



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MARCH 2025

DELIVERED FREE

Flooding; Impact and Action



**Monday 10 March, 7.00pm, British School Room
£5 on the door, light refreshments available from
6.30pm**

Please join Sustainable Sherston for an evening looking at global climate change, weather impacts and how that translates into very local impacts and actions for Sherston and the Bristol Avon. There will be a speaker panel with opportunities for audience questions.

The evening and audience panel will be chaired by Martin Smith, Wiltshire Councillor for the Sherston Ward. The evening will start with a short film from Cornwall Climate Stories, *Down the Drain*, which resonates strongly with Sherston's concerns. The film will be followed by our speakers: Dr Pete Jeffs, Melissa Hoskins and Richard Skeffington.

Dr Pete Jeffs, an active member of the Design School for Regenerating Earth, will be speaking on 'Resilience in the Bristol Avon Watershed, a microcosm of a worldwide view'. His talk will draw on a session held in Lacock last summer.

Melissa Hoskins of Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) will talk about the practical issues affecting the Bristol Avon catchment area. BART is a charity, delivering education, land and river management advice and practical river restoration work.

Richard Skeffington, a long-time resident of Sherston, leads the Sustainable Sherston river sampling activity and is a former Professor of Physical Geography at Reading University. Richard will discuss how Storm Bert and related flooding affected Sherston.

The evening will conclude with a panel of the speakers taking audience questions.



There's Still Time To Sleep Out

We're getting excited about the sleep out on the Friday 28 March, dusting off our kit and preparing some cheeky steaks to cook under the stars.

We've had an amazing offer from Matt and Charlie at the Rattlebone who have opened their doors to all who want to sleep out in the pub THEN get a free breakfast the next day. The Village Hall field will also be available if you can't camp out in the garden.

We've heard talk that people are going to get involved but you must email Pat to register as he needs to send you funding packs and instructions so please help us be the first village in the country to do this.

Email Pat on pat@starkecreative.co.uk and title your email GTSO

Pat & Dan

We've really got behind Pat and Dan and their Great Tommy Sleep Out Event on the 28 March. We want to get involved and help as many neighbours take part as we can and get the sponsorship money coming in, so we are inviting those that are up for it to come and sleep over at the pub!

If you are sleeping under the stars then we have permission to use the Village Hall field and our gate and doors will be open so you can use our toilets. If you need a roof over your heads then come and bed down in the bar! Bring some bedding and find a cosy corner indoors for the night.

But that's not all. On Saturday morning from 8.00am we are throwing the kitchen doors open for a fabulous breakfast for all. If you've taken part in the sleep out your breakfast is totally free or come in for breakfast and we'll donate the profit from your payment to the funding page. This is an amazing charity event and we want to help as many of you as we can to join in.

Remember you must email Pat to register so that you can get your funding packs and be entitled to the breakfast. pat@starkecreative.co.uk

Matt & Charlie

**Neighbourhood Plan
Have your say - Page 3**



Parish Council Meeting

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13 March at the North Building on 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.

Preschool provision in Sherston

The Parish Council is exploring the proposal to re-open the North Building (on the Recreation Ground, adjacent to the Scout Hut) as a preschool facility and needs to ascertain what requirement there is within Sherston. If you have an interest in preschool provision, please complete the form included with this month's Cliffhanger and return it to the reply box in Sherston Co-op/Post Office before Monday 10 March.

Once all responses are received, the PC will assess the viability of the provision of a preschool facility and, if appropriate, seek a provider.

Cllr Phil Blick

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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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

Please report village maintenance jobs!

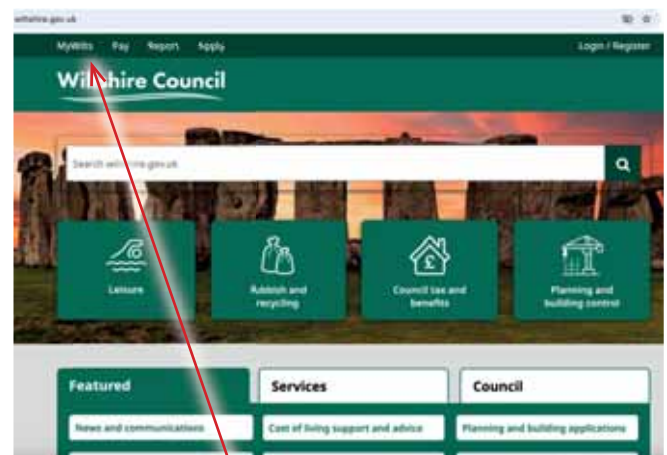


Please help Sherston Parish Council identify maintenance tasks that need doing in our village by notifying the Parish Council's clerk or Wiltshire Council.

The Parish Council's own maintenance crew are responsible for the recreation ground, the play equipment, the sports field and the hedges around our allotments. They also cut back vegetation along our footpaths, and sweep and weed our pavements. Please email our clerk with any jobs on clerk@sherston.org.uk.

Wiltshire Council's responsibilities include our roads, the road hedges and signs, and highways drainage. We are as frustrated as you are about the poor state of our potholed roads which Wiltshire Council struggle to maintain with their constrained highways budget. It's still worth reporting problems to them as they should get to them eventually. Please report issues on Wiltshire Council's website or using the 'MyWilts' application (app).

To report using the Wiltshire Council Website, type Wiltshire Council into your search bar and you should be presented with the following screen:



Click the MyWilts highlighted by the red arrow and it should be pretty straightforward from there.

Alternatively, you can log issues using the MyWilts Application (app) which is available to download on to most smart phones from the Google Play or Apple App Stores.

The MyWilts App allows you to report issues as you come across them, mark the location on its digital map and attach your photos. Thank you for your help.



Sherston Neighbourhood Plan Review: Come along and have your say!

Drop-in event at Sherston Village Hall, Saturday 8 March, 10.00am-4.00pm

Sherston Parish Council is progressing with the next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan Review.

As a reminder, Wiltshire Council's draft Local Plan sets out a housing requirement for Sherston of an additional 87 homes by 2028. Our existing Neighbourhood Plan already contains three allocations which together would deliver 52 homes. These, along with other existing commitments in the village, means the residual still to be planned for is 30 new homes. We are looking to plan for these additional 30 homes as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Review. By allocating additional land for housing in our neighbourhood plan, the community is able to shape development in our village, as well as communicate our expectations and aspirations for where housing should go, what it should look like and what infrastructure would be needed to support it. In order to do this, we have commenced the first step in our site selection process.

A total of 10 sites have been assessed to consider if they would be potentially appropriate for allocation in the Plan. These sites were identified through a 'call for sites' exercise which we undertook over the spring and summer last year, as well as including those on Wiltshire Council's housing land database (known as the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment – SHELAA). This first step involved a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) assessment to determine which sites were not suitable for allocation at the current time due to overriding constraints and those that were potentially suitable for allocation and hence considered worthy of further consideration. The full complement of sites assessed by this method is shown on the map below.

The RAG assessment has concluded that six of these sites are potentially suitable and available but have constraints – some significant – which would need to be overcome if they are to be selected in due course. For the avoidance of doubt, this assessment does not propose to allocate all of these areas of land for development but simply identifies the six potential sites that are to be carried forward to the next stage of the site selection process and subjected to more detailed evaluation. As part of this process, we are seeking to understand where the community's preferred location for development is.

The community views, alongside a more detailed appraisal of each of these sites against the Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives, will inform what land is eventually proposed to be allocated as part of our neighbourhood plan review to meet the residual requirement of 30 dwellings. It is important to highlight that these 30 dwellings do not have to be provided on a single site. It is the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan Review to decide where and how much of any site can be developed to meet the residual requirement.



We are holding a drop-in day on Saturday 8 March, 10.00am-4.00pm, in Sherston Village Hall where the results of the above-mentioned assessment will be presented, and where you will have the opportunity to speak to members of the Working Party and the appointed planning consultants. All of this information, including the methodology and full details of the site assessments will be available on the Parish Council website from the Saturday 8 March: sherston.org.uk/sherston-neighbourhood-plan/

We would welcome the views of all members of the community on these emerging proposals. To have your say please fill out our survey by following the link below or alternatively scan the QR code (the survey will be open between Saturday 8 March and Sunday 6 April). forms.office.com/e/JzC1z3zMm3



This is only the first step in our detailed site selection process. Your views will inform the next steps!

We would encourage everyone to get involved in the Neighbourhood Plan Review process. So please, if you have the time, do come along to the drop-in event on Saturday 8 March and speak to the members of the neighbourhood plan Working Party and/or our consultants to find out more.

At the event, we will also be seeking your comments and assistance on three additional potential policy areas for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan Review. These are:

- What additional areas of Local Green Space should be protected?
- Are there any key views across the Parish that you feel should be protected and retained?
- Are there any buildings, places, or monuments that you think should be protected for future generations and identified as a local heritage asset?

Please come along between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Saturday 8 March to get involved and have your say.

Replacement large black and gold Bins



The Parish Council has provided new larger black and gold bins which are multipurpose – they are at Tanners Hill and the entrance to Manor Close. They replace the separate bins that were for rubbish and dog poo.

Free bare-root trees: Sunday 2 March!



Sustainable Sherston will be at the allotments from 10.00am until 11.00am on Sunday 2 March, ready to dig up bare-root trees, free to gardeners. An excellent opportunity to plant a tree or start a hedge.

We will have hazels, wild cherry, viburnum opulus, lantana (wayfaring tree), hornbeam and silver birch. Look for the Sustainable Sherston flag!

Tolsey News



Practice Nurse

We are saddened to announce that our Practice Nurse, Sam Gallagher, is leaving The Tolsey at the end of March.

She is taking on a new role at a larger practice in Stroud. Sam, who lives in the village, has been a very popular head of the Tolsey nursing team and will be greatly missed by her patients and colleagues. We wish Sam all the very best for her new role. We will have details of our new nurse next month.

Private vs NHS

Due to some lengthy delays in NHS waiting times for hospital appointments, it is sadly not surprising that many patients are choosing to go private instead. However, many are then left frustrated and upset when they have to pay for a private prescription as they feel they should be able to get it from their GP. The NHS has very clear guidance about this and states that any new treatment recommended by a private consultant must be issued by them. Once the patient is stabilised on the medication then the prescription can transfer to the NHS GP. We have had several instances recently where patients have become quite irate as they were not aware of this policy.

Remembering Anthony Neal



A memorial service is taking place on Saturday 15 March at 12.00 noon at the Holy Cross Church in Sherston for Anthony Neal, fondly known as Tony, who sadly passed away in December last year age 82 years old. Afterwards there will be a celebration of his life at Sherston Village Hall from 1.00pm with refreshments and music. All are welcome to the service and celebration.

Tony was Sherston born and bred, he played for Sherston Football Club, and he had a building firm on the High Street which sponsored the team at the time. If anyone would like to make a donation to the Football Club in his memory, donations will be collected on the day, or alternatively please contact Harry Andrews, the current Chairman, via sherstontownfootballclub@gmail.com or use this QR code:

If you need any further information, please email Sam via celebratetony@yahoo.com or call 07855 440648.



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Our Precious Countryside Gone Forever

Goss Croft Hall in Upper Seagry had standing room only on Monday 3 February for a meeting hosted by the Stop Lime Down steering committee – just as full as it had been in Sherston Village Hall two days earlier.

Many in the audience had been aware of the Lime Down Solar proposal, but the details outlined by the speakers, Sir Mike Pitt, (former Chair and Chief Executive of the Planning Inspectorate), and Professor Richard Skeffington, (an environmental scientist and hydrology expert) left them stunned, shocked and outraged.

The meeting was one of four in the week hosted by Stop Lime Down to update local residents on the solar scheme and to explain how to tackle the consultation feedback questionnaire.

Sir Mike Pitt set out the timetable explaining that we are at the second consultation stage in Q1 2025 where Lime Down developers are holding local meetings to brief residents and take feedback. It would also be an opportunity for residents to ask them questions. Then follows the developers' formal application to the Planning Inspectorate, and then a lengthy examination of the application, after which it is either recommended or rejected by the Planning Inspector to Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy, Security and Net Zero. However, of most concern to all is that Ed Miliband has recently approved schemes that the Planning Inspectorate have rejected. It is his prerogative but alarming just the same.

Of even bigger concern to residents attending was Richard Skeffington's presentation regarding the solar panels themselves – up to 4.5m high, that is the size of a double-decker bus, and a huge banner was displayed to bring this height to life. Panels, usually static, are planned to be tracking, moving with the sun with accompanying noise. And will any hedges grow 4.5m high to screen them?

Other noise worries will be from conversion units, 130 in the scheme, each the size of seven shipping containers, with cooling fans creating noise, hum and water run-off. On top of this will be 33 kV substations, 25 of them 4m high and 3x 132kV substations 7m high covering 9000m², but these are nothing compared with the huge battery storage unit at Hullavington, 13m high and covering 42,500 m².

The construction will take two years, with the destruction of hedgerows as tracks are widened, and the subsequent compaction and contamination of



soil as up to 104 HGV are due to be visiting the site daily, let alone the 500 workers travelling there in buses and cars. Questions were raised as to the suitability of our country lanes for this influx.

Richard also briefed the meeting on the cable routes between the 5 sites and the link to Melksham (as wide as a football pitch) and pondered whether once the cables are in place there would be additional solar panel development to capitalise on the installation. He mentioned the flooding issue caused by so much concrete and hard surfaces affecting the delicate nature of the Gauzebrook and the Avon, recently experienced in local flooding after storm Bert.

A number of residents were quick to raise their concerns at the end of the presentation. What about safeguarding food production on our good agricultural land? What will happen to the sites after decommissioning – further development on a brownfield site? How can MP's be lobbied to turn against such irresponsible developments? Is solar suitable? - no, the UK is the second lowest country in the world suitable for solar energy. Why not rooftops, not on land? Who gains from this development? - well the landowners, eventually, but the overall profit will go abroad and the electricity to the general grid, not locally. Tourism and landscape were flagged as an issue as the sites will be seen from a distance – Chipping Sodbury to Minety and in clear view of Malmesbury.

Understandably there were many more questions to be answered but the meeting was brought to a close by Hugh Roche who encouraged, nay exhorted anyone with concerns to attend the Lime Down meetings in February, ask questions and then list their concerns on their feedback questionnaire – to 'have your say'. The consultation period ends on Wednesday 19 March.

by a resident of Rodbourne

VE Day 80th Anniversary: Thursday 8 May



On 8 May 1945, World War II ended in Europe and has henceforth been celebrated as Victory in Europe (VE) Day. This year, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of that momentous occasion and Sherston will hold a series of events to mark it, sponsored by Sherston Parish Council and supported by the Church of the Holy Cross. Plans are still developing, but from 9.00am, a special VE Day flag will be flown from the church tower. There will be a (self-catered) picnic for all on the village hall field from 3.30pm (the village hall will be the alternate wet-weather venue). At 9.15pm, the church bells will ring out and a specially written tribute will be read at the lychgate, followed by the lighting of a beacon on the church tower at 9.30pm, along with beacons all over the country. Residents are invited to put lanterns in their doorways or windows that evening too.

We also thought that it would be lovely if there are any residents in the village who would like to share their experiences/memories of the war period, either during the village hall event or at a separate session that Sherston Primary School is very keen to arrange. If you would be interested, require further information about the day itself, or have any other suggestions you would like 'us' to consider, please contact Kevin Noble at kevnoble7@gmail.com. Further details of national celebrations can be found at veday80.org.uk

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Boules Festival 2025



This year's Boules Tournament will be held on Saturday 12 July.

Local Teams (limited to Sherston and adjoining parish postcodes) will be able to enter from Sunday 23 March, while teams wishing to enter the Open Tournament will be able to register from Sunday 30 March – both via the website www.sherstonboules.org.

In response to feedback from last year, we are pleased to announce that this year we will be running timed games which will provide all teams with close to one hour to complete each timed match. As usual all first round losers will automatically be eligible to enter the plate competition, subject to conditions.

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Charlton Village Hall 10am-11am and Badminton Memorial Hall 6pm-7pm
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The Rattlebone Boules League



Once again, on a cold February evening, members of the Rattlebone Boules League gathered at the pub for an evening of food and festivities. The annual prize-giving event is an opportunity to celebrate the successes of those teams that came in the top three of their league, as well as to look forward to the new season.

We're hoping for a warmer and drier start than last year, where many games were rained off and teams sought refuge in the pub whilst cochonnets floated around water logged pistes. It was also a challenge trying to layer up against the cold whilst still maintaining sufficient movement and flexibility to play! But we all battled on with some teams fairing better than others.



League 1 winners, 'The Youngsters' captained by Liam Moriarty, won on points difference with the top three teams all winning 11 of their 15 games. James Harmer's 'Bouled Over' edged into second place, just two shots ahead of Bob Morris's team 'The Boulesdowners'.

In League 2, 'Piste Artistes', captained by Nathan Elphic, won by a significant margin and, in fact, this recently promoted team accrued the highest number of winning shots of any team in the entire league! Certainly ones to watch in 2025.



League three winners were 'The Taters' led by Harry Andrews - Harry and the team were obviously able to transfer their skills from the pitch to the piste!

Finally, we had the Tribute Trophy, played in memory of Tony Towle. The semi-final and final matches were all played on a dark and wet evening at the end of October with 'The Bungers', captained by Kevin Smith, beating Gwen Knight's 'Les Chevaliers'. Well done!

We are, as always, grateful for the support of the Rattlebone and, in particular Jason, who has supported the league for many years, maintaining the pistes and hosting our prize-giving events. We would also like to thank Matt and Charlie, who have already shown a lot of enthusiasm and willingness to help, even before the season starts!

And of course, a huge gratitude goes to Graham Hayman for his remarkable organisational skills, scheduling over 700 games without a clash and keeping the season running smoothly!

We look forward to the new season starting on Monday 7 April and wish you sunny and dry days on the piste!





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SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4 March. Speaker: Tricia Lawrence on 'Year-round interest in a small garden'

Cuttings

At our February meeting, we welcomed a most entertaining speaker who combined enormous enthusiasm with extensive knowledge. Adam Alexander (aka The Seed Detective) has more experience of sourcing and growing vegetables from seed than you can shake a gardening stake at. He was generous with both his time and packets of his own seeds which members could buy for a small fee at the end. Let's hope we get close to the quality and quantity of his healthy crops.

On 4 March, we're delighted that member Tricia Lawrence will be sharing her experiences of creating a delightful walled garden in the village. Tricia had to barrow everything (plants, compost and detritus) through the house to develop the garden when she moved in several years ago. Her skill at planning for year-round colour and interest has impressed hundreds of visitors during Sherston Open Gardens each June.

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

SHERSTON DRAMA GROUP

Fancy a night of great entertainment close to home? Then look no further because Sherston Drama Group will be performing 'Rumours', a hilarious comedy by Neil Simon, in Sherston Village Hall between Wednesday 9 and Saturday 12 April!

When Ken and Chris arrive at an anniversary party, they're surprised to find their host Charley, a prominent Government official, in his bedroom too dazed to speak with a bullet hole in his ear lobe! To deepen the mystery, Charley's wife Vivian is nowhere to be seen. This riotously funny play explores the challenges and comforts of relationships as the four couples invited to the party attempt to piece together what has happened and work out how to spare their hosts - and themselves - from scandal.

Tickets (£10/£8.50 concessions) will be on sale from Monday 10 March from Sherston Co-op (cash or cheque) or on TicketSource (ticketsource.co.uk/sherston-drama-group, booking fee applies).

for the month and friendly chat over homemade refreshments.

New members are always welcome. Cost (for now) is £15 single, £25 joint, U18s free. We communicate with members via a monthly newsletter, on the sherston.net website and on our SGC Facebook page. Our Secretary can be contacted at sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Community

Daffodils are starting to poke up all over the place where our committee planted last year – in the troughs outside the Post Office, by the Jubilee Tree and beneath the welcome gates on the outskirts. It won't be long before they are followed by splashes of richly coloured tulips from April onwards.

Calendar

Our first jolly 2025 coach trip will be on 8 May. Morton Hall's stunning tulip displays have received widespread media attention, including a feature on BBC Gardener's World in 2024. Now in its sixth year, there are over 100 varieties to drool over in pots, raised beds and borders. There may still be a few seats left on the coach so it's worth asking at the meeting or contacting our Secretary direct.



A corner of the stunning gardens at Morton Hall near Redditch, Worcs.

Coming up

Tuesday 1 April: AGM and postponed talk on Capability Brown by Hugh Vaux

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

Thursday 8 May: Trip to Morton Hall, Worcestershire, for Tulip Festival



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Sherston School News

Sherston Primary: A community at its heart

At Sherston Primary School, we are incredibly fortunate to be part of such a vibrant and supportive community. This connection enriches our school in countless ways, thanks to the generosity and talent of parents and local helpers who share their time and skills with us. One standout contributor is Judith Parkyn, a professional photographer who has been capturing the essence of our school for several months now.



Judith's exceptional photography has chronicled many special moments - from our dazzling staged performances to the warmth of Christmas lunches and the reverence of our church services. Most recently, she joined us for our Humanities week, where she brought her creative vision to document the excitement and wonder of the event. Despite her busy schedule, Judith consistently finds time to support our school, and we are deeply grateful for her dedication and artistry. Her photographs truly reflect the joy and energy that make our school such a special place. We encourage our community to explore Judith's work further by visiting her website at www.judithparkynphotography.co.uk.

Around the World and Back in Time: A humanities adventure

This term, we embarked on a spectacular humanities-themed week: Around the World and Back in Time. Designed to spark a love of geography and history, the week was packed with engaging activities that brought learning to life for our children.

The festivities kicked off with a historical fashion show where children and staff donned costumes representing famous historical figures and eras. The creativity on display set the tone for an exciting week ahead. Throughout the week, children participated in hands-on activities, including a mystery artefact day that challenged them to explore and deduce the



origins of intriguing historical objects.

We were thrilled to host a workshop led by the Cotswold Archaeology team, who introduced the children to the fascinating world of archaeology through practical demonstrations and activities. The week culminated in a vibrant celebration of cultural heritage with dance workshops. The children learned traditional dances from around the world and showcased their new-found skills in a lively performance.

A huge thank you goes to Miss Harrison whose meticulous planning and passion ensured the success of this unforgettable week. Her dedication brought history and geography to life, inspiring curiosity and enthusiasm in every child.

Our grounds and beyond: Thank you Mr Brown

Our learning environment is as unique as our approach to education, and much of this is thanks to the tireless efforts of Mr Brown. His commitment



to maintaining and enhancing our school grounds ensures that our children have a beautiful, safe and inspiring place to learn and grow.

Recently, Mr Brown undertook the Herculean task of moving over 150 wheelbarrow-loads of wood chips left outside the school. Whether he's painting, mending or reimagining our spaces, his work always prioritises the needs and comfort of our children. From sawing bookshelves to make them more accessible to repurposing furniture for practical use, his thoughtful touch is evident throughout our school.

Mr Brown's dedication reminds us that every detail matters when creating an environment that fosters learning and joy. We are deeply grateful for his hard work and the care he pours into making Sherston Primary not just a school, but a home for creativity and exploration.



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Drew Bryant 29th March



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**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

Sherston Senior Club

We started off the year with a return of the Jaybirds Singing Group, much enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting was quite different. Under the heading 'Social time', members played Scrabble, Cat bingo and other board games.

On Tuesday 4 February, Mike Tarrant gave us an excellent talk on his involvement with the Air Training Corps. Mike joined at age 14 and is still a member today.

He has been involved with training the cadets for most of his adult life, giving many hours of his time to encourage young people to make the best of their hidden talents.

Looking forward: Tuesday 4 March: AGM followed by a quiz and bingo

Tuesday 18 March: Commander Andrew Benford talking about his life in submarines

We are an informal club and welcome any age providing they are over 16. For more information, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

Bath Textile Artists Exhibition at Yate Heritage Centre

Many people who just think of Yate as a shopping centre will not know that there is a Heritage Centre, tucked away next to the very pretty parish church.

From Tuesday 4 March until Saturday 29 March, Yate Heritage Centre will host an exhibition, 'Pieces of Yate', by Bath Textile Artists, which includes members from Sherston and Luckington, using Yate and its surroundings as inspiration.

Opening hours (free entry) are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.00am-4.00pm and Saturday 10.00am-3.00pm. 'Pieces of Yate',

Check details on the Yate Heritage Centre website (www.yatetowncouncil.gov.uk/heritage-centre) or www.bathtextileartists.com.

Boogie with the Mayor 2025

Saturday 22 March, Malmesbury Town Hall, 7.30pm-11.30pm

Gonna be a big one - two of the best party bands around (The Mighty Soul Destroyers and The Arkansaw Jukebox) supporting the Mayor of Malmesbury's annual charity fundraising appeal.

All you have you do is come down for a beer and a boogie with your mates - all profits to the 2025 Mayoral Charity Appeal

For more info and tickets: <https://boogie-with-the-mayor-25.eventbrite.co.uk>

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Sherston Velo Time Trial Series 2025



It's like Parkrun for bikes! The Sherston Velo Time Trial (TT) Series returns for 2025 with more events and more courses - come and try it. Challenge yourself to set a new best time or compete for the course record: it's a great midweek workout in a friendly environment hosted by your local cycling club.

After our season opening sprint event on Thursday 27 March, events will be held on the first Thursday of each month from April to September. All you need to take part is a bike with working front and rear lights and an approved cycling helmet. Events this year are at distances from five miles to 14 miles.

Scan the QR code or visit www.sherstonvelo.cc/timetrials to find out more.



Our TT series is run under Cycling Time Trials regulations and is compliant with the Road Traffic Act 1988 and the Cycle Racing on Highways regulations 1960, including notifying the relevant local police forces. Sherston Velo is a British Cycling and Cycling Time Trials affiliated club.

Entry: non-members £5 per event, members £3. Open to riders aged 16 and over. (Note: Under-18s parental/guardian consent required – email us for details: info@sherstonvelo.cc)

Sherston Velo TT Series 2025

Date	Distance	Event HQ	Registration opens	First rider starts
Thu 27 Mar	5.5 miles	Sherston Village Hall car park	6.00pm	6.30pm
Thu 3 Apr	10 miles	Sherston Village Hall car park	6.15pm	7.00pm
Thu 1 May	10 miles	Sherston Village Hall car park	“ “	“ “
Thu 5 Jun	10 miles	Sherston Village Hall car park	“ “	“ “
Thu 3 Jul	14 miles	Knockdown (TBC)	“ “	“ “
Thu 7 Aug	10 miles	Sherston Village Hall car park	“ “	“ “
Thu 4 Sep	10 miles	Sherston Village Hall car park	“ “	“ “

Martin's Tour Aotearoa Bike-packing challenge

Hi, I'm Martin Weaver. As you read this, I will have already started on my toughest cycling challenge yet! An event that involves cycling mainly off-road from the northernmost tip of New Zealand to the southernmost tip of New Zealand, whilst carrying everything I need and camping every night.

The event - The Tour Aoteraoa is a 3,000km cycling odyssey, with around 100,000 ft of ascent, following a set route and taking no less than 10 days and no more than 30 days.

I started on Saturday 22 February and I'm aiming to complete the ride in around 24 days

Whilst doing this ride, I am also aiming to raise £4,500 for a local charity www.healsmalmesbury.co.uk/ to send 21 local children from disadvantaged backgrounds on a summer camp.

This camp enables the children and young people to do activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able



to experience and helps them thrive into adulthood.

If you would like to support me and give these young people a chance to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience, please donate here: localgiving.org/fundraising/TA-Bike-packing-challenge

Many thanks for your support *Martin*



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Sherston Living Churchyard



It was once again cold and grey for our February meeting, but we are a hardy bunch and were out there raking cut grass, tidying and preparing the churchyard for the growth to come. Now that a lot of the grass is short, it is easy to see the mounds of the yellow meadow ant on the west side of the churchyard. These ants are only found in the unworked grassland of ancient meadows and churchyards, a habitat which is becoming ever rarer. With 8,000-40,000 ants in each hill, they are a valuable food source for certain birds such as green woodpeckers. The ant hills also offer sites for particular small plants and mosses to grow because they offer warmer and drier soil than the surrounding sward

Are you a dog or cat owner? Do you use a flea treatment which is applied directly to the animal's fur? Scientists at the University of Sussex have just reported research (in Science of the Total Environment) that showed that all of 103 blue tit and great tit nests sampled, which are lined with animal fur, were contaminated by these treatments. Two pesticides banned from agricultural use in the UK are still widely, and legally, used by vets to treat dogs and cats. The study found a higher number of unhatched eggs and dead chicks in the nests with the greatest contamination. These chemicals have already been proven to be present in UK watercourses and to affect life there. What can you do about this? Ask your vet if routine treatment is necessary or if it could be less frequent. If you brush your animal outside clear up the fur so birds do not pick it up as a nesting material. Apparently it has previously been suggested that leaving this fur out for birds to collect would be helpful to them but this research has shown that it is actually killing them.

Our churchyard is very easily accessible and many people walk through it every day. If you haven't done so recently, do go and look at everything that has been achieved over the past year. We will be back there from 9.30am on Saturday 1 March. Would you like to help with our churchyard project? Have you got any knowledge or skills that could help bring success? If so, do please get in touch. More volunteers would increase what we can do and support our overall vision to 'Make Holy Cross churchyard a haven on earth for people and wildlife'.

The first plant sale of 2025 will run from Saturday 1 until Thursday 6 March by the church porch. Bring and buy good-value plants with all proceeds to Sherston Living Churchyard funds.

Sue Robinson jimandsue4@btinternet.com
Tricia Lawrence pjlawrence46@gmail.com

Sherston Arts Festival

A long way ahead, but you may like to put in your diary the dates for this year's Arts Festival: Friday 7 to Sunday 16 November. Some really good things have already been booked so make sure you don't miss it!

Wessex Concert Orchestra Spring Concert

Wessex Concert Orchestra is returning to Malmesbury Abbey on Saturday 29 March at 7.30pm for their Spring Concert entitled 'Courage and Honour'.

A stirring concert is in store, including: Sibelius – Finlandia, Barber's Adagio for Strings, two film music favourites - Band of Brothers and Hymn to the Fallen - and the fantastic Borodin Symphony No. 2. Tickets available from wco.org.uk - £14 adult, £12 concession.

British Heart Foundation: Thank you!



On Saturday 25 January, 80 whist players - from far and wide - enjoyed a very sociable afternoon of cards with a fantastic tea at half-time and wonderful prizes. This annual fundraising Whist Drive, held in Kington Langley Village Hall, raised an amazing £1,391.01. Your ongoing and generous support of the local British Heart Foundation Committee is much appreciated.

Thank you so much; we couldn't do it without you!
Dorothy Ings, British Heart Foundation,
Chippenham Branch

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The Easter Bunny is coming to The Rattlebone!

Spring is in the air, and Easter is just around the corner! We're thrilled to invite all families to The Rattlebone Inn for a FREE Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, 20 April.

The fun kicks off at 10.00am and runs until 11.00am, giving little egg hunters plenty of time to search high and low for hidden chocolate treasures. And we've got some exciting news... we've tracked down the Easter Bunny himself, and he's confirmed he'll be hopping over to join in the fun!

To make the morning even more special, we'll be serving a delicious Easter Breakfast from 8:00am to 10.00am, so families can fuel up before the big hunt.

This is a community event for everyone, so whether you're bringing the kids, grandkids, or just fancy soaking up the Easter spirit, we can't wait to see you there... and neither can the Easter Bunny.

Sherston Open Gardens Weekend

Calling all keen gardeners! Give yourself a goal to get your garden in shape for the weekend of 7 June and help to make this fundraiser for your local church a great success. Even if you just like to be a spectator, put this date in your diary. More details next month.

Small plates dining launching on 12th March



We are excited to introduce a new social dining concept to Grey's. Executive Chef Ricki Weston has created a sharing-style menu to ignite a sense of adventure and bring an opportunity to enjoy a wider range of culinary experiences from his talented team. Share, discover and delight in every bite!

Combining global inspiration with a dedication to fresh British ingredients. Dishes are in four different categories; Earth, Land, Sea and Delights, with each dish telling a story of flavour and craftsmanship.

Scan the QR code to view the menu and for more details. Book online, email reservations@whatleymanor.com or call 01666 822 888







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whatleymanor.com



New Club: Sing-along a Sunday School Song



Every Saturday, British School Room/ Congregational Church, 10.00am-11.00am, from 1 March until the end of May. For all ages, nought to ninety+!

Thank you so much to those who have encouraged and donated towards costs. I now know I won't be singing alone, and that many of you LOVE most of the songs listed last month ...

There are also some fabulous new ones sung now at primary schools by organisations like Out of the Ark Music and iSingPOP!, so we will learn some of those on the big screen as well.

Toddlers toys, floor cushions and mats, tables of Lego, and tea, coffee and squash will await singers or listeners – you can just come to watch and laugh if you like!

I look forward to seeing you!

Mary Clements



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I Would Love to Sing & Play

Sunday School Songs and those much loved in Junior Assemblies - So I am going to sing as LOUDLY as possible on Saturday mornings from 1st March 2025 (10am to 11am)

Do Join Me If You Can in the British Schoolroom where: "Even Two of us Could Raise The Roof". All ages welcome from nought to ninety (with a parent of guardian).

Enjoy- Tea & Coffee/Toddlers Toys

"Give me Joy in my Heart, keep me singing", "This Little Light of Mine", "Lord of the Dance" and, many, many more.

♥ Mary Clements.

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Extension of Athelstan Pilgrim Way set for spring launch

Saturday 5 April will mark the launch of an additional 30-mile section of the Athelstan Pilgrim Way, a free environmentally friendly walking route linking the historic churches of North Wiltshire. The pilgrimage route, which is a Church of England initiative, will eventually extend to around 100 miles. The first 35-mile section was launched at Malmesbury Abbey in June 2024, with a talk by historian and broadcaster Tom Holland as part of the Athelstan 1100 celebrations. The new section includes a further 12 churches in the Woodbridge and Draycot benefices and is located between Malmesbury and Chippenham.

The launch event will take place at St Peter & St Paul Church, Great Somerford (SN15 5HZ) on Saturday 5 April at 2.30pm, with a talk by writer, environmentalist and broadcaster Martin Palmer. Martin co-founded the internationally renowned Alliance of Religions and Conservation with HRH Prince Philip, and is also the author of Sacred Land. Martin will talk on 'Walking Gently: From Sacred Land to Storied Churches'.

The launch event will include a performance by Malmesbury Choir, and an exhibition of photographic artwork by our artist in residence, Sheona Beaumont. Malmesbury Choir was established in 2014 and has entertained audiences mainly in the Malmesbury Abbey or Malmesbury Town Hall ever since. Sheona's six-month residency on the Athelstan Pilgrim Way will explore the relationship between faith and the landscape through visual art. She will introduce her work with a short talk, and the church will be open from 1.30pm for refreshments and an opportunity to view the artwork.

Tickets for the event, priced £15 (children £5), will be available from the Athelstan 1100 website (<https://athelstan1100.co.uk/>) from 10 March. Free parking will be available opposite the church.

Following the launch, there will be an organised 1.5-mile walk to the church of St James the Great, Dauntsey, where there will be a short talk by Carole Britton, author of Past Present Presence: The Companion



Guide, which follows the journeys of Hilary Peters, who inspired the Athelstan Pilgrim Way.

An extended 10-mile pilgrimage walk on the morning of Saturday 5 April is also being run in partnership with the Diocese of Bristol's Rhythm of Life initiative. This will begin at Malmesbury Abbey in time for arrival at Great Somerford by 1.30pm. Rhythm of Life is a year-long exploration of devotional Christian practices, including pilgrimage, with contributions from the Bishop of Bristol and the Bishop of Swindon.

On Sunday 6 April, there will be a pilgrimage walk from All Saints Church, Sutton Benger (SN15 4RP) at 2.00pm. This will be a circular walk, calling in at All Saints Church, Christian Malford, and returning to Sutton Benger by around 4.30pm for a short optional pilgrimage service.

Contact: Area Dean, Rev Steve Wilkinson, rector@woodbridgegroup.co.uk

www.athelstanpilgrimway.org

www.facebook.com/athelstanpilgrimway

Malmesbury Choir Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/MalmesburyChoir/

Sheona Beaumont, artist website:

www.shospace.co.uk

Diocese of Bristol, Rhythm of Life programme:

www.bristol.anglican.org/churchlife/

resourcesforparishes/rhythm-of-life/

Roll up, roll up – time to join the 300+ Club to win big cash prizes!

Please complete this form and return it in an envelope to the Co-op/Sherston Post Office. There will be 10 draws over the year starting in March with big cash prizes, plus a generous Christmas bonus to

a lucky winner. Half the money collected is distributed as cash prizes and the rest goes to help running Sherston Village Hall.



I/We* would like to join/renew membership of the 300+ Club for 2025 and will pay £ (£10 per person) by:

Cash Cheque made payable to Sherston Village Hall

Bank Transfer to Lloyds Bank Sort Code: 30-12-04, Account No. 01406463.

Please use the first line of your address as a reference.

Name(s): _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

For help/queries, please contact Nic Riley (07768 603160) or Jeanna Ind (07887 853476)

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.

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 Nic Riley (07768 603160) or Jeanna Ind (07887 853476)

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 If you would like to book the British School Room for any event, please contact our Administrator (Alicja Clark): alicjaclark@gmail.com

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 07979 702869 or Tanya.Burgess@sherston.org.uk 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 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

An excellent practice to develop whole body strength & flexibility whilst calming the mind. (NB. you don't need to be flexible to do this class!) Fri 10.15-11.30am Sherston Village Hall. For a free trial, contact Stuart 07986 003602 stuart@pulse4life.co.uk www.pulse4life.co.uk

Exercise for over-60s with Synchronicity

Exercise and Movement for over-60s 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

A fun, total body workout in the outdoors for all levels. Fridays 8.55-9.50am Sherston Rec. For a free trial, contact Stuart 07986 003602 stuart@pulse4life.co.uk 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 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

Women's Yoga Circle

A gentle and strengthening yoga class for women followed by tea and chocolate. Wednesdays 7.30pm-9pm North Building. Book online: roseseedsalchemy.com £15 drop in/ £11 block booking.

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 sherstonshooters@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=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](http://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@clairesandars.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/areaboards

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.

WHAT'S ON

Sherston

Saturday 1 March 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.

Saturday 1 March-Thursday 6 March Holy Cross Church porch. Sherston Living Churchyard. **Plant sale**. Bring and buy good-value plants with all proceeds to Sherston Living Churchyard funds.

Saturday 1 March 10.00am-11.00am, British School Room/ Congregational Church. **Sing-along a Sunday School Song**. For all ages, 0 to 90+!

Sunday 2 March 10.00am until 11.00am, Sherston allotments. **Free bare-root trees!** Hazels, wild cherry, viburnum opulus, lantana (wayfaring tree), hornbeam and silver birch available. Look for the Sustainable Sherston flag!

Monday 3 March 12noon-2pm, British School Room. **Sherston Churches Together Soup Lunch**. All welcome. Free but donations encouraged!

Tuesday 4 March 2.00pm, British School Room. **Sherston Senior Club meeting**. AGM followed by a quiz and bingo. We are an informal club and welcome anyone 16+. For more information, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

Tuesday 4 March 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, British School Room. **Sherston Gardening Club**. Speaker: Tricia Lawrence on 'Year-round interest in a small garden'. New members are always welcome. Cost is £15 single, £25 joint, U18s free. Contact our secretary for more info: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Thursday 6 March 10am-12noon, Holy Cross Church. **EcoCafé**. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, with recycled cards and Fairtrade items for sale. Play area for small children.

Saturday 8 March 10.00am-4.00pm, Sherston Village Hall. Sherston **Neighbourhood Plan Review**. Drop-in event. Come along and have your say!

Monday 10 March, 7.00pm (light refreshments available from 6.30pm), British School Room.

Flooding; Impact and Action. Join Sustainable Sherston to look at global climate change and weather, and the impact for Sherston and the Bristol Avon. Speaker panel with opportunities for audience questions. Tickets: £5 on the door.

Thursday 13 March [7.00pm], North Building (on the Rec). **Sherston Parish Council Meeting**.

All welcome - 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.

Tuesday 18 March 2.00pm, British School Room. **Sherston Senior Club meeting**. Commander Andrew Benford talking about his life in submarines. We are an informal club and welcome

anyone 16+. For more information, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

Thursday 27 March, 6.15pm registration, 6.30pm first rider, Sherston Village Hall car park. **Sherston Velo Time Trial Series 2025**. Distance: 5.5 miles. Entry: non-members £5 per event, members £3. Open to riders aged 16+. (Note: Under-18s parental/guardian consent required – email us for details: info@sherstonvelo.cc)

Friday 28 March, 8.00pm (until 8.00am Saturday 29 March). Various locations including The Rattlebone and Village Hall Field. **The Great Tommy Sleep Out..** Charity fundraiser event. For more info and to get involved, contact Pat on pat@starkecreative.co.uk and title your email GTSO.

Malmesbury

Friday 7 March 7pm-10pm, Malmesbury Town Hall. **Bingo Night**. In support of St Aldhelm's Catholic Church Parish Hall Fund. Bar available. Awesome raffle prizes to be won! Tickets: £10 (game cards free). Contact Gabrielle on 838391 or David on 07515 494359.

Saturday 8 until Wednesday 26 March 9.00am-5.00pm, John Bowen Gallery. **Curiosity in Colour exhibition**. Nicola Hawkins.

Wednesday 12 March 7.30pm-9.00pm, The Assembly Room, Malmesbury Town Hall. Malmesbury WI meeting. **'Malmesbury Voices'** by Bill Reed. All women 18+ welcome. Visitors: £5. For more info, email: malmesburywi@gmail.com

Friday 14 until Monday 17 March opening hours vary, Rausing Building. Athelstan Museum presents **Malmesbury Station in 1930**. The model, the slideshow, the sounds, the stories. Free entry.

Saturday 15 March 10.30am-4.00pm, Malmesbury Town Hall. Malmesbury **Big Athelstan Dig**. Come and see the finds on display. Free entry.

Friday 21 March Doors open 6.30pm, starts 7.00pm-10.00pm, Malmesbury Town Hall. **Malmesbury & District Twinning Association Quiz Night**. Bar and raffle. Teams of up to 6 people. £10 per person (includes light supper). Tickets from Malmesbury Tourist Information Centre or twinningtreasurer2025@gmail.com

Saturday 22 March Doors open 7.00pm, starts 7.30pm, King's Arms. **1960s Nostalgia Night** with The Bren Jones Big Band. An evening of jazz and swing music. Tickets: £15 from bjbb.org.uk

Thursday 27 March 10.00am-12.00noon, Malmesbury Town Hall. Malmesbury & District u3a monthly meeting. Speaker Sarah Slater on **'Working with the Ghosts of Hampton Court Palace'**. Sarah is a Guide Lecturer and Blue Badge Tourist Guide and has worked for Historic Royal Palaces since 2008. She is qualified as a Blue Badge guide for the whole of the South

Central region and is also a White Badge guide for Hampton Court Palace. Her foundations are in acting and she was theatrically trained before pursuing a 23 year career in Finance. Non-members are welcome. 50p donation.

Sunday 29 March 7.30pm, Malmesbury Abbey. Wessex Concert Orchestra Spring Concert. Entitled **'Courage and Honour'**, a stirring concert is in store. Tickets: £14 adult, £12 concession, available from wco.org.uk.

Tetbury

Saturday 1 March Doors open 7.30pm, starts 8.00pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Spring Comedy Club**. Licensed bar. Suitable for 18+. Tickets £13.50 (under-25s £10). Booking fee applies. www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Wednesday 5 March 2.00pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Afternoon Music with Lyn Briggs**. Tickets £3.50. Booking fee applies. www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Thursday 6 March 7.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. National Theatre Live: **The Importance of Being Earnest**. Tickets £15. Booking fee applies. www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Sunday 9 March 6.00pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Reelin' in the Dan**. The sights and sounds of Steely Dan as you've never experienced before. Tickets £20. Booking fee applies. www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Thursday 13 March 7.00pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. Shed Screening: **Conclave (12A)**. Tickets £7.50. Booking fee applies. www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Wednesday 26 March 10.00am, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Paws for thought - meet Ratty's family**. Playtime Theatre for pre-schoolers and their families. Tickets £5. Booking fee applies. www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Saturday 29 March 7.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Coco Tomita & Simon Callaghan**. Celebrated Japanese violinist Coco joins with pianist Simon in an evening of Debussy, Prokofiev and Beethoven. Tickets £24. Booking fee applies. www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Little Somerford

Saturday 8 March 10.00am-4.00pm, Little Somerford Hall. Malmesbury Textile Group Workshop **'Monastery Tiles'**. Members £35, non-members £45. To book a place or for more info, contact Ruth Vaughan: r.vaughan56@btinternet.com

Yate

Tuesday 4 March until Saturday 29 March 10.00am-4.00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 10.00am-3.00pm Saturday, Yate Heritage Centre. **'Pieces of Yate'** by Bath Textile Artists, which includes members from Sherston and Luckington. Further details on the Yate

Heritage Centre website (www.yatetowncouncil.gov.uk/heritage-centre) or www.bathtextileartists.com. Free entry.

Music, Cinema and Theatre

Theatre Royal Bath

Tel 01225 448844 www.theatreroyal.org.uk

The Barn Theatre, Cirencester

Until Saturday 15 March. **A Role To Die For**, by Jordan Waller. **A Role to Die For** is a rip-roaring, wickedly funny comedy full of secret agents, secret agreements and secret family feuds. Directed by 2024 Olivier Award winning Derek Bond. Age guidance 14+.

Friday 28 March until Saturday 10 May. **In the Mouth of the Wolf**. Based on a true story about Sir Michael Morpurgo's uncles during World War II, Francis is a fierce pacifist, and Pieter is a man who believes that peace can only be achieved by action. Age Guidance 8+.

Box office: 01285 648255 or boxoffice@barntheatre.org.uk or visit <https://barntheatre.org.uk> for full cast details and tickets.

Didmarton Film Club

Friday 14 March Doors open at 6.30pm for the Bar with film starting at 7.30pm Didmarton Village Hall Donation of £5 per film. Guests are welcome. Bar available. To join or to become a member of the Film Selection Committee, or to let us know you're coming beforehand (this helps with chairs), email jenny.body1@gmail.com.

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Movies@Malmesbury

Run entirely by volunteers, for schedules, synopses, trailers etc, visit the MoviesatMalmesbury Facebook page or go to www.malmesbury.gov.uk/cinema.html

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

The Three Cups, Malmesbury

Live music each month: <https://three-cups.co.uk/#events>

Tetbury Goods Shed

Live music each month: <https://three-cups.co.uk/#events>

The Electric Picture House, Wotton-Under-Edge

Exhibitions, talks, concerts, cinema - shed-arts.co.uk

Covent Garden Royal Opera House & Ballet

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



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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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/
Emergency Helpline: 0345 600 4 600 (24 hours)

BBC Wiltshire can be heard via:

West Wilts area
(Chippenham, Devizes and Trowbridge): 104.3FM

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Useful Numbers

BT fault line	0800 800151
Wiltshire Highways issues	0300 4560105
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 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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