



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2009

DELIVERED FREE

Arts Festival '09



The Pollards and Heather Martin at the art exhibition preview.

For a week in October we had scarecrows in the street, pictures and flowers in the church, bunting at the lychgate and photos in the village hall. Songs and music popped up all over the place and so did tea and cakes.

The festival fare ranged from the exuberance of our young artists' work in the British School Room to the mature professional polish of Johnny Coppin and the Eberle Quartet.

Dozens of people participated and a dedicated handful of organisers worked their socks off. If we tried to name everyone who deserves a mention, we'd be bound to leave somebody out, so we won't try. But even the briefest account of the festival must include a tribute to Heather Martin, whose tireless efforts made it all possible. Pics and winners on page 12.

Sportsfield



Last month's public meeting to discuss ideas for improving facilities at the sportsfield was given an excellent presentation by three Sherston teenagers on their proposal to extend the popular skateboard park. Ollie Halliday, Ross Morgan and James Noble produced impressive plans for the park to include a ¼ pipe and a meeting shelter. *Continued on page 2*

Hurl shock



A very well deserved win at the annual mangold hurl on Sunday 4 October by a team including Jimmy Doherty of TV's 'Jimmy's Farm' fame has nevertheless caused considerable consternation to the local hurling fraternity. Apparently this is the first time in living memory that the title has gone to a team from outside the parish. The Cliffhanger can however correctly report, unlike other local media, that the title did not go as far as Suffolk, whence Jimmy hails, as the other two members of the victorious threesome, brothers Tom and Will Lawton, are thankfully Wiltshire men through and through. From the article on page 18 however, it seems that this clarification has done little to avert the continuing soul searching as to the result amongst members of the Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold Hurlers. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pzqd4y-PWtE

Continued from page 1

Members of the football clubs and the tennis club were interested in improving the pavilion and the provision of an all weather surface which could be used for a number of sports as well as their own, including basketball, hockey and netball. Thought was also given to a fitness course around the perimeter of the field.

Those present included: Louise Cary, Wiltshire Council's sports and physical activities manager; Kirsty Brammer, Wiltshire FA's county development manager; and John Thomson, our Wiltshire councillor. They provided a great deal of useful information and expertise on the funding issues involved especially as to the long term development of an all weather surface. The overall view of the meeting was that the parish council be asked to take that proposal forward and that in the meantime the skateboarders' plans and the suggested improvements to the present pavilion be undertaken as soon as possible. A report on the meeting and recommendations for action will be presented to the parish council at its meeting on 12 November.

If you have any ideas for making better use of the Sportsfield please contact the parish clerk Sarah Wood on 840351 or clerk@sherston.org.uk

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

What's On: contact Caroline Moore on 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. 400 words would be a maximum but the shorter the better and less editing would be needed.

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

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

Wildlife wall

Crispian Huggill, Sherston School Environment Area Group

Children of Sycamore class put the finishing touches around the Sherston stone in the new wall, which surrounds the furthest boundary of Sherston School's new wildlife area on Sopworth Road. Crispian Huggill of the school's Environmental Area group said 'Our thanks to Noel Banks and his team of Cotswold Wardens for the building, Knockdown Quarry for the stone, and Mark Sparrow for the carved inset stone.'

'Next project for the wildlife area is the proposed pond,' he continued. 'We should hear if our grant funding application has been successful in November.'



Thieves strike locally

Sherston's Holy Cross Church is one of three in the Malmesbury area recently targeted by thieves.

Cash has been stolen from donation boxes in Sherston and Crudwell, reported neighbourhood police PC Louis Bowden and PCSO Durry Maule.

And thieves tried to steal lead from the roof of an outbuilding at St Aldhelms Roman Catholic Church in Malmesbury.

'The price for scrap metal has risen again and we're urging people to look out for suspicious activity around the area's churches,' said the police officers. 'These buildings get few visitors during the day unless a particular event is on.'

Thieves also struck at Easton Grey business park over the August bank holiday weekend. They made off with between 20 and 25 pairs of top range wellington boots and 50 gallons of diesel fuel.

'Suspicious callers had been challenged in the previous days at a business park in Pinkney,' said the officers.

'Please give a description of people and vehicles - with their registration numbers - where you see something suspicious at business parks or isolated places such as farms.

'We'll be happy to make discreet inquiries. It may be nothing but it may help prevent or solve a crime in your area.'

Lest we forget

Some 53 Sherston men lost their lives in the two World Wars and in Northern Ireland. Below is the story of one of them taken from Cilla Liddington's book 'Heroes All'.

Private 241826 Alfred Clark

1st/8th Bn Worcestershire Regiment

Who died aged 23 Monday 4 November 1918

Son of Alfred and Mary Clark, High Street, Sherston.

Remembered with honour

Landrecies British Cemetery, Landrecies, Nord, France

Alfred Clark fell in action in the Battle of the Sambre, one of the final battles of the Great War.

The 1st and 8th Worcestershire formed up during the night of 4 to 5 November in the assembly trenches outside Le Faux. In the mist at 4.15am all were ready for attack on the town of Landrecies.

Before the attack, machine gun fire opened up all along the line of attack in addition to the artillery bombardment. This was not only to harass the enemy but also to mask the advance of two tanks ready to spearhead the attack. The attack was a complete success. Landrecies was captured and secured along with an entire field hospital and many prisoners.

In the afternoon, the 1st and 8th Worcestershire re-formed and defended the western outskirts of the town, the Germans being in full retreat. Alfred Clark was killed along with three other ranks and four officers. Another officer taking part in this attack lost his life that day crossing the Sambre River. He was the famous war poet Wilfred Owen.

Pay-back time

Offenders are repaying their debts to the community with schemes in Sherston.

Under the probation service's Community Payback scheme, offenders have recently cleared a rough area of land around the sports field skateboard area for the parish council.

'We're very pleased indeed with the standard of work shown by the offenders and how well the scheme appears to be organised,' said parish council chairman John Matthews.

'We intend to use the scheme on other parish projects including fencing at Grove Wood and footpath maintenance.'

The village hall committee hopes the scheme can help with internal and external redecoration of the hall.

If other community groups have further suitable projects in mind, they should contact the probation service on 01225 781950 or visit

http://www.wiltshireprobation.org.uk/whatwedo/punish_offenders.php

Remembrance Sunday

The annual service will take place at 10.45am on Sunday 8 November in the Church of the Holy Cross. Parishioners attending are asked to be seated by 10.40am.

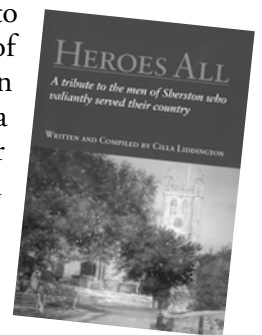
At the service, which will be attended by members of the parish council, a wreath will be laid on behalf of the parish.

The service will be preceded by the traditional parade by the local British Legion and Sherston Scouts, Cubs and Brownies.

For those who would like to be able to attend a remembrance service but would rather not have the children in church with them, there will be a Children's Church at Court House, Hullavington, from 10.30am until the end of the remembrance services (approximately 12 noon). There will be games, stories, music and bible teaching. Any child under the age of five must be accompanied by an adult.

It is possible that a regular Children's Church along these lines will be launched in January; if you are interested in finding out more about this or would like to book your child into the children's remembrance event please call Henny Metters (837778) or Martin Whiffin (840185).

Heroes All, published by the parish council and compiled by Cilla Liddington, tells the individual stories of all 53 Sherston men who laid down their lives in both world wars and in Northern Ireland. The book vividly brings to life all those names read out every year at the remembrance service as well as giving a fascinating insight to wartime in the parish. At a cost of £9.99 it is available from Sherston Post Office Stores, also from Cilla Liddington 01666 840128 or sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk or Sarah Wood the parish clerk on 01666 840351 or clerk@sherston.org.uk. All proceeds from the book are used to support parish projects.



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All Hallows walk

Following the success of the Michaelmas walk with over 25 people taking part, the parish footpaths group's next seasonal walk is set for All Hallows on Sunday 1 November.

The walk will begin from the village hall at 10am and is particularly suitable for families. Well behaved dogs on leads are as ever welcome. The walk will end at the Rattlebone Inn at around 12 noon where complimentary seasonal food will be available courtesy of the pub. The apple and blackberry crumble with custard went down very well at the Michaelmas walk!

The walk is free with no need to book. Just turn up with suitable footwear and clothing for weather conditions on the day.

All Hallows was made a feast day in 835 AD by Pope Gregory IV and is to honour all the saints. Hallow is an old word for saints or holy person and the day is now more usually called All Saints' Day. It is preceded by All Hallows Eve (Halloween) on 31 October and followed by All Souls' Day on 2 November. As with many Christian festivals its origins can be traced back to Celtic traditions or earlier- in this case the feast of Samhain or 'summer's end'. The last seasonal walk of the year will be at Christmas and takes place on Sunday 27th December – just right for some well earned exercise after all that feasting. More details to follow next month. *Below: Michaelmas walkers.*



Village party

Although it seems a long way off now, there's no doubt that the party was a highlight of a somewhat dull August – whatever happened to that barbecue summer? For once the sun shone on what proved to be a great village day.

Over 250 entries to the Flower Vegetable and Produce Show filled the village hall to bursting point. The standard was very high throughout, especially in the children's sections. Judges Heather Martin and Bill Tulberg did sterling work in the hours before the show opened to an excited public. Special mention must go to Jackie Hunt who picked up no fewer than 19 first prizes and countless seconds and thirds. Sid Young was particularly pleased to lift the Lobber Jenkins Cup for his winning ornamental pot mangold.

The inaugural potato festival organised by the Sherston Allotment and Garden Association proved a great success. James Reglar and Ollie Thomson, grandsons of Richard Maslen, won the small taters competition with over 50 tiny tubers in a matchbox, whilst John Hillier took the prize for the biggest potato.

On the field Dave Shepard and his daughter Charli (what a voice!) entertained the crowds, followed by those perennial favourites the Mangledwurzels.

Thanks must go to all the groups and individuals who made the day such a success. Busy Hands for running the popular bouncy castles, Sue Harvey and team on the raffle, Sherston FC for the bar, Jason Read with expert help from the bell ringers and the drama group for the excellent barbecue, Lynette Willetts and Liz Walker for the teas, not forgetting Sherston 1016, the badminton club and Scouts for help with all the logistics.

It seems the village party is destined to become a regular event - next year's will be on Bank Holiday Monday 30 August.

New-look charabanc trips

Weekend sightseeing and shopping trips could be on the cards thanks to the new community bus.

The new Malmesbury-based 17-seater Cartmell community minibus was delivered in September and can be hired by any local community group.

In conjunction with Malmesbury and the villages community area partnership, the parish council is taking part in a pilot project to run trips to places such as Bristol and Bath at weekends.

'The trips are designed to enable those who would otherwise find it difficult, if not impossible, to visit large shopping centres and other places of interest,' said Sherston Parish Council vice chairman Martin Rea.

Two Christmas shopping trips from Sherston to Cribbs Causeway have been arranged: one on Sunday 15 November and another on Saturday 19 December.

The bus will leave the High Street at 11am and leave Cribbs Causway at approximately 4pm.

The cost is £4 return and tickets, available from Sherston Post Office, should be bought well in advance as only 16 seats are available on each trip.

Under-14s must be accompanied by an adult.

The parish council thanks Eric Thacker for giving his driving services without charge.

If these initial trips prove a success they could be extended next year.

'Who knows; a trip to Weston could be on the cards next summer,' said Mr Rea.

In the longer term, the Malmesbury and villages community area partnership hopes for regular trips using larger coaches and serving Malmesbury and other villages.

Study that sack

One of our readers fears people may be misled by organisations asking door-to-door for second-hand clothes.

Not all these requests come from charities.

'More and more lately we are getting sacks put through the letter box asking for clothing etc,' wrote Owen Fitzpatrick of the Tarters.

'Most of these look genuine but I have noticed some recently from companies that don't appear to exist and, if they do, look suspect.

'One came through this morning called RCC Ltd (Recycling Clothes Company) who claim to be sending the clothes to undeveloped countries.

'I have just looked them up and they are a retail company selling second-hand goods.'

A Recycling Clothes Company Ltd is listed on the internet as a business for 'the retail sale of second-hand goods in stores' and there are several organisations with similar names.

Indeed many companies trade in second-hand clothing both here and worldwide. Supporters of the overseas trade point out it creates employment in the receiving countries where people earn money transporting, cleaning, repairing and restyling these clothes.

It also provides low-cost clothing for people living in poverty.

At the same time, however, it is probably one factor undermining the local manufacture of clothing and other textiles in sub-Saharan Africa and is a threat to the livelihood of West African cotton farmers.

Oxfam has conducted studies into the complexities of this trade and one is available at: www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/trade/.../research_shc.pdf.

Meanwhile, as Mr Fitzpatrick suggests, look carefully at requests for second-hand goods before you decide whether to donate.

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1016 round-up

It's certainly been a very busy year so far for 1016 with more fundraising events than ever before.

In August we held the Lobber Jenkins Memorial Urn Knockout Boules Tournament at the Rattlebone Inn. As a change from the usual triples, a pairs competition was organised with 16 teams entering what proved to be an excellent set of games. A closely fought final lasting well over an hour saw Jock Walker and Shane Willetts defeat Penny Ager and Shirley Child 13 - 8. With help from Lynette Willetts and her daughter Shauna in running the raffle the day raised some £260.

September saw the second book sale of the year with another £200 being raised towards the cost of the senior citizens' Christmas vouchers. The highlight was undoubtedly the discovery of a rare picture of what is believed to be Meshach Obadiah Jenkins, the father of Lobber himself.

Whilst the fireworks party on Saturday 7 November receives attention elsewhere in this edition we still have the Rattlebone Christmas raffle to look forward to, with its vast array of really tremendous prizes on offer. Be sure to buy your tickets well in advance of the Rattlebone's Christmas party on Tuesday 22 December when the raffle is drawn.

As to the delivery of this Christmas's senior citizens' vouchers, full details will be given in the December Cliffhanger.



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Sherston Cub Scouts on the water

Contributed by Anthony Price

A team from Sherston's Cub Scout pack entered the recent raft race competition held at Corsham Lake. Teams had to build their own raft and then race against another team and against the clock across the lake. Our team soon discovered their paddling technique and were soon almost on their own on the lake, as they easily won their heat. 1st Lyneham were the overall winners and 1st Sherston were second. Nevertheless the Sherston team were exceptionally proud of their achievement, not least as their raft was assembled with minimum assistance from the adult support crew. All ended wet and happy!



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Mothers-in-law by starlight

Local authors Netia Hibbert and Emma Wade are putting together a book of anecdotes about mothers-in-law to be sold in aid of the children's charity, Starlight.

This will be a light-hearted collection, the kind of thing people might put on a shelf in the loo. Netia and Emma believe many people have amusing and affectionate stories about mothers-in-law, and they would like to hear about them. They are not looking for the traditional music-hall kind of joke where the mother-in-law is the target.

For more information, and if you have a story you might like to share, go to www.marvelormonsterinlaw.com. You'll find examples there of the kind of thing Netia and Emma are looking for.

For more information about the Starlight charity, go to www.starlight.org.uk.

Mark Doyle – memorial fund collection

From Sharon Doyle

As most of you will be aware, we lost our lovely Mark on Tuesday 14 July 2009. In memory of his life and to comply with Mark's preferences, we requested that small donations be made in lieu of flowers.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of friends and family and we are pleased to advise that in total £3487.22 has been raised for Mark's memorial.

Donations of £892.45 were received at the church on the day of Mark's funeral. Further donations were also made either directly to the funeral directors or on line.

As the amount collected is far greater than we imagined or expected, much thought and discussion will take place to ensure that the money is spent wisely. However, it is our intention to use the money for the benefit of the youngsters in Sherston and local villages.

We would like to thank everyone for their kind and generous donations.

Many thanks, George, Charlie, Sharon, Lawrence, Sam & Max.

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Sherston Women's Institute

Contributed by Ann Wilcox

Thirty-three members of the WI enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Rattlebone Inn on Thursday 1 October to celebrate their 69th birthday.

We have recently been looking at our scrapbooks which show a host of well remembered faces from the past, as well as all the numerous activities that have taken place over the years. These range from carnival parades, demonstrations, exhibitions and shows to outings, talks and visits.

As 2010 will mark 70 years of the WI in Sherston we will be organising something special to mark the occasion.

Today there are many opportunities for us to widen our knowledge and experience. Besides Denman College, with its wide range of courses, we can join the whist group, play scrabble or take part in the many federation activities available. In the near future there are a bridge lunch, shopping trip to Cardiff and carol service at Lea in December for the Athelstan Group.

We are hoping to learn more about butterflies in November. There is also a possibility of a stall selling cards. In December we are having Christmas entertainment and an American supper. It would be good to see some new faces, you will receive a warm welcome on the first Thursday of the month.

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TREEtalk

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Talking about trees

Sue McKechnie (yes, I have a deputy!) and I attended the 2009 Tree Warden Forum at Daglingworth near Cirencester last month. There were about 70 of us (I wonder what you call a group of tree wardens, a branch, perhaps?). The theme was the pressures on trees in the 21st century in the light of climate change, urban development and building constraints. Experts from the Tree Council and Forestry Commission delivered thought-provoking presentations, helped along by some very nice lunchtime refreshments. We all piled into coaches for a short trip to the Bathurst Estate where we saw wonderful, ancient trees, allowed to grow unhindered for over 400 years old. Our passionate (and extremely funny) host for this session was a gentleman from the Veteran Tree Forum who exhorted us all to "Get out there and open your eyes.", which is precisely what the Ancient Tree Hunt is all about, see below....

How do you recognise an ancient tree?

Being described as fat and old may sound less than complimentary – unless you're a tree. People all over the UK are being exhorted to find ancient trees in their own areas to help the Woodland Trust's ancient tree conservation work. The trust is attempting to create a comprehensive living database of ancient trees as the first step towards cherishing and caring for them. They aim to record at least 100,000 ancient trees throughout the UK by 2011.

There are plenty of ancient (or slightly smaller veteran) trees in and around Sherston that can be spotted during country walks. If you find impressive specimens that you think might qualify, either let me know or take a photograph for downloading on a new display page we are hoping to create on the village website. You'll find more details on: www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk

And finally,

Wiltshire's oldest tree is probably an ancient concrete filled yew at Tisbury Parish Church. It might not be the county's fattest, measuring a relatively slim 30 feet but as one of the slowest growers it's thought to be well over 1,000 years old!

A hollow tree is often a healthy strong tree. The decaying wood produced as it hollows acts as extra food. The tree might even send down aerial roots inside the hollow to make the most of the rich pickings.

Contact Sherston's Tree Warden, Irene Johnston on tel: 01666 841273 or email: ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk

Living Churchyard

Contributed by Sue Robinson

There were two important events in the churchyard in September – the Moth Night and the first of what I hope will be regular Saturday morning sessions, which have the long-term aim of increasing the churchyard's value as a wildlife area and as a reflection of the miracle of the natural world.

On Friday 18 September we had a perfect warm, still, dry night for attracting moths to a mercury vapour lamp. Sadly the number of moths was like the number of people attracted to the event – small. Nevertheless eight different varieties of moth were identified, which our expert from the Wiltshire Living Churchyard Project, Mr Ivan Randall, said was a good total. Those who were there enjoyed the evening and the results are on their way to the National Moth Night project co-ordinators.

The next morning, again in perfect weather, the LCCP volunteers met in the churchyard and spent several hours cutting ivy from trees in order to save their lives! One ivy stem was about six inches/15 cms in diameter where it started up the tree trunk and the top growth was starting to pull down the upper branches of the tree. We hope that two trees have now been saved for the future.

You should soon see some radical clearance taking place in the churchyard, to remove overgrown trees. These will eventually be replaced by native British species which will be much more wildlife friendly. Watch next month's report for more news of what exactly has been done.

As ever more help is needed. Please contact me if you would like to get involved. Sue Robinson 01666 841263

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Late night shopping

Contributed by Lesley Thomas of Malmesbury and District Chamber of Commerce

Friday 4 December will be late night Christmas shopping in Malmesbury from 6 – 9pm. Come and do your Christmas shopping while the band plays and the carol singers entertain you! Santa will be in his grotto at E & S Shops. There will be a circus slide, helter-skelter and pirate galleon. The town crier will be in attendance and judging the best-dressed window competition. The library will be holding its usual drop-in craft session for children from 6 – 7.30pm. Along with many of the shops offering festive cheer Hyams Autos will be providing hot soup. To ease any parking problems, Andy James will be operating a free park and ride scheme from Malmesbury Garden Centre, which will also remain open during the evening. Any local clubs, organisations or charities wishing to run a stall please contact the secretary to the Chamber of Commerce on 01249-783434. (And we guarantee snow!)



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Top tenor tunes up for charity

Contributed by the Rev Richard Maslen

One of the most powerful and dynamic tenors in the country has agreed to help the Malmesbury St Aldhelm Masonic Lodge, which includes members from Sherston and the villages, to raise money for its 2009/10 chosen charity, Diabetes UK, by giving a concert locally.

Tim Pitman, who comes from Ditchat in Somerset, worked with big names in show business after he became, in 1992, the first singer-songwriter to be awarded a grant by The Prince's Trust and was invited to sing before The Prince of Wales.

He made a life-changing decision when he entered the world of classical music and has become well known for his ability to hit the top 'b's and 'c's with power and yet recreate the same type of dark tenor voice of old-time tenors such as Caruso.

He has sung with the Royal Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, performed with Nigel Kennedy, toured in Germany and France, and confirmed a position as one of the fastest up-and-coming tenors around. At the Glastonbury Extravaganza he sang to 15,000 people, and has performed as a classical tenor with the best military bands such as the Coldstream Guards, Royal Marines, the Black Watch, and touring Russian military bands.

Tim has also sung to great acclaim before thousands of people at the Birmingham military tattoo, and performs for the Royal British Legion at concerts including the remembrance concert at the Colston Hall, Bristol.

He is a friend of the Malmesbury Lodge and readily agreed to give a classical, light-classical concert in aid of Diabetes UK, which is a self-funding charity paying for vital work in research, providing information, and campaigning for improved standards of diabetes care. The concert will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 21 November at St Mary's Parish Church, Tetbury, by kind permission of the vicar and churchwardens. Tetbury Parish Church is well known as a venue for music festivals and concerts and has splendid acoustics.

Tickets will be £10.00, to include wine, and can be reserved by telephoning Colin Lewis of Halfway Bush on 01666 840126 or the Rev Richard Maslen of Woods Close on 01666 840387.

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In brief

Advent Sunday

A service of carols and readings for Advent Sunday will be held in the Church of the Holy Cross at 6pm on Sunday 29 November. The Dodington Parish Band will be accompanying the singing. This local band is well known to many in Sherston as they lead the singing of Christmas carols in the pub each year. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Area board meeting

The next meeting of Malmesbury area board will be at 7pm on Wednesday 11 November in Malmesbury secondary school. The area board, which represents Sherston, is the body through which Wiltshire Council now does much of its business. The area boards are intended to enable local people to influence decisions about local issues.

At this meeting Councillor Richard Tonge, cabinet member for highways and transport, will give an update on the progress of community issues.

Bring in your bin

Householders are asked to collect their recycling boxes and wheelie bins as soon as they have been emptied. The parish council is making this request following a complaint from a resident that these items are left on the highway for days on end and 'spoil our lovely village'.

Dark deeds

Dog owners are again exploiting the extra hours of darkness to avoid clearing up after their pets.

At least one dog has been identified and its owner reported to the dog warden who, it is understood, has previously visited this owner.

And dogs are again being exercised on the recreation ground. For many years, there have been notices at each entrance indicating dogs are prohibited.

Don't sleep on it

Neighbourhood Watch teams are urging people to act quickly if they see something suspicious. 'Don't sleep on it and maybe report it the next day - that's too late,' said Ian Mace, Malmesbury sector co-ordinator. 'If it's an emergency or a crime is taking place, please dial 999. If it's a more general concern, telephone 0845 408 7000 or call in at Malmesbury police station on a Thursday afternoon to talk about it.'

Good things come from Spam

Rattlebone landlord Jason Read has generously waived the £150 cost of Sherston's commemorative wartime supper. Featuring Spam fritters, the supper followed the D-Day concert in Holy Cross church and was to be paid for by the parish council. Instead, the parish council have in turn donated £150 to the Help for Heroes charity for wounded servicemen and women.

Green fingers wanted

The parish council has welcomed a resident's suggestion for floral planters in the village. While the original suggestion applied only to the High Street, councillors would like to extend it to the whole parish. It is envisaged that, following consultation with the area highway engineer, large planters be put in situ which would then be planted and maintained by volunteers. Sponsorship and some limited fundraising may be possible to pay for the scheme. Those interested in taking this further should contact the parish clerk Sarah Wood on 01666 840348 or email: clerk@sherston.org.uk.

Lighten up

High Street householders have only a few weeks to put in their requests for Christmas lights.

Those wishing to be considered for the low-energy white lights should let the parish council know before the end of this month. Contact Cilla Liddington on 01666 840128 or sherstoncilla@tiscali.co.uk.

Logo competition

Could you design a new logo for the Malmesbury and the Villages Community Area Partnership?

Entries are invited in three categories: 5- 11 years, 12 - 17 years and 18s and over. There are prizes in each category with an overall winner being unveiled at the Partnership open meeting at Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 15 December at 7pm.

Your logo should be A 4 size and clearly marked 'Logo Competition' and sent to the Town Hall by 30 November. Further information and application forms can be found at www.malmesburyandthevillages.net Hard copies are available from the Town Hall or Malmesbury Library.

Macmillan Cancer Support

The coffee morning held in Sherston Church on 25 September was a great success and raised £464. The Sherston and District Committee of Macmillan Cancer Support wish to thank everyone who supported the event and those who made cakes, donated raffle prizes, etc. The committee are seeking new members. For more information telephone Ann Carr-Jones on 01666 880142 or Sue Thompson on 01666 840378.

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North Wiltshire Ponds Restoration Group

The proceeds from the illustrated talk on ancient ponds given in the British School Room on Friday 2 October were £108. This will be given to the restoration fund for the Lower Farm project. The income for the event was £135 (37 tickets @ £5). Expenses came to £26.76 (donation to British School Room £15, wine £11.76).

Next parish council meeting

This will be on Thursday 12 November in the village hall at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to all and there are opportunities for you to raise questions and issues of concern. If you cannot make the meetings but have something to raise please contact the clerk Mrs. Sarah Wood on 01666 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. You can also contact the parish council via the response form on the website www.sherston.org.uk where minutes of meetings can be read.

Park with care

Drivers parking in front of the old school are obstructing pedestrians, pushchairs and vehicles for the disabled. They are parking so close to the railings that people are having to go into the road to get past.

Tee off

An aspiring Tiger Woods has smashed a window in Knockdown Road. This has provoked the parish council to remind players that, for safety reasons, golf is not allowed on either the sports field or the recreation ground.

2010 WAA Diary

A pocket diary marking the 20th anniversary of the Wiltshire Air Ambulance is available for £3 from both Sherston and Luckington post offices as well as direct from Noel Banks - 07976307296. All proceeds to the WAA charity.

Watch that cow

Police had 18 calls about animals straying on Malmesbury roads over two recent months.

'On one occasion a car collided with two cows and they unfortunately had to be destroyed,' said PC Sam Bussey and PCSO Dee Curran of Malmesbury police. 'It's inevitable that, in a rural location such as ours, things like this will happen. But please drive with caution.'

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Westonbirt heritage gardens

There's just time to catch the end of the children's activity week at Westonbirt gardens on Saturday 31 October and Sunday 1 November from 10.30am to 4pm. With fairy workshops, face painting, storytelling, nature trails and art activities to keep everyone amused at the end of the half term holiday. A plant sale over the two days plus delicious refreshments also offers something for the grownups. Adults £3.50 concessions £2 children under 5 free.

The event is organised by the Holfords of Westonbirt Trust and for more information and details of the work of the Trust visit www.holfordtrust.com

Arts workshops

Wiltshire Council is running a Participatory Arts Workshop Scheme (PAWS), open to any group based in the county. Each project runs for a minimum of eight hours spread over two to four visits by a professional artist/craftsperson to your group. Groups need to provide a suitable venue for the project. This costs just £30 (plus any additional materials costs.) The remaining fee is subsidised by the council. Participating groups do not need any arts experience. For further details email the council's arts development officer, Meril Morgan at meril.morgan@wiltshire.gov.uk or phone 0300 456 0100.

Grateful farmers

FARM Africa would like to thank the Sherston Post Office Stores and all those who contributed to the charity box during September. This raised fifty pounds.

Lock up your lawnmowers

Dark nights can be a boon to burglars. 'So take stock of your home security,' said Ian Mace, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for the Malmesbury sector. 'Does your shed have a lock? Do you lock your garage or just pull the door down? These are minor things but they can make all the difference. The chances are that a thief won't waste time struggling to enter a secure area but would be in and out in seconds if it wasn't secure. Tough padlocks and robust door locks can make the difference between security and distress'.



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MATRIX

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Sherston Arts Festival 2009



A great range of works were on view in the church.



Neil Forster, who judged the entrants, presents the Young Artists prizes.

Young Artist Exhibition awards:

Highly Commended:

*Charlotte Chivers,
Mark Whitehead,
George McCrory and
James Ormiston.*

Commended:

*Katherine Moyse,
Joseph Clegg, Ellen Browett
and Flora Harrant Lambert,
Holly Findlay, Freya Milne,
Luke Rogers, Tilly Gould,
William Hulme and
Eleanor Webster.*

Paul Mather with one of the winning scarecrow teams.



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Carron Wilson presents the prizes at the photography exhibition.



Photography competition winners

Best in show (public vote): *'Up Periscope'* by James Ormiston

Category winners (independently judged):

Flora and fauna in and around Sherston:

Nick Burridge, James Ormiston and Isabel Walker

What I did this summer:

Jane Milne, Charlotte Holland and Jamie Holland

Seasons: *Jane Milne and Isobel Browett.*

Interpret a book title: *Nick Burridge and George Donaldson*


Doors and gateways: *Nick Burridge and Charles Price*

One of the images chosen from the photographic exhibition for the 2010 In and Around Sherston calendar which will be on sale in the post office shortly.



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Make Malmesbury more fun

Sherston's 11 -25-year olds can have a say on what they would like to see in Malmesbury.

'Malmesbury's a centre for many of the surrounding villages and it's to Malmesbury that many young people travel in order to go to school, to socialise and to work,' said a spokesman for the Your Town consultation group.

'So we want to know the opinions of every young person who lives in or regularly visits Malmesbury.'

The opportunity has arisen because the YMCA is giving almost £100,000 for facilities and services for young people in the town.

Further details are available on <http://malmesbury.gov.uk/yourtown> where there is also a questionnaire to complete and the chance to follow developments on Twitter.

The consultation is open until 15 November.

Christmas bazaar

Sherston church Christmas bazaar will be held in the village hall on Saturday 21 November starting at 1pm with homemade soup and rolls. Stalls will also start selling at the same time – to include Christmas gifts, cakes, toys, produce, a tombola and raffles. Teas, coffee and mince pies will also be available. Come and support your local church, meet friends and pick up some Christmas purchases too.

Please also note the date of the concert in church by the Amberley Chamber Choir, which is on Saturday 5 December at 7.30pm. Further details next month but put this date in your diary if you like chamber music. If you have been to their concerts before you will want to come again.

Help and guys needed

Are you busy on the morning or evening of Saturday 7 November? Or both?

Sherston 1016 has put out a plea for helpers to assist with getting the bonfire and field ready for this year's Guy Fawkes event. Help is also needed to marshal the event on that evening from around 5.30pm on land generously lent each year by the Hillier family at Lower Farm.

If you can spare a few hours to help set up the field during the daylight hours of the Saturday, or could help with marshalling, please phone 01666 840728 (daytime) or 840112 as soon as possible.

Combustible material may be taken to the site during the week leading up to the Saturday, and put over the wall into the bonfire field, which is on the right as you approach the farm buildings.

The event, starting at 6.30pm, is always held on the nearest Saturday evening to 5 November to enable families to attend together. There will be a barbecue and hot and cold drinks on sale.

There will be a competition, with a prize, for the best guy brought along by 6.15pm on the evening. This best guy will then have a very special reserved seat on the bonfire.... for a short while!

Please wear sensible footwear, with wellingtons being preferable, especially if it's wet underfoot. It's also advisable to wear older clothes, just in case you spill tomato ketchup down your front! It's not a high-fashion event, and, after all, you'll be in a farmer's field!

Sparklers are not permitted at the display for safety reasons, but safe light-sabres and light-ropes will be on sale.

Entrance charges (non-refundable) are the same as last year, at £5 per adult and £3 per child on the gate, or an advance family ticket for 2 adults and 3 children costs £12, available from Sherston Post Office Stores.

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Fishy business



A new face has recently appeared in the High Street on Tuesday mornings.

Every Monday afternoon John Petersen selects a consignment of recently landed fish from the store in Grimsby. Then at about 4am the next day he collects what he has selected, loads it into his ice-packed van and sets out down the motorway for Sherston.

John remembers when Grimsby was home to a huge fishing fleet. His father was the skipper of a fishing trawler. Sadly, he was lost at sea in 1979. John himself went to sea at the age of 15 and spent several years on the fishing boats before settling for a less hazardous way of life.

John's van is parked outside the post office for the first half of every Tuesday morning, then goes on to Tuck's yard for a couple of hours. He also fits in deliveries to some of our housebound elderly villagers. Then it's off to Hullavington, an overnight bed-and-breakfast stop and a stint in Tetbury on Wednesday before getting back up the motorway to Grimsby.

It's not an easy way to make a living, and in fact John has to spend the rest of the week doing other work to make ends meet. But he lives in a part of the country that was having a hard time even before the present economic downturn and he's using his initiative and his knowledge of the fish trade to survive. Those of us hereabouts who appreciate fresh fish are getting the benefit.

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New help for carers

A new service for Wiltshire carers is up and running.

The charitable company Carers' Support is offering free information on how and where carers can get breaks from their caring role.

'Having a break can help you cope with caring and give you what's necessary to recharge your batteries,' said a Carers' Support spokeswoman.

'You may want a break so you can follow up interests and catch up with family and friends or you may want to plan a longer break to allow a holiday.

'The person cared for may benefit from a break too.'

The organisation has information on breaks during which the carer can have time off alone as well as breaks where the cared-for can accompany the carer.

Its database deals with day care, care homes, holiday providers, social activities, clubs, personal support, training opportunities and respite services.

Carers can access this service via Freephone 0800 9173562 or via email: breaks@csww.co.uk.

Further details can be had from <http://www.wiltshirecarersbreaks.btik.com> or by contacting Fiona Hunter on 01380 871690.

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1st	Michael Gray (no.108)	£11
2nd	Pam Hicks (no.245)	£10
3rd	Lynn Prior (no.16)	£9
4th	Katie Tappin (no.47)	£8
5th	Tom Dryden (no.57)	£7
6th	Jill Ashley (no.64)	£6
7th	Dr Pettit (no.193)	£5

Bonus for non-winners (£5 each)

Shirley Freeth (25), Jean Poole (44), Irene Johnston (156), Janet Platts (115), Mrs M.Gee (160), Penny Ager (157), Nick Holland (78).

Collectors

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

Boules and carnival 2010

Next year sees the 25th Sherston Boules competition and as you can imagine plans are already in hand to make 2010 something special. Indeed the committee has already met – some three months earlier than normal – so as to get a head start on all the arrangements. Boules day itself will be on weekend 17 July, neatly avoiding a clash with the football World Cup finals the previous weekend

A number of ideas for next year are being proposed, including a Colts Boules competition for those aged 12 to 16 as well as a possible return of the carnival procession. If these ideas are to become reality – especially the procession – a good deal more help is going to be required. If you are interested in assisting with either of these proposals or just generally with the whole event please contact the secretary Caroline Moore on 01666 841405 or caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk

New age kurling

The recent demonstration in the village hall proved both interesting and entertaining. The game was extremely easy to learn with Guida Bryant and Heather Martin in particular soon mastering the finer points. It only takes about two minutes to set up and is suitable for all ages and abilities.

The village hall committee is exploring the possibility of purchasing the equipment with the help of some grant finance. It should prove a valuable addition to the hall's facilities.



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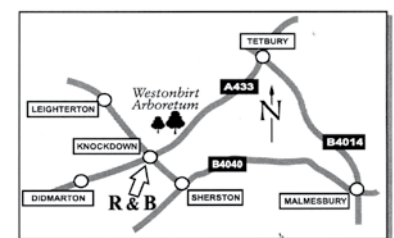


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Crab apple harvest

Contributed by Richard Langley

This year's crab apple crop has not been as good as last year's. That's the informed opinion of Willow Class from Sherston School, with advice from Guy Tullberg and Liz Cuff from Tracklements

For the fifth year in succession, Sherston School pupils have helped to pick crab apples for making into jelly. This year they picked from trees on The Cliff, thanks to generous permission from the Sidebottom family.

'First the children pick the fruit, then we show them how to make it into crab-apple jelly (boiled and strained through muslin) and finally, we sell it,' explains Guy. On good years, the joint venture produces 1,000 jars of jelly, which is particularly delicious with roast pork. Some of it is sold at the school's Christmas fund-raising fair, the rest is distributed to the small food shops that stock Tracklements's products. For every jar of jelly sold through these outlets, the school gets 25p.

As well as financial rewards, though, Project Crab Apple brings a whole bunch of educational benefits attached. 'We'll talk about weights and numbers of the apples in maths; we'll do designs for the jar labels in art; and we'll produce a report of the day with pictures in ICT,' says Sue Wild, Willow's class teacher. 'From a broader perspective, an outing like this helps children understand exactly where food comes from.'

As Guy explains, 'In our headlong rush for balsamic vinegar and continental flavours, we often forget that we've got a food heritage of our own. We've got a blind spot when it comes to acknowledging that pork pie, cold meats and piccalilli, along with cheese and chutney, are a British version of antipasto.'

It has been a bit of an eye-opener for all of us to see how unpredictable the crab apple harvest can be. Trees that are loaded with fruit one year produce nothing the next year. So far this year Tracklements have sold over 2000 jars – all of which were made with crabapples picked in the vicinity.

There will be an open day at Tracklements at Easton Grey on Saturday 28 November, 9.30am-1pm, where anyone who is interested can come and have a look

Willow Class members



around at how they make their products, do some Christmas shopping and have a mince pie and some mulled wine!

Stepping out

No fewer than 12 volunteers have responded to a Cliffhanger plea for help with the proposed Sherston walks booklet. These 'guinea pigs' will try out the routes, maps and descriptions of the walks. The parish footpath group hopes to publish its booklet in early spring. Because the walks in the booklet will need to be in the best possible condition, the parish footpath group is hoping to set up a working party to undertake some basic path maintenance and repairs. Anyone interested in joining the working party should please contact Maggie McKenna secretary to the group on 01666 841047 or email mckenna@harriespartnership.com. The next meeting of the group, which is open to all, will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 26 November in the Village hall.



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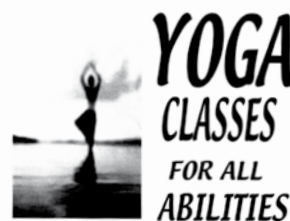
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THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

Throughout 2009 the Order aimed via a highly professional press and event campaign to ensure that the traditional sport of mangold hurling, with its inherent skill and athleticism, be held in the highest possible esteem both locally and nationally. After this year's hurl there can be no doubt that a great deal has been achieved in that direction despite the result of the team final on Sunday 4 October producing a vicious sting in the tail.



It was at the Anointment of the Normans on the Friday evening before the hurl that it first became apparent to members of the Order that the PR campaign for the event so ably masterminded by Kate Hosier was beginning to show dividends. This usually secret ritual washing of the Normans was witnessed by a packed bar of visitors and locals in the Rattlebone Inn. Mangold Matron Caroline Scarlett took charge of the ceremony showing quite how easily she can still bring a tear to many a member's eye. Once the Normans had been gently washed in cider in the 'Luckington Bowl' and then decapitated by the present mangold maid Amelie Smith with passionate assistance from former maids Hannah Neal and Jo Jo Richardson all the remaining liquid in the Bowl including the dirt and grit was drunk by all present in a toast to the maids.

The eve of the hurl brought a flurry of activity with the joint Keepers of the Cart, Richard Langley and son Tom, leading an early morning posse of Sherston Scouts to the famous mangold fields of Wotton under Edge to collect this year's crop. All were greatly impressed with the size and quantity of the crop grown



by Sid Young on his family's farm. Meanwhile back in the village news was spreading fast that Kate had worked her PR magic by getting a piece on the hurl published in that day's Times newspaper.

From dawn on Hurl Sunday it was clear that we were about to enjoy a most beautiful autumn day with absolutely ideal conditions for the competition. The arrival of the Cook family from Mansfield Nottinghamshire, drawn by the Times article, gave an early indication of the record crowd to come – some 300 in all including a team from Wales – the first international team to take part.

At 2.04pm Malcolm Jarrett, resplendent in his Summoners attire, called the 2009 hurl to order with the Great Horn of Moyne. A plea for volunteers to pull the mangold cart full of giggling maids onto the field brought a stampede of men young and old. The mangold hymn was sung, followed by the mass 'Agincourt'



hurl – a sight to behold as scores of mangolds, glistening in the sunlight, flew through the blue autumn sky. Paul Ormiston, the Keeper of the Challenges, was almost overcome with entrants and soon a record 16 teams were ready for the team event.

Elsewhere on the field the crowd partook of ale and scrumpy from the bar generously manned by Sherston

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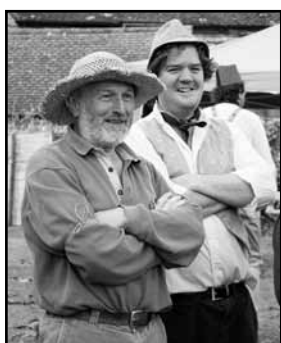
FC. Many also enjoyed the barbecue organised by Jason Read as he tried vainly to control the maids in his official capacity as their Keeper. Fortunately our catering supremos Lynette Willets and Liz Walker were on hand to run the barbecue, which also included a sumptuous mangold soup produced by Rob Strong in the Rattlebone's kitchen. Meanwhile amongst the revelling crowd Penny Forster offered all a nibble of her magnificent mangold muffin. Further entertainment was provided musically on equipment kindly provided and set up by Dave Shepard.



As the team event got underway it soon became clear that the many hours of patient practise was paying off for some. Nevertheless the Willow Ade Mynes, superbly assisted by Dean Parkes, was kept busy all afternoon in his refereeing capacity shouting the dreaded word 'bent' at all those hurling foul with a less than straight arm. Indeed at one point he threatened to invoke the drastic rule 54 A iv (as amended by the now notorious 1963 Newton Abbott convention) before sanity was finally restored.

Children seemed to delight in the hurl and their own competition proved a great success with the NABS team running out the winners. The Order sincerely hopes that all these young hurlers will go on to represent their parish in years to come.

So intense were the teams in the main event that a second pitch had to be brought swiftly into play by Graham Hayman the Keeper of the Field to ensure that all was concluded well before darkness fell. Eventually around 5 pm the two finalists took up their positions before a vociferous crowd. After a hurl of monumental proportions going right down



to the final root it was the Root Vegetable Aerobic Display Team who proved victorious over local team the Five O'clock Shadows and lifted their prizes – an enormous 20 lb mangold and brilliant T shirts produced by the pupils of Briarwood School Bristol.



As already reported, a member the winning team was no less than Jimmy Doherty of the TV series 'Jimmy's Farm' along with brothers Tom and Will Lawton. Jimmy was so impressed with the hurl that he invited the Order back to his farm in Suffolk next year for a sugar beet throwing match.

Despite the ignominy of the team title going to a team 'without' the parish, Sherston's pride was fortunately restored in the individual hurl, which attracted a massive field of 31. Jock Walker (last year's champion) and Rob Punter, both from the parish, had to suffer the intense pressure of a hurl off demanded by the Willow to determine this year's winner. Rob claimed victory with a hurl of 125 yards and was duly crowned this year's Mangold King.



On a serious note, the Order has constituted with immediate effect a special commission to investigate the failure of a Sherston side to win the 2009 team event and to make in-depth recommendations as to the future organisation of the sport in the parish. Their report is to be published by the end of the month. In the meantime Ian Ashby, this year's Keeper of the Technique, received a somewhat muted vote of confidence in the hours shortly after the hurl from members of the Order, despite their being in an increasing state of shock and confusion as the reality of the result began to sink in.

Leaving the team result well aside, the day proved not only to be hugely enjoyable for all those who attended but also produced a profit of some £300 towards Sherston 1016's funding of the Christmas senior citizens' vouchers. This gave particular pleasure to Noel Banks the Keeper of the Groat.

With more teams from Wales, Suffolk, Devon and Nottinghamshire expected next year, preparations are already under way for 2010, with the weekend of 2/3 October being set for the hurl. Till next year may your arm be straight and your root firmly grasped.

Yarp! The Keeper of the Quill



Sherston FC

Contributed by manager Pete Brock

The Sherston football wagon still keeps rolling on. Since our last report we have played only two games, winning them 9-0 and 6-0. The real test for us will be on 7 November when we have a game against Hardwick. They had a team in the Hellenic league and disbanded, only to have a lot of their players drop into our league and play for the second team. We won't let it bother us too much - on the day of the match we will be up for it.

We have not had a game for a while and the boys have been doing their own bits of training. Rob (Knocker) Outlaw said he is training for a cage fight (I think someone's budgie is going to get it) and a lot of the other lads have been playing indoor football twice a week at Westonbirt sports centre.

JoJo has taken her sponge to Spain for a week, (I see injuries have gone up 50% this week in Spain) but she will be back Saturday.

Ting Tong (Kev Bridgeman) has been doing some kung fu exercises and playing on a Sunday morning, as have the other lads from Malmesbury. Wardy has been combing his hair in different directions trying to cover his bald spot, after one of the best headed goals I have seen scored in any level of football moved three strands out of place. Also Kev Wicks scored a fantastic goal and Gav Thompson sneaked in with a couple, while Greg Hughes has made a great comeback to our back four. The biggest news is that Conker (Adam Salt) has scored. He split two defenders and slotted home from 12 yards and everyone went mad because he doesn't get many chances, so well done Conker.

The cup match against Hardwick on Saturday 7 November KO 2.30pm is at home - so come along, support the boys and make some noise!

Forest Green Rovers in the FA Cup

After defeating Mangotsfield in the FA Cup fourth qualifying round, Forest Green Rovers are at home to Mansfield Town on Saturday 7 November, 3pm KO, in the first round proper. For more information ring the club 01453 834860.

 FOREST GREEN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB November Fixtures at The New Lawn 	
Saturday 21st - 3pm Stevenage Borough	Admission Prices: Adults: £15 seated £13 Standing Concessions: £10 Seated £8 Standing Juniors (under 16): £7 Seated £5 Standing
Tuesday 24th - 7.45pm Oxford United	For further details on these or future fixtures call 01453 834860 www.forestgreenroversfc.com www.fgrtrust.com
<small>Forest Green Rovers F.C., The New Lawn, Smiths Way, Nailsworth, Glos. GL6 0FG</small>	

Sherston Youth FC

Contributed by manager Owen Fitzpatrick

Sherston's first match in October was away to Wootton Bassett B. During the warm-up period Ed Williams twisted his knee and was unable to take part and now looks like he will miss most of the season.

Soon after the kick-off when we went into a 1-0 lead thanks to a well-taken goal from Will Barrass, but this was cancelled out within 10 minutes. After another Sherston attack the hard-working Will Eaton got his just rewards, scoring with a powerful shot.

When Mark Bisping came out bravely to stop a certain goal, he dislocated his shoulder and had to come off. Sam Parker, who is recovering from a serious foot injury, volunteered to go in goal.

In the second half our third goal came from a Wootton Bassett defender who headed into his own net from a corner. A further two goals by Nick Farrow and Matt Tupper secured our three points. The man-of-the-match award went to Will Eaton for a tireless display. That result placed us joint top with our next opponents, Wootton Bassett C.

For the match with Wootton Bassett C we had four players injured and two taking their Level 1 coaching exam, which left us with just one substitute. Wootton started the game strongly but Jack Fortune scored from just outside the area, giving Sherston a well-deserved lead. After a long period of Sherston controlling the game Wootton attacked in numbers and with their forward running at goal Sam Parker courageously dived at his feet. They were awarded a penalty which they converted.

At half-time Nick Farrow, playing with an injury, was replaced with George Harding, who was playing his first game for Sherston. George quickly made his mark with a quick goal to put Sherston 2-1 up.

Another Sherston attack brought George a second goal, but following a tackle in our area that was deemed to be a foul, Wotton converted their second penalty.

Within minutes George scored again for his hat-trick, giving Sherston another 3 points which took us clear at the top of the table. The Man-of-the-Match award was difficult as everyone played well, worked hard and supported each other, but the player who stood out was Sam Brown who played at right back for the first time and was a natural.

Four games, four wins; Sherston's best start to a season since we were formed. Our next two home matches are on 15 November, 10.30 kickoff, against Stratton Youth and 22 November, 10.30 kickoff against Marlborough.

I would like to congratulate Olly Clifton and Jack Campaigne on gaining their Level 1 coaching badge.

A load of boules

Contributed by Tony Towle

The Rattlebone Boules League has had teams winning that were not expected to win and teams that were expected to win that did not. But above all there was the tragic death of Mark Doyle, who was a stalwart of the league from the very beginning and contributed so much to the fun factor of the whole event. He will be sadly missed.

The winners of the leagues are:

League 1

- 1st The Hoose captained by Jock Walker
- 2nd Tommy's Tigers captained by Tom Dryden
- 3rd The Bungers captained by Kevin Smith

League 2

- 1st Les Reynards Argent captained by Tony Weedon
- 2nd Sherston Antiques captained by Tony Towle
- 3rd Clan Lamont captained by Jenny Lamont

It was decided to have a trophy in Mark's memory contested between the winners of Leagues 1 and 2. This took place on Sunday 4th October. Les Reynards Argent were first to 8 points but were then tied. They were ahead again at 11 points, when they

were equalled again. The power and determination of Jock Walker's team eventually triumphed in what was a very close and exciting match, which ended 13-11 and was attended by a large and enthusiastic band of supporters.

The prize giving and buffet will be in January, at a date to be announced.

An even bigger load of boules

This year we had eighteen teams in each of our two leagues, which in hindsight was too many. Next year there will be changes. Jason Read and Rob Strong, of The Rattlebone Inn, have agreed to turn one of our pitches into a double pitch, similar to the ones that are in the High Street on Boules Day. This will enable us to run three smaller leagues at a maximum of sixteen teams in each. We can now, therefore, accommodate several more teams.

If you have ever wondered what those strange people are doing in the patio area of the Rattlebone on sunny summer evenings, now is your chance to find out. Skill is not a requirement, but the wish to socialise and join in a highly enjoyable pastime is. The boules league is a very good way for newcomers to the village to meet people.

If you can muster three, or preferably four, family or friends you can form a team. If just you and perhaps a partner wish to get involved, we can mix and match you into a team. For more information, contact Tony Towle on 01666 840574.

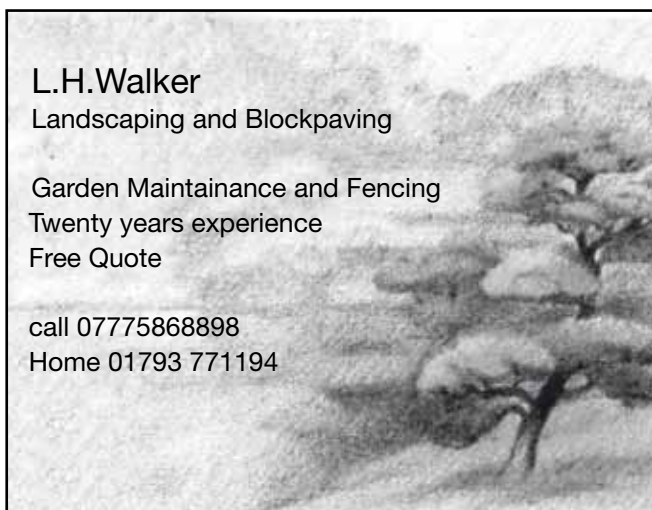


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Regular events in Sherston

Holy Cross church

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

Congregational church

Services each Sunday 11 am - 12.00

For further details see the Parish Life or phone 07778 934742

Methodist church

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

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 ebplaced@aol.com. Alternatively and to gain immediate attention simply stand at the Rattlebone bar and shout 'Yarp'

'Busy Hands' Pre-school

Meets 9.15-11.45 everyday in the village hall. If your child turns 3 between Sept '09 and August '10 then register for a place and try it out. Registered charity no. 296903

Contact Busy Hands on 841118

Church bell-ringing

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

Clem's Club

Clem invites 'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat' in the British School Room every other Tuesday 2.30 - 3.30pm, 10 and 24 Nov.

Footpaths group

The group is a sub-committee of the parish council and consists in the main of interested residents, rather than councillors. Its remit is 'to promote the use by all of the rights of way in the parish, ensuring they are in good condition and free from obstruction'. Currently the main task is the publication of a new walks booklet for the parish. If you would like to become involved, join the next meeting on Thursday 26 Nov at 7.30pm at the village hall.

For further information contact Maggie McKenna on 841047 or maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com

Ladies' swimming club

The Club is open to any ladies from Sherston or the surrounding area. It is sociable and friendly and non competitive. We swim at the pool at Westonbirt School on Wednesday evenings between 8 and 9.30pm. The cost is £37 for 15 weeks. Shorter summer memberships may be possible. To join please phone Annabel Clifton on 840592 or Heather Martin on 840375.

Legs, bums & tums

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

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

Wed 11 Nov at 6.30 for 7pm at Malmesbury School

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 12 Nov 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

Salsa @ Sherston

Salsaflex salsa classes every Monday from 7.30 pm in the village hall. Experienced instructors teach both absolute beginners and improvers. There is no booking required - just turn up. Classes cost £5 for the evening (around 2 hours) To find out more visit www.salsaflex.com or call Fitz on 07950 711405

Senior Club

Meets at 2.00pm in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday - 3 and 17 Nov. For further details contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143

Sherston 1016

Fundraising for local good causes and charities, including Senior Citizens Christmas vouchers. We are an informal group and organise six or so events a year including the annual fireworks party and the collection in support of Wiltshire Air Ambulance over Badminton weekend. We welcome new members and are happy for people to offer whatever time they can spare. For further details contact Eric Thacker on 841344 or email eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk

Sherston Badminton Club

We play every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm in the Village Hall from September to May. All standards welcome. For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592

Sherston FC

The club was revived in 2008 winning promotion in its first season in the Stroud league. All home matches are played at Knockdown Park Sherston usually on Saturday afternoons - spectators welcome. Training every Wednesday evening - pop along if you are a new player. For more details contact Pete Brock on 07912 777647 or peter.brock666@btinternet.com

SHOCC - Sherston's Occasional Community Choir

Will meet again every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.30pm in the British School Room during October and November leading up to a concert at the Parish Church on Sun 29 Nov. Contact Mary Clements 840688 or Nicki Heenan 840883 for more details.

Sherston Tennis Club

Sherston Tennis Club is a friendly, family-orientated club with two hard courts off Knockdown Rd in Sherston. Men's and other teams (when we have the players!) participate in the Wiltshire Summer League. Coaching is available in summer for adults and children. New members of any ability are welcome. Fees for the 2009/10 are: Family £80, Adult £45, Senior citizen £20, Junior (18 and under) £15. For more information, please contact the club secretary, Ashley Stopforth, on 01666 840825

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 - 5 Nov. A warm welcome awaits visitors and new members. For further details contact Maureen Jolliffe 01666 840867

Sherston Young Craft Group

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

Splash Dance

Dance classes for 2 to 12 year olds including ballet, modern and tap. Every Wednesday in the village hall. Pre-school 2.30 - 3pm, Pre-primary ballet 3.30 - 4pm. Primary Ballet 4 - 4.30pm Grade 1 Ballet 4.30 - 5pm Grade 1 Tap 4.30 - 5pm (small hall) Grade 3 Ballet 5 - 5.30pm Grade 2 Modern 5 - 5.30pm (small hall). Prices are £35 per term with the first lesson free. For more details contact Charlotte on 01453 886632 or email charlotte@splashdance.co.uk

Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

The Sherston Toddler and Baby group meets at 2.30pm each Tuesday in the village hall. The group is a fun way for children and their parents to meet and play, and to have a drink and a snack. Toys, craft activities, cooking and singing with occasional special activities. Coming to the group helps young children get used to the village hall in preparation for Busy Hands Pre-School. Further details contact Alex on 841095 or alex@stickyfingerscooking.co.uk

Village hall 200+ club

Monthly draw prizes ranging from £11 down to £5 for a £6 annual stake, plus a quarterly £5 bonus for 7 non-winners. If any new members of the village would like to join, contact either Mary Goulding on 840794, Joyce Gleed 840744 or Gwen Mason 840660.

Whist drive

A whist drive is held in the village hall on the second Friday in the month, Fri 13 Nov 7.30 for 7.45pm. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. All profits to help maintain the village hall.

If you run a club, society or organisation in Sherston that holds regular events such as the above and wishes to be listed, please supply your details and we will add them to the Regular events list. If you have a particular event then please write a short piece about it and we can include it as an article and put the details in the What's On list for that month.

WHAT'S ON

Sherston

The Carpenter's Arms

Curry Quiz Night Sun 8 Nov 7.30pm £5 pp entry including all you can eat curry buffet / £1 quiz entry only

'Elvis' in concert Tues 10 Nov 8pm Food served from 6.30pm - early booking advised

Acoustic set with Matt Dyer Fri 27 Nov 9pm Further details contact 840665 or www.deliciousmonster.co.uk

The Rattlebone

Halloween party 31 Oct starting with children's pumpkin carving competition at 6.30pm followed later by live music from the Fraser Tilly Trio

Game week Mon 16 - Sat 21 Nov

Party night with live music Thurs 26 Nov 9pm Further details 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

All Hallows Walk Sun 1 Nov

Meet at the village hall at 10am. Particularly suitable for families and dogs on leads are welcome. The walk is free with no need to book. Just turn up with suitable footwear and clothing for weather conditions on the day. Ends with seasonal refreshments at 12 noon courtesy of the Rattlebone Inn.

Sherston FC Sat 7 Nov at 2.30 pm v Hardwick at Knockdown Park Sherston - free entry

Bonfire & Fireworks Extravaganza organized by Sherston 1016 Sat 7 Nov

Guy competition judging from 6.15pm. Barbecue, bar and hot drinks available. Fireworks from 6.30pm. On entry £5 adult, £3 child. Advance family ticket £12 including 2 adults & 3 children only on sale at the PO.

Any help building the bonfire during the morning most welcome. Bring any combustible material to Lower Farm.

Church of the Holy Cross

Remembrance Sunday Service Sun 8 Nov 10.45 - please be seated by 10.40

Childrens' Church on Sun 8 Nov at Court House, Hullavington, from 10.30am until the end of the Remembrance services (approximately 12 noon). Games, stories, music and bible teaching. Any child under the age of 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

Christmas bazaar in aid of the Church held in the village hall. Gifts and homemade produce Sat 21 Nov starting at 1pm with homemade soup and a roll. All profits to the parish church.

A service of Carols and Readings for Advent Sunday accompanied by the Dodington Parish Band. Refreshments afterwards Sun 29 Nov at 6.00 pm. **Concert of Christmas Music by the Amberley Chamber Choir** Sat 5 Dec 7.30pm £6 including refreshments.

Community bus shopping trip to Cribbs Causeway Sunday 15 Nov and Sat 19 Dec. 16 places available on the bus - book your ticket at the post office in advance to avoid disappointment. £4 return. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

Pinkney Park

Wentworth Jigsaws Open Day & Factory Sale Sat 31 Oct from 10am to 2pm. For further details contact 840033 or www.jigsaws.co.uk

Easton Grey

Festive open day at Tracklements

Tour the factory Sat 28 Nov 9.30 - 1pm. Whitewalls, Easton Grey. For further details contact 827044 or www.tracklements.co.uk

Norton The Vine Tree

Thai supper 1st Sunday every month. Thai food prepared to eat in on Sunday night or take away. Sun & Mon 2 courses £16. 3 courses £22. **Quiz Night** Quiz with 2 course meal £12pp. Includes Bottle of wine per team of 4. Mon 2 Nov 7.30pm.

Bacchanalian Society presents a New Zealand wine tasting dinner Thurs 19 Nov £35 for 3 courses including matching wines for each course. For further details contact 837654 or www.thevinetree.co.uk

Westonbirt The Arboretum

Autumn Colours Daily activities. Admission £8 adult / £7 concs / £4 chd/under 5s free.

Digital Photography workshops -Autumn Colours with Sarah Howard. All levels though would suit advanced more £120 (max 4) booking essential, call Sarah on 07760 498112. Sun 1 & Sat 7 Nov. **Talk and book launch - Cotswolds' Finest Gardens** Thurs 19 Nov. **Wattle Hurdle Course** Sat 21 - Sun 22 Nov £110 including all materials. Booking essential as places are limited - call Brian Williamson 01453 790666.

Enchanted Christmas Every Fri - Sun evenings from 21 Nov till 20 Dec 5pm - 8.30.

For further details contact 880220 or www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Westonbirt School and the Holford Heritage Gardens

Children's Activity weekend and plant sale in the Holford Gardens Sat 31 Oct to Sun 1 Nov from 10.30 am to 4pm. With fairy workshops, face painting, storytelling, nature trails and art activities as well as a plant sale over the two days. Adults £3.50 concessions £2 children under 5 free.

Piano recital by William Howard in aid of the Soundwell Music Therapy Trust Sat 31 Oct 7.30pm £20 including a glass of wine To book tickets please contact Lisa or Emma on 01225 862938 or 07807397736 or email enquiries@soundwell.org.uk www.westonbirtautumnfair.org

The Autumn Lecture: In Search of the English Eccentric by Henry Hemming Rising young author Henry Hemming, hailed by Tatler as 'the new Michael Palin', shares his experience of writing his book Fri 6 Nov 7.30pm Free and no need to book. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Wiener Library, the world's oldest holocaust memorial **Senior School Drama Department presents 'Pygmalion' by George Bernard Shaw** Admission is free with a retiring collection in aid of Drama Department facilities. No advance booking is required and everyone is welcome. Orangery Theatre Thurs 19 Nov at 7.30pm and Fri 20 Nov at 2pm

Christmas Wine and Food Fair Fri 20 Nov 4-8.30pm Sample fine wines from around the world and purchase Christmas gifts, many of them edible, from some of the finest local producers. Admission is free and there is a collection in aid of Gloucestershire Air Ambulance For further details contact 880333 or for the gardens Janice Malschuk on 07884 166565 or www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk and www.holfordtrust.com for the gardens

Grittleton Beaufort Hunt Christmas Gift Fair

A large assortment of Christmas foods, wines, ladies and gents fashion, fashion accessories, jewellery, pictures, interior designs, gardening, equine & pet supplies & gifts plus much more Tues 24 Nov 6-9pm £3 including a glass of wine All proceeds to local charities. Grittleton House School For further details contact Julie Morrison 01249 720058 or www.beauforthunt.com

Malmesbury

Dorothy House Hospice stall

Homemade produce stall in aid of the Dorothy House Hospice at the farmers' market at Market Cross Malmesbury on Sat 28 Nov from 9am contact Beryl Clampton on 841201 or 07850 623517

Late Night Christmas Shopping - advance notice

Festive street market with Santa's Grotto, carol singers, hot soup from Hyam's, craft session in the Library from 6-7.30pm Fri 4 Dec 6 - 9 pm Free park & ride from Malmesbury Garden Centre. Upper High St, Malmesbury To book a stall call 01249 783434

Tetbury

Classical concert by acclaimed tenor Tim Pitman in aid of Diabetes UK Sat 21 Nov 7.30pm £10 including wine at St Mary's parish church For further details contact Tickets from Colin Lewis 840126 or Rev Richard Maslen 840387

Cirencester

Cirencester Philharmonia celebrate the bicentenary of Mendelssohn's birth Sat 14 Nov 7.30pm Further details www.cirencesterphil.co.uk £10 Michael Bochmann (the concert master of the English Symphony Orchestra) and Michael Blackmore in concert on the violin and piano Sat 21 Nov 3pm £12

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

Hullavington & London

Mary Howard Christmas fair Hundreds of quality stalls with proceeds to various charities including the WAA, Dorothy House Hospice and the NSPCC. Free parking and creche at £4/hr available Tues 10 - Fri 13 Nov 10am - 4pm £13 more details www.maryhowardsales.co.uk

Live Monopoly in aid of WAA Sun 15th Nov £40 per team enters by end of October please(!) Teams are awarded points for every Monopoly location visited More details www.monopolive.org.uk For further details contact Melanie Gee 0845 1221423 or www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/events.htm

Nailsworth Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Professional football only 20 minutes drive from Sherston. Sat 7 Nov 3pm FA Cup match vs Mansfield town; Sat 21 Nov 3pm v Stevenage Borough; Tues 24 Nov 7.45pm v Oxford Utd Adults £15/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £7/£5

Michael Jackson Tribute Act Fri 27 Nov 7.30pm £20 including buffet dinner

The New Lawn Forest Green Nailsworth

For further details contact 01453 834860 or www.forestgreenroversfc.com

Oaksey Rural Arts Wiltshire

Umdumo Wesizwe - a 10 men singing and dance group from Zimbabwe's townships Licensed Bar and Refreshments. Fri 6 Nov Tickets Adults £6.50, Senior Citizens £5.50, Children & Concessions £3.50. Oaksey village hall. For further details contact 577100 or 575045 or www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk

Bath

Christmas Market

123 wooden stalls between Bath Abbey and York Street 26 Nov - 6 Dec 10am - 7pm / 9pm at weekends

For further details contact or www.bathchristmasmarket.co.uk

Mozartfest

Daily concerts & performances Fri 13 - Sat 21 Nov £10 - £40

Various locations in Bath - including Assembly Rooms, Forum & the Guildhall

For further details contact 01225 463362 or www.bathmozartfest.org.uk

Film Festival

12 - 21 Nov with hundreds of films - old and new, British and world films £4-£10 various cinema locations throughout Bath

For further details contact 01225 463362 or www.bathfilmfestival.org

Theatre Royal

The Caretaker by Harold Pinter with Jonathan Pryce Mon 2- Sat 7 Nov 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35

English Touring Opera presents Handel's Alcina Mon 9 Nov and Teso Tues 10 Nov 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £10-£35

The Pitmen Painters direct from the National theatre Tues 17 - Sun 21 Nov 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35

Book ahead for: Disney's Beauty and the Beast; Alistair McGowan; Pride and Prejudice; Handel's Messiah by candlelight; Sleeping Beauty For further details contact 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Stroud

The Cotswold Playhouse

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice 17-21 Nov 7.30pm £11

The Turn of the Screw Thurs 26 Nov £10

For further details contact Box Office at Stroud Tourist Information Centre 01453 760960 or www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk

Subscription Rooms

Music - concerts include **The Communicators** 7 Nov; **Martha Tilson & the Woods; G2 Definitive** (Genesis tribute band); **Glenn Tilbrook solo** (Squeeze) 17 Nov; **The Wurzels** 20 Nov 7.30pm £10-17

Meet your favourite children's authors. Children's authors Sue Limb (Girl 15, Charming but Insane), Elizabeth Lindsey (Magic Pony), John Dougherty (Jack Slater books), Jamila Gavin (The Coram Boy), Cindy Jeffries (The Rising Star and Fame Book Series), Hannah Shaw (The Evil Weasel, Erroll) will be reading from their work and answering questions, so come along listen, enjoy and get your books signed. 5 - 9 years 5.00pm to 6.00pm, 9 - 14 years 6.30pm to 8.00pm

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

Slimbridge

Wildfowl and wetlands centre

Landrover Safaris every weekend and daily in school holidays 11am & 2pm £5/£3 chd - book tours with David Bell 01453 891 223

Floodlit swan feeds Observe thousands of birds including the Bewick swans from the warmth of the observatory Sat & Sun

6.15pm from 28 Nov to end of Feb £5 adt / £3 chd

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

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