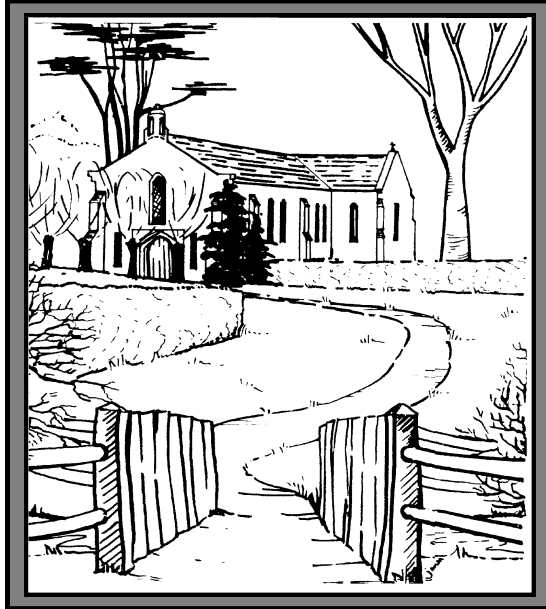


The Bridge



**Worton and Marston
Parish Magazine**

**December
2022**

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Rev'd Ali Bridewell

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Churchwardens:

Jean Lane 01380 722069

Heather Walker 01380 725785

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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins editorofthebridge@gmail.com

Ken Harris

Ken's family would like to pass on thanks to all those in the village and community for their kind messages of sympathy. He was a real character, and selflessly gave his time and effort to the village life he loved.

Sadly these last few years his memory slipped away, and it is a comfort to know how well he is remembered and respected.

Una Sperring (Ken's daughter)

NEWCOMERS! NEWCOMERS! NEWCOMERS!

Do we know who you are? You may have received a Newcomers' Booklet when you moved in during 2022 and been welcomed in person. You may have been missed! **PLEASE** call us to tell us who you are so that we can get free tickets to you for the Welcome Party on **FRIDAY JANUARY 27th at 7:30pm** in the **Village Hall**. You will find a full page advert elsewhere in the Bridge so don't miss out.

CALL US!! Jean Lane 722069 Heather Walker 725785

Worton and Marston Gardening Club

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Date for your diary

Monday January 16th – Fun Quiz

Members, guests, and new members welcome.

Bring your own drinks, the Club will supply nibbles.

Doors open 7:30pm

Sally svwood90@hotmail.com Tel. 01380698969

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Pastoral Letter

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat; wrong on two counts. Avian flu is causing much anxiety in the Christmas turkey market, and we forget at our peril that before Christmas comes Advent; Advent that wonderful season of watching and waiting. By the time you read this I hope to have attended the Advent Carol Service at Salisbury Cathedral; a truly awe-inspiring and spectacular start to the season. Following Advent Sunday we have the 4 weeks of waiting; but not just waiting in an ever-increasing panic, but waiting expectantly like Mary, the mother of Jesus, waiting for the baby to be born. I can remember being an expectant mother in December and rather than buying lots of new things, (although I did that towards the end of the pregnancy) I wanted to clean out my house, make it spotless and ready for the new baby. I remember even cleaning the skirting boards, a task I have never undertaken since. That's what we have to do in Advent. Clean out our inner selves; get rid of the cobwebs of deceit and dishonesty.

The first part of Advent is full of wonder; wonder at the night sky and at this dark season of the

year we have plenty of time to contemplate it. There is a hymn which begins "bow down you stars". What an amazing thought. There is time to gaze at the silhouettes of the skeletal trees in the moonlight, and time to listen to the forces of nature, and the winds and the storms. We seem to be getting quite a few of those, but not much cold as yet. All these things to ponder before we get swept up in the frenzy of buying that happens before Christmas and then the joy of the day itself.

Every year there seems to be a poignancy however. We have come through Covid so this year should be more sociable, but this year there seems to be so much to worry about financially. Can we afford this or that? And then there is the war in Ukraine. I have had the privilege of meeting my Ukrainian guest's parents. What a lot they have all been through, but they soldier on.

So what is Christmas all about? What is it that the baby Jesus, and the adult Jesus came to show us? The answer lies in another hymn "Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely,

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love divine, love was born at Christmas, star and angel gave the sign", and there we have it. So if you have mixed feelings about the festive season, if you are anxious about being on your own or if you are sad that one special person in your life won't be there this year, just remember that little beautiful baby, who reaches out to all of us, with love in his heart for you and for me, and remember too that that love comes from his father, our Almighty creator, to you and to me. We are loved; all of us. So come to church sometime over the season. There will be joy, there will be excitement, there will be the magical light from the candles reflected in your eyes and mine and all around, and there will be love.

Jane Knowles

Carols by Candlelight

The fantastic, and popular, Youth Action Wiltshire Carols by Candlelight Service will return to Malmesbury Abbey on 9th December at 7pm. The service will include Readings from The Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, a young carer and others, along with performances from some wonderfully talented local musicians.

All funds raised will go towards providing respite activities for young carers who access Wiltshire Young Carers Service, a service provided by Youth Action Wiltshire, the youth arm of Wiltshire charity Community First (registered charity number 288117)

To order tickets please complete a ticket order form which can be downloaded from www.communityfirst.org.uk/yaw/fundraising/ or email ginniekeen@gmail.com

We would like to wish all our friends in Worton and Marston a very Happy Christmas. Special wishes to all our great neighbours in Gaisford Chase.

This year we will not be sending cards but instead we will make a donation to the Village Hall kitchen fund.

Best wishes to all for 2023.

Dot and Bill Francis



SERVICE CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2022

Sun Dec 4th	ADVENT 2 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>No Service</i>
Tue Dec 6th	2.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Five Lanes Nativity
Sun Dec 11th	ADVENT 3 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Morning Praise <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Carols By Candlelight</i>
Tue Dec 13th	6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Five Lanes Carols
Sun Dec 18th	ADVENT 4 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>No Service</i>
Sat Dec 24th	CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Carol Service
Sun Dec 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY 9.00am	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>No Service</i>

JANUARY 2023

Sun Jan 1st	CHRISTMAS 2 10.00am	CHRIST CHURCH Benefice Service <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>No Service</i>
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There were no weddings, baptisms, or funerals at Christ Church during October.

Visit the church website: www.christchurchworton.org.uk



WELLSPRINGS BENEFICE SERVICES DECEMBER 2022

Due to ongoing health issues within our ministry team, we may be forced to change or cancel services at short notice. Please check our website or speak to the church warden for the latest information. We apologise for any inconvenience and ask for your understanding.

Sunday 4th (Advent 2)

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Holy Communion	Worton
9:30am	Matins	Poulshot
11am	Holy Communion	Bulkington
11am	Holy Communion	Seend

Sunday 11th (Advent 3)

9:30am	Morning Praise	Worton
9:30am	Morning Praise	Bulkington
9:30am	Holy Communion	Poulshot
11am	Holy Communion	Potterne
4pm	Evensong	Seend

Friday 16th

3:30pm	Messy Church	Potterne Village Hall
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Sunday 18th (Advent 4)

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Seend
9:30am	Holy Communion	Worton
4pm	Evensong	Poulshot
6pm	Carol Service	Potterne
6pm	Carol Service	Bulkington

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Thursday 22nd

7pm Carol Service Seend

Saturday 24th (Christmas Eve)

2pm Blessing of Crib Bulkington
6pm Carol Service Worton
6pm Carol Service Poulshot
11:30pm Midnight Communion Potterne
11:30pm Midnight Communion Seend

Sunday 25th (Christmas Day)

9am Christmas Day Holy Communion Poulshot
9am Christmas Day Holy Communion Worton
10am Christmas Day Holy Communion Seend
10:30am Christmas Day Holy Communion Bulkington
10:30am Christmas Day Holy Communion Potterne

Wednesday 28th

5pm Celtic Meditative Service Poulshot

Every Tuesday, 9am Daily Prayer service at Poulshot

Please join us at our new informal gathering called Quest every Saturday at 5.30pm at Poulshot Village Hall.

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

Please visit our website www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk for more details of all our services, latest updates and to keep in touch.

Ministry Team

Rector: Rev Ali Bridewell (currently on leave)
Associate Priest: Rev Caroline O'Neill 01380 828302
Benefice Administrator: Sarah Leckie 07516 224057
sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com

Church Registers

No baptisms, weddings or funerals this month.



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FAMILY OF CHURCHES - DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

BEER AND CAROLS AT THE ROSE AND CROWN on **MONDAY DECEMBER 5th** at 7:00PM

As last year we will gather behind the Pub to sing some favourite carols and enjoy seasonal refreshments, warmed up by cosy wood burners and accompanied by live music.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT at Marston Chapel on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th** at 6:00pm.

A long held tradition of readings and well-known carols. Do join in!

NEWCOMERS WELCOME PARTY on **FRIDAY JANUARY 27TH 2023** in the **VILLAGE HALL**.

In order to ensure your invitation as a Newcomer to the villages in 2022, please contact the numbers below with your address and names of occupants. Your free invitation will be delivered to you in early January.

For villagers who would like to come and help welcome those newcomers, tickets to buy will also be available in early January.

Jean Lane 722069 Heather Walker 725785



The village hall now owns this 9m x 3m party gazebo
Ideal for parties or even wedding receptions
It is available for hire for just £50.

Please contact:

Pauline (720248) or Jeff (726845) or any other Trustee

Families and Children activities 2022 to 2023



Wellsprings Benefice

4th Sunday of month 9.30am at Christ Church Worton

Massively Informal Family Service

Details on Wellsprings Benefice FaceBook page
Contact FI Walker 07470 372373
cyp.wellsprings@gmail.com



find us on Facebook



Messy Church

Fridays at 3.30pm in Potterne Village Hall

- 23rd September
- 14th October
- 18th November
- 16th December
- 20th January
- 24th February
- 24th March
- 21st April
- 19th May
- 16th June

Messy Easter Workshop
Holy Cross Seend
10am 7th April (Good Friday)



Messy Church is aimed at families with pre-school children, infants and juniors and is a fun event designed for parents and children to take part in together. The Messy Church program is a fast growing ministry, which originated in the UK, that engages and builds relationships with thousands of people outside 'normal' church.

The Wellspring Benefice Messy Church sessions are in Potterne Village Hall, most months on a Friday, 3.30pm - straight after school.

We spend an hour on messy crafts and activities, followed by a short very informal Bible story and song, then finish with a cooked meal for everyone to share.

Sally and Giles Collins would like to wish everyone in Worton and Marston a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023.

Instead of sending Christmas cards this year, we will be making a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee (www.dec.org.uk).

St Barnabas Church Easterton

Christmas Tree Festival

17 and 18 December 2022

10.00am-4.00pm

Refreshments

Raffle

Name the Teddy

Children's colouring

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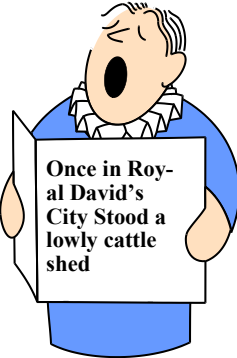
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City Stood a
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and



CAROLS

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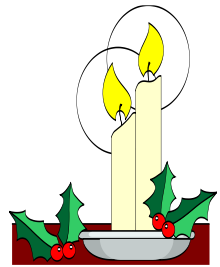
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Marston Chapel

6pm Sunday 11th December

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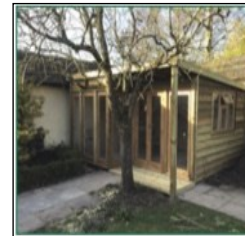
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Buffet Supper Included * Licensed Wine Bar *****

Admission:

Adult £5 - Family £10 - under 10s free

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If any newcomer to the villages has not received a free ticket please phone one of the above numbers

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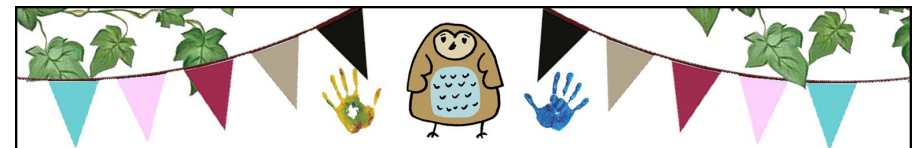
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Marston Parish Council

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in Marston Chapel on the 17th January 2023 at 8.00pm. The meeting will be preceded by a village meeting starting at 7.30pm. The speed limits will be discussed in the meeting and it is hoped we will have a representative from Wiltshire County Council to answer some of our questions.

The Parish Council have purchased 1,000 mixed daffodil bulbs to plant on the common. We will be planting them out on Sunday 27th November, starting at 11am. We would appreciate as much help as possible. If you are able to help, please come along armed with a trowel or spade.

We are at present in contact with Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency and are awaiting a decision on the Semington Brook breach at Ray Bridge. A new, more substantial, bench is also being ordered for the pond seating area as the original bench broke.

Steven Bennett
clerk@marstonparish.co.uk

Horses are unpredictable and passing horses wide and slow can prevent the death of drivers, riders and horses. The British Horse Society (BHS) have worked hard lobbying and collaborating with Cycling UK, DVSA, Living Streets and the Department of Transport securing much-needed Highway Code improvements. As of January this year the BHS's Dead Slow message to pass horses 'wide and slow' is now incorporated within the Highway Code.

Equestrians have the same right to be on the road as motorists or any other user group. Understanding, respect and consideration by all road users are required to ensure the safety for everyone. The BHS advises all equestrians and road users to familiarise themselves with the updated Highway Code and of course when riding out please always wear at least a Hi-viz tabard.

As a motorist what should I do if I see a horse on the road? If you see a horse being ridden or led on the road you should:

- Slow down to a maximum of 10 mph
- Be patient, don't sound your horn or rev your engine
- Pass the horse wide and slow (2m or at least a cars width if possible)
- Drive away slowly

The BHS collates statistics to understand the rate of incidents involving horses and riders on UK roads.

Reporting incidents helps the BHS to better understand the rate of equine related incidents and it is vital that each incident is recorded in order to make improvements. Incidents can be reported directly on the BHS website (www.bhs.org.uk) or using the BHS incident reporting app 'Horse i', allowing you to quickly and easily submit details of any incidents you encounter directly to the BHS via your mobile or tablet device.

Based on statistical evidence and with the support of Parish Councils and the agreement of Wiltshire Council, the BHS Wiltshire County Committee are funding the provision of

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Dead Slow signage in hot spots to raise awareness amongst motorists to pass horses slow and wide. So please report any equine related incident, no matter how minor, to help the BHS help you.

Charles Irvine
Secretary, BHS Wiltshire County Committee
07982 075922



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A photograph of a room interior. A window is covered with patterned curtains featuring a floral and leaf design in yellow, green, and purple. In front of the window is a wooden chest of drawers with a lamp and a vase of flowers. A yellow cushion is visible on a chair or sofa in the foreground.

Caroline Flack 07982 985 925
caroline@flackformations.co.uk
Marsh Lane, Rowde SN10 5FA

Worton & Marston Link

There are 42 Link (volunteer car) Schemes across Wiltshire county, who offer door-to-door or group transport for people who need help to get out, visit local facilities and access medical care service which can include collecting prescriptions. These vital, volunteer-led community groups offer a lifeline for local people, including the elderly, people with limited mobility and people who live in rural areas which do not have a regular bus or train service. In 2021 Link Schemes played an important role in supporting the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out locally, by offering transport to and from vaccine appointments.

There are over 1,500 volunteers in Wiltshire and Swindon who are involved in supporting Link Schemes locally, either as volunteer drivers, coordinators or committee members. Last year volunteer drivers travelled over 750,000 miles, taking people to local hospitals, doctors appointments, shops and lunch clubs. Without the transport offered by Link Schemes, many of the people who use these services would find it hard to leave their home, leading to isolation and declining mental or physical health. The service offered by volunteer transport groups can be truly life-changing, offering peace of mind, dignity and the opportunity to lead a normal, independent life.

Demand for support for volunteer-led transport offered by Link Schemes has increased in recent years, which may in part be due to Wiltshire's ageing population. New volunteers are vital in order to ensure transport groups can continue to meet this growing demand. Prospective volunteer drivers can offer their time on a flexible basis which works around their existing commitments and mileage rate is paid to all volunteer drivers using their own vehicle. In addition to volunteer drivers, we are also looking for people to volunteer as committee members. In Worton&Marston Link we only pick up in our villages, one of the other schemes will service other towns and villages in the County. If you are interested in volunteering please email

wandmarstonlink@gmail.com or ring **07413 912828** for more information. The same telephone number should be used if you require any help with transport.

Please note: Volunteer roles are subject to a Disclosure and Barring (DBS) check. Volunteer drivers should have a valid UK driving licence.



Would you like to feel more confident getting out and about?

Age UK Wiltshire's Travel Friends can help you.

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If you're worried about making trips around your local area, there's support available.

Whether it's getting to and from the shops, a doctor's appointment, or a friend's house – Age UK Wiltshire's Travel Friends are on hand to help you feel more comfortable and confident.

Through **FREE** sessions delivered safely from your home and beyond, we can help you set and achieve goals that work for you.

You'll be paired up with your own Travel Friend who can accompany you on any type of journey - whether it's by foot, public transport, community transport or taxi - and will help you build the confidence you need to travel independently.

Simply give us a call or email us, and we'll connect you with your local Travel Friend.

07500 137 135

travelfriends@ageukwiltshire.org.uk

Age UK Wiltshire is a registered charity no. 800912 and company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 2121174



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The trees will be judged on Saturday 3rd December
Whilst shopping in Devizes look for the Advent windows in shops
and Long Street and guess their themes. (during December)
Competition forms from the Town Hall (prizes awarded)

St. John's does...A Christmas Festival
(Omnes Ad Unum)

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Rose and Crown Worton

01380 724202

	Lunch time opening	Evening opening
Monday	Closed	6pm - 11pm
Tuesday	Closed	6pm - 11pm
Wednesday	Closed	6pm - 11pm
Thursday	Closed	6pm - 11pm
Friday	Coffee Morning 10.30 - 2.30	6pm - 11.30pm
Saturday	12.00 - 2.30	6pm - 11.30pm
Sunday	12.00 - 2.30	7pm - 10.00pm 7pm - 11.00pm (on Quiz Sundays)

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for up to date information

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Since the last Bridge we held a Bingo evening at the Hall at the end of October to get villagers together to have some fun and to raise money for the kitchen fund. It was very enjoyable and everyone who came said they had a really good evening, so much so, that they asked for more games than we had originally planned. However, only 28 people came which was rather disappointing. Still despite this we did manage to raise £200 towards the fund.

We also opened the Hall for coffee, tea and cake following the commemorations around the war memorial on Armistice day. This time we weren't expecting many to stay behind but we were pleasantly surprised when 24 people did and again it was a great opportunity for villagers to come together to spend time.

On the business side, we held our six-monthly Management Meeting where representatives of the regular groups come and tell us how we are doing and what they want us to concentrate on for the next six months, up to our AGM. Thankfully they were all pleased with the progress we have been making and continue to support our efforts to revamp the kitchen.

The 200 club was won by Ian MacClean-Boyle in September and Andy Vickers in October. Congratulations to both of them.

On **Saturday December 3rd** we are holding our Christmas Bazaar. We know this clashes with other events taking place that day but we hope you will find some time to come and support us, especially since this is the first time we have held this since 2019. We already have a number of stalls planned, a raffle and teas, coffee and cakes. The bazaar opens at **2pm and closes at 4pm**.

Also look out for details in the next Bridge about events Trustees will be holding during Village Halls Week at the end of January.

And finally....Trustees wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year as this will be the last Bridge before it.

Veronica Franklin (Chair of Trustees)



Worton Parish Council

For the first time in years (possibly just the second time ever), I had to give my apologies for missing the November Parish Council meeting.

I was otherwise engaged in a very important family matter that arose suddenly during the day (the birth of our first grandchild) and I wasn't in Worton - our support was needed elsewhere.

So I've decided to pay tribute to my colleagues for the fantastic job they did covering for me, that has seen significant progress being made in relation to some important issues which I will refer to in due course.

In fact, I want to heighten just what a great job they have been doing under tricky circumstances, not just now, but over the years that I have had the privilege of being Chairman.

We currently have no clerk -indeed we have been without one for several months. In practical terms, this means that we have no one to oversee the nuts and bolts of serving a Parish effectively, sensibly, and, importantly, legally. The clerk does far more than accurately minuting meetings, as they keep us on the straight and narrow and make sure that we can carry out the duties of the council as well as possible.

In the absence of a clerk, Chris Collins has undertaken most of the minuting duties, whilst also continuing his regular council duties. It has fallen to me to act as clerk, as well as Chair, dealing with communications as best I can on a daily basis, trying to respond as quickly and correctly as possible. I must admit this has been a strain, exposing my lack of skills in some aspects of ICT as well as my poor typing skills. However....

I am very proud to be associated with such a fine group of people who covered for the absence of Chair, Vice-chair and clerk so brilliantly.

I don't think many residents really appreciate what Councillors do. It certainly seems to meet the definition of a thankless task, but please be assured that your council is doing the best it can to cover day to day management and maintenance issues, whilst also progressing medium to long term projects.

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In summary, the main points covered in the November meeting were

- The proposal by Oliver Symes to plant trees in part of the Sandlease recreation ground. This had caused a degree of discomfort amongst residents in terms of specific site detail, though the planting of trees is clearly almost universally popular. New areas of land where trees might be planted have been identified on the council land leading down from Sandlease bank to the stream. Councillors have been actively engaged with Oliver in terms of the best site and how many trees could be planted. This issue is progressing very positively. We are also looking at what might be possible when the new housing estate is built and more funding becomes available.
- We have decided to go ahead with the purchase of two Speed indicator devices (SIDS) as soon as possible, even though we still have no definite date for the work to be done by the engineers appointed by Wiltshire at the 5 sites that we have agreed with them. Councillors have been doing their best to press for this to happen. We have also begun to negotiate with the Devizes LHFIC about other ideas proposed by the village to improve traffic volume and speed issues. We will look at this again in December.
- We have been busy working out our budget for 2022/23 in order to assess how we will use our very limited income. It's important to note that only a very small part of your council tax goes to the village, but we have been very careful to keep the figure as low as possible, chiefly by taking on as much as we can ourselves and providing the service needed for free.
- There was a request from a resident that we consider opening the village hall as a "warm space" for residents to use in the anticipated challenging winter months. Unfortunately, whilst this seems like an excellent idea in principle, it really isn't feasible in practice for a community like ours. This is mainly down to numbers - in terms of who would organise and maintain the warm space, how much it would cost, and how many users there would be to make it worthwhile? It's sad, but we simply aren't big enough or well enough resourced.

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It has been pointed out to us that the Parish Council hasn't been on top of maintenance issues of late. I felt that this was a rather unfair criticism, but want to take this opportunity not only to defend our position, but also to praise the sterling work of Cllr Powell and his small group of volunteers. We need to prioritise and use our limited access to the parish steward as efficiently as possible, but, in practice, there is only so much we can do. If the number of volunteers were to increase, particularly where there is access to specialist equipment, we could do more. If you take pride in our village environment and are willing to play your part, please get in touch with Malcolm. You will be very welcome.

On a related note, can those of us whose properties border public footpaths and rights of way please do your best to keep them safe and usable for pedestrians? As I have said before, if this presents a problem for you please let us know and we will do our best to assist.

Lastly, a quick heads up that our December meeting will begin at the earlier time of 6pm, but still at the village hall. Councillors are keen to add their tuneful contribution to the seasonal event scheduled to take place at the Rose and Crown on the same evening. Hope to see lots of you there!

Barry Devine



Community Speedwatch Wiltshire and Swindon

At a recent online meeting hosted by Wiltshire Police we were given the following figures...

Over the past two years Community Speedwatch teams across the county conducted **7,530** sessions during which nearly **TWO MILLION** vehicles were recorded and **64,000** letters were issued to drivers for excessive speeding.

Bob Mitchell



When: Wednesday 10am to 12pm (term time only)

Where: Worton Village Hall, Church Lane,
Worton, Devizes, SN10 5SH

Toys * Craft Activity * Songs *
Sensory Play * Baby Corner * FUN



£2.50 per family (first session free) including refreshments for adults and children

For more information call Hilary on 07805 303961
To book text Greta on 07713 640912
Email: WortonToddlers@gmail.com



Worton Toddlers Christmas Events

Wed 7th December - Church visit

This special Toddlers session will be held at Christ Church, Worton. We will be decorating the Christmas tree, singing some carols and listening to the Nativity story. There will be mince pies and festive treats.

Wed 14th December - Christmas Party

We will be celebrating with Christmas crafts, music and games. Fancy dress is welcome. And we have a special guest joining us ... Father Christmas!!!
(£5 per child, includes a Christmas present, booking required)

Wed 21st & Wed 28th December - Closed for Christmas holidays.

Wed 4th January - 1st session back!

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Worton and Marston Village Show

We have set the date for next year's show as Saturday 2nd September so please put this in your diary.

The Committee have decided to get rid of the Men's section in the show. This gives us some space to add classes elsewhere. Whilst we have not fully agreed on the schedule yet, we have added chillis, climbing french beans, coffee and walnut cake and lemon drizzle amongst other potential changes. We will have regular slots in the magazine and let you know of the other changes as soon as they are decided. Full details of how to get hold of schedules will be given in the spring.

Heads up on the classes for the photography section for 2023:

Adults

Chimney/s

Sunrise/sunset

Texture

Children, (under16)

Gnomes

Tree or trees

Wild flower/s

For you skilled painters, knitters, wood workers etc, we are going to increase the classes in the Craft section. We are in discussion with the judge about how these can be best separated or defined. We aim to finalise as soon as possible and let you know by January at the latest.

We want to encourage as many entries as we can so will try and give timely advice as we go through the year. There is still time to plant onion and shallots as the warm autumn will help the setts get established. And now is the time to look through the seed catalogues and get your orders in.

We are looking for someone to join the committee to help with communication, social media stuff etc so if you are interested please get in touch.

All the best and good luck.

On behalf of the Committee, Bill Francis



Worton & Cheverell FC (Youth)

'The Badgers'

<http://www.wortonandcheverellfc.com>



Cup Fever and Winter Training

As the league season continues many of the club's teams have also been in cup action. Now the clocks have gone back all are in winter training mode under floodlights. This is where the loss of the club house is felt more keenly as it also deprives the club of the use of the floodlights to train at Northbrook. On that subject, the totaliser is now standing at just under £30,000, almost half way to the total required. If you wish to help boost the total further, please visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-worton-cheverell-replace-the-clubroof?share-type=teams&member=17482141&utm_medium=social&utm_source=whatsapp&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet.

We would also welcome contact from any small business wishing to sponsor an advertising board.

Congratulations to William Goddard one of our U15's for qualifying as a level 1 referee. It's great to see the older children giving something back to grass roots football.

Team Updates

U6s - are now training at Lavington School Sports Hall on Saturday mornings from 9-10 am with a good core group enjoying a diverse array of coaching. More players always welcome to come and join the melee!

U7s - relishing their games at the moment after a string of away matches. We have a new coach 'coming soon' to a pitch near you!. We're training at Dauntsey's School on Wednesday nights. Unfortunately, we are not currently able to take any new players in this age group.

U8s - Both under 8 teams settling into the new stage of the season with more evenly matched teams. A good couple of results for both over the last few weeks means the boys are enjoying their football more than ever.

U9s - Have made a slow start to the season but picking up valuable

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experience. We are pleased to welcome Toby Morgan (U15) as a new helper in conjunction with involving older club members. Training at Dauntsey's School 6-7 pm on Friday.

U10s - Several new players settling into training which is now Tuesday 5-6pm Green Lane, Devizes. Lining up some friendly matches where we can alongside league fixtures to try and get the whole squad game experience.

U9/10s Girls' Team - The girls team is growing in numbers and confidence. Having played a couple of friendlies this month versus Devizes and Keynsham they are gaining game experience and becoming a strong unit of friends as well as team mates. The team mainly consists of U10s and U9s but all girls aged between 8 and 11 are most welcome. Training is every Saturday morning 9:30-10:30 at Elisha field, Market Lavington.

U11s - have had a rocky start to the season but looking forward to continuing to work hard together. We are looking for more players especially anyone who would like to take on the role of goalkeeping.

U13s - Team building with new recruits and as a result they are developing and getting to know one another. We are back up to a squad of 16, but we always welcome more. Tough start to the session but positive signs going into a cup match this coming weekend. Training 7pm Fridays @ Dauntsey's School.

U15s - The team is looking forward to getting back into league action after a pause due to half term and the weather and losing in the second round of the Wiltshire Cup. Training at 7-8 pm on Friday evenings at Dauntsey's School.

U16s - Playing well and currently 2nd in league. Recruited new players and training at Dauntsey's School, Friday's 7-8.

U 17/18s - After only one league game we sit second in the table. Spirit and attendance at training, and availability for matches, remain exceptionally positive. Training is at Devizes Rugby Club, Friday's 7-8.

Committee

Chairperson: Pete Huntley
Treasurer: Vicky Goddard
Grounds: Mark Goddard
Newsletter: David Groves

Secretary: Rob Nuttall
Welfare Officers: Hannah Kervin
Web Pages: James Partington
All Team Managers

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Team Contacts

Badger Cubs - James Partington - 07532 628219

Girls Team - Liz Gaule - 07949 176623

U8 - Rob Nuttall - 07706 167347 U9 - Pete Huntley- 07974756131

U10- Nick Church nickchurch88@gmail.com

U11- Mark Goddard - 01380 813160 U13 - Neil Black- 07769 261750

U15 -Mark Goddard- 01380 813160 U16 - Dave Kiddle - 07843678781

Follow us on Facebook – Worton and Cheverell Youth Football Club (no other pages are approved by the club) or on the club website.

From Christ Church:

On a lovely November morning the Rainbows and Brownies took part in The Remembrance service, and laid wreaths at the War memorial, along with others, and joined their families for the service in Christ Church, led by Rev. Jane Knowles.

The offerings from the service will be shared with Royal British Legion and Combat Stress.

A busy month coming up in Christ Church:

The Toddlers will be spending a morning in church making decorations and decorating the Christmas Tree. They will also hear the Christmas story, sing some songs and enjoy some refreshments.

Five Lanes School will also be presenting their Nativity afternoon, and Carols by Candlelight.

There will be a Christmas Community Café on 17th December.

The Carol Service will be on Christmas Eve, good to be back after a two year Covid break. Offerings at this service will be for Devizes Open Doors and Disasters Emergency Committee.

(see more details of these last two events elsewhere in The Bridge)

Christmas Day will be a 9am Holy Communion Service. Please note the earlier time.

Heather and Jean, Churchwardens

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DECEMBER BOOK SWAP



**Saturday 10th December
10.00am - 12 noon**

at Ware Farm (1st right after turning into Potterne Rd at East end of Worton, the drive is signed).

hosted by Allison Soni

**Saturday 14th January
10.00am - 12 noon**

at Oakley House, High Street, Worton,
hosted by Alison Parker.

Generous bookworms donated £171 to the Children's society over the last 12 months, a record amount in well over 10 years & that with lower numbers sometimes and straitened circumstances now. I have always reckoned we are lucky to live in a very generous, friendly & helpful community here; long may that continue.

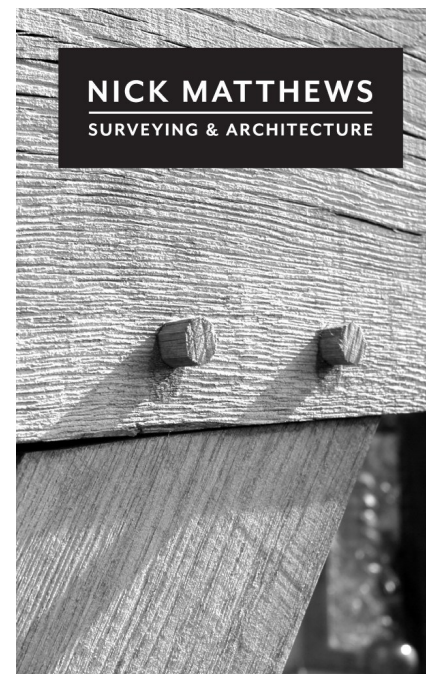
Happy Christmas, and hopes for a more settled year to come.

Book Swap:

We meet in a different host's house in Worton or Marston on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 10.00 – 12 noon; newcomers and visitors are always welcome. We have coffee/tea, biscuits & chat, and bring books we have read & enjoyed to exchange with others, with recommendations or comments (serious, positive, humorous or otherwise).

The range of books is wide, something for all tastes.

Contact: Judy Shercliff, judy.shercliff@gmail.com



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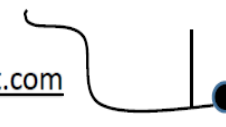
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10:00 – 12:30**

Family fun board games

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Celebrating Christmas in Worton & Marston

Beer and Carols

Monday 5th December

7:00pm at The Rose & Crown

Gather behind the pub to sing some favourite carols and enjoy seasonal refreshments, warmed up by cosy wood burners and accompanied by live music.



Carols by candlelight

Sunday 11th December, 6:00pm at Marston Chapel

A longstanding tradition of readings and well-known carols.

Christmas Community Café

Saturday 17th December, 10:00am-12:30pm at Christ Church

Drop in any time for free festive family fun – tea, coffee, cake, Christmas craft, board games, chat and good cheer. You will be sure of a warm welcome, a warm space, and some time to relax, make merry – and perhaps make new friends too.

Community Carol Singing around our village

Tuesday 20th December, 5:45pm

Join us to sing carols around Worton and Marston. All welcome, including children accompanied by an adult, and no previous experience necessary! Meet at the corner of Gaisford Chase/High Street at 5:45pm, wrap up warm and bring a torch. We will walk to various locations through the villages, finishing up at church for hot chocolate (estimated to be around 8:00pm). More details appear elsewhere in The Bridge.

Approximate timings (but may run slightly later): 6:00pm Gaisford Chase, 6:20pm The Old Forge Garage, 6:45pm Mill Head, 7:15pm The Plough, Marston, 7:30pm The Green, Marston, 8:00pm Christ Church, Worton

Carol Service

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Even): 6:00pm at Christ Church

Traditional carols and readings suitable for all the family.

Christmas Day: Holy Communion Service

9:00am at Christ Church



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Carer Support Wiltshire are pleased to be re-opening their popular carer café in Pewsey. The café will take place on the first Tuesday of every month – starting on Tuesday 3 January 2023 – between 10.30am – midday at Pewsey Methodist Church, North Street.

Carer cafes are spaces where unpaid carers, those who are supporting a friend, neighbour or family member, can meet for cake and a hot drink to speak with others who are in similar situations and to recharge. The cafes are free to attend and there's no need to book. A trained volunteer will be on hand and there are no expectations placed on attendees. Some people like to talk about and exchange information relating to their caring role and others just come to meet new people and have some time out.

If you need more information, or are an unpaid carer who is not currently registered for support with Carer Support Wiltshire, please call 0800 181 4118 or email admin@carersupportwiltshire.co.uk.

Worton Community Speedwatch - October 2022

(Note: all Wiltshire Speedwatch sessions are restricted to 45 minutes only)

Sessions: **SEVEN**

Total Vehicles Counted: **1,801**

Vehicles recorded for exceeding the 30mph speed limit: **143**
(of which **27** were reported to Wiltshire Police for excess speed)

Maximum Speed Recorded: **42mph**
(On Thursday 20th between 15.00 and 15.45)

Highest Vehicle Count: **317** on Thursday 20th between 15.00 and 15.45.

The inclement weather resulted in the cancellation of four of our sessions. A lower count than normal as we concentrated on undertaking the sessions during the quieter part of the day rather than the busy early morning and late afternoon periods.

Bob Mitchell



Lending with Heart and Mind

Wiltshire Council fund a not-for-profit loan scheme for homeowners.*

If you have lived in your home for over 5 years and:

- **Are over 60; or**
- **Are in receipt of State Benefits; or**
- **Have children under 16 living with you.**

You may be eligible for a home improvement loan to keep your home warm, safe, and suitable for your needs.

Lendology CIC work in partnership with Wiltshire Council to deliver the council subsidised loan scheme. Our knowledgeable team of advisers will guide you through the process of applying.

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*subject to eligibility

Children's Society House Boxes

The total sum collected in the House Boxes this year was the splendid sum of £538.79. This beat last year's figure of £252. Many thanks to all of you who take a box each year to support this very worthy charity. Also grateful thanks to Tom Harwood for counting the money with me.

The Society has responded : **“You and your boxholders are helping improve the lives of children who feel scared, unloved and like they simply don't matter. Once again on behalf of all the young people your gifts support, thank you so much for caring and making this life-changing work possible”.**

Should anyone who does not already take a box but would like to do so, please would you contact me on tel 725785 and I will let you have one.

Tony Walker

THE EDINGTON ARTS ADVENT CONCERT

The choir of Merton College, Oxford, will be performing this year's Advent Concert in the Priory Church on Saturday 10th December, starting at 7.30pm.

We are delighted to welcome back Benjamin Nicholas, Director of Music at Merton, and the college's 34-strong mixed voice choir, one of the elite Oxbridge choral ensembles. Merton performed our first Advent concert back in 2015. While the students in that choir have graduated and left Oxford, those that have filled their places have gone on to confirm the Merton chapel choir under Benjamin Nicholas's directorship as “one of the best collegiate choirs in the land” (*American Record Guide*) and “one of the UK's finest choral ensembles” (*The Gramophone*).

As always in the run-up to Christmas, there will be mulled wine and mince pies in the interval, helping to get you in the mood.

Tickets are on sale now from Chrissy on 01380 831256, or by email from sue@edingtonarts.org; they remain at £20/15/10 with 18 and under coming free. Edington Angels have a 10% discount. This is one of the most popular concerts in the calendar so don't delay securing your tickets!

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Christmas Village Carol Singing Tuesday 20th December 6:00-8:00pm

Join us to sing carols around Worton and Marston on **Tuesday 20th December 2022**. No rehearsals necessary, just some Christmas spirit and singing enthusiasm. All welcome, including children accompanied by an adult, and no previous experience necessary!



Meet at the corner of Gaisford Chase/High Street at 5:45pm, wrap up warm and bring a torch. We will walk to various locations through the villages (see below), finishing up at church for hot chocolate (estimated to be around 8:00pm). If you'd like to join in, but would prefer to drive between singing points, that should work out fine, and it would be lovely if lifts could be offered to others in the villages. Or just join us at one of the locations below.

In the event of very poor weather, we will postpone to later in the week, and publicise alternative arrangements on the Worton and Marston Community Network Facebook page.

Any queries, or for more information, contact Catherine cathbridger@hotmail.com or Rachel rachelholland@mac.com Participants take part at their own risk. Hi-viz jackets will be provided for those who would like to borrow one.

Approximate timings (but may run slightly later):

6:00pm Gaisford Chase
6:20pm The Old Forge Garage
6:45pm Mill Head
7:15pm The Plough, Marston
7:30pm The Green, Marston
8:00pm Christ Church, Worton

ECO-CORNER

It's Christmas time again! One of the most environmentally wasteful times of the year.

On average, UK households **spend 29% more in December** than in any other month, according to the Bank of England. This is reflected in the amount of rubbish produced, as the typical **household creates 30% more waste at Christmas** than at any other time. Yet these aren't even the most shocking Christmas facts about waste.

For example, according to Business Waste UK, **£700 million** is spent on **unwanted presents** each Christmas in the UK. So, what to do?

Award winning zero waste consultant Rachel Strauss suggests the following alternatives:

Subscriptions: for an avid reader, give a subscription to a favourite digital publication or Audible for a year-long gift.

Charity shops are full of amazing, unique finds at reasonable prices. They help to preserve resources and your money goes to a good cause – it's a win-win!

Give a goat: Instead of wasting your money on festive jumpers and novelty light up gifts, why not give a charitable gift? From beehives to orchards, to bicycles, radios, medical aid and education, charitable gifts can make a real difference to someone's life.

Home baked: home baked foods are the best. From biscuits to brownies to hot chocolate jars. There are heaps of ideas on Pinterest for Christmas gifts.

Acts of service: ever wish someone would help with the cleaning, decorating, those pending jobs that are annoying you? Why not offer to gift your time and help someone?

Plants: whether it is an interesting house plant, a fruit bush or a tree, giving plants is a wonderful way to give a 'greener' gift.

Adopt an animal: know an animal lover who is living waste-free to protect animals? From dolphins to tigers, you can protect some of the world's most vulnerable animals. Organisations like WWF send regular updates about how your donation is helping their work.

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Experiences: what would your friends really enjoy? A voucher for the theatre, a film, or a favourite restaurant can create memories for ever and much less waste than 'things'.

Membership: give an annual membership to the National Trust, an art gallery, the Royal Horticultural Society or even Netflix!

Have a really good Christmas!

Anne Wilson mrsannewilson@gmail.com and
Sandra Gamble acanadiangamble@gmail.com

FIVE LANES WI

At our November meeting we spent an enjoyable, though taxing, evening recreating gift bags we had seen demonstrated several months ago. Although the demonstrator had left detailed diagrams and instructions, most of us would have really struggled without Sarah to guide us through and put us right when going astray! Some younger members also took pity on the more aged and gave a helping hand. Needless to say, there was much chat and laughter as well.

Present members are asked to consider joining our **Committee** as we are now only four.

At our **DECEMBER** meeting on **TUESDAY 13th at 7:45pm** in the Village Hall, we will be producing a Christmas Tree shaped decoration, made from an old paperback book!! What? I hear you cry. Bring an old book, not good enough to lend or put in a charity shop, and any little sequins or small Christmas stickers you may have. Definitely not as difficult as the bags! We will also enjoy some mulled wine and home-made mince pies.

We will be going out for our **NEW YEAR MEAL** on **JANUARY 10th** so come prepared to commit to that date and to make your meal choice. At the time of writing we hope to go to the RAVEN in POULSHOT. Any change to that, Sarah will advise by email.

Finally, we would like to restart our monthly **RAFFLE** so if you have anything suitable to donate to that, please bring it along, plus some cash to buy your tickets.

Jean Lane 722069

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A Message from Tamara Reay

Wiltshire Councillor for The Devizes Rural West Division

Support for Our Small Businesses

As Christmas approaches and many of us have long shopping lists - there's never a better time to shop local. Small Business Saturday is a national campaign which this year falls on Saturday 3rd December. The campaign highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities, on Small Business Saturday and throughout the year.

I am told that there are 252 independent retailers in Devizes, and of course there are many other local, small businesses across the area - including the fabulous pubs, shops, and other businesses in the Devizes Rural West parishes. This Christmas I'll be shopping local wherever I can, and I'll also be supporting our small businesses by highlighting daily posts on my social media. Please tell me about your favourite local small businesses so that I can include them by emailing me at tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk

Businesses will also receive support through the new Energy Bill Relief Scheme - a discount on wholesale gas and electricity prices for all non-domestic customers whose current gas and electricity prices have been significantly inflated given global energy prices. This includes all UK businesses, the voluntary sector like charities and the public sector such as schools and hospitals. Initially it will run from 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023. In April 2023 there will be a Treasury-led review into how household and business energy bills are supported going forward.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy 2023. It has been an honour to represent you at Wiltshire Council over the last 12 months. Please do get in touch if I can help in any way.

Tamara Reay, Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West.
Tel: 07711 824864 Email: tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk



Charity Christmas Cards

This year Youth Action Wiltshire have some wonderful Christmas Cards available, designed by young carers as young as 5 years old. Packs of 10 (containing 2 different designs) are available for £3 per pack or 2 packs for £5. All proceeds from the Christmas card sales will go towards Wiltshire Young Carers Service who provide youth worker support and respite opportunities for young carers across our county. A young carer is a child or young person aged 5-19 who helps look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition or substance misuse issue. Wiltshire Young Carers Service currently has 950 open cases for Wiltshire Young Carers.

You can purchase packs of cards from the Rose and Crown or you can order them by emailing fundraising@youthactionwiltshire.org -

Or speak to Dawn at 2 Norney Bridge (07958 351364).

Thanks

Dawn Whiting, Service Development and Splash Manager

Youth Action Wiltshire Working for the Future
(communityfirst.org.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/YouthActionWiltshire>

Extracts from The Bridge (December 1992),

kindly provided by Tony Walker

NEWCOMERS PARTY -

FRIDAY 29TH JANUARY 93 - Village Hall, Worton.

This is the eighteenth year that a party has been held to welcome our newcomers to Worton and Marston. It has continued for so many years because new residents in our villages obviously appreciate being made to feel welcome. also because older residents continue to buy tickets and come to make the newcomers welcome!

Tickets will be priced this year at £3, or £2 for senior citizens and children of 14 years and under, or family tickets at £8.

Extracts from *The Bridge* (December 1992),
kindly provided by Tony Walker

Christmas Bingo

- Monday 7th Dec - Eyes Down 8 pm, Seasonal Prizes +Grand Raffle

Festive Bazaar

Saturday 12th 2pm Bargains for all

Come and Meet Father Christmas and Fairy Snow

Admission :- Adults 20p Children Free

Both events in aid of Village Hall Funds.

WORTON AND MARSTON PLAY GROUP

A Nativity Play on Wednesday December 16th at 6.30 p.m.

Raffle, Sherry and Mince Pies

This promises to be a memorable evening, evoking for many, happy enjoyable memories of past days. Come and enjoy this evening with the children of your village.

Everyone welcome.

STOP PRESS

Vandals

Vandals caused considerable damage to Worton & Marston School on Friday 27th November, Smashing two large plate glass windows and a kitchen window, bending the netball post and a door and snapping a small tree.

Urgent repairs to make the building secure were carried out on Saturday morning which will have to be financed from School Funds. If anyone has any information relating to this regrettable incident which occurred whilst a Disco was taking place at the Village Hall, please contact the School or Devizes Police.

School Governors

VILLAGE DIARY

Regular Meetings

In the Village Hall
(all currently suspended or on Zoom)

- **Gardening Club**
3rd Monday 8.00pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **Pilates classes**
Thursdays 7pm-8pm & 8pm-9pm
- **Ladies Group**
Last Wednesday (not Aug/Dec)
- **Women's Institute**
2nd Tuesday 7.45pm
- **Worton Toddler Group**
Wednesday 10.00 am - Noon
- **1st Worton & Marston Brownies**
Tuesdays 6pm-7.30pm
- **Potterne Rainbows**
Tuesdays 4.45pm-5.45pm
- **Worton Parish Council Meeting**
1st Monday (not Aug) or as shown on notice boards

In the Chapel at Marston
(currently suspended or on Zoom)

- **Marston Parish Council Meeting**
Last Tuesday (every odd month)

Various Venues

Announced Monthly

- **Book Swap**
2nd Saturday 10.00 - Noon

Mobile Library

Location: The School, 1.10 - 1.50pm

Next Dates:

Monday 5th December

Call Wiltshire Library Services
on 01225 713727 for information

Forthcoming Events

13th WI meeting
10th Book Swap
15th Crafty

Kerbside Collections in December

**Black box, and plastic
and card recycling:**

Tuesdays 13th &
Wednesday 28th

Household waste:

Thursdays 8th & 22nd

Garden waste:

Fridays 9th & 23rd



Worton and Marston Link

If you need help with transport for hospital appointments visiting the doctor and dentist or other important journeys.

**Call W&M Link
on 07413 912828**

Deadline for items for the next Bridge is 15th December 2022
Giles Collins, Editor at Westview House, 109 High Street, Worton
Telephone: 01380 728664
email address: editorofthebridge@gmail.com