



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2009

DELIVERED FREE

Sherston's Christmas hit



Contributed by Richard Langley

This year's Children in Need CD single, John Lennon's peace and love anthem 'All you need is love', features many famous musicians such as Bill Wyman (formerly Rolling Stones), Peter Gabriel, Queen's Brian May, Pink Floyd's Nick Mason, Midge Ure (Ultravox and Band Aid), Bryan Ferry, Heather Small (M People), Lee Mead, Aled Jones, Cerys Matthews, Elaine Paige, Sharon Corr, Hayley Westenra, and Paloma Faith.

Providing the backing are the Kingswood School Orchestra and Singers, from Lansdown in Bath, featuring Charles Price from Sherston on the trumpet. Charles went to Sherston School for his primary education, moving on to Kingswood's secondary school, where he's about to sit his GCSEs next year.

Charlie explains that work on the recording began back in May, with record producer A D Chivers inviting the orchestra to record the backing track. This went so well that, when the time came to record the video to go with the single, the orchestra were invited to the EMI studios in London's Abbey Road, famous as the studios used by a host of stars over the years, including The Beatles and Pink Floyd. Indeed, it was

Charles Price, near right

at Abbey Road that the original Beatles version of 'All you need is love' was recorded live on the first global satellite TV hook-up called 'Our World', back in 1967.

Charlie and the orchestra also went to Longleat back in September, when they recorded an outdoor version of Paul McCartney's 'We all stand together', and this track appears on the album for Children In Need this year, 'Bandaged Together', along with twenty other tracks.

If you would like to support Children in Need this year, you can buy the track 'All you need is love' on iTunes or get the single from HMV (£3.99) or the album from iTunes or Tesco. Even clicking on the YouTube video will help, as it improves the ratings, which if it projects the CD into the charts goes on to boost sales even more and helps the charity.

You can see Charles in the YouTube video. Just go to Google and search for 'Bandaged together video'. Watch the time counter under the video, and concentrate at 2:15. Charlie's on the right of the screen.

Let's see if we can help Charles to have a Christmas number one this year! Please buy the single from iTunes or HMV as soon as possible!



*A very
Merry Christmas
from all at the
Sherston Cliffhanger*



Seasonal gifts

A big thank you to Nigel Freeth, our local 'brussels' farmer, who is kindly donating brussels sprouts and swedes to Sherston School this year for their Christmas lunch. As well as encouraging the children to eat fresh vegetables it is also as local a supply as you can get. Nigel sells sprouts and swedes direct to the consumer from the roadside at Tetbury Road, Sherston either by the stalk or net.

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

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

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

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

To advertise, contact :

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Advertising rates:

for 12 months:

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for one month:

1/4 page £80; 1/8 page £40; and 1/16 page £20

Inserted leaflet drop £50

Please remember the Cliffhanger is delivered free to every home and business in the parish – more than 850 copies. This and all previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

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Christmas music concert

There will be a concert of traditional and 16th century Christmas music in the parish church at 7.30pm on Saturday 5 December. The concert will be given by the Amberley Chamber Choir, conductor Harry Lyall, with Anthony Burns-Cox, organ. Price £6 including refreshments.

The Amberley Chamber Choir was founded in 1983 by Harry Lyall, who moved to Sherston in 2006. It has given 130 concerts, mostly in Gloucestershire. This will be the third in Sherston. While specialising in music from the 16th century, the choir always includes carols in its Christmas Concerts.

Anthony Burns-Cox first played with the choir in 2004, and has returned by popular request to play at the Christmas concert ever since.

This year the programme will include traditional carols from England, Wales and France as well as pieces by Michael Praetorius, Peter Philips, Gustav Holst and Peter Warlock.

Small ads

You can now advertise items for sale or wanted in the Cliffhanger including services required such as gardening or cleaning. Cost is £2 for up to 20 words. Copy should be in paper form and put through the letterbox at 37 High Street by the 15th of the month together with £2 in cash. All monies raised will be donated to charity. Private advertisers only please – not businesses.

Advertising in Cliffhanger

We are grateful for the support of our advertisers, which ensures that the Sherston Cliffhanger is not a financial burden on its publishers, the parish council. We believe that our advertisers in turn benefit from the fact that our volunteers deliver the publication free to every home and business in the parish.

We have almost reached the point where advertisements take up about a quarter of the space in every issue. We think this is about right and don't want advertisements to dominate the community news that is Cliffhanger's main concern. When, and if, we reach the target advertising space, we will open a waiting list. In the meantime, please continue to place your valuable advertisements in The Sherston Cliffhanger.

To advertise, see details in the panel to the left.

Christmas vouchers

Sherston 1016 will be delivering the annual senior citizen vouchers to all those eligible in both Sherston and Easton Grey over the weekend of 19/20 December. All those over 65 or widowed are entitled to a voucher although couples have to share one between them -sorry! The vouchers, value £10, can be redeemed at either Sherston Post Office Stores or Tucks up to 31 January.

If anyone does not receive a voucher but is eligible or knows of someone in that position please contact Martin Jacques on 01666 841309 so the situation can be quickly rectified. We try to keep our records as up to date as possible but mistakes do happen.

Don't forget to enter the Rattlebone Christmas raffle with a vast array of magnificent prizes and all proceeds kindly being donated to 1016. The draw will take place at the Rattlebone Christmas party which starts at 7pm on Tuesday 22 December with some free mince pies and carol singing accompanied by the Dodington Parish Band.

Benefit rules relaxed

More people can now benefit from changes in the way housing and council tax benefits are worked out.

More residents will be entitled to benefits and those who already receive them may see an increase in what they get.

The changes came into play on 2 November and affect families with children and people of pensionable age.

In the case of families with children, child benefit is no longer counted as income when working out how much housing and council tax benefit a person gets.

In the case of those aged 60 and over, up to £10,000 savings or capital will be ignored when assessing income for housing and council tax benefits purposes.

People already getting housing or council tax benefit need do nothing as they will automatically have their claims re-adjusted by the council's revenue and benefits team.

Existing customers affected by the change should have been notified by the end of last month.

People who have previously not qualified for housing or council tax benefit may now be entitled.

A chart showing various family groups and incomes has been produced to help people work out if they may be able to get help. This is available on the changes to benefit rules page of the council's website and at council offices and on parish notice boards.

Residents who think they may now be eligible for these benefits can contact the council's benefit team for advice and a calculation on: 0800 0270428 or revsandbensnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk

Churchyard clearance thanks

On behalf of Sherston Parochial Church Council and the Living Churchyard Project I would like to thank publicly all those who so generously gave their time and resources to help with two long and arduous sessions of churchyard clearance in October.

Thanks go to the Parish Council for their support, and in particular to John Matthews for his work with a chainsaw, to Ian Cameron who came to both sessions with his chainsaw, to John Hillier and Anthony Milsom, who provided transport to move the cut branches to Lower Farm to add to the village bonfire and to all the other people who came along and helped to do the donkey work. Although I have not named every individual who helped, it was the number of people contributing that enabled so much to be achieved and all that effort was greatly appreciated.

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A swine of a thing

Swine flu scuppered the first community bus outing planned for last month.

The new Malmesbury-based 17-seater minibus was due to take Sherstonians on a Christmas shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway on 15 November. But the trip had to be cancelled when volunteer driver Eric Thacker went down with swine flu.

'There wasn't enough time to get a replacement driver trained,' said Sherston Parish Council vice chairman Martin Rea.

'But all those with tickets have been offered a refund or a place on the next trip to Cribbs Causeway on Saturday 19 December.'

The bus will leave the High Street at 11am and return at approximately 4pm.

The cost is £4 return and tickets, available from Sherston Post Office, should be bought well in advance as only 16 seats are available on each trip. Under-14s must be accompanied by an adult.

The outing is part of a pilot project to run weekend sightseeing and shopping trips to places such as Bristol and Bath.

'The trips are designed to enable those who would otherwise find it difficult, if not impossible, to visit large shopping centres and other places of interest,' said Mr Rea.

'If these initial trips prove a success they could be extended next year.'

In the longer term, the Malmesbury and villages partnership hopes for regular trips using larger coaches serving Malmesbury and other villages.



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Fences not offences

Offenders have started work on their second scheme in Sherston.

The probation service's Community Payback team is erecting stock-proof fencing at Grove Wood.

'They'll be visiting the site on a weekly basis over the winter to complete the work which is extensive,' said parish council chairman John Matthews.

'Villagers Irene Johnston and Mary Johnson have kindly volunteered to act as additional supervisors for the team and have been trained by Wiltshire probation service.'

As a way of repaying their debts to the community, offenders on the scheme have already cleared a rough area of land around the sports field skateboard area for the parish council.

The village hall committee hopes the scheme can help with internal and external redecoration of the hall.

If other community groups have further suitable projects in mind, they should contact the probation service on 01225 781950 or visit

www.wiltshireprobation.org.uk/whatwedo/punish_offenders.php

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French connection on offer

One of the sunniest villages in France is looking to team up with Sherston.

With a population of more than 1,250, Lathus is part of an agricultural area which has strong horse-riding interests and a small percentage of English farmers.

About 4.5 hours' drive from the Caen ferry, Lathus has its own railway stop and is half-way between Poitiers and Limoges on the northern Limousin plateau.

It is in the commune of Lathus St Remy in southern Vienne which is geographically the largest commune in the region of Poitou-Charente.

'Only the Côte d'Azur region has more sunshine hours per year,' said Pete Johnston of the Tarters who, with his wife Irene, regularly spends the summer there.

'Although Lathus isn't picturesque like Sherston, it's similarly set in verdant countryside with beautiful rivers and is dominated by oak woods and fields full of Limousin cattle and sheep,' added Pete.

'And it has a very active and gregarious community.'

Just over a mile from the village is the River Gartempe which is the regional kayaking centre in the winter and a popular swimming spot in the summer.

The countryside is known for its extensive but not too strenuous walking and cycling.

The largest single employer is the outdoor activity centre CPA.

'On a not-for-profit basis, CPA runs a kayaking, climbing and hiking section with extensive modern accommodation, a 'teaching' farm, a substantial equitation centre and a sailing school on the biggest lake in the commune,' said Pete who has been asked by a Lathus councillor to sound out Sherstonians' appetite for cultural and educational links.

Sherston Parish Council has decided that anyone interested in taking the idea forward should contact the clerk Sarah Wood on 840351 or clerk@sherston.org.uk.

It may then be possible for a small group of those interested to develop the possibility.

Lathus's website is: <http://www.lathus-saint-remy.fr/>

Dates fill Christmas stockings



Autumn Leaves, Westbury

Jane Mine

O C T O B E R						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Images taken in and around Sherston and entered in the Arts Festival Photography Exhibition have been selected to illustrate the 2010 calendar. The images are all taken by local enthusiasts and represent the high standard that was on show at the exhibition. These are on sale for only £5 at the Post Office Stores but only a limited number have been produced - an ideal Christmas present.

Also available are the 2010 Wiltshire Air Ambulance diaries at only £3, a worthwhile cause and another useful stocking filler.

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Holfords Trust

On Thursday 22 October, the Holfords of Westonbirt Trust launched a New Autumn Colour Opening Event, in the beautiful gardens around Westonbirt House, as its first major public event with the purpose of raising funds towards vital restoration works needed for these gardens.

Over the 11 days of half term, the grounds were filled with people, young and old, enjoying the wonderful surroundings and taking a keen interest in the much-needed restoration works.

The weather was fantastic over the week and the children were happy to walk through the grounds whilst also having fun exploring this exciting place. With the many different activities organised (some planned with children in mind) and excellent refreshments, most families stayed for the whole day.

At the weekend there was a plant sale with several local and other nurseries offering an excellent choice.

The Holfords of Westonbirt Trust will shortly be publishing events for 2010 on their website: www.holfordtrust.com



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Speak up for Sherston

'Do nothing and you could regret it.'

This was last month's message to villagers from Sherston resident and planning professional Mike Johnson.

Mike was stressing to parish councillors the importance of everyone's taking part in Wiltshire Council's current consultation on planning in the county over the next 20 years. 'Doing nothing will result in us having to accept whatever is finally agreed at the end of the process,' said Mike.

'Housing development is a major issue and the present consultation document says that Sherston should accommodate 'modest development', he added.

'The question is: 'What will that mean on the ground?'

'Other nearby villages, which don't have Sherston's range of facilities, seem more likely only to get infill development.'

Recently, the parish council has opposed further large-scale development and would rather see existing brownfield sites redeveloped for specific housing needs especially for the elderly.

Mike cautioned that, once planning policy was set, it would be almost impossible successfully to argue against any development proposals.

'So it's essential for the parish and individuals alike to play a full part in the consultation process if they wish to influence the way Sherston and indeed Wiltshire develop over the next 20 years,' he said.

Parishioners have an opportunity to say what they want to see by way of improved services and facilities in the village over the next 20 years.

The consultation period runs until 5pm on 31 December and Mike Johnson will again address the parish council at its meeting on 10 December when a final response will be discussed.

Residents can see details of the proposals at an exhibition in Malmesbury Library or, alternatively, all the documents, including a response form, can be found on line at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire2026 and can be viewed at the library and at Wiltshire Council offices. Paper copies can be obtained by phoning 01225 713489.

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Phone box talks

Pinkney's phone box has been used only twice in the last 12 months. The figures, released by BT, again raise doubts about the future of the red kiosks in Pinkney and Willesley. And the parish council has again been asked to consider the Adopt a Kiosk scheme. Under this scheme, BT disconnects the service and the community pays £1 for the kiosk and takes responsibility for its future maintenance.

Some 350 kiosks have been adopted across the country and are used as information points, meeting places and even mini art galleries. Some areas simply wish to retain the old red kiosk as part of their heritage.

'Certainly the usefulness of the Pinkney kiosk seems very limited,' said parish council chairman John Matthews.

'However, the Willesley one was used 50 times - perhaps more than previously thought. And it's close to a main road and could well be vital following a serious motor accident.'

Councillors would welcome residents' views which should be sent to the parish clerk in time for them to meet the BT deadline of 23 January.

Flying start for Sherston Probus Club


A new Probus Club has been formed in Sherston with the inaugural meeting last month. Such has been the interest that the membership list is already almost complete, numbers being limited by the accommodation available for monthly meetings at the Rattlebone Inn.

Probus Clubs now exist worldwide. The movement was founded to provide an opportunity for retired business and professional men to meet regularly, keeping up social contacts with like-minded people. Meetings usually have a speaker and discussion, sometimes followed by a meal together. Sherston meetings will follow this format each month including lunch. Clubs tend to be very popular, many in our area having waiting lists. Sherston is helping to meet this growing demand as well as providing a venue within walking distance for many. For further information contact Tony Wood, the secretary on 840558.

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Sherston Living Churchyard

Since I last wrote, two strenuous sessions of churchyard clearance have been held, thanks to the efforts of those involved in the Living Churchyard Project and a group of generous volunteers. We have cut down three large, overgrown, evergreen trees and cleared away some of the jungle of brambles and box beside the path in the back of the churchyard. In the process several long-hidden gravestones have reappeared, along with large numbers of beer bottles, drink cans and sweet wrappers!

What has been done up to now has only underlined the size of the task ahead. Originally only one session was planned and this quickly became two. Even so there is still a lot of tidying up to do and in the short term it might be fair to say that things look worse rather than better. If you are one of the many people who walk through the churchyard on your way to somewhere in the village or to visit a grave, please bear with us as the work progresses. I hope and believe that eventually everyone will feel that this has been a change for the better. The planned changes will improve the appearance of the churchyard and make it a better haven of God's creation.

If you would like to see things improve more quickly we can always use your help. Please contact me if you would like to get involved.

Sue Robinson 01666 841263

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TREEtalk

Dec 2009 *Contributed by Irene Johnston*

*Festive fun for Grove Wood volunteers,
Sunday 6 December*

At the Grove Wood 'launch event' in June, over 50 people signed up to help with its restoration. We're delighted to have so many keen volunteers but we'd like even more as many hands make light work! Why not come along with your family to the village hall on Sunday 6 December, try Martin's delicious mulled wine and see if you want to join in.

Grove Wood is a community project to create something of lasting value for ourselves and our children, packed full of educational and environmental benefits. Fresh air and exercise in 2010 – what could be a better New Year resolution?

Those who haven't already put their names down can choose from activities that range from seed sowing and planting to path building, tree felling, coppicing and bramble and ivy clearance. We need armchair workers too. You could research what funding and grants are available or use your design skills to create leaflets and posters or website pages.

Fencing (under the Community Payback Scheme) is already underway in the wood and we're in the process of producing a map of existing trees and plants. It's a start but we have a long way to go so it's important to get dates in diaries now!

Come and meet other community-minded volunteers in the Village Hall between 11.30 - 1.30 on Sunday 6th December for a host of festive treats:

Mulled wine and mince pies

Soft drinks and snacks for children

See the Woodland Plan and targets for 2010

Name against task(s) with known start dates, e.g. planting snowdrops in February, sowing wildflower seeds soon, coppicing during winter months, creating a circular path from April, discovering funding sources etc.

Read and hear about other community woods in the county

Get creative - Christmas collage-making for the children

Judging of the Grove Wood logo competition by Neil Forster

Important: a date for next year's diary.....

Saturday 20 March 2010 - 'Village Green', the event that will prove Sherston's ecological credentials! More details to follow soon.

And finally,

In pre-Victorian times 'Christmas trees' meant holly bushes. The life cycle of a Christmas tree from seed to a 2m tree is (depending on species and growing conditions) between 8 and 12 years.

Every year since 1947, the people of Oslo have given London a Christmas tree as an expression of good will and gratitude for Britain's help to Norway during World War II.

Contact Sherston's Tree Warden, Irene Johnston on tel: 01666 841273 or email: ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk

Guns 'n roads

Five people have now volunteered for training to combat speeding in Sherston.

'But more would help spread the load,' said the police.

Local people are being asked to monitor areas where they consider speed a problem.

They will be issued with speed guns and trained and given health and safety advice by the police.

While their evidence will not be used to prosecute speeding drivers, it will be invaluable in pin-pointing areas on which the police can concentrate most effectively.

Drivers reported to the police will receive written warnings. After three warnings, the police will put the vehicle's information on their computer system for it to be stopped and investigated by their patrol vehicles.

Easton Town, Tetbury Lane, Sandpits Lane, Brook Hill, Knockdown Road and the B4040 through

Pinkney have been identified as places where regular speeding is thought to take place.

Wiltshire Council's area board has been asked to approve them for speed checks as part of the funding process.

Those who wish to nominate other spots or who are interested in volunteering should contact the parish clerk Sarah Wood on 840351 or clerk@sherston.org.uk.

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Went with a bang

The weather just held to enable Sherston 1016's fireworks display to be one of the best ever - according to all those who attended!



Great help from the Scouts



A well earned break



That's how it's done!

The bonfire must have been the biggest for many years, thanks to all those who delivered material for weeks in advance. Thanks also to Rex Smith of Norton, J Bell and Sons of Tetbury who lent their machinery and driver Brian Littlejohns who managed to build the monster in about an hour flat. Thanks also to Andy Walden and Martin Ward for doing so many of the essential last-minute ferrying jobs on the day. In addition some 9 Sherston Scouts helped with

the preparations, which included the task of lighting the bonfire – under close supervision of course. The Scouts also provided two excellent guys, who after being judged by Jennie Lamont – who by all accounts has an eye for a good guy – were then ceremoniously hoisted on to the bonfire to wait their inevitable fate.

As ever we are most grateful to the Hillier family for the use of their field. Thanks also to Stan and Pat Bunce, Maggie McKenna and Philip Harries, whose houses adjoin the bonfire field, for the supply of water, electricity and refreshments to the gang. Also to the barbecue crew who appear as if by magic an hour or two before the event armed with all the essentials.

In hard economic times for many, we are particularly grateful to local business sponsorship including Ladyswood Stud Ltd, Moulder Joinery, Noah's Ark Day Nursery, Optimum Mobility, Sherston Software, Stretchline, Swimming Pool Design & Management Ltd, Tolsey Surgery and Tracklements. Also to UBE of Cheltenham for the PA equipment. With the fireworks alone costing some £1400 this sponsorship is invaluable.

With a mountain of health and safety considerations, insurances and risk assessments to prepare for the event, a very special thank you to paramedics Ollie Dalton and Andy Coleman for their attendance on the night.

Most importantly thanks must go to the audience who paid to attend – without them no one could enjoy the event as it just wouldn't happen. We hope to see you all again next year and plenty more too.

Sherston 1016 are certainly becoming expert in firework displays, for having already undertaken two weddings some months ago we also set up the Didmarton display for the second year running as well as that of Westonbirt School which we have been doing for longer than some of us care to remember.



Setting up at Westonbirt

Photos: Philip Harries and Noel Banks

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In brief

Bingo

Sherston 1016 are very grateful to the Bingo Club for a donation of some £90 towards their funds. This type of donation makes a tremendous difference to Sherston 1016's fundraising over the course of a year.

Busy Hands quiz night

Busy Hands preschool will be holding their annual quiz night on Saturday 16 January at 8pm in the Village Hall. This is the charity's biggest fundraiser of the year and depends for its success on the support of the local community. Tickets are £15 per team of four, available from the post office or any of the Busy Hands committee members. For further information regarding tickets or the quiz please call Sally Clayton on 840361.

Cliffhanger brings bonuses

Cliffhanger is to contribute its profits directly to the community.

The parish council has congratulated the team on the publication's high standard and on bringing in a profit of more than £1,500 in its first year.

The second year's profit is expected to be around £1,000 because of extra printing costs resulting from Cliffhanger's increased size.

Rather than use them for day-to-day running costs, parish councillors will ring-fence these sums for special projects in the parish.

The Cliffhanger team will be consulted about where it would like to see the money spent.

A hurl of a gift

Trying to find a different present this Christmas? Then look no further as for only a £1 you can bring delight to someone on Christmas morning with a 'Hurl in a packet' Yes, with this amazing gift of nature your family or friends will have everything they need to run their own Mangold Hurl next October. Ideal stocking filler. Full instructions enclosed. Does not contain nuts. Limited quantities exclusively from the Rattlebone Inn and Sherston Post Office Stores. All proceeds to 1016.

Leave stones unturned

Youngsters aged six or seven are pulling stones from the walls around the recreation ground. 'This not only damages the walls but could result in a wall falling on someone,' said parish council vice chairman Martin Rea. 'Parents, please warn your children not to do this.'

New loo coup

Shoppers visiting Malmesbury now have a new set of toilets at their disposal.

Malmesbury Town Council is making its toilets in the town hall available to the public during office hours.

Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 10 December at 7.30pm in the village hall. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities to raise questions and pass comments. Those who cannot make the meeting but have something to raise should contact the clerk Mrs Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. In addition, the parish council can be contacted via the response form on its website www.sherston.org.uk which also carries the minutes of meetings.

SHOCC big sing

On Sunday 13 December at 6pm both Sherston choirs – junior and senior – will take part in the 'Big Sing' in the parish church. This Christmas service will include performances of 'The Promise' (an advent cantata by Michael Card) and Christmas action songs by the juniors. There will also be celebratory singing by all in attendance. All villagers are invited to come for a fitting prelude to Christmas festivities.

Sherston School Christmas fair

On Friday 4 December from 4.30pm to 6.30pm the school will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland, with special treats for the children including a visit to Father Christmas in his grotto, an 'adult free zone' secrets room where children can do their own present buying, tombola, raffle and much more. Adults too will enjoy the wide range of Christmas gift stalls and festive food and drink. Admission free.

Spaniel in the walks

The owner of an incontinent spaniel has been referred to the dog warden for a second time. The dog is often seen defecating around Sopworth crossroads near the school. Parish councillors are asking people to report further instances of this kind to the parish clerk with as much detail as possible. Residents are reminded they can take custody of any loose dog they find in the village and should contact the dog warden (01249 706111) who will collect it from them. The dog's owner will face a hefty bill to get it back.

Spare a thought for the kids

Thoughtless drivers are endangering youngsters in The Tarters and Easton Square.

A resident is complaining that a few drivers are speeding through these normally quiet roads where children play. Full details should be given to Malmesbury police who have the power to intervene when they receive complaints about the same vehicles.

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Sherston Womens' Institute

Contributed by Sue Hewitt

Members and visitors enjoyed a very interesting talk and slide show given by Derek Remington at the November meeting. A butterfly conservationist, he has taken some beautiful photographs of butterflies which emerge throughout different months of the year, in various habitats of the UK. He has travelled to many countries to photograph indigenous butterflies, especially to India, where there are 1500 species compared to 59 species in the UK.

A minutes silence was held to remember Joyce Butler who had been a member of our WI for thirty five years. Her organising of refreshments and happy smiling face will always be remembered with affection.

The Athelstan Group carol service will be held at Lea on Monday 7 December at 2pm, followed by coffee and mince pies.

A few members have joined the Whist league, which begins in the New Year.

We always have a lunch out in January instead of our usual meeting. Details of this next month.

The speaker at our next meeting planned for Thursday 3 December is Joanna Bowman. Christmas and birthday cards will be on sale and members will also enjoy an American Supper. If you would like to see what we do at the WI meetings, do come along and join us on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. You will be made very welcome.



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An evening with the Soul Shakers

Join us on Saturday 2 January 2010 for an evening of entertainment with the Soul Shakers.

The local ten-piece band, four of whom are from Sherston, formed in 2006 when they were attending Malmesbury School. Their 30-song playlist boasts the best of soul and Motown from artists such as Stevie Wonder, Otis Redding and Marvin Gaye as well as a number of hits from more modern artists such as Jamiroquai and Duffy.

The Soul Shakers have played many private functions, parties, and weddings across the South West. You may even have seen their performance when they opened the WOMAD mainstage in 2007!

This unmissable event will take place at Sherston Village Hall from 7.30pm. There will be a bar serving wine and local ales and the evening will be opened by an up-and-coming jazz duet. Tickets are only £7 and can be purchased from Sherston Post Office Stores, the Malmesbury Rocks store or through James Crawford on 07738570260.

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Tetbury Art Society

Tetbury Art Society is to launch an annual public lecture in January 2010 under the title of 'The Roy Baker Memorial Lecture'.

Roy was the founder of the Society in 1976, having moved to the town in 1973. He subsequently became mayor of Tetbury and formed and chaired various other groups in the town. He was an accomplished amateur artist himself and illustrated the book 'History of Tetbury' written by Eric Hodgson.

The Society is pleased to announce that the director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Mark Jones, has agreed to give the first lecture. This will be held in The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester on Wednesday 13 January 2010 at 2 pm with tea and cake to follow. Tickets, which are limited, are available from Tetbury and Cirencester Tourist Information Offices at £15 each. Further details can be obtained from the chairman, Gill Ashley, on 01666 840993.



Walk off those pies

By the end of Boxing Day many of us may be feeling a little stir crazy and perhaps not a little bloated. What better way to blow those cobwebs away and shed those mince pies than with a walk in the Sherston countryside?

On Sunday December 27 starting at 10am from the village hall, Sue McKechnie will be leading the latest seasonal walk organised by the parish footpath group. The walk will definitely be set at the pace of the slowest so don't expect a route march! Families are particularly welcome along with well-behaved dogs on leads. The walk will end at the Rattlebone Inn at around 12 noon where complimentary seasonal food will be available courtesy of the pub. We are promised you won't be getting mince pies.

The walk is free with no need to book. Just turn up with suitable footwear and clothing for weather conditions on the day.

The All Hallows walk in November unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last minute due to almost monsoon conditions.

The first seasonal walk of 2010 will be on Sunday 14 February – St. Valentine's Day.

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October Winners

1st	T. Towle	£11
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Your chimney must be kept clean to prevent fires and structural damage to your property. Clean chimneys also help the environment by assisting the complete combustion of the fuel, reducing emissions in the atmosphere. Regular cleaning of your chimney or flues eliminates the build-up of soot and clears obstructions such as bird and animal nests, leaves and debris.

Using a vacuum cleaner alone is not sufficient to clean the chimney properly. Ensure your chimney flue is inspected at regular intervals to prevent fire breaking out of the chimney. Fireguards can prevent serious injury or death. Spark guards can prevent a serious fire in your property.

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Beauty and the Beast



Contributed by Miles Elwel Photos: Gunter Coventry

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, there were a lot of beholders in the village hall back in October to see the latest panto by Sherston Drama Group. The packed performance of *Beauty and the Beast*, written by Andrew Hawcroft, drew on the traditional story, with additional fruit and a bit of sauce. There's Beauty, daughter of a pig farmer, and the Beast, who, as a prince, was far more objectionable than when he was transposed into a state of beastliness by the Spirit of the Forest. Message: it's not what you look like, it's what's inside that counts.



The cast seems to grow like topsy every year with some outstanding performances from everyone so it's unfair to single out individuals. But needs must, as the Spirit of the Forest might have said. Bonamy Smith as Beauty (Beatrice) was sweetness personified; Annabel Green, obnoxious nob, showed us that a lion's heart can beat in a princely breast; and Richard Warren successfully pigged out on his role as Beauty's dad. Kevin Smith once again cornered the market in panto villains; Shaun Scott was a wonderful (not so simple) Simple Simon; and Andrew Baker's Michael Flathead was a mature performance from a young thesp. Meanwhile, Graham Instrell sat out most of the show as an amusingly mouthy narrator.



Sue Ormiston was a humanitarian Spirit of the Forest, dispensing fair-minded justice on those who deserved far worse, and flitting in and out of the action with practised assurance. John Pettit's appearance as Sir Hugh of Grant, although only occasional, was an inspired impersonation, a sort of cross between Hugh Grant and Harry Enfield's 'Nice But Dim' character. One hopes he doesn't try this at work.



As for Sherston's troupe of young gifted actors, they all put on a grand showing. Charlie Brock and Harry Andrews, exhausting the paint pots with their beards and moustaches, turned in good performances



as Ernie's two mentally challenged sons; and Rachel McLeish was a busy young lady, who had great presence as a herald and as one of the dancing fairies.

As for Glen Scott, he was a perfect straight man (not an easy task) to Kevin Smith's Baron Blackheart. Other Sherston minors made excellent contributions as bodyguards, wolves, fairies and villagers.

Clive Renton's Butler (a voice of sanity) and Mark Andrews' Chef (his romantic dinner for two did little for romance and nothing for nourishment); Sue Lehrer's Trinny



and Kirstie Blair's Susannah (frightening control freaks from Central Casting), gave some studied cameo performances as the Prince's staff. As for poor Nea Sneddon-Jenkins (she of the short straw), great sympathy is extended to her as the one landed the unenviable role of seducing the narrator.



But panto is not just about beauties and beasts; there's also music and dance, and the youngsters put in some lovely dance routines, which were very much



appreciated by the audience. In all, there were more supporting roles and backstage helpers than trees in a magic forest; the result was an imaginatively choreographed show with a memorable sparkle.

The two Richards, Skeffington and Warren, directed (who was Beauty, who was Beast, one wonders?) and Katie Skeffington was assistant director. Sue Lehrer took time off from her role as Trinny to choreograph and there was a veritable army of people who all put in a lot to make the whole evening the biggest bang outside fireworks night. Oh yes they did!



One final shameful omission. Nowhere is there a mention of the pig, who for much of the performance was dragged around the stage, humiliated and ridiculed. He was last seen occupying a lonely bar stool at The Rattlebone, sobbing into a shandy. This is vile treatment of a talented player and some kind of recompense should be forthcoming to arrest the decline of this promising anonymous newcomer.



Plans are in hand for a spring production. Anyone interested in getting involved, please contact Richard Skeffington on 01666 840092.

More about Thomas Davis

*The membership record of
Thomas Davis 1651*

Cilla Liddington has made more discoveries about Thomas Davis, the 17th century Sherston merchant whose trade token was discovered in a High Street garden on Easter Monday.



The arms of the Mercer's Company - a crowned maiden with long flowing hair.

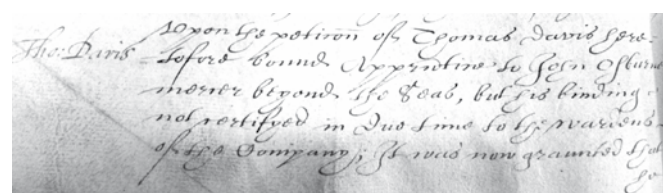
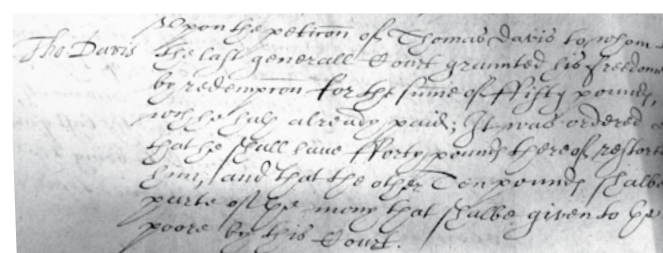
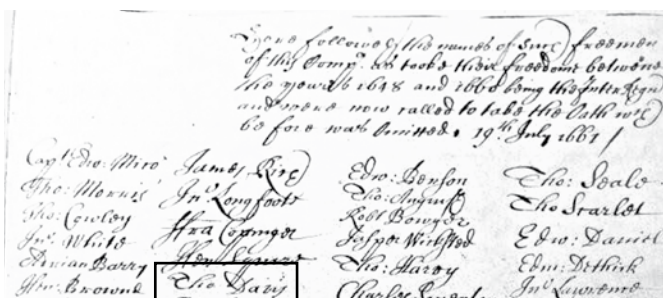


The same image on the reverse side of the original token found by David Thorpe

The archivist of the Mercers' Company has found a record of Thomas Davis having been a member, something that was possible only through patrimony, apprenticeship or redemption (payment of a large fee). Thomas was admitted to the company in 1651 by redemption, having paid the then huge sum of £50. However, he then petitioned the company to be admitted through apprenticeship, pointing out that he had been bound as an apprentice to a John Osburne 'beyond the seas'. (Apparently this has the specific meaning of 'outside of the English state, territories, realm or country'). This may mean that Thomas served some or all of his apprenticeship abroad.

The Company subsequently refunded Thomas £40 of his redemption fee and gave the remaining £10 'to the poor', indicating that the company accepted Thomas's petition that he had completed his apprenticeship.

Mercery is the specific trade of exporting wool or cloth such as fustian and importing fine fabrics



such as silk. During the mid 17th century, mercers (in particular those mercers who were also Merchant Adventurers) would be trading most frequently with the Netherlands, Germany and Italy. Mercers might even live and work in a foreign town such as Antwerp, or at the very least frequently travel abroad to visit the quarterly cloth fairs which were held quarterly in major towns such as Bruges.

Because Thomas became a member of the Mercers' Company in 1651 during the Commonwealth, he was recalled to the Mercers' Hall in 1661 to take an oath of allegiance to the King following the restoration of the monarchy.



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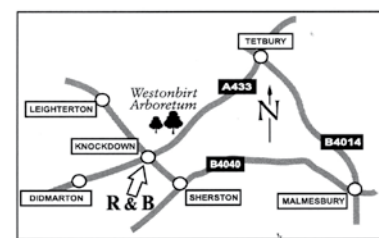


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Size Matters

Even if the weight is less than 2Kg, to qualify as a "small packet" the combined "length" plus "width" plus "depth" of your parcel must be less than 90cm (3 foot in old language) AND the longest side less than 60cm. Anything outside these measurements must be sent by Parcelforce which could result in you paying twice the price.

Value for Money

Standard air mail small packets only carry compensation of £39 and nothing for cash. If you propose sending a high value item or cash please request either "Airsure" or "International Signed For" to obtain appropriate insurance cover.

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Remembrance Sunday



We would just like to say big thank you to everyone involved in the Remembrance Day Parade and service. What a wonderful example of Sherston at its best. To see the service men and women marching with the Scouting and Guiding youth organisations was wonderful. The congregation in the church was packed into every available seat that could be found. The music played by Richard Creed and the young man from the Explorer Scouts who read the names out were excellent, as was the bugle player.

Thank you all once again
David Walsh



Photos: Nick Holland

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The Briarwood Hurl



Contributed by Dave Reeves

The students of the Briarwood sixth form in Bristol have recently added mangold hurling to the curriculum. Briarwood, also the base of special needs inclusive charity, Props, had the privilege of a presentation from the highest ranking mangold official of Sherston's Ancient Order - the acting Chairman no less, ably accompanied by the Keeper of the Challenges.

After a most interesting and motivating lecture, including the history of the event and slide show of this year's hurl, the enthusiastic students headed out to the school fields for their own mini tournament.

Under the expert guidance of the Order, the proceedings began with a group hurl, followed by some fierce competition between students and staff. Hazel Stadon was the eventual singles winner, and received a prize Norman for her efforts.

This memorable day was finished off with lashings of mangold soup, made by the students. Meanwhile, the Briarwood squad will be training hard for next year's event, where we hope to enter a team.

Props would like to extend a sincere thanks to the members of the Order for taking the time to visit and provide a most interesting afternoon for the students of Briarwood.



The students were a marvellous bunch of youngsters who made those members attending most welcome and from the briefest of tuition were soon hurling like old hands – one even immediately perfecting the Tremellen reverse swing technique to great effect! The students designed and produced a wonderful banner celebrating the Order which we have been proud to display outside the Old School for the last few weeks. We hope to visit the school again in the spring to assist with the sowing of the students' own crop of mangolds for next year's hurl.

The Briarwood Hurl rounded off a veritable whirlwind of hurling for the Ancient Order this season and indeed our archivist Cilla Liddington can find no other to compare for the number of hurls undertaken. It certainly appears that a major revival of the sport is under way as our fixture card (or plank as it is known in hurling circles) is already almost full for October 2010.

For Sherston hurlers, December is a month of quiet reflection for a year which saw a crop well grown, a truly magnificent hurl and most importantly good fellowship. Merry Christmas to one and all!

The Keeper of the Quill



Sherston FC

Contributed by manager Pete Brock

Well hello again it's that time of the month when I let you all know how the football is going and how the boys are performing.

The big game against Hardwicke didn't go as we planned and we lost 2-1 although a draw would have been a fair result. It was a very even start to the game and although we hadn't played for a few weeks we were holding our own when we gave away a penalty which our keeper Joe Neal got his hand to and was very unlucky not to save. Trim Bourne then pulled one back with a well worked goal that involved some great play down the right side. Then we were caught sleeping after we cleared the ball over the halfway line and saw it sent rolling back along the floor past me and Gav Thompson for the keeper to pick up. I think he was picking blackberries because he wasn't in his goal and it just trickled in, but these things happen and are no reflection on Joe who has been a wonder in goal for us this season.

We still have Ting Tong running around in the middle (I don't know what he's doing but he *is* running around in the middle). Knocker is still 'shadow boxing' down the wing with Sergeant Major Ade on the touch line trying to bash them into shape.

I would like to say that the lads up front, Ben Wright and Andrew Wicks, have been great for us this year scoring goals for fun.

I don't know what has happened to JoJo and her sponge, they seem to have gone AWOL, so if anyone has seen her and her sponge please call me, but I am sure she will be back soon.

Also has anybody seen Mike Ward? Someone said he was injured but I think he will turn up at football this week with a full head of hair like his idol Elton John.

It was also good to see Chaz Parkes back in the fold as Carla let him out this week for being a good boy and also said he could stay out for an hour after the game (thanks Carla).

But back to football, we had another win which means we have only one defeat so far this year which is good going for anyone, but it all goes without saying there is a lot of effort put in by people around the club:

Ady Mines, JoJo, Owen Fitzpatrick, even Martin Rea who sometimes comes up to roll the pitch (although he thinks he's just having a lie down!)

Thanks for all your help and have a great Christmas.



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Sports under scrutiny

A bigger and better skate park and pavilion plus an all-weather pitch could come to Sherston's sports field.

Following the open meeting reported in last month's Cliffhanger, the parish council is charging a sub-committee with looking at the sports field's future.

The sports field committee is being asked to look into an all-weather pitch for multiple sports use, whilst in the short term, the priority will be improving the skate park and the pavilion for which initial plans and costings are already underway. Anyone interested in the work of the committee or with ideas about new sporting facilities at Knockdown should contact the parish clerk Sarah Wood on 840351 or clerk@sherston.org.uk.

Musicians Wanted

Local musicians interested in forming a 'Crosby-Stills' type of band should read on: For added variety, as well as covering some of the CSNY repertoire, we will also do some 60's, 70's and later rock, country and blues music. Main immediate need is three guitarist/vocalists who are comfortable with 'multi-part' harmony.

Pedal steel, keyboards and other interesting effects are also needed, again with vocals.

Also of interest, are people with sound engineering/recording and stage lighting experience.

If you can major on one instrument and 'double' on another, with added vocals, then come to an initial meeting to be arranged soon in Sherston.

Contact ~ Dave Cooper on (01666) 840482.

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Groups and Regular Events in Sherston

Holy Cross Church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade cakes
Thursday mornings from November till end of March

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 11am - 12.00 noon

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*

Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold Hurlers

Why not join us and discover the joys of mangold hurling and all its traditions? *For further information email ebeplaced@aol.com.*

'Busy Hands' Pre-school

Meets 9.15-11.45 everyday in the village hall for 3 - 5 year olds. *Contact Busy Hands on 841118*

Church bell ringing

Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00pm. Please call Geoff Martin 840375 or just come along on the night.

Clem's Club

Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm - 8 and 22 Dec.

Footpaths group

Currently the main task is the publication of a new walks booklet for the parish. *For further information contact Maggie McKenna on 841047 or maggie.mckenna@barriespartnership.com*

Ladies' Swimming Club

The Club is open to any ladies from Sherston or the surrounding area meeting at Westonbirt School on Wednesday evenings between 8 and 9.30pm. £37 for 15 weeks. *To join please phone Annabel Clifton on 840592 or Heather Martin on 840375.*

Legs, bums & tums

Aerobic and stretch class with Ruth King every Wednesday at 7.30pm in the village hall. £4.50. No booking needed. *Further details contact Ruth on 07734 886275*

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 10 Dec at 7.30pm in the village hall. Minutes of meetings can be read online at www.sherston.org.uk. *Further details contact Sarah Wood on 840351 or clerk@sherston.org.uk*

Salsa @ Sherston

Salsaflex salsa classes every Monday from 7.30 pm in the village hall. There is no booking required - just turn up. £5. *To find out more visit www.salsaflex.com or call Fitz on 07950 711405*

Senior Club

Meets at 2.00pm in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday - 1 and 15 Dec. *For further details contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143.*

Sherston 1016

Fundraising for local good causes and charities, including Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Senior Citizens Christmas vouchers in Sherston. *For further details contact Eric Thacker on 841344 or email eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk*

Sherston Badminton Club

We play every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm in the village hall from September to May. All standards welcome.

For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592

Sherston Boules and Carnival 2010

Date for the diary - Boules day 2010 will be Sat 17 July with events all the previous week.

Any new ideas and offers of help in planning or just on the day gratefully received. For more details contact the chairman Tony Weedon on 841377 or dogleg@waitrose.com or secretary Caroline Moore on 841405 or caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk

Sherston FC

The club was play in the Stroud league at Knockdown Park, Sherston usually on Saturday afternoons - spectators and new players welcome. Training every Wednesday evening.

For more details contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or peter.brock666@btinternet.com

Sherston Tennis Club

Sherston Tennis Club play on two hard courts off Knockdown Rd in Sherston. 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 840825

Sherston Village Hall

Available for hire by all. Ideal for meetings, events, parties etc. *For details contact the bookings officer Julia Nichols on 840633 or julia.nichols@btinternet.com*

Sherston W.I.

Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall - 3 Dec. *Further details contact Maureen Jolliffe on 840867*

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 Jane Milne 841090*

Splash Dance

Dance classes for 2 to 12 year olds including ballet, modern and tap. Every Wednesday afternoon in the village hall. Prices are £35 per term with the first lesson free.

For more details contact Charlotte on 01453 886632 or email charlotte@splashdance.co.uk

Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

The group is a fun way for children and their parents to meet and play and helps young children get used to the village hall in preparation for Busy Hands Pre-School and meets at 2.30pm each Tuesday in the village hall. *Further details contact Alex on 841095 or alex@stickyfingerscookery.co.uk*

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 11 Dec 7.30 for 7.45pm. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. All profits to help maintain the village hall.

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

The Carpenter's Arms

Curry Quiz Night Sun 6 Dec 7.30pm £5 pp entry including all you can eat curry buffet / £1 quiz entry only

Further details contact 840665 or www.deliciousmonster.co.uk

The Rattlebone Party Nights

Live tableside magic from The Bamboozle Brothers, plus live music in The Public Bar from 'Leon Daye' and 'Stretch' Wed 2 and Wed 9 Dec

Christmas party sing Carols to the accompaniment of The Dodington Brass Band and enter into the huge Rattlebone Christams Prize Draw Tues 22 Dec from 7.30pm

Live music from Nobody's Business

Boxing Day Nov 9pm

Further details 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

Sherston's Soul Shakers live

Sat 2 Jan 2010 7.30pm at the village hall.

£7 tickets from the post office or Malesbury Rocks. *For further details contact James Crawford 07738 570260*

Friends of Sherston School

Christmas Fair

Craft stalls & festive cheer Fri 4 Dec 4.30 -

6.30pm Free entry Sherston School

For further details contact 840237 or www.sherston.wilts.sch.uk/fss.html

Christmas music concert

Sat 5 Dec 7.30pm at the parish church
Traditional and 16th century music performed by the Amberley Chamber Choir. £6 including refreshments.

Festive fun for Grove Wood volunteers

Find out how you can join the team over a glass of mulled wine. Children's activities 6 Dec. 11.30am - 1.30pm at the village hall.

For further details contact Irene Johnston 841273 or ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk

Community bus shopping trip

Cribbs Causeway day trip

Sat 19 Dec 16 places available on the bus - book your ticket at the post office in advance to avoid disappointment. £4 return. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

SHOCC big sing

Sun 13 Dec 6.00pm at the parish church with the Sherston junior and senior choirs. All invited.

Christmas walk

Sunday 27 Dec. Walk off the mince pies starting from the village hall at 10am, returning to the Rattlebone Inn for complimentary seasonal victuals at around 12 noon (not more mince pies!) Free and suitable for all, including children and dogs on lead.

For further details contact Sue McKechnie 840601 or suemckechnie@hotmail.com

Busy Hands Pre School

Date for your diary: Annual Quiz Night Sat 16 Jan 8pm £15 for a team of 4 Sherston Village Hall

For further details contact Sally Clayton 840361

Yatton Keynall

Christmas Market

at the Bell Inn car park 5 Dec

Norton The Vine Tree

Thai supper 1st Sunday every month Thai food prepared to eat in on Sunday night or take away Sun & Mon 2 courses £16 / 3 courses £22

For further details contact Reservations 837654 or www.thevinetree.co.uk

Westonbirt The Arboretum

Enchanted Christmas Every Fri - Sun evenings till 20 Dec 5pm - 8.30 Admission £8 adult / £7 conchs/ £4 chd under 5s free

Reindeer Trail 1-24 Dec free after admission

Willow work course - Christmas decorations Sun 13 Dec 10.30 - 4pm £50 incl materials. Bring your own lunch

Date for your diary - Simply Red in concert

Tickets on sale now for this summer event Sat 19 June 2010 £38 plus booking fee

For further details contact 880220 or www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Westonbirt School and the Holford Heritage Gardens

Community carols - pupils sing accompanied by the Nailsworth Silver Band

Thurs 10 Dec 8pm Free entry. *For further details contact 880333 or for the gardens Janice Malschuk on 07884 166565 or www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk and www.holfordtrust.com for the gardens*

Malmesbury

Late Night Christmas Shopping

Festive street market with Santa's Grotto, carol singers, hot soup from Hyam's, craft session in the Library from 6-7.30pm Fri 4 Dec 6 - 9 pm
Free park & ride from Malmesbury Garden Centre.
Upper High St, Malmesbury
To book a stall call 01249 783434

Malmesbury and Villages Open Event

Unveiling the new community plan with mulled wine and mince pies, Malmesbury Town Hall Tues 15 Dec 6.30 pm for 7pm.

Tetbury

Festive late night shopping with carols. Christmas lights switched on by Jason Durr of Heartbeat Thurs 3 Dec 5pm onwards
Christmas fair organised by St Mary's Church Sat 5 Dec 10.30 - 12.30 10am - 4pm Market House. *For further details contact Tetbury Tourist Information 503552 or www.visittetbury.co.uk/whats-on*

Cirencester

Tetbury Art Society

Annual public lecture - Director of the V&A Mark Jones Wed 13 Jan 2pm £15 includes tea & cake Royal Agricultural College
For further details contact Gill Ashley 840993

Whatley Manor

Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner 'The Proposal' starring Sandra Bullock Sun 13 Dec £37 includes 3 course lunch or dinner, film & popcorn. *For further details contact 834026 or www.whatleymanor.com*

Horseworld

Christmas Carol Concert & Christmas Fair

Sun 6 Dec 10am - 4pm, Santa arrives 10.30, Carols at 2pm free entry, Santa's Grotto £2.50
For further details contact Kim Goddard on 01275 893024 or www.horseworld.org.uk

Nailsworth

Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Professional football only 20 minutes drive from Sherston. Home matches: Sat 5 Dec 3pm v Rushden & Diamonds ; Sat 26 Dec 3pm v Salisbury City Adults £15/£13 , Concessions £10/£8 , under16s £7/£5
For further details contact 01453 834860 or www.forestgreenroversfc.com

Avon Valley Steam Trains

Santa Express - meet Santa on a 1 hour train ride through the Avon valley
Every weekend in Dec 6 departures from 10.30 am till 4.30pm £8 - £10 Avon Valley Railway
For further details contact 0117 932 5538 or www.avonvalleyrailway.org

Lacock

Special Events at Lacock Abbey & Village Christmas in the Cloisters

Sat 5 - Sun 6 Dec 11am - 3pm £2.50 for adults.
Lacock Abbey
For further details contact 01249 730459 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock

Bath

Christmas Market

123 wooden stalls between Bath Abbey and York Street
26 Nov - 6 Dec 10am - 7pm / 9pm at weekends
For further details contact or www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk

Theatre Royal

Disney's Beauty and the Beast; Tues 1 - Sat 5 Dec 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £19.50-£35

Pride and Prejudice Mon 7 - Sat 12 Dec 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £10-£35

Handel's Messiah by candlelight Sun 13 Dec 10.30 - 4pm 3.30 & 7.30pm £23 / 25

Book ahead for: The History Boys, My Wonderful Day; Private Lives with Kim Cattrall and Matthew Macfadyen; Hedda Gabler; The Secret of Sherlock Holmes
For further details contact 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk

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