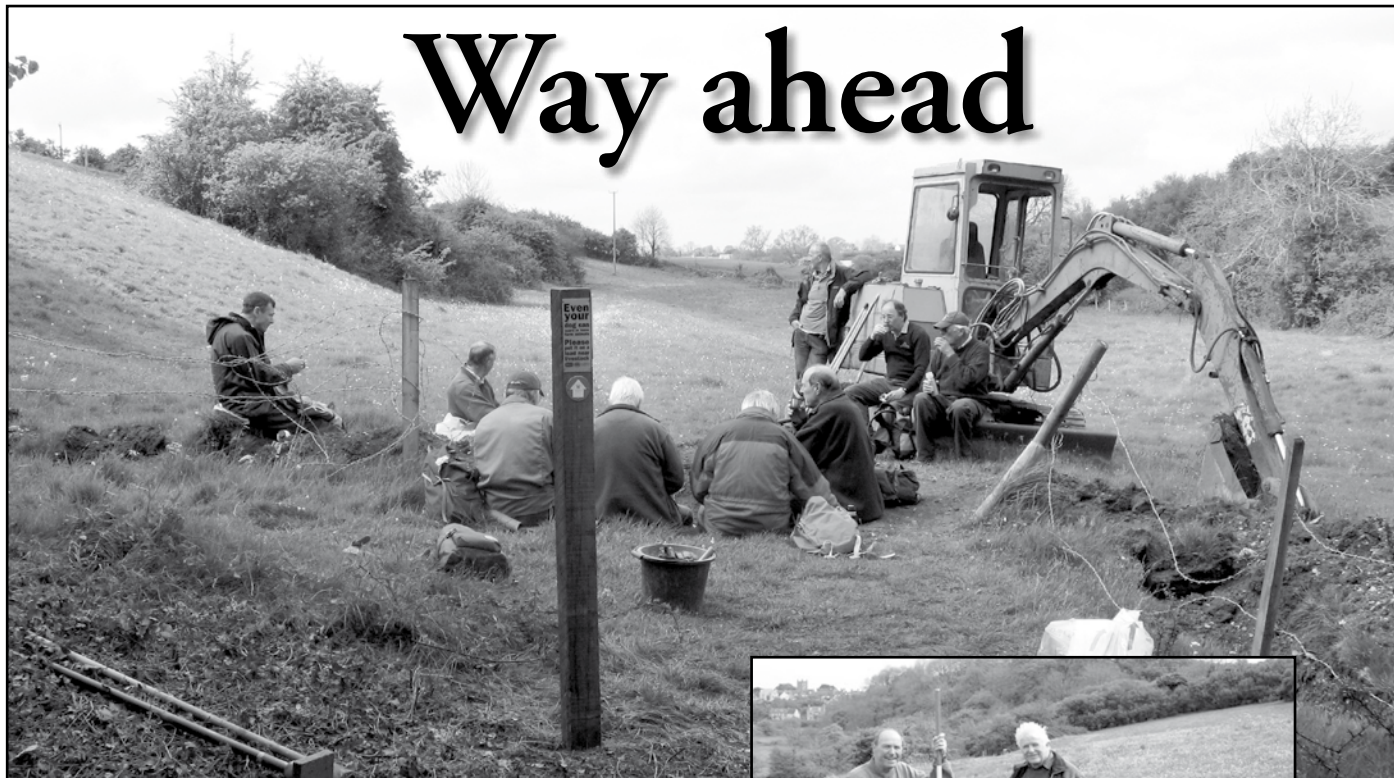




Way ahead



The front page of our last issue carried a photograph of a barbed wire fence, a trench and a digger, illustrating how the Macmillan Way was being obstructed at the point where it emerges from the Grove towards Luckington. As this issue's photos show, we are now able to report some progress on this matter.

The parish council and members of its footpath group brought considerable pressure on the Rights of Way (RoW) department of Wiltshire Council to rectify the situation. This resulted in RoW and the owner agreeing for the footpath to be way-marked through the field. This work was carried out in May by Cotswold warden Noel Banks and his team of volunteers under the supervision of a RoW officer. The situation is now much improved although there are still some concerns to be resolved, including the infilling of the trench over the whole two metre width of the pathway.

This incident has brought to the fore a number of important issues as to the rights and responsibilities of both landowners and walkers in relation to rights of way. For example, landowners cannot unilaterally obstruct or even destroy rights of way and walkers must not stray from footpaths, where they are clearly way marked, on to private land. There also needs to be a much better working relationship between the RoW department and the parish council through its footpath group. This is even more important following the formation of the new Wiltshire Council with its emphasis on full consultation and engagement with

local communities. The footpath group is working hard on these issues in an effort to ensure that incidents of this type do not reoccur. In particular the group wishes to liaise closely with both landowners and walkers so that where problems arise they can be swiftly resolved on a local level and as amicably as possible. Certainly if a clear communication route had been in place it is very doubtful if this whole incident would ever have occurred and a lot of time, effort and money would have been saved. If you wish to know more about the footpath group and its activities email footpaths@sherston.org.uk or telephone the Secretary to the group Maggie McKenna on 01666 841947.

The resolution of this particular incident emphasised how valuable the Cotswold volunteers are. Not only did they set about their way-marking work in a business-like and cheery manner; they also undertook a considerable amount of maintenance to the Macmillan Way through Grove Wood alongside the river and fitted a new kissing gate at the top end of the wood closest to the village. Without their practical assistance this entire issue could have dragged on for months. Well done lads.

Cliffhanger Tonga clanger

Readers tackling last month's crossword may legitimately be asking why the South Pacific island of Tonga has been relocated to Africa. It's a fair question. The only explanation is that this was due to a momentary lapse of concentration on the part of the compiler.

Cliffhanger is running out of ideas for Sherston-related crosswords. Although we will continue to publish crosswords to coincide with special events such as Boules Day, we are always on the lookout for alternative puzzles with a local colour. If you have any suggestions, please send them to us at editorial@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 01666 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.

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

We are delighted to welcome Cilla Liddington to the Cliffhanger team. Most of our readers will know that Cilla is a parish councillor. She comes from a family with a centuries-long Sherston pedigree. As a local historian she is the author of 'Sherston: City of White Walls' and her influence can already be seen in this issue of Cliffhanger, with two local history items besides her contribution to our D-Day chronicles.

An amazing find



On Easter Monday, Sherston High Street resident David Thorpe was working in his garden. He noticed something on top of the soil and after carefully removing it he was amazed to discover that it had been buried for over 350 years.

During the English Civil War, production of low denomination coins ceased. This led to a severe shortage of coins, and so traders decided to produce their own trade tokens. Most of these tokens were equivalent to one farthing. They never received official sanction, but were accepted and circulated widely due to the rapid increase in trade. Most of these coins were made between 1648 -1672 and were of lead, copper and sometimes even leather.

What David found in his garden was one of these trade tokens. On one side it reads Thomas Davis Shuston Magna 1651. On the reverse is the veiled head of the Virgin Mary. On 15 November 2000 one of Thomas's trade tokens, together with a small coin, sold at auction at Christie's in London.

Who was Thomas Davis? We know that between 1653 and 1668 he and his wife Elizabeth had seven children: one son and six daughters. We learn from Wiltshire Council Libraries and Heritage that there are references to the production of fustian cloth in Sherston in the 17th century. Fustian was a heavy cloth, used mainly in work wear. So Thomas Davis may have been trading in cloth and producing tokens to enable work people to buy from him. A lesson for today, when money is scarce again?

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Allotments

Not since the 'Dig for Victory' campaign of the Second World War has the desire to grow your own been so strong. This has been reflected in demand for allotment plots in Sherston.

Working closely with the recently formed Sherston Allotments and Garden Association (SAGA) the parish council has gone some way towards meeting the demand by creating smaller plots as well as two completely new plots. These have been offered to those at the top of the waiting list, which currently has around fifteen people on it.

SAGA membership, which already stands at about 30, is by no means restricted to allotment holders. The benefits of membership are numerous, including discounts such as the ability to purchase seeds at much reduced prices. At a fee of only £4 a year it's got to be a bargain for these benefits alone. To find out more and to join contact the vice-chairman Richard Maslen 01666 840387 or maslens@tiscali.co.uk.

Boules at the Bull

Would you like to improve your skills at boules before July 11? There is a friendly club at the Red Bull on the Malmesbury Road that meets every Thursday evening at 7.15pm. The piste, with the most amazing sunsets, has just had a new surface and lighting. Whether you are an absolute beginner or an experienced player you will have games with different people and widen your experience. For the more competitive members we have a team playing in the Cotswold Petanque league. We have a resident coach who will help you to improve your game and offers tips on shots to outplay your opponents. Just turn up any Thursday evening from now until the end of October.

There is a doubles tournament on Sunday 7 June. If you would like to enter please contact Sue McKechnie on 01666 840601 or email suemckechnie@hotmail.com.



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Age no barrier

The May issue of Cliffhanger carried details of this countywide initiative designed to raise the profile of older people and to celebrate the contribution they make to their communities.

In Sherston the parish council is supporting this initiative by assisting with two local events.

On Thursday 25 June from 10-12, Heather Martin is running an 'art taster' at the British School Room. If it's a long time since you held a pencil or used a paintbrush, come along to try your hand. All materials supplied (but if you have your own please bring them). Subject matter may include flowers or a still life group. All abilities catered for. You may find a new hobby and it's free. Just turn up on the day. All welcome.

On Friday 26 June from 2pm, children of Sherston School are inviting their senior relatives to join them for the afternoon. The children will show their grandparents, great aunts, uncles and others the school and their work. Their guests can tell them about their own school experiences all those years ago. Tea and cakes provided.

In addition there are two regular events that week which may be of interest.

SHOCC – Sherston's Occasional Community Choir meets on Wednesday 24 June,

7.30 – 9.30pm in the British School Room. All welcome.

Clem's Club- Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British School Room on Tuesday 23 June, 2.30 – 3.30pm.

Looks like a busy week for our seniors. Let's hope they all have an enjoyable time.

Revival Support Services

Revival is the name of a Wiltshire organisation working with adult survivors (both male and female) of rape and/or childhood sexual abuse. It offers peer support – an opportunity for survivors or their partners to talk freely in a non-judgmental, safe and supportive atmosphere. It also offers confidential counselling. There are weekly sessions, which are free but donations are welcome. Contact: phone 01225 358568 or email support@revival-support.org.uk.

If you feel you may be able to help by providing a listening ear to survivors, contact Susie Otway on 01225 358567 or email volunteer@revival-support.org.uk.

Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 11 June at 7.30pm in the village hall. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities for you to raise questions and pass comments.

If you cannot make the meetings but have something to raise please contact the clerk Mrs. Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. You can also contact the parish council via the response form on the web site www.sherston.org.uk where minutes of meetings can be read.

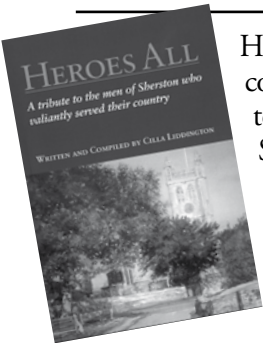
Community Area Partnership Day



The Malmesbury & the Villages Community Area Partnership held its Community Day on April 25.

The stall was manned by Phil Moore (pictured above), Jo Winterbourne and Shaun Scott in aid of Sherston Boules and Carnival. A variety of fine English and French fare was on display, much of it supplied by Ollie Cadle, Martin Rea and Andy Werrit of Tucks.

A similar event is planned for next year. The Malmesbury & the Villages Community Area Partnership says it wants to build on the success of this event and become the team and the voice for the people of Malmesbury and the Villages. If you'd like to know more, contact Alison on 01666 822202 or email alison.cross-jones@greensquaregroup.com or email Ray Sanderson on Malmesbury@tiscali.co.uk



Heroes All, published by the parish council and compiled by Cilla Liddington, tells the individual stories of all 53 Sherston men who laid down their lives in both world wars and in Northern Ireland. The book vividly brings to life all those names read out every year at the remembrance service as well as giving a fascinating insight to wartime

in the parish. At a cost of £9.99 it is available from Sherston Post Office Stores, Cilla Liddington 01666 840128 sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk or Sarah Wood the parish clerk on 01666 840351 clerk@sherston.org.uk. All proceeds from the book are used to support parish projects.

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Decisions, decisions

Sherston goes to the polls this month to elect members for the new Wiltshire Council and for the European Parliament.

Voting takes place on 4 June in the village hall between 7am and 10pm.

Voters will be able to select one candidate to represent Sherston on Wiltshire Council from the following:

Ian Ashby of 30 Strongs Close Sherston, who is standing as a Liberal Democrat and was nominated by Martin F Smith.

Susan Marion Ford of 89 Friday Street, Christian Malford, who is the Labour Party candidate and was nominated by Eric Mandel and

John Percy Simon Stuart Thomson of East Lodge, Pinkney, Malmesbury, who is the Conservative Party candidate and was nominated by Matilda M Matthews. Deciding who to vote for in the European Parliamentary elections will be more taxing.

These elections take place every five years and use proportional representation to select members for each of the UK's 12 regions.

Sherston is part of the South West region which covers Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire, the Isles of Scilly and Gibraltar.

As the region is entitled to six MEPs, voters will have six votes. But they will have to choose from 89 candidates representing 16 parties and one independent. While most candidates are based in the South West, a few are London-based and one comes from Gibraltar.

Cliffhanger recommends two websites to help its readers through this minefield.

The first is a Wiltshire Council one which gives the candidates' parties, names and addresses: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/elections.htm>.

The second is a BBC one which indicates how each party ranks its candidates:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8040084.stm#southwest.

The count will take place on 5 June in The Olympiad in Chippenham.

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Dorothy House Hospice

The annual fete for the Dorothy House Hospice will be held at Winsley House, near Bath, on June 6. Everybody is welcome. The local group are manning the bottle stall and hope to make a lot of money.

Dorothy House supporters are taking part in the boules marathon at the Rattlebone on June 20. They would welcome new members for their team. Anyone interested should phone Beryl Clampton on 01666 841201.

Please remember our own village Dorothy House Hospice fete to be held on July 4 at Bybrook, Bustlers Hill, Sherston. Stalls will include cakes, cream teas, Pimm's, plants, bric-a-brac and books. There will also be a tombola and a raffle. If you would like to help or donate goods for any of these, Beryl would like to hear from you; likewise if you want to come to the fete but have difficulty with transport.

Traffic problems

Residents have recently complained about vehicles being parked too close to junctions, thus causing dangerous driving conditions. The junction of Church Street, Court Street and Noble Street has suffered from this problem for years and the police do take action against offending drivers from time to time. The problem now seems to have spread to the Woods Close/Easton Town/Church Street/Sandpits Lane junction. There are other examples throughout the village.

Another problem is that of drivers abandoning their vehicles with the engines running outside shops, public houses and the like while they 'pop in' for a short time. This dangerous practice is a traffic offence, known as 'quitting'.

The police have been asked to monitor the situation and to take such action as is necessary.

Fun and fundraising

The Rinky Dinks gig in the village hall on April 25th was not only great fun; it raised the staggering sum of over a thousand pounds for local charities. On a smaller scale, but no less impressive, David Reeves and his team of cyclists raised £155 just by standing outside the post office on a Saturday morning. They are still looking for more sponsorship for their Bristol to Bordeaux ride on June 16 in aid of PROPS, the charity that supports young people with special needs. For more details see the May Cliffhanger.



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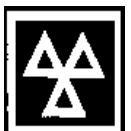
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Summer Sports Round-Up

The meteorologists tell us we're in for a barbecue summer, and it has certainly been a bright start to the season for both of Sherston's cricket teams. When Cliffhanger went to press, between them the two teams had contested eight friendly and league matches, and won them all.



It's doubtful that the Saturday team will have many more comprehensive victories than their win at Coates in their first competitive match of the season. Without the belligerent Kiwi who thumped our bowlers all round the ground last year, Coates crumbled to 44 all out, with Ian Gould taking 5-16 and Andy Tremellen 4-25. The necessary runs were made in just 10.3 overs,

which was sweet revenge for the 89 run defeat against the same opposition in 2008.

Chedworth were made of stronger stuff, making 183-4 in Sherston's first home match of the season. But after a sticky start, Sherston edged home by three wickets, thanks to Ollie Cox, who made 40, Ian Gould, with 46, and James Vynne, with an especially fluid 41 not out.



In the Rattlebone Boules League, meanwhile, the first cochonnet of the season to be bunged in anger was, appropriately enough, thrown by Dave Sutcliffe of the Bungers on April 20th. His team had, however, been unsettled by their opponents, Tommy's Tigers, who performed their own version of the haka prior to the boules-off. This synchronised snarl was hardly aggressive (you'll see more intimidating gestures on The Magic

Roundabout). But it clearly did the trick, with the Tigers strolling to a 13-5 win. Other triumphs would follow against the Rag Tags and Norfolk & Chance, before Game for a Laugh wiped the smirk off the Tigers' faces.

Elsewhere in League One, KP & Her Nuts made a sedate start to their campaign, having defended their title with two straight wins by the time Cliffhanger went to press. But the most explosive start to the season was made by Les Chevaliers, who threatened to fanny their way through the entire league with two 13-0 victories, before coming a cropper against the Three Musketeers and Les Legionairs.

In League Two, meanwhile, the team of the month award has to go to one of the league's newcomers, Hill Billies, led by Anne Huntley, who stormed to the top of the table with four straight wins. One of these was an early candidate for fight-back of the season. Trailing 9-0 to the Morgans' Boules Frites, Anne and her brave boulistes turned things around to take the match 13-10.

Other early frontrunners in League Two include Tony Towle's Sherston Antiques and Amanda Donaldson's No Sharking, both of which boasted 100% records by mid-May. Tickets are already rumoured to be selling like proverbial hotcakes for the showdown between Anne's Hillbillies and Tony's Antiques, scheduled for the penultimate week of the season.

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Answers to May crossword:

Across: 1. Potato; 4. Goodwin; 8. Trudged; 10. Noisome; 11. The Fosse Way; 13. Tonga; 14. Ruby; 15. Bear; 17. Nice; 19. Equates; 21. Tattoos; 23. Kent; 25. What's on; 26. Patina; 27. Everyday; 28. Beat it.

Down: 1. Pets; 2. Toughen; 3. Tug of war; 4. Gingerbread; 5. Ouija; 6. Wood; 7. Neeld Arms; 9. Destroy; 12. Westonbirt; 13. Tony Towle; 16. Duck Race; 18. Cottage; 20. Tolsey; 22. Santa; 24. Hatt

Village hall 200+ club

April Winners

1st	Gwen Mason (no.50)	£11
2nd	Peter Huntley (no.258)	£10
3rd	Kathleen Hillier (no.88)	£9
4th	Stuart Griffith (no.31)	£8
5th	Sarah Kamp (no.186)	£7
6th	Viv Hibard (no.165)	£6
7th	J.Munsen (no.260)	£5

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

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Care and Repair is a non-profit-making home improvement agency for older, disabled or vulnerable homeowners and private tenants.

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For further information contact:

North Wiltshire Care and Repair, Ridgeway House,
41 New Road, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 1JQ.
Telephone 01249 460701.

Jazz on the Lawn

As a prelude to boules week, the Park Lane Big Band will be providing Jazz on the Lawn on Saturday July 4.

This is a nineteen-piece band. They will be playing big band jazz and big band music from the Miller/Ellington era plus lots more. It all takes place on the village hall field.

Gates open at 6 pm and music will be from 7 to 11. There will be a bar serving beer and wine. Bring your own food, picnic rugs, gazebos and prepare to enjoy. Tickets will be on sale in early June from the post office, priced at £10 per adult, with children under 18 free.

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Get in the Grove

Work on Sherston's community wood, which has been leased for 15 years by the parish council, is due to start in earnest over the next few months.

The wood has to be fenced off on three sides and initial plant identification undertaken. A woodland management plan needs to be produced to include a replanting scheme, coppicing and construction of a circular path in the wood itself, and an interpretation board. While much of this work will be undertaken on a volunteer basis, major items such as fencing will be need to be done professionally.

To turn the Grove into a true community wood it's essential that residents play an active part in its management. If you would like to become involved and learn more about this exciting project, then why not pop along to an informal get-together at the wood on Sunday 14 June at around 11am? You will be able to explore the wood together with parish councillors and those who have already agreed to help. Children and well-behaved dogs on leads are particularly welcome.

You can also meet our new tree warden, pictured below, Irene Johnston. Thanks to the article in last month's Cliffhanger, Irene kindly volunteered for this position with the parish council and has been duly appointed. The parish council wishes Irene the greatest of success and enjoyment in her new role.

Irene will be attending some of the rural skills courses run by the Cotswold Conservation Board later in the year, as well as other courses organised by Wiltshire Council and the Tree Council, the instigators of the Wiltshire tree warden scheme.

Grove wood will be an important and challenging project for the parish council and us all, so why not meet Irene and others interested in the community wood at the Grove on Sunday 14 June at 11 am? If you can't make it but would like to learn more, please contact our Clerk, Sarah Wood, on 01666 840348 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk



School comes top

After many weeks of collecting, Sherston School was thrilled to be told at the end of April that they had won the Gazette & Herald's 'Let's get growing' competition for Wiltshire primary schools.

With 882 mastheads collected, Sherston was a long way ahead of runners up Frogwell School in Chippenham with 518. 'Just shows that size does not matter; commitment of parents and the wider community throughout the twelve weeks of the competition did the job and did it magnificently,' said Crispian Huggill, parent governor and chair of the school's environment area group. 'Our thanks to everyone who has collected, and especially to Paul and Gail Mather and their wonderful staff in the post office for all their help and stalwart support. It's very exciting at the moment; such a lot is going on and winning this prize is wonderful news for us all in Sherston.'

Asked how the school will use the £500 worth of Whitehall Garden Centre vouchers, headteacher Nick Bowditch said: 'We have many ideas covering the proposed pond and dipping area in the new wildlife area and further equipment for the school's allotment area. The latter is now almost fully used by the children and is stocked with fruit trees and bushes kindly donated by Whitehall Garden Centre and Martin Rea and has the beginnings of a herb garden'.



Whitehall Garden Centre director Mark Self made the official presentation to the year five Eco team at a special school assembly. Mr. Self was shown around and said he was impressed with what had been achieved in the allotment area, with the beginnings of the wildlife area and with plans for the future. He added: 'I'm keen to build contact with Sherston School and eagerly look forward to returning later in the year.'

Our neighbourhood policeman

This is Louis Bowden. He is the community beat manager for the Malmesbury Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team.



He has recently sent us a warning about rogue traders who may come knocking at your door offering to carry out work for you. The advice is never to have work carried out by people who call out of the blue. Get three quotes for work that needs doing, and act on personal recommendations. Crucially, don't let strangers in the house.

This last piece of advice appears to be timely, as an elderly Sherston resident has recently been troubled by two men knocking at her door. One appeared to be trying to distract her. She called the police, who made house-to-house enquiries in response.

If you see our neighbourhood policeman on his beat, tell him about anything that is causing you concern. Alternatively, contact him on 0845 408 7000 or email malmesburynt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

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Waterworks and windmill

An elderly resident in the village has been talking about the old windmill that was in the village during the 1920s.

Records show that before 1904 water was collected from river springs and sold from the back of a horse and cart for a ha'penny a pint. The then Parish Council decided to build a windmill on the site of the present-day waterworks.

The windmill's job was to send a large leather bucket down a deep bore-hole to the underground rivers. The water was then pumped along pipes to feed all the standpipes around the village. Many people already had their own wells, but during a long dry period they were more than grateful to be able to fill their buckets from the standpipes. The last remaining one can be seen at Forlorn Hill.

In the 1930s the Bristol Water Board decided to build water works at Shipton Moyne. Sherston's water supply was severely depleted and the pressure dropped. Unfortunately, the Parish Council could not raise the necessary funds to develop the windmill and there was no alternative but to sell to the Water Board.

Does anyone in the village have a photograph of the old windmill? It would make one elderly Sherstonian very happy to be able to see a this wonderful invention again.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal Volunteer Recruitment Day

At Market Place in Devizes on Thursday June 4th, 2009 1pm – 4pm in the hotel lobby

Why not come down and meet some of our volunteers and find out how you might be able to volunteer for the WAA Appeal?

By giving your time as a volunteer you show commitment to the people of Wiltshire and will be a valued member of a great organisation.

For more details please contact Melanie Gee at the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal Office

0845 122 1423 or visit our website www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk

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Village party

Plans for this event are now well under way, with bands being booked to provide live entertainment at the hall and field from 12 noon to 6pm on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August. Final line-ups will be announced in July.

Jason Read of the Rattlebone Inn will once again be providing an excellent barbecue with the help of a small army of staff recruited from the ranks of the drama group and the bell ringers. Other village groups are pledging their support in help with other essentials – teas, bar and raffle as well as all the logistics such as marquee erection and supervision of that quintessential of the modern English fete - bouncy castles.

The aim of the day is primarily to have fun, with monies raised towards hall funds an added bonus – £1000 was raised last year. All are most welcome especially those from the surrounding parishes and entry is completely free.

Stalls are an important part of the event and for 2009 local businesses as well as local charities and community groups are encouraged to set up shop. There is no charge for a stall but we would ask stallholders for a donation to hall funds, the amount being entirely at their discretion and no doubt dependent on how well they've done at the end of the day. If you haven't anything to sell but simply want to bring your group or organisation to the attention of the community we obviously won't expect much of a donation although something would be appreciated. With over 600 people attending the 2008 party and more expected this year the event is a great way to seek new members, publicise forthcoming events or test the water for support of new ideas. Last year's party produced the Cliffhanger, the parish footpath group and SAGA (Sherston Allotment and Garden Association). Not a bad result at all.

To book a stall, which includes the use of a 6' x 2' table, please contact Margo Holland on 01666 841019 or email mplholland@btinternet.com. Stalls can be accommodated either in the hall itself or outside, so please give your preference when booking. We can accommodate a limited number of gazebos on the field. We expect a heavy demand for stalls so book early and don't leave it till the last minute otherwise you could be disappointed.

We'll have more news on other attractions next month but in the meantime make sure the village party is in your diary.

D-Day anniversary

June 6 is the 65th anniversary of D-Day, the day on which the allied forces departed for the invasion of northern France and the beginning of the end of the Second World War. In preparation for that day, an American army division was stationed in Sherston.

Elsewhere in this issue of Cliffhanger we give details of Sherston's D-Day tribute concert, reception and exhibition. Here we present four accounts of those days when the Americans were here, preparing for the embarkation. The first, from the Americans' viewpoint, is edited by Cilla Liddington. It consists of extracts from a book compiled by veterans of the 626th Engineers, the United States Army. Cilla has added a short postscript. The other three accounts are the personal memories of three village residents. We have retained the original spelling and punctuation and one or two quirks in the American excerpt (Avonsmouth, Hounds of the Baskervilles, ravens that were probably rooks or jackdaws).

When FIFI came to Sherston

This is our story and it begins with the changing face of America. Most of us were high school students and paid little attention to the war in Europe just beginning to rear its ugly head. Our thoughts were on sports, girls, dancing and all other activities associated with adolescence. Although we were oceans apart from the rest of the world's problems, the events in Europe and Asia made many Americans feel uneasy.

On 13th March 1944 we arrived into Bristol Harbor but could not enter the locks at Avonsmouth because the Port of Cardiff was under attack. The Arawa had to anchor in the harbor and await further instructions. Upon eventually disembarking we were welcomed by a British Army band and then boarded a train, which took us to Badminton. From there we trucked into the village of Sherston, Wiltshire.

Dead tired best describes our physical condition upon arrival in this historic hamlet at around 3a.m. There was no fanfare due to the wee hours of the morning and blackout conditions gave the village an eerie ghost-like appearance like something from the "Hounds of the Baskervilles". The enlisted men were billeted at the Tolsey, others at the Angel and Swan public houses, some in private homes while the 1st Platoon was housed in the Home Guard barracks formerly occupied by C Company, 2nd Battalion of the Sherston Home Guards. Our officers were housed in Easton Grey Manor owned by Captain Treyman a retired British Officer.

Our mess hall was in the Swan Barton which Sgt. Kielecki had to slightly modify to suit our requirements. Our Company CP was located in an office on high street where Capt. Marino Mussomeli was laying out an agenda to get the 626th up and running. An immediate priority was to set up a motor pool and training area about two miles south east of the town. [Pinkney Park] A detail cut an opening about 20 feet wide in the high fieldstone wall but on the other side a large tree was obstructing the entrance. We cut the tree down and found a nest of ravens and some baby squirrels. All of the ravens were dead except of one so we kept it as a mascot.

One day Tom Jensen who had become a close friend of Mr and Mrs Vining noticed that Mr



Vining's truck had broken down which meant he would be unable to deliver his bread and rolls in time for Easter. He said it would be 30 – 40 days before a mechanic could



repair it. Tom found that the Vinings had another old truck that was also broken down but that the motor seemed in fairly good condition. He knew that he would be able to exchange the motors but would need Capt. Mussomeli's permission. Mussomeli was sympathetic but would allow Jensen just 24 hours to finish the job. Tom was able to complete the repairs in time and Mr Vining was back in business. Once more the 'Yanks' came through with flying colors.

Some villagers would invite the G.I.'s to dinner, but we had to remember not to over indulge. Being good hosts they would put out almost their whole monthly food rations and as Americans we were used to eating big meals, so we had to be on our best behaviour. We in turn would offer them our PX rations as a token of our appreciation.

Another concern was that we showed respect for the young ladies in the village. A 1st Army Order came down one day indicating that any American soldier fathering a child with an English woman would be ordered to forfeit 400 pounds of his pay (the equivalent of \$1600).

Shortly before D-Day we exchanged our American and British currency for invasion Francs. We bade farewell to the City of White Walls, Sherston, Wiltshire.

Cilla adds:

Tom never forgot the kindness shown to him by Mr and Mrs Vining. Both he and his wife Evie made two trips back to Sherston in the 1960's. Mr and Mrs Vining also travelled to America to visit them. In June 2006 Alan and I were fortunate enough to also make the trip across the pond. We were met at O'Hare airport Chicago by two very, very sprightly octogenarians, Tom and Evie Jensen, who had arranged many exciting excursions for us. The visit ended with a superb dinner where we got to meet the remaining veterans of the 626th. We were both made honorary members of their association and receive a copy of their regular newsletter 'FIFI', named after their mascot, a stray dog they took in and cared for. (We were also presented with a copy of their own book of memoirs from which the extracts for this article are taken. If anyone would like to borrow this book we would be happy to lend it) Very sadly there are now only about ten men left from the unit and most of those are now very frail, but meet every three months to exchange news and memoirs of their happy few months spent in Sherston and the adventure that lay ahead for them all.

A cross-channel jaunt

This is an extract from villager George Stephens' 'Jaunt through the Years', relating his experience of crossing the channel shortly after D-DAY:

At the end of our eight weeks, the training was completed, my posting was to be to an Artisan Works Company, they were already in a Transit camp at Newhaven. On arrival they sent me home on seven days embarkation leave. This came as a bit of a surprise, and as usual passed all too quickly. When I returned to Newhaven after my leave, the weather was wet and very windy. The next morning showed no improvement in the weather, but we still embarked on to a L.C.I. (Landing Craft Infantry).

On board with us were a number of Belgian soldiers that had escaped to Britain when their country was over-run by the German Army, and were now about to go back. We set sail at 0.800 hours. As the craft reached the breakwater the weather began to get even rougher than it had been. Most of us were seasick, and it took ten hours to negotiate the safest route and so avoid mines and sunken ships, some of which could be seen sticking out of the water. The landing craft finally got us to Aromanches where it stopped several hundred yards off the beach and carefully manoeuvred into the Mulberry Harbour. Now it was time to carry all of our kit up the beach, mine proved difficult as usual, (I think they should have given me more instruction in kit packing!). We splashed our way through muddy fields until we reached one where there was a large tent. It looked as if this was as far as we would go that night. Some of the training that we had done at Worcester had been taken up on sessions at the Tilsley rifle range, using both the Lee Enfield rifle and the Bren gun, (this fires about 300 rounds a minute). My rifle firing was about average, but with the Bren gun I gained top marks by blowing the middle out of the target. Now whether this was a genuine high score, or whether everybody else were deliberately trying to miss remains a mystery. What I do know, is that as a result of that top mark, the gun was now mine to carry, together with the title of number one Bren Gunner. It weighed about three times the weight of a rifle, and felt much heavier after a long march, then of course there was the cleaning!

The Officer told us to get some sleep on the ground. Time to unpack my blanket, and the greatcoat would come in handy. I laid it out on the grass, it was very hard but at least it was dry, the rain was now pouring down judging by the noise it was making on the tent canvas. We all tried to make ourselves comfortable. After about ten minutes we were just feeling sleepy when we were startled by a shout..

George Stephens - right



Bulldozers among the cows

With the approaching 65th anniversary of the D-Day landing on the continent of Europe, as one of the older members of Sherston's population and being 17 years old at that time, I thought I would recall some of the preparations happening in Sherston and Pinkney for that event.

Apart from the many members of Sherston's young men and women serving in the armed forces (many never to return) Sherston and Pinkney were the hosts to 5,000 American soldiers (a transport division) stationed under tents and huts in Pinkney Park; 2,000 being on what is now the cricket ground, these being coloured young men, and 3,000 white on the Deer Park, there being segregation in those days.

Being a transport division, they arrived with their 500 huge trucks, bulldozers and earth-levelling machines. These being ready to repair and build airfields, bridges, railways and roads on their arrival in France. Some of the loads in the trucks were offloaded onto the roadside verges and trees of Pinkney Park.

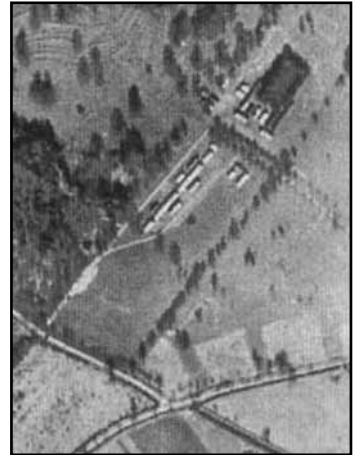
My father and I had a herd of milking cows in those days, that travelled daily to pasture on the Foxley Road. They soon found themselves being driven through very many thousands of stacked ammunition boxes and equally many thousands of jerrycans full of petrol to carry the troops through Europe.

The troops under canvas endured a very wet winter of 1944, their trucks becoming bogged down on the saturated Parkland. This being a former deer park had a 7ft (2 metre) boundary wall of Cotswold stone. This became the hard core for what was quickly to become the lorry park for the many heavy vehicles. One morning father and I witnessed the lowering of the wall to half its height. This was accomplished in a day by the 5,000 men, their trucks and bulldozers. Needless to say, father, myself (and cows) had to have permits to pass the armed guards to witness all this activity.

The morning of D-Day saw the park empty and deserted, the trucks having transported the whole lot to Southampton during the previous night.

Sherston village had seen the village hall become a *Huts and tank parks at Pinkney Park* troops' cinema with films from the States being shown twice a week. The Americans being "adored" by the village girls! The troops loved the bread baked by the two bakers in the village at that time. They called it cake and was about the only thing not strictly rationed in those awful days.

John Hillier



Sweetening the rabbit

Villager Betty Stephens was a young teenager when the Americans were at Pinkney and remembers a few occasions when her father, Wilf Neal, invited American servicemen back from the pub to their house in Back Lane (now Grove Road) for some supper. She was surprised to see that they sprinkled sugar over their roast rabbit. On another occasion, their American guests left them a big tin of what they thought might be fruit, though on opening it they discovered that it contained carrots of which they had plenty!

Support for young carers

If you know of any young people who are obliged to act as carers, make sure they know that support is available to them.

Alan Burke is the young carers' support worker covering north and west Wiltshire. He will respond to any referrals and make an appointment to complete an initial needs assessment, so as to see how much of a caring role the young people have and what can be done to help them.

Alan runs sessions for young carers involving sports, arts, craft, healthy living. He also provides one-to-one mentoring and works with schools and families to improve the young carers' lives.

To contact Young Carers phone 01380 720671 or email yc@youthactionwiltshire.org

Grants and loans for small businesses

The Business Grants and Loans Fund (BGLF) has invested over £90,000 of grant and loan funding into rural enterprises in Wiltshire over the past three years. This has enabled a diverse range of small rurally based businesses to thrive.

The combination loan and grant fund is open to all small, independent rurally based businesses and start-up enterprises in Wiltshire and Swindon. The business or social enterprise must have the support of the local community and be located in a village or rural area of below 10,000 population.

Business support and mentoring is available to assist applicants through the application process (fees apply).

To check eligibility and find out more about the fund contact Tim Coomer on 01380 722475 ext 272 or email tcoomer@communityfirst.org.uk.

Side by side with this provision, the government is to increase aid for rural businesses hit by the recession. Rural affairs secretary Hilary Benn announced measures on April 30 which will see funding limits raised from 50% to 100% on a range of grants under the government's Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

The change is intended to help with diversification into non-agricultural businesses and to help small rural enterprises which want to start up or expand.

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Fit Together

Tai chi on the Cliff, anyone? Sponsored mainly by Sport England, Fit Together is a project promoting sport and physical exercise activities in rural areas. These activities include: paintball competitions; orienteering; walking groups; archery; football competitions; and gentle exercise for older people. Fit Together provides coaching and support to local groups in the development of these kinds of activity.

Recent examples of Fit Together's work in Wiltshire have been courses in 'Extend' (a gentle exercise programme for older people) and a sports taster day for girls involving aerobics, trampolining, martial arts and archery. The organisation is currently linking with Wiltshire Walks for All and the Walking for Health initiative to develop walking groups and to provide training for walk leaders. Following this, the intention is to focus on 'walks on wheels' – which doesn't mean pushing your bike uphill, but walking with wheelchairs, buggies and prams.

If you want to know more, contact Fit Together co-ordinator Helie Franklin on 01380 or email hfranklin@communityfirst.org.uk. And if you are interested in the possibility of setting up group activities for older people, the Lease of Life fund might be able to help with a grant of up to £300. This can be accessed through Age Concern Wiltshire. Call Jayne Funnell on 01380 727767.



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Power to the people

Local decision-making will take place in the heart of the community thanks to the creation of new Area Boards by Wiltshire Council.

Eighteen Area Boards will be set up across the county in the next month or so including one for Malmesbury and the villages.

They will give residents a major voice within their local communities and the chance to influence the decisions which affect their areas.

The Area Boards will form a key part of the decision-making structure of Wiltshire Council, and ensure that decisions about local issues are made locally.

And this is how they will work:

Elected councillors who sit on the Boards will make decisions taking local views into account

Local people will be invited to discuss issues with councillors before decisions are made

Wiltshire Council will be responsible for delivering the services and the Area Boards will see that they are tailored to meet local needs

Area Boards will have their own budgets for local priority projects

Each Area Board will meet approximately every six to eight weeks at various locations within their boundaries

The membership of Area Boards will be made up of unitary councillors and a cabinet member from Wiltshire Council, elected representatives from town and parish councils, Community Area Partnership representatives and senior representatives from the police, fire and health services.

The first meeting of the Malmesbury area board takes place on Wednesday 24 June at 7pm at Malmesbury School and all are very welcome to attend. This is your opportunity to meet the four new elected members of Wiltshire Council who will sit on the Board, and to raise issues of concern to you. The meetings are designed and run in a manner to encourage as much public participation as possible. The venue of Malmesbury School is ideal for Sherston residents as it's on our side of town and there is ample free parking.

Sherston Living Churchyard

Ancient churchyards are often a haven for wildlife, providing a variety of different habitats. Since the 1980s the Wiltshire Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project has encouraged local people to manage churchyards in a way that will allow wildlife to flourish, while respecting their sacred nature and the role they have to play in Christian life.

With the agreement of Rev. Andrew Evans and churchwarden Ness Whiffen, Sue Robinson has started to explore the possibility of changing the management of Sherston churchyard so that it can become a Living Churchyard. Those of you who have been in the churchyard will know that it is very large, so what can be done is going to depend entirely on the number of people she can find who would be willing to join her in this project.

Are you interested in wildlife and conservation? Would you like to learn more about the natural world? You may have some specialised knowledge about birds, insects or plants or you may just be keen to help improve your locality. People who are willing to do a certain amount of manual work will be essential, but so are others who can support in a wide variety of other ways.

If you would like to know more please give Sue a ring on 01666 841263. She looks forward to hearing from lots of eager volunteers.



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School run

A London Marathon contestant all the way from Kenya joined Sherston School's running club in a sponsored fun run at the end of April, wearing traditional Maasai costume.

Solomon Kimani ran the twenty-six-mile route through London in just three hours, twenty-nine minutes, forty-three seconds, which was only about twenty minutes behind the race winners.



There was great excitement at the school with the news that Solomon, of the Maasai tribe in Kenya, was joining over 120 children and adults for the fun run. The school's running club, which meets on Mondays after school, set up the fun run and invited the whole school (and adults) to take part, on a course involving multiple circuits of the school grounds. Some younger siblings even took part in buggies pushed by parents.

It's no surprise that the school has been awarded the Activemark award for work throughout the school in maintaining the children's fitness levels.

Solomon Kimani is raising funds for the Tusk Trust (www.tusk.org) and Kijabe Trust (www.thekijabetrust.co.uk). They are raising money to build a teacher's house for the Kenyan Sherston Musul primary school, and also for conservation and



healthcare in communities in Kenya, including the Kijabe Group Ranch, Solomon's home.

Sherston School's links with Kenya go back over five years and the new school was opened by Maasai elder Erick ole Kasana four years ago. Deputy head Debby Liddle was instrumental in establishing a close link with the Maasai community in Loisaba in Northern Kenya. Five years ago Debby and Sue Daybell, a parent with children at the school, spent ten days in Kenya during the summer holidays taking part in a gruelling yet rewarding project involving the building of a much-needed water tower. Debby and her husband Gordon returned with Sue two years ago to help with the construction of a new classroom at Sherston Musul School.

See the website at www.sherstonmusul.com for more background information of the links between the two schools.

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Sherston 1016



Incredible. Sherston 1016 tell us that's the only way to describe the response to their collection over Badminton weekend for the Wiltshire air ambulance appeal. This is their report on recent and forthcoming activities.

Locals and visitors alike showed just how highly thought of this service is by donating some £1500 – a record. We couldn't have done this without the tremendous support of the 25 or so publicans who allowed us to collect in their premises over the three evenings. Thank you one and all. Thanks are also due to Paul and Gail Mather of Sherston Post Office Stores, who not only agreed to have a collecting tin in the shop for the whole week but also allowed us to seek donations outside the shop on the Saturday morning.

Our 24-game boules marathon at the Rattlebone Inn on Saturday 20 June is our next event, when two sponsored teams will each play 24 challenging teams between 8am and 8pm. Raising a total of 48 opposing teams is quite a task, so please enter a team if you can. All we ask is a donation which will be split equally between 1016's senior citizens Christmas voucher fund and Dorothy House hospice. To register a team, contact Eric Thacker on 01666 841344 or email eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk. There will be prizes for the best performing challengers and also a raffle. The event will be rounded off by a barbecue and live music.

So far there is a deafening silence from Sherston's menfolk on the subject of the Boules & Carnival Tug of War on Sunday 12 July at 11am. Surely Sherston can't concede the title, and a barrel of beer, to Sean Richards and the Vine Tree by default? At least the ladies are flying the flag for Sherston. Come on lads, let's be having you. Contact Paul Ormiston on 01666 840694 email pa.ormiston@homecall.co.uk. Entry fee is £8 per team of eight.

Wiltshire Link schemes

Wiltshire Link schemes are helping to make Wiltshire's rural communities sustainable.

Many older people are being adversely affected by such things as the closure of post offices and changes to the provision of health services. Link schemes are groups of volunteers, based in local communities, offering help with transport and good neighbour tasks such as collecting prescriptions, shopping and calling in for a chat. These valuable schemes provide a service that enables many older people to remain living independently in their own homes with some quality of life and dignity.

There are about 1400 volunteers throughout Wiltshire. Each of them makes make a small contribution that improves the lives of many people.

The Link schemes are looking for new volunteers. You will have any expenses reimbursed, and you will be able to choose what kind of help you can give and at what times. This is a satisfying way to contribute to the community and to make new friends.

For enquiries about either your local Link scheme or the countywide support organization, The Link Project, contact 01380 722241.

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Sherston's got talent

On the evening of April 17, Sherston Drama Group hosted a show in the Village Hall that confirmed the headline 'Sherston's Got Talent'. Nearly 30 acts entertained a capacity audience with sketches, songs, dances and monologues. Drama Group productions can certainly pull in the stars. Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers unexpectedly turned up to render one of their most famous numbers, John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John reprised one of their dances from Grease, and later Her Majesty the Queen herself graced us with her presence. But the home-grown talent was not to be outdone. The Sherston Tappers gave us their inaugural tap dance performance, and their teacher Sue Lehrer showed how the advanced stuff should be done. Resident Australian Beverly Claffey contributed a Rolf Harris theme with performances of Jake the Peg and Sun Arise, complete with amplified didgeridoo. Kirstie Blair was Joyce Grenfell, Rod and Karen Moyes and Lloyd and Sarah Woods sang and played guitar, Margot Holland recited Blake, Hazel Jarrett recited Wordsworth, David Jarrett was a village idiot, various brave members of the audience came up to act with members of the Drama Group... it would be impossible to mention everyone. The whole thing was coordinated by Bob Fenner and compered by Graham Instrell and Richard Skeffington.

The next production is the pantomime in October. For adults interested in acting there is a reading at 27 the Tartars at 7.30 on Monday 8 June. For children,



there will be an audition in the Village Hall probably at 7.30 on Monday 22 June. Watch out for more details or contact us by phone or email:

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richard.skeffington@virgin.net Tel. 840092
Graham Instrell (Vice Chairman)
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D-Day tribute

On Monday 1 June at 7.45 pm there will be a special free concert organised by the parish council in the Church of the Holy Cross on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

The renowned Avon Fire and Rescue Service Band www.firebrigadeband.co.uk will be performing a range of music as a tribute to those who took part in the D-Day operations. There will be items drawn from today's repertoire as well as the popular music of the era, recent film music and military music relating to the regiments and units of those from Sherston who took part in the conflict. We will also hear a selection of music by Sousa. This has been requested by the veterans' association of the 626th Engineer Light Equipment Company of the US Army. At the end of the concert there will be a short period of reflection and re-dedication. A retiring collection will be taken for the Royal British Legion poppy appeal. The event will be filmed by a nephew of one of the servicemen stationed at Pinkney Park in 1944 so as to produce a DVD as a gift to the members of 626th Engineers Veterans' Association.

Immediately after the concert all attending are invited to the Rattlebone Inn where free soft drinks and a special wartime buffet will be available. There will be an opportunity for donations to be made to the Help for Heroes charity. Those wishing for something a little stronger will have to pay.

Everyone from Sherston and the surrounding parishes is most welcome to both the concert and reception. As well as the concert there will be a special exhibition in the church for a two week period from Saturday 30 May, showing Sherston's part in the D-Day preparations. It will include reminiscences from those who were here at the time.

The entire cost of both the concert and the exhibition is being met from monies raised from the sale of the parish council's publication 'Heroes All' and from a grant generously given last year by the Boules & Carnival committee.

The parish council is most grateful for the support given to these special events by the Vicar, the Revd. Andrew Evans, and by lay minister Mrs Marjorie Morgan, church warden Ness Whiffen, the parochial church council, band leader Percy Mann and most importantly all the band members. Special thanks are also due to Anthony Price for assisting with all the arrangements, to Pat Whitehouse and her team for the floral decorations and Jason Read and staff at the Rattlebone Inn for providing what is sure to be a memorable buffet. Spam fritters anyone?



Mending the net

Well before the bursting of the dot.com bubble Sherston had its own community web site, www.sherston.net. This was set up by the boules and carnival committee. Its aim was to publicise not only the annual event but also local groups and businesses.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of content being provided and the maintenance of the site falling on too few shoulders, [sherston.net](http://www.sherston.net) is currently not all that it could be.

In an effort to revive the site, which could be such an asset to the parish, an informal meeting is being held at the Rattlebone Inn on Tuesday 2 June at 7.30pm for all those who may be interested in giving [sherston.net](http://www.sherston.net) the kiss of life. All welcome especially those with web site design and maintenance experience.

A number of ideas for the site have already been made, including a comprehensive listing of all local businesses which in due course could be published in paper form to provide a Sherston business directory.

If you can't attend the meeting but would like to know more or perhaps get involved, contact Paul Ormiston on 01666 840694 or email pa.ormiston@homecall.co.uk.



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Tombola time

For well over twenty years the parish council has been running the tombola stall at Boules & Carnival. It is always a popular attraction and usually sells out by early afternoon, raising hundreds of pounds for the event in the process.

This year, as always, can residents please consider giving those unwanted gifts, odd tins of produce etc to the tombola? Donations can be left either with Cilla Liddington at 37 High Street or at the Sunday papers at the village hall in the box provided. The parish council has longed to have a tombola of 1000 prizes and has got up to 800 in the past. With your help this could be the year.

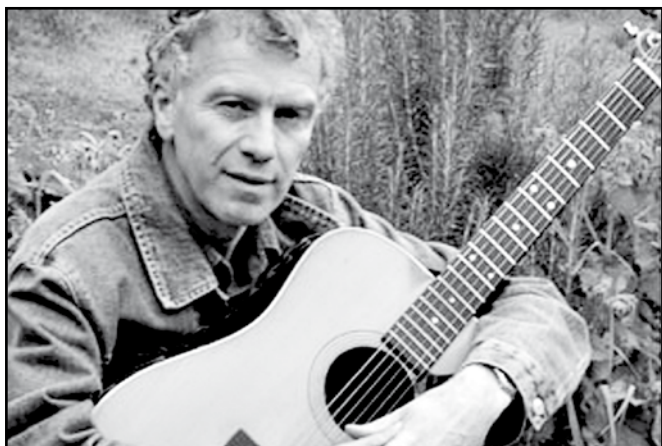
Singer-songwriter for festival

Top of the bill for this October's Sherston Arts Festival is singer-songwriter Johnny Coppin. Supported by Paul Burgess from the John Kirkpatrick Band, Johnny will be playing the village hall on Saturday 17 October.

Formerly with the folk-rock band Decameron, Johnny Coppin's many solo albums include 'Forest and Vale and High Blue Hill' (Songs of Gloucestershire), 'Edge of Day' - a collaboration with the late Laurie Lee, 'Force of the River', 'A Country Christmas', 'The Shakespeare Songs' and his most recent albums 'Keep the Flame' and 'The Winding Stair'. Details of all these at www.johnnycoppin.co.uk.

Johnny has supported Gerry Rafferty, Jasper Carrott and The Albion Band on tour and has appeared at Festivals in Britain, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Holland and Belgium - including the prestigious Cambridge, Edinburgh, Lisdoonvarna and Nyon Festivals.

With Johnny accompanying himself on guitar and Paul Burgess on fiddle, we can expect the festival to be rounded off with a top-quality performance of top-quality songs.



Ladies in the swim

Sherston Ladies Swimming Club needs new members and welcomes back those who have been members in the past and would like to rejoin, and existing members who wish to bring a guest. It now costs £37 for 15 weeks but for new members who may not wish to swim every week during the summer the club may be able to offer a half rate. Phone Heather 840375 or Annabel 840592 for details.

Midsummer fete and open gardens

A reminder that this takes place on Sunday 21 June at Sherston Village Hall and Field, starting at 12.30 with a barbecue and bar, stalls, raffle, drench the wench and children's activities. There's a fathers' day corner with a free coffee and newspapers.

Pick up an open gardens trail ticket (£5 per person), giving entry to six village gardens and return to the village hall to enjoy a well-earned tea and homemade cake (up to 5 pm)

Sherston Cricket Club – Fixtures for June

First Team - Saturdays	Sundays
June 6 v Oakridge (a)	June 7 v Rattlebone XI (h)
June 13 v NATS (h)	June 14 v Travellers (h)
June 20 v Gt Rissington (a)	June 21 v Lydiard Millicent (a)
June 27 v Cricklade (h)	June 28 v Box (h)

Juniors

Meet on Tuesdays

All new members welcome.

Contacts

Saturday skipper Andy Tremellen 07979 388208

Sunday skipper Mark Howell 07738 140547

Secretary Kevin Smith 01666 840188
07970 740389

Juniors Jo Lawrence-Mills 01666 840866

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Regular events in Sherston

Holy Cross church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade cakes Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings from May to October
Pause for prayer Church of the Holy Cross is now open from 7.30am until 8am every Wednesday for silent prayer or quiet reflection. All are welcome for all or some of the time. For further details see the Parish Life.

Congregational church

Services each Sunday 11 am - 12.00 All welcome
For further details see the Parish Life or phone 07778 934742

Methodist church

Services every Sunday at 10.30am apart from 3rd Sunday in the month when service is held at Luckington. For further details contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143 or see the Parish Life

Village hall 200+ club

Monthly draw prizes ranging from £10-£4 for a £6 annual stake. If any new members of the village would like to join, contact either Mary Goulding no 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 June 7.30 for 7.45pm. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. All profits to help maintain the village hall.

Ladies' swimming club

Westonbirt School on Wednesday evenings between 8 and 9.30 p.m. The cost is £37 for 15 weeks. Shorter summer memberships may be possible. Phone Annabel Clifton on 840592 or Heather Martin on 840375.

Sherston Young Craft Group

Mondays 6.45 - 8.15pm in the village hall (9 years and over). £2.50 (incl all materials) per evening paid in advance of each half term. To join, please contact Sue Ormiston on 840694

Senior Club

Meets at 2pm in the British School Room every other Tuesday - 2 and 16 June. For further details contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143

Clem's Club

Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British School Room every other Tuesday 2.30 - 3.30pm - 9 and 23 June.

Church bell-ringing

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

Parish council meeting

Thurs 11 June 7.30pm in the village hall
Minutes of meetings can be read online at www.sherston.org.uk. Further details contact Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or clerk@sherston.org.uk

SHOCC - Sherston's Occasional Community Choir
Meets every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm in the British School Room for 6 weeks starting 3 June. All welcome. Contact Mary Clements 840688 or Nicki Heenan 840883 for more details.

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

D-Day tribute

Concert by the Avon Fire and Rescue Band at the Church of the Holy Cross
Monday 1 June at 7.45pm followed by a reception at the Rattlebone Inn. Free - all welcome.

The Carpenter's Arms

Curry quiz night Sun 7 June 7.30pm £5 pp entry including all you can eat curry buffet / £1 quiz only

'Elvis' live Wed 17 June 8.30pm

Further details contact 840665

The Rattlebone

Boules league - regular matches held weekday evenings
Boules marathon from 8am to 8pm in aid of Sherston 1016 and the **Dorothy House hospice** - with live music and a BBQ from 8pm Sat 20 June

Further details 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

Sherston.net meeting

Informal revival meeting at the Rattlebone Inn on Tuesday 2 June at 7.30pm. All interested in helping revive the website www.sherston.net most welcome. If you can't attend the meeting, but you would like to know more, please contact Paul Ormiston on 840694 or pa.ormiston@homecall.co.uk.

Drama Group

First reading of pantomime for October's production - budding actors welcome Mon 8 June at 27 The Tarters
Children's auditions in the Village Hall at 7.30 on Mon 22 June
Further details contact Richard Skeffington 840092 or richard.skeffington@virgin.net or Graham Instrell ginstrell@hotmail.co.uk

Guitars Galore

Concert by 15 local youngsters in aid of the British School Room
Sat 6 June 7.30 - 9.30pm £4 pp donation requested British School Room

Grove Community Wood

Meet at the wood Sun 14 June at 11am to find out all about the project and explore the wood. All welcome, including dogs on leads.

Midsummer fete and open gardens trail in aid of Sherston Church

Sun 21 June in the village hall and field. 12.30pm BBQ and bar, stalls, raffle and children's activities. Open gardens trail (£5 per person). Tea and homemade cake till 5pm

Dates for your diary for Boules Week

Events include (look out for timings and more details in the July Cliffhanger)
Sat 4 July 6pm - Jazz on the Lawn - 19 piece jazz band playing from 7pm bring a picnic & rug. Bar available £10 per adult, children free

Sun 5 July A walk around Sherston

Mon 6 July Quiz night at the Carpenter's Arms

Tues 7 July Afternoon musical tea in the British School Room

Wed 8 July Skittles Tournament at The Rattlebone

Thurs 9 July Children's Disco in the village hall

Friday 10 Junior football tournament, Adult cross dressing match & BBQ

Seniors' Exhibition preview evening in the British School Room

Sat 11 July - Boules Day & Carnival

Sun 12 July - Tug of War 11am

Duck Race 2.30pm Cream Teas at the finish line

Salvation Army Service 6pm

Wentworth Jigsaws Open Day & Factory Sale

Sat 20 June 10am- 2pm Pinkney Park

Further details contact 840033 or www.jigsaws.co.uk

Westonbirt The Arboretum

10k Run round the Arboretum trail Mon 8 June £10 incl parking – places only sold in advance. Download entry form from www.cirencester-ac.org.uk or call David Edelsten on 01285 720421 for more information.

Beginners digital landscape photography workshop Thurs 11 June £50 including refreshments and entry Graham Light 01285 653069

Summer concerts: Tickets now on sale for: McFly Fri 19 Jun £26.50, following David Gray Fri 17 July £31.30 Vanessa Mae & fireworks Sat 18 July £29.50 all plus booking fee Ticket hotline 01842 814612 Now sold out - Simply Red Sun 21 Jun & Paul Weller Sat 20 Jun

Further details contact 880220 or www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Westonbirt School

ABBA night with top tribute band Planet ABBA suitable for all the family, bring a picnic, cash bar Sat 6 Jun gates open 6.30pm music from 7.30pm Sold out.

Westonbirt School Foundation Musical Gala Dinner in aid of the new music school Champagne reception in the Great Hall, dinner and entertainment in the Library Sat 13 June 7pm Black tie £45 Further details from Charlotte Roger-Jones 881373

Alice in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass presented by years 7-9 Thurs 18 June 7.30pm Fri 19 2pm in the Orangery. Free admission
Lunchtime Concert Fri 19 June 1.30pm in the Reading Room. Free admission.

Year 8 Charity concert in aid of Help for Heroes

Friday 26 June 7.30pm in the library. Free admission

Music theatre workshop with Billy Elliott star James Lomas & West End coach Nicola Harrison Sat 27 June 2.30pm - Audience welcome!

Further details contact 880333 or www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk

Beaufort Polo Club country fair

Beaufort Polo Club country fair - including polo matches, shows and 80 stands Sat 20 - Sun 21 Jun from 11am Day entry from £20 per car, Boujis from £65 pp
England v Australia test match Sat 3.30pm

England Ladies vs Rest of the World 5.30pm Boujis at the Beaufort from 7.30pm - advance tickets only **Charity Polo Match** Sun 4pm

Further details contact 880510 or www.beaufortpoloclub.co.uk/Fixtures/CountryFair.htm

Easton Grey Whatley Manor

Garden tours with head gardener Barry Holman

Pimms welcome drink followed by 2 course lunch from the garden followed by a private tour June 2,9,16,23,30 11.30 for 12.00 start ends 4pm £39.50

Father's Day jazz lunch with the Solent City Jazzmen

Sun 21 June 12 - 3.30pm £37 includes a 3 course lunch in Le Mazot

Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner Slumdog Millionaire

Sun 28 June £37 includes 3 course lunch or dinner, film & popcorn

Further details contact 834026 or www.whatleymanor.com

Calne

Bowood House

Organ concert in the chapel- Handel, Haydn & Mendelssohn

Sat 6 June 3pm Included in entry price to house & gardens £8.40 adult £6.85 children

Dog show and summer fair in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Sun 7 Jun 10am - 5pm £7 adult / £3 child For ticket information please call Macmillan Cancer Support on 01793 432252 Stalls and attractions including falconry, owls, archery and ferret racing

Further details contact 01249 812102 or www.bowood-house.co.uk

Cirencester

Sundial Theatre at Cirencester College

Thoroughly Modern Millie Tues 9 - Thurs 11 June 7.30pm £8, mat Wed 10 June 1pm £4

Gone with the Breeze Sat 20 June 7.30pm Sun 21 2pm £9.50

Further details contact 01285 654228 or www.cirencester.ac.uk/sundial

Events in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Volunteer Recruitment Day Thurs 4 June 1pm - 4pm The Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes

Pre 1990 Tractor Run A gentle ride with ploughman's lunch & afternoon tea included in the price of £15 per tractor (BYO!) Sat 7 June 9.30am at the lay-by on the Great Somerford Road, Startley SN15 5HJ Roy Webb 01249 720404

Steam & vintage rally 13 & 14 June 10am - 5pm £6 adult, children free www.wapg.co.uk 01793 640140

Further details contact Melanie Gee 0845 1221423 or www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events.htm

Corsham The Pound

Film: Thurs 4 June "Easy Virtue" 11am and 7.30pm; "Son of Rambo" Fri 12, 8pm

Corsham Festival 2009 musical & cultural events - see website for the programme
Further details contact Box Office 01249 701628 or www.poundarts.org.uk

Lacock Abbey & Village

Lacock Abbey Recitals present Ksenija Sidorova (Classical Accordion)

Sat 6 June 7.30pm £9.50 LAR Booking is by post only, please send a SAE and cheque made payable to Lacock Abbey to The Box Office, Lacock Abbey, Chippenham SN15 2LG

Outdoor performance of Cymbeline Wed 11 June 7pm - 9.30pm (open for picnic from 6pm) £13 adult / £7 child Please bring low backed seating, warm clothes and a picnic 0844 2491895 or book online

Further details contact 01249 730459 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock

Bath Musicfest

Party in the City - a free music event to open the festival followed by 16 days celebrating the world's best jazz, classical, folk and world music till 06 June.

Further details contact 01225 463362 or www.bathmusicfest.org.uk

Fringe festival

till 7 June Alternative comedy, dance, jazz, music, art at various locations in Bath. Prices vary from free to £15

Further details contact 01225 463362 or www.bathfringe.co.uk

Theatre Royal

Alphabetical Order with Imogen Stubbs Mon 1- Sat 6 June 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-35

Quadrophenia Tues 9 - Sun 14 June 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35

The Winslow Boy with Timothy West Mon 15 - Sat 20 June 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £15.50 - £32

The Peter Hall Company Season 2009 including The Browning Version, Swansong, The Apple Cart, Home, Balmoral, Another Door Closed

25 June - 29 August 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £15-35

Further details contact 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Bishops Cleeve

Bugatti Midsummer Speed Fest & Prescott Hill Climb

Cars, cavalcades & strawberries on the lawn 27 - 28 June £12.50 /

under 14s free. Prescott Lodge, Gotherington, Bishops Cleeve GL52 9RD

Further details contact 01242 677 777 or www.prescott-hillclimb.com

Kemble

Air Show - military and civilian aircraft show

Sat 20 - Sun 21 June 8am. Flight displays from 11am and 2pm. Days

end with hot air balloon flights £18.50 advance / £25 on day adult

day ticket. Advance adult 2 day £30 . Children £5 Available from

Malmesbury Tourist office, by phone 0871 230 1079

or online at www.seetickets.com *Further details www.kembleairday.com*

Iford

Opera Festival June - August

The Barber of Seville Sat 20, Tues 23, Thurs 25, Sat 27 & Mon 29 June £91-96

July & August performances of **The Barber of Seville**, **The Coronation of Poppea** & **Eugene Onegin** Iford Manor, Bradford on Avon BA15 2BA

Further details contact Book via the Theatre Royal Bath Box Office 01225 44 88 44 or www.ifordarts.co.uk

Longborough

Festival Opera 10 June - 22 July

Carmen Wed 10, Fri 11 & Sat 13 June 6.30pm.

Marriage of Figaro Sat 20 & Tues 23 June 6.30pm and Sun 21 3pm

Midweek £35 - £80 Fri / Sat / Sun £50 - £100

Download an entry form from website and post with cheque to

Longborough Festival Opera, Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0QF

Further details contact 01451 830292 or www.longboroughopera.com/

Cheltenham

Science festival

Varied programme of talks and events featuring all types of science from Apollo mysteries to weather watch. Free entry to the **Discover Zone** - chat to scientists and conduct experiments 3 - 7 June Blast Lab with **Richard**

Hammond; **Carol Vorderman**; **James Cracknell** and **Ben Fogle**; **Top Gear**

2020 Tickets selling out fast £5-£10 Various locations in Cheltenham

Further details contact 0844 576 8970 or www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science

Food & Drink Festival

various culinary events Fri 19 June, 12 noon - 7pm. Sat 20 - Sun 21

June, 10am-7pm £5 adults, children free Montpellier Gardens

Further details contact 0844 576 2210 or www.garden-events.com