



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2024

DELIVERED FREE

Sherston Remembrance Service 2024



The theme for this year's Remembrance Sunday service was the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6 June 1944 and the subsequent Normandy Campaign. The weather was excellent for the open-air service and we estimate that there were in excess of 400 people present. As in recent years, 90 HQ Squadron 9 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps were the centrepiece of the parade, supported by Sherston's uniformed youth organisations (the Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers), plus a contingent from Sherston Primary School and their headteacher, Tommy Towers.

Before the service, the Sherston Band of Ringers started proceedings by ringing half muffled as the Union Flag flew over the tower. Padre Alastair Davies led the service assisted by Pastor Andrew Williams-Tarling of the Congregational Church. Roger Whitehouse, the verger, carried the cross.

Wreaths were laid in memory of the fallen by:

- Councillor Tanya Burgess,
Chair, Sherston Parish Council
- Lieutenant Oliver Estridge,
9 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps
- Suzanne Price,
Church Warden, Holy Cross Church
- Philip Springate, Congregational Church
- 1st Sherston Beavers, Cubs, Scouts,
Brownies and Guides
- Sherston Primary School

At the end of the service, 90 Sqn RLC, followed by the youth organisations, marched past and Councillor Tanya Burgess took the salute.

Many thanks to all those people behind the scenes who help run this event to commemorate all those from our armed forces lost in conflict. In particular: Mike Whatley, the linchpin of the entire ceremony, who provided the sound system and music and again timed things to perfection; Head of Sherston School, Tommy Towers, plus Scout Leaders Riaan van Rooyen and Shelley Vickerman who organised the participation of the various youth groups; Staff Sergeant Callum Orton for organising the parade by 90 HQ Squadron 9 Regiment RLC; Dr Pip Pettit and the Sherston Band of Ringers; Trudi Baker who led the Sherston Community Choir; the stewards, organised by Jim Robinson; Nigel Freeth who managed the closure of Church Street and the traffic diversions; and Paul Ormiston of Compass Graphic Design who designed the Order of Service. We also thank Tea Smart and Nick Holland for taking the photos.

If there are any veterans in the village who would like to assist or take part in next year's event, please get in touch with me at kevnoble7@gmail.com.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Sherston Parish Council and the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Jayne Curtis.

The collection at the service raised £1,011 which will be sent to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Kevin Noble

Advent windows map and programme to cut out on page 9 & 10

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
14



Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12 December at the North Building at the Rec.

Everyone's welcome to attend - you will have the opportunity to raise questions and pass comment.

If you're unable to attend but have something to raise, please email clerk@sherston.org.uk.

Grove Wood Coppicing: Year 4



At 9.00am on Sunday 19 January, work will start again to continue the coppicing programme in Grove Wood. We urgently need volunteers to help with the wood coppicing and to tidy the steps, which will increase the range of habitats for plants and wildlife for us all to enjoy.

Walkers (with and without dogs) and runners regularly use Grove Wood and enjoy the path by the stream daily, so if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact : nigel.freeth@sherston.org.uk or tanya.burgess@sherston.org.uk

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

What's On: contact us 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.

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advertising@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk

Advertising rates for 12 months:

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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

Reporting issues to Wiltshire Council



Wiltshire Council

How do you report issues to Wiltshire Council and what type of issues can you report?

There are two main ways to report an issue to Wiltshire Council:

1. Using the Wiltshire Council website
2. Using the 'MyWilts' app

Both are really simple to use. They both provide you with a reference number so that you can track progress, if you register; you can still log an issue and receive a reference number without registering, but you just won't be able to track the progress of your issue.

Report via the website, simply type 'Wiltshire Council' into your search bar and you will be presented with the screen below:



Click on 'MyWilts' (indicated by the red arrow above) and it should be pretty straightforward from there on.

Alternatively, you can log using the MyWilts app which you might find easier as you can do it there and then, and you have the ability to take and attach photos of the issue on the spot. You are in control!



What type of issues can you report?

- Abandoned vehicles • Benefits • Empty homes
- Fraud • Parking • Play areas • Roads, footpaths and pavements – this includes potholes, road markings, street lighting, road signs, bollards or railings, road hazards, drains, manhole covers, public rights of way, pavements and kerbs • Rubbish or recycling – this is where your bins and, topically, dog poo bins come into play • Street scene • Trading standards • Trees, hedges and grass • Unauthorised encampments • Unlicensed scrap metal collection • Unlicensed waste collection • Weather emergencies

As a Parish Council, we really do need your support to help identify and report these issues to ensure the environment and infrastructure in and around our village is maintained. If you contact us, we simply end up logging for you, which results in extra work for us and means that you will not receive updates on the issue you have reported. Please, please help us to help you, we really would appreciate it.

Sherston Needs you ...



This is a reminder to please take the opportunity to complete the Sherston Neighbourhood Plan Review Household Questionnaire.

The Sherston Neighbourhood Plan (NDP) was made in 2019 following a successful referendum where over 92% of voters agreed that Wiltshire Council should use the Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area.

The NDP sets out policies, written by the community, that define the development and use of land in the Parish to cover the period to 2026. Our NDP can be viewed online at:

sherston.org.uk/sherston-neighbourhood-plan/

Since the NDP was made, we have seen a number of changes to the policy context that the NDP must conform to, such as the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan and the revised National Planning Policy. The policies in the NDP and some of the evidence base are therefore unfortunately now out of date. Sherston Parish Council has started work on preparing a revised Neighbourhood Plan. This is intended to cover the period to 2038 to align with Wiltshire's emerging Local Plan.

It is vital that the revised plan continues to reflect the views of the local community and, for this reason, it can be completed only with YOUR help. Nobody knows our parish better than those of us who live and work here. So please take this opportunity to express your views about a wide range of issues as set out in the questionnaire.

We hope that you will become involved by completing this questionnaire and help the Parish Council to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan that truly reflects local need. You can do this:

1. By returning a completed paper copy of the questionnaire to either the Co-op, The Angel or the Tolsey Surgery. (A hard copy was included in November's Cliffhanger)

2. By completing the questionnaire online by following the link below.

forms.office.com/e/eYQVZrqpje

Or by using the QR Code



Each member of your household can have their say and complete a copy of the questionnaire. All responses will be used solely for preparing this Neighbourhood Plan. Your participation in this questionnaire, together with your individual responses to the questions asked, will be kept confidential and no one will be identifiable in any published results.

The deadline for completion of the questionnaire is 15 December 2024.

Thank you on behalf of Sherston Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group.

Remembering Sebastian

Sebastian, one of Kath Talboy's little dogs recently passed away. As he was quite a character and known in the village, Kath has now installed a poo bag dispenser, which she will keep topped up, with a plaque to remember him. Kath wanted to put it in one of Sebastian's favourite places for his doggy friends, so you will find it on the directions post by the jubilee tree.



Sherston Churches Together Christmas Dinner



There are still places available for individuals or families to join us in the Congregational Church for a three-course Christmas dinner at 1.00pm on Christmas Day. Doors open at 12.30pm.

To reserve a place for yourself or on behalf of someone else, or to find out more, please contact either Candi Williams Tarling (cwilliamstarling@gmail.com or 07730 9538120) or Susan Harvey (susan.harvey055@gmail.com) or fill out a slip in Sherston Co-op by Wednesday 18 December. There is no charge but there will be plenty of Christmas cheer! If you need a lift, we can help with that too!

We would be very grateful for any donations of food or drink - if you would like to contribute, please contact Candi (details above) or Sophie Cheetham (sophcheetham@gmail.com or 07786 990045).

Scout Group Christmas Hamper Raffle: Tickets on sale now!



Tickets for 1st Sherston Scout Group's Christmas hamper raffle will be available to buy outside Sherston Co-op on the weekend of 7/8 and 14/15 December. Look out for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts keenly selling - please buy to support our whole Scout Group. You'll be in with a chance of winning a fabulous hamper - there are multiple hampers up for grabs! If you're not around to buy one (or more!) in person, but would like to, please contact Beaver Leader Sophie Cheetham (sophcheetham@gmail.com or 07786 990045).



Sherston School News



A wonderful harvest festival celebration

Before half-term, Sherston Primary School celebrated our annual Harvest Festival, a joyful gathering held at the parish church. It was a memorable event, as children, staff, parents and community members came together to mark this season of giving and gratitude. The children gave impressive performances, singing heartfelt songs, reciting poetry and sharing insights about our chosen charity, the Malmesbury and District Food Bank. They took pride in explaining how the food bank supports local families and why it's such an essential service within our community.

A special thanks to Judith Parkyn, who captured the beautiful moments of the festival with her photography. We're also very grateful to the church for hosting us, and to all the parents for their generous donations of food items, which we've passed on to the food bank. This festival was a testament to the power of community, reminding us all of the values of togetherness and kindness that we cherish here at Sherston Primary.



Inspiring a love for English

At Sherston Primary School, we're proud of our innovative and engaging English curriculum, which has consistently led to outstanding results. Wherever possible, our teachers anchor their lessons to a text that sparks children's curiosity to help them connect with the subject matter in a deeper way. This approach encourages creativity and imagination, as children dive into storytelling, explore poetry and develop their voices as writers.

Our recent end-of-year results speak volumes: the children all surpassed the national standard, with a 100% pass rate in the phonics screening check - a fantastic achievement! These results reflect not only the dedication of our staff but also their ability to make English challenging, as well as enjoyable. By making learning fun, we ensure that each child at Sherston Primary discovers the joy of language and storytelling, which will serve them well for years to come.



Our welcoming ELSA room

One of the special features at Sherston Primary School is our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) room, a space where children can find the support they need to discuss any worries or challenges they're facing. ELSA is a programme designed to help children understand and manage their emotions, boosting their resilience and self-confidence in the process. Our trained ELSA staff member works closely with our children, providing a listening ear and guiding them through tailored activities that encourage emotional growth and understanding.

This year, our ELSA room received a warm and cosy makeover, thanks to the generous support of the Friends of Sherston School and Sherston Co-op. Their donations helped us to enhance the space with comfortable seating, calming decor, and sensory materials that make children feel at ease so they feel confident and safe to express themselves. This room reflects our commitment to the well-being of every child, providing them with a safe space to be heard and understood.

Boost your mental health by volunteering with Scouts or Girlguiding!



At the recent Remembrance Sunday parade, we were very proud to march alongside some of the young people of Sherston. As leader volunteers, we all really enjoy giving them new experiences, challenges and life skills, while keeping up the scouting and guiding traditions (and coming up with new ones!). In the village, we are very lucky to have five thriving uniformed youth groups - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides! They all enjoy a wide variety of games, activities, trips and camps.

As leaders, we enjoy working together, getting to know the young people and spending time with them doing fun things. There's never a dull moment!

But we would really like some help! Do you have a few hours to spare a week or every other week? Would you like to spend some time giving our young people great experiences and helping them to make great memories? Would you like to benefit from the rewards that volunteering brings? As Dr Michael Mosley said in his 'Just One Thing' BBC Radio 4 series: 'By giving volunteering a go, you could boost your mental health, lower your cholesterol, and live longer and healthier.'

Please have a think, make contact and come along and join in all the fun! You don't need any experience, just enthusiasm - it's very rewarding!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts: sophcheetham@gmail.com
Brownies and Guides: fi.picton@outlook.com

Tracklements Open Day: Saturday 7 December



We're opening our doors once again for our annual Christmas Open Day, giving you the opportunity to step inside the tasty world of Tracklements.

On Saturday 7 December from 9.30am until 1.00pm, we invite you to bring your friends and family to our factory just outside the village, where you can experience the transformation of the finest ingredients into your favourite sauces, chutneys, jellies and mustards.

There will be factory tours and festive nibbles, plus it's a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping.

Free of charge and no need to book. We look forward to seeing you there!

Tracklements, Whitewalls, Easton Grey, SN16 0RD



Our Festive Christmas Menu
is available from
2nd to 23rd December
Call in or call us for
availability

8th December

Christmas Quiz

19th December

Rattlebone Christmas Party
with the Doddington Brass Band

Christmas Day

Open for drinks 11-4 with festive snacks

Boxing Day

Open all day with a special
Boxing Day menu

New Year's Eve

Join us for a New Years Eve Movie themed party with great drink offers, delicious food menu and a night full of blockbuster fun!

We look forward to seeing you all
Charlie, Matt, Roger
and the Rattlebone team!



For more information or to
book in for any of the events:

01666 840871

eat@therattlebone.co.uk

www.therattlebone.co.uk



Church Street, Sherston, Malmesbury,
Wiltshire SN16 0LR

Grow Greener@ Holy Cross

Sherston Living Churchyard

Progress is being made in clearing the backlog of long grass in the rear of the churchyard. The recent period of dry weather has made areas accessible and the Community Payback Team did a lot of work during a whole day in early November. Another whole day visit is planned so let's hope for good weather so that work can continue.

Last month at our working party day, we planted yellow rattle seeds in one of the wildflower circles near the east end of the church. This is a native British wildflower which used to be widespread in hay meadows. It can still be found in a few fields around Sherston but changing agricultural practices mean that it is becoming a rarity in the wild. It is an annual plant and, if well-established, will seed itself from year to year. There were plants in the churchyard for some years but they were overwhelmed by the increasing rankness of the grass - which I described last month - and so we're trying to re-establish them. Yellow rattle has a special role in allowing other flowers to flourish in grassland; it is semi-parasitic on the roots of grasses, greatly reducing their vigour and making space for other plants to grow. It has to be planted in autumn and some authorities advise trampling it into the ground to mimic the hooves of cattle which were put into hay fields after the cut to graze on the remaining grass. I found the seeds just stuck to the soles of my boots! I had to scrape them off and bang them into the ground with a rake head, hoping this would have the same effect. The seeds also need to be frosted in order to germinate and that could be a problem in our current mild winters. Late next spring will show if this planting has been successful.

Saturday 7 December, 9.30am-12.00noon: Living Churchyard working party

Our next session coincides with the Holy Cross Christmas Bazaar but there will still be some people working in the churchyard. Please go along to the Village Hall and support the Bazaar as well. The first bags of garden mulch/soil improver from the churchyard compost bins will be on sale

Thursday 5 December, 10.00am-12.00noon: EcoCafé @ Holy Cross

The usual chance to meet your friends over coffee and cake, but with an eco-theme to make you think.

Looking ahead to 2025

January 2025 will see the first anniversary of the renewed Living Churchyard project in Sherston. We will be celebrating this on Saturday 4 January 2025 with soup and cake after our working party. Look out for more information next month

Sue Robinson 841263

jimandsue4@btinternet.com

Tricia Lawrence pjlawrence46@gmail.com

Local Author Talk: Saturday 25 January



Many of you will have known or heard of Hilary Peters. She called herself a part-time hermit and lived for the last 15 years of her life in Worcester Lodge, Didmarton, the gatehouse for the Badminton Estate - visible to us from many different places in our beautiful countryside around here.

As caretaker and gatekeeper, no one could have asked for more. Hilary would share her home with any stranger who wished to drop in, and impart her extensive knowledge of the Lodge and estate along with provision of her home-made refreshments. For those of us who knew her, she was the warmest and most truly sincere person we have probably met. The late Duke wished her to live in Worcester Lodge as 'she was the right person'.

Unbeknown to almost everyone, Hilary had been on a 'church crawl' - her words - around the churches of the North Wiltshire deanery, with a few of her close friends. She had mentioned to Catherine Price, who works for Malmesbury Abbey, about creating some sort of pilgrim way or passport, between these churches.

And then Hilary suddenly died. And by chance, I met Catherine.

My book, 'Past, Present, Presence' is an account of Hilary; her life, her achievements, and how she is the inspiration for the newly created Athelstan Pilgrim Way, linking over 30 churches that she visited and wrote brief notes about. My book is a companion guide to the Athelstan Pilgrim Way, and I talk about each of the churches, taking Hilary's thoughts, and discovering for myself the history, people, villages, communities and, of course, the churches, involved.

I am telling the story of what I discovered about Hilary and how the Athelstan Pilgrim Way came about from a conversation between two friends. Whether you knew Hilary, or would like to find out who she was, she is remembered for 'an extraordinary life well lived'.

Launched earlier this year in Malmesbury Abbey, the Athelstan Pilgrim Way includes Sherston, Alderton, Luckington and all the other churches in the Gauzebrook Group. Our patron is author and historian Tom Holland.

My talk is at Holy Cross church, Sherston, on Saturday 25 January, from 3.00pm. All are welcome, and refreshments will be available. I will also be signing copies of 'Past, Present, Presence'. For more information, please email sherston@gauzebrook.org

Holy Cross News



We were pleased to welcome many visitors and members of our village community to our services in November: the special service for All Soul's Day gave us an opportunity to remember those who had passed away and to hold them dear to us in our hearts; we welcomed the Bishop of Swindon who confirmed 17 young people and adults from across the Diocese of Bristol in their Christian faith; Sherston School's Year 6 pupils and head Mr Towers visited with Reverend Alastair Davies to look at the war graves, hold a short service of remembrance at our war memorial at the lychgate and plant miniature crosses along the church path, each one representing one of the lives of Sherston's fallen in armed conflict; and there was the Act of Remembrance on Sunday 10 November in Church Street, attended by a large number of the community, including our uniformed youth groups and a marching detachment from 9 Regiment RLC (see front page for more on this).

Advent this year begins on Sunday 1 December, when we start our Advent journey to prepare for the coming of Christ on Christmas Day. On each of the four Sundays during Advent, we light a special purple or pink candle on the Advent Ring, culminating in the lighting of the white candle (representing purity) on Christmas Day – the birth of Christ. Join us as we light our second Advent candle on Sunday 8 December when we will be hosting the Gauzebrook Advent Service at 10.00am. This is always a great and atmospheric occasion to enjoy the music of Advent and to continue our journey towards the Birth of Christ. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sherston School will be hosting 'Carols by Candlelight' on Thursday 12 December at 5.00pm in church. Last year, this special service was notable for its wonderful atmosphere, fabulous congregational singing, readings and beautiful music. The church was lit almost completely by candlelight, creating much drama and excitement - amongst children and adults alike! The whole school will also come to church on the last day of term for their Christingle Service, which is in aid of the Children's Society – a charity that supports vulnerable children and young people facing abuse, exploitation and poor mental health. (If you would like to support the Children's Society, please see www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

During the year, we have been treated to the wonderful sound of our bells ringing, not only for our Sunday services, but also to mark other special events. The Chippenham Branch of Bell Ringers, which includes Holy Cross, Sherston are holding their Carol Service on Saturday 14 December at 12.00noon. Of course, you will hear the bells first, please then do come and join them for their carol service.

Our own Community Carol Service will be on Sunday 23 December at 6.00pm when we will be hearing the Christmas Story in both prose and drama, and singing the traditional and favourite carols. Come and celebrate with us and share a glass of mulled wine afterwards.

On Christmas Eve, we will have two services: a nativity service at 3.00pm and our midnight communion at 11.00pm (please note the time, as this is different from recent years). Children and families love our popular nativity service but of course it is enjoyed by people of all ages. Our Crib marks the end of the Village Advent Trail (see page 7-8). It is always lovely to have a host of angels, shepherds, sheep, kings and the odd caravan of camels. So do come dressed as one of your favourite characters from the nativity story.

Our service on Christmas morning will be at 10.00am, with a family communion led by the Reverend Tom Hunton – a chance to sing the final verse of 'Oh come all ye faithful'!

Please don't forget our Christmas Bazaar in the village hall on Saturday 7 December. We'll be raising funds for the church, including our important project to renovate and repair our draughty windows, so we can do our bit for energy efficiency. We hope to see you at one or more of our services during Advent and Christmas, but if a peaceful church is more your style, please do come in for private prayer, as the church will be open during daylight hours.

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SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting: Tuesday 3 December, with speaker Francis Burroughes on 'The Victorian Head Gardener'

Cuttings

The guest speaker at our November meeting was Sally Oates who talked about her allotment in Tetbury which she rescued from a state of weed-strewn abandonment some four years ago. She now grows an impressive array of seasonal vegetables and companion flowers for all her family. Regular composting and relentlessly digging out pernicious bindweed appear to underline her success.

At our December meeting, we're delighted to welcome Francis Burroughes, a well-known name on the West Country speaker circuit. He is well-placed to deliver his talk as his father started his career in horticulture as a gardener's boy on a large estate before the First World War. Francis will describe life on a Victorian country estate, a way of life that has now vanished. We'll hear how to mow a lawn properly with a horse-drawn mower, how to grow grapes, and why William Robinson's butler served his master a pear on a silver tray!



December speaker, Francis E Burroughes BEM

Being December, our members and guests will also enjoy festive fizz, mulled wine and mince pies.

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. Plant ID, plant sales, raffle, gardeners' question time, jobs in the garden for the month and friendly chat over homemade refreshments. New members are always welcome. Cost is £15 single, £25 joint, U18s free. We communicate with members via a monthly newsletter, on sherston.net and on our SGC Facebook page. Our Secretary can be contacted at sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Brooks Independent Funeral Directors

01666 822200 24 hours

21 High Street, Malmesbury

info@brooksofmalmesbury.co.uk

www.brooksofmalmesbury.co.uk

Community

They're in! We've planted an assortment of narcissi bulbs around the gates at each end of the village and also updated the post office and jubilee troughs with seasonal planting and spring tulips.

Calendar 2025

Tuesday 7 January: 'Capability Brown' by Hugh Vaux plus 'Our Summer Garden Photos'.

Tuesday 4 February: 'Diary of a Seed Saver' by Adam Alexander.

Tuesday 4 March: 'Year Round Interest in a Small Garden' by Tricia Lawrence.

Tuesday 1 April: AGM

Tuesday 6 May: 'A Year at Spring Cottage' by writer and broadcaster, Val Bourne.

Thursday 8 May: Trip to Moreton Hall, Worcestershire

Tuesday 3 June: 'Looking after the Legacy of Rodmarton Manor' by John Biddulph

Tuesday 1 July: 'Gardening with Climate Change' by Sally Morgan.

Tuesday 2 September: 'Gravel Gardening with Low Maintenance Plants' by Derry Watkins.

Tuesday 7 October: 'Confessions of a Plant Freak' by Nick Macer.

Tuesday 4 November: 'Gardening with Wildlife' by Dede Liss.

Tuesday 2 December: Christmas Decoration Demonstration with Julia Armstrong.

Finally, our committee would like to thank all our members for their loyal support in 2024. Happy Christmas and we look forward to 2025 and another year of happy gardening!

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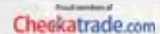
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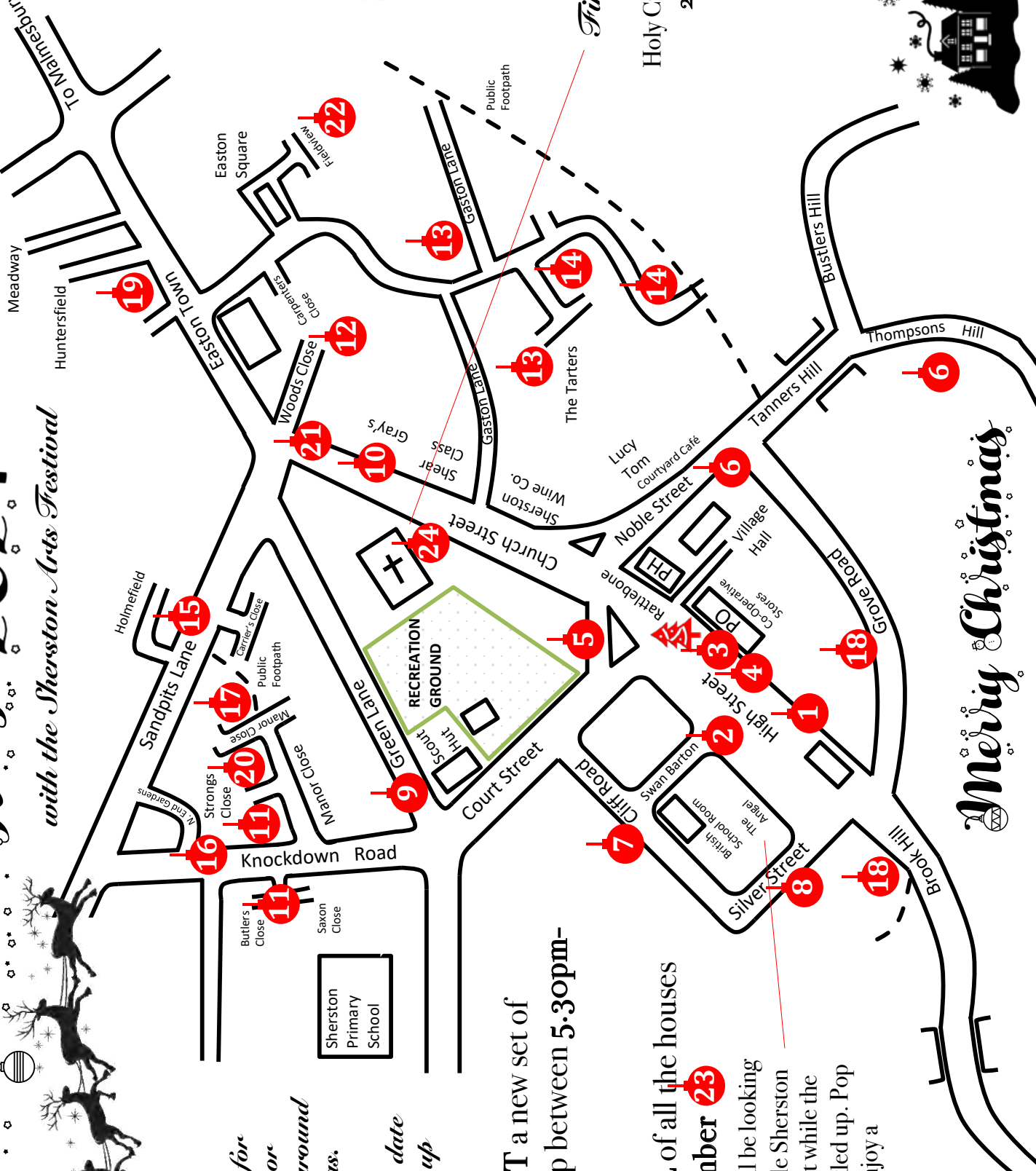
2 The Old Dairy
Charlton Park Estate
Malmesbury, Wiltshire
SN16 9DG

*T&C's apply



Sherston Advent House 2024

with the Sherston Arts Festival



- Look out for windows or gardens around these areas.
- Number = date they light up

EACH NIGHT a new set of houses light up between 5.30pm-8.30pm

FULL TRAIL of all the houses on 23rd December **23**

The Angel will be looking after the Sustainable Sherston Ink Recycling Point while the Phone Box is sparkled up. Pop in to recycle and enjoy a lovely cuppa and a treat!

Final Advent revealed at Holy Cross Church on 24th December



Merry Christmas



- 1 High Street**
The Old Pharmacy, High Street
- 2 High Street**
15 High Street
17 High Street
The Angel, High Street
37 High Street
39 High Street
- 3 The Village Christmas Tree,**
(Provided by Hortico, Powered by Sherston Co-op Stores, Organised by Sherston Boules)
- 4 The Telephone Box**
High Street
- 5 Court Street**
Loft Cottage, Court Street
17 Court Street
19 Court Street
21 Court Street
- 6 Noble Street/Thompsons Hill**
9 Noble Street
Mill House, Thompsons Hill
Marden House, Thompsons Hill
- 7 Cliff Road**
Yew Tree House, Cliff Road
1 Cliff Road
12 Cliff Road
23 Cliff Road
Jasmine Cottage, Cliff Road
Cliff View, Cliff Road
- 8 Silver Street**
5 Silver Street
14 Silver Street
- 9 Green Lane**
The Scout Hut, by Beavers,
Cubs & Scouts
5 Green Lane
10 Green Lane
14 Green Lane
- 10 Church Street/Anthony Close**
5 Church Street
17 Church Street
9 Anthony Close (Church St. Window)
- 11 Strongs Close/Butlers Close**
6 Strongs Close
7 Strongs Close
16 Strongs Close
17 Strongs Close
24 Strongs Close
3 Butlers Close
- 12 Woods Close**
9 Woods Close
12 Woods Close
- 13 The Tarters/Gaston Lane**
49 The Tarters
51 The Tarters
52 The Tarters
The Cottage, 1 Gaston Lane
- 14 The Tarters**
3 The Tarters
4 The Tarters
11 The Tarters
23 The Tarters
28 The Tarters
- 15 Sandpits Lane/Carriers Close**
Carinya, Sandpits Lane
1 Byways Court, Sandpits Lane
6 Carriers Close
- 16 Knockdown Road/
Northend Gardens**
2 Knockdown Road
1 Northend Gardens
- 17 Manor Close**
25 Manor Close
38 Manor Close
- 18 Brook Hill/Grove Road**
9 Grove Road
13 Brook Hill
Silk Mill Cottage, Brook Hill
- 19 Easton Town**
1 Easton Square
Rowan Lee, Hunters Field
Willow Trees, Hunters Field
30 Easton Town
- 20 Strongs Close**
20 Strongs Close
26 Strongs Close
28 Strongs Close
- 21 Church Street**
21 Church Street
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Church Street

Sherston Advent House 2024

with the Sherston Arts Festival



Merry
Christmases

Sherston

A warm welcome to Mia Famiglia



Established in 2024 just outside Sherston, our family-run restaurant, Mia Famiglia, offers authentic Italian dishes in relaxed surroundings. The restaurant is closely looked after by myself, Tony, I'm the head chef, and my wife, Bianca who does front of house.

The philosophy at Mia Famiglia is simple; contemporary Italian cooking using the finest locally sourced ingredients. Being a family-run restaurant the main objective is to wow our customers with fresh, good quality products. We took over the premises from the previous owners, who ran The Red Bull Inn, and they helped us settle in the area at the beginning of our journey. All meat, fish and poultry is locally sourced and everything is freshly prepared on-site, including all the starters, main

courses and desserts. In addition, the Mia Famiglia wine list offers an extensive variety of grapes from around the globe.

We are feeling blessed because of all the encouragement from our customers. It makes us feel that we are heading in the right direction. We are delighted that we are a place where people come together to share their experiences. We are here to provide the best memories for our customers. We aim to cater for different events, from a birthday party, Christmas event or kid's party, to a take-out or just a glass of wine.

We enjoy and support family-friendly gatherings and we want everyone to feel welcome. We also want to thank all our supportive customers for their business and their support. We look forward to welcoming you at our restaurant.

Tony & Bianca

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Alice in Wonderland



**SHERSTON
DRAMA
GROUP**

At the end of October, Sherston Drama Group treated audiences to a hilarious retelling of Lewis Carroll's famous story, adapted for pantomime by Ben Crocker and directed by Katie Skeffington.

Eva Edgecombe played the title role of Alice with a perfect mix of curiosity and innocence. Joining Alice on her trip down a rabbit hole was Harry, acted with some lovely expressive touches by Kitty Strachan. Once in Wonderland, the pair encountered numerous well-known characters, including the perpetually late White Rabbit (played with well-judged agitation by Sienna Badman), the crazy Mad Hatter (played with suitable eccentricity by Mandi Bailey-Turner) and the equally crazy March Hare (brilliantly brought to life by Sarah Scherer).

Other favourite characters included Tweedledee and Tweedledum, played by Eliza Evelyn and Amelia Gliddon (who perfected the art of whacking each other over the head with a foam frying pan!), the Cheshire Cat, played with a grin by Andrea Sisson, and the very sweet but long-suffering dormouse, played by Rosie Thomas. Other Wonderlanders included playing-card soldiers and live plants and flowers (Oliver Brady, Bode Scherer-Cowell and Edie Thomas, who all put in great performances in their first pantomime).

Graeme Strachan played the Right Royal Red Queen of Hearts, entertaining the audiences with his (her?) terrible jokes and just about managing not to trip over his enormous dress. The Queen was supported by the King (Richard Warren), although he was mostly asleep and failed to help control their daughter Scarlett (acted with attitude by Tilly Baxter).

To save Wonderland from the villainous Wrong Queen, portrayed with menace by Sue Ormiston, Alice's mission was to retrieve a key from the fearsome Jabberwock (Bode Scherer-Cowell). But first Alice and Harry made a trip to the royal kitchens to bake some jam tarts with the 'help' of a flamingo (superb puppetry by Fergus Nicoll). In the kitchens, they also met the larger-than-life Duchess (Riaan Van Rooyen, with his dramatic sneezing) and the Cook (well-timed lines delivered by Judith Woolliams). Alice and Harry then set off for the Jabberwock.

The Wrong Queen deployed her army of 'Wrong

Rabbits' to thwart Alice's plans. Clive Whitehouse perfectly portrayed Bandersnatch, the most senior Wrong Rabbit, with Oli Kutchera and Fergus Nicoll playing Wrong Rabbit bandits Scar and Knuckles with great comic timing. Completing the Wrong Rabbit line-up was Bandersnatch's wife, Mrs Wrong Rabbit (portrayed with subtle ferocity by Tahiti Van Rooyen), and a gang of junior Wrong Rabbit bandits (Oliver Brady, Eliza Evelyn, Amelia Gliddon, Bode Scherer-Cowell, Edie Thomas and Rosie Thomas). However, good prevailed as Alice and friends dodged their schemes, survived an encounter with the Jabberwock, solved the mystery of some stolen tarts, took a trip through the looking glass and finally found the key and wound the great clock, saving Wonderland from certain despair.

Panto is a massive team effort and there isn't space to list everyone who contributed here. However, special mention must go to choreographers Helen Fisk and Sarah Scherer, who put together the incredible range of dances, songs and UV scenes featured in this show, as well as Debbie Luter, who took charge of organising the fantastical costumes and somehow managed to keep everything under control in the dressing room. Kate Kutchera did a brilliant job as backstage manager, Jenny Baxter, Sally Clayton and Helen Thomas shared the prompting, Paul Ormiston and Laura Edgecombe provided sound and light respectively, Vee Skeffington headed the front of house team, Helen Fisk ran the box office, Robin Turner, Sue Ormiston and Kirsty Strachan made the props and scenery, and Tea Smart took all the fantastic photos you can see here.

We're also very grateful for the financial help we received this year – the costumes for this production were sponsored by the Midcounties Co-operative, while grants from Sherston Parish Council, The Jack Lane Trust and The George Veterinary group have contributed towards a major upgrade of our lighting system, masterminded by Colin Wootton, as well as improvements to our sound system and staging.

Plans are now afoot for our next production – a play at Easter. If you're interested in joining our friendly and social group, onstage or off, don't hesitate to get in touch (katie.skeffington@bristol.ac.uk)!



Sherston Senior Club

As promised in last month's issue, more about the Anne Prece Singers. We had a very entertaining afternoon of light opera and songs from the shows, finishing with 'Bring him home' from Les Misérables.

Our next speaker was Tracey Corderoy, a multi award winning children's author whose first book was published in 2010 and who now has 76 published books. A charming and gifted speaker, Tracey told us how she became interested in writing, despite only having had two books at her childhood home in Port Talbot - a Ladybird version of Cinderella, and an old encyclopaedia. She was encouraged by her English teacher (who became a friend for life). Tracey went on to become a primary school teacher. Later she took up writing. Tracey read her first book to us which had taken three years to be published. She then read 'Mouse at Christmas', which was beautifully illustrated and charmingly read.

At the time of writing, we are yet to enjoy our November events - an outing to Cribbs Causeway and our Christmas party - but will share more on these next month.

Our final meeting for the year is on Tuesday 10 December - lunch at The Bell in Yatton Keynell, members only.

We restart in 2025 on Tuesday 7 January when entertainment will be provided by the Jaybirds and membership will be due for the year at £20. This is



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the first rise in the cost of our membership for many years and, together with the Parish Council's generous allocation of funds, we hope to be able to carry on providing outings and speakers to the standard members are used to enjoying.

Our meetings in the winter are held at 2.00pm in the British School Room on Cliff Road.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

The Churchyard Path – Green Lane



Please note that we will be repairing some of the paths through the churchyard starting by the gates in Green Lane. We will also be removing a diseased cherry tree. We will be working close to some of the graves and every care will be taken to protect the graves and monuments. Our contractors will be mindful and respectful of the churchyard.

We expect the work to start in mid-December or January. While these works are taking place, there will be no access into the churchyard from Green Lane. We know that the path is a popular route between Green Lane and the church and Church Street and we apologise for the inconvenience this will cause. Please find a safe alternative route.

If anyone has any concerns, please contact Suzanne Price, Churchwarden, on sherston@gauzebrook.org



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Sherston Magna Cricket Club celebrates unprecedented success with county selections



Sherston Magna is making waves across the county cricket scene. In a remarkable achievement for our village club, a total of seven players have been selected following recent trials to join the Wiltshire County Cricket Pathway for 2025 showcasing the club's homegrown talent and commitment to the development of young players.

2025 Wiltshire County Selections

Henrietta Butler - Girls U15s

Ollie Knight – Boys U12s

Henry Kutchera – Boys U12s

Max Tremellen - Boys U12s

James Winwood – Boys U12s

Digby Beare – Boys U11s

Felix Wiltshire – Boys U11s

The triumphs don't stop there. Three of Sherston's players have also been honoured with Wiltshire County Player of the Year awards for the 2024 season, further cementing the club's reputation for their young cricketing talent.

Wiltshire County 2024 Cricket Awards

Harris Heathcock -

U15s Development Player of the Year

Max Tremellen - U11s County Player of the Year

Digby Bear - U10s Development Player of the Year

Junior Club Chairman James Kutchera expressed immense pride in the players' accomplishments, 'This is an incredible moment for Sherston Cricket Club. To have seven players join the county pathway and three winning awards for 'Player of the Year' reflects the dedication of our players and the fantastic coaching. It's an exciting time to be part of the Sherston cricket family.'

With winter nets starting in January, the club is encouraging new members to join and be part of its thriving cricketing community. The emphasis is on cricketers of all ages and abilities being able to participate and enjoy the sport. Whether playing a Saturday league match, a friendly game on Sunday or as an aspiring youngster, we aim to provide opportunities for all. To get in touch contact: cricket@sherstonmagnacc.co.uk

Tolsey News



As we continue to wait for a decision from the Integrated Care Board about the new surgery, we would like to thank the local community for their help and support throughout 2024. We hope that the New Year will bring some positive news that will benefit Sherston and its surrounding villages.

In the meantime, the staff at the Tolsey Surgery would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Christmas and 2025!

Gardener needed!



Self-employed gardener urgently required to help at the Sherston Old School to carry out regular weeding and general tidying up around the exterior of the building on a monthly basis. Payment to be agreed. Please contact Mike Johnson if interested on 840917 or email: soscic.members@gmail.com

On behalf of Sherston Old School Community Interest Company.

Qigong Classes

Clear away stress, increase your energy and connect with an inner state of calm and wellbeing.

Qigong is simple, easy to learn and can be enjoyed by everyone, at any age and fitness level.

Qigong combines the physical benefits of exercise with the calming qualities of meditation leading to the full nourishment of body and mind.

Come join me for your free taster class and discover the benefits for yourself.

Classes currently being held every **Wednesday** at:

Charlton Village Hall 10am-11am and Badminton Memorial Hall 6pm-7pm and, **Friday** 10-11am at Vowley Farm, near Royal Wootton Bassett and 1.30-2.30 at The Activity Zone in Malmesbury

Please contact Emily on 07867 755772 or emily@qigongwithemilyking.com

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Dispelling the myths around acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine



Those of you out and about on a Friday morning have no doubt witnessed a group of energetic individuals rushing around on the Rec, having fun while they exercise in the great British weather. Well, that's Fresh Air Fitness (FAF) with me, Stuart Dunn. For over 25 years, I have focused on keeping people fit and active through FAF, yoga, pilates and personal training. However, as we move through life, sometimes the body needs more than exercise, and this is why I have expanded my business (Pulse4Life) to incorporate acupuncture and Chinese massage.

Acupuncture and Chinese massage are ancient healing practices that have stood the test of time. Rooted in Traditional Chinese Medicine, both treatments offer powerful, holistic solutions for maintaining physical and mental well-being. If you're looking for natural ways to manage pain, reduce stress, and improve overall health, acupuncture and Chinese massage, a combination of traditional methods coupled with contemporary science, might be just what you need.

At the mention of acupuncture, many of you probably have the common reaction of, 'Oh no, needles!' However, acupuncture needles are much finer than those used by your doctor to deliver jabs, most people feel nothing or just a tingling sensation. In fact, check out my article which debunks all the myths surrounding acupuncture: www.pulse4life.co.uk/acupuncture/

Traditional Chinese massage involves a variety of techniques, including kneading, rolling and pressing specific acupressure points and areas of the body. The massage can be gentle and soothing or vigorous and stimulating, depending on your specific needs. Unlike many Western forms of massage that focus primarily on muscle relaxation and stress relief, this aims to restore balance, promote self-healing, and address both acute and chronic health issues.

The aim is not only to work with the immediate issue but to treat the underlying cause and help your body to help itself. Results can help with arthritis, headaches,

migraines, menstrual cramps, cancer and treatment side-effects, immune system problems, infertility, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), menopause and hot flushes, pregnancy discomfort, repetitive strain and overuse syndrome.

If you want to know more or have any questions, contact me via stuart@pulse4life.co.uk 07986 003602. Sessions are available by appointment on Fridays, either at your home or at the North Building, from £40.

In the words of Sarah, a sufferer of chronic shoulder pain: 'I think the combination of massage followed by acupuncture is a winner. My shoulder has a lot more mobility than it has had for at least six months and it is also much less painful. I need to book again!'

www.pulse4life.co.uk

Didmarton Rural Cinema to become Didmarton Film Club

We are changing our licence provider. We will now be able to show any film, at any time - from DVD, or other media or streaming. However, we are not allowed to publicly advertise the film and we are not allowed to charge entry.

Didmarton Village Hall and Community Committee will purchase a 'blanket' licence for the year. If you would like to join Didmarton Film Club, please email jenny.body1@gmail.com

Club members will be advised of the film name and time each month as currently happens. We plan to continue showings on the second Friday of the month. All attending are expected to make a donation (£5) for each show. Guests are welcome. The bar will run as usual.

The parish magazines will only confirm that a film will be shown and not the name of the film. Further, if you would be like to be a member of the Film Selection Committee, please email jenny.body1@gmail.com separately.

If there is a particular film you would like to see, please email jenny.body1@gmail.com at any time.

300+ Club

Thanks for your continued support...

October draw: £50 Paul Nash, £30 Mike Pitt, £20 Linda Robbing

The contribution of the 300+ Club is vital to the running of the Sherston Village Hall in helping to pay the monthly bills. Half the money collected has to be returned as prizes. Contributions from all in the village is really needed to keep the Hall running.

SHERSTON



I/We* would like to join/renew membership of the 300+Club for 2024* and enclose £10.00/£20.00 cash/cheque* (made payable to Sherston Village Hall), being the subscription for 2024. Please complete this form and return it together with your payment, in an envelope, to the POST OFFICE or contact your assigned collector

Name(s) _____

Address _____

*Delete as appropriate – You may have more than one Membership

For help/queries contact Mike Tarrant (07790 593058)

Thank you for your continued support.

Recycling Facilities

Candles - Holy Cross Church porch. The Recycled Candle Company will make them into more candles.

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

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 make sure all the plastics are clean.

Batteries

Batteries are collected by Wiltshire Council with its kerbside recycling, placed in a sandwich bag on top of the blue-lidded bin. Batteries are no longer collected by Sustainable Sherston in the village.

Low-energy light bulbs

Sherston High Street telephone box. Please no candescent or halogen light bulbs.

Medicine blister packs

Small quantities only can be taken to Superdrug in Bath or Stroud.

Clothes and Shoes Collection Point

Collection points at Sherston Primary School car park to fundraise for the school and Sherston Village Hall car park in aid of Wiltshire Ambulance.

Ink Cartridges Sherston High Street Telephone Box

Zero-Waste/Eco Shops

The Sherston Market on Thursdays, 10.30am-1pm, 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-1pm.

Bennett's Farm Shop, Tetbury Lane, Leighterton (GL8 8UP) - a self-service retail outlet open 7 days a week 8am-6pm.

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 Doras 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

Sherston

Weekly farmers' market at Sherston Village Hall

Thurs 10.30am-1pm. Stalls include meats, fish, cheese, sourdough and bakes, chutneys, dog treats etc.

Organised by Holly from The Loaf Shack Bakery
theloafshackbakery@gmail.com

Sherston Village Hall

Available for hire by all. Ideal for meetings, events, weddings, parties etc. For full details and the booking calendar visit sherstonvillagehall.org or contact Jake Peplow 07857 657 454

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 Mike Tarrant (07790 593058)

Wiltshire Council Mobile Library

Every fortnight on Saturdays 10.30am – 12.45pm Sherston High Street For further details email clerk@sherston.org.uk or mobilelibraries@wiltshire.gov.uk or www.apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/librariesinformation/route/Index/6

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

Sherston Living Churchyard

1st Saturday of the month 10am - work to support wildlife diversity to create a more beautiful place for the community. Everyone welcome. Come along and see what's happening, and join in if you like. www.gauzebrook.org/churches/holy-cross-sherston

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 Rooms 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 at the 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 5.30-7pm in term time at the Village Hall. All 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 fi.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 5.15pm to 6.30pm in term time at the 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 Weds 6-7.30pm in term times at the 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 time at the 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 at the Scout hut. Email join@sherstonscouts.org.uk for an application form

Ballet with HD Dance Studios

Ballet classes for primary-aged children. Fridays at 3.45pm. More info: Harriet Dyke on 07810 864162 or email hd_dance@outlook.com

Church and Faith Groups

Holy Cross Church

Sunday service 9.30am - 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays ; 2nd Sunday, service at 10.00am which moves around the eight churches of the Gauzebrook Group. Check www.gauzebrook.org or www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11839/ or the noticeboard near the lychgate. Sunday evening services November-March at 4.30pm please check our website to confirm details.

Church of the Holy Cross Coffee Shop 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 10am. All services can be joined in person in the British School 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 the Minister - Rev Andrew Williams Tarling - awtcharfield@hotmail.co.uk or 07921 390878

Music, Culture and Social

Church Bell Ringing

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

Drawing Classes in Sherston

Classes Weds either 10am-12noon or 1.30-3.30pm British School Room 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 Senior Club

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

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. No auditions and you don't have to be able to read music. 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) via katie.skeffington@bristol.ac.uk.

Sherston Gardening Club

Meets 1st Tues each month apart from Jul & Aug, 7pm for 7.30pm start in the British School Room, 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 pughaandg@btinternet.com

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. sherstontheatreclub.co.uk or contact Helen Quirk on 840516 or helenandjim@thequirks.plus.com

Yak & Yarn

Every Friday morning 10am till 12 noon in the British School Room, Cliff Road. A friendly group for anyone who wants to knit, crochet or do anything with yarn, whether experienced or a beginner!

Fitness

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 warmly welcome. 6pm Mixed Ability Class, 7:10pm Absolute Beginners' Course. Contact Kate: 07957 313109 or kate@abelpilates.co.uk www.abelpilates.co.uk

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

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.

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 Fri 9 -10am. Info: www.pulse4life.co.uk Stuart 07986 003602 or stuart@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 russellhtownsend@gmail.com

Sherston Bootcamp

Every Saturday on Sherston rec, 8-9am. Starting 3 August. £10 per session. Drop in - no commitment. Contact Coach Jonze on the Sherston Bootcamp Facebook to sign up.

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

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. For more details contact 07779 600786 after 6pm or leave a message.

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 www.urbankandy.com

Zen Meditation Group

10am-12noon on a Sunday at Scots Farm, Pinkney. All welcome. If you would like to have an introduction to Zen meditation, contact Lawrence Barrow - ljikob@gmail.com / 07947792919 / lawrencebarrow.com

Sports

Rattlebone Boules League

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

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

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 Shooters Netball Club

Training every Thurs at SWR School Tetbury, between 7-8.30pm. All ages and abilities welcome. £3 per session. Contact Lauren (07885 597429), Julia 07791783905 or Penny 07846123455 or sherstonsshooters@gmail.com

Sherston Short Mat Bowls

Meet every Thurs evening 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Village Hall, September through to May. 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.

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 alternative 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 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, café ride and beginner rides. For more info sherstonvelo.cc or email secretary@sherstonvelo.cc

Pubs and cafés

The Angel Café with Rooms, Sherston

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 Courtyard Café @ Lucy Tom's, Sherston

Illy coffee, tea, herbal infusions & homemade cakes in Tucks Yard with covered seating – takeaways available. Bicycle parking. 841433 or //lucytom.com

Holy Cross Café, Sherston

Thursdays 10am-12 noon. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. There's a play area for small children. Eco café theme on the 1st Thurs of each month, with recycled cards & fairtrade items for sale.

The Rattlebone Inn, Sherston

Indoor & outdoor dining with delicious country cuisine restaurant menu and pizzas from the wood-fired oven at weekends. Mondays 8pm - Quiz & burger night. Weekday evenings April – Aug Rattlebone Boules League matches. Check boards for more details, 840871, Twitter or visit www.therattlebone.co.uk

The Holford Arms, Knockdown

theholfordarms.com or call 01454 238669

The Old Royal Ship, Luckington

www.oldroyalship.co.uk or 840222

The Whistle Stop café, Tetbury

Open for takeaway coffees and takeaway food on Tues to Sun 10am-4pm www.shed-arts.co.uk

Alderton Village Hall

Ballet with HD Dance Studios

Ballet classes for primary-aged children. Fridays at 3.45pm. More info: Harriet Dyke on 07810 864162 or email hd_dance@outlook.com.

Art classes with local artist Claire Evans. Weds 6.30-8pm (7 session £80 including materials). More info: claire@clairesanders.co.uk or 07717 734955

Pilates with Penny. Every Thursday 12-1pm. 07796 955304

Hullavington

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

Luckington

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

Athelstan Museum

Talks and Exhibitions www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk

Malmesbury Artisan and Farmers' Market

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

The Big Malmesbury Craft Fair

Last Sat every month 11am-3pm - meet unique creatives, creators, makers, designers, producers and bakers. The Hub <https://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

The Summer Reading Challenge 'Marvellous Makers' for 4-11 year-olds takes place in all libraries 13 July to 7 Sept.

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.

Carer Support Wiltshire with Dorothy House Hospice

Every Monday, 2pm-4pm – Bereavement Help Point, Kings Arms, 29 High Street, Malmesbury. A community based drop-in service for anyone who is bereaved to talk with others in an informal and supportive setting. Free.

Malmesbury & District u3a

Wide and varied interest groups - for an up-to-date list and other information: www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk or e-mail membership@malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Monthly meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of the month (10.00- 12.00) at Malmesbury Town Hall. Non-members are welcome. 50p donation.

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, a 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 Area Board Meeting

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboard

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

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

If you run a club, society or organisation in Sherston or nearby 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 it 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

Sherston

Monday 2 December 12noon-2pm, British School Room. **Sherston Churches Together Soup Lunch**. All welcome. Free but donations encouraged!

Tuesday 3 December 7pm for 7.30pm start, British School Room. **Sherston Gardening Club**. Speaker: Francis Burroughes on 'The Victorian Head Gardener'. New members are always welcome. Cost is £15 single, £25 joint, U18s free. Contact our secretary for more info: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Thursday 5 December 10am-12noon, Holy Cross Church. **EcoCafé**. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, with recycled cards and Fairtrade items for sale, including charity Christmas cards. Play area for small children.

Friday 6 December 7pm-9pm, British School Room. **Informal Jamming and Singing Sessions**. Come to accompany or just to sing, watch, drink coffee. From 'Let it Be' to '12 Bar Blues', 'Moon River' and 'Drunken Sailor'. Donations welcomed to cover costs with remainder to Bristol Children's Hospital.

Saturday 7 December 9.30am-12noon, Holy Cross Churchyard. **Sherston Living Churchyard**. Come prepared for the weather and bring tools and wheelbarrows if you can. Refreshments will be available. There will be no further plant sales until the spring, but working parties will continue over the winter.

Saturday 7 December 12-2.45pm, Sherston Village Hall. **Church Bazaar**. Lunches (home-made soup, bacon or cheese rolls), Christmas stalls, tombola, raffle, cakes.

Saturday 7 December 9.30am-1.00pm, Tricklements, Whitewalls, Easton Grey, SN16 0RD. **Tricklements Open Day**. Factory tours, festive nibbles, Christmas shopping. Free of charge. No need to book.

Saturday 7 December 1-5pm, British School Room. **Christmas Crafternoon**. Join us for festive crafting. World of imagination and a warm welcome. All ages welcome. Free of charge.

Sunday 8 December 4pm Sherston Congregational Church. **Christmas Café**. Toddlers' nativity for under 5s - costumes provided. With carols, cakes, coffee, chat and good cheer.

Tuesday 10 December The Bell, Yatton Keynell. Sherston Senior Club, Christmas Lunch, members only.

Sunday 8 December 10.00am, Holy Cross Church. **Gauzebrook Advent Service**. All eight churches in our Group have the opportunity to worship together and enjoy the music of the Gauzebrook choir. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.



Thursday 12 December 6.00pm, Holy Cross Church. 'Carols by Candlelight' hosted by Sherston School. Congregational singing, readings and music, with the church lit by candlelight.

Saturday 14 December 11am ringing, 12noon, short service with favourite carols, Holy Cross Church. **Chippenham Branch of Bell Ringers Carol Service**. Mince pies and coffee to follow. All welcome.

Monday 23 December 6.00pm, Holy Cross Church. **Nine lessons and carols community service**. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine afterwards.

Tuesday 24 December 3.00pm, Holy Cross Church. **Nativity service**. All welcome. Children invited to come dressed as a character from the nativity story.

Tuesday 24 December 11.00pm, Holy Cross Church. **Midnight communion service**.

Wednesday 25 December 10.00am, Holy Cross Church. **Family communion service** led by Reverend Tom Hunton.

Wednesday 25 December 1.00pm (doors open 12.30pm), Congregational Church. **Community Christmas dinner**. If you'd like some company for Christmas lunch, come along - please book a space in advance by contacting Candi Williams Tarling (cwilliamstarling@gmail.com or 07730 9538120) or Susan Harvey (susan.harvey055@gmail.com) or fill out a slip in Sherston Co-op by Wednesday 18 December. If you need a lift, we can help with that too! Free of charge. Donations of food or drink gratefully received - please contact Candi (details above) or Sophie Cheetham (sophcheetham@gmail.com or 07786 990045).

Malmesbury

Wednesday 4 December 2-3pm, Malmesbury Town Hall. **Join Corrie and the Malmesbury Good Afternoon Choir**, with special guests, children from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Free admission with collection for Alzheimers Support. Everyone welcome. www.goodafternoonchoir.org

Thursday 5 December 2.30-4.30pm. Malmesbury Town Hall. **u3a Christmas event**. Come and enjoy fizz, mince pies and shortbread with other members at a social meeting before Christmas! We'll be entertained by members of the play-reading group performing a short pantomime - Jack and the Beanstalk.

Friday 6 December 6-9pm. Malmesbury **Late Night Shopping**. Shops open late, indoor and outdoor markets, Santa's grotto, choirs and music, best shop window competition. Free parking in the long-stay car park from 6pm.

Sunday 8 December 3.30pm, Malmesbury Abbey. **Christingle**. 'Café-style' service, drinks and snacks, make a Christingle orange to take home. Book online at eventbrite

Wednesday 11 December 7.30-9pm, Malmesbury Town Hall. **Malmesbury WI Christmas party**. All women 18+ welcome. Visitors £5. Email malmesburywi@gmail.com for more info.

Saturday 14 December 3pm & 6pm, Malmesbury Town Hall. **Beauty and the Bees Pantomime**. Free! Book tickets at www.thehope.church/xmas

Hawkesbury Upton Friday 6 December 5.30-8.30pm, Hawkesbury Upton Village Hall. **Christmas Shopping Evening**. Christmas gifts, craft, food and even a pop-up nail bar! Kick-start your Christmas by coming along!

Tetbury

Monday 2 December 6-8pm (doors open 5.45pm), Tetbury Goods Shed. **Christmas wreath-making** with Emma Taylor Roach. Join Emma for a fun, hands-on wreath-making workshop where you'll create a beautiful, personalised wreath for your home. No experience necessary! £55 Book online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/tetbury-goods-shed/t-zzavjdm

Friday 20 December 6.30pm (doors open 6pm), Tetbury Goods Shed. **Community Carols in The Goods Shed**. All are invited to come and enjoy a variety of festive musical performances together with Avening Silver Band and Tetbury Community Choir – as well as joining in with the carol-singing, of course. Afterwards there will be mulled wine and mince pies for everyone to enjoy. An evening for all the family, young and old. Free entry,

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Didmarton Film Club Films shown on the second Friday of the month. Donation of £5 per film. Guests are welcome. Bar available. To join or to become a member of the Film Selection Committee, email jenny.body1@gmail.com.

Movies@Malmesbury Run entirely by volunteers, for schedules, synopses, trailers etc, visit the [MoviesatMalmesbury Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/MoviesatMalmesbury) or go to www.malmesbury.gov.uk/cinema.html

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

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If you are in immediate danger call 999

The public version of Sherston's Emergency Response Plan can be found on the Sherston website: www.sherston.org.uk/application/files/9216/2394/2215/Sherston_Emergency_Plan_March_2024.pdf

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

Useful Information

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

Utilities

ELECTRICITY – SSEPD Power track
To report a problem or for information call 105 www.ssepd.co.uk/Powertrack for a map of faults
0800 072 7282 or 0345 072 1905 from a mobile phone @SSEPD for updates on twitter

WATER – Bristol Water

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

WATER – Wessex water

www.wessexwater.co.uk/Contact-us/
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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 Roz Savage	07808 719881
Sherston Parish Council	01666 800242
Sherston School	01666 840237
Sherston Village Hall (bookings)	07857 657 454
Sherston Co-op PO Stores	01666 840190
Tolsey Surgery	01666 840270
Wiltshire Council	0300 4560100

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