

# Financial cloud has silver lining



The financial crisis brought an unexpected bonus for Sherston schoolchildren.

For, thanks to a fall-off in the building trade, the school's new seventh classroom was in use six weeks earlier than expected.

Mr Stewart's Sycamore class, for year six pupils, moved into the new room on 14 November.

As headteacher Nick Bowditch said, the economic downturn in the construction industry meant the builders were able to draft in extra staff to complete the job.

"When the site manager rang to ask for two roofers, he was asked if he could take three," said Mr Bowditch.

Ms Wild's Willow class, who have been camping in the IT suite for the last year, have their own room again in the former Sycamore room and the whole school has easier access to the computers.

The seventh classroom became necessary when the number of children on the school roll rose to more than 180.

Now, for the first time in many years, the school has a separate class for each of its seven year groups.

Sherston School hopes soon to start preparing its proposed wildlife area alongside Sopworth Road.

## Christmas lights

The new low-energy lights have been ordered and will be seen this festive season in the High Street. High Street residents who would like some lights on their property should contact councillor Cilla Liddington on 840128, email [sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk) to make the necessary arrangements.

## Vandalism

In recent months, the High Street bus shelter and play equipment on the recreation ground have been vandalised. The vandalism to the play equipment resulted in a safety hazard which could have caused serious injury to a child. The police are aware of these incidents and should be contacted at Malmesbury Police Station on 0845 408 7000 if you have information about who is responsible.

## Fly tipping

Rubbish, including a bed, was recently dumped on the sports field. It was removed by the district council at the usual cost to the council taxpayer. If you have any information about who is responsible for fly tipping in the parish, contact the parish clerk.



## We're Getting There

You'll notice that more and more local groups are providing us with information about their events and activities to ensure that everyone in the parish is aware of what's going on. Please keep the copy coming. If you haven't yet provided any, it's time to stop hiding your light under that bushel.

Adverts have also increased markedly this month, thanks to the advertising team. Please note that we have set an advertising limit of 25 per cent of the newsletter. If you're thinking of advertising, contact us quickly before we fill our quota.

We promised last month to let you know a little more of who does what so here goes:

**editorial team:** Beryl Clampton, Lynda Fleming, Frank Hatt, John Mackison, Richard Maslin, Caroline Moore, Phil Moore, Paul Ormiston and Martin Rea - ie all of us - although we're under the ever-watchful eye of Lynda most of the time.

**copy editor:** Lynda Fleming

**What's On:** Caroline Moore

**design and layout:** Paul Ormiston

**distribution:** Beryl Clampton and a small army of volunteers.

**advertising:** John Mackison and Beryl Clampton

Without our distributors we couldn't possibly ensure that every household and business receives a free copy every month. Thank you all.

If you'd like to get involved in the production, editorial, advertising or distribution of Cliffhanger, let us know. If you have an idea for a regular feature, get in touch. And we very much welcome your feedback, good or bad. Contact us by email at [info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk) or call 01666 841405.

Finally, all at Cliffhanger wish you and your loved ones a very merry Christmas.

## Getting your message across

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, don't hesitate to tell us. Copy should be delivered by the 15th of the month before the next edition by email to [editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk). Paper copy can be left at Sherston Post Office Stores. Any photographs you feel would enhance your copy would be most appreciated.

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.

## Distribution

Cliffhanger is delivered free at the beginning of every month to all households and businesses in the parish by our group of wonderful volunteers. Sherston, however, is full of nooks and crannies and occasionally a house or business is inadvertently missed out. Anyone who isn't getting their copy regularly should let our distribution guru Beryl Clampton know on 840201 or email [beryl@clampton.com](mailto:beryl@clampton.com) and we can get it right the following month. Those who want an extra copy will find them in the post office or the surgery.

## New play equipment

At November's meeting, the parish council agreed to purchase a basket swing for the recreation ground. This will be paid for from the £4,057 which North Wiltshire District Council gave us for a piece of equipment for the use of disabled youngsters and their carers. We hope the swing will be in place shortly, perhaps even by Christmas.

### Sherston Post Office Stores



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## Cliffhanger on line

You can now get your copy on line by going to [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk) and clicking on the Sherston Cliffhanger page. Previous editions are also available on line. It's a great way for former residents or those away on holiday to keep up with what's going on.

## Unique person scoops unique award



*Pic L to R: Ruth Langford, Anthea and Davis Rees, editor of Convenience Store magazine*

Sherston sales assistant Anthea Young has won a national award.

She beat 89 others to scoop the title Sales Assistant of the Year in the independent stores category of Convenience Store magazine's annual competition.

'Anthea's unique and we've been very, very lucky to have her services for more than 20 years,' said her employer Paul Mather of Sherston Post Office Stores.

'This is the only accolade in the convenience store industry which rewards those at the sharp end of retailing so she's done well.

'Anthea's attitude epitomises the difference between shopping at a village shop and at a large convenience store or supermarket.'

After a drinks reception and a night in a luxury London hotel, Anthea received her cash prize at the Dorchester Hotel last month from This Morning TV presenter Ruth Langford.

She was joined by other category winners from groups such as Spar and the petrol forecourt sector.

The process started in September with a testament from a local resident and Anthea completing a questionnaire about her responsibilities and reaction to day-to-day situations.

This was followed by an in-depth interview by the magazine's deputy editor and a senior executive from Mars confectionery.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Sherston is fortunate in having a Neighbourhood Watch scheme which fully covers the parish. This has been achieved over a number of years by our local coordinator Chris Bowyer to whom we are grateful.

Chris now feels the time has come for him gracefully to retire and he is looking for someone to continue his role. He is more than happy to work alongside his replacement over a few months to ensure a smooth handover.

As the scheme is completely in place, the job involves keeping the local wardens up-to-date with information supplied by the police and ensuring new wardens are found when a vacancy arises.

The parish council supports the scheme financially by paying an annual sum for expenses to the coordinator.

If you think you might be interested in the role, contact Chris on 840478 for a no obligation chat.

## Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 11 December at 7.30pm in the village hall. All are welcome and there are opportunities to raise questions and pass comments. If you cannot attend the meeting but have something to raise, contact our clerk Mrs Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk). You can also contact the council via the response form on our website [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk) where minutes of meetings are to be found.

## Sherston Village Hall 200+ Club

October winners

1st	Tom Dryden (no. 57)	£10
2nd	Phil Thompson (no. 32)	£9
3rd	Avile Kress (no.118)	£8
4th	Jayne Devenson (no.119)	£7
5th	Gwenda Evans (no.113)	£6
6th	Mrs Y. Knight (no.233)	£5
7th	Sheila Mason (no.18)	£4

### Cliffhanger Crossword No 1 – answers

**Across:** 1. Trumpf; 5. Norman; 10. Silver Streakers; 11; Studio. 12. Ormiston; 13. Prison; 15. Neil; 16. Rae; 17. Relates; 22. Hairiest; 23. Magna; 25. Stretchline Mill. 26. Ardern; 27. Panto

**Down:** 2. Roister; 3. Moved; 4. Forlorn; 6. Overman; 7. Makeshift; 8. Norton; 9. Strong; 14. Sea Breeze; 17. Rattle; 18. Lamont; 19. Scarlett; 20. Tartars. 21. Descend; 24. Gemma


**R & B**


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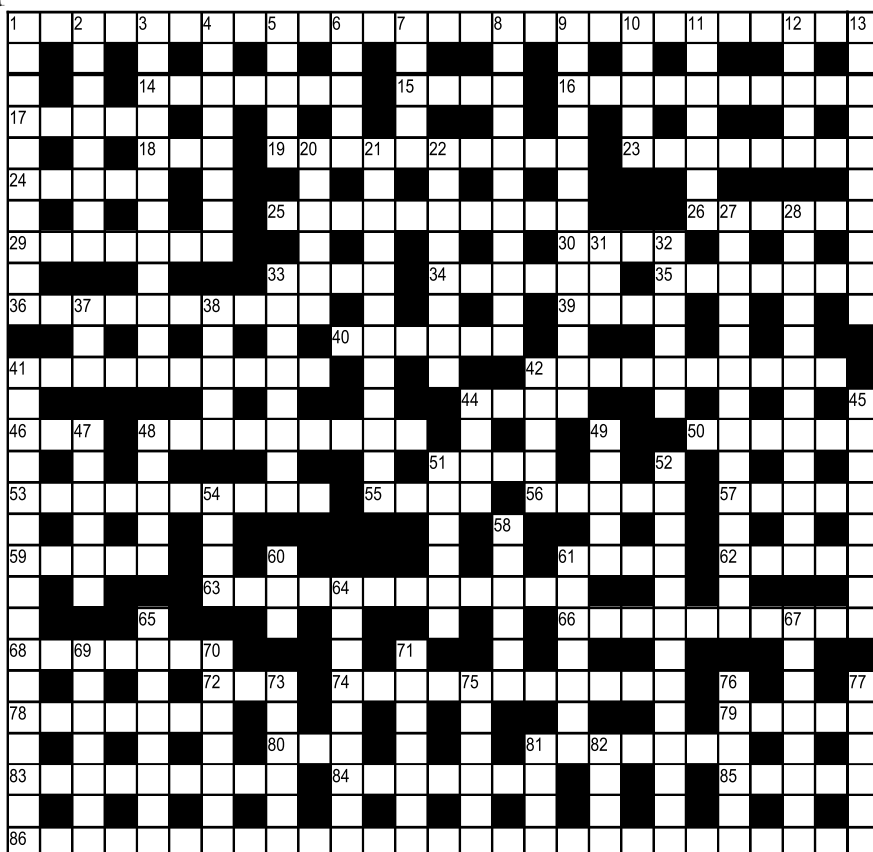
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#### Clues across:

1. How a well-known 7 described a duo's departure on The Feast of Stephen (4,3,7,5,4,4)
14. Dennis, for example. If he lived in South London, would he be Green? (7)
15. Sleep for the others? (4)
16. Seventeen all out? Two points deducted from Rattlebone's team of cricketers! (4,7)
17. According to the seasonal song, all I want for Christmas is two of these at the front (5)
18. The Carpenter's Arms, for example – or where there was no room in the Nativity play (3)
19. Able to rent out the skittles alley here? Better ask Jason! (10)
23. In Austria, press kit is provided for those who have finished on the slopes? (5,3)
24. Pet in confused state is quite useless! (5)
25. Sherston snippers? (5,5)
26. Of Caspiar, Melchior and Balthasar, who was the savviest? (6)
29. Assembles and gets it! (7)
30. Desire to extract a part of 9 (4)
33. What they may drink with their Christmas lunch in Athens, say? (4)
34. Country gentleman – such as the one who captained the winners of the Lobber Jenkins tournament in 2008? (6)
35. Abbreviated way of describing the 24th (4,3)
36. Sherston's Mike, a star of 16, is a crazy ghost rider? (10)
39. Hold on tight to Barnaby Rudge's bird? (4)
40. How New Seeker might resume the search? (6)
41. Siblings Karen and Richard, for example, after whom a Sherston hostelry is named? Not exactly! (10)
42. *Poules*, of which there are three at this time of year (6,4)
44. (& 60 down): Superb – missing nothing, and begotten rather than created, according to the 7 (4,3)
46. In shortened form, Edward leads the English dragoons (3)
48. Frenzied anger follows loud sound – it always comes back! (9)
50. Have a great liking for 21 (6)
51. A palindrome, like Karenina, for example (4)
53. Alice, Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, Charlotte, Margaret, Caroline, Jane and Harriet, for example – dancing together in the Christmas song? (4,6)
55. Rugby team (Sharks!) in seasonal shopping event which usually kicks off on Boxing Day? (4)
56. Bugs Bunny has his tail chopped off by Jewish minister? (5)
57. Specifically, what were being looked at When Shepherds watched their Flocks by Night? (5)
59. (& 49 down): Upon which meals are prepared all over the country – not just in this Tetbury restaurant! (5,5)
61. Man like 007, for example, is decapitated (4)
62. Topic of interest – a Big one of which is sold by London's homeless (5)
63. Disrupt Parliament when sitting at this eatery near Tetbury? (7,5)
66. Number of birds for which things go swimmingly in the Christmas song? (5,5)
68. Semi-nude Hardy heroine hangs around no place (7)
72. Atom replaces the middle of 18 with nothing at all! (3)
74. In Rome, cards are spread among those who participate in this traditional Boules Day event (6,5)
78. Studying a town just off the M4 (7)
79. What sort of idiot puts a railhead in the middle of a satellite? (5)
80. Vaughan won this container in 2005; Ponting took it back in 2006; let's hope KP claims it in 2009! (3)
81. Unhappy, as "Born Free" would have been without Adamson, for example (7)
83. A scorpion savaged by rogues (9)
84. Tom Lamb arranged the lottery (7)
85. First tubas, ukuleles, trombones, trumpets – instruments to be played by all the orchestra (5)
86. Not good advice for participants in the Boxing Day hunt – but oh what fun it is.... (2,4,2,1,3,5,4,6)

# Cliffhanger Xmas Jumbo No2

#### Clues down

1. Several varieties of what my true love brought me first? (10)
2. Highly inexperienced, but the most environmentally responsible (8)
3. The Colosseum, for example, or how some describe where the Sherston Tug of War is contested? (12)
4. The -----, If they had had their way with their 2003 Christmas number one, the bells would still be ringing! (8)
5. O! hard stink (5)
6. Part of Maharaja's settlement is something of considerable value (5)
7. Something that Vorderman, for example, sings at this time of year? (5)
8. Not troubling the scorers, like the team that propped up first division of the Boules League this year? (3,3,1,4)
9. Surely, Roy gets drunk here? Not at all - this is where he should go for treatment! (6,7)
10. Opera about the destruction of Ascot? (5)
11. Point to the old hilltop – a feature that may be raised in surprise? (7)
12. Lives strangely? He often has nights at the 41 (5)
13. When Sherston's famous battle was fought – 900 years before the Somme! (3,7)
20. Stick a bill in this place, we hear? (6)
21. Easton Grey producers of mustard, for example, follow the French chaps to the outskirts of Tours? (12)
22. Canes she turns into ready money? (8)
27. 7 is a confession by pub-crawler in Luckington suffering from triple-vision! (1,3,5,5)
28. Football or cricket team full of musicians sent as one of a number of Christmas presents? (6,6)
31. Paris railway for leaders of royal European residence? (1,1,1)
32. "As I know more of mankind I \_\_\_\_\_ less of them" (Johnson) (6)
33. Unjustly injure a horse going to Rhode Island on the 24th of this month? (8)
37. Sounds like some time belonging to us? (3)
38. In part of Britain, trombone plays the opening notes (5)
41. Characters such as Tom and Rhubarb's companion play with a spinning top in this Shipton Moyne establishment (3,3,7,3)
42. Holy man who was a sort of cooker, we hear? (5)
44. Sort of tree in Norton (4)
45. Leader of show jumpers, for example, like bargain-hunters descending on places like Cribbs Causeway? (8)
47. Was Pavlova, for example, one of Rudolph's co-workers? (6)
48. What the Brontes really were – beautiful women, we hear! (5)
49. See 59.
51. Land on a spark? (6)
52.  $13 + 495 =$  when the great fire hit Sherston (7,6)
54. Unfortunate tide many plan to go on after the festive season? (4)
58. Darrens, or Vans, or decorators like Sherston's Chris? (6)
60. See 44 across
61. Was postage disrupted by this police force (7)
64. Pointless to mention bad, crazy place just off the B4040 (9)
65. One inside house by a road where rainfall is very rare (8)
67. Time rota was rewritten – in this Spenser sonnet? (8)
69. Almost identical stable-companion of 47? (7)
70. Italian gentlemen put their name to nothing really interesting, primarily (7)
71. Celebrate a victory (7)
73. In part, does Madonna use alcohol to excess? If so, this may be the result! (6)
75. Do in or move inside the house? (6)
76. It is removed from frothy, maltiest draught served in the Rattlebone? (6)
77. Where the 48 ding-dong merrily (2,4)
81. Exhaust a 19 team member (4)
82. Allegedly, a traditional expression of greeting among members of the Order of the Sherston Mangold Hurlers – or lengthy talk about a redhead? (4)

# The trials of a Sherston lad

*Local historian Cilla Liddington has recently received the following from her distant cousin John Apps of Sydney, Australia. It tells of a young Sherston couple facing a bleak Christmas and New Year in 1819.*

Times is tough but perhaps we can take comfort from the fact that times were a lot tougher for our ancestors.

James Neal was born in Sherston on 2 March 1800 to William and Sarah Neal. At the age of 19, his life was to be turned upside down.

On 10 March 1819, James married Mary Ann Sayer also from Sherston. James and Mary Ann had their first child, Gabriel, in October that year. But Gabriel died less than a month after his birth.

On 22 December of the same year, a few days before Christmas, further tragedy befell this young couple when a warrant was issued for the arrest of James on a charge of stealing.

The new year held no hope for James and Mary Ann and, on 11 January 1820, James along with William Curtis (snr) and William Curtis (jnr), was tried. Court records contain the following notice:

*Committed by T Smith, Esq. Charges on the oaths of Isaac Manning, and others, with having in company with William Wilcox, feloniously broken into the barn of the said Isaac Manning, at Sherston Magna, and stolen thereout ten bushels of wheat.*

For their crimes, James Neal and William Curtis (jnr) were sentenced, 'to be transported beyond the seas for the term of seven years. In the mean time to be confined in the County Gaol.' William Curtis (snr) was sentenced, 'to be imprisoned in the House of Correction at the Devizes for two years of hard labour.' William Wilcox was also sentenced on this day.

In May 1820, James and William were transported to Van Diemen's Land (modern-day Tasmania) on board the Guildford. After completing his sentence and getting his ticket of leave, James Neal married Susannah Finch Richards in Hobart on 28 May 1833. James and Susannah had 12 children between 1833 and 1855, all born in Hobart. James worked as a stone mason until his death on 17 March 1871.

Mary Ann (Sayer) Neal never remarried but remained in Sherston and had six children bearing the Neal name.

Times was tough!

John Apps, great-great-grandson of James Neal.

*Cilla believes that the barn where the theft took place may have been at 25 High Street, now called The Granary. On the 1840 tithe map Samuel Manning, son of Isaac, is shown as owning the property which was known to have a barn to the rear.*

*Readers may be surprised that James had two wives but the cost often made returning to England out of the question for most former convicts. Divorce for the ordinary person was not available until the late 1800s and was expensive and scandalous. The solution was to allow convicts to remarry after seven years' separation*



*as long as their spouse was abroad. This was government policy as marriage was seen as a means of rehabilitation and more desirable than de facto relationships. James fitted the bill and so was able to marry Susannah.*

*Alfred Augustus Neal a grandson of James Neal*

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01666840871 'eat@therattlebone.co.uk'



# Caring youngsters earn brownie points



The 1st Sherston Brownies' bring and buy sale raised £50 towards a new stairlift for the surgery.

After collecting items from home for the sale, they spent their pocket money on goods brought by other Brownies.

The oldest Brownie Rosie Parks, who is about to leave, presented their cheque to Dr Pip Pettit.

'We're trying to raise £2,200 for the new stairlift,' said Dr Pettit. 'So far we've raised £500 from various sources including donations from Sherston WI and from patients receiving flu jabs we would otherwise have charged for, from a bingo night and from a 'spot the staff member' baby picture contest run by the surgery.

Donations would be gratefully received at The Tolsey surgery.

## Bonfire thanks

Sherston's Bonfire Night celebrations were a great success and the threatened rain and high winds almost held off until the end of the display.

Sherston 1016 thanks all who helped stage the event: the sponsors for their financial support; Brian Littlejohns, Martin Ward, Andy Walden, Shaun Scott and Tony Towle for help building the bonfire; the two Scouts, Harry Sutcliffe and Ryan Walker, who helped build and light the bonfire and with safety fencing; the Hillier family for their continuing generosity in sharing their land with the village; Stedman Nicholas for helping on the gate and for sponsoring the skip hire; and to those neighbouring the field - Pat, Stan, Maggie and Phylip - for their patience, electricity, water and hot drinks.

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# Homeshare

**Homeshare** is a simple way of helping people to help each other. It involves two people who need different things:

somewhere to stay      or  
support or company at home

## Are you a householder?

Do you have a home that you would be willing to share in return for some help each week? (Personal care does not qualify)

## Would you like to be a homesharer?

Do you want a place to call home?

## The scheme offers: the householder

- the ability to stay in your own home and community
- help with some everyday tasks
- company
- the safety of having someone in the house at night
- freedom from worry for your family and friends

## the homesharer

- free accommodation in exchange for ten hours' support a week
- company
- a safe and friendly place to live
- the chance to save money

## How it works

Contact the Homeshare coordinator who will ask what you want from the arrangement. When a possible match is found, the introduction process starts. Ongoing support will be available.

For more information, please contact Susan Verity at Wiltshire County Council on 07733 091915 or email [homeshare@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:homeshare@wiltshire.gov.uk)

You may also telephone the social care help desk on 01225 713001 who will pass your enquiry to Susan Verity.

# Sherston Calendar 2009

Sherston Post Office Stores have been selling the 2009 calendar featuring images taken by Don Bremner. The calendar costs £4.99 and ten per cent of the price will go to Sherston 1016 to help fund the Christmas vouchers for the elderly. The limited print run means that you will need to act quickly to guarantee your purchase!



# Christmas vouchers

Senior citizens in Sherston and Easton Grey can expect to receive their £10 vouchers, to be spent locally, on Saturday 20 December. Eligibility is as before: one voucher per household containing either a person over 65, a widow or a widower. If you have recently become eligible or know someone who has, please contact Eric Thacker on 841344 as soon as possible to ensure a voucher this year.

# Rattlebone Christmas raffle

This is now one of Sherston 1016's major fundraisers and goes a long way to providing the £2,000 needed for Christmas vouchers for the senior citizens of Sherston and Easton Grey. As usual, Jason Read and staff have kindly amassed a large array of wonderful prizes. You can enter now for only £1. The draw will take place on Tuesday 23 December at 9 pm at the Rattlebone Christmas party. The party starts at 7pm with carol singing to the Dodington parish band and free mince pies.

# Busy Hands' quiz night - watch this space

Tickets will be on sale early this month for Busy Hands pre-school's annual fund-raising quiz, auction and raffle evening. January's event was a great success and the industrious hands organising next month's fund-raiser are determined to improve on the record of approximately £700 they raised then. So watch this space for an updated list of the items to be auctioned and the raffle prizes in next month's event. It takes place in the village hall on Saturday 17 January at 8.00pm. Tickets are £12 for a table of four and will be on sale at the post office and from Busy Hands' committee members.



Sherston 'Busy Hands' Pre-School

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## Let there be light....

The village hall committee is grateful to the boules and carnival committee for a grant of £650 from this year's event. This has been used to renew and improve the outside lighting for safety and security.

## ....and heat.

The hall committee hopes that, by the beginning of December, the new heating system will be installed in both halls.

The old electric heating in the small hall was extremely inefficient and the gas boiler in the large hall was well past its sell-by date with all-too-frequent breakdowns and expensive repairs.

The new system is based on air to air-source heat pumps and works in the same way as a fridge uses refrigerant to extract heat from the inside to keep food cool. An air-source heat pump uses heat extracted from the outside air to heat the two halls through wall-mounted fan units. The system produces more than three units of heat for every unit of electricity used to power the pumps. It is even possible for the pumps to extract useful heat from outside air temperatures as low as minus 15C.

The capital costs of installing the system were relatively high at more than £17,000 but a grant of £10,000 came from North Wiltshire District Council and a further £5,000 from the county council's village hall grants panel. The remaining £2000+ was raised from the village party in June (£1,000) and from grants from Sherston Arts Festival and the boules and carnival committee in 2007.

The new system will reduce the hall's energy costs which, for electricity and gas, are presently well over £3,000 pa. This in turn will enable the hire charges for the hall to be kept as low as possible.

## Table amnesty

We appear to have 'lost' a large table from the hall. These cost more than £150 to replace so we'd like it back, please. If you've borrowed it and forgotten to return it, now's your chance. Just ring Noel Banks on 840535 on a 'no names no pack drill' basis to make the arrangements.

### *Grays of Sherston*

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\*\*\*

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## 200+ club

The club is a vital part of fundraising for the hall and makes a valuable annual contribution towards basic running costs which are now considerably more than £10,000.

Subscriptions for 2009 will be due in January and we hope current members will wish to renew. Your support over the years has been invaluable.

If you're not already a member, why not join in 2009? It only costs 50p a month and 50 per cent of the proceeds are returned in prize money. You should find an application form with this edition of The Cliffhanger to encourage you.

Special thanks to the 200+ club organisers: Gwen Mason, Mary Goulding, Joyce Glead, Janet Platts and Margaret Yeend.

## A big THANK YOU

to those who came on Saturday 22 November to the British Schoolroom in Cliff Road to eat cake, drink tea and drop off their shoeboxes.

The boxes were taken to the Chippenham checking depot and later dispatched from Melksham.

A certificate has been received from the head office of Operation Christmas Child acknowledging the role Sherston played in kick-starting this now global phenomenon. More than 7 million boxes went to more than 80 countries last year.

From 1991 until 2004, this village checked and packed more than 200,000 boxes given by donors from here to Lands End. The team and more than 70 annual volunteers were responsible for this feat before going out to train Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and finally Bristol to cope on their own. Bristol now has three despatch centres and the operation continues to grow...and grow....

WELL DONE ALL. KEEP THE SMILES GOING.

Mary Clements



### AMAZING SHOES FOR HOME, SCHOOL, PARTY AND PLAY

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Telephone: 01666 841 346



If you have queries, contact Tony Towle on 01666 840574.



Sherston Drama Group set sail with *Sinbad* by Stuart Adem - an offering high on traditional panto values: villains, heroes, song, dance and a shipload of wonderful corn masquerading as jokes. *Sinbad* must win the hand of lovely Princess Shaheen, or she's landed with Al Capone, a dastardly villain with a violin case. Which of course he does.

Sam Dunne, not short of acting talent, was an authoritative *Sinbad*; Alice Ormiston impressed as Princess Shaheen; and Kevin Smith, rouged and regal, was Fattyma Falafel, panto dame par excellence. Shaun Scott's dapper Al Capone was straight out of Chicago; David Jarrett gave a commanding performance as his sidekick, Ali Gator; and Andrew Baker's eccentric Ali Kazam hit the spot. Richard Warren was in and out of costume as the Caliph of Warezit (gettit?!!) and Robinson Crusoe. To complete the jumble of characters, Ewan Maskrey and Andrew Tremellen played two Aussies with great conviction - or did the tinnies help? Caroline Dickenson was a glam pirate captain with earrings you could hang a bunk on; Imogen Cambridge was (operated by?) the One-Eyed Giant; Amie Andrew was Little Rok; Bonamy Smith graduated from the chorus to play Person Friday; and Nikki Sanders and Chris Riley

were sparky crew members. Charlie Brock and Harry Andrews were the one-and-a-half-humped camel.

But to get everyone sailing full steam ahead needed much more. This was supplied by the exceptional chorus line of kids and the valiant backstage grafters. Such a production needed skilful hands on the tiller, which it got from its two directors, Richard Skeffington and Richard Warren.

#### Miles Ewell

The drama group is now planning its spring play which is planned for the week after Easter. If you would like to get involved, call the chairman Richard Skeffington on 840092 or the secretary Suzanne Price on 840041.

**PAWS FOR THOUGHT**

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All at competitive rates

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# 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.

## Congregational church

Communion service

Sun 14 Dec 11am

Praise service followed by coffee

Sun 28 Dec 11am

For further details see the *Parish Life* available from the church or the post office.

## Village hall 200+ club

Monthly draw prizes ranging from £10 to £4 for a £6 annual stake. If 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 at 7.30pm 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

For children aged 9 and over. We meet on Monday evenings in Sherston Village Hall 6.45 to 8.15. The cost, inclusive of all materials, is £2.50 per evening payable in advance each half term. To join, please contact Sue Ormiston on 840694.

*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.*



## YOGA CLASSES FOR ALL ABILITIES

**Monday:** 9.30 - 11.00 at Chedworth  
2.00 - 3.30 at Cirencester  
(Yoga for Softies)  
7.45 - 9.00 at Cirencester

**Weds:** 9.30 - 11.00 at Daplingworth  
6.00 - 7.30, 7.30 - 9.00 at Fairford

**Thursday:** 9.30 - 11.00 at Chedworth  
12.30 - 2.00 at Tetbury

**FOR MORE DETAILS  
CONTACT Susan (BWT Teacher)  
01285 651150**

# WHAT'S ON

## Sherston

### The Rattlebone

#### Rattlebone Christmas party

Tues 23 Dec from 7.30pm Sing carols along with the Dodington brass band.

Huge raffle in aid of Sherston 1016

#### Nobody's Business live

Christmas party night Sat 27 Dec 8pm

#### New Year's Eve fancy dress party

Wed 31 Dec from 9pm

Theme: pantos and musicals with prizes and giveaways.

Four-course New Year's Eve menu £30

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

### The Carpenter's Arms

#### Karaoke night

Fri 12 Dec 9pm

#### Christmas Day

Join us 12-2pm or 7-9.30pm

#### New Year's Eve party

Music and free nibbles 9pm

Further details 840665

### United carol service for all churches in Sherston

Sun 21 Dec 6pm at the church of the Holy Cross

Further details see the *Parish Life* magazine

### Sherston Junior Choir Christmas praise Congregational church's 11th annual event

Sun 7 Dec 3 - 4pm at The British School Rooms, Cliff Rd

Further details see the *Parish Life* magazine

### Friends of Sherston School Christmas fair Craft stalls and festive cheer

Fri 5 Dec 4.30 - 6.30pm Sherston School, Knockdown Rd

Further details 840237 or [www.sherston.wilts.sch.uk/fss.html](http://www.sherston.wilts.sch.uk/fss.html)

### Village hall Christmas whist drive Raffle and refreshments

Fri 12 Dec 7.30 for 7.45 Village hall £2 entry

### Busy Hands pre-school

#### Advance notice of the annual quiz night

Sat 17 Jan 2009 8pm at the village hall £12 for team of four.

Further details 840232

### Festive open day at Tracklements

#### Tour the factory with wine and mince pies

Sat 13 Dec 9.30 - 1pm Whitewalls, Easton Grey

Further details 827044 or [www.tracklements.co.uk](http://www.tracklements.co.uk)



## Westonbirt

### The Arboretum

#### The Enchanted Christmas

Every Fri, Sat and Sun till 21 December 2008 5pm - 8.30pm  
- last admission 7.15pm £7 adult / £5 conc / £3 child

#### Make your own Christmas decorations

6 and 13 Dec 10.30am - 3.30pm Pay and display car park £5 per car

#### Specialist wood sales organised by Friends of Westonbirt

Sun 14 Dec Pay and display car park £5 per car  
*Further details 880220 or [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt)*

## Westonbirt School

### Community carols with Nailsworth Silver Band

Tues 11 Dec 8pm Free

### Christmas carols and readings by the pupils

11am Sat 13 Dec The Orangery. Free

### Antiques and fine art sales

19-21 Dec 11am - 5pm £5 admission

*Further details 880333 or [www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk)*

## Malmesbury

### Late night Christmas shopping

Fri 5 Dec 6 - 9 pm Free park and ride from Malmesbury Garden Centre

## Tetbury

### Christmas events

#### Late night shopping with carols and characters from the Wizard of Oz

Thurs 4 Dec 5pm onwards

#### Christmas craft market

Sat 6 Dec 10am-4pm Market House

#### Handel's Messiah

Sun 7 Dec 5.30pm Tickets £10-£20 from the tourist board, children go free

*Further details Tetbury tourist information 503552 or [www.visittetbury.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.visittetbury.co.uk/whats-on)*

## Cirencester

### Sundial Theatre at the college

#### the BFG by Roald Dahl

Tues 9 - Fri 12 Dec 1pm and 7.30 pm Suitable for age 5 plus

Matinees £3, evenings £7

*Further details 01285 654228 or [www.cirencester.ac.uk/sundial](http://www.cirencester.ac.uk/sundial)*

## Whatley

### Whatley Manor Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner

**The Holiday** - starring Kate Winslet, Cameron Diaz, Jude Law and Jack Black 14-Dec £37 including three-course lunch or dinner

## Corsham

**Pound music** - Seethrewmusic Bark Thurs 4 Dec 7.30pm £10

**Pound theatre** - The Snow Queen Sat 20 Dec 7.30pm £9

*Further details from box office 01249 701628 or [www.poundarts.org.uk](http://www.poundarts.org.uk)*

## Bath

### Christmas market

123 wooden stalls between Bath Abbey and York Street

27 Nov - 7 Dec 10am - 7pm / 9pm at weekends

*For further details - [www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk](http://www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk)*

### Horseworld Christmas carol concert and Christmas fair

Sun 7 Dec 10am - 4pm, Santa arrives 10.30, carols at 2pm. Free entry. Santa's grotto £2.50

*Further details 01275 893039 or [www.horseworld.org.uk](http://www.horseworld.org.uk)*

## Theatre Royal

### The Nutcracker - Northern Ballet Theatre

Tues 2 - Sat 6 Dec 7.30pm £20-31.50

### Absurd Person Singular

Mon 8 - Sat 13 Dec 7.30 / 8pm £15.50 - £30

### Jack and The Beanstalk

Thurs 18 Dec - Sun 25 Jan 2009 7.30pm / 8pm £7-22

*For further details contact 01225 448844 or [www.theatreroyal.org.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk)*

## WOMAD

### Early Bird tickets go on sale

Charlton Park Fri 24th - Sun 27th July 2009

Early Bird three-day tickets £110 on sale till Dec 16. Teenage ticket £60 (14-17 accompanied by an adult) and SN16 residents' tickets £75 (max six tickets per SN16 household)

*Further details 0870 759 96623 or [www.womad.org](http://www.womad.org)*

## Bitton

### Avon valley steam trains

**Santa Express** - meet Santa on a one-hour train ride through the Avon valley

Every weekend in Dec. Six departures from 10.30 am till 4.30pm £7 - £10

*Further details 0117 932 5538 or [www.avonvalleyrailway.org](http://www.avonvalleyrailway.org)*

## Stroud

### The Subscription Rooms

#### Vienna Festival Ballet presents Swan Lake

Tues 9 Dec 7pm £10-17

#### Doreen Doreen - a cover band playing Queen to Tom Jones

Fri 12 Dec 8pm £11

#### A Viennese Christmas concert

Wed 17 Dec 7.45pm £12

#### Black Hearts comedy

Thurs 20 Nov 8pm £10

#### Stroud Choral Society presents The Messiah

Sat 22 Nov 7pm £12

*For further details contact 01453 760900 or [www.stroud.gov.uk/subrooms](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/subrooms)*

## Bristol

### Concerts at The Colston Hall

**Music** - concerts include Dec 1 Will Young, 3 Bootleg Beatles, 5 Oleta Adams, 12 Tracy Chapman, 17 Jason Donovan, 20 Bristol Choral Society, 22 and 23 Christmas with the Ratpack

Vary between £10-40

**Comedy shows including** Dec 6 and 19 Jimmy Carr, Dec 10 Steve Coogan Vary £10-£25

*For further details contact 0117 922 3686 or [www.colstonhall.org](http://www.colstonhall.org)*

## Cheltenham

### Town Hall

#### Classical concerts

**Including Masterworks** - Schubertreise Tues 2 Dec, BBC

**National Orchestra of Wales** Mon 15 Dec £10-£30

**Music - Including Slade** Sat 20 Dec £23.50

**Christmas charity market in aid of local charities** - Sat 6 Dec 9am - 4pm Free admission

*For further details contact 0844 5762210 or [www.cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk)*

### The Playhouse Cheltenham

#### Paul: A Strange Kind of Hero - the musical

Wed 3 - Sat 6 Dec 7.45pm and 2.30pm mat on 6 Dec £9

#### Alice in a Non-PC World - a pantomime for childish grown-ups

Thurs 11 - Sat 13 and Thurs 18 - Sat 20 Dec 7.45pm/8.30pm £10

*For further details contact 01242 522852 or [www.playhousecheltenham.org](http://www.playhousecheltenham.org)*

## Bibury

### Bibury Court Hotel

#### outdoor skating rink Sat 20 - Sun 21 Dec

30mins session adult £8 child £5 including a visit to Santa's grotto 01285 740337 or [www.biburycourt.com](http://www.biburycourt.com)