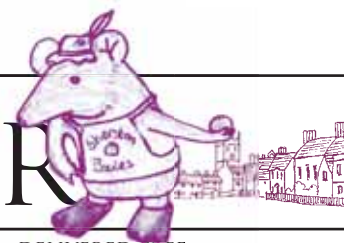




THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER

JULY 2026

DELIVERED FREE



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Sherston Celebrates 40 years of Boules Day!



As I write this, we are just over 10 days away from the big day – the 40th Sherston Boules Festival. As the event hasn't happened yet, I can't comment on how successful it has been, but we are hoping for sunshine, warm (but not too hot!) weather, and an enjoyable day for everyone.

The event, including all the activities in the week leading up to it, wouldn't be possible without the Boules Committee, who work tirelessly behind the scenes, and the amazing volunteers who help set up pitches, run events, tidy up, run the barbecues and

crêpe stall, pour pints, and handle everything else that keeps the festival running smoothly. We are incredibly lucky to have such a generous village community, as well as local businesses who support us financially, donate prizes, and provide services. A huge thank you to everyone involved — your support is truly appreciated.

As this is the 40th year, we've tried to make it a little more special. We are grateful to the local artists and talented individuals who have contributed, including Chris Frost for allowing us to use his print for cards; Wentworth Jigsaws for creating a boules-themed puzzle; Pat Starke for his design work; Matthew Wofinden England for crafting leather boules bags for prizes; and Ceri Gascoyne from The Rhyming Stag (hello@therhymingstag.co.uk), who has gathered memories from boules days over the years and turned them into a fantastic poem:

*It's wonderful to see so many of you here
As we kick off our Boules 40th celebratory year.
The French Fête here in the hall
Is really the beginning of all
The fun and festivities and events
As we honor all things French.
There's nothing that can quite compare
To Sherston Boules Festival, let's be fair.
It has grown monumentally so
Now out of towners compete you know.
Of course, everyone is welcome here,
And Sherston village especially holds dear
Our French counterparts who are unique.
They make the festival so fantastique!
Non, je ne regrette rien,
(Except that the winners are always Gien!)
Whatever the weather, come rain or shine
We come together and make the day sublime.
It should be stated teams now sell out
Quicker than Glastonbury, without a doubt!
So, to celebrate 40 years a quick run through
A day in the life of Sherston Boules.*

*We pray the sun is shining in the morning sky
On this glorious weekend in July.
In Sherston it feels more like Bordeaux,
Edith Piaf echoing through the window.
Our village becomes a little français,
A nod to the revolution and Bastille Day.*

*The High Street has been put to sand
The pistes laid out by local hands.
The red, white and blue bunting is blowing
The beer is already flowing.
There's the frantic door-knocking to move a car,
The bustling French café and the Pimm's bar.
One hundred and twenty teams get ready,
Maybe a little vino to keep the nerves steady.
Near the Angel singing from the heart
You can find The Crooked Crooner, Jerri Hart.
And O'Rael who did once entertain
Us all under umbrellas to 'Singing in the Rain'.
Memories of 2025
Where we all got cooked alive,
And the year that everything was moved
To the village hall as hurricane winds ensued.
Many also remember when a plan was hatched
Of a Rattlebone - Carpenters cricket match.
So! The coins are flipped, the coche is placed
Boules are held with shoulders braced.
The pointers and bombers, the occasional jeer,
And the frequent casualty who can't hold their beer.
There's the speedy games and games played at leisure,
The huddling around a trusted tape measure.
And aaahhh, the sweet smell as Richard Langley makes
The finest tasting chocolate crêpes.
And as teams are knocked out, en masse they roam
For a pint and hog roast at The Bone.
So, the day finally draws to a close,*

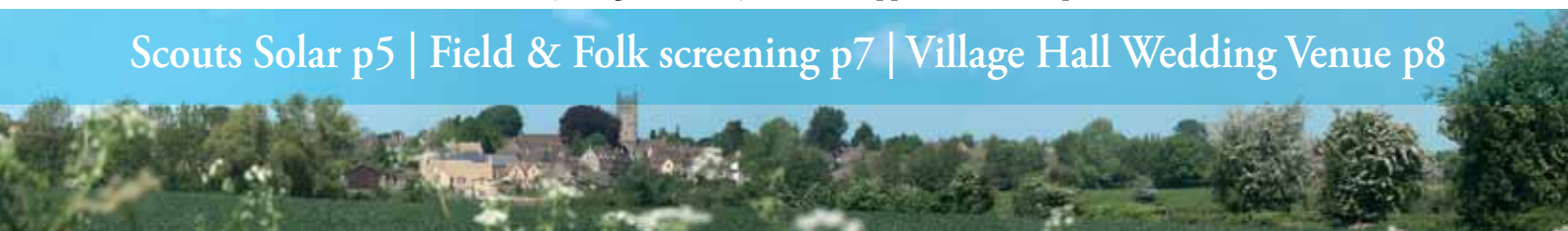
*The Welsh and the French are often nose to nose.
There was one match played in the fading light,
With not even a spectator in sight!
Another year ends of our lively competition,
Our colourful, joyful, much-loved tradition.
Then Sunday's wonderful Duck Race
With many a sunburnt and weary face.
And cakes and teas served by Caroline and Phil
Where the ducks come to rest on Thompson's Hill.
There was the Tug of War in days of old
Until Health and Safety made us do as we're told.
So, thank you to the Moores and now we quack on
With Elisabeta and Nick who take on le bâton!*

*So, what does Sherston Boules Fest mean to us here?
It's more than one day, it's dedication all year.
We thank local businesses and volunteers
As we celebrate 40 wonderful years.
It is thanks to a hard-working, committed team
Who work tirelessly to make the day flow like a dream.
The committee are incredible, we are so grateful to you,
You are mighty and brilliant, a marvel it's true.
Huge thanks to each past and present Committee Chair,
Going above and beyond every year I can share.
And, of course, our amazing and humble,
Leader of the pack, take a bow Bob Rumble.
To 40 years of Sherston Boules Fest
And to our village, we love you, you are the best!*

Hopefully, by the time you read this, you'll agree that the event was a great success.

Thank you again to everyone who supports and takes part!

Scouts Solar p5 | Field & Folk screening p7 | Village Hall Wedding Venue p8



Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 July in the North Building at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated on the agenda. Everyone is 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.

Phone box recycling facility is back!

The Parish Council is restarting collecting branded inkjet cartridges in our newly painted phone box on the High Street to raise funds for good causes in the village.

Please leave your used Brother, Canon, HP and Epson printer inkjet cartridges in the box provided. Any other brands, non-branded ones, or toner cartridges aren't accepted by our recycler and will need to be disposed of elsewhere.



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.

To advertise: contact
clerk@sherston.org.uk

Advertising rates for 12 months:

Colour:

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

Mono:

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

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

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

Sherston Parish Council: Vacancy for a clerk



Sherston Parish Council

The Role

Sherston Parish Council is seeking a highly motivated, proactive individual for the role of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. This is an exciting opportunity and would suit a community-minded individual with the relevant experience to undertake an interesting and varied post within an active parish council. Working predominantly from home, the role requires someone with the confidence and interpersonal skills to deal with a wide range of individuals from the local and wider communities.

The ideal candidate will have good verbal and written communication skills, be computer literate, and must have the ability to work on their own initiative. Strong financial management and organisational skills are required, together with a positive outlook.

It is preferred, but not essential that the successful candidate will have completed the following courses:

- Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA)
- Financial Introduction to Local Council Administration (FILCA)

However, training will be considered where required. If this sounds of interest to you, a full job description is available on request by contacting Tanya.Burgess@sherston.org.uk

Hours

The role comprises 20 hours per week general clerking (plus two hours per month to allow for Parish Council Meetings), plus additional hours to allow for meetings, training requirements and other duties as agreed and required to support the Parish Council.

Salary

Salary will be dependent on experience and whether or not the candidate has relevant clerking qualifications.

To apply, please send your CV to Tanya.Burgess@sherston.org.uk.

Tanya Burgess, Chair, Sherston Parish Council



SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

We are still delighting in a wonderful talk by Mary Keen at the last meeting who reminded us that we should be growing what we like and what suits our gardens.

Sherston Gardening Club is delighted to be hosting a stall on the High Street on Boules Day, Saturday 4 July. We will be selling lots of lovely donated seedlings, plants and gardening paraphernalia. Please visit and support us. All proceeds go to the Boules funds which are distributed in the community.

Our next meeting is on 7 July. Due to illness, our advertised speaker for July is no longer available. However, we are delighted have found a space in the diary of a long-coveted speaker: Robin Pearce, who will talk about ornamental grasses. Robin is a nurseryman growing many hardy plants, and for many years ran Worlds End Nursery with his wife in Worcester. He is a former Chair of the RHS Herbaceous Plant Committee, an RHS Floral Judge and an exhibitor himself.

There will be no meeting in August but we will resume on Tuesday 1 September, with Stephen Anderton speaking on Christopher Lloyd and Great Dixter.

Clippings

Club meetings take place on the first Tuesday of each month (except August) at the British School Room, Cliff Road, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Plant ID, plant sales, raffle, questions (and hopefully answers) and friendly chat over homemade refreshments. New Club members always welcome. The annual fee is £20 single, £35 joint, U18s free. We communicate with members via a monthly newsletter, on the sherston.org.uk website and our SGC Facebook page.

Our secretary can be contacted on sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com.

Sherston Apple Day



Sherston's Apple Day this year will take place on Sunday 11 October, 10.00am-3.00pm at Sherston Village Hall and field. All welcome! There will be local food and crafts, plus entertainment from Friends of Sherston School and Sherston Apple Juice on sale. The event will be outdoors in good weather - or in the village hall if wet. Any questions: contact Eleanor Lines at eleanorlines53@gmail.com

Swift boxes on your house?



Several years ago an enthusiastic group of villagers made swift boxes and installed them on people's houses and various public buildings, such as the village hall. I had three hung on my house and have been trying ever since to attract swifts to them by playing recorded calls at the recommended times. So far, I have had no success, although I haven't given up on this year yet. Following an idea I saw used by Dutch swift enthusiasts, I have been blocking my boxes from autumn to prevent earlier nesting birds from taking over before the swifts arrive in May.

Sustainable Sherston would like to measure any success of the swift nest box scheme and see if anything can be done to develop it further. The first thing we need to know is where boxes were originally put up and whether they are still in situ (unfortunately, no records were kept for us to refer to). If you, or a previous occupant of your house, had swift boxes put up, please could you let me know on the email address below. They will be high up on a shaded side of your house and often in a group of three. It would also be interesting to know if you have been successful in attracting other birds to nest. I have had reports of starlings using the boxes and had a great tit try to occupy mine.

Once we have information about the current situation, we will be able to get some expert advice and see if there are any measures we can put in place to will encourage the swifts to use the boxes. The High Street seems to have a good number of the birds, which must be nesting in cracks and crevices in the old buildings. These were their nesting sites in the past before buildings became much more weathertight. Our aim now is to encourage some swifts to move to the areas of the village with newer buildings and to use the nest boxes.

Please get in touch with your information.

Thanks, Sue Robinson sue.m.r1951@gmail.com

Sherston Scouts take on strategy camp



At the end of June, 1st Sherston Scouts joined thousands of Scouts and Guides from across the UK at 'Strategy Camp' in Cirencester Park. Not only was it a packed campsite, it was also a packed weekend of non-stop activities, games, challenges and friendly competition.

Lack of sleep, hot weather and a chunk of birthday cake provided the perfect preparation for Saturday's main challenge event, 'Strategy', where individual teams had to navigate around a 3,000-acre woodland to locate activity bases and earn as many points as possible. A broad array of challenges tested their



teamwork, problem-solving, resilience, and traditional Scouting skills. There was caving, archery, circus skills, tyre changing, inflatable obstacle courses, climbing and many more fun activities, even decorative nail painting! Despite some dubious map reading, everyone rose to the challenge and represented 1st Sherston Scout Group brilliantly.

A huge thank you goes to the volunteer leaders for making the experience possible. The Scouts returned tired, well fed and full of stories from an unforgettable weekend of Scouting adventure.

Boost your CV! Join our team!



1st Sherston Scout Group is desperately seeking new adult volunteers to join our team and help run weekly Cub sessions from September.

Cubs is for 8 to 10½ year olds and gives them the chance to explore hobbies, uncover hidden talents, and build resilience; all while having fun! One week you might be whipping up tasty treats in a baking bonanza. The next? Diving into global issues or teaching them how to navigate with confidence (even if you have to learn it first!).

Not only does it look great on your CV but no previous experience is required! You don't need to be

a parent or have been in Scouts or Guides! Training will be provided by the Scout Association, and you will be supported by our existing volunteers.

The more volunteers we have, the better! Many hands make light work and would mean that you wouldn't have to attend every week!

If you would prefer to support Beavers or Scouts instead, please still get in touch as we are very flexible!

To find out more, please get in touch with Victoria on 07966 203626 or email join@sherstonscouts.org.uk.

Village Hall 300+ Club June winners

1st (£60) - Robin Outlaw
2nd (£40) - Pat Jones
3rd (£20) - Mike Tarrant

There are still six monthly draws plus the bonus Christmas prize, so join up now if you're not already a member.



I/We* would like to join/renew membership of the 300+ Club for 2026 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)

THIS AND PREVIOUS ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW AND DOWNLOAD AT WWW.SHERSTON.ORG.UK

Sustainability at Sherston Scout Hut!



Sherston Scout Group is planning an exciting sustainability project at the Scout Hut that will help reduce running costs, lower carbon emissions, and make the building more resilient for the future. The proposed installation will include 27 solar panels and 34kWh of battery storage, helping the Hut generate clean electricity and reduce its reliance on the grid.

The project will bring long-term benefits for the Scout Group and the wider community: it will help lower electricity bills, support the Hut's sustainability, and strengthen its role as a community asset by helping it remain operational during power outages.

Over recent months, we have made good progress, securing planning permission and raising funds for the project and are very grateful for grants from Sherston Parish Council (in partnership with SOSIC), Dyson, and the Malmesbury Local Area Board. However, we still need to raise additional funds to allow the full project to go ahead.

We are therefore asking for support from the wider Sherston community to bridge this gap. Donations of any size will help move the project closer to completion. We would also welcome support from local businesses, community groups, and anyone with fundraising ideas or experience.

By investing in renewable energy now, we can protect the future of the Scout Hut, reduce running costs for years to come, and create a practical example of local action on energy and sustainability.

If you would like to support the project, please go to www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/sherston-scout-hut-solar-project, or, to find out more, please contact us at join@sherstonscouts.org.uk.

Boules Week

Wednesday 1st July
French Cuisine Night
4 courses, one sitting.
Booking essential

Friday 3rd July
Moules Frites Special

Saturday 4th July
BOULES DAY
Breakfast: 7- 10am
Hog Roast in the afternoon
80's party with live party in the evening

11th July
Afternoon Tea

18th July
Bingo in the Garden

25th July
Live Music

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now available to watch

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 School News

Pedal power, team spirit and community pride



We are very proud of the way our school continues to sit at the very heart of the community, and recent events - the Castle Combe Bike Ride and the Tetbury Woolsack Races - have shown this in abundance.

A huge thank you to the Friends of Sherston School for organising yet another brilliant Castle Combe Bike Ride and to Judith Parkyn for taking wonderful photos. It was lovely to have the entire track to ourselves, and the children certainly made the most of it. The track was alive with energy as children and parents sped around, racing friends, challenging themselves and, most importantly, having tremendous fun. The atmosphere was full of laughter, encouragement and teamwork.

That same sense of teamwork and community spirit could also be seen at this year's Tetbury Woolsack Races. We were delighted to enter two teams, one of which not only won their heat but also went on to

finish second overall - a fantastic achievement.

The Woolsack Races are a true team event, and each child played their part, supporting one another and showing great resilience - particularly in the challenging heat of the day. It was no easy task, but the children rose to it brilliantly.

What made both events especially memorable was the fantastic support from families and the wider community. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces cheering the children on, creating a warm, encouraging atmosphere. That shared sense of pride and togetherness is something we value deeply.

The children's enthusiasm, perseverance and teamwork captured exactly what it means to be part of our community, and these events were a wonderful reminder of what can be achieved when we come together.

Learning with a smile

At Sherston School, we are passionate about ensuring that learning is both meaningful and enjoyable. Our Year 6 children recently completed their KS2 SATs, and every child approached the challenge with resilience, positivity and determination.

For many years, our results have been above national standards, and we are hopeful that this year will be no exception. However, what matters most to us is not just the outcomes, but the journey the children take to get there. Maintaining a love of learning alongside academic success is something we value greatly.

A special thank you must go to Mr Stewart, whose skill as a teacher shines through in the way he supports each child. His ability to bring out the very best in the children, while still ensuring the classroom is filled with laughter, curiosity and enjoyment, is something truly special. The children have worked incredibly hard, but they have also had fun along the way - exactly as learning should be.

We could not be prouder of them all.



Growing safe, thoughtful digital citizens

Looking after our environment is not only about caring for the world around us, but also about ensuring that the spaces our children inhabit - including the digital world - are safe, positive and supportive. In the final week of last term, we focused on this important aspect of modern life through a series of online safety activities.

We were delighted to welcome experts from The Stay Safe Initiative, who led engaging and informative workshops for the children. Their work centres on helping young people understand how to navigate the online world responsibly, equipping each child with the knowledge and confidence to stay safe in an ever-changing digital landscape.

The sessions covered a range of important topics, from recognising potential risks to making sensible, respectful choices online. The children were fully engaged, asking thoughtful questions and demonstrating a real awareness of the importance of staying safe.

Importantly, this learning extended beyond the classroom. We also hosted an evening session for parents, providing practical advice and guidance to support families at home. It was wonderful to see such a good turnout and shared commitment to safeguarding our children in all aspects of their lives.

By working together - school, children and families - we continue to nurture an environment where every child can grow safely, both offline and online.

Book your tickets for Cotswolds: Field & Folk



Sherston's filmmaker and photographer Tea Smart has recently completed a feature documentary, which looks at the people working across the Cotswolds National Landscape to care for and manage the land, and the challenges they face in doing so. Entitled *Cotswolds: Field & Folk*, the film explores themes including climate change, regenerative approaches to farming, and the evolving relationship between

people and nature, with a particular focus on those working on the ground today and the next generation coming into the industry.

Some of the filming was done locally, and it has been developed in partnership with Cotswolds National Landscape to celebrate their 60th anniversary. (The project even made the BBC News back in December: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr7l3xj3n5vo)

The film is touring the Cotswolds, with a local screening at Sherston Village Hall on Friday 7 August, which offers a special opportunity to see the film close to home, with director Tea Smart and the Leaping Fox Films team in attendance for an introduction and discussion.

To view the full summer tour and book tickets, please visit: www.cotswoldsfilm.co.uk/screening-tour



Cotswolds Security Collaboration Forum – a call to action for our rural community



Rural crime is rising sharply across the UK, and our corner of the Cotswolds is no exception. Local thefts of farm machinery, GPS equipment, vehicles, tools and heating oil across farms and high-value rural properties are no longer isolated events - they reflect a national trend of organised criminal groups targeting countryside communities. When one village is hit, neighbouring parishes are often struck days later. We are not immune, and we cannot afford to be passive.

To help us respond collectively, I've launched the Cotswolds Security Collaboration Forum (CSCF); a free, community-driven platform designed to share information quickly and 'light the beacon' when suspicious activity or criminality occurs. The aim is simple: when something happens, everyone nearby should know about it in real time.

Unlike traditional Neighbourhood or Farm Watch schemes, CSCF is regional rather than hyperlocal. Criminal groups don't respect parish boundaries; they move fast, strike multiple sites, and disappear long before information filters through official channels. Many victims, frustrated by limited police response, report incidents only for insurance purposes - meaning others nearby remain unaware and unprepared. This lack of shared intelligence is exactly what offenders rely on.

CSCF fills that gap. Members signed up can:

- view an interactive crime-mapping tool showing incidents across the Cotswolds
- share what they've seen or experienced through a simple online form
- receive geo-specific alerts and periodic bulletins and practical security guidance
- join sector-specific groups (eg farming, equine, tourism, places of worship) to discuss risks and best practice

The more people who join and contribute, the stronger and more accurate our collective picture becomes.

As a former Head of Security responsible for large rural estates and farmland, this is exactly the kind of realtime, community-led tool I wished existed. Now running my own security consultancy, I've built it voluntarily so that residents, farmers, landowners and rural businesses across the Cotswolds can benefit.

CSCF is free, simple to use, and designed to help protect the places we live and work. If you want to strengthen security for your farm, business, estate or household, please scan the QR code, sign up, and help us light that beacon for others.

Together, we can make the Cotswolds a harder place for criminals to operate.

Paul Crane

Sherston Village Hall now a Registered Wedding Venue!

SHERSTON



VILLAGE HALL

Sherston Village Hall has been accepted as a registered wedding venue with Wiltshire Council. This means we can now hold secular wedding ceremonies, civil partnerships and vow renewals, in addition to wedding receptions and parties.

As a community hall, we wanted to be able to offer local couples a more reasonably priced option than many of the venues in the area. The Butterfly Hall gave us the perfect opportunity with its wonderful entrance and new facilities, including the service bar and disabled access and facilities.

It was important to the Village Hall Committee that this was also a way of supporting local businesses and we have been in discussion with many local businesses who we now have on our recommended supplier list. We want this project to provide opportunities for as much of the village as possible. These include: The Rattlebone Inn, Paul Ormiston at Compass Graphic Design, The Angel, Judith Parkyn Photography, Truffle & Thyme, Shear Class, Acqua Floral Design and Francesca Summers Wedding Planner, and we will work with the Holy Cross Church for any enquiries that would like a church service to tie in with a reception at the village hall.

We would like to thank Matt and Charlie at the Rattlebone Inn for all their help in getting our alcohol licence approval, their support has been key and very much appreciated. We will be working closely with them for weddings and events going forward.

We already have four weddings on the books for 2027/2028 and the enquiries are coming in. We very much hope that this will support the village hall into the future and allow all of us to continue to use this wonderful village asset.

If you have a wedding to plan, Jake Peplow, our Booking Secretary, will be delighted to speak to you! Drop him an email at sherstonvillagehall@gmail.com

Sherston Senior Club

On Tuesday 19 May, we were very pleased to welcome back Bernard Purrier who gave a very interesting talk about his visits to Costa Rica. He shared some wonderful photos and we all learnt more about the lives and habitats of the wildlife that frequents the forests, such as sloths, howler monkeys, colourful frogs, toucans, parrots and various snakes. There are too many to list here but it was a very entertaining and enlightening talk. We hope to welcome Bernard back to talk about other subjects close to his heart.

At the beginning of June, we enjoyed a coach outing to Clevedon and, despite it being a cloudy and very windy day, we managed to fill our time there. A morning cuppa is usually first on the agenda! Some of us enjoyed a very windy walk down to the beach and others walked up the path, against the wind, to the main hub (which was out of the wind). There were lovely grassy areas, gardens, a playground for children, open-air swimming pools, a sauna, kiosks and a couple of hotels where people could dine by the windows and enjoy the views.

If anyone is interested in joining us on our outings or coming along to our meetings at the British School Rooms to hear different speakers or enjoy our afternoon teas, then please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

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News from the Church of the Holy Cross



Howard, winner of the John Knight Award for Open Gardens 2026



Sherston Open Gardens Weekend

Sherston's keen gardeners once again opened their garden gates to visitors from near and far for the Open Gardens weekend at the beginning of June. Despite the inclement weather on Saturday, we had 250 visitors over the weekend, looking at the wide range of gardens across the village. The previous week's weather was not the best friend for gardeners but the gardens still looked wonderful. Our visitors voted for the garden that they most enjoyed - whether large or small, informal or ornate - and, this year, the John Knight Award went to Howard Harding of North End Gardens.

Unfortunately, the bad weather was not favourable enough to entice our villagers to climb the stairs to the top of the church tower - we hope we might be able to open the tower again soon.

Save the date

Our next social event will be on Bank Holiday Monday, 31 August, for Hymns and Pimm's. Join us for a light-hearted afternoon, singing your favourite hymns while enjoying a glass of Pimm's, or other cool refreshment. Save the date and look out for further information next month.

So what did the Victorians do for us?

During the reign of Queen Victoria, there was a significant refurbishment of medieval churches and cathedrals in England and Wales.

About 150 years ago, our church was restored and modernised, including replacement roofs by Mr Christian and Mr Thomas Henry Wyatt. The ceiling in the main body of the church was constructed by fixing oak laths (thin strips of wood) across the underside of the roof which was then covered with lime plaster mixed with horsehair for stability. The ceiling has lasted well but it's now at the end of its useful life. As we reported previously in the Cliffhanger, sections of the ceiling at the east end of the nave have fallen - the third collapse in four years.

In 2022, a large section of the ceiling fell onto the organ. This led to a major project to install scaffolding above the organ, the complete replacement of the entire ceiling in the North transept and then restoration

of the historic pipe organ. The total works took just under 18 months.

In 2024, a storm resulted in another fall of the ceiling and, again, a large section of the ceiling was replaced in the west end of the nave of the church. So the collapse of a section in the east end this April came as a further reminder that we need to take action now.

Other than old age, we cannot be certain why the ceiling is now collapsing - but the dryness of recent summers is possibly a contributing factor. We can see from the debris that insufficient horsehair had been mixed into some of the plaster used by the Victorian builders, and this could have made the plaster less resilient. We have no warranties and the Victorian contractors are not available, so whatever the cause, we now have the problem! Although part of the nave is closed, our services and other activities are still continuing, for example, and we have been able to recently host two u3a groups from the Bristol and Bath areas. They heard about the more interesting parts of our church's long history and, by looking up at the ceiling and down at the debris, they could see for themselves the challenges we now face. They were still able to explore the old and new - including our 14th century priest lying under the window with his feet on two lions.

What did we do in 2022 and 2024?

A one-off grant from the National Churches Trust and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and our own resources helped with the restoration project for the repairs to the ceiling in the north transept which occurred in 2022 and our insurance company covered the cost of the repairs to the historic pipe organ, which had been damaged by the falling ceiling. We had to cover the remaining costs from our church fabric fund which we built up over many years to fund day-to-day maintenance and repairs.

In 2024, we again used our church fabric fund to pay for the repairs to the nave.

What now?

We need to replace all the remaining ceilings in the church, and this will cost at least £100,000 as costs are

Celebrating 15 Years of Successful Business at Sherston Old School



It is now 15 years since Sherston Old School was converted to commercial use. Many local residents will know the story behind this project but many others, notably those who have moved into the village since 2011, may not know how it all came about.

The Old School was built in 1845 and subsequently extended in 1895 to create two classrooms. It served the village for 160 years before closing in 2005, when the new Sherston Primary School opened on Knockdown Road. A period of uncertainty then followed while the powers that be debated its future. During this time, a prospective developer attempted in 2006 to redevelop the site for housing. The village rose up in opposition to this proposal, and pressure was put on the landowners to resist the idea. The context for this was that, over the previous several decades, virtually all of the facilities that villagers had once enjoyed had disappeared from the High Street, with such properties being converted to residential use one by one.

In 1915, there were over 60 different businesses identifiable in the village. Mind you, at least 15 of these were public houses! Only in Sherston. By 2011, this had dropped to fewer than 20. Many of these former businesses were based on the High Street. By 2011, apart from the Post Office stores at the northern end, there were none left at all.

The Parish Council resolved in 2007 to try to purchase the Old School, with a view to ensuring that it was retained for a more beneficial village purpose. A referendum was held in 2008 to establish whether there was local support. The village almost unanimously supported the idea, and so negotiations began with the landowners with a view to purchasing the site. At the same time, consideration was given to how the village could possibly fund such a project. Those negotiations took a couple of years to complete. In the meantime, the Sherston Old School Community Interest Company (SOSCIC) was formed 'for the purpose of renovating and converting the Old School so as to provide increased employment opportunities and additional services for the community and help preserve the character of the High Street'. Local residents were invited to become members, and over 200 people joined at the time. Fundraising began in earnest.

In the event, funding was found through a loan from the Public Works Loan Board and a series of large and small grants, plus much help from a brilliant range of weird and wonderful village events, including a charity shop, various fundraising dinners, shows, and individual donations.

On 1 April 2011, the Parish Council completed the purchase of the Old School and the SOSCIC team

swung into action. Work started on the conversion of the first phase of the project in July 2011. This was completed by early November, at which point Sherston Post Office Stores relocated from its existing premises over the road into what was a much larger facility. The photographs below show the 'before' and 'after'. Quite a transformation!



Unfortunately, at that time, there were insufficient funds to pay for the conversion of the rest of the building, so fundraising began again – although actually it never really stopped. This time, however, we were lucky enough to discover that there might be money available through what was called the Prince's Countryside Fund. We made our application and, a couple of months later, were delighted to hear that we had been awarded a grant of £50,000 to help fund the rest of the work.

Work started on the second phase in February 2012 and was completed just under six months later. By this time, we had a waiting list of potential tenants and, within only a few months of completion, the Old School was fully occupied. Our first tenants were a hairdresser, a wine shop, a printer, a marketing and design studio, and a business software company.

In November 2013, we were visited by King Charles (then HRH Prince Charles), who formally opened the premises.



Fifteen years after we first started the conversion, we are thankfully still going strong. With only a few brief exceptions, the Old School has been pretty much fully occupied, providing employment opportunities for more than 30 people at a time and a wide range of services for the benefit of the village on the High Street.

Our current tenants comprise the Midcounties Co-op and Post Office, a physiotherapist (Reset Physiotherapy and Wellness), a business software company (Pulse Business Software), and a design and print business (Compass Graphic Design Ltd). It is thanks to them, and all of their predecessors, that by paying rent for their individual units they have helped to fund the cost of maintaining and repairing the building, and continue to help pay down the outstanding Public Works Loan, with any surplus being handed back to the village via the Parish Council to be used for good causes.

As of April 2026, more than £60k has been given to the village for a variety of 'good causes', including repairs to the Sherston Football Club roof, repairs to the Holy Cross Church nave, improvements to the Recreation Ground, the extension to the Village Hall, and, most recently, the installation of solar PV on the roof of the Scout Hut, as well as a further donation to the village hall for the provision of a projector, screen, and speakers for community use when hiring the hall. We hope to continue this support in the future whenever finances allow.

SOSCIC is an entirely voluntary-run organisation with over 250 members. It is managed by five directors who have responsibility for both the ongoing management of the project and the long-term maintenance of the building.

Anyone can be a member of SOSCIC. It is free to join. Indeed, everyone who lives in the village should probably consider becoming a member. After all, it is you, the villagers, who through the Parish Council own the building, and for whom the building is managed and maintained. If you were to join, you could have a say in its future. Quite frankly, the Old School needs you, the villagers, to be part of SOSCIC to help ensure it can be sustained into the future.

You can apply for membership simply by filling in the online application form on the Parish Council website or by emailing the membership secretary at:

soscic.members@gmail.com

Here's to the next 15 years!

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... that Sherston has, for rental, a modern, comfortable venue boasting excellent disabled/wheelchair access and toilets, plus WiFi and audio/visual facilities? It has three separate rooms for hire, all carpeted:



1) A **main hall**, with seating for 40 (can be increased to 80), an adjoining kitchen with dishwasher and serving hatch. The audio/visual equipment includes ceiling projector, loudspeakers, a huge screen, with ports to accommodate a variety of laptops. Hiring rate (from 01/09/2026): £15 per hour.

2) An **Upper Room**. Warm and totally private, with a large table and tea/coffee-making facilities, ideal for meetings of approx. six to eight people. Hiring rate (from 01/09/2026): £11 per hour.



3) A **Quiet Room**. Attractive ground floor room providing an oasis of calm, three easy chairs and small table, and tea/coffee-making facilities. Ideal for private study, reading, resting, and counselling, or simply escaping for time alone, with or without social media. Hiring rate (from 01/09/2026): £10 per hour.

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This venue in Cliff Road is owned by Sherston's Congregational Church and has throughout history been called the British School Room (BSR), set in stone on the outside wall.

Apart from Sunday use for church worship, the BSR is used by loyal hirers for whom we are most grateful. They have each supported the BSR for decades, even when the building was far from comfortable! Over these years, they repeatedly took on extra responsibilities and donated generously thus enabling this village resource to survive - so we consider them to be the seven stalwarts of our BSR community and hereby wish to thank and pay a huge tribute to each of them! They are:

1. **The Senior Club** – for over 50 years – on alternate Tuesdays.
2. **Art Classes** – for over 25 years – all-day on Wednesdays in term time.
3. **Drama Group** – for over 30 years – on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
4. **SHOCC Sherston's Community Choir** – for 30 years - on Wednesday evenings.
5. **Toddlers Club** - intermittently for over 20 years – on Monday mornings.
6. **u3a Meetings** (now Sherston Gardening Club) - for over 15 years - first Tuesday evening of the month.
7. **Guitar and folk groups** – more recently, over 10 years.

Adult educational courses/craft and art exhibitions/ children's and adults' parties/funerals and wakes have also been held at the BSR/Sherston Congregational Church.

We are affiliated to The Congregational Federation and employ a cleaner/a manager/ and an accountant. We now wish to make the other two rooms available to the village community as well as the hall so invite you, if interested, to view them by phoning 07778 934742, or to book any of the three by contacting our BSR Manager Alicja Clark, on SherstonBSR@hotmail.com (All bookings need to be made, please, using this email.)

The Members of Sherston Congregational Church



Shearclass Hair and Beauty

5 Church Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0LR
(opposite the church)
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www.shearclass.co.uk

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Local recycling and zero waste outlet information



Recycling Facilities

Candles - Please don't leave any candles in the Holy Cross Church porch at present. The Recycled Candle Company has paused collections due to an overwhelming response.

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 long collected by Sustainable Sherston in the village.

Low-energy light bulbs

Please don't leave these at the Sherston High Street telephone box at present as there is no company to take them, it's hoped this will be sorted in the near future.

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 Air Ambulance.

Ink Cartridges Please leave Brother, Canon, HP and Epson printer inkjet cartridges in the box in the red phone box on Sherston High Street. No other makes and no toner cartridges are accepted.

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.

Bennetts 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 Dora's Dairy, Quarry Farm, Purton (Jon Cook). Email: dairymaid@dorasdairy.co.uk Note: Any dairy farmers able to supply milk for possible dispensing in Sherston, please contact Eleanor Lines on 07949 292741.

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

Oddbox (www.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.

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.go.uk/librariesinformation/route/](http://www.apps.wiltshire.go.uk/librariesinformation/route/Index/6)
[Index/6](http://www.apps.wiltshire.go.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 (excluding bank holiday
weekends) 9.30am - 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 Room with toys, craft activities, music.
Contact sherstontoddlers@hotmail.com or regular
updates on www.facebook.com/sherston.toddlers

1st Sherston Brownies

Meet Weds 5.30-7pm in term time in the North
Building. 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
is currently 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 time 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 Thurs 7-8.30pm in term time at the
Scout hut. There is a waiting list for Scouts, email join@sherstonscouts.org.uk
for an application form

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/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11839/)
[church/11839/](http://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

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, services held at 4pm
in the British School Room/SCC, Cliff Rd. All Welcome.
On 2nd and 4th Sundays, we are 'simply singing praise
choruses', 12.30pm-1pm. Do pop in.
For information regarding church events, contact Mary
Clements at clementsmaty@btinternet.com or text on
07778 934742.
To book the British School Room for any event, please
contact our administrator Alicja Clark via email only:
alicjaclark076@gmail.com

Music, Culture and Social

Church Bell Ringing

Practices are every Wednesday 7.30 – 9 pm.
Contact Pip Bartlett: 07967 007969

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 Co-op, The
Angel and The Rattlebone. If you would like to learn
more about the Footpaths Group contact Tanya Burgess
on 07979 702869 or Tanya.Burgess@sherston.org.uk

Sherston Senior Club

Meets every two weeks in the British Schoolroom Cliff
Road at 2.00pm all year round. Membership of £20.00

per annum includes speakers on various subjects or musical entertainment and in the summer coach outings to places of interest. We are a friendly informal Club and welcome men and women of all ages. For further information please 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 Aug, 7pm for 7.30pm start in the British School Room, bring and buy stall, quiz, refreshments, £20 pa single, £35 joint membership, 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. Contact Rachel Wagstaff at rachel_wagstaff@hotmail.com

Sustainable Sherston

A friendly group encouraging sustainable living in Sherston.

See www.sustainablesherston.org.uk/

Contact sustainablesherston@gmail.com.

Yak & Yarn

Every Friday morning 10am till 12 noon at the Rattlebone. A friendly group for anyone who wants to knit, crochet or do anything with yarn, whether experienced or a beginner!

Fitness

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 class for Over 60's to improve strength, co-ordination and balance. Exercises all performed standing or sitting. 10.00am Tuesday mornings The British School Room, Cliff Road. FREE trial class. Contact Emma: 07843 256081. emmamcope@synchronicity.me.uk

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

Private small group Hatha yoga

Joyful, relaxing breath-driven practices to bring self-compassion, commitment, balance and strength into your daily life, with options to develop home yoga, deep relaxation and meditation practices. £22 for initial class, £80 for 4-class short course, discounts possible. russellhtownsend@gmail.com or 07818 918595.

Sherston Bootcamp

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

Sherston Pilates

Daytime 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 at Sherston Village Hall. 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.

MovementForEveryone

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 Antony Lodge antonylodge8@gmail.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 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 Paul Robbins 07799 898559

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

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 Bridge Restaurant

Indian cuisine to eat in or take away daily. Call 840665 or info@thebridge.restaurant www.thebridge.restaurant/sherston/

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.

Yoga with Rosie. Every Monday 12-1pm. Tel: 07402 317826.

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 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 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.



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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 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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www.matthewsofmalmesbury.com



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WHAT'S ON: July 2026



Sherston

Wednesday 1 July 7pm, The Rattlebone. Boules Festival: French Night. Join us for our annual French cuisine evening. One sitting, four courses - including welcome aperitif. Booking essential. Tel: 840871. Email: eat@therattlebone.co.uk.

Saturday 4 July From 8.30am. Sherston Boules Festival: Tournament. Come and celebrate 40 years of boules in Sherston. Pop-up bar, family zone with kids' entertainment, artisan crafts, crêpes, café, BBQ and more! Plus 40th anniversary live 80s band at The Rattlebone Saturday night.

Sunday 5 July 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. Worship Together church service.

Sunday 5 July From 2pm. Sherston Boules Festival: Duck Race. Come along for the finale of the Boules Festival, starting at Stretchline field, Brook Hill, and finishing at Mill Cottage, with cream teas.

Tuesday 7 July 7pm for 7.30pm start, British School Room. Sherston Gardening Club meeting. Talk by Robin Pearce on ornamental grasses. New members are always welcome. Cost is £20 single, £35 joint, U18s free. Contact our secretary for more info: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Thursday 9 July 7.30pm, North Building. Parish Council Meeting. All welcome. If you're unable to attend but have something to raise, please email clerk@sherston.org.uk.

Saturday 11 July The Rattlebone. Afternoon Tea Garden Party. Join us for an afternoon of traditional, quintessentially British afternoon tea and live music in the garden. Book your table now. Tel: 840871. Email: eat@therattlebone.co.uk.

Sunday 12 July 10am, Holy Cross Church. Holy Communion church service.

Sunday 19 July 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. Holy Communion church service.

Sunday 26 July 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. Holy Communion church service.

Corsham

Thursday 23- Sunday July 26 Neston Park, SN13 9TG. WOMAD Neston Park 2026. WOMAD (World of Music, Arts and Dance) brings together artists from all over the globe. Hear the best music you've never heard before, join in with free workshops led by musicians and dancers from around the world, taste delicious food cooked by artists, listen to talks, relax with wellness activities, and discover so much more! Tickets: fixr.co/event/womad-neston-park-2026-tickets-291628277?mc_cid=679cdcc419&mc_eid=fc5523711b

Foxley

Sunday 19 July 11am, Foxley Parish Church. Holy Communion church service.

Luckington

Saturday 4 July 1pm till late, Luckington Playing Fields. Luckington Fete & Family Fun Day. Lots of fun for all the family! For more info:

www.facebook.com/luckingtonfamilyfun

Sunday 5 July 11am, Luckington Church. Worship Together church service.

Sunday 5 July 11am, Luckington Church. Worship Together church service.

Tuesday 7 July 2-3.30pm, The Old Royal Ship. Luckington Bible Study. Also: 14. 21 and 28 July.

Sunday 19 July 11am, Luckington Church. Holy Communion church service.

Malmesbury

Wednesday 1 July 2.30pm, Rausing Building. Athelstan Museum TeaTalk. Malmesbury Emigrants in pursuit of the American Dream - Sue Poolman. Hear more about our current FREE Exhibition - Malmesbury & the American Connection - now on in the Museum. Tickets available in Museum Shop or online: www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/events/

Wednesday 8 July 7.30pm, Rausing Building. **Athelstan Museum Evening Talk**. Author Ben Kane will launch his latest book *A Land Aflame* Second Punic War but no Hannibal? Tickets available in Museum Shop or online: www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/events/

Saturday 11 July - Rausing Building. **Athelstan Museum Workshop - Lace Making**. For all ages 2 sessions - see website for details: www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/events/

Sunday 12 July - Workshop - Victorian Ragged School History Club for children - 4 sessions - see website for details: www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/events/

Norton

Saturday 25 July 8pm, The Vine Tree. **ABBA Open Air Tribute Concert**. A spectacular high-energy night of ABBA classics! BBQ and bar available all evening. Buy tickets via The Vine Tree website: thevinetree.co.uk/shop/abba-tribute-night-live-at-the-vine-tree-norton/

Tetbury

Thursday 2 July 7pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **National Theatre Live**. *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* is a striking new staging of Christopher Hampton's celebrated adaptation of the classic novel starring Aiden Turner and Lesley Manville. Tickets in advance £15. www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk

Sunday 5 July 7.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Ryan Wang Piano Concert**. Winner of the BBC Young Musician in 2024 Wang will tonight be playing works by Mozart and Schubert and Mussorgsky's *Pictures* at an Exhibition. Tickets in advance £30. www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk

Saturday 11 July 8pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Don Quixote (is a very big book)**. A one-man show where Dik Downey weaves together the crazed delusion of Don Quixote with his own struggles with reality. Tickets in advance £15. www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk

Friday 17 July 7.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Forever Springsteen**. Formed last summer by a long-time group

of friends this tribute band aims to protect the energy, musicianship and true spirit of The Boss's music. Tickets in advance £25. www.tetburygoodshed.co.uk

Music, Cinema and Theatre Theatre Royal Bath

Tel 01225 448844 www.theatreroyal.org.uk

The Barn Theatre, Cirencester

Award-winning professional theatre, based in the heart of the Cotswolds.

Box office: 01285 648255 or boxoffice@barntheatre.org.uk or visit barntheatre.org.uk

Didmarton Film Club

Monthly film screening. 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, to find out what's showing or to let us know you're coming beforehand (this helps with chairs), email jenny.body1@gmail.com

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

SHERSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The British Schoolroom, Cliff Rd.



We recommend free "Every Day With Jesus App" by CWR for genuine spiritual growth.

Also search
"How Do We Know That Christianity Is Really True?"
by Chris Morpew.



SCHOOL TERM SATURDAYS

"THE OP. CHRISTMAS CHILD SATURDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL"

10.00 - 11.00 am

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3rd Sunday - Visiting Speaker

2ND & 4TH Sundays - 12.30 - 1.00pm Prayer and Praise.

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Malmesbury Live Arts

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

The Three Cups, Malmesbury

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

Cotswold Playhouse, Stroud

Film screenings and theatre.
www.cotswoldplayhouse.co.uk/

Tetbury Goods Shed

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

The Electric Picture House, Wotton-Under-Edge

A refurbished local cinema run by volunteers – check website for upcoming films

www.wottoncinema.com

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

Sherston Defibrillator and Bleed Kit

Outside the entrance to Sherston Villiage Hall
(what3words saloons.hologram.rolled)

The public version of Sherston's Emergency Response Plan can be found on the Sherston website: sherston.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Sherston_Emergency_Plan_March_2024-D.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](https://twitter.com/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

Useful Numbers

BT fault line	0800 800151
Wiltshire Highways issues	0300 4560105
Cllr Martin Fausing Smith	07747 976847
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	07349 296639
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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Book online, call events on 01666 834 026
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