

# NEWSLETTER

## LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

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



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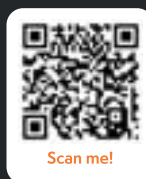
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*Front cover image: New Finger Post in Ford*

# View from the Chair

As we move further into the brighter months, the parish feels as though it's fully shaking off the last of winter and settling confidently into the rhythm of spring turning to summer. Footpaths are busier, gardens are waking up, and there's a renewed sense of energy across Laverstock, Ford, Bishopdown Farm, Milford, Old Sarum and Longhedge.

It's one of my favourite moments of the year — a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in a parish with such rich green spaces and such strong community spirit.



Over recent months, the Parish Council has continued its steady work on the practical things that support daily life here. From traffic and safety concerns to the upkeep of play areas and open spaces, much of what we do happens quietly in the background, but it all contributes to the wellbeing of our residents. We also remain committed to supporting local groups and events, which play such an important role in bringing people together.

Many of you will be aware of the recent planning inspectorate decisions overturning local refusals on major housing appeals, including Old Sarum Airfield. Like many



residents, I am disappointed by these outcomes. Local voices and local knowledge matter, and it is frustrating when decisions affecting our community are taken out of our hands. Nevertheless, I want to reassure you that the Parish Council will continue to engage fully with the process. If development proceeds, we will work hard to secure the best possible outcomes – protecting green spaces, ensuring proper infrastructure, and standing up for the needs of residents.

One of the things I value most as Chair is seeing how many people care deeply about their neighbourhoods. Whether it's joining a litter pick, supporting a community event, or simply looking out for one another, these small acts help build the kind of parish we can all be proud of.

As we look ahead to the summer, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved. We have also entered a new grant year, and the Parish Council is keen to support local projects that strengthen community life. If you're a part of a group, club, or initiative that could benefit from funding, visit page 26 for guidance on how to apply.

Thank you for your continued support and for everything you do to make Laverstock & Ford Parish such a vibrant and welcoming parish. I look forward to seeing many of you out and about as the days grow longer and brighter.

## Deadline Information

Submission deadline for the July / August Summer Newsletter edition is the 29th May.

Please submit articles, images, or ideas for the newsletter to Eloise, Communications Officer at [communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk).

It was reported in error in the March/April Newsletter that Mulepackers had raised a total of £1600 (for the Laverstock and Ford Village Hall), with the other half of their donations going to Cancer Research.

Correction: Mulepackers have donated £1,600 solely to the Laverstock and Ford Village Hall in the year 2025.

## Where In The Parish

This picture was taken somewhere in Laverstock and Ford Parish, can you guess where?

Find the answer at the back of the Newsletter, page 47.



# Park and Ride 7 City Centre Bus Stop



**M**any thanks to all the residents who sent me their comments on the City Centre Bus Stop in Endless Street for the P&R7 bus service to Bishopdown Farm.

Since receiving these I have written to David Newton, Operations Manager for Reds in Salisbury outlining our concerns whilst also acknowledging that some passengers welcome the move from outside of the Tesco store in Castle Street. I copied my letter to Wiltshire Councillor Martin Smith and Phil Grocock, Bus Network Manager at Wiltshire Council.

In my letter I spelt out the views of nine residents using initials to protect privacy.

In summary these views express the following:-

- The convenience for some of have the bus stop for the R2 and P&R7 next to each other.
- The Health and Safety concerns of an overcrowded pavement forcing pedestrians into the road and the dangers of this behaviour.
- The unsuitability of Endless Street for tourists visiting our Mediaeval City aesthetically and by location.
- The lack of seating for elderly and disabled passengers as well as concerns about the location which means that passengers with mobility issues have further to walk than our previous bus stop in Blue Boar Road.

The narrow pavement causes concern as it poses a potential risk to pedestrians who may be forced into the road. It is also not possible to provide seating for elderly or disable passengers.

Whilst there is merit in having the bus stops for the R2 and the P&R7 next to each other if both bus stops were moved to Blue Boar Road this would address all passenger concerns of access, suitability and safety.

Finally, I requested that the 'perching bar' be replaced by more suitable seating for whichever bus service operates along Endless Street. I notice that this 'bar' which is not at the right level, is not attached to the bus shelter so this could be an easy to achieve upgrade to the benefit of some of your elderly passengers. A notice giving them priority would also be welcome.

To date I have not had a reply, but I will let you know what Reds and Wiltshire Council say when I do.

**Lesley Waller**, *Parish Councillor for Bishopdown Farm ward.*

# FULL COUNCIL MEETING UPDATES

## FEbruary – Community Messaging & Councillor Allowances Policy

### Community Messaging

First, the council heard the public's views and concerns. One attendee expressed concern regarding muddy paths connecting Old Sarum and Longhedge to open spaces, limiting the accessibility of the area.

Another spoke of the Neighbourhood Watch, encouraging councillors to engage with their Community Messaging initiative.

Here's the information on the Wiltshire & Swindon Community Messaging Service and how to use it from Ross Walker of Neighbourhood Watch:

Welcome to Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging.

This service allows residents to receive free messages and alerts from their local Neighbourhood Policing Team about policing and crime matters in their area. It is designed to improve the flow of information between communities and the local police and fire service.

The communication can be via email, text or voicemail, depending on preference. There is also the choice of which organisations' messages are received from, for example, Wiltshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Report Fraud, and Get Safe Online.

In addition, messages can also be replied to with relevant information. For example, this could support the local enforcement to better police your area.

To sign up to Community Messaging, complete the form on this webpage:  
<https://www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk>

Or, email directly at [communitymessaging@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:communitymessaging@wiltshire.police.uk).

This email address can also be used to change contact preferences or unsubscribe at any time.

Lastly, if you have a video doorbell or CCTV on your home or business premises, you could support an appeal for video coverage when the police are investigating a crime or a missing person. By letting the Community Messaging Team know of the camera, they can speed up their operation and support the local community.

### Councillor Allowance Policy

Another topic which was spoken of amongst councillors was the implementation of the Parish Councillor Allowances Policy. The approval of such a policy has allowed the Parish Councillor role to be moved from solely volunteer-based to one that receives financial support.

The decision followed a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel of Wiltshire Council, titled Review of City, Town and Parish Allowances (May 2025). The report suggested that a parish the size of Laverstock & Ford should consider adopting councillor allowances, as it faces more complex and wide-ranging issues than smaller parish councils.

The Basic Allowance that a Parish Council can adopt is based on the number of electors within the Parish boundary. Laverstock and Ford has an approximate electorate of 8,000 and therefore deems the maximum annual Basic Allowance to be £825 per councillor.

One of the aims of the policy is to help create a Parish Council that better represents the views of the community. In particular, this support could encourage single parents and others with caring responsibilities to consider standing as councillors.

Councillors therefore considered the financial barriers to entry that individuals who care for others may face when stepping into the role. The Councillor Allowance Policy could, for example, support the cost of childminding, after-school club, and cover for care.

Another reason for the adoption of the policy is to recognise the significant time commitment the role can involve. It will allow for councillors to feel supported, whilst also offering some remuneration to those who consistently go above and beyond for the Parish.

As the responsibilities and demands of the Parish Council continue to grow, the role increasingly requires more time and commitment, moving the role beyond what can reasonably be expected of a purely voluntary position.

With the policy in place, the Council can ensure that individuals are not personally out of pocket for fulfilling their duties.

Within the policy terms, there is no obligation for councillors to accept the payment.

The Council recognises that views on this topic may vary and welcomes questions from the public.

If you would like to discuss, we encourage you to reach out to your local ward councillor to discuss any opinions relating to the topic of Councillor Allowances or any other of interest.

## **MARCH – Grant Provisions & Community Venues Plan**

### **Planning Applications:**

The March meeting had full council attendance, allowing for productive discussion on a variety of matters.

The first topic on the agenda was several planning applications. The most notable being a proposal to site 23 containers on the land adjacent to the Old Sarum Cottages on the Portway. The council resolved to object to the application on the grounds that it would

violate Policy 2 of the Laverstock and Ford Communities Neighbourhood Plan. This is due to it being visible from the Old Sarum Monuments if built.

More information about planning decisions can be found on page 42.

### **Grant Applications:**

The council received a grant application from the Old Sarum Community Centre to fund the salary of their Centre Manager. The approved grant sum of £15,000 will partly fund the role which manages a public building open for all to use for sports, education and social wellbeing.

If you would like to know how to apply for a community grant from the Parish Council, visit page 26.

### **Community Venues Plan:**

The Parish Clerk circulated a report to councillors outlining the issues our community venues are currently facing. Included in the report were three options to provide long-term sustainable support in light of these matters.

Each building has unique problems. One causes significant personal risk to trustees of the operating charity due to its legal structure. Its lease is running down, so now is the perfect time to revisit its governance structure as part of the lease renewal negotiation.

The council reviewed the options and resolved to establish a new incorporated charity to manage multiple venues. A new management plan will also be arranged in line with the CIO structure, relieving pressure from the current charitable organisations in place.

The council will then be in the position to manage and make key decisions for the venues in the Parish. It will, of course, still welcome the support of volunteers and members of the community who have an interest in venue operation.

The council is conscious of limiting the impact on users of the Parish buildings. If there is something you would like to discuss on this matter, please reach out to your local ward councillor, details of which can be found on page 44.

Processing the formation of a CIO and management plan will take some time, so it may be a few months before another update can be provided.

### **NEXT MEETING DATES – May / June / July**

You are invited to attend the next Full Council meetings to either share your opinions/concerns on Parish-related matters, or to hear the discussion between councillors.

<b>18th May – Full Council Meeting</b>	Old Sarum Community Centre, 19:00
<b>15th June – Full Council Meeting</b>	Old Sarum Community Centre, 19:00
<b>20th July – Full Council Meeting</b>	Old Sarum Community Centre, 19:00



# Summer

## EVENTS IN THE PARISH

# Beetle Drive

\*RAFFLE\*  
\*Lucky dip prize  
after each game\*



Laverstock and Ford Village Hall

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm

Doors open at 6:30 pm

The game is played in teams of 2. The aim of the game is to be the first to draw a complete beetle. Each part of the beetle's body has a number that matches a number on the dice, but you must roll a 6 to start with and draw the body of the beetle. The game then continues with each player taking turns to roll the dice and draw their beetle. The first player to draw a complete beetle shouts "BEETLE" and is the winner of that round.

£6.00 per person -  
including light refreshments

Contact: Sue Gallagher  
0791713702

Salisbury Fundraising Committee for




OLD SARUM COMMUNITY CENTRE

# BIG LUNCH

AT PHEASANT DRIVE

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## The Strawberry Cream Tea Sunday

Join us for a lovely afternoon tea in aid of  
Cancer Research UK



Feat. The Sky Larks

Tombola & Raffle

In the garden of Sue Gallagher, Woodside, Duck Lane,  
Laverstock, SP1 1PU

Sunday June 28

15:00 - 17:30



St Andrew's Laverstock is proud to introduce the first Laverstock Midsummer Music Festival, 20th -21st & 27th -28th June 2026. It's a free festival of music featuring local talent, as well as emerging and established groups. We will have music running all day through both weekends, all located at St Andrew's Church.

**Featured Artists:** Bluestone Arc; Tripwire; The Salisbury Pluckers Ukulele Band; Damian Clarke Hammer Dulcimer and Hurdy Gurdy; Maerefolk... and many more including some of our local schools and residents.

**Featuring Events such as:** Festival Concert; Hymns & Pimm's; Open Mic; and a Festival Service.

All events, day and night, are free to enter and donations may be made to help restore our fine Gray & Davidson pipe organ.

Come together with friends and family to enjoy some great summer social occasions that fill our Victorian church - and churchyard.



Full details at [www.stmarkstandrew.org](http://www.stmarkstandrew.org) or through our QR code.



We also hold Open Mic Events, where you're welcome to bring along an instrument and get involved!

## STRUGGLE TO HEAR?

### The way forward...

Do you ever feel as though nobody is talking to you or that they make no sense? Does the cashier at the supermarket not speak clearly? Do you need the subtitles on the TV but don't want everyone else to get annoyed? **You are not alone.**



Salisbury Lipreading classes can help you enhance your life by teaching you new skills to overcome a lack of communication. Lessons cover a multitude of topics and are suitable for anyone with any form of hearing loss.

Deafness is an isolating disability, and both sudden and gradual loss of hearing is disorienting and can be very frightening, frustrating, and even embarrassing at times.. However, the community at the Lipreading classes can help limit these effects.

It has been some time since Lipreading classes began in Salisbury, and their success is obvious. Students in the current classes have progressed and will be continuing their quest to improve their ability to handle situations that people with forms of hearing loss struggle with daily.

Discover how to overcome frustration and embarrassment and enjoy social occasions, your hobbies and clubs again.

Recently, due to demand, new classes were opened so now there is availability at St. Thomas's House in central Salisbury on Wednesdays both in the morning and afternoon.

On Mondays in Amesbury, there is similar availability.

Get in touch if you would like to come along. Classes are run by the local Community Group so there are no fixed fees. However, they do ask for an anonymous donation each time you attend.

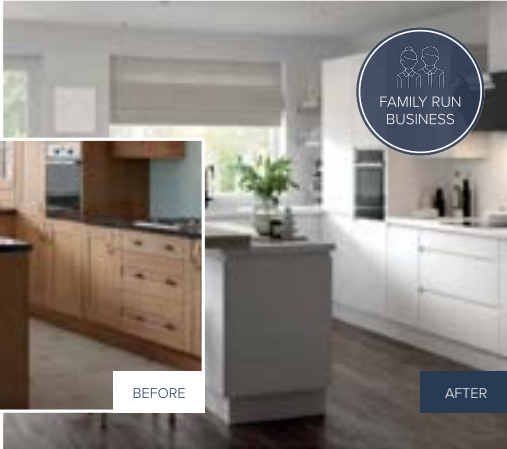
Come and have some fun learning to cope and meet others who also have hearing loss. If you are struggling – even just a bit – and would like further information, some help or advice, please contact the local Lipreading Tutor on [tutor.wordofmouth@gmail.com](mailto:tutor.wordofmouth@gmail.com) – Michelle will be happy to help.



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# Open Farm Sunday

## on Laverstock Water Meadows

**Every year, farmers across England organise a national event called Open Farm Sunday, where they invite local communities to learn about farming in their area and where their food comes from.**

**T**his year, Open Farm Sunday is being held on the 7th June, and for the third year running, Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust is taking part.

You are warmly welcomed to visit the Laverstock Water Meadows on this day to explore our nearly 70 acres of water meadow and ever-growing community orchard.

Our mission is to conserve land for wildlife, as well as to preserve its cultural value.

Ensuring local people can enjoy recreation compatible with the heritage value of our land is an important aim for us, as is providing education opportunities about sustainable agricultural and horticultural practices.

We will be running a similar Open Farm Sunday event to the successful day in 2025, except a new nature play trail will be open, which our volunteers have been busy creating with the help of 1st Laverstock Scouts.

Volunteers will be putting on a show for Open Sunday guests that includes a demonstration of hay making through the ages. We'll also be hosting some agricultural and horticultural activities for you to take part in.

Depending on how the meadows have dried out after the rainy season, the first cattle and sheep should be roaming across part of the land.

The Trust was formed when a Canadian Philanthropist, Peter Bradshaw, offered to help purchase a tract of Laverstock Water Meadows for the purposes described above. This objective was first achieved in 2018, and we have subsequently been able to purchase more parcels of land in Laverstock and Ford Parish as well as Salisbury City, with the help of Peter and other donors. Peter's mother's maiden name was Bradshaw, hence the full charity title.

The Trust is gradually building our resources so we can look to the future as a resilient charitable organisation. Our big project for the next four years will be to renovate our only building, a semi-detached derelict agricultural barn. The revitalisation of the barn will allow us to have safe coverage on the land for community use.

Concept models of the Barn Project will be on display at the Open Farm Sunday, and we encourage you to come take a look to see what's in the works and how you can get involved.

One opportunity is to become part of a team that is currently being organised to put together a Heritage Project bid called the Bourne Barn Revival, named after the beautiful River Bourne that flows close to the barn.

To get involved at the Laverstock Water Meadows drop us a line through our website contact link on [www.dbct.org.uk](http://www.dbct.org.uk)



## Parish Operations Update

The Operations Team has been progressing a number of initiatives across the parish in recent months, one of which is the purchase and installation of two additional speed detection devices. Data from these devices is collected and shared with Wiltshire Police to support analysis and the potential deployment of Community Speed Watch teams. It is also hoped their presence will encourage safer driving through the parish.

**W**ith the growing season well underway, grass cutting across parish land is in full swing. If residents notice any Parish-owned areas that may have been missed, or vegetation causing visibility issues or blind spots on highways, they are encouraged to report this to the Parish Clerk so these can be reviewed and, where appropriate, addressed by the Wiltshire Highways Stewards to keep junctions and signage clear and visibility good.

The Parish has recently noticed that litter bins across the area are being used for excess household waste on a regular basis. This is causing bins to overflow and poses potential risk to wildlife and pets in the area. Any additional waste should be taken to the Salisbury Household Recycling Centre in the Churchill Industrial Estate.

If you're out and about during May, you may come across our independent tree survey specialists, carrying out planned inspections across the Parish estate. Ash dieback remains a significant issue in the UK, and this is an important time to identify any concerns and help ensure the long-term health of the parish's tree stock for everyone to enjoy.

# Laverstock Gardening Club



Laverstock gardening club meets on the fourth Monday of most months in Laverstock & Ford Village Hall at 7:30 pm. There is usually a talk by a guest speaker followed by refreshments. It's a great opportunity to meet and share gardening tips.

Our February talk was by Penny Ibbs of the Secret Garden volunteers. She outlined the history of the Grade II listed house and the origins of the current garden. The garden was saved from being built on, and underwent some construction so that water from the office roofs is stored in cisterns under the car park. They have had support for various projects from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, the City Council and the County Council. An assortment of beds and borders creates a variety of vistas, and there are some raised beds too. It's a lovely place to visit when in town.

In March, our talk on dahlias was by Nick Gilbert of Gilbert's Nurseries. There are about fifteen types of dahlia, and he showed examples of each. It is the national flower of Mexico, and the Aztecs used to eat them! The Swede Dahl introduced them to Europe as a possible food plant.

We were told how to plant tubers for display or for cuttings, which diseases to watch out for and how to overwinter the plants. We were also taught that regular dead-heading encourages flowering, and the dried seed-pods can provide seeds for growing new forms. Nick even had tubers for sale after the talk.

On May 25th, Ray Broughton returns to talk about horticulture and on June 22nd, Thomas Clarke, head gardener at Exbury, talks about his work.

For more information,  
please contact  
David Hutchinson on  
01722 334036

The Laverstock Gardening Club  
Annual Show

With the sun starting to make a more regular appearance, the main event of the Laverstock Gardening Club is right around the corner.

You are warmly invited to the Annual Showcase on the 8th of August 2026, where club members and the general public alike can come to view the arrangements.

Guests will be able to witness amazing displays, created by club members, that use flowers, fruit and vegetables, as well as cookery, and arts and crafts.

Tea, coffee and delicious cake will be on sale to keep you going as you take in the artful work of local people.

Entry to the event is free of charge, and it is being held at the Laverstock and Ford Village Hall, just off Duck Lane.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, square framed artwork, possibly a miniature garden scene or a craft project.



# Creativity in the Parish



Find out what your artistic neighbours have been up to these past months and how you can support their hard work!

## Jekyll & Hyde

Musical Theatre Salisbury (MTS) presents 'Jekyll & Hyde, The Musical' at the Salisbury Playhouse in July 2026.



A dark and thrilling musical set in Victorian London, Jekyll & Hyde blends a gothic atmosphere, a bold pop-rock score, and emotionally charged storytelling to deliver a gripping mix of drama, suspense, and desire. Striking performances, soaring vocals, and tightening tension at every turn promise a night of danger, passion, and music that lingers long after the curtain falls.

Cast members Adam, Claire, Josh, Kevin, Laura & Liz from Laverstock and Ford Parish are excited to share their experience in the production with the wider community.

Liz, the Society's Musical Director since 2011, said that she has been involved with productions for more years than she would care to count! Her love affair with musical theatre started when her mother took her to see Lilac Time with the wonderful Joyce Bowden as the leading lady. Now she is set to direct the musical numbers in Jekyll & Hyde, which "is particularly well-crafted" by Frank Wildhorn and delivers spine-tlingling harmonies that everyone has worked so hard to master – "simply glorious!"

At its core, Jekyll & Hyde delves deeply into the theme of duality and the struggle between the light and dark within us all. The narrative examines identity, moral conflict, and the consequences of unchecked ambition, as Dr. Jekyll's scientific obsession spirals far beyond his control.

Josh, taking on the challenge to embody Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, at first felt a little daunted at the prospect of switching character, even mid-scene or mid-song. But through phenomenal support from the creative team and sharing the stage with "a brilliant company", is ready to perform.

Laura will also be tackling the idea of duality within the ensemble characters she has been cast into, exploring the diversity between the lower and upper classes. It's time for her to start practicing her cockney accent!

Layered within the notes of madness, desire, and self-destruction, the show also explores love, longing, and emotional turmoil, highlighting how relationships can both anchor and unravel a person.

In this production, the characters are as complex and diverse as the themes. Simon Stride, a particularly awful man solely interested in his own success, is being portrayed by Adam, who shared that “making him completely irredeemable is a delightful task”. On the flip side, Claire, who has been involved with musical theatre for 38 astounding years, is playing Nellie – “who wouldn’t want to be a ‘tart with a heart’!”

When the cast were asked ‘what is it about this performance that fills them with excitement’, the most popular response was “the music”. Adam, who has been singing his way through life since he first got into musical theatre 20 years ago, explained that the songs are “really powerful and driving”, which reflect the dark tale of Jekyll & Hyde.

The large ensemble numbers, such as ‘Facade’, “bring the whole company together in harmony”. With the songs already sounding fantastic, the cast cannot wait for them to be experienced by the audience, who are surely set to be amazed.

Kevin, playing Spider, a Victorian pimp, especially loves the sheer drama of this show, and is “looking forward to seeing it come to life on the big stage with the lighting and costumes bringing it to life”.

Josh mentioned that his audition song for MTS was ‘This Is the Moment’ over eight years ago. “To now perform it in the role it was written for feels incredibly meaningful and a full-circle moment.”

Everyone joins musical theatre for different reasons. For Kevin, “it’s the thrill of seeing the audience’s faces and feeling the music flow through the cast”, and for Adam “it’s the challenge of being able to convincingly convey a character”. On a slightly different path, Laura finds that “it’s a great distraction from life, work and politics”. The singing and dancing help improve her mental health.

Even though each person has their own unique reasons for performance and individual lives, all come together for musical theatre. Claire shared that “MTS is like an extended family, we love to greet new members, and I have made many lifelong friends”. Adam echoed this. “It feels like a family where everyone looks after each other”.

Liz has simply “loved working with this great bunch of singers, dancers, and actors”, adding that the company is “blessed with a wealth of talented soloists” who have filled her with admiration as they “develop their storytelling through song, embracing every nuance of their character”.

But it’s not just the performers who make a show. The amazing input of the technicians, stage crew, and wardrobe team glues the entire production together into something that the audience will be blown away by.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at the Playhouse Box Office, by visiting the website <https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/events/jekyll-hyde> or by phone 01722 320333.

## Checkmate

The Newbourne Players are set to show their comedic production of **'The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery'**, also known as **'Checkmate'**, at Winterbourne's Glebe Hall in mid-May.

The production playfully explores themes such as mistaken identity, amateur dramatics and the unpredictability of live performance. Expect things to go hilariously wrong, but still come together in the end in the most entertaining of ways.

The play is a part of a well-known Farndale series, which Parish locals, Martin, and particularly Liz, were very keen to be a part of when the opportunity presented itself. Centred around a murder mystery, the comedy highlights teamwork and the joy of not taking things too seriously.

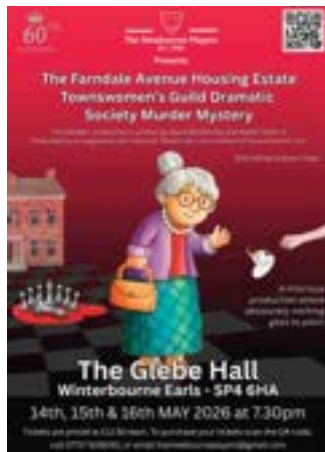
Martin has been a part of The Newbourne Players for over fifteen years, but his love of dramatics started well before, when he was a part of the drama group at Salisbury District Hospital, which really helped shape his passion for theatre. Martin is playing The Inspector, who ends up taking on the case at the last minute and hilariously bumbles through his investigation. "He's great fun to play".

Taking on a bit more of a chaotic challenge, Liz is playing multiple characters, each with their own distinct personality, and even unique accents! She said that keeping track of the costumes, mannerisms, and voices will be difficult, but it "is all part of the fun, and sometimes the chaos!"

Liz's background is in pantomime, but she joined The Newbourne Players three years ago, when she moved to the area. She shared that the twenty-five-strong group was very welcoming when she arrived, and in return, now organises social gatherings for members outside the weekly rehearsal. They visit theatres such as Salisbury Play House and The Mayflower Theatre, as well as taking part in quiz nights. "It really helps us bond as a group, and many genuine friendships have grown from it."

Rehearsals and preparation for Checkmate began in February, allowing the group to build their knowledge of the play, confidence and skills gradually. Martin explained that the team isn't just made up of actors and actresses, "there are many ways to get involved beyond acting. Backstage work, set building, costume design, prompting, and props are all vital parts of bringing a show to life."

The audience can expect a lively performance from a group that truly loves what they do, taking you on a surprise-filled murder mystery along the way. For tickets call Call 07727 608040 or email: [thenewbourneplayers@gmail.com](mailto:thenewbourneplayers@gmail.com)



## Salisbury Arts Trail/Phoenix Artists

Salisbury Art Trail is returning to the city and the wider areas from May until June, with one of the trail numbers being in Laverstock and Ford Parish.

Phoenix Artists (Mel Cane, Mary Gilson and guest artist, Ann Miller) are holding an art exhibition with a wide variety of crafts at River Bourne Community Farm, Cow Lane, SP1 2SR.

Mel, Mary and Ann will be hosting the exhibition from Saturday, 23rd May to Sunday, 31st May 2026, 10 am – 1 pm each day.

Please do bring friends to see the art and crafts, visit the animals and birds at the farm and enjoy refreshments in the farm café. Plenty of parking and toilets are available.

Catalogues will be available for anyone wishing to visit any of the other art trail exhibitions in the area.



## Greentrees Primary School



**Greentrees Primary School** is inviting local residents to consider becoming a voluntary Community Governor, a role that helps support and guide the school's ongoing development. You don't need to have children at the school - just enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and skills that might include things like strategic thinking, finance, business experience, or simply good local knowledge. Governors meet six times a year, visit the school regularly, and act as supportive partners to staff and leaders, helping ensure the school continues to run safely, effectively and with the children's best interests at heart. If you'd like to make a meaningful difference to your local school community, please contact the Clerk to the Governors ([clerk@greentrees.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@greentrees.wilts.sch.uk)) for further information about this role, or visit: <https://www.greentrees.wilts.sch.uk/about/governors/>

# Healthy Living in the Laverstock and Ford Parish

## Movement In The Great Outdoors

Laverstock and Ford Parish is blessed with many green spaces and public footpaths, which will be much more pleasant to explore now that the sun has appeared and dried the land underfoot.

Walking brings several happy and healthy benefits. For a start, it improves your heart health by boosting circulation and supports your overall endurance.

The more consistent you are, the greater you will reap the rewards, of improved restful sleep, a calmer mindset, and active mobility.

Riverbourne Community Farm have been kind enough to set out some trails for locals to explore, which are displayed on their website:

<https://www.riverbournecommunityfarm.org.uk/trails>

And, if you are looking for a group of friendly walkers to go out with, then the Ramblers Group might be the perfect fit: <https://www.ramblers.org.uk>

You could also wander around the Castle Hill Country Park, which is co-managed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Wessex Grounds Services who have ensured that the landscape is accessible, offering some surfaced paths and benches to enjoy a rest at. The Park is open access so you can visit whenever it suits you.

There are more details on their website:

<https://thelandtrust.org.uk/space/castle-hill-country-park/>

## Mindfulness & How It Supports Our Wellbeing

Anne Ewers, a local yoga teacher, has shared her guidance on mindfulness.

“Mindfulness, simply put, is the practice of paying attention to the present moment. It relies on principles of openness and non-judgement and asks you to slow down.

Many of us feel as though we are constantly rushing from one task to another, but mindful techniques such as body scans and breathwork can help us become aware of our thoughts, emotions, and physical sensations. All of which can alert us to feelings such as unease, frustration or anxiety, aiding us to respond to life more calmly, rather than react with stress.

Sometimes, symptoms of our stress and anxiety can show up physically, in tight shoulders, shallow breathing or a clenched jaw. Other times, emotionally, by being short-tempered or easily upset by situations.



The techniques outlined below could help ease any tension you may be experiencing and restore a sense of balance within. If performed regularly, they can help improve emotional resilience and make challenging situations easier to manage.”

## A Short Guide to Breathing Techniques

### 1. Deep Belly Breathing

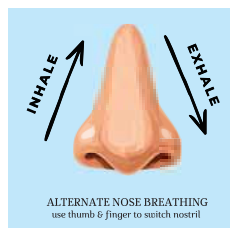
Sit comfortably and place one hand on your stomach. Focusing your breath through your nose, inhale slowly so your belly expands, then exhale gently. Repeat for 5–10 breaths.

This an excellent technique to start out with.

### 2. 4-4 Breathing

Inhale through your nose for a count of four, pause briefly at the top, noticing the stillness in the mind, then exhale for a count of four.

This one specifically helps steady the breath if its feeling shaky by calming the nervous system. It also improves concentration.



### 3. Alternate nostril breathing

This one requires a little more control. Place one hand on your belly and bring the other close to your face. Create a fist with the pinkie and thumb extending out (you might look a little like you’re at a rock concert). Place the thumb on one nostril and breath in. To breath out, alternate the nostril in use by releasing the thumb and placing the pinkie on the other.

Repeat the process by breathing in the same side you exhaled but always changing the side you breathe out of. See the diagram below for further guidance.

This technique requires more concentration and therefore is excellent at calming the mind as it focuses you in deeply to the breath and your movements.

Mindfulness is not about eliminating thoughts or achieving constant calm. It is about learning to observe our experiences with curiosity and kindness. Even a few minutes of daily practice can support greater wellbeing, clarity, and emotional balance.

## Fitness

Being a part of a fitness class is more likely to keep you consistent and help roots grow in long-term healthy living.

The Parish is blessed with all sorts of activities from CrossFit, gym memberships, casual dance clubs, martial arts, and so much more.

In Old Sarum industrial complex, you can find Innov8 Fitness, a small gym focused on group classes, or if you’re into functional fitness, then Sarum CrossFit might be your choice.

In the same industrial unity area, you could try out Impact Martial Arts. It's a friendly club for all levels with classes covering MMA, Boxing, Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. They also offer Juniors and Teens classes from aged 3 upwards, Women's Only classes and use of the Strength & Conditioning gym.

Also consider Parkwood located on London Road in Salisbury, opposite Bishopdown, this members-only club offers access to a 120-station gym, a 20m swimming pool, sauna, steam room, and a wide range of group exercise classes each week. The Club hosts fitness events and has an on-site cafe, which is central to the community atmosphere.

Their gym also offers expert support, including free inductions, personalised programmes, and regular reviews, giving you everything you need to achieve your goals. They also proudly run a comprehensive Swim England programme for both children and adults, offering structured lessons that build confidence, technique, and water safety at every stage of the swimming journey.

There are also a variety of exercise-based classes running at all our community venues: Hampton Park Pavilion, Old Sarum Community Centre, and Laverstock and Ford Village Hall. You can find out more about what is delivered at each venue by visiting their websites, which can be found below:

Old Sarum Community Centre: [www.oslcommunitycentre.co.uk](http://www.oslcommunitycentre.co.uk)

Laverstock and Ford Village Hall: [www.laverstockandfordvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.laverstockandfordvillagehall.co.uk)

Hampton Park Pavilion: [www.hamptonparkpavillion.co.uk](http://www.hamptonparkpavillion.co.uk)

## Contact Details for Local Groups:

### Impact Martial Arts

App: Download the Impact MMA App to book a class.

Website: [www.impactmmasalisbury.com](http://www.impactmmasalisbury.com),

Email: [info@impactmmasalisbury.com](mailto:info@impactmmasalisbury.com)

Phone: 01722697122

### Innov8 Fitness

Website: <https://innov8fitness.co.uk>,

Email: [info@innov8fitness.co.uk](mailto:info@innov8fitness.co.uk)

Phone: 01722 658050

### Sarum Crossfit

Website: <http://www.sarumcrossfit.com>,

Email: [info@sarumcrossfit.co.uk](mailto:info@sarumcrossfit.co.uk)

Phone: 01722 421211

### Yoga With Anne

Email: [aewersyogafitness@gmail.com](mailto:aewersyogafitness@gmail.com)



## DO I NEED A LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY? What you need to know by Wiltshire Citizens Advice

**T**he first thing to know is that anyone can make a lasting power of attorney; it's not something purely for older people to consider.

Appointing a lasting power of attorney (LPA) means nominating someone such as a trusted friend or relative to act on your behalf and manage your finances, care or medical treatment, if you ever lose mental capacity. This could be because you're diagnosed with a health condition that prevents you from doing so, or something happens to you, such as an accident.

The kinds of illness which might prevent you from making decisions for yourself include dementia, a brain injury, or the side-effects of medical treatment. Setting up an LPA doesn't mean you're expecting anything to happen, it's something you might want to do in case something happens in the future.

**There are two types of LPA, 'Property and Financial Affairs' and 'Health and Welfare'.** You don't have to make both types at the same time, but you must make an LPA while you are still capable of making decisions for yourself. This is called having mental capacity. Both types must be registered before they can be used, and you should choose who manages your affairs for you, if you're no longer able to, very carefully.

A *'Property and Financial Affairs LPA'* gives someone the authority to deal with and make decisions about things like buying or selling property, bank, building society and other financial accounts, welfare benefits and debts. You can give someone power of attorney to deal with all of those affairs, or only certain things. If you want to make an LPA which only deals with certain matters, you should make sure that it's drawn up carefully.

A *'Health and Welfare LPA'* gives someone the authority to deal with and make decisions about things like where you live, your day-to-day care, and your healthcare treatment - either for all aspects of your personal welfare, or only certain things. It's not possible to use a health and welfare LPA until the person who made it has lost their mental capacity.

There are two ways you can make an LPA – either online at: <https://www.lastingpowerofattorney.service.gov.uk/home> or by downloading the forms from gov.uk found on the weblink below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/make-a-lasting-power-of-attorney>

There is one form for 'Property and Affairs' and one for 'Health and Welfare'. If you want someone to look after both aspects, you'll need two separate LPAs.

Once completed, you'll need to register the LPA(s) by sending the form(s) to the Office of the Public Guardian. If you need to pay a registration fee, you'll need to send that too.

If the form has been correctly completed and there are no objections after people have been notified, the Public Guardian must register it. This can take around 20 weeks.

The Public Guardian must notify you and your attorneys that they have registered the LPA, and it can then be used. You can find lots of information on LPAs and other shorter-term power of attorneys by visiting <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

If you have any questions or need any further about LPAs or other powers of attorney, you can contact **Wiltshire Citizens Advice on freephone: 0808 278 7995**

*Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm. (Closed on public holidays).*

For more ways to get in touch visit <https://www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk>



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# Laverstock and Ford Parish Council

## Grants for 2026/27

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Every year, the Parish Council opens their grant scheme in order to allocate public funds to community initiatives that benefit residents of the Parish.

The next round for applications will open on the 5th of April 2026.

Find out whether you could be eligible for a grant to fund your community project!

### What are the eligibility criteria?

To be eligible, applicants must fall into one of two categories.

#### Category A

Registered Charities, Community Interest Companies, and not-for-profit clubs and community groups applying for funding for a project which will benefit wholly or mainly residents of the Parish of Laverstock & Ford.

#### Category B

Registered Charities with significant operations within the South Wiltshire area, which are accessible to the residents of the Parish of Laverstock & Ford.

Category A applications will be considered at any time throughout the year.

Category B applications will be considered at the March Parish Council meeting at the end of the financial year.

Applications will not be considered if they are:

- For commercial ventures or private gain
- For the advancement of political or religious beliefs (*although applications will be considered from charities with a religious basis for projects providing a community benefit which can be accessed regardless of religious belief or any other protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011*).
- For the benefit of an individual person.

### How do I make an application?

**Step 1:** Visit the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council website for the Grant Application Form on the homepage. (*contained in the Grants Policy on the Transparency page*)

**Step 2:** Complete the form and include supporting evidence.

**Step 3:** Send the application to the Parish Clerk by the last working day of the month.

**Step 4:** Attend the next Parish Council meeting to answer the Councillors' questions.

**Step 5:** Receive an outcome via email. If approved, funds will be transferred to the recipient, usually within a month.

## What are the assessment criteria?

- The extent to which the project will provide a measurable improvement to the community.
- How effectively the grant will be used, e.g. has the best deal been sought for the purchase of the equipment.
- Evidence that the funds could not be raised from another more appropriate source for the project.

Further details can be found in the Grants Policy on the Parish Council's website: <https://laverstockford-pc.gov.uk/grants-policy/>



# Laverstock Water Meadows Tour

In early May, Councillors Liz, Lesley, Laura, Patrick, & Estelle will visit the Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust (DBCT) to explore its water meadows.

The event aims to open up conversation between the Council and the Parish's local groups. DBCT will talk about the shared values of the two organisations, such as sustainability and character preservation.

This will support the councillors' understanding of local needs and therefore better represent the views of the community, especially when making key decisions.

DBCT will then lead a walking tour around the meadows, starting towards Whitebridge Spinney, where both the land of DBCT and the Parish Council can be looked out upon. Here, just beside the River Bourne, councillors will learn about the ecology of the area, as well as some of the challenges faced.

As the walk continues, DBCT are taking the opportunity to show councillors the impact of their successful grant application with the Parish Council. Because of the portion of funding provided by the council, DBCT was able to create a new walking path on its land for visitors to explore.

After much learning and walking, all parties will be able to rest and have an open conversation about the topics of the day, and how the organisations can move forward together.

If you have a local organisation and would like to see how you and the Parish Council can work together, please contact us via email

**[communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk)**,

or by telephone on **01722 433881** – just ask for Eloise, Communications Officer.



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\*T&Cs apply



## Old Sarum Nursery

We are a friendly nursery providing quality full-day care for children aged two to five years.

We run two sessions a day: 8.30am to 11.30am and 11.30am to 2.30pm, as well as a breakfast club from 8am to 8.30am at Old Sarum Primary School.

We are open Monday to Friday during Wiltshire schools term time (38 weeks per year).

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

01722 415598  
[oldsarumnursery@gmail.com](mailto:oldsarumnursery@gmail.com)

# WHAT'S IN A NAME – 16

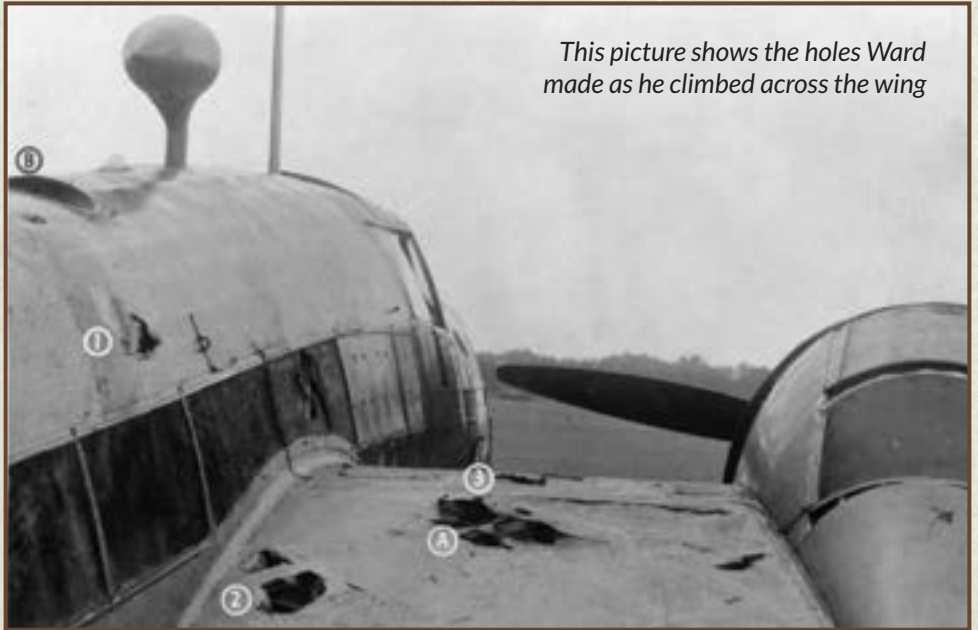
## WARD GROVE, LONGHEDGE

**W**ard Grove and Ward Grove Play Park are named after Sergeant James Allen Ward VC of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Ward was the first of three New Zealand airmen to be awarded the Victoria Cross during the Second World War. The others were Flying Officer Trigg and Squadron Leader Trent.



James Allen Ward was born in Whanganui, New Zealand, on 14 June 1919. He was educated at Whanganui Technical College and then trained as a teacher in Wellington. At the outbreak of the Second World War, he volunteered for the Royal New Zealand Air Force and started training in July 1940. He completed flying training in January 1941, was promoted to Sergeant and sent to the UK.

Ward was selected for training on heavy bombers and was posted to an Operational Training Unit at RAF Lossiemouth. On completion, he joined 75 Squadron flying Wellington bombers out of RAF Feltwell in Norfolk. He started operational flying as second pilot to a Canadian, Squadron Leader Widdowson.



*This picture shows the holes Ward made as he climbed across the wing*

On their sixth flight on 7 July 1941, they had carried out a raid on Munster and were returning when they were attacked by a Bf110 night fighter. A fuel tank ruptured and caused a fire around the rear of the starboard engine. Widdowson told the crew to prepare to bail out, but Ward proposed that he climb out onto the wing and try to extinguish the fire.

Connected by a rope, he climbed out of the astrodome and used a fire axe to make foot and hand holds across the wing. He then used an engine cover to smother the flames and put out the fire before returning through the astrodome. The aircraft landed at RAF Newmarket without flaps or brakes and crashed through a perimeter fence. All of the crew survived. Sergeant Ward was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry in extinguishing the fire in circumstances of the greatest difficulty and at the risk of his life.

After leave Ward returned to command his own aircraft and crew. On his second mission to Hamburg, his aircraft was attacked by a night fighter and crashed, killing Ward and two of the crew. Two crew members had bailed out before the crash. Ward is buried in the Hamburg War Cemetery. There are several memorials to him in New Zealand. The Ward Community Activities Centre at RAF Feltwell is named after him. It is now occupied by the 48th Fighter Wing of the US Air Force based at RAF Lakenheath.

## LAVERSTOCK & FORD HISTORY GROUP

invite you to the next meeting on 28 May at 2pm  
in the Curtis Room, St Andrew's Church.

### The World Turned Upside Down

Join RUTH BUTLER for a journey through Wiltshire during the British Civil Wars and an exploration of the people and events that shaped the county's experiences from 1642 to 1651. Discover why the Earl of Pembroke sided with Parliament, how Lady Blanche Arundell negotiated the surrender of Wardour Castle to Parliamentary forces and why Sir Edward Hungerford, Parliament's commander in Wiltshire, had a habit of abandoning towns to Royalist armies. From major battles and sieges to smaller scale skirmishes and confrontations, such as the Battle of Salisbury and another between "rebels and cavaliers" in "Angry Fisherton", no-one was left untouched by a decade of bitter conflict that pitted families and neighbours against each other.

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

**Enquiries to Christine Webb at**  
**laverstock.history@gmail.com**



# The Boscombe Down Aviation Collection

The 18-pounder field gun, recently loaned from the neighbouring Royal Artillery Museum and presently based at the nearby Larkhill Flying Sheds, has given a new and meaningful purpose to the BE2b replica on display at Old Sarum.

The gun symbolises the historic connection between the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Artillery when early WW1 artillery batteries relied heavily on the observation of fall of shot corrections provided in morse from BE2 observers. The receiving RFC wireless operators attached to the batteries often faced extreme danger in the heat of battle and played an essential part in developing the principles of army cooperation and future procedures for the Royal Air Force and later the Army Air Corps. The continued opening of RAF Old Sarum following WW1 over successive decades lent itself solely to the development of techniques of cooperation between aircraft of the Royal Air Force and the Army.

This Royal Aircraft Factory BE2b 2783 replica, constructed by a BDAC team in 2004 in the process lasting several years, represents the first aircraft to land at Boscombe Down airfield when it opened as No.6 Training Depot Station in 1917.

**Roger Green**, *BDAC's RFC Manager*





# BOSCOMBE DOWN AVIATION COLLECTION

## PRESENTATION PROGRAMME 2026

**All presentations start at 1900 hrs.**

Hangar 1 South, Old Sarum Airfield, Salisbury. Wiltshire SP4 6DZ.  
Tel: 01722 323636 [www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk](http://www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk)

**For details and further information email [talks@btinternet.com](mailto:talks@btinternet.com)  
[www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk](http://www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk)**

### NOTES

Prices: For the live talks at the museum there is an entry fee of £5 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits and free entry to the museum at that time, there is no need to book. Gold members are free and Silver members pay £2.50. There are no charges for online or recorded talks, the BDAC relies on donations (via website)

Two weeks before a presentation a flyer advertising the talk will be sent out to members and those known to the BDAC. A further reminder will be sent out just before and in the case of online talks this will include a link. To register an interest in the talks go to the BDAC website - Contacts - News Letter - Sign up.



### **13th May (Wednesday) Waterbird**

**Andrew Cranfield, Aeronautical Engineer and pilot**

Waterbird was the first aircraft in the UK to make a successful flight from water when she took off and landed on Lake Windermere on 25 November 1911. It was operated from Hill of Oaks, which later became the RN's first Naval Air Station. Waterbird was sadly written off in March 1912, when her hangar collapsed during a storm. Andrew, a renowned aviation specialist and an innovator of human powered flight, was involved in the trials and tribulations of getting the Waterbird replica to achieve flight on Lake Windermere on 13 June 2022.



### **9th June Aerial Surveillance Part 2**

**Phil Nelson, ex pilot, military and civilian**

Phil was an RAF pilot flying Canberra, Victor and Vulcan and, as an instructor, the Chipmunk and Bulldog. As a civilian he became a Flight Training Captain at the College of Air Training at Hamble where he trained ab initio pilots for British Airways. He continued training pilots with minimum licences and ex-military pilots onto B737s. His flying had included surveillance for Police and Special Forces. Following on from his first talk on the control of fishing in UK waters, he will describe the work with HM Customs and Excise, Coastguard, Naval intelligence, Home Office, Marine environment and control of dredging and dumping.



### **14th July Pegasus Bridge using words of Glider Pilots**

**Brig (rt) Richard Folkes OBE FRAeS ex Head of Army Aviation**

This is the story of two of the men who carried out the famous Coup de Main operation to seize the bridges in Normandy over the Caen Canal and the River Orne in the opening hours of 6 June 1944. Each with very different roles, Major John Howard DSO of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and Staff Sergeant Geoff Barkway DFM of the Glider Pilot Regiment landed at Pegasus Bridge within minutes of each other - but what brought them together that night and what of their later lives? Using archive footage and personal family recollections, hear their compelling, personal stories of the impact of war.

## New Sarum Women's Institute



Our social opportunities continue to expand and the different groups offered to members now numbers thirteen!

We have added the Theatre Group with trips to productions at the Studio Theatre, the Playhouse, City Hall and further afield, the Pudding Club with a selection of puddings to taste and the Cocktail Dames, a social evening of sampling cocktails with or without alcohol!

In the more physically active groups, having enjoyed our final afternoon of skittles, darts and boards games at the Lake Estate. Dates have now been set for the summer activities of croquet and lawn bowls. Our Striders and Strollers groups are also back in full swing with walks to suit all interests and abilities.

Beyond our social events we are very pleased to have been involved in two other projects in the last few months.

In 2024, a National Women's Institute call out led to 37,000 poppies being sent to the 'Standing with Giants' initiative to add to the display of life size silhouettes commemorating the loss of service personnel during the Normandy Campaign of World War II.

This year replacement and additional poppies were required and nearly half of our members expressed an interest in contributing to this initiative. With poppies knitted and crocheted at social get-togethers and by members at home and with donations of wool from Annies 'Out of House Wool Shop' in Wilton, we were delighted to contribute a total of 470 poppies.

Secondly, as part of the Great British Spring Clean and thanks to the parish Council for the loan of equipment, we were very pleased to have organised a litter picking session in the vicinity around the Old Sarum Community Centre. With nine full rubbish bags, a crate of bottles and a trip to the recycling centre, we are grateful to all the members who participated.

Having enjoyed a very interesting and thoroughly entertaining talk from two inspirational ladies on behalf of guide Dogs for the Blind at our March monthly meeting we will be welcoming speakers from the RNLI in April and the Amesbury Men's Shed in May.

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](mailto:newsarumsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk), find us on [www.facebook.com/NewSarumWI](https://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.

## Laverstock Women's Institute

In writing this Newsletter report in March, it's a welcome relief from a dark, wet winter to realise that Spring has sprung. March also means our Annual General Meeting for our group.

Our AGM was well attended. We now have over 30 members, having welcomed new members during the year. It is new members who help our group to thrive and bring new ideas and new people to meet. Moya, our leader, took the AGM, and various reports were given. We have a full programme in place until the end of the year and look forward to our speakers and events. Following the AGM, presentations were made to Kate Topp and Ann Collins in recognition of their longstanding service to the club. Kate and Ann have both been stalwart members of our committee for over 30 years, they were our 'tea ladies' for a long time, and both took part in many other duties for us. The AGM was followed by two quizzes, much enjoyed by members.

At our May meeting, Kay Townsend will tell us about Fairgrounds at War. For June, you can expect Jackie Diamond to deliver the second part of her 30 Years as a Police Officer presentation.

We always welcome new members and meet in the Laverstock Village Hall on the second Monday evening of the month at 7.45 pm.

If you would like to know more about our group, please contact **Moya Hill** at [moyahill@hotmail.com](mailto:moyahill@hotmail.com) or **Carol Taylor** on 01722 322702.

Artful Charlie shared some insight with us following her talk with the WI. "I'm a traditional sign writer sign writer and muralist. What that basically means is that I paint things for a living, specifically, signs and murals. Think pub signs, chalkboards, vehicle liveries, shop fronts, shop windows, etc. I even

teach a few workshops for others to enjoy the hand-painted craft.

At the WI, I spoke about my backstory, starting as a product designer fresh out of university, moving into graphics and marketing and then into lettering and finally sign writing, and truly believing that I'd found my passion in life."



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



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# Sarum u3a - Learn, Laugh, Live

Sarum, u3a, is a local charity that provides meaningful enrichment for residents who are no longer in full-time employment.

You are warmly welcome to attend our meeting on Wednesday 20th May, 10am at St Francis Church, Castle Street. At this meeting many of our groups will be either on display or making presentations about their work and how you might benefit from joining them.

Currently Sarum u3a organises around some 50 groups covering walking, art, music appreciation, churches and pubs, playing bridge, learning about archaeology, playing pétanque, needlecraft, reading, philosophy, learning a foreign language, painting etc.

Application forms for the groups are released to members in June, and most groups start in September each year. Attendance fees range from 50p to £1 unless facilities or materials are involved.

Membership for the year costs £11 and entitles members to attend a monthly coffee morning where coffee and tea are served prior to our monthly speaker.

The 17th of June meeting will be addressed by Jim Reid who will outline the 'Chequered History of Salisbury' and the naming of our city centre streets.

To find out which group you could join, head on over to:  
<https://sarum.u3asite.uk/welcome/> or email **Andrew Smith** using their contact form.



**This club for the over sixties is a friendly hub for entertainment, interesting talks and activities.**

We meet at Laverstock Village Hall on the first Wednesday of the month.

We have a varied programme of events, always accompanied by tea or coffee with homemade cakes, plus a raffle.

In April's meeting it's all about creativity as we will be decorating Easter cards. For May, we're looking for something a bit more relaxed as our Chairman, Jill Kay, is hosting a coffee morning on the 20th in her garden. All are welcome, just give her a call on 01722 323407.

Some of the coming events to get excited about include Theatre and Cinema by Mr Moody, Cunard History by Steve Harra, and a summer cream tea get-together in August.

If you live in the Laverstock and Ford Parish and would like to spend an enjoyable afternoon meeting new people, come along to our next meeting for a free visit. If you'd like to come again, the group is just a £20 annual fee, with no monthly charge.



# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

I am writing this at the end of March, which is always a busy month for Mothers' Union.

Apart from our usual monthly meeting, we were invited to join Wilton Mothers' Union for a service on Lady Day, 25th March. This is the day when the church remembers the angel visiting Mary and telling her that she was going to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

The service was held in St John's Priory church, where none of us had been before – what a gem!

During the service, we were invited to think about five different women from our long Christian story who answered the call of God to serve Christ.

They were:

- Mary, mother of Jesus,
- Mary Magdalene,
- a saint called Edith who lived her short life at Wilton Abbey,
- Mary Sumner, who founded the Mothers' Union,
- and Sarah Mullally, the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

It was moving to meet and pray for Sarah Mullally at the very time that she was being installed as Archbishop.

We look forward to welcoming Alex Ewing from the Bridge project to talk to us on May 14th, and on June 13th, we will be attending the Festival service at Salisbury Cathedral to celebrate our 150th anniversary.

We are delighted that two new people have decided to join us at our meetings this year.

Please remember that you are welcome to come along to any meeting that interests you or simply to find out more about the group.

**Pip Carter**

07854 827233

Please contact Pip Carter or Joan Prior 07833 781075 if you want more info.

## Did You Know?

Skylarks have begun to nest in the Castle Hill Country Park. Please stick to the paths around the edge of the land giving them the space needed during this season.



**Scouts BEAVERS**

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[Jane.waspe@btinternet.com](mailto:Jane.waspe@btinternet.com)

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# CELEBRATION OF SCOUTING

## 40 years of Beavers / 110 years of Cubs

Twice a year, Laverstock Scouts get together with St Andrews church, and with the help of Andy Bousfield, Vicar and Diane Roberts, Curate, we have a themed Scout-led service. As we have 2 important anniversaries this year, we thought that the celebration of our milestones would be a good subject!

The service started with a short introduction and a thank-you to all those people who have made Laverstock Scouting so successful over the years. We were lucky enough to have our founder member with us, Mick Chalk, who has given so much to Laverstock Scouting over the years and continues to support us. Also, three former Beaver Leaders, Liz Bunting, Christine Allen and Sue Knight from the 1980's were in the congregation.

The Beavers focused on the part of their Promise that they love the world. This highlighted people in their community, their favourite animals and nature. For the service, the Beavers redesigned the World badge as a Nature Badge!

The Cubs gave us a good insight into Cub badges past and present, with a game of charades for us to guess what the badges were. The group also shared what they liked most about being a part of the Cubs as well as their own presentation of the Parable of the Paralysed Man.

The Scouts explored the meaning of the World badge, Scout Law, and Baden Powel's principles:



For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the Scouts, here are the 7 Scout Law:

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.
4. A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.



We had some rapturous singing, including a new number, 'My Lighthouse', with some choreography that had been practised beforehand.

It was a wonderful occasion to get 50 Scouts together from the 3 sections.

We followed up with singing around the campfire, hot dogs, and shared Scout-made cakes at Laverstock Farm. The perfect recipe for keeping children happy!

*Jane Waspe Beaver Team Lead*



# Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES

### Help Your Area Feel Safer

We would like to ask all households of Laverstock and Ford Parish to get signed up to a Watch Scheme. We have a number already in our parish, but there are still many gaps. The schemes are about neighbours looking out for neighbours, helping to keep our streets safer. In particular, we need to look out for our elderly, infirm or disabled neighbours, and those who are not on the internet.

Would you be prepared to join the Neighbourhood Watch to deliver leaflets or start a scheme in your local area?

If so, contact your local Watch Leader, Ross Walker, to find out more:  
[ross.walker@wiltshirenw.org](mailto:ross.walker@wiltshirenw.org)

In addition, Wiltshire Neighbourhood Watch are looking for some coordinators to take on the role of Membership Support Administrators in the Salisbury area.

#### **This is what the role involves:**

A Membership Support Administrator (MSA) is a **specialised volunteer** who is granted access to a set of Neighbourhood Watch scheme management tools. For example, they support the Force Association by approving schemes and managing the membership database for their area.

The role is very important as an MSA is often the first person from Neighbourhood Watch who welcomes new members and supports new Coordinators into the Neighbourhood Watch family.

#### **To be an MSA you need to have the following skills:**

- Moderate computer literacy,
- Knowledge of the Neighbourhood Watch structure of members and schemes
- Good communications
- Good organisation
- Ability to work alone or as a team
- Ability to prioritise tasks

#### **Presentations from Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors**

Because the name is a mouthful, Rob, our ambassador for South Wiltshire, has shortened it to 'Cybercrime Ambassador'.

You may have seen previously about the above, but for those who haven't, I will explain.

We currently have two Ambassadors, Rob in South Wiltshire, and Evans in North Wiltshire. Their roles are to go to meetings, groups, and other venues that have asked for a presentation. They share the details of what the latest scams are and let people know how to protect themselves.

Evans has only recently stepped into the role and is focusing on learning the material before delivering presentations to the community.

The presentation lasts just over an hour, and always includes up-to-date information. So you don't have to remember everything from the session, the ambassadors will provide a USB stick with the presentation uploaded onto it. We ask if you would donate £1 towards the cost of the sticks.


If you would like an ambassador to visit your group to deliver their most recent presentation, please contact me on the email address below.

**Rob Greenwood** | WNWA CHAIR & CYBERCRIME AMBASSADOR.

**WILTSHIRE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION.**

Email. [cybercrimeambassador@wiltshirenhw.org](mailto:cybercrimeambassador@wiltshirenhw.org)

Web: [www.wiltshirenhw.org](http://www.wiltshirenhw.org)



**Silver Salisbury's  
Coffee & Chat  
at Old Sarum**

**10-11.30 am  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April -  
Staying safe in your own  
home talk by  
Courtney from Right at  
Home**

**10-11.30 am  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May -  
The Magic of Plants that  
Keep Coming Back by  
Chris from Old Sarum Plants**

**10-11.30 am  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June  
Andy from  
Butterfly Conservation  
Wiltshire Branch**

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



**Silver Salisbury's  
Coffee & Chat  
at Laverstock**

**Monday 11 May 26 - Salisbury  
in Moving Pictures  
Features a wide selection of  
films from the 1910s through  
to the end of the century  
10-11.30**

**Monday 1 June 26 - David  
Burton from Devenish  
Bradshaw Charitable Trust  
10-11.30**

**Monday 6 July 26  
Jo Harris & Darren Wells  
The library is more than just  
books  
10-11.30**

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

## Planning Applications

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

### Decisions

PL/2026/00833 Listed Building Consent - Extension to existing amenity building to the garden to create kitchenette and cloakroom with the installation of solar panels and regularisation of existing car port, Wolferstan Barn, Wolferstan Drive, Bishopdown. *NO COMMENT.* **WITHDRAWN.**

PL/2026/00697 Proposed works to trees in a conservation area, 5 The Close, Old Sarum SP46DB. *NO COMMENT.* **NO OBJECTION.**

PL/2026/00305 Works to TPO trees, 10 Green Lane, Ford. *NO COMMENT.* **APPROVED.**

PL/2025/09619 Demolish garage and new single storey extension, 1 St Johns Close, Milford SP1 1NW. *NO COMMENT.* **APPROVED.**

PL/2025/10037 Works to TPO trees, Throgmorton Hall, Portway, Old Sarum. *NO OBJECTION SUBJECT TO REPLANTING OF AT LEAST ONE TREE FOR EACH ONE LOST.* **NO OBJECTION.**

PL/2025/09962 Front & side extension. Timberley, Laverstock Park, Laverstock. *NO COMMENT.* **APPROVED.**

PL/2025/09344 Renewal of permission for temporary classroom, Greentrees Primary School, Sycamore Drive SP1 3GZ. *NO COMMENT.* **APPROVED.**

PL/2025/09601 Works to TPO trees, 9 Monxton Close, Bishopdown SP1 3WY. *NO COMMENT.* **APPROVED.**

PL/2025/08797 Variation of conditions related to PL/2025/06230 9 Riverbourne Road, Milford SP1 1NU. *NO COMMENT.* **APPROVED.**

PI/2025/03776 Outline permission two dwellings. Beehive Cottage, Portway SP4 6BL. *NO COMMENT.* **REFUSED.**

### Outstanding and New Applications

PL/2026/01623 Extension to existing hotel to provide additional bedrooms, together with alterations to the car park and all associated works. Premier Inn, Pearce Way, Bishopdown, SP1 3GU.

PL/2026/01752 Listed building consent - redesign kitchen and dining, replacement window. Tithebarn, Wolferstan Drive, Bishopdown SP1 3XZ. *NO COMMENT.*

PL/2026/01489 Proposed Garden Room for use incidental to the enjoyment of the house and retrospective approval for the realigned rear boundary fence 20 Norman Drive, Old Sarum SP4 6FP. *NO COMMENT.*

PL/2026/01039 Proposed siting of 23 containers to be used for self storage, installation of a perimeter fence, landscaping and parking. Land Adjacent 2 Old Sarum Cottages, Portway, Old Sarum. *OBJECT.*

PL/2026/00652 Proposed new vehicular and pedestrian access re PL/2025/0997 Portway House, Old Sarum Park SP4 6EB. *OBJECT.*

PL/2026/00667 Extension to existing amenity building to the garden with the installation of solar panels and regularisation of existing car port, Wolferstan Barn, Wolferstan Drive, Bishopdown. *NO COMMENT.*

PL/2026/00463 Erection of stable block, Willow Tree Barn, Ford Lane, Ford SP4 6DJ. *NO COMMENT.*

PL/2025/09973 Prior approval under Part MA of the GPDO change of use to form 20 apartments Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Old Sarum SP4 6EB. *OBJECT.*

PL/2025/08473 Demolition of vacant shop and erection of house and garage Kismet, Riverside Road, Laverstock SP1 1QP. *NO COMMENT.*

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

PL/2021/04084 Residential development of 41no. new dwellings comprising development on land to the west of Roger Way (Areas A&F), alongside the change of use of the vacant ground floor unit at Block C of the Old Sarum Local Centre (Area G), to provide for 7no. affordable apartments. Now 42 dwellings + 7 apts. *OBJECT WITH REASONS.*

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## Ward Contacts

### LAVERSTOCK & MILFORD WARD

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

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

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

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

VACANCY

### FORD, OLD SARUM & LONGHEDGE WARD

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

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

**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  
lesleywaller@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk Tel. 07900 392257

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

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 monitored 24/7*)

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

**Communications & Community Engagement Officer:**

communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

**Community Venues Officer:** 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](http://www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk)

## Contacts around the Parish

Air Cadets (Old Sarum)	<a href="http://bit.ly/40vdRC6">http://bit.ly/40vdRC6</a>	
Army Cadets (Old Sarum)	<a href="http://bit.ly/3RtDQ8y">http://bit.ly/3RtDQ8y</a>	
Cafe on the Green	outreach@salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk	
Cricket Club, Laverstock	Gary Shears (capt)	07960 830908
Evergreen Club, Laverstock	Nancy Joyce	01722 329150
Greentrees Primary – Head	Alan Geary	01722 340596
Hampton Park Pavilion Bookings	Veronica Ford	hamptonparkpavilion@gmail.com
Laverstock & Ford Sports Club	07788 211583	lavvyclub@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	Jackie Dixon	1stlaverstockscouts@gmail.com
Laverstock & District Evening WI	Louise Hall	01722 326549
Milford Preservation Group	David Lovibond	01722 238852
Mother's Union Afternoon Grp, L	Pip Carter Joan Prior	07854 827233 01722 411846
Mulepackers Dance Group	Mel or Mike	07946 733605
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	Sarah Barwell	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 Farm Shop & Cafe		01722 332749
Salisbury FC	info@salisburyfc.co.uk	01722 776655
Salisbury FC Womens		sarumbridge@gmail.com
Salisbury FC Youth	Ed Searle	edsearle1977@icloud.com
Salisbury Medical Practice	Tanya McKay	01722 333034

BF = Bishopdown Farm L = Laverstock

## Parish Contacts continued...

<b>Sarum Bridge Club</b>		sarumbridge@gmail.com
<b>Salisbury Rotary</b>		salisburyrotary@gmail.com
<b>Sarum U3a membership</b>	Andrew Smith	sarumu3amembers@gmail.com
<b>St. Andrews - Friends - Chair</b>	Emily Wells	
<b>St Andrews Primary School - Head</b>	Jo Fernie	01722 503590
<b>St. Andrews Toddlers - Chair</b>	Char Parfett/Zoe Roe	standrewtoddlergroup@yahoo.com
<b>St. Josephs - Head</b>	Mr Matthew Higgins	01722 335380
<b>TA Centre Old Sarum</b>	Capt. David Oliver	01722 438300
<b>The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust</b>		info@dbct.org
<b>The Duck Inn, Laverstock</b>	01722 500288	ducklaverstock@gmail.com
<b>Wyvern St Edmunds Academy - Head</b>	Louise Henderson	01722 328565
<b>Community Emergency Volunteers</b>		
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

### **Most Holy Redeemer**

A Catholic Church of the Parish of St Osmund, Diocese of Clifton, Fotherby Crescent Bishopdown, SP1 3EG. Contact: 01722 562703  
Fr Anthony Paris, 07544 053785 anthony.paris@cliftondiocese.com  
Parish Office: salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com <https://salisburycatholics.org>

**St Michaels and All Angels**, The Winterbournes, Rev'd Peter Ostli East  
The Vicarage, Winterbourne Earls, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6HA  
01980 611350 [www.bournevalleychurches.org.uk](http://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: saintmartins.salisbury@gmail.com [www.sarumstmartin.org.uk](http://www.sarumstmartin.org.uk)

## Useful Contacts

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### WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Gen enquiries and switchboard	0300 456 0100 <a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk">www.wiltshire.gov.uk</a>
Planning & Building Control	<a href="http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-building-control">www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-building-control</a>
Planning Explorer map	<a href="https://bit.ly/42zQx5Z">bit.ly/42zQx5Z</a>
Report A Problem	with the MyWilts App <i>You can download the MyWilts online reporting app via homepage of their website</i>
Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager	Karen Linaker <a href="mailto:karen-linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk">karen-linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> 01722 434697

**FLOOD LINE** 0345 988 1188

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY** Emergency Helpline 0800 807 060

**NATIONAL HIGHWAYS** [trafficengland.com](http://trafficengland.com)

### Our Wiltshire Councillors

**Nick Baker** **For Laverstock, Milford & Bishopdown Farm**  
[Nick.Baker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Nick.Baker@wiltshire.gov.uk)  
07921 899396

**Lainey Barker** **For Old Sarum, Longhedge and Ford**  
[Lainey.Barker@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:john.glen.mp@parliament.uk)

### CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK



**Sam Jones**, Countryside and Greenspace Officer, The Land Trust  
[samjones@thelandtrust.org.uk](mailto:samjones@thelandtrust.org.uk)

**Russell Brooks**, Castle Hill Country Park Community Engagement Officer Wiltshire Wildlife Trust  
[russellb@wiltshirewildlife.org](mailto:russellb@wiltshirewildlife.org)

*Where in the Parish answer: Castle Hill Country Park.*



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