


The Bridge



Worton and Marston
Parish Magazine

December
2016
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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins
giles.collins@btinternet.com

Armistice Day

Our village gathering by the War Memorial on Armistice Day has steadily grown year on year, and this year a heartening thirty three stood to observe the two minutes silence. Thank you everyone who came to take part.

Robin Shercliff
Park Farm House

Frank and Dorothy Barcham will not be sending Christmas cards locally this year. We will instead be making a donation to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal. We would like to wish all our friends and neighbours, who have been so kind to us both during the past year, 'A very happy, healthy and blessed Christmas and New Year'.

Frank and Dorothy

Thank you

Ann and David wish to thank you all for the wonderful time you have given us over the past few weeks. The leaving events in both parishes, in the school and in so many other places were amazing and very humbling. We hardly recognised the people you were describing in your very kind comments. Added to that was the extraordinary generosity of your leaving gifts. Quite what we shall do with them we don't yet know, but we will keep you informed. 'Thank you' sounds totally inadequate, but please know we mean it from the bottom of our hearts. If any of you are in the Coventry area (it is only just over 2 hours by car), you will find a warm welcome at 53 Ivybridge Road, Coventry CV3 5PF. We will pass on our phone number when we have one; email will remain the same and Ann's mobile number is 07531 123548. God bless you all.

Thank you to Robin

Many thanks to Robin Shercliff who retires from The Bridge this month after some 14 years as Editor, Printer and all round supporter of matters relating to its production and distribution. His straightforward, no nonsense approach will be much missed, as will his annual summer drinks party for all those involved!

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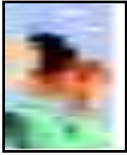
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Pastoral Letter

During World War II, four young soldiers, who had been serving on the front lines for some time, were sent to a small French village for a little R & R. When they arrived safely in the village, they suddenly realised that it was Christmas Eve. They began to discuss how they would like to spend Christmas. One of the soldiers said, "You know, as we were coming into town earlier today, I noticed an orphanage on the outskirts of the village. Why don't we go there in the morning and take some Christmas joy to those children?" The others liked the idea and the more they talked about it, the more excited they became. So they went out and bought all kinds of toys and sweets and clothing, food and books and games, and early the next morning, they showed up at the front door of the orphanage with wonderful Christmas presents for all the children.

The orphanage director was pleased and all the children were delighted as they opened their gifts. All the children that is, except for one little girl who stood quietly to one side. She was 5 or 6 years old and her face was very sad. One of the soldiers noticed that she wasn't joining in, and he asked the orphanage director about the little girl. "O, bless her heart," said the director, "We only got her

last week. Both of her parents were killed in a car crash: there was no one to take her in, so she was brought here."

The soldier went over to the little girl and gently said to her, "It's Christmas morning and we have wonderful Christmas presents here: toys, clothes, sweets, food, books, puzzles. Which would you like? What do you want most for Christmas?" And the little girl said, "I want somebody to hold me."

Maybe that's the best Christmas gift of all - someone to hold us. As somebody once put it, "Rich is not what you have. It's who you have beside you." Well, this sacred season comes along once each year to remind us that "Love Came Down at Christmas," that, even now, God is reaching out to us with open arms, and that He wants us to accept His love and to pass it on to others. May you know love and peace and joy this Christmas and may you, in turn, pass it on to someone in need.

Every blessing and all good wishes this Christmastide.

Renée

SERVICE CALENDAR

December

December

Sun 4th ADVENT 2
 8.00am CHRIST CHURCH
 Holy Communion
 9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
 Family Service
 6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
Rev Wendy Tucker

Sat 24th CHRISTMAS EVE
 6.00pm CHRIST CHURCH
 Christmas Carol Service

Sun 11th ADVENT 3
 9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
 Parish Communion
 6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
Rev Gary Gotham
Holy Communion with Carols

Sun 25th CHRISTMAS DAY
 9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
 Christmas Day
 Family Communion
 6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
No Service

January 2017

Sun 18th ADVENT 4
 9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
 Morning Worship
 6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
No Service
(Carols by Candlelight is 6pm
at St Andrews, Devizes)

Sun 1st CHRISTMAS 2
 8.00am CHRIST CHURCH
 Holy Communion
 9.30am CHRIST CHURCH
 Family Service
 6.00pm *Marston Chapel*
Rev Gary Gotham
Covenant Service with
Holy Communion

There were two baptisms at Christ Church during October for Alicia Rose Mc Gillivray Parry and also Jacob William McGillivray Parry.

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

CHURCH ROTAS

Sidesmen – December 2016

Sun 4 th	8.00am	Mr R Shercliff	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Mrs J Mason, Mrs A Cross	Family Service
Sun 11 th	9.30am	Mrs A Pratt, Mr T Brewer	Parish Communion
Sun 18 th	9.30am	Mrs J Buckley, Mr M Lewis	Morning Worship
Sat 24 th	6.00pm	Mr T Harwood, Mr T Walker	Carol Service
Sun 25 th	9.30am	Mrs M Boyns, Mr R Boyns	Family Communion

Sidesmen – January 2017

Sun 1 st	8.00am	Mr R Shercliff	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Mrs J Mason, Ms L Hale	Family Service

	Altar Flowers	Brass Cleaning	Church Flowers
December 4 th	Advent - no flowers	Mrs J Wright	Advent
December 11 th	Advent - no flowers	Mr Collins	Advent
December 18 th	Advent - no flowers	Mrs Lane	Advent
December 25 th	Mrs Francis	Mrs Hailstone	All to decorate
January 1 st	Mrs Walker	Mrs Mason	Mrs J Mason

Church Cleaning

December 3 rd	Mrs Leggat	Mrs Sperring
December 17 th	Mrs Cross	Mrs Nixon



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if you need the services of a priest, or help with general church matters,
please contact: -
Margaret Armand – Smith: 01380-729248 or
Heather Walker: 01380-725785

From Christ Church:

We wish to thank all those who contributed in any way to the farewell party for David & Ann and everyone who attended. It was a great tribute to them to see so many people there, making it a special evening for them.
Also, thank you to all who made a donation to the joint gift from the villages of Potterne, Worton & Marston. The cheque presented to them at David’s final service, was for just under £6000.00.

From David & Ann:

We are still overwhelmed by the generosity of our church family and wider community after the past three weekends. Thank you so very much for both the parties and the gifts. The cheque (for £6000 for those who didn’t know) we will do something special and memorable with (and let you know later), the picture and engraved vase will be continual reminders of your love and friendship. The tangible things are much appreciated but your kind and affirming words will be much treasured. We were warmed by your tears and thankful to God that we were able to keep ours in check as we sought! Thank you and lots of love.

Some dates to note: At Christ Church:

Tuesday 13th December: Five Lanes School Christmas performance at 2pm and 6pm.
Christmas Eve: Carol Service at 6pm
Christmas Day: Family Communion at 9.30am
Annual Newcomers Party will be on Friday January 27th. More details in next month’s magazine.

You are invited to our

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

at

MARSTON CHAPEL

on

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

at **6pm**



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Worton & Marston Link would like to thank all who turned up for the Quiz Night and made it a fun evening allowing us to raise £165 which will go towards the cost of our insurance and phone bills. Many thanks go to Lesley Hawes for supplying the questions and Keith Wright for being an excellent Master of Ceremonies.

The winners of the quiz were Andy Coultiss and his team who donated the prize money to Julia House, the team of Cannons with Dicky Parsons were runners up. The raffle went well with generous prizes donated by local businesses Gerry & Bill's pop up kitchen, the Rose & Crown and Dennis Rennie from Worton Farm, also many thanks to everyone who donated a raffle prize. The famous booby prize was left behind but I shall make sure it goes into another village raffle so that it may find a good home.

We are looking for driving volunteers who will enable the scheme to continue because we may all be in need at some time. If you are able to spare a few minutes when convenient, to offer lifts to other people in the village to visit doctors and such like when unwell please ring Hazel on 720207 where further information may be obtained and you will be made most welcome.

Alun Newman

Dear Village

As you probably know, Worton now has a Neighbourhood Plan in the process. There were several meetings before it was given the go ahead. Unfortunately they were attended by a minority of the people from Worton.

It was then given the go ahead by the Parish Council by majority (I have to say I was the one that was against); that is democracy. There is a meeting being held at the **Village Hall** on **7th December** at **7.15pm**. Please come to see what is going on in our village to give your views face to face with the steering group which is doing their best to give us the best Worton possible. If you don't come it is no use complaining later.

Roger Wilshire Chairman WPC

THANK YOU

The Village Hall Trustees would like to thank Jo Banks and Christine Johnson for their sterling work in organising and delivering the Monster Scarecrow Trail. Not only did this raise much needed funds for our 'Spend a Penny' Campaign but it was great fun and enjoyed by villagers of all ages, and a lot of people who came from outside the village. We recognise that such events are only successful because a huge amount of work goes into their preparation.

Veronica Franklin



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WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Village clean up

The Parish Council held a Village Tidy up on Saturday the 12th of November, between 1pm and 3pm. Many thanks to those who assisted in improving the look and safety of the village.

Broadband

The Parish Council is aware of the issues with slow broadband in some houses in Worton and has resolved to work to gain access to faster broadband for the houses affected. The Council will be working closely with Wiltshire Council to improve the situation.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

The Parish Council are looking to fill a vacancy for a Parish Councillor through co-option. If you would like to be more involved in the life of the village, and have some time and energy to spare, please get in touch with the Clerk. The Council meets on the first Monday of most months, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Whatleys Playing Field

Subject to planning approval, the Parish Council intends to lease part of the Whatleys Playing Field for use as a children's nursery for the community. Should the application be successful, the Whatleys Playing Field will be closed for the works to build a community nursery facility on part of the field. Access to the field will be restored when the nursery is opened.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting of the Parish Council is on the 5th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Liz Read

www.worton.org.uk

clerk@worton.org.uk



DECEMBER BOOK SWAP

Saturday 10th December
10.00am - 12 noon
at Homeground, 50 High Street
(hosted by Ann Darling)



Advance notice:
Saturday 14th January
at Westview House, 109 High Street
(hosted by Sally Collins)

No.	Clue	What
1	2016 marked 100 years since the birth of the author of these hateful tricksters	The Twits
2	Aslan's arch enemy	The White Witch
3	Dorothy hopes she doesn't encounter this lady on her journey down the yellow brick road.	Wicked Witch of the West
4	His eyes are orange, his tongue is black and he has purple prickles all over his back	The Gruffalo
5	The lady with 100 more of these	Cruella De Vil
6	My school is a model of discipline	Miss Trunchbull
7	I'm half human and half machine, what am I called?	Cyberman
8	Who is this stony eyed ancient lady?	Medusa
9	I am the bad man from Masters of the Universe	Skeletor
10	I am the Pumpkin King of Halloween Town and I featured in bad dreams before yuletide.	Jack Skellington
11	What British TV sci-fi programme do I appear in?	Dr Who
12	I am from the dark side of Worton, what am I?	Storm Trooper / Darth Vader
13	She eats mermaids for breakfast. Who is she?	Ursula
14	What am I and how did I get to earth?	Triffid, on a comet
14a	I guard the prisoners of Azkaban	Dementor
15	In a galaxy far, far away	Darth Vader
15a	Robin's rival for Batman's friendship	Batgirl
16	You might find this one-legged pirate searching for treasure on an island.	Long John Silver
17	This place is home to a blood thirsty people eating plant.	Little Shop of Horrors
18	A slithering jungle beastie with a hypnotic gaze whose signature song is Trust In Me	Kaa
19	The one-handed enemy of the boy who wouldn't grow up.	Captain Hook
20	Don't go into the water.	Jaws
21	My grandma, what big eyes you have!	Wolf Little Red Riding Hood
22	This guy doesn't fool around	The Joker
23	Is this man a quiet cannibal?	Hannibal Lecter
24	Isn't he fangtastic!	Dracula
25	The plant from no. 17 – what's her name?	Audrey 2
25a	Bonus monster from the Tardis	Rasputin

Worton Monster Trail 2016



Worton's second Monster Scary-Crow Trail saw hordes of children, adults & dogs brave the slightly damp weather to come and marvel in the 25 magnificent monsters made by our marvellous monster-makers.

The day raised a fabulous **£415** which will be split between Five Lanes School & the Village Hall.

The Children's Hamper was won by Zak Ridley from Devizes and it was Louise Hale, one of the leaders of Potterne Rainbows, who won the Adult's Hamper. June Mason's fabulous depiction of Jaws was voted best monster by those taking part in the trail.

Trail organisers Chris & Jo would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the day in whatever way. But mostly we would like to recognise all those people who pitched in and helped out, namely:

The Old Forge Garage for kindly sponsoring the programme printing
Worton Parish Council & Good Energy for funding the cost of event insurance

Cheryl Hailstone & Dot Francis for their sterling work on refreshments
Helen Morse & Louise Williams for marking all the programmes

Gerry Barnes for making the signs

Jeff Stocks, Veronica Franklin, Sandra Newman, Lynne Vickers, Pam Woods, Ian Hailstone, Graham Davison, David Johnson, Mark & Jane Fisher for marshalling

Everyone who donated items for the trail winners hampers

And of course, not forgetting the fabulous Monster Makers – your creations were outstanding!

If we've forgotten anyone, we sincerely apologise, count yourself thanked & appreciated.

The day was all about community, fun, a little bit of fundraising and a lot of making people smile. We hope we achieved all of that so, dare we say it

See you next year

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Worton & Marston Village Hall

Village Hall Update

As 2016 draws to a close, we have one final fundraising event for our ‘Spend a Penny’ Campaign, the traditional **Village Hall Christmas Bazaar on 3rd December, 2pm – 4pm**. There will be the usual mix of stalls run by the regular user groups of the Hall and we’re hoping that Father Christmas will be making a special guest appearance this year. If you’d like to contribute in any way we need: Raffle prizes; bottles for the Garden Club Stall; any suitable Christmas gifts for the WI stall; festive food for the Ladies Group stall; small packets of sweets for a children’s lucky dip.

We also need a few people to help with teas & coffees or run a game. Please give Jo a call on 726658 or call in to 76 High St, Worton.

Looking forward to 2017

Our first planned activity for 2017 is a **Village Hall Maintenance Day on January 14th**, just pop along to the Hall any time between **10am – 2pm**. Planned work includes cutting back the hedges around the Hall, a deep clean inside, checking the guttering and anything else that is identified as requiring attention. **HOT SOUP** will be provided to keep you warm.

Another date for your diary is a Jumble Sale planned for 18th March – watch this space for more information and start clearing out your clutter as all good quality, saleable items will be gratefully received.

Finally, the Village Hall committee is sadly now down to 4 people. We desperately need another 2 people to join us and help out – ideally we’d love someone from Marston to come on board and it would be great to have a young person who could bring different ideas and perspectives. BUT we’d be happy to hear from anyone who has time to spare.

Finally, finally the 200 Club Winners for November were: no. 138, Peter Hinton who won £50 & no. 82, Paul Stephenson who won £10.

And

Finally, finally, finally Don’t forget if you do your Christmas shopping online that you can support the Village Hall at no cost to yourself or us by doing it through [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and raising a free donation for Worton & Marston Village Hall every time you shop! <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wortonmarstonvh/>

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all!

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Not just for Worton - Not just for toddlers.

December is a short month for the Group with only two meetings. The 14th is the Christmas Party. We meet at the village hall at 10 and walk to the church where we will make decorations to hang on the Christmas tree. Then we will return for a short party and a visit from Santa. If your pre-school child would like to come please pick up a form at Toddlers. Forms and payment must be received by 7th December. Please do not turn up on the day as it causes Santa some embarrassment if there are not enough presents to go round.

2016 has been a good year with lots of new faces including four lovely babies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our group for sharing the setting up and putting away. I would particularly like to thank Janet for her lovely cakes and Ali for her help with the craftwork.

2017 will soon be upon us and we will meet back on 4th January from 10 – 12 at the village hall, but in the meantime we would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Hilary Hams
130 High Street, Worton
hilaryhams@yahoo.co.uk 07805 303961

Advent choral music from the choir of Magdalen College Oxford

Edington Arts' very successful 2016 concert series comes to a festive conclusion at 7.30pm on Saturday 10th December in Edington Priory Church, near Westbury. An Advent Concert with mulled wine and mince pies will be given by the wonderful choir of Magdalen College, Oxford. This choir of men and boys is one of the three foundation choirs set up within the University by statute in 1480, and comes with a huge reputation which successive Directors have continued to develop. If you love the Carols from Kings on Christmas Eve radio, you'll love this.

Tickets are already selling well, so don't delay getting yours; £20 front nave, £15 rear nave and £10 sides: 18 and under come FREE, 10% discount for Edington Angels. Phone Chrissy on 01380 831256 or email sue@edingtonarts.org. More information, including a chance to sign up to their mailing list for news of 2017's interesting events, on www.edingtonarts.org.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER, 7.30PM
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Rose and Crown Worton

01380 724202

	Lunch time opening	Evening opening
Monday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Tuesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Wednesday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Thursday	Closed	6pm -11pm
Friday Coffee Morning	10.30 - 2.30	6pm -11.30pm
Saturday	12.00 - 2.30	6pm -11.30pm
Sunday	12.00 - 2.30	7pm -11.00pm

Rolls and sandwiches available.

Also look out for 'Bill and Gerry's' Pop Up kitchen signs when they come here and cook.

We have a pool table, darts and skittles.

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

We are hoping to get teams for pool and darts in the winter. Anyone interested, please contact:

Jackie and John in the Rose and Crown.



The Badgers

Worton & Cheverell FC

With the FA rules, results of matches can only be published for age groups above Under 12 level, with some recent results for the Badgers being as follows:

U14: now in the top league of their age group, are currently in 2nd position having played 6 games with 12 points, following a tight 5-4 win against Westbury. In the Cup they drew with local rivals Devizes 2-2, however lost on penalties.

U13: Cup success, now into second round of the league Cup after an impressive 7-4 win away to higher league opposition Melksham Town. Also doing well in the league, currently joint top having only lost one match so far this season, and recent away win 0-1 against Bromham.

At the younger age groups of the Club, the training and friendly matches are more focused on development and skills:

Under 5s: Training is now indoors at Lavington School Sports Hall.

U7 and U8s: The teams are continuing to improve with each game played. We are still looking for some more players to add to our team. Please contact Sharon Black (01380 818193) for more info.

U9: training continuing at Northbrook 6-30 pm Fridays

U10: 2 teams. Currently learning the offside rule ready for next season. Training Fridays 6pm @ Northbrook.

U11: on a good run with positive league results against county opposition and are looking to continue that run into end of year and beyond. Training Fridays 5.30pm @ Northbrook

For contacts / information please visit the Club Website:

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/wortonandcheverellfc/>

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WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

Our evening of Floral Art by Pam Lewis was a great success very much enjoyed by our guests the “Ladies from Poulshot”. Pam kindly donated the flower displays she had arranged so we raffled them off and four lucky people went home very pleased.

A big thankyou to Pam for a lovely evening, also thanks to all for the tasty food which was much enjoyed, along with the odd glass or two.

Our meeting in November on the 30th will be a get together in the village hall to discuss next year’s programme, so if you have any ideas/suggestions we would like to hear them.

A reminder that it’s the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 3rd December. In the past Ladies Group have always had a gift/bric a brac stall. This year we are having a cake and festive goodies stall so ladies any donations of cakes or goodies will be much appreciated. Any cakes etc. can be dropped off with me or Primrose or brought to the village hall. Thank you in anticipation.

There will be no meeting in December. There will be more in next month’s Bridge regarding January.

All that’s left for me to say is have a Very Happy Christmas and see you all in the New Year.

Hostesses for November: Pam and Primrose

Pam Woods



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Christ Church PCC Meeting

The Parochial Church Council of Christ Church met on Tuesday 15 November and discussed the following:

1. Thanks were expressed to all those who had been involved in organising (and in coming to!) the very enjoyable Quizzine evening in the Village Hall on Friday 9 September. It had also made a useful contribution to church funds.
2. It is hoped that work on repairing the church cupola will be started in the new year. We are still awaiting guidance from the Diocese regarding what planning permission, if any, will be required.
3. The Deanery Synod Representatives drew attention, in their report, to the likely substantial hike in the Parish's "Share" (of Diocesan expenditure) next year. This is due, almost entirely, to the drop in numbers of worshippers in other parishes across the Diocese (but not, thankfully, at Christ Church!)
4. The Family of Churches committee remains in good hands, following David's departure, and arrangements for the annual Newcomers' Party in January are in hand.
5. Alison Pratt, who is the Benefice's Safeguarding Representative, gave a major presentation about the steps being taken across the whole Church of England to ensure the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. These will have significant implications for our parish too, and more details of these will be announced, in due course.
6. A recent presentation by representatives of Bath Youth for Christ had covered the excellent work being done by Steve Dewar and confirmed that a good response had been received to their appeal for more funds to ensure the continuation of this beyond 2017. The shortfall is currently about £10,000, but so many children from other parishes, as well as our own, benefit from this work, that it is hoped the remainder can be raised in time. Forms are in church for anybody who feels able to commit (even just a few pounds each month) to support this valuable work.
7. The timetable for recruiting a replacement for David has been finalised, and it is hoped to appoint a new incumbent by the spring.
8. Steps to establish the new Wellsprings Benefice (a union of our benefice with that based in Seend) are slowly moving forward, but may require further public consultation.
9. The annual charitable giving schedule for Christ Church was agreed, as was the Christmas Service schedule (see special insert in this magazine)
10. Finally, warm thanks were expressed to the Chandler family at Five Lanes Farm, for hosting again the very popular Harvest Festival service in September.

Peter Witcher, Secretary to the PCC.

GARDEN SERVICES

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A Message from Richard Gamble

Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose as the French might say. If you need a translation, it means “*The more things change, the more they stay the same.*”

You may be forgiven if you suspect that I have been musing cynically about some of the remarkable events of 2016, such as Brexit and Trump.

In fact, my thoughts had been stimulated by consideration of a matter with a slightly lower public profile - music education. Not long ago, if the parent of a child in school wanted that child to learn a musical instrument, the school asked Wiltshire Council and the council provided a music teacher. The parent paid the school, the school paid the council and the council paid the teacher.

That may sound fine, but the cost of administration to Wiltshire Council was significant. Government did not contribute, the music service was not a statutory obligation and many music teachers were outside the loop. To save money, did we walk away? No! Music education is important. In fact, we found a new way to do things.

The new arrangement is that music teachers are now independent contractors who deal directly with the school and the parent. The Arts Council has provided finance to confirm the credentials of every teacher and to support disadvantaged children. After one year, there has been no discernible change in the number of children learning music. Indeed, more disadvantaged pupils are being supported in a more targeted way. Not least, the vetting process is such that more teachers are being approved, so those who were previously outside the council employment structure are now accountable. The cost to the public purse is down by tens of thousands of pounds. So it's not so much *la même chose* as *mieux* (better)!

Music and Christmas are inseparable. Carols in church; Pop on the radio; Musak in stores and lifts –all contribute to the seasonal atmosphere. Government figures show that the UK's creative Industries, including music, are growing at almost twice the rate of the wider UK economy - generating nearly £10 million per hour.

So sing along and have a very happy Christmas!

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on **07762 018209**.



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Friday 2nd December, starting at 3.30 pm

(Replaces the 25th November session which cancelled)

In Potterne Village Hall

Crafts, games, story, worship, food and fun



*Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.*

The Grinch

ANY VOLUNTEERS

I'm looking for volunteers on two fronts:

Firstly, who would be willing to add their names to the Village Hall Grass Cutting Rota. This entails cutting grass around the village hall and outside the railings. A mower is provided by the village hall unless you prefer to use your own. Usually you're called on just once during the year unless you're unlucky and are near the top of the list! so it could be twice a year.

Secondly, it's ladies I'm after. Is there anyone who has a flair (or not as in my case) for flower arranging and would like to add their names to the Church Flower rota? At the moment there are so few of us that our turn comes up about every 5/6 weeks. It would be nice to get one or two more ladies (or gents if they so wish)

If anyone out there is interested in volunteering please contact me, Pam Woods on 726679.

Many thanks

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What's happening on the Farm!

By the time you read this all the cattle will be in for the winter months, up until recently the groups left out were ok, but as the weather turns it is much better for the cattle to be in and likewise the ground does not become poached and damaged.

This month has been fairly busy, with lots of cattle sales to go to where we have bought and sold cattle. As I write this article father has just rung me to say he has bought a Fleur! This is a very famous cow family, where by the owner of this family has won The Royal Show, The South-West Show, The Bath and West Show to name a few and the offspring from this family have gone all over the world.

This winter we have decided to vaccinate all our heifers under the age of six months with a pneumonia vaccine. Pneumonia in calves can be an issue over the winter so we decided that prevention is better than cure. There are several types of pneumonia vaccines on the market and to determine which one is best suited to the heifers we blood tested a random selection of the groups. The results came back and we purchased the right one to vaccinate them with.

Over the past few months the Barn owl has been making an appearance, it has been spotted by several people around the village and we have seen it swooping down in the paddock below the farm. This is always nice to see, a sight which is becoming quite rare in our countryside.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, for those of you that are hoping for a white Christmas the odds are currently 7-1!

Robert Goss

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

A big 'Thank you' to all those who helped us to fill over 330 shoe boxes on the 5th November at St. Andrew's Church in Devizes. We also received a huge quantity of other donations including hygiene items, soft toys, games, colouring books, crayons, knitted hats, scarves, mittens which all went to the warehouse and will be used to fill many more boxes.

Please note that if there are any developments, with regard to a new local Co-Ordinator for Operation Christmas Child in the future, it will be advertised in the Gazette and Herald and also in this local magazine.

Thank you again for your continuing support and a very Happy Christmas to you all.

Janice Charlton



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Sat 3rd Dec

2pm – 4pm

Gifts

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Stalls

Refreshments

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'Spend a Penny' Fund**

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Five Lanes Women's Institute

November's meeting saw Lynda Warren giving us a very interesting talk about Charles Dickens, providing an insight into this fascinating man. He didn't have an easy early life. His father was imprisoned for debts when he was 7. Afterwards, his family moved away and Charles was forced to leave school and work in a factory, producing polish (!). Luckily his father came into an inheritance and Charles was able to go back to school until he was 15.

In those factory days, Charles was able to spend time reading and going to libraries and museums. After school Charles used his education and went to work in a publishing house, and it was while there that he began to write "The Pickwick Papers."

Lynda also gave us an insight into what he ate, and when and how various Christmas traditions started.

There is no meeting in the hall for December, as we are off to the Rose and Crown for our annual Xmas meal. Back to regular meetings in January.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Jane Loveys, President

Worton and Marston United Charities

We have a vacancy for an allotment at the Mill Road site. It is classed as half a plot but it is a large half and has plum and apple tree, and raspberries and other berries. It will need a bit of work to get it ready for the spring but now is the time to do this. No payment will be required before next autumn.

Any enquiries to me please.

Thanks

Bill Francis, Chair of trustees, 01380 739986

Endnote:

A four year old boy was asked to say grace before Christmas dinner. Everyone bowed their heads as he thanked God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Then he thanked God for Mummy, Daddy, brother, sister, and the wider family. Then he began to thank God for the food – for the turkey, the stuffing, the gravy, the cranberry sauce, the mince-pies, the Christmas pudding – even the brandy butter. Then he paused, and everyone waited – and waited. After a long silence, the young boy looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the sprouts, won't he know that I'm lying?"

"A Bucket of Surprises" (Compiled by J John & Mark Stibbe) (sent in by mk)

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VILLAGE DIARY

Regular Meetings

In the Village Hall

- **Gardening Club**
3rd Monday 8.00pm (not Aug /Dec)
- **Ladies Group**
Last Wednesday (not Aug/Dec)
- **Women's Institute**
2nd Tuesday 7.45pm
- **Worton Toddler Group**
Wednesday 10.00 am—Noon
- **1st Worton & Marston Brownies**
Every Tuesday
- **Potterne Rainbows** (term time)
Tuesday 4.45-5.45pm
- **Worton Parish Council Meeting**
1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston

- **Marston Parish Council Meeting**
Last Tuesday (every odd month)

Various Venues

Announced Monthly

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

Mobile Library

Location: The School, 1.10 - 2.00pm

Next Dates

- Monday December 12th

Call Wiltshire Library Services on **01225 713727** for information

Forthcoming Events

- 3rd Christmas Bazaar
- 5th Worton PC meeting
- 7th Village meeting
- 10th Book Swap

Devizes Farmers' Market

Next: Saturday 3rd December

The Shambles Antiques Market

Every Tuesday

Kerbside Collections

Black box and Plastic bottle and card recycling:

Wednesday 7th & 21st December

Household waste:

Wednesday 14th & **Thursday** 29th December

Garden waste:

Friday 2nd & 16th December



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Giles Collins, Editor at Westview House, 109 High Street, Worton

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