

# News and Notes

For Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock

May 2026

Here comes summer! You can tell by the gentle clatter of lawnmowers punctuating the air on weekend afternoons, not to mention the re-appearance of car boot sales in Nunton Field. The new Odstock Nunton Bodenham Community fund is running monthly boot sales over this summer as the principal fundraising activity towards the maintenance & improvement of your lovely villages, allowing an Ebblefest-rest and re-charge. Your support is needed please both in helping in any capacity you can, and in coming along to enjoy and support them! More summertime events in the villages are starting to unfold like the fresh green leaves of summer- tickets are on sale for Radfest at the Radnor Arms on 17 July, and Charlton All Saints are holding their wonderful Village BBQ with an auction of promises on 11 July. For a full list of events coming up in the villages see them all on our superb new website at [newsandnotes.net](http://newsandnotes.net) which has been masterminded by our indefatigable tech sis Clare Penny, aided and abetted by her great tech bro Jeremy Metcalfe. Huge thanks to them for easing us into the future with such panache.

Talking of future and the world of tech, AI is starting to dominate much that we do, so touching on that we have another poem for you this month, about our beleaguered GPs whose work may very well be at risk from AI.

Traffic Watch are out again doing their stuff on the roadside and are always on the lookout for support from volunteers. Love them or loathe them it is a proven and effective way to calm traffic and make our villages safer. Please email us if you could spare some time to join them.

Elsewhere in this edition, our erstwhile Nunton resident and chef Martin Simcock (now living in S. Wales) has a paella recipe for you to try, rabbit with snails and mushrooms anyone? And there's another glimpse into the calming and comforting world of philosophy; and a snapshot into spice cuisine (perhaps not cuisine but 'Ashpazi'; Persian instead of French).

Plus, keep those photos coming in! We already have many beautiful images on the website, and our thanks to our local pro photographer, dancing Mike Couchman from Charlton for kindly agreeing to be our judge.

Feedback is welcomed! Nature abhors a vacuum and so do editors, so please get in touch on our new email address [editor@newsandnotes.net](mailto:editor@newsandnotes.net)

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**Co-editors:** Nicolette Beardsmore, Adam Beardsmore

**Website:** Clare Penny - [www.newsandnotes.net](http://www.newsandnotes.net)

**Deadline for June edition: 14 May 2026**

**Contact** [editor@newsandnotes.net](mailto:editor@newsandnotes.net)

## River Ebble in 'excellent' condition!



The River Ebble Water Quality Monitoring Group are delighted to be able to report that recent testing of the water shows a marked improvement on results obtained last summer, when it was in a poor condition and unsafe for bathing. The latest results show very low levels of bacterial contamination and the water now meets the Environment Agency's criteria for excellent bathing quality. This is of course also good news for plants, fish and invertebrates that live in the river.

We will continue to undertake regular testing and report the results in News & Notes.

We will also be pleased to share a more detailed report on the results to anyone who is interested. The group is supported in this work by your Parish Council and our results are shared with FLOW a larger group monitoring the whole River Avon catchment area.

We meet on a weekly basis, weather permitting, at Jubilee Gardens to perform routine testing with

simple equipment but following an agreed scientific protocol.

If there are any other potential Citizen Scientists out there who would like to be involved in helping protect our local environment please get in contact. (no scientific training necessary)

*Sherwood Elcock tel. 01722 334398*



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## Just Hatched

Nick and Liz Stanger are delighted to announce the safe arrival of a second grandchild, Robbie Alistair, born to Pete and Catriona in Bristol on 23 April



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## Photo Competition Winner

A beautiful composition with the subject tight in focus, isolated from the grasses and meadow flowers. Wild Deer are incredibly aware of their surroundings and spook easily. The capture of this image would mean a stealthy, quiet approach so well done to the photographer, Sheri Start, for her additional field skills.

*Mike Couchman*

Photos can be seen on our website and in the e-version.



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AGES  
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Introducing...

ONB Community Fund committee has been established to raise funds for local causes, helping to enhance our village communities and facilities. As previously reported in News & Notes, EbbleFest, one of our community's main fundraisers, is taking a year off in 2026. To keep fundraising efforts going, the Parochial Church Council, Parish Council and EbbleFest crew are coming together to run a series of car boot sales.

Everyone who can spare a couple of hours is very welcome to help in whatever way they can - marshalling cars, pouring tea or cooking up the bacon! Over the coming months the focus will be on car boot sales; all fundraising ideas are encouraged. Do get in touch if you're able to help, whether in a creative, strategic or practical capacity.

We're delighted to report that our first car boot sale of 2026 has raised £450.

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Email: [info@EbbleFest.co.uk](mailto:info@EbbleFest.co.uk)

## Creativitea

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time of  
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third Thursday of the month  
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### Navigating Dementia

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A welcoming afternoon for health and community services professionals and people with dementia and their carers to connect, share and learn.

Tuesday 19 May

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# Focus on Food - letter from West Wales

By the time April comes along in West Wales, you appreciate what you've been through over the winter months. Trees sculpted to the shape of the wind line the coast road with brittle bracken strewn across the glowering hills. The leafless forest in the Gwaun valley scratches its twigs across the scant sunless sky.

I know I've been here for twelve months or more as the rabbits are hanging in the Newport butchers shop once again, there's collard greens and rainbow chard in the veg box, and the lovely Spanish family, Alberto and Maria and their children have returned like early swallows from the Canary Islands having over-wintered in Southern Italy, Sicily, Morocco and Catalunya. So it makes sense to rustle up a rabbit and Dorset snail paella to celebrate spring and the fast-approaching debut of British summer time.

All cyclical stuff, but somehow felt more down here in West Wales: we do feel closer to the elements, closer to the weather and obviously closer to the sea across which the storms have been skipping like skimming stones all winter and battering the harbour for months on end.

I have a 50cm paella pan which feeds 12-14 comfortably, plus a gas ring burner it will happily sit on, but you can also get smaller ones suitable for a family. It's a great dish to cook for a bunch of friends, outside, with guests gathered round, beer in hand, trying to guess the ingredients. I bought the rabbits when I saw them hanging, brought them home & butchered them, froze the diced meat & used the bones along with a chicken carcass & some good veg to make an awesome stock. That went in the freezer too, so I'm ahead of the game with a lot of the work done well before the day looms.

As it's principally a rice dish, that stock is the most important element, so take your time and really pour in the love. Cook low and slow for 3 – 5 hours, strain, get it back on the stove and reduce it down a bit. I think a handful of dried wild mushrooms works well with the rabbit and snails, soaked overnight. Squeeze out the shrooms, chop up and set aside and add the soaking liquor to the stock. The shrooms can be cooked off with the onions when you start to put the dish together. Onions may be forbidden in a traditional paella Valenciana, but not in mine. The trick with the stock, to my mind, is add the saffron to it with enough time to let it bleed out, and season it to perfection before adding it to the pan. You don't stir a paella, so it's really difficult to distribute the seasoning later.

The great thing about paella is that you can cook it to the point you add the rice and leave it in the pan until your guests arrive and you're ready to finish off the dish by adding in the hot stock and the remaining bits and pieces. Your guests get all the drama without any of the mess whilst you get to shine in their eyes like the culinary warrior you deserve to be.

You're probably wondering where the recipe is for this dish. I use an amalgam of several recipes, developed over the years, but here's one I would recommend

<https://www.spaininapan.com/authentic-paella-valenciana-recipe.html>

It's not like the one I normally cook and the method is quite different, but it's a flexible recipe and flexibility is to be cherished in a kitchen, especially in West Wales where you work with what's available, we're not in the Sierra Nevada after all.

*Martin Simcock*

# We Need a Change in Perspective

*by Catherine Bell*

          GPs are replaceable  
          Some people think  
          It's a shame  
          If we lose the family doctor  
          But it won't  
          Make a huge difference  
          The work your GP does can  
          Be outsourced to others  
A therapeutic relationship cannot possibly  
  Be maintained in this fragmented world  
          Continuity of care should  
          Be substituted for fast access  
          It's inconceivable to  
          A person  
          A family  
          A community  
          The privilege of knowing  
          The family doctor no longer exists  
But if non-medical roles and AI take over  
  Everything GPs do behind the scenes  
          It's hard to see  
          What extra value a GP brings  
          A lot of people don't realise  
          What GPs do is not important  
I can see why the government believes  
  We need a change in perspective

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***Now read the poem again from bottom to top***

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## Pothole Line

Please continue to report potholes to Wiltshire council because they are dangerous. Use the MyWilts link on the Council portal as this is quickest. You will need the postcode and ideally a photo. (You can also report litter-dropping and dog-fouling on this portal). If there's an emergency regarding bad potholes call **0300 456 0105** (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm). Outside these hours and on bank holidays call **0300 456 0100**

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## Chalke Valley Link Scheme

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A number of people from the five villages have already visited, we would love to see you down here - Martin Simcock

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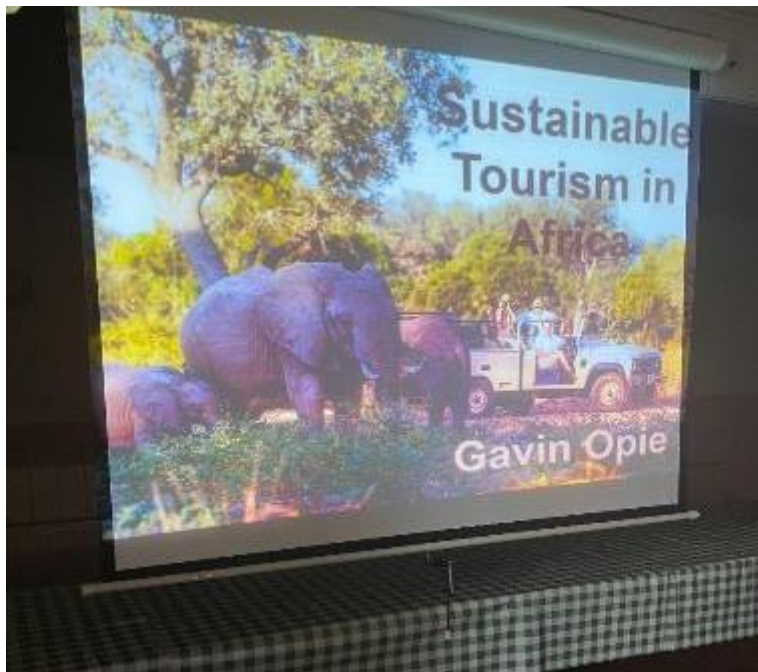
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# Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I.

Our President confirmed the details of the regular Lunch group, Book groups and Walking group. Members were reminded that the May meeting would be the AGM followed by a bring-and-buy Plant Sale raising money for funds. All six current committee members were willing to stand again but the president gave notice that this would be her last year and that anyone was very welcome to join the committee. The June meeting will have a 'Mad Hatters Tea Party' theme and a sub committee was formed to help. 29 people signed up to visit Andy McIndoe's garden on 29 June and the outing to Arundel on 29 July was also confirmed but still has spaces. Tickets were distributed for Inspector Morse and the Spitfire Girls at the Playhouse. Two visits are offered from WFWI: one to a Recycling Centre and the other to Buckingham Palace to see the late Queen's outfits and accessories in September.

Gavin Opie was our guest speaker who talked enthusiastically and knowledgeably about Ethically and Sustainable Tourism in the Luangwa National Parks of southern Zambia. This is one of the wildest areas in South Africa, untouched and rarely visited. The park is a natural and undeveloped river valley the size of Wales in which a large variety of animals roam. Hippos and elephants number over 20,000 and their conservation programme with the painted dog population has been particularly



successful. 23 safari camps have now been established. Gavin has been a guide there for 30 years and is passionate about wildlife management. The human/wildlife conflict with slash and burn farming and poaching; plus climate change make life challenging. Education for children and vocational training for adults is helping to change attitudes. Local people are trained to aid the police and use sniffer dogs as well. Last year 20 tons of snares were recovered. The way forward for this beautiful wilderness has to be promotion of its wildlife, co-existing with humans, ethically and sustainably managed.



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# 'Top in the shop' Razzle-dazzle Recipe

I never used to cook with spices much, barring the occasional use of curry powder, progressing sometimes as far as garam masala if feeling particularly exotic. Beyond the odd grating of nutmeg on rice pudding or mixed spice in fruit cake, spices had never figured much. And often the cinnamon and coriander on my shelf lost its aroma & went out of date between infrequent outings, as per that hilarious Michael Macintyre stand-up routine. But since then I've discovered something called ras el hanout a Moroccan spice mix. Translated into English it means 'top in the shop', reflecting its position as the best spice mix money could buy. Every family in Morocco has their own traditional way of blending their ras el hanout, handed down through the generations. It is utterly delicious with a fragrant, mouth-watering aroma, and wonderful ingredients such as rose petals & fennel seed as well as coriander, cardamom, cinnamon, cumin, allspice, nutmeg, turmeric and ginger -and often even more whose names I simply don't recognise. Its delicious smell is intensified even more when dry roasted for a minute or two. So now I just buy a jar of that and can use it all up easily before it goes stale. Far more convenient! You do have to watch that the supermarkets don't sneak some sugar into their versions though.

Thinking of food stuffs on your shelves, it is reassuring to know in these uncertain times that you can always conjure up tasty, nutritious dishes just from items stored in your home. Tinned or dried beans and lentils are excellent for this purpose. People often think these can be plain, dull and bland, but they can be unrecognisably transformed into marvellous mouth-popping meals with the judicious addition of some spices (guess which one I use!) and maybe some garlic & chilli. You can further perk them up with the zest and juice of lemon or lime, or better still a segment of delicious, intensely flavoured preserved lemon; and some fresh parsley, coriander or mint. Meat, chicken, feta or roasted nuts can be added if you prefer not to have undiluted beans although the high protein content of pulses and legumes means they can readily be the nutrient-rich main component of your meal.

Ras-el-dazzled (geddit??) pulse dish recipe:

- 2tablespoons of cooking oil
- 3garlic cloves, chopped or crushed
- 1 onion, roughly chopped
- 1-2 tablespoons ras el hanout according to taste
- one fresh red chilli, seeds removed and finely chopped, or dried or powdered chilli, or harissa paste
- 3 tablespoons tomato purée
- 200mls vegetable stock
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 2 x 400g cans chickpeas, rinsed
- 200g spinach leaves, washed (equivalent frozen spinach could be used)
- Coriander leaves, chopped, keeping a little back for garnish
- Greek yogurt and lemon wedges and toasted pine kernels (optional) to garnish



Method

1. Roast the spice for a minute in a dry frying pan - but watch carefully as it goes from toasted to burnt very quickly. Remove from the heat if it smokes!
2. Add the oil to the pan and fry the onion until translucent.

3. Add the chopped or crushed garlic and chilli and fry for a minute or two more
4. Stir in the tomato puree and then add the stock and bring up to the boil
5. Drain the chickpeas, add to the mixture and simmer for 10 -15mins
6. Add the spinach and stir round until it is wilted.
7. Season with pepper and salt
8. Stir in the chopped coriander leaves
9. Put into bowls or plates, garnished with an artfully placed spoonful of yoghurt, a sprig of coriander and a lemon segment, and some toasted pine nuts if you fancy
10. Serve with mixed salad or green vegetable and bread of your choice.

If you'd like to include meat you can add (for example) some raw diced leg of lamb or chicken thighs after step 3, browning in the pan with the onions & spices and then stirring in the stock and other ingredients as above, simmering until the meat is cooked. You can even omit the pulses if you don't want them, but they are a great way of making your meat dish go further, saving the pennies and reducing your carbon footprint at the same time!



## Philosophy Corner

One of the acknowledged greats of Philosophy is Marcus Aurelius, a Roman Emperor who lived in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, almost two thousand years ago. He is someone whose writing continues to have profound influence for millions of people around the world. He reached our little corner of Nunton when a friend recommended

*Philosophy Corner, continued. . .*

his 'Meditations', saying the book had greatly influenced him both as a guide for living and also as a great help at times of personal hardship.

Marcus' influence and importance as a philosopher seems only to have arisen long after his death, when his notebooks 'to himself' gradually became widely known. These were his own private diaries, thought to have been written whilst on military campaigns. He must have been deeply spiritual and thoughtful. Unlike most of us whose 'notes to self' are probably somewhat trivial in comparison (like 'remember to buy sprouts') they focus on virtue and living a good life and were probably never intended for publication or sharing. Self-help for a warrior emperor, yes, but here's the thing: they work for everyone.

Reading them in *Meditations* you can almost hear him speaking to himself, thinking things through and working out the best way logically to deal with life's challenges. Astonishing about his writing is how the thoughts and meditations of this leader of the ancient world are still relevant and meaningful in today's world. Would that modern leaders were even half so thoughtful and wise. It is clever because it is so simple. There is nothing complicated or magical.

Here's the truly astonishing point: over nearly two millennia we human beings have not changed. Our needs, our emotions, our fears and hopes and struggles, they were all the same then as now for every single one of us. Truly, there is nothing new under the sun. To this day Marcus Aurelius' book *Meditations* continues to inspire, guide and console thoughtful people all over the world.

So what is 'Meditations' saying? It is about realising that you alone have control of how you think and feel and react to circumstance, and that although you can't do anything about external events you absolutely can influence how you respond to them. He realised that resilience and calm acceptance of hardship is more powerful than frustration, anger or anxiety. This of course is far more easily said than done and is not to diminish pain and suffering. But it helps to set a pathway for us towards a worthy, helpful goal and increase our ability to cope with adversity. It means focusing on the things you can control like your work, your values, and how you treat others. This mindset is especially relevant in the modern chaotic digital world, a world where conflict and idiocy seem to confront us from every angle. He also focuses on the importance of duty and contributing to the common good and of having integrity in our lives. He puts much stress on self-reflection and humility; & knowing that how you live impacts on others.

*Meditations* is a practical guide to staying grounded and ethical and mentally strong in a complex unpredictable world. Finally I would add that although light on fun and laughter (things which I know are so vital for a fulfilling life), this brilliant philosophy is about a quieter, more subtle sense of joy which arises from peace of mind and a grounded sense of wellbeing. As the last stanza of the poem "Invictus" by the Victorian stiff-upper-lip poet William Ernest Henley puts it:

'It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul'

*Nick Stanger*

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## Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – May 2026



BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language)

CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)

<b>3 May 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Service Morning Service	Berwick St John Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Bishopstone	Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Ruth H-S Adrian Taylor Sally Leaver
<b>10 May 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	9.30am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm 3.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Worship Together Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) All Age Service Evening Prayer (BCP) Rogation 'Service'	Bowerchalke Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Hub Nunton Homington Alvediston Fifield Bavant Knowle Farm	Kate Woolven Ruth H-S Janet Roe Ruth H-S Alison Waterhouse Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair Kate Woolven
<b>14 May ASCENSION DAY</b>	8.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Fifield Bavant	Maggie Metcalfe
<b>17 May Sunday after Ascension</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 4.00pm 4.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Sunday Praise Sunday Praise	Bishopstone Odstock Ebbesbourne Wake Berwick St John Coombe Bissett Bowerchalke	Ruth H-S Maggie Metcalfe Maggie Metcalfe Ruth H-S Lay Led Kate Woolven
<b>24 May PENTECOST</b>	9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm	Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion + APCM Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (BCP) Family Service Evening Prayer	Broad Chalke Charlton All Saints Bishopstone Alvediston Berwick St John Nunton Homington	Ruth H-S Maggie Metcalfe Ruth H-S Tony Monds Lay Led Adrian Taylor Ruth H-S
<b>31 May TRINITY SUNDAY</b>	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Odstock	Ruth H-S
<b>7 June 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Service	Berwick St John Broad Chalke Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Alison Waterhouse Kate Woolven Ruth H-S Biddy Trahair Ruth H-S Adrian Taylor
<b>Ministry Team</b>	Team Rector Team Vicar Associate Priests  Team Administrator	The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022 The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 01722 697404 The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395 The Revd Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825 Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376		
<b>Assisting Clergy</b>	The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607 The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 07808 614597 The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081			
<b>Lay Worship Leaders</b>	Angela Bridges: 01747 828383, Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Janet Roe: 01725 519242, Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoddy Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152			

# News from the Pews

## Charlton All Saints

April was a busy month in Charlton All Saints, starting with the Easter Vigil service on a very windy evening. We struggled to light the candle from the brazier outside to bring into the darkened Church, symbolising Christ as the light of the world. Next up was the Church Spring Clean, when many of our parishioners joined the PCC & Rector to sweep, clean and polish our lovely Church. The Annual Quiz Night at the Radnor Hall was most enjoyable, with the traditional supper appreciated by all.

As I write, we are anticipating a wonderful celebration as the main event of our 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday Communion which is also Bishop Andrew's last event in the parishes before he moves on to be Bishop of St Albans.

The Plant Swap is on Saturday 9 May from 10am, with Coffee and more cake. Bring along your spare seedlings and take away some different ones! On Wednesday 13 May, the Annual Church Meeting will be held at 7pm in the Church – this is your chance to vote for the Churchwarden of your choice.

Local History Week 19-21 May, has a treat for those interested in the history of our beautiful villages. On Tuesday 19 May at 7pm, local historian Dr John Elliott will give a talk in All Saint's Church, Charlton on *All Saints': The Church and its Architect*. On Thursday 21 May, Dr Elliott will be joined by Dr Hadrian Cook, to talk in St Peter's Church, Britford on *Britford and its Church: Buildings & Landscape*, at 7pm. Tickets are £12.50 each, for each event, to include a glass of wine on both occasions. Tickets are available from our website [newsandnotes.net](http://newsandnotes.net). *Clare Penny*

## Britford

We had a wonderful Easter, preceded by a Benefice Palm Sunday Service which saw everyone waving palm crosses as we remembered Christ's entry to Jerusalem. The church and churchyard were sparkling after a great team from the village gathered to clear, chop, clean and polish for the spring clean. Huge thanks to everyone for coming and working so hard. Fun activities on Good Friday in Nunton helped prepare the children for Easter and several came to Britford on Saturday to make Easter Gardens which complemented the beautiful flower arrangements in the church. Easter Day was joyful and well attended, and the next service in Britford will be on 3 May at 9.30.

On 31 May at 3.30pm we will be serving cream teas in the church garden (inside if weather inclement) - it is Trinity Sunday so the trinity of scones, cream and jam seem appropriate. No booking required.

The annual parish church meeting will be held in St Peter's Church at 6pm on 6 May, followed by refreshments. Please do come & show your support.

As ever, thanks go to Shelagh and Sarah for keeping the church open and welcoming.

## Odstock and Nunton

We are in that glorious Easter Period when we celebrate new life and Spring is certainly revealing creation's rebirth. On Good Friday we held a children's craft workshop in the morning and a meditative reflection, At the foot of the Cross, in the afternoon. Our Easter Service at St Mary's was a beautiful family event with amazing flower arrangements decorating every possible surface. On Sunday 26 April we joined with Charlton All Saints to celebrate their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and on Tuesday 28 April we held our APCM in the Barker Room, Nunton.

Our family communion service at St Andrew's Nunton is at a new time of 11am on the second Sunday of each month. Each month during the summer we will be helping the community group at their car boot sales and hope to see many of you there supporting this new initiative to raise funds that benefit the community.

Our services will continue as advertised, as will CreativiTea on 21 May and on Saturday 23 May we will have a spring-cleaning day at St Andrew's, Nunton – please do come with a duster, marigolds or gardening gloves to help spruce up our church – refreshments will be provided. If you miss that date, there is another opportunity on 6 June to give a thorough clean to St Mary's.

We welcome you to any of our services and hope to see you around the villages now that the weather is so much nicer. *Stephanie Elcock, Mary Boydcamp, Churchwardens*

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## Fire Station Closures - Public Consultation

The ongoing public consultation into the potential closure of eight fire stations by Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service will run until **Friday 15 May**.

The eight locations under consultation are all on-call fire stations: Bradford on Avon, Charmouth, Cranborne, Hamworthy, Maiden Newton, Mere, Ramsbury and Wilton.

Chief Fire Officer Andy Cole said: "Nobody wants to close fire stations but, despite saving over £15 million in the last ten years, our financial position remains very challenging due to a 19.5% cut in funding provided directly from Government. We still need to make sure our operational staff have the equipment and training they need to stay safe, and we've pared back our Corporate staff numbers as much as possible. This isn't Plan A, we've worked through many difficult options before this point."

He added: "The elected Members of Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority are responsible for keeping the Service sustainable, and they recognise that tough decisions need to be considered.

"This consultation is therefore essential. We understand that people care about what this means for their community. That is why we want them to tell us what they think, and if there's anything important that we might have missed. No decisions have been made. The final decision will be made by the Fire & Rescue Authority at their meeting on 30 June. We would urge our residents to have their say via our survey or the upcoming online meetings."

In-person meetings have been held already in six of the eight locations, with further dates booked for Charmouth and Maiden Newton in April. There will also be an online meeting for each location during April.

Full details of these, FAQs, station-specific data, the consultation leaflet and the survey can be found at [www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures](http://www.dwfire.org.uk/proposed-station-closures). Telephone 01722 691000 for a paper copy of the survey or email [consultation@dwfire.org.uk](mailto:consultation@dwfire.org.uk)

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## Foil Blister Pack Collection Dates

### Upcoming Collection Dates - Tuesday 5 May and Tuesday 7 July

Britford Noticeboard (Church) 9:30-9:45am

Charlton-All-Saints Church - box emptied at 10:15am

Bodenham Old Post Office 9:50-10am

Odstock church car park 10:30-11:15am

*Anthony Warley*

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## JN Upholstery Bodenham

Josh Nicols has an upholstery workshop  
in the Black Barn in Bodenham.

T: 07704 767 813

E: [info@salisbury-upholstery.co.uk](mailto:info@salisbury-upholstery.co.uk)

W: [salisbury-upholstery.co.uk](http://salisbury-upholstery.co.uk)

*Please get in touch for more details*



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# The Joys of Books

One of my favourite things to come out of the Covid pandemic was the introduction of book exchanges throughout the country. I'm a regular browser at the bus stop at Nunton, the phone box in Odstock and the porch near the post box in Bodenham. (I hope that Charlton-All-Saints and Bodenham are similarly blessed but I'm afraid I haven't been round to check.) Further afield, I regularly stop at the phone box in Alderbury as well as the phone box in Coombe Bissett, even though the latter is reserved for children's books and my two have long outgrown books about training dragons and witch schools.

In addition to libraries and regular book shops, there have long been charity shops as well as the book stalls at the Salisbury Market to fill my need for reading material but now when I go to post a letter, the task is enhanced by the virtue of some exercise and the thrill of browsing the books at the Nunton bus stop in the hope of finding a gem to take home. Even if I go home empty handed (the long way, of course, to extend the virtuous exercise), it's cheering to think that books I've donated have disappeared (hopefully to someone else's library and not the fire or the bin), books I've loved have clearly been loved by others (judging by some well-thumbed donations) and sometimes I see a book there which I have on my shelves at home that I haven't read yet and am reminded, yet again, that I should read my own books before acquiring new ones!

The joy of the book exchange is that we can try a new author without the worry of investing £10 or more on a new book – and then if we do like their work, we can visit the shops in town to buy all their books or checkout the library! We can pick up a book while we wait for the bus and either leave it there when we leave or take it with us. While I love the library, it does require a trip to town or Downton (assuming you can remember their opening hours) and remembering when to take the books back. And, if like me, you're running out of shelf space, you can donate anything that didn't appeal or you can't imagine rereading.

But perhaps best of all, I feel connected to people in the village that I haven't met and may never meet. We all lead such busy lives and while we come together for major events and many of us are regular or irregular visitors to our local pubs, churches and village halls the book exchange is permanently open to all, rain or shine. The books are shared between us and read by us.

Clearly some of us tidy the bookshelves, weed out the saddest volumes and generally do something to help keep it all in order. I for one am happy to do my bit whenever I visit to ensure that we can continue to share the joy of browsing and reading books from our own village library in microcosm right on our doorstep and open all hours.

*Nicolette Beardsmore*

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01722 32976

# All Saints': The Church & its Architect

A talk by local historian  
Dr John Elliott

Tuesday 19 May at 7 pm

## All Saints' Church Charlton All Saints

Tickets £12.50  
to include a glass of wine

from [newsandnotes.net](http://newsandnotes.net)  
and [charlton.all.saints.pcc@gmail.com](mailto:charlton.all.saints.pcc@gmail.com)

Cheese & wine available in the interval  
In aid of the upkeep of All Saints' Church

## Britford and its Church Buildings & Landscape



An Evening with Local Historians  
Dr Hadrian Cook & Dr John Elliott

Thursday 21 May at 7 pm

## St Peter's Church Britford

Tickets £12.50 to include a glass of wine  
from Britford Farm Shop 10.30 am–2 pm  
Shelagh Lamb 07917 195242  
[newsandnotes.net](http://newsandnotes.net)

# Car Boot Sales

Nunton Recreation Ground, Nunton SP5 4HW

What3Words: uppermost.hazy.roadmap

## 2026 Dates

MAY 24<sup>th</sup>

JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>

JULY 19<sup>th</sup>

AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>

## Timings & Costs

SELLERS: 7.30 AM

Cars: £5

Small Vans / Trailers: £8

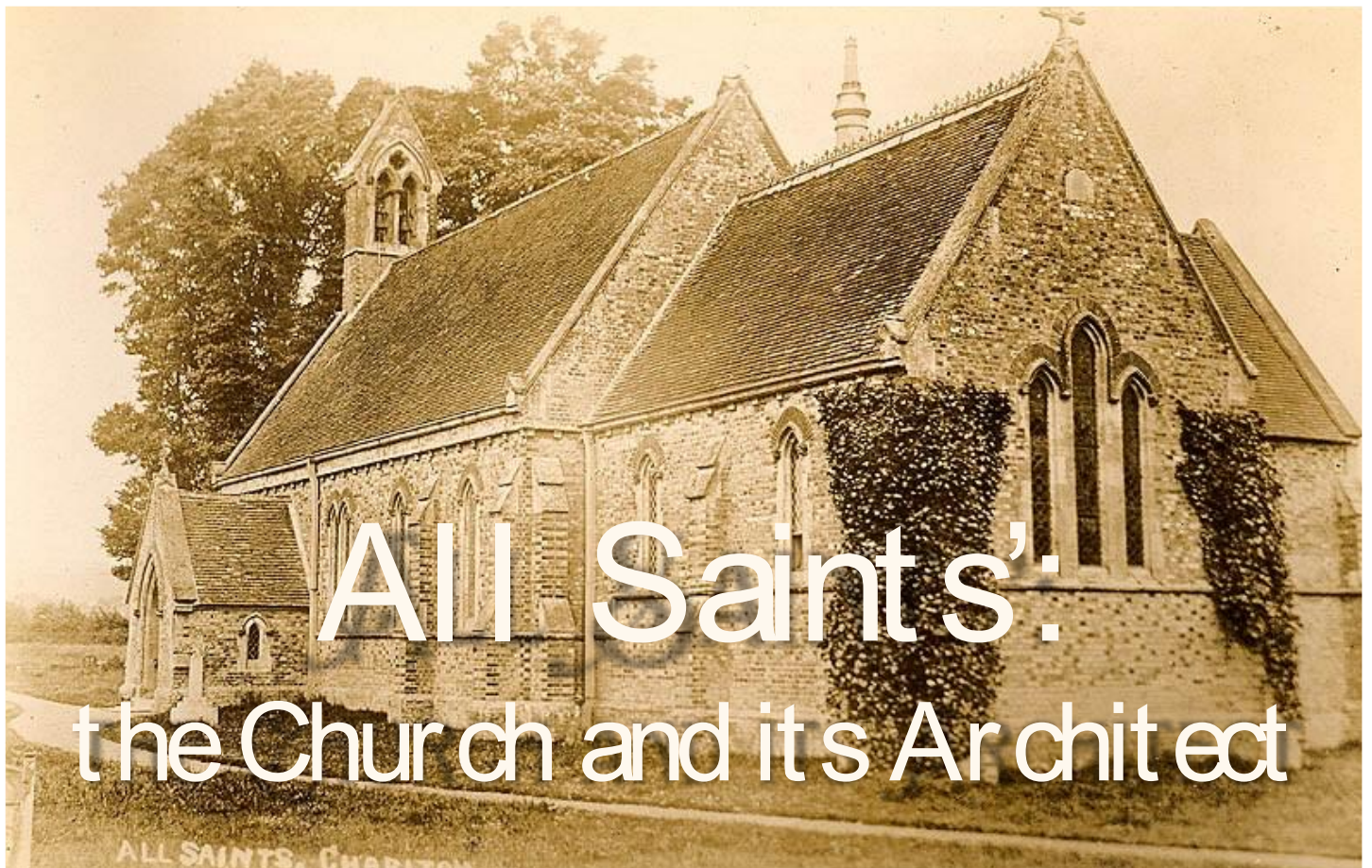
Large Vans: £15

BUYERS: 8.30 AM

Adults: 50p

Refreshments available, including bacon rolls, tea, coffee.

Organised by ONB Community Fund Committee. Visit: [www.newsandnotes.net/event-list](http://www.newsandnotes.net/event-list)



# All Saints': the Church and its Architect



## **Thomas Henry Wyatt**

Wyatt (1807-80) was a distinguished architect and President of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

He offered his services free of charge to the Salisbury Diocesan Church Building Association, and designed 20 churches in Wiltshire, including that in Charlton.

*Image by George Landseer © National Portrait Gallery, London*

**Tuesday 19 May**  
at 7 pm

## **All Saints' Church**

*A Talk by Local Historian*

**Dr John Elliott**

**Tickets £12.50 each**

to include a glass of wine

*from [newsandnotes.net](http://newsandnotes.net)*

*& [charlton.all.saints.pcc@gmail.com](mailto:charlton.all.saints.pcc@gmail.com)*

**Cheese & wine available at the interval**

*In aid of the upkeep of the Church*



# **MATUMAINI REHAB CENTRE**

## **Fundraising Evening**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm (door open/bar from 7pm)

With thanks to Salisbury Rugby Club for hosting this event

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**Nunton Drove 11 am - 4pm**

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how we farm as you go

🐄 Milking in action - see where your milk comes from!

🚛 Farm machinery up close

🐔 Meet the animals

🍷 Local food & drink - BBQ, coffee, cakes, ice cream & more

🍯 Local producers - including our honey, yoghurt & kefir

👶 Children's activities - fun for little ones throughout the day

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Open Farm Sunday is managed by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming). Charity no. 1045781

# N&N photo competition winner

Beautiful nature picture



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# N&N photo competition runner up

A roman coin found near Odstock in March 2026



# Salisbury Museum Spring Fayre

**Monday 4 May 10am - 4pm - Donation entry - No booking required**

We welcome back Spring with the much-loved Spring Fayre.

The Spring Fayre has the feel of a village fete, and this year is a celebration of all things folk, to tie in with our 'Un/Common People – Folk Culture in Wessex' exhibition.

Blending memories of celebrations on the village green, family games, music and ancient traditions, visitors will get the chance to relax and enjoy as well as try out and learn about folk dance and crafts. Alongside favourites such as Morris dancing, and spinning stalls, new features for this year include live music, a kiddy ceilidh and a children's folk scratch orchestra - bring your own instruments if you have them! There will also be face painting, maypole and Longsword dancing, and the creation of a collaborative community art piece from willow.

Joining us is folklorist Vikki Bramshaw, who will be giving a fascinating talk on 'Wessex Witches', delving into the historic and folklore witches of the Wessex Counties, including the shapeshifting witches of Beaulieu and the sisters of Grovely Woods. Vikki explores the stories of these women and how history, superstition, and the march of time has transformed them into legends.

Scheduled events start from 10:15, so come early!

Well-behaved dogs welcome outside – only assistance dogs are allowed in galleries

## Salisbury Hospice News

Update about the future of palliative and end of life care at Salisbury Hospice.

Thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, volunteers and partners, we have been able to provide hospice care to thousands of local families during the moments that matter most.

Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust has confirmed that Salisbury Hospice and its vital specialist services have been secured for the next five years. This means that our inpatient unit, community and hospital teams, outpatient and day services and family and bereavement support, will all continue providing care, comfort and dignity to patients and their loved ones.

As part of these changes, our healthcare assistant-led home care service, Hospice at Home, has ended. However, patients will continue to receive expert support in their own homes through our community team. We want to recognise everyone who made Hospice at Home possible. To our dedicated staff and volunteers, and to every supporter who gave, fundraised or spoke up for the service - thank you.

Like many charities, we are experiencing rising costs alongside increasing demand. This year, we have committed to increasing our charitable funding by £600,000 to £1.9 million to support the hospice and its services. Despite this increased contribution, a significant funding gap still remains so we need your support more than ever. Regular giving is one of the most powerful ways you can help protect the future of our hospice. By committing to a monthly donation, you will be helping to secure the future of hospice care for your community. Thank you.

Our Spring/Summer newsletter, released this week, contains further updates from our community.

*Nikki Spicer, Chair of Trustees at Salisbury Hospice Charity*



DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY

# Fire Station Closure Consultation

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION  
IS OPEN FROM:  
Friday 13th February 2026  
until Friday 15th May 2026**

This is your chance to have  
your say about our proposals



# Bishopstone Village Hall

May 2026

## BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Village Hall Café opens every other **Thursday** and is a great place to relax and catch up with others in the community. Upcoming dates are the **7 & 21 of May** and **4 & 18 June**. Opening hours are from **10:30 am to 12:00 noon**. Refreshments are currently offered free of charge, with donations welcome. As ever, the bookshelves offer a wide range of titles at very reasonable prices—perfect for stocking up on holiday reading!

## ANNUAL SPRING FAYRE

Our ever-popular Spring Fayre will take place on **Saturday 9 May, from 10.00am to 12 noon**, with a tombola, book stall, local crafts and refreshments. Donations of books or bottles for the Tombola are, as always, very welcome.

The plant stall will once again be a highlight, and we would be very grateful for any donations of spare plants, or seedlings of vegetables or flowers. These can be brought to the hall, which will be open to receive them on **Friday 8 May, between 2.00pm and 4.00pm**. We hope you can join us!

## MOVIOLA at Bishopstone

**Friday 29 May - 'One Battle After Another (2025)'**. *This critically acclaimed action-thriller/dark comedy, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Sean Penn, is based on Thomas Pynchon's Vineland. It follows a "stoned" retired revolutionary (DiCaprio) who attempts to reunite with his daughter after his old enemy resurfaces 16 years later.*

Doors open from **7.00pm** with the film beginning at **7.30pm**. Entry to the film is **£7.00**. A cash bar with ices and snacks will be available. If possible, please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 or Sue Taylor on 01722 780316.

A trailer for the film can be seen in the [Events](#) section of the village website at [www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk](http://www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk).

## BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

A home-cooked lunch is served monthly from October until April.

Lunches will resume in the autumn.

## BOOKINGS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Both halls are available for hire. To enquire or make a booking, please contact the bookings secretary, Margaret Barter (01722) 780471

## BISHOPSTONE PLAYGROUP

The playgroup meets on Friday mornings during term time from 9.30 – 11.00 am.

Breastfeeding support is available from qualified breastfeeding counsellor Cally Edwards and trained peer supporters. Find further information on our Facebook page, *Bishopstone Playgroup* or contact Cally [callyedwards@me.com](mailto:callyedwards@me.com) or 07968 797 168.

## “EXTEND” EXERCISE CLASSES

For further information about these exercise classes, contact Jenny on 01722 780863, email: [jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyberwynjones@yahoo.co.uk)

## PILATES AT BISHOPSTONE

For further information, contact Claudine on 07788 587937 or email: [claudineblake@aol.com](mailto:claudineblake@aol.com)

## YOGA WITH HANNAH

For more details, please contact Hannah Stocker at 0773 856 1888 or by email: [yoga\\_with\\_hannah@outlook.com](mailto:yoga_with_hannah@outlook.com).

## ART GROUP

An Art Group led by Russell Bignold meets every Thursday morning between 9.45am and 11.45am. Drawing, painting and sculpture (clay) are taught, covering all genres. Cost £20 per session, tea and biscuits provided.

Contact Russell at [russellbignold@btinternet](mailto:russellbignold@btinternet). Website [www.russellbignoldartist.com](http://www.russellbignoldartist.com).

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## Stars Appeal trekkers to reach new heights in India

A group of 29 adventurous fundraisers are training for an unforgettable trek through the foothills of the Indian Himalayas in support of the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity. Their challenge takes them from McLeod Ganj, home of the Dalai Lama, on a five-day trek on rugged mountain trails, reaching altitudes of 3,200m.

The team includes Dave Chapell, from Britford, with daughter Poppy, trekking to say thank you to Salisbury District Hospital for the care his wife (her mum) Rosemary received in 2016 when she developed a life-threatening blood clot on Mount Kilimanjaro. Dave said: "On Kilimanjaro, Rosemary was feeling unwell, but we made it to the summit and back to camp. The next morning, just ten minutes after we set off, she suddenly collapsed. She was put on a stretcher and rushed down the mountain. It was terrifying. When we reached the bottom, she seemed okay. We assumed it must have been the altitude."

The couple returned home but four days later Rosemary awoke to find her leg was swollen, and was rushed to Salisbury District Hospital by ambulance. A CT scan found a blood clot from her waist to her calf. She was given medication to treat the clot.

"It was the Stars Appeal funded CT scanner that found the life-threatening clot and helped save her life. The patients' wifi and small but meaningful touches like the teas and coffees, all also provided by the charity, brought comfort not just to Rosemary, but to me as well," adds Dave.

"The staff who cared for Rosemary went above and beyond to ensure she could be at our son's wedding. The nurses were amazing - they helped her get ready and brought her a can of Appletiser so she could have a glass of fizz to celebrate. They did everything they could to make the day special. Supporting this trek is our way of giving back to Salisbury Hospital and the Stars Appeal for everything they've done for us."

Salisbury Hospital Consultant Ophthalmologists, Mr Roger Humphry and Dr Rashi Arora, and Cardiology Consultant Dr Susie Lewis, all of them Stars Appeal Ambassadors, are also trekking.

Roger also trekked to Petra in 2022 for the charity, and said: "I've seen first-hand how much the Stars Appeal benefits the entire hospital, patients, staff, and departments alike. In Ophthalmology, it's provided cutting-edge equipment that enhances an already excellent NHS service – it's a gamechanger for our patients."

He added: "I'm really looking forward to partnering with patients and staff who share the same commitment to Salisbury District Hospital and the Stars Appeal. On top of that, the scenery, culture, and overall experience of the trek promise to be unforgettable – an adventure I can't wait for. I expect the biggest challenge will be the long walking days, and for me personally, the altitude. But with the right spirit and team support, I'm ready for it."

The trekkers set off on April 25. Each has paid their own trek costs and together they have already raised over £50,000 for the Stars Appeal.



Eye Consultant, Mr Roger Humphry, pictured centre, is taking on his second fundraising trek for the Stars Appeal, with fellow trekkers Dr Susie Lewis and Dr Rashi Arora.



Dave Chapell with daughter Popp

# New equipment for Salisbury Shopmobility

Friends of Salisbury Shopmobility (FoSS) charity has recently purchased brand-new mobility equipment for Salisbury Shopmobility.

The new mobility equipment includes:

- A red 4-wheel Shoprider Cadiz scooter
- A heavy-duty manual wheelchair capable of carrying up to 170 kg which has normal leg rests or can be fitted with leg extensions for those customers that need their legs elevating due to injury
- A Quickie 200R high-back power chair with seat adjuster for maximum comfort
- An assisted manual wheelchair which aids the person pushing the wheelchair by using power from a battery to get up inclines or curbs

FoSS raises funds both through its fundraising activities, and through selling items such as folding walking sticks, grabbers, blue badge holders, and RADAR keys in Salisbury Shopmobility and on the Shopmobility Charter Market stall in the spring and summertime.

Vicky Goodwright, Customer Service Manager at Salisbury City Council, said, “We are delighted to have some new equipment provided by FoSS. It enables us to continue to modernise our fleet of mobility equipment and helps us to reduce maintenance costs, whilst also giving our customers the latest equipment to explore the city of Salisbury.

“This is an investment in our service’s future so we will be here to help those that need us in the years to come. This ongoing collaboration between FoSS and Salisbury Shopmobility is much appreciated by all our staff, our volunteers and especially our customers.”

Andy Thomson, Chairman of FoSS said, “I am proud to support the charitable arm of Salisbury Shopmobility. We fundraise by selling a few items to help support our charity and we sell pre-loved equipment kindly donated by members of the public.

“If you have any items in good condition that you think we could sell on to raise more funds for FoSS we would be most grateful. We could not do as well without the help and support from Salisbury City Council and their wonderful staff.”

The new mobility equipment is available for hire from Salisbury Shopmobility at 3B Priors Square in the Maltings (located underneath Sainsburys), Monday to Saturday, 9am to 4.30pm. Membership is currently £10 annually with daily hire charges from just £5 per day.

Salisbury Shopmobility aims is to give those with mobility impairments the freedom and independence to access the city with ease. You do not need to be registered disabled to use the service and full training is given to every new member.

Call 01722 328068 or visit [salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk/our-city/shopmobility](http://salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk/our-city/shopmobility) for more details.

<https://navigatingdementia.eventbrite.co.uk>

# Navigating Dementia Conference

*Small changes can make meaningful differences.*

Entrance  
**FREE**  
pre-booking  
required

**07484 157768**

A welcoming afternoon for health and community services professionals and people with dementia and their carers to connect, share and learn.

**Tuesday 19 May  
12.30 -4.30 pm**

**Salisbury Methodist Church  
St. Edmund's Church Street  
SALISBURY  
SP1 1EF**

**12:30 Registration and  
Buffet Lunch**

**1:30 Conference starts**

**Key speaker  
Sir Al Aynsley-Green  
on compassionate care**

**Alzheimers Disease International on  
research and future developments**

**People with lived experience of Dementia  
will share their perspectives**

**Local support organisations will be on hand to offer  
information and advice**

**A supported quieter space also available for people with  
lived experience of dementia throughout the afternoon**



Charity No 1205459

This event is funded by the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation [www.saferosalisbury.org.uk](http://www.saferosalisbury.org.uk)

# Police Commissioner's Parish Column

Policing works best when it is rooted in the communities it serves. That is why I welcome the Chief Constable's announcement of Wiltshire Police's new priorities for the year ahead, which focus clearly on the things local people tell us matter most.

From April, Wiltshire Police will concentrate on three main areas: Safer Public Spaces, Reducing and Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, and Improving Outcomes for Victims. These priorities will guide how officers and staff work day to day across our towns, villages and rural communities.

Keeping public spaces safe remains fundamental. This priority is about making sure people feel confident when they go about their daily lives—whether that's walking to the shops, attending local events or spending time in their neighbourhood. It includes tackling antisocial behaviour, knife crime and youth offending, and continuing to strengthen neighbourhood policing. Many residents tell me how important it is to see officers out and about locally, and that visible presence will remain a key focus.

The second priority, reducing and preventing violence against women and girls, reflects concerns raised by people across Wiltshire. Crimes such as domestic abuse, rape, stalking and harassment cause deep and lasting harm. Making this a core priority means working closely with partners to protect those at risk, support victims and take firm action against those responsible.

Improving outcomes for victims underpins everything the police do. Reporting a crime can be worrying, and people deserve to be treated with care, respect and professionalism. This focus is about improving investigations, keeping victims informed and making sure they feel supported throughout the process.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I set the Police and Crime Plan, which sets out what residents should expect from their police service. These new operational priorities align closely with that plan and reflect our shared commitment to protecting the vulnerable, reducing harm and improving confidence in policing.

Policing faces real challenges, but clear priorities help ensure time and resources are directed where they matter most. I am confident that this approach will help Wiltshire Police continue to build trust, strengthen community links and keep our county a safe place to live, work and visit.



*Philip Wilkinson, Wilts Police and Crime Commissioner*

# Wiltshire Police's New Operational Priorities

Philip Wilkinson has welcomed Chief Constable Catherine Roper's announcement of Wiltshire Police's new operational priorities, saying they clearly reflect the concerns of local communities and will help ensure policing remains focused on safety, confidence and support for victims.

From April, Wiltshire Police will focus on three key priorities: Safer Public Spaces, Reducing and Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, and Improving Outcomes for Victims. The priorities will guide operational activity across Wiltshire and Swindon over the coming year.

Mr Wilkinson said: "Policing must always be shaped by the needs and concerns of the people it serves, and these priorities reflect what residents across our communities consistently tell me matters most to them. They align closely with my Police and Crime Plan and provide a clear focus for how Wiltshire Police will continue to protect the public and support victims.

"Keeping public spaces safe remains fundamental. Visible local policing, tackling antisocial behaviour, knife crime and youth offending, and strengthening neighbourhood teams are all essential to maintaining confidence and reassurance, particularly in our town centres, villages and rural areas.

"Crimes such as domestic abuse, stalking and sexual violence cause serious and lasting harm, often behind closed doors. Making this a core operational priority reinforces the importance of prevention, strong partnership working, effective support for victims and firm action against those responsible.

"Coming forward to report a crime can be daunting. People deserve to be treated with care, kept informed and supported throughout the process. High-quality investigations and a positive victim experience are not optional extras, they are essential to building trust and confidence in policing."

Mr Wilkinson works closely with the Chief Constable, taking account of operational advice and crime demand from the force, and both ensure Wiltshire Police's operational priorities align with the Police and Crime Plan.

"These priorities provide clarity and direction at a time when policing continues to face significant demand and ongoing reform. As policing adapts to new expectations around standards, transparency and performance, it is vital that operational focus is clear and consistent.

"Wiltshire's strength as a smaller force is its ability to respond quickly, maintain strong local relationships and ensure leaders remain closely connected to frontline reality and community concerns.

"These priorities build on the real progress already made by reinforcing visible policing, strong accountability and a clear focus on victims. They give me confidence that Wiltshire Police is using its small size to its advantage - remaining agile, community-focused and responsive - while continuing to improve the service it provides. This approach is essential to keeping Wiltshire a safe place to live, work and visit, both now and into the future."



## PRESS RELEASE

14 April 2026

### Red Cord Campaign

The Disability Interest Group of Salisbury (DIGS), Salisbury City Council, and Signs in Motion Ltd are collaborating on a campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of tying up and cutting red emergency cords in accessible toilets.

In February 2026, DIGS presented the campaign proposal to the Council's Commercial Services Committee, which gave its unanimous support.

As part of the initiative, clear and informative posters, kindly printed by Signs in Motion, will be installed in accessible toilets across the city to highlight this prevalent and critical safety issue.

Red emergency cords are essential, life-saving features for people with disabilities. In an emergency, every second matters, and even a brief delay caused by an out-of-reach cord can put lives at risk.

Emergency cords must always remain untied and hang freely to the floor. They should never be knotted, looped, cut, or obstructed. Tampering with red cords is a violation of safety regulations and accessibility standards.

Kez Adey, CEO of DIGS, said, "The Red Cord Campaign is important to DIGS because it can be a life-or-death situation and many disabled people take the red cord being in the correct place for granted whilst many non-disabled people don't realise how important the cord can be.

"We need as many people as possible to understand the importance which is why we are running educational spaces and workshops for independent social groups for



## Press Release

14 April 2026

### Have your say at the Annual Parish Meeting

Residents of Salisbury are invited to the Annual Parish Meeting to ask questions on any matters relating to the City Council and the City.

On Monday 27 April 2026, Salisbury City Council are hosting the Annual Parish Meeting at Salisbury Guildhall from 6.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a meeting of the Council, but a meeting of the whole community.

At the meeting, the Mayor of the City of Salisbury and the Leader of the Council will give a report on the activities of the City Council during the previous year. Residents of the City are then invited to ask questions. View the meeting agenda on the [Salisbury City Council website](#).

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, you can now submit your questions in advance. This new option helps make the meeting more accessible to a wider range of residents. You will be able to hear the responses during the live stream or watch them back later on the [Salisbury City Council YouTube channel](#).

Please email your questions to the Council's Corporate Services Team at [corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk) by 5pm on Monday 20 April 2026, using the subject line 'APM – Question'. Questions can be read out anonymously upon request. All submissions should be respectful and appropriate. Inappropriate questions may not be addressed.

Mayor of Salisbury, Cllr John Wells, said, "I encourage all residents to get involved, either by attending the meeting or sending a question in advance. This new