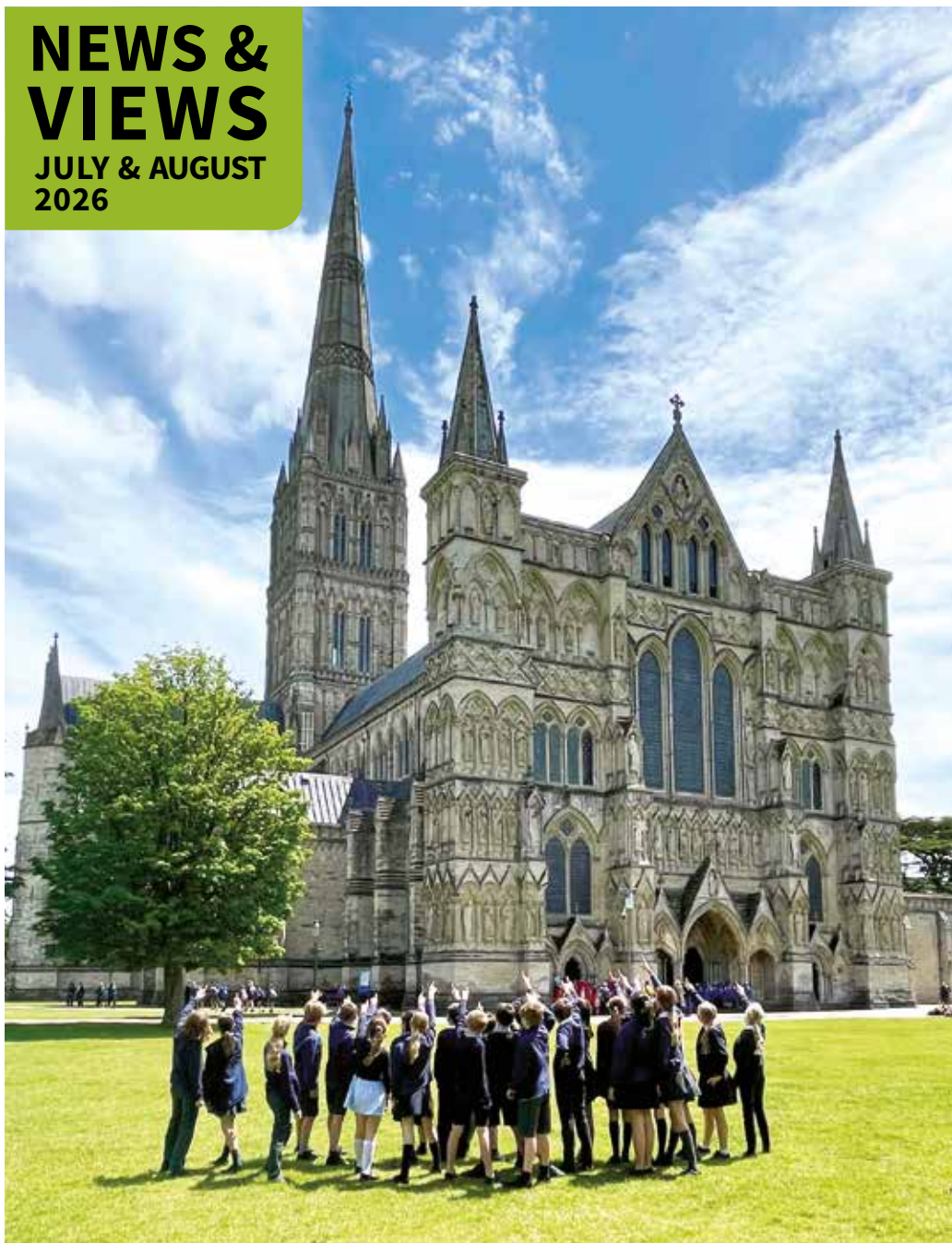


NEWS & VIEWS

JULY & AUGUST
2026



THE MAGAZINE FOR WEST LAVINGTON
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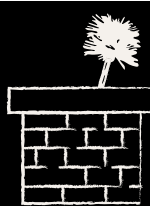
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FROM THE EDITOR

Whatever else is happening in the world, to our erratic politics and to our climate, some things thankfully stay the same. It's the summer in Wiltshire, and consequently this double issue of News and Views is full of local events, happening much as they always have - fetes, shindigs, choral concerts, open gardens, open art studios, produce shows and the Imber bus! The community coming together, raising much needed funds and enjoying each other's talents. Hopefully the government will stabilise, the weather will

cool down and we can all find time to stop worrying about things we seem helpless to affect, relax and enjoy the summer. The next issue of News and Views will be in September, giving our volunteer team time off to do just that.

But, if you live in West Lavington or Littleton Panell, before you switch off, remember to respond with your views to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan (see page 30) before July 12th! Have a great summer!

Sue Bonney - Editor editor4newsandviews@gmail.com

Deadline Dates

Editorial copy and photographs should be sent to editor4newsandviews@gmail.com

Articles and photographs for the **September issue** should reach Sue Bonney no later than **Thursday August 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: Pupils from Holy Trinity Primary Academy Great Cheverell admire the magnificent front of Salisbury Cathedral.

We are always on the lookout for eye-catching photographs for the front cover of News & Views. They should be portrait (vertical), in colour and of a high resolution.

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

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REFLECTION



A Smile

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And none are so poor but that can be made rich by it
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And is the best antidote for trouble
And yet it cannot be begged, borrowed, or stolen for it is of no value
Unless it is given away
Some people are too busy to give you a smile
Give them one of yours
For the good Lord knows that no one needs a smile so badly
As he or she who has no more smiles left to give.

*An extract from the book **The Swallow, The Owl and the Sandpiper***

Sue Allen

Summer Holiday Activities at Wiltshire Museum

28th July to 12th August

Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 10.30am - 12 noon, 1.30pm to 3pm for children aged 3 - 11

A different theme each week, including drawing and building, dinosaurs and fossils, pirates and the sea, and Devizes! £7.50 per child, and one accompanying adult free per child.

Pre-booking is essential, as spaces are limited to 12 children. To book online and for more information, go to **www.wiltshiremuseum.org**

Wiltshire Museum also runs a range of Saturday morning clubs for children interested in history, archaeology and natural history. Regular sessions are held throughout the year on Saturdays, usually at the Museum, from 10.30 am:

- **Curious Kids**, for ages 2 to 4: 10.30 am to 11.20 am, £5 per child
- **Museum Explorers**, for ages 5 to 7: 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm, £7.50 per child
- **Young Curators**, for ages 8 to 13: 10.30 am to noon, £7.50 per child

To find out more, contact **Ali Rushent**, our Learning and Outreach Officer on **01380 727369** or email: **ali.rushent@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk**

**CHURCH OF
ENGLAND
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**

Date	Market Lavington St Mary's	West Lavington All Saints'	Easterton St Barnabas	Little Cheverell St Peter's	Great Cheverell St Peter's
Sunday 5th July	10.30 am St Barnabas Easterton Benefice Service Communion				
Sunday 12th July	10.30 am Service of Celebration at St Andrew's, Devizes for – Gary Gotham's 25 Years – followed by bring and share lunch	9.00 am Breakfast Church 9.30 am Service	10.30 am Service of Celebration at St Andrew's, Devizes for – Gary Gotham's 25 Years – followed by bring and share lunch		10.00 am Welcome to Worship
Sunday 19th July	10.30 am - St Peter's Great Cheverell Benefice Service Communion				
Sunday 26th July	10.30 am United Service with Trinity and St Barnabas at ML Comm Hall	9.30 am Praise and Worship	10.30 am United Service with Trinity and St Mary's at ML Comm Hall		10.30am Cafe Church - coffee and pastries followed by short service
Sunday 2nd August	10.30 am - All Saints' West Lavington Benefice Service Communion				
Sunday 9th August	10.30 am United Service with Trinity and St Barnabas at St Barnabas	9.00 am Breakfast Church 9.30 am Service	10.30 am United Service with Trinity and St Mary's at St Barnabas		11.00 am Simple celebration Communion

Date	Market Lavington St Mary's	West Lavington All Saints'	Easterton St Barnabas	Little Cheverell St Peter's	Great Cheverell St Peter's
Sunday 16th August	10.30 am - St Peter's Little Cheverell Benefice Service Communion				10.00 am Welcome to Worship
Sunday 24th August	10.30 am United Service with Trinity and St Barnabas at St Barnabas	9.30 am Praise and Worship	10.30 am United Service with Trinity and St Mary's at St Barnabas		11.00 am Morning Prayer
Sunday 30th August	9.30 am - All Saints' West Lavington Matins				Services tbc
Sunday 6th September	10.30 am - St Mary's Market Lavington Benefice Service Communion				

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**
Pat Morrison **01380 812357**

Great Cheverell

Pauline Jenkinson **0798 665 8187**

Little Cheverell - Parish Contact

Marlis Rawlins **01380 816318**

St Peter's Living Heritage Day, Little Cheverell

To coincide with 'Love Your Burial Ground Week', St Peter's opened its doors to a lovely Summer's afternoon on Sunday 14th June. Around 50 people came to catch up over tea and cake, hear about the wildlife in the churchyard and discover the stories behind the church, the contents and its community over the last 800 years.

A big thank you to those who helped with the day, especially the children who put the wildlife hedge together!

The PCC





From the Parish Registers

April - June 2026

Marriages

Ellie THURLOW and Zachary CLARK were married on Saturday 25th April at St Mary's, Market Lavington.

Isabelle LEEMING and Charles ROBERTSON were married on Saturday 23rd May at St Peter's, Great Cheverell.

Terence ROSE and Claire HARMAN were married on Saturday 6th June at St Mary's, Market Lavington.

Funerals and Internments

Gwen FLETCHER's ashes were interned at St Mary's, Market Lavington.

Harry EMM'S funeral service was held on Tuesday 14th April at All Saints', West Lavington, followed by a burial in the churchyard.

Stella WILSON'S funeral service was held on Friday 17th April at St Peter's, Great Cheverell

Marianne DYER'S burial of her ashes was carried out at All Saints', West Lavington.

VILLAGE LINK

West Lavington, Littleton Panell & Little Cheverell

Tel: 07598 947180

Call this number if you need transport for medical appointments and have no other means of getting there. Donations to cover expenses will be requested.



West Lavington Mothers' Union

The year is almost halfway, and with the approach of mid-summer our thoughts and plans turn once again to the **West Lavington Fete on 18th July** where West Lavington Mothers' Union will again be holding a 'Fresh Produce' stall. This has always been a great success, and popular with villagers and visitors. The cakes, preserves, fruit, and vegetables are donated by members, friends, family and we always sell out. We would love more donations on the day or days preceding the Fete, so if you have too many beans, berries, preserves or cakes etc, please think of the Mothers' Union and help to make this day a success once more. The proceeds from the stall will go towards the **Salisbury Women's Refuge** and to the fantastic work and great causes which the Mothers' Union supports.



On Saturday 13th June, a celebration was held in Salisbury Cathedral to mark the 150th anniversary of the global Mothers' Union movement. Founded by Mary Sumner in 1876, it now has 4 million members worldwide in 83 countries. There were some 200 attendees from the Diocese of Salisbury at the service including the CEO of Salisbury Women's Refuge (of which MU is a founder member), the Mayor of Salisbury and MP John Glen. The West Lavington Mothers' Union Branch Banner was paraded with 15 others during the service, after which a picnic was held in the Cathedral Cloisters at which the Diocesan President, Sandra Gamble, welcomed all and cut the magnificent memorial cake!

Our next meeting is on **13th July at 2.15pm** at 54, The High Street, West Lavington. We will be joined by Mary Merrick who is going to speak about her work as a Lay Pastoral Assistant. Please come and join us, you are welcome.

Jackie Knipe jack_knipe@hotmail.co.uk

Meet Wessex Water at Devizes Library Tuesday 7th July, 10am - noon and 1pm - 2pm

A community drop in session, where you can chat to Wessex Water in person if you have a query about your water bill, your water and sewerage services, how to save water, or how to prevent sewer blockages. Further information is available at wessexwater.co.uk.



CHEVERELLS GARDEN CLUB

Cheverells Garden Club visited the gardens at Eastwell Manor in Potterne in June. We were greeted very warmly by the lady of the manor who gave us a short introductory talk and asked that we didn't fall into any of the lakes or ponds - with so much to look at it was certainly a possibility. We had free rein to wander anywhere, with a new delight around every corner. I think that we could have easily filled a lot more time there, especially as the weather was very kind! We were then treated to wine and nibbles in the brick

banqueting house. The garden was stunning, with a huge lake, ponds, lovely outbuildings and a very pretty greenhouse. The garden is opened occasionally and I thoroughly recommend a visit! We are hugely grateful.

On **June 24th** we are having a members trip to Cadenham gardens near Chippenham and on **July 14th** we are having a practical demonstration on gathering nettles and brambles to make ropes and string to which all are welcome.

If you would like to come please contact me at **Helen.woodlands@outlook.com** for details of the time and location.



New Am Dram Group Meeting

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in forming a new amateur drama group in the Lavingtons and surrounding villages. We are having a get together on **Monday 13th July, in the Giles Room, West Lavington Village Hall at 7 pm** when we will have the opportunity to meet each other, share ideas and discuss how we can take things forward.

Whether you're interested in acting, directing, stage management, set design, props, costumes, lighting, etc, we'd love you to join us. No previous experience is necessary - just enthusiasm and energy!

For more information contact **Sue Keyes on susanjkeyes@yahoo.com**



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**

MARLBOROUGH OPEN STUDIOS

The Open Studios art trail from Marlborough across Wiltshire is once again happening on every Saturday in July. This is a rare annual opportunity

for the public to visit the hidden world of local artists in their studios, workshops or pop-up galleries. No appointment is necessary to see the artists' work that range from small curios, jewellery, glass or ceramics to large sculptures, bronzes and epic landscapes. You can meet the artist, discuss techniques, equipment and discover their inspiration.

Local artists opening their studios include:

- **Jean Edwards** (stained glass), Studio 20: 9 Canada Rise, Market Lavington, SN10 4AD
- **Nathan Hamblin** (laser cutting art) Studio 19: The Churchill Arms West Lavington, SN10 4JB.
- **Martin Cobb** (paintings) Studio 17: 1 Highlands House, Potterne, SN10 5LT.
- **Christopher Poyser** (paintings) Studio 18: Highland Cottage, Potterne, SN10 5LT

Other artists taking part locally can be found in Seend, Rowde, Poulshot and Devizes. To find out more, pick up the free brochure at local Hubs, libraries, book shops, cafes and art shops. There is an electronic version of the brochure available on the homepage of the website at <https://www.marlboroughopenstudios.co.uk> plus a full list of artists and a map.

Sahara Trek for Alzheimer's Society

I have recently completed two marathons with my brother-in-law Gareth and niece Mia. Both were extremely challenging, rewarding and emotional, and to date we have raised £1,200.

In October 2026, I will be taking on a seven-day trek over the Sahara Desert to once again raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society, a charity extremely close to all my family.

Alzheimer's and dementia are devastating conditions that affect the brain and body, gradually taking away a person's ability to remember those close, communicate and perform daily living tasks. Whilst there is currently no cure, the Alzheimer's Society funds vital research, provides support for people living with the disease and their families, and works to raise awareness of the disease.

I decided to do this challenge in memory of my Mum who died from Alzheimer's and whose birthday it would have been on the final day of the Trek. Whilst doing something amazingly

positive and a once in a lifetime challenge, I will hopefully be raising awareness and much needed funds.

My fundraising target is £2,300, and every donation, large or small, will go towards supporting the Alzheimer's Society's work, research into treatments and improving quality of life for those affected and their families.

1 in 3 people are affected by this devastating disease. If you would like to support my fundraising endeavours, your donation, large or small, will make a difference. Please donate through my fundraising page at:

<https://dasaharatrekoct26.enthuse.com/pf/bethan-macleod>

You can drop off your donation by hand to 120 High Street, Worton or scan the QR Code.

Thank you very much for your support.

Beth Macleod



Streetscene

Summer is upon us and all the planters have been refreshed, and we have some new locations. We were very pleased to include Dauntsey Manor - we have supplied the planter but they have filled it and will be maintaining it. It really gives an added cheer to the entrance of the villages.

Other new locations this year include two new planters at Courtyard Surgery, which have been moved forward to make more impact and get more light. There is also White Street, the entrance to Hayfield Rise by DAPS school, and a replacement for The Gunn.

We have had some new volunteers come forward, for which we are extremely grateful, but have sadly lost a few of our longstanding members. We are always looking for more volunteers to add to our friendly team.



Please come and visit the Streetscene stall at **West Lavington Fete on 18th July**. We will be holding a raffle, and it is always lovely to chat to people interested in gardening.

Susan West 07957 224453

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



West Lavington WI

Fundraising for Salisbury Women's Refuge

Thank you to everyone who supported the WI stall at West Lavington Manor Open Garden on Saturday 13th June. In it's 70th year our WI is raising funds for Salisbury Women's Refuge and we were delighted that our bumper WI hamper raffle raised £293.13 for this worthy cause. Nina from Corsham was the lucky winner and she was thrilled with all the home made goodies which she shared with her friends, neighbours and family.

Our next fundraising event is a sponsored walk from Salisbury Cathedral to Old Sarum and back on **Saturday 5th September**. We welcome walkers and sponsorship, and you can donate via our JustGiving page: **Crowdfunding For Good From JustGiving**

or email: westlavpres@wiltshirewi.org.uk for BACS details.

Sue Bastone President West Lavington WI



The 71st Edington Music Festival **Sunday August 23rd - Sunday August 30th**

Our Festival, hosted by the Parish of Edington and taking place in the Priory Church, is, as far as we can establish, the original and therefore the oldest Festival of Music within the Liturgy in the world. The 2026 festival runs from **Sunday 23rd August to Sunday 30th**, a week of glorious music from three choirs; the Nave choir of men, boys and

girls; the Consort of men and women, and the male voice Schola who sing only plainchant.

The 71st Festival has a new Director, Alexander Hamilton, Director of Music at His Majesty's Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace. Taking over the Nave Choir from him will be Alexander Potts, who has been Festival Organist for the past few years. The Consort continues to be directed by Jeremy Summerly, and the Schola by Peter Stevens.

The theme this year is 'The Tree of Life', a fruitful opportunity to consider birth, life, death and rebirth through daily themes of Eden, Earth, Flower, Fruit, Wood, Garden and The Tree of Life, and through a huge range of musical treats as part of four daily services throughout the week. Choral Evensong on **Wednesday 26th August at 4pm** will be recorded live for BBC Radio 3, followed by the Festival Musical Supper which raises money for the community; and the Requiem on **Friday 28th August** is by W.A.Mozart.

Every service is free to everyone, and we look forward to welcoming old friends and making new ones. More information can be found on the Festival website at **www.edingtonfestival.org** where you can sign up for regular updates and bulletins. Any queries can be emailed to **info@edingtonfestival.org**



Edington Arts Choral Workshop

Saturday 19th September, 10am - 4pm

Edington Priory Church

This year's Choral Workshop will be led by Will Dawes, the Director of Music at Somerville College Oxford, a sought-after freelance singer and conductor, and formerly a member of the leading choral ensemble Stile Antico.

The workshop welcomes everyone who can read music, although some choral experience is definitely an advantage. This year we will have the chance to work on music by 19th and 20th century British composers – Benjamin Britten, Charles Wood, Harold Darke and Samuel Wesley – beautiful, lush music which is very singable.

The cost for the day is £25 for adults, £10 for students under 18 in FTE, and as always, Angels have the benefit of a 10% discount. The fee includes all music, and refreshments on arrival and at mid-morning. This year we have some funding which will allow for some free places for under 18s; please email **anne@edingtonarts.org** for more details. Information about the music is on our website, **www.edingtonarts.org**, from where you can also book your place; Booking is open now, before everyone disappears on holiday!

These days are always stimulating, informative, and fun, and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

ImberBus Day 2026

Saturday 15th August

The now famous Imberbus Day will take place on Saturday 15th August. St Giles Church will be open from 9am until 6pm or after the last bus leaves. Up to 30 old and new London Transport Routemaster buses will be the only vehicles allowed to travel through to Imber village and on to other parts of Salisbury Plain. They will start from outside Warminster Rail Station and will operate as an ordinary bus service, so there is no need (or facility) for passengers to reserve seats or book tickets in advance. Just turn up on the day and pay the conductor on the bus or purchase a ticket from the ticket desk outside the station, or from one of our roving ticket sellers.

Buses will run from outside Warminster Rail Station to Imber approximately every 10-15 minutes between 0930 and 1745, and from Imber Church back to Warminster every 10-15 minutes between 1010 and 1745. Extra buses may also link Sack Hill car park with Imber.

Local residents will also be able to travel to Imber from Chitterne, Tilshead and the Lavingtons. On arrival at Imber, some buses from Warminster will carry on to Gore Cross, then either to Brazen Bottom and the Lavingtons or to Tilshead and Chitterne. Buses normally arrive at Gore Cross a few minutes before the departure time shown, to enable passengers to change buses.

There will be just two fares for unlimited travel on Imberbus: £10 for adults, £2 for children aged between 5 and 16, children under 5 free. The organisers regret there is no reduction for senior citizens, and concessionary bus passes cannot be used.

For more information, including the timetable and pick up points, go to **imberbus.org**. The timetable may change during the summer, so please check it during August. You can subscribe to the Imber Bus mailing list to receive email updates.

*St Giles Church, Imber, will also be open from 11am to 4pm over August Bank Holiday weekend from **Saturday 29th to Monday 31st August.***





West Lavington Village Fete

Saturday 18th July from 2pm

at West Lavington Village Hall and Playing Fields

All the popular attractions will be at the 2026 Fete, including the Fun Family Dog Show, and the fantastic Grand Prize Draw, plus children's games and loads of stalls. Parking and entry is free! To keep you entertained and refreshed throughout the afternoon there will be music from the Amesbury Town Band, and dancing from the Devizes Morris Dancers, plus a Harley Davidson procession with bikes from the Great

Western and Oxford chapters. New this year will be a BBQ with hot dogs and falafel burgers, plus the wonderful homemade teas from the WI in the Village Hall, and a drinks tent!

Why not enter your faithful friend in the **West Lavington Fete Fun Family Dog Show**, sponsored by Rangebourne Pets of Devizes. Entries cost just £3 per class and will be taken at the Fete on the day and throughout from 2pm. The first Class starts at 2.30pm. There are eight classes:

- Golden Oldie (over 7 years)
- Prettiest Bitch
- Most Handsome Dog
- Best Puppy (under 1 year)
- Waggiest Tail
- Musical Sits
- Best Sausage Catcher!
- **PLUS! Best in Show**



There's still time to donate items to our village community stalls and prizes for our Grand Draw. If you have any bric a brac, bottles or books you would like to donate to a good cause, or a possible prize for our Grand Draw, please get in touch with the following:

- Bric-a-brac: email **Anji Scofield** on anjiscotland@icloud.com
- Books: email **Angela Spencer** on angesp@hotmail.co.uk
- Bottles: email **Jo Ellett-Swiggs** on jo.elletts@live.com
- Grand Draw prizes: email **Mike Page** on jandmpagemail@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you at the Fete!

Sue Bastone Fete Chair

For more information or offers of help please contact westlavfete@gmail.com

NB: our apologies to any readers who tried to contact Jo Ellett-Swiggs or Mike Page using the incorrect email addresses we inadvertently published in the June issue. We are assured the email addresses above are correct!

Macmillan Coffee Morning
Saturday 12th September 2026
10am-12pm

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Market Lavington Community Hall

This year will mark our 10th and final year of holding our annual Macmillan coffee morning. Thank you to all those who have supported us over the last nine years, not forgetting all our helpers, without whom we couldn't have managed to raise a fantastic £9,000. If anybody would like to take on this fantastic fundraising event we would give them all the support they needed!

So for the final time, please come and join us for tea, coffee and cake!



The Arts Society Devizes
Join now for the new season in October

The Arts Society in Devizes presents 10 world class lectures every year from October to July in the Corn Exchange in Devizes on the third Wednesday of the month. July's lecture on Wednesday July 15th is on the art of the passport, taking you through three centuries of passport design, explaining the defences built into the passport against the forger.

The Society's new season starts this October, so now would be a great time to join and get the full benefit of your subscription. The subscription costs £50 for the year, and you can bring a friend to any lecture for a donation of £8.

For more information, and to join, go to www.theartsocietydevizes.org
or search Facebook for **The Arts Society Devizes**.



Marlborough Literature Festival
24 – 27 September 2026

A book festival in beautiful Wiltshire with events for all

The 2026 LitFest programme is now available. Tickets will go on sale for Friends of LitFest on **Monday 29 June** and general booking opens on **Friday 10 July**.

Our 17th festival will bring four days of inspiring conversations, ideas, storytelling, bestselling authors and family-friendly events.

Tickets available 10 July from:

www.marlboroughlitfest.org By telephone: **0333 6663366** Mon–Sat 9am–5pm
The White Horse Bookshop Marlborough and from the **Box Office in the Town Hall**
over the festival weekend from **4.30pm Fri 25 September**.

Please note that the bookshop cannot take orders by telephone.

Am I Bothered?

A Designer's Viewpoint

There have been one or two critical comments about the inclusion of AI posters on local Facebook pages and in News & Views. As a designer of some 50 years, here is my take on this controversial issue.

After five years at Art College and University, plus a two year apprenticeship, I started work as a Medical Illustrator. This involved sketching in the operating theatre and morgue in order to produce training materials for medics. I used a lot of red and blue inks!

After several years I migrated into general graphics. This work was produced by hand on drawing film, using Rotring pens, brushes, drawing ink, stencils and Letraset. We also used a lot of very noxious materials and chemicals. Every studio was sticky underfoot with Spray Mount and we'd produce viewfoils/slides with Colour Key, diazo and photography. At this time, work was about 30% ideas and 70% application.

In 1989 we got our first Apple Mac. Within a few years, Letraset went out of business. Then we had PowerPoint. The horror! Every man and his dog could now produce 'bad' presentations and, as audiences nodded off, they did. This was greeted with the same response as we're now getting with AI - designers wouldn't be needed. Not so, it just meant we were involved in far more interesting and complex work.

Within a couple of years, work became solely computer-based, first using a mouse, then a digital tablet and latterly 'drawing' directly onto a screen. It was now 70% ideas and 30% application and thus became far more exciting, as one could explore endless possibilities.

Now we have AI and people with no design skills can produce remarkably similar posters in seconds. Does it bother me? Not at all. It's just history repeating itself. Jobs, and the skills required, change over time. The Wallace and Gromits of this world can still exist within Disney's output of CGI.

In News & Views, our 'What's On' posters used to be landscape, which meant we could rarely use artwork supplied by contributors. I would produce from scratch upwards of 24 posters per issue. Now we have a portrait format. It does mean we can occasionally use supplied artwork, some of which is AI. It is very samey, but it conveys the message. Am I concerned? I'm not! It means I can spend more time on the posters I do produce in Illustrator.

So, in a nutshell, I've seen this furore over technology before, over computers, PowerPoint, ClipArt and a myriad of other developments. Artists have always been 'influenced' by each other and have copied ideas. Who could not be charmed by the meerkats selling insurance, the foxes driving the speedboat and playing a mouth organ, or the thousands of animated cats doing incredible things?

My only serious concern, as the technology gets ever better, is how to spot what is real. That has widespread personal and legal implications, and as yet, the legalities haven't caught up with current practice.

Annemarie Seager



Nearby NGS Open Gardens in July & August

Children's entry is free unless otherwise stated. For latest information go to www.ngs.org.uk

Sunday 12th July:

Little Durnford Manor, Little Durnford, Salisbury SP4 6AH, 2 - 5pm. £5.

Extensive lawns with cedars, wildflower meadows, walled

gardens, fruit trees, large vegetable garden, small knot and herb gardens. Terraces, borders, sunken garden, water garden, lake with islands, river walks, labyrinth walk. Refreshments in aid of St Lawrence Church, Stratford sub Castle.



Sunday 26th July

Corsley House, Corsley, Warminster BA12 7QH. 1

11am - 5pm. £10

Recently featured on Gardeners' World, this is a garden full of surprises. A unique sculpted wave lawn and a truly exceptional walled garden. Many well preserved ancient outbuildings such as a potting and apple storage shed and a granary built on saddle stones. All gloriously overlooking the NT's Cley Hill. Refreshments in aid of Corsley church.



Friday 14th August

The Old Mill, Ramsbury SN8 2PN. 2 - 5pm £8.

A beautiful and characterful garden on the banks of the River Kennet, with wild and cultivated areas, rich mature borders and a vegetable/cutting garden. Walks along mown paths by the river, through water meadows and view the downs beyond. Refreshments.



Saturday 29th August

Ogborne Manor, Ogborne St George, Marlborough SN8 1SU, 10am - 5pm. £8.

Extensively extended and improved by the present owners over the past 20 years the gardens include a parterre, swimming pool, tennis court, vegetable garden and stable block. Roses along the parterre walls and dahlias in the borders are particular features. Refreshments in aid of Prospect Hospice, Wroughton.





Summer in the Hedgerow

As summer arrives, many of us look at our messy hedges and want to reach for the hedge trimmer. However, summer is one of the worst times to cut most hedges. Did you know that under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to intentionally damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird while it is in use? Many species continue nesting well into August, and some will raise multiple broods throughout the summer.

Before any pruning is carried out, always check carefully for active bird nests and also for hedgehogs sheltering in the base of hedges, as both can be easily disturbed or harmed by cutting.

From a horticultural perspective, summer trimming is often unnecessary. Most native hedge species, including hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple and hazel, have already put on the majority of their annual growth. Cutting them now removes flowers, berries and nuts that would provide valuable food for wildlife in autumn and winter. The notable exception is yew, which tolerates summer trimming well and is traditionally clipped at this time of year.

Rather than reducing every hedge to a neat green muffin, consider a more thoughtful approach. Selective pruning can remove individual branches that are obstructing paths or sight lines while retaining the hedge's natural shape. Allowing a hedge to become slightly wider at the base than the top improves stability, light penetration and wildlife value.



For older, leggy hedges, hedge laying offers an excellent alternative to repeated hard trimming. This traditional technique involves partially cutting and bending stems over to create a dense, living barrier. Hedge laying is best carried out during the dormant season, typically between November and March, when birds are not nesting and plants are less stressed.

A hedge is more than a boundary; it is a vital wildlife corridor, shelter belt and food source. Sometimes the best thing we can do is leave it alone until autumn. Enjoy the peace and quiet of a machine free summer.

Capability Charlotte

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

Email me at info@capabilitycharlotte.com



**Wed 1st July
Starts 11am**

**Jan Breughel the Elder
A Painter in his Own Right
Melksham
Assembly Hall**



**Jan Breughel, the younger son of Pieter Breughel
is the subject of this month's lecture.**

**We discover the way his beautiful landscapes
captured the minutiae of his native Flemish flora and fauna.**

**You can attend your first lecture for free, regular guests £8
Details of the full lecture programme go to:**

www.tasnorthwiltshire.org.uk

**LAWRENCE
ART SOCIETY**

**EXHIBITION
ST MARY
DEVIZES & SALE**

LAWRENCEARTSOCIETY.CO.UK



ART 10.00-17.00
**2-9
JULY
2026**



**Lavington
Community
Choir**

Summer Concert

Friday 3rd July at 7:30pm

Market Lavington Community Hall
St Mary's Road, Market Lavington SN10 4DG

The programme will include:

**Karl Jenkins - The Armed Man
and Elton John medley**

Tickets: £10 from

St Arbucks Market Lavington
and Devizes Books



JULY & AUGUST RHYME TIMES

**3rd July & 17th July and
7th & 21st August
from 10.15 to 10.45**

**Market Lavington
Library**

**Rhyme Time is held
every 1st & 3rd Friday
of the month**

**Market
Lavington
Library**

**Opening
Times**

**Wednesdays
2pm - 5pm**

**Fridays
10am to 5pm**

**Saturdays
10am to 12 noon**

**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**



Calling all Cat lovers

KATS & KITS COFFEE, CAKE & SALE MORNING

Saturday 4th July 10am - 12pm
Needham House, Victoria Road, Devizes, SN10 1FA



Cat Carriers, Cat Toys, Pet Blankets, Plants,
Jams & Marmalades, Handmade Gifts & Tombola
PLUS OUR DELICIOUS CAKES

Every penny raised goes to the cats



MUSIC of AMERICA

A Celebration of American Composers

Barber, Lauridsen, Whitacre
and
Rogers & Hammerstein

Saturday 4th July 2026
at 7:30 pm

St Andrew's Church
Long Street, Devizes

Tickets £12 on the door, from choir
members, Devizes Bookshop or
ticketsource.co.uk/devizes-chamber-choir



Registered Charity no. 1589712 www.devizeschamberchoir.org.uk

The Great Cheverell PAVILION Club

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



**EMOTIONAL &
HEARTWARMING**

Saturday July 11th

Doors open 7pm Film starts 7.30pm
Members Free - Guests £5



LITTLE CHEVERELL SUMMER BBQ at COPSEWOOD



Sunday 12th July 5pm

All Welcome

Tickets £10 - children free
Pop-up Bar

Info: martinmwwilts@gmail.com

for tickets



Curtain Call!

INTERESTED IN AM DRAMS? CONTACT US!

Seeking any interested parties to start a fun amateur drama group based in the Lavingtons and surrounding villages

Sound and lighting technos

Stage Management

Costumes

Make-up

Props

Front of House

Actors

A meeting will be held for all those interested on Monday July 13th at 7pm in the Giles Room, West Lavington Village Hall

If this sounds like your idea of fun, then register your interest by contacting Sue Keyes on susankeyes@yahoo.com or Stephen Keyes on stephenkeyes1@gmail.com



Wed 15th July Starts 10.45am
Secret Art in the Passport
 Devides
 Corn Exchange



Taking you through three centuries of passport design, this lecture illustrates the defences built in to the passport and the tricks the forger uses to defeat them.

You will never see your passport in the same light again!

Martin has been lecturing since 2008. He previously worked for HM Immigration Service.

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

The Arts Society Devides
www.theartssocietydevides.org

WHY DON'T YOU?

Get Out. Get Involved. Have a Voice!

YOUNG PEOPLE. BIG IDEAS. STRONGER DEVIZES.

A YOUTH NETWORK FOR DEVIZES

A space for young people and adults to come together, share ideas and make young people the heart of the Devizes Community.

FOR EVERYONE WHO:

- CARES ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE
- WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
- BELIEVES IN A STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED DEVIZES

Launch Event - Friday 17th July 2026
 At The DAY Lounge
 25 Sidmouth Street,
 Devizes
 Open from
 3.00pm to 7.30pm

Supported by **Devizes** Town Council

For More Information Email Willy.Horley@devizes-tc.gov.uk



WEST LAVINGTON VILLAGE FETE

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

from 2pm
 at the Village Hall and Field

NEW THIS YEAR:



BBQ
with Hot Dogs and Fajita Burgers

FUN FAMILY DOG SHOW
Sponsored by Rangebourne Pets



Live Music from the **Amesbury Town Band**



Harley Davidson Motorbikes



GRAND PRIZE DRAW



Homemade Teas
Drinks Tent



PLUS LOADS OF STALLS!



≡ Lots to see, do and buy! ≡

≡ FREE ENTRY AND PARKING! ≡

WEST LAVINGTON VILLAGE FETE
SATURDAY 18th JULY from 2pm
VILLAGE HALL & FIELD

Family Dog Show-2.30pm

CLASSES

Golden Oldie (over 7 years)
 Prettiest Bitch
 Most Handsome Dog
 Best Puppy (under 1 year)
 Waggiest Tail
 Musical Sits
 Best Sausage Catcher!
 Best in Show

Classes start from 2.30 pm

Why not enter your pet?
 Rangebourne deliver
 pet foods every Tuesday
 to the Lavingtons.

Telephone 01380 725294
 or visit their website at:

www.rangebourne-pets.co.uk

Prizes generously
 donated by
RANGEBOURNE
PETS
 of Devizes
 Entries £3

**BEST
 IN
 SHOW**



**DON'T
 MISS
 IT!**



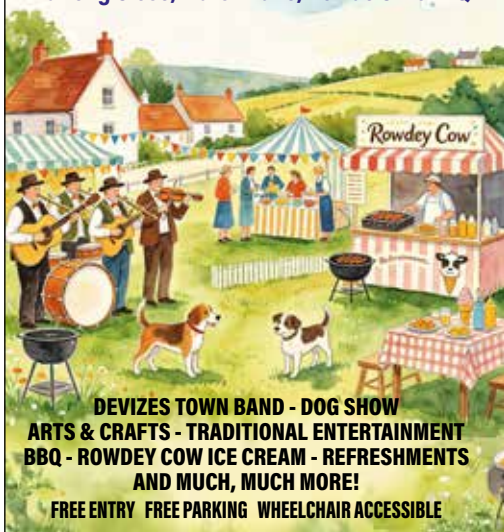
RANGEBOURNE
 PET CARE

ROWDE SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 25th JULY

12.30pm - 3pm

Furlong Close, Marsh Lane, Rowde SN10 2TQ



DEVIZES TOWN BAND - DOG SHOW
ARTS & CRAFTS - TRADITIONAL ENTERTAINMENT
BBQ - ROWDEY COW ICE CREAM - REFRESHMENTS
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

FREE ENTRY FREE PARKING WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

At Wiltshire Museum Devizes

28th July - 12 August

TUESDAYS

10.30am - 12 noon
 1.30pm - 3pm

WEDNESDAYS

10.30am - 12 noon
 1.30pm - 3pm

£7.50 PER CHILD with one adult

Booking Essential

www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/events

DIFFERENT THEMES EACH WEEK

Drawing and building Devizes
 Dinosaurs and fossils
 Pirates and the sea



SUMMER AT THE BASE

Saturday 22 August - 12 noon - 4pm

Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity
 Semington - Wiltshire - BA14 6JX

Local traders, food vendors
 and refreshments
 Children's bouncy castle
 and climbing wall
 Petting zoo
 and donkey rides
 Family friendly
 activities
 and so much more!



Charity No 1144097



**WILTSHIRE
 +BATHAIR
 AMBULANCE**



Lavington and District Produce Show

Saturday 29th August from 2pm

Market Lavington Community Hall

Grow it! Make it! Be creative! Take part!

Vegetables, fruit, flowers, cookery, craft, photography

Adult & children's classes

TEAS, RAFFLE, SALE & PRIZES

Entry forms available from village establishments
or online at lavingtongc.co.uk



POTTERNE FESTIVAL 2026

Potterne Cricket Club presents

**SUNDAY
30TH
AUGUST**

**12 NOON
to 9.30PM**

**TICKETS FROM
THE POTTERNE SHOP
DEVIZES BOOKS &
THE CRICKET CLUB
ADULTS £20
UNDER 18s FREE**

**LIVE MUSIC FROM
OASIS TRIBUTE BAND
DEFINITELY MIGHTBE
PERMISSION SLIP
THIS WAY UP
THE UNPREDICTABLES
THE REASON**

**LARGE RANGE
OF REAL ALES
& CIDERS
GREAT FOOD
OPTIONS**



**SHUTTLE BUSES BETWEEN THE GREEN
IN DEVIZES & THE CRICKET CLUB ALL DAY**



@potternecc

IN AID OF

**THE WILTSHIRE
BOBBY VAN TRUST**
Registered charity 115370
By kind permission of our
hosts, Mr & Mrs John Roberts

Pre-loved ladies' designer and high street
branded clothing at bargain prices

BAG A BARGAIN

NEARLY NEW
DESIGNER
CLOTHES SALE

Deverill Storage
c/o Manor Farm, Longbridge
Deverill, Warminster BA12 7FB

Friday, September 4
10am to 6pm Tickets £7
Saturday, September 5
9.30am to 2pm **Free entry**

tickets: wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events



Refreshments
available at
our licensed
pop-up cafe



RAISING THE ROOF CONCERT

**SATURDAY 5th SEPTEMBER
7.30pm**

St Peter's Church, Little Cheverell

FROM OPERA TO THE WEST END

Featuring

Carlos Alonso | Barbara Gompels
Paula Boyagis | Barney Ackerman
Jim Donovan | Tony James (piano)

In aid of the St Peter's Church Roof Appeal

Tickets: £15
Includes wine & canapes

From: Devizes Books
& Great Cheverell
Village Stores



Enquiries: pboyagis@gmail.com

Help preserve and protect our
beautiful church for future generations

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Saturday 12th September 2026

Market Lavington Community Hall

10am – 12pm

OUR 10th & FINAL YEAR

*Thank you to all who have supported us over the past 10 years
not forgetting all of our helpers*

Without them we wouldn't have raised a fantastic £9000

Please come and join us for tea, coffee and cake!



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

*If anyone would like to take on this fundraising event
we will give them all the support they need.*



Come and Sing!

Saturday 19th September

St Andrew's Church

Long Street, Dezives

Fauré Requiem

Rehearsal Start 12 noon

Informal Performance 18:00

Scores will be provided

REGISTER AT



www.deziveschamberchoir.org.uk/come-sing

CHARITY NIGHT of LIVE SWING JAZZ

The Nestling Trust invites you to step back
into the Golden Era

featuring toe tapping favourites
from the 1940s & 1950s

SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER

7.30 pm

Market Lavington Community Hall

Complimentary canapes will be served



TICKETS £12 from

Devizes Books

St Ambucks

Sue Hamlin

07747 062 757

Mike Gaiger

07789 557 859

CHARITY VINTAGE TEA DANCE

SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

2pm - 5pm

Market Lavington Community Hall SN10 4DG

*featuring the
SALISBURY BIG BAND
Raffle & Competition
for the Best Dressed*

**OH I
DO LIKE TO
SWING
BESIDE THE
SEASIDE**

TICKETS

£10pp (drink + cake)

£16pp (picnic + drink)

<https://tickets.co.uk/events/i-do-like-to-swing-beside-the-seaside>

**WILTSHIRE
COUNCILLOR
FOR THE
LAVINGTONS**



**A Message from Cllr Dominic Muns
Wiltshire Councillor
for the Lavingtons**

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

dominic.muns@wiltshire.gov.uk

or by phone on 07585 394 178

I have been busy over the last month helping residents defend against a planning application, this time for 47 houses in West Lavington. As you probably know, this has come on top of 19 new homes in the village last year and 50 homes the year before that; significant growth without any extension of local infrastructure. I thought I would outline in a little more detail what I have been doing to support residents so that you know how I can help you across The Lavingtons in the future if needed.

The planning application came in at the beginning of May and proposed building on a field behind White Street. I immediately went through the application in detail to understand the proposal and take a view of the positives and negatives it would bring. The Parish Council met to discuss the application and roughly sixty residents were in attendance. I spoke during the meeting to provide some insight to the planning process and took notes throughout to record all the concerns that residents raised. The morning after the meeting I hand delivered a letter to all the houses that backed onto the site or were located along the single-lane roads leading to it. My letter offered to share my formal response to the application so that some of the arguments and policy references could be used in neighbour responses. I spent the next few days turning each concern raised by residents into detailed planning arguments by quoting specific elements of the National Planning Policy Framework, Wiltshire Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plan. I also reviewed the Pre-Application Advice that was given to the applicant last year by Wiltshire Council and extracted relevant objections officers raised to identify the weak points of the application. All of this was compiled into a seven-page document which I shared with the planning officer, more than forty residents and the Parish Council. Finally, I wrote to the planning officer and called-in the application, meaning I blocked her from approving the application (if she was minded to) instead sending it to a full committee hearing.

I think everyone is now aware that Government is intent on building huge numbers of homes. Sadly the housebuilding target for Wiltshire has doubled whilst other parts of the country have seen targets reduced. Development can be very positive when it is in the right place, designed alongside the community and include improvements to infrastructure. Unfortunately, many developments we see are poorly designed and overburden our roads and local facilities, leaving us scrabbling around to mount a defence. Sadly it appears upcoming changes to national planning policy will see greater housing targets for Wiltshire alongside a push to spread them across much smaller rural settlements. Just as I have many times over the last five years, I will always assist you in planning matters, so feel free to reach out if you need any help or advice, either opposing a bad application or supporting a good one. As with many things, we are far stronger if we work together.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 6th July at 7.30pm** in the New Pavilion. This is a public meeting and all residents are welcome to attend.

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May, Chairman Cllr Paul Stevens thanked councillors, volunteers and local organisations for their continued commitment to village life. The Council reported on its ongoing support for projects across the parish, including grounds maintenance, upkeep of the play area, and progress on the developing Neighbourhood Plan.

Particular thanks were extended to the Victoria Park Residents Association, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Wiltshire Councillor Dominic Muns, and all those who contribute their time and effort to improving and supporting the wider community.

Highways and traffic issues featured prominently in discussions. Residents continue to express concerns about HGV traffic, speeding, road safety and pavement provision. Cllr Dominic Muns reported on recent safety improvements, including the new traffic lights and changes outside the school. He also encouraged residents to work together through petitions and wider campaigning to maintain pressure on Wiltshire Council for further highways improvements.

Traffic and road safety were also identified as the highest priorities emerging from Neighbourhood Plan consultation responses. These issues will be discussed further at the Parish Council meeting on 6th July, and we look forward to hearing residents' views.

The meeting also received positive reports from a number of local groups and organisations. The New Pavilion Trust reported another successful year of events and bookings despite rising costs, while Community Speedwatch continues its valuable road safety work with a small but dedicated team of volunteers. The Gardening Club, Soap Box group and many other organisations continue to make a significant contribution to village life, fundraising and community events. Over the years, Soap Box alone has donated approximately £120,000 to good causes.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group confirmed that work on the draft Plan is progressing well, with a first draft expected later this year and a public referendum anticipated in spring 2027. Residents are encouraged to remain engaged with the process, which will help shape future development, traffic management and community priorities within the parish.

At the Annual Council Meeting, Cllr Paul Stevens was formally re-elected as Chairman and Cllr Hayward as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

As always, agendas, minutes, financial information and other council documents can be found on the Parish Council website: **www.cheverellmagnaparishcouncil.gov.uk** We look forward to working with residents over the coming year.

Following the Clerk's planned retirement on 30th September 2026, the Parish Council will shortly be recruiting a new Parish Clerk. Anyone interested in finding out about the role, or discussing it informally, is invited to contact the current Clerk ahead of the formal recruitment process: **clerk@cheverellmagnaparishcouncil.gov.uk**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION

If you do one thing when you read News & Views this month, please respond to our Neighbourhood Plan consultation!

It is vitally important that we have a policy that sets out how we want our villages to look to enable housing developers to understand how WE want our villages to be.

Without a community response to this consultation there is a risk it will be rejected and we will then be open to unscrupulous development.

Please respond! It is important, your voice does count, and this does matter!

The draft Neighbourhood Plan for 2026–2036 can be read and comments left at:

<https://www.westlavington.org.uk/planning-applications/neighbourhood-plan/>

You can email your comments to: **wlcr@westlavington.org.uk**

You can also use the Contact Us page on the Parish Council website, and you can write to us as well. A printed copy of the draft Plan is available at the Churchill Arms if you are unable to use the online documents. The consultation runs until **Sunday 12th July**.

In other news, the first two footpath clearing Pathfinders sessions have been a great success. These will continue over the summer so please watch out for notices. We need people to clear footpaths and to pick up litter, so everyone is welcome.

If you live adjacent to a right of way, please do all you can to keep footpaths clear. We all have a responsibility to manage our boundaries on public rights of way. If you need to cut hedges take care because birds may still be nesting and they are protected. Take a look at the gardening column in News & Views this month for advice.

The July Parish Council meeting will be held in the Giles Room of the Village Hall on **Thursday 2nd July at 7pm**. There will be no meeting in August, but we continue to work on your behalf and are still available if you need to contact us.

Have a wonderful summer and don't forget your Neighbourhood Plan response!

Peter West
Chair, West Lavington Parish Council

West Lavington Planning Matters

PL/2026/03390: Gore Cross Farm SN10 4NA. Erection of new livestock shed.

PL/2026/02544: 49 White Street, West Lavington, SN10 4LP. Log cabin in rear of garden to be used as an annexe.

PL/2026/03274: Oriel Cottage, 29 High Street, West Lavington, SN10 4HQ

Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of replacement.

Tree Work: None at the time of going to press

LITTLE CHEVERELL PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting takes place at the Village Hall at **7pm on Monday 20th July.**

Parish Steward visits have resumed and there is still time to submit work ahead of his next visit on . Please send your concerns to Mike Phillips at mike.phillips@littlecheverell-pc.gov.uk The next visit is **September 23rd.**

At this time of year, verges grow very fast, so if you are able to help by trimming outside your property, this will help keep the road safe for pedestrians and other users.

The Parish Council grounds care team have been busy clearing the banks and watercourse of the stream where it runs through the Village Hall green, which has improved the flow of water tremendously and improves biodiversity.

As always, we love to hear from residents. The Council can be contacted via the website at www.littlecheverell-pc.gov.uk or by emailing the Clerk or any councillor.

Cllr. Mike Phillips - Chairman Tel: 07908 143389 www.littlecheverell-pc.gov.uk

Little Cheverell Village Hall



Our next Pop-up Pub events take place on **Saturdays 25th July** and **15th August** and we welcome everyone from the surrounding area from 6pm until 11pm. The events are free to attend and family friendly. We offer supper from a fiver, and our drinks are reasonably priced. We try hard to make the night fun and usually provide free live music after dinner. Card payments preferred. The proceeds of the evening support our Hall and provide a great opportunity to meet

and talk. Pre-ordering your food really helps us plan and cuts waiting time.

Our **24th October** Pop-Up pub will feature freshly prepared pizza on the Green from Dough Joe Pizza Co for consumption on site or take away.

For more event details or to discuss hiring the Hall, please contact Barbara at littlecheverellvhall@gmail.com or head for the Village Hall section of the Parish Council website www.littlecheverell-pc.gov.uk where you will also find our menus and bar prices.



All of the staff and children have been thoroughly enjoying the summer term so far, despite the varied weather. Our Year 6 pupils had an amazing week on their residential visit. Residential experiences play an important role in helping children develop their independence, resilience and confidence, while also strengthening friendships and teamwork skills. The children embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and created memories that will stay with them for years to come. Year 1 recently enjoyed a visit to Devizes Museum and Drew's Pond. Exploring the local environment and walking through the stream provided hands-on opportunities for discovery, observation and curiosity.

Many of our pupils have recently completed statutory assessments. Year 1 approached their Phonics Screening Check with confidence, demonstrating the essential reading skills they have developed throughout the year. Our Year 4 pupils also worked hard to complete their Multiplication Tables Check, which helps to build fluency and confidence with key mathematical facts that support future learning. We are proud of all the children for the positive attitudes, determination and perseverance they showed.

On 2nd July, we will once again be holding our popular "Yes Day!" Children are invited to suggest changes to some of the usual school rules in exchange for a donation to POD. Such events not only raise valuable funds for the school but also help create a strong sense of community and fun. We are looking forward to seeing some wonderfully colourful outfits and creative hairstyles on the day!

Years 5 and 6 have been busy preparing their end-of-year performance. We are eagerly looking forward to seeing all their hard work come together.

As we approach the end of the school year, all children will enjoy a special seaside-themed outdoor meal provided by our catering company, Lataca. We will also be saying farewell to our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey. We wish them every success as they move on to secondary school and are confident they will embrace the opportunities ahead.

Looking ahead to September, we are excited to welcome a new group of Reception children to our school community. As always, we are committed to providing the very best opportunities for all our pupils, and the support of our local community makes a real difference. If you are able to spare some time to volunteer, whether listening to readers, helping in the garden, supporting animal care or assisting with swimming trips, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us at enquiries@daps.equamead.org. Your time and support can have a lasting impact on our children's experiences and learning.

Philippa Winbolt Headteacher

HOLY TRINITY C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY



This term, we have further strengthened our transition programme to support every child on their educational journey. We were delighted to welcome our new Foundation children for induction afternoons, offering a joyful introduction to school life ahead of September. Year 5 pupils enjoyed secondary school taster days, while Year 6 have benefited from a wide-ranging programme of support and challenge as they prepare for Year 7.

A highlight for Year 6 was attending a special service at Salisbury Cathedral alongside pupils from across the Diocese. This inspiring day of reflection and celebration, followed by a sunny picnic, marked an important milestone in their school journey.

Excitement is building for the Year 3 and 4 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which promises to be a lively and creative performance. Sports Day is also eagerly anticipated, with a range of athletic and novelty events contributing to the 2026 Trophy.

Year 6 pupils will once again host their popular pop-up restaurant, demonstrating impressive culinary skills through planning, preparation and service—a remarkable achievement for 11-year-olds! The term is further enriched by educational visits, leavers' celebrations, awards and a Eucharistic service, reflecting the vibrant community spirit in our school.

As I prepare for my final weeks as Headteacher of Holy Trinity before retiring in August, I reflect on the immense privilege of leading this remarkable school and on a fulfilling career in education spanning 34 years. Throughout

that time, I have had the good fortune to work alongside exceptional colleagues, but nowhere more so than here at Holy Trinity. Our staff team's dedication, courage and unwavering commitment have been at the heart of our success. Their work has enabled our school to achieve extraordinary outcomes, consistently recognised as one of the top primary schools in the country. I am deeply proud to have been part of a team that provides rich, creative and inspiring learning experiences across all areas.

Our children are a continual source of pride and inspiration. They are kind, aspirational and joyful individuals, with a strong sense of responsibility for the world around them. They already embody the qualities of outstanding citizens.

My time as Headteacher has been profoundly fulfilling. I leave with a strong sense of having learned as much as I have given, and with great pride in the people I work alongside and serve.

I am delighted that **Mrs Joanne Andrews** will assume leadership of the school. She brings wisdom, integrity and a deep commitment to excellence, and I am confident that Holy Trinity will continue to thrive and flourish under her guidance in the years ahead.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone in our community for your steadfast support over the years. The success of Holy Trinity is a shared achievement, rooted in the dedication, care and commitment of our staff, families and wider community. It has been a true privilege to serve you all.

Thank you

Anna Woodman Headteacher



A Busy and Successful Summer Term

It has been another wonderful term at St Barnabas Primary School, filled with exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and achievements that have brought our school values of love, aspiration and belonging to life.

We would like to congratulate our Year 6 pupils, who approached their SATs with maturity, resilience and determination. We are incredibly proud of the effort they put into their learning throughout the year and the positive attitude they demonstrated during the assessment period.

One of the highlights of the term was our whole school **Animal Workshop**. Children from Nursery through to Year 6 enjoyed meeting a variety of animals and learning about their habitats, behaviours and care. The workshop sparked curiosity and excitement across the school and provided a fantastic hands on learning experience for all ages.

Our talented Year 6 pupils also visited **Salisbury Cathedral**, where they enjoyed exploring this magnificent historic building and learning more about its rich history and significance.

A particularly special occasion this term was our **Father's Day Lunch**, when we welcomed fathers, grandfathers and other special family members into school to share lunch with the children. Events such as these strengthen the partnership between home and school.

We are grateful for the generous support of families and members of our local community for our annual **Sponsored Walk**. Children showed great determination and enthusiasm as they completed the route, helping to raise an impressive £860 towards the development of our Reflection Garden. The garden will provide a special space for reflection, reading, conversation and outdoor learning for children of all ages.

The term has also been packed with sporting opportunities. Children have represented the school at a range of festivals and competitions, including rugby, cricket and athletics events.

Our recent cake sale, organised by our Little Troopers group in support of Help for Heroes, proved a great success. The event was very well supported by families and friends of the school, raising £120.

Pupils are currently enjoying working with local archaeologist Julian Richards. Through a series of engaging sessions, children are exploring the fascinating history of the local area and developing their understanding of archaeology and how evidence from the past helps us learn about the people who lived before us.

We are also delighted to have invested in a brand new class set of iPads this term. These devices are already enhancing teaching and learning across the curriculum, providing children with greater opportunities to develop their digital skills, undertake research, collaborate with others and present their learning in creative ways.

We are looking forward to our **Summer Fete**, which will take place on **Wednesday 23rd July at 1.00pm** at St Barnabas Primary School. The Fete promises to be a wonderful afternoon of games, activities, refreshments and community spirit. We would be delighted to welcome not only our school families but also members of the wider community to join us for this special event as we celebrate another successful year together.

We have begun Term 6 looking at the summer season. The children were very excited to have 'Commotion in the Ocean' as their first book of the week and got very busy in the craft area creating a variety of fish, jelly fish and a sunken boat to decorate the classroom. Our second book of the week was 'Rumble in the Jungle' and once again, the children got busy making tiger masks and looking up information about a variety of jungle animals.

We would like to thank our older children who took part in our annual sponsored Trike Ride. The children thoroughly enjoyed the event, with our younger children cheering them on from the front garden. All money raised will be used to purchase some new, fun resources for the children.



The children celebrated Father's Day by making a Father's Day card and drawing a portrait of their daddies and proudly showing them at the school Father's Day assembly. A big thank you to the Parents Of DAPS (POD) for inviting Acorns Class to join in with Father's Day gift making, where the children had the opportunity to decorate a mug and/or a bookmark.

We were visited by **Dave Hickory, of Magnificent Maths**, who entertained the children with his fun maths workshop, focusing on size, colour and counting. The children were totally enthralled by the visit and really enjoyed joining in with numerous activities. We have also been visited by 'Turbo Dave', Miss Mandy's tortoise. The children have been popping out to the garden regularly to check he is doing okay and we have had some interesting discussions about tortoises.

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



After beginning our football sessions with Mini Kicks back in April, we have recently noticed a significant improvement in the children's developing football skills and control when kicking the ball. They were able to demonstrate their skills to their Dads when they attended for our Father's Day stay and play today, where we had a great turnout.

We were fortunate enough to have a visit from a large tractor recently where the children were able to climb up the steps and sit in the driver's seat. This was a big hit with our children and they have been asking if it's going to come for another visit soon. We were extremely grateful to the parent who kindly allowed the children this opportunity.

We continue to support the children who are going to school in September, through practising self-care skills and having regular discussions around the upcoming change as they look at photos of the school that they will attend. Their new teachers will be visiting over the next few weeks and we wish the children all the best in their transition to school.

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.

Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub can help:

- put people in touch with community groups who can help and provide a warm space
- signpost to sources of financial support and foodbanks
- provide advice to those experiencing loneliness
- advise people on cost-of-living crisis
- signpost customers to any appropriate schemes through the Household Support Fund (HSF)

The Household Support Fund is to support households that would otherwise struggle to buy food, pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs during the current cost-of-living challenges and particularly those who may not be eligible for the other forms of Government support.

Call the Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub on **0300 003 4576**

Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-4pm

or email **wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk**



Family Picnic

For Parent Carers and
Young People

Wednesday 5th August 2026

11am-1pm

Hillworth Park, Devizes



Carers Together Wiltshire

Family Picnic for parent carers and young people

Join us on **Wednesday 5th August (11am-1pm)** for a family picnic at Hillworth Park, Devizes. We're hosting a relaxed gathering for Parent Carers, young people, and families. It's a chance to enjoy the outdoors and connect with others. Please bring a picnic for your family and any ball games or activities your young people might enjoy. The café will be open, and we'll treat each attendee to a free tea, coffee, or ice cream of their choice!

All are welcome, including the person you care for. We hope to see you there!

Parent Carer Virtual Group

July 30th, 7.00 - 8.00pm

A monthly online chat for Parent Carers. For a link to join, please email jo.hiller-culley@carerstogethertwiltshire.org.uk

Devizes Carer Cafe

First Wednesday of the month

The Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes SN10 1HS

July 1st, Aug 5th, Sept 2nd 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 July 15th 10.30 - 12 noon

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 WPCG will be in attendance to talk about the work that they do.

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

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.

Services for July

Sunday July 5th:	Trinity Church Service, Bring and Share lunch at Homestead Farm Led by Rev'd Gary Gotham
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Sunday July 12th:	Sector Service at St Andrew's Church, Devizes, 10.30am Led by Rev'd Gary Gotham Celebration and lunch
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Sunday July 19th:	Trinity Church Service Led by Margaret White
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Sunday July 26th:	United Church Service Led by Rev'd Gary Gotham
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Services for August

Sunday August 2nd:	Trinity Church Service Local arrangement
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Sunday August 9th:	United Church Service at St Barnabas Church, Easterton, 10.30am Led by Rev'd Gary Gotham
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Sunday August 16th:	Trinity Church Service with Holy Communion Led by Rev'd Gary Gotham
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Sunday August 23rd:	United Church Service at St Barnabas Church, Easterton, 10.30am Led by Pat Morrison
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Sunday August 30th:	Trinity Church Service Local arrangement
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Church Minister: Revd Gary Gotham, 69 Queens Road, Devizes, Wilts.

01380 724264 gary.gotham@gmail.com

Trinity Church Secretary: Liz Pike

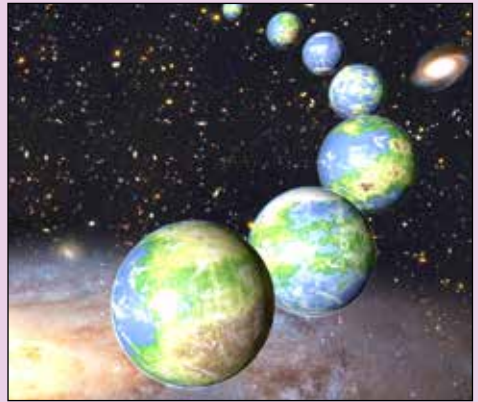
0779 091 0968 secretarytrinitychurchml@gmail.com

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

To begin at the beginning

So begins *Under Milk Wood*, by Dylan Thomas. But beginning at the beginning isn't original to Thomas. Whether consciously or not, the playwright and poet seemed to be echoing the opening sentence of the first book in the Bible, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' (Genesis 1:1). Interesting, that.

For until the middle of the 20th century, the scientific consensus was that there was no beginning. The universe, it was held, has always existed because matter is eternal. Not much need for a Creator, then. That consensus was shattered when scientists teased out the logical implications of Einstein's Theory of Relativity. Real world evidence that the universe had a beginning came from the discovery of cosmic microwave background radiation, a lingering trace of the 'Big Bang'.



But as the old saying goes, 'nothing comes of nothing'. That presumably means the universe could not have created itself. Created itself from what, exactly? And so we're back to Genesis 1:1. As astrophysicist Robert Jastrow put it in his book, *God and the Astronomers*, "For a scientist who lives by faith in reason, discovering the universe's origin ends like a 'bad dream'. They have climbed the mountains of ignorance, but as they pull themselves over the final rock, they find a band of theologians and philosophers who have been sitting there for centuries."

That's the thing. Begin at the beginning, and you are confronted by an all-powerful, wise, and good Creator who exists outside of time and space. In other words, God. But how could we know such a transcendent being? Well, we could if he was pleased to reveal himself to us. Which is where Jesus comes in.

John opens his Gospel with these words: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through him, all things were made.' (John 1:1-2). Then John says, 'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1:14). He through whom the word was made entered his creation as man to bring us back to God by his sin-atonement death and mighty resurrection. The Bible begins at the beginning and concludes with Jesus, 'the Beginning and the End'.

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

JULY	
Saturdays	Every Saturday in July. Marlborough Open Studios. See page 13.
Wed 1st:	North Wiltshire Arts Society lecture on Jan Breughel, Melksham Assembly Hall, 11am. Guests £8.
Thurs 2nd:	West Lavington Parish Council meeting, Giles Room WL VH, 7pm.
Thurs 2nd - Thurs 9th:	Lawrence Art Society Exhibition and Sale, St Mary's Church, Devizes, 10am - 5pm.
Fri 3rd:	Lavington Community Choir Summer Concert, MLCH, 7.30pm, Tickets £10 from St Arbucks and Devizes Books.
Sat 4th:	Dorothy House Women's Walk, from Henrietta Park, Bath BA12 6LR, 3 - 9pm.
	Devizes Chamber Choir Summer Concert, St Andrew's Church, Devizes, 7.30pm
	Kats & Kits Gift & Coffee Morning - from 10.00am at Needham House, Devizes.
Mon 6th:	Cheverell Magna Parish Council meeting, The Pavilion, 7.30pm
Tues 7th:	Meet Wessex Water at Devizes Library, 10am - 12 noon and 1 - 2pm,
Sat 11th/ Sun 12th:	Fulltone Festival, Park Farm, Whistley Road, Potterne. 12 noon to 10.30pm
Sun 12th:	Deadline for comments on West Lavington Neighbourhood Plan
	Little Cheverell BBQ in aid of church roof appeal, Copse Wood, 5pm. Tickets £10 martinmwwilts@gmail.com
Mon 13th:	Mothers' Union meeting, 54 High Street, WL, 2.15pm
	New Amateur Dramatic group open meeting, Giles Room WL VH, 7pm
Tues 14th:	Cheverells Garden Club meeting, practical demo.
Wed 15th:	Devizes Art Society lecture "Secret Art in the Passport", Corn Exchange, 10.15am start, Guests £8.
Fri 17th:	Launch Event for Devizes Youth Network, 25 Sidmouth St, Devizes, 3 - 7.30pm
Fri 17th/ Sat 18th:	Chris McCausland at the Corn Exchange, Devizes. Doors open 7pm for 8pm. Tickets £25 must be booked in advance at devizetickets.com
Sat 18th:	West Lavington Village Fete, WL Village Hall and Playing Fields, from 2pm.
Mon 20th:	Little Cheverell Parish Council meeting, LCVH, 7pm.
Wed 23rd:	St Barnabas School Summer Fete, 1pm.
Sat 25th:	Furlong Close Summer Fete, Marsh Lane, Rowde SN10 2TQ 12.30 - 3pm.
	Pop-Up Pub, Little Cheverell, LCVH, 6 - 11pm

AUGUST

Wed 5th:	Carers Together Wiltshire Family Picnic, Hillworth Park, Devizes, 11am - 1pm
Sat 15th:	Imberbus Day
	Pop-Up Pub, Little Cheverell, LCVH, 6 - 11pm
Sat 22nd:	Wilts and Bath Air Ambulance Summer at the Base, Semington, 12 noon - 4pm.
Sun 23rd - Sun 30th:	Edington Music Festival. www.edingtonfestival.org
Sat 29th - Mon 31st:	St Giles Church, Imber Open Days, 11am - 4pm
Sat 29th:	Lavington and District Produce Show, MLCH from 2pm
	Confetti Battle, Devizes Market Place from 8.15pm. Confetti on sale from 7.15pm
Sun 30th:	Potterne Cricket Festival, Potterne Cricket Club, 12 Noon - 9.30pm, Adults £20, under 18s free.
Mon 31st:	Bank Holiday
	Easterton Country Fete and Fun Dog Show, Easterton Village Hall and Field, 1 - 4.30pm. www.eastertonfete.com

SEPTEMBER

Fri 4th - Sat 5th :	Bag a Bargain fashion sale in aid of the Bobby Van Trust, Manor Farm, Longbridge Deverill, BA12 7FB. Fri 10am - 6pm Tickets £7; Sat 9.30am - 2pm, free entry.
Sat 5th:	WL WI Sponsored Walk
	Raising the Roof concert in aid of St Peter's Church LC roof fund. St Peter's, LC, 7.30pm, Tickets £15
	Devizes Carnival Procession
Sat 12th:	Macmillan Coffee Morning, MLCH, 10am - 2pm
Sun 13th:	Paws Charity Dog Show in aid of the Bobby Van Trust, Rainscombe Park, Oare SN8 4HZ, 10am - 4.30pm. Tickets £8 in advance, or £10 on the day. wiltshirebobbyvantrust.org.uk/future-events
Sat 19th - Sun 27th:	Devizes Food and Drink Festival
Sat 19th:	Edington Arts Choral Workshop, Edington Priory Church, 10am - 4pm. Tickets £25 adults, £10 students under 18, includes music and refreshments.
	Devizes Chamber Choir invite you to Come and Sing Faure's Requiem, St Andrew's Church, Devizes from noon. Informal performance 6pm. Scores provided. www.devizeschamberchoir.org.uk/come-sing
	Live Swing Jazz Night in aid of The Nestling Trust, MLCH, 7.30pm. Tickets £12.

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: New Term from September.

Contact Lavingtonswim@gmail.com.

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. May meeting at 2 Hooks Court, WL

Rhyme Time: for babies through to pre-schoolers, 1st and 3rd Fridays of month, including holidays. 10.15 - 10.45am, Market Lavington Library. . July 3rd & 17th, August 7th & 21st.

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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To find out more about either of the above ring:

**Clare 0751 803 2752 - Mark 0781 3176 382
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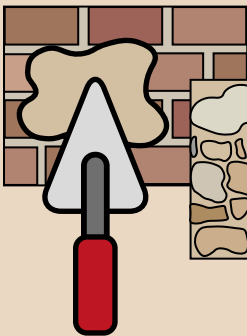
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