



THE SHERSTON CLIFFHANGER



PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2026

DELIVERED FREE

Site secured for new Sherston GP Surgery



**Sherston
Parish Council**

You may remember back in March, we had confirmation that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) had at last agreed to fund the running of a new GP surgery in Sherston. This meant we could continue with renewed enthusiasm to secure the land and monies to build the new facility.

What followed was a tortuous period of negotiation between Wiltshire Council planners and the developers of the Sopworth Road site (Acorn). Eventually, a Section 106 agreement was signed between Wiltshire Council, Sherston Parish Council and the developers a couple of months ago. This secures the transfer of the land allocated for the new surgery in the Neighbourhood Plan to the councils. This is another major step forward in ultimately getting a new surgery. Commenting on this, Dr Simon Watkins GP said: 'All the team at the Tolsey Surgery are delighted to learn that another significant milestone has been achieved in our plans to build a new surgery for our local population.'

However, there is now another period of negotiation in progress, which entails Acorn paying for access rights to the housing/surgery site over the councils' land. There are many complexities involved here and we'll spare you the details, which only land agents are likely to be interested in. Once this next hurdle is overcome, we need to raise the extra capital required to pay for the surgery build; this could come from the Community Infrastructure Levy from Wiltshire Council and/or a government grant which our MP, Dr Roz Savage, has had conversations about with the relevant government minister, Stephen Kinnock MP.

We then need to design the surgery, apply for planning permission, appoint a contractor and get it built. Still an awful lot to do!

*Cllr Martin Smith - Wiltshire Councillor for Sherston
Cllr Tanya Burgess - Chair of Sherston Parish Council*

Tolsey News



Flu Clinics

Flu season will soon be upon us and we will be inviting patients to book their flu vaccinations. Appointments will start from the beginning of October. Our Saturday clinic this year will be held on 10 October, although there will be alternative appointments offered during the week.

The Tolsey Surgery would encourage you to book with us. Getting your flu vaccine at your local surgery protects your health, has the benefits of continuity of care and directly supports your local practice. The NHS provides vital funding directly to our practice for this service. This funding allows us to maintain our high standards of care, upgrade medical equipment and fund essential staff. Booking with your own healthcare team also means you are seen in a safe, familiar and comfortable environment.

Those eligible for a flu vaccine are:

- Pregnant women
- Adults aged 65 or older
- Individuals aged six months to 64 years in clinical risk groups (such as diabetes and chronic heart, lung, kidney or liver disease)
- Residents in long-term residential care homes
- Carers
- Frontline health and social care workers.

Medical students from Bristol University

We are delighted to welcome our new pair of fourth-year medical students to the Tolsey. Anna and Johnathon will be with us for the next 18 weeks as part of their Primary Care attachment. During that time, they will be honing their consultation and examining skills, taking blood tests and learning a lot about prescribing before sitting their final exams in July 2027. We hope that they will be made to feel very welcome by all our patients.

Parish Council meeting



The next meeting will take place on Thursday 10 September 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.

Have you lost plants in your garden this summer?

There will be a selection of good-value plants for sale this month outside Well Cottage, 6 Cliff Road, Sherston with all proceeds going to Greenfingers, Sherston Primary School's after-school gardening club.

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

Sherston Village Hall: New screen, projector and speakers!

SHERSTON



VILLAGE HALL

Finally, what many of our hirers have been asking for! We have installed a fantastic four-metre screen, a state-of-the-art projector (which retracts neatly into the ceiling) and wall-mounted speakers. This new AV system can be used by hirers for talks and demos, for music at parties and celebrations, and for film screenings. The user interface has been chosen so it's as easy to operate as possible, with simple connectivity to laptops or phones (by Bluetooth). We're confident that anyone will be able to use this with minimal instruction.

This was installed by Sherston's very own Jason Skuse of Laservision, Kingfisher Cottage, Thompsons Hill (<https://laser-vision.co.uk/>).

Most of the funding came from grants from Sherston Parish Council/SOSCIC and from the Malmesbury Area Board. Many thanks to them.



Echoes of Place: Exhibition at Westonbirt Great Oak Hall 24-29 September



Enjoy the work of local artists Gill Ashley and Jenny Riley at an exhibition at Westonbirt Great Oak Hall, from Thursday 24 September to Tuesday 29 September, 10.00am-4.00pm. Gill and Jenny use a variety of media to express 'Echoes of Place' through contemporary landscapes, still life and abstract paintings, often using memory of colour and the language of paint to provide studies in light and form through the observed and imagined.

Both artists have studied art through professional courses, and exhibit in local venues and through a variety of art societies. They are both members of the Friends of Westonbirt and use the forestry woodlands for their inspiration, as well as holiday destinations such as the Scilly Isles, Wales and Cornwall.

Sherston Theatre Club News

Sherston Theatre club has three outings booked for the months ahead.

1. The Comedy About Spies at the Adelphi Theatre in London on Tuesday 22 September.
2. Hadestown at the Lyric Theatre in London on Thursday 12 November.
3. Jesus Christ Superstar at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff on Thursday 4 March.

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

Our trip in September to The Theatre Royal in Bath to see A Man for all Seasons is now fully booked!

Giving back to the community one crabapple at a time!



This September, Tracklements is encouraging the local community to don their wellies, take a walk in the countryside and start collecting crabapples for a terrific cause!

For over 20 years, Tracklements has worked alongside Sherston Primary School to gather crabapples for its English Crabapple Jelly. For every kilogram of crabapples collected, 50p is given to the school, as well as a further 25p from the sale of every jar sold nationwide. Last year, the project raised £1,534.75.

As a certified B Corp, Tracklements is committed to using business as a force for good, with the Crabapple Project serving as a perfect example of this commitment in action. Not only does it raise vital funds for Sherston Primary School, it's also a great way to teach Sherston's young people about the provenance of their food by showing them the process from tree to jar, as well as using fruit which may otherwise go to waste. Look out for the special edition label, featuring the winning design illustrated by one of the schoolchildren.

What are crabapples? Crabapples are small, 'wild' apples which are too tart to enjoy straight from the tree, but at their best when made into an exquisite, ruby-coloured jelly. Whilst they are often associated with love and marriage, they have also appeared throughout Shakespeare's celebrated literature, including 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Please drop off any crabapples you collect between Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 30 September at Tracklements, Whitewalls, Easton Grey, SN16 0RD (Tel: 827044, open 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday).

If crabapplying isn't your thing but you still want to help the school, buying a jar of this scrumptious jelly gives the school a donation whilst you enjoy it with sausages or roast pork!

To find out more about the project, visit www.tracklements.co.uk

Sherston Drama Group



Sherston Drama Group is excited to perform 'Frankenstein the Panto' by David Swan this October half-term. The show combines all the usual pantomime ingredients with a monstrous story, creating a hilarious Halloween treat suitable for all ages!

The story follows an orphan, Heidi, who works as a maid in Pumpnickel'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. The forces of evil don't stand a chance, especially when Professor Crackpot transforms Frankie into a superhero!

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

Village Hall 300+ Club August winners

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

1st (£60) - Sue McKechnie

2nd (£40) - David Munn

3rd (£20) - Rev. Margaret Maslin

It's not too late to join up if you're not already a member!

Sherston Senior Club

In July, Goug Wilcox gave us an enlightening talk on her 'Brazilian Journey', when she accompanied her daughter Kezia, who had been invited to stay with her godmother in Brazil.

Also in July, we were kindly invited by Pete and Sue Thompson to enjoy their garden for our summer party. We had a lovely time being served by Anita and Nina and not forgetting Dave who was so attentive to those who needed assistance. Thank you to them all, as well the members who made cakes. It was a hot sunny afternoon and members were grateful for the many areas of shade to sit in. The garden has many different artefacts, each with a story to tell. A lovely afternoon enjoyed by all.

In August, Farm Foods visited us with samples of their meals to try, and the Willow Singers made a return visit. More on these next month.

Our Harvest Auction will take place on Tuesday 8 September. Visitors welcome, we meet at 2.00pm in the British School Room, Cliff Road.

For more information, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

Where in Sherston?



Find out next month if not able to spot.

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

Sherston's Swifts



By early August, as you may have noticed, Sherston's swifts were starting to leave on their long journeys south to overwinter in Africa. Anecdotally, they have had a good season in the village with people reporting larger groups than in previous years flying and screaming over the High Street and Sandpits Lane where some outlying nesting activity has been reported. Nestlings fledge after 40-45 days and as soon as this happens the adult birds prepare to leave. In a year when the weather has been cool or wet and their insect food consequently in short supply, they may spend a week or two feeding up before departing on such an arduous journey. This year, however, the hot dry weather has been ideal for them and they have been ready to leave almost as soon as their young are independent.

The young birds set off after their parents and find their way using an internal genetic compass that they are born with, flying south to Africa completely alone. Once there, they will spend two to three years almost entirely on the wing until they are fully grown when they will find their way back to the same area in which they were born to mate and breed. This seemingly miraculous process has been going on for centuries but is now being disrupted, both here and in the birds' overwintering grounds, by human activity. Insects are declining rapidly in number. In Africa, wet areas where insects thrive are being drained due to development of the land, while in the UK nesting sites are being lost and the swift is now on the Red List of endangered birds.

What can we do?

- Put up swift-specific nest boxes. There is some evidence that they prefer those with a runway landing on the outside.
- Play attraction calls from early May to late July. You are unlikely to get them into your boxes otherwise.
- Leave space for them, for example, under your eaves, being particularly careful that building work does not block sites they already use.

That's all for 2026 but I hope to be back next year to continue this topic. If you want to follow the swifts southward, look at the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) www.bto.org or swiftmapper.org.uk

Sue Robinson sue.m.r1951@gmail.com



OPEN ALL DAY!

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.

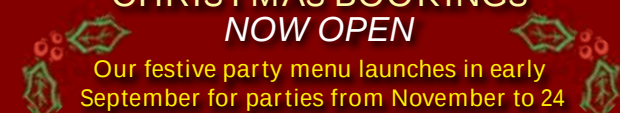
£15 per person, including a welcome drink
Limited to 40 places

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 School News

A flying start in EYFS!

This month, we are delighted to welcome both new and familiar faces into our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We are especially excited to introduce Miss Newman as our new EYFS Lead and to welcome Miss Sammy, who will be joining the class for two mornings each week. Together, they are looking forward to creating a nurturing, inspiring and fun environment where every child can flourish.

The EYFS is such an important stage of a child's education. It lays the foundations for future learning by developing communication, confidence, independence, curiosity and a love of discovery. These early experiences help children build the skills and knowledge they need to succeed throughout their school journey.

This year, we will be placing a strong focus on foundational knowledge – the essential building blocks that allow children to make sense of the world

around them. Whether it's developing vocabulary, understanding numbers, building early reading skills or learning how to work and play with others, these foundations support all future learning. However, learning in EYFS should never feel like a chore. Through exciting activities, imaginative play, exploration and discovery, we will ensure that learning remains captivating, engaging and - most importantly - fun.

We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families joining the Sherston community. We are thrilled to be welcoming 30 children into the setting this year, including three sets of twins, making this one of our most unique cohorts yet! We cannot wait to get to know every child and family as they begin their adventure with us. Here's to a fantastic year of learning, laughter and making memories together.

Results that reflect excellence

We are incredibly proud to celebrate another year of outstanding achievement across the school. These results reflect not only the hard work and determination of our children but also the dedication of our staff and the strong partnership we enjoy with parents.

Our Year 6 children achieved exceptional outcomes. An impressive 94% reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (compared with national figures of 75%, 72% and 74% respectively), with 68% achieving 'greater depth' level in reading and 61% in maths, both significantly above national averages.

In Year 4, children excelled in the Multiplication Tables Check, achieving an average score of 24 out of 25. These results demonstrate strong mathematical fluency and confidence.

Our Year 2 children also performed extremely well, exceeding national figures in reading, writing and maths at both 'expected standard' and 'greater depth' levels. Particularly pleasing was the 28% 'greater depth' result in maths, highlighting strong reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Further success was seen in Year 1 phonics, where 96% of children met the expected standard, and in EYFS, where 81% achieved a 'Good Level of Development' - both substantially above national averages.

These achievements are the result of high-quality teaching, careful support and a shared commitment between school and home. We are immensely proud of every child and grateful to the staff and families who work together to help our children thrive.



Meet the staff

Fast facts

Name: *Amy Newman*

Role in school: *Reception*

Class Teacher

How long you've been at the school: *Fresh in September!*

Your schoolday 'superpower': *gently appearing with a small sweet treat in hand for staff when it's needed the most.*

Three words that describe you: *Enthusiastic, empathetic, chatterbox*

Favourite playground game/childhood hobby: *Anything imaginative like pretending to be a princess fairy pirate who can probably also turn into a mermaid.*

Secret talent: *I am scarily good at accents.*

Quick-fire challenge

Cats or dogs? *Dogs*

Sweet or savoury? *Savoury*

Summer or winter? *Summer*

Reading or drawing? *Reading*

If you were a crisp flavour, which would you be? *Sweet Chilli - sweet enough to make you smile, spicy enough to keep you on your toes!*

A vegetable you would ban forever: *Brussels sprouts*

A fictional character you're most like: *Belle from Beauty and the Beast – I always try to see the best in people, even if they are a little grizzly.*

Your favourite subject as a child: *Reading*

What did you want to be when you were 7? *A seagull so I could steal people's chips and ice cream.*

Your perfect sandwich: *BLT*

Favourite treat after a long day: *A latte*

A place you dream of visiting: *Curaçao*

If you were a type of weather, you'd be: *Sunshine*

If you wrote a book, its title would be: *Not an Expert, Just Excited*

Three emojis that describe you: 🍕😋🌟

Spotlight story

I never knew I wanted to be a teacher, I just knew I was passionate about young children and wanted to help them hold onto their curiosity and love of learning. I am a performer at heart and teaching is the next best thing and a whole lot more fulfilling! I strive to be the teacher I remember growing up, someone who creates a safe, supportive space where children feel valued and excited to explore the world around them. I am excited to experience my first year at Sherston alongside the new Reception starters. We are truly in it together, embracing new experiences, learning from each other, figuring things out along the way, and celebrating every step of the journey!

One question from a child

Question: *child points to my stomach*: *Miss, is there a baby in there?*

Your Answer: *'No, it's just pasta.'*



Celebrating 87 Years Young with a visit to Sherston Scout Hut



Current Sherston Beaver Leader Sophie Cheatham had the pleasure of meeting former Sherston Cub, Scout and Cub Leader Graham Wilcox at Sherston Scout Hut on his 87th birthday. Having grown up in Sherston, Graham made the trip from Rugby with his daughter and son-in-law to revisit old haunts. He enjoyed hearing about Sherston Scout Group today and looking through photos and camp logbooks from the 1950s, when he was involved. Graham has many fond memories of his Sherston Scouting days and is proud to have been awarded the Queen's Scout Award when he was 17. He explained how Scouting really set him up for life: 'When I left, I could cook, I could sew, I could do anything'.

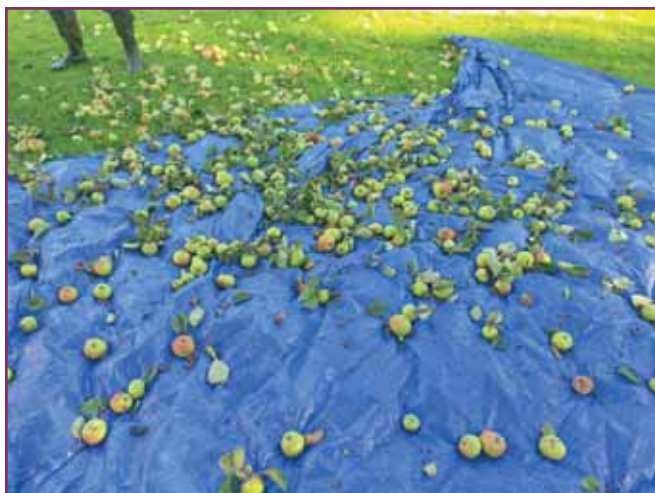


Graham Wilcox (17) receiving the Queen's Scout Award from Lt-Col. S. H. C. Thorne at Sherston, on Saturday. Also in the picture are (left to right): Mr. E. Thompson, Senior Scout Master, Kenneth Wilcox, who also received the Queen's Scout Award, Mr. T. Cranston, Scout Master, Mr. D. James, Assistant Scout Master, the Rev. John Prior and Mr. S. James.



Scouts and Cubs at Budleigh Salterton, Devon in August 1954
Top row (l-r): Geoff Wicks, John Walsh, David Poole, Mrs D Dyson, Mr AG Dyson (Skipper), Alan Evans, Ken Wilcox, Graham Wilcox, Middle row (l-r): John Evans, David Graves, Philip Bishop, David Punter, Derek Bishop, Tony Neal, Terry Sly, Michael Poole, John Osbourne, Derek James. Front: Michael Anthony, John Prichard, Trevor Sly.

Sherston's apple collection starts this month!



Sherston Apple Day will be held at the village hall and field on Sunday 11 October, 10.00am-3.00pm.

We will be making juice before the event for sale on the day. And we need your apples! We'll also be pressing on the day - and you are welcome to bring more apples than (before 12.00 noon). The Friends of Sherston School will be providing fun and games for children, and there will also be great food and local crafts.

If you have a productive apple tree - and can't eat all the apples - please bring any surplus along to the village hall shed ahead of Apple Day, and we will make it into Sherston Apple Juice, bottle it and pasteurise it. We will have hundreds of bottles for sale on the day, raising funds for Sustainable Sherston's local projects! As usual, we will be featuring the artwork of one or two Sherston School pupils on the bottle labels.

Apple Day is a great time to celebrate our local harvest of apples; our Apple juice is the taste of Sherston (and local villages)!

We will be collecting apples from about 20 September - so please do bring your (preferably unblemished) apples along to the village hall. There will be signs - and a big, white builder's bag - between the shed and the left-hand side of the hall. Empty your bags - and buckets - of apples into our bag - and that's it! We'll do the rest!

If you'd like to come and help press apples or learn how to pasteurise the bottled juice, please get in touch with Eleanor on the number below. We run two-hour sessions in the run-up to Apple Day and would love to include you! Eleanor will make a rota nearer the time.

For more details, call Eleanor on 07949 292741 or email eleanorlines53@gmail.com or sustainablesherston@gmail.com



SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Cuttings

Looking forward to the start of the autumn monthly meetings, after the obligatory August off - and what a month it was in terms of heat! We gardeners were in despair at the damage to borders and lawns but we knew most things would recover! But it's been a useful time to reflect that traditional plant choices may have to be reviewed at a time of increasing heatwaves caused by climate change. More drought-tolerant, amenable plant choices appear to be the way to go and we can explore that theme at future meetings. Keeping an open mind will be important!

For our 1 September meeting, we're delighted to welcome author and broadcaster Stephen Anderton to talk about plantsman Christopher Lloyd and the glorious gardens of Great Dixter. Newcomers will be very welcome.

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Drop in or contact
Paul or Mark
01666 841304



On Tuesday 6 October, award-winning head gardener, writer, and broadcaster Jane Moore will entertain and inform us about 'Late Summer Colour', describing how to keep borders vibrant, extend seasonal interest, and select the best late-flowering plants. An appropriate topic as summer slides into autumn, though who knows what lies ahead!



Advance notice that Duncan Coombs will be our speaker on Tuesday 3 November on 'Pruning Shrubs and Aftercare'.

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.

Community

We're delighted that so many residents have commented on the floral troughs this summer. The plants certainly have been flowering their socks off for months and should keep going for a while longer. Then out they come (to be looked after and reused somewhere else. That's the plan anyway!). We are grateful to the Parish Council for the grant to purchase spring bulbs and will be pleased for any extra help in planting them at the appropriate time. We hope to identify new areas that could do with a splash of colour around the village, of which more later.



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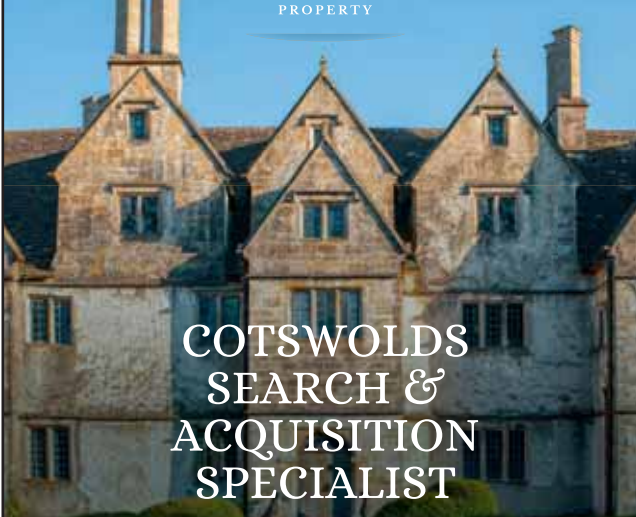
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Holy Cross News



Ride and Stride: Saturday 12 September

If you love cycling and you would enjoy the challenge of riding to as many churches in Wiltshire in a day, then 'Ride and Stride' on Saturday 12 September could be for you. Coordinated by county historic churches trusts, this annual national event raises funds for the care and upkeep of churches through sponsorship of cyclists, horse riders and walkers visiting as many churches as possible on the day. It's important for us, as the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust (WHCT) is a grant-awarding body that we shall need to approach, together with other funds and trusts, to support our next project to continue the repair on our church ceilings. Half the money raised from sponsorship by participants from Sherston is returned to us, and the other half is used by the WHCT to support churches elsewhere in the county. If you are interested in signing up - as a cyclist, horse rider or walker - please email sherston@gauzebrook.org.

Hymns and Pimm's

By the time this is published, we will have enjoyed our Hymns and Pimm's afternoon on Monday 31 August. We hope that you had a chance to join us for a glass of Pimm's and enjoy a social afternoon at the end of the bank holiday weekend. If you missed this, please look out for our next social event.



Festival services

As autumn approaches and we look forward to watching the seasonal changes of colours in the churchyard, we will also celebrate our patronal festival (for us to mark Holy Cross Day) with a special Gauzebrook Service on Sunday 13 September at 10.00am. Our Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 4 October at 6.00pm will be followed by our popular Harvest Supper.

Holy Cross Café

Holy Cross Café runs every Thursday morning from 10.00am to 12.00 noon in church. We have a great team of volunteers who welcome our visitors, serve coffee, tea and lovely home-made cake. If you would like to join our team and help once a month or once every six weeks, please get in touch. We are also looking for volunteers who would make cake, flapjacks, brownies, etc for the café, but maybe are not able to come onto the rota. Let us know. Remuneration can be arranged!

For those who haven't tried the café lately (or at all!), do come in. We know we have competition from local commercial venues – but we are different!

All our services are listed on www.gauzebrook.org and www.achurchnearyou.com. If you are interested in the cycle ride, or the events in autumn please email sherston@gauzebrook.org

North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

What a summer it has been! We normally crave dry, sunny weather at this time of year but in future we may be careful what we wish for ... It certainly has been a challenge keeping our garden flowers and foliage fresh and thriving, ourselves too!

That said, the roses and companion planting at the David Austin Rose Gardens in Shropshire, looked superb when we visited in July. It was an excellent day out. As well as several gardens to explore, we had a guide who explained and demonstrated the lengthy process behind the scenes to breed a new rose variety, and time also to enjoy the cafe, garden centre and gift shop.

In August, we held a Saturday workshop led by Coral Gardiner, who is a National Demonstrator, in which we improved our skills in making pedestal arrangements, large and small. There was a great atmosphere, some excellent refreshments, everyone learnt something new and took home a stunning centrepiece.

Coming up soon is our (short) AGM on Wednesday 16 September, followed by a talk and demonstration by Jennie from Halliesphere using environmentally friendly flower holders. At this meeting, we will publish our varied new programme for 2027 which includes talks, workshops and demonstrations, mostly held on the third Wednesday of the month, 7.00pm for 7.30pm, at Crudwell Village Hall. On Wednesday 21 October, we are holding a wreath-making workshop with tuition by Brinkworth Willow. Also save the date for this year's main annual event, an Open Meeting at Malmesbury Town Hall on Wednesday 18 November with National Demonstrator Nick Grounds, visitors welcome (tickets £25 including canapés and fizz).

For more information, please visit our Facebook page (North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club), our website (northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk) or contact us by email (nwvflowerclub@gmail.com). We hope to see you soon.

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Malmesbury & District u3a

September monthly meeting

Monthly meetings with a guest speaker take place on the fourth Thursday of the month (10.00am-12.00 noon) at Malmesbury Town Hall. Non-members are welcome to join us.

Thursday 24 September -

Tony Robson - 'Doing my Time'

Tony will give an account of his 27-year career in HM Prison Service (HMPS) from the early days as an Assistant Governor at HM Borstal Dover through to Governor of a High Security training prison in Kent and then as Deputy Head of Public Protection in the Ministry of Justice.

He joined HMPS in 1982 as a trainee assistant governor and underwent two years' training before losing the trainee designation. There followed postings to HMP Durham, HMP Winchester and HMP Swaleside. Following stints at Prison Service HQ and HMP Swaleside (as Deputy Governor) he was eventually promoted to Governor at HMP Rochester in 1999. He moved to HMP Standford Hill in 2001 and then back to HMP Swaleside as Governor in 2004. He ended his career in the National Offender Management Service Headquarters, first as Deputy Head of Public Protection and finally as the project sponsor for two new prisons which were to be built in Essex.

Open morning

We have over 600 members and 40 different interest groups, including history, gardening, dancing, languages, walking and book groups. We will be holding our annual open morning for prospective new members on Saturday 3 October in Malmesbury Town Hall. Pop in for a chat, meet various interest group leaders and find out what the u3a can offer you.

Visit our website for an up-to-date list of groups and other information: www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk. For more information, email membership@malmesburyu3a.org.uk

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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

- Toddlers to ten-year-olds, each with their own adult. Exploring global OCC discipleship course "The Greatest Journey"

Services at 4.00pm 1st Sunday - Informal Adult Fellowship

3rd Sunday - Visiting Speaker

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

ALL WELCOME TO EVERYTHING

The Importance of Trees



Trees at Westonbirt

Trees are essential for life on Earth as they produce oxygen, clean the air and support wildlife. They fight climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide, protect the soil from washing away and help cool our towns and cities. They provide homes and food for birds, insects and small animals, and shade, food and materials for human health and life.

Sustainable Sherston is preparing a list of trees planted in the village to commemorate national events since 1897, for example, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee tree at the top of Noble Street. We'll be including trees planted on the Pennymead (Sherston Rec) over the years and other trees around the village, and replacing lost and broken signs as necessary.

Will you help us protect and care for the trees in Sherston for future generations?

Greenfingers after-school gardening club members learn each term about the benefits of trees and hedges and, last autumn, sowed acorns and took home oak saplings. This spring and this autumn we will sow walnuts.

We are fortunate to have the wonderful Westonbirt Arboretum nearby with 15,000 specimens and 2,500 species of trees from around the world. The arboretum plays a vital role in protecting and planting trees for the future.

Kew Gardens in London has a new Carbon Garden showcasing the essential role plants and fungi play in tackling climate change and how our gardens will need to adapt to a changing climate. A dead oak tree is painted red to highlight the devastating impact of climate change - one of 400 which died in the hot



Red oak at Kew

summer of 2022. This year Kew recorded its hottest May and July temperatures on record.

It is important to choose the right tree to plant in the right place. Consider the eventual size and try to provide spring blossom for pollinators and autumn fruit or berries for wildlife. Sustainable Sherston has a list of recommended varieties for gardens of all sizes.

Please join our team of volunteers carding for trees and promoting biodiversity in the village, plus running Apple Day (see page 8) and Greenfingers at Sherston Primary School, river testing, and organising talks. Just email us at sustainablesherston@gmail.com

Further information:

www.treecouncil.org.uk

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

www.forestryengland.uk

www.royalparks.org.uk

www.kew.org

www.sustainablesherston.org.uk

Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) delivers joy-filled shoeboxes, donated by local children and their families, to disadvantaged children in parts of the world affected by war or natural disaster. The shoebox is often the only present they receive at Christmas. The fact it means so much to them can be clearly seen in the recent online videos at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

In Sherston, from Monday 5 October, brightly coloured empty boxes will be freely available from the Co-op, to whom we are most grateful. Please feel able to take one but don't forget the instruction leaflet.

Our local collection centre for full boxes is florist Persephone Violet on the High Street in Malmesbury. Boxes can be dropped off from Monday 9 to Friday 13 November. Persephone Violet is breaking records for being one of the longest-serving OCC

Collection centres in the UK – and owner Emily has now been supporting OCC for well over 30 years. I remember her coming on board to help us in about 1993!

If you are unable to get your box to Malmesbury, please leave it at the British School Room (BSR) on Saturday 7 November. We will be showing videos with tea/coffee and will take your box to Malmesbury for you.

It was heart-warming to be asked about OCC by so many folk last year who are still proud of Sherston's role in promoting this charity all through the 90s, with our BSR Checking and Packing Centre, plus annual articulated convoys. I am often told 'Granny still supports it and so do my children too!' - wonderful!

To see the joy these boxes bring, may I encourage you to explore the website when you have time.

Mary Clements – Promoter of OCC 2026

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Abbey concert will hit the right note for Bobby Van



The Wiltshire Concert Band will be performing at Malmesbury Abbey on 10 October with the Cantanti Choir

A stirring evening of music amid the splendour of Malmesbury Abbey will raise money for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

'Music at the Abbey' on Saturday 10 October will also support the Wiltshire Concert Band, which will perform popular classics and new interpretations of favourite pop standards alongside the Cantanti Choir.

The programme features something for everyone, with popular classics like Goff Richards' brass band March and songs by The Beatles, Leonard Cohen, Neil Diamond and Boston. Bobby Van Director Jennie Shaw said: 'We will also have a wonderfully rousing Last Night of the Proms finale, with Rule Britannia,

Pomp and Circumstance and Jerusalem, complete with Union flags waving and the audience encouraged to sing along, it promises to be a truly memorable and uplifting end to a wonderful evening.'

The concert band, which changed its name from the Wiltshire Police Band in April, has been performing all over the South West since its formation in 1985 at charity fundraisers, community festivals and civic events, led by musical director Martin Perry.

Cantanti is a mixed-voice choir based in Royal Wootton Bassett. Since its formation in 2010, it has earned a reputation for its lively and engaging repertoire, from classical pieces and madrigals to

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songs from the shows and contemporary pop. Led by musical director Lisa Williams, the choir performs at choral competitions, festivals and community events.

The choir will be joined by soprano Kristina Takashina, who has sung with the British Youth Opera and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, as well as working as a voice-over artist for Japanese gaming companies and in commercials.

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust works in partnership with Wiltshire Police to offer and fit home security measures such as a door and window locks, key safes and door chains for people over 60, those at risk of domestic abuse or over 18 with a diagnosed disability. The service, which operates across Wiltshire and Swindon, is completely free.

Jennie explains: 'Events like this are vital to our work. We need to raise £400,000 every year to maintain our essential services, and we receive no statutory funding. By joining us, people will not only enjoy an outstanding concert but also help ensure we can continue supporting those who need us most.'

Tickets are £35, including drinks and canapés, available from wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events.

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HEALS Community Harvest Table

The HEALS Community Fridge Team is marking its fourth anniversary with a new opportunity for everyone to share and enjoy surplus fresh food donated from local gardens, allotments and clubs

The team is organising its first Community Harvest Table in Malmesbury Town Hall (Old School Room) on Saturday 19 September from 10.00am until lunchtime.

We are asking local enthusiastic and generous growers to bring us donations of fruit, vegetables, eggs and plants. We are also delighted to accept home-made jams and chutneys and baked goods (but please note these **MUST** be labelled with all ingredients). We are sorry but we can't accept windfalls, meat or dairy products, or alcohol.

Please could donors bring their produce to the Old School Room (entrance in Market Lane) on Friday 18 September between 4.00pm and 6.00pm, or on Saturday 19 September between 9.00am and 10.00am.

From 10.00am, all produce received will be given away free to anyone, but a donation towards HEALS of Malmesbury will be very welcome. Any queries, please email info@healsmalmesbury.org.uk

We hope to see you there. Thank you. *Cathy Horder*

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WHAT'S ON: September 2026

Sherston

Throughout September. Well Cottage, 6 Cliff Road.
Plant sale. A selection of good value plants for sale, with all proceeds going to Greenfingers, Sherston Primary School's after-school gardening club.

Tuesday 1 September 2pm-2.30pm, Vestry.
Sherston Bible Study Group. To join, please contact: Helen.m.daviesllm@gmail.com. **Also: 15 and 29 September.**

Tuesday 1 September 7pm for 7.30pm start, British School Room. Sherston **Gardening Club meeting.** Talk by Stephen Anderton on 'Christopher Lloyd and Great Dixter'. Stephen is a renowned journalist and broadcaster whose biography of the legendary 'Christo' is still regarded as one of the best. Open to all members and guests. Contact our secretary for more info: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Sunday 6 September 9.30am, Holy Cross Church.
Worship Together church service.

Tuesday 8 September 2.00pm, British School Room.
Sherston Senior Club Harvest Auction. Visitors welcome. For more information, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

Thursday 10 September 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 12 September Across Wiltshire. **Ride and Stride Day.** Sponsored annual event raising funds for the maintenance and preservation of the historic churches in our county, organised by the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust. Open to cyclists, horse-riders and walkers. If you would like to take part and raise some funds for the Trust, contact sherston@gauzebrook.org

Sunday 20 September 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Sunday 20 September (until Sunday 11 October) Sherston Village Hall. **Sherston Apple Day Apple Collection.** Please bring your (preferably unblemished) apples along. There will be signs - and a big, white builder's bag - between the shed and the left-hand side of the hall. Empty your bags - and buckets - of apples into our bag - and that's it! We'll do the rest! If you'd like to come and help press apples or learn how to pasteurise the bottled juice, please get in touch with Eleanor on 07949 292741 or email eleanorlines53@gmail.com or sustainablersherston@gmail.com.

Tuesday 22 September From Sherston. **Sherston Theatre Club trip: The Comedy About Spies at the Adelphi Theatre, London.** For tickets or to join the Sherston Theatre Club or find out what is on offer, email us at sherstontheatreclub@gmail.com

Thursday 24 September to Tuesday 29 September 10.00am-4.00pm, Westonbirt Great Oak Hall. **Echoes of Place Exhibition.** Enjoy the work of local artists Gill Ashley and Jenny Riley. They use a variety of media to express 'Echoes of Place' through contemporary landscapes, still life and abstract paintings, often using memory of colour and the language of paint to provide studies in light and form through the observed and imagined.

Sunday 27 September 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Monday 28 September Tickets on sale for Sherston Drama Group's panto for 2026 - **Frankenstein the Panto.** Performances from Wednesday 28 October to Saturday 31 October at 7.30pm (plus 2.30pm on the Sat) in Sherston Village Hall. Tickets from Sherston Co-op (cash or cheque) or on TicketSource (ticketsource.co.uk/sherston-drama-group, booking fee applies).

Foxley

Sunday 20 September 9.30am, Foxley Parish Church.
Holy Communion church service.

Lea

Wednesday 2 September 7.30pm, Lea Church. **The People's Emergency Briefing: Free screening.** This eye-opening film about climate and nature brings together nine leading scientists and experts to talk about the latest evidence and how it will affect us in the UK. To book your free ticket, go to: buytickets.at/emergencybriefinglea/2309686 More information and other screenings: www.nebriefing.org

Luckington

Tuesday 1 September 2pm-2.30pm, The Old Royal Ship. **Luckington Bible Study.** To join, please contact: Helen.m.daviesllm@gmail.com. **Also: 8, 15, 22 and 29 September.**

Sunday 6 September 11am, Luckington Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Sunday 20 September 11am, Luckington Church.
Morning Praise church service.

Malmesbury

Saturday 19 September 10.00am until lunchtime, Malmesbury Town Hall (Old School Room). **HEALS Community Harvest Table.** An opportunity for everyone to share and enjoy surplus fresh food donated from local gardens, allotments and clubs. We are asking local growers to bring donations of fruit, vegetables, eggs and plants. We are also delighted to accept home-made jams and chutneys and baked goods (but please note these MUST be labelled with all ingredients). Sorry, no windfalls, meat or dairy products, or alcohol. Bring produce to the Old School Room (entrance in Market Lane) on Friday 18 September, 4-6pm, or Saturday 19 September, 9-10am. From 10am, all produce received will be given

away free to anyone, but a donation towards HEALS of Malmesbury will be very welcome. Any queries, please email info@healsmalmesbury.org.uk

Thursday 24 September 10am-12noon, Malmesbury Town Hall. **Malmesbury & District u3a meeting.** Tony Robson - 'Doing my Time'. Tony will give an account of his 27-year career in HM Prison Service from the early days as an Assistant Governor at HM Borstal Dover through to Governor of a High Security training prison in Kent and then as Deputy Head of Public Protection in the Ministry of Justice.

For more info, go to www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk or email membership@malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Norton

Saturday 12 September 5pm-midnight, The Vine Tree. **Back British Farming Blowout: The Shadow Monkeys.** This is a FREE event. The Shadow Monkeys are one of the most demanded party bands in the UK. Back British Farming is a charity dedicated to supporting the mental health and well-being of farmers. All food and drinks will be British backed and as local as possible. Expect to hear big hits from Chic, Bruno Mars, David Bowie, The Killers, Stevie Wonder, George Ezra, Chaka Khan, Prince, Calvin Harris, Queen and many more. For more info: thevinetree.co.uk/shop/back-british-farming-blowout-the-shadow-monkeys-live-at-the-vine-tree/

Stanton St Quintin

Tuesday 8 September Stanton St Quintin Household Recycling Centre **Booking system opens for visits from Monday 14 September.** You'll need a Citizen ID to access the online booking system. To sign up, visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/login However, if you do not have internet access or are unable to use the online form, bookings can also be made by phone: 0300 456 0102.

Tetbury

Wednesday 16 September 7.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **An Evening with Jack the Ripper.** It's been more than 135 years and we still don't know who Jack the Ripper was ... Award-winning broadcaster and producer Steve Morgan comes to Tetbury Goods Shed to examine one of history's most notorious unsolved cases. Drawing on his celebrated Jack the Ripper walks through London's East End, Steve takes us back to Whitechapel in 1888 to look at the crimes, the suspects and the theories that have kept people debating the killer's identity ever since. Who was he? What was his motive? Advance tickets: £18 (plus booking fee) tetburygoodshed.co.uk/.../an-evening-with-jack.../

Saturday 19 September 7.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Very Santana.** After selling out their last visit to Tetbury Goods Shed, Very Santana are returning with another evening celebrating the music of Carlos Santana. Expect soaring guitar solos, Latin rhythms and some of Santana's best-loved songs, all performed live by a fantastic band. Advance tickets: £24 (plus booking fee). On the door: £28 tetburygoodshed.co.uk/.../very-santana-sept-2026/

Sunday 20 September 7pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Jeneba Kanneh-Mason.** Jeneba brings an evening of piano music by Scarlatti, Mozart and Chopin to the Goods Shed. If you've never been to one of our piano concerts before, this could be the perfect place to start. Advance tickets: £30 (plus booking fee). On the door: £35. tetburygoodshed.co.uk/events/jeneba-kanneh-mason/

Music, Cinema and Theatre

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

Didmorton Film Club

Monthly film screening. Doors open at 6.30pm for the Bar with film starting at 7.30pm, Didmorton 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 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/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. 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. 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 the 2nd Division of the Stroud & District Football League, the Second team plays in the 5th Division at Knockdown Park on alternative Sat afternoons at 2.30pm. Sherston Veterans play on Sun mornings. Spectators and new players welcome. Please check socials or contact sherstontownfootballclub@gmail.com or 07771 515489.

Sherston Velo Cycling Club

Rides and social events for cyclists of all experience levels from beginner to advanced, including families. Regular rides include Castle Combe circuit, gravel ride or chain gang. RGT social ride, group ride, café ride and beginner rides. For more info sherstonvelo.cc or email secretary@sherstonvelo.cc

Pubs and cafés

The Angel Café with Rooms, Sherston

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

The Courtyard Café @ Lucy Tom's, Sherston

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

Holy Cross Café, Sherston

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

The 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.mamesburymorris.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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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. *Pilot booking system opens on Tuesday 8 September for visits from Monday 14 September. For more info: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/20130/Household-Recycling-Centre-Booking-System-Pilot*

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

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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Grey's Festive Menu 30th November - 21st December

Grey's offers relaxed yet refined dining experience where exceptional food is made for sharing. Whether you are enjoying a Christmas duo with your office colleagues, a festive dinner with friends, a family Boxing Day lunch or traditional Sunday lunch. Grey's combines warm hospitality in an elegant, festive and welcoming setting.

Festive Afternoon Tea
Served from 30th November - 21st December
Share, savour and make new Christmas memories in the festive surroundings of the Drawing Room.
£42.50 per person or £58.50 with a glass of Gusbourne English Sparkling wine.

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner 2026
Celebrate the turn of the year in style at Whatley with an elegant New Year's Eve Gala Dinner in the Garden Room. Savour an evening of food and celebration, share the occasion with those around you and linger longer as the year draws to a close. As midnight approaches, raise a glass to new beginnings before stepping outside to watch the fireworks light up the night sky.
£385 per person

Make this festive season one to remember with festive workshops like our Christmas wreathmaking with Emily of Persephone Violet and Winter Pour hosted by Jennie of Misneach Remedies.

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