



## £50,000 for Old School project

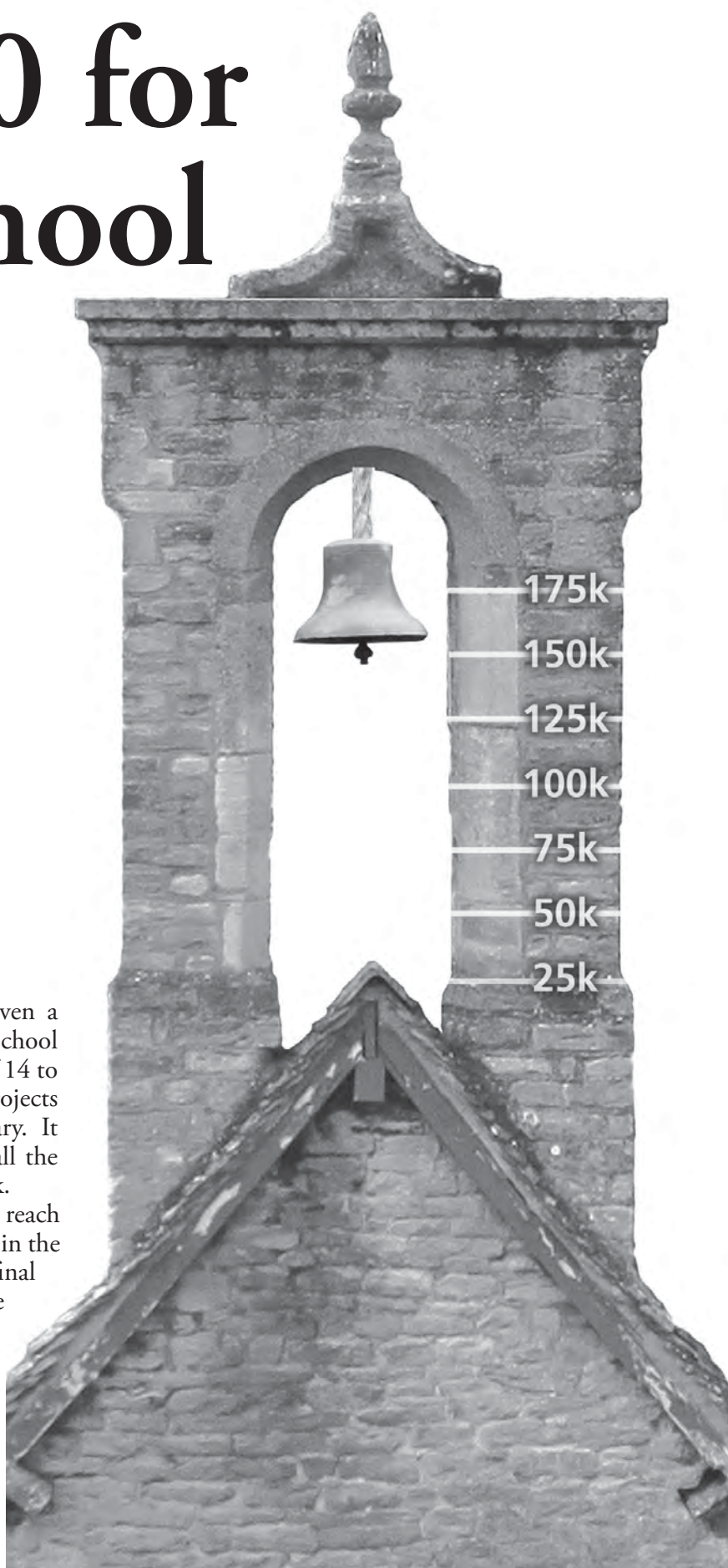


THE PRINCE'S  
COUNTRYSIDE  
FUND

The Prince's Countryside Fund has given a fantastic £50,000 to the Sherston Old School project. News of our award, the largest of 14 to be made by the fund to rural grassroots projects in 2012, broke on Monday 27 February. It means that we are very close to raising all the money needed to finish the building work.

With less than c.£18k now required to reach the funding target, a mailshot to everyone in the parish will be going out later this week in a final push for donations. In addition, we have the Dr Phil Hammond 'Rude Health' event coming up at the beginning of May; ticket sales are going really well (see page 4 for more details).

With a fair wind, we hope to be able to both reach that target and to secure occupation of all of the available business units in the not too distant future.



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## Bins

Don't forget that the new system of fortnightly household waste collections is due to start in our area this month. Full details are available at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk). You can also enquire by phone on 01249 706693 or email [wasteandrecyclingnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:wasteandrecyclingnorth@wiltshire.gov.uk)

**Copy deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.**

**Send to [editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk)**

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

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

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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of advertisements contained in this publication, Cliffhanger cannot accept any liability for errors and omissions. Inclusion of an advert should not be taken as an endorsement by Sherston Parish Council.

Please remember the Cliffhanger is delivered free to every home and business in the parish – more than 950 copies. This and all previous editions are also available online at [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk)

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## Amy's marathon swim to help heroes



Congratulations to Sherston schoolgirl Amy Pointer for completing her inspirational sponsored swimming challenge to raise money for Help for Heroes.

Sunday 29 January 2012 saw ten-year-old Amy's mammoth task come to an end, as she completed her final mile and 1,455 lengths of the Malmesbury Activity Zone pool. This is over 23 miles, which is the equivalent to the entire length of Loch Ness. The challenge is in aid of Help for Heroes in honour of her brother Joe who is 19 and training with the Grenadier Guards and is likely to be serving in Afghanistan next year.

To cheer her on during her last lengths were various supporters, classmates, journalists and also a very special guest, Olympic gold medallist Duncan Goodhew.

Amy, who started this incredible undertaking back in November 2011 and has been fitting in her swims often before school, and sometimes a mile at a time, said: 'It's really exciting and it just feels like a great thing to be doing. My dad supports me and helps me keep on going.'

Andy Pointer, Amy's proud father, said: 'It is an incredible achievement and everyone is bowled over by it.'

To add to the celebrations, Amy has managed to surpass her ambitious fundraising goal of £750. Her current total is over £900 and people can still give money by going to her fundraising website: [www.justgiving.com/amysheroes](http://www.justgiving.com/amysheroes).

To sum it up, Amy said: 'With my Loch Ness Swimming Challenge now completed, I would like to thank you for supporting me and Help for Heroes. In fact, I can't thank you enough! Together we have raised nearly £1000! That's four times what I wished for when I started my swim back in November. Sometimes, I didn't think that I would ever be able to finish. I learned a lot about positive thinking and how you can achieve anything if you want to badly enough.'

Well done Amy!



## High Street makeover?

When the Old School project was given the green light last April the parish council began considering possible road safety improvements to the High Street to take into consideration the redevelopment and particularly the relocation of the Post Office Stores. Highway engineers from Wiltshire Council were asked to look at the situation and to come up with some proposals. Three options have now been drawn up and these basically concentrate on providing a safe pedestrian crossing area between the Old School and the tree on the opposite side of the road. All options include a disabled parking area outside the Old School and replacing the tree with provision to ensure that a new tree is protected from vehicle damage.

Before reaching any decision on the options the parish council wishes to hear from residents throughout the parish with their views. The actual plans will be put on public display as soon as they are available in both the Post Office Stores and Sunday Papers during March. It is also hoped to put them up on the parish council's website [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk)

The costs of the options vary between £10,000 and £25,000. If any option is to proceed the parish council will be expected to make a contribution of some 50% towards the total.

The options now to be considered are phase 1. The parish council has also asked the highway engineers to look at improving the area alongside the Rattlebone Inn (phase 2) and when any proposals are to hand on that public consultation will be sought. It should be noted however that phase 1 is the priority and it is unlikely that finance will be available for phase 2 until 2013/2014.

## Table top sale

Busy Hands Pre-School and Sherston Toddlers are holding a table top sale on Saturday 21 April, from 10.00am to 12.00noon at Sherston Village Hall.

To book a table (at £15 each), please contact Joey on 840357.

## Single women over 50 needed for ITV1's Dinner Date

ITV1's hit show Dinner Date is back and looking for single women over the age of 50 who are interested in meeting great men over great food and are up for a laugh. If you'd like to find out more, email your name, age, location and telephone number to [dinnerdate@hattrick.com](mailto:dinnerdate@hattrick.com) or call 020 7184 6742. Filming is due to take place in March/April so time is of the essence.

Follow Dinner Date on Twitter (@itvdinnerdate) or on facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dinner-Date/121763191204052>

## Garden waste

If you signed up before December 2011 for a garden waste bin, you should either have received your new green-lidded bin already or be due to receive it very shortly. The new garden waste service starts this month.

If you missed the deadline, but would like a free garden waste collection service, you can still sign up to receive a bin in summer 2012 at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishrecycling/gardenbin.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbishrecycling/gardenbin.htm) or by phoning 0300 4560102.

## Sherston 1016 book sale

Don't forget that the first of our popular book sales for the year is set for Saturday 17 March in Sherston Village Hall from 9am to 12noon – free entry. For those of you who haven't been before, we can guarantee you'll be amazed at how reasonable our prices are.

If you have any books, videos, CDs or DVDs to donate these may be left with Mike Tarrant at Grays of Sherston. All proceeds from the sale go towards the senior citizens' Christmas vouchers.



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References available

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# March Notebook



## Old School project is in rude health ..

In last month's Cliffhanger, we promised we were planning a surprise entertainment. You'll probably know by now what it is: a special performance of the Rude Health Show by Dr Phil Hammond, the celebrity GP, writer, broadcaster and comedian. Dr Phil is bringing the show to Malmesbury Town Hall for one night only on Tuesday 1 May. All profits from the evening will go to the Old School fund, inching us that bit closer to achieving our target of £68k by the middle of this year.

The Rude Health Show was a sell-out at the Edinburgh Fringe last year; the national press also gave it rave reviews:

'If Hammond were a medicine, he would be worth swigging by the litre.' The Times.

'One of the most entertainingly subversive people on the planet.' The Guardian

'In the long and brilliant traditions of comedy doctors.' The Sunday Times.

We are incredibly lucky that Dr Phil has family connections to Sherston and is happy to fit this extra show into his current UK tour. Tickets, priced at

£15 each, are now for sale from Sherston post office or Maggie McKenna on 841047, email: [maggie.mckenna21@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.mckenna21@gmail.com) but be quick, only 200 tickets are available and they are already selling like hot cakes!

If you only see one doctor this year, make it Dr Phil.

## Where we've got to...

Phase two is going well, with the completion of three units within the central section, as well as the communal toilet and kitchen facilities. Hopefully, they'll be ready for occupation within the next six weeks. Outstanding parts of the exterior, including roofing, are substantially completed. The conversion of the former classes 1 and 2 has also started, with a total area of 934sq.ft., now that the old dividing screen has been taken down. Further progress is very much dependent on continuing success with fundraising efforts. Please support us in our bid to achieve gold by the time of the Olympics. The total amount raised from personal pledges so far is just under £8,000. Thanks to all villagers who have donated so far.

## Online through Facebook

You can keep up to date with project news on our Facebook page. Please pass the link to former pupils, families and friends. 'How to donate' suggestions are included.

[www.facebook.com/pages/Sherston-Old-School/245112595529396?ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sherston-Old-School/245112595529396?ref=ts)

For further information on SOSCIC fundraising, please contact Irene Johnston on 841273 or email: [sherstonoldschool@gmail.com](mailto:sherstonoldschool@gmail.com).



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## Playground repairs

Last month repairs were undertaken to the playground equipment so as to comply with the requirements of the annual safety inspection. In addition, the basketball net was renewed as the original one rotted away some time ago.

If you spot any damage to the playground or any faulty equipment, please report it to the parish clerk, Sarah Wood, as soon as possible on 840197 or email [clerk@sherston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sherston.org.uk).

## Community safety

The next MVCAP (Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership) quarterly community safety forum will be held at Malmesbury Town Hall on Tuesday 27 March, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. All are welcome and refreshments will be available. At the forum, Malmesbury Police will set out their priorities for policing the area over the next three months and also give an overview of their work since the last forum was held. The community, through those present at the forum, is encouraged to question these priorities and to raise their own policing issues.

If you can't attend the forum but have an issue you would like raised, please either email [info@mvcap.org.uk](mailto:info@mvcap.org.uk) or phone 390110.

For further information about MVCAP, please visit [www.mvcap.org.uk](http://www.mvcap.org.uk).

## Village hall 300+ club

### January Draw

1st	£12	292	Jim McElvie
2nd	£11	326	Paul Robins
3rd	£10	133	D Bush (The Tartars)
4th	£9	123	L Farahar
5th	£8	309	John Picken
6th	£7	322	S Bailey
7th	£6	51	Joyce Glead
8th	£5	325	J Gould

Collectors: G Mason, M Goulding, J Glead, M Thacker, J Platts, M Yeend, A Andrews.

## Whist Drive

The next whist drive will be held at the village hall on Friday 9 March, 7.15pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. £1.50 entrance, including refreshments.

G Mason, M Goulding, J Glead

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# Save the date mystery revealed



If you remember last month we reported on the mystery caused by posters appearing all over the village urging people to 'save the date' (of 15 and 16 June) but with no clues as to why.

Well your fearless hacks at the Cliffhanger have left no stone unturned and can now reveal that the dates in question are for 'SherstonFest 2012' ([www.sherstonfest.com](http://www.sherstonfest.com)) which is being billed as 'the South Cotswolds Cider, Music and Fine Food Festival' and does pretty much what it says on the tin: it's a festival, in Sherston, with cider (and beer), music and fine foods.

It takes place on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 of June. More accurately, that is Friday night, Saturday afternoon and Saturday night.

Each of those three sessions will share some fine ciders, beers and fantastic food but each also has a distinct musical flavour.

Friday night is being presented in association with 'BBC Introducing' and is designed to give emerging local talent the opportunity to play at a larger event alongside some more established acts.

Saturday afternoon will be laid back and mellow (there is even a bouncy castle for the kids) and features mainly acoustic/folk/roots music.

Saturday night is party time and is being branded 'The Extreme Cheese Sessions' with two of Bristol's top party bands (the Soul Destroyers and the Rinky Dinks), plus local rock megastars the Sherston Village People.

As you can see above, some of the music line-up is already revealed but some is still under strict wraps, so people are urged to check the website ([www.sherstonfest.com](http://www.sherstonfest.com)) and join the mailing list to keep up to date with developments.

This is a not-for-profit venture (and actually probably still would be even if the aim was to make money!) but any profit we do make will be in support of the village hall fund – so we are looking for people to get involved and help out. Email [info@sherstonfest.com](mailto:info@sherstonfest.com) if you can help in any way.

Tickets are on sale on the website (and at the pub and post office) with some 'early bird bargains' to be had if you are quick.

For more information, email [info@sherstonfest.com](mailto:info@sherstonfest.com) or check out [www.sherstonfest.com](http://www.sherstonfest.com).

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and many more local ingredients .....

## Can you help?

As some of you may know, Sherston's churchwarden Sue Robinson is currently recovering from an operation, whilst our vergger Edward Thompson is convalescing after a fall. Therefore, for a little while, they will be unable to play an active part in supporting church life, and their families will be involved in looking after them. Clearly this leaves a big gap, and we are grateful to those who have already stepped forward to take on various elements of the churchwarden's and vergger's jobs for the time being. However, we still need more volunteers - please have a word with Helen Price or Phil Williams if you are able to help. We'd also ask for your support and patience over a challenging time - it won't be possible to maintain the same level of organisation and efficiency so please be understanding and tolerant, and if you notice anything that isn't being done, please consider if you might be able to do something about it yourself.

## Sherston Open Gardens Weekend: 23 and 24 June

Following the successful format of the last few years, gardens in Sherston will be open over the weekend of 23 and 24 June and proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the Church of the Holy Cross. There will be stalls and children's activities in and around the church on the Saturday. Teas and cakes will be served on both days in church.

We invite owners of gardens large and small to open their gardens for the Garden Trail - there is still plenty of time to get your garden in tip-top shape and it would be lovely to have some new ones to add this year, as well as those we have enjoyed previously.

Please get in touch with anyone on the P.C.C. or phone Heather Martin (840375) or Pat Whitehouse (840640).

*by Heather Martin*

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## Sherston WI

January started with a lunch in place of a meeting when 27 members enjoyed a convivial meal at the Old Royal Ship in Luckington.

We held our AGM at the beginning of February and our President Sheila Harris agreed to stand for a further year. Other officers remain the same but we sadly lost Ann Wilcox from the committee. Ann has been a stalwart committee member for many years and is also a wonderful photographer who has three photos on the 2012 Wiltshire Federation WI calendar this year.

We are about to start a busy year with interesting and varied topics at our monthly meetings - from Ancient Sites of Wessex to Alpacas - and we shall be attending a Food and Fashion Show in Melksham with Mary Berry and two members will be going to the AGM in the Royal Albert Hall, along with some 4,000 ladies, in May. We are looking forward to some visits to gardens and no doubt will be helping with tea and cakes at village functions during the year.

We held our winter meetings in the afternoon but are now back at the village hall on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Come along and join us - it will cost just £3 as our visitor. Yes, we do sing Jerusalem but we do more than make jam ...



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# Sherston Community Church: Project 2012

We wish to explain difficult decisions made recently and the hopes we now nurture.

When the Chapel Manse (16 Cliff Road) was unexpectedly returned to us, Sherston Community Church, in November it was discovered, on consultation with three estate agents, that considerable expenditure would be needed to bring it up to the required standard for rental.

Due to maintenance bills over five years for all three properties (the Chapel, the British School Room and the Manse), the Chapel Account has dwindled. Consequently, a vote for sale of the Manse was carried unanimously, and Custodial Trustees in Nottingham have asked that this be arranged as soon as possible.

The original donors of the Manse wanted it to provide the village with Christian Ministry. This is therefore what we would like the proceeds to do. It would be easy to spend everything on our beloved, deteriorating, Chapel but, surprisingly – after much deliberation at a full church meeting – all members agreed that ‘people, not property, should come first’.

It would have been unimaginable, only two years ago, that the following decision would be reached, but, now, we all do feel it is the right one.

With heavy hearts we voted, again unanimously, to sell the Chapel and Graveyard as well (but to keep and maintain a Garden of Remembrance) in order to spend proceeds on the provision of accommodation for those who could provide effective ministry. Several hours per week would be expected in return for a lowered, but necessary, rental. Their remit would be to work with Sherston Primary School and all village denominations in order to encourage and advance the Christian faith. We would seek, in time, to supply them with the latest IT equipment and advanced resources in modern, warm, well-equipped surroundings.

During school term time, ten regular groups (including ourselves on Sundays at 11.00am – all welcome) now enjoy the comfortable, bright,

accommodation in Cliff Road of the refurbished Congregational Church Hall (British School Room). Many others do the same on an occasional basis. We think it may be best, therefore, to maximise the value of this plot.

Decisions have yet to be taken but it has been discovered that the kitchen/toilet annexe, without demolishing external walls or spoiling the frontal aspect, has just enough square footage to provide a small chapel, with new kitchen and toilet facilities to be of benefit to all users of the hall.

We have again received backing from the Custodial Trustees, and very welcome encouragement from the leaders of the other village denominations regarding what we are now calling ‘Project 2012’. Consequently, you will see, sadly, in the near future, ‘For Sale’ signs being placed at both premises. Please remember, however, that we are not closing – simply relocating.

Concerns of our Cliff Road neighbours are understood so we hope to ensure that new boundary lines will provide both properties with plenty of off-road parking.

We all loved the old Chapel, it has been appreciated and used through many years and none of the generous voluntary work undertaken to repair it in the past has been in vain. Anyone wishing to pay it one last, nostalgic, visit have only to contact us. Many recent photographs of the attractive interior will be kept, treasured and framed. It has served this community well for over 150 years and we hope to take as many artefacts and as much memorabilia as possible with us to be displayed in the new location.

We truly believe that our forebears would – were they in our shoes in this generation and culture – have made the same exciting and forward-looking decisions. We do hope you agree.

The Management Trustees  
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# New Junior Church

A new Junior Church has started at the Church of the Holy Cross on the first Sunday of every month at 9.30am during the morning service.

Working with Godly Play, the children listen to a story then enjoy individual craft time; rejoining parents for Communion and the all-important refreshments. On 4 March we will be sharing the story of The Great Family.

More information from Becky Fisher (Rural Schools and Churches Worker) Tel. 07974 030212

*by Becky Fisher*

# Meeting of the parish council

The parish council meets on Thursday 8 March in the village hall at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend and there are opportunities to raise questions and pass comments. If you cannot make the meeting but have something to raise please contact the clerk Mrs Sarah Wood on 840197 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. You can also contact the council via the response form on [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk) where minutes of meetings can be read.

# I ♥ 80s Get your tickets now!

Following the wildly successful 60s and 70s nights, there was only one place left to go ... back to the 80s! Yes, it's time to dig out those legwarmers, shoulder pads and 'Frankie says' t-shirts, the Friends of Sherston School are holding an 80s night.

All your favourite tunes will be provided by the Electric Dreams 80s Disco, as well as a set by the (nearly) world-famous Sherston Village People.

Don't miss it: Saturday 28 April, Sherston Village Hall, 8.00pm-12 midnight. Tickets, priced at just £10, available from 1 March from Sherston post office.

All money raised in aid of Sherston Primary School.

# Clem's Club

Clem's Club will meet every other Tuesday, on 13 and 27 March. All friendly fellas welcome for simple char and chat, from 2.30pm to 4.00pm (alternating with the Senior Club) in the British School Room, Cliff Road.

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## From the Vicar

Since Jemima Hope was born on 18 January, Chantal and I have been greatly touched by people's kindness. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the many expressions of good wishes, the cards, gifts and cakes that we have received, which have been much appreciated. During the natural anxiety leading up to the birth, it was so encouraging to know that we were upheld in your prayers, and we are immensely grateful for Jemima's swift and safe delivery. I especially want to thank all those who 'held the fort' so efficiently and pastorally during my paternity leave. We are so blessed to be part of a supportive ministry team.

Our Lent Groups are just beginning and there is still time to sign up if you'd like to take part in this opportunity to share companionship and discussion – more information on the weekly news sheets in church.

Advance notice for your diary of our Holy Week services: Compline at Hullavington at 9.00pm on Tuesday 3 April is a reflective beginning, while on Maundy Thursday at 7.30pm in Sherston we recall the Last Supper.

On Good Friday, there will be a Service of the Final Hour at 2.00pm in Stanton St Quintin. A children's workshop runs in Sherston between 11.00am and 1.00pm, followed by an all-age service at 2.00pm. The traditional walk to Luckington ends with a brief service outside the church.

The Book of Common Prayer communion service seems to be meeting a need, and the next one will be on 18 March at 6.00pm.

*Christopher Bryan*

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## Moviola at Grittleton Village Hall: Wednesday 28 March

My Week with Marilyn (15)

In the early summer of 1956, 23-year-old Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), just down from Oxford and determined to make his way in the film business, worked as a lowly assistant on the set of *The Prince and the Showgirl*, the film that famously united Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh) and Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams), who was also on honeymoon with her new husband, the playwright Arthur Miller (Dougray Scott). Nearly 40 years later, his diary account, *The Prince, the Showgirl and Me*, was published, but one week was missing, and this was published some years later as *My Week with Marilyn*. This is the story of that week. When Arthur Miller leaves England, the coast is clear for Colin to introduce Marilyn to some of the pleasures of British life; an idyllic week in which he escorted a Marilyn desperate to get away from her retinue of Hollywood hangers-on and the pressures of work.

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Tickets: Adults £5 in advance, £5.50 on the door, available from Lesley on 01249 783157 or email [l\\_palmer@btinternet.com](mailto:l_palmer@btinternet.com).

Future date for your diary - *The Iron Lady* will be screened on Wednesday 25 April.

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## Sherston Senior Club

We held our Annual General Meeting on 10 January, followed by a quiz set by Helen Quirk and bingo called by Pearl Dyer. In my review of 2011, I noted that we had nine outings (compared with six the previous year) and thanked everyone who helps the Club to run so well. Everyone makes a contribution in some way – teas and coffees, cakes, biscuits, drivers, manning stalls are all good examples – but, in particular, our Secretary, Helen Quirk, Treasurer, Liz Bell, very ably aided and abetted by Eileen Hoskin, and Pearl Dyer, who runs the raffle at each meeting most calmly and efficiently; nor must we forget our President, Joan Butler, who prepares the British School Room and sets up tea for our meetings. The Officers and Committee were all re-elected, so I remain as your Chairman, Helen Quirk as Secretary and Liz Bell as Treasurer.

On 24 January, we were delighted to welcome John Woodridge, a Troop Commander with 9 Regiment Royal Logistics Regiment based at Buckley Barracks, who had recently returned from a tour of duty at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. He gave us a very clear and vivid idea of what it is like serving in theatre. Indeed, he was so successful that no one noticed (or minded) that he overran his time by about 30 minutes and we have never had so many questions. We are grateful to him for giving us some of his valuable time. In thanking him, we are of course also thanking all the heroes who serve our country.

Coming up, on Tuesday 6 March at 2pm, Rob Johnson of Silverchart Systems (my computer guru) is coming to tell us about his life experiences: 'Chimps to Computers'. This will be followed on 20 March by our Spring Sale, and on 3 April at 2.30pm (the clocks will have gone forward) Derek Remington will present a butterfly slide show.

Please remember that everyone is welcome at our meetings (there is no lower age limit). If anyone is interested, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

*John Venning Tel: 840915*

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## It's back - the Good Friday workshop

On 6 April from 11.00am to 1.00pm Sherston Church will again be holding a Good Friday workshop. Latest programme is as follows:

- 11.00am to 1.00pm: activities.
- 1.00pm to 1.30pm: lunch (please bring a packed lunch)
- 1.30 to 2.00pm: rehearsal for the service in the church
- 2.00 to 2.30pm: the Good Friday Children's Service

After the service, there is an opportunity to walk the back route to Luckington where a short service will take place in the church car park. Light refreshments will be provided before returning to Sherston. The more energetic folk can walk back, but transport will be available if needed.

All children are welcome; children over four years may attend unaccompanied but children under this age are best supported by people they know.

It is important that we have some idea of how many to cater for, as we work on a tight adult-child ratio for children's safety and protection.

You will need to book a place, so do contact me on 841696 or for any further information.

*Reverend Susan Harvey*



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# Police News

by PC Steve Humphries

Now that spring (hopefully) and 2012 are well under way I am asking you to really think about any local issues that my team and I can address. For the past six months, we have been targeting unsafe drivers but do not want to do that at the expense of tackling crime. This is particularly important as we enter a really busy few months for Wiltshire Police and our resources will briefly be stretched more than ever. I am as ever committed to listening to this community but some tough decisions may have to be made about where and how my resources are spent.

You may recall in autumn last year in this publication I mentioned problems with parking around schools. Despite my plea, problems continue and I am having to divert my resources from other issues to address complaints. Here is an extract from the September edition of the Cliffhanger:

'What I can't do is ban parents driving their children to school.

'What I could do, but haven't, is try to stop parking outside schools where it causes issues to passing traffic and residents. If I do this then at best it transfers the problem to other nearby roads/residents and in the real world my limited resources (which consist of PCSO Durry Maule and me) would be even stretched further trying to enforce it.

'What I am asking is please can we all be tolerant and work together. If you are a parent and you really cannot walk your child to school then please give yourself a little more time to park considerately and drive away at the earliest opportunity to clear the area. This will make it that little bit easier for other motorists who in turn will be more sympathetic in their driving around the school.'

If you have any views on this please let me know via [malmesburynpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:malmesburynpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk) Remember your local police team is here to address your concerns; if you don't tell us we can't help you.

# Dog fouling in Easton Square

Following the article in the February edition of the Cliffhanger concerning dog fouling and its associated health risks, as a resident of Easton Square I would like to draw people's attention to the large amount of dog mess that is left almost constantly in this area, between Gaston Lane and the start of The Tartars and on round towards the green in Easton Square.

Despite a polite notice that we have attached to our wheelie bin and placed out on the path, we still find a lot of mess either outside our house and on our drive, or on the path that carries on past our house towards Gastons Lane – ironically only feet away from a red bin especially intended to deposit dog faeces.

In submitting this article, I am hoping to shame the person(s) who regularly leave their dog's mess on the path, you know who you are: please start taking a bag out with you and, when your dog relieves itself, please pick up the mess. There are quite a few children who live in this area who could come into contact with it and dangers, not to mention treading in it and bringing it either indoors or into the car.

Surely though, when we all live in a pretty village, isn't it worth keeping it like that?

by Judith Merrett-Outlaw

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# Rousing start to Music Society 2012 season

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society (MAMS) would like to announce their exciting programme for 2012.

First off, on 14 April, MAMS are delighted to welcome back the Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Orchestra under the energetic baton of Timothy Redmond. These highly gifted young musicians will bring youthful exuberance to a most varied programme. The adventures of three sailors on 'shore leave' are captured in the Three Dance Episodes from Bernstein's *On the Town*. Former leader Harry Smith from Sherston is saxophone soloist for Debussy's beautiful *Rhapsody* before the rhythmic vitality of Khachaturian's *Masquerade Suite* draw the first half to a close. After the interval, they will play Beethoven's mighty 5th Symphony with its famous opening – a real challenge for such a young group of players, but one that they will rise to with confidence.

On 19 May, there is a recital by the viola player Eniko Magyar, accompanied on the piano by Timothy End. Eniko made a big impression when she performed in the Abbey in 2010 with the Wessex Concert Orchestra. Most of her programme will be music from her native Hungary.

Next, on 23 June, are Pantagruel who do semi-staged performances of 17th century music on period instruments, and on 14 July the Rockhampton Wind Quintet are playing a varied selection of music. A regular feature of the MAMS concert season is the recital on the Abbey's famous Johnson organ, and this year we are pleased to welcome Andrew Lumsden, director of music at Winchester Cathedral, on 8 September.

To round off the season in style, we welcome back the multi-award-winning Bath Camerata under the direction of their founder Nigel Perrin, on 13



October. They are particularly skilled at making full use of the Abbey environment and acoustics, and we can expect an exciting evening of challenging music mixed in with a bit of fun.

All concerts take place in the Abbey, and tickets, priced at £12, or £5 for students, can be obtained from the Abbey Bookshop, or the MAMS Ticket Secretary, David Barton, on 824924, email [d.barton763@btinternet.com](mailto:d.barton763@btinternet.com). Alternatively, they can be bought online through the Malmesbury website [www.malmesbury.com/mams](http://www.malmesbury.com/mams).

However, it is not too late to become a member. For £50 you get a season ticket that covers all the season's concerts, while £10 gets you discounted tickets. The society also organises trips to musical events, the annual highlight being our trip to the BBC Proms at the Albert Hall. Contact David Barton for further details.

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# From the Parish Chest

## Sherston Vestry Book 1718-1721

Recently deposited by the Parish Council, this is one of the earliest order books, recording in detail the care of the poor, to have survived for a Wiltshire parish. Minutes of the monthly meetings reveal that coppice wood in Silkwood, then in Sherston but now part of Westonbirt Arboretum, was let by lots and that the vestry was empowered to impose fines on any infringements.

The meetings of May and June 1718 agreed that 42 quarters of coal be brought from the pit at Surridge, in the Forest of Dean, to the Church House from where it would be distributed to the parish poor. In the following year, the minutes record the names of recipients and quantities allowed.

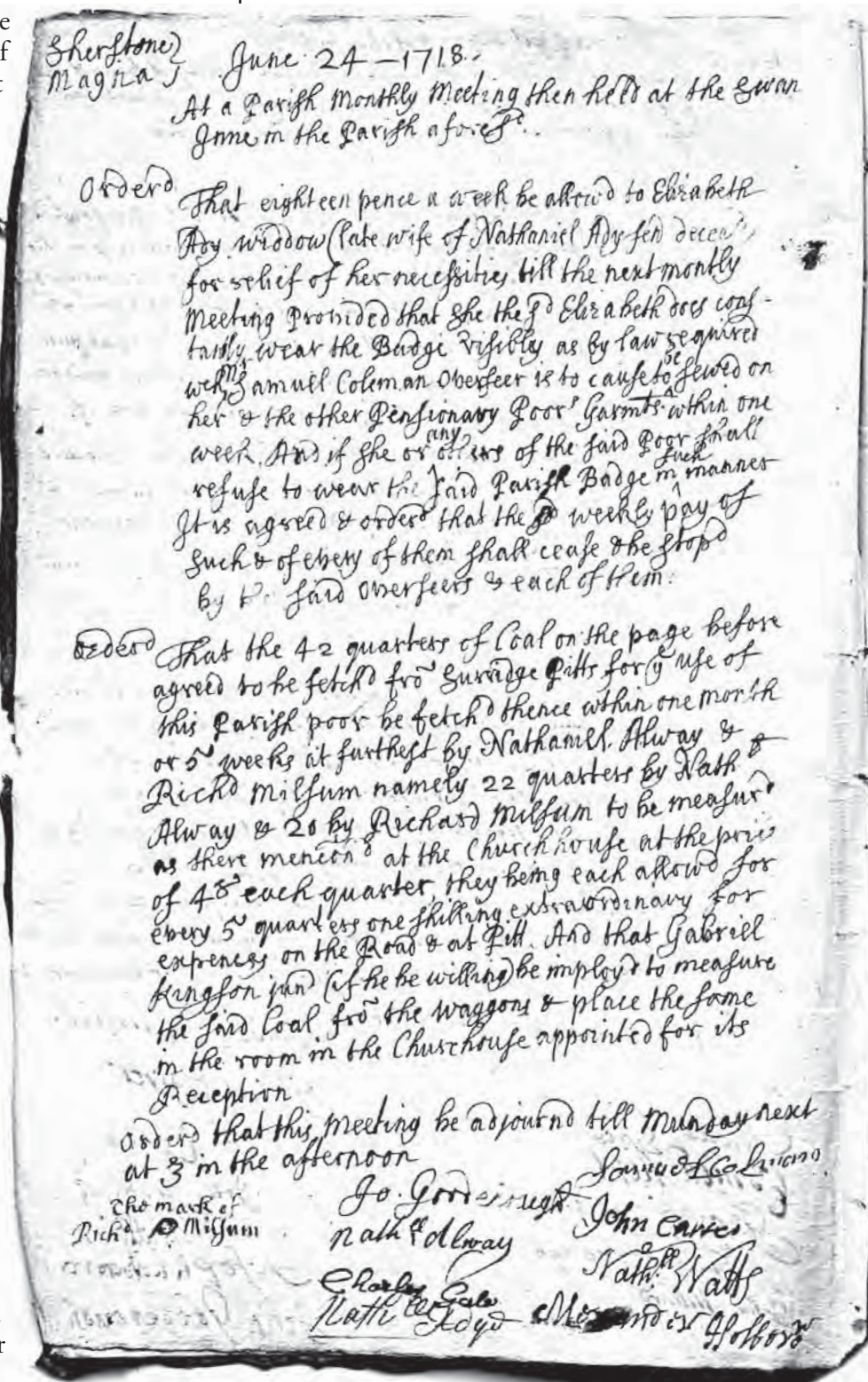
In 1719 and 1720 Gabriel Kington was paid 17s 9d to ring the great bell each day throughout November to February at 8.00am and 8.00pm. This was a useful means for parishioners to mark time during the long winter months.

The meetings of June and July 1718 are written in a less schooled hand than those before or after, which are more terse and formal, and an extract from the latter meeting gives an idea of the work of the vestry. At the meeting for July 1718 'Order'd That the Churchwardens & Overseers of the this parish do allow unto Moses Rice's wife sufficient Relief & procure for her a good nurse to attend her w[i]th all possible speed that no necessities may be wanting tw[ar]ds her Preservation sparing no reasonable charge to that end according to their best discretion.

'And that some allowance be also made to Thomas Evans having a numerous family of small children & his wife being sick; so that he is at a great loss for want of her being w[i]th them & attendance on them in the field to gather corn tow[ar]ds their sustenance this harvest.'

The book is a soft-covered volume with six unused pages at the back. Further business was presumably recorded in another volume which sadly has not survived.

From Steve Hobbs archivist at the Swindon and Wiltshire Records Office.





# Malmesbury Annual Health Fair: Saturday 31 March

Malmesbury Chamber of Commerce, in association with Emma Newby, McTimoney Chiropractor, is hosting a Health Fair in aid of the neonatal intensive care unit at the Royal United Hospital Bath from 10.30am to 3.30pm at Malmesbury Town Hall on Saturday 31 March. There will be many businesses and therapists there on the day giving away free treatments, discounts and vouchers ranging from Whatley Manor Spa through to mobility aids, Shiatsu, chiropractic, physiotherapy and on to various health charities, sports clubs, local fitness classes and even some organic food from the Duchy Home Farm amongst many others.

All details can be found on [www.malmesburyhealth.co.uk](http://www.malmesburyhealth.co.uk).

Buy raffle tickets in advance or on the day for a chance to win one of £1,200 worth of prizes. We are giving away: a brand new Dyson DC25 worth over £300; a golf day for four at Castle Combe Manor hotel with a buggy worth over £300; an evening spa for two at Whatley Manor; a Duchy Home Farm hamper; a free treatment with McTimoney Chiropractor or a hypnotherapist or local Shiatsu and Craniosacral therapist Jessica Johnson; and much more.

Join in with Healthy Living Week by eating at one of the local restaurants and cafes that are dedicating a healthy dish to the cause and donating to the charity in return - The Summer Cafe, Amanda's Bistro and Mayfield House Hotel (though keep checking the website for up-to-date listings).

Check the website to see what special activities and offers will be available in Healthy Living Week at the Leisure Centre.

We are hoping that a professional player from Gloucestershire County Cricket Club will be there to open the event and have many speakers lined up to talk about, among other topics, professional cricket, organic farming, heart attacks and CPR advice, as well as the matron from the neonatal intensive care unit who will be able to tell you all about life on the ward and the kind of work they do to save newborn babies in Wiltshire.

*by Emma Newby*

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# TREEtalk

MARCH 2012 *by Irene Johnston*

## Smoke gets in your eyes

February started off with icy conditions that caused us to cancel two Sunday sessions out of four at Grove Wood. However, we made up for lost time when temperatures rose again. We've been building up a good sweat by bringing down masses of coppiced, mainly hazel, branches to the bonfire (which has an unfortunate habit of responding to every small breeze with disproportionate amounts of smoke).

Why not have a wander down and take a look at the extent of our work to date. As spring advances, fresh green growth and colourful wild flowers will respond to the warmth. We may even be able to offer the eagerly awaited finished path along the river.

## Our amateur wildlife expert

Volunteer, Geoff Carss, has been keeping his eyes open and camera at the ready in Grove Wood. Geoff is an enthusiastic amateur naturalist who has started his own blog that he updates regularly with fascinating observations and anecdotes about what he's spotted in and around the wood. He is also

now contributing his own wildlife column in the Cliffhanger (see page 20).

Further information from Sherston's Tree Warden, Irene Johnston on 841273, email: [Ie\\_johnston@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Ie_johnston@yahoo.co.uk) or Deputy Tree Warden, Sue McKechnie on 840601, email: [susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk).

## Walk with Sue

Sue McKechnie's next walk will be on Sunday 25 March. Please assemble at the village hall for 10.00am, with a return to the Rattlebone Inn just around 12noon in time for a complimentary snack. As ever, children and well-behaved dogs on leads are very welcome.

February's walk was well supported, despite the very frosty conditions. Hopefully, spring will be well and truly on its way by 25 March.

## Sherston Coffee Shop

From Tuesday 3 April, the Coffee Shop in Sherston Parish Church will resume its summer timetable, opening three mornings (9.30am to 12.00noon) every week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Fairtrade coffee, tea and hot chocolate, homemade cakes and biscuits are available.

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# Cotswold Water Park Trust

The Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) runs an annual programme of events, including guided walks, workshops, activities for children and fossil hunts. The aim is to encourage people to discover the rich variety of wildlife and experience some of the activities on offer in the Cotswold Water Park, which covers an area of 40 square miles within Gloucestershire and Wiltshire countryside, north of Swindon and south of Cirencester (M4 junction 15).

## Fantastic Fossil Hunts

In one of the UK's best fossil destinations, the CWPT works alongside the local mineral companies to provide special access to certain quarries for fossil hunts several times a year. In this Jurassic landscape, finds such as ammonites, belemnites,



gryphae and fossils from marine reptiles are common, along with the fossilised remains of the Ice Age woolly mammoth. All you need is a good pair of boots, sharp eyes, a

lot of patience and of course an interest in fossils!

Sundays 18 Mar and 1 April 10.00am to 1.30pm.

Booking essential by emailing to [events@waterpark.org](mailto:events@waterpark.org). CWPT members are given priority booking. Sorry - children under five and dogs not allowed.



Adults: £8; children aged 5-16: £5. (Payment to be made by card over the phone or at the events.)

For information on membership of the CWPT, please visit [www.waterpark.org/trust](http://www.waterpark.org/trust) or email [info@waterpark.org](mailto:info@waterpark.org)

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# New record time set in 2012 Pancake Eating Competition

The public bar at the Rattlebone was packed on the evening of Shrove Tuesday, 21 February, for the annual Pancake Eating Competition, organised by Sherston 1016.

Twenty-six competitors of all ages turned up to enjoy their pancakes. Adults had a plate of four pancakes for each heat, whilst children had just two pancakes. The competition has few rules; heats are timed and the fastest four competitors go through to the final where the contestant who clears their plate first is declared the winner.

The men's winner was Ross Mynes, whose heat time was 1:49, runner up was Will Ballass and third was Will (no surname) from Acton Turville.

In the ladies' competition, a record time of 1:48 was achieved by Minnie Hulme, with Caroline Moore second (1:50) and Amy (no surname) from Acton Turville coming in third (2:37).

In his juniors' heat, James Hulme was able to dispatch his pancakes in 1:34 eventually coming second in the final. William Hulme and Leah (no surname) came joint first and William Jacques came third.

The whole event was a great success, raising more than £50 for Sherston 1016 funds. All ingredients, wherever possible, were sourced locally, with eggs kindly donated by Sherston Free-Range Eggs, flour donated by Shipton Mill at Long Newnton, and lemons donated by Tucks, although of course the lemons are not grown in Sherston - or even in Luckington! The evening could not have happened without all the help and cooperation from Jason, Rob and all the staff at the Rattlebone.









# Walk on the wild side

Living in Sherston we are really fortunate to be surrounded by some wonderful countryside and fascinating wildlife. Within a short walk of the village, we have the Cliff (the crown jewels?), Grove Wood, the Sherston branch of the Avon running down to Easton Grey, established woodlands and open countryside all on a limestone bedrock.

This diversity of habitat attracts a huge variety of wildlife which changes throughout the year, with our winter migrants, such as redwings, fieldfares, long tailed-tits, little egrets, snipe and flocks of finches all about to return to Scandinavia, and the summer visitors getting ready to come back from Africa and southern Europe. We also have some residents that are harder to see, such as water rails and little grebes as well as owls, red kites, kingfishers, ravens and peregrine falcons. And I haven't even mentioned the mammals, insects, plants and fungi!

There are some great wildlife programmes on television about exotic parts of the world but we have wildlife that is just as interesting on our doorstep. It's not always easy to find or see – or even identify when you do see it – but when you do, it's really exciting.

Spring is just about to get under way with the bulbs emerging (have you seen the snowdrops in Grove Wood?) and birds starting to build nests so we have a whole year of wildlife-watching ahead of us.

To try to help understand our wildlife, and maybe as a place to share anything interesting, I have just started a blog - [sherstonwildlife.wordpress.com](http://sherstonwildlife.wordpress.com) - please read, contribute, link and, of course, tweet. It's amazing what you can see when you are out and about, so please share what you have seen, good and not so good, about our wildlife. Each month I aim to write a column about what's happening, what's

happened and what's hopefully going to happen to our non-human residents.

And please remember to clean out your nest boxes - hopefully they will be inhabited very soon.

by Geoff Carss

## SmallAds

You can now advertise items for sale or wanted in the Cliffhanger including services required such as gardening or cleaning. Cost is £2 for up to 20 words. Copy should be in paper form and put through the letterbox at 37 High Street by the 15th of the month together with £2 in cash. All monies raised will be donated to charity.

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## Indoor cricket success

A last ball tie with Biddestone B in the Chippenham indoor cricket league on Sunday 19 February ensured that Sherston Magna are promoted from Division 2 to Division 1 in their first season. The final matches of the indoor league season between Christian Melford and Sherston Magna, and Spy park B and Biddestone B take place on 4 March at Shelford School in Chippenham and will decide the winners and runners up of Division 2.

DIVISION 2	Played	Won	Tied	Run Rate	Points
Sherston Magna	9	7	1	1.79	15
Spy Park B	9	7		1.73	14
Christian Melford	9	6		1.78	12
Biddestone B	9	4	1	1.51	9

Indoor practice nets have started for those keen to prepare for the summer cricket season. The nets take place every Sunday until Easter at 4.30pm for two hours in Cotswold Leisure Centre in Lowfield Road, Tetbury, and cost £5. Please contact Kevin Smith (kevinarchersmith@btinternet.com) or Andrew Tremellen (andrewtremellen@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like to attend.

Other dates for the diary are the pre-season drinks on Saturday 14 April and the first Saturday league game at 2.15pm on Saturday 5 May at Pinkney Park against newly promoted Windrush.

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with any orders, questions etc.

## Sherston Tennis Club: Big announcement

Sherston Tennis Club will hold its AGM at 8.00pm on Thursday 8 March in The Old Royal Ship, Luckington. All members are invited to attend to elect a new committee, discuss the club's future and have a first drink 'on the club'. Please send any agenda items you wish to raise to Nic Riley (nic50riley@gmail.com) in advance.

The newly promoted men's team needs to strengthen its squad and is urgently seeking more players for the forthcoming season, as one regular has moved away. Don't worry about your standard of play, Chippenham & District Men's League Div IV is nothing like the game you may have seen on TV. Get in touch with Jeremy Nabarro (the Vineyard) if you want to discuss.

Nic Riley Tel: 840682



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Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Wilton Shopping Village & Sailsbury

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### **APRIL 2012**

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Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – London

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### **May 2012**

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# Doctor's Bag



by Judy Sharp, Practice Manager,  
The Tolsey Surgery

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- 88.7% said they always or mostly see or speak to the GP they prefer;
- 96.9% said the practice helps to understand their health problems well or very well;
- 96.3% said the practice helps in coping with health problems well or very well;
- 95.2% describe their experience of the Tolsey surgery as excellent or good; and
- 95.8% would recommend the Tolsey Surgery to someone who has just moved to the area.

Where we need to do better:

- 88.4% find it very or fairly easy to get through on the phone.

The new telephone system has not been universally welcomed. However, we are making more efficient use of the receptionists' time by diverting many calls directly to other departments and providing a dedicated answering machine to leave messages to cancel appointments.

More recently, we have increased the number of staff answering the phones at very busy periods

to help alleviate the early morning rush.

- 62% find it very or fairly easy to speak to a doctor or nurse on the phone.

Our nursing service has changed significantly in the last few months. We have Lauren and Kirstie running extra phlebotomy clinics; Sally has more appointments and she is carrying out INRs, wound dressings, NHS health checks, new patient medicals, spirometry and stop smoking. Sue also has more appointments and she is able to carry out a wide range of services, including minor injuries and a number of cases that have traditionally gone to the doctors.

- 62% said they can normally be seen on the same day if it is urgent.

We have recently adjusted the appointment system to change the ratio of on-the-day, 48-hour and routine appointments to provide more 48-hour appointments. This has taken the pressure off the on-the-day appointments, leaving them for those who really need them. We will continue to monitor this very closely. One of the doctors will always see a patient on the day if it is genuinely needed.

Please visit our website – [www.tolseysurgery.com](http://www.tolseysurgery.com) – for the complete survey results, with additional comments and our answers.

Thank you to everybody who took part in the survey. We are not complacent about these results, we continue to strive to improve our service to you in every area and welcome comments from our patients at any time.

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# Area Board @ Sherston

The next meeting of the Malmesbury Area Board of Wiltshire Council takes place at Sherston Village Hall on Wednesday 7 March, 6.30pm for 7.00pm start. This is an opportunity for residents to see their area board in action and to participate in discussions. All welcome.

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# THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

Through the good offices of member Ian Ashby, we have for some years now enjoyed excellent relations with our friends across the pond at Ithaca Farmers' Market New York State who organise the International Rutabaga\* Curling World Championship every December.

News has just reached Ian of the results of the 2011 championship, which enables me to bring you the following report direct from the Curlers website <http://rutabagacurl.com/news.html>

*'2011 was a bitterly cold year, and Rutabaga Curl staff worked feverishly to clear the court of drifted snow before the games began. Protesters were out in force, as it has apparently become an annual tradition to disparage this annual tradition. With a new court set up on the lakeside wing of the market pavilion, athletes had little time to practice, and as a result many stray rutabagas went crashing into the onlookers, to the amusement of all. Our finishers this year were a unique bunch. There was farmer Michael Glos, who received the bronze medal while standing in for his brother, who placed in the finals but had left before he could compete further.*

*'Taking the silver was 10-year-old James Harrod, a first-time Curler who nevertheless managed to beat out dozens of his elders.*

*'And finishing with the gold medal was Steve Paisley, a longtime Curler whose dedication to the event is so great that he competed with the frozen rutabaga with which he placed second with in 2009. As this was not against our rules, we allowed the games to go forward, but we currently have a committee examining our frozen rutabaga policies.*


*'The curl ended in traditional epic fashion, with a grand display of victory and a round of gentle questioning for the victors, who said they couldn't feel their fingers and asked to step off the dais and away from the bitter cold, which we granted them.'*

The winner Steve Paisley is also apparently known as 'The Man with the Huge Oblong Rutabaga'.

It's interesting to note that their rules committee have issues to deal with just as we have here in Sherston every hurl. Mind you, we've yet to have to make a decision on the legality of a two-year-old frozen mangold.



Steve Paisley curling his Rutabaga

Yarp! *The Keeper of the Quill* 

\*Rutabaga is the word used in North America for the vegetable we know as swede.

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# Groups and Regular Events in and around Sherston

## Holy Cross Church

### The Coffee Shop -

Fair Trade tea and coffee with homemade biscuits

Open Thursday mornings 9.30 am – 12 noon till end of March

**Sunday services** 8.15am from 6 Nov for 6 months

Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist (3rd Sunday

9.30am Family Service); 6pm Evensong (3rd Sunday Evening

Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer)

See the Parish Life for more details

## Congregational Church

**Services each Sunday 11am - 12.00 noon** Please note services

held in the British School Room from Oct 23 - March

For further details see the Parish Life or phone 07778 934742

## Methodist Church

**Services every Sunday** at 10.30am apart from 3rd Sunday in the month when service is held at Luckington.

For further details see the Parish Life

## Gauzebrook Church for Children

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

A Family Service is held at Holy Cross Church in Sherston at 9.30am on the third Sunday of each month. There are Family Services at other churches in the Group on other Sundays – see The Parish Life for details

A new Junior Church has started at the Church of the Holy Cross on the First Sunday of every month at 9.30am during the morning service, with storytelling then individual craft time, rejoining parents for Communion and refreshments in church. More information from Becky Fisher (Rural Schools and Churches Worker) on 07974 030212 or becky.fisher@deanery.org.uk

**Junior Church** is held at Court House, Hullavington now on the first Sunday of each month, except for August. This is for children from 3 to 11+. Any children under 3 need to be accompanied by an adult. Contact Ness Whiffin 840185.

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

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

## Easton Grey Parish Church

See Parish Life for details of services

## Sunday Newspapers

On sale 8am - 11am every Sunday in Sherston village hall. Eggs, milk and sweets available too.

## Link

Link provides a voluntary car service for residents living in the Malmesbury area, taking those in need to hospital, the chiropodist, GPs' surgeries and to visit sick relatives. For further information please call 01249 721532.

## Ancient Order of Sherston Mangold Hurlers

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

## Boules at The Bull

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

## Busy Hands Pre-school

Meets 9.10am - 12.10pm everyday in the village hall for 3 - 5 year olds. Further details call 07766 714544

## Charity Bingo

In aid of a different local charity each month on the 3rd Friday at 7.30 for 8pm start in the village hall. 50p entry and 30p a book. Light refreshments available.

## Church bell ringing

Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00pm.

Call Geoff Martin 840375 or come along.

## Clem's Club

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

## Drawing Classes in Sherston

Classes for all abilities are held in the British Schoolroom every Wednesday during term time. Tuition is given in the use of all drawing media, in monochrome and colour. Subjects include still life, and natural objects e.g. fruit, vegetables and flowers. There are currently a few spaces in the afternoon class 1.30 to 3.30pm. Newcomers, of all standards including beginners, are very welcome. The Spring term starts on 18th January - to find out more contact Heather Martin on 840375 or heather@geoffmartin.plus.com

## Eudo Tae Kwon Do

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

## Footpaths group

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

## Malmesbury Area Board Meeting

For details see [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards)

## Malmesbury Embroiderer's Guild

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

## Malmesbury Luncheon Club

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

## Malmesbury Netball Club

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

## Malmesbury & Villages Community Partnership

For details contact Sue Webb 824620 dennis.webb01@virgin.net

## Malmesbury Rangers

Girls over 14 years meet every 2nd Thursday in the month. Further details from Gill Shaw on 825647 or email sgshaw@orchardshaws.co.uk

## Malmesbury Guides - Ingleburn Trefoil Guild

Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, usually at St. Mary's Hall, Malmesbury at 7.30 p.m. Details from Helen Price, 503187 or retreatcottage17@btinternet.com

## Parish Council Meeting

Takes place on the 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm in the village hall. Minutes of meetings can be read online at [www.sherston.org.uk](http://www.sherston.org.uk). Further details contact Sarah Wood on 840197 or clerk@sherston.org.uk

## Patchwork & Quilting Classes

1st Thursday of each month from 10am - 2pm in The British Schoolroom. *Further details from Anne Chapman on 01249 782842.*

## Senior Club

Meets at 2.00pm in the British School Room every other Tuesday alternating with Clem's Club.

## Sherston 1016

Fundraising for local good causes and charities. For further details, contact Eric Thacker on 841344 or [eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eric.thacker@yahoo.co.uk)

## Sherston Badminton Club

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

For more information contact Ray Clifton on 840592.

## Sherston Boules and Carnival 2012

Any new ideas and offers of help in planning or just on the day gratefully received. For more details contact Caroline Moore [caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk](mailto:caroline@carolinemoore.co.uk) or Louise Osborne [louise.osborne@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:louise.osborne@networkrail.co.uk) or call Caroline on 841405.

## Sherston Brownies

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

## 1st Sherston Cub Scout Pack

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

## 1st Sherston (John Rattlebone) Scout Troop

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

## Sherston Whitewall Explorers

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

## Westonbirt Guides

Meet in Querns Hall, Rosehill School, Westonbirt 5pm – 7pm every Wednesday. Sherston Brownies tend to come along if they don't join Scouts. Details from Ann Bye, 01454 218152, [ann.bye@virgin.net](mailto:ann.bye@virgin.net)

## Sherston Drama Group

The Drama group puts on plays and pantomimes in the Village Hall. If you are interested in taking part or helping out contact Richard Skeffington (Chairman) [richard.skeffington@virgin.net](mailto:richard.skeffington@virgin.net) Tel. 840092 or Graham Instrell (Vice Chairman) [ginstrell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ginstrell@hotmail.co.uk) Tel. 840978

## Sherston FC

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

## Sherston Ladies' Swimming Club

Swim at Westonbirt Leisure on Wednesday evenings from 8 – 9.00pm. £30 for 10 weeks, open to any ladies, of any swimming standard, from Sherston and surrounding area. There is a lane reserved for the more serious swimmers. To join, please contact Heather 840375, Annabel 840592 or Maggie 840969 or email [heather@geoffmartin.plus.com](mailto:heather@geoffmartin.plus.com)

## Sherston's Living Churchyard

Please help maintain the living churchyard on the second Sunday of the month from 10am to 12 noon or 2pm till 4pm, weather permitting. Please check with Sue for timings each month. Church of the Holy Cross

*Further details contact Sue Robinson on 841263*

## Sherston Martial Arts Club

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

## Sherston Tennis Club

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

## Sherston Theatre Club

Excursions with a Sherston High Street-to-venue return coach service. Annual fee £20. Listings under [www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/](http://www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/) or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or [Hjquirk@aol.com](mailto:Hjquirk@aol.com)

## Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

The group is a fun way for babies, toddlers and their parents to meet and play. We meet at 10 -11.30am each Tuesday in the Scout Hut with toys for all stages from wrigglers to toddlers, craft activities, music and snacks for all, not to mention a much-needed cup of tea/coffee for the deserving parent. Further details contact [SherstonToddlers@gmail.com](mailto:SherstonToddlers@gmail.com), or Kate on 841205 or Clare on 840120

## 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](mailto:julia.nichols@btinternet.com)

## Sherston W.I.

Meet on the first Thursday of each month.

Further details contact Maureen Jolliffe on 840867

## Sherston Young Craft Group

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

## Splash Dance

Dance classes for 2 to 12 year olds including ballet, modern and tap. Every Wednesday afternoon in the village hall. Prices are £35 per term with the first lesson free. For details contact Charlotte on 01453 886632 or [charlotte@splashdance.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@splashdance.co.uk)

## Tetbury Chess Club

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

## Village Hall 300+ Club

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

## Whist Drive

A whist drive is held in the village hall on the second Friday in the month at 7.15 for 7.30pm. Admission £1.50 including refreshments. All profits to help maintain the village hall. Further details from G. Mason, M. Goulding and J. Gleed.

## Yoga in Sherston

Mondays: 5.45pm Pregnancy Yoga. 7pm Beginners adults yoga class. All welcome, no experience necessary. 8.15pm a more dynamic class for those with some yoga experience. £45 per 6 week term. Monthly Family Yoga classes, Saturdays 10am. Booking essential. Scout Hut.

Further details contact Kathryn Chandler: 0790 380 2985 or email: [yoga\\_in\\_sherston@hotmail.com](mailto:yoga_in_sherston@hotmail.com)

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



# What's on in 2012

## Dates for your diary

### May

- 1 Evening of Entertainment in aid of SOSCIC  
 3-7 Badminton Horse Trials  
 27 Mangold Maid Making

### June

- 3 Diamond Jubilee Street Party  
 4 Diamond Jubilee Beacon & Firework  
 15-16 Cider Music and Food Festival  
 23-24 Sherston Open Gardens in aid of the Church of the Holy Cross

### July

- 8-15 Boules & Carnival Week - Sat 14 Boules Day

### August

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

### October

- 7 Mangold Hurl  
 31- 3 November Pantomime

### December

- 8 2012 Winter Ball - Fire and Ice

If you're planning a community event in the parish why not let the Cliffhanger have the basic details as soon as possible?

Email [info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk](mailto:info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk) to add the event to this list. Everyone will then know what's occurring in good time and it will help prevent events clashing.

## WHAT'S ON

### Sherston

#### The Carpenter's Arms

Curry Quiz Night Sun 4 Mar  
 Talk on management and stalking of wild deer by Westonbirt's Phil Craig Wed 21 Mar 7.30pm  
 All 6 nations rugby live on big screen  
 Check boards for details of events  
 Further details contact 840665

#### The Rattlebone Inn

Monday Quiz Nights Every Monday at 7.30pm  
 Free entry and prizes for the winning team  
 Rugby on the big screen Sun 11 Mar France v England  
 Half time chicken wings Sat 17 Mar England v Ireland Half time chicken wings and St Patrick's day special on Guinness throughout the game  
 See boards for more details of events  
 Further details contact 840871 or [www.therattlebone.co.uk](http://www.therattlebone.co.uk)

### Grove Wood Sunday Clearing

Please come along and help clear, coppice and then plant trees and hedges in Grove Wood 10am - 1pm  
 hot homemade soup at halftime  
 Further details contact Sue McKechnie 840601 or [susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk)

### Sherston's Living Churchyard

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

### S H O C C

#### (Sherston Occasional Community Choir)

Every Wed 7.00pm Come and join us to sing a variety of music. British School Rooms. £30 for the term / £20 for teenagers and over 65s. For further details call Nicki Heenan 840883 or [nicki-heenan@btinternet.com](mailto:nicki-heenan@btinternet.com) or Jill Woodward 840578 or [jillwoodward222@btinternet.com](mailto:jillwoodward222@btinternet.com)

### Sherston Tennis Club AGM

Thur 8 Mar 8pm All members are invited to attend to elect a new committee, discuss the club's future and have a first drink "on the club". Please send any agenda items you wish to raise to Nic Riley The Old Royal Ship, Luckington For further details call Nic Riley 840682 or [nic50riley@gmail.com](mailto:nic50riley@gmail.com)

### WI Open Lecture

Peter Knight talks on The Ancient Sites of Wessex Thurs 1 Mar 7.30pm Tickets from WI members or the PO. Sherston Village hall

### 1016 Book Sale

Sat 17 Mar 9am - 12 noon village hall - free entry. All proceeds to the senior citizens Christmas voucher fund. Donations of books, videos, DVDs and CDs gratefully received. Please deliver to Mike Tarrant at Grays of Sherston. For further details call 840611

### Senior Club Spring Sale

Tues 20 Mar 9am-12 noon Various stalls Bring and Buy, Bric a Brac, Books, Nearly New, Tombola, Raffle. Free entry. Village hall

### Sherston WI Jumble Sale

Sat 24 Mar 10am-11.30am Nearly New, Bric-a-brac, Easter Stall, Cakes, Books, Refreshments. Village hall Entrance - 30p

### Sue's Strolls

Sun 25 Mar starting from the village hall at 10am returning to the Rattlebone Inn for complimentary seasonal victuals at around 12 noon For further details call Sue McKechnie 840601 or [susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk)

### 80s night with the Village People and "Electric Dreams 80s Disco" in aid of Sherston Primary School

Dig out those legwarmers, shoulder pads and "Frankie says" t-shirts to party like it's 1980 in the village hall all in aid of Sherston Primary School Sat 28 Apr Mar 8pm - midnight Fully licensed bar. Tickets £10 on sale from 1 Mar at the Post Office.

### Pinkney Park

#### Wentworth Jigsaws Open Day & Factory Sale

Sat 3 Mar from 10.30am to 1pm  
 For further details call 840033 or visit [www.jigsaws.co.uk](http://www.jigsaws.co.uk)

## Grittleton

### Moviola - the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme

Wed 28 Mar - My Week with Marilyn (15) Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

**The Iron Lady** Wed 25 April £5 in advance £5.50 on the door  
Grittleton Village Hall For further details call Lesley 01249 783157 or email [l\\_palmer@btinternet.com](mailto:l_palmer@btinternet.com) or visit

### Grittleton Skool Disco

in aid of Grittleton Village Hall and Nepalese school children Sat 31 Mar 7pm – midnight. £15 includes welcome drink, 2 course school dinner, live band and disco  
Grittleton Village Hall

For further details call Kath Darby 01249 782664

## Westonbirt

### The Arboretum

**Charity walk: step out for Breakthrough** A 5km walk through the beautiful Silk Wood in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer Sun 11 Mar 11am £5 per walker includes admission. Spaces are limited so please register in advance. Tel: Amanda 07973 537706 or email: [amanda@cotswoldbreakthrough.org.uk](mailto:amanda@cotswoldbreakthrough.org.uk)

**Specialist Wood Sales** 2nd Saturday and Sunday every month 10am-1pm in aid of FOWA

**Guided tour: Barking up the right tree** Discover wonderfully varied tree barks and find out how we use this remarkable substance. Sun 11 Mar 11am - 1pm Book in advance on 01666 880220. Free after admission

**Weddings at the Arboretum - Open day** Sun 4 Mar 11-4pm Free admission - book on 881215 or [ceremonies@fowa.org.uk](mailto:ceremonies@fowa.org.uk)

**Summer 2012 Concerts:** June Fri 22 - Will Young SOLD OUT; Sat 23 - Plan B; Sun 24 - Madness SOLD OUT; July Fri 20 - The Wanted; Sat 21 - Alfie Boe; Sun 22 - Steps £35-36.50 plus booking fee. Buy tickets at Westonbirt shop to avoid booking fee

**Workshop: Beginners Digital Landscape Photography**  
Course Fri 23 Mar 10.30am - 3.30pm £55 contact Graham Light on 01285 653069 or email [consult@abbey-studios.co.uk](mailto:consult@abbey-studios.co.uk)

**Spring & Summer admission:** Adults £8 / Conc £7 Chd £3  
Further details contact 880220 or [www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt)

### Westonbirt School

**Friends of Westonbirt School present a Spring Fashion Show and Supper** Fri 2 Mar 7pm Tickets £20 adults, £15 18s and under, includes Prosecco Reception, 2 course supper and coffee, cash bar

**Oliver Twist** Fri 16 & Sat 17 Mar Westonbirt School girls perform Oliver Twist in the Orangery theatre

For further details call Laura Reid on 880333 or [lreid@westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:lreid@westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk) or visit [www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk)

## Easton Grey

### Whatley Manor

**Jazz Sundays** Solent City Jazzmen 12 - 15:30 Sun 4 Mar £39 including 3 course Sunday lunch in Le Mazot

**Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner** Jane Eyre £39 includes film, popcorn and either a 3 course lunch or dinner Sun 25 Mar

Further details contact 834026 or [www.whatleymanor.com](http://www.whatleymanor.com)

## Brokenborough

### Painting classes with Nicki Heenan

### Oil and Acrylic Painting classes

New classes 2 Feb - 23 Mar - studying the Artists Monet,

Gauguin and Degas and their use of colour and techniques  
10.30am - 12.40 Advanced (2 Years painting or more) /  
Lunch (own cost) / Lessons for beginners 2pm - 4pm £10  
per session at The Horseguards Pub, Brokenborough  
Further details contact Nicki Heenan 840883 or  
[nicki.heenan@btinternet.com](mailto:nicki.heenan@btinternet.com)

## Doughton

### Highgrove House

#### Tetbury Art Society Annual Lecture

From Prisoner of War to Art Collection Inspiration, Speaker: Lynne Henderson, Pembroke College, Oxford with two undergraduates Wed 21 Mar 2.15pm £25 includes tea & cake. All proceeds to the Prince's Charities Foundation.

Advance booking only

The Orchard Room, Highgrove House

For further details call Gill Ashley 840993

### Highgrove Garden Tours

Tickets on sale for tours up till Aug. Sep - Oct tickets will go on sale in June. Standard Tours: £19.50 per person, individuals join a group of 26 guests. Group price is £507 for a maximum of 26 guests. Groups may pre book Lunch or Afternoon Tea after their garden tour. Please note that an administration fee of £1.50 is applied to all bookings

For further details call 020 7766 7310 or visit [www.highgrovegardens.com](http://www.highgrovegardens.com)

## Malmesbury

### Malmesbury Health Event

Sat 31 Mar 10.30am - 3.30pm discover more about your health and all the health related services, products and businesses that are available on your doorstep. Different health therapists offering free checks, advice and information including chiropractic, chiropody, nutritional therapy, yoga, personal training and more in aid of Bath Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Malmesbury Town Hall

For further details call Emma Newby on 841402, email: [emma@mctimoneychiro.co.uk](mailto:emma@mctimoneychiro.co.uk), or Jo Coletta, Chamber Secretary: [secretary@malmesburychamber.org.uk](mailto:secretary@malmesburychamber.org.uk). or visit [www.malmesburyhealth.co.uk](http://www.malmesburyhealth.co.uk)

### Local MP surgery with James Gray MP

Sat 3 Mar 12 noon - 1pm

Hobbes Parlour, Malmesbury Town Hall For further details call [www.jamesgray.org](http://www.jamesgray.org) for information on surgeries or for online surgeries or email [jamesgraymp@parliament.uk](mailto:jamesgraymp@parliament.uk)

### Malmesbury NCT

Maternity, nursery and children's clothes and toys Sat 3 Mar 10.30am - 12noon (10.15 for NCT members) at Malmesbury Secondary School. £1 entry.

For further details call Fiona on : [nearly\\_new@malmesburynct.org.uk](mailto:nearly_new@malmesburynct.org.uk) or 824045 or visit [www.malmesburynct.org.uk](http://www.malmesburynct.org.uk)

## Didmarton

### Duke of Beaufort's Hunt Point to Point at Didmarton

First Sat in March – 3 Mar First race starts at 12.30.

Countrywear tradestands, refreshments. Wrap up warm against the wind as course very exposed. £10 entry to the racecourse. Parking on site (chargeable).

## Minety, Great Somerford and Corsham

### Rural Arts Wiltshire

**Bowjangles** This all singing, all dancing string quartet combines fiery musicianship with energetic dance moves, vaudeville comedy and four part harmony singing in a dazzling



stage show which will leave you spellbound. Fri 2 Mar 7.30pm  
Minety VH tickets up to £10 from 861281

**Film: Mao's Last Dancer** This inspirational biopic tells the incredible story of Chinese ballet dancer Li Cunxin, whose extraordinary talent is only matched by his courage and determination to live in freedom. Sat 10 Mar 7.45pm £5  
Box Office Tel: 01249 720485 Somerfords Walter Powell School, Great Somerford

**Corsham Global Village Film Festival 2012** Films from around the globe every day in March See website for details [www.poundarts.org.uk/festival/film.aspx](http://www.poundarts.org.uk/festival/film.aspx)

For further details call TEL: 01249 701628 / 01249 712618 or email [box.office@poundarts.org.uk](mailto:box.office@poundarts.org.uk) or visit [www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk](http://www.ruralartswiltshire.org.uk)

## Cotswolds

### Cotswold Rural Skills

**Map and Compass Course** 25 Mar Northleach £9  
**Dry Stone Walling** for beginners 14-15 Apr Lansdown 2 day course £99 Book ahead to avoid disappointment  
2 day course £99 For further details call David Molloy on 01451 862000 or [david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](mailto:david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk) or visit [www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)

## Wotton-Under-Edge

### The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers from the local community This month: Warhorse; The Artist; Coriolanus; J Edgar; Monsters in Paris; The Descendants; The Muppets and World Cinema: A Separation. Check website for details  
Further details contact 01453 844601 or [www.wottoneph.co.uk](http://www.wottoneph.co.uk)

## South Cerney

### Events at the Cotswold Water Parks

The Cotswold Water Park covers an area of 40 square miles within Gloucestershire and Wiltshire countryside, north of Swindon and south of Cirencester, off Jct 15 M4

**Cotswold Water Park Willow Lantern Pageant** Fri 2 Mar 6.30pm This year "Creatures of the Night" willow lanterns will be paraded in South Cerney's "Upper Up" Playing field (GL7 5UT) on the western edge of the village. Please note on the night of the Pageant there is limited parking at the Upper Up Playing field. Please walk, run, cycle to the pageant if you can, alternative parking near Ann Edwards School, South Cerney (GL75UW).

**Studies of Local Butterflies - an illustrated talk by Matthew Oates** Matthew Oates, renowned author and butterfly expert for the National Trust, will give a fascinating insight into the long-running studies of Marsh Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Brown Hairstreak and Purple Emperor in this area. Mon 12 March at 7.30pm at the Cotswold Water Park Four Pillars Hotel Booking essential. Tickets: £6. Please email [events@waterpark.org](mailto:events@waterpark.org) to make a booking.

**Fossil Hunts** From time to time, the Cotswold Water Park Trust organises fossil hunts in the winter months, between October and April, on a Sunday, by special arrangement with the mineral companies. Next dates: 18 Mar, 1 Apr. Numbers are limited for safety reasons, and places must be booked in advance. £8 Over 5s only, sorry no dogs. If you would like to be added to the email waiting list, please send an email to [events@waterpark.org](mailto:events@waterpark.org).  
For further details contact the In Our Element Arts Team for the willow lantern pageant John Kimberley on 07738708880 or Lesley Greene 01452 770018 or for other events Jill Bewley on 01793 752413 or visit [www.waterpark.org/trust/willow.html](http://www.waterpark.org/trust/willow.html)

## Nailsworth

### Forest Green Rovers F.C.

Sat 3 3pm v Cambridge Utd, Sat 17 3pm v Hayes & Yeading Utd and Sat 31 3pm v Barrow Adults £15/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £2 Adults £15/£13, Concessions £10/£8, under 16s £2 The New Lawn Forest Green Nailsworth  
For further details call 01453 834860 or visit [www.forestgreenroversfc.com](http://www.forestgreenroversfc.com)

## Bath

### City of Bath Choir

Present JS Bach's iconic B minor Mass Sat 17 Mar at 7.30pm  
Tickets £25, £20, £18, £12.50, £8 concessions and under 16s Bath Abbey For further details visit [www.bathboxoffice.org.uk](http://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk)

### Bath Literary Festival

2-11 Mar Various events throughout Bath city centre by many authors and actors For further details call 01225 463362 or visit [www.bathlitfest.org.uk](http://www.bathlitfest.org.uk)

### Bath Comedy Festival

29 Mar - 9 Apr Various events throughout Bath city centre For further details call 01225 463362 or [www.bathboxoffice.org.uk](http://www.bathboxoffice.org.uk) or visit [www.bathcomedyfestival.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.bathcomedyfestival.co.uk/whats-on)

### Theatre Royal

The Wizard of Oz 28 Feb - 3 Mar

Stomp 5-10 Mar

Funny Peculiar 12 - 17 Mar

Long Day's Journey into Night 19 -24 Mar

Taming of the Shrew 27 -31 Mar

Book ahead for: Steel Magnolias; Birds of a Feather (original TV cast); Barefoot in the Park; Abigail's Party; The School for Scandal; The Tempest  
7.30pm / 8pm £15 - £33.

Further details 01225 448844 or [www.theatreroyal.org.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk)

## Stroud

### Covent Garden Royal Opera House and Ballet @ The Apollo

Opera: Il Trittico (Puccini) February

Ballet: Romeo and Juliet – LIVE Thurs 22 Mar

Opera: Madame Butterfly (Puccini) in 3D March

Opera: Rigoletto (Verdi) LIVE Tues 17 Apr

Stroud Apollo Cinema

Further details 0871 220 6000 or [www.roh.org.uk/cinema](http://www.roh.org.uk/cinema)

## Slimbridge

### Wildfowl and wetlands centre

Landrover Safaris every weekend and daily in school holidays  
11am & 2pm

**Nature Detectives** every weekend and daily in school holidays Free after admission £5/£3 chd - book tours with David Bell 01453 891 223 Slimbridge Wetland Centre For further details call 01453 891223 or email [eleanor.wise@wwt.org.uk](mailto:eleanor.wise@wwt.org.uk) or visit [www.wwt.org.uk/centre/122/slimbridge.html](http://www.wwt.org.uk/centre/122/slimbridge.html)

## Bristol

### Props Barbarian Rugby Senior Fixtures

Our occasional Rugby XV's range from U8's to senior Barbarian Rugby, our ethos is simple: Excellence, Equity and Inclusion. PROPS is a rugby inspired charity and our inclusive projects are endorsed by our local premierships clubs and the RFU.  
Sun 4 Mar v Bristol Legends. Clifton RFC KO TBA.  
Sun 18 Mar v Young Farmers at Kingswood RFC  
Further details contact Yann Amouroux 07968 451354 or [support@propsforward.org](mailto:support@propsforward.org) or [www.propsforward.org](http://www.propsforward.org)

### The Soul Destroyers in concert

Soul Destroyers live with the Bi-Polar Bears Sat 3 Mar 8.30pm £8 in adv - contact Dave if 10+ tickets Fiddlers in Bristol For further details call Dave Shephard 07860 448438 or email [ds@oldbellhouse.com](mailto:ds@oldbellhouse.com) or visit [www.soul-destroyers.co.uk](http://www.soul-destroyers.co.uk)

## Cheltenham

### The Gold Cup Festival

The Gold Cup Festival Tues 13- Fri 16 Mar with Wed 14 Ladies' Day, Patrick's Thursday and The Gold Cup Fri 16 Mar Cheltenham Racecourse  
For further details call 0844 579 3003 or visit [www.cheltenham.co.uk/racing/fixtures/the\\_festival.html](http://www.cheltenham.co.uk/racing/fixtures/the_festival.html)