

Community Matters



Lower Wylde & Till Valley
Parishes Magazine
NOVEMBER 2024

Riverside

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader – Once again we have had more articles to include than we have had space. Wonderful! But continued apologies to those contributors who have seen their articles condensed or even held over until space is available in a future edition! This has however created an opportunity to consider increasing the size of the Communities Matters Magazine. The increased production costs will need to be balanced with additional advertising revenue as the magazine is provided for free. **Charles Gregory** Email: twovalleysed@hotmail.com

Quote for the Month

November's sky is chill and drear, November's leaf is red and sear. Sir Walter Scott

BERWICK ST JAMES

GOODBYE and good luck in the future to **Genevieve and Peter Shaughnessy**. They generously took part in village events, especially with book club and we'll miss the cakes at Tea and Chat. They have left to be closer to family in Gosport.

CHURCH NEWS

Firstly, many thanks to Yvonne Allen for taking our Harvest Festival service on 6th October. It was lovely to see the church so very beautifully decorated and with so much produce, which was donated to the Women's Refuge in Salisbury, which is always very appreciative.

Our thanks to everyone who gave the produce and their time.

There was added excitement as we tried the heating system and our trusty boiler, thought to have been irreparable, worked perfectly. Long may it continue.

November is scheduled to be a quieter month before the build-up to Christmas. On 3rd November we have Holy Communion at 09.30a.m and on 17th November we have Matins at the new normal time of 11.00a.m. All are welcome.

A MESSAGE FROM MAGGIE METCALFE to all the residents of Berwick St James.

Very many thanks for the wonderful gifts you have given me. Both materially in the hugely generous leaving gifts – a beautiful Home Communion set and a garden centre voucher – and for the gift of getting to know you. I have loved it, and am so grateful for your hospitality, and for the way you have shared your lives with me – the joy and laughter as well as the sadnesses and tears. It has been a great privilege. It is a time of transition for us all as I await my licensing as associate priest in the Chalke Valley where I will be ministering near our home.

Thank you for all you have taught me and for the fun we have had. Christmas Candlelit Carols, the Jubilee, Coronation, pet services as well as regular Sunday and unique family services. All have been very special in many ways.

I will miss you but know that God will be with you and continue to hold us all in the palm of His hand. With my love and blessing.
Maggie.

TEA and CAKE and CHAT in the READING ROOM

The November chats are on **5th and 19th November. 2.30 – 4pm**, lovely to see everyone. There is no charge, cakes are welcome too!

EARLY CHRISTMAS SALE with TEA and CAKE in the READING ROOM

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER. 2.30pm to 4.30pm RAFFLE will be drawn at 4pm.

Come along to the Early Christmas Sale on Saturday Afternoon. Free Tea and Coffee. Produce and Home-bakes stall, Gifts and Christmas items. Tombola. Grand Raffle. And lots more! Free Quiz (wait and find out!).

We welcome donations of Bottles and Biscuits, Chocolate and Cakes, Gifts and Goodies, Raffle and Tombola prizes and items for the Christmas Hamper.

Donations can be left at The Clock House Porch, by the eggs in Berwick Farm Yard (at the back of the Dairy House) or to the Reading Room on Friday 15th between 2pm and 4pm.

Small toys and gifts for children especially welcome as we would like to offer more for children.

For collection, or for more information contact Nicky chstreet@btinternet.com, The Dairy House, WhatsApp or text 07989 722112.

ART APPRECIATION in Berwick-St-James

Loving Vincent

Following the Rembrandt presentations, an artist that Van Gogh revered, on **Thursday 21st November**, we focus on Vincent himself. I use the title advisedly, as without doubt, the enigmatic Dutchman is the most universally loved of modern artists across the generations. This presentation will be an opportunity for us to share many of his most renowned paintings, to complement the ground-breaking and highly recommended exhibition at the National Gallery, *"Poets and Lovers"*.

Meetings take place in the Berwick-St-James Reading Room (opposite the Boot Inn), commencing 7pm, with doors open at 6.45. Entry on the evening £5/person to include a glass of wine, with all proceeds donated to the Reading Room Fund. For further information, see the Berwick-St-James web-site, contact Brian Armstrong on 07999 325804, or email brianarm100@icloud.com

CHRISTMAS CRAFT AFTERNOON

Christmas Crafts in The Reading Room

Come and join us to make Christmas crafts to take home or decorate our village.

Saturday 23rd November 2.30pm – 4.30pm, The Reading Room. Berwick St James. Crafts suitable for ages 1-100. There will be tea and cake too. Everyone welcome.

VILLAGE MEETING

Berwick St James village Meeting was held on Thursday 3rd October: Thank you to all who attended, especially our guest Peter Smith, Chair of Winterbourne Stoke PC who provided a comprehensive history and case for addressing the problems caused by the A303 here in Wiltshire. We are looking for volunteers for “Fundraising event/s in 2025” and those willing to help with the “Safe Footpath Project” to contact Julian and Carolyn.

The minutes of the Village Meeting are on the website under “Parish Meetings 3 October 2024”.

THE BERWICK PART OF THIS MAGAZINE ENTRIES

Please send to me, Nicky Street, The Dairy House 790309, or e-mail chstreet@btinternet.com by 14th of the month before the magazine is due out, indicating it is a magazine entry. Or, if you prefer, directly to the editor (see elsewhere in the magazine). It is great to welcome new villagers and congratulate on exam and other successes.

GREAT WISHFORD

THANK YOU, GREAT WISHFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Giles Church and surrounding community would like to thank the Headteacher and Staff of the wonderful Wishford Primary School for hosting the St Giles annual Harvest Supper in the School Hall. It is a wonderful convivial setting, where this popular event has happened for many years and where it continues to nourish a sense of belonging in the community.

A HARVEST SHARED IS A BLESSING GAINED!

Wishford celebrated harvest on 13th October with a service in church and a delicious supper in the school hall, a great team effort from beginning to end. So many people gave their time and their talents to making the whole evening go smoothly. The service introduction, which took the opportunity to thank everyone by name, was almost as long as the homily! The church had been beautifully decorated and there were donations for our Give and Take box in the porch. The collection went to the Salisbury Foodbank. The altar was decorated with Louisa’s harvest loaf and two very large sheaves of wheat, and the congregation took some Spring bulbs away with them as a symbol of the start of the next cycle of plant life.

Shortly afterwards, we all found ourselves in school enjoying two varieties of shepherd’s pie and peas, followed by a choice of Daphne’s famous roulade, a lovey fruit crumble or meringues, and after all that, there was the cheese course served with the magnificent harvest loaf. Wine and chatter flowed freely, stopping only briefly while we checked our raffle tickets and chose from a range of prizes. It was a fitting

harvest celebration, bringing the community together to share good food, good company and plenty of cheer.
Yvonne Allen

ST GILES' CAFÉ GOES TO SCHOOL!

Dear Café supporters, villagers and friends of Wishford school, please note that on Thursday 7th November, our weekly Café will take place in the school hall from 2:30 till 4:00, and all proceeds will go to the charity Children in Need. Access to the hall will be from the back of the school. Look forward to seeing you there! YA and Cafe Team

PLEASE WILL YOU HELP?

With very limited funds our church can only afford 6 grass cuts per year for the Cemetery. With several family members resident in this cemetery, it grieves me to see unkempt grass. I know others feel the same so I thought some 'self-help' would be appropriate.

With a £25 annual contribution from 20 visitors to graves in this cemetery, for example, an additional 6 cuts per year would be possible at the current cost. If more people contributed or when the cost increases the annual contribution would change. That would greatly improve the state of our cemetery. We are very fortunate to have one village volunteer who mows the paths in the cemetery, very grateful thanks from us to him. If you are willing to help with contributions, I would love to hear from you. Charles Email charlesabnett@hotmail.co.uk
Or phone 01722 790508 or 07836 329706
Or stop me if you see me on my scooter!

GREAT WISHFORD CAROL SINGING - Date for the diary.

Village carol singing planned Monday 23rd December. A wonderful way to enjoy the festive season. Look out for details in December magazine and posters around the village nearer the time.

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

On Wed 4th Dec, 2 pm in St Giles' Church, Daphne Smith will be showing us how to use local greenery to make our own Christmas wreaths! You can bring your own additions to personalise your creation or just use materials provided. Please ring Daphne on 01722 790694 to register. A small donation covering costs would be great!

CHRISTMAS WREATH COMPETITION

Our annual Christmas Wreath Competition kicks off on 4th December. Hang a wreath on your door which you/your family has made from anything – local vegetation or create something fun to reflect you. The Committee will judge the wreaths on 20th Dec based on Artistic Flair, Impact and Effort. Please make your wreath visible on your front door or gate. Who wouldn't like to win a delicious home-made Christmas cake?! For more information contact Caroline: 07804210866

STAPLEFORD

Lottery Draw

The autumn draw was held at the coffee morning on 2nd October. The four winners were as follows: 1st prize (£250) No. 165 S. Waldron; 2nd prize (£125) No. 451 J. Carter; 3rd prize (£50) No. 306 S. Bale; 4th prize (£25) No. 162 E. Stones

BIG BAND CONCERT

Salisbury Big Band gave the village a night to remember when they performed in St. Mary's church on 10th October. What a talented, polished and entertaining crew they are, with outstanding brass and vocals to raise the roof and get the feet tapping. All who attended enjoyed a terrific evening of two sparkling sets and an encore at popular request. The interval gave an opportunity for everyone to get to know one another and enjoy a glass of wine and delicious hot snacks, which no doubt contributed to the mood in the second half leading to some spontaneous dancing (led, the writer suggests, by one of the oldest village members!) and a good deal of whooping. Thanks to all who helped to make this happen and to all those who attended. After paying the band, £310 was raised for St. Mary's; a respectable sum hugely augmented by generous donations, for which we're extremely grateful, and the evening was worth the effort for the sheer joy engendered. Next time, perhaps we can entice a bigger audience. We hope so, as we're hoping have a return visit for our 900th anniversary celebrations next year!

CHRISTMAS ON ITS WAY

Choir rehearsals will begin in early November for all those interested in taking part in this year's carol service, to be held at 6pm on Sunday 15th December. Details to follow shortly.

ANN BRIERLEY

We mentioned in the September magazine the death of Ann Brierley, who may not have been known to some of you but who had lived in the village with her husband John for many years. Both Ann and John were very much part of life in the village. John wrote a history of the church, wrote articles for the parish magazine and produced a number of paintings; and Ann was very active, especially with St. Mary's. She loved the countryside and all forms of life and was in her element in her garden. She had a degree in botany and doctorate in plant respiration but more than that, a real love of plants. She cycled and walked a good deal and anyone who knew her can attest that her curious mind led to many an interesting conversation along the way. She had a gift for friendship and a prodigious memory, leading to a sense after talking with her that you were somehow more interesting than you had been before.

VILLAGE HALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

November 6th 10:30-12 Coffee and Chat.

Friday November 8th: 7:30 (doors open from 7pm) **Talk by Dr Robin O'Neill** – “From Policeman to Genealogist.” Schindler’s Ark inspired his investigation of the modern history of Eastern European Jewish Communities. (More details in the October magazine).

Wednesday December 4th Special Christmas Coffee and Chat

Wednesday December 11th: Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall. Three course ‘homecooked’ (by Keith) delicious Christmas lunch with all the trimmings and music. It was a very happy and successful event last year and very good value at £20. Contact Keith to book your place.

YOGA

The yoga group (mixed!) practises 9-10am on Wednesdays, led by Sharon of Namaste Hatha Yoga. £8 per session. We have space for a few more. If you have been thinking about trying yoga, or getting back to it having lapsed, this is a convenient and easy group to join. All you need is a yoga mat. Turn up, or contact Sharon first if you’d prefer (07384 329069)

SOUTH NEWTON AND STOFORD

SOUTH NEWTON HOUSEHOLDS OF THE 20TH & 21ST CENTUARIES

In the 20th century (1900s) most new buildings have been to the north of the parish church. Twelve private houses were built in the 1920s. At the very north end of the village four council houses (West View) were built on the east side of the A36 in 1927, and a large garage as well as other industrial buildings in the mid-20th century. There has been building on land behind the houses east of the A36 since the 1930s: the local authority built six houses and two bungalows in Jubilee Terrace between 1935–1937, two bungalows were built as a peace memorial in 1946, a total of seventy-three council houses and bungalows were built in several streets between 1947–1956, and six council bungalows were built in 1966. On the west side of the road *ten* private houses were built in the 1980s.

The latest census figures of 2021 indicate that the 273 South Newton households consist of 105 detached homes, 106 semi-detached, 56 terraced and 6 ‘others’. Over 200 of the properties have 3 bedrooms or more. 157 homes are owned (either outright or via a mortgage), 1 home is indicated as ‘Rent Free’ and the remainder are social or privately rented. The majority of households (139) rely upon oil central heating, the remainder on either electricity, gas, coal or wood; however, three homes are stated as having no central heating.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – NOVEMBER**4th November - Parish Council Meeting.**

South Newton and Wishford Village Hall from 7:00pm.

5th, 12th, 19th and 26th November - 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.

6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November - 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.

9th and 23rd November - Mobile Library

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

10th November - Remembrance Day Service

St. Andrew's Church, South Newton at 11:00am. Parking at South Newton Hospital.

23rd November – Christmas Table-Top Sale

South Newton Village Hall, 1:00 – 4:00pm

Christmas bits, crafts, tombola, puzzles, raffle, bric-a-brac and more. Refreshments, including cake and mince pies.

24th November - Families @ Four

A themed short, informal service for families at 4:00pm with crafts for the children, followed by afternoon tea of sandwiches and cakes.

28th November - Village Hall Committee Meeting.

South Newton Village Hall, 7:00pm

29th November – Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

South Newton Village Hall, 7:00pm

If you would like to make your own Christmas Wreath for your front door, please book a place at our workshop where you will be shown how to make it. This event was very enjoyable, sociable and successful last year.

All materials and refreshments are provided for £25.00 per person. Proceeds in aid of St. Andrew's Church.

The running costs of the church are high, it relies on fund raising to survive and be of service to the community, please support us.

To book contact Nikki Softley on **07776 306688** or nikki.softley@btinternet.com.

Thank you.

30th November - Breakfast Morning.

South Newton and Wishford Village Hall, any time between 9:00 until 11:00am. A delicious cooked breakfast for only £7.50, with plenty of tea, coffee, toast and marmalade. All proceeds to the Village Hall.

BENEFICE NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER

Dear Friends,
I hope all is well.

In November the Church enters Kingdom Season, the Season of '*remembering*' ~ the Saints of the Church; the dearly departed on All Souls' Day, Remembrance Sunday all culminating with Christ the King.

It is fascinating that *we remember* in so many different ways. Our *remembering* can of course be a joyful moment but, equally, *remembering* can be a distressing experience. In all our remembering, however, we bring the past into our present which might well have serious implications for shaping our future.

Clearly, memories as *narratives of the past* enter the realm of history for individuals, villages and for wider society. Stories from former times are significant in determining our identity, our sense of belonging, the who and what we are. Yet, today memories have become contested battlegrounds as narratives and perspectives have been challenged by alternative memories, contributing to greater complexity in our remembering. How do we deal with contesting memories, and more importantly, how do we heal them?

Remembering is a fundamental obligation in Scripture and the Church. Moses instituted the Festival of the Passover precisely to enable the Israelites to remember their enslavement in Egypt and their liberating, faithful, God. In the Eucharist, we remember Christ sharing bread and wine with His disciples, commanding them: '*Do this in remembrance of me.*' We remember the life, death, and resurrection of Christ as the chance of changing the meaning of our painful memories, to remember them peacefully and see a way forward to new life in the hope and promise of the Cross. Our Benefice and villages will remember All Saints, All Souls' and Remembrance Sunday and I hope you will be able to come to one or all of these services. Yet on each of these days our *remembering* will arc from the personal and civic to the national, even international. Lest we forget, each moment asks us to recall our debt and gratitude to those who went before us, for all that they did in their lives for their families, neighbours and country ~ and for us.

Remembering then is an obligation on us all, it is a Kingdom value. The Church in its way remembers the God who is the One Creator and Love of all; is the One who liberates each one of us from moments of crisis and darkness, who commands us to remember our saviour in the sharing of the good things of the earth, and who is bringing a Kingdom where redundant weapons become tools of food production. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done.

With every blessing

Jonathan

Rector

Wylve and Till Valley Benefice.

Benefice Church Services during November 2024

Sunday 3rd November – All Saints and All Souls Day

09:30am	Stockton	Holy Communion (BCP)
09:30am	Berwick St James	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	South Newton	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	Stapleford	Sunday Worship
11:00am	Wylze	Matins (BCP)
3:00pm	Great Wishford	All Souls' Service
3:00pm	Steeple Langford	All Souls' Service
4:00pm	Little Langford	Evensong (BCP) CHANGE OF TIME

Sunday 10th November – Remembrance Sunday

09:30am	Winterbourne Stoke	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	South Newton	Remembrance Service
11:00am	Steeple Langford	Remembrance Service

Sunday 17th November – Second Sunday before Advent

09:30am	Great Wishford	Holy Communion (CW)
11:00am	Berwick St James	Matins (BCP)
11:00am	Wylze	Holy Communion (CW)
4:00pm	Stockton	Evening Worship

Thursday 28th November

11:00am	Wylze	Midweek service with organ music followed by coffee
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Sunday 24th November – Christ the King

09:30am	Little Langford	Holy Communion (BCP)
11:00am	Stapleford	Holy Communion (CW)
4:00pm	South Newton	Family@4 with afternoon tea
6:00pm	Steeple Langford	Taizé service

Dear Friends,

There are as usual two All Souls' services in the Benefice. As is our custom we will remember by name all who have died since July 2018. The names, however, of all loved ones who died prior to July 2018 will rest on the altar during the service and will be remembered in our prayers. There will be refreshments after the service and everyone is welcome to these services.

If you have a relative you wish remembered at these services then please contact Rev'd Jonathan Plows, Rectorwtv@gmail.com, 01722 790616.

CW = Common Worship, BCP = Book of Common Prayer

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 01722 790616

SOUTH NEWTON AND STOFORD - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – NOVEMBER

(Continued from Page 7)

30th November – St Andrews Day Celebration Quiz and Supper

South Newton Village Hall, 7:00pm

Book your team of up to six at our Quiz run by the Rev. Jonathan Plows and his lovely assistant. A ploughman's Supper will be provided for £10.00, please bring your own drinks. Prize for the winning team. There will also be a raffle. Proceeds in aid of St. Andrew's Church.

To book contact Nikki Softley on **07776 306688** or **nikki.softley@btinternet.com**.

Thank you.

LOOKAHEAD TO DECEMBER....

7th December – Christmas Tree Decorating and Crafts with Santa

St Andrew's Church, 3:00pm

10th December – Christmas Bingo

Prize Bingo all welcome. Money flyer - Over 18s only. Christmas raffle
South Newton Village Hall. Doors open 7:00pm; Eyes down 7.30pm

15th December – Carol and Crib Family Service

St Andrew's Church, 4:00pm

25th December – Christmas Day Service

St Andrew's Church, 9:30am

28th December - Charity Football Matches in Remembrance of Pip Dewey

South Newton and Wishford Village Hall

Matches for kids and adults, possible kick-off 9.00/9.30am. All to raise funds
for Salisbury Hospice.

SOUTH NEWTON AND WISHFORD VILLAGE HALL

The playground slide and gate have been replaced, apparently the slide is 'quite whizzy' so be prepared to catch your little ones! We are hoping to put a self-closure on the gate but in the meantime we'd really appreciate people closing the gate to prevent dogs wandering in.

All repairs and renewals at the playground are paid for by funds raised by the 200 Club. Anybody wishing to join, please contact Heather Bryans **01722 742207** or Janet

Hailstone **01722 790547**. We have ten draws with prizes of £50, £30, £10 and two draws for a chance to win £100, £60 and £40. So for just £1 a month you have a good chance of becoming a winner.

SOUTH NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

At the September Parish Council meeting concerns were raised regarding changes to the Salisbury Reds timetable and the routing of double-decker busses along the C283 though Stoford. The assembled Councillors agreed with the proposal of a 'three prong action plan' involving our Member of Parliament (Mr D Kruger), as well as Wiltshire Council and Salisbury Reds.

Letters have since been compiled and issued to each party requesting a reconsideration of the route. Via the "Freedom of Information Act" Salisbury Reds has been requested to provide a copy of their Risk Assessment relating to the "dangers" of driving a double decker bus under the Wilton A36 railway bridge.

It had been noted that Mr Kruger was visiting Berwick St James on 21st September and therefore one of our Parish Councillors participated in the meeting at The Reading Rooms in order to raise the concerns. Mr Kruger was able to spare a few minutes away from the 'assembled throng' and was briefed on the subject matters and issues. He appeared to be understanding and sympathetic, informing that he had been in South Newton at the time of the recent election and had noted the volume of traffic. Mr Kruger was advised that his office would soon be receiving a letter stating the facts and proposal in the hope that he would support our cause. The session closed with an invitation for him to participate in one of our parish council meetings.

Our representative participated in Wiltshire Council's LHFIG meeting on 2nd October. Update re: Action Notes Item 6H "Proposal of C283 (Stoford Bottom) painted pathway" - Wiltshire Council's Traffic Engineer informed results from the May traffic survey were:

- 85th percentile speed: 29.97mph
- Volume per day: 875 vehicles.

A second survey is to be performed in November; once completed the combined data will be reviewed against the criteria for a virtual footway.

After reporting the ever-increasing road drainage issues throughout South Newton to our Parish Councillor arranged a meeting with the National Highways Drainage Engineer for 31st October. (More details to follow next month).

In order to prioritise any drainage improvement works in South Newton, we have to be vocal and express our concerns over safety, particularly from pedestrians using the pavement and the damage that standing water and spray has on property, garden walls, fences, etc. Issues along the A36 are the responsibility of National Highways, there is a link below to submit issues:

<https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk/#:~:text=In%20an%20emergency%2C%20call%20999,Centre%20on%200300%20123%205000>

The more people who express their concerns, the more likely National Highways are to prioritise the concerns over other projects. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 4th November at the Village Hall, parishioners are welcome to forward any proposals or attend the session in person.

SOUTH NEWTON & BARFORD HORNETS F.C.

'Pip' Dewey

Sadly we heard the news that Pip, our groundsman, had passed away.

For those who didn't know Pip he was a massive part of South Newton and Wishford FC, way before our merger with Barford FC. He went above and beyond as groundsman for the club right up until he fell ill. To keep his name and memory alive a few seasons ago we named our clubman award after him, as there is truly no better clubman than Pip Dewey.

We held a minute's silence at all our games at the end of September as a mark of respect; our tribute can be viewed at:

www.facebook.com/southnewtonfc/videos/566672295798871

Our thoughts go out to all his family and friends.

LCC MEMBERS NEEDED FOR ST. ANDREWS CHURCH

St. Andrews Church, South Newton is run by a small group of people who form the Local Church Council (LCC) and who report to the Parish Church Council (PCC). Some members of the LCC have recently stepped down; therefore, we are in need of new members. If you are interested in joining the LCC, please contact nikki.softley@btinternet.com for more information.

We are particularly looking for people who would be willing and able to help with fund-raising events for the church, advertising events and services, general communications and opening and closing the church.

The running of the church will not be sustainable if we do not get new helpers.

Many hands make light work, so if you would like to help, please get in touch. Thank you.

POLICE CRIME FIGURES

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

1 x 'Violence and sexual offence'.

A total of fifteen crimes were reported within the whole of the Wilton Rural Area.

OUR ROAD SAFETY / COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

With the aid of financial support from Wiltshire Council Area Board and our own Parish Council the Speedwatch Team were able to install a state of the art radar speed sign at

the C283 (Stoford Bottom) location at the end of September. The mounting post was financed / installed via the Council's LHFIG process.

The sign (working twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week) displays the oncoming vehicle speed, a flashing danger symbol for excessive speed, and five different messages; the system also records traffic statistics (including: number of vehicles, speed range and percentiles).

We see some extraordinary sights whilst performing our speedwatch activities. In addition to the number of vehicles we view MAMILs (Middle Aged Men In Lycra) cycling at great speeds through the parish. We measure speeds exceeding the 30mph limit but have no means of reporting them!!!

THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL JOB YOU DO FOR US:

Looking Out For Your Vulnerable Neighbour

An incident occurred in our local area when our 'postie' informed the neighbours that letters were not being collected from a parishioner's hallway. Knocks on the doors and windows were not answered so the police were duly informed via 101. Within a few hours the police and an ambulance had arrived to find the resident alive but unwell. The parishioner is now in the care of Salisbury Hospital; many thanks to all persons involved.

Looking out for your neighbour who might be lonely and vulnerable is important for creating a strong and connected community. By offering help and support, keeping an eye on their property, and being aware of potential safety hazards, you can help ensure that everyone in your community is safe and healthy.

THE SWAN, STOFORD - PUBLIC HOUSE

It was mid-September when the public house Facebook page announced "*We will be closing on Sunday 22nd September. Wendi & Tony are retiring and going to enjoy some well needed and earned Family Time. Thank you all for your custom over the years*".

The business has recently been advertised on 'Find my Pub.com' as "... a substantial detached public house in a desirable village location with a bar/restaurant and function facilities, accommodating up to 145 covers. There are nine living rooms, a good-sized car park and gardens adjacent to the River Wylfe, all of which add to this fantastic opportunity. To add, there is a three-bedroom house for an owner-occupier". Tenancy Agreement with minimum ongoing cost: £11,525, Fixtures and Fittings: £35,000 and Annual Rent: £43,000. Recently the public house ground floor windows have been boarded up and large blocks of concrete prevent access to the car park, sadly making the location's appearance desolate and run down.

200 Club September Draws

1st - £50 (202) Audrey Hill
 2nd - £30 (108) Declan Cummins
 3rd - £10 (130) Henry Swanton (Farm)

WINTERBOURNE STOKE**ST PETER'S CHURCHYARD.**

Dear Neighbours,

The upkeep of the churchyard is causing concern to many in this and other villages visiting the graves of loved ones and wishing to see it as a strong environmental feature of the community.

After discussions with Rev'd Jonathan Plows, we would both like to express our gratitude and thanks to those who in the past have given up so much of their spare time and use of their equipment to maintain the churchyard. We realise, however, the time has now arrived where the maintaining of the churchyard must be placed on a commercial footing and, to this end, quotations will be obtained from local contractors. To assist with this, it would be very helpful to tidy up the churchyard so that we can get realistic quotes. If you know anyone either inside or outside the village who has a small grass cutting and gardening business with the necessary insurance cover and would like to quote for the work mentioned above, please contact us.

I have offered to try and form a task group of people and their strimmer's to meet on a Sunday morning from 10.30am to 12 o'clock probably for two Sundays depending on the number of volunteers coming forward. Druids Lodge Estate have very kindly agreed to help us by providing a trailer for all the rubbish to be put into and disposed of. If you can help in any way, please give me a ring, Ian West, on 01980 620389 or 07742 19154. Your help would be very much appreciated.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is waiting for three responses from National Highways. The first is to the letter written by the Chairman to reflect the village's views expressed at the meeting of the village in September. The second is a response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request regarding the condition of the A303 bridge over the River Till by Cleeve View. We have had one answer but it contradicted information provided earlier, therefore National Highways have until 5 November to clarify their statement. The third is a FOIA request regarding the width of the A303 through the village, which we believe does not conform to modern standards for the Strategic Road Network. A reply is due by 13 November.

The Parish Council has had a response, to a letter sent by the Chairman, from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Philip Wilkinson OBE, with regards to policing the speed limit on the A303 in the village with a view to reducing the speed limit. This will be followed up as Mr Wilkinson has had success in Chilmark in having their speed limit reduced by his working with both Wiltshire Council and National Highways.

On 9 October the Parish Council hosted a visit from the Wiltshire Council roads engineer responsible for the Stonehenge to Tidworth area, which includes Winterbourne Stoke. The Parish Council was able to highlight issues with the state of the roads in the village (less the A303 and private roads which are not a Wiltshire Council responsibility) including: the delaminating of the tarmac in St Peter's Close; the poor state of the road in Meadow View which Wiltshire Council say is due for improvement; and the damage to parts of Church Street caused by groundwater, and wear near the junction with the A 303. The Parish Council also highlighted the need for a speed limit reduction on the B 3083 Berwick Road as the 50 mph limit is not safe for pedestrians, particularly those from the Stonehenge Campsite, and horse riders using the road, due to the limited visibility caused by the blind summit followed by the blind bend before Berwick St James.

Finally, the Chairman was invited to the Berwick Village Meeting on 3 October where he gave an update on situation with the A 303. This close cooperation between the villages is helpful in understanding each other's issues and knowing how to act in support to improve the lives of our neighbours. The Chairman would like to thank Berwick St James for their hospitality after the village meeting.

ALL VILLAGES

SWANS W.I.

We had no idea of the treat in store for us when we listened to Ian Caskie talk about the SS Great Britain. Brunel's SS Great Britain is one of the most important historic ships in the world and when she was launched in 1843, she was called 'the greatest experiment since the creation'. Ian, a Visitor Experience Volunteer for the Trust, enthusiastically brought the history and the restoration of the great ship alive for us. We were all left wanting to visit the museum in Bristol to experience for ourselves the sights, sounds and smells of life on board SS Great Britain in the 19th century.

SWANS business was then swiftly dealt with, with thanks as always, going to our members who provided us with a variety of delicious refreshments.

Come along and join us for our next meeting which will be held on 7 November at Wilton Community Centre at 2pm. Our guest speaker, Lindsay West will most probably be tying us in knots as she talks about the art of Scarf Tying.

Alternatively, if you would like to learn more about us, please call Caroline on 01722 792759. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 2pm usually in the Wilton Community Centre.

2025 WYLYE VALLEY CALENDAR

The 2025 (14th) edition of the Wylve Valley Calendar is now available and, as in previous years, all proceeds will be donated to Wilton based international children's charity Hope and Homes for Children (registered charity no. 1089490). The price of the calendar is £11.50 and copies are available locally from Riverside Service Station,

Wylve Post Office, Bird & Carter Farm Shop or Spectrum Design & Print in Wilton. You can also order online at www.chrislockphotography.co.uk or from the online shop at www.hopeandhomes.org Last year, 639 copies of the calendar were sold and, when combined with sales of the Nadder Valley Calendar, the total amount raised was just over £6,800. **Chris Lock**

ALABARÉ

With World Homeless Day falling in October, at Alabaré we are focussing again on how to ensure that we are prepared to meet the needs of those facing the crisis of homelessness who will be approaching us for support through the winter months. There is already high demand for our supported accommodation and other services and we anticipate that the need is likely to increase.

Last year 2,900 people received our support, including young people, veterans and those struggling with their mental health

If you are able to help in any way through donating financially, volunteering or offering gifts in kind, please get in touch.

Helen Inglis (Church and Community Engagement Officer) h.inglis@alabare.co.uk

Local charity Alabaré provides support and accommodation for people who are vulnerable, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless across Wiltshire and the South West. To find out more about our work please visit <https://alabare.co.uk>

WILDLIFE WATCH

More reports of fungi – a great autumn for mushrooms and other fungi.

Stonechats and a flock over 20 Corn Buntings on teasles on Berwick Hill Farm.

All reports very welcome – from all our villages. Nicky Street chstreet@btinternet.com

The Dairy House Berwick St James.

SALISBURY & DISTRICT SCOUTS CHRISTMAS POST STAMPS 40P (Cash Only)

Last Posting Date Wed 4th December 2024. Local Post Boxes & Stamps available from November at various outlets see- <https://sswscouts.org.uk/christmas-post/>

Please check delivery Areas on posters at outlets as we cannot deliver cards outside the advertised areas or those incorrectly addressed. Wilton Scouts & Wilton Brownies share proceeds from local sales from the outlets above and any cards they deliver.

Other Post Boxes and Stamps are also available at other outlets and delivery areas can be found on the Scout Website by following the link mentioned above.

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