

NEWSLETTER

LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

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



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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View from the Chair

Well done to all parents and carers for surviving the summer holidays — a season full of juggling, organising, entertaining, and keeping everything moving. As we step into the new school term, I want to wish all children and young people across our parish a positive start to the year ahead. September always brings a sense of new beginnings, and with one of my own children about to start secondary school, I am especially aware of the excitement and change this time of year brings for families.



I am pleased to share this update on the Council's recent work across Laverstock, Ford, Bishopdown Farm, Milford, Old Sarum and Longhedge, where we continue to focus on practical improvements, strong partnerships, and supporting the vibrant community spirit that defines our parish.

Over recent months, the Council has made important progress on the development of the new Parish Office at Hampton Park Pavilion. Following a formal tender process, a preferred contractor has been selected, marking a significant step toward securing modern, fit-for-purpose facilities for staff and the wider community.

The Council also continued its support for local organisations, awarding £950 to St Andrews Baby & Toddler Group and £2,101 to the Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust (more details on page 6 & 7). These grants reflect our commitment to strengthening the groups and initiatives that make a real difference to residents across the parish.

Highways matters have remained a priority, with councillors reviewing requests for additional lighting in Greenwood Avenue and seeking further assessment of reduced speed limits on the A30. Work also continues on bus shelter repairs, fly-tipping issues, and remedial roadworks at Longhedge, ensuring that everyday infrastructure keeps pace with the needs of our growing Parish.

We were also delighted to welcome Janet Mallett to the Council following her co-option as councillor for Ford, Old Sarum and Longhedge ward. Janet brings valuable insight to the team, and we look forward to working with her as we continue delivering for our residents.

A warm welcome also to Bethany Coowar, who has joined us as our new Communications Officer. Bethany brings fresh energy and professional expertise to our officer team — welcome aboard!

Finally, as part of our forward planning, we are also inviting residents to contribute ideas and suggest actions for the new Strategic Management Pillars in our 2026–2030 Strategic Plan. These pillars set out how we strengthen community resilience, manage development, improve transport, protect our environment, enhance our open spaces and facilities, and ensure clear accountability. If you have thoughts, priorities or practical suggestions you would like the Council to consider, we would very much welcome them. Please send any contributions to clerk@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk and they will be fed into the next stage of the Plan’s development.



Upcoming Full Council Meetings



21st September
at the Old Sarum Community Centre
7pm start



19th October
at the Old Sarum Community Centre
7pm start



Parish Office Opening Times

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
09:30 - 12:30

Deadline Information

The submission deadline for the next edition of the Laverstock and Ford Parish Newsletter, November/October, is the 30th September 2026.

Please send all submission to communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk.

FULL COUNCIL MEETING UPDATES

June

Community Policing Update

On Monday the 15th June, the Parish Council's meeting began with a report from PCSO Moss. Incidents such as bicycle and motorbike theft are occurring in Salisbury, and have attracted the attention of Wiltshire Police, alongside the misuse of electric bikes in the wider Salisbury area.

You can read more about how to keep your bike safe on page 29.

Readers are reminded that Wiltshire Police provide the Mobile Van service which allows local residents to informally report concerns ongoing in their neighbourhood. By engaging with the PCSOs at the Mobile Van, you can support their collection of important information.

A 'hello' from your new Councillor

After Councillors heard PCSO Moss and understood the criminal matters to be aware of in the area, attention turned to the co-option of new Councillor, Janet Mallett.

"Hello everyone. I moved to the Laverstock and Ford Parish after previously living in Derbyshire for 40 years, where I acted as Councillor for six years and as a governor for a local school.

Before retiring, I worked in the NHS as a paediatric nurse and health visitor. Now, I support the NHS through volunteering as a Health Research Authority (HRA) committee member. Alongside my work in healthcare, I was also a magistrate for twenty-two years.

I am looking forward to settling in and getting to know both the area, and the people living here. I hope to support the Parish community however possible and represent them when necessary."

CLlr Janet Mallett

Grant Funding

St Andrews Baby & Toddler Group, which you may have seen a call for volunteer support for, has successfully brought a group of individuals together who will be continuing to run the club after the summer break.

To support their group, which provides a playful environment for families with little ones, the Parish Council awarded a grant of £950.00. These funds will go towards the replenishment of toys and equipment, such as craft and messy play materials. It will also support volunteers by subsidising travel expenses, recognising the good will of volunteers for sharing their time for the benefit of the local community.

You'll be able to hear all about how to St Andrews Baby & Toddler Group are doing on page 17.

Key Resolutions

Another resolution made by the Parish Council at the June meeting was to replace the boundary fencing at the Old Sarum Community Centre Play Park, and to officially appoint the Age UK Wiltshire to deliver the Community Connector service. This scheme will support those over the age of 55 experiencing social isolation to reconnect with their community and local groups.

You can find more details about this service on page 16, or for a summary, visit the Parish Council's website for News and Updates.

Progress Report on the Community Venues Project

Lastly, the Clerk provided their verbal report to attending Councillors. This included confirmation that healthy progress is being made on the community venues project with an application to the Charities Commission nearly being ready to form the new CIO.

For full details on the June Full Council Meeting, please visit the Parish Council's website for a copy of the minutes.

July

Community Voices

July's Full Council meeting was well-attended by the public, with eight members present. One idea raised by the attendees was the installation of a defibrillator at Bishopdown Farm due to lack of one in the local area. The Council heard the speaker's view and shared that they are not currently considering the installation of a defibrillator, but did recommend that the speaker contact charitable organisations, such as Hampton Park Pavilion to discuss.

Local Plan Involvement

The Parish Council were recently asked to nominate sites in the area for housing, employment, mineral extraction, waste, and infrastructural development under a scheme called the Local Plan. The Council chose not to nominate any land sites.

The Local Plan is an initiative from Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Department. It calls for collaboration from landlords, developers and local community authorities to submit land that could be considered for a range of uses. The Local Plan is in response to the current Government Policy that requires 3,500 homes to be built in Wiltshire every year.

You can find out more about the Local Plan and what sites are being requested for here - <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/call-for-sites>

Grant Funding

There was one grant application considered in July's meeting, which came from the Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust. The awarded funds of £2,101 are to support the build of a shared path across the water meadows at the end of Cow Lane. This is

designed to create a more accessible path for both walkers and cyclers alike, especially during wet winters.

People’s Emergency Briefing

Councillor Holland attended a briefing film with Councillors Baker and Waller. Following their report on the event, the Council agreed to support the New Sarum Women’s Institute with their event, the People’s Emergency Briefing.

Financial Reporting

The Council’s Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) provided a detailed report on the current financial state of the Parish Council, as well as recent transactions. The full report can be found in the July minutes both on Parish noticeboards and on the website.

Key Updates from the Clerk

Laverstock and Ford’s Parish Clerk shared the following updates:

- An application has been submitted for the formation of a new charity that will oversee the management of the Parish’s community venues.
- A prestart meeting has been scheduled for the works to commence on the Parish Office.
- Works on the MUGA are expected to commence on August 3rd.
- Progress is being made in regard to fly-tipping in Old Sarum. Councillors were asked to attend a resident’s day being held on August 4th with local housing associations.
- There are three potential new candidates for Councillor positions.
- Councillors were requested to be present for youth engagement activities on August 5th, and for a Meet the Councillor event on August 31st.

All updates on planning application consultations for both June and July can be found on page 43.

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PARISH OPERATIONS

UPDATE

The Operations Team continues to work hard to keep our parks, open spaces and community assets safe, welcoming and well maintained.

As vegetation continues to grow over the summer, we ask residents to check whether any private hedges, shrubs or trees on their property are encroaching onto public footpaths. Keeping these routes clear helps ensure safe access for everyone.

Our three-yearly tree inspections have recently been completed across several areas of the parish. These inspections help us manage our trees safely and responsibly. As a result, some tree work will be taking place over the coming months, including the removal of a small number of ash trees affected by ash dieback, mainly around the Whitebridge area, along with a few other trees that have become structurally unsafe. We appreciate your understanding while this essential safety work is carried out.

Grass cutting will continue throughout the summer, although the recent hot, dry weather has slowed growth in some areas. We've also been carrying out maintenance on several benches, including those at Norman Drive, to help extend their lifespan.

A quick reminder to all dog owners that dogs are not permitted inside Parish play parks. This helps keep these areas clean, safe and enjoyable for children. If you're out walking your dog elsewhere in the parish, please remember to clear up after them and dispose of dog waste responsibly.

We've also seen an increase in household rubbish being placed in parish litter bins. These bins are provided for small amounts of litter generated while out and about, not for domestic waste. Household rubbish quickly fills the bins, leading to overflowing litter and unnecessary extra collections. Please help us by using your household waste and recycling services instead.

Our team regularly inspects parish assets, but if you notice any damage to benches, play equipment, trim trails, monuments or other parish facilities, or if you see a litter bin that has been missed or is overflowing during the busy holiday period, please let the Parish Office know. Your reports help us respond quickly and keep the parish looking its best.

Parish News Volunteers Needed

We're still looking for a volunteer to deliver the Parish News to around 60 homes in Old Sarum. Deliveries are only required six times a year, and it's a great way to support your local community. If you can help, or would like more information, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you for helping us look after Laverstock, Ford and Old Sarum.

Ready for Reception: Starting School with Confidence



As summer draws to a close, families across our community are preparing for one of life's biggest milestones: starting primary school. It's a huge step for four-year-olds – and often an emotional transition for parents, too.

During these first few weeks, the priority is helping children feel safe, secure and settled. Children learn best when they feel confident in their new environment, and schools work hard to make the transition as smooth as possible.

It's natural for children and parents to feel a mix of excitement and first-day jitters. Reassuring your child that mixed feelings are normal and talking positively about their new routine can make a real difference.

Schools often use practical strategies to support children as they settle. These may include half-day sessions, meeting teachers, and 'stay and play' activities that help children become familiar with their new surroundings.

If you have any worries about how your child is settling in, speak to their class teacher. Whether it's a quick chat or an email, sharing concerns early helps the school support your child straight away.

Preparing for Reception is less about academic practice and more about independence. Please don't worry about teaching your child to read or write before September – that's the school's job! Instead, focus on self-care skills such as using the toilet independently, putting on a coat, fastening shoes and recognising their written name. Practising putting on their new uniform, using cutlery and drinking from an open cup can also help children feel more prepared for school.

Establishing routines before term begins also helps. Introducing school-night bedtimes a few days early, checking key information such as drop-off times, and

labelling every item can all help reduce unnecessary stress. Finally, remember that those first few weeks are exhausting for little ones. Keeping after-school plans simple and allowing plenty of quiet downtime will help them recharge and settle in smoothly.

For families already thinking about school choices for next September, visiting a school remains one of the best ways to understand its environment, ethos and staff. At Greentrees, we're always happy to welcome prospective Reception families for a tour. Please visit our website **www.greentrees.wilts.sch.uk** or contact **admin@greentrees.wilts.sch.uk** to arrange a visit.

We look forward to welcoming our new Reception children and families for a happy, successful start to school life!

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:

(**JessParker@greentrees.wilts.sch.uk**) for further information about this role, or visit **www.greentrees.wilts.sch.uk/about/governors** (with our apologies for an IT issue with the clerk's previously published email address).

Supporting Children's Mental Health



Navigating life moments such as starting or changing schools, moving up a year group, or experiencing personal issues, can surface a lot of emotions for young people.

Encouraging them to be aware of what they are feeling can help them manage their own mental health from a young age.

Being present and open as a guardian creates a safe environment for a child, helping them know that when they want to be honest and vulnerable, there is someone to listen. Which is especially important when environments or circumstances are changing.

Some non-verbal signs that a young person might be struggling are: disrupted sleep, significant changes in mood, and withdrawing from usual interests or social situations.

If you sense that there are situations or emotions that are difficult for a child to experience, encouraging a structured routine and participation in creative or active interests can help maintain internal balance.

You can also access support from the following organisations:



The NHS provides advice and care for children's mental health. You can also seek support from the NHS if you are concerned a child has an eating disorder

- <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/mental-health-support/>



Action For Children help young people and families look after their mental health with tools and advice -

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact/children-and-families/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

YOUNGMINDS

Young Minds Parents Helpline offers parents free, confidential advice via telephone, webchat or email -

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-helpline/>



**CHILDHOOD
BEREAVEMENT
NETWORK**

Child Bereavement Network shares guidance on supporting a child through grief

<https://childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk/if-you-need-help-around-death/bereaved-children-and-families>



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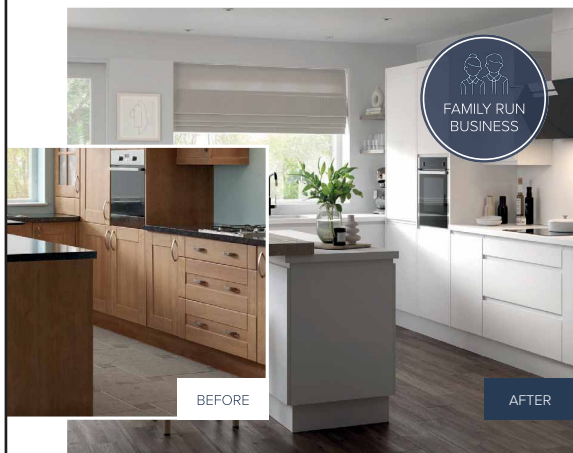
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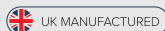
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Age UK Wiltshire's new Community Connector supporting older people in Laverstock and Ford

Age UK Wiltshire has welcomed a new Community Connector to support older people living in Laverstock and Ford, offering face-to-face help to those who may be feeling lonely, isolated, or worried about managing day-to-day life.

The role forms part of our wider Community Support service, which has been helping older people across the county for many years. Our Community Connector, Luisa, will become a familiar, friendly face in the local area, offering practical help and access to information for anyone who could use a little extra support.

Some people simply want to get out and socialise but aren't sure where to start. Others are worried about money or bills, and want to check they're receiving all the income they're entitled to. Some find it harder to get to the shops or chemist, while many just want a bit of support to stay active and connected.

Through our Community Support service, we've helped people reconnect with their communities by finding local social activities and volunteering opportunities. We've shared information about reliable cleaning and gardening services when these jobs become difficult to manage alone. We've offered advice on grab rails and home adaptations to help people feel safer at home, and helped people explore community transport to get to shops, appointments, and local events such as our popular Daytime Discos. We've also shared information about home security and telecare for those who feel vulnerable, particularly living alone.

People who first get in touch with us often feel worried and unsure what to do next. But after a home visit and a bit of guidance, people consistently tell us they feel more reassured, more confident, and more in control of their day-to-day lives.

Luisa is looking forward to getting to know the community in Laverstock and Ford, and to being on hand whenever local older people need support.

If you are an older person living in Laverstock or Ford, or you know someone who could benefit from this service, we'd love to hear from you.



To contact the service, please call **01722 444841**, email laverstockandford@ageukwiltshire.org.uk, or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/our-services/laverstockandfordcs/ to find out more.



St Andrews Baby & Toddler Group

A bit about us

St Andrews Baby & Toddler group has been running in the community for over 40 years. The group supports and welcomes families with young children five and under, and is a safe place where mums, dads, carers, grandparents and childminders can come together each week. We run every Thursday 10am – 11.30am during term time at Laverstock and Ford Village Hall, which has parking available for families on site. The activities and play opportunities on offer, provide young children with an environment in which to play, learn and develop their social and friendship skills. Each week we have a theme and offer a linked messy play, craft and colouring activity, alongside other toys, games and role play. We have a separate corner for the mums and babies that attend which allows them a quieter area, where they can breast-feed and allow their babies to nap, if needed. The cost of attending the group is £2.50 each week and includes a healthy snack and drink for the children and a hot drink and a biscuit for the adults. We end the session each week with songs and stickers. Many of our families who attend each week, do so, for many years (until their children reach school age) and develop long-lasting friendships that continue outside of the group.

The group is supported each week by parent volunteers (Vanessa, Amy and Sarah) and volunteers from the local Mother's Union Group. The group is low on volunteers, so if you would like to contribute some of your time, please get in touch! **standrews.toddlergroup@yahoo.com**. Any help would be greatly appreciated! We also have a Facebook group which will keep you up to date with themed weeks, dates and photographs of what we've been up too. Feel free to sign up!

This Term at a Glance

Frog themed week



There was frog themed water play available which the children really enjoyed and the opportunity to paint, cut and make their own frog to take home.

Dinosaur week



We put out some dinosaur themed play, dinosaur scratch cards and wooden dinosaurs to colour and take home. All the children also had the opportunity to make a dinosaur fossil using air drying clay.

Earth themed week (to mark World Earth Day)



The children had the opportunity to create their own paper plate earth and to plant and take home a sunflower, alongside other earth themed play, such as the farm and animals.

International World Bee Day



We celebrated bees with a sensory, messy tray which the children really enjoyed. Each child had the opportunity to make and take home their own homemade bee and had access to some lovely bee and insect colouring sheets.

End of Term Party



Our end of term attracted a lot of new families and regulars. It was a scorcher that day! We had soft play, a bouncy castle, outdoor games and water play, along with some delicious party food and an ice lolly for each child to keep cool. We know how hard it can be to keep the kids entertained for the whole summer and so each family was sent home for the holidays with a new story book and a pack of activities to keep little hands busy!

Exciting News!

We have been fortunate enough to secure a grant from the local council for the next year. Over the summer we will be sorting through and organising our store cupboard and replenishing our toys, craft and messy play resources ready to start the new term on Thursday 10th September. We look forward to seeing you all!

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event or Reminder
Thursday 10th September 10am – 11.30am	First session back after the summer
Thursday 17th September 10am – 11.30am	
Thursday 24th September 10am – 11.30am	
Thursday 1st November 10am – 11.30am	
Thursday 18th November 10am – 11.30am	Autumn term dates – first half
Thursday 15th October 10am – 11.30am	End of term Halloween party

Daniels Tree & Gardening Services

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Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity reveal their 2026 mission figures so far this year

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We're here when you need us most – but in the nicest possible way, we hope you don't.

We provide critical medical care by land and air across Wiltshire and Bath, delivering the same level of care as a hospital by bringing our expert team and specialist equipment directly to those in need – as fast as humanly possible.

We are on call 365 days a year, 19 hours a day. Our team responds to an average of three incidents daily – attending by helicopter or critical care car. This vital work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our Wiltshire and Bath communities. As a registered Charity, we receive no regular government funding and rely entirely on the generous donations and support of our local communities.

Based in central Wiltshire, our helicopter can reach anywhere in Wiltshire within 11 minutes – and the centre of Bath in just four.

So far in 2026, we have attended 595 missions, including 49 missions in Salisbury and the surrounding areas.

February was our busiest ever, making it the first February in our history to respond to more than 100 missions.

The proportion of missions attended by a critical care doctor has increased from 61% in 2025 to 65% so far this year. That means more patients can receive advanced procedures and lifesaving interventions at the scene, bringing hospital-level care directly to the patient.

Get involved

There are many ways you can help support your local air ambulance.

Whether you join us at one of our events this year, host your own community fundraiser, take part in our raffles, leave us a legacy, become a volunteer, or support us in one of the many other ways available, we are incredibly grateful for every way our supporters help us.

Find out more about our Charity: wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk

Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity September & October Events

PAWS CHARITY DOG SHOW

When: 13 September, 10am–4.30pm

Location: Rainscombe Park, near Marlborough

What To Expect: K9 Aqua Sports, have-a-go agility, Fun Family Dog Show, plenty of children's activities and much more! All in aid of Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance and The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

Tickets: £8 in advance / £10 on the door.

More information: <https://www.wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk/get-involved/events/paws-charity-dog-show>

PADDLE FOR PURPOSE

When: 26 September, 9am–1pm

Location: Bathampton to Kennet and Avon Canal

What To Expect: Join us and our ambassador, Paul Martin, for a 10km paddle from The George Inn in Bathampton along the Kennet and Avon Canal using whatever floats your boat – a paddle board, a canoe, or tandem kayak.

Registration: £25 per person with a requirement to raise £100 for the charitable cause.

More Information: <https://www.wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk/get-involved/events/paddle-for-purpose>

CYCLEFEST

When: 4 October, 11am–4pm

Location: Castle Combe, Chippenham

What To Expect: There's something for everyone at CycleFest. Whether you come along for a relaxed day out with the family at the iconic Castle Combe Racetrack with lots to get involved in or take on personal cycling challenge around our 40 or 65-mile route.

Tickets:

40-mile Challenge Ride: Standard = £40 / Fundraising = £30 with minimum £100 fundraising pledge

65-mile Challenge Ride: Standard = £45 / Fundraising = £35 with a minimum £100 fundraising pledge

Family Day: Adults = £5 / Children = £3

More Information: <https://www.wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk/get-involved/events/cyclefest-castle-combe>

FIREWALK

When: 30 October, 5.30–8pm

Location: Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance airbase, Outmarsh, Trowbridge

What To Expect: Feel the buzz and the adrenaline as you take part in an exhilarating firewalk challenge. With expert guidance and powerful courage, you'll take some unforgettable steps across glowing coals. No training is required.

Tickets: Adult - £35 / Children (12–16 years old) - £25 / Team of 4 - £120

More Information: <https://www.wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk/get-involved/events/firewalk>

New Sarum Women's Institute



At our Annual Meeting in June, in order to lighten the obligatory proceedings, NSWI invited the team from Boots No 7 make up department to demonstrate the use of some of their products. They guided us through the process of a facial make up with useful hints & tips, and with willing member, Dibs, as our model for the evening. We all agreed that it was a lovely transformation for a special look.

Due to the very warm weather we have been experiencing of late, a number of our walks have had to be postponed including those of our newest 'Nearer to Nature' walking subgroup. However, we are looking forward to the rescheduled event at RSPB Winterbourne Downs later in July. Some events went ahead as planned though including: a lunch at Cote Brasserie, cocktails at Qudos, a visit to the Gardens at Little Durnford Manor, a guided tour of the old Salisbury Museum on St Annes Street, and our ever popular croquet session at Hampworth Golf & Country Club.

The national 'Big Lunch & Help Out' in June saw a group of our members at the Old Sarum Community Centre event take part in the 'Human Fruit Machine' to help raise funds for the Community Pantry. Both children & adults alike had great fun playing and we hope to have it with us when we take part in the Bishopdown Farm Community Fun Day on Monday 31st August. We also took part in the successful Wild & Green Family Festival at River Bourne Community Farm where some of our creative members demonstrated some traditional crafts such as patchwork, crochet, rag rug making, French knitting, tatting and mosaics.

Having raised a fantastic £1000 for our nominated charity over the last year, some of our members visited the Alabaré Barford Development Centre to present them with a cheque for this amount. They were treated to a lovely afternoon tea with homemade cakes from the centre's clients, along with a tour of the facilities and activities on offer at the centre.

Our nominated charity this year is the Salisbury Women's Refuge and the fundraising commenced with a very successful charity coffee morning at St Thomas's Church in July. Thanks to our talented cake makers and well supplied tombola stall, we raised over £500.

Our forthcoming activities, along with our usual subgroups, also includes a trip to Salisbury Races, a visit to the Comedy Night at the Guildhall and a day to London to see the Queen Elizabeth Clothes Exhibition.

If you would like to find out more about this diverse, friendly and sociable group, please email newsarumsec@wiltshirewi.org.uk find us on www.facebook.com/NewSarumWI or just turn up at one of our meetings at the Old Sarum Community Centre, the first Wednesday of the month for a 7.00pm start.

Laverstock Gardening Club



Laverstock Gardening Club meets on the fourth Monday of most months in the 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 June speaker couldn't make it, so we had to entertain ourselves!

On the contrary, our July speaker gave us a lot to think about. Kath Crouch is a successful garden designer who has been investigating which garden plants best cope with wet winters and dry summers. She wanted to find plants which didn't require spraying or watering, and so she came up with an extensive list. Her plan was to audit her garden every July and remove the poor performers. For the background to her talk, she enrolled ChatGPT. An informative talk giving us lots of ideas.

Unfortunately, our long-serving Chairman was unable to be with us for this meeting, her last as Chairman, because of illness. We wish her well.

Our September meeting will be our AGM, the October meeting will be a talk by Frogg Moody and in November we have Michael Bowyer.

David Hutchinson 01722 334036

Sarum u3a - Learn, Laugh, Live

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. Guests are very welcome to attend our coffee mornings.

Autumn Programme

September 16th - **The Honey Isles** - Richard Rickett

October 21st - **Fungi in the new Forest** - Marcus Ward

November 18th - **Brilliant Brunel** - Barry Edwards

More details of our meetings and groups are on our website <https://sarum.u3asite.uk/welcome/>

We're a small charity that promotes events and activities where older people will get a warm welcome locally.

This month, we have three exciting things to tell you about:



1) Coffee & Chat in Laverstock

This coffee and chat group for the over 60s meets on the 1st Monday of each month at Laverstock and Ford Village Hall. We get together for a relaxed, social morning, often with a guest speaker. We're incredibly grateful to Laverstock and Ford Parish Council for funding to get this group started. Upcoming speakers include:

10–11.30am Monday 7 September: Richard Benjamin from Silvertime Legal is going to talk about wills & trusts, managing care fees, inheritance tax and powers of attorney.

10–11.30am Monday 5 October: John & Carrie Walsh share their unusual experiences as Salisbury's Mayor and Mayor's Consort during the Covid epidemic.

2) Our Autumn Festival is on from 19 September – 21 October!

This is just over a month's worth of special events; tea parties, music, nature, history, a Mobility Scooter Scoot, talks, tours, and outings and much more....



The paper programme is available from the Salisbury Library, mobile libraries, the Information Centre and many local community groups from 1st September (including our September Coffee and Chat). There's lots happening, so pick up a copy and book in for a great day out.

3) Our NEW Directory is out from the middle of September

This is a paper directory of more than 100 local clubs and services where older people will get a warm welcome. If you, or someone you know, is wanting to try some new things or meet new people this is the place to start looking. Whether you're into music and the arts, history and nature, or keeping fit and practical skills, we're sure you'll find something of interest. Again, this is available from local libraries, the Information Centre and local community groups.



*Last year's Directory –
new one coming!*

Autumn at Castle Hill Country Park

As another summer season comes to a close at Castle Hill Country Park, the autumnal changes begin to appear. The spectrum of colours change to the yellows, oranges, reds and browns across the site, and the focus changes from surveying, monitoring and maintaining the grassland, to managing the scrub to help maintain the delicate balance of habitats, including open chalk-grassland, bare chalk and the mosaic of scrub habitat which provide the diversity to support a variety of wildflowers, birds, butterflies, small mammals and associated invertebrates.

Whether you are visiting as a family, with friends or on your own purely for the enjoyment of a peaceful walk with panoramic views, Castle Hill Country Park will not disappoint. It also reminds us to be mindful of the wildlife that depends on these habitats and of the importance of caring for the park by keeping to paths and taking litter home,

If you would like to do more to care for the site and to be actively involved helping maintain the beauty of Castle Hill Country Park and its mosaic of habitats, then why not join the regular volunteer group which meets every 2nd Saturday of the month throughout the year? There is no experience required, just lots of enthusiasm!

To find out more about becoming a volunteer at Castle Hill Country Park, please visit Wiltshire Wildlife Trust website to register.

<https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/volunteering>



Green Angels at Castle Hill Country Park

Connecting People with Nature Through Free Training

Green Angels, The Land Trust's community engagement programme, has been delivering a range of free courses and activities at Castle Hill Country Park, helping local people develop practical conservation skills, connect to nature and improve their wellbeing.

Since 2022, participants have taken part in a variety of learning opportunities, including Introduction to Conservation & Land Management and Wildflower & Meadow Management.





These sessions have been delivered in partnership with local organisations and specialist trainers, creating opportunities for people of all experience levels to learn about wildlife, conservation, and countryside management in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Looking Ahead

Green Angels is currently planning a repeat of the very successful “All About Trees” two-day course, which ran in 2025. This will run in November, dates to be confirmed, and will focus on UK native species, winter pruning, hedgerow and shrubs, with plenty of hands-on practical tasks. Further practical conservation, wildlife, and traditional skills Green Angels courses will be organised for 2027 at Castle Hill.

Get Involved

All Green Angels activities are free to attend and open to adults aged 18+.

To view upcoming courses, receive updates, and book onto activities at Castle Hill Country Park, register your interest for free on our website:

<https://greenangels.thelandtrust.org.uk>

Climate Change Actions and Energy Support

It seemed very appropriate that it was a Tuesday in July in the middle of a heatwave that Wiltshire Council held a Climate and Environment showcase event at County Hall. Here are some of the things going on that can help us adapt to climate change or to play our part in reducing carbon emissions (and often saving money at the same time).

- **Warm Homes Grant** – If your household income is less than £36,000 per year and your home has an Energy Performance Certificate of D or below you may be eligible for grant funded energy saving home improvements such as insulation and low carbon heating. You can apply online here – <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy-efficiency/warm-homes-local-grant-apply>
- **Warm and Safe Wiltshire** – The Centre for Sustainable Energy provides this free energy advice service that helps





you keep your home warm and reduce your bills. They can also advise on the financial assistance that may be available to you.

- **Solar Panels** – Each spring Wiltshire Council runs the ‘Switch Together’ scheme to get great group buy prices on solar panels. However, there are many other local installers operating all year around. With new improved battery technology solar panels allow you to generate zero emission electricity and save money on your bills.
- **On Street Home Charging** – Wiltshire is currently trialling a scheme where you can apply to be considered for a cable channel dug across a pavement, allowing you to charge your car from a home charger if you don’t have a drive.
- **Going Electric** – Wiltshire Council’s fleet of vehicles is going electric. I had the privilege of getting an early look at the new electric powered mobile library that will be serving Laverstock.
- **Wiltshire Digital Drive** – This Community Interest Company will help you safely recycle your old laptop or tablet, safely wiping all your personal data and then find a new home for it with a person or community group who need it. They have a donation station at Godolphin School.
- **The Green Johanna** – this home composter is available at a discounted price from Wiltshire Council.
- **Nadder Valley Community Energy** – they raise money by selling shares which allow them to build zero carbon energy projects and pay back investors with interest over a set period while providing financial support to local green projects.

I recently attended a showing of the ‘National Emergency Briefing’, which sets out the incredibly serious challenges climate change will create for society in our lifetime. It was really encouraging to attend this practical event and see some of the things that are happening that can make a real difference. You can find out about any of these schemes through a simple internet search or feel free to contact me and I can pass on more details. **Cllr Nick Baker**

PARISH MYTH BUSTERS

Myth 1: Full Council Meetings are only for Councillors

Full Parish Council meetings happen once a month, and allow for Councillors to conduct Parish related business, progressing projects and plans forward openly. The public are encouraged to attend in order to learn what the Parish Council is currently working on to better the community offering.

Members of the public are welcome to speak before the meeting formally commences, voicing opinions or concerns they wish to be heard by the Council. When members of the public choose to speak at Full Council meetings, it helps Councillors make informed decisions about how best to move forward.

Myth 2: The Parish Council make decisions on planning applications

The Parish Council is a consultee for planning applications, meaning it doesn't make the final decision. Any input is sent to Wiltshire Council for consideration. Councillors view applications and submit comments based on local knowledge and residents' views to the local planning authority, in our case Wiltshire Council.

This means that the Parish Council may be able to influence planning applications, but cannot decide their outcome.

Myth 3: The Parish Council has access to unlimited funds

Parish Councils operate within a carefully managed budget funded primarily through the parish precept, which forms part of residents' Council Tax. Every pound is allocated, spent, and tracked carefully by the Council's Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

The Council pursues projects that aim to benefit the community and also to carries out important services such as public waste bin emptying and green spaces management. One thing that is always considered is how best to deliver good value for money as all Councillors and Officers are aware we're looking after public assets and spending public money.

This does mean that there are specific processes that must be gone through in order to approve larger spends. Naturally, the result of this is that decisions on these matters take time.

BIKE SAFETY



Cycling is a great way to get around. It is environmentally friendly and contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Its low-impact nature means that it is an accessible form of cardio for many people.

However, the concerns of bike theft and road safety are real worries for those thinking about taking up cycling.

CYCLING SAFETY ON THE ROADS

Where possible, riders should use the designated cycling paths. However, it is known that cycle lanes are limited in the area of Salisbury, meaning the use of the road is needed regularly.

Here are four tips from Cycling UK to help keep you as safe as possible on the roads:

1. Check Your Surroundings

When starting your journey or navigating a junction, there is a lot going on. Make sure to fully assess your environment and that you are in a clearly visible spot to passing traffic. Look for all potential hazards, including pedestrians and other cyclists before choosing how to join the flow of traffic.

2. Break Sense

Road conditions can change quickly, which means you need to stay alert at all times. In order to increase your reaction time in unexpected circumstances, make sure you are familiar with how your brakes respond, and remember that wet or uneven surfaces increase your stopping distance.

3. Observe & Anticipate

You're not the only one on the roads, and not everyone pays attention. Take care to assess the awareness of other users. Making the effort to gain eye contact before performing a manoeuvre gives you the confidence that a driver has seen you and that it is safe to go.

4. Road Positioning

Finding a good road position is essential to maximising your safety. Being about an arm's length away from the kerb is a solid position to be in. Most road defects such as potholes, drain covers, and debris are found by the kerb side, so being slightly further out will help you avoid them. Where the road narrows, consider riding in the middle of the lane to ensure visibility and prevent unsafe takeovers from drivers.

For more guidance on road cycling, visit cycleuk.org

BIKE SECURITY

In 2025 the official statistic of bicycle theft was 49,085 by England and Wales police. However, due to incidents not being reported, the real figure is likely much higher.

The Metropolitan Police and Cycle UK have shared guidance on how to protect your bike from theft:

1. Lock It

Even if you are only popping into the shop, or turning around for a few minutes, make sure your bicycle is locked to street furniture. If not, anyone could simply walk away with it without you noticing.

The Met even suggests double locking it, one on each wheel, to deter thieves.

2. Use a Quality Lock

Sold Secure is a non-profit organisation administered by the Master Lock Association. It rates bike locks bronze, silver, or gold on their level of security.

Using a U-lock is often a stronger choice, as long as it is made from good quality materials. Make sure to fill the lock as much as possible, leaving as little room for a thief as possible.

3. Mark It

You can get your bike security marked, which acts as a visible deterrent to thieves. It means if they are caught with a registered bike, they will be arrested, and the original owner can be traced for the bike's return.

4. Location

Parking and locking your bike in a well-lit area with CCTV coverage is a good choice. So are well-used public spaces – thieves don't like an audience.

For more guidance on protecting your bike visit the following webpages:

The Metropolitan Police: <https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/how-safe-is-your-bike>

Cycle UK: <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/campaigns-guide/stop-bike-stolen>

Near Here - what's on locally, all in one place

Most of us have done it. You hear on Monday about the craft fair, the quiz night or the open garden that happened on Saturday, and you think: I would have gone to that.

Near Here is a free website built to fix exactly that problem. It automatically checks thousands of venue websites, council pages and event listings across the country, then gathers what it finds into one page for each village and town. No account, no sign-up, no charge.

There is a page for Laverstock, which pulls together what is coming up here and nearby: nearhere.events/uk/wiltshire/laverstock

At the moment that includes events at Hampton Park Pavilion, the Laverstock and Ford Village Hall, and the Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre, alongside things happening a short drive away in Salisbury and the surrounding villages. It is worth a look on a Friday if you are wondering what to do with the weekend.

It is not perfect, and this is where the Parish can help. Some venues publish their programme as a poster or a PDF, which is difficult for any automated system to read properly, so things do get missed. If you run a group, a class or a one-off event in the parish, you can add it yourself at nearhere.events/suggest-an-event, or suggest a venue that should be included at nearhere.events/suggest-a-venue. Both are free.

Near Here was built by Jon Reed, who started it after one too many Saturdays discovering that the interesting thing had happened the Tuesday before. It is not a replacement for this newsletter, which will always know things a website never will, and shares the voice of the Parish. It is simply somewhere else to look.

Laverstock & Ford Village Hall Committee

Presents

Traditional SKITTLES Night

Get a team together and give it a roll...

Saturday 26th September 6:00 pm

Max 4 per team £5pp | **Laverstock & Ford Village Hall** | Tea/coffee & cake incl



Contact Laura Jones at
laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk
or 07734888181 to book



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Tel: 07801 704254
Website: <https://theartssocietysarum.org.uk>

WHAT'S IN A NAME – 18

ROBINSON GROVE, LONGHEDGE

Robinson Grove and Robinson Grove Play Park are named after Captain William Leefe Robinson VC of the Royal Flying Corps. Leefe Robinson was the first airman to shoot down a German airship over Britain in the First World War. He was also the first person to be awarded the Victoria Cross for action in the UK.

Robinson was born in Coorg, India on 14 July 1895. His parents owned a coffee estate. He started schooling in India but moved to a preparatory school in Oxford before attending St Bees School in Cumbria. He entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in August 1914 and then joined the Worcestershire Regiment. In 1915 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as an observer.

After being wounded in action, he returned to Britain and started pilot training. Robinson joined 39 (Home Defence) Squadron flying B.E.2c night fighters at Sutton's Farm airfield, which later became RAF Hornchurch. The airfield had been established to protect London from attack by airships.

On the night of 2 September 1916, Robinson took off at 11.08pm and climbed slowly to 10,000 feet. That night 16 airships had left bases in Germany for England. He eventually made contact with an SL 11 airship at 11,500 feet and made two unsuccessful attacks using incendiary and explosive rounds. His third attack from closer range used more concentrated fire and set the airship alight. All this

time the airship crew had been returning machine gun fire. The airship crashed killing all 16 crew. Robinson was in the air for over 3 hours. When he landed, he discovered his aircraft had been severely damaged by gunfire.

The destruction of the airship received a lot of publicity and Lieutenant



Leefe Robinson was awarded the Victoria Cross two days later. The citation recorded his most conspicuous bravery in attacking an enemy airship under circumstances of great difficulty and danger.

In April 1917 Robinson was posted to France as a flight commander with 48 Squadron flying the new Bristol F2 fighter. On his first flight he was shot down, wounded and captured. He was repatriated in December 1918 but contracted Spanish flu and died on New Years Eve.

In the village of Cuffley, Herts, there is a granite memorial to Leefe Robinson close to the site where the airship crashed. It was erected by public subscription in June 1921 and unveiled to a large crowd. There is also a memorial plaque to him in the chapel of St Bees School in Cumbria.



*WW1 propaganda postcard
of Leefe's air battle victory*

LAVERSTOCK & FORD HISTORY GROUP

invite you to the next meeting on 24 September
at 2pm in St Andrew's Church.

Being a Blue Badge Guide

JOHN CUTLAND, a longstanding Blue Badge Guide of Salisbury and district, will give us an illustrated talk about his time as a Guide in the city,

John is an experienced and quite exceptional guide, and visitors should expect to be both entertained and educated. However, much as you feel you 'know' Salisbury, you will discover new and often surprising aspects. His knowledge is given with a light touch which will keep you 'on your feet' as his illustrated talk takes us round some of the most interesting, historic buildings of Salisbury. He has a knack of looking at a building and then linking it with its site and history, so that it comes alive.

He will also describe the vigorous training to become a Blue Badge Guide, sharing often humorous insights into his career.

The talk will finish with some 'DIDGERS'.

DROP-IN FEE £2.50
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £12.00

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



~LAVERSTOCK~ WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Since our last update, we have held both our Annual General Meeting and our birthday celebration. The AGM gives us an opportunity to reflect on everything we have achieved and enjoyed as a group over the past year, reminding us of the importance of community, friendship and shared experiences. We also enjoyed a WI-themed birthday quiz, which put our members' knowledge to the test and provided plenty of laughs along the way.

We were also delighted to welcome a speaker from the Wessex Rivers Trust, who introduced us to their new local project, Our Healthy Headwaters. The project focuses on helping communities make small, simple, river-friendly choices at home and understand how those changes can improve the health of local rivers. It was inspiring to hear about the project's ambitions for our area. The talk was both informative and eye-opening as we learned more about the everyday products and chemicals that can affect the health of our rivers and waterways. Many of us went home and checked our cupboards afterwards!

Did you know? Our Laverstock WI logo is inspired by the yellow flag iris grows locally along the River Bourne in Laverstock.

We will be taking a summer break in August, although members will still enjoy each other's company for a social evening at the pub. Our next meeting will take place on 21st September, when we will welcome Melanie Howard, who will be sharing stories from her trekking adventures.

As always, visitors and new members are very welcome. There is no need to pre-book; simply come along on the night. Your first three meetings are free as a visitor, and we would love to welcome more people to our friendly group. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at Laverstock village Hall, doors open from 7.30pm.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact us at laverstockpres@wiltshirewi.org.uk

Amy

President, Laverstock & District WI

What's happening for young people in the parish?

Laverstock and Ford Parish Council (LFPC) are keen to ensure they provide facilities and opportunities for everyone. When we have capital funds available from a developer community infrastructure levy, we have a chance to consider



what is being provided for our younger residents. Whilst we have taken on the running and maintenance of a myriad of play areas (well over 30 at the last count!), it is recognised that these are just one aspect of what might be wanted and are aimed mostly at the younger members of our community. As you may have seen, developments for the MUGA at Old Sarum are progressing. We hope that these facilities give older teenagers somewhere to socialise and enjoy being outdoors.

As well as offering places, we want young people to have clubs and events to go to. We have joined a collaborative project, working with Alderbury, Idmiston, Firs Down, Pitton and West Grimstead Parish Councils. As a group we have successfully applied for funding from both WC and the National Lottery to provide youth services locally. This helps fund the regular youth club at Old Sarum, and a number of events in school holidays. Keep an eye out for what's to come in the new academic year!

By joining together as a group, we have been able to secure services from the Wiltshire youth charity, Young Swindon & Wiltshire. They do some work directly, but also coordinate the one-day specials with providers like Buzz Action, and District Sports. The grant funding is supplemented by funding directly from the Parish Council and allows for these events to be free for the community.

The Parish Council always welcomes feedback from our residents, so please let us know if you have any ideas of what could be offered for the younger generation, or how we could be doing things differently. We would particularly appreciate hearing from those with an interest in local youth services and events.

Cllr Holland

Youth Club Details

Old Sarum Youth Club, Old Sarum Community Centre, every other Monday.

david.osper@youngswindonandwiltshire.org.uk

Bishopdown Farm Youth Club

Hampton Park Pavilion, every Thursday

admin@districsportsouth.com

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

It feels as though we've been quite busy...

Fourteen of us made it to the 150th anniversary service at the cathedral in June, it was a very uplifting occasion – lovely hymns for singing. The new MU chaplain for the diocese, Rev Sarah Wood-Roe, was installed, and she then preached during the service.

We had our local outing to the Riverside hotel in Harnham in July for tea, they were very welcoming and coped with all our orders for different teas & coffees!

When you receive this, hopefully some of you will have joined us at our annual Garden Party.

There is exciting news to come about MU's new partnerships with The Clewer Initiative regarding modern slavery, and also with the Girls' Brigade – more about that in the future.

Going into the autumn, we have our annual church service at St Andrew's on 10th September, which will be taken by the vicar Rev Andy Bousfield, and on 8th October we look forward to a talk by Elizabeth Bartlett on 'Challenges of Dementia'. This affects so many families – please do come and join us if you are interested in this subject.

We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 2.30 in the Curtis room at the back of St Andrew's church. If you would like to know more, please contact **Pip Carter 07854 827233** or **Joan Prior 07833 781075**.



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



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HOW DO THE CHANGES TO THE PRIVATE RENTAL SECTOR AFFECT ME?



What you need to know by Wiltshire Citizens Advice



From 1 May 2026, landlords are no longer able to issue Section 21 'no fault' eviction notices to tenants in the private renter sector.

The ban is just one of several changes that came into force as part of the Renters' Rights Act 2025, which came into effect May 2026. If you rent your home, here's what it means for you.

No more Section 21 evictions: Landlords can no longer issue Section 21 eviction notices to tenants. After this date landlords will only be able to evict you for specific grounds – for example if you have built up rent arrears, or they want to sell their property.

Any Section 21 notice issued before 1st May 2026 must be valid and be followed by court proceedings within six months of being issued or by the end of July 2026, whichever comes first. If a valid notice has been served, the tenancy will not convert to the new rules until possession proceedings have concluded. A tenancy will also be prevented from converting to the new rules if a landlord served a valid Section 8 notice before 1 May.

No more fixed-term tenancies: All tenancies will become assured tenancies and all fixed-term tenancies, like a 12-month tenancy, will become rolling periodic tenancies, meaning they don't have a set end date. As a tenant, you don't need to do anything. It means you have better protection from eviction, as well as greater flexibility if you do need to move.

New rules on leaving a tenancy: When you decide you'd like to leave, you'll have to give your landlord two-months' notice in writing. If you're in a joint tenancy, one tenant can serve notice on behalf of all tenants, ending the agreement for everyone. The notice period can only be shorter if it's agreed in writing by both the landlord and all joint tenants.

Two months' notice for rent increases: Landlords must give tenants two months' notice for a rent increase. Landlords will only be able to put the rent up once a year. If you think the increase is unreasonable, you can challenge it via a tribunal.

Right to ask to have a pet: Tenants will have the legal right to ask if they can keep a pet, you'll have to put your request in writing. Landlords will have 28 days to reply and can only refuse if they have a good reason.

No more than one month's rent in advance: Landlords will no longer be able to ask for more than one month's rent in advance. Rent bidding wars are also banned.

Ban on discrimination: Landlords will no longer be able to specify things such as 'no children' or 'no benefits' on rental adverts or tenancies, but some exceptions may apply.

More information for tenants: All landlords will need to provide prospective tenants with 'a written statement of terms' before they agree to a tenancy. This should include basic information such as how much rent will be and the landlord's name and address. Failure to provide this information could result in a landlord being fined. If your tenancy converted under the new rules, you should have received this information by 31 May 2026.

If you have any questions or need any further advice about renting, or what the changes mean for you, 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>

On behalf of the Salisbury Fundraising Committee of Cancer Research UK,

I would like to say a massive thank you for attending my Strawberry Tea Afternoon at the end of June.

It was a truly wonderful afternoon, enhanced by the singing of the Sky Larks Choir. The amount raised was £1460 which was incredible. So once again thank you for your support.

**Sue Gallagher
Chairperson, Cancer Research UK**





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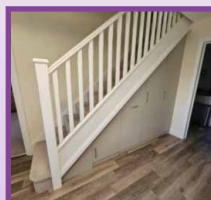


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Restoring the Past – Educating for the Future



8th September 19:00 at BDAC Conference Room

Navy Aerobatic Teams

Jerry Granger-Holcombe - Fleet Air Arm observer in Sea Vixens and Phantoms

The Navy's approach to aerobatic teams is more relaxed and Jerry's presentation shows the more human approach with pictures from the archives of members of the team and their 'back-ups'. The teams from as early as 1948 were squadron orientated and were always required to remain operational. The presentation finally describes a civilian piloted team which provided the RN with 'red forces' aggression. The presentation will include live interrupts from members of one of the teams. Jerry left the Navy in 1994 but has remained in contact with Naval colleagues even after spending 25 years in Australia.

Park and Ride 7 City Centre Bus Stop



David Newton, Operation Manager Red Salisbury replies to Cllr Waller

A response from David Newton, Operations Manager Red Salisbury, was received mid-July. He thanked me for sending him the many comments received from residents using the P&R7 bus service, both positive and negative.

Whilst he understands that several of his passengers suggest returning the city bus stop to Blue Boar Row, he states that this is not a simple matter as it has implications for other services using the city centre. He continues to say that he recognises the benefits of having the R2 and the P&R7 bus stop adjacent to each other; a point that residents living toward the St Clements Way side of the estate also acknowledge. However, it is less so for passengers living on Riverdown Park.

He acknowledges the differing views expressed by passengers. There are a significant proportion who would prefer Blue Boar Row as it is closer to the shops. Similarly, there is relief felt by many since the bus stop has been moved from outside Tesco Supermarket.

He then turns his attention to the 'perch seat' stating that the provision of seating and other highway infrastructure is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. To this end, he informs me that he will bring our concerns about the seating for disabled and frail passengers, along with our road safety concerns (when pedestrians are forced to walk in the road due to congested pavements) to the attention of Wiltshire Council.

Although I have written to highway officers and Councillor Martin Smith, I have not been able to confirm that that has happened. I had previously made Wiltshire Council aware of resident's comments. It now looks as if we will need to leave it to WC to decide any action that they may take to fully comply with the Equality legislation, and to give due consideration to our fellow passengers who are less able, as they need adequate seating whilst waiting for their bus service.

There was no acknowledgement of tourism related issues, or the impression the current bus stop provides visitors of our beautiful medieval city in David Newton's response.

Lesley Waller

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/2026/03480 Removal of existing signage and display of 2 fascia signs and 1 Pylon sign at Land Fronting Otton Land Rover, Old Sarum Park SP4 6EB. *NO COMMENT.* **APPROVED.**

PL/2026/02552 Prior approval Part 4 Class BC: Temporary Recreational Campsites. Borrowback Stables, Roman Road, Ford SP4 6DL. **REFUSED.**

PL/2026/02891 Insertion of window Cranbrook, Laverstock Park, Laverstock SP1 1QJ
NO OBJECTION SUBJECT TO USE OF OBSCURED GLASS. **APPROVED.**

PL/2026/02825 Garage extension and conversion 2 Garland Mews, Longhedge SP4 6SW.
WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT.

PL/2026/02255 Single storey side extension 6 Sycamore Drive, Bishopdown SP1 3GZ.
NO COMMENT. **APPROVED.**

PL/2026/02273 Extension to garage and replacement of bay window at Cranbrook, Laverstock Park, Laverstock SP1 1QJ. *NO COMMENT.* **APPROVED.**

PL/2026/02220 Single storey rear extension 63 Fiander Lane, Bishopdown SP1 3BD.
NO COMMENT. **APPROVED.**

PL/2026/02120 Works to TPO trees Sherbourne Drive/Barker Close Old Sarum/Longhedge.
No reponse - PC application. **APPROVED.**

PL/2026/01810 Works to TPO trees 1 Norton Drive, Ford, Salisbury SP4 6DA. *NO COMMENT.*
APPROVED.

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

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.* **WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT.**

Outstanding and New Applications

PL/2026/03307 Demolition of stables, change of use and new stables at Willow Tree Farm, Ford Lane, Ford SP4 6DJ.

PL/2026/04188 Works to TPO trees LAF017 Adj to Applin Road SP1 3PD. *NO COMMENT.*

PL/2026/03882 Reduce crown and lateral spread 3 Acer trees at 43 Applin Road, Salisbury SP1 3PD. *NO COMMENT.*

PL/2026/03349 Installation of solar panels to barn roof at Ford Mill, Ford SP4 6DN.
NO COMMENT.

PL/2026/02684 Erection of 4 bed dwelling, garage and outbuildings at Land west of Green Lane SP4 6DX. *NO COMMENT.*

PL/2026/02034 Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement dwelling at 22 Riverside Close, Laverstock SP1 1QW. *NO COMMENT.*

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. *SUPPORT.*

PL/2026/01752 Listed building consent - redesign kitchen and dining, replacement window Tithebarn, Wolferstan Drive, Bishopdown SP1 3XZ. *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.*

Ward Contacts

LAVERSTOCK & MILFORD WARD

Nick Baker:	nickbaker@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07921 899396
Cindy Vanstone:	cindyvanstone@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	
Laura Jones:	laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07734 888181
Ian McDonald:	ianmcdonald@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07591 963261
VACANCY		

FORD, OLD SARUM & LONGHEDGE WARD

Lainey Barker:	laineybarker@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 01722 321650
Kevin Lynn:	kevinlynn@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 01722 446636
Liz Holland:	lizholland@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	
Janet Mallet:	janetmallet@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	
VACANCIES		

BISHOPDOWN FARM WARD

Lesley Waller:	lesleywaller@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07900 392257
Estelle Williams:	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

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Contacts around the Parish

Air Cadets (Old Sarum)	http://bit.ly/40vdRC6	
Army Cadets (Old Sarum)	http://bit.ly/3RtDQ8y	
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	Amy Middleton	laverstockpres@wiltshirewi.org.uk
Milford Preservation Group	David Lovibond	01722 238852
Mother's Union Afternoon Grp, L	Pip Carter	07854 827233
	Joan Prior	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		info@salisburyfc.co.uk
Salisbury FC Youth	Ed Searle	edsearle1977@icloud.com
Salisbury Medical Practice	Tanya McKay	01722 333034

BF = Bishopdown Farm L = Laverstock

Parish Contacts continued...

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

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

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

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 <i>You can download the MyWilts online reporting app via homepage of their website</i>
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



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