

ISSUE 214 NOV/DECEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

BISHOPDOWN FARM FORD HAMPTON PARK LAVERSTOCK
LONGHEDGE MILFORD OLD SARUM RIVERDOWN PARK



Remembrance

pages 8, 11, 15

Christmas Market

page 23

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Local Scout Appeal
page 41

Heartfelt Support for the
Community Pantry
page 43



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Steve is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. He has over 30 years' experience as an accountant for small businesses and local people.

Email: steve@matonaccountancy.com

Mobile: 07841 115825

Alex Maton ACA CTA, BA (Oxon)

Alex is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Chartered Institute of Taxation. He read Law, including Tax Law, at Oxford University.

Email: alex@matonaccountancy.com

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Inside your Parish Newsletter

1. View from the Chair
3. Parish Councillor Contacts
4. Report from the Parish Council/Key Info
7. Planning Applications
10. Why I became a Councillor
11. What's In A Name 13.
14. Dates for your Diary
15. Castle Hill Country Park/Laverstock Watermeadows
17. Nativity on The Green
18. Welcoming our Community to Milford House
19. Bishopdown Farm Fun Day Photos/Cafe On the Green
21. Gardening Club
22. Community Resilience
23. BDAC Christmas Market
25. WI News
27. Football Fixtures/Could you be a Trustee?
29. Useful Contacts/Wiltshire Police
31. Laverstock Ladies Open Group
33. U3a Dates / Silver Salisbury
34. Contacts & Venues Around the Parish
37. The Zenith of the AOP Pt 3. by Peter Hope
39. Index of Advertisers
41. Beavers - Scout Appeal
43. Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Pantry

FRONT COVER: Members of Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Pantry at the Wiltshire Young Farmers, Harvest Festival Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral



View from the Chair

As the leaves turn and the evenings draw in, I find myself reflecting on the strength and warmth of our community. Though winter is on its way, the spirit of this Parish remains bright—and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Christmas when it arrives.

Thank you to all who joined us for the recent skittles night and to the W.I. for hosting the defibrillator workshop, which not only offered vital training but also raised funds for the much-needed redecoration of Laverstock village hall. Your support and generosity continue to make a real difference to all our community centres.

I'm also grateful to those who attended our 'Meet the Councillor' event. It was a pleasure to speak with so many of you, and I'd like to extend special thanks to Cllr Williams, Cllr Baker, and our Comms Officer for their time and commitment. These conversations are invaluable—they help shape our priorities and ensure your voices are heard. Our next 'Meet the Councillor' will be on Fri Nov 14 (see page 14).

Several important issues were raised during the evening, including concerns about the land containing the infiltration basins near Fiander and Bundy Lanes at Castle Hill Country Park, which residents feel is at risk of becoming scrubland. We will be raising this with the Land Trust at our next meeting. There were also reports of catapult incidents in Laverstock, which are causing concern but the Police are aware. Please do continue to report any suspicious activity so we can work with local authorities to address it.

We also met Emily from Barchester Care Homes (see page 18) and Sam, from the Wiltshire Family Hub. Family hubs are here to provide greater local community support and guidance for families and young people aged from 0 to 19, extending to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities.

We will be holding a simple act of Remembrance on Nov 11, meeting at 10.45 am at the War Memorial on Castle Hill Country Park, reflecting in particular, on Peace and Sacrifice, and I very much hope to be visiting Greentrees Primary School with fellow Cllrs, and Dylan the Dog, to talk about Litter this term. Do come to our Community Litter Pick on Nov 1st - all equipment provided but bring your own gloves (see page 6).

Finally, for those asking about the ASDA development—current indications suggest that building work may begin after Christmas. Plans are also progressing to create a link cycle path along Green Lane. We'll keep you updated as soon as we receive confirmation.

Looking ahead, we are actively seeking new trustees and Parish Councillors. These roles are vital to the running of our community venues, and without them, there is a real risk of closure. If you—or someone you know—might be interested in getting involved, please do reach out (see also pages 10, 14 and 27). Your time and talents could make a lasting difference.

Warm regards,

Cllr Laura Jones

Chair, Laverstock & Ford Parish Council



LAVERSTOCK & MILFORD WARD

Nick Baker: 2 Linden Close, Laverstock SP1 1PH
Tel. 07921 899396 nickbaker@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Cindy Vanstone: cindyvanstone@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Laura Jones: 33 Riverbourne Road, Laverstock SP1 1NU
Tel. 07734 888181 laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Ian McDonald: 52 Potters Way, Laverstock SP1 1PX
Tel. 07591 963261 ianmcdonald@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

VACANCY

FORD, OLD SARUM & LONGHEDGE WARD

Lainey Barker: 66 Sherbourne Drive, Old Sarum SP4 6GA
Tel. 01722 321650 laineybarker@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Kevin Lynn: 9 Warneford Crescent, Longhedge SP4 6SB
Tel. 01722 446636 kevinlynn@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Liz Holland: lizholland@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Patrick Schneider: patrickschneider@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk
Tel. 07398 094339

VACANCIES

BISHOPDOWN FARM WARD

Lesley Waller: 30, The Oakbournes, Bishopdown Farm SP1 3FZ
Tel. 07900 392257 lesleywaller@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Estelle Williams: 18 Holmes Road, Bishopdown Farm, SP1 3ER
Tel. 07950512780 estellewilliams@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

VACANCIES

Parish Clerk: Jon Sloan Tel. 01722 433881 (office hours calls - evening answerphone)
parish-clerk@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk
mob. 07771 802839 (emergency calls - not manned 24/7)

Operations Officer: Richard Heather richardheather@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Communications & Community Engagement Officer:
Juliet Brain communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Community Venues Officer: Eloise Castle
venues@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk mob. 0749 6781253

Finance Officer: Andrew Prince andrewprince@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk
CORRESPONDENCE to: 3 Pilgrims Way, Laverstock, Salisbury SP1 1RZ

Details of Councillors' interests and membership of parish council sub-groups, can be found on our website www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Next Editorial Deadline

Copy deadline is Fri 28th November for next issue #215

email Juliet: communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Online copy via www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk via quick links on the home page

The Parish Newsletter is published six times a year for the benefit of parish residents. However; articles included do not necessarily reflect the views of the Parish Council. Advertisements for any business or service does not imply a recommendation by the Parish Council

**The next Parish Council Meetings are on Mon 17 Nov
& Mon 15 Dec at Old Sarum & Longhedge Community
Centre at 7 pm**

www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

For parish information, minutes, agenda's, contacts,
news, events and more.

REPORT from the Parish Council

Detailed minutes of all the meetings can be found on our website at:

www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk/meetings

On page 24, we have reprinted the article about Derek Hayes, as there was an error in the version printed in Issue 213. We wanted family and friends to have a clean and accurate copy, and we apologise for any confusion or distress caused.

Community Speedwatch The team have been very active in Ford. If you'd like to join the team please get in touch by contacting: laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Tree Survey eagle-eyed residents may have spotted our Arborculturalist wandering through the many clusters of trees and copses in parts of Laverstock and Old Sarum, compiling a general tree survey and five year plan, as part of our ongoing tree management plan.

OLD SARUM: We have received complaints of fly tipping. You can report this directly via the MyWilts app or Wiltshire Council online. If it is on private land they will refer the issue to the landowner.

Smash Youth Project have enabled us to continue to offer youth club sessions (term-time only) Dave, the Smash Youth Worker is hoping for volunteers to help him with sessions. Sign up to their email notices to get notifications of sessions and info on youth events here: <https://forms.office.com/e/nZ9DDiY753>

Our thanks to residents, Mr & Mrs Kelly, Marion & Charles, and all involved who sacrificed their time and a washing basket to capture a 'lost otter' at Norman Park Open Space in September. The Otter, a young juvenile was underweight and dehydrated but has since been well looked after by both the Otter Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital and should have been safely released back into the wild by the time this issue lands on your doorstep.

The swales between Old Sarum and Longhedge have had their annual cut and collect, it is then left to help enable the establishment of native plant species.



BISHOPDOWN FARM: The August Bank Holiday saw the perfect weather for the Bishopdown Farm Fun Day. Trudi from Slimming World braving the sunshine dressed as a Banana, and Debbie from Sew Good at the stall next door dressed as a Strawberry caused much comment! Bob Kenchington from local band The Norfolks, entertained everyone with his music throughout the afternoon and Wessex Circus was busy, as youngsters swarmed their circus area to try out their circus skills. The Community Emergency Volunteers tested people's knowledge with two quizzes designed to make you think about how to prepare for an emergency, and the Sea Scouts boat was happily marooned all afternoon as the intrepid Sea Scouts chatted to people about scouting adventures. Cafe on the Green volunteers served endless refreshments as people relaxed in the sunshine and enjoyed this laid-back event. Thanks to the organisers Charles, Veronica and the team who aim to provide an affordable and chilled event with something for everyone. A huge thanks to stall-holders who gave up their bank holiday to make the event so special (see page 19 for photos).

Youth Club has re-commenced (term-time only) after the summer break.

LAVERSTOCK: We have replaced the dilapidated benches at Whitebridge Green, Riverside Road and by the MUGA on Duck Lane. Cllrs attended the Laverstock Village Hall AGM, a new booking system is being approved to help streamline the process for Hall users this and a website should be up and running in January 2026..

LONGHEDGE: We continue to negotiate with Vistry over handover of public open spaces, we will update residents when we have something to report. Meanwhile residents with concerns about these areas should contact Vistry.

FLOOD WARDENS: Cllr Williams accompanied the CEV Co-ordinator and volunteers, and Ross Walker our new Neighbourhood Watch Chairman to a Flood Seminar given by the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council as part of the Communities Prepared mission to enable residents to more effectively deal with unexpected events due to climate change. See the Community Emergency Volunteer (CEV) page on our website for actions and ideas.

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK: Do join us for a litter Pick on Saturday Nov 01, see above for details. We have equipment you can borrow, if you'd like to organise one in your part of the parish!

PLAY PARKS: The annual parks inspections will have been carried out across our 34 Play Parks, Skate Park and MUGA's in October.

Just a reminder that if you want to hear about youth events in South Wiltshire please register your details with SMASH via their online sign-up form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/nZ9DDiY753>

**COMMUNITY DAY LITTER PICK**
Autumn Clean Up '25

SATURDAY
1ST NOVEMBER

TIME
2PM

MEETING POINT
HAMPTON PAVILLON
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BISHOPDOWN FARM

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED
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To register your interest contact
Cllr Laura Jones
laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk



PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following Planning Applications have been submitted to the Parish. Italics after the application show the Parish Council response. Bold print shows a decision by Wiltshire Council.

DECISIONS

PL/2025/06548 Single storey extension Rokato, Laverstock Park, SP1 1QJ **APPROVE**

PL/2025/06602 Consent for works under Tree Preservation Order, Land at Old Sarum Business Park, Lancaster Road **APPROVE**

PL/2025/06388 Convert shop to residential use Kismet, Riverside Road, Laverstock SP1 1QP **APPROVE**

PL/2025/06230 Proposed 1st floor rear extension and garden office 9 Riverbourne Road, Milford SP1 1NU **APPROVE**

OUTSTANDING AND NEW APPLICATIONS

PL/2025/07910 Certificate of lawful development Green Guard Storage, Old Malthouse Lane SP4 6DR

PL/2025/07572 Lawful development: existing use of rear single storey extension 2 Norton Drive, Ford SP4 6DA

PL/2025/07402 Operational works associated with change of use Willow Tree Barn, Ford Lane, Ford SP4 6DJ

PL/2025/06810 Change of use of agricultural land to residential garden Weatherboard Barn, Milford Mill Road, Salisbury SP1 1NJ *No Comment*

PL/2025/06484 Works to TPO trees at Green Lane Track Bishopdown SP4 6BN *No Comment*

PL/2025/06293 Single storey and first floor extensions 71 Church Road, Laverstock SP1 1QZ *No Comment*

PL/2025/06243 Single storey extension 1 Bailey Mews Old Sarum SP4 6FJ *No Comment*

PL/2025/06128 Erection of raised deck with storage below (retrospective) 6 Castle Hill Lane, Bishopdown SP1 3GP *No Comment*

PL/2025/06052 Commencement of works Meadow View, Ford relating to PL/2022/03712 Installation of drainage and soakaway system

PL/2025/06026 Change of Use Open View, Main Road, Winterbourne Earls SP4 6DS *No Comment*

PL/2025/04655 Works to Trees 13 Green Lane, Ford SP4 6DE *No Comment*

PL/2025/04505 Single storey extension, 17 Greenwood Avenue, Laverstock SP1 1PD *No Comment*

PL/2025/04383 Fell 2 Scots Pines, 8 St. Teresa's Close, SP1 3FP *No Comment*

PL/2025/03776 Outline permission two dwellings, Beehive Cottage SP4 6BL *No Comment*

PL/2025/02686 294 dwellings Land NE Old Sarum, Portway *OBJECT*

PL/2025/02080 Replacement windows at Tithebarn, Wolferstan Drive SP1 3XZ *No Comment*

PL/2025/01889 MANOR FARM, GREEN LANE, FORD, SP4 6DE Class Q - Change of Use of Agricultural Building to form 8no. residential dwellings, Prior Notification Under Class Q of the GDPO *OBJECT*

PL/2025/01066 Alterations and loft conversion, 1 Melvin Close, SP1 1PG *No Comment*

PL/2022/04875 Proposed commercial development, SALISBURY RETAIL PARK, LONDON ROAD Salisbury SP1 3YX *SUPPORT SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS*

2021/04084 Residential development of 53 new dwellings on land to the west of Roger Way (Areas A&F) alongside with the change of use of the vacant ground floor unit at Block C of the OLD SARUM LOCAL CENTRE (Area G) to provide 7 affordable apartments. OLD SARUM. *OBJECT WITH REASONS*



LEST WE FORGET

IN MEMORY OF ALL
THE BRAVE PEOPLE
FROM THIS PARISH,
AND STATIONED HERE,
WHO MADE GREAT
SACRIFICES FOR OUR
FREEDOM



THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD;
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



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All our staff are qualified to Level 3 or working towards this, and have many years childcare experience

01722 415598

oldsarumnursery@gmail.com



Why I became a Councillor?

I relocated to Salisbury nearly 5 years ago, to be closer to family. Although now retired, for many decades I worked in education, the NHS as an Occupational Therapist, and in several other roles, all of which entailed meeting the general public. Much of this time was spent engaging with local residents within the local community, and frequently in their own homes. The ability to listen to the challenges that others faced, and work through potential solutions was a huge part of my role.

When I retired I missed the interactions I had previously enjoyed with both the public and the many teams of which I had been a member. I also missed the opportunities to make a positive difference to the lives of others. I felt that my work and life experience/skills could be harnessed to continue to contribute to my community even in retirement.

I became a volunteer at a local food bank and started to join other organisations, looking to widen my social circles. Having always been mindful of the importance of our environment, I continued to do my 'litter picking' independently in my local area, but something was still lacking.

On a cold wet November afternoon, I headed to my local country park (Castle Hill Country Park) to join a group of local councillors who had organised a short memorial service remembering those lost during past conflicts. We soon got chatting about the role of parish councillors, and the rest is history!

I have now been a Parish Councillor for over 18 months. Apart from attending the Full Council Meetings monthly, I'm now Chair of the Community and Public Engagement Working Group, and have joined the Community Emergency Volunteers Group as well as the Financial and General Purposes Committee. But please note, while councillors are expected to attend monthly Full Council Meetings, and at least one other committee, or working group (usually held every two months), your role does not have to entail a large commitment. If you are unable to attend any meeting, you are just required to send your apologies in good time.

If you are reading this with a view to considering joining us as a Parish Councillor, or perhaps you have a particular interest in a specific group or concerns regarding local issues within our parish, my advice would be to arrange to have an informal chat with one of us. If you decide to attend a Full Council Meeting, please do not let its formal nature put you off.

Personally, I am very much enjoying my role. The staff and councillors are very supportive and welcoming, plus training courses are readily available. I am learning all the time and very much feel I am part of a team with a mission to listen to local residents and ensure our parish continues to be a place where individuals, families and groups can flourish and thrive.

Cllr Estelle Williams

WHAT'S IN A NAME 13.

McCUDDEN DRIVE, LONGHEDGE

McCudden Drive and McCudden Grove Play Park are named after Major James McCudden VC Royal Flying Corps, a flying ace and one of the most highly decorated airmen in British military history.

McCudden's Victoria Cross is exceptional as it was awarded, not for one particular event of Valour, but for his long operational fighting career, consistent prowess and devotion to duty. His citation records 54 enemy aircraft victories.



James Thomas Byford McCudden was born in Gillingham, Kent on 28 March 1895. He was the son of a Warrant Officer in the Royal Engineers and he joined that regiment in 1910 at the age of 15. In 1913 he became an Air Mechanic, joined the Royal Flying Corp and was posted to the Royal Aircraft Factory at Farnborough. After the declaration of war in August 1914 he travelled to France as a mechanic with 3 Squadron.

McCudden began to fly as an observer in B.E.2 reconnaissance aircraft while continuing his mechanic's duties. In January 1916 he was awarded the Croix de Guerre for gallantry, promoted to flight sergeant and ordered home for pilot training at Farnborough and Upavon. In July 1916 he joined 20 Squadron flying the F.E.2 two-seater and in August he was reassigned to 29 Squadron, flying the single seat Airco DH2 scout, where he claimed his first victory over a German Albatross D.II.

McCudden was commissioned as a second lieutenant in December 1916 and in February 1917 was awarded the Military Cross following his fifth victory in the air. After 6 months as a flying instructor in England he returned to France joining 56 Squadron flying the S.E.5a. In the next 8 months he added 52 victories to his score until he returned home in March 1918 suffering from combat fatigue.

Viscount Northcliffe, the proprietor of the Daily Mail, had started a campaign to give praise and publicity to the 'air heroes' of WW1. McCudden was featured in several newspaper articles and became famous. He did not enjoy the publicity.

He was sent as an instructor to the School of Aerial Fighting at Turnberry in Scotland and in March 1918 he was awarded the Victoria Cross. With the help of a magazine editor, McCudden wrote a memoir of his war time career called "Five Years in the Royal Flying Corps". It has since been re-published with the title "Flying Fury" and is still in print and available.

James McCudden was promoted to Major and given command of 60 Squadron of the newly formed Royal Air Force. On a flight on 9 July 1918 to rejoin his squadron in France McCudden's S.E.5 was seen to plunge vertically into the ground shortly after take-off from Auxi-le-Chateau. McCudden suffered a fractured skull and died that evening. He is buried at the Wavans war cemetery. His memoirs were published shortly before his death.

Andrew Prince.



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LAVERSTOCK & FORD HISTORY GROUP

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Thurs 27 Nov at 2pm
in the Curtis Room, St Andrew's Church

TURNER'S SALISBURY

This year marks the 250th anniversary of William Turner, celebrated as one of England's most admired artists (1775-1851). Turner's early watercolours of Salisbury are not well known, but most are easily recognisable today. Join Speaker - Ruth Newman, to explore these special and iconic views.

- • • DROP-IN FEE £2.50
- ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £12.00

www.laverstocklocalhistorygroup.wordpress.com



QUIZ NIGHT

SAT 22ND NOV
LAVERSTOCK & FORD
VILLAGE HALL

7pm arrival • 7.30pm start
£15pp Includes supper
Teams of 6 • Cash bar & raffle

Contact Laura Jones to book tickets
Lauraejones76@gmail.com • 07734888181



Meet the Councillor

Hampton Park Pavilion
Ash Crescent SP1 3GY

Friday 14 November
3 - 4.30 pm

If you've got ideas on how to improve your community WE NEED YOU! Or maybe you have questions or a concern about your area, perhaps you don't know what what the Parish Council does and want to find out more?

COME ALONG FOR A CUP OF TEA AND A CHAT...
WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU



Can't make this date, or have a question,
get in touch for future dates or email:
communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk
or call 01722 433881

14



Castle Hill Country Park

Castle Hill Country Park is the perfect place to enjoy some fresh air and festive fun this winter. With its open landscapes, woodlands and sweeping views over Salisbury, it's a great spot for a family walk over the Christmas holidays.

The park is full of seasonal sights, from bright berries in the hedgerows to robins and other wildlife bringing colour to the frosty days. Children will enjoy looking out for animal tracks or exploring the woodland paths, while adults can take in the peace and quiet away from the festive rush.

Many visitors make a Christmas Eve or Boxing Day walk part of their family tradition, using the park as a place to relax, reflect, and walk off a few mince pies. Whether you come for a gentle stroll or a longer hike, Castle Hill Country Park offers a welcoming escape filled with natural beauty this festive season.

Merry Christmas to all!

Russell Brooks,
Castle Hill Country Park, Community Engagement Officer

Youth Education and Wellbeing (YEW) Support Worker

E-mail: russellb@wiltshirewildlife.org

On Tuesday 11 November,

We invite you to join us for a brief moment of reflection,
at the Memorial at Castle Hill Country Park
([///bordering.duty.landowner](http://bordering.duty.landowner)).

This is open to any one who is free, to come and join us,
whilst we reflect on Peace, Sacrifice
and those who have died in conflict.

We will gather at 10.45 am
(unless the weather is terrible)

and will observe a brief silence
at 11 am in a simple act
of Remembrance.

Please Join Us



Laverstock Water Meadows



Our Saturday morning volunteer work party teams have been busy having fun and helping nature on the water-meadows. We have finished the easy-access path from Cow Lane to our river dipping platform. It's a wonderful short walk for everyone to enjoy. First to a splendid monolith with the extent of the water-meadows under our management mapped out (although the map is out of date as we have bought more meadows!) And then through the hedgerow planted by the local Beavers Group with hedge plants beginning with "H". Next the path comes up close to mature and rare orchard trees including an exotic Medlar and a fabulous Crab Apple tree. On past the corner of our new Coronation Orchard, planted by a host of community organizations last winter. Then along the border of our Nature Discovery Area.

Look out for all sorts of natural wonders. At this time of year there is a good chance of seeing a wintering Stonechat or two. The branches along the fence are from numerous shrubs and trees found growing across the meadows and are roughly ordered from tree species who prefer dry conditions such as hazel and birch, to those who like it decidedly soggy like willow and alder. At the end of the Nature Discovery Area stretch of the path, what looks like a lump of concrete, is in fact a Lizard Quoit. Well that's what we told ourselves after we managed to drag it to the edge of the path in order to dig free draining foundations!

The path turns short of the river and begins it's descent towards the dipping platform. That strange grassy mound to the left was built by the Cubs and is obviously the back of a slumbering prehistoric monster isn't it! On reaching the dipping platform boardwalk if you walk slowly and quietly you might just see a kingfisher, an otter, a water rail, a cetti's warbler, a trout or a beautiful grey wagtail like the one in the photo (it has a yellow front but it's called a Grey Wagtail). The mysteries of nature are good for all the senses, we look forward to seeing you along the Water Meadows this winter.



The Pavilion, Ash Crescent, SP1 3GY

NATIVITY ON THE GREEN

Friday 19th December
6pm - 7pm



Live outdoor nativity Carols Refreshments All welcome!







<https://sites.google.com/view/communityonthegreen/notg>

Julia's House

CHRISTMAS

Artisan Market

Festive shopping, food
and family crafts

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wreath
making
online

FREE
ENTRY

KINGSTONS

Sunday
16th November
11am-4pm

Braeside Education
Centre, Devizes

Find out more at juliashouse.org/market



Welcoming Our Community to Milford House

With autumn arriving and winter not far behind we would like to make sure that our local community is kept in touch with events that we have taking place in the home to which all are welcome.

Not only that, but we have gorgeous lounges (and in the summer of course, gardens) where local groups are welcome to meet. So if Milford House could fit the bill for your group why not give us a call on 01722 322737 and come along and have a look and see how we might be able to help you - we have spaces that would accommodate activities such as wreath making workshops, a committee meeting, a book club or even using the garden for a nature trail or sketching.

Coming up we have some events to let you know about;

November the 18th at 2.30pm we are hosting a talk by Rebecca Dade who is the South West Legacy Lead for Marie Curie who along with a representative from local solicitors Batt Broadbent will be giving a talk about what we might need to think about regarding end of life care, the options available and the considerations we need to make, while Sue will let us know about the importance of making a will (and the free will making service available), putting in place a Lasting Power of Attorney and more. This will be an informative and practical afternoon with plenty of chances to ask questions. Refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon - so do come along

Throughout the winter months and with immediate effect Milford is issuing its 'Don't Dine Alone' invitation. Eating alone can be isolating and a barrier to good nutrition, so we are available at lunchtimes daily (12.15pm) to host anyone who would like to come along and enjoy a delicious and nutritious home-cooked meal and some company in one of our stunning dining rooms. Please call us on 01722 322737 to book your place.

There will be more events coming up in the lead up to Christmas and they will all be featured on our Facebook page @Barchester Milford House, so why not follow us so that you can keep in touch with what we have going on and come along. We'd love to see you and also to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas!

Milford House Care Home, Milford Mill Road, SP1 1NJ
Tel: 01722 322737 Email: Activities.MilfordHouse@barchester.com



**The Bishopdown Farm Fun Day
(see page 5)**





Pop-Up Café on Bishopdown Farm - A Warm Welcome Every Thursday Morning

Looking for a friendly place to pause, enjoy a cuppa, and connect with others? Why not drop by our Pop-Up Café, open every Thursday morning (during term time) from 9am to 12 noon.

The café is designed as a welcoming space for the whole community. Whether you have half an hour to spare after the school run, or a free morning to relax, you'll find a warm atmosphere, good company, and plenty of refreshments waiting for you. On offer are freshly brewed tea and coffee, croissants, cakes, and more – the perfect ingredients for a little midweek treat.

We know that getting together matters, and the Pop-Up Café is about more than just food and drink. It's a place to meet new friends, catch up with old ones, and simply enjoy a relaxed moment in the week. For families, there's also a safe and welcoming play space for children, so little ones can have fun while grown-ups enjoy a chat.

Accessibility is important to us, and the café has been set up to ensure that everyone feels at home, whatever their age or stage of life. Whether you're a parent, a retiree, working from home, or simply passing through, you'll be met with a smile and a seat at the table.

So why not give it a try?– we'd love to see you at Hampton Park Pavilion, Bishopdown Farm, SP1 3GY

For more information contact Mel :

outreach@salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk

Laverstock Gardening Club

The Laverstock Gardening Club meets on the fourth Monday of most months in the Laverstock and Ford Village Hall at 7:30 pm. We usually have a talk by an outside speaker and then it's tea/coffee and a chat. All are welcome.

Our Summer Show was held on Saturday the 16 August in the Village Hall. The potato-growing competition was reinstated and very popular. There were 34 exhibitors and 145 entries which is a record for the number of exhibitors since the show started in 2003. The show is over-seen by club members and experienced external judges awarded the points. The winners of categories were as follows:

Floral
Floral Arrangement
Fruit & Vegetables
Cookery
Creative Arts

Sharon Pettit
Pam Pinder
Mike Bacon
Mo Lockyer
Maureen Smith & Jenny Rourke

This year the Silver Salver went to Sharon Pettit for the most points in the Floral category and the Julie Dennis Cup went to Pam Pinder for the most points in Floral Arrangement.

Our AGM was held at the Village Hall on the 22 September, and 32 people attended. Lesley Alexander retired from the committee but Bruno Drag and Mike Bacon joined it. The committee was re-elected and we enjoyed cheese and wine.

Our 24 November talk is on New Forest Conservation by Hadrian Cook and the 23 February talk by Penny Ibbs of the Bourne Hill Secret Garden.

David Hutchinson, Programme Secretary 01722 334036

I'm Dreaming of a Safe Christmas

Christmas is coming. A time of joyous festivities and ... 80,000 visits to Accident and Emergency departments as a result of festive accidents.



The commonest causes of accidents are:

- Allergies, particularly when packaging becomes separated from the foodstuff.
- Alcohol related incidents caused by over-indulgence.
- Choking, particularly on decorations that look like sweets to youngsters, burst balloons, toys with small components and trinkets from crackers.
- Falls while decorating the Christmas tree or when taking decorations out of the attic.
- Injuries from fairy lights including burns, electric shocks and swallowing light bulbs.
- Fires caused by decorations falling into open fires or by badly positioned candles.
- Indigestion and food poisoning – the NHS has guidelines for cooking turkey safely. (<https://www.food.gov.uk/food-safety-and-hygiene>)
- Kitchen accidents including spilling hot fat or cuts from knives.
- Falls either downstairs or on slippery ground outside.
- Poisoning from toxic plants such as holly and mistletoe berries.
- Poisoning and swallowing of corrosive batteries.
- Opening parcels rapidly without the correct tools, leading to cuts.

So, please bear these risks in mind and think about safety while enjoying yourselves. More advice on staying safe at Christmas can be found at: firstaidforlife.org.uk/the-twelve-mishaps-of-christmas/
Here's to a safe and happy Christmas!

If you want to be more prepared for weather events etc., you can join our volunteers in undertaking short online training sessions that will better prepare you for emergency situations: www.communitiesprepared.org.uk Once signed up as a volunteer you can also join our local group.

Or contact the coordinator, Jon Gunns, direct at:
cev@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk



BOSCOMBE DOWN AVIATION COLLECTION **at OLD SARUM**



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sunday 16th November 2025
from 10.00h to 15.00h

Whether you are a buyer or seller, you will
not want to miss our very popular annual

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Over thirty stalls to browse for some unique gifts
and decorations.

Or, sell your Christmas wares in this unique historic venue,
surrounded by our fantastic collection of aircraft.

If you have items to sell and would like to book a pitch,
now is the time to contact us.

Pitches 6ft x 4ft cost £10 including a 6ft x 2ft table and 2 chairs.
Don't delay because space is limited and the available
pitches go quickly.

To book a pitch or enquire about this event,
contact Hugh Sillett:

email; eventsatbdac@outlook.com

Mobile 07799113546

Entry fee for buyers is £2 per person

Boscombe Down Aviation Collection
Hangar 1 South, Old Sarum Airfield,
Old Sarum, Wiltshire, SP4 6DZ

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Derek Hayes.

Derek served as a Parish Councillor for Laverstock & Ford Parish Council, representing the Laverstock & Milford Ward with dedication and distinction for eighteen years, from 2006 until his retirement in June 2024. Upon his retirement, Derek was awarded the Freedom of the Parish in recognition of his exceptional service to the community and his unwavering commitment to its residents.

For many years, Derek was the voice behind the Parish Pump articles in the parish newsletter, regularly contributing items that celebrated the benefits and positive aspects of parish life. As Cllr Ian McDonald expressed, “His legacy is woven into the fabric of the parish, and the parish council.”

Derek’s professional career in mental health gave him a unique understanding of the needs of residents. He championed the introduction of technology to enable residents to remotely access and participate in council meetings, and he ensured that the parish newsletter remained available both in print and digital formats—recognising the importance of keeping all residents informed, including those less engaged with online communication.

Fellow retired councillor, former Parish Newsletter Editor, and friend, David Law, reflected on Derek’s inspirational character and gentle spirit:

“I first met Derek around 2008 when I attended a council meeting asking the public to assist in the creation of The Parish Plan. Derek’s enthusiasm for the project encouraged me to join the two-year development of the plan under his guidance. His passion for the welfare of the parish and its residents encouraged me to become a councillor, and we worked together on many projects, starting with the creation of the Community Farm. Derek’s contribution was not limited to desk work—he actively helped in clearing the site and volunteered at community events. He also assisted other charities and served as a director of Carer Support Wiltshire for nine years. A published author, one of his historical novels was based on the South Sea Bubble. I always knew that if ever I had a problem, Derek would be the person to whom I could turn, knowing that his support would be there. A true gentleman who will be greatly missed.”





LAVERSTOCK DISTRICT EVENING WI

August was a gloriously hot and summery month but after the 'end of term' excitements of July it is often a fairly quiet time, almost a time to refresh and prepare for Autumn. However we did meet in August and spent a happy and industrious evening making

tablescapes using jam jars, card, twine, sand, seashells etc which resulted in pretty seaside themed table settings.

The Lunch Club met in Jenny's Bistro near the library for a generous and well presented meal with lots of chatting and catching up and The Coffee Club continues to meet monthly at the farm for more friendly socialising.

At our September meeting we enjoyed a festive Harvest meal on brightly decorated tables and WI bunting and a light hearted quiz. Following our talk about Alabare we decided to donate not food this year but vouchers for hot drinks during the winter.

Our branch no longer has a regular skittles team but we were represented at the skittles evening in the village hall and were delighted to come third.

At the end of September we organised a defibrillator training course open to the local community to learn about how best to use this valuable asset. We hope to enlarge on that in the next Newsletter.

This year our entry for the St Thomas's Christmas Tree Festival will feature the WI Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife Campaign and is under way.

We look forward to the next general meeting when our speaker will help us learn more about Financial Wellbeing and then in November our activity is Sound Therapy before our Christmas event which will include Dance Fun!

If you would like to discover more about your local WI please contact Louise Hall by email on: Laverstocksec@wiltshire.org.uk

Or by telephone on 01722 326 549

*New Sarum WI Strollers try out the Farm
and Spinney Trail along
Laverstock Watermeadows*



NEW SARUM WI

Our summer outdoor meeting in August was held at Victoria Park with members embracing the theme by wearing something pink. We all enjoyed socialising with a picnic and a pink themed quiz which proved both challenging and fun. Also in August we hosted a very successful Coffee Morning at St. Thomas Church to raise nearly £600 for our nominated charity this year – The Alabare Barford Development Centre. We will be returning to St Thomas's in December to exhibit a Christmas Tree decorated around the theme of 'NSWI, not just Jam and Jerusalem'.

Taking advantage of the lovely summer weather, our members enjoyed a relaxing afternoon at the Jazz Swing Band Event at Salisbury Cathedral. A few weeks later, Andy Wallis of the Environment Agency, gave us a fascinating and informative tour of the new Salisbury River Park. Andy impressed us with various anecdotes about the development of the scheme and highlighted the ecological improvements to the internationally important chalk streams.

In September, we welcomed Simon Dickenson to our meeting with a very topical presentation – 'What is AI Really?' or as Simon introduced the subject 'AI – The Good, The Bad and the Ugly!' Very well presented and thought provoking, Simon showed us some of the amazing time saving capabilities of AI, whilst acknowledging the potential for misuse. We are looking forward to welcoming garden designer Louise Wakeham to our November meeting.

On 16th September, we celebrated the 110th birthday of the National WI, with dinner at Wildwood and a toast to the WI movement.

In the coming months we are looking forward to learning about the development of battlefield communications at the Royal Signals Museum in Blandford, visiting Sherborne Abbey, and enjoying 'The Government Inspector' at Studio Theatre.

Whilst croquet and outdoor bowls proved fun and competitive in the summer months, during the colder seasons, a keen group of members will be playing indoor skittles and darts.

If you would like to find out more about this diverse, friendly and sociable group, please phone Sue on 07931 582357, email at newsarumsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk, find us on www.facebook.com/NewSarumWI or just turn up at the Old Sarum Community Centre, the first Wednesday of the month for a 19:15 start.



Home Fixture Dates for the Diary

Salisbury Football Club: Kick off at 3 pm

November

Saturday 01 v Dorking Wanderers

Saturday 22 v Chelmsford City

Tuesday 25 v Maidenhead (5.45 kick off)

December

Saturday 06 v Hemel Hempstead Town

Friday 26 v AFC Totton



OLD SARUM & LONGHEDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE NEEDS SOMEONE LOCAL TO JOIN AS A TRUSTEE

What do trustees do?

Trustees ensure the Community Centre has a clear strategy, and that its work and goals are in line with its vision.

They are the 'guardians of purpose', making sure that all decisions put the needs of the beneficiaries first.

They safeguard the charity's assets – both physical assets, including property, and intangible ones, such as its reputation – ensuring that they are used well and that the charity is run sustainably. Trustees don't usually do the day-to-day running of the centre – instead, they play the role of 'critical friend' to the Centre by giving support and by challenging – in a supportive way – to help the Centre run effectively. However, trustees may take hands-on roles too.



Is it you they're looking for?

Contact oldsarumcommunitycentre@gmail.com to volunteer for this valuable community role

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email paul@paultidmarsh.com



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salisburyflowershed@gmail.com

www.thesalisburyflowershed.co.uk

*Salisbury's newest independent florist opened in
October 2022 by owner/florist Sue Ford.*



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Useful Contacts

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Gen enquiries and switchboard



0300 456 0100



www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Planning & Building Control www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-building-control

Planning Explorer map bit.ly/42zQx5Z

Report A Problem - with the MyWilts App

You can download the MyWilts online reporting app via homepage of their website

Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager, Karen Linaker



karen-linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk



01722 434697

FLOOD LINE 0345 988 1188

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY Emergency Helpline 0800 807 060

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS trafficengland.com

Our Wiltshire Councillors

Nick Baker

For Laverstock, Milford & Bishopdown Farm



Nick.Baker@wiltshire.gov.uk



07921 899396

Lainey Barker

For Old Sarum, Longhedge and Ford



Lainey.Barker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament
John Glen



Constituency Office 12 Brown Street, Salisbury SP1 1HE
01722 323050



john.glen.mp@parliament.uk

CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK



Sam Jones, Countryside and Greenspace Officer,
The Land Trust samjones@thelandtrust.org.uk

Russell Brooks, Castle Hill Country Park Community
Engagement Officer Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
russellb@wiltshirewildlife.org

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM



Dial 999 in an Emergency To report a crime in progress, or if someone is being threatened or at risk of getting injured

Dial 101 in a NON Emergency To report a crime not mentioned above, or to contact an officer or report online via www.wiltshire.police.uk

Inspector Tina Osborn **Sergeant** Susan Malkinson **Sergeant** Lisa Lovatt

THE CONTACTS BELOW SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR REPORTING A CRIME :

Local Enquiries  salisburyareanpt@wiltshire.police.uk

Bishopdown Farm, Hampton Park and Riverdown Park

PC Rachel Wood: rachel.wood@wiltshire.police.uk and PCSO Geanina Tablet

Laverstock, Ford, Old Sarum and Longhedge

PC Rachel Wood and PCSO Jenny Moss

Milford

PC Toby Ferguson and PCSO Hammond

Rural Crime Team

PC Simon Gomm Simon.gomm@wiltshire.police.uk

Crimestoppers UK is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime with 100% anonymity. Phone 0800 555 111
www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Victim Support

Is here to help anyone affected by crime. www.victimsupport.org.uk
Phone 0808 1689 111

YOUR FORCE >>> YOUR AREA >>> YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

We try to help whenever we can, but we're not always the best people to call in every situation



Abandoned cars and anti-social parking are dealt with by local councils



Untaxed cars need to be reported to the DVLA



Any instance of fraud should be reported to Action Fraud



Lost or found dogs should be reported to the local dog warden



Noisy neighbours need to be reported to the council environmental health team

www.wiltshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information

LAVERSTOCK LADIES OPEN GROUP

It was good to meet up again in September after our August break. We were sad to hear of the death in August of our oldest member Joyce Holdsworth, who had been a member of our group for many years.

In September we enjoyed a BBQ in the garden of our member Carol Taylor in Potters Way (see photo.) We were lucky to have a fine and sunny afternoon after many days of rain.

The BBQ was enjoyed by all, and our thanks go to Carol and Sid for hosting the event and to Sarah Male who helped throughout.

Our meeting in October will be a talk by Ian Caskie who will tell us about the SS Great Britain and in November we are lucky to have the Salisbury Pluckers Ukulele band to entertain us.

Christmas is around the corner, and we will be celebrating this with a meal at the Old Mill restaurant in Harnham.

Looking ahead to the New Year and beyond we have a full programme and if you would like to join our group you would be very welcome. We meet in the village hall on the second Monday of the month at 7.45pm. For further details please contact Moya Hill at moyahill@hotmail.com or Carol Taylor on 01722 322702

We always welcome new members and meet on the second Monday of the month at 7.45pm in the Village Hall. For further details contact Moya Hill at moyahill@hotmail.com or Carol Taylor on 01722 322702.



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Website: www.itangelsalisbury.com

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Sarum u3a JOIN US!

We hold Monthly Meetings from 10am on the third Wednesday of the month with qualified professional speakers. These meetings are held at St Francis Church on Castle Road and begin with coffee/tea at 10am.

We offer a huge variety of Interest Groups led by members with knowledge, experience or simply an interest in the subject, generally meeting in their own homes.

Autumn/Winter Programme

November 19th	Hadrian Cook – Salisbury and its Suburbs from c1800
December 17th	Bethany Joyce – A Dark Christmas Tale
January 21st	The Great Baldini – Bringing the Magic
February 18th	Shaun Cole – The History of Men's Underwear since the Middle Ages

Guests are welcome

Lesley Waller, Speaker Secretary
u3asites.org.uk/sarum/welcome



Silver Salisbury's Coffee & Chat in Laverstock

10 – 11.30 am

Monday 1 September

Monday 6 October

3 November

1 December

**A place for older people
to catch up over a tea or
coffee, with occasional
guest speakers**

Laverstock & Ford Village
Hall Park Road, Laverstock
SP1 1RQ



Silver Salisbury's Coffee & Chat at Old Sarum

10 – 11.30 am

Friday 26 September

Friday 31 October

Friday 28 November

No meeting in Dec

**A place for older people
to catch up over a tea or
coffee, with occasional
guest speakers**

Old Sarum & Longhedge Community
Centre, Pheasant Drive, Old Sarum
Salisbury SP4 6GH

Contacts around the Parish

Air Cadets (Old Sarum)	http://bit.ly/40vdRC6	
Army Cadets (Old Sarum)	http://bit.ly/3RtDQ8y	
Cafe on the Green Toddler Grp, BF	outreach@salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk	
Cafe Craft Club, BF	Angela	cafeonthegreen@gmail.com
Cricket Club, Laverstock	Gary Shears (capt)	07960 830908
Evergreen Club, Laverstock	Nancy Joyce	01722 329150
Flora Mundi	Mrs D Stevens	01722 335770
GreenTrees Primary - Head	Alan Geary	01722 340596
Hampton Park Pavilion Bookings	Veronica Ford	hamptonparkpavilion@gmail.com
Laverstock & Ford Sports Club	07788 211583 lavyvclub@outlook.com	
Laverstock Arts Group	Fiona Forbes	01980 862368
Laverstock Beaver Scouts	Jane Waspe	01722 421287
Laverstock Cubs	Kate Knight	01980 622495
Laverstock Explorer Scouts	David Waspe	01722 421287
Laverstock Gardening Club	Jill Kay	01722 323407
Laverstock History / Archaeology	Bryan Evans	01722 320129
Laverstock Ladies Open Group	Carol Taylor	01722 322702
Laverstock Scouts	Russell Sachs	07718 826138
Laverstock & District Evening WI	Louise Hall	01722 326549
Milford Preservation Group	David Lovibond	01722 238852
Mother's Union Afternoon Grp, L	Pip Carter	07854 827233
	Joan Prior	01722 411846
New Sarum WI	Sue Luther	07931 582357
Old Sarum Aviation Museum	@BDACATOldSarum	01722 323636
Old Sarum Beaver, Cub & Scouts	oldsarumscouts@outlook.com	
Old Sarum Community Centre	01722 335349	
Old Sarum Primary School - Head	01722 410677	
Old Sarum Nursery	Rhiannon	01722 415598
		oldsarumnursery@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch	Ross Walker	ross.walker@wiltshirenhw.org
OS&L Community Pantry	Gemma Phillips	oslpantry@gmail.com
River Bourne Community Farm	01722 330667	
River Bourne Farm Shop & Cafe	01722 332749	

BF = Bishopdown Farm
L = Laverstock

Parish Contacts continued

Salisbury FC	info@salisburyfc.co.uk	01722 776655
Salisbury FC Womens		sfcwomen@salisburyfc.co.uk
Salisbury FC Youth	Paul Corfield	scoffercorfield@hotmail.com
Salisbury Medical Practice	Tanya McKay	01722 333034
Sarum Bridge Club	sarumbridge@gmail.com	
Salisbury Rotary	salisburyrotary@gmail.com	
Sarum U3a membership	Andrew Smith	sarumu3amembers@gmail.com
St. Andrews -Friends - Chair	Emily Wells	
St Andrews Primary School - Head	Jo Fernie	01722 503590
St. Andrews Toddlers - Chair	Char Parfett / Zoe Roe	standrewtoddlergroup@yahoo.com
St. Josephs - Head	Mr Matthew Higgins	01722 335380
TA Centre Old Sarum	Capt. David Oliver	01722 438300
The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust		info@dbct.org
The Duck Inn, Laverstock	01722 500288	ducklaverstock@gmail.com
Wyvern St Edmunds Academy - Head	Louise Henderson	01722 328565

Community Emergency Volunteers

Jon Gunns (CEV Coordinator)	cev@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk
Community Preparedness	www.communitiesprepared.org.uk
Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared	wiltshireandswindonprepared.org.uk

St Andrews & St. Marks & Church on the Green - Rev Andy Bousfield

Parish Office, Jane Holme, 07933 952171, office@stmarkstandrew.org (Tue, Thur & Fri mornings) Contact Andy on 07866 434117, vicar@stmarkstandrew.org
www.stmarkstandrew.org

Hope Church - Rev Suzie Allen

Pheasant Drive, Old Sarum, Salisbury, SP4 6PX
oldsarum@st-francischurch.org.uk
 Contact Suzie on 07401 191957

Deaf Chaplaincy Service

Rev. Neil Robinson
 SMS number 07717 055219
 email deafpriest@icloud.com

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Westside Close, Old Sarum Salisbury SP4 6BX

The Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham at Holy Redeemer, Bishopdown

Fr Jonathan Creer, 07724 896579, jonathan.creer@hotmail.co.uk

Most Holy Redeemer, Fotherby Crescent, Bishopdown SP1 3EG 01722 327354

Fr Anthony Paris, 07544 053785, anthony.paris@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office email office@salisburycatholics.org www.salisburycatholics.org

St Michaels and All Angels, Winterbourne Earls - Rev'd Peter Ostli-East

The Vicarage Winterbourne Earls Salisbury Wiltshire SP4 6HA
 01980 611350 www.bournevalleychurches.org.uk

St Martin's Church

Parish Office St Martin's Church Street, Salisbury SP1 2HY

A priest can be made available by contacting the Parish administrator on: 01722 503123 Email: saint.martins.salisbury@gmail.com www.sarumstmartin.org.uk

VENUES AROUND THE PARISH

Laverstock & Ford Village Hall Casual Hire Available.
Spacious, light, with kitchen facilities. Not insured for bouncy castles
contact 01722 325160

Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Centre Casual Hire Available
Large spacious hall, seating 80+ people. Small hall which can be divided
into two opened. Commercial kitchen and facilities suitable for parties,
wedding receptions and training. WI Fi throughout the building

Phone 01722 335349 email venues@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Bookings: via website oslcommunitycentre.co.uk

The Pavilion, Hampton Park Casual Hire Available

The Pavilion is located on Ash Crescent at Hampton Park. It offers excellent
facilities for both indoor and outdoor sport, as well as a meeting place for
various groups and organisations or for parties/special occasions

Veronica Ford mobile 07483 894519 email hamptonparkpavilion@gmail.com
website: www.hamptonparkpavilion.org

Boscombe Down Aviation Museum - Conference Room available
contact the Visits Manager 01722 323636

The Ray MacEnhill Stadium Meeting Rooms
email info@salisburyfc.co.uk or call 01722 776655.

Milford House Care Home

We have gorgeous lounges where local groups are welcome to meet. So
if Milford House could fit the bill for your group why not give us a call on
01722 322737 and come along and have a look and see how we might be able
to help you - we have spaces that would accommodate activities such as
wreath making workshops, a committee meeting, a book club or even using
the garden for a nature trail or sketching.



We offer local support anyone in Wiltshire experiencing
Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence, Stalking or
Harassment helping them to rebuild their lives free
from fear and abuse.

Support Tel (9am - 5pm) Monday to Friday: 01225 775276

Outside of our opening times we recommend signposting people to these
numbers. In an emergency, always call 999

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (24hrs)

Rape Crisis: 0808 500 2222 (24hrs) fearfree.org.uk



1944-45 - THE ZENITH OF THE AIR OBSERVATION POST

PART THREE By Major PEA Hope RA (Retd)

Ground Attack

Major General Parham and Captain Belfield called their excellent book on the Air OP "Unarmed Into Battle" but on at least two occasions Air OP aircraft were very much armed. In November 1944 657 Squadron were visited by Vladimir Peniakoff ("Popski", the leader of Popski's Private Army) who was raiding several farms that had been converted into strong points near Ravana. One called Casa del Guardiano he could not reach because of local flooding. He, therefore, asked that the Austers be used as bombers. Loaded with 4.5 inch mortar bombs, PIAT projectiles and hand grenades, Popski and his second in command, Captain Yunnie were taken on several runs at tree top height with great success. The second armed attack was at the crossing of the Rhine. Captain Sharp of 661 Squadron was observing the extreme left flank when he saw approximately 100 men digging in opposite the town of Rees. He called for fire but was told that the target was out of range of any available guns. He immediately returned to his landing ground, had the Perspex panel opposite the rear seat taken out, had the radio removed and with Captain Lindsell set off with a Bren gun and plenty of magazines. They made several passes emptying a magazine each time with excellent results until they were badly hit from the ground and had to break off the action.

Resupply and casualty evacuation

Despite their limited load carrying capability, the Austers of 656 Squadron did very valuable work in resupplying forward elements in Burma and evacuating casualties.

Other Tasks

In the advance from Normandy some Austers were fitted with loudspeakers and used for traffic control. The Air OP was called upon for the reconnaissance of routes on many occasions and provided Immediate information to ground commanders after landing near their headquarters and sometimes provided running commentaries on the situation on the ground. In Burma the Austers dropped leaflets on the retreating enemy urging them to surrender and also laid telephone cable over the jungle and rivers to provide land line communications. Six miles of cable could be carried by each aircraft. In Italy a South African sapper trod on a mine in very long grass, He was invisible to his friends who called upon the Air OP for help. The pilot spotted him, Indicated where he was, allowing the unit to clear a direct path and rescue him.

End of the War

At the end of the war in Europe on 8th May and in the Far East on 15th August 1945 all Air OP aircraft were used for liaison duties, helping with the administration work of the occupying forces. There then followed a rapid run down of what was once a large organisation but one very economical in its command structure. The highest command rank was major RA.

Conclusions

The Air OP was very highly regarded by senior commanders but the cost was high. 579 Gunner officers qualified as Air OP pilots during the war including those from Poland Canada and South Africa and one each from Belgium, The Netherlands, Argentina and India. 67 pilots were killed, mainly from anti-aircraft fire and accidents but also from enemy aircraft, small arms fire from the ground and strikes from our own shells. 129 pilots and two ground crew were decorated. Millions of shells were directed but it is difficult to estimate how many shoots were carried out. However, it is known that, for instance, 657 Squadron flew over 5,000 operational sorties between first coming into action in April 1944 and the end of the war with a break when it moved from Italy to the Netherlands. That makes 416 sorties a month. Also, it is known that Captain Coles in one day flew 6 hours and 40 minutes during which he engaged 5 divisional targets, 6 regimental targets and one battery target. Every order was promptly carried out except in the case of very bad weather indeed. Many rules were broken but one never was, whatever the risk; supporting the infantry, who they admired so much. Perhaps that was the only rule that really mattered.

Sources: Unarmed into Battle by HJ Parham and EMG Belfield, Picton Publishing 1986, Memoirs of an Air Observation Post Officer by A Lyell, Picton Publishing 1985, The Air Observation Post by HC Bazeley, published privately, Air OP Remembered by IG Neilson, published privately in 2014, Warlike Sketches by A Macfarlane, published privately. Artillery on the Modern Battlefield, PEA Hope, Duncan Medal Essay winner 1978.



BISHOPDOWN FARM RESIDENTS

It is now a few months since Salisbury Reds moved our central city bus stop for the PR7 from outside Tesco Supermarket to Endless Street.

Please could you let me know if you are pleased with this move or if you have any concerns still.

My email address is:

lesleywaller@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Lesley Waller, Ward Councillor for Bishopdown Farm



BISHOPDOWN FARM YOUTH Club



A safe, supportive space for yrs 6 - 11, welcoming everyone

GAMES>>>CRAFTS>>>SPORTS>>>SNACKS

For a sign-up form visit the club or for more information call the Communities office on 01722 417100.



Thursdays 5 - 6.30 pm
term-time only



**Hampton Park
Pavilion, Ash
Crescent SP1 3GY**



Join Now!



**communities@
salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk**

**SALISBURY
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Old Sarum & Longhedge
YOUTH CLUB

JOIN US!

Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Centre
for ages 10 - 18
⌚ **6 - 7.30 pm**

 Come along, meet new people have a chat and get involved in some activities. It's **FREE** to attend, but young people will need to register when attending. The SMASH! Youth Project team look forward to seeing you there!



 **COMMUNITY FUND**  **Wiltshire Council** 

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

BATT & BROADBENT SOLICITORS 00	MATON TAX ACCOUNTING 00
BONALLACK & BISHOP SOLICITORS 13	SPIRE HOMECARE 13
NORTHWOOD LETTINGS AGENCY 9	BLUEBIRD CARE 9
OLD SARUM NURSERY 9	TAYLORED ROOM DESIGNS 9
DANIELS TREE & GARDENING SERVICE 32	FRIENDLY IT SERVICES - IT ANGEL 32
AARON MCBRIDE PAINTER & DECORATOR 32	MAX PRESSURE PLUMBING 28
PAUL TIDMARSH PAINTER & DECORATOR 28	SALISBURY FLOWER SHED 28
PARKER BULLEN SOLICITORS 41	OCKENDEN TREE SERVICES 41



Laverstock Beaver Scouts

Are out and about in Laverstock on Saturday mornings

9.30 Meet up time/10.45 Home time

Our meeting place is Laverstock and Ford Village Hall
SP11RQ

We get together for a Log chew chat

We like playing games

We like Making things

We enjoy exploring the outdoors

We explore the World

COME AND JOIN THE FUN AND ADVENTURE

Contact Beaver Team Lead, email jane.waspe@btinternet.com

Could you be a Laverstock Scout Group Lead Volunteer?

Laverstock Scout Group is a group of 80 children from 6 to 14 years plus 3 team leads and 9 team members. We need a lead volunteer to support us.

We are looking for a friendly, enthusiastic person who could step into this role. It's a great way to support fellow volunteers, meet new people and help young people thrive. You do not need to be an expert, we just need your people skills. Support and training given.

Could you be this person, alone or using your strengths as part of a job-share?

Taking Laverstock forward, liaising with Laverstock Trustees and District Scouting.

If you think this maybe you and would like to discuss it further just email jane.waspe@btinternet.com

Volunteering near you at Laverstock Scout Group

Could you be a Scout team member?

Choose from Beavers 6-8 years, Cubs 8-10½ years and Scouts 10½-14 years. All sections help young people thrive and teach them skills for life. We aim to make meetings fun and part of the big Scouting adventure.

We are all members of volunteer teams doing as little or as much as we can to provide Scouting for young people. So, regardless of how much time you have to spare, a rewarding and fun experience awaits

you. You're welcome to join us for a taster session to see whether it might suit you. Just let me know.

Some online training to keep our young people safe is required.

We look forward to welcoming you whether you are younger, older, working or retired or just needing some work experience. Come and join us for a fresh challenge.

Just contact Jane Waspe jane.waspe@btinternet.com

Scouts 
1st Laverstock





Heartfelt support for the COMMUNITY PANTRY

What began as a simple Community Fridge has grown into something far greater: The Community Pantry. The shift began when Nina Cope, then Centre Manager, came on board and helped develop the project into what it is today. Nina now shares the role of Pantry Manager with Gemma, and together they've helped turn an idea into a vital local service. As word spread and more donations came in, the team trialled extra projects, like the Good Grub Club, and explored different models to meet growing demand. Partnerships were formed, ideas were shared—but at the core of everything was a clear and unwavering purpose:

To ensure no one in the community goes hungry, that food waste is put to good use, and that people come together to support each other through the ever-changing challenges of the rising cost of living.

Over time, some of the original volunteers moved on, but new people continue to step forward. The Pantry is, and always has been, a community-powered effort.

This year, the team trialled an extra Friday session alongside the usual Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning openings. While it was well-received by the community, the funding just wasn't there to keep it going. With continued local support, shared knowledge from similar initiatives like The Pantry in Salisbury, and the dedication of an amazing volunteer team, there's every reason to believe in what's next.

The Pantry is thrilled to welcome a new volunteer focused on securing funding—an essential step in supporting the growing demand for their services. Nina Cope states “We’re excited about the opportunities this brings as we continue to serve our community. We are also looking for someone to help with PR, and a Car-Boot enthusiast to sell donated items for us, that we can’t offer at Pantry sessions”.

At the end of September, Gemma and long-time volunteer Sue Luther—who also serves as Chair of New Sarum WI—attended the Young Farmers Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral. The service brought together farmers from Salisbury, Purton, Cricklade, Malmesbury, Devizes, and Chippenham. Gemma shared: “We are so grateful for this wonderful donation of fresh produce and pantry items, which are all very much needed at the moment. This will help so many families. It was a lovely service to have been a part of—we were delighted to be invited.”

Recently the team have visited Porton C of E, Chafyn Grove and Amesbury CE Primary Schools, where pupils had collected items for The Pantry. At Amesbury a child’s poster read, “*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart*”—a message that truly resonated with the team.

Gemma, Nina, and the whole Pantry crew remain humbled by the ongoing generosity and are undaunted by the challenges ahead.

Here’s how you can get involved:

Donate food or essential items – Every contribution makes a difference.

Volunteer your time – From sorting items to helping during opening hours.

Fundraise or offer financial support – Enable them to keep the shelves stocked and services running. Spread the word – Share their mission with your community.

- If you’ve been helped by the Pantry in the past and are now in a position to give back, consider donating via the Pantry ‘Old Sarum & Longhedge Community’ Amazon Wishlist
- You can donate to their Just Giving campaign using this QR code





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