



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2026

DELIVERED FREE

New Parish Clerk Appointed



Sherston
Parish Council



Sherston Parish Council is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Parish Clerk.

Jill Palmer has recently taken early retirement from the Civil Service after serving 23 years in the Ministry of Defence, working in roles such as Business Management, Secretariat and Project Management.

'I'm delighted to be taking on this new role and new chapter in my life. Having grown up in a rural and mainly agricultural community in West Wales, I recognise how a local Parish Council can play a huge part in not only maintaining and delivering local services, but also in maintaining the community spirit which is essential in helping a village thrive. Sherston is such a wonderful place, and as a resident of Malmesbury I find myself drawn here most weeks, whether I'm walking the dog, taking my grandchildren to the recreation ground, or enjoying cake and coffee at The Angel! I aim to be working in the office in the North Building for one day a week so, if you are passing, please do pop in and say hello!'

Jill's working hours will be 10.00am-2.00pm, Monday to Friday. She can be contacted on clerk@sherston.org.uk

Help Keep our Rec Clean and Green



Sherston is widely known for being beautiful, tidy and welcoming - a reputation we all work hard to maintain and take great pride in. To keep our community spaces looking their best, the Parish Council is currently looking for a community-minded volunteer to help look after the recreation ground. We need a dependable person to empty the litter bins once a fortnight (except in the winter). The bags will then need to be taken to the wheelie bin on the sports field so it would need to be either someone with a car or someone capable of pushing a wheelbarrow that distance.

This is a straightforward role but a vital one. Although it will only take up a very small amount of time each week, it will make a great contribution to our village, for which we will all be grateful.

If you enjoy being in the fresh air and would like to help keep the village looking tidy, please contact clerk@sherston.org.uk

Booking Pilot for Household Recycling Centre Now Live



Launched last month, a pilot booking system for the Stanton St Quintin Household Recycling Centre (HRC) is now live. The pilot, which also applies to five other HRCs, has been introduced to help manage increasing demand, reduce queues and improve the overall customer experience.

All visits to the HRC must be booked in advance. You can book a 30-minute slot up to one week in advance, with some same-day appointments also available. Slot availability and site capacity will be reviewed throughout the pilot to ensure the service continues to meet demand while supporting efficient site operations. Be aware that you will need to create an online account before you can book, but you can also call 0300 456 0102.

To make a booking and find out more, go to:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/bookhrc



Parish Council Meeting



Sherston
Parish Council

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8 October in the North building. 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.

Birth Announcement

We are pleased to announce the birth of our second daughter, Thea Henrietta Forward born on 09/09/2026. Her big sister, Ida, is very proud.

Jen and James Forward

Copy deadline: 10th of the previous month.
Send to editorial@sherstoncliffhanger.co.uk
or hard copy to Compass (door on the right as you enter the Co-op).

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 some previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

Coming Up! Sherston Apple Day 2026



You are invited to Sherston Apple Day 2026 at Sherston Village Hall and field on Sunday 11 October, 10.00am-3.00pm.

It's Sherston's sixth Apple Day! We'll have: freshly made apple juice on sale; lots of activities for kids; lunches; KNEAD bakery with cakes, savouries, bread and coffee; Alivu Olive Oil, with their extra-virgin olive oil AND a special tasting at 12.30pm. Sarah (one half of Alivu) is trained in olive oil tasting - and will train us too at 12.30pm in the village hall, free of charge!

Other guests this year include: Great Cotmarsh Farm, with jumpers made with wool from their sheep, in colours from their botanical dye garden, plus leather items from their brand-new Cotmarsh micro-tannery; Ade and Gail Whale offering hand-made 'thumb' walking sticks; garden bulbs and beautifully recycled cards from Sustainable Sherston; and Whatley Manor, with the story of their own journey to net zero.

Come and buy your Sherston apple juice, stay for a coffee, have a BBQ lunch, browse local food and craft stalls, and enjoy entertainment for the kids! Entry is free.

Bring your surplus apples on the day (by 12.00noon) for pressing - this year's crop is patchy and we need all the apples we can get!

Field & Folk Comes Home to Sherston



It was a fantastic evening for 'Cotswolds: Field & Folk' in Sherston, with a sell-out screening at Sherston Village Hall and a brilliant audience turning out to support our local documentary.

A huge thank you must go to the Sherston Village Hall Committee, who have recently invested in a brand-new projector system. It made a huge difference on the night and provided a fantastic cinema-quality experience for the film. A big thank you also to Sustainable Sherston for running the bar and helping make it such a great community evening.

After the screening, we were delighted to be joined for an enthusiastic Q&A by three of the farmers featured in the film - Ian Wilkinson, Lucy Robbins and Abby Cook. The conversation carried on long after the credits, with questions and discussion around farming, the future of the Cotswolds, climate change and how we can all play a part in shaping the landscape around us.

We're incredibly grateful to everyone who came along and made the evening such a success, and to all the farmers and contributors who have shared their stories with us.

If you missed the Sherston screening, don't worry! Our screening tour is continuing into the autumn, with more dates being added. Go to www.cotswoldsfilm.co.uk for the latest screening dates and ticket information.

And coming soon ... Field & Folk will also be available to watch online from home!

Tea Smart

Field & Folk Director/Producer

Is Seven the Magic Number?



Could Sherston Advent House run for the seventh year? Originally a lockdown pick-me-up, the trail has gone from strength to strength thanks to you!

If you would like to see this free and sparkly community project run again - we are happy to pop the map together, we just need you to provide the windows and gardens. If you've never taken part before, this might be the year to give it a go!

As a quick recap, it's like an advent calendar but for houses. You decorate a window or garden with any Christmas theme you like. Each night from Tuesday 1 December, a few houses light up their scene, until Wednesday 23 December when everything is lit and we can take a stroll around for the full Sherston Advent House trail (5.30pm-8.30pm). The Church of the Holy Cross provides the last stop. It's magical to pop out and see the windows each night too, and it cheers up a December dog walk or creates a fun nighttime adventure with little ones.

The windows and gardens don't need to be complicated and, as many of us will be putting up fairy lights anyway, adding a few festive decorations to your house will be easy. You can even do the same as last year. A bit like this copy!

From gingerbread houses to snowy Lego scenes made with the family, anything goes! Simple is wonderful and taking part is the key - every window is special - and the more, the merrier. You only have to light up on your night but if you fancy keeping them switched on every night, that's fine too.

We know it's only October but we need to know if we have enough houses to go ahead so please email kirsty.strachan@icloud.com ASAP with a 'Yes, I'm in' along with your address. Last entry date will be Monday 2 November, but please email ASAP so we can start getting organised. We had over 60 houses and businesses take part last year - bringing a huge amount of Sherston community magic to December - and we would love as many houses and businesses to take part as possible. Is seven the magic number for our biggest trail yet?

Get your Panto Tickets Now!



It's panto time!! Oh yes it is!! Sherston Drama Group is excited to perform 'Frankenstein the Panto' by David Swan this October. The show combines all the usual pantomime ingredients, with Mary Shelley's famous story creating a fantastic Halloween treat suitable for all ages!

The story follows an orphan, Heidi, who works as a maid in Pumpernickel's Tavern, but is treated like a slave. To make matters worse, up in his castle, gormless Count Dracula and his grandmother are planning a dinner party ... with Heidi as the main course! Luckily, Heidi has friends to help her, including her best friend Frankie Stein, a party of badly behaved schoolgirls and the handsome Prince Ludwig. Things take a dramatic turn when Professor Crackpot transforms Frankie into a superhero, but will his new creation be able to save Heidi? Things are never simple when there's vampires around ...

Performances will take place every evening from Wednesday 28 to Saturday 31 October, 7.30pm in Sherston Village Hall, as well as a matinee at 2.30pm on the Saturday. Payable bar. Tickets are on sale from Sherston Co-op (cash or cheque) or on TicketSource (ticketsource.co.uk/sherston-drama-group, booking fee applies).



Village Hall 300+ Club September winners

The lucky winners of the 300+ Club September draw were:

- 1st (£60) - Yvonne Fry
- 2nd (£40) - David Munn
- 3rd (£20) - Yvonne Forsyth

It's not too late to join up 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

Tractor Run Raises over £1,000



Our recent tractor run, which came through Sherston, raised £1,091 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Thank you to everyone who helped and joined us for the tractor run, and a big thank you to every company that donated a raffle prize.

Lee Wodecki

Meet Grace - Sherston's New Florist



If you've walked past No.1 Church Street recently, you may have noticed a fair bit going on! After a lot of planning, the former wine shop is being transformed into Tulip & Twine, Sherston's new independent florist's.

Flowers have been a huge part of Grace's life since she was 14, when she first started working in a florist's. She went on to study floristry full-time, gaining her BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma with straight distinctions and national competition awards. Now, more than 16 years later, she is finally taking the plunge and opening a florist's of her own.

Grace loves everything about flowers — the colours, textures, movement and the way every season brings something new. Her style is relaxed, natural and countryside-inspired, with every bouquet individually created to let the flowers do the talking.

Being kinder to the environment is important to Grace, too. Tulip & Twine will use seasonal British flowers and local growers wherever possible, recyclable and biodegradable packaging, and sustainable floristry methods, and will compost its flower waste. Reclaimed and second-hand furniture will also be given a new lease of life around the shop.

The renovation has already uncovered a rather special surprise — an original Victorian fireplace with beautiful floral tiles, hidden away behind the old fittings. Grace loved it so much that the shop layout has been changed to make it a feature, giving this little piece of Sherston's history pride of place.

Most of all, Grace hopes Tulip & Twine will become a welcoming part of village life — somewhere to pop in for flowers, find a gift, arrange flowers for a special occasion, or simply have a chat. Alongside seasonal bouquets and local delivery, Tulip & Twine will offer wedding, funeral and event floristry, as well as seasonal workshops.

Grace has already been touched by the warm welcome from local residents and businesses. There's still plenty to do (and probably plenty more dust to sweep up), but Grace can't wait to open the door properly this autumn and welcome everyone into Tulip & Twine.

Where in Sherston?

From last month, for those that couldn't work it out - East end of Gaston Lane.





Sherston School News

Colour, laughter and community spirit!



Sherston CE Primary School was awash with colour as children, families and members of the wider community came together for another hugely successful obstacle course event.

From the very first burst of coloured powder, there was laughter, excitement and plenty of bright faces! Children tackled the course with enthusiasm as supporters cheered them on along the way.

What makes events like this so special is the way they bring our community together. It was wonderful to see current families, former pupils and local residents all taking part and enjoying a shared experience. The obstacle course was a perfect reflection of our school vision of Learning, Caring & Achieving Together, extending far beyond the classroom and into the heart of village life.

A huge thank you to the Friends of Sherston School (FSS) for organising the event. Their commitment ensures that our children enjoy experiences that add so much fun and excitement to their school years.

We would like to offer particular thanks to Nicky Haenal and Chelsea Davis, who are stepping down from their roles as Chair and Treasurer of the FSS. Over the years, they have devoted countless hours to planning events, raising funds and supporting the school community. Most importantly, they have played a huge part in making school life even more enjoyable for so many children and families. On behalf of everyone at Sherston CE Primary School, thank you, Nicky and Chelsea, for your enthusiasm, organisation and commitment. Your contribution has been greatly appreciated.

A growing reception: an exceptional start to school life

Last month, we shared the exciting news that the number of children in our Early Years Foundation Stage continues to grow. With more and more families choosing Sherston, we are delighted to expand our Reception provision while maintaining the caring, family atmosphere for which the school is known.

Through a carefully planned mix of exploration, play and high-quality teaching, our Reception class provides children with the very best start to their



learning journey. Whether they are solving problems, developing early reading and writing skills, exploring the outdoors or following their own interests through purposeful play, every day is filled with opportunities to discover something new.

We are proud of the warm, nurturing environment we provide, where every child is known as an individual and encouraged to flourish.

If your child is due to start school in September 2027, we would love to welcome you to our EYFS Open Day on Tuesday 24 November. It is an opportunity to meet our staff, explore our Reception environment and see first-hand why more and more families are choosing Sherston CE Primary School.



Meet the staff

Fast facts

Name: Arianne Howitt

Role in School: Rowan Class Teacher, Subject Lead for Art, DT and PSHE

How long you've been at the school: One week!

Your school-day 'superpower': An impressive ability to somehow break the photocopier just by looking at it – I'm sure they see me coming!

Three words that describe you: creative, optimistic, nerdy
Favourite playground game/childhood hobby: I was the nerdy child that used to read her book and knit in the playground – and I'm not sure I've grown out of that yet!



Secret talent: I used to teach adults Latin American social dance, including Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Rueda and Kizomba.

Tea/coffee/drink/biscuit of choice: I love a coffee and a cookie – a chai or vanilla latte if I'm out and feeling indulgent!

Quick-fire challenge

Cats or dogs? Dogs

Summer or winter? Summer

Board games or video games? Board games

A vegetable you would ban forever: Aubergine

If you were invisible for a day, what would you do? I'd sneak into nursery to watch my little girl and see what she's like when we aren't there!

Your favourite subject as a child: Art

Something in your classroom/office you couldn't live without: Travel mug – coffee is always a must!

Best biscuit for dunking: Malted Milk

Your perfect sandwich: Brie and blackcurrant jam

A place you dream of visiting: Italy

Spotlight story

I started my teaching career at a wonderful school in inner-city Birmingham, with classes full of children from all around the world – we had over 20 languages represented throughout the school at any one time! Since then, I have continued to work in high-deprivation and high-need areas, up until my last role running KS1 and EYFS in a school that catered to a vast majority of military children. I have absolutely loved every school I have worked in; however, this year was time for a change. Having had my little girl, I was seeking a role closer to home and fell in love with Sherston Primary upon visiting one morning – I was absolutely thrilled when Mr Towers asked me to join the team and have been buzzing ever since! My first week has certainly not disappointed – the children and staff have helped me to feel so welcome, and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!

My school day in three moments

A moment that makes me smile: The look of pride a child has when they've achieved something that they didn't think they were able to – it never gets old!

A moment that challenges me: Those dreaded days when the tech doesn't work – I'm not as tech-savvy as I'd like to be and can feel completely lost when things go wrong.

A moment I treasure: Every time a child brings something in that they have made for me or wanted to share with me, be it a card, sticker, toy or piece of colouring – I treasure them all!

One question from a child

Question: A child asked how old I was when the Great Fire of London happened, absolutely convinced that I must've been there at the time.

Your answer: I explained that I was not, in fact, more than 300 years old, and we spent the next history lesson recapping the timeline we had made and adding the year of my birth to it!

OPEN ALL DAY!



THE Rattlebone

SHERSTON

AUTUMN & CHRISTMAS AT THE RATTLEBONE

DEATH ON THE GANGES

Friday 9 October | 7pm

Become part of an immersive 1930s murder mystery with live actors, a welcome drink and a delicious three-course dinner.

£55 per person | Strictly limited to 40 guests

ANGELA GILLET: AN EVENING OF MEDIUMSHIP & CAT'S TARROT

Thursday 29 October | 7.30pm

Angela Gillet returns for an Evening of Mediumship, alongside Cat's Tarrot.

£15 per person, including a welcome drink
Limited to 40 places

Extremely popular - book early to avoid disappointment!

HALLOWEEN AT THE RATTLEBONE

Spooky fun throughout Halloween week, culminating on Saturday 31 October with live music, devilish drinks offers and plenty of surprises!

CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Our festive party menu launches in early September for parties from November to 24 December, while Christmas Day features one luxurious single sitting with Champagne on arrival, three courses, petits fours and a cheeseboard.

BOOK EARLY - PLACES ARE LIMITED







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

01666 840871

info@rattlebone.co.uk

www.rattlebone.co.uk








Church Street, Sherston, Malmesbury, Wiltshire SN16 0LR



SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Cuttings

Award-winning author and broadcaster Stephen Anderton lived up to expectations in September by treating us to a fascinating talk about Christopher 'Christo' Lloyd, the supremely talented and eccentric owner of Great Dixter in Essex. Stephen described the dysfunctional family Christo had been born into, with an overbearing Edwardian-era mother whose love for the gardens he fortunately shared. In the years after her death, Christo was finally free to enjoy and enhance them, whilst writing books and magazine columns and befriending the great and the good in horticulture.

On Tuesday 6 October, award-winning head gardener, writer, and broadcaster Jane Moore will talk about 'Late Summer Colour', describing how to keep borders vibrant and prolong interest with late-flowering plants. After a summer of dun-coloured grass and wilting borders, it's good to welcome some brightness back into our gardens.



A late summer medley



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Duncan Coombs will be our speaker on Tuesday 3 November on the seasonal topic, 'Pruning Shrubs and Aftercare'. Having spent more than 30 years sharing his passion for plants with students at Pershore College in Warwickshire, he is now a lecturer, RHS Garden Advisor and keen plant hunter.



Duncan Coombs

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 are 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.

Calendar

We are busy putting the finishing touches to our 2027 programme of meetings and we have a brilliant selection of speakers and visits lined up. We're even looking ahead to 2028 and hoping to book someone with an amazing story to tell which should appeal even to non-gardeners! A proper cliffhanger ...!

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Sherston Senior Club

At the end of August, we welcomed back the Willow Singers to entertain us. They sang some wonderful country-themed songs, accompanied by their musical instruments. Everyone, including our visitors, enjoyed their entertainment and we will definitely be welcoming them back next year.

Our Harvest Auction last month was very successful, despite there being a noticeable lack of apples, which were in abundance last year. Our members were very generous with their varying donations, and Rev. Susan Harvey led a short service before we started. We donated the takings to The Sisters of the Church in Bristol, which we have done for quite a few years now.

We would like to thank the ladies who did the teas for us at both of these meetings.

For more information about the Senior Club, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

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Cycling Challenge Completed!

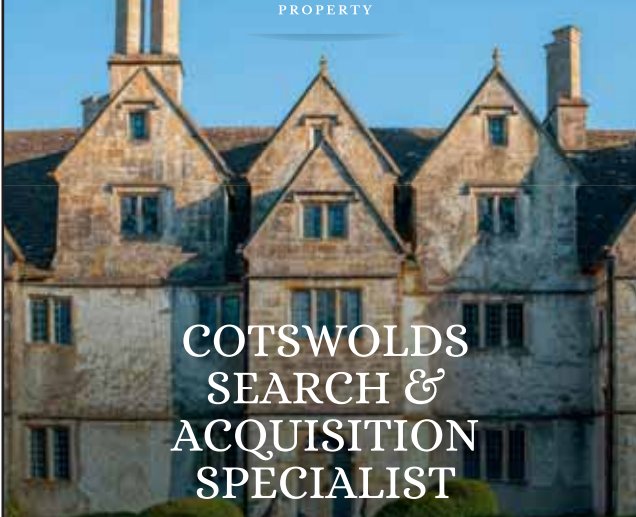


I would like to update everyone on my 100-mile cycling challenge. I am pleased to say that I have finished it, cycling 106 miles in total. The longest cycle I did was 28 miles in the Peak District. The hills were quite hard, and I had two crashes but lots of snacks so I was OK. Everyone has been very generous in donating money - half will go to Sherston Primary School and half to a charity called Winston's Wish. A big thank you to everyone who has donated, especially the Rattlebone bingo group who donated £300! The total raised at the moment is £1,200 which is amazing! You can still donate if you'd like, just go to: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rebecca-smith-185?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=CL

Thank you! *From Oscar*



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Holy Cross News



Harvest

We are very fortunate to live in a rural community surrounded by so many active farms. Although we are now well past the autumnal equinox, we are still very likely to meet tractors with heavy trailers and other agricultural equipment in tow as we go around local roads. Although the traditional image of wheat and other cereal harvests is probably a little outdated, we can still rejoice in the harvest. Our harvest festival service in church is on Sunday 4 October at 6.00pm and is followed by our harvest supper. One of the charities that we support as a church is TEAR Fund and we are delighted to welcome David to our harvest service who will speak about the work of the charity. More details about the supper (tickets £10 per head) are in the church. We will also welcome Sherston CE Primary School for a special afternoon harvest service later in the month.

Please note that the Malmesbury Food Bank has a continuing need for donations, and there is a list of the most-needed supplies on the lychgate. Donations at our harvest services will be sent to the Food Bank. Do please help if you can.

Churchyard working party

The dry summer months followed by some welcome rain have been a test for fields, gardens and also our churchyard. The churchyard working group of volunteers will meet on the first Saturday of October, November and December at 9.00am to continue their work on maintaining the churchyard. There is a lot to do to keep the churchyard flora under control, provide access to the graves for those who wish to visit, and help the churchyard remain a dignified, pleasant and quiet place for all. If you are able to help, please come along on the first Saturday of the month or, for more details, contact Sue Robinson: sue.m.r1951@gmail.com.

Hymns and Pimm's

This was a rather experimental event for the church but we are pleased to say it was a huge success, with over 70 people enjoying a pleasant bank holiday afternoon. Many people love to sing and this was a great opportunity to sing some well-loved hymns in the lovely surroundings of our church, accompanied by a glass of Pimm's and the beautiful playing of the organ by Val Marriott.

Added to that, the fundraising for the repairs to the church ceiling got off to a good start. Look out for further ways to support the project and more opportunities to come and sing!

New appointment

We are delighted that the Rev. Ross Pilliner has been appointed as our new priest in charge of the Gauzebrook Group of churches, to which the Church of the Holy Cross belongs. We hope to include a profile of Ross in the next edition of the Cliffhanger.

Sherston Theatre Club News



We enjoyed an outing to London last month to see The Comedy about Spies at the Adelphi Theatre. What a brilliant trip! Thanks to Andy James for getting us there and back.

There are still a few tickets available for Hadestown at the Lyric Theatre in London on Thursday 12 November.

We are now busy planning for 2027, including tickets for the Bayeux Tapestry. More on this next month.

If you want to join the Sherston Theatre Club or find out what is on offer email us at sherstontheatreclub@gmail.com

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Tolsey News

Social prescribing

Just a reminder that our Living Well Team offers social, emotional and practical support for any patients aged over 75. This includes help with:

- Social isolation - reducing loneliness, building social connections, finding local groups and activities.
- Mental health wellbeing - improving wellbeing, support for low mood and mental health challenges.
- Finances - providing support with money worries, debt, benefits, housing, etc.
- Lifestyle and health change - providing support to manage weight, quit smoking and reduce alcohol consumption.
- Practical support - finding local services, advice and community resources for daily needs.

If our Living Well Team may be able to help you, just ask at the surgery.



Happy retirement!

We would like to wish Michele Lacey a very happy retirement. Michele joined the Tolsey in September 2008 and has been our secretary ever since. During that time, she has had to deal with numerous changes to the way Primary Care can refer into our local hospitals and the proliferation of more and more complicated NHS pathways. This has been very difficult, but she has always risen to the challenge and been a vital part of our administrative team. We know that she has some exciting days ahead, and all her friends and colleagues would like to wish her the very best for the future!

Sherston Scout Group: Adventures in The Great Outdoors



A wheely good evening

Last month, 1st Sherston Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoyed an energetic evening of cycling at Castle Combe Circuit. Despite a bit of a headwind along one section of the race track, they completed lap after lap! It was a great opportunity for everyone to get out on their bikes in such a unique setting.



Crabapples galore

Each section had further fresh-air fun last month as they gathered crabapples to be turned into Tracklements English Crabapple Jelly. Together, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts collected over 130kg! An amazing effort!



Westonbirt - Robert Stanyer Holford (1808-1892)



Westonbirt ahead of demolition 1823

The Holford family's wealth stemmed primarily from their highly remunerative legal practice in London, which was considerably enhanced - and not just by some coincidence - by the financial demise of the Creswell family at the nearby Pinkney estate. News of the Creswells' financial distress would most likely have reached the Holfords' before any modern communications, after Pinkney had been renounced for their estate distribution in Tetbury. This provided an opportunity at the High Court in London in 1832, similar to the never-ending inheritance battle of Jarndyce and Jarndyce in Charles Dickens' 1852 novel, 'Bleak House'.

Although the Holfords acquired the Westonbirt estate in about 1665, for three generations they lived primarily in London as Masters in Chancery, managing estates of absentee British landlords. Their income was bolstered by three lucrative shares in the New River Company, which supplied fresh drinking water to London.

George Holford retired to Westonbirt in 1823. He demolished the original Jacobean property to build today's classical Regency mansion, similar to neighbouring properties at Pinkney and Grittleton. In 1839, George's 31-year-old son, Robert Stanyer Holford (1808-1892), inherited a vast legacy, equivalent to roughly £100 million today. The Holfords had lived in London at Dorchester House on Park Lane, Mayfair - a magnificent Italian-style

palazzo that was demolished in 1929 to make way for today's luxury hotel.

George was a scholarly collector of Old Masters, rare early books, manuscripts, Chinese porcelain, French furniture, tapestries, bronzes and silver. His collection included two Rubens, five Rembrandts and four van Dycks, together with many other antique treasures. At its peak, the Holford collection rivalled that of the National Gallery in London.

The contents and estate of Westonbirt House were precipitously auctioned off by Christie's in 1928, during a highly inauspicious economic period. A similar fate befell Grittleton House, which was owned by Joseph Neeld (1789-1856), also a solicitor. In 1827, Neeld had inherited an enormous fortune of almost £1 million from his great-uncle, Philip Rundell, the prestigious royal goldsmith of Rundell & Bridge.

Westonbirt and Grittleton both held collections that were recklessly disposed of. The sale of the Holford treasures in 1928 followed by Christie's auction of the Neeld sculpture collection in 1966 provided the impetus both to establish a National Trust to protect British heritage and to expand the National Gallery.

Today, the Holfords' living legacy is Westonbirt Arboretum - a jewel in the Forestry Commission estate and home to one of the most spectacular tree collections in the world.

Richard Stancomb

Grow your own skills, help girls have adventures, become a leader with Malmesbury Girlguiding!



We're looking for leaders to run sessions for all our age groups due to long waiting lists; so that's Rainbows 5-7 years, Brownies 7-10 years, Guides 10-14 years, and Rangers 14-17 years. These could be weekly, fortnightly, or even monthly, on weekday evenings or at the weekend - whatever suits you best.

With our older groups you'll be facilitating more often than leading, as the girls come up with ideas and run sessions themselves.

We give girls amazing opportunities to try new activities and to go on trips (both in the UK and overseas), camps, pack holidays and to PGL. We help them to develop their independence and find their own voice. With us, their confidence grows and they realise that girls really can do anything!

There are lots of myths about our leaders – that they must be teachers, or have experience working with children. Not true! All you need is enthusiasm; you must be willing to volunteer as part of a small team and to share the various aspects of running your group.

And what's in it for you? Well, where do we start!

You'll develop your own skills and confidence by choosing, planning and running activities. You'll gain experience as a team leader and a team member. We even have our own Leadership Development Programme which you'll complete with the support of a mentor.

You'll also complete online training in safeguarding, inclusion and risk assessing, which are all essential skills in the modern workplace. If you're currently applying for work and struggling because of the lack of jobs available, volunteering with us will strengthen your CV and give you lots to talk about at interview.

Contact us for further information via malmesburydiv@gmail.com Queries are welcome.

Vicky Geake and Fi Picton, Joint Division Commissioners, Malmesbury Girlguiding



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Malmesbury Arts Society

THE ARTS SOCIETY MALMESBURY

October sees the start of the new Malmesbury Arts Society meetings in Crudwell Village Hall. We open the season on Tuesday 13 October with a talk by James Lindow entitled 'Northern Lights: The Influence of Netherlandish Art on the Italian Renaissance'. The talk will cover the impact that Flemish art had on the works of painters during the period of the Medici, including Botticelli and Leonardo.

Our future programme will include talks on 'The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy', 'The Astors' and 'The Parks and Gardens of Blenheim Palace'.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 1.45pm and talks last an hour, followed by home-made cakes and tea. We are a very friendly group and have many members in Sherston and the outlying villages.

For further information, please visit our website:

www.theartsocietymalmesbury.org or contact our Secretary, Denise Gibson, on 07971 840881.

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Martha Tilston & the Mermaid Choir to Perform at Malmesbury Abbey



We are looking forward to welcoming Martha Tilston & the Mermaid Choir to Malmesbury Abbey on Friday 9 October. Martha's beautiful, heartfelt songs and her silken vocals, interweaving with the Mermaid Choir's harmonies, will absolutely soar in the breathtaking atmosphere of Malmesbury Abbey. When those voices meet the Abbey's acoustics, magic is going to happen! We cannot wait to share this evening with you. Tickets are selling out fast, grab yours here: malmesbury-live-arts.org.uk/martha-tilston-and-the-mermaid-choir

And to get an idea of the beautiful music Martha writes and performs, follow this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDV5mJxfGvk

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Willesley Runners at Westonbirt



On Sunday 6 September, a scratch team of 20 Willesley residents and friends entered the Westonbirt Fun Run as Willesley Runners - and what a success it was!

We came away with firsts in the one mile race in both the Male and Female 70+ categories and our nine-year-old came 4th in the Junior Female (under 20) category. In the 5km race, we came 1st in the Junior (under 20) both Male and Female, 1st and 2nd in the Female 50-59, 1st in the Male 40-49 and finally 1st in the Male 70+.

Just shows that you can do it at any age - and we can't wait for next year!

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North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

We are an active and friendly club, ideal for anyone who loves beautiful flowers, foliage and artistry. Our members come from all over North Wiltshire and into Gloucestershire. At our AGM in September, we launched our new programme for 2027, which will include floral demonstrations, workshops for all levels of experience, talks, visits and a special event to celebrate our Emerald Anniversary.

As for the remainder of 2026, we are already planning ahead for Christmas.

On Wednesday 21 October, we are holding a workshop at Crudwell Village Hall with Brinkworth Willow, where we will learn to construct wreaths that can be decorated subsequently with seasonal flowers, foliage and decorations. Useful for autumn but also great for the festive season.

The following month, we are holding our main event of the year, an open meeting with Nick Grounds at Malmesbury Town Hall, on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30pm. Nick is a National Demonstrator, with a day job as a professional

horticultural auctioneer, known for his theatrical, humorous and engaging flower-arranging events. It promises to be a fun evening and all are welcome. Tickets are now available (£20 for members, £25 for visitors) and include delicious canapés and a glass of bubbly. For more information or to purchase tickets, email nwvflowerclub@gmail.com, call 07817 242888, or visit our website; northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk

Later that month, on Saturday 28 November, we will be holding a Christmas wreath-making event in Malmesbury. This will be open to anyone who would like to learn a new skill, especially non-members. More details next month but, if you'd like more information before then, please check our website (see above) or our Facebook page – North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club.

Our final event of 2026 will be a Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16 December, providing an opportunity to relax, look back on an interesting year and enjoy each other's company.

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WHAT'S ON: October 2026

Sherston

Saturday 3 October 9am, Holy Cross Church churchyard. **Churchyard Working Party.** There is a lot to do to keep the churchyard flora under control, provide access to the graves for those who wish to visit, and help the churchyard remain a dignified, pleasant and quiet place for all. If you are able to help, please come along to help or, for more details, contact Sue Robinson: sue.m.r1951@gmail. com.

Sunday 4 October 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. **Worship Together church service.**

Sunday 4 October 6pm, Holy Cross Church. **Harvest Service.** Followed by our harvest supper. One of the charities that we support as a church is TEAR Fund and we are delighted to welcome David to our harvest service who will speak about the work of the charity. More details about the supper (tickets £10 per head) are in the church.

Tuesday 6 October 7pm for 7.30pm start, British School Room. **Sherston Gardening Club meeting. Award-winning head gardener, writer, and broadcaster Jane Moore** will talk about 'Late Summer Colour', describing how to keep borders vibrant and prolong interest with late- flowering plants. Open to all members and guests. Contact our secretary for more info: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Thursday 8 October 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.

Sunday 11 October 10am-3pm, Sherston Village Hall and field. **Sherston Apple Day.** Freshly made apple juice for sale, kids' activities, local suppliers and crafts, plus BBQ. Free entry. Bring your surplus apples on the day (by 12noon) for pressing.

Sunday 18 October 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Sunday 25 October 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Wednesday 28 October to Saturday 31 October 7.30pm (also 2.30pm on Sat), Sherston Village Hall. Sherston **Drama Club presents: Frankenstein the Panto.** The show combines all the usual

pantomime ingredients, with Mary Shelley's famous story creating a fantastic Halloween treat suitable for all ages! Payable bar. Tickets from Sherston Co-op (cash or cheque) or TicketSource (ticketsource.co.uk/sherston-drama- group, booking fee applies).

Alderton

Sunday 4 October 9.30am, Alderton Church. **Harvest Service**

Crudwell

Wednesday 21 October Crudwell Village Hall. **North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club workshop.** Learn to construct wreaths with Brinkworth Willow, that can be decorated subsequently with seasonal flowers, foliage and decorations. Useful for autumn but also great for the festive season. For more info, email nwwflowerclub@gmail. com or go to northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk

Foxley

Sunday 18 October 6pm, Foxley Parish Church. **Harvest Service.**

Luckington

Sunday 4 October 11am, Luckington Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Tuesday 6 October 2pm-2.30pm, The Old Royal Ship. **Luckington Bible Study.** To join, please contact: Helen.m.daviesllm@gmail.com. Also: 13, 20 and 27 October.

Sunday 11 October 10am, Luckington Church. **Holy Communion church service. Group Service.**

Sunday 18 October 11am, Luckington Church. **Worship Together church service.**

Malmesbury

Saturday 3 October 9.30am-12.30pm, The Hub (Old School Room), Malmesbury Town Hall. **Malmesbury & District u3a Open Morning.** Find out in person about our various interest groups, meet group leaders as well as new and existing members. Just come along on the day. We look forward to seeing you there. For more info, go to www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk or email membership@malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Friday 9 October 10am-12noon, Malmesbury Abbey. **Martha Tilston & the Mermaid Choir.** Presented by Malmesbury Live Arts. Martha's beautiful, heartfelt songs, and her silken vocals, interweaving with the Mermaid Choir's harmonies, will absolutely soar in the breathtaking atmosphere of Malmesbury Abbey. Tickets: malmesbury-live-arts.org.uk/martha-tilston-and-the-mermaid-choir

Tuesday 13 October 1.45pm, Crudwell Village Hall. **Malmesbury Arts Society meeting.** Talk by James Lindow entitled 'Northern Lights: The Influence of Netherlandish Art on the Italian Renaissance'. The talk will cover the impact that Flemish art had on the works of painters during the period of the Medici, including Botticelli and Leonardo. Talks last an hour, followed by home-made cakes and tea. For further info go to www.theartsocietymalmesbury.org or contact our Secretary, Denise Gibson, on 07971 840881.

Friday 16 October 8pm, The Kings Arms. **Gloryhole Comedy Club.** Presented by Malmesbury Live Arts. Four brilliant acts. One compere. Three hours of fun and frivolity. This is Malmesbury's favourite comedy night at its very best. Tickets: £15 malmesbury-live-arts.org.uk/gloryhole

Thursday 22 October 10am-12noon, Malmesbury Town Hall. **Malmesbury & District u3a meeting.** Stewart Linford 'The art of the Limited Edition'. Stewart talks how creativity and craftsmanship, combined with British heritage, won the Queen's Award for Enterprise. He is a chairmaker who has created chairs to celebrate our Great British Heroes. He graduated in Furniture Production and Management at High Wycombe College and gained a degree in Wood Science. He won the Queen's Award for Enterprise for Stewart Linford Chairmaker Ltd For more info, go to www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk or email membership@malmesburyu3a.org.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

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

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 (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 sherstonbabytoddler@hotmail.com or regular updates on www.facebook.com/sherston.toddler

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/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 clementsmary@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. For more info, contact: sherstontheatreclub@gmail.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. emmacope@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 sherstonsshooters@gmail.com

Sherston Short Mat Bowls

Meet every Thurs evening 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Village Hall, September through to May. Bring flat shoes, we have the woods. Contact Tony Weedon 841377 or 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 Division 1 of the Stroud & District Football League, and the Reserves team plays in Division 3, 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 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.

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

Tetbury Chess

Every Wednesday morning at the Goods Shed. A friendly group meet socially and play evening matches in the North Gloucester Chess Association league throughout the year. If you would be interested in joining us, please contact (either by text or email) Ian on 07938823877 - ileslic@talk21.com, or Mike on 07704900237 - mike.dee@gmail.com.

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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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. To make a booking, go to: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/bookhrc

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

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

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)

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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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