

NEWS & VIEWS

March 2025



THE MAGAZINE FOR WEST LAVINGTON
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FROM THE EDITOR

Another packed issue of News and Views to hopefully brighten a Spring day. It does seem to be warming up a bit and I think I spotted the sun briefly! Spring flowers are coming up and out, so perhaps we can feel a bit more hopeful than of late, despite the continuing relentless grim news from around the world. Perhaps we should just switch off all our devices and simply enjoy what is happening around us rather than worrying about events over which we have very little control. There is at least lots of positive

news and information in these pages, and a myriad of local events to entertain and raise money for good causes, plus Pancake Day, Red Nose Day and Mothering Sunday to celebrate! Have a great month!

Sue Bonney - Editor

Deadline Dates

Editorial copy and photographs should be sent to editor4newsandviews@gmail.com

Articles and photographs for the **April 2025** issue should reach Sue Bonney no later than **Thursday March 20th. And I do mean no later!!**

Advertising in News and Views

For more information about placing an advertisement in News and Views, please email newsandviewsadverts@gmail.com

This Month's Cover: Beautiful and fragrant Magnolia Stellata, in flower this month.

We are always on the lookout for eye-catching photographs for the front cover of News & Views. They should be portrait (vertical), in colour and of a high resolution.

Photograph Permissions

When submitting a photograph for possible publication in News and Views, please make sure that you have the permission of anyone in the photograph for their image to appear in the magazine, both in print and online. In the case of children, parental permission must be obtained.

News & Views is the community magazine for West Lavington, Littleton Panell and Great and Little Cheverell. You should be able to find the latest News & Views in full colour on West Lavington Posts on Facebook, and on the West Lavington and Great and Little Cheverell Parish Council websites at: www.westlavington.org.uk www.greatcheverell.org.uk www.littlecheverellparishcouncil.org.uk

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND BENEFICE

Regular worship in our sister churches

9.00 am St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Littleton Panell
4.30 pm Ebenezer Baptist Church, West Lavington

Churchwardens

St Peter's, Great Cheverell: Pauline Jenkinson (813775)

Date	Market Lavington St Mary's	West Lavington All Saints'	Easterton St Barnabas	Great Cheverell St Peter's	Little Cheverell St Peter's
Sunday 2nd March	10.30 am Benefice Service St Peter's Church Little Cheverell				
Sunday 9th March	10.30 am United Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	9.00 am Breakfast Church	10.30 am United Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	11.00 am Simple Celebration Communion	
Sunday 16th March	10.30 am Benefice Communion Easterton			10.00 am Welcome to Worship	
Sunday 23rd March		9.30 am Praise and Worship	10.30 am United Service	11.00 am Morning Prayer	
Sunday 30th March	10.30 am Great Cheverell Mothering Sunday Service 10.30 am Market Lavington Community Hall Mothering Sunday Service 4.00 pm West Lavington Mothering Sunday Service				
Sunday 6th April	10.30 am Benefice Service St Barnabas Church, Easterton				

Breakfast Church

This includes Bacon Rolls etc to start and a short service for all ages.

BCP Communion

This is a very lovely traditional Service from the Book of Common Prayer. We now have a very clear booklet to help you follow and join in if you are less familiar with the order and language used.

REFLECTION

During this season in our Benefice without a rector, different church members are delighted to share a monthly reflection with you. This month it is written by Rev'd Caroline Spindlow, who lives in West Lavington, and helps to lead some of the services across the Benefice of the Lavingtons, Cheverells and Easterton.

Now who doesn't like a good wedding?

It's really quite something when your son phones you up and says, 'Mum, will you marry us?!' It's probably every vicar's dream: to

marry their child with a wonderful partner and invite God into their marriage. A marriage that we would be praying would reflect His love, His generosity and His Joy. And, after all, if God is love then who else to ask to be part of their loving relationship!

This wedding was to be slightly different though. My son's fiancée is Greek and the daughter of a Greek Orthodox priest. So not only was I able to marry my son, her father was able to do a blessing of wedding crowns – a Greek orthodox tradition - and say some Greek prayers.

It was also different because the couple wanted the dog they love passionately, Olive, to be part of the ceremony. So she was bought a new attachment to her collar that had a neat little pocket to hold the rings. The plan was that she would run down the nave at the appropriate time and deliver them to the best man who would then take them out and give them to me. High excitement – and it worked!

And then there is the beauty of the service that is highlighted by wonderful organ playing, delightful choir singing and bells joyfully ringing. All enhancing the special day that two people, who love each other, become legally married.



Every service is so unique to each couple. It is such a privilege to help them find material that reflects their own characters, hopes and dreams. And wonderful to hear the different poems, pop songs, love songs, choral music, readings and bible reading that they have chosen. I get to put my own stamp on it too by choosing blessings that I think are especially appropriate. Blessings and messages that tell them to be silly at times, be attentive to each other, and urge them not to work so hard that they forget to play together. Blessings that remind them that God will be with them throughout their married lives - being there for them to turn to in the tough times as well as in the most joyful times.

So, if you are thinking of inviting God into your marriage, please do contact the Church Office – we'd love to book you in!

Rev'd Caroline Spindlow - Associate Priest

Benefice Office

25 White Street, West Lavington, SN10 3LW Tel: 01380 816963

Open on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9am to 1pm.

churchlavington@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator: **Beth Warren**

More information can be found on our website **www.lavingtonchurch.org**

Benefice 200 Club

February Draw

The winner of the February draw was Pauline Jenkinson. Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket or paid online again this year. Although you may not hold a paper ticket, anyone who paid their £12 electronically has been allocated a number and therefore entered the draw.

Bonnie Matters

bonnie_matters@hotmail.co.uk



The West Lavington Branch of the Mothers' Union has continued to meet over the last two months. We held our AGM in January where we had thirteen of our eighteen members present.

The meeting in February was our annual Wave of Prayer meeting. The Mothers' Union has around four million members worldwide in over 80 countries. Each branch is linked with branches in other countries.

We in West Lavington are linked with Marsabit in Kenya, Botswana, Idah and Jebba in Nigeria, and Andaman and Car Nicobar which are islands in the Bay of Bengal. During the meeting we discover more about these four locations and the type of difficulties they face. More importantly, we find out about the work that the Mothers' Union is doing and the results which are being achieved for families there. We light a candle for each one followed by a prayer.

Our next meeting is on Monday March 10th when our speaker will be Anna Spear, who will be talking about her work with 'Dementia and The Church'. As usual this will be held at 54 High Street, West Lavington at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome, so please join us.

Jackie Knipe

jack_knipe@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday Club

The Tuesday club will be holding a Table Top Sale, Raffle and Refreshments on **Saturday 3 May** from **1000 to 1130hrs** at the Market Lavington Community Hall.

SANCTUARY

Saturday 8th March 7.30pm in Edington Priory Church



The first Edington Arts concert of the 2025 season brings together a fascinating and soul-satisfying combination of saxophone, organ, soprano and percussion called the Sanctuary Project. Sanctuary comprises composer and saxophonist Christian Forshaw and co-performers Richard Pinel, (organ, former Director of the Edington Music Festival), soprano Rosanna Wicks, and percussionist Ryan Hepburn.

Tickets are on sale now through the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org, from £11-£25, with 18 and under free.

Rageh Omaar

Mercers Lecture, Memorial Hall, Dauntsey's School

Wednesday 19th March 7.30pm

Rageh Omaar is the International Affairs Editor of ITV News and presenter of ITV's flagship News at Ten programme and the presenter of ITV's global current affairs programme On Assignment. Previously, Rageh was Senior Foreign Correspondent and Africa Correspondent for the BBC. He reported regularly from Israel and Gaza after the Oslo Accords and covered the second Gulf War from Baghdad. During the war in Afghanistan, he was the only western journalist permitted by the Taliban to report from inside Kabul before their forces fell to the US and their Afghan Northern Alliance allies in 2001. He has also been BBC Africa Correspondent and presenter for Al Jazeera English.

Rageh has won numerous international awards for his reporting, and is a published author of two books - one on the 2003 Iraq Invasion and one on growing up as a British Muslim. He is a Trustee of the British Council and was educated at New College, Oxford University.

Everyone is welcome and entry is free, but you must reserve your seat online and bring confirmation of booking to the event. Tickets can be booked via the Dauntsey's School website at: <https://www.dauntseys.org/our-community/the-mercers/mercers-lectures-2024-25>

CHEVERELLS; GARDEN CLUB

The February speaker at Cheverells Garden Club was **Kate Bennett**, a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust conservation volunteer. She is passionate about birds, their habitats and ecosystems. We were told about the birds of Wiltshire, both the high profile and rare birds like the Great Bustard and the Hen Harrier, and the more usual garden birds. Salisbury Plain is a vital area for certain birds, especially those that rely on open grassland. She also showed us how to make our gardens more bird friendly. Kat was an extremely engaging and knowledgeable speaker and we had a wonderful evening.

Next month's speaker is **Richard Cripps** talking about coping with our ever-changing climate. This is on **Tuesday March 11th** beginning at 7.30pm in Great Cheverell Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to join! Contact me at Helen.woodlands@outlook.com if you have any questions.

Swap and Shop at Erlestoke

Saturday 1st March, 1- 4pm

March into Spring with a new preloved wardrobe! Join us for Erlestoke's first Swap and Shop event at **Holy St Saviour's Church, Erlestoke**. Entry is £5 per person, or £8 to include a glass of fizz. Bring along clothing that you'd like to swap, which must be in good condition, and get a token for each item you take and use it to swap.

Swap and Shop for men's, women's or children's clothing, although children's clothing can only be swapped for other children's clothes. You can purchase extra clothing for just £1 per garment, and cash and card payments will be available on the day. Tea and coffee will also be on sale.

Let's make fashion fun, sustainable, and community driven!

VILLAGE LINK

West Lavington, Littleton Panell & Little Cheverell

Tel: 07598 947180

Call this number if you need transport for medical appointments and have no other means of getting there. Donations to cover expenses will be requested.



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- Discounted tickets for each event (maximum 2 per event).
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Your subscription will also help secure the future of the Festival.

For more information and to become a friend, go to:

<https://www.devizesartsfestival.org.uk/become-a-friend/>



DEVIZES LADIES GROUP

This group is for women who live in, or the surrounding villages near Devizes.

Get in touch with new people in your area who share your interests and who are also looking to make new friends. A wide range of ages and interests.

So whether you are looking for a few cinema pals, people to play sport with or meet new people over a few drinks... join this group.



Devizes Ladies Group

Enjoy the View!

Walkers along School Lane in Great Cheverell will find as they reach the top of the hill that there are now two stones implanted to form seats where they can sit and admire the fantastic view of the countryside around them.

The stones were very generously donated by Pete Edwards and Lyn Rook from Little Cheverell and the work carried out on a recent Saturday morning. Thanks go to all those who assisted and enabled this to happen.

Hazel Simons



Two Plays and a Pudding!

Save the dates! Rehearsals are underway for the **Bratton Jubilee Players' May production Two Plays and a Pudding!** Two short plays with food in the interval making a perfect night out, so come and join us on **May 15th, 16th and 17th**. Tickets will be available from April 2025. For ticket enquiries please contact **Tony on 07967 934764**.

The Jubilee Players were formed in 1996 and have been performing ever since. We meet every Wednesday evening at 8pm in the Jubilee Hall and are always looking to welcome 'new blood', young or old in and around Bratton. If you fancy getting up on stage or learning the ropes backstage then please contact the Chairman or any of the committee members to arrange a date to come along and start a new adventure.

For any information, or to arrange a time to come and see us. drop us an email at:

contactjubileeplayers@gmail.com

or message us via our Facebook page **Bratton-Jubilee-Players**.

Allotments in Tilshead available

Tilshead Village has several Allotment Plots situated in a lovely quiet location available from April 2025.

Large Plot £30.00 per annum

Small Plot £15.00 per Annum

If you are interested, please contact Debby Potter.

Tel: 01980 620138 Mobile: 074843 884066 Email: deborah-potter@outlook.com



Cyber Crime Insight talks

As part of its Stay Safe Online Service, the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, in partnership with the Swindon and Wiltshire Cyber Cluster, is running a series of expert-led talks on cybercrime at the Business Cyber Centre in Chippenham. The talks will offer:

- Insights into the latest cybercrime trends
- An understanding of the technical and psychological tactics used by criminals
- Practical strategies to recognise and protect against cyber threats
- Networking opportunities with refreshments after each 60-minute session.

Dates and topics are:

Thursday 20th March: Artificial Intelligence

Thursday 24th April: The Art of Manipulation

Thursday 22nd May: New technology and case autopsies.

All the talks begin at 10.00am at the **Business Cyber Centre (BCC) in Chippenham, SN15 1BN**. Book your place in advance at: www.wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk or call **01225 595090** for more information. While attendance is free, donations on the day are greatly appreciated to support the vital work of the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

The Business Cyber Centre in Chippenham is the first UK government funded collaboration specialising in business cyber security. <https://bcc.co.uk>

The Swindon & Wiltshire Cyber Cluster is a collaborative organisation dedicated to enhancing cybersecurity across the region. It brings together businesses, public sector organisations, and individuals to share knowledge, best practices, and strategies for a safer digital environment.



DID YOU KNOW Upcoming Local Roadworks

10th Mar 1900 - 21st March 2359: B3098 The Spring, Market Lavington. Road closure. From Drove Road to Eastcott Common. Drainage CCTV investigation, survey and associated works.

23rd Mar 0930 -1500: Church Street and Duck Street West Lavington closed for Openreach work. Diversion via High Street.

24th Mar - 13th Apr: Lavington Lane will be managed by traffic lights to enable the installation of the new pedestrian crossing.

31st Mar 1900 - 4th Apr 0100: Lavington Lane night closure. New pedestrian crossing, resurfacing and lining works. Diversion in place via Broadway.

31st Mar - 2nd Apr: Cheverell Road, GC High Street to Pear Tree Lane, road closure. Highway patching. Diversion in force.

Dauntsey's Choral Society Closes

It is with sadness that we report the closing of Dauntsey's Choral Society after so many years performing in wonderful inter-generational concerts with Dauntsey's School pupils, both singers and musicians. Over forty-five years ago, for the sheer pleasure of it, a group of staff, pupils and parents got together one afternoon to sing, and this evolved into the Choral Society. In the intervening years, as well as performing annually with the School, the Society has also collaborated with other choirs celebrating the opening of new buildings, and as fundraisers for local churches and causes. Our last concert was in March last year, performing Bernstein's Chichester Psalms and Mozart's Requiem with Dauntsey pupils and orchestra. However, our numbers have never really recovered from Covid, despite reforming in 2022, and it has been almost impossible to attract members in the numbers we once had. Sadly, our plans for a concert this year have proved unrealistic in the face of the extremely busy timetable of the School Music Department, dwindling parent representation, and the lack of success in recruiting younger blood to keep the Society on its feet.

Those of us who were involved over the years have had the opportunity to sing some wonderful choral music and support and encourage pupils in Dauntsey's own school choirs to discover the joys and challenges of the great choral masterpieces. It has been a marvellous experience, and we can only hope it can be repeated in the future by another such Society.



Join Dorothy House on **Saturday 8th March** for the **'Men's Walk to Support'**. This 8-mile walk is an opportunity for men aged 8+ to join together in solidarity, share their life journeys together, and raise vital funds to help Dorothy House provide crucial end-of-life care for our local community.

The walk starts at **11am and 12 noon from Dorothy House, Winsley**, and participants will set off on the route that follows along the canal and finishes at Bath Pavilion, in time to watch the day's Six Nations matches.

Entry is £28 and all participants receive a free event t-shirt, together with their free pint and food at the end. Participants are encouraged to raise as much as they can to help Dorothy House continue to provide free end-of-life care. Last year's event raised an incredible £105,000 and we're hoping to raise even more in 2025!

So, whether you're walking to show your support for Dorothy House, in memory of a loved one or because you're in our care today - dust off your walking boots and sign up today by visiting dorothyhouse.org.uk or search for **'Men's Walk To Support'**!



NGS Open Garden

Thurs 6th and 13th: Westcroft: Boscombe Village, SP4 0AB.
11am - 4pm Admission £4, children free.

2/3 acre galanthophile's garden on chalk. Brick and flint walls, terraces, rustic arches, gates and pond add character. Drifts of snowdrops carpet the floor whilst throughout is a growing collection of well over 500 named varieties. Many hellebores, pulmonarias, grasses and seedheads add interest. Snowdrops (weather dependent) and snowdrop sundries for sale.

Westcroft is seven miles NE of Salisbury, on the A338 from Salisbury, just past Boscombe & District Social Club. Park there or in the field opposite the house, or where signed on day. Disabled parking only on drive. Home-made soups and teas, outside or undercover. Visits also by arrangement to 31st March for groups of 15+.

www.westcroftgarden.co.uk

Lyn Miles 01980 610877/07787 852756 lynmiles@icloud.com

Sunday 23rd: Fonhill House, Tisbury, SP3 5SA.

12noon to 5pm, Admission £8

Wonderful woodland walks with daffodils, rhododendrons, azaleas, shrubs and bulbs. Magnificent views. The formal gardens are being continuously improved with new designs, exciting trees, shrubs and plants. Gorgeous William Pye fountain and other sculptures. Regional finalist, the English Garden magazine's the Nation's Favourite Gardens 2023. Partial wheelchair access. Light refreshments. Sandwiches, quiches, cakes, soft drinks, tea, coffee and wine.

Please use Fonhill Park entrance.

What3words app: creamed.moderated.passwords.

www.fonhill.co.uk/gardens.

Sunday 30th: Corsham Court, Corsham, SN13 0BZ. 30 Mar, Sun 13 Apr

2 - 5.30pm. Admission £5, child £2.50.

Park and gardens laid out by Capability Brown and Repton. Large lawns with fine specimensof ornamental trees surround the Elizabethan mansion. C18 bath house hidden in thegrounds. Spring bulbs, beautiful lily pond with Indian bean trees, young arboretum andstunning collection of magnolias. Wheelchair (not motorised) access to house, gravel pathsin garden.

www.corsham-court.co.uk.

For other opening times and information, visit garden website.



Gardening Jobs for March

March is an ideal month for gardeners to prepare for spring. This wet winter seems to have gone on forever but slowly the days are lengthening and the air feels warmer, the extra light helps the garden wake up, and gardening jobs in March become both essential and rewarding. One of the first tasks is cutting back herbaceous perennials. Try not to step on borders that are too wet as this can ruin the delicate soil balance, spread your weight by standing on a board. Take advantage of milder weather to

prune shrubs and trees, ensuring that they maintain a healthy shape and encourage robust flowering later in the year.

In addition to cleanup and pruning, March is the perfect time to prepare the soil. Adding mulch or well-rotted manure enriches the beds, improves soil structure, and provides essential nutrients for spring planting. On wet days, plan any changes you want to make to your garden layout during this month, deciding where to plant vegetables, flowers, and herbs to maximise space and achieve a harmonious design. Starting seeds indoors is another popular activity, especially for early vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and aubergines that will later be transplanted when the weather warms.

March offers an opportunity to check and maintain your garden's structure. Inspect irrigation systems, repair fences, and clean oil and organise your tools. By dedicating time to these essential tasks, gardeners can ensure a vibrant and productive growing season ahead. Overall, March gardening jobs not only rejuvenate your outdoor space but also lay a strong foundation for your garden to flourish.

Capability Charlotte

CAN YOU HELP NEWS & VIEWS REACH ITS READERS?

Could you spare an hour or two
in the first week of every month
to help us distribute News and Views
to houses in the villages,
in particular Great Cheverell?

If so, please contact Anji Scofield
on anjischofield@icloud.com

It doesn't take long - take the dog and enjoy the walk!





It's good to see and hear on radio and TV more attention being given to nature and the ever increasing problems around the world with declining habitats and declining species, with many birds and animals worldwide on Red Lists. Human activity is resulting in chemical, plastic and oil pollution of the oceans, plus increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, creating stronger ocean currents and wind direction changes, which are worse for the planet. More frequent storms and droughts are also creating mass migration of peoples on all the populated continents.

No doubt these events will get worse. Scientific studies worldwide confirm rising temperatures and scientists internationally are warning that global warming will continue. The effects on nature in this country include sycamore trees being hit by a devastating disease called 'Sooty Bark Blight', and storms such as Storm Darragh and others felling hundreds of trees around the British Isles. Devastating fires continue in many countries. Birds and animals worldwide are at great risk and one species in eight is threatened with extinction by 2032.

Still, should you wish to get away from it all here's quite a nice job advert: *'Wanted, Ranger for remote island three miles off the West coast of Scotland. Applicants should have a good sense of humour'*. There has been no full time human inhabitant on the island of Handa since 1843. Over the summer it is home to over 100,000 birds, including Fulmars, Guillemots and Kittiwakes, and a smaller number of Puffins and Arctic Skuas. Offshore, whales, seals and dolphins are often seen. There's a caveat to this exciting job advertised by the Scottish Wildlife Trust – the successful applicants must take with them at least enough food for two weeks minimum!

Should you be holidaying in Wales this year and have never seen a red squirrel, go to Plas Newydd on the wooded shores of Anglesey and you could be lucky. I have only ever seen one red squirrel in the British Isles in a wood at Kingsley Green on the Surrey/Sussex border in 1945!

If you have a large nest egg, come into a big inheritance, or win a major lottery prize, consider joining Bird Life International's Rare Bird Club, subscription £5,000 per annum! This moneyed Club does great conservation work around the world, especially for rare and declining species. Or from just £45 a year you could become an ordinary member of Bird Life International. Go to <https://www.birdlife.org/world-bird-club/>

Lastly, a call to the female of the species, for more women to become ringers (no, not wringing necks – ringing bird legs!) for the British Trust for Ornithology's bird ringing scheme:

<https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/bird-ringing-scheme>

On March 11th, the Royal Mail is bringing out a special stamp issue about Garden Wildlife. Apart from the stamps, the information sheet should be of interest. We must keep encouraging our children and future generations to be guardians of our planet.

Otis Tarda



West Lavington Youth Club

It is some time since we updated everyone on the Youth Club and its activities. When Covid ended, and the Club had been closed for nearly two years, we essentially started from scratch with new staff and certainly new membership. We started with younger members, who have year on year progressed into higher-aged sessions. We then found, with lockdown and closure of schools, many young people found it difficult to re-integrate back into normal activities with their peers, and comparing pre and post Covid, there is clearly an ongoing problem for some youngsters. We have addressed this issue, not only by training our staff to recognise members who have difficulties, but also to help them deal with it. Amongst grants gratefully received from Parish Councils and the Area Board (i.e. Wiltshire Council) is one which pays for special one-to-one support for those who would otherwise find it impossible to join in with Club activities. All young people can attend the Club with no fear they will be on their own or unsupported.

We have had great support from parents, especially over the last year, some of whom have volunteered to help in Club sessions. The Club does all sorts of things, such as a barbecue and Splashdown in the summer, and ice skating in January. We try and arrange at least two significant trips a year.

To any young person perhaps nervous about coming to the Youth Club, look on our Facebook page, and contact one of the staff, who will be happy to welcome you in.

Mike May Secretary, West Lavington Youth Club wlyclub@hotmail.com

West Lavington Youth Club sessions: Mondays 6-8pm Year 8 (12 yrs+), Tuesdays 6-8pm Year 7 (11 years), Wednesdays 6-8pm Years 4-6, (Primary), WL Village Hall.

Carer Support Wiltshire in Devizes

All at the Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS

Carer Support Cafe, Devizes: 1st Wednesday of the month, 5th March & 2nd April 10.30-12.00

Our cafes are a great way to make new friends and enjoy a cuppa, cake and a chat with others in relaxed, friendly surroundings. ***Come when you can and stay for as long as you like.***

Parent Carer Group Devizes: 19th March 10.30 - 12.00

Group for people who are caring for a child or young adult. There is always a support worker on hand to help you and discuss any difficulties you may have. This month our guest speaker is Louise Rendle from WSUN talking about the support available for young people with ASD.

Bereavement Help Points Devizes: 4th & 18th March; 10.30am - 12.00pm

The Bereavement help point welcomes all the bereaved. It's a space to meet and talk with others who may be experiencing similar thoughts and feelings, in an informal and supportive setting. All sessions are free of charge and there's no need to book, just come along.

Carer Support Wiltshire

Freephone **0800 181 4118** Mon-Thurs 9am - 4.30pm, Fridays 9am - 4pm

General Enquiries: **01380 871690** carersupportwiltshire.co.uk



it's **NOT** the end of the **Landline**

*Many thanks to
Dorn Batsford for his insight and information used in this article.
Other information sources: Ofcom, Age UK, BT*

Landline telephones are not being withdrawn at the end of the year, despite what you may have heard or read. The only thing that's changing is the technology that connects your home telephone to the local exchange.

Landline phone calls have traditionally been delivered over a network known as the public switched telephone network (PSTN). However, this network is old, and becoming harder and more expensive to maintain, and needs to be replaced. The phone system has used copper wires between your home and the exchange since telephones first arrived in the late 1880s. (Did you know Britain's very first telephones were installed in Devon?). However, the internet age has changed the way everything connects together, and copper wires are being replaced with fibre optics. Telecom providers are investing in new systems and networks and will need to switch customers away from the old PSTN at the same time as upgrading their technology.

This means that in the future, landline calls will be delivered over digital technology, called Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), also referred to as 'digital phone' or 'digital voice'. These changes have already started, but you don't need to do anything until your provider contacts you to tell you your service is changing. BT has taken the decision to retire its PSTN by January 2027 and this means other providers that use BT's network must follow the same timescale. Other companies with their own networks such as Virgin Media plan to follow a similar timescale.

This change should not cost you anything and you certainly don't have to buy a computer, be forced to use the internet or buy a new broadband service if you don't have one already. If you only have a landline phone at home, you will be able to keep it and to make and receive calls exactly the way you do now (well, almost exactly!).

Your VoIP service will be provided over a broadband connection, so if you already have one, then the VoIP service will use this. If your landline is still plugged into the old BT phone socket, the phone company will probably send you a device to plug your phone into your broadband router instead, or they may send you a new router. If you don't have a broadband connection,

your provider will supply one specifically to support the VoIP service, but you shouldn't pay extra for your VoIP service if you don't take up a broadband service. Either way, your phone line and existing phone number should not disappear.

The bottom line

- The way the telephone system works is changing but you will be able to have a home telephone and use it the same way you do now to make and receive calls.
- If you don't have the internet now, or use broadband, you won't need to after the change.
- Your phone company will make all the technical changes, just wait for them to write to you.
- The change should cost you nothing.
- Beware of scammers!

Questions to ask your provider before you switch to a digital landline (from Ofcom)

- What do I need to do for my new landline to work as soon as possible?
- Will my new landline work in a power cut?
- What can you provide if I only have my landline to call emergency services during a power cut?
- How do I check whether other devices (like care alarms) that use my telephone line will be compatible?
- Will my current handset work on the new system, or do you need to send me a new handset or some other equipment?

Make sure your provider knows about your needs and circumstances

When the time comes for your landline phone to be upgraded, you should talk to your provider about your circumstances and how the service will work for you. You may need extra help to change your service over, if you are dependent on your landline phone to make calls in a power cut, or if you use equipment connected to your phone line such as a telecare or burglar alarm.

Certain devices people use at home, such as care alarms, security alarms and fax machines may also be connected to your landline. If you have a device like this, it might need to be replaced or reconfigured to continue working once you move to a digital service.

Your provider should tell you what you need to do if you have one of these devices. This will include informing your alarm provider so they can make the necessary changes or tell you if your alarm will work with your new VoIP service. If you are buying a new alarm or device, you should ask the manufacturer if it is compatible with VoIP services.

Before you change to a digital landline, let your provider know if:

- you have a care alarm, health pendant or security alarm that uses the telephone line;
- you don't own a mobile phone, or you don't have enough signal at home to call the emergency services in a power cut; or
- you have a disability or any other needs that mean you need extra help with the installation.

Almost the same - except!

Once you have moved to a VoIP or digital service, your landline phone will work in much the same way as it always has, except if you have a power cut, or lose your broadband signal.

A digital phone uses your home electricity and will only work in a power cut if it has a battery back-up. It will also not work if your broadband signal fails. In these instances, phone companies are advising people to use mobile phones as a backup.



If you're dependent on your landline phone – for example, if you don't have a mobile phone or you live somewhere where there's no or poor mobile signal - then your telephone provider must offer you a **'resilience solution'** to make sure you can make emergency calls during a power cut. This could be a mobile phone (if you have mobile signal) or a battery-backup unit that connects to your landline phone and provides power in case of a power outage.

According to Age UK, this resilience solution should be provided free of charge to people who are dependent on their landline. If you're not eligible for a free resilience solution, you may be able to purchase one from your provider or another retailer – talk to your provider about the options available to you. NB Back up batteries can cost in the region of £80, according to the BT website.

The decision to close the PSTN has been made by industry, not Ofcom or the UK Government. Ofcom's aim is to make sure customers don't face undue disruption or harm from the changes, and it has rules to protect customers in power cuts, and to require phone companies to provide access to emergency calls at all times.

Beware of Scammers!

As usual, scammers will try and use the changeover to separate you from your cash. They may call and try to frighten you by saying 'You will lose your landline phone unless....' or try to sell you something you don't need, for example 'You must install broadband'. **Don't fall for it. It isn't true.**

Either hang up, or tell them to write to you quoting your phone company's account details. If they insist you do something immediately, ask them to quote the exact amount on your last phone bill and the date it was paid. Scammers will usually hang up at this point. As with all doubtful cold calls, do not give them any personal information.

If you are still unsure, phone the customer service number on your telephone bill and talk to your phone company - but do it the next day, not immediately after the scammer has called.

PILATES CLASSES
@ Great Cheverell Pavilion
Intermediate
Tuesdays 9.30am - 10.30am
Early Intermediate
6.00pm - 7.00pm
For all information please contact
Nikki (APPI certified)
07786 452 967
info @physiopilatesplus.co.uk

CAFE SCIENTIFIQUE

The Social Psychology of Evil
and a little bit of goodness too
Paul Whitby

Monday 3rd March 7.30pm
at The Bell Great Cheverell

Monday 3rd March
10.30am - 3pm
Unravelling the Silk Road
Special Interest Day
Chris Aslan

JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL INTEREST DAY
With Chris Aslan
'The Wool Road', the 'Silk Road' and 'The Cotton Road'
Cost £40 - includes a buffet lunch
Seend Community Centre, Rusty Lane, Seend SN12 6NS
 The Arts Society Devizes
www.theartsocietydevizes.org

Wednesday 5th March
Starts 11am
Life & work of Edouard Manet
Melksham Assembly Hall

Now regarded as one of the greatest painters of the 19th Century his works shocked and appalled the public at the time. This lecture will help us to better understand his importance as a bridge to the modern world.

If you love the arts and would like to meet a group of like-minded people then join our friendly group who meet ten times a year on the first Wednesday of the month. You can join us free for your first lecture or come as a guest for only £8.00

www.tasnorthwilts.org.uk

IN AID OF
THE WILTSHIRE
BOBBY VAN TRUST
Registered charity 123270
For more details or to
donate clothes email
jen@wiltshirebobbyvan.org or
susan@wiltshirebobbyvan.org

BAG A BARGAIN

NEARLY NEW
DESIGNER
CLOTHES SALE

Wellington Barn
on Manor Farm
Calstone, Calne, SN11 8PY
5th March, 2pm to 8pm, £7 entry
6th March, 9am to noon, free entry

Come and browse a barn full of
beautiful nearly-new designer clothes,
accessories and fabulous jewellery

Refreshments
available to
purchase

Tickets available via
wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events

WHITE HORSE OPERA

LA BELLE HELENE

Jacques Offenbach

WHARF THEATRE DEVIZES
11th 12th 14th March at 7.30pm
15th March at 2pm
Tickets £20 from
Devizes Books &
www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera

CHARITY NO. 1194308

You are invited to the official
Little Cheverell

VILLAGE HALL WARMING PARTY



to celebrate the exciting arrival of our
new, grant-funded heating system!

Saturday 15th March
3-5pm

Drop in for tea and cake
BAR OPEN



SHREWTON
RUNNING
CLUB

Are you a beginner?
Want to get fit?

Our **COUCH 2-5k**
PROGRAMME

*could be just
what you're looking for*

Tuesdays at the Rec
Starts at 18.30pm
Commencing March 18th

8-week Course with
a final graduation at
Salisbury ParkRun May 10th
www.shrewtonrunning.club

**READY...
SET...
C2-5k**



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

WEST LAVINGTON WI
For further information please contact:
westlavpres@wiltshirewi.org
01380 813512



Thursday March 13th
Starting at 2pm
at West Lavington Village Hall

Pots for the Patio

How to plant stunning pots
this Spring and Summer
Visitors Welcome

The Great Cheverell
PAVILION Club

UNDER OUR LICENCE AGREEMENT WE CANNOT PUBLICLY NAME THE FILM WE ARE SHOWING

Glad I ate her too!



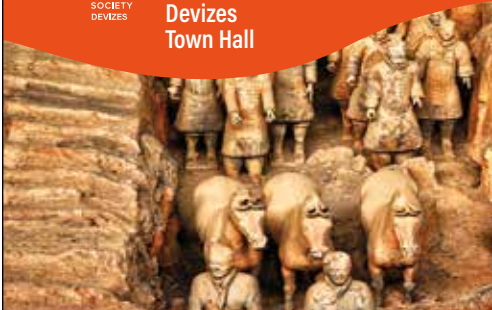
Saturday March 15th
Doors open 7pm Film starts 7.30pm
Members Free - Guests £5

Wednesday 19th March
Starts 10.45am

China's First Emperor


and his Terracotta Legacy

Devizes
Town Hall



David Rosier's lecture traces the origins of the
Chinese Imperial Empire which was formed in 221 BC and lasted until 1911.
China's first Emperor, Qin Shi Huangdi unified China in 221BC
and his greatest legacy is the Terracotta Warriors.

World-class lectures on the third Wednesday of every month
except August and September
Membership from October to February is £50
or £30 from March to July - Guests £8

 The Arts Society Devizes
www.theartsocietydevizes.org

LAVINGTON & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Wednesday 19th March 7:15pm
West Lavington Village Hall SN10 4H

Existing members and those interested
in joining our friendly club are very welcome



Vegetables

A presentation by Ray Broughton
Everything you've wanted to know about
successfully growing vegetables!
Come and join us for what promises to be
a very informative evening!

Refreshments available

Competition: A saucer of hellebore heads

 Lavington & District Gardening Club
online @ lavingtongc.co.uk

DEVIZES SWAP SHOP

Saturday 22nd March

10am to 1pm

St James Church Devizes SN10 3AA

**DONATIONS
DROP-OFF
TIMES**

Friday 21st March
5pm - 7pm

Saturday 22nd March
9am - 11pm



Toys
Books
School
Uniform
Games
Crafts
House
Plants



Great Cheverell Spring Clean

It's fun when you do it with friends
the family and the kids

- Refreshments
- Litter-picking kit
- Maps & choice of area to pick
- Safety briefing



Sunday 23rd March

10.00am to Midday - meet at the Pavilion



**Devizes
Chamber Choir**

Presents

**Chilcott A Little Jazz Mass
Mozart Requiem**

**Saturday 5th April
at 7.30pm Doors open 7pm**

St Andrew's Church Long Street

Tickets

£12 on the door
from choir members
Devizes Bookshop

ticketsource.co.uk/devizes-chamber-choir

www.devizeschamberchoir.org.uk
Registered Charity no 1089712

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

West Lavington WI
with Market Lavington
& Easterton WI

For further information please contact:
westlavpres@wiltshirewi.org
01380 813512

All wo/men welcome
Guest Fee will be £5
including tea & coffee
Please bring any Churchill
or WW2 memorabilia
you may have



The Wit & Wisdom of Winston Churchill
Thursday April 10th at 7pm
West Lavington Village Hall

Drawing on the wealth of humorous stories,
aphorisms and historic speeches made by the
Man voted the People's Greatest Briton
by a BBC poll in 2002, **Stewart Linford**
amuses, informs and entertains.

With an interactive style, dressed and speaking
as the wartime PM, **Stewart** takes his audiences
on a journey illustrated by an array of slides
including lesser known images.

RACE NIGHT & QUIZ at Great Cheverell Pavilion



FRIDAY 28th MARCH
First Race 7pm

Tickets £10 incl nibbles
BAR & Prizes to be won



Numbers are limited - to book a table
please contact Darryl on: eapearson64@gmail.com
All Proceeds go to the Cricket Club's New Pavilion Fund

devizesmusicaltheatre
Spellbinding Production of Disney's



Join Belle, the Beast, and a host of unforgettable characters as they bring
this classic story to life. Following the smash-hit success of Sister Act in 2024,
which not only played to sold-out audiences, but was also nominated for
Best Musical and Best Publicity at the prestigious Rose Bowl awards,
this will be another unmissable show.

7:30pm Wednesday 2nd April to Saturday 5th April
Matinee 2:30pm Saturday 5th April

Dauntsey's School SN10 4HE
Memorial Hall

Tickets from: Devizes Books &
www.DevizesMusicalTheatre.co.uk



COMING UP

**Market Lavington's
Annual Miscellany**

Join us for an evening of entertainment
with a variety of talks on local history
and a taste of some
historical recipes

Food included
There will be a paying bar and raffle

Friday 25th April
7.30pm

Market Lavington Community Hall

Tickets £8
from: St Arbucks
Devizes Books or pay on the door

To reserve tickets email:
marketlavingtonmuseum.org.uk

**Ladies
Charity Fashion Show
with Pop-up Shop!**

**SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS
AT UP TO 70% OFF!**

Colours.
FUN DRESSING
FASHION SHOWS

Sunday 27th April 2025
The Nestling Trust
Market Lavington Community Hall, SN10 4DG
Doors open 2pm, show starts 2.30pm
Tickets: £6 each or 3 for £15
Tickets to be purchased in advance
Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!
For tickets and more information please contact:
St Arbuck's - Market Lavington, Devizes Books - Devizes
Sue Hamblin Tel: 07973414401, Mike Galger Tel: 07789557859

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR THE LAVINGTONS



A Message from Cllr Dominic Muns Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email:
dominic.muns@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on **07585 394 178**.

It has been almost four years since I was elected to serve as your local Councillor. Now that all the nonsense about mayors and combined authorities has been put to bed (for now at least!), Wiltshire will go to the polls on Thursday 1st May. This will be your chance to have your say as to who you want to represent you for the next four years. I am even more passionate about fighting for The Lavingtons than I was in 2021 and so I have decided that I will stand for election again.

In the next few weeks we will enter the pre-election period where everyone, from the Council to news outlets, must ensure that communications are non-political. This then is the last opportunity for me to talk about some of the things we have achieved together as a community of residents with shared experiences, frustrations and objectives.

In my role as Vice-Chairman of the Devizes Area Board, I have awarded grants of more than £50,000 for local community projects across The Lavingtons. This investment has supported West Lavington Youth Club, Worton & Cheverell Football Club, Broadwell Play Area, Market Lavington and West Lavington Halls, and youth outreach work across the area.

You will know from my periodic updates here and on social media that I have delivered on my 2021 election promise to you concerning Black Dog Crossroads. My persistence resulted in the closure of the dangerous spur road and the addition of extra warning signs.

The big win, of course, is the installation of traffic lights, which will begin in the next few months. Next in my sights is a reduction in the speed limit on the A360 to 40mph through the junction; I believe I can deliver this for you in the next two years.

I've worked hard with the parish councils and Community Speed Watch groups to challenge the Chief Constable to increase police presence across The Lavingtons to combat speeding in our villages and we have seen increased patrols as a result. Road safety is incredibly important to me and I continue to champion improvements, including Market Lavington, West Lavington and Great Cheverell High Streets, Kings Road in Easterton and Spin Hill and Parsonage Lane.

I want to keep supporting you for another four years, not only with road safety and community projects, but also in Planning. I have spoken at numerous Planning committees to win refusals for contentious developments that threatened our communities. I remain on-hand to assist our parish councils (and you as a resident) with any Planning related issues we face.

I have plans for further improvements, in particular the surface of the B3098 through Market Lavington and Easterton, the crossing on Lavington Lane, HGV traffic through Great Cheverell and the strengthening of our Neighbourhood Plans.

CHEVERELL MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Spring Clean: Sunday 23rd March 10am – 12 noon: Meet at the Pavilion. Equipment, refreshments and a safety briefing will be provided. You will be able to choose which area to tidy up. Volunteers are very much appreciated, so please come along to help for an hour or two and get the village ready for a lovely Spring!

Neighbourhood Plan meeting, Tuesday 25th March 7pm – 8pm: Meet at the Pavilion. Please join us to consider the next steps in creating Cheverell Magna's Neighbourhood Plan. Over forty people attended the information session on 18th February and there was general agreement to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The plan will be adopted by Wiltshire Council and must be taken into account by developers and planners alike when considering future projects, which must address key issues such as impact on traffic, the rural aesthetic of the area and the needs of the community. There is a lot of work and consultation required in order to develop the Plan and a working group will be established. This is a community-led project with support from the Parish Council. Please join us to find out more about the next steps and help us to create this important planning document.

Parish Council meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Monday 7th April**, at 7pm in the Pavilion. All residents are welcome to attend the meetings. There is always a public participation opportunity. Agendas and minutes can be found on the Parish Council website at <https://www.greatcheverell.org/>

Local Elections Thursday May 1st: Elections are being held for Wiltshire Council together with town and parish councils. Cheverell Magna Parish Council is looking for people to stand as Parish Councillors. We are a small, friendly team and there is a fully qualified clerk supporting the work of the Council. There will be support and training available to anyone wishing to stand as a local councillor, so you do not need to have experience in this role. The Parish Council is the tier of government closest to the people and is often the first place people will go to with concerns or ideas. For this reason, we are a vital part of the community and we want to encourage you to engage with us and join us. We meet 7 times a year and also have a few community events. Please contact the clerk, **Jacqui Abbott**, on **077709 005545** or email parishcouncil@greatcheverell.org to find out how to stand as a councillor on May 1st.

Contact for all enquires: parishclerk@greatcheverell.org

Help Needed!

Help is needed on a job share basis at the Tuesday Club, which is held on Tuesdays between 11.00 hrs to 1300 hrs at the Community Hall, Market Lavington

Please contact **Anji Scofield 01380 812720** or anjiscfield@icloud.com



WEST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Our village Youth Club successfully applied for additional funding at the Devizes Area Board in February which, together with grants from this and other local Parish Councils, keeps the Club running. The Club is an important part of our community as it provides a safe space for our young people to interact outside of school and, since the pandemic, numbers of attendees have continued to rise. Youth leaders are also able to support those who have additional needs. The Parish Council would like to thank Youth Club leader Joshy and his team and all those who lead and manage this important resource.

The Youth Club was founded by George Baker MBE, a well-known British actor and resident of the village. You can find information on him in some of the books by local historian Lyn Dyson. Lyn wrote many books on the history of the village which she published herself and when she died there was a risk that her books would no longer be available. Thankfully, Lyn's family are starting the process to republish her books, and we look forward to seeing them for sale in the future. If anyone has a wish for a particular title, please let us know via the Contact Us part of our website and we will pass that on to see if popular titles can be prioritised.

We have had a few storms this winter and some very heavy rainfall which, combined with a ground water table that is already saturated, has generated a lot of surface water runoff. The Parish Council thinks that, with climate change, this level of rain and surface water flooding will not improve and our Resilience team views this as the highest ongoing risk to the village. We are lobbying Wiltshire Council continually on gully clearance - not just the visible gully but the pipes that carry the water away. Restrictions in these pipes mean water is not cleared quickly enough to prevent flooding.

You can help! If you know of gullies that are visibly blocked or slow to drain, report it on the **MyWilts phone app** or on line at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

It is only by reporting these issues that we will resolve them. If you have reported drainage issues but feel you have not had a response from Wiltshire Council, tell us at the Parish Council. We cannot directly clear them, but we will follow up with Wiltshire's Drainage Team. Remember to use What-Three-Words to identify the location. <https://what3words.com/>

The recent storms have also caused a lot of silt to appear along the length of Semington Brook. We have written to all those who own a section of the river to remind them of their riparian responsibilities, which include clearing fallen trees that may affect the flow of the river and reporting other issues to the Environment Agency. It is particularly important to ensure the river flows freely, as this is where our surface water ends up, as both surface water runoff and road drainage go into the river.

Local elections take place on the 1st May for both Wiltshire Council and the Parish Councils. We will provide information on that in News & Views next month and on our social media feeds. The next Parish Council meeting is on **Thursday March 6th at 7pm** in the Giles Room of the Village Hall.

Cllr Peter West, Chair WLPC

<https://www.westlavington.org.uk/contact-us/>

West Lavington Planning Matters

At the time of going to press there were no new planning matters. Most of the recent applications have been notifications for works on trees. We ask everyone who needs to fell trees to replant. Trees are an important part of our street scene as well as our ecology.



LITTLE CHEVERELL PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **10th March at 7.30pm** in Little Cheverell Village Hall.

Life Saving Training: Paul Cosh from South West Ambulance Service will be delivering an essential training session at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 11th March at 7pm**. Please do your best to attend as it may just save a life. The training is fun but really helpful and will give confidence to anyone that has cause to help save a life using an AED (defibrillator). This training is open to all -you do not have to reside in Little Cheverell to attend. Recommended for everyone over the age 16.

Part Time Job: Little Cheverell Parish Council is seeking a Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with immediate effect. This post is for a minimum of five hours per month. Full details of the post are available from Rebecca Hathaway White at:

clerklittlecheverellparishcouncil@gmail.com **Tel: 07802 679457**. Alternatively, please see the full job listing on the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils website at <https://tinyurl.com/munhezxr>

This post is work from home and may suit a clerk who currently looks after another Parish Council or someone who is a strong administrator willing to undertake the necessary training.

Little Cheverell Village Hall New Heating System

The LCVH Committee is pleased to announce that we have a new heating system installed in the Village Hall. We would like to extend an invitation to our Hall Warming afternoon on Saturday 15th March from 3 to 5pm - feel free to drop in for tea and cakes! Our Bar will be open.

HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY ACADEMY



We have been immersed in **National Storytelling Week** – ‘reimagine your world’. We live-streamed authors into school and joined hundreds of schools across the UK for book chat and shared stories. Reading stories (and lots of other types of text) is always at the heart of Holy Trinity’s teaching. There is lots of evidence showing that children who choose to read develop into the most successful adults.

Stonehenge began the week by reading the book ‘**Our Tower**’ by **Joseph Coelho** a story to inspire children to imagine the world in a different way. Next we created ‘magic stones’ to take on an adventure around the school grounds to find secret hidden doors that took us to faraway lands. The children attended a live workshop with Joseph Coelho before telling their adventures to each other and writing or drawing about the magical places they had been.

We were also thrilled to welcome members of our wider school community to share a story in school. Thank you to everyone who got involved in a truly wonderful week of learning full of creativity, imagination, awe and wonder.

World Book Day is on Thursday 6th March and we will be celebrating reading, authors, illustrators and books. We will be holding a Book Swap (one for KS1 and one for KS2) and building a Reading Wall over the week to celebrate our reading community.

Walk Safe: the Wiltshire Road Safety team joined us in school for a combination of classroom and practical activities. Year 1 children learnt how to keep safe when near a busy road, the different types of crossing and role-played crossing the road safely in various scenarios. For Year 3 pupils this included practice on pavements and roads near the school. Year 6 sessions focused on transition to secondary schools, including route planning. As ever, we were really impressed with the children’s thoughtful questions, superb listening skills and great team work.

Holy Trinity/Great Cheverell adult choir: We are starting a community adult choir and we’d love you to join! Open to all skill levels, the choir will offer a fun way to connect through music and perform together. Rehearsals will begin soon, so come to sing, make friends and be part of something special. For more details please contact the School office.

We rejoice in being part of a great, diverse community, locally and further afield. The Dance Festival, Eisteddfod Creative Arts, music concerts, class bake sales, sport and an ambitious range of enrichment clubs are wonderful opportunities for all our children to enhance their skills and talents.

If you think you would like your child to attend our outstanding school, please phone **01380 813796** and book an appointment to look around and chat to the Headteacher.

Anna Woodman, Headteacher <https://www.holy-trinity.co.uk/>

DAUNTSEY ACADEMY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Dauntsey Dance Show

Huge congratulations to our DAPS dance team which took part in the Dauntsey Dance Show at the end of term. They danced to a medley of ABBA music, including Mamma Mia, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. More than 20 of our dancers performed on stage in front of a huge crowd who were clapping along. It was a big stage and they filled it with not only their brilliant routine but also their huge smiles! They performed alongside 13 local schools from the surrounding area. Their performance was wonderful and I know they did us all proud.

DAPS day at Devizes Town Football Club

During February, DAPS pupils were invited to Devizes Town Football Club as special guests! The children were invited to be team mascots and escorted the team onto the pitch at the start of the match, before enjoying a half-time feast! After the match, the children announced the Man of the Match and got to run the post-match interview of the Team Manager. An amazing day for all the children involved and warm thanks to all at Devizes Town FC for making our children feel so welcome and special.

The Secret Garden production

This month we will be inviting the M&M theatre group back to school for a magical production of The Secret Garden. They have joined us in school for several years now and it is always a highlight of our Spring Calendar.

Book Week

As we welcome the children back into school after their half term break, we also launch straight into Book Week, one of my favourite weeks of the school calendar. The children will be dressing up as a character from their favourite book and bringing that book in to read with their class. We have a book swap box outside each classroom so the children can swap books and we have a visiting book fair where the children can browse lots of authors they might not have yet discovered. We also have a bedtime story evening where the children come into school in their PJs and onesies with their teddies for a bedtime story with their teachers. A perfect way to celebrate our love of reading here at DAPS!

Visit DAPS

As we approach the time of year where primary school places are offered to little ones starting school in September, we are keen to invite anyone new to the Lavington area, or who have put DAPS down as either a first or second primary school choice, to come and visit us. I am so proud of what our children achieve at DAPS and I would love to show you around our wonderful school and grounds. Please just give us a call on 01380 813373 and we would be delighted to show you around at a time convenient to you.

Philippa Winbolt, Headteacher



We have had a very busy Term 3 with lots of fun learning, beginning with the **Big Garden Birdwatch 2025**. The children were very creative, designing and making their own bird feeders using their fine motor skills, squelching lard and birdseeds together and placing them on a variety of objects to make bird feeders. They then used our junk modelling to make binoculars, and we sat patiently inside the entrance hall, observing which birds came to our bird feeders. The children saw a variety of birds and even 2 squirrels.

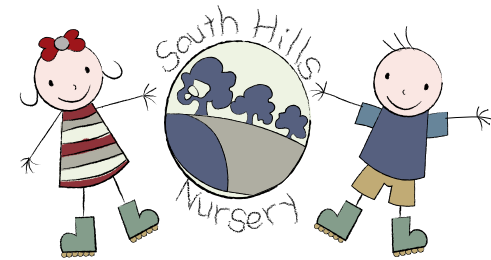
We then moved our topic onto **wildlife and woodland animals**. The children investigated different footprints, matching them to the small world animals and going out onto the school field to see if we could find animal prints in the mud. Using playdough and the twigs that they collected, the children created their own hedgehogs. We also spoke about which animals we thought were nocturnal and why.

We had lots of fun celebrating the **Chinese New Year of the Snake**. We were visited by Miss Julie's husband with their pet corn snake. The children asked lots of fantastic questions and went on to use their scissor skills to cut out and make their own snakes. We had the opportunity to try some traditional Chinese foods including a favourite – fortune cookies. The children also made their own fortune cookies with their own fortunes inside.

We finished our term with a tea party on **Valentines Day** when we invited our grandparents to join us in the afternoon for sandwiches and cakes. The children loved having their families visit them in the setting and this was a wonderful finish to such a busy term. We are looking forward to the start of Spring in Term 4.

We currently have spaces for 2-year-olds and 3-4 year olds. If you have any queries, please either call us on **01380 812551** or send an email to **lavingtonpreschool@gmail.com** or **managerlavingtonpreschool@gmail.com**.

Julie Langlands, Manager



We have been extremely busy at Old School Nursery over the last few weeks. We joined in with the RSPB bird watch, making lots of bird feeders to encourage the birds into our Nursery garden. The children were delighted to spot a friendly Robin who was very brave perching close to us.

We were fortunate to have a visit from Grand Master Don Deedigan who taught the children about 'Stranger danger' and what to do if someone is trying to get too close. The children were fully involved in this session and learnt a great deal.

We also had a visit from a Librarian who kept the children engaged with a great selection of stories. We are always so pleased to have visitors come to our setting to share new experiences with our children. We will be looking forward to more visits during the Summer term.

We will be celebrating Pancake Day with fun races in the playground and pancake tasting. We are also planning a Mother's Day tea where the children will make cards and invite their Mum's into Nursery to share tea, cake and fun together.

Staff at the Nursery are always aiming to extend their learning, so in March all of the staff will be participating in the 'Early Talk Boost' training. This is a targeted programme to help boost language skills and accelerate children's progress in language and communication.

We currently have spaces available for 2 year-olds. If you book a space by the end of March there will be no £30 registration fee.

Please contact us on **01380 812418** or email **oldschoolmanager@southhillsschool.com** to book a visit.





West Lavington Fete 2025

Saturday 12th July 2pm

Village Hall and Playing Field

To be opened by Mr John Davies

Headmaster of Dauntsey's School

The West Lavington Village Fete is already in the planning stage and we hope to make it another successful and entertaining event for the village. Profits from the Fete are distributed to village groups and organisations, so the community benefits twice from the event.

STALLS

We would like to add to the number of stalls at the Fete, either from community groups or commercial stalls. All are welcome! And if you are a book lover and enjoy our very popular Book Stall, we are looking for volunteers to take it on! This would involve collecting books before the Fete, selling on the day and disposing of surplus books afterwards. This is a very rewarding stall - and you would get first pick of the books!

Contact Sue Bastone on westlavfete@gmail.com if you would like to book a stall, or take on the Book Stall.

YOUR FETE NEEDS YOU!

The Fete Committee cannot do it alone! We need more helpers and volunteers to help us set up and take down the tents and tables on the day, and generally help out. All of those who currently volunteer their services are well into retirement, so we need a team of younger adults to help! If you can spare some time in the morning and/or afternoon of Saturday July 12th, please consider being part of the team and contact **Sue Bastone on westlavfete@gmail.com**



EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH

Talking about Generation Z

The Times has published an in-depth survey of the attitudes and opinions of 'Generation Z'. That's people born between 1997 and 2013. From what I can work out, I'm 'Generation X', but unlike the song by The Who, we're not talking about my generation. The survey produced some troubling results. Apparently, 48% of Gen Zers think that Britain is a racist society. Only 11% would fight for King and country. There is a lack of trust in our institutions such as the police and NHS.

The reasons why only 41% of twenty-somethings are proud to be British are discussed in the paper. Kemi Badenoch blames lefty teachers for promoting a negative view of our history and achievements. Columnist Hugo Rifkind identifies difficult economic circumstances as the key problem, 'Give them better lives, today and in the future, and their pride will follow.'

Interestingly, the younger generation seems to be more attuned to the spiritual side of life. According to The Times, '62 percent of 18 to 24-year-olds identified as either 'very' or 'fairly' spiritual.' Only 13% professed to be atheists, opposed to 25% of Gen Xers, who were born between 1965 and 1980. The New Atheist movement associated with Richard Dawkins is evidently petering out. One of their key advocates, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, recently renounced her unbelief and now calls herself a Christian.

It seems that the secular vision of a world in which we can find meaning and satisfaction without God is failing on its own terms. Covid-19 lockdowns stalled economic growth. Rising house prices mean it's hard for young people to get on the property ladder. Social media has messed with their heads, as avid users compare their humdrum lives with the glamorous world of TikTok influencers. As one Gen Zer quoted in The Times reflects, 'I think once they hit that place of, 'I have tried and I am still not good enough,' that's when people are turning to Christianity.'

In his great work, Confessions, Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) charts his journey towards God. As a young man he tried all that the world had to offer to satisfy the deepest longings of his soul, but to no avail. He later confessed, 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.' But how may our wayward hearts find rest in God? It's certainly not a matter of being good enough. God deals with us on the basis of grace. He sent his Son, the Lord Jesus to die on the cross so that we may be forgiven by faith in him. Jesus now says to all generations of people, 'Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'

Guy Davies

www.pbc-ebc.org.uk

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday services at 4.30pm. On the 4th Sunday of the month we have 'Time for Tea +', a traditional Sunday tea, followed by a short service.

OLD CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Insecure? Empty?

'...we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.' Hebrews 6.18-19

Water is an attraction for people. Some enjoy a canal boat for the serenity and security it offers. For the adventurous, the exhilarating experience of white-water rafting has greater appeal.

However, no white-water enthusiast would want their life to resemble rafting, with the constant and desperate struggle to avoid overturning. Yet some people's lives are a bit like that. They are continually battered by the roaring waters of life. They long to be secure in placid waters.

Even in the apparent safety of a harbour, a boat must be anchored, otherwise it will gently drift away with the tide or be swept away in a storm. In these verses, the writer uses the anchor as a symbol of the hope which keeps the Christian fully secure. The Christian's hope is like an anchor firmly embedded in an immovable rock. That rock is Jesus Himself.

Are you are drifting or in fact being battered? Anchoring yourself with Jesus means security forever.

'Whoever brings blessing will be enriched and the one who waters will themselves be watered.' Proverbs 11:25

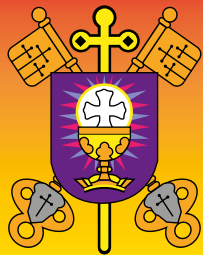
Our world is filled with people who desperately need encouragement, hope and love. When you feel empty and alone, ask God to bring to mind someone who needs encouragement. You might send a quick message to check on a friend, contact a distant loved one to tell them how you are thinking of them. Perhaps you might call on an elderly relative. You may be encouraged to deliver food to a neighbour or go and check on a friend who is struggling.

Bringing love to those who feel insecure and empty gives them a gift that cannot be valued in monetary terms. Spending time and giving to others ensures that they feel life has meaning. Community and fellowship are on God's plan. 'Not giving up meeting together...encourage one another' Hebrews 10:25

Step out and share God's love with someone else and He will lift your head in the process.

Rev Fr David Knipe (Prayer/Pastoral care/Bible Study)

email: frdavidknipe@liberalcatholics.co.uk **website:** www.liberalcatholics.co.uk



OLD CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH

— WORLDWIDE —

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TRINITY CHURCH

We meet in the Community Hall, Market Lavington every Sunday morning at **10.30 am** unless stated otherwise.

Visitors to our informal style of worship in the United Reformed Church/Methodist tradition are always welcome. Do come along.

All services are accompanied by refreshments and we follow current regulations to help keep you safe.

March 2nd	Trinity Church Service Led by Revd Peter Bennet
March 9th	United Church Service Led by Revd Gary Gotham
March 16th	Trinity Church Service with Holy Communion Led by Revd Gary Gotham
March 23rd	United Service Led by Joe Vakacokaival
March 30th	United Sector Service and Mothering Sunday Led by Revd Gary Gotham

Church Minister: Revd Gary Gotham, 69 Queens Road, Devizes.

01380 724264 gary.gotham@gmail.com

Trinity Church Secretary: Les Charlton

079 624 22 624 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

Postal address: Trinity Church Secretary, c/o St. Arbucks Cafe,
1 Church St, Market Lavington SN10 4DT

Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub can help:

- put people in touch with community groups who can help and provide a warm space
- signpost to sources of financial support and foodbanks
- provide advice to those experiencing loneliness
- advise people on cost-of-living crisis
- signpost customers to any appropriate schemes through the Household Support Fund (HSF)

The Household Support Fund is to support households that would otherwise struggle to buy food, pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs during the current cost-of-living challenges and particularly those who may not be eligible for the other forms of Government Aid.

Email wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

Tel: **0300 003 4576** Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-4pm

WHAT'S ON WHEN - A CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

MARCH	
Sat 1st:	Erlestoke Swap and Shop, Holy St Saviour's Church, 1 - 4pm
Mon 3rd:	Devizes Arts Society Special Interest Day 'Unravelling the Silk Road', Seend Community Centre. First lecture 10.30am. Tickets including lunch £40 Cafe Scientifique: 'The Social Psychology of Evil', The Bell, GC, 7.30pm
Tues 4th	Pancake Day
Wed 5th:	North Wilts Arts Society lecture, Life and Work of Edouard Manet, Assembly Hall, Melksham, 11am - 12 noon. Guests £8
Wed 5th/ Thurs 6th:	Wilts Bobby Van Trust Bag A Bargain, Manor Farm, Calstone, Calne SN11 2-8pm Wed £7, 9am - 12noon Thurs, free entry.
Sat 8th:	Dorothy House 8 mile Men's Walk to Support, DH Winsley, 11am and 12 noon Spring Gift Fair, Corn Exchange, Devizes, 11am-4pm Edington Arts Concert 'Sanctuary'. Edington Priory Church, 7.30pm. Tickets £11 - £25
Mon 10th:	West Lavington Mothers' Union meeting: 'Dementia and The Church', 54 High Street WL, 2.15pm Little Cheverell Parish Council meeting, LCVH, 7.30pm
Tues 11th:	Life Saving Training, Little Cheverell Village Hall, 7pm. Open to all Cheverells Garden Club talk 'Coping with a changing climate', GCVH, 7.30pm
Tues 11th - Sat 15th:	White Horse Opera performs 'La Belle Helene' Wharf Theatre, Devizes. Tickets £20
Thur 13th:	WL WI meeting 'Pots for the Patio', WLVH, 2pm
Sat 15th:	Little Cheverell Village Hall Warming Party, LCVH, 3-5pm. Tea and cakes, and bar GC Pavilion Film Club: Glad I Ate Her Too! The Pavilion, GC. Doors open 7pm for 7.30. Members free, Guests £5
Mon 17th:	Little Cheverell Parish Council Meeting, LCVH, 7.30pm.
Wed 19th:	Arts Society Devizes Lecture: China's First Emperor and his Terracotta Legacy, Devizes Town Hall, 10.45 for 11am. Guests £8 Lavington and District Gardening Club presentation on Growing Vegetables, WLVH, 7.15pm for 7.30 start. Mercers Lecture: Rageh Omaah, Dauntsey's School Memorial Hall, 7.30pm. Book online. https://www.dauntseys.org/our-community/the-mercers/mercers-lectures-2024-25

WHAT'S ON WHEN - A CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

Fri 21st:	Red Nose Day
Sat 22nd:	Devizes Swap Shop, St James' Church, 10am - 1pm. Donations: Fri 21st 5-7pm or Sat 22nd 9 - 11am.
Sun 23rd:	Great Cheverell Spring Clean 10am - midday. Meet at the Pavilion.
Tues 25th:	Cheverell Magna Neighbourhood Plan meeting, GC Pavilion, 7 - 8pm.
Fri 28th - Sun March 2nd:	Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club Race Night, GC Pavilion, First Race 7pm. Tickets £10. Numbers limited. email eapearson64@gmail.com to book a table
Sun 30th:	Mothering Sunday Clocks go forward for British Summer Time
APRIL	
Wed 2nd - Sat 5th:	Devizes Musical Theatre presents Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Dauntsey's School, WL. Tickets £16, £13 children from Devizes Books and from www.devizesmusicaltheatre.co.uk
Sat 5th:	Devizes Chamber Choir Spring Concert, St Andrew's Church, Long St. Devizes 7.30pm, Tickets £12 on the door, from Choir members, Devizes Books or ticketsource.co.uk/devizes-chamber-choir
Mon 7th:	Cheverell Magna Parish Council meeting, GC Pavilion, 7pm
Thurs 10th:	WL WI meeting: 'The Wit and Wisdom of Winston Churchill', WLVH, 7pm.
Fri 18th - Mon 21st:	Easter weekend

Useful Dates for Your Diary

Urchfont Scarecrow Festival: Saturday 3rd May - Monday 5th May

West Lavington Village Fete: Saturday July 12th

Good Friday 18th April

Easter Monday 21st April

Early May Bank Holiday 5th May

Spring Bank Holiday 26th May

Summer Bank Holiday 25 August

Wiltshire school term dates 2025

24th February to 4th April

22nd April to 23rd May

2nd June to 24th July

1st September to 22nd October

3rd November to 19th December

REGULAR MEETINGS OF VILLAGE GROUPS

Art Group: Thursday mornings, Giles Room, WL Village Hall, 9.30am - midday.

Cafe Scientifique: first Monday of the month, 7.30pm, The Bell Inn, Great Cheverell

Cheverells Garden Club: second Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, GC Village Hall

Easterton Sewing Bee: Wednesday evenings, 7pm in Easterton Village Hall

Friendly Fridays, Old School, Market Lavington 10am to 1pm, all ages

Gt Cheverell Book Club: last Tuesday of the month, 2pm

Gt Cheverell Friends and Neighbours: first Wednesday in the month, GC Village Hall 3pm.

Home Group: Tuesdays in term time, 46 High Street, West Lavington, 6.30 - 8pm

Kenet Quilters: second Monday in month, ML Community Hall, 1.30 - 4.30pm.

Knitting Club: Baptist Church hall on third Wednesday of the month at 10am.

Lavington Community Choir: Thursdays, ML Community Hall, 8pm for 8.15pm.

Lavington and District Swimming Club: Sundays 3.30-5.30pm, Tuesdays 7.15-8.15pm, Thursdays 6.30am-7.30 am, Dauntsey's School Pool. 7th January to 25th March 2025.

Lavington and District Garden Club: third Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm, WL Village Hall, £2 per meeting, £15 per year

Market Lavington Toddlers' Group: Drop in, from birth to 5 yrs. Tuesdays in term time, 09.30 - 11.30am, The Old School, Market Lavington. Contact **Maxine on 07967 635147**

Market Lavington Short Mat Bowls Club: Mondays 10am & Wednesdays 7pm, Market Lavington Community Hall

Mothers' Union: second Monday of the Month, 2.15pm at 54 High Street, West Lavington, unless otherwise advised.

Rhyme Time: for babies through to pre-schoolers, 1st and 3rd Fridays of month, including holidays. 10.15 - 10.45am, Market Lavington Library

Tuesday Club: for 60+, Tuesdays, ML Community Hall 10am - 2pm

West Lavington Friendship Club: second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, Baptist Church Hall at 2.30pm, unless otherwise advertised.

West Lavington WI: second Thursday of the month, Giles Room WLVH, April-Oct 7pm, Nov-March 2pm.

West Lavington Youth Club: West Lavington Youth Club: Mondays 6-8pm Year 8 (12 yrs+), Tuesdays 6-8pm Year 7 (11 years), Wednesdays 6-8pm Years 4-6, (Primary) WL Village Hall

Whist Drive: Every Friday, Great Cheverell Village Hall 1.30pm



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mark.smallman@outlook.com

Facebook: Mark Smallman Artist

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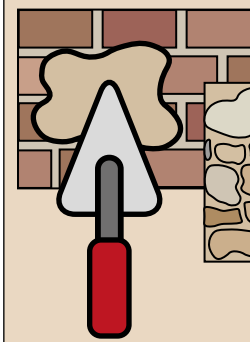


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