

NEWSLETTER

LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

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



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Front Cover: Councillors next to the tree they planted at the Laverstock Water Meadows with the DBCT last year.

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View from the Chair

For the Parish Council, the transition into summer marks a full year of operations and development that serves the community.

To all those involved, I want to share a thank you. Our parish is large, diverse and growing, and yet what consistently shines through is the strength of our community spirit. Whether it's residents raising concerns, volunteers giving their time, or partners working alongside us, this year has shown again how much people care about Laverstock, Ford, Bishopdown Farm, Milford, Old Sarum and Longhedge.



Over the past twelve months, the Parish Council has continued to focus on the essentials: good governance, sound financial management, strong community partnerships, and practical improvements that make a difference to everyday life.

We have supported a wide range of community groups and initiatives this year. In total, the Parish Council awarded over £6,000 in grants, with further financial support in excess of £39,000, to organisations working directly with residents across the parish.

This includes support for youth provision, community transport, breakfast clubs, coffee mornings, the Pantry, the Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Centre, and local charities providing first aid, wellbeing and social support. These organisations reach people of all ages and circumstances, and I am proud that we have been able to support them.

I also want to give special thanks to the Speedwatch volunteers, who continue to give their time week after week to help keep our roads safer. The team has remained active and committed, delivering 20 Speedwatch sessions over the past year. Their presence makes a real difference, and we are grateful for their dedication.

Our parish continues to experience major development pressures. The council has reviewed dozens of planning applications, including the large site at Land North East of Old Sarum. We have worked hard to ensure that residents' concerns are reflected in our responses — from traffic and access, to school places, health provision, parking, and the protection of heritage and landscape.

Over the past year we have supported improvements across the parish, including contributions to Local Highways and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) schemes in Ford, Laverstock, Bishopdown and Old Sarum. These include new signage, speed limit reviews, waiting restrictions, and improvements to crossings and footways.

We have also taken an important step forward in how we care for our green spaces. This year the council adopted a new Tree Management Policy, which forms the foundation of a longer-term tree maintenance strategy. With it we have a clear, structured plan for identifying and prioritising essential maintenance across the parish over a three-year cycle. It is our intention to strengthen this with a green space strategy and we have commissioned a specialist report to kick off that project.

I want to thank my fellow councillors for their commitment and hard work, especially during a year of significant projects and complex decisions. I also want to thank our Clerk, Deputy Clerk, RFO, Operations team and Community Engagement staff for their professionalism and dedication. Their work underpins everything we do.

And, of course, thank you to our residents. Your feedback, questions, ideas and involvement shape the decisions we make. Whether you attend meetings, respond to consultations, volunteer in your community, or simply take pride in your neighbourhood, you are helping to build a parish we can all be proud of.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain focused on delivering for our communities, strengthening our partnerships, and ensuring that Laverstock & Ford Parish continues to be a vibrant, safe and welcoming place to live.

Park and Ride 7 City Centre Bus Stop

Sadly, I have not received a reply from David Newton, Operations Manager Reds, Salisbury, to my two letters dated 28th April and 23rd February both of which I hand delivered to Reds Office on Castle Street. I also enclosed a copy of the March/April newsletter.

Forging a line of communication with Reds has been difficult, and I worry about their interest in the views of their passengers who catch the P&R7 bus into town.

Without their attention I fear our concerns are falling on deaf ears.

Those concerns include pedestrian safety along Endless Street, decent seating for passengers with mobility issues waiting for their bus service and the image of the Medieval City of Salisbury presented to tourists and visiting shoppers returning to the Park and Ride on London Road.

My next step is to present your views, as P&R7 passengers, to Marc West who is the Go South Coast's Commercial Planning Manager, although I had sought to find a local resolution to this issue. I will keep you informed.

Cllr Lesley Waller



"Following the Ladies Open Group AGM in March presentations were made to Kate Topp and Ann Collins in recognition of their longstanding service to the Group. This was reported under Laverstock Women's Institute in error in the last edition of the Newsletter."

FULL COUNCIL MEETING UPDATES

April

Grant Provision

The following organisations applied for a grant successfully and were awarded the requested amounts.

- £700.00 was given to the Old Sarum Community Centre to support the delivery of the Eden Big Lunch, a local community event that promotes social inclusion and wellbeing.
- £300.00 was awarded to the South West Ambulance Service to go towards a new community response vehicle.
- £875.00 of funding was provided to Silver Salisbury to complete an original request from June 2025 to plan a programme for the autumn, whilst also providing support as they develop volunteer recruitment.
- £535.00 was awarded to Community Transport South Wiltshire to cover costs associated with the Laverstock and Ford Parish services. These include door-to-door mini buses and a volunteer car driver scheme.

Multi-Use Games Area Tender Selection

Recently, the Council have been working on plans to develop a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on The Green, Old Sarum. The purpose of which is to improve youth facilities in the Parish.

The plans were drafted and then sent out for tender. Once contractors had an opportunity to review, they submitted their proposals.

The Council discussed the report circulated by the Clerk that outlined the potential contractors and the tender process as a whole.

Following their discussion, the Council resolved to appoint Tender 2 (Wicksteed) to carry out the proposed MUGA work for the value of £58,881.19. Further details for MUGA development can be found on page 8.

Adoption of Assets at Westside Close

The Parish Council have agreed to maintain and improve the facilities at Westside Close for local residents.

Some of the funds provided by the developer as part of the transfer of assets will support the development of playpark areas in Norman Drive and Pheasant Drive, as well as contribute to the tender for the MUGA at The Green in Old Sarum.

May – Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting began with the Chair, Laura Jones, providing a report that outlined the past year for the Council.

One of the key projects this year has been to bring all community venues under one charitable organisation.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, the Laverstock and Ford Management Committee proposed to transfer their assets and liabilities to the new CIO at the end of their current lease with the Parochial Church Council. Those in attendance voted in favour of this proposal, marking the first step into the future of Parish community venues.

Three local organisations then provided presentations on their current projects in the Parish, all of which can be found on our website and Facebook page.

The first was The Bobby Van Trust, who delivered an informative talk on how to stay safe from various types of fraud.

Following on, Age UK presented details on their new Community Connector Programme for Laverstock and Ford, which aims to support those over the age of 60 out of social isolation.

Lastly, the Police and Crime Commissioner spoke about the reasons behind their decision to place a new police hub at the Old Sarum Estate. This was the first step into an open conversation between Parish residents and Wiltshire Police regarding the development. Further engagement sessions will be organised, offering plenty of opportunities for residents to voice their concerns or raise their queries.

May - Annual Full Council Meeting

For May, the Council had many administrative tasks to complete at their monthly Full Council meeting.

Recently, the Parish Council Office has been reviewing its working policies to ensure its governing compliance. The Council resolved to acknowledge all policies presented, including one for Stress Management, which supports both Councillors and staff with the potential impacts of work on mental health.

The Council also reviewed the steps it had taken in order to maintain compliance with Annual Governance Statement Assertion 10. They resolved to confirm that the Council had taken the appropriate steps to meet requirements. For those who are unfamiliar with Assertion 10, it is a new governance requirement for the 2020/21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return to clarify digital and data compliance.

All minutes for additional details of each meeting can be found on our website <https://laverstockford-pc.gov.uk/meetings/> or on our noticeboards for approximately one month after their date.

PARISH OPERATIONS UPDATE

New Multi-Use Games Area

The Parish Council is pleased to share some exciting news about improvements to the green space at Old Sarum Community Centre.

Following careful consideration, the Parish Council has approved the installation of a new 18 x 15 metre Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), replacing the existing single sports wall. At the most recent Full Council Meeting, a tender was chosen, and work is expected to commence mid to late summer.

This modern, two-ended, partially enclosed space will support a wide range of informal sports activities, including football, basketball, and general recreation.

The new MUGA has been designed to provide a safe, accessible, and welcoming space for residents of all ages to stay active, socialise, and enjoy the outdoors. We hope it will become a valued community asset, encouraging healthy lifestyles and making even better use of the outdoor space.



The current site and new proposed indicative design, and site location.

A heart-felt

Thank You



I know I can confidently speak on behalf of our local Parish Council in wishing to both acknowledge and thank all those residents who kindly deliver our bi-monthly Parish Newsletter. This takes time and commitment, and many of you have been delivering this service over many years, a testament to our wonderful residents!

At a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult to enlist volunteers in so many deserving local groups and charities, we are extremely fortunate to be able to rely on your services. Many of you are older residents, while others are juggling work and family commitments, yet you turn out come rain or shine to ensure our Newsletters get delivered.

As a Parish Councillor, along with many of my fellow Councillors, I also deliver the Parish Newsletter. Hence, we appreciate the effort it takes. It also begs the question, 'who designed front doors with letter boxes at the bottom?'

I moved to Bishopdown Farm six years ago and was soon pottering in my tiny front garden when an older gentleman stopped to present me with my first Parish Newsletter. We chatted for a while, and he gave me many tips on where to visit locally. This was John, and I now know he has been a volunteer for over 11 years, as well as having links to the Parish Council in an advisory capacity in the past. Despite enduring medical difficulties along the way, he seems determined as ever to continue. So, on behalf of myself, and our Parish Council, a heart-felt thank you to John, and to all our unsung volunteer heroes, for your continued support.

CLlr Estelle Williams

SAVE OUR PLAYGROUP - DON'T LET US CLOSE!
(Urgent Appeal)

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Our Lovely St Andrews Baby & Toddler Group.
(Established over 40 years!)
10am - 11.30am on Thursdays.

Help Us Keep Our Doors Open!

- BECOME THE GROUP LEADER**
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(Manage group finances, hall rent, annual insurance and social Media)
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(Toys, Crafts, Prepare Snack & Help during the Session)
- JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP**
to help plan
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As many will know, St John Ambulance is England's First Aid Charity. Run by the Order of St John, it is unique in being both a charity and an order of chivalry, tracing its ancestry back to 1099 and the First Crusade. The modern Order was formed by Queen Victoria in 1877, and the charity's work then was much as it is now.



Its vision is for everyone to be able to receive the emergency first aid they need from the people around them.

In St John Ambulance's local network, which is based in Salisbury and covers South Wiltshire, that's exactly what we do! Our 25 or so unpaid volunteers provide expert first aid and emergency

response at public events, from the London Marathon to village fetes, as well as ambulances and crews to support the NHS. We run a thriving, uniformed youth section – 'Cadets and Badgers' for children from 4 to 17 years old. And we deliver free emergency first aid awareness sessions in the community. In the last year or so, we have delivered these sessions across South Wiltshire to parishes, schools, home school groups, the WI, other charities, community groups, clubs, guides and brownies, 'mini police', and in the Guildhall Square.

To do our work, we rely on voluntary contributions to supplement the money the charity gets for supporting events and providing workplace training. We were delighted that Laverstock and Ford Parish Council was able to provide funding support last year. This money makes a vital contribution to training and equipment (from ambulances to uniforms and even Elastoplast!) for our volunteers, making sure they are not out of pocket for the long hours they put in.

In May, we were at River Bourne Community Farm. For the first few hours, we set up and provided first aid demonstrations and information to the public. Then after the farm had closed, we provided a free first aid awareness session for the farm's volunteers covering 'Three Ways to Save a Life', where everyone could have a go at CPR, using a defibrillator, and learn how to treat choking and bleeding.

Earlier in the year, we had also been to Milford House Care Home, where we gave a well- received presentation on the history of St John to residents.

We'd love to do more in Laverstock and Ford. If anyone is interested in finding out about joining as a volunteer, donating, or booking us for event support or first aid awareness, or anything else about the charity, you can go to www.sja.org.uk, our FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/sjasalisbury or email tim.watts@sja.org.uk (that's me).



WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST

Registered Charity No: 1153790



Pre-loved fashion donations needed for Bag A Bargain

Donations are needed for a pre-loved a sustainable fashion event aimed at raising vital funds for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Good quality pre-loved designer and high street clothes are needed for The Bag A Bargain event, held at Deverill Storage on Manor Farm, Longbridge Deverill, near Warminster, which has earned a reputation for having a wide range of nearly new designer clothes, accessories and jewellery.

The two-day sale begins on Friday, September 4th from 10am to 6pm with tickets at just £7. The sale continues on Saturday, September 5th from 9.30am to 2pm and entry is free.

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust works with Wiltshire Police to protect over 60s and people aged 18 and over with a disability in their homes by fitting security devices free of charge. It also operates a Stay Safe Online team of volunteers who provide free cyber security advice through home visits and talks to groups.

Director Jennie Shaw said: "Each year this event seems to get better and better, thanks to everyone who donates some beautiful clothes and to all the people who come along and support us. Last year was a really nice occasion because lots of people came to meet friends and share a light lunch and a drink at our pop-up café and licensed bar.

"There is such a buzz about the sale because it is an opportunity to add some sparkle to your wardrobe at fantastic prices, and on the second day we have some amazing discounts and BOGOF offers. I'd advise everyone who comes to come prepared and wear a base layer, so our personal shoppers can help them shimmy in and out of different outfits to find the perfect look."

All proceeds from the event will go towards the running costs of the Bobby Van service. "We need to raise £425,000 a year to maintain it, so events like this really help," said Jennie. "We'd like to say a huge thanks to John Robins for allowing us to use the venue, and all our organisers and volunteers."

Tickets can be booked at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events. Find out more about the work of the charity at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk.

Contact Susanna Thorpe of the charity about donations at susanna@WBVT.org or call her on **07500 652055**.

For further details contact Gary Lawrence on **07866 422308** or gary@meadowcomms.co.uk

REPORTER'S NOTE:

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust (WBVT) provides a free home security service and online safety service for over 60s and over 18s with a registered disability and people experiencing domestic abuse throughout Wiltshire and Swindon.

The charity funds the operation of two Bobby vans that provide mobile workshops for Bobby operators to secure homes. Its team of Stay Safe Online Volunteers offer one to one home visits and community talks on online safety.

WBVT is based at Wiltshire Police Headquarters, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN

Phone: **01225 256867** Email: **BobbyVan@wbvt.org**

Website: **wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk**



OLD SARUM YOUTH CLUB

Old Sarum Youth Club meets every other Monday at the Old Sarum Community Centre 6-7.30pm. The group is run by two Youth Workers from Young Swindon and Wiltshire in collaboration with Laverstock and Ford Parish Council.



It is free and open to any young person aged 10-18. Young people can take part in activities, socialise with friends and just hang out and have fun.

For more info, contact
David Osper, Lead For Communities on
David.osper@youngswindonandwiltshire.org.uk

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER **What Do They Do?**

On Wednesday, the 25th March, Wiltshire's Mobile Police Station visited three spots across the Parish in order to speak to residents in their area about what is causing them concern.



The Mobile Police Station is delivered by two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), who chose to share some insight into what it is they do for the Parish, and how they can support you in your local areas.

PCSO Jenny Moss explained that her role differs from a standard Police Constable (PC) as she focuses much more on prevention and education, rather than punishment and resolution.

The Mobile Police Van fits right into this ethos of prevention, as it's an opportunity for residents to informally report to Wiltshire Police what they are noticing without having to go through all of the formal reporting process. It allows PCSOs like Jenny to gather information before a real problem has developed. By collecting this data, Wiltshire Police can stay ahead of the game, create a well-informed operation, and reduce their reactive plans.

The Van visits Laverstock and Ford Parish approximately every six weeks, so you have regular opportunities to share what you've been noticing.

The PCSOs also shared some insight into their role outside of the Mobile Police Van.

They have strong ties with local organisations such as Parish Councils, Community Venues, and Schools. These connections allow them to support these organisations with issues as they are developing. For example, if a school is concerned about a student at their school, they can request support from PCSOs like Jenny to come in and speak to the student about what's going on.

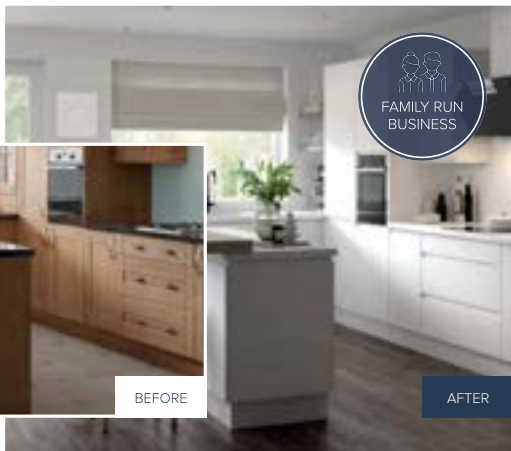
The main purpose of actions like this is to educate young people about the short and long-term risks of getting involved with crime. Education in this area is vital and allows Wiltshire Police to educate and prevent, rather than punish.

If you would like support from PCSO Jenny and her colleagues, please email SalisburyAreaNPT@wiltshire.police.uk

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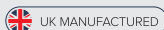
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First Class Survival Rate for Laverstock Meadows Community Orchard trees

Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust volunteers were delighted when they assessed the survival rates of orchard trees planted by numerous community organisations to celebrate the King's Coronation last year. The trees are planted as an extension of an existing orchard that was established with traditional orchard trees including rare medlar trees from an orchard nursery in Somerset. Sam Gill, the Trust's Treasurer summarised the results of the follow up survey of trees which took place this Spring as part of a national survey of orchard trees planted between November 2024 and March 2025:



"All 40 of the trees we had planted survived. Their heights ranged from 106 to 300cm with an average height of 198 cm. Defra wanted to know how high the trees were to give an indication of how established they are. We made sure the planting holes for each of the trees were dug to a metre square as a minimum and that soil was carefully sprinkled over the roots of the trees as they were planted. We all used sheep fleece mulch mats to suppress weed growth around the trees and reused old sheep netting tied to strong stakes to protect the trees from dogs that enjoy playing in the community orchard area."

Caitlin Wosika, Woodland Officer for Wiltshire Council commented how exciting the results of the Laverstock Watermeadows orchard were.

To make doubly sure of a good future for all the orchard trees, Salisbury Folk Club have offered to partner with Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust with a Wassailing community event in January 2027. This will involve processing around the trees, morris dancing, singing and a lantern competition.

If you are interested in volunteering with Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust contact the Trust info@dbct.org, www.dbct.org



Volunteer Opportunities Within The Parish



Newsletter Delivery

Help keep your neighbours informed on local news by posting newsletters through their door once every other month.

To find out what rounds are available, email richardheather@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust

On a mission to preserve the natural landscape of the Parish, DBCT is always on the look out for fellow nature-lovers to help care for the land.

You can learn more about what the DBCT does on page 41 and understand what you could be getting involved with.

To find out more about the role, email info@dbct.org

Old Sarum & Longhedge Pantry

Every week, the Pantry supports the community by providing a local shopping session, and a place for socialising. This work reduces food waste and cost of living impacts for local people.

You could help prepare for Pantry sessions or support their delivery.

For more details, email oslpantry@gmail.com

If you have volunteering roles that you would like to share with the community, then contact the Parish Council office to discuss.

Neighbourhood Watch

Become a part of your local Neighbourhood Watch. Support the organisation by signing up to a Watch Scheme, and keep an eye on the safety of your streets.

A more specialised role, the Membership Support Administrator, is granted access to the scheme's management tools. They support new members and coordinators into their role and the NW family.

Does this sound like a good fit for you? If so, email ross.walker@wiltshirenhw.org

Speed Watch

Speeding is a common yet dangerous occurrence on our roads. The community Speed Watch team meet fortnightly to help keep roads safer and calmer.

To join the group, reach out to Councillor Laura Jones who is the team leader for the local area.

laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

St Andrew's Toddler Group

Established for over 40 years, this toddler group offers a playful environment for local little ones every Thursday during term time.

They are currently seeking support from a Group Leader who will run the sessions.

If you can contribute in any other way, such as admin support, setting sessions up, or helping plan behind the scenes, then please contact

standrews.toddlergroup@yahoo.com

Bishopdown Councillor Recruitment

Lesley Waller and Estelle Williams are your Councillors for Bishopdown ward. As Councillors, they represent the voices of local residents and strive to resolve the issues faced in the area. Some of Lesley's recent successes are the installation of bollards at St Clement's Way, which prevent trade vehicles from parking on the grass verge, helping to protect our green spaces from degradation. Additionally, play equipment has been refurbished at play parks in the ward, including The Green, St Peters Road, St Lukes Road, St Judes and Drakes Close.

Currently, Bishopdown Councillors are focused on resolving the repairs required to the fence, a bollard and the handrail at the shopping car park at Sycamore Road, as well as the bus stop at Holmes Road, which only has two out of six glass panels. Estelle is also particularly keen on improving the provision of social activities for those older residents at Hampton Park Pavilion. To support this, she has recently become a trustee of the venue management committee to help develop the community space.

If you know of matters that need to be addressed or want to support the projects underway, why not consider becoming a Councillor for Bishopdown and help uplift your neighbourhood? Email: parish-clerk@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Laverstock & Milford Councillor Recruitment

Councillor Laura Jones, the Chair of the Parish Council, is passionate about community connection and neighbourhood safety. Some of her current campaigns are:

1. **Supporting the River Bourne Community Farm** — championing their charitable and educational work for local families.
2. **Leading the Laverstock Community Speedwatch Team** — carrying out regular Speedwatch sessions in Ford and working to have additional sites assessed for future monitoring.
3. **Preserving the historic Milford Medieval Bridge** — protecting one of our parish's most important heritage assets.
4. **Advocating for improvements to the Whitebridge Spinney play area and boardwalk** — ensuring this much-loved green space remains safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all ages.
5. **Organising regular community litter picks** — bringing neighbours together to keep our parish clean, cared for, and environmentally responsible.

If you'd like to support Laura with her ongoing projects or have ideas of your own for the improvement of Milford, we'd be delighted to welcome you as a Councillor.

Wildflower Update

In the Mar/April Newsletter there was a report about a new wildflower project in Laverstock. Council Operations Assistant Officer, Gary had cleared a sunny area below the hard-court play area on the Pilgrims Way estate to take photos. This is now (beginning of June) starting to blossom.

Volunteers have sown a variety of annual seeds and perennial plugs to help feed pollinators like bees, butterflies, hover-flies, moths etc and hopefully increase their numbers.

Special mention must be made of the Laverstock Cubs and Beavers who enthusiastically scratched patches of earth to sow their seeds and these are doing well. The cubs especially had fun - they did most of their planting by torch-light! This was done during an evening meeting in early Spring and came to finish as the stars came out!

By the time you receive this, many of the flowers should be in bloom. Do go and have a look if you are in the area (near the Duck Inn).



Councillors in the Community

Laverstock and Ford Parish Councillors have been getting involved with a number of community initiatives and campaigns.

Councillor Estelle Williams attended Green Trees Primary School to provide a lesson on littering and its impact on environmental health. Her presence was a part of the Year 5's wider project - 'How can you help save the planet?'. Kids learnt about the amount of time different littered items take to decompose and how this effects local life.

The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust hosted Open Farm Sunday in early June. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all who visited. Four of the Parish's Councillors, Estelle, Laura, Liz and Nick attended, allowing Open Farm Sunday guests to speak directly to the Council.

Councillor Laura Jones, visited the 3rd Laverstock Sea Scouts in June and had the privilege to speak on matters such as democracy, local government and the responsibilities of being a local councillor.

If you would like a Councillor to attend an event or be a guest speaker at your group, reach out to communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk.

Together we can inspire the younger generations, build a strong line of communication between residents and the Council, as well as develop what is offered to the community.

Lauerstock and Ford Village Hall AGM

You are invited to the Laverstock and Ford Village Hall's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 26th August, at 18:30.

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COUNCILLOR'S VOICE What's Happening With our Roads?

One of the things I love about serving on both the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council is the wide variety of topics which people reach out to me about, but one theme which consistently is at the top of the list is the state of our roads.

Most roads in our area are maintained by Wiltshire Council (the two main exceptions are the A36 which is maintained by National Highways and some roads on new estates which have yet to be adopted and are the responsibility of developers or management companies). Much of the funding for road maintenance comes from a national grant, and many years of underfunding has led to a backlog of repairs across the country that trade body AIA estimates will take £18.6bn. In addition, climate change has led wetter winters which are making the problems worse.

In response to this, so far this year Wiltshire Council has fixed 9 pot holes every hour, and has committed to a programme of investment in preventative maintenance. Potholes are often a symptom of a failing road surface with resurfacing being the long term solution. In this context we have already seen work in the Riverside Close, around Riverbourne Road and St Thomas Bridge and work is programmed in for Milford Mill Road and William Close. I am also pushing for Riverside Road and Hill Road to be looked at as a priority.

What can I do about Highways Issues?

The best way to report maintenance issues such as, pot holes, damaged street signs etc is using the MyWilts system on your mobile device or your computer's web browser (<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>). These reports go directly to the Council's highways team and most reports are assessed and prioritised within days. Improvements are coming to the app to make it easier to see what action is being taken.

If you have reported something and you are not happy with the response, do follow up by contacting your Wiltshire Councillor.

If you would like to raise a safety issue (such as a changed speed limit, yellow lines to prevent parking in a dangerous place etc) then you need to start by filling out a Wiltshire Highways Improvement Form (you can search for it online) or discussing the issue with your Wiltshire Councillor. The form then goes to the Parish Council who will make a recommendation to the Wiltshire Highways and Footways Improvement Group which has funding for this type of work. The process can often take around a year from an issue being raised to work taking place but we have seen significant improvements in the parish from parking controls around our schools to better speed limit signs near Beehive Roundabout starting this way.

I'm sure I will need to continue arguing the case for road repairs in our area for as long as I am a councillor, but I am encouraged that at both National and Wiltshire level there does seem to be an understanding of how concerned people are by the state of our roads and the start of a programme of investment to catch up on the lost years.

Cllr Nick Baker

‘What has Salisbury Listening Place achieved this year?’



This question gave rise to a lot of thought amongst Listeners because, what is obvious to us, is not necessarily appreciated by others.

“We keep basic data but, unless a client returns and tells us what happened after they were listened to and what a difference it made to their lives, we simply don’t know what our ‘achievements’ are!

Some clients do let us know of course, but years can pass before they do! What we do know for certain is that the vast majority of people who use our service value being given time, space and privacy to express their thoughts and feelings without interruption or judgement. Being listened to by our team of trained Listeners is very different to talking with friends and family. You are not given solutions or well-meaning advice. Your feelings are acknowledged and respected. Being truly listened to and heard is often a new experience which can lead to enlightenment.

Even if there is no action taken as a result of the listening experience, most people feel better afterwards. If clients go away feeling happier, more confident, less anxious or angry then that is the achievement of Salisbury Listening Place.

Salisbury Listening Place is based at Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmunds Church Street SP1 1EF. There are three sessions per week: Monday evening from 5.30-7pm and Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10am -12noon.

Drop in or make an appointment:

T: 01722 325 294 E: salisburylisteningplace@gmail.com
www.thelisteningplace.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Annual Open Evening

Engaging with Homeless People in Salisbury

Speakers: Leah Palmer & Jasmine O’Leary from Alabare

Leah and Jasmine will help us improve our understanding and awareness of homelessness in Salisbury and how to interact with homeless people.

Tuesday 22nd September 6.45 for 7pm

Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmunds Church Street, Salisbury SP1 1EF

Free event – All welcome. Light refreshments

Autumn Training Courses:

Do You want to Listen Better? – A Training in Listening Day

This course benefits everyone as it provides practical help and advice. Your listening skills will be enhanced whether you are talking with friends or family or in a work context.

Saturday 17th October, 10am – 4pm, at Salisbury Methodist Church (address as above). Please bring your own lunch

Training to be a Listener

If you would like to consider volunteering as a Listener, you are asked to attend the above course and a further day of training on **Saturday 24th October**, 10am-4pm (*Details as p22 and above*)

To register for the course(s): manager@thelisteningplace.org or 01722 325 294

Laverstock Gardening Club

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

Our April talk was by Paul Leister, trading as The Worm Man. Paul was a soldier for many years, and on demobilisation he chose to start a “green” business from home. He bought £20 of worms and set up in his garage. He made wooden wormeries, but plastic ones were cheaper, although they can't control temperature and condensation as well.

Worms are vital for retaining soil structure, their tunnels encouraging aeration and drainage.

Paul can provide worms, worm casts and cocoons for repopulating the soil. A very good talk, entertainingly presented.

On a very hot night in May, Ray Broughton suggested that there were 80 things we didn't know about horticulture. In the end, he showed us 40 of them. There were new technologies such as Plastoglass, which has real grass growing between plastic and coloured polytunnels, which are tinted red or blue depending on which growth pattern is wanted. One interesting suggestion was growing gooseberries as a south-facing fan. Plenty of light for ripening but pain-free pruning. A very good talk under trying conditions.

Our speaker on **27th July** is Katherine Crouch who will describe her experiments on plant survivors in a changing climate, and Saturday 8th August is our Annual Sow at the Laverstock and Ford Village Hall.

David Hutchinson 01722 334036



COMMUNITY FUNDAY

THE GREEN ASH CRESCENT

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 31st AUGUST
From 12 midday

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HOT DRINKS • CRAFTS • STALLS



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BISHOPDOWN FARM & RIVERDOWN PARK

www.hamptonpark-pavilion.org/news



TOGETHER ON THE GREEN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AT BISHOPDOWN FARM

Since the February half-term, families have been enjoying the popular activity sessions held at the Pavilion during the school holidays. Designed for children aged 0-12 years and their parents or carers, the sessions have quickly become a valued part of the local community calendar.

Each event welcomes around 20-30 children, creating a friendly and relaxed space where families can meet, play and enjoy time together. A wide range of toys, games, crafts and snacks are provided, helping children stay active and creative throughout the session, before ending with a story.

The Holiday Play events aim to offer affordable activities for local families during the school holidays, with donations welcomed rather than a fixed cost. Parents and carers who have attended have praised the welcoming atmosphere and the importance of having accessible, low-cost activities close to home.

The sessions also provide an opportunity for families to connect with others in the community, helping to build friendships and reduce isolation during holiday periods.

With such positive feedback and growing attendance, the Holiday Play sessions continue to be a successful and much-appreciated resource for families in the Bishopdown Farm area.

Our Summer Sessions will be outside at the park/on the green at the Pavilion

Come and find us between 10 - 11:30 am Thursday 6th, 13th and 20th August

(Wet weather plan - inside the Pavilion)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MEL OUR OUTREACH WORKER

outreach@salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk

07704 994157





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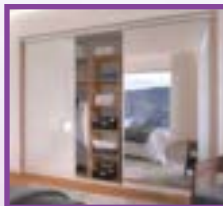
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Old Sarum Nursery

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

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

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

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

01722 415598
oldsarumnursery@gmail.com

PARISH MYTH BUSTERS

Myth 1: Parish Councils and County Councils do the same job, just for different areas.

County Councils and Parish Councils are responsible for different aspects of local government. Parish Councils take care of local matters such as community venues and playparks..

Larger services like roads, education, housing, and waste collection are managed by County Councils, such as Wiltshire.

The Parish Council acts as a representative of residents' views when liaising with partner organisations and larger governmental bodies. They reach out at a local level to hear from the people what their opinions are on the happenings in their environment.

Myth 2: Parish Councils can fix things immediately; they just don't.

The Parish Council and its staff work hard to resolve the issues that local residents face. Some matters take priority over others, and delays may sometimes be experienced due to legal or budget constraints. The Council always ensures that it advocates for its residents and works with partner organisations to find a resolution.

You can reach out to your local ward councillor to discuss any matters that are arising in your area. Their contact details are on page 38.

Myth 3: I have to be religious to have a say in the Parish Council.

Parish Councils are civil local authorities and are completely separate from churches or religious organisations. You do not need to be religious or belong to any faith to attend meetings, contact councillors, raise concerns, or stand for election as a councillor.

While the word 'parish' has historic roots in religious community, today's Parish Councils represent everyone in the local area regardless of belief, background, or affiliation.

Everyone who lives in the Parish has a voice and is welcome to use it.

Myth 4: All the green spaces, benches and other public use items are managed by the Parish Council

A lot of these items are under the Parish Council's wing. However, that isn't always the case. When new houses are built, the developer is often required to create green spaces, play parks, and place benches for people to use. These assets are then the developer's responsibility to care for and maintain.

Often, these will be handed over to the Parish Council. Other times, they may be retained by a management company. If you are ever unsure, you can let us know you've noticed a problem with any public facilities, and we can delegate the issue to the correct organisation.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

We have had a couple of excellent speakers this year. Rev Pat Clegg spoke movingly about her trips to Palestine and the people she met there, stories which give meaning to us as we try to understand what life might be like there.

And Alex Ewing spoke from the heart about the Bridge Project's chaplaincy work in schools.

As I write we have just delivered 2 moving on/ out packs to the Salisbury Women's Refuge who need all the basic household items in order to start making a new home.

We are also busy working out the details for our 150th anniversary celebration service at the cathedral in June.

And on 9th July we are having our local outing, afternoon tea at the Riverside hotel in Harnham – if the weather is good we can sit out on the terrace and enjoy the wonderful view of the water meadows and the cathedral. Please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Then it will be time for our annual **Garden Party in St Andrew's churchyard!** We would like to extend a warm invitation to anyone who wants to join us on Thursday 13th August at 2.30pm – it's open to everyone of all ages. No entry fee but donations will be invited for our Holiday Project – this is the project which enables families on low incomes to have a holiday in our caravan at Rockley Park, Poole. The family who will be benefiting this year will actually be there mid-August during the week of our Garden Party.

Perhaps you know someone who might benefit from this next year?



Donations for stalls please contact Pip
07854 827233 or Joan 07833 781075



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10.00am - 12.15pm

(45 minute 1-2-1 sessions available)

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what YOU need



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Wiltshire Council:

01722 434437

Laver
Repair Cafe

Wiltshire Council

WHAT'S IN A NAME – 17

MANNOCK FIELD, LONGHEDGE

Mannock Field and Mannock Field Play Park are named after Major Edward Corringham “Mick” Mannock VC DSO MC of the Royal Air Force. He was one of the First World War’s greatest fighter ‘aces’ with 61 victories.

“Mick” Mannock was born on 24 May 1887 in Ballincollig near Cork in Ireland. His father had just left the army but in 1893 he re-enlisted and the family moved to Meerut, India. His father was then transferred to South Africa to fight in the Boer war but the family remained in India. When the Boer war ended, they moved back to Canterbury, England.

Mannock joined the National Telephone Company as an engineer as well as the Territorial Army Medical Corps. In February 1914 he travelled to Constantinople and took a position with the Ottoman Telephone Exchange. When Turkey entered the 1st World War in October 1914 Mannock was interned in prison. Conditions were poor and he was repatriated due to ill health.

In May 1915 Mannock reported for duty with the Royal Army Medical Corps but became disillusioned and requested a transfer. First to the Royal Engineers and then



to the Royal Flying Corps. He started flying training in August 1916 and received his flying certificate in November. In March 1917, after further training, he was posted to 40 Squadron in France flying the Nieuport 23 scout aircraft.

By the end of 1917 Mick Mannock had been credited with 16 victories. He had converted to the S.E.5 fighter aircraft and joined the newly formed 74 Squadron at London Colney airfield. 74 Squadron was sent to France in March 1918 and Mannock became a Flight Commander. By June 1918 his score had risen to 47.

On 5 July 1918, after a spell of leave, Major Mannock returned to France and took command of 85 Squadron. His score continued to rise until his final flight on 26th July 1918. He was helping a new arrival, a New Zealander Lt. Inglis, to learn the method of operation and earn his first victory. After engaging and shooting down an enemy aircraft, Lt Inglis saw flames coming from Mannock's aircraft after which it spiralled into the ground and burst into flames.

His body was not recovered. Mannock is commemorated on the RFC memorial at Faubourg-d'Amiens War Cemetery at Arras. An RAF VC10 aircraft was named after him.

Major Mannock was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross on 18th July 1919. The citation said that he was an outstanding example of fearless courage, remarkable skill, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice.

LAVERSTOCK & FORD HISTORY GROUP

invite you to the next meeting on 30 July at
2pm in the Curtis Room, St Andrew's Church.

Rex Whistler 1905 – 1944

CHRISTINE MASON will give an illustrated talk on Rex Whistler, his relevance to Salisbury and this area; his art; his friends and his life cut short by World War II. She will also explain the importance of the archive of his work acquired by Salisbury Museum in 2013. Future generations will be able to benefit from both what is being done to preserve all the items and from the development of an online catalogue of the contents of the archive.

DROP-IN FEE £2.50
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £12.00



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



BOSCOMBE DOWN AVIATION COLLECTION PRESENTATION PROGRAMME 2026

All presentations start at 1900 hrs.

Hangar 1 South, Old Sarum Airfield, Salisbury. Wiltshire SP4 6DZ.

Tel: 01722 323636 www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk

For details and further information email talks@btinternet.com

www.boscombedownaviationcollection.co.uk

NOTES

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

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

8th September Navy Aerobatic Teams

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

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



Sarum u3a - Learn, Laugh, Live

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

We offer a huge variety of Interest Groups led by members with knowledge, experience or simply an interest in the subject, generally meeting in their own homes. Guests are very welcome to attend our coffee mornings.

Summer Programme

July 15th - GOING TO BLAZES - JOHN CRAIG

A selection of amusing anecdotes from the 36-year career of John Craig. He gives a glimpse of the amusing side to the work of the fire and rescue service.

August 19th - THE EAGLE HAS LANDED - BOB ROGERS

This talk features the country's leading Bird of Prey centre, and gives an insight into the lives of those who work with nature's most charismatic creatures, from eagles to falcons, from owls to vultures.

September 16th - THE HONEY ISLES - RICHARD RICKETT

Following a career in movie special effects, Richard now spends most of his time writing, talking, and thinking about bees. He keeps around 30 hives of his own, as well as a few more for some high-profile locations and individuals.

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



At our recent WI meeting, we enjoyed an engaging talk on “The most famous woman you’ve never heard of” – Hertha Ayrton. Born in Portsmouth in 1854, she overcame significant barriers to become a leading mathematician, engineer and suffragette. Despite her achievements and friendship with Marie Curie, she was denied Fellowship of the Royal Society simply because she was a married woman. Her story left us reflecting on how easily remarkable women can be overlooked.

We were delighted to welcome back Prof Ed Rohead and look forward to a varied and inspiring programme ahead. Upcoming talks include Melanie Howard sharing her India Trek for the Stars Appeal, local history with Neal Lacey, and the work of Able Hands. We’ll also hear from Wessex Rivers Trust about projects in our area, inspired by the WI rivers campaign, as well as enjoying a relaxed Poems and Puds evening and taking part in the WI “Show the Love” craft campaign.

We have recently issued an open letter across social media highlighting the WI as a place not just to meet, but to grow – whether that’s developing new skills, building confidence, getting involved in community action, or simply finding friendship and support. We are actively looking to welcome new members who would like to be part of shaping a modern, forward-thinking WI.

Outside our monthly meetings, our friendly lunch and coffee groups continue to meet regularly, offering a welcoming way to socialise and stay connected.

We are always happy to welcome new members.

*An open letter
to local women, ♡*

Have you ever thought about joining the WI?



Dear local woman, ♡

Our local Laverstock WI is a small, welcoming group of women aged 37 to 90+, and we've proudly served our community for almost 40 years.

Now, we're looking to grow! We'd love to welcome new members with fresh ideas, energy, and digital skills to help us evolve and connect with more women locally.

We're especially keen to hear from anyone who might enjoy getting a little more involved as our Secretary—there's plenty of support, and every contribution (big or small) really does make a difference.

What we do



We come together once a month to enjoy an activity or speaker.



We also have regular coffee and lunch outings.



From creative projects to meaningful campaigns, the WI is all about improving women's lives—while building friendships and having a good laugh along the way.



*If you've been curious
but never taken the step,
this is your sign!*

♡
Come along and see
what we're about.

♡
Above all, the WI is a place
to meet, to learn, to laugh,
and to feel part of
your community.



**WE MEET
3RD MONDAY
OF THE MONTH**

at Laverstock Village Hall,
7.30pm



**MEMBERSHIP IS
£54 FOR THE YEAR;**

- ✓ Includes 11 meetings
- ✓ WI Life Magazine
- ✓ Access to 'MyWI' members platform
- ✓ Online learning hub VIA
- ✓ Local and national WI events!

♡
*Join us and
be part of
something
amazing!*

We'd love to meet you! ♡

Amy - Laverstock President

✉ laverstockpres@wiltshirewi.org.uk

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DEMENTIA awareness

On Tuesday 19 May in Salisbury Methodist Church over 140 people were enthralled by the keynote speech of Sir Al Aynsley-Green of Salisbury, the only Professor of Compassion in the UK. He was invited by the charity Safer and Supportive Salisbury (SaSS) to address an audience of professionals, those living with dementia and their carers, who attended the Navigating Dementia Conference during Dementia Action Week.

At the heart of Sir Al's speech was his account of caring for his wife Rosemary, who died from vascular dementia in 2022. "I've got the T-shirt," he declared and described the key experience of navigating the dementia system, lack of support after diagnosis, absence of care planning, difficulty at that time of finding compassionate care homes, the burden on family carers and the frustration with bureaucratic medicine. "Where are the commissioning bodies here today?" he asked. "Surely they should be hearing what we all feel is important for dementia care."

He went on to emphasise that families often feel abandoned and systems are fragmented, yet compassionate individuals exist.

He described compassion simply as "Putting yourselves in the shoes of others and doing something about it." And urged each audience member to 'seize the day' and take some action to improve the care experience for those with dementia.

Guest of honour at the event, Lord Lieutenant Dame Sarah Troughton, addressed the conference and retold her own experience of how her father lived with dementia but that it brought a very warm and loving side out in him.

The audience was also privileged to hear from Alan a former BA pilot living with dementia. In conversation with Elizabeth Bartlett he said strong emotional memories of his flights around the world stay with him. This has enabled him to still be a regular volunteer at the Boscombe Down Aviation Museum where he tells visitors intricate details of the aircraft on display. It was through this volunteering work that he received the Kings Award.

Alan urged everyone living with dementia not to withdraw from society but to use the 'gifts' dementia can bring.

Nigel Jenner representing Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), an international federation of Alzheimer and dementia associations from around the world, told those assembled that every three seconds someone in the world is diagnosed with dementia so by 2050, 139 million people worldwide will have it.

He too highlighted the inequality of access to care and treatment at every level and urged everyone to do what they can to hammer on the doors of power to get the disease higher up the agenda. A perfect opportunity exists on Monday 21 September 2026 – World Alzheimer's Day, prominent buildings around the world will be lit up in purple. He called on Salisbury to light up the Cathedral in purple on 21 September.

Delegates were invited to attend various breakout groups for the rest of the afternoon to take part in relevant discussions pertaining to their own needs.

Throughout the event, the message was clear: it is indeed possible to live well with dementia when communication is effective, and the needs of individuals and their caregivers are prioritised in service delivery. The conference served as a catalyst for these essential conversations, and SaSS is committed to building on this foundation. They are already working with partners to establish a network which will now be working to find ways to support people living with dementia in the way Sir Al so eloquently advocated.



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Old Sarum Skate Park

Tucked away within the Old Sarum and Longhedge estate is a small but well-used skate park that provides a valuable space for local young people to meet, exercise, and build confidence. The park features a variety of ramps and obstacles suitable for different skill levels.

It recently played host to a lively skate workshop as part of the Parish's youth engagement initiative. The session brought together children and young people from across the community for an afternoon of fun, learning, and outdoor activity. Led by experienced instructors from ATBShop Warehouse, the kids were introduced to a range of skateboarding and scooter techniques through interactive games, friendly competitions, and practical coaching.

For many of the children attending, the workshop was an opportunity to try skating or scootering for the very first time. The supportive atmosphere encouraged everyone to take part at their own pace, whether practising basic skills or attempting more advanced tricks on the ramps.

The competitions, with valuable prizes up for grabs, proved especially popular, with young riders being tested on balance and control.



Events like the Skate Workshop highlight the importance of having accessible recreational spaces within the parish. The skate park offers young people a safe place to stay active, socialise with friends, and spend time outdoors in a healthy and constructive way. Its range of ramps and features makes it suitable for a wide variety of ages and abilities, ensuring that beginners and more confident riders alike can enjoy the facility.



The event was well received with a lot of positive feedback from both the kids and parents, including encouragement for the Parish Council to support a project like this again. It's responses like these that help shape the initiatives we work towards. Some suggestions that came from the event was a winter silent disco, and circus trick schooling. If you have ideas that you would like to see become reality in the Parish, all it takes is for you to reach out to your ward Councillor to start that discussion. You can find their contact information in the final pages of the Newsletter.

SOCIAL PROFESSIONALS TRAINING

Reducing Parental Conflict

Wiltshire Family Hubs are delivering a course in Salisbury designed to reduce parental conflict in the area. ***Reducing Parental Conflict: One Plus One Digital Resources*** is being held at the Five Rivers Leisure Centre and is intended for professionals working with families, providing them with a comprehensive toolkit to offer support with confidence.

The programme equips professionals with practical strategies to improve communication, manage stress, and resolve conflict more constructively.

SESSION DETAILS:

Thursday 10th September 2026,

09:30 - 12:30 (session one)

& 13:30 - 16:30 (session two)

in the Wylfe Room,

Five Rivers Leisure Centre,

Hulse Road,

Salisbury, SP1 3NR.

This training is free of charge and open to any Wiltshire-based professional seeking to enhance their understanding of the 'One Plus One Digital Resources' and the broader Reducing Parental Conflict initiative.

Please ensure you can attend both sessions prior to requesting to be booked on, as spaces are limited.

To register your attendance, please email ksimpson@spurgeons.org.

New Sarum Women's Institute



Recent New Sarum Women's Institute (NSWI) meetings have included engaging guest speakers ranging from the RNLI (which was followed up by a successful group visit to their centre in Poole), to the Amesbury Men's Shed. Looking forward, in July, we will be welcoming Neil Berrett, who describes himself as a life-long genealogy obsessive and will be discussing the process of researching a family tree, and in August, members will gather at Lake Social Club for a fun-filled social afternoon, including games and refreshments in lieu of our monthly meeting.

Our newly established Pudding Club Group had its inaugural get together in May and was a great success. Hosted by one of our members, who initiated the idea, it was a scrumptious and very social way to spend an afternoon. A walking group has also been introduced in addition to the Striders and Strollers. "Nearer to Nature" walks will include visits in the summer to RSPB and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Reserves which will enable members to quietly and mindfully enjoy nature together.

The first of the 2026 croquet sessions at Hamptworth Golf Club proved very popular with members. The excellent coaches provided first rate tuition for those who had never played before and guidance for the more experienced players. A fun morning with the option of a delicious lunch. More sessions are booked during the coming summer months.

Our History Group has also been active with a fascinating walk exploring the history of Salisbury Street names, and this is to be followed next month with a walk around The Close in Salisbury, looking at the buildings and their history. In July, a tour of the Old Museum, St Anne's Street, is planned.

As part of the NSWI undertaking to engage with the community, we took part in Salisbury's eco community event "People in the Park", where members ran a popular tombola stall. We will also be helping out at the Old Sarum Community Centre Big Lunch, part of a national weekend of community action, and we will be participating in the Wild and Green Family Festival at the River Bourne Community Farm. On July 11th, we will be hosting the Saturday Coffee Morning at St Thomas Church, Salisbury which is our main fundraising event of the year for our group and chosen charity. This will also be an opportunity to meet NSWI members, so do come along to support us and find out more about our WI.

In the meantime, 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.

DBCT Councillors Tour of Land

Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust (DBCT) trustees provided Parish Councillors with a walking tour of Laverstock Water Meadows, talking through the special qualities of the land and the various pressures the environment faces.

The tour began at Whitebridge Spinney, which exists on Parish Council land. Walking along here, next to the River Bourne chalk stream, visitors can see across the DBCT's new meadow. It is currently being left to rest, allowing ground nesting birds to breed, and then later in the year, it will be harvested for hay production.



Whilst paused at the clearings on Whitebridge Spinney, Councillors saw the fascinating habitats formed in the river. Benches are provided here, allowing walkers to take in the peaceful atmosphere and listen to the chorus of bird songs. In image one, you can see a fantastic natural habitat across the water on DBCT land.

Unfortunately, open earth river banks encourage dogs to play in the river, which to many may seem unimpactful, but can actually cause harm to residing wildlife. Muddy paws push fine sediment and silt into the riverbed, covering the clear gravel and causing blockages. It can remove essential space for fish to lay their eggs and deprives



aquatic insects of their habitat. Other side effects include poor water quality. The silt absorbs dissolved oxygen and therefore reduces what is available for fish. Additionally, topical fur treatments on dogs, such as for flea or tick removal, wash toxic chemicals off into the water, causing significant harm to aquatic life.

In response to this, the DBCT are exploring the idea of dead hedges and dog beaches which protect the earth banks. The dead hedges form a natural barrier for the river, aiding its protection from dog pressure, whilst dog beaches provide places dogs can enter the water with minimum impact on river life. The Council are interested in this project and are also investigating how dead hedges can be utilised on its areas of riverbed.

Along the walk, the group came to the ephemeral ponds. These ponds are cyclical by nature meaning they have dry summers, a perfect habitat for insects, and wet winters, inviting fish to move in. There are information boards beside this area for visitors to learn about the ecology in their Parish.



Moving back into the heart of the DBCT's land, Councillors were shown the impact of their recent grant funding. This supported a new path laid from Cow Lane to the river across the Water Meadows. As a result, the Meadows are now a more accessible place for all to enjoy, and children are encouraged to play in the green spaces.

Continuing on in their mission to provide a more accessible place for visitors, the DBCT are partnering with Cycling Opportunities Group for Salisbury (aka COGS) to develop a better surface for cycling on the muddiest bit of a permissive path from Cow Lane that links to the cycle path to Laverstock at the northern end of the DBCT water meadows. Their joint efforts reflect the strength of community partnerships and their benefit to local people.

Attending Councillors shared their experiences with the rest of the Council, highlighting that they thoroughly enjoyed the walking tour and learning about the land that they serve.

Knowledge from community organisations being shared with Councillors helps inform the decisions they make throughout the year. If you run a local organisation and would like to see how you can work with the Parish Council for betterment of the community, please contact

communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk



Planning Applications

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

Decisions

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

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

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

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

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

Outstanding and New Applications

PL/2026/02891 Insertion of window Cranbrook, Laverstock Park, Laverstock SP1 1QJ.

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

PL/2026/02684 Erection of 4 bed dwelling, garage and outbuildings at Land west of Green Lane SP4 6DX.

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

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

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

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

PL/2026/02120 Works to TPO trees Sherbourne Drive/Barker Close Old Sarum/Longhedge. No response – PC application.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ward Contacts

LAVERSTOCK & MILFORD WARD

Nick Baker:	2 Linden Close, Laverstock SP1 1PH nickbaker@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07921 899396
Cindy Vanstone:	cindyvanstone@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	
Laura Jones:	33 Riverbourne Road, Laverstock SP1 1NU laurajones@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07734 888181
Ian McDonald:	52 Potters Way, Laverstock SP1 1PX ianmcdonald@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07591 963261

VACANCY

FORD, OLD SARUM & LONGHEDGE WARD

Lainey Barker:	66 Sherbourne Drive, Old Sarum SP4 6GA laineybarker@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 01722 321650
Kevin Lynn:	9 Warneford Crescent, Longhedge SP4 6SB kevinlynn@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 01722 446636
Liz Holland:	lizholland@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	
Patrick Schneider:	patrickschneider@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07398 094339

VACANCIES

BISHOPDOWN FARM WARD

Lesley Waller:	30, The Oakbournes, Bishopdown Farm SP1 3FZ lesleywaller@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07900 392257
Estelle Williams:	18 Holmes Road, Bishopdown Farm, SP1 3ER estellewilliams@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	Tel. 07950512780

VACANCIES

Parish Clerk: Jon Sloan: Tel. 01722 433881 (*office hours calls – evening answerphone*)

parish-clerk@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Mob. 07771 802839 (*emergency calls - not monitored 24/7*)

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

Communications & Community Engagement Officer:

communications@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Community Venues Officer: venues@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

Mob. 0749 6781253

Finance Officer: Andrew Prince: andrewprince@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk

CORRESPONDENCE to: 3 Pilgrims Way, Laverstock, Salisbury SP1 1RZ

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

Contacts around the Parish

Air Cadets (Old Sarum)	http://bit.ly/40vdRC6	
Army Cadets (Old Sarum)	http://bit.ly/3RtDQ8y	
Cafe on the Green	outreach@salisburymethodistcircuit.org.uk	
Cricket Club, Laverstock	Gary Shears (capt)	07960 830908
Evergreen Club, Laverstock	Nancy Joyce	01722 329150
Greentrees Primary – Head	Alan Geary	01722 340596
Hampton Park Pavilion Bookings	Veronica Ford	hamptonparkpavilion@gmail.com
Laverstock & Ford Sports Club	07788 211583	lavvyclub@outlook.com
Laverstock Arts Group	Fiona Forbes	01980 862368
Laverstock Beaver Scouts	Jane Waspe	01722 421287
Laverstock Cubs	Kate Knight	01980 622495
Laverstock Explorer Scouts	David Waspe	01722 421287
Laverstock Gardening Club	Jill Kay	01722 323407
Laverstock History/Archaeology	Bryan Evans	01722 320129
Laverstock Ladies Open Group	Carol Taylor	01722 322702
Laverstock Scouts	Jackie Dixon	1stlaverstockscouts@gmail.com
Laverstock & District Evening WI	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
Mulepackers Dance Group	Mel or Mike	07946 733605
New Sarum WI	Sue Luther	07931 582357
Old Sarum Aviation Museum	@BDACATOldSarum	01722 323636
Old Sarum Beaver, Cub & Scouts		oldsarumscouts@outlook.com
Old Sarum Community Centre		01722 335349
Old Sarum Primary School - Head	Sarah Barwell	01722 410677
Old Sarum Nursery	Rhiannon	01722 415598
		oldsarumnursery@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch	Ross Walker	ross.walker@wiltshirenhw.org
OS&L Community Pantry	Gemma Phillips	oslpantry@gmail.com
River Bourne Farm Shop & Cafe		01722 332749
Salisbury FC	info@salisburyfc.co.uk	01722 776655
Salisbury FC Womens		info@salisburyfc.co.uk
Salisbury FC Youth	Ed Searle	edsearle1977@icloud.com
Salisbury Medical Practice	Tanya McKay	01722 333034

BF = Bishopdown Farm L = Laverstock

Parish Contacts continued...

Sarum Bridge Club		sarumbridge@gmail.com
Salisbury Rotary		salisburyrotary@gmail.com
Sarum U3a membership	Andrew Smith	sarumu3amembers@gmail.com
St. Andrews - Friends - Chair	Emily Wells	
St Andrews Primary School - Head	Jo Fernie	01722 503590
St. Andrews Toddlers - Chair	Char Parfett/Zoe Roe	standrewtoddlergroup@yahoo.com
St. Josephs - Head	Mr Matthew Higgins	01722 335380
TA Centre Old Sarum	Capt. David Oliver	01722 438300
The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust		info@dbct.org
The Duck Inn, Laverstock	01722 500288	ducklaverstock@gmail.com
Wyvern St Edmunds Academy - Head	Louise Henderson	01722 328565
Community Emergency Volunteers		
Jon Gunns (CEV Coordinator)	cev@laverstockford-pc.gov.uk	
Community Preparedness	www.communitiesprepared.org.uk	
Wiltshire & Swindon Prepared	wiltshireandswindonprepared.org.uk	

St Andrews & St. Marks & Church on the Green - Rev Andy Bousfield
 Parish Office, Jane Holme, 07933 952171, office@stmarkstandrew.org (Tue, Thur
 & Fri mornings) Contact Andy on 07866 434117, vicar@stmarkstandrew.org
www.stmarkstandrew.org

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

Deaf Chaplaincy Service
 Rev. Neil Robinson
 SMS number 07717 055219
 Email: deafpriest@icloud.com

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 Westside Close, Old Sarum, Salisbury, SP4 6BX

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

St Michaels and All Angels, The Winterbournes, Rev'd Peter Ostli East
 The Vicarage, Winterbourne Earls, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6HA
 01980 611350 www.bournevalleychurches.org.uk

St Martin's Church
 Parish Office St Martin's Church Street, Salisbury, SP1 2HY
 A priest can be made available by contacting the Parish administrator on: 01722 503123
 Email: saintmartins.salisbury@gmail.com www.sarumstmartin.org.uk

Useful Contacts

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

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

FLOOD LINE

0345 988 1188

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Emergency Helpline 0800 807 060

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

trafficengland.com

Our Wiltshire Councillors

Nick Baker	For Laverstock, Milford & Bishopdown Farm Nick.Baker@wiltshire.gov.uk 07921 899396
Lainey Barker	For Old Sarum, Longhedge and Ford Lainey.Barker@wiltshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament John Glen	Constituency Office 12 Brown Street, Salisbury. SP1 1HE 01722 323050 john.glen.mp@parliament.uk

CASTLE HILL COUNTRY PARK



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

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



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