

# Community Matters



Lower Wylde & Till Valley  
Parishes Magazine

*December 2023*

# Riverside

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**Front Cover:** Photo of the month –

*“Stained Glass Dove of Peace”* Submitted by Caroline Gregory

1.

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the bumper December/Christmas edition of your magazine; I hope you find the content both interesting and informative. As always, don't forget to drop me a line if you have any comments (either in praise or criticism).

### **LET'S DO TIME-WARP AGAIN?**

With The Rolling Stones recently topping the UK Album Charts and latest The Beatles release sitting at No. 1 in the UK Singles Charts ... .. Is it really 2023?

**Sixty years ago this month**, the UK was basking in the early days of Beatlemania with “I want to hold your hand” and “With the Beatles” top of the Singles and LP charts; in total contrast The Singing Nun at the top of the USA charts.

The Beatles went on to have a total of four Christmas UK number ones –

1963 “I Want To Hold Your Hand”

1964 “I Feel Fine”

1965 “Day Tripper/We Can Work It Out”

1967 “Hello Goodbye”

**8th December, 1980** Forty-year-old Beatles star John Lennon was shot and killed at the entrance of the Dakota Building in New York. Lennon was murdered by Mark David Chapman, a 25-year-old security guard from Hawaii, who hated how Lennon's expensive lifestyle contrasted with what he sang about.

**Fifty years ago** Slade's “Merry Christmas Everybody”, released on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1973, proved to be the band's best-selling single, registering a quarter of a million sales on the first day of release and providing Noddy Holder and Co. with an instant UK No. 1. The single was recorded in New York during the band's USA summer tour; bassist Jim Lea claimed the tune of the song came to him whilst he was taking a shower.

Amazingly, many of our favourite seasonal songs never made it to the summit: “I Wish it Could be Christmas Every Day” by Wizzard, “Fairytale of New York” by The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl and “Last Christmas” by Wham all missed out. Research carried out by Channel 5 concluded the top earning festive songs every year are as follows:

1. “Merry Xmas Everybody” by Slade – approx. £1m (in royalties per year)
2. “Fairytale of New York” by The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl - £400,000
3. “All I Want for Christmas is You” by Mariah Carey - £400,000
4. “White Christmas” by Bing Crosby - £325,000
5. “Last Christmas” by Wham! £300,000
6. “Wonderful Christmastime” by Paul McCartney - £250,000
7. “Stop the Cavalry” by Jona Lewie - £120,000
8. “2000 Miles” by The Pretenders £100,000
9. “Mistletoe and Wine” by Cliff Richard £100,000
10. “Stay Another Day” by East 17 £100,000

**Did you know:** George Michael donated all UK royalties for “Last Christmas” to charity.

**Steven Black** (Tel: **07510 391900** or Email: [Twovalleysed@hotmail.com](mailto:Twovalleysed@hotmail.com))

Happy Christmas to everyone.

Congratulations to Johanna and James Hardy on the birth of their son Thilo – best wishes to you all.

Our thoughts are with those who have recently been bereaved.

A recommendation has been received from a villager for the Oven Cleaner advertised in this magazine, "*he was quick and very good*".

**READING ROOM CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING and SALE**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 10.30am.**

We would love to see you at the Christmas Coffee Morning and Sale – Grand Raffle including Hamper, Tombola, Cakes and Produce, Village Cards, Christmas Cards and Paper. **FREE TEA and COFFEE.**

We are delighted to say that Ellie O’Neill-Street will be selling her cards and other decorated items!

Come and join us for good company and help raise funds for the Reading Room.

**Collecting for the Christmas Coffee Morning and Sale.**

We would be delighted to receive items for the Raffle, Tombola, Cakes, Produce and Christmas items (wrapping paper, cards etc.). The Reading Room will be open on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** between 2.30 and 3.30pm, and items can also be left at any time in the porch of The Clock House, or in the garage by the eggs at Berwick Hill Farm (Dairy House). For collection or any queries please email [chstreet@btinternet.com](mailto:chstreet@btinternet.com) or ring Nicky 790309

**CHURCH NEWS**

There is a Holy Communion service at 9.30am on the first Sunday of the month, which is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**The Candlelit Carol Service of 7 Lessons and Carols** will take place at St James Church at 6.00pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. This is always one of the highlights of the year and we look forward to seeing a full church once again. I am particularly pleased there is no clash this year with the World Cup final, as there was in 2022. The Carol Service will be followed by mulled wine (soft drinks for the children) and mince pies. On Christmas Day itself there will be a short Family Service at 10.30am, followed immediately by Holy Communion for those who wish to stay. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the church in 2023. The cast is a long one with Martin Gairdner playing the organ, Gail Lovett cleaning the brass, Keith Lovett helping with the hedges, Ailsa Bush providing coffee after the Matins services, Lizzie Barnes organising the flower rota and to Stephen Bush for offering advice on so much. To them and to everyone on the locking/unlocking rota, the cleaning rotas, the flower rota or the reading rota, I send my sincere thanks. It is greatly appreciated and thank you so much.

### TEA and CAKE and CHAT in the Reading Room

We had a great time at the October Tea and Cake and Chat – lots of people and cakes with special mention to the ginger cake. The next one will be on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 2.30 – 4:00pm**. It is free, everyone welcome (with or without a cake!).

### ART APPRECIATION in Berwick-St-James

The final art presentation this year will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, when the title of the presentation will be Samuel Palmer's Pastoral Idyll to Caspar David Friedrich's Sublime Landscape. Palmer, born in 1805, is loved by many for his small, somewhat archaic, but beautifully conceived evocations of the countryside around the Kentish village of Shoreham, much influenced by William Blake. Born some thirty years earlier in Griefswald, Swedish Pomerania, on the Baltic coast of Germany, Friedrich knew much tragedy in his childhood, becoming motherless at the age of seven and suffering the loss of two sisters and most tragically a brother, who witnessed by Friedrich, fell through ice and drowned. One suspects that these tragic memories remained with the artist all his life, as he explored man's relationship in allegorical and spiritual manifestations of the Sublime in God's World, in so doing becoming with works such as The Cross in the Mountains (The Tetschen Altar) and The Wanderer above a Sea of Mist, Germany's equivalent of J.M.W. Turner.

The venue for meetings is Berwick-St-James Reading Room (opposite the Boot Inn), commencing 7:00pm with doors open from 6.45pm. Entry is £5/head to include a glass of wine, or beer, with all proceeds to the Reading Room Fund. For further information, please see the Berwick-St-James website, contact Brian Armstrong on 07999 325804, or email: [brianarm100@icloud.com](mailto:brianarm100@icloud.com)

### BERWICK BOOK CLUB

This month we are reading the fascinating book "Memoirs of a Geisha" – there will be a lot to discuss! We are meeting on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November and look forward to a great chat. At the December get-together we will chat about a Christmas themed book which will be chosen shortly. Every meeting is always lively, and if you would like to come to a session, enjoying stimulating company with refreshments, you are most welcome and will be warmly received. Please email [bookclub@berwickstjames.org.uk](mailto:bookclub@berwickstjames.org.uk) or contact Hayley on **07774 926567** for further details.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> November. Wednesday. Book Club.
<b>DECEMBER</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> December. Saturday. Christmas Coffee Sale. Reading Room
	5 <sup>th</sup> December. Tuesday. Tea and Cake and Chat. Reading Room
	17 <sup>th</sup> December. Sunday. Candlelit Carol Service. 6:00pm. Berwick Church
	25 <sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Day Service. 10:30am. Berwick Church.
	TBC December. Christmas Book Club.
<b>JANUARY</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> January. Tuesday. Tea and Cake and Chat. Reading Room
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> February. Tuesday. Tea and Cake and Chat. Reading Room.

### **THE BERWICK PART OF THIS MAGAZINE - ENTRIES**

Please send to me, Nicky Street. The Dairy House Tel: **01722 790309**, or e-mail: **chstreet@btinternet.com** by 14<sup>th</sup> of the month before the magazine is due out, indicating it is a magazine entry. Or, if you prefer, directly to Steve, the editor (see elsewhere in the magazine). I love to put in welcomes to new villagers, congratulations for exams and whatever you would like to include in the magazine.

## **GREAT WISHFORD**

### **DAVID HUGHES**

Michele & Sandy would like to thank the lovely people of Wishford for their help in donating for David Hughes' headstone. The headstone will be laid at Great Wishford Cemetery on David's birthday – 5<sup>th</sup> January at 2:00pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and then afterwards at the church for tea and coffee.

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

Date of next Parish Council meeting - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 @7.00pm

Meeting agenda and minutes can be located at: [www.greatwishfordpc.org.uk/](http://www.greatwishfordpc.org.uk/)

Extracts from the meeting minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> October include:

**Correspondence / local issues** - It has been agreed that Mr Tobi Kennedy be employed as Parish Clerk. He was warmly welcomed by the Chairman and Councillors.

#### **Matters arising.**

- Gateways at the entrances to the village - No decision was made about the Autumn/Spring planting. The intention is still to involve the village in the planting.
- Footpath to the recreation ground - This is still an ongoing issue.
- The Kingstone - The sign for the Kingstone is ordered and we will be notified when it is due to be dispatched.
- Replacement bench - The bench is now in place and has been welcomed by several residents.

#### **Any other Business**

- Areas of the village have been reported as being overgrown or in need of weed clearance. Action – these are to be reported by the Clerk to the Parish Steward.
- Closure of the pub. It was agreed that an ACV (Asset of Community Value) be applied for.
- The area under the archway up to Haddon Hill is likely to become a 'mud bath' in the winter months. To be discussed in the meeting with the highways department on 18<sup>th</sup> October at the Triangle.

### **WISHFORD OAK APPLE CLUB**

Our Christmas tree light switch-on event takes place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 5:00pm at The Oak Apple Barn. Try a hot chocolate and a mince pie or something refreshing from the bar, the BBQ will also be on the go. Sing along with Sophie, a

Christmas Carol will get you into the festive spirit. Sparklers will be available for the children. We look forward to seeing you.

The Oak Apple club would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Special thanks to everyone who has supported the club and helped out over the last 12 months. If anyone would like to get in touch, please contact Rachael on **07970 428659** to be added to the WhatsApp group, or the club's email address: **[oakappleclub@gmail.com](mailto:oakappleclub@gmail.com)**

### **ST GILES CHRISTMAS WREATH COMPETITION**

Calling all Wishfordites to join in the Festive Wreath Competition! The team of 3 will judge the wreaths based on Artistic Flair, Impact and Effort and the prize will be a wonderful Christmas Cake from Daphne Smith. Judging will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> December when we will be walking round the village, so please make the wreath visible on your door or gate. Have fun!

### **ST GILES GREAT WISHFORD CAROL SINGING**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Meet at St Giles Church @ 5:30pm. Anyone and everyone welcome.

We will sing at various stopping points around the village. Song sheets will be provided. Please wear hi-vis jackets and festive gear, if you can, and bring a torch. Parent/carers to supervise children at all times. We plan to end up at St Giles Church around 7:00 - 7:30pm for festive refreshments.

We will be collecting for the Trussell Trust Salisbury Foodbank. Any queries, **please contact Anna Tattersall on: (01722) 790791**

## **STAPLEFORD**

### **NEWS FROM ST MARY'S**

Your Local Church Council is currently seeking quotations for roof repairs, replacement heating and some remedial works to the organ. The monies which accrue through some fund-raising events and the village lottery go towards all the repairs and improvements which are needed to maintain this historic church and make it as comfortable as possible.

The recent choral concert was a great success, and we hope that similar events will be possible in the future.

If you have suggestions to make or questions to ask, or if you would like to help out with any of the many tasks involved in looking after the church and churchyard, do get in touch with a Council member. Members are: Colin Carnegy, Sue Bale, Richard Wells, Liz Stones, Sophie O'Sullivan and Carol Slater.

Just to give you a flavour, we are always on the look-out for cleaners, flower-arrangers and bell-ringers, and at various times during the year we need anything from cooks and gardeners to people who are happy to turn a hand to any task.

## **REMEMBRANCE**

There was a packed church from all the villages for the Remembrance Service. There were a number of families present, and the young children are to be congratulated for their quiet and respectful behaviour throughout. Chloe Joubert spoke with the Chairman of the RBL in the exhortation “We will remember them” with clarity and solemnity.

Afterwards coffee and biscuits were served and people stayed and chatted. It was nice to see friends from the other villages and have a chance for a catch-up. British Legion members then went on to The Parsonage, where Colin and Rose hosted them in the traditional way.

With Stapleford hosting the service this year a handsome £305 was raised in collection to add to £530 from door-to-door sales of poppies, and a further £107 from the pub and shop, in all a total of £942 to go to the British Legion. There were also a small number of direct donations from the village for which no figure is available at the time of going to print.

Stapleford Legion member Helen Joubert accompanied by two of her children, Kaitlin and Ruben, collected door to door in Berwick St James for the Poppy appeal and raised £125. The money will be banked and attributed to the village.

## **CHRISTMAS and ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> December there will be an Advent service at 11:00am and on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> the traditional candlelit Carol Service will take place at 6:00pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. The church belongs to everyone, and if you aren't in the habit of going, then this is the one for you to try. It's always a lovely village event, and really sets the festive mood.

On Christmas Day a non-eucharistic service will be held at 10:00am, to give people time to get the oven on!

This year, there will be a Christmas tree by the church gate, and anyone who would like to help to decorate it – and especially the children of the village – should come to St. Mary's at 10:00am on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. There will be some decorations in the church for you to use, but do bring some favourites of your own or, better still, make some!

## **STAPLEFORD CHRISTMAS CARDS!**

Stapleford Christmas cards are being sold in aid of St Mary's, featuring beautiful image of the church taken by Terry Waldron and available from Tracy Jackson or Sophie O'Sullivan. You can see an example at the village bus stops.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next council meeting will be the second Tuesday in January, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, at 7.00pm in the village hall. All residents of the village are welcome to attend.



### **STAPLEFORD LOTTERY DRAW**

The first draw of the New Year will be held at the January Coffee Morning. We hope there will be lots of you there to share the thrill – not to mention the coffee and mouth-watering cakes!

### **STAPLEFORD VILLAGE NEWS DECEMBER 2023**

The main event since the last magazine was our first Quiz Night. This went very well and will be repeated every few months as long as interest continues. We had six teams of four who gamely tackled five rounds of questions ranging from food and gardening to politics, plus two picture rounds. Katie Walker was the quizmaster and compere, while Keith and Tracy Jackson worked hard in the kitchen to produce half-time pizzas. The winning team, “The Chain” (Geoghegans and Carters) narrowly beat the “Sssh!” (Two Simons, Sarah and Hector) and took away the prize bottle of Prosecco. Rumour has it that there will be music and sport rounds included in the next quiz. Do come along – watch out for the WhatsApp or posters and let us know if you’re coming; it is a great help to know, so we can set up and cater accordingly.

Other events have been the usual Coffee and Chat and the clubs.

The committee felt that perhaps this was not the best time to discuss the plight of the European Jews so, with great regret, Dr Robin O’Neill will not be giving us his talk on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Instead we are bringing forward Christine Townsend’s presentation of the film she produced about the Duke of Windsor. This will now be in November and not January as previously advertised.

There are still a few places left for the Village Hall Christmas Lunch on 13<sup>th</sup> December. This will be a full Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, cooked by our Chairman, chef and ex-policeman, Keith and will be great value at £20. Do get in touch with Tracy a.s.a.p. if you would like to let someone else cook the turkey this year!

The Village Hall now has a licence to sell alcohol. This has cost a bit to get off the ground but it will make it legal for people to buy a drink at any future gatherings held in the hall – up to 11:00pm.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

**19<sup>th</sup> November - Carol Service Choir rehearsals start:** Contact Alistair Sommerlad if you would like to join in this (not too serious) choir for some life affirming singing. Practices will continue until the carol service on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec so there is still time to enrol.

**24<sup>th</sup> November - Film night: “Dream Horse”** 7:00pm door open. Film starts 7:30

**28<sup>th</sup> November:** Introduction and viewing of the best bits of Christine Townsend’s film, “Edward on Edward”, made with Prince Edward. (This replaces our previously advertised talk) 7:00pm doors open. Talk starts 7:30pm

**9<sup>th</sup> December - Mini Christmas Craft Fair:** 10:30-4:00pm Crafts for sale all handmade locally + refreshments. Organised by Sue Waldron

**13<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall.** Tickets from Tracy Jackson. Last few places left!

**Please note there is no film night in January**

**16<sup>th</sup> February - Quiz Night:** 7:00pm doors open. Quiz starts 7:30pm

## **SOUTH NEWTON AND STOFORD**

### **200 CLUB - October Draw**

1 <sup>st</sup>	£100	Number 158	Karen Parks
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£60	Number 216	Michael Hooper
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£40	Number 227	John Derryman

### **SOUTH NEWTON & BARFORD HORNETS F.C.**

As Christmas draws near and we all look forward to football in increasingly cold and wet conditions (!), we'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all of the players who have enjoyed the season so far and to all of their parents, guardians and friends who offer their support every week. A huge thanks also to all of the amazing club coaches and volunteers who continue to give so much of their time so that others can enjoy football. As usual, if anyone else would like to get involved as a player or helper, please get in touch:



07391 402176



snewtonbhornets.contact@gmail.com

### **SOUTH NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, no Parishioners were present. Tobi Kennedy (incoming Parish Clerk) was introduced by the Chairman and warmly welcomed by the attending Councillors; many thanks to Caroline Webb (outgoing Parish Clerk) for her sterling service over the past decade. Chairman presented Caroline with a bottle of champagne, thanked her for her outstanding support and invited her to attend the AGM in 2024.

Sadly lack of space restricts a detailed entry within this December edition of the magazine; meeting minutes can be located at: [www.southnewtonpc.org.uk/](http://www.southnewtonpc.org.uk/)  
Date of next Parish Council meeting - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 @ 7.00pm

### **POLICE CRIME FIGURES**

There was only one instance of crime reported within the South Newton parish during the month of September:

1 x 'Other theft'

### **CHURCH WATCH NEWSLETTER - St Andrew's Church, South Newton**

01/10/2023: Unknown suspect(s) has stolen a Henchman Pro Tripod ladder which was stored inside a church building. The ladders have an estimated value of £600

05/10/2023: Unknown suspects have broken into a shed at the Church and forced open a cabinet in the bell tower of the Church. No items were stolen. The cabinet was damaged during this incident, the value of the damage is currently unknown.

### **OUR ROAD SAFETY / COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**

Speed Enforcement operated in Stoford and South Newton on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and caught **16** vehicles speeding; the fastest vehicle was captured travelling at **48mph**. Depending on previous convictions and history:

**11** drivers will be offered a speed awareness course

**5** drivers will receive a Fixed Penalty Notice and 3 points.

Proceedings will now be undertaken to ensure the most appropriate outcome for the offenders takes place.

### **Speed Enforcement Officer Debbi Hide 70349**

Stuck what to get your loved one for a Christmas present? Keen to find out what it's like to use a speed camera with the Community Speed Watch Team? If yes, please contact Steve Black (Tel: 07510 391900 or Email: statmel@live.com) and you'll be provided with a free (Yes, Free!) invitation to a supervised roadside session.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – DECEMBER**

**2<sup>nd</sup> December - St Andrew's Church Cleaning.** 10:00am - 12:00

If you're available to help then please come along and raise some dust!! Refreshments available.

**5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December - Bingo**

Each Tuesday evening at South Newton and Wishford Village Hall, doors open from 7:00 p.m.; its great fun, we would love to see you.

**6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December - Andy Pandy's baby and toddler group**

Now being held at South Newton & Wishford Village Hall. Wednesdays 10.30am – 12:00, during term time. A friendly group for you and your little ones, aged 0-4. Contact Laura Myers on **07801 448301** for more details.

**9<sup>th</sup> December - St Andrews Christmas tree decorating and light switch on**

3:00pm. St Andrew's Church. Come along to our festive afternoon of tree decorating and light switch on with Christmas crafts, raffle, bric-a-brac and a special visit this year from Father Christmas himself in his cosy festive grotto! To receive a small free gift from Father Christmas please email: **laurablake20@icloud.com** to book a space. Raffle tickets and memory stars will be available to buy throughout the month and also on the day. A free event for the whole family to enjoy!

**9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December - Mobile Library**

This month the mobile library visits South Newton on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, located at Vale View Road, South Newton, Salisbury SP2 0RB. Doors open from 3:45 to 4:15pm.

**Health activity tracker watches and blood pressure monitors available to borrow**

You can now borrow activity tracker watches and blood pressure monitors for up to six

weeks from Salisbury library as well as the mobile libraries. Activity tracker watches enable you to track your steps, heart rate, sleep quality and much more. Blood pressure monitors can be used to take your blood pressure at home and see how any changes in lifestyle are having an impact. You must be a library member and 16+ to borrow an activity tracker or 18+ to borrow a blood pressure monitor.

**12<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Bingo.** South Newton Village Hall. Eyes down 7:30pm. Prize Bingo - Money flyer (over 18s only) – Raffle. Join us for some festive fun!

**17<sup>th</sup> December - Carol and Crib Service,** 4:00pm. St Andrew's Church

**25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day Service,** 9.30am. St Andrew's Church

**31<sup>st</sup> December – Benefice Service,** 10:30am. St. Andrew's Church

A gentle service following the demands of Christmas

### LOOKAHEAD FOR JANUARY

**Bingo.** Each Tuesday evening at South Newton Village Hall, doors open from 7:00pm.

**Andy Pandy's Baby Group.** Each Wednesday, at South Newton Village Hall, during term time.

**6<sup>th</sup> January - St Andrew's Church Cleaning.** 10:00am - 12:00

**6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January - Mobile Library**

**8<sup>th</sup> January - Parish Council Meeting** South Newton and Village Hall from 7:00pm.

**25<sup>th</sup> January - Village Hall Committee Meeting** South Newton Village Hall, 7:00pm

**27<sup>th</sup> January - Breakfast Morning,** South Newton Village Hall, 9:00 to 11:00am.

### UPDATES & THANKS

**26<sup>th</sup> October - Village Hall AGM**

Attended by a select few from the villages, including Reginald (Tommy) Sheppard who travelled from Southampton. Tommy was a former committee member when the village hall was being built and he was able to give us an interesting insight regarding the setting up of the charity. The constitution states that two members of the committee to represent each of the Parish Councils from South Newton and Great Wishford, the same for Football, Cricket and Table Tennis. He also told us that it was a long standing arrangement that the annual precepts from both Parish Councils would be given to the Recreation Centre for general running of all the facilities.

Unfortunately, Cricket and Table Tennis are no longer represented but Football has gone from strength to strength. The Village Hall and Recreation facilities are all well used with local villagers and groups booking regularly.

Very sadly, there is a small group of, we believe, local youngsters who are intent on destruction and damage from which they clearly derive some form of vicarious thrill. If only we could capture their enthusiasm and put it to good use! That would be great for everyone.

**Karen Barnes** (Treasurer and Secretary)

### **8<sup>th</sup> November – Annual Clothing Collection.**

Thank you to everyone who sorted out their cupboards for old clothing, bags and shoes. We will provide a total next month.

### **THANK YOU HOLY DUSTERS ... ..**

A very big thank you to all those holy dusters and polishers from the village, who have turned up at St. Andrew's Church, to help with cleaning and making the church look and smell lovely throughout the year. Special thanks to those who come every month. Thank you also to the ladies who adorn the church with beautifully arranged flowers. Our cleaning sessions take place from 10:00am to 12:00 noon once a month, on the Saturday before our monthly services, which are on the first Sunday of the month at 9:30am. A good old natter ensues as we work, then we have a cuppa and biscuits afterwards.

Our group of holy dusters is diminishing somewhat of late so, if there is anyone out there who is willing to give an hour or two to help, please come along, you will be more than welcome. Many hands, make light work! The more the merrier. If you are a dab hand with flowers, please come and show off your skills.

We look forward to seeing you.

### **THE BELL INN**

The Food Standards Agency / Wiltshire Council issued a 5 out of 5 food hygiene rating to The Bell Inn, South Newton, following inspection on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Congratulations to all concerned.

The rating ranges from zero (worst) to five (best) and is based on the food safety standards found at the time of the inspection. Three areas are assessed: food hygiene, structure and cleanliness.

### **SOUTH NEWTON & WISHFORD VILLAGE HALL**

#### **EVENTS UPDATE**

Congratulations to Emma and Brad from Great Wishford who recently held their Wedding celebrations at the Village Hall. We send our very best wishes.

We are busy running up to Christmas and the New Year. Lots of parties and even a get together on Christmas Eve and another on Boxing Day.

Bookings for 2024 are filling the diary and we have taken a party booking for October!

#### **THANK YOU**

A huge thank you (again) to Craig and Brad of CAW Carpentry and Building Services for repairing the play area slide for the second time, which was damaged in exactly the same place as last time! We are very grateful. The cost for a replacement slide would be several thousand pounds and that money could be better spent!

**WYLYE AND TILL VALLEY BENEFICE**  
**BENEFICE CHURCH SERVICES DURING DECEMBER 2023**  
**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON**

**Sunday 3rd December – Advent Sunday: Year B starts**

9.30am	Berwick St James	Advent Holy Communion (CW)
9:30am	South Newton	Advent Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	Stapleford	Advent Worship
6:00pm	Great Wishford	Advent Evening Prayer

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

3:00pm	South Newton	Christmas Tree Decorating
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**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30am	Great Wishford	Holy Communion (CW)
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**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

5:00pm	Winterbourne Stoke	Carols through the village
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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent**

4:00pm	South Newton	Village Crib and Carol Service
6:00pm	Berwick St James	Candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service
6:00pm	Stapleford	Candle-lit Carol Service Carol Service

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

6:00pm	Stapleford	Carols around the village
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**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

5:30pm	Great Wishford	Carols around the village
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**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

5:00pm	Great Wishford	Crib and carol service
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**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

9:30am	Great Wishford	Holy Communion (CW)
9:30am	South Newton	Christmas Day Worship
10:00am	Stapleford	Christmas Day Worship
10:30am	Berwick St James	Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December – First Sunday of Christmas**

10:30am	South Newton`	Benefice Holy Communion (CW)
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CW = Common Worship, BCP = Book of Common Prayer

\* = Change to usual service pattern

**Please look at the Parish News Sheets for any changes to services or contact:**

**Rector, Rev'd Jonathan Plows**

Monday being his day off

Email: [Rectorwtv@gmail.com](mailto:Rectorwtv@gmail.com)

Tel: 01722 790616

**Rev'd Maggie Metcalfe**

Working Days: Sunday, Tuesday - Thursday

Email: [curatewtv@gmail.com](mailto:curatewtv@gmail.com)

Tel: 07902 490916

*Emmanuel: God is with us*

Dear Friends,

I hope all is well. Across December and January, we come together as family, friends and community to celebrate, to sing carols and to be joyful. The Light shines out and overcomes the Darkness. This is a time when we often think of others before ourselves, especially those alone or less fortunate, those with far less than ourselves to be joyful. I hope we will see such generosity again this year so watch out for Foodbank information. The question is ~ are we prepared for this Season?

*See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way.*

(Mark 1: 2)

Yes, in life we can always do it ourselves, or at least, that's what believe. Who needs others? Well, that just isn't the case. We can try to be super self-centred but I do believe that there is a real energy which comes from being with others, from being in a team or group or family. I don't believe we want to be, or actually enjoy being, a Scrooge! The message of Advent is about being prepared. The message of Christmas is the coming into the reality of God's preparation in Scripture. It was John was the Messenger who challenged us to be ready, to see and listen.

*The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.*

(Luke 1: 30)

Mary was alone, doing her own thing, when Gabriel came to her and told her the good news "You are to have the Son of God". What me? I am too young. Surely Mary simply believed that she was not prepared for this at this stage of her life. No, said Gabriel, God knows who you are and has chosen you. All is prepared. The amazing thing is that this young Mary placed her trust in God and, preparation or no preparation, said yes, and her baby was born in Bethlehem with the support of the wonderful Joseph – who was even less prepared!

*When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.*

(Matthew 2: 10 – 11)

I wonder if the Kings were prepared. They were certainly expecting something – they had gifts all sorted, or so it seems. Off they went and they found the baby and the family. They were expecting a King and yet found Jesus not in a royal palace but a humble stable, surrounded by the animals. Bet they weren't prepared for that!

*Emmanuel: God is with us!*

When God is with us all is possible – indeed with God, the impossible is always possible. That is how God operates. We never walk alone. We may think we are not ready, not packed, not prepared, lost our map and compass ... but God is always graciously ready and walks with us through all that He has prepared. In that we can be certain.

So, may I hope that you have a wonderful Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and that all your preparations bring you joy and happiness. Watch and listen and be prepared for the gift which will always change of your life. God can do that.

Blessings,

**Jonathan** (Rector, Wylde and Till Valley Benefice)

### **LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT'S MEETING**

This was the first 'get-together' since Covid. 15 LPAs from across the deanery met at St James's Church in Luggershall. There was lively, fun and engrossing discussions on 'Grave Talk' looking ahead at many different aspects and topics on death and dying. How different people do, or, don't want to address the subject. There was a presentation from 'Safefamilies'. This is a church based voluntary organisation that helps to support young families through difficult times. Safe families work closely with social services and would welcome more volunteers to join in this valuable work. There was also a presentation on the work of 'Christians Against Poverty' (C.A.P.); the organisation has been running since 1996, helping people to manage and remove debt. It has helped thousands of people to live debt free and to manage a realistic budget. C.A.P also gives courses for young people and students on budgeting in preparation on living away from home. Even the most 'savvy' gain some tips on how to improve budgeting.

It's important to note that both these charities help people of all faiths and no faith. They are inclusive to everyone.

The takeaway message from the day was that Christians remain very pro-active in social change which is valued and used by established governmental organisations. The day ended with a short communion service.

Do contact Rev Jonathan Plows or curate Rev Maggie Metcalfe if you would like a visit from an L.P.A. Contact details found on the Benefice Church services page

## **SOUTH NEWTON AND STOFORD** (Continued from Page 11)

### **SOUTH NEWTON & WISHFORD VILLAGE HALL / RECREATION CENTRE AGM - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2023**

#### **A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF EVENTS**

The 200 Club remains a source of steady income to fund the play area. Unfortunately, this has been targeted several times by vandals breaking the see saw and the slide. Expensive items of equipment! Thank you to Rob Petty for his work on the see-saw and Craig and Brad from CAW Carpentry and Building Services for repairing the slide. Cheryl Hooper with Janet Hailstone manages our regular Bingo evenings. Also, the popular Easter and Christmas Bingo events.

Breakfast Mornings; Saturday morning end of the month breakfasts are a real highlight and again, Janet and Cheryl manage these for us and do a fabulous job. Recently, Rob



Petty, a dab hand in the kitchen, has joined the team. We regularly have more than thirty people and on occasion, have to turn tables.

The Six-a-Side Football Tournament; this has become such a popular event that Mark Perrella and his team had to revert to a two day event this year. We started very early on Saturday morning before 7.00am and finished more than 12 hours later! Bright and early again on Sunday morning for another session. It was a hugely successful and enjoyable weekend for everyone and very tiring for the organisers! Great feedback from the coaches, refs and the children.

Stofest 2023; an early Friday meeting around B&E boardroom table when the decision had to be taken to cancel. Luckily, with a lot of hard work we were able to unwind the event and rebook for 11<sup>th</sup> August. A Family Fun Day in the afternoon, then fabulous music from the bands, all of whom played for free. Great BBQ, refreshments and Gin and Cocktail bar.

### **ACCOUNTS**

I hope you will agree that we are in good hands with Karen, assisted by Gordon dealing with the finances. They balanced to the penny and our Honorary Auditor Tim Sainsbury has signed everything off.

### **THE FUTURE OF THE RECREATION CENTRE AND VILLAGE HALL**

Our community clearly values what we have to offer as we are so busy and football has expanded rapidly, now with more than ten teams. Our facilities are no longer fit for purpose, especially the old hall. While massive effort has gone into fund raising, we have not been able to raise the required funds for the rebuilding project and to give us sufficient working capital to maintain our current offer. Covid and the subsequent cost of living crisis have resulted in a huge increase in building costs. Added to which, having gone out to tender with four firms, none of them were interested in even discussing the project or quoting for the work. Very sadly, this has resulted in the planning application lapsing.

We held a session with Mark Perrella and his team to discuss what they are looking for, for the future of football. Also, how we deal with the refurbishment of this village hall and the facilities we are able to offer. Both will be subject to a new planning application.

Football is consulting with the FA and it is hoped that a suitable building with changing facilities and lavatories may be provided on the site of the old village hall with their own electricity and water. The car park will be expanded and this building refurbished. Clearly, there is still a long way to go but we are all determined to work towards achieving this. Currently, there are no timescales.

### **THANK YOU**

To the Committee, their family and friends. Without you, we would not be able to operate the Village Hall. Special thanks to Barney and Sam Lawrence and their extended network, B&E and all their friends and contacts. Without their input, Stofest would not happen. Barney also cuts the recreation fields and pitches for us at no cost.

To everyone linked with Football, who give up much of their working week and weekends and for the Football Tournament. Our cleaner Ken Burden, for giving us special rates as a gesture for the community. There are also many individuals who donate their time and make cash donations who are the unsung heroes; too many to mention.

**Derek M Blake (Chairman)**

## WINTERBOURNE STOKE

### WELCOME

Welcome to Pia, Nick and family who've recently moved into Till Cottage. We hope you'll be happy there.

### ROBERT LIONEL TURNER

The village was deeply saddened by the sudden and untimely death of Rob, aged 61, on his farm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. A much loved husband, father, grandfather and friend to many he will be sorely missed locally and across the wider farming community. Our thoughts and best wishes go to Fiona, Pippa and Matthew, and their children Grace, Otto and Flora. The funeral will be a private family occasion.

### JOHN R SINGLETON

We sadly learned of the passing of John, a long-time resident of Scotland Lodge, who died on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, aged 91. He was headmaster of Chafyn Grove School from 1980-87, a former member of the Royal Naval Reserve, a staunch supporter of the local RBL Branch, and a lay preacher. He leaves behind a wife, Jane, 4 sons and a foster son. Our thoughts are with them all.

### VILLAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

We are pleased to announce that a new committee has been agreed for the Winterbourne Stoke Village Preservation Society (VPS).

The VPS will continue to build on the good work of the previous committee and the events committee, which have been responsible for numerous initiatives including the Village Pantry and other events in the Village. It is with renewed optimism that we hope to build on this work and help unify the village, with events and initiatives that are open to all, and help make it even more pleasant to live in the village of Winterbourne Stoke.

The new committee is as follows: Pete (Chair), Ryan (Deputy Chair), Lannie, Francesca (Treasurer), Dave (Secretary).

There will be regular meetings which are open to all, and you are welcome to attend the next meeting at St Peter's Church at 7:00pm on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023. We will also be including questions in the upcoming Village Survey, to help understand how best we can serve the Village.

The VPS will work best with input and assistance from you, the community – so if you have any ideas for future events, are able to help in any way, or have any questions, please email us on [events@winterbourne-stoke-events.org](mailto:events@winterbourne-stoke-events.org)

### CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Don't forget the Christmas wreath making workshop for the village at Stonehenge Pottery Workshop is on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. There'll be two sessions during the day, one at 2:00 – 4:00pm and the other at 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

If you haven't already reserved a place but would like to attend please call Sarah on **07562 381025**, no later than Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

All equipment and refreshments will be provided, but if people have greenery from their garden or items they'd like on their wreaths or can share, please bring them along.

The events team have suggested a £5+ donation, so the event is subsidised by them.

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Save the date!

On the evening of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December there will be a Carol-singing service processing through Winterbourne Stoke, plus other festivities to be announced!

So please put the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you there!

If you would like to volunteer to help with this, or any of the Christmas events we are planning, please contact the VPS on [events@winterbourne-stoke-events.org](mailto:events@winterbourne-stoke-events.org)

### VILLAGE WHATSAPP

If anyone would like to be added to the Winterbourne Stoke WhatsApp group please message Tracy Ewart on **07956 514137** with your name and number and she'll add you to it.

### WINTERBOURNE STOKE MAGAZINE ENTRIES

Please send to me - Tracy Ewart **07956 514137** or email: [tracy1502@gmail.com](mailto:tracy1502@gmail.com) before the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month. This can include welcomes to new villagers, events, parish council updates, congratulation messages, or anything else you'd like to see added.

## ALL VILLAGES

### RURAL CRIME TEAM UPDATE

There were reports of Poaching and Hare Coursing at Stapleford and Berwick St James (as well as other local village locations) throughout the month of October. Suspects had driven their vehicles across the farm land, causing damage; crops were damaged and fences cut.

A total of 41 crimes were reported in the policing area of Amesbury Rural in the month of September 2023 (of which 3 were in Great Wishford, 3 in Stapleford and 1 in Winterbourne Stoke); within the same period of time there were a total of 22 crimes reported in the policing area of Wilton Rural.

**WILDLIFE WATCH**

A lovely sighting of a White Heron or a Great White Egret on the River Wylde at Stapleford on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Wild Quail seen on Berwick Hill Farm at the end of October. All reports very welcome – from all our villages. Nicky Street [chstreet@btinternet.com](mailto:chstreet@btinternet.com) The Dairy House Berwick St James.

**SWANS W.I.**

Alas! No meeting in November due to adverse weather conditions. However, instead our December meeting will be super good! Christmas Party for us all on 7<sup>th</sup> December. Let's get Christmassy!

**MINI CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**

At Stapleford Village Hall on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December, 10:30am till 4:00pm  
All locally made crafts. Refreshments available

**WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN STAY SAFE ON-LINE VOLUNTEER.**

Are you passionate about making a difference? Volunteers will visit and work with individuals in their own homes assessing how they use their internet and smart technology; then provide advice and guidance to make them less likely to become a victim of crime and to feel safer using the internet. For further information contact: Toni Evans WBVT Stay Safe Online Manager. Email: [Toni@wbvt.org](mailto:Toni@wbvt.org)

**LAST POSTING DATES 2023**

Get your cards and greetings there in time for Christmas, check the recommended posting dates for all UK services. As always, post early and avoid the rush.  
Royal Mail 1st Class - 20<sup>th</sup> December    2nd Class - 18<sup>th</sup> December

**SALISBURY & DISTRICT SCOUTS CHRISTMAS POST**

**Stamps 30p (Cash Only). Last posting date Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Every year Scout Groups sell stamps to use on Christmas cards you send to friends and family within the Salisbury and South Wiltshire area. These cards are posted into one of our collection boxes (**not a Royal Mail post box**) and sorted into delivery groups.

Post Boxes and stamps are available at:

Wilton: at Spectrum. Wilton Hardware, Top Style, Wilton Place Care Home, Buckeridge Road, Bob Blandford Memorial Scout Hall – Tuesday 6:30-8:00, Wednesday 7:00-9:00, Thursday 6:15-7:15, Wilton Community Centre (Brownies) - Tuesday 6:15-7:30  
South Newton: Wessex Timber Windows, Stapleford: Riverside Service Station, Wylde: Post Office & Stores

Wilton Scouts & Wilton & District Guides share proceeds from local sales and deliveries. This year's delivery locations (which include all our local parishes) can found at: <https://swwscouts.org.uk/christmas-post/>

**HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES SWITCH TO THEIR WINTER OPENING TIMES**

Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) have switched to their annual winter opening

hours - now 10:00am to 4:00pm on each day that they're open.

Salisbury HRC will be closed for an additional day a week, so will not be open on Thursdays and Fridays. The opening days of the other centres will remain as they are. If you are visiting a recycling centre, please remember to sort your waste before you arrive, so that together we can recycle as much as possible.

### **PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS BY GETTING VACCINATED**

Eligible people who've not yet come forward for the flu and COVID-19 vaccines are being urged to contact their GP Practice and take up the offer ahead of the festive and new year season when flu and COVID-19 are expected to peak.

Eligible people include pregnant women, those aged 65 or over, carers, people with certain health conditions (including a learning disability), those who live with someone with a weakened immune system, people living in a care home and frontline health or social care workers.

The children's nasal spray flu vaccine is offered every year to protect children against flu. It is for children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023, all primary school children and some secondary school aged children.

### **COST OF LIVING HELP - Please ensure you apply for all available funding**

Millions of households should have received the latest £300 government cost of living payment. These payments go out to people on means-tested benefits, as well as pensioners - but if you don't qualify there is plenty of other help available. The Government has set up a number of schemes offering both money and vouchers to qualifying households. What help is available this year?

**Up to £300 for pensioners** - Pensioners who get winter fuel payments also qualify for £150 or £300 as a pensioner cost of living payment this year. The money is meant to help pay energy bills, which tend to be higher for the elderly as they require warmer homes and may have plug-in medical equipment. Winter fuel payments are worth up to £600 and are paid to households containing someone born before September 26, 1956. Eligible claimants should get the pensioner cost of living payment automatically.

**£150 to heat homes** - The Warm Home Discount is a £150 payment towards the cost of energy. It goes out to two groups: those who get the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit and those on certain means-tested benefits. Households with a standard meter get the £150 as a rebate on their bills, while those with pre-payment meters get a voucher. Payments will be made between October 2023 and March 2024.

**Household Support Fund** - Wiltshire Council has a fund of £5.4 million, distributed through partner organisation and council departments, which runs to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Anyone can apply, but may need to meet eligibility rules, such as having a low income.

### **WILTSHIRE COUNCIL CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING THE ONGOING COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS**

Wiltshire Council has a range of support available to help make things a little easier and to provide support and advice to those who need it, including:

- Wiltshire libraries continuing as warm spaces
- Warm & Safe Wiltshire in place to help people live in warmer, safer and healthier homes
- an updated interactive guide to help people find key support
- Household Support Fund to directly financially support a range of programmes and initiatives
- a range of online support and sign-posting information on topics including council tax/benefits, energy advice and mental health support
- area boards continuing to look at way to support their local community projects
- a dedicated Wiltshire Wellbeing support line to provide advice and guidance
- the council's FUEL programme to continue this winter
- cheaper bus fares continue until December 2024

Wiltshire Council's libraries continue to be there for people who need them, providing anyone with a warm and friendly welcome. Free warm packs will be available for those who need them. Working with local community partners to reach the most vulnerable, libraries will all be offering an enhanced offer of heated throws and radiator reflectors.

Warm & Safe Wiltshire is a service to help residents live in warmer, safer and healthier homes. It provides in-depth telephone, home visit and outreach support to people and communities covering a wide package of support: including energy bills, energy saving tips, energy saving vouchers, and funding for heating and insulation improvements in their homes. More information is available at: [www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/](http://www.warmandsafewiltshire.org.uk/)

A range of support, advice and guidance can be found at cost-of-living support webpages - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6665/Council-tax-benefits-and-financial-support)

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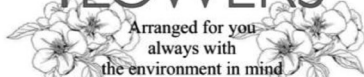
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