CHANGE

For my first foray into the editor’s realm of the News and Notes, I imagined it might be pertinent to pontificate on change. Firstly, my fellow editors and I wanted to rapturously thank our outgoing Editor very much for his boundless editorship - Jeremy Metcalfe we salute you! As he, hopefully, changes down a gear, Anna, Orpheus, Jonny and I hope to majestically change up a gear and do the villages proud. When the time comes for The News and Notes to fall through your letterboxes we want to hear fighting and smashing of occasional objects as you strive to get to the copy first (videos welcome, they can go on the website!). In the words of the late great Tupac Shakur “But things change, and that’s the way it is”. So they do, and here we are!

As a counsellor, my contact with people is predominantly based on change. I love change - tirelessly searching for things to throw in the air to see how they fall, as well as things I can change. I often move furniture around whilst the family are out, just so I can get them in on some of the joy!

As one of the new editors (not sure if you knew?) I thought I’d contribute to the content, then having thoroughly enjoyed doing so, we collectively decided we’d pass it out to you, too; the glorious reader. This is your village publication, after all! Is there something you’d like to ask, a burning question you think about constantly and would like to put to the Villages? Do you, your child or indeed anyone you know fancy putting pen or paintbrush to paper so that we here at N&N HQ can shine a light on this boundless talent? Is there something you’d like to see in the News and Notes that isn’t there already? Can’t possibly be, but let’s go wild with imagining! Send us an email and let’s get this News and Notes humming like an idling engine tuned to perfection. I can see the @editor inbox now, fecund with emails titled “my burning questions” and the like. Tune in next month for both questions and answers and boundless talent!

Marelka Hartley - Co-Editor

Turn the page to find out more about the new co-editors of News and Notes...
New Team at N&N

Who better to introduce the new co-editors than their other halves...

Jonny Hartley (introduced by Marelka) - You might well know Jonny from his blockbuster roles in the Panto, Ebblefest, and Dancing on Ice (aka New Year’s Eve Odstock v Nunton Football match). Often heard before seen, at least this is how I keep track of him in the wider world, when Jonny isn't doing his bit for the villages, he can be caught hoisting the sail on a boat, camper vanning his way around the world with family, or frustratedly shouting after his Spaffador along the highways and byways of Wiltshire. Jonny loves a chat and spins a tremendous yarn, always keen for new ways to avoid chores and feeding a limitless capacity for good old-fashioned fun. Find him in the Raddy of a Friday eve should you have any complaints. I have no doubt that with Jonny at the co-helm of the good ship News and Notes, we’ll be sailing into success. Behind every good man...

Orpheus Alexander (introduced by Anna) - If you ever see Orpheus crouching in a hedge or deep in a herbaceous border, don’t call the police; he’s a gardener. He’s quite the plantsman actually and knows lots of the Latin names for flowers, which is sometimes impressive and sometimes annoying when you’re just trying to enjoy an episode of Gardeners World. He lives in Odstock with his perfect wife (that’s me), two kids and a scruffbag dog. Originally hailing from hippy parents in South Africa, he’s as musical as his name would suggest and we run a theatre company together. He’s an organised fellow with an eye for detail so thank goodness he’s on the new News and Notes team. Only downside is, when he and Jonny are together they tend to lose focus and get a bit silly. Not to worry, we won’t let them sit next to each other during official News and Notes meetings.

Marelka Hartley (introduced by Jonny) - Long overdue a cape, if she’s not almost literally rescuing children on the internet, she’s either talking sanguine and calming sense to kids in schools, or looking after her actual children, her dog that believes it’s a child, or me, who doesn’t think he is, shouldn’t be, but is a child. A huge fan of my incompetent cooking and cleaning, her tolerance for disappointment knows no limits. Village appearances to date include steering the helm in the panto kitchen, the fag-packet first draft of the Ebblefest logo, and boundary-free enjoyment of tequila in the Raddy. Dream night out would probably involve Elvis singing Sweet Caroline in the style of Shaggy, provided it was all finished by 7pm for an early night. I think we’ve keenly accepted that Marelka is the driving force behind anything that we actually get done and is the reason I haven’t managed to force-through a name change to Nudes and Nose.

Anna Harriott (introduced by Orpheus) - Anna moved to Odstock when she was 12, it was called Normalstock back then but they had to rename it shortly after her arrival. Anna is an actor who trained at the prestigious Dartington School of Arts and specialises in puppetry, theatre devising and script writing. She was the Arts Programmer for the Larmer Tree Festival and now programmes for Pound Arts Centre. Annoyingly, Anna is also a great surfer, horse-rider, husband chooser, photographer and mother. The only thing that makes her bearable to live with is her shockingly bad sense of direction, although this too gets irritating when she’s in the garden and can’t find her way back inside. All in all she's a wonderful human and just what we need to keep the good ship News and Notes on an even keel.
Can you tell us about your previous work and when you were ordained?

Following a career in medicine, and spending the last 20 years specialising in the management of outbreaks of infectious diseases (including the management of the first case of monkeypox in the UK), I was ordained by the Bishop of Portsmouth in 2019. I served my Curacy in Wickham and Shedfield in Hampshire and last year I was ready for a new challenge when I believe that God called me to the Chalke Valley. I already had links with Salisbury, as my daughter was a chorister at Salisbury Cathedral and I previously lived near Sherborne, so it has been fantastic to move to the Chalke Valley.

How long have you lived in Nunton?
I moved to Nunton in September 2022 when I was appointed as Team Vicar for the Chalke Valley Benefice.

What were your first impressions of the community?
My first impressions of the community in Nunton and the Chalke Valley were that it is a very welcoming community and we have been made to feel very much at home. Neighbours have helped in returning my ‘escape artist’ dogs and making sure that I had water when the pipes froze.

Although I have only been in the village for four months, in the nicest sense, it feels like I have been here much longer!

I particularly enjoyed being part of the Nunton Review and meeting everyone when serving food in the interval each night and look forward to getting involved in more community events.

What impact do you hope to have as Team Vicar - Chalke Valley Benefice?
One of the joys of being a priest in the Church of England is that everyone who lives in the parish, whether they come to church or not, is one of my parishioners. I hope to become known in the community so that everybody feels that they can come and talk to me and that I can gradually get to know you all. I love going into the school and being greeted by children when they see me out and about.

I want to see our churches as central points in the community and to welcome everyone to them; whether that is for a Sunday Service, for special occasions or as a venue to hold a concert or other event.

Continued on the next page...
What do you think your biggest challenge will be in achieving the above?

In the Chalke Valley Benefice there are 13 churches, spread from Nunton in the east to Berwick St John in the west, so it is quite a big patch to cover; not least because at the moment there are only two priests in the team following the retirement of Revd Catherine Blundell earlier this month. The geography of the Benefice makes slightly harder to get to know people in all the villages but obviously I have an advantage in Nunton as I live here. However, please do let me know if there are things that you think I should know about.

Do you have hobbies and is one your favourite?

My daughter complains that I don’t spend enough time on my hobbies, although I am making a conscious effort to be a little better at this. I enjoy music and reading and going for walks along the beach at Barton-on-Sea.

This month, much to my daughter’s surprise, I have taken up a new hobby and I am learning to play tennis for the first time in my life. I don’t think that you will see me at Wimbledon any time soon, but I am really enjoying it.

What is your most prized possession?

That’s a difficult one! If I have to go for an object I would probably choose a painting of a boy and girl running through a poppy field because the children in the picture remind me of my children. Although children are not possessions, my children are the most precious things in my life.

What's your favourite snack?

Good cheese and biscuits and a nice glass of red wine!

What have you read lately and do you have a book recommendation?

One of my ways of relaxing on my day off is to go to the charity shop, pick up a book and retreat to another world for a while.

However, I am currently reading ‘Life of Pi’ by Yann Martel. This may not have been my first choice of book but I am reading it to support my daughter as she is studying this for GCSE. I am only one third of the way through it and have been fascinated by the discussion of religion but I am still not entirely sure that I would recommend it - maybe by the time I get to the end I will!

If you could turn water into wine, what would you go for?

Probably a nice Merlot!

In the inevitable event of a zombie apocalypse, whose house would you go to for refuge and why?

My friend Sarah – she is someone who I can always rely on and also someone who I can laugh with. It also helps that her children and mine are best friends.
I’ve been asked to contribute a little something to the monthly News and Notes by the new team, Marelka, Jonny, Anna and Orpheus. ‘Focus on food’, they suggested, which, as that’s my job and a job I thoroughly enjoy, I’m happy to oblige.

As we’re in March, it’s always the time of year to get deliriously excited about wild garlic, and why not, it’s a pungent root which pushes through in mid-March, flowering at the beginning of April. The leaves are best eaten before the flower appears, which is slightly galling as the flower is edible too and equally delicious.

You won’t find it in Waitrose or any supermarket for that matter, it’s a product you have to forage for and find for yourself. I have a number of sites I harvest, which shall remain secret, firstly because I wouldn’t want them to be stripped and secondly, because they grow in ancient woodland and as we’re in South Wiltshire, the land is probably private, and I wouldn’t want to be banned from them. What the eye doesn’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve after, I think the saying goes.

The leaves are deep green and strong in flavour, so you don’t need many, thrown into a mixed leaf salad to create impact, liven up your taste buds and brighten up your lives. They are equally useful blanched and transformed into soups and risottos or bashed into a garlic pesto. Aficionados devote March to stocking the pantry with garlic leaf products, much the same as January is devoted to Seville Orange Marmalade.

My favourite dish at this time of year is a recipe from Nathan Outlaw, ‘Cuttlefish fritters, wild garlic soup’. Cuttlefish are caught all along the South coast and the dish is a wonderful combination of flavours from the South coast and the South downs.

If you want to make it yourself, you’ll need the book outlaws.co.uk/product/restaurant-nathan-outlaw But if you can’t be bothered with the fritters, just make the soup. Happy slurping.

**WILD GARLIC SOUP**

**Serves 4**

Ingredients: 25ml butter or olive oil, or a mix of both. 150 gm onion peeled and finely chopped. 300gm potato peeled and finely diced. 1 litre vegetable stock, homemade if possible or Knorr stock pots are quite good if not. 250gm wild garlic leaves, salt and pepper.

Heat a saucepan and add butter/oil. When it’s hot, add the onion and cook for a couple of minutes without colouring. Add the potato, then the vegetable stock. Simmer 10 minutes or until the potato is cooked. Tip the contents of the pan into a blender.

Place a frying pan over a high heat, add olive oil and sauté wild garlic leaves in batches for 1 minute until wilted. Add to the blender, season to taste and blitz until smooth. Serve in warmed bowls, it couldn’t be easier. You could make some croutons to scatter over it or just eat it with buttered toast.

If you want to see what else has been happening at Bread and Flowers this month, head over to www.breadandflowers.co.uk/newsletters
March is not the best month to be in the garden. It can be a bit confused; warm in the sun, freezing cold in the shade. It's no July, or August. Not even a May. But it is the month that my favourite scented shrub is reaching its crescendo. I talk of course about Daphne. Named after one of the characters from Scooby Doo (I believe). It's flowers are beautiful and its scent is one of the very best in the garden.

At a time of the year where we finally start to leave the house again, having a Daphne planted somewhere between your front door and your car can put a spring in your step, even if you're only nipping out to Nisa.

My top three: Daphne odora, Daphne mezereum f.alba (This one prefers chalky soil!) or Daphne bholua.

As a rule, Daphnes don’t like being disturbed and aren’t huge fans of living in pots (although if you must, make sure you use a nice big one with plenty of loamy compost). You can plant in Spring, preferably somewhere that gets a decent amount of direct sun but not all day. This is usually west or east facing. They like decent, moist soil with good drainage. Oh and lastly, as with many plants and shrubs, prune after flowering if it’s getting a bit big.

It would be remiss of me, to the point of criminal negligence, to not mention the beautiful transformation that happens in March. I'm not talking about Anna finally washing and brushing her hair after the long months of hibernation, but rather the daffodils and crocuses putting on their incredible spring display. Even though I know it's coming, each year I am blown away by the transformation of our villages and the surrounding countryside.

Things I'm doing in the garden this month include: top dressing containers with fresh compost, cutting back any perennials that I've left from last year and weeding if needed (although done cautiously as there are often new bulbs peeking out). March is also a great time to do those jobs I just don't get time for once the summer weeding starts: tidying the tools shed, sorting the compost bays and making sure tools are sharp and oiled.

Happy gardening!

Orpheus
**WI News**

Members met at the Radnor Hall on 13 February 2023. Anne Waight was thanked for her arrangement of Spring flowers. She also won The Flower of the Month competition.

Regular group business was updated as were County events. We were reminded that subscriptions of £46 would be due in April. A card reader will be available. Cheques are still accepted.

Members were informed that the Jubilee tree had been moved to the edge of the field to be less vulnerable to activities. Volunteers were asked to knit Trauma Teddies and New Baby hats. Donation boxes continued to be filled for the Food Bank. Members filled in a WI Federation questionnaire to help with future planning.

Our speaker was Forensic Policeman Ken Walls, a former Scenes of Crime Officer. Ken joined the police force in 1962 and in 1969 began specialising in Forensic Photography and Fingerprints. We were given information on all aspects of Forensic Policing. He compared Forensics in the past to the more sophisticated, scientific and technical modern approach. Ken attended numerous crime scenes throughout his career including the Hungerford shootings in 1987.

He was once called to the Queen Mother’s apartments to investigate a footprint on a window ledge and was amazed when she offered him a lift when his police car wouldn’t start. Ken later became the Curator of Thames Valley Police Museum.

The next meeting is on 13 March and will be the AGM. The speaker will be Erica Kirkland on Handbells, Ringing and participation.

**Mobile Phone Reception Petition**

Piers Nicholson has organised a survey of all the houses in Nunton to find out whether people get good reception. He hopes that the results of the survey will enable us to persuade the phone providers or a public authority to improve reception in areas where it is not good at present. The survey has the support of the Parish Council. Volunteers have been visiting door to door, but if you have not had an opportunity to complete it, please email piersnic@gmail.com. There is also a petition, in the Radnor Arms in Nunton, for a Vodafone mast to enhance mobile signal throughout the villages started by Jim Baird’s stepfather, should anyone want to sign it.

**Announcement**

Anthony and Hatty Hillier are delighted to announce the birth of their 3rd Granddaughter, India Florence, on the 1st of February, to Olivia and Charles Hillier, a sister for William, all doing well.
As we are moving into Spring and start to see colours changing around us, so you will see some changing colours in the churches. During the Christmas season we dress the altar in white in celebration of Christ’s birth, but now we are in the Lent season, we have purple as a sign of our repentance.

Lent officially starts on Ash Wednesday but you might be more familiar with Shrove Tuesday or even Mardi Gras as a celebration time before the solemnity of Lent. During Lent, our group of churches traditionally join to raise money for a charitable cause and this year we will be supporting CRESS to provide training and seeds to our South Sudanese friends who are refugees in Uganda, enabling them to become more self-sufficient.

In our parish you will have the opportunity to support this cause by attending a Lent Lunch at the Radnor Hall on 11 March (please see advert).

We will also be holding a Lent Course written by our Vicar Ruth - “Who do you say I am?” - on Thursday evenings staring on 2 March at 7pm in the Barker Room. Please contact Ruth (revdruth@outlook.com) if you are interested in attending.

We would very much like to invite you all to join us on Mothering Sunday 19 March at 9.30am for a communion service at Odstock Church. And of course, Easter will be here before we know it and details of our services will be in the April edition of News and Notes.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham will be held on Thu 30 March at 7pm in the Barker Room. All are welcome to attend.

As church wardens we are very pleased that both churches have had their Quinquennial inspections (statutory five year checks by church architects) and have minimal works required. This is an encouraging result of all the support that the local community has given to the churches. Thank you all.

Stephanie Elcock – Churchwarden St Andrew’s, Nunton.
Mary Boyd Camps – Churchwarden St Mary’s, Odstock.

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CRESS FUND RAISING EVENT FOR LENT

See flyers and e-News&Notes for more details

East End of the Benefice Lent Lunch
12 noon - 2pm in the Radnor Hall
£8 for soup and Ploughman’s lunch
Book with Debbie Underhill
dunderhill942@btinternet.com or 01722 329 769

Hear more about the work of CRESS from Caroline Lamb
### Church Services
**For Britford, Charlton All Saints, Odstock and Nunton with Bodenham**

**March 2023**

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

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

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To receive the **Chalke Valley Benefice bulletin**, please email Emily, who will add you to the weekly Bulletin distribution: **thechalkevalleychurches@gmail.com**

### Clergy Team:

**Team Rector ~ Vacancy:**

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

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

**Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead:** 07890 262 376
## Church Services

### Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – March 2023

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

**During Lent, a short service of Communion will be held each Wednesday at 12noon:**
- 1st March - St Mary's, Alvediston
- 8th March - St Martin's, Fifield Bavant
- 15th March - St John the Baptist, Bishopstone
- 22nd March - St Mary's, Homington
- 29th March - St Mary's, Odstock

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<td>Morning Prayer (BCP)</td>
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**Ministry Team:**
- Team Rector ~ vacancy
- Team Vicars ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022, The Revd Canon Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081
- Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

**Assisting Ministers:**
- The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 01722 420942
- The Revd Kate Roselyn Smith: 01722 780011, The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395

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caroline.tamb@cressuk.org  |  01722 780789  |  cressuk.org

CHARITY NUMBER 1141343

Issue 558 - March 2023  11
Saturday 4th March
7.00-9.00pm

Musical fundraising evening
Knighton Manor, Broadchalke SP5 5EB

Come and enjoy fabulous singing, with wine & nibbles, at Knighton Manor

• Camilla Foster Mitchell singing
• a short talk by Bishop Joseph Aba
• a brief history of the 16th century venue

£30 per ticket (inc a glass of wine)

Tickets from: cressuk.org/musical-evening/
Or email: caroline.lamb@cressuk.org

Friday 10th March
6.30-8.00pm

Gathering with Bishop Joseph
Broadchalke Village Hall SP5 5DN

This informative social evening gives you the opportunity to speak with Bishop Joseph Aba

Bishop Joseph has oversight of 117,000 refugees across several refugee camps in Northern Uganda. Over half of these people attend his churches and he confirmed 2,000 people in 2022 into the Anglican church.

Free to come along

Find out more about our events here: cressuk.org/category/events-fundraising/
Two Pantry Projects in Salisbury working together

Can you help them?

For over a year now both Your Salisbury Pantry, the social supermarket on Catherine Street and The Pantry Partnership, a local social enterprise based at 'Pantry in the Park' (the former Bowls Club) in Victoria Park, have been working together. Both projects connect people with food, but in different ways, making them part of the tapestry of food projects across the city. The organisations are wholly different, but both involve incredible volunteers who help to make sure people across the city get access to good food.

Your Salisbury Pantry focuses on giving people on low incomes access to low-cost food shopping and was set up by the Salisbury City Council Communities Team in 2021 as a way to sustain the food response that was run from City Council community centres during the pandemic.

Separately, The Pantry Partnership, which has been running for over 10 years has a key aim to save surplus food from going into the bin and to bring people together to cook and share food, particularly those who are isolated in our community. In a seemingly perfect partnership, one of The Pantry Partnership's projects enables volunteers to come together to cook, chill and freeze meals made from surplus which Your Salisbury Pantry stocks in their freezers for their clients.

Both projects require the hard work and dedication of many volunteers and both are always looking for people to join their volunteer teams and of course, with such similar names it can be confusing! Fiona Ollerhead, Director of The Pantry Partnership and Sarah Gregson, Communities Manager for the City Council want to help people find the right project for them.

One of the Leaders of the Council, Cllr Victoria Charleston, said "Your Salisbury Pantry is a fantastic scheme which can only operate with the help of the amazing volunteers. Whether they are a Van Driver, Shop Assistant or Donations Assistant, volunteers play a fantastic and vital role in supporting the community and helping members get the food that they need. With flexible hours available, we are always grateful for those who can spare some time at the social supermarket."

Fiona Ollerhead, Founder and Director of The Pantry Partnership, said "We are always looking for brilliant volunteers to help us in our kitchen - general support and washers up always welcome, and if you're a chef we'd love to bring you on board to help out too. We have all sorts of roles where you can practice or lend out your skills and one of the most important things for us is making sure volunteers have a great time when they come to us. We are volunteer led and people help as it suits them, doing jobs that suit them whether that be social media, cooking, organising, collecting or delivering our surplus food; everyone is welcomed with open arms. We've just finished doing cooking workshops at Bemerton St Michael's and have more to come as well as ongoing similar events with other groups in the next few months, we continue to make our healthy nutritious frozen meals (made available via the social supermarket), our surplus jams and pickles can be found for sale at the Tourist Information Office and we also do catering for community and corporate events – all made from surplus by our brilliant volunteers."

Article continued on next page...
Residents of Salisbury are invited to the city's Annual Charter Service that marks the 5th anniversary of the Salisbury incident

Salisbury's Annual Charter Service is taking place on Sunday 5 March 2023 at 10.15am as part of Charter Sunday and residents are welcome to attend.

The service will celebrate the signing of the Salisbury Charter in 1227 and the links between Council, Church and the wider community and will take place at the Parish Church of St Thomas and St Edmund's, Salisbury. It is open to the public and Salisbury's Mayor and City Councillors will also be attending.

This year's service coincides with the 5th anniversary of the Salisbury incident. This will offer an opportunity for remembrance and reflection on those events that happened in 2018, whilst focusing on how the city has grown together, got stronger, and has progressed on from the many incidents it has encountered over the years.

As part of Charter Sunday, the Mayor and City Councillors will process from Salisbury Guildhall at 10am to St. Thomas' Church for the annual service which will mark 796 years since the Charter was signed.

If you are unable to attend, the service will also be livestreamed and can be viewed here on the day: https://www.youtube.com/@stthomasschurchsalisbury8072/streams

The history of the Charter is a fascinating and ancient story; New Sarum was made a City by King Henry III in 1227 by a Charter confirming the relocation of the cathedral from Sarisberie and establishing the Charter Market and the annual Charter Fair – both of which remain an vibrant part of the City's life.

Two Pantry Projects in Salisbury working together – Can you help them?

Continued...

Your Salisbury Pantry is currently providing low cost shops to between 75 and 90 households per week and they hope to open for extended hours next month, which will need the support of more volunteers! The Pantry Partnership is able to do as many cooking projects as they have the volunteers for and have more in the pipeline.

To help either of these fantastic food projects, contact them directly.

The Pantry Partnership: info@thepantrypartnership.org or find us online or on social media.
Your Salisbury Pantry: salisburypantry@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk
We would love to hear from you.
Local charity Alabaré supports those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These incredibly difficult times mean that many more people are facing huge difficulties trying to keep their tenancies or homes, or successfully manage their mental and physical wellbeing. Sadly for some, they could end up losing their home, their safety and become homeless. Alabaré is determined to be there for as long as people need their support out of crisis.

On the evening of Friday 10 March, Alabaré will be holding their 15th sponsored BIG Sleep in the cloisters of Salisbury Cathedral. Participants will sleep on the cold, stone flagstones and will hear about the work Alabaré does to support those who are homeless and vulnerable in Salisbury so that they can come off the street for good.

As well as raising funds for Alabaré’s homelessness services, this community event is always enjoyable, thought-provoking and humbling and it would be wonderful to be joined by as many members of the local community as possible!

You will be in good company as this year the Dean of the Cathedral will be taking part as well as members of the local community, churches and schools! You can find more information on Alabaré’s website or email Alabaré’s Church Engagement Officer Helen Inglis on h.inglis@alabare.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to this amazing event!
Nearly £60,000 has been raised for the Stars Appeal, Salisbury District Hospital’s Charity, at its Bookshop and through bucket collections at the Hospital.

The amounts, which were raised during 2022, were revealed during a special cheque and certificate presentation attended by some of the bookshop and bucket collection volunteers alongside Stars Appeal’s Hospital Ambassadors.

Last year, the Bookshop raised £36,481.30, which brings its all-time total since it first opened in 2003 to £597,258.58.

Meanwhile, the Stars Appeal bucket collectors in the Hospital collected £20,752.27 last year from generous supporters.

Dave Cates, of the Stars Appeal, said: “We want to say a big thank you to all of our bookshop and bucket collecting volunteers for their incredible efforts which make such a difference, not just through the funds that they raise, but

(Continued on page 17)
also the support they give to patients and their families who come to Hospital, often facing difficult times.

“Thank you to everyone who donates to our bucket collectors and supports our bookshop. The funds raised are a vital step towards the £1 million we are aiming to raise this year to fund projects supporting patients and staff here at the Hospital.”

Projects the Stars Appeal are looking to fund for this year include a £142,000 echocardiogram machine for the Cardiac Investigation Unit to reduce waiting times for patients awaiting diagnosis, £55,000 for new scalp cooling machines to help reduce hair loss for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy on the Pembroke Unit, a £20,000 brain function monitor for babies on the Neonatal Unit, and a £15,000 mechanical CPR machine.

These are in addition to the ongoing projects the Stars Appeal fund including support for cancer patients, a 24/7 chaplaincy service, a staff counsellor, and free Wi-Fi.

Thank you for your support
My annual budget proposed a raise the amount of money you pay for the policing part of your council tax, known as the precept, by 6.2%.

For an average Band D household, that equates to £15 a year or £1.25 a month. It’s been a difficult decision to make and that’s why it was important we consulted you. Over 2,700 people responded to the survey. We also took it out across Swindon and Wiltshire to gather your feedback. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank you if you took the time to complete it.

54% of people who responded said they would be prepared to support a maximum rise but it’s important to make clear why I asked you to support that option. Without putting up the precept, Wiltshire Police would need to save over £4m in the next year. Even by increasing the precept, savings will be key but I’m confident this will happen at the same time as delivering a better service.

We will put 32 extra police officers on the streets of Wiltshire, in addition to the new Uplift officers. We should have 1,189 police officers by the end of March this year – the highest number for quite some time.

I am constantly speaking to our local MPs and government ministers about the funding formula. We need a fairer system which provides our police force with the investment equal to forces similar to ours.

By raising the precept, we can show we are playing our part in funding our police force and this puts us in a stronger position.

With more officers on our streets and a better use of our existing funds, I hope you will see an improvement in the service you receive and see value for money in the measures I’ve taken to make Wiltshire a safer place to live and work.

Philip Wilkinson
Local artist Sally Parker, from Charlton All Saints, has published her debut book ‘Four Noble Ladies of the River Garden’.

An ethereal collection; a novelette, poems and lyrical paintings (approximately 70 colour images) meditatively connect with the essence of nature while channelling divine feminine myths from a long-lost civilization.

A book signing and art exhibition will take place on Wednesday 15th March 2023 (10.30 am – 2.00 pm) in the ‘Garden Room’, Cranborne Garden Centre, Dorset.

www.artquartet.co.uk
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Register for an account and you will get updates as your case progresses.

If you do not register, you can submit cases anonymously, but you will not receive progress updates.

For more information and privacy notices go to
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SPRING 2023

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