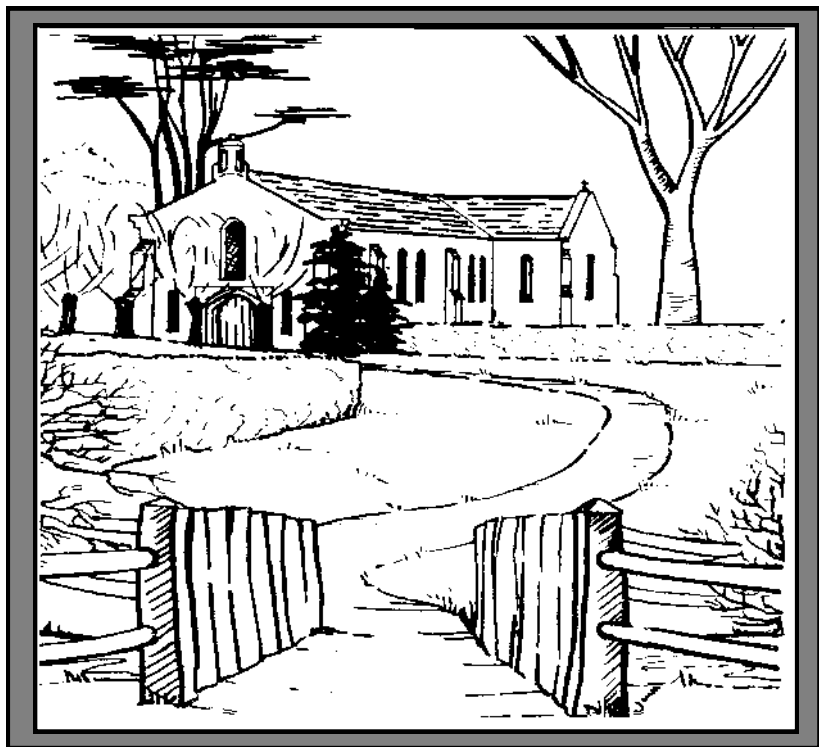


The Bridge



**Worton and Marston
Parish Magazine**

**August
2025**

Price 50p

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THE BRIDGE

Editor: Catherine Malli-Dawson editorofthebridge@gmail.com

A Note From the Editor

The hazy, lazy days of summer

It seems the sun only just began to bless us with its warm glow and while the cooler weather and rain are a welcome respite for our gardens, I'm not ready for the grey skies yet. I think I'll be planning a holiday soon to keep the summer going a bit longer.

This month's magazine is a little lighter on community content as most of the clubs and councils take August off. For good reason. After toiling all summer in gardens and community events, August is a time to relax and enjoy the harvest and bounty.

Don't worry, there is still plenty happening around the villages. Between Afternoon Teas, Breakfast Baps, Music Festivals, and the event of the year—the Village Show. I think you'll find plenty to keep busy during the lazy days of August.

My plans for August are simple, writing and then writing some more. I have a deadline to meet so there will be no holidays or lazy days until I'm done. Then, maybe a few days off will be well deserved.

For those of you who enjoy puzzles, I've added a few additional items to get your creativity flowing—I had to do something with all that white space. 

Enjoy the rest of your summer and all the fun events in the villages.

Catherine

PASTORAL LETTER

The view from my window...

I have been sitting in my garden on what is supposedly the last day of the heatwave and wondering, is this what the Garden of Eden was like. My garden is by no means perfect to the normal English way of thinking (plenty of weeds) but to sit underneath the walnut tree, with the slightest of breeze watching the bees and the butterflies all going about their time-honoured business, with the faint sound of water in the background, and reflecting on the fact that every bush or tree seems to be heavy with yet to ripen fruit of all descriptions, well what could be better? And no serpents as far as I can see, and no temptations either other than to while away too much time. Lucky me!

Just this week, the Buzz group celebrated a beautiful service of Holy Communion underneath a huge oak tree, near a gentle river, and again with birds and bees and butterflies drawing it all together in a symbiotic relationship. We are so fortunate to live in such a lovely area, and yet how often do we take time to notice? In our human world, we have learnt to put ourselves under such stress. Many of the young people have been so pressured with public examinations and now wait fearfully for their results. Every news item seems to be telling us that the mental health of the nation, particularly the young, is severely troubled, and economically families are having to struggle to make ends meet, and the world situation seems to be going from bad to worse.

How can I sit in my garden and rest in the beauty of creation when all around seems to be in so much difficulty? I have a suggestion; do it. Do what? Go outside and rest. Ponder the natural world. Feel the grass beneath your feet. Wonder at the magnificence of creation; be amazed at the beauty of the stars. Our ancestors did just that. Why else was Stonehenge built? Be brave enough to realise and accept that not only are we all stardust, but God dust too because there was nothing else that he could make us out of.

Star dust and God dust; you and me. What an amazing thought!

So, as WH Davies so famously said, "What is this life if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?" I'll leave you to answer that question.

Jane Knowles

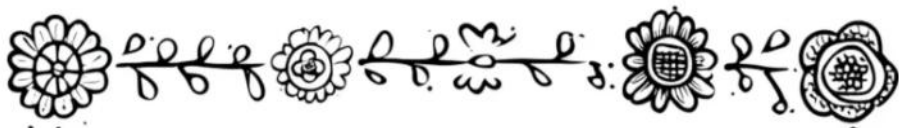
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

'Tea and Stones' Fundraising Morning

We were delighted at the turnout for the 'Tea and Stones' fundraising morning on July 12th with people attending from across the community and further afield who braved the heatwave to show their support and enjoy coffee, tea, cake and social chat in the cool of the church while, most importantly, donating to the appeal of rebuilding the churchyard wall. We already have many stones dedicated to loved ones, children, grandchildren and even favourite pets.

Hopefully the majority of you have now received our fundraising appeal leaflet and appreciate that it will require a lot of effort to reach the target of £23,000. If you have not already donated then please make time to do so and don't forget to dedicate your stone as a permanent memorial to loved ones.

Many thanks to everyone involved in getting this appeal up and running.



HARVEST THANKSGIVING WORTON AND MARSTON

**CHRIST CHURCH SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 14th 9:30AM**



There will be an informal, family-friendly church service with harvest themed activities for children and a collection for the FOOD BANK. (Check their website nearer the time to see what they need most!)

We hope this will be a fun event for all villagers, as we celebrate this special time of year, especially living in a rural community!

In addition to drinks and cakes to enjoy after the service, we will have a mini harvest market for people to bring surplus from their garden and baked goods to share with others.

PUT IT IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!

SERVICE CALENDAR

AUGUST

Sun Aug 3rd	TRINITY 7 9.30am 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Mindfulness</i>
Sun Aug 10th	TRINITY 8 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Family Service
Sun Aug 17th	TRINITY 9 9.30am 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Mindfulness</i>
Sun Aug 24th	TRINITY 10 9.30am	CHRIST CHURCH Morning Praise
Sun Aug 31st	ST BARTHOLOMEW No Service at Christ Church today. A Benefice Service will take place at Holy Cross, Seend, at 10.00am.	CHRIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER

Sun Sept 7th	TRINITY 12 9.30am 6.00pm	CHRIST CHURCH Holy Communion <i>MARSTON CHAPEL</i> <i>Mindfulness</i>
---------------------	------------------------------------	--

The Wedding of Samantha Turk and Robert McCormack took place at Christ Church in June.

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

FROM CHRIST CHURCH

Thank you to all who helped and supported the Fete held in the school grounds in May. It was a beautiful day, with a good Community atmosphere. The net proceeds amounted to £1528.95, shared equally between Five Lanes School and Christ Church, £764.48 to each.

Thank you also to all who donated to the Wall Appeal at the Tea and Stones Morning, and to all who helped organise the Appeal and event.

On another beautiful day there was a lovely wedding in church, with another one coming up in August. Christ Church is in such a lovely setting for a wedding, or just to sit inside or outside to enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

The Family services are going well, once a month, with the families taking turns in planning the service with the Minister for the day. It's great getting to know the children, who also take part in the service, and love showing the art and craft work they do during the morning, which ties in with the theme for the day.

On Sept 13th, the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride takes place. More details to follow.

Christ Church PCC

Worton United Charities

REMINDER: The Charity is able to offer some financial support to residents of Worton or Marston who are facing times of hardship. Please contact one of the Trustees named below.

All contacts or requests are dealt with in strictest confidence.

The Trustees

Bill Francis (dfrancis162@btinternet.com), June Mason, Alison Cross, Chris Nixon, Revd Gerry Lynch



WELLSPRINGS BENEFICE SERVICES

AUGUST 2025

Sunday 3rd (Trinity 7)

8am	Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Communion	Worton
9:30am	Matins (BCP)	Poulshot
11am	Communion	Potterne
11am	Communion	Seend
6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Bulkington

Sunday 10th (Trinity 8)

8am	Communion (BCP)	Seend
9:30am	Communion (BCP)	Poulshot
9:30am	Family Service	Worton
11am	Communion	Bulkington
11am	Communion	Potterne
6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Potterne

Sunday 17th (Trinity 9)

8am	Communion (BCP)	Potterne
9:30am	Morning Praise	Bulkington
9:30am	Communion	Worton
11am	Morning Praise	Potterne
11am	High Eucharist (BCP)	Seend
4pm	Evensong (BCP)	Poulshot

Sunday 24th (St Bartholomew)

9:30am	Communion (BCP)	Poulshot
9:30am	Morning Praise	Worton
11am	Communion	Bulkington
11am	Communion	Seend
11am	Communion	Potterne
6pm	Evensong (BCP)	Seend

Weds 27th

5pm	Celtic Service	Poulshot
-----	----------------	----------

Sunday 31st (Trinity 11)

10am	Benefice Service	Seend
------	------------------	-------

Every Tuesday, 9am Said Matins at Poulshot

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.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

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

Church Registers

Baptisms

Dan King on 6th July at Christ Church, Worton.

No weddings or funerals this month.

*Deep in the greens of summer sing the lives I've come to love.
A vireo whets its bill. The great day balances upon the leaves;
My ears can hear the bird when all is still.*

—Theodore Roethke (1908–63)

THE WELLSPRINGS BENEFICE REFRESHER AND TRAINING COURSES 2025

These courses are open to all in our Benefice area. You are welcome to join any or all of the courses, even if you are not currently involved in the specific areas of ministry. It is intended that all who are currently involved in the specific areas of ministry attend the related courses, if possible.

These courses will be led by Rev. Maureen Allchin and the venue is 4 Northfields, Bulkington, SN10 1SE. Each course will be from 10.30-12.30 on Saturdays.

Saturday, September 6 th , 2025	Intercessory Prayer in church. This is for all those who lead or would like to lead intercessions in our (or other) churches and who would like to learn more about intercessory prayer.
Saturday October 18 th , 2025	Lay Ministers of the Sacrament (Eucharistic Ministers) assist with the distribution of Holy Communion during church services and can take consecrated bread and wine to those who are sick or unable to attend church.
Saturday November 29 th , 2025	Looking after the linen, vessels and vestments. This is for all who prepare our Eucharistic services and care for the vessels, linens and vestments and who prepare the altar for services.

Please contact Maureen Allchin **as soon as possible** to let her know if you will be attending and which course (s) you will come to. This is important as she will need to know numbers for refreshments and handouts, etc. If you are unable to attend on a specific date – please let Maureen know, as courses might be repeated in 2026 if there is enough interest.

If you would like further details of any of these courses or to put your name on the attendance list, please contact: The Revd. Maureen Allchin maureen@mallchin.co.uk 07421 137462

NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE

The Newcomers Committee is officially transitioned from our two champions, Heather and Jean, to a new group of volunteers from across both villages:

- Catherine Malli-Dawson
- Sally Collins
- Nick Stokes
- Helen Bodman
- Pauline Crisp



Heather Walker and Jean Lane will still support the event, but more from behind the scenes. And, of course, Rev. Gerry and Rev. Gary will be there to provide continued guidance as this was originated as part of the Parish community connections.

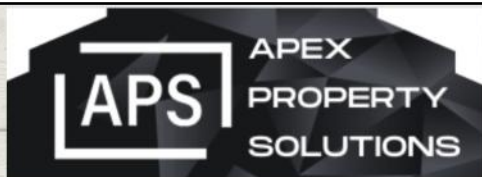
Most things will stay the same in that we will ask for individuals to supply various food items, it will still be held in the Village Hall, wine and soft drinks will be available for purchase, village clubs will have representatives and the Reverends will give a welcoming speech to kick things off. Tickets will be available starting in December. Newcomers are free and existing villagers will be £8 per person. Children under 10 are free.

Some things will change. We have agreed to move the event to the first weekend of February thereby avoiding any possible clash with Burns night celebration, because no one wants to miss out on the haggis. We will also add beer as an option for beverages.

Each committee member will be responsible for contacting new arrivals in the villages—there have been quite a few already—so next year should hopefully be quite the turn out.

If you are a new arrival to either Worton or Marston and haven't been contacted by anyone regarding either the Newcomers event or The Bridge magazine, then please don't be shy. Reach out to anyone on the list above or send a message to editorofthebridge@gmail.com.

Catherine
Obo The Newcomers Committee



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www.whistleykennels.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Hi everybody,

Thank you to all those who came to the Pop-Up Cafe and Rail/Rummage Sale last month and then bought cakes in The Rose and Crown that evening. A successful event all round and thanks to Pam for organising it.



Thanks also to all those on the mowing rota, helping to keep the hall looking neat and tidy.

The Friends of the Village Hall idea for a team of supporters to help organise events has not been as successful and so please think hard about volunteering.

Regrettably, the state of the marquee — bent poles and patched, torn fabric — is such that we have decided not to rent it out anymore. The trustees will consider whether it is worth getting another one or not. We can still loan out some wooden tables and plastic chairs for a donation.

Don't forget that the hall will be painted inside and the back wall outside this month. It has been timed to coincide with school holidays to minimize the disruption to regular users.

Please note we have moved the breakfast bap event a week forward to 9 August so as not to clash with the possible High Street closure for the road safety work. Come along and start the day with a bacon or sausage bap and drink.

We are still on the lookout for a Chair of Trustees. We are very friendly. Please let me know if you are interested.

Some dates for the diary:

- 2 August Afternoon Tea—Breast Cancer Now fundraiser
- 9 August Breakfast Baps.
- 30 August Village show
- 5 September to 7 September End of WW2 celebrations
- 17 September Soup Lunch.

That's it folks.

Joe

On behalf of the Trustees.



Afternoon Tea

Saturday 2nd August
Worton and Marston Village Hall
2pm – 4pm

Amazing raffle prizes include:

A round of golf for 4 at Bowood

A Samsung Galaxy
Chromebook (laptop)

2 x £50 vouchers

Litre of Talisker Malt Whisky

Bottle of Lagavulin Islay
Malt Whisky

Bottle of Champagne
and many others

All Welcome



For more information, please contact:
Sally Collins 07714 447522





BREAKFAST

Baps & a Cuppa

**Make your favourite combination with:
Bacon, Sausage, and eggs**



SAT 9 AUGUST

8:00 AM - 12 NOON

Worton & Marston Village Hall

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

ADVANCE NOTICE

80TH ANNIVERSARY VJ EVENT 6 -7 SEPTEMBER 2025

1. Residents need to be aware the Parish Council field at Whatleys will be used as a car parking area during this event. Residents should take care as there may be an increase in volume of vehicles entering and leaving the area.
2. Residents need to be aware that a section of Church Lane will be used as a display area adjacent to the village hall. Residents who need to access this area should take care as there may be an increase in the numbers of public and vehicles in the area.
3. Residents should take care as there may be an increase in the numbers of public and vehicles using the entrance to Five Lanes school from the High Street.

The Worton and Marston Link Scheme

We are your village charity offering transport for doctor visits and medical appointments.

If you would like to use our services call Lyn on **07413 912828**
or email **wandmlink@gmail.com** to find out more



Edington Music Festival: August 17th - 24th

The Edington Festival of Music within the Liturgy is celebrating its 70th birthday this year! Started in 1956 by the Priory Church's new vicar, Canon Ralph Dudley, over one weekend with half a dozen of his choral scholar friends, it was part of a bid to raise enough money to repair the church's very leaky roof. In its 69 years so far, and now with three choirs, six organists, over 70 participants in all, and over 8 days of services, the festival has raised over £250,000 for the benefit of the parish and the wider communities which host this wonderful event.

Its congregations now come from all over the globe, from New Zealand to North America, drawn to what is the oldest, and generally regarded as the finest, celebration of church music within the context for which it was written.

This year's theme, "The Ways of the Lord", follows journeys made along roads and ways in the Holy Land, with music celebrating the anniversaries of the birth of the leading composer of the late 16th century, Palestrina, and of some more recent composers, Sir John Rutter and Bob Chilcott, whose compositions for the season of Christmas feature in Tuesday's 'Road to Bethlehem'. In between, there is a wide range of music from Byrd, Gibbons, and Hassler, through to Warlock, Daley and McDowall, taking in favourites such as Stanford, Howells and Britten en route. Three choirs will sing at four daily services including Choral Evensong, recorded for later broadcast on BBC Radio 3, on Wednesday afternoon; a rare liturgical performance of Wood's Mark Passion on Friday evening; and Choral Matins on both Friday and Saturday mornings. Services are free, and everyone is welcome to enjoy sublime music and spiritual solace.

The Festival Supper, the light-hearted demonstration of the relationship between festival and Parish, is an evening of food and music this year on **Wednesday 20th August**, and tickets can be bought from Hugh Hancock; musicalsupper@edingtonfestival.org.



APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR CHORAL WORKSHOP

This year's Edington Arts Choral Workshop will be held in Edington Priory Church on Saturday, September 13th, from 10am-4pm. Applications are now open for what will be a really interesting and enjoyable day's learning how to sing a capella (unaccompanied) in different styles to the highest standard we can achieve. If you can read music and have some experience of singing in a choir, this one's for you!

The day will be led by The King's Singers' first baritone, Chris Bruerton, who has chosen the music; four pieces which range from polyphony by the great 16th century composer Orlando di Lassus, to an arrangement by former King's Singer Bob Chilcott of the traditional air "Greensleeves", through Ralph Vaughan Williams and Eric Whitacre.

Full details are at www.edingtonarts.org, where you can also make an online booking. If you would rather book by phone, please phone Anne on 01380 831425 or 07977 464375. The cost for the day is £25, which includes music hire and refreshments on arrival and mid-morning. (Copies of Greensleeves and the Lassus will be available for sale either individually or in bundles of ten).

The day will finish with tea and cake, to which family and friends are invited, followed by an informal run-through.

We look forward to welcoming you!



80TH ANNIVERSARY VJ EVENT **CELEBRATING THE END OF WW2**

6 -7 SEPTEMBER

**WORTON AND MARSTON VILLAGE HALL AND
FIVE LANES SCHOOL**

Saturday 10.00 – 16.00 Free entry

Military equipment display.

Family activities, histories / models and quiz.

Cadet display. "Bound by Veterans" charity stall.

Refreshments and raffle.

Sunday 11.00 – 16.00 Free entry

Military equipment display:

Family activities, histories / models and quiz:

Cadet display. Refreshments and raffle:

Tea Dance (Live music) 14.00 -16.00 SUNDAY

WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

ALL DONATIONS TO "BOUND BY VETERANS" CHARITY



Horsebox cafe with locally sourced coffee,
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MONTHLY QUIZ ROSE & CROWN

Fancy a quiz night? Come along to your local with Jackie & John at the Rose & Crown, Worton.

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

£2 per person, up to five people per team.

All proceeds go to winner's Charity of choice. **JUNE QUIZ RAISED £50 FOR DOROTHY HOUSE HOSPICE**

Pam Woods (Quiz Mistress)



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**Wednesday September 3,
10am to 6pm**

Tickets £6

**and Thursday September 4
10am to 2pm Free entry**

tickets: wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events





THE WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST

Registered Charity No: 1153790

Bargains and bluegrass at Wiltshire Bobby Van's sustainable fashion event

A SUSTAINABLE fashion event in aid of the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust will give shoppers the chance to meet friends while browsing nearly new designer bargains.

The Bag A Bargain event, held at Deverill Storage on Manor Farm, Longbridge Deverill, near Warminster, will have a wide range of nearly new designer clothes, accessories and jewellery, as well as entertainment from acoustic bluegrass quartet The Olde Boston Tea Party.

The two-day sale begins at 10am on Wednesday, September 3 from 10am to 6pm with tickets at just £6. The sale continues Thursday, September 4 from 10am to 2pm and entry is free.

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust works with Wiltshire Police to protect over 60s and people aged 18 and over with a disability in their homes by fitting security devices free of charge. It also operates a Stay Safe Online team of volunteers who provide free cyber security advice through home visits and talks to groups.

Director Jennie Shaw said: "We had a really successful event last year at the same venue and this year will be even better. With a licensed bar and refreshments, plus some excellent music, it'll be a wonderful location to meet friends and do some shopping.

"The sale itself is an opportunity to add some sparkle to your wardrobe, with rail after rail exquisite nearly new designer clothes and jewellery. And as ever, all proceeds from the event will go towards the running costs of the Wiltshire Bobby Van.

"We'd like to say a huge thanks to John Robins for allowing us to use the venue, our fashion experts and all our volunteers."

The popular Olde Boston Tea Party performs traditional bluegrass songs, fiddle tunes and original material written by vocalist and guitarist Charlie Boston.

Tickets can be booked at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/events. Find out more about the work of the charity at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk.



Market Lavington Museum

Summer opening

**3rd May Museum opens 14.30-16.30 Wednesday Saturday
and Sunday every week.**

29th July – 26th August Activities for children

**Look out for more information in future editions of this
magazine.**

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

**Your Worton and Marston
Link Scheme needs you:**



We are your village charity offering transport for doctor visits and medical appointments.

The scheme urgently needs **volunteers** who use their own cars to help clients without their own means of transport. Drivers are paid a mileage allowance to cover the costs of fuel.

Driving for the Link scheme is a great way to give something back to your community by helping out those who are in need.

**To find out more call Lyn on: 07413 912828
or email wandmlink@gmail.com**

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Are you 18 and over?

Are you looking for something new?

Come and join the Trefoil Guild!

We are a non-uniform organisation that acts as a branch of GirlGuiding – for friendship, fun, opportunities and new challenges.

While many members have been, or still are, actively involved in GirlGuiding, we welcome everyone, with or without previous involvement in the Guide or Scout Movement.



A warm welcome awaits you at one of our meetings at:

The Guide Hall

Coate

Devizes SN10 3LU

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month from 2-4pm.

For more information, please contact:

Sally Jenkinson (07947 060763) sallyjenks51@gmail.com

You can read more about the Trefoil Guild at: www.trefoilguild.co.uk



Five Benefits of Mindfulness & Meditation

There's a lot of talk about mindfulness and meditation. But what are they and how will you benefit from them? First of all, let's clear something up. They are not the same thing. Where *mindfulness* is about creating awareness, *meditation* is about creating space. They work in tandem. By meditating you are slowing down, becoming present, creating space to be aware and mindful of yourself and your surroundings.

The benefits of doing either are:

- 1) Release negative self-talk; learning to be kind to yourself so you can be kind to others leads to more joyful and relaxed interactions
- 2) Regulate your breathing; belly breathing brings in the healthy air and expels the stale, unhealthy breath; this can lead to lowered blood pressure
- 3) Increased focus; Releasing attachment to thoughts and feelings allows for greater focus on the things that bring joy
- 4) Clarity of mind; Clearing the clutter in our minds and setting intentions allows us to be clear in our thoughts and purpose
- 5) Connection: Meditation allows you to connect with your higher self—whether that is God or your soul, it generates a sense of belonging; Mindfulness helps you to connect with others and creates a sense of community

BOOK SWAP



Saturday 9th Aug
10:00am—12 noon
Carpe Diem, Plough lane
Marston
hosted by Catherine Malli-Dawson



Saturday 13th September
10:00am—12 noon
Dysart House
Church Lane, Worton
hosted by Andrea Matthews

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WORTON AND MARSTON GARDEN CLUB

It's the big dry. Unseasonably hot for England, with bright sunshine and a persistent desiccating wind, gardening becomes synonymous with endless watering and a growing sense of defeatism. Daily irrigation insidiously metamorphoses from gratuitous nourishment to critical care and is all too often futile. Herbaceous borders wilt and fail, prized plants look anything but, shrubs wither, and the lawn is crunchy. The term 'hardy' is usually applied to coping with winter, but at present only truly hardy plants survive.

On the positive side, no mowing except for those for whom it is an addiction. The glorious berry season was early and shorter, with small but perfectly formed dehydrated fruits, which were, fortunately, very tasty. Picking was made hazardous by the early arrival of over enthusiastic wasps, so the intrepid gooseberry picker was both stabbed by thorns and stung. Strangely similar sensations, at least initially, but followed by the unusual combination of haemorrhage and envenomation. Obviously, it's all due to global warming, and perhaps that should guide our approach to what we plant. Certainly food for thought; last year, rice seemed a sound option in the paddy fields of Worton, while now, okra, olives and prickly pear might be a better choice. The annual show might have prizes for pomegranates and figs or even citrus. It might be time to consider talks about the outdoor growing of edible cacti, avocados and bananas.

It's not just the plants suffering. Moles don't like burrowing through concrete, which is surely a blessing. Voles are apparently having a hard time, and as a consequence there are very few barn owl chicks. Insects seem far more prevalent, including huge numbers of ladybirds which is bad news for aphids. Theoretically, less need for chemical control if there was any greenery for them to eat and us to protect. Abundant fly life suits the large numbers of swallows, which are a joy to watch as they gorge themselves over the ripening barley.

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Where does that leave us and our plants? Certainly in need of rain, not only to salvage our borders but to provide some respite for the vegetable growers and always with an eye to the looming Village Show. So, what are the chances of real rain? Perhaps it is reassuring that school holidays are imminent, always a reliable predictor of a weather change. Even now, there are black clouds on the horizon, allegedly full of promise but only time will tell.

Tip for the month: the wise man doesn't buy an oak water butt after hot dry weather and daylight should not be seen between the staves. Confucius would have known that.

Neil Soni



WORTON AND MARSTON VILLAGE SHOW

Saturday 30th August at the Village Hall

Last call for entries to the village show, get the entry schedule in by Wednesday 27th. If you are not entering come and have a look at the show from 2.30 pm

Also if you have a gift for the raffle, bring along that morning or leave with me (7 Gaisford Chase)

See you there
Bill Francis

WORTON & MARSTON LADIES GROUP

Our visit to the Wharf Theatre on 25th June to see Calendar Girls was a great success. For those who didn't know the back story to it found it a bit slow to start with but soon got into it. Great acting very well presented, and the reveal was tastefully done by ladies of a certain age, not sure I would be brave enough to do it!

When you read this, we will have been on our Quiz night Canal Trip, Thursday 17th July and hopefully it will be much cooler than of late. Looking forward to a good evening.

No meeting in August traditionally our summer break, back in the Village Hall on Sept 24th for a Wiltshire Museum Talk.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Pam Woods
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VILLAGE HALL 200 CLUB

£50 200 Club Winner for JULY: RACHAEL PICKFORD
Congratulations

Pam Woods
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01380 726679

WRITING CLUB

The Writing Club was held on 23 June and we had a lovely time hearing all the creativity that came from the prompts.

Our prompts were:

- Describe a common chore as a horror story or rom-com
- If you could spend one month anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?



Our writers got very creative this month describing a common chore as either a horror or rom-com. I chose gardening as my setting and shared a brief scene of what might happen should all the weeds that I ruthlessly rip out decide to revolt and seek revenge.

We had a delightful story from a first time writer that left us enthralled and wanting to hear more. We even had a bouncy limerick that made us laugh.

Trying to decide where in the world to spend a month proved difficult only in the fact that a month just isn't long enough. We all agreed that we now want to visit the beautiful locations shared by our writers.

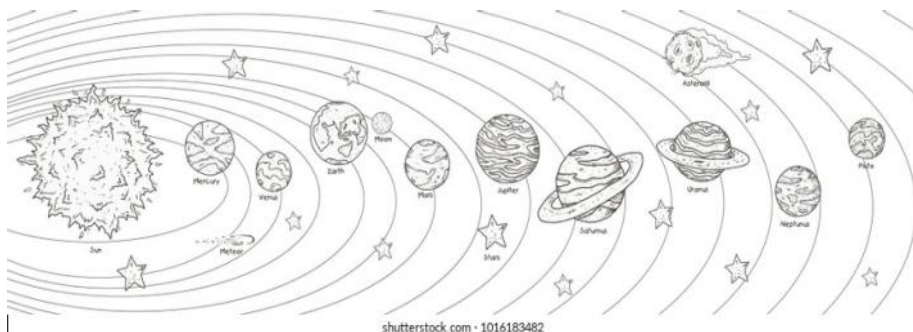
Our next meeting is 28 July, so I'm sure I'll have lots of interesting items to share in the next edition.

If you're interested in trying your hand (or pen) with the next prompts, please reach out to Catherine at editorofthebridge@gmail.com.

It's not about what you write, or how well your words are crafted, it's about the fact that you write. Writing is creative expression, and to express is to be human.

Catherine

POETRY, PROSE, & POSSIBILITIES



Space is Big.....Really Big!

Most of us have seen those images in textbooks depicting the planets in our Solar System in relation to our sun; they are shown at regular placed intervals from Mercury all the way out to the distant planetoid is Pluto. But this is misleading and simply practical as no book is large enough to accommodate the true scale of our local cosmos. If we actually shrank the Earth to the size of a pea the sun would be about the size of a large beach ball and would need to be positioned about 300 feet away. Jupiter on the other hand, would sit 300 metres away. Pluto (on this scale, the size of a bacterium) would be placed 2.5 Kilometres away, roughly the distance of Potterne Church to Old Forge Garage! However, if you were to position where the NEAREST star would be in our scaled down example, it would need to be on the other side of the globe, about 16,000KM away roughly the distance to New Zealand! Just to put that in a different perspective on a real scale, it would take over 70,000 years to get to that nearest star (Proxima Centauri) if travelling in the fastest spacecraft we have...or 48 million Years in my Vauxhall doing 60mph!!....mind boggling 😊.

Paul Wilson

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MESSAGE FROM OUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

The changes at Wiltshire Council following the election mean that I am no longer a Cabinet Member - instead as an opposition backbencher, I have been appointed to two key committees: Overview & Scrutiny Management (O&S) and the Electoral Review Committee. As such, I thought readers may be interested in more detail about how the Council works.

Wiltshire Council has a robust system of Committees to review Officer recommendations and Cabinet decisions. More information is at [Committee structure - Democratic Services - Wiltshire Council](#). O&S is a key committee and makes sure that decisions are taken based on sound evidence, include the views of those with an interest in the matter, and are in the best interests of the people of Wiltshire. It has powers to require decision-makers to attend meetings, answer questions, and provide written evidence on any matter under review.

One of the first items to be reviewed by O&S Committee was the 2024/25 budget outturn which showed an overspend of £4.9m - including an overspend in Adult Social Care (ASC) of £12.9m (an increase of £6m since the Q3 budget monitoring). This is extremely disappointing given that as a Conservative-run Council until the elections in May, stringent financial controls were in place to ensure that finances and services were well managed – in fact the Q3 budget report stated that Officers forecast that the overspend would be corrected by the end of the financial year. There continues to be considerable uncertainty about the detail and scale of the ASC overspend – the O&S Committee has demanded that this continues to be scrutinised very closely.

The last month has been a busy one for Planning Committees too – as you may know, the current system enables local Councillors to “Call-In to Committee” planning applications where there is significant local concern, and it is felt that the details of the application should be fully considered in a public forum, and a decision made by the planning committee, rather than delegated to planning officers. Hence over the last year or so, I have called-in the planning applications for the proposed solar installations at One Tree Hill, Potterne Park Farm, Townsend in Poulshot, and the Gompels Warehouse in Bowerhill.

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You will be aware that the One Tree Hill proposal was refused by the Planning Officer for very clear planning reasons in June, and in July the Potterne Park Farm (PPF) proposal came before the Planning Committee. Following a lengthy debate, the PPF application was also refused – thank you to everyone from Potterne Solar Action Group and Potterne Parish Council who spoke so eloquently at the Planning Committee.

At the same Committee Meeting, the Gompels Warehouse was also discussed, with strong arguments made on both sides. As the local Councillor for Seend, I spoke of the importance of Gompels to the local economy but argued that the proposed location of the warehouse in the area of open countryside between Seend Cleeve and Bowerhill was wrong and urged that discussions should be urgently reconvened with Wiltshire Council's Economic Development Team to find another suitable site in the Melksham area. In the event, the Committee agreed to defer the application whilst an archaeological study was conducted – which means that it will come back to a future Committee.

I am also expecting that the Townsend Solar application will go to Committee in the next few weeks. I will keep you updated on all these developments – or please email me if you have specific questions.

Tamara Reay

Wiltshire Councillor for Devizes Rural West.

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



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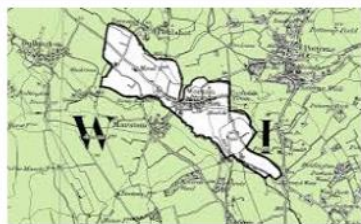
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WORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting 7th July 2025

The Parish Council received requests from Worton and Marston Parochial Church Council and the Rev'd Gerry Lynch for grants towards the repair of the collapsed church wall. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to grant the PCC £2,000 from the Solar Community Fund and £3,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

We also agreed the draft Parish Plan and initial allocation of our reserve funds. In September we will be asking for your help and suggestions as to how best to apply the CIL and Section 106 funds to maximise the benefits to the village.

Reserve Allocations

Parish Council Reserves	
General Reserve	£5,975
Replacement SID	£5,000
Sandleaze Play Equipment Replacement Fund	£5,000
Defibrillator Replacement Fund	£1,000
Playground Fencing Maintenance	£600
Benches Replacement Fund	£600
Laptop Replacement Fund	£750
Elections	£2,000
Parish Plan Projects Contingency	£8,655
Total	£29,580

CIL Funds

Road Safety Projects	£27,000
Sandleaze Projects	£5,000
Footpath Project	£4,662
Total.	£36,662

Section 106

Sandleaze Play Equipment	£27,855.36
--------------------------	------------

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on Monday 1st September at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Cllr. Malcolm Powell - Chairman

malcolm@worton.org.uk

WORTON COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

(Speedwatch sessions are of 45 minutes duration)

Worton Community Speedwatch Figures for June 2025

Date	Time	Vehicles	Total 30MPH+	Vehicles Reported	Max Speed
Monday 16th	08.15 - 09.00	392	5	0	
Monday 16th	16.00 - 16.45	418	8	0	
Tuesday 17th	08.00 - 08.45	505	9	2	38
Tuesday 17th	15.00 - 15.45	363	5	2	42
Wednesday 18th	08.15 - 09.00	427	5	2	40
Wednesday 18th	16.00 - 16.45	544	52	10	37
Thursday 19th	08.00 - 08.45	420	37	10	42
Friday 20th	16.00 - 16.45	357	62	19	50
Sessions: 8	Average:428	3426	183	45	
2024 Sessions: 10	Average: 417	4170	158	26	

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Five Lanes CE VC

Primary School



We've been very busy at Five Lanes despite the recent heat. We've had Sports Day, Shuffle up day where the children spent time in their new classes ready for September, and a bunting workshop.

Sports Day

The children participated in a range of races and activities showing excellent sportsmanship, determination and teamwork. Highlights included the traditional Year 6 soaking and the very competitive Dads' race. Congratulations to Yellow team who won the school cup.



Shuffle Up Day

Our Existing children were joined by our new Reception starters . We would also like to welcome Ms Owen who will be joining our teaching team in September.



Bunting Workshop



We were joined by some local Worton ladies who helped our Key Stage 2 pupils create some beautiful bunting. This will be used during the VJ Day Weekend in September.



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SUMMER PUZZLES

Create your own acrostic poem:

S _____

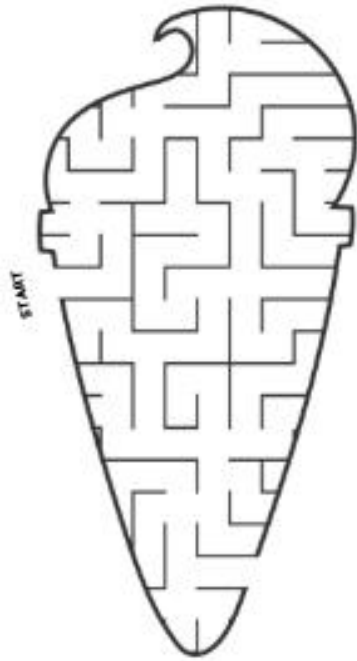
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SUMMER
SUN
BEACH
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SWEAT
POOL
HOT
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HEAT
SWIMMERS
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KIDS CORNER



Writing Challenge

Can you tell a story about what the fairies are doing? What are their names? Are the dragonflies and butterflies helping them? What might they be preparing for? Is there a special occasion or person that they're putting the flowers together for?

If you'd like your story included in an upcoming edition, please send it to editorofthebridge@gmail.com (after you get Mum or Dad's permission)

FLOWER OF THE MONTH



Gladiolus

(Iridaceae)

*The best thing you can do when it's raining,
Is to let it rain.*

Henry Wadsworth

Native to more tropical climates, gladiolus flowers are perennial and thrive in the Mediterranean, Middle East, and South Africa. And looking at the beautiful gardens along the high street, I'd say they do quite well in Wiltshire too. Their name originates from the Latin word *gladius*, which translates to 'sword', referring to their long sword-like leaves. This is why they are sometimes called 'sword lilies'.

There are about 300 known species and were brought from South Africa to Europe in the 18th century. Their soft, gentle flowers come in an array of colours and delighted the aristocracy of the Georgian era. Their popularity means they can now be found worldwide.

Gladioli grow to heights between 61cm and 152cm with flowers ranging from 7.62cm and 12.7cm across. This height makes them perfect for the back of a garden to compliment shorter plants. Equally, they make fantastic flower arrangements with their long stems and flouncy flowers.

Do you have a 40th anniversary coming up? Then gladiolus is the flower of choice as it represents remembrance and infatuation. They were also popular for their medicinal value in the early 16th century. The roots, flowers and seed pods were used in herbal remedies to treat everything from splinters, colic and physical ailments.

(sources: almanac.com; petalrepublic.com)

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S U D O K U — J U L A N S W E R S

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6	1	5	4	2	7	3	8	9
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editorofthebridge@gmail.com

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The Old Post Office
41-43 Market Place
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01380 711441



45 New Park Street
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USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS - 2025

The Bridge:

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Distribution - Richard Costen richardcosten434@hotmail.com
07854 195 162

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

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

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

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

Garden Club:

Alison Parker 07786 985741 aelparker@aol.com
Sally Brooks 07957 917851 svwood90@hotmail.com

Village Show Bill Francis 01380 739986
dfrancis162@btinternet.com

Ladies Group: Pam Woods 01380 726679

Meet last Wednesday each month 7:30pm, in the Village Hall.

Link Scheme: Lyn Vickers Transport Coordinator 07413 912828
Alun Newman (Chair)
wandmlink@gmail.com for further information

Marston Chapel

Rev.d Gary Gotham 01380 724264 gary.gotham@gmail.com

Marston Parish Council: Steven Bennett

clerk@marstonpc.co.uk

Newspaper Delivery: Richard Walker 07702 868863

Rose and Crown: John & Jackie 01380 724202

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

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

SpeedWatch: Bob Mitchell speedwatchworton@gmail.com

Tennis: Seend Tennis Club: Sally Jackson 07798 564712

Devizes Tennis Club: Barry Devine 07809 221341

Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings.

Village Hall (Worton and Marston):

For the Chair: WMVHChair@yahoo.com 07707 241389

For Bookings: bookings4vh@gmail.com 07385 162999

For Invoices, payments, general financial communications
treasurer4vh@gmail.com

For Maintenance: wmvhmaintenance@yahoo.com

Wiltshire Council: Tamara Reay

Wiltshire Councillor of Devizes Rural West

tamara.reay@wiltshire.gov.uk 07711 824864

Worton Parish Council:

Chair: Malcolm Powell

Other Parish Councillors: Chris Collins Nick Stokes Brian Badge

Anthony Higgins David Johnson Ed Marks Richard Parsons

Worton United Charities:

Trustee Chair Bill Francis dfrancis162@btinternet.com

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

August

Softly fading, the summer's bloom,
In August's days, a subtle gloom.
A tender goodbye, in the evening's
rust,
In every sunset, August's trust.

Maya Anthony



WORTON & MARSTON BUS SCHEDULE

Operator	76			77		
	Faresaver			FRMN		
Trowbridge Clarendon Academy (SE-bound)				15:17		
Trowbridge, opp Wiltshire College				16:45		
Trowbridge John of Gaunt School Grounds (NW-bound)				15:22		
Trowbridge, o/s Manvers House	09:55	12:30	14:30	15:30	17:05	
Paxcroft Mead Newhurst Park (E-bound)	10:00	12:35	14:35	15:35	17:10	
Steeple Ashton Memorial (NW-bound)	10:07	12:42	14:42	15:43	17:18s	
Great Hinton Crossroads (N-bound)	10:11	12:46	14:46	15:46	17:20	
Keevil Field Head (E-bound)	10:13	12:48	14:48	15:49	17:22	
Bulkington War Memorial (E-bound)	10:18	12:53	14:53	15:54	17:27	
Worton Village Hall (E-bound)	10:22	12:57	14:58	15:57	17:33	
Worton Sandlease (E-bound)	10:24	12:59	15:00	15:59	17:35	
Potterne Duck Street (N-bound)				15:04	16:03	17:39
Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	10:26	13:01				
Marston The Green (NW-bound)	10:30	13:05				
Devizes Fire Station (S-bound)				15:10		
Devizes The Pelican (NW-bound)				15:15		
Poulshot The Raven (N-bound)	10:38	13:13				
Devizes Mayenne Place West (S-bound)	10:41	13:16				
Devizes Market Place Bus Island (SE-bound)	10:45	13:20		16:08	17:45	

Operator	77		76	
	FRMN		Faresaver	
Devizes Market Place Bus Island (SE-bound)	07:30	09:45		
Devizes The Pelican (NW-bound)			12:05	14:10
Devizes, o/s Business Centre			12:08	14:13
Potterne Duck Street (S-bound)	07:35	09:50		
Poulshot The Raven (S-bound)			12:13	14:18s
Worton Sandlease (E-bound)			12:21	14:26s
Worton Village Hall (W-bound)	07:41	09:56	12:23	14:28s
Marston The Green (NW-bound)			12:27s	14:32s
Bulkington War Memorial (W-bound)	07:45	10:00	12:32	14:37s
Keevil Field Head (W-bound)	07:50	10:05	12:37	14:42s
Great Hinton Crossroads (S-bound)	07:53	10:08	12:40	14:45s
Steeple Ashton Memorial (NW-bound)	07:57	10:11	12:43	14:48
Paxcroft Mead Newhurst Park (W-bound)	08:05	10:16	12:48	
Trowbridge, o/s Manvers House	08:15	10:22	12:54	

Times marked **s** – “set down only” – the bus will only stop to drop passengers off

NOTE: Not all stops are shown in the above schedules
 (Source: <https://bustimes.org/services/76-trowbridge-steeple-ashton-worton-devizes>)

*LADIES GROUP***Meeting on 28th June**

Mr Huckle, who is a local vet came to talk to about his work. He's been qualified 2 years. The image of James Heriott has changed, his work is more involved in domestic animals and meat hygiene, e.g. abattoirs. He does a weekly article in the Gazette and Herald. He thoroughly enjoys his work but it is obviously stressful at times. He encourages insurance for the animals, so that they can have the best treatment. He also brought along some gruesome instruments. A most interesting evening.

Sarah Fuller

MARSTON GREEN SKITTLES

I would like to thank all who helped in any way with the three evenings of skittles on Marston Green during June.

It was especially nice to have some of our disabled friends there to join in the fun.

The amount raised was £122.50, all of which will go to the Riding for the Disabled charity.

Babs Stockwell

PCC BALCONY FUNDRAISING

The coffee morning at 2, The Green Marston, 19th July raised the splendid sum of £74.50. We are most grateful to Margaret Armand-Smith for hosting this event.

FHC Maggs, Chairman, PCC Balcony Fundraising Committee

CAR BOOT SALE - Phone: 724843

SKITTLES

Thursday, Friday & Saturday 7 - 9 p.m.

MARSTON FAYRE

on

Marston Green

Saturday 26th August

from 2.00 p.m.

EVENING BARBECUE

Proceeds to Village Hall Repairs

COMBOIA

BOTTLE STALL

CARRY OTHER

ATTRACTIONS

DEER STENT

GEYS

COUNTRY KITCHEN

VILLAGE DIARY

REGULAR MEETINGS Around the Village

Village Hall

- **Garden Club**
3rd Monday 7.00pm start (not Aug)
- **Ladies Group**
Last Wednesday 7:30pm (not Aug/Dec)
- **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 Meditation**
1st & 3rd Sunday 6pm start
- **Marston Parish Council Meeting**
(as shown on notice boards)

Mobile Library

Location: The School

1.10pm - 1.50pm

Next Date: Monday 11 August

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

For distribution questions:

Richard Costen
richardcosten434@hotmail.com
07854 195 162

Forthcoming Events

9th Book Swap
N/A Garden Club
N/A Ladies Group

Kerbside Collections in AUGUST

Worton & Marston

**Black box and Blue lidded
Bin recycling:**

AUG 5th & 19th

Household waste:

AUG 14th, & 28th

Garden waste:

AUG 1st, 15th & 29th

Close Lane, Marston

**Black box and Blue lidded bin
recycling:**

AUG 12th & 26th

Household waste:

AUG 7th & 21st



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 AUGUST 2025

Catherine Malli-Dawson, Editor

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