PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

DELIVERED FREE

Parking – a solution? Have your say





For many years the subject of car parking in the centre of Sherston has been the subject of much debate both within the parish council and amongst residents. Opinions differ as to how bad the problem is in the High Street, Silver Street, Cliff Road and Court Street but few would deny that a problem exists.

Complaints are made of people being unable to park near to their properties, the use of bollards to reserve spaces, car loads of ramblers and coach passengers parking all day, parking on pavements and junctions as well as concerns of access for emergency vehicles especially in Cliff Road and Silver Street. One thing is certain - the situation is likely to get worse unless a solution can be found.

A resident has proposed to the parish pouncil that a car park be provided on the recreation ground. The idea is to utilise that part of the Rec adjoining the wall nearest the Church which is currently primarily used as a footpath between Court Street and Green Lane. The car park would be fenced off from the rest of the field and be appropriately landscaped with vehicles entering





and exiting from the present Green Lane entrance. It would not impinge on the area presently occupied by the junior football pitch.

At this stage the parish council has simply received the proposal and has neither debated it in detail nor made any decision whatsoever in respect of it. Rather the parish council wishes to know the views of as many residents as possible. If it was to be taken further detailed plans and costings would need to be prepared and consulted upon, including exact size of any car park and number of vehicles accommodated. Initially however, it is your views and comments for and against the basic proposal, with or without reservations, which are needed. Please make these in writing to the Clerk Mrs Sarah Wood at 23 Cliff Road Sherston SN16 0LN or email clerk@sherston.org.uk as soon as possible. You may also telephone your reaction to the Clerk on 840351 from 4 January onwards i.e. after Christmas and the New Year. The matter will come before the parish council again at its meeting on 14 January when residents will have a further opportunity to comment.

Wishing one and all a Happy New Year and Decade!

Cliffhanger Changes

After being in at the beginning and helping make the Cliffhanger the success it has become, both Lynda Fleming and Frank Hatt have stood down from the editorial team. The Parish Council is very grateful for all their hard work which has brought such a high degree of professionalism to the publication. In the meantime welcome to Jane Wild and Chris Lovell who have joined the team. If you would like to help produce the Cliffhanger please contact Caroline Moore on 841405 email info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk

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.

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Classy Act

by Richard Langley

Sherston School is celebrating being top of the class after it was ranked the best primary in Wiltshire.

The village school topped new league tables published recently which graded schools on Key Stage Two pupils' performance in English, maths and science. All of its pupils passed the tests with at least a level four, which is the standard expected by the Government, at age 11.



Photo: Wiltshire Gazette & Herald

Head teacher Nick Bowditch was delighted the hard work of staff and pupils has paid off.

He said: 'We had a very good year group who worked very hard and achieved a great deal. All the staff are very pleased for them and very proud. The great thing is it is not just Year six but a cumulative process as they go through the school and build on previous work. I'm especially pleased that they have exceeded our expectations from Key Stage One.'

He added: 'We knew the results were very good in July but didn't know the context within the county until now. I think part of the success comes from the relationships between teachers and pupils. We try and encourage pupils to take some responsibility for their learning and with the right support, help them to identify some of their own needs. It's a busy school but hopefully a school where children feel they have a chance to shine.'

Some of Sherston's neighbouring primary schools also performed well with Brinkworth Earl Danby's 23rd, Crudwell 33rd, Oaksey 37th, Minety 44th and Malmesbury 53rd.

All of the results for Wiltshire primary schools can be seen at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/education/09/school_tables/primary_schools/html/agg_865.stm

If you click on the 'Sort by AGG' button, you'll see Sherston there in first place.

Sherston School is also listed in the 'Best of the Best' list compiled by the BBC for the entire country athttp://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/8377267.stm

Olympic Success

She managed to keep it a secret for four weeks. But on Monday 30 November, it was announced to the press that Hannah Clegg had won the children's competition to design a garden for the 2012 Olympic Park.

The quarter of an acre garden will be visited by millions, and seen by many tens of millions more

on television and in magazines and newspapers around the world. It will also be a garden that will remain a living legacy to the first British Olympic Games in over 50 years. A legacy to British Olympian and Paralympian achievement, as well as to a very British trait - our love of gardens.

It took just three days to draw up the first design and write-up, which was finalised and posted two days later. Soon afterwards, Hannah was being shown around the 2012 site and meeting the officials. And not long after that, she was accepting the award she had won in October's public vote. That is some journey.

Hannah very ably combined the feel and features of an ordinary domestic garden with expressions

of the Olympic ideals. In a clever way. There are sights and smells, sounds and colour. The familiar and the imaginative creations. 'You must expect the unexpected in this particular garden' said Hannah. 'I would like the garden to have a magic feel to it'.

Clearly thrilled to bits to have won, and nearly blown away – literally - at the award ceremony, Hannah said, 'I'm really looking forward to returning next spring and starting work on the final design'. Mum Jenny added, 'it was a wonderful day; everybody was lovely. It's great!' The family is keen to thank everyone for voting and spreading the word. Indeed, support came from across the UK and around the world, including Sherston's partner school in Brisbane, Australia, securing a quarter of the 4000 votes cast.





Hannah and the rest of Sycamore class will be starting on a new garden design project in the new year. This will combine curriculum topics and transform an area outside the school entrance into a small garden with a path and a stone bench, being kindly donated by the Cotswold AONB. In the meantime, congratulations to Hannah on an excellent achievement. 'We're all very proud', said head teacher Nick Bowditch.



A big thank you to everyone who voted, we are all very proud of Hannah's achievement!

by Crispian Huggill Sherston School Environment Area Group



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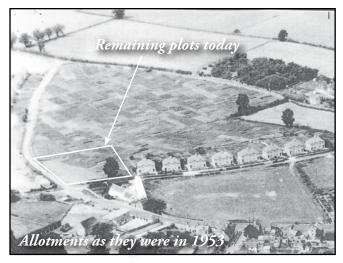
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Where there's smoke

A condition of the donations of £250,000 from the Eleanor Barton Trust and £50,000 from the Sam Thompson Trust to the Old School purchase is that the parish council obtains a new 20 year lease on the allotments in Green Lane from the owner of the land, Wiltshire Council.

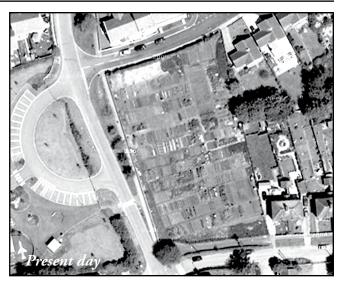


In negotiating the new lease it has come to light that the last lease may go back as far as 1938 when the parish council rented for a 7 year period almost the whole area between Green Lane, Sandpits Lane and Knockdown Road, over 11 acres, for allotment use from the then Wiltshire County Council at a rent of £28 pa. Over the years the area has been much reduced with the building of North End Gardens, Manor Close and Strongs Close. The present rent is £35 pa although that will be increased to £125 under the new lease.

It seems that since the original lease expired in 1945 the parish council has been simply 'holding over' in its tenancy of the allotments which would allow the Wiltshire Council to give 12 months notice to quit if it was so minded despite the fact that the situation has existed for over 60 years! It is perhaps a reflection of the support Wiltshire has for allotments that no notice has ever been served, for if it was the parish council, as the responsible allotment authority, would have the duty of providing new allotments so long as at least six plot holders demanded to continue with their allotment gardening.

There is no doubt that the allotments stand on a valuable piece of development land and for this reason a new 20 year lease is to be welcomed. It will however be essential that the land is fully used for if uncultivated plots rise to 30% of the total then Wiltshire Council can institute a break clause bringing the tenancy to an end. If that were to occur it would be for the parish council to provide a new allotment site as it will also have to do at the end of the twenty year term should no new lease then be offered by Wiltshire Council. At the moment the implementation of the break clause would appear most unlikely as all plots are presently taken and there is also a lengthy waiting list. It must however be borne in mind should interest in allotments begin to wane in future.

The new lease is all but agreed save for a condition





from Wiltshire Council that no bonfires be allowed. The parish council has consulted on this point with SAGA (Sherston Allotments and Gardens Association) and has put forward a compromise that bonfires should continue on the site so long as they are used for garden materials only and are not left unattended. Hopefully this will be acceptable and the new lease signed although this will be entirely dependent on the Old School purchase being completed at the same time.

As to all those 25 people or so on the present waiting list for allotments the parish council will begin the process of addressing that problem at its January meeting. The main issues will be finding suitable land and funding the costs although it does appear that grant finance will be available.

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Triplets Update

by Lara Farahar



The photo is of Mae (11lb 13¹/2), Gwennie (12lb 6 ¹/2) and Leo (12lb 12) from left to right with weights from the beginning of December.

It has been a rollercoaster year for Rob and I since finding out that I was *very* pregnant this time last year. The triplets were born in July and were in the intensive care unit in Bath for four weeks.

Since being home they have grown in to three happy little characters and are an absolute pleasure to be around.

People always want to know how we are coping but we don't know any different and I can honestly say that we both love the whole experience. The sleepless nights were tough but they are sleeping through nowfor the time being!

We are very lucky to live in this village and would like to say a massive thank you to all of you that have come to help with feeds, and those of you that have taken the babies for walks while I caught up on some sleep or did the washing.

Finally, a big thank you to our health visitor, Thelma Burgess who has always been there to support us.

We are looking forward to an exciting, if busy 2010!

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Rattlebone Boules League - Prize Giving

by Tony Towle

The prize giving and buffet will take place on Tuesday 19 January at 7.30pm in the Rattlebone. All teams that took part in 2009 are welcome. So too is anyone who wishes to join us in the league in 2010, if only to check out the varied group of people who spend the summer drinking wine, and not taking the game of boules too seriously.

January will also see the start of the building of our new double pitch, which will replace the existing one in the back garden. This will allow the number of teams participating in 2010 to expand from 36 to 48. We already have several new teams keen to join, but we could do with a few more.

If you have ever wondered what those strange people are doing in the patio area of the Rattlebone on sunny evenings in the summer, now is your chance to find out. Skill is definitely not a requirement, but the desire to socialise and join in a highly enjoyable pastime is. We already have several OAFS (Occasionally Active Fathers of Sherston), so how about some LOAFS (Ladies Occasionally Actively Flinging Stuff)? So come on you Ladies Of A Feisty Spirit, and join in. The Boules League is also a very good way for newcomers to the village to meet people, plus anybody else who has thought, perhaps next year. Now is the year.

To join please put your name on the list on the notice board by the side door of the Rattlebone, or contact Tony Towle on 840574.







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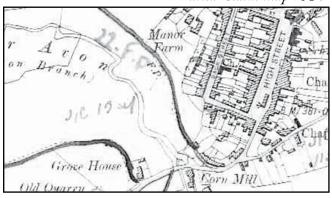
The Right Path

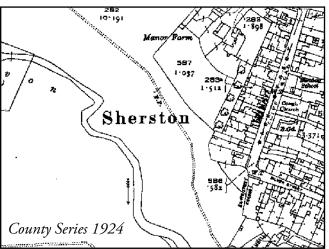


The Parish Footpath Group, which was set up some 18 months ago, wishes to help resolve local problems with rights of way by assisting both landowners and walkers in reaching practical solutions quickly and without animosity.

Recently the group had its first opportunity to implement this approach when Peter Sidebottom raised a problem re footpath SHER 22 running along the Cliff of which he is the owner. In his view people were walking too close to his property causing privacy issues and the route they were using could well be incorrect. He attended the November footpath meeting to discuss the position which resulted in a site visit with members of the group, himself and Stephen Leonard our local RoW officer. On site it was clear, after consulting original maps, that the footpath route was indeed wrongly shown on the OS map and that it actually runs 10m further down the Cliff.

Parish Claim map 1950





Agreement was reached on the correct position of the path and new way mark posts have been provided to show the correct route which is shown on the maps reproduced below. In particular the Parish Claim Map of 1950 is used by the RoW department of Wiltshire Council to determine routes where differences arise.

The path requires some levelling which Mr. Sidebottom has kindly agreed to do in part with the remainder hopefully to be undertaken by the Cotswold Warden Noel Banks and his team of volunteers. The area where the path incorrectly ran is now being used as a paddock.

The footpath group is pleased to have helped resolve this particular problem and hopes it will be followed as an excellent example of good local practice where other RoW difficulties arise in the parish.

By way of continuing its 'hands on' approach the group has some 12 volunteers for its proposed working party which it is intended will tackle local RoW maintenance and repair issues as they arise. At the group's meeting on Wednesday 20th January at 7.30 pm in the village hall Stephen Leonard our local Wiltshire Council officer will explain how the working party can help and how in turn the council can assist which such matters as insurance and tools. If you're interested in becoming involved or have an interest in local RoWs please comes come along to the meeting or contact the group's secretary Maggie McKenna on 841047 email maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com

For those of you who wish to enjoy our local footpaths please note that the first parish walk of the decade is set for St Valentine's Day Sunday 14th February at 10 am starting from the village hall. More details next month.

Should you receive your Cliffhanger in time please also remember the Christmas walk on Sunday 27th December leaving the village hall at 10am returning to the Rattlebone Inn at around 12 noon for complementary seasonal snacks – no, not more mince pies. The route taken will be an easy one and suitable for all, especially families. The pace will be gentle so as to suit those recovering from Christmas excesses!

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Contributed by John & Gill Sparrow, Honorary Poppy Organisers

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Sherston	£508.29			
Luckington	£286.33			
Remembrance Day church collections				
Sherston Parish Church	£506.20			
Luckington Parish Church	£144.50			
Donations				
Sherston branch –				
Royal British Legion	£100.00			
Sherston Methodist Church	£50.00			
Sherston Parish Council	£30.00			
Wreaths	£56.00			
Total	£2,382.91			

A big thank you to the following:-

Poppy collectors: Mrs K Evans, Mr M Miller, Mr D Jarrett, Mr C Millard, Mr M Poole, Mr L Price, Mr M Sparrow, Mr J White.

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Sherston 1016

Please remember that senior citizens' Christmas vouchers must be redeemed by 31 January at either Sherston Post Office Stores or Tucks. If anyone did not receive a voucher but is eligible or knows of someone in that position please contact Martin Jacques on 01666 841309 so a voucher can be delivered before the end of the month.

The first fund raising event of 2010 is the annual pancake eating race at the Rattlebone Inn on Shrove Tuesday 16 February at 7.30 pm. More details next month.

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TREEtalk

January 2010

Grove Wood Gang gets going......

Why not work off Christmas excesses with a bit of exercise at Grove Wood in the New Year? We're making an early start with two dates already in the diary for woodland clearance: Sunday 10 and Sunday 17 January between 10am and 3pm. By then, village tree expert John Lloyd and his team of volunteers will have coppiced a number of old hazel stands and pruned some trees so there will be plenty to do and many hands make light work. To tempt you further, we're laying on hot soup and baguettes between 12.30 and 1.00. We'll provide heavy duty gloves and tools, so just make sure you wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Older children are welcome to help. All this is, of course, weather permitting; if in doubt on the day, just give me a call on number below.

Village Green event, Saturday 20 March 2010 Sherston hits all the right buttons in terms of the numbers of environmental groups and organisations we support. We have everything from the Living Churchyard, the School tree nursery and SAGA, to the Footpaths group, Grove Wood and Pond Restoration. We've done a rough count and there are no fewer than 14 interest groups if you also include the wider parish and places like the Arboretum. Village Green is to be a showcase event, bringing all these disparate strands together for one day next year. We are forming a committee with representatives from participating groups in order to plan a fascinating day for the whole family to enjoy. Please let me know if you are unconnected to a particular group but would like to help with the organisation of Village Green.

And finally,

- Despite being banned from the Copenhagen Climate Summit, (the UN said it must "maintain neutrality" at Christmas), Nordmann firs are among the best trees at binding carbon dioxide and preventing its release into the atmosphere
- About 32 million acres (13 million hectares) of the world's forests are cut down each year — an area about the size of England or New York State
- This deforestation causes around a fifth of greenhouse gas emissions every year, more than all forms of air and surface transport combined

For further information about any of the above, please contact Sherston's Tree Warden, Irene Johnston on 01666 841273 or email her at ie_johnston@yahoo. co.uk

The Sherston **Boules Ball 2010**



A midsummer ball will be one of the events commemorating this year's 25th anniversary of the first Sherston boules tournament. Preparations for the black tie event are already well under way, according to the core organising committee of six Pinkney party people.

So far the order of the ticket-only evening is expected to consist of a champagne reception followed by a three course dinner with entertainment, a gala raffle, live music, disco and bar. Tickets for the 200 seat event are likely to be on sale for under £50 per guest.

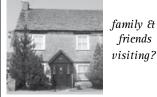
The event will take place on the village hall field in a lined and decorated marquee with 20 dinner tables, a dance floor and a bar area. The committee is already channelling considerable time and planning into ensuring that a magical midsummer's theme is created for the revellers.

The exact details of the event will be clarified and published next month, with tickets going for sale on a specified date in March. These will be issued for

tables of ten, although provision will be made for guests in smaller numbers.

The ball has the support of the Boules and Committee Carnival and is scheduled for June 26th, ahead of the tournament. All profits generated by the event will go directly to the grand total raised during Boules Week in July.

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Old School - getting there

Ever since the purchase price was agreed for the Old School - £323,000 – a tremendous amount of work has been taking place behind the scenes.

Solicitors have been instructed on the complex purchase agreement itself and also as regards the other three transactions upon which the project is dependent. These are the purchase by Wiltshire Council from the Diocese of part of the village hall field, the 125 year lease of the whole field to the village hall and the 20 year lease of the allotments to the parish council. Throughout all four transactions there have been difficulties to overcome but it now seems that many have been resolved and that the New Year could well see matters progressing to a successful conclusion.

The purchase of the site will however be only the start of much more work for the volunteer project team. Planning permissions, agreements with prospective tenants and most importantly securing future finance to see all the building work completed are but some of the essentials to be achieved. Certainly a major fundraising effort will be needed and it is intended to involve the whole parish in that aspect. The building will be owned by the Sherston Old School Community Interest Company in which everyone can become a member and take part.

As and when there is more news to report you will be the first to know.

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A Cinema Near You

Located less than ten miles away from Sherston, the Electric Picture House in Market Street, Wotton-Under-Edge, is the nearest cinema to the village. It is now known by its original 1913 name, and is run by the community for the community.

The cinema is operated by friendly and helpful volunteers who make visitors' experience relaxed and comfortable.

Fully refurbished in 2006, the cinema is a 100-seat modern multi-media digital facility, showing films using the very latest modern high-definition digital projector obtained from the Film Council. The cinema concentrates on providing a mix of popular and unusual films offering new releases in an extensive weekly programme.

In particular, it seeks to cater for filmgoers who prefer not to go to multiplexes as it offers a smaller and more intimate environment. For example, there are no big advertising presentations before the film, which starts on-time as advertised (with allowances for the few people who arrive late). Local photographers can submit their images to be shown in slide show form before performances.

Among the films being shown in January are: The Men Who Stare at Goats, Where the Wild Things Are, Glorious 39, A Serious Man and Avatar in 3D.

Listings can be found at www.wottoneph.co.uk or 01453 844601.



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In Brief

Donation

A sum of £50 has been given by the parish council to Macmillan Cancer Support in recognition of the tremendous service given by Macmillan nurses to the local community.

Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 14 January 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.

New signs and a reminder

It is some years since the original Neighbourhood Watch scheme signs were erected and a number have either disappeared or become badly faded. Parish council has agreed to meet the cost of supplying and erecting a set of new signs at a cost of £141.

Ian Mace of the Malmesbury sector of the scheme reminds everyone never to give out details of their bank or building society accounts to requests supposedly made by these organisations either through telephone calls or emails. They will never seek such information of you in this way. Regrettably many people are caught out and lose a great deal of money from their accounts.

Planters

The recent call for volunteers to maintain planters in the parish has produced two volunteers for a planter to be placed at the Sherston sign on entering the village along Tetbury Lane. Costings are now being investigated and any other volunteers for additional planters should contact the parish clerk Sarah Wood. Groups and individuals are equally welcome to help enhance the parish. Everyone will be reminded in the spring of Sherston W.I.'s foresight some years ago in planting daffodil bulbs in the verges at a number of sites.

Malmesbury Area Board

Have your say about the council's budget and hear from Cllr. Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet member for leisure, sport and culture at the next meeting of the board at Ashton Keynes Village Hall on Wednesday 20 January at 6.30pm for 7pm.

Try, try again

Parish councillor Cilla Liddington is determined to obtain a new bus shelter for Easton Town despite a setback some two years ago when funds from the former Wiltshire County Council proved insufficient to meet her request. Funding is now on stream again from the new unitary authority, Wiltshire Council, and it is hoped that Sherston will be successful in its bid this time round.

Dodgy bags

Complaints have been received by the parish council of dog walkers disposing of plastic bags containing their pets' deposits by throwing them into gardens, the allotments or verges, leaving them for others to clear up. This problem very often only becomes noticeable at this time of year when plants die back to reveal these unwanted gifts. There is absolutely no excuse for this litter, especially as there are no fewer than four special bins provided in the village. If dog owners feel more or larger bins are required, they should contact the parish clerk. In the meantime, they should ensure that they dispose of those bags responsibly.

Say goodbye to toothache

A new NHS dental practice is to be based at Malmesbury Primary Health Centre opening in mid-January. The practice will take up to 3000 patients. Details of how to register are expected to be announced shortly, so keep a look out in the local press.

Sportsfield

On Tuesday 12 January at 7.30pm in the village hall the newly formed Sportsfield sub committee of the parish council will meet for the first time. 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.

Congratulations

Sherston's parish clerk, Sarah Wood, has been appointed clerk to Luckington Parish Council. Cliffhanger would like to congratulate Sarah and to wish her all the best in her new post. Sarah will continue in her role at Sherston.

Still time - just

With both the Cliffhanger team and printers CPC putting in the extra hours before Christmas it's hoped this month's edition will have been delivered before the New Year. If so, then you've just enough time to respond to Wiltshire Council's consultation on planning in the county over the next 20 years. Parishioners have an opportunity to say what they want to see by way of improved services and facilities in the village to include the sensitive topic of additional housing development. The consultation period runs until 5pm on 31 December. Residents can see details of the proposals at an exhibition in Malmesbury Library; alternatively, all the documents, including a response form, can be found online 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.

With the valuable assistance of Sherston resident and planning professional Mike Johnson the parish council has submitted its response, full details of which will be reported in February's Cliffhanger.

Sherston Womens' Institute

by Ann Wilcox

Last month's Sherston W.I. meeting, on 1 December, was a festive affair. Our speaker was Joanna Bowman, whose subject was 'Christmas Entertainment' and who used her skills as an actress to keep us enthralled and amused by her stories and poems relating to this time of year. She has produced many Nativity Plays over the years and told us of the problems with young children acting and getting them to perform at the right moment. Many of her tales were very thought-provoking and unusual. She was warmly thanked by Jill Bowyer.

This was followed by an American supper. We were able to sample a wide variety of Christmas food provided by members, which was enjoyed by all. Tables were decorated with Christmas posies. During the interval members were able to browse cards provided by Lucy Hay of Phoenix Trading, where Christmas cards and gifts were on sale.

Members brought Christmas gifts, which will be taken to Athelstan House for distribution in the day centre.

On Tuesday 8 December a coffee morning with a bring and buy stall and raffle was held at the home of Helen Quirk at 21 Manor Close, Sherston in aid of Water Aid for A.C.W.W.

On 7 December the Athelstan Group Carol Service was held at Lea Parish Church.

The President reminded members that the January meeting would be a lunch on Thursday 14 January at The Rose and Crown at Brokenborough.



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Swim Away

More people in the area will be able to learn to swim after Wiltshire Council secured funding to provide 6 free swimming lessons. They are aimed at those of you who are unable to swim and in certain age groups, either 60+ or 16 to 25 years old. It could be someone that has been able to swim in the past and lacks confidence to swim now or someone who considers themselves a non-swimmer.

Lessons at the Activity Zone, Malmesbury are arranged for -

60 + Tuesday 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm, 5th January – 9th February 2010

60 + Tuesday 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm, 23rd February – 30th March 2010

16 – 25 yrs Wednesday 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm, 6th January – 10th February 2010

16 – 25 yrs Wednesday 7.30 pm – 8.30 pm, 24th February – 31st March 2010

The lessons are taught by qualified swimming teachers.

For further information contact Maggie Mead, swimming co-coordinator on 01249 444144 ext. 549 or E-mail: maggiemead@dcleisure.co.uk

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The Parish Life - New Year, New Team, New Ideas

by Vicki Moore of Parish Life

A new team is running this magazine of many years standing. We aim to ensure the contents are even more informative, and hope to increase the number of subscribers.

As well as church related news and service information, we will be including articles and regular features of interest to the wider community - for example School News, Meet a Local Businessman and a local listings page.

The cover of our first issue will be the winner of our first 'Design a Cover' Competition and will be designed by a pupil attending one of the schools in the Gauzebrook area (either Hullavington, Luckington, Sherston or Stanton St Quintin). The 3 runners up will also have their picture featured in the magazine. The school head teachers have been advised of the details of the competition.

If you do not currently subscribe to Parish Life and would like to, please contact Jayne Morris on (01666) 840722.

First issue – 1st February 2010

Cost - 50p per copy or £5.00 per year

Village hall 200+ club

November draw

1st	£11	41	Maggie Towle
2nd	£10	58	Ray Wiltshire
3rd	£9	250	Magaret Maslen
4th	£8	260	J. Munsun
5th	£7	29	Kevin Smith
6th	£6	234	Dan Pritchett
7th	£5	224	P. Garrett

Collectors

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

Slow down?



Wiltshire Council has recently completed a comprehensive review of all 330 speed limits on the 682km of A and B class roads in the county. This process has resulted in no less than 116 recommendations for amendments in speed limits to be carried out at an estimated cost of up to £1 million over the next three years. The review does not include the majority of existing 30 and 20 mph limits.

In respect of the B4040 it is recommended that the current national speed limit of 60 mph between Pinkney and Malmesbury and Sherston and Luckington be reduced to 50mph. The parish council has been asked to make comment on the proposal and would welcome residents' views which should please be made to the clerk Sarah Wood prior to the next meeting on 14th January.

A review of all C class and unclassified roads in the county is also to be undertaken although most probably not until 2011.

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Community First -We need Volunteers!

Community First presents a volunteering opportunity for you, your friends, family and colleagues with a chance to win money for their chosen charity.

We are looking to recruit as many volunteers as possible over the next three months living and working in Wiltshire, who are willing to help us with a project to deliver an important message to isolated and vulnerable people in the community. Volunteers can be from any walk of life with no specialist knowledge or skills, just an ability and desire to pass on an important message through their family, social, volunteer and business networks.

For more information on this volunteering opportunity or to discuss the project please contact:

Tim Coomer at Community First on 01380 722475, email: tcoomer@communityfirst.org.uk

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Village Hall

January is an important month for the hall as that's when all the 200+ club members are asked to renew their subscriptions for the coming year. The proceeds from the club are a vital part of the hall's finances, because while all day to day running costs are met by hire charges, any improvements to the hall are dependent on fund raising.

During 2010 the management committee wishes to redecorate the hall inside and out, install a fire and smoke alarm system, create new storage facilities for the cleaner and provide much needed disabled access to the field from the main hall. In addition a website is planned to help promote the hall and improve the bookings system. All this needs to be funded, so please help by renewing your 200+ membership.

At only £12 a year with 50% of the proceeds returned in prizes it's a great way to help the hall. If you aren't yet a member but would like to join please contact either Mary Goulding on 840794, Joyce Gleed (840744) or Gwen Mason (840660). These three ladies, together with Janet Platts, Margaret Yeend and Margaret Thacker do a marvellous job in organising the club. Thank you, one and all.

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THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

In all the furore leading up to and following the 2009 Hurl a strange occurrence went unreported - until now. On the Saturday before the hurl, the Keeper of the Challenges, Mr Paul Ormiston, was assisting Sherston 1016 at its autumn book sale in the village hall. As usual, a number of late donations had been received and it was while he was sorting through these that Mr Ormiston came across the picture reproduced below. It was carefully wrapped in a copy of the Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard of Saturday 1 January 1938. He immediately caught up with the football results noting that Forest Green Rovers were top of the Northern Gloucestershire Senior League having just chalked up a 6-1 victory against local rivals Cirencester Town. After recovering from the elation of this news his eye was caught by the vegetables at the feet of the splendid gentleman portrayed in the photo itself. Yes, they are mangolds! Questions immediately raced through Mr Ormiston's head. Who gave the photo to 1016? Who is this chap? If you can help, give him a call on 840694.

The picture itself was rushed post haste down the High Street to the offices of the Order's esteemed official archivist and historian, Cilla Liddington. Following hours of painstaking research she believes the gentleman may be none other than Meshach

Abednego Jenkins, father of Lobber Jenkins himself. Publicity for the 2009 Hurl continues unabated with Wiltshire Life carrying an article in its December edition following the hard work of the Order's publicist Kate Hosier. Thanks are due for

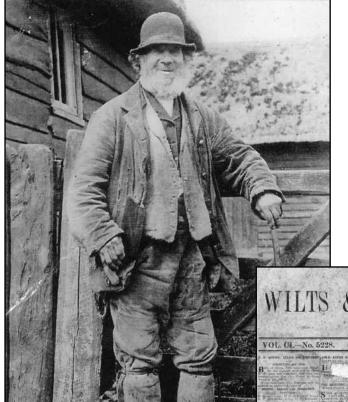
the continued generosity of Mr Jason Read of the Rattlebone Inn for meeting her retainer.

The Order's annual Christmas card seems to have regrettably caused some disquiet in the parish even though they have been a regular on many a local mantelpiece since the mid 1940's. As usual it featured one of the countless photographs of Sherston mangold maids from the collection of Lobber Jenkins. Whilst it is true that the maids usually appear 'au naturel' their poses cannot be considered at all risqué and this year was certainly no exception. Many are now collectors' items, often changing hands for considerable sums.

Indeed, the latest card is already for sale on eBay. Local Jenkins memorabilia enthusiast, Tony Towle, will pay handsomely for any spare cards readers may be willing to part with.

January brings an air of excitement to many of the Orders' members as the Keeper of the Lists, Mr Graham Hayman, starts the enviable task of considering applications from prospective 2010 mangold maids. After painstakingly taking down their particulars, Mr Hayman puts each maid through a vigorous and searching entrance examination before they can progress to the final part of the selection process at the Order's AGM in April. All applicants have until the end of January to submit their entries in the time-honoured manner at the bar of the Rattlebone Inn – mostly to great applause. They must, however, be over 16 and either live or work in the parish. Our equal opportunity policy applies in full, so either sex may apply. The 2010 Mangold Maid will be unveiled before members as well as the public on Whit Sunday 23 May at the traditional mangold maid making ceremony.

Yarp!
The Keeper of the Quill



And Cirencester and Swindon Express.

L. OL.—No. 5228. Designed image into the State of the Stat

A Directory For Sherston

by Tony Towle

The Boules and Carnival committee is in the process of producing a directory for Sherston. It will be called the **Sherston ABC** and will be delivered free to all residents. Spare copies will be available in local shops, especially for newcomers to the village.

A will be for "Amenities" and will provide details of services such as the school, doctors, village hall, neighbourhood watch etc (of which there are about 15).

B stands for "Businesses". This will include every business operating within the Sherston area. As a start we will be contacting the organisations that advertise in the Cliffhanger or in The Parish Life (there are over 80!).

We would like to include every business operating in the area, however small. If you operate such a business, and are not currently advertising in either of the above publications, please get in touch. We realise that imposing a charge on very small organisations may be rather off-putting. We are therefore asking for donations. Small one man bands can donate what they can afford. For companies employing two or three employees we suggest £50, and for larger companies, we will leave it to their discretion. All entries have a maximum of 30 words to describe their activities. We will provide the inside front and the back page for advertisements that will go to the highest bidders.

C is for "Culture" and also includes "Clubs". This will include all of the many and varied organisations that operate in this vibrant village from Allotments to the Women's Institute (there are around 20 of these).

The main purpose of this directory is to provide an easy reference guide for all the activities and businesses that operate in this village and the immediate surroundings. The other purpose is to raise funds for the Boules and Carnival committee.

Boules Day in 2010 will mark the 25th anniversary of the occasion on which Dr Colin Owen, Reverend Hugh Thompson-Glover and Richard Maslen decided to hold a small competition for eight teams in the High Street. This has now grown into the largest one-day event in the country, contested by 128 teams from all over the UK and abroad. The committee is aiming to make this year's event the most profitable ever. This is because we wish to support not only the various activities included in our category "C" for Culture or Clubs but also to make a contribution to both Help for Heroes and The Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

It is important that this directory features a comprehensive listing of all the activities that take place within the village. If you think that your organisation should be included in any of the categories please contact Tony Towle on 840574.

Worth The Wait





In the early 1950's the field behind the village hall was sold by the then controlling trust to Wiltshire County Council for £200. It is understood that at the time the money was needed for vital repairs to the hall. Shortly afterwards the County transferred around a third of the field to the Diocese for use as a school allotment with the remainder being used as a playing field.

Over the past few years the hall's management committee decided it would like the entire field returned to its control and this desire intensified when the school transferred to its new site in 2005. At the time there was great concern that the field could face development for housing, which would severely impact on the use of the hall.

As part of the solution for the future use of the old school site the Diocese is to transfer back to Wiltshire Council their third of the field and the Council will then lease the whole of the field to the village hall for 125 years at a peppercorn rent. This will ensure that the field remains available for the community's use for Boules and Carnival, fetes and events. It will also continue to provide a much needed open play area for Sherston Busy Hands Pre-school.

The terms of the new lease have now been agreed and the transaction will be completed at the same time as the purchase of the old school upon which the agreement is dependent. The premium for the lease is £35,000 with that sum generously being provided by the Sam Thompson Trust.

What is a peppercorn rent?

This means a nominal or token rent - the minimum payment necessary to establish a legally binding agreement.

The Holford Family and the building of Westonbirt

The Origins of Weston Birt

Westonbirt lies at the heart of the Cotswolds, near Tetbury, between Bath and Cirencester. The medieval village of Weston is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) and was probably named after John le Brut, its patron at the end of the thirteenth century. There are also records of an Elizabethan manor house, surrounded by the village. Some of the oldest trees still standing are of this period.

The Holfords at Weston Birt

The Holford family came to Weston Birt in 1665 when Richard Holford married Sarah Crew, who had inherited the manor house from her father. The Holfords were successive Masters in Chancery in London over



the following century. The great wealth of the family was founded by Peter Holford (1719-1803) who was Governor of the New River Company - which supplied fresh water to a fast-growing London.

His son George Peter Holford (1768-1839) replaced the Elizabethan manor with a house in the Regency Gothic style and constructed the terraces but it was Peter's grandson, Robert Stayner Holford (1808-1892) and great-grandson, Sir George Holford (1860-1926) who between them planned and executed the very extensive development of the gardens, the estate and the great new house which survives at Westonbirt today. The house built in 1823 was demolished to clear the site.

Lewis Vulliamy

Lewis Vulliamy (1791-1871) had been a gifted pupil of Sir Robert Smirke (the architect of the British Museum) and had travelled extensively in Europe studying Classical and Renaissance Art and Architecture. He had previously built a sumptuous Italian Palazzo for the Holfords; Dorchester House, in Park Lane. Robert Stayner Holford engaged him to build a great country house for the family at Westonbirt.

Westonbirt the Magnificent

At Westonbirt, Vulliamy was employed first to simply extend the Georgian house, but a passion for all things Italian, which he



shared with Robert Holford, inspired them both to build a larger, more impressive and more elaborate neo-Elizabethan mansion - the house we know today. Work on the gardens predated the building of the house which started in 1863 and it was finally completed in 1878. Sadly, Lewis Vulliamy had died seven years earlier - working closely on the plans to the end. Westonbirt is a very fine example of his architectural skill and arguably the two houses built for Robert Stayner Holford were his finest accomplishments.

With columns of fine marble, walls panelled in rich EnglishwalnutandgildedCordobaleather, the Holfords' impressive antique furniture and the superlative collections of Old Master paintings and other works of art were displayed to maximum effect at Westonbirt. Robert Holford included in his collection fine Gobelin tapestries, an original Medici throne and paintings by Rembrandt, Veronese, Tinteretto and Murillo. He also had important collections of sculpture, silver and fine porcelain. The libraries housed Holford's unsurpassed

collection of ancient manuscripts and finely bound rare books and in the gardens his collections of trees, plants and orchids were famous.





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The Cost of Building Westonbirt

At a time when the top wage for a foreman was three guineas a week, and as many as 200 men were employed for 10 hours a day on its construction, Westonbirt House cost over £200,000 to build. Further vast sums were expended on the 40 acres of the Pleasure Grounds, on the 600 acres of the Arboretum and on the improvements and redesign of the estate village and lodges.

The Last Days of the Holfords at Westonbirt

Robert Stayner Holford married Mary Ann Lindsay - one of a great family of artists, scholars and collectors. They had three daughters, Margaret, Evelyn and Alice and one son, George. The daughters married, respectively, the third Earl of Morley; the banker Robert Benson; and the fourth Earl Grey of Howick.



George Lindsay Holford, Robert Stayner Holford's only son and the last of the Holfords to live at Westonbirt, was a distinguished royal equerry; and a passionate horticulturist who enjoyed a highly favoured life. He continued to expand his father's collections of pictures, books, furniture and orchids. His own particular passion was with the development of the great arboretum over the road, now famous throughout the world.

In 1912, aged 52 he married a widow, Mrs Menzies, but he died childless in 1926. (Mrs Menzies had brought with her to Westonbirt her young son, Stewart Menzies, later to be head of MI6, working with Winston Churchill).

At Sir George's death, in 1926, Westonbirt was left to his nephew, the Earl of Morley, who was already well established at Saltram in Devon. At a time when the effects of the slump must have made a palace such as Westonbirt seem a very daunting commitment, he understandably decided to sell both the Holford properties - Dorchester House in Park Lane (now the site of the Dorchester Hotel) and Westonbirt House.



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The Westonbirt Arboretum

Lord Morley retained much of the estate at Westonbirt, including the Arboretum. In 1952, following his death, this was transferred to the Forestry Commission. Westonbirt Arboretum has since become one of the greatest and most visited collections of trees in the world.

The Establishment of Westonbirt School



The house, with 550 acres, was bought in 1928 by the Revd. Percy Warrington for the establishment of an independent girls' boarding school. To this has been added a prep school and currently about 400 children benefit daily from the wonderful environment which the Holfords created.

Westonbirt during the Second World War

During the Second World War, the Air Ministry were at Westonbirt and the school was relocated to Corsham Court and Bowood House. Throughout the war the house was well maintained and the silver of St John's College, Cambridge was hidden in the cellars for security.

The Holfords of Westonbirt Trust

Despite the school's careful maintenance since 1928, normal wear and tear have taken their toll on the fine materials and detail of the original house and gardens and this has necessitated serious and skilled attention. This work, because of the scale and quality of all that the Holfords created, is likely to be very costly and beyond the means of the school. With this concern in mind the Holfords of Westonbirt Trust has been set up as an independent charity. With a 99 year lease on the Pleasure Grounds, its purpose is to conserve and restore this important Grade I property. The Trusts' first project, completed in 2007, was the restoration of the Holford library (see below). Much remains to be done.





If you are interested in learning more about the trust or becoming a volounteer contact Jo Egerton joanne_egerton@hotmail.com alternatively www.holfordtrust.com

Thieves Target Tiles

Sherston's historic lych gate was damaged in the early hours of Sunday 20 December when thieves stole stone tiles from one side of the roof. On the same night nearby Rodbourne Church was also attacked. With St. Giles at Stanton St Quintin suffering a similar fate some six weeks ago it is clear that all local churches are at risk of this type of theft.





Church member Roger Whitehouse said 'The thieves took away the larger and most valuable tiles and knew exactly what they were looking for. It is hoped that insurance will cover the cost of repair.'

If you have any information which may help Malmesbury Police apprehend those responsible please telephone 0845 408700. In the meantime if you see anyone acting suspiciously around any of our

local churches please tell

the police.

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Luckily neither of the two war memorials housed in the lych gate were damaged during the theft although the lych gate itself could be considered a war memorial in its own right having repaired in 1920 in honour of those local men who fell in the First World War.



Church Bazaar Success

By Heather Martin

Sherston Church Christmas Bazaar, held in the village hall in November, was the best for two or three years raising £1,116. This money, together with the funds raised annually by the Summer Fete, contributes to the upkeep of the church. The day was one of the wettest in an exceptionally inclement month, but visitors to the bazaar enjoyed homemade soup, and were tempted by stalls selling cakes, produce, jewellery and gifts. They also generously spent their money on raffles and tombola. The P.C.C. would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the bazaar – donating prizes for the raffles, making cakes, and serving teas, as well as to those who came along to support the event.

Heavy Rain

By Cilla Liddington



Heavy rain and swollen rivers are not a new occurrence in the local area. This photograph is from an illustrated calendar dated 1925 produced by the Basevi Photographic Studios of Malmesbury. It shows the River Avon in full flow below Easton Grey House.

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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

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Pip, Pip Hooray!



Dr Pip Pettit has been presented with a coveted award. The local GP, who has worked at the Tolsey Surgery in Sherston for 15 years, was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners (FRCGP) at the College's annual meeting in London in mid-November. alongside husband, proud parents Ann and Lawrence,

there to see her presented with the award.

More and more GPs now sit the highly respected Membership (MRCGP) exam, but only a select few, nominated by their peers, gain a Fellowship. Pip's award is in recognition of her work with patients at the Tolsey Surgery, and also her role as an examiner for the College over the past six years. She now helps to marshal their clinical membership examinations in London and Warwick.

Dr Pettit continues to work 3/4 time as a GP at the Tolsey, and has recently set up an aesthetic medicine practice locally, offering botox and other treatments.

Community Area Grants

£13,986 was awarded to ten organisations across the Malmesbury and villages community area by the Malmesbury Area Board of Wiltshire Council at its last meeting. Initiatives successfully applying for grants included play equipment for a pre-school, a portable stair lift, improvements to football pitches and provision of a parenting skills course for young mothers.



Cllrs John Thomson, Simon Killane and Toby Sturgis with some of the recipients of grants at the November Area Board

If your community group or organisation has a project in need of funds the next deadline for receipt of new grant applications is 15 January. These will be considered at the 3 area board meeting on 3 March, subject to availability of funds. Grants criteria and application forms can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards

Dorothy House Hospice

by Beryl Clampton

At Christmas we are all given small gifts that we either have no use for or already have.

Please think of the Dorothy House Hospice when clearing out after Christmas.

Instead of holding a fete this year in July I will hold a massive Tombola, jointly with Sherston 1016, at one of their events this summer. The proceeds will be divided between Sherston 1016 for the senior citizens Christmas vouchers and Dorothy House Hospice.

Naturally a large number of prizes will be needed. If you have any items please ring me on 841201 or e-mail beryl@clampton.com and I will collect them. They can also be left under my porch if you are passing Bybrook on Bustlers Hill or at Grays of Sherston with Mike Tarrant..

Sherston Theatre Club

Newcomers to Sherston may not be aware that we have a very successful Theatre Club. Visits are made throughout the year, not only to theatres but to gardens and garden shows, sports events, museums and many other venues. Coaches leave from Sherston and other points so nobody has to worry about getting home or drinking and driving. The AGM for 2010 is on 20 January in the British School Room in Cliff Road at 7.30pm. The membership is £20 and everybody is welcome to join.

The Club website is www.sherston.net/groups.html



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Sherston FC

by manager Pete Brock

Hello everyone, hope you have all had a great Christmas, I can start by saying well done to all involved with the club. We have played three games since our last chat, winning 5-2, 4-2 and then 6-1 with a scratch side due to injuries and people away on the 12th December.

We also have a date with some old foes who will be well remembered by players going back to the early eighties like myself, Mike Shortridge, Paul Wodecki, Dave Parkes, Brian Neal and not forgetting Did Dyer Jono and the great Jonny Welch. All had great battles with Randwick who we are due to meet in the semi-finals of the charity cup.

Many of our games have been in poor conditions this year so we have had some hard fought wins which is testament to the work-rate of people in and around the club, so thanks to everyone. I have to thank Jim Mcelvie for grabbing JoJo by the sponge and bringing her back into the fold but the bad news is that she went AWOL again so if she is seen, please return her to the football club.

We had a few missing lately, Kev Ting Tong Bridgeman (weight watchers), Chaz Parkes (grounded by Carla), Mike Ward (hair transplant), Conker (woman or the rack, the stretching machine to make him a bit taller) but all will be back soon.





Rob Outlaw has had trouble finding his feet (that's because he left them at home) but he managed to get them back on for Saturdays game and still grows with confidence.

Andy Wicks has brought something to the club (about four stone I think) but has such great ball control and vision, also Ben Wright has been fantastic in front of goal (and in front of the changing room mirror which he seems to hog). Joe Neale is outstanding in goal and now stays between the sticks rather than picking blackberries during the game. Another lad who has had a great season is Mark Lester who has been a tower of strength. The two Bourne boys (Sniffer) Tommy, and (Freddie) Trim are playing really well and Julian says he has upped their training by making them run down the pub to get a drink in for their dad although paying for it is too much to ask, but I am sure he is proud of how they are performing. I myself have just been told that I have been playing for more than thirty years, don't know if that is a hint for me to stop or not but to play with some of the younger lads and see them progress is now as fulfilling as winning trophies used to be.

I would like to finish by mentioning Irene Johnston's bottom, just because I can, so thanks for all the support.



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Forest Green Rovers - All the threes!

Sunday 3 January at 3pm in the 3rd round of the FA Cup will see Forest Green Rovers play away to Notts County at Meadow Lane. Rovers beat Bath City 2-1 in the 2nd round away to earn a pop at former England manager's Sven Goran Eriksson's outfit. As Notts County's home strip is the same as Forest Green's - black and white striped shirts with black shorts – Rovers will play in their all green away strip. Come on you Greens!

Should a replay be required it will take place on Tuesday 12 January at 7.45pm at the New Lawn Nailsworth. For further details please visit www. forestgreenrovers.com or call 01454 834860

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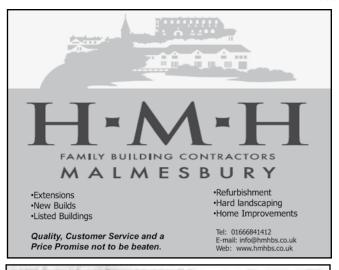


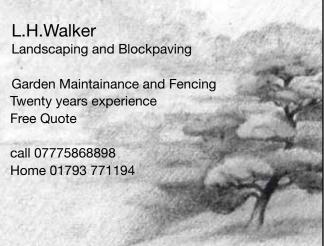
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Pinkney Park, Pinkney, Nr Sherston

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

Gauzebrook Junior Church

Every 2nd and 5th Sunday each month in Sherston or Hullavington, joining the adult service at the end for Holy Communion. Jan 10 11am and 31 10.30am both at Court House, Hullavington. 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 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. Call Geoff Martin 840375 or come along.

Clem's Club

Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday 2.30 - 4 pm - 5 and 9 Jan.

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

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

Ladies' Swimming Club

Open to ladies from local area meeting at Westonbirt School on Wednesday 8 - 9.30pm. £37 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

Wed 20 Jan at 6.30 for 7pm at Ashton Keynes Village Hall

Malmesbury Rangers

Girls over 14 years meet every 2nd Thurs in the month – Jan 8 2010. Further details from Helen Price 503187 or retreatcottage17@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 14 Jan at 7.30pm 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 – 12 and 26 Jan. 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

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 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

Sherston Sportsfield Sub-Committee

First meeting Tuesday 12th January 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.communigate. co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/ or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or 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@stickyfingerscookery.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

Sherston W.I.

Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall – 7 Jan. 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.

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 8 Jan 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 10 Jan 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 New Year's Eve Party

Seventies Disco theme fancy dress Further details 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

Sherston's Soul Shakers live

Sat 2 Jan 2010 7.30pm in the Village hall £7 tickets from the post office SOLD OUT. For returns contact James Crawford 07738 570260

Grove Wood Groundforce Volunteers

All welcome to help clear up Grove Wood after John Lloyd and his team have finished coppicing and tree pruning on Sun 10 and 17 Jan 10am – 3pm with hot soup and baguettes between 12.30 and 1pm. Heavy duty gloves and tools provided, so just wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Older children are welcome to help. All this is weather permitting. *More details contact Irene Johnston 841273 or 07787 150971*

Busy Hands Pre School Annual Quiz Night

Sat 16 Jan 8pm £15 for a team of 4 in the Village Hall. Tickets from the Post Office. Further details contact Sally Clayton 840361

Sherston Theatre Club AGM

AGM Wed 20 Jan 7.30pm in the British School Room. Further details see www.communigate. co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/ or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or Hjquirk@aol.com

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

Dates for your diary- those announced so far Keane Fri 18 June, Simply Red Sat 19 June, 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

Westonbirt School and the Holford Heritage Gardens Equestrian Special with guest speaker William Fox-Pitt

Sat 16 Jan 7pm followed by a book signing and Q&A session by the European team gold medallist £20, under 18s £12.50 proceeds to charity

Public recital by school's top musicians on Wed 20 Jan at 7.30pm in the Great Hall. Admission is free and there will be a retiring collection in aid of the School Music Appeal. The girls will also present their first informal, free lunchtime concert of the Spring Term in the Great Hall on Friday 22 January from 1.30pm until 2pm.

Burns Night Dinner & Scottish dancing Sat 23 Jan 7.30pm Black tie / kilt £30

Further details contact 880333 or for the gardens Jo Egerton joanne_egerton@hotmail.com alternatively www. westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk and www.holfordtrust.com for the gardens

Whatley Manor

Sunday jazz lunch with the Solent City Jazzmen 12 noon - 3pm Sun 17 Jan £37 includes 3 course lunch or dinner, film & popcorn

Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner 'Vicki Christina Barcelona' starring Scarlett Johannson and Penelope Cruz Sun 31 Jan £37 includes 3 course lunch or dinner, film & popcorn

Further details contact 834026 or www.whatleymanor.com

Little Somerford

Malmesbury Embroiderers' Guild are holding a Creative Day Workshop on Sat 23 Jan at Little Somerford Village Hall 10 am -4 p.m. entitled Paper in Distress (exploring the properties of paper as a medium for embroidery and textiles). No previous experience is necessary. £20 for non-members of the Guild, who are always welcome at any of our talks and workshops. For further information contact Heather Martin on 840375

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.

Further details contact Gill Ashley 840993

Wootten-Under-Edge

The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by the community for the community. Films include: Where the Wild Things Are 2 Jan 8.45pm, It's a Wonderful Life 6 Jan 2.45pm, The Men Who Stare at Goats 6 Jan 8.45pm and Avatar in 3D 8 Jan 8.45pm Further details contact 01453 844601 or

www.wottoneph.co.uk

Corsham

The Pound

Strangeface Mask Theatre Company: A Christmas Carol

Sat 16 Jan 7.30pm £10 (£9 concs) Suitable for all but the very young

LightGarden Sat 23 Jan 7.30pm £8

Platform4 present The Tempest Fri 29 Jan 7.30pm £10 Further details contact Box Office 01249 701628 or www.poundarts.org.uk

Nailsworth

Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Professional football only 20 minutes drive from Sherston.

Home matches: Sat 16 Jan 3pm v Gateshead; Tues 19 Jan 7.45pm v Crawley Town; Sat 30 Jan 3pm v Mansfield Town.

Adults £15/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £7/£5 The New Lawn, Forest Green, Nailsworth Further details contact 01453 834860 or www.forestgreenroversfc.com

Stroud

The Cotswold Playhouse The Railway Children

13 – 16 and 20–23 Jan 7.30pm £11 Further details contact Box Office at Stroud Tourist Information Centre 01453 760960 or www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

Bath

Theatre Royal

Panto: Sleeping Beauty Till Sun 24 Jan 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £12.50-£35
The History Boys Tues 26 - 31 Jan 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35
Book ahead for: My Wonderful
Day; Private Lives with Kim Cattrall and Matthew Macfadyen; Hedda
Gabler; 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

Useful Numbers

BT fault line 0800 800151

CLARENCE (Highway complaints) 0800 232323

Cllr John Thomson 01666 840785

Malmesbury Activity Zone 01666 8225333

Malmesbury Library 01666 823611

Malmesbury Police 0845 4087000

Malmesbury Primary Care Trust 01666 825825

Malmesbury Secondary School 01666 829700

Malmesbury Youth Centre 0799 0908550

MP James Gray 01249 652851

NHS Direct 0845 4647

Sherston Parish Council 01666 840351

Sherston Post Office 01666 840202

Sherston School 01666 840237

Tolsey Surgery 01666 840270

Wiltshire Council 0300 4560100

Small Ads

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Nissan Primera SE1.8 saloon, 2002 Manual-Silver-Aircon-Elec windows, mirrorsalloys-fsh. 41,000mls -Taxed: June-MOT:May £2000 01666 841191

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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.

