



# THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2010

DELIVERED FREE

## Parish pluck

*One of Sherston's  
all weather people  
carriers in action*



There's no doubt that in January the whole parish reacted superbly to the challenges caused by the worst winter weather for nearly 30 years.

There are countless stories of good deeds amongst neighbours, friends and relatives. These include reports of people checking on the elderly and disabled, collecting shopping, and offering lifts to the surgery and hospital. The Neighbourhood Watch scheme swung into action early, showing what a valuable service its volunteers provide. There's no doubt that at such times the benefits of living in a close-knit and caring community come into their own.

If it ever needed emphasising, the value of having our own local services was thoroughly underlined last month. All our local retailers did a marvellous job in keeping their doors open and their shelves well stocked – particularly Tucks and Sherston Post Office

*Some of the snow creatures that appeared in the village*



Stores, which continued to provide essential day to day foodstuffs. Praise is also due to the suppliers that battled through the snow and ice with deliveries.

The Tolsey surgery deserves special thanks for providing an absolutely first class service at a very difficult time for many, especially those who had suffered falls in the icy conditions. Could you imagine Sherston without its own surgery?

Let's not forget our local garages for so often going the extra mile in ensuring that drivers could get their vehicles started and repaired. Nor should we overlook the emergency services and Wiltshire Council staff across so many departments, including Highways with their grit lorries and snow ploughs.

The experience of the last few weeks should make us all even more determined to support and indeed enhance our local services.

# Yes to slow down

The parish council has supported the recommendations in Wiltshire Council's recent comprehensive review of all 330 speed limits on A and B class roads in the county as regards the B4040 on both sides of the village. These are to reduce the current speed limit of 60 mph between Pinkney and Malmesbury and Sherston and Luckington to 50mph. In addition, support has been given to Luckington Parish Council's view that the limit on the B4040 from Luckington to the county boundary be similarly reduced to 50 mph. In the Wiltshire review this remained at 60 mph.

With a large number of speed limit alterations likely as a result of the review process, complete implementation is likely to take up to three years. A review of all C class and unclassified roads in the county is also to be undertaken, although probably not until 2011.

**Copy deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.**  
**Send to [editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk)**

The size and content of the Cliffhanger depends entirely on the amount of copy we receive from individuals and groups. So, if you feel you have something of interest, please don't hesitate to tell us. 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.

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# Gritty issues

It has become apparent during the recent icy weather that neither the Sherston to Norton road, nor the road to Grittleton from Lordswood to the Alderton junction are on the schedule for gritting by Wiltshire Council. It is felt that these are important routes for many residents and the parish council is therefore seeking their addition to the gritting regime.

The wintry conditions have also brought concerns about empty grit bins. The best way to deal with this is to make a complaint to Wiltshire Council using the CLARENCE system. The phone number is 0800 23 23 23 - from landlines within Wiltshire: or 01225 77 72 34 from mobiles and from outside Wiltshire. Alternatively email [clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk) or report the matter on line at <http://localview.wiltshire.gov.uk/LocalView/ReportAFault.aspx>. Should you have any requests for additional grit bins please contact the parish council.

Please remember that the grit provided in the bins is intended for public highways and footpaths, rather than for private driveways or paths. There have been several reports of people taking large quantities of grit away for their own use. In particular the bin at Anthony Close, where a number of residents are elderly and disabled, has been raided with individuals seen removing bags and boxfuls of grit in their vehicles. Abuse of this kind should be reported to the Police and Wiltshire Council.

# Churchyard

The parochial church council has written to the parish council warning that Sherston churchyard is almost at full capacity and will be unable to accommodate many more burials.

The parish council is the civil burial authority and as such has helped maintain the churchyard by contributing to its costs. Where however the parish churchyard is declared formally full it then falls to the parish council to provide a new burial ground or cemetery. Locally Luckington churchyard was declared full some years ago and accordingly Luckington PC provides a cemetery adjoining the Sherston Road.

In these circumstances it is considered good practice for both the parochial church council and the parish council to liaise closely to provide the best long term solution for the parish. This early warning of the problem is therefore appreciated. Discussions on the timing for a new burial ground, size of site required and location will now begin. All concerned are fully aware of the importance to residents of this sensitive subject.

# Parking- a solution?

The proposal by a resident, publicised in last month's Cliffhanger, for car parking to be provided on the recreation ground has brought forward many comments to the parish council both for and against. The reason behind the scheme is to alleviate parking problems in the central area of the village, particularly the High Street.

By the January meeting of the parish council, some 25 comments had been received with more arriving on the day of the meeting itself. Most were in writing, and many people had taken time and effort not only to comment on the proposal in hand but also to offer their views on the extent of the problem and to propose solutions of their own. The parish council is pleased with this level of response, which will help considerably in reaching a decision as to whether or not to take the proposal forward.

Given the length of some of the comments, and in view of the high level of interest in the subject, the parish council agreed to adjourn any decision until its next meeting on 11 February. This will allow time for all councillors to consider the representations in detail and for any residents who have not yet commented to do so. All letters should be sent to the Clerk, Mrs. Sarah Wood, at 23 Cliff Road Sherston SN16 0LN or emailed to [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk) as soon as possible, and by Wednesday 10 February at the latest. You may also telephone the Clerk on 840351.

One parking issue which needs to be resolved quickly, however, is the problem of access for emergency vehicles to Silver Street and Cliff Road and especially to the corner between them. An elderly resident with disabilities has expressed concern about this, as have others. The parish council is therefore asking both Highways and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service to investigate the problem and if necessary propose a solution.

# Precept held

The parish council has set its precept for the next financial year. This is the amount that council taxpayers contribute towards the council's costs. The amount is included in the total council tax bill which is collected by Wiltshire Council and which will be notified to taxpayers during March.

There have been very few new taxable properties in the parish over the last year, while inflation has been low or non-existent and the economy has remained weak. It has therefore been agreed that the precept should be held at the 2009/10 level. The total figure then remains at £22,400.

The council's detailed budget for 2010/11 is still to be agreed and will have to work within the constraints of the precept remaining unchanged. While the council has a number of ongoing projects such as Grove Wood, Recreation Ground railings, Sportsfield improvements, additional allotments and the new walks booklet it is hoped that these will be assisted financially by successful grant applications to ensure their early completion. There is, however, likely to be greatly increased competition for grant funding over the next few years and it will therefore be vital to thoroughly explore all avenues of possible finance.

# Keep calling

The parish council will not be taking up BT's offer to adopt the Willesley and Pinkney telephone kiosks. Under this scheme, BT would disconnect the service and the community pay £1 for the kiosk and take responsibility for its future maintenance. Parish council's view is that both kiosks provide a vital lifeline, particularly in emergencies, and should remain operated by BT. The kiosk in Sherston High Street is unaffected and will remain in service for the foreseeable future.



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# Allotments – land needed

With a list of 25 residents waiting for plots and with the increasing interest in 'growing your own' showing no sign of diminishing, the parish council is now actively seeking land to provide additional allotments. Ideally the land should be within easy walking distance of the centre of the village, adjoin the highway and have a water supply available. The land can either be purchased outright or taken on a long lease. If you either own or know of a piece of suitable land which might be available please contact the Clerk, Mrs Sarah Wood, at 23 Cliff Road Sherston SN16 0LN, 840351 or email the details to her at [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk).

On the subject of bonfires, it has been agreed by the parish council to alter the present conditions for the Green Lane plots to allow only bonfires containing materials produced on the site with such fires to be attended at all times. This condition will come into effect from the end of March. An agreement on a new lease of the site to the parish council from Wiltshire Council has now been reached although not completed.

A review of allotment rents was undertaken at the January parish council meeting. Rents had remained at £5 per plot for some 25 years with an additional £3 charge for water following a supply being obtained some 15 years ago. Taking into account the likely new rent for the entire site payable to Wiltshire Council, as well as water charges, maintenance and administration costs for the forthcoming year, the parish council has agreed to increase the rent for a full plot to £18 pa. For half plots the figure is £12, with £8 for one third plots. These figures include water charges. The Sherston Allotments and Garden Association (SAGA) sought a lower level of increase on behalf of its members but council felt they were fair and reasonable compared with charges elsewhere.

# Photo shoot

Residents in the conservation area of the village should not be alarmed if they find their property or small architectural details of it being photographed over the next few weeks or so. In the new walks booklet, to be published later this year, there will be a walk around the village and the parish footpath group needs some photos to illustrate it. If you do have concerns however, please contact the Clerk, Mrs Sarah Wood.

# Malmesbury Abbey skate 2010 17 -19 February

Following the huge success of last year's event we are once more turning Malmesbury Abbey into a skate park for three days in February half term. There will be an Ash Wednesday communion followed by the opening of the park. For more details on times see [Facebook.com/abbeyskate](https://www.facebook.com/abbeyskate), [www.malmesburyabbey.com](http://www.malmesburyabbey.com) or contact us on [skate@malmesburyabbey.com](mailto:skate@malmesburyabbey.com)

This year we aim to provide two and a half days of skating, courtesy of Christian Skaters UK, with sessions for beginners, girls only, and of course for the more experienced skaters, of which there is a large community in Malmesbury. We are also hoping to hold dance sessions with visiting instructors and beat box workshops with the Rev Gavin Tyte who was at St Michael's Twerton in Bath. Check him out at [www.tytefamily.com/index.php/about/biography/](http://www.tytefamily.com/index.php/about/biography/) We will also be running a cafe and prayer room so non-skaters are also most welcome to come and enjoy the tranquil surroundings. Last year it was enjoyed by young and old alike, and the Abbey was returned to normal by Saturday morning with no damage thanks to an industrious crew of volunteers. We look forward to seeing you there.

# Sherston 1016 Book Sale

The first of the increasingly popular book sales for the year is set for Saturday 27 March in the village hall from 9am to 12 noon – free entry. If you have any books, videos, CDs or DVDs to donate these may be left with Mike Tarrant at Grays of Sherston. All proceeds from the sale go towards the senior citizens Christmas vouchers.

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# 60s Night with The Beatles



(...well almost)

Friends of Sherston School are putting on a fabulous evening of entertainment in the village hall on Saturday 6 March. They are going back to the swinging 60s so are calling on all hippies, mods and rockers, and those with bee-hives, bobs and quiffs to join in the fun.

Headlining the evening is a Beatles tribute band that have played at Glastonbury, in the Cavern Club and the Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool, as well as in Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Poland and the USA. They are Sgt Pepper's Only Dart Board Band and include the fab four plus Sgt Pepper on keyboards. Dressed in full Pepper regalia, they'll perform all the Beatles greats completely live and without the use of backing tracks.

In addition to the band you'll be able to 'bop 'til you drop' to all the other sounds of the 60s with a professional DJ from the Sound System Roadshow.

60s dress is encouraged so climb into your clobber, stick on your slingbacks and get your tickets before they sell out. Psychedelic vodka jelly will be available along with a fully licensed bar. Doors open at 8pm and close at midnight.

Tickets are £8 each and are available from the Post Office Stores, The Rattlebone, or Linda on 840418 or Emma on 840317. All profits go to enhance learning at Sherston Primary School.

For further details on the band see [www.sgtpeppertribute.co.uk](http://www.sgtpeppertribute.co.uk) or [www.myspace.com/sgtpeppersonlydartboardband](http://www.myspace.com/sgtpeppersonlydartboardband)

## Boules 2010

Since 2 January, applications for places in the draw for the 2010 tournament have been landing on the doormat of Pete Johnston, 24 The Tarters, Sherston. The closing date for the 25th running of this event is 30 April.

As usual, the preponderance of places will be allotted to people living in Sherston and the surrounding parishes. Application forms are available from [www.sherston.net](http://www.sherston.net) and Sherston Post Office.

## Look in the loft!

We are looking for photos, slides and memorabilia on the theme of the French Connection as well as any material covering past Boules and Carnival weeks over the last 25 years to exhibit in the British School Room on Boules day 17 July. Please contact Helen Quirk of Sherston Senior Club on 840516 or email [Hjquirk@aol.com](mailto:Hjquirk@aol.com)

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# THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

With February seeing the first hopeful signs of spring, many members' thoughts turn to sowing their seed.

As to varieties of mangold, Yellow Eckendorf has long been a Sherston favourite, but last year Red Mammoth was also grown. There is no doubt that in the culinary stakes Red Mammoth is a winner with Mr William Tulberg producing an excellent soup and Mr Robert Strong some superb chips. It must be said, however, that Yellow Eckendorf was used to great effect in a lasagne by Mr Jock Walker as can be verified by those members of the Malmesbury Young Farmers Club who readily polished off many a plateful. Also, who can possibly forget Mrs Penny Forster's succulent mangold muffin at the 2009 Hurl? From a hurling viewpoint, however, Yellow Eckendorf is absolutely outstanding, producing large torpedo shaped roots with all the aerodynamics necessary for a winning hurl.

For the 2010 season, a supply of Yellow Eckendorf seed will again be provided by E.W. King & Co Ltd of Kelvedon Essex ([www.kingsseeds.com/index.asp](http://www.kingsseeds.com/index.asp)), which will be available in mid March from Sherston Parva Nursery, Sherston Post Office Stores and the Rattlebone Inn. The seed is free and comes with full cultivation instructions, although a donation to Sherston 1016 funds would be appreciated. For those wishing to be adventurous by experimenting with Red Mammoth, a limited amount of seed will be available from members of the Order (usually to be found in the bar at the Rattlebone) or by emailing [ebeplaced@aol.com](mailto:ebeplaced@aol.com).

It seems that the Keeper of the Lists, Mr Graham Hayman, will have a busy month ahead as no fewer than 14 applications have been made for the honour of being proclaimed the 2010 Mangold Maid. He has already begun conducting the necessary entrance examinations and although there have been some misgivings at the length of time he is taking over each individual applicant, he is always chaperoned by Ms Kate Moorhouse to ensure that all is conducted with due decorum. Once the field has been whittled down

to three, the Order's AGM in April will make the final decision with the chosen maid being crowned on Whit Sunday 23 May.

Next month I hope to bring you some details of training courses with artificial mangolds which have been arranged in an effort to improve the disastrous showing by Sherston teams at last year's Hurl. I will also be giving tips on how best to prepare your bed before sowing your seed.

Yarp!

*The Keeper of the Quill*



## Clematis clinic

Many gardeners find one particular aspect of growing clematis something of a nightmare – pruning. When to do it? Which type to prune? How much to prune? These are just some of the questions which will be answered at Sherston Parva Nursery's Clematis clinic to be held on Saturday 27 February and, in case you can't make that day, also on Sunday 7 March, with both sessions commencing at 2.30pm.

The clinic will consist of a talk, with practical demonstrations, followed by questions. It will last around 40 minutes in total and be under cover in a polytunnel. Please, however, come suitably clothed if the weather is cold. There will be a complimentary glass of Martin Rea's famous mulled wine on hand to warm you up! The event is entirely free and there is no need to book – just turn up on the day of your choice.

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*Pic: Clive Herrmann*

## Emergency team?

While there can be no doubt that the parish coped very well with the recent winter weather there was one area which caused concern – icy pavements, particularly in the central area of the village.

It is extremely unlikely the Wiltshire Council will ever have the resources to deal with this problem for us. Could we then make a difference with some organised self help?

An idea is that the parish council maintain its own stock of grit, perhaps supplied by Wiltshire Council,

which would then be spread by a team of volunteers. Given a large enough team it should be possible to clear some essential routes in the village, such as those connecting the surgery with the Post Office and Tucks. Other problem areas such as Anthony Close and North End Gardens could also be covered.

At this stage parish council is exploring the insurance and liability issues with its insurers and other advisors. If an emergency team is a possibility there is no reason why it should not be in place by next winter. Hopefully there would be no shortage of volunteers. After all, 40 or so turn up in the High street at 7.00am every Boules Day to lay all that sand.

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# TREEtalk

February 2010 *by Irene Johnston*



## Shiver me timbers!

Snow is still coating the landscape as I write this so all activity in Grove Wood has ground to a halt. We did manage one good session before the weather made conditions too slippery. Under the expert guidance of arborist, John Lloyd, ten volunteers cut down hazel stools and brambles, creating space and light in the neglected woodland. John meanwhile tackled the tough stuff with his chainsaw. We have salvaged lots of slim branches for pea sticks and hurdles but there is debris to clear and burn. By the time this goes to press, I hope we will have had a second volunteer session at the wood to tackle this mountain, ably fortified by Sue McKechnie's delicious, homemade soup. We will be working every Sunday morning in February between 10am and 1pm so please come along and lend a hand if only for an hour or so. Just turn up - we need the help. We will also be planting 1000 snowdrops on Saturday 27 February from 10 am and again would welcome as many volunteers as possible. Gloves, tools and hot soup supplied. For further details see my contact details below.

## Wood website coming soon...

The revised Sherston website [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk) is to include a new web page for Grove Wood. Try it out shortly for details of forthcoming activities, work-in-progress photos and all manner of fascinating woodland facts.

## And finally:

As snow falls, air is trapped amongst the flakes and provides good insulation. Plants and animals make the most of this blanket as the temperature underneath doesn't usually fall below freezing.

A regional name for the snowdrop is the 'snow-piercer'. The tip of the flowering stem is covered by a special protective leaf that allows the flower to force its way through the snow.

The recent World Record attempt to plant the most number of trees by 100 people in just 60 minutes at a single location was achieved at an Irish site. Volunteers at Gransha Wood in Derry planted a whopping 26,422 trees. Makes Grove Wood look easy peasy.

For further information about any of the above, please contact Sherston's Tree Warden, Irene Johnston on telephone: 841273 or email: [ie\\_johnston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk)

## St. Valentine's walk

On Sunday 14 February, St Valentine's Day, starting at 10am from the village hall, Sue McKechnie will be leading the first seasonal walk of 2010 organised by the parish footpath group. Sue is hoping to include some romantic spots on the walk, as recommended by local historian Cilla Liddington, who has extensive firsthand knowledge of their whereabouts. Contrary to rumour, Sue will not be offering a blind date service.

The walk will be at the pace of the slowest, and families are particularly welcome, as are 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. The walk is free and there is no need to book. Just turn up with suitable footwear and clothing for weather conditions on the day.



The Christmas walk on 27 December was well attended and enjoyed by almost all. Treacherous ice on Backrill Lane claimed one walker but luckily Sue and her first aid kit were on hand to rescue the situation and no lasting harm was done. Thanks are due to the Rattlebone Inn for a sumptuous butternut squash & chestnut soup followed by hot mince pies for all those returning from the walk.

The next walk will take place on Easter Monday 5 April. More details next month.

Did you know that Wales has its own patron saint of lovers, St Dwynwen, who is celebrated on 25 January? For more detail visit [www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/fa/stdwynwen/](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/fa/stdwynwen/)

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## Village Green, 22 May 2010, will do exactly what it says on the tin!



Village Green, will take place at the Village Hall and School Field on International Biodiversity Day, Saturday 22 May. The aim is to spotlight the many local groups and organisations that have environmental and ecological interests in and around our village. We want to give them space to showcase their projects, to raise their public profile and to encourage new people to get involved. There are around ten village groups with 'green' credentials and over 30 when the wider area is included. We want the day to be informative, entertaining, topical and thought-provoking. There will be rural craft stalls, demonstrations of traditional pursuits such as hurdle-making and dry stone walling, music, folk and maypole dancing; animals, organic food and drink and plenty of children's activities. Village Green will also seek to explain how we can all make our own contributions to assist biodiversity, from recycling and compost-making to wildlife gardening.

The concept of Village Green is a first for Sherston and deserves lots of support. We are already in contact with relevant local groups and are also holding an open meeting on Tuesday 9 February in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Please do come along and throw your ideas in the ring. All volunteers will be warmly welcomed and we can guarantee that getting green doesn't get much better than this!

For further information about Village Green, please contact Irene Johnston on telephone: 841273 or email: [ie\\_johnston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk)

## Bodywork in need of attention? Would you like a free MOT?

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Join us on Saturday 6 February between 10.00am and 12.00pm at Malmesbury Town Hall.

For further information telephone 01249 706448 or email [areaboardsnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:areaboardsnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk).

This event is hosted by Malmesbury Area Board.

As well as being invited to the Health Fair you are welcome to attend a health workshop from 12.00pm to 1.30pm at Malmesbury Town Hall (sandwiches will be provided).

We would like you to join us to consider the health issues facing Malmesbury and the surrounding villages and to learn more about the most important health issues that face our community. You will also have the opportunity to discuss with health professionals how we might best tackle some of these issues by working together at a community level.

The outcomes of this workshop will be presented to the Malmesbury Area Board and actions agreed. RSVP no later than 2 February (for catering purposes).

For further information and/or to book for the workshop place please contact Miranda Gilmour, Malmesbury Community Area Manager. Tel 01672 515742 or email [miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:miranda.gilmour@wiltshire.gov.uk)



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# In Brief

## Springing up



Many have been amazed by the speed of construction of the two new homes being built for Westlea Housing in Easton Square. The photo above, taken in January, shows just how far advanced the build is after only two months. The properties are expected to be ready for occupation in late spring.

## Circus time

The Christmas shopping trip organised by the parish council for residents without their own transport or for those who just wanted to leave the car at home has been hailed a success. Despite being on the last Saturday before Christmas the journey was simplicity itself and Cribbs Causeway remarkably free of queues. Volunteer driver Eric Thacker deserves a big thank you for his time. He's quite taken with the new Cartmell Community Bus, especially its heating system which pumped out a fantastic 25c despite the day being very cold indeed.

The next trip is set for Saturday 13 February and will be to Cabot Circus in Bristol. The bus will leave the High Street at 11am and return at approximately 4pm. The suggested donation is £4 return and tickets, available from Sherston Post Office, should be obtained well in advance as only 16 seats are available. Under-14s must be accompanied by an adult.

Another outing is booked for Saturday 6 March and ideas for a destination are invited. Cardiff, Cheltenham, Wells and Monmouth have all been suggested. Let Eric know where you'd like to go on 841344 or email [eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk)

## Flower Show

Gardeners should start planning for the annual Flower, Vegetable and Produce Show this summer which takes place alongside the Village Party on Bank Holiday Monday 30 August. Some more help with its organisation will be needed this year – more details on how to become involved in next month's edition.

## Oops!

The 200+ Club article in January's Cliffhanger mistakenly stated the annual subscription at £12 when it is of course a bargain at only £6. There is still time to join for 2010 and help support the village hall as well as a chance of a cash prize every month. Just contact Mary Goulding (840794), Joyce Gleed (840744) or Gwen Mason (840660).

## Village cinema?

Would you be interested in a regular monthly film show in the village hall? One of Europe's largest rural cinema schemes, Moviola, could make this a reality with films being shown using the latest projectors and with digital delivery – most recently adopting BluRay high definition disks wherever possible. If you would like to know more contact Martin Rea on 840348, email [martdrea@aol.com](mailto:martdrea@aol.com) or visit [www.moviola.org](http://www.moviola.org)

## Christmas lights

Thanks to all those residents and businesses in the High Street who displayed the lights provided by the parish council. Hopefully more will take up the offer next year. In the meantime all light sets should please be returned to Cilla Liddington at 34 High Street as soon as possible.

## rsnonline

Are you interested in rural affairs? If so, try this site run by the Rural Services Network [www.rsnonline.org.uk/](http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/) The weekly newsletter alone is a mine of up to date information and can be of help to many including businesses, charities and voluntary groups.

## Digital TV switchover

It's coming - soon! Stage one: 24 March. Stage two: 7 April. For advice visit [www.dgitaluk.co.uk/west](http://www.dgitaluk.co.uk/west) or call 08456 50 50 50. If you're over 75, receive or are eligible for certain benefits, or are registered blind or partially sighted, then contact the Switchover Help Scheme run by the BBC. Visit [www.helpscheme.co.uk](http://www.helpscheme.co.uk) or call 0800 40 85 900 if you have yet to receive a letter about the scheme. Those who have received a letter must reply if they wish to take up the scheme.



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## Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 11 February at 7.30pm in the village hall. All are welcome to attend and there will be 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 840351, or email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk). In addition, the parish council can be contacted via the response form on its website [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk) which also carries the minutes of meetings.

## Magnificent!

The Rattlebone Inn's Christmas raffle in aid of Sherston 1016's senior citizens' vouchers completely sold out raising a fantastic £1000 – the best ever result. Thanks are due to Jason Read, Rob Strong and all the staff at the pub as well as to all those who donated the superb prizes. Tony Evans won the first prize of a Nintendo Wii with Mark Andrews picking up the booby prize of a pair of Rob Outlaw's 'just worn' football socks. Mark quickly discarded these only for them to be picked up as souvenirs by a number of young ladies.

In addition to the raffle, the Rattlebone ran the traditional Christmas decoration burning sweepstake, producing a further £45 for 1016. The decoration this year was a large Reindeer with a fund to try to save it run by Jade Woodward, raising another £3.45. Unfortunately Jade's valiant attempt at rescuing the decoration was to no avail and it was duly burnt to a crisp.

## High Street trees

Given the poor state of the acacia trees near the Tolsey it has been suggested that these be improved or even replaced. Does anyone know when the trees were planted? Answers to the parish Clerk please.

## Lost and found

If you've lost your dog or have found one contact Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0100. After 5pm and at weekends please call the out of hours service on 0845 056 8035. Dangerous dogs are dealt with by the Police. If you're worried about an out of control animal please call Wiltshire Police on 0845 408 7000.

## Badminton Horse Trials 2010

Not everyone seems to be aware that there is an important change to the timetable for this year's event. Instead of running as usual from Thursday to Sunday, the 2010 trials will start on Friday 30 April and finish on Bank Holiday Monday 3 May. For further details visit [www.badminton-horse.co.uk/](http://www.badminton-horse.co.uk/)

## NHS Dentist

If you wish to register with the new NHS dental practice to be set up at the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre, contact Integrated Dental Holdings, Integrated Dental House, Sunset Business Park, Manchester Road, Kearsley, Bolton BL4 8RH. Tel: 01204 799799 or email [info@idhgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@idhgroup.co.uk)

## Sportsfield

The first meeting of the newly formed Sportsfield subcommittee of the parish council in January fell victim to the winter weather and had to be postponed. The rearranged meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 February at 7.30pm in the village hall. All those interested in improving the facilities on the field in both the short and long term are urged to attend. Progress is already being made in the search for funds in support of some immediate upgrading of the pavilion and skateboard park.



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# Old School

The purchase of the site is hopefully progressing towards a successful exchange of contracts and completion. In the meantime, the project has received an important boost from the Malmesbury Area Board of Wiltshire Council.

At its meeting on 20 January, the Board unanimously and enthusiastically approved a bid from the recently incorporated Sherston Old School Company, which will own and manage the site for the community, in respect of Wiltshire Council's performance reward grant scheme.. This now enables a full application under the scheme to be made for a contribution towards the development costs for the building. It will be some months before the result of the application is known.

## Sherston Ladies Swimming Club

We currently have a few spaces in the club. It's open to all ladies living in Sherston and the surrounding area who want to swim in a calm and quiet pool (no kids, no splashing). We meet on Wednesday evenings at Westonbirt Pool from 8.00 to 9.30 pm and the cost is £38 for 15 weeks. For further details ring Annabel 840592 or Heather 840375.



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## La Compagnie Comme Si Une étoile et moi – Judy and Me

On Friday 26 March at 7.30pm Isabelle Georges and Frédéric Steenbrink, rising stars of the European music theatre and cabaret scene, will be appearing at the village hall as part of Rural Arts Wiltshire spring season. They will be performing Une étoile et moi - Judy and Me, Isabelle Georges' personal tribute to the woman who inspired her to become a performer- Judy Garland. Not a pure imitation, nor a complete biography, this is an insightful and inspirational journey through the ups and downs of a fascinating life told through some of the most beautiful songs ever written, including Somewhere Over the Rainbow, The Man That Got Away and You Made Me Love You.

Tickets £6.50 adults, £5.50 senior citizens, £3.50 concessions (benefit claimants, students and children under 16) and £16 for a family (2 adults and 2 children) are available from Sherston Post Office Stores, online at [www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk](http://www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk) or telephone 840348. The show is suitable for all ages. Licensed bar.

For more about Une étoile et moi – Judy and Me visit [www.uneetoileetmoi.com/etoile-accueil\\_en.html](http://www.uneetoileetmoi.com/etoile-accueil_en.html) [www.frederiksteenbrink.com/index.php?id=61](http://www.frederiksteenbrink.com/index.php?id=61)

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# Publicity tip

As those who organise local events know only too well, encouraging enough people to attend is a prerequisite for success. Every opportunity for publicity needs to be grasped, especially the internet. Fortunately there are at least three good avenues available locally - all at absolutely no cost.

Malmesbury Tourist Information Centre produces a monthly listing which is available in both printed form and via Malmesbury Town Council's website at [/www.malmesbury.gov.uk/whatson.html](http://www.malmesbury.gov.uk/whatson.html). To ensure your event is listed, email [TIC@malmesbury.gov.uk](mailto:TIC@malmesbury.gov.uk) or call 01666 823748.

Cotswold District Council runs a comprehensive online listing service for the whole Cotswolds area which is simple to use - visit [www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a\\_id=146&tt=cotswold](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=146&tt=cotswold). In addition you have the option of your event appearing in a monthly printed form which is available at all Cotswold tourist information centres.

The official tourist website for Wiltshire also lists events via [www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/site/whats-on](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/site/whats-on). To get an event included either email [info@visitwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:info@visitwiltshire.co.uk) or call 0845 602 7323.

Hope this helps make your event a winner. Don't forget to use the Cliffhanger too, email [info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk), as well as [www.sherston.net](http://www.sherston.net).



## Ticket Sales Scrum

by Pat Starke

The Sherston Boules Ball organisers are pleased to announce that tickets for the event will go on sale on Saturday 20 March.

The sales team will set up a mini marquee (and provide refreshments) outside Sherston Post Office Stores from 9.30am until 1.00pm. Tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis, there will be no advanced sales and tickets will be sold in tables of 10 where possible. After that, further tickets will be on sale at the post office.

At present the full details of the event are still being finalised. But suffice to say that Sherston's highly popular house band, The Village People, will provide an element of the musical entertainment. Watch this space for further details.

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# Winter tales

The recent cold weather has prompted two villagers to recollect previous spells of extreme weather.

## Ice storm in Sherston

During 1939 war was looming on the horizon. It was my first year at school. I was 14 years of age and in July I left to begin my working life. The summer was warm and we were unprepared for what lay ahead. In December it had become icy cold with heavy frosts. We had heavy rain all one day and night, which froze as it settled.

In the morning I walked outside and witnessed a sight I had never seen before or since. The whole countryside was encased in ice, with each blade of grass in a capsule of ice about half an inch thick, making it feel as though I was walking on broken glass. The telephone wires and electric cables, which were three or four times their original thickness, were sagging near to or on the ground like giant necklaces. Large tree limbs as well as whole trees were crashing to the ground under the weight of the thick ice.

The bird population suffered badly. Many had frozen on the trees and fallen to the ground and were now lying on their backs, legs pointing to the sky. Every night the stillness, so noticeable on frosty nights, would be broken every four or five minutes by an enormous crack like a gunshot, followed by a crunch as another large tree or branch crashed to the ground. I earned 13 shillings taking telegrams to people who had lost their phone lines. It was a couple of weeks before any sort of normality returned.

*George Stephens*

## Colder

When I was a schoolboy during the war, I waited with others for a Bristol bus to take us to school at Malmesbury. It could be almost guaranteed that the roads would be covered with snow and ice for at least six weeks of the winter months. With temperatures occasionally falling to -20°, the river would freeze over, encouraging as many as 100 people to skate on Badminton Lake. Bristol suffered almost nightly bombing in those days, sometimes shattering the bus windows. But as long as its engine ran, the bus would come, with its wooden seats giving us a cold but merry trip to school. Should the bus fail to arrive, a favourite trick was to cadge a lift on the convoys of stone lorries ferrying stone from Sherston's three quarries to the runways at Kemble, Lynham and Wroughton airfields (Hullavington not being on route), usually at 60mph.

*John Hillier*

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# Wiltshire 2026 response

With invaluable assistance from Sherston resident and professional planner Mike Johnson, the parish council has submitted its response on what is the first of a series of consultations by Wiltshire Council on its proposals for a new plan for Wiltshire's future to 2026.

Unsurprisingly, much of the council's discussion centred on the likely level of housing development in the parish. While it was accepted that there is room for some new houses in the village, the parish council felt that Sherston would be unable to accommodate as many as 62, which was the number originally suggested by Wiltshire Council. A maximum of 35 housing units for Sherston was thought more appropriate, with these to be provided over two phases -15 by 2015 and another 20 by 2026. It would be preferable for these developments to be on brownfield sites and /or any other sites lying within the existing settlement boundary.

It was also thought that mention needed to be made of other issues and opportunities of relevance to Sherston including –

- To identify and support a future appropriate use for the vacant Old School premises on the High Street
- The retention and improvement of existing local services – especially the Surgery, Post Office and Village Hall – including the provision of new services where needed
- The improvement of local public transport to be more consumer led as regards destination and frequency
- A reduction in traffic speed and in the number of non local HGVs passing through the parish
- Improvement and retention of public open space, rights of way and allotments
- The provision, in response to an identifiable need within the parish, of extra care housing on suitable brownfield sites
- An acknowledgement of the fact that Sherston has been subjected to a significant level of housing growth over the last decade – in excess of 70 dwellings have been built in the last five years. The parish council would ideally wish to see a period of consolidation before further development takes place. Hence, no significant private housing development should be encouraged over the next five years
- The need to encourage new employment development in appropriate locations in and around the village

The process of producing the final Wiltshire 2026 plan will take a considerable time, during which there will be further consultation opportunities for both residents and the parish council.

## First Sherston John Rattlebone Scouts Group Grand Christmas Draw

Sherston Scouts, Cubs and Brownies ran a very successful Grand Christmas Raffle during the run-up to Christmas. The children and their parents all lent a hand with selling tickets and bringing in prizes to make up some of our legendary Christmas hampers. Other prizes included wine and spirits, jigsaw puzzles, Christmas biscuits, and a year's subscription to the Arboretum. Local businesses kindly contributed prizes included Tracklements, Sherston Wine, the Post Office, Tucks, Hortico, Westonbirt Arboretum, Wentworth Wooden Puzzles, Tesco in Tetbury and the Co-Op in Malmesbury.

Winners of the four first prize hampers were S Luke of Luckington, Mr Williamson of Hullavington, Mr Wimbolt c/o the Tartars and P Smith of Sherston.

The group is looking forward to an exciting 2010 and will be keeping Cliffhanger readers informed about what we are doing.

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# Amazing and preposterous



*Constance Smedley*

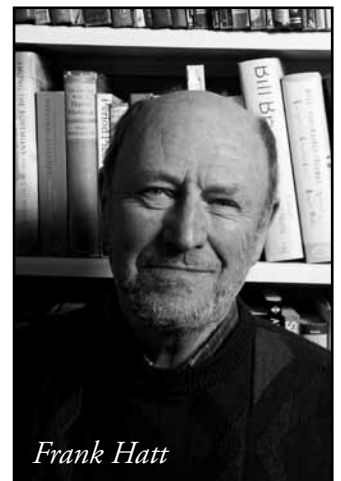
The Everyman Theatre Cheltenham is the venue for the forthcoming professional production of the latest play by Sherston author Frank Hatt. Frank moved into the village with his wife Elizabeth just over two years ago and until recently he was a member of the Cliffhanger team.

Stroud Theatre Company will be presenting his play 'The Amazing and Preposterous Constance Smedley' in the Everyman's studio theatre from Thursday 11

March until Saturday 13 March. There will be five performances including two matinees.

Stroud Theatre Company is run by actor/director Chris Garner and his wife, designer Sue Condie. They also work nationwide on a freelance basis. Chris's portfolio includes spells directing at the New Vic and Salisbury Playhouse. As an actor, he recently appeared at the Hampstead Theatre in the highly acclaimed revival of Frank McGuinness's 'Behold the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme'. Sue has recently been designing for Sir Alan Ayckbourn's Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough. With Chris directing and Sue designing, 'The Amazing and Preposterous Constance Smedley' promises to be a high quality production.

In the early part of the twentieth century, Constance Smedley was a celebrity: a successful artist, playwright, feminist journalist and author of numerous novels and children's books. She founded the International Lyceum Club for Women, established its clubhouse in London, and oversaw the foundation of similar Lyceum Clubs in Amsterdam, Paris, Berlin and Florence. A century later there are Lyceum Clubs worldwide. Frank Hatt's play is based on events in the remarkable life of this woman, made all the more remarkable by the fact that from childhood she battled with a disability that paralysed her from the waist down. Her achievements were indeed amazing; her behaviour was often preposterous.



*Frank Hatt*

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Frank Hatt's writing career began over 50 years ago with a short play at London's Royal Court Theatre. It then suffered a long interruption caused by the need to earn a living. Since he took early retirement from employment, six of Frank's recent plays have been performed professionally, mostly touring Gloucestershire and the south-west. His interest in Constance Smedley was aroused when he was presented with a large bundle of Smedley family letters that a lady had rescued from a builder's bonfire.

For further details and booking information visit:  
[www.stroudtheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.stroudtheatrecompany.co.uk) and  
[www.everymantheatre.org.uk](http://www.everymantheatre.org.uk)

# Love pancakes? Then you'll love this!

Sherston 1016 is organising its annual Pancake Eating Competition on the evening of Shrove Tuesday, February 16, from 7.30pm at the Rattlebone Inn. Entries will be welcome in advance or on the night, and the competition has senior and junior classes.

The competition will take place in heats, with each competitor paying a mere £2 entry fee for the whole evening. Each entrant will have four delicious freshly-cooked pancakes to eat in the first heat. Contestants will have time to add lemon and sugar to their taste, then the clock will start, and the first heat will be under way.

The winner of each heat will be the first to finish eating all the pancakes on his or her plate. These winners will then go on to the next heat, again with four pancakes each, and so on until the championship round. The winner will have his or her name engraved on a 1016 commemorative engraved frying pan. There will also be runners-up prizes.

The competition is a revival of one that took place in the area around 25 years ago, with great success. Local organisations are encouraged to take part, and individual entries will also be welcomed. Any entrant not feeling able to continue at any point will not be pressured into continuing.

'We came to the conclusion that too many people would not be able to join in the with a normal pancake race in the street,' said Sherston 1016 spokesman Richard Langley. 'With our competition, people will be able to join in the fun in the evening, and won't need to worry about the weather.'

'Where possible, all ingredients are sourced locally, with eggs coming from Sherston Free-Range Eggs, flour from Shipton Mill at Long Newnton, and lemons from Tucks greengrocers and butchers, although of course, the lemons are not grown in Sherston, or even in Luckington. All three companies very kindly donate



their products for the competition', Richard added.

If you would like more details of this fun competition, or would like to book your entry, please contact Richard Langley on 01666 840112 or 07879 612776.

Sherston 1016 strongly advises all entrants not to eat a meal before coming to the competition.

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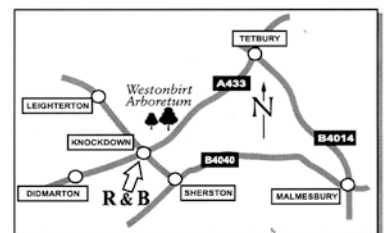


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If the answer is yes ...read on!

North Wiltshire Citizens Advice Bureau is recruiting new volunteer advisers to begin training in April in Chippenham.

North Wiltshire Citizen Advice Bureau is a charity, reliant on a team of volunteers and paid staff to provide information and advice to people in our local community. In 2008/09 we helped over 6,492 households and raised more than two million pounds in unclaimed benefits, employment awards, debt write-offs and other entitlements. In addition to giving advice, all CABs use evidence from their clients to influence policies. We are concerned, for example, about the impact of Jobcentre Plus changes and are using our clients' evidence to campaign for improved customer services for people who are incapable of work.

The work is interesting, challenging and rewarding. People visit the bureau at the most difficult times of their lives – when they are dealing with issues such as financial hardship, illness, disability, relationship breakdown, redundancy or bereavement. The advice and support we provide makes a real difference to people's lives.

We pay travel and carer's expenses and will provide you with the training and support you need to advise people so they can resolve their problems.

Interested? If you have 10 hours a week to spare on week days, we would love to tell you more about us. For further information about our training programme and volunteering in the bureau, please contact Ali Hender, on 01249 443054 or [ahender@northwiltscab.org.uk](mailto:ahender@northwiltscab.org.uk).

For advice please ring 0844 375 2775 or look at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

## Could you do it?

A Part Time Office Administrator is required to provide administrative support for Braydon Brook Churches and the Gauzebrook Group of Parishes.

This is an exciting and challenging post located in the office at the Old Squash Court, Holloway, Malmesbury.

The successful applicant will have:

- 'Excellent communication skills.
- Be skilled in computer applications including Microsoft Office.
- Be able to work both independently and within a team.
- Be welcoming, flexible and understand the need for confidentiality.
- Desire to support and enable the mission and ministry of the Church.

For further details about the post and an application form please contact:

Rev. Eve Pegler, The Vicarage, Green Lane, Sherston, Wilts SN16 0NP. Telephone: 840654, e-mail: [admin@deanery.org.uk](mailto:admin@deanery.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: Monday 15 February 2010. Interviews : Wednesday 24 February 2010. Start date: As soon as possible thereafter.

## Sherston - the way it was

Do you have something interesting to say about local family history or events, buildings, places of interest and working life in the past? If so we'll be pleased to hear from you. Just send it to us by email to [editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk) or if on paper drop it off at Sherston Post Office Stores.

Don't worry if you think you need help in getting your story down on paper. Cilla Liddington 840128 or Beryl Clampton 841201 will be pleased to assist in whatever way they can.

We are also very keen on reproducing any old local photographs, postcards, pictures or sketches. In fact just about anything!

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Pre-school classes (3-5years) have the teacher in the water, parents do not have to get in unless necessary!

Beginners classes have the teacher in the water. Two levels of improver classes & also lane swimming for advanced improvers.

All teachers are fully qualified & crb checked. We follow the asa award scheme & have termly "badge nights" for distance awards. We also run personal survival classes, bronze, silver & gold challenge awards & also rookie lifeguard courses. Holiday courses also available.

All lessons run half termly & are ongoing so no need to keep booking in every term!

TEL. 01666 841133 or 077 144 252 01

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# Footpaths – self help

When the footpath group was first set up in 2008 it soon became clear that whilst the majority of footpaths in the parish were in good or reasonable order there was a tremendous amount of work to be done to a significant number of others. Discussions with Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way department revealed that their resources alone would be unlikely to solve the problem in the foreseeable future. It was learnt, however, that a number of other parishes tackled their paths maintenance with volunteers working closely with the local rights of way officer. Why couldn't Sherston do the same?

Stephen Leonard, who has been our rights of way officer for the last six months, is pleased to support the idea of a Sherston team with Wiltshire Council providing tools, materials and the necessary third party insurance. A number of volunteers have already come forward to set up the team, but the more there are, the easier it will be to get all our paths up to scratch. If you would like to be involved then please come along to the next footpath group meeting on Thursday 25 February at 7.30pm in the village hall. If you can't make the meeting but are interested in joining the team, contact Maggie McKenna on 841047, or email her at [maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com](mailto:maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com)

The team's first priority will be all the paths in the nine walks to be included in the new Sherston walks booklet, which is due to be published later this year. Stephen Leonard has already done a tremendous amount of work on these paths over the last few months but as the booklet publication draws ever nearer it's important to complete the work as soon as possible. What better way to keep fit and improve our paths in one hit?

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Malmesbury (01666) 822863

Mobile 07966 462202

Email [foxleyph@btinternet.com](mailto:foxleyph@btinternet.com)



# Guitar Workshop for dads and dudes

Mary Clements, with the help of her son Matt, will be holding four guitar workshops in February aimed at any beginners or rusty players in need of new material.

During the 17 years Mary spent teaching guitar to teenagers at Sheldon School, she often found that the students had dads who shared their guitar hero aspirations.

She has built up a teaching repertoire which encompasses Dylan and Denver, Beatles and Bonjovi, Garfunkel and Jackson, Mcfly and Marley, Hammerstein and Lloyd-Webber, Elton and Savage Garden. Everything from Nursery Rhymes through Trad.Folk, Mod. Pop, Rock, Spanish or Classical.

The workshops take place on Friday 5, 12, 19 and 26 February between 8.00pm and 9.30pm.

Mary and Matt are offering to replace old strings and retune your instruments before the first session, if you contact them well in advance.

In return, they request donations to the very needy 'Maintenance Fund' for the venue, The British Schoolroom in Cliff Road.

Contact Mary and Matt ('Clem') Clements, 07778 934742 or [clementsmary@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clementsmary@tiscali.co.uk)



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# Sherston FC

by manager Pete Brock

Well we did manage to get a game in at home on the 23rd January and I am glad to say that we ended up winning 2-1 against Woodchester, but it really took some doing. Our front two and wingers were very rusty due to the many games missed through the bad weather. It took a bit of ingenuity from our man at the back, Gavin Thompson, to trot up and score from a corner with a little flick from his heel in the 91st minute of full time. It had got so bad to watch that even mild mannered Julian Bourne, started off with comments like 'good show old man,' and 'chocks away,' before having to be reprimanded by the ref for questioning his parentage, but well done Julian and thanks for the support. Our man on the line, Ady Mines, was pulling his hair out (so that's what did it) and made some changes bringing on the powerhouse that is Conker (Adam Salt to those who don't know him), who straight away had the defence in stitches (laughing about how tall he was) and got the corner which led to the goal, that won the game by running through the defenders legs. So there you have it, Conker came off the pitch telling me that large things come in small packages (make of that what you will). Julian was still questioning the refs parentage and I asked Rob Outlaw to bring in the six corner flags, someone said he was still there Wednesday. All joking aside, it was great effort by all involved to win this one as we had not played since before Christmas but a bigger test awaits this coming weekend when we play Bush FC, who have been winning games by seventeen nil, so we shall see and I will report.

## Village hall 200+ club

### December draw

1st	£11	36	Martin Butler
2nd	£10	58	S Stratton
3rd	£9	235	Anne Pritchett
4th	£8	25	Shirley Freeth
5th	£7	82	Helen Quirk
6th	£6	201	E Littlejohn
7th	£5	131	S Clayton

**Bonus** £5 each: Pat Andrews (146), Richard Maslen (252), Pearl Dyer (94), D Huddart (140), L Robinson (266), M East (242) and Diane Bush (142).

### Collectors

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

## Sherston Magna Cricket Club

by Andrew Tremellen

League fixtures for the new season are now out with Sherston Magna starting the defence of their Division 1 title in the Cotswold District Cricket Association on 1 May, with the visit of last year's Division 2 champions, Williamstrip.

Weekly indoor nets start on Sunday 31 January at 3.30pm at the Activity Zone in Malmesbury. New players interested in joining should contact Andrew Tremellen on 07979 388208.



**FOREST GREEN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB**  
**February Fixtures**  
**at The New Lawn**



**Tuesday 9th - 7.45pm**  
**CHESTER CITY**

**Saturday 20th - 3pm**  
**CAMBRIDGE UNITED**

**Admission Prices:**  
Adults: £15 seated  
£13 Standing

**Concessions:** £10 Seated  
£8 Standing

**Juniors (under 16):** £7 Seated  
£5 Standing

For further details on any of these or future fixtures call  
**01453 834860**  
[www.forestgreenroversfc.com](http://www.forestgreenroversfc.com)  
[www.fgrtrust.com](http://www.fgrtrust.com)

Forest Green Rovers F.C., The New Lawn, Smiths Way, Nailsworth, Glos. GL6 0FG

## Grays of Sherston

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## What's on in 2010 – Dates for your diary

### February

- 16 Pancake Eating Competition, Rattlebone Inn

### March

- 6 60s night with Sgt. Pepper's Only Dart Board Band in aid of Sherston Primary School
- 26 La Compagnie Comme Si : Une étoile et moi - Judy and Me, Village Hall
- 27 Spring Book Sale Village Hall

### April

- 30 -3 May Badminton Horse Trials

### May

- 22 Village Green Day
- 23 Mangold Maid Making

### June

- 19 1016 Boules Marathon
- 26 Boules Ball

### July

- 10 -18 Boules & Carnival – Sat 10 Big Band on the field, Sat 17 Boules Day

### August

- 28 Lobber Jenkins Boules Competition
- 30 Village Party including Flower, Vegetable and Produce Show

### October

- 2 - 3 Sherston Beer & Cider Festival
- 3 Mangold Hurl

### November

- 6 1016 Fireworks Party

If you're planning a community event in the parish why not let the Cliffhanger have the basic details as soon as possible?

Email [info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk) to add the event to this list. Everyone will then know what's occurring in good time and it will help prevent events clashing.

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Telephone: 01666 841 346

# 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*

### Sunday services

Feb: 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist (21 Feb Family Service); 6pm Evensong  
Wed 17 Feb 7.30pm Holy Communion with Imposition of the Ashes

## 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*

## Gauzebrook Junior Church

Every 2nd and 5th Sunday each month in Sherston or Hullavington, joining the adult service at the end for Holy Communion. Feb 14 at 9.30am in the skittle alley at the Rattlebone Inn. *Please contact Sarah Slarke on 07971 090740 for any further information*

## 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 [ebplaced@aol.com](mailto:ebplaced@aol.com).*

## 'Busy Hands' Pre-school

Meets 9.15-11.45 everyday in the village hall for 3 - 5 year olds. *Further details call 841118*

## Church bell ringing

Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00pm.  
*Call Geoff Martin 840375 or come along.*

## Clem's Club

Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British School Room every other Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm - 2 and 16 Feb.

## Eudo Tae Kwon Do

Juniors every Tuesday at 3.15pm Sherston Primary School and Seniors Thursdays 7-9pm in the village hall. *Abby Lees-Smith 07778 326956 or [www.eudotaekwondo.co.uk](http://www.eudotaekwondo.co.uk)*

## 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@harriespartnership.com](mailto:maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com)*

## Ladies' Swimming Club

Open to ladies from local area meeting at Westonbirt School on Wednesday 8 - 9.30pm. £38 for 15 weeks. *Call 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*

## Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wed 3 Mar 6.30 for 7pm at Crudwell Village Hall

## Malmesbury Rangers

Girls over 14 years meet every 2nd Thurs in the month - Feb 11. *Further details from Helen Price 503187 or [retreatcottage17@btinternet.com](mailto:retreatcottage17@btinternet.com)*

## Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 11 Feb at 7.30pm the village hall. Minutes of meetings can be read online at [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk). *Further details contact Sarah Wood on 840351 or [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.salsaflex.com) or call Fitz on 07950 711405*

## Senior Club

Meets at 2.00pm in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday - 9 and 23 Feb. *For further details contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143.*

## Sherston 1016

Fundraising for local good causes and charities. *For further details, contact Eric Thacker on 841344 or email [eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:dogleg@waitrose.com) or secretary Caroline Moore on 841405 or [caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk](mailto:caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk)*

## Sherston FC

The club play in the Stroud league at Knockdown Park on Saturday afternoons - spectators and new players welcome  
*For more details contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or [peter.brock666@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.brock666@btinternet.com)*

## Sherston Sportsfield Sub-Committee

First meeting Wed 3 Feb at 7.30 pm in the village hall. All those interested in improving the facilities on the field in both the short and long term are urged to attend.

## 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 Theatre Club

Excursions with a Sherston High Street-to-venue return coach service. Annual fee £20.

*Listings under [www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/](http://www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/) or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or [Hjquirk@aol.com](mailto:Hjquirk@aol.com)*

## 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@stickyfingerscooking.co.uk](mailto:alex@stickyfingerscooking.co.uk)*

## 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](mailto:julia.nichols@btinternet.com)*

## Sherston W.I.

Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall - 4 Feb.

*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](mailto:charlotte@splashdance.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 12 Feb 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

**Check boards for details of new events**

**Curry Quiz Night** Sun 7 Feb 7.30pm £5 pp entry including all you can eat curry buffet  
*Further details contact 840665*

## The Rattlebone

**6 Nations Rugby matches** on the giant screen from Sat 6 Feb

**Special Valentine's** evening available Sat 13 Feb  
**Annual pancake eating competition**  
**in aid of Sherston 1016** Tues 16 Feb at 7.30pm entry £2

**Live music from Bob Bowles** Sat 27 Feb  
*Further details 840871 or [www.therattlebone.co.uk](http://www.therattlebone.co.uk)*

## The Sherston Magna CC AGM

will be held on Tue 2 February at 8.00pm in the Rattlebone Skittle Alley.

## 1016 Pancake Eating Competition

Shrove Tues 16 Feb from 7.30pm £2 entry at The Rattlebone Inn. *Further details contact Richard Langley on 840112 or 07879 612776*

## Guitar Workshops

4 Friday workshops starting 5 Feb (12,19,26)

8-9.30pm in the British School Rooms

Beginners & refreshers with tuition by Matt & Mary Clements. Donations to BSR maintenance fund. *Further details contact 07778 934742 or [clementsmary@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clementsmary@tiscali.co.uk)*

## Village Green Day

**Open meeting** Tues 9 Feb 7.30pm in the Village hall. *Further details contact Irene Johnston on 841273 or email: [ie\\_johnston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk)*

## Clematis Clinic

Sat 27 Feb and Sun 7 Mar at 2.30pm at Sherston Parva Nursery. 40 minute talk followed by Q&A with Martin Rea's legendary mulled wine  
*Further details contact 840348 / 07887 814843 or email [sherstonparva@aol.com](mailto:sherstonparva@aol.com)*

## Grove Wood

'Snowdrop Saturday' 27 Feb starting from 10. Should be good fun and Sue's soup kitchen will be open again!

## 60s night with Sgt. Pepper's Only Dart Board Band

in aid of Sherston Primary School Sat 6 Mar 8pm - midnight in the Village Hall Tickets £8 from the post office or Rattlebone Inn. *Further details contact Linda 840418 or Emma 840317*

## Advance notice of the 1016 Book Sale

Sat 27 Mar 9am - 12 noon village hall - free entry Donations of books, videos, DVDs and CDs gratefully received. Please deliver to Mike Tarrant at Grays of Sherston.  
*Further details contact 840611*

## Westonbirt

### The Arboretum

**Specialist wood sales in aid of FOWA** Every 2nd Sunday in the month 10am -1pm Cash & cheques only  
Admission £6 adult /£5 concs/ £4 chd under 5s free

### Wildlife Week - family event

Trails and workshops. Make feeders and homes for birds or minibeasts and create an animal mask or wildlife badge. 10.30am to 3.00pm. Free after admission.

### Dog Days - family event

Sat 20 - Sun 21 Feb Dog Olympics, Scruffs, demonstrations and shows. Free after admission  
£7/£6/£3

### Dates for your diary

**"Willow Structures to Support and Enhance Your Garden"** You can expect to make at least four large items for your garden Fri 5 Mar Fri 7 May 10.30am -3.30pm. Price £55 for the day - lunch not included. Phone Norah Kennedy for bookings and details - 01453 751010



**Summer Concerts**

Keane Fri 18 June, Simply Red Sat 19 June, Status Quo Sat 17 July; James Morrison Sun 18 July 2010  
 Tickets on sale now for the summer concerts £30 - £38 plus booking fee online or 01842 814612  
 For further details contact 880220 or [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt)

## Westonbirt School and the Holford Heritage Gardens

**Quiz Night** Fri 5 Feb following the Friends of Westonbirt School AGM at 6pm

**Lunchtime concert**

Fri 12 Feb 1.30pm - 30 mins free entry

**Imperial Winds Concert**

Sat 27 Feb 7.30pm £6 / £4 under 18s

Further details contact 880333 or for the gardens Jo Egerton [joanne\\_egerton@hotmail.com](mailto:joanne_egerton@hotmail.com) alternatively [www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk) and [www.holfordtrust.com](http://www.holfordtrust.com) for the gardens

## Malmesbury

**Health Event & Workshop**

Sat 6 Feb Free health MOT including blood pressure check and health advice 10am - 12noon 12 noon - 1.30pm Health workshop with sandwiches in the Town Hall. Please call Miranda Gilmour on 01672 515742 by 2 Feb to book a free place on the workshop.

**Dinner with Ming Campbell**

Thurs 11 Feb 7.00 for 7.30 pm at the Town Hall. An evening with the Liberal Democratic foreign affairs spokesman. Tickets £27.50 a head.  
 Contact Ian Ashby on 01666 841224

**Malmesbury Abbey Skate 2010**

Wed 17 - Fri 19 Feb for more details on times see [www.facebook.com/abbeyskate](http://www.facebook.com/abbeyskate)  
[www.malmesburyabbey.com](http://www.malmesburyabbey.com) or email us on [skate@malmesburyabbey.com](mailto:skate@malmesburyabbey.com)

**Malmesbury Abbey Music Society**

Opera Piccola Sat 27 Feb 7.30pm

Tickets from the Abbey or David Barton

Further details contact David Barton 824924

## Easton Grey

**Whatley Manor**

Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner  
 Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince Sun 28 Feb  
 £37 includes 3 course lunch or dinner, film & popcorn  
 Further details contact 834026 or [www.whatleymanor.com](http://www.whatleymanor.com)

## Cirencester

**Sundial Theatre at Cirencester College**

Rogue Theatre Company present The Family Thurs 4 Feb 8pm £12

Vardanyan String Quartet Sat 6 Feb 3pm £12.00

Classic cinema: Lawrence of Arabia Starring Peter O'Toole & Alec Guinness Tues 9 Feb 7.30pm £5

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

## Wootton-Under-Edge

**The Electric Picture House**

A refurbished local cinema run by the community  
 Coming soon: Me and Orson Welles; Nine; Sherlock Holmes; Toy Story - check website for dates and times  
 Further details contact 01453 844601 or [www.wottoneph.co.uk](http://www.wottoneph.co.uk)

## Nailsworth

**Forest Green Rovers F.C.**

Home matches: Tues 9 Feb 7.45pm v Chester City;  
 Sat 20 Feb 3pm v Cambridge Utd Adults £15/£13,  
 Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £7/£5  
 Further details contact 01453 834860 or [www.forestgreenroversfc.com](http://www.forestgreenroversfc.com)

## Bath

**Bath Literary Festival**

27 Feb - 7 Mar Various events throughout Bath city centre including Tony Benn, Sandi Toksvig, Carol Ann Duffy and Dan Cruickshank Tickets vary from £4-£17  
 Bath Festivals Box Office 01225 463362 or [www.bathlitfest.org.uk](http://www.bathlitfest.org.uk)

**Theatre Royal**

**My Wonderful Day** - Alan Ayckbourn Mon 1- Sat 6 Feb 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £12.50-£35

**Noël Coward's Private Lives** with Kim Cattrall and Matthew Macfadyen Wed 10 - Sat 20 Feb 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35

**Hedda Gabler** Tues 23 Feb - Sat 6 Mar 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35

**Book ahead for: The Secret of Sherlock Holmes, Haunted, Spike Milligan's Adolf Hitler: My part in his downfall**

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

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