

NEWS & VIEWS

APRIL 2026



THE MAGAZINE FOR WEST LAVINGTON
LITTLETON PANELL AND THE CHEVERELLS



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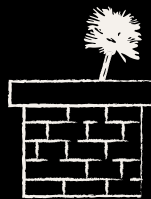
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FROM THE EDITOR

Amidst all the sound and fury of human beings currently trying to kill each other for whatever reason - hate, greed, power, sheer stupidity - Nature carries on as best she can, bringing us the joy of Spring in our northern climes. Leaves are breaking and it won't be long before the apple blossom is out.

Otis Tarda returns to our pages this month with news of our beautiful summer visiting birds, sadly all of which are in decline, as is much of British wildlife and biodiversity. Also highlighted in this issue by Capability Charlotte is the use of chemicals in agriculture and general weed control. The beauty of the British countryside is due in no small part to the care given to it by our farmers, but as an organic gardener, I do wonder if the continuous use since the sixties of herbicides and pesticides to produce crops - not to mention the loss of habitat, such as hedges - has had a detrimental effect on our wildlife, and possibly the soil and us too.

I'm not sure we human beings deserve this planet - and even less sure that we have either the common sense or the instinct for survival to start taking more and better care of it, so that we - and our wildlife - survive.

N&V March Error: News and Views would like to apologise to the Nestling Trust for publishing the wrong location in our March issue for their Nepali New Year Celebrations on Saturday 18th April. The Celebrations will take place in Market Lavington Community Hall, **and NOT** West Lavington Village Hall

Sue Bonney - Editor editor4newsandviews@gmail.com

Deadline Dates

Editorial copy and photographs should be sent to editor4newsandviews@gmail.com Articles and photographs for the **May** issue should reach Sue Bonney no later than **Monday April 20th**. ***Anything arriving after that date may not be included in the magazine.***

Advertising in News and Views

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

This Month's Cover: Bluebells, be they English or Spanish or hybrids, Forget-me-Nots and Euphorbia in the Editor's garden.

Photograph Permissions

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

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

REFLECTION

'May you live in interesting times' - a curse, we are told, coming from Ancient China. Research tells me it was probably made up and originated in Europe somewhere in the last century! Wherever it came from it is a curse afflicting huge parts of the world today. I sit in the comfort of my lounge watching the television and I see huge areas of the world being blown apart. Buildings and people - including children - are among the 'collateral damage'. Speech is full of the hate of one group of people for another. It is very nearly unbearable - no, it is totally unbearable.

Another quotation comes to mind - 'Love your neighbour as yourself' - so familiar to us from Matthew's Gospel. But this too was a quotation, coming from Leviticus in our Old Testament, part of the Jewish scriptures. In fact if you look in Islamic teaching or the Vedic traditions the same teaching is there - a universal teaching of many faiths. Jesus illustrates his teaching with the story of The Good Samaritan - answering the question 'who is my neighbour?'.

About two weeks ago I was cheered up by a small article in my daily paper, filling a small spare corner, I suspect. The headline said 'God and Chips; Faiths Come Together Over Fish Supper!' The Muslim owner of a chip shop in Leeds and the local Rabbi got together and the result was the first Kosher fish and chip shop in Leeds for half a century! All faiths are able to come together to talk to each other, relax and eat together. The business has been described as 'a glimpse of the country we can still choose to be'. So much more cheering than the Ten O'clock News!

Pat Morrison

Service will remember Tim Goggs, GM

The Benefice service at St Barnabas, Easterton at **10.30am on 19th April** will be led by Revd Caroline Spindlow and will be attended by the family of Tim Goggs and Tim's friends from his university days in the Newcastle area. Tim was the son of Quentin and Henrietta Goggs, late of Easterton Manor, and died in July 1992 as the result of an incident in Afghanistan whilst clearing mines for The Halo Trust. He was 23.

Tim was awarded the George Medal. He is buried at Drove Lane Cemetery and there is a memorial to him in St Barnabas. His friends wish to visit the memorial and grave and asked if they could attend a service at St Barnabas.

All are very welcome at this Service and to remember this young man who gave his life helping others.

Sue Allen, Churchwarden

VILLAGE LINK

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**CHURCH OF
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BENEFICE**

Regular worship in our sister churches

9.00 am St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Littleton Panell

4.30 pm Ebenezer Baptist Church, West Lavington

Benefice Office

c/o St John's Parish Office, Long Street, Devizes SN10 1NP.

Open Wednesday 3.00 - 5.00pm and Friday 3.00 - 5.00pm

lavingtonbenefice@gmail.com

Benefice Administrator: **Catherine Brown**

Calendar of Services April 2026

Date	Market Lavington St Mary's	West Lavington All Saints'	Easterton St Barnabas	Little Cheverell St Peter's	Great Cheverell St Peter's
Thursday 2nd April	6.00 pm Stripping of Altars at All Saints' West Lavington		6.00 pm Agape Service at St Barnabas Easterton		
Friday 3rd April	2.00pm - All Saints', West Lavington The Last Hour				
Sunday 5th April	7.00am Market Lavington Vedette Celebration 10 .30 am St Marys, Market Lavington Benefice service				11.00am Easter Service
Sunday 12th April	10.30 am United Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	9.00 am Breakfast Church 9.30 am Service	10.30 am United Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	10.00 am Cafe Church (Coffee and pastries followed by a short family service)	
Sunday 19th April	10.30 am - St Barnabas Easteron Benefice service				10.00 am Welcome to Worship followed by APCM
Monday 20th April	7.00pm - All Saints West Lavington Licensing of Rev Sam Park at with refreshments afterwards				
Sunday 26th April	10.30 am United Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall	9.30 am Praise & Worship	10.30 am United Service with Trinity at ML Community Hall		

**Sunday 3rd
May**

10.30 am St Peter's Great Cheverell
Benefice service

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

Church Wardens

West Lavington

Anne Wilson **0787 2444 858**
Mark Spindlow **07776 195 871**

Market Lavington

Amanda Newbury **0771 0149 066**
Ben Bannister **0758 769 1963**

Easterton

Sue Allen **01380 813603**

Great Cheverell

Pauline Jenkinson **0798 665 8187**

Little Cheverell - Parish Contact

Marlis Rawlins **01380 816318**



From the Parish Registers

February - April 2026

Thursday 19th February: Memorial for **Peter Bell** at St Mary's, Market Lavington.

Tuesday 17th March: Funeral of **Vanessa Reburn** at St Peter's, Great Cheverell.

Tuesday 31st March: Service of Thanksgiving for **Marianne Dyer** at All Saints', West Lavington

Friday 17th April at 11.30am. There is to be a Service of Thanksgiving for **Stella Wilson** to be held at St Peter's, Great Cheverell

Carer Support Wiltshire Closes

Carer Support Wiltshire closed on **31 March 2026** due to severe funding challenges, ending 15 years of service for unpaid carers.

The charity is closing in a planned manner, with some services and cafés transitioning to partners. Support for carers is being taken over by another partnership known as **Carers Together**.

Easter Open Days, St Giles Church, Imber

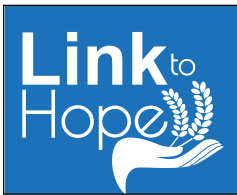
St Giles Church, Imber will be open to visitors from **Saturday 4th April until Easter Monday 6th April** from 11am to 4pm daily. The Easter Monday Open Day will include the now traditional Easter Egg Hunt for up to 16 year olds.



The church served the inhabitants of Imber until the evacuation of the village in 1943. During the early 1950s the War Office (now Ministry of Defence) undertook to keep the church in a modest state of repair until a decision was made as to its ultimate future. In 2002 responsibility for the building reverted to the Diocese of Salisbury and in 2005 this Grade I listed building was vested in The Churches Conservation Trust for preservation and repair. With assistance from the Ministry of Defence, the Trust has carried out a comprehensive campaign of

repair and conservation to the building and its wall paintings. Some of the 13th and 15th century wall paintings survive.

NB The access roads across Salisbury Plain Training Area will not open to the public until **8.00 am on Saturday 4th April** and the roads will close at **6pm on Monday 6th April**.



Link to Hope - Christmas Shoebox appeal

Our first shoebox packing session for Christmas 2026 will be on **Wednesday 29th April** at Easterton Village Hall, 10.30am to 12 noon, and we are urgently in need of the following items:

- Shoeboxes - we need lots of these!
- Gloves, scarves, hats (new or knitted)
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Candle holders (suitable for tea lights, which we have plenty of)
- Soaps and flannels
- Small games (travel size draughts/dominoes/playing cards)
- Sweets or chocolates (BB June 2027, EU Origin)

For other gift ideas please go to **www.linktohope.co.uk** or contact **Janice Charlton** (see below). Last Christmas you helped us to send an amazing 102 boxes to families and the elderly in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria. Please help us help them again this year.

For more information please contact **Janice Charlton** on **07740 720434** or email **mrs.charlton@gmail.com**

Lavington and District Swimming Club - Summer Term 2026



Whether swimming for fun or lane swimming, our Club caters for all. Using the lovely Dauntsey School 25 metre Swimming Pool, we swim in term time and have two separate offerings: Tuesdays and Sundays, and Tuesdays and Thursday mornings.

Tuesdays and Sundays: Summer Term starts on **Tuesday 21st April** and includes 10 Tuesday swims and 8 Sunday swims, the last swim being Tuesday 30th June.

The Club swimming times are **Sundays: 3.30pm to 5:30pm; Tuesdays: 7:15pm to 8:45pm**. Membership fees for the term: £40 for individual and £80 for a family. For further details about joining this offering, please contact **Alison Andrews**, Membership Secretary on **Lavingtonswim@gmail.com**

Morning Swimming starts **Tuesday 21st April** and is from **6:30am to 7:30am** and includes both Tuesdays and Thursdays. Membership fee for the term is £80 for 10 Tuesdays and 10 Thursdays. For Thursdays only, £40 for the term. For further information about the morning swimming please contact **Phil Richardson**, Membership Secretary on **ladscmorningswim@gmail.com**

Potholes - why rural Councils struggle

We all moan about the terrible state of Wiltshire's roads, but there is a valid reason why rural councils struggle with maintaining their road network. In a nutshell, rural councils have more miles of road per person compared to urban areas. They have more roads to maintain and less inhabitants and businesses to pay for them.

The comparison is quite stark. Each person and business in Wiltshire is responsible for six times the length of roads compared to Londoners. In monetary terms it's likely to be even more, as London is home to many more multi-million-pound businesses than Wiltshire.

So rural counties have more roads and less money to pay for their upkeep.

I agree that isn't a great consolation as your tyre is shredded, but it helps explain why we're having a bumpy ride.

UPCOMING LOCAL ROADWORKS



30th March 08.00 - 10th April 15.30: Pear Tree Lane North East to High Street, Great Cheverell. Road closed. Diversion in place.

13th April 07.30 - 15th April 12 noon: Cheverell Road closed. Scottish and Southern Power works. Diversion in place.

Although correct at the time of going to press, these roadwork dates and times can change, and others may arise at short notice.

For current updates, check local Parish Council websites or Facebook pages, or visit the Causeway live roadworks map on <https://uk.one.network/>

CHEVERELLS' GARDEN CLUB

At the March meeting of Cheverells Garden Club we welcomed Julie Haylock, who came to talk to us about how to design garden borders. She was a fantastic speaker who told us about her route to becoming an award-winning designer and we learned a lot. In my case it was a lesson on why I shouldn't have bought many many plants without a clear idea where they were going to grow (amongst other things!).

Our talk in April is by **Claire Hart**, who combines her love of growing with a passion for countryside topics, from poultry to pigs and lots in between. It's on **Tuesday 14th April at 7.15** for 7.30pm in Great Cheverell Village Nall. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions please contact me at: Helen.woodlands@outlook.com



Churchill Arms re-opens!

As our readers will hopefully know by now, The Churchill Arms in West Lavington is under new management. Tom and Zara have moved back into the area after running The White Hart in Bishopstone near Salisbury for over eleven years. Zara is from Devizes and Tom is a former Lavington School pupil. They have already refurbished the bar and dining areas of the pub, to be followed shortly by the Function Room. Tom is a chef, and takes pride in serving fresh, homemade food, with daily specials.

The couple aim to run a family and dog friendly local with good food. News and Views is delighted to welcome them back to the area and wishes them every success.

The pub is open every day except Mondays, from 12 noon. Contact **Tom or Zara** on **01380 812287 or 07720 768464**, or visit their new website at:

<https://www.churchillarmslavington.co.uk/contact.html>



Streetscene

Streetscene

It is so lovely to see the sunshine again, and feel the warmth of the sun.

Our planters are now bursting with spring flowers and the daffodils planted last autumn around the trees in the village are all blooming, thanks to the kind donation from one of our parish councillors.

The plaque on the Farm Shop planter is prominently in position thanks to the kind sponsorship of Lavington Farms.

New season planters will be going into production soon.





West Lavington Fete Open Meeting

Wednesday 29th April, 6pm, Giles Room WLVH

Fete 2026 will be held on **Saturday 18th July** at West Lavington Village Hall and Playing Fields. **However, for another successful Village Fete we need more help and people to ensure our Fete continues this year and beyond.**

At the meeting, there will be a short explanation followed by the chance to sign up for a variety of tasks including:

- Setting up and erecting tents in the morning
- Assisting stallholders
- Helping at the Beer Tent
- Serving Teas
- Clearing up and taking down tents
- And lots more small tasks

Any help is welcome! Drop in to the Village Hall any time between 6pm and 7pm. The more people who help, the less everyone has to do! Without more definite offers the future of our Fete is uncertain.

As well as a fun afternoon for everyone, all money raised at the Fete goes to village groups. **Please support your village by getting involved.** For more information or offers of help before the meeting, please contact westlavfete@gmail.com



West Lavington Friendship Club

We are happy to have **End of the Track** coming again to entertain us. This group of men from the Chippenham area love to sing together and visit groups like ours. They also support Julia's House and have given thousands of pounds over the years. Join us for what will be a great afternoon on **Wednesday 22nd April** at the **Baptist Chapel at 2.30pm. £7.50** payable at the door.

If you are thinking of attending, please phone **Eileen** on **01380 813264** to help us with catering at the end of the afternoon.





Market Lavington Library opening times:

Wednesday afternoons: 2 - 5pm

Fridays all day: 10am - 5pm

Saturday mornings: 10am - 12 noon

For further information, pay a visit to the Library, or contact Wiltshire Libraries on **01380 818358** or email libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk

Such stuff as dreams are made on!

General booking has just opened for Edington Arts' next concert, **The King's Singers**, probably the world's most famous vocal ensemble, who come to Edington Priory Church on **Friday 15th May** for a fabulous concert starting at 7pm.



Three of their number have in another life sung in the choirs at the Edington Music Festival, so in a sense are 'coming home'.

They will be bringing a programme of European Romantic masterpieces; chansons, lieder and part songs of the 19th and early 20th centuries, vehicles for the deepest expressions of human feeling, desire and fantasy. Be ready for extraordinary story-telling and compelling thoughts on life, love, nature, death, and even the supernatural, by Edward Elgar and Ralph Vaughan Williams, Hugo Alfvé, Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn and Franz Schubert, and Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel and Camille Saint-Saëns.

This will be followed by a second half of their signature exquisite close harmony which they will announce from the platform. At the end of the concert the Singers will stay on for a brief 'meet and greet' before heading back to London to resume their hectic schedule.

You can choose your seats, book and pay for your tickets through the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org/whats-on, or by phone on **01380 831256**. We're anticipating strong demand, so don't delay!

WHO's Cosi Fan Tutte in Rowde

Don't panic if you haven't managed to see White Horse Opera's fabulous production of Cosi Fan Tutte yet. There is another opportunity on **Saturday 9th May** at St Matthew's Church Rowde at 7.30pm. With a hilarious English translation by our dear friend the late Graham Billing and absolutely stunning music by Mozart, this show is perfect for all the family. Please come and join the fun while raising funds for the church.

Tickets are available from **Devizes Books** and www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera

ALDI versus The Bike School

You may be aware that Aldi has submitted a planning application for a new supermarket in Devizes along the London Road, where the Devizes Bike School currently resides. It's not easy for businesses like The Bike School to find a suitable space, as they need a fair bit of room, yet turnover and profits are low. I would argue that this facility is essential for the youngsters of Devizes and surrounding villages, whose first experience of riding on the roads may well be on a bike or motor scooter. It's crucial they learn to ride safely, pass the various tests and become proficient riders.

Twenty four years ago, I was understandably ambivalent when my husband gave me biking lessons for my birthday. During all the years he road raced and commuted to work on a bike, I had never even sat on one. I spent weekends at Brands Hatch reading the papers, only stirring when he hit the deck, easing him out of his leathers so the hospital wouldn't cut them off. Ill health meant he could no longer ride, but he missed it dreadfully and thus, the birthday present.

The first shock was the Theory Test. Even though I'd had a car licence for years, I had to take it, and there were lots of changes. Then the gear: helmet and Cordura clothing, all bulky, heavy, expensive and relying on Velcro, which appeared to stick to everything. So it was with some trepidation that I arrived (amongst the youngsters) at the Bike School in Devizes for my first lesson.

My optimistic strategy of taking the CBT (Compulsory Basic Training) in one day, transferring to the 500cc and then taking the test within a week, was dashed pretty quickly. Removing my feet from the ground and remaining upright was more difficult than I envisaged. Eventually I managed to balance but then crashed into an ungainly heap on the ground. It didn't hurt as much as expected and I returned to the bike with dignity and bottom bruised. I rather liked their description of the two ways of stopping - applying the brakes or using the vehicle in front!

I wasn't a particularly inspiring pupil - they were pretty blunt regarding my lack of expertise and finesse. I asked "Can I have an instructor who's supportive, polite and encouraging?". "Haven't got any of those" replied the owner, "They're all rude and sarcastic!" Nevertheless, a few weeks later I passed the test first time, much to their and my surprise. In the years that followed, we had many entertaining (and stressful) days out on various bikes.

I shop regularly at Aldi, but feel a bike training facility is more crucial for our youngsters' safety than yet another supermarket. *What do you think?*

One Fat Lady (who isn't a cook)

The Bike School recently stated that they would continue to operate as a motorcycle training school until such time as their lease is terminated by their landlord, Wiltshire Police. On behalf of the School, Ian Molesworth thanked past, present and future customers for their support and said the School would continue to deliver training from their site both now and into the future.

West Kington Nurseries Spring Sale Weekend

Saturday 25th April 9am-5pm
Sunday 26th April 10am-4pm

If you're a gardener, don't miss this massive plant sale across the 10 acres of West Kington Nurseries near Chippenham. Free entry and parking, with a huge choice of perennials, shrubs, trees, climbers and topiary. There are experts on hand to answer your questions, and refreshments and hot food available. The plant catalogues are sold in aid of local charities and organisations.

NB these sale days are very popular, with peak times between 10am and noon on the Saturday.

For more information, go to wknurseries.co.uk or call **01249 782822**

West Lavington Manor Garden Open Day

Saturday 13th June 11am - 6pm

A wonderful day to spend in a stunning garden, with market stalls, activities for all, plus homemade refreshments and superb produce, including delicious Mallorcan organic olive oil. Not to mention raising funds for charity!

Check out our instagram account or the National Garden Scheme website for details, or see the next issue of News and Views!

If you would like to get involved, email Jordina at Jordina.evins@gmail.com



Headline acts tickets on general sale now!

Get them before it's too late!

We're delighted to announce an early release of tickets for five headline events from this year's Devizes Festival, giving audiences a first taste of what is to come!

There is something for everybody:

- **Anthony Horowitz in Conversation - A Life in Murder:** one of the most prolific and successful writers working in the UK, writing books, television series, films, plays, and journalism.
- **Scummy Mummies - Hot Mess:** Returning to Devizes by popular demand, Helen and Ellie are back with a brand new comedy show.
- **Patrick Grant in Conversation:** Patrick Grant has a lot to say about clothes - how many we buy, how we value them, what they're made from, and crucially, who made them and where.
- **Robert Vincent and his Band:** Robert Vincent is an acclaimed British singer/songwriter, celebrated for his rich soulful voice and emotionally resonant songs.
- **Milton Jones, with support from Adele Cliff:** Milton Jones is renowned for his deadpan delivery and surreal pun-filled one liners.

Tickets for the rest of the 2026 programme went on sale from 30th March for Friends of the Festival and will be on general sale from the 20th April. Available from: <https://www.devizesartsfestival.org.uk>, **Devizes Books** in Sidmouth Street, or **Ticketsource**.

Summer Visitors

House Martins (*Delichon urbica* - 12 cms): These lovely migrant birds fly from Africa to nest in the British Isles, many in our area. They spend a long time making their mud nests under the eaves of houses. Please be tolerant of their building habits. The birds do not cause too much mess and they become distressed if all their hard work is destroyed. If house martins cannot raise their broods, yet another species will be endangered. According to the RSPB their population has halved since 1969, and they are now on the Red List.

Sand Martins (*Riparia riparia* - 12 cms): These migrants can be seen from April to September especially around sand quarries and sandy banks, where they burrow out their nesting sites. Many of their ancestral breeding sites have gone. In some East Anglian areas the local ornithological groups have built artificial banks for nesting which are well used. Plumage is sandy brown above and whitish below. Once numerous, they can still be spotted in their traditional British Isles habitats with fresh water nearby. These agile fliers make harsh twitter calls in flight.

Swallows (*Hirundo rustica* - 20 cms): These beautiful birds always return to their old nest sites, so please ensure access to them. If access has to be shut, swallows will fly through small openings in order to reach their traditional nesting sites.

Swifts (*Apus apus* - 18cms): Their nesting sites, some of which are centuries old, are fast disappearing, due to development and property maintenance. They require an access tunnel of at least 18" long with a small entrance hole; please don't block them off. Swifts are believed to spend as much as nine months to a year on the wing, and they are known to nap whilst flying. They were added to the Red List in the 2021 UK Conservation Status Report. Swift sightings can be reported to Bradford-on-Avon Swift Group at climatechampions@gmail.com, or www.swift-conservation.org.

These birds are all protected species and it is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy their nest sites and environments.

Cuckoos (*Cuculus canorus* - 33cms): Should a reader wish to track cuckoo migrations there are websites (such as the BTO one) which should give up to date progress of incoming birds. Please post any cuckoo sightings and hearings on your local Facebook page.

Our garden birds appear to be ever more in decline according to recent surveys. One cause of this is domestic cats, and some studies suggest that cats are responsible for millions of bird deaths in the UK. If you have a cat, please keep it inside at dawn and dusk to protect foraging parent birds and fledglings. Dawn is an especially vulnerable time. Cat collars with bells are available from most pet shops and will warn birds of approaching danger.



Otis Tarda



When Fields Turn Orange - Rethinking How We Care for Our Soil

Have you noticed that the fields around us are a startling shade of orange? This, I'm afraid to say, can be only one thing - weedkiller. A few of us commented on it in the West Lavington Facebook group, and it got me thinking about what we're actually seeing when fields are 'wiped clean' with chemicals like glyphosate.

Farmers often spray fields to kill cover crops or weeds before planting the next crop because it's faster and avoids heavy ploughing that can compact soil and disrupt field operations. It's intended as a practical, time-saving solution, a short-term fix. But it's not the silver bullet it's often presented as. Glyphosate kills more than weeds: it disrupts the Shikimate pathway, essential for plants and soil microbes to produce key nutrients, and damages the microbial life that keeps soil fertile, resilient, and full of biodiversity. Over time, repeated use can harm wildlife, reduce pollinators, and contribute to chemical run off that affects rivers and human health.

The good news is there are alternatives that protect soil life while still making planting manageable. Farmers can crimp or mow cover crops, use diverse rotations, and apply mulches, reducing compaction and maintaining soil fertility. These are practical approaches that work with nature rather than against it.

In our gardens, the principles are the same but on a smaller scale. Mulches of compost, leaf litter, or bark suppress weeds while enriching the soil. Dense planting naturally outcompetes unwanted plants. Cover crops like clover or vetch can protect and feed the soil over winter while you decide what to plant. Hand-weeding may take time, but it nurtures the living system beneath our feet, giving plants, pollinators, and soil microbes the chance to thrive.

Seeing orange fields in early spring can be unsettling, but it's also an opportunity to reflect on how we manage our own gardens and local landscapes. Choosing chemical-free alternatives may take a little more effort, but it's an investment in soil life, biodiversity, and long-term health, showing that the same principles that build resilience on a farm can work effectively in our own gardens.

Capability Charlotte

I offer one-to-one consultations to create a resilient garden on a budget.

Email me at info@capabilitycharlotte.com

Wiltshire Council

**Wiltshire Council weed control policy
from March 2025**

Wiltshire Council has been increasing the manual removal of weeds over the past few years, controlling weeds on rural verges by flailing and pulling. Streetscene teams remove weeds daily from town centre areas and trim the amenity areas, plus sweepers are used to mechanically remove weeds when cleaning the highway. In addition, Parish Stewards undertake manual

weed removal and a small amount of wipe/touch treatment (where weedkiller is placed directly onto a leaf).

Although the Council continues to explore alternative weed treatment methods, it states that chemical applications remain the most effective and efficient method of managing weeds on a large scale. A weed treatment programme commenced on all identified highway land from March 2025, with the exception that no weed treatment within 50 meters of schools will be undertaken. Following a review of alternative treatments, glyphosate is used, with a touch spray to stop spray drift and uncontrolled application.

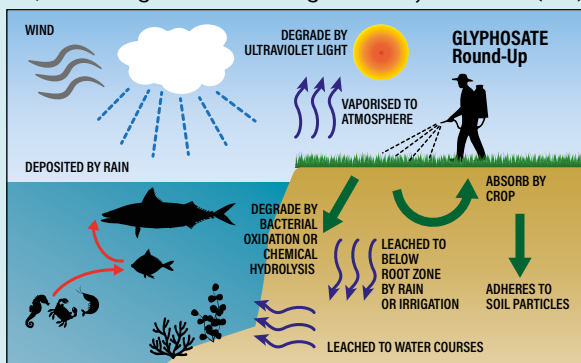
Treatment typically occurs once a year. On rural highways, open spaces, and amenity land, the council generally avoids herbicides, opting for mechanical methods like flailing, strimming, and manual pulling.

The use of glyphosate by the Council has faced scrutiny from residents and groups like the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust regarding environmental impact on pollinators, wildlife, and watercourses. Several local town councils, such as Bradford on Avon and Salisbury, have previously implemented bans on herbicides, opting for manual methods like weed rippers.

DID YOU KNOW - Glyphosate

Glyphosate, commonly known by its original trade name Roundup (manufactured by Monsanto), is the world's most widely used herbicide (weedkiller), and is produced and used in many countries. It works by inhibiting the Shikimate pathway in plants. While it has low soil activity and does not kill upon contact with soil, it can harm microorganisms and earthworms, impacting soil health.

It is used on many crops to control weeds, including about 80% of genetically modified (GM) crops. It is also sprayed as a pre-harvest desiccant on cereals such as wheat and oats. This encourages the crops to dry quickly and evenly, allowing for earlier harvesting. In addition, it is used by land owners, such as councils, to control weeds in towns and cities. It is used in parks, playgrounds, schools and on pavements and verges.



Glyphosate is found as a residue on many of the food products we eat. It has also been found in water, wine and beer. Testing has revealed that glyphosate is present in people's urine in Europe, and in urine and breast milk in the USA.

Glyphosate remains approved for use in Great Britain until at least 15 December 2026, with products containing it available in garden centres and commonly used in agriculture. However, some local councils, including Bath, have implemented partial or full bans against the use of glyphosate in public parks and residential areas.



Local NGS Open Gardens in April

Sunday 12th April:

Brow Cottage, Melksham, SN12 6RU: 1 - 5pm Adult: £8.00 Child: Free.

A ½ acre contemporary cottage garden owned by a garden designer and created over the past 26 yrs. A garden of many harmonious parts inc lawns, well-stocked borders, topiary, potager, sunken pool garden, wildlife pond, short woodland walk, species bulb and wildflower lawn and canopied dining area. Home-made teas in aid of Church of the Holy Cross, Seend. Open with Seend House and connected by a field footpath. Shuttle available. WC by the car park.

Seend House, Melksham, SN12 6NR: 1 - 5pm Adult: £8.00 Child: Free

A Georgian house with 6 acres of gardens and paddocks. Highlights include cloud and rose garden, stream lavender, view of knot garden from above, fountain with grass border, walled garden as well as formal borders. Amazing view across the valley to Salisbury Plain. Opens with Brow Cottage.

Sat 18th and Sun 19th April

Wellaway, Close Lane, Marston, SN10 5SN: 1 - 5pm, Adult £6, child free

Two acre flower arranger's garden comprising herbaceous borders, orchard, vegetable garden, ornamental and wildlife ponds, lawns and naturalised areas. Planted since 1979 for year-round interest. Shrubberies and rose garden, other areas underplanted with bulbs or ground cover. Springtime particularly colourful with daffodils, tulips and hellebores. Extensive autumn colour. Homemade teas.

Sat 25th April:

Conock Manor, Conock, Devizes SN10 3QQ 2 - 4pm, Adult £8, child free.

A relaxed family garden embracing C18 architecture (including a rustic dairy) and defined by its long, south facing wall. There are lawns and wildflower meadows, mixed borders and climbers, a magnolia grove and a vegetable garden with greenhouse. The garden utilises a ha-ha to sit comfortably in the surrounding wooded parkland with views out to the surrounding hills and the Alton Barnes chalk horse.

Come and Play Croquet in Urchfont!

The Urchfont Croquet Association (UCA) is keen to encourage new members, and would be delighted to welcome you to their Club at the Urchfont cricket ground, and give you the opportunity to discover or rediscover the pleasure to be gained from swinging a mallet!


We play both Golf and Association Croquet, and will be happy to explain the difference and offer coaching and advice. We play from Monday to Friday all year (weather dependent!), and weekend play is also possible outside the cricket season. During the summer months we hold several events when we play a variety of croquet fun games and enjoy the social side of membership. All the equipment and facilities you need are available at the Club.

Why not come along for a free session to get a feel for croquet and the Club and meet our members? Our annual membership subscription for a calendar year is currently £40.

For information contact **Peter Small**, on **01380 840994** or email: **peterlsmall@hotmail.**

devizesmusicaltheatre
Presents

The Addams Family A New Musical



Book by THOMAS MORTON and BEN ELIOT
Music and Lyrics by THOMAS MORTON

Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams

1st - 4th April 2026

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

THE ADDAMS FAMILY is a registered service mark, trademark and all published performance materials are owned by Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation © 2014. www.twentiethfox.com



THE ARTS SOCIETY
NORTH
WILTSHIRE

Wed 1st April
Starts 11am
The Healing Power of Plants
Melksham
Assembly Hall



The talk will examine how mankind has exploited the healing power of plants for thousands of years and show how they are now used extensively to relieve pain, heal wounds and cure diseases.

You can attend your first lecture for free, regular guests £8
Details of the full lecture programme go to:
www.tasnorthwiltts.org.uk

APRIL RHYME TIMES

17th April from 10.15 to 10.45
CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY
Market Lavington Library

Rhyme Time is held every 1st & 3rd Friday of the month
For babies toddlers pre-schoolers primary-age children & their carers

If you're not a member of Wiltshire Libraries we can easily join you up - just bring along some ID

Market Lavington Library
Opening Times
Wednesdays 2pm - 5pm
Fridays 10am to 5pm
Saturdays 10am to 12 noon



Easter Egg Hunt at Hillworth Park

Easter Bonnet & Fancy Dress Comp | Face Painting | Pottery Painting

Sunday 5th April



Tickets £3.50*

*Tickets are only required for children who would like to receive an Easter egg at the end of the hunt

Quiet Hour: 10:30-11:30am
Regular Hours: 12-2pm

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hillworth-park-events



Devizes Chamber Choir
presents

A SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 11th April
at 7.30pm

Coleridge Requiem
Pergolesi Magnificat
Bach Cantata BWV 6
with cello, lute, strings & organ

St Andrews Church, Long Street, Devizes

Tickets £14

on the door, from choir members

Devizes Bookshop or

ticketsource.co.uk/devizes-chamber-choir

The Great Cheverell PAVILION Club

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

The choir is fighting
in the trenches

Can music make
a difference to
the community
left behind?

Alan Bennet
at his best

Moving
Joyous
Beautiful



Saturday April 11th

Doors open 7pm Film starts 7.30pm

Members Free - Guests £5



Wed 15th April 2026
Starts 10.45am
Around the World in
Stunning Aviation Posters
Devizes
Corn Exchange



Since the first commercial flight in 1919, airlines have created some of the most iconic and beautiful travel posters, from art nouveau images of the 'colonies', through Art Deco streamlined planes to satellite images of the planet. Mark Ovenden is a broadcaster and author specialising in the subjects of industrial design and architecture especially in the world of public transport.

World-class lectures from October to July
Members (10 lectures) £50 & Guests £8 (please email)

 The Arts Society Devizes
www.theartssocietydevizes.org

LAVINGTON & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Wednesday 15th April 7:15pm

West Lavington Village Hall SN10 4H

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



Container Gardening with Julie Haylock

Julie is a Somerset, award-winning garden designer
A member of the Garden Media Guild,
she has successfully designed and exhibited
at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, amongst others.

Competition - a small Easter arrangement

Come and join us for what promises to be
a very informative and enjoyable evening!

Refreshments available

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

Whatever you choose to use – Get snapping and win prizes

Blossom Day

Amateur Photographic Competition

Theme: Biodiversity

A4 photograph please

Prize Groups:
Under 14's, 14-17's, Over 18's,
Overall Winners' Trophy

On the reverse of your picture please provide:

- Name • Age • Contact Details
- Title of your picture

Deposit entries in the lobby of The Old School, Market Lavington in the box provided.

Closing date: 18th April 2026 Prizes awarded at The Blossom Day Event in Community Park, Market Lavington on Saturday 25th April 2026

For more information:
<https://www.friendsofcanadawoods.co.uk>

CARS GALORE

Dinosaurs Stay & Play

Saturday 18th April
10:30-11:30am

West Lavington Village Hall

Booking & more info:
<https://bookwhen.com/carsgalore>

THE NESTLING TRUST

Invites you to
A Nepali New Year Dinner Night Celebration

Featuring authentic three course traditional cuisine and vibrant cultural dance performance

MARKET LAVINGTON COMMUNITY HALL

Saturday 18th April
7pm for 7.30 start

Tickets £45

Available from: Devizes Books / St Arbucks Market Lavington or Sue Hamlin 07747 062 757 / Mike Gaiger 07789 557 859

A sensational evening, the proceeds of which will help bring medical care to remote Himalayan villages

www.nestlingtrust.co.uk
UK Charity Reg. No. 1154431

Campaign to Protect Rural England Wiltshire

100 YEARS

ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR VILLAGE?

Best Kept Village Community Competition 2026

Closing date for entries: 19th April

Initial Judging: 11th May - 7th June

Please remember to contact your Parish Clerk if you wish to enter. An invitation has been sent to each parish.

advertised by **Wiltshire Council**

For more information on how to enter contact:
Danny.Austin@cprewiltshire.org.uk

Devizes Town Band Presents
FANTASY, MYTHS & LEGENDS

Sunday 19th April
 2.30pm

Devizes
 Corn Exchange



with guest singer
Frankie Simpkins

HONOURING JAMES LYE
120 YEARS ON

Reknoned Fuchsia Cultivator
 of Market Lavington & Easteron



Friday 24th April 7.30pm
MUSEUM MISCELLANY

Chartered Horticulturist Kristopher Harper-Allison presents
James Lye of Market Lavington, his life and legacy
 Market Lavington Community Hall

Saturday 25th April 12.00pm - 1.00pm
LAVINGTON & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Kristopher Harper-Allison presents
James Lye and the Victorian Fuchsia Story
 Market Lavington Community Hall
 Free Entry - Non Members Welcome - Refreshments

Saturday 25th April from 1.30pm
SPECIAL JAMES LYE OPENING

Market Lavington Museum
 Visit the museum's James Lye Collection
 including his Royal Horticultural Society Banksian Medal,
 beautiful fuchsia colour culture plates & interesting articles

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 293631



MARKET LAVINGTON
 MUSEUM

Museum Miscellany!

Friday 24th April 2026,
 7.30pm

In The Community Hall
 Market Lavington

Lots of Interesting Talks

Heritage Food to Try!

Licensed Bar & Raffle

Tickets: **£8.00**
 Available on the door, from
 St Arbucks or Devizes Books



Community Park
Blossom Day

Music
 Tombola
 Raffle
 Competitions
 Rural crafts
 Local celebrities
 Surprises

Photographic Competition
This years theme: Biodiversity

25th April 2026 1:30-4:

For more information FriendsOfCanadaWoods.co.uk

**WILTSHIRE
COUNCILLOR
FOR THE
LAVINGTONS**



**A Message from Cllr Dominic Munns
Wiltshire Councillor
for The Lavingtons**

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email:

dominic.munns@wiltshire.gov.uk

or by phone on **07585 394 178**

Last month I mentioned that we would shortly see the work at Black Dog Crossroads completed and I am very pleased to say that it is now fully operational. The first few weeks since the lights have been in operation have seen a significant reduction in queue times, thanks to the intelligent sequencing helped by loops under the surface of the road and cameras mounted on top. Slow moving farm machinery or a stalled vehicle are picked up in the junction and timing is adjusted accordingly. The cameras can even detect different types of vehicles such as large busses or HGVs about to cross and factor that into the sequencing. The most satisfying element for most of us will be the identification of empty arms of the junction, particularly at night, with the lights staying green for the other arms for maximum flow.

It is easy to forget just how regular the crashes were at Black Dog before the works started. During one period a couple of years ago we had a week where there was a crash almost every other day. Now, with the lights intelligently ushering traffic through, the anxiety, particularly for drivers coming from Worton or Market Lavington, has dramatically reduced and there is not the risk of someone pulling out in front of you when you come around the bend on the A360.

As we all know, crashes are almost always down to an error in judgement and so it is possible that at some stage we will see an incident on the road despite these new lights. For all of us the day-to-day travel through the junction is definitely safer now than it was, even if the risks can never be completely eradicated.

It has also been good to see Lavington Lane resurfaced (finally) and I note that the bollard of doom has also been moved back closer to the wall. I remain confused by this since we were assured that it was going to be completely removed. The placement of it now is far better, time will tell whether it is still an unnecessary obstacle for drivers. Further resurfacing works will be carried out across the wider area over the spring and summer as the council tries to get to grips with their share of the UK's pothole pandemic.

On a more positive note, I wanted to say a fond farewell to Kelly and Shaun after several years running The Churchill Arms and a warm welcome to Tom and Zara who have taken the baton. The pub appears to have been busy most weekends and evenings which is great to see and I know they have big plans for events and food as they make their own mark on the pub. I wish them all the best for the future and I look forward to pub quizzes, great meals and plenty of Horizon in the sunshine!

Parish Council meetings:

The Parish Council will be holding the final meeting of the municipal year on **Monday 13th April**. There will be plenty on the agenda, including an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Please join us at the meeting where you will receive a warm welcome.

Please note that agendas, minutes and information about the Parish Council can be found on the website: www.cheverellmagnaparishcouncil.gov.uk

Spring Clean

The Parish Council is hosting a Spring Clean on **Sunday 3rd May**. Please meet at the Pavilion at 10am. You will be able to choose your own area to litter pick. Equipment will be provided and there will be a safety briefing. Thanks very much for helping to keep our village clean and tidy!

Annual Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Council Meeting will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 11th May in the Pavilion**, followed by the **Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm**. Please join us for this friendly community event. All residents, volunteers, businesses, organisations and societies in the village are warmly invited.

The Annual Parish Meeting is a chance to celebrate the work being done across the village and the valuable contribution made by so many within our community. Cheese and wine will be available.

Vacancies

Vacancies on Parish Council: there remain two vacancies on the Parish Council. Please get in touch with us if you would like to join our friendly team! For further information, including how to apply, contact the **Clerk at clerk@cheverellmagnaparishcouncil.gov.uk**

The Wiltshire WELLBEING HUB

For vulnerable people in need of support

0300 003 4576

 wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

 #WiltshireTogether



Wiltshire Council

LITTLE CHEVERELL PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish meeting will take place on **Monday 18th May** at **7pm in the Village Hall**. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

This is your opportunity to hear what the Council is doing and voice your own point of view. Your input is important to us. Drinks and a buffet will be provided free of charge - doors open at 6:45pm.

Cllr. Mike Phillips - Chairman

Tel: **07908 143389**

www.littlecheverell-pc.gov.uk



Little Cheverell Village Hall

Our series of Pop-Up Pub evenings continue with the next one planned for **Saturday 25th April** from 6 - 11pm. We look forward to you joining us for drinks or a meal. We offer a relaxed atmosphere, sensibly priced drinks and food and hopefully the weather will be fine and we will be able to use our lovely outdoor space.

The Village Fete is on **Saturday 16th May** and planning is coming along nicely with a lot of great family orientated activity, food and live music. The bar will be open all day from 11am until 11pm. We have decided to offer something a bit different this year - in the evening we will host a live band and are delighted to announce that the B-sides band from Bath will entertain us from around 8pm. Check out their website at <http://bsidesband.com/>

Barbecued food will be provided from 7pm for a reasonable cost. The menu is still under deliberation, but it's going to be very tasty!

There is no entry fee. All our events are suitable for the whole family and open to everyone. We look forward to entertaining you! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates - just search for 'Little Cheverell Village Hall'. Further details will be posted on our village website <https://tinyurl.com/y94pzww9>

We would be most grateful if you can support our Raffle and Tombola by donating prizes. These can be dropped off at: **Rose Cottage, Low Road (Nicola Broe)**; or **Beech Cottage, Low Road (Barbara Phillips)**; or at the Village Hall Pop-Up events.

As always, the proceeds from all our events support the continued improvements to the Village Hall and provide an opportunity to socialise with your friends and neighbours from Little Cheverell and surrounding villages.

Bike track

In March, some industrious young people built a bike track at the recreation ground. Ordinarily this is not an issue - however, they created a hazard in that they dug a pit in the footpath from Mill Lane to the rec in the middle of the gate. We do not want to stop the fun but would like to ask that construction be kept off the footpaths. There are areas where the pits and jumps you want to build would not affect anyone. If you would like to know where you can build, please contact the footpaths team on footpaths@westlavington.org.uk We would be happy to meet you on site and show you the areas where you can build your tracks.

Annual Parish Meeting

We are busy setting up our Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on **Wednesday 13th May at 6pm**. This is the annual report to parishioners by the Parish Council and parish groups. The report will be followed by a speaker. More details to come on that in next month's News and Views, but please book the date in your diary.

Dog Mess

Finally, a word about dog mess. There has been a noticeable increase in dog poop around the village and especially at the recreation ground. Dog poop is a serious health and environmental hazard containing harmful bacteria (E. coli, Salmonella) and parasites (roundworms, hookworms). It can cause diseases like toxocariasis, which can lead to blindness in humans, and causes water pollution, nutrient overload in ecosystems, and illnesses in wildlife and livestock. There are many dog owners that take great care to collect and bin their dog's waste. Please could we all make a special effort to keep the recreation ground and the footpaths around the village as clean as possible. Thank you.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

The April Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Giles Room of the Village Hall on **Thursday 2nd April at 7pm**.

Peter West - Chair West Lavington Parish Council

West Lavington Planning matters

PL/2026/01306: Wyneshore House, 2 White Street SN10 4LW.

Construction of front and rear extensions and landscaping works.



Young Voices Concert: We were delighted that our school was able to take part in the Young Voices concert in Birmingham at the end of February, which brought together over 5000 children from schools across the country. Our pupils had worked incredibly hard learning the songs and choreography since September, and performing alongside thousands of other young singers in such a spectacular venue was a truly memorable experience.

World Book Day: This was a wonderful celebration of reading across the school. One of the highlights was the children's 'Book in a Box' creations. Each box captured the magic of a favourite story, with scenes, characters and key moments carefully designed and displayed. We were also delighted to welcome parents and carers into school to share a story with their children - a simple but powerful reminder of how special reading can be. Of course, World Book Day would not be complete without costumes! The children (and staff) looked fantastic dressed as their favourite characters, representing a wide range of books across the school.

Year 4 School trip: Our Year 4 Class recently enjoyed an exciting trip to We The Curious in Bristol as part of their learning in science. The children travelled by train, which added to the sense of adventure and gave them the opportunity to experience travelling together beyond the local area. The children explored the many interactive exhibits, from hands on experiments to fascinating displays, and were fully engaged and demonstrated great curiosity throughout the day.

Festival of Friends Military Project: Some of our pupils from military families recently had the opportunity to visit Winchester University as part of the Festival of Friends Military Project. This special event brought together children from a number of schools with connections to the Armed Forces, providing a valuable opportunity to meet others who share similar experiences. The children took part in a range of activities designed to encourage teamwork, confidence and friendship.

A plea for help: We are reaching out to our wonderful local community for a little help. We have a wooden sign that we would love to have engraved to mark the entrance to our Forest School area. If you have the skills to assist, or know someone who might be able to help us with this, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us using the email address below, marking your message for the attention of POD.

Open Days: We know what an important decision choosing a school for your child is, and we believe that parents should visit a school to see it for themselves. Although we are based in the heart of West Lavington, we welcome children to our school from surrounding villages and towns, so if you are looking for a school setting, please do come and visit us. Give us a call on **01380 813373** or e-mail us at **admin@daps.equamead.org** to arrange a visit.

HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY ACADEMY



Stonehenge Class Trip: Stonehenge Class enjoyed an unforgettable day at the Army Aviation Centre in Middle Wallop. Their visit began in Hangar 5, where the children were thrilled to see the impressive Apache AH 64E up close. They watched engineers at work, handled real tools, and learned how this extraordinary aircraft is maintained.

An aircrew talk followed, during which the children discovered how an Apache flies, tried on the pilot's helmet and vest (worth over £80,000), visited the control room and proudly received their own pilot wings. At the fire station, they explored specialist engines, used the hose and learned how the team responds to emergencies. They also visited the air traffic control room and were fascinated to watch flights taking off in real time.



The next stop was the Chinook hangar, where the enormous CH47 blades sparked many excellent questions. The highlight of the day was a thrilling Apache takeoff and flight demonstration. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience, and we are enormously grateful to all involved in organising such an inspiring trip.

Celebrating Poetry, Books and Reading: We are proud of all the children who took part in our Performance Poetry Competition. Every child showed great courage and enthusiasm. Congratulations to our finalists and winners for their outstanding performances.

Our reading celebrations continued with World Book Day, led by our aspirational Year 6 Reading Team and including our ever popular Book Swap. Thank you to our generous families for donating books. Adding to the excitement was our Yellow Brick Reading Road Project with contributions from all 152 children, including reading lists, drawings and photographs, representing a single day of reading across the school. This winding path symbolises our collective journey through stories and reminds us that time spent reading builds confidence, imagination and a lifelong love of books.

Avebury Class at the Steam Museum: Avebury Class visited the STEAM Museum in Swindon for a World War II experience. The children learned about the different types of shelters families

used and experienced the cramped conditions inside a public shelter. They also learned how families occupied themselves during long days in the shelter, and about the infamous bucket!

Thank you to the staff who supported the children on this trip, even stepping into character as historical figures when learning about evacuees. It was a memorable and inspiring visit for all involved.

Spring Music Concert: We enjoyed a wonderful evening with 60 of our talented young musicians presenting a tremendous Spring Music Concert. Their diligence, commitment and enthusiasm shone through every performance. Our thanks go to our dedicated music tutors, whose hard work enables our children to flourish musically.

Every Day is an Open Day: If you think your child would enjoy being part of our school community, please book a visit to look around and meet the Headteacher. Further information can be found at www.holy-trinity.co.uk, or by calling **01380 813796**.



This term at St Barnabas has been filled with joy, enrichment and a true sense of community, with our school values of love, aspiration and belonging shining through every experience.

We celebrated **World Book Day** in style, welcoming two brilliant authors, Sarah Hill and Stuart Gammon, who inspired our children with their creativity and passion for reading.

Our **Easter Bingo evening** brought families together for a fun-filled night, while also raising valuable funds for our Reflection Garden, a wonderful space that reflects our commitment to belonging and wellbeing. Children embraced the outdoors during our Easter egg hunt and forest school sessions, where they enjoyed roasting marshmallows and learning through nature. There was also great excitement during our whole school house quiz, which encouraged teamwork, aspiration and a healthy sense of competition.

Our **Wonder Dome experience** gave children the opportunity to explore the solar system in an immersive and memorable way, sparking curiosity and awe about the wider world. We have also been proud to launch our first St Barnabas Broadcasts, giving our pupils a voice and a platform to share their experiences. You can take a look at our Instagram page - [stbarnabascevcschool](https://www.instagram.com/stbarnabascevcschool)

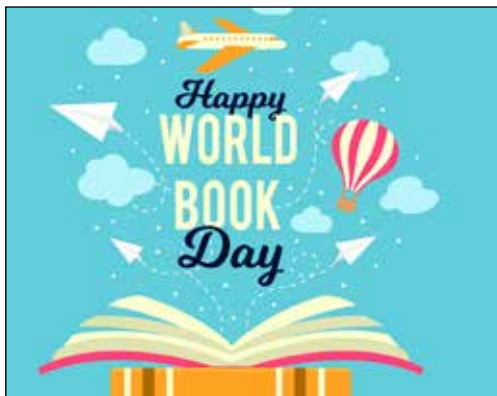
It has truly been a term full of memorable moments, where our children have thrived, connected and continued to grow together. If you're considering schools for your child, we'd love to invite you to visit and see what makes St Barnabas so welcoming. Visitors are welcome any time by appointment - just call **01380 813436** or see our website www.st-barnabas.wilts.sch.uk

Miss Donna McInnes - Headteacher

We have been talking to the children about nature, and going out for walks in the village and on a nature scavenger hunt looking for various items such as blossom, insects, birds and flowers. The children have enjoyed exploring our variety of sensory trays, using fabulous language to describe what they could touch, smell and see.

We now have regular visits to the school hall which have given the children the opportunity to explore exciting new play equipment, using their listening skills to follow instructions and being able to use their large motor skills in a safe environment.

The children had lots of fun dressing up as their favourite book characters or wearing their pyjamas for World Book Day. We were lucky to have the pupils from Hazel class visit us to read with our children. We were also joined by Elm class for a bedtime story and hot chocolate after school. Mrs Lloyd and Miss Katie both read stories to the children who had arrived in their pyjamas and had bought in their favourite cuddly toy. We placed a book box at the gate so the children could choose a book to take home each day to read with their families. We joined in with the school parade at the end of the day so all the children could see each other's fabulous costumes.



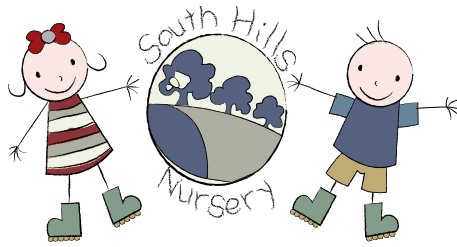
Once World Book Day was over the children got creative making cards and presents for their wonderful mums for Mother's Day. We were invited to join in the school Mother's Day Assembly. Our children created superb portraits of their mums using a variety of resources. The children sat beautifully during the assembly and were very proud when they got up to show everyone their artwork.

The children ended the term celebrating Easter. We held an Easter egg-hunt in the back garden, and the children decorated Easter bonnets which they wore when we visited Dauntsey Care Home. The children made all the residents at the care home an Easter card and we delivered some biscuits too.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful Easter weekend!

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

SOUTH HILLS OLD SCHOOL NURSERY



Over the last few weeks at Old School nursery we have been fully immersed in Spring as we have been observing the changes to our outdoor area, planting seeds and enjoying the much warmer weather. With the warmer weather has come a lot more outdoor water play where the children have practiced their pouring skills and learnt all about floating/sinking.

The children have all created a piece of art work for their penpals at Holy Trinity School who will be coming to visit us and we are also looking forward to our Easter Egg Hunt where family members are invited along.



We currently have spaces available for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds. Please contact us on **01380 812418** or email oldschoolmanager@southhillsschool.com to book a visit.



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Drinks, including wine, available during the interval.

Serenata Guitar Trio:
Richard Mills, Cobie Smit, John Mills

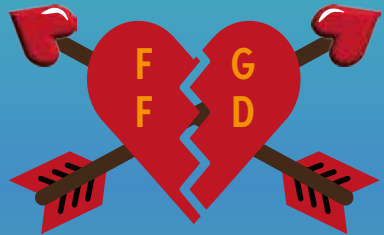
Guest Artist:
Fernando Aguera (from Brazil)



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TRINITY CHURCH

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

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

All services are accompanied by refreshments.

Sunday April 5th:	Trinity Church Easter Service with Holy Communion Led by Abigail Perrow
Sunday April 12th:	United Church Service Led by Revd Gary Gotham
Sunday April 19th:	Trinity Church Service Led by Jeannie MacMeekin
Sunday April 26th:	United Church Service Led by Abigail Perrow

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

01380 724264 gary.gotham@gmail.com

Trinity Church Secretary: Les Charlton

07962 422 624 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

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

Carers Together Wiltshire

Devizes Carer Cafe

First Wednesday of the month

The Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS

April 1st 10.30-12.00

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

Parent Carer Group

The Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS

Wednesday April 15th 10.30 - 12 noon NB TBC

A chance for unpaid Parent Carers to chat, relax and catch-up - it's all about connecting, having fun and looking after your mental well-being! A representative from the WPCC will be in attendance to talk about the work that they do.

You can contact us on **01380 710300** or email enquiries@carerstogetherwiltshire.org.uk or visit our website <https://carerstogetherwiltshire.org.uk/>

An idle tale

That's how early followers of Jesus reacted to emerging reports that he had risen from the dead. I mean, once you're dead, you're dead, right? Even Jesus couldn't defy that iron law. The story was easy to dismiss because it seemed so unlikely, but also because those who told it weren't regarded as reliable witnesses - being women, their testimony counted for nothing in those days.

But the last thing Jesus' female followers expected was to find him alive from the dead. Early on the first Easter Sunday morning, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome made their way to his tomb laden with spices to complete the process of laying Jesus' body to rest. They wondered how they were going to move the large stone that covered entrance to Jesus' tomb so they could go about their work. But they needn't have worried, for when they arrived at the tomb, they found that the stone had already been rolled away. They entered the tomb, but mystifyingly, the body of Jesus was nowhere to be found.

Two men wearing clothes that gleamed like lightning explained all: "He is not here; he has risen!". As the women went to tell the other disciples what they had seen, they encountered the risen Jesus for themselves. When the women excitedly told others what they had seen and heard, the response wasn't one of ready faith. Hardly. As Luke says in his Gospel account, 'These words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.'

Jesus appeared as a bodily presence to his other followers later that day. It was only then that they were convinced he had indeed been raised from the dead. What the women said was true.

Jesus' resurrection was the most momentous event in history. It means his death atoned for our sins. It means the power of death has been conquered that we may have the hope of eternal life by faith in him. It authenticates Jesus' claim that he was the Son of God.

Jesus is risen! Maybe not such an idle tale after all.



Guy Davies

www.pbc-ebc.org.uk

You are welcome to join us for our Sunday services at 4.30pm, followed by refreshments.

WHAT'S ON WHEN - A CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

APRIL	
Wed 1st:	North Wilts Arts Society lecture 'The Healing Power of Plants', Assembly Hall, Melksham, 11am. Guests £8.
Thurs 2nd:	WL Parish Council meeting, Giles Room, WLVH, 7pm.
Wed 1st to Sat 4th:	Devizes Musical Theatre presents The Addams Family musical, Memorial Hall, Dauntsey's School, WL. 7.30pm. Matinee Sat 4th 2.30pm. Tickets from £18 (children £14) from Devizes Books or www.DevizesMusicalTheatre.co.uk
Fri 3rd:	Good Friday
Fri 3rd - Mon 6th:	Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race
Sat 4th to Mon 6th:	St Giles Church, Imber, Easter Open Days. 11am - 4pm. Closed Good Friday. Easter Egg Hunt on Monday. 11am - 4pm
Sun 5th:	Easter Sunday
	Easter Hunt, Hillworth Park, Devizes, From 10.30am. Tickets £3.50 (only required if your child would like to receive an Easter egg)
Mon 6th:	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
Sat 11th:	Film Club, Great Cheverell Pavilion - 7pm. Members Free - Guests £5
	Devizes Chamber Choir Spring Concert, St Andrew's Church, Devizes, 7.30pm. Tickets £14 on the door or from Devizes Books or ticket source.co.uk/devizes-chamber-choir
Mon 13th:	Schools return
	Cheverell Magna Parish Council Meeting, 7pm, The Pavilion GC.
Tues 14th:	Cheverells Garden Club meeting, talk by Claire Hart, GCVH, 7.15 for 7.30pm.
Wed 15th:	Arts Society, Devizes lecture 'Around the World in Stunning Aviation Posters', Devizes Corn Exchange. 10.45 for 11am, Guests £8.
	Lavington Gardening Club meeting 'Container Gardening', WLVH 7.15 for 7.30pm
Sat 18th:	Cars Galore, Dinosaurs Stay and Play, WLVH, 10.30 - 11.30am, Book at bookwhen.com/carsgalore
	Nestling Trust Nepali New Year Celebration, ML Community Hall, 7 for 7.30pm, Tickets £45 from Sue Hamblin 07747 062 757 .
Sun 19th:	Devizes Town Band Concert, Fantasy, Myths and Legends, Corn Exchange, Devizes, 2.30pm Tickets £5.50 to £10.50.
Mon 20th:	Licensing of Revd Sam Park by Bishop of Ramsbury. All Saints' Church, WL, 7pm.

Wed 22nd:	WL Friendship Club, End of Track, Baptist Chapel, 2.30pm. £7.50 on the door. Phone Eileen on 01380 813264 .
Fri 24th:	Market Lavington Museum Miscellany, MLCH, 7.30pm
Sat 25th:	Blossom Day, Community Park, Market Lavington. 10am - 4pm
	Lavington and District Gardening Club talk on James Lye and the Victorian Fuchsia story, MLCH, 12 - 1pm. Free entry.
	ML Museum Special James Lye opening, from 1.30pm.
	Pop-up Pub, LCVH. 6 - 11pm.
	Serenata Guitar Trio Concert, WLVH, 7.30pm. Doors open 7pm, Tickets £12, accompanied children £5 from serenatrio@outlook.com or 01373 865039
Sat 25th/ Sun 26th.	West Kington Nurseries spring plant sale, SN14 7JQ. Sat 9am - 5pm, Sun 10am - 4pm.
Wed 29th:	Link to Hope boxes packing session, Easterton Village Hall, 10.30am - 12.00
	WL Fete Open Meeting, Giles Room, WLVH 6pm.
MAY	
Sun 3rd:	Great Cheverell Spring Clean. Meet at the Pavilion at 10am.
Sat 9th:	White Horse Opera present Cosi Fan Tutte, St Matthew's Church, Rowde, 7.30pm.
Sun 10th:	Silverwood Garden and Country Fair, Silverwood School, Rowde, 10am to 3pm, Entry £5, u16s free.
Mon 11th:	Cheverell Magna Annual Council meeting, GC Pavilion, 7.30pm, followed by Cheverell Magna Annual Parish meeting, GC Pavilion, 8pm.
Wed 13th:	West Lavington Annual Parish meeting, WLVH, 6pm.
Fri 15th:	Edington Arts, King's Singers concert, Edington Priory 7pm. Tickets from www.edingtonarts.org/whats-on , or by phone on 01380 831256 .
Sat 16th:	Cancer Research UK Collectables and Car Boot Sale, Manor Farm, Start SN10 3JD, from 7.30am (£10) or 8.30am (£5)
	Little Cheverell Village Fete, LCVH, 11am - 5pm, BBQ, bar and music from 7pm to 11pm.
Mon 18th:	Little Cheverell Annual Parish meeting, LCVH, 6.45 for 7.00pm. Free buffet and drinks.
Sat 23rd/ Sun 24th:	The Makers Exchange, Craft Fair, Corn Exchange Devizes, 10.30 am - 4.30pm. Entry £2, children free.
Fri 29th to 14th June:	Devizes Arts Festival
Sat 30th to Sun 31st	Worton and Marston Open Gardens

REGULAR MEETINGS OF VILLAGE GROUPS

Art Group: Thursday mornings, Giles Room, WL Village Hall, 9.30am - 12.30pm

Cafe Scientifique: *usually* first Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm, The Raven, Poulshot

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Knitting Club: Baptist Church hall on third Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm.

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

Lavington and District Swimming Club: Sundays 3.30-5.30pm, Tuesdays 7.15-8.45pm, Thursdays 6.30am-7.30 am, Dauntsey's School Pool. From 21st April to 30th June.

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

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

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

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

Rhyme Time: for babies through to pre-schoolers, 1st and 3rd Fridays of month, including holidays. 10.15 - 10.45am, Market Lavington Library. April 17th only, due to Good Friday Library closure.

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

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

West Lavington WI: second Thursday of the month, Giles Room WLVH, April-October 7pm

West Lavington Youth Club: Mondays 6-8pm (9+ year group), Tuesdays 6-8pm (7-8 year group), Wednesdays 6-8pm (4-6 year group) WL Village Hall

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

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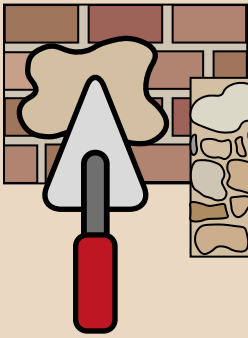
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