



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MAY 2024

DELIVERED FREE

Organ back in business!



After many months of patient work, we are pleased to report that the work to repair the ceiling in the north transept above the organ has been completed. The organ, which was damaged when the ceiling collapsed, has been taken apart, cleaned, rebuilt and retuned. We thought we had thoroughly cleaned the church, but a pigeon took up residence for 24 hours over Easter and found even more cobwebs in the rafters that we had missed.

Our next challenge is to relay the damaged floor in the north aisle, and to carry out much-needed repairs to the mullions in the windows, plus other maintenance to keep our Grade 1 listed building in good order.



New oak battens and new plaster by Wheatley Plasterwork Limited



After removal of the damaged ceiling



Painting by Silkwood Decorating

Church of the Holy Cross, Sherston
THE GAUZEBOOK GROUP OF CHURCHES

**Repair of the North Transept Ceiling and Pipe Organ
2023-2024**

With support from

WHEATLEY
PLASTERWORK LTD

www.dhva.co.uk

Christian Aid Week: 12-18 May



Christian Aid Week 2024 will take place in May and once again the churches of the Gauzebrook Group will be collecting to help the charity in this year's aim 'to push back against the inhumanity of poverty'. Please look out for the red envelope coming through your door in May and give whatever you can to help. Last year over £2,700 was collected in Gauzebrook. Many donations, however small or large, can add up to a significant amount in the fight to make life better for some very poor people.

I am always looking for more collectors as quite a few of the current group are moving towards retirement from this work before too long. If you could help, please contact me. Thank you very much for anything you can do to help.

Sue Robinson, Gauzebrook Christian Aid Organiser
(Tel: 841263. Email: jimandsue4@btinternet.com)



Parish Council Notices



Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 9 May at 7.30pm in the North Building, Penny Mead Recreation Ground, Green Lane, Sherston SN16 0NP. Everyone's welcome to attend and there are opportunities for you to raise questions and pass comments. If you cannot attend the meeting but have something to raise, please email: clerk@sherston.org.uk or write to Sherston Parish Council at the above postal address.

Parish Councillor Vacancies

Applications are warmly invited to fill two vacant councillor positions that have arisen on the Parish Council. If you are passionate about what goes on in Sherston and would like to help shape the future of your local community, come along to our next Parish Council Meeting and get an insight as to what's involved! Failing that, simply speak to one of your local councillors or email: clerk@sherston.org.uk for further information.

Your Parish Needs You!

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 at 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.

To advertise: contact advertising@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk

Advertising rates for 12 months:

Colour:

1/4 Page £370, 1/8 Page £210 and 1/16 Page £105.

Mono:

1/4 Page £310, 1/8 Page £170 and 1/16 Page £85

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

Please remember the Cliffhanger is delivered free to every home and business in the parish – approx 1000 copies. This and all previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

Parish Maintenance Person

If you are looking for an opportunity to top up your income or pension and stay active in your community, this 'part time job' might be right up your street.

You will be employed to carry out a wide range of small but essential maintenance jobs around the parish to help keep it clean, tidy and safe and make it a great place to live.

Duties include:

vegetation and hedge cutting, minor building maintenance, playground equipment repairs, footpath sweeping, tree pruning, painting, etc. NB. Half day a week or one day a fortnight to suit.

For further information please email:

clerk@sherston.org.uk or write to Sherston Parish Council, North Building, Penny Mead Recreation Ground, Green Lane, Sherston SN16 0NP

Your Parish Needs You!

Electric Vehicle Charging Points



The charging points on the High Street are now live and can be used. However, the parking bays still need to be painted. It is requested that cars not charging do not park next to the charge points. There is now a Wiltshire Council consultation in progress on a Traffic Order Regulation to introduce electric vehicle charging bays and to ensure they are used only by electric vehicles for the process of charging. The proposal is to introduce electric vehicle charging only between 8.00am and 6.00pm, with a maximum stay of four hours and no return within two hours.

Details of the proposed scheme may be seen at Malmesbury Library (2.00pm–7.00pm Monday, 9.30am–5.00pm Tuesday and Wednesday, 9.30am–7.00pm Friday and 9.30am–1.00pm Saturday) until Monday 13 May. Documents can also be viewed online at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/troconsultations>

Comments on the proposal, together with the reasons for which they are made, should be sent in writing to reach the Sustainable Transport Group, by email to TrafficOrderConsultations@wiltshire.gov.uk or via the website by 13 May quoting reference HKB/TRO/SHER.

Sherston Parish Council meeting March 2024 - Extracts from approved minutes



Sherston
Parish Council

(a) Land off Sopworth Lane, Residential development for 45 dwellings, accesses & associated infrastructure. Application No:PL/2024/00865

This amended scheme appears to be much better aligned with the Development Brief as set out in the Sherston Neighbourhood Plan (Policy 4).

The design brief is also better adhered to in this scheme than in the previous one submitted for this site. In principle therefore, the Parish Council has no objection, but would like to see all the houses to be heated via Air Source Heat Pumps, all houses to have Solar PV installed and roof orientations so that it makes sense for these to be installed, all the houses to have EV charge points and an EPC rating of A.

The council also supports the request by North Wiltshire Swifts for each new house to have at least one nest brick, located according to the advice from the RSPB.

The council also needs to know who will be maintaining the public open spaces once the houses are all built?

(b) Progress on introduction of 20mph limits within the village.

Background:

A request for a 20mph speed limit in the village of Sherston was raised by Sherston Parish Council, pushed through the Malmesbury Area Board Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) by Cllr Martin Smith and subsequently prioritised for assessment in October 2023. Metrocount monitors that determine traffic volumes and speeds were installed at ten locations in Sherston from 12 January - 22 January 2024. The recorded data was analysed and a 20mph speed restriction assessment report was released in March 2024 including a proposal to introduce 20mph speed limits on the following roads: High St, Brook Hill, Grove Road, Silver St, Cliff Road, Court St, Knockdown Road, Church St, Noble St, Bustlers Hill, Tanners Hill, Thompsons Hill, North End Gardens, Anthony Close, Sandpits Lane, Green Lane, Manor Close, Strongs Close, Saxon Close, Butlers Close and Woods Close. This was discussed at the April meeting of the Parish Council, which agreed with the proposal as far as it went, but also requested that the stretch of Easton Town between Church Street and east of the entrance to Easton Square (and the Tartars) should be also considered for inclusion, due to the proximity of the bus stops that are well used particularly by students of Malmesbury School. This will be assessed by Wiltshire Highways, any allowable modifications made and then a consultation will be run by Wiltshire Council on the proposed scheme.

Update on Village Gates



Sherston
Parish Council

Working with Cllr Martin Smith, the Parish Council ordered village gates for installation at entrances to the village in the second quarter of last year. Village gates remind drivers that they are entering a residential area and have an impact on reducing the average speed of vehicles. The approaches to the village that are to be covered in this way are: the eastern approach to the Easton Town crossroads, Tetbury Road, Brook Hill and Knockdown Road. It's disappointing that it is taking Wiltshire Highways so long to install these gates. Their contractors have been diverted onto pothole maintenance, gully clearances and flooding issues. However, representations have been made and we trust that these will be installed before the summer.

Sherston Parish Council Response to Lime Down Solar Park



In light of the strength of feeling shown by the local community, Sherston Parish Council strongly objects to the proposed solar Lime Down solar development, on the following points:

- Detrimental Environmental impact, including the utilisation of productive Grade 3 arable land, plus the unsuitability of the roads and infrastructure to cope with industrial construction traffic.
- Destruction of the gateway to the Cotswolds in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- Visual impact on the historic Fosseyway road and on the surrounding villages that have existed since Saxon times.
- Wiltshire as a county has far exceeded its allocated quota for solar panels.

The proposed distance of 19 miles to the substation in Melksham will result in high numbers of villages and constituents being affected.

The Great Big Green Week: 8-16 June



Events planned in Sherston so far include:

Saturday 8 June - Open Gardens around the village, with teas and plant stall at Holy Cross Church

Sunday 9 June - Open Gardens, teas and plant stall, plus a nature trail and other activities in Holy Cross churchyard

Tuesday 11 June - Malmesbury Area Board Climate Action networking event in Sherston Village Hall

Thursday 13 June - Eco-themed Holy Cross Café, 10.00am -12.00noon

Friday 14 June - Future River Soundings with theatre company Uninvited Guests, 6.30pm; Sustainable Fashion Preview event in Village Hall, 7.00pm

Saturday 15 June - Sustainable Fashion Sale of new swimwear and lingerie, and quality pre-loved clothing in Sherston Village Hall, 10.00am-3.00pm

Sunday 16 June - Future River Soundings with Uninvited Guests - pm

More details next month.

Sherston co-ordinator: Tricia Lawrence, email:

pjlawrence46@gmail.com

www.greatbiggreenweek.com

Sherston Seniors

In March, we were entertained by Tetbury Ukulele players - 17 in number, they were a very friendly group and very talented. They played songs we could all sing along to, from She's Coming Round the Mountain to covers of The Beatles.

At the beginning of April, Ruth Sandiford played the Celtic Harp for us, told us the history of the instrument and also let us have a go. The magic of Greensleeves played on the Harp held us spellbound.

Later on in April, we had our first coach outing and also a meeting with information on tax and power of attorney.

On Tuesday 14 May, we are having a Coach trip to Gloucester Quays, visitors welcome. Please contact Helen Quirk on 840516 for more info.

ANYONE FANCY INFORMAL 'JAMMING' SESSIONS?

JOIN US AT THE BRITISH SCHOOLROOM/BEGINNERS to DIE-HARDS,
7.0 - 9.0pm
FRIDAYS - 29th March
26th April / 24th May / -26th July



OR COME JUST TO SING, WATCH,
AND DRINK COFFEE.....
ALL AGES, ALL WELCOME!
Mary Clements and friends.

Future River Soundings: what would you like the River Avon to be like in the future?



Most of us like walking by rivers, and in Sherston we are lucky to be able to walk along some of the most beautiful headwaters of the Bristol Avon. But could the experience be better? How would you like it to be in 20, 30 or 40 years' time? Future River Soundings is a project funded by the University of Bristol that aims to capture participants' thoughts about the future of the River Avon, and use storytelling techniques and music to generate scenarios that can be shared with others, notably DEFRA, which is interested in radically different ways of engaging people in decision-making about the future of freshwaters.

Sherston has been selected by Bristol-based theatre company Uninvited Guests to represent the upper part of the river, and they have asked Sustainable Sherston to reach out to the local community to find interested people. There will be two chances to take part, on Friday 14 June at 6.30pm, and on Sunday 16 June in the afternoon, starting in the British School Room (BSR). Each session will take about two hours. You will take a short walk along your local river and into the future. As you walk, an app on your phones guides you to imagine and write about how you would like the river and its environment to be in times to come. When you return to the BSR, you hear all your stories of the future told by a performer while a musician creates an improvised immersive soundtrack. Afterwards, we will get people talking about what steps could be taken towards the future we want for the local environment. As well as being entertaining, the event hopes to build a sense of responsibility for our rivers. This is one of a series with communities along the Avon, from the river's source to its mouth.

Places are limited and will have to be booked. Please make a date in your diary and watch out for announcements in the next Cliffhanger or on social media. If you want to register an interest, please email sustainablersherston@gmail.com and we will get back to you with details.



School Days - news from Sherston Primary School

On-site wrap-around care at Sherston Primary from September



We are delighted to announce that starting in September, we will be introducing our own wrap-around care service on the school premises. This service will extend the school day, allowing children to stay on site until 6.00pm.

While we are still in the process of finalising all the details, we wanted to provide some important information about this offering:

Staffing

We are incredibly fortunate to have the highly experienced Miss Linda and Mrs Ormiston on board to oversee the sessions. Additionally, Art Club and Muddy Hands, run by these members of staff, will continue to be available.

Days/Timings

The sessions will take place Monday through Thursday, from 3.10pm until 6.00pm.

Cost

The exact cost will be determined in the coming months. The rationale behind developing this service is to provide an alternative for parents who may find it challenging to justify the expense of other after-school programmes. We appreciate the understanding and support of The Camp in this regard and we will continue to promote provision there as an alternative.

Structure

The programme will consist of two sessions. During the first session, children will have the opportunity to participate in the various clubs offered at school. Additionally, we plan to organise outings to the local park, allowing children to engage in outdoor play with their peers - an activity we're sure many of them will be excited about. The second session will include a packed lunch style meal for the children, which will be included in the cost. There will be a separate fee for either both sessions or just the second session, should a child be transitioning from one of our paid clubs.

Who is this for?

While this service is primarily aimed at our working parents, it is for anyone to utilise. We want to support our community as much as possible. If an extra few hours in the afternoon allows you time to complete your weekly shop, visit your own parents, get on top of your 'life admin', or just put your feet up, then this service is for you.

We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing and enriching environment for the children beyond regular school hours. As we continue to develop this new initiative, we will keep you updated every step of the way.

Sherston Open Gardens Weekend: 8-9 June



Not long to go, but it is not too late to include your garden in this year's trail, please get in touch. There are a few changes this year.

On Saturday 8 June, trail tickets will be on sale outside the Co-op from 10.00am to 12.00noon, and from 12.00noon onwards from the church. Gardens will open from 1.00pm to 6.00pm. Teas with homemade cakes will be served in church from 1.00pm to 5.00pm.

Sunday 9 June is Music Sunday. Sherston is joining this national initiative and we invite you to The Big Hymn Sing at 11.00am, a joyful celebration of church music. Join us as we sing some favourite hymns and popular songs of praise. At 12.00noon, we will be

serving Ploughman's lunches in church at £5, including tea, coffee or juice. To help with catering it would be helpful, but not essential, to pre-order your lunch, pay on the day, use the email address below. Tea and cake as Saturday. Gardens open at 12.30pm to 5.00pm.

On both days, there will be a plant stall. Donations of plants will be very welcome.

Please note there is no increase in ticket price from last year: £6 for the gardens and £4 for tea and cake. Pay with cash or card.

All proceeds go to the upkeep of our lovely Church of the Holy Cross. It has been an expensive year with repairs to the ceiling, and your support is much appreciated.

Drama Group Shines in Spring Play

**SHERSTON
DRAMA
GROUP**



Last month, Sherston Drama Group entertained five audiences with a production of 'A Bunch of Amateurs'. Not many authors would attempt to write a comedy based around one of Shakespeare's tragedies, but that's exactly what Ian Hislop and Nick Newman did in their hilarious script. The production was expertly directed by Robin Turner.

The play followed a fading Hollywood action hero, Jefferson Steel, as he arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford, only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard but instead a small rural town, and the cast are amateurs. Graeme Strachan skilfully played out Jefferson's transformation from an extremely egotistic, selfish, vain man to one who is beginning to overcome his own demons. Jefferson's estranged daughter, Jessica, was brought to life by Polly Gould in her first Spring play - Polly's acting, especially her facial expressions, perfectly characterised a teenager frustrated by her father's neglectful parenting.

Jefferson's biggest rival was Nigel, who was written by the authors to represent a type of person many people will have come across in amateur drama groups (though not in Sherston, of course) – one who always wants the biggest part. Clive Whitehouse gave a commendable performance as Nigel, somehow managing to become more and more pompous as the production week went on. This was a lovely contrast to the rather laid-back character of Dennis, the theatre odd job man, played by Chris Fisk with brilliant comic timing and deadpan expressions.

Mandi Bailey-Turner played the part of Dorothy, director of King Lear and the lynchpin of the theatre group. Mandi's Dorothy was a highly believable character who kept the play centred, and her romantic attraction towards Jefferson added some touching moments amongst the comedy. Meanwhile, Sue Ormiston played Mary, a lady of a certain age who begins the play completely besotted by Jefferson but has a change of heart near the start of Act Two due



to a bit of a misunderstanding. Mary's running joke demonstrating her poor knowledge of film actors was a firm favourite with all the audiences, and her flamenco dancing skills were greatly appreciated!

Completing the cast was Jo Maddams, who played Lauren, the wife of the main corporate sponsor of the theatre. Lauren was responsible for the above-mentioned misunderstanding, in a scene where she performed some rather enthusiastic physiotherapy to ease Jefferson's lower back pains. Jo portrayed Lauren perfectly as a polished HR person and wannabe actress, with hints of a painful backstory.

The Andrew award (for acting beyond the call of duty) was won by Chris Fisk for his comic portrayal of the blinding of the Duke of Gloucester (you had to be there!), his enthusiasm for nail guns and his mobility scooter driving skills.

Director Robin Turner chose to set the play on an open and relatively empty stage – abandoning our proscenium arch. This approach meant that the

lighting became very important, and we must give a special mention here to Colin Wootton, who has worked extremely hard over the last few months to redesign our lighting set-up, to great effect.

It takes many people to put on a production, and special mentions must go to backstage manager Jonathan Gould, dressing room manager Debbie Luter, prompt Richard Warren, props manager Laura Gould, front of house manager Vee Skeffington, Helen Fisk for running the box office, sound man Paul Ormiston, lighting operator Katie Skeffington, Hannah Freeth for physiotherapy lessons and Minnie Hulme for organising five raffles!

Many thanks to everyone who came and saw the play, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Look out for announcements in next month's Cliffhanger about our next production, which will be in the autumn half term!

Photos: Tea Smart

Quiz Night Boosts School Funds



Last month saw the Friends of Sherston School (FSS) hold their ever-popular Quiz Night! Rounds ranged from sport and music to a 'back to school' round, led by headteacher Mr Towers - we have a feeling he was a fan of the microphone!!

Successfully defending their title for another year ... drumroll please ... Kirsty and Graeme Strachan, Laura Gould and Dave Shephard. They are a quiz powerhouse!! Well done guys!

The event was supported by an army of parents, ensuring the evening ran smoothly. Thank you very much to Nicky Haenel, Penny Robinson, Lucinda and Stuart Dryden, Emily and Nick Stavri, Paul Robinson and Tommy Towers. You were all brilliant ... and even returned on Sunday morning for the final clean-up!

We are so fortunate to have a supportive community where people give up their time even when their children no longer attend the school. There is something very special about Sherston and the people that live here.

A huge thank you to Rob Martin, our ever-faithful quizmaster, and Mike Whatley for setting up all the necessary equipment, to ensure the event ran without a hitch. We are very grateful for all your efforts.

Thank you to 'We Meat Again' for providing the food - it was a total sell-out!! Their food really is a 10/10 ... keep your eyes peeled on their socials for up-to-date information on when you can bag your next burger.

We were lucky enough to receive some amazing donations for our auction - a Mulberry handbag, cordless Dyson vacuum, a night's stay in a Butcombe Pub, a Samsung tablet (thank you James Harris) and a family ticket to Forest Green Rovers (thank you



Lauren How). These have all found happy homes and really boosted the fundraising total.

Last, but by no means least, thank you to each and every one of you who attended the quiz. It's your generosity that means we're able to raise much-needed funds to support Sherston Primary School. We raised more than £1,800!!

The next FSS village event is Olympic Day on Saturday 22 June - another belter of a family day! Rumour has it the planning team have been meeting weekly in the Rattlebone to make sure it's a goodie!!

We look forward to seeing you all there.

The FSS

Sherston Velo: Tour of Flanders



Sherston Velo cycling club kicked off its 10th anniversary year in style with the traditional spring pilgrimage to Belgium for a weekend riding the roads used for the Tour of Flanders – one of professional cycling's great Monument races.

After an early start on Friday morning, members headed to the village of Kwaremont, near Oudenaarde, to watch World Champion Matthieu van der Poel's devastating winning attack in the E3 Classic race – a privilege to be able to watch one of cycling's superstars at close quarters.

Following an afternoon visit to the Tour of Flanders museum in Oudenaarde, it was time for dinner and a good night's sleep ahead of the following day's pedalling endeavours.

Setting off in ability groups, our riders were soon tackling the Wolvenberg climb out of Oudenaarde, followed swiftly by the short but rough and twisting cobbles of the Molenberg and on to the iconic Capelmuur in the nearby town of Geraardsbergen, the small chapel at the top of the winding cobbled streets being one of the sport's iconic images.

After a well-earned lunch stop in a delightful café, our cyclists headed back towards Oudenaarde, bravely



fighting the increasing winds and encroaching rain, with a slippery, muddy ascent of the 25% slope of the Koppenberg, the long and jarring climb of the Oude Kwaremont and finally the leg-sapping Paterberg before the fast final kilometres back to base for a well-earned glass of Belgian beer.

Sherston Velo welcomes cyclists of all ages and abilities on any type of bike. Whether you are new to cycling or have been riding for a while, come and try a group ride with us. We run rides every weekend and on weekday evenings in the cycling season, so we're bound to have a ride that suits you. Lycra is optional!

To find out more, email the club secretary, Kate Potter: secretary@sherstonvelo.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram – type in @sherstonvelo



Sustainable Fashion, sustain oneself



Keep a lookout for more details of this event, which will take place on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 June in Sherston Village Hall.

In the meantime, maybe there are good-quality items in your wardrobe which you are still quite attached to but never get round to wearing or throwing in the direction of the charity shop. Put them to one side to donate to this really worthwhile event. This is an excellent opportunity to have a bit of a spring clear-out.

All proceeds will go to local good causes and charities.

Boules Festival - Saturday 13 July



Sherston Boules Festival team entries again sold out in record time, with 50% of the available places reserved for local teams together with strong visitor representation from as far afield as Paris, Plymouth, London, West Midlands, Yorkshire and Wales.

It is anticipated that all last year's competition winners will be back to defend their titles.

If you don't have an entry for this year's event, please check back from time to time on www.sherstonboules.org and the Sherston Boules Festival Facebook page - if we have any withdrawals we will advertise the available spaces.

Colts and Junior entries will be available in May.

Vive le sport!

D-Day 80th anniversary

626th Engineers of the American Army in Sherston

In March 1944 the American Army arrived in Sherston in preparation for the D-Day landings. Their recollections were recorded in a book compiled by veterans of the 626th. Extracts will be published in the Cliffhanger each month leading up to the 80th anniversary on 6 June.

Part 4

The majority of the 626th did not realize the historical significance of Sherston. The stories about ghosts being seen from time to time may be attributed to the many battles fought in the general area by invaders. Cilla Liddington in her book entitled 'Sherston, The City of White Walls' states that,

'Of all the ghost stories that have been told over the years, the one that most people of Sherston know best relates to the blood stained door of Pinkney Park. Pinkney or Sherston Parva is a small hamlet about one mile outside of Sherston. The park belonged to the Estcourt family until 1704 when Thomas Estcourt died. The estate then passed along the female line of the family to Elizabeth Estcourt. Elizabeth married Richard Crosswell who was known as Black Dick because of his dark and menacing appearance. Richard and Elizabeth had a son, Thomas Edward Crosswell who it appears was a thoroughly bad lot! In the press of 1747 the story of his triple bigamy became known. The story continues that one of the servant girls at the house knew a little too much about Thomas for her own good and that he is supposed to have murdered her. With his hands covered in her blood he left a hand print on the door.'

'Some time after the second war, the house having fallen into decay was sold with the interior wood panelling being shipped out to South Africa. The door with the stain was removed to Mr. Tom Neal's workshop where several attempts were made to remove the stains. They even resorted to using a blow torch. All to no avail - nothing could remove the mark. The old house has long since gone and a new one built on to the old stable block.'

One day Tom Jensen who had become a close friend of the Vinings noticed that Mr. Vinings was perplexed about something. On questioning him he learned that his truck had broken down which meant he would not be able to deliver his bread and rolls in time for Easter. He said it would be at least 30 or 40 days before a mechanic could make the necessary repairs. Tom found that the Vinings had another old truck that was broken down but had a fairly good engine in it. Tom determined that he could switch engines and get the regular delivery truck running again but he knew that he would need Capt. Mussomeli's permission. Mussomeli was sympathetic but would allow Jensen only 24 hours

to finish the job. Tom was able to complete the repairs on time and Mr. Vining was back in business. Once more the 'Yanks' came through with flying colors, thanks to the mechanical ability of our smiling Dane.

On a number of occasions Queen Mary would drive through Sherston in her Daimler on her way to visit her son the Duke of Beaufort, stationed at Badminton. One day we received a request that a baseball game be played at Badminton. Tom Jensen happened to be standing next to the Queen and she asked him to explain the rules of the game. That must have been exciting. Several times while driving through Bath, a town built by the Romans, our men would observe Queen Mary with her two teen-age daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.



Tom and Mrs Vining



Tom in 2006



In 2009, on the occasion of Sherston's 65th D-Day Anniversary Tribute, Cilla Liddington added: *'Tom never forgot the kindness shown to him by Mr and Mrs Vining. Both he and his wife Evie made two trips back to Sherston in the 1960s. Mr and Mrs Vining also travelled to America to visit them. In June 2006 Alan and I were fortunate enough to also make the trip across the pond. We were met at O'Hare airport Chicago by two very, very sprightly octogenarians, Tom and Evie Jensen, who had arranged many exciting excursions for us. The visit ended with a superb dinner where we got to meet the remaining veterans of the 626th. We were both made honorary members of their association and receive a copy of their regular newsletter 'FIFI', named after their mascot, a stray dog they took in and cared for. (We were also presented with a copy of their own book of memoirs from which the extracts for these article are taken. If anyone would like to borrow this book we would be happy to lend it) Very sadly there are now only about ten men left from the unit and most of those are now very frail, but meet every three months to exchange news and memoirs of their happy few months spent in Sherston and the adventures that they had.'*

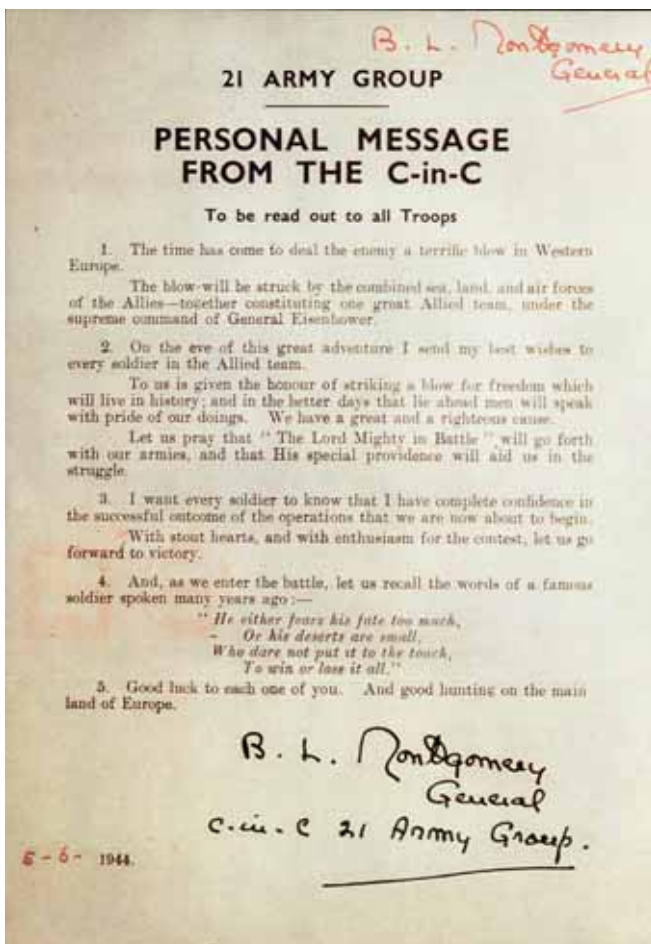
Stop Lime Down Supporters Rally in Westminster



Stop Lime Down supporters from six villages stretching from Luckington to Lower Stanton attended the UK Solar Alliance's Solar Rally in Parliament Square last month, alongside five national campaign groups. Before the debate in Westminster Hall, James Gray, MP for North Wiltshire, was joined by Andrew Bowie, Minister for Energy Security and Net Zero, to meet with all the groups and listen to their concerns. The most widely voiced opinion was that we need solar panels on all south facing roof tops of new and existing buildings, warehouses, disused car parks, decommissioned airfields, and small-scale, community-owned solar parks rather than on open countryside and fields.

Sherston Parish Council has stated that it is opposed to the proposed solar park for reasons outlined on page 3.

There is a national petition calling for a halt to the development of solar plants of more than 50 megawatts on arable land: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/651262>





SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting & AGM: Tuesday 7 May. Speaker Andrew Tolman: 'Stumperies, Ferns and Shady Friends'

Cuttings

We were treated to a visual feast at our April meeting. Our guest speaker was Mandy Bradshaw, aka The Chatty Gardener, who gamely persisted in resolving technical issues with her presentation whilst we rattled through our AGM proceedings. Mandy has taken hundreds of images in all seasons of the Cotswold gardens she has written about for regional and national magazines (and for her own range of greeting cards). We all made a mental note of our favourites to visit for inspiration and enjoyment.



North Cerney House garden, one of the many discussed by The Chatty Gardener

Our guest speaker on Tuesday 7 May is Andrew Tolman who has worked for country houses and estates in Wiltshire and neighbouring counties. His expertise spans a wide range of horticultural know-how from garden consultation, restoration, design and build, and specialist renovation pruning of fruit, topiary and ornamental hedges. His particular passions are snowdrops, ferns, shade and woodland plants which he will share with us at the meeting.

Highly recommended as we haven't covered the topic of shade-lovers so far.

Member Liz Cooper will also announce the results of our Spring Bulb photographic competition. Get your entries in quick if you haven't already done so!



May speaker,
Andrew Tolman

Clippings

Club meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month at the British School Room, Cliff Road, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Refreshments, plant ID, plant sales, raffle, gardeners' question time and jobs to do for the month.

New members from Sherston and surrounding villages are always welcome. For membership form and full programme, contact our Secretary: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Sherston Gardening Club now has a web presence on the sherston.net website and can be found in the dropdown menu. It will be updated with the monthly newsletter, programme and information about meetings and visits. Big thanks to Adrienne Jackson and Paul Haenel for their help.

Community

The post office and jubilee tree troughs have been brightening up some overcast spring days. Both will soon be replanted with summer-flowering perennials, including lemon echinaceae and blue salvias. Let us know of any other parts of the village that would benefit from an injection of colour.

Calendar

Wednesday 22 May

Horticultural tour of Lackham Campus, Wiltshire College (tbc)

Tuesday 4 June

'Growing Clematis and other Climbers' with Andrew Jeanes

Late June tbc

Summer Social Evening at The Garden House, Westonbirt

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News from the Church of the Holy Cross



Music Sunday

On Sunday 9 June, which coincides with our Open Gardens weekend, we have replaced our usual morning service with a service at 11.00am to celebrate Music Sunday. We will be singing some of your favourite hymns and you are welcome to let us know which hymn you enjoy or has a special meaning for you. There is a sheet in church or you can email our churchwarden: sherston@gauzebrook.org

Lent lunches

We offered a simple soup lunch and hospitality on Wednesdays during Lent. We received £125 in donations which we have sent to the British Red Cross to support their disaster relief fund.

Flora and fauna

As in previous years, many of you wanted to remember someone dear to you by supporting our floral displays of Easter lilies. Thank you – the flowers looked wonderful and were a lovely backdrop

to the popular Easter Day service. Thank you also to our team of flower arrangers, who present some magnificent displays throughout the year. Perhaps you might like to consider signing up for the next floral workshop – to be held on Saturday 27 July in the church?

Thank you to the many people who are supporting the churchyard working party each month.

Reflective Space

Our church provides a quiet space in the Lady Chapel for those who would like a time of reflection and prayer. We have placed some cards with short prayers in the chapel, together with some blank cards for your own personal prayer requests. We have a regular prayer time when the pastoral team prays specifically for those who are in need and for any personal prayer requests that have been left in the Lady Chapel. The prayer requests are also included in our prayers on Sundays.

Sherston Living Churchyard



The first plant stall of the season in March was very successful in raising funds to carry forward work in the churchyard. As I write, the April plant sale got underway this morning and there will be another on 2-5 May. In June, the Living Churchyard will be supporting the Open Gardens weekend by holding the plant stall on 8-9 June. All funds raised that weekend will go towards maintenance of the Church.

We now have two large compost bins in the churchyard which are helping to retain our green waste on site rather than sending it all away for disposal. On the east side of the churchyard, under the trees near Anthony Close, is a newly constructed dead hedge. This is formed from two rows of heavy stakes; tree prunings and other large pieces of green waste are held in between them and slowly rot down. In the process they form a valuable habitat for small mammals and insects

Love Your Burial Ground Week, organised by the charity Caring for God's Acre (see caringforgodsacre.org.uk) takes place 8-16 June. This coincides with the Great Big Green Week, which you can read about on page 4. Look out for information coming about what will be happening in the churchyard.

We hope to be taking part in Churches Count for Nature so that we can let you have some information about exactly what wildlife there is in the churchyard. The information will also be fed into national databases to help better understand the environmental role of churchyards



Please join us in the churchyard on Saturday 4 May from 10.00am to see what is happening and join the working party if you would like to. Be prepared for mud and any kind of weather, as we will still go ahead except in the worst conditions. If you can bring your own gardening tools, particularly grass rakes and wheelbarrows, that would be very helpful. Refreshments will be provided.

Sue Robinson (Tel: 841263. Email: jimandsue4@btinternet.com)

Tricia Lawrence (Email: pjlawrence46@gmail.com)

Sherston Churches Together

The monthly Soup Lunch hosted by Sherston Churches Together will pause for the summer following May's Soup Lunch on Monday 6 May from 12.00noon in the British School Room on Cliff Road. It will resume on Monday 2 September.

We'd also like to announce that the same team will be hosting a Christmas Day Dinner again in the British School Room. If anyone would be willing to volunteer in any way - for example, boiling a pan of sprouts or cooking a tray of potatoes at home to bring to the British School Room, or help lay the tables the night before, etc – this would help to make this day a great success. Further details will follow later in the year. Please contact either Candi at cwilliamstarling@gmail.com or Susan at Susan.harvey055@gmail.com for more information or if you are willing to help out.

Defibrillator for Easton Grey from Malmesbury League of Friends

Easton Grey is the latest local parish council to have a life-saving defibrillator installed funded by Malmesbury League of Friends (MLOF) and local residents. The defibrillator is situated next to the telephone box in the centre of the village.

A total of 25 local parish councils have now received funding from MLOF to install defibrillators in their villages. Many local parishes already have them, and others are still considering the offer from MLOF of £1,500 each towards their installation.

Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) have been described as the single most important development in the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest. Designed

for use by untrained lay persons, they have improved the outcomes of literally thousands of people who have suffered from cardiac arrests.

MLOF chairman David Hide said: 'We are delighted to have helped towards the installation of a defibrillator in Easton Grey. We'd like to hear from any other local parish councils who do not currently have one.'

Henry Jodrell, Chairman of Easton Grey Parish Council, said: 'We are very grateful to have received this help from MLOF in placing this life-saving facility in the village.'



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Malmesbury Textile Artists Workshop: See the Town Alight



On Saturday 11 May, 10.00am-4.00pm, Anne Hellyer will be running a workshop at Little Somerford Village Hall (SN14 5JW) - members £35, non-members £45. Create a beautiful 'Winter' or 'Snowy' townscape or a townscape of your own choosing using your own hand-painted, printed or commercially bought fabrics. Then embellish with paint and /or pen and free machine embroidery. Your designs can be free-standing, manipulated into a wrapped shape or hung flat. A night light can be added if required.

For further information, requirement list and to book a place, please email Ruth Vaughan: r.vaughan56@btinternet.com

NB. A kit containing everything you need (apart from a sewing machine and threads) can be purchased.

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Movies@Malmesbury

May screenings

Two evenings of ballet from the Royal Ballet in London, an opera from the Royal Opera House, National Theatre Live and five films fill our programme for May at Movies@Malmesbury.

Wed 1	6.45pm	Carmen from the Royal Opera House, London *
Thur 9	8.00pm	Vindication Swim
Fri 10	2.00pm	Nye, National Theatre Live *
	7.00pm	National Theatre Live *
Mon 13	2.00pm	Vindication Swim
	8.00pm	Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire
Fri 17	2.00pm	Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire
	8.00pm	Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire
Mon 20	2.00pm	Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire
	8.00pm	The Trouble with Jessica
Wed 22	7.15pm	Winter's Tale from the Royal Ballet, London *
Fri 24	8.00pm	Back to Black
Thu 30	7.20pm	Message in a Bottle from Sadler's Wells *
Fri 31	2.00pm	The Trouble with Jessica

Tickets: 2.00pm and 5.30pm £5 & £4, 8.00pm £6 Except * £12. Tickets for all performances can be purchased from: Malmesbury Town Hall; online at malmesbury.gov.uk/cinema; or, subject to availability, on the door. We need to add that we have had several sell-outs recently so don't rely on tickets being available on the door.

For all of the latest information, schedules, synopses, trailers etc. check out our Facebook page at: [MoviesatMalmesbury](https://www.facebook.com/MoviesatMalmesbury)



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May Highlights

Saturday 4 May Moscow Drugs Club Returns: With elements of 1930s Berlin Cabaret, Hot Club de France, Nuevo Tango & Gypsy Campfire meet. Combining their original material with songs by Jaques Brel, Leonard Cohen, Tom Waits and Eartha Kitt, it's a musical experience! 7.30pm. Tickets £10-15.

Saturday 11 May Gloriana – Cappella Nova Chamber Choir: Music sacred and profane from the eras of Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II from Byrd and Tallis to Britten and Vaughan Williams. Proceeds to Longfield Community Hospice. 7.30pm. Tickets £12-15.

Saturday 18 May Jazz Defenders: Led by one of the UK's most formidable jazz pianists, George Cooper, the group are born from a deep love of Blue Note jazz, drawing on a wealth of inspiration to craft their own raw and vibrant compositions. 7.30pm. Tickets: £12.50-16.50

Sunday 19 May The Bookshop Band: In collaboration with the award-winning Bath bookshop, Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights, Ivor Novello-nominated composers Beth Porter and Ben Please write songs inspired by the books of the visiting authors, including Margaret Attwood and Phillip Pullman.

For more details of our other events including film, talks, exhibitions, and afternoon tea concerts and to book tickets visit our website: www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Following on from our successful workshop in March, our next event, in April, was a demonstration entitled Barking Mad by Jenny York. An ex-diplomat, Jenny has risen quickly to be an excellent demonstrator and narrator. She made nine beautiful arrangements which were raffled at the end to those present.

The May meeting is the club's dinner which will be take place at the Old Royal Ship in Luckington. On 19 June, Lucy Ellis is coming to give a demonstration entitled Limelight. We await her spectacle which will take place at Crudwell Village Hall. Her designs will also be raffled. Doors open officially at 7.00pm and the demonstration is at 7.30pm.

For further information, please visit our website - <https://northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk/> - for further information. If you have any queries you can contact us by email: nwvflowerclub@gmail.com.

We are a warm and enthusiastic club and enjoy visitors. We also have cake and tea or coffee (free) at the end of the evening. Do join us.

Local recycling and zero waste outlet information



Recycling Facilities

Kerbside Collection - check the Wiltshire Council website for up-to-date information of what they do and do not take.

The Household Recycling Centre at Stanton St Quinton - take a look at their website to see what they take, you no longer need to book in advance!

Soft plastics and batteries

Tesco Tetbury and Tesco Yate - collection points available in the stores.

Sherston Co-op has a soft plastic collection scheme. A list of all the packaging they can accept can be found here: www.coop.co.uk/environment/soft-plastics/packaging-list

PLEASE ... no compostables, no hard plastic, no plastic bottles and no plastic trays and please make sure all the plastics are clean.

Batteries/low-energy light bulbs

Sustainable Sherston Collection Point at Dog Leg House, 19a Church St. Small batteries are now part of the council's kerbside collection - place in a transparent sandwich bag on top of blue-lidded bin.

Medicine blister packs

Unfortunately, the Superdrug/Terracycle scheme has changed and Superdrug will now only accept small amounts of medicine blister packs from individuals so Sustainable Sherston has had to close its collection scheme. Please take to Superdrug in Bath or Stroud.

Clothes and Shoes Collection Point Wiltshire Air Ambulance - Sherston Village Hall Car Park

Ink Cartridges Sherston High Street Telephone Box

Dental items:

(toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, electric toothbrush heads) Barley Mow Dental Practice, Malmesbury

Zero-Waste/Eco Shops

The Sherston Market on Thursdays, 10.30am-1.30pm, in front of the Village Hall - a selection of artisan stalls (including The Loaf Shack) selling bread, meat, fish, cheese, honey, chutneys, vegetables and small plants.

The Loaf Shack - a community pop-up micro bakery specialising in small batch artisan bread and baked goods which comes to Sherston every Thursday morning, 10.30am-1.30pm.

Bennett's Farm Shop, Tetbury Lane, Leighterton (GL8 8UP) - a self-service retail outlet open 7 days a week 8am-7pm.

Lucy Tom Interiors, Noble Street, Sherston - refills of cleaning materials, beauty products, shampoo and conditioner as well as reusable water bottles, keep cups, second-hand book exchange.

The Wild Food Company, High Street, Malmesbury - large selection of zero waste and plastic-free goods, liquid refills and loose dry foods, and loose oat milk

The Greenshop, Holbrook Farm, Calf Way, Stroud GL6 7BX - a whole group of businesses dedicated to providing sustainable goods and services. See www.greenshopgroup.co.uk

Loose, 33 High Street, Stroud GL5 1BB - selling unpackaged foods and other household and personal care items in a largely plastic-free environment. Remember to take your own packaging!

Hobbs House Bakery, Tetbury - semi-skimmed milk (loose), take your own 1litre glass bottles - and take your own bags!

Allington Farm Shop, Chippenham SN14 6LJ - all manner of fruit and vegetables, butchers, deli counter and a huge set of freezers where you can scoop frozen fruit/veg/pastries/yorkshire puddings/fishcakes into your own containers/plastic bags

Abbey Farm, Burford Road GL7 5HF - brilliant organic farm, farm shop and cafe and a large selection of zero waste and plastic-free goods and liquid refills

Milk in glass bottles (no plastic!)

Loose milk is no longer sold at Close Farm (Highgrove, Tetbury) or Church Street Grocers, Tetbury (now closed) - nor at Bennett's Farm, Leighterton or at Hobbs House Bakery, Malmesbury (now closed), but is still available from Hobbs House Bakery in Tetbury (semi-skimmed only, from Cotswold Dairy). For raw (unpasteurised) milk, try Dora's Dairy, Quarry Farm, Purton (Jon Cook). Email: dairymaid@dorasdairy.co.uk Note: Any dairy farmers able to supply milk for possible dispensing in Sherston, please contact Eleanor Lines on 07949 292741.

Oddbox (Oddbox.co.uk) 'Fighting waste one curvy cucumber at a time'. Small to large boxes of veg (plus optional fruit) delivered overnight to your door. Also great recipes, easy exclusion options, etc.

Zero-Waste online services

Milk and More (www.milkandmore.co.uk) - milk, cheese, yogurt, fruit and veg boxes and zero waste groceries delivered to your door! Easy online ordering service.

Riverford (www.riverford.co.uk) - organic fruit & veg boxes - zero waste - and lots more delivered to your door (on Wednesdays)

Abel & Cole (www.abelandcole.co.uk) - organic fruit, veg, zero-waste groceries & household goods delivered to your door with very low plastic use

Local Food Growers

Close Farm, Highgrove, Tetbury - veg stall

The Goods Shed, Tetbury - locally grown veg sold on Saturday mornings

Shipton Mill Flour - locally grown and excellent online shop www.shipton-mill.com

Groups and Regular Events in and around Sherston

Regular Groups and Events in Sherston

Weekly farmers market at Sherston Village Hall

Thurs 10.30am-1.30pm Stalls include meats, fish, cheese, sourdough and bakes, chutneys, dog treats etc.

Sherston Village Hall

Available for hire by all. Ideal for meetings, events, weddings, parties etc. For full details and the booking calendar visit <https://sherstonvillagehall.org> or contact Margot Holland 841019 mpholland@btinternet.com

Village Hall 300+ Club

For an annual subscription of £10 support the Village Hall enter to win one of the four £20 prizes awarded in 10 draws each year. Contact: Eric Meanwell (07789 280058) or Goug Wilcox (07788 558035)

Sherston 1016

Fundraising for local good causes and charities. Contact sherston1016@gmail.com or 07717 424619.

Wiltshire Council Mobile Library

Every fortnight on Saturdays 10.30am – 12.45pm Sherston High Street mobilelibraries@wiltshire.gov.uk or visit <https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/MobileLibrary/Library/Stop/65>

Link - (Malmesbury and District)

Link is a charity run by volunteers to provide transport for people living in the Malmesbury area to hospitals and other health related appointments. Volunteers always needed. Helpline: 840861 or coordinators@malmesburylink.co.uk

Children's Groups

Sherston Baby and Toddler Group

The group is a fun way for babies, toddlers and their parents to meet and play. Meets every Mon 10-11.30am . British School Room with toys, craft activities, music. Contact sherstonbabytoddlers@gmail.com or regular updates on www.facebook.com/sherston.toddlers

1st Sherston Brownies

Meet Weds 5.45–7pm in term time Scout Hut. All girls are welcome to join after their 7th birthday, but there is a waiting list. Visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the parents link to register your interest, for all other queries contact 1stsherstonbrownies@gmail.com

1st Sherston Guides

Meet Wed 5.30-7.00pm in term time - Village Hall. Girls are welcome to join after their 10th birthday, there's no waiting list. Visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the parents link to register your interest, for all other queries contact Fi Picton via f.picton@outlook.com

1st Sherston Beaver Scout Colony

Beavers is open to both girls and boys aged between 6 and 8 years old. Meet Mon 5pm to 6.15pm in term time - Scout hut. There is a waiting list for Beavers, email join@sherstonscouts.org.uk for an application form.

1st Sherston Cub Scout Pack

Open to both girls and boys aged between 8 and 10 ½ years old. Meets Fri 6 - 7.30pm in term times - Scout hut. There is a waiting list for Cubs, email join@sherstonscouts.org.uk for an application form

1st Sherston Scout Troop

Open to both girls and boys aged between 10½ to 14 years old. Meet on Tues 7-9pm in term times - Scout hut. There is a waiting list for Scouts, email join@sherstonscouts.org.uk for an application form

Sherston Whitewall Explorers

Explorers is open to both girls and boys aged between 14 and 18 years old, you don't need to have previously been a member of Scouts or Guides to join us. Meet Fri nights 8.30- 10pm in term times – Scout hut. Email join@sherstonscouts.org.uk for an application form

Church and Faith Groups

Holy Cross Church

Sunday services 9.30am - 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays - Holy Communion; 2nd Sunday - Family Service. Coffee is served after the morning service

6pm - Book of Common Prayer Evensong or Holy Communion. Please check on gauzebrook.com for exact details

Holy Cross Café Morning coffee every Thurs 10-12noon – small children's play area

Book the Church for concerts, lectures, exhibitions, pop-up cafes. Book via sherston@gauzebrook.org

Sherston Congregational Church

Sunday Service, 9.30am except last of the month, which is a communion service at 4.30pm. All services can be joined in person in the British Scholl Room, Cliff Rd. or via Zoom. Please contact Rev Andrew who will send a Zoom link.

Bible Study or Prayer Group, alternating Mondays 7.30pm, also via Zoom. Contacts: Minister - Rev Andrew Williams Tarling - awtcharfield@hotmail.co.uk or 07921 390878

Methodist Church

Sunday Service at 10.30am apart from 3rd in the month when service is held at Luckington. For further details see the Parish Life

Music, Culture and Social

Church Bell Ringing

Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 – 9 pm. Tower correspondent Contact Graham Morris 07484 838330 or Jim Bartlett 07980 119320 or come along.

Sherston Community Choir

Meets at 7.30pm each Wed in term time in the British School Room on Cliff Road. £3 per session. All welcome. Contact Sheila Cutcher sheilacutcher28@gmail.com or 840067, or on Facebook.

Sherston Drama Group

The Drama group puts on plays and pantomimes as well as smaller dramatic and social events in and around Sherston. If you're interested in taking part or helping out contact Katie Skeffington (Chairperson): katie.skeffington@bristol.ac.uk.

Drawing Classes in Sherston

Classes Weds either 10am-12noon or 1.30-3.30pm British Schoolroom during term time. Contact Heather Martin heather@geoffmartin.plus.com or phone 840375

Footpaths Group

'Sherston Walks - a guide to local Rights of Way', featuring 10 local walks is on sale at the Post Office. If you would like to learn more about the Footpaths Group contact Tanya Burgess on 841498 or smythtanya@hotmail.com or visit www.sherstonwalks.org.uk

Sherston Gardening Club

Meets 1st Tues each month apart from Jul & Aug, 7pm for 7.30pm start in the British School Rooms, bring and buy stall, quiz, refreshments, £15pa £25 joint, under 18s free. Contact sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com for more details.

Sherston Probus Club

Meets first Mon each month at 11am at the Rattlebone for interesting talks followed by lunch with 30 retired business and professional men in Sherston and the surrounding villages. Contact Secretary Alan Pugh pughandg@btinternet.com

Senior Club

Meets at 2.30pm during summertime 2pm during winter in the British School Room, contact Helen Quirk 840516.

Sherston Sewing School

Beginners' Sessions in the British School Room on the 2nd Sat of each month, 10am-4pm £65 per day Phone Goug Wilcox on 07788 558035

Sherston Theatre Club

Excursions with a Sherston High Street-to-venue return coach service. Annual fee £20. <https://sherstontheatreclub.co.uk> or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or helenandjim@thequirks.plus.com

Yak & Yarn

Every Fri morning 10 till 12 in the British School Room, Cliff Road

Fitness

Exercise for over 60s with Synchronicity

Exercise and Movement for over 60's on Wed 10am Sherston Village Hall. All abilities, men and women. No exercises performed lying on the floor. First class always FREE. Contact Emma to reserve a place 07843 256081, emmacope@synchronicity.me.uk, FB: @exercise60plus.

Fresh Air Fitness

Total body outdoor workout for all levels (beginners to advanced) on Sherston Rec Mon & Fri 9 -10am. Info: www.pulse4life.co.uk Stuart 07986 003602 or stuart@pulse4life.co.uk

Sherston Nordic Walking classes

A gentle full-body workout, accessible for people of all ages and abilities. Contact Kate 07792 064438 or katemchardy@hotmail.co.uk

Sherston Pilates

Daytime and evening classes held in the village hall. Run by Saara Sharman, Chartered Physiotherapist. All ages and abilities welcome. Contact Saara on 07739 552336 or sherstonpilates@gmail.com

Ashtanga Yoga class

A strong flowing practice for mind and body (beginners to advanced) Fri 10.30-11.45am Sherston village hall. Contact Stuart 07986 003602 stuart@pulse4life.co.uk or www.pulse4life.co.uk

Hatha yoga class

Small breath driven relaxing Hatha yoga class Tues 6.45-8am and Wed 6-7.15pm. Support for anxiety, depression and quitting smoking offered. Please contact Russ on 07710 170081 or russelltownsend@gmail.com

Yoga for All

Mon evenings 7.30pm to 8.45pm in the village hall. Drop in rate £8 reducing to £7 if you take up the course. More details contact 07779 600786 after 6pm or leave a message.

BB Barre

Barre fitness classes at Sherston Village Hall & Hawkesbury Home Studio. Full weekly timetable across most days. Suitable for all ages, and abilities, pre & post-natal. Visit www.bbbarre.com or @bb_barre on Instagram.

ABEL Pilates

Monday evening classes held in Sherston North Building (former pre-school building on the Rec). Fully certified BODY CONTROL teacher. All ages, bodies and abilities very warmly welcome. 6pm Mixed Ability Class, 7:10pm ABSOLUTE Beginners' Course. Contact Kate: 07957 313109 or kate@abelpilates.co.uk www.abelpilates.co.uk

YogaForEveryone

An inner awareness practice open to all levels focussing on functional mobility and strength. Tuesdays 9am-10.15am at North Building on the Recreation Ground. (former pre-school). More details from Sheila on 07584 177712, sheila.chapman@urbankandy.com or www.

Zen Meditation Group

10am -12am on a Sunday. All welcome. If you would like to have an introduction to Zen meditation, contact Lawrence Barrow - ljikob@gmail.com / 07947 792919 urbankandy.com

Sports

Sherston Badminton and Table Tennis Club

Every Tues evening from 7.30-9.30pm Village Hall from Sept to the end of May. New members welcome – mixed ages (over 18) and abilities. Contact. David Boyle 841587, 07740 188882 or email djboyle@hotmail.com

Rattlebone Boules League

48 teams playing in 3 Leagues weekday evenings at the Rattlebone's boules pistes Apr – Aug. Contact Graham Hayman Hercule.Laboule@outlook.com

Sherston Magna Cricket Club

See website / facebook for fixtures. If you'd like to get involved with local cricket please email cricket@sherstonmagnacc.co.uk or visit the website https://sherstonmagnacc.co.uk

Sherston Velo Cycling Club

Rides and social events for cyclists of all experience levels from beginner to advanced, including families. Regular rides include Castle Combe circuit, Gravel ride or chain gang, RGT social ride. Group ride, cafe ride and beginner rides. More info sherstonvelo.cc or email secretary@sherstonvelo.cc

Sherston Town FC

The First team plays in the 2nd Division of the Stroud & District Football League, the Second team plays in the 5th Division at Knockdown Park on alternate Sat afternoons at 2.30pm. Sherston

Veterans play on Sun mornings. Spectators and new players welcome. Please check socials or contact sherstontownfootballclub@gmail.com or 07771 515489.

Sherston Shooters Netball Club

Training every Thurs at SWR School Tetbury, between 7-8.30pm. All ages and abilities welcome. £3 per session. Contact Lauren 07885597429, Julia 07791783905 or Penny 07846123455 or sherstonsshooters@gmail.com

Sherston Short Mat Bowls

Meet every Thurs 2.30-4.30pm & 7.30 – 9.30pm Village Hall. Bring flat shoes, we have the woods. Contact Tony Weedon 841377 or Anne Andrews 840941

Sherston Tennis Courts

The courts are available to the village at no charge, at own risk. The courts can be slippery when wet. Please look after the courts and nets, take away any rubbish. A men's match team will have priority on Wed evenings over the spring and summer. Knockdown Road, next to the football pitch.

Luckington Mobile-PO Service outside The Old Royal Ship (SN14 6PA) each Tues 1.30 - 2.30pm

Luckington Village Hall Book via Stephanie Stephenson on 0778 6275328 or luckingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Malmesbury Area Board Meeting see www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areboards

Malmesbury Concert Band www.malmesburyconcertband.org.uk

Malmesbury Community Choir www.malmesburycommunitychoir.org or www.facebook.com/MalmesburyCommunityChoir.

Malmesbury Morris www.facebook.com/malmesburymorris www.malmesburymorris.org.uk

Malmesbury Singers www.malmesburysingers.co.uk

Malmesbury Film Society www.malmesburyfilmsociety.org.uk

Tetbury Art Society http://tetburyartsociety.org.uk

If you run a club, society or organisation in Sherston that holds regular events such as the above and want it to be listed, please send details to info@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk

If you have a particular event, please write a short piece about it, send in to editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk and we can include it as an article and put the details in the What's On list for that month.



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WHAT'S ON

Check in the main section of the Cliffhanger, their website / facebook/ contact details for dates and times.

Weekly market at Sherston Village Hall

Every Thurs 10.30am-1.30pm Stalls include locally produced meats, cheese, Close Farm veg, fish, sourdough and bakes etc. Organised by Holly from The Loaf Shack Bakery theloafshackbakery@gmail.com

The Angel Café with Rooms

Hot and cold drinks, breakfast, brunch, lunch and freshly made cakes daily 8am – 5pm summer (8am to 4pm winter), takeaways and bike parking in courtyard, accessed via Cliff Road (the gate is by the big red refuse bin). www.angel-sherston.co.uk/menu and rooms www.angel-sherston.co.uk/your-booking or 841627 for more details.

The Rattlebone Inn

Indoor & outdoor dining with delicious country cuisine restaurant menu and pizzas from the wood fired oven at weekends. Quiz & Burger Night Quiz starts at 8pm Mon Check boards for more details, 840871, Twitter or visit www.therattlebone.co.uk

The Courtyard Café @ Lucy Tom's

Illy coffee, tea and herbal infusions and homemade cakes in Tucks Yard with covered seating – takeaways available. Bike parking. 841433 or <https://lucytom.com>

Wiltshire Council Mobile Library

In Sherston Every fortnight on Saturdays 10.30am – 12.45pm Sherston High Street For further details call clerk@sherston.org.uk or mobilelibraries@wiltshire.gov.uk or visit services.wiltshire.gov.uk/MobileLibrary/Library/Stop/65

Events at the Church of the Holy Cross

Holy Cross Café Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, every Thurs 10am-12 noon. There is a play area for small children – proceeds to the Church upkeep. 1st Thurs each month will have an Eco theme, with recycled cards, plants, fairtrade items for sale.

Christian Aid Week: 12-18 May Sue Robinson, Gauzebrook Christian Aid Organser (Tel: 841263. Email: jimandsue4@btinternet.com)

Sherston Living Churchyard

Work to support wildlife diversity in Holy Cross churchyard and to make it a more beautiful place for the community will take place from 10am on the first Saturday of every month. Everyone is very welcome to come along and see what is happening, and to join in with the work if they want to.

Plant stall Thurs -Sun 2-5 May

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info@brooksofmalmesbury.co.uk

www.brooksofmalmesbury.co.uk

Love Your Burial Ground Week, organised by the charity Caring for God's Acre (see caringforgodsacre.org.uk) takes place 8-16 June.

www.gauzebrook.org/churches/holy-cross-sherston

Sherston Congregational Church – Activities in The British Schoolroom

Yak & Yarn, every Fri morning 10 till 12 in the British School Room, Cliff Road for everyone from inexperienced to expert

Toddlers Club 10– 11.30am every Mon including holidays and half terms except Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Admin/Bookings - Alicja Clark - alicjaclark076@Qmail.com Brick Club - Please register your interest with Alicja by email or find us on Facebook.

Churches Together 'Warm Space Initiative'

The Congregational Church, Methodist Church and Holy Cross Church invite people to join together on the first Monday of each month. **April Mon 8 due to Easter.** No charge nor booking. Soup bread, pudding, cake and coffee will be served as well as companionship. 12 till 2pm in the British School Room and each month will support a different charity. Lifts are available on request.

For further information: Candi Williams Tarling, Revd Janet Evans, Revd Susan Harvey 840 696

Sherston's Gardening Club

Stumperies, Ferns and Shady Friends' with Andrew Tolman Tues 7 May

Visits to Highgrove, Lackham Campus of Wiltshire College and RHS Hampton Court are under discussion as well as NGS garden visits. Bring and buy stall, quiz, refreshments, first Tuesday of each month, British School



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Room, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. £15pa £25 joint, under 18s free. Connections to: Our Church garden, Sustainable Sherston and Sherston Allotments. sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com for more details.

Sustainable Sherston

Future River Soundings: what would you like the River Avon to be like in the future?

Sherston has been selected by Bristol-based theatre company Uninvited Guests to represent the upper part of the river Fri 14 June at 6.30- 8.30pm, and Sun 16 June afternoon time TBC, starting in the British School Room (BSR). You will take a short walk along your local river and into the future. using an app. Hear all your stories of the future told by a performer while a musician creates an improvised immersive soundtrack. Afterwards, we will get people talking about what steps could be taken towards the futures we want for the local environment. This is one of a series with communities along the Avon, from the river's source to its mouth.

Places are limited and will have to be booked. Please make a date in your diary and watch out for announcements in the next Cliffhanger or on social media. If you want to pre-register an interest, please email sustainablesherston@gmail.com and we will get back to you with details.

SHOCC The choir sing in the Old British School room on Wed evenings at 7.30 from 10 Jan - There's no audition and you don't have to be able to read music. Follow on facebook for details.

Sherston Velo Summer Time Trials

'Club 10' is a great way to test your fitness and speed in a friendly competitive environment - it's also a great training session for cyclists and triathletes alike. Thurs 23 May; Thurs 20 June; Thurs 18 July; Thurs 12 Sept (pot luck

2-up Team Time Trial - teams drawn on the night). For more information, contact the club Time Trials Organiser, Simon Vannerley, by email (info@sherstonvelo.cc) or on 07772 187857.

Residents should note that the start line for the event is in Easton Town: this is the only road in the village where any racing will take place. Riders will start at 60-second intervals and leave the village on the B4040 towards Malmesbury.

Sherston Open Gardens Weekend

Date for your diary 8 & 9 June: explore the village visiting a selection of large and small gardens, buy plants and enjoy refreshments in church. If you would like to open your garden please get in touch, new gardens are always welcome (and it doesn't have to be perfect) heather@geoffmartin.plus.com

Great Big Green Week

Events planned in Sherston so far include -

June 8 - Open Gardens around the village, with Teas & Plant Stall at Holy Cross Church

June 9 - Open Gardens, Teas & Plant Stall + Nature Trail and other activities in Holy Cross Churchyard

June 11 - Malmesbury Area Board Climate Action Networking Event in Village Hall

June 13 - Eco-themed Holy Cross Cafe - 10am -12 noon

June 14 - Future River Soundings with Uninvited Guests - 6.30pm Sustainable Fashion Preview event in Village Hall - 7pm

June 15 - Sustainable Fashion Sale of new swimwear & lingerie & quality pre-loved clothing in Village Hall - 10am-3pm

June 16 - Future River Soundings with Uninvited Guests - afternoon time tbc

www.greatbiggreenweek.com Sherston co-ordinator: Tricia Lawrence, e:pjlawrence46@gmail.com



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Luckington

The Old Royal Ship - www.oldroyalship.co.uk or 840222

Westonbirt The Arboretum

Forest Live Summer Concerts

Gregory Porter Thur 4 July, Anne-Marie Fri 5 July, Nile Rodgers & CHIC with guest Sophie Ellis-Bexter and Deco Fri 12 July www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt

Malmesbury

Malmesbury Textile Artists Workshop: See the Town Alight

Sat 11 May, 10am-4pm, Anne Hellyer will be running a workshop at Little Somerford Village Hall (SN14 5JW) - members £35, non-members £45. Create a beautiful 'Winter' or 'Snowy' townscape or a townscape of your own choosing using your own hand-painted, printed or commercially bought fabrics. For further information, requirement list and to book a place, please email Ruth Vaughan: r.vaughan56@btinternet.com

NB. A kit containing everything you need (apart from a sewing machine and threads) can be purchased on the day for £13.50.

Athelstan Museum

Talks and Exhibitions www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk

Movies@Malmesbury

Movies@Malmesbury is run entirely by volunteers with new tiered seating in the Town Hall or Facebook page: MoviesatMalmesbury or www.malmesbury.gov.uk/cinema.html for schedules, synopses, trailers etc.

Malmesbury Artisan and Farmers' Market

Market Cross every Fri from 9am to 3pm with an enticing array of local, fresh and organic produce

Malmesbury Live Arts Comedy and music each month: www.malmesbury-live-arts.org.uk/whatson

The Big Malmesbury Craft Fair

Last Sat every month 11am-3pm - meet unique creatives, creators, makers, designers, producers and bakers. The Hub www.facebook.com/TheBigMalmesburyCraftFair/

Malmesbury Library

Rhyme times for babies and toddlers every Tues and Fri Tuesday's Public Living Room 1.30-4pm an opportunity to share a cup of tea and a chat

Reading group meets 3rd Wed each month

Rethink Mental Wellness 2nd Fri each month

Repair Café Malmesbury are here to fix your household items on 3rd Sat each month

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The Summer Reading Challenge for 4-11 year-olds takes place in all libraries ends 10 Sept. The

The library offers free wifi, a warm space and free self-service hot drinks, computer and scanner access, daily newspapers to read in the library, plus printing for a small charge, as well as latest bestselling fiction and a wide range of books to borrow. www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries or follow Malmesbury Library on Facebook, or call 823611.

Malmesbury Riverside Community Centre

Alzheimer's Support - Music and Movement Sessions fortnightly music and movement group for people affected by dementia along with any carers/family and friends. £3.50 per person and includes tea and biscuits and the first session is free.

Saturday Friends

Refreshments, variety of activities inc. talks and visitors – usually first Saturday of the Month, except August Golden Zumba Seated Exercise Thurs 2-2.45pm www.riversidecommunitycentre.org.uk

Malmesbury & District u3a

Introducing the Amazing Honey Bee - Richard Rickitt 23 May 500+ members and 40 different interest groups including history, gardening, dancing, languages, walking, book groups etc. Monthly meetings take place on the 4th Thurs of the month (10.00-12.00) at Malmesbury Town Hall. No meetings during July and Aug. Non-members welcome 50p donation. www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk membership@malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Malmesbury Singers Concert 'Midsummer's Eve: Folk, Fancy, and Faith'

Sat 22 June: The Malmesbury Singers return to the magnificent Malmesbury Abbey for a Midsummer's Eve concert filled with enchanting choral delights. 'Folk, Fancy, and Faith' will weave a captivating tapestry of tradition and innovation, featuring some of Gustav Holst's charming folk songs, Cecilia McDowall's playful Celtic dance, and Ola Gjeilo's uplifting Sunrise Mass. Concert ticket price: £20 adults, £5 students/children Available from: https://malmesburysingers.co.uk via the Abbey or from Choir Members

WOMAD 2024 – Early bird tickets on sale for WOMAD 2024 25-28 July 2024 Charlton Park www.womad.co.uk

Tetbury Tetbury Goods Shed

Exhibitions, talks, concerts, cinema - shed-arts.co.uk The Whistle Stop café open for takeaway coffees and takeaway food on Tues to Sun 10am-4pm

Beverston

Garden Opera: Don Giovanni returns to Distillery Farm (SN16 9RJ) Fri 14 and Sat 15 Jun Garden open 6.30pm for 7.30pm performance. Interval for your picnic under cover. Book soon to avoid disappointment! Regents Opera will perform Mozart's darkly comic Don Giovanni at Distillery Farm in Minety; this performance will be presented in the round, in a tent, in elegant Regency silhouette, set in 1817. This will be a witty and thrilling, beautifully presented performance. Tickets £75 Antonia and Charles Filmer 0783 6767811 afilmer@outlook.com

Didmarton

"The Miracle Club" (2023) – Comedy, Drama Starring: Kathy Bates, Laura Linney, Maggie Smith Fri 17 May Doors open at 6.30pm for the bar, with film starting at

7.30pm. Cash bar. Didmarton Village Hall. For further details call Jenny Body 01454 238358 or jenny.body@btconnect.com

Hullavington Weekly Zoom French clubs for children contact Anna-Kate on admin@clubs4kids.com for more details.

Chippenham Neeld Community and Arts Centre www.neeld.co.uk or 01249 446699

Wotton-Under-Edge The Electric Picture House - www.wottoncinema.com A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers

Cirencester The Barn Theatre

CONSTELLATIONS - the Award-winning smash hit brings together the unlikeliest of couples in Rowland, a beekeeper and Marianne, a physicist. 29 Mar – 18 May
Box office: 01285 648255 or boxoffice@barntheatre.org.uk or visit barntheatre.org.uk for full cast details and tickets

Malmesbury, Stroud, Wotton-Under-Edge, Bath, Bristol

Covent Garden Royal Opera House and Ballet

Opera: Carmen Wed 1 May 6.45pm

Ballet: The Winter's Tale Wed 22 May 7.15pm

Live and encore screenings at local cinemas www.roh.org.uk/cinemas

National Theatre Live

Live and encore screenings from The National Theatre at local cinemas www.ntlive.com

Royal Wootton Bassett

Carer Support Wiltshire are holding a new carer café in



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Royal Wootton Bassett and inviting anyone who is caring for someone to come along every month, meet other carers, gain information and enjoy free cake and a hot drink. The Angel Hotel, 47 High Street 10.30-midday on first Tuesday of the month.

Bath Theatre Royal Bath

2024 season: Drop the Dead Donkey; The Full Monty; Blood Brothers, The Glass Menagerie; Life Of Pi; English Touring Opera; What The Butler Saw; Animal Farm; Laughing Boy; Mind Mangler; Party Games
Tel 01225 448844 www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Cheltenham The Festival

Cheltenham Jazz Festival

Headliners announced: Dionne Warwick; Gregory Porter ;Ronnie Scott's Jazz Orchestra; Robert Plant;Sophie Ellis-Bextor; Courtney Pine, Katie Melua, Paloma Faith, Hugh Laurie, Laura Mvula, Eartha Kitt, Caro Emerald, Corinne Bailey Rae, Imelda May, Van Morrison
1-6 May www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/jazz
Box Office 01242 850270 | boxoffice@cheltenhamfestivals.com

Arts & Science Festivals

2024 dates for your diary:

Cheltenham Science Festival 4 - 9 June

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science

Cheltenham Music Festival 6 – 13 July

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/music

The Cheltenham Literature Festival 4 to 13 Oct

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature

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Sherston Emergency Response Coordinator
emergency@sherston.org.uk (only during an incident)

Wiltshire Council

Highways, Social Care, Emergency Transport 24hr telephone contact: 0300 456 0100 EPRR@wiltshire.gov.uk (only during an incident)
Floods: 0300 456 0105 or drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Wiltshire Council Online Gritting routes www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwaysstreetcare/gritting.htm

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WATER – Bristol Water

www.bristolwater.co.uk/contact/
Emergency Helpline: 0345 702 3797 (24 Hour)

WATER – Wessex water

www.wessexwater.co.uk/Contact-us/
Emergency Helpline: 0345 600 4 600 (24 hours)

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Cllr Martin Fausing Smith	01666 840865
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	0207 219 6237
Sherston Parish Council	01666 800242
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