

e-News and Notes

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

April 2025

Welcome Spring

It's likely this April edition of News and Notes will be propelled through your letter boxes by your amazing delivery team around the time of Mothering Sunday at the very end of March, with Easter not far away. What a glorious time of the year! The clocks will have sprung forwards to brighten our mornings and new life is developing everywhere: the dawn chorus louder than ever, birds brooding on their eggs, green sprouts shooting skywards in the garden and lambs gamboling in the fields, all so welcome at the end of a long winter, as are those symbolic chocolate eggs and the welcome end of Lent.

We are delighted to report that the organisers of Ebbfest are boldly forging ahead having hopefully found one or two additional volunteers to help, and so it's a date for your diary on July 5th. Hurrah! But more support is still badly needed to allow a bigger better event to take place. So please contact info@ebblefest.co.uk or tel 07775 585 449 if you think you might possibly be able to help. No previous experience required!

Another article in our Spotlight series is inside, and if you ever wondered what it takes to make a community hum and thrive look no further than our interviewee this month who is Clare Penny from Charlton All Saints. Clare sees opportunities for fantastic community events where others see only an afternoon siesta coming on or a quiet night in watching telly.

Sherwood Elcock, intrepid traveler from Nunton, has recently been to South Sudan on behalf of the Chalke-Cueibet Partnership, a local charity of which he is a trustee. He has written a fascinating account of the school they support. It is sobering to read about the difficulties faced by so many who experience rural poverty in Africa, and his article shows the positive impact that this sort of aid from Britain can have. Please note, the full length article with photos appears in our online edition and it's well worth a read. It's difficult to imagine life in Cueibet and how hard it must be to find hope.

Read inside about shellfish and his new life next to the fishingboat-bobbing sea in Martin Simcock's latest brilliant 'Focus on Food' article from Pembrokeshire, plus a wealth of other articles and reports we hope you'll find interesting. With thanks to all our other wonderful local writers and reporters – please keep 'em coming!

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and an absolutely Glorious Spring!

Editors: Liz & Nick Stanger

Email: editor@newsandnotes.co.uk

Next Deadline: 14 April for May 2025 edition. All contributions gratefully received.

Announcements

- We are delighted to report that the organisers of **Ebblefest** are boldly forging ahead having found one or two volunteers to help, and so it's a date for your diary on July 5th. But more support is still badly needed, and if you think you can possibly offer any help at all, it really will be hugely useful. You can re-read the appeal from the organisers in News and Notes online version where we are reprinting the Ebblefest Appeal, or contact info@ebblefest.co.uk or T: 07775 585 449
- Hot Cross Buns to Easter Eggs! Come and hear the Easter Story and retell it with Lego, nature and craft on Good Friday 18th April, 11-12 at the Barker Room next to the church in Nunton. Children of any age welcome. Contact Maggie revmaggiem@gmail.com or Laura on 07946 601150 for more details
- Easter Eggs feature on Easter Day in Nunton Church 11am at the Family Communion! At 2pm at St Mary's Odstock, also on 18 April – an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the first Good Friday through the voices of those who were there.
- Jeremy and Maggie Metcalfe are delighted to announce the birth of their granddaughter Lucy Margaret Eden Brown, on 25 February 2025, a healthy daughter for Olivia and Tom, and sister for Charlotte. The family are thrilled!
- Debbie and Samir Vyas are delighted to announce the birth of their second grandchild Marlo Hunter Anand Vyas on 21st February 2025. A lovely baby boy for our son Anand and his wife Amy.
- We would like to extend a warm welcome into our community to the Wills family who have just moved to Nunton.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED in LEAGUE of FRIENDS SHOP at SDH

- The Salisbury Hospital League of Friends helps to finance projects at the hospital which make a real difference to patients. Its primary source of revenue is the popular sweet shop run by volunteers in the Main Entrance hospital hallway. We would welcome a few more people willing to give approx 4 hours a week for morning or afternoon shifts, each staffed by two volunteers. There's free tea and coffee, & dedicated free parking spaces close by, and all training will be given.
- For more info go to www.leagueoffriends.salisbury.nhs.uk, or our Facebook page, call in at the shop or call 01722 336 262 ext. 4532, Mon-Fri 9:00-4:00pm.
- Alternatively, please feel free to ring me at 07584 634 490, or Derek Finnis at 07798 863 467 or email me at Melissa@hodgson.co.uk.

Easter Tennis Camp 8 - 10 April 2025
See e-N&N or mahonytennis.com

Focus on Food

Fruits of the Sea

Don't lament your losses, rejoice in your gains, particularly the ones delivered to your doorstep on a regular basis. So it's bye bye Waitrose, where at Longford Farmhouse I was surrounded by seventeen of them, in Lower town Fishguard there isn't one within a fifty-mile radius. Also back at Longford, we had milk delivered to the door daily, here in Fishguard, it's whelks, lobster and crab, landed literally 50 yards from my front door. Admittedly the whelks get driven off the quayside in the whelk truck and not seen again until they dock in southern Spain or even South Korea. But get to know the truck driver and a couple of kilos could be mine on a regular basis, he comes every Thursday.

Talking of whelks, a good friend of mine Angus Cohen, cans 'whelks in kimchi s sauce' over in west Dorset, he's a Salisbury boy and has established Seasisters, with his lovely wife Charlotte, the only fish canning company in the UK, so worth a bit of support <https://www.seasisters.co.uk/pages/about-us> They have an irresistible range of super tasty, tantalising tins to tickle your tastebuds and you can order on line.

I can't say I'm a big fan of killing crustaceans, but needs must, so it's best not to be squeamish. I'm certainly not going to explain the detail here; you can google a video if you must. Once croaked and cooked though, there are a plethora of dishes to explore, from lobster risotto, with orange and basil, through crab linguine with asparagus and pea shoots and a multitude in between. We do have a little boat and a couple of lobster pots and have been known to catch a few ourselves over the years, that starts to make them a bit more affordable.

Crabbing is a big sport here on the quayside in summer, crab lines and crab sacks groaning with streaky bacon are dropped just over the slipways into the glistening water, where wildly excited 4 – 14 year olds and their even more excited dads can drag in ten at a time, only tiddlers mind, but it's quantity not quality and the record stands at 319 caught in just under an hour. They're no good for eating but when the buckets are full, they are emptied at the top of the slip and they race each other back into the sea to be caught again a few hours later.

Yesterday we were treated to a fine display of boatmanship by the RNLI, practising their inshore manoeuvres as several little dinghies swished this way and that on powerful outboards gambolling like fox cubs on the edge of a coppice, in red and orange, the livery of the beguiling fox. Playful and yet clearly demonstrating lifesaving skills and much needed skills in this part of the world.

The cottage we're living in, and the cottages along the harbour side were featured in the 1972 film of Dylan Thomas' Under Milk Wood starring Richard Burton. We're in the one that had the boat built high on the front of it. If you had some spare time, you should watch a version of it on You tube or whatever your preferred medium is or just listen to it on Spotify.

*It is spring, moonless night in the small town, starless
and bible-black, the cobblestreets silent and the hunched,
courtiers'-and-rabbits' wood limping invisible down to the
sloebblack, slow, black, crowblack, fishingboatbobbing sea.
From Under Milk Wood By Dylan Thomas (1914-1953)*

Martin Simcock

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I.

Our March meeting was busy and varied. Members learned of our own initiatives, Wiltshire events and National concerns.

The Pins & Needles group had been very industrious sewing 31 mastectomy pillows, knitting baby hats and blankets for the hospital and knitting 50 small comfort dolls. The outing To Dents Glove Museum in Warminster was confirmed and the date changed for the outing to Cadenham Manor in July. The June Summer Party would involve a clothes sale and fashion show so members were asked to kindly review their wardrobes! Advance warning was also given of our cake and produce stall for Ebbfest.

Several members had been to a Wiltshire Talk about the notorious Mitford Sisters and enjoyed the afternoon. New events advertised were 'The Ladies of Blenheim - laudenham and lust', which sounds fascinating and a Treasure Hunt around Lacock. The National Resolution for this year is 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' and to that end we have booked a session on resuscitation in June. Tea and coffee was followed by a tabletop Sale of Scarves which raised £30 for funds.

Our visiting speaker was Stuart Flitton who talked about his life as a journalist. He took us on a journey from his start in South Africa in 1978 through his move to a more peaceful England and his time spent in New York culminating in his current part time role in Woking. His experiences also covered a diverse range of topics and people whom he had interviewed. He worked on local newspapers and then moved to Fleet Street firstly on The Sun and then to The Times where he was sub-editor on the foreign desk. He spoke about how technology had vastly changed the production of newspapers from the hot metal press of the 1970s to the phones and computers of today, but although we now have online papers Stuart did not feel that we would ever lose our 'daily' but he was grateful that he had worked in the golden age of newspapers. He finished his talk with this statement. "Good journalism stays the same at whatever level and whatever the subject."

Our next meeting is on April 14th when we will hear about bee keeping and be able to purchase books at our Book Sale.

BLISTER PACK RECYCLING SCHEME

Next collections are on Tuesday 15 April at the following places/times:

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

Use It Before You Lose It

Number 1: The walk to Britford

Today the sun shone in the bluest of blue skies outside, whilst I was working in my little study overlooking Britford Lane. Outside, many people passed, using the last remaining walking route out of our city, which leads through fields to a village. From the Cathedral to Britford Farmshop: thirty minutes.

First it is the runners, consulting their fitbits, pounding their way down the lane and onto the track through the fields and into Britford village. If I am here long enough with my coffee, I may see them come back again. Shortly thereafter, there are the old striders intent on KEEPING WELL. They wear warm taupe outfits and comfortable footwear, optimistically swinging their arms and breathing deeply. Also out early are the dog walkers. There are young dog walkers, engrossed by their music or their phone and not always noticing what their dogs are doing, and there are the older dog-walking-ladies who set off in little groups and chatter and laugh as they go, also not always noticing what their dogs are doing. The dogs, however, know full well what they are doing, and everyone else notices it, alas.

Mid-morning and mid-afternoon come the mothers with their little prams and buggies. They often have an air of determination about them: 'You WILL go to sleep' or, 'I AM going to get some exercise and fresh air'. Their mood softens, and their tempo decreases as the child succumbs to the fresh air and is at peace. As they pass the fine chestnut tree where the path meets Lower Road, they may sit on the bench and text their friends because when else can they do that? It's not always easy to sit on that bench of course; in summer the cow parsley and nettles wind up between the slats. But it is a fine place to sit at any time. Especially when the first leaves start shimmering green and silver on the avenue of poplars which lead down to the Fishing Lodge, or when the chestnut bursts out into a thousand pink candles and later when the church tower is skirted with a field of buttercups and the apples in the farm orchard ripen bright red like a child's painting.

At weekends Salisbury spills out into the countryside down Britford Lane, through the fields and into the village. The children come on roller skates, bicycles, tricycles, scooters or with skipping ropes. They run ahead, joyously or they drag behind, disconsolate. They collect berries and pick flowers and leaves and examine them. When they reach the little white bridge over the navigation, they stop to play Pooh sticks, delighted by the glimpse of the trout making a dash for cover under the bridge.

They chatter all the way, incessantly. They talk to the sheep in the field, or baaaah at them, hoping to dupe them into replying. The sheep look up blankly. They bray at the donkey in the next field opposite the Cheese House. The lucky ones detour into the Farm Shop café for a drink and one of Robert's delicious cakes. Those walking the loop

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continue on through the village to the far side and past the heronry. Sometimes, they will see the gigantic nests dark against the sky, and the modern pterodactyls crouched within. The children don't try talking to the herons, after all, no one knows heronish.

Also at the weekends, earnest couples appear, bearing backpacks and wearing outfits which signal their serious outdoor intentions. They may consult their maps, sometimes confused, "...but it's clearly shown on the map! Look! There's a ferry to Alderbury!" And of course, there once was, many years ago. You cannot cross the river here, there is water all around you. Britford was once place of the wide (breit, braid) ford, but no longer.

The families sashay through the kissing gate into the field and wander happily through the tall grasses, circumnavigating the cows. They walk unnoticed over the humps and bumps which cross it, and admire the moat and the moat house, or the old dove cot. But do they know they may have just walked over one of the royal manors of Edward the Confessor? I think not. Many of the older members will stand for a moment and look back at the church towards the river, drinking in the idyll of the place, but do they think of the events that took place there nearly a thousand years ago, in 1065? Almost no one does.

Yet the King was staying here in Britford then, at a Royal manor attached to the church, enjoying the hunting. He had several such manors, the newest manor and church were nearly finished, at a place called Westminster. He had invited his brother-in-law, Tostig to join him in Britford, by the river, but the meeting did not go well and the visitor angered the King so deeply that he was not just expelled from Britford, but exiled from the country. (we know how that might work - perhaps Tostig didn't wear a suit, or failed to show sufficient respect). This set in train the most famous event in English history. We call it simply '1066'. Anglo-Saxon England was invaded and conquered by the Normans.

Few will consider the momentous past of this place, and yet the past is very close, almost palpable. The quiet ancientness is everywhere. It surrounds you. By chance, this little village on the water-meadows has escaped the destruction of modern housing. Each century has gently added just one or two new buildings, or extensions, or alterations, to create a village fabric woven from the passage of time itself. Much of it is hidden now, the Anglo-Saxon Royal Residence and the houses of the village mentioned in the Domesday Survey have long gone, only their footprints will be preserved beneath the ground. Today this is just an unusual survival from our past, a gentle little English village, separated by a few water-meadows from its little English city.

Enjoy it now, people of Salisbury, and people of the surrounding villages. Use it before you lose it! Soon the path may lead through a modern housing estate, and ancient Britford might be bolted onto the suburbs of Salisbury. And the delightful green country walk from the heart of the city to one of its little villages, the last one of all, will be no more.

Anon

SPOTLIGHT

Spotlight on Clare Penny, Charlton All Saints

Anyone who has the good fortune to live in Charlton All Saints will tell you that it is a special place. That's not just because of its rural beauty and tranquillity and the lovely riverside setting. It's also home to a thriving community, and one person who has had a lot to do with that over the years is Clare who has lived in the village for over 30 years.

Clare arrived from Salisbury with her young family when she and her husband Jon decided to buy and refurbish a semi-derelict farm cottage close to the riverbank, just a few minutes' walk from the Church where she is now the Church Warden. Moving in with a two week old babe in arms and a toddler in tow sounds daunting to say the least, not to mention their busy working life in Warminster. The family home they created is now a beautiful country house complete with a wonderful garden, which at the time of my visit was being enjoyed in the sunshine by several important members of the family of the egg-laying, feathered variety. With the riverbank nearby it's an idyllic spot. Water levels do sometimes get quite close, but so far so dry.

"Charlton is simply a lovely village", says Clare who enjoys its natural beauty but also relishes being part of its community, supporting it in just about any way she can. It is what makes Clare tick.

The Church in Charlton is the one usable space for the village community so it is used throughout the year for all manner of different events and functions. "It is such an important asset", she says, although at present is badly in need of repairs, so a fundraising effort is well under way.

Charltonians know how to have fun and enjoy a year round calendar of regular events, including among others a Progressive Supper (which was new to me - see below!), Quiz Night, Eco Picnic & Nature Count, Village BBQ and Fun Dog Show, Ride & Stride, Harvest Festival, Bonfire Bash, and Downton Band Concert. In early December over a long weekend Clare helped to run the first Christmas Tree festival in the Church, a seasonal extravaganza which involved lots of villagers and included a countdown to the big "turn on", coffee and cake, crafts, carol singing, and finishing with a Christingle service. Not to mention a surprising number of highly decorated Douglas firs. Tinsel and baubles doesn't begin to tell even half the story, they looked amazing.

Want to know how to involve folk in community life? How about a Progressive Supper? This annual event which Clare runs with a friend in the village sounds as though it has become part of Charlton tradition. Clare explained that it's a bit like having 36 people round for a three course dinner so that folk can get to spend an evening together, the genius of it being that each course is hosted in six separate homes for three couples. It's organised carefully so that hosts don't know who's coming, you move on for each

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SPOTLIGHT

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course, and no-one knows until the night itself where they're going to spend the evening, excepting the one course they may be asked to host, and it's all rounded off with a big after-party in one of the houses.

Clare loves being involved in the community, somehow managing to combine it with her busy working life in Warminster and family life. As if that wasn't enough, she is also heavily involved in helping with the running of the Church, which she is proud to say was the first in this Benefice to get Eco Church status. This involves using green electricity suppliers, low carbon heating, encouraging "repair, re-use, reduce and recycle" and maintaining a biodiverse churchyard, thanks to Jon and his strimmer. The net zero goal by 2030 is firmly in their sights.

Thanks to Clare for letting me shine a spotlight on her life in Charlton. As a previous editor of News and Notes for nearly 10 years, I can't think of a more apt subject for our spotlight.

Many thanks to the acclaimed director of Puss in Boots for proposing her. If you would like to propose someone for this series of articles about local people, please let us know at editor@newsandnotes.co.uk. It would be much appreciated!

Nick Stanger, co-editor.

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Chalke-Cueibet Partnership

In early February I visited Cueibet in South Sudan as a representative of the Chalke-Cueibet Partnership (CCP), a charity founded 13 years ago by Revd David Henley to support the work of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. It is part of a long standing association between the Diocese of Salisbury and the people of South Sudan.

South Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world and Cueibet one of it's poorest areas. It lies about 230 miles NW of the capital Juba in a semi-arid region with poor soil. There are no roads to many of the outlying communities. The road from Juba is unsurfaced and often impassable, there is no running water and no mains electricity although the mobile coverage is better than in some parts of Nunton!

Since the partnership was formed the CCP has successfully raised funds to support a number of projects. Money was raised for the first school, we provided sewing machines to enable the women to make money in the market, we supplied bicycles for the Bishop's pastors and perhaps most importantly financed further education to selected individuals to enable them to better serve their community.



Following unusually heavy rain a couple of years ago parts of the original school, which had been built to local standards, began to collapse. Sadly mud brick + rain = mud!

We have recently raised a significant sum of money to start the work of rebuilding the school to a much higher standard. The primary purpose of my visit was to

review progress on the first phase of the rebuilding.

The rebuilding the school is progressing well, all the work is done manually, no power tools or cement mixers. The building looks strongly built and should be rain proof.

The local community, teachers and pupils are very proud of their new school building and are looking forward to it's opening.

We now need to raise further funds to proceed with phase 2 and replace the second smaller building This is expected to cost about £11000. This phase of the project will not start before November as building can only take place during the dry season because mud bricks have to be baked in the hot sun,. The planning and fund raising must however start immediately..

(Continued on page 10)

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Since the partnership was established Bishop Elijah has been our primary point of contact in Cueibet and his wisdom and influence has been critical to the success of the work of the CCP. Sadly he has now reached retirement age. A secondary task of my visit was to establish new relationships with community and church leaders and in this way to

maintain confidence that the projects we support are important to the community and that the money we spend - your money if you are one of our donors - is well spent.

The identity of Bishop Elijah's successor is not yet known but I am confident that the CCP will be in a position to continue its programme of support to the community of Cueibet.

I spent a week in Cueibet, staying in one of their basic buildings and eating local food cooked over an open fire. As the day time temperature touched 40°C meetings were usually conducted under the shade of a mango tree and we ate after dark when it was cooler.

Life is not easy in Cueibet, they lack so much that we take for granted. The local community is however optimistic generous and resourceful and life here has improved significantly since my first visit 10 years ago. I have seen first hand the results of the work of the CCP and feel privileged to have been able to represent the Chalke Valley Community in Cueibet.

I'm glad to say that I did not feel unsafe or in anyway threatened during my time in Cueibet although transit through the capital Juba was a little intimidating.

I look forward to visiting my friends in South Sudan again to see the outcome of this current project

I should add that this visit was undertaken entirely at my own expense.

If you would like to support the work of the Chalke Cueibet Partnership please use the link below or via the following Lent Project flyer.



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A Trustee of the Chalke Cueibet Partnership

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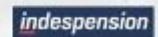
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News from the Pews

Odstock with Nunton

We had a very successful Lent Lunch in the Radnor Hall, well supported by folk from all 5 villages, huge thanks to Debby Underhill for organising it, the helpers and especially to Sherwood Elcock for his presentation about his recent travels to South Sudan. It was very moving to see how a lot of love, and some financial support, helps children to have a proper education.

We were lucky to have the Halcyon singers leading Evensong at St Andrews Nunton in March. There are currently study sessions on Monday afternoon at 3.30 during Lent, studying young leaders, and open to all in the Barker Room, and two more Wednesday evening talks held in Broadchalke school at 7pm. Wow! what a lot leading up to Easter!

We are looking forward to Easter. There's a night vigil on Thursday 17th April at 10pm at St Andrews. Please see the details of services on the back page, and Rev Maggie Metcalfe's announcement below about the Good Friday children's workshop. Our Easter Sunday morning service at 11am at St Andrews will be accompanied by an Easter Egg hunt.

Creativi-tea continues on the third Thursday afternoon in the Barker Room. Come and join us with cake and tea and lots of chat 2-4pm.

Charlton

Spring is underway in Charlton. We are looking forward to the Mothering Sunday Benefice Communion at 10am on 30 March at All Saints', where it is our custom to give posies to all the ladies. Refreshments will be served from 11am.

To celebrate Eastertide, we have a Palm Sunday Procession at 3pm on 13 April all along Lower Road, ending at All Saints', where there'll be a short service of hymns and prayers. This is a new venture for us and will be child-friendly. You are welcome to join in just for the Procession. On Easter Saturday 19 April, we have an Easter Eve service at 7pm, where we light a fire in the Churchyard and bring that light into the darkened Church. Parish Communion on Sunday 27 April at 9.30am will be the last service at Charlton taken by Jenny Taylor before she retires.

And last, but not least, is our Annual Quiz on Friday 25 April at the Radnor Hall. Make a team and pit your wits against your friends and neighbours!

Stephanie Elcock, Mary Boydcamps, Clare Penny, Churchwardens

History in the Making

Simnel Cake

Like many English traditions Mothering Sunday may have roots in a religious celebration, from as early as the 8th century. Always three weeks ahead of Easter, it was honouring not so much the actual nappy-changing part of motherhood, but the Virgin Mary and the 'Mother Church' where a person had been baptized and thought to have become a 'child of the church'. Gifts such as spring flowers, typically violets, and foodstuffs were taken to the church - and it served as a welcome respite feast day in the middle of the onerous fasting period of Lent. More recently, young women in service and living away from home all year round, would walk back to their families on Mothering Sunday for their one day's holiday in the year, bearing a simnel cake for their mothers. With dried fruits and nuts and good quality flour, this was a cake to help with feeding the family at home, packed with nourishment at a nutritional low point in the year. The cake has come to be associated now both with Mothering Sunday and with Easter- a time of new life, chicks, lambs, primroses- Spring!

Simnel cake is a fruit cake rather like a Christmas cake but it contains layers of marzipan (almond paste) which make it wonderfully moist, and no alcohol. Traditionally, it's decorated on top with 11 marzipan balls, which represented the 12 apostles of Jesus without Judas Iscariot. The name "simnel" is thought to derive from the Latin word "simila" meaning "fine flour", from which our word "semolina" also comes.

Much earlier, the Greeks and Romans had a similarly nutritious delicacy, comprised of flat-rolled semolina dough in multiple layers with goats' cheese, dried fruits, honey and nuts, all draped over each other to make a round, flat shape with a dome. They called it "flat cake" and classical writers like Cato describe it as delicious and in high demand. In Greek, "flat cake" translates as "placenta" and it is from this that the word for the human placenta derives, because of its round, domed shape which resembles the flat cake. FUN FACT- even if a bit gory!

If you want to spring into action and make a simnel cake, there's an easy recipe in our online version. (N&N doesn't have one for placenta cake, you might be glad to know.)

You can easily buy the marzipan in supermarkets, rather than making it.

You'll need an 18cm round cake tin, lined with baking paper on inside, ideally with 4-5 pages newspaper tied around the outside to help prevent scorching round the edges.

See the next page for the Recipe

Simnel Cake Recipe

175g butter or margarine
160g caster or soft brown sugar
3eggs
175g plain or wholemeal flour
50g ground almonds
1teaspoon baking powder
550g almond paste/marzipan
350g currants

100g sultanas
75g candied peel
1.5 teaspoons of cinnamon (7.5ml)
2 teaspoons of ground nutmeg (10ml)
3-4 tablespoons of apricot jam
A few tablespoons of Icing sugar
Juice of half a lemon (optional) if you want to drizzle some icing over the top of the finished cake

METHOD

Wash all the dried fruit & peel in a bowl of cold water, & dry with a clean tea-towel.

Sift the flour, baking powder & spices into a bowl and add the ground almonds.

Soften the butter/margarine (microwave it or warm over hot water) and beat together with the sugar using a wooden spoon or mixer until pale and creamy.

Mix in the eggs, one at a time – if it looks curdled, add a tablespoonful of flour

Fold in the flour mixture using a large metal spoon, or use your mixer

Fold in the dried fruit

Divide the almond paste into 3 and roll out one portion into a round the same size as the cake. Do this between two layers of baking paper or using sifted icing sugar, to prevent it sticking to the surfaces and the rolling pin.

Place half the cake mixture in the lined tin, smooth the surface and cover with the round of marzipan, then add remaining cake mixture

Bake at 170C/325F (150C/300F fan oven) for 60minutes, then lower the temperature to 150C (130C/275F fan oven) for a further 90-120mins, until golden on the top & a skewer inserted into the middle comes out with no residue of cake mixture. If the cake starts to burn on the top during cooking, cover with a layer of foil/baking paper.

Cool the cake in the tin

During the cooking time, roll out half the remaining marzipan into another cake-sized round, and form 11 balls with the rest.

Brush the cooled cake with melted apricot jam & place the circle of marzipan on the top, making wavy edges which drop down the sides of the cake if you wish.

Place the marzipan balls round the top edge using a dab of jam as 'glue'.

Either make some icing by sifting icing sugar with a few teaspoons of lemon juice, and drizzle on top of the cake to decorate, or place the cake under a hot grill for a few seconds, to get pretty golden patches. Watch very carefully to avoid burning.

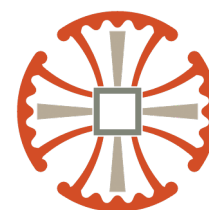
NB this contains nuts – if allergic to nuts, substitute ground almonds for the same weight of flour and try sunflower seed paste instead of the marzipan.

Other allergies can easily be accommodated in fruit cake recipes. Sometimes cooking times are longer with the substitutions used, especially for the egg. For gluten-free, use gram flour (from chick-peas) and a teaspoon extra of baking powder; for dairy-free, use margarine in place of butter; for egg-free use 1 tablespoon (15mls) of chia seeds per egg, soaked for 15mins in 2.5 tablespoons (37.5mls) of water or 1 tblspn (15mls) milled flax seeds in 3 tblspns 45mls of water. Simple!



Church Services

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



April 2025

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

6 April 5th Sunday of Lent	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service	Britford Odstock	Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor
13 April PALM SUNDAY	9.30am 3.00pm	Family Communion Procession & Sing Hosanna	Nunton Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S Ruth H-S
17 April Maundy Thursday	7.00pm 1000pm	Passover Supper Night Vigil	Radnor Hall Nunton	Ruth H-S Ruth H-S
18 April Good Friday	2.00pm	An hour at The Cross	Odstock	Maggie Metcalfe
Easter Eve	7.00pm	Easter Eve Service	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S
20 April Easter Day	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Communion	Britford Nunton	Ruth H-S Maggie Metcalfe
27 April 2nd Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service	Charlton All Saints Nunton	Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor
4 May 3rd Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am	Parish Communion Family Service	Britford Odstock	Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor

Clergy Team

Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipleay:	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 325 825
Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead:	07890 262 376



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – April 2025



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

<p>6 April 5th Sunday of Lent</p>	<p>9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am</p>	<p>Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Service Morning Service</p>	<p>Broad Chalke Britford Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock Bishopstone</p>	<p>Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Alison Waterhouse Biddy Trahair Ruth H-S Adrian Taylor Sally Leaver</p>
<p>13 April PALM SUNDAY</p> 	<p>9.30am 9.30am 10.30am 11.00am 11.00am 3.00pm 3.00pm</p>	<p>Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW) Worship Together Parish Communion (CW) All Age Service Evening Prayer Procession & Sing Hosanna!</p>	<p>Bowerchalke Nunton Broad Chalke Hub Homington Alvediston Fifield Bavant Charlton All Saints</p>	<p>Kate Woolven Ruth H-S Lay Led Jenny Taylor Biddy Trahair Biddy Trahair Ruth H-S</p>
<p>14, 15, 16 April</p>	<p>8.00pm</p>	<p>Holy Week Compline</p>	<p>Coombe Bissett</p>	<p>Clergy</p>
<p>17 April MAUNDY THURSDAY</p>	<p>5.00pm 7.00pm 7.00pm 10.00pm</p>	<p>Commemoration of the Last Supper (CW) Passover Supper Agape Meal Night Vigil</p>	<p>Bishopstone Bodenham Radnor Hall Broad Chalke Hub Nunton</p>	<p>Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Alison Waterhouse Ruth H-S</p>
<p>18 April GOOD FRIDAY</p> 	<p>11.00am 12 noon 12 noon 1.00pm 2.00pm</p>	<p>St John's Passion Words of the Cross The Passion Devotions Reflections on Good Friday The Passion Devotions</p>	<p>Alvediston Berwick St John Bishopstone Broad Chalke Odstock</p>	<p>Lay Led Alison Waterhouse Lay Led Lay Led Maggie Metcalfe</p>
<p>19 April EASTER EVE</p>	<p>6.00pm 7.00pm</p>	<p>Easter Fire & Communion Easter Eve Service</p>	<p>Homington Charlton All Saints</p>	<p>Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S</p>
<p>20 April EASTER DAY</p> 	<p>6.00am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am</p>	<p>Dawn Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Communion (CW)</p>	<p>Lodge Farmhouse Broad Chalke Bowerchalke Bishopstone Britford Coombe Bissett Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Nunton</p>	<p>Ruth H-S Alison Waterhouse Kate Woolven Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Jenny Taylor Alison Waterhouse Kate Woolven Maggie Metcalfe</p>
<p>27 April 2nd Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am 6.00pm</p>	<p>Parish Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Family Service Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)</p>	<p>Charlton All Saints Broad Chalke Nunton Bishopstone Alvediston Berwick St John Homington</p>	<p>Jenny Taylor Ruth H-S Adrian Taylor Jenny Taylor Alison Waterhouse Lay Led Rhoddy Voremberg</p>
<p>4 May 3rd Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>9.30am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am 11.00am</p>	<p>Family Communion (CW) Parish Communion (CW) Holy Communion (BCP) Morning Prayer (BCP) Parish Communion (CW) Family Service</p>	<p>Broad Chalke Britford Berwick St John Ebbesbourne Wake Coombe Bissett Odstock</p>	<p>Maggie Metcalfe Jenny Taylor Alison Waterhouse Biddy Trahair Jenny Taylor Adrian Taylor</p>

Ministry Team: Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shiplee: 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,
 Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoddy Voremberg: 07785 304142, James Wardroper: 01722 718152



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

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Address:.....

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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

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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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!

Learn to **LOVE** your technology

Join us for a cuppa,
cake and support with
your gadget



Wednesday 7 May 2025
10.00am - 12.00pm

(45-60 minute sessions available)

Redlynch Village Hall, Lover, SP5 2PG



Join us for one to one support for
what YOU need



Free of charge - bring your phone,
laptop or tablet



Refreshments provided

*Book!
Now!*

Contact Karlene Jammeh:

01722 434437



Wiltshire Council



Wiltshire Library Meeting Pods

Library pods are comfortable, private and accessible, accommodating up to 4 people and equipped with a video conference enabled computer.



The pods are free of charge meeting spaces for:

- Public Health specialists, approved health and wellbeing partners and social prescribers to meet residents in the community face to face or online in a non-clinical setting.
- Residents to meet with staff from other Wiltshire Council services eg. Housing or Revenues and Benefits.
- Virtual appointments for job interviews, meetings with the Job Centre, Citizens Advice, GP's or hospitals.

Other organisations may be able to use the Pod for a charge and depending on availability.

Pod meeting spaces are available at:

- Salisbury Library - 01722 324145
- Chippenham Library - 01249 650536
- Trowbridge Library - 01225 716700
- Melksham Library - 01225 702039
- Corsham Library - 01249 468490
- Wootton Bassett Library - 01793 853249

Pre-booking is advised.

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



Register **FREE** at starsappeal.org

Or scan the QR code
Entry closes 29th June



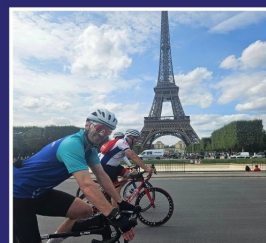
Salisbury Hospital's Charity

Registered Charity: 1052284



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

Police Crime Commissioner



Over the past few years, the issues surrounding shoplifting have become more prevalent in the news as shoplifting has become more organised and more brazen, with offenders often working in groups, seemingly not worried about being seen.

I've been told by shop managers that their staff have been assaulted when they've tried to intervene, and they are writing off thousands of pounds in stock.

My new Police and Crime Plan focuses on retail crime, and how we tackle the underlying causes and associated anti-social behaviour. This can make our main shopping centres, which should feel relaxed and inviting, less attractive and for some people, intimidating.

We also have to look at the financial costs to retail owners. For small and medium businesses, the disruption caused by shoplifting can be crippling. Whilst I know there are some people who'll say that the larger stores can afford to absorb the loss, but according to the Centre for Retail Research, shoplifting adds £133 to the cost of the average UK shopping bill each year.

In Salisbury, we have piloted a Business and Retail Crime Reduction Partnership, which links businesses with the police and local authorities, so we can build on the existing relationships we have, and foster new, stronger ties with the businesses and retailers in the city. We're now in the process of expanding the partnerships to other towns in the county.

We are also looking at ways to make it easier for businesses to report crimes to Wiltshire Police, so that a more intelligence rich picture can be built of where the shoplifting gangs are operating and the tactics they are using.

We have also funded anti-social behaviour (ASB) wardens to be a visible presence in our largest town and city centres, and ASB hotspot funding will continue for a further year, which means there will be extra police officer and PCSO patrols in the areas deemed to be most affected by anti-social behaviour.

By taking these measures and tackling the root causes of the anti-social behaviour which blights our commercial centres, I believe we are taking positive steps to making Wiltshire and Swindon a safer place to live and work.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire

Police Crime Commissioner



Those who live and work in Wiltshire and Swindon should expect to see more Wiltshire Police improvements over the next four years as the new Police and Crime Plan comes into play next month and sets out the vision and priorities for Wiltshire Police to make Wiltshire safer.

An in-depth campaign focusing on each priority in Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson's #MakingWiltshireSafer Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029 will run over the next four weeks, as the plan becomes operational.

Residents can expect to see:

- Increased public engagement and police visibility
- Reduced violence and serious harm by targeted interventions and proactive policing
- Robust and targeted policing of rural crime, business crime, antisocial behaviour and road safety as we address crimes that matter most to local communities
- Improved victim journey once a crime is reported and reduced reoffending
- Improved reporting mechanisms and decreased response times

The plan, which follows detailed consultation and engagement with residents, operational advice from policing, local stakeholders and commissioned services, aims to tackle key safety challenges while ensuring an effective, efficient, frontline policing service which is highly visible, protects the vulnerable and encourages greater trust and engagement with communities.

Mr Wilkinson said: “My priority is to ensure Wiltshire remains a safe place to live, work, and visit. But we must ensure that residents feel safe, it’s simply not enough to tell them that they are safe.

(Continued on page 32)

(Continued from page 31)

“This campaign outlines what residents should expect to see over the next four years as the plan builds on the significant improvements made by Wiltshire Police in recent years and the previous Police and Crime Plan.

“The plan has been shaped through detailed consultation with you, our residents, local stakeholders, and policing professionals with both local, regional and national input.

“Together, we have created a plan that addresses the key challenges our communities face while continuing to improve policing services across Wiltshire.

“Both I, and my office, have been working closely with Chief Constable Catherine Roper, to ensure Wiltshire Police has made significant strides, particularly in frontline visibility and improved outcomes for victims.

“However, there’s still more work to be done. Transforming investigations, supporting victims, and providing a better public experience remain amongst the top priorities so that residents can see these changes first hand and actually feel safer within their communities.”

Wiltshire Police Chief Constable Catherine Roper said: “I welcome the Commissioner’s refreshed Police and Crime Plan - and I fully agree with its strategic priorities. I am held to account for the delivery of the plan, and at its heart are the voices and concerns of our communities whom we serve.

“Wiltshire Police has made progress in improving our service and I am committed to continuing these improvements and ensuring that we are Keeping Wiltshire Safe.”

The four strategic priorities of the Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 include:

1. A Police Service that meets community needs – emphasising responsive and visible policing with a focus on public trust.
2. Reducing violence and serious harm – proactively tackling domestic abuse, sexual violence, and serious organised crime and violence.
3. Tackle crimes that matter to local communities – including anti-social behaviour, rural crime, and road safety.
4. Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice – ensuring victims feel supported throughout the justice process.

The plan was ratified by the Police and Crime Panel in November 2024 and first published on the OPCC website in December.

You can read more about the #MakingWiltshireSafer Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029 [here](#).

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

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Next Deadline:

14 April 2025
For May edition

Paper copy printed at Speedyprint Salisbury