 for 1 deals.

Chilli quiz night Sun 5 Apr 7.30pm £5 pp
entry including all you can eat chilli buffet

Further details contact 840665

1016 book sale

Sat 4 April 9am - 12 noon village hall - free entry.

Donations of books, videos, DVDs and CDs
gratefully received. Please deliver to Mike Tarrant at
Grays of Sherston.

Further details contact 840611

Children's Good Friday workshop

Fri 10 Apr 10.30am - 2.30pm Holy Cross church.

To book a place contact Sue Harvey 840696

Sherston's Got Talent

Spring show by the drama group - comedy sketches,
tap show by the Sherston Tappers and your chance
to get up on stage too if you like

Fri 17 Apr 7.30pm Village Hall, free entry.

All welcome, nibbles will be provided and you can
bring your own drinks. Children welcome but please
bring an adult with you.

Further details contact Richard 840092 (evenings)

richard.skeffington@virgin.net or Graham 840978

(evenings) ginstrell@hotmail.co.uk

Footpaths meeting

Wed 22 Apr 7.30pm in the village hall. All welcome

The Rinky Dinks ukulele super group in concert

Supported by Sherston's own stars The Clarksons
Sat 25th April 8.30 pm village hall. Tickets £7 from
Post Office or Rattlebone Inn. Licensed bar.

Preview the group on www.myspace.com/therinkydinks
Further details contact Dave Shephard
on 840361 or 07860 448438 or email david.shephard@nokia.com

Westonbirt

The Arboretum

Easter Eggastic family event

Mon 6 - Fri 10 Apr 10.30 - 4pm £2 after admission

Wild woodland walks - family event

Tues 14 - Fri Apr 10.30 - 4pm free after admission

Wellie walk Sun 26 Apr 11.30am - 5km sponsored walk in aid of Feed The Children UK Details from Sarah 0117 923 2300

Westonbirt Wednesdays

half-price admission every Wednesday in April and May

Summer concerts - tickets now on sale for:

McFly Fri 19 Jun £26.50, Simply Red Sun 21 Jun £32.50, Paul

Weller Sat 20 Jun £33, David Gray Fri 17 July £31.30, Vanessa

Mae and fireworks Sat 18 July £29.50

all plus booking fee Ticket hotline 01842 814612

Further details contact 880220 or www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Westonbirt School

Bath Light Operatic Company presents Songs from the Shows Sat 18 Apr

Summer term lecture - A Convenient Truth John Weir, Director of Westonbirt Arboretum Fri 24 Apr 7.30pm Free / optional post lecture supper £15 advance bookings only

ABBA night with top tribute band

suitable for all the family, bring a picnic, cash bar Sat 6 Jun gates open 6.30pm music from 7.30pm £15 adult £10 under 18s - book early to avoid disappointment

Further details 880333 or www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk

Malmesbury

Community day Sat 25 Apr 11am - 4pm Town Hall, free entry, all welcome.

Cirencester

Sundial Theatre at Cirencester College

Film: Dr Zhivago Tues 21 Apr 7.30pm £5

Concerts: Bochmann String Quartet Sat 25 Apr 3pm £12

Further details 01285 654228 or www.cirencester.ac.uk/sundial

Chippenham

West Wiltshire Young Farmers' ball

in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Fri 24 Apr 7.30 for 8pm - 1am £35 pp including champagne reception and 3-course meal with wine

Further details contact Rachel Willis 07515 388688 or

rachel@rachel-willis.co.uk or www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events.htm

Rural Arts Wiltshire

Ministry of Entertainment: Mrs Gerrish's Guesthouse

Sat 4 Apr 7.30pm Kington Langley village hall. For tickets call 01249 750363

An Evening with.... Mervyn Stutter (comedian and satirical songwriter) Wed 8 Apr 8pm Gastard village hall. For tickets call 01249 716453 Further details: www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk

Wessex Auction Rooms,

Westbrook Farm, Draycot Cerne

Sat 4 Apr 10am-1pm Valuation morning of coins, banknotes, medals, stamps and first day covers. Bring any of these items for advice and a valuation. Free with no obligation to sell the items with the auction rooms.

Nailsworth

Forest Green Rovers F.C. Professional football only 20 minutes' drive from Sherston.

Blue Square Premier Wed 8 April v Kidderminster Harriers 7.45pm, Sat 11th April v Woking 3pm, Sat 18 April v Rushden and Diamonds 3pm £5-£15

Further details contact 01453 834860 or www.forestgreenroversfc.com

26th arts festival

Full festival programme on line including music, storytelling, poetry competition, French film - I've loved you so long (Il y longtemps que je t'aime), Theatre: Lettice and Lovage 24 Apr - 4 May

Further details contact 01453 839222 or directly from the town information centre, Fountain Street or www.nailsworthfestival.org.uk

Bath

Theatre Royal

Waiting for Godot starring Ian McKellen & Patrick Stewart

Tues 1 - Sat 4 Apr 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £18-39

The Tempest starring Anthony Sher

Tues 7 - Sat 11 Apr 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £15-30

Othello starring Lenny Henry

Tues 14 - Sat 18 Apr 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £15.50 - £32

Bath Operatic Society presents Oliver!

Tues 21 - Sat 25 Apr 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £10-27

Future shows to book ahead for: A Song at Twilight by Noël

Coward with Peter Egan, Carl Rosa Opera presents HMS Pinafore,

Northern Ballet's Romeo and Juliet, Spider's Web by Agatha

Christie, Brief Encounter by Noël Coward

For further details contact 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Stroud

The Cotswold Playhouse

Carousel - the musical 29 Apr - 2 May, 6 - 9 May 7.30pm £12

21 Mar 10am - 5pm £50/£40 including all workshops and a simple lunch

Further details contact box office at Stroud Tourist Information Centre 01453 760960 or www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

Subscription Rooms

Music - concerts include Stroud Music Club 16 Apr, Polysteel

Band (formed from Royal Gloucs. Hussars) 18 Apr, Georgie Fame in concert 25 Apr 7pm £10-17

CD and vinyl record fair and vintage fashion fair in the Café bar 04-Apr 8pm £10

Stroud Choral Society presents The Messiah Sat 22 Nov 7pm £12

Further details contact 01453 760900 or www.stroud.gov.uk/subroom

Cheltenham

Town hall

Classical concerts

Including Sunday Showcase - the Emerald Quartet 5 Apr,

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra's Russian concert 19 Apr Music

Including Eliza Carthy 9 Apr, The Illegal Eagles 9 Apr, Andy Abraham 16 Apr, Gordon Giltrap and Hayley Savage 25 Apr

Comedy

Including Andy Parsons 2 Apr, Clive James 15 Apr, Freddie Starr 17 Apr, Brian Conley 19 Apr, Paul Merton's Silent Clowns - heroes of the silent movies 24 Apr

In the Box - Radio 4's Test Match Special team on the road again 26 Apr

Further details contact 0844 5762210 or www.cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk

Jazz festival

Varied programme of concerts and events featuring all types of jazz

28 Apr - 4 May. Further details contact 0844 576 8970 or

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz/

Bristol

Colston Hall

Music - concerts include Lemar 2 Apr, Jackson Browne 11 Apr, Russell Watson 15 Apr, Ultravox 18 Apr, Gary Moore 28 Apr, Only Men

Aloud! 30 Apr Vary between £10-40

Further details contact 0117 922 3686 or www.colstonhall.org

Slimbridge

Wildfowl and wetlands centre

Brown hare safaris 8,10,13,15,17 Apr 8am £5/£3 chd

Grow your own earth cob walls Sat 11 Apr 10am / 11.45am / 2pm

Wear old clothing and wellies. Free after admission

Bird watching morning - waders Sun 26 Apr 8am £15 including breakfast

Further details contact Rebecca Law 01453 891223 or

www.wwt.org.uk/centre/122/slimbridge.html

Uley

Prema rural arts centre

Evening classes for adults include Strictly Ballroom, yoga, pilates, life drawing, pottery, knitting, drawing for beginners

Workshop - dramatic drawing Sat 4 Apr see website for course details

Performance - Stan's Cafe Fri 3 Apr 8pm

Concert - London Bulgarian Choir Sat 18 Apr

Sun 19 - Workshop: the art of Bulgarian song

Further details contact 01453 860703 or www.prema.demon.co.uk