



# THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MARCH 2010

DELIVERED FREE



That was the verdict of everyone who attended the annual Pancake Eating competition run by Sherston 1016 on Tuesday 16 February.

This was, of course, Pancake Day, and there was no shortage of the delicious circular thin flat cakes at The Rattlebone that evening. The chefs at the pub had been busy all day making sure their batter mix was just right. The flour was donated by John and Siobhan Lister at Shipton Mill at Long Newnton, the eggs by Bruce and Gail Hamilton of Sherston Free Range Eggs, and the lemons by Andrew at Tucks.

Shrove Tuesday fell this year during half term, and it was good to see so many families coming along to share in the fun, some just to watch, but many to take part. In the public bar at the pub, it was standing room only, unless you were competing in one of the heats!

Entrants had to eat four pancakes in each heat, with this number reduced to two pancakes for the children.

Richard Langley, speaking for all the members of 1016, said, 'We thank all who came along to join in our evening of fun, and particularly all those good sports who took part. We raised around sixty pounds for our funds. Special thanks go to Shipton Mill, Sherston

Eggs and Tucks for their very generous donation of ingredients, and, of course, Jason, Rob and all the staff of the Rattlebone who made the event possible.'

The results were:

Children's Competition:

1st Imogen Cambridge, 2nd James Bowles,

3rd Marcus Evans

Women's Competition: Winner Mikki Ponter

Grand Final Winners (tied): Huw Bowles,  
Ross Morgan.

## Snow Thank You

*by a grateful village dweller*

After our lovely time playing in the snow can I take the opportunity to say thank you to the Sidebottom family and other landowners for allowing us to sledge on their land? Our children will have such fantastic memories of their winters. As a dog owner I would also like to thank them for letting us walk our dogs, but let's clean up after them - nobody wants it on their wellies let alone on their trainers.

# Sportsfield

At the first meeting of the parish council's new Sportsfield subcommittee last month good progress was made in respect of some of the immediate improvements required.

Quotes have been obtained for upgrading the pavilion with a new covered veranda and renovation of the outside toilet with a view to these being made available to members of the Tennis Club as well as to football spectators. The quotes also include for the provision of a car park.

Final plans have hopefully been agreed as regards an extension to the skateboard park and figures for its construction costs are now awaited. Details of youth shelters have been received and are being examined. Any shelter would 'double up' for use by spectators when a football match is being played.

In the long term enquiries are being made about the practicality and cost of providing an all weather surface for use by a number of different sports.

**Copy deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.**  
**Send to [editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk)**  
**or hard copy to Sherston Post Office Stores.**

**What's On: contact Caroline Moore on 841405 or [info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk)**

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

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

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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](http://www.sherston.org.uk)

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# Parking

Parish council has decided not to take forward the proposal put to it by a resident to use part of the recreation ground for car parking. The decision was unanimous.

In reaching the decision council took into account the 35 or so letters it had received on the subject with the vast majority being opposed to the suggestion. Those who did take the time to write are very much appreciated as a number of useful points were made including –

- The problem of parking in the central core of the village particularly the High Street was not sufficient to warrant the loss of green space or the costs involved in providing a car park. Indeed some residents of the High Street commented that whilst they may not be able to park outside their properties they didn't expect to be able to do so as of right and that they had little or no difficulty in parking elsewhere in the street.
- If any car park on the recreation ground was to be used to any extent restrictions on parking in the central area would have to be imposed which would be both costly to implement and cause resentment amongst residents throughout the village.
- Green Lane would have to take greater traffic than at present which gave concerns as to safety and further deterioration of the surface and verges.
- Those residents with the benefit of off street parking should use them wherever possible.

The consultation also showed that even if the parking issue did not warrant the use of the recreation ground there were nevertheless problems which needed to be addressed. The question of emergency vehicle access to Cliff Road and Silver Street is one as is continued inconsiderate parking on pavements and on junctions. Both these are being taken to Highways and the Police for action.

Whilst on this occasion a resident's suggestion to council has been rejected it has brought lively debate about an issue that does exist and which is likely to get worse before, if ever, it gets better. Council very much welcomes suggestions on any other aspects of parish life. Whilst it can't guarantee to implement them they will be given careful thought and where appropriate opened up to residents for discussion.

# Surgery bin plea

We are experiencing increasing problems with our bins, which stand outside the Tolsey building, being filled by other people's bin bags, and bags of dog poo! As a local business we have limited dustbin space which we have to pay for, so please can we politely request that people dispose of their own rubbish and particularly their own dog poo themselves.

## Jim-jam japes raise Haiti cash



Big-hearted children at Sherston School were so moved by the pictures of the suffering caused to children and adults in the Haitian earthquake, that they asked Headteacher Nick Bowditch if they could organise a special fundraising day.

Mr Bowditch was delighted to agree to their request, so, in line with so many schools across the country, they decided they would have a pyjama day, with children and staff resplendent in night attire and dressing gowns. There were home-made cakes for sale and other interesting fundraising ideas. Visitors to the school on the Friday before half term could have been forgiven for thinking they had entered a Cardiff branch of Tesco by mistake.

As money is still coming in, we will publish a final total of money raised in the next Cliffhanger.

## Sherston 1016 Book Sale

Don't forget that the first of our popular book sales for the year is set for Saturday 27 March in the village hall from 9am to 12 noon – free entry. For those that haven't been before we can guarantee you'll be amazed at how reasonable our prices are. If you have any books, videos, CDs or DVDs to donate, these may be left with Mike Tarrant at Grays of Sherston. All proceeds from the sale go towards the senior citizens Christmas vouchers.



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## Sherston Living Churchyard

by Sue Robinson

The new programme for 2010 started on Saturday 27 February with a look round the churchyard to decide what to do in the coming year. I hope that some of the bluebells and wood anemones planted last autumn will soon show their heads. As I write there is nothing to see, but let's hope it's due to the very cold weather and not having provided a free winter meal for the mice.

In March we will be helping with the churchyard spring clean which is planned for Saturday 27 March. There is still quite a lot to do after the tree felling last year, so I hope many people come along and help. The cleared areas should enable more grassland flowers to thrive in the coming summer.

Like many other village organisations with an environmental bent, the Living Churchyard will be represented at the Village Green day on Saturday 22 May. So, if you haven't come along to look at or join in with our work before then you will have another opportunity to find out about what we do on the day.

## Ding Dong Merrily

The best church bell ringers in the Chippenham area will be coming to Sherston on the afternoon of Saturday 27 March to compete for the area title. All the victors will then move on to greater challenges in the Gloucester and Bristol Diocese, and beyond, when teams are guaranteed to be at their striking best.

You might notice that the tunes (called methods by the ringers) are somewhat more fancy than usual offerings. But Sherston has risen to the challenge and, for the first time for many years, will pit it's skills against the experts.

There will also be hand bell ringing in the church.

Please come and listen and see if you can spot your local band. It will be most interesting and your support will be appreciated.

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## Friendly, reassuring and clean hospital providing services for the NHS

by Catherine Jefferies, Hospital Manager

These were the comments made about Tetbury Hospital by the Care Quality Commission inspection team following our recent statutory inspection in November 2009.

The three assessors from the commission spent a whole day at Tetbury Hospital scrutinising the hospital environment, our policies and procedures, clinical equipment and talking to staff and patients.

We have now completed the actions required from the final report and we were pleased that the assessors acknowledged the huge improvements we have made to the hospital environment with the additional outpatient area and the alterations made to the reception and minor injuries unit waiting area.

But on the whole those three words to me capture the essence of what we strive for, for every person who attends Tetbury Hospital.

This would not have been achieved without the support and hard work by all the staff and volunteers at Tetbury Hospital.

You may have noticed this winter if you have struggled through snow drifts and icy roads to get here that we are currently refurbishing the Minor Injuries Unit to allow a two bedded area ready and working by the middle of February so apologies for this slight interruption to our normal service.

So now you know how clean and friendly we are here at the hospital did you know that you can attend a huge range of NHS outpatient and NHS Day Surgery appointments at the hospital?

We are not registered as an NHS hospital but as an Independent Charitable Hospital. But approximately 97% of all our services are NHS.

You as patients can tell your doctor that you would like to choose and book a specialist consultant at the hospital. You are also guaranteed to see the consultant at every visit and he will perform your surgery if required.

## A Parisian night out – in Sherston

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

Tickets £6.50 adults, £5.50 senior citizens, £3.50 concessions (benefit claimants, students and children under 16) and £16 for a family (2 adults and 2 children) are available from Sherston Post Office Stores, online at [www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk](http://www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk) or telephone 01666 840348. The show is suitable for all ages. Licensed bar.

For more about *Une étoile et moi – Judy and Me* visit [www.judyandme.net](http://www.judyandme.net)

## Sherston Church Fete and Open Gardens

Following last year's successful Open Gardens Trail during the afternoon of the Church Fete, we will be extending the event to both Saturday and Sunday this year. The Fete will be on Saturday 19 June, the Open Gardens will be on the Saturday and the Sunday 20 June. Garden owners are invited to open their gardens on one or both days. We would like to include a range of gardens of different sizes and styles so as to make a really varied and interesting Trail.

If you would like to be involved please get in touch with either Heather Martin 840375 or Pat Whitehouse 840640

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## C'mon lasses and lads (Particularly the lads!)

...If you can sing in the shower you can sing in the Choir.

Both Sherston Choirs sang in December to a packed house at the 'Big Sing!' in the Parish Church. Approximately 25 singers in the Senior and 22 in the Junior Choir were all well supported by relatives and friends. Afterwards SHOCC (Sherston Occasional Community Choir) collected for the homeless by singing in the Rattlebone before enjoying an 'end of session' buffet. It was a great way to start the Christmas celebrations.

Now we plan to meet again from March to May. Don't worry if you've missed the first one - no commitment is required until the third. If you'd like to learn anything from Mod Pop to Gospel Jazz, Classical, Sacred, Secular and Folk, come and join us in the British Schoolroom 7.30pm - 9.30pm every Wednesday (except 7 April). There will be an informal performance on Thursday 20 May, after which we will stop again for the summer recess until October. A warm welcome with hot drink awaits you on arrival.

For more details contact Mary Clements or Nicki Heenen on 840688 or [clementsmar@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:clementsmar@tiscali.co.uk)

## Village hall 200+ club

### January draw

|     |     |     |                  |
|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1st | £11 | 165 | Viv Hibbard      |
| 2nd | £10 | 16  | Lin Prior        |
| 3rd | £9  | 205 | Pat Crombie      |
| 4th | £8  | 119 | Jayne Deverson   |
| 5th | £7  | 251 | Margaret McKenna |
| 6th | £6  | 250 | Margaret Maslen  |
| 7th | £5  | 209 | Pat Verard       |

### Collectors

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

## Quiz results

Busy Hands Pre-School would like to thank everyone who once again came and supported their annual Quiz Night – and what a night it was! The event surpassed all expectation by raising a record breaking £2000... So thank you to everyone who came, took part in the quiz, bought raffle tickets and bid in the auction. The quiz was bravely compered by Rob 'Gold Lamé is my colour' Laddle who was ably aided and abetted by his lovely wife Judy. The night was rowdily contested by the 25 teams and was eventually won by half a point by the 'Thick as a Brick' team of Belinda Robinson, James Harmer, Kev Smith and Andy Tremellen.

Busy Hands is also incredibly grateful to the following local businesses for their kind donations to the raffle & auction: Apples and Pears, Bath Rugby Club, Bristol Zoo, Calcot Manor, Coco Bay Designer Swimwear, Codrington Brewery, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Duchy Home Farm, Dyson, The Old Bell at Malmesbury, Playspace Bristol, The Rattlebone Inn, Shear Class, Sherston Post Office Stores, The Soul Destroyers, TH White, Tinplate Products, Tricklements, Tucks of Sherston, The Vine Tree at Norton, Whatley Manor & Aquarius Spa and Wild Food Stores.

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# THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

Members are now rising from their winter slumber and beginning to give serious thought to this year's crop of Mangolds. Bed preparation is the key and like all brassicas, the best soil is one richly manured last autumn. An alkaline soil is best, so that's no problem for Sherston folk. Seed sowing can begin in late March, but is perhaps best left to April or even May. Don't forget to obtain your free packet of seeds from Sherston Parva Nursery, Sherston Post Office Stores or the Rattlebone Inn. All should have a plentiful supply by the end of March.

Artificial practice mangolds are perhaps something of an anathema to older members of the Order, but to be frank after Sherston's lamentable display at last year's Hurl, some of us will try anything to perfect our root handling skills. Unfortunately the construction of the artificial mangolds is proving somewhat difficult, with skins splitting with far too much ease to meet the British Standard required. The Order is therefore most grateful that Mrs Marion Gee and her band of lady quilters have so kindly offered their not inconsiderable skills to produce a tough but sensitive skin to hold the weighty contents – a couple of pounds of dried marrowfat peas. Please note that the artificial mangolds will in no way replace the real thing at the Hurl and are used solely for technique perfection whilst natural mangolds are in close season. It is hoped that some artificial mangolds will be produced in time for Village Green Day on 22 May, when demonstration hurls will be performed.

Speaking of techniques, this year's AGM is likely to be somewhat controversial. It is whispered that the present Keeper of the Technique, Mr Ian Ashby, may well face a challenger for his position from a lady hurler who says she has the skills to enhance a member's performance to hitherto undreamed-of levels. This has brought some excitement to certain members, although not all as some still much prefer a male instructor. Nevertheless, if nominated her challenge at the AGM should ensure a lively event.

The AGM always takes place on the nearest Saturday to the anniversary of the disappearance of Lobber

Jenkins in the Australian outback – 4 April. This year's meeting will therefore be on Saturday 2 April. The exact time and venue, however, will not be announced to the public until the April edition of the Cliffhanger, so as to lessen the risk of injunctions being obtained by nearby residents, as occurred in 1980 when the meeting was due to be held outside Lloyds Bank in the High Street. Residents should however be assured that the meetings are now much more seemly affairs, rarely taking longer than five or six hours and whilst sheep are still present their numbers are now strictly limited.

I fully realise that some readers, particularly those new to the parish, may still be somewhat sceptical as to the authenticity and history of mangold hurling in Sherston, even though many doubts were answered at last year's magnificent competition. It is therefore with some trepidation that I announce the intended partnership between the Order and the International Rutabaga\* Curl, based in Ithaca, New York State. The Cliffhanger editorial team is closely studying the email correspondence, which has passed over the pond between the Order and Steve Sierigk, the official High Commissioner of the Rutabaga Curl, during recent months. Hopefully by April's edition, they will be fully satisfied as to the veracity of this turn of events and allow me to enlighten you all as to this exciting development in the world of ballistic root vegetables.

Yarp! The Keeper of the Quill



*\*Rutabaga is the American and Canadian term for the vegetable we refer to as Swede.*

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# Sherston WI

The New Year Lunch planned for the 14 January had to be changed to the 19 due to bad weather. 27 members enjoyed an excellent lunch at The Rose and Crown, Brokenborough where they were able to catch up on the Christmas news and events.

On 4 February the AGM was held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. A new committee has been decided and an outline given of the programme planned for the coming year. The Programme secretary has arranged a varied and interesting number of talks and activities. A Craft Workshop has been organised for the 12 March in the British schoolroom from 10am - 3pm. A Jumble Sale will also be held on the 20 March in Village Hall at 10am - 12noon.

# WI Christmas Gifts



In December Maureen Jolliffe and Ann Wilcox took W.I. donated Christmas gifts to Athelstan Day Centre, where we were met by Daphne White who is Day Centre co-ordinator. She was delighted to see us and had two clients present that day with Sherston connections to receive the gifts. There was a very happy atmosphere at the Day Centre and it was a pleasure to be there.

# Easter walk

On Easter Monday 5 April starting at 10am from the village hall Sue McKechnie will be leading the next walk organised by the parish footpath group. It is hoped that one or two Easter eggs may be found along the route for those younger walkers who haven't quite had their fill the previous day.

The walk will be set at the pace of the slowest and families are particularly welcome along with well behaved dogs on leads. The walk will end at the Rattlebone Inn at around 12 noon where complimentary seasonal food will be available courtesy of the pub. The walk is free with no need to book. Just turn up with suitable footwear and clothing for weather conditions on the day.

The Valentines walk was well attended despite the fact that a fair few regulars were otherwise engaged helping with the renovation of Grove Wood. The weather was lovely for so early in the year and all enjoyed seeing some interesting wildlife including little egrets, fieldfare and deer. As usual all was rounded off with an excellent snack at the Rattlebone.

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# TREEtalk

March 2010

by Irene Johnston



## Action stations.....

February activity in Grove Wood made up for the lack of it in January. With all snow gone, there was no holding our volunteers back. Each Sunday saw a small increase in numbers with an average of around 16 intrepid souls now turning up for duties. Arborist, John Lloyd, has devised a management plan whereby the wood is divided into three sections for coppicing purposes over a six-year period. We are now nearing completion of the first cycle and the hazel stools (or stumps) are being covered with soil and brash before



they start sprouting, or wandering deer begin nibbling! The debris has also been cleared and burnt at the top and bottom ends nearest Stretchline. Even on weekends when John can't be present, he makes sure to mark trees for cutting beforehand so we know what we are doing.

The Community Payback Scheme team has grafted hard on the perimeter fencing which was finished



at the end of February. Their project leader reports that the work has given them a sense of achievement. They are looking forward to repairing the path along the river, and will ultimately help us establish new paths within the wood itself.

Sharp-eyed walkers will have noticed the smartly laid new hedgerow along the top of the wood. We have John to thank for this too. He will also beef up existing hedging by infilling with new plants.

Important date this month – Sunday 21 March - Botanical Survey and Path Mapping. Please join us for a walk to see what's growing and where the new path will go. From 10.00am-1.00pm.



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

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# Village Green SHERSTON

22 May 2010

Our first-ever environmental event on Saturday 22 May 2010, International Biodiversity Day, promises to be a corker. Village Green will bring together the 'green' groups, rural crafts and local food and drink producers, to give the whole family a great day out. We will prove that getting greener can be good fun as well as good sense!

Our 'green' village groups will be out in force: the Grove Wood team, Sherston School, SAGA, Footpaths, Living Churchyard, Busy Hands, Mother & Toddlers, Sherston Quilters and the Young Crafts Group. Jason and his team from the Rattlebone will demonstrate the art of al fresco cookery; the Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold Hurlers will perform the solemn ritual known as Maid Making. The Footpaths committee will launch the new Sherston walks booklet and there will be a few other surprises as well!

Enjoy the musical talents of the Westonbirt School Steel Band with choir as well as the Dodington Parish Brass Band. Savour the delights of folk dancing, and see country skills such as dry stone walling, spinning and hurdling together with demonstrations of hanging basket making, flower arranging, wood working and watercolour painting.

Buy a range of produce, exotic teas and tisanes, organic herbs and vegetables, delicious ice cream, home-made cakes and locally produced farmhouse cheeses.

Want advice on saving energy costs, on attracting wildlife into your garden and on recycling? How about seeing a group of alpacas up close? Would the children like to make things that they can take home with them? What are the local schools producing as part of their classroom environmental projects? All this and more can be seen at Sherston Village Green.

Each will organise and manage their own displays and activities to best represent their particular work and interests. This is a great opportunity for them to raise their public profile and to attract new supporters.

Sherston Village Green will start at 12 noon and finish around 6.00pm. Volunteers, not attached to any particular group will be warmly welcome to lend a hand during the event.

More information from Irene Johnston on 841273 or email [ie\\_johnston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk)

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# BikeSafe 2010



The Wiltshire BikeSafe Partnership is once again running its successful 'Love to Ride...Ride to Live' one day seminars and assessments aimed to reduce the number of motor cycle rider casualties in the area. This year commencing on Sunday 18 April there are a series of eight events planned and full details are available from Colin Reeves on 07770 695792 / 01793 466399 or email [colin.reeves@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:colin.reeves@wiltshire.gov.uk)

The seminars are ideal for those who have been riding for some time or who have just returned to motorcycling. The day includes presentations from police advanced riders, videos, rider's attitude assessment, observed rides with the Police and a detailed debrief.

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# In Brief

## Vandalism in Cliff Road

There were at least two instances of cars being 'keyed' in Cliff Road last month. This is not only distressing to the owners but also expensive in terms of insurance excess and loss of no claims bonus. One repair bill was in the region of a £1000. If you have any information as to who is responsible please contact the police.

## Churchyard

The parochial church council is to undertake a survey of the churchyard to ascertain the number of burial spaces remaining. Once the result is to hand a meeting will take place with the parish council to consider the best way forward to provide additional burial land.

## Village cinema

Last month's article brought forward a number of people interested in a regular monthly film show in the village hall. The next stage is to alter the present premises licence which the village hall holds with Wiltshire Council so as to allow films to be shown without having to obtain special permission on each occasion as is presently the case. It is hoped this can be done within the next few months with a film season to commence later in the year. Films would be shown by Moviola [www.moviola.org/](http://www.moviola.org/) one of Europe's largest rural cinema schemes which uses the latest projectors and with digital delivery – most recently adopting Blu-Ray high definition disks wherever possible. If you would like to know more contact Martin Rea on 840348 email [martdrea@aol.com](mailto:martdrea@aol.com) and register your interest.

## Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 11 March 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 840351 or email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk). In addition, the parish council can be contacted via the response form on its website [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk) which also carries the minutes of meetings.

## Christmas lights

Could those residents who still have sets of lights provided by the parish council please return them to Cilla Liddington at 37 High Street as soon as possible. All the lights have to be retested before they can be used again.

## Roll up! Roll up!

The trip to Cabots Circus using the Cartmell Community Bus in February had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. It will now take place on Saturday 6 March leaving the High Street at 11am and depart from Bristol at 4pm. The suggested donation is £4 return and tickets are available from Sherston Post Office. Please note only 16 seats are available and that under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

For future trips we are going to need an additional driver or two. If you obtained a full driving licence before 1997 you can drive the bus once you have undergone a

short introduction course of around an hour. Further details can be obtained from Eric Thacker on 841344 or email [eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk)

## NHS Dentist

If you wish to register with the new NHS dental practice at the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre then contact Integrated Dental Holdings, Integrated Dental House, Sunset Business Park, Manchester Road, Kearsley, Bolton BL4 8RH, or email [info@idhgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@idhgroup.co.uk). Alternatively you can now collect the necessary forms direct from the centre.

## Flower Show

Plans for this event to be held as part of the Village Party on Bank holiday Monday 30 August are beginning to be put together. Help is however needed especially on the day itself with tasks such as writing prize cards. With a few volunteers this would take no time at all so if you think you can help please contact Margot Holland on 841019 email [mplholland@btinternet.com](mailto:mplholland@btinternet.com)

## Community First

Are there any two or more village groups or organisations involved in a joint project which could benefit from some free advice and support from a community development specialist to help it along? A wide range of projects can be assisted by Community First including those providing a new service or facility, better use of an existing community building or a new village event. To find out more contact Marion Rayner on 01380 732801 or email [mrayner@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:mrayner@communityfirst.org.uk)

## Area Board Meeting

Crudwell Village Hall will be the venue of the next meeting of Wiltshire Council's Area Board for Malmesbury and the villages. It takes place on Wednesday 3 March at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start.

## Planters

Sherston 1016 has kindly agreed to maintain planters to be provided by the parish council at each end of the village under the brown tourist signs. If any individual or group would like to adopt a planter elsewhere in the parish please contact the clerk Sarah Wood.

## Bus Shelters

Parish councillor Cilla Liddington is making good progress with the intended new bus shelter for Easton Town which is to be placed at the bus stop opposite the Carpenters Arms. This project could not be completed last year due to funding restrictions but it is hoped that 50% of the cost will now be provided by a grant from Wiltshire Council. The High Street bus shelter is due to be repainted in the next few months when the clock will also be returned fully repaired.

## High Street Tree

The tree by the post office and its wooden fencing has once again been hit by a vehicle. Further measures to protect the tree are being considered.

## Grit Bins

Wiltshire Council is reviewing the provision of grit bins. If you know of an area in the parish which might benefit from a new bin please let the parish clerk have the details.

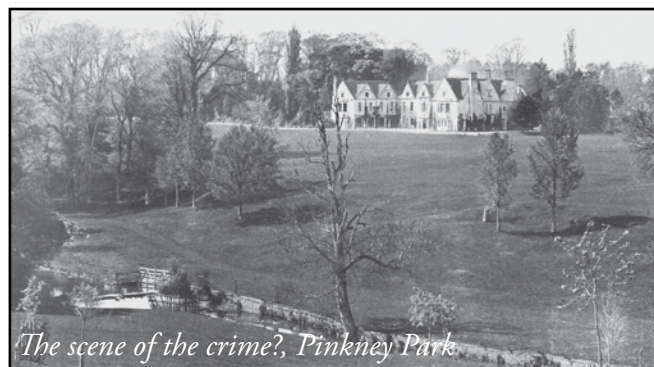


# Attempted Assassination

The following transcript has been supplied by Richard Stancomb and was found at Kew in the National Archive by Major William Naesmyth retr. He was the great, great grandson of George Creswell a Lieutenant in the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and the eighth and youngest son of Eastcourt Creswell senior, of Pinkney. George moved on after this incident.

The Times Wednesday 27 November 1833 pg2 col3:

*A most dastardly attempt was made by some scoundrels between one and two o'clock on Tuesday morning last (the 19th instant) with a view to assassinate G.E.H. Cresswell, Esq., of Sherston, Wilts, in revenge for some imaginary grievance, incident to that gentleman's efforts in the suppression of poaching, which has been the besetting sin of a certain class of the inhabitants of Sherston Magna and its vicinity for a long series of past years. Incredible as it may appear, the poachers, who are a most daring and original band, have in former seasons levied a species of English black mail, or forbearance money, on the gentry, in various immediate districts of Gloucester and Wilts, to prevent their depredations in the preserves, &c. Mr Cresswell had lately rendered himself obnoxious in his endeavours to suppress this systematic gang, and received an intimidation to expect a consequent revenge, which, we are sorry to add, was attempted, as before detailed, by the ruffians making a noise under his bed-room window, with a view to draw him to the spot, but failing to do so, they discharged a volley of*



*guns, laden with shot and balls, through the three front bed-room windows, in one of which were Mr & Mrs Cresswell and his infant child, fortunately without their intended victims sustaining any other injury than the alarm incident to such an attempt at midnight assassination necessarily occasioned. A reward of 30l(shillings) has been offered by Mr Cresswell and we are informed that it is the intention of the gentry and principal inhabitants of the district to offer a still further reward, and to apply to the Secretary of State for the Home Department for the usual proclamation of pardon and reward for the apprehension of the principals in this diabolical outrage. Mr Cresswell had a pointer dog destroyed about two months since by having his throat cut and then suspended from a sign-post of a public-house, with a notice appended, in the true Captain Rock style, commanding him to leave the county or they would have blood for supper and serve him in like manner; desiring him also to prepare his coffin. From the Gloucestershire Chronicle.*



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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.*



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# Sherston Drama Group - Holiday Snap

A time-share villa in Portugal is the setting for Sherston Drama Group's latest production, 'Holiday Snap' by Michael Pertwee and John Chapman. The villa has been double booked, but this fact has not registered with the local rep, Commander 'Chitto' Chittenden, who manages with the aid of copious amounts of gin to remain unaware that there is more than one couple present, and is totally confused about who is who. Mary and Henry arrive shortly after Eve and Leslie. The confusion is compounded when each mistakes the other for the servants. When Henry's mother in law arrives unexpectedly, it turns out that neither couple is married to each other. Eve and Leslie end up impersonating Henry's alibi, Colonel Sir Piers Marchbanks and his wife Amanda. When Sir Piers also turns up, followed by Henry's wife, the confusion becomes surreal and manic, but the day may be saved by some ingenious disguises. This stylish comedy of mistaken identities and the perils of marital deception will be performed in Sherston Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7 to Saturday 10 April. Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of March from Sherston Post Office or the Box Office on 840092. Please also ring this number if you would like to be involved with the production or the Drama Group in any way.

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# Colts Boules to make its debut on Boules Day – 17 July

by David Sutcliffe

This year's Boules Day to be held on Sherston High Street on Saturday 17 July will feature a special competition for anyone in years 7 - 11 at school. Following on from the success of the Junior Boules Tournament, which is open to anyone in primary school, it has been decided that the Colts Boules will be a great additional competition. The organiser David Sutcliffe is looking for 16 or 32 teams of three – playing the same rules as the adult competition, to take part on the day.

'This competition will have its own piste on the High Street to ensure that the younger generation have their own focus on the day. I'm sure that this will become just as competitive as the junior and adult competitions,' said David.

If you are interested in entering a team, then please email him on david@dsutcliffe.com with Colts Boules in the subject line. Completed application forms will guarantee your team's place in the competition. Entries will be taken on a first come, first served basis only.



## Boules Ball Update

Remember to buy your ball tickets on 20 March outside Sherston Post Office from 9.30am. The tickets will cost £50 per guest and will be available on a first come first served basis, there will be no advance sales and tickets will be sold in tables of 10. Friends, couples and smaller numbers will also be accommodated. After that, further tickets will be sold via the post office.

The Ball organisers have fine-tuned the event and can confirm that Sherston's popular house band, The Village People, will provide live musical entertainment along side 'Dr Disco's Fabulous... Disco'

The bar will be stocked with local ale and lager provided by The Cotswold Spring Brewery and wines selected by The Sherston Wine Company.

The three course dinner is to be provided by The Flaming Gourmet, the catering company owned by Rattlebone landlord, Jason Read.

Further entertainment will remain a secret until the night, but all guests can be confident that the Pinkney Party People are past masters at making a party go with a swing.

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# Speed

The latest stage of progressing the parish council's request for a community speedwatch scheme in Sherston has now been completed with the publication of the metro check results of six areas of the parish which have been highlighted by residents as being of concern.

None of the areas checked met the criteria for police camera enforcement but three are deemed suitable for speedwatch although two of those were on the borderline.

The B4040 at Pinkney (40 mph limit) fell within the speedwatch criteria whilst Easton Town and Tetbury Lane although falling just below by 0.1 mph will be included in the scheme. Other areas monitored were Knockdown Road (outside the School) Brook Hill and Sandpits Lane none of which produced figures which would allow them to be included. The full results are set out below.

In order for the scheme to proceed the three areas to be covered have to be risk assessed by the police so that the volunteers operating the hand held camera equipment are working in safety. In addition the volunteers need to go on a short training course which will be held locally at either Sherston or Luckington village halls.

Although volunteers have come forward for Sherston at least two more are needed to spread the load and make the scheme work.

While evidence collected by the volunteers will not be used to prosecute speeding drivers, it will be invaluable in pin-pointing areas on which the police can concentrate most effectively. Registered keepers of vehicles reported to the police will receive written warnings. After three warnings, the police will put the vehicle's information on their computer system which can result in it being stopped and investigated by their patrol vehicles.

The scheme has been shown to work in reducing speeds elsewhere and is not about spying or snooping on neighbours. It is about taking positive action on the ground to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community. So if you are concerned with speeding vehicles in the parish please contact the clerk Sarah Wood on 840351 email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk) and register as a volunteer.

## Metro check results

**Knockdown Road, Sherston:** The survey was carried out between 20 and 27 January 2010 a total of 6385 vehicles were checked. The 85%ile was 29.1 mph (the 85%ile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below). The average speed of the vehicles checked was 22.9 mph. Of the 6385 vehicles checked 12.33% were travelling in excess of the speed limit, this figure also includes vehicles travelling just 1 mph over the limit. The number of vehicles travelling above the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) threshold, this is the point at which the police would prosecute was 2.3%. This site does not meet the criteria for Camera Enforcement or Community Speedwatch.

**B4040 Pinkney (40mph limit):** The survey was carried out between 20 and 27 January 2010 A total of 15533 vehicles were checked. The 85%ile was 47.6 mph (the 85%ile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below). The average speed of the vehicles checked was 41.2 mph. Of the 15533 vehicles checked 56.31% were travelling in excess of the speed limit, this figure also includes vehicles travelling just 1 mph over the limit. The number of vehicles travelling above the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) threshold, this is the point at which the police would prosecute was 18.1%. This site does not meet the criteria for Camera Enforcement but would meet the criteria for Community Speedwatch.

**Easton Town, Sherston:** The survey was carried out between 20 and 27 January 2010 a total of 19678 vehicles were checked. The 85%ile was 34.9 mph (the 85%ile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below). The average speed of the vehicles checked was 29.8 mph. Of the 19678 vehicles checked 46.42% were travelling in excess of the speed limit, this figure also includes vehicles travelling just 1 mph over the limit. The number of vehicles travelling above the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) threshold, this is the point at which the police would prosecute was 14%. This site does not meet the criteria for Camera Enforcement and fails Community Speedwatch by 0.1mph.

**B4040 Brook Hill, Sherston:** The survey was carried out between 3 and 9 February 2009 a total of 10470 vehicles were checked. The 85%ile was 24.2 mph (the 85%ile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below). The average speed of the vehicles checked was 20.5 mph. Of the 10470 vehicles checked 0.53% were travelling in excess of the speed limit, this figure also includes vehicles travelling just 1 mph over the limit. The number of vehicles travelling above the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) threshold, this is the point at which the police would prosecute was 0%. This location does not meet the criteria for either Camera Enforcement or Community Speed Watch

**Sandpits Lane, Sherston:** The survey was carried out between 3 and 9 February 2009 a total of 1736 vehicles were checked. The 85%ile was 29.5 mph (the 85%ile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below). The average speed of the vehicles checked was 24.2 mph. Of the 1736 vehicles checked 13.54% were travelling in excess of the speed limit, this figure also includes vehicles travelling just 1 mph over the limit. The number of vehicles travelling above the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) threshold, this is the point at which the police would prosecute was 2.2%. This location does not meet the criteria for either Camera Enforcement or Community Speed Watch

**Tetbury Road, Sherston:** The survey was carried out between 3 and 9 February 2009 a total of 4987 vehicles were checked. The 85%ile was 34.9 mph (the 85%ile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below). The average speed of the vehicles checked was 28.2 mph. Of the 4987 vehicles checked 42.79% were travelling in excess of the speed limit, this figure also includes vehicles travelling just 1 mph over the limit. The number of vehicles travelling above the ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) threshold, this is the point at which the police would prosecute was 14.3%. This location does not meet the criteria for Camera Enforcement and fails Community Speed Watch by 0.1 mph.

## New hands at the Arms



Laura Hamilton and Mark Goodway are the new tenants at the Carpenters Arms.

Many residents will remember Laura from her successful time at the Carpenters some eight or nine years ago. For Mark though it's a change in direction and one which he's already taking well to.

Laura and Mark have introduced completely new menus and have plans well in hand for plenty of theme nights and special events. Within a very short time of taking over they were immediately providing a very warm welcome - with the installation of a second wood burner.

All at the Cliffhanger wish them the very best of good fortune in their new venture.



# 50 cyclists. 400 miles. 4 days. 1 reason.

Bright and early on Thursday 27 May 2010, a valiant group of 50 cyclists will depart from central Bristol, bound for Bordeaux in the south of France. More than 400 miles over four days – all to raise money for local Bristol charity PROPS, enabling them to promote opportunities for those with special needs to develop education, leisure and vocational skills in the community.

PROPS, which provides opportunities and support for those with special needs, is a unique and inclusive organisation. Working with a number of community partners we promote integration and partnerships throughout the community. Our initiatives range from the promotion of business enterprise to social and educational interaction within a variety of contexts including sports, leisure and the performing arts.

**We will ride 400 miles...** Our bikers will ride 100 miles on the first day, taking them to Portsmouth docks in time to catch an overnight ferry to St Malo. From there it's three days hard cycling through the French countryside with overnight stops in Nantes and La Rochelle, finishing in Bordeaux on the evening of Sunday 30 May for a well-deserved glass of something (and a rest).

**...Or even 2000 miles!** One madcap member of our group, Jon McGee, is actually planning to start his challenge in John O'Groats on 13 May and continue on from Bordeaux all the way down to the Spanish border – a distance of around 2000 miles.

## Carpenters Arms

01666 840665

*Mark and Laura welcome you to the Carpenters Arms and we thought we'd let you know what we have going on!!!*

*We have a cracking new menu, children's menu, a special 2 for £10 menu along with our light bites.*

*We serve a full menu every Sunday night and also every first Sunday in the month is Curry and Quiz night!!*

*We have the 6 Nations Rugby on the big screen and remember Mothering Sunday is not far away.*

*Steak night every Tuesday with 2 steaks and a bottle of wine at £19.95.*

*Fish and chips to take away every night £5.*

*Good cask ales, log fires and a warm friendly welcome await.*

*Cheltenham racing, St Patrick's day and plenty more forthcoming events and occasions to enjoy!!*

*Theme nights will be advertised and we will keep you updated, our boards and posters around the village will let you know what is going on.*

He's even combining all this with voluntary work on the cycle organising team and bike servicing events for all the riders. Now that's dedication!

**The Sherston Factor** Sherston is proving its commitment to PROPS by fronting 20% of the cyclists taking part in the Challenge. 'It's so positive that the PROPS Cycle Challenge attracts people who are motivated both by the tough physical challenge, and by gaining sponsorship to help PROPS fulfil their vision of establishing and running a truly inclusive education centre, uniting and serving those with special needs in the wider community' said Dave Reeves, Chairman of PROPS, 'I sincerely thank our riders for their efforts.' You can see at first hand just how our sponsors benefit PROPS projects by logging onto our sponsor's page here [www.propsforward.org/our-sponsors/](http://www.propsforward.org/our-sponsors/)

## Get your bike serviced at The Rattlebone Inn Saturday 20 March, 10.00am

Sherston is also the location for the first bike servicing day brought to you by experienced bike mechanics Jon McGee and Andrew Howe, who are both taking part in the 2010 Cycle Challenge.

The full service will include lubricants and labour and any parts that need replacing will be charged at cost. This great offer is open to anyone who can bring his or her bike along on the day. Jon and Andy are also able to answer questions and offer advice on how to keep your bike in good condition.

The cost of the service is £40.00 – a small amount of the fee will go towards servicing supplies with all the rest being donated directly to PROPS plus a contribution to local Sherston charity 1016.

Cyclists who are signed up for Bristol-Bordeaux 2010 should definitely take this opportunity to get their bikes in the best shape for the Challenge.

**How you can help** PROPS acquires the resources to support its projects through individual and corporate sponsorship. Even in these tight times, every little helps so please offer your support by visiting our website, clicking on the 'sponsor us now' button and contributing as much as you feel able. And as each cyclist pays their costs for taking part, all the money raised through donations goes straight to PROPS. Alternatively, support your favourite Sherston rider by logging on here: [www.justgiving.com/props](http://www.justgiving.com/props)

If you own a business looking for a good cause to fundraise for, or could offer any of the supplies we will need for our trip (such as energy drinks, snacks, sun cream, cycling glasses, etc) please contact us to talk it through.

And if you'd like more information about the Cycle Challenge take a look at our website [www.pedalforprops.org](http://www.pedalforprops.org). You can also follow our progress on Twitter [www.twitter.com/pedalforprops](http://www.twitter.com/pedalforprops). To find out more about PROPS, the work they do and the people they help, go to [www.propsforward.org](http://www.propsforward.org)

## Community Safety

Do you want to have a say in the police priorities for your area? If so then come along to the Kings Arms in Malmesbury High Street on Thursday 1 April at 7.15 for a 7.30 pm start. Light refreshments available. The event will also feature community speed watch, CCTV provision, neighbourhood watch, pub and farm watch, the fire and ambulance services and Wiltshire Council's anti social behaviour team. You will be able to raise any local safety issues which are causing you concern. The event is organised by Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership. For further details visit [www.malmesburyandthevillages.net](http://www.malmesburyandthevillages.net)

## Allotments and Gardens

On Thursday 28 January 2010, Sherston's Allotments and Gardens Association (SAGA) held an AGM. Matters discussed included rent increases, bonfire regulations and the future of the SAGA Committee. New committee members are actively being sought as a number of current members wish to stand down for various reasons.

Following the AGM, SAGA members and guests were treated to a lecture by a well known historian, Dr Jeremy Burchardt, from the University of Reading, who came to speak on a theme of 'Made for Ever: Early Allotments in Wiltshire, 1795 – 1830'. Dr Burchardt described the fascinating history of the earliest allotments, which were particularly dominant in Wiltshire due to the poverty caused by changes in agricultural practices, the enclosure of the English countryside, and a decline in rural industries. It was particularly interesting to learn that the earliest known allotments were started in the local villages of Great Somerford, Shipton Moyne and Ashley.

SAGA is very grateful to Dr Burchardt for visiting Sherston to give such an interesting talk.

## Clem's Club

Although the attendance is between five and nine and the laughter never stops there are many others those at the club wish would come as they 'haven't seen them for ages'. Also those more recent residents of the village need others to giggle with, mainly at the antics of the village veterans with the old photos they bring along. BBC Wiltshire Sound are very taken with the group and have recorded, then featured, them twice. Meetings are held at the British School Room Cliff Road every other Tuesday 2.30 – 4.00pm (alternating with the Senior Club) so will be taking place on 2, 16 and 30 March. There is no programme - just cheerful chaps together for a chair, chat, and char. All are very welcome.

Donations to the British School Room are collected each week with tea kindly provided by Mary and Roger Clements.

## Galanthomania at Westonbirt

Did you know that one snowdrop bulb can fetch as much as £40? This is galanthomania and has much in common with tulipomania which gripped the Netherlands in the 17th century.

To find out more about snowdrops visit Westonbirt Heritage Gardens on Sunday 21 March from 2pm to 5pm. There will be snowdrops for sale with a chance to buy some named varieties. Garden entry £4 (children £3).

In addition John Sales, former chief gardens advisor to the National Trust, will be giving a light hearted talk about snowdrop collecting 'An introduction to Galanthomania' in the beautifully restored library at 3pm. £10 for the lecture and entry to the garden. Teas in the Camellia House, Contact [howtcathy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:howtcathy@hotmail.co.uk) or ring 01666 500133 to reserve a place for the lecture.

Advance notice - On 12 and 13 April, visitors to Westonbirt – the National Arboretum, which is managed by the Forestry Commission, will have the chance to explore the 150 year legacy of the Westonbirt Estate. This rare opportunity will be included in the price of admission to the arboretum. Activities at the arboretum, house and gardens will enable visitors to step back in time and appreciate the magnificent former home of Robert Holford, a key figure in the history of the Cotswolds. More details next month.

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# Sherston Tennis Club Special Offer

The tennis club are planning to invigorate the club this year by offering an improved schedule of events for the year and by increasing membership. Throughout March, annual membership fees will be half price i.e. family membership will be reduced to £40, adults to £22.50, juniors to £7.50 and seniors to £10.00. In addition to being able to book and use the courts for free, members will be able to enjoy access to the following activities:

- Competitive mens league tennis
- Adult coaching on Friday evenings
- LTA membership and Wimbledon ticket draw
- Junior coaching on Saturday mornings plus holiday courses
- Ladies ladder
- Mens ladder
- Ladies club morning
- Weekend club sessions

We will need some help to get all of these activities going, so any helpers would be warmly welcomed. Please contact any of the following for more information: helen.mcleish@ukonline.co.uk or 840992, nic50riley@googlemail.com or 840492; Jeremy Nabarro at jeremy@spdm.co.uk.



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**SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
**10.30am - 1.30pm**

Pinkney, Nr Sherston  
Freephone: 0800 731 1662  
[www.jigsaws.co.uk](http://www.jigsaws.co.uk)

*Don't worry if you miss our open day. Come along anytime  
between 9 - 5.30pm to pick up our latest catalogue.*

# Nordic Walking



Why not take a 10 week hourly course in Nordic walking at the Activity Zone Malmesbury starting on Thursday 4 March at 9.30am for only £30?

Nordic walking uses specially designed poles to enhance your natural walking experience. With a technique that is similar to the upper body action of classic cross country skiing, Nordic walking becomes a genuinely whole body exercise that can be enjoyed at many levels, from walking for health to athletic Nordic running.

It is a very accessible activity and something that can be shared by people of different fitness levels. It's an ideal activity for people who haven't exercised for a while or who dislike traditional sports or gym activities.

For more information and to book your place, please contact Clare Draper on 01380 724911 or email [clare.draper@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.draper@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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# Searching for a new Vicar

by George Rendell

The question, 'what are you looking for in your new vicar?' always draws a range of responses but there are often common threads. Typically churches want a person who: leads worship well; respects their particular traditions and style; has time to talk to people especially if they have need of some kind of support; is able to make connections with younger families; gets on well with everyone both churchgoers and non-church goers. These are not unreasonable aspirations and in fact they line up quite well with the list of charges given to priests at their ordination service.

Unfortunately what remains unsaid is the expectation that the new vicar will also: chair the PCC; serve as a school governor; attend church committees on finance, buildings, the fete, the harvest appeal etc; organise rotas for opening the church, readings, intercessions, coffee etc; take all the weddings, baptisms, funerals and handle all administration.

Clearly in the Gauzebrook Group it is not feasible to carry out, anywhere near, this list of activities in 8 churches. It is especially important therefore to be clear about what the new vicar might be expected to

do before any appointment is made. That is why I am spending time in the Group, working on behalf of the deanery, to help churches in their search for the new vicar.

In his time Andrew Evans did some excellent foundation work. The individual churches have already taken on many of the tasks that clergy would have done in the past (running the PCC, maintaining the building, organising rotas, etc). There has also been some good experience of running activities, such as courses and children's work, across the parish boundaries.

Which leads to the main question 'What will you be looking for in the next incumbent of the Gauzebrook group of churches?' To answer that question I am working with a group of representatives from each of the 8 churches. We have no firm answers yet but some things are becoming clear: The new vicar will not be doing those things which lay people can, and should, be doing. He or she will know what is expected and will work closely with a wide range of people to ensure the church in each village thrives. The group hopes to have a description of this role by Easter.

If you have any questions about the process please contact me, telephone 0117 906 0100 or email [george.rendell@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:george.rendell@bristoldiocese.org).

## Neighbourhood Watch Alert

Stroud District Council have reported that residents there have received telephone calls by a woman using the name Rachel Green. She promises a large Council Tax refund but goes on to ask for a £90 fee and seeks bank details so that the 'refund can be paid direct'. Similar calls have been made by a male. The local council and police in Stroud have made enquiries and found that the phone calls emanate from Spain. This is also happening in West Oxford. This type of call is clearly a scam and if you are called do not under any circumstances disclose any information. Please report this type of incident and inform Wiltshire Council of anything similar.

### **WILLCONSULTANCY.CO.UK**

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## Clematis Clinic

If you missed Sherston Parva Nursery's Clematis clinic on Saturday 27 February don't worry as it will be repeated on Sunday 7 March - again commencing at 2.30pm.

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

For further details call 840348 /07887 814843 or email [sherstonparva@aol.com](mailto:sherstonparva@aol.com)

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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.

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# Village Hall

There has been a noticeable recent rise in bookings of the village hall for parties, gigs and dances as well as other large scale events. This is very welcome as the hall is there to be used by and for the community. Very often these events are important and successful fundraisers for a number of different groups.

The increased use of the hall has however brought a problem. Many of the extra bookings include a request for the sale of alcohol and at present under the Licensing Act 2003 the maximum number of events at which alcohol sale is permitted are 12 per year. These permissions have to be sought by the event organisers from Wiltshire Council, the licensing authority, by what are known as temporary event notices which cost £21 each and must be obtained at least 10 working days before the event itself. It already looks as if 12 such notices will be insufficient to cover all that is being planned for 2010. The solution is for the hall's current premises licence to be extended so as to allow the village hall committee to agree itself those events which can sell alcohol with there being less restriction on the number of such events per year. In order to achieve this formal application has to be made to Wiltshire Council with an appropriate notice being given to the public.

The village hall committee is liaising closely with the licensing authority on the situation with a view to shortly deciding on the details of the intended application which will also seek to allow the showing of films. At the moment to hold a single film show requires the giving of one of the 12 temporary event notices allowed per year whether or not alcohol is sold as well.

## Amazing and preposterous

Last month's Cliffhanger carried news of 'The Amazing and Preposterous Constance Smedley' by Frank Hatt. Sherston Theatre Club has filled a 26-seater coach for a trip to the matinee performance on Thursday 11 March. The studio at the Cheltenham Everyman is well equipped but small and so is likely to sell out. If you're not in the coach party and are keen to see this new play by a Sherston author, you should lose no time in booking. For details see our What's On section.

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# Retirement of Clem Millard

Unfortunately, you will no longer be able to see the cheery face of Clem Millard at Sherston Post Office Stores, a person who attained legend status across his 25 years of service. Clem started working at the shop in September 1984 upon his retirement from the local Council. His initial duties were to deliver papers to the outer lying areas of the village and to manage a small army of paper boys (most of which are now in their 30s!).



Across the last few years Clem's duties were focused on writing up newspapers and magazines and welcoming customers at the crack of dawn with his own brand of unique humour.

Eyesight problems have unfortunately resulted in Clem now having to hang his paper bag up for the last time. However, it has not stopped him remaining involved with Luckington Church and being at the helm of 'Clem's Club' in Sherston.

Clem's retirement was celebrated with all the staff at the Rattlebone Inn, where he was presented with a special cake and gift vouchers to the value of £140 collected from customers and staff.

Well done Clem!



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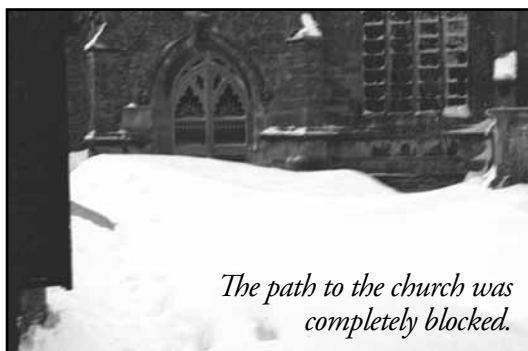
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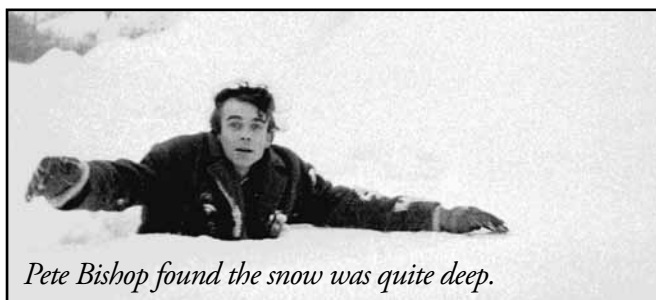
We are grateful to Phil Bishop who responded to our request in the February Cliffhanger for old photos and stories. These pictures were taken during the winter of 1962-63.



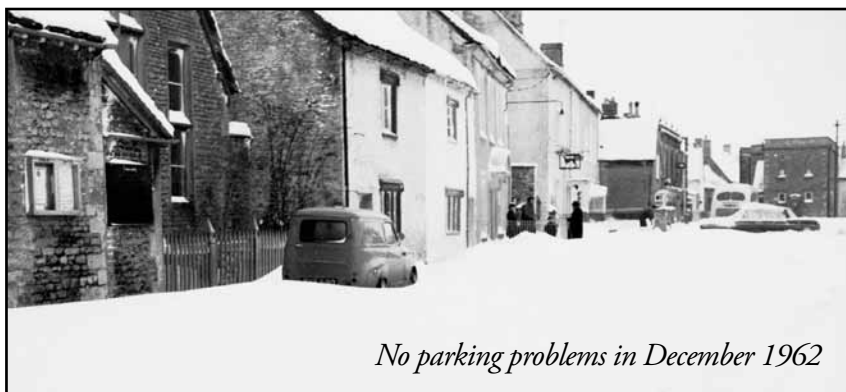
*The path to the church was completely blocked.*



*The breakdown lorry had great difficulty reaching a car stranded in the snow in Knockdown lane.*



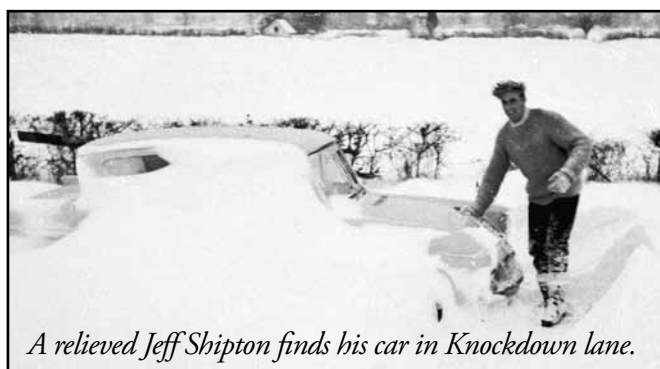
*Pete Bishop found the snow was quite deep.*



*No parking problems in December 1962*



*Pete Bishop assists the breakdown lorry to reach the car in Knockdown lane.*



*A relieved Jeff Shipton finds his car in Knockdown lane.*



## FOREST GREEN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB March Fixtures at The New Lawn



**Saturday 6th - 3pm**  
**YORK CITY**

**Saturday 13th - 3pm**  
**BARROW**

**Saturday 27th - 3pm**  
**ALTRINCHAM**

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

Concessions: £10 Seated  
£8 Standing

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

For further details on any of these or future fixtures call

**01453 834860**  
[www.forestgreenroversfc.com](http://www.forestgreenroversfc.com)  
[www.fgrtrust.com](http://www.fgrtrust.com)

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

**March** See page 23

### April

**30-3 May** Badminton Horse Trials

### May

**22** Village Green Day  
Mangold Maid Making

### June

**19** 1016 Boules Marathon  
Church Fete

**19-20** Open Gardens

**26** Boules Ball

### July

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

### August

**28** Lobber Jenkins Boules Competition

**30** Village Party including Flower, Vegetable  
and Produce Show

### September

**25** Autumn book sale

### October

**2 - 3** Sherston Beer & Cider Festival

**3** Mangold Hurl

### November

**6** 1016 Fireworks Party

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

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

## Dorothy Hospice

The Malmesbury Group is becoming more active and more members would be welcomed.

Thank you to those people who have called me after Christmas and gave me items for the big tombola we are holding in the summer. Somebody did leave a bag without a name in my porch, so I do not know who to thank. Thank you anyway. We still need goods so if you have any please contact me, [beryl@clampton.com](mailto:beryl@clampton.com) or leave them in my porch at Bybrook, Bustlers Hill.

The Market stall in Malmesbury on 28 November raised £106.41. Thank you to those from Sherston who supported it.

The annual Dotty Day fundraiser is taking part on April Fools' Day. The idea is to do something dotty whilst raising money for Dorothy House. Any help spreading the word would be greatly appreciated. I will be away for a while but if there are any ideas or offers of help please contact Emily Knight on 01225 721480 who will be very grateful for your help.

*Beryl Clampton*



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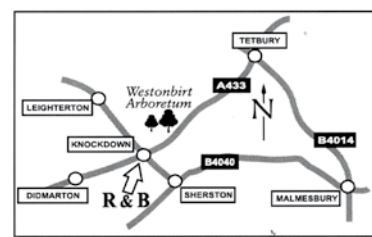


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# Groups and Regular Events in Sherston

## Holy Cross Church

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

### Sunday services

March: 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist  
(21 Mar Family Service); 6pm Evensong (21 Mar Evening  
Communion) N.B. 14 Mar Mothering Sunday

## 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. Next in Sherston: 11 April at 9.30am in the  
skittle alley at the Rattlebone Inn. *Please contact Sarah Slarke  
on 07971 090740 for any further information*

## Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold Hurlers

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

## 'Busy Hands' Pre-school

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

## Church bell ringing

Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00pm.

*Call Geoff Martin 840375 or come along.*

## Clem's Club

Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British  
School Room every other Tuesday 2.30 - 4pm - 2, 16 and 30 Mar.

## Eudo Tae Kwon Do

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

## Footpaths group

Currently the main task is the publication of a new walks  
booklet for the parish. *For further information contact Maggie  
McKenna on 841047 or [maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com](mailto:maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com)*

## Ladies' Swimming Club

Open to ladies from local area meeting at Westonbirt School  
on Wednesday 8 - 9.30pm. £38 for 15 weeks. *Call Annabel  
Clifton on 840592 or Heather Martin on 840375.*

## Legs, bums & tums

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

## Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

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

## Malmesbury Rangers

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

## Parish Council Meeting

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

## Salsa @ Sherston

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

## Senior Club

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

## Sherston 1016

Fundraising for local good causes and charities. *For further details,  
contact Eric Thacker on 841344 or email [eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk)*

## Sherston Badminton Club

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

*For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592*

## Sherston Boules and Carnival 2010

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

Any new ideas and offers of help in planning or just on the day  
gratefully received.

*For more details contact the chairman Tony Weedon on 841377 or  
[dogleg@waitrose.com](mailto:dogleg@waitrose.com) or secretary Caroline Moore on 841405 or  
[caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk](mailto:caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk)*

## Sherston FC

The club play in the Stroud league at Knockdown Park on  
Saturday afternoons - spectators and new players welcome

*For more details contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or  
[peter.brock666@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.brock666@btinternet.com)*

## SHOCC - Sherston's Occasional Community Choir

Meets every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm in the British School  
Rooms for 11 weeks (except 7 Apr) leading to an informal  
performance on Thurs 20 May. All welcome. *Contact Mary  
Clements 840688 or Nicki Heenan 840883 for more details.*

## Sherston Tennis Club

Sherston Tennis Club play on two hard courts off Knockdown  
Rd in Sherston. Fees for the 2010/11 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*

*MARCH OFFER: Half price membership if you sign up during  
March - contact Helen McCleish on 840992*

## Sherston Theatre Club

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

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

## Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

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

## Sherston Village Hall

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

## Sherston W.I.

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

*Further details contact Maureen Jolliffe on 840867*

## Sherston Young Craft Group

Mondays 6.45 – 8.15pm in the village hall (9 years and over).  
£3.00 (incl all materials) per evening paid in advance of each half term. *To join, please contact Jane Milne 841090*

## Splash Dance

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

*For more details contact Charlotte on 01453 886632 or email [charlotte@splashdance.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@splashdance.co.uk).*

## Village Hall 200+ Club

Monthly draw prizes ranging from £11 down to £5 for a £6 annual stake, plus a quarterly £5 bonus for 7 non-winners.

*If any new members of the village would like to join, contact either Mary Goulding on 840794, Joyce Gleed 840744 or Gwen Mason 840660.*

## Whist Drive

A whist drive is held in the village hall on the second Friday in the month, Fri 12 Mar 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 7 Mar

**Mothering Sunday Special** Sun 14 Mar

**Rugby 6 Nations**

**Cheltenham Gold Cup special**

Tues 16 - Fri 19 Mar

Check boards for details of events

*Further details contact 840665*

### The Rattlebone

**6 Nations Rugby matches** on the big screen

**Mothering Sunday Special** Sun 14 Mar

Check boards for details of events

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

### Wentworth Wooden Puzzles

**Factory Sale and Open Day**

Sat 6 Mar -10.30am - 1.30pm freephone 08007311662

### Community bus shopping trip Cabots Circus day trip

Sat 6 Mar -11am - 4pm 16 places available on the bus - book your ticket at the post office in advance to avoid disappointment. £4 return. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult. Further details contact Eric Thacker 841344.

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

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

## Clematis Clinic

Sun 7 Mar at 2.30pm 40 minute talk followed by Q&A with Martin Rea's legendary mulled wine at Sherston Parva Nursery

*Further details contact 840348 /07887 814843 or email [sherstonparva@aol.com](mailto:sherstonparva@aol.com)*

## Sherston WI

**Craft Workshop** Fri 12 Mar in the British School Rooms 10am – 3pm

**Jumble Sale** 20 Mar 10am – noon in the Village Hall

## PROPS Bike service

at The Rattlebone Inn

Saturday 20 March, 10.00am.

## Une étoile et moi- Judy and Me

Licensed Bar and Refreshments Sherston Village Hall Fri 26 Mar Tickets Adults £6.50, Senior Citizens £5.50, Children & Concessions £3.50 from 840348 or the P.O.

## Bell Ringing Competition

Sat 27 Mar

*Further details contact Geoff Martin on 840375*

## 1016 Book Sale

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

*Further details contact 840611*

## Oaksey

### Rural Arts Wiltshire

#### Arabian Nights

Fri 12 Mar 6pm Tickets Adults £6.50, Senior Citizens £5.50, Children & Concessions £3.50 from 575233 Oaksey village hall. *Further details contact or [www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk](http://www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk)*

## 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**

**Keane** Fri 18 June, **Simply Red** Sat 19 June, **Blondie** 20 June, **JLS** Fri 16 July; **Status Quo** Sat 17 July;

**James Morrison** Sun 18 July 2010 Tickets on sale now for the summer concerts £30 - £38 plus booking fee online or 01842 814612



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

*For further details contact 880220 or [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt)*

## **Westonbirt School and the**

### **Holford Heritage Gardens**

#### **Spring Term Lecture Fri 12 Mar**

Katherine Mansfield & the Bloomsbury Group by Dr Gerri Kimber 7.30pm free entry. Optional supper £15

#### **Galanthomania Sun 21 Mar 2-5pm**

with John Sales, former Head of the National Trust Gardens £10 including entry to the gardens

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

*and [www.holfordtrust.com](http://www.holfordtrust.com) for the gardens*

## **Easton Grey**

### **Whatley Manor**

#### **Sunday jazz lunch with the Solent City Jazzmen**

12 noon - 3pm Sun 7 Mar £37 includes 3 course lunch

#### **Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner**

Public Enemies - Sun 21 Mar £37 includes 3 course lunch or dinner, film & popcorn

*Further details contact 834026 or*

*[www.whatleymanor.com](http://www.whatleymanor.com)*

## **Malmesbury**

### **Nordic Walking**

- 1 hour each Thursday at 9.30am starting 4 Mar for 10 weeks £30 Malmesbury Activity Zone.

*Further details contact Clare Draper 01380 724911*

### **Events in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

#### **The Tremeloes**

20 Mar 7.30pm Dinton Village Hall

#### **WAA Air Operations Spring Ball**

Sat 27 Mar 7.30pm Dauntsey Memorial Hall £35 incl buffet Tickets call 01380 734108

*Further details contact Melanie Gee 0845 1221423 or*

*[www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events.htm](http://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events.htm)*

## **Wotton-Under-Edge**

### **The Electric Picture House**

A refurbished local cinema run by the community

Coming soon: An Education Sun 21 Mar, Avatar 5,6,13,14,18 Mar; It's Complicated 13 Mar; Monty Python Special - He's not the Messiah, he's a very naughty boy 25 Mar - check website for more details

*Further details contact 01453 844601 or*

*[www.wottoneph.co.uk](http://www.wottoneph.co.uk)*

## **Nailsworth**

### **Forest Green Rovers F.C.**

Home matches: Sat 6 Mar 3pm v York City; Sat 13 Mar 3pm v Barrow; Sat 27 Mar 3pm v Altrincham  
Adults £15/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £7/£5  
*Further details contact 01453 834860 or [www.forestgreenroversfc.com](http://www.forestgreenroversfc.com)*

## **Bristol**

### **Colston Hall**

Music - concerts include Ronan Keating, Mika, London Symphony Orchestra, Jethro Tull, Chris Rea  
Vary between £10-40 *Further details contact 0117 922 3686 or [www.colstonhall.org](http://www.colstonhall.org)*

## **Bath**

### **Bath Literary Festival**

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

## **Cheltenham**

### **The Amazing and Preposterous**

#### **Constance Smedley**

- by Sherston's own playwright Frank Hatt  
Presented by the Stroud Theatre Company at the Everyman Studio Theatre. Thurs 11 - Sat 13 Mar  
*Further details [www.stroudtheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.stroudtheatrecompany.co.uk) or [www.everymantheatre.org.uk](http://www.everymantheatre.org.uk)*

### **The Gold Cup Festival**

Tues 16 - Fri 19 Mar 10.30am - 1.30pm from £18 (except Gold Cup Friday from £30)

Cheltenham Racecourse

*Further details contact 0844 579 3003 or*

*[www.cheltenham.co.uk/racing/fixtures/the\\_festival.html](http://www.cheltenham.co.uk/racing/fixtures/the_festival.html)*

# **Useful Numbers**

BT fault line 0800 800151

CLARENCE (Highway complaints) 0800 232323

Cllr John Thomson 01666 840785

Malmesbury Activity Zone 01666 822533

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

Sherston Village Hall (bookings) 01666 840633

Tolsey Surgery 01666 840270

Wiltshire Council 0300 4560100