

News and Notes

For Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock

October 2023

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Church News
and Services

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The weather's changed, after our glorious, endless Summer - it'll just be autumnal beauty, crisp, misty mornings, oranges and reds in the sky and on the trees, then a layer of fresh white unblemished snow will carry us through the Winter until the new leaves appear and the temperatures rise in Spring.

I might be delusional, who knows. What I do know is that this is the News and Notes, and there are pages full of good stuff. There's news from the Reverend Ruth, Mary and Steph in their pews, and coppicing from the WI. There's a Christmas Cake from Mrs P, vegetables, villages and oil tankers from Martin, and plants and long words from Orpheus. There's an interview with some great new people that can get us wine and tattoos. If you need things like plumbers, or cabs, or robot mowers and beer, it's all here in the burgeoning advert pages. Need to know which church is doing what and when - head to the back page, it's all there.

Because these villages are always up to something, there's a Panto underway, all homegrown, unbridled talent as you'd expect. Block out your diary for Thurs the 23rd, to Sat the 25th of November, and hold tight for ticket info. Ebblefest meetings have started again - those portaloos ain't gonna book themselves. The committee have heard what you loved this year, what you wished had been there, and are taking it all onboard for next year, Saturday, 29th of June - get in touch on their Facebook page with any suggestions and to keep updated with plans.

Thanks for reading - don't forget to send us your news and notes.

Jonny - co-editor

Community News

Jeremy and Maggie Metcalfe would like to announce the arrival of their newest granddaughter.

Huge congratulations to Tom and Olivia Brown (née Metcalfe) on the birth of their daughter.

Charlotte Grace Tegen Brown was born on 9th July in Frimley Park Hospital.

She is, as you would expect, absolutely gorgeous and already bringing great joy to all she meets.

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Christmas Cover Contest

Every Christmas, as a special treat to our community, and as a generous gift from Speedy Print, who print N&N for us every month, we get a bonus...

COLOUR EDITION!

To celebrate, we're launching a prestigious Christmas Cover Contest. This is open to everyone, all ages and any artistic style. Send us your cover designs by 14th November and the winning one will be on the front of the December issue.

We're looking for: a colourful, unique design that represents our villages and Christmas. It will need to look good printed on A5 so details should not be too small. Avoid writing, where possible. If using pencil, please press hard or pen might be better.

Imagine the pride you'll feel when on a frosty December morning the News & Notes falls through your letterbox. You pick it up, turn it over in your hands to see, not only is it in colour but it has your beautiful creation on the front of it. We can't wait either.

You can email your entry to editor@newsandnotes.co.uk, drop it round to one of the Co-editor's houses or arrange a sneaky handover in the pub.

No bribes, please. It's true, Jonny and Orpheus will do most things for a pint, but this is a clean contest - Good luck!

More Community News

Without further ado we amble into our October edish with newses and noteses and all that lies in between. We have wineses and showses and as part of our capacity as editors we can alert you to what is happening before it happens. Not unlike Nostradamus, but very much unlike Frederick Fleet and Reginald Lee of the Titanic.

Dan Griggs Wine Gigs

Dan Griggs, of this month's Spotlight – Managing Director of Museum wine's is very kindly offering our readers a healthy 10% off wine with code NEWSANDNOTES. If you are thirsty and like wine, wine not give it a go hey?

Anna “That’s Entertainment” Harriott

At number two this month in News and Notes is our very own Anna Harriot who invites you along to her show. Made with 90% recycled material, so you can be assured that absolutely no dolphins were harmed in the making. If you look closely, you might even be able to identify one of your Sainsbury's bags (which they would love more of, if you have them please) as a carefully constructed puppet. See page 4 for deets, we'll see you there!

Game, Set, Mahoney!

News just in from Carys of Mahoney Tennis - they're running a half-term tennis camp on Wednesday the 25th. 10am to 3pm at Downton Tennis Centre - £40 - for more details and to book a place, go to www.mahonytennis.com/tenniscamps

Jubilee Jobbies

One of the highlights of the summer months for many in the villages, is coming up to the corner near St Mary's Church and finding a bumper to bumper pile-up on the pavement next to Jubilee Gardens - tip from the top is to call 101 to report it.

Parish Council

Fancy building a tower block in your garden or suggesting we twin Bodenham with the other Bodenham in Herefordshire? Head along to odstock-pc.org.uk to see if anyone's already done, or go to their next meeting on Wednesday 1st of November.

STORIES IN THE DUST

for ages
5+

By Anna Harriott and Iona Johnson

With live music, puppetry and clowning Stories In The Dust is a funny, heartfelt and hopeful post apocalyptic family show that takes you to another world.

A world where an ancient book guides your way, a drop of rain changes everything and a mighty lion holds its secrets in an old clay pot.

Join two intrepid explorers who are full of stories, full of hope but dangerously low on baked beans.



Sat 14 Oct	Lighthouse Poole, Dorset
Sun 15 Oct	Greenwich Theatre, London
Tues 24 Oct	Pound Arts, Corsham
Wed 25 Oct	Royal Manor Theatre, Portland
Thurs 26 Oct	Plough Arts, Great Torrington
Fri 27 Oct	Pavilions Teignmouth, Devon
Sat 28 Oct	Crediton Arts Centre, Devon
Sun 29 Oct	artsdepot, London
Tues 31 Oct	Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham
Sat 4 Nov	Half Moon Theatre, London
Sun 5 Nov	Sherston Arts Festival

To see the show trailer, photos and more check out

www.storiesinthedust.co.uk

Focus on Food

Veggies and Villages

I started working on my local farm in the North West when I was still at school, fourteen years old, so 1968. I was picked. A bunch of village kids went along for a day's trial and I bagged the job, proudest moment of my life. It was Raymond Eardley's farm, 50 acres of mixed dairy, arable, pigs and chickens. He ran it with his wife, plus me at weekends and school holidays. I was on the tractor at 15, harrowing, turning, baling, harvesting. The cattle grazed on long lush grasses on the North Hills, overlooking the Manchester ship canal and the Mersey estuary. We grew straw and hay for the cows bedding and food, along with turnips and not much else, silage perhaps.

They were some of the happiest days of my life, solo, down on the marshes, muckspreading, fencing and herding the cattle in for milking every afternoon. The village was mostly farms, with a few rows of houses where families produced children to help with the harvest every summer. It was a community of happy souls who knew each other well, helped out in difficult times and would spend at least half a day walking round the village at Christmas time distributing cards in exchange for a tipple and a bit of conversation.

I mention this because I have been heading off to Kenson's farm at Sutton Mandeville every Friday over the summer and into the autumn. I love to visit their 'Veg Shed' where I pick up kilos of salad every week for the weddings we cater for. And it reminds me of my village, a good old natter with the locals, browsing the groaning shelves of beautiful organic vegetables and flowers, and just being back in the land. It's a gorgeous, ramshackle, rambling spread of fields and sheds, polytunnels and crops. You should go, you don't even have to buy anything, but you should, and you will and you will be astonished at the quality of produce they have. I don't have to go, I could pick my orders up from their stand on Salisbury market every Tuesday and Saturday. I choose to go because I always come away feeling inspired, and better somehow, energised by the aura of this very special place.

Last time I was there I was introduced to Gem squash and a Florence onion, which is the shape of a giant banana shallot and in flavour, a cross between a red onion and a shallot, exquisite. No wonder I feel I have to get out from time to time, and away from the supermarket, just to find out what going on, or growing on in the world right on our doorstep. On the way back I normally drop over into the Chalke Valley, by the Fovant badges, and end up at the watercress beds in Broadchalke, where I grab a few bags to garnish the sharing dishes we often serve up, family style at events.

I miss my village from time to time. I lived there from 1958 to 1974 when I moved to London, to Art School. My sister bought my parent's house in the 90's, so I still go back and visit. It's the same view across Eardley's field towards the Marshes and the ship canal, which you can't see from our house, but you can see the oil tankers, sailing through the fields of green silage on their way to Manchester from Liverpool. We used to surf on their wake in the summer, at village picnics in the wildlife sanctuary on the banks of the canal. We used to do many things.

Martin Simcock—Bread & Flowers

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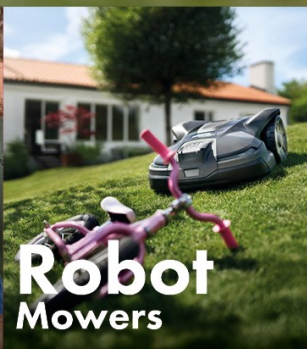


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BREAD FLOWERS

PRIVATE DINING

Twice a year we open Longford Farmhouse for our 'Cooking the Books' supper clubs and feed 60 lucky locals a four-course menu of seasonal produce with recipes poached from the pages of our favourite cookbooks. Occasionally, when asked, we cook for locals or non-locals who want to celebrate something special whilst sharing exquisite dishes with family and friends. Here's some recent feedback.

'My family took me to Longford Farmhouse to celebrate my birthday, with four old school friends and their wives. The twelve of us hugely enjoyed splendid food, with great service, in a very comfortable, attractive setting. It was a wonderful treat. I discovered later that we had been able to supply our own wine, with no corkage to pay, which was a bonus. Thank you Bread and Flowers for a truly memorable evening. Adrian Taylor'

Website www.breadandflowers.co.uk.

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Mrs P's Recipes

Another absolute gem from Mrs P's cook book of recipes, passed down from generation to generation.

We hope it's not too early to talk Christmas? Mrs P tells us that it's good to make your Christmas Cake six (or even twelve) weeks ahead of the big day!

Mummy's Christmas Cake

1lb currants	4oz glace cherries	1/2tsp cinnamon
7oz raisins	4oz mixed peel	10oz butter
7oz sultanas	12oz self-raising flour	10oz soft dark brown sugar
Lemon rind of one lemon	1tsp mixed spice	5 large eggs

STEP 1

Combine the dried fruit together and soak overnight in brandy – add as much as you like!!

STEP 2 – NEXT DAY

- 1) Mix the butter and sugar together until smooth
- 2) Add the flour, spices, lemon rind and eggs to the butter and sugar and mix until smooth
- 3) Add some *gravy browning – yes gravy browning – to the mixture and some more brandy if you wish
- 4) Add the soaked fruit to the cake mixture and put into your lined cake tin and bake slowly
- 5) Bake on 150, usually for about 3 hrs or until the knife comes out clean!

I make a lid for the cake from grease proof paper to stop the cake going too brown on top! You can take this off part way through cooking.

Marzipan your cake one week before icing it to allow its oiliness to dry out. Cover the marzipan surface with a clean tea towel and store out of the tin or container. I ice and decorate my cake the day before Christmas eve, or Christmas Eve!

Mrs P

*Reason for adding this is that it makes the cake nice and dark but does not add any taste to it.

Plant of the Month



October

Ceratostigma willmottianum

I know what you're thinking, that isn't a plant name, that's a powerful incantation cast by *He Who Must Not Be Named* in the third Harry Potter film. Well you may well be right. I for one have never successfully said it out loud. I heard from a fellow gardener that if you so manage to utter it three times in front of a mirror, Monty Don pops out and flicks you on the ear. But don't let the fear of ear flicks put you off; This deciduous shrub is a real must for any garden. October is when this attractive shrub really comes into it's own. The normally green leaves turn a beautiful shade of red and at the same time these lovely, cobalt blue flowers appear. The combination is really quite something. I like to nestle these towards the front of the flowerbed, although they can get as tall as 1m (with a spread of 1.5m) they aren't a dense lump. There is a lightness to the bristly stems that stop it from sitting too heavily in the border. Plant it next to Geranium Rozanne, Perovskia, Nepeta or a lovely grass like Stipa Tenuissima. You can't go wrong.



October is all about making things neat after summer, but not too neat. There is always a tendency to cut everything back hard at the first sign of it going over, but I do think there is a certain elegance in the stems of so many herbaceous perennials that warrant keeping them for a little while longer. Not to mention the benefits for wildlife. So tidy up, weed the flowerbeds, try and improve drainage and airflow around the bases of plants but hold off on hacking everything down. As it gets damp this base clearing is especially good for roses. Prune off any leaves with black spot or rust and remove any fallen leaves from underneath the plant as well, this reduces the risk of reinfection.

Happy Gardening!
Orpheus - Co-Editor



SPOTLIGHT

Getting to know your community

The Griggs



Who's in your clan?

Myself (Daniel) and Gemma Kennedy Wilson, along with our two year old twin sons Arthur (Turos) and Grayson (Cakey) and finally Cleo - our three year old Jack Russell / Pomeranian blend. We bought Briar Cottage in October 2022 having moved from the distant lands of Wilton.

What do you and Gemma do for work?

I'm the Managing Director of Museum Wines, a Dorset based specialist importer and supplier of both trade and retail clients (I'd be very happy to provide a news and notes locals discount for any vinous enthusiasts if of interest). Gemma is a tattoo artist and has her own studio, Sacred Garden Tattoos, in Winchester.

We are also both (self) published authors with our books available on Amazon and occasionally the telephone box / bus stop libraries close to The Yew Tree and The Radnor respectively, both establishments we have already begun to frequent with the greatest of furore!

Hey Gemma, what kind of tattoos do you do, what's your style?

I don't really have one particular style, I enjoy working with a client to help create their vision as something that will make a nice tattoo. I enjoy a variety and researching subjects to create a piece for someone, and I suppose it will always have a certain style of my own to it. However I'd like in future when I have more time, to go back to creating art entirely from my own mind!

What do you do in your spare time? (if people with twins have spare time).

I (Daniel) play Tennis at Victoria Park or Downton as often as I can, usually once a week.

We're both foodies and love eating out whether it's one of the local pubs or fine dining further afield although most of our culinary adventures take place in our own kitchen at the moment, we're both keen cooks.

Gem loves reading and collecting books. She also has a couple of favourite podcasts. She loves people, productive tasks, assessing the weather and has just started baking so she can eat some of the cake mixture. She is waiting to find a hobby but currently enjoys attending local baby groups.

Any advice on what wine people should be drinking, anything trending?

We specialise in South African wine and represent twelve wine farms exclusively in the UK. South Africa represents fantastic value for money (important atm!) especially on styles like sparkling that can compete with Champagne for a fraction of the price. I'd urge people to support independent wine shops with as much gusto as they do other local businesses, the product itself might not be local but the people who run them are and they'll appreciate your support.

WI REPORT

Odstock, Bodenham and Nunton

After the summer break in August, the September meeting was opened by our President who welcomed a good turn out of members and also introduced three new members.

Information was then given about the Sub groups within the W.I. These groups are still enjoying a lot of interest and the new Lunch Club has been a great success. All the other groups have now been in existence for some time. The walking group is still going strong and it's been well over 13 years.

The WI Resolution this year is to "Support Cleaner Rivers" and on September 16th Sarum WI, and any volunteers who would like to join them, are campaigning along the river banks in Salisbury. Their aim is to raise awareness and collect names for a petition to be sent to our M.P.

Wiltshire County events were announced and details given.

It was nice to see that members are still generously contributing to the Salisbury Food Bank during these difficult times.

After coffee, members were introduced to Dr T Mitchell who gave an informative and entertaining talk about "Coppicing in the Woodlands". She told us of a chance meeting with a Devon Thatcher a number of years ago who told her that it was impossible for him to get British spurs for his thatching, and this was because of the great decline in coppicing in this country. This piqued Dr Mitchell's interest and she started looking into why.

Dr Mitchell went on to tell us how coppicing works and how it affects the sustainable system of woodland management around us, and also how it creates a unique ecology for plants and animals, and protects their habitat.

She also explained how important it was to go back to some form of coppicing to protect our environment. She said we can all do our bit by buying British products like fencing, bean poles, pea sticks, and charcoal, all produced by coppicing. This would make it more profitable for land owners to go back to coppicing their woodlands.

Our next meeting will be on October 9th and the talk will be on the "The Wessex Blood Runners".

Church News

News from the Pews

Hello everyone, how lovely we are still enjoying some sunshine and warmth. We enjoyed a friendly Harvest Festival service in St Andrews, followed by a bring and share tea. Thank you to everyone who decorated the church and to all who brought delicious food to share. By the time you read this we shall have celebrated the Reverend Ruth licensing service as our new Team Rector. Luckily for us she and her family will remain living among us at the Vicarage. Creativitea continues every 2nd Thursday of the month in the Barker Room from 2-4 pm. All welcome to come and have a cup of tea or coffee with cake, and chat or share crafting skills.

Take care all and be kind to each other.

Mary Boydcamps

Stephanie Elcock



New mower for Odstock Church

From the Rector

As I write there is a real sense that we are moving into a new season; the mornings now have a chill to them, the trees are starting to take on their fantastic autumn colours and up and down the valley we have been celebrating Harvest Festivals.

Over the summer it was great to be greeted by children from our local schools excitedly telling me about what they had been doing over the holidays but now, throughout the Benefice, children have been starting school, returning back to new classrooms or moving on to new schools and universities. I hope this has gone well for them and I look forward to hearing all about it when I go into our schools over the next term.

In the autumn the church encourages us to think about all the wonders of God's creation and living in this area we are lucky to be able to see the evidence of this all around us. As the trees start to display their glorious autumnal colours we are reminded of the continuing cycle of the seasons. Although in some ways autumn is a time for looking back over the summer, it is also a time of new beginnings, a new school year and soon we will be moving on to Remembrance and then Advent and Christmas... and the cycle of life will carry on once more.

It has been a time of looking both backwards and forwards in my household; this time last year I was Licensed as Team Vicar of the Chalke Valley and now exactly a year later I am delighted that I have been appointed as Team Rector and we held a fantastic service here in Nunton last week to celebrate this. I am looking forward to continuing to minister among you over the years to come.

The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple



Church Services

For Britford, Charlton All Saints,
Odstock and Nunton with Bodenham

BCP = Book of Common Prayer, CW = Common Worship



October 2023

Please check the weekly e-Bulletin or e-N&N for all Benefice Services

1 October 17th Sunday	9.30am 11.00am	Harvest Festival Family Service	Britford Odstock	Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor
8 October 18th Sunday	9.30am 11.00am	Family Communion Morning Prayer (BCP)	Nunton Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S Rhoderick Voremberg
15 October 19th Sunday	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Ruth H-S
22 October 20th Sunday	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service	Charlton All Saints Nunton	Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor
29 October Bible Sunday	10.00am	Benefice Communion Clocks go back 1 Hour	Britford	Jenny Taylor
5 November ALL SAINTS	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service	Britford Odstock	Ruth H-S Adrian Taylor

Clergy Team:

Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697 022

Team Vicar ~ The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503 081

Team Vicar ~ Vacant


Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262 376



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice - October 2023

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)



1 October 17th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Harvest Festival	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Harvest Festival	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Ebbesbourne Wake	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
8 October 18th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Rhoderick Voremberg
	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Harvest Festival	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	3.00pm	Harvest Festival (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
15 October 19th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Ruth H-S
	12.30pm	Harvest Festival (CW)	Knowle Farm Barn	Ruth H-S
22 October 20th Sunday after Trinity	9.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Kate Rosslyn Smith
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Jenny Taylor
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Tony Monds
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Ruth H-S
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Homington	Jenny Taylor
29 October Bible Sunday Clocks go back 1 Hour 	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Ruth H-S
	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor
5 November ALL SAINTS	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led

Ministry Team:

Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple: 01722 697022
 Team Vicars ~, The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, Vacancy
 Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

Assisting Clergy:

The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 01722 420942
 The Revd Kate Rosslyn Smith: 01722 780011, The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395

Lay Worship Leaders:

Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447,
 Naomi Martin: 07713031774, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Gill Riley: 01722 780538, Janet Roe: 01725 519242,
 Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoderick Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152



Downton Christmas Tree Festival 2023

St Laurence Church, Downton

Saturday 2 December 2023

Sunday 3 December 2023

Entries welcome from individuals, schools, families, businesses, charities and community groups of Christmas wreaths and trees of your own design.

Let your imagination run riot with unusual or traditional decorations, with a theme, as a tribute or just decorative - whatever inspires you!

Entry forms will be available in the Downton Library, the Borough Cafe and St Laurence Church or can be downloaded from the church and village websites from 4 September at:

www.stlaurencedownton.co.uk

www.downtonvillage.co.uk

Final entry deadline: Friday 24 November 2023

funds raised during the festival will be divided between Wilton RDA and St Laurence Church

County News

PRIVATE FOSTERING ARE YOU CARING FOR SOMEBODY ELSE'S CHILD?

If you're not a close relative and the child* has been living in your home for 28 days or more, you must let us know as we can provide support and advice.

*child = under 16 or under 18 for a child with disabilities

FOSTERING
with
Wiltshire Council



Call our Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on
0300 456 0108 or email **mash@wiltshire.gov.uk**

THE SALISBURY CHARTER FAIR



Sunday 15 October –
Wednesday 18 October

Juvenile rides just
£2 a go until 6pm
www.experiencesalisbury.co.uk



Police Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioners lead campaign to tackle rural crime



Wiltshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Wilkinson, has joined with his counterparts in the south-west to lead a new campaign and bring together all police forces in the region to combat the involvement of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in rural crime.

Under the new initiative known as Operation Ragwort, the OCGs who target rural communities and are at the forefront of crimes such as burglary, the theft of farm vehicles and equipment, poaching and hare coursing, will be the focus of a regional, co-ordinated, campaign led by the south-west region's Police and Crime Commissioners.

Mr Wilkinson said Ragwort - with mutual support and cooperation across the south-west - will provide an intelligence rich picture of the level of criminality enabling forces to better disrupt and apprehend those responsible, making Wiltshire safer for rural residents.

He said:

"We need to further build our capability to tackle those OCGs engaged in acquisitive rural crime, not only in Wiltshire but regionally and nationally and that is why there is a real need to create a new collaboration called Operation Ragwort.

(Continued from page 20)

“Operation Ragwort will be an intelligence, evidence and data-led south-west Regional collaboration to robustly tackle rural and heritage acquisitive, and other rural crimes, where information will be collated, analysed and shared with the National Rural Crime Unit.

“I want to help build the capacity of police forces across the south of England - not just in the south-west - in order to better understand the networking of these organised criminal groups so that we can engage more proactively in enforcement, interdiction and disruption operations when the intelligence and evidences allows.”

As the south-west’s response to serious, organised, acquisitive crimes and rural crime, the operation will utilise and coordinate intelligence from our smallest communities through to local policing areas and across to other force areas and national and international borders.

The National Rural Crime Network has commissioned research into the link between rural crime and organised criminal gangs, and preliminary evidence suggests that rural crime is being used by gangs to fund other criminal activities including links to the international drugs trade.

With this in mind, Operation Ragwort hopes to build upon the successful partnership work in the south-west which is being done to disrupt the illegal drugs in the region, which was launched in 2021 as Operation Scorpion.

Assistant Chief Constable Mark Cooper is leading the operation:

“Rural communities are all too often victims of opportunist theft yet, over recent years, there has been a distinct shift towards Organised Crime Groups moving in to steal high value items such as vehicles and electronics. By working across our borders in a clear and supportive way to share intelligence, Operation Ragwort provides the right framework to make this happen and bring offenders to justice.

“As rural crimes are often under reported we seek to increase public engagement and encourage reporting across the region and build the intelligence picture.”

“Our rural communities must feel empowered, recognised and confident in the Police who are working with them and with partners to make the countryside safe and welcoming for residents and visitors alike.”

The Radnor Hall Players



Ali Baba and the *Forty-Something Thieves*

A PANTOMIME BY ALYS HUNTER

WRITTEN FOR THE RADNOR HALL PLAYERS

23 – 25 NOVEMBER 2023

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2023

MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH

News and Notes

For Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock

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