

# Community Matters



*Wishing you all a*



*Happy Christmas & Happy New Year*



A wonderful snowy scene painted by local artist, Jane Rowe.

**Lower Wylfe and Till Valley  
Parishes Magazine**  
*DECEMBER 2025*

"THE COUNTRY GARAGE  
THAT COMPETES"

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## WELCOME TO DECEMBER'S COMMUNITY MATTERS MAGAZINE!

Happy Christmas everyone!

This month's cover, painted by Berwick St. James artist Jane Rowe, is a lovely reminder to keep our garden birds well fed as the colder months set in.

As always, December is full of festive gatherings — from the many Benefice Church services (Jonathan, Roger and Yvonne will certainly be kept busy!) to community events across our villages. South Newton and Wishford Football Club will hold their annual charity match on Saturday 27th December (see p13), with all proceeds going to Salisbury Hospice. And looking ahead, Stapleford will be hosting a Burns Night celebration on Saturday 24th January.

Please do send in your festive photos — it would be wonderful to brighten January's cover with a bit of seasonal cheer!

### MAGAZINE ENTRIES

Please send your submissions by the 14th of the month before publication to the editor or your village representative, clearly marked as a magazine entry. Kindly double-check all event dates and times before sending. We love to include welcomes to new villagers, event news, parish council updates, congratulations, and—where space allows—your photos! Please note entries may not be reviewed until the week before the deadline. All advertising enquiries should be directed to the advertising email.

Rachael White (Editor, Great Wishford & general) - [twovalleysed@hotmail.com](mailto:twovalleysed@hotmail.com)

All advertising - [twovalleysads@gmail.com](mailto:twovalleysads@gmail.com)

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Karen Barnes (South Newton & Wishford Rec. Centre) - [karenbarnes@live.com](mailto:karenbarnes@live.com)

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## ALL VILLAGES

### FOOD TRUCKS

Food trucks will be serving in The Royal Oak carpark, Great Wishford, please check at the pub for any changes or additions to the below:

|            |       |                                           |
|------------|-------|-------------------------------------------|
| Fri 5 Dec  | 6-8pm | Indriya Indian Kitchen                    |
| Thu 11 Dec | 6-8pm | Travelling Thai                           |
| Thu 18 Dec | 6-8pm | Rocky's Pizza                             |
| Sat 27 Dec | 3-7pm | Lukey Luciano's (Non Boxing Day Football) |
| Wed 31 Dec | 6-8pm | Lukey Luciano's                           |

### SWANS WI

Gordon Brockman from RWB Auctions gave us a super talk about his experiences of life as an auctioneer. He entertained us with amusing anecdotes, stories and useful information. We learnt about the unexpected finds in homes, spotting a fake, and the real value of items often assumed to be mere trinkets. We had a fun competition which illustrated the pitfalls and difficulties of assessing the age and rarity of an object. Based in Royal Wootton Bassett, RWB Auctions have built a reputation of being knowledgeable, trustworthy and honest. I think many of us made a mental note to look through our jewellery boxes again and, if selling, be sure to choose an auctioneer with care!

A member of New Sarum WI came to talk to us about becoming Domestic Abuse Ambassadors for S.W.A. - Society Without Abuse. She was very informative and described the training that is available very clearly and succinctly.

Business followed with the usual reports and monthly groups discussed, cuppa club being very popular. There was, as always, good support for the Food Bank.

Last month, members were reminded of the new competition - The Lin Wells Memorial Competition for Creative Work, to be judged next June. The engraved trophy was on display. Birthday flowers were presented to six of our members, winners of the monthly competitions were announced and the raffle drawn. Star prize was a beautiful patchwork cushion expertly made by one of our members.

We had to say goodbye to a long standing and much valued member of Swans. Kathleen Stewart is leaving the area to move closer to her family. She has held many roles over the years of her membership, not least, taking on the

post of Treasurer - not always the most popular job! We shall miss her cheerful good humour and commonsense opinions.

Next month being December, we shall be making merry at our Christmas Party. We meet on the first Thursday of each month 2.00p.m. normally at Wilton Community Centre. We are a friendly, welcoming group. If you would like to know more about us, please contact our President, Sue, on 01722 790316.

## **WILDLIFE WATCH**

A stoat was seen in the middle of Berwick in mid October, running along the road under the parked cars.

A great report from Great Wishford.

During the autumn I've noticed a significant increase in the number of finches on my walk from Great Wishford to Grovely Wood. Including buntings, it's possible to see up to twelve species. Starting by the River Wylfe, there's a chance of spotting a Reed Bunting, which breeds here in the summer. A stroll through the village should provide sightings of Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Goldfinch. The road up to Grovely Wood offers good opportunities to see farmland and hedgerow birds such as Linnet, Yellowhammer and Corn Bunting. In Grovely Wood itself, there's a very good chance at this time of year of encountering flocks of Common Crossbill, Siskin and Lesser Redpoll. And if you're lucky, you might even come across the occasional Bullfinch, I'm still keeping an eye out for two other finches – the Brambling (a winter visitor) and Britain's largest finch, the Hawfinch – but no luck so far.

Despite the drop in temperature, I'm still attracting a decent number of moths to the trap I set in the garden. The highlight in October was a Clifden Nonpareil, also known as the Blue Underwing. The moth was almost the size of my hand and, as its name suggests, has a spectacular blue underwing – a truly remarkable sight. One White Tailed eagle seen over Uppington on 30th October, being followed/mobbed by other birds. Two were seen a few days later, one a youngster. It is thought they are a pair/siblings from Langford Lakes. Two White Tailed eagles were also seen in the field backing onto Mount Pleasant Stoford, at the top of the same garden there is a large cauldron of water the deers regularly drink from.

Garden birds on bird tables – there have been reports of many fewer garden birds both from South Newton and Winterbourne Stoke. Here in Berwick I still have many Goldfinches, Chaffinches, Sparrows, Collared Doves, Jackdaws ... Does anyone have any ideas why there should be fewer in places?

Seen in South Newton meadows Moorhens and Wagtails, and Egrets both Large and Small. The otter has been seen too, eating all the fish in the ponds.

In a garden in Stapleford in November – Holly Blue butterfly, Red Admirals, Grey Squirrels, Eristalis species of hoverflies and Marmalade hoverflies. Also Goldcrest, Robins, Wrens, Pheasants, Crow, Magpies and Grey Wagtail, and a Tree Creeper.

## **BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2025 ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON**

### **SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

|         |                  |                                                     |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 9.30am  | Berwick St James | Holy Communion for Advent Season (CW)               |
| 9:30am  | Stockton         | Holy Communion for Advent Season (BCP)              |
| 11:00am | South Newton     | Holy Communion for Advent Season (CW)               |
| 11:00am | Stapleford       | Advent Worship                                      |
| 11:00am | Wylfe            | Advent Worship                                      |
| 4:00pm  | Location tbc     | A family Advent event exploring Advent with crafts. |
| 4.00pm  | Steeple Langford | A service of Advent Carols and Readings             |

### **SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER**

|        |              |                                              |
|--------|--------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 3:00pm | South Newton | Christmas Tree Decorating for all the Family |
|--------|--------------|----------------------------------------------|

### **SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

|         |                    |                                       |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9:30am  | Winterbourne Stoke | Holy Communion for Advent Season (CW) |
| 11:00am | Steeple Langford   | Holy Communion for Advent Season (CW) |
| 6:00pm  | Great Wishford     | Advent Evening Prayer                 |

### **THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER**

|        |          |                                             |
|--------|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| 6:30pm | Stockton | Carols and Barrels in The Cricket Pavillion |
|--------|----------|---------------------------------------------|

### **FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER**

|        |                      |                                                    |
|--------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 5:00pm | Steeple Langford     | Community Procession and Crib Blessing             |
| 6:30pm | Fisherton de la Mere | Traditional candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service |

### **SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER**

|        |                    |                                                    |
|--------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 4:00pm | Wylfe              | Traditional candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service |
| 5:00pm | Winterbourne Stoke | Carols through the village                         |

**SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

|         |                  |                                                    |
|---------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30am | Great Wishford   | Holy Communion for Advent Season (CW)              |
| 11:00am | Wylfe            | Holy Communion for Advent Season (BCP)             |
| 4:00pm  | South Newton     | Traditional candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service |
| 6:00pm  | Berwick St James | Traditional candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service |
| 6:00pm  | Stapleford       | Traditional candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service |
| 6:00pm  | Stockton         | Traditional candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service |
| 7:00pm  | Steeple Langford | Traditional candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service |

**MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER**

|        |                |                           |
|--------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 5:30pm | Great Wishford | Carols around the village |
| 6:30pm | Wylfe          | Carols around the village |

**WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE**

|         |                  |                                                |
|---------|------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 3:00pm  | Little Langford  | Traditional candle-lit Carols and Crib Service |
| 5:00pm  | Great Wishford   | Traditional candle-lit Carols and Crib Service |
| 11:30pm | Steeple Langford | Midnight Mass                                  |

**THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY**

|         |                  |                       |
|---------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 9:00am  | Little Langford  | Holy Communion (BCP)  |
| 9:30am  | Great Wishford   | Holy Communion (CW)   |
| 10:00am | South Newton     | Christmas Day Worship |
| 10:00am | Stockton         | Christmas Day Worship |
| 10:30am | Steeple Langford | Holy Communion (CW)   |
| 11:00am | Stapleford       | Christmas Day Worship |
| 10:45am | Berwick St James | Holy Communion (CW)   |
| 11:00am | Wylfe            | Holy Communion (CW)   |

**SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER – FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

|         |            |                              |
|---------|------------|------------------------------|
| 10:30am | Stapleford | Benefice Holy Communion (CW) |
|---------|------------|------------------------------|

Please look at the Parish News Sheets for any changes to services  
or contact the Rector, Rev'd Jonathan Plows  
Monday being his day off [Rectorwtv@gmail.com](mailto:Rectorwtv@gmail.com) 01722 790616

*CW = Common Worship, BCP = Book of Common Prayer*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

## BENEFICE LETTER DECEMBER 2025

*It really doesn't have to be such a cold, dark month!*

Brrrr - just that word December conjures up chilly, short days, numb hands, and red noses (and not only Rudolph's!). It brings Jack Frost to our car windows, a shiver when we leave our warm beds, and a desire for endless hot drinks. December's a dark month that heralds colds in the form of coughs, sneezes and runny noses. That word cold can equally be used to describe lack of emotion, standoffishness or disdain. And yet December is also the month that sees our spirits warmed and our lives brightened....by the birth of Jesus, the event that brings us together in the convivial warmth of hymns and carols sung in celebration.

Warmth is not simply a matter of dressing in multiple layers, but may be seen and felt in a smile of joy, which can lift up dampened spirits. And that's not simply a matter of being spot on with our choice of Christmas gifts, but also about the love and care that go into thinking about what might make that person smile. It's a two-way thing - giving also generates a warm feeling in the giver.

The short dark days of December are apt to make many feel low. But our mood may be lifted by lights on a tree, or at the sight of carol singers with their torches. The whole story of Christ's birth is one of light and joy. It was a bright star that announced Jesus' arrival to the three wise men, who "rejoiced with exceeding great joy". And it was the brightness of an angel that heralded the same news to the shepherds, as "the glory of the Lord shone around them" (Luke 2:9). God gave us the gift of his Son, to lead us into the light and to his Father. As Paul, in 2 Corinthians 9:15, so aptly puts it: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift".

Mulled wine and Christmas tree lights will go a long way toward cheering us through the cold dark days of December. But what really warms the cockles of our hearts is when we "love each other with genuine affection" (Romans 12:10) and remember that "what has come into being in [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:4-5) Perhaps it's not such a cold, dark month after all.....

May your Christmas bring warmth and brightness to carry you well into the coming year! ★

Yvonne Allen

## BERWICK ST JAMES

We are all so sorry that Jean Hibberd has passed away. She will be much missed. Our thoughts and condolences are with all her family and many friends.

### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF JEAN HIBBERD.**

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Jean Hibberd, who died peacefully on 19<sup>th</sup> October, aged 96.

Jean was a proud and much-loved resident of Berwick St James, who greatly enjoyed being involved with village life and the community. Born in a small village in Dorset, Jean moved to Berwick as a teenager, and as time went by never thought of living anywhere else. Leaving school aged 14, Jean was proud to secure her first job as a nanny to the Merton family. Shortly after Jean joined the war effort, taking up a post at the Wilton Carpet factory working on the essential production of camouflage netting, cycling there with others from the village which must have been quite a challenge given the distance and imposed blackouts. At 17, Jean was bowled over to meet Will Hibberd, who had returned from Egypt and other postings with The Army. By this time Jean was working in the Eye Ward at Salisbury Infirmary and it was here that she formed a long and lasting friendship with Winnie, an evacuee who had lived at the Boot In during the war years.

Jean and Will were married in 1950 at Berwick Church and soon after made their home in what was then a thatched cottage on the High Street, as Will worked at Manor Farm, where he stayed until retiring. Their son Norman was born in the cottage. As their family grew a move to the newly built Downsway house followed where both Colin and Joy were born. The whole family enjoyed living in the village and rural life, and Jean was so very proud of her family. The final move for Jean and Will took them back to a tied cottage in the High Street.

Jean enjoyed being involved within the community and was always willing to offer help wherever needed; crafting tapestry hassock covers which are still used in the Church today, arranging flowers, organizing the jumble at the village fete, and selling poppies for over 30 years. She had strong links to the Reading Room, serving as committee member and keyholder, managing bookings and collecting payments. Living next door, she was perfectly placed to both look after and enjoy the space, helping to host cake stalls, table-top sales, and joining in the much-loved whist drives.

Jean also supported local families with her kind and reliable help, forming close and lasting bonds with those she worked for and their children. After Will's passing, she continued to take great comfort from her close family, special friends, and the village community who were frequently there to support. Always caring, always involved, Jean remained so very interested in village life right up until her final days, even in the face of some very tough health issues. Her last outing – a wheelchair trip with her son Colin to see the new bridge at the Mill House – was a fitting farewell, returning to very heart of the village she so dearly loved.

Jean will be remembered for her kindness, her resolute spirit, and her unwavering fondness for her friends in the village and community as a whole. To her family as a Mum and a Nan, she was supportive, independent, appreciative, caring and loving, and will be greatly missed.

## **CHURCH NEWS**

Christmas is fast approaching and December will therefore be a busy month for the church.

On Sunday 7th December there is a Holy communion service at 9.30a.m.

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm we have the annual Candlelit Carol Service with 7 lessons.

For new residents, the service is a highlight of the church and we look forward to seeing a full church once again. Mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies will be served after the service.

On Christmas Day itself, there is a short family service at 10.45a.m. followed immediately by Holy Communion for those who wish to stay.

Everyone is welcome to any one of the services.

As the year end approaches, I wish to thank everyone who has helped with the church in 2025. There is a long list of helpers so I cannot name everyone but to all those who volunteer for the church locking/unlocking rota, the cleaning rota, the flower rota or the reading rotas, I send my sincere thanks. Special thanks to Martin Gairdner for playing the organ, to Ailsa Bush for providing the coffee after the Martins services, to Lizzie Barnes for organizing the flower rota, to Kate Glyn-Owen for sorting the reading rota, to Sarah Humphreys for supervising the church locking/unlocking rota, to Henry Colthurst for being Treasurer, to Wendy Armstrong for being Secretary to the PCC and to James Douse and Stephen Bush for their assistance and support. Thank you all so much.

### **TEA and CAKE and CHAT at Christmas**

The December Tea and Chats are on Tuesdays 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 2.30 to 4pm. Everyone is very much welcome – there is no charge. It was lovely to have small children playing whilst we had tea cakes and crumpets at the November tea and chat. We welcome all ages, and I will bring toys if needed! So come along and enjoy a bit of Christmas Cheer in great company (especially if you are there!).

### **CHEESE & WINE EVENING**

Thank you to those who joined fellow residents on the 6<sup>th</sup> November for the Cheese & Wine event – and to Bill Hiscocks and Carolyn MacDougall for organising it. It was an opportunity to meet and share some thoughts and ideas about village matters. The ideas raised were wonderfully varied, from a village Conga to board games night and lots more. Also raised was the more serious problem with speeding traffic through the village. A summary has already been distributed to all residents. An appeal goes out to those who want these things to happen to simply make them happen.

### **A303 DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER (DCO)**

The DCO for the road scheme from Amesbury to Berwick Down to alleviate A303 congestion is likely to be revoked by the Government, after £180m of taxpayer's money has already been spent since 2018 on valuable consultations, research and design work. Leaders of Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset and Bournemouth/Poole/Christchurch and many local communities have strongly put forward their opposition to the cancellation of this DCO. Berwick St James is proposing a working group so please do come forward if you are willing to contribute.

### **NEW BERWICK CHAIRPERSON NEEDED.**

Julian Glyn-Owen is stepping down as Chair, so we urgently need to find his replacement. If you are interested please contact him about this role.  
[chair@berwickstjames.org.uk](mailto:chair@berwickstjames.org.uk)

### **ART APPRECIATION IN BERWICK-ST-JAMES**

The last presentation of the year will take place in the Reading Room, opposite the Boot Inn on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, commencing at 7.30, when the subject will be "The Art of the Fin de Siecle". This takes place in the Reading Room in Berwick-St-James, commencing 7.30 with entry available from 7.15pm; a donation of £5 for the Reding Room Fund at the door, to include a glass of wine,

beer or soft drink. For further information, please see the Berwick-St-James Village website, or email Brian Armstrong at [brianarm100@icloud.com](mailto:brianarm100@icloud.com)

### **ART APPRECIATION – THANK YOU!**

We would very much like to thank Brian for his fascinating art talks.

### **A WEAVER IN BERWICK – Berwick Book Club.**

Our village book club has been reading *Silas Marner* by George Eliot. Silas Marner was a weaver in a small rural village. Berwick, like many other villages, had a weaver.

Our weaver, John Horton, lived within the village – most likely in a cottage now gone on Duck St (Asserton Lane), in the garden of what is now Appletree Cottage. John Horton died on October 21<sup>st</sup> 1731. In his will he gave the bulk of his belongings (total value £18 6s, including the leasehold of “a dwelling house and little garden”) to his wife Elizabeth, who died six years later, 28<sup>th</sup> October 1737. His son Richard, who continued to live in Berwick, inherited his “wearing apparel” and his son Moses received his old “narrow loome” which was valued at 8 shillings. (with four pewter dishes and two old plates being valued at 9s 6d). John Horton wove Spanish Cloth on the narrow loom in a room in his house in Berwick.

The manufacture of broadcloth had been largely replaced by Spanish Cloth which was a medley cloth made from dyed, mixed, fine English or Spanish wool. The Clothier scoured, dyed, cleaned and oiled the wool and had it spun by out-working spinners. John then carried the yarn to Berwick, wove it into cloth and returned it to the clothier. The clothier had the cloth cleaned at a fulling mill (like the Old Mill at West Harnham) and “finished” the cloth.

Some people let looms out for rent, like John Lanham in 1703 who let one to his son John and another to Thomas Watt of Quidhampton. Others employed weavers on their premises, like William Archer of Broadchalke who had three looms worth £3.

The hand-woven cloth industry declined after 1711 and collapsed altogether after 1790. Mechanisation took over, putting out of work the spinners and home weavers, causing some rioting (*Hargreaves’ Spinning Jenny* came to Salisbury in 1777). Then there were no more weavers in villages like Berwick, as all weaving was done in factories.

Written and researched by Nicky Street.

## GREAT WISHFORD

### A HUNDRED YEARS YOUNG!



On 30th October, family and friends gathered in St Giles' to celebrate the 100th birthday of Henryk Trybus, who had reached that awesome milestone on 27th October. The afternoon was hosted by the Cafe team, whose wonderful bakers had put together a fantastic array of cakes (thank you!) and the church was buzzing with laughter and chat. Congratulations Henryk, and if you ever want to share your secret, there'll be a long queue to learn it! And of course Henryk received a card from the King and Queen – pictured left.

### GREAT WISHFORD GROUP WHATSAPP

If you live in Great Wishford and would like to be added to the community WhatsApp please contact Sean Noble on 07932 034376.

### OAK APPLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 6TH DECEMBER, 5PM

Join us for festive nibbles, drinks, a raffle, and of course the big switch-on of the Christmas tree lights. We're always grateful for raffle prizes – big or small, for children or adults – please pass these on to Carol & Mike Fellows.

### CHRISTMAS CAFE AT ST GILES' 18TH DECEMBER

It's that time of year again! We shall be keeping up our tradition of a Christmas themed Café on Thursday 18th December starting at 2:30. There will be a raffle on the day, (donations welcome) and lots of yummy Christmas fare.

Café will then be taking a break over Christmas, returning on Thursday 8th January 2026.

Now is also a good time to pass on heartfelt thanks to all our helpers (servers, rota planner and setter uppers) and bakers (warm welcome to those who have joined our merry band this year) - and to our loyal supporters who fill the church with lively chatter each Thursday afternoon - without you, we couldn't do this! Season's greetings and gratitude to you all - Yvonne and David.

## **OAK APPLE FESTIVE DINNER & PROMISE AUCTION 20TH DECEMBER 7PM**

Celebrate the season with a festive dinner and dessert, followed by a lively promise auction – an evening not to be missed in the Village Hall! If you'd like to offer something for the auction (e.g. a horse ride, singing lesson or a home-cooked meal), please contact Carol or Mike Fellows on 07825 875 105. Tickets are £20 and must be purchased in advance from Helen Phelps on 07555 605570. Numbers are limited, so book early to secure your spot!

## **GREAT WISHFORD CAROL SINGING 22ND DECEMBER**



All welcome! Meet inside St Giles Church in case of wet weather on Monday 22nd December at 5:30pm.

We will be collecting for the Trussell Trust Salisbury Foodbank. We will sing at various stopping points around the village. Please

wear hi-vis jackets, if you can, and bring a torch. Parent/ carers to supervise children at all times. Song sheets will be provided. We will end up at the Royal Oak for carols accompanied by Sophie on the keyboard.

Any queries, please contact Anna Tattersall on: 07767 277 604

## **CRIB SERVICE AND CAROLS AT ST GILES' 24TH DECEMBER**

Feeling stressed, shopped out and generally frazzled? Chill out at our annual Crib and Carols service at St Giles' on Christmas Eve at 5:00pm. There will be crib figures for children to bring to the stable, and they are very welcome to come dressed up as shepherds, angels or kings. It is a chance to sing all those familiar carols, reflecting on the meaning of Christmas and the joy that it brings. Look forward to seeing you there! Yvonne.

## **THE ROYAL OAK – CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS**

|                |              |                |          |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| Mon 22 Dec:    | 3-10pm       | Mon 29 Dec:    | 3-10pm   |
| Tue 23 Dec:    | 3-10pm       | Tue 30 Dec:    | 3-10pm   |
| Christmas Eve: | 12-9pm       | New Years Eve: | 3 - late |
| Christmas Day: | 11.30-1.30pm | Thu 1 Jan:     | 12-3pm   |
| Boxing Day:    | 12-3pm       | Fri 2 Jan:     | 12-10pm  |
| Sat 27 Dec:    | 12-11pm      | Sat 3 Jan:     | 12-10pm  |
| Sun 28 Dec:    | 12-10pm      | Sun 4 Jan:     | 12-10pm  |

## **SOUTH NEWTON AND STOFORD**

### **SOUTH NEWTON AND WISHFORD RECREATION CENTRE – VILLAGE HALL EVENTS FOR DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS BINGO** Our fantastic Christmas Bingo will take place on Tuesday 16th December all are welcome. Our next weekly bingo after the 16th will commence on Tuesday 6th January 2026

**Breakfast Morning** - we have a break during December-next breakfast is Saturday 31st January 2026

### **SOUTH NEWTON AND WISHFORD FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Christmas Charity Football Matches** Saturday 27th December. Something of a tradition now! There will be two matches in the morning and all proceeds are for Salisbury Hospice who do such a fantastic service for the community. Wrap up warm and come along to enjoy the matches. We shall be serving breakfast baps, sweet muffins and hot drinks.

### **REFURBISHMENT PROJECT AT THE VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUNDS**

The new lighting is all installed and looks great. Redecoration of the main hall is half finished and looking fantastic. The reconfiguration of the lavatories is next on the list!

### **THE END OF AN ERA!**

Cheryl Hooper and Janet Hailstone have decided to retire from the Village Hall committee. Between them they have racked up well in excess of FIFTY years of service to our community! What a fantastic achievement and on your behalf, we say THANK YOU BOTH for everything that you have done to make things better for the community. You will both be missed.

### **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR**

On behalf of the Trustees and Management Committee we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year 2026.

Karen Barnes, Honorary Treasurer and Secretary

### **200 CLUB**

This special club was formed to raise money specifically to build the Recreation Centre play area and cover ongoing maintenance costs. The funds are ring fenced and not available for general use. Each ticket costs £12 per year and there is a

draw each month for 10 months of £90 split £50, £30 and £10. Twice per year, the draw is for £200 split £100, £60 and £40.

Heather Bryans runs the club on behalf of the village hall and is always on the lookout for new members. Please contact Heather Bryans 01722 742207 or Janet Hailstone 01722 790547 if you would like to join and help raise funds for the children's play area in the community.

### **200 CLUB SEPTEMBER DRAWS**

(Apologies there were some errors in last months magazine – Ed.)

|           |           |              |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1st – £50 | (No. 210) | Mick Cooney  |
| 2nd – £30 | (No. 218) | Steve James  |
| 3rd – £10 | (No. 155) | Sandra Jones |

### **200 CLUB OCTOBER DRAWS**

|           |           |              |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| 1st – £50 | (No. 106) | Jamie Rhodes |
| 2nd – £30 | (No. 55)  | Rita Lawson  |
| 3rd – £10 | (No. 47)  | Ben Lawrence |

### **CHURCH NEWS**

Sunday 14th December 2:30pm - 4:00pm Christmas Tree Decorating in St Andrew's Church - fun craft activities, carols, decorating the Christmas Tree with "memory stars", refreshments and so much more. Everyone is welcome

Sunday 21st December – South Newton traditional candlelit Village Carol Service, including blessing the Crib, an event for all the family with seasonal refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

Thursday 25th December, 10:00am - a Christmas Day family service. Everyone is welcome.

## **STAPLEFORD**

### **BROCANTE SALE IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH**

The Village Hall was packed on the morning of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November for the brocante sale and a magnificent £500 was raised for the church from sales of items, teas, coffees and cake. Huge thanks go to Natalia and Sam for making the event happen and working so hard to get everything set up, to Katie and Nigel for

manning the kitchen and for everyone who turned out for it and made cakes. We hope you all enjoyed the occasion and perhaps took home something unexpected and delightful.

### **POPPY APPEAL**

Thanks to all who contributed to this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The door-to-door collection in Stapleford raised £445, The Riverside Garage £96, The Pelican Inn £42, Berwick St James door-to-door £166, Berwick St James Church collection £471, Great Wishford School £5, which alongside a very large collection from the memorial service for John Brake back in June totalled £1825. A great result. Well done to all. Thanks again Mick (Poppy Appeal Organiser, Stapleford)

### **TERRY'S BELL TOWER TALK AND TOUR**

Sadly, Terry was unwell on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October and unable to give a short talk on St. Mary's bells after the morning service. However, the tower was open to viewers and Mick Geoghegan was there to show people the ropes (pun intended). Thus, the bells were given an airing both before and after the service, while the healthy crowd enjoyed coffee and delicious biscuits and a good chat. Terry gave another talk on the history of the church to U3A in November, very much enjoyed by members. Thank you Liz for the delicious refreshments and a big thank you, Terry, for all you have done in this celebratory year for St. Mary's. U3A generously donated £90 and Terry donated another £85 from further sales of his book. If you haven't purchased one yet they continue to be available for sale.

### **WELCOME TO STAPLEFORD**

Welcome to Tara Harris and her son, Seb, who have moved into Dales End in Stapleford. We wish them a happy home and look forward to them joining in some of the village activities in the near future.

### **VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE**

We plan to have a village Christmas tree again this year as it seems to have been popular. In previous years it has been erected on the grass outside the church gate to make it visible to all who pass through, but we would love to hear from anyone with an alternative suggestion. Do contact Christine Townsend or Sue Bale via the village WhatsApp or ask someone else to do so on your behalf if you aren't a member of the group. Come along to decorate the tree at 10.30am on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. No need to bring decorations but any spares welcome.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This year's Candlelit Carol Service will be held at 6pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December. This is always a joyful and festive occasion, and for many signals the real start to Christmas. As in previous years, it will be a traditional service of lessons and carols with choir to supplement the rousing voice of the congregation and mulled wine and mince pies to warm the stomachs afterwards. It's a great opportunity to share festive greetings and good cheer with others. Do come along.

## STAPLEFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS

"A Night at the Races" organised by Sue Waldron was a first for the village hall. The racehorses (a range of luridly coloured My Little Ponies) had been named by an online vote and then trotted out to be selected by the racegoers, who placed their one-pound bets. Progress down the track was decided by a roll of two giant dice. Hazards and penalties for overuse of the whip or protestors on the track, added extra excitement. The evening, smoothly compered by Ingvar, was fun for all ages and banked just under £200. Thanks to Sue Waldron for nifty work with the horses, Keith for cooking superior sausages in brioche buns (too good to be called hot dogs), to Steve for manning the bar, Tracy and Susi for running the betting booth and to the girls who rolled the dice.



The November Coffee and Chat was used as an occasion to say goodbye and present flowers and a special card to Kathleen Stewart, who has lived in the village for over forty years while remaining true to her Scottish roots. There was a record turnout for this event, showing how much Kathleen will be missed. She has been a regular at coffee mornings, film and book clubs over the years and she declared it to be her favourite (of course) of the many places she lived before settling here. A move to be close to her daughter in Devizes is only a No2 bus ride away, so we hope she will keep in touch.

Gardening Club: Extra chairs had to be hastily set out as over twenty gardeners turned up for the October meeting. As well as chat about bulbs, the Q&A session included advice about cutting back (Autumn or Spring?), moving peonies, how to treat rhubarb, and the management of fig trees. Rob described how he cunningly

attaches a bulb planting screw to a cordless drill to make it easy to plant bulbs in a lawn.

Members of the club also met one Sunday with a fleet of wheelbarrows and spread excellent mulch onto the newly cleared Village Hall Garden borders. It's all ready now for planting in the spring.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 7:15 for 7:30. NB. No meetings in December or January

The Eighth Village Hall Quiz Night in November included a typically eclectic variety of rounds: identifying chocolate bars from their cross sections; naming countries on a map of Africa; famous roads; gardens; matching baddies to their creators and album names to artists. Quiz master Katie also slipped in a round on the year 1955. Keith cooked up a fantastic chicken curry to sustain us all at half time and Steve worked hard on the bar. Thanks to everyone who came along- it was a full house!- and to the village hall team. The winners of the prosecco were, once again, the AppleBees, although the Red Sparrows (Townsend, Annie and Jo Cetti) and the Church Furlong team put up a strong challenge.

The next quiz will probably be in Late Feb or early March- date tbc.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Christmas Coffee and Chat with mince pies and carols: Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Burns Night: supper and drinks (but no reeling!) Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>

# **WINTERBOURNE STOKE**

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

In October the Department of Transport published a notice stating that the Secretary of State was planning to revoke the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down Scheme, including the bypass for Winterbourne Stoke. While there would be a benefit to farmers and landowners affected by the scheme, as it would lift the planning blight on their land, there would be a greater benefit to the village as a whole, and other local communities, if Winterbourne Stoke were bypassed. The revocation of the DCO would effectively cancel all the plans put in place since 2016, at a cost of some £180m, at a time when all the legal objections have been overcome. Therefore, any new future plans for Stonehenge and the Winterbourne Stoke bypass, would have to start again from scratch.

On this basis the Parish Council submitted an objection based on National Highways documents. The full response is on the village website, but in brief, the major points were that in 2017 National Highways reported that traffic levels on the single carriageway section are twice the theoretical capacity. If the DCO is revoked then this will be the third scheme since 1989 to be cancelled. Since then the M3 has been linked to the A303; Andover and Amesbury to the East have been bypassed; Wylde and, more recently Ilchester and Sparkford have been bypassed; leaving a bottleneck at Winterbourne Stoke where the infrastructure is inadequate and traffic levels are twice the design capacity of the road.

The Parish Council has liaised with Berwick, Shrewton, and the Stonehenge Traffic Action Group who have also submitted objections. Wiltshire, Somerset, and Dorset Councils, together with the unitary councils of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole have submitted objections. It is not known whether our MP, Danny Kruger, has objected.

### **VILLAGE EVENTS**

Carols through the Village Saturday 20th December, 17:00 – 18:30

Everyone is most welcome to join our popular 'Traditional Carols and Readings through the Village'. We shall gather at the bottom of the village at 16:50 and process up to the church, where there will be seasonal refreshments and presents for the children (aged 2-11). Please wrap up warm and bring a torch. Children must be accompanied by an adult. We look forward to seeing you.

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### **GOODBYE MESSAGE**

14yrs ago on the 9 October Jeff and I moved into No.6 our lovely cottage and garden we built from nothing, thanks to Mr Turner. We had tea parties for my school friends, and family celebrations. Best of all our wedding reception. Thank you to friends in the village for all your support these last few months, and for keeping me sane. I'm going back to my roots in Shrewton, where I was born 81yrs ago, so it must be fate. You're all welcome at No.4 anytime. Thank you all again.  
Doris



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