

News and Notes

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

March 2026

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Village Volunteer Assistants Corps - Join Up, Join Up!

Our villages are lovely places to live, with such good facilities and events, punching well above our weight for our relatively small population - the Radnor Hall, Nunton recreation ground and pavilion, play-parks at both Nunton and Odstock, Jubilee gardens, EbbleFest, the pantomime, the Churches, Barker Room activities and yours truly News & Notes to name but some. And our pubs of course.

Above all there are helpful, friendly, kind neighbours, many of whom make good things happen and give most generously of their time to help improve the lives of locals through their roles as volunteers, councillors, trustees, wardens, organising local events, helping with fund-raising, etc. These activities contribute towards the costs of maintenance and improvement of the facilities we all enjoy and are done all for the benefit of our residents. A rousing thank you to everyone of you!

EbbleFest is taking a break this year. EbbleFest and the pantomime have been the two great fundraisers for the villages over the years, covering the cost of this magazine for starters. Without EbbleFest, there'll be a bit of a dent in finances. Fortunately, the small but beautifully formed committee is helping to arrange and run some car boot sales on the field this year, which will plug the financial gap to some extent.

And this is where YOU come in. Not only can you come to the Car Boot sales for a mooch, pick up a bargain, a Sunday morning cup of tea and a bacon sandwich, but you can also join the corps of Village Voluntary Assistants or ViVA!

Where you can spare an hour or two (not if but when, if you would be so kind!), please email us with your name, mobile phone number and your availability. We'll be in touch when helpers are needed, for example with marshalling visiting cars, on the gate or in the tea rooms.

Every hour donated in this way helps the fund-raising effort, keeps the show on the road and improves QOL for residents. It's rewarding and fun to be involved, and it makes it much more a sustainable job for the organisers if they can count on plenty of willing pairs of hands, so please join! And we will all benefit in the long run from the finance generated.

Please email info@ebblefest.co.uk (Contact details will only be used for this purpose and not shared elsewhere). Many thanks.

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Contact editor@newsandnotes.co.uk

EASTER TENNIS CAMPS

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Third Thursday of the month
eat cake & drink tea
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DROP IN! Third Thursday of the month 2pm - 4pm
THE BARKER ROOM - ST ANDREWS CHURCH - NUNTON

Sunday Praise

A Church service with a difference.

Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm
from 15 February 2026
at Coombe Bissett Church



A short service with tea & cake
suitable for all ages

All Welcome

Nostalgia Alert!!

The N&N archive from the old website has now been uploaded to the new website. So if you visit newsandnotes.net/archive you will see editions from 2008 to 2025 (just a couple missing). A number of paper and digital editions from 1994 onwards have also been located and uploaded, with more to follow in time, enabling a bit of wallow in a retrospective of old pantomimes and other village events. Thanks to the amazing Clare Penny from Charlton for this magnificent magnum opus.

Blister Pack Collection Date

Thursday 16 April - £1 per 100 packs

Britford Noticeboard (Church) 09.30 - 09.45

Charlton Church - collection box emptied

Bodenham Old Post Office 09.50 - 10.00

Odstock Church car park 10.30 - 11.15

(NB – there are no local collections in March)

RIP – Colin Blackaby

We wish to inform you that Colin, a resident for 30 years of Nunton Drove, a good neighbour and contributor to village life, sadly passed away on 18 February

Please join Colin's wife June and her family to celebrate Colin's life on Tuesday 24 March at 12 noon at the Salisbury Crematorium, Barrington Road, Salisbury and afterwards at the Radnor Arms, Nunton

Seeking Performers and Sponsors

Salisbury City Council is excited to announce a brand-new initiative: a **6-week stage** installation in the Market Place.

This stage will offer a fantastic opportunity for local performers, businesses, schools, college/university students, community groups, buskers and many others to showcase their talents or gain valuable live event experience.

Date: Saturday 14 March to Saturday 25 April 2026

Location: Salisbury Market Place SP1 1JH

If you'd like to use the stage to **organise your own event**, please email **us** at events@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk with the details and a member of the team will be in touch.

If you would like to be considered as a paid performer at **Salisbury City Council-organised nights**, please fill in the [Stage performer application form \(PDF\)](#)

In addition, there is also an exciting **sponsorship opportunity**, including the chance to have your company logo displayed on both the front and back of the stage. Get in touch via email at events@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk with the subject 'Stage Sponsorship' for more information.

For any enquiries, please email the Events Team at events@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk.



Removing Assad's Chemical Weapons

A talk in aid of Bishopstone Church Renovations



In 2012, the Syrian civil war was at its height. The Assad regime was on the defensive, with Opposition Forces closing in on the capital. Then reports appeared of strange clouds, mass poisoning, and death without visible injuries.

UN Syrian operations in action

Jerry Smith, who lives in Bishopstone, was the Head of Operations for the Joint UN team that was sent to verify, disable and remove Assad's declared chemical arsenal. He outlines the challenges he faced in war-torn Syria.



Friday 10 April 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm start

Bishopstone Village Hall, SP5 4AA

Tickets £12.50 – with canapes and a cash bar
(18 years old and under: £5)

Tickets available from:

Sarah Seal – theseal1@outlook.com

Anne Stutchbury – annewheelwright@gmail.com



Seedy Sunday 22 March at Downton Memorial Hall

The heart of Seedy Sunday is the Seed and Plant Swap running 2 – 4 pm. Bring along unwanted seeds and plants to swap or simply 'buy' for a donation. There will be refreshments with home-made cakes plus stalls from eco-conscious organisations and businesses including:

MoreVeg - sell seeds in small quantities, meaning lower prices, and less waste. Seeds come with full organic certification

William Wright Tool Sharpening - bring your gardening tools along to keep them in tip-top condition, ready for the new season

Local Gifts and Products - from Littleford Farm Flowers, A Tail of Yarn, Wire Garden Sculpture by Katie, Grow Your Own Cards and others

Wildlife - information about swifts and what to do to encourage them to nest locally

Keeping Bees - information and advice from a local beekeeper

Local Organisations and Charities - including Downton Baptist Church community garden (produces food throughout the growing season which feeds into the Community Larder), Downton Primary School, Downton Moot and Downton Millennium Green

Children's activities - stone painting and seed planting



Downton Green Network



Who Knew? - Pancakes and Pancake Day

Did you enjoy pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? Funnily enough, Shrove Tuesday is also known as Fat Tuesday because of the rich foods like eggs and butter, and pancakes of course, that are traditionally eaten just before the 40 days of Lent.

The word 'Shrove' comes from the Old English word 'Shrive' meaning penitence, confession and absolution. It refers to the intense soul-searching done over the 4 days of Christian Shrove-tide, leading up to Shrove Tuesday, to prepare for the imminent fasting and self-denial of Lent. This seems rather strangely at odds with a day that's known as Fat Tuesday, doesn't it? A puzzling contradiction.

We tend to think of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday as a nice British tradition, but it's no coincidence that the festival of 'Carnival' is celebrated all over the world on Shrove Tuesday as well. Carnival is also known as Mardi Gras (French for 'Fat Tuesday') and is characterised by boisterous chaos, noise, revelry and over-indulgence. Both the meaning of the words 'Fat Tuesday', and the actions of Mardi Gras - excess - seem quite the reverse of the definition of Shrove - asceticism.

Carnival is thought possibly to have origins in an old pagan winter festival called Saturnalia that dates back to Roman and Greek times. Its start date and duration now vary widely from country to country, although it always ends on Shrove Tuesday with feasting on foods that would not last the winter through. It's famously most extravagant now in Rio de Janeiro.

In some European countries it might start after the 12 days of Christmas, or might be very short, only over the day or two leading up to Shrove Tuesday. There are common themes around the globe such as disguise with masks, decking the halls and the appointment of a King or Queen of the revelry.

Of note, our own Notting Hill Carnival over August Bank Holiday, as a celebration of Caribbean culture that started in the late 1950's, is entirely different in its origin.

So, at face value Shrove-tide and Mardi Gras/Carnival appear to have entirely opposite principles – one of self-discipline and penitence, the other of feasting and over-indulgence. But then it turns out that the word 'Carnival' is quite likely to stem from the Latin 'carne' and 'levare' - meaning 'removal of meat.' So maybe they aren't opposing ideas after all, the implication being that meat is relished and savoured at Carnival festivals for the last time before it's then relinquished, refused or rejected during the following lean time. That may be by choice now, like when people give up things for Lent, or by necessity as in the old days, because spring is still a long way off and rations available must be eked out till things start growing again, or milking, or laying. And it also turns out that it is a recognised thing that the word Shrove or Shrive means confession and absolution- which ensured a state of grace ready for the fasting of Lent, but that the custom of Shrove or Shrive is of feasting on foodstuffs needing to be used so they weren't wasted during Lent.

And of course, when enduring a long lean period of 6 weeks or more, I guess you are probably far more likely to manage better if you have well boosted your body and



energy supplies - and psyche - beforehand with feasting and merrymaking as at Carnival, Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras; even pancakes will help!

Like Saturnalia, Mardi Gras and Carnival are considered by anthropologists to be 'Reverse Rituals'. These apparently allow temporary loosening of social constraints and hierarchy, so disguises, masks and role reversals were permitted. Servants could dress and act as masters, and vice versa, raucous feasting was allowed, and fantastic costumes could be worn.

Anthropologists also say that 'Reverse ritual' festivals heavily symbolise transitions such as winter to spring, or the darkness of December and January days 'reversing' towards lighter days of February and March. They celebrate the heartening outlook for regrowth and renewal after a long winter. The move from a chaotic, boisterous, big fat Carnival party to the ensuing deprivation and insufficiency of Lent looks like rather a major transition to deal with, too.

So regardless of your credo, whether celebrating the Mardi Gras Carnival, eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday or nobly preparing to give up your favourite chocolate or wine for Lent, it seems we're all continuing this long Shrove tradition of luxuriating in the enjoyment of perishable foods to avoid wasting them, before the deprivation of the thinnest time of the winter.

Then the coming of spring will bring the reviving prospect of warmth, sunlight and greenery once again. I shall be back in the garden sowing and planting at last. I can hardly wait! More rain, anyone?

WI Report (ONB) - February 2026

Many of the members were present at today's meeting. We remembered our January Lunch which was a great success, £105 was raised by the raffle which we donated to The Salisbury's Women's Refuge.

The topic of the talk was ***The Climate Change*** by Dr Simon Boxall, a Senior Lecturer at Southampton University. He is an Oceanographer, who studied Chemistry, Geology, and specialises in the physics of the deep ocean.

Sampling is a crucial part of Simon's work. By using Argo Floats and Remote Sensors he measures Sea Temperatures, Co2 and Methane levels. Sometimes even hanging over the side of the small ship, to collect samples!!

The data was shown in graphs proving that global warming has rapidly increased in recent years which affects sea life and causes extremes in the weather.

Dr Boxall also works with television, filming to help bring Cultural Awareness to the problem of Climate Change. Musicians, artists and authors are all involved and take part in his expeditions to the Arctic - avoiding Polar Bears!

To make change in our use of fossil fuels, governments can introduce initiatives to work with the demands of consumers, increasing pressure on companies to produce more efficient ways of producing energy.

Our Talk on 9 March is on 'The Brain' by Alan Jones.

We will also be holding a tabletop sale of Accessories.

Focus On Food- A Letter from West Wales

Chance encounters and little gems

I seem to have established myself as a private chef these days, cooking for retreats, holiday cottages and private houses in the area. www.theconstantcook.co.uk if anyone would care to find out what I'm up to. Bee on the other hand has established a portfolio career in catering administration and decluttering, both of which she excels in. The main reason for the Constant Cook was to keep in touch with suppliers, growers and makers and get their products under the noses of the locals and visitors alike, alongside keeping my diet fresh and interesting.

I recently discovered <https://www.awenorganics.co.uk/> growers of the finest organic vegetables and leaves and Pembrokeshire's answer to Kenson's Farm over in Sutton Mandeville. It's a 25-acre establishment about 20 minutes from home just outside the beautiful village of Nevern, owned and farmed by three lovely individuals, one of whom, Adam, turns out to be the son of the doctor who helped me butcher the Mangaltza pig I mentioned in last month's missive. Small world, well it actually is a small world down here and all the better for it.

Their salad was the deal maker. In the middle of winter, they are producing the most beguiling palette of soft pink, ruby and raspberry ripple radicchio, alongside vivid emerald and crunchy apple green winter salad, a mix of mizuna, watercress and mustard frills. I served it up several times at lunch at the retreats I cook at. The writers, who come in from all over the world by the way, absolutely loved it and all wanted to know the source. I didn't hesitate to share. Safe to say their reputation is now massive in Wisconsin.

I do love the discovery process. I remember at school, aged 16, the careers officer asked what I wanted to be or do in life. I told him I wanted to be an explorer. To go out into the world, find or discover exotic and extraordinary things and bring them back into the community to share with everyone. I would have cited Charles Darwin had I known who he was, but I didn't. The careers officer didn't exactly seize the opportunity of directing me to a university course in Natural Science Studies, instead advised me that there weren't a lot of vacancies at the job centre in Ellesmere Port for that kind of role and suggested I get a job in Shell Stanlow Oil Refinery as a plant operator, they were in great demand in the 70's.

Anyway, a week later we invited David and Annie Sears round for an early midweek supper. They arrived with David clutching a small jar of home-made crispy chilli oil, which he handed over to me. I'd never heard of such a thing, but I knew him to be a keen grower of heritage chilli varieties, and this was one of his end products. The next morning, breakfast was pan-fried baby plum tomatoes, which I normally fold a spoon of harissa through to liven them up a bit, but I tried the chilli oil instead and it was sublime, and as it turns out, highly addictive and it's so easy to spoon over or rub on practically anything, even a cheese sarnie in place of the Branston.

Turns out they have a lovely website called <https://www.pantryfields.com/> on which they market the artistic endeavours of their family, pottery, prints, woodwork. They live on and operate a smallholding with extensive gardens growing a multitude of organic products and they even have accommodation in the form of isolated huts scattered about should you want to take a break from the cut and thrust of Salisbury. David takes commissions for traditional Welsh stick chairs, a skill learnt from his

uncle, John Brown. Annie is the descendant of the legendary John Seymour, whose book, 'The Fat of the Land' is still in print 50 years later.

I checked out their website, intrigued by their shop which sells beautiful prints by Sally Seymour, John's wife, Annie's mum. And I think I was relieved not to see a section devoted to their culinary products for sale. They remain a well-kept secret for those in the know and those who have the honour of being gifted a jar or two. I checked online and you can buy it on Amazon of course, but I wouldn't vouch for it. Better to have a go at making it yourself, which is what I plan to do.

Martin Simcock

Spotlight on Sharon Chandler: Nanny, Carer, House-sitter, Volunteer, Barmaid, Broadcaster, Fundraiser, Dogwalker . . .

It was a pleasure to meet up with Sharon in her home in Nunton, where she and her husband Andy have lived with their family for over 33 years. Sharon is a quietly inspirational member of our community. Family is central to her life but so too is her strong sense of caring for people and helping in the community. And I quickly discovered that she also loves dogs – her own, and when he's at work, her son's, all three of whom boisterously shared the sofa and much canine affection with me as we chatted.

Ed: First of all I gather you've gained some fame in the area as a presenter for Radio Odstock, with whom you have a close involvement in charity fundraising.

Sharon: Yes, it all started during lockdown! A friend Gilbert who is a Radio Odstock presenter invited me to do a live interview about beekeeping. We've kept bees for many years at Charlton Farmhouse and recently in Nunton too, after a swarm took up residence in an old disused hive in the garden. It was fun appearing on air and talking about them, and soon after that I took the opportunity to become one of the regular presenters – my show is a request show on Wednesday afternoons, with listeners as far afield as Canada and Singapore! But it's mainly a hospital service and is run entirely by volunteers for anyone and everyone at the hospital. As well as the regular radio shows we support and promote local charitable causes. Anyone can listen online, or via a smart speaker. Just go to radioodstock.org.

Ed: I'd love to hear about your charity work but before we come to that can you tell me about your life in Nunton over the years? Are you from this area originally?

Sharon: I grew up in Woodfalls, so not too far away! We love Nunton, it's really peaceful and quiet, and such a fabulous community where we have so many great friends and neighbours. Andy worked at Trafalgar Fisheries for 38 years and still works for the estate as a gardener and of course is now a beekeeper. We've recently had a fantastic year for honey. Over the years I've worked for so many different folk in the villages here in all sorts of different ways; as carer, childminder, housekeeper, house sitter, dog-walker, barmaid at the pub, cleaner and so many other roles. I think it comes to 19 different families that I've worked for over the years. Special among

them is Nunton Farm, which is very close to my heart, not least because our sons have both worked for the farm, and I was John and James' nanny when they were little. Recently at the Open Farm Sundays I've helped to run the fabulous 'Cuddle a Cow' sessions - the smiles and joy which that brings people is truly wonderful, I love it! If anyone hasn't yet been, you must come this year! The Farm means everything to me and I think the village is so lucky to have it.

I enjoy my care work. We sadly lost Betty Addison recently but I was her carer for 13 years.

Ed – You can read about centenarian Betty and the importance of jam roly-poly for living a very long life in the Spotlight article by Anna Harriott in the N&N edition of April 2023

Sharon: Yes that's right. And we were very fond of Diane Frey, for many years our neighbour who increasingly needed help when she grew frailer. It was 10 years before we could persuade Diane not to call us by our surname. Old habits die hard! Both of them are now very sadly missed.

Ed: And we often used to see you behind the bar at the Radnor Arms I think?

Sharon: I worked as a barmaid (and occasional cook – but I'm no chef!) for 10 years, back when Kenny and Cathy were running the pub. So yes, the pub is also very special to me, another part of the village we both love, and being so close by is handy, especially when I'm house-sitting for Lou as I was very recently. Pub-sitting in fact. We just couldn't imagine life without the Radnor.

Ed: I must ask about the garden full of cars...

Sharon: That is a bit of a hobby, yes, we do love a classic car. And when we married in Woodfalls in 1983, travel to the wedding was by bus. We recently toured Scotland in our restored Morris Minor, including the North Coast 500. Everyone told us we'd never make it but happily we proved them wrong. And the old Daimler was perfect for a recent Brooklands to Brighton run, all done in Victorian Fancy Dress of course! Andy is the resident mechanic – there is nothing he can't fix. Binge watching Bangers and Cash – you can't beat it! And yes, we do like a bit of dressing up, especially for Steam Punk at the fabulous Fantasy Festival every year with some of our friends. Immersive Victorian-futuristic sci-fi experiences with often stunning creative design and costumes, live music, and unique activities like teapot racing . . . which suits our quirky side, and it is the friendliest time. You can be as mad as you like, no-one judges you!

Ed: You certainly know how to enjoy yourselves! Sharon, I'd love to hear about some of your charity work.

Sharon: Much of it stems from my involvement with Radio Odstock, such as dressing up as Oddie Octopus at the Guildhall a few years ago in support of a Hospice fundraising event, namely walking across fire and glass. It was part of our 70th anniversary, anything to raise money for our charities. We like to support Salisbury Hospice whenever we can, which is a near neighbour at the hospital site and such a wonderful and important cause. And we help Salisbury Pantry, which I first heard

about when the manager came onto Radio Odstock and explained the almost desperate daily challenge of keeping stock levels up. I came up with the idea of 'Bring-a-Tin-to-Work Day' which has been a great success, with local businesses like Tesco and M&S adopting it with their workforce around Christmas time, bringing in a huge number of donations. The Pantry is such a vital support for folk who struggle to feed their families. This explains why you'll find me raising money in Tesco's for a week in December every year, and we have persuaded sports clubs and schools to get involved as well, all with the backing of Salisbury Council who help run the Pantry itself.

Ed: You mentioned once having a rather large gathering at Christmas time?

Sharon: Yes, some years ago we realised there were a number of folk in the villages who were going to be alone on Christmas Day, so with some of them joining us we ended up having 26 for lunch on Christmas Day! It was a lot of fun, and we managed to do a Turkey meal for everyone, the house bursting at the seams for a while.

Ed: How wonderful. Thank you, Sharon, for being 'In the Spotlight'.

Radio Odstock has been broadcasting on a daily basis since 1953.

Go to www.radioodstock.org.uk to find out how to listen to Sharon's brilliant request show and www.fantasyforest.co.uk for the unbelievably whacky Steampunk Fantasy Forest festivals.

News from the Pews

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham

We are into Lent, preparing ourselves for Easter, and everything leading up to it. We held our Lent lunch in the Radnor Hall on 28 February. The Benefice charity this year is local: The Bridge, a charity which sends chaplains into schools, to help students with personal problems. We are aiming to raise enough money to pay for a chaplain to go into Longford school and give pastoral care.

During Lent there are regular lectures and study groups - contact Debby Underhill for details. CreativiTea continues on the 3rd Thursday of the month, 2-4 at the Barker Room, open to all. Come and join us for a cup of tea or coffee, cake and chat.

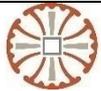
Charlton All Saints

February has been a very wet month in Charlton, with water standing against the wall of the Church for several weeks. But Spring is just around the corner, and we look forward to kinder weather soon.

March sees the start of our new service pattern, with Morning Prayer at 9.30am on the second Sunday and Communion at 9.30am on the fourth Sunday. This month, we also have a Palm Sunday Procession on Sunday 29 March starting at the triangle at 3pm. We will process and sing our way to the Church, followed by a short service. All are welcome, with toys and games at the back of the Church to amuse the little ones.

Looking forward to April, we have an Easter Vigil service on Easter Saturday at 7pm and our special 175th Birthday Communion on Sunday 26 April at 10am led by Bishop Andrew to be followed by lots of cake!

Rev. Maggie Metcalfe, Mary Boydcamps, Stephanie Elcock and Clare Penny, Churchwarden



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice: March to Easter 2026



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

1 March 2nd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
8 March 3rd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Ruth H-S
15 March MOTHERING SUNDAY	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Ruth H-S
	4.00pm	Sunday Praise	Coombe Bissett	Lay Led
22 March 5th Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
29 March PALM SUNDAY  <i>Clocks go Forward</i>	10.00am	Family Communion+Baptism	Broad Chalke	Ruth H-S
	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Homington	Alison Waterhouse
	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
	3.00pm	Procession & Sing Hosanna!	Charlton	Ruth H-S
31 March, 1 & 2 April	6.00pm	Holy Week Compline	Coombe Bissett	Clergy
2 April MAUNDY THURSDAY	6.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper (CW)	Bishopstone	Ruth H-S
3 April  GOOD FRIDAY	11.00am	St John's Passion	Alvediston	Lay Led
	12 noon	Stations of the Cross	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	12 noon	The Passion Devotions	Bishopstone	Sally Leaver
	2.00pm	At the Foot of the Cross	Nunton	Maggie Metcalfe
4 April EASTER EVE	6.00pm	Easter Fire & Communion	Homington	Alison Waterhouse
	7.00pm	Easter Eve Service	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S
5 April EASTER DAY 	6.00am	Dawn Communion (CW)	Lodge Farmhouse	Alison Waterhouse
	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Parish Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Kate Woolven
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Maggie Metcalfe

Ministry Team: Team Rector: The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022
 Team Vicar: The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 07904 034221 / 01722 697404
 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 Canons: Anthony Hawley 01794 390607,
 Tony Monds 07808 614597, Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081

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,
 Bidy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoddy Voremborg: 07785 304142,
 James Wardroper: 01722 718152

Salisbury A36 Improvement/Road Closures

Closures - St Mark's Roundabout

Full closures and lane closures overnight 8pm–6am 2 – 23 March 2026

Lane closures during the day

Adult Dance Classes

BEGINNERS' BALLROOM



A friendly and relaxed class for complete beginners. Learn classic ballroom at your own pace. No partner or experience needed

Book your place or simply turn up and join in!
www.pennylanedance.co.uk

THURSDAYS - 7PM

The Radnor Hall, Bodenham, SP5 4EQ

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See the website www.odstock-pc.org.uk for details of the role and responsibilities and how to apply or email the clerk for more information at clerk@odstock-pc.org.uk

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Holiday Cottage To Let: Fishguard Harbour, Pembrokeshire



Having lived in Pembrokeshire now for ten months, I can honestly say that
any time of the year is great to visit. Rain or shine, it's a spectacular spot.

Here's a link to the website where you can read all about it

<https://quaystreetcottages.com/cottages/no-37-quay-street>

or give Bee a call on 07974 199469 if you would like further details.

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

March 2026

Dear Community

EbbleFest is taking a year off.

Alongside being bringing the community together and being a fun-filled occasion, EbbleFest is an important fundraiser for a variety community good causes and local charities, including the Parochial Church Council (PCC), the Radnor Hall, News & Notes and The Orchard. Even in these somewhat leaner times, EbbleFest managed to raise over £6,000 in 2025.

To continue to support raising funds for our “community chests”, the team will run a number car boot sales, held in Nunton on Sunday mornings (see dates listed). We will need a crew, want to help? What is more appealing; a lie-in followed by coffee in your PJs whilst reading the paper, or bouncing down to Nunton Recreation Ground for an hour or two to join in manning the gate, directing the car booters or cooking up bacon butties for the hungry punters? Call me!

Thank you to everyone who supports EbbleFest. It takes a community to raise a fete! It only happens because of you, for you. We will return in 2027 with full fete & festival force.

Best wishes
Paula Gribben, Jonny Hartley & Laura McGregor
EbbleFest Committee

2026 Car Boot Sales Nunton Recreation Ground

26th April
24th May
28th June
19th July
16th August
13th September

info@ebblefest.co.uk
T: 07775 585449

EBBLE FETEST 2026

Saturday 4th July

Cancelled



Village Fete

Family fun, stalls, games, Grand Prize, bounce, games, tractor rides, fire engines...



Live Music

Following on from the success of Saturday Live Rising in 2025, the line up will see more up & coming young artists and bands.



Drink up & Fill up...

Hang out at The Big Top or while away an hour at the Tea Tent. Dine out at Giggling Gourmet, and other delicious delights.

And it wouldn't be the same without our usual call out for volunteers, don't be shy now, you know you want to!



ebblefest

info@ebblefest.com



Bishopstone Village Hall

March 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 12th and 26th March and the 9th and 23rd April. Opening hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Refreshments are currently offered free of charge.

Annual Spring Fayre

Our ever-popular Spring Fayre will take place on Saturday 9 May, from 10.00am to 12 noon, with all the usual attractions to enjoy.

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. More details will follow in the next edition — we hope you can join us!

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone - Friday 27 March

The film for March will be '*The Ballad of Wallis Island*'. An eccentric lottery winner living alone on a remote island reunites his favourite band - and former lovers – for a private concert, only for tensions to threaten his dream. Starring Carey Mulligan and Tom Basden.

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. The film on Friday 24 April will be "The Choral"

Bishopstone Community Lunches

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

The March lunch will be on Wednesday 4th, with Bernard Purrier speaking about Whales and Dolphins.

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.

The time will be as usual: 12.00 noon for a 12.30 pm start.

The last lunch of the season will be on Wednesday 1 April, when Tara Slater, Adviser Team Manager of 'Beyond Dementia', will talk about the support they provide for people living with dementia. She will be accompanied by her colleague Veronica Prichard, who is a Dementia Adviser.

Village Hall Annual General Meeting

A note for your diaries is the AGM of the Village Hall Committee, which will be held on Monday 18th May at 7.30pm. Further details nearer the time.

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.

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 russellbignold@btinternet.com Website www.russellbignoldartist.com

Survey – Help Improve Mobile Coverage in Wiltshire



Help improve
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Wiltshire Council

1 Day Festival of Afghan Culture and Cuisine – 4 April

ONE DAY FESTIVAL OF AFGHAN CULTURE & CUISINE AT SALISBURY ARTS CENTRE

4 April 2026
12pm- 8pm
Entry is Free!



AFGHAN COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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FREE WORKSHOPS

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Talks and discussions by leading authorities on cultural and political aspects of Afghanistan from 1 - 4pm



CONCERT OF AFGHAN MUSIC

Concert of traditional Afghan music played on traditional instruments from 6 - 8pm

**For more info and to book
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www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk**

Salisbury Area Board Public Meeting - 26 February

Salisbury Area Board

You are warmly invited along to the next Salisbury Area Board public meeting

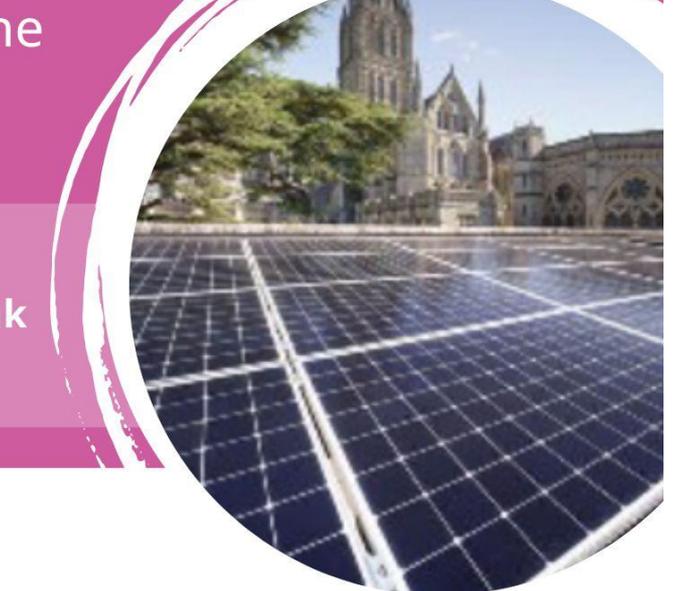
Thursday 26 February 2026

Meeting starts at 6:00pm with a networking session from 5.30pm

Tidworth Room - City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury, SP2 7TU

Please join us to receive important updates on a range of environmental issues. Hear from Share Salisbury, Wiltshire Council's Climate Team and the Salisbury Conservation Advisory Panel.

For more information please contact:
Email: Karen.Linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01722 434697



Wiltshire Council

Stars Appeal Bookshop and Bucket Collection Volunteers Raise Over £71,000

Stars Appeal volunteers are celebrating after raising over £71,000 in the charity's bookshop and through bucket collections at Salisbury District Hospital during 2025.

The volunteers were joined by hospital staff for a special presentation to announce the total raised in 2025. Last year, the bookshop, which is in the main entrance of the hospital, raised £47,024.74, with bucket collection and contactless donations raising a further £24,329.93.

Stars Appeal Ambassador Sister Ingrid Webb, who works on the Neonatal Unit and attended the presentation, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for our wonderful bookshop and bucket collection volunteers, and we are hugely grateful for the time and dedication they give in supporting the charity. We would like to say a massive thank you to them and to all the patients, visitors and staff who so generously support the bookshop and bucket collections, helping to make a difference to thousands of patients, their families, and hospital staff."

Money raised for the Stars Appeal helps fund new equipment, enhancements to hospital buildings, and a wide range of projects supporting patients and making their time in hospital more comfortable. During the presentation, the volunteers were shown a variety of these projects including the emergency patient clothing and toiletry packs, and the new voice amplifier devices helping patients with hearing difficulties to communicate with doctors and nurses more easily. They also met Pembroke Cancer Unit aromatherapist Shelley Baker, and Children's Unit play assistant Emma Lewis, whose roles are funded by the charity.

To find out more about the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, visit www.starsappeal.org



Chief Executive of NHS Charities Together visits Stars Appeal

The Stars Appeal was delighted to welcome Ellie Orton OBE, Chief Executive of NHS Charities Together, to Salisbury District Hospital last week to see first-hand the impact of projects funded by the charity.

During her visit, Ellie toured a range of hospital facilities supported by the Stars Appeal, including the Neonatal Unit and its parents' accommodation, the Stars Appeal funded David A Brown Breast Unit, and the Sarum Children's Ward, where she met two-year-old patient Mack and his parents, Jack and Bethany Mitchell.

She also observed a live demonstration in the hospital's Stars Appeal supported Simulation Suite, met the hospital's chaplaincy team (funded by the charity), learned about the impact of the Stars Appeal Staff Counsellor, and spent time with a patient benefitting from the charity's companionship programme, Stars Appeal Engagers. The visit also featured music from the Stars Appeal Live Project.

Ellie met clinical ambassadors including Consultant Surgeon Mr Graham Branagan, Cancer Consultant Dr Tracey Parker and Paediatric Consultant Dr Rowena Staples, alongside patient ambassadors Richard Joy and Adrian Abbott. They discussed how Stars Appeal projects are enhancing care and supporting patients, families and staff across the hospital.

The visit provided an opportunity for the Stars Appeal to thank Ellie and everyone at NHS Charities Together for the grants awarded to the charity over the past five years, which have supported many of the initiatives showcased during her tour.

Ellie Orton OBE said: "It's clear that the Stars Appeal is such a vital part of Salisbury District Hospital and the wider community. It was so special to meet the patients, staff, ambassadors, and volunteers who bring this work to life. There is such a powerful sense of ownership and gratitude within the Stars Appeal community, and that collective commitment shines through in every project I visited. We're proud to support their work and stand alongside them in championing the impact of NHS charities."

Mr Graham Branagan, Consultant Surgeon and Chairman of the Stars Appeal Clinical Ambassadors added: "It was a pleasure to welcome Ellie to the hospital and to show her first-hand how Stars Appeal donors, including NHS Charities Together, are making such a big difference to patients, families and staff at Salisbury District Hospital. We very much look forward to continuing to work alongside Ellie and all at NHS Charities Together as we strive to do more to enhance care here at Salisbury Hospital and support the work of the wider NHS charity sector."



Police and Crime Panel Approves 2026/27 Budget

Following the, Wiltshire Police will be able to protect officer numbers and maintain community visibility. The decision comes as forces across the country face significant financial pressures, and Wiltshire is no exception. The Police and Crime panel is a cross-party panel of councillors from across the county who oversee the work of the PCC.

Due to a real-time reduction in government funding and despite delivering £8 million in efficiencies this year, Wiltshire Police must still find a further £4.6 million of savings in the next financial year as costs continue to rise across policing. To meet these pressures, the Panel approved an increase of £15 per year for a Band D household, around £1.25 a month. This forms a crucial part of the overall police budget, alongside Government funding, and directly helps protect the frontline services residents tell us matter most.

As I said to the Panel, this was not an easy decision, but it was but it was the only option to protect vital services and support the continued progress Wiltshire Police is making for our communities. Wiltshire remains one of the lowest-funded forces in the country, but continues to improve visibility, outcomes and public confidence. If Wiltshire Police was funded to the national average we would have an additional £49.6 million to spend on front-line services.

I have been clear that there are no simple savings left. Without this increase, we would face reductions to services that people rely on every day. Protecting neighbourhood policing and public-facing services must come first. This budget ensures we can maintain visible policing, strengthen neighbourhood teams and continue investing in modern operational capability so we can respond effectively to changing demand.

I am grateful to the 1,015 residents who took part in our consultation, with 56 per cent supporting the proposal. Their feedback played a vital role in shaping the final recommendations. After detailed scrutiny, the cross-party Panel agreed the proposal strikes a fair and responsible balance during a challenging financial climate.

This budget enables Wiltshire Police to save, sustain and transform—continuing its improvement while remaining rooted in the communities it serves. While no decision involving increased costs is easy, this one is essential to maintaining an effective, visible and resilient police service for Wiltshire and Swindon.



The Chalke Valley Link Scheme

Serving the Valley from Berwick St John to Bodenham since 1996 & awarded The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2006, The Chalke Valley Link Scheme is a Registered Charity that provides good neighbour support with transport help for Valley residents.

For example we can provide: Transport to a medical appointment, visiting family members in hospital, collecting prescriptions or changing library books.

If you live between Bishopstone & Britford / Bodenham and use this service, please call: 07795 620812

The co-ordinator answering your call (Geoff Stephens, Jenny Monds or Debby Underhill on rotation) will take your details and contact a volunteer who can help you. If your call is answered by a recorded message, please leave your contact details & a co-ordinator will respond as soon as possible. There is no set charge, but you are invited to make a donation towards our running costs.

All our co-ordinators and drivers are volunteers so please give us much notice as possible to find an available driver.

If you would like to become a volunteer driver to enable us to continue this service to our community, please contact the above number.

Registered as a Charity no. 1076335

**Chalke
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Scheme**

**Good neighbour
support with
transport and other
practical help**



**For residents in our
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