

THE VILLAGE VOICE

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

Cricket Club AGM

The CCC AGM will take place on Sunday 3 March, 7pm, in Chilmark Reading Room. All welcome to attend.

Horticultural Society AGM

The Chilmark Horticultural Society Annual General Meeting will be held in the Reading Room on Tuesday 12 March at 7.30pm. Items under discussion will include the forthcoming events calendar in 2024. Everybody is welcome and there will be light refreshments.

New VV Treasurer

We welcome Susan Lewis, of Cow Drove, Chilmark, as the new Treasurer of The Village Voice following the retirement of Mike Scott after more than eight years of sterling service in the role. Mike will remain on the VV committee until the next AGM (Autumn 2024). Anyone interested in advertising in The Village Voice should in future contact Susan, on: treasurer@chilmarkvillagevoice.co.uk

Village Voice emails

Should you wish to be added to the Village Voice weekly email list, please contact Sarah Miller on: editor@chilmarkvillagevoice.co.uk - all emails are blind-copied and no addresses are shared without prior consent.

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Welcome to the March issue of The Village Voice



The start of Spring is accompanied by a busy Chilmark diary this month with AGMs, a Churchyard Tidy, a St Patrick's Day Pop Up Pub in the Reading Room and a Lent Lunch, to mention but a few, p3. Preparations are already underway for the start of the cricket season and it's exciting to learn that the Chilmark Cricket Club *junior programme* is back after a 10-year break; let's hope we can look forward to the emergence of some star CCC players of the future, p7.

It was disappointing, but not entirely surprising, to learn that the Black Dog Working Party's offer to buy the pub – under the Asset of Community Value scheme - was rejected by the owner Mr Bob Jones. Now the village awaits the outcome of Mr Jones' planning application to fell 12 Ash trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders, p4 & 5. Also awaited

is news on whether Chilmark School / the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education are required to submit a planning application to Wiltshire for the proposed 6ft high metal fencing around the Playing Field at Claybush, p4.

Congratulations to the Reading Room committee for another popular and successful Quiz Night, p5, and also to Angi Stoop for her brilliant work as Chilmark's Food Bank Coordinator - this month's contributions from Chilmark earned particular thanks from the Salisbury Trussell Trust Foodbank, p6.

Our thanks go to the PCC (Parochial Church Council) for providing a helpful explanation of the finances of Chilmark Church, p8, and also to Rod Greening for another fascinating piece on the workings of our Dark Skies – this month's Astronomy Notes explain the science behind solar eclipses, p10. This issue also features extracts from histories of Chilmark compiled in the early 1960s, including some remarkable insights into village life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Spoiler alert: watch out violent husbands, p13!

With spring bulbs bursting into flower, Fonthill House Gardens are sure to look their best on the first Open Gardens Day of the year on Sunday 24 March, p12. Prior to that, Chilmark Parish Council meets on Wednesday 6 March, with plenty of items on the Agenda up for discussion. As ever, members of the public are welcome to attend, p4.

We wish you a happy start to Spring.

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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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

		March Dates for your Diary	
Friday 1st	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	Chilmark Reading Room (CRR)
Sunday 3rd	7pm	Chilmark Cricket Club AGM	CRR
Tuesday 5th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR
Wednesday 6th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Wednesday 6th	10.30-12noon	Chilmark Coffee Kitchen	CRR
Wednesday 6th	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	CRR
Friday 8th	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR
Sat 9 - Wed 13th	9am-5pm	Food Bank Collection	Chilmark Church
Saturday 9th	10am-12noon	Churchyard Tidy	Chilmark Church
Tuesday 12th	7.30pm	Chilmark Horticultural Society AGM	CRR
Wednesday 13th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Friday 15th	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR
Saturday 16th	7pm	St Patrick's Day PopUp Pub	CRR
Tuesday 19th	2.55-3.20pm	Mobile Library	Hops Close
Tuesday 19th	7pm	Social Stitchers	CRR
Wednesday 20th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Friday 22nd	10.30am	Art Group Life Drawing	CRR
Sunday 24th	12noon-5pm	Fonthill House Open Gardens	Fonthill House SP3 5SA
Wednesday 27th	9am	Kettlercise Class	CRR
Wednesday 27th	12-1.30pm	Coffee Kitchen Lent Lunch	CRR
Thursday 28th		Last Day of Easter Term	Chilmark School
Friday 29th	5pm	Good Friday Service	Chilmark Church
Sunday 31st	11.15am	Easter Sunday Service	Chilmark Church

Activities Contacts:

Social Stitchers - Emily Wilkins 07523 131630

Art Group - Rose Chapman 01722 716502 - rosechapmaneva@gmail.com

Reading Group - Sally Butcher 01722 716387 - odneyo@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

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info@comptonmcræ.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 will meet on Wednesday 6 March, 7pm, in the Reading Room. As always, members of the public are welcome to attend, and questions of village interest can be raised in the Public Forum at the start of the meeting.

School Playing Field

As this issue went to press, the PC was awaiting an update from Chilmark School and the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) as to whether Wiltshire Council would require a planning application for the proposed Playing Field fencing.

Latest Planning Applications / Decisions:

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
Decision: Approved with conditions, 30 January 2024

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
Further to the PC's Objection to this application the Tree Officer has visited the site and will be requesting a tree surgeon's report and more information from the applicant. In addition to the PC's Objection, a further 20 letters of objection from residents have been lodged with Wiltshire.

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
Decision deadline: 28 February 2024
PC Position: an Objection has been lodged with Wiltshire, along with 5 additional letters of objection from residents.

Ref: PL/2024/00797 – Proposed works to trees in Conservation Area
Winterbourne House, The Street, Chilmark, SP3 5AU
1 - Robinia tree - cut back branches overhanging into Laburnum Cottage to boundary
2 - Conifer tree - cut back branches overhanging into Laburnum Cottage to boundary
3 - Alder tree - cut back branches overhanging into Laburnum Cottage to boundary
Applicant: Mr Nick Webb
Case Officer: Sue Morgan
Decision deadline: 28 February 2024
PC Position: No Objection

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
Decision deadline: 12 March 2024
PC Position: No Objection

Ref: PL/2023/10721 – Full Planning Permission
Pasture Land North of Stockley Wood, Stockley Wood, Ridge
Works to create a wetland habitat for biodiversity and environmental benefit.
Applicant: Fonthill Farms
Case Officer: Julie Mitchell
Decision deadline: 23 April 2024
PC Position: No Objection

Ref: PL/2024/00466 – Removal/variation of conditions
Manor Farm, Chilmark, SP3 5AF
Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) on PL/2023/00101 to allow for external changes to the building and works within the surrounding application site.
Applicant: Callen-Lenz Associates Ltd
Case Officer: Hayley Clark
Decision deadline: 25 April 2024
PC Position: No Objection

Ref: PL/2024/02021 - Proposed Works to Trees in Conservation Area
St Margaret of Antioch, Barberry, Chilmark, SP3 5AR
Cherry Tree – remove branches on lower part of the tree on both sides to maintain balance.
Applicant: St Margaret of Antioch Church
Case Officer: Beverley Griffin
Consultation deadline: 18 March 2024
PC Position: tba

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.

Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group
One of the responsibilities of the Parish Council (PC) is to be aware of Wiltshire Council's initiatives and processes - especially where these could benefit Chilmark and Ridge - and to attend various meetings and workshops. For example, the PC is invited to the South West Wiltshire (SWW) meetings of the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG). This is a sub-group of Wiltshire Council's SWW Area Board, with a discretionary budget to fund projects such as traffic management measures, speed limits, new road markings, waiting restrictions, traffic signage, pedestrian improvements and drainage.

Any individual can raise a local transport issue by submitting a Highways Improvement Request form (found on the Wiltshire Council website) to their Parish Council. After approval by the PC the request is passed to the LHFIG for consideration. If this is supported at the meeting the LHFIG agrees to fund up to 75% of the project (whilst the PC pays the rest) and submits the recommendation to the Area Board for approval.

Recent projects carried out in Chilmark include the implementation of a 20mph speed restriction zone in the centre of the village, the installation of a *Blind Summit* warning sign on the Tisbury Road and the provision of *Unsuitable for HGV* signs on Hindon Lane, Dog Drove, Ladder Lane and The Hollow.

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At the most recent meeting the SWW engineer explained that several agreed projects have been delayed because their contractor has been dealing with winter maintenance and flooding issues. However, it is hoped that the two outstanding projects in Chilmark, approved in 2022, will be completed in March 2024. These are the 'Slow' marking on the Tisbury Road near Rock Cottage, and the extension of the *no parking* white line from the bus stop on The Street to The Cross.

The SWW engineer also reported that road resurfacing has been made a priority in the allocation of additional funding received by the Highways Department. The number of potholes remains very high but the hot material gangs filling the most critical potholes are having some success in meeting targets. **Morag Philpott**



Black Dog update

The questionnaire kindly completed by the community was the initial step we had to take to gain consensus that Chilmark and surrounding villages saw the Black Dog Inn as a community asset. This was proven with the large number of responses we received. Thank you. This information allowed us to apply to the Plunkett Foundation for help. Since the application was submitted we have been supported with a business advisor. We have also joined the Plunkett Foundation at a cost of £200 plus VAT. As a group we have attempted to meet weekly at the Reading Room in Chilmark. This was supported and paid for by the Parish Council in 2023 with a PC observer. Our next and vital step was to appoint a valuer at a cost of circa £3,000. This was completed in November 2023. We also had our first fund raising event held at the Reading Room for Sophie's Christmas Carols where we raised £1,000 and were very thankful for the support.

Members of the working party attended the Parish Council meeting on 10 January to give the village an update on progress so far. The deadline to submit our bid to the owner of the Black Dog Inn was 24 January 2024. We put in an offer for the pub including all the land/plot on the 19 January and this was rejected on 22 January.

In the meantime, there has been an application from the owner of the Black Dog to fell 12 trees due to Ash Dieback. The closing date for comments was 26 January 2024 and there were more than 20 objections logged. The decision deadline was 22 February 2024. We await the decision.

Next steps for the working party are to:

1. complete the business plan which is in draft format
2. complete the expression of interest form for the community ownership fund grant.

In the meantime, we will be hosting fund raising events in the Reading Room. Our next one is on Saturday 16 March with a St Patrick's Day themed *pub night* with Irish songs. Hopefully we will see you there.

The Black Dog Working Party



Many congratulations to the winners of the Reading Room Quiz Supper in February, Felicity and Neil Pattenden, Bev and Angus Small, and Eddie and Peter Young. Quiz mistress Henrietta Cockrell called her most challenging quiz yet but judging by the great atmosphere the other six teams were having a good time too. We were able to raise funds for our latest maintenance projects, the flat roof over the porch and the chimney stack, so many thanks to all the participants and to the committee members who contributed to the success of the event.

We would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining the Reading Room Committee in the role of Secretary. It involves attending five meetings a year and taking the minutes, being in charge of the Reading Room bookings diary, preparing and paying invoices plus other online paperwork. For questions about the role please contact Jenny Gavin at jenny.gavin07@gmail.com or, for questions about the committee, please contact Morag: morag.philpott@btinternet.com

The next Reading Room Committee meeting will be on Monday 15 April at 6pm. **Morag Philpott**



The quiz winners

Chilmark Coffee Kitchen

Chilmark Coffee Kitchen will be open twice this month with the first meeting a week earlier than usual: Wednesday 6 March 10.30am-12 noon in the Reading Room. It will follow the usual format of coffee, tea and homemade cakes all free of charge, but with the opportunity to donate to Salisbury Trust for the Homeless. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the company of friends and neighbours; if you are new to the village it is a great way of getting to know people - please do pop in!

On Wednesday 27 March we shall be holding the second of our Lent lunches, again in the Reading Room, at the later time of 12 noon-1.30pm, this time in aid of the

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Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Soup, bread, cheese and accompaniments will be served; everything is free but donations to the Air Ambulance will be gratefully received. Please do come along and support this worthy cause; any one of us may need their services at any time and the charity relies heavily on voluntary donations.

If you would like to help by making soup or have any queries, please contact Lynn Menzies: 01722 717925 or angus.menzies1@btinternet.com

Lynn Menzies

Food Bank Collection

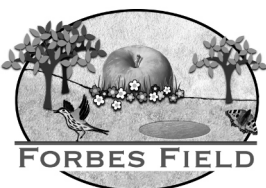
Things were a little different for the February Food Bank collection from Chilmark. The first thing to say is a great big thank you to all for collecting a grand total of 157.9kg (up by 35kg on the January collection). This breaks down into providing around 108 healthy nutritious meals as each box on average contains 13kg. This supplies a needy person three well-balanced meals a day for three days.

I simply cannot stress enough what a difference our village collection is making, especially as general donations to the Food Bank have fallen since Christmas. Our 12 crates were welcomed with open arms, and I quote: *what kind people you are from Chilmark.*



What has changed is that the Salisbury Trussell Trust Food bank have offered to collect from us each month as they do a weekly round-trip which passes very close to Chilmark. The first collection took place in February (see pic). I cannot deny that this makes a big difference to me as the load was rather heavy for my little Skoda! This coming month's collection dates are from Saturday 9 March to Wednesday 13 March, 9am-5pm, by the Font in Chilmark Church.

Angi Stoop



Forbes Field - latest planting

Saturday 10 February was our seventh big planting day in Forbes Field. Under sunny skies, 20 cheery volunteers planted 10 Bird Cherry trees (*Prunus padus*) and one Apple tree, together with 85 metres or

so of mixed hedging including Blackthorn, Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Hawthorn, Hornbeam and Spindle – involving the insertion of over 350 whips. In addition, 10 giant molehills of spoil left over from the planting of the

northern strip of Black Poplars and White Willows last December were removed, much tidying up the appearance of the Field.



Looking ahead, the Forbes Field Management Group (FFMG) is now designing the interpretation panels that will inform visitors as to the history of Forbes Field, describe the present project, outline its fauna and flora, and give details of the various tree plots, including the Community Orchard. In close liaison with the family of Diana Forbes, we are also arranging the erection of a stone cairn monument to Diana, which will bless the highest point of the Field at its south-western corner.

In the meantime, do come and visit the Field and see what has been achieved over the past two years. But please keep any dogs on a lead and make sure that all litter and any dog mess is picked up and taken away. In the coming months, a rubbish bin will be placed near the entrance to the Field. Also, do check out our website - www.forbesfield.org - which contains a dozen various reports and stories on the Forbes Field project.

Finally, we are planning on holding an opening event on Saturday 7 September. Please put this date into your diary. Details to follow.

Mungo Melvin



Chilmark & Fonthill Bishop School

Thank you for supporting our clothing bank outside the school. We are pleased to let you know the Friends of Chilmark School have raised the sum of £369.20 from your donations over the past year. Did you know an average person throws away 81 pounds (lbs) of clothing each year which adds up to 3.8 billion lbs of unnecessary

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waste added to our landfills! If you are having a spring clear-out, please remember this great local facility.



Before half term it was lovely to welcome Emily Wilkins, from the Chilmark Social Stitchers, to officially unveil the beautiful lectern cloth they kindly designed and made for us. It will be a very welcome part of our collective worship and celebration assemblies.

It was a busy assembly as we were also joined by Martin Wallis, from Fovant Parish Council, to present a prize to Sasha who had designed an eye-catching poster for the recent road safety completion. All the children who entered received a certificate and Sasha's winning design will be on display in Fovant to deter speeding motorists.

SAVE THE BLACK DOG INN

Saint
PATRICK'S DAY

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 7PM

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us at Chilmark Reading Room to raise funds for The Black Dog Working Party.

POP UP PUB - IRISH MUSIC

WEAR GREEN FOR A PRIZE

For more information contact savetheblackdog@outlook.com

Chilmark Cricket Club



The Chilmark Cricket Club AGM will be held on Sunday 3 March 2024 at 7pm in the Reading Room. All welcome.

Meanwhile, it's that time of year again. The daffodils are out, Paul Butler is fuelling-up his strimmer army, and cricketers throughout the village are checking their kit bags for spiders. Yes, it's the pre-season. That humbling time when Christmas indulgences are measured by the fit of spring clothing.

For Chilmark CC this particular pre-season brings news that bodes well for the future: after a 10-year sabbatical, the junior programme is back. Youngsters from far and wide will once again have the chance to play on the hallowed Cleaves Farm grass, and make the senior players feel terribly old as they do. The previous incarnation of Chilmark CC juniors saw a number of gangly local prospects catch the bug and go on to great things. Jack Stearman and Zoe Howell have both represented Wiltshire, while Max Allen sits third in both Chilmark's all time run and wickets lists. Importantly, all those involved back in the day, talk of how enjoyable the experience was. And it's that which we're hoping to emulate again. Crucially, previous Chilmark juniors coach extraordinaire Jez Howell is back on board, while Hannah Trent will be handling admin. The sessions will take place on Sunday mornings from 10 to 11am starting 1 June and will continue for 8 weeks. The cost is £45 for the season and the sessions are suitable for boys and girls of all abilities aged 8 to 11 (school years 4, 5 and 6). For more details or to sign your child up, contact Hannah by email: hannah.trent@hotmail.com

For the adults (or bigger kids) now is the time for anyone new to the area, or anyone who has been thinking about joining for a few years, to put their hand up. The level of play is very (how to put this kindly) village. Games are as much social as they are competitive. We don't play in a league or for any greater glory than the opportunity to brag about our achievements in the (often elongated) post game debrief. It's friendly cricket, with the emphasis on the friendly (unless we're playing Dinton). So if you've ever played, or would like to try, please get in contact. We have around 20 games scheduled from late April through to early September, against opposition from all around the region, along with a few touring teams. Even if you can only play two to three games, you'll be a welcome addition. It's a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon and we have a beer fridge. Contact Carl: cjacobos@aol.com

Please also be reminded of our club shop where you can buy CCC clothing ahead of the upcoming season - www.customkit.com/collections/chilmark-cricket-club-online-store

Brand King



St Margaret of Antioch, Chilmark

Churchyard Tidy Up

A reminder of the first Chilmark churchyard tidy of 2024, **Saturday 9 March**, 10am-12 noon. 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



Easter Services in Chilmark

The **Good Friday** service on 29 March will take place at 5pm and be led by the Revd Elaine Brightwell.

The **Easter Sunday** service on 31 March will take place at 11.15am and be led by the Revd Jo Naish.

PCC Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is set to take place in St Margaret's on Sunday 12 May, immediately after the 11.15am morning service. All are welcome to attend and hear a summary of the Parochial Church Council's activities over the preceding year. The PCC has recently decided no longer to publish the Minutes of its quarterly meetings so this is the one opportunity of the year to learn what has been happening during the Church year. Meanwhile, the PCC encourages those with an interest in its affairs to become members. There has been a Church Warden vacancy since the departure of Richard Haupt from the village in autumn 2021. For more information about joining the PCC, please contact its chair, the Revd Elaine Brightwell: elainebri57@gmail.com

Chilmark Church Finances

St Margaret's Church is funded entirely locally. No funds are received from the Salisbury Diocese but our church is required to send money to the Diocese to help pay for Ministry (the Share). We have two important responsibilities as a Parochial Church Council (PCC). They are:

1. to keep the church running and in good standing – those costs are paid from the *Fabric* account;
2. to pay Share and other expenses to cover the costs of the ministry and mission of the church – paid from the *General* account.

Most of our income comes from Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) donations and the plate collections made at each service. We receive tax relief on both of these and PGS tax relief is automatic. As Treasurer, I ask each PGS donor how they would like to see their monies allocated. I aggregate those requests to determine where our PGS donations are allocated. The aggregation was 80% Fabric, 20% General in 2023. Collection income, and tax relief on it, however, all goes to the General account.

For *General*, in 2023, we raised £14,314 and spent £14,259. Reserves carried forward were £13,415. We were able to manage this situation tightly only because we reduced the Share paid to the Diocese. For 2023 our Share request was £19,560 but we felt able to pay only £9,000. This Share shortfall is not without controversy and is obviously very unwelcome at the Diocese. More on Diocese finances in my next article.

In 2023 we raised £17,581 for *Fabric* and spent £12,630, finishing the year with a surplus of £4,951. At 31 December 2023 we had £22,480 in Fabric Reserves. Whilst we have quite good reserves in Fabric, we have just received the Quinquennial (QQ) report and have budgeted to spend £28,550 mainly on repairs in 2024. This will probably result in a shortfall of £12,900 in 2024. Our Fabric reserves will likely fall to around £9,500 by 31 December 2024. By way of context, the total recommended remedial work in the latest QQ report comes to £124,020.

One final point to mention is that we set up a *Friends of Chilmark Church fund* in 2021 to try to transform the look and feel of the church. Initially we had considered a kitchen and loo. Those initial ideas have been shelved but the fund remains and will be used for other transformational expenditure. That fund holds £31,514 at 31 December 2023.

Johan Denekamp

Healing Service

Come and join us for a time of quietness and space to find *Wholeness and Healing*. We invite you to join us for our monthly time of prayer and contemplation - and so to pray for yourself and for those whom you care about in difficulty. Wednesday 13 March, 6pm, in St Andrew's Chapel, St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury. Please note we meet at the later Spring hour!

Revd Mark Hayter

Church Cleaning Rota 2024

If you feel you are able to help / join the Rota, please ring me on 01722 716675.

Many thanks, **Judith Barrett**

March	Group
3rd	six
10th	seven
17th	eight
24th	nine
31st	ten
April	
7th	one

The Village Voice

Tisbury Surgery News

Pharmacy First Project

You may have seen recent publicity from NHS England advising that pharmacies can now assess and treat patients for seven conditions without the need for a prescription or a GP appointment. These conditions are:

- Sinusitis
- Sore throat
- Earache
- Infected insect bite
- Impetigo
- Shingles
- Uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women (under the age of 65)

As is often the case, detail is somewhat lacking but Boots in Tisbury has signed up to deliver this service and the pharmacist has confirmed he will be pleased to see patients presenting with these conditions.

Vaccinations

Please do attend the surgery for vaccinations if invited to do so.

Measles

NHS England will be writing to parents of 6-11 year olds who have either not been vaccinated or only partially vaccinated against measles. If unsure of your child's vaccination status, please ring the surgery.

Whooping Cough

A reminder to pregnant women to have this vaccination which helps to protect the unborn child.

Shingles

A course of shingles vaccines is available for:

- people who turned 65 on or after 1 September 2023
- people aged 70 to 79 who have not yet been vaccinated
- people aged 50 and over with a severely weakened immune system

The vaccine helps reduce your risk of getting shingles and if you get shingles after being vaccinated, the symptoms can be much milder. You can get shingles more than once, so it's important to get vaccinated even if you've had shingles before.

Dr Adam Smith



Astronomy Notes

Solar Eclipse – Thursday 8 April 2024

This one will only be visible from Mexico, USA and Canada (see YouTube and Wikipedia for the actual shadow path details). An eclipse occurs when the Moon is directly in line between the Earth and the Sun. It occurs when the apparent disc of the Moon covers the apparent disc of the Sun during the day. The Moon orbits the Earth every 28 days, that's about 13 times a year. So why don't we get 13 eclipses? This is because the orbital plane of the Moon around the Earth is tilted at about 17 degrees to

the orbital plane of the Earth orbit around the Sun. It is only when the Moon's position in its orbit coincides with the Earth's orbital plane that we get the Moon's shadow falling into the Earth's surface. At all other times, the Moon's shadow is either above or below the Earth's poles.

There are three types of solar eclipses - *Total*, *Annular* and *Partial*:

- *Total* is when the apparent size of the Moon's disc is the same size or larger than the Sun's disc
- *Annular* is when the apparent size of the Moon's disc is smaller than the Sun's apparent disc
- *Partial* occurs when the Moon is just above or below the Earth's orbital plane so that not all of its shadow covers the Earth.

Why does the apparent size of the Moon's or Sun's disc vary in size? The reason is that the Earth's and Moon's orbits are not circular but elliptical. During January, the Earth is nearer to the Sun than in June by about 3 million miles over a mean distance to the Sun of 93 million miles. So, in June, the Sun's apparent disc is smaller than it is in January. Likewise, the Moon's apparent disc size also varies because its distance from the Earth varies by 27,000 miles over a mean distance of about 238,000 miles.

If you get a chance to see an eclipse it is definitely worth the effort. I have only once seen one and that was in Germany in 2003 and I was very impressed. It only lasted a couple of minutes and then it was gone. It can last up to seven minutes but depends on many orbital factors.

Other eclipses have been witnessed in our Solar System; by a Mars rover when Mars's moon Phobos passed between Mars and the Sun. It was an *Annular* type eclipse as Phobos's apparent disc is small and doesn't cover the Sun's disc.

I have seen solar eclipses on Jupiter when one or two of its four larger moons cast their shadows onto Jupiter's cloud tops. They appear as black dots on its bright surface and move over its surface during the course of the night as the moons orbit their planet.

An eclipse of the Sun that occurred in the Southern hemisphere early in the 20th century was used to confirm Einstein's theories regarding relativity, mass and gravity. This was achieved by taking a photo of a particular part of the night sky and again during the eclipse at the same part of the sky when the Moon covered the Sun. By comparing the positions of stars on the two photos it showed that some of the stars had altered their relative positions which was due to the Sun's mass causing the light paths from the distant stars to be bent by gravity as it passes by, which was exactly as predicted by Einstein, hence proving his theories.

Rod Greening

Butterfly recording help needed

Wiltshire is an important stronghold for the Duke of Burgundy, the UK's fastest declining butterfly. Although many of the butterfly's populations are small and medium-sized, those in South West Wiltshire are faring better than elsewhere as there are still connections between populations. The Shaston Ridge (the ridge running south of the A30 from near Donhead St Andrew to Burcombe) is one of its strongholds. However, our knowledge of its distribution and population sizes there is far from complete.

The Village Voice

We have records from all along the ridge but they have not been collected in a consistent manner. Nor have sites with potential, or all locations which previously held the species, been visited recently. We'd like to recruit a team of volunteers to help undertake timed counts for Duke of Burgundy. This is a simple method of recording a single species and involves walking a set area and counting the number of Duke of Burgundy butterflies seen. All training will be provided, no experience is necessary, just an interest in conserving a charming little butterfly speciality of our local area.



The more recorders we can recruit, the more sites we will be able to cover with this consistent recording system. Would you like to be involved? The survey will take place between Mid-May and Mid-June 2024 and we'll run some training before the flight season starts. Sites will be split and allocated across the team of volunteers, and I will be able to provide ongoing support to build-up skills and share information about individual sites.

If you would like to take part, please contact me via the Tisbury Natural History Society email: tisburynathist@gmail.com.
Andrew Graham

Brand's New Book

Local author and regular Village Voice contributor Brand King has released a new novel - A Cornish Spring, the sequel to 2020's An Irish Winter. The new tome sees some of the first book's minor characters take centre stage in



Cornwall. There, a series of mysterious events take place on Bodmin Moor.

Brand wrote the first draft during a three month stay in Cornwall in the spring of 2021. While there, he came across an old monument in the shadow of Rough Tor – a weathered and moss-covered pillar that served as a memorial to a tragic event – the 1844 murder of local farmgirl, Charlotte Dymond. Suitably inspired, Brand's story began to take shape. Three years of crafting and editing later, the result is A Cornish Spring, a moving tale of ghostly revenge. Charlotte Dymond's memorial features on the book's cover.

The book is available on Amazon and at selected online retailers. However, local residents interested in a signed copy can contact Carl Jacobs who is kindly offering to help distribute the book through the village. They're £10 each. Contact Carl on [cjacobos@aol.com](mailto:cjacbos@aol.com). Copies of An Irish Winter are also available.



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The Village Voice

Come & Try Croquet Days

Tisbury Bowls & Croquet Club is running four taster days at the end of March and during April. The Open Days are an opportunity to discover whether you have a penchant for this game of strategy and skill. Croquet is competitive yet sociable – a fun way to enjoy yourself whilst keeping active and healthy. The Club is located at the far end of Tisbury Football Club pitch. The dates for the forthcoming Open Days are: Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 March and Saturday 13 and Sunday 27 April. All sessions will run from 11am to 3pm. Everything will be provided, just wear flat-soled shoes. If you're interested but can't attend please contact the Club to arrange a visit: info@tisburybowlsandcroquet.com

Tisbury Flower Group

The flower group will be welcoming Nick Gilbert to their monthly meeting on Tuesday 26 March at 7pm in Hinton Hall, Tisbury. Nick is from Gilbert's Nursery in Sheffield English and will be presenting *The Gilbert's Dahlia Year*; he will also be bringing some tubers for sale on the evening

Visitors are always welcome for a small fee, 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, contact Bernadette Watson on 01747 228371 or blwatson4@gmail.com - alternatively, just come along on 26 March. We look forward to welcoming you.

Fonthill House Gardens

The first Fonthill House Gardens Open Day of the year is on Sunday 24 March, between 12 noon and 5pm, in aid of the National Garden Scheme. There will be a refreshments tent serving delicious food made by Sol Bakery & Café (started and run by two Argentinian friends), plus coffee, tea, wine and soft drinks. Because the weather is never certain in March there won't be any stalls that day apart from an ice cream van (Joanna Gelato, who you might have seen at Salisbury Market on a Tuesday or Saturday), the Wiltshire Beekeeper (Fred Swift) and his vast array of goods all made from honey, and an information stand about the South West Wildlife Trust.

In 2023 The English Garden magazine teamed up with the National Garden Scheme, supported by Sisley Garden Tours, to identify the Nation's Favourite Garden to Visit. The most beautiful gardens from across the UK and Ireland were nominated, both town and country plots, big and small. Alastair Margdale and his gardening team were delighted when they heard the garden at Fonthill was a Regional Finalist. A great accolade to them and to the garden designers, Tania Compton and Marie-Louise Agius.

The National Garden Scheme raised more than £3 million through garden openings in 2023, 80% of which was given directly to their beneficiaries, the main ones being The Queen's Nursing Institute (which founded the scheme), Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust and Parkinson's UK.



Horses & Hounds

It was lovely to see a good turnout of young horseback followers of the South & West Wilts Hunt up at Ridge during half term week in February.

Book Swap Dates

A reminder that the Fonthill Bishop Book Swap takes place every 3rd Saturday of the month in the Fonthill Bishop Reading Room, from 10am to 12 noon. The forthcoming dates are Saturday 16 March and Saturday 20 April.



Midnight Hospice Walk

This year's Midnight Walk in aid of Salisbury Hospice takes place on Saturday 27 April, starting and finishing at the Five Rivers Leisure Centre in the city. Two routes are available – 6 miles and 10 miles – and an added feature this year will be a warm-up Disco at Dusk. Participants are being urged to wear Neon clothing as part of the fun. Salisbury Hospice helps nearly 1,000 people each year and the charity aims to raise £1.5million of its £2.9 million annual running costs. For more information about the Walk, visit: www.salisburyhospicecharity.org.uk/event/midnight-walk

Young Stargazers' Night

Tisbury Young Nature Watch is running a Stargazing event on Thursday 28 March at 7.45pm in Dinton Park, with Cranborne Chase astronomy expert Steve Tonkin. The event is free for anyone aged under 21; those under 12 years old will need an adult to accompany them. Booking required by 14 March: www.tisburynaturalhistory.com/young-nature-watch

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The Village Voice

Recycling & Waste Collections

March 2024

Tuesday 5 **Blue lid** – mixed dry recycling
Black box – glass & recycling
Green lid – chargeable garden waste
(no household compost)

Wednesday 13 Household waste – **Grey bin**

Tuesday 19 Blue lid, Black Box, Green lid

Wednesday 27 Grey bin

April

Tuesday 2 Blue lid, Black Box, Green lid

What you CAN put in your **Black box**

Clean glass bottles and jars
clean glass bottles (leave the lids on)
clean glass jars (leave the lids on)

If it is full, you can put any extra glass into a separate, open carrier bag (not a black bag) and place it next to your black box. If you frequently find you have extra recycling, you can order a second black box online from Wiltshire (as per website below)

What you CANNOT put in your **Black box**

flat glass
Pyrex or any oven proof cookware
light bulbs

What you CAN put out for recycling *next to/on top of* your **Blue-lidded bin**

Batteries - these should be presented in a sealed clear sandwich bag, on top of your blue-lidded recycling bin (not inside the bin). We can collect the following size batteries: D, C, AA, AAA, 9V, button, rechargeable. Other size batteries (including car batteries) can be recycled at the Household recycling centres (HRCs)

Small rechargeable electrical items

These should be presented in a carrier bag *next to your blue-lidded* recycling bin (not inside the bin). The small rechargeable electrical items we can collect include:

MP3 players
laptops/notebooks (no larger than 30cm x 20cm (12" x 8"))
laptop batteries
tablets/E-readers (iPad, kindle, etc)
electric toothbrushes
shavers/trimmers
all vapes and E-cigarettes
smart watches
mobile phones
digital cameras
charging devices/power banks
wireless earphones

These items should be no bigger than a typical shoe box. Larger or non-rechargeable electrical items can be recycled at the Household recycling centres (HRCs).

Household Recycling Centre (HRCs) Winter Opening hours – 10am to 4pm

Salisbury HRC - SP2 7NP - is closed on Thursday & Friday during the Winter

Warminster HRC - BA12 8PE - is closed on Wednesday & Thursday

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

Memories from the Old Rectory

We reproduce here some anecdotes passed on by the daughter of the Rector of Chilmark from 1894-1938. Mrs Betty Sergeant was 88 years when she recounted these anecdotes; she was a child when she first heard many of them from Sam Pain, of the Post Office, whose memories extended back to the early 19th century:

- An old man was asked at a festivity at the Black Dog how much he drank of an evening? ...*sometimes I drink sixteen pints and sometimes I drink a tidy drop.*
- The shepherd at lambing biting off the lambs' tails and cooking them as a pie for his evening meal.
- Some children being sewn into their clothes for the winter.
- An old woman, after her husband's death, showing the Rector the last sliver of a wooden rolling-pin with which she had been beaten by her husband in her early married life. She had subsequently added it chip-by-chip to his food - *to make him eat it as I vowed when he hit me!*
- The Viney Brothers providing the village bus service; the one with a single leg doing the driving and the one with a single arm doing the conducting.
- Tom Stevens (the stock-man, gardener and general factotum at the Old Rectory), driving a calf to Salisbury market, taking some liquid refreshment at a market inn, and trudging the 12 miles back to Chilmark in the early hours of the morning.
- The old lady asked why she invariably looked over the wall at funerals, saying: *Well I like a bit of excitement.* When asked to come in, she replied: *It rightly isn't my funeral.*

Chilmark's Bells

The following extract is from a 1962 supplement to the 1961 *History of Chilmark*:

Finally, no account of the village history would be complete without reporting on the village bellringers. Chilmark is the only remaining parish church in the locality which continues to have regular bell ringing, and this is entirely due to the enthusiasm of the bellringers. In recent years bell ringing has become a matter of village pride and each Sunday the bells are rung for the service. After the Evening Service, the Verger and Captain of the Bell Ringers, Mr Peter Harding, chimes hymn tunes on the bells. Mr Harding carries on the tradition of bell ringing from his father and grandfather and maintains an old custom of ringing the *Parson's Bell*. This is rung at the end of the chimes and is intended to warn the Rector that it is time to commence the service. It takes the form of *rattling* the bell, similar to ringing *eight bells* on a ship, and may well have originated when the rector resided in the (Old) Rectory, from which there can be traced an old pathway leading direct to the church.

The present bell ringers (as at 1962):

Mr Peter Harding Captain, Mr John Harding, Mrs S J Moules, Mr H E Moules, Mr E Cull, Mr A Yeats, Mr D Garrett, Mr G J Penny, and, whenever necessary, the Rector, the Revd A E F Trotman. During the winter months the ringers meet on Thursday evenings to practice, and to keep up the high standard of ringing that is now associated with the church at Chilmark.



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The Village Voice

Wiltshire Police News

The next Police Drop-in Surgery for the Tisbury Neighbourhood Policing Area will be held at the Nadder Centre, Tisbury, on Monday 4 March from 9-10.30am. This is an opportunity to meet your local Officers and raise any concerns you may have about your community. The surgery will be attended by officers from the Tisbury Neighbourhood Team (see contacts at bottom of page).

Policing priorities for the Tisbury Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) were actioned as follows on 5 February 2024:

- **Rural Crime Burglaries** - ongoing rural burglary patrols owing to multiple burglaries in the area. Extra patrols of heritage sites to aid with community tension from rise in burglaries in the area will also be in effect.
- **Speeding Concerns** - the local neighbourhood team will be liaising with Speed Enforcement Officers to target designated areas of concerns.
- **School Engagement** - engagement with primary schools in the area for *People Who Keep Us Safe* talks in line with current school curriculum will continue throughout the academic year.
- **Community Engagement** - community drop-ins to be increased and held at the Nadder Centre and Mere Police Station. Surrounding villages will be also getting a monthly pop-up community engagement event in village centres / squares.

Police & Crime Commissioner's March update

After a period of public consultation, I presented my final proposal for the policing precept of your council tax to the Police and Crime Panel in February. Wiltshire Police is facing increased financial pressures as we strive to deliver the necessary service improvements required, which led to the panel supporting my decision to increase the precept by 5.2%, an extra £1.09 a month or £13 a year for the average Band D property. This, alongside a grant from the government, accounts for the core budget for policing in the county.

The decision to increase the precept has been a difficult but necessary one. I am listening to residents when they tell me that they want a better and improved service from both the police and wider criminal justice system with improved outcomes and more visibility. The public voted in favour of the rise, with 85% of respondents to my recent Policing, Priorities and ££s survey saying they wanted to see more investment in policing.

Whilst key improvements have been delivered over past 12 months, including a four-fold improvement in positive outcomes for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences and Wiltshire Police becoming one of the top performing forces nationally in disrupting county lines per head in capita, there is still much to do to make Wiltshire safer as crime and policing demand becomes ever more complex. Even by putting the precept up by £13 a year, we still need to make savings of £2.4m to cover the funding gap. We remain one of the worst funded force areas in the country, but I will continue to lobby the government for fairer funding.

Both the Chief Constable and I are committed to delivering a policing service which meets an ever-changing crime picture and is fit for the future. I am confident that with this increase we can continue to invest in key areas to maintain the improvements that we are now seeing across the board.

Philip Wilkinson



Ian Dennis: 1961-2024

We are sad to report the death of Ian Dennis who lived at Hop House, Frog Lane, with his wife Rachael from 2012 until 2021, when they moved to Cumbria. Ian was a talented photographer. Readers may recall one of the last photographs he took in Chilmark after he had spotted a White Tailed Eagle flying low over Cow Drove (VV May 2021). It was a rare sighting and a case of serendipity that Ian had his camera with him at the time.

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Tisbury Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

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louise.oakley@wiltshire.police.uk

Sergeant Victoria Howick

victoria.howick@wiltshire.police.uk

Police Constable Georgina Russell

georgina.russell@wiltshire.police.uk

PCSO Stewart Hunt

stewart.hunt@wiltshire.police.uk

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The Village Voice

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