



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MAY 2009

DELIVERED FREE



Charity walkers through Sherston are finding their designated right of way obstructed.

The Macmillan Way is a coast-to-coast long-distance footpath running from Boston in Lincolnshire to Abbotsbury in Dorset. The Macmillan Way Society encourages walkers to obtain sponsorship for walking along the Way. Proceeds go to the Macmillan Cancer Support charity.

Walkers heading for Dorset come down through Westonbirt to Sherston, through the Grove and on towards Luckington. Or rather, they did until a few

weeks ago. Now they emerge from the Grove to be confronted by a trench. The path at this point is impassable and walkers have to become climbers, deviating up a steep and slippery slope.

Clearly this is unacceptable. The parish council is deeply concerned and Wiltshire Council's rights of way officer has been alerted to the situation. It is hoped that the path will soon be restored and that Macmillan Way walkers will be able to continue on their way without unhappy memories of Sherston.

Wild work

Contractors have now completed the fencing along Sopworth Road for Sherston School's new wildlife area.

The old fence has been removed and the new one, extending to the junction with Knockdown Road, installed. Together with two access gates from the school playground, the work was completed in just five days with the help of good weather.

In a few weeks' time, preliminary work will start on the pond area. The next job will be cutting out the brambles and generally tidying up the hedge.

The school's eco team has submitted an application to win one of 50 greenhouses in a nationwide competition run by npower under the Little Green Fingers project.

On April 16 just over 240 mastheads from the Gazette & Herald 'Let's get growing' primary school competition, were handed in to their Swindon office, bringing the school's total to over 800. Parent governor Crispian Huggill said 'A big thank you to all those who have been collecting since January. And a very big thank you to Paul and Gail and their staff at

the post office for all their help.' He adds 'A circular to local businesses inviting their help, support and donations will be going out shortly.'

Visit www.sherston.wilts.sch.uk where a new page will be detailing what is planned for the wildlife area as part of the school's environment area project.



'Good fences make good neighbours'
Robert Frost, Mending wall.

Please don't hesitate to tell us

Although the deadline is the tenth of the month, it's a great help if you can send us your contributions well before that date. This is going to be particularly important for the July issue (no doubt featuring Boules trailers among other things) as the editorial team is going to be depleted during early June.

If you are emailing, it helps our editorial team of volunteers if you send your piece as an attachment using Microsoft Word and format it in a simple and straightforward way. We prefer it if you avoid highlighting, italicising, underlining and other bells and whistles. If you want to make a visual impact, it's best if you use an advertisement.

Copy deadline: 10th of the previous month.

Send to Frank Hatt at

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.

To advertise, contact :

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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

April fool

Did all our readers spot the two deliberate 'mistakes' in last month's issue? Some liked the temporary title whilst the page numbering was less obvious!

EDITORIAL@SHERSTONCLIFFHANGER.CO.UK.

01666 841405

Clubbing with Clem

Clem Millard (of P.O. paper-boy fame) wonders if any other cheerful chaps fancy an occasional chair and a chat. If so he invites them to join him in the British Schoolroom on Tuesdays when the Senior Club does not have a session. He says there's no programme, no schedule, just a place for chaps to have a seat and meet any time between 2.30 and 3.30pm. The coming dates are May 12 and 26 and June 9 and 23. Kettle provided.



Flower power for African farmers

Dreaming of summer, birds singing and bees buzzing?

Come to a plant sale where you can stock up on old favourites or rare and unusual plants. It will take place in Sherston village hall on Saturday 16 May from 11am to 4 pm. Tea and coffee will be served, and a demonstration of African drumming is planned.

It's all in aid of FARM Africa. FARM stands for Food and Agricultural Research Management. This is a small but effective charity which goes out to the villages to offer help and advice to poor African farmers. Through this direct contact the charity is able to give farmers things like tools, seeds, research, livestock management and veterinary skills. This is what they need to help them to climb the ladder from poverty and subsistence to surplus and even prosperity.

Elections 2009

Sherston residents go to the polls on Thursday 4 June in elections for both the new Wiltshire Council and the European Parliament. As usual the polling station will be at the village hall and open from 7am to 10pm. If you wish to have a postal or proxy vote contact Wiltshire Council's election team as soon as possible, as there are strict time limits on applications. To do so, phone 0300 456 0100 or visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk

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Buses and bikes

Looking for travel information? Got ideas to improve the bus service? Want to stay safe on your motorbike? Whichever, help is at hand.

Malmesbury and the Villages Community Partnership has created a central transport information point called the Transport Hub. This is the result of consultation with residents, local bus companies, the LINK scheme and others. It is also supported by Community First.

The Transport Hub is based at the tourist information centre in Malmesbury Town Hall. Enquiries can be made there about all aspects of transport and leaflets and timetables are available. Telephone enquiries may be made on 01666 822143.

If you wish to make any comment on the local bus service, Cilla Liddington is the person to contact. 'As the bus users' representative for the parish I will make sure your comments come to the attention of Wiltshire Council,' said Mrs Liddington. 'Last year the service to Northend Gardens and Knockdown Road was reintroduced due to pressure brought by residents, so don't be shy in letting me know if there are any problems with the buses.'

An idea for the future is the possibility of a monthly coach service, on a Saturday or Sunday, to Bath, Bristol or Cribbs Causeway. The service would run from Malmesbury along the B4040 picking up at Sherston and other villages. 'This would enable those without transport to spend a day shopping at one of these major centres,' said Mrs Liddington. 'Those with their own cars may even like to use the bus to save on fuel, parking charges and the hassle of traffic congestion.' To contact Mrs Liddington call 840128 or email sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk

If you're a motorcyclist, Bikesafe 2009 is for you. This is a national campaign offering training for motorcyclists with the aim of reducing the number of motorcycling accidents and casualties. The campaign is organised locally by Wiltshire Police, Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council.

The training takes the form locally of one-day courses in Devizes. The day's programme includes observed rides with police advanced riders. Forthcoming dates are Sundays 10 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 August, 6 September and 4 October.

Further details of the national campaign are available from www.bikesave.co.uk. If you want to know more about the local training days, contact Colin Reeves. His contact details are:

Telephone 01793 466399

Mobile 07770 695792

Email colinreeves@wiltshire.gov.uk

Crime on the up

Police report an increase in the number of overnight walk-in burglaries, which are often the result of windows and doors having been left open or insecurely fastened. There have also been a number of vehicles stolen in the Chippenham and Calne area. Some of the stolen vehicles have been recovered as far afield as London, Leicestershire, Bristol and Wokingham.

With the warmer weather coming, take special care to see that doors and windows are locked.

Make sure that all vehicles are locked and secure and that vehicle keys, including spares, are inaccessible to the burglar. And report all suspicious incidents and persons to your local police station or through Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111.

Sherston Post Office news

Foreign currency – improved service

The post office now stocks new Turkish lira on demand as well as euros and US dollars.

Travelling abroad – post office travel cards now available

The Post Office travel card (TMC) is an alternative to currency, debit/credit card or travellers cheques when travelling abroad. In simple terms you pre-load your card with either sterling, euros or US dollars and use it anywhere where Visa Electron is accepted, which includes any ATM displaying the Visa sign worldwide.

Unlike debit cards, the Post Office TMC is completely separate from your bank account, reducing the risk of fraud. Unlike travellers cheques, with TMC you don't need to carry ID to make a purchase or withdraw money.

For full details, pick up a leaflet at the counter North Wiltshire travel tokens – final reminder

The final date to obtain travel tokens to the value of £18 for £1 is May 1. You can only apply for tokens if you have passed over the opportunity for a free bus pass; you cannot have both. As in previous years, the post office will gladly pass on any unwanted tokens to John Sparrow of Link, which provides vital transport to the old, disabled and infirm.

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Midsummer fete and open gardens

The midsummer fete and open gardens trail in aid of Sherston Church will take place on Sunday 21 June. The fete will be in the village hall and field.

As this is also Fathers' Day there will be a fathers' corner, with free Sunday newspapers, for a quiet beer or coffee. There will be lots of activities for children and also a barbecue and tea and cakes to refresh those who have done the garden trail.

More details next month.

Parish council meetings in May

There are two meetings this month on parish business.

On Thursday 14 May at 7.30pm in the village hall there is the normal monthly meeting of the parish council. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities for you to raise questions and pass comments.

The annual parish meeting takes place two weeks later on Thursday 28 May, again at 7.30 pm in the village hall. All residents are entitled to attend and have the opportunity to raise and discuss any subject regarding the parish. Updates will be given on matters of importance and this will undoubtedly include the position on the old school. Refreshments will be available and the meeting should last no longer than an hour and a half.

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 you can read minutes of meetings.

Friends of friends

Every year the parish council receives a grant of £75 from the Elizabeth Hodges Trust for educational purposes within the parish. This year the grant has been paid to the Friends of Sherston School to help fund the new school wildlife area.

Bins, bags and boxes

Although there are two bank holidays in May, neither of them causes any change to the collection days for rubbish bins and bags, nor for recycling boxes.

Three new heavy duty litter bins have been installed at strategic points on the sportsfield - at the main entrance, the skateboard park and the tennis courts. The total cost was some £1066 with £528 being provided from a grant from the former North Wiltshire District Council, for which the parish council is most grateful.



Sue steps in

The popular carnival walk was under threat this year because Virginia Rawlings, who has so ably led past walks, will not be available. It has been saved by Sue McKechnie, who has stepped in to lead the stepping out. Sue, a member of the parish footpath group, said 'I'm more than happy to help out. The walk's a real treat and hopefully will encourage more people to enjoy our wonderful rights of way'. The walk takes place on Sunday 5 July, starting from the village hall at 10.30am and finishing at the Rattlebone Inn shortly after midday – opening time. All are welcome to join the walk, including children and well-behaved dogs on leads. Best of all, it's free.

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Look, no hands

Eagle-eyed residents will have noticed that almost immediately after the church clock was recently repaired the High Street bus shelter clock came to a grinding halt. It seems that the motor has broken and the hands have been removed prior to repair. The clock's manufacturers, the Hawkins Clock Co, have been contacted and are hopeful that it will shortly be running smoothly again.

The clock and bus shelter are around 10 years old. The shelter replaced an old lean-to affair at a cost of some £10,000 as part of grant-aided enhancement works to the Sherston Conservation Area, which also included the removal of overhead wires in Cliff Road. The shelter, which belongs to the parish council, is built of traditional materials and is often cited as an example of good design of a functional building in a historic setting.



Time stands still

Something in Sherston doesn't like a clock.
It was the church clock first. Now that's put right
But we've received another nasty shock:
The one at the bus shelter's had a fright
And stopped. The queuing passengers won't know
Whether the bus to Malmesbury or Yate
Is punctual or running fast or slow.
If time stands still, how can a bus be late?
Perhaps the Rattlebone and Carpenters
Will be the next to find their clocks are stalled.
What better news for all the regulars,
Whose closing time will nevermore be called?

Planning

Wiltshire Council is now the sole local planning authority and although parish councils are important consultees in the planning process they do not have any decision-making powers as regards applications. In respect of planning control, including enforcement action where significant breaches have occurred, it is again Wiltshire Council which is the responsible authority.

Where the parish council learns of an alleged breach of planning control it will, as in the past, refer the matter directly to the planning authority for investigation and if necessary enforcement. Progress will then be monitored with a request that any enforcement actions are fully reported to the parish council. Previous experience shows that these issues can be complex and time-consuming.

Residents have the right to comment on any planning application and to report alleged breaches of planning control directly to Wiltshire Council. This can be done online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk, where you can also follow the progress of a planning application. Alternatively you can write direct to Wiltshire Council, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN, telephone 0300 456 0100 or visit the local office at Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 1ER.

St Trinian's mystery solved

Roger Whitehouse has contacted Cliffhanger with the solution to the great St Trinian's mystery. The girls in the photo reproduced in our April issue were (left to right) Ann Parkes (nee Whitehouse), Vicky Reglar (nee Maslen), Alison Wodecki (nee Wilkins), Lisa Tuck (nee Clifford), Marie Roberts (nee Godwin) and at the back Kate Moorhouse. The year was 1981.

Roger tells us he has a DVD of cine film footage of the Carnival from 1976 to 1989.



Grays of Sherston

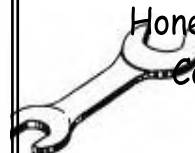
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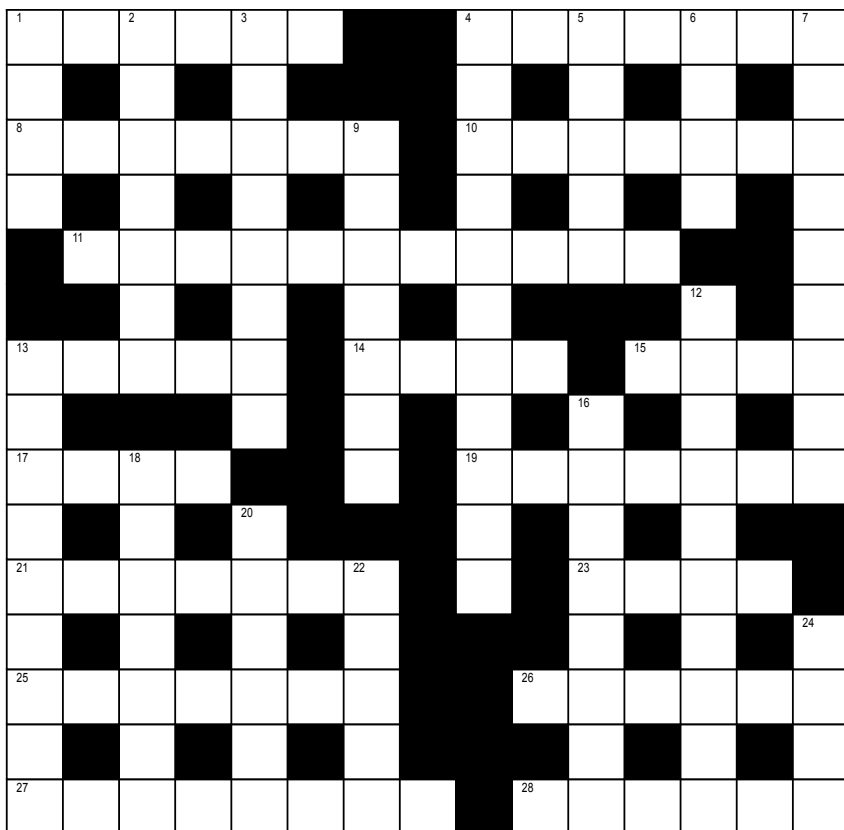
Contact Busy Hands on
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Cliffhanger Crossword No 7

Clues across:

1. Edible plant which is delicate when hot? (6)
4. Sir Fred, or what anybody who bet on Mon Mome had? (7)
8. Dickens character in the outskirts of Telford walked heavily (7)
10. Offensive moose in trouble! (7)
11. Roman road rebuilt west of Hayes? (3,5,3)
13. At first, travel on new Ghanaian aircraft to this African country (5)
14. Jewel of a Sherston dog! (4)
15. In Sherston, descriptive of necessities in a falling market? (4)
17. Agreeable place on the Côte d'Azur (4)
19. Is the same as "que" loosely translated! A setback follows. (7)
21. Black stuff and rubbish sent back to military festivals (7)
23. Some quick entrepreneurs are in this county? (4)
25. Section in the Cliffhanger designed by Holmes' companion swallowing first of the hamburgers? (5,2)
26. Messily paint a fine surface (6)
27. Commonplace – like M,T,W,T,F,S & S (8)
28. Thrash Italian and get lost! (6)



Clues down

1. Step up for cats and dogs? (4)
2. After suffering from gout, female needs to harden up! (7)
3. Belligerent boat that comes to Sherston every July? (3,2,3)
4. Badgering 'er terribly about what's for tea? (11)
5. Board gives a positive response in French and German (5)
6. Oak club? (4)
7. Slander me dreadfully in this nearby pub! (5,4)
9. What local band will ruinously do to your soul? (7)
12. Brew isn't to be drunk where you'll find the Hare and Hounds (10)
13. Rattlebone Boules league organiser will tear apart Toytown, then the French? (4,5)
16. Marathon for Donald, for example, at the end of Boules week (4,4)
18. 4 on the High Street, or Mill where 16 ends (7)
20. Affirmative – many go back to this place for their pills! (6)
22. Barbara, for example, visits at Christmas? (5)
24. Cliffhanger editorial team member who sounds like a bowler? (4)

Answers to April crossword:

Across: 7. Harpo; 8. Bat; 10. Moloh; 11. Few; 12. Tremellen; 13. Tucks; 14. Kinch Oils; 16&25: Beware the ides of March; 18. Ensemble; 20. Monks; 22. Alerted; 23. Burgess; 26. Unstirred.

Down: 1. Chefs table; 2. Brown cow; 3. Coates; 4. Able; 5. Flunkies; 6. Ship; 9. The Angel; 10. Mulched; 14. Kettledrum; 15. Sifts; 17. Rematch; 19. Sherry; 20. Morris; 21. Nievre; 22. Arms; 23. Bust; 24. Soda.

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1st	Joyce Gleed (no.51)	£11
2nd	Viv Hubbard (no.165)	£10
3rd	Christabelle Williams (no.268)	£9
4th	Kathleen Hillier (no.88)	£8
5th	Linda Fitzpatrick (no.106)	£7
6th	Guida Bryant (no.183)	£6
7th	Jill Bowyer (no.139)	£5

Bonus of £5 for non-winners

Lena Ellwell (45), Joyce Butler (36), C.Moore (74), Mrs N.Norwood (176), Dawn Smith (59), Sally Stratton (226), Warwick Jones (170)

Collectors

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

Dirty dog owners

Anti-social dog owners are committing fouls.

The sportsfield is suffering yet again from a minority of dog owners who persist in walking their dogs on the field or simply letting them run loose on it. The inevitable result of this inconsiderate behaviour is that dog faeces are left on the field.

The sportsfield is completely out of bounds for dogs. This is clearly indicated on the sign on the main gate. Dog faeces on the field are a health hazard as well as being extremely unpleasant to remove from footwear and clothing. Football matches have to be delayed by referees quite properly insisting that the pitch be cleared of dog faeces before any match. Players, team officials and even spectators have to undertake this task before starting a game. This is hardly the most entertaining way of preparing for a hopefully enjoyable match.

The recreation ground suffered from this problem some years ago, but now very rarely does so. If the recreation ground can be kept dog-free, why not the sportsfield? Perhaps some people think they can get away with it because it is not so overlooked and is on the edge of the village? There is absolutely no excuse for this behaviour and the parish council is determined to stop it, especially with the approach of summer, when the sportsfield will be used by large numbers of children.

If anyone knows who is responsible for this problem, they should let the parish clerk, Mrs Sarah Wood, have the details by contacting her on 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk

All information received will be treated in confidence.

Age no barrier

Wiltshire and Swindon Users Network, Age Concern Wiltshire and Age Concern Salisbury District, in association with Wiltshire County Council and NHS Wiltshire, are organising an 'Age No Barrier' week across Wiltshire, to take place between Saturday June 20 and Friday June 26. Organisations and groups in Sherston are being invited to participate by arranging an event at some time during that week.

The objectives of 'Age No Barrier' week are to raise the profile of older people across the county, to celebrate the contribution they make to their communities and to recognise that age is no barrier to people coming together to make a positive contribution to their community. It will also provide an opportunity for different age groups to use their skills and knowledge to learn and benefit from one another in an enjoyable way.

The event can take any number of forms. It can be for older people, by older people, or an 'across the generations' event. The size and nature of the event will be left to the individual group to decide.

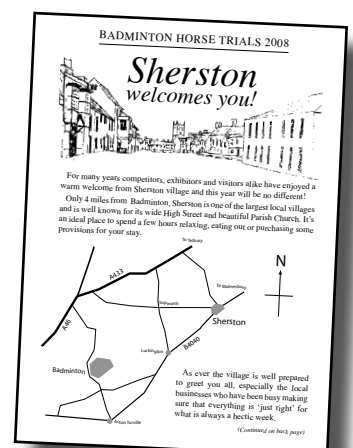
The parish council has offered its financial support to suitable events in Sherston and has already contacted a number of local organisations and groups asking if they would like to become involved. Early indications are encouraging and hopefully an event or a number of events will be detailed in next month's Cliffhanger.

If you or your group would like to organise an event or have a good idea for one please contact the clerk, Mrs. Sarah Wood, as soon as possible on 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk

Badminton business

When the wall in Brook Hill collapsed on 1 April 2006, resulting in the main road being closed at the time of the Badminton horse trials, a group of Sherston retailers were determined to avoid what could have been a trading disaster at such a busy time. 'We all got together and produced a basic leaflet to explain that we were still open for business. We had it delivered to all the exhibitors and those staying at the caravan site,' explained Paul Mather of Sherston Post Office Stores. 'We have continued with the leaflet every year in an expanded form including maps and individual advertisements. It is now distributed to local tourist information centres, hotels and B and B's as well as by the retailers themselves.'

If you rent out your property to visitors over Badminton or have friends or relatives down for the event, be sure to let them have a leaflet. Additional copies will be available from Sherston Post Office Stores.



Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold hurlers

Cliffhanger was pleased to receive the report of the Ancient Order's annual general meeting. In full appreciation of the honour bestowed on us, we present it here without further comment.

The meeting took place by tradition on Saturday 4 April at 2.30am, that being the anniversary of the last verified sighting of our chairman, Lobber Jenkins, before he disappeared into the Australian outback in 1998. There was an excellent turnout of some 45 members at this year's venue, Willesley telephone box, and it is hoped that their forthright discussions on certain issues did not cause too much disturbance to local residents. Thanks must be given for the excellent buffet so kindly supplied by the Rattlebone Inn.

A number of matters arose at the meeting and the following were deemed suitable for publication:

This year's Hurl will take place on Sunday 4 October on the Great Field. A review of the 2008 Hurl concluded that the mass 'Agincourt' style throw at the start of the proceedings was very successful and should be repeated this year subject to new health and safety procedures suggested by the Keeper of Sanity, Mr Martin Jacques. Further details of the Hurl will follow.

The Keeper of the Mangold Cart, Mr Malcolm Jarrett, reported good progress on his reconstruction of a Brokenborough style cart, which he had designed from the photograph below. This was despite injury caused by overzealous buffing of his Great Horn of Moyne over the winter months.

Unanimous approval for the election of Miss Amelie Smith as the 2009 Mangold Maid, who will be formally appointed at the Mangold Maid-making ceremony at the Rattlebone Inn on Whit Sunday 30 May at 1.30 pm. All welcome. Mr Jason Read as Keeper of the Maid promised faithfully not to misplace this year's maid - unlike last year.

The 2009 season Mangold seed distribution is already well under way, with seed having been given to Sherston School pupils as well as members of the Sherston Allotment and Gardening Association. Further supplies are available, together with full growing instructions, from Sherston Post Office Stores in return for a donation to Sherston 1016 funds. The Order is most grateful to Paul and Gail Mather for this kindness. As in recent years the variety is Yellow Eckendorf which in scientific tests has been shown to be the most aerodynamically suitable mangold for hurling purposes.

The disgraced former Mangold King Mr. Tony Towle was once again the subject of formal disciplinary proceedings brought on this occasion so ably by the Keeper of the Groat, Mr. Noel Banks. Mr. Towle answered the accusations in his usual manner - a shrug of the shoulders coupled with a wry grin and a chuckle - all of which were recorded as an admission. The punishment, so passionately proposed by his wife Mrs. Maggie Towle, was that 'he be publicly thrashed about his ungarmented person in the nether regions by leaves of the ancient plant immediately prior to the Hurl in October before the assembled membership'. This was carried by a tremendous shout of 'yarp' by all those present.

The Lobber Jenkins Memorial Boules Challenge will be held later this year - on the weekend of the August Bank Holiday - in the expectation that by then the aforementioned Mr. Tony Towle will have made amends for his appalling behaviour following the 2008 event.

The 2010 AGM will be held under Forlorn Bridge.

Should you wish to join the Order please either email ebeplaced@aol.com or speak to any of the usual suspicious looking characters you so often find lurking in the Rattlebone Inn. All are most welcome and a number of very reasonably priced courses on the art of hurling are available throughout the year.

Ted Bailey driving Judy along Park Road, Malmesbury, near the slaughterhouse - 1949.

It is said that Ted is delivering the Mangold crop for that years hurl held at St. Athelstan's Mead, which is the last recorded hurl in that town.



Wiltshire Council launches new housing scheme

Finding an affordable home to rent in Wiltshire has just got easier with the introduction of a new county-wide choice-based lettings service, Homes 4 Wiltshire.

The Homes 4 Wiltshire partnership involves Wiltshire Council working with 30 social landlords with affordable housing to allocate vacant accommodation in a fair and transparent way. Choice-based lettings allows for customers to play a more active role in their search for accommodation.

The Homes 4 Wiltshire team held two launch events for customers to come and find out about the new service; the first in Salisbury on Tuesday 10 March and the second in Devizes on Thursday 12 March. Both events were hugely successful, with hundreds of customers coming to find out more about how the new system could work for them. 171 vacant properties were advertised for customers to choose from.

Customers can visit any Wiltshire Council library or local council office to view details of the vacant properties. They can ask for the adverts to be emailed directly to them or can call 01380 734734 to find out which properties are available each week. The Homes 4 Wiltshire team are also creating a network of local shops, community centres and similar outlets to advertise the properties weekly to ensure customers in more rural locations are able to access the scheme. If you provide a local service and would be interested in advertising the properties, please call the Homes 4 Wiltshire team to arrange for the advert to be emailed to you on a weekly basis.

For more information about Homes 4 Wiltshire visit the website www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk or www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

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Alpha course

The Gauzebrook Alpha course started in March, running on Tuesday lunchtimes and Wednesday evenings at the Star in Hullavington and Sherston School. It has attracted over 80 participants.

'The two venues have been fantastic,' said Alpha team member Di Hamblin, 'with both giving us a wonderful amount of help which is much appreciated.'

'The food, produced by our catering team, has been greatly enjoyed by all, whilst giving us time to have a good chat before watching the Alpha course DVD.'

The course has covered topics such as:

Who is Jesus? – the evidence for his life and was he who he said he was?

Why did Jesus die? – the problem, the solution and the result.

How can we have faith? – How we can look to God for help.

'This has resulted in some lively discussions in our small groups,' said Ms Hamblin, 'some a little more heated than others. It's been a great opportunity to air views, ask searching questions about the meaning of life and why things happen as they do, have some fun and even begin to come up with some answers.'

If you are interested in joining a future group, e-mail admin@deanery.org.uk for details.



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angela@pykeboardingkennels.co.uk

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On yer bicyclette

If you think cycling to Malmesbury is tough, try pedalling to South-West France. That's what a handful of brave cyclists from Sherston will be doing next month to raise funds for PROPS, a charity that provides support and opportunities for young people with special needs.

Participants from Sherston include the charity's chairman David Reeves, his wife Dawn, Ollie Cadle, Dan Pritchett, Kevin Smith and Ed Thompson. Alongside about 100 others, they will set off from Queens Square in Bristol on Tuesday 16 June, aiming to cover the 330 miles to Bordeaux in four days. David pointed out, that means that by happy coincidence their arrival will dovetail neatly with the Bordeaux Wine Festival.

In total, the cyclists are hoping to raise £20,000 for PROPS, adding to the funds they have generated in previous years from similar rides to destinations such as Paris and Dublin. To make a donation, go to www.justgiving.com/pedalforprops, where you can also read more about the charity itself. Better still, said David, dust down your bike and join the team on the journey yourself. He emphasised that cyclists of all abilities will be represented and that the group will be accompanied at all times by a full support team. In particular, he says that the group is keen to hear from more female cyclists.



Training begins

David would be delighted to answer enquiries from anybody who is interested in helping in any way, so if you would like to join the ride or sponsor the team, drop him an e-mail at davyreeve@me.com.



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Sherston 1016

Books, Badminton, beer and boules – here the 1016 team tells us what they're up to.

April's book sale was a great success, raising over £300. Many thanks to all those who donated books CDs, DVDs and videos. It is hoped to have another sale later in the year, most probably in September.

During Badminton week 1016 members will be visiting some twenty local hostelrys over four consecutive evenings. It's a hard life. As usual the serious element is collecting funds for the Wiltshire air ambulance. Last year we collected a record £1400 and hope to do as well if not better this year. Should you wish to help with the evening collection please contact Paul Ormiston on 840694 or email pa.ormiston@homecall.co.uk as we are always grateful for extra help.

If you're not a frequenter of our local pubs you will be able to make a donation in the collecting box which will be available all week on the counter of Sherston Post Office Stores. We shall also be collecting outside the post office on the morning of Saturday 8 May. There is no escape.

There have been many instances of the air ambulance offering vital assistance to residents of Sherston and the surrounding parishes. Only on Good Friday the air ambulance attended an emergency situation in Sherston with Captain Figg, PC Charlie Spedding and paramedic Bruce Jarvis aboard. Our picture shows it on the recreation ground, where it landed at 1.15pm, having lifted off from the Devizes HQ only twelve minutes earlier. It left the recreation ground



forty minutes later and was at the Royal United Hospital, Bath within ten minutes. This is a service worth fundraising for.

Saturday 20 June sees our twenty-four game Boules Marathon at the Rattlebone Inn. Two sponsored teams of three (with a back-up fourth player in case of injury) will each take on twenty-four other teams over a twelve-hour period starting at 8am. If you wish to be a member of the 1016 teams or to enter a challenge team, please ask for details at the Rattlebone Inn. Don't be shy; we need 48 teams to come forward. There will be prizes for the best performing challengers and also a raffle. All funds raised will be split equally between Sherston 1016's fund for senior citizens' Christmas vouchers and the Dorothy House hospice based at Winsley, near Bath - for further information visit www.dorothyhouse.co.uk

For all you tug of war enthusiasts, now is the time to start organising your teams – both men and ladies – for this popular Boules & Carnival event, which takes place on Sunday 12 July at 11am. Come on lads, Sherston can't let Sean Richards and the Vine Tree win the trophy and the barrel of beer yet again – can it? Look out for full details of how to enter a team in next month's Cliffhanger.



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Thursday 9.30 - 11.00 at Chesham
12.30 - 2.00 at Tetbury

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01285 652150

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SHOCC revival



Joseph and his amazing technicolour dreamcoat, in Sherston village hall, May 2000

Plans are afoot to revive Sherston's highly successful community choir.

In February 1996, Mary Clements and Sarah Ward founded SHOCC – Sherston's Occasional Community Choir - to sing the winter blues away. It immediately lived up to its name by shocking the founders with an attendance of more than 40. A concert in the spring of that year raised a large amount for charity.

The word 'occasional' in the title was appropriate as the second concert did not take place until 1998. Again it was well supported. 'Fun often took precedence over vocal accuracy,' Mary said. 'However, final results can't have been too bad. More than 70 chose to take part when it came to the big millennium project two years later.' This was Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. 'It involved a junior choir, teenage actors, melodious ladies and a disorderly and downright delinquent male chorus.'

Now the plan is to revive the choir. To begin with, there will be six meetings in the British School Room on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 starting on 3 June.

If these are well attended they could be followed by

rehearsals in October and November, possibly leading to performances in various churches at Christmas. Modern Christian vocals have been chosen with this in mind, mainly unison and a little two and four-part harmony.

There will be no auditions. Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be able to read music and the choir is open to singers of all ages. Anyone having difficulty standing will be able to stay seated. Non-singers are also needed to take care of refreshments and administration.

No commitment will be expected until the second session. Just come to the British School Room on Wednesday 3 June.

Contacts: Mary Clements 01666 840688

Nicki Heenan 01666 840883

email clementsmary@tiscali.co.uk

A link with South Africa

At April's parish council meeting 14 year old Malmesbury School student and Sherston resident Rebecca Steele gave an excellent presentation of a project to bring eight students from Malmesbury South Africa to this area later this year. This follows Rebecca's attendance with other Malmesbury students at the Sondeza Afri-youth camp in South Africa last December. Since returning the group has been fundraising to meet the costs involved in bringing the students to England. Parish council was pleased to contribute £100 to Malmesbury School for this project, which will see young people from both countries learning from each other about their communities and forging important links for the future.

D-day anniversary

June 6 is the 65th anniversary of D-day and we intend to include some relevant material in our next issue. If you have any memories of that time – especially if you took part in D-day itself or remember the American servicemen billeted in the parish – Cilla Liddington would like to hear from you as soon as possible. Call her on 840128 or email sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk



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Village hall news

The AGM takes place on Wednesday 20 May at 7.30pm at the hall. All are welcome and refreshments will be available. Remember, it's your hall and you can have your say on how it's run, including electing the residents' representatives on the management committee.

Following the energy survey in 2008 all the recommended works have now been completed. These include a new heating system for both halls, draught proofing, secondary glazing to the large hall, cavity wall insulation and new main doors. The cost was some £22,000. Most of this was met by grants of nearly £15,000 from North Wiltshire District Council and £5000 from the county's village hall panel. The balance came from sums previously donated to the village hall funds by the Boules and Carnival committee and Sherston Arts Festival.

The hall now needs redecorating inside and out. The committee has sought quotes for this work and will be fundraising in the hope of seeing it completed this year.

The village hall committee was encouraged by the news last month that the future of the field to the rear of the hall may at long last be secure. The field originally belonged to the hall. It was sold to the county council for use by the school in the 1950s for £200. The return of the field to the control of the hall has been an agenda item for more years than many

committee members care to remember.

Every year at around this time hire charges are reviewed. In view of the present economic situation it has been decided that there will be no increase this year. This is partly in an effort to help all those who currently hire the hall but also reflects an increase in bookings over the last six months or so. During this time there has been a noticeable rise in demand for private parties, dances and meetings. If you wish to book the hall you should contact the bookings officer, Gail Hayman, as soon as you can on 840068 or email gail.hayman@btinternet.com

Following last year's success, the village party will take place again this summer. To avoid clashing with either the church fete or Boules day, the party will take place on bank holiday Monday 31 August. Make sure it's in your diary

Cello concert

There will be a cello concert by Anup Biswas at Sherston School on Wednesday 20 May at 7.30pm.

Anup is an inspirational musician of a high standard. He visits schools throughout the country, running workshops and performing to raise money for his music school in India. It's rare to hear the cello played as a solo instrument – don't miss this opportunity.

Adults £4, children free. Tickets available from the post office or school.



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Sherston Arts Festival 9 -18 October

There will be opportunities for everyone to be creative both before and during the arts festival from 9 to 18 October. Local amateur and professional artists are invited to take part in the art exhibition in the church. Young artists will be able to show their work in a separate exhibition in the British Schoolroom. Photographers of all ages can submit photos for the photography exhibition, for which themes will be announced. Anyone can make a scarecrow to take part in the scarecrow trail - the theme for this will be book characters, so start thinking. Finally, during the festival, there will be two workshops - willow weaving and felt making - for anyone to learn a new skill and make something.

Booking forms and further details will be available on Boules Day.

Rural skills courses

The Cotswold Conservation Board is introducing three new courses in addition to the existing ones in drystone walling and hedgelaying. These are on pole lathing/coppicing, hurdle making and thatching. The idea is to generate a renewed interest in working with materials from local woodlands. It is hoped that this will encourage people to think about how they can reinvigorate their woodlands by working in them to produce items which in turn will encourage positive management of woodlands.

Thatching is more common in the Cotswolds than people think. At one time it may have been more common than Cotswold slates. The course will cover thatching history and materials and will give participants a chance to have a go themselves.

The two day courses cost £80. For dates and locations please visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or telephone 01451 862000. There are drystone walling courses at Tetbury on 9/10 and 23/24 May, so don't delay.

Busy Hands fundraiser

On Wednesday 25 March the children at Sherston Busy Hands pre-school took part in a sponsored trike ride and exercise circuit in aid of Naomi House children's hospice.



Naomi House children's hospice opened in June 1997 to provide respite care, terminal care and bereavement support for children and families from across the south of England.

The hospice costs over £2.5 million a year, and with just 10% of its funding coming from government, it depends on voluntary and charitable support.

The fundraising event also raised money for Busy Hands pre-school.

Playtex Moonwalk 2009

On May 16 a group of ladies from the village - Anne-Marie Pritchett, Sam Pyle, Kirstie Blair and Sherston primary school teacher Tess Leatherland (alias The Sherston Showgirls) will be doing the twelfth Playtex Moonwalk. This is a walk of 26 miles around London starting at midnight from Hyde Park to raise money for breast cancer causes.

They will be joining 15,000 other women (and some men) in their decorated bras for this most worthwhile cause. One in nine women in the UK can expect to experience some form of breast cancer. This flagship event of the charity Walk the Walk raised over £5 million last year. It also promotes the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Kirstie Blair said 'Before this most of us did nothing more than the school run, dog walking or possibly the Ship on a sunny bank holiday, so there has been a lot of training involved. Some of you may even have seen us out round the lanes at all times of the day.'

If you would like to sponsor the walkers and donate to this charity, visit the website - www.justgiving.com/sherstonshowgirls.

Sherston Cricket Club – Fixtures for May

League fixtures for May

May 2 v Coates (a)	May 3 v North Nibley (a)
May 9 v Chedworh(h)	May 10 v Corsham (h)
May 16 v Adlestrop (a)	May 17 v Anchor CC (a)
May 23 v South Cerney (h)	May 24 v Badminton (a)
May 30 v Windrush (h)	

Sundays

Juniors

Tuesday sessions start on 5 May

Monday sessions start following week on 11 May

All new members welcome.

Contacts

Saturday skipper
Andy Tremellen
07979 388208

Sunday skipper
Mark Howell
07738 140547

Secretary
Kevin Smith
01666 840188

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
Now open Tuesdays Wednesdays and Thursdays

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. Potential new members should contact no 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 8 May 7.30 for 7.45pm. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. All profits to help maintain the village hall.

Ladies' swimming club

The club is open to any ladies from Sherston or the surrounding area. It is sociable and friendly and non-competitive. We swim at the pool at Westonbirt School on Wednesday evenings between 8 and 9.30pm. The cost is £35 for 15 weeks. To join please 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 - 5 and 19 May. 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 - 12 and 26 May.

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 14 May 7.30pm in the village hall. All welcome

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

The Carpenter's Arms

Curry quiz night Sun 3 May 7.30pm £5 pp entry including all you can eat curry buffet

'Rod Stewart' live Tues 19 May 8pm

Further details contact 840665

The Rattlebone

Boules league

- regular matches held weekday evenings

Badminton week evening events

Thurs 7 BBQ in the garden Fri 8 Argentinian lamb roast in the garden, live music from Bob Bowles Sat 9 May - spit roast meats in the garden with live music from the Fraser Tilley Trio

Making of the Mangold Maid

Sun 31 May 1.30 pm. All welcome

Further details 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

Spring fair

in aid of Friends of Sherston School. Food, plant and jewellery stalls plus a children's assault course and fire engine.

Sat 16 May 11am - 1pm at Sherston School

Plant sale in aid of FARM Africa

(Food and Agricultural Research Management)

Sat 16 May 11am - 4pm Refreshments and African drumming. Village hall

Cello concert

Anup Biswas - inspirational soloist from India Wed 20 May 7.30pm Sherston School

Adults £4, children free. Tickets available from the post office or school.

Village hall AGM

Wed 20 May 7.30pm All welcome. Refreshments. Village hall.

Annual parish meeting

Thurs 28 May 7.30pm All welcome. Refreshments. Village hall.

Westonbirt

The Arboretum

Dawn chorus walk Sun 3 May 4.30 - 6.30am £4

National Osteoporosis Society Big Bone Walk Sat 9 May 11am

Contact Holly Plummer for more details 01761 471771

Survival of the fittest - family event on how trees survive. Bushcraft activity walks 11am and 2.30pm Tues 26 - Thurs 28 May 10.30 - 4pm free after admission

Westonbirt Wednesdays half-price admission every Wednesday in April and May

Summer concerts: tickets now on sale for:

McFly Fri 19 Jun £26.50, Simply Red Sun 21 Jun £32.50, Paul Weller Sat 20 Jun £33, David Gray Fri 17 July £31.30 Vanessa Mae and fireworks Sat 18 July £29.50 all plus booking fee Ticket hotline 01842 814612

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

Westonbirt School

Informal concert by the pupils of Westonbirt School Fri 15 May
ABBA night with top tribute band suitable for all the family, bring a picnic, cash bar Sat 6 Jun gates open 6.30pm music from 7.30pm £15 adult £10 under 18s - book early to avoid disappointment
Further details contact 880333 or www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk

Beaufort Polo Club country fair

including polo matches, shows, 80 stands and Boujis at Beaufort
 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

Badminton

Horse trials

7 - 10 May from 9.30am Advance tickets: car pass £8 (4 days £23)
 Entry tickets £10.50 pp (4 days £38)
Further details contact 01454 218272 or www.badminton-horse.co.uk

Tetbury

Woolsack race

Mon 25 May Races start at 2pm on Gumstool Hill. See website for parking
Further details contact and or www.tetburywoolsack.co.uk

Easton Grey

Whatley Manor

Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button starring Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett Sun 31 May £37 includes 3 course lunch or dinner, film and popcorn
Further details contact 834026 or www.whatleymanor.com

Cirencester

Sundial Theatre at Cirencester College

Music: Vida Guitar Quartet Sat 2 May 7.30pm £11; **The Brilliant Recorder Quartet** Sat 9 May 3pm £9 or £11 with recorder workshop starting at 1pm
Comedy: Mark Steel Sat 16 May 8pm £13
Film: Pan's Labyrinth (Spain) Wed 6 May; **The Namesake** (India / USA) Thurs 21 May 7.30pm £5
Further details contact 01285 654228 or www.cirencester.ac.uk/sundial

Events in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Swindon kite festival at Brinkworth House
 9 - 10 May 10am - 5pm - Free entry More details at www.whkf.org.uk or Arthur Dibble from the White Horse Kite Flyers on 01635 865976.
Castle Coombe steam rally
 30 - 31 May 10am - 6pm £6 adults, £5 OAPs children under 14 free.
Further details www.castlecombesteamrally.co.uk or www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events.htm

Brockworth

Cheese rolling

Mon 25 May 12 noon Coopers Hill £5 parking
Further details contact and or www.cheese-rolling.co.uk

Bath

Theatre Royal

HMS Pinafore Tues 5 - Sat 9 May 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £18-35
Northern Ballet presents Romeo and Juliet Tues 12 - Sat 16 May 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £19-£39.50
Agatha Christie's Spider's Web Mon 18 - Sat 23 May 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £15.50 - £32
Noël Coward's Brief Encounter Tues 26 May - Sat 30 May 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £15-29
 Future shows to book ahead for: Alphabetical Order; Quadrophonia; The Winslow Boy with Timothy West; The Peter Hall Company Season 2009 including The Browning Version, Swansong, The Apple Cart, Home, Balmoral, Another Door Closed
Further details contact 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk

International dance festival

From Strictly Dancing celebrities to Bathampton's Morris Men 2 - 4

May Various locations in Bath.

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

Flower festival

2 - 4 May Royal Victoria Gardens

Further details contact 01225 463362 or visitbath.co.uk/site/whats-on/bath-spring-flower-show-p68381

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. 22 May - 06 June. space Various locations in Bath

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

Fringe festival

22 May - 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

Stroud

The Cotswold Playhouse

Carousel - the musical 6 - 9 May 7.30pm £12

Bob Dylan - The Poetry of the Blues by Michael Gray, the world authority on Bob Dylan £12

Hazizum - Egyptian Dance Show 22 May

Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Bristol Old Vic Theatre School 30 May

Further details contact box office at Stroud Tourist Information Centre 01453 760960 or www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

Subscription Rooms

Music - concerts include The Bohemians (Queen tribute) 2 May, Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra 9 May, **Stroud Music Club** 14 May 7.30pm £10-17

Comedy: 1,000 years of German humour 8pm £10

Vintage fashion fair in the cafe bar 23-May £3

Stroud Choral Society presents The Messiah Sat 22 Nov 7pm £12

Further details contact 01453 760900 or www.stroud.gov.uk/subrooms

Cheltenham

83rd Festival of Performing Arts

6 - 17 May Dance, music, speech and drama

Town hall Further details www.neton8.net

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

Bristol

Colston Hall

Music - concerts include Al Stewart 8, **Nick Lowe** 15, **George Thorogood** 22, **Leon Jackson** 27 May. Vary between £10-40

Further details contact 0117 922 3686 or www.colstonhall.org

Slimbridge

Wildfowl and wetlands centre

Landrover safaris every weekend and daily in school holidays 11am and 2pm £5/£3 chd

Downy duckling days and duckery tours 23 - 31 May every 30 mins

11am - 1pm and 2pm - 4.30pm free after admission

Further details contact Rebecca Law 01453 891223 or www.wwt.org.uk/centre/122/slimbridge.html

Uley

Prema rural arts centre

Evening classes for adults including Strictly Ballroom, yoga, pilates, life drawing, pottery, knitting, drawing for beginners

Workshop - create your own precious metal clay rings Sat 16 May 10am - 5pm £79

Children's half term workshops: Animation Evolutions with Fred Blunt

10am - 4pm £26; **Dino-saw-us film project** - 2 day course for ages 9+,

10am - 4pm £48

Concert - Methera Quartet Fri 1 May

Further details contact 01453 860703 or www.prema.demon.co.uk