

THE VILLAGE VOICE

A Monthly Newsletter for Chilmark & Ridge and Fonthill Bishop with Berwick St Leonard



Bazaar Time

Last minute preparations were underway for the Reading Room Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 2 December, 2-4pm, as this issue went to press. Fantastic gifts, fresh produce, holly and mistletoe will be on offer along with mulled wine & mince pies, and the not to be missed Reading Room Raffle & Tombola.

Advent Carols

The start of Advent in Chilmark will be marked with Carols & Readings at St Margaret's Church on Sunday 3 December at 4pm, with singing by the Hindon & Chilmark Choir.

Christmas church decorations

A reminder to those who kindly arrange flowers in St Margaret's that the candlelit carol service is on Friday 22 December, 5pm, and it would be lovely for the church to be decorated by then.

Thank you

Our thanks go to our wonderful team of distributors for ensuring the VV is posted through your letterbox. Particular thanks are due to Chrissie Eden who has now *retired* from the role after many years of distributing 45 copies each month. Thank you also to Judith Barrett for stepping into Chrissie's shoes, and to Helen Hooper for taking on Patrick & Mary Boyles' large *round*!

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Welcome to the December/January issue of The Village Voice



With the end of 2023 in sight, it seems appropriate to reflect on just how much has been achieved on Forbes Field thanks to the efforts of the Forbes Field Management Group and the Friends of Forbes Field. A transformation has taken place on this piece of village land bequeathed by Diana Forbes which little more than a year ago was a scrubby yet overgrown patch of pony paddock with dilapidated fencing. Huge congratulations to all those concerned in bringing about the transformation of this field, p4 & 5. Its new life as an orchard is being appreciated by many and it's hoped that the recent *water outflow* works in the northeast corner will help alleviate Chilmark's flooding issues this winter. The relentless rain this autumn means the winterbourne was already far fuller than might be expected in late November.

Thanks are also due to the group of local musicians who brought a delightful concert of chamber music to the Reading Room in late November, raising funds for the local disaster relief charity RE:ACT. This occasion, followed by delicious tea and cake, was a reminder of just how good the acoustics are in the Reading Room, p7. Also in the Reading Room, residents were treated to a fascinating display of ancient finds by Chilmark's metal detectorists, p6. Meanwhile, the twice monthly Coffee Kitchen in the Reading Room, raising funds for the Salisbury Trust for the Homeless, has continued to be a popular event. Thanks to all those concerned.

The tireless work of Chilmark's foodbank coordinator Angi Stoop in organising monthly collections for the Salisbury Trussell Trust should not go un-noted. Thanks to Angi's efforts, and everyone's contributions, an impressive 1306 kilos of food and essential supplies have been delivered to the Trust this year. Well done all.

Another village project attracting impressive support is the mission to secure the future of The Black Dog pub. The Save the Black Dog Working Party has been meeting weekly since the end of August with a view to raising the funds to make a bid for the pub by 24 January 2024, under the terms of the pub's listing as an Asset of Community Value. Latest update, p5.

In the run up to Christmas there's no shortage of opportunities in the village to sing carols, or to make wreaths, p6. For those with a love of night skies, this month's Astronomy notes are a fascinating read, p10.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and start to 2024.

The Editorial Team



The Village Voice - Directory

The Village Voice Editorial Team

Copy deadline 20th of each month. Please note that there will be one issue for December & January (copy deadline 20 November) and one issue for July & August (deadline 20 June). Items will be welcomed from any individual or village organisation and should be sent to the Editor. However, newsletter content remains at the discretion of the Editorial Team and on some occasions will be space dependent. If you wish to advertise in the newsletter, please contact the Treasurer.

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Citizens' Advice Bureau

03444 111444 www.cabwiltshire.org.uk

Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School

01722 716348 www.chilmarkfonthillbishop.wilts.sch.uk

Chilmark Cricket Club

Carl Jacobs 07890 894570 cjacbos@aol.com

Doctors' Surgery Hindon

01747 820222 www.hindonsurgery.co.uk

Doctors' Surgery Tisbury

01747 870204 www.tisburyurgery.nhs.uk

Flooding - emergency number

0300 456 0100 (24hrs)

Fonthill Park Cricket Club

Mark Mikurenda 07825 794849
markmikurenda@yahoo.com

Forbes Field

Mungo Melvin 01722 716171
mungo.melvin@live.co.uk

Chilmark Horticultural Society

Mike Scott (Sec/Treasurer) 07799 437074
treasurer@chilmarkvillagevoice.co.uk

NHS 111 Service

Call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not an emergency - 999

Police (non-emergency)

Tel: 101 (emergency? - call 999)

Pothole & Fly Tipping Reporting

go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk and select 'Report'

Reading Room bookings

Mrs Jenny Gavin 01722 716306
bookings@chilmarkreadingroom.co.uk

South Wiltshire MP

Dr Andrew Murrison 0207 219 8337
andrew.murrison.mp@parliament.uk
0800 0727282 **Power Cut?** dial **105** or visit
www.powercut105.com

Tisbus

07500 802525 www.tisbus.co.uk

Tisbury Sports Centre

01747 871141 tisbury@wiltshire.gov.uk

Tisbury Library

01722 434205

Wessex Water

Leaks: 0800 692 0692 Supply & Sewerage: 0345 600 4600

Wiltshire Council

0300 456 0100 www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Councillor

Cllr Bridget Wayman 01747 830406
bridget.wayman@wiltshire.gov.uk



The Village Voice - Diary

		December Dates for your Diary	
Tuesday 5th	7pm	Social Stitchers	Chilmark Reading Room (CRR)
Wednesday 6th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Friday 8th	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR
Saturday 9th	10am	Forbes Field Planting Day	Forbes Field
Wednesday 13th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Wednesday 13th	10.30-12noon	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen	CRR
Wednesday 13th	2.30 & 6.30pm	Christmas Wreath Workshops	CRR
Tuesday 19th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR
Wednesday 20th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Saturday 23rd	5.30 & 7.30pm	Carols Night	Round the village & CRR
		January 2024	
Wednesday 3rd	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Wednesday 3rd	10.30-12noon	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen	CRR
Sat 6 - Wed 10th		Food Bank Collection	Chilmark Church
Wednesday 10th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Wednesday 10th	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	CRR
Friday 12th	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR
Monday 15th	6pm	Reading Room Meeting	CRR
Tuesday 16th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR
Tuesday 23rd	2.55-3.20pm	Mobile Library	Hops Close
Wednesday 24th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Wednesday 24th	10.30-12noon	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen	CRR

Activities Contacts:

Social Stitchers - Emily Wilkins 07523 131630

Art Group - Jane Hobbs 01747 871200

Reading Group - Sally Butcher 01722 716387 - odneyo@btinternet.com

Churchyard Wildlife Group - Angus Menzies 01722 717925 - angus.menzies1@btinternet.com

Astronomy - Rod Greening 01722 717462 - barrod888@gmail.com

Wednesday Kettlercise Class - Annabel Webb 07816 621300 or annabelwebb@gmail.com



Unit 2, Chaldicott Barns
Semley, SP7 9AW

Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm
Saturday, 9am - 3pm

www.comptonmcræ.com
01747 448750
info@comptonmcræ.com

In our kitchen & larder you will find a selection of quiches, sausage rolls, scotch eggs and salads, along with coffee and sweet treats, wine and fresh bread.

We also offer a daily lunch specials menu - we encourage you to book due to our limited number of tables!



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Parish Council News

To read the latest draft minutes and future agendas, visit:
www.southwiltswilts.com/site/chilmarkparishcouncil

The Parish Council will next meet on Wednesday 10 January, 7pm in Chilmark Reading Room.

Latest Planning Applications / Decisions:

Ref: PL/2023/09732 – Proposed Works to trees in conservation area
Laburnum Cottage, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AU
Unknown species - Fell
Applicant: Mr J Rooke
Case Officer: Sue Morgan
PC position – No objection
Decision deadline: 14 December 2023

Ref: PL/2023/09729 – Proposed Works to trees in conservation area
Old Bridge Inn, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AU
Apple Tree – Prune
Applicant: Mr J Rooke
Case Officer: Sue Morgan
PC position – No objection
Decision deadline: 14 December

Ref: PL/2023/09616 – Full Planning Permission
Chilmark C of E First School, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AR
Replacement of fencing to southern boundary for safeguarding purposes
Applicant: Mr A Smith
Case Officer: Hayley Clark
PC position – to be determined
Consultation deadline: 21 December 2023

Ref: PL/2023/10053 – Proposed Works to trees in conservation area
Brazier Cottage, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AP
Cherry tree - 30% crown reduction. Portugal Laurel - Remove.
Applicant: Mr A Thompson
Case Officer: Caroline Gamble
PC position – TBA
Decision deadline: 2 January 2024

Ref: PL/2023/07054 - Listed Building Consent
Frog Cottage, Frog Lane, Chilmark, SP3 5BB
Replacement of the existing clay single roll pantiles with new clay pantiles of matching colour and profile.
Applicant: Mr D Surtees
PC position – No objection
Decision deadline: 13 October 2023

Ref: PL/2022/04332 & 04333 - Retrospective planning applications for change of use
Ham Cross Lodge & units and Engine Shed, Chilmark Estates, SP3 5RW
Change of use of buildings from Sui Generis (former RAF buildings) to employment use (including Class E(g) office and light industrial / workshops and B8 storage uses)
Applicant: Mr Murphy
PC position – Object
Decision deadline: 6 December 2023

To view details of any of the above applications or permissions, visit:
development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/ and enter the planning application number in the search bar.



Many thanks to Lord Margdale for chairing the AGM of the Trustees and Management Committee of the Chilmark Reading Room last month. We were also delighted to welcome our two new Trustees for the first time, Angus Small and Sally Butcher. The village kindly voted in the following committee members for another year comprising Henrietta Cockrell, Jenny Gavin (Secretary), Tony and Susan Lewis, Richard Mann (Treasurer), Morag Philpott (Chairman and representing the Parish Council), Ellie Rees (representing the Friends of Chilmark School), Dathan Trent, Alison Whipp-Long and Eddie Young.

I would like to thank the committee for the considerable time and effort they put into the Reading Room. With their administrative and technical knowledge, financial guidance, creative skills and event experience they all contribute to the smooth running of our village hall.

Please put Saturday 3 February into your diary for the Reading Room Quiz Supper 2024. This is a fun evening of interesting questions and delicious home-cooked food. A team of six is ideal but we can put teams together if you don't have one. The start time is 7pm for 7.30pm and tickets cost £15. Please contact Henrietta Cockrell on jkchsc@me.com for tickets and more details.

The next committee meeting will be held at 6pm on Monday 15 January in the Reading Room.

Morag Philpott



Dodging the Rain in Forbes Field

Despite a depressingly dire forecast of torrential rain, no fewer than 20 dedicated Friends of Forbes Field and members of the eponymous Management Group turned out on Saturday, 18 November and we were able to undertake a busy morning's work un-drenched throughout. There was even a glimmer of sun as we finished around noon. Thank goodness, however, that we had completed the water outflow work last month (see the new stone-filled gabions in place), and not attempted to do so under such waterlogged ground conditions.



Under Johan Denekamp's light-hearted but firm direction we completed the main task of the Field Day in clearing over 60 tree bases of grass and weeds, feeding the trees with some horse manure and then top-dressing the bases

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with wood chippings. As a result, the trees now look neat and tidy and ready for the winter and have been given a good start for next year's growth. In addition, our expert trimmers and bush-cutters cleared areas around the trees and field boundaries. We also completed a number of small jobs such as re-staking one oddly leaning Hornbeam and tidying up the former site of the water trough – now moved to a much more convenient place next to the newly erected water tap at the Orchard.



We are all set for our next Field Day on Saturday, 9 December. This will represent one of our most ambitious events since we started the project at the beginning of 2022. On the day, we aim to plant no fewer than 26 trees, including three Mulberries to complete the Orchard, two Oaks and a Walnut in the Half Moon Plot on the far, western edge of the field. Perhaps most significantly, we will plant a strip of ten Black Poplars and ten White Willows (both groundwater tolerant species) along the northern, damp field edge parallel to Hindon Lane. All these trees should provide considerable further amenity and environmental benefit to the field, which is now becoming an increasingly appreciated and used asset of the village. On Monday, 11 December we look forward to children of Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Primary School planting with us seven Whitebeams to form the Coronation Grove, to be located midway between the field's entrance and the Orchard. With this work we aim to strengthen the connection of the school to Forbes Field and to our local community.

If you would like to help us in the Forbes Field project, and to meet some fellow Chilmarkians, why not join us at 9.00 am on 9 December at the field for some fun tree-planting with expert direction? Hot drinks and light refreshments will be provided for some appropriate pre-Christmas cheer.

Mungo Melvin

Black Dog Working Party (BDWP) update

The BDWP have continued to meet weekly and have welcomed a new member, Ned Pattenden, who has recently moved back to the village. Ned has joined us armed with a wealth of local knowledge, having grown up in the village and worked at the pub in the past. He also knows a lot of people who know a thing or two about pubs, which is invaluable to our working party so welcome to the team, Ned!

We feel it is important, at this point, to clarify our main purpose as a committee. We are a group of Chilmark residents who have volunteered to explore available options to secure the future of The Black Dog Inn as a thriving and successful pub. One option, since the Black Dog was successfully listed as an Asset of Community

Value (ACV) earlier this year, is to determine whether there is enough interest within the community to buy the pub as a community asset. The other main option is to generate publicity and use our contacts to see if there are any private buyers who are interested in buying the pub. We are pursuing these two options with equal vigour and would welcome any recommendations of potential investors or private buyers.

Last week, a specialist Chartered Surveyor, recommended by the Plunkett Foundation, made a site visit and is compiling a report which summarises the condition of the pub as well as its potential as a business. This will help inform any offer we make and form part of our business plan in readiness for the next step in the timeline which is investor engagement.

Our community of supporters continues to grow and has extended across the pond to West Tisbury, Massachusetts where they have their very own Black Dog pub! We have been asked what they can do to help even if it's just sending us moral support.

The Black Dog Working Party

Village Voice AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The Village Voice 'Association' took place at Chilmark House on Wednesday 15 November, with seven people present. The Association had received an email from Richard Eaton resigning as Chair of The VV Committee on the basis he had moved from the village and so it would not be appropriate for him to continue in the role.

Mike Scott, Treasurer, reported that the eighth year of operation of The Village Voice printed newsletter had again been financially sound, thanks to advertising revenue and generous funding of £350 from Chilmark Parish Council. It had made a small surplus over the year of £80.80 and the increase in printing costs had not affected the total costs as the reduction in page count for four editions had offset any impact. The increase in Advertising rates had very little effect in the last financial year but would be more significant in a full year, probably raising an extra £80 per annum.

Mike indicated that he wished to stand down after eight years as treasurer and five years prior to that producing The VV's predecessor, Church & Village News. He would however be prepared to continue in post until a suitable replacement was found. The committee thanked Mike for his excellent work over the years.

Committee election: Peter Young had indicated he was prepared to stand as Chair and there being no other candidate, he was elected. Sarah Miller and Bev Small were re-elected as Editor and Deputy Editor respectively. The post of Treasurer/Secretary stands in abeyance. Meanwhile, Glen Miller was re-elected as Designer, and it was agreed the committee should be expanded to include Sally Butcher.

Succession planning and the future of The Village Voice was discussed. It was felt that it would be advantageous to have more villagers attend and therefore future meetings should be held in a public place such as the Reading Room. Peter as Chair would convene a meeting in the spring/summer of 2024. Sarah said she would be happy to send a weekly village diary by email. It was also noted that some regular St Margaret's Church news input from the PCC was required if this page was to be retained in the monthly VV. Minutes of the 2023 AGM can be read at: www.chilmarkvillagevoice.co.uk

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Christmas Wreath Workshop 2023

There are a few remaining places for both the afternoon and evening sessions of the 10th Anniversary Wreath workshops in Chilmark Reading Room on Wednesday 13 December at 2.30 pm and 7pm respectively. Tickets £10 to include a glass of fizz to celebrate. Refreshments will be available; should you feel you need more alcoholic refreshment, please feel free to bring your own. There will also be a raffle. For tickets and further information please ring me on 01722 716571.

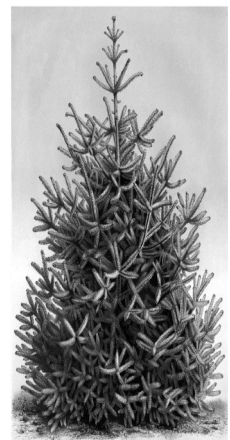
We would be grateful if the evening session participants could arrive a little before 6.30pm as Chilmark School children will be dropping by to sing carols and ring handbells. Thank you.

Chrissie Eden

Chilmark Coffee Kitchen

Wednesday 13 December will be our special Christmas event and the last one in 2023. Please come and join us in the Reading Room, 10.30am-12 noon. Everyone is welcome to pop in for free coffee, tea, homemade cakes and mince pies in a relaxed, festive setting. It is a great way to meet new people and catch up with old friends. As always there will be the opportunity to donate to Salisbury Trust for the Homeless. Dates for January 2024 will be Wednesday 3rd and Wednesday 24th in the Reading Room, from 10.30am-12 noon as usual. It will be lovely to see you! Any queries, please contact Lynn Menzies: 01722 717925/angus.menzies1@btinternet.com

Lynn Menzies



Carols this Christmas

Chilmark's candlelit Carol Service at St Margaret's is on Friday 22 December, 5pm. This will be a particularly special occasion this year as a group of Chilmark children will form a choir to augment the Hindon & Chilmark Choir.

Sophie's Carol Singing will be in the Chilmark Reading Room on Saturday 23 December. Doors open 7.30pm with carols starting at 8.30pm. Everyone is welcome do please come along. Cash bar and raffle, mulled wine and mince pies.

This event will follow Carol Singing around Chilmark village (in aid of Salisbury Trust for the Homeless) which starts at 5.30pm, on Saturday 23 December.

Watercress

A remarkable 1477 bags of the Chalke Valley's best watercress have been delivered to Chilmark homes this year, thanks to the efforts of our wonderful watercress coordinator Tim Stoop. Tim has already said he will be collecting and delivering orders again in 2024, probably from late March onwards. Thank you, **Tim**.

Food Bank News

I am sure I don't need to say how much our *Chilmark and Fonthill Book Swap Food Collection* is appreciated by all who benefit from it in our surrounding area. Thank you once more from me and The Salisbury Trussell Trust for your continued support. At this time of year, we reflect on our achievements of 2023. I am pleased to report that between us we delivered a total of 1306 Kilos of food and

other essentials during 2023 which is a fantastic amount; some 147 kilos of this was the final collection of the year, in November. It is of course sad that the need continues to be there so with this in mind I thought I would give you next year's dates:

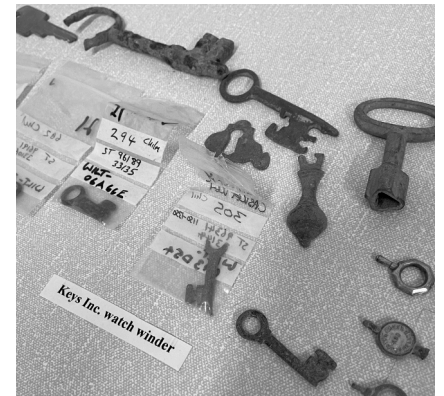
- Saturday 6 – Wednesday 10 January
- Saturday 10 – Wednesday 14 February
- Saturday 9 – Wednesday 13 March
- Saturday 13 – Wednesday 17 April
- Saturday 11 – Wednesday 15 May
- Saturday 8 – Wednesday 12 June
- Saturday 13 – Wednesday 17 July
- Saturday 7 – Wednesday 11 September
- Saturday 12 – Wednesday 16 October
- Saturday 9 – Wednesday 13 November – Xmas collection

I have chosen to do the collection monthly, during every 2nd week of each month. This excludes August which we have never done. I have also brought the January date forward to accommodate the longer time between our last collection and the New Year.

I will flag up reminders of the dates and also what is especially needed via Sarah Miller's weekly email. Don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions on 07720 732415. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas,
Angi Stoop

Detectorists' Delights

A display of some of the amazing items found by Chilmark Metal Detectorists in recent years drew a bumper turnout at the Reading Room in November. Several hundred pieces were on show, including a piece of Bronze Age Gold, an Iron Age brooch and silver Roman coins, delighting visitors of all ages.



Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School

Christmas Market

Saturday 25 November saw the school hall transformed into a Christmas market. Organised by the Friends, it is a key fundraising event in the school year, and it was lovely to have so many local

residents in attendance. Stalls included a fabulous range of handmade crafts, cakes, pre-loved goods, tombolas for both children and adults, biscuit decorating, a raffle and two ping-pong challenges! Mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas tunes made for a festive atmosphere, and the chance to meet the very jolly Father Christmas added to children's excitement.

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The afternoon raised £1540. Thank you to all those who joined us, and thanks to the parents, families and staff who supported the event. Extra special thanks to Hannah Trent and Catherine Potts, Friends' stalwarts. And finally, thanks to the many local businesses that donated prizes to the raffle. If you'd like another chance to buy Christmas crafts, we will be at Tis the Season in Tisbury on Saturday 9 December.



Emergency Awareness Training

Andrew, an advanced first aid instructor working for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance team, visited recently. He visits schools across the county to teach basic lifesaving skills and lead accredited first aid courses for adults, helping the charity hit its target of teaching every child in Wiltshire and Bath basic lifesaving skills. Since the launch of the Emergency Awareness Training Programme in 2019, more than 30,000 children have been taught lifesaving skills including how to perform CPR, how to use an external defibrillator and other first aid skills.

Elm Class enjoyed getting involved with CPR and the Sycamore & Oak learnt skills such as making an emergency telephone call. Later in the week Sycamore Class produced some wonderful thank you letters which Mrs Rennard has posted to Andrew.

Hedgehog Day

Chilmark pupils joined 38 other primary schools in the UK on a Teams assembly run by Jo Wilkinson from the Hedgehog Friendly Campus. The children got to hear the sound a hedgehog makes in the wild, learnt about hedgehog habitats, what they like to eat and how they behave. They also learnt what we can all do to become hedgehog heroes to save the wild hedgehogs from becoming extinct.

Pupils welcomed Chilmark resident Mungo Melvin into school to judge a Christmas card competition. There were an amazing 40 entries and Mungo had the tricky job of identifying a winning design from each year group. All entries received a certificate and house points. The overall winners earned a hedgehog pin badge which they can wear at school and their designs are currently being made into Christmas cards.

As well as the special assembly and the competition, pupils from each class worked together to cover a chalk hedgehog in coins in the front playground. The hedgehog

looked amazing in the sunshine and £24.13 was collected towards The British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

Afternoon concert with tea

Huge thanks to all those who came out on a miserable afternoon on Sunday 26 November to attend the concert of baroque music in the Reading Room in aid of RE:ACT. Rich McSweeney from the charity writes: '...an even bigger thank you to everyone who so generously donated an amazing £235.00.' This was a very pleasing sum, so thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the event successful in supporting the good work of RE:ACT.

Lynn Menzies



St Margaret of Antioch, Chilmark

Friday 15 December, 11am – the Revd Elaine Brightwell will lead a carol service for Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School. Everyone welcome to attend.

Friday 22 December, 5pm – the candlelit Carol Service in St Margaret's promises to be a particularly special occasion this year. We are getting together a group of children from Chilmark to form a choir who will augment the Hindon & Chilmark Choir. Don't miss it!

Sunday 24 December, 10pm – the Christmas Eve service will be led by the Revd Michael Goater.

Monday 25 December, 9.30am - the Christmas Day service will be led by the Revd Elaine Brightwell. Please NB the 9.30am start time!

Sunday 31 December, 11am, Fovant – the farewell to Graham Southgate as Team Rector of the Nadder Valley will take place at an all Benefice Parish Communion in St George's Church, Fovant. All welcome.

The Church Times in 2024

We have been considering how best to provide interesting new content for this part of the Village Voice. The PCC Treasurer has kindly agreed to provide monthly articles starting with the February 2024 issue. The topics he considers may be of general interest are as follows and he would welcome any other suggestions:

- The PCC - Parochial Church Council - how is it formed and what does it do?
- The finances of the Church locally in Chilmark. How is it funded and what is the current position?
- The finances of the Salisbury Diocese. How is the Diocese funded and what is the current position?
- The Quinquennial survey - what it means and how we deal with the issues raised?
- The roles that are available if people wish to get involved - including the PCC and the Fabric Working Group.

We expect that these pieces will be approximately 250-350 words. If anyone has other topics or questions they believe may be of general interest to VV readers, please do share them with the PCC Treasurer - Johan Denekamp. He is contactable at jdenekamp@msn.com

Thank you

In last month's Village voice Chrissie Eden announced that she was stepping down as coordinator of the Holy Dusters, the wonderful team who ensure that St Margaret's church is kept spick and span. Thank you, Chrissie, for all the work you have done in this role. It has been greatly appreciated by me, the congregation and all those who visit the church. Thank you also to Judith Barrett who has taken on the role and to everyone who gives so generously of their time to serve the church and community with their dusters.

Revd. Elaine Brightwell

Team Vicar

Church Cleaning Rota

One of our teams of cleaners has decided to stand down, so I am appealing to anyone who feels they could take this on. At the moment we have ten teams, so your turn will come around every two and a half months – not too onerous a task. Don't forget that if it's not convenient at

any time, there is always the option to ask someone to switch for that particular weekend.

Many thanks, **Judith Barrett** - judithbarrett@outlook.com

December	Group
3rd	three
10th	four
17th	five
24th	six
31st	seven
January 2024	
7th	eight
14th	nine
21st	ten
28th	one
February	
4th	two

Christmas Charity Donation

At Christmas many of us like to give something to those who are in need. Once again, instead of bringing a present to church at Christmas, we invite you to contribute to the work of two of our local charities – everything you give will be used locally, with no admin costs. Last year your generosity was so gratefully received. This year, with the rise in the cost of living, it is needed more than ever.

The Food Banks provide food boxes for those in need. The Refuge provides safety for families who have had to flee from abuse. Please contact the Revd Jo Naish on revdjoannanaish@gmail.com or any member of the Nadder Valley ministry team to find your local collection point for goods and tokens. Food needs to be well within use-by date and please do not wrap goods, as this helps distribution. Goods and Tokens received by Sunday 10 December will be able to reach those in need in time for Christmas. But don't worry if you miss the deadline – your gift will still be very much appreciated in the New Year. Thank you so much for your help.

For the *Food Bank* we ask for tinned and packet goods that do not require much fuel to heat or cook. All gifts must have a best before date for Jan 2023 or later. You might like to add some Christmas cheer with Christmas crackers, Christmas pudding, Cranberry sauce, Boxes of Chocolates, Tinned food, Biscuits.

For the *Salisbury Refuge* we ask for Supermarket tokens. Tesco is a great choice as residents have easy access to a large store, but Sainsbury and M&S are also good. A token, however small, gives people who have fled from abuse, their freedom again. Freedom to choose presents for their children, to replace cherished items left behind, or to furnish themselves with the basic clothing or other necessities of daily life. Thank you so much for all your care.

Jo Naish

Healing & Wholeness Service

We invite you to join us for our monthly time of prayer and contemplation, for yourself and for those whom you care about, remembering all those who are in difficulties, on Wednesday 13 December, 3pm, in St Andrew's Chapel, St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury.

Church Times

TEAM CLERGY

Revd Dr Graham Southgate, (Team Rector). The Rectory, Shaftesbury Road, Fovant, SP3 5JA 01722 714826
Parish Priest responsible for Ansty, Compton Chamberlayne, Fovant, Sutton Mandeville, Swallowcliffe.
email: grahamsouthgate63@hotmail.com.

Revd Elaine Brightwell, (Team Vicar) 01722 717883
Parish Priest responsible for Barford St Martin with Burcombe, Baverstock, Chilmark, Dinton, and Teffont Evias with Teffont Magna.
email: elainebri57@gmail.com

Revd Juliette Hulme (Team Vicar) The Rectory, Park Road, Tisbury, SP3 6LF 01747 871957
Parish Priest responsible for Fonthill Bishop with Berwick St Leonard, Fonthill Gifford, and Tisbury.
email: revjmhulme@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Chilmark, St Margaret of Antioch **Fonthill, All Saints with Berwick St Leonard**
Vacancy - contact Revd Elaine Brightwell The Hon Mary Morrison 01747 820231

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Fr Anthony Paris - tisburyparish@cliffondiocese.com

MASSES

Sacred Heart, Tisbury: Sunday 9am - Weekday, Thursday 6pm
All Saints', Wardour: Sunday 10.30am - Weekday, Tuesday 9.30am

TISBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd Denise Binks, 7 Ridge Way, Shaftesbury SP7 9HB, denise.binks@gmail.com 01747 854631
Sunday Service: 10.30am

CHILMARK CHURCH, ST MARGARET OF ANTIOCH

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Organist David Davies davidracheld@gmail.com 01722 714440
Bells Linda Jones linda1306@btinternet.com 01747 870595
Angus Menzies angus.menzies1@btinternet.com 01722 717925

NADDER VALLEY BENEFICE – CHURCH SERVICES – DECEMBER 2023

Date	3 rd		10 th		Midweek Carol Services		17 th		Midweek Carol Services		24 th Christmas Eve		25 th		31 st	
SUNDAY	Advent 1		Advent 2				Advent 3				Advent 4		Christmas Day			
South Area																
ANSTY	–	–	1115 PC	GS	–	–	–	–	23 rd 1630 Carols GS	–	–	1115 AAC	GS	–	–	–
COMPTON	0930 PC _T	GS	–	–	–	–	1600 Carols	GS	–	2200 PC _T	TM	–	–	–	–	–
FOVANT	0800 HC _{02T}	SE	–	–	–	–	1800 Carols	GS	18 th 1400 Dinton School Carols GS	–	–	0930 PC	GS	1100 PC	Graham's farewell service	GS
SUTTON	1800 E _{BCP}	GS	0930 M _{CW}	GS	–	–	–	–	–	1700 Carols	GS	–	–	–	–	–
SWALLOW -CLIFFE	1115 PC _T	GS	1800 E _{BCP}	MH	–	–	1800 Carols	JMH	–	2200 PC _T	GS	1115 AAS	JA	–	–	–
North Area																
BARFORD	1115 AAC	EB	0930 M _{CW}	LAY	–	–	1600 Carols	EB	–	2200 PC	EB	–	–	–	–	–
BAVER-STOCK	–	–	–	–	15 th 1800 Carols	EB	–	–	–	–	–	0930 PC	SE	–	–	–
CHILMARK	1600 Advent Carols and Readings	EB	0930 AAS	EB	15 th 1100 Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop school	EB	1115 AAC	JN	22 nd 1700 Carols	EB	2200 PC	MG	0930 AAC	EB	–	–
DINTON	0930 AAC	EB	–	–	–	–	1800 Carols	JA	20 th 0930 Dinton School Carols	EB	1600 Crib Service	EB	0930 AAC	CF	–	–
T. EVIAS T. MAGNA	–	–	1115 AAC	EB	–	–	1800 Carols	EB	–	–	–	1115 AAC	EB	–	–	–
West Area																
CHICKLADE HINDON	0930 PC	JN	0930 AAC	TM	–	–	–	–	19 th 1800 Carols JN 18 th 1800 Carols JN 23 rd 1600 Walking Nativity JN	1800 PC _{BCP} 2200 PC	JN JN	–	–	0930 AAC	JN	–
FONTHILL BISHOP	1700 E _{BCP}	JMH	0800 HC _{BCP}	JMH	–	–	0930 M _{BCP}	JA	20 th 1800 Carols JMH	–	–	–	–	0930 PC _{BCP}	MH	–
FONTHILL GIFFORD	0800 HC _{BCP}	JMH	1115 M _{BCP}	JMH/JD	–	–	0800 HC _{BCP}	SE	23 rd 1600 Carols JMH	–	–	–	–	1115 PC _{BCP}	JMH	–
TISBURY	0930 AAC	JMH/JA	0930 PC	JMH/JD	12 th 1700 St Johns School Carols JMH/JA 13 th 11am St Johns School Carols JMH/JA	–	0930 PC	JMH/NW	18 th 1930 Village Carols JMH	0800 HC _{BCP} 1600 Crib Service 2200 PC	SE JMH/JA JMH	–	–	0930 PC	JMH/JA	–

BCP Book of Common Prayer **CW** Common Worship **HC** Holy Communion (said) **PC** Order 1 Communion (with hymns)
PC₁ Order 1 Communion, traditional language (with hymns) **PC_{02T}** Order 2 Communion traditional language (with hymns) **AAC** All Age Communion
AAS All Age Service **M** Mattins or Morning Prayer **MPR** Morning Praise **E** Evensong or Evening Prayer **CbE** Communion by Extension

+AR Bishop of Ramsbury +SL Bishop of Salisbury +RC Bishop Richard Chartres AJ Alan Jeans CF Colin Fox EB Elaine Brightwell
GS Graham Southgate JA Judy Anderson JD Julie Dunstan JMH Juliette Hulme JN Jo Naish MG Michael Goater MH Mark Hayter
NW Nigel Worn SE Simon Evans TF Tina Fox TM Rev Canon Tony Mond

The Village Voice

Hindon Surgery News

Wiltshire Council will provide an assisted collection where they are satisfied that the householder is unable to place their household waste at the appropriate point for collection due to illness, physical inability, or infirmity, whether permanent or temporary, and there is no other able-bodied person living in the household to assist. All requests are dealt with on an individual basis and the assistance may be provided by changing the point of collection, the container provided or both. You can apply by calling 0300 456 0102.

Stay Well This Winter

Here are some excellent tips for staying healthy and well during the winter months which can help you maintain your physical and mental well-being, especially during colder seasons when the risk of illness is higher:

- **Stay Hydrated** - Drink water regularly. Other beverages like milk, tea, coffee, fresh juice, and smoothies also contribute to your hydration.
- **Eat Well** - Consume a diverse range of foods to ensure you get all the essential nutrients for optimal bodily functions.
- **Stay Active** - Aim for at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day to boost both your physical and mental well-being.
- **Enjoy Nature** - Spending time outside in nature can have a positive impact on your mental health but remember to dress warmly.
- **Maintain Medicine Stock** - Make sure you have essential remedies for minor illnesses at home, and please make sure you keep your prescription medications up to date.
- **Show Kindness** - We are so lucky with the community spirit in Hindon. Please look out for others in your community, especially those who may be more vulnerable or isolated.
- **Practice Hygiene** - There is lots of flu and COVID circulating in the local area. Regularly wash your hands and use tissues when sneezing to prevent the spread of illness.
- **Stay Connected** - Nurture your social relationships, and don't hesitate to reach out to organisations or services that offer support and companionship. Please contact the surgery if this is something that would interest you as we have a lovely team who can help. Don't forget the Carer and Friendship group which is on the last Monday of every month at the Village Hall.
- **Be Mindful** - Pay attention to your surroundings and your own thoughts and feelings to positively impact your well-being.
- **Keep Warm** - Maintain a warm environment, especially for those who may be more susceptible to the cold.
- **Safely Enjoy Festivities**: Take necessary precautions during the festive season to prevent the spread of illnesses, especially during gatherings and food handling.

By following these suggestions, you can boost your overall well-being and resilience, making the winter season more enjoyable and healthier for you and those around you.

Drs Gareth and Fiona Dawe

Tisbury Surgery News

Following NHS England's national policy and after discussion with our Patient Participation Group, we have introduced a new booking system for GP appointments.

This will ensure that all patients who wish to be seen within two weeks of requesting an appointment can do so.

Patients who feel they need to be seen urgently on the same day will initially be offered a telephone call with a GP and the GP will decide how best to handle the issue. This may be through offering a face-to-face appointment that day, directing to a more appropriate service or by managing the issue within the initial triage call.

Patients may also be offered our text triage service, whereby they will receive a simple text questionnaire. The patients' responses will go directly to the GP team who will reply as appropriate. Due to these changes, there is no requirement for the emergency duty list - *sit and wait clinic* - that previously operated from 12 noon. The booking system has not changed for non-urgent GP and nurse appointments which can be made in advance.

Another reminder PLEASE to let us know if you change your personal details, such as address, mobile phone number etc. We were unable to contact some patients during the recent vaccination programme due to incorrect details being held on patients' records. Similarly, if you contact the surgery by email can we please ask that you include two identifiers (ie name, date of birth, address or NHS number) for identification purposes. We have several patients with the same or similar name and this procedure is essential to ensure the confidentiality of your medical record.

We have recently installed a new gate at the entrance of the car park. This will be locked every evening and at weekends when the surgery is closed. There will still be pedestrian access to the surgery if you wish to drop in prescriptions etc.

May we take this opportunity to wish all our patients a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Dr Adam Smith



Astronomy Notes

In November's Astronomy Notes I talked about planetary nebulae, ie what happens to small and dwarf stars, like our sun, at the end of their life. This month I will talk about the life of large and massive stars and what happens at the end of their lives.

Stars that are, say, greater than 25 times the mass of our sun live very short lives. This is because their gravity is very high and it squeezes the hydrogen that stars are made from very hard, causing it to get extremely hot, much more so than small stars like our sun. At these high temperatures, hydrogen plasma quickly forms helium, carbon, and so on, until it gets to the heavier element iron. During these fusion processes energy is given off and that is what makes the stars shine and radiate energy. It also

The Village Voice

creates very high internal pressure which counteracts the force of gravity and causes the star to be stable.

In these large and very large stars the fusion processes happen very quickly, like a large bonfire burning through its fuel quickly because of the extreme heat. A typical Blue Giant star like Rigel in the Constellation of Orion gives out 60,000 times the energy of our Sun! However, it will last only a few million years compared to our Sun which is 4.7 billion years old and will last another 5 billion years. This is because our sun burns through its hydrogen much slower, due to its lower gravitation, and hence its lower temperature and internal pressure.

When these large stars get to the stage of producing iron, they are doomed. In the process of fusing iron, energy is 'taken out' of the system, unlike in the previous stages when more energy was produced. When this happens, the temperature of the plasma drops and also the internal pressure which has up until now been preventing the star from collapsing. When this pressure drops, gravity is not opposed by the lower internal pressure and the star starts to implode. This causes tremendous pressure and temperature to be generated in the star's centre and a catastrophic explosion known as a Supernova occurs.

These Supernovae are so energetic that their energy output will often exceed the total energy given off by all the stars in their respective galaxy for a number of days, and then gradually fade away. Supernovae happen in all galaxies. The last Supernova visible to the naked eye was in 1987 and was located in the Large Magellanic Cloud, one of our local satellite galaxies, but could only be seen from our Southern hemisphere.

Through my telescope I have seen only two Supernovae: one in M51, the Whirlpool galaxy, and one in M82, the 'edge on' galaxy in the Constellation of Ursa Major (the Plough). These Supernova explosions produce most of the heavier elements (heavier than iron) down to, and including, gold. So when looking at your gold ring, or gold tooth filling, just remember that this gold was produced in a catastrophic Supernova explosion somewhere in our galaxy a long long time ago.

Next month I will explain what is left after a Supernova explosion.

Rod Greening

Tisbury Community Choir

Gaudete - Director: Graham Dalby

Rejoice! Come and join us for an evening of Christmas music on Friday 15 December in the New Vic Hall, Tisbury. Usual arrangements: doors and bar open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. We are looking forward to what seems to have become a traditional event when we bring out some of our old favourites and audience participation is encouraged but not compulsory!

A plea for your support - we are pleased to report that we have been chosen by the Co-op as one of their local community groups. The funding year started in October and at the end of the year we will receive a grant. However, if you have a Co-op membership you can log in to your account and select the cause you wish to support. This will enhance the amount of the grant as every time you swipe your card when making purchases, the Co-op makes a proportionate donation to the grant fund. Co-op membership is free and gives you access to offers etc.

Graham Dalby's infectious enthusiasm, particularly obvious at our concerts, has attracted more new members who have been very welcome. It would be good to attract

a few more male voices to give us that extra depth. New members are always welcome; now is a good time to join as we will be looking at new material in the New Year in preparation for a Spring concert. There are no auditions or special skills required, you just need the joy of singing along and making music with others.

If you would like to join us:

- Our rehearsals take place 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Thursdays at the Methodist Church Hall (We have a break halfway through for tea/coffee, natter, and sometimes cake!)
- Membership is £20 per month but we are also committed to ensuring that rehearsals remain accessible to all.

Come along to a rehearsal for free and try us out. For more details or information please contact us by email: helenhooper51@gmail.com or Landline: 01722 392984 or Mobile: 07810 185007

Roger Hooper, Chair of Friends of Tisbury Community Choir

Pugpits or Pits?!

Further to last month's article on Chilmark's winterbourne by the late Diana Forbes, we now reproduce a piece she wrote about the woods at the top of the hill between Chilmark & Tisbury. This article was originally published in the Village Voice's forebear, Church & Village:

'Pits Wood, or Pugpits as it used to be called, lies on the north slope of the hill between Chilmark and Tisbury, next to the road. Pug is an old word for fox. It is ancient woodland of oak, ash and thorn. The Romans dug small opencast quarries there to get stone for their buildings. These deep pits are now overgrown.

Before the war, the hazel growing in the wood was coppiced. This let in the light, and primroses, violets and various orchids and other wildflowers grew there. They would no doubt come again if light were let in. There are still patches of *Colchicum autumnale* (Meadow Saffron) or Autumn Crocus growing there. The slender stalked mauve flowers appear about October and the leaves in the spring.

When we were children, our mother took us to Pugpits to pick primroses for Good Friday. On Easter Saturday we used to decorate the church font. Our fingers sometimes got very cold picking primroses, but they looked lovely on Easter Day. Mary Harding used to decorate the choir stalls with primroses in small vases tied to the posts along the chancel – these were very pretty.

To the south of the wood lies Ladydown which used to be a common where we went for picnics. The rabbits kept down the grass and bushes until Myxomatosis came and wiped them out. In the war the common was ploughed up to grow more food for the populace. Rare wild flowers such as Bee Orchid and Yellow-wort used to grow there. At the moment this piece of land has been set aside. Some of the wildflowers are appearing again. The beautiful Musk Mallow with large pink flowers has come all along inside the fence by the bridleway. I have found Melilot, Centaury and Restharrow there. Scarlet Pimpernel has been found under the crop of beans in quantity.

The bridleway and footpath runs along the wood down to the old Chilmark Common. This is now fenced in and used for sheep and pheasant breeding. When I was young, we used to go to Chilmark Common to pick Cowslips in the spring and Blackberries in the autumn. We can still walk or ride around it, as the bridleway is preserved. *Contd...*

The Village Voice

At the lower end of the bridleway, before you get to the Common, grows a rare plant. This is a kind of vetch with white flowers called Wild Liquorice. I do not know how the sweets were made from it. Wild Marjoram also grows here – you can use this for flavouring soups and pies. In the wood are a few patches of Wild Garlic – you can use the leaves for flavouring your cooking.'

Diana Forbes - September 2004



Cranborne Chase 'National Landscape'

The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty familiar to many as Cranbourne Chase AONB has ceased to exist, thanks to a DEFRA initiative. As of 22 November 2023, the former AONB has been renamed Cranborne Chase National Landscape. It is not alone; all other 45 AONBs in England and Wales have also been re-branded as National Landscapes. The initiative stems from a Landscapes Review of 2019 and is said to *reflect the national importance of the area, and the vital contribution it makes to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis.*

Linda Nunn, Director of Cranborne Chase National Landscape said:

'We may have a new name, but it is the same beautiful place it has always been. Our mission remains to conserve and enhance this National Landscape and to make sure everyone can enjoy it. The very distinctive, diverse and cherished landscapes of Cranborne Chase continue to be nurtured and enhanced by the many hundreds of farmers and landowners who are stewards of this unique National Landscape.'

'Whilst the team has always worked closely with the farming community, the Defra funded *Farming in Protected Landscapes* (FiPL) programme has enabled us to offer grants of over £1million since 2021 to farmers for 85 innovative projects, proposed by themselves, to greatly enhance their land within the themes of Nature, Climate,

People and Place. The Cranborne Chase National Landscape team will continue to engage with farmers, local communities and visitors to ensure this much loved nationally designated area is conserved, enhanced and enjoyed into the future.'

Cranborne Chase National Landscape covers 380 square miles of countryside overlapping the boundaries of Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire and Somerset. The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, now and for future generations. The organisation is understood to be in the process of designing a new logo to reflect its new *national* status. For more information, visit: cranbornechase.org.uk

Coming up at the NewVic

Sunday 10 December 7pm: The Barefoot Contessa – a 1954 film about the life and loves of fictional Spanish sex symbol Maria Vargas, it stars Humphrey Bogart, Ava Gardner, and Edmond O'Brien. The film's slow-paced plot focuses on social positioning and high-powered politics within the world of film and high society. For his performance, O'Brien won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor and the corresponding Golden Globe. Mankiewicz was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. Running time 130 minutes. Tickets: £8. Doors open 6.30. Bar available.

Sunday 17 December, 2pm: ROH Royal Ballet Encore - The Nutcracker. Join Clara at a delightful Christmas Eve party that becomes a magical adventure once everyone else is tucked up in bed. Marvel at the brilliance of Tchaikovsky's score, as Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker fight the Mouse King and visit the Sugar Plum Fairy in the glittering Kingdom of Sweets. Peter Wright's much-loved production for The Royal Ballet, with gorgeous period designs by Julia Trevelyan Oman, keeps true to the spirit of this festive ballet classic, combining the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular dancing. Running time 165 minutes -one interval tbc. Tickets: £15 Adults; £8 children. Doors open 1.30pm. Bar available.

Sunday 21 January, 7pm: Cezanne - A Portrait of Life. Exclusive access to the first-ever exhibition devoted to the portraits of Cézanne. A revealing film about a man dubbed 'the father of us all' by Matisse and Picasso. One cannot appreciate 20th century art without understanding the significance and genius of Paul Cézanne. Filmed at the National Portrait Gallery in London, with additional interviews from experts and curators from MoMA in New York, National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, and Musée d'Orsay in Paris, and correspondence from the artist himself, the film takes audiences to the places Cézanne lived and worked and sheds light on an artist who is perhaps one of the least known and yet most important of all the Impressionists. Tickets: £10. Doors open 1.30pm. Bar available.

Sunday 31 January 7.30pm: Dear England – NT Live. Joseph Fiennes (The Handmaid's Tale) plays Gareth Southgate in James Graham's (Sherwood) gripping examination of nation and game, filmed live on the stage at the National Theatre. The country that gave the world football has since delivered a painful pattern of loss. Why can't England's men win at their own game? With the worst track record for penalties in the world, Gareth Southgate knows he needs to open his mind and face up to the years of hurt, to take team and country back to the promised land. Tickets £15. Doors open 6.45pm. Bar available. For more info / to purchase tickets, visit: www.newvictisbury.com

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Recycling & Waste Collections

Please note different collection days over Christmas & New Year period!

December 2023

Wednesday 6 – Household waste – Grey bin

Tuesday 12 – Blue lid – mixed dry recycling
Black box – glass & recycling
Green lid – chargeable garden waste
(no household compost)

Wednesday 20 – Grey Bin

Thursday 28 – Blue lid, Black Box

January 2024

Friday 5 – Grey bin

Wednesday 10 – Blue lid, Black box, Green lid
(including xmas trees)

Wednesday 17 – Grey bin

Tuesday 23 – Blue lid, Black box, Green lid

Wednesday 31 – Grey bin

For more information on how and what to recycle, please visit: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/recycling

Garden Waste collections this Xmas

Collections will cease for two weeks over Christmas, from Monday 25 December 2023 to Monday 8 January 2024. Service will resume Tuesday 9 January, and your normal collection day will be delayed by one day, starting with collections which would normally have taken place on Monday 8 January. Only those residents who pay to have their garden waste collected will have their real Christmas trees collected.

What to do with your Xmas Tree

Simply cut up a Christmas tree into sticks and stack neatly in a shady out-of-the-way part of the garden. The rotting tree fragments support many insects and other wildlife, as well as improving the soil and feeding nearby plants.

Tis the Season

Tisbury's annual Christmas celebration Tis the Season returns on Saturday 9 December, from 10.30am. Along with all the High Street shops, some 35 stallholders will be selling an array of locally & regionally produced gifts, homewares & produce. There will be live music between 11am-4pm at the marquee in the dentists' car park while the New Vic Café will be serving Coffee, Tea, Cakes & Toasties at the same time. The New Vic will also host a Santa's Grotto from 12-4pm, with its bar opening at 6.30pm, to be followed by Christmas story telling at 7pm, and live acoustic music from the Cable Street trio at 8.30pm.

NB: the High Street will be closed to be traffic from 7.30am to 6pm between The Avenue (PO) to Vicarage Road.

Warm welcome at the Library

Tisbury Library, at the Nadder Centre, SP3 6HJ, is extending a warm welcome to all this winter, offering a free warm space to sit. Warm packs (scarf, thermal hat and gloves, fleece blanket and a hot water bottle with a cover) will be available for anyone who would benefit from some

free essentials, along with basic energy advice and referrals to the energy advisors at Warm and Safe Wiltshire. Signposting to community partners and agencies that can support you through the rising cost of living is also on offer. For more information to support you through the rising cost of living, visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living

Tisbury Library is open from 7am-9pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 1pm Saturday & Sunday. Tel. 01722 434205 or email: libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk

Hospital Xmas Raffle

Salisbury District Hospital's Stars Appeal charity has launched its Christmas raffle where participants have a chance to win the top prize of £1,000. All ticket sales will go towards the £1 million the charity aims to raise each year to help fund projects supporting patients, their families, and staff at the Hospital.

These include 20 specialist cots for newborn babies costing £38,000, an additional endobronchial ultrasound scope costing £50,000 for the Respiratory Department for lung cancer diagnosis and other related conditions, and a £15,000 mechanical CPR machine.

The second prize is £500, third prize £250 plus many more cash prizes to be won. Tickets cost just £1 each and are available both online at www.starsappeal.org or from Stars Appeal ticket sellers in the hospital's main entrance and the Stars Appeal Bookshop at the Hospital. Books of tickets are also available on request from the Stars Appeal office. Call 01722 429005 or email info@starsappeal.org.

More Men than Women!

Further details now available from the 2021 census reveal that Chilmark bucked the national trend, in having more men than women in the parish. The difference was marginal, as in just 12 more men out of a total population of 482, but still not typical of the picture across the whole country. The age distributions were also revealing, with 60 residents in the 0-17 age category, 302 of working age, ie between 18 and 64, and some 122 residents aged 64 and over.

The biggest age group within a 10-year band was the 50-59 years range with some 109 residents. Meanwhile, an impressive 30 villagers were 80 years or over. In terms of religious belief, 275 described themselves as Christian, while another 170 ticked the *No religion* box. Overall, the village population had shrunk by 0.85% since the previous census in 2011.





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The Village Voice

Wiltshire Police News

Herewith Wiltshire Chief Constable Catherine Roper's report to the Police & Crime Commissioner:

'Since taking on the role of Chief Constable earlier this year, I have received lots of feedback from our communities and teams within the Force that they want to see much more emphasis on providing visible, neighbourhood-focused policing.

I would like to devote this letter today to describing some of the exciting changes we're making in January 2024 that I believe will fundamentally improve the local policing service we are providing to our communities, achieve greater consistency in the way we deliver neighbourhood policing and create a stronger, more visible and more resilient local policing model.

Firstly, our 'Target Operating Model' review is looking at how we configure our frontline teams so we can ensure we have the right resources in the right place, at the right time, aligned to the demand for service we receive.

This has been a collective effort by a number of our teams and, over recent months, we have carried out extensive engagement with our Response Team Officers to agree a new shift pattern supported by a reduction in the number of hubs they start and end their shift from. This will provide much greater resilience in our resourcing levels and improve officer wellbeing, without compromising on response times or community visibility.

We've also looked at how we can make better use of our Control Room resources to reduce the level of demand placed on our Response Teams so that they can focus on responding to the public. Our Community Investigation teams are now managing more investigations, removing just under half the overall demand for investigations from Response teams. This work will make a huge difference and help improve our response service.

In line with the feedback I've received to strengthen our Neighbourhood Policing identity and approach, we are separating our Community Policing Teams into separate Response and Neighbourhood functions. Our Neighbourhood teams will continue to operate from their existing stations (which members of the public can see on our downloadable interactive map) and we are putting more resources into Neighbourhoods so that they can focus on being highly visible in our communities, working with them to address issues and concerns.

To ensure greater consistency in terms of the service our Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) provide to their communities, we are launching our Community Commitments in January. This will be a contract between us and the public, to outline what engagement our communities can expect from their Neighbourhood Policing Teams. It will enable our communities to hold our NPTs to account for the service they are receiving, and the delivery of them will be underpinned by a robust performance management process to ensure we are providing the most professional and consistent service all the time.

The funding you have provided to enable the purchase of two additional neighbourhood engagement vehicles will help us to double our existing fleet of these vehicles to four, which is fantastic. This will, in turn, improve the visibility of our NPTs within our communities and provide more opportunities for our communities (particularly those in rural or isolated areas) to engage with us. We know that the use of our existing vehicles across the county has been hugely successful, and we look forward to building

further on these positive opportunities. As from January, the public will be able to see where the vehicles will be by visiting the Your Area section of the Force website.

In January, we will also be raising awareness of all the ways the public can make contact with us, whether that be by accessing the vast range of services offered through our website, via our social media platforms, through our Community Messaging system, by going to the Your Area Neighbourhood Policing site, by visiting one of our front counters or, of course, by calling us on 101 in a non-emergency or 999 in an emergency.

I am looking forward to seeing these changes come to fruition, as I truly believe they will make a real difference to our communities. I will keep you updated as we move forward with these changes.

Catherine Roper
Chief Constable, Wiltshire Police

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Wiltshire Police – Team Contacts

Community Policing Team (CPT) for
Tisbury & Mere

Inspector Kevin Harmsworth

kevin.harmsworth@wiltshire.police.uk

Neighbourhood Sergeant, Matthew Roberts

matthew.roberts@wiltshire.police.uk

Neighbourhood Officer, PC Mike Obern

PCSO Stewart Hunt

Emergency: call 999

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