



# Baby, baby, baby



*Leo Glyn*



*Mae India*



*Gwennie Lila*

On Wednesday 1 July at the Royal United Hospital Bath, Sherston Primary School teacher Mrs Lara Farahar was safely delivered of triplets just under 8 weeks prematurely. Leo Glyn weighed in at 4lb 1oz, Gwennie Lila at 3lb 6oz, and Mae India at 3lb 15oz. Mother and babies are all doing well, thanks in no small measure to the excellent care they received at RUH.

Lara and husband Rob would like to thank friends and neighbours in Strongs Close for all their help and support, particularly to Maggie Instrell and Jacqui Stephens for helping to keep Rob fed and watered and Anne Preston for taking care of Dougal the family dog.

It has been quite a productive time at the school. In early June Mrs Jackie Muttuck, who teaches Birch Class, gave birth to a daughter Jessica, a sister to Bobby. Mr Colin Stewart of Sycamore Class has also just become a father again, with three-year-old Fin acquiring a brother Frederick. Congratulations and best wishes to all the proud parents.

RUH Bath has launched a 'Space to Grow' campaign with the aim of establishing a pioneering new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to provide even better care for premature babies. Grateful parents Lara and Rob believe the staff need and deserve all the support they can get in this campaign. For more details visit the website [www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk/nicu](http://www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk/nicu) or [www.tedsbigdayout.co.uk](http://www.tedsbigdayout.co.uk)

## Make a dream come true

Dreams could become reality for Sherston groups with projects in mind. For the new Wiltshire Council is inviting community or voluntary groups to apply for community grants.

'Funding's available to help provide locally important facilities, equipment and activities,' said parish council vice chairman Martin Rea.

'These awards can really make a big difference in helping get schemes and projects started.

'Under the similar scheme run by North Wiltshire District Council, many Sherston groups got grants for a large range of projects over the years.

'The parish council, Scouts, tennis and cricket clubs, village hall, Young Craft Group and the arts festival all benefited.

'The process is very simple and the form-filling far from daunting.'

Up to £5,000 is available for each community project. For small projects up to and including £1,000 there will be no need to find matching funding. Where a project's total cost is more than £1,000, up to 50 per cent of the cost is available. There is support for organisations making applications and they will be advised about other sources of funds. Applications will be considered at each meeting of the Malmesbury area board.

For further information, go to:  
[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards/areaboardscommunitygrantsscheme](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards/areaboardscommunitygrantsscheme)

# Allotments

Despite the creation of two new plots and the planned division of some existing plots, the waiting list for the Knockdown Road allotments shows no signs of reducing and currently stands at 16. Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide allotments when at least six residents demand them, so the parish council is now exploring the possibility of creating new allotments on another site. This will be a complex and lengthy process as suitable land has to be identified and funding obtained. Fortunately there is a good deal of grant finance available and all relevant avenues will be thoroughly explored. The first step however is to consult with residents to discover the extent of demand so that as far as possible the right number of new plots are created. The parish council intends to work closely with SAGA (Sherston Allotments and Gardens Association) and hopes to start the process in September. In the meantime, if you wish your name to be added to the waiting list, contact the clerk Mrs. Sarah Wood without delay on 01666 840351 or email [clerk@sherton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherton.org.uk)

**Copy deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.**  
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**What's On: contact Caroline Moore on 841405 or [info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto: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. 400 hundred words would be a maximum but the shorter the better and less editing would be needed.

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

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## Watching the birds go by

*Contributed by Richard Maslen*



Birders will be interested in a verified sighting of an unusual bird over Sherston on 23 June. A friendly game of boules at the Rattlebone was interrupted by a noisy crow directly overhead, obviously harassing some other unfortunate creature. This is nearly always a buzzard, a species that is happily on the increase locally.

To great excitement, on this occasion it proved to be a red kite, unmistakable in its wing shape and handsomely long forked tail. We have seen them in the New Forest, and many times not too far away in Wales (and once in a huge flock in Israel) but this is the first time at home. The verification was provided by no fewer than two retired clergy and a retired editor of one of our great evening newspapers – and more importantly by their wives.

Two days later we were lucky enough to see a hobby a few miles from Sherston, not far from a quarry where we were told they nest. This also was quickly identified by its easily recognized silhouette. It was followed by an oyster-catcher, of all things. Is that evidence that they are adopting the Cotswold Water Park at least for occasional visits?

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## Busy Hands preschool

Do you have a child turning three between September 2009 and August 2010? If so, you are welcome to come along for a taster session.

The preschool meets every day from 9.15 to 11.45 in the village hall. The autumn term starts on September 2.

Contact Busy Hands on 07766 714544.

## Blooming marvellous

Phyl Thorburn and her team of helpers would like to thank everyone who supported her recent open garden afternoon at Barton House. Refreshments, good company, raffle prizes, sunshine and of course flowers were all in abundance and the event raised £250 in aid of the NSPCC.

## Dorothy House fete

A very big thank you to everybody who donated to and visited the Dorothy House Hospice fete and open garden at Bybrook on 4 July. Beryl Clampton, who hosted the event, said 'We were blessed with very good weather and although the numbers were down on last year we raised £620 which was a very useful amount. Thank you to all the people of Sherston who gave support and to the local businesses who gave raffle and auction prizes.'

The proceeds will be sent to the hospice together with the £160 raised from the Boules marathon.

## Mark Doyle

It is with deep regret and sadness that we record the death of Church Street resident Mark Doyle in a car accident on the road between Luckington and Acton Turville on the morning of Tuesday 14 July. Mark was a popular young man who will be sadly missed by friends and fellow boules players in the village. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

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## Bristol to Bordeaux

## cycle challenge 2009

Our Sherston cyclists are back from their epic trip to Bordeaux. Setting off from Queens Square in Bristol, the squad of six sherstonians joined the PROPS team and averaged nearly 90 miles a day to complete the 380 mile course in four days.

This was no Sunday afternoon picnic, and all our riders stretched themselves to the limit in this magnificent achievement. After struggling to Malmesbury and back in their early training days, Dan Pritchett, Kevin Smith, a pair of Reeveses and one Oily Cable managed the distance very well.

Kev Smith said 'I can't wait for next year's ride. I've found out that I can more than handle the distances. The countryside and villages were simply so French, I have 22 new mates and the cider was blooming lovely!'

The PROPS squad raised £18500 from the ride, and the total is still rising. It means that PROPS will be able to employ a tutor to deliver specialist inclusive coursework from next September. You can still support this massive effort by logging on here: [www.justgiving.com/pedalforprops](http://www.justgiving.com/pedalforprops) Find out more about the charity here: [www.propsforward.co.uk](http://www.propsforward.co.uk)

The Sherston cyclists are keeping up the momentum, and most Sundays they will be leaving Sherston Post Office at 9am to cycle through our beautiful Wiltshire and Gloucestershire countryside. They would love you to join them, and even get yourself ready for next year's event, which will be in the May half term.



# Health Matters

## Money talks

A new speech therapy service for youngsters is on the cards thanks to a £15,000 government grant.

The service will be for children and young people in Wiltshire with speech, language and communication difficulties.

The £15,000 Department of Health grant will part-fund a new project manager post and follows a joint Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire review.

## Making hospital hospitable

Chippenham Hospital patients can expect more space and privacy when they visit the general medical ward.

Under the second phase of the hospital's redevelopment, work will soon start on Cameron ward.

'It'll be refurbished to provide 17 beds in one-, two-, three- and four-bedded bays,' said an NHS Wiltshire spokesperson.

All will be en suite to give patients privacy and extra space and all will be single-sex to comply with Department of Health guidance.

'The accommodation will also meet the latest infection control requirements and will have a day room and dining facilities.'

The work is being made possible following approval by NHS Wiltshire's board of a £520,000 upgrade.

The first phase of the hospital's redevelopment, the birthing centre, was completed in January.

## New dental contracts begin to bite

Malmesbury is to get more NHS dental services.

It is one of five Wiltshire towns to benefit from an extra £3.1million investment in NHS dentistry for the county, said an NHS Wiltshire spokesperson.

This money is being used to negotiate new dentistry contracts in Malmesbury, Amesbury, Tidworth, Warminster and Westbury and should have started to make a difference at the end of last month.

The new money will also ensure that existing dentists in Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Marlborough, Melksham, Pewsey, Trowbridge and Wootton Bassett provide more NHS services than they do at present.

NHS Wiltshire has promised a ten per cent increase in NHS dental services every year and,

during the financial year 2008 to 2009, NHS dental activity in the county increased by 9.7 per cent.

## Haven opens for worried men

Men can get free and confidential health advice at a new Devizes drop-in centre.

Opened in May above Haine and Smith in The Brittox, the centre offers men of all ages information on drugs, alcohol, testicular and prostate cancer and on HIV, AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections as well as general health.

Counselling, support, guidance face-to-face meetings and advocacy are all available.

# Help for heroes

The recent D-Dday exhibition, together with a collection in the post office, Carpenters Arms and Rattlebone Inn, raised £100.35 for this worthy cause. There will be another opportunity to see the exhibition at the village party on 31 August.

## Reminder for runners

The Sherston 10k run in aid of the cricket club is on Sunday 20 September. Enter now and it will cost you only £7. On the day it's all of £9. Contact Caroline Dickinson on 01666 840168 or email sherston10k@aol.com.

## Summer cool

The new air-to-air heat pump system in the village hall has proved a surprising success in the summer. The system can provide cool as well as hot air, and this has been very useful in hot weather. Both the salsa class and Busy Hands preschool have benefited greatly by being able to reduce the temperature in the main hall to a pleasant 18c within about 10 minutes of switching on. The small hall system will go down to as low as 16c. If it gets too cold the solution's easy – just turn the system off.

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## Clock the speedsters

The speed of vehicles travelling through the parish is one of residents' main concerns. Indeed throughout the area it is number one on all villages' lists for action. Relying on the police alone is not the answer if there is to be any serious reduction. With 49 villages to patrol our neighbourhood policing team cannot be everywhere. If you are worried about speed and the danger it creates for you and your family, then a degree of self help is essential.

Under the community speedwatch scheme, the police train members of the community in the use of hand-held devices to record a vehicle's speed. Registration numbers of offending vehicles are then passed to the police for action. The scheme has so far been rolled out locally in Dauntsey and Charlton, where it has been shown to reduce speeds overall.

Some people are worried about the reaction of drivers, particularly local ones, to seeing them involved. Addressing this fear, one member of a local speedwatch group says 'if I can help save a life or serious injury I can take the occasional two fingered salute from an idiotic motorist. If I know who they are a quiet word later often brings the desired effect and a swift apology.'

Anyone interested in taking part in the scheme should contact the clerk, Mrs Sarah Wood, in the first instance on 01666 840351 or email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk). It is expected that the first training session will take place in late August.

## Hang it all

This year's Sherston Arts Festival will provide all local artists with the chance to show their work.

The art exhibition will take place in Holy Cross Church from Saturday 10 October to Sunday 18 October, with a preview on the evening of Friday 9 October.

This is not an exclusive exhibition; all Sherston residents are invited to submit up to five pictures. While the organisers cannot guarantee to show every work submitted, they will show as many as space allows.

If you weren't able to pick up an entry form on Boules Day, try the post office or phone Julia Leyden on 01666 840195.

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## Guided tower

Did you miss the tower tours of Holy Cross Sherston on Boules Day?

Then here is your chance to make the 100-step ascent to the top of the tower.

Roger Whitehouse tells Clifhanger 'As part of churchwarden Ness Whiffin's initiative to recreate the parable of the talents we have been given a crisp £5 note to raise funds for our church.'

For £2 you can have not only a tour of the tower but also a cup of coffee or tea. Ness will also be selling homemade chutneys and pickles.

Put Sunday 9 August from 2-4pm in your diaries. As on Boules Day, there will be time slots of 20 minute intervals to allow you 15 minutes at the top. To book your time slot telephone Roger Whitehouse on 840640 or email [rpwhitehouse@talktalk.net](mailto:rpwhitehouse@talktalk.net)

## Guinea pigs wanted

The parish council's footpath group has been working hard over the last 12 months preparing a new walks booklet for Sherston. Some 10 circular walks have been identified (5 short, 5 long) as well as a village trail. Descriptions have been written and a list of necessary repairs and maintenance issues has been drawn up for action by Wiltshire council, the responsible authority for rights of way.

The parish council will seek grant finance to cover production costs, with a view to the booklet being ready for printing in December and published in early spring next year. In the meantime the group is looking for human guinea pigs to walk the paths to test that the descriptions, directions and maps are as good as they can be. Any physical problems can also be reported – broken or overgrown stiles, missing signs etc.

If you would like to test a walk or two please contact Maggie McKenna, the group's secretary, on 01666 841947 email [maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com](mailto:maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com) The more testers the better!

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# Green news from Sherston School

*Contributed by John Crispian Huggill*



*Year 6 pupils tuck in!*

Children in Chestnut class have been growing a wide range of salad vegetables, trying them out on fellow pupils and analysing the results. Hot mizuma, spicy rocket and green lettuce proved the most popular. Some children do eat their greens and now many more are doing so, especially those hot and spicy ones.

Following the successful tokens collection earlier in the year, Morrisons are sponsoring a grow-at-home dwarf bean competition as part of their 'Get Growing' campaign for primary schools. Every Sherston School pupil has been given a large flower pot, some dwarf French bean seeds, labels and sowing instructions. The resulting crops will be measured, weighed and counted for comparison with classmates and other schools.

In the weeks just before the end of year production of 'Alice the musical', year six children in Sycamore class picked bowls full of delicious strawberries, also called Alice. Thanks to Whitehall Garden Centre for donating the plants, to parent Hannah Griffin of the school's Environment Area Group and the children who planted them, and to Sycamore for growing, picking and sharing them.

Another school year has passed, and it's time to record publicly our thanks for the many donations received and hours of hard work that have been given to the Environment Area project.

Eighteen months ago we had a plan. Now we have a fenced off area with pond dug and the beginnings of a new dry stone wall in our wildlife area. We also have timber allotment beds brimming with fruit and vegetables next to the young fruit trees and bushes planted just before all the snow in January, and the

beginnings of a herb garden. The children are full of the joys of the creative outdoors, and of hopes and expectations for the coming new school year.

Our thanks are due to all of the following for their thoughtfulness, generosity and hours of hard work:

Sherston Parish Council – donating the 2009 Elizabeth Hodges Trust grant to purchase a wide selection of children's garden tools. Paul Bridgeman – digging out the hole for the pond area. Noel Banks – much needed advice and now starting to build a new dry stone wall with his group of volunteers on the wildlife area. Knockdown Stone – for all the Cotswold stone. Trevor Moody – for storing it. Mark Sparrow – engraving a new 'Sherston' stone to be set in the wall. Peter Bishop of Wildlife World, Tetbury – supplying bee-bricks to encourage solitary and bumble bees, and setting up a bird watch camera. John Thompson – a bird bath. The Irving family – a water butt. Martin Rea and Whitehall Garden Centre – a wide assortment of fruit and other plants. Mr. & Mrs. Quirk – donating a 'Worm City' wormery, buying a fresh set of worms and setting it up with year five Willow class. Sherston Post Office – help collecting all those Gazette mastheads to win the Wiltshire 'Get Growing' competition in April.



*Year 5 pupils present a card and Postman Pat cake from the school*

The Friends of Sherston School – financing all the new fencing, timber signage and seating bench. Sherston School children – loads of enthusiasm, interest and hard work. The parents – who have helped sow seeds, plant trees and plants and done many other things with the children over the last year. Thank you to everyone.

In the next year, we hope to get the wildlife area up and running with a pond, boggy area and dipping platform, nature trail and outdoor classroom. All of this will need funding and we would be grateful for any contributions. We aim to secure the top level in the Royal Horticultural Society's 'School Gardening' campaign and get the Silver Eco Award for schools; if we go on to achieve the top Green Flag Award, we'll need a flagpole. Any offers?

## Just a-walkin' the dog

Members of Sherston parish council footpath group are working hard to ensure that our footpaths are accessible and well maintained. They are hoping local landowners and farmers will co-operate in these endeavours but path users also have responsibilities.

It seems there is a common misconception that fields are public property, which we and our dogs can wander at will. This is not the case. Rights of Way run across privately owned land and the right to walk across it extends only as far as the length and breadth of the designated path. This applies equally to people and dogs.

Livestock are distressed, crops damaged and pastures soiled by dogs that have been allowed to run freely. This damages both an owner's livelihood and the good relations we are trying to establish.

Other walkers have also complained about fouled footpaths, being barked at aggressively and jumped up at by unleashed dogs. This is unacceptable. Always clear up after your dog and if you can't ensure that it will stay under your complete control and stay on the footpath, keep it on a lead.

The police say that the problem of dog-related nuisance is one of the top three in their list of complaints received, although Wiltshire Council, rather than the police, is the enforcing authority.

Loose dogs are often the worst fouling offenders and there has been a recent spate in the village. The dogs and their owners have been identified and have been reported to Wiltshire Council for action. Loose dogs not only foul the streets but can also cause motor accidents and therefore personal injury. If you know of a dog being allowed to roam at will or walked without a lead please report it to Wiltshire council's dog warden on 01249 706111 or email [customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Nuisance caused by dogs continually barking is another problem. This often seems to occur where dogs are left for long periods alone. If you suffer from this nuisance and your attempts to persuade neighbours to address the problem have failed, then Wiltshire Council should again be contacted.

The parish council is not anti-dog and fully recognizes that the vast majority of local dog owners keep their animals properly under control, ensuring that they cause no offence. As usual it is the minority who cause all the problems.

## Buckets and spades

August is holiday time for many and the parish council is no exception. There will be no meeting this month and the next meeting will be on Thursday 10 September at 7.30pm in the village hall. If you have any matters to raise in the meantime please contact the clerk, Mrs. Sarah Wood, on 01666 840351 or email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk)

## A great afternoon

Sunday 21 June was a great afternoon, with seven village gardens and the Living Churchyard project included in the open gardens trail as part of the church fete, which also included stalls, games, barbecue, teas and a bouncy castle. The event raised over £1,100.

Organiser Heather Martin said 'This will all go to the upkeep of our lovely Church. A huge thank you to all those people who contributed to the success of the event, particularly the owners of the gardens and also the stall holders, cake-makers, tea-makers and everyone who came along to support.'

## 100 years ago

Reproduced below is an article that appeared in North Wilts Herald in August 1909.

### SHERSTON

**PRIMITIVE METHODISM.** - On Sunday the Primitive Methodists held their annual camp meeting in a field belonging to Mr T. H. Mills. The Minety Brass Band were in attendance, and both afternoon evening headed the processions which visited several parts of the village. The preachers were the Rev. A. Warcup, Mr W. Fouracre and Mr F. Saunders. The congregations were very satisfactory considering the showery weather.

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# TREEtalk

August 2009 *Contributed by Irene Johnston*

## *A big thank you*

We have had lots of offers of help with the Grove Wood project, following the launch day in mid-June and last month's Cliffhanger article. Sincere thanks to everyone who wants to get involved. You can depend on it that we'll be in touch later in the year. During the rest of the summer, we'll be preparing a flexible works timetable for publication in the autumn. We can all then see at a glance what's to be done over the winter months and next spring – seed sowing, tree and plant identification & research, sourcing grants as well as starting the physical work. Don't hang back – let me know if you would like to lend a hand.

There is a great deal more to the role of Tree Warden than the Grove Wood project. The trees mentioned in the booklet being prepared by the Footpaths Committee are another area of interest. Anything arboricultural is my remit, (no pressure there then!) so please get in touch with any queries or suggestions about trees (present and future) in the parish.

## *National Tree Week 25 November - 6 December 09*

First introduced in 1975, National Tree Week is the UK's largest tree celebration, annually launching the start of the winter tree-planting season. It's a great chance for communities to do something positive to enhance their local treescape. Most years, upward of a quarter of a million people get their hands dirty in this good cause. Grove Wood fits well in this context, so watch this space for news of a special event during this period. (We'll let you know as soon as we've thought of it!) Alternatively, if you have a particularly good idea, then let's hear it. You can read more about National Tree Week on this website: [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

*Talking the talk – two of the words you'll hear a lot in the Grove Wood context:*

**Coppicing:** This is the cutting back of a tree to within a few inches of its base in early spring. This results in new strong shoots growing from the stump. Originally coppicing was done to provide winter firewood or young growth suitable for fencing and basket-weaving. Nowadays, it is usually carried out only to restrict size or create special effects with fresh, young stems.

**Pollarding:** This is similar to coppicing but the tree or shrub is cut back to its main trunk or stem or to a framework of short branches. Traditionally it was done above the browsing height of farm animals but now it is common in urban contexts. You see examples of pollarding on street plantings – typically, every French street has its lime trees with characteristic black stumps in winter and fresh green foliage later in the year.

## *And finally,*

The UK is one of the least wooded places in Europe. Only 12 per cent of the UK is woodland, compared to an average of 44 per cent in other parts of Europe.

The UK has around 50 species of native trees and shrubs, including three conifers.

In the last 100 years, 46 broadleaved woodland species have become extinct here.

Contact Sherston's Tree Warden, Irene Johnston on tel: 01666 841273 or email: [ie-johnston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ie-johnston@yahoo.co.uk)

## New business competition

Following the success last year of Hannah Allen of Apples and Pairs in winning the £1,000 prize in the local Chamber of Commerce's New Business Competition, Malmesbury & District Chamber of Commerce is now promoting the 2009 competition. Last year Hannah went on to compete in the final against the six other towns of the former NWDC area. Under the new authority this year's competition is county-wide, so entrants have the chance to win the local prize of £1,000, with publicity in the local press and the opportunity to enter the county-wide final for a further prize of £2,000. The business can be any size and must have started after 26 September 2008 or be planned to start before 30 November 2009. The closing date for entries is 25 September 2009.

All entrants will receive 35% discount on advertising, a one-to-one with a Business Link advisor, a training needs analysis with advice on government funding, a new account package for small business, 20% discount on printing and Microsoft Business Productivity Online Suite at 18% discount in the first year.

For further information contact Lesley Thomas, Secretary to the Malmesbury and District Chamber of Commerce, on 01249 783434, email [PeteAThomas@msn.com](mailto:PeteAThomas@msn.com), or see website [www.wessexchambers.org.uk](http://www.wessexchambers.org.uk)

## July crossword answers

E	N	T	E	N	T	E	C	O	R	D	I	A	L	E
	O	N		R			A	E	N		A			
A	M	O	E	B	A		R	E	A	F	F	I	R	M
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## Our high street

Parish council has received correspondence from residents with suggestions for both improving the appearance of the high street and alleviating the parking problems. Such suggestions are always welcome and if you have an idea regarding any subject in the parish please pass it on for consideration. These present proposals are being investigated further and a full response will be forthcoming in September.

In the meantime one particular parking issue in the High Street demands immediate action. It appears that the doctors' parking bays by the Tolsey surgery, which are clearly marked with white lines, are being abused. Vehicles are being parked on them at times when the doctors require them – essentially from 8am to 7pm every weekday. It is vital that doctors have close and instant access to the surgery. There have been recent instances where doctors have found themselves carrying heavy items of equipment such as oxygen cylinders from a long way up the High Street. The spaces are also required for ambulances as the surgery is a first response unit in emergencies. They are therefore just as important for us all as for the doctors.

The parish council is contacting the area highway engineer about enforcement of these spaces for the doctors' use, but in the meantime can everyone please ensure that their vehicles are never parked there.

## The Glaziers Arms, Willesley

In her position as the recently appointed official archivist and historian to the Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold Hurlers, Cilla Liddington is keen to discover the location of this former public house. 'I am told it was here that the worst violence occurred after the Alderton Altercation on the night of Saturday 6 October 1934,' said Cilla. 'I have a record of the Glaziers in the 1800s but nothing in 1934. It may be that its name had changed and it could have been the Tavern House on the A433'. Can anyone shed some light on this mystery? If so please contact Cilla on 01666 840128 or email [sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk)

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## Women on the run

Women now have a fun, sociable and non-competitive way to get into running.

The Women's Running Network has launched a new group in Malmesbury for women of all abilities including the complete beginner.

Meeting at 7pm on Wednesdays in the Activity Zone, the group can help even the unfit to get started by giving sensible advice, support and company while running.

Now a countrywide organisation, the Women's Running Network was founded in Devon in 1998 by Pauline Beare and Peggy Wiseman to inspire women to run.

'The success is based on a simple philosophy: give all women whatever their age, size or ability the opportunity to run together to improve their health, fitness, confidence and safety,' said Pauline.

All group leaders hold a qualification in leadership in running fitness or in fitness in running and walking through England Athletics.

There are also recently-launched groups in Chippenham, Cricklade and Calne.

For more information call Alex Muse on 01249 706452.

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# Patchworkpictures

Members of the Sherston Young Craft Group have been working over the past few months to create a patchwork wallhanging to be displayed in Sherston School. This replaces the mosaic panel that was produced by the holiday playscheme about seven years ago. The Young Craft Group has 20 members and each one stitched a picture of a wild animal, insect, tree or flower, and then surrounded it with a log-cabin patchwork.

Pictured with the wallhanging are Jess Jones, Charlotte and James Holland, Alice Ormiston and Niamh Andrews.



# Living Churchyard

*Contributed by Sue Robinson*

This month the flowers have continued to grow in the churchyard 'meadow'. The greatest surprise has been the unexpected appearance of a pyramidal orchid, showing the amazing regenerative power of the natural environment when it is left to grow unchecked.



In June I went to the annual Wiltshire Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project Seminar and Bishop's Award Presentation. I was presented with a Welcome Certificate for Sherston by the Bishop's representative, Canon Humphrey York, and this is now on display in the church porch. It is very encouraging to meet other people doing the same work in their churchyards and to know that the Church of England is supporting the Living Churchyard movement as part of the Christian stewardship of God's creation.

Several of the people I met had brought with them scrapbooks showing how the wildlife in their churchyards had increased and diversified over the years. One of the most interesting to me showed how the arrival of one pyramidal orchid in the churchyard grass, in that case after only three years of leaving the grass uncut, had led over ten years to a large number of flowers. I only hope that the same will happen in our churchyard and that next summer there will be several orchids, rather than just the one we have now.

A survey is under way of the birds to be found in the churchyard. This is being done by a volunteer from the village with the support of the Wiltshire Ornithological Society, which has produced a method for surveying the birds in churchyards each month for a year as part of the Living Churchyard Project in Wiltshire. Once we know exactly what birds are there it will be easier to work out how to encourage them, for example by putting up nest boxes.

Once again all volunteer help is most welcome. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Sue Robinson 01666 841263

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MATRIX

CALIFORNIAN

# Vive le sport!



There's no doubt that this year's festivities were some of the best ever with all events being well supported and extremely enjoyable. As to the financial result it's too early to tell although the committee's view has always been that in a time of recession the priority was to ensure the event took place as usual and to look on any profits as a bonus. It was however pleasing to note that sponsorship levels held up well especially from local businesses. All sponsors are due a very well deserved thank you.

The nine day event kicked off with the Park Lane Big band giving a superb performance on the evening of the first Saturday in the village hall field. This was essentially the return of the traditional family evening and is sure to be repeated.

The following day saw Sue McKechnie lead a successful carnival walk – to the extent that some are calling for a regular monthly walk. Over to you Sue.



The carnival Quiz on Monday 6 July at the Carpenters Arms was as busy as ever with winners the famous five team of Lorna Lumb, Caroline and Alan Dickenson.

Over 60 of our senior citizens enjoyed a magnificent afternoon's musical tea on Tuesday at the British Schoolroom. This is always a great event with friends old and new enjoying each other's company.



There was a shock result at the carnival skittles championship at the Rattlebone inn on Wednesday evening. Past champion for many years Chris Gough came well down the field with that wily old alley cat Mike Shortridge taking the title.



Thursday saw a disaster averted with around 45 minutes to spare. The children's disco was due to start at 6pm but it was discovered at 5.15 pm that no DJ or disco had been booked. The crisis brought out the best in the committee and thanks to Dave Sheppard's audio equipment and an MP3 player borrowed from the Rattlebone Inn you wouldn't have realised that anything was amiss. The sight of the vice chairman of the parish council as the emergency DJ was however a good clue that all had not quite gone according to plan. The main thing is all the children had a thoroughly good and loud time.

The junior football on Friday afternoon organised by Andy Irvine proved great success with 6 teams entering with a Hullavington team running out winners. This was followed by a hilarious fancy dress football match between Sherston FC and Oafs Utd. A bit of fun maybe but the game was taken very seriously by all concerned lasting a full 90 minutes with the Oafs being 5-4 victors.



Friday evening also saw the preview of the senior club's exhibition 'Weddings through the ages' in the British Schoolroom and which continued all day on Saturday. The club surpassed themselves with a superb display. How do they do it? Each year seems to get better and better.

At 6am on the big day Saturday 11 things did not look good – grey and drizzling. By 9 am however the church bells rang out over a dry and busy high street as 128 teams prepared for the Boules tournament.

The day was very well attended and for the first time for four or five years the overflow car park was needed with over 100 cars being parked on the Sportsfield. The large crowd enjoyed a good range of stalls with the French cafe, BBQ and High Street bar doing a brisk trade all day. In the village hall teas were served throughout the festivities with the free Punch and Judy and magic shows going down well with the youngsters who also took full advantage of the free inflatables in the field.



On the Boules pitches it was the French side Gien 1 who won the final beating Highworth Boulevard a whopping 13-0 with the rain arriving right at the end of the day as the last games began. The children's competition was won 13 – 6 by Devils in Disguise with runners up Incrediboules.



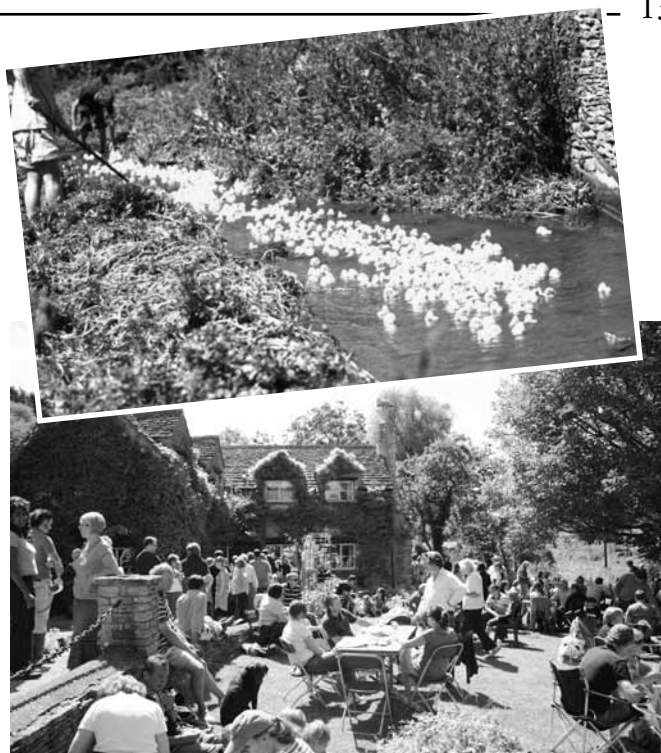
Music has always been an important part of Boules day and this year was no exception with old favourites the Celebration Jazz Band in the morning and the wonderful Just in Time swing band in the afternoon.

The flower festival in the church looked superb and tickets for the church tower visits sold out within minutes of going on sale.

Sunday saw good weather again although a downpour made treasure hunters run for cover early on. The tug of war was won by the Vine Tree at Norton with the best match being between the ladies with the Flaming Fillies beating Itch and Scratch in a hard fought final pull. All credit to Sean Richards and his Vine Tree team for taking on both ladies teams at once in a special pull which they won – eventually. Sue Daybell rallied the crowd with the megaphone to great effect and Martin Ward brought a sense of calm to the proceedings with his excellent refereeing.



The Duck race ran smoothly with the winner being Phil who works at Westonbirt Arboretum. A tremendous crowd followed the race and nearly swamped the teas at Mill cottage where the raffle winners were announced with Steve Harvey taking the top prize. A full list of winners can be found on the Boules board in the High Street.



The whole week was brought to a traditional end at the Thanksgiving service on the village hall field with the Bath Salvation Army band and an address by our new Methodist minister the Rev David Alderman swiftly followed by the final tea of the week in the hall.

If you have any comments or suggestions arising from this year's event please let the Tony Weedon chairman of this year's committee know on 01666 841377 or email [dogleg@waitrose.com](mailto:dogleg@waitrose.com)

The village party on 31 August will see the presentation of cheques to all the community groups who were involved and a full thank you to all who made this year such a success. Special thanks must however go straightaway to the following:

All the residents of the High Street for putting up with the bunting, removal of vehicles and general disturbance on the day as well as to all those living in Silver Street, Cliff Road, Court Street and Church Street who also kindly moved their vehicles to the Rec.

Malmesbury Air Training Cadets and the Oafs (Occasionally Athletic Fathers of Sherston) without whom the main event on Boules day would have been impossible to stage.

Members of the 2009 committee who worked so hard for a year to make sure all ran so smoothly.

Next year sees the 25th anniversary of Boules day. Something special is being planned and if you want to become involved why not pop along to the Rattlebone Inn on Monday August 17 at 8pm for the debrief on this year and an ideas session for 2010. Alternatively contact Caroline Moore on 01666 841405 email [caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk](mailto:caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk)

See you in 2010

Vive le sport!

*NB A photo DVD of Boules & Carnival 2009 is now available for a donation of £3 from Sherston Post Office Stores. A lovely reminder of the event and a super present.*



# More power to the people

Sherstonians now have a greater say in what happens in their village, claims the new Wiltshire Council.

The new council will do much of its business through area boards which are intended to enable local people to influence decisions about local issues.

Sherston is represented by the Malmesbury area board.

'The Malmesbury area board will be responsible for putting resources and services where locals think they are most needed,' said the council's community manager for Malmesbury Miranda Gilmour.

'It will give you the power to influence what Wiltshire Council does in your area and you can report local issues to it.'

In addition, the area boards' grants scheme will help community groups and organisations to run projects.

Malmesbury area board also represents Brinkworth, Brokenborough, Charlton, Crudwell, Dauntsey, Easton Grey, Great Somerford, Hankerton, Lea and Cleverton, Little Somerford, Luckington, Malmesbury, Minety, Norton, Oaksey, Sopworth and St. Paul Malmesbury Without.

To find out dates of meetings and events; who is on the board; how you can get involved; and what the board has been doing go to [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards/malmesburyareaboard.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards/malmesburyareaboard.htm).

There you can also report an issue in your community and track what is being done about community issues.

Those without access to a computer can report community issues on paper. Forms will be in the post office, village hall and Holy Cross church.

The area board can also be contacted through: [miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 01672 515742 or 07990 505882. The postal address is:

Wiltshire area boards northern locality team  
Wiltshire Council  
Monkton Park  
Chippenham  
Wiltshire  
SN15 1ER

# Sherston 1016

*Report contributed by Sherston 1016*

Our joint 48-game boules marathon in June at the Rattlebone Inn with the Malmesbury Friends of Dorothy House Hospice was a success, raising £320 which was split equally between us. Special thanks to Lynette Willets for running the raffle in her usual indomitable fashion. We hope to repeat the event next year.

Saturday 29 August sees our next fundraising event, namely the Lobber Jenkins Memorial Urn Boules Tournament at the Rattlebone Inn from 10 am.

In a change from the usual triples, this year will see a pairs competition – a first for Sherston. Up to 32 teams can enter at a fee of £12 per team, with the usual liquid prizes for the winners and runners-up. Book your team over the bar at the Rattlebone Inn as soon as possible as 'Lob's Urn' is always extremely popular. This is an open competition and in no way limited to players in the Rattlebone leagues.

As well as the tournament there will also be a raffle and barbecue.

With autumn fast approaching, just a reminder that our next book sale is in the village hall on Saturday 26 September from 9am to 12 noon. Free entry. Donations of books, videos, CDs and DVDs are always greatly appreciated and can be left at Grays of Sherston.



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# THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

Members throughout the parish are beginning to twitch with excitement as the girths of their roots begin to expand and slowly rise statuesque like from the sod. The Keeper of the Crop Mr Sidney Young reports that his Yellow Eckendorf are now well over three inches in diameter and set well for the hurl in October, although he is disappointed to date with the growth of this season's other variety Red Mammoth which is lagging badly behind.

Those growing an ornamental pot mangold or two to exhibit at the Sherston Flower show on 31 August would be well advised to keep an eye out this month for the dreaded mangold fly which can devour young plants in less than a day with its locust like tendencies.

Preparations for the hurl on Sunday 4 October at 2pm on the Great Field (adjoining the village hall) are now well advanced with a bar, barbecue, stalls and musical entertainment all in hand. Mr Paul Ormiston, gentleman of this parish and Keeper of the Challenges, has already received entries for both the team (of 3) competition – entry £5 and the singles - £1. Children have their own competition which is free to enter on the day. Mr Ormiston can be contacted on 01666 840694 or email [pa.ormiston@homecall.co.uk](mailto:pa.ormiston@homecall.co.uk)

The Welsh side have now confirmed their attendance with the news that their team name is 'The Principality of Sealand' as they have been appointed by Prince Michael as the official mangold hurling team for his domain. We are deeply honoured that such a prestigious team will be partaking in our lowly hurl. As to Sealand for further details please visit [www.sealandgov.org/](http://www.sealandgov.org/)

Since last month's article the Order has been inundated with requests for information on the Alderton Altercation of Saturday 6 October 1934. Suffice to say the spark which led to the subsequent riot was struck at the then Alderton racecourse which was hosting the North West Wiltshire Hurl that season. It is said to have involved the then Prince of Wales, a bevy of mangold maids, a disputed final hurl to decide the championship between the Sherston and Luckington Orders and the inevitable copious imbibing of scrumpy – a sure recipe for the inevitable disaster that followed. This year will see the 75th anniversary of the Altercation and further revelations of what exactly occurred can be expected.

Yarp!

*The Keeper of the Quill*



## Parish lands

The parish council owns the sportsfield in its own name and it is also the trustee of the recreation ground. Over the years parts of both properties have been leased to local groups so as to enhance facilities available for parish residents.

As regards the sportsfield, Sherston Town FC was leased the land on which the football pavilion now stands. Following the unfortunate demise of the club a few years ago the parish council now owns the pavilion. It is maintained with the invaluable help of both Sherston Youth FC and the recently relaunched senior side Sherston FC

The tennis courts are on sportsfield land leased to Sherston Tennis club under a lease which expires in 2011. Negotiations have now opened with the tennis club concerning a new lease, under which it is hoped to increase the membership of the club and overall usage of the courts and to improve the courts and their surroundings.

As it seems that substantial grants are available to increase overall sports provision in rural communities the parish council intends to look at the whole of the sportsfield area to see what other sports and facilities could be provided for. These may include an adult fitness trail, all-weather surface for 5-a-side football, netball and basketball, and a new pavilion for the use of all sports.

It is hoped that consultation over such proposals will commence in the autumn but if you have any ideas in the meantime please let the clerk Mrs Sarah Wood know of them as soon as possible on 01666 840351 email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk)

Sherston Scouts have had their hut on the recreation ground for more than 25 years and it was recently extended to add more storage space and an improved kitchen. The original lease has now expired and negotiations for a new one are under way. They will hopefully be concluded in the next few months so as to ensure the continuance of a headquarters for this valuable organisation which offers so much to children and young people in the area.

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# Top-notch soccer on our doorstep

*Contributed by Tim Barnard of Forest Green Rovers Supporters' Trust*

A couple of weeks ago Forest Green Rovers made the short trip to Malmesbury for the first pre season match of the forthcoming campaign. An entertaining game was watched by around 300 people.

Forest Green Rovers are a local football team, doing quite well in the Blue Square Premier League against the likes of Oxford United, York City and Luton Town.

Where are they? Just down the road in Nailsworth playing in a modern Football League standard ground, with all the comforts of a 3-year-old state-of-the-art stadium.

They have come a long way in the last 120 years. Founded in October 1889 by the local church minister, Rovers became founder members in 1894 of the Mid-Gloucestershire League, the first soccer league in the county.

They switched to the newly formed Stroud League and the Dursley League, which they won in 1903. They won the Stroud League in 1912 under the name Nailsworth and Forest Green United.

In 1927 a crowd of over 4000 saw Rovers lift the County Cup, beating the Sharpness Sharks 2-1. The club committee bought 'The Lawn' at auction in 1936 and after the war it was transformed into one of the premier grounds in the County.

Rovers joined the newly formed County League in 1968, then the Hellenic League in 1975. In 1982 they won the FA Vase 3-1 and moved into the Southern League.

Rovers struggled in the 80s, were renamed Stroud FC in 1989 but changed back to Forest Green Rovers in 1992. After winning the Southern League Southern Division in 1997 and the Premier Division in 1998, Forest Green Rovers were promoted to the Conference for the 1998-1999 season.

Rovers went back to Wembley in 1999, losing 1-0 to Kingstonian in the FA Trophy, becoming the first club to appear in both the Trophy and Vase Finals, a sign of how far the club has come. Relegation was narrowly avoided in 2000 and Rovers returned

to the Trophy Final in 2001 losing 1-0 to Canvey Island. A best Conference finish of 9th was achieved in 2003.

Ambitious plans were put forward in 2002 to build a self-funded Football League standard stadium, still



*FGR's Andy Magnan scores against Malmesbury*

in the hamlet of Forest Green, just above Nailsworth. This was officially opened in September 2006.

But the club still has the same old problem, everyone knows who they are but no-one knows where they are.

To try to solve that problem the Club have teamed up with Cliffhanger to offer cut-price tickets for the forthcoming Bank Holiday game against Wrexham. If you are looking for something to entertain you and your family on Bank Holiday Saturday, pop down the road to catch Rovers in action. A win can't be promised, but entertainment certainly can.

## All aboard for FGR

It is hoped to book a mini bus to take Cliffhanger readers to see FGR v Wrexham on August 29. The cost will be very reasonable. For further details and to book a seat please ring Martin Rea on 01666 840348 or email [martdrea@aol.com](mailto:martdrea@aol.com)

## Sherston Football Club

*Contributed by their manager, Pete Brock*

Sherston football club has a long history of turning out good footballers, going back to the likes of Arthur Ward, Don Neal, John Neal, Johnny Welch, Pete Evans and the Outlaw boys. More recently there are players like Kev Bridgeman, Chaz Parkes, Koncker, Trim Bourne and legends like Daz Walsh and Viv Neal. Then there are a host of young lads coming through, thanks to the efforts of Owen Fitzpatrick and the youth sides he has produced through the years.

We have now got a new side which got promoted in its first season and we have started building for the new season. Wednesday night training sessions are taken by Adrian Mines. His army background seems to be helping in the fitness department and he knows a thing or two about football too.

There have been a couple of friendlies which we have won, although there was a fancy dress slip up on Boules weekend. When I went into the changing rooms telling the players that as we were the football team we should be winning quite convincingly, it was pointed out that the other side had 16 players on the pitch.

I would like to thank everybody who has been involved in the rebuilding of the team and the club as a whole.

The club is moving forward and trying to do a few bits for the local community. If anybody has an event that they would like some help with, they should contact Pete Brock on 07912777647. Watch Cliffhanger for more Sherston football news and results.

### BANK HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

#### FOREST GREEN ROVERS v WREXHAM 29/8/09

Forest Green Rovers FC and the Sherston Cliffhanger invite you and your family to watch the 'Friendly Club on the Hill' take on Wrexham in the Blue Square Premier League in Nailsworth on Saturday 29th August - kick-off 3pm. Special entry prices have been arranged to this match for all Sherston Cliffhanger readers of just £10 for Adults, £5 for Concessions and £2 for Children (Under 16's). (Normally £15, £10 and £7).

Fill in your details on the coupon and bring it with you to the match.

Tel: 01453 834860 or visit [www.forestgreenroversfc.com](http://www.forestgreenroversfc.com).

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# Salsa success

The salsa dance class in the village hall has proved very popular since starting at the end of June. Up to 40 people are rolling up every week, with experienced instructors Fitz and Vera teaching both absolute beginners and improvers in a relaxed style.

If you want to see what it's about, just turn up at 7.30pm on any Monday. Classes cost £5 for the evening (around 2 hours)

To find out more visit [www.salsaflex.com](http://www.salsaflex.com) or call Fitz on 07950 711405



# Cricket Round-Up

## Saturdays

Following two disheartening defeats last month, our cricket team has slipped from first to third in the Cotswold League Division 1. But with Sherston hosting both teams above them in August, an exciting run-in looks assured, so the team would appreciate as much support as the village can give.

## Remaining League Fixtures:

1 August 2009	Windrush	Away
8 August 2009	Oakridge	Home
15 August 2009	NATS	Away
22 August 2009	Great Rissington	Home
29 August 2009	Cricklade	Away
5 September 2009	Chedworth	Away

## Sundays

An impressive six wins from eight games has steered the Sherston Magna Sunday side through a successful first half of the season. Although the team plays to win, it is also committed to promoting the social side of the game and to encouraging Sherston's younger players. These include Jonty Welsh, Joseph Nabarro, Ben Dickenson, James Vynne and Phil Milson, all of whom have made notable contributions to the team's success this year.

A four-match winning sequence at the start of the season came to an end with defeat against Badminton. But the team bounced back with a win against The Travellers, when Sherston chased down 165 with five overs to spare. This was followed by victory over Kingswood, the highlight of which was Phil Milson's 79. Another recent nail-biter was the friendly 25-over match against the Rattlebone XI, which the pub side won in spectacular fashion with a contender for catch of the season in the final over.

## Sunday cricket in August

2 August 2009	Seagry	Away	2:30pm
9 August 2009	Lydiard Millicent	Home	2:20pm
16 August 2009	Lechlade	Away	2:30pm
23 August 2009	Tortworth	Away	1:30pm
30 August 2009	Codicote	Home	2:30pm

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[www.pykeboardingkennels.co.uk](http://www.pykeboardingkennels.co.uk)

## Village hall 200+ club

### June Winners

1st	L. Farahar (no.129)	£11
2nd	R. Farahar (no.109)	£10
3rd	Margaret Semple (no.128)	£9
4th	Mary Clements (no.198)	£8
5th	Barbara Wilden (no.60)	£7
6th	Alan Llewellyn (no.220)	£6
7th	Kevin Smith (no.29)	£5

### £5 bonus winners

G. Capps (253), Maggie Instrell (72), G. Perraton Russell (259), D. Bush (133), Roger Whitehouse (21), Martin Rea (194), Tony Jolliffe (163)

Collectors: G. Mason, M. Goulding, J. Gleed, J. Platts, M. Yeend, M. Thacker.

## Sin City gets clean-up

Visitors to Malmesbury can rest assured their cars are safe in the station yard car park, say police.

'Crime in the area is virtually non-existent,' said Insp Steven Cox of Wiltshire Police.

'If anything, the young adults meeting in the car park deter crime from occurring.'

While the station yard car park has had a reputation for car crime in the past, this no longer applies.

Now, young people gather there with their vehicles and the neighbourhood policing team regularly patrols the area.

Elsewhere in Malmesbury, police have been tackling anti-social behaviour.

Around the market cross, several people have been arrested for drink-fuelled violent crime and low level disorder, said Insp Cox.

And Pub Watch has recently banned four Malmesbury residents from licensed premises for unacceptable behaviour.

## Sherston Women's Institute

*Contributed by Maureen Jolliffe*

At the July meeting of Sherston WI, Mr R.P. Deacon gave a talk on the great storm of 1987. He worked for the Southern Electricity Board at the time, covering a wide area of southern England. Problems resulting from the storm caused major difficulties for those whose job it was to restore power. Communication systems were not as good then as they are today, and it was extremely difficult to summon help.

Mr Deacon illustrated his talk with slides, which showed many roads blocked by trees that had to be cleared. Engineers restoring power to the network had to get support from as far away as Wales, Scotland and the north of England to help them complete the tremendous task. Many members were able to recount their own experiences of the great storm.

On Boules Day the WI contribution was to serve tea and coffee at the village hall and to provide a cake stall. WI members also helped various other organisations to which they belong.

Farther afield, twelve members attended the 90th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the WI, joining other Wiltshire WI members on a picnic in Salisbury where entertainment was provided.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6 August, when the Rev Mary Teed will give a talk entitled 'Here we go a-vicaring'.

A guided tour of Burford is planned for 12 August, with lunch to follow. The September meeting will be a talk by Jenny Tidman on 'Gardening – border colour'.

Visitors are always welcome at the WI meetings on the first Thursday of the month. Please contact any member for further information.



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## Sherston artist breaks new ground

Sherston artist Julia Leyden played a major part in this year's Corsham Festival.

Her 'Eleven echoes of autumn' suite of pictures and poems was on display throughout the festival. A book of the pictures and poems was also on sale. This work had been inspired by a musical work of the same name by American composer George Crumb which was performed at the 2008 festival.

Following on from this, Julia had been asked by musician and festival director Nicholas Heyworth to collaborate with him in providing one of this year's highlights: a performance of Crumb's 'Makrokosmos' accompanied by projected visual images.

'Makrokosmos' is a modernist work for piano composed in 1972. The score is highly visual, with references to the Zodiac and graphic representations of the music to be performed, using symbols such as the cross, circle and spiral. To accompany the 37-minute performance of 'Makrokosmos' Julia produced 180 images. Some incorporated the composer's score, some were based on photographs and some were original artwork. The projected images combined with the musical performance to create something new.

The performance took place at 10pm on Thursday 25 June, and in spite of the late start it attracted an appreciative audience of about 70, including a number of keen musicians and artists who lingered to discuss the work.

## Take notice

The new parish notice board is in place on the Old School. It was made in Sherston by Andrew Tremellen. It cost £775, of which just under half was provided by a grant from the former North Wiltshire District Council, for which the parish council is most grateful. The board has particularly strong hinges so as to ensure the front of the board stays open in high winds when required. This was a problem with the old board.

## Summer soccer school

Cotswold Soccer School are offering boys and girls between ages 5 and 15 soccer courses run by FA-approved coaches. They take place at the Recreation Ground, the Street, Shipton Moyne. The first is from Tuesday 18 August to Thursday 20 August and the second from Tuesday 25 August to Thursday 27 August. The times are from 9.30am to 3.30pm. The cost is £15 for 1 day, £30 for two days and £40 for all three days. For more information and to book a place contact Colin Stevens 07739 878849 or Jo Johnson 07518 017363.

## Swine flu

As most readers will know, the government has set up a National Pandemic Flu Service.

If you think you may have swine flu, don't go to your doctor. Check your symptoms online by visiting the Flu Service website [www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu) or call 0800 1 513 100 (0800 1 513 200 for Textphone).

If you do turn out to have swine flu, you will be given a unique access number and told where your nearest antiviral collection point is.

Your 'flu friend' – a friend or relative who does not have swine flu – can use this number to pick up your antivirals for you. Your flu friend will have to show their own proof of identity as well as yours.

You should contact your doctor direct rather than using the National Pandemic Flu Service if:

You have a serious underlying illness

You are pregnant

You have a sick child under one year old

Your condition suddenly gets much worse

Further information is available on these websites:

[www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu)

[www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

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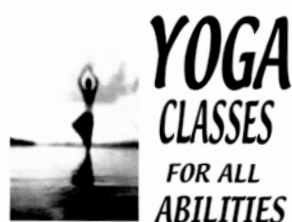
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7.45 - 9.00 at Cirencester  
**Weds** 9.30 - 11.00 at Daglingworth  
6.00-7.30, 7.30-9.00 at Fairford  
**Thursday** 9.30 - 11.00 at Chedworth  
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FOR MORE DETAILS  
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## Sherston village party

Plans are now well in hand for the village party to be held in the hall and field on bank holiday Monday 31 August from 12 noon to 6pm with free entry for all. Everyone is invited including all those from the surrounding parishes. By popular demand the party will see the return of the Sherston Flower, Vegetable and Produce Show which will include a special potato festival organised by SAGA (Sherston Allotment and Garden Association). Schedules are now available from Sherston Post Office Stores and Sherston Parva Nursery.

Those with the finest musical tastes will be well catered for – especially by a live performance from the Mangledwurzels who will entertain you with such wonderful numbers as 'Twice daily', 'I am a cider drinker' and 'Get off my land'!

As last year, Jason Read from the Rattlebone Inn and his team of volunteers will provide their superb barbecue. There will also be a bar, raffle and teas as well as bouncy castles and inflatables for the children. About 20 charities, community groups and local businesses have already booked pitches. If you would like a stall, which includes the use of a 6' x 2' table, please contact Margot Holland without delay on 01666 841019 or email [mplholland@btinternet.com](mailto:mplholland@btinternet.com). Stalls can be accommodated either in the marquees or outside so please give your preference when booking. There is no problem with a limited number of gazebos on the field. See you all on the 31st.

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## Parish steward

The introduction of the parish steward system by the old county council a few years ago has generally been a great success and it's good to see its continuance by the new Wiltshire council. The parish steward visits us once a month for two days undertaking minor but important highway repairs and maintenance. The system is entirely dependent on the steward being provided with a list of tasks from the local community via the parish clerk. If you have noticed a verge that needs cutting or an area of weeds which needs tackling, don't keep it to yourself and moan about it- tell the clerk Mrs Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk) and she'll make sure that Matt Treacy, our steward, puts it on his list. Matt was particularly helpful just before Boules day this year in making an extra visit to tackle the weeds on Court Street along the recreation ground wall and on the steps. Please give Matt a deserved 'thank you' when you next see him about in his distinctive yellow flat-bed Land Rover.

## Can you do it?

Gail Hayman, the village hall's bookings clerk for the past four years, wishes to retire because of increasing business commitments. Gail has done an excellent job and has found it very worthwhile and a great way of getting to know people in the village. Could you take over from her? Gail will be happy to talk through what is entailed and can be contacted on 01666 840068 or email [gail.hayman@btinternet.com](mailto:gail.hayman@btinternet.com). As most of the hall bookings are regular it's mainly a case of dealing with enquiries for one-off events which makes the task a lot easier.



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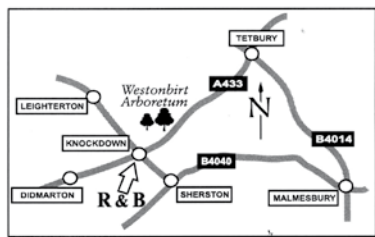


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# Where there's a will

*After writing in the June Cliffhanger about David Thorpe's discovery of the Thomas Davis trade token, Cilla Liddington decided to try to find out more about Thomas Davis and his life in Sherston. This is her account of her research and its outcome.*

I visited the newly opened Wiltshire and Swindon Archives in Chippenham, where a helpful archivist suggested that maybe Thomas Davis had left a will. In a directory I found the will of Thomas Davis, Yeoman of Sherston Magna dated 1671 (20 years after the date of his token). I was delighted to find that it had been transcribed onto a CD. It was not the easiest of documents to decipher, but again one of the archivists came to my rescue.

First Thomas Davis bequeathed his soul to God and his body to a Christian burial. He left £5 to his two grandsons, the children of his late son Thomas Davis. He also left money to his seven other grandchildren, and his 'Middle Chest' to his granddaughter Mary. All his wearing apparel went to his brother Nicholas Davis. A burgrave plot in Great Sherston was also mentioned. As well as his bequests there was an inventory of all his goods and chattels including his cheese press, his three barrels and a horse for beer, a malt mill, brass and pewter. In total his inventory amounted to £32.15.4, a huge amount at that time. The witnesses to his will were Richard and John Goodenough. But still no mention of where he lived in Sherston.

I thought his grave might be among the huge 17th century tabletop tombs at the front of the churchyard, but sadly only a few are legible. So then into the church to see if there was any memorial to this man, who was obviously a very wealthy person. In the vestry I found an ornate stone memorial plaque reading 'Near this place lyeth the body of Thomas Davis who died June yed2 (2nd) 1725 aged 69'. This Thomas Davis was the grandson of our original Thomas Davis.

So off to Chippenham again, where I found his will, proven on 16 May 1726. This includes the following.

'I Thomas Davis of Easton Town Yeoman leave to Ruth my beloved wife the sum of £20, the use of my household goods during the term of her natural life...' Bequests to other family members, include 'To my nephew John Chapman son of sister Deborah arable land lying in the north field of Great Sherston and Common Wood and Silkwood.' There is a reference to 'other houses, barns and stables and messuages...'. He also leaves 20 shillings to the poor of Great Sherston.

Nephew John Chapman was sole executor and the will was 'witnessed by the mark of John Halliday and Mary Goodenough'.

And so it would seem that the family of Thomas Davis, Yeoman possibly lived at Easton Town, although the mention of a burgrave plot would indicate that they also had property in the High Street.

*Don't miss the next Cliffhanger, where Cilla will explain burgraves and beer horses.*

# Wiltshire's orchards

Orchards are hotspots for wildlife, including a number of species that are in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan categories of rare, protected or scarce.

Since the last world war, Wiltshire, along with its neighbouring counties, has lost many of its traditional orchards. This has primarily been caused by changes in land use, development and agricultural intensification. English Nature's research report on traditional orchards in England revealed that since the 1950s the area covered by orchards has declined by 57%. As a result, traditional orchards have recently been added to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as a priority habitat and an inventory has been undertaken by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), with the aim of conserving this distinctive habitat.

Wiltshire Traditional Orchards Project (WTOP) has been set up by a group of volunteers working in partnership with the PTES. WTOP aims to halt further loss of orchards across the county and prevent further neglect.

Very little is known about Wiltshire's orchards and WTOP are having to start from scratch to find out exactly what still exists. As Wiltshire is a large rural county the project needs your help. WTOP is looking for:

*volunteers to become orchard surveyors* – people who are happy to go out to a pre-defined site and undertake a survey of the condition of the orchard

*orchard owners* – if you have five or more fruit trees on your land, whether these be for personal or commercial use, WTOP would love to hear from you

If you would like to get involved please contact WTOP at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Elm Tree Court, Long St, Devizes, SN10 1NJ, tel: 01793 815029 or e-mail: [orchardwilts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:orchardwilts@hotmail.co.uk)

For further information, see the website: [www.sites.google.com/site/wiltso orchards/](http://www.sites.google.com/site/wiltso orchards/)

# Big thank you from Pyke Boarding Kennels

Kitty Pyke and Angela Stanley of Pyke Boarding Kennels Ltd would like to thank everyone for their generosity in donating items for their Boules Day bric-a-brac stall. They raised £166.48 to be shared equally between the Jayne Reynolds Foundation and The Brooke Hospital.

They still have a lady's bike available in return for a donation to charity. It can be delivered free of charge in or around Sherston. All other unsold items have been given to either Cancer Research or RSPCA.

Contact: Angela Stanley on 07748 971465

# Feedback wanted

September's Cliffhanger will be the twelfth, and the editorial team feels that the time has come to see what you think of it so far – good or bad. We think this would best be done via a survey form that would be delivered with Cliffhanger. We need professional help in compiling such a form. Does anyone have any expertise in this area which they can share? If so please either email [editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk) or telephone 01666 841405.



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# Regular events in Sherston

## Holy Cross church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade cakes  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings from May to October  
**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.

## Congregational church

Services each Sunday 11 am - 12.00

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 down to £5 for a £6 annual stake, plus a quarterly £5 bonus for 7 non-winners. If any new members of the village would like to join, contact either Mary Goulding on 840794, Joyce Gleed 840744 or Gwen Mason 840660.

## Whist drive

A whist drive is held in the village hall on the second Friday in the month, Fri 14 Aug 7.30 for 7.45pm. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. All profits to help maintain the village hall.

## Ladies' swimming club

The Club is open to any ladies from Sherston or the surrounding area. It is sociable and friendly and non competitive. We swim at the pool at Westonbirt School on Wednesday evenings between 8 and 9.30pm. The cost is £37 for 15 weeks. Shorter summer memberships may be possible. To join please 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 2.30pm in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday – 11 and 25 August. For further details contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143

## Clem's Club

Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday 2.30 – 3.30pm – 4 and 18 August.

## Sherston Badminton Club

We play every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm in the Village Hall from September to May.

All standards welcome. New season starts on 8th September 2009. For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592

## Church bell-ringing

Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00 pm. Bell-ringing is challenging and fun. New members are always welcome, churchgoer or not. Call Geoff Martin 840375 or just come along on the night.

## Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday 10 September at 7.30pm in the village hall. NB there is no meeting in August. Minutes of meetings can be read online at [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk)

Further details contact Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk)

## Sherston W.I.

Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall – 6 August.

A warm welcome awaits visitors and new members. For further details contact Maureen Jolliffe 01666 840867

## Salsa @ Sherston

Salsaflex salsa classes every Monday from 7.30 pm in the village hall. Experienced instructors teach both absolute beginners and improvers. There is no booking required - just turn up. Classes cost £5 for the evening (around 2 hours) To find out more visit [www.salsaflex.com](http://www.salsaflex.com) or call Fitz on 07950 711405

## Sherston Tennis Club

Sherston Tennis Club is a friendly, family-orientated club with two hard courts off Knockdown Rd in Sherston. Men's and other teams (when we have the players!) participate in the Wiltshire Summer League. Coaching is available in summer for adults and children. New members of any ability are welcome. Fees for the 2009/10 are: Family £80, Adult £45, Senior citizen £20, Junior (18 and under) £15. For more information, please contact the club secretary, Ashley Stopforth, on 01666 840825

## Sherston FC

The club was revived in 2008 winning promotion in its first season in the Stroud league. All home matches are played at Knockdown Park Sherston usually on Saturday afternoons - spectators welcome. Training every Wednesday evening - pop along if you are a new player. For more details contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or [peter.brock666@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.brock666@btinternet.com)

*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

## Sherston

### Tower Tours

Church tower open for visits on Sun 9 Aug 2-4pm. £2 including a cup of tea, with all proceeds to the church. Call Roger Whitehouse on 840640 to book your timed slot.

### Boules & Carnival Committee

**meeting** - 2009 debrief & committee election for 2010. Anyone interested in helping out with next year's Boules & Carnival week is warmly invited to attend the next committee meeting on Mon 17 Aug at 8pm at the Rattlebone Inn. If you are unable to attend but feel you can help in anyway, please contact Caroline on 841405 or [caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk](mailto:caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk)

### Village Party Bank holiday Monday

**August 31** village hall and field 12 noon - 6 pm. To include flower show and potato festival, BBQ, bar, stalls, raffle, bouncy castle and the Mangledwurzels live! Free entry.

*Further details contact 01666 840348*

### The Carpenter's Arms

#### Curry Quiz Night

Sun 9 Aug 7.30pm £5 pp entry including all you can eat curry buffet / £1 quiz entry only

Further details contact 840665

### The Rattlebone

**Boules league** - regular matches held midweek evenings at 7.15 and 8pm

**Live music from Leon Daye** Sat 1 Aug 9pm

**Lobber Jenkins all day Boules knockout competition with all proceeds to 1016**

Sat 29 Aug more details of how to enter will be in the pub

**Authentic Curry Night - Thai & Indian**

with music from Bob Bowles Sun 30 Aug 7pm

*Further details 840871 or [www.therattlebone.co.uk](http://www.therattlebone.co.uk)*

## Westonbirt

### The Arboretum

Festival of the Tree 24 - 31 Aug £8 adult / £3 child

Family Events - activity days:

Fabulous Fibres Tues 4 - Thurs 6 Aug; Tree People Tues 11 - Thurs 13 Aug; Wonderful world of wood 24-31 Aug - All 1030- 4.30pm ages 4+ free after admission

Guided walks take place every Saturday and Sunday at 2pm from Easter to October. Free of charge after admission.

**The 2009 Holford Heritage Tour** Guided walk through certain areas of the house and landscaped gardens. Now open to individuals - book early 6,11,19 & 25 August 10am - 3.30pm £18

**Workshop - Willow structures for your garden**

Sat 29 Aug 10.30am - 3.30pm £50 Booking essential. Call Nora Kennedy 01453 751010

*Further details contact 880220 or [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt)*

## Westonbirt School

Le Pescatrici (The Fishergirls) by FJ Haydn  
Open air opera on the Orangery Terrace with the Bampton Classical  
Opera Company Sun 30 Aug 5pm £28.50  
Further details contact 880333 or [www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk)

## Shipton Moyne

### Cotswold Soccer Schools

2 courses run by FA qualified coaches for 5  
years + and 15 years +

Tues 18 - Thurs 20 Aug & Tues 25 - Thurs 27 9.30am - 3.30pm 1 day  
£15, 2 days £30, 3 days £40 Shipton Moyne Recreation ground  
Further details contact Colin Stevens 07739 878849 or Jo Johnson 07518 017363

## Malmesbury

### Carnival

Aug 2- 6 Sep Full month of events including quizzes, historical  
walks, poetry, ceilidh, music events, Caribbean salsa party, bike rides,  
culminating in float procession & carnival on Sun 30 Aug  
Various locations in and around Malmesbury  
Programme on line at [www.malmesburycarnival.co.uk](http://www.malmesburycarnival.co.uk) or contact 823276

## Easton Grey

### Whatley Manor

Teen Tuesday cinema screenings & lunch  
'Confessions of a Shopaholic' 4 Aug; 'Wall-E' 11; 'Mamma Mia' 18; &  
'The Dark Knight' 25 Aug Lunch from 12 noon screening 3pm £23  
for teenager £29 adult- includes 2 course lunch, film & popcorn  
Jazz Sundays with the Solent City Jazzmen Sun 23 Aug 12 noon -  
3.30pm £37 includes 3 course lunch at Le Mazot  
Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner  
'The Young Victoria' Sun 30 Aug £37 includes 3 course lunch or dinner,  
film & popcorn  
Further details contact 834026 or [www.whatleymanor.com](http://www.whatleymanor.com)

## Chippenham

### Events in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Diana Lodge summer party in aid of WAA  
Sat 1 Aug 7pm £7.50 on the door includes BBQ The West End Club,  
Audley Rd, Chippenham  
Dragon Boat racing on the River Avon  
Sat 29 Aug 10am - 4pm Watch teams of 16 paddle in time to a  
drummer - or enter a team with sponsorship of min £400 for your  
charity & Rotary club of Wiltshire Vale for details on how to enter see  
[www.rotary-chippenham-wv.org.uk/events/current/db2009.html](http://www.rotary-chippenham-wv.org.uk/events/current/db2009.html)  
Chippenham River Festival  
29 - 30 Aug More details from Ms L Crabtree 01249 656172  
Further details contact Melanie Gee 0845 1221423 or  
[www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events.htm](http://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events.htm)

## Cirencester

### Cotswold Early Music Festival

Minerva 7.45pm £12 Upper Siddington  
Dame Emma Kirkby & London Baroque Fri 24 July 7.45pm £15 Corn  
Hall, Cirencester  
Misericordia Sat 25 July 7.45pm £12 Upper Siddington  
Further details contact 01285 654180 or [www.cirencester-emf.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.cirencester-emf.fsnet.co.uk)

## Stanton St Quintin

### Family Fun Day

- face painting, bouncy castle, BBQ, afternoon teas, ice cream & stalls  
Sat 15 Aug 11am - 4pm free entry Stanton Manor  
Further details contact 837552 or [www.stantonmanor.co.uk/events](http://www.stantonmanor.co.uk/events)

## Kemble

### Gloucestershire Steam & Vintage Show

Fri 7 - Sun 9 Aug £5-8, juniors £3-4, under 5s free. Advance  
discounted tickets from Tetbury Tourist office  
Further details contact 01453 762508 or [www.steamextravaganza.com](http://www.steamextravaganza.com)

## Corsham

### The Pound

A level showcase - coursework from 4 local schools including  
Malmesbury till 29 Aug  
Creative workshops for the school holidays:  
Fun with Glass - painting & etching Wed 5 Aug Mosaics Wed 12 Aug  
Creative Jewellery Making Wed 19 Aug Puppet Making Wed 26 Aug  
10am - 1pm ages 6 - 11; 2pm - 5pm 11years + The Pound  
Further details contact Box Office 01249 701628 or [www.poundarts.org.uk](http://www.poundarts.org.uk)

## Nailsworth

### Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Professional football only 20 minutes drive from Sherston.  
Home matches: Sat 1 Aug 3pm v Exeter City; Sat 8 Aug 3pm Kettering  
Town; Tues 18 Aug 7.45pm Luton Town; Sat 29 Aug 3pm Wrexham  
Adults £15 concessions £10 under 16's £7 (for Wrexham game see  
coupon on p.16 for reduced ticket prices)  
There are plans for a mini bus to take Cliffhanger readers to see FGR  
v Wrexham on Aug 29. The cost will be very reasonable. For further  
details and to book a seat please ring Martin Rea on 840348 or email  
[martdrea@aol.com](mailto:martdrea@aol.com)  
The New Lawn Forest Green Nailsworth  
Further details contact 01453 834860 or [www.forestgreenroversfc.com](http://www.forestgreenroversfc.com)

## Bath

### Theatre Royal

The Peter Hall Company Season 2009 including The Browning Version,  
Swansong, The Apple Cart, Home, Balmoral, Another Door Closed  
till 29 August 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £15-35  
Balmoral with Rik Mayall Wed 5 - Sat 22 Aug 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35  
Rain Man with Neil Morrissey & Oliver Chris Wed 26 - Sat 5 Sept  
7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35  
Book ahead for: Pornography; Bath Light Operatic Group with  
Sweeney Todd, The demon barber of Fleet Street; Entertaining Angels  
with Penelope Keith; Shakers; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor  
Dreamcoat; Dial m for Murder; Mrs Warren's Profession  
Further details contact 01225 448844 or [www.theatreroyal.org.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk)

## Calne

### Bowood House

Learn golf in a week  
Tuition Mon 3 Aug 6-7pm and 2 hours on the course on Sat 8 Aug £60  
for the course - all equipment supplied Booking essential - 01249 822228  
Junior Golf course Mon 3 - Fri 7 Aug 9am - 3pm £100 for the week - min age 7 yrs  
Wiltshire Game & Country Fair with Living Heritage  
Falconry, equestrian, dogs, angling, food and craft stalls Sat 8- Sun 9  
Aug 10am - 6pm £8 adt / £4 chd  
Further details contact 01249 812102 or [www.bowood-house.co.uk](http://www.bowood-house.co.uk)

## Lacock

### Special Events at Lacock Abbey & Village

The Mowgli Stories Sat 1 Aug 7 - 9.30pm, gates open from 6pm for  
picnics Bring a rug £14 adt / £8 chd / family ticket £38 (2+2)  
Wizard Trail - self led 1 - 18 Aug free after admission  
Family activity days 6,7,13 and 14 Aug free after admission  
Nuns of Lacock Abbey - timed performances throughout the day from  
11am - 4pm 15 & 16 Aug free after admission  
Further details contact 01249 730459 or [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock)

## Bishops Cleeve

### Prescott Vintage Speed Hill Climb over 400 pre-war vintage cars

31 Jul - 2 Aug £15 Fri / Sat £25 Sun - cheaper if bought in advance  
from [www.vssc.co.uk](http://www.vssc.co.uk) Prescott Lodge, Gotherington  
Further details contact 01608 644888 or [www.vssc.co.uk](http://www.vssc.co.uk)

## Bristol

### Harbour Festival

Fri 31 Jul - Sun 2 Aug Free events and  
entertainment all weekend see website for details listed in July  
Further details contact 0117 922 3287 or [www.bristolharbourfestival.co.uk](http://www.bristolharbourfestival.co.uk)

### Balloon Fiesta

Thurs 6 - Sun 9 Aug Mass early launch Fri  
- Sun at 6am. Nightglow mass launches on Thurs & Sat at 9.30pm  
Red Arrows display Sat 5pm Free entry - car parking £7 if bought in  
advance. Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton  
Further details contact 0117 953 5884 or [www.bristolfiesta.co.uk](http://www.bristolfiesta.co.uk)

## Slimbridge

### Wildfowl and wetlands centre

Landrover Safaris every weekend and daily in school holidays 11am &  
2pm £5/£3 chd - book tours with David Bell 01453 891 223  
Nothing by moonlight Fri 21 Aug 9pm £6 adt / £4 chd  
Taming of the Shrew with Gloucester based Rain or Shine theatre group  
Sun 16 Aug 7.30pm £12adt / £7 chd bring your own picnic & rugs  
Further details contact Rebecca Law 01453 891223 or  
[www.wwt.org.uk/centre/122/slimbridge.html](http://www.wwt.org.uk/centre/122/slimbridge.html)

## Gatcombe Park

Gatcombe Park Horse Trial - The classic one day  
eventing trial 7-9Aug 8-5pm £8-£15, family tickets available from £39  
Further details contact 0871 789 1423 or [www.gatcombe-horse.co.uk](http://www.gatcombe-horse.co.uk)