



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



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SEPTEMBER 2009

DELIVERED FREE



Old school should soon be ours

All householders can soon have a cost-free stake in the biggest project ever launched in Sherston.

Sherston Old School Company, of which all parishioners over 18 can be members, should be up and running by the autumn.

'The company can have as many members from the community as wish to apply,' said Sherston Parish Council chairman John Matthews.

'Everyone is entitled to become a company member subject to their guaranteeing a payment of £1 should the company fail.'

The purpose of Sherston Old School Company, or SOSC, is to buy the old school in the High Street from its owners the Diocese of Bristol and convert it for retail, commercial and community use.

The list of prospective tenants includes Sherston Post Office Stores, Sherston Wine and the new Wiltshire Council. This last hopes to bring the council to the people with what it calls 'a rural services hub'.

After months of detailed negotiation, terms have now been agreed for a non-profit-making SOSC to buy the Grade II listed building which has lain empty for five years.

Known as a community interest company, SOSC will also have a board of directors elected by the members.

To get the company started, the Old School Project Committee, which is part of the parish council, will nominate the first directors who will number about three.

But, at the first company AGM, these directors will stand down and the village members will be able to elect a new board.

Within the next two to three months, all villagers will be given an explanatory document and invited to become members.

Money to buy the building is coming from the national Eleanor Barton Trust, the local Sam Thompson Fund and from the previous North Wiltshire District Council.

'The estimated £500,000 cost of developing the old school will be met, if possible, by additional grants with any borrowing kept to a minimum,' said Mr Matthews.

'We intend to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund and launch a local fund-raising campaign.'

The project also involves securing the village hall field for the community.

Children go for gold

With barely a week before the deadline, five Sherston School girls submitted designs for a garden to be developed at the London 2012 Olympics. At the close, there were about thirty entries in the Royal Horticultural Society and Olympic Delivery Authority sponsored children's competition. Probably no other community in the entire UK has sent more entries.

The project is to design a quarter of an acre garden, recognisably British in style, embodying the principles of the modern Olympics and those of the Victorian Much Wenlock Olympics, and to represent a legacy of British achievement for future generations. Quite easy then!

Entries go before the judges, and a shortlist will go to a public vote to decide the final winner. Watch out for follow-up news. Our girls may yet need your vote. Hopefully, copies of all five entries will be put on display at the school soon.

Contributed by Mr Huggill who is the chairman of Sherston School Environment Area Group

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 hundred 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

Dudley Parkes: North Wiltshire Youth Coach of the Year

At this year's FA Charter Standard annual event, Dudley was presented with the North Wiltshire youth coach of the year award for all the sterling work he has done with Sherston Youth FC.

Owen Fitzpatrick, Sherston Youth's manager, said 'It was great to see Dudley get recognised for all his hard work. His relaxed style and personality have not only helped to get key tactics understood but have gone towards improving our overall play.'



Corrections

There were some mistakes in our bumper August issue. We have had the following pointed out to us. For these and any others we may have missed, we apologise.

In the short piece headed 'Thanks for the bric-a-brac' we got our Pykes and our Pinks in a twist. 'Kitty Pyke' should have been 'Kitty Pink at Pyke Boarding Kennels'.

The patchwork created by the Young Craft Group is to hang in the Tolsey Surgery, not in the school as we said.

In the piece about the footpath walks booklet, Maggie McKenna's telephone number was incorrect. It should read 841047. Maggie would still like to hear from anyone wishing to be a 'guinea pig' by testing some of the walks to be included in the booklet. Maggie can also be emailed on maggie.mckenna@harriespartnership.com

And finally, the Malmesbury carnival procession is on Saturday 5th September 2009 and not Sunday 30 August as we said in our What's On section. The Procession sets off from the small industrial estate Park Road at 18.00 and lasts for about one and a half hours.

The full Malmesbury Carnival programme can be viewed on the website www.malmesburycarnival.co.uk

PROPS:

Providing opportunities and support for those with special needs

Contributed by David Reeves

PROPS is an inclusive special needs organisation. Its name comes from its roots in the rugby community and it has adopted the ethos of the famous Barbarian rugby teams of the past: equity, excellence and inclusion.

Together with a variety of community partners in the areas of work and business, sports and leisure and the performing arts, we undertake projects that enable severely handicapped youngsters to share, perform and contribute to a wide variety of everyday activities. Our community partners as well as the handicapped youngsters benefit from this process.

Here are two typical PROPS projects.

Sports and Leisure : Bristol Rugby

Over the past four years we have tutored Bristol Rugby players to qualify for a community certificate in volunteering, which is a valuable level-two vocational qualification. In return, players tutor special needs students, helping them to obtain sports and leisure qualifications from the awarding body ASDAN. The benefits to both parties are obvious.

Business Enterprise

We have developed the production processes for a range of print products (canvas prints, banners, T-shirts etc). Our small PROPS-funded company gives real vocational opportunities to youngsters with special needs. It also gives our business partners the opportunity to key into our qualifications framework, and to contribute their work skills and experience to our students. Thus we have another integrated scheme that unites community groups with equity to achieve common goals.

Fundraising

Apart from one tutor employed to deliver our coursework at the Briarwood sixth form in Bristol, PROPS is run by volunteers. Consequently fundraising is essential to support projects of the kind outlined here.

Cliffhanger readers will know that a group of Sherston Cyclists were part of a team that not only had enormous fun covering the 380 miles to Bordeaux earlier this summer, but managed to raise almost £19,000 to support our work. This will pay for a full time tutor for a whole year, and help a significant number of students with severe learning difficulties to make a valuable contribution to our society.

We are always keen to hear of more ways to raise funds to support our project work. If you have any ideas, please contact PROPS via our website at www.propsforward.co.uk.

Feedback wanted

This Cliffhanger is the twelfth, and the editorial team feels that the time has come to see what you think of it so far – good or bad. We think this would best be done via a survey form that would be delivered with Cliffhanger. We need professional help in compiling such a form. Does anyone have any expertise in this area which they can share? If so please either email editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk or telephone 01666 841405.



Boules Week: recession update

Following another extremely successful boules and carnival week, the organising committee would like to extend a big thank-you to all the sponsors and volunteers who so generously supported this year's event. In spite of a dreadful (if inaccurate) weather forecast, boules day itself was very well attended, as were all the week's other events, and the feedback from contestants and visitors was highly encouraging.

So much for the good news. The less positive news is that although the event generated a profit, the harsh economic climate meant that revenue earned from sponsorship and from other sources was inevitably down from previous years. The consequence, sadly, is that the funds available for distribution to all the charities, clubs and other entities that supported the event are considerably lower than they were in 2007 or 2008, both of which were exceptionally profitable years. Fingers crossed that with the economy recovering, profitability will bounce back next year. After all, 2010 is a very special year for Sherston. As the first boules tournament was held in 1986, next year's will be the 25th event of its kind.

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Sherston Women's Institute

Contributed by Ann Wilcox

Members were kept highly amused by the stories told by their August speaker. The Rev. Mary Teed's title was 'Here we go a-vicaring'.

She explained how she came to give up full-time teaching and entered the Methodist church, first as a lay preacher and then finally a full time minister. She started by joining a team of seven at a ministry in Kent sharing church duties covering a wide area. The busy roads in that area did not help either the congregations or the clergy. Services were taken in many United churches.

In order to become a fully qualified minister she had to attend a two-year training course. There were strict selection procedures. Her first post was in the Midlands in the Lichfield area. We heard about the difficulties a woman priest encountered, the practical ones and the prejudices she faced.

Her sense of humour seems to have been valuable to her. We heard of many wonderful moments she shared with her congregations. Since retiring she has been involved in training other priests, working with young people in the church, as well as giving talks on a variety of subjects

Jill Bowyer thanked Rev. Mary for an excellent talk.

Member Jean Poole was presented with a basket of flowers on the occasion of a special birthday.

A visit to the gardens at Highgrove will take place in early September.

Our main September meeting will be a talk on 'Gardening - border colour' by Jenny Tidman.

We will be celebrating our birthday with a lunch at the Rattlebone Inn on Thursday 1 October.

Some members will be going to the group meeting at the beginning of October to see a demonstration of flower arranging with the theme of a Victorian Christmas. This will be at Charlton Village Hall.

Joining the W.I. gives us all an opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, both locally and within the County. There is always the chance to go to Denham College where an even bigger range of courses are held.

All are welcome at our monthly meetings on the first Thursday of the month at the village hall.

Win a day with the firefighters

The people of Sherston are invited to have a say in making Wiltshire a safer place.

And all those who register an interest stand a chance of being a firefighter for a day.

The Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is setting out what it will do over the next five years to make Wiltshire and Swindon a safer place.

'We've already given our staff the opportunity to say what they thought should be included in the draft plan which will be published this month,' said a service spokesman.

'We're now developing a list of individuals, groups and organisations who we may involve or consult to make sure we consider the views, needs and concerns of our customers.'

The final plan, a risk management plan covering from 2010 until 2015, will outline how to deliver services more efficiently to reduce the risks to communities and staff.

The consultation period on the draft plan runs from September until December.

To register an interest in acting as a consultee, log on to the fire and rescue service website at http://www.wfb.org.uk/Departments/corporate_planning/stakeholder/form.php.

All who register will automatically be entered into a free draw to win the chance to be a firefighter for the day.

The closing date for the draw is Monday 21 September and the winner will be notified in writing by 30 September.

Boules DVD

A DVD of photos of Boules week is now on sale at the post office - a bargain at £3 for over 440 photos. As well as great shots of the Boules competition, there are splendid reminders of other events including the duck race and the tug-of-war (especially the children's).


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Hidden depths

The ancient pond complex at Lower Farm is being restored by the North Wiltshire Ponds Group.

At 7.30pm on Friday 2 October Roger Ashley and Noel Banks will be giving an illustrated talk on the project in the British School Room, with technical assistance from Alastair Banks. Admission £5 to include a glass of wine. Tickets available from the post office or on the door. All proceeds will go to the restoration fund.

The talk will include an historical introduction to ancient fishponds, refer to the long and successful campaign to save the manorial fishpond at Alderton (opposite the church) and provide an account of the restoration at Lower Farm thus far. Those with an interest in history, fish or fundraising will find something for them.

Please note that John Hiller, the owner of Lower Farm, has kindly provided a permissive right of way to the site, but until the work on the retaining wall is finished the pond is out of bounds.

The Ponds Group's next project is the so-called 'dew pond' on Upper Stanbridge Farm.

Harvest supper

Sherston's harvest supper will take place in the church at 7.30pm on Saturday 3 October and all are welcome. It will follow the usual format. Cold meat, cheese and jacket potatoes will be provided. Anyone able to contribute an item of food such as a salad, quiche or pudding is asked to enter the details in advance on a list in the church. Bring your own drinks.

Hopefully there will be some kind of entertainment, maybe a quiz or some music. Tickets are £4 each, available from the post office or the church. Any proceeds will be given to Christian Aid.

Come to share an evening with new and old friends and good food.

Clem's Club

Clem's Club has got off to a good start with approximately 8 -10 regular animated attendees poring over old photos or sharing news. Old acquaintances are being restored and new friends made over vast quantities of tea and biscuits.

They will continue to meet on alternate Tuesdays in the British School Room at 2.30pm, (1, 15 and 29 September, 13 and 27 October) and invite other cheerful chaps - whether newcomers to the village or born and bred here - to join their ranks for a pleasant afternoon.



Bargain music lessons

Do you have a dusty old violin in your attic? Did you learn piano when you were young and then give up? Have you always wanted to 'have a go' but never got round to it?

As part of the 'talents' fundraising for Sherston Church, Ness Whiffin is offering one-off instrumental taster sessions on Violin, Piano or Organ at the bargain rate of £5 for half an hour.

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Cheltenham Literary Festival

Contributed by Phil Moore

If, like me, you had always assumed that literary festivals were very highbrow affairs attended largely by eggheads debating the merits of those shortlisted for the Booker Prize, think again. At last year's Cheltenham Literary Festival we were entertained by individuals ranging from Michael Parkinson and Sheila Hancock to Sandi Toksvig, Marcus Trescothick and that noted intellectual, Baldrick from Blackadder.

This year's event, in the second week of October, marks the 60th anniversary of the Festival, which is the oldest in Britain, and will feature 440 events. As usual, these will include something for everyone. Politicians such as Tony Benn, Paddy Ashdown, Vince Cable and Nick Clegg will debate current affairs. Comedians ranging from Alan Davies of Jonathan Creek fame to Jo Brand and Jack Dee will no doubt cast a less reverent light on the state of the world. Mark Ramprakesh will rake over the Ashes and offer some tips on ballroom dancing. Other popular speakers will include Jeremy Paxman, Kate Adie, Chris Evans, Steve Redgrave and Joan Bakewell, to name a handful. If, on the other hand, your boat is floated by The Very Hungry Caterpillar or Minnie Piper and the Chocolate Cipher, there are also scores of events for children aged between two and 14.

Tickets tend to sell fast and are generally priced between £4 and £15. For more information, call the box office on 0844 576 7979 or visit www.cheltenhamfestivals.com

Sherston Drama Group panto

Contributed by Richard Skeffington

By the time you read this, Sherston Drama Group's latest pantomime, *Beauty and the Beast*, will be about to start rehearsing. But you will have to wait to find out whether the beautiful but tomboyish pig-farmer's daughter can lift the spell on the hideous Beast and turn him back into a handsome prince. Meanwhile, the villainous Baron Blackheart has designs on the Beast's castle, and Simple Simon is pining with unrequited love... In other words it's a traditional pantomime, so make a note in your diaries for the performances on 27-31 October. Though we are fully cast with Sherston's finest actors, there is still the opportunity to help in other ways – contact the director Richard Skeffington at richard.skeffington@virgin.net or ring 840092. Tickets will be on sale from the beginning of October.

Music, music, music

Sherston will be alive with the sound of music during the arts festival, 9 – 18 October.

On Thursday 15 October at 7.30pm the acclaimed Eberle String Quartet will be giving a concert in the village hall. This is a RAW (Rural Arts Wiltshire) event.

The Eberle String Quartet consists of Daphne Moody (Violin), Jennifer Gibbs (Violin), Moira Alabaster (Viola) and Muriel Daniels ('Cello'). It takes its name from the leader's violin which was made in Naples by Tomaso Eberle.

Since giving their first concert in 1993, the Eberle String Quartet have travelled extensively, giving recitals, workshops and master classes in Britain and Europe. All four string players are members of the Sarum Orchestra under whose umbrella they play many chamber works.

Their recording (by Naim) of Samuel Barber, Philip Gates and Frank Bridge was awarded CD of the month by Classic CD Magazine. In April 2008 members of the Quartet with pianist Allan Schiller recorded Mozart piano quartets and the Mendelssohn Piano Trio in D Minor Opus 49 on VIF Records.

Somewhere towards the other end of the professional music spectrum, singer/songwriter Johnny Coppin will be rocking the church on Saturday 17 October.

And there's a chance for you to make your own musical contribution to the festival under the expert guidance of Nicki Heenan.

On Saturday 10 October at 7.30pm you can take part in a music students' concert in the village hall. If you play an instrument or sing, contact Nicki on 01666 840883 or email nicki.heenan@btinternet.com. Nicki can help whether it's ideas you need or help with preparing a piece of music for performance. She says it would be great to have all levels participating with an emphasis on 'performance ready' pieces.

Nicki is also running a singing workshop on Thursday 15 October, 1pm – 3pm in the British School Room. This workshop will help you with 'Putting on a song' covering nerves, diction, presentation and issues specific to you. If you're interested, forward your details to Nicki.

Details of all Sherston Arts Festival events are in the leaflet that is being circulated with Cliffhanger. We have mentioned most of them in recent issues, but do look at the festival leaflet, make a note of times and venues, and hurry to book your tickets. As always, tickets will be available at the post office. Where would we be without them?



Village hall 200+ club

July Winners

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----|
| 1st | Rev M.Maslen (no.250) | £11 |
| 2nd | Jane Thomas (no.24) | £10 |
| 3rd | George Kamp (no.35) | £9 |
| 4th | Joyce Gleed (no.51) | £8 |
| 5th | Philip Barden (no.214) | £7 |
| 6th | Viv Hibbard (no.165) | £6 |
| 7th | L. Capps (no.256) | £5 |

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

Salsa party

On Saturday 19 September from 7.30pm to late at Sherston village hall. Lessons for beginners and improvers are included, so if you've not tried salsa before this is a great opportunity to do so. Tickets are £8 in advance from Sherston Post Office Stores or £10 on the door. Ticket price includes a Caribbean buffet. Licensed bar. For further details contact Fitz on 07950711405 or www.salsaflex@hotmail.com

Sherston rocks again

Another Soul Destroyers gig at the village hall is set to help local clubs and charities to raise money.

On Saturday 3 October the Soul Destroyers (who sold out at the village hall last November) will be supported by our own Village People.

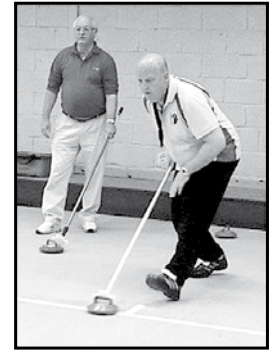
Sherston's Village People consists of the Clarksons plus guests - a lot of locals strutting their stuff, including a couple of very special mystery guests.

As ever the first call is for organisations and charities that want to use the event to raise money. Anyone who is interested should contact Dave Shephard on 07860 448438 or ds@oldbellhouse.com.

Tickets will also be on sale soon from all of the normal outlets or people can contact Dave direct.

New age kurling

Why not try your hand at this new sport at a free demonstration at Sherston village hall on Thursday 24 September at 7.30 pm? New age kurling is a form of the original curling game adapted so it can be played on any smooth flat surface, such as a sports hall, rather than on ice. Importantly the game can be played by both able-bodied and disabled people of all ages. For more information about the sport visit www.whatsthebigidea.ltd.uk/



Mark Doyle

Please can we thank everyone for their thoughts, their kind offers of help and support and their tributes to Mark - they have been a tremendous comfort at this difficult time.

We'd also like to thank everyone for their generous donations towards Mark's Memorial Fund which will benefit the young people of Sherston and the surrounding villages.

Our thanks,

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

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TREEtalk

Sept 2009

Contributed by Irene Johnston

Let's get going.....Grove Wood work starts soon

We are fine-tuning the project timetable and there will be work for our volunteers from next month onwards. The most important initial task is to conduct an audit of the trees and shrubs. The results will be entered in a woodland management plan, showing what needs removal, coppicing or just pruning. There's also book and internet research to organise into the native trees we might plant, either from seed or as young saplings. We'll also be starting fence-building and then path construction. Finding grants and funding will become critical. We'll be contacting everyone who filled in reply slips later this month but we still need more helpers. Please let me know if you want to get involved.

Annual Seed Gathering Season 23 September - 23 October

How very timely! As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, the idea is to combine seed-gathering for Grove Wood with the new 'Michaelmas Walk', to be held on Sunday 4th October, starting at 10am from the village hall. The route will probably include Pinkney as well as Sherston and the wood.

What is the difference between native and non-native tree species?

Native trees are species that have colonised the British Isles naturally, without human interference. These are tree types that arrived after the last Ice Age (c10,000 years ago) and before these islands were cut off by rising sea levels from mainland Europe. *Non-native trees* are species that have been introduced by human action.

Does it matter whether a tree is a native or not?

In a rural context, usually yes. Native trees provide habitats for lots of wildlife that have adapted to them over thousands of years. In the last 30 years, efforts have been made to eliminate non-natives so that wildlife-rich broadleaf trees can occupy the space. However, many non-native trees are equipped to survive urban pollution and can be a better choice for street plantings and brownfield sites. But invasive species' are rarely welcome as they spread rapidly and displace native vegetation. Rhododendrons and Spanish bluebells spring to mind.

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

WEA courses autumn 2009

Malmesbury and District WEA, a branch of the national voluntary adult education association covering Sherston, will be busier than ever this autumn. There are four courses and a day school, aimed at people who want to widen their knowledge with good quality learning without being tied to an exam regime.

The branch uses three venues. In Malmesbury United Reformed Church on Monday evenings (7.30 – 9.15pm) starting on 12 October, Richard Henderson will give eight illustrated lectures about the city of Rome from antiquity to Mussolini under the title 'Art, faith and power'. The course will show how the city's art and architecture has waxed and waned through ancient empire, dark ages, a major religious capital and Mussolini's doomed new empire project, yet still remains an amazing draw for so many.

Local social history is on the menu at Sherston village hall on Friday mornings. From 18 September (10am – 12 noon) Dinah Starkey will cover in six sessions what happened locally after the Black Death up to the Reformation. This will be followed by a short four-week literature course on the fiction of Dickens by the very popular John Chambers.

In Hullavington village hall on Thursday mornings (10am – 12 noon) starting on 8 October art lovers can immerse themselves for seven weeks in the works and background to Giotto in Padua with Jenny Sheppard. This painter bestrides the medieval and the renaissance periods and is hugely significant in art history.

Finally we are pleased to have a day school on Saturday 14 November at Hullavington (10.00am – 4.30pm) presented by Mike Stone, the curator of Chippenham town museum, on how north Wiltshire people lived through the agricultural and industrial revolutions.

Eight and seven week courses cost £49.50p; the six-week course costs £42.50; the John Chambers four week course costs £28.00 and the day school costs £15. Pre-enrolment is essential for the day school and the John Chambers course and, to avoid disappointment, is advisable for all others.

The contact for all enquiries and pre-enrolments is David or Muriel Bridge on 01666 502729 or e-mail bridge.de@virgin.net.

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SHOCC – Sherston's Occasional Community Choir

*Contributed by
Mary Clements
and Nicki Heenan,
who share the
baton*



SHOCC met on Wednesday evenings for six weeks during May/June and both Mary and Nicki are thrilled to report that forty-one brave souls have joined their ranks and begun to create a varied harmonious repertoire! There are boy sopranos, teenagers eager to be soloists, young mums willing to tackle tricky notation, jolly male choristers happy with lyrics alone, serious tenors and basses, experienced elderly stalwarts, and a bevy of beautiful soprano vocalists. With no previous experience or expertise required, the age of attendees ranges from eleven to octogenarians.

Newcomers are invited to join every Wednesday during October and November when the choir will rehearse again in the British School Room at 7.30pm. They have been invited to sing Christmas pieces at the parish church on Sunday 29 November and may well also arrange an evening of entertainment that weekend.

Christian music will remain the priority, whilst comedy, folk and secular numbers are also included. Those who are willing to work on four-part harmony are requested to stay longer each rehearsal night and also to attend an extra night - Wed 30 September.

Mary and Nicki say 'Come along! Don't be shy - a warm welcome with a hot drink will greet you on arrival.' No commitment is required until the third week.

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Malmesbury Area Board

In the August Cliffhanger we told you about Wiltshire Council's new Malmesbury Area Board, which is intended to give you the chance to influence decisions about local issues.

The next meeting of the board is on Wednesday 16 September at 6.30pm for 7pm at Malmesbury Secondary School.

Come early for a cup of tea or coffee and talk to your councillors and Cabinet member John Noeken who is responsible for Business Management Programme (BMP), ICT, Human Resources, Procurement and Customer Services.

Matters currently on the agenda include:

Future consultation about the Local Development Framework and how you can have your say.

Community grants.

Launch of Performance Reward Grant Scheme.

Updates from NHS Wiltshire, police and fire and rescue service.

Outcomes and updates on your community issues.

For further information see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards

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Sherston Living Churchyard

The 'summer meadow' has now been cut and, after being left for a week to 'dry' – although the July weather has not really allowed that to happen – all the cuttings have been collected and removed. This will help to produce the poor growing conditions in which meadow flowers thrive. During the mowing a bumble bee nest was uncovered in the grass. After initial panic, from both the bees and the mower, there seems to have been no long-term harm and the bees have remained in their nest. If the grass had been mowed regularly this nest would not have been there. There is national concern about the decline in the number of all kinds of bees, which are vital to the pollination of food crops, so it is good to see this development in the churchyard.

Behind the church, the appearance of ragwort in the uncut edge of the churchyard has provided the essential food plant for the caterpillars of the cinnabar moth. These have now all disappeared and should be lying in the long grass as pupae, ready to emerge next year. Because ragwort is a problem plant in grazing land, all the flowers were cut off before seeding to stop it spreading.

We are hoping to set up a moth trap in the churchyard one evening over the weekend beginning Friday 19 September, so as to contribute to a national survey of British moths for National Moth Night. This will be completely dependent on the weather as moths are quite choosy about their flying conditions. If you are interested in coming to see what is going on, look out for details in the week beforehand and we will hope to see you there. You can also look at www.nationalmothnight.info/ for more information.

As ever all offers of help are welcome – just get in touch.

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Sherston fuel club

Contributed by Tony Towle

Now that the nights are drawing in, it is time to think about fuel oil for your central heating. Over 160 households in the Sherston area take advantage of the discount provided by the fuel club.

Club members currently receive a 1½p discount off the current daily price of heating oil. This means a saving of £15 on an order of 1,000 litres.

The conditions of the club are:

All deliveries will be on a Wednesday.

All invoices must be paid promptly.

Minimum order quantity is 750 litres.

(i.e. no monthly account, or top-up customers)

The club is free to join, all you have to do is fill in a form, available from Sherston Post Office, and return it to them as soon as possible. Shortly afterwards you will receive a letter giving you a membership number, and full ordering instructions. The club is open to residents of Sherston, Pinkney, Luckington, Alderton and Sopworth. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Towle on 840574.

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MATRIX **CALIFORNIAN**

We'll meet again

After a summer break, autumn sees the return to work of the parish council, which reconvenes on Thursday 10 September 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.

Sherston 1016 book sale

The autumn book sale is in the village hall on Saturday 26 September from 9am to 12 noon. Free entry. Donations of books, videos, CDs and DVDs are always greatly appreciated and can be left at Grays of Sherston. All proceeds to senior citizens' Christmas vouchers.

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Busy Hands preschool

Annie Llewellyn Palmer tells us that the Busy Hand's preschool children enjoyed their annual trip to Westonbirt despite a mixed bag of weather. After following a nature trail they had a picnic under the trees and fun and games with staff and parents.



The Busy Hands new eco shopping bag is now available from the Post Office Stores. Annie said 'The bags are a really useful size and stylish to boot! Unlike a lot of thin cloth shopping bags they are also hard wearing and durable.'

Enquiries about Busy Hands on 07766 714544.

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Allotments - last call

The parish council will shortly enter into discussions with SAGA (Sherston Allotment and Garden Association) as to the possible provision of additional allotments on a new site. If you are interested in having an allotment, even if not a full size plot, it is important that you register an interest now so as to ensure that if a site can be found enough space is available to meet demand. It's easy to add your name to the waiting list; just contact the clerk Mrs. Sarah Wood as soon as possible on 840351 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. Remember, if additional plots can be made available they will be allocated as per the list, so the sooner you register the better.

Beware

A Mondeo estate has been spotted in the village, the occupants acting rather suspiciously and asking around for second hand computers.

The police have asked the village to be vigilant and note any cars acting suspiciously and to keep them informed.

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Whilst we have an excellent team of Cliffhanger distributors there are times when some additional help would be very useful especially during the holiday season. If you could spare a few hours every few months on an occasional basis please contact Beryl Clampton on 841201 email beryl@clampton.com. If you are called upon to help out we'll give you as much notice as we can together with full instructions to make things as easy as possible.



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THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS



For hurling in October.
The Keeper of the Crop suggests
training should start now for all competitors.
A trailer and help to lift them from the field
would be very welcome.

The appearance on the Rattlebone Inn's menu of 'Mangold and Chick Pea Curry Basmati Rice and a Poppadum £8.95' alerted the Order to the possibility that mangold rustling had returned to the parish with young plants being ripped from the ground before their time merely to fulfill a gourmet's passion. On further investigation however the Keeper of the Maids Mr Jason Read of the Rattlebone satisfied the disciplinary committee that his source of mangolds was both legitimate and sustainable. He has nevertheless agreed to remove the dish from the menu, despite its tremendous popularity, with immediate effect.

The Order's decision to grow this year's crop in a secret location some miles away from the village for security seems to have been fully justified with prime hurling mangolds now fetching well over a £ a lb making rustling a profitable exercise for some. As is evidenced by the accompanying photos taken by Mr. Sidney Young, the Keeper of the Crop, this season's Sherston mangolds are looking in tip top condition and a fine testament to all his hard work.

With all set for the annual Hurl on Sunday 4 October at 2pm in the Great Field (adjoining the village hall) Mr. Paul Ormiston, the Keeper of the

Challenges still welcomes teams of three at £5 a team as well as individuals at £1 with the children's competition being entirely free. Contact him on 840694 or email pa.ormiston@homecall.co.uk

This year one of the Order's most secret ceremonies will be open to all – or at least all those over 16 and not likely to be offended by adult themes. For many years the Anointment of the Normans has taken place in the early hours of the morning behind locked doors at the Rattlebone skittle alley but on Friday 2 October will be open to all in the bar at 9pm. Those attending will be able to delight in witnessing the sacred Normans being gently washed and lovingly caressed by Mangold Maids past and present in readiness for the Hurl. For further details contact Kate Moorhouse or enquire at the Rattlebone 840871 eat@therattlebone.co.uk

October will see the publication in the *Cliffhanger* of Cilla Liddington's initial painstaking research into the Alderton Altercation of 1934. Some 75 years after the event is the true story about to be revealed? We doubt it.

Yarp!

The Keeper of the Quill



Burgage plots and horses for beer

Contributed by Cilla Liddington, following on from her detective work on the will of Thomas Davis.

Sherston would appear to have been a fairly small settlement until the middle ages, when medieval town planning arrived. At this time many new towns were being established. They were intended to become locations for commerce, markets and fairs. Many achieved the status of borough, often created by the lords of the manor, who hoped to increase their wealth through the development of trade. In 1241 a Tuesday market was granted to Matthew Bezill in Sherston, and it may have been he who created the new borough.

Sherston was a planned town with a central thoroughfare, widening in the middle to form a market place, with long narrow strips of land known as burgage plots extending at right angles to Back Lane (now Grove Road) and Back Street (now Cliff Road).

The lord of the manor would own the burgage plots and it would be mostly merchants who rented them. They could build on it and usually erected a shop or place of business. With restricted frontage they extended the property at the rear, building workshops and yards. Rental payment was known as burgage tenure.

There are still remains of some of the burgage plots in Sherston, the Swan Barton being the most noticeable. The Angel House also has one but we must remember that the original appearance of the building has changed greatly as at one time there would have been a wide entrance at the front big enough to allow horse and carriage through to the courtyard and barn at the back. Another visible one is at Ironside house backing on to Grove Road.

With regard to the will of Thomas Davis in last month's Cliffhanger, I told how included in the inventory of his goods and chattels was a 'horse for beer'. Not a four legged one, but a wooden framed structure that would allow the barrels of beer to be stored safely. I also mentioned that all his wearing apparel should go to his brother Nicholas Davis but what I did not include was the fact that it was not to be delivered to him until 14 days after Thomas's death!

Michaelmas walk

The parish footpath group is organising some occasional walks on seasonal themes based around the quarter and cross quarter days. The first of these will be on Sunday 4 October starting at 10am from the village hall and returning at around 12 noon to the Rattlebone Inn. The quarter day celebrated is Michaelmas and Jason Read at the Rattlebone will be kindly providing a complimentary seasonal dish for all those taking part. The event is free with no need to book – just turn up with stout footwear and clothing suitable for the weather on the day. Children accompanied by adults are particularly welcome, especially as there is an opportunity to collect tree seeds for the Grove wood project along the way. For further information contact Sue McKechnie on 840601 or suemckechnie@hotmail.com.

If you're interested in the work of the footpath group, come along to its next meeting on Wednesday 9 September at 7.30 pm in the village hall. Minutes of past meetings can be viewed at www.sherston.org.uk



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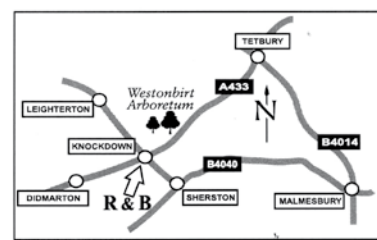


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Sherston village hall

The power of the Cliffhanger has worked again. Julia Nichols responded to last month's plea for a new bookings clerk for the village and takes over from Gail Hayman as from the end of August. Julia can be contacted on 840633 or email julia.nichols@btinternet.com.

All connected with the hall are most grateful for Gail's hard work over the last five years and to Julia for agreeing to take on this important role.

The hall is always busy during the autumn. This year as well as all the regular events we have a salsa Caribbean party, 1016 book sale, Soul Destroyers gig, Mangold Hurl, pantomime and the biennial Arts festival already lined up. If you're looking to book the hall before Christmas you'd better contact Julia quickly and secure a date.

Many of the events at the hall depend greatly on having a ticket office centrally placed in the village – at Sherston Post Office Stores. The hall committee and all the groups that use the hall are very grateful to Paul and Gail, who provide this facility entirely free while at the same time running a very busy business. Thanks also to staff members Anthea, Janet, Paula and Rachel for coping with all the ticket sales with a smile.

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12.30 - 2.00 at Tetbury

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CONTACT Susan (BWY Teacher)
01285 651150

Cricket round-up

What a difference a weekend makes. Prior to the penultimate weekend of August, things looked bleak for the village's cricket aficionados. The Ashes were thought to be ready to board the next Qantas flight to Australia, and Sherston Magna seemed likely to miss out on winning the Cotswold District Cricket Association League Division One.

England's heroics at The Oval coincided, however, with a surprise defeat for Oakridge and a fine victory for Sherston against Great Rissington. Having bowled 'Rissy' out for a modest 123, Sherston chased down the required total for the loss of just four wickets. Ollie Cox scored an excellent 59, but as captain Andy Tremellen pointed out, valuable contributions were made by all the other batsmen. With Sherston winning 19 points, compared with just three for Great Rissington and four for Oakridge, there was all to play for when Sherston visited Cricklade on the 29th.

| | P | w | l | c | BatP | BowlP | Pen | Pts | Ave |
|---------------------|----|----|----|---|------|-------|-----|-----|-------|
| Great Rissington CC | 16 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 55 | 56 | 0 | 221 | 15.79 |
| Sherston Magna CC | 16 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 200 | 15.38 |
| Oakridge CC | 17 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 50 | 59 | 0 | 209 | 14.93 |
| Adlestrop CC | 17 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 41 | 53 | 0 | 174 | 13.38 |
| Chedworth CC | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 40 | 41 | 0 | 141 | 10.85 |
| N.A.T.'s CC | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 37 | 42 | 0 | 139 | 10.69 |
| Cricklade CC | 16 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 37 | 53 | 0 | 160 | 10.67 |
| South Cerney CC | 17 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 28 | 48 | 0 | 136 | 9.71 |
| Windrush Valley CC | 17 | 4 | 11 | 2 | 31 | 42 | 0 | 113 | 7.53 |
| Coates CC | 16 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 16 | 28 | 0 | 54 | 3.86 |

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Sherston women's cricket

Women's cricket is on the up in England, with Charlotte Edwards and her team showing the men how it's done by winning the World Cup in March and retaining the Ashes in July.

So could women's cricket also come to Sherston? Bonamy Smith sees no reason why it shouldn't. 'There are plenty of wives and mums who turn out to watch the men's team play on Saturdays who would like to have a game themselves,' explained Bonamy, a keen cricketer. 'So we are hoping to set up a Sherston cricket team for girls and women of all ages and abilities.'

Matches would be played on the same Pinkney ground that is used by the men's teams, and Bonamy says that there would be no shortage of willing opponents from nearby villages such as Crudwell, Brinkworth, Minety and others.

Bonamy is already drawing up a list of players interested in turning out for the team next summer. If you'd like to sign up, or to learn more about women's cricket in Sherston, or simply to join in the fun, call Bonamy on 01666 840188, or drop her an e-mail at bonj1@hotmail.co.uk.

110 years ago

Reproduced below is a short report that appeared in North Wilts Herald on Friday 23 June 1899.

SHERSTON

Sherston v. Grittleton

Played at Sherston on Saturday, and ended in a win for the home team by 1 run. Grittleton batted first, and were dismissed for 40, while Sherston compiled 41. Woodman for the visitors Dawson for the home eleven made double figures.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  | FOREST GREEN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB September Fixtures at The New Lawn | |  |
| | Tuesday 8th - k.o. 7.45pm Hayes & Yeading Saturday 12th - k.o. 3pm Ebbsfleet United* Tuesday 22nd - k.o. 7.45pm Kidderminster Harr. Saturday 26th - k.o. 3pm Grays Athletic* | | |

Sherston Football Club

Contributed by manager Pete Brock

A new football season is upon us and Sherston have got off to a flying start with a 4-0 win over Woodchester United a team that tore us to shreds this time last year. It looks like Rob Outlaw has been polishing up on his skills a bit (not the fighting ones) with a display of skills I never knew he had. In our first game he took the ball off an attacking player and then dribbled up the line past two more and then passed it to one of us - amazing.

The team as a whole is very much based on last season with a few lads like Andrew Wicks, Gav Thompson and Ben Wright coming over from Malmesbury to help us along and in my view add something that we seemed to lack last season. Kev Bridgeman is running up and down the midfield like an overweight waiter who will eventually get around everyone. He seems to be in better shape than last season and in the friendlies leading up to these games looked a different class.

The back four is basically the same as last year except for Darren Walsh, who we have missed and will keep trying to prise back. We do have another centre half by the name of Greg Hughes who has done a great job for us so far.

All that leaves is for me to thank the rest of the team and people like Ady Mines and Dudley Parkes for all their support and efforts on and off the pitch, also JoJo who looks after the lads and me if we get injured (we seem to have a lot more groin strains these days and she says she is an expert now).

Small Taters

There have been several references to 'Sherston small taters' in recent issues of Cliffhanger. Some readers may be mystified by this. The following reminiscence, contributed by George Stephens, explains a possible origin of the nickname and shows that it has been around a long time. If anyone knows of an earlier use of the term please send your information to editorial.

Sherston Football Team played several teams in the 1930's but fixtures with both Tetbury and Malmesbury produced the most exciting games - while they lasted. Before half-time, arguments, shouting and fighting would end the matches. There would be jeering, insults and colourful language: 'Slide under his feet, Tom!' shouted someone (a woman!).

Sherston being a village and both Malmesbury and Tetbury being market towns, Sherston Football Team and by association the village, were looked upon and referred to as 'small taters'. Adopted by us old villagers as an affectionate term, humorous but not derogatory, Malmesbury Jackdaws were referred to in equal measure.

George Stephens

Pictured below Sherston Football Club from the 1924-25 season



George Evans, Herbert Jobbins, Bert Underwood, Harold Mills, Fred Jobbins, Tom Evans, Frederick Stephens, Gilbert Saunders, Cyril Neal, Fritz Rice, Cecil Clark, Frank Knapp, Rev Page, Tom Sherwood, Manny Wilcox, Ted Causton, Fred Evans, ?? Jeffries, Bill Thompson, Fred Wilkins.

Regular events in Sherston

Holy Cross church

The Coffee Shop - Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade cakes. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings from May to October

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

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 11 Sept 7.30 for 7.45pm. Admission £1.50 including refreshments.

All profits to help maintain the village hall.

Ladies' swimming club

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

Sherston Young Craft Group

Mondays 6.45 – 8.15pm in the village hall (9 years and over). £2.50 (incl all materials) per evening paid in advance of each half term.

To join, please contact Sue Ormiston on 840694

Senior Club

Meets at 2.30pm in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday – 8 and 22 Sept. For further details contact Cyril Hoskin on 841143

Clem's Club

Clem invites *'cheerful chaps for a chair and a chat'* in the British School Rooms every other Tuesday 2.30 – 3.30pm – 1, 15 and 29 Sept.

Sherston Badminton Club

We play every Tuesday evening from 7.30pm in the Village Hall from September to May.

All standards welcome. New season starts on 8th September 2009. For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592

Church bell-ringing

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

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 10 September 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

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

Wed 16 Sept at 6.30 for 7pm at Malmesbury School

Sherston W.I.

Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the village hall – 3 Sept.

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

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

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 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 Rooms during October and November leading up to a concert at the Parish Church on Sun 29 Nov. There is an extra rehearsal for four part harmony singers on Wed 30 Sept. Contact Mary Clements 840688 or Nicki Heenan 840883 for more details.

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 Wed 9 Sept at 7.30pm at the village hall.

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

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@stickyfingerscookery.co.uk

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

Live music Fri 4 Sep 9.30pm

Curry Quiz Night

Sun 6 Sep 7.30pm £5 pp entry including all you can eat curry buffet / £1 quiz entry only

70s & 80s Disco Fri 18 Sep 9pm

Further details contact 840665

The Rattlebone

Live music from Nobody's Business -

Fri 11 Sep 9pm

Further details 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

WEA courses

**Social history with Dinah Starkey:
what happened locally after the Black
Death up to the Reformation**

6 week course starting Fri 18 Sept £42.50

Followed by a 4 week literature course:

'The Fiction of Dickens' by John

Chamber £28 Fridays 10-12am Village hall

*Further details contact David or Muriel Bridge on
01666 502729 or bridge.de@virgin.net*

Salsa Party

including lessons for beginners and a
Caribbean buffet Sat 19 Sep 7.30 Tickets
£8 from the PO and £10 on the door at the
Village hall

*Further details contact Fitz 07950 711405 or
salsaflex@hotmail.com*

Sherston 10K Run

Sun 20 Sep 10am from the Cricket Club

*Further details contact Caroline Dickenson 840168
or sherston10k@aol.com*

New Age Kurling

**try your hand at the fastest growing
sport in the UK** Thurs 24 Sep 7.30pm in
the Village hall. Free entry

Further details www.whatsthebigidea.ltd.uk

1016 Book Sale

Sat 26 Sept 9am - 12 noon village hall - free
entry Donations of books, videos, DVDs
and CDs gratefully received. Please deliver to
Mike Tarrant at Grays of Sherston.

Further details contact 840611

Talk on Ancient Pond Complex at Lower Farm by Roger Ashley and Noel Banks

Fri 2 Oct 7.30pm £5 including a glass
of wine. At the British School Rooms. All
proceeds to the North Wiltshire Ponds Group

Anointment of the Normans

Fri 2 Oct at 9pm Rattlebone Inn. Free entry.
Delight in witnessing the sacred Normans
being gently washed and lovingly caressed by
Mangold Maids past and present in
readiness for the Hurl. Please note parts
of the ceremony are of an adult nature and
thus not suitable for those under 16.

*For further details contact Kate Moorhouse or
[enquire at the Rattlebone 840871 or
eat@therattlebone.co.uk](mailto:eat@therattlebone.co.uk)*

The Soul Destroyers in concert with The 'Sherston' Village People

Charity fundraiser in aid of a number of local
causes by "Bristol's best party band", support
act The 'Sherston' Village People

Sat 3 Oct 7.30pm in the Village Hall Tickets
£8 from PO or Rattlebone

*Further details contact Dave Shephard 07860
448438 or email ds@oldbellhouse.com
or www.soul-destroyers.co.uk*

Harvest Supper

Sat 3 Oct 7.30pm at the Church of the Holy
Cross BYO drink. See church board for food
to bring. Tickets on sale at PO or church - £4
all proceeds to Christian Aid

Michaelmas Walk

Sun 4 October starting from the village hall
at 10am, returning to the Rattlebone Inn for
complimentary seasonal victuals at around 12
noon. Free entry. Suitable for all, including
children, as there will be tree seed gathering for
the Grove Wood project, and dogs on leads.

*For further details contact Sue McKechnie on
840601 or suemckechnie@hotmail.com*

Annual Mangold Hurl

Sun 4 October from 2pm at the village hall and
field. Free entry for spectators.

Bar, music, BBQ and stalls. Teams of three
competition entry £5 per team, individual
competition entry £1, children's competition
free. To enter the Hurl, contact Paul Ormiston
840694 or email pa.ormiston@homecall.co.uk

Sherston Arts Festival

Date for the diary:

Sherston Arts Festival 9 - 18 Oct

Further details contact Heather Martin 840375

Julia Leyden 840195 Gill Ashley 840993

Sherston Music Students Concert - would you like to take part?

Further details contact Nicki Heenan 840833 or

nicki.heenan@btinternet.com

Sherston Drama Group

Dates for the diary - Pantomime

production of Beauty and the Beast

27 - 31 Oct *further details contact Richard*

Skeffington 840092 or richard.skeffington@virgin.net

Westonbirt The Arboretum

Charity 10K Walk in aid of Macmillan Cancer Sat 5 Sep 6pm contact Sarah Grout on 01432 343030 or email sgrou@macmillan.org.uk

Save The Children 90th Anniversary - Big Picnic Party Sunday 13th September 11am - 5pm. Bring a picnic and help us celebrate. Activities and entertainment for all the family. Reduced entry for all supporters, adult £5.50, concessions £4.50, children £1 www.savethechildren.org.uk/events tel 0121 558 0111

Bat Walk with Andy Smart of the Gloucestershire Bat Group to identify and learn more about the bats in and around Westonbirt. £4 per adult Fri 11 Sep 7-9pm booking essential 880220

Workshops - Green wood working weekend Sat 19 Sun 20 Sep booking essential Paul Hodgson on 01453 753 452. Make a Windsor Chair workshop Mon 21 - 26 Sep to book a place contact Paul Hayden on 01373 836051. Digital Photography workshops - Advanced on 15 Sep and beginners on 30 Sep

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

Hullavington 5th Emergency Services Show

Meet the people who respond to a variety of emergencies, from terrorist incidents to floods, fires and road traffic collisions. Exhibitions, emergency vehicles and trade stalls. 13th Sept £5 adult/ £2.50 under/ 16 under 3 free

Further details www.emergencyservicesshow.com

Malmesbury Carnival

Till 6 Sep - last week of the carnival with events including quizzes, historical walks, poetry, ceilidh, music events, Caribbean salsa party, bike rides, culminating in float procession & carnival through the town on Saturday 5 Sep at 6pm. Various locations in and around Malmesbury for more details please consult the programme on line at www.malmesburycarnival.co.uk or contact 823276

Kemble Didmarton Bluegrass Festival

Music Festival 4-6 Sep £18 - £62 (incl camping), under 14s free at Kemble airfield *Further details see www.didmarton-bluegrass.co.uk*

Chippenham & Freshford (Nr Bath)

Events in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

3rd Annual Beer festival in aid of WAA and Dorothy House Hospice Fri 4 Sep 6pm - 11pm with the Mangled Wurzels, Sat 5 Sep 11am - 11pm with Bedwyn Buskers and the Jon Walsh Blues Band. 20 real ales and 10 ciders & perries. Entry £4 including a commemorative glass and 1/2 pt beer or cider at The Inn at Freshford see www.theinnatfreshford.co.uk for details.

Chippenham 1/2 Marathon Sat 13 Sep 9.30am from Chippenham Sports Club *Further details contact Melanie Gee 0845 1221423 or www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk/*

Calne Bowood House

Organ Concert - Haydn, Handel & Mendelssohn

Sat 5 Sep 3-4.40pm in the Chapel & House free after admission Learn golf in a week Tuition Mon - Fri 6-7pm and 2 hours on the course on Sat. Courses start Mon 7 & 21 Sep £60 for the course - all equipment supplied Booking essential - 01249 822228 *Further details contact 01249 812102 or www.bowood-house.co.uk*

Nailsworth Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Professional football only 20 minutes drive from Sherston.

Home matches: Sat 8 Sep 3pm v Ebbsfleet Utd.; Tues 22 Sep 7.45pm Kidderminster Harriers; Sat 26 Sep 3pm Grays Athletic. Adults £10, Concessions £6, under 16s £2 The New Lawn Forest Green Nailsworth *Further details contact 01453 834860 or www.forestgreenroversfc.com*

Blunsdon

Swindon & Cricklade Railway: Wartime Weekend

Display of Military Vehicles, live re-enactment both days, free train rides, licensed bar, wartime food, catering van, trade stands, Punch & Judy (Saturday only). Music by Cheltenham Silver Band Sat 2.30 - 4.30pm and Mid West Big Band Sun 2.30 - 4.30pm. Sat 12 & Sun 13 10am - 5pm £7 adt / £4 Chd / £20 family ticket *Further details 01793 771615 or www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org*

Crofton, Nr Marlborough

Crofton Pumping Station Steaming Weekend

See the pumping station in steam. This fascinating building helps pump water along the canal. Sat 26 - Sun 27 Sep 10.30am-5pm £7 adt / £2.50chd/ £11 family

Further details contact: 01672 851639 or www.croftonbeamengines.org

Corsham The Pound

Film: Frost/Nixon Thurs 3 Sep 11am & 7.30pm; Transsiberian Fri 11 Sep 8pm; Vicky Christina Barcelona Thurs 24 Sep 11am & 7.30pm Performance: Elvis Still My Heart by the Pretty Good Girl Dance Company Fri 4 Sep 7.30pm at Wootten Bassett Memorial Hall and Sat 5 at the Pound £10 (£9 concs)

Workshop: Crafty Saturday Family Drop In Sat 26 Sep 11.30 - 2.30pm Free entry

Further details contact Box Office 01249 701628 or www.poundarts.org.uk

Bath Theatre Royal

Rain Man with Neil Morrissey & Oliver Chris Wed 26 - Sat 5 Sept 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35

Sweeney Todd Tues 15 - Sat 18 Sep 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £10-£35

Entertaining Angels starring Penelope Keith Tues 22 - Sat 26 7.30 / 8pm mat 2.30pm £17-£35

Book ahead for: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; Dial m for Murder. ; Mrs Warren's Profession, with Felicity Kendall; The Caretaker with Jonathan Pryce

Further details contact 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Lacock Abbey

Photography Surgery with the museum curator

Sat 12 Sep 11am - 4pm free after admission

Further details contact 01249 730459 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock

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

Wild Goose Chase 10K run through wetlands and by the canal Wed 9 Sep 6.30pm starting in the car park. £5 entry.

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

Cheltenham

The Times Cheltenham Literature Festival 2009

Varied programme of talks and events featuring all types of literature from sporting legends to politicians, economists to comedians 9 18 Oct Average ticket price £8-12 Various locations in Cheltenham *Further details contact 0844 576 7979 or www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature*

Uley Prema rural arts centre

Evening classes for adults including Strictly Ballroom, yoga, pilates, life drawing, pottery, knitting, B&W photography, pottery

Open Day with music in the evening from Bulawayo Sat 12 Sep

Concert at 8pm £12/£9

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

Pig Face Day at Avening

Feast and Queen Matilda's Pageant Sun 13 Sep 6pm - 10pm

After the traditional candlelit evensong at the Church of the Holy Cross at Avening, a torchlit procession leads to the village hall where the feast is celebrated in full medieval costume, with hog roast, jesters and band. It commemorates Queen Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror, who consecrated the church in 1080. All enquiries and help with costumes to Click Mitchell atclickmitchell@aol.com or 01453 836390