

# The Bridge



**Worton and Marston  
Parish Magazine**

**February  
2024**

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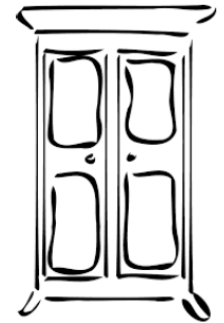
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# THE BRIDGE

Editor: Catherine Malli-Dawson [editorofthebridge@gmail.com](mailto:editorofthebridge@gmail.com)



Does your  
house need a  
HUG?

## Home Upgrade Grant Scheme (HUGS) - do you qualify?

Wiltshire Council has been successful in securing more than £3.6m government funding for home energy efficiency upgrades. This funding will allow the council to support retrofitting in owner-occupied and privately rented homes (landlords with no more than four properties).

The qualifying criteria are:

- not connected to mains gas
- have an energy performance certificate (EPC) rating of band D-G
- household income of less than £31,000

The retrofits will include:

- energy efficiency measures such as wall and loft insulation
- low-carbon heating technologies such as heat pumps
- renewable technologies such as solar PV
- smart measures such as smart heating controls

It would be great if qualifying residents in Worton and Marston could take advantage of this brilliant opportunity for warmer and more energy efficient homes.

Please contact me at [tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 07711 824864 for more information.

Kind regards

## A LETTER FROM REV GERRY LYNCH

This time of year is full of contradictions. Driving across Salisbury Plain the other night, I was delighted to notice a definite streak of twilight on the horizon at 6 o'clock. The first brave flowers have started pushing their way out, especially the snowdrops. Yet it can still be bitterly cold.

Even when things are at their bleakest, there are signs of new life, of the cycle of nature turning from retreat back towards growth again. We should be grateful for these seasonal signs of hope at a time when the global situation is more worrying than at any time since my 1980s boyhood. I'm sure many of you, like me, often find yourselves grimacing when you hear the news.

We've been in a succession of economic and political crises, domestic and global, since 2008, and they seem to be getting worse. The Post Office scandal shows terrible deterioration in the calibre and integrity of senior people both in our public services and the private sector alike. These political and economic crises reflect a deeper cultural crisis.

Life, as we all know, can't consist only of good times. The world has its golden ages and times of trouble, and so do our own lives. Yet the message sold to us by advertising and marketing is so often that life can always be good, that we can distract ourselves from our problems with the click of a button on the right website (and the accompanying deduction of a few quid from our bank account). Things will feel better, advertising screams at us, after a new conservatory, a jumbo fast-food meal, or a twenty quid flutter on United's next match.

Writing last month, the novelist and essayist Paul Kingsnorth, to my mind one of the most interesting British thinkers of our times, said that we lived at a time of "feast without fasting", because our economy depended on "endless, consumer-driven, growth". This is, he said, like taking a child to a sweet shop and allowing them to eat anything they want – it isn't as much fun as they thought, and they just end up sick.

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In the Church's year, the antidote to too much feasting is the season of Lent, which starts this year on Wednesday 14 February. Some people say Lent should be about the extra good deeds you do rather than what you give up. Well, extra good deeds are always great, but perhaps like me you already feel there aren't enough hours in the day. In any case, it does us all good to give up a few luxuries for a while.

Apart from anything else, giving things up for a month and a half means one appreciates them all the more when Lent ends at Easter – just the right time of year for feasting, with the weather getting warmer and a riot of flowers and bowers all around us. I hope the world will feel in a better state by then – but, realistically, I don't think it will.

Rev Gerry Lynch  
07521 440 622

## Devizes & District Foodbank

Collection box for  
donations in Christ Church



With the cost of living rising and more families than ever asking for support from our local foodbank, we have set up a donation box at the back of Christ Church. The Devizes & District Foodbank is very grateful for any non-perishable items that you are able to donate. Perhaps you could consider popping in with one small item each week to put in the box, such as a tin of tomatoes, a sachet of instant mash or a bottle of shampoo. All donations are much appreciated.

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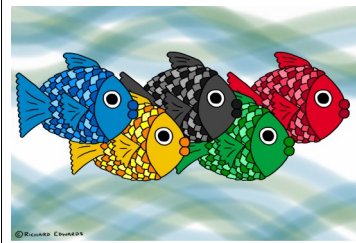
### FAMILY OF CHURCHES IN WORTON AND MARSTON

By now, the Newcomers' Welcome Party will have been held and a report will appear in the March Bridge.

Our next event will be the GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS followed by soup and rolls in Christ Church.

More details in the March Bridge.

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# PANCAKES



**Other refreshments available too, along with games and some friendly chat.**

## Community Café

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**2:00 – 4:00pm**

**in Christ Church**

**Everyone welcome**

**SERVICE CALENDAR**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

<b>Sun Feb 4th</b>	2 BEFORE LENT 9.30am.  6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Rev'd Gary Gotham</i>
<b>Sun Feb 11th</b>	NEXT BEFORE LENT 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Morning Praise
<b>Sun Feb 18th</b>	LENT 1 9.30am  6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Rev'd Gary Gotham</i>
<b>Sun Feb 25th</b>	LENT 2 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Family Service

**MARCH 2024**

<b>Sun Mar 3rd</b>	LENT 3 9.30am  6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>TBC</i>
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There were no weddings, funerals or baptisms at Christ Church during December

Visit the church website: [www.christchurchworton.org.uk](http://www.christchurchworton.org.uk)

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**WELLSPRINGS BENEFICE SERVICES**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent)</b>		
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Holy Communion	Worton
9:30am	Matins	Poulshot
11am	Holy Communion	Seend
11am	Morning Praise	Bulkington
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> (Sunday next before Lent)</b>		
9:30am	Holy Communion	Poulshot
9:30am	Morning Praise	Bulkington
9:30am	Morning Praise	Worton
11am	Holy Communion	Potterne
4pm	Evensong	Seend
<b>Weds 14<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday)</b>		
11am	Ash Wednesday Service	Potterne
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> (Lent 1)</b>		
8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Seend
9:30am	Holy Communion	Poulshot
9:30am	Holy Communion	Worton
11am	Holy Communion	Bulkington
11am	Morning Praise	Potterne
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> (Lent 2)</b>		
9:30am	Family Service	Worton
11am	Holy Communion	Potterne
11am	Holy Communion	Seend
4pm	Evensong	Poulshot
4pm	Holy Communion	Bulkington
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>		
3pm	Celtic Meditative Service	Poulshot

\*\* Messy Church is on hold at the moment while a new team is formed to lead it. Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved.

**Every Tuesday, 9am Daily Prayer service at Poulshot**

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

Tuesday Group meets each week at 10am in Potterne. Call 723289 for details.

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**Ministry Team**

Rector: Rev Gerry Lynch 07521 440 622  
 Associate Priest: Rev Caroline O'Neill 01380 828302  
 Benefice Administrator: Sarah Leckie 07516 224057  
[sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com](mailto:sarahleckie.wba@gmail.com)

**Church Registers**

No baptisms, weddings or funerals this month.

Please visit our website [www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk](http://www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk) for more details of all our services, latest updates and to keep in touch.

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**Christ Church Worton & Marston; our village church**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the church, churchyard and all its activities. It meets 4 – 6 times a year, or as needed. If you have anything to bring to the PCC's attention or anything you would like discussed at the next meeting, please speak to one of our churchwardens (Heather Walker or Jean Lane) or email the PCC Secretary, Rachel Holland, at [rachelholland@mac.com](mailto:rachelholland@mac.com)

**Notes from our PCC's meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

<p><b>Fundraising</b></p>  <p>We intend to transfer our regular giving to the Parish Giving Scheme. Donations can then be inflation-linked each year to keep up with the cost of living. Since Christmas, the church QR code has already been used and a three-figure amount collected – feel free to try it! We have other campaigns in mind to encourage giving for specific things – like churchyard upkeep for example, currently over £4,000 pa.</p>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>Our Parish Share (Parish Share is the sum of money paid by each parish every year to the diocese to support local ministry) was not paid in full this year and, having said that, a shortfall of around £7,000 is <u>still</u> expected. We already know the Parish Share for this year will increase and we anticipate this year's quinquennial report will throw up other calls upon our already stretched finances. Our financial state is a cause for concern and bold action is needed to address this.</p> 
<p><b>Fabric</b></p> <p>Our wall heaters, having given excellent service for many years, are now beginning to fail. Suitable replacements need to be sourced and money for purchase and installation found. Churchyard boundaries are causing concern and although areas of the churchyard have been deliberately <u>wilded</u>, the brambles coming from neighbouring properties are becoming a nuisance.</p> 	<p><b>Forthcoming</b></p> <p><b>Pancake Community Café:</b>          Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2.00 – 4.00pm          Fluffy, warm pancakes with a variety of toppings.</p>  <p><b>PCC Meeting:</b> Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm  <b>Community Café:</b> April TBC  <b>APCM:</b> Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, Christ Church, after morning service. Everyone is warmly invited to attend our annual public meeting.</p>

 We are delighted to welcome our new Rector, Rev Gerry Lynch, who takes up his appointment as our new incumbent at the end of January.

**A BIG WELCOME, GERRY!!**

## EDINGTON ARTS

Edington Arts is celebrating the start of their tenth season on Saturday 23 rd March with a full length (two hour) performance of Bach's St John Passion by the Oxford Bach Soloists and orchestra under their conductor Tom Hammond-Davies. The great international tenor Mark Padmore will be singing the role of The Evangelist. The performance is being generously sponsored by Edington Station Yard Ltd, and by The Three Daggers.

Bach's account of the Passion from the Gospel according to St John is 'punchier' than that of the St Matthew, and the superb communication skills of both soloists and chorus will be used to most moving effect. The Oxford Bach Soloists have been performing the St John Passion on Good Friday in Oxford for many years, where it has become an iconic, essential ingredient of the preparations for Easter. This will be the first time they have performed the St John Passion during Lent outside Oxford, and we are delighted they have chosen Edington as their venue. Their recent London debut, with Bach's Christmas Oratorio, received a five-star review in The Guardian, whose reviewer said "This virile, collegiate approach to Bach is the most exciting I've heard in a very long time".

Booking is now open, and tickets have been selling fast. There is still a great choice of seats however, and you can book online through [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org) or by phone from 01380 831256.

The performance starts at the earlier time of 7pm.



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## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Lots to report this month....

### Chair of Trustees

Many of you will know that Jeff and I have now left the village though I agreed to stay on as Chair of the Village Hall Trustees for a limited period so that the Hall could continue to function. However, I am really pleased to be able to report that **Lionel Dawson** of Marston has now volunteered to take on this role. I have met with Lionel a couple of times and think he will be an excellent addition to the team. He has lots of energy and enthusiasm and will no doubt come up with some exciting new ideas. It is also an added bonus that he comes from Marston as we have tried for several years to get some representation from Marston onto the Trustee group. Lionel has to be officially voted into this position at a Management Committee meeting which I am in the process of setting up. The hope is that the committee will agree to us co-chairing for the duration of the fundraising for the Kitchen (see below) with me taking on the fund raising and Lionel taking on everything else.

### Kitchen Project

We have now sent out Invitations to Tender (ITT) for the replacement of the kitchen at the Village Hall. We expect to receive bids early February and will then be clearer how much more funding we need to raise. We have split the project into three: the demolition and rebuilding of the existing structure on a larger footprint; the fitting of the kitchen and the replacement of the boiler. We hope that the bulk of this work can be undertaken during the school summer holidays but this will obviously depend on the availability of the contractors. We will keep you informed of progress through 'The Bridge'.

### Warm Space Event

A very successful warm space event was held on Saturday, January 12th at the Hall. This was facilitated by Marion and Howard Rutter and enjoyed by 19 villagers of all ages. As well as refreshments and the chance for a good catch up after the holidays, some of those who came also enjoyed games such as Snakes and Ladders, Rummikub and Scrabble.

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A second such event is planned for **Saturday February 17th**, this time facilitated by Sally and Giles Collins. These events are free and give you a chance to meet up with old friends, make new ones, and have a bit of fun. Do go along on the 17th. If you find its not your thing you can always leave.

**Jumble Sale Event**

This year the Annual Jumble Sale, normally held in March, will be on **Saturday April 6th at 2pm - 4pm**. We will be accepting donations at the hall on Friday (5th), between 4pm and 7pm. This is a great fundraising event for your hall and all good quality donations will be gratefully accepted, with the exception of books. Last year saw little demand for books at the event and we sadly had a lot of wastage.

Check back for more details upcoming in the March edition of The Bridge, as well as posters and flyers in the coming weeks.

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## FROM CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church looked beautiful during the run up to Christmas. A big thank you to the flower ladies who spent so much time on this. Although we know they love doing it.

The children from Five Lanes School came into church on three occasions, performing their Nativity twice on one day, and their Carol service a few days later. They all did so well, with so many lines and songs to learn, but it was obvious to see how much they all enjoyed doing it.

We held our Christmas Community Café, sang Carols around the villages with hot chocolate in church afterwards, then the traditional Carol service on Christmas Eve with a full church, and Christmas Morning Service.

2024 kicks off with the Family of Churches **Welcome Party for Newcomers** to the villages at the end of January, and a **Pancake Community Café** held in church on Friday February 10th from 2-4pm. So come along and relax, enjoy lovely pancake and other refreshments, chat to friends, and maybe play a board game.

We are now pleased to welcome Revd. Gerry Lynch as the Rector of the Wellsprings Benefice, and especially to Christ Church, following his licensing and induction service at the end of January. Gerry has been working in our Benefice during the last year, whilst being a Curate in St John's church in Devizes, so knows the area well, and is looking forward to his new role.

Heather and Jean, Churchwardens.

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## Semington Brook Breach beside Worton Flood Relief Tilt Gate

We think it's very important to present the facts relating to how this breach occurred.

The river at Worton splits into two branches, Semington Brook and the Mill Leat; both are classified by the Environment Agency as "Main River".

At a meeting at 'All Saints Church' on the 20th October, members of both Marston and Worton parish councils attended, together with Tamara Reay, our Wiltshire County Councillor and representatives of the Environment Agency (EA).

We were there to discuss the very serious flooding issue upstream on the bridle path and the adjoining field next to the Ray Bridge.

The rain was so bad that the meeting had to be held in the church.

At this meeting the EA was asked if its Worton Sluice gate was at its lowest level.

They admitted in the meeting that they didn't know.

Subsequently we have found out to our cost that the sluice was NOT at its lowest level.

On the night of the 26th October, six days later, water levels were higher than at any time in the 17 years we've been at The Old Mill.

The leat was over-topping the bank down the back-slope into Semington Brook below; a length of about 10m. This overflow resulted in a significant portion of the bank of Semington Brook being washed away. I could see water bubbling through the bank of the leat, probably through crayfish burrows.

I met with the EA on site and pleaded for sandbags to stop the water over-spilling into Semington Brook. I was told they couldn't do anything because there was serious flooding in Chippenham and the whole of Wessex. Overnight the situation became far worse and the bank and land behind it washed away, creating the early stage of what was to become a huge erosion cavity. Alarming, it eroded the bank of Semington Brook back so much that the width of the footpath along the leat was only one metre wide.

On the 27th October, a full week later, I discovered three people from the EA, who said they were lowering the tilt gate to its lowest level possible.

Over the last 17 years, the bank has always been sound and has never been breached.

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Over the next few days, the breach became considerably worse; with the additional rainfall from Storm Ciaran and, on 3 November, the footpath was completely washed away. The breach has continued to widen to this day. As things now stand (pm on 8 January) approximately half a tonne of water per second (0.5 cumec) is flowing through the breach into Semington Brook below.

We take the depletion of the water in the leat extremely seriously.

As a consequence, we have hired Cain Bio-Engineering (aka The River Doctors') to carry out repairs as soon as possible.

They have already removed two large branches, one of which was lying partially submerged, across the leat's flow path and are now planning to make a temporary flow diversion to allow them to survey and repair the bank breach.

They urgently need to reduce the flow through the breach in the hope of reducing the risk of 'Headward Retreat' (a process in which the erosion heads back upstream leaving a cavity in the leat bed). They are currently carrying out survey and design work to achieve this.

Meanwhile, one action they recommended was to reduce flood flows from the mill leat into the breach cavity by opening the mill sluices to drain off as much excess flow as possible. . This has been done; keeping the sluice at the mill open is critical to minimise further damage at the breach and to make it possible to carry out clearance, inspection, and survey work within the dangerous breach cavity.

We are doing everything possible to make sure that both arms of Semington Brook are returned to their former state, with the public footpath re-opened.

Complete repairs to the Brook cannot be carried out until the water level is much lower and the breach itself has been de-watered. Being realistic, this means that the final repairs will not be completed for several months.

We hope Semington Brook together with its lovely Riverside Walk can be restored to its former glories as soon as possible. We're working with the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council, together with our two Parish Councils to hopefully bring this about.

Alan and Yvonne Midgley  
The Old Mill.

(NOTE: This letter was printed as received with minor edits)

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## WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

Due to Christmas and New Year, I am afraid I do not have anything to report.

By the time you read this we will have had our Christmas Lunch which traditionally we always have in January. This year we ventured to the Three Magpies, full report next month!

On February 28<sup>th</sup> we are back in the Village Hall with Jenny from ‘Move it or Lose it’!! Nothing too strenuous but gets everything ‘moving’.

Looking ahead to March the 27<sup>th</sup> Steve Brackley from the Canal & Rivers Trust will be giving a talk. Village Hall 8pm.

Please do come along, always pleased to see fresh faces. The last Wednesday of the month. Village Hall 8pm start.

Pam Woods

## VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

200 Club winner for December: Suzanne Bonfield, Congratulations.

It is that time again when we need to renew our 200 Club subscription or join for the first time. A chance to win £50 in the monthly draw.

Only £12 for the year. The first draw of the season starts April 2024.

Please complete the subscription form enclosed within this Bridge, even if you have already done one before, and pop it through my letter box (address on form). Or give to any trustee.

Help to keep your Village Hall running.

Good Luck to everyone taking part.  
Pam Woods, Administrator, Worton & Marston Village Hall  
01380 726679

## WORTON COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH End of 2023 summary

(Speedwatch sessions are of 45 minutes duration)

### Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Following extensive research Worton Parish Council identified and purchased two speed indicator devices for installation on the village High Street. The two devices are located at the Eastern and Western entrances to the village and have been operating since early 2023.

The main purpose of the devices is to alert motorists to their speed and encourage them to observe the 30MPH village limit.

The table below shows the results obtained by the Community Speedwatch team in the course of their sessions of 45 minutes duration in 2022 before the introduction of the devices and 2023 following the deployment:

Year	Sessions	Total vehicle count	Vehicles exceeding 30MPH speed limit	Vehicles reported to Wiltshire Police
2022	129	42111	3101	656
2023	106	37584	1673	295

In addition the SIDs also monitor traffic volume, over a 24 hour period, and speeds. In the seven months from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, **725,000** vehicle movements were recorded.

At the end of every month vehicle speed data is downloaded from the SIDs and sent to the Wiltshire Police Team SID Project. This is added to data from other locations across Wiltshire and analysed by them to identify areas of excessive speed in the county. This enables them to more effectively deploy the Road Traffic Units. We have seen the teams in the village over the past year and they have been successful in identifying drivers exceeding the speed limit.

Bob Mitchell



**1st Lavington Guides have a fun packed programme planned for 2024 and you could be a part of it too!**

Our activities throughout January, February and March will include Fimo Model making, celebrating St Patricks day and all things Irish, exploring a variety of communication methods including emojis, flag signalling and more, games nights, badgework, cooking and crafting workshops.

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**TONY PARSONS**

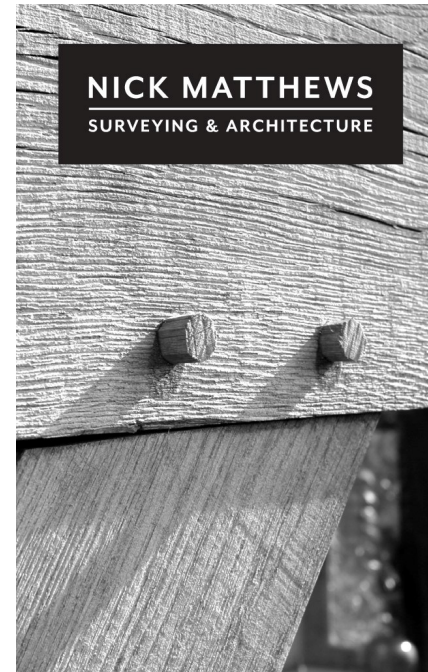
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Sunday	12.00 - 2.30	7pm-10pm

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We have a quiz on the last Sunday of every month.



## FEBRUARY BOOK SWAP



**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10.00am - 12 noon**  
 Brookfield House, Back Lane  
 (hosted by Kim Cannon)  
*(flagpole in the garden, flying high)*

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March**  
**10.00am - 12 noon**  
 The Giant's House, 127 High Street, Worton  
 (hosted by Ros Gingell)  
*(opposite the garage)*

### MONTHLY QUIZ, ROSE & CROWN

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Quiz takes place the last **SUNDAY** of the month.  
 7.30 start.

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Pam Woods (Quiz Mistress)

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## FIVE LANES WI

We met for our New Year Meal at The Bell at Great Cheverell on January 10th and spent a very pleasant evening chatting and eating. A very cold and frosty evening but the company was warm!

Our FEBRUARY meeting, scheduled on the 14th in the VILLAGE HALL at 7:00PM, will be our AGM. We are renowned for minimum business and maximum fun afterwards, with QUIZZES and REFRESHMENTS.

Our MARCH meeting on the 13th will be a talk by John Girvan on "DEVIZES HIDDEN SECRETS"!

Jean Lane 722069

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## Warm Space Tea & Cake

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Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
2.30pm - 4.00pm



All are welcome



Tea and cake provided

Come along for a game of cards and a chat

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This month the price was

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(Market highest: 71.95pp1, market average: 69.41pp1, internet price\*: 67.24pp1)  
(+vat @5% on all prices.) \*(+ delivery charge on internet price – currently £12)

If you are interested in joining the scheme, please contact: Marion  
(asap if you want to get in a **March** order)

Office Telephone: 07843 854857 Email address is [info@ofps.co.uk](mailto:info@ofps.co.uk)

If you phone, please leave a message and a number to return your call  
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Giles Collins (scheme co-ordinator for Worton/Marston)

## MESSAGE FROM OUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

February 2024

### Flooding issues are a priority for Wiltshire Council

Thankfully parishes across Devizes Rural West avoided the worst of Storm Henk. Brilliant team work by residents in Potterne to keep drains clear of debris meant that properties in Coxhill Lane and Duck Street remained dry this time. I am aware of other property flooding issues in Whistley Road (Potterne), Erlestoke, Marston and Worton, and of highways flooding issues across the area. Over the next few months, I will continue to work with Wiltshire Council's Flooding team to secure further improvements - the Council is investing an extra £1.5m into flooding prevention.

Following Storm Henk, the Government has made grant funding available for affected homeowners and businesses to apply for Government grant funding. There are several different types of support, depending on the damage and the type of property affected, including Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme, Farming Recovery Fund, Council Tax Relief and Business Rates Discount. [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/civil-emergencies-flooding](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/civil-emergencies-flooding). Homeowners and businesses that have been affected by flooding from Storm Henk should email [stormhenksupport@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:stormhenksupport@wiltshire.gov.uk).

You may see Parish Stewards at work across the area – they are responsible for specific aspects of general maintenance. Many villages also have wonderful volunteers who arrange litter picking, leaf clearing, cutting back vegetation and generally keeping our villages looking good. This benefits everyone and without this work our communities would be much less pleasant places to live.

Keeping our verges clear of weeds and drains clear of leaves and other blockages is a significant task and when you consider the vast amount of highway, both urban and rural in Wiltshire, you will understand that this is not a task that can only fall to the local Authority or volunteer groups to undertake.

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You may already have a scheme in your area where you have ‘Adopted a drain’. Put simply, if we could all make sure that the drains close to our homes, and where we walk in our villages are clear of leaves and any accumulated debris, excess water would flow better and keep pavements and the surrounding area free of standing water. This also applies to weeds at the edge of the road or pavement, where build-up of weeds can prevent rainwater flowing to the nearest drain.

If you do have a blocked drain that you cannot clear, please report it on the MyWilts App.

Please consider keeping the verges and drains near to your home clear of fallen leaves and debris. We can all do our bit to help keep the water moving. Thank you.

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



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## FLOWER OF THE MONTH



### *Viola*

Violets are believed to have been cultivated since at least 500 B.C. and originate in the northern hemisphere. They show their blooms from spring well into late summer, depending on the species. And there are over 400 varieties. The viola should not be confused with an African Violet that originates in east Africa and has thicker, heavier leaves and blooms.

The violet appears in Greek mythology as Aphrodite's sacred flower. While in Christianity, the violet symbolized the Virgin Mary's humility and modesty and are often depicted in paintings of her holding Jesus in her arms.

In herbal uses, they are often mixed into concoctions and used to strengthen the immune system, soothe sore throats, and detoxifying the body. They often appear as decorations in salads and sweets, and are, in fact edible.

Their colours are prescribed specific meanings:

Yellow—high worth	White—innocence and purity
Purple—truth and loyalty	Blue—faithfulness and devotion

(sources: [almanac.com](http://almanac.com), [gardeningknowhow.com](http://gardeningknowhow.com), [chestnutschoolofmedicine.com](http://chestnutschoolofmedicine.com))

## WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

We had a very useful meeting this month and it was great to meet Catherine and Lionel our new Bridge editors. We have decided to change the meeting start time to **7pm** in the hope that this will prove more manageable for all concerned. Perhaps this might encourage more residents to come along and get more insight into the workings of our village and what comes up.

### Waterway

At the time of writing, there has been a lot of concern about village water courses. As I have intimated previously, the role and power of the Parish Council in this area is very limited and specific. Like all residents, we are concerned when the village environment seems under threat. Solutions are never simple and frequently expensive. Cllr Patricia Goodenough has agreed to pass on residents' concerns regarding the Mill Race and associated water course issues to those we understand are looking into the issue.

### Traffic

Bob Mitchell shared the summary data for the last 6 months from the SIDS. This is certainly encouraging as there has been a significant reduction when compared with data from before the SIDS were in place. Please take time to review his article elsewhere in The Bridge as this represents a 55% fall - a testimony to the hard work and resilience of the Speedwatch team.

With these numbers, we are prepared to lobby as hard as we can (indeed villagers have been making this point for a very long time). The challenge of getting "something done" is huge when the situation we face is placed in the wider local and regional context. We are, as always, open to reasonable suggestions.

Cllr Richard Slack continues to head up our liaison with the Devizes LHFIF group which is the best way to access financial and practical support for projects to improve the traffic and related issues such as pedestrian safety. We are already hoping to progress on the idea of using an Auto speedwatch system but are also re-considering the viability of a 20mph speed limit through part of the village. If any progress is made in this area, full details will be shared before any final decision is made.

### Parish precept

The most significant decision made at the meeting was to approve the level of the Parish precept for 2024/25—the amount residents pay each year as part of the Council tax. We have endeavoured to keep the amount and any increases as small as possible. Over the period that I have been a member of the Council we have consistently achieved this. Largely due to careful, detailed scrutiny and considerable savings made by the efforts of councilors

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and other residents (many thanks for your support) to take on tasks ourselves rather than outsourcing. Thus, against a background of high inflation and significantly higher increases in other budgets, we have been able to significantly limit the precept figure. The process may seem complex, but please have a look at the Community website (under finance) where more detail will appear in due course.

The precept represents a small proportion of the total council tax bill, but as they used to say in an annoying advert ‘*every little helps*’!

**Village Environment Group**

Whilst on the subject of self help, Cllr Malcolm Powell gave more details on the proposed Village Environment Group which he will be heading up. Malcolm will give more detail at our February meeting, but the new group will provide an opportunity to have quality time outdoors whilst making a real difference to our environment and even improving fitness! More to follow in due course.

**Jubilee Footpath**

I am very much hoping to welcome more on board to help with progressing the Jubilee footpath project. Although this will likely overlap with Malcolm’s Environment group in the course of time, our initial need is for support to enable us to access funding to simply get our plaque in place to enable an official “opening” and project launch. We have had to delay whilst certain issues were cleared up, but this has proved a blessing in disguise as we can now see a route to an even better result. I am hoping to have shared some of these ideas at the Newcomers Welcome Party in the hope of involving new residents, but, of course, all help is welcome. If you want to know more, please contact myself (Barry@worton.org.uk) or Patricia Goodenough directly, or via Jules, our clerk.

**Newland Homes Update**

Lastly, a quick update from Newland Homes. The most recent information I have is that preliminary work should have begun by the time of publication, with work on housing started by the end of February. I'm sure we all await developments with interest!

Your Councillors!

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or email us:  
WortonToddlers@gmail.com



Through January we met lots of new families, tried some delicious snacks, and watched a few junk modelling rockets take to the skies!

February will see some more seasonal crafts and not forgetting a Valentine's treat we are not sure will make it home...

### Date for your diary

No Toddlers on February 14th due to the half term break.

## WORTON AND MARSTON GARDEN CLUB

“The February sunshine steeps your boughs  
and tints the buds and swells the leaves within.”

William Cullen Bryant

Well, whilst we wait for spring to burst forth in a couple of months, it's worth taking stock of what you have just now in your garden to keep some winter interest and colour. If you didn't manage to get to The Botanic Nursery's first open day in January for the NGS, you can still visit and wander in the garden. There are so many shrubs and trees for winter interest, stem, bark, winter fragrance.

Walking through my own garden en-route to the chickens, my favourite new winter flower is Clematis Cirrhosa 'Wisley Cream'. Just beautiful, nodding cream bells hanging from the leaf axils on an evergreen climber. It is not scented however, it is scrambling through a lovely scented Lonicera Fragrantissima, winter flowering honeysuckle, which is in full flower at the moment. I am trying to add a bit more evergreen to the garden structure each year as well as lots of lovely scented flowers. So much to do, just a tad too cold and wet recently.

Our meeting this month is on **Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> 730pm for 8pm**. We have an interesting talk lined up from Joe Bradshaw – Managing Director and Rob Frith – Principal Ecologist of Keystone Environmental Ltd. They will give a brief overview of Ecological Consultancy and the role they play in maintaining protected species and their associated habitats. Rob is also a very keen gardener and has managed his sizeable plot and allotment in the interest of Biodiversity.

If you have any topics you would like covered at a meeting do let me know.

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Upcoming events

**NGS Gardens Open in February**

Lyn miles' snow drop garden at Westcroft in Boscombe. It may be a small garden but Lyn has over 400 named varieties and some for sale.

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/22098/westcroft>

March Meeting

Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>

We have Richard Cripps talking on Britain's Woodland Heritage which will cover identification, natural history, social and economic histories and folklore. Should be really interesting. All welcome.

Best wishes,

Alison Parker aelparker@aol.com

**The Worton and Marston Link Scheme**

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**USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS - 2024**

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**Christ Church, Worton (part of the Wellsprings Benefice):**

Contact the Benefice Office on 07516 224057 or  
 at [contact.wellsprings@gmail.co.uk](mailto:contact.wellsprings@gmail.co.uk)

**Church Wardens:**

Mrs Heather Walker 01380 725785 [heatherwalker66@gmail.com](mailto:heatherwalker66@gmail.com)

Mrs Jean Lane 01380 722069 [joje@talktalk.net](mailto:joje@talktalk.net)

**Cricket (Worton and Poulshot):** Giles Collins 07530 771405

[giles.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:giles.collins@btinternet.com)

**Football (The Badgers):** Club President Pete Huntley 07974 756131  
 or Club Secretary Rob Nuttall 07706 167347

**Garden Club:**

Alison Parker 07786 985741 [aelparker@aol.com](mailto:aelparker@aol.com)

Sally Brooks 07957 917851 [svwood90@hotmail.com](mailto:svwood90@hotmail.com)

**Village Show** - Bill Francis 01380 739986  
[dfrancis162@btinternet.com](mailto:dfrancis162@btinternet.com)

**Ladies Group:** Pam Woods 01380 726679

Meet last Wednesday each month 8pm, in the Village Hall.

**Link Scheme:** Lyn Vickers Transport Coordinator 07413 912828

Alun Newman (Chair)

[wandmlink@gmail.com](mailto:wandmlink@gmail.com) for further information

**Marston Parish Council:** Steven Bennett

[clerk@marstonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@marstonpc.co.uk)

**Rose and Crown:** John & Jackie 01380 724202

**School (Five Lanes):** [admin@fivelanes.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fivelanes.wilts.sch.uk)

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**SpeedWatch:** Bob Mitchell [wortonspeedwatch@gmail.com](mailto:wortonspeedwatch@gmail.com)

**Tennis:** Seend Tennis Club: Sally Jackson 07798 564712  
 Devizes Tennis Club: Barry Devine 07809 221341  
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings.

**Toddlers' Group:** Linda Rose [wortontoddlers@gmail.com](mailto:wortontoddlers@gmail.com)  
 text 07921 867206

**Village Hall (Worton and Marston):** Veronica Franklin  
[veronica.franklin@btinternet.com](mailto:veronica.franklin@btinternet.com) 01380 726845

**Wiltshire Council:** Tamara Reay  
 Wiltshire Councillor of Devizes Rural West  
[tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk) 07711 824864

**Worton Parish Council:**  
 Chair: Barry Devine [barry@worton.org.uk](mailto:barry@worton.org.uk) [bazandsaz@gmail.com](mailto:bazandsaz@gmail.com)  
 Other Parish Councillors: Richard Slack Dicky Parsons  
 Patricia Goodenough Malcolm Powell Chris Collins  
 Robert Goss Nick Stokes Clerk: Jules Slack

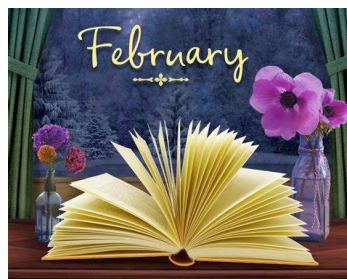
**Women's Institute (W.I.):** Helen Bodman (President) 01380 723593

**Worton United Charities:** Trustee Chair Bill Francis  
[dfrancis162@btinternet.com](mailto:dfrancis162@btinternet.com)

(Please contact me ([editorofthebridge@gmail.com](mailto:editorofthebridge@gmail.com)) if there are any contacts you would like to add, change or remove.)

## February

Winter walks and starlit nights,  
 Good books and cosy hours,  
 Time for friends and heartfelt sharing,  
 Dreams of springtime flowers...  
 Although it may be short on days,  
 Each February brings the simple little gifts  
 We count among life's precious things.



Unknown Author



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Extracts from *The Bridge* (February, 1994),  
kindly provided by Tony Walker

*The Bridge*

**February**

February is the shortest month  
With but 28 days clear  
But once in four years it seems  
There comes a leap year  
When February gets an extra day  
To do with what it will  
I wonder if it will be good  
Or if it will bring ill  
But that won't be for 2 years yet  
We have time to prepare  
And think of what good we can do  
That extra day to share  
Things are stirring underground  
And soon there will be seen  
Crocuses and snowdrops  
Peeping through the green  
Days will become longer  
So we can all take part  
To tidy house and garden  
It's time to make a start  
For after winters slumber  
Things will need a clean  
Get rid of all the cobwebs  
That all around are seen  
Not only those we see  
But those we know are there  
In our hearts and minds  
Let's show that we can care  
Get rid of hatred, fear and woe  
And give a helping hand  
To those who are worse off than us  
So they can understand  
Not everyone is callous, wicked or unkind  
We can only look around and see  
Folk of a different kind  
Friends and even neighbours  
Can all play their part  
To share with one another  
Blessings of a thankful heart

*I. Hale*

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February 1994

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## VILLAGE DIARY

### Regular Meetings

#### In the Village Hall

- **Garden Club**  
3rd Monday 8.00pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **Pilates classes**  
Thursdays 7pm-8pm & 8pm-9pm
- **Ladies Group**  
Last Wednesday 8pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **Women's Institute**  
14th Wednesday Village Hall
- **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

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

#### Various Venues

Announced Monthly

- **Book Swap**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10.00 - Noon

#### Mobile Library

**Location:** The School, 13.10 - 13.50

**Next Date:** Monday 26th February

Call Wiltshire Library Services  
on **01225 713727** for information

### Forthcoming Events

10<sup>th</sup> Book Swap  
14<sup>th</sup> WI  
19<sup>th</sup> Garden Club

### Kerbside Collections in December

**Black box, and plastic  
and card recycling:**  
Tuesdays 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

**Household waste:**  
Thursdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>

**Garden waste:**  
Fridays 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>



### 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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
Catherine Malli-Dawson, Editor at Carpe Diem, Plough Lane,  
Marston  
Telephone: 07984 301 258