

THE VILLAGE VOICE

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

Crime Wave

Farm buildings and outbuildings in Chilmark have again been the target for night-time raids by burglars, p16. Please do ensure your sheds and garages are securely locked and, where possible, security cameras should be considered.

PC or PCC?

No, we're not talking about Political Correctness. In parishes across England, confusion is widespread about the difference between Parish Councils and Parochial Church Councils. In this issue we set out to explain the roles of both in Chilmark, p5 & 8.

Farewell Jan

We send our warmest wishes to Jan Cannons who is moving from her Chilmark home of 35 years to Wilton Place Care Home, Wilton, this week. Jan and her late husband Bob moved to Parsons Paddock, Salisbury Road, in 1989.

VV readership grows

While we print and deliver 215 copies of The Village Voice each month, its online popularity has continued to grow. The November 2023 issue saw the highest number of monthly 'hits' yet, with visits from some 492 individual IP addresses.

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Welcome to the February issue of The Village Voice



It was heartening to see pupils from Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School planting trees in Forbes Field during December. The seven Whitebeams form a plot to be known as the Coronation Grove, following last year's Coronation of the King. It is hoped the School will keep an interest in these trees and Forbes Field in years to come, p10.

Equally heartwarming was the terrific Xmas Carols Night in the Reading Room organised by the Black Dog Working Party (BDWP). The Reading Room has never looked better, and the event raised the fantastic sum of £1,000 towards the BDWP's costs in seeking ways to secure the pub's future under the Asset of Community Value listing. The deadline for submitting a bid to buy the pub was 24 January and we're delighted to report that an offer has now been submitted to the estate agent, p6.

Chilmark Parish Council's meeting on 10 January saw a bumper turnout of residents, with more than 30 villagers attending. This was the second well attended PC meeting in as many months. There were four key items of interest on the Agenda:

- an update from the BDWP's bid to buy the pub (as above)
- the latest on Chilmark School's plan to erect a 6ft high black metal fence around the School Playing Field at Claybush
- two controversial planning applications, including one by the Black Dog's current owner to fell a dozen protected Ash Trees in the pub garden
- the setting of the Parish Precept for 2024-25

The School's plans for new fencing around the Playing Field were the source of heated exchanges, particularly when it emerged the scheme included a lockable gate, denying villagers' access to the Playing Field, p4. Subsequent to the meeting, letters of protest were sent to the Parish Council about the School's plans. We understand the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education has assured the PC that planning advice is being sought from Wiltshire Council.

Eighteen letters of objection to the Black Dog tree felling plans have now been submitted to Wiltshire, including one from the Parish Council. The PC has also objected, along with residents, to a Lawful Development application submitted by the owner of Bevisfield, in Cow Drove. For more on these applications and the Precept setting, see p4.

Best wishes for a happy February and Leap Day (29 Feb)!
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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Directory

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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
Scottish & Southern Electricity	0800 0727282 Power Cut? dial 105 or visit www.powercut105.com
Tisbus	07500 802525 www.tisbus.co.uk
Tisbury Sports Centre	01747 871141 tisburyisc@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

		February Dates for your Diary	
Friday 2nd	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	Chilmark Reading Room (CRR)
Saturday 3rd	7 for 7.30pm	Reading Room Quiz & Supper	CRR
Tuesday 6th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR
Wednesday 7th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Friday 9th	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR
Sat 10-Wed 14th		Food Bank Collection	Chilmark Church
Saturday 10th	9am	Forbes Field Planting Day	Forbes Field
Monday 12th		Start of Half Term week	Chilmark School
Wednesday 14th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Wednesday 14th	10.30-12noon	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen	CRR
Tuesday 20th	2.55-3.20pm	Mobile Library	Hops Close
Tuesday 20th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR
Wednesday 21st	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Friday 23rd	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR
Wednesday 28th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Wednesday 28th	12 to 1.30pm	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen Lent Lunch	CRR
		March	
Friday 1st	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR
Tuesday 5th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR
Wednesday 6th	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	CRR
Saturday 9th	10am-12 noon	Churchyard Tidy Up	Chilmark Church

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



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Parish Council News

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

Chilmark Parish Council met on Wednesday 10 January, with more than 30 members of the public present.

The Black Dog

Catherine Potts gave an update on behalf of the Black Dog Working Party, explaining that an offer to buy the pub would be made in the coming days, ahead of the 24 January Asset of Community Value deadline. The group had been meeting weekly since September 2023 and its main aim was to keep the pub open as a pub, whether by purchasing it or finding people to buy it. The purchase offer would be for the whole plot. The proposed operating model for the pub would be to lease the business to a tenant. See p6.

School Playing Field

Head Teacher Adam Smith addressed the Parish Council about Chilmark School's plans to re-fence the Playing Field at Claybush with 1.8 metre black metal fencing. This controversial proposal had first emerged just before the November PC meeting, when fencing contractors were found to be at work on the site. Mr Smith apologised for the fact permission had not been sought for the new fencing around the school itself. He noted that this was a mistake on the part of the Salisbury Diocesan Board for Education (SDBE), which holds the land in trust for the Chilmark School. Retrospective permission for the School fencing had now been applied for, and granted by Wiltshire. However, he reiterated his opinion that permission was not required for the Playing Field re-fencing work and that the new fence would need to be to 1.8m high minimum for safeguarding purposes. This view was challenged by parish councillors and, under questioning, it emerged that the planned fencing would be gated and locked, preventing village access to the Field. Several nearby residents expressed their unhappiness that they had not been consulted about the proposed fencing, and concerns were raised about the future of the Playground on the Playing Field. It was agreed that the Parish Council would act as the central body of communication for trying to resolve the current deadlock. Residents were urged to inform the Parish Council of their views.

Frickers Paddock Playground

Further to previous queries about how much use the Playground was getting, Frickers Paddock resident Michaela Hawkins said there were now eight children under 10 living nearby and the Playground was flourishing whereas in the past it had been under-used. Her offer to monitor levels of usage and report back to the PC was warmly welcomed.

Parish Council Budget and Precept for 2024-25

Cllr Johan Denekamp presented the budget with a proposal for the PC to put aside £1,000 each year for the next 10 years towards the future re-equipping of Frickers Paddock Playground. With this in mind, plus the PC's likely expenditure for the coming year, the total sum to be budgeted for was approaching £12,500. After much discussion and noting that Chilmark's precept was historically smaller than other nearby parishes, it was agreed to increase the precept to £11,000 from the current rate of £9,600. This represents a 14.5% increase, ie £5.56 more per year for a Band D Council Tax payer.

Flooding update

Cllr Carl Jacobs reported that the village was definitely more resilient to flooding than in previous years following the purchase of additional flood prevention equipment. Some flooding had taken place in Frog Lane and Cllr Morag Philpott had been liaising with Wessex Water over the recent sewage flooding in the Street. The freeze following the flooding had led once again to icy conditions around the Cross, resulting in a car accident. Gritting was needed, and there was the possibility of organising a group of local volunteers to help with this. Looking ahead, more work was needed with Wessex to prevent infiltration of sewage into roads and watercourses.

Next Parish Council Meeting

This will be held on Wednesday 6 March, 7pm, in the Reading Room.

Latest Planning Applications / Decisions:

Ref: PL/2023/11191 – Consent under Trees

Preservation Orders

Black Dog Inn, Salisbury Road, Chilmark, SP3 5AH

12 Ash Trees, all require to be felled due to Ash dieback

Applicant: Future Holdings Ltd

Case Officer: Shane Verrion

Decision deadline: 22 February 2024

PC position: Object - This is an incomplete application. No tree surveys or replacement tree details have been included with the application. 12 ash trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are listed for removal due to Ash Die Back (ADB). However, 20 trees appear to be marked for removal on the only documentation with the application - a small site plan.

The trees are growing in the garden of the Grade 2 listed Black Dog Inn which sits within the village Conservation Area (CA) and the Cranborne Chase National Landscape (CCNL). This substantial tree loss would be detrimental to the CA and CCNL. A significant number of trees have already been removed from the site and no replacement trees have been planted.

There is no supporting evidence that these trees are in a state of ADB that warrants their removal on arboricultural grounds. If following a site visit by the Wiltshire Tree Officer, together with a detailed report from a professional tree surgeon, there is robust evidence that some trees do need to be removed then a detailed replanting plan is required which will benefit both the village conservation area and listed pub setting. Sufficient space must be reserved to ensure adequate replanting. Tree management is possible for Ash Die Back rather than removal - this should be investigated by a professional tree surgeon on behalf of the applicant.

Ref: PL/2023/10702 - Lawful Development - Existing Use

Barn at Bevisfield, Cow Drove, Chilmark, SP3 5AJ

Use of land and buildings for purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the adjacent residential property, Bevisfield.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs C Wolseley-Brinton

Case Officer: Becky Jones

Consultation deadline: 9 February 2024

PC Position – Object - The 3 buildings - a stable bock built in 2002, and 2 barns were granted planning permission in 2006 to be built for agricultural purposes. Chilmark Parish Council is objecting as the applicant has not been able to clearly demonstrate that the three buildings have been in continuous, uninterrupted use for the last 10 years for the purposes incidental to the enjoyment of the adjacent residential property. Mr David Williams (the previous property owner of Bevisfield) in his comments on the application is very clear that the land and buildings were

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used for their intended agricultural use, including in the 4-year period prior to the sale to the current owner in October 2017.

Ref: PL/2024/00419 - Removal/variation of conditions
Bevisfield, Cow Drove, Chilmark, SP3 5AJ
Vary Condition No 3 on PL/2022/00888 - to add an additional Dormer window (of the same design as those to each side) above the porch on the front (east) elevation (Proposed replacement dwelling (revised design) and erect detached garage).
Applicant: Mr & Mrs C Wolseley-Brinton
Case Officer: Hayley Clark
Consultation deadline: 15 February 2024
PC Position - tba

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
Decision: Approved with Conditions – 9 January 2024

Ref: PL/2023/10053 – Proposed Works to trees in conservation area
Brazier Cottage, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AP
Cherry tree - 30% crown reduction.
Portuguese Laurel - Remove.
Applicant: Mr A Thompson
Decision: No Objection – 8 January 2024

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
Decision: No Objection - 13 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
Decision: No Objection - 13 December 2023

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
Decision: Approved with Conditions: 30 November 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: 25 January 2024

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.

The work of a Parish Council

This month's issue includes a piece about the purpose and function of Chilmark's Parochial Church Council, more commonly known as the PCC, p8. The latter often gets confused with the PC so we thought it a timely moment to remind readers of the role of Chilmark Parish Council in village life.

A parish council is the first tier of local government in England. It is a corporate body that has variable tax raising powers through the annual parish precept. This money is used to improve facilities and services for local people, and additional grants and awards can be sought. The community interests of the residents are represented by elected or co-opted local Councillors. In Chilmark, parish council meetings are held bi-monthly in the Reading Room, and all residents of the parish (Chilmark & Ridge) are welcome to attend. Along with our seven Councillors, there is a Clerk who is also the Responsible Financial Officer and deals with the finance and the administration for the Council.

The Parish Council is invested with legal powers that permit it to carry out certain functions, such as the maintenance of the footpaths, provision of litter bins, and road safety matters. It has the power through Wiltshire Council to provide traffic signs, and report highway issues; the introduction of the 20mph speed limit in the centre of the village five years ago is one example. Other responsibilities include flooding, drainage, the clearance of parts of the winterbourne and village maintenance including care of the Millennium Cross.

Wiltshire Council Planning Department notifies the Parish Council of all planning applications for comment. As Chilmark lies within the Cranborne Chase National Landscape, there are stricter planning rules which apply. Work to trees in the conservation area are also subject to consideration by Wiltshire Council and comment by members of the Parish Council.

The Annual Assembly is held every May when a representative from each of the local organisations is invited to give a report on their activities and their involvement with the community. This precedes the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at which the chair and vice chair are appointed for the coming year. Parish Council elections take place every four years; they only become contested elections if there are more candidates than there are vacancies. The next PC elections in Chilmark will be in May 2025.

From Bridget Wayman, Wiltshire Councillor

Wiltshire Council Budget

The Council's budget has been published for 2024/25 and is proposing a 4.99% increase in Council Tax. Unlike many other councils, Wiltshire Council is not in a bad place financially, but is having to contend with continued high levels of inflation and a not very helpful financial settlement from government, although government funding accounts for approximately a ¼ of the budget; ¾ comes from Council Tax and business rates. Prudent financial management and a cost containment approach is key. At 4.99%, the Band D increase is £85.83. Capital expenditure will see £27m on highways structural maintenance and investment and an additional £1m is added to investing in highways flooding prevention.

Family Hubs

From April, Family Hubs will start across Wiltshire to give greater local community support and guidance for families and young people aged 0-19, or up to 25 for those with

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Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Locally, those hubs will operate from Mere and the Nadder Centre in Tisbury (also Salisbury Library and Five Rivers Leisure Centre) and each hub will have its own team to offer help to families that need it, and to signpost and link to other agencies, such as local schools and early years providers. Please use these hubs if you have any questions; they are there to help.

Drains/gullies and flooding

During the cold weather, many of our parish stewards double up as our gritter drivers. Once the cold weather is over, they resume their tasks helping to keep our highways clear and our parishes looking neat and tidy. They have a contact with the parish council who direct them towards various tasks, so if you are aware of an issue, please contact your parish council and they will forward it to the parish steward when he is next in the parish.

Some parishes have escaped flooding and some have not, but we can all help with ensuring the drain/gully covers are not blocked with leaves and other detritus to keep the water flowing off the roads. If you have a gully cover outside your house, please 'Adopt a Gully' and help by checking and removing any blockages. Blocked gullies can also be reported on the MyWilts App. Gullies do have a regular schedule of maintenance – annually for A & B class roads and where there is a danger of internal property flooding, the remainder being on a three yearly cycle. Wiltshire Council has introduced an additional 'Vector' unit that performs high pressure jetting. With over 80,000 gullies in the County, we need your help in identifying the problem gullies, so please report them.

Cranborne Chase National Landscape

You may know that Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been renamed as National Landscapes to reflect their importance on a par with National Parks. If you are interested in joining the Cranborne Chase National Landscape Annual Forum, it is on Wednesday 28 February from 10am-4pm at Dinton Village Hall. Please book a place on their website.

The purpose of National Landscapes is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area and S.85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act places a duty of all relevant authorities to have regard to that purpose. S.245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 strengthens that, so the duty now is: *must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape.*

Black Dog update

Firstly, thank you so much to everyone who came and supported the Chilmark Reading Room Carol Night on Saturday 23 December. We made £1,000 for The Black Dog Working Party to help raise funds to explore options to save the village pub. The evening was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Special thanks to everyone who helped make it happen on the night from decorating the Reading Room, donating raffle prizes, sausage rolls, and mince pies, as well as to all those who sang enthusiastically to carry on this village tradition of the last 20 years, since 2003.

The BDWP are in the thick of finalising the business plan, incorporating the Community Benefit Society and we submitted our offer on the pub, in its whole plot, to the owner on Friday 19 January via a phone call to the agent, followed up with a letter.



We intend to continue our social/fundraising events to help publicise our mission, encourage people to come and talk to us about our plans, and help us finance our expenses to date of £3,050 (Valuation, Plunkett Foundation Membership, Stock for events, Incorporation costs) so please look out for the next one and come along to show your support, or just for the craic!

The Black Dog Working Party



Huge thanks for the very generous contributions to the tombola, fresh produce stall and raffle at the Reading Room's Christmas Bazaar in December, and to the people who came to the festive and joyful village event. You helped us raise more than £2,000 towards the cost of repairs to the Reading Room roof and chimney.

As this goes to press we are looking forward to the annual Quiz Supper on Saturday 3 February, with quiz mistress Henrietta Cockrell's famously challenging questions (look out for the winning team in next month's Village Voice). Events for after Easter and the summer are still being planned but we do hope to host various village organisations for a Karaoke evening in early autumn.

There is a vacancy for the role of Secretary on the Reading Room Committee as Jenny Gavin steps down after 10 years. The responsibilities include:

1. Preparing the agenda for and taking minutes at committee meetings and the AGM.
2. Holding the Reading Room diary, taking bookings and sending out relevant paperwork.
3. Preparing invoices and collecting cash payments.
4. Preparing a quarterly spreadsheet of hire payments and cleaning costs.
5. Authorising bank payments.
6. Completing and submitting the Charity Commission's annual return.
7. Being a contact point for the Wiltshire Village Halls Association.

If you are interested in joining us, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Morag morag.philpott@btinternet.com for more information on the Reading Room Committee or Jenny jenny.gavin07@gmail.com for questions about the role.

Unfortunately, there is no parking available at the Reading Room. The small area in front of the hall can be used to drop people or equipment off but guests are reminded not to obstruct neighbouring driveways in any way. Cars may be parked on The Street but not close to The Cross as this would impede the Number 25 bus when it turns there.

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The next Reading Room Committee meeting will take place on Monday 15 April at 6pm.

Morag Philpott

Chilmark Coffee Kitchen

Chilmark Coffee Kitchen looks forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 14 and Wednesday 28 February. On 14 February we shall be holding our usual coffee morning with free coffee, tea and homemade cakes from 10.30am-12 noon in the Reading Room. Donations as always to Salisbury Trust for the Homeless will be gratefully received. On the 28 February we shall be holding the first of our customary Lent lunches where we shall be offering homemade soup, bread and accompaniments at the later time of 12 noon-1.30pm. Again, entry is free and everyone is welcome to pop in for lunch and a chat. This will be in aid of local disaster relief charity RE:ACT so please do try and come and support this excellent cause! Any queries, please contact Lynn Menzies:

01722 717925/angus.menzies1@btinternet.com

Lynn Menzies

Food Bank News

A Happy New Year and thank you for January's Food Bank donations, which weighed in at 123.2 Kilos. Salisbury Trussell Trust Food Bank were more than thrilled with the delivery. Food donations had dropped since Christmas, understandable as January historically is a lean time for all and the recent cold weather also impacted on the demand they have seen. So, many many thanks to you all for your generosity. Our next collection date will be Saturday 10 February to Wednesday 13 February; I will flag this up nearer the time with those items especially needed.

Angi Stoop

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported the 10th Anniversary of the Christmas Wreath Workshop in the Reading Room. There were 12 wreath makers in the afternoon and 22 in the evening. We raised £377 for Chilmark and Fonthill Primary School to buy an iPad. Sadly, they do not have enough for every child to have one in the IT lessons. We gave them one last year as well.

Someone left behind a large pair of scissors with pink and black handles which I have for safe keeping. Thank you to Fiona and Karen for all their help; I couldn't do it without you. Many thanks again to everyone and here's to December 2024!

Chrissie Eden

Chilmark Runners

There are a few keen amateur runners in the village who have mooted the idea of starting an inclusive running group - whether just for company, to share favourite routes or perhaps to take on a challenge together. All welcome, whether you're just venturing out or a seasoned runner! If interested, please contact Sam Moss

mr.sjmoss@gmail.com - or find us on social media:

@chilmarkrunners

Sam Moss



Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School

The girls from Elm Class played Wylve Valley in a football match just before Christmas in very difficult wet weather conditions. They put on an excellent performance and the game ended in a 2-2 draw.

The children have said a fond farewell to



Revd Dr Graham Southgate who has been leading collective worship assemblies at the school for many years. Graham has delighted the children with stories about his love of gardening and has shared his fondness of brussel sprouts! The children and school governors presented Graham with a number of gifts including a sprout cookery book and a seasonally decorated stalk. Graham has now taken up a new post as Rector of the Upper Stour and Maiden Bradley Benefice.

We are also supporting this year's Big Garden Birdwatch which is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. The school's Watch us Grow group have been doing some twitching in the playground, ahead of completing the survey.

Democracy in action

SouthWest Wiltshire Area Board is meeting in Wilton on Wednesday 28 February, 6.30-8.30pm, and is urging the public to attend. It's an opportunity to learn more about local issues up for discussion. The meeting will take place at the Wilton Community Centre, West Street, SP2 0DG. Doors open 6pm.

St Margaret of Antioch, Chilmark

Christmas Carols

Chilmark's candlelit Carol Service at St Margaret's was indeed a special occasion. Eight children from the village came together to rehearse and then sing beautifully with confidence at the service on Friday 22 December. We are hoping they will come together for the Mothering Sunday service on 10 March. Any enquiries to Felicity on 01722 716271.

Carol singing round the village on Saturday 23 December raised an excellent £168.67 for the Salisbury Trust for the Homeless. Our thanks to all who kindly and generously donated to this local cause.

Felicity Pattenden



Church Decorations at Christmas

We would like to send huge and grateful thanks to all who were involved with decorating the church so beautifully at Christmas; as ever it looked lovely, and your hard work is much appreciated. It goes without saying that the flowers that you all do during the year are enjoyed by many; thanks to you all. Every good wish for 2024, hoping and praying it will get more peaceful.

Janey Middleton and Stephanie Lucas

Churchyard Tidy Up

Please make a note of Saturday 9 March, 10am-12 noon, for the first Chilmark churchyard tidy of 2024, weather permitting. All helpers will be warmly welcomed. Please bring your own tools. Refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you.

For further information, contact Grant Philpott - grphilpott@yahoo.com

Chilmark Parochial Church Council - PCC

As previewed in the Dec/January VV, herewith the first in a series of articles about the upkeep and business of St Margaret's Church, Chilmark.

- What is the PCC for?
- What does it do?
- How is it currently formed?

The PCC should not be confused with the PC (Parish Council) – the latter is the lowest tier of local government in England which makes decisions on behalf of residents of the parish and has overall responsibility for the community's well-being. The PCC is a charity charged with governance of the parish church, including its administration and finance.

Administrative matters include keeping the church heated and lit and insured and in good order. This involves responsibility for the fabric of the building and managing the periodic inspection of the building known as the Quinquennial Inspection Report. The Quinquennial is a compulsory detailed building survey conducted every five years.

Financial matters include fund raising and the management of collections, donations and the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This is an automated giving scheme which accelerates delivery of the HMRC approved Gift aid/tax credits. The Treasurer is responsible for managing the income and expenditure of the church which nowadays means shepherding very limited resources and planning for the future. The expenditure covers the usual utility bills, insurance, grass cutting, churchyard maintenance, tree surgery, clock repair, and plumbing, to name but a few. All this needs to be paid from local resources. No income is received from the Salisbury Diocese.

The PCC officers are trustees of the charity and they have two distinct and equally important responsibilities. They must keep the church building in good standing (and pay the items above) and they are responsible for paying the Share to the Diocese. The Share is a system by which the Diocese collects money from over 400 Parishes in the Salisbury Diocese to pay primarily for the clergy who minister across those Parishes. The Share will be explained in more detail in a future article.

The current PCC members are the Revd Elaine Brightwell (Chair), Grant Philpott (Lay Chair), Johan Denekamp (Treasurer), Kathryn Mann, Lynn Menzies (Electoral Roll Officer), Sir Richard Packer (Secretary), Neil Pattenden (Fabric Officer), Felicity Pattenden and Peter Young. The PCC reports annually to the Parish or village at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The next APCM will be held in April 2024, date tbc. If you would like to get involved in PCC affairs, please contact any one of us.

Church Cleaning Thanks

I would like to thank Janet Whyte, who has recently retired from the cleaning rota, for her many years of service to the church. Also to thank other ladies who have recently joined our number.

Judith Barrett

February	Group
4th	two
11th	three
18th	four
25th	five
March	
3rd	six
10th	seven

Wholeness & Healing

We invite you to join us for our monthly time of prayer and contemplation, for yourself and for those whom you care about. A time to remember all those in difficulties or alone this winter - Wednesday 7 February, 3pm, in St Andrew's Chapel, St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury. Please note the date as we meet earlier this month, on the first Wednesday.

Children's Pancake Day Workshop

The Nadder Valley Team are holding a Pancake Day Workshop at Dinton Cricket Pavilion on Tuesday 13 February, 2.30-4.30pm. To book your child's spot (booking essential) please contact Revd Jo Naish on 01747 871820 or email: revdjoannanaish@gmail.com

TEAM CLERGY

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

Sacred Heart, Tisbury and All Saints' Wardour Parish - Parish Office 01747 870228
 Fr Anthony Paris - tisburyparish@cliftondiocese.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

Choir	Felicity Pattenden	fgpattenden@hotmail.com	01722 716271
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 – FEBRUARY 2024

Date	4 th February		11 th February		14 th February		18 th February		25 th February		3 rd March
SUNDAY	2nd before Lent		Next before Lent		Ash Wednesday		Lent 1		Lent 2		Lent 3
Southern Area											
ANSTY	–	–	1115 PC	JMH	–	–	–	–	1115 AAC	MH	
COMPTON	0930 PC _T	MH	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0930 PC _T
FOVANT	0800 HC _{O2T}	SE	–	–	–	–	–	–	0930 PC	EB	0800 HC _{O2T}
SUTTON	–	–	0930 M _{CW}	JA	–	–	1600 AAS	EB	–	–	1800 E _{BCP}
SWALLOW-CLIFFE	1115 PC _T	JMH	1800 E _{BCP}	JA	1100 HC+Ashing	MH	0800 HC _{BCP}	SE	1115 M _{BCP} and Baptism	LAY/JMH	1115 PC _T
Northern Area											
BARFORD	1115 AAC	MH	0930 M _{CW}	LAY	0930 HC+ Ashing	EB	0930 HC _{BCP}	EB	0930 AAC	MG	1115 AAC
BAVERSTOCK	0930 HC	MG	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CHILMARK	1115 AAC	EB	0930 AAS	EB	–	–	1115 AAC	MG	1115 MPr/M	LAY	1115 AAC
DINTON	0930 AAC and Baptism	EB	–	–	–	–	0930 AAC	CF	0930 M _{CW}	JA	0930 AAC
T. EVIAS	–	–	1115 AAC	EB	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
T. MAGNA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1115 AAC	EB	–
Western Area											
CHICKLADE	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
HINDON	0930 PC	JN	0930 AAC	JN	1100 HC+Ashing	JN	1800 E _{BCP}	JN	0930 PC	MH	0930 PC
FONTHILL BISHOP	1700 E _{BCP}	JMH	0800 HC _{BCP}	JMH	–	–	0930 M _{BCP}	JN	–	–	1700 E _{BCP}
FONTHILL GIFFORD	0800 HC _{BCP}	JMH	1115 M _{BCP}	JA	–	–	–	–	1115 M _{BCP}	JA	0800 HC _{BCP}
TISBURY	0930 AAS	JMH/JA	0930 PC	JMH	1000 HC + Ashing	JMH	0930 PC 1800 Choral E _{BCP}	JMH/JD JMH	0800 HC _{BCP} 0930 PC	JMH JMH	0930 AAS

BCP Book of Common Prayer CW Common Worship HC Holy Communion (said) PC Order 1 Communion (with hymns)
 PC_T Order 1 Communion, traditional language (with hymns) PC_{O2T} 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



Forbes Field

Over two grey winter days in December we planted no fewer than 36 trees of various species in Forbes Field. While the great majority were planted by volunteers during our sixth Field Day on Saturday 9

December, the remainder entered the ground the following Monday thanks to the children of Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop School.



Despite a dire forecast of heavy rain, our final Field Day of 2023 was well attended. 20 villagers, well supported by a team of five volunteers from the Chilmark-based charity RE:ACT, worked efficiently to plant a strip of moisture-loving 20 Black Poplars and White Willows along the damp northern edge of the field, while adding three new Mulberries and a couple of replacement trees to the Orchard, together with planting a pair of Oaks and other trees in the Half Moon Plot near the western boundary. All present were fortified by seasonal mulled wine and mince pies under our gazebo that tried to fly away in very strong gusts of wind.

The School day witnessed 10 enthusiastic Year 6 children beavering away to plant seven Whitebeams midway between the field entrance on Hops Close and the Orchard. This plot, known as the Coronation Grove, commemorates the crowning of King Charles III on 6 May 2023. We trust that the School will keep a close interest in 'their' trees over the years to come. To that effect, we will be engaging with the School Council.

Looking ahead to our next (the seventh) Field Day on Saturday 10 February we intend to plant 10 Cherry trees and some hedging along the eastern boundary of the Field with Hops Close, together with further hedging on the western boundary. All are welcome: do come along and join in – we meet at 9am. Expert advice on planting techniques will be given.

Later in the first half of the year we intend to erect information panels in the Field and to build a stone cairn at its highest point in the south-west corner to provide a fitting memorial to Diana Forbes, who donated her three-acre field to the village in 2008. All should be completed in time for our grand summer opening; details to follow.

Mungo Melvin

Hindon Surgery News

Happy New Year to all our community from Hindon Surgery. We would like to start by thanking you for the many gifts and cards we received and the lovely messages of thanks and support for the surgery. All the staff feel very valued by the community and enter 2024

striving to continue to provide an excellent service for you all.

British Empire Medallist (BEM)

The New Year has brought with it a much-deserved accolade for someone that many of you will not have met but most of you will unknowingly have benefited from her hard work behind the scenes. Our fantastic Practice Manager, Hilary Jenkins, has been recognised in the New Year Honours List and awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the community in Wiltshire, particularly during Covid-19 (Salisbury, Wiltshire). She came to work with us setting up the first COVID vaccination clinics in Wilton back in 2020 and then went on to support Fiona and Gareth as Practice Manager at Hindon Surgery since October 2021.



Hilary Jenkins BEM with Dr Fiona Dawe

Hilary has worked in the NHS for 20 years as a Practice Manager supporting many different practices in the local area during that time. This role is imperative to the functioning of GP practices and is often incredibly challenging and diverse in what they are asked to do (just this week I found her with a screwdriver in hand whilst simultaneously answering the phone AND solving an IT issue we had!). Despite having no space to call her own, desk hopping, or sometimes even working on the floor, she works tirelessly to continue to improve the service we provide and support all of the staff. Thank you, Mrs J – we could not do it without you!

Influenza Vaccinations

This is a final call out to anyone who is eligible for an annual flu vaccination to please make an appointment at the surgery. There are extremely high circulating levels of influenza in our community, and this is likely to continue well into 2024. A flu vaccination is an easy and safe way to decrease your risk of significant illness and maintain your independence over the winter period. In addition, we do have a small supply of flu vaccine left at the surgery and if any of our patients (who is not in an at-risk group) would like a flu vaccination, we would be happy to vaccinate you this year. This will be on a 'first come first served' basis until our stock is used up.

The Village Voice



Astronomy Notes

The bright starlike object high in the Southern sky is the giant planet Jupiter. It has four large moons which can easily be seen in a small telescope.

Following the articles for the November and December issues regarding the life of stars, we continue the theme. In the November article I wrote about Planetary Nebulae, ie what happens to small stars, like our sun, towards the end of their life. After the stars have expanded, and their nebulae have dispersed into the vastness of space, only small cores of the original stars remain. These cores are made up of carbon and oxygen surrounded by an outer layer of helium and there is no more fusion taking place. These are known as White Dwarf stars which are still exceedingly bright and hot. These will gradually cool down, over many billions of years, until they stop radiating energy and become almost invisible.

In the December issue I wrote about large stars - ie 15 and above times the mass of our Sun - that end their life in Supernova explosions. For stars which have a mass between 15 and 25 times the mass of our sun, the cores that remain are spinning Neutron stars, also known as Pulsars. They would have a mass of 1 to 1.3 times that of our Sun, all packed into a sphere of only 20 km in diameter. They are mostly made up of neutrons packed so closely together that a teaspoon full of it would weigh hundreds of thousands or perhaps millions of tons!

Stars that have an initial mass of more than 25 times that of our sun end up as *black holes*. This is because their mass density is so high and gravity so strong that light particles (photons) cannot escape, so there is just a volume in space that gives off no radiation or light. The outer limits of this is called *the event horizon*. These are known as *stellar black holes*. Out in the vastness of space there have recently been discovered some *super massive black holes* with masses billions of times that of our sun and with event horizons so large that they are several times the size of our Solar system.

Rod Greening

Diana Forbes – Chilmark Riding School

Following on from the late Diana Forbes' essays about Chilmark's landscape and wildlife in the last three Village Voice issues, we reproduce below her piece about Chilmark Riding School which she ran for children in the village for many years. As is known, Diana Forbes gifted what is now called Forbes Field – previously Kent's Hill Field or Three Acre Field – to the village on her death in July 2008, along with £2,000 towards its future upkeep. It was her wish that the field be used for ponies and children in the future. Under a longstanding arrangement, the Knight family – formerly of the Old Post Office – kept two ponies on the field and it was Diana's hope that this arrangement should be continued after her death. Accordingly, the Knights leased the field from the Parish

Council until the end of 2018, keeping the field in good order. The piece below was originally published in The Village Voice's forerunner, Church & Village, in July 2007.

Chilmark Riding School

In 1953 I came home from Germany after teaching a class of children whose fathers served in the army, keeping order in Germany after the war. I then worked on my friend's dairy farm in East Knoyle, milking Guernsey cows. I enjoyed getting them in from the field in the early morning, and helping to get them milked in time for the lorry which came early between 8am and 9am.

I had learnt to hand milk with Joy Williams on Charlie Wilkins' farm, in the war. After the war, my friend Jane Barrington Ward had been secretary on the Manor Farm, and she also helped to milk their herd of Guernsey cows. She taught me to machine milk there on Sunday afternoons. In the week I was teaching a class of local children in our home at Chilmark House.

At this time, I owned an ex-hunter, 10 years old, called Battle. He had been born at Battle in Sussex, where the Battle of Hastings was fought. A family lived at Dial House. There were two boys who owned a pony called Surprise, who lived in the little field at the back of the house. I used to take them in turns on Surprise with me when I rode Battle. When they left Chilmark, they wanted to sell Surprise, so I bought her as a companion for Battle, who lived with some heifers in my field. The heifers belonged to Peter Simmonds.

I then started to give riding lessons first to Stella and Tessa Flower and Malcolm Sutton who came to my little school. Surprise was rather cross and used to bite and kick people she didn't like. Malcolm used to hold her and tell her stories to keep her quiet while the others groomed her. The children rode in our old tennis court and also in the little enclosure round it, where they learned to canter. After practising in the field, we went for a walk and trot round the village. Then we'd unsaddle and put Surprise back in the field with Battle. In the winter we'd give them their hay.

Gay Trotman, the Rector's daughter, used to come with me and we'd go for quite a long ride on Saturday mornings. After a while more children wanted to learn to ride, so I bought Bluey, a little Welsh pony from Mrs Martin Fowler. She was too lively for her son, Graham. When still more children came, I got a New Forest pony who was also too much for the boy who owned him. I rode him myself and taught him to jump. He became very popular among the older children. I gave up my little school when my mother became quite old. The riders were easy to put off if she was unwell. However, she kept well and was looked after by Muriel Harding and Mrs Eva Trigwell, who were very good to her. So, the riding lessons went ahead. The children enjoyed learning to catch, groom and saddle the ponies and do their feet. After my mother died, I moved to Cheriton (at the top of Kent's Hill).

Once we appeared on television in a documentary about the Nadder Valley. The children were thrilled. As the years went by, we had gymkhanas, inviting children around with ponies to take part. We raised some money for charities. We also had pet shows when children brought rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and even insects. Once we had a dog show, which was great fun. My dog Patch won the jumping. I used to spend the summer making rosettes out of ribbon for the prize winners. The children were quite happy with these.

Diana Forbes

The Village Voice

Wiltshire libraries this February

There's lots on offer at Wiltshire libraries this February. As well as providing a vast range of books and eBooks, the libraries also provide events to improve your maths skills, resources to help you pass your driving theory test, 60 years of television history available to access online for free, and warm packs to support you during the winter. Warm packs contain a scarf, thermal hat and gloves, fleece blanket, hot water bottle and leaflet with advice and guidance if people are worried about money. Wiltshire libraries also act as warm spaces, providing a friendly welcome for people who need a space to keep warm. Libraries staff will offer support and advice such as hot drinks and energy advice.

All libraries have a wide range of maths themed books, eBooks, and audiobooks for people to explore and develop their skills or to help support their child with maths. Wiltshire Council library members who are learning to drive can use Theory Test Pro to practice for the driving theory test on their own devices at home, or on the library computers for free. Theory Test Pro provides a highly realistic online simulation of the UK's driving theory test. It contains the entire official test question bank, hazard perception video clips and an online version of the Highway Code. Library members can access the library online resources including Theory Test Pro, on the website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-home

Wiltshire residents who are not yet members of the library can join online or by visiting their local library. Tisbury Library at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury SP3 6HJ, is open 7 days a week: 7am-9pm Monday-Friday and 8am-1pm on Saturdays & Sundays, but closed on Bank Holidays.

Tisbury Bowls and Croquet Club

New members are actively being sought by Tisbury Bowls & Croquet club which offers one of the UK's fastest growing sports, right on your doorstep. Croquet is a delightfully sociable sport in which players of mixed experience and ability can play together as equals, meet new friends and enjoy from the outset some gentle competition that makes the experience so worthwhile. No special skills are needed and new players are pleasantly surprised at how quickly they are able to master the necessary basic skills.

Even with no previous experience you can expect to be playing the game on your very first visit; membership includes access to free coaching and advice. Use of all the Clubs' equipment and facilities is included in the £120 pa membership fee and there are no additional playing fees. Members of all ages are encouraged. The Club's comprehensive web site includes simple on-line booking options and has a wealth of additional information. If you are interested, email jenny.morley82@icloud.com who will be pleased to answer any questions and help you through the joining procedure.

www.tisburybowlsandcroquet.com

Tisbury Flower Group

Tisbury flower group will be welcoming Jude McCallin to their monthly meeting on Tuesday 27 February at 7pm in Hinton Hall, Tisbury. Jude has many years' experience of creating beautiful flower arrangements and extensive wedding flowers and will be presenting *A Day in the life of a Florist*. Visitors are always welcome, so come along to enjoy learning about flowers. We have many ways of enhancing your love of flowers through Demonstrations and Workshops. Learn a new skill and meet new people.

We meet on the last Tuesday of each month except December. For further information, please contact Bernadette Watson - 01747 228371 or blwatson4@gmail.com – or just come along. We look forward to seeing you.

Xmas Tree fundraising success

Salisbury Hospice Charity says all previous records have been broken with this year's Christmas Tree Collection & Recycling initiative, raising a fantastic £30,000. Some 1500 trees were collected over three days, with 33 vehicles collecting across the region. The initiative was a huge community effort involving the support of many volunteers. The money raised from the collection will support Salisbury Hospice, allowing patients to have dignity and choice in their final days, providing support to families, carers and friends, and ensuring that comfort and advice is given at every stage of the dying process.

Every year, Salisbury Hospice cares for up to 1,000 people living with life-limiting illnesses and its services are free of charge to everyone who uses them. Annually, Salisbury Hospice Charity needs to raise £1.5 million of the £2.9 million required - to maintain the vital palliative care services at the Hospice.

This year, Salisbury Hospice Charity will be donating 10% of profits raised to The Salisbury & South Wilts Scouts. In addition, the collection also helps the environment through giving the trees as food for alpacas and goats, or chipping them thanks to the efforts of several local tree services. Chippings are then used as mulch or reinforcement of footpaths across local farms. The Charity is extremely grateful to everyone who registered their tree for collection.



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The Village Voice

Recycling & Waste Collections

February 2024

- Tuesday 6** **Blue lid** – mixed dry recycling
Black box – glass & recycling
Green lid – chargeable garden waste
(no household compost)
- Wednesday 14** Household waste – **Grey bin**
- Tuesday 20** Blue lid, Black Box, Green lid
- Wednesday 28** Grey bin

What you **CAN** put in your **Blue-lidded bin**:

Paper & cardboard:

paper (any colour)
cardboard (any colour)
cereal boxes
greeting cards (without glitter)
corrugated cardboard
directories and catalogues
egg boxes
envelopes (no need to remove windows)
foil trays (scrunch as much of your foil together as possible)
food packaging boxes and sleeves
frozen/chilled pizza boxes
newspapers and magazines
ready meal sleeves
shoe boxes
toilet and kitchen rolls
wrapping paper, not foil-lined (check by scrunching it into a ball, if it doesn't bounce back it's ok)
No bubble wrap or polystyrene. Recycling should be clean and dry and wet cardboard may not be collected.

Plastics

Wash and rinse bottles and keep the lids on
bleach bottles
cooking oil bottles
drinks bottles
hand wash bottles
juice or squash bottles
laundry liquid and fabric conditioner bottles
milk and yoghurt drink bottles
plastic food trays - meat, fruit and vegetable trays (no black plastic or plastic film)
shampoo and conditioner bottles
upright 'pump' type toothpaste tubes
yoghurt pots, margarine tubs, ice cream tubs
washing up liquid bottles
No black plastics

Metals

Rinse out food cans, trays & foils
clean foil and trays
clean food tins
drinks cans
empty aerosols - make sure aerosols are depressurized (completely empty) otherwise they can explode when compacted
food and drink cartons
metal biscuit tins

Cartons

Rinse & squash all cartons
custard cartons
drink cartons
food cartons, eg passata, soup
milk cartons

What you **CANNOT** put in **Blue-lidded bin**

black plastic
small electrical items
cardboard contaminated with food, like takeaway pizza boxes
film lids from pots, tubs and trays
cling film
plastic bags - carrier bags, sandwich bags, freezer bags, bin liners
crisps or sweet packets
pet food pouches
disposable drinks cups and plastic straws
compostable plastics (including cups, trays, films, and cartons)
plastic packaging and polystyrene
plant pots (including black) - these can be taken to most household recycling centres or returned to garden centres for reuse
rigid plastic, like toys and garden furniture
boxes with plastic windows (please remove the window first)
foil-lined cardboard tubes, like Pringles tubes
dirty cans or tins - please rinse all recyclables first
Clinical / medical products
Batteries
scrap metal
books
textiles
plastic tubes (including toothpaste, hand cream tubes)
shredded paper
coffee pods

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

Garden Openings 2024

Fonthill House has announced its Garden Open Days dates for the coming year. The first Open Day of 2024 will be on Sunday 24 March, in aid of the National Garden Scheme. Then, on Sunday 28 April, the Gardens will open in aid of the local youth Charity, Seeds4Success. Finally, on Sunday 9 June, the Open Day will be raising money for the Atlantic Salmon Trust. The Garden Open Days provide a wonderful opportunity to visit these beautiful gardens at the different stages of Spring, with the daffodils at their best for the March opening.

Surrounding the house are the formal gardens with mixed planting of shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and annuals. There is a small selection of old and new sculptures including a water feature by William Pye. There is also an ornamental kitchen garden that not only supplies the house but also the shoot lunches throughout the season with a large selection of fruit and vegetables. North of the house are the woodland walks with azaleas, magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons, sweet chestnuts and tall majestic oaks, and an oak house made from young saplings.

The grounds of Fonthill Old Abbey will be open on Sunday 5 and Sunday 19 May 2024 in aid of Parkinson's Cure and local charities. Visitors (including dogs on leads) are invited to take a good hike or gentle stroll through the woods and around the lake. The bluebells should be at their best on 5 May and rhododendrons on 19 May. In the event of high winds, if Stourhead (National Trust) closes, then the Fonthill grounds will also close. Please check the Stourhead website.



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The Village Voice

Wiltshire Police News

Farms and farm buildings in Chilmark and Teffont were subject to a serious spate of night-times break-ins during mid-January. Security cameras caught balaclava'd men breaking into premises before smashing the cameras. Thousands of pounds worth of equipment was stolen. In other incidents, padlocks on gates have been repeatedly broken off; bags of wheat worth just a few pounds stolen from gamekeepers' sheds, and handbags stolen from cars. Farms across the area have had quad bikes and utility vehicles stolen. Regrettably, Wiltshire Police have not made any crime reports available for this period.

Police & Crime Commissioner's February update

My commitment has been to invest in mobile police stations so that our rural communities receive the same level of service; improve Melksham Custody so it is fit-for-purpose and the future; invest in training facilities to provide an exemplary environment to equip our police officers to keep you safe, and to challenge the force consistently to provide a quality service to residents, regardless of location.

All of this is underpinned by the importance of investment in police *estate* to support the delivery of a policing service I know our residents want and deserve. My newly-launched Estates Strategy sets out this vision. I believe Wiltshire Police will be better equipped to provide the policing service our communities want if they have the infrastructure which supports them to respond more effectively and efficiently.

The strategy ensures we have well-placed police stations and hubs providing a base for our staff to work more smartly, adapt to changing crime and, more importantly, ensuring that not only will communities be safe but they will start to feel safer too. You can read the full strategy on my website:

www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

Philip Wilkinson

Christmas Drink and Drug Drive campaign

More than 100 drivers were investigated during Wiltshire's Christmas Drink and Drug Drive campaign, launched on 1 December 2023. During the month, a total of 108 drivers were investigated. Of these, 94 were arrested. These arrests came either as a result of officers proactively stopping vehicles after observing poor driving, reports from members of the public or minor collisions where the drivers were signed off fit to detain by the ambulance service. Some 14 of the drivers were dealt with outside of arrest due to being involved in serious collisions which involved hospital processes.

Dogs on Leads near Livestock

On average Wiltshire Police receives two reports each month of dogs chasing, injuring or killing sheep and other livestock. We believe this to be under-reported and national figures show that attacks are on the increase. A survey by NFU Mutual with 1100 dog owners showed that 66% allow their pets to roam freely off-lead in the countryside, yet 39% admit their dogs do not come back to them when called, and 64% admit their pets chase livestock. These are shocking statistics and of great concern to the farming community. Wiltshire Police would like to remind people who may be out and about enjoying the wonderful Wiltshire countryside with dogs that it is a sensible precaution to keep them on a lead when livestock are nearby. Almost half (46%) of dog owners in the survey think that their dog would not attack or chase livestock until it happens, and by then it is too late.

Livestock worrying is when a dog attacks or chases livestock on agricultural land or is at large in a field with sheep or other livestock. This can result in significant injury or suffering and, in the worst cases, death of the animals involved, having devastating consequences for livestock keepers and causing personal distress as well as significant financial costs. It is a criminal offence and can mean the dog owner could face prosecution and a fine of up to £1000 in the most serious case.

The NFU Mutual survey puts the south-west region as having the second highest cost to livestock owners in England at an estimated £273,000 in 2022. With the national rise in the number of cases Chief Constable Catherine Roper said: *I am asking dog owners to please be considerate of those farming the land and thereby making sure that they keep their pets securely on a lead when they are walking anywhere near farm animals.*

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Wiltshire Police – Team Contacts

Community Policing Team (CPT) for Tisbury & Mere

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Neighbourhood Sergeant, Matthew Roberts

matthew.roberts@wiltshire.police.uk

Neighbourhood Officer, PC Mike Obern

PCSO Stewart Hunt

Emergency: call 999

Non-urgent crimes/idents: call 101

or report online at www.wiltshire.police.uk



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The Village Voice

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