



Sherston goes the extra mile for the Olympics



by Fi Picton

Pupils from Years 5 and 6 at Sherston Primary School recently had a once-in-a-lifetime experience: a VIP tour of the Olympic Park in Stratford, London.

The visit was arranged to celebrate the completion of the Olympic Garden designed by former pupil Hannah Clegg. Hannah, who's now at Malmesbury School, won a national competition in 2009 run by the Royal Horticultural Society and London 2012. Her 'three-ringed' garden design incorporates gold, silver and bronze sections, with a silver sundial, and a bronze ball floating on a single jet of water. Hannah planted the first tree, a 20-year-old oak, with gold medallist Jonathan Evans.

The area is still a building site, so school groups aren't usually allowed off the bus, but special arrangements were made for Sherston pupils to be the first to visit the garden, which will remain a permanent feature when the Olympic Park is reopened as a public open space in May 2013.

Pupils also had a surprise invitation to see the aquatics stadium, and were the first school party to do so.



For all the children, it was an amazing experience and, for some, it was their first visit to London. Hannah and Sherston primary school pupils were interviewed by a reporter from BBC Wiltshire, and a feature was broadcast on Matthew Smith's Breakfast Show.

It's just the start of Olympic celebrations at Sherston school, which will encourage pupils to have a go at a wide range of sports: Saturday 19 May is the Olympic Family Fun Day, organised by the Friends of Sherston School, which

replaces the usual fundraiser, the spring fair (see page 5); and on Wednesday 23 May, the whole school will go to Wootton Bassett to watch the Olympic torch pass through the town. This will mark the start of a week of activities, including a complete dressage course on the school field, the school's own

opening and closing Olympic-themed ceremonies, sports day with Olympic sports, and a visit from a former Olympic kayaker.

Phew! Are you out of breath?! I am!



And the good news is..... it's finished!



Sherston Old School COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

In less than ten months, Sherston Old School has been rejuvenated, restored and (just about) reopened. The builders who started last July have now hung up their hard hats; the decorators have cleaned

Copy deadline: 10th of the previous month.

Send to editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk
or hard copy to Sherston Post Office Stores.

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

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

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

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their brushes for the last time. During the course of this month, new tenants will be moving into modern business units in a Victorian building that had been empty for over seven years. It's a transformation that will restore the school to its rightful place at the heart of the community.

When the Post Office Stores opened for business in the renovated Hall in November 2011, this was the half-way point in the project. It's easy to forget that Phase Two, the construction of offices and business units in the central section and old classrooms, only got going properly after Christmas. Apart from short delays due to weather and conservation requirements, the project is finishing on time and budget. The keys are due to be formally handed over during the first week of the month.

The village gets to see it

On Saturday 5 May, villagers are invited to an Open Day at the Old School between 10.30am and 12.30pm. This will give everyone the chance to look around before the first tenants arrive on or shortly after the 7 May. (Full details of who they are will be available as soon as the various tenancy agreements have been signed).

The SOSCIC board hopes that everybody will share their delight at the result. The former classrooms 2 and 3 (where the Charity shop was previously located) have been transformed into a superb, light and airy space; – the revitalised parquet floor looks particularly impressive!

Outside, the former Mobile Classroom in the rear yard has now been removed. The huge space created has the potential for a variety of future uses. In the short term, it will be used by the tenants of each of the individual units to meet their own individual access and parking requirements. SOSCIC and the Village Hall are jointly considering how this space could be put to better use in the future. Please remember that this area is not intended for use as a public car park.

Fundraising continues

The fantastic response to the February mailshot has made a big difference to the remaining target of £10,000 but hasn't completely closed the gap. We will continue to 'rattle the collecting tins' and work on future fundraising ideas (full report on the Rude Health Show in the next issue). With your help, we'll achieve the total in the next few months and ensure that the Old School has a self-financing future ahead.

Further information on SOSCIC fundraising please contact Irene Johnston on 841273 or email: sherstonoldschool@gmail.com

Local girl to play for the Queen

Lucy Driver from Sherston is to play for the Queen, at her Diamond Jubilee lunch on 5 June, with the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain (NCO).

Lucy, who has played the flute for eight years and belongs to the NCO's Main Orchestra, is to perform for the Queen and 700 guests at Westminster Hall in London. Also attending the lunch, which is being given for the Queen by the Livery as part of the Diamond Jubilee weekend celebrations, are The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Henry of Wales.

Thrilled to be playing at the event, Lucy says: 'I am so excited to be given this amazing opportunity and I can't wait to play for the Queen, it will be an incredible experience and is such an honour. It will be made even better by the fact that I have all my friends from the NCO around me to share in the day.'

The NCO's Main Orchestra, which comprises musicians aged 12 to 14 years drawn from every corner of the UK, is to perform a programme of light classical music under the baton of Roger Clarkson, NCO's principal director of music. Frequently tackling works that professional orchestras might balk at, these young musicians are sure to impress guests with their energy, exuberance, passion and talent.

Roger Clarkson comments: 'It is such a privilege to be involved in this historic event. I know that the whole Orchestra will join me in saying how honoured and excited we are to be playing for the Queen. There are over 100 supremely talented young musicians in our Main Orchestra, and I'm sure that each and every one will be wearing the biggest smile you've ever seen (as well as our trademark red skirts and ties) as we prepare for the first notes to ring out at Westminster Hall. A truly amazing opportunity for us all.'

The NCO administers five national age-banded orchestras for children aged 7-14 and five regional orchestras. For more information about the NCO, visit www.nco.org.uk or phone 01934 41 88 55.

Sherston Drama Group:



Spring play reading

We didn't manage a spring play this year, but we haven't given up the idea. We have decided to try again next year and start casting early. So in 2013, we are planning to produce Agatha Christie's classic play 'Spiders' Web'. We are having a read-through of the play in the British School Room on Thursday 24 May at 8.00pm. Anyone is welcome to come and have a go – you don't have to be a Drama Group member or be from Sherston, and there are a number of smaller parts which would be very suitable for anyone wanting to try being on stage for the first time. No obligation to take part of course. So give it a try – production dates are likely to be 3 to 6 April 2013 (the week after Easter).

And, of course, we are doing this year's panto in October, which will be Red Riding Hood. Auditions for juniors will be on the evening of 3 July, and the production will run from 31 October until 3 November. Put the dates in your diary.

Further information from the Drama Group Chairman, Richard Skeffington on 840092 or richard.skeffington@virgin.net or our Secretary Sue Ormiston on 840694.

Clem's Club

Clem's Club will meet every other Tuesday, on 8 and 22 May. 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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Any spare plants?

The school's Environment Area Group are about to start on the next area within the Sopworth Road Wildlife Area. Called a Chillout Zone, it is intended to be a quiet area for peaceful escape, reflection and contemplation – an area to appeal to senses of touch, smell, sound as well as colour. We are looking for strongly scented herbs, colourful climbers for the fence, bamboo, holly and plants attractive to bees, butterflies and other insects. If anyone has any suitable plants that they'd be happy to donate, we'd be happy to receive them. Please contact the school office or Crispian Huggill at huggill@xlninternet.co.uk. More details on the proposed layout to follow in a future Cliffhanger.

by Crispian Huggill, Sherston School Environment Area Group

New elm tree for Sherston



Remember the days when many a West Country skyline was adorned with the majesty of tall elm trees? And then came Dutch Elm Disease and ravaged the lot ... most of us under 40 will probably never have seen one of these magnificent trees. Now there is some good news.

Across the country, a very small number of trees survived the disease. A few years ago, a project was launched to understand why these trees survived, and attempt to produce disease-resistant saplings to re-introduce into the countryside.

One of these new trees is on trial at Sherston Primary School. It has been micro-propagated from resistant stock, and was planted by year 4 children before Easter. At barely 20cm/8" tall, it is hard to believe that this little bundle of healthy leaves might one day tower 80 foot or more over the school car park. The school is enrolled in a project with the Conservation Foundation to monitor and record the sapling's progress, as part of a nationwide planting trial. For more information, please visit www.conservationfoundation.co.uk.

Water butts?

Has anyone got a spare water butt that they would like to donate to Sherston Primary School?

We are currently looking for:

- one small (200 litre) water butt for children to water the flower beds at the front of the school and the herb and salad garden; and
- two large (1,200 litre) water butts as top-ups for the pond, for when it does stop raining!

Last year, we trickled (to help evaporate the chlorine) mains water into the pond several times in the dry spring. Our idea is to install interceptors to tap the run-off from the school roof.

If anyone can help in our search, please contact the school office or Crispian Huggill on huggill@xlninternet.co.uk or mobile 07745 956049.



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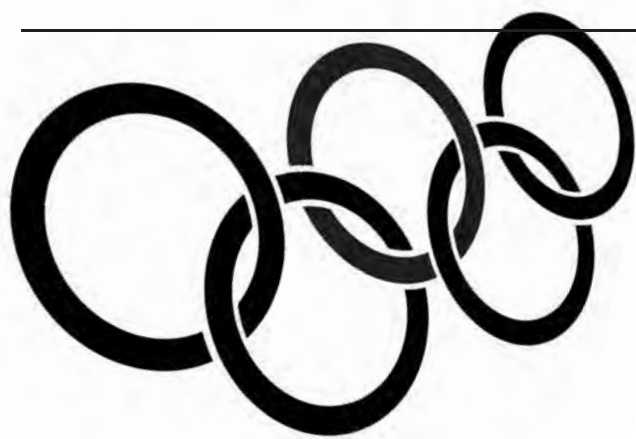
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Friends of Sherston Schools:

Olympic

Family fun day

With London 2012 fever on the horizon, the Friends of Sherston School (FSS) are organising Sherston's very own Olympic Family Fun Day on Saturday 19 May. Taking place at the rec between 2.00pm and 6.00pm, the afternoon will include an amazing Kids' Decathlon - for just £2.50, children can buy a 'Fun Day passport' (available from the school in advance) to have a go at the ten events, including hurdles, shot-put, basketball hoops, football target, bean bag archery and Nerf gun shooting. There will be a full awards ceremony at the end of the day with medals for the winners in each class.

Other events include: a torch relay, with a special torch designed and built by Year 6 children which can be carried round the field by families and groups; a gymnastic display (weather permitting); and a mass Zumba workout. It is sure to be a truly Olympic spectacle.

What's more, to keep parents and athletes fully charged, there will be a yummy BBQ, a bar, teas and homemade cakes.

The Olympic Family Fun Day is a great opportunity for children to get a taste of the Olympic spirit, perhaps even inspiring a future Sherston Olympian. The FSS hope to see you there.

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Village hall 300+ club

March Draw

1st	£12	129	Kerry Williams
2nd	£11	141	Mike Hibbard
3rd	£10	194	Martin Rea
4th	£9	69	Roger Ashley
5th	£8	266	C. Robinson
6th	£7	254	J. Capps
7th	£6	334	G. Tullberg
8th	£5	262	Margaret Smith

Bonus draw of £5 each for non-winners

79	Victoria McNichol
99	Minnie Hulme
14	Mary Goulding
67	Jo Owen
300	Ann Lyall
249	S Capps
15	Hilary Johnson

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

Whist Drive

The next whist drive will be held at the village hall on Friday 11 May, 7.15pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. £1.50 entrance, including refreshments.

M Goulding and J Gleed

Volunteers needed

I am appealing for a couple of volunteers to join Mary Goulding and Joyce Gleed (when she has recovered from her broken ankle) to help with the Village Hall Whist Drive. It is held on the second Friday of each month from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. It is not an arduous task and raises money to help maintain the village hall.

At 89 and having helped the other two for 20 years, I feel I cannot continue to help as I don't enjoy the best of health. I also have a 94-year-old husband who has been blind for the last ten years. Anyone who feels they could help, please contact Mary Goulding on 840794.

By Gwen Mason

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High Street improvements

It now appears that there is a possibility of further grant finance being made available in this financial year from Wiltshire Council towards the costs of the proposed highway works. In particular this would allow for phase 2 (alongside the Rattlebone Inn) to be undertaken as well as phase 1 (the area around and opposite the Old School).

Highway engineers are now drawing up proposals for phase 2 and once these are to hand all residents will be consulted before any decision is taken to proceed. Should the works go ahead it is unlikely that they would start until the latter part of the year.



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Sherston Senior Club

On 6 March, Rob Johnson from Silverchart Systems gave a most interesting and amusing talk about his life experiences, ranging from looking after lions at Longleat, running a chimpanzee tea party and his favourite elephant whom he hopes to meet again one day (do they ever forget?) to becoming a computer consultant, which started at the BBC looking after the autocue. This was followed by our annual Spring Sale on 20 March, which raised over £200 for club funds, and another visit from Derek Remington on 3 April, when he told us about and showed us some of his beautiful butterfly slides.

Coming up we have a talk on fundraising for cancer research at the Royal United Hospital at Bath (on 1 May), an outing to Wilton Outlet Centre (on 15 May, 10.00am to 3.00pm, cost £12), and a Quiz and Bingo afternoon (on 29 May).

If anyone wishes to join us for any of our meetings, do come along or get in touch with me.

John Venning, Chairman Tel. 840915



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Questions answered

There is a lot of excitement in the village about SherstonFest but there are also a lot of questions that people are asking about the practicalities of it all. So we have nailed down the organisers and asked the practical questions that residents would like to know the answers to.

How big will it be?

Well, it's not going to be the new Glastonbury! The event is limited to a maximum of 500 people (i.e. significantly smaller than the crowd at, say, Boules Day and – for those with long memories – also smaller than the crowds that would typically go to the concerts on the field after Boules Day). To put it into context, it is not unknown to have 300 people in the pub or 200 people inside the village hall and is about the same size as the Grittleton Jubilee Party being held in their village hall field a few weeks before.

Who is going?

There will not be hordes of unwashed crusties pitching up in their old buses - the vast majority of tickets have been sold to people in the village and their friends and families (not including Prince Charles - another rumour doing the rounds!).

Will the music be going on into the middle of the night?

No, we have imposed a music curfew of 11.00pm – this is earlier than the pub closes and earlier than many of the events in the village hall finish.

Why is it on two nights?

Well, it was going to be just one night but it costs virtually nothing more to run it for two nights. So we decided to add a short session on Friday (7.00pm to 11.00pm) so that the kids who play music in the village and the area could play a 'proper' gig with a nice stage, professional light show and a good venue, so that their friends and families can see them perform in a great setting rather than in the pokey venues they normally have to play in.

What about parking and access?

The Parish Council have agreed to let those who are driving in park on the rec, like at Boules Day – there won't be that many but this should save any issues. Also, there is no need for residents of any part of the village to move their cars – the reason we want to use the rec is to avoid any extra pressure on normal parking places. The main pedestrian entrance is via the gate on Noble Street

Is there likely to be disruption outside the field?

As far as possible, we are trying to keep the event

in the field. So, on Friday night, as it is only a short period (between 7.00pm and 11.00pm) there is no re-admittance to the event. Once people are in they stay in until they want to go home, they are not free to wander in and out (and around the village). Saturday is the 'Family Day' so people will need to be able to pop in and out to take the kids home, put the tea on, etc. So on Saturday adults can go in and out but kids under 14 can only get in and out with an adult – they can't just wander in and out – again minimising the number of people outside the event and in the village.

Why are there posters all over the place?

There aren't any more! The event is now sold out (apart from a handful of tickets for Friday night) and, in any case, it will be all ticket so all of the posters outside the village have been taken down to avoid people turning up speculatively. We are leaving the posters up on either end of the pub skittle alley specifically so we can put 'sold out – ticket only' stickers on them so people who happen to be driving through on the day get the message.

What about security and marshalling?

The field will be fenced and the gates marshalled to enforce the above access controls. Also at the end of the night the marshals will be on the street helping people to get home/find their car as soon as possible. We have been liaising with the local police and have professional security staff on site.

Camping – there is no one camping on the village hall field, there will be a few people camping in a field out past the football pitch on Knockdown Road.

Can people get involved?

Oh yes! There are a million things to do before, during and after. So if anyone wants to do a bit (or a lot!) just grab one of the committee or send an email to help@sherstonfest.com - no special skills required just enthusiasm!

Why are you doing this?

Do you know, that's a good question – and one we keep asking at ourselves when looking at the millions things that need doing. It's certainly not financial as it's probably going to make a small loss or a small profit (mainly depending on the weather) but if it does make a profit then the main beneficiary is the village hall.

I think the answer is that this is what this village does that makes it special – Boules Day, the Mangold Hurl, the ball, the village hall gigs, the pantomime, etc. – it's a fantastic community and events like this make the community work and one that people who don't live here are so envious of... but hey we are getting sentimental now.

So hopefully this answers a lot of the practical question about the event but if anyone has any other questions, please email info@sherstonfest.com or call 07860 448439 anytime.

1st Sherston John Rattlebone Scout Group AGM

After such a good turnout last year (we ran out of burgers), we see no reason why not to repeat the same format for this year's AGM, which will be held at the Scout Hut on Tuesday 29 May, at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

All cubs/scouts/explorers are welcome, with their parents, for a quick rundown of the year's events, a probable request for some volunteers and then a BBQ, with possibly a quick wide game against the kids?

An idea of numbers would be good for burger-planning and please do bring a nice chilled bottle of something to enjoy with the BBQ.

The cub, scout and explorer of the year will be announced as well; you never know, it could be you!

Please let your leader know if are able to make it or if you any questions.

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Police News

At this time of year, I give short police reports to our parish councils at their annual meetings. One overriding fact stands out at these meetings for me: that crime figures are falling year on year in our communities, which is great news for everyone. Of those crimes still occurring, it would appear theft of metal and thefts from outbuildings on farms make up the majority of reports. To tackle this, Wiltshire Police have gathered a dedicated team of officers, letting local officers concentrate on dealing with the local issues you report to us.

As I have mentioned before, parking outside and around our schools still seems to be the issue that bothers you most and, in response, I therefore have to make this my priority as agreed by the Malmesbury and Villages Community Area Partnership (MVCAP) in March.

Some of you may already know that I will be retiring in a few weeks' time, having completed 30 years' service, 18 of them here at Malmesbury. I have many fond memories of the area and the people who live and work here. My successor will hopefully feel as privileged as I have to be part of this community. I can't yet let you know who the officer will be but, as I write this, interviews have already started. Durry will remain on the team so things should carry on as normal.

Finally, many of you have been in correspondence about various matters with me directly via my police email address. Obviously, that will close down in the near future. I ask instead that you continue to use the team email address – malmesburynpt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk – which is checked daily by our team.

Thank you and best wishes to you all

PC Steve Humphries

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WI April Meeting

'A Nun, a Tart and a Dark Lady' was the intriguing title of the talk given by David Duff at our April meeting. We wondered what surprises we would hear about. He explained that the three women were all portrayed by William Shakespeare in his plays and sonnets. The female characters were clever and complex showing Shakespeare's sense of humour.

With the help of our President, Sheila, he played out a few lines from 'Measure for Measure' showing how the character of the nun Isabella changed over the play.

In Troilus and Cressida, we have Lady Cressida, another strong character and yet a minx who eventually succumbed to circumstances.

The 'dark lady' was a mystery tied up with the many sonnets written by Shakespeare and which gave us an idea of the course of his life.

Mr Duff had a thorough knowledge of his subject which he developed in a very dramatic way.

After refreshments, the President thanked all helpers at the recent Spring Sale held in the village hall.

Several outings are planned for the summer, including Kilver Court and Avebury Manor and other garden visits.

The President and Secretary will be attending the National AGM at the Albert Hall at the end of May. The next meeting will be on 3 May in the village hall when the resolutions for the AGM will be discussed, followed by 'Dinner Party Cooking'.

by Ann Wilcox.

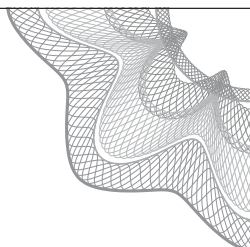
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All right Governor

At Sherston Church of England Primary School, we are always keen to hear from people interested in taking up the role of governor. School governors carry out an important and satisfying job within the education sector. As volunteers, governors are drawn from all walks of life, each bringing unique skills and experience to the role of school leadership.

The school has recently enjoyed a run of great achievements - we had a 'good, with outstanding features' Ofsted rating last July, and in September the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools awarded us with a 'good' rating by the Church of England for displaying signs of a distinctive and Christian institution.

Governors play a central role in the strategic management of the school working with the school's senior management, the staff, the parents and the children. The work includes:

- setting targets for raising standards of educational achievement;
- monitoring progress towards meeting these targets;
- working together to support and challenge the performance of the school as a whole; and
- deciding policy and future development plans.

To create the balance of an effective team, we need to have a mix of representation from various areas - parents, the Church, the community and the local authority.

The commitment is six full governing body evening meetings a year, with further input on one of the various sub-committees, such as PR, finance, curriculum and staffing. In return, you will receive training and support from Governor Services and the satisfaction of being a member of a team working to make a difference to the lives of young people within your community.

So, if you are interested and possess enthusiasm and skills that can help, or just want to find out more, please get in touch with Richard Hulme (Chair of Governors) by email to RHulme@savills.com or phone 841118.

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WinterBall ticket sales exceed expectation

WinterBall HQ is buzzing with the news that the ticket sale event on Saturday 28 April exceeded all expectations.

There were 25 tables of ten available at 11 o'clock when the eager party goers laid their money down. An hour later there were three full tables left as the astonished Pinkney Party People headed to the bar to plot some more outrageous entertainment for the evening.

If you haven't yet decided on a table or you have party that is less than a full table's worth don't panic as the last tables can be utilised to seat smaller groups. The Pinkney Party People are confident that the full compliment of 250 guests will be allotted before December for what will undoubtedly be the villages most lavish shenanigans this side of the solstice. From now on all table enquiries can be made via email to Caroline Starke on starke183@btinternet.com



*Dick "Ice Man" Knibb, Pip "Hot Lips" Pettit,
John "Frosty" Pettit, Heather "Warm Front" Knibb,
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Attention ladies, young and old: keep calm and get glam!

Ladies, spring arrived early and summer is closer than you think ... your thoughts could well be looking ahead to summer holidays either at home or abroad. So, how would you fancy taking a sneaky peek at the key summer trends? Maybe you could do with a new handbag or scarf to lift last year's 'summer favourite'? Looking for new ideas on styling and fancy a makeover? Or are you and your friends just in need of a glass of wine and a shopping opportunity?

Well, look no further: Malmesbury School PTA, in association with Glam Originals, can offer you an evening of all this and much, much more. The Fashion and Fizz Event is taking place on Wednesday 23 May in Malmesbury Town Hall to help raise the £25k needed by the school to purchase a new minibus. This would benefit all the pupils – and not just the sports teams.

Doors open at 7.00pm and the evening will include a brief talk by Shan Williams, an experienced image consultant. As well as sharing her styling tips, Shan will be demonstrating a mini makeover. Angela Roberts of Glam Originals will be giving advice on 'How to Accessorise' and comparing a fashion show of stunning summer clothing by Glam Originals. There's fabulous lotions, potions and fragrances from Neal's Yard, amazing lingerie from Beau Belle Lingerie, beautiful candles by Party Lite, jewellery, clothing, scarves, handbags and other endless fashion accessories. Oh, and if that's not enough, there is a licensed bar and a raffle.

Tickets cost £10 and are available from www.glamoriginals.co.uk, from Beau Belle Lingerie in Malmesbury Cross or by calling Angela on 577462. All proceeds will be going towards the minibus appeal. So, come on, bring your friends, your sister, or your mum. Young or old, there is something for everyone and a night of indulgence is guaranteed. Rally the girls, shake off those mid week blues and raise money for a very worthy cause.

We look forward to seeing you there.



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Sherston rocks again, back to the 80s

Anyone with a phobia of fluorescent Lycra would have done well to avoid Sherston village hall on Saturday 28 April when the Friends of Sherston School put on their 80s Nite. Once again, the over-30s of Sherston (and beyond) cut loose with a startling and original display of fancy dress. Rumour has it that eBay's share price leapt in the preceding week with every grotesque 80s trend covered, from shell suits and stilettos to material girls and mullet hairdos. Celebrity guest appearances from Chewbacca, John McEnroe (twice) and Adam Ant to name but a few added some welcome cachet to the evening – look out for them in next month's Heat magazine!

The Sherston Village People once again outdid themselves with a crowd-pleasing mix of hits from the 80s and other neighbouring decades. Notable highlights included cameo appearances by the Pettit/Power quartet asking 'Don't you want me baby?', Rob and Judy Laddle glamming and Wham-ing it up with 'Young guns', and Gemma Waldron wanting to 'Forget You' (or words to that effect). The 80s Electric Dreams disco that followed was an equally big success and gave an opportunity for the revellers to flaunt all that Lycra in energetic fashion.

Thanks to the Sherston Village People and all the Friends of Sherston School for a great night – and one that most party-goers can even remember. The event raised around £1,000 for Sherston school.

Judy and Rob Laddle



Revellers



Dr John Pettit



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Boules at the Bull

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We welcome novices, as well as experienced players, and we have a coach who is always willing to help with technique and tactics. The more experienced players are invited to play for the club team in the Cotswold League against other clubs in the area. We have open competitions that anyone can enter and also get invited to those organised by other clubs.

The annual subscription is £10 for adults and £5 for under 18s but the first three visits are free. So why not come and have a free trial? We can lend boules for absolute beginners and we have a local supplier if you wish to purchase.

Transport from Sherston is available. For this or for any further information, contact Sue McKechnie on 840601 or susannemckechnie@hotmail.co.uk.

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A Titanic Connection



Arthur John Bright was a quartermaster aboard the ill-fated Titanic. He was born on 2 August 1869 here in Sherston, the son of John Bright and Mathilda Bright nee Gomm. Twice widowed and aged 42, he embarked the ship at Belfast on 25 March 1912.

Bright was not on duty when the accident occurred; he had retired to bed and was asleep. He was woken by quartermaster Walter Wynn telling him, 'The ship's going down by the head.' He proceeded to the after end of the ship to relieve his colleague George Rowe. They then phoned the bridge and were ordered to bring up the detonators (distress rockets). Bright assisted Boxall and Rowe in firing the rockets. After that, he helped uncover the collapsibles (a type of lifeboat) and load passengers, he himself taking command of collapsible D.

According to his testimony, Bright remained in that boat until the Carpathia rescued them, although some people in the boat were transferred to lifeboat 14 during the night.

Bright was one of the few who testified that the Titanic 'broke in two' before it sank. He disembarked the Carpathia in New York on 18 April 1912.

Bright married Ethel Poulton in 1901, but they later divorced. In 1908, he married Emily Harbut, formerly Shewey, but sadly she passed away. He then married Ada Maria Hooper, again to be pre-deceased by her in 1910. Bright passed away in 1955 in Southampton.

On the 1871 census, Bright was living with his grandparents in Bustlers Hill, his mother Mathilda having been widowed and left Arthur in the care of her parents. Mathilda's uncle was Henry Gomm who, along with several other men in 1835, was transported to Australia for poaching.

by Cilla Liddington

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Sherston Allotments/ Sherston Neighbourhood Plan

by John Knight

In developing the Neighbourhood Plan, a Steering Group has been established by the Parish Council, with representation to be included from a wide spread of interests, including 'Sherston Allotments'.

Amongst other things, the Steering Group will be governed by an agreement to:

update, develop and agree a vision for the area's future that represents the aspirations of its residents, against which future decisions and recommendations can be made; and

collect and evaluate accurate information that will identify the priorities for future proposals and plans for the area.

Since the disbandment of SAGA, there is no organisation in place to represent the interests of allotment holders or prospective holders and, without this, no process by which a majority view can be established or given. Further, it is a mandate of the Steering Group that any of its members should be able and empowered both to make decisions and recommendations on behalf of the organisation they represent and to be committed to help guide the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan towards the identification and delivery of a shared vision.

For the purpose of rationalising these matters, it is considered appropriate that a meeting should be held of all current and prospective allotment holders to agree a way forward. As such, the village hall has been reserved on Tuesday 8 May at 7.30pm to give all interested parties the opportunity to meet and discuss.

In the event of any queries, telephone 840731.

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New Banner for Sherston Post Office Stores



Members of Sherston Young Craft Group have been busy over the last few months creating a banner to celebrate the opening of the new Post Office Stores. Each letter was decorated with batik (a process involving hot wax and dyes), then the letters were cut out and applied to coloured background fabrics and decorated with hand embroidery. It was proudly presented to Paul and Gail by the members and the leaders Heather Martin and Gloria Pugh.

Sherston Young Craft Group has 20 members from nine years old up to about thirteen and a broad range of crafts are covered from textiles in all its forms to mosaics, papier mâché and claywork. This is the third community project we have undertaken, the others are the log cabin patchwork in the Doctors' waiting room and the purple Lenten altar frontal for the Church.

From the Parish Chest by Cilla Liddington

The Great Western Railway - station for Sherston

The Parish Council received a letter from the Parish and District Councils Association. 16 Parliament Street, Westminster SW, dated 16 December 1895.

Dear Sir

The London & South Wales Railway Bill

As you are no doubt aware, it is intended that this proposed new railway should run through your parish. If any parochial property or rights are likely to be interfered with in any way you should take care that the interests of the public are safe guarded, or if public rights of way etc, are threatened immediate representations should be made to the Rural District Council to take action under sec. 26 (1) Local Government Act 1894. Copies of the Bill will be obtainable on the 21st inst, and if you wish to have a copy I shall be happy to send you one and shall also be glad to render you what assistance I can in seeing the agents for the Bill here in London, with a view of ensuring the insertion of favourable Clauses in the Bill, and otherwise looking after your interests.

Yours faithfully J. Wallis-Davies Solicitor and Secretary

On the 23 July 1898 Mr Thomas Jones on behalf of Mr Alfred Lister, Mr Moses Neale and Mr Alfred Boulton of Sherston Parish Council, wrote to the General Managers Office of the Great Western Railway, Paddington Station, London enclosing a memorial to the Chairman and Directors of the company suggesting the provision of a station on the South Wales and Bristol Direct Line to serve the parishes of Sherston and Alderton.

The reply was that the matter shall be carefully considered and a further communication would be made in due course dated 26 July 1898.

10 August 1898 from the General Managers Office

Sir I am desired by Lord Cawdor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to him of the 6th instant enclosing copy of a petition from the inhabitants of Sherston, asking for a station to be provided on the new line to South Wales for the accommodation of the parishes of Sherston and Alderton and to say that the matter will have attention.

11 Aug 1898 from the General Managers Office

Dear Sir. The Chairman of the company (Earl Cawdor) has handed to me your communication of the 6th instant. In reply thereto it may be explained that the statements contained in the memorial in support of the application for a station to be constructed at Alderton on the companies authorised South Wales and Bristol direct railway are under consideration, but as the directors have dispersed for the vacation it will not be possible to give the memorialists a definite reply until after the recess.

30 Nov 1898 from the General Managers Office

Dear Sir, I submitted to my board the memorial from the inhabitants of the parish of Sherston suggesting that the company should provide a station on the borders of that parish and of the parish of Alderton on the South Wales and Bristol Direct Railway of the company, now in course of construction.

In reply I am to state that the representations in support of the recommendation have been carefully considered by the Local Officers of the company who have intimate knowledge of the district, but after investigation they are unable to altogether concur in the views put forward.

One reason which influenced the company in determining to undertake the provision of the railway in question was to develop the district through which the line will pass, and it is claimed that the erection of a station at Hullavington on the one hand and at Badminton on the other will place the villages of Sherston Magna, Sherston Parva and Wilsey (Willesley) in a far better position than they now occupy for the conveyance of milk and other agricultural produce to London, Bristol and South Wales. In like manner, it is felt that the neighbourhood will benefit for the import of grain, feeding stuffs etc, etc.

The sites for the stations were not determined upon until after very careful study; and with every disposition to comply with the request of the memorialists, it is felt that no sufficient reason has yet been offered itself to justify an interference with the decision already come to.

I am, Dear Sir Yours faithfully J.L. Wilkinson

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Sherston artists get hooked

Gill Ashley and Elizabeth Hatt are among the artists showing work in the Hookhouse Pottery spring/summer exhibition, 2 to 10 June.

Both Gill and Elizabeth are established artists and have shown their paintings in a number of galleries and exhibitions across the south-west. Both have been involved in the Sherston Arts Festival and Gill served recently as chair of the Tetbury Art Society.

The exhibition will include paintings, craft and sculptures, some of which will be displayed in the delightful Hookhouse Pottery garden. The garden, open throughout the week under the National Gardens Scheme, is worth a visit in its own right.

Hookhouse Pottery is on the back road between Westonbirt and Tetbury. The exhibition will be signposted from the Westonbirt/A46 and Tetbury/A46 roads.

A new initiative

All three local churches and the primary school in Sherston are working together on a new, three-month initiative called Family Fest (All ages together), which is to take place at 4.00pm in the British School Room on the fourth Sunday in April, May, and June (ie 22 April, 27 May and 24 June). The Junior Choir will be singing at the April and May sessions, which will also include DVD, song, prayer, biblical teaching and craft. Afterwards, refreshments and free space will allow time for questions, discussion, table tennis, snooker and board games. All welcome.




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Sherston Open Gardens Weekend: 23 and 24 June

In aid of Holy Cross Church, a number of gardens will be open from 1.00pm until 5.00pm on Saturday 23 June, and from 2.00pm until 5.00pm on Sunday 24 June. Tickets will be £5 per person to include tea and cake. On Saturday there will also be stalls, raffles and children's activities in and around the church, from 2.00pm until 5.00pm. Teas will be served in the church from 2.00pm until 5.00pm on both days.

Tickets will be on sale outside the post office on Saturday morning then afterwards from the lychgate.

If anyone would like to contribute items, we need the following, please:

- cakes,
- plants,
- hand-made items,
- produce (homegrown fruit and vegetables),
- jams and chutneys, and
- raffle and tombola prizes.

These can be brought to the church between 11.00am and 1.00pm on 23 June or beforehand to Pat Whitehouse (840640) or Heather Martin (840375). We hope for fine weather!



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The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 3 & 4 June 2012

By Cilla Liddington

Plans are well under way for Sherston's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Music is booked, free commemorative mugs for all children in the parish from 0 to 11 years of age are ordered, games and entertainment are planned, but as usual we are in need of help on the day. We need manpower to help erect the marquees, put up tables and decorations in the High Street in readiness for the street party, at lunchtime on Sunday 3 June. Any help would be very much appreciated.

Start thinking about your outfit for the street party, designing your table-centrepiece or decorating your house, as we will be searching for the best for our competitions.

It is hoped that there will be fireworks and a beacon on Monday 4 June.

Full details of the whole programme will be available later this month.

Also whilst collating all the old files and documents in the Parish Chest, I have come across the original paperwork relating to the Queen's Coronation in June 1953. This includes receipts from all the shops in the village for items like bread, cakes, biscuits, tea etc. There are also thank you letters from the men from the village who were stationed at various places doing their National Service and whom were sent Postal orders for 11/= from the Parish Council. Also receipts for various prizes to be awarded to winners of Coronation competitions. This included Jig saw puzzles, pens, ashtrays, and silver teaspoons.

We are hoping to put together a small exhibition where all these documents can be viewed and ask anyone who has any commemorative items from the Coronation that could also be included, to get in touch.



If you can help in any way to make our parish celebration a success, we would be very grateful.

Please contact either Jill Cainey on 841380 or Cilla Liddington on 840128

Commemorative Mugs

Sherston Parish Council will provide a free Diamond Jubilee mug for each child from 0 to 11 years of age in the parish. To claim your mugs please complete the form delivered with your Cliffhanger and bring to the street party on 3 June 2012.



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Luckington Pre-School May dance & fête: Saturday 12 May

This year, the children of Luckington Pre-School will be performing their annual May dance to celebrate the coming of summer on Saturday 12 May at Luckington School. An afternoon of festivities will begin at 2.00pm, with lots to do for all the family, including a bouncy castle, face painting, children's games, and tombola, plant and white elephant stalls. Tea and cakes will also be served. Come along, have a fun-filled afternoon and support Luckington Pre-School. We look forward to seeing you.

Luckington Pre-School is a registered charity No.1029386.

Luckington Open Gardens

Buoyed by the success of this event last year, Luckington is organising another Open Gardens on 17 June. We have half a dozen gardens already on our list and welcome others to join the day. The event will start at 2.00pm. Parking will be available in the church car park, and teas will be served at Luckington Court.

Luckington fête and jubilee party

Luckington village will celebrate the Queen's jubilee in a number of ways over the special bank holiday weekend. The first event will be at 2.00pm on Saturday 2 June and is the annual village fête and BBQ which will have a Jubilee theme this year. There will be stalls, pony rides, a dog show and a tea tent, together with special jubilee games and crafts for all the family. Please do come along and join the celebrations.

Further information can be obtained from Candy Neale 840645 – all offers of help welcomed.

Family exhibition in Luckington

A family exhibition of paintings and photographs in support of The HALO Trust will take place at the Old Royal Ship in Luckington on 12 to 15 May (inclusive) from 10.00am until 6.00pm daily.

The exhibition will include a presentation about The HALO Trust from Guy Willoughby, Director.

The HALO Trust's de-mining teams have already destroyed over 1,400,000 landmines, allowing safe return to normal rural livelihoods in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Please come along to the Exhibition and support this very worthy cause. For more information on The Halo Trust, visit www.halotrust.org.

For more information on the exhibition, contact Veronica Hargreaves via alex@thetimebureau.co.uk.

Moviola at Grittleton Village Hall

Wednesday 30 May Midnight in Paris [12A].

Gil and Inez travel to Paris as a tag-along vacation on her parents' business trip. Gil is a successful Hollywood writer but is struggling on his first novel. He falls in love with the city and thinks they should move there after they get married, but Inez does not share his romantic notions of the city. When Inez goes dancing with her friends, Gil takes a walk at midnight and discovers what could be the ultimate source of inspiration for writing. Gil's daily walks at midnight in Paris could take him closer to the heart of the city but further from the woman he's about to marry. Stars Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams and Kathy Bates.

Show starts at 7.30pm with doors opening at 7.00pm.

Tickets are priced at £5 in advance £5.50 on the door available from Lesley on 01249 783157 or email L_palmer@btinternet.com. Remaining shows for the summer 27 June The Woman in Black [12A] and 25 July Hugo [U].

Adopt-a-Pig

Have you always wanted a pig but haven't got the space or time to look after it?

Sherston Rare Breeds is offering the opportunity to own a piglet, let us care for it and then take home beautifully succulent, rare breed pork.

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Sale and relocation of Sherston Congregational Chapel

We wish to thank all those who have shown interest and concern regarding the impending sale - probably in the autumn -- of the much loved Sherston Congregational Chapel (please see 'Project 2012' in the March Cliffhanger for further details).

We have arranged the following two events:

Saturday 5 May, 2.00pm to 4.00pm Chapel open day

A chance to look around, peruse the ancient registers and minute books, ask questions, give information, drink tea, hear about our plans for the future when we relocate and meet old friends.

Saturday 18 August 3.00 to 4.00pm Thanksgiving service (in and for the chapel)

This service is to acknowledge the 180 years plus of accommodation given to congregational praise and preaching by the chapel. Speakers will include those to whom this has meant so much (Ken Wilcox, son of Reg, to name but one). Please let us know if you would like to speak at this event. We hope those who attended Sunday school at the chapel will feel able to come. It is also a chance to look forward to the relocation of Sherston Congregational Chapel and all that the fellowship intends to do in the future.

Refreshments will be served in the church hall (the British School Room) afterwards.

We do hope all those who remember past ministry with affection are able to join us for these occasions.

by Mary Clements, Members' Secretary

Personal announcement

Christabel Williams

Died 2nd April 2012

Her family wish to express their grateful thanks for the many kind messages of sympathy received.



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Growing boules!

Whether you call it pétanque or boules, Complete Boules was born out of James Pyle and Bob Rumble's total addiction to – and love of – that game. Neither had ever played until Sam and James moved to Sherston, but they have enjoyed playing so much that they now play regularly at county, regional and national level.

Using the 'Sherston Model' as the inspiration, Complete Boules was set up last year with the idea of providing pubs, clubs and communities with a one-stop shop. Pétanque is one of the UK's fastest-growing outdoor sports and, in their travels, James and Bob have witnessed this across the country. Pétanque is even now recognised by Sport England and there is a big push by its UK governing body, the English Pétanque Association, to grow the sport. What's more, there is a government initiative to get the UK population more active and create less of a burden on the NHS, and pétanque fits in with that thinking.

Complete Boules' services include 'piste' installations, consultancy, grant-funding applications, sales of boules and accessories, and 'how to play'/league and general advice.

In late 2011, James and Bob installed their first piste at Shipton Moyne recreation ground and, this year, have invested heavily in the company by importing boules and accessories, making Complete Boules the third supplier of competition-approved boules in the UK. The first delivery of over 200 sets of 'La Franc' boules arrived all the way from Thailand in late March. Why Thailand? James explains: 'Well, we researched the market and we knew that we had to have a 'competition approved boule' to comply with FIPJP regulations (the world governing body of pétanque) as opposed to the common or garden (excuse the pun) 'leisure boules' and, in doing so, we established a few interesting facts, in that pétanque is apparently the national sport of Thailand (375,000 regular players against 25,000 in UK) and it is played compulsorily by the Thai military, whilst La Franc sponsor and supply the official boules to the World Championships. It means that we can supply a really good quality product, approved by FIPJP, at a more affordable price. Of course, we do supply 'leisure boules' too, in case you are wondering.

'We already market our services across the region and we will even have a trade stand and 'firing completion' at this year's WOMAD festival.

'We owe our start to Sherston and will be delighted to have a chat with anyone locally. Our aim is to grow the sport and have fun!'

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Boules season opens with nail-biting trophy final



The absent Jim Mckelvie and his team, Jeremy Southam, Neil Forster and Ian Cameron with Sam Doyle

Saturday 21 April saw the opening of the boules season at The Rattlebone Inn.

The first event was The Mark Doyle Trophy, a competition between the top two teams from each of the three leagues from last year's games. It is played in memory of one of our most popular team captains, who was tragically killed in a car crash. As one of the teams involved had to drop out due to other commitments, we asked Sharon and Sam Doyle to form a team with Sue McKechnie.

It all started off with a 'round robin' competition between the six teams, with the two best teams competing for the trophy. All afternoon there was brilliant sunshine interspersed by violent rain, and sometimes hail. None of this detracted from the atmosphere, as it only seemed to rain when we were in the pub having a rest, or having a superb lunch generously provided by the Doyles.

The final was between James Pyle's team, 'Norfolk and Chance', and Jim Mckelvie and his team, 'Buffs'. Jim had to recruit Neil Forster into his team, as he spent the afternoon attempting to help Bath RFC maintain their mid-table slot down at the rec. Despite – or because of – Jim's absence, it was a very close and hard-fought final that could have gone either way, with the absent Jim turning out the narrow winner. Mark would have approved.

The following Monday, the Boules Leagues started. Currently, due to the wettest drought since records began, the whole thing is rather a damp squib. It can only get better – and it will!

Chicago Bridge Drive



A Chicago Bridge Drive is being held on Tuesday 15 May at Malmesbury Town Hall, from 1.30pm until 5.30 pm. Enjoy afternoon tea and have a great time playing friendly bridge.

Tickets cost £10, with all profits to be shared between Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and PROPS (Providing Opportunity and Support to children and young people with physical and learning disabilities).

Tickets are available from:

Keith and Elaine Sharp on 823568 or keithandelainesharp@btinternet.com;

Lesley Bennett on 841093 or lb@watervole.com;

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Celebrate trees on a grand scale at Westonbirt's Treefest

Family activities to discover the intrepid world of plant hunting, expert carvers creating big play trail pieces and over 100 exhibitors join this year's Treefest at Westonbirt Arboretum.

Kids go free at the event, which takes place from Saturday 25 to Monday 27 August at the Forestry Commission managed arboretum. Visitors can watch as carvers take inspiration from fairytales and nature to create large wooden sculptures that will become part of the new play trail in Silk Wood. Wood for the sculptures is sourced as part of the routine management of Westonbirt Arboretum's tree collection

Simon Hough, the Forestry Commission's Recreation Manager at Westonbirt Arboretum commented: 'Over 20,000 visitors came to our new-look Treefest last year and we had some great feedback about the event - particularly around the family activities, live music and exhibitors.

'We know many visitors want to see big carving, so this year Treefest will have three expert carvers creating pieces to stay on site after the event. We hope visitors will enjoy watching these sculptures take shape across the weekend.' Local live music, traditional woodland skills, local food producers and live cookery demonstrations from local celebrity chefs will also entertain visitors.

Rob Rees MBE, 'The Cotswold Chef' and Charlotte Pike from Go Free Foods will use local, fresh ingredients to create delicious dishes in the Treefest Foodhall.

Advance weekend tickets are £30 for adults and £26 for concessions. Advance daily admission is £10 for adults, £8 for concessions, with Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum and kids going free throughout the event.

Visitors to Treefest will again have the chance to camp at the event. This year, visitors can upgrade to a tipi or yurt for their weekend.

More details are available at: www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-treefest.

Westonbirt House and Gardens: Opening to the public



During June, Westonbirt Gardens (which are run by The Holfords of Westonbirt Trust) will be open to the public on Sunday 3, Monday 4, Tuesday 5 and Sunday 10, between 2.00pm and 5.00pm. In addition, both the House and Gardens will be open to the public on Sunday 24 June between 11.00am and 5.00pm, with guided tours of the house running from 12.00noon to 4.00pm (limited numbers per tour).



OPEN MORNING:
Saturday 12th May 2012
09:30am-12:30pm



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- 6th - Prayer and share
- 13th - Service led by Barry Emerton.
- 20th - Communion Service.
- 27th - 4.0 - 5.0pm - 'FAMILY FEST !'



"God has made His truth quite plain to man through the natural and beautiful things which He has made.....leaving man without a rag of excuse."
Romans Chpf. 1 v. 20 - J. B. Phillips.

Walk on the wild side

Nature's spring symphony has sprung

Now is probably the best time of year: plants are springing from the earth, insects are everywhere after their winter absence and some of the summer birds are back after a long flight from the Mediterranean or even central Africa. Some 1.2 million swallows are returning to the UK, having flown from southern Africa and, very soon, the later spring migrants will be arriving, such as cuckoos, nightingales, swifts and house martins. Some birds are already nesting and chicks will already be hatching; robins are nesting in our garden.

Grove Wood is looking really special, with its green carpet with lots of wood anemones and bluebells. The trees are starting to get their first flush of green and the early butterflies can be spotted. What a fantastic time of year to be out and about – even when it's a bit wet!

Courtesy of Wessex Water, we are now officially an area of environmental drought. It's not hosepipe ban time as yet, but it does emphasise that we do need to reduce our water consumption even if it is raining outside. The stream levels in the Sherston Avon are actively monitored and water will be pumped up from underground at Stanbridge and Luckington to maintain the river levels so hopefully our local fish, water plant and river bird populations will be OK.

Talking of water birds (so to speak), we still have three little egrets around the village and they are often seen with our local grey herons (see picture). It

may be that they will breed here, given they haven't already migrated.

To get back to the title of this article, I recently went on a Dawn Chorus walk at Westonbirt Arboretum organised by the RSPB. Meeting at 4.00am (that's not a typo!), we spent a magnificent two hours as the sun rose listening to nature's avian orchestra building up into a crescendo. Starting with the robins, then the rooks and jackdaws, followed by the blackbirds and thrushes, among others, and being in the semi-darkness made the singing all the more impressive as you weren't distracted by much to look at. The full dawn chorus only lasts about six weeks so I am running a Sherston Dawn Chorus walk on Sunday 13 May starting at 4.00am. If you are interested, let me know on 840995, geoff_carss@hotmail.com or my local wildlife blog sherstonwildlife.wordpress.com. It will be dependent on reasonable weather and, please, no dogs and dress up warmly.

One last point - has anyone seen any water voles in the local streams recently. Have they all gone? Please do let me know.

By Geoff Carss



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Area Board

The next meeting of the Malmesbury Area Board of Wiltshire Council takes place at Brinkworth Village Hall on Wednesday 9 May at 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.

Meeting of the parish council

The parish council meets on Thursday 10 May 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 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 where minutes of meetings can be read.

Have your say

The annual parish meeting takes place on Wednesday 23 May at 7.30pm in the village hall. This is when all residents have the opportunity to raise and discuss any subject regarding the parish.

The meeting will include an important presentation on the intended neighbourhood plan for Sherston. The results of the recent housing needs survey will also be available.

Every resident is entitled to attend and in order to encourage your presence refreshments will be available. Like most parish council meetings it should last no longer than an hour and a half.

If you cannot make the meeting but have something to raise please contact the clerk Sarah Wood on 840197 or email clerk@sherston.org.uk. You can also contact the parish council via the response form on the web site www.sherston.org.uk where minutes of meetings can be read.

PIGS! (The Paths Improvement Grant Scheme)

The Paths Improvement Grants Scheme aims to help local people make innovative improvements to countryside access in their area. In 2012 around £60,000 will be available for community-led projects. We can also help with bids to external organisations, so additional funding may be available.

Examples of schemes that have been funded in previous years are:

- surfacing on a footpath which links the two parts of Castle Combe village, so residents can use the route more easily all year round (see below);
- a permissive path along an attractive section of the river Avon at Great Somerford;
- a permissive path in Tisbury which improves safety for users (where the official footpath comes out there is a steep bank leading down onto a narrow stretch of road; the permissive path comes out almost on the level where the road is wider.); and
- schemes to replace stiles with kissing gates on routes around and between villages, and surface improvements to certain important routes

If you have an idea for a scheme please contact Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way and Countryside Team: michael.crook@wiltshire.gov.uk, 01225 713349.

Further details of the scheme are on the Countryside Access Forum website:

www.wiltshirelaf.org.uk

The closing date for applications to be fully complete and submitted is Friday 13 July.

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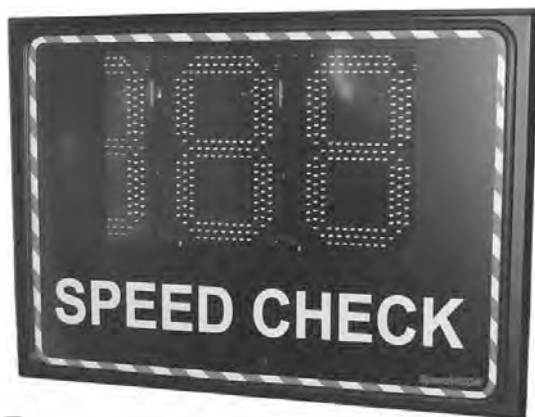
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SID

Residents may have noticed that last month a Speed Indicator Device (SID) was deployed in Tetbury Road to help reduce the number of speeding vehicles. The parish council nominated Tetbury Road for a SID as the speed watch returns there have showed a high rate of drivers ignoring the 30mph limit by a considerable margin. The SID is supplied by Wiltshire Council and will appear for 14 days at a number of locations in the Malmesbury area on a regular basis. Experience has shown that SIDs are most effective in reducing speed if they are used for short periods as otherwise drivers can become used to them at a particular location. The SID operates by flashing up the speed of oncoming vehicles as they approach a speed limit area.

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Road closures update

The road (C1) from Norton to Hullavington has now reopened following repairs to the river bridge just before the railway bridge. The work was completed in the last week of April well ahead of schedule.

On 2 May Sandpits Lane between Holmfield and Carriers Close will be closed for a day for manhole cover repairs by Wessex Water.

Noble Street and Tanners Hill are due to be closed from 8 May for three weeks whilst Bristol Water renews the water mains.

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Wiltshire Council: Annual report 2011-2012

Like many councils, we face challenging times. Our funding from Government will decrease this year by £3.2 million and this, combined with the rising costs of goods and services and the need for additional funding to meet the needs of Wiltshire's growing number of older people and children, means we have to make efficiencies of £32.6 million over the next 12 months.

However, unlike many other councils, Wiltshire is in a unique position. As a relatively new council we have been able to take advantage of the efficiencies a merger of five into one brings. We also recognise that families across the county are also facing financial pressures and that we need to continue to help boost our local economy in the current climate.

We will continue to invest in key services, including:

- £9.7 million in adult services;
- £4.9 million in children's services; and
- £152 million to deliver more affordable homes, road improvements, and super-fast broadband across the county and new service campuses in local communities

This year we will:

- freeze council tax at 0% for the third year running;
- provide free swimming for children under 16 during school holidays; and

- provide funding and support for communities to celebrate and take part in this year's once-in-a-lifetime events – the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch relay route.

We will find the £32.6 million of efficiencies by continuing to work innovatively. We will save £17 million by selling some of the properties we inherited and we will make savings of £4.5 million every year by 2014 by reducing our number of office buildings from 95 to three main hubs.

Last year, we adopted a four-year business plan. The plan set out our key priorities:

- to invest in frontline services;
- to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities; and
- to make the savings and efficiencies so that we can do this.

Our plan allocates £349.8 million for investment in Wiltshire over the next three years. This will include investing:

- £7.1 million in older people and mental health services for vulnerable adults;
- £2.5 million to support other vulnerable adults;
- £3.85 million for support for vulnerable families and individuals;

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Map showing location near Mottetbury, Malmesbury, and Westbury. Key roads include A43, A4346, and B4014. Landmarks include Westbury Arboretum and BAY 4 KNOCKDOWN 1 MILE FROM WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM.

Wiltshire Council

Where everybody matters

- £273 million in our capital programme;
- £41.3 million to build new affordable homes and improve the council's social housing;
- £35.7 million to deliver three new community campuses in Corsham, Melksham and Salisbury;
- £18.7 million for improvements to our roads and highways; and
- £500,000 for local community transport schemes

We are also working to ensure that this spend, wherever possible, is retained in the county, with local businesses delivering the work creating more jobs for local people and boosting the local economy as contractors spend more in local shops.

*Jane Scott OBE, Leader, Wiltshire Council,
March 2012*

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Walk with Sue

Sue McKechnie's next walk will be on Sunday 13 May. 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.

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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Cricket

Sherston Magna Cricket Club (SMCC) will be looking to get a good start to the new season in the first league game at Pinkney Park against newly promoted Windrush at 2.15pm on Saturday 5 May. Spectators are always welcome. The other home games at Pinkney Park in May are;

Sunday 6 May versus Seagry

Saturday 19 May versus Stow on the Wold

Sunday 20 May versus Venturers

Outdoor practise nets have started at the ground at Pinkney Park at 6.30pm every Wednesday. New players please contact Andrew Tremellen (andrewtremellen@hotmail.co.uk / 07979 388208).

Also ladies net's will take place at 6.30pm every Friday evening. Further details from Sarah Wilkinson (swilkonite@hotmail.com / 07919 911654)

Mini and Junior practise is on Monday evenings from 5.30pm. Under 15 training and matches on Tuesday evenings. Further details are available from Fiona Iliffe-Moon (iliffemoons@gmail.com / 07877 400834). Non members please contact Fiona Iliffe-Moon before coming to training.

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Dates for the diary



On Saturday 22 September SMCC will again be holding the limited overs Sherston Sixes competition. The day will start at 11.00am with the first game in the six a' side cricket tournament. Refreshments will be available for players and spectators alike. If you would like further details about entering a team, please contact club secretary Kevin Smith (kevinarchersmith@btinternet.com / 07970 740389). Further details of the day will be published in future editions of the Cliffhanger.

Junior Barbecue

The Junior barbecue will take place on Monday 25 June. Junior players and parents are welcome to come to the ground for the traditional Junior Club event.

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Win up to £300!

Starting in May SMCC will start selling squares in the SMCC Cow Pat Lottery. The lottery will give you the chance to win up to £300 for correctly guessing the location of the first 'Pat' on the cricket ground. Runners up with the adjacent squares will also have the chance to win up to £50. Squares will be sold for £2 each during the cricket season at home games and at various events in Sherston through the summer. The cow will be released on to the cricket ground on Sunday 23 September. Details of future lottery square sales will be shown in the Cliffhanger, on the club website www.sherstonmagna.play-cricket.com or you could follow us on Twitter @Sherstonmagna for the latest updates. Just think it could be Moo...!



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Saturday 12th May 2012

09:30am-12:30pm



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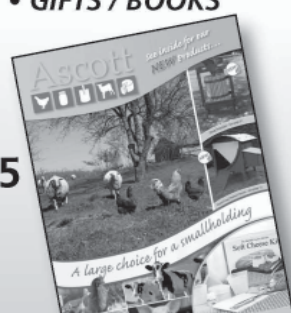
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Patient donations

We are planning to spend the money donated by our patients on a new screen for the waiting room. This will be used to show a variety of videos, patient information and news feeds; and will also be used to call patients from the downstairs waiting room if surgeries are running behind schedule.

We think this will be a very welcome addition to the practice and greatly enhance the patient experience when visiting the surgery.

The cost of the system is unfortunately very large, and we don't have enough in the funds to purchase it yet. However, we have asked the Malmesbury League of Friends to consider a request to help. There will also be an ongoing annual cost which we would wish to cover from future donations.

If anyone would like to contribute to this, donations to The Tolsey Surgery would be most welcome.

Coming soon

We will be implementing an online booking system to allow patients to book routine appointments six-eight weeks in advance. These will be ten-minute appointments only so, if you need an appointment for any chronic disease management that requires longer, please contact the surgery as normal. The new system will also allow you to cancel appointments, make repeat medication requests, change your contact details and ask questions. New patients will also be able to register through the website.

In order to be able to use the online system, you will need to obtain log-in details from us, which we will supply on production of photo ID, such as a passport or driving licence. This is a strict requirement, even if we know you well; log-in details will not be handed over without the necessary ID.

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When someone dies

Many people faced with bereavement have very little idea about what happens and what needs to be done when someone dies. Very few of us plan for death, even when writing a will, which adds to the distress of those left behind. In addition, arranging a funeral can be quite a financial burden on both the deceased's estate and relatives.

What needs to be done when someone dies?

- The family doctor and nearest relatives should be called if someone dies at home. The doctor will issue a Medical Certificate, which will allow the death to be registered at the Registry Office.
- The death should be registered within five days unless the registrar allows an extension. A Certified Copy of the Entry of Death will be issued (it is highly recommended that further copies are purchased at the time from the registrar for use with banks, insurance companies, etc).
- If the death is unexpected or the doctor has not seen the person in 14 days, the coroner will be informed. This could lead to a post mortem being held, even if carers have been attending. Many people are unaware of this ruling and this can cause trauma to the family and a delay in the funeral.

Arranging a funeral

The deceased may have left instructions or special requests regarding their funeral. If not, the executor or nearest relative will need to decide on the type of funeral. Some considerations are

- which funeral director to use. Friends or neighbours may have recommendations, otherwise listings can be found in local phone directories or online. (A funeral can be arranged without a funeral director, which may reduce funeral costs but will mean more for the family to arrange.)
- where the funeral is to take place (church, cemetery, crematorium or woodland burial?). Bear in mind the deceased's religious beliefs.

- whether the deceased made any financial provision for the funeral. Funeral costs normally take precedence over other debts paid for by the deceased's estate. All members of the National Association of Funeral Directors and the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors must offer, under their code of practice, a respectful basic funeral if asked by a client.

Funeral planning

Funeral planning is not something that most families tend to discuss over dinner but time taken to talk about what a family member would wish when the time comes can reduce the burden on those left behind. Financial provision, such as dedicated savings or funeral plans, made now will reduce the financial burden on loved ones when death occurs.

I hope this topic has not caused any distress especially to anyone who has recently suffered bereavement. I can provide information regarding any of the above if you wish to contact me as your Good Neighbour Co-ordinator (covering Sherston, Hullavington, Luckington, Sopworth and Easton Grey).

Wiltshire Good Neighbours is a free scheme aimed at older people living in villages and providing information about services that can help them to live independently at home.

Jenny Plummer email: gncarea17@communityfirst.org.uk mobile 07557 922028.

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www.kurotaka.co.uk

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF SHERSTON MANGOLD HURLERS

Thanks to the generosity of Sherston FC the Order's AGM will take place in the most salubrious surroundings of the Football pavilion at Knockdown Park on Saturday 12 May at 2am. It is hoped that the proceedings will be somewhat more restrained than last year's when matters ended rather disastrously at the allotments when a member dressed as a cardinal became over excited amongst a row of recently erected bean poles.

The main business of the AGM is the choosing of the Mangold Maid for 2012. At the time of going to print both Jason Read and Graham Hayman have somewhat strangely fallen seriously behind in their initial screenings of the applicants but are now said to be keen to undertake their duties with renewed vigour. Their task is to whittle the prospective maids down to a list of three finalists. In the past this has caused them much difficulty especially when confronted by certain inducements from both the applicants themselves and their many supporters.

Mangold Maid Making will take place as usual on Whit Sunday which this year falls on 27 May. The impressive ceremony will commence at 2pm prompt at the Rattlebone Inn and all are most welcome to attend and in particular participate in the community singing which has become such a feature in recent years.



Mangold Maid selecting c1550.

(Woodcut taken from IN SCORRANSTONE ORE RUPE FABULA held in the AOSMH archive)



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Many readers will be aware of the Wroughton Church Clock scandal. In solidarity with our fellow hurlers in Somerset a petition is available for signature in the Rattlebone Inn calling upon the authorities to cease their unwarranted persecution of the good folk of Wroughton. As is so often the case, a complaint from one resident with no apparent understanding of life in a vibrant rural community, has been given far too much credence by the powers that be.

Yarp! *The Keeper of the Quill* 

whatley manor



1st and 29th May – Tuesday Garden Tours

Arrive from 11.30am and enjoy a welcome reception followed by lunch and a tour of the gardens with head gardener Barry Holman. £42 includes a Whatley Manor welcome reception, two-course lunch, coffee and the garden tour. Visit the website for June, July and August dates.

7th May – Bank Holiday Lunch

£28 includes a three-course table d'hôte lunch menu including the option of a traditional roast.

15th May – South African Wines with Paul Cluver

£75 includes an aperitif, three-course set menu, wines, coffee and petit fours. 7.00pm start with an aperitif followed by the 'wine and dine' in 'Le Mazot', our brasserie.

27th May – Sunday Cinema Screening 'Water for Elephants'

Starring Robert Pattinson, Reese Witherspoon and Christoph Waltz. £39 includes a three-course lunch or dinner, film with freshly made popcorn.

17th June – Father's Day Jazz

£39 includes a three-course menu served in 'Le Mazot' while listening to live jazz from 12.00pm until 3.30pm.

Call Events on 01666 834 026 or email events@whatleymanor.com to make a booking

Easton Grey Malmesbury Wiltshire SN16 0RB

Telephone +44 (0) 1666 822 888 Email reservations@whatleymanor.com

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Useful Numbers

BT fault line	0800 800151
CLARENCE (Highway complaints)	0800 232323
Cllr John Thomson	01666 840785
Malmesbury Activity Zone	01666 822533
Malmesbury Library	01666 823611
Malmesbury Police 101	(emergency 999)
Malmesbury Primary Care Centre	01666 825825
Malmesbury Secondary School	01666 829700
Malmesbury Youth Centre	0799 0908550
MP James Gray	01249 652851
NHS Direct	0845 4647
Sherston Parish Council	01666 840197
Sherston Post Office	01666 840456
Sherston School	01666 840237
Sherston Village Hall (bookings)	01666 840633
Tolsey Surgery	01666 840270
Wiltshire Council	0300 4560100

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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 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings till Autumn 9.30 am – 12 noon

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

Sherston Churches are combining for "FAMILY FEST"

where all ages can come together on the 4th Sunday of the month between 4-5pm for Song – Prayer – Biblical Teaching – Craft – Play and afterwards refreshments, questions, discussion table-tennis, snooker and board games. The British Schoolroom Cliff Rd.

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 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. £2 per session, with winners getting half the pot. The annual subscription is £10 for adults and £5 for under 18s but the first 3 visits are free. We can lend boules for absolute beginners and we have a local supplier if you wish to purchase. Transport from Sherston is available. Further details from Sue McKechnie 840601 or susannemckechnie@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

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 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. 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 2.30pm 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

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 or Louise Osborne 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

1st Sherston (John Rattlebone) Scout Troop

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

Sherston Whitewall Explorers

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

Westonbirt Guides

Meet in Querns Hall, Rosehill School, Westonbirt 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

Sherston Cricket

Men's Outdoor practise nets every week at the cricket ground at Pinkney Park. Men's nets 6.30 pm every Wednesday evening. Further details from Andrew Tremellen (andrewtremellen@hotmail.co.uk / 07979 388208) or Kevin Smith (kevinarchersmith@btinternet.com / 07970 740389).

Ladies We practice on Friday evenings from 6.30pm at Sherston cricket ground (Pinkney Park) with coach in Paul Jarvis. We need more girls/ladies of any age or ability to join us so please come along. We're all beginners, and our main aims are to have fun, get a bit of exercise and improve our skills. If you'd like any more info please contact Sarah Wilkinson at swilkonite@hotmail.com or on 07919 911654. Otherwise just turn up. <http://sherstonmagna.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp>

Junior Mini and Junior practice Monday evenings from 5.30pm. Under 15 training and matches on Tuesday evenings. Further details are available from Fiona Iliffe-Moon on iliffemoons@gmail.com / 07877 400834. Non members should please contact Fiona Iliffe-Moon before coming to training.

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 Tel. 840092 or Graham Instrell (Vice Chairman) 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

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

Sherston's Living Churchyard

Please help maintain the living churchyard on the second Sunday of the month

from 10am to 12 noon or 2pm till 4pm, weather permitting. Please check with Sue for timings each month. Church of the Holy Cross
Further details contact Sue Robinson on 841263

Sherston Martial Arts Club

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

Sherston Tennis Club

Summer Tennis Coaching for children of Sherston

Sherston Tennis Club is offering Saturday morning tennis lessons for school age children this summer beginning Sat 28 Apr ending Sat 30 Jun . 3 sessions of 10 per group. 9am-10am, 10am - 11am , 11am – 12 noon. The course of ten sessions costs £40, plus membership costs to Sherston Tennis Club: Child £15, Family £80. To sign up, please contact Gemma Bird 840557 or Sarah Ravenhill 01454 238394. 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)

Sherston Theatre Club

Excursions with a Sherston High Street-to-venue return coach service. Annual fee £20. Listings under www.communitate.co.uk/wilts/sherstontheatreclub/ or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or Hjqquirk@aol.com

Sherston Toddler and Baby Group

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

Sherston W.I.

Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Visitors most welcome £3. Further details contact Maureen Jolliffe on 840867.

Sherston Young Craft Group

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

Splash Dance

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

Tetbury Chess Club

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

Village Hall 300+ Club

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

Yoga in Sherston

Two 90 minute classes open to all levels of yoga experience On Thurs 10 May & 7 June 7.30 - 9pm Explore pranayama (breath work), asana (physical postures), meditation and finishing with a deeply relaxing yoga nidra (conscious sleep). A new six week yoga course starts on Mon 14 May - 7pm for beginners and at 8.15pm more advanced. All classes must be pre-booked due to limited spaces. Scout Hut. For further details call Kathryn 07903 802985 or 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

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 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 6 May

Check boards for details of events *Further details contact 840665*

The Rattlebone Inn

Monday Quiz Nights Every Monday at 7.30pm

See boards for more details of events

Further details contact 840871 or www.therattlebone.co.uk

SHOCC (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.

The choir will be giving an evening concert of light music in Easton Grey Church on Sat 19 May at 7.30pm. Tickets (£6), including a glass of champagne and canapés and a donation to the church, may be bought at the door from 7pm. Parking is in the driveway or on the road.

British School Room For further details call Nicki Heenan 840883 or nicki-heenan@btinternet.com or Jill Woodward 840578 or jillwoodward222@btinternet.com

Sue's Strolls

Sun 13 May 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*

Olympic Family Fun Day! Sherston 2012!

Sat 19 May The Friends of Sherston School are holding a fun day on the Rec. Featuring a decathlon which primary school pupils are invited to take part in. The ten 'sports' include a sprint, football penalties, basketball hoops, discus, long jump. Medals and prizes for the winners! There will also be a family torch relay. Bar, barbecue and picnic area, Sat 19 May, from 2-6pm. Sherston Recreation ground

Skateboarding at Sherston School

Professional skateboarder Geoff Else trains Sherston School Geoff says: My ethos is to encourage healthy and active lifestyles, as well as promote positive and constructive attitudes in young people. I started skating when I was 13 and it has kept me out of trouble, in school, and has helped all my dreams come true 29-May School.

Christian Aid week 13- 19 May

Annual Parish meeting

23 May 7.30pm Sherston Village Hall. To include an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and the result of the Housing Needs Survey. All welcome. Refreshments.

Sherston Drama Group

Spring 2013 Play Reading - Agatha Christie's classic play 'Spiders' Web' Thurs 24 May 8pm in the British School Rooms No obligation to take part of course. So give it a try - production dates are likely to be 3-6 April 2013 (the week after Easter) Auditions for the Pantomime Red Riding Hood - 9 to 18 year olds Tues 3 Jul 7pm Village Hall Please get in touch should you want to help out back stage or front of house, choreography or costumes Panto dates 31 Oct - 3 Nov 2012

SherstonFest2012

"the South Cotswolds Cider, Music and Fine Food Festival"

Fri 15 Jun - in association with BBC introduces. Headline act Dub Mafia Friday tickets still on sale at £5

Sat 16 Jun - mellow family afternoon with plenty of kids' activities

Sat 16 Jun - evening party night with local favourites the Rinky Dinks and the Soul Destroyers NOW SOLD OUT

Village Hall Field *For further details call email*

info@sherstonfest.com or visit www.sherstonfest.com

Midsummer fete and open gardens trail in aid of Sherston Church

Sherston Church Fete Sat 23 June situated in and around the Church. There will be a raffle and tombola, plants and produce stalls, 'good as new' and children's activities, including a treasure hunt. Teas and cakes will be served

Open gardens trail 23-24 Jun in aid of the Church, will be open from 1 - 5 on Saturday and 2 - 5 on Sunday. The £5 ticket gives entry to a selection of large and small gardens around the village with some new ones this year, and includes tea and cake, available in Church. *For further details call Heather Martin 840375 or Pat Whitehouse 840640*

Badminton

Badminton Horse Trials Thurs 4 - Mon 7 May

Sadly event cancelled due to water logged course and flooding. According to website: 'Purchasers of advance tickets, exhibitors, sponsors and riders will of course be refunded as soon as practical'

Grittleton

Moviola - the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme

Moviola - the Touring Rural Cinema Scheme

Wed 30 May - **Midnight in Paris** [12A]: Wed 27 June -

The Woman in Black [12A]: Wed 25 Jul - **HUGO** (U)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start £5 in advance £5.50 on the door. Grittleton Village Hall. *For further details call Lesley 01249 783157 or email L_palmer@btinternet.com*

Luckington

Family Exhibition of Paintings and Photographs in Support of The HALO Trust

May 12- 15, 10am to 6pm daily Includes a Presentation of the HALO Trust from Guy Willoughby, Director The Old Royal Ship *For further details call Veronica Hargreaves email alex@thetimebureau.co.uk or visit www.halotrust.org*

Luckington Open Gardens

6+ gardens on show in aid of Luckington Church Sun 17 June 2- 5pm £5 pp including refreshments at Luckington Court Garden Entry tickets and map from Luckington Parish Church - parking in the Church car park

Luckington Summer Fete

Luckington Summer Fete Sat 2 Jun 2pm The annual village fete and BBQ will have a Jubilee theme this year. Stalls, pony rides, a dog show and tea tent together with special jubilee games and crafts for all the family *For further details call Candy Neale 840645*

Westonbirt

The Arboretum

The Meadow exhibition in Silk Wood All of Apr & May - photography exhibitions in Silk Wood HALF PRICE admission every Wednesday in May Spring & Summer admission: Adults £8 / Conc £7 Chd £3

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

Walks: Free guided walks take place every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday at 2pm, and 11am on Wednesday, from Easter to the end of October

Walk Fit, Walk Off Weight and Walkactive Pace and Abs courses with Joanna Hall. Booking essential: See www.joannahall.com for further details

Meningitis Trust Toddler Waddle Sat 5 May A sponsored Toddler Waddle is a fun way for under 5s to do their bit to promote awareness of meningitis and raise money To register click on this link <http://bit.ly/MT-ToddlerWaddle>

Silk Wood Spring Fair Free after admission

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

Workshops: Beginners and Advanced Digital Photography One Day Courses Fri 18 May Beg £55 and Advanced Mon 21 May £105 Both 10.30am - 3.30pm contact Graham Light on 01285 653069 or email consult@abbey-studios.co.uk

Workshops: Make a Windsor Chair 7 - 12 May £275 Booking essential contact Paul Hayden 01373 836051 or www.greenwoodcourses.co.uk

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

Westonbirt School

Summer Term Lecture with Gavin Menzies 'The Lost Empire of Atlantis' Fri 11 May at 7.30pm Admission: Free Optional post-lecture supper: £15 per head which must be booked by Friday 4th May

A Diamond Start To The Jubilee! - the Big Jubilee Picnic Sat 26 May from 5.30pm All guests are welcome to bring a picnic and enjoy a programme of music and dancing, sessions by The Big Brunch Band, Swindon Brass and Swingbytes. Other attractions of the evening include a refreshment tent, an ice-cream bicycle and a classic car display Tickets are on sale at £10 per adult, £5 per child (18 and under), under 5s free. There is also a family ticket

on offer at £25 (2 adults and 2 children under 18).

Open Morning Sat 12 May 9.30 - 12.30pm

(Headmistress's Address at 10.45am and 11.30am For further information please call Ann Stark on 01666 881375, email aslark@westonbirt.org

For further details call Laura Reid on 880333 or breid@westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk or visit www.westonbirt.gloucs.sch.uk

Brokenborough

Painting classes with Nicki Heenan

Oil and Acrylic Painting classes Painting classes at The Horse Guards on Fridays at 10.30am for beginners. The advanced class is now full, but if you are interested there is a short waiting list. £10 per session

Coming Soon - painting classes in Watercolour, Acrylic and Mixed Media for beginners at Carpenters Arms

Sherston! Please enrol early for this new and inspiring course - 6 PLACES ONLY. No previous experience in painting necessary. The Horseguards Pub, Brokenborough *For further details call Nicki Heenan 840883 or nicki.heenan@btinternet.com*

Easton Grey

Whatley Manor

Sunday cinema screenings with lunch or dinner 'Water for Elephants' starring Robert Pattinson, Reese Witherspoon and Christoph Waltz £39 includes film, popcorn and either a 3 course lunch or dinner Sun 27 May

Tuesday Garden Tours 1 & 29 May 11.30 for 12 noon start Garden tour 2.30-4pm Welcome reception and 2 course lunch followed by private tour of the 12 acre garden by head gradener Barry Holman £42

Further details contact 834026 or www.whatleymanor.com

Doughton

Highgrove House

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 tours. Champagne Tea Tours - You will be one of 32 guests with a maximum of 16 guests per garden guide. After your tour you will visit the beautiful Orchard Restaurant for a delicious Highgrove afternoon tea. Cost: Individual £70.00. Couple £135.00. Gift boxed.

For further details call 020 7766 7310 or visit www.highgrovegardens.com

Malmesbury

Chicago Bridge Drive Enjoy afternoon tea and have a great time playing friendly bridge at a fundraiser Tues 15 May 1.30-5.30pm Tickets £10, all profits to be shared between Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and PROPS (Providing Opportunity and Support to children and young people with physical and learning disabilities)

Malmesbury Town Hall *For further details call Tickets available from Keith and Elaine Sharp 823568 or keithandelainesharp@btinternet.com; Lesley Bennett 841093 or lb@watervole.com; Sharon Doyle 841233 or sharon.doyle@sjpp.co.uk*

Liberal Democrat Dinner

Dinner with Ed Davey MP, Secretary of state for Energy and Climate Change Sat 12 May 7 for 7.30pm start Tickets cost £26.50 (£12.00 for students) and include a delicious three course dinner and coffee, supplied by Malmesbury's new independent catering business Echo. Event organised by North Wiltshire Liberal Democrats

Malmesbury Town Hall *For further details call Contact Wiltshire Councillor, Simon Killane fun@killane.wanadoo.co.uk or Elizabeth Cook1@btinternet.com to secure a ticket*

Malmesbury Abbey Music Society

Hungarian Violist, Eniko Magyar, Sat 19 May 7.30pm
 Tickets from the Abbey Bookshop or via website £12/ £10 members/ £5 student or chd *For further details call David Barton 824924 d.barton763@btinternet.com or visit www.malmesbury.com/mams*

MP's Surgery

Local MP surgery with James Gray MP
 Sat 19 May 12 noon - 1pm Sat 16 Jun Sat 14 Jul
 Hobbes Parlour, Malmesbury Town Hall *For further details call www.jamesgray.org for information on surgeries or for online surgeries or email jamesgraymp@parliament.uk*

Charity Ladies' Night in aid of Malmesbury School

Fashion & Fizz School Fundraiser Wed 23 May 7.30-10pm Doors open 7pm Fashion show by Glam Originals, Colour Consultant, chance to shop and Licensed Bar, nibbles £10 from Malmesbury school office, Beau Belle Lingerie or this website. Malmesbury Town Hall *For further details call www.glamoriginals.co.uk*

Tetbury

Woolsack Race 32 years of the world famous event
 Mon 4 Jun Races start at 2pm, entertainment and stalls from 10am See website for parking Gumstool Hill
For further details call tetburywoolsack@googlemail.com or visit www.tetburywoolsack.co.uk

Hookshouse Pottery spring/summer exhibition Hookshouse Pottery spring/summer exhibition
 The exhibition will include paintings, craft and sculptures, some of which will be displayed in the delightful Hookshouse Pottery garden Sat 2- Sun 10 June 11am - 6pm daily

Outdoor Theatre at Hookshouse The Pantaloons present 'The Canterbury Tales' Sun 3 July 7pm. Gardens open at 5.30pm. Bring a picnic. £10 in advance £12.50 on the door Hookshouse, near Westonbirt *For further details call 880297 or hookshouse@hotmail.co.uk*

Chippenham ChippFolkFest

ChippFolk Festival 1-4 Jun Concerts throughout the town
For further details call 01249 657190 or visit www.chippfolk.co.uk

Wotton-Under-Edge

The Electric Picture House

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers from the local community This month: Best Exotic Marigold Hotel; The Kid with a Bike; We bought a Zoo and World Cinema: Departures
Check website for details www.wottoneph.co.uk or call 01453 844601

Castle Coombe

Steam and Vintage Rally

Sat 19 May 10am - 6pm Sun 20 May 10am - 5pm £6 (concs £5) under 14s free, Free parking
 Steam engines, vintage, fairground engines, calf show on Sunday
For further details visit www.castlecombesteamrally.co.uk

South Cerney

Events at the Cotswold Water Parks

The story of Water Meadows in the Cotswold Water Park Sun 6 May 2- 4.30pm Join the first of a series of walks run jointly by Natural England and the Cotswold Water Park Trust to learn how these two lowland hay meadows are managed, about how winter floods are important for the flowers and wildlife, and the fascinating history of Advance booking essential - please call Anita Barratt (North Meadow Reserve Manager, NE) on 07795316191 or email Anita on anita.barratt@naturalengland.org.uk (suggested donation of £3)
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. 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.

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
For further details call Jill Bewley on 01793 752413 or visit www.waterpark.org/trust/willow.html

Cotswolds

Cotswold Rural Skills

Dry Stone Walling Beginners course 5-6 May Long Compton 2 day course £99 - NOW FULLY BOOKED
 Dry Stone Walling for beginners 26-27 May Naunton 2 day course £99

Green Woodworking 2-3 June Limpley Stoke, Bath £99 for 2 day course

Book ahead to avoid disappointment *For further details call David Molloy on 01451 862000 or david.molloy@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or visit www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk*

Bath

Theatre Royal

Anne Boleyn 1-5 May 7.30pm / 8pm £15-£33.50
 Matthew Bourne's Early Adventure Wed 9- Sat 12 May
 The Diary of Anne Frank Mon 14 - Sat 19 May
 Shakespeare's Globe Theatre presents 'Henry V' Tues 22 - Sat 26 May; Ladies in Lavender Mon 28 May - Sat 2 Jun
 Book ahead for: Educating Rita; Volcano; Dancing in the Streets; The Lady in the Van; Summer season: The School for Scandal; Hysteria; The Tempest; *Further details 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk*

Charity Celebrity Cricket Match

Sun 3 Jun doors open 12.30 David English is bringing his Bunbury Celebrity Cricket Team to Bath in aid of Tetbury based Charity Hope for Tomorrow and the day promises to be fun filled and action packed. Hope for Tomorrow helps provide mobile chemotherapy services to rural areas. £5 under 16s free, Pimms & BBQ tent or bring a picnic Bath Cricket Club

Bath, Stroud

Covent Garden Royal Opera House and Ballet@The Apollo and The Odeon Bath

Ballet: La Fille mal Gardée LIVE 16-May Stroud Apollo
 Cinema *Further details 0871 220 6000 or www.roh.org.uk/cinema*

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
 Nature Detectives every weekend and daily in school holidays Free after admission *For further details call 01453 891223 or email eleonor.wise@wwt.org.uk or visit www.wwt.org.uk/centre/122/slimbridge.html*

Alive & Well Shooting Party

Alive & Well would like to invite you to shoot clays at an excellent venue, enjoy a shooters lunch and raise funds for our Sierra Leone well project - www.alivewell.org.uk (a Luckington based charity) Sun 13 May - The day will comprise of a 50 "bird" sporting shoot; Trophy competition; Shooters Lunch (12 noon) ; Beginners trap (tuition £6 /10 shots if required)
 The sporting shoot will cost £60 pp, incl refreshments and shooters lunch, of which at least £30 will be donated to Alive & Well. The price includes all clays and cartridges for each session. 12 and 20 gauge guns will be available for use. Arrive between 10 & 11.00am. Shoot closes 3.30pm
 Tower Guns, South Brewham, Somerset, BA10 0LA
For further details call paul@dowding.co.uk or call Kim Findlay on 07973 828217 or visit www.alivewell.org.uk