THE SHERSTON
CLIFFHANGER
NOVEMBER 2026
PUBLISHED BY SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL
DELIVERED FREE

Rec Fencing Completed… at last!

Sherston Parish Council





The Parish Council is very pleased to have successfully found the funds to finish the fencing around the Recreation Ground which was not completed during the initial refurbishment many years ago.

As you will probably have seen, the awful wire fencing has been replaced with a continuation of the smart black fencing along the full length of Court Street. I am sure you will agree with us that it looks so much better.

Sherston Boules Festival Committee Celebrates 40th Event with Record £12,000 Community Donation

After a hugely successful 40th Sherston Boules Festival in July, our accounts have been finalised, and we are thrilled to announce that we are donating £12,000 to support a wide range of local community groups! This marks a fantastic 50 per cent increase on our 2025 donation and ensures that the organisations playing a vital role in Sherston and the surrounding area can continue to thrive.

Among this year's beneficiaries are key village institutions, including Sherston Parish Church and Sherston Village Hall.

We are also delighted to support local youth, educational, and recreational groups. Funding will go directly to the Friends of Sherston School, ATC 992 Squadron, 1st Sherston Scout Group, 1st Sherston Brownies and Guides, Sherston Senior Club, Sherston Drama Group, Sherston Shooters Netball Club, Sherston Badminton and Table Tennis Club, Sherston Magna Cricket Club, Sherston Town Football Club, Sherston Baby and Toddler Group, Sustainable Sherston, Sherston Gardening Club, Sherston Church Bell Ringers, Sherston Community Choir, Sherston Congregational Church, and Friends of Luckington School. In addition, we are supporting the Wiltshire Air Ambulance to help sustain their crucial life-saving emergency services.

This festival simply couldn't happen without the dedication of our community. Many of these recipient groups made a meaningful contribution to this year's success by dedicating considerable time and effort as volunteers before and during the festival weekend. Their active involvement was essential, and we are deeply grateful for their hard work.

We want to send a huge thank you to the High Street residents and to everybody who came along - whether you played, participated, or volunteered to make this another wonderful event! If you are interested in helping out for next year's event, in any shape or form, please email us at sherstonboules@gmail.com.

Looking ahead, please put next year's date in your diaries: Saturday 10 July 2027.

Without the restrictions that this year's Badminton Royal Horticultural event placed on us, we are delighted to be returning to our usual schedule on the Saturday closest to Bastille Day. We can't wait to see you all there!

New priest-in-charge p5 | Pub of the Year 'The Rattlebone' p10 | Medlars Wanted p3



Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 12 November at 7.00pm 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.

Sherston's Remembrance Service 2026

This year's Sherston Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday 8 November. All are welcome - from all denominations and none - to show our support for the armed forces, and to commemorate those who gave their lives for our freedom in conflicts past.

Sherston's uniformed youth organisations together with children from the school will be parading from the Scout Hut on Green Lane to Church Street. The open-air ceremony will commence there at 10.45am; please remember to bring cash for the collection which will go to the Poppy Fund.

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.

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Advertising rates for 12 months:
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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 somel previous editions are also available online at www.sherston.org.uk

SOSCIC Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 17 November 2026

Sherston Old School
COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

It's that time again! SOSCIC is holding its AGM on Tuesday 17 November and warmly welcomes all members to come and join us at 7.00pm in the British School Room, Cliff Road.

It will be an opportunity to come and hear what we have been doing on your behalf over the last 12 months. In particular, there will be an update on tenancy and good causes supported.

Latest SOSCIC information is available to review in advance of the meeting at https://sherston.org.uk/community/sherston-old-school/

For any Sherston residents who are not currently members but are interested in finding out what is happening, you are more than welcome to join us.

Look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 17 November at 7.00pm!

Sherston Advent House: Last Call!



Last call for adding your name to the advent house trail is Friday 6 November! (Slightly extended date!) Email Kirsty.strachan@icloud.com to add your house. Remember we don't need to know in advance what you're putting in your window or garden - you can even decide the night before your date! The more houses, the merrier for our lovely community!

Apple Day Success

Sherston Apple Day 2026 was a huge success! We had lots of fun, with apple pressing and the BBQ from Luckington Farm and much more - plus lots of very well-attended workshops for kids, organised by Ffion Hibbard of the Friends of Sherston School.

We sold out of pre-pressed Sherston Apple Juice, but there are some bottles available that were pressed on the day. These can be ordered from Eleanor Lines on 07949 292741, raising funds for Sustainable Sherston and Sherston School!

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it a successful day including Chris Sworder for his apples from Easton Piercy in an otherwise sparse year for apples. See you next year!













Give your Medlars a New Purpose - and support a bee-rilliant cause!

As part of its commitment to being environmentally friendly, local condiment-maker Tracklements is putting unwanted medlars to good use this autumn by inviting the local community to donate their fruit. Tracklements turns this quirky fruit into their delicious Aromatic Medlar Jelly, where 50p from the sale of each jar goes towards helping protect the bees: 25p goes towards purchasing bee-friendly medlar trees, which blossom after other blossoms have faded, providing the bees with an invaluable source of pollen; and 25p is donated to the British Beekeepers Association, a charity that is committed to protecting and promoting the importance of the British honey bee.

The project is now in its 16th year and has resulted in the planting of more than 150 bee-friendly medlar trees across Britain, while also raising over £3,000 for the British Beekeepers Association through Tracklements' donations last year alone! If you have any medlars you'd like to donate to a bee-rilliant cause, all you need to do is drop them off at Tracklements HQ (SN16 0RD) before Monday 30 November. (Please note, we can only accept medlars that are at their best - no bruises, please!). For full details on the project and on how to win your very own medlar tree, visit www.tracklements.co.uk.

No medlars? No worries! You can still support the project by purchasing a jar of this sweet, aromatic jelly - just in time to enjoy it with warming roasts and cheeseboards!







Sherston Drama Group News!

By the time you're reading this, panto will be over for another year - full report to follow in the December issue!

Junior waiting list

If your child's been inspired to join us in a future panto, please note that we now have a waiting list. Details and the sign-up form can be found on our website under the membership tab. The sooner you sign up, the better your chances of securing a place next year!

New staging

Our current stage was designed and constructed in 1982 by Malcolm Jarrett and Arthur Gutteridge. We have to build the stage for every production; by our calculations this stage has been built and taken down around 100 times since those early days! Unsurprisingly, after more than 40 years of heavy use, the wooden legs which hold up the stage are now nearing the end of their life. We're hoping to replace the stage legs and flooring with a more modern solution, which uses metal frames and plywood tops. This type of modular staging is widely used and can be customised to perfectly fit the hall. It should last for decades, and be much lighter, simpler and safer to construct. We won't be replacing the upper half of the stage – the proscenium arch and systems for securing the scenery to the stage will all remain the originals.

Unfortunately this project isn't cheap. We're exploring various possibilities, but we've also set up a Crowdfunder page www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/sherston-drama-group-new-staging which can also be accessed via the Crowdfunder website. If you're able to donate any amount, no matter how small, we would be extremely grateful! And look out for a shiny new stage floor which will hopefully be making it's debut within our next few productions!

Coming to Sherston: Simon and Garfunkel Through the Years

We are so excited to bring Simon and Garfunkel Through the Years back to Sherston Village Hall. Last time they came, the hall was full. They were so good that we booked them again, but then Covid struck so we had to cancel. After that, the Butterfly Hall was being built, and there's been a lot going on since then.

So, save the date: Friday 12 February 2027 at 7.30pm! Tickets - £20 per person, will be on sale from Monday 30 November on Ticketsource.

Sherston Senior Club

Back in September, we had our last outing for the year. We went to Cotswold Airport and spent several hours enjoying the weather and watching the aircraft.

At our next meeting, Tony House was the speaker, telling us all about his fascination with wildlife, particularly otters and beavers.

Looking ahead, on Tuesday 3 November, Jay Dunn will give a talk on 'Kenneth Williams, the life, the laughter, the man', and on Tuesday 17 November, we will have musical entertainment by the Peekies.

Visitors are always welcome, our meetings start at 2.00pm in the British School Room, Cliff Road. For further information, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

Village Hall 300+ Club October winners

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

1st (£60) - Richard Skeffington
2nd (£40) - Ryan Clark
3rd (£20) - Caroline Moore

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.

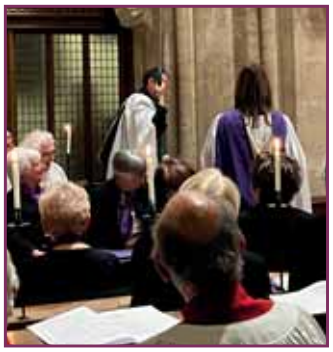
Name(s):_____ Email:_____

Address: _____

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

Holy Cross News







Gauzebrook Benefice welcomes new Priest-in-Charge

You may have heard the church bells ringing on Monday 28 September in the early evening to mark the service of installation for our new priest, the Reverend Ross Pilliner. Ross joins us from the Diocese of Llandaff in South Wales, having previously served in Cardiff and Cowbridge. Originally from Neath, he trained for ordained ministry at St Padarn's College.

The service was led by Bishop Neil of Bristol, and the church was packed with guests and members of the churches from across Gauzebrook Benefice. As part of the service, Ross received the keys to the church and rang the minute bell to signify his arrival to the parishes.

'The licensing was a special occasion, with some great singing from the Gauzebrook Benefice Choir, joined by friends from my old church in Wales. I was also told about the tradition of the new priest ringing the church bell, with the number of rings supposedly representing the number of years they intend to stay. Unfortunately, when I first pulled the rope, nothing happened! Thankfully, the bell eventually decided to cooperate, and I gave it a few extra rings for good measure.'

Ross has moved to Sherston with his wife, Georgiana, a GP, and their two children, Henry, four, and Clara, two. Henry has just started at Sherston Primary School.

'We've had such a warm welcome since arriving in Sherston, and we're really delighted to be here. The children have settled in well, although Henry was initially rather puzzled when he saw what looked like the Rattlebone Inn logo on his new school uniform. He had somehow got it into his head that the school and the pub were one and the same!

'This is a new chapter for us, and I'm really looking forward to getting to know everyone. I'd love to welcome you to Holy Cross, whether for a service, the café or one of the many other things happening here. I look forward to getting to know you.'

A date for your diary

The Family Christmas Bazaar will be on Saturday 28 November – a little bit earlier than usual. This is one of the big fundraising events of the year for our village church. Starting at 12.00noon, the usual attractions will be there, as well as some new features for families and children. We start the event with lunches: the ever-popular bacon and cheese rolls, as well as home-made soup and other light refreshments. There will also be home-made cakes for sale, Christmas gifts, the first crop of Sherston's amazing Brussels sprouts, plus the tombola and a big Christmas raffle with a chance to win a Christmas hamper. We'll have mulled wine on sale too – to get you into the Christmas spirit!

If you are able to donate cakes, raffle prizes or produce, such as home-made jams or chutneys, please bring them along to the village hall on Saturday 28 November from 10.00am. We would love your support to help us to raise much-needed funds to repair our church ceiling.

Advent Sunday

Advent Sunday this year is the following day - Sunday 29 November - when there will be a candlelit service at 6.00pm. The Advent House trail around the village is a beautiful reminder of our preparations to celebrate the arrival of Christ on Christmas Day. Our nativity crib by the church porch will be ready on Christmas Eve, as the final stop of the Advent House Trail.

Churchyard Working Group

A huge thank you to the many people who came on the first Saturday in October to help clear a very overgrown area of the churchyard. Everyone worked hard to clear the mass of brambles and other vegetation, and the results were spectacular: we uncovered 10 gravestones that had previously been hidden. Some of the gravestones that have been revealed are especially interesting.

The next two churchyard working parties will be on Saturday 7 November and Saturday 5 December. All volunteers welcome, even if you are only available for a short time. Arrival from 9.30am onwards and there is always a coffee break mid-morning in church to keep you warm on the coldest of days.

Sherston School News

From hedgerow to jar: Sherston's crabapple challenge





Willow Class recently swapped the classroom for the countryside as they headed out on a crabapple-picking adventure. The children enjoyed a wonderful afternoon collecting this often overlooked fruit and were delighted to contribute over 100kg of crabapples to this year's community collection.

This annual project, run in partnership with Tracklements, is a fantastic example of how a simple local activity can make a real difference. Every September, spare wild crabapples collected by the community are transformed into Tracklements delicious English Crabapple Jelly. For every kilogram donated, Tracklements gives money directly to Sherston Primary School, with further funds raised from the sale of every jar sold nationwide.

The children loved exploring the hedgerows, learning about local wildlife and discovering how natural resources can be used sustainably. It was a brilliant opportunity to combine outdoor learning, teamwork and community spirit.

We would like to say a special thank you to Judith Parkyn, who kindly joined us during the afternoon and captured some wonderful photographs of the children in action.

A huge thank you must also go to the many families who have been collecting crabapples in their own time and dropping them off throughout the month. Every bag, bucket and basket helps to raise valuable funds for the school. Your support makes a genuine difference and is another example of our community coming together to support local children.

Celebrating Apple Day and creative young designers

One of the highlights of the Sherston calendar is Apple Day, and once again we are incredibly grateful to Sustainable Sherston and the Friends of Sherston School for organising such a fantastic community event.

Sherston Primary School is proud to play an important role in the celebrations each year. Children were invited to design the labels for this year's Sherston Apple Juice, pressed from apples donated by local residents and sold to raise funds for both the school and Sustainable Sherston. We are delighted to congratulate Thea and Ralph, whose winning designs appear on this year's bottles. Their creativity, imagination and artistic flair impressed the judges and perfectly captured the spirit of the event.





Projects such as this show children that their learning has a purpose beyond the classroom. Through art and design, they can contribute to a real product enjoyed across the village and beyond, while also helping to raise money for their school.

We would like to thank everyone involved in making Apple Day such a success. If you haven't yet bought any Sherston Apple Juice this year, please do consider ordering some from Eleanor Lines on 07949 292741.

Meet the staff



Name: Helen Thomas
Role in school: EYFS 1:1 Teaching Assistant (TA), Art and Drama Club leader and LAMDA teacher
How long you've been at the school: I started a KS2 Drama Club three years ago, followed by KS1 Art Club and LAMDA classes the following year, and then began as a 1:1 TA in September 2025.
Your school-day 'superpower': Reading picture books – a well-timed story can cure most ills!

Three words that describe you: smiley, caring, creative
Favourite playground game/childhood hobby: Dressing up, making up stories and acting them out.
Secret talent: I discovered last year that I can still do a headstand, which I'm rather chuffed about.
Tea/coffee/drink/biscuit of choice: Strong, black coffee in the morning; builder's tea in the afternoon.

Quick-fire challenge

Cats or dogs? Cats – we have two, Toffee who's very lazy, and Mabel, who likes to chase leaves.
Reading or drawing? Reading. I love getting immersed in the world of a good novel. I always have a book by the bed (and not enough bookshelves at home)!
Mountains or beach? This is a hard one, but I think mountains. Every year, on my birthday we climb the Skirrid near Abergavenny. The 360 views are just breathtaking.
Board games or video games? Definitely board games – I love anything that brings our family together and board games usually descend into hilarity at some point!
A vegetable you would ban forever: Fennel – I really don't like licorice!
Favourite treat after a long day: Sitting down, with a cup of tea, a chocolate biscuit or if I'm lucky cake made by one of my daughters and a quick game of Wordle.
A place you dream of visiting: New Zealand or the Canadian Rockies – bigger mountains, larger lakes, and views that stretch for miles.
Best place you've ever been: Home, with my family.

Spotlight Story

I've always loved working with young children. I find their curiosity, awe, delight and lively energy is infectious. I trained as a primary school teacher and worked for several years before pursuing my other passion, drama. Now I've come full circle.
Working as a 1:1 TA is such a special role as it gives you that rare commodity, time, with one child. Seeing them grow day by day in confidence and understanding is such a privilege.
Running art and drama clubs and teaching LAMDA lessons enables me to share my love of art and drama. Giving children the opportunity to use their imaginations and explore their creativity is so rewarding. Art club is usually a really chilled hour and drama club full of energy, noise and hilarity!
Whichever role I'm in, I love the fact that no two days are the same and being with children always keeps me on my toes (and hopefully young!).

My school day in three moments

A moment that makes me smile: Whenever a child discovers they can do something for the first time.
A moment that challenges me: Juggling! There are often three children needing attention at the same time in Reception.
A moment I treasure: All the smiles and laughter.



SHERSTON GARDENING CLUB

Cuttings

We had a packed house of members and guests at our October meeting for well-known speaker, Jane Moore, talking about late summer colour in the garden. After months of little or no rain, it was refreshing to be reminded that plants are resilient, but making good choices for changing weather conditions means prolonging vibrant interest for months.

On Tuesday 3 November, we have another timely, seasonal topic on offer. Duncan Coombs is a lecturer, RHS Garden Advisor and keen plant hunter, particularly in China. Duncan will be discussing "Pruning Shrubs and Aftercare", a subject we are asked about frequently. Bring your questions for answers from an expert!



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 a 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, U18's 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

As the clocks change, so too do the plants in the village troughs. We hope you like the autumnal colours which will be perked up in a few months wuth the emergence of spring bulbs, including mixed narcissi and tulips. There was also a hard-working morning last month when we planted over 300 narcissi bulbs under the six trees at the edge of the Recreation Ground.

Work is also nearing completion on our colourful new website which will be active in the next week or two. You'll find useful information about the club, our programme of talks, seasonal trips and all things horticultural.

Calendar

At our Tuesday 1 December meeting, we are pleased to welcome the two Head Gardeners at the Badminton Estate. Their talk will be accompanied by festive wine and nibbles.





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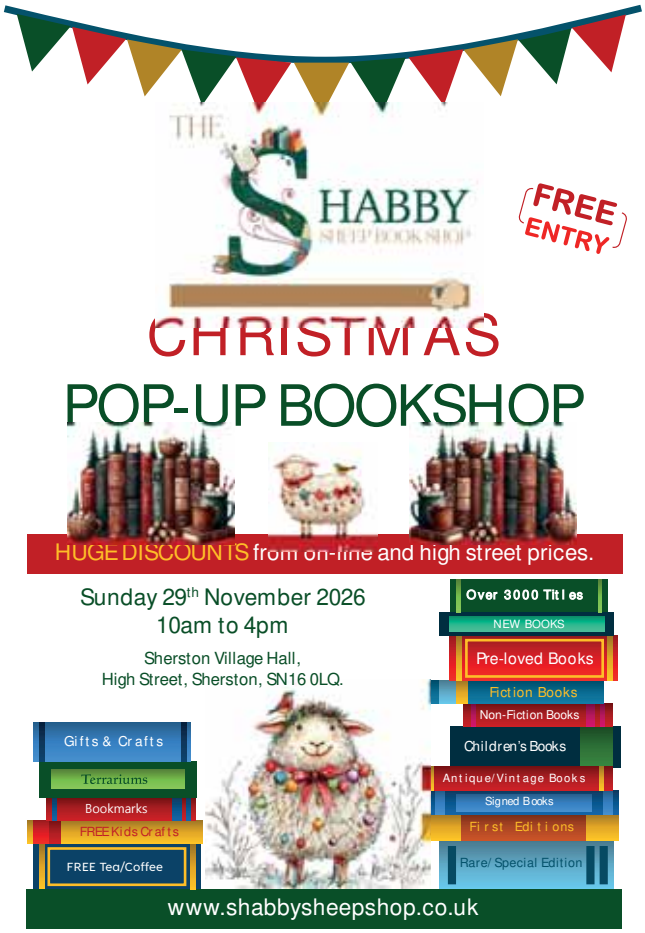
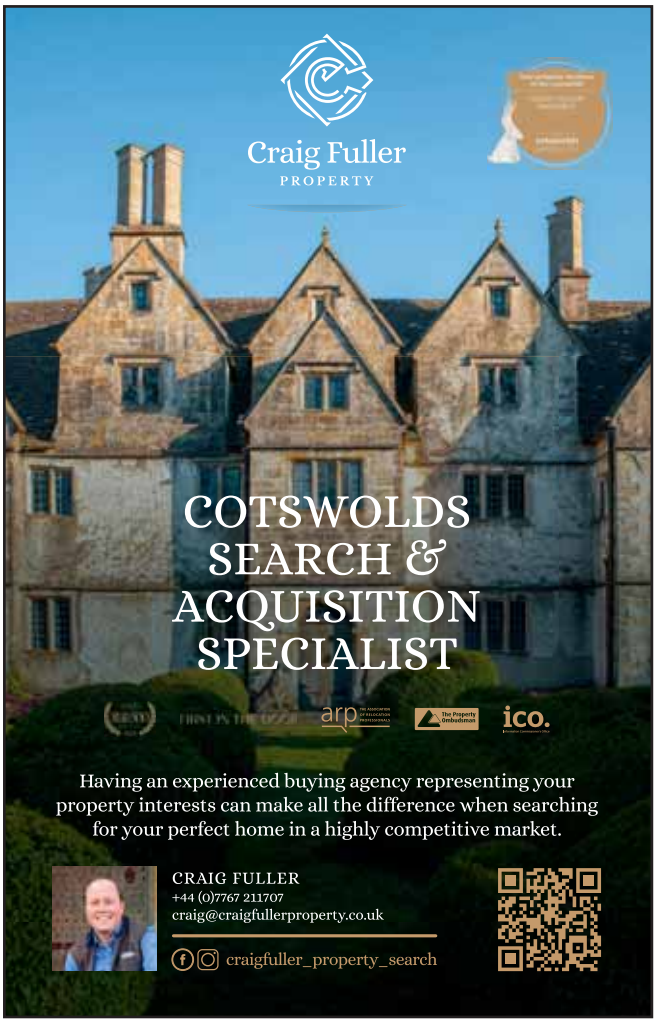
Christmas Trees are Back!



After a gap of a few years, the Christmas Tree Festival returns to the Church of the Holy Cross, Sherston this year. We are inviting local groups and organisations to sponsor and decorate a small Christmas Tree in church during Advent and over Christmas. Please contact Suzanne Price, our churchwarden: email sherston@gauzebrook.org for more details.





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National Recognition for The Rattlebone







The Rattlebone has been named Punch Pubs & Co 'Pub of the Year' at the Great British Pub Awards 2026.

Run by Matthew and Charlie since November 2024, The Rattlebone combines an AA Rosette kitchen with the everyday life of a village local: meals with family and friends, cask ales at the bar, community gatherings and fundraising.

Matthew said: 'Charlie and I are incredibly proud of this award. We want to thank every member of the team, past and present, who has helped us get here, and everyone in Sherston who has supported us. There is a lot of hard work behind every service, and this is a lovely moment to share with the people who make the pub what it is.

'We want people to leave having eaten well and felt properly welcome, whether they have travelled for lunch or popped in for a pint. The award gives us a chance to introduce The Rattlebone to more people, and we will keep working on the things that bring our guests back.'

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Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have a Blast at Space Camp!

At the beginning of October, 1st Sherston Beavers, Cubs and Scouts 'camped' in the Scout Hut and the North Building for a weekend of space-themed fun! Friday night got off to a great start, with good weather and clear skies for a night hike spotting constellations.

After breakfast, Saturday began with a series of space-themed challenges and crafts - including 'escape the crater' (climbing wall), and making flying saucers, edible meteorites and constellation boxes. The afternoon was all about astronaut training, and involved a huge amount of teamwork - testing astronaut food, building a satellite, completing a fitness test, cracking a code and launching water rockets. Meanwhile, the Young Leaders challenged themselves to cook meteorites with space sauce (meatballs and spaghetti) for all - over 50 people! After a busy and active day, it was time to settle down for a film night with galaxy popcorn and flying saucers.

On Sunday morning, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts packed up their beds and enjoyed a breakfast of waffles, before heading home. Well done to Annabel, Rosa and Dougie for being best Beaver, Cub and Scout, respectively, over the weekend.

Thank you to Sean Richards for providing the location for a fire for a mid-hike fuel stop (hot dogs and s'mores, of course!), to the Parish Council for use of the North Building, to Dan Kent for sharing his space expertise and knowledge, to Sherston Congregational Church for the Lego loan and to Sherston Primary School for use of the school car park for the climbing wall.









Sherston Guides experience Big Gig, a pop concert at Wembley Arena!



A group of our Guides were amongst 20,000 girls who filled Wembley Arena recently for Big Gig, an evening of live music organised by Girlguiding. It was an extraordinary experience to be with so many Guides, Rangers, Young Leaders and Leaders. The event was hosted by Radio 1 DJ, Charlie Hedges, and the television and radio presenter Angellica Bell.

Evie: I liked seeing famous bands like JLS and the Wanted 2.0

Rosie: It was very atmospheric, thousands of girls and leaders renewed their promise together.

Charlie: It was inspirational, what an incredible community Girlguiding is. When The Wanted 2.0 had technical problems with their track the girls sang the words for them.

Lucy: I really enjoyed Scouting for Girls.

Maisie: I didn't know how many Girlguiding groups there were!

Edie: There were so many girls - it was amazing!









City of the White Walls document researched by Cilla Liddington

Contemporary Memories of the Coming of the North Folk in the Sixth Century
BY THE VERY Rev. H. D. M. SPENCE, DEAN OF GLOUCESTER. SECOND PAPER.

In the heart of the ancient British poem ascribed to the bard Llywarch Hen are the following striking stanzas, commemorative of the "White City". The fate of this "place of arms," from the position which it holds in the poem, evidently was closely bound up with the crushing British disaster at Deorham (A.D. 577), in which battle the hero Cyndylan fell.

The "White City" has been by some writers of eminence identified with Uriconium, the city of Cyndylan, near the modern Shrewsbury; but Uriconium* only fell some six or seven years after the battle of Deorham, with which battle it has absolutely no connection; there is besides nothing that we know of belonging to the great Roman-British city of Shropshire, which can fairly be associated with the five times repeated title "White."

"The White, Town in the bosom of the wood, †
There has ever been of its lusty hood,
On the surface of the grass, the blood!

"The White Town in the countryside,
Its lustyhood, its gray thoughtfulness,
The blood under the feet of its warriors !

"The White Town in the valley!
Joyful its troop with the common spoil
Of battle, its people are they not gone?

"The White Town between Tren and Troywyd ! ††
More common was the broken shield
Coming from battle, than the evening ox.

"The White Town between Tren and Traval ! ††
More common was the blood
On the surface of the grass, than the ploughed fallow."

* This supposed identification is helped neither by local tradition nor by the etymology of the name. The pleas urged by Dr. Guest for the identification would, indeed, be equally applicable in the case of many, if not, indeed, of most of the more important Roman British towns.
† The translation is Dr. Guest's, first printed in Archaeological Journal, "Conquest of Severn Valley," vol. xix., and has been since adopted by Mr. Skene, in his four "Ancient Books of Wales," and later by Mr. Stepford Brooke.
† † These "geographical references" are useless to us, as Tren, in the same poem, is used as the name of a river and a town : there were probably several streams so called in the Seven Valley. The river Trent doubtless derives its name from the same root-Tren signifies rapid.

About three miles from the old Wiltshire town of Sherston Magna, some ten miles from the battle-field of Deorham, the Foss (Roman) Road, leading from Bath to Lincoln crosses the Avon by a bridge, rebuilt, no doubt, many times since the days of the Caesars, but always recast on the old Roman pattern, without mortar or cement, to allow the river-water at flood time to flow unhindered through the interstices of the stones. A few yards above the little bridge, the old Roman stones can still be seen through the clear waters of the shallow Avon, intended for the passing of the Roman cavalry or the pack-horses through the river, making their way along the Foss Road. Close to the ford and the bridge are the earthworks of the military station - a pile of stones, with bits of pottery lying about, still marks the site of the guard-house or inn. During the seventeen centuries which have elapsed since the Italian strangers paved the Avon ford and built the bridge, this spot has kept the original name of a very ancient city in the neighbourhood - "White Walls." *

Just three miles from the ford and the bridge, the old Wiltshire village-town, Sherston Magna, picturesquely built upon the sides of a steep hill sloping down to the Avon, still marks the site of a very old city, † once evidently strongly fortified. Considerable and well-marked earthworks, as well as local tradition, tell us there was once a British city here, before the Roman occupation. The Romans probably cared less for it than the old British people, who first chose the site, and its distance from the military road may account for our hearing nothing of the town during the three centuries of Roman rule in Britain; only the ford and bridge station of the Foss, across the Avon kept the old name, "White Walls." After the departure of the legions in A.D. 409, the City of the White Walls - "the White Town"- doubtless became of greater importance, † † so it was probably refortified as a military outpost of the Severn and Avon districts. The wood in the "bosom" of which we are told that it was situated, must have been the present Selkwood, which then naturally exceeded its present boundaries.

* It is still so marked on the Ordnance Maps of Wiltshire.
† See an interesting paper on this identification of Sherston Magna with the "White Town" of Llywarch Hen, in the "Proceedings of the Cotteswold Field Club," p. 191 of the vol. for 1874-5.
† † For, after the Romans had left, the British provincials of the Severn Vale cared little for places like distant Lindum (Lincoln). The great military roads had comparatively small interest, for the British folk, who were, alas for themselves! only interested in their own immediate neighbourhood. This want of solidarity in the island was one of the principal causes which led to its subjugation by the Northmen.

Many coins and other remains have been found here, and the remaining traces of fortifications tell their own story."*

The name given by Llywarch Hen to the city corresponds in a remarkable way with "Sceorstane," the old Saxon name of the Wiltshire town of Sherstone. Scir, or Scyr, means bright, shining, white (clarus, nitidus, albus). "Sceorstane" then would signify the bright, or shining, or white stone, evidently the exact Saxon equivalent for the old British name, "Dref Wenn, the White City (or Town)." †

There is a pathetic interest attached to the gray-white old Wiltshire village-town, mirrored in the clear and shining Avon water, for the student as he wanders over

the quiet scene with the old bardic poem on the dead hero-king in his hand. The long-buried, almost-forgotten story of the blood-stained "making of England" comes up before him.

* See "Cotteswold Field Club Transactions," vol. for 1814-5, p. 198.

† Compare "Saxon Chron.,"_ A.D. 1016 (Laud MS., edit. Earle and Pummer, 1892), p. l30; Prof. Freeman, Norman Conquest," Vol. 1 (battle of Pen Selwood-Sherstone), chap. v., p. 385 and "Trans. of Cotteswold Club," 1874-5, p. 198-9, and "Lye Dict. Sax. et Goth. Latinum."

World War One Veteran William (Bill) James Turner



Studio photo of Bill on enlistment, a 19-year-old boy with hope



Bill, a 21-year-old man who has seen too much

My Uncle Bill was born in 1895 in Chipping Sodbury in a terraced house now absorbed into the Town Hall. Bill was big brother to my dad Harold, who was born in 1904.

When World War One broke out in August 1914 it was expected to be over by Christmas. It was also expected to be the 'War to end all wars'!

Bill volunteered and signed up to the 5th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment (Territorial Force) as a Private; number 2919TF. In 1915, the 5th Battalion was rapidly amalgamated into the 4th Battalion - probably due to high casualty rates suffered on the front line.

The 4th Battalion fought in the First Battle of the Somme in 1915. Prior to their first assault, the Germans launched a gas attack against the British lines. Bill was gassed in this attack and was transferred to the field hospital located some way behind the Allied lines. Hospital patients were issued with blue jackets to identify themselves and so as not to be mistaken for shirkers or deserters. (Deserters, if caught, were regularly executed by firing squad, as a deterrent to others.)

Bill, undoubtedly unfit for frontline duty, was transferred to the Battalion Signal Corps. The role was still potentially hazardous. Standing up behind your own lines did not mean you were not at risk from enemy artillery bombardment. Bill ended his service in 1918 in Italy, fighting the Austrian/Hungarian armies.

On returning home, Bill suffered from weakened lungs and shell shock (now known as PTSD, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). My grandfather endeavoured to help his son as best he could by setting him up in a new grocery shop on Chipping Sodbury High Street. Bill met and married a young woman called Bessy West.

This is where the story has a sad twist. Bessy hoped to have children and raise a family but Bill had failed to tell her before they married that he was not prepared to bring any children into a world that could produce the horrors that he and so many others had lived through.

Bill's own therapy for shell shock involved breeding prize-winning canaries in an aviary in his back garden. His birds won many prizes for best in show. I know this because I inherited the small glass case containing the medals.

Robin Turner

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How did Sherston get involved with Operation Christmas Child?

Following the public shooting of Romanian dictator Ceaușescu on Christmas Day 1989, many orphanages were discovered in Romania, full of deprived babies and toddlers. A local businessman in Wrexham, Dave Cooke, and his wife, Jill, felt moved to do something in response to the plight of these orphans. The couple put out a local radio appeal for essential items, including clothing, bedding and medical supplies, and the local community responded, filling seven lorries for Romania! Dave's sister Jan, came up with the concept of the shoebox gift as a form of easily transportable 'Christmas stocking' to give hope to children in the toughest of circumstances. Shoeboxes of gifts filled another lorry, and Operation Christmas Child (OCC) was born!

Evangelist Mick Hunt tagged a lorry full of Bibles on the end of the convoy and took the first, grainy, video of the trip (videos had only just been invented back then).

At the time, we had a small Christian teenage youth group in Sherston and Luckington and, a few months after the trip, Mick came to a session and showed his video. Our 13-year-old daughter was at the youth group, and came back suggesting that we do boxes from Wiltshire too. Consequently, we borrowed the video, made copies and sent it to local schools. This led to a team of 12 in Sherston, plus 70 volunteers annually, meeting to check, pack, and dispatch shoeboxes for around 15 years, plus general support over 30 years.

We knew many of these children would die young so made a stamp which said, in Romanian, 'Father God loves you!' and stamped it on each shoebox lid. That seemed to be the most important thing for them to know - and every box was prayed for.

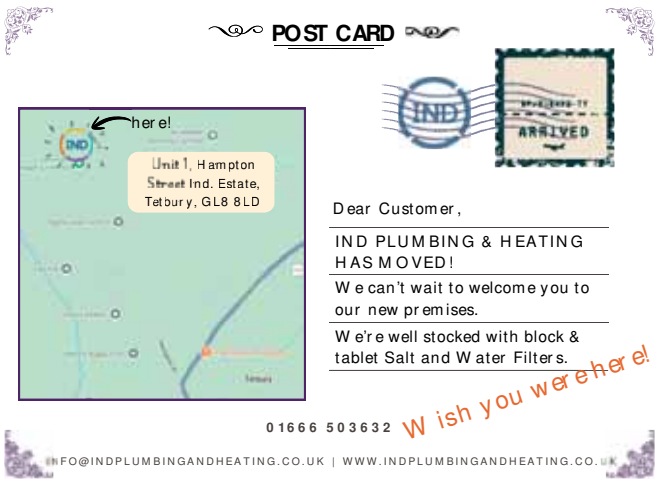
Never did I dream that Billy Graham's son Franklin would take over OCC during the next 30 years and turn the acorn we helped nurture in Sherston in the 90s into the gigantic evangelistic oak it has now become in 2026! (See their latest videos.)

Since 1996, when Samaritan's Purse took over OCC, more than 209 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received a shoebox. The main miracle is that, because each box has been prayed for by the donors, the checkers, the packers, and the deliverers, God's love spills out into the young lives of the receivers.

It was the thrill of our lives last December, for Roger and I to be taken to the massive new Samaritan's Purse Depot in Coventry. It is wonderful that OCC has now turned into a huge global Sunday School for children in all these countries, with volunteers able to give them biblical training if they want it.

If you want to get involved this year, empty boxes are available from the Co-op in Sherston and then need to be dropped off at Persephone Violet on the High Street in Malmesbury from Monday 9 to Friday 13 November.

Mary Clements (on behalf also of Roger Clements)







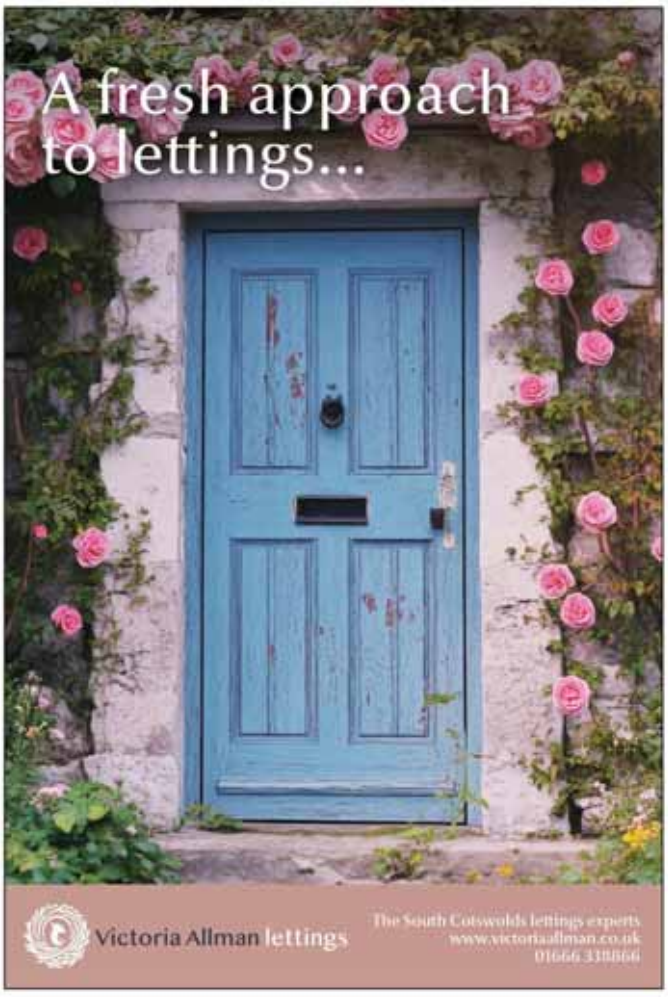
North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club

Autumn is a very busy time of year for the Flower Club. It began with our AGM in September which incorporated an excellent and very enthusiastic talk by Jennifer Susan from Halliesphere. We also launched our new programme for 2027 which includes several floral art demonstrations, workshops for all experience levels, talks, outings and our Emerald Anniversary celebration. More details can be found on our website (https://northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk/). For October, there was a last-minute change of plan, so we held a workshop making Pave designs (dense, flat, shallow arrangements best viewed from above), which was a new skill for many.

Our main event of the year is an open meeting with Nick Grounds, a National Demonstrator, at Malmesbury Town Hall on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30pm. Nick is also a professional horticultural auctioneer, known for his theatrical, humorous and engaging flower-arranging events. All are welcome to what should be an excellent evening. Tickets are now on sale (£20 for members, £25 for visitors) and include delicious canapes and a glass of bubbly. For more information, or to purchase tickets, email nwvflowerclub@gmail.com, call 07817 242888, or visit our website (as above).

Then on Saturday 28 November, we are holding a Christmas Wreath Making Workshop at the Riverside Community Centre in Malmesbury from 2.00pm to 4.30pm. This will be open to anyone who would like to learn a new skill, especially non-members, for a cost of £40 including tea and mince pies. If you'd like more information or to book, please check our website or our Facebook page – North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club. Places are limited so book soon!

Our final event of 2026 will be a Christmas lunch at the Old Royal Ship in Luckington on Wednesday 16 December, providing an opportunity to relax and enjoy each other's company.







WHAT'S ON: November 2026

Sherston

Sunday 1 November 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. **Morning Praise church service.**

Sunday 1 November 3pm, Holy Cross Church. **All Souls church service.**

Tuesday 3 November 7pm for 7.30pm start, British School Room. **Sherston Gardening Club meeting.** Duncan Coombs will talk about 'Pruning Shrubs and Aftercare'. Open to all members and guests. Contact our secretary for more info: sherstongardeningclub@gmail.com

Tuesday 3 November 2pm, British School Room. **Sherston Senior Club meeting**. Jay Dunn will give a talk on 'Kenneth Williams, the life, the laughter, the man', and on Tuesday 17 November, we will have musical entertainment by the Peekies. Visitors welcome. For further information, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

Saturday 7 November From 9.30am, Holy Cross 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. All volunteers welcome, even if you are only available for a short time.There is always a coffee break mid-morning in church to keep you warm on the coldest of days. If you are able to help, please come along to help or, for more details, contact Sue Robinson: sue.m.r1951@gmail. com.

Sunday 8 November 10.45am, Church Street. **Open-air Remembrance Service.** All are welcome - from all denominations and none. Please remember to bring cash for the collection which will go to the Poppy Fund.

Thursday 12 November 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.

Thursday 12 November 7.30pm, Lyric Theatre, London. **Sherston Theatre Club: Outing to Hadestown**. For more info or tickets: sherstontheatreclub@gmail.com.

Tuesday 17 November 2pm, British School Room. **Sherston Senior Club meeting.** Musical entertainment by the Peekies. Visitors welcome. For further information, please contact Helen Quirk on 840516.

Tuesday 17 November 7pm, British School Room. **SOSCIC Annual General Meeting.** Come and hear what we have been doing on your behalf over the last 12 months, plus an update on tenancy and good causes supported. Latest SOSCIC information is available to review in advance of the meeting at sherston.org.uk/community/sherston-old-school/ Any Sherston residents who are not currently members are more than welcome to join us.

Sunday 15 November 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Sunday 22 November 9.30am, Holy Cross Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Saturday 28 November From 12noon, Sherston Village Hall. **The Family Christmas Bazaar.** With the ever-popular bacon and cheese rolls, as well as home-made soup and other light refreshments. Also, home-made cakes for sale, Christmas gifts, Sherston's Brussels sprouts, plus tombola and raffle. We'll have mulled wine on sale too – to get you into the Christmas spirit! If you are able to donate cakes, raffle prizes or produce, such as home-made jams or chutneys, please bring them along to the village hall on Saturday 28 November from 10.00am.

Sunday 29 November 6pm, Holy Cross Church. **Advent Service of Light. Candlelit church service.**

Alderton

Sunday 1 November 11am, Alderton Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Foxley

Sunday 15 October 11am, Foxley Parish Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Luckington

Sunday1 November 11am, Luckington Church. **Holy Communion church service.**

Sunday 8 November 10.50am, Luckington Church. **Remembrance Service.**

Tuesday 3 November 2pm-2.30pm, The Old Royal Ship. **Luckington Bible Study.** To join, please contact: Helen.m.daviesllm@gmail.com. **Also: 10, 17 and 24 November.**

Sunday 15 November 11am, Luckington Church. **Worship Together church service.**

Malmesbury

Wednesday 18 November 2.30pm (doors 2.15pm, tea & cake 2.30pm, talk starts 3pm), Rausing Building. **Athelstan Museum Teatime Talk: The Bayeux Tapestry -Embroidery or Fabrication?** Charles Boundy, author of Ice to Athelstan, will talk about the Bayeux Tapestry. Tickets: £8 to include tea & cake. Tickets available online and in the museum. www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk

Wednesday 18 November 7.30pm, Malmesbury Town Hall. **North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club: Open meeting.** With National Demonstrator Nick Grounds. Tickets, £20 members, £25 visitors, include canapés and a glass of bubbly. For more info or for tickets, email nwvflowerclub@gmail.com, call 07817 242888 or go to northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk

Thursday 26 November 10am-12noon, Malmesbury Town Hall. **Malmesbury & District u3a meeting.**

Kate Johnson - Why Lasting Power of Attorney is important. Kate will talk about why it is important to put Lasting Power of Attorney's in place in the event that you lose the capacity to manage your own financial and/or health affairs. Many people of retirement age do not have them set up, making it very difficult for others to manage their affairs on their behalf. Kate will also talk about how to go about getting them set up and officially registered. For more info, go to www.malmesburyu3a.org.uk.or email membership@malmesburyu3a.org.uk

Saturday 28 November 2-4pm, Riverside Community Centre. **North Wiltshire Villages Flower Club: Wreath-making workshop.** Non-members welcome. £40 to include tea and mince pies. For more info or to book, go to northwiltshirevillagesflowerclub.co.uk

Sunday 29 November 1.30-3.30pm, Rausing Building. **Athelstan Museum History Club: A 1950s Christmas.** Free interactive workshops for children aged 4-11. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Donations welcome. www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk

Sunday 29 November 9.30am and 11am, Malmesbury Abbey. **Deanery Service.**

Tetbury

Thursday 5 November 7pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Opera on Screen – La Bohème.** The Royal Opera House's production of Puccini's heartbreaking classic of young love. It tells the story of a captivating romance set against 19th century Paris. Tickets from £13.50. For more info/tickets: www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Saturday 14 November 7.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **William Howard and the Carducci Quartet.** We welcome back very special friends of the Goods Shed for an evening of chamber music pairing William Howard's piano with the Carducci Quartet playing Haydn, Schumann and Brahms. Tickets from £30. For more info/tickets: www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Saturday 21 November 10.30am, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Music for Miniatures.** Magical musical concerts designed to inspire and connect young children to live music. For 45 minutes children from 0-4 and their carers can dance to their hearts content! Tickets from £6. For more info/tickets: www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Saturday 21 November 7.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Remi Harris Hot Club.** Guitarist Remi Harris teams up with bassist Tom Moore and rhythm guitarist Chris Nesbitt for an exhilarating evening of Gypsy Jazz and Blues. Tickets from £19. For more info/tickets: www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Monday 23 November 6.30pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Lino Cut Christmas card workshop.** Design carve and print your own festive print and leave with 20 hand-printed cards and tags. No experience needed and materials are included. £40 per workshop. For more info/tickets: www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk Also: Monday 30 November.

Thursday 26 November 7pm, Tetbury Goods Shed. **Photography Network Launch.** Featuring micro-talks from exhibiting photographers and an introduction to GPN this is suitable for professionals, keen amateurs and photography fans. Free. For more info: www.tetburygoodsshed.co.uk

Music, Cinema and Theatre

Theatre Royal Bath

Tel 01225 448844 www.theatreroyal.org.uk

The Barn Theatre, Cirencester

Award-winning professional theatre, based in the heart of the Cotswolds.
Box office: 01285 648255 or boxoffice@barntheatre.org.uk or visit barntheatre.org.uk

Didmarton Film Club

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

Movies@Malmesbury

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

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 ofthree cash prizes each month, plus a bonus cash prize at Christmas. Contact Nic Riley (07768 603160) or Jeanna Ind (07887 853476)

Wiltshire Council Mobile Library

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

Crystal Bowls Sound Bath

Immersive relaxing sessions playing sounds designed to balance the mind and body. A lovely calm space to enjoy deeply nourishing rest. Selected Mondays, 7.30pm-9pm, North Building on the Rec. £15 per session. Contact Kirsty. strachan@icloud.com for more information and availability.

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 Thursday at SWR School Tetbury, between 7:30-9pm.
Over 16s, all abilities welcome. £7 per session.
For details please contact Penny 07846 123455 or sherstonshooters@gmail.com

Sherston Short Mat Bowls
Meet every Thurs evening 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Village Hall, September through to May. Bring flat shoes, we have the woods. Contact Tony Weedon 841377 or Paul Robbins 07799 898559

Sherston Tennis Courts
The courts are available to the village at no charge, at own risk. The courts can be slippery when wet. Please look after the courts and nets, take away any rubbish.

Sherston Town FC
The First team plays in 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

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

Luckington Book Club We're a small, friendly book club and would love to welcome some new members. We meet at 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month (except December) at The Old Royal Ship, Luckington. If you enjoy reading and chatting about books in a

relaxed and friendly setting, come and join us. For more information, contact Jayne on 07753 133385, or simply turn up!

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.mamesburymorris.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 - ileslie@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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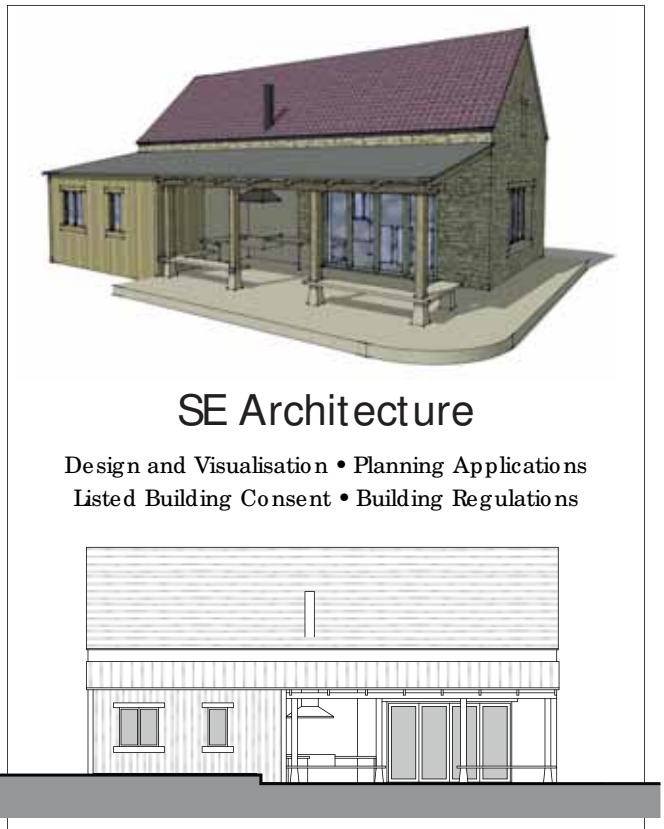

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Local recycling and zero waste outlet information

Recycling Facilities

Kerbside Collection

for up-to-date information on what can be collected, go to: ww.wiltshire.gov.uk/recycling

The Household Recycling Centre at Stanton St Quinton

for up-to-date information on what you can take, go to: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres-what-you-can-bring

As of September, there is a pilot booking system in place.

For more info:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/20130/Household-Recycling-Centre-Booking-System-Pilot

Soft plastics

Collection points are in stores:

Sherston Co-op
Malmesbury Waitrose and Aldi
Tetbury Tesco

Batteries

Collected by Wiltshire Council with kerbside recycling collection, place in clear sandwich bag on top of the blue lidded bin.

Low-energy light bulbs

Take to Stanton St Quintin Household Recycling Centre.

Medicine blister packs

Small quantities can be taken to any Superdrug pharmacy and to any participating Boots store - www.boots.com

Inhalers

Can be taken to any pharmacy

Clothes and Shoes Collection Point

Collection points: Sherston Primary School car park to fundraise for the school
Sherston Village Hall car park in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance

Ink Cartridges

Can be taken to Tetbury Tesco or Stanton St Quintin Household Recycling Centre

Zero-Waste/Eco Shops

The Loaf Shack – a community pop-up micro bakery specialising in small batch artisan bread and baked goods in Sherston every Thursday morning, 10.30am-1pm.

Lucy Tom Interiors, Noble Street, Sherston - Refills of cleaning materials, beauty products, shampoo and conditioner as well as reusable water bottles, keep cups and fabric remnants.

The Wild Food Company, High Street, Malmesbury - large selection of zero-waste and plastic-free goods, liquid refills, loose dry foods and loose oat milk.

Bennetts Farm Shop, TetburyLane, Leighterton GL8 8UP- a self service retail outlet open 7 days a week 8am-6pm

Eastington Farm Shop, Bath Road, Eastington GL10 3AY - selection of dairy products from the farm, milk in glass bottles, range of fruit, vegetables and other produce. Open Tuesday to Sunday.

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 - organic farm shop and café, with a large selection of zero-waste and plastic-free goods and liquid refills

Zero-Waste online services

Milk and More (www.milkandmore.co.uk) - milk, cheese, yoghurt, fruit and veg boxes and zero-waste groceries.

Riverford (www.riverford.co.uk) - zero-waste organic fruit and veg boxes, and lots more (delivered on Wednesdays).

Forbidden Fruits (www.forbiddenfruitandveg.co.uk) - small stall located in a market garden in Badminton producing locally grown organic fruit and veg boxes. Optional local collection and delivery.

Abel & Cole (www.abelandcole.co.uk) - organic fruit, veg, zero-waste groceries & household goods with very low plastic use.

Oddbox (www.oddbox.co.uk) - small to large boxes of veg (plus optional fruit) delivered overnight. Also great recipes, easy exclusion options, etc. 'Fighting waste one curvy cucumber at a time'.

Local Food Growers

Tetbury Mens Shed
Produce available from Herd Lane Allotments every Wednesday 10am-12noon in season.

Malmesbury Friday market from 9am-2pm

Close Farm, Tetbury Road
Pick your own plus a veg stall in season.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

If you are in immediate danger call 999

Sherston Defibillator 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 for updates on twitter

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

WATER – Wessex water
www.wessexwater.co.uk/Contact-us/
Emergency Helpline: 0345 600 4 600 (24 hours)

BBC Wiltshire can be heard via:

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

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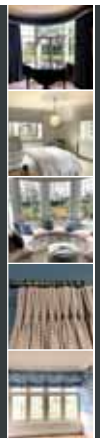

New craft shop ***Loop & Seam***
Come and browse our growing collection of fabrics for quilting, patterns, craft kits, thread, and knitting & crochet supplies

The on-site ***Courtyard Café*** *serves*
Cotswold Coffee, Delicious Cakes, Hot Paninis & Toasties, Herbal Teas, Hot Choclates, Smoothies & Milkshakes

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



GREY'S FESTIVE MENU 30th November - 21st December
Relaxed yet refined, Grey's is a place to settle in, share good food and enjoy the company around you. 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. Our festive menu brings together crafted dishes and the warm, generous style of hospitality that makes Christmas at Whatley feel so special.

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

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