

ISSUE 213 SEPT/OCTOBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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FRONT COVER: Pupils at Godolphin School, undertake a community clean-up



View from the Chair

As September rolls in and the school run returns to our daily routines, I'd like to start by saying a big well done to all the parents and carers who've made it through the summer holidays—your resilience (and snack supplies!) deserve a round of applause.

This season of new beginnings is a great time to reflect on the wonderful things happening in our parish. At our June Parish Council meeting, we were proud to approve grants to two outstanding organisations: Silver Salisbury and Community Transport South Wiltshire. Both provide vital services to residents across our parish, and we're delighted to support their work. We're also pleased to welcome our new Parish Clerk, Jon Sloan, to the team. Jon brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective, and we're excited to have him on board as we continue working to serve our community.

We've also seen some truly inspiring community spirit in recent months. In my own ward I congratulate the Milford Area Preservation Group, who raised an impressive £1,200 for the Stars Appeal at their annual Garden Party and Duck Race. Hats off as well to Pete and Sue Gallagher, who welcomed over 100 residents to enjoy a delicious cream tea in support of Cancer Research, raising over £1,000 (Pg 10). And a big thank you to Mel Cane and Mary Gilson, who raised £400 at their Arts and Craft Exhibition for the Laverstock & Ford Village Hall—a much-loved space at the heart of the Laverstock community.

Speaking of community spirit and service, I'd also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the girls from Godolphin School, who volunteered their time around Milford and Laverstock. From litter picking to weeding and other community projects, their efforts have made a visible and much-appreciated difference. It's wonderful to see young people so engaged in helping their local environment thrive.

We enjoyed some successful youth pop-ups this summer, from the Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team's Climbing Wall to several District Sports sessions, where I had the chance to speak to young and old about the work of the parish council. Do see page 16 for a chance

We've also been making progress on road safety. Our Speedwatch sessions in Ford are now running bi-monthly, thanks to a dedicated team of seven volunteers. Their commitment is helping to raise awareness and encourage safer driving through the area. And hopefully, by the time this newsletter reaches you, we'll have received the traffic survey outcomes for Church Road and The Portway—fingers crossed for some positive developments!

As we look ahead to autumn, there's plenty to look forward to. Don't miss the Skittles Night at Laverstock Village Hall on Saturday 20th September—a fun evening for all ages, raising funds for the hall's repairs and redecoration. And mark your calendars for the annual MAPG Quiz Night on Saturday 22nd November, another great opportunity to come together, test your knowledge, and support a good cause. We hope to see many of you there! Email laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk to book your tickets for both events.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, ideas, and involvement in parish life. It's the people who make this community so special, and I'm constantly inspired by the energy and generosity shown by so many of you. Wishing you all a colourful and peaceful autumn.

Cllr Laura Jones
Chair, Laverstock & Ford Parish Council



LAVERSTOCK & MILFORD WARD

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

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

Laura Jones: 33 Riverbourne Road, Laverstock SP1 1NU
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Ian McDonald: 52 Potters Way, Laverstock SP1 1PX
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VACANCY

FORD, OLD SARUM & LONGHEDGE WARD

Lainey Barker: 66 Sherbourne Drive, Old Sarum SP4 6GA
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Kevin Lynn: 9 Warneford Crescent, Longhedge SP4 6SB
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VACANCY

BISHOPDOWN FARM WARD

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VACANCIES

Parish Clerk: Jon Sloan Tel. 01722 433881 (office hours calls - evening answerphone)
parish-clerk@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk
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Juliet Brain communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

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

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

Next Editorial Deadline

Copy deadline is Friday 26th Sept for next issue #214

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

Online copy via www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk via quick links at bottom of home page

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

REPORT from the Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

The next Parish Council Meetings are on Mon Sept 15 & Mon Oct 20 at Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Centre at 7 pm

www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

For dates of meetings, minutes, agenda's, contacts, parish information, news and more.

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

www.laverstockford-pc.gov.uk/meetings

Parish Newsletter Survey: Thank you to all residents who took the time to write, email or speak to us personally about how valuable the newsletter is to you, and how you would like to be communicated with in the future. We will be collating responses for a report in September.

Community Speedwatch

Cllr Jones has now established a core team of volunteers, who regularly operate Speed awareness sessions. Two key outcomes of community speedwatch are the visual reminder to drivers to keep within the speed limit in residential areas, and to demonstrate that these areas matter to the communities who live there. If you'd like to join the team please get in touch by contacting : laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

OLD SARUM: A resident has been in touch regarding parking on corners on roads around Old Sarum Estate. This is a re-occurring problem and has been highlighted many times, including traffic surveys by Wiltshire Police. We continue to work with Wiltshire Highways on proposals regarding parking here. In the UK, while there isn't a specific law against parking on a road corner, it's generally not recommended and could lead to a fine or even be considered dangerous. The Highway Code advises against parking within 10 meters (32 feet) of a junction, or on a bend in the road.

Highway Code:

The Highway Code, specifically rule 243, states that you should not park opposite or within 10 meters (32 feet) of a junction, unless in an authorized parking space.

Obstruction:

Parking on a corner can obstruct visibility for other drivers and pedestrians, potentially causing accidents.

Dangerous Parking:

If your vehicle is deemed to be causing an obstruction or hazard, you could receive a parking ticket or even be asked to move your vehicle.

Police Action:

In some cases, the police can take action against dangerous or obstructive parking, even if there are no specific parking restrictions.

If you have an idea on how to improve poor parking around the estate, come and present your idea at a Full Council Meeting.

The Football pitch has been repainted ready for Football season.

We were able to provide several sessions of outdoor sports and a Climbing Wall over the summer thanks to Southern Area Board and the Community Lottery Fund, and also Wiltshire Family Hub who ran outdoor sessions with District sports, during Community Pantry sessions.

A special thank you to the resident/s who litter-picked the Skate Park in the summer.

BISHOPDOWN FARM: We had six individual responses in favour of installing a 'single football net' on the Green over the summer plus the offer of a net, which was kind, but any equipment installed in public must conform to our play equipment safety standards.

In August over forty roof tiles were replaced on the Pavilion roof.

Further concerns regarding the Saunders Avenue zip wire were reported and a second inspection saw a further wire adjustment.

In July, representatives of Greentrees Primary School paid us a visit to deliver 60 letters about litter and the harm it can do. Pupils had completed a field study and we were so impressed by their handwriting and ability to express their thoughts clearly. We look forward to discussing this further. Several bollards were knocked down opposite the entrance to the One-Stop these have been reported to Wiltshire Highways.

A resident reported a sewage outage in the River Bourne along Green Lane in July, they alerted Wessex Water and we notified the Environment Agency. Should you spot an incident please use the numbers below, or visit the Environment Agency's website to report online.

The Pavilion Committee held their annual FUN DAY on THE GREEN on August Bank Holiday.

LAVERSTOCK: A dead mute swan was found in Milford in July and tested, it was found to have avian bird flu.

Thank you to all the residents who cut back vegetation overgrowing the Duck Lane Footpath, from their properties. Five benches have been replaced at Whitebridge, Duck Lane Park and at the bottom of the Avenue including a newly installed memorial bench at Whitebridge Spinney.

Fly Tipping was reported on Pilgrims Way, we contacted the relevant Housing Association who ensured it was removed.

LONGHEDGE: Grass cutting commenced in July at the play parks we manage. Quarterly Park Inspections also took place - if you see something that looks wrong, please report it. We are meeting with Vistry to discuss the open spaces which are due to be handed over to the PC for management.

Report an environmental incident

While you're out, if you spot a pollution incident, any illegal activity or anything else, please report it immediately to the authorities.

These hotlines are open 24 hours a day:

England, Scotland and Northern Ireland: 0800 80 70 60

Wales: Natural Resources Wales hotline: 0300 065 3000

Ireland: EPA Headquarters: 053 916 0600 / Lo-Call Number: 1890 33 55 99*

England, Scotland and Northern Ireland EA hotline

Wales: Natural Resources Wales hotline

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

DECISIONS

PL/2025/05012 Single storey extension, 3 Silverwood Drive, Laverstock, SP1 15H **APPROVED**

OUTSTANDING AND NEW APPLICATIONS

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

PL/2025/06484 Works to TPO trees at Green Lane Track Bishopdown SP4 6BN

PL/2025/06388 Convert shop to residential use Kismet, Riverside Road, Laverstock SP1 1QP *No Comment*

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

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

PL/2025/06230 Proposed 1st floor rear extension and garden office 9 Riverbourne Road, Milford SP1 1NU *No Comment*

PL/2025/06128 Erection of raised deck with storage below (retrospective) 6 Castle Hill Lane, Bishopdown SP1 3GP

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

PL/2025/06026 Change of Use Open View, Main Road, Winterbourne Earls SP4 6DS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All Things 'Youth' - Sign Up for News!

This year we have been focused on our youth provision. We have partnered with Southern Area Board and Alderbury, Idmiston, Grimstead and Firsdown Parish Councils, to raise a pot of money and share a youth worker who will provide some much needed consistency and expertise in delivering youth clubs and 'youth social action'. As part of this project, Karen Linaker, Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager for Wiltshire Council, raised some funding from the National Lottery Community Fund which enabled two outdoor youth engagement sessions in the summer and introduced us to SMASH YOUTH PROJECT who will be leading this work.

If you want to hear about youth events in South Wiltshire please register your details with SMASH via their online sign-up form here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/nZ9DDiY753>

see page 19 for photos of the Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Teams visit with their Outdoor Climbing Wall.



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

☎ 01722 415598
✉ oldsarumnursery@gmail.com



Strawberry teas - a sweet success

On behalf of Cancer Research UK fundraising committee I would like to thank all who came to my Strawberry Tea Afternoon.

It was a lovely afternoon with the Skylarks adding an extra special element to the afternoon with their singing.

£1136.90 was raised which was an excellent amount.

So a very big thank you to everyone who supported my fundraising afternoon.

Sue Gallagher
Chair, Salisbury Committee



WHAT'S IN A NAME 12.

MCLEOD PLACE, LONGHEDGE

McLeod Place and McLeod Green play park are named after Second Lieutenant Alan Arnett McLeod, Royal Flying Corps. McLeod was the youngest Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross. McLeod was born on 20th April 1899 in Stonewall, Manitoba. As he turned 18, he enrolled in the Royal Flying Corps and trained as a pilot at Long Branch aerodrome near Toronto before being shipped to France in August 1917.

McLeod was initially deemed too young for front line service and he was posted to 51 Squadron at Marham, Norfolk flying B.E.2s on night home defence duties. Later in 1917 he was posted to 2 Squadron in northern France flying the two-seat Armstrong Whitworth F.K.8.

On 27 March 1918, during the massive German Spring offensive, Second Lieutenant McLeod was flying with his observer, Lieutenant A W Hammond, attacking hostile ground formations with bombs and machine gun fire. They were attacked by eight enemy triplanes from all directions and McLeod manoeuvred to give Hammond the opportunity to return the fire. By this time the aircraft was on fire, McLeod had received five bullet wounds and Hammond was hit six times.

The aircraft crashed in 'No Man's Land' and McLeod, in spite of his own wounds, dragged Hammond away from the burning wreckage and carried him to relative safety while risking enemy machine gun fire. He then collapsed from his wounds and loss of blood. They were both rescued and McLeod spent several months recovering from his wounds. Hammond also survived but lost a leg.

McLeod returned to Canada in September 1918 having received the Victoria Cross from King George V. He was still recuperating from his wounds and received a large public reception in Winnipeg, Manitoba. One month later he contracted 'Spanish' influenza and died in hospital on 6th November 1918.



By Andrew Prince

Volunteering

Our front cover features pupils of Godolphin School, tidying up areas of Milford. An act of community service that was deeply appreciated by residents. From the Community Pantry, to River Bourne Community Farm and the Devonish Bradshaw Trust, to both Castle Hill Country Park and the Boscombe Down Aviation Collection (Listed in the top ten Wiltshire Attractions this summer) they are all reliant on volunteer support to make them vibrant and popular experiences within our local communities. Please consider offering volunteer support if you can.

We have said farewell to some of our long-standing volunteers who have retired from newsletter delivery this year. Tony Markham and David Crockett, retired parish councillors who continued to serve by delivering the newsletter to their local community. Also Dawn Saunders and Roger Parkins. We also remember with gratitude for her service, Sheila Wheway. Sheila passed away this April and was an active member of the Laverstock community, and delivered the parish newsletter for many years.

A warm thank you to our latest volunteers - Lisa Robinson, Michelle Luther, Sue Tyson, Hazel Collyer, Sue Wright, and Sioux Tonkin, who all stepped forward in answer to a plea for help. We are very grateful for your time.

We still need help delivering newsletters particularly in Old Sarum. If you have the time and enjoy walking in any weather, it's a small committment of an hour or less, six times a year.

If you can help please contact:

richardheather@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Congratulations!

We also take this opportunity to congratulate local resident, Alan Corkill on his appointment as President of Salisbury Rotary Club. Alan is a well respected, local figure, known not only for his long-standing committment to the the work of the Rotary Club but also as a Trustee of Salisbury City Almshouses and his forty two years as Theatre Manager at Salisbury Playhouse where his firm grip on delivering organised and disciplined hospitality in an often chaotic creative environment saw a well-run, welcoming front of house and the mentorship of many young people from the local community.

see www.salisburyrotary.org.uk

Alan (right) with Salisbury Mayor, John Wells

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Coffee Morning

In Aid of Laverstock Evergreen Club

Tues 9th September
10.30 am

at Jill Kay's,
15 Napier Crescent
Laverstock

Do come along and bring a friend or two



NHS
Salisbury
NHS Foundation Trust

Volunteers Needed

Engagers are a team of volunteers specially trained to enhance the emotional wellbeing of patients during their hospital stay.

Can you spare 3 hours each week to provide some extra company, support, and stimulation for patients at Salisbury District Hospital?

What is involved:

- ★ Listening, talking, and reminiscing.
- ★ Reading newspapers/magazines/books.
- ★ Playing cards or crosswords/games/puzzles.

Benefits:

- ★ Rewarding for patients - improving emotional well-being, reduces isolation and helps speed recovery.
- ★ Rewarding for volunteers – fulfilling, provides social connection and become part of a valued team.

If this is something you feel drawn to help with, please contact us to find out more:

Liz Beadle, Stars Appeal Engage Co-ordinator,
Department of Clinical Psychology, Salisbury District Hospital
Telephone: 01722 425105 or email: sft.engage@nhs.net



**Have your say on the council's
vision for the county**

We have launched a public survey on the draft
Council Plan 2025–2035 and want your views

Wiltshire Council



Castle Hill Country Park

Why Conservation Volunteers Matter at Castle Hill Country Park

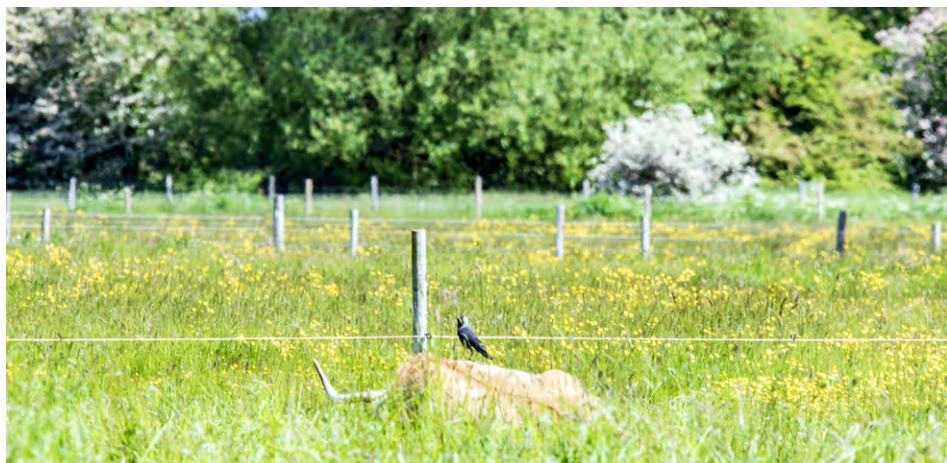
Castle Hill Country Park is a special place, full of wildlife and beautiful open spaces. But it takes a lot of care to keep it that way. That's where conservation volunteers come in.

These local legends help with everything from clearing overgrown paths, planting trees to looking after rare chalk grassland and carrying out important wildlife surveys. Thanks to them, the park stays healthy and full of life—supporting butterflies, birds, and loads of other wildlife you might spot on a walk.

Volunteering isn't just good for nature, it brings people together, builds community spirit, and helps everyone feel more connected to the park. Their efforts make a real difference, and the park wouldn't be the same without them. Thank you to everyone who gives time to help us maintain the park.

We are looking to increase the number volunteer sessions we can offer. If you are interested in joining and would like more information, please email me at: russellb@wiltshirewildlife.org

Russell Brooks, Castle Hill Country Park, Community Engagement Officer



LIFE ON THE WATER MEADOWS, A LONG HORN SLEEPS WHILST A JACKDAW RESTS

Laverstock Water Meadows



Duke of Edinburgh participants most Welcome On the Water-Meadows

Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon work-parties are great opportunity for students looking for a Community Organisation to host their volunteer contributions towards the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We have places for all levels of Duke of Edinburgh Award from Bronze to Gold. One of our Trustees is currently busy completing her Gold Award whilst championing young people's interests at Trust Board meetings. Each week there is a variety of tasks on offer. Whether you prefer creative projects, practical tasks or science-based initiatives you will find something of interest in one of the work party groups.

To volunteer with the Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust on Laverstock Water-Meadows drop us a line through info@dbct.org or our web-site contact page www.dbct.org

 **Wiltshire Council**
Family and Community Learning
Online Course
Helping My Child with Anxiety and Worry
Monday 22 September
10:00-12:00

Ideal for parents and carers of primary school-aged children

- Understand how to support emotional wellbeing at home
- Suggestions shared to manage anxiety together
- Positive and realistic help for the family

Booking closes
Monday 15 September

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
Call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
Visit <https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>
Scan the QR code



Our courses are free, if you are 19+ years old, resident in the UK/EU for over three years (some immigration status exempt), have a Wiltshire postcode and meet any of the following criteria: earn less than £25,000 pa, in receipt of benefits, military or ex-military family, foster care/care leaver/carer, have a learning difficulty/disability.

 **Meet the Councillor**

POP ALONG
Thursday 25th Sept
3.30 - 5 pm
Hampton Park Pavilion
Ash Crescent
SP1 3GY

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

Whether you've got ideas or just the motivation, to improve your community and see things get done... WE NEED YOU!
Or perhaps you don't know what we do and want to find out more....
COME ALONG FOR A CUP OF TEA AND A CHAT...



Art enriches our lives in countless ways. It sparks imagination, fosters creativity, and connects us to new perspectives and cultures. Whether through painting, music, literature, or performance, art brings joy, insight, and community. The Arts Society Sarum offers all this and more—a welcoming space - no experience necessary. Even if you do not know much about art (yet), our talks are fun, easy to

follow, and open to everyone.

Members enjoy monthly lectures delivered by experienced, engaging speakers on fascinating topics - ranging from classical painting and sculpture to contemporary design, architecture, and beyond.

Our theme for 2025/26 is Sarum Goes Travelling, with lectures on Australian, German, Portuguese, French, Chinese and Nordic art. Lecturers will also look at Still Life, the music of the Seicento and the ancient myths of the Aztec and Maya civilisations.

Our lectures take place at the Methodist Church Hall in Salisbury on the second Wednesday of each month, starting in October. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. for coffee and conversation, with lectures beginning at 10:50 a.m.

Members can also take part in activities such as Study Days for deeper exploration of subjects, trips to sites of historical and cultural interest, an annual tour to discover the art and heritage of inspiring destinations, volunteering opportunities in local schools, museums, and the theatre.

The Arts Society Sarum is a registered charity, and our mission is to bring the arts to the local community. We have supported youth theatre through Wiltshire Creative and sponsored art and drama sessions in Salisbury schools. Through volunteering, our members also help foster creativity and cultural appreciation in the next generation.

Whether you are an art enthusiast or simply curious, visit our website or come along to one of our lectures to find out more. The 2025/26 season starts on Wednesday 8th October — new members and guests are always welcome.

Website: theartssocietysarum.org.uk

Contact: membership.artssarum@gmail.com

Telephone: 07801 704254

WORLD HOMELESS DAY

Government figures published in February for the numbers of people sleeping rough on a particular night in November 2024, showed an increase of 20% on the previous year. Alabaré is determined to work to break the cycle of homelessness. Would you help us?

To mark World Homeless Day on Friday October 10th we would love you to hold a sponsored BIG Sleep at Home to raise funds for our local homes and services. It could be in your local church, school or community hall or your garden. We will provide information on how to make it a successful event and during the evening we are planning to join everyone together online to celebrate the impact you are all making.

Do let me know if you can help us, and if you would like to organise a different event – maybe a pub quiz, a darts event or a bake sale – that would be fabulous too! Your one act of compassion will ensure we can bring more of the most vulnerable and homeless off the street, providing homes, restoring hearts and empowering minds.

Thank you so much for your support.

Helen Inglis, Community Fundraising Officer

email: h.inglis@alabare.co.uk



OLD SARUM CAR BOOT SALE
THE YEAR-ROUND BOOT SALE

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

SELLERS FROM **£5**

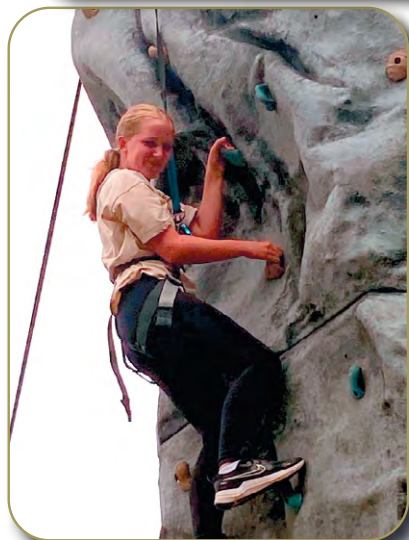
8 AM SELLERS
9 AM BUYERS
£5 CARS £8 VANS

HARDSTANDING SURFACE

STEP INSIDE THE
CAR BOOT CAFE
HOT & COLD DRINKS + FOOD

AT SALISBURY FC's
RAY MAC STADIUM
SP4 6PU

QR CODE



The Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team Climbing Wall visited us in August. Young people also enjoyed axe throwing and archery, as part of a youth project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, Southern Wilts Area Board and L&FPC

pre-Christmas Craft Fayre

Laverstock Village Hall

Sunday 26th October 2025, 10 am to 4 pm

to raise funds for Laverstock Village Hall improvement fund

A lovely social event with a chance to buy from a range of stalls with unique and personal Christmas gifts and cards.

Refreshments are being served.

More details will follow – see notices at the hall, nextdoor sites etc.

07946 733605 for more details



Amesbury Archer Primary School
"Aim High"

RECEPTION 2026 OPEN MORNINGS

At 09:30 on:

- Friday 3rd October 2025
- Monday 13th October 2025
- Thursday 30th October 2025
- Tuesday 11th November 2025
- Wednesday 26th November 2025
- Friday 12th December 2025
- Wednesday 7th January 2026

 admissions@amesburyarcher.wilts.sch.uk

 01980 625944

 Shears Drive, Archers Gate, Amesbury, Wiltshire, SP4 7XX

 www.amesburyarcher.wilts.sch.uk

MLP MIND THE GAP LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

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Laverstock & Ford Village Hall Committee
presents

Our 2nd Traditional SKITTLES Night

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

Saturday 20th September
6:00pm for a 6:30pm start

Max 4 per team £5pp	Laverstock & Ford Village Hall	Tea/coffee & cake incl
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Contact Laura Jones at
laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk
or 07734888181 to book

Laverstock Gardening Club

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

In June we welcomed back David Jewell, Curator of Trees at Hilliers. He gave us a talk on the Winter Garden at Hilliers. The hot, dry weather was a worry where there are trees because they can suddenly shed branches. Hilliers, Kew and other gardens agreed that shutting because of high winds should happen when wind speeds reach 45 mph. Last year Storm Eunice destroyed 80 trees at Hilliers. The winter garden covers 4.5 acres with paving and grass access. Careful thought goes into texture and colour scheme with ground cover and stems/trunks being important in winter e.g. winter aconites red-stemmed dogwood. Red-stemmed dogwood planted in front of a yellow one gives a flame effect. Daphne and Sarcococca give winter scent alongside paths. An excellent talk as usual.

For July our talk was by John Hallett, a long standing volunteer at Arundells. There has been a house on the site since the 13th century when the cathedral was relocated. The houses were built by the clergy with land grants from the bishop. The current house is built of Chilmark Stone in Queen Anne style but by the 60s it was in a terrible state. The Hawkins family took it on and turned it around. Ted Heath lived there from 1985 until his death in 2005. He even managed to get the freehold. It was convenient for London and the coast for sailing. There are numerous examples of Chinese and Japanese art around the house, the finest being the hand-painted Chinese wallpaper on the staircase. An interesting talk about a local landmark.

September is our AGM but October brings Ray Broughton back to talk about House Plants.

David Hutchinson, Programme Secretary

01722 334036

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

RISKS FACING THE PARISH

Every year, the government issues a National Risk Register which is the assessment of the most serious risks facing the UK. The Register includes some 63 threats and hazards, ranging from terrorism to volcanic activity.

The register can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-risk-register-2025>

Within the Parish, the Community Emergency Volunteers have identified the key local hazards and have identified ways in which the Volunteers can support the emergency services in responding to emergencies. The hazards identified are:

WEATHER RELATED

Flood

Snow and ice

Heat, drought and wild fire

DISEASE AND ANIMALS

Pandemic

Asian hornets

OTHER

Missing person

UTILITIES

Short notice - loss of utilities

Prolonged power cuts

Gas leak

Contaminated drinking water

TRANSPORT

Train/road incident

Air incident



The Community Emergency Volunteers are training and equipping to meet these hazards and are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in joining the Volunteers, or simply looking for more information on our role, please contact the coordinator, Jon Gunns, at: cev@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk





Silver Salisbury's Festival Fortnight celebrating International Older People's Day runs from Monday 22nd September to 12th October this year. The programme which will be launched at Salisbury Guildhall on Wednesday 24th September, includes lots of events at low or no cost in Salisbury and the surrounding area including Old Sarum Community Centre

and Laverstock & Ford Village Hall. The programme which is free will be available towards the end of August, to pick up from Old Sarum Community Centre, Co-op, Dark Revolution & Salisbury Flower Shed Laverstock and Ford Village Hall, One Stop, The Duck Inn and Riverbourne Community Farm as well as Salisbury Library, Doctors Surgery and Salisbury Tourist Information Centre.

If you are aged sixty and over, Silver Salisbury invites you to celebrate Festival Fortnight with Us at Our Coffee Morning & Launch of the Autumn/Winter Programme! Silver Salisbury is delighted to invite the older community to a warm and welcoming Coffee and chat on the 26th of September at Old Sarum Community Centre and on the 6th of October at Laverstock and Ford Village Hall, as part of this year's Festival Fortnight celebrations. Join us from 10A.M for a relaxed morning of conversation, connection, and a first look at our exciting Programme for autumn 2025 to summer 2026. This special event offers the perfect opportunity to meet friends, discover what's coming up in our new seasonal line-up, and enjoy a cup (or two!) of your favourite brew alongside some home baking.

For more information, please email

nina.silversalisbury.outlook.com. or 07596483499

Silver Salisbury is grateful to the Southern Area Board, Selwood Housing, and Laverstock and Ford Parish Council for supporting their work in Laverstock, Ford, Old Sarum and Longhedge.

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

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

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

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

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

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





LAVERSTOCK DISTRICT EVENING WI

In July last year we were waiting for Summer to come - this year it may already have gone after heatwaves and little rain. However our WI programme continues it's steady provision of companionship and enjoyment through Speakers and activities and we are also happy to welcome several new members.

Our AGM was held in June when, with Jerusalem sung, Reports read, Accounts agreed and the Officers and Committee re-elected en bloc we celebrated our Birthday with party games and waves of nostalgia as we enjoyed cheesy hedgehogs, jam sandwiches, cinnamon toast, jelly and blancmange - yes really! And we also took home little gift bags too.

We explored the lovely gardens at Heale House and one hot evening we took chairs, drinks and snacks and enjoyed a picnic in Whitebridge Spinney. Our Lunch Club met at Wildwood where unfortunately our group of ten were swamped by the arrival of two large coach parties, although we didn't lack for conversation while we waited!

At our July meeting Helen Inglis, who works for Alabare, told us about the dire experiences faced by the homeless. Alabare is a Wiltshire based charity which helps homeless people who have lost everything, and not always through addictions, to turn their lives around. Alabare believes everyone should be able to lead fulfilling lives if they choose. From humble beginnings Alabare is now a huge inspiring organisation run largely by volunteers.

We are saddened by the passing of our oldest member Joyce Holdsworth who was nearly 98years old. Joyce brought much fun and laughter to our meetings.

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

Or by telephone on 01722 326 549



NEW SARUM WI

Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended. In June, members enjoyed a presentation by Emily Dunbar, Curator of the Young Gallery in Salisbury who related the history of the gallery and described her role as curator in managing the large diverse collection of artworks, photographs and books of local interest.

In July, Michael Bowyer MBE, Salisbury Cathedral Creative Director of Flowers, captivated the members with a demonstration of his floral artistry interspersed with anecdotes from his experiences. Our summer outdoors social event in August is 'Pink in the Park' and in September, we will be welcoming Simon Dickenson with a very topical presentation – 'What is AI Really?'

As part of our events programme, Salisbury Cathedral was the venue for a fascinating talk 'Wealth, Power and Passion' covering the lives of three women closely connected to the Cathedral. Later in July, punted by Yingying from 'Salisbury Punting' along the River Avon, members enjoyed beautiful scenery, including unique views of local landmarks at a relaxed pace followed by lunch. Ten of our members had a glorious afternoon trip to Salisbury Races with lots of chatter, laughter and cheering for the horses to the finishing post!

In August, members of two other local WI groups will be joining us to visit the Riding for the Disabled Centre at Netherhampton to hear about the work of the charity and to meet some of the ponies. Later in the month, we will also be returning to play lawn bowls and croquet – both activities have proven to be very popular in the past!

The lovely summer weather has ensured a good turnout for our walking groups. Our newly formed group, Sarum Strollers enjoyed two easy paced scenic walks in July in the local area. Members viewed it as a great opportunity to 'walk and talk' and to socialise afterwards at nearby cafes. The Sarum Striders have enjoyed monthly walks further afield, exploring the countryside in Broad Chalke and Downton. We are grateful to the leaders who plan these interesting walks. Our Reading Group and Chat & Craft Group continue to meet monthly, making the most of socialising and lively discussions. Our coffee mornings at Culture Coffee and lunches at Rifleman's Table and Wildwood in Salisbury have provided a great opportunity to catch up and socialise with friends. In August, our 'Munch Bunch' group will be meeting in the evening at Baroushka in Fisherton Street.

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

Dates for the Diary

Home fixtures (subject to change)

September

Saturday 6 Sep v Tonbridge

October

Saturday 4 Oct v Torquay

Saturday 18 Oct v Slough

Tuesday 21 Oct v Farnborough



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

What do trustees do?

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

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

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



Is it you they're looking for?

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

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salisburyflowershed@gmail.com

www.thesalisburyflowershed.co.uk

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



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Useful Contacts

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Gen enquiries and switchboard



0300 456 0100

www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Planning & Building Control

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-building-control>

Planning Explorer map

bit.ly/42zQx5Z

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

Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager, Karen Linaker



karen-linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk



01722 434697

FLOOD LINE

0345 988 1188

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY Emergency Helpline

0800 807 060

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS trafficengland.com

Wiltshire Councillors

Nick Baker

For Laverstock, Milford & Bishopdown Farm

Nick.Baker@wiltshire.gov.uk

07921 899396

Lainey Barker

For Old Sarum, Longhedge and Ford

Lainey.Barker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

John Glen

Constituency Office 12 Brown Street, Salisbury SP1 1HE

01722 323050

john.glen.mp@parliament.uk

CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK



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

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

OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM



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

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

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

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

Local Enquiries  salisburyareanpt@wiltshire.police.uk

Bishopdown Farm, Hampton Park and Riverdown Park

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

Laverstock, Ford, Old Sarum and Longhedge

PC Rachel Wood and PCSO Jenny Moss

Milford

PC Toby Ferguson and PCSO Hammond

Rural Crime Team

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

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

Victim Support

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

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

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



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



Untaxed cars need to be reported to the DVLA



Any instance of fraud should be reported to Action Fraud



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



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

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

LAVERSTOCK LADIES OPEN GROUP

Ladies Group doesn't have a meeting in August, but we have enjoyed some very good talks since my last report not least Andy Bell telling us about the ups and downs of being a Traffic Warden or Civil Enforcement Officer as he is now known. He gave a lively talk and told of many humorous incidents that had occurred over the years. Andy said he had received many complaints from the public when issuing them with a parking ticket and some hard to believe excuses too!

In July we had an equally entertaining talk from Jackie Dimmock about her 30 years as a Police Officer. Jackie's talk comes in three parts, and we heard the first part which was about her time with the Isle of Wight police. Each part of Jackie's talk is illustrated with a patchwork quilt she has made showing various scenes from her work and is a lasting reminder of that time in her career. We are looking forward to a return visit in the future.

Our next event is our Summer BBQ which this year will be held in September. Carol and Sid Taylor have kindly offered their lovely garden for the BBQ, and it will be our first get together after our August break. We are very grateful to Sid and Carol for their hospitality and are hoping for a sunny afternoon.

Looking ahead to October we will be welcoming Ian Caskie who will be telling us about SS Great Britain and in November we are looking forward to being entertained by the Pluckers Ukulele band.

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



PRESENTATION TALKS AT BDAC

9th Sept - Ejection Seats and Survival Equipment - Gp Cpt Ron Burrows AFC FRAeS (rtd) and Mark Jewell. Ron, having survived 2 ejections will start off the presentation by describing the progress of ejection seats from the 'big bangs' of the early years to the sophisticated present day automatic rocket systems.

14th October - Archaeology of Old Sarum Airfield - Tim Cornish. Tim will be talking about the rich heritage of RAF Old Sarum, from its beginnings in 1917 to the modern day as an airfield for parachuting.

To register an interest in the talks go to the BDAC website -Contacts - News Letter - Sign up. www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk

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Sarum u3a JOIN US!

Sarum u3a, is an organisation which welcomes people no longer in full time employment to join together to learn, laugh and live! We hold Monthly Meetings on the third Wednesday morning of the month with interesting and varied speakers. These meetings are held at St Francis Church on Castle Road and begin with coffee/tea at 10am.

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

September 17th Paul Tracy – Artists and 100 Theatres

October 15th Sarah Slater - Kirtles, Corsets and Curtains'

November 19th Hadrian Cook - Salisbury and Its Suburbs from 1800

Lesley Waller, Speaker Secretary
<https://u3asites.org.uk/sarum/welcome>

Young Volunteers

Join us to connect 14-16 year olds to local volunteering opportunities in Southern Wiltshire



Tuesday 23 September 2025



1.40pm - 3.30pm



Trafalgar School at Downton, SP5 3HN

Does your group or organisation have a volunteer role that a 14-16 year old could fill?

If so, please contact
karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk
to book your free stall at the event, and help us match as many young people as possible to local volunteering opportunities

Wiltshire Council



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 16 Nov
10 am - 3 pm

CHRISTMAS MARKET



The annual Christmas Market with over thirty stalls of unique gifts and decorations IS BACK!

£2 Entry for buyers

To book a pitch 6ft x 4ft (table and two chairs) contact [Hugh Sillett-events@badac@outlook.com](mailto:Hugh.Sillett-events@badac@outlook.com)
Mob. 07799 113546

Contacts around the Parish

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

Parish Contacts continued

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

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

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

Hope Church - Rev Suzie Allen

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

Deaf Chaplaincy Service

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Westside Close, Old Sarum Salisbury SP4 6BX

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Vicarage Winterbourne Earls Salisbury Wiltshire SP4 6HA

01980 611350 www.bournevalleychurches.org.uk

St Martin's Church

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

A priest can be made available by contacting the Parish administrator

Parish Administrator: 01722 503123 Email: saint.martins.salisbury@gmail.com

www.sarumstmartin.org.uk

**Community facebook groups and pages:** search for

Ask a Salisbury Vet, Bishopdown Farm, Riverdown Park Community, HOPEChurchSalisbury, MissingDogsSalisbury, SalisburyCampSiteQuest, LandFPC, Laverstock & Ford Community, @RiverBourneCommunityFarm, @Cafeatthefarm, Laverstock & Ford Residents, Longhedge Greenfingers, MilfordAreaPreservationGroup, The Duck Inn, New Sarum WI, Laverstock, Bishopdown, Ford & Old Sarum Litter Wombles, Laverstock and Ford Parish Council, Longhedge Residents, Longhedge Residents Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Laverstock & District Evening W.I, St Joseph's Catholic School, Laverstock, Wyvern St Edmunds, Friends of Wyvern St Edmund's Learning Campus (link to group for uniform exchange), Old Sarum & Longhedge Community, SOS - Save Old Sarum, Old Sarum Community Centre, Old Sarum Garden Centre, Old Sarum and Longhedge Pantry, The Castle Hill Country Park, Laverstock & Ford Ladies FC, StMarksAndStAndrewsSalisbury, SarumRotary, WildaboutLaverstock

VENUES AROUND THE PARISH**Laverstock & Ford Village Hall Casual Hire Available.**

Spacious, light, with kitchen facilities. Not insured for bouncy castles
contact 01722 325160

Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Centre Casual Hire Available

Large spacious hall, seating 80+ people. Small hall which can be divided into two opened. Commercial kitchen and facilities suitable for parties, wedding receptions and training. WI Fi throughout the building

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

Bookings: via website oslcommunitycentre.co.uk

The Pavilion, Hampton Park Casual Hire Available

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

Veronica Ford mobile 07483 894519 email hamptonparkpavilion@gmail.com

website: www.hamptonparkpavilion.org

Boscombe Down Aviation Museum - Conference Room available

contact Graham Horner Visits Manager 07785 261978

The Ray MacEnhill Stadium Meeting Rooms

email info@salisburyfc.co.uk or call 01722 776655.

**FEAR
FREE**

**BREAKING
THE CYCLE
OF ABUSE**

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

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

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

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

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

1944-45 - THE ZENITH OF THE AIR OBSERVATION POST

PART TWO By Major PEA Hope RA (Retd)

Directing Gunfire continued...

Direction of naval guns was first carried out in Normandy using the guns of battleships Rodney and Warspite, the 15-inch monitor Roberts and the cruisers Belfast and Mauritius. The first direction of naval guns against an enemy warship was carried out at Castania in Sicily and the first engagement using a US warship was in support of US Rangers at Battipaglia with the guns of USS Philadelphia. At Anzio 90% of all naval gunfire support was directed by the Air OP. The first use of the Air OP in the direction of fighter bombers took place near Lake Trasimonto, where Captain Bob Barrass took on 40 tanks with great success.

The number of guns used varied. A single gun was used for destruction shoots, such as the extra ordinary engagement by Arrol Macfarlane on dug in Panther turrets on the Foglia River, where he got one round through the commander's hatch of one of them at a range of several miles. A heavy gun was used to block the tunnel protecting a railway gun at Gradia on the Gothic Line at a range of 12 miles. On a larger scale the engagement by Major Andrew Lyell on 17th June 1944 of some 40 tanks in Normandy using the 5-600 guns of 12, 30, and 2 Canadian Corps plus the AGRAs must rank as the greatest concentration controlled by the Air OP, or indeed, any one observer. The greatest ever concentration of guns (over 1,000) was at the crossing of the Rhine. Here the Air OP took on flack batteries, threatening the airborne assault and short notice support of 51st Highland Division. The main fire plan was controlled from the ground but the MGRA 21 Army Group, Maj Gen Mead Dennis, observed the action from aloft flown by Ian Neilson, his GSO2 (Air OP). Throughout the war most targets were engaged by a battery, or regiment but divisional artillery was quite often used, as was the whole of the artillery of a corps. It was not unusual for one pilot to engage up to three targets at the same time but it seems that only Capt Bob Barras successfully, simultaneously engaged four targets.

Photography

Aerial photography of the battlefield was a specialist RAF responsibility but their severe losses over Normandy gave rise to the development of photographic reconnaissance by the Air OP. From July 1944 each squadron began to be provided with 3 RAF photographic technicians and equipment so they were able quickly to develop, print and distribute oblique photographs for commanders to use in the preparation of their plans. Major Andrew Lyell carried out fifty two operational photo runs and was awarded the DFC for the photographic work he did along the River Weser in 1944.

Liaison.

It did not take long for senior commanders to see how useful the Auster aircraft would be for liaison work and for getting around the battlefield. This was particularly the case in Burma, where communications were very difficult. This was, again, officially an RAF responsibility but the pilots used, usually fighter pilots on "rest" tours, were not trained in short field operations leading General Sir Miles Dempsey, commanding Second Army in North West Europe to declare "Fly Army and be safe". The most distinguished passenger to be carried was the King, who was flown from an operational strip at Radda on a twenty minute flight to Sienna in Italy in July 1944.

Taking and holding of ground.

It is normally the job of the infantry to take and hold ground but at least twice the Air OP did this, once by seizing Brussels Airport and persuading the German garrison to surrender and also in capturing Klagerfurt Airport in Austria while it was still held by the enemy.

Read Part Three in our next issue November/December



LAVERSTOCK & FORD HISTORY GROUP

INVITE YOU TO THEIR MEETING

Thurs 25 Sept at 2pm

in the Curtis Room, St Andrew's Church

LAVERSTOCK VERSUS MILFORD, 1258; A BRAWL AND ITS PRICE.

Bryan Evans has an intriguing tale from 1268 when men from Laverstock brawled with others from neighbouring Milford and a bystander was fatally stabbed. From refuge to humiliating exile this tale has it all!

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

www.laverstocklocalhistorygroup.wordpress.com

Emergency Alerts is a UK government system that provides warning and advice in a life threatening emergency

Emergency Alerts - National test on Sunday, 7th September 2025



Thresholds for the use of Emergency Alerts are:

Lives are at risk / There is urgency / Action is needed / Defined location of the risk

The government will be running a national test of the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday, 7th September 2025.

What happens when you get an emergency alert?

Your mobile phone or tablet may:

- make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent or vibrate
- read out the alert

The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds.

An alert will include a phone number or a link to the GOV.UK website for more information.

You'll get alerts based on your current location - not where you live or work. You do not need to turn on locations services to receive alerts.

For full details visit [About Emergency Alerts - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/about-emergency-alerts) for more information. There are simple and effective steps you can take to be more prepared for an emergency in your area. Visit [gov.uk/prepare for more information](https://gov.uk/prepare-for-emergency).

For local information on how to prepare for an emergency please visit: wiltshireandswindonprepared.org.uk



By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed our annual Garden Party. And one of the member families at Salisbury Pantry will have enjoyed a holiday provided by Mothers Union at our caravan in Rockley Park, Poole. You may also have had the opportunity to see our exhibition at the cathedral during August. In June we enjoyed a visit to Salisbury

Museum, good to be reminded of the things on our doorstep. So we move into the autumn...

On 12th September, Rev Barry Blackford will be telling us about his most recent trip to Sudan. And in October we will be working on our entry for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Thomas.

Some of our members continue to knit baby blankets for Salisbury Hospital.

If you would like to know more about our meetings and various projects, please contact Pip Carter 07854827233 or Joan Prior 07833781075.

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