

e-News and Notes

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

March 2025

New Beginnings and Old Foundations

New Year has come and gone in a flash, new year resolutions ticked off successfully (no doubt) and signs of Spring have appeared at last. Crocuses, snowdrops, cyclamen and daffodils are popping up cheerfully in gardens and along verges and footpaths which is always so heartening to see. Hurrah! Unbelievably the first half of the school term is done and dusted and already we seem to be racing towards Easter. As the evenings lengthen it has to be one of the best times of the year to be out and about, whether for walks in the countryside (see inside for details of the Chalke Valley Pilgrimage walk later this month), a pedal over the downs on your mountain bike or, if you're brave enough to defy potholes and traffic, a good bike ride along the local highways and byways. We recently walked from Nunton to visit the ancient Mizmaze near Breamore which is thought to be of medieval origin and is well worth a visit. Who has been cutting the low yew hedge there so beautifully for over 500 years I've no idea but *chapeaux*, lovely job. It's also not a million miles from a couple of good pubs I believe, in case you need to rest your weary legs and slake your thirst before the long plod homeward.

Our thanks for the poem sent in from Tracy White who has recently arrived in Nunton (welcome!) and whose poem *The Fox* appears inside. And thanks to those (two...) who answered our 'most unusual use for News and Notes' competition. The winner is Tallie, 6, from Odstock who has had the excellent idea of making it into origami style paper animals. Thanks for the pic, which you can see in our e-version on line.

In this edition there's an important message from the organisers of EbbleFest, our annual summer fete and live music festival weekend held at the football field in Nunton. It's a wonderful, fun filled community event that brings us all together, both in the generous shared effort to make it happen and at the 'do' itself. Not only that, it's an important fundraiser for some of our local facilities. Built on foundations laid by generations of our local predecessors it has become like the spring bulbs already mentioned, a hardy perennial that flowers each year and remains a treasured part of our village life. But help is needed! The team are looking for help organising and running it - please do consider getting involved to help nurture and preserve this tradition of shared community. See inside for details.

Editors: Liz & Nick Stanger

Email: editor@newsandnotes.co.uk Next Deadline: 14 March for April 2025 edition

Chalke Valley Pilgrimage

Friday 28th and Saturday 29th March 2025



To celebrate Mothering Sunday weekend, a pilgrimage is being organised to walk through the Chalke Valley from Berwick St John to Salisbury Cathedral. It is open to everyone in the Chalke Valley. A pilgrimage invites each of us to step outside our daily life and enter a space of reflection, discovery and transformation. It is not a competition, nor an organised group walk!

Day One (Fri 28 Mar) will be from Berwick St John to Coombe Bissett (approx. 20 kms), calling at the churches in between. There will be an optional overnight stay at Coombe Bissett Village Hall on Friday night.

Day Two (Sat 29 Mar) will be from Coombe Bissett to Salisbury Cathedral, via the east end of the Chalke Valley (approx. 20 kms). The intention is to arrive at Salisbury Cathedral in time for Choral Evensong at 5.30pm for those that wish to attend.

Come and join us - whether for the whole journey, one day, for an hour or two or just to meet the pilgrims as they pass through the route. We hope to walk via most churches along the valley, enjoying refreshments en route.

If you are unable to walk but would like to support this event, we really need volunteers to welcome pilgrims along their way, provide refreshments or transporting weary pilgrims back to their cars etc.

If you are interested in taking part in the pilgrimage in any way, please contact Ruth Howlett-Shipley on 01722 697022 or by email: revdruth@outlook.com to receive more information.

Do Come and Join Us!

Lent Lunch in The Radnor Hall

Saturday 15th March

12 Noon - 2pm

in aid of The Cueibet School in South Sudan

Come and enjoy a variety of soups, ploughman's lunch and hear about Dr Sherwood Elcock's adventure to see the School.

Cost £10

to book and for more details call Debby 01722 329 769

Email dunderh942@btinternet.com

STOP PRESS: The next Blister Pack Recycling Collection will take place on 15th April. More details in next issue.

EbbleFest plea

February 2025

EBBLEFEST 2025
SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2025

Dear Villagers

Despite winter's dankness lingering, making it hard to imagine the prospect of a warm summer's day and a cardigan-less evening on Nunton playing field - the sound of children squealing with delight as they dart under the firefighters' hose and live music drifting out of the marquee - this is the time of year my fellow committee members and I dust off our EbbleFest caps and knuckle down to planning our community's summer fete.

However, here's where the laughter and music fades...

We're facing a challenge this year - think "EbbleFew" rather than EbbleFest! With several committee members needing to step back (they've been amazing - huge thanks to you all for everything you've done), we are somewhat depleted. No matter how energetic, committed, and willing the three of us are, we just can't pull off a fete and mini music festival on our own. As much as we'd love to channel our inner superheroes, we simply don't have enough hands on deck to make EbbleFest happen.

So, here's the big ask: If you'd like to keep the EbbleFest tradition alive - for your children and grandchildren to run free and wild for a day (but still supervised and accounted for, of course!), for you to enjoy a burger and a shandy while sitting on a hay bale as the sun sets and the music cranks up - we need you to show the EbbleFest love in a practical, hands-on, getting-things-done kind of way. Why not be part of making it happen? It's almost better than the event itself! You don't need any special skills, just some time, enthusiasm, and a large dose of humour. Without help, our beloved EbbleFest will likely have to take a summer break.

Can you help save EbbleFest 2025?

If you're keen for EbbleFest to remain a village summer highlight, we'd love you to get involved. Email us at info@ebblefest.co.uk or flag any one of us down the next time you see us around.

Best wishes

Paula Gribben, Jonny Hartley & Laura McGregor, The EbbleFest Committee

P.S: Don't leave it too long—we'll need to make a decision by the end of March!

info@ebblefest.co.uk

T: 07775 585 449



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Focus on Food

Letter from our food correspondent

We've landed in Pembrokeshire, Lower Town Fishguard to be precise and only a few miles from the Preseli's where the original blue stones were cut and transported to Stonehenge back in the day, so I'm feeling a sense of affinity already. Moving out of Longford Farmhouse was an ordeal I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy, the physicality alone was epically exhausting. Seven, 400-mile round trips in all, so 2800 miles of moving and that's after we'd freecycled most of our furniture, beds and trinkets. Our catering paraphernalia went to the liquidators, so we were just left to transport the joy of our lives.

I've been asked to continue writing for News and Notes, something I relish, thinking I could develop the piece into a kind of Alistair Cooke, Letter from America, although in this instance, letter from West Wales. Or a Kate Aidié, From our own Correspondent. Let's see how that concept evolves. I'm in Cilgwyn today, home to the late John Seymour, author of 'Self Sufficiency, the science and art of preserving your own food'. It was written in 1973 having already put in 18 years of almost complete self-sufficiency, so he had an idea what he was talking about having lived the life, walked the walk so to speak.

I was encouraged immediately by his chapter on dairy. 'You can cause milk to clot immediately, that is forms curds, by adding rennet. Rennet is stuff that is taken from a calves' fourth stomach (see chapter 9). Presumably you could obtain it yourself if you killed a young calf, but we buy it in splendid little stoneware bottles from RJ Fullwood and Bland, 25 Bevenden Street, London N1'. So, take heed Simon Martin, I expect to see calves fourth stomachs in the vending machine outside of the Radnor on my next visit to Nunton for my Book Club with Jonny Hartley. Moreover, I'm relieved to ponder that, 50 years on I might be granted a fortnightly Ocado delivery to augment the austerities of self-sufficiency and food production in West Wales.

Following on from last month's rant about food costs, a couple of observations. Sometimes it's not where you buy but when you buy. I found myself in Waitrose a few weeks before Christmas, on a Sunday at 3pm to be precise and the deals on the fish counter were colossal. Two massive trout about 1.5kg each, for £1 each, I obviously snapped them up. Different supermarkets have different offers on different days, so watch and learn, you'll eat well and save a fortune.

Finally, and briefly, fresh chives, Tesco £50kg, Waitrose £40kg, Harvest wholesale £20kg, grow your own £2kg. I know you know already, but when you're buying chives in those pathetic 10gm packs for 50p each, it might not always be obvious.

Life shakes you up when you encounter dramatic change, often it's the drama that's been missing from your life for too many years. Without going into how to kill a goose, (it involves a broomstick and the aid of a third party), I'm looking forward to sharing views from a different perspective over the coming months which I hope will entertain everyone. And if you're ever in West Wales, look us up there'll be a welcome in the hillside as they say. *Martin Simcock*



Easter Tennis Camp 8 - 10 April 2025

See e-N&N or mahonytennis.com

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I.

Despite a cold damp February day, many members of the WI met at Radnor Hall and were welcomed by the Chair. The many activities of the WI were discussed, a walking group on February 24th, plans for needle felting and to look forward to, the summer outing on July 21st and training on defibrillator and EpiPen use on June 30th. The Ebbfest is on July 5th, an occasion for baking enthusiasm for the WI cake stall.

Alan Jones was our speaker, kindly stepping in at short notice with 'The Inside Story'. Laughter was raised at his question as to whether any of us was pregnant before he gave a very amusing, vividly described and cleverly visually displayed talk about the body. He used the chairman as the model for attaching all the organs of the body to an apron then outlining their function. By interweaving normal function, disease and treatment we heard about diabetes, pacemakers and Pepys' painful lithotomy without benefit of anaesthetic. The audience were amazed by the statistics about the activities of the organs for example, the kidneys filtering 44 gallons of blood every 24 hours and concluded that since replication of body function by machine had proved so difficult, it was surprising that our bodies worked so well and for so long.

The next meeting is on March 10th.

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Next Meeting Thu 20 March

Further to last month's entreaty on poop-scooping, a local resident implores dog lovers kindly to remove their loaded dog poo bags instead of leaving them amongst the woodland. This would be very much appreciated.



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8 - 10 April 2025

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see e-N&N or

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News from the Pews

Odstock with Nunton

Here we are approaching March and we will all be glad to have a bit more daylight and a few more flowers around, not to mention some leaves on the trees! Our Christmas season officially ended on 2nd February – known as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple or Candlemas to remind us of Simeon recognising the baby Jesus as ‘a light for revelation to the Gentiles’.

Now we reach the Lent season (which starts with Ash Wednesday on 5th March) and we have so much going on in the Benefice – please do refer to the separate leaflet which has all the information. Our theme this Lent is Pilgrimage and we would particularly draw your attention to a series of talks to be held at Broad Chalke School on Wednesday evenings.

Locally, we will be holding a Lent Study Group on Monday afternoons in the Barker Room, a Lent lunch with a presentation by Sherwood Elcock at the Radnor Hall to support our partnership with Cueibet in South Sudan (Saturday 15th March) and an opportunity to join our pilgrimage through the valley to the Cathedral on 28/29th March. As ever, Creativitea will be meeting in the Barker Room on Thursday 20th March – all are very welcome to attend any of these events.

Charlton

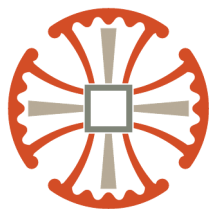
In Charlton, we are looking forward to Spring too. If the longer days encourage you to do a bit of a tidy up and Spring clean, you might find some items in need of repair. If so, please consider coming along to All Saints’ Church on Saturday 22 March at 2pm to enjoy an illustrated talk by Downton & Lover Repair Cafés on what they do and where, and how they might help repair your treasured items or indispensable gadgets. Admission is free, and we will have tea, coffee and cake available. As an EcoChurch, we are keen to help you repair, re-use and recycle whenever possible.

Stephanie Elcock, Mary Boydcamps, Clare Penny, Churchwardens

The Fox by Tracy White

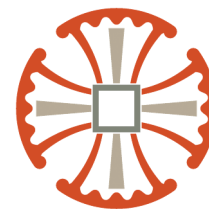
Eyes shining black jewels against his red satin,
He breaths faded pictures on iced air.
Ears finely tuned, he senses her.
His black stocking feet silently melt soft new snow.

She sits plump from fallen corn, her cry a thought, his violence a mercy.
Crimson feathers fall with new snow, a necklace around his crime.
Soon to be parted and silenced by the coming breeze.



Church Services

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



March 2025

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

2 March Sunday Next before Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion	Britford	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
5 March ASH WEDNESDAY	6.00pm	Communion with Ashing	Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor
9 March 1st Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Family Communion	Nunton	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Charlton All Saints	Rhoddy Voremburg
16 March 2nd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion	Odstock	Maggie Metcalfe
23 March 3rd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
30 March MOTHERING SUNDAY	1000am	Benefice Communion <i>Clocks go forward</i>	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S

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 ~ The Revd Alison Waterhouse:	07904 034 221
Associate Priest ~ The Revd Kate Woolven:	07754 582 395
Associate Priest ~ The Revd Maggie Metcalfe:	01722 325 925
Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead:	07890 262 376



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – March 2025

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



2 March Sunday Next before Lent	9.30am Family Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Service	Broad Chalke Britford Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock	Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Alison Waterhouse Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor
5 March ASH WEDNESDAY	9.30am School Communion with Ashing (in Church for all) 6.00pm Communion with Ashing 6.00pm Communion with Ashing	Coombe Bissett Bowerchalke Coombe Bissett	Jenny Taylor Kate Woolven Jenny Taylor
9 March 1st Sunday of Lent	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Family Communion (CW) 10.30am Worship Together 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am All Age Service 3.00pm Evening Prayer	Bowerchalke Nunton Broad Chalke Hub Charlton All Saints Homington Alvediston Fifield Bavant	Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Lay Led Rhoddy Voremberg Alison Waterhouse Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair
16 March 2nd Sunday of Lent	9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Communion (CW) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke Bishopstone Odstock Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse Jenny Taylor Maggie Metcalfe Kate Woolven Maggie Metcalfe Ruth H-S
23 March 3rd Sunday of Lent	9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Service 11.00am Parish Communion + APCM 11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP) 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP)	Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Nunton Bishopstone Alvediston Homington Berwick St John	Ruth H-S Alison Waterhouse Adrian Taylor Jenny Taylor Alison Waterhouse Rhoddy Voremberg Lay Led
30 March MOTHERING SUNDAY <i>Clocks go Forward</i>	10.00am Benefice Communion (CW) 10.00am Benefice Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke Charlton All Saints	Alison Wayerhouse Ruth H-S
6 April 5th Sunday of Lent	9.30am Family Communion (CW) 9.30am Parish Communion (CW) 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 11.00am Morning Prayer (BCP) 11.00am Parish Communion (CW) 11.00am Family Service 11.00am Morning Service	Broad Chalke Britford Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Bishopstone	Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Alison Waterhouse Biddy Trahair Ruth H-S Adrian Taylor Sally Leaver

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2025 Chalke Valley Lent Project Can you help to rebuild the Cueibet Church Primary School?

Since 2013, our Charity, the **Chalke-Cueibet Partnership**, has supported the people in our linked Diocese of Cueibet in South Sudan in a number of ways; the main one being building and equipping a new Cueibet Church Primary School.



Now the badly storm-damaged classrooms need rebuilding and we ask for your help as we work towards raising £20,000.

Please support our Deanery Charity by using the QR Code link to 'Give a Little' to give generously.

You can find out more in the Valley Lent Leaflet and online at <https://chalkevalleychurches.org/cueibet>

You can also hear a talk about Dr Sherwood Elcock's recent visit to Cueibet at the Lent Lunch in the Radnor Hall, Bodenham on Saturday 15th March, 12noon - 2.00pm

The Chalke-Cueibet Partnership - Charity Registration Number: 1180313

Online at: <https://chalkevalleychurches.org/cueibet>



CHALKE - CUEIBET PARTNERSHIP 'SAVE OUR SCHOOL 2025'

The people of Chalke Deanery have been on a journey in partnership with the people of Cueibet since 2013. Along the way there have been different stories coming out of visits and projects, but the most enduring story has been our journey with the children of Cueibet and their Church Primary School.

It began during a visit to Cueibet in 2015, watching some 200 children being taught in classes under the shade of trees. This seemed quite natural at the time, but not during the rainy season from May to October. It was explained to us that then, the children were all taught in the small breeze block Cathedral. This experience sparked off the initiative to build a permanent school. A Deanery 'Raise the Roof' appeal secured sufficient funds to build two classrooms in 2016 and later a second block of two classrooms.

On the way, we have helped with teachers' pay and the children of Coombe Bissett School and others have given football strips and a regular supply of pencils. During the Covid restrictions when we could not gather together, 'Can You Stand Not Sitting' raised over £10,000 for school desks and benches.



Now we are facing our biggest challenge. In 2022, violent storms in South Sudan damaged the school buildings. Temporary repairs have been made but there is an urgent need for rebuilding. This has been planned in two phases as funds become available. Our Deanery Charity, the Chalke-Cueibet Partnership has already been able to send £19,000 to begin Phase 1 work on the original block of classrooms. We need a further £20,000 to complete Phase 2. This includes rebuilding the second block of class rooms, completing the provision of furniture begun with 'Can You Stand Not Sitting' and securing the windows and doors.

After 14 years as Bishop of Cueibet, Bishop Elijah will retire in May 2025. He will leave behind him the legacy of all the work he has done building the Christian community in Cueibet Diocese, especially in the field of education; through the education of his pastors, education of women and his vision for the Church Primary School in Cueibet Town. We have supported him in all these areas because we believe that enabling a Christian education for the next generation offers hope for this troubled country.

£20,000 will ensure that the children of Cueibet will have a safe and welcoming school in which to learn. It's a big ask, but let's see how far we can get to answer their plea to **SAVE OUR SCHOOL!**



"All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your children." Isaiah 54:13



CHALKE-CUEIBET PARTNERSHIP

CHARITY NO: 1180313



Please help us on our journey to £20,000

Donating is easy:

CASH: at a Lent Project event - ask for a Gift Aid Envelope

BACS: Chalke-Cueibet Partnership Trust
Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-90-89, Acc No: 75231860

ONLINE: using the QR code

CHEQUE: payable to Chalke-Cueibet Partnership and sent to
CCPT, 27 Viking Way, Salisbury SP2 8TA



giftaid it : Add 25p per £1 donated with the form below

Your generosity will help us to rebuild the school for over 400 pupils now and the others to come later.



Cueibet Brickworks



Bahr Gel River Sand



Bricklaying

The work has already begun. Please help us to finish it!

CAN YOU GIFT AID? We receive an extra 25p per £1 you give

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future.

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Postcode:..... Date:.....



giftaid it

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED DECLARATION TO:

CHALKE-CUEIBET PARTNERSHIP, c/o Geoff Taylor, 27 Viking Way, Salisbury SP2 8TA

thechalkevalleychurches@gmail.com/cueibet

A creative use for News and Notes on a Sunday afternoon. By Tallie, 6, Odstock



Well done for this masterpiece,
The Editors

Lower Repair Café



Saturday 22 March

2.00—3.30 pm

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CHARLTON ALL SAINTS

Come along to hear how the Repair Café
can help to mend your old treasures -
furniture, ceramics, electrical goods,
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An illustrated talk by members of the
Lower & Downton Repair Cafés

Free admission ~ Refreshments available

ECO  CHURCH



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Downton Cuckoo Fair will be held on 3rd May 2025!



We are excited and pleased to confirm that we continue to plan in earnest for the next Downton Cuckoo Fair taking place on Saturday 3rd May 2025! (Weather permitting).

The largest free, non-profit event in Wiltshire, helping local community organisations including schools, churches, clubs, and charities raise significant funds, we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back this year.

The Cuckoo Fair are delighted to thank Toomers Ltd for their very generous sponsorship for the 2025 Fair, along with Batt Broadbent Solicitors who have kindly sponsored our Day Leaflet.

If you think you can help the fair in any way, or with sponsorship, please do contact us, we would be delighted to hear from you!

Downton Cuckoo Fair now sees almost 20,000 visitors to the village on fair day, and has raised over £1 million for local groups in the last 40 years, continues to be run by a team entirely made up of volunteers who organise and manage it for the benefit of local groups and organizations so they can raise vital funds.

If you'd like more information on joining our team, or can offer even a few hours of your time to help us (with the prospect of a delicious free cooked breakfast for volunteers on Fair day!), please contact chair@cuckoofair.co.uk

Janet McGee from St Laurence' Church says "...the Church Larder at the Memorial Hall is a regular feature with people returning year after year to meet friends and enjoy the companionship our congregation offer.

Home-cooked cakes and cookies are enjoyed with morning coffee, a selection of home-made salads and savouries at lunchtime, and cakes or cream teas in the afternoon!

The nett proceeds raised at The Cuckoo Fair help us run our beautiful and ancient church, and is one of the most significant fundraising events undertaken annually to raise funds to help keep our wonderful building open for all the village to use and enjoy."

We would be happy to hear from any further people who may be pre-pared to share what the Cuckoo Fair means to their organisation. Please contact comms@cuckoofair.co.uk

For all the latest information on the Fair check out our website www.cuckoofair.co.uk and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DowntonCuckooFair/>

Let's hope that the weather is kind so another great day can be had by all!

Stars Appeal Walk for Wards



Celebrating our

20TH Walk for Wards

Wilton House | Sunday 6th July 2025

Walk 3k, 5k, 10k & NEW for 2025 15k



SCAN ME

Register **FREE** at starsappeal.org

Or scan the QR code
Entry closes 29th June



Salisbury Hospital's Charity

Registered Charity: 1052284

Stars Appeal

Record-breaking year for Stars Appeal Bookshop and bucket collection volunteers



Stars Appeal volunteers are celebrating a record-breaking year after raising £67,336 in the charity's bookshop and through bucket collections at Salisbury Hospital.

The volunteers were joined by hospital staff for a special presentation to unveil the total raised in 2024.

Last year, the bookshop, which is in the main entrance of the Hospital, raised £48,619, with the Stars Appeal bucket collectors raising a further £18,717. The combined totals top the amount raised in 2023 of £62,653.

Helena Sinclair, of the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, said: "This is an incredible achievement for our wonderful bookshop and bucket collection volunteers. We are hugely grateful for the time and dedication they give to supporting the charity. We want to say a massive thank you to our volunteers and to everyone who supports the bookshop and bucket collections, for making a difference to thousands of patients, their families, and staff at Salisbury Hospital."

Money raised for the Stars Appeal helps fund new equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects supporting patients across Salisbury Hospital including emergency patient clothing and toiletries, hospital chaplaincy, support for patients with cancer and the Stars Appeal Play Assistant on Sarum Children's Ward.

To find out more about the charity's projects visit www.starsappeal.org

Stars Appeal Cycle ride to Paris

Saddle up for iconic cycling challenge to support the Stars Appeal



Take on a cycling challenge this September, taking you on an unforgettable journey to Paris in support of the Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity.

Pedal for the Stars is a sponsored bike ride of 250 miles over four days from Salisbury Hospital to Paris.

Chair of the Stars Appeal Ambassadors, Consultant Surgeon Mr Graham Branagan, who completed a cycling challenge for the charity, said: "Getting out of your comfort zone really inspires supporters to sponsor you. Training for your adventure is a brilliant way to get fit and connect with friends and colleagues. And the team spirit on these organised challenges is so supportive. What better way to support our hospital charity than by challenging yourself to do something different?"

Commemorating Salisbury Hospital's connection with the Armed Forces, the route takes in sites in France with links to the Normandy Landings and D Day before finishing under the iconic Eiffel Tower.

Participants will have the satisfaction of raising vital funds for a much-loved local charity, helping to fund new equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects supporting patients across Salisbury Hospital, including the Stars Appeal Wi-Fi, hospital chaplaincy, support for patients with cancer and the Stars Appeal Play Assistant on Sarum Children's Ward.

The Stars Appeal is asking all cyclists to raise at least £1,000 each to support projects across Salisbury District Hospital.

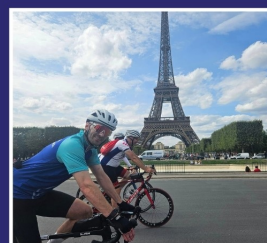
There's still time to sign up to an information evening in Salisbury City Centre, on Monday February 10th to find out more about the cycling challenge including training and fundraising, and hear from Stars Appeal representatives and experts from Discover Adventure, the adventure challenge company who are organising the bike ride. Visit www.starsappeal.org/event/stars-appeal-pedal-for-the-stars/ or call 01722 429005.

Pedal for the Stars takes place September 20th to 24th 2025.



SALISBURY TO PARIS

PEDAL FOR THE STARS



20th - 24th September 2025

Cycle 250 miles over 4 days from Salisbury to Paris

Registration fee: £149 | Trip costs: £1,150

Minimum sponsorship: £1,000

To find out more or to register, scan the QR Code or go to www.starsappeal.org or call 01722 429005

Join our free Info Evening on Monday 10th Feb in Salisbury to find out more



SCAN ME

Registered charity no 1052284

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 you 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

How to help a homeless person

People often ask us what they should do when they see a homeless person on the street. There isn't a simple answer, but here are some suggestions:

Approach with compassion

Say hello and ask if they would like any help, avoiding assumptions about their situation, but listening to their story.

Offer essentials like food, water or warm clothing, especially in cold weather.

Retail vouchers or care packs with socks, gloves, and hygiene items are also thoughtful options.

Refer them to support partners

Let them know about Alabaré. We have a drop-in service in Salisbury and our website, alabare.co.uk/need-help/ offers useful links.

Encourage them to contact the **Local Authority, Rough Sleeper or Homelessness Team** or refer them to StreetLink.org.uk

Call 999 if they are in immediate danger, need medical assistance, are vulnerable or appear to be under 18 years of age.

Other methods of support

Donate to Alabaré and help ensure we can provide vital services and life-skills programmes.

Volunteer with Alabaré and provide direct help. We have options and locations to suit everyone.

Spread Awareness: Host a talk through your group or workplace by contacting supportercare@alabare.co.uk.

Join one of our events such as the BIG Sleep at Salisbury Cathedral on 28th March.
Details at alabare.co.uk/events/big-sleep-at-salisbury-cathedral/

Local charity Alabaré provides support and accommodation for people who are vulnerable, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless across Wiltshire and the South West but together we can all respond to the homelessness crisis.

To find out more about our work please visit alabare.co.uk

Have your say on pharmacy services in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council's Public Health Team are working with Healthwatch Wiltshire and the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board to assess the current provision of pharmaceutical services across the county.

This work, known as a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) must be done every three years and helps with service planning.

The revised pharmaceutical needs assessment will be published in October 2025. It will consider information from a range of sources as well as the views of local people and pharmacy providers to review what services are in place, what local people need and how things might change in the future. It will be used to inform decisions when applications are received for new pharmacies and will help the health service make decisions about which services are paid for by the NHS in the community pharmacies we already have.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council and Chair of the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board said: "I would encourage all our residents to complete this survey and share their views. It should take less than ten minutes to complete, and their feedback will be vital in shaping how pharmacies provide support to people in the future".

People can have their say by completing the survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QLH952T> until the closing date of Thursday 6 March.

Police Crime Commissioner

February Column



The transformation of Wiltshire Police's service will continue after my budget was approved by the police and crime panel early in February.

This support will mean the police precept will rise by £14 a year, for a Band D property. It isn't a position I wanted but I was faced with £11m of savings if I didn't.

Even with the rise, £6.8m of savings need to be delivered by transformation of police service delivery. I can reassure you

Wiltshire Police will always have protecting the public, increasing public access and visibility and Making Wiltshire Safer at fore of every decision.

It is a fact I am asking the Chief Constable to do ever more with less funding. I am asking her to improve the policing service, for more visible and effective policing but with less funding than the majority of Chief Constables.

Wiltshire Police is delivering – we have the most police officers in a decade, increased outcome rates, crime decreasing in some crime types year-on-year, and communities seeing more visible policing with improving 999 and 101 response times. This comes at a cost and is why I had to ask for the maximum increase.

Of course, the financial challenges mean there will be tough decisions but not at the cost of frontline policing or the service received. The Chief Constable and I have committed to protect police officer numbers and police stations with public access.

The Chief and I know there is more to do to make people feel safe and we will not stop ensuring Wiltshire Police is on that improvement journey and will lead the way as one of the most effective and efficient forces.

Philip Wilkinson, Wiltshire Police and Commissioner

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