



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MAY 2011

DELIVERED FREE

To the glory of God

by Roger Whitehouse



After a long hard winter the sun is finally out and doesn't our church look magnificent? With its new roof and bright shiny clock and weather vanes and cockerel the venerable old lady looks set to face the next 130 years at the centre of our village community.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Eleanor Barton Trust of £150,000, we were faced with a shortfall of approx £40,000 to complete the tower roof and the chancel roof whilst the contractors were on site.

From the start of our somewhat daunting task of raising the £40,000, to closing the appeal took just three months, due entirely to the imaginative and, at times, inspired Fund raising committee. I think it is only right to name and thank those individuals.

Chair: Phil Williams, Treasurer: John Smith, Secretary: Helen Price, Fabric committee chair: Roger Whitehouse, Committee members; Dr. Pam Pickthall, Mrs. Mary Edwards and Nigel Freeth.

It is fair to say that we all felt humbled by the overwhelming generosity and goodwill to our much loved and cherished church. Our sincere thanks go to all who donated. Many of you bought a tile with your own inscription and they now sit proudly on the new roof.

Our thanks must also go the roofing contractor, Mr Jonathan Adye of Grove Road Sherston, and his

excellent team of tradesmen, notably Andy and Shaun. They have all been discreet and respectful in going about their business and the quality of their workmanship will stand as testimony to their skill.

The joint complimentary skills of John Smith and Roger Whitehouse ensured that the contract came in on budget and (almost) on time.

As with any new venture the lasting success is down to good maintenance practice. We, along with every church, are always looking for volunteers in all aspects of maintaining the church. What about helping with the 'living Churchyard' or repairing the seemingly endless stone boundary wall? After all, we don't own it, we are merely custodians for future generations, and who wouldn't want their son or daughter baptized and married in this special place?

HRH Prince Charles leaving the Service of Re-dedication held on 1 May. More pictures and full article in next month's Cliffhanger. Pic-Caroline Moore.



Save our crayfish

On Monday 9 May at 7.30 pm in the village hall Maddy Rees of the South West Crayfish Project based at Bristol Zoo will be giving an illustrated talk on our native crayfish. Find out what is being done to save them from extinction and how you can help ensure this with some practical advice when out enjoying our local rivers. All are invited to this free event and refreshments will be available.



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 950 copies. This and all previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

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Free frolicking for all

by Irene Johnston

On Sunday 5 June, why not make your way to Grove Wood to enjoy Sherston's first 'Woodland Frolic'? Unless you're new here, you'll hopefully know that volunteers have been working hard for two years to improve the wood for the enjoyment of everyone in the village. We want to show off what's been happening so are devising a fun day for the whole family.

Conveniently, the 5 June falls (just) within National Family Week, the UK's largest annual celebration of families and family life. One of the aims is to encourage families to spend more time together so we're making sure the event will give all ages something to enjoy.

There are now steps up to the new perimeter path around Grove Wood, making walking considerably less hazardous than it was in the past. There will be wild flowers and other flora to see now that more light can penetrate the parts of the wood that have been coppiced. You'll be able to see the young trees from the Sherston School tree nursery that the children and their parents have planted, one name-plated tree for each child.

We're also creating a special 'child-friendly' competition to encourage them to spot things as they go round and there will be prizes for the winners. A bit like last year's Boules Treasure Hunt but with subtle differences.

For those who might find the trek too much of a training exercise, we're laying on demonstrations of country crafts and skills in the field at the entrance to the wood. These will include Adrian whose bushman skills proved so popular with tots and teens at last year's Village Green and Boules Days. And to round it all off, we'd like everyone to bring a family picnic so you can relax and not have to rush off to get lunch ready.

Sherston's Woodland Frolic' for families, volunteers and friends will be held between 12 noon and 4pm on Sunday 5 June.

National Family Week is also part of the new website www.familytime.co.uk, a one stop destination for families with children of all ages. The site will provide families with valuable information on what to do and where to go together in their local area and beyond. Plus with the Family Value Club there will be great money saving offers for families to save money. In 2010, National Family Week saw over 5,000 events take place all over the country.

Further information from Sherston's Tree Warden, Irene Johnston on 841273, email: Ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk or Deputy Tree Warden, Sue McKechnie on 840601, email: suemckechnie@hotmail.com

Sherston W.I.

by Ann Wilcox.

Sherston W.I. met in the British Schoolroom for their April meeting.

President Sheila Harris welcomed several members who had recently been unwell and also a former member as a visitor.

She then introduced the speaker Ronald Veazey whose topic was 'World of the Great Whales.' He is a member of the W.D.C.S.(Whales, Dolphins, Cetacean Society) whose base is in Chippenham. Their aim is to educate the general public about cetaceans and show how we can mitigate threats to this species. With the help of a slide show he gave us a very comprehensive talk about the great variety of these creatures found in the seas around the UK. He gave us more detail about the Sperm whale telling us about their feeding habits, breathing and communication skills. He also explained the threat and protection needed worldwide which should come from better understanding of these wonderful creatures. Helen Quirk thanked him for a most informative talk.

After refreshments some business was done. The recent Jumble sale had been a success and thanks were given for contributors and to helpers. Two members will be attending a Scrabble day organised by the Federation. A visit to Lea W.I. will be made on 10 May for their Open Evening for a talk on 'Wiltshire connections with the Titanic.' Several outings and visits are being arranged for the summer months.

Our next meeting will be a discussion on the Resolutions put forward for the National A.G.M. There will be some light entertainment afterwards.

Clem's Club

Will meet every other Tuesday again. All friendly fellas welcome for simple char and chat. 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Alternating with the Senior Club in the British Schoolroom, Cliff Road on 10 and 24 May.



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Sounds and Moves from India come to Sherston

The WOMAD Foundation in association with Wiltshire Community Arts will be bringing a fantastic performance and workshop experience to Sherston this summer. The Dhol Foundation and Bhangra dancers will be performing in Sherston Village Hall on Wednesday 13 July.

In addition to the Malmesbury artist residency in local schools, leading to the annual schools performance at the WOMAD Festival, Sherston is one of two local communities selected for the experience of performances and workshops with The Dhol Foundation. This dynamic group of young artists are just back from a highly successful programme of work in schools and universities as part of our WOMAD Abu Dhabi festival.

The WOMAD Foundation is delighted to be able to extend this opportunity to the wider community of Malmesbury. The village concerts are a new addition to the outreach and education work delivered by the WOMAD Foundation, which has been providing world-class cultural and musical links for hundreds of youngsters in the Malmesbury area over the last four years.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear the powerful rhythms of the Dhol drums and experience the uplifting spirit of Bhangra dance.

Performance: 7.30pm to 8.00pm, workshop (open to all ages and abilities): 8.15pm to 9.15pm

Tickets for the Sherston performance will be on sale in early June from Sherston Post Office Stores Adults £5 and Concessions: £3 (OAPs and under 16).



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Thank you



The Jammytarts would like to say a great big Thank You to the kind people of Sherston, we raised a wonderful £235 at our Cream tea on Saturday 16 April and had so many cake donations as well we had enough to set up at the Sunday papers where another amazing £100 was donated.

By the time you read this we will only have a week or so to go until the big night (and will hopefully have decorated our bras)! We shall give you an update of how we got on next month.

If you would like to donate you can do so online at <http://www.justgiving.com/jammytarts> where all the money goes to Breast Cancer research.

Thank you again Kristy, Ann, Kirstie and Jo.

Police News

PC Steve Humphries

My colleague PCSO Durry Maule and I have continued to try to patrol Sherston and other villages as much as possible this year after it was agreed at the Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership meeting in January that high visibility patrolling should be our priority.

We complement this with advertised quarterly street meetings throughout the year (the next one is on Tuesday 24 May in the High Street 2.30 to 3.30pm).

A matter of great local interest is the ongoing misuse of the Fosseway at Easton Grey at the river crossing where a site of historical interest seems to have turned into a playground for a minority of off road type enthusiasts. Although not in the Parish, Sherston council has written a letter of support to a multi agency meeting which I attended at County Hall in March and at last various organisations are pulling together to end this destruction. This means for the next three months I have to prioritise my resources in preventing further antisocial behaviour there rather than high visibility patrolling for this short length of time.

You may also recall problems were reported outside the school with parking during school hours. I have had no further complaints so far this year and either it has resolved itself to the satisfaction of all or people are not reporting it for whatever reason. If you feel the Police should be dealing with something then please report it - I cannot deal with something if I don't know about it.

Finally, a happy(ish) ending to a local Police enquiry - in Mid March a local resident in The Tarters found a jewellery box and contents in undergrowth. There was no clue to its ownership bar a card which read 'To Mum...love Andrew and Caroline' After a lot of enquiries and an article in the press we have traced the owners - the elderly parents of 'Andrew and Caroline' - who live in Tetbury and were burgled in February. I have returned the items found which perhaps were not of great financial value but obviously sentimentally priceless to the victims.

If you have any comments about this article or any other Police matter please contact us, either on 0845 408 7000 (ask to be put through to either Durry or myself) or better still (as we try to be out working in the community as much as we can) email us on malmesburyruralnpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk. We pledge to try to answer all emails within 24 hours of receipt.

Looking forward to hearing from you about matters that concern you.

Boules Day Car Parking

To avoid the issues that arose last year as a result of the increased numbers of visitors to the event, it is proposed to operate three car parks this year – the Recreation Ground, the Sportsfield and Stretchline.

The Recreation Ground will be available to residents, stall holders and disabled visitors only and, as usual, we would kindly ask that residents move their cars from the centre of the village the night before, so that pitches can be set up in the High Street from 6.30am on the Saturday and the road diversion put in place.

Permits will be issued for residents to park on the Recreation Ground nearer the time, so they can come and go during the day in the safe knowledge they will be able to re-park on their return.

The Sportsfield at Knockdown Road and Stretchline at Brook Hill will be for visitors' car parking. The Boules & Carnival committee are most grateful to Stretchline for making their car park available.

Footpaths

The group's next meeting is on Wednesday 18 May at 7.30 pm in the village hall when the planning of a new local route from Sherston to Norton will be discussed as well as tasks for the working party to improve rights of way over the summer months. If you'd like to get involved or just learn more about the group please come along. Alternatively contact Maggie McKenna via email maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com or on 841047

Progress on the Malmesbury to Sherston and Luckington walk scheme is going well and the next meeting of the project group will be held at Malmesbury Town Hall on Wednesday at 7.30 pm. If you can't make the meeting Sue McKechnie will be pleased to give you more information by contacting her on 840601 or email suemckechnie@hotmail.com

Village hall 300+ club

March draw

1st	£12	228	J Welch
2nd	£11	308	C Marshall
3rd	£10	171	M Hibbard
4th	£9	289	Jeremy Howe
5th	£8	21	Roger Whitehouse
6th	£7	139	Jill Bowyer
7th	£6	77	Caroline Andrews
8th	£5	31	Jill Ashley

Bonus of £5 to non winners

14	Mary Goulding
266	C Robinson
142	Diane Bush, Manor Close
316	Stan Bunce
326	Paul Robins
311	David Gibson
191	W Maslen

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

Sherston 1016



The collection for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance over the Badminton weekend at Easter raised over £1800 which is a record by quite a margin. Enormous thanks are due to not only all those who gave so generously but also to all those hostellers which allowed the collection to take place on their premises at such a busy time. Special thanks also to Sherston Post Office Stores for their support in agreeing to a collection outside the shop on the Saturday which was very well supported.

Wiltshire Council Arts Project Grants Scheme 2011/12

The Wiltshire Council Arts Project Grant Scheme is open to all voluntary and community organisations (not individuals) wishing to provide arts projects in Wiltshire. Arts projects can cover a wide range of creative opportunities, including visual arts, crafts, media and digital forms, literature and performing arts. The scheme aims to support the vibrant Wiltshire arts sector.

The total 2011/12 budget available is £6,000 which will be allocated in 2 rounds. We aim to allocate 50% of the budget in each round. The first deadline is Friday 6 May and the Autumn deadline will be Friday 30 September. Further information can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/artsheritageandlibraries/artsandgalleries/artsprojectgrants.htm

We invite you to SHERSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Congregational) CLIFF ROAD

On any of the following Sundays in MAY at 11.00am.

1st - Service led by Barry Emerton. 8th - Service led by members.
15th - Communion Serv. 22nd - Jonathan Brain of Operation Mobilisation.
29th - Praise Service.



"I heard every creature.... Singing."

Revelations 5 v.13

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Are you are a mother/father looking for entertainment for your babies/small children during the week?

Then toddle along to the Sherston Scout hut on Tuesday mornings at 10.00-11.30am. We have toys for all stages from wrigglers to toddlers, craft activities, music and snacks for all, not to mention a much-needed cup of tea/coffee for the deserving parent.

A great way to meet other Mums/Dads and for your children to make little friends and burn off some energy!

For more information, contact: SherstonToddlers@gmail.com, Gemma Bird on 840570 or Lara Farahar on 840228.



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Sherston Fete and Open Gardens

The Fete will take place on Saturday 25 June in and around the Church, starting at 2.00pm. Teas will be served and there will be stalls and children's activities. Anyone who would like to run a stall, make cakes, donate a prize or anything to sell, or help in any way, please get in touch.

We have a good selection of gardens, large and small, which will be open from 1.00pm to 5.00pm on Saturday and 2.00pm to 5.00pm on Sunday. If you would like to open your garden on one or both days, we would like to hear from you.

Contact – Heather Martin 840375 or Pat Whitehouse 840640. More details next month.

New on-line photo gallery for Sherston

Keen photographers are being invited to join a new Sherston Flickr group. It is hoped that a really good collection of photographs of Sherston and its community will be created. Please go to www.flickr.com/groups/sherstonvillage/ where you can join the group and upload your images.

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TREEtalk

MAY 2011

by Irene Johnston

As the best part of the year for outdoor activity is getting started, work in Grove Wood is just about finished until autumn. There have been regular updates in TREEtalk in recent months (thank you, Sue, for your hard work) and our volunteers can be proud of their efforts in the 'Riverside' middle section. What is so striking now is the contrast between it and Mill End where we laboured last year. The first section is a riot of colour, particularly along the top edge with lots of bluebells flowering alongside yellow celandine and white anemones. If anyone wants visible proof of the merits of coppicing (cutting down hard), then here it is. The hazels are producing new growth and the extra light has encouraged long dormant flora.

Martin is delighted that the wild daffodils he planted in rock-hard ground late last year at great personal expense to his muscles and two trowels have repaid his efforts by bursting forth. Bag loads of snowdrops were also planted recently together with some 400 winter aconites.

It's nice to see that all the Sherston School trees are now in their final positions and the children can be justly proud of their planting efforts. What a great idea that each child has 'ownership' of one tree and can keep an eye on its progress over the years.

As for the Payback team, they have worked incredibly hard to lay the vast majority of the woodland path with our volunteers finishing the job with the last of the mulching. We think it looks like something of which the National Trust would be proud! The

memory of Ron Shortridge is preserved by the recent planting of a wild cherry tree on the river bank at the end of the wood. It will be followed soon by a rustic bench that has also been commissioned by Sue, Mike and the rest of his family.



Finally, the new Kissing Gate at Brook Hill, installed by Noel Banks, our Cotswold Warden and his team, is encouraging more people to visit the wood. The grass is beginning to wear thin on the path to the wooden bridge! There will be a great opportunity to see more at the Woodland Frolic for families on Sunday 5 June, of which details are on page two. Please come along with your picnics to see what our volunteers have achieved in less than two years.

More information from Sherston's Tree Warden, Irene Johnston on 841273 or ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk or Deputy Tree Warden, Sue McKechnie, on 840601 or suemckechnie@hotmail.com

May walk with Sue

As a precursor to the proposed walks booklet that links Malmesbury with Norton, Sherston, Luckington, Alderton, Easton Grey and Foxley Sue McKechnie will be leading a walk on Sunday 8 May covering the northern part of this route. We will leave from the Vine Tree in Norton at 11.00am. The walk will be circular going from Norton to Malmesbury via Rights of Way footpaths and bridleways, a short lunch stop in Malmesbury then back on a different route to Norton. Each half is about 4 1/2 miles, and will probably take about 2 hours each. For those who wish only to do the first part there will be transport available back to Norton and Sherston from Malmesbury Town Hall. For those doing the second part either bring a picnic lunch or visit a pub or cafe. The ground is mainly flat; there are a few stiles to climb over. The unique view of Malmesbury and the Abbey will make it all worthwhile. Dogs on leads are welcome. Stout

footwear recommended.

Transport will be provided from Sherston Village Hall to Norton at 10.40am, back from Malmesbury at 1.15 pm to Norton and Sherston and from Norton to Sherston at about 4.00pm. Please do not park at The Vine Tree unless you intend to be a customer on return. Lunch served until 3.15pm.

Dave Reeves of the charity PROPS is very kindly providing transport in their minibus. Donations to the charity would be much appreciated to offset the expenses, collection box provided on the bus. For more information on this charity, which provides opportunity and support to children and young people with physical and learning difficulties, go to www.propsforward.org

If you require transport please could you email or phone Sue to make sure there is enough provision. Her email is suemckechnie@hotmail.com phone 840610.

Church Concert - Music for Awhile

Music lovers are in for a real treat at 7.30pm on Friday 3 June in Sherston church

Margaret Faultess and Simon Whistler founded Music for Awhile in 1996, bringing together musicians of international standing to perform Baroque music on original instruments. Since then, the ensemble has given nearly one hundred performances, sometimes expanding to form a large orchestra and it has played in venues such as Westminster Abbey, Exeter, Gloucester, Hereford, and Bristol Cathedrals.

Margaret Faultess is the artistic director of Music for Awhile and is co-leader of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, with whom she has performed at the Tetbury Festival. For the last few years she has led the orchestra at the annual performance of the Messiah in Tetbury church. She has directed the Britten-Pears Baroque, the European Union Baroque Orchestra, the Jerusalem Baroque Orchestra and in 2008 was in Moscow with Vladimir Jurowski to lead the Russian National Orchestra. She is Director of Performance studies at the Cambridge university music faculty.

Nicholas Mulroy has also performed as a soloist in the Messiah in Tetbury church, in the

Three Choirs festival (to outstanding reviews), at Glyndebourne and extensively overseas. For some years now, the Cecil King Memorial Foundation has sponsored Music for Awhile to give concerts of Bach in churches to raise funds for the fabrics of these buildings.

The programme will include arias for tenor and obligato instruments from Bach's secular and sacred cantatas, including from the Hercules cantata and Phoebus & Pan. Bach sonata for violin and harpsichord, CPE Bach oboe sonata, Handel trio sonata, a Bach solo cello suite.

Generous sponsorship by the Cecil King Memorial Foundation enables ticket sale proceeds to benefit the church fabric fund.

Tickets £15 (to include programme and interval drinks) from:

Sherston Post Office or Mrs J Barker, 7 High St, Sherston, SN16 0LH Tel. 840469 or Mrs H Martin, Yew Tree House, Cliff Rd, Sherston, SN16 0LN Tel. 840375. Please enclose SAE. Cheques payable to Sherston Church PCC.

Flowers, Coffee And Music

It's been almost a year now since Stanton St Quintin Church formed a committee to stage a Flower Festival as part of the Cotswolds Churches Festival. Ladies from Sherston will be helping with arranging the flowers to the theme 'All things bright and beautiful'.

From Friday 20 May until Sunday 22 May, the church will be open daily from 9.30am to 8.00pm, serving morning coffee and afternoon teas.

On Friday 7.30pm to 9.00pm there will be a Local Talent Concert and at the 9.30am Family Service, the Bishop of Swindon will be visiting.

Stanton extends a very warm welcome to our friends in Sherston and surrounding villages.

Sherston Arts Festival – Opportunities to take part

The Arts Festival will take place 7-16 October. There will be lots of ways to be involved – taking photographs for the Photography Exhibition, making a scarecrow for the Trail, producing paintings for the Art Exhibition, helping to steward the events during the week. We are also looking for musicians – for our Young Musicians Concert in the Village Hall and also local musicians (adults and older teenagers) who are prepared to participate in a diverse concert in the Church.

For further information please contact Heather Martin 840375



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Malmesbury Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild

In April a very interesting talk was given by Bailey Curtis on the making of hand dyed felting. She returns for our Saturday Workshop on 14 May to guide us on 'Creating Felt'. It is a fascinating process. The workshop is suitable for beginners of all ages and is open to non members. The cost is £25 with a small charge for materials. 10.00am to 4.00pm at Little Somerford Village Hall. For booking and further information please phone Ruth Vaughan 826597.

Looking to pick up some bargains? Come along to our ...

Sherston Busy Hands and Sherston Baby and Toddler Group 'Bump to Kids' Table Top Sale.

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Labours of Love – an Exhibition at Hookshouse

Saturday 28 May to Sunday 5 June 11.00am to 6.00pm daily

Do make sure to find the time to visit this exhibition during the week. There is a wide variety of art and craftwork on show, from paintings to pots and including the textile work of Sherston's Heather Martin and Hector Cole, artist blacksmith from Great Somerford. There is also jewellery and glass and outdoors there are sculptures in the garden, open under the National Gardens Scheme.

Outdoor Theatre at Hookshouse

Sunday 3 July at 7.00pm The Pantaloons present The Canterbury Tales. Garden open from 5.30pm, picnics welcome. £10 booked in advance, £12.50 on the day. Book by phone 880297 or email hookshouse@hotmail.co.uk

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1st Sherston John Rattlebone Scout Group



If you have bought a Sherston village calendar, for the month of April, you would have been looking at an old and new photograph of the Scout Troop. In 1950, the Scout Troop was reformed but it was not formally reconstituted and registered with the Scout Association at 25 Buckingham Palace Road until 1951. The photo in the calendar is dated 1952 and we still have the original flag in our stores.

So this year we celebrate our official diamond jubilee, and we will be pleased to welcome any old members of the group, or those who have had a close association with the group to visit us from 7 pm on the evening of Saturday 14 May when we will be at camp at Grid ref 860855 (on Mr Hillier's southern field). If possible, please let us know beforehand that you will be coming.

Scouting Awards Success

Two of our Scouts were awarded their Chief Scouts Gold Award at a short ceremony in the Hut at the end of last term. The Gold Award is a significant achievement which requires sustained effort over a number of years, completing a variety of challenges and tasks in the Scout Training Programme. The awards were presented to Peter Evans and Nikki Hargreaves by their Scout Leader, Mark Sparrow. Mark was very pleased to announce that not only was Nikki the youngest Scout so far to have gained the Chief Scouts Award in our Troop, but that she was the first girl. At the same ceremony James Bowles, James Skeldon and Oliver Quaddy were invested as new Scouts and Adam Tappin and Isaac Sneddon Jenkins received their Chief Scouts Silver Award which they had gained as Cubs. Well done to all of our young members!

At the same time as the Troop welcomed its newest members, Mark Sparrow and Phil Outlaw, stood down as Scout Leader and Assistant Scout Leader. After many years' loyal service, other pressures mean that they are taking a well earned break. Marking the occasion, they were each presented with an engraved campfire mug as a token of our appreciation for all their hard work. The Scout Troop is in a very strong position, we have a full membership, excellent facilities an active programme and a very urgent need to find some leaders. If you want to support the development of our young people, please consider getting involved, and contact Anthony Price on 840041 for more details.

AGM

Please note the date of our AGM which will be on Tuesday 24 May at 7.30pm in the Scout Hut. This is not just for parents of existing Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts, but also for those whose names are on our waiting lists. Being involved now will help to ensure that there is a Scout Group in existence in the years to come.

Cotswold Churches Festival –Teas at Holy Cross Church

by Sue Robinson, Churchwarden, Tel. 841263

The Cotswold Churches Festival, which is taking place between 14 and 22 May, is an initiative by the Diocese of Oxford to encourage churches in the Cotswolds to open up to visitors. If you go to the website www.cotswoldchurchesfestival.org you can find information about all the churches which can be visited during this week, many of which are putting on special events.

In Sherston our church is already open every day and people come in regularly, but we have registered with the website and hope to be receiving extra visitors during the Festival. On Sunday 15 May we will be serving teas in church from 2pm-5pm.

If you have not already had a chance to come and look at the new roof and freshly renovated clock and weathervanes this could be your chance to do so. Stanton St. Quintin church is holding a Flower Festival from 20 to 22 May as part of this Festival, so why not visit both churches?

Boules at the Bull

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

There is a doubles tournament on Sunday 26 June. If you would like to enter please contact Sue McKechnie on 840601 or email suemckechnie@hotmail.com.



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Christian Aid Week 15-22 May 2011

by Sue Robinson, Churchwarden, Tel. 841263

Seven Days One Goal – An End to Poverty
A final reminder to everyone that Christian Aid Week takes place this month. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to go door-to-door collecting during the week and to all of you who will make a contribution to improve the lives of people living in poverty. If you do not get an envelope through your door you can still give during the week by contacting any of the Gauzebrook Group churches.

Need a refurbished electric cooker, washing machine or fridge, or are you about to replace yours?

You may be able to support us.

Thanks to the Devizes based charity Refurbiz, more than 7,000 low income families in Wiltshire have benefited from quality refurbished white goods at prices they can afford. But now the charity's inward flow of donated items is in need of a boost to help meet demand.

'With people hanging on to their old models and machines for longer we are becoming increasingly in need of unwanted, free standing electric cookers, washing machines, dryers and fridges. We simply can't meet the demand we now have for them, and as the economic recovery slows down, so more people will find themselves in difficulties, and the demand is only going to go higher,' says Trustee Ken Brown.

'We have only been able to supply about 7% of the demand, and the greatest need is for electric cookers and fridges – as soon as they get into our showroom, they are snapped up,' says Ken.

If you have any electrical white goods you no longer want, and wish to donate, you can help a local household in need by contacting Refurbiz on 01380 720200.

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Wiltshire Probation Trust The Country's Best

Wiltshire Probation Trust is the best manager of offenders in the country according to the latest inspection report issued by the national Inspectorate of Probation.

The inspection, which covers all 35 probation trusts in England and Wales, looks at three key areas: how well offenders are controlled to make sure the public are kept safe, whether they received effective punishment for their crimes and lastly how well they help offenders to change their behaviour.



Carol McMullan and Anna Beddis, pictured left, celebrate Wiltshire Probation Trust 'Winning the Challenge'.

Not only were Wiltshire Probation top overall, with a combined score of 81%, they also they got the country's highest ratings in each of the three assessment areas.

They scored 81% for 'Control' of offenders (compared to the national average of 72%); 85% for 'Punishment' (national average of 79%) and 78% for Help and Change of offenders (national average of 71%).

Funding Advice Day for Community Groups – 14 May 2011

Fit for Funding - Finance Management & Governance Saturday 14 May, 10.00am - 4.00pm
Landsdowne Hall, Derry Hill SN11 9QY.

Two workshops will be run both in the morning and afternoon:

Financial Management for community groups.

Good Governance for community groups.

This event will ensure your group knows what funders, and charity law, expect of you and provide an opportunity to learn how to manage your group and your money effectively. Find out more here.

The first session of this series of three was oversubscribed so please book early.

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Proposed service Relocation



Post Office® Sherston branch 1 High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LH

An opportunity has arisen to move this branch into nearby larger, more modern premises, which will offer improved facilities to our customers. We are therefore proposing to move this Post Office into the old school building where it will operate alongside the local village shop.

Why are we moving this Post Office® service?

Our top priority is to maintain Post Office® services to our customers and the relocation of Sherston branch provides the best possible option to secure the future of Post Office® services in this area in the longer term.


We want to hear from you

There will be a six week consultation period to enable input from you and your local community representatives. Any feedback received will be carefully reviewed, as we finalise our plans for the relocation. A leaflet is available on site with further information. Please note 08 June 2011 is the closing date for all enquiries and comments.

What is the next stage?


We will communicate our final plan, following the end of consultation and after careful consideration of any feedback received.

Details of the new service:




Sherston branch, The Old School, High Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LH


Opening times	
Mon	09:00 - 18:00
Tues	09:00 - 18:00
Weds	09:00 - 18:00
Thurs	09:00 - 18:00
Fri	09:00 - 18:00
Sat	09:00 - 13:00
Sun	Closed




Services
The same range of services will continue to be available. Customers can still collect benefits in cash using our everyday banking services or Post Office card account.



Transport
Roadside parking is available outside the premises.



Access and facilities
The premises will have access via a ramp, with a wide door. Internally, there will be a low-level serving counter, a low-level writing desk, a hearing loop and space for a wheelchair.



Route
These premises are located approximately 35 yards away from the current service, along level terrain.

How to contact us

Please write to:
✉ Neil F Jenkins
Field Change Advisor
Post Office Limited
C/o National Consultation Team
PO Box 2060
WATFORD
WD18 8ZW

✉ consultation@postoffice.co.uk

For further information contact:

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Old School news

Within a couple of weeks following the circulation of the Cliffhanger's Old School special edition, over a hundred people had applied for membership of Sherston Old School Community Interest Company (SOSCIC). These applications were approved at a meeting of the Board of Directors on 19 April, and certificates of membership have now been issued.

With the splendid flood of membership applications, SOSCIC is off to a flying start. The Board intends to call a meeting some time in June to update members on progress. Details should be in the June Cliffhanger.

The Board is now busy overseeing the preparation of a detailed specification of building works, with a view to going out to tender some time in May. This is something that could not be done before SOSCIC gained possession of the premises.

Behind the Old School building there is a mobile classroom that is going begging. Is there anyone out there who can envisage a use for it and would be prepared to arrange its removal?

Over the coming months there will be a number of ways in which members may be able to provide voluntary work to help the Old School project along. At the present time what's needed is help with the launch of a fundraising campaign.

If you think you might give a home to a mobile classroom, or if you might be prepared to serve on a small fundraising group, please ring Geoff Martin, the SOSCIC company secretary, on 840375, or email soscic@geoffmartin.plus.com

Boules & Carnival

It's not long now until July so if you want to have a stall at the 2011 event don't delay as these are increasingly popular with many stallholders returning year after year and they are strictly limited in number. If you're interested in taking a stall contact Sharon Doyle on 841233 email sharon.doyle@sjpg.co.uk Stalls are £40 for businesses £20 for charities or voluntary groups.

This year on Sunday 10 July there will be a new event – the Carnival Boot. With gates opening at 8am on the Recreation ground this will be an ideal opportunity for all you car boot enthusiasts be you sellers or buyers. Pitches are £10 on the day or £5 in advance. To book please contact Cilla Liddington on 840128 or email sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk

Green Lane slow down

Residents in the Green Lane area are concerned with the speed of vehicles, especially at the junction with Sandpits Lane where there is no pavement. Could drivers please treat this area with great caution especially as it is much used as a walking route to school.

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Congratulations Sherston ! On This, Your 20th Year Of.....

by Mary Clements

This press photo, taken in our second year, shows the enthusiastic generosity which has characterized the campaign every November for twenty years! Some of our greatest supporters throughout have been the children of Sherston Primary School led by Mr. Bowditch, (who is also in his 20th year here) – Then there are all the volunteers

A Celebratory Exhibition on Boules Day has been suggested so we wish to collect as many photos and memorabilia as possible. Much must have accumulated in the village over the years, both personal and public. Do you have pictures taken at the High Street, 'Send-Offs' or school events, or photos taken in the British Schoolroom Checking Depot? Just put your name and phone no. on the back of each, place in an envelope labelled 'For OCC', then hand them in at the Post Office (by kind permission,) all will be returned. Please do search those attics, Sherston has good reason to be proud, - let's find as much as we can.

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Is pleased to announce the opening of an exclusive brand new 1 to 1 Personal Training and Power Plate studio, located in beautiful surroundings at Pinkney Park.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



SUPERSTAR Michael Jackson has given £5,000 to help cover the costs of the Operation Christmas Child convoy of lorries laden with gifts for orphans in Romania, which left Sherston, near Malmesbury, last Friday.

The gift from the American pop idol gave a much-needed boost to the Wrexham-based charity which had been forced to cut the number of lorries in the planned convoy by half because of shortage of money for fuel.

Michael Jackson's contribution means that a second convoy will now be able to leave for Romania after Christmas.

Sherston was the final stopping off point for the drivers before leaving on their long journey east. They had lunch at the school with staff and parents and told the children just how much their gifts were appreciated in Romania, based on the experience of previous years.

The convoy and its drivers received a blessing from the Rev Hugh Thompson Glover during a brief service in the school hall and were given a rousing send-off by the children and other residents of Sherston plus a coachload of pupils from Grittleton House School, who had been driven over specially for the occasion.

Operation Christmas Child volunteers will be featured in the children's news programme *Newsround* at 5pm, Friday, and also in *Songs of Praise* to be broadcast on December 27.

● In the picture — Sherston School pupils, Alexander Pattie (10), Elizabeth Ward (9), Katherine Knight (10) and Katherine Thompson (9), hand over more gifts to lorry driver Larry Hunt as the convoy of trucks prepared to leave Sherston laden with gifts and supplies for the Christmas Child appeal for children in Romania. SR/92/3280

Sherston Drama Group

Spring play and variety evening

On Friday 15 and Saturday 16 April, audiences enjoyed Sherston Drama Group's latest production in a relaxed Village Hall atmosphere. Nick Hall's romantic comedy *Pastiche* provided an opportunity for the Group's character actors to show off their skills and keep the audience laughing. Clive Renton was a suitably inhibited aristocrat, Maggie Instrell his apparently laid-back wife who was able to turn into a make-believe Welsh Salvation Army Officer to save her marriage. Andi Hunte exploited his facial dexterity and skill with accents as the butler and Sue Ormiston was utterly convincing as the young dippy chorus girl. Richard Skeffington and Richard Warren directed.

The first half of the show consisted of short numbers displaying the varied talents from Sherston and around. Some of last year's pantomime chorus reprised two of their dances – watch out for them this Autumn! Graham Instrell donned the white lab coat and naval officer's cap to give his ever-popular rendition of Ernie – the fastest milkman... Charles Price upped the cultural stakes with a sparkling scene from *A Comedy of Errors*. A highlight was 9-year old Maddie Perry who not only sang *My Favourite Things* but discovered an unexpected talent for playing the didgeridoo. Rod Moyse played guitar, and Kim Hunte, Katie and Richard Skeffington, Graham Instrell, Richard Warren and some brave members of the audience entertained with sketches. Finally, Richard Warren spread a little happiness over the audience.

The next production is the pantomime in October. Watch out for details of auditions and readings. If you want to get involved in the Drama Group, contact us by phone or email:

Richard Skeffington (Chairman)
richard.skeffington@virgin.net Tel. 840092
Graham Instrell (Vice Chairman)
ginstrell@hotmail.co.uk Tel. 840978



Photos - Paul Ormiston



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70s night

'Now then, now then, guys and gals, ow's about that then? On Saturday 12 March, Sherston was taken back in time to the 1970s as the legendary Sherston Village People went on stage in the Village Hall, rolling back the years with a medley of 70s classics. In front of a mixed but brilliantly costumed bunch of punks, glam rockers, rollers, disco Kings and Queens, our local musical heroes hit all the right notes after months of hard work and rehearsal.

The full line up was Laura Stevens on keyboards; Jonathan Gould on Drums; Lead Guitar, Matt Eatwell; Bass Guitar; Doug McLeish; Horns, Alan Dickenson; vocals, Sally Clayton, Claire Eatwell, Dan Pritchett, Kev Smith. Special guests on the night were Pip Pettit and a glittery John Picken. The whole show was masterminded by Sherston's very own Wee Jimmy Krankie, the pop mogul himself, Mr Dave Shepherd.

The night raised over £1,600 for the Friends of Sherston School (FSS) - a magnificent achievement by the committee and their supporters. The FSS would like to thank absolutely everyone who helped make it such a success.



Pumpkin hell

As well as Picklemania this year's Mangold Hurl on Sunday 2 October will include Sherston's first ever pumpkin show - 'Pumpkin hell'. There is an amazing range of pumpkins and winter squashes in all sorts of shapes sizes and colours so why not sow some seed this month?

May is an ideal time to start growing pumpkins and they are best sown indoors in small pots. They are susceptible to frost so it's best not to plant out until the end of May. They like a soil rich in humus and are heavy feeders so plenty of well rotted compost is the order of the day. So come on and show us your pumpkins!


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Sherston Living Churchyard

by Sue Robinson Tel. 841263

The wonderful Spring weather of late March and early April has brought rapid growth to everything in the churchyard. On 5 April I saw my first swallows, not just one but four, so even if you listen to the old saying I could be justified in saying that summer is here! No doubt by the time you read this, three or four weeks after I have written it, things will be very different but just now I am looking forward to our April session in the churchyard knowing that we won't be wet or cold.

In March we raked up the leaves from the huge copper beech tree at the front of the churchyard so that they did not choke the spring flowers coming up below the tree or make the soil too fertile for the wild flowers to prosper. The primroses are now flowering in profusion and well-worth a look as they cannot be seen from the path. In the back of the churchyard we planted yellow rattle seeds, kindly donated by the Stanton St. Quintin Living Churchyard group. This plant, also known as Hay Rattle, is semi-parasitic on the roots of grass and reduces its growth which would be very helpful in grass management if we get successful germination. It is also a plant which is increasingly threatened by the loss of traditional hay meadows.

Another new planting has been that of two cherry trees which were put in by pupils from Sherston School. These are a partial replacement for some of the evergreen trees which have been cleared over the past couple of years. They should grow up, under the care of the children, to provide a source of food for wild birds as well as flowering attractively in the Spring. It is good to have this tangible link between the church and the school and to continue to develop the churchyard to be both a more pleasant resting place for the dead and greater haven for wildlife.

Our next work session will be on Saturday 7 May from 2.00pm to 4.00pm and all are welcome to come and help or just to see what is going on.



Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Meeting to be held on Wednesday 8 June in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Please can co-ordinators attend so that I can update my records for persons/contact details and an email address if possible. Refreshments will be provided. If you cannot attend I would appreciate your details as above.

Tony Weedon, Area Co-Ordinator Tel. 841377 or email dogleg@waitrose.com

Luckington Village Hall

Table Top Sale – Saturday 14 May

Luckington Village Hall is holding a Table Top Sale in the Village Hall on Saturday 14 May from 10.00am until Noon. This is a great opportunity for you to market your goods that are surplus to requirements and for buyers to pick up some bargains. The fee is a modest £5 per table, so please book your table now, with either an e-mail to luckingtonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk, or by telephoning 840962. Entry to the hall is free and refreshments will be available.

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Thursday 26th of May is our Golf day to Brinkworth, it will include a bacon roll, 18 holes of golf and supper back at the Rattlebone. Ring me on 840871 to book a place.



Funding for Communities

Initiative for mature enterprise / support for the over 50s.

People over the age of 50 who wish to become self employed or set up their own business can apply for a loan of between £500 and £10,000 through the Prince's Initiative for Mature Enterprise (PRIME) new loan scheme. PRIME is a member of the Prince's Charities group. It was set up on the personal initiative of HRH The Prince of Wales in response to letters he was receiving from people desperate to work but unable to find anyone to employ them – because of their age. To be eligible applicants need to be over the age of 50; must be either unemployed (not in paid employment), facing redundancy (within the next six months) or be self-employed (but still in your first year); and must be a UK resident for at least three years.

The loans are for up to three years and the interest charged is 12% APR.

Applications can be made at any time. Further information at www.primebusinessclub.com/loans/prime-business-start-up-loan/

Funding for places of worship for essential structural repair projects and the installation of new facilities

The National Churches Trust awards grant funding to places of worship for essential structural repair projects and the installation of new facilities. Repair Grants of £10,000 and above and Community

Grants of between £5,000 and £25,000 are available. Applications are accepted from listed and unlisted churches, chapels and meeting houses of any age, as long as they are open (or planning to reopen) for public worship and where the congregation is a member or associated member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

The closing date for receipt of applications for grants in 2011 is 1 September. For further information and to apply, please visit www.nationalchurchestrust.org/home.php

Funding opportunity for amateur sports clubs

The Daily Telegraph, in partnership with the Royal Bank of Scotland, has launched the RBS Sport for You grant. The scheme is available to amateur sports clubs in order to support their development and continued involvement of nurturing sport at a local level. Grants of £1,000 will be allocated to five clubs each month for the next year. The prize will include a visit from the manager of the winning club's nearest RBS branch, and will also be involved with publicity surrounding the winning entries.

Applicants should complete the entry form, which can be found at www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/othersports/amateur/8281664/Enter-your-sports-club-for-a-1000-grant.html and submit by the closing date of midnight on Wednesday 30 November.

Funding to help people participate in swimming

Local groups such as for example community groups, swimming clubs, swimming pools, older people's organisations, youth groups, sports clubs, scout troops and healthy living groups can apply for grants of between £300 and £2,500 to help more people participate in and enjoy swimming and to make swimming more accessible.

Examples of applications which are supported include: fundraising events, galas or family fun days at a pool, community pool open days, extra floats for a swimming club to improve swimmers' development; transport costs to take an elderly group to a pool, Club scuba diving equipment to allow more people to try the sport; etc.

Applicants must be a representative of, or have the support of, a pool participating in Swimathon or Simply Swim 2011. Applications are accepted in one of four rounds.

Round two closes 6 June 2011, round three closes on 22 August 2011 and round four closes on 7 November 2011. Further information can be found at swimathon.org/page.php?page=Foundation

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Are you a professional artist who could run participatory arts workshops for the community?

Call to artists for the participatory arts workshop scheme (PAWS)

Wiltshire Council's arts service offers a participatory arts workshop scheme (PAWS) with projects designed and run by professional artists, to local community groups. Every six months we create a new menu that is offered out to a wide variety of community and voluntary group, after school clubs, youth groups, older people's clubs, disability groups and more.

The groups apply for the project of their choice and we then assess and allocate up to 20 projects per season. Each project runs for a minimum of eight hours spread over two to four visits. The fee per project is £350 plus travel expenses and a planning fee.

For examples of what we currently offer have a look at the PAWS website. For more information about the opportunity please read the artists information sheet, if you would like to register please complete the application form and return it to us no later than the 3 May.

If you would like to discuss your project ideas with the Arts Officer please contact Faye Bradley at faye.bradley@wiltshire.gov.uk or call 07827 081039.

Malmesbury Community Area Network

Malmesbury CAN is a new way to keep in touch with things that are happening locally. With regular news from the Council, Police, NHS and many other local community groups and organisations, you can be the first to know what is happening. With opportunities to have a say on important issues and to take part in local events and activities, Malmesbury CAN will put you in the picture.

The future of Business Link in the South West

In January the Government announced its plans to provide business support. Part of this future support will be the continuation of the national Business Link website as well as a new national contact centre. The Government has confirmed its intention to close the existing regional Business Link services from 25 November 2011. Whilst disappointed for our customers and our staff that the regional Business Link service will end, we are comforted that we now have clarity and certainty about the Business Link service in this region for the rest of this year.

From now through to November 2011, we will be offering a streamlined service which will ensure that businesses across the region have access to support until the new national arrangements come into place. The streamlined services will offer:

A continuation of the following programmes; High Growth Skills, Improving your Resource Efficiency (IYRE), Rural, Strategic Leadership Programme and Strategic Development Programme.

Limited one to one, on-site support to businesses

- although all businesses will be able to access information and support by phone and online; A continuing programme of seminars and events for businesses on a wide range of key business issues;

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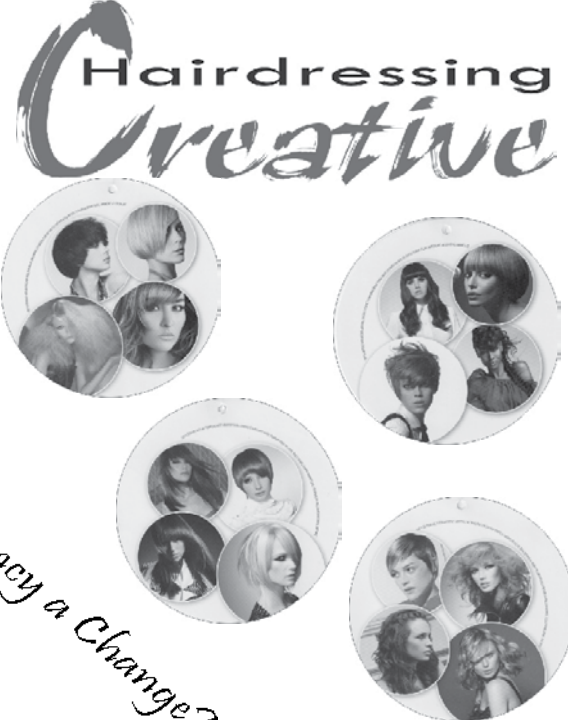
Small Ads

You can now advertise items for sale or wanted in the Cliffhanger including services required such as gardening or cleaning. Cost is £2 for up to 20 words. Copy should be in paper form and put through the letterbox at 37 High Street by the 15th of the month together with £2 in cash. All monies raised will be donated to charity. Private advertisers only please – no businesses.



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Have your say

The annual parish meeting takes place on Thursday 19 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 latest news on the redevelopment of the Old School. It is also hoped to have a short presentation on the progress of the Grove Wood project over the last year. 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.

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Defibrillator Update

A substantial number of donations have been received (but more still welcome!)

We are soon going to be in a position to negotiate the purchase of defibrillators and all-weather cabinets.

For various financial reasons it is better for the supply and maintenance of the defibrillators to be undertaken as a charity, and so the parish council is setting up a very small and simple charity purely to undertake this. The initial trustees are Phil Cutcher, Trevor Moody and Maureen Joliffe, but we would welcome anyone from the parish to be a member of the charity - the commitment is basically one meeting per year to approve the accounts and elect trustees.

For more information contact Phil Cutcher on 840067

Next meeting

The parish council next meets on Thursday 12 May in the village hall at 7.30pm. This is a week later than usual due to the Drama group's spring production in the hall. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities to raise questions and pass comments. If you cannot make the meeting but have something to raise please contact the clerk Mrs. Sarah Wood on 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. You can also contact the council via the response form on www.sherston.org.uk where minutes of meetings can be read.

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Wild Hyacinth



by Martin Rea

The display of Bluebells *Hyacinthus nonscripta* in Grove Wood this year has been truly breathtaking and provides further evidence of the benefits of coppicing which has allowed so much more light into the wood encouraging improved flowering from many wild plants.

The flower is associated with grief and mourning, being named after Hyacinth of the Greek myths who was a beautiful youth loved by both Apollo and Zephyrus. Hyacinth preferred Apollo the Sun God to Zephyrus the God of the West Wind who sought revenge. When Apollo was throwing the discus with Hyacinth it is said that Zephyrus blew a discus off course killing Hyacinth. Stricken with grief Apollo raised the flower from Hyacinth's blood.

The bulbs are full of a viscid juice which is also present throughout the plant. It has been used as a starch substitute especially when stiff ruffs were the height of fashion. Due to its sticky nature was also used as bookbinders' gum.

Wiltshire Council's History centre on tour

Staff at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre like to take their skills and knowledge into the community, as not everyone can visit the History Centre in Chippenham. Several staff can give daytime and evening lectures to groups around the county and public lectures and courses are occasionally staged in libraries.


One recent course, 'Family History Beyond the Internet', demonstrated the very wide range of archival and other source material available to family historians, who may only have done online research. If your parish or community group is interested in hosting a talk or course, please contact Mike Marshman on 01249 705510.

Historic documents

Recently the Wiltshire History Centre at Chippenham were pleased to receive part of the 1886 Ordinance Survey map of Sherston of which they had previously had no copy. The document was donated by a villager who spotted it for sale in Devizes.

Historical documents, maps, photographs etc which often get thrown out during house clearances, would be welcome at the (WHC) History Centre, Chippenham.

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THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

The AGM on Saturday 2 April at the traditional time of 2 am proved to be a most satisfactory affair. Members were delighted with the facilities of the new venue and are keen to re-book the Easton Town bus shelter for 2012. Local residents served those attending with some wonderful, if rather potent, bottles of Mangold wine made from the debris of last year's Hurl. This had rather drastic results in that a number of members had to leave the meeting early and were last seen following a figure dressed as a cardinal heading in the general direction of the allotments. Meanwhile the 'Molotov' Cossack troupe from Easton Town gave what can only be described as an enthusiastic performance of the Pinkney Polka.

The main business of the meeting was of course the choosing of this year's Mangold Maid which was achieved in only 4hrs and 6 minutes which is believed to be something of a record. The identity of the Maid cannot be disclosed until Mangold Maid Making Day itself – Whit Sunday 12 June.

Following the sad passing of our Summoner Malcolm Jarrett last November much thought has gone into who should be his successor. Our archivist Cilla Liddington could find no record of the method of Malcolm's original appointment and so the assistance of the Mangold Hurling Association has

been sought. It seems that an independent Judge must be appointed by the Association to assess the horn ability of all entrants for the position. The Judge is nearly always female although the position of Summoner is open to both sexes.

Whilst full details of the skills and experience required of prospective summoners are to be published in next month's Cliffhanger, all those interested in the position should approach, with customary caution, Mr Graham Hayman in his capacity as Keeper of the Back Passage. The actual appointment will be made one hour before the Mangold Maid Making on 12 June after the horn abilities of all those seeking the post have been thoroughly and publically tested by the Judge. We are deeply honoured that the Association has appointed The Very Reverend Ivor Horn BSc (Hons) to oversee the proceedings. The Reverend is one of the most respected Judges on the circuit having recently presided over the Mangold rustling enquiry at Rington, Somerset, which following her recommendations, has resulted in a tagging system being introduced for all Normans weighing in at 15lbs or over.

Yarp!

The Keeper the Quill 



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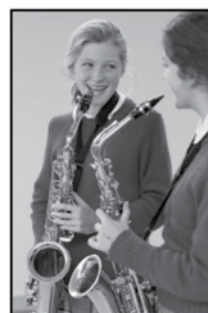
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Cricket

Sherston Magna Cricket Club (SMCC) started the new season with a fine win by 24 runs against Upton St. Leonards on Sunday 17 April. Upton St. Leonard won the toss and decided to bowl on a glorious day at Pinkney Park. An opening stand of 80 between Mark Howell (37) and Richard Cartwright saw SMCC off to a great start. Cartwright went on to have the best possible start to the season with an unbeaten 109 after the allocated 40 overs in the SMCC total of 217 for the loss of four wickets.

Upton St. Leonard replied briskly scoring runs at the required rate, but losing wickets along the way. Matt Goodwin and debutant James Kutchera both taking three wickets a piece. The bowlers were well backed up with six catches (three from captain David Fitch-Peyton) and two stumpings by Kevin Smith.

Upton St. Leonard were finally beaten when they were all out for 193 with 20 balls left of their 40 overs.



The Inaugural Sherston Sixes

On Saturday 21 May Sherston Magna Cricket Club (SMCC), will stage the inaugural Sherston Sixes. An invitation six-a-side cricket tournament and celebration. The day will start at 12 Noon at the ground in Pinkney Park with a bar and barbecue. The aim of the event is to raise funds for SMCC, whilst entertaining the guest teams and spectators.

Teams from the local area will be invited to participate in a competition, which will consist of two leagues playing in a 'round robin' format before the top sides from each league play in a knock-out for the winner's trophy.

Each game will be a four over (8 balls per over) per side, ensuring entertaining cricket and a quick result. Spectators are welcome and entry to the ground is free.

The first game will start at 12 Noon and the eventual winners will be presented their trophy after the final game between 6.30pm and 7.00pm. Please come and join us on what is sure to be an entertaining day.

CricketForce Day

On Saturday 9 April, SMCC joined thousands of other cricket clubs up and down the country by having a NatWest CricketForce day. CricketForce is an England and Wales Cricket Board volunteering initiative aimed at rejuvenating the nation's cricketing facilities. Blessed with wonderful spring weather a number of volunteers from Sherston and surrounding villages managed to turn the ground from a field covered in grass cuttings to a beautifully manicured playing surface. Fuelled by bacon sandwiches, kindly prepared by Alice Lovell and Caroline Scarlett, the whole field was cleared of four truck loads of grass and the square rolled.



Home fixtures in May

Saturday 14	SMCC Vs NATS	2.15pm
Saturday 21	Sherston Sixes Tournament	12noon
Sunday 22	Coates	2.00pm
Saturday 28	SMCC Vs Adlestrop	2.15pm

If you want to play cricket, find out the fixtures and results or just come and watch at one of the most pleasant grounds in Wiltshire you can find out more at www.sherstonmagna.play-cricket.com.

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Bean time *by Cepheus*

The sowing of runner bean seeds or more particularly the optimum time for doing so is food for endless discussions and indeed arguments amongst vegetable gardeners. Many start them off in early April and prepare all sort of protection contraptions when planting out as soon as they can to avoid the dreaded late frosts of May. Is it worth the trouble, I ask? Very early sown plants are often drawn and weak. They may be protected from frost but low temperatures lead to slow and stunted growth. Far better to sow outdoors two weeks or so just before the last possible frost or sow inside in early May so that you have strong young plants ready for those bean poles at the end of the month.

Old May Day, the 12th in the modern post 1752 calendar, was for many a favourite time to sow. After 1752 some May Fairs continued to be held on Old May Day and even today figure in planting reminders.

Twelfth of May, Stow Fair Day,

Sow your kidney beans today

Remember too that runner beans can be sown anytime up to the end of June, and sometimes even later, to produce a first class late crop when all around you have long since picked the last of their runners.

All the frost-tender vegetables are best put out or sown at the end of May including French beans, courgettes, marrows, squash and pumpkin. Plants of tomato, aubergine, outdoor cucumbers and peppers can also be put out and if earlier must be protected to avoid succumbing to the curse of the late frost. Finally please don't forget to earth up those young potato shoots as well.

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See the Parish Life for more details

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 see the Parish Life

Gauzebrook Church for Children

Children are welcome at all the services which are held in the Gauzebrook Group churches but there are some occasions which are particularly for them:

A Family Service is held at Holy Cross Church in Sherston at 9.30am on the third Sunday of each month. There are Family Services at other churches in the Group on other Sundays – see The Parish Life for details
Junior Church is held at Court House, Hullavington at 11.00am on the second Sunday of each month, except for August. This is for children from 3 to 11+. Any children under 3 need to be accompanied by an adult. Contact Ness Whiffin 840185.

Little Lights is an informal service and meeting, with play, squash and biscuits, for pre-school children and their parents/carers at Hullavington Church 10.30 – 11.30am every other Thursday. Contact Chantal Bryan for more information on 837522

If you would like there to be more provision in Sherston for your children, the PCC and ministry team are looking for people who would like to help organise and run this. If that could be you please contact Revd. Christopher Bryan on 837522 or Christopher.bryan123@btinternet.com or Sue Robinson, churchwarden on 841263

Easton Grey Parish Church

See Parish Life for details of services

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.

Boules at The Bull

Meet every Thursday at 7.15pm April till Sept at The Red Bull Inn, Malmesbury Rd. Further details from Sue McKechnie 840601 or suemckechnie@hotmail.com

Busy Hands Pre-school

Meets 9.10am - 12.10pm 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 on the 3rd Friday at 7.30 for 8pm start in the village hall. 50p entry and 30p a book. Light refreshments available. May 20 and June 17.

Church bell ringing

Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00pm.

Call Geoff Martin 840375 or come along.

Clem's Club

Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday 2.30 – 4pm, alternating with the Seniors. Donations to BSR expenses collected each week.

Eudo Tae Kwon Do

Juniors every Tuesday at 3.15pm and Seniors Thursdays 7-9pm both in Sherston primary school hall. Abby Lees-Smith 510125 or email info@eudotkd.co.uk or see the website www.eudotaekwondo.co.uk

Footpaths group

The group has published the booklet 'Sherston Walks - a new guide to local rights of way', featuring 9 local walks and is now on sale at the post office. If you would like to learn more about the footpath group and perhaps take part in some of its activities please come along to a meeting. For further information contact Maggie McKenna on 841047 or maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

For details see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards

Malmesbury Embroiderer's Guild

The local branch holds monthly meetings at Little Somerford Village Hall. On alternate months there are Saturday workshops on a wide range of topics, and on the intervening dates there is a Tuesday evening talk at 7.30pm. We always welcome newcomers and occasional visitors, although prebooking is essential for the workshops. For further information please phone Heather Martin 840375.

Malmesbury Luncheon Club

Over 60s meet every Wednesday at midday in the Wesleyan Room of Malmesbury Town Hall for a chat and a 2 course lunch followed by tea or coffee. £3. Please call Helen Churchill on 840080 if you'd like to attend. New members most welcome.

Malmesbury Netball Club

We welcome new players of any ability as we would like to promote the sport and provide an opportunity for people to get fitter and meet new people. We have a Level 2 coach and endless support from the Wiltshire Netball Development Officer, Sophie Warner. Every Thursday at 7pm, £3 per session, payable at the front desk at the Activity Zone, Malmesbury. For further details contact Tahiti on tahitivanrooyen@gmail.com

Malmesbury & Villages Community Partnership

For details contact Sue Webb 824620

Email: dennis.webb01@virgin.net

Malmesbury Rangers

Girls over 14 years meet every 2nd Thursday in the month.

Further details from Helen Price 503187 or

retreatcottage17@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meeting

Takes place on the 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm in 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

1st Thursday of each month from 10am - 2pm in The British Schoolroom

Further details from Anne Chapman on 01249 782842.

Senior Club

Meets at 2.30pm in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday alternating with Clem's Club.

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.

For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592.

Sherston Boules and Carnival 2011

Any new ideas and offers of help in planning or just on the day gratefully received. For more details contact the secretary Gwen Knight on 840731 or mommaknight@hotmail.com

Sherston Brownies

Meet every Wed during term time 6.15-7.30pm in the Scout Hut. All girls are welcome to join after their 7th birthday, but there is a waiting list. If you're interested, please contact Snowy Owl (Liz Walker) on 840216 for more details

1st Sherston Cub Scout Pack

Membership of the Cub Pack is open to those between 8 and 10 ½ years old. The Pack has regular meetings on Friday nights in term times from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. There is a waiting list for Cubs, and those interested should contact Ray Sneddon-Jenkins to obtain an application form – raysneddonj@gmail.com

1st Sherston (John Rattlebone) Scout Troop

Is open to young people from the village and surrounding parish from the ages of 10 ½ to 13 ½. We meet at the Scout hut on Tuesday nights from 7.00pm to 9.00pm during school term times. To join contact Mark Sparrow on 840983 or e-mail mark@scorranstone.co.uk There is currently a small waiting list to join.

Sherston Whitewall Explorers

You don't need to have previously been a member of scouts or guides to join us, just be aged between 13 ½ and 18 and free between 8.30 and 10pm on a Friday night during term time; for further information please contact Darren Walsh - 841043 or Ewan Blair - 840096 – whitewallexplorers@googlemail.com

Westonbirt Guides

Meet in Querns Hall, Rosehill School, Westonbirt 5.30 – 7pm every Wednesday. Sherston Brownies tend to come along if they don't join Scouts. Details from Helen Price 503187 or email retreatcottage17@btinternet.com

Sherston FC

The club play in the Stroud league at Knockdown Park on Saturday afternoons - spectators and new players welcome. For more details contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or peter.brock666@btinternet.com

Sherston Ladies' Swimming Club

Swim at Westonbirt Leisure on Wednesday evenings from 8 – 9.30pm. £38 for 15 weeks, open to any ladies, of any swimming standard, from Sherston and surrounding area. There is a lane reserved for the more serious swimmers. To join, please phone Annabel on 840592 or Maggie on 840969.

Sherston's Living Churchyard

Please help maintain the living churchyard on the second Sunday of the month from 10am to 12 noon or 2pm till 4pm, weather permitting.

Please check with Sue for timings each month.

Church of the Holy Cross

Further details contact Sue Robinson on 841263

Sherston Martial Arts Club

Bujinkan Budo Taijutsu. Traditional Samurai Jujutsu and Ninjutsu. Ages 13 and up, every Thursday night in the Scout Hut 7pm. For further information contact Gary Liddington 07779349115 or Gary@budotaijutsu.co.uk

Sherston Short Mat Bowls Club

Meets Wednesday from 7.30 pm in the village hall. £2 an evening (£1 for under 18s) all are very welcome.

Sherston Tennis Club

Sherston Tennis Club play on two hard courts off Knockdown Rd. Fees for the 2011 are the same as 2010: Family £80, Adult £45, Senior citizen £20, Junior (18 and under) £15. **Join before the end of April for a 50% discount!** As ever, there will be coaching for children, adults too if enough people ask. Speak to Helen McLeish (840992) or Harry Stevens (840602). A men's team has been entered into the Chippenham & District Leagues, matches are on Wednesday evenings, and match captain Jeremy Nabarro (07973 517655) will be delighted to hear from anyone interested in playing. Club night this year will be on Thursdays, starting 5 May from 6.30pm. Louise Osborne (841238) is keen to see you at the courts. Further details contact Nic Riley 840682, Helen McLeish 840992, Louise Osborne 841238 (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.communigate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/ or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or Hjquirk@aol.com

Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

The group is a fun way for babies, toddlers and their parents to meet and play. We meet at 10 -11.30am each Tuesday in the Scout Hut with toys for all stages from wrigglers to toddlers, craft activities, music and snacks for all, not to mention a much-needed cup of tea/coffee for the deserving parent. Further details contact SherstonToddlers@gmail.com, or Gemma Bird on 840570 or Lara Farahar on 840228

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. Further details contact Maureen Jolliffe on 840867

Sherston Young Craft Group

Every Monday 6.45 – 8.15pm in the village hall (children 9 years and over). £3 (incl all materials) per evening paid in advance of each half term. To join, please contact Victoria Parish on 840071 or email vparish@btinternet.com

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 details contact Charlotte on 01453 886632 or charlotte@splashdance.co.uk

Tetbury Chess Club

Meet every Wednesday at the Ormond Hotel from 10am. If anyone is interested please contact Colin Francis on 505835 or email colval08@btinternet.com

Village Hall 300+ Club

Monthly draw with eight prizes ranging from £12 down to £5 for a £6 annual stake, plus a quarterly £5 bonus for seven non-winners. If any new members of the village would like to join, contact either Mary Goulding on 840794, Joyce Gleed 840744 or Gwen Mason 840660.

Whist Drive

A whist drive is held in the village hall on the second Friday in the month at 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. Gleed.

Yoga in Sherston

Beginners adults yoga class. All welcome. No experience necessary. Mondays from 7-8pm or 8.15-9.15pm £45 per 6 week term. Booking essential. Scout Hut. Further details contact Kathryn Chandler: 0790 380 2985 / 0117 902 4832 or email: yoga_in_sherston@hotmail.com

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 in 2011

Dates for your diary

June

- 5 Woodland Frolic
Luckington Open Gardens
- 12 Mangold Maid Making
- 25 Church Fete
- 25-26 Garden Trail

July

- 9 -17 Boules & Carnival –Sat 16 Boules Day

August

- 27 Lobber Jenkins Boules Competition
- 29 Village Party including Flower Vegetable and Produce Show

October

- 2 Mangold Hurl

November

- 5 1016 Fireworks Party
- 26 Church Bazaar

December

- 9 Anglo Saxon Christmas Market

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.



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WHAT'S ON

Sherston

The Carpenter's Arms

Cricket Night Thur 19 May
Live Music from Adam Okin Fri 20 May
Greek Night Wed 25 May
Check boards for more details of events
Further details contact 840665

The Rattlebone Inn

Monday Quiz Nights Every Monday at 7:30pm
Free entry and prizes for the winning team
Golf society trip to Brinkworth Sat 28 May
Live Music from Fraser Tilley and BBQ Sat 28 May
Check boards for details of events
Further details contact 840871 or
www.therattlebone.co.uk

Sherston's Living Churchyard

Please help maintain the living churchyard on the second Saturday of the month from 10am to 12 noon or 2pm till 4pm, weather permitting. Please check with Sue for timings each month.
Sat 7 May 2-4pm Church of the Holy Cross
Further details contact Sue Robinson on 841263

Sue's Strolls

Vine Tree to Malmesbury and back again

Sun 8 May 10.40am transport leaves Sherston village hall to the Vine Tree, walk to Malmesbury, lunch break - bring a picnic or eat out in Malmesbury 1.15pm transport back to Sherston, or walk back to the Vine Tree, 4pm return transport to Sherston

Free and suitable for all, including children and dogs on leads.

Further details contact Sue McKechnie 840601 or suemckechnie@hotmail.com

Save Our Crayfish

Talk by Maddy Rees from the South West Crayfish Project based at Bristol Zoo Mon 9 May 7.30pm Free entry, refreshments available Village Hall

Breast Cancer Moon Walk Sherston's Jammy Tarts enter the London Moon Walk

Sat 14 May The 'Jammytarts' - Ann Parkes, Kristy Andrews, Jo Winterbourne & Kirstie Blair will be joining 15,000 brave walkers all out pounding the streets in their Walk the Walk trademark, decorated bras... ours will be decorated of course as Jam tarts!

Cotswold Churches Festival

Teas at the Holy Cross Sun 15 May 2-5pm
Stanton St Quintin flower festival 20 -22 May
841263 *more more details*

Christian Aid week

15 - 21 May

Busy Hands and Baby & Toddler Table top sale

Table top sale - from 'Bump to Kids'
Sat 21 May 10am - 12 noon £10 per table for
vendors. Free entry to buyers. Village hall

Concert in the Church of the Holy Cross

Music for Awhile

Bach and his Circle - a baroque music concert
Fri 3 June 7.30pm £15 includes programme and
interval refreshments at the Church of the Holy Cross

Grove Wood Woodland Frolic

Sun 5 June 12 noon - 4pm Children's
competition, bushman skills, family fun. Bring a
picnic

*Further details contact Sue McKechnie 840601 or
suemckechnie@hotmail.com*

Midsummer fete and open gardens trail in aid of Sherston Church

Sat 25 June in the village hall and field. 12.30pm
BBQ and bar, stalls, raffle and children's
activities. Sat 25 1-5pm - Sun 26 June 2-5pm
Open gardens trail (£5 per person) with entry to
several village gardens. Tea and homemade cake
at the village hall

*Further details contact Heather Martin 840375 or
Pat Whitehouse 840640*

Sherston Arts Festival

Sherston Arts Festival 7 -16 Oct

Sherston Arts Festival 7 -16 Oct - looking for
participants and helpers for the festival

*Further details contact Heather Martin 840375 or
www.sherston.net*

Luckington

Luckington Open Gardens

8 or more gardens on show in aid of Luckington Church

Sun 5 June 2- 5pm £5 pp including refreshments at
Luckington Court Garden Entry tickets and map
from Luckington Parish Church - parking in the
Church car park

Luckington Village Hall table top sale

Sat 14 May 10-12 Free entry, £5 per table,
refreshments available. Village hall

*Further details contact John Harris 840962 or
lunckingtonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk*

Westonbirt

The Arboretum

Guided Walks: Dawn Chorus Sun 8 and 15 May
4am - 6am with Matt Brierley of the RSPB £5 Sorry
no dogs. Book 880220. **Canine Partners Charity
Walk** Sun 8 May 11am. **Wildflowers Walk** Tues 10
and 28 May 10.30 - 12 noon free after admission
Workshops: Advanced Digital Photography Fri
13 May 10.30-3.30pm £105 - limited to 10 places
Beginners Digital Photography Fri 29 Apr 10.30-
3.30pm £55 - limited to 10 places Booking essential
for both: contact Graham Light on 01285 653069 or
email consult@abbey-studios.co.uk **Making a chair** -
6 day course 9-14 May now fully booked but courses
in June and July. £250 contact Paul Hayden 01373
836051. **Wattle Hurdles Course** 21-22 May £120
contact Brian Williamsons 01453 790666

Summer Concerts - tickets now on sale

June: Simple Minds Fri 17; Erasure supported by
Sophie Ellis-Bexter Sat 18 and Scouting for Girls
Sun 19 Jun

July: Brian Ferry Fri 15 Jul; **Westlife** Sat 16 Jul; **Texas**
Sun 17 Jul Tickets £28-35 plus booking fee from
03000 680400 or www.forestry.gov.uk/music

Spring / Summer (till 30 Sep) Admission £8 adult
/£7 concs/ £3 chd under 5s free

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

Westonbirt School

Summer Term Lecture

'In the Footsteps of Lawrence of Arabia' by Charles
Blackmore Fri 6 May 7.30pm. Free

*Further details contact 880333 or
breid@westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk or
www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk*

Hookshouse - Art and craftwork exhibition and Outdoor Theatre Labours of Love exhibition

Art, craftwork, jewellery, glass, outdoor sculptures
Sat 28 May - Sun 5 June 11am - 6pm daily

Outdoor Theatre at Hookshouse

The Pantaloons present 'The Canterbury Tales' Sun 3 July 7pm. Gardens open at 5.30pm. Bring a picnic.

£10 in advance £12.50 on the door

Hookshouse, near Westonbirt

Further details contact 880297 or

hookshouse@hotmail.co.uk

Easton Grey Whatley Manor

Tuesday Garden Tours

31 May 11.30 for 12 start, tour 2.30pm - 4pm £41 including welcome drink and 2 course lunch, coffee followed by a guided tour with the head gardener Barry Holman

Further details contact 834026 or www.whatleymanor.com

Grittleton

Moviola - the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme
Black Swan (15) Thriller Wed 25 May 7pm £5 in advance £5.50 on the door

Brighton Rock (15) remake of the Classic Drama Thriller

Returning after the summer break on Sep 28
Grittleton Village Hall

Further details contact Lesley 01249 783157 or email l_palmer@btinternet.com

Malmesbury

North Wilts MP Surgery

Local MP surgery with James Gray MP

Sat 21 May and Sat 25 June 12 noon - 1pm

Hobbes Parlour, Malmesbury Town Hall

Further details contact www.jamesgray.org for information on surgeries or for online surgeries or email jamesgraymp@parliament.uk

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society

Carducci Quartet in concert Sat 7 May 7.30pm £12/£10 members/ £5 student or chd

Further details contact Joy Smith on 840 865 or David Barton 824924

Tetbury Woolsack Race

31 years of the world famous event

Mon 30 May Races start at 2pm, entertainment from 10am See website for parking

Gumstool Hill Further details contact tetburywoolsack@googlemail.com or www.tetburywoolsack.co.uk

Yellow Lighted Book Festival

10 days of literary events including some well known authors - see website for programme

2-12 June Free to £12.50. All events include refreshments and book discounts Book early to avoid disappointment as venues are small 21 Church St

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

Chippenham ChippFolkFest - 40th Anniversary Chippenham Folk Festival

starring Steeleye Span 27 - 30 May Concerts throughout the town Further details contact 01249 657190 or www.chippfolk.co.uk



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Reference available on request



Castle Combe

26th Steam and Vintage Rally in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Sat 21 May 10am - 6pm Sun 22 May 10am - 5pm £6 under 14s free Free parking

Steam engines, vintage, fairground engines, calf show on Sunday

Further details contact or

www.castlecombesteamrally.co.uk

Devizes

Plant Sale in aid of Farm Africa

(Food and Agricultural Research Management)

Moved date and location to Sun 22 May 11.30-3.30

Rowdeford Garden Fair, near Devizes

Wotton-Under-Edge

The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers from the local community This month: Cave of Forgotten Dreams (U); Exit through the gift shop (15); Oranges and Sunshine (15); Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra - A Musical Journey in 3D; Source Code; Submarine check website for details

The Electric Picture House

Further details contact 01453 844601 or

www.wottoneph.co.uk

Coopers Hill

Pie and Pint Festival and maybe an impromptu Cheese Rolling

Sat 28 and Sun 29 12-8pm 50 ales, pig racing, sheath throwing, traditional English outdoor games, and maybe a last minute cheese roll on Monday 30 May £5 parking £10 weekend pass

Near Coopers Hill

Further details from www.cheese-rolling.co.uk

Nailsworth

28th Arts Festival

Full festival programme on line including music, story telling, poetry, workshops, exhibitions and walks 21-29 May

Further details contact 01453 839222 or directly from the Town Information Centre, Fountain Street or www.nailsworthfestival.org.uk

Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Take That Tribute Night

Sun 3 June Tickets £20 including a buffet, the tribute act and a disco (or £10 without food) To book please call 01453 837431 or email marketing@fivevalleysconference.co.uk

Further details contact 01453 834860 or

www.forestgreenroversfc.com

Bath

Theatre Royal

Evita 2 - 14 May 7.30pm / 8pm £15-£33.50

Brontë 17 - 21 May 7.30pm / 8pm mat 2.30pm £16.50-£33.50

The Pitmen Painters 23- 28 May 7.30pm mat 2pm £9.50-£22

Communicating Doors 31 May - 4 June 7.30/8pm mat 2.30 £17-£35

Book ahead for: Hamlet 6-11 June; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat 14-19 June

Further details contact 01225 448844 or

www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Musicfest

Bath International MusicFest

Festival celebrating the world's best jazz, classical, folk and world music - 25 May - 5 June

Various locations in Bath *Further details contact 01225 463362 or www.bathmusicfest.org.uk*

Fringe Festival

27 May - 12 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

Hatherop Castle School

Cotswold Arcadians Open Air Theatre

present Macbeth

Mon 25 - Sat 30 July Bring a picnic £16 / £14 / £8

Further details contact 01285 898019 or

www.arcadians.org

Iford

Iford Arts Festival

Opera & Music Festival 10 June - 13 Aug

Opera: Hansel and Gretel; Don Giovanni; Rodelinda Jazz nights Cloister Concerts

Iford Manor

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

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www.optimummobility.co.uk

Longborough

Festival Opera June - July

Così fan Tutte; Falstaff; Siegfried

16 June - 30 July

Further details contact 01451 830292 or

www.longboroughopera.com

Cheltenham

Science Festival

Varied programme of talks and events featuring all types of science Free entry to the Discover Zone - chat to scientists and conduct experiments

7 - 12 June 2011 Tickets selling out fast £5-£10

Various locations in Cheltenham

Further details contact 0844 576 8970 or

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science

Bishops Cleeve

La vie en Bleu - vintage French and English Marques

28 -29 May Live music, displays and entertainment

Buggati Midsummer Speed Fest Prescott Hill Climb -

Cars, cavalcades & strawberries on the lawn

25 -26 June £12.50 / under 14s free

Prescott Lodge

Further details contact 01242 677 777 or

www.prescott-hillclimb.com

Stroud

The Cotswold Playhouse

The Tamworth Two - comedy tale of the 2 pigs who escaped slaughter hiding in the Cotswolds 13-14 May 7.30pm £10

She Stoops to Conquer 14 - 18 June 7.30pm £11

Further details contact Box Office at Stroud Tourist

Information Centre 01453 760960 or

www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

Bristol

The Soul Destroyers in concert

Volksfest - Heritage Bristol

Volkswagen Weekend

Vintage VW camper vans and

much more Sat 11 June

Washingpool Farm, Easter

Compton

Further details contact Dave

Shephard 07860 448438 or

email ds@oldbellhouse.com or

www.soul-destroyers.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 Centre 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

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