

# News and Notes

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

February 2025

## You tell us and we'll tell the villagers

Welcome to the latest edition of News and Notes. We are excited to be the new editors and hope that we can be worthy successors to the wonderful team of Marelka, Anna, Jonny and Orpheus who have done such a great job for the past few years. Our thanks to them for all the hard work and for their inspired, fun-filled and informative writing which brightened our days, kept us in-the-know and gave us so many interesting articles to read.

We have lived in Nunton since 1989 (so we're relative newcomers!) arriving from Ford with our baby daughter who was then 6 months old, and as soon as we arrived, we knew we had found our ideal place to live. Our work was in Salisbury but from the start it was here in the village that we found friendship and a warm-hearted community and felt that we belonged. We have always relished the stunning countryside and enjoyed the outdoor life, to say nothing of the wonderful local pubs, the Church, and institutions like our wonderful summer fete, aka Ebbfest, and perhaps closest to our hearts the Radnor Hall Players. Thirty-five years of splendour, numerous wonderful friends nearby, and we count our blessings.

What of our plans for News and Notes? It is a daunting challenge and an honour to edit such an august and long-established parish magazine. And it would not be possible without the magical chains of delivery personnel across the five villages and the unwavering support of Jeremy Metcalfe whose great contribution to village life can't be overestimated. (How does he do it?!). Our thanks to everyone involved!

News and Notes is about highlighting local events and local people, spreading the word to and from all our residents and making sure that as many as possible can enjoy everything good that this community has to offer. What could possibly be more important? Crucially too it helps local businesses with its advertising and so has a part in boosting our local economy. Good for the environment too, if you can source locally and reduce delivery distances. It is perhaps strange that in the internet age the magazine still has a place, but for all the easy dominance of social media and the on-line world we still believe the written word about your locality, on real paper has an important role. It's a thing! You can touch and feel and hold it, not to mention numerous other uses...which brings us neatly to our first competition! To enter, please email [editor@newsandnotes.co.uk](mailto:editor@newsandnotes.co.uk) with your suggestion for "the most unusual use for News and Notes I can think of is....". 1st prize for the best idea will be a mention in next month's issue and a thimbleful of magic beans.

We'll do all we can to see that New and Notes continues to thrive, but we won't be able to do it without your help so would love to hear from you about anything and everything going on locally which might be of interest to our readership.

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

You tell us and we'll tell the villagers. News of events, people, businesses, societies, groups, charities, work or school occasions, celebrations, or just about anything splendid you can think of. Do contact us if you have news because people would love to hear it.

Quality writing of the kind that Martin Simcock produces is rare to find in a parish magazine, or anywhere else for that matter, and we are especially pleased that Martin's fantastic articles on food and life will continue to appear in News and Notes. And we have always enjoyed the Spotlight series which we plan to continue, so shall be on the lookout for local folk to interview. Our first interview is with Mary Boydcamps who grew up in Odstock just a phone's throw from where she lives now and whose love of the villages shines out. Our thanks to Mary for that! Finally—know any local poets? We are on the lookout for new writing! If you have any ideas or are tempted to try your hand at writing something which you think local people might enjoy please let us know at

[Editor@newsandnotes.co.uk](mailto:Editor@newsandnotes.co.uk)

*Nick and Liz Stanger. Editors.*

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## **Don't forget that News and Notes is also available online at**

**NewsandNotes.co.uk**

Current and archived editions,  
Longer versions of articles appearing in News and Notes,  
Articles, news and reviews which we haven't had room to publish  
in our printed version.

See our February online edition for longer versions of Annabel Lawson's article on the proposed Britford Housing development, as well as reports and pictures of the recent Christmas events and The Radnor Hall Player's Pantomime Puss in Boots

You are encouraged to join the E-News and Notes mailing list.

Go to: **NewsandNotes.co.uk** to sign up.

Once a month you'll receive an electronic version of this newsletter plus the extra articles straight to your email inbox.

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**Next Deadline:** 14 February for March 2025 edition

# Blister Pack Recycling scheme

All medicines in tablet form are now dispensed in blister packs, these allow the tablets to be protected from moisture and, in some cases, light, and thereby significantly improve their shelf life. Because of the combination of foil and plastic, blister packs can only be recycled with difficulty. To make it commercially viable, the recycling firm sell a cardboard box for £108, which they arrange to be transported back to their factory when it is full. Otherwise they simply go to landfill.

We have started a local collection scheme. In two morning collections, one in Britford/Bodenham/Charlton/Odstock and one in Salisbury Market Square, we have filled two boxes (approx 10,000 blister packs). We have asked for a donation of a minimum of £1 per 50 packs to cover the cost of the next box, which people seem to have been happy to pay and, having got the ball rolling, with the first box, we have collected enough for the next one.

On Tuesday 18 February, we will again be taking a box in a vehicle marked with a large BPR sign to 4 locations in neighbouring villages. We can accept all types of empty blister packs. The collections vehicle will be at each of the following locations, if you need to have your blister packs collected, please liaise with one of the local volunteers as below:

- |                                         |             |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| ◆ Britford, Notice Board by Church      | 0915 - 0945 | Peggy Knight     |
| ◆ Bodenham, Old Post Office             | 1000 - 1030 | Debby Underhill  |
| ◆ Charlton All Saints, Old School House | 1045 - 1115 | Elizabeth Cutter |
| ◆ Odstock, Church Car Park              | 1130 - 1230 | Anthony Warley   |

Pending a more permanent initiative (possibly from the pharmaceutical industry), we are planning to repeat this collection round once every couple of months, **BUT IT WILL ALL DEPEND ON YOUR SUPPORT**. If this trial is successful, it may be possible to clone the idea to other local groups around the country, so please help us make it a successful initiative! *Piers Nicholson & Anthony Warley*

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## Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I.

At the first meeting of the Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I. in 2025, our President welcomed visitors and reviewed club, group, and county meetings and events. A vote was taken to decide which of the four resolutions proposed by the National Federation should be taken to the AGM. The resolutions were: incontinence awareness, bystander lifesaving, repair revolution, and eliminating medication packaging landfill. 'Bystanders can be lifesavers' was the unanimous winner. The group aims to organise a session on CPR and the use of a defibrillator.

There was a desperate plea for members to consider joining the Committee in April to ensure the continuation of the W.I. At least two new committee members are needed.

After coffee, Vince Jenkins gave an engaging talk on diving in the Philippines. He transported the audience from the cold, dreary January morning to the warmth of the Philippines. Taking underwater photos is challenging as colours disappear as you go deeper, so Vince uses his own strobe lights on dives. This method proved effective, as the audience saw many weird and wonderful, highly coloured fascinating creatures. The Philippines boasts the highest marine biodiversity in the world, from whale sharks to tiny frogfish. The talk was well-received for its informative content and professionalism.

*The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th at 10.00 am, titled 'Bags of Glamour'.*

# Spotlight on Mary Boydcamps

## **Mary is the Church warden at Odstock Church and long term resident of Odstock.**

**How long have you lived in Odstock, and what do you remember of those early years?**

I was born and grew up with Mum and Dad in a semi, next door to where I live now. Dad was one of five Ford brothers, all of whom were involved in the family building firm and lived locally. To this day I know a lot of local families, and am related to many of them! I attended the local school.

The village was such a beautiful rural place to live. Old Mr. Stacey brought milk round in a churn on a horse and cart. The dairy in Odstock was next door to the school. There was a Mill Race on a stream which came down from the Avenue and Mr. Hicks was the farmer there who lived at the Old Rectory in Nunton. It was mixed farming. There were very few cars and my Dad was one of a handful of car owners. Dad and his brothers were also undertakers and Mum Ethel made the pillows that went in the coffins which Dad made. He started as a carpenter and after his apprenticeship became a self taught electrician as well. Eventually the company passed to my cousin Peter Ford, who was an architect originally, and over the years they built many new properties in the area.

**What was home life like then for folk living in Odstock?**

Life as a small child was easy, but expectations were very different. We had no hot running water, just a single cold water tap, and a privy at the end of the big creosoted garden shed. There was a copper in front of the shed where mum did all the washing. We had a big range in the kitchen and a tin bath. We were surrounded by friends and family as my uncles all lived locally. Almost everyone was either employed on the land by the Estate in some guise or other, or worked as builders with the Ford brothers, or undertakers. Church was an important part of life, and I attended Sunday school and was in the choir. I remember the vicar Revd. Walter Hughes and his wife Mercy very well. They used to take us to Sunday school Festivals in the Cathedral where I carried the Odstock Banner a number of times in the procession there. You can still see the banner in the Church today!

I was in the Guides and used to cycle across Longford Park to Alderbury where Lady Betty, Lord Radnor's sister, was our Guide Leader.

I remember the prefabs arriving on lorries when Shepherds Close was built. They were part of a post war building boom and were only meant to be there for 20 years but are still standing today 70 years later! We never thought the lorries which delivered them would make it round the corner in to the Close but somehow they managed it. The house there on the corner was the forge.

It was a wonderful happy life and we had a very close knit community who looked out for each other. Mum went to whist drives at the parish room in Nunton. There was a lot of sport. Dad played cricket for Longford CC who played on the ground in front of the Castle. Tennis was played a lot, on local grass courts in the villages. I'm a child of the WI! Mother was a founder member of the local group. As a girl I remember visiting Nunton Farm where Mrs. Martin (Peter Martin's mother) had a canning machine. We all

took along baskets of fruit in the autumn and helped with the canning. Produce was then shared out between everyone. The summer fêtes were held at Odstock Manor and in Bodenham on alternate years before moving to the Nunton football field I think in the 90's.

Mum was in service at Odstock Manor for Mrs. Gilmore. I went to parties there as a child and the housekeeper's daughter Mary Hearne became a very good friend.

### **What about life after leaving the village school?**

I left Odstock school at 10 and went to South Wilts in Salisbury on the bus every day. I was lucky to be able to join the choir under its director Christopher Dearnley who later worked at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. As a choir member at school we were automatically able to sing with the Salisbury Music Society which was wonderful.

I left home in 1964 for nurse training in London which at first was terrifying. I had always wanted to be a nurse since seeing the cruise ships leaving Southampton docks aged 9 when I dreamt of one day working as a nurse on the cruise ships and seeing the world. I trained at the Westminster Hospital, which was very strict. Standards were high and discipline was enforced. We had to be in by 10.00pm although the tunnel into the nurses' home from the medical school sometimes came in useful if you were careful to avoid Night Sister! I needed midwifery training for my general qualification but fell in love with the subject and decided to become a midwife, and then worked in Reading for 17 years as a district midwife. That's where Mike and I met, at a Jazz Club. We returned to Odstock in 1985. Both of our children were married in Odstock Church, and they still love to come to the fete each year to meet up with their old school friends. I came home to care for my Mum who lived for another 7 years, which meant that I was then able to return to nursing for 25 years as a nursing sister and then the senior sister at Milford House NH in Salisbury. Finally for 5 years I worked as phlebotomist at Salisbury.

### **What is life like now at Odstock?**

It's very different but retains its rural feel and I am so pleased to see more children in the village once again. I still love the place, and am now enjoying my role as Church Warden. And I have supported the Panto for the last 5 years, using my costume making skills acquired from many years as a member of the American Civil War re-enactment Society for whom I made costumes for the whole family, while Mike made various guns and the black powder canons.

I love these villages. It is where I truly belong. There have been many changes, heralded by new houses and people moving in who were not originally from the area, especially after the hospital moved to its present site from the infirmary in town. But it's still special and as vibrant a community as ever, and it's particularly good that there are now a lot of youngsters in Odstock. I wonder if any of them will enjoy a 78 year association with Odstock as I have been lucky enough to have.

### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) are trained and authorised by the church to visit and or offer pastoral care to anyone in our parishes. Whether you are sick, recently bereaved, new to the area, or know someone who might like a visit from the church community, please contact the clergy (details on the back page) and we will ask one of our excellent LPAs to get in touch. If you might be interested in exploring this ministry yourself and would like to find out more, do get in touch with Maggie Metcalfe on [revmaggiem@gmail.com](mailto:revmaggiem@gmail.com) or have a chat with any of the Ministry team.

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# Longford Estate



We've had a few days of proper winter weather this year which have been welcome, despite them being particularly cold they have been dry and bright rather than cold and wet.

On the farm we have been busy hedge trimming and fencing ahead of cattle and sheep moving into arable fields to graze the cover crops, summer grazing fields have also been repaired which puts us ahead for the spring. We have also been moving grain from last years harvest to the mills and ports in the next stage of its journey in the food chain. Some has gone to flour mills, some to maltsters, some to animal feed mills and some has been exported.

The cows have all been scanned and we had a good conception rate, calving should start on 4 April and we hope to have all the calves born in a nine week period. Last year's calves have grown well possibly due to the milder autumn and early winter, as such we been able to wean them earlier than normal. They are now grazing as a single group and their mothers are having a well-earned rest before the next generation arrives!

The sheep flock were put to the rams in November, we have yet to scan them, fingers crossed for another good conception rate. They have done a great job in transforming the grass fields by eating out the bottom of the grass swards where the cattle graze the top. The flock has been moved onto cover crops and are mucking arable fields ahead of spring crops being planted in a few month's time.

When it's rained this autumn/winter it has rained properly and this has led to some localised flooding of fields already albeit not to the levels we had last March. The rivers have been swelled by the sheer volume of water coming from further up the catchment. This has provided some good fishing opportunities for our anglers to enjoy. We have graded our brown trout which will be stocked into the river hopefully in April/May, weather permitting. There are some fantastic fish and they will provide some great sport for our game anglers in due course.

Our logs business having moved indoors has enabled our logs to be kept dry when being processed so we can deliver a first class natural product to our customers. It also allows for us to build a stock of logs that continue to season in the dry. Our logs are available to order through our website for delivery until 19 March 2025.

Having harvested willow trees for Gray Nicolls last year for cricket bats, we have been busy replanting harvested areas and finding other suitable areas with the next crop of trees which will be harvested in 15-20 year's time.

The maintenance team are always busy be it responding to emergencies, general maintenance and repair or in refurbishing properties that have become vacant before we re-let them. Currently we are re-wiring the Radnor Arms with the team working around the normal opening hours to minimise the impact on customers and the business.

If you want to see a flavour of what is happening on the Estate on a day-to day basis why not follow us on Instagram @longfordstates

*David Canty - Estate Manager*



# BRITFORD DEVELOPMENT

## The current situation regarding the field opposite the A338 Park and Ride

Wiltshire Council have passed the proposals to build new houses in the field opposite the Britford Park and Ride through unaltered to the last stage of the planning process, which is an 'examination' by a government inspector.

We do not yet know for sure, but think this will happen in May or June. It will be one person who is to look at ALL the proposed developments which Wiltshire Council has put through for Salisbury. They are supposed to have read all our 'representations' and all the arguments put forward by experts. If you asked to be present on the day on the form which was your 'representation' then you will be informed and invited. Otherwise it's too late.

Britford Parish Council are centring their arguments on flooding, since heritage and traffic seemed less important.

The Halt Harnham Housing Group which is primarily concerned with the field at the top of the hill - at the back of Lime Kiln Way and Andrews Way - have put a lot of effort into the argument regarding the infrastructure problems which all the added traffic will cause around the Harnham gyratory. Britford has helped with funds to support their experts and arguments, which are made on behalf of all of us. You too will use these roads very frequently!

Below is a plan of what Persimmon seem to think they will put forward for planning permission, and since they will have been talking to the council for some time now, are probably pretty confident that they will get - for around 250 dwellings, fewer than we thought. Still, given four people and two cars per household, that's a lot of extra people walking up and down our lane, and extra cars using the gyratory all the time.

The hearing will be our 'Last Stand'. After that there are no appeals.



A lot of people have worked very hard over a couple of years, and many experts have been engaged, but the will of the government and the pressure on the Council mean that they will build anywhere they possibly can and it will be very hard to stop this.

Personally, I fear for the future not just of Britford but of all low-lying Salisbury which faces climate change, of course, but also hugely increased housing allocations which will continue to be built on low ground, compressing it and flooding ever more existing housing stock.

**There are many, many more in the pipeline..... READ ON!**

*Annabel Lawson - Britford*

*See the e-version via the website for the next part of this article and colour pictures.*

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# Community News



The annual New Year's Eve football match between Odstock and Nunton was played on, of all dates, the 31st of December, 2024. Their respective captains, Decky 'Dequi' McGregor and co-skippers Tim 'Big Top' Shipsey and Jim 'I'm the goalie' Baird have sought to assemble painstakingly curated squads of elite athletes, eventually settling for whoever turns up and can get their hands (feet? Ed.) on a pair of vaguely studded boots.

The standard of football has surprisingly little negative impact on crowd attendance and the line was as ever packed with excited yet freezing supporters, not solely there for the subsequent drinks down the Raddy.

On to this year's spectacle, challenging weather conditions did nothing to diminish the enthusiasm of the teams, and at 1 o'clock imprecisely, after a coin was tossed and subsequently lost in the mud, someone or other kicked off. After an awful lot of highly impressive kicking and other footballing techniques, the scoreline had amassed a running total of 2-1 to Nunton by what is roughly estimated to have been the 86th minute. Kevin Watkins, the referee, flown in from Charlton-All-Saints and unanimously voted as player of the match, saw to it that there were an extra few minutes of injury-and-general-dallying-about time, during which another two goals were scored. Of particular note, in the setting up of these two final additions to the scoreline, were the talents of Richard 'Dicky' Cameron, who performed some of the most incredible ball control and tactical passing ever seen, according to Charlton-All-Saints' Richard Cameron. It's unclear to which team his contributions were more beneficial.

Anyway, it so transpires that the penultimate and indeed the ultimate goals were one apiece, resulting in a final score of 3-2 and victory to the Nunton Nimrods for the 2024 NYE match.

Both goals for Odstock were scored by Ben Gulliver, a consistent regular in the squad, and Nunton's goals were from Matt Ball (2) and Lee Mahoney (1), resulting in a total of 3, which is more than 2. In its 8th year, 6 events having been played, although records are murky, the running tally of this hotly contested derby is probably 4-2. However, the captains of both teams claim that they have the advantage, leading to an editorial decision to mark it down in this esteemed publication as 3 wins each. You'll never guess when the next fixture is.

~~~~~

## Message for Dog Lovers - please take note!



Reports of lavatorial indelicacy have come in with regard to our local canine population, with dog mess being left on the roads and paths especially around Nunton and even on the football field. It's a real nuisance for other walkers and football players so please always be on the alert for rear end situations and clear up after Fido every time.

Thank you, your cooperation will be much appreciated.

# Focus on Food

## Bread and Flowers Moves On

Confidence in my business and in life has often been reflected by the amount spent on a bottle of wine. At one point it was a swaggering £22, by the middle of December 2024 it had plummeted to £4.60. A Rioja, Crianza 2021 to be precise from Lidl, and not bad for a mid-week quaffing tipple. Talking of business, the few people that have heard of 'Bread and Flowers' will know by now that Bee and I closed our business at the beginning of December last year and have since emigrated, temporarily to Pembrokeshire, West Wales from where I am writing today.

The one thing you notice when you close your business is that your income drops off sharply, in my case by 100%, so this month's missive is still a focus on food, but specifically the cost of food. Three weeks into the demise of our business I crunched the numbers on our weekly shop and discovered that booze accounted for 47%. Well, Christmas was coming, and we were working through the trauma of shut down, what do you expect.

Hence the trip to Lidl, where I managed to come away with a trolley of goods for £46 quid, unheard of in Waitrose. Admittedly I had to pop across the car park to Tesco to get the things that weren't available at Lidl, cauliflower (really) Camembert (obviously). And then another detour to Waitrose to get the things I couldn't get in either, sushi (only joking), Orzo, Trofie, bits and bobs. I probably saved £50 quid all in all and came away with a route to cutting the 47% spent on booze weekly.

As a Brucie bonus, I picked up a kilo of prosciutto in a block in Lidl, ready to slice, for £9.99, they're practically giving it away. So, if you've got a spare two and a half hours to get down Southampton Rd, you'll make a killing. At time of writing, I'm yet to experience Aldi, which I'm assured is a way better experience than Lidl, so I'll keep you posted on my next trip back to Salisbury, usually monthly for book club with Jonny Hartley and a few firm friends.

Down in Wales, the government have an initiative called The People's Kitchen, CEGIN Y BOBL, championed by Shiela Dillon no less, she of The Food Programme. Their mission is to get the nation cooking again, apparently over 50% of the population don't know how to cook Christmas lunch, I wonder how that compares to the News and Notes subscribers.

They run home cookery courses for diverse groups, from food bank users to parents and community groups. These 6-week courses give everyone the confidence and motivation to cook healthy, affordable and delicious food from scratch. People have reported coming away with a completely different outlook on food and a considerably reduced reliance on food banks.

Soup is one of my go-to, flexible, filling and inexpensive dishes, with 'Carrot, fennel seed, red lentil soup, with labneh and sesame oil,' pretty close to the top of the list. A batch to feed 10 people costs £5.47, so that's roughly 55p a head. 'Pork tenderloin, orange, red peppers, spinach, butterbean & haricot bean stew,' on the other hand comes in at £9.97 for 4 people so just under £2.50 a head. Lamb's liver, spinach and sauteed potatoes, about £1.40 a head.

Who knows what this year will bring, I'm optimistic as always, but one thing I know, I'll survive, and I'll eat well. I think that's two things but who's counting. Happy New Year.

*Martin Simcock, Bread and Flowers*



# News from the Pews

## From Our Churches

Hello everyone, a Happy New Year to you all. What a busy time we had in December. We held a lovely Carol Service at St Andrews, Nunton. There is something quite magical about candlelight, so with a huge congregation, and a large choir, all holding candles, we raised the roof with great singing. Thank you to all the folk who come together each year to create a choir at Christmas, and to Adrian for co-ordinating it all.

Next, we had an amazing Christmas Day service in St Mary's, Odstock. In a small church which comfortably holds 65 people, we had 74. We celebrated together and kept warm. Huge thanks to everyone who decorated both churches - they were so pretty and filled with love. Despite the weather, small groups of Carol Singers sang their way round Odstock, Nunton & Bodenham, collecting money for the Tear Drop Fund. This is a charity which operates in 50 different countries, helping disadvantaged children. Thank you everyone, especially the refreshment stops along the way, with mulled wine and mince pies or coffee to warm us up.

More good news is that the Barker Room is OPEN again, refurbished and ready for use, so please book it first for meetings, children's parties and all sorts of gatherings.

Creativity will be back in our newly refurbished Barker Room on 20 February at 2pm. All are welcome to come and chat over tea, cake and possibly handicrafts. A huge thank you to the people at The Orchard for allowing us to use their meeting room for so long. Please, do come and join us.

Charlton's first Christmas Tree Festival from 6-10 December was a great success, starting with the Opening Night Drinks Reception. We arrived to a candlelit church for drinks and canapes, followed by a welcome from the Rector and the countdown to the switching on of the tree lights. We had 16 very varied trees, including a tree highlighting climate change, one celebrating football, another made of wooden fish. The favourite from the voting slips was the Beachcomber tree, made entirely from items found on the beach, many of which were plastic waste. We sang carols amongst the trees and then enjoyed a surprise visit from St Nicholas (for grown-ups).

The fun continued on the Saturday with a family day, including guided Christmas crafts for the youngsters and an all-day café. On Sunday, the café was open again to refresh visitors (including our MP John Glen) to see the trees, buy some last-minute Charlton cards and attend a beautiful and atmospheric Christingle celebration.

Rounding up the Festival, was our annual visit from the Downton Band. The church was full, the refreshments were delicious and a joyful time was had by all.

On Christmas Eve, the Scratch Nativity returned by popular request. Children and adults dressed up and joined together to recreate the Christmas story, ably choreographed by Ruth Howlett-Shiple. Charlton's Christmas Day Service was led by Maggie Metcalfe and included a solo cappella hymn, beautifully sung by Jon Penny.

Charlton's Church building maintenance plan got off to a good start in January with the completion of the woodworm treatment. Watch this space for reports on future improvements. So take care all, and be kind to each other. Be aware of your neighbours in this cold

*Mary Boydcamps, Stephanie Elcock, Clare Penny - Churchwardens*  
*See e-News and Notes for more reports and colour pictures.*



# Church Services

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



## February 2025

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

|                                                              |         |                  |                     |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>2 February<br/>CANDLEMAS</b>                              | 9.30am  | Parish Communion | Britford            | Ruth H-S         |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Family Service   | Odstock             | Adrian Taylor    |
| <b>9 February<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday<br/>before Lent</b>  | 9.30am  | Family Communion | Nunton              | Ruth H-S         |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Morning Prayer   | Charlton All Saints | Rhoddy Voremburg |
| <b>16 February<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br/>before Lent</b> | 9.30am  | Parish Communion | Odstock             | Ruth H-S         |
| <b>23 February<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br/>before Lent</b> | 9.30am  | Parish Communion | Charlton All Saints | Maggie Metcalfe  |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Family Service   | Nunton              | Adrian Taylor    |
| <b>2 March<br/>Sunday Next<br/>before Lent</b>               | 9.30am  | Parish Communion | Britford            | Jenny Taylor     |
|                                                              | 1100am  | Family Service   | Odstock             | Adrian Taylor    |

### Chalke Valley Benefice Ministry Team

**Team Rector** ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiple: 01722 697022

**Team Vicars** ~

The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081, The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 07904 034221

**Associate Priests** ~ The Revd Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825, The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395

**Team Administrator** ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

**Assisting Clergy** ~

The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 07808 614597

**Lay Worship Leaders**~

Angela Bridges: 01747 828383, Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, Sally Leaver: 01722 780447, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862, Janet Roe: 01725 519242, Bidy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoddy Voremburg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152

**E News follows**

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# Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – February 2025



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

|                                                              |         |                       |                     |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>2 February<br/>CANDLEMAS</b>                              | 9.30am  | Family Communion (CW) | Broad Chalke        | Kate Woolven      |
|                                                              | 9.30am  | Parish Communion (CW) | Britford            | Ruth H-S          |
|                                                              | 9.30am  | Holy Communion (BCP)  | Berwick St John     | Alison Waterhouse |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (BCP)  | Ebbesbourne Wake    | Biddy Trahair     |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Parish Communion (CW) | Coombe Bissett      | Jenny Taylor      |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Family Service        | Odstock             | Adrian Taylor     |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Morning Service       | Bishopstone         | Sally Leaver      |
| <b>9 February<br/>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday<br/>before Lent</b>  | 9.30am  | Parish Communion (CW) | Bowerchalke         | Kate Woolvern     |
|                                                              | 9.30am  | Family Communion (CW) | Nunton              | Ruth H-S          |
|                                                              | 10.30am | Worship Together      | Broad Chalke Hub    | Lay Led           |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (BCP)  | Charlton All Saints | Rhoddy Voremberg  |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Parish Communion (CW) | Homington           | Jenny Taylor      |
|                                                              | 11.00am | All Age Service       | Alvediston          | Biddy Trahair     |
|                                                              | 3.00pm  | Evening Prayer        | Fifield Bavant      | Biddy Trahair     |
| <b>16 February<br/>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday<br/>before Lent</b> | 9.30am  | Holy Communion (BCP)  | Bowerchalke         | Alison Waterhouse |
|                                                              | 9.30am  | Parish Communion (CW) | Bishopstone         | Jenny Taylor      |
|                                                              | 9.30am  | Parish Communion (CW) | Odstock             | Ruth H-S          |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Family Communion (CW) | Ebbesbourne Wake    | Alison Waterhouse |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Parish Communion (CW) | Coombe Bissett      | Ruth H-S          |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Parish Communion (CW) | Berwick St John     | Maggie Metcalfe   |
| <b>23 February<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday<br/>before Lent</b> | 9.30am  | Parish Communion (CW) | Charlton All Saints | Maggie Metcalfe   |
|                                                              | 9.30am  | Parish Communion (CW) | Broad Chalke        | Ruth H-S          |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Family Service        | Nunton              | Adrian Taylor     |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Parish Communion (CW) | Bishopstone         | Jenny Taylor      |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Holy Communion (BCP)  | Alvediston          | Alison Waterhouse |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (BCP)  | Homington           | Rhoddy Voremberg  |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (BCP)  | Berwick St John     | Lay Led           |
| <b>2 March<br/>Sunday Next<br/>before Lent</b>               | 9.30am  | Family Communion (CW) | Broad Chalke        | Ruth H-S          |
|                                                              | 9.30am  | Parish Communion (CW) | Britford            | Jenny Taylor      |
|                                                              | 9.30am  | Holy Communion (BCP)  | Berwick St John     | Alison Waterhouse |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Morning Prayer (BCP)  | Ebbesbourne Wake    | Biddy Trahair     |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Parish Communion (CW) | Coombe Bissett      | Jenny Taylor      |
|                                                              | 11.00am | Family Service        | Odstock             | Adrian Taylor     |

**Ministry Team:** Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022  
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# Puss in Boots



**A**RUMBUSTIOUS full house greeted the Radnor Hall Players to the stage on Friday 29 November for their 2nd performance of Puss in Boots. It was an evening to remember for all time, or at least for a bit anyway, what a triumph! With a cast of 16 and a further 7 helpers involved behind the scenes, including no fewer than 6 parent-child couples, two actual couples, two vicars, and three actors under 10, this was a fabulous family show about good and evil and the triumph of singing and dancing through adversity to happiness and beyond. Not to mention magic spells cast by good *and* bad fairies, a fiendish Ogre with unrealistic hopes and a stupendous nose, and a beautiful princess who danced like an angel. And some nice cheese and biscuits at half time, not to mention a fine bar.

There were too many stars to single out any one in particular in a sensible review, so I can certainly do so here. The eponymous anthropomorphic feline was sublimely played by our glorious, very own and uniquely talented Rebecca Witt (whose makeup was so good that at the Saturday matinee most audience members thought she was a real cat). Where would we be without Rebecca? The magic fairies, played beautifully by Ruth H-S and Alys Hunter, lent a comforting / menacing magical dimension, Pernicia with her enchanting Valleys lilt sounding more Welsh than a leak and dragon pie and just as scary. Maggie Metcalfe and Steph Elcock were a deliciously eager double act of 30-something singles Babs and Betty who somehow got their men in the end, the gormless loveable twerps Jasper (Russel Frith) and Jethro (Catherine Witt). Some lovely acting all round.

No panto is complete without a dame and Jon Penny's ahem nuanced and subtle portrayal of Queen Wendy was brilliant and hilarious. And Bobbie the loyal Royal Page (Paula Gribben) was so classy as he nobly supported the royal family in their quest for happiness. As for Millie Penny as Princess Esmerelda, half the audience couldn't take their eyes off her and the other half were simply jealous. Oh yes you were! The sumptuous dancing and those astounding high kicks, I nearly fell off my chair. And you should have seen Cllr Jones.



Decky Macgregor as Jack only had to walk on stage for everyone to start cheering, his luminous irresistible smile as magical as any spells cast by the fairies (Liz wrote that bit), and his acting as gracious as befits any handsome hero. Sherwood Elcock's Ogre, he of the stupendous nose, was if not the embodiment of evil nonetheless pretty alarming, his prominent proboscis going before him as he tried with all his scheming malice to win the Princess's hand. Come off it Ogre, didn't you know you were up against the boy Jack? And as for the four youngsters Zoe Rory Wilfie and Marcus (King Wally), they brought so much freshness fun and zing to the production that for me they were the icing on the cake. It's wonderful to see the youngsters getting involved and we absolutely loved their infectious dancing. Poor Wally and his never getting a word in edgeways, thank goodness he had a speech at the end - which rightly got a huge cheer, well worth waiting for!

The musical dance numbers were the best ever, anyone would have thought you'd hired a professional dancer to instruct the cast (...brilliant job, Mille). Make-up and costumes were dazzlingly good too and made the whole thing sparkle with colour and style. And Erica Gribben on sound did a terrific job bang on cue with every boom bang blast or tralala.

Director Richard Cameron's achievement in bringing this spectacular show to the stage is all the more remarkable for it not having made him go completely bald. Or perhaps he's been to Turkey recently. He and his producer Russel Frith and the wonderful cast and crew clearly put a huge effort into bringing us such a joyful evening of traditional village panto and je ne sais quois. Many have been heard to say their evening out at the village panto is the best evening of the year, and this was certainly no exception. Bravo! My huge congratulations to everyone involved. Long may the tradition continue!

*Nick Stanger - Previous Director of Radnor Hall Players*





# Christmas Tree Festival



On Friday 6 December, the Feast of St Nicholas of Santa Claus fame, we opened our first Christmas Tree Festival in All Saints' Church, Charlton, with an Opening Night Drinks Reception. About 45 friends and neighbours came together to celebrate the coming of Light in the Darkness.

We entered the Church lit by candlelight, listened to the Rector (Ruth Howlett-Shipley) tell us a little about the life of St Nicholas and then all performed the traditional count-down to the switching on of the Christmas Tree lights. We were delighted with the wide variety of the sixteen Christmas Tree entries, which included a Tree of Hope, on which one could hang messages of hope for a troubled world, a football themed white and red tree, a tree highlighted the effects of climate change, a Fishmas Tree, made of wooden fish.

The tree which received the most votes was entitled Beachcombing and was made entirely of items found on a beach, including rather a lot of plastic waste, created by Vince and Jane Jenkins.

We sang carols amongst the trees and finished off the evening with a visit from Santa (for grownups), who handed out miniature ports, whiskies and liqueur chocolates - or sprouts - depending on whether you were on the Nice or Naughty List.

The Festival continued on the Saturday, with a Family Day, including crafting Christmas decorations, a Christingle on Sunday afternoon, and the annual Downton Band Concert on the Tuesday.

Thank you very much to all who helped organise and all who came to support us in this new venture.

*Clare Penny*

# Charlton Festival News



Charlton produced a mouth-watering array of cakes and quiches for the Family Days of the Christmas Tree Festival, accompanied by ample amounts of tea, coffee, hot chocolate and hot blackcurrant.

The weather was stormy but inside it was all smiles.

Thank you to everyone who baked and served and particularly to everyone who braved the elements to support us.

*Clare Penny*

# WI Report December

The December meeting was held at The Radnor Hall, Bodenham on Monday 9th of December at 10am. We were welcomed by our President, and after usual housekeeping reminders, we were told briefly of the resolutions for next year. These will be discussed at greater length at the January meeting, ready for voting on at the following meeting.

Members were made aware of various talks, workshops outings in the coming months and encouraged to book, also members were reminded that this meeting was the last opportunity to pay for the Festive meal, to be held in January at The Milford Hall Hotel.

We were told there will be a collection day for blister packs from tablets on Wednesday Dec 11 at various places in the villages, and the times.

Sally Hadley showed some knitted dolls made for children, and encouraged people to join her in making them.

We were read out a lovely letter of thanks from the Maternity Unit, for all the bonnets and blankets members have made. Please keep them coming!!

We held a Festive Raffle in aid of our charity of the year, The Wessex Blood Runners, and with the coffee money, we were able to send them £83.30.

After a coffee break, we had an illustrated talk from Sarah Gray, about the History of Pantomime. What an interesting and amusing talk. Who knew it all started in the 1500s in Italy? and did not actually come to England until the 18th century.

We finished the meeting with mulled wine and mince pies, Our President thanked the hostesses for the beautiful flowers and their hard work, and wished us all a Merry Christmas

*Mary Boydcamps*



# Visit to Cueibet South Sudan

## DR SHERWOOD ELCOCK OFF TO SOUTH SUDAN



Nunton resident, Dr Sherwood Elcock is visiting Cueibet in South Sudan in February as a Trustee of the Chalke Deanery Charity, the Chalke-Cueibet Partnership. He will leave the UK on 11th February and arrive in Cueibet on the 13th – a journey involving three flights and a 1-2 hour's bumpy ride along a dirt track. He will return to UK on 23rd February.

He sees the main reason for his visit as demonstrating our Charity's ongoing commitment to supporting the Cueibet community. He aims to gather first hand evidence of developments in the storm-damaged Church Primary School and to meet and talk with teachers and students. He will also talk to members of the Mothers Union about basic preventative health care, nutrition, clean water etc and learn of any other health concerns such as vaccination and malaria prevention. He also hopes to make a return visit to the nearby Cueibet Hospital run by the Italian Charity, 'Doctors with Africa CUAMM'.

**During February he is seeking donations of spectacles and soap as well as pencils, blackboard chalk, and pencil sharpeners which would be valuable to the school.**

This will be the final visit before the retirement of Bishop Elijah Awet in May. It will be an opportunity to hear about the arrangements for the selection of his successor and how our relationship with the people of Cueibet will be maintained while waiting for the new bishop.

You can hear a full report on his visit at our Lent Lunch on Saturday 15th March, 12-2pm in the Radnor Hall, one of the Chalke Valley's many fundraising events for SOS – Save our School.

# A NEW TOWN FOR WILTSHIRE?

## **This is the second part of the housing developments in Wiltshire and a potential opportunity**

The low-lying city of Salisbury is existentially threatened by the compression and concreting over of absorbent land. Here at the confluence of five rivers we live with waterways all around us. Our city, planned in the thirteenth century, lies next to flood plains and water meadows of great beauty, made famous by Constable and a major source of tourist income. Yet more and more areas of the city and immediate surrounds find themselves fighting flooding. The changing climate is our biggest enemy, but new developments along the edges of the flood plain are the more immediate danger.

Much of the reparation money given to us for Novichok was spent on flood avoidance measures. The new coach park is entirely designed with flooding in mind. The area by the fire station has had earthworks raised hoping to protect the dwellings. The ancient village of Britford is arranging for the construction of a long 'bund', a bank to contain one of the channels of the river. A couple of years ago people of the Cathedral Close had to evacuate. Yet our authorities choose not to recognise the principles propounded thousands of years ago by Archimedes: the compression of water will force it higher where it is not compressed! They do this because the imperative to 'build, baby, build' is too great. They are trapped by a pressure for new houses into building in places which harm existing housing stock.

Immediately after taking office in July, the Deputy Prime Minister, Angela Rayner, established the [New Towns Taskforce](#) and it was up and running by September. This is composed of experts from all areas of housing. It has been tasked with finding and funding new settlements of at least 10,000 homes in each, and preferably more, with appropriate infrastructure in areas which will deliver economic growth and meet housing need.

"In new towns, exemplary development will be the norm not the exception. The next generation of new towns must be well-connected, well-designed, sustainable and attractive places where people want to live and have all the infrastructure, amenities and services necessary to sustain thriving communities."

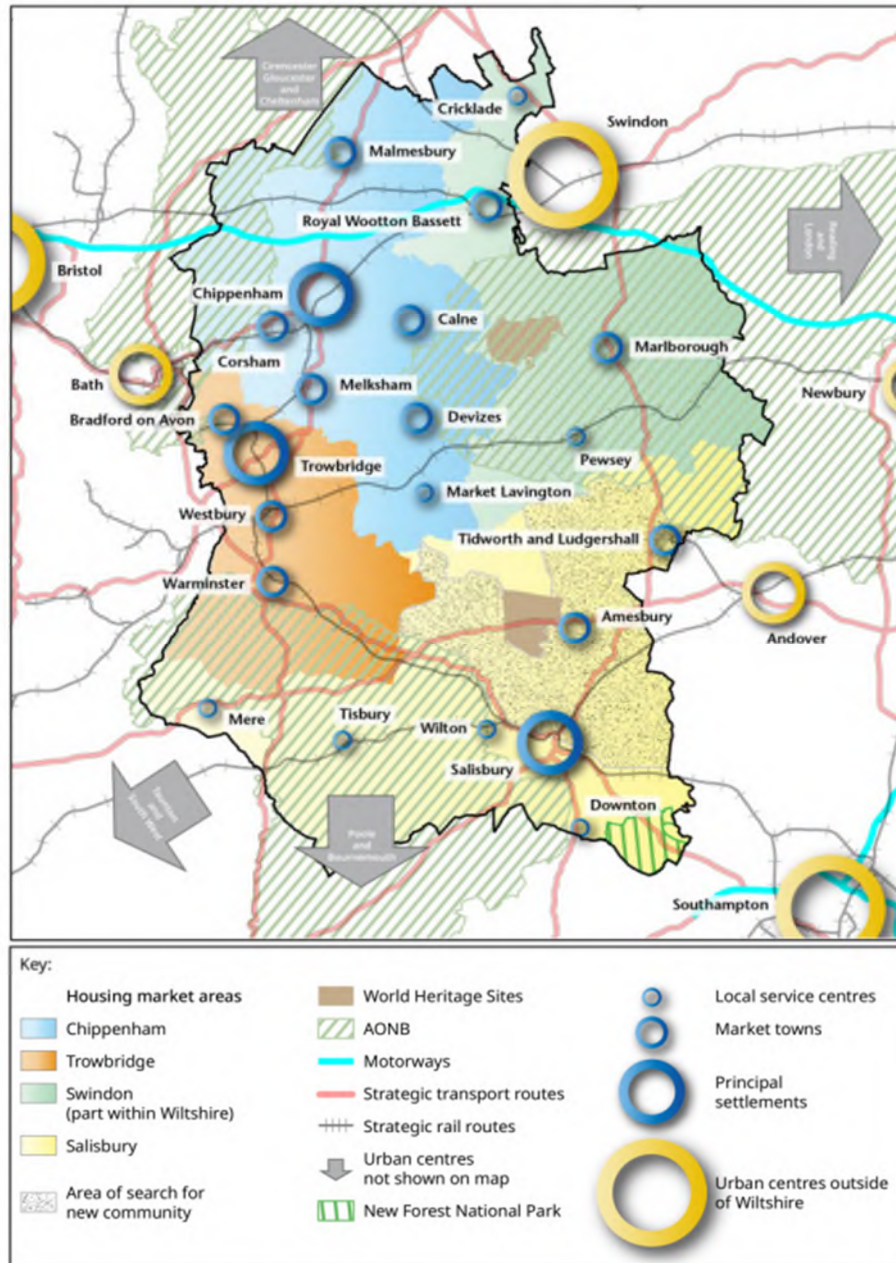
This seems to me an opportunity for our Prime Minister to show what a country with ambitions to lead in Green Technology can do. We could build a new town in Wiltshire to show-case cutting-edge technological innovation to the world. We could create somewhere with large-scale urban Passivhaus buildings, and playful use of space, with keep-fit parks, and trees, and walkways with views and vistas. And the whole thing could have the lightest of footprints.

And at the same time, Wiltshire could retain its three relatively small towns (35k-45k populations) of Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury, with their infrastructures (and dignity and heritage) intact. For Salisbury, this might just offer us a last-minute reprieve from submersion.

*(Continued on page 26)*

(Continued from page 25)

We should put the need and the opportunity in front of the Taskforce to ensure they at least consider it. Please will you consider signing and supporting the case for a new town in Wiltshire? A 'Search Area' has already been identified (See plan below) in our draft Local Plan and a petition is now available for those in agreement to sign: <https://www.change.org/newtownforWiltshire>



I think we cannot afford to be complacent. Some of us are on the front line. Please discuss this with your neighbours, and please SIGN if you are in agreement.

with best wishes,

*Annabel Lawson Britford*

PS. Thank you for your interest and reading this - if you have views and comments please make them to someone in authority who can do something about it - and that's not me!



# Stars Appeal Raffle

## Stars Appeal supporter celebrates winning start to 2025



First prize winner Keith Smith, pictured centre, with George Chalke, of FJ Chalke, and Peter Bourke, of Wilsons Solicitors

A lucky Stars Appeal supporter has got 2025 off to a great start after scooping the £2,500 top prize in the charity's raffle.

Keith Smith, from Salisbury, was delighted to win the first prize in the Stars Appeal Christmas Raffle and is treating his family to a holiday to Devon with his winnings.

He said: "It's fantastic to have won the raffle. It was a nice surprise; I had forgotten about the tickets. The money has gone towards a holiday with all the family. It's great to be able to support the Stars Appeal. It's a local charity and you know money raised goes towards good stuff at the Hospital."

The raffle raised over £20,000 in ticket sales and donations, which will help to fund the charity's work funding new equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects supporting patients, their families and staff across Salisbury Hospital.

The £2,500 first prize was kindly sponsored by Wilsons Solicitors and the second prize of £500 was sponsored by FJ Chalke. A third prize of £250 was also up for grabs along with other cash prizes.

Helena Sinclair, of the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, added: "Congratulations to Keith and all of our Christmas Raffle winners, and a big thank you to everyone who took part and made donations. Your generous support has raised over £20,000, which helps us greatly as we seek to fund projects across the Hospital, including state-of-the-art equipment, enhancements to Hospital buildings and our ongoing projects like the Stars Appeal Wi-Fi, hospital chaplaincy, support for patients with cancer and provision of accommodation for parents of poorly babies and children in hospital. Thank you to our first and second prize sponsors Wilsons Solicitors and FJ Chalke for their amazing support."

Mike Parker, the Managing Partner of Wilsons Solicitors, added: "It's been a pleasure to support the Stars Appeal with their annual Christmas Raffle and congratulations to all the winners. We know the money raised will help make a difference for patients and staff at the Hospital."

For a full list of the winning ticket numbers visit [www.starsappeal.org/news/christmas-raffle-2024-winners-announced/](http://www.starsappeal.org/news/christmas-raffle-2024-winners-announced/)

## Big sleep at Salisbury Cathedral Friday 28 March 2025



Our local Salisbury based charity Alabaré provides support and accommodation for people who are vulnerable, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless across Wiltshire and the South West. To find out more click [here](#).

**Will join Alabaré on Friday 28 March for this year's BIG Sleep at Salisbury Cathedral and trade your warm bed for one night under the open sky to help change lives.**

For 20 years, this event has brought together compassionate individuals willing to make a meaningful difference to the homeless and vulnerable. In the beautiful setting of Salisbury Cathedral, participants spend a night on the cold stone floor of the cloisters.

Helen Inglis, Church and Community Engagement Officer for Alabaré said this "For us, it's just one night. For those we serve, homelessness can feel endless."

[You can find more details on how to sign up here.](#)

You can email Helen directly for any queries: [h.inglis@alabare.co.uk](mailto:h.inglis@alabare.co.uk)



## **Berwick St John Country Fayre raises record-breaking total for the Stars Appeal**

The 2024 Berwick St John Country Fayre has raised a record-breaking amount for the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity.

The whopping total of £96,983.99 was announced during a special presentation held on Sunday, December 1 at a packed West Barn Lodge in Fovant with nearly 300 people in attendance. After the big sum was revealed, further donations from guests at the event bumped the total up to an incredible £100,000 – the largest amount raised in the Fayre's 32 year history.

The Berwick St John Country Fayre has been running every other year since 1992 raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for a wide variety of charities, including the Stars Appeal, before committing long-term support to the Stars Appeal in 2012. In 2022 the Fayre raised £63,117.18, which had been the biggest fundraising total until now.

The 2024 event, which took place on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September, attracted thousands of visitors and featured an array of activities from displays of steam engines, vintage tractors, heavy horses and classic cars as well as a dog show, rural crafts, fairground rides, and entertainment. Ahead of the main fayre event, visitors enjoyed an evening of live music on Friday, September 13th.

[The biennial event](#) is run entirely by a dedicated committee of volunteers, with wide support from the local community and village residents.

Fayre Secretary Louise Hall said: "We are blown away by the incredible generosity and support we've received which has enabled us to raise this record-breaking total for the Stars Appeal. Despite facing many challenges ahead of this year's event, the entire team pulled together to deliver a brilliant show with a fantastic atmosphere. We are so grateful to everyone who supports us, not just financially, but also by providing services and equipment and by volunteering their time. As we heard today, the money raised makes lives better at Salisbury Hospital and we sincerely thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this possible."

During the presentation event, Fayre directors, including chairmen Richard Pocock and Gerald Mundy, spoke of the huge community effort that goes into making the event such a success and expressed their gratitude to the many supporters, sponsors and volunteers without whom the Fayre could not happen.

# Local Halls

## Britford

### Memorial & Community Hall

Ideal venue for children's parties, social gatherings, family occasions, meetings and presentations, workshops, classes, private functions and community events  
Competitive rates — convenient location

Holds up to 60 people  
For bookings or enquiries:  
[Britford@live.co.uk](mailto:Britford@live.co.uk)

## The Radnor Hall

Your village hall at Bodenham  
for private functions, meetings & community events

Capacity: 80 standing, 60 seated  
Special hire rates for residents of Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock and for regular users

For bookings and enquiries, please contact the Hall Manager on 01722 329 760

[RadnorHallBookings@gmail.com](mailto:RadnorHallBookings@gmail.com)

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# News and Notes

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

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