

The Bridge



Worton and Marston Parish Magazine

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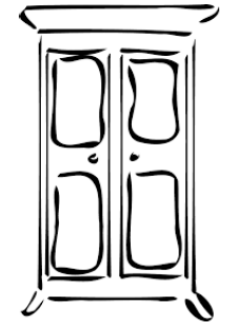
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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Catherine Malli-Dawson editorofthebridge@gmail.com

A Note From the Editor

Please forgive my indulgence. This month's magazine is chock full of exciting events, important updates and messages. In fact, it's so full that I had to add additional pages just to fit everything in. For those of you who have been editors in the past, you'll know that one of the biggest challenges is fitting everything in and managing the number of pages. For those of you who have never had the pleasure, then I'll fill you in on one of the intricacies of being the Editor. Because the magazine is printed as A5 double sided, it must be printed in multiples of four pages. Which means that when you get everything set and you find that you only have 58 pages, then you need to either squeeze some things down to remove two pages or add two more to make it 60.

This may sound simple enough, however, balancing the squeezing with sensible type font and set advert sizes means that removing pages isn't always the best option. Conversely, adding two more pages means that as the Editor, you have to fill those pages. One option is to move a few adverts around and give things a bit more white space. Possibly increasing font on some of the articles. But I can assure you, that takes a lot of finesse which turns into more time and likely something getting lost along the way.

So this month, I decided to add two pages. Then, I had to decide what to put on them. Oh the possibilities were endless. A black and white flower that could be coloured in. An article about a historic person in Wiltshire. Pretty pictures with quotes. A short story. In the end, I decided to entertain you all with one of my poems. So please forgive me for indulging myself and taking advantage of a captive audience. I hope you enjoy it.

This also got me thinking there must be some other creative people in our lovely villages. So, I'd like to dedicate one page to poetry going forward. This is a callout to all the fellow poets and writers to please indulge us with your wit and wisdom. If you're interested in submitting some poetry, please send your selection to editorofthebridge@gmail.com. Remember, deadlines are the 15th of each month.

Catherine
07984 301 258

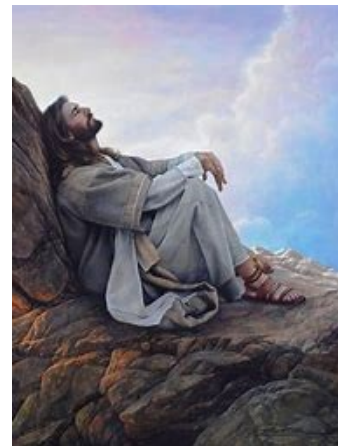
Just Take a Moment... May '24

I wonder if like me you are someone who appreciates a quiet moment in the day to just be? Not to **do**, but simply to **be**? Sometimes it is hard to stop **doing**, it can seem like our lives and our world are moving too fast for us and we can find ourselves feeling guilty if we are not keeping pace. There are times too when others expect a lot from us, and we can also have unrealistic expectations of ourselves. The world can be a very noisy place and our inner world can become very noisy too. Perhaps that is why the practice of Mindfulness has become so popular in recent years as a tool for helping us slow down and appreciate the small things in life.

The seasons we experience within our natural world can help us to become more in tune with that which lies beyond ourselves and that which lies within us. Whether you consider yourself to be a religious or spiritual person or not, our outer landscape can teach us a lot about our inner life as human beings.

One of the things I like to do in spring and early summer is to listen to the birdsong first thing in the morning and again at dusk. If I can I try and spot which bird is singing which song and am often surprised at the amazing sounds which come from some of the tiniest creatures! Taking time to listen to those we meet in the course of our day is important too. One of the greatest gifts we can really give someone

else is a listening ear and an open heart. We can all tell if someone is interested in us and cares about us if they seek to really listen and understand us.



Many of the great spiritual teachers show us how to listen, as did Jesus. Jesus regularly took time out to go off alone, often to a solitary place, to pray, to listen. He then returned better equipped to listen and minister to the needs of others.

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I once picked up a helpful card at an airport ‘quiet room/chapel’. I remember it was headed Take 5 minutes. Sit down, 1 minute, say thank you for something, 1 minute, say sorry for something, 1 minute, pray for someone, 1 minute, pray for yourself, 1 minute.

Hopefully you will have more than 5 minutes to do the above but taking 5 is better than taking nothing!

Much Love & Many Blessings,
Revd Caroline, Wellsprings Benefice

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WELLSPRINGS BENEFICE SERVICES

MAY 2024

Sunday 5th (Easter 6)

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Holy Communion	Worton
9:30am	Matins	Poulshot
11am	Holy Communion	Seend
11am	Morning Praise	Bulkington

Thursday 9th (Ascension Day)

7pm	Ascension Day Service	Potterne
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Sunday 12th (Easter 7)

9:30am	Morning Praise	Worton
9:30am	Morning Praise	Bulkington
9:30am	Holy Communion	Poulshot
11am	Holy Communion	Potterne
6pm	Evensong	Seend

Sunday 19th (Pentecost)

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Seend
9:30am	Holy Communion	Poulshot
9:30am	Holy Communion	Worton
11am	Holy Communion	Bulkington
11am	Holy Communion	Potterne

Sunday 26th (Trinity Sunday)

9:30am	Family Service	Worton
11am	Holy Communion	Potterne
11am	Holy Communion	Seend
4pm	Evensong	Poulshot
6pm	Holy Communion	Bulkington

Wednesday 29th

5pm	Celtic Service	Poulshot
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Every Tuesday, 9am Said Matins at Poulshot

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

Tuesday Group meets each week at 10am in Potterne. Call 723289 for details.

Please visit our website www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk for more details of all our services, latest updates and to keep in touch.

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Ministry Team

Rector:	Rev Gerry Lynch	07521 440 622
Associate Priest:	Rev Caroline O'Neill	01380 828302
Benefice Administrator:	Sarah Leckie	07516 224057
		sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com

Church Registers

No baptisms, weddings or funerals this month.

LORNA JANET PHILLIPS

Lorna passed away peacefully on 12th March 2024 at the age of 94.

Lorna will be remembered for running the Village Shop and Post Office for 20 plus years along with husband Dennis who passed away in 2019.

She will be missed by all who knew her, always a smile and great sense of humour.

Funeral took place 10th April 2024, West Wiltshire Crematorium, Semington.

ROBERT DOWDLE

Robert passed away peacefully at Market Lavington care home on 14th April 2024. He had lived on Close Lane in Marston and was aged 84.

He will be greatly missed by his family.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been organized.



FAMILY OF CHURCHES IN WORTON AND MARSTON

The **GOOD FRIDAY** walk of witness with the cross sadly had to be changed to an indoor event due to heavy wind and rain! We had the hymns and readings in Christ Church, and then walked to the Village Hall to put the cross in the ground there. We warmed everyone up back at the church with a choice of four home-made soups (thanks to the four cooks!) and bread rolls. As an extra treat on a cold day, we enjoyed hot cross buns (thanks to Catherine) and hot drinks, and a great time of fellowship was enjoyed.

The cross was beautifully decorated by Margaret Charlton on the Saturday to depict the joy and new life that came with the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The next update from Family of Churches will be in the Autumn ready for our December events and looking forward to the WELCOME PARTY for NEWCOMERS in JANUARY 2025!

Jean Lane 722069



Worton and Marston Open Gardens

8th & 9th June 2024

12pm - 5pm

Tickets available from Worton Village Hall, SN10 5SE

Suggested donation of £5 per adult

Children free

Teas at the Church in Worton

Market Stalls

Plant Stall



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Dauntsey's Choral Society

Dauntsey's Choral Society's
Summer concert will be held on

Friday 7th June @7.30pm
St Michael and All Angels
church, Urchfont

Come and join us for a delightful
summer evening filled with
music, to include popular opera
choruses, classic jazz and Gilbert
& Sullivan – something for
everyone to enjoy!

Admission is free with a retiring
collection in aid of St. Michael
and All Angels Church and the
Choral Society.

FIVE LANES WI

For our April meeting we were put through our paces in a music and movement way, by Jenny Cunliffe of “Move it or Lose it” fame. We tried out various exercises to music and were able to do whatever we were capable of, safely. One or two of us are quite aged, but everyone else could enter into it with more gusto. Jenny is passionate about keeping people of all ages and ability, moving, whilst having fun at the same time. Apart from general fitness being improved, balance will also get much better and safer! It was a great fun evening. No one felt guilty about having a bit of cake with their tea/coffee!

Our new programmes were available thanks to Carol and Julie; and look out for some new posters going up around and about.


Our next meeting on **MAY 8th** will be a visit to **DEVIZES MUSEUM**. Please fill cars and be there by **7:00PM**. Some parking will be available at the rear. We will be treated to a tour and talk by the Director, David Dawson.

JUNE 12th will also be an outing! This time to **West Lavington Manor** and an earlier start of **6:00PM**. More details next month.

Jean Lane 722069

Devizes & District Foodbank

Collection box for donations in Christ Church



With the cost of living rising and more families than ever asking for support from our local foodbank, we have set up a donation box at the back of Christ Church. The Devizes & District Foodbank is very grateful for any non-perishable items that you are able to donate. Perhaps you could consider popping in with one small item each week to put in the box, such as a tin of tomatoes, a sachet of instant mash or a bottle of shampoo. All donations are much appreciated.

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4th May, 2pm – 4pm

Worton & Marston Village Hall

Rummage Sale, Coffee/Tea and Cakes



We still have some nice items left over from our Jumble Sale event.

Come along and have a rummage and bring some games and jigsaws to swap.

We'll be serving tea, coffee and cakes

Donations for refreshments go to the Kitchen Fund

Come along for a relaxing afternoon, a tea/coffee/cake and a chat

SERVICE CALENDAR

May 2024

Sun May 5th	EASTER 6 9.30am. 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> Rev'd Gary Gotham
Sun May 12th	EASTER 7 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Morning Praise
Sun May 19th	PENTECOST 9.30am 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> Rev'd Gary Gotham
Sun May 26th	TRINITY SUNDAY 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Family Service

June 2024

Sun Jun 2nd	TRINITY 1 9.30am 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> TBC
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There were no weddings, funerals or baptisms at Christ Church during March

Visit the church website: www.christchurchworton.org.uk

Worton United Charities

REMINDER: The Charity is able to offer some financial support to residents of Worton or Marston who are facing times of hardship. Please contact one of the Trustees named below.

Bill Francis, 07775616901
Alison Cross, June Mason, Chris Nixon, Rev Gerry Lynch

All contacts or requests are dealt with in strictest confidence.

Community Fund Applications

Worton & Marston Gardening Club

Request for £242 to cover the cost of insurance for the Open Garden Event, with 10 volunteers and over 200 visitors expected.

Request for £390 towards the cost of allowing children at the local school to grow vegetables. The cost is to include basic equipment including child size tools, compost, grow bags and water cans. The project will be overseen by the Head, Sarah-Jane Chalker.

Kind regards

Jules Slack
Clerk to Worton Parish Council
07515 796444

We do our best to answer all emails we receive but please note that emails are not checked on a daily basis.

The Worton and Marston Link Scheme

We are your village charity offering transport for doctor visits and medical appointments. If you would like to use our services call Lyn on **07413 912828** or email **wandmlink@gmail.com** to find out more



Mirth Merriment

Bingo!

Cash prizes Other prizes

Night FUN EVENT

Hosted by BARRY DEVINE & DOUGLAS CRISP

18th May Village Hall 7.30pm 18th May Village Hall 7.30pm

TICKETED EVENT

Advanced tickets £6, includes 5 game cards (1 per game)
 £8 on the door, subject to space
 (£1 per extra game card)

Beer, wine and soft drinks for purchase


Advanced tickets from:
 Pauline Crisp: dpcrisp@uwclub.net / 01380 720248
 Lionel Dawson: wmvhchair@yahoo.com / 07385 162999




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VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Hello all,

During April I can report that we held two very successful Trustee run events, for which I extend my sincere thanks to all who supported them. The Village Halls Week Soup Lunch raised in excess of £130.00 and the Jumble Sale raised in excess of £550.00, both of which broke more recent records.

I was recently looking back at some correspondence from 2010, which noted that the hall was running on a financial shoestring, so unfortunately like many financial things nothing has really changed. Although we have some regular users of the hall, it is a precious community space for community benefit and I encourage all to consider the hall for running your own events.

We are always planning new events, so please keep an eye open for posts on social media, various flyers on the notice boards, and in this Bridge Magazine.

MAINTENANCE EMAIL

Just to follow on from last month, I am grateful to Dave Pilbeam who joined us as our Maintenance Lead volunteer. Dave has started to tackle some of the items on hand. To make it easier, he set up a new maintenance email for people to report issues to: wmvhmaintenance@yahoo.com. Dave has also created and put up some notices in the hall.

KITCHEN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

As reported last month, this is ongoing and pending completion of the updated plans for a replanned extension into the boiler room. Once we get the planning agreed, we will then obtain updated tenders from the original contractors. I am hoping to make some better progress throughout May.

To speed up the process, we also broke out the heating and boiler renewal work separately, so that we can just get on with it in advance, but this is also pending grant funding via our volunteer fund raiser.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR MAY

THE NEXT AGM. 1 May 2024 at 7.00pm

The Annual General Meeting will be held as above, where we'll cover the annual report, business plan and finances. We will also be nominating, voting for and electing the Trustees for the 2024/25 year, so please can I encourage all Management team representatives to join us.

(continued on next page)



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RUMMAGE SALE, PLUS COFFEE/TEA & CAKES - 4th MAY 2pm - 4pm

We still have a lot of good stuff left over from the Jumble Sale, so we're running a relaxing afternoon Rummage Sale. Have a rummage through the clothes and check what jigsaws and games we have. This is a donation event with tea / coffee / cakes.

Come along, see what else you can find, or just come for a chat, a cake, and a tea/coffee.

FUN BINGO NIGHT - 18th MAY, 7.30pm until who knows when!!

So I think this one is going to be a real hoot! Hosted by Barry Devine and Douglas Crisp, it's bound to be an evening of mirth and merriment! A Bingo Night, with maybe a little twist, plus a bar.

We need to plan attendance numbers in advance, so this will be a **ticketed event**.

- ⇒ **£6 per advanced ticket gets you entry, 5 game cards (1 per game), plus complementary nibbles.**
- ⇒ **£1 per additional game card** (available on the night).
- ⇒ **£8 on the night entry** at the door, subject to space.

Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available to purchase.

Join us for this fun event! We'll see you there!!

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM

Pauline Crisp: Call 01380 720248, or email dpcrisp@uwclub.net

Lionel Dawson: Call 07385 162999, or email wmvhchair@yahoo.com

Once again thank you to all for your support. For bookings please connect with Pauline Crisp at dpcrisp@uwclub.net.

Thank you for your support
Lionel Dawson
WMVHChair@Yahoo.com
on behalf of the Trustees



Edington Arts

Our next event in Edington Priory Church is our annual Choral Workshop, on Saturday June 15th. King's Singer Chris Bruerton will work on music from Eastern Europe – Russia, Poland and Latvia, sung in English or Latin. You can secure your places for this day of fun music-making, online from www.edingtonarts.org; the cost is £25, which includes all music, and welcome and mid-morning refreshments. Altos are already been first off the mark – come on, tenors basses and sopranos – don't hold back!

Contact Anne at anne@edingtonarts.org or Chrissy on 01380 831256 if you need any help.

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The village hall now owns this 9m x 3m party gazebo
Ideal for parties or even wedding receptions
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Please contact:

Potterne Church and Community FETE

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D Day

Saturday 1st June

Commencing 1 pm

Little Mill Field, Mill Road, SN10 5ND

featuring

Dog Show Duck Races

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FROM CHRIST CHURCH

Holy week was very busy, starting with a Palm Sunday Family Service, with the children taking part in the service, with the laying of Palms, then a very quiet reflective evening Compline on Tuesday. Five Lanes school children had their Easter Service on the last day of term, very well rehearsed as always. Over 60 adults and children enjoyed a relaxed and joyous Easter Day Family Communion and Easter Egg hunt with children and adults sharing the finds!

The flowers in church were wonderful, with thanks to Margaret and her team for the many hours they put into this. If you are in Church Lane, pop in for a quiet moment and enjoy the flowers, they are always a delight.

The Joint Christ Church and Five Lane School Summer Fete and Plant sale will take place on the school grounds on Saturday 11th May from 2-4pm.

Contributions will be very welcome for the stalls, Plants, Country Kitchen, bottles, good quality gifts and good quality books, hoop-la and raffle. Two years ago, on a glorious Saturday afternoon, there was a wonderful Community atmosphere, let's do it again!

Christ Church will be hosting the teas for the Village Open Gardens in June. We will welcome cakes for this also, another occasion for people to relax and enjoy.

Heather and Jean, Churchwardens



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WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

We had a full house for our meeting on March 27th when quite a few husbands joined us for Mark Fishers talk on Birdlife and Photography, with a film show of the many species of birds and wildlife he has captured on film. Also, the odd guest appearance from his own cats!! A very enjoyable evening finishing with the raffle and refreshments.

On April 10th Thirteen members went to the Wharf Theatre to see Agatha Christie's, '**And then there were none**' we all had ideas 'who done it' but there was the inevitable twist at the end. A great evening thoroughly enjoyed.

Our next meeting on 29th May Jenny Groome from neighbourhood policing team responsible for Worton will be with us, a chance to air any concerns. Husbands or anyone wishing to come along will be most welcome.

Looking ahead, 26th June we have Karen Hurley demonstrating 'Wet Felting' and 31st July a talk by the RNLI, which I'm sure would be of interest to many others.

Pam Woods
01380 726679

VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

The first **£50** draw for the 2024/2025 200 club season has taken place. The winner for April is **Peter Hinton** from Marston. Congratulations to him.

Thank you to everyone who renewed or joined for the first time, we now have 152 members, up from 117 last year.

Good luck to all.

Pam Woods
Administrator, Worton & Marston Village Hall Trustee
01380 726679

Worton Community Speedwatch – May 2024

(Speedwatch sessions are of 45 minutes duration)

On two occasions during March Wiltshire Police Speed enforcement team members were observed in the village. Their presence may well be the result of the data we are providing from the Speed Indicator Devices.

The table shows the results of our sessions for March.

Bob Mitchell

Worton Community Speedwatch Figures for March 2024

Date	Time	Vehicles	Total 30MPH+	Vehicles Reported	Max Speed
Monday 18th	08.30 - 09.15	384	19	6	40
	14.00 - 14.45	295	12	3	38
Tuesday 19th	08.00 - 08.45	550	9	0	
	15.00 - 15.45	376	11	2	37
Wednesday 20th	09.00 - 09.45	292	14	3	39
Thursday 21st	08.00 - 08.45	500	12	4	37
	15.45 - 16.30	437	19	2	38
Friday 22nd	15.00 - 15.45	371	13	4	42
Tuesday 26th	09.00 - 09.45	255	16	3	45
Sessions: 9	Average: 384	3460	125	27	
2023 Sessions:10	Average: 325	3249	118	19	40



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This term, Lavington Guides are having fun doing lots of activities from cooking to crafting, and learning about European Countries. They are even taking part in Archery competitions.

We've got lots of community activities too, including Potterne Church and Community fete on the 1st of June.

Please drop Emma a message if you'd like to join us for a taster session or to find out more info

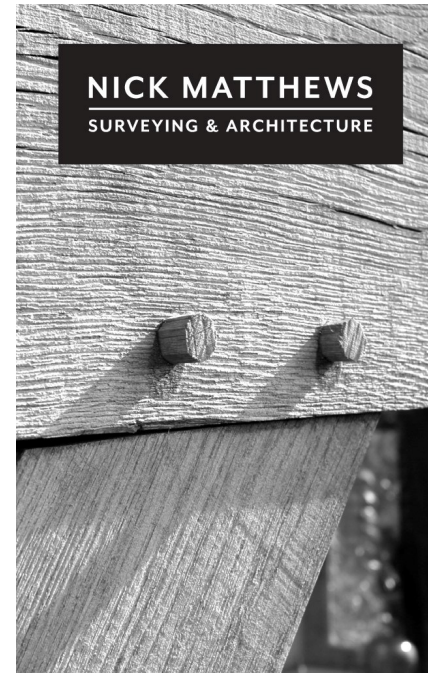
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Lunch time opening Evening opening

Monday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Tuesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Wednesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Thursday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Friday	Closed	6pm -11.30pm
Saturday	12.00 - 2.30	6pm -11.30pm
Sunday	12.00 - 2.30	7pm-10pm

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We have a quiz on the last Sunday of every month.

BOOK SWAP



Saturday 18th May
 (NB 3rd Sat to avoid clash with Fete)
10.00am - 12 noon
 Cloonkell
 38 Mill Road, Worton
 (hosted by Jean Lane)



Saturday 15th June
 (NB 3rd Sat to avoid clash with Open Gardens)
10:00am—12 noon
 Park Farm House
 39 High Street, Worton
 (hosted by Judy Shercliff)

Hope to see you at one of these events – busy village! Come & join us.

MONTHLY QUIZ
ROSE & CROWN

Fancy a quiz night? Come along to your local with Jackie & John at the Rose & Crown, Worton.

Quiz takes place the last **SUNDAY** of the month.
 7.30 start.

£2 per person, up to five people per team

All proceeds go to the winners' Charity of choice. **March Quiz £50 sent to Air Ambulance.**

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WELLIES



Worton's Environment, Landscape and Leisure. Improving Existing Spaces

The Wellies will meet for the first time on Saturday 1st June, from 9am at Sandlease Playing Field. If you would like to help then please bring your own tools and wear stout shoes and a good pair of gloves. Please note that you will be responsible for your own tools.

A number of jobs have been put forward so far, including:

- Strimming the footpath from Sandlease to the Church
- Strimming the footpaths joining the High Street to the footpath
- Making a path (by mowing a strip of grass) down Sandlease Bank into King Charles Copse
- Clearing weeds etc. from the base of the young trees in King Charles Copse
- Strimming and mowing around the established trees of Sandlease Bank
- Clearing the hedge of bramble and dead wood opposite the Village Hall in Church Lane to improve the parking
- Widening the pavement alongside the school to the village hall by removing excess grass that is growing over the existing tarmac

Any work that is not completed will be carried forward to the next maintenance day on Saturday 3rd August.

If you see a job that needs doing around the village then please let us know on Worton Parish Council Facebook Page.

Many Thanks

Cllr Malcolm Powell



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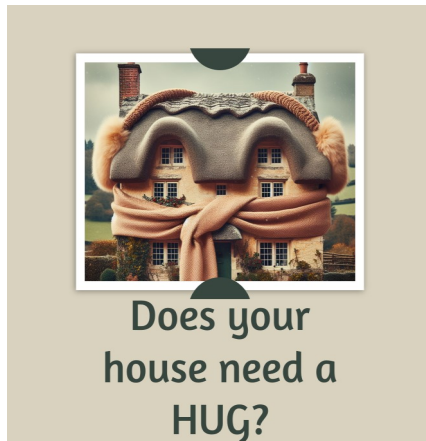
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Home Upgrade Grant Scheme (HUGS) - do you qualify?

Wiltshire Council has been successful in securing more than £3.6m government funding for home energy efficiency upgrades. This funding will allow the council to support retrofitting in owner-occupied and privately rented homes (landlords with no more than four properties).

The qualifying criteria are:

- not connected to mains gas
- have an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of band D-G
- household income of less than £31,000

The retrofits will include:

- energy efficiency measures such as wall and loft insulation
- low-carbon heating technologies such as heat pumps
- renewable technologies such as solar PV
- smart measures such as smart heating controls

It would be great if qualifying residents in Worton and Marston could take advantage of this brilliant opportunity for warmer and more energy efficient homes.

Please contact me at tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk or 07711 824864 for more information.

Kind regards

MESSAGE FROM OUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

May 2024 – Annual Report

Wiltshire Council's Annual Report for Town and Parish Councils can be found at [Resources for Town and Parish Councils - Democratic Services - Wiltshire Council](#)

– here are some highlights.

Secure Finances – Investing in Key Services: Despite the ongoing budget pressures arising from increasing demand for services and inflationary costs, the Council has been able to effectively manage these challenges to ensure a firm financial footing. Key to this sustainable approach to delivering for Wiltshire, is to invest in services, especially those which tackle issues in a proactive way. The Council receives nearly 83% of its funding from local taxes, Business Rates, and Council Tax, so we take delivering on our promises to local people very seriously.

Children's Services – Outstanding Ofsted: We want to give Wiltshire's children the best start in life as it is fundamental in improving their long-term life chances and gives them the best opportunity to live full and healthy lives. We have worked relentlessly to improve our services and now deliver consistently Outstanding services that ensure the needs of families and children are met at the right time by the right people. This is reflected in the Ofsted inspection report from November 2023 that rated us Outstanding across the board.

Additional Funding for Highways & Flood Prevention: Heat, flooding and severe winter weather has caused significant damage to some of Wiltshire's roads in 2023. Whilst the overall condition of Wiltshire's classified road network is better than the national average this continues to be a priority. We are investing an additional £10m in Highways maintenance, which together with increased Department for Transport (DfT) funding, will enable an extensive programme of road surfacing and treatment in 2024/25. We are also investing an additional £1m to support preventative drainage programmes and have confirmed additional £1.5m funding from 25/26 onwards to help with gully cleaning and potholes.

£179m for Adult Services, which includes over £9m of efficiency savings:

Adult Social Care accounts for the highest percentage spend of Wiltshire Council's budget and continues to see significant demographic and cost pressures. The Transforming Adult Social Care programme ensures that the Council is proactive

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in ensuring services meet need. Continued investment is being made in preventative, enablement and reablement services that support people to stay in their own homes and take full part in their communities. The Shared Lives Scheme, which offers a fostering style model of care and support continues to grow, and the use of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) is a key priority. Moving from children to adult services is one of the most critical times for anyone’s life, this is even more important for young adults who have Special Education Needs and Disabilities.

Locally, I have continued to support Parish Councils and residents with specific local matters, and it is a pleasure to attend Parish Council meetings across the area. I was very pleased to assist with fixing the prolonged mobile phone outage in Potterne and Worton, and I will continue to press for road safety improvements across the area, especially at Black Dog and Bell Crossroads. I have helped many Parishes with flooding issues access Wiltshire Council resources, and I am pressing the Environment Agency to find a long-term solution for the issues with the Mill Leat and Semington Brook in Worton and Marston. Looking forward, I will continue to support efforts to ensure that the planning applications for the large solar installations in Potterne are refused and to galvanise support from Danny Kruger and Michelle Donelan, where national policy needs reviewing. My huge apologies if I haven’t mentioned your local issue this time – you can be assured that it is on my “to do” list – please do get in touch if I can help.

Tamara Reay
Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West.



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I am Joe Bodman, a 17-year-old who lives on the edge of Worton. Myself and a couple of friends are keen to earn some money over the summer in our break from college. If you need any help, call **07885579240**. We have our own strimmer, hedge cutter and pressure washer but would need to use your mower.

We charge £12 per hour. Many thanks.

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Naming for the Housing development at Sandlease farm

The plan is that suggested names will have been submitted at, or prior to, the annual Parish meeting which recently took place. We will be considering ideas, producing a shortlist, and then submitting to the relevant authority.

I'm pleased to say that I am already aware of some excellent suggestions. The process isn't as simple as may appear and we cannot make the final choice ourselves - only provide suggestions. There are issues of protocol and practicality that can override local wishes. For example, the number of other streets with similar names and their location. Personal names can also be a sensitive issue. As an aside, I recently came across AC/DC Lane in Melbourne, which conjures up all sorts of potential issues -maybe a Highway to Hell?

Malcolm’s Wellies. (also known as The Environmental Working Group)

I’m really grateful to Malcolm and his enthusiastic volunteers for all they do in this important aspect of village life. Again, the Annual meeting should have given us more opportunity to put ideas forward and get really organised for...

Best Kept Village Competition

We have decided to enter this prestigious event, but with the actual submission being made in April 2025. I am really appreciative of the efforts Nick Stokes has made in investigating the idea and carrying out a lot of the important research and groundwork.

We considered going ahead with an entry in this year’s event - benefiting from work already scheduled linked to the upcoming Open Gardens event and mindful that there is a best Newcomer award where we might have stood a reasonable chance of success.

After careful consideration we have decided to defer entry so that the work that would be needed to impress the judges could be done in a planned fashion, with an eye on the seasons etc. This would give an opportunity to form a group of enthusiastic residents, engage as much of the village as possible (for example the school), and hopefully not only give us more chance of success, but also give us an on-going environment of which we can be even more proud.

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Housing Development Progress

Obviously, things have really begun to happen, and so far, any issues have been relatively minor and dealt with in a timely fashion. We do have points of contact with Newland to engage as necessary and expect to be kept in the loop as it were.

On a more positive note, we are becoming clearer about what financial benefits will occur for the village and we will be consulting on what residents would like. In the first instance, this will be in terms of improving the Sandlease play area. It would be great to get as much community involvement in this as possible -though it should be noted that the sort of equipment that we may hope to get can be very expensive!

Jubilee Walkway

Concerns were raised at the meeting regarding where exactly the designated Walkway route should begin and end. Whilst progress has been made, final siting decisions are yet to be made. We intend to work with Newland to determine where exactly the route should begin at the eastern end and, thus, where the plaque should be located.

Transport and Road Safety

We are finalising our submission to the LHFIC for support in this area. We basically have two proposals. One is the installation of a new marked crossing point to link the pavements on either side of the road (near to the Rose and Crown) and a reduction of the speed limit on the eastern approach to the village. Obviously, these ideas are even more relevant given the likely impacts of the new housing development when completed. I am, as always, indebted to Richard Slack for his work in this area.

Village Hall Kitchen Project

We were pleased to be given an update on the progress of the project by Lionel Dawson. Whilst there has been something of a one step back, we were delighted to be appraised of the two steps forward currently happening and were pleased to offer our continued support as the picture clarifies.

May Meeting

Please note that due to the Bank Holiday, our May meeting will be on the 13th. Hopefully everyone is getting used to the earlier 7 PM start time.

Your Councillors

WORTON UNITED CHARITIES

The Charity has been in existence for many years with an objective of supporting the 'poor and needy' of the parishes of Worton and Marton. Initially this support was often in the provision of foodstuffs, and clothing, then focused on financial help. To do this, the Charity rents out a number of plots of lands for allotments or small holding as well as receiving interest gained from its investments. Some years ago, when interest rates fell, the Charity was faced with a dramatic fall in income from its investments and depended almost entirely on rent from tenants. Costs related to upkeep of the plots continued. So, some time ago, whilst continuing to give individual grants and gifts to those who required help, we took the decision to temporarily end annual help and assistance.

The Trustees have been considering how the Charity can react in these circumstances to enable it to carry on supporting both local individuals and groups into the future. We feel that in the current environment, our model needs to change in order that the Charity can provide more assistance and support to people in our local community in a sustainable way.

A few years ago, the Trustees worked up a proposal to develop a small parcel of land (0.68 acres) bordering the High Street and Mill Road, next to Whatley's Close, for a residential area of up to eight new homes. Two of these new homes were to be retained by the Charity and managed as rental properties to local people, provided at discounted rental rates. The regular rental income to the Charity would then allow it to support local individuals and groups (e.g. through grants and gifts) to a much greater degree and in a sustainable way into the future.



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Following engagement with the village in 2016, which confirmed a broad consensus of support for our housing proposal, the scheme design was revised (including reducing the number of houses proposed from 9 to 8) and a planning application was submitted in 2017; however, this was then withdrawn later that same year prior to determination.

The Charity wishes to announce that it would like to revisit this proposal and the Trustees are in the process of reviewing how we can best support the local community, including by offering local people access to:

- Two Charity owned homes at discounted rent
- Grants to support them either directly or by working with other existing organisations

We have also begun discussions with a development partner to work with us, initially by reviewing the previous 2017 planning application, undertaking some early site assessment work, and assessing the current planning context to re-assess the development potential of the same parcel of land.

Over the next few weeks, the Charity would like to consult with local residents to discuss these plans in greater detail. We will be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on 30th April and are keen to hear any initial views and reactions to this update and in particular any thoughts on activities the Charity can explore to offer help to the local community.

We will also host a separate consultation at the Village Hall on **Wednesday 12th June from 5pm to 8pm** to which all residents are invited. Here the Trustees will give further details of the activities the Charity is looking to pursue (including based on feedback from the Annual Parish Meeting). We will also introduce our development partner and provide initial information regarding the proposed residential development and will seek to answer any questions you have.

In the meantime, should you have any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bill Francis
Chair of Trustees
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FLOWER OF THE MONTH



Hawthorn
(*Crataegus monogyna*)

Hawthorns belong to the genus *Crataegus* which is derived from the Greek words *kratos*, meaning strength and *akis*, meaning sharp. This is in reference to the strong wood of the shrub and the long thorns that grow on most varieties. They are also part of the Rosaceae (rose) family, although not as sweetly scented. Which is probably why, during medieval times, the hawthorn was believed to herald illness and death and were associated with the plague.

We now know that their scent, which smells like decaying animals, is due to the chemical trimethylamine. This is the first chemicals formed in decaying animal tissue. While they make great hedges, I'm not sure I would want them growing in my garden.

The hawthorn blossoms at the point when spring turns to summer. It is believed that the old saying 'Cast ne'er a clout ere May is out' was referring to the opening of the hawthorn flowers rather than the end of the month.

While their fragrance is less desirable, the medicinal properties of hawthorns have been studied extensively. Hawthorn has been used to treat blood diseases, chest pains, blood pressure issue and even high cholesterol. Most of the medicinal value can be found in the fruit pigments—which are edible and can be made into jelly and wine. Hopefully the foul scent doesn't follow through to the fruit.

(sources: almanac.com, woodlandtrust.org.uk)

Historical Extracts from *The Bridge* (May 1994),
kindly provided by Tony Walker

The Bridge

"WHAT DOES A HIGH SHERIFF DO?"

On 8th April, in County Hall, I handed over as High Sheriff of Wiltshire to Mrs Anna Grange, who farms with her husband near Malmesbury. She is the first lady to hold that post since Eia, Countess of Salisbury in 1228. I told Mrs Grange that the question I was most often asked during my Shrieval year was "What does the High Sheriff do?". So....

Because of the origins of the High Sheriff I spent quite a proportion of the 100 plus engagements during my year with those in the County in uniform. Nearly always accompanied by my wife, we were privileged to discover how the Wiltshire Constabulary operated, and "saw behind the scenes" in the Police HQ in Devizes; I presented long service medals to special constables, and bravery awards to policemen. I also exercised my right to sit with County Court judges in both Swindon and Salisbury, where I also presented bravery awards to members of the public. We visited the Wiltshire Ambulance Service, presented long service awards, and saw how the Service reacted to 999 calls. We visited the Wiltshire Fire Brigade, and again saw how they reacted to calls. In the case of all three of these uniformed services I was tremendously impressed with the leadership, the dedication and the professionalism of those who look after us in the County - we are lucky to be so well served. Still dealing with those in uniform, we visited Erlestoke Prison, and were impressed with the steps taken there to prepare prisoners for their return to normal life. We also saw a good deal of the three Armed Services.

I found myself in churches a lot! We attended the enthronement of the new Bishop of Salisbury and witnessed the high pageantry of the occasion; we attended legal services in Bristol and Wells Cathedrals, and I ran my own service for the legal profession in Malmesbury Abbey. I attended the Girl Guides Thinking Day service, the Alms House service, and the Farewell Service to the Wiltshire Regiment, all in Salisbury Cathedral. We attended Carol Services in Erlestoke Prison and with the Fire Brigade.

We paid a lot of visits, and in every case I was able to say thank you to a large number of deserving people who work hard for the good of the community, and who do not get thanked often enough for their dedicated work. We spent a day with the WRVS, including their Meals on Wheels service; we watched the Talking Newspaper service for the blind in Marlborough being recorded; we saw what wonderful work is done by the Wiltshire Community Trust and the Workout centre in Melksham for the unemployed; we were so impressed by the Probation Service work in Swindon; and we visited Avon Rubber and Bowyers factories to see how tyres and sausage rolls were made. I visited several of the District Councils in the County, and we made friends with a large number of the Mayors at both official functions such as Mayor Making and Mayoral Balls as well as more solemn occasions such as the eight Royal visits to the County during the year.

We entertained a large number of people in the County at lunch or dinner parties, and we were lucky to pick the one week of blazing sunshine last summer for the four parties held in the marquee on our lawn, during which we entertained over 900; at the last of these we raised £1100 for my wife's charity, Action Research.

Music played an important part of the year, because the Charity I chose to support was the Wiltshire Music Centre project, which aims to raise £600,000 to build a special concert hall cum rehearsal place for the 2000 young in the County who belong to one of the Wiltshire Youth Orchestras, and who at present have no home of their own. We heard at first hand on many occasions the very high standard these young musicians achieve, and we attended

May 1994

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concerts in Salisbury, Swindon and Trowbridge; I ran a concert at Dauntsey's School, given by The King's Singers in aid of this charity at which we raised over £13,000.

So, the High Sheriff was kept occupied! Perhaps the single most abiding impression of my year was the very humbling experience of meeting so many people who give of their own time to help others in the County, serving the community in ways large and small, but all with dedication and keen professionalism. Perhaps because of the opportunity it gave me to say thank you to all these wonderful people the job is a worthwhile one; it was certainly a memorable, interesting and most enjoyable year.

Sir Maurice Johnston

THE HIGH SHERIFF OF WILTSHIRE

The current High Sheriff is Dr. Olivia Chapple who is the co-founder and chair of the trustees of Horatio's Garden Charity. Horatio was her eldest son.

Dr Olivia trained in medicine at St Thomas's Hospital London, followed by postgraduate training at The Royal Free Hospital and worked as a general practitioner until 2011. She served as a charity Board Director for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation until 2012. As a GP she was an advocate of the benefits of gardens and gardening and has seen first-hand how the natural environment can enhance wellbeing.

In 2017 Dr Olivia was awarded a 'Points of Light' award by the Prime Minister for voluntary service. In 2020, she was awarded the Carew Pole Award by the RHS in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the world of horticulture.

THEME FOR 2024-25

The theme Dr Olivia has chosen for her High Sheriff year will be focused on charities involved with **connecting people with nature**.

People are welcome to visit Horatio's Garden in Salisbury, the charity's first project. Horatio's Garden now has seven projects across the UK all helping to improve the lives of people facing life changing spinal injuries. For more information see <https://www.horatiogarden.org.uk/>.

(source: [Wiltshire.gov.uk/community-environment-high-sheriff](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/community-environment-high-sheriff))

WORTON AND MARSTON GARDEN CLUB

*"March's bud and April's flower,
the sensitive green of the growing hour –
Then there comes an indolent day that smiles in the sun,
and it is May"*

Mark Van Doren."Hardhead"
Spring Thunder and other poems, 1924

Well, let's hope the sun shines in May ---- oh also in June for our Open Gardens. Speaking of which, I hope you like our poster in this month's Bridge. It will soon be going up in colour around the villages and further afield. If you have somewhere to put a poster up for us, do let me know. Once again, we do need some extra volunteers. If you can spare a couple of hours on either day please email or phone me on 07786 985741.

This month, the garden club will be visiting one of the finest gardens in Wiltshire, in my opinion, Chisenbury Priory at East Chisenbury near Upavon. This one of my favourite gardens, fabulous trees, beautiful planting, ponds, wild areas, sculpture. This garden is open for the NGS on June 16th so if you have not been before, I would highly recommend a visit.

There is so much to do in the garden at the moment, catch up after months of rain; however, I am trying to stop, sit, and just enjoy being in my garden. Sometimes the weeds just have to wait!

Upcoming Events

Sunday May 5th Great Chalfield Plant Fair 1030-1600

Wednesday May 8th Devizes Gardeners Fair 0900-1400 in The Shambles
Garden Club visit to Chisenbury Priory Monday 20th May

NGS Gardens open in May

May 19th Trymnelles in Potterne – local and lovely garden, quite a new garden. Also on the same afternoon and close by:

1 Southview, Wick Lane Devizes.

Many more open see www.ngs.org.uk

Best wishes,
Alison Parker aelparker@aol.com

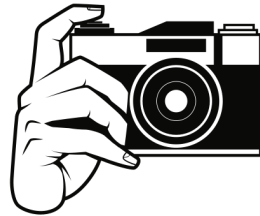


WORTON AND MARSTON VILLAGE SHOW

In case readers have forgotten the 50th Annual Village Show will take place on **Saturday 31st August** this year. We have sorted out the schedule which will be delivered to every household later in the summer. Up to then, we will give details of some of the classes in each section. This month's, the photos and crafts.

Photos adults

- Class 80 Gates
- Class 81 Contrast
- Class 82 Birds/s



Photos children's (under 16, 31st Aug 2024)

- Class 83 Creepy crawly/lies
- Class 84 Steps
- Class 85 Purple flowers

Craft section

- Class 86 A handmade greeting card max size A5, theme golden celebration
- Class 87 A painting, any theme, any medium
- Class 88 An item of decorative needlework, e.g. tapestry, embroidery, household
- Class 89 An example of hand knitting or crochet e.g. garment, household item, toy
- Class 90 An item made from wood, ceramic, or metal
- Class 91 An example of a sewn textile, hand, or machine sewn, patchwork, felting

For the craft section this year, we will give entrants a description card to allow them to describe their entry

As stated previously, we have made the show open to all competitors except for one gardening club class. From this we have decided that entries will be allowed from individuals only. We hope this will provide a fairer chance for individuals to earn prizes.

As ever, some advice on preparation for the show. As you get this magazine at the end of April, it will time to start proper work on the flowers. Seeds such as asters and rebeckias will need sowing. Dahlias and chrysanthemums will be sprouting and need planting out and looking after. Sweet peas planted earlier can be planted on wigwams or similar outside. But still plenty of time to get organised.

Quite a lot in this advice today but please get in touch if you have any questions. More next month on other classes. Many thanks and best luck for the show. Give it a go.

Bill Francis
on behalf of the organising committee.

Worton Toddlers

A fun and friendly group for
children from birth to 4 years

Wednesday 10am—12 noon
(term time only)

Worton Village Hall
Church Lane, SN10 5SH

Only £2.50 per family
to include free play, craft, snack and drink for all!



For more information, please call
Hilary: 07805 303961 Linda: 07921 867206
or email us:
WortonToddlers@gmail.com



Another busy month for Toddlers. We made crowns of flowers and danced around the Maypole to celebrate May Day. The toddlers had fun making mini beasts and enjoyed bubble painting.

The children are enjoying our new equipment. We have bought magnetic wands for sensory play and a balance beam to make an obstacle course with a tunnel and stepping stones.

Date for your diary

No toddlers on Wednesday 29th of May as half term.

1st Worton & Marston Brownies

I cannot express the huge sadness with which I am writing this. After 45 years of Guiding in Worton, through Brownies, Guides, Young Leadership, and as the Unit Leader, I have had to make the very difficult decision to try and find someone else to run 1st Worton & Marston Brownie Unit. Unfortunately the other two leaders will also be stepping down.

We have been sharing recruitment advertisements on social media in the hope that it would interest someone to enquire but as yet we have not had any luck. If you or anyone you know may be interested in a fun, fulfilling Volunteer role, please do get in touch. We really do not want the unit to close after being established for 60 years this June and we will do our utmost to ensure this doesn't happen.

We will stay in our roles until the Summer Holidays. After that, if we have not found a new leadership team, the unit will be closed. We really hope that it doesn't come to that.

I thank each and every parent that has supported us over the years and most of all the Brownies who have given me so much back by their enthusiasm to come to Brownies each week.

If you would like some information about Girlguiding and what Brownies do these days, please check out the website:

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer>

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/brownies>

Or you can contact me direct for a chat - Vicky Earley
Email 1stWortonAndMarstonBrownies@gmail.com
Mobile 07702 033897

Creativity

Connect to the divine and

Rejoice in the energy of unconditional love, which

Enables you to know there is no right or wrong answer when you

Align with your purpose to release your passion and

Transform your thinking through daily gratitude and allow

Inspiration to easily flow through you, raising your

Vibration to the highest level that you

Illuminate all the good in your life and achieve

Transcendence through direct connection with the Universe.

You only live once.

Create Wisely,

Create Freely,

Create Magic,

Create your Dreams.

CM Dawson



Are you 18 and over?

Are you looking for something new?

Come and join the Trefoil Guild!

We are a non-uniform organisation that acts as a branch of GirlGuiding – for friendship, fun, opportunities and new challenges.

While many members have been, or still are, actively involved in GirlGuiding, we welcome everyone, with or without previous involvement in the Guide or Scout Movement.



A warm welcome awaits you at one of our meetings at:

The Guide Hall

Coate

Devizes, SN10 3LU

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

For more information, please contact:

Sally Jenkinson (07947 060763) sallyjenks51@gmail.com

You can read more about the Trefoil Guild at: www.trefoilguild.co.uk

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USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS - 2024

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dfrancis162@btinternet.com

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Alun Newman (Chair)
wandmlink@gmail.com for further information

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clerk@marstonpc.co.uk

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(continued on next page)

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Tennis: Seend Tennis Club: Sally Jackson 07798 564712
 Devizes Tennis Club: Barry Devine 07809 221341
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings.

Toddlers' Group: Linda Rose wortontoddlers@gmail.com
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 Patricia Goodenough Malcolm Powell Chris Collins
 Robert Goss Nick Stokes Anthony Higgins Clerk: Jules Slack

Women's Institute (W.I.): Helen Bodman (President) 01380 723593

Worton United Charities: Trustee Chair Bill Francis
dfrancis162@btinternet.com

(Please contact me (editorofthebridge@gmail.com) if there are any contacts you would like to add, change or remove.)

Awaken

Tender shoots sleeping
 Feel the warmth of the sun's love
 Spring forth a new life

Haiku
 CM Dawson



**WORTON & MARSTON BUS SCHEDULE
 MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

BUS SERVICES WEEK DAYS	76	76	77	BUS SERVICE WEEK DAYS	77	76	76
Worton Village Hall (E-bound)	10:14	12:54	15:58	Worton Village Hall (E-bound)		12:25	14:25s
Worton Rose and Crown (E-bound)	10:14	12:54	15:58	Worton Rose and Crown (E-bound)		12:26	14:26s
Worton Sandleaze (E-bound)	10:16	12:56	15:59	Worton Sandleaze (E-bound)		12:27	14:27s
Worton Sandleaze (W-bound)	10:16	12:56		Worton Sandleaze (W-bound)	07:49	12:27	14:27s
Worton Rose and Crown (W-bound)	10:17	12:57		Worton Rose and Crown (W-bound)	07:49	12:28	14:28s
Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	10:18	12:58		Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	07:50	12:29	14:29s
Marston Norney Bridge (S-bound)	10:20	13:00		Marston Norney Bridge (S-bound)		12:30s	14:30s
Marston The Green (NW-bound)	10:23	13:03		Marston The Green (NW-bound)		12:33s	14:33s
Marston Norney Bridge (N-bound)	10:24	13:04		Marston Norney Bridge (N-bound)		12:33s	14:33s

SATURDAYS

BUS SERVICES SATURDAYS	76	76	BUS SERVICE SATURDAYS	76	76
Worton Village Hall (E-bound)	10:19	12:54	Worton Village Hall (E-bound)	12:35	14:40
Worton Rose and Crown (E-bound)	10:20	12:54	Worton Rose and Crown (E-bound)	12:36	14:41
Worton Sandleaze (E-bound)	10:21	12:56	Worton Sandleaze (E-bound)	12:37	14:42
Worton Sandleaze (W-bound)	10:21	12:56	Worton Sandleaze (W-bound)	12:37	14:42
Worton Rose and Crown (W-bound)	10:22	12:57	Worton Rose and Crown (W-bound)	12:38	14:43
Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	10:23	12:58	Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	12:39	14:44
Marston Norney Bridge (S-bound)	10:25	13:00	Marston Norney Bridge (S-bound)	12:40s	14:45s
Marston The Green (NW-bound)	10:29	13:04	Marston The Green (NW-bound)	12:43s	14:48s
Marston Norney Bridge (N-bound)	10:30	13:05	Marston Norney Bridge (N-bound)	12:43s	14:48s

(Source: <https://bustimes.org/localities/>)



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MEMBER
NACS APPROVED MEMBER

SMASH YOUR GOALS

WCFC are based in Market Lavington, staffed entirely by volunteers, with 180+ players.

We proudly offer the opportunity to learn and grow in a fun team environment; develop leadership skills and play the greatest game on earth.

CONTACT: Vicky 07966 247291





<https://www.wortonandcheverellfc.com/>

VILLAGE DIARY

Regular Meetings

Around the Village

Village Hall

- **Garden Club**
3rd Monday 7.30pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **Fitness Group**
Fridays 5:30pm-6:30pm
- **Move it or Lose it**
Mondays & Thursdays 3:30pm-4:30pm
- **Ladies Group**
Last Wednesday 8pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **Women's Institute**
10th Wednesday Village Hall
- **Worton Toddler Group**
Wednesday 10.00 am - Noon
- **1st Worton & Marston Brownies**
Tuesdays 6pm-7.30pm
- **Potterne Rainbows**
Tuesdays 4.45pm-5.45pm
- **Worton Parish Council Meeting**
1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston

- **Marston Meditation**
1st & 3rd Sunday of each month 6pm start
- **Marston Parish Council Meeting**
7:00pm Last Tuesday of the month (or as shown on notice boards)

Various Venues

Announced Monthly

- **Book Swap**
2nd Saturday 10.00 - Noon

Forthcoming Events

- 18th Book Swap
- 8th WI
- 20th Garden Club

Kerbside Collections in April

Black box, and Blue lidded bin recycling:

Tuesdays 14th, 28th

Household waste:
Thursdays 9th & 23rd

Garden waste:
Fridays 10th, & 24th



Worton and Marston Link

If you need help with transport for hospital appointments visiting the doctor and dentist or other important journeys.

**Call W&M Link on
07413 912828**

Mobile Library

Location: The School
1.10pm - 1.50pm
Next Date: Monday 20th May

Call Wiltshire Library Services
on 01225 713727 for information

Deadline for items for the next Bridge is 15th May 2024
Catherine Malli-Dawson, Editor
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