

News and Notes

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

October 2025

You and Your Village

There is much to be done to look after a community and keep it thriving although it's hard to know what precisely defines a community, let alone how to keep it buoyant. I suspect that just because you live somewhere doesn't necessarily mean you are part of the community there. One thing that certainly does benefit a community however is the involvement of local people who are prepared to get stuck in. So, ask not what your community can do for you etc, to paraphrase JFK, but read below how you may be able to help! Talk about vacancies, there is a veritable parade of great opportunities.

Two of our parish councillors have retired after an incredible 34 combined years, Colin Berry and Sally Nelson. What a wonderful contribution you have made - thank you, what an incredible example of service. Two new councillors are now needed, see inside for details. **Might you be able to help?**

If you are fed up with cars going too fast through your village or perhaps are a distinguished graduate of a speed awareness course and know all about the dangers of driving over the speed limit, read inside about our speed watch team. They have made a real impact, **but can you help?** They are currently looking for volunteers.

The pantomime takes place at the end of November. Rehearsals for Jack and the Beanstalk are already under way and if you're at all interested in dairy farming (as well you might be, living around Nunton) don't miss the opportunity to come to the panto market in case any spare dairy cows come up for sale on the cheap! The Radnor Hall Players are planning for a hot meal to be provided, thanks to Lou at the Radnor Arms very kindly offering to do the catering for our evening audiences. Helpers are being sought to serve and clear the meal – **if you can help, please get in touch.**

Unfortunately Washing Willie, the mighty and miraculous commercial dishwasher in the Radnor Hall, is on his last legs and will soon need to be replaced, so we need to raise around £1500. It's either that or we buy in a vast supply of Marigolds and send out the Press Gangs. If you have any fun fund-raising know-how or ideas, please shout as we would simply love to hear from you. Alternatively, we could have a whip-round which might be a lot easier! **Might you be prepared to help in a fundraising campaign?**

And this month we hear from a couple of ex-Nuntonites. Much as they loved their years in Nunton, they decided to leave for pastures new. Read our Spotlight article inside about Dan and Delia Richter's move to Singapore where they find that "Life is Good!" Finally, the News and Notes team are grateful to Adam and Nicolette Beardsmore of Nunton Drove for stepping forward to join as co-editors of your monthly parish mag. It's a wonderful help and welcome addition to the team.

Editors: Nick and Liz Stanger, Co-editors: Nicolette Beardsmore, Adam Beardsmore
Deadline for November edition: 14th October 2025
Contact editor@newsandnotes.co.uk

Announcements



BONFIRE BASH

**Saturday 8 November
at 6 pm**

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**DROP IN! Third Thursday of the month 2pm - 4pm
THE BARKER ROOM - ST ANDREWS CHURCH - NUNTON - WILTS**

WATCH OUT!

**There has been a spate of break-ins in outbuildings up and down the
valley- please ensure your items are secure.**



There will be no 11am service at Odstock Church on Sunday 5 October because of the Harvest Festival at Nunton at 4pm that day, which will be followed by tea in the Barker Room.

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I.

Our President welcomed everyone back after their summer break for the September meeting and explained that next month's meeting will include a sale of Winter clothes and Bric-a-brac, a speaker on Reiki and Crystals, and the autumn Lunch. Other events for September include the lunch club going to Barford, the walking group going to Wilton & the 5th Monday Needle-felting group meeting that includes a shared lunch.

We had an informing report on our Local River watch team who monitor the Ebble weekly and then an interesting, illustrated talk by popular Ron Taylor, titled "Go with the Flow". He told of his journey through to Southampton waters, Broadlands to Spit head.

He started by telling us that the big cruise ships don't now leave from Southampton water but the River Test! The Titanic left from Southampton docks, towed into the Test, and the new terminal opened in 2009 where the cruise liners leave from today. Southampton water is actually a drowned valley 3000 years old.

He then described Broadlands and all its Royal honeymooners; Lord Mountbatten's murder in 1979; the famous monuments of Lord Palmerston and Florence Nightingale; and the wonderful outdoor concerts at Broadlands. He moved on to Wolfe T microbrewery and then the ancient Redbridge and Eling Creek with its tidal mill producing delicious home milled bread and the Royal Pier that had a disastrous fire in 1983. He mentioned Esso Fawley and Cowes, and the IOW home of the Hovercraft. He finally returned across the Solent to Spit Head where the Battle of Agincourt took place in 1797 and finished with references to the Spit head Reviews which ended in 2005, "No money no ship".

Ron was gratefully thanked for another enjoyable talk, which ended a happy morning.

River Ebbles Water Quality

Caution!

Recent bacteriological testing (27th August 2025)
has shown that this river is significantly contaminated.
with E. Coli and intestinal enterococcus

You are advised not to bathe in the river until further notice.

You may have noticed the above sign at Jubilee Gardens in early September. This was posted as a result of work by the River Ebbles Water Quality Monitoring Group, a small team of local "Citizen Scientists", supported by your Parish Council, who have been regularly testing the river water for the past year. Nearly all of our previous tests have returned satisfactory results, but a bacteriology test taken over the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of August showed worryingly high levels of bacterial contamination. According to the Environment Agency's criteria the river must be considered unsafe for bathing until further notice.

We believe that this problem is a result of the very low level of water in the river and that it will resolve as the water level rises in the coming weeks.

We will be repeating the test in September and hope to be able to report that the problem is resolved but until then you are advised to **keep out of the river**.

For further information please contact: Sherwood Elcock 01722 334398

STOP PRESS - the result from the test taken on 15 Sept shows that the river remains significantly contaminated and bathing is not advised.

NEXT BLISTER PACK COLLECTION Monday 16 October

Britford, Notice board by Church 09.15-09.45

Bodenham, Old Post Office 10.00-10.30

Charlton All Saints- ongoing collection box in Church

Odstock, Church Car Park 10.45-11.45

Donations kindly requested £1 per 50 strips. Thank you for helping the environment!

Fond Farewells and Grateful Thanks

After an incredible combined 34 years of dedicated service, Odstock Parish Council is bidding a fond (and slightly reluctant) farewell to two of its longest-serving members.

Since 1991, Colin has been a familiar and reliable presence at the council table, steering everything from pavement planning to bridge building with a signature mix of pragmatism, persistence, and dry wit.

Originally seconded onto the council by family friend Ron Ireland, Colin was, at the time, considered the youthful injection the council needed—reportedly dragging the average age down to a sprightly 79. Now, decades later, he steps away with good humour, suggesting his departure may well have the opposite effect.

In his three-decade-plus tenure, Colin has left an impressive legacy. Among his proudest achievements is the footpath linking Nunton and Odstock—minus the school section, credit for which he graciously hands to Nigel. He also spent many years (and likely countless emails) liaising with Highways to push for resurfacing along the same route. With the final section due imminently, he has passed the baton—and the task of continued gentle badgering—to his successor, Shaun.

One of Colin's favourite community projects was the construction of the charming wooden bridge at Jubilee Gardens in 1999, a real family affair involving his wife's family, the Fords. Designed by his father-in-law, Peter, and built with their combined efforts, it still stands strong today thanks to a few well-timed repairs—and, no doubt, some TLC. There are countless other smaller projects Colin has helped with over the years, and he has been a steady hand and local champion throughout. His humour, wisdom, and dedication will be greatly missed.

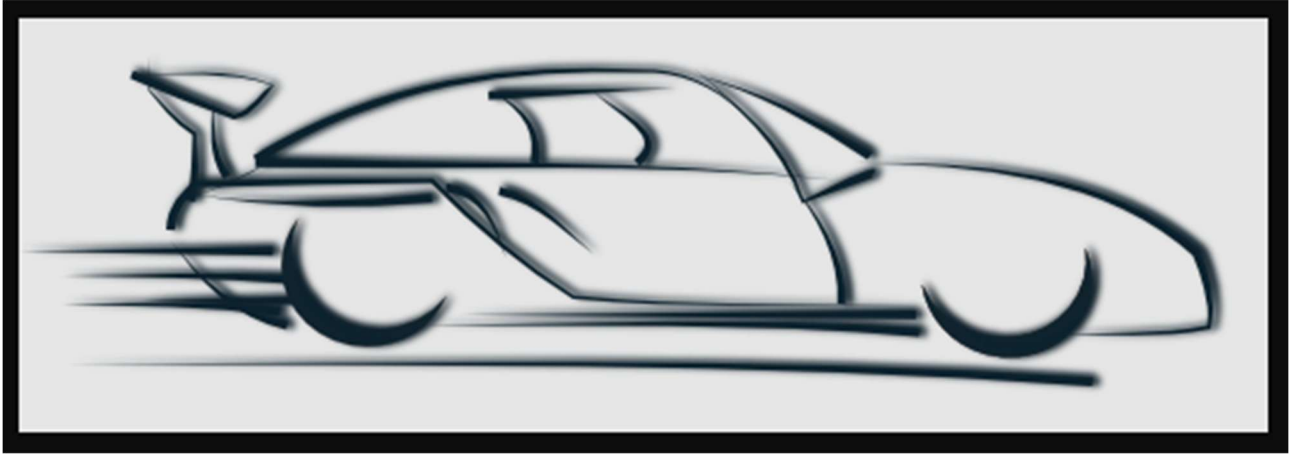
Colin, thank you for your many years of tireless service—and for proving that you really can get things done, even with a bit of fun along the way.

Our second farewell is for Sally, who is stepping down after 11 years of dedicated service. During her time on the council, Sally brought wisdom, clarity, and calm leadership—particularly during her tenure as Chair. She guided the council through both the routine and the unexpected with her trademark thoughtfulness and good sense. When she passed the baton on to me, she did so with unwavering support, helping me get up to speed with patience and encouragement. I can say with confidence that I wouldn't have found my feet quite so quickly without her.

One of Sally's standout achievements has been her tireless work driving the replacement of the children's play park in Nunton—an asset that will benefit local families for years to come, and a testament to her care for the community.

It would be much appreciated if two new members of our community would put themselves forward to join the friendly group on the Parish Council and help share in decision making for the benefit of our villages. Contact clerk@odstock-pc.org.uk or editor@newsandnotes.co.uk *Ed Riley, Chair, Odstock Parish Council*

Speeding through the village



How often have you heard complaints about the speed of some cars passing through our villages? Fortunately, there have been no serious incidents in recent years but with the Nursery at Odstock, the Orchard Sheltered Accommodation and The Radnor Arms in Nunton together with several tight corners there is a constant risk of accident and injury particularly to pedestrians and cyclists. The **Community Speed Watch Team** (CSW team) was established to deter drivers from speeding through our community. We are supported and overseen by Wiltshire Police who provide our Speed Camera and other kit and to whom we report. We hold sessions regularly for one week each month. We usually work in a group of 3 or 4 and record the speed of every passing vehicle during a 50min session. The VRN, speed and time of any vehicle traveling in excess of the limit are reported and these reports are followed up by the Police.

Although we still see a lot of cars speeding, the Speed Indicator Device (SID) data shows that overall, nearly 95% of vehicles do keep to the 30mph limit and less than 1% are recorded as exceeding 35mph. The SID was funded by our Parish Council.

We believe that our presence, reinforced by the SID, has had a significant impact in reducing the speed of vehicles passing through the villages. CSW teams today typically “catch” one or two speeding cars per session whereas in the early days it was normal to record 6 or more offenders. The recent numbers quoted above are some of the best recorded in data shared with Wiltshire Police by CSW teams throughout Wiltshire.

Volunteers usually undertake a couple of 50min sessions once a month. We are a small team and would welcome some new members, if you are concerned about the problem and can spare a couple of hours a month, we would welcome a few new members.

For more information:

Please speak to us when you see us on duty or contact Sherwood Elcock: 01722334398

Spotlight on Dan and Delia

In contrast to our previous spotlight articles about a prominent local person, this month we are focusing on a couple who live on the other side of the world. If you were in the panto audience a few years ago, you may remember seeing our two friends Dan and Delia Richter performing on stage in Robin Hood. An actor and a vet, they were a great asset to the Radnor Hall Players, not only from being a lot of fun and brilliant actors, but also for supplying any number of props thanks to Dan's profession as Art Director in TV and Film. Sadly for us they decided last year to leave their home of 7 years in Nunton and emigrate to Singapore. We caught up with them recently when they briefly returned for a holiday.

Ed: What attracted you to Singapore and why do you love it so much?

Delia: Weirdly Dan and I had both been in Singapore at the same time in 1995, but that was 20 years before we met! I was a vet student at Singapore Zoo and Dan was in a theatre company performing Shakespeare. We visited again, as a couple this time, for a 4 days stop over on a trip "Down Under" to meet each other's families and friends. We loved it, so two years ago we decided to go there on holiday and we just had a wonderful time. I discovered that I could easily find work there as a vet, so we started thinking more seriously..... And then took the plunge!

It's a friendly, vibrant, exciting place to live. We love the food which is simply incredible, with huge variety and low prices for eating out. We often eat out three times a day as the food is cheap and healthy. There are about 1000 food outlets within a 10-minute walk of our home. We especially love to eat in 'hawker centres' which are like open-air food courts. Each hawker stall has a small kitchen where they cook food from fresh ingredients, and only do a few dishes. We can choose anything from laksa, Korean fish to noodle soup to Hakka rice to Western food, Japanese, and Taiwanese!

Dan: It feels a very exotic place to live. It is multicultural with a strong underlying sense of tolerance of different cultures and faiths. The population is mainly people of Chinese, Tamil and Malay ethnicity but everyone seems to revel in the diversity and be well integrated. The place seems well run and we love the very real sense of optimism which a lot of people there enjoy. And when you think that this thriving metropolitan city state has arisen from what only 50-60 years ago was very much a third world country it's clear that it really has been a huge success story. Their history and politics are interesting. Much credit for Singapore's success must go to the founding father Lee Kuan Lew whose vision was for a country which would earn its place at the top economically through hard work and discipline. And some rather profitable shipping lanes!

Ed: My understanding was of a harsh authoritarian regime with very tough laws.

Delia: Yes, laws are strict but there is hardly any crime of corruption whatsoever. You must carry an ID card but you never feel oppressed or controlled by the state,

it's not like that in our experience. And it is a democracy with free elections and a political opposition, with full religious tolerance. It's also one of the safest countries in the world. You certainly feel very safe when you live and work there. For example, it's completely safe for a woman to walk out alone at night, and there is very little risk of theft. You can leave your phone and wallet on a table to reserve your place to eat in a hawker centre and then go off to find your food. No-one will take it!

Ed: What's the environment like? I have an impression of extensive high rise urban development. And how do you like the climate?

Dan: Yes, there is massive urban development, but it feels good. The architecture is fantastic. The majority of the population live in apartments in high rise blocks but there are fabulous city parks and the government are promoting a lot of new green development, so much so that despite living on the 16th floor we are woken by a cock crowing every morning in the park and we've even got geckos living in the flat! The government are actively trying to 'green' the city and achieve environmental sustainability. There are many wildlife nature reserves and the wildlife is fascinating with numerous snakes, colugo (nocturnal cat-sized mammals that can glide 200feet), monkeys and monitor lizards to name but a few. Climate-wise it's fantastic; 28-31 degrees Celsius year-round with 13hours of daylight thanks to being so close to the equator. December to January is the monsoon wet season. And the built environment is cleverly adapted to the climate with covered footways along streets a bit like shopping arcades which protect you from both sun and rain.

There is just so much about the place that we like. We'd recommend a visit!

Ed: Thanks Dan and Delia, Singapore sounds amazing, and what a contrast to living in a small cottage opposite the Radnor Arms in the relative quiet of Nunton. Please come back and see us again! And we certainly look forward to visiting one day.

Recipe of the month

It's delicious, it's really easy & quick to make, it's warming for these cooler days & it's excellent served cold in summer, when it's known as Vichyssoise. It's Leek and Potato soup! You don't have to add milk or cream, simply substituting more stock instead. It goes hand in hand with our Plant of the Month, the leek, which you could easily grow yourself if you wanted. When the tiny black seeds are planted, leeks seedlings sprout up and then you move them and "puddle" these seedlings into your garden in early summer in nice neat rows. You don't need to do much more although it's best if you've added some compost to the soil first, & you'll need to water them from time to time when it's hot. They will gradually thicken up into proper leeks over the summer and will wait patiently in the ground until you harvest them a few at a time, all over the autumn and winter. Miraculous.

Ingredients for leek and potato soup

1 onion

50-75g butter or 2 tbsps olive oil

2 medium leeks, washed and sliced into 0.5cm lengths

225g potato, cut into small chunks

1.2litres vegetable or chicken stock, plus additional 120mls if not using the optional milk or cream

Black pepper and salt to your taste

Optional:

120mls cream, milk or crème fraiche (retain a little to make a nice swirl in the top of each serving if desired). Probably best to add this dairy part if you are making vichyssoise.

Chopped chives for garnish

Method

1. Chop and slowly fry the onion in butter or olive oil in a large, lidded pan until it is nearly transparent
2. Add the chopped leeks and a 2-3 tablespoons of water, bring up to the boil and put the lid on the pan and “sweat” the leeks over a low heat, stirring occasionally, for 5-10 mins until soft.
3. Meanwhile, boil the potatoes in the stock in a separate pan until just cooked. Conserving the stock, remove potatoes from the pan, and stir them in with the leeks
4. When the potatoes are coated with the oil or butter, add the stock, season well, and boil gently for 5 mins
5. Use a hand blender or just mash the leeks and potatoes together using a masher to make the soup as smooth as you like
6. Stir in the milk or cream or crème fraiche and heat through again, keeping just short of boiling.
7. Serve with crusty bread, making your swirl of cream on the top of the soup as a garnish along with some black pepper and finely chopped chives if you wish.



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See N&N e-version for information on Council-run courses & how to book a place



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Nunton Nuisance News- Horrid Housemoths

Over the years when hoovering the carpet in our house I've often found just an occasional moth case, especially near the edge of the carpet. They look like grains of rice and in a rather naïve way I always rather liked them. They sit amongst the dust in the see-through dust-collection container of my vacuum cleaner as a pleasing secret sign of my diligence. And if you take a look inside the rice grain, there's a soft little fellow within, having a squirm around to look for another mouthful of something nice to eat. Quite sweet really.

Such acceptable biodiversity in our homes is mirrored in the sharing of our gardens with a (nicely-limited) number of pests: I like to give them a bit of a habitat but it is most annoying when they outstay their welcome or indeed multiply selfishly, causing damage to my crops (or carpets) in their inexorable rise. I plant my French and runner beans with marigolds adjacent as a gentle suggestion to the blackfly that they shouldn't get any ideas that the beans are only for them; generally that works well so I don't even have to spray with diluted fairy liquid which is my next go-to. I find though that my local blackfly population have a particular predilection for broad beans and I have struggled more to persuade them to depart from these. I don't grow broad beans all that often, so in my pest quest I haven't ventured much beyond the use of detergent spray or removing the tasty growth tips once the beans are a reasonable size. I did once use an overly-strong spray of washing up detergent that cleared the blackfly but sadly also dissuaded the broad beans themselves from continuing to thrive on my patch.

But I digress from the housemoth. Occasional grain grubs are just about acceptable, but a swathe of moths is much more of a malady, especially when you move the chest of drawers to find the carpet completely chomped by the greedy grubs. Next stop, there'll be others in your prize cashmere jerseys (or your non-prize merino-mix ones, as mostly in my drawer). So faced with a flurry of fluttering wings, one has to man the action stations against the enemy incursion.

Mumsnet says hoover, hoover, hoover to get rid of moth eggs in the carpet & prevent them hatching into grubs, the main munching machinery of the moth lifecycle. Enthusiasm for this in our house wanes after a while and we chucked out the worst-infested carpet. Lavender spray or real lavender is said to help. We've also had some success from putting all textiles of natural fibre like wool, cotton and linen through a 48hour sojourn in the deep-freeze & then storing them in sealed bags or storage crates. Using moth indicator strips that attract the newly hatched males with pheromones helps both to see the extent of the problem and (as we read that it's possible the males may hatch a bit ahead of their mates) maybe to entice the chaps out of the way quickly, preventing them fertilising the fresher female hatchlings and initiating the next generation of moths. Otherwise it seems it's over to professional pest control. Pest tips welcomed please!

News from the Pews

Odstock and Nunton

Well, summer is well and truly behind us now, and we step into Autumn. A big Thank You to everyone who helped with the car boot sale on 31st August. It went very well, raising funds for the parish. Thank you too, to all those who took part in Ride and Stride on September 13th - we had visitors to both churches and we hope they enjoyed their refreshments.

Looking forward, we are holding informal meetings on Monday afternoons in the Barker Room, St Andrew's, Nunton between 3.30pm and 4.30pm and this term are following a course written by the Trussell Trust. We have called our group "Curious Christians" as we study areas of the bible and discuss what it means to us. All are welcome to join.

With the reminder of the work that the Trussell Trust does, we are encouraging donations to our foodbank donation points in each church so if you are short of cash for the collection on Sundays, you are most welcome to bring a tin or packet of dried food instead!

Harvest Festival will be on October 5th at 4pm in St Andrews Nunton with a bring and share tea afterwards. Beforehand, there will be a craft workshop (Arty Harvest) for all children at 2pm celebrating nature (younger children should bring a parent). Please let Maggie Metcalfe know and bring your child/children along to join in the fun.

Please note that the 11am service at Odstock has been cancelled for that day.

Take care all and be kind to each other.

Stephanie Elcock, Mary Boydcamps, Churchwardens

Charlton-All-Saints

In September, Charlton joined the Ride and Stride sponsored walk in aid of the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust with some hardy souls braving the weather, but rewarded with hot drinks and cake at the Church.

At the end of September, we host an Afternoon Concert by the Mevagissey Male Choir at the end of their 50th anniversary tour. At time of writing, this has not yet happened, but it is set to be a wonderful afternoon of songs old and new in the Church.

In November, we have our annual village Bonfire Bash on Saturday 8 November at 6pm at Charlton Barn, Warrens Lane, by kind permission of Megan & Howard Taylor. Early Bird tickets are available up to 6 November from Chris Clark on 01725 510891 or online at <https://bit.ly/4n3FSvn>. We are keeping the price at £8 for adults and £4 for children 5-14 years and these include a hot dog. Standard tickets available 7-8 November will be £10 and £5 and will include hot dogs subject to availability. We look forward to seeing you there.

Clare Penny, Churchwarden



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice October 2025

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



5 October 16th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Harvest Festival Communion 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Harvest Festival Communion 11.00am Morning Service 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 4.00pm Harvest Festival	Broad Chalke Berwick St John Britford Bishopstone Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Nunton	Alison Waterhouse Ruth H-S Maggie Metcalfe Sally Leaver Biddy Trahair Ruth H-S Maggie Metcalfe
12 October 17th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Family Communion (CW) 10.30am Worship Together 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Harvest Festival 3.00pm Harvest Festival 5.30pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke Nunton Broad Chalke Hub Homington Alvediston Fifield Bavant Charlton All Saints	Alison Waterhouse Ruth H-S Janet Roe Ruth H-S Alison Waterhouse Biddy Trahair Ruth H-S
19 October 18th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Harvest Festival 11.00am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone Odstock Ebbesbourne Wake Knowle Farm Barn Coombe Bissett Berwick St John	Maggie Metcalfe Ruth H-S Tony Monds Kate Woolven Ruth H-S Barney Hopkinson
26 October Bible Sunday  <i>Clocks go Back</i>	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Service 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Prayer 6.00pm Evening Prayer	Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Nunton Bishopstone Alvediston Berwick St John Homington	Maggie Metcalfe Kate Woolven Adrian Taylor Alison Waterhouse Ruth H-S Lay Led Maggie Metcalfe
30 October	6.00pm All Souls Service	Coombe Bissett	Alison Waterhouse
31 October	6.00pm All Souls Service	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
2 November ALL SAINTS' DAY	9.30am Patronal Festival Communion 9.30am All Souls Service 9.30am Parish Communion 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Service 6.00pm All Souls Service	Broad Chalke Berwick St John Britford Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Bishopstone	Alison Waterhouse Lay Led Maggie Metcalfe Pen Milburn Alison Waterhouse Adrian Taylor Sally Leaver
Ministry Team: Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022 Team Vicar ~ The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 07904 034221 Associate Priests ~ The Revd Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825, The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395 Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376			
Assisting Clergy: The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 07808 614597			
Lay Worship Leaders: 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			



Family and Community Learning

Supporting My Teen to Understand Their Skills Online Course



**Booking
essential!**

- Support your teenager to recognise their unique contribution
- Develop communication skills that nourish your teenager
- Appraise skills, interests and personal qualities with your teenager
- Explore how to nurture resilience and independence
- Support your teenager to use their strengths to plan for their future

Friday 7 November 10am - 12pm

Booking closes Friday 31 October

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Call the FACL team on 01225 770478
or scan the QR code



Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ on 31 August this academic year; they must have a Wiltshire postcode and meet certain residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick one of the following criteria: on a lower income, earning less than £25,750 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to go into work, now or in the future.

Wiltshire Council



Family and Community Learning

Understanding School Anxiety Early Signs of Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Online Course

Co-taught with education psychologist



Booking essential!
Booking closes
one week before
course date

What is Emotionally Based School Avoidance?

- Strategies to support with anxiety and worry
- Strategies to support attendance
- Advice on reasonable adjustments that schools can make

**Thursday 2 October 10am - 12pm or
Friday 28 November 10am - 12pm**

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Call the FACL team on 01225 770478
or scan the QR code



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Wiltshire Council



Family and Community Learning

Supporting My Teen With Wellbeing Online Course



**Booking
essential!**

- Understand the changes in a teenage brain
- Learn techniques to promote wellbeing
- Explore positive psychology

Friday 14 November 10am - 12pm

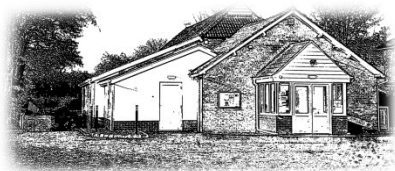
Booking closes Friday 7 November

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Call the FACL team on 01225 770478
or scan the QR code



Courses are no cost to learners who meet our eligibility criteria. Learners must be aged 19+ on 31 August 2025; they must have a Wiltshire postcode and meet certain residency requirements. Learners must also be able to tick one of the following criteria: on a lower income, individual income less than £25,750 a year; in receipt of benefits (other than child benefit); be a care leaver, foster carer or carer; be a military family or ex-armed forces personnel; have refugee status; have a learning difficulty or disability; be looking to go into work, now or in the future.

Wiltshire Council



BISHOPSTONE VILLAGE HALL

October 2025

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 **9th & 23rd October and the 6th & 20th November**. Opening hours are from **10:30 am to 12:00 noon**. Everyone is warmly invited to stop by for a coffee and a chat. Refreshments are currently offered free of charge.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 4th October

We're excited to welcome **The Pocket Choral Society** – a talented quartet delivering a unique blend of **A cappella singing and comedy**. Enjoy an entertaining evening of witty, topical songs and light-hearted storytelling. **Tickets: £12.50**. Add a delicious Ploughman's supper for just **£7.50 extra** (optional). It promises to be a fun and memorable night!

Saturday 15th November. There will be a very welcome return of the jazz group '**The Sunset Café Stompers**'. Tickets are **£17.50** each with an optional supper available at an additional **£7.50** per person.

Doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start for both events. Please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044, or Sue Taylor on 01722 780316, stating any dietary requirements if taking the supper.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone

Friday 31st October.

The Moviola film for **October** will be "**Mr Burton**".

Mr Burton is a 2025 British [biographical drama](#) film about the early life of Welsh actor [Richard Burton](#). With striking performances and poetic storytelling, Mr Burton captures the formative years of a boy destined for greatness. It stars Harry Lawtey as Richard Burton, with Toby Jones as Philip Burton, and Lesley Manville as "Ma Smith".

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.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

The first lunch of the season will be on **Wednesday, 1st October**, when the speaker will be Olivia Chapple, talking about her year as High Sheriff of Wiltshire.

The **November** lunch will be on **Wednesday, the 5th**. The speaker will be Mike Ash, with a talk entitled "Stop Press - Bishopstone in print".

Times as usual: **12.00 noon for 12.30 pm**. Advance booking is essential. Please telephone Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 and advise her of any dietary requirements. The cost is **£8.50** for a two-course lunch and a drink.

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 or 07968 797 168.

VILLAGE CRAFT GROUP

The Village Craft Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 7 – 9pm. Any crafters are welcome. For further details, please contact Sue Porter on 01722 780459 or Jacqueline James on 01722 335866.

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. Website www.russellbignoldartist.com.

ROCKBOURNE FAIR

15 - 17 OCTOBER 2025

Salisbury Racecourse
rockbournefair.org.uk

100+
STALLS

THE EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EXPERIENCE



Salisbury Charter Fair returns for four days of fun, tradition and thrills this October

Salisbury Charter Fair is once again bringing the excitement to Salisbury's city centre, offering four days of fun for all ages from Sunday 19 to Wednesday 22 October!

The festivities begin on Sunday 19 October at 2pm on Salisbury Market Place with the traditional civic parade from The Guildhall to the twister ride, followed by opening speeches and a blessing of the fair.

From family favourites like the carousel, dodgems and waltzer, to adrenaline-fuelled attractions such as 'Chaos' and other high-energy rides, the Salisbury Charter Fair has something for everyone. There will also be a variety of sweet treats, street food and games to enjoy!

With roots dating back to 1227, when King Henry III granted a charter to the Bishop of Salisbury to hold a fair on the third Monday in October, the event remains a treasured annual tradition.

Salisbury Charter Fair runs from 2pm–9pm on Sunday, and 11am–10pm Monday to Wednesday.

[Find out more on the Salisbury City Council website, here.](#)

Salisbury City Council joins county-wide community air quality project

Salisbury City Council is pleased to announce the installation of two new air quality sensors, at its Tollgate Road Depot and Bemerton Heath Centre sites, as part of a Wiltshire Council-led initiative.

Wiltshire Council's Wiltshire Community Air Network (WCAN) has launched a one-year community air quality monitoring project to understand more about air pollution in Wiltshire by using low-cost PurpleAir Zen PM2.5 Air Quality sensors to measure local fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution.

PM2.5 is a type of air pollution made up of tiny pieces of solids or liquids, each no larger than 2.5 micrometres. These particles can originate from both human activities, such as vehicle emissions, and natural sources, such as dust. Exposure to PM2.5 can increase the risk of health problems and have harmful effects on the environment.

There is currently limited local data about PM2.5 in Wiltshire. By hosting two sensors, Salisbury City Council is contributing to a county-wide effort to identify local PM2.5 pollution trends and hotspots and inform future strategy for air quality monitoring and pollution reduction. This work is directly in line with its own Environment Policy, which commits the City Council to working with partners to monitor and help improve air quality.

The air quality sensors provide real-time data on PM2.5 pollution levels, which members of the public will be able to access online at map.purpleair.com. Individuals and communities can use this data to learn more about their local air quality.

Cllr Paul Sample, said, "This project will help us understand more about PM2.5 air pollution in Salisbury and Wiltshire as a whole.

"Wiltshire Council have obtained 100 low-cost air quality sensors available to measure local PM2.5 air pollution. The data from the sensors will be analysed by scientists to help us understand local PM2.5 pollution trends and hotspots, as well as helping inform our future strategy for air quality monitoring.

"I'd like to thank Salisbury City Council for supporting this project. If you would like to take part, please get in touch. There are still some areas of the City where we have no data."

[Click here to find out more about the WCAN on the Wiltshire Council website.](#)

PCC Parish Column:

Public Confidence in Wiltshire Police – Progress and Priorities

The latest ONS survey shows 58% of people in Wiltshire believe their police force does an excellent or good job — well above the national average of 49%, the highest in the South West and third highest in the country. Half feel Wiltshire Police deal effectively with local concerns, and 51% believe the Force works well with partners. I'm proud of this progress, but I'm acutely aware that this survey means 42% of the people reading this column still feel there is more work to do to earn their trust. That's a challenge I take seriously.

The Chief Constable has re-orientated the force to be outward-looking, with stronger community engagement and better communication. Neighbourhood teams now visit every domestic burglary, and the Wiltshire Police website allows residents to enter their postcode to see local crime data, meet their policing team, and make direct contact.

The Chief Constable and I have also tackled one of the biggest frustrations — slow 999 and 101 response times. Wiltshire Police has moved from the worst in the country to 16th out of 43 forces. That's a significant improvement, but it's happening against a backdrop of a £6.8 million budget cut this year. Wiltshire Police is doing more with less than almost any other force, but sustained progress will require fairer funding, and I fear this won't happen until the government changes the way it funds policing in this country.

Visibility remains a priority, but it's about more than seeing officers on the street — it's about being present where they can make the most difference. That means targeted patrols in areas where crime and anti-social behaviour are most prevalent, rapid deployment when incidents occur, and ensuring officers have the time and tools to engage meaningfully with residents. It's also about making sure the public knows how to reach their local teams and see the results of police action in their communities.

I've always believed that statistics are only part of the story and measuring public confidence goes much further than percentage ratings. It's about how people feel when they interact with us. For a victim, no crime is “minor” — it's deeply personal. Every victim deserves to be treated with respect, kept informed, and to feel their case matters. That's why your complaints come to my office first, ensuring they're addressed promptly and appropriately.

In an age where social media can fuel division and mistrust, we must be robustly impartial. There can be no two-tier policing — every person and every crime must be treated equally, without fear or favour.

These results show we're moving in the right direction — but trust is built daily. I will keep listening, keep pushing for resources, and keep working with our communities to deliver the policing you deserve.

Contact Information

Will Walder

will.walder@wiltshire.police.uk



Record-breaking total raised at the Stars Appeal's 20th Walk for Wards

The Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, have announced that their 20th Walk for Wards raised a record-breaking total of £166,946.

Over 2,100 walkers registered to take part in the charity's sponsored walk on Sunday, July 6, at Wilton House.

Participants walked 3k, 5k, 10k or the new 15k route to thank Salisbury District Hospital for the care they or their family have received, with some dedicating their walk in memory of a friend, parent, sibling or child.

As part of the 20th event celebrations, walkers also enjoyed live entertainment from local musicians whilst picnicking on the lawns.

Chair of the Stars Appeal Ambassadors and Consultant Surgeon Graham Branagan said: "This record-breaking total is a testament to the incredible support and generosity of our local community. I want to say a massive thank you to everyone who took part, sponsored somebody, volunteered, or helped organise Walk for Wards for making the 20th event so special. The money raised helps us provide the very best care for thousands of patients and their families across the hospital. Registration for Walk for Wards 2026 is now open, and we hope the community will join us on July 5 at Wilton House."

This year's event surpassed the £150,051 raised in 2024 and the record-breaking £157,922 raised in 2023. Money raised from the sponsored walk will go towards the £2million the Stars Appeal aims to raise to fund the latest equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects across the hospital, which include support for people with cancer, Stars Appeal Wi-Fi, emergency patient clothing, play therapy equipment and a dedicated play assistant on the Children's Unit.

To date, Walk for Wards has raised over £1.5million, which has helped fund projects across Salisbury Hospital including the hospital's first dedicated Breast Unit, a new Children's Unit, Cardiac Suite and family accommodation on the Neonatal Unit, as well as state-of-the-art equipment such as additional MRI and CT scanners.

The first walk took place in 2006 and was a 6-mile ramble through the Chalke Valley, which started and finished at the Fox and Goose Pub in Coombe Bissett. The following year, the event moved to Wilton House. It has been held there ever since except during 2020 and 2021 when the walk was held virtually due to Covid-19.

The event is held by kind permission of Stars Appeal President Lord Pembroke and Lady Pembroke and sponsored by Salisbury Reds.

Walk for Wards 2026 takes place on Sunday, July 5. To find out more and register for free visit <https://starsappeal.org/event/walk-for-wards/>



THE WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST

Registered Charity No: 1153790

Christmas gets into full swing at Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair

SHOPPERS can plunge themselves into the Christmas spirit amid atmospheric surroundings at the Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair on Monday December 1 and Tuesday December 2.

The popular annual fair takes place in the Kerry Suite at the Bowood Hotel Spa and Golf Resort between Calne and Chippenham and is not only a place to find unique gifts and locally produced food and drink, it also raises vital funds for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, says Director Jennie Shaw.

The charity works in partnership with Wiltshire Police with three operators visiting homes across Wiltshire and Swindon to offer free practical home security measures for people over 60, those at risk of domestic abuse or over 18 with a registered disability.

It also has a team of Stay Safe Online volunteers who visit clients in their homes and give talks to groups about preventing online fraud.

"I always know when Christmas is around the corner because we start planning this wonderfully seasonal event," said Jennie. "The fair is a wonderful early celebration because within the setting of Bowood's hotel, with the music, carols and the buzz of everyone shopping, you really get a sense of the season."

"The money raised by the fair will go such a long way to continuing to support the safety and wellbeing of older people and will allow them to enjoy the festive period too."

The Monday evening's preview event runs from 4pm to 8pm at just £15 per ticket. Visitors will be greeted with a glass of wine and canapes, as well as atmospheric music and carols in the Kerry Suite.

The fair is open again at 9am on Tuesday December 2 and will be running through to 3pm – providing another chance to meet up with friends to shop, have coffee or lunch in the hotel's Shelburne Restaurant to share Christmas plans and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

"As ever we are blessed with a full range of amazing stall holders selling a wide variety of products," said Jennie. "Whether you're looking for stocking fillers, leather goods, festive food, inspiration for important family members or just to spoil yourself then rest assured we have thought of everything."

"We are indebted to Bowood and the Lansdowne family for their continued support of this event, it really is one of the highlights of our calendar."

Tickets are available online at www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events with a special two-for-one offer on £5 tickets for Tuesday December 2.