



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MAY 2010

DELIVERED FREE



So what is it?

Exactly what it says on the tin. It's a 450 mile charity cycle ride from the historic maritime city of Bristol, England to the historic maritime city of Bordeaux, France, all performed in 4 days.

Who would be foolish enough to do that?

Believe it or not, we have 50 riders signed up to take part in this year's ride and among those are 9 Sherstonites. Trust the Rattlebone spirit to lead the way! The intrepid nonet are (in order of height) Ollie Cadle, Dave Reeves, Phil Hayles, Dan Pritchett, Kevin Smith, Jon Adye, Riaan Van Rooyen, Huw Bowles and John Pettit (expect to see some standing back to back in the pub from that one!!) We'd love to make it 10 Sherston riders, so if you have an old bike lying around at the back of the garage and fancy getting away from the kids for a few days, give us a call!!

Where precisely?

Oh come on now, From Bristol to Bordeaux! The route goes something like this:

- Day1: Bristol to Portsmouth
(Overnight ferry to St. Malo)
- Day2: St. Malo to Nantes
- Day3: Nantes to La Rochelle
- Day4: La Rochelle to Bordeaux

When will all this foolishness take place?

We leave on Thursday 27 May and return to Blighty on Monday 1 June.

Why?

The ride is in support of the charity PROPS which stands for Providing Opportunities and Support. This charity, through a variety of projects from touch rugby to the production of photographic canvasses, champions the inclusion of disabled young people within the wider community.

The money raised from this year's ride will go directly to support the new PROPS centre, situated at the Vassalls Centre in Fishponds, Bristol. This is a purpose built facility which will enable us to provide

support and opportunities for 19 to 26 year old students with a range of disabilities.



The centre is an exciting development for PROPS as it offers a permanent home for our unique business enterprise initiative and for our programme of inclusive projects developing the involvement of disabled young people in mainstream activities.

There's still lots to do, including a complete redecoration of the facility, but the centre will be up and running and ready to accept its first students in September this year.

How can I help?

The easiest way to support the riders is to visit the JustGiving website at: www.justgiving.com/sherstonites

The site is a convenient, safe and secure way to support the Sherston riders and (provided you are a UK tax payer) ensures we receive an additional 27 pence for every £1 donated!

But, don't worry, if you prefer the more personal approach, we are more than happy to receive support in whatever form you wish to offer!

For more information on the charity and on the ride, please check out www.propsforward.org and www.pedalforprops.org

You can follow our progress on Facebook and on Twitter (details on the PedalforProps website).

Thanks for your support. Allez Le Tour!!

Le Rat

Ding Dong creditably

By Geoff Martin

Eight teams came to Sherston for the area church bell ringing competition on 27 March. Chippenham Green struck the right note and with just 19 faults were the winners. Our own tower did not drop too many clangers and came fifth with a creditable 73 faults, only two more than Malmesbury, who were fourth. Having not entered the competition for about nine years, we were pretty pleased with the outcome and enjoyed a good afternoon of ringing. We certainly impressed the visitors with a beautiful tea.

Roger and Gill Ashley hosted the judges and, I am sure, did their best to sweeten them in our favour. We are grateful for their hospitality and we hope that you, the village, enjoyed the afternoon's tunes.

Now we know the ropes perhaps we will try again next year – in another village of course!

Copy deadline: 10th of the previous month.
Send to editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk
or hard copy to Sherston Post Office Stores.

What's On: contact Caroline Moore on 841405 or info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk

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

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

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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

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Heartbeat

During the April Parish Council Meeting there was a presentation from Community Heartbeat. This is a charity working to provide publicly available defibrillation equipment to local communities.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) happens between 140,000 and 200,000 times a year in the UK, making it one of the UK's largest killers. The potential for saving a life is dependent on time; the faster medical help is administered, the better the chance of survival.

To achieve a positive outcome when dealing with SCA, medical assistance must be given within 4-5 minutes of the event. In remote areas it can take more than 8 minutes for an emergency medical team to arrive on scene and this is why Community Public Access Defibrillators (cPAD) play a vital role in helping to save lives in rural communities.

Statistics suggest that the survival rate after a SCA with normal first aid techniques alone is 5%. By using a defibrillator, the survival rate increases to 50%.

According to the British Heart Foundation's Guide to GPs, 'the development of the automated external defibrillator (AED) has been described as the most important advance in resuscitation practices for many years. The AED has made the whole process of defibrillation simpler and has greatly increased the range of people who can use one.'

Current international resuscitation guidelines advise that evidence supports the establishment of public access defibrillation programmes when:

- The time from call out of the conventional ambulance service to delivery of a shock cannot reliably be achieved within 5 minutes. (For practical purposes, this means almost all of the United Kingdom).

- The time from collapse of a victim until the on-site AED can be brought is less than 5 minutes.

It would be a great asset to the area if within the Sherston Parish we could have at least three publicly available (In Sherston, Pinkney and Willesley) so that one was within easy access of most people. They are extremely easy to use – the box tells you exactly what to do!

Depending upon any funding that might be available, the overall cost would be equivalent to about £3 per adult in the Parish. This seems to be excellent value to have such a potential life-saver to hand.

I would be interested to know what people think, and to see if anyone would be willing to help with collecting some money to help fund this.

Phil Cutcher – contact via phil@pleasantassociates.co.uk or to Mount Pleasant, Pinkney SN16 0NY

School Pond



Sherston Primary School has received a Wessex Watermark Award to help create a pond and boggy area for their new wildlife area. The pond will be central to the wildlife area and is the second major development in the school's new Environment Area. Richard Chivers from Wessex Water was shown what has already been achieved when he visited the school with their Watermark cheque for £250 on Friday 23 April.

'It is important to introduce environmental topics as stimulating activities into regular school life' Crispian Huggill parent governor and chair of the Environment Area Group said, 'so this Watermark Award couldn't have come at a better time to help us begin the pond and bogland site. The children love their new wildlife area and with this support from Wessex Water we can develop the project further for future pupils to enjoy and learn from.'

The Watermark Award provides funds for environmental projects within the Wessex Water area. Now in its seventeenth year, it has supported nearly 500 environmental initiatives. Organised by The Conservation Foundation, all projects are judged by a panel chaired by its President - David Bellamy.

In Brief

Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 13 May 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. In addition, the parish council can be contacted via the response form on its website www.sherston.org.uk which also carries the minutes of meetings.

Recreation Ground

Two problems which caused concern on the Rec last year unfortunately returned last month. Both involve children 'playing' with stones both loose on the ground and forming the boundary walls. Stones have been thrown onto Court Street hitting vehicles and have also been removed from some stretches of wall making them unstable. These actions are extremely dangerous and must cease. It would be appreciated if parents could please make sure that their children are fully aware of the dangers of this type of behaviour in the hope that it will not be repeated.

Election

As everyone will no doubt be aware the General Election takes place on Thursday 6 May. As usual Sherston's polling station will be at the village hall which will be open to cast your vote from 7am to 10pm.

Village Hall

Decoration of the exterior of the hall and of the interior of the small hall by the Community Payback Team will start in May. The large hall is hoped to be tackled over the summer holidays once decisions have been made as to how best to proceed. There are particular issues to be resolved due to the nature of the walls of the large hall.

It has been agreed to invite the Wiltshire Air Ambulance charity to provide a clothes recycling bank in the yard to the hall. These recycling banks have proved to be a popular and successful way of raising funds for this essential service.

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Sherston 1016

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

Over the Badminton weekend 1016 members will be visiting some 20 local hostelrys over three consecutive evenings. It's a hard life! As usual the serious element to this is collecting much needed funds for the invaluable Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Last year we collected a record £1500 and hope to do as well if not better this year.

If you're not a frequenter of our local pubs fear not as you will be able to make a donation outside Sherston Post Office Stores where we will be collecting on the morning of Saturday 1 May. No, there is no escape. On a serious note there have been many instances of the air ambulance offering vital assistance to residents of both Sherston and the surrounding parishes.

Saturday 19 June sees our 24 game Boules Marathon at the Rattlebone Inn where 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 please enquire at the Rattlebone Inn where details are also available of how to enter a challenge team. Don't be shy, we need 48 teams to come forward! By way of encouragement there will be prizes for the best performing challengers as well as a raffle. All funds raised will be split equally between Sherston 1016's fund for senior citizens Christmas vouchers and The Bristol and Avon Multiple Sclerosis Centre.

For all you Tug of War enthusiasts now is the time to start organising your teams – both men and ladies – in readiness for this ever popular Boules & Carnival event which takes place on Sunday 18 July at 11 am. 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.

Sherston Church Fete and Open Gardens Trail

Make sure to put the weekend of 19 and 20 June in your diary. On the Saturday, there will be the Fete on the Village Hall field, with stalls, games, bar and BBQ. On both Saturday and Sunday, a number of gardens will be open to visit, arranged as a trail around the village. Tickets will include tea and cake, served in the Village Hall on Saturday, and in the Church on Sunday.

If there are any further offers of gardens, or anyone wanting to book a stall at the Fete, please phone Heather Martin on 840375 or Pat Whitehouse on 840640.

May walk

On Sunday 30 May starting at 10am from the village hall Sue McKechnie will be leading the latest seasonal walk organised by the parish footpath group.

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 Easter walk was well supported and included the beautiful spring countryside at Easton Grey. Thanks are due to the Rattlebone for providing a delicious mushroom soup for all those who took part.

The next walk will be on Sunday 11 July as part of the 2010 Sherston Boules & Carnival festivities.

Sherston's Occasional Community Choir

By Mary Clements

After a twelve week practice period, the members of Sherston's Occasional Community Choir, will once more be performing for the public, this time in The British Schoolroom. They have been enjoying the inspiring music of Boubil and Schonberg's outstandingly successful musical 'Les Miserables', and have watched excerpts of it from a DVD of the 10 year Anniversary Concert held at the Albert Hall, projected on the wall of their rehearsal room. This has helped them to catch, not only the story, but the atmosphere and drama involved in the overcoming of tyranny, which is the central theme.

They invite friends and family, and anyone interested, to come to their Concert evenings - Thursday and Friday 20 and 21 of May.

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Living Churchyard

Now May is here the churchyard should be full of wild flowers and it will be interesting to see if we can equal the number recorded last year or whether even more will appear as a result of a year of management. The grass seed planted around the stumps of the felled trees in March should be well grown by now, although the meadow flowers that were included in the seed mixture will probably take another year to flower.

Despite my fears about the bluebells, it was only the very cold winter which had held up their arrival. In February the Living Churchyard volunteers added lesser celandines, primroses and snowdrops to the woodland area. All were transplanted from elsewhere in the churchyard or the immediate local area so that they represent the local wild plant-life. When all these plants have naturalized, together with the violets, wild strawberries and lords and ladies which were already there, the side entrance to the churchyard should be beautiful to walk through in spring.

Come and find out about what the Living Churchyard Project is doing at Sherston Village Green on 22 May and perhaps you may be encouraged to join us in continuing to make the churchyard more of a haven for wildlife, as well as a fitting resting place for hundreds of years of the people of our parish.

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Gypsy and Traveller Issues Consultation

Wiltshire Council is preparing a plan that will identify land for new gypsy and traveller sites across the county.

The purpose of the consultation is to discuss the issues around providing traveller sites, develop a method for finding new sites and invite land to be considered as possible new sites.

All information and how to submit comments is available on the Wiltshire Council website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gypsyandtravellersdpd, main offices in Chippenham, Devizes, Salisbury and Trowbridge and local libraries.

To find out more please attend drop-in events from 4pm – 8pm on:

11 May Wessex Room, Corn Exchange, Devizes

13 May Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury

19 May Neeld Hall, Chippenham

Comments must be received by 5pm Friday 4 June 2010.

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St George's Day

Sherston was host to over 300 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts and their leaders and assistants in April. The Scout Groups of Wiltshire North marched through Sherston led by the Cirencester Band before squeezing into the Church for their service, which was led by the Rev Eve Pegler. Each year, Scouts attend a service on the Sunday closest to St George's Day and renew their Scout Promise. This is the first time for many years that the Parade and Service has been held in Sherston. The Scout Group would like to thank all those from the village who helped with the arrangements for the day.

One absentee from the Parade in Sherston was Victoria Price, who this year attended the St George's Day Parade and National Scout Service in Windsor Castle. Victoria has recently completed her Queen's Scout Award and was invited to take part in the parade for Queen's Scouts. After marching into Windsor Castle and parading in the Quadrangle, the parade was inspected by HRH The Prince of Wales. The Queen's Scout Award is the highest award in Scouting and Victoria was the only Scout from Wiltshire in the parade this year.



Area board comes to Sherston

On Wednesday 12 May at 6.30pm for 7pm the Malmesbury Area Board of Wiltshire Council meets in Sherston School. This is your chance to see the area board in action right on your doorstep. Public participation is actively encouraged and the meetings have been attracting increasing numbers since their introduction last year.

The board consists of four local Wiltshire councillors Simon Killane, Carole Soden, Toby Sturgis and John Thomson.

The meeting will include details of the 2010/11 major road works programme, the Police Protective Services and also hear from Cllr Keith Humphries, cabinet member for health and wellbeing.

Refreshments will be available.

Sherston Village Hall Whist Drive

14 May 7.30 for 7.45pm

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Village Green SHERSTON

22 May 2010

Sherston Village Green Day is just around the corner. The Village Hall will open at noon on Saturday 22 May to a rousing medley from the Dodington Brass Band. Thereafter, visitors are going to be spoilt for choice with over 50 stands and display areas, never mind live entertainment at regular intervals. Regardless of what shade of green you are, we think Sherston's first environmental event will keep you interested and entertained.

Lots to see and do

By now you'll know that Village Green comprises around 50 country craft stalls, rural skills demonstrations, local shops, firms and organisations with 'green' credentials, as well as a horticultural section, locally produced food and beverages and displays of environmental projects from the pupils of several primary and secondary schools. Difficult to categorise (but guaranteed to provide amusement) are a herd of alpacas and Ray Mears-style instruction in bushcraft skills! What about wildlife-friendly plants for your garden or tips on flower-arranging? We'll have experts to show you what to choose and how to do it.

Latest additions

The Plant Swap stall will give you the chance to exchange your own cuttings, plants, seeds from your garden and any other related items with something you covet from someone else's. Penny Ager and Helen Quirk have kindly agreed to run this stall so take your stuff to them on the day, they'll give you a token and you can then choose what you fancy.

The National Trust is helping us run a stand that will appeal to everyone with a creative streak and a passion for plants. You may have read about the Trust's campaign, 'A Plant in Time' to promote environmental awareness and greener gardening. Special workshops are being held around the UK, the idea being to inspire the public (particularly school children) to make artificial flowers that can be entered into a national competition. At Village Green, you'll get the chance to create fabulous handmade flowers (full instructions supplied) that you can photograph and upload, if you wish, onto the Trust's website for judging. The lovely thing about flower-making is that it's suited to all age and ability ranges and is lots of fun!

Running Order (may be subject to change)

- 12.00 Dodington Brass Band
- 1.00 Flaming Gourmet Cookery demo
- 2.00 Dodington Brass Band
- 3.00 Two Left Feet Line Dancers
- 3.30 Flaming Gourmet Cookery demo
- 4.00 Foxley Road Nursery -
making a hanging basket

4.30 Mangold Maid Making - Ceremonial Fun

12 Noon to 5.00pm FREE ENTRY Further information from Irene Johnston on 841273 or email: ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk

Village Green participants

- Abbey View Alpacas
- Adrian Corson – bushcraft skills
- Bishopston Trading Company (Fair trade clothing)
- Ceri Cryer Farm Cheeses
- Dodington Parish Brass Band
- Eco-friendly Organic Natural Products
- Flaming Gourmet Cookery demonstration
- Foxley Road Nursery – 'Grow your own' and
Hanging basket demo
- Gardening Naturally Ltd
- Georgina Doyle Cakes
- Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
- Good Energy, Chippenham
- Grove Wood Group
- Green Woodworking demo
- Hobbs Bakery
- Hurdle-making demo
- Maggie Elder – botanical watercolour paintings
- Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership
- Malmesbury Secondary School
- Malmesbury Rivers Trust
- Margaret Armand-Smith, children's books author
- Nabarro Apple products
- Nick Holland – photography
- Organic Seed sales
- Pat Downes – Flower arranging demonstration
- Peter Bishop Wildlife products
- Philippa Buckley Cupcakes
- Phoenix Trading Cards & Stationery (Lucy Hay)
- Samantha Entwisle, Medical Herbalist
- Scrapstore, Lacock
- Sherston Allotments and Gardens Association (SAGA)
- Sherston Footpaths Group
- Sherston Living Churchyard Project
- Sherston Mother & Toddlers/Busy Hands Pre-
School groups
- Sherston Parva Nursery
- Special Plants Nursery – drought-tolerant &
wildlife-friendly plants
- Sherston Quilting Group
- Sherston School Wildlife Area Group
- Sherston Tea
- Sherston Young Crafts Group
- Soil Association
- Spinning & Weaving demonstrations
- Steve Allan – aquatic / rivers consultancy
- Three Left Feet Line Dancers
- Westonbirt Ice Cream
- Wiltshire Council Waste & Recycling
- Wiltshire Traditional Orchards Project
- Wiltshire Tree Wardens
- Wind-eco (green energy)

Speed

Following the agreement to pursue a community speedwatch scheme in Sherston the three areas identified for action (Easton Town, Pinkney and Tetbury Lane) are now being risk assessed by the Wiltshire and Swindon road safety partnership so as to ensure that the volunteers operating the hand held camera equipment are working in safety.

The next stage will be a short training course for the volunteers which will be held locally and also include volunteers from Luckington and Oaksey. Although volunteers have come forward for Sherston at least two more are needed to spread the load and make the scheme work. Can you help and hopefully make our local roads safer for all? Speeding vehicles in our area is one of the most complained of subjects so this is your opportunity to do something to reduce the problem.

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 by the volunteers

will receive written warnings with persistent offenders facing further action including a personal police visit.

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 by local people 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 and register as a volunteer. Remember 80% of children hit by a car travelling at 40mph will die whereas 80% hit by a car at 30mph will live.



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The Last of England

By Richard Stancomb



The Last of England 1855

by Ford Maddox Brown (1821-93)

Pre-Raphaelite artist whose paintings glorified labour.

Among his most famous paintings is a destitute couple leaving England for the last time.

June 1832

A Journal by E Cresswell containing the principal events of her voyage from the period of her leaving England to that of reaching the City of Philadelphia, in the United States of America, which voyage took 10 weeks (viz) from 11 June to 25 August 1832.

We remained in Bristol a week waiting for the vessel to sail, which time we spent in preparation for the voyage and in viewing the City of Bristol, but unfortunately we were not enabled to see Clifton but we were in a manner compensated for our disappointment in sailing down the Avon viewing the (St Vincent's) rocks, woods and trees which diversified the scene delighted all beholders. I was in extasies (ecstasy) having never beheld such a scene before only conceive the different coloured foliage of the trees which bordered the banks of the beautiful Avon quite down to Pill, (under the M5 bridge). All I regretted was leaving dear, dear England so soon. We sailed as far as the Hotwells, (under Brunel Way) on Saturday. On Sunday we were so dirty that we could not go to church but were prevailed on, in the afternoon, to go on board the George Canning which was a much larger vessel than ours. It set sail on the

same evening. We also went on board a Steam Packet that had just arrived from Ireland laden with black cattle and pigs. We enjoyed the sight very much never having seen a Steamer before.

The following morning we set sail accompanied by Mr Skeate who as soon as we got to Pill left us In a boat which brought some passengers on board. (assuming Mr Skeate changed his mind about emigrating?).

The next day we sailed into the Bristol Channel and for several days I could see the borders (coast) of England which I shall always consider my own country when we get out to sea. We had a little rough weather and a great swell which made us very sick and ill for several days. I suffered severely from two days and a half being obliged to keep to my berth. When I got up I was so weak that I could not stand or sit without support.

We had a very pleasant sailing being stormy only the days which was before we got clear of the British coasts. We had more conveniences than the cabin passengers but it would make any one laugh to see how we managed. The only thing we had to drink, besides tea and coffee, was wine and water or spirits. We made puddings and cakes having plenty of flour and baked them very well considering we were not on land.....

You would be quite astonished at the regularity and good order which the sailors are kept in. They appear to be a good tempered set of men and are willing to do any thing for us when they are not engaged at their work. They have plenty of food and beer, but are not allowed spirits and although we have been in the vessel these three weeks I have not heard the captain or any of the sailors swear which quite astonishes me. The only thing I want is some nice walks in the surrounding country or near dear Sherstone and also some (pages for the following seven weeks are lost)...

...next morning the pilot and the sea officer went on shore to tell them we had done as they desired us when they said they would come by eight the

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next morning, when we were to be dressed and on deck ready for his arrival. Tuesday they came and after making us march as before told the pilot he might set sail which he accordingly did and about two in the afternoon we reached Philadelphia and soon were on shore. We were very much tired but made a very good supper on bread and milk. Wednesday we went to try and get lodgings but had great difficulties in procuring them, but on Thursday we got some comfortable lodgings near the key.

Estcourt Cresswell Jnr (1788-1828), fourth son of Estcourt senior and father of Elizabeth, served as 2/Lt in Royal Marines and 94th Regt. He was born at Pinkney, married 1814 Sarah daughter of Joseph and Jane Gibbs, millers of Ford. Until his premature death in 1828, he lived at 8 High Street Sherston. After his death his widow and children emigrated to Philadelphia in 1832, with three sons and four daughters where Sarah died in 1875. Her eldest boy died aged 15 in 1833, Joseph in 1856 and by 1878 only one child was living, Naomi the youngest, who married the Rev. Richard Lewis and with him paid a visit to Pinkney in that year. Elizabeth was probably the eldest child born around 1816 and was 16 when she wrote the above diary.

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6th	£6	265	P Robinson
7th	£5	2	Mr Edmondson

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Full house

The new Westlea houses at Easton Square have been completed on time and the first occupants are settling in. The houses were viewed by various parties involved in the project including Simon Leighfield, Managing Director of Leighfield Building Company, Ann Cornelious, Managing Director of Westlea and Lee Scutter, Architectural Designer for Westlea, all pictured left.

Educational grants

The trustees of legacies, left by Wiltshire benefactors to help children and young people, are opening the door to this year's round of grant applications through Wiltshire Council.

The William 'Doc' Crouch Trust provides up to £100,000 to help children and young people throughout Wiltshire who have disabilities or other needs.

Forms for the trust are available now and the deadline for submitting a grant request and supporting paperwork is Monday 14 June. Trustees of the fund will meet during the second half of July and the successful applicants should be notified by mid August.

Application forms for the trust can be obtained from Wiltshire Council on 01225 713784 or by email studentfinance@wiltshire.gov.uk



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Have your say

The annual parish meeting takes place on Thursday 27 May at 7.30pm in the village hall. This is when all residents 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. It is also hoped to have further information available on providing community access defibrillators in the parish. Every resident is entitled to attend and in order to encourage your presence refreshments will be available. Like most parish council meetings it should last no longer than an hour and a half.

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

Coffee Morning / Bring and Buy in Aid of Dorothy House Hospice

Tuesday 25 May from 10.30am at 22 Easton Square. Please come along and support this very deserving cause. We will have a raffle, cakes, bring and buy, plants and more.

Thank you, Kate Crutcher and Jane Thomas.

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The Amazing and Preposterous Constance Smedley

Everyman Theatre Studio, Cheltenham (11 to 13 March 2010)

By Peter Huntley

Few people would have heard of the subject of this new play before local author Frank Hatt came across a collection of letters stored away in South Gloucestershire.

A series of highly charged, snapshot scenes opens up the story of this Edwardian campaigner. Constance Smedley (Sophie Laughton) who is severely restricted by the times she lives in, not only from male-based establishment, but also suffering from the disadvantage of being crippled by polio.

The 'chamber play', is performed by the Stroud Theatre Company as a series of 'same room scenes' transported to various European cities where our heroine founded a number of residential clubs for professional females, the Lyceum Clubs.

Also, Constance championed the general improvement of women's rights through her talents as a novelist, journalist, illustrator, playwright and theatre-worker.

Her battle was not only with the middle-class society, but with her own family. The father William (Dan Maxwell), the sister Di (Sally-Ann Beighton) at first dubious and unhelpful to her plans and ambitions, eventually became fervent supporters. Her mother, Annie (Fiona Ross), increasingly backed her daughter's cause in support of women writers.

The middle section of the play deals with Constance's increasing campaigns in the face of determined opposition. This was a feisty lady living in a period which such behaviour was barely tolerated.

On a personal level, Miss Smedley's life hardly existed outside her family. However, there is a seemingly platonic relationship with Maxwell Armfield (David Seymour) which eventually leads to marriage and Maxwell provides valuable support to Constance, particularly in her moments of depression.

The scenes in latter parts of the play move to South Gloucestershire and Constance's efforts to stage a number of amateur dramatic performances in and around Minchinhampton. These productions did not win favour among the locals who did not respond positively to the high standards demanded.

The end comes only with frustration and disappointment, but the audience is left with the thought that Constance Smedley, although amazing and preposterous, was an important artistic visionary.

Vocally, even more than visually, the play relies on sparkling dialogue, a tribute to Frank Hatt's command of language and the ability to make the most of incidents that actually happened and to imagine what might have been said in any given situation.

The performances of this talented group of actors are universally fine, Sophie – Ann Laughton and Fiona Ross are worthy of special mention.

The stage was appropriately small as the play is concerned with matters up close and personal. Director Chris Garner and team realised, with great effect, the claustrophobic Edwardian middle-class life.

The play deserves a wider showing and is ideally suited to a studio facility and due to its vocal powers would transfer to radio. In any case, if it comes your way, do go and see it.

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Book Club Talk

By Sue McKechnie

As a follow up to the excursion to see Frank Hatt's play, the Book Club invited Frank to talk to us about how he came to write it and what happened to Connie and her family next! This was most enjoyable and exciting to see the letters that she had written and received. Some of them were scorched at the edges where they had been rescued from the builder's bonfire. We have great admiration for Frank who pieced together her life both before and while she lived locally at Minchinhampton. We are very grateful to him for giving us such an enjoyable time and for devoting an extra evening to recounting the background story.

Holiday Snap – Sherston Drama Group

By Miles Elwell

As summer looms, faraway places with strange sounding names will be regularly luring holidaymakers to sun and fun – pretty much innocent stuff. But in Sherston Drama Group's *Holiday Snap*, by Michael Pertwee and John Chapman, the characters are lured to Portugal by adulterous assignation.



'Innocent' well describes Commander Chittenden, a timeshare rep and bibulous naïf, who checks out properties for holidaymakers. He welcomes first an unlikely couple, hoping to couple on a four-poster. Eve's real husband, Sid, is a car dealer; Leslie, one of his salesmen. If Sid knew what his wife was up to, Leslie would have trouble with his big end. The fact that Sid is occasionally on the phone does nothing to settle the nerves. Next up are Henry and Mary, who believe they're the sole occupiers. To say Henry is all mouth and no trousers is to ignore the fact that he truly wishes he could dispense with the latter and get down to business. So how is this resolved? Well, as a lawyer, Henry thinks only one way – dirty. He overhears a conversation, realises the 'Smiths' are there for improper purposes and thinks he has the whip hand.

This was first class farce, with couples initially missing each other by seconds. Into this unruly mix comes Henry's mother-in-law. A neat twist, because Henry, it seems, is also on the pull and Mary not his legal beloved. Built around the plot is mistaken



identity. In fact, the plot is a bit like *Brighton Rock* – it has mistaken identity running all the way through it. And with Henry weaving a web of deceit and cranking up his blood pressure, tension and laughter mount.



Clive Renton was wonderfully entertaining as the lush; Andi Hunte as Leslie proved himself a master of accents, while Kim Hunte's Eve was a glam temptress; David Jarrett gave a bravura performance as Henry, injecting him with all the pomposity of the law, and Sue Ormiston's Mary, his long-suffering paramour, conveyed just the right sense of pique. As late arrivals, Maggie Instrell was an amusingly eccentric mother-in-law, Richard Skeffington a scintillating upper class loon and (even later) Nikki Sanders came on as Henry's real wife.

The production was skilfully directed by Hazel Jarrett and Richard Warren, whilst a team of dedicated helpers (including some of the cast) helped with all the essential backstage graft. Special mention to set designer Malcolm Jarrett, who, although in hospital, was very much there in spirit.



THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

The A.G.M. on Saturday 24 April turned out to be a lively and enjoyable affair under Forlorn Bridge with an excellent turnout considering the 2am start. The weather was kind although the temperature dropped noticeably towards dawn. Thanks are due to Jason Read and Carla Moulder of 'The Flaming Gourmet' who provided a wonderful BBQ from their raft although there were concerns at times that it would catch alight.

After the usual formalities the meeting swiftly moved on to a heated debate as to the appointment of the Keeper of the Technique. The two candidates Mr Ian Ashby and Miss Jenny Lamont gave impassioned speeches outlining their respective virtues followed by demonstrations of their techniques assisted by a number of luminous painted swedes as it is not yet the season for mangolds. After facing a number of searching questions a vote was held resulting in victory for Miss Lamont. After the decision both parties offered each other conciliatory remark. Magnanimous in defeat Mr Ashby offered to get fully behind Miss Lamont in her new position and stated would be honoured to serve her to the best of his ability in whatever way she desired. Miss Lamont graciously accepted this offer of assistance although warned Mr. Ashby that serving under her could be demanding to the point of exhaustion.

The main business of the meeting was of course the election of this year's Mangold Maid. The Keeper of the Lists Mr Graham Hayman introduced the three finalists whom he had whittled down from an original entry of 14 after a comprehensive series of examinations. After Mr Hayman extolled the virtues of each prospective maid members then spent some considerable time making their final choice. By tradition members placed posies of wild daffodils at the feet of their chosen maid. After a very close choosing which included a posy recount



Miss Stacey Dryden was duly announced as this year's Mangold Maid to scenes of great delight and indeed emotion from her friends and family. Stacey will be crowned at this year's Mangold Maid Making ceremony which will be held at the Village Green Day on the Great Field on the afternoon of Saturday 22 May. Please make sure the date is in your diary for this most important event in the parish calendar.

Yarp! The Keeper of the Quill. 

**Please note that the Rutabaga Curling article is still delayed due to further legal issues requiring clarification by the Cliffhanger*

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This Body Needs Help..... Does Yours?

This article is contributed by Angela Eckles on the occasion of opening her new practice in Sherston. The Cliffhanger wishes Angela the greatest of success.

For those of us with pain, discomfort, bad posture, or just wanting to put a spring back in their step, help is now at hand! Angela Eckles has come to work at Shear Class Salon, Sherston.

She says, 'After 30 years experience using gentle and effective therapies I can say that whatever the problem, there is a way of relieving it at the very least and in most cases a complete relief of symptoms. This sometimes occurs immediately and sometimes, of course, over a period of time. Everyone is individual and I treat each person as I find them.'

I had one elderly lady come with a pain in her finger. She was quite embarrassed to ask but it was such a problem for her she was compelled to come to see if I could do anything having been referred by a friend. What did she have to lose? I balanced her body using spinal touch, then focused on the finger with polarity therapy and chatting to her at the same time. The problem was cleared completely in one session. Her life generally also changed for the better.'

Angela's own story started back in the 1970's when she was teaching. She had so much pain in hip, back and spine that she could hardly walk. Painkillers

didn't help and she was desperate. Luckily she was introduced to several people ahead of their time who worked with different light touch techniques. These tap into and trigger the body's own healing mechanisms. After the first session she was surprised to be pain-free and actually felt taller, lighter and more confident and so relaxed she was nearly asleep on the couch.

These techniques form the core of her practise today. By activating the natural healing mechanism of the body, vitality flows through muscles, blood and nerve supply improves. By releasing stress and being able to relax, the bones return to their correct position without force.

Angela says, 'I like to feel that I've helped people not only to release their pain and stress but to live up to their full potential as a human being, rather than being limited by pain or by thoughts and old beliefs about themselves that hold them back. The person feels more confident and grounded in their Being. Able to cope better with whatever is happening in their life and to live to their full potential.'

For further information please call Angela on 07947 862622 or book an appointment through Shear Class Salon on 840840. (A free 15min chat is available.)



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The Yellow-Lighted Book Festival

MAY 2010

By Hereward Corbett

'Books! At last! Now we'll get by!'

Moominmamma was delighted when, in a moment of crisis, she found a box of books. In a similar spirit, we are bringing some of the country's best and most well loved authors to Tetbury and Nailsworth. From how to encourage reading in children, to why *Howards End* was on Susan Hill's landing, via the Arctic Circle and the Antarctic postmistress, taking in Chalford Valley Park, Sutton Hoo and Avebury, cooking, eating, the Music Room, Constance Spry and the Dalai Lama, with lots more along the way! We have chosen small, beautiful venues to make sure that every event is intimate, enriching and fun – the way Festivals should be. As a result all events are ticketed. Book at our shops or online. To all our friends and customers, the Festival is a big 'thank you' for your fantastic support and custom.

Refreshments are included in the price of all tickets. Ticket holders will get 10% off all books bought during May in our shops. There is a postage fee of £2.50, but no other 'hidden' booking charges. Unwaged customers may be entitled to discounts on tickets - please ask.

As well as the events listed here, there is an education programme for local schools (thanks to Kaye Umansky, Tanya Landman, Hannah Shaw, Tracey Corduroy, Lucy Jago, Marie Louise Jensen and others). A share of any profits made will be given to two charities - The Arvon Foundation, & Common Ground (profits from the 'Make It Wild!' event will go to the Chalford Donkeys). Thank you for your support - and enjoy the Festival!

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Events

- Pie Corbett - Reading With Children
Saturday 1 May, 2.00pm, St Mary's School, Tetbury - £2.50
- Patrick Gale and Tiffany Murray
Monday 3 May, 3.00, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £7.50
- Christopher Reid - poems and poetry
Wednesday 5 May, 7.00pm, Market Hall, Tetbury - £7.50
- William Fiennes - The Music Room
Thursday 6 May, 7.00pm, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £7.50
- Alexander Norman - The Secret Lives of the Dalai Lama
Friday 7 May, 7.00pm, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £7.50
- Emma Kennedy - The Tent, The Bucket and Me
Saturday 8 May, 3.00pm, The Old Chapel at the Close Hotel, Tetbury - £7.50
- Jonathan Stedall - Where on Earth is Heaven?
Tuesday 11 May, 7.00pm, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £7.50
- Sue Shephard - The Surprising Life of Constance Spry
Wednesday 12 May, 7.00pm, Yellow-Lighted Bookshop, Tetbury - £7.50
- Jeremy Mynott - Birdscapes: Birds in Our Imagination and Experience
Thursday 13 May, 7.00pm, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £7.50
- Meg Rosoff - The Bride's Farewell
Friday 14 May, 6.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £5.00
- Fiona Danks/Jo Schofield - Make It Wild!
Saturday 15 May, 11.00, Chalford Park (Valley Corner) - £2.50
- Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall - Ministry of Food
Tuesday 18 May, 7.00pm, Market Hall, Tetbury - £7.50
- Barbara Trapido - Sex and Stravinsky
Wednesday 19 May, 7.00, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £7.50
- Sara Wheeler - Magnetic North
Thursday 20 May, 7.00pm, Market Hall, Tetbury - £7.50
- Petr Horacek - Illustration Workshop for Children
Saturday 22 May, 1.30pm, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £3.00
- John Preston and Jenni Mills - Fiction and Archaeology
Saturday 22 May, 3.00pm, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £7.50
- Rachel Hazell - A Book of One's Own: Folded Bookart Structures & pop-Up Techniques
Monday 24 May, 7.00pm, and Tuesday 25 May, 10.00am, Market Hall, Tetbury - £12.50
- Alastair Sawday - Eat Slow - with Bread & Cheese from the Abbey Home Farm
Tuesday 25 May, 7.00pm, Market Hall, Tetbury - £10.00
- Richard Bertinet - Cook
Wednesday 26 May, 7.00pm, Friends Meeting House, Nailsworth - £7.50
- Susan Hill - *Howards End* is on the Landing
Thursday 27 May, 7.00pm, Market Hall, Tetbury - £7.50
- Katie Fforde - Love Letters and A Perfect Proposal
Friday 28 May, 7.00pm, Market Hall, Tetbury - £7.50
- Fiona Eadie - Storytelling
Saturday 29 May, 2.30pm, Yellow-Lighted Bookshop, Nailsworth - Free

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Water pressure problems?

By Nic Fisher

Talking to a neighbour recently it appears that some residents of Manor Close are experiencing problems with electric showers and water pressure, especially around breakfast time. I've spent the winter rising earlier than necessary, to shower before a nominal witching hour of 6.45am. Any later and the shower will be either scaldingly hot, or stone cold, due to low pressure. It appears my next door neighbours have been doing the same, and they're aware of other residents having issues.

I've now had three different shower units in three years, and several visits from plumbers and engineers.

I'd be interested to see how widespread this problem is. If anyone else in Sherston is experiencing the same problems then please email me details nic@dpsrelocation.co.uk or drop a note through 41 Manor Close. I know that Bristol Water's contractor, Daniel, has been doing work in the area recently and, to be fair, I haven't had an issue over the school holidays, but then the problem has been less of an issue over previous holidays. Bristol Water has appealed against Ofwat's decision on how much the company can charge its customers for the next five years, as they themselves would like to impose an increase of 29% before inflation, which I find slightly galling given my problems. Have they made any local investment to take into account the additional houses built over the last few years?

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Sat 8 May	Away	Andoversford (League)	2.15pm
Sun 9 May	Home	Malmesbury	2.00pm
Sat 15 May	Home	Oakridge (League)	2.15pm
Sun 16 May	Away	Box CC	2.00pm
Thurs 20 May	Home	Rattlebone game	6.00pm
Sat 22 May	Away	NATS (League)	2.15pm
Sun 23 May		CLUB DAY	
Sat 29 May	Home	Great Rissington (League)	2.15pm
Sun 30 May	Home	Hambrook (League)	2.30pm

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Groups and Regular Events in Sherston

Holy Cross Church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade cakes
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings

Sunday services

May: 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist (16 May Family Service); 6pm Evensong (16 May Evening Holy Communion)

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: 9 May at 11am at Court House, Hullavington. Please contact Sarah Slarke on 07971 090740 for any further information

Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold Hurlers

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

'Busy Hands' Pre-school

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

Charity Bingo

In aid of a different local charity each month. Fri 21 May 7.30 for 8pm start in the village hall. 50p entry and 30p a book. Light refreshments available.

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 - 11 and 25 May. Donations to BSR expenses collected each week.

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The Old Dairy, Pinkney Park, Near Sherston
01666 840060
www.optimummobility.co.uk

Eudo Tae Kwon Do

Juniors every Tuesday at 3.15pm Sherston Primary School and Seniors Thursdays 7-9pm in the village hall.

Abby Lees-Smith 07778 326956 or www.eudotaekwondo.co.uk

Footpaths group

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

Ladies' Swimming Club

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

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wed 12 May 6.30 for 7pm at Sherston Primary School

Malmesbury Rangers

Girls over 14 years meet every 2nd Thurs in the month - 13 May. Further details from Helen Price 503187 or retreatcottage17@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 13 May at 7.30pm the village hall. Minutes of meetings can be read online at www.sherston.org.uk. Further details contact Sarah Wood on 840351 or clerk@sherston.org.uk

Patchwork & Quilting Classes

Advance notice: Patchwork and Quilting Classes to be held on the 1st Thursday of each month starting 6 May from 10am - 2pm in The British Schoolroom.

Further details from Anne Chapman on 01249 782842.

Senior Club

Meets at 2.00pm in the British School Room every other Tuesday - 4 and 18 May.

For further details contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143.

Sherston 1016

Fundraising for local good causes and charities.

For further details, contact Eric Thacker on 841344 or email eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk

Sherston Badminton Club

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

For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592



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Sherston Boules and Carnival 2010

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

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

For more details contact the chairman Tony Weedon on 841377 or dogleg@waitrose.com or secretary Caroline Moore on 841405 or caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk

Sherston FC

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

For more details contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or peter.brock666@btinternet.com

SHOCC – Sherston's Occasional Community Choir

Meets every Wednesday 7.30 – 9.30pm in the British School Room for 11 weeks 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

Children's Tennis Coaching Saturday mornings starting 24 April for 10 weeks Session 1 - 9.30am - 10.30am; Session 2 - 10.30am - 11.30am max 8 children per session £40* for 10 weeks *excluding membership. For further details contact Helen McLeish on 840992 or helen.mcleish@ukonline.co.uk

Sherston Theatre Club

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

Listings under www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/ or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or Hjquirk@aol.com

Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

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

Sherston Village Hall

Available for hire by all. Ideal for meetings, events, parties etc.

For details contact the bookings officer Julia Nichols on 840633 or julia.nichols@btinternet.com

Sherston W.I.

Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall – 6 May.

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.

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 Glead 840744 or Gwen Mason 840660.

Whist Drive

A whist drive is held in the village hall on the second Friday in the month, Fri 14 May 7.30 for 7.45pm. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. All profits to help maintain the village hall

Further details from G Mason, M Goulding and J Glead.

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.



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What's on in 2010 – Dates for your diary

May See opposite

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
Soul Destroyers in fundraising concert at
the Village Hall

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 to add the
event to this list. Everyone will then know what's
occurring in good time and it will help prevent
events clashing.

WHAT'S ON

Sherston

The Carpenter's Arms
Badminton weekend: champagne and
prosecco deals Fri 30 Apr - Mon 3 May

Curry Quiz Night Sun 2 May

Italian Night Wed 19 May

Boules pitch now open

Check boards for details of events

Further details contact 840665

The Rattlebone

Badminton weekend celebrations :

BBQ Steaks night Fri 30 Apr

Music from the Killertones with
outdoor rotisserie chicken Sat 1 May

Music from Nobody's Business and
spit roasted sirloin & pork Sun 2 May

Sunday night is pizza night Martyn's

homemade pizzas every Sunday

Check boards for details of events

Further details 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

Pedal for Props Bristol to Bordeaux Cycle Challenge & Boules Tournament

Bank Holiday Mon 3 May £15 per team of 3

Further details from Kevin Smith 07970 740389

4 day ride in aid of Props (Providing
Opportunities and Support) which
champions the inclusion of disabled young
people within the wider community

Thurs 27 May Sponsor the 9 Sherston riders at
www.justgiving.com/sherstonites

Further details contact Dave Reeves 07525

336696 or www.propsforward.org

and www.pedalforprops.org

Junior Choir Spring Praise Concert

Sun 9 May 3pm - 4pm in the British School Room

Further details contact Mary Clements

FSS Spring Fayre

In aid of Friends of Sherston School. Tombola,
cake stall, Foxley Road Plant stall, toys, Potting
shed (Oddments for the Garden), Games for the
children, nail painting and refreshments Sat 15
May 11am - 1pm at Sherston School

Village People in concert

supported by Huw Bowles' Wheels of Steel disco
and karaoke

Sat 15 May £8 Village Hall

Further details contact Dave Shephard

ds@oldbellhouse.com or 07860 448438

Sally Clayton sally.clayton@nokia.com or 840361

SHOCC Concert

Sherston Occasional Community Choir in concert

Thurs 20 and Fri 21 May 8 - 9.30pm £4 - tickets
from the Post Office

British School Room

Further details contact Nicki Heenan on 840833 or

nicki.heenan@btinternet.com or Mary Clements

Village Green Day

50 country craft stalls, rural skills demonstrations, local shops, firms and organisations with 'green' credentials as well as entertainment from the Doddington brass band and the ancient ceremony of the Making of the Mangold Maid
Sat 22 May 12 noon till 5pm Free entry Village hall & field

Further details contact Irene Johnston on 841273 or ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk

Coffee morning and bring & buy in aid of Dorothy House Hospice

Tues 25 May from 10.30am - raffle, cakes, bring and buy, plants and more
22 Easton Square

May Walk

Sunday 30 May, starting at 10am from the village hall.

Badminton Horse Trials

Fri 30 Apr - Mon 3 May from 9.30am Advance tickets: Car pass £9 (4 days £25) Entry tickets £11pp (4 days £41)
Further details contact 01454 218375 or boxoffice@badminton-horse.co.uk or www.badminton-horse.co.uk

Westonbirt

The Arboretum

International Garden Photographer Exhibition

All of May - free after admission Admission £8 adult /£7 concs/ £3 chd under 5s free

Summer Concerts - 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

Tickets on sale now for the summer concerts £30 - £38 plus booking fee online or 01842 814612

Workshops -

'Willow Structures to Support and Enhance Your Garden' Fri 7 May 10.30am - 3.30pm. Price £55 for the day - lunch not included. Phone Norah Kennedy for bookings and details - 01453 751010

'Intro to T'Ai Chi' Wed 12 May 10.30 - 3.30pm £65 book with Graham Anstey on 01225 705642

'Wattle Hurdle Making' Sat 15 - Sun 16 May £120 Tools provided Booking essential call Brian Williamson on 01453 790666

'Make a Windsor Chair' week long workshop 24 - 29 May. Booking essential call Paul Hayden on 01373 836051

Digital Photography Course - Beginners Thurs 13 May 10.30 - 3.30 £50 contact Graham Light 01285 653069

Walks: Dawn Chorus Sun 2 May 4.15 - 6.30am £5 / Canine Partners Walk Sun 9 May 11am / Midweek Wild Flower walk Wed 12 10.30am free after admission
10 K Race Mon 24 May 7.30pm Book with David

Edelstein 01285 720421

Specialist wood sales in aid of FOWA Every 2nd Sunday in the month 10am - 1pm
For further details contact 880220 or www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Westonbirt School and the Holford Trust House & Gardens

School Open Morning Sat 8 May 9.30 - 12.30

Dance and Dodgems Evening Sat 22 May More details from the school later in the month

Further details contact 880333 or for the gardens Jo

Egerton joanne_egerton@hotmail.com alternatively

www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk

and www.holfordtrust.com for the gardens

Easton Grey

Whatley Manor

Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner

'Last Chance Harvey' starring Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson Sun 23 May £38 includes 3 course lunch or dinner, film & popcorn

Further details contact 834026 or www.whatleymanor.com

Malmesbury

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society

The Emerald Ensemble

Sat 8 May 7.30pm Tickets from the Abbey or David Barton

Further details contact David Barton on 824924

Netball coaching

Sophie Warner is running a 6 week indoor course of netball for both complete beginners and those who are looking to return to the game after a break. The 1 hr sessions start on Thurs 1 Apr at 7pm at the Malmesbury Activity Zone and will be lead by a qualified netball Coach £18 for 6 sessions (which covers all costs and includes Affiliation to England Netball)

Further details contact Sophie Warner, Wiltshire Netball

Development Officer 07540 126813 or

sophie.warner@englandnetball.co.uk

Tetbury

Yellow Lighted Book Festival

Nearly a month of literary events including some well known authors such as Alastair Sawday, Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall and Katie Fforde

1 - 29 May at various locations in Tetbury Free to

£12.50. All events include refreshments and book discounts at the Yellow Lighted Book Shop 21 Church St

Further details contact 500221 or www.yellow-lightedbookfestival.co.uk

Woolsack Race

30 years of the world famous event

Mon 31 May Races start at 2pm down Gumstool Hill See website for parking.

Further details www.tetburywoolsack.co.uk

Cirencester

Air Raid Shelter Exhibition

The Living Memory Historical Association has been

running a Summer Exhibition for the past 18 years in the Air Raid Shelter of the former Memorial Hospital, Sheep Street, Cirencester. The exhibition illustrates life in the Cotswolds during the Second World War and is open from 10.30am to 4.30pm every Saturday between 5 May and 6 October. Admission is free

Castle Coombe

25th Steam and Vintage Rally

Also celebrating 20 years of Wiltshire Air Ambulance
Sat 8 10am - 6pm Sun 9 May 10am - 5pm £6 under 14s free Free parking
Further details see www.castlecombesteamrally.co.uk

Wotton-Under-Edge

The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by the community This month: **How to train your dragon**; **Nanny McPhee & The Big Bang**; **Samson & Delilah**; **Shutter Island**; **Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory**; **Death in Venice**; **Clash of the Titans**; **One Night In Turin**; **Lourdes**; **Robin Hood** - check website for details
Further details contact 01453 844601 or www.wottoneph.co.uk

Kemble Great Vintage Flying weekend at Kemble airfield

Sat 8 and Sun 9 May Airfield open to the public from 1pm, flights start at 2pm £8 in advance online or from Malmesbury & Tetbury Tourist Information Centres £10 on the day *Further details contact or www.gvfive.co.uk*

Nailsworth 27th Arts Festival

Full festival programme on line including music, story telling, poetry, workshops, exhibitions and walks 22 - 30 May
Further details contact 01453 839222 or Town Information Centre, Fountain Street or www.nailsworthfestival.org.uk

Corsham

The Pound, Corsham

Theatre: **Goodbye Mrs Chips** by the Ministry of Entertainment Sat 1 May 7.30pm £9; **Poppy Wild's Magical Machine** (interactive story telling and puppetry) Sat 29 May 4pm £6 or £20 for family ticket
Music: **Brejeiro from South America** Sat 8 May 7.30pm £10
Further details contact Box Office 01249 701628 or www.poundarts.org.uk

Bath

Theatre Royal

Pirates of Penzance 4-8 May 7.30/8pm mat 2.30pm £12.50-£35
Wife After Death 10-15 May 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35
Woman In Black 17-22 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35
The Vagina Monologues 24 - 29 May 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35
Oklahoma! 31 May - 5 June
One night only: **Ruby Wax** Sun 30 May and **Sing along a Sound of Music** Sun 6 June
Further details contact 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Spring 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

Fringe Festival

till 7 June Alternative comedy, dance, jazz, music and art including 'Affordable Art', Spoken Word, Digital Arts & Media, Standup Comedy, Cabaret, Physical Theatre, Circus Arts, Folk & World Music, Latin Dance, Jazz, at various locations in Bath. Vary from free to £15
Further details contact 01225 463362 or www.bathfringe.co.uk

International Dance Festival

From Strictly Dancing celebrities to Bathampton's Morris Men 1-3 May Various locations in Bath
Further details contact 01225 463362 or www.bathdancefest.org.uk

Bath International MusicFest

Festival celebrating the world's best jazz, classical, folk and world music - featuring Martha Reeves and the Vandellas; Booker T and Eddi Reader, and Handel's **Israrel in Egypt** in the Roman Baths and English National Ballet and Orchestra 26 May - 6 June Various locations in Bath
Further details contact 01225 463362 or www.bathmusicfest.org.uk

Cheltenham

Jazz Festival

Varied programme of talks and events featuring all types of jazz including Jamie Cullum, John Scofield, Paloma Faith
28 Apr - 3 May Various locations in Cheltenham
Further details contact 0844 576 7979 or www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz/

84th Festival of Performing Arts

5-16 May Dance, music, speech & drama Town Hall
Further details contact or www.cheltfest.webeden.co.uk

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