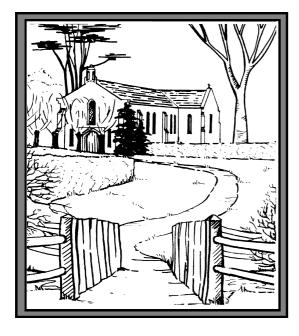
The Bridge



Worton and Marston Parish Magazine

> March 2023

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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Giles Collins editorofthebridge@gmail.com

Thank You

Thank you to all of you who have just paid the annual subscription for The Bridge. It is much appreciated, and much needed to keep The Bridge running.

If you did not have £4 to hand this month, please can you remember to set it aside to pay when your distributor next comes round. Many thanks.

Goodbye & Good Luck

On Friday 10th February 2023, staff, pupils and some villagers said farewell to Mrs Williams from Five Lanes School office. Louise has worked at the school for 12 years and during her time there has helped many staff, families and children settle within the school community, giving assistance with a wide range of tasks on a daily basis.

Louise was instrumental in planning and assisting with school village events, in particular the annual village fete, run in conjunction with Christchurch. She worked tirelessly to help make this a success and her enthusiasm, organisational skills and 'hands on' approach was always appreciated, as was the help from her family, who were often roped in to help too! As well as her day job, Louise spent some years on the school Governing Body and voluntarily supported the PFA (Parent, Friends Association) in fund raising and organising events.

Mrs Williams will be missed by those in Worton, Marston and Potterne, as well as families from the surrounding area and we thank her for the dedication and generosity she has given in her role at Five Lanes School. We wish her well in her new job at Lavington School.

Helen Morse





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Pastoral Letter

Maureen's Ramblings.....

I rarely watch Songs of Praise on the BBC, as it is not on at a convenient time for me. But I caught it a few weeks ago and found myself singing along - joining about 1 million viewers who watch each week. I also like singing hymns (or many of them!!) Even in an age as secular as ours, its spiritual life battered by apathy, materialism and lack of robust debate about the nature of faith in our 21st Century world, the great hymns of our Christian tradition have the ability to rouse us, lift our spirits and bring us together.

I have to admit that I rarely watch football much either, but did watch a recent big match on the TV where the fans, in all their post-modern diversity, led by a brass band, sang with passion and enthusiam the hymn "Abide with me" written by a Victorian clergyman! But look at the words – how come a game that is so clearly an affirmation of the life of the body sing a hymn which is a meditation on death?

"Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide.

When other helpers fail and comforts flee help of the help-less. oh. abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day, earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away Change and decay in all around I see O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.

Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if Thou abide with me Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes. Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me".

Henry Lyte wrote this prayer in 1847 just months before he died of tuberculosis. The tune was written by William Monk,

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

weeks after the tragic death of his three-year old daughter. In both words and music they are seeking the help, comfort, strength and courage of God to face what the future holds. It is a prayer that I have used when facing my own struggles and walking alongside others in theirs.

But what does this ritual mean for the football crowds, looking down on a football pitch instead of a grave? Maybe hymn singing is about community and belonging; when the identities of the opposing teams, and all of life's other rivalries and tensions, are temporarily subordinated to an assertion of a shared humanity. And maybe, just maybe, the words will be remembered by individuals walking through their own darkness and loneliness and their own journeys of change, loss and grief. This hymn, like so many, point us to God — a God it might be hard to conceive or believe in; a God who might seem far away when we are in darkness. But a God who can stir up hope in us for that day when "heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee". We always sing hymns in the five churches of the Wellsprings Benefice. Why not come along and join us?!

The Revd. Maureen Allchin, Retired priest



MARCH BOOK SWAP

Saturday 11th March 10.00am - 12 noon

at Homeground, 50 High Street, Worton hosted by Ann Darling

Saturday 15th April
(NB 3rd Saturday, to avoid Easter weekend)
10.00am - 12 noon
at Brookfield House, on Back Lane
hosted by Kim Cannon

SERVICE CALENDAR

MARCH

	LENT 2 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion MARSTON CHAPEL TBC
Sun March 12 th	LENT 3 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Morning Praise MARSTON CHAPEL
Sun March 19 th	MOTHERING SUNDAY 9.30am	TBC CHRIST CHURCH Mothering Sunday MARSTON CHAPEL TBC
Sun March 26 th	LENT 5 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Family Service MARSTON CHAPEL TBC

APRIL

Sun April 2 nd PALM SUNDAY 9.30am		CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion	
		MARSTON CHAPEL TBC	

The Baptism of Myles Turk took place at Christ Church in January.

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



WELLSPRINGS BENEFICE SERVICES MARCH 2023

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.

MARCH

Sunday 5th (Lent 2) Potterne

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

Sunday 12th (Lent 3)

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

Sunday 19th (Mothering Sunday/Lent 4)

9:30am	Mothering	Sunday	Service	Worton
--------	-----------	--------	---------	--------

10:00am	Mothering Si	unday Service	e Chapel of Ear	se, Poulshot

10:00amMothering Sunday ServiceSeend11:00amMothering Sunday ServicePotterne11:00amMothering Sunday ServiceBulkington

Friday 24th

3:30pm Messy Church Potterne Village Hall

Sunday 26th (Lent 5)

9:30am Family Service Worton 11am Holy Communion Potterne 11am Holy Communion Seend

4pm Blessing of Bells Service Poulshot 6pm Evening Service Bulkington

Wednesday 29th

5pm Celtic Meditative Service Poulshot

Every Tuesday, 9am Daily Prayer service at Poulshot

Churches are open for private prayer during the week.

Please visit our website <u>www.wellspringsbenefice.co.uk</u> 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

Baptisms

Myles Turk on 22nd January at Christ Church, Worton.

No weddings or funerals this month.





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From Christ Church:

As part of the Family of Churches there is a report of the very successful Newcomers Party elsewhere in The Bridge.

A few dates for your diaries:

Sunday 19th March: there will be a Mothering Sunday service with something for all

Sunday 2nd April: Palm Sunday, we will be pleased to welcome Bishop Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury, to Christ Church. Bishop Andrew will be leading a Communion Service and will be staying for some social time after the service.

Look him up on You Tube!

Other Easter Services will be advertised separately.

Sunday 16th April: will be Rev Ali's last day in post as Rector of the Wellsprings Benefice. It is hoped to have a Benefice Service at St Mary's Potterne, to mark Ali's Ministry with us. To be confirmed, more details next month.

Sunday 7th May: A Coronation celebration, possibly after the morning service. More details next month

Saturday 20th May: Village Fete and Plant Sale to be held at Christ Church. Offers of help and plants will be appreciated.

Please continue to pray for Ali and Stu as they prepare to move, and for return to good health for Ali.

Pray also for Rev Jane Knowles as she continues her recovery from her recent major surgery.

Heather and Jean, Churchwardens



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





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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Sadly, White Horse Opera's main production L'elisir d'amore by Donizetti had to be curtailed last October due to illness BUT for those who missed our fabulous, hilarious show, fear not we are performing scene excerpts in our **Elixir Concert** at Devizes Town Hall on 21st April at 7.30pm. Tickets just £10 are available now at Devizes Books and online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/whitehorseopera Don't miss out on the fun this time!

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Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Wiltshire https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/wiltshire has loads of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Wiltshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk iohn@walkinginengland.co.uk

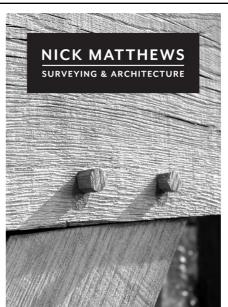
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Last month, we got creative with the wooden Wendy House, transforming it into a space rocket one week and a bus the next, much to the delight of the toddlers. It was very cute watching them really use their imaginations.

This month, we have lots of fun activities planned including: a World Book Day celebration; a Red Nose Day event; and something for Mothers' Day. Plus, we will have the usual toys, games, craft activities, tea and cake.

Don't forget that we will be closed for the first two weeks of April for the Easter Holidays.



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ECO-CORNER - Earth Hour - The Great Switch-off

At 8.30 pm local time on March 25th, people around the world will be switching off their lights for one hour!

This began in March 2007, as you may know, when more than 2.2 million individuals and 2,000 businesses in Sydney, Australia switched off their lights for one hour to raise awareness about environmental degradation and to encourage people to take action to protect the planet. This marked the beginning of the **Earth Hour** movement.

Earth Hour was first proposed by the WWF and today it is one of the world's largest grassroots environmental movements. It takes place every year with the same aim as it did in 2007 - to unite the world in support of the people and the planet.

However, it has gone beyond switching off the lights for one hour. It is also a time for reflection on our impact on the planet and how we can make a difference, together. People join from their homes and local communities in over 190 countries and territories. In 2022, famous landmarks - from the Sydney Opera House to the Colosseum and the Eiffel Tower, stretching to the London Eye and to the Empire State Building turned their lights off.

Joining in the big switch-off allows even small actions to make a difference because we're not alone. The next generation cares about tackling the nature and climate crises; every year, schools and youth groups across the UK mark Earth Hour. By raising awareness of this simple, but very significant, movement, we can inspire others around us to take part and show their concern for the planet.

Says the WWF: "We all need nature. And nature needs us to stand up for it every day. By 2030, nature and wildlife could be recovering all around us. Our leaders have promised to put nature at the heart of climate action, to secure a safer future for all of us. Now we must make sure they deliver on their promise. Everyone has a part to play – and it starts with a single switch. Will you join us?"

Anyone who wishes to get involved this year, as well as switching off on 25th March, can visit WWF's Earth Hour page at https:// www.wwf.org.uk/earth-hour for information on how they might take part and reduce their footprint on the planet.

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





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WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

We started the year off with a visit to the Wharf Theatre to see a play called 'Ladies Day' which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Our next meeting on the 22nd February will be a craft evening with Val, when we can show off our hidden talents!

Looking further ahead to the 29th March we have Katy from Bath Cats & Dogs Home to give a talk; all our animal lover members are looking forward to that. In the following month on 26th April we have another hands-on evening with Karen who will show us how to do 'Wet Felting'.

Look forward to seeing everyone, usual time 8pm Village Hall. Anyone interested in joining our group, please come along; you would be most welcome.

Pam Woods







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Worton Community Speedwatch – January 2023

(Wiltshire Speedwatch sessions are restricted to 45 minutes)

Sessions: **ELEVEN**

Total Vehicles Counted: 2,867

Vehicles recorded for exceeding the 30mph speed limit: 131 of which 22 were reported to Wiltshire Police for excess speed.

Maximum Speed Recorded: 41mph on Friday 27th between 10.00 and 10.45.

Highest Vehicle Count: 359 on Friday 27th between 15.00 and 15.45.

These were our first sessions since the installation of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) at the eastern end of the village and it should be noted that of the 22 excess speeders only two were recorded coming in from the east. It will be interesting to see in February what impact the SID at the western end will have had.

Kind regards, Bob Mitchell





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Worton and Marston Village Show 2023

We would like to focus on the Children's classes at this year's show, which as a quick reminder will be held on Saturday 2nd September.

The classes in the Children's section are as follows:-

- 71. A GARDEN ON A PLATE
- 72. A CREATURE MADE FROM FRUIT AND VEG
- 73. FOUR DECORATED BISCUITS
- 74. A HANDMADE BIRTHDAY CARD
- 75. A PAINTED/DECORATED PEBBLE

These will be judged in two age groups, up to 6 years, and 6-11 years. Remember any child with a family connection to a resident of Worton or Marston can enter.

We will also be working with Five Lanes School on getting the pupils involved in various ways too.

Finally a quick reminder of the children's classes in the Photography section, children up to 16 in this case:-

- 81. GNOMES
- 82. A TREE OR TREES
- 83. A WILDFLOWER/WILDFLOWERS

Good luck to all.

On behalf of the organising committee,

Bill Francis, Show chair, 739986

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

Wondering whether I was alone in rueing the loss of Cuckold's Green to nearby Potterne (letter page 17 February's Bridge). I've looked at eight maps - Ordnance Survey and others - from 1773 to 1991 and found they all depict Cuckold's Green immediately behind, and including, Turnpike Cottage, all well to the south (Worton side) of the boundary stream. Additionally the 1840 Tithe Apportionment shows Land Parcel No. 854a as Turnpike Cottage, Cuckold's Green.

Can any of your other readers help to settle the matter?

Robin Shercliff

Park Farm House

Worton and Marston Garden Club

Today, the sun is shining and it even feels slightly warm, so I've just been outside cutting back all of the deciduous grasses. Some of them still look lovely with their plumes dancing in the breeze, and stunning when covered with a hoar frost. It is a task that needs to be done otherwise later pruning could cause damage to new shoots. The big frosts we've had this winter have caused shrubs some damage, in particular the - sadly no longer evergreen – Pittosporum, Phormium, Ceanothus, Salvias etc. So, whilst I may have been chopping down the grasses, I will definitely be leaving the shrubs alone until we are firmly in spring. I'm hoping to be amazed by their tenacity and rewarded with some lovely new green growth...... Fingers crossed.

Sally and I went along to the Newcomers' Party as representatives of the Garden Club. We met lots of lovely people, some of whom, we hope, will be joining the Garden Club. We look forward to welcoming them. We also must thank Heather and Jean and the team for providing and co-ordinating such a good evening.

Being gardeners, thinking ahead to Spring and what to plant, grow or alter is what we do or would like to do. You may be thinking your borders need to be a bit more interesting or you'd like a new pond or feature, so it's a good time to get out and about and visit some special gardens or shows. You may well have been to RHS Chelsea or Hampton Court, but a nice early one, and easy to get to from here, is RHS Malvern Spring Show which is in May. There are lovely show gardens and talks which are great for giving even just little ideas of something you can adapt for an area in your own garden. Lots of tempting plants to buy and all in a beautiful setting. I've just booked my ticket as it's been a while. Exciting! Closer to home, we have a lovely garden open for the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 19th March, Fonthill House near Tisbury. Formal gardens and woodland, lots of bulbs, new borders extensively renovated over the last few years. They do lovely teas and it's dog-friendly. ngs.org.uk.

Looking ahead we will soon be putting together a programme for next year and we would really welcome ideas for speakers, topics or visits especially from new members or people new to gardening.

Alison Parker

aelparker@aol.com

Diary dates

These meeting are held in the Village Hall - doors open at 7:30pm. New members always welcome.

Monday 20th March - talk by Sara Willman 'Growing Flowers for Cutting'.

Sara is a florist who uses British grown flowers, some of which are grown in Upavon. Check out her website - myflowerpatch.co.uk

Monday 17th April - talk by Paul Jupp 'A Meadow in My Garden' Paul talks about wildlife friendly meadows and has seed mixes for attracting pollinating insects to our gardens.

Monday 15th May - talk by Rupert Wade

Rupert is from Market Lavington and is coming to give us hints and tips for showing fruit, vegetables and flowers; plenty of ideas for when it comes to the Village Show in September!

Sally Brooks svwood90@hotmail.com

Holy Week and Easter in Worton & Marston

PALM SUNDAY – 2nd April 9:30am Holy Communion

Led by the Bishop of Ramsbury, The Right Reverend Dr Andrew Rumsey

HOLY WEEK

Compline and Ignatian Prayer

Monday 3rd April, 7:30pm at St Mary's Church, Potterne Tuesday 4th April, 7:30pm at Christ Church, Worton

Wednesday 5th April, 7:30pm at Christ Church, Bulkington

Maundy Thursday - 6th April

7:30pm Holy Communion followed by The Watch of Prayer at St Peter's Church, Poulshot. This will be preceded, at 6:30pm, by the Last Supper.

Good Friday - 7th April

Walk of witness and soup lunch

11:00am Short service at Marston Chapel followed by walk to Christ Church, Worton for a soup lunch (if you don't wish to walk, join us for lunch at 12:00pm)



EASTER DAY Sunday 9th April

9:30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, Worton





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Worton & Marston Link

Thank you to the people who organised the Newcomers' Party, the buffet was excellent as always, I ate too much and together with the wine it was an evening to savour. I hope the newcomers remember the conversations regarding the Link Scheme. To recap for all villagers the Link Scheme offers transport for important but in practice mainly medical appointments. It is not a good idea to be driving when feeling unwell and thinking about doctor conversations. We will also pick up prescriptions or anything to reduce stress when unwell. It is important when living in our two villages to have peace of mind and have an independent life if the car is off the road. If you need transport please ring 07413912828 where Lyn will do her best to help you. If the line goes to the answerphone Lyn is probably helping someone else so leave a message and she will get back to you quickly.

If you would like to help keep the service going so it is available when you need it, ring the same number or email wandmlink@gmail.com for further information. We are looking for drivers and we offer 45p a mile fuel cost. We do not want anybody to be out of pocket but a small amount of time will be a great help. We also require administrators to help with the organisation of the scheme; again only a small amount of time is needed.

Alun

**** Advance Notice **** Save The Date ****

VILLAGE FETE AND PLANT SALE Saturday 20th May 2023

Including plant sale, cake stall, book booth, games, cream teas, and more. Further information to follow in the April edition of The Bridge. Your support and donations for this are much appreciated.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to have a stall to sell your own goods, hobbies, or other produce, please get in touch with Jean Lane (01380 722069) or Heather Walker (01380 725785)

Worton Parish Council

At last our two SIDS are up and running...many thanks to Bob Mitchell, the Speedwatchers and Councillors Powell, Bonfield and Slack who have done so much to make this happen. We are also grateful for the financial and advisory help we have been getting from Devizes LHFIG (Local highway and Footpath Improvement Groups) thanks especially to Tamara Reay who has been very effective in supporting our cause. Early signs are very positive with the data clearly showing a positive impact on reducing speed.

You may be aware that there appears to be a discrepancy between the speed that appears on the SID and the one displayed on a car speedometer. This does not indicate any fault with either system but is, in fact, perfectly normal. Apparently it's to do with the way each model of car's high tech system works and is part of the reason why there needs to be a margin of error taken into account where breaches of the law occur in this respect.

In actual fact, we have been the recipients of praise as a model for just how to proactively face the challenge of traffic concerns in villages. We are receiving requests for information from other villages and have been asked to further spread advice on best practice. This is a testimony to the resilience of the Speedwatch team and Council members, with the support of the village community. We should be proud of ourselves.

Concerns about traffic issues consistently come up whenever a survey of residents takes place. We use these to draw up a village plan which we will update you on at the next annual village meeting which we have scheduled for May 15th (more detail in due course).

With this in mind, we have been discussing what we can do most effectively to make things even better, and this is where some clarification is needed. Any suggestion will only come to fruition if a number of factors work together.

The first is cost. We have a very limited amount of funds at our disposal, the great majority of which comes from our small share of the income from all of our Council tax payments. Thus,

The Bridge March 2023

(continued from previous page)

we need to bid for support from other sources, chiefly the aforementioned LHFIG (who have supported us with the SIDS proiect). We regularly represent your interests at these meetings and do our best to effectively present our case on your behalf. We have been considering whether widening the footpath in some locations could have a dual benefit of improving pedestrian access and safety whilst also potentially restricting speed. Clearly, this would not be something to be entered into lightly and requires expert, professional judgment. Here we find ourselves in something of a "chicken and egg" dilemma where any consideration of support needs to follow a clear proposal from us which needs to contain the sort of detail which is difficult to do without having already had guidance from the LHFIG!

It's very challenging to get the support we need. LHFIG receives reasonable requests from virtually every town and parish council in the area which can number in the 50's at any one time. Their budget is limited and they need to prioritise. Of course, every council / resident thinks that their need should be a priority and we are no exception!

Unfortunately, we are up against one of the main parameters that is used, in that council areas which have larger populations are likely to find it easier to gain support from LHFIG as larger numbers benefit (and arguably have contributed more to the "pot" for re-distribution). This means that councils like our own rely on presenting any case very effectively and applying consistent pressure and reminders, which is what we endeavour to do. The process will take years from presentation, acceptance through to fruition, so we need to be realistic in our ambitions and mindful of concerns such as those expressed in relation to the pavement widening idea. We are also investigating whether there could be any possibility of a weight restriction of some kind. We understand that Seend PC share our concerns and we may get the chance to present a joint case at County level in due course. Again, we are against any findings in terms of cost/ benefit on this but we continue to be ready to present our case.

I also think it would be useful to give a bit more detail on what benefits may come to the village from the Sandleaze Housing (continued on next page)

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development proposal which is still going through the planning process. Any housing development has to take account of the potential impacts on the existing community and part of this takes the form of specific commitments that need to be financed. One form this takes is known as "section 106" payments. This has already been agreed and legally established as part of the planning process and will be used to improve and enhance recreation facilities immediately bordering the new development. There would also be further funding coming into the village under what is referred to as the "Community infrastructure levy". Unfortunately, the great majority of this will go to Wiltshire rather than ourselves, but the amount we might get could still be significant in terms of the scale we operate on. If the housing development proposals are successful in their current form we can reasonably expect a very useful sum to come to us in the next couple of years. We have been considering carefully requests for support from the Village hall in terms of their plans to transform the kitchen and greatly improve one of our most important facilities, but we will also be considering what other ways we can make the best use of the finance available if it comes to fruition - unlikely to be repeated in the foreseeable future.

For one positive change that can be reported we owe thanks to Brendan Lovet who has single-handedly renovated the planters on the western approach to the village. This has taken some skill and not insignificant bravery as he coped with the dual threats of wasps and traffic. Thanks are also due to the Garden club and of course, all the others who are prepared to "do their bit" in keeping our village as pleasant as possible. By the way, we are still waiting for Wiltshire to replace the damaged post at the Cedar Close crossing - we are on a waiting list!

Barry Devine



Wiltshire Council's 2023/24 Budget

It's the time of year when Wiltshire Council, local Parish Councils, the Police & Crime Commissioner and Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service finalise operating budgets for the next financial year, and Council Tax and precepts are agreed.

Over the last couple of months Wiltshire Council's proposed budget has gone through a detailed programme of oversight and scrutiny and by the time you read this article, it should have secured final approval by the Full Council which meets on Tuesday 21 February.

The Council's proposed budget for 2023/24 stands at £465m - it is legally obliged to set a balanced operating budget and the budget planning is intended to ensure there is a strong financial foundation in place over the coming years given the economic challenges and high levels of inflation.

The most significant spending in 2023/24 will be on:

- Whole life pathway (mental health, autism spectrum conditions and learning disabilities support services) - £96m, an increase of £11m
- Living and ageing well (adult care) £83m, an increase of £15m
- Families and children £63m, an increase of £2m
- Environment (which includes waste and recycling services) £48m, an increase of £4m
- Highways and transport £41m, an increase of £3m
- Education and skills £29m, an increase of £6m

The council's last reported budget gap for 2023/24 to 2025/26 in November 2022, stood at £45m, but following confirmation of the Government's financial settlement this was reduced to £33m. Delivering on efficiencies means that budget for this three-year period, does not require the council to use reserves to fund ongoing service delivery. The council is also able to release £13 million of reserves to spend on business priorities, particularly in supporting housing provision during the cost-of-living crisis. Therefore, Wiltshire Council is proposing a 2.99% general increase for the council's element of council tax, plus a 2% levy to be spent solely on adult social care. This will mean an increase of £1.57 per week for those in a Band D property.

A number of other measures are proposed including an increase in

fees and charges for some council services such as leisure and garden waste collection; making better use of the Council's own buildings; and a more streamlined Street Scene service. However, despite the challenges, the Council will continue to invest in the improvement and maintenance of the county's infrastructure, with almost £200m due to be spent on capital projects in 2023/24.

Tamara Reay

Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West.

Tel: 07711 824864 Email: tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Village Hall News

Well, after a successful soup lunch to celebrate Village Halls Week we are hoping for a good turn out at our Jigsaw Swap and family Board Games afternoon on Saturday (18th February). Obviously, this will have passed by the time you are reading this but let's hope I can report another successful event to provide a warm space and a fun afternoon (all free).

Please note the date of our next event **The Annual Jumble Sale**. This will take place on Saturday, March 11th from 2pm to 4pm. Please deliver any contributions of good quality, clean clothes (adult or child-sized), bric-a-brac, books or children's toys to the hall on Friday, March 10th between 4pm and 7pm and don't forget to come along and pick up a bargain. Entrance will be £1 per person with children entering free of charge.

After this we are holding a Family Bingo afternoon on **Saturday**, **April 1**st. As I explained last month this is an experiment in response to being asked if children can attend the bingo nights we have previously put on. We can't have children at them because we serve alcohol, so no alcohol at this event but plenty of tea / coffee / squash and cake. Entrance to this will be by ticket for adults at the cost of £5 each for a card for each of the five games. There will be no charge for children. Tickets can be purchased from Veronica/Jeff on 01380 726845, Pauline on 01380 720248 or Sarah on 01380 720244.

And finally, please make a note in your diaries for the **Coronation Cream Tea.** This will take place on Coronation Day **(May 6th)** from 3.30pm to 5pm. This will be a ticketed event. More information on this next month.

Just a quick update on the kitchen, following a very generous donation from Worton Parish Council, we now have over half of the amount we need to undertake the kitchen extension and renovation and we have other grant applications that we are waiting to hear about. Obviously, we still have some way to go but we are hoping to undertake the work in July and August 2024. This is to minimise the disruption for our regular users. If you feel you could run a fundraising event for us or know of any

corporate sponsor who may be willing to contribute please do let me know on 01380 726845.

And finally, it's time to renew your 200-Club subscription. This is a vital support for the Hall especially with rising costs for heating oil and electricity. The 200-Club winner for February was Victoria Maslen.

Veronica Franklin, Chair of Trustees

NEWCOMERS' WELCOME PARTY/FAMILY OF CHURCHES

An amazing buzz of a hall full of people enjoying meeting new friends and tucking in to a delicious buffet supper! This was the impression of the evening of FRIDAY JANUARY 27th, when our welcome party for newcomers to the villages during 2022 was held. Out of 12 possible households, 9 attended, along with organisation reps, and many villagers who enjoyed spotting newcomers by their badges, and making them feel welcome. HUGE thanks to all those who came early and stayed late to help with tables and clearing up, and to the many who prepared the food. You know who you are! A plea for 2023. If a house near you changes hands, please let us know (call Jean on 722069) so that we can give a welcome card and eventually an invite to the party in 2024. Time flies and this is a constant battle to keep up to date. We were very pleased to welcome 2 newcomers to our planning team for these events.

Our next event is on GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7th. when we will hold the short service at MARSTON CHAPEL at 11:00AM, walk with the cross to CHRIST CHURCH, on to the VILLAGE HALL where the cross will be placed in the ground. Then back to the church for hot home-made soup and bread rolls.

The Family of Churches team really would like at least one person who attends one of the Roman Catholic churches in the area, to consider joining us. We also need a TREASURER! This is a very simple job and we meet only about 4 times a year. Call the number mentioned above if you're interested.

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See you for delicious soup and chat on April 7th.

Jean Lane

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	Closed	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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FIVE LANES WI

Our February meeting was our AGM and a good number turned out to hear what we'd been doing during the last year. A varied and interesting programme ending with a great evening spent at the Raven for our New Year meal in January. A chance for a good chat. The committee have all agreed to stand again including Helen B as President, Sarah as Secretary, Pauline as Treasurer and Jean dealing with publicity. We were pleased that Veronica has returned to committee as Programme Secretary and Sylvia has also joined us. "Many hands..." as the saying goes!

Discussion was held on the possibility of changing nights, to enable us to start earlier. It seemed from those who were there that a 2nd Wednesday would be good. To give more notice of this, we will keep the March meeting to TUESDAY MARCH 14th at 7:30pm but move to 2nd Wednesday in April. This then will be on WEDNESDAY APRIL 12th at 7:00pm.

Business being concluded, we enjoyed a great QUIZ provided by the two Helens who also provided hot drinks, cake and cookies! Thank you to them both. The little grey cells were well exercised.

So our meeting on MARCH 14th will be Easter Crafts led by Sarah and Helen B.

Maybe the change of night from April will mean that if you are not a member of WI but would like to be, you would then be free to come. If so you can be assured of a very warm welcome. If you want to know more call me.

Jean Lane 722069

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Useful Village Contacts - 2023

The Bridge:

Editor - Giles Collins giles.collins@btinternet.com editorofthebridge@gmail.com 01380 728664 07530 771405 Distribution - Kim Cannon kescannon@hotmail.com 01380 727993

Book Swap: Judy Shercliff judy.shercliff@gmail.com 01380 723136

Crafty: Sarah Devine 01380 720244 07896702076

sarahdevine 12cats@icloud.com

Meets 2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month at 1 Cedar Close

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

Contact the Benefice Office on 07516 224057 or at contact.wellsprings@gmail.co.uk

Church Wardens:

Mrs Heather Walker 01380 725785 <u>heatherwalker66@gmail.com</u>
Mrs Jean Lane 01380 722069 joje@talktalk.net

Cricket (Worton and Poulshot): Giles Collins 07530 771405 giles.collins@btinternet.com

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

Gardening Club:

Alison Parker 07786 985741 <u>aelparker@aol.com</u> Sally Brooks 07957 917851 <u>swwood90@hotmail.com</u>

Village Show - Bill Francis 01380 739986 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 for further information

Marston Parish Council: Steven Bennett

clerk@marstonpc.co.uk

Rose and Crown: John & Jackie 01380 724202

School (Five Lanes): Louise Williams admin@fivelanes.wilts.sch.uk

SpeedWatch: Bob Mitchell wortonspeedwatch@gmail.com

Tennis: Seend Tennis Club: Sarah Pearson 07980 744420 Devizes Tennis Club: Barry Devine 07809 221341 Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings.

Toddlers' Group: Greta Hutchinson wortontoddlers@gmail.com text 07713 640912

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

Wiltshire Council: Tamara Reay

Wiltshire Councillor of Devizes Rural West tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk 07711 824864

Worton Parish Council:

Chair: Barry Devine barry@worton.org.uk bazandsaz@gmail.com
Other Parish Councillors: Richard Slack
Malcolm Powell
Suzanne Bonfield
Nick Stokes
Chris Collins

bazandsaz@gmail.com
Dicky Parsons
Robert Goss

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

Worton United Charities: Trustee Chair Bill Francis dfrancis 162@btinternet.com

(Please contact me (giles.collins@btinternet.com) if there any contacts you would like to add, change or remove.)



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Extracts from The Bridge (March 1993), kindly provided by Tony Walker

WORTON AND MARSTON SCHOOL

In their work on people, Class 1 have been considering how people lived in the past, and have transformed the play house into a castle complete with spit and roasting piglet and chicken! They are still working on the possibility of a drawbridge. They have made their own coats of arms and shields, and have written stories about a variety of possible castle inhabitants, ranging from wicked witches to the Sleeping Beauty.

Considering the clothes people wear, they have tested a variety of materials for warmth, they have also looked on the way their school jumpers and shirts are made. To follow them up, they have tried hard at knitting (thanks to all those patient parents who supported this activity at home!) and paper weaving.

SPRING AWAKENING

Today I saw some snowdrops Blooming on the bank Signs that Spring is coming So now its time to thank The good Lord for his kindness In bringing us each day Enough for all our varying needs And so for this we pray That as all things are waking From their winter sleep We will all be grateful And vow that we will keep Good care of fields and woodland Leave wild flowers alone To preserve the beauty round us Long after we are gone.

I. Hale.

VILLAGE DIARY

Regular Meetings

In the Village Hall

- 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

 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 Date:** Monday 27th March

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

Forthcoming Events

11th Book Swap

11th V.H. Jumble Sale

14th WI meeting

16th Crafty

20th Gardening

29th Ladies Group

Kerbside Collections in March

Black box, and plastic and card recycling: Tuesdays 7th & 21st

Household waste: Thursdays 2nd & 16th & 30th

Garden waste: Fridays 3rd & 17th & 31st



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 March 2023 Giles Collins, Editor at Westview House, 109 High Street, Worton Telephone: 01380 728664

email address: editorofthebridge@gmail.com